

Connect
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West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

CoNect Direct

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Vol 2, Ed 4

Deciding on a catalog format is difficult. \$100 products deserve more than a line or two of text, but the total size has to be kept down for cost reasons. We are trying on a new format this issue- a very basic price list, and Spotlight On ...

Spotlight On ... will delve a bit deeper into a few specific products each issue. Eventually, the back issues will form a complete catalog of things CoCo.

Telephone Tag

Anyone who has tried to reach CoNect by telephone has likely been frustrated for the last month or so. My other job is construction related, and it is That Time of Year... Please bear with me until things cool down in September.

Round and Round the UG goes.....

Here we go again! Those who are members of the OS9 User's Group AND inhabit one of the online services available know all about the recent fiasco between ex-president Jim DeStefano and the membership at large. Those members who are not active in telecommunications and don't belong to a local club might have gotten the wrong message from Mr. DeStafenos recent letters.

It ain't so. The OS9 User's Group is a nonprofit organization, currently incorporated in the state of Iowa. As such an organization, it cannot legally be disbanded in the manner attempted by the ex-president. Despite the impressively worded letters and refund checks issued, the group has NOT been disbanded.

One of the founding officers of the OS9 User's Group, Inc. is Boisy Pitre. Mr. Pitre served as president of the organization until forced to step down due to conflict of interest problems with his 'day job' at MicroWare. He has stepped back in to help reorganize the group, and this process is moving right along. Much of the following information was provided by him.

All members as of July 1993 will remain members until the end of this year, despite any refund monies received from former officers. There is no need to send in dues until that time. However, donations will be accepted. I'm sure the treasury is a bit thin right now- so I for one plan to do a little donatin'.

Carl Boll and Joel Hegberg have stepped forward to produce MOTD. Members should be seeing this publication fairly soon, with full info on the new group.

**The OS9 Users Group
6158 West 63rd St. Suite 109
Chicago, IL 60638**

Diskertation

There are 2 basic paths a CoCo can take. Either is broken apart for the motherboard and built as a hobby computer or it stays Tandy. The first group has no problem with floppy drives- get a controller and mount some drives in whatever case was chosen for the machine. The owners of stock systems have a more difficult path, needing a whole 'system', including a power supply, case, and oversized data cable. This is no small gotcha, as a new and empty external floppy case/ps costs more than the pair of drives it will contain.

This makes the salvage value of older Tandy systems a concern. The object, of course, is to end up with a 'modern' set up of 1 to 3 half height 360k or 720k double sided drives. Older systems need various degrees of upgrading to do this.

Tandy sold basically four disk systems for the CoCo, all with differing capabilities. They were:

Color Computer Floppy Disk- Predates the FD50x numbering system. The controller was an old 12 volt monster with analog data separators- meaning it has adjustment pots on the disk controller and has to run in a MultiPak on CoCo2 or CoCo3. This old controller card has one interesting feature. It's the ONLY CoCo floppy controller capable of running 1.4Meg floppies! Has to be modified, but it can be done. The rest of the system is similar to the FD500.

FD500 System- Came with a 5v full size controller, which works on any CoCo. DECB10 on 24 pin ROM. Vertical drive case with a fullheight single sided drive and the infamous Tandy toothless cable. To upgrade this system, throw away the bare drive and the data cable. Put a Y adapter on the single power connector, and add 1 or 2 half height drives and a new 2 drive cable. Vanilla disk basic users should get a DECB 11 ROM. You can flip the case on it's side if the vertical mounting looks too weird.

FD501 System- First of the 'shorty' controllers. Made by TEC, these controllers have a 24 pin ROM with DECB11. Newer horizontal case mounts one singlesided half height drive, and the toothless data cable is still present. Upgrading is simple- replace the data cable and add new drives as money permits. Presents 5.25" drive connections- big power plug and cardedge data cable. 3.5" drives will need the full adaptor kit- mounting rails, power plug adaptor, and data cable adaptor.

FD502 System- On the whole, the best Tandy unit. Shorty controller now made by Tandy adds rf chokes to the data cable connector. 28 pin DECB11 ROM allows easily mounting EPROM. The data cable is usually fine- Tandy got tired of pulling pins. The drive is actually pretty nice- a very quiet double sided TEC unit and the only 'keeper' Tandy ever sold. The internal connections are weird. 3.5" style small power plugs and 5.25" style cardedge data cable means almost any drive is going to need some sort of adaptor. The most difficult thing to do quickly is add a 5.25" 360K drive. Small to big power adaptors are not that common.

Other Systems- Drive systems were sold at one time by several vendors. The main difference is the controller supplied. Most of the aftermarket drives I've seen can be considered about the same as a FD501 with new data cable- just add floppies to

fill

Controllers- The workhorse is of course a halting 1773 floppy controller, as typified by the Tandy FD50x series or almost anybody's Mini or xxxl controller. Some third party controllers add extra ROM slots, but the usefulness of these is diminishing as the number of alternate ROM based DOS drops.

The next step up is a no-halt buffered controller. Still based on the 1773, they don't support hi-density drives but are almost required for multitasking OpSys like OS9. Quite hard to find anymore. There are a few Disto SC2s still around (from Disto) but the Sardis doesn't even show at swap meets. The upside is no-halt isn't as important to hard disk owners, who mainly use the floppies for archives.

One oddity in the CoCo market is the first Radio Shack disk controller. This piece of work used the 1793 chip, so it could do the faster data transfer rate needed for 'hi density' 1.4M drives. It's a halting controller with analog (Always Needs Adjusting Lessor Or Greater) data separators, easily spotted by the trimpots on the board. If you have a driving need to write 1.4M MSDOS disks under OS9, one of these might be worth the hassle.

Mounting a New Drive- Since the CoCo uses IBM style floppies, finding new drives is fairly simple. Any 360K or 720K drive in 5.25 or 3.5 inch size will do. Most 3.5" drives have a 5.25" mounting option- which is needed to fit the bays and connectors in CoCo drive cases.

These IBM drives will need to be rejumped. Sounds like a daunting prospect when faced with all the different lettering systems used by drive makers, but it can be puzzled out. First, all IBM drives are jumpered to be the second drive in the series (IBM plays it's own games with drive data cables!) The drive select jumpers will be labeled somehow.... d or ds or s followed by numbers 0-3 or 1-4... look for a jumper block in the second position. If replacing the first drive, move this down. If adding a second, it's ok where it is. You can add one more drive jumped to the third position, but drive four is not supported by CoCo controllers if any of them are double sided.

The other jumper change is more insidious. The motor that spins the drive can be switched on several different ways. IBM only turns on the motor of the drive selected, while CoCo assumes all drive motors are on if any drive is used. When copy or backup across 2 different floppies, this difference becomes important- the CoCo doesn't wait for the other drive to spin up to speed and files get messed up or backup takes forever. Look for another series of jumpers labeled m something. There may be only two, or a whole series like m0, m1, m2, m3. However this drive is jumpered, it's wrong! Move this block to the unnumbered option (or the other choice if only 2).

If in doubt, make note of the original positions, format a few disks and play with it. Do a 2 drive backup using different motor selects. The best one will be obvious afterward.

On to the commercials.....

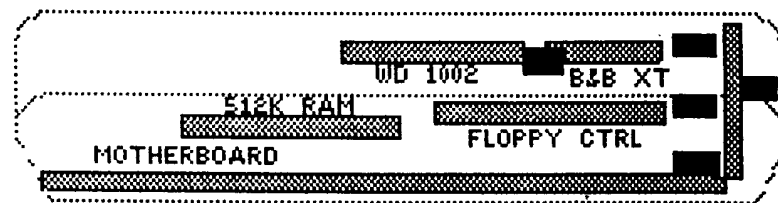
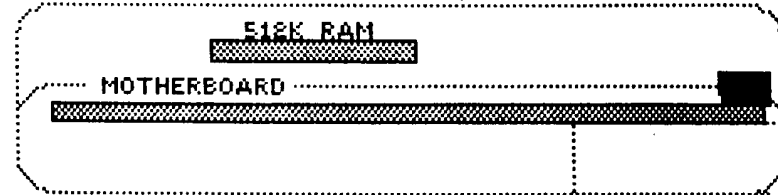
-ricku

XPander

Catalog #104

The XPander is designed to allow the most compact expansion of the CoCo possible. It is NOT a replacement for the MultiPak.

There is exactly one use for an XPander- if you have a 'serious' CoCo with floppy and hard drives plus a serial port, perhaps running a ROMPak game or 'weird' piece of hardware occasionally, then this is it! Looking at the front of a CoCo, the layout is



You'll note there is lots of room for upgrading in a stock CoCo case, provided the motherboard is lowered a bit. The CoCo Kit version supplies a new lower case shell to do this. The kit also includes an external power supply to supply 5/12/-12 volts- enough for the CoCo, a few floppies, and a hard disk. That's right, you don't need powered cases for the drives, and 12-volt cards will be powered from the Xpander buss. Physically, things are a bit tight- but Disto's 2 Meg upgrade even fits if the directions are followed.

For those who are repackaging a CoCo in a PC type case, the board only version allows you to buy only the part you need. Total size of the electronics package is 12x7x3- that's a half inch longer and 2 1/2 inches taller than the motherboard alone. Small enough to fit in almost any computer case, plus the motherboard can be positioned so the back panel is directly accessible- no expensive extender adapters needed.

For either user, the no-slot serial port adds a much needed feature without using any buss slots and little space inside.

Call or write CoNect for a free fact sheet.

Color Computer Hardware

Computers

Color Computer Two Used 64K CoCo Older VDG	\$19.95
Color Computer Three Used 128K CoCo3 with 87 GIME	\$69.95
XPander CoNect's CoCo repackaging system See ad	\$89.95
CoCo Kit for XPander keep the CoCo look	\$29.95
SticKit for XPander internal joystick hi/low adapter	\$19.95
YPower for 12v devices on ycable +/-12v 400ma	\$9.95

Upgrades

CoCo1/2 64k RAM upgrade 8 or 2 chip with instructions	\$7.95
CoCo3 512k RAM upgrade various makes	\$49.95
CoCo 6309 CPU upgrade installed 90 day warranty	\$29.95
DECB v1.1 ROM specify 24 or 28 pin ROM	\$12.95
MultiPak CC3 upgrade satellite board for small mpi	\$19.95

Buss Mounted Devices

EARS Electronic Audio Recognition System from Speech Systems only one so please call	\$79.95
Mini232 6551 based with hardware flow support, jumperable did swap and port address (ycable users-see ypower)	\$49.95
ModemPak reworked 300 bps modem cheap backup tcom board	\$24.95

Mass Storage

Cassette Kit CCR-81 recorder, AC supply, cable, 4 blank tapes	\$29.95
Floppy Disk Kit new 360k drive mounted in 2 bay case. Used halt type controller from various makers.	\$179.95
Floppy Disk Drive 360 5 1/4" 40 track half height	\$59.95
Floppy Disk Drive 720 3 1/2" 80 track hh with brackets	\$64.95
Floppy Disk Drive 1.4m "hi density"- not for most CoCos	\$69.95

Pointing/Keying

Atari Joystick Adapter for 'Nintendo style' games From Zebra	\$5.95
RS Color Mouse the little black mouse with the big red button	\$12.95
RS Joysticks a pair of cheap full floating joysticks	\$3.95
Replacement CoCo3 keyboard unused stock keys	\$19.95

Cables

Cassette DIN to submini (RCA available on request)	\$4.95
Comp. Video Replacement TV' cable Six feet	\$3.95
Comp. Video Switch with internal 70 to 300ohm balun	\$2.95
Disk Power Converter largeM to smallF or reverse	\$5.95
Disk Data- 2 Floppies four feet in length	\$14.95
Disk Data- 3 Floppies five feet	\$21.95
Disk Data- Add-A-Drive Y cable plugs into full drive case	\$14.95
Printer- Centronics db25 to c36	\$9.95
Printer- Tandy serial DIN4m to DIN4m	\$4.95
RGB Monitor- Magnavox six feet	\$14.95
Serial Cable- Custom any combination of db25,db9,DIN4	\$9.95
Serial Cable- Standard length 12-20foot db25m to db25m	\$7.95
Serial Cable- LAN 150 foot shielded 8 conductor db25m	\$29.95

Other

MC10 16k Ram upgrade static RAM pak. new, in box	\$9.95
Pocket Computer Cassette Interface New, in box	\$14.95
VCR Head Cleaner 8mm wet type Tandy #44-1147	\$4.49

Disk Extended Color Basic

Applications

CoCo Checker	For CoCo2, from Spectrum	New \$3.95
Color Profile	Disk based CoCo2 database program.	Used \$19.95
Disk EDTASM	6809 assembler/editor/debug. 80col patch	Used \$19.95
Elite*File	CoCo2 database	Used \$7.95
Elite*Word	CoCo2 word processor	Used \$7.95
Fast Dupe	Disk duplicator from Spectrum.	New \$7.95
Investograph	CoCo2 Investment analysis.Can download data directly from CompuServ or Dow Jones.	Used \$8.95
Disk Spectaculator	Disk based (32 column screen) spreadsheet from the 'Shack. 99 rows and 99 columns	Used \$12.95
Telewriter 64	Still the ultimate CoCo2 word processor	Used \$12.95

Games

Dallas Quest	J.R. and the gang still live in this disk based graphic adventure from DataSoft. No color RGB	Used \$9.95
FlightSim1	The ancient CoCo2 'night flight' simulator.	Used \$3.95
Ghanabwana	Early Steve Bjork arcade game. RGB color patch.	New \$4.95
One on One	Who says Larry Bird is gone? Not a Bird fan? OK, meet Dr. J! 2 player or you vs. CoCo. RGB color.	New \$8.95
Pitfall 2	Fairly challenging dodge the meanies maze game from Activision. RGB color patch.	Used \$4.95
Sands of Egypt	Graphic adventure from DataSoft. Difficult for beginning mapmakers- expect to wander thought the desert a bit! B&W on rgb.	Used \$9.95
Shamus	A shoot the badguys maze game. RGB color patch.	Used \$6.95
War Game Designer	The name says it all! From Sportsware	Used \$9.95

RomPaks

Arkanoid	Breakout type 'smash the wall' game from Taito. CoCo2 and 3 in the SAME RomPak!	New \$5.95
Castle of Tharrogad	Update of Dungeons of Daggorith game for CoCo3. Mouse control, saves game without cassette!	Used \$4.95
Color File 2	Tape based CoCo filing system.	New \$3.95
Color Scripsit 2	Tape based word processor. CoCo2 or 38x24 on the CoCo3!	New \$4.95
Diagnostics	Old CoCo2 diagnostic rom.	New \$2.99
Downland	Addictive vertical maze. CC2 and CC3 versions.	New \$6.95
Dungeons of Daggorith	A CoCo classic! Room maze with more, meanies and torches that keep going out. Save to tape.	New \$0.95
GFL Football	Single player football game. Unique players POV window, and the traditional overhead. Many teams- Some of them can really challenge your coaching skills!	New \$4.95
Mindroll	Interesting 3-D maze game	New \$7.95
Poltergeist	"They're here."	Used \$3.95
Rad Warrior	Vertical maze with meanies. Nicer than most.	New \$6.95
Rampage	Vent your frustrations- demolish a city or twelve	New \$7.95
Shanghai	Mah Jongg on the CoCo3! Very addictive!	New \$6.95
Springster	A stacked blocks maze with bad guys and goodies.	Used \$0.95
Super Pitfall	Update of the old Pitfall2 disk game	Used \$6.95
Tetris	Everybody knows what Tetris is!	Used \$9.95
Thexder	"Old fashioned" Nintendo style shoot 'em up.	New \$4.95

OS9

Level One	DOS and assembler for CoCol or CoCo2	New \$29.95
Level Two	DOS and Basic09 for CoCo3	New \$34.95
MultiVue	GUI for Level2 includes Windint (replacement for stock grfint, required by some programs)	New \$22.95
Patch09	Many public domain patches and an auto-install program (auto requires 2 ds disk drives)	New \$3.95
Basic09	Why did they leave Basic out of Level1?	Used \$14.95
D.L. Logo	Excellent learning language.	Used \$19.95
Pascal	enhanced ISO Standard 7185 I Level0 Compiler	Used \$39.95

OS9 Applications

Color Computer Artist	This drawing program can output OS9 wind format files Just merge with any window for instant graphics	New \$4.95
DeskMate	CoCo2 Calendar, Text Editor, Index cards, Paint Ledger, and telecom. No xmodem mode, however.	New \$12.95
DynaCalc	Best spreadsheet available for OS9 CoCo. 80col in Lv12. Many cell format options. Sorts.Windows. Sticky titles.Trig. Lookup tables. More!	New \$29.95
Home Publisher	Desktop publishing for CoCo. Could be faster.	New \$9.95
PhantomGraph	Excellent graphing for Lv12. Line, bar, pie, scatter plots! Explode, stack, color em! Import data from dynacalc or sylk files	New \$19.95
Profile	Good database from the makers of DynaCalc.	Used \$19.95
Screen Dump Utility	Dump Lv11 screens to printer	Used \$4.95
T/S Edit	Full screen text editor.OS9 and DECB included	Used \$9.95
T/S Word	Print formatter for T/S Edit	Used \$9.95

OS9 Games

Cave Walker	Vertical maze game comes with Level1 boot, will run as is under your Level2!	Used \$9.95
Flight Simulator 2	Very impressive simulation from Sublogic Same as older MicroSoft Flight Simulator for IBM- clouds, wind, radio navigation, even mechanical failures of the aircraft are emulated	Used \$12.95
Interbank Incident	Mouse driven CoCo2 adventure even speaks (with S/S Pak) No color on RGB	New \$12.95
King's Quest 3	The ultimate CoCo3 adventure! From Sierra. 512K required just to harness the graphics	New \$17.95
Koronis Rift	CoCo3 Arcade/Adventure You'll need those lightning reflexes and a brain	New \$7.95
Microscopic Mission	Save the patient while battling the deadliest enemy of all, the human body!	New \$9.95
Rescue on Fractalus	Shoot the bad guys Save the good guys Enjoy the graphics	New \$7.95
Rogue	Maze adventure has been around for ages! depends on interesting play, instead of flashy graphics	New \$8.95
Sub Battle Simulator	American or German WW2 era submarines	New \$10.95
Zone Runner	Adventure in interstellar commerce	New \$6.95

School's In!

Bumble Plot!	Take a bee to the store, waiting for ages 8-13	New	\$7.95
ChildPac	Child's development chart through 60 months	New	\$7.95
Color Math	Tape based arithmetic drill, covering the basic 4	New	\$3.95
Donald Duck's Playground	This Disney Learning game teaches logical thinking, matching skills, money changing ages 7-11	New	\$9.95
Kidwriter	Kids draw, make up a picture, then write a story to match. Introduces word processing, encourages creativity. From Spinnaker	New	\$7.95
Magic Spells	Spelling for ages 6-10 years	Used	\$7.95
Mickey's Space Adventure	Teaches mapping, problem solving, and planetary science the Disney way. For ages 8 and up	New	\$9.95
Microscopic Mission	Introduction to almost every medical speciality- microbiology to lifestyles for disease prevention. CC3	New	\$9.95
MopTown Parade	Teaches logic, discrimination and problem solving 6-10	Used	\$7.95
Success with Math	Designed towards high school algebra students. Two self paced tutorials cover linear and quadratic equations	New	\$9.95
Telling Time with Donald	Tape Disney game teaches children 5-8 how to tell time	Used	\$4.95
Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?	This has to be the most enjoyable geography lesson I've ever seen!	New	\$9.95
Winnie the Pooh in the Hundred Acre Wood	Teaches map reading and logical thinking. Ages 7 and up	New	\$9.95

Bookshelf

Basic09 Tour Guide	If you are interested in learning Basic09, this is the book for you! By Dale Puckett.	New	\$9.95
Beginner's Guide to Windows	Covering the Level Two windowing system graphics, usage with Basic09. First (and only) of a planned two volume set from Msrs. Plucket and Dribble stands alone nicely.	New	\$5.95
Color Computer Assembly Language Programming	Bill Barden's classic covers the 6809 and interfacing to the DECB rom. Predates the CoCo3, but still an excellent primer to CoCo assy.	New	\$5.95
Mouse Pad	If cutesy cheese wedges and tiny footprints leave you cold, this is the place to slide your mouse. Spill proof plastic laminated sheet lists error numbers and descriptions, display codes, command summary, even a hex table!	New	\$5.95

Tape

Bedlam	You're in, and you want to get out of this nutty place!	Used	\$4.95
Madness and the Minotaur	Search for treasure	Used	\$4.95
Pooyan	Arcade. Save yer piglets from the big bad wolf.	Used	\$4.95
Pyramid 2000	Slightly reworked version of "Original Adventure"	Used	\$4.95
Rakki-Tu	Venture into the temple of a lost civilization	Used	\$4.95

About CoNect

The Short List

The Short List is a collection of single copies and other soon to be gone products. Every thing you see here will probably be sold in a few weeks, so be sure to call first!

DECB Apps.

Backup Lightening	The fastest disk backup available for CoCo	\$12.95
Comics+	EZfriendly lets you draw your own strips	\$7.95
Musica 2	Copy the score over, then play it in 4 voices	\$12.95
QuickPro+2	Write your own database without writing anything	\$9.95
PTerm	VT52 and VT100 emulation	\$19.95
IMP Library	Word proc,speller,dbase,calc, and terminal for CC2	\$49.95

OS9

C Compiler	Microwares K&R C Compiler for Level 1 or Level2	\$59.95
OS9Util+DiskFix	Colorwares Lvl1 up does double side,wildcards,more!	\$12.95

Books

Color Computer Playground	42 type in programs	\$5.95
Complete Guide to OS9	Mr. Dribble's intro to OS9 (any level)	\$9.95
Computer Programming in BASIC Language	480pg Intro to basic	\$7.95
TRS80 CoCo Programs	dilithium Press does 27 ECB programs	\$5.95

The trend is growing! CoCo suppliers are dropping faster than support from Radio Shack. Most of the ones left carry only a few items, with occasional lots of surplus goods sold at blowout prices.

Like most remaining vendors, CoNect has a few items we manufacture, and while they provide most of our income, we want to do something more for the community. To this end, we attempt to stock everything. Every dollar CoNect takes in (and a few more) goes into purchase of formerly common items like CoCo's, disk controllers, software, and other CoCo-specific goods.

Our pricing reflects our determination to remain in the market. If you find somebody blowing out DynaCalc's for \$5, by all means buy one. But rest assured that long after those 2 dozen units are gone, CoNect will still be selling them, as well as replacement CoCo's and ports and mice and....

Ordering Info:

Our mailing address is:

CoNect
449 South 90th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Or call (414) 258-2989 evenings and weekends. Else, leave EMail on Delphi (RICKULAND) or Internet (rickuland@delphi.com)

We accept personal checks or money orders. Sorry, no plastic yet. All orders please include shipping and handling charge of \$4.00 (US) or \$6.00 (Canada).

Legal Stuff:

All hardware manufactured by CoNect carries a 90 day limited warranty. Used hardware has been tested, unfortunately, we can't guarantee anything more than it will work when you receive it.

Software that doesn't boot will be repaired or replaced at our option. What this means is, anything we have (or can get) more of will be replaced with a new copy. Used or surplus software will be restored from our master copy.

Wanted, Dead or Alive!

CoNect is interested in buying your old Color Computer or 'KMA' (TC70, MM/1, SystemIV) hardware or software, working or not. Software must include the original disk, even if it doesn't boot. In fact, we often don't care if you even have a working copy! We are after that original disk, manual, and license:-)

We are also interested in your original software packages or hardware designs. CoNect can assist in production, and pays competitive royalties for each unit sold.