

TOM

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Bob:

I've been trying to write this letter for months but haven't had the chance. Wanted to let you know where I AM on the Bally expansion. So FAR I've added 16 K RAM, 1 SERIAL port, 2 PARRALLEL ports AND AN ASCII KEY BOARD. These all work very well. What has not worked so well is some special logic used with the Non-Maskable Interrupt. With this I had hoped to use the Bally Basic unmodified with the keyboard I added. As it is I can input data from the keyboard under BASIC control (OR machine language) but program entry and editing must still be done through the key pad. If I can't get this to work I guess Bally Basic (OR some other language) could be placed in RAM. A commented listing of Bally^{BASIC} would be INVALUABLE AT

this point. Any Ideas where I could get one? With That info we could taylor it a bit and Put it in RAM.

So - at this point I see the remainder of the Expansion to be mainly a software effort, which is where I could use some help. One of the most important changes I think, would be to get ^{BASIC} program storage out of internal (graphics) memory. This would greatly increase the color capabilities when using Basic.

Another interesting possibility opened by having ~~the~~ RAM Memory Available is the ability to load it with data from any of the Game Cartridges (which was previously dumped onto a cassette tape) and then switch this memory into the Bank normally assigned to the Plug in Cartridges. This is quite easy to do. At this point the Bally would perform

exactly as if you had plugged
in the game cartridge that the
data came from.

The end result would be that
you could have the entire library
of Bally games on a couple of
cassette tapes. Bally might not
be too wild about this idea but
I assure you it would work.

~~In the~~

In the near time in order
to ease programming the Bally, I
use another one of the microcom-
puters I own, which has ASCII
key board, to write Bally Basic
programs on and dump them on tape
in a format compatible with the
Bally. Doing it off line like this
has some disadvantages but it
sure beats that key pad.

Haven't done much on it lately
as my Bally was struck by lightning.

About 5 weeks ago AND it's
still not back from the factory.

Good Luck and
Keep up the good work on
the news letter.

TRACY