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**By Leslie Solomor Technical Director** 

### WINDOWS IN THE CRT

■HE MOST common way to communicate with a computer today is via a plug-in or a separate video terminal. The ordinary video terminal forms a single "window," in which all you can see is one piece of data at a time as it appears in sequential order on the screen. Recently, we had the opportunity to work with a very special graphics display system called the "Screensplitter" from Micro Diversions, Inc. (8455-D Tyco Rd., Vienna, VA 22180 Tel: 703-827-0888). This novel plug-in video module is not limited to a single window (see photo). Rather, the user can create, under software control, almost any number of data-display windows, each with its own independent display.

Individual windows in the Screensplitter can be sized, labelled, and framed as desired. Furthermore, frame and window can be made to flash, display in reverse video, clear, scroll, and use any

character as a blinking or nonblinking cursor. The window package is contained in an EPROM and has 20 usercallable functions. You can, for example, run a BASIC program and display each subroutine in its own window. Or you can display different data in different windows. You can even move the windows around at will.

If you are doing assembly-language programming, one window can be used as a real-time clock, another to display run time, and others to display register contents or anything else you desire. Debugging information can be contained in its own window. For game playing, you can create as many windows as required. Too, some windows can be dedicated strictly to graphics.

The Screensplitter does not preclude operation as a single window with 40 lines of 80 characters each. Bear in mind, however, that this dense a display

Lisp: Co Sasic: E	- Network Messages- I Th a SU-AI 14104 I GJS a NIT 15119	A: 17
System Stack BOOT MONITUP MONES EDITOR EDITOR EDITOR FEADCH TTYIK	Reninders 12:30 Sprinklers on 16:00 Turkey out of oven 17:30 Call Art re demo 21:15 Opena	1 37 free blocks P5: . P5: .
	BASIC	Gee, my new SEREMSPLITTER   control panel sure is neat.   Remember my old junior space   cadet helmet? Can you look for   it up in the attic (in the box   of old Popular Electronics   magazines) and mail it to me?
}	(suspended)	l Love. L Chuck <u>.</u> L L

The Screensplitter can generate almost any number of independent "windows" contingent on the needs of the user.

POPULAR ELECTRONICS

requires a video monitor with at least a 10-MHz bandwidth.

The Screensplitter occupies a single S-100 bus slot. It contains its own 4K of RAM that is memory mapped into the address space so that it can be accessed if you wish to use the window package.

Pascal Microengine. This new computer contains 64K of RAM, two RS-232C ports, two parallel ports, and a floppy-disk controller with DMA. It features self-test diagnostics, Pascal compiler, BASIC compiler, file manager, screen-oriented editor, debugger, and graphics package. Available options include a floppy-disk subsystem, printer, and terminal. Cost at this writing is \$1995. Address: Computer Interface Technology, 2080 South Grand, Grand Center, Santa Ana, CA (Tel: 714-979-9920)

Pet S-100 Interface. The Betsi Interface/Motherboard contains all logic required for interfacing S-100 boards to the Pet microcomputer. It connects directly to the Pet's expansion connector and has four S-100 slots. It does not interfere with the Pet's parallel or IEEE ports. The board also contains a dynamic memory controller that permits use of a 32K RAM board. There are also sockets and decoding circuitry for 8K of 2716 PROM. Price is \$119.00 for the kit. which includes one S-100 connector, or \$165.00 assembled and with four S-100 connectors. Address: Forethought Products, P.O. Box 8066, Coburg, OR 97401 (Tel: 503-485-8575).

S-100 Video Board. The new ALTR-2480 is a 24-line by 80-character S-100-bus video display board. It features upper- and lower-case characters plus graphics. The system also has byte mapping (4K by eight), built-in read/ write refresh, 2716 user-programmable EPROM, external/internal sync, normal/inverse/blink control, 500-ns access time, and direct drive for a CRT monitor. "Using "Transparent Memory," the CPU can access the refresh memory at any time, the display is glitch-free, and the CPU is never interrupted. No reliance is placed on the peculiar characteristics of a particular CPU. A multiplexing technique permits nonconflicting access by both CRT controller and CPU. Price is \$295.00. Address: Matrox Electronic Systems, Ltd., 2795 Bates Rd., Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 1B5 (Tel: 514-481-6838/735-1182).

**AUGUST 1979** 

(continued on page 76)



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TEXT EDITOR...ASSEMBLER...DISASSEMBLER...VIDEO DISPLAY BOARD ELF II add ons afreatly include the ELF II Light Pan and the amazing ELF-BUG Monitor-two extremely recent breakthroughs that have not yet been duplicate Soon to be introduced: ELF II special application kits that give you the hard-

The ELF-BUG Monitor lets you debug programs with lightening speed because ware and software you need to use ELF II for specialized purposes such as a the key to debugging is to know what's inside the registrand the microproces such as a the key to debugging is to know what's inside the registrand the process sor. And, with the ELF-BUG Monitor, instead of single stepping through your tem...police alert...motor controller...station output monitor on a conveyor programs, you can now display the entire contents of the registers on your TV screen. You find out immediately what's going on and can make any necessary

and more! Unlike some heavily advertised hobby computers, ELF II The incredible ELF II Light Pen lets you write or draw anything you want on a doesn't limit you to pre-recorded programs. With ELF II you learn computing TV screen with just a wave of the "magic wand." Netronics has also introduce from the ground up...from machine language to assembly language to BASIC the ELF II Color Graphics & Music System-more breakthroughs that ELF II in quick, clear and easy steps. ELF II is a powerful computing tool, but one owners were the first to enjoy! that you can master with the same ease you once mastered a slide rule or ELF II Tiny BASIC

Ultimately, ELF II understands only machine language—the fundamental coding required by all computers. But, to simplify your rel. conship with ELF II, we've Regardless of how minimal your computer background is now, you can learn introduced an ELF II Tiny BASIC that makes communicating with ELF II to program an ELF II in almost no time at all. Our Short Course On Micropro-

Tiny BASIC saves you the time of having to code your individuel instructions The each of the RCA COSMAC 1802's capabilities, so you'll understand machine language for ELF II, instead, you simply type instructions on a keyboart hibing ELF II can do. . . and how to get ELF II to do it! Dun't worry it you've —PRINT, RUN, LOAD, ETC. Your Tiny BASIC program automatically translates them into machine language for ELF II. Then it translates ELF II's autput back advance in literary clarity in the computer field. You don't have to be a computer into simple words and symbols for you engineer in order to understand it. Keyed to EEF II, it's loaded with "hands on" Now Available! Text Editor, Assemble

rations. When you're finished with the Shart Course, neither ELF II nor the Disassembler And A New Video Display Board?

The Text Editor gives you word processing ability and the ability to edit programs or text while it is displayed on your video monitor. Lines and characyou'll also be able to read magazines such as BYFE...INTERFACE AGE...POPUtars may be quickly insert and deleted or changed add a printer and ELF II can
tark ELECTRONICS and PERSONAL COMPUTING and fully understend the type letters for you-error free-plus print names and addresses from you articles. And, you'll understand how to expand ELF if to give you the exact mailing list!

ELF II's Assembler translates assembly language programs into hexidecimal If you work with large computers, ELF II and the Short Gourse will help you machine code for ELF II use. The Assembler features mnemonic abbreviations rather than numerics so that the instructions on your programs are easier t

read—this is a big help in catching errors. ELF II's Disassembler takes machine code programs and produces assemble and running programs at home, displaying video graphics on your TV screen and language source listings. This helps you understand the programs you are

designing circuits using a microprocessor -the very first night-even if you've working with... and improve them when required. The new ELF II Vidao Display Board lets you generate a sharp, professiona ELF It connects directly to the video input of your TV set, without any addi- 32 or 64 character by 18 line upper and lower case display on your TV screen or tional hardware, Dr. with an \$9.95 RF modulator (see coupon below), you can video monitor—dramatically improving your enexpanded \$99.95 ELF II. When you get into longer programs, the Video Display Board is a real blessing!

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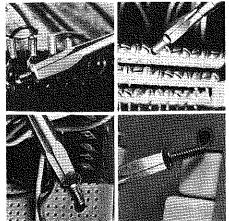
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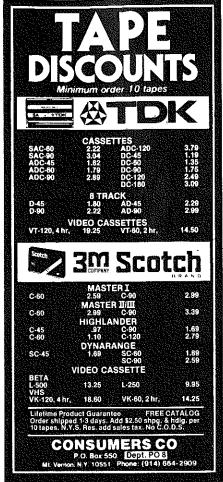
(continued from page 75)

S-100 Extender Board. A 7-segment display logic probe and a pulsecatcher LED, whose brightness corresponds to the duty cycle of the pulse stream, are used in the new TB-2 Extender Board kit from Mullen. The board features a general-purpose "kluge" area for circuit development. This section is provided with its own on-board 5-volt, 1ampere regulator that also powers the logic probe. Other features include power supply links for current measurement, labelled S-100-bus edge connector, and gold-plated connector contacts. Price is \$35.00. Address: Mullen Computer Products, P.O. Box 6214, Hayward, CA 94545 (Tel: 415-783-2866).

S-100 to IEEE Interface. The P&T 488 Interface Board permits the broad spectrum of S-100-bus computers to directly interface with instruments and peripherals that operate on the IEEE 488-1975 Standard Digital Interface for Programmable Instrumentation. The board comes with 488 cable assembly. Software is distributed as source code in machine-readable form. An integral "Bitwiggler" tape interface is used for reading software with a conventional cassette tape recorder. Price is \$250.00 in kit, \$325.00 in wired form. Address Pickles & Trout, P.O. Box 1206, Goleta, CA 93017 (Tel: 805-967-9563).

New Printers In Town. The Model DP-8000 hard-copy printer from Anadex prints 80-character lines at 112 character/second (84 lines/minute). Printing is bidirectional, via sprocket feed. Alphanumerics are formed from a 9 × 7 dot matrix. The complete 96-character ASCII set is available. Basic ASCII inputs include RS-232C, 20/60-mA current loop, and parallel-bit/serial character, the last synchronous at high strobe rates. Three data lines of FIFO buffer storage are available, and data can be accepted continuously or in bursts. Serial ASCII is adjustable to 9600 baud. Up to 1000 characters/second can be fed into the input. Address: Anadex. Inc., 9825 DeSoto Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311 (Tel: 213-998-8010).

Bowmar's Model TP-3150 thermal printer requires no ribbons or ink. It has an 18-character capacity and uses a 5 imes5 solid-state dot-matrix print head, Print direction and character rotation are user



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controllable. ASCII data can be synchronous parallel or asynchronous serial The printer accepts the 64 standard AS-Cll characters and ignores all other codes. Price is \$270.00. Address: Bowmar Instrument Corp., Commercial Products Div., 8000 Bluffton Rd., Fort Wavne, IN 46809.

A bidirectional printer from Printer Terminals operates at 75 lines/minute and offers a choice of  $7 \times 9$  or  $9 \times 9$  dotmatrix print capability. It can print up to four copies simultaneously. The full 96-character, upper-and-lower-case ASCII set, plus triple-wide character font, are available. The operator can choose either 80- or 132-character lines. Included are RS-232C and parallel interfaces and 2K of memory for full-page dump. The printer is designed to accommodate roll paper, combination pin form and roll, and tractor feed. Price is \$1395.00. Address: Printer Terminals Corp., P.O. Box 535, Ramona, CA 92065 (Tel: 714-789-5200).

Single-Board Microcomputer.

The 90F/MPS microcomputer from Quay is based on the Z80 and contains multidensity-DMA floppy-disk controller. It can accommodate up to 65K of dynamic RAM, 14K of EPROM with programmer, and 1K of static RAM. Up to four 8-bit programmable I/O ports are available. There are also four programmable counter/timer channels and an RS-232C or 20-mA serial port, the SAVE MORe platter with selectable baud rates. A resident PROM system monitor contains debug capabilities. With 16K of dynamic RAM and two parallel ports, price is \$1295.00. Address: Quay Corp., P.O. Box 386, Freehold, NJ 07728 (Tel: Send me one year (12 issue 201-681-8700).

100/Telephone Interface. The -II transceiver board from MK Enterses interfaces an S-100 bus to the ephone line and uses Touch-Tone quencies. On incoming calls, veced interrupts allow for ring detection d DTMF signalling. This permits callthe computer and using the teleone pushbuttons for entry. A 4-bit inpost allows additional data to be isferred coincident with decoded MF. On outgoing calls, the board opites at telephone company speeds. A t output port allows supervision of ik interface equipment (DAA), Single CHECK ONE: Payment ones can be generated. Price is 425.00. Address: MK Enterprises, only) for other countries outside U.S. and posse 8911 Norwick Rd., Richmond, VA (Tel: of first issue. 04-740-8380).

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