

Revised for  
COMPACT 128

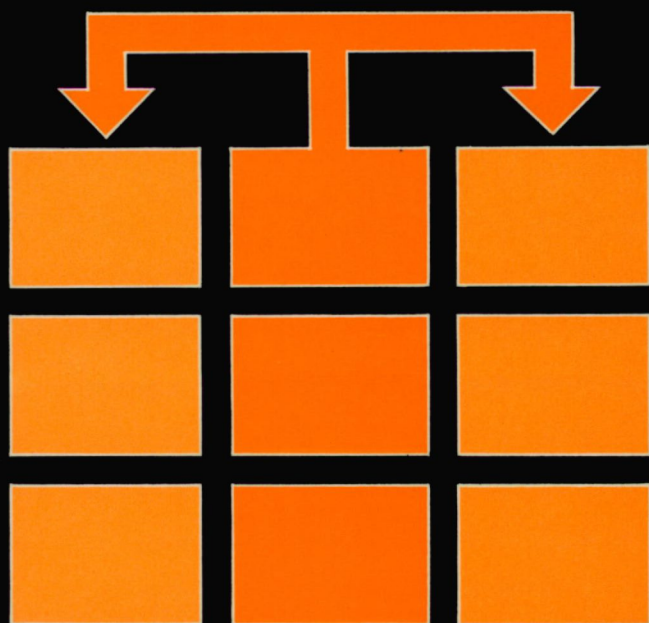
**BRUCE SMITH**

# Advanced Sideways

# RAM

# User Guide

for the **MASTER** and **BBC Computers**



VICTORY

PUBLISHING

**BRUCE SMITH**

**Advanced  
Sideways**

**RAM  
User Guide**

**for the MASTER and BBC Computers**

Editor  
Tony Quinn



**VICTORY**

**PUBLISHING**

PO Box 19  
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God bless all who sail in her

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## Preface to Second Edition

The contents of this book are fully applicable to the Master Compact. The Compact has one new feature plus some changes which are discussed below. There has been much feedback on the first edition from readers and friends for which I am most grateful. Most of this has been incorporated, and those points which could not be dealt with in the text are discussed on page 229.

Bruce Smith November 1986

## Master Compact

The most significant improvement is the addition of an optional I (insert) parameter as part of the \*SRLOAD and \*SRWRITE commands. If I is specified (with or without a Q parameter - see page 28), the ROM image will be automatically inserted into the ROM memory map and be available for immediate use. Typical examples of use of the I parameter are

```
*SRLOAD Rom 8000 7 I
*SRWRITE 5000+500 8000 6 QI
```

If the I option is left off, CTRL-BREAK must be used to 'insert' the ROM.

The Compact comes with 64k of ROM supplied, whereas the Master has 128k. Hence \*ROMS (page 20) shows that only sockets &F, &E and &D contain ROM titles.

```
&F UTILS 01
&E Basic 40
&D ADFS 10
```

The word 'RAM' will appear in sockets 4,5,6 and 7.

The ROM slots occupy the lower right hand side of the printed circuit board inside the Compact keyboard. These compare with the Master 128 as follows.

Compact	Max size	Slot number	Master 128 position
IC38	32k	0,1	Cartridge (sk3)
IC23	16k	2	Cartridge (sk4)
IC17	16k	3	Cartridge (sk4)
IC29	16k	8	IC27

Appendix D link notes are not relevant to the Compact.

# Introduction

## Using This Book

Sideways RAM is a philosophy central to the design of the Master series of microcomputers. Four sideways memory areas are provided for you to load in ROM software images from disc. This facility not only allows you to keep copies of ROM software on disc and avoid having to handle chips and cartridges, but also, and even more exciting, to develop your own software that can be accessed by \* commands. And that is what this book is really all about - providing you with the theory, backed up with tried and tested programs.

Of course sideways RAM was not invented for the Master, its predecessor the BBC B+128 also has the sideways RAM available to use - and the other Acorn machines - BBC B, BBC B+ and Electron can also be fitted with plug-in sideways RAM boards which instantly open up this new world for you. If you're looking for a RAM board then consult magazine reviews (typically that by Chris Drage in the May 1986 edition of Acorn User).

The practical approach of this book is emphasised by the fact that there are over 25 listings, the majority of which all form sideways RAM images which will give you extra \* commands when they are loaded into a sideways RAM bank. As a reference guide, even the most devote sideways RAM follower will find it invaluable and the full index will allow you to locate information quickly and simply.

Although programs are written with the Master in mind, Appendix B contains full conversion details for the BBC B, BBC B+, BBC B+128 and Electron microcomputers.

The ROM Formatter program presented in chapter 13 is worth the price of the book alone! It will enable you to format your favourite BASIC or machine code programs in

such a way that they to can be used as a RAM image and loaded in or run without the need to access disc or tape

For those of you who suffer from tired fingers after the first three lines then a disc of the programs can be obtained - details at the rear of this book

### Listings

All the listings have been tried and tested before being dumped to a printer. The listings are written in BASIC 4 and will run on BASIC 2 with no correction - users of BASIC 1 will need to doctor the listings slightly but full details are provided. In an effort to provide clarity a daisywheel printer has been used to produce the listings. Note the difference between the following characters

number one	I
small letter 'el'	l
number zero	Ø
large letter 'oh'	O
hash	≠

All the listings are dumped with LISTOI, WIDTH4Ø

### The future

Sideways RAM has proved itself to be among the most popular aspects of BBC computing - to continue this we at Victory Publishing with your co-operation hope to provide a regular newsletter on just this topic. So let's hear your views, your ideas and see your programs

### Acknowledgments

Many thanks to the following: Linda Dhondy, Alex van Someren, Steve Mansfield, Derek Coombes, Kitty Milne (keep on Computing), and everyone on Acorn User

June 1986

# Chapter One

## What is Sideways RAM?

Question What is sideways RAM?

Answer I'm not going to tell you' (Yet )

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to be difficult. What I am going to do is first show you Master owners what sideways RAM is -- and just how useful it can be. Then in the rest of this book I'll explain how you can use it to further your own needs, so that by the last page you'll feel confident in being able to approach the task of writing your own software in sideways format without too much trouble. All you have to know for the moment is that the sideways RAM is ready and waiting in your Master and I'm going to prove it with a little demonstration.

Type in listing I 1 found at the end of the chapter. It's just 50 lines long so shouldn't tax even the worst typists. Leave out the first five lines if you want. Once it has all been typed in, save the program to a disc or tape before running it - just in case there's an accident (if so you can load it back in). Use the filename 'DEMO' to save the program under, ie

```
SAVE DEMO'
```

Right, now for the moment of truth. RUN the program. If you get any errors, correct them and save the program again. The most likely place for errors is in the DATA lines. For example

```
Out of data at line 140
```

means you have missed out an item or items of DATA in lines 290 to 510. If you get the message

Data error - please check

then you have made a typing error within the data which has been picked up by a checking routine in lines 190-260. So look through it all again carefully. If the message persists then get someone else to check it for you. When everything is okay the usual cursor prompt will appear. Remember, if you make any corrections to the program, re-save it each time.

All OK? Then congratulations, you have written a sideways RAM program. Simple wasn't it? Writing sideways RAM programs isn't normally as boring as entering in rows of numbers - I've just done it that way to make it easier for the time being. The next thing to do is to initialise the sideways RAM program - in other words tell the micro it's there. This is done by performing a CTRL-BREAK (To do this, hold down the CTRL key, press the Break key once and then release the CTRL key.) The Master will display its normal start-up message as when you first turn on. Now type

\*ROMS

A list similar to this should appear

```

ROM F TERMINAL 01
ROM E VIEW 04
ROM D Acorn ADFS 50
ROM C BASIC 04
ROM B Edit 01
ROM A ViewSheet 02
ROM 9 DFS 02
ROM 8 ?
ROM 7 ?
ROM 6 ?
ROM 5 ?
ROM 4 Beep 1 0 01
ROM 3 ?
ROM 2 ?
ROM 1 ?
ROM 0 ?

```

This lists the software held in the Master. The seven at the top of the list are standard and come with the micro when you buy it. We are interested in number 4.

```

ROM 4 Beep 1 0 01

```

What you have done is to put a program called 'Beep' into an area of sideways RAM when you ran the DEMO program above 'Beep' is designed to act as if it was an actual ROM chip

The command \*HELP lists the ROMs present in the machine Try it now

```
*HELP
```

The result will look something like this

```
OS 3 2Ø
MOS
```

```
TERMINAL 1 2Ø
```

```
VIEW B3 Ø
```

```
EDIT 4
```

```
ViewSheet B1 Ø
```

```
SRAM 1 ØØ
```

```
Beep 1 Ø
```

So Beep 1 Ø has been added to the \*HELP list Now type

```
NEW
```

followed by the following short program

```
1Ø FOR N%=1 TO 2Ø
2Ø *BEEP
3Ø NEXT N%
```

RUN this, and you'll get a continuous tone from the speaker of your micro When the din stops try typing in \*BEEP This time you'll get a single beep

What the original program has done is to add a new command to the Master's vocabulary - \*BEEP If you don't believe me turn the Master off for a few seconds, then switch it back on and go through the \*ROMS, \*HELP procedure and see where it gets you!

### Sideways ROMs or RAMs

The terms sideways RAM and sideways ROM often go hand in hand - but what is the difference between them?



Well, in short, sideways RAM is volatile (ie it can change) while sideways ROM is non-volatile (it can't)

RAM stands for Random Access Memory - you can read its contents and you can also change them. It is a volatile medium in that its contents are only preserved while it has power supplied to it. As soon as the power source is removed the contents are lost. They can be restored by switching on the power and loading them back in. This was exemplified with the \*BEEP example. The DEMO program wrote the code for this into the correct area of RAM. The \*BEEP command was available to us all the time the power was switched on. As soon as the power was removed, ie by switching the micro off, the code for \*BEEP was lost. It can be placed back into the Master by loading and running the program again.

ROM stands for Read Only Memory. As its name suggests this memory can only be read from - it cannot be written to. ROMs are an example of a non-volatile memory, their contents are not affected by power being present or not. The Master is fitted with a single ROM chip when you buy it - the 'MegaROM' as it is called in Acorn's user guides. This contains all the machine code that is required to run your micro - BASIC, the MOS, View, Viewsheet, DFS, ADFS, Edit and Terminal.

Sideways RAM and sideways ROM both have their pros and cons. The obvious advantage of sideways ROMs is that they are always present within the machine - ready for instant use as soon as you switch the Master on. The disadvantage is that if you wish to add a new or extra sideways ROM you need to take the lid of the micro and physically fit it into one of the ROM sockets, or use a cartridge. Sideways RAM does not suffer from this disadvantage because you can just load it in from disc or tape. Its other big advantage is that it allows you to write and develop customised software - a rewarding and possibly profitable hobby!

When a program is written to work in sideways RAM, it is converted into a 'ROM image'. This can be loaded into a sideways RAM bank or saved to disc for future loading. Once the ROM image is in sideways RAM we can for all intents and purposes use it as if it were a ROM, although strictly speaking it's not. This interchange of terms is quite common in books and magazines, not to mention the Master itself, so don't be put off - it's simply quicker and easier to say!

### Why 'Sideways'?

The nagging question you may have at this moment is what is the relevance of the term 'sideways'? To answer

this we need to understand something about the 65C12 microprocessor at the heart of the Master. The amount of memory that any microprocessor can actually address (ie write to or read from) at any one time depends on the number of 'addressing lines' it has. The address lines, collectively called the address bus, are the wires that radiate from the 65C12 chip. These lines can have one of two states - either on or off. The two states can be indicated by the numeric values 1 and 0. By switching on combinations of address lines we can build up patterns of 1's and 0's. You may already realise that this forms what is termed a binary number. In computing however, rather than talk in strings of ones and zeroes we convert to a special number system called hexadecimal, based on 16 rather than 10. You may already be familiar with this term - if not then take a look at Appendix A and the Glossary before going any further.

The 65C12 chip has sixteen address lines, so the maximum address of a byte of memory is when all the lines are 'on'. In binary terms this is represented as 11111111 11111111, which is &FFFF or 65535 decimal. Therefore there are 65536 addressable locations within the Master (65536 because the first is at location 0). If we convert this figure into kilobytes by dividing through 1024 we arrive at 64k. Figure 1.1 shows how this is traditionally arranged. The first 32k is given over as RAM, the top 32k contains first the 16k BASIC language and above this the 16k MOS (machine operating system). But think about what your Master contains. It has 128k of RAM and 128k of ROM in its standard configuration - that's 256k in all, yet we have just determined that the maximum addressable memory of the

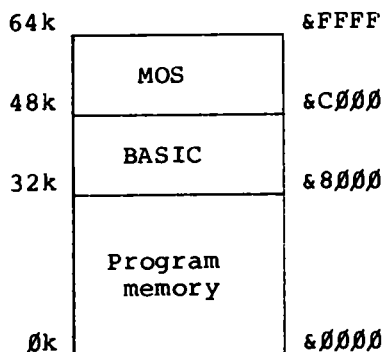


Figure 1.1 The traditional memory map

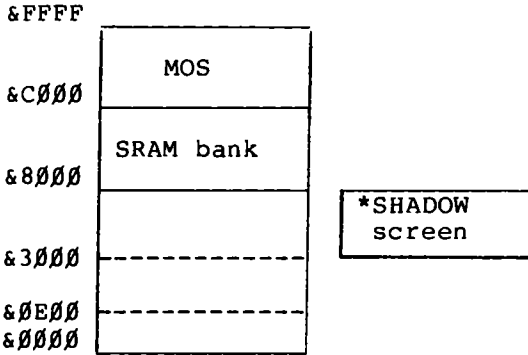


Figure 1 2 Software can be read into SRAM bank Memory for shadow screen sits alongside main block

BASIC	Term	View	ADFS	Edit	View Sheet	DFS
-------	------	------	------	------	------------	-----

Figure I 3 Sideways software can be 'paged' into RAM bank

Master is a mere quarter of this' The answer lies in having the extra memory present but 'overlaying' it into the main memory map as and when it is requested. For example you can gain extra programming memory in that first 32k bank of RAM by selecting shadow memory with the command \*SHADOW. When this command is executed the Master intercepts any subsequent commands to do with the screen and redirects it away from program memory to the shadow RAM area. In other words, the contents are put to one side (figures I 2 and I 3). That last word provides the clue to how the term sideways arose.

The ROMs supplied in the MegaROM, with the exception of the MOS, all occupy the same section or bank of memory. That is the 16k from &8000 to &BFFF. So in figures I 2 and I 3 they appear to stretch sideways across the memory map. When you use a particular command, the MOS locates which ROM that command belongs to and allows that ROM to take control of the 16k of memory normally occupied by the BASIC language. This technique is often called 'paging' and gives rise to the term 'paged ROM'.

Sideways RAM is simply a bank of RAM that is treated in exactly the same way - in fact the MOS cannot tell the difference between sideways RAM and sideways ROM -

only we can' A total of 64k of the Master's RAM is capable of being paged into this sideways slot. As each slot is 16k, that gives us a total of four sideways RAM banks, ie  $4 \times 16k = 64k$

You may be wondering why only a 16k section of RAM was provided as the slot for sideways RAM, and why the whole of the 32k of memory above  $\$80000$  is not used. The answer is straightforward. The Master cannot operate without the MOS present, because this handles all the donkey work such as writing to the screen, reading the keyboard and moving to and from other ROMs. All that sideways RAM, or ROM programs ever need to do to perform such a task is to call the appropriate routine within the MOS. In fact in many instances it is done automatically by the MOS without you ever knowing - reading and displaying key presses for example.

### Getting your priorities right!

As we saw in the list of ROMs earlier, each sideways ROM or RAM slot is given a number. In fact the Master has the capability to address 16 ROM or RAM sockets and these are numbered from 0 to 15. To keep in line with normal computing tradition these sockets are normally referred to by their hexadecimal equivalents, ie  $\$0$  to  $\$F$ . Of course I use the term socket for descriptive purposes. There are not 16 sockets physically inside the case of the Master, but they are in theory.

The MegaROM containing the standard software occupies seven 'sockets',  $\$9$  to  $\$F$ . The four banks of sideways RAM are overlaid into positions 4, 5, 6 and 7. Make a mental note of these now as we will need to refer to these positions constantly when writing sideways RAM programs.

One final point is that the sideways RAM memory is taken over when you use BASI28, the special version of BASIC supplied on the Welcome disc to give you access to 64k of RAM for programs. Obviously, you cannot use BASI28 and sideways RAM at the same time.

### Summary

So, sideways RAM is a special area of memory into which we can place programs. These programs are written to special, but easy to follow rules which will be explained in the next chapter. Once in sideways RAM, a program will behave as if it were in a ROM chip.

As we have seen we can extend the Master's vocabulary so it can carry out special tasks for us at the whim of typing in a chosen command. \*BEEP was not exactly

earth-shattering stuff, but no matter how simple or complex a command you decide to write, it will still need to be implemented in the same way. Incidentally, the two-digit number given alongside the ROM name when you type \*HELP is the version number. There'll be more on this in the next chapter.

The tutorial approach of this chapter using simple programs as examples will be followed throughout this book. The end result of some of the examples may be mundane, but it's getting there and seeing how things are done that counts. Therefore the implementation will be covered in depth while the example will be kept as simple as possible to avoid confusion. The programs are not written for efficiency or to optimise speed and space. When you have mastered the basics then tacking on your own routines will be a minor problem.

## Listing I I Sideways RAM demonstration Save as DEMO

```
10 REM A simple demo
20 REM DEMO
30 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
40 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
50
60 PROCread
70 PROCchecksum
80 *SRWRITE 4000 +72 8000 4
90 END
100
110 DEF PROCread
120 base=&4000
130 FOR loop=0 TO 113
140 READ data
150 base?loop=data
160 NEXT loop
170 ENDPROC
180
190 DEF PROCchecksum
200 N%=0
210 FOR loop=0 TO 113
220 N%=N%+base?loop
230 NEXT
240 IF N%=13477 THEN ENDPROC
250 VDU 7
260 PRINT Data error - please check
270 STOP
280
290 DATA 0,0,0,76,23
300 DATA 128,130,18,1,66
310 DATA 101,101,112,32,49
320 DATA 46,48,0,0,40
330 DATA 67,41,0,72,201
340 DATA 9,240,6,201,4
350 DATA 240,33,104,96,152
360 DATA 72,138,72,32,47
370 DATA 128,104,170,104,168
380 DATA 104,96,32,231,255
390 DATA 162,255,232,189,9
400 DATA 128,32,227,255,208
410 DATA 247,32,231,255,96
420 DATA 152,72,138,72,162
430 DATA 255,136,232,200,177
440 DATA 242,41,223,221,109
450 DATA 128,240,245,189,109
460 DATA 128,16,15,201,255
470 DATA 208,11,169,7,32
480 DATA 227,255,104,104,104
```

## Listing I I continued

```
490 DATA I69,0,96,I04,I70  
500 DATA I04,I68,I04,96,66  
510 DATA 69,69,80,255
```

# Chapter Two

## The Sideways Header

I mentioned in the first chapter that programs placed in sideways RAM or ROM must conform to a specific format for them to work correctly. In this chapter we'll look at the arrangement of this format, in particular the couple of dozen bytes generally referred to as the 'ROM header'. We'll be using a few terms that may well be new to you so I'll explain each one as we go along. The first six bytes of the header, from &8000 to &8005, contain two entry points into the sideways ROM. These are two sets of machine code instructions arranged like this

```
&8000    JMP xxxx  
&8003    JMP yyyy
```

where xxxx and yyyy are hex addresses

The first three-byte address is the language entry point and the second the service entry point. With one exception all ROMs have service entry points, but not all ROMs have a language entry point.

The service entry point causes a jump to a piece of machine code designed to handle requests for information given by the MOS. For example, when you type in \*HELP, the MOS asks each ROM in turn to print out its individual \*HELP message. Similarly, if the MOS finds a command it does not know beginning with an asterisk (eg \*BEEP), it asks each ROM in turn if it recognises the command. The one exception to this rule is the BASIC ROM, which the MOS recognises by its lack of a service entry point. The only ROMs that have language entry points are, surprise, surprise, language



ROMs View, Viewsheet, and Edit are examples of language ROMs, as well as more traditional names such as Forth, Pascal, etc. This language entry point provides the means for the sideways ROM to take control of the Master as we shall see later on. If a ROM is not a language then it should leave these first three bytes of the ROM image alone, setting them to zero.

Table 2 I provides a brief list of the bytes at the front of the ROM header which have a specific function.

Byte	Function
8000	Language entry point
8003	Service entry point
8006	ROM type (language or service)
8007	Copyright offset pointer
8008	Binary version number
8009	ASCII title string (terminator byte &00)
8xxx	ASCII version string (terminator byte &00)
8yyy	ASCII Copyright string (terminator byte &00)
8zzz	Tube relocation address

Table 2 I Format of the ROM header

The first 10 bytes of the ROM header (8000-8009) are fixed and may always be found at a specific address. The bytes after the ASCII string title, though important, may be of variable length. These bytes consist mainly of ASCII character strings that define the ROM title and copyright labels. Each of these ASCII character strings ends with a zero (terminator byte).

While the language and service entry points into a sideways ROM are obviously important to the functioning of the ROM, the information in the bytes following is of equal importance. The copyright string, and in particular the C itself within the brackets, (C), is most important as without it the ROM will not be recognised as one. The byte at &8007 is the 'copyright string offset pointer' which contains the number of bytes (called the 'offset') from the start of the ROM to the &00 byte immediately prior to the copyright string (see figure 2 I).

When switched off, or after a CTRL-BREAK, the MOS extracts the value of the offset and uses it as an index to test for the presence of a copyright string. If there is one then the MOS is sure that a sideways

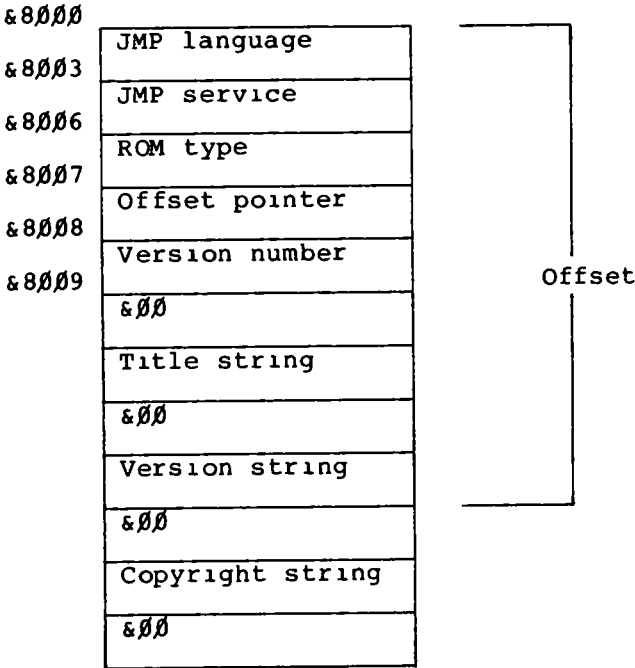


Figure 2 I Calculating the offset

ROM is present in that particular bank. The next stage in the initialisation process is to build a 'ROM type table' by extracting the type byte from each ROM and storing it in table form in memory for reference (The ROM type table in the Master's MOS, version 3 0, is located from the I6 bytes starting at &2A1 ). The address of the table can be read for other operating systems using OSBYTE I70. Entering and running listing I 2 will do this for you

```

I0 REM Read ROM table address
20 A%=I70
30 X%=0
40 Y%=255
50 addr%=(USR(&FFF4)) AND &FFFF00
60 addr%=addr% DIV 256
70 PRINT ~addr%
    
```

Listing 2 I Reads ROM table Save as TABLE

Table 2 2 gives the address where the type number for each ROM is stored. Reading the address will tell you

what type of ROM software is in a particular sideways ROM/RAM bank

ROM bank	Address
0	&2A1
1	&2A2
2	&2A3
3	&2A4
4	&2A5
5	&2A6
6	&2A7
7	&2A8
8	&2A9
9	&2AA
I0	&2AB
I1	&2AC
I2	&2AD
I3	&2AE
I4	&2AF
I5	&2B0

Table 2 2 Address associated with each ROM bank

If any ROM banks are found to be 'empty' then a zero is placed in the relevant table byte. Thus if ROM 6 were empty a zero byte would be placed at location &2A7. If a sideways ROM position contains a ROM, its 'type byte' is read and placed in the byte position in the type table.

### ROM Types

The byte at &8006 contains the ROM type (table 2 I) which gives the MOS information about the ROM. Each bit in the byte conveys the following information:

Bit 7 Set if the ROM has a service entry, therefore it must always be set as all ROMs must have a service entry point. The ONLY exception to this rule is BASIC.

Bit 6 Set if the ROM has a language entry point.

Bit 5 Set if the ROM has a second processor relocation address, for example if the ROM contains a 'H1' version of a language. For this to happen the code in the ROM, bar the service entry coding, must have been assembled for second processor addressing in mind. The service call coding is not copied across the Tube interface to the second processor, and only languages may be copied across the Tube.

Bit 4 This bit is used by ROMs operating on the Electron only. (If set it controls the use of soft key



with this type number include the DFS and ADFS The BASIC ROM has the type number

&60 = 0110 0000

This indicates it has a language entry point and a Tube relocation address As already mentioned BASIC has no service entry point In addition bit I is also clear, which must normally be set

### Copyright Offset

This byte at &8007 gives the number of bytes (the offset) from the start of the ROM to the &00 terminator byte immediately before the copyright string As described earlier the copyright string is used to identify a sideways ROM The following lines of code could be used to test for the presence of a ROM (the variable 'vector' is a zero page byte address vector containing &8000)

```
LDY #7           \ offset at +7
LDA (vector),Y  \ get offset
TAY             \ move into Y register
INY            \ add one
INY            \ add one
LDA (vector),Y  \ get byte
CMP #ASC('C')   \ is it 'C' from (C)?
BNE norom      \ if no, there's no ROM'
```

Of course it is possible to pick up ASCII C as garbage from an empty bank (so says Murphy's law), so it is worth testing the bytes either side of the C to ensure that they are equal to the ASCII values for "(" and ")"

IMPORTANT A capital C must be used for the copyright indicator - a lower case c will not be recognised as such'

### Version Number

The version number is not used by the MOS at all It is simply a byte provided for you to keep track of software development The eight bit value should relate to the version number of the software herein Thus if the software was version 5 the byte here could contain &05 This is the number displayed after the ROM name when \*ROMS is used

Title String

This is an ASCII string starting from &8009 and terminated by a zero byte. If the ROM is a language then the MOS prints this string on the screen when the ROM is initialised. This string is also normally the one printed out when \*HELP is performed.

Version String

This ASCII string is optional. It allows the user to print the version number of the ROM during the processing of \*HELP. This string must be terminated by a zero byte, &00. If the ROM is a language then on entry to it the error pointer vector at &FD and &FE will be made to point to the version number if it is present. If the version string is not present the error pointer will go to the copyright string.

Tube Relocation Address

If bit 5 of the ROM type byte is set then the MOS expects to find a Tube relocation address at this point. This is the address to which the ROM contents, which will be a language, will be copied. The code must therefore be written with the second processor relocation address borne in mind. The service coding should not though, and should assemble as normal. This is because the service code is not copied across the Tube, as discussed in Chapter I4.

Standard Header

Writing all the above information into a BASIC or assembler program is not difficult. Program 2 I shows just how simple it is. Type it in and save it under the name 'HEADER'. RUN the program, and reply as you wish to the two questions. Here's how I fared.

```
Enter ROM title      Tester
Enter copyright string  Bruce Smith
Assembling header
8000
8000
>
```

The program first asks you to enter the ROM title string, I used 'Tester', followed by the copyright string, my name. Note that I did not enter the (C) as this has already been incorporated into the program.

The message 'Assembling header' is printed. The two numbers 8000 show assembly of the code is underway. When the prompt returns the ROM header is in position. Type \*ROMS to check it has happened. My results were

```

ROM F TERMINAL 01
ROM E VIEW 04
ROM D Acorn ADFS 50
ROM C BASIC 04
ROM B Edit 01
ROM A ViewSheet 02
ROM 9 DFS 02
ROM 8 ?
ROM 7 Tester 01
ROM 6 ?
ROM 5 ?
ROM 4 ?
ROM 3 ?
ROM 2 ?
ROM 1 ?
ROM 0 ?

```

Sure enough, ROM 7 contains the Tester title. Let's look at the assembly program in detail now to see what happened and how.

Lines 160 to 180 We cannot assemble our machine code header directly into sideways RAM. So we need to assemble it elsewhere in memory, but make the assembler think it's going into memory from &8000. This can be done using OPTs in the range 4 to 6 (or 7) and using the O% pointer in conjunction with P% (If you are not too familiar with this aspect of the assembler, then refer to Appendix B.) The pointer O% points to &5000 which is where the machine code for the header is actually assembled.

Lines 190 to 200 Assemble the language entry point. As there is no language entry, three zero bytes are inserted using EQU B and EQU W.

Line 210 Assembles the service entry point. The code is simply a direct JMP to the start of the service polling code. This is marked by the label 'service' (line 320).

Line 220 Assembles the ROM type code. The byte assembled is the standard one for a service only ROM, ie &82. Refer to text above for details.

Line 230 Assembles the copyright offset pointer. Uses the MOD function to calculate the offset, which is the remainder of the division by 256 (line 280).

Line 240 Assembles the binary version number of the ROM coding, I in this case.

Line 250 Label marking start of the ROM title string

Lines 260 to 270 Assemble the ASCII title string terminated by a zero byte

Line 280 Label marking 'offset'

Lines 290 to 310 Assemble the copyright string, prefixed and terminated by a zero byte

Line 320 Label marking the start of the service entry code

Line 330 The service entry coding here consists simply of a return Any service calls to this ROM will be returned without effect

### Sideways Writing

Once the code has been assembled, it needs to be transferred across into a sideways RAM bank This is done in line 90 by the command \*SRWRITE This command requires four items of information to work on, thus

```
*SRWRITE(<start addr>+<length>)<relocated addr> <ROM id>
```

Let's examine each parameter in turn

<start address>	this is the start address of the assembled code in memory
+<length>	length, in bytes, of the assembled code
<start address>	start address to which code is to be relocated in sideways RAM
<ROM id>	number of the sideways RAM bank into which code is to be copied, ie, 4, 5, 6 or 7

The two start addresses are to be in hexadecimal Line 90 in program 2 I is as follows

```
*SRWRITE 5000 +200 8000 7
```

This shows that the start address of the assembled code is &5000, its length is &200 bytes, and it is to be relocated at &8000 in sideways RAM bank number 7 The length value can be substituted by the address +1 of the end of the code if so desired For example, if the code started at &5000 and ended at &6123, we could use

```
*SRWRITE 5000 6124 8000 7
```

The absence of the + sign before the second value informs the MOS that the number following is an



address and not an offset. Note that the second number is 1 greater than the actual end address of the code and must follow on from the first value.

There are several more sideways RAM utility commands supplied with the Master and these will be examined in the next chapter.

## Listing 2 1 Reads ROM table address Save as TABLE

```

10 REM Read ROM table address
20 A%=170
30 X%=0
40 Y%=255
50 addr%=(USR(&FFF4)) AND &FFFF00
60 addr%=addr% DIV 256
70 PRINT ~addr%

```

## Listing 2 2 Produces standard ROM header Save as HEADER

```

10 REM Form ROM header
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM The Advanced SRAM Guide
40 REM
50 MODE 7
60 PROCgetstrings
70 PRINT'"Assembling header"'
80 PROCassemble
90 *SRWRITE 5000 +200 8000 7
100 END
110
120 DEF PROCassemble
130 osnewl=&FFE7
140 osasci=&FFE3
150 FOR pass=4 TO 6 STEP 2
160 P%=&8000 O%=&5000
170 [
180 OPT pass
190 EQUB 0
200 EQUW 0
210 JMP service
220 EQUB &82
230 EQUB offset MOD 256
240 EQUB I
250 title
260 EQU$ title$
270 EQUB 0
280 offset
290 EQUB 0
300 EQU$ "(C) "+copy$
310 EQUB 0
320 service
330 RTS
340 ]
350 NEXT
360 ENDPROC
370

```

## Listing 2 2 continued

```
38Ø DEF PROCgetstrings
39Ø PRINT 'Enter ROM title ',
40Ø INPUT "title$
41Ø PRINT "Enter copyright string  ",
42Ø INPUT " "copy$
43Ø ENDPROC
```

# Chapter Three

## Service ROMs

As we have seen, all sideways ROMs, except BASIC, must have a service entry point. The machine code here will depend on the sophistication of the software, but the ROM must be capable of identifying all the calls it needs to function correctly. Service calls that are of no importance to it can be ignored by returning to the MOS with an RTS instruction. The coding to look after service calls must include an 'interpreter' capable of recognising individual commands, and acting on them.

In all there are 31 possible service calls, though most will not require processing by service-only ROMs.

When a service call is made, the highest priority ROM bank is polled first (ROM &F) and the call is then passed down through the ROMs until one recognises the call and acts on it. When a service entry is required, the three processor registers are used to pass the service call details as shown in table 3 I.

Register	Service call information
Accumulator	- Service type
X register	- Number of current ROM
Y register	- Any extra service parameter

Table 3 I Service call register initialisation

If the service call is not recognised by the current ROM the service coding must restore all register values and return using RTS. In most instances it will be the MOS issuing the service call, but other ROMs may issue

a service call using an OSBYTE call as follows

```
LDA #&8F      \ issue ROM service call
LDX #type     \ X contains service type requested
LDY #param    \ Y contains any parameter
JSR OSBYTE    \ execute
```

On return from the OSBYTE call, the Y register will contain any resultant value so this should be checked as required

Table 3 2 lists all the service call types It is

Call	Type
0 (&00)	Call already provided
1 (&01)	Claim absolute workspace in normal RAM
2 (&02)	Claim private workspace in normal RAM
3 (&03)	ROM auto boot
4 (&04)	Command not recognised
5 (&05)	Interrupt not recognised
6 (&06)	BRK
7 (&07)	OSBYTE not recognised
8 (&08)	OSWORD not recognised
9 (&09)	*HELP
10 (&0A)	Claim static workspace in normal RAM
11 (&0B)	Release NMI
12 (&0C)	Claim NMI
13 (&0D)	Initialise ROM filing system
14 (&0E)	Return byte from ROM filing system
15 (&0F)	Vectors claimed
16 (&10)	EXEC/SPOOL files about to close
17 (&11)	Character set about to explode/implode
21 (&15)	Polling interrupt
24 (&18)	Interactive *HELP
33 (&21)	Indicate static RAM in hidden RAM
34 (&22)	Claim private workspace in hidden RAM
35 (&23)	Tell top of static workspace in hidden RAM
36 (&24)	Private workspace requirements
37 (&25)	Inform MOS of filing system name and information
38 (&26)	Close all files
39 (&27)	Reset has occurred
40 (&28)	Unknown *CONFIGURE option
41 (&29)	Unknown *STATUS option
42 (&2A)	ROM based language starting up
254 (&FE)	Secondary Tube initialisation
255 (&FF)	Main Tube initialisation

Table 3 2 Service call types

not necessary to memorise or understand these at present as each will be explained later on as needed. In many instances full working examples will also be provided. The table is purely for reference. The service calls are not all dished out one by one by the MOS. In fact on a hard reset only II calls are issued by the MOS. The others are issued as and when they are needed.

Listing 3 I will allow you to see what service calls are issued by the MOS and when. The service entry coding simply contains a short routine that will print out the current service call number before returning control back to the MOS. As all service calls are issued to every ROM, every service call number issued will be printed. When you have typed in and saved the program enter the following three lines directly at the keyboard to check the accuracy of what you have typed.

```
N%=0
FOR X%=&5000 TO &504B N%=N%+?X% NEXT
PRINT N%
```

The value printed should be 6525. If not then recheck your listing carefully. Once the checksum value is correct save the program under the filename "TRACE". Once saved, simply RUN the program. Then, as the program does not contain a transfer routine, type this in at the keyboard.

```
*SRWRITE 5000+100 8000 7
```

Typing \*ROMS should show that the code is installed safely in position.

To initialise our Trace ROM we need to perform a 'hard reset' by doing a CTRL-BREAK. Once you have done this, the Master should re-initialise itself and the normal start-up messages will be preceded by some hexadecimal numbers as follows.

```
0F 24 2I 22 0I 02 23 25 FE
Acorn MOS
```

```
27 Acorn I770 DFS
```

```
0F BASIC
```

```
>
```

These hex numbers are the service calls issued by the MOS during the hard reset, and there are II of them.

Compare them to table 3 2 above to see what is happening

Now try pressing just the BREAK key, and the screen will clear as follows

```

25 FE
Acorn MOS

27 ØF BASIC

>

```

This time just four calls are issued by the MOS, clearly showing the major differences between a 'hard' and 'soft' break, or reset

Assuming you're using a disc system, type

```
*CAT
```

Before the disc catalogue appears you'll see that service calls ØC and ØB are issued

Typing \*HELP shows that requests Ø9 and I8 are issued

Play around for yourself to see what calls are issued when To remove the Trace ROM coding you'll need to switch the Master off

### SRAM Utilities Explained

When you type \*HELP the last message you see is

```
SRAM I ØØ
```

These are the sideways RAM utilities, and typing

```
*HELP SRAM
```

provides the following list

```

SRDATA <id >
SRLOAD <filename> <sram address> (<id >) (Q)
SRREAD <dest start> <dest end> <sram start>
(<id >)
SRROM <id >
SRSAVE <filename> <sram start> <sram end> (<id >)
(Q)
SRWRITE <source start> <source end> <sram start>
(<id >)
End addresses may be replaced by +<length>

```

SRWRITE has been explained, and SRDATA and SRROM are not directly applicable, so let's look at the others

### \*SRLOAD

This command is similar in action to \*SRWRITE with which we are familiar. However, instead of writing a block of memory into sideways RAM, it writes a file from disc, tape or whatever filing system is in use. Let's try an example. First load program 3 I, TRACE, and RUN this to assemble the machine code. Next we must \*SAVE this block of code in the normal manner

```
*SAVE R TRACE 5000 +100
```

The prefix R reminds us it is a ROM image. If your filing system will not readily accept this name then choose something suitable (eg RTRACE on networks)

To use \*SRLOAD we need three items of information: the filename, the memory address it is to be loaded to and the RAM bank in which it is to be placed

```
*SRLOAD R TRACE 8000 7
```

We can specify an extra item of information, a Q

```
*SRLOAD R TRACE 8000 7 Q
```

When the Q is seen by the routine it will perform a Quick, that is fast, transfer. It will load the file into memory at PAGE and copy it straight across into the RAM bank. The advantage of this method is its speed. The disadvantage is that it will overwrite any program or data in memory. If you wish to keep memory contents intact then use the former method and omit the Q. In such cases the routine saves the memory area from corruption. However it is considerably slower. Try both methods to see for yourself. Don't forget to CTRL-BREAK to initialise the ROM image once loaded.

### \*SRREAD

Performs the reverse operation of \*SRWRITE. It reads the contents of the specified ROM into memory starting at a defined location. For example, to read a ROM in socket 7 into memory starting at &2000 use

```
*SRREAD 2000 6000 8000 7
```

This command will obviously cause the contents of



memory to be overwritten. The first two addresses are the start and end addresses in memory to which ROM data is to be transferred. The third address (8000) is the start address in RAM of the data to be transferred, while finally the ROM identity (id) is specified. Therefore in this case, the data in ROM 7 starting at &8000 will be transferred to &2000 until &6000 is reached.

### \*SRSAVE

This command is like \*SRREAD except that the ROM contents are saved to the current filing system under the specified filename. For example, to save a ROM in RAM bank 7 we could use

```
*SRSAVE R ROM 8000 C000 7
```

The first two addresses specified are the start and end addresses of the sideways RAM to be transferred. The final value is the ROM identity number. Like \*SRLOAD a Q may be tagged onto the end of the command line for a quick, but memory destroying, save.

Note that it is not possible to save a ROM with an identity number greater than 8 (ie 9 to I5). This is to prevent illegal copying of the ROMs in the Megabit ROM. An illegal address error will result if you try

### ROM Copyright

It is apparent now that it would be advantageous to have copies of ROMs on disc. Using the above commands it is a simple process to do this. A whole library of ROM images can be held on a single disc and loaded in when needed - thus avoiding the need to continually get inside the case to change chips or swap ROM cartridges. However, images of some commercially available ROMs will not function in sideways RAM because of the protection mechanisms employed by software houses to prevent the abuse of such copying. If a ROM image hangs up or will simply not function then it is almost certainly protected.

Listing 3 I Traces service calls as they are issued by  
the MOS Save as TRACE

```
10 REM Service call Trace
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM The Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
60 END
70
80 DEF PROCassemble
90 oswrch=&FFEE
100 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
110 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
120 {
130 OPT pass
140 EQUB 0
150 EQUW 0
160 JMP service
170 EQUB &82
180 EQUB offset MOD 256
190 EQUB I
200 title
210 EQU$ "Service Trace ROM"
220 EQUB 0
230 offset
240 EQUB 0
250 EQU$ "(C) Bruce Smith"
260 EQUB 0
270 service
280 PHA
290 PHA
300 LSR A
310 LSR A
320 LSR A
330 LSR A
340 JSR convert
350 PLA
360 AND #15
370 JSR convert
380 LDA #32
390 JSR oswrch
400 PLA
410 RTS
420 convert
430 SED
440 CMP #10
450 ADC #&30
460 CLD
470 JMP oswrch
```

## Listing 3 I continued

```
480 ]  
490 NEXT  
500 ENDPROC
```

# Chapter Four

## The Help Service

I don't intend to deal with each service call in numeric order. Some are much more difficult to process than others, so I'll start with the easiest, \*HELP

### \*HELP

When the MOS encounters a \*HELP command it looks through its ROM type table and polls each of the ROMs it sees with service call 9. All ROMs should respond to this call by printing out at least their title string. The equivalent in BASIC of the service coding is

```
IF A%=9 THEN PRINT title$ ELSE RETURN
```

In machine code this becomes

```
CMP #9           \ is it *HELP?
BEQ help         \ yes, process it
RTS              \ no, so return
  help          \
JSR osnewl       \ print a new line
LDX #255         \ use X as index
  helploop      \
INX              \ increment index
LDA title,X      \ get byte
BEQ done         \ if zero, then finished
JSR osasci       \ print byte
BRA helploop     \ and repeat once more
  done          \
JSR osnewl       \ print a new line
RTS              \ and return
```

The coding uses OSNEWL to print a blank line before and after the title string for layout purposes. The main ROM title string is the one being printed out. The end of this is located by testing for the terminating zero byte. Note that this should not be printed itself and an exit should be performed once it has been identified. Program 4 I puts this simple \*HELP implementation into action. Save the program under the filename 'HELPI'. You can see the machine code described above in lines 270 to 430 inclusive. The title string and terminating byte are in lines 200-220.

One very good reason for including a \*HELP routine in your software is to aid debugging. By issuing the command it is immediately evident whether your sideways software is present. If you have a working \*HELP service routine and it will not respond then there's more likely to be a bug in your software - or perhaps you've forgotten to load it into sideways RAM correctly (I've made that error on many an occasion!)

If you type \*HELP you will notice that all of the resident software in the Master print out a version number as well as its title string. This can be important when you wish to see whether you are using the latest version of your firmware and is not difficult to do. It simply involves inserting the ASCII version string in the correct position (after the ASCII title string) and terminating it with a zero byte. Once the service coding has printed out the title string, it goes around once again to print the version number. This could be done by placing another print loop at the end of the 'helploop' routine, but it's inefficient and by rewriting the 'help' routine slightly a single 'helploop' can be used.

```

help
JSR osnewl      \ print new line
LDX #255        \ start index
JSR helploop    \ print title string
JSR helploop    \ print version string
JSR osnewl      \ print new line
RTS             \ and return

```

Three new lines are needed to insert a version string, directly after the title string terminating byte.

```

version
EQU $ " I 00'
EQU $

```

You can use program 4 I as a base to work on. If you

insert and change the relevant lines, then RENUMBER the program, you should arrive at listing 4 2 Save this as 'HELP2' Once this has been RUN and initialised, typing \*HELP should give

```
Help Test ROM I 00
```

near the bottom of your \*HELP list

Obviously it will help when debugging if, each time a change is made to the ROM coding, you simply increment the version number by 0 01, resave it and make a note in a safe place detailing the change

### Extended \*HELP (Service Call 9)

Type \*HELP again The resulting list on a Master I28 will look like this

```
*HELP
```

```
OS 3 20
  MOS
```

```
TERMINAL I 20
```

```
VIEW B3 0
```

```
Advanced DFS I 50
  ADFS
```

```
EDIT 4
```

```
ViewSheet BI 0
```

```
DFS 2 20
  DFS
```

```
SRAM I 00
```

Some of the help strings have another line of information set below them, indented slightly For example

```
OS 3 20
  MOS
```

This shows that an extended help facility is provided By typing \*HELP followed by a space and the word on the next line we can gain more information, normally a list

of the commands provided by that particular ROM Typing  
\*HELP MOS gives

OS 3 20			
CAT	ADFS	APPEND	BASIC
BUILD	CLOSE	CONFIGURE	CODE
CREATE	DUMP	DELETE	EXEC
EX	FX	GOIO	GO
HELP	INFO	IGNORE	INSERT
KEY	LOAD	LIST	LINE
LIBFS	MOTOR	MOVE	OPT
PRINT	RUN	REMOVE	ROM
ROMS	SAVE	SHADOW	SHOW
SHUT	SPOOL	SPOOLON	STATUS
TAPE	TV	TIME	TYPE
UNPLUG	X		

Adding this facility to our own \*HELP is a two-stage affair First we need to print out the extra item(s) of information below the title string when service call 9 is processed Second, we need to be able to distinguish between a straight \*HELP and an extended \*HELP The first part is to just extend the printing routine For example, suppose we wish to print out

```
Help Test ROM I 00
  Commands
```

The coding for this would simply become

```
JSR help      \ print title string and version
LDX #255     \ start X
  details
INX          \ increment index
LDA command,X \ get byte
BEQ donecom  \ finish if it is zero
JSR osasc1   \ print it
BRA details  \ do next byte
JSR osnewl   \ print new line
RTS         \ return
  command
EQU$ Commands"
EQU$ 0
```

The 'help' routine is as listed in the previous program Checking for extended help is a two-stage affair First we need to see if there is a command after the \*HELP or not If there is, we test to see if it's ours, ie 'COMMAND'

Testing for the presence of an extra command involves

looking for a return character (ASCII I3 or &0D) If there is one, the command is a straight \*HELP if not, there is an extended \*HELP command present

The next question is how do we go about locating the presence of a return? The answer lies in memory locations &F2 and &F3 These two bytes, which I have termed 'comline', contain the address of the first non-space character after the help when combined with the Y register using indirect indexed addressing In other words the code

```
LDA (comline),Y
```

will load either a return character or the first letter of the extended help into the accumulator If the character is not a return, we need to test each character from here against a copy of our own This is done by incrementing Y and comparing it with a copy of the command using the X register, as in the following example

```
LDA (comline),Y    \ get byte after *HELP
CMP #I3           \ is it return?
BEQ out           \ yes to return
LDX #&FF         \ initialise X index
DEY              \ decrement Y index
  again
INX              \ increment X index
INY              \ increment Y index
LDA (comline),Y  \ get byte
AND #&DF         \ force to upper case
CMP com,X        \ compare against table
BEQ again        \ if same do again
LDA com,X        \ get unlike byte from table
CMP #&FE         \ is it end marker flag?
BEQ mine         \ yes go to print routine
RTS
  com
EQU "COMMANDS"
EQUB &FE
```

The first two instructions test for a return character - if this is encountered then a branch to an RTS is made The X register is set to &FF and the Y register decremented to make it point to the character before the start of the extended help The label 'again' marks the main loop Both index registers are incremented to make them point at the first character in the extended help and 'com' table The first byte is extracted from after the \*HELP Using &DF this byte is then forced



into an upper case, or capital, character (see note at end of chapter) This is important as the protocols allow us to enter

```
*HELP COMMANDS
*HELP commands
*HELP CoMmAnDs
```

or any such combination Forcing the byte to upper case allows us simply to test it against a table of upper case characters starting at 'com' If the bytes are the same the loop is repeated until an unlike character is encountered I have marked the end of the 'com' string with a particular byte &FE This can then be tested for If it is indeed &FE then we have identified the string as COMMANDS and the relevant extra details can be printed out If the unlike byte is not an &FE then this is not our extended help and an RTS can be made Or can it? The trouble now is that we have destroyed the contents of all three index registers, so when the MOS passes this call onto the next ROM some very confusing things could happen So, to avoid this, on entering the service coding push all three registers onto the hardware stack, ie

```
PHA - push accumulator
PHX - push X
PHY - push Y
```

and restore them prior to returning, ie

```
PLY - pull Y
PLX - pull X
PLA - pull accumulator
```

Listing 4 3 puts all this into operation Once RUN, type \*HELP, then type \*HELP COMMANDS This will respond with

```
Help Test ROM I 00
COMPRESS
EXPAND
```

Where COMPRESS and EXPAND might be two commands implemented by our ROM If you look through the listing you can see the important new sections of code

```
Lines 340 to 360 - save registers
Lines 370 to 380 - test for return
Line 390 - branch to check if extended *HELP
```

Lines 400 to 500 - print \*HELP message  
 Lines 520 to 640 - check for COMMANDS  
 Lines 650 to 700 - restore registers and return  
 Lines 720 to 780 - print \*HELP messages  
 Lines 800 to 870 - printing routine  
 Lines 890 to 960 - print extended help information  
 Lines 970 to I020 - restore and return  
 Lines I030 to II40 - extended help details

### Interactive Help (Service Call 24)

Once the MOS has polled all ROMs with service call 9 it then polls them with service call 24. This allows your ROM to take up and provide any more help information required. This will generally be an 'interactive help' and the exact nature of the help may well depend on answers to questions that are prompted by the ROM. How and what you do with this service call, if anything at all, is up to you. One example is seen on Econet network machines fitted with the Advanced Network Filing System (ANFS). When this service call is issued the ANFS will look for a file called 'HELP' on the fileserver. You could implement this from tape or disc or even load in routines from the ROM itself.

Program 4.4 shows how the service call can be trapped to see if the user wished further information on imaginary commands within the Help Test ROM. In fact it replaces the extended help detailed above.

Save the listing under the filename 'HELP4'. After running and initialising the ROM, type \*HELP. After the standard help messages the following line will be printed on the screen:

Do you wish more help? (Y/N)

Pressing the Y key will display

The following commands are available  
with the Master ROM

COMPRESS - compacts a graphics screen  
 EXPAND - unpacks a graphics screen

Pressing any key other than Y will cause the routine to exit.

### Masking

In a few instances above we used the byte &DF with the AND command to force an ASCII character to its upper case component. Let's examine how this works. Consider

the ASCII and binary representation of the letters B and b

```
ASC("B") = &42 = 0100 0010
ASC("b") = &62 = 0110 0010
```

The only difference between these two values at bit level is that bit 5 is either set or clear. Therefore by toggling bit 5 we can swap the case of an ASCII alpha character. To force lower case to capital we need to ensure that every bit in the byte is set to 1 with the exception of bit 5. In binary the mask is

```
1101 1111 = &DF
```

If the accumulator holds &62 (ASC"b') and this is ANDED with &DF we get

```
ASC"b" = 0110 0010
&DF    = 1101 1111
AND     = 0100 0010 = &42 or ASC "B"
```

Listing 4 I Traps service call 9 to output a simple  
\*HELP message Save as HELPI

```
10 REM Simple *HELP
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
60 *SRWRITE 5000 +I00 8000 6
70 END
80 DEF PROCassemble
90 osnewl=&FFE7
100 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
110 P%=&8000 O%=&5000
120 [
130 OPT pass
140 EQUB 0
150 EQUW 0
160 JMP service
170 EQUB &82
180 EQUB offset MOD 256
190 EQUB I
200 title
210 EQU$ "Help Test ROM"
220 EQUB 0
230 offset
240 EQUB 0
250 EQU$ "(C) Bruce Smith"
260 EQUB 0
270 service
280 CMP #9
290 BEQ help
300 RTS
310 \
320 help
330 JSR osnewl
340 LDX #&FF
350 helploop
360 INX
370 LDA title,X
380 BEQ done
390 JSR &FFE3
400 BRA helploop
410 done
420 JSR osnewl
430 RTS
440 ]
450 NEXT
460 ENDPROC
```

Listing 4 2 Gives version number as well as ROM string  
 title Save as HELP2 Developed from listing 4 1  
 (HELPI)

```

100 REM *HELP with Version No
200 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
300 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
400
500 PROCassemble
600 *SRWRITE 50000 +1000 80000 6
700 END
800 DEF PROCassemble
900 osnewl=&FFE7
1000 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
1100 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
1200 [
1300 OPT pass
1400 EQUB 0
1500 EQUW 0
1600 JMP service
1700 EQUB &82
1800 EQUB offset MOD 256
1900 EQUB I
2000 title
2100 EQUW "Help Test ROM"
2200 EQUB 0
2300 version
2400 EQUW " I 00"
2500 EQUB 0
2600 offset
2700 EQUB 0
2800 EQUW "(C) Bruce Smith"
2900 EQUB 0
3000 service
3100 CMP #9
3200 BEQ help
3300 RTS
3400 \
3500 help
3600 JSR osnewl
3700 LDX #&FF
3800 JSR helploop
3900 JSR helploop
4000 JSR osnewl
4100 RTS
4200 \
4300 helploop
4400 INX
4500 LDA title,X

```

## Listing 4 2 continued

```

46Ø BEQ done
47Ø JSR &FFE3
48Ø BRA helploop
49Ø done
50Ø RTS
51Ø |
52Ø NEXT
53Ø ENDPROC

```

Listing 4 3 Adds description of ROM commands to \*HELP message Save as HELP3 This program forms the basis of many others in this book

```

1Ø REM Extended *HELP
2Ø REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
3Ø REM Advanced SRAM Guide
4Ø
5Ø PROCassemble
6Ø *SRWRITE 50000 +200 80000 6
7Ø END
8Ø DEF PROCassemble
9Ø osnewl=&FFE7
10Ø comline=&F2
11Ø FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
12Ø P%=&80000 O%=&50000
13Ø |
14Ø OPT pass
15Ø EQUB Ø
16Ø EQUW Ø
17Ø JMP service
18Ø EQUB &82
19Ø EQUB offset MOD 256
20Ø EQUB i
21Ø title
22Ø EQU "Help Test ROM"
23Ø EQUB Ø
24Ø version
25Ø EQU " i ØØ"
26Ø EQUB Ø
27Ø offset
28Ø EQUB Ø
29Ø EQU "(C) Bruce Smith
30Ø EQUB Ø
31Ø service
32Ø CMP ≠9
33Ø BNE nothelp
34Ø PHA

```

## Listing 4 3 continued

```
350 PHX
360 PHY
370 LDA (comline),Y
380 CMP #I3
390 BNE check
400 JSR help
410 LDX #255
420 details
430 INX
440 LDA command,X
450 BEQ donecommand
460 JSR &FFE3
470 BRA details
480 donecommand
490 JSR osnewl
500 BRA restore
510 \
520 check
530 LDX #255
540 DEY
550 again
560 INX
570 INY
580 LDA (comline),Y
590 AND #&DF
600 CMP com,X
610 BEQ again
620 LDA com,X
630 CMP #&FE
640 BEQ mine
650 restore
660 PLY
670 PLX
680 PLA
690 nothelp
700 RTS
710 \
720 help
730 JSR osnewl
740 LDX #&FF
750 JSR helploop
760 JSR helploop
770 JSR osnewl
780 RTS
790 \
800 helploop
810 INX
820 LDA title,X
```

## Listing 4 3 continued

```

830 BEQ done
840 JSR &FFE3
850 BRA helploop
860 done
870 RTS
880 mine
890 JSR help
900 LDX #255
910 more
920 INX
930 LDA lists,X
940 BMI alldone
950 JSR &FFE3
960 BRA more
970 alldone
980 PLY
990 PLX
1000 PLA
1010 LDA #0
1020 RTS
1030 com
1040 EQU "COMMANDS
1050 EQUB &FE
1060 command
1070 EQU Commands '
1080 EQUB 0
1090 lists
1100 EQU " COMPRESS"
1110 EQUB 13
1120 EQU " EXPAND"
1130 EQUB 13
1140 EQUB &FF
1150 |
1160 NEXT
1170 ENDPROC

```

Listing 4 4 Extra help information can be called by  
the user Save as HELP4

```

10 REM Interactive *HELP
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
60 *SRWRITE 5000 +200 8000 6
70 END
80

```



## Listing 4 4 continued

```

 90 DEF PROCassemble
100 osnewl=&FFE7
110 oswrch=&FFEE
120 osasc1=&FFE3
130 osrdch=&FFE0
140 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
150 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
160 [
170 OPT pass
180 EQUB 0
190 EQUW 0
200 JMP service
210 EQUB &82
220 EQUB offset MOD 256
230 EQUB I
240 title
250 EQU S "Help Test ROM"
260 EQUB 0
270 version
280 EQU S ' I 00'
290 EQUB 0
300 offset
310 EQUB 0
320 EQU S "(C) Bruce Smith"
330 EQUB 0
340 service
350 CMP #9
360 BEQ help
370 CMP #24
380 BEQ interact
390 RTS
400 \
410 help
420 JSR osnewl
430 LDX #&FF
440 JSR helploop
450 JSR helploop
460 JSR osnewl
470 RTS
480 \
490 helploop
500 INX
510 LDA title,X
520 BEQ done
530 JSR &FFE3
540 BRA helploop
550 done
560 RTS

```

## Listing 4 4 continued

```
570 \
580 interact
590 LDX #255
600 first
610 INX
620 LDA message,X
630 BEQ doneI
640 JSR oswrch
650 BRA first
660 doneI
670 JSR osrdch
680 AND #&DF
690 CMP #ASC('Y')
700 BEQ carryon
710 RTS
720 carryon
730 INX
740 LDA message,X
750 JSR osasci
760 BPL carryon
770 RTS
780 \
790 message
800 EQU "Do you wish more "
810 EQU 'help? (Y/N)'
820 EQU 0
830 EQU 13
840 EQU "The following commands "
850 EQU "are available"
860 EQU 13
870 EQU "within the Master ROM "
880 EQU 13
890 EQU " COMPRESS - compacts a "
900 EQU "graphics screen
910 EQU 13
920 EQU " EXPAND - unpacks a "
930 EQU "graphics screen"
940 EQU 13
950 EQU 255
960 ]
970 NEXT
980 ENDPROC
```

# Chapter Five

## Interpreters

### Command Action (service call 4)

When the MOS encounters an unrecognised command it issues service call 4 to each ROM in turn. As with \*HELP, the vector at &F2 (comvec) is used with the Y register, and contains the start address of the unrecognised command. It does not point to the asterisk but to the first character after the asterisk. If the ROM cannot recognise the command as one of its own then it must restore all registers to their original values and perform a simple RTS. The command is then offered to the disc or net filing systems. If the command is recognised, the service coding should jump to the correct routine within. Once complete the registers need not be restored, but the accumulator MUST be loaded with 0.

LDA #0

before an RTS is performed. This tells the MOS the command has been recognised and acted upon, so it will not be offered to any of the other ROMs or filing systems.

### Writing the Interpreter

What is an interpreter? In fact, it is no different from its linguistic counterpart - a device for identifying and translating, in this case commands which are strings of characters in a certain order.

The ROM image that we will construct in this chapter

will contain three commands, although only two will be of immediate practical use. The commands will be

```
*ITALICS - does nothing initially
*MODERN - selects a 'modern' style character font
*STANDARD - reselects the normal character font
```

\*MODERN then will redefine the shape of the letters in the Master's character font so they look 'modern' when printed on the screen (except in mode 7). Figure 5.1 shows the appearance of the font I will use program 4.3 from Chapter 4 (saved as 'HELP3'), as the basis of the interpreter.

This is the Modern char

```
"#$%&'()*+,-./0123456
HIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ[\]^_
pqrstuvwxy z{!}
```

Figure 5.1 Character style selected by \*MODERN

We trap service call 4 by comparing and branching

```
CMP #4
BEQ unrecognised
```

Identifying the command is performed in a similar way to trapping an extended \*HELP command name. It involves comparing the unrecognised command against a table of commands - the command table. In BASIC this would be

```
INPUT "Command" com$
addr%=0
REPEAT
  addr%=addr%+1
  READ table$
  UNTIL table$=com$ OR table$="END"
  ON addr% GOTO 500, 600, 700, 800
  DATA "ITALICS"
  DATA "MODERN"
  DATA "STANDARD"
  DATA "END"
```

The command is found and compared against the command table, until it is recognised or the end of the table is reached. If the command is identified then its address must also be found - here a variable is used to

hold it which is incremented each time through the REPEAT UNTIL loop

Translating this into code is not too hard but you will need to study the following assembler carefully

```

unrecognised
LDX #255          \ start command table index
DEY              \ decrement comvec index
PHY             \ keep a copy on the stack
  identify
INX            \ increment X index
INY            \ increment Y index
LDA (comvec),Y \ get byte from unrecognised
               \ command
AND #&DF       \ force to upper case
CMP comtable,X \ compare against command table
BEQ identify   \ if it compares try next byte

```

This code is very similar to the extended help facility in chapter 4 Now consider the command table itself

```

comtable
EQU* "MODERN"
EQU* modern DIV 256
EQU* modern MOD 256
EQU* ITALICS"
EQU* italics DIV 256
EQU* italics MOD 256
EQU* "STANDARD
EQU* standard DIV 256
EQU* standard MOD 256
EQU* &FF

```

This consists of the ASCII string of each command name, minus the asterisk, followed by the address, high byte first, of each command The command table is terminated by &FF Figure 5 2 shows this diagrammatically

MODERN
modern high byte
modern low byte
ITALICS
italics high byte
italics low byte
STANDARD
standard high byte
standard low byte
&FF

Figure 5 2 Construction of command table

As the execution address of any command is going to be within a ROM, it will have a high byte of &80 or higher This is useful as it means that it will set the negative flag when loaded into the accumulator Carrying on with the code from 'identify' above gives

```
LDA comtable,X    \ get unlike byte from command
                  \ table
BMI address       \ if negative must be address
```

Of course it may not be an address it may simply be that comvec and comtable are not alike Therefore we need a means of moving onto the start of the next command in the command table The way to do this is by finding the first address byte and incrementing the X register by one

```
moveon
INX                \ increment X
LDA comtable,X    \ get next byte from table
BPL moveon        \ if not negative do again
INX                \ increase X by one
PLY                \ restore original value of Y
PHY                \ save once again for next time
JMP identify      \ and repeat identifying loop
```

The routine 'address' needs to test to see if the negative byte is in fact &FF, the end of command table marker If it is not then the accumulator will contain the high byte of the command's execution address This along with the low byte can be placed into a zero page vector and an indirect jump to the interpreted command's address performed

```
address
CMP #&FF          \ is it top of command table?
BNE notFF         \ branch if not
PLY               \ else balance stack
BRA alldone       \ and branch to return routine
notFF
STA &39           \ else save high byte
INX               \ increment X
LDA comtable,X    \ and get low byte
STA &38           \ and save
JMP (&38)        \ and go to it'
```

I have made a habit of first testing interpreters before actually adding the code that makes each individual command To do this I give them all the same execution address and then get the commands to do

something obvious such as make a beep on the speaker, or print a letter on the screen

```

modern
italics
standard
LDA #7
JMP osasc1

```

Once the command has been executed, the stack, which was previously pushed with the register contents, must be pulled and the accumulator loaded with  $\emptyset$

```

found
PLY
PLY
PLX
PLA
LDA # $\emptyset$ 
RTS

```

The extra PLY is to balance the extra PHY made at the start of 'unrecognised' and subsequently in 'moveon'

Listing 5 I puts all this into play Enter this and save it under the filename 'INTERP' (We'll be using this again later ) RUN the program and initialise the ROM Now try typing any of the commands and you should get a beep on the speaker

### Debugging Interpreters

As the programs herein all contain checksum calculators it should be easy for you to get programs running correctly before they are transferred into sideways RAM The trouble starts when you write your own - no checksums Debugging ROM images can be infuriating but is ultimately rewarding' So I'll provide some useful pointers

Without doubt the most common cause of programs crashing is bad stack management This shows up in two main ways First, when you execute the command you get a message something like

at line 23 $\emptyset$

on the screen Of course the line number will probably be different and vary The second manifestation is that you execute the command and nothing happens other than a couple of returns are echoed to the screen In both cases check your listing and ensure every push is

balanced by a pull I often keep using pushes instead of pulls'

Always test your commands fully They may only crash after a bit of continuous use I do this by putting them inside a REPEAT UNTIL loop To test the above interpreter I used

```
1Ø REPEAT
2Ø *MODERN
3Ø *ITALICS
4Ø *STANDARD
5Ø UNTIL Ø
```

Once you set this running you'll get a continuous beep And leave it running for a few minutes - have a coffee - if it's still making a noise when you get back - you're okay'

If the command executes but then accesses the disc or filing system then you have forgotten to do a LDA #Ø before the RTS

If all else fails you'll need the help of a machine code monitor program, such as BBC Soft's Monitor ROM This will enable you to step through the program and see (hopefully) just where it's going wrong

### Writing Commands

There are three stages in writing commands for use in sideways format

Stage 1 Write it in BASIC where possible' This has the advantage of being quick and allows you to calculate tabs for screen printing etc, with the minimum of fuss

Stage 2 Convert it to machine code, but get it running in normal memory first Make sure you don't use addresses within the code itself to store things (you won't be able to do so once the program is in sideways RAM') and make it as self-contained and compact as possible

Stage 3 add it to your sideways RAM assembly listing

Now let's apply these rules to our ROM image The first step is to design the modern character font with a suitable program or pencil and paper Once this is done, all the characters can be placed into a BASIC program in the form of VDU23 statements When run this should, if correct, redefine the character font to take a modern appearance

The \*STANDARD command can now be tested To return to the standard font, the character font needs to be



imploded using \*FX20,0 To convert all this to machine code, we need to create a loop to read in data items and send them to the VDU output stream using OSWRCH. The total length of data can be optimised by including the 23 and ASCII character code inside the printing loop

```

modern
LDA #data DIV 256 \ get high byte of data
STA &7I          \ save it
LDA #data DIV 256 \ get low byte of data
STA &70          \ save it
LDA #33          \ start character is ASCII 33
STA &72          \ save it
outerloop
LDY #0
LDX #0
LDA #23
JSR oswrch      \ do VDU23
LDA &72          \ get character code
JSR oswrch      \ send it to VDU stream
innerloop
LDA (&70),Y    \ get data byte
JSR oswrch      \ send it to VDU stream
INC &70         \ increment low byte address
BEQ noh1       \ branch if not zero
INC &7I         \ else increment high byte
noh1
INX            \ increment counter
CPX #8         \ 8 bytes sent yet?
BNE innerloop  \ branch if not
LDA &72         \ get character
INC A          \ increment by one
STA &72         \ save result
CMP #127       \ all done yet?
BNE outerloop  \ repeat until all done

```

The coding for \*STANDARD is easy, and takes just a few lines of assembler

```

standard
LDA #20
LDX #0
LDY #0
JSR osbyte     \ do *FX20,0

```

Listing 5 2 combines both of these segments. Note that line numbering starts at 2000. This is because we can use listing 5 I ('INTERP') as the basis, and cut down on typing. So enter this and \*SPOOL it to a file. Use

the filename SCOMMS - S for Spool, COMMS for Commands  
In case you've forgotten, type in

```
*SPOOL SCOMMS
LIST
*SPOOL
```

The program will not run as it stands so don't try! Now reload 'INTERP' and make these additions and changes

```
Add line          55 PROCread
Change line        70 *SRWRITE 5000 +500 8000 6
Add line           I15 oswrch=&FFEE
Delete lines       I790, I800 and I820
Add line           I915 RTS
Delete lines       I920 to 2040 inclusive
```

Now \*EXEC in the spooled listing

```
*EXEC SCOMMS
```

Save the program under the filename 'MODERN' RUN and initialise as normal Then enter mode 6 and type

```
*MODERN
OLD
LIST
```

to see the effect \*STANDARD makes everthing normal again \*ITALICS will still give a beep, though you can of course extend it to give you italic text (The disc which contains all the listings in this book also has the VDU codes for this in case you don't feel like designing your own )

### Gaining Workspace

Your ROMs will at times require workspace -- areas of memory in which they can place information You need to choose this with care as it could be the space used by other ROMs The \*MODERN code used three locations in zero page, &70, &71 and &72 These are of course in the user area and are free for use, but it is not good practice to go around changing locations that are meant to be free and available to normal programs One way to overcome this is to save the contents of memory somewhere before using it and then restore it to its original value before returning I tend to to save memory from &70 to &8F on the very bottom of the hardware stack from &100 The stack pointer should

never get this low -- I'd love to see a program that does it' The two routines to push and pull are

```

pushzero
LDX #255      \ initialise index
loop
INX           \ increment index
LDA &70,X    \ get byte
STA &100,X   \ and save it
CPX #IF      \ all done?
BNE loop     \ no, continue
RTS          \ and return

pullzero
LDX #255      \ initialise index
loop
INX           \ increment index
LDA &100,X   \ get byte
STA &70,X    \ and save it
CPX #IF      \ all done?
BNE loop     \ no, continue
RTS          \ and return

```

I tend to use both as subroutine calls, ie using JSR  
 As a rule, call pushzero after you push the registers  
 and pullzero before you pull them

## Listing 5 I Test interpreter (save as INTERP)

```

10 REM Test Interpreter
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
60 PROCchecksum
70 *SRWRITE 50000 +2000 80000 6
80 END
90
100 DEF PROCassemble
110 osnew1=&FFE7
120 osasc1=&FFE3
130 comline=&F2
140 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
150 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
160 [
170 OPT pass
180 EQUB 0
190 EQUW 0
200 JMP service
210 EQUB &82
220 EQUB offset MOD 256
230 EQUB I
240 title
250 EQU "Test Interpreter ROM"
260 EQUB 0
270 version
280 EQU " I 00"
290 EQUB 0
300 offset
310 EQUB 0
320 EQU "(C) Bruce Smith"
330 EQUB 0
340 service
350 PHA
360 PHX
370 PHY
380 CMP #9
390 BNE nothelp
400 LDA (comline),Y
410 CMP #I3
420 BNE check
430 JSR help
440 LDX #255
450 details
460 INX
470 LDA command,X
480 BEQ donecommand

```

## Listing 5 I continued

```
49Ø JSR &FFE3
50Ø BRA details
51Ø donecommand
52Ø JSR osnewl
53Ø BRA restore
54Ø \
55Ø check
56Ø LDX ≠255
57Ø DEY
58Ø again
59Ø INX
60Ø INY
61Ø LDA (comline),Y
62Ø AND ≠&DF
63Ø CMP com,X
64Ø BEQ again
65Ø LDA com,X
66Ø CMP ≠&FE
67Ø BEQ mine
68Ø restore
69Ø PLY
70Ø PLX
71Ø PLA
72Ø RTS
73Ø \
74Ø nothelp
75Ø CMP ≠4
76Ø BEQ unrecognised
77Ø BRA alldone
78Ø \
79Ø help
80Ø JSR osnewl
81Ø LDX ≠&FF
82Ø JSR helploop
83Ø JSR helploop
84Ø JSR osnewl
85Ø RTS
86Ø \
87Ø helploop
88Ø INX
89Ø LDA title,X
90Ø BEQ done
91Ø JSR &FFE3
92Ø BRA helploop
93Ø done
94Ø RTS
95Ø \
96Ø mine
```

## Listing 5 I continued

```
970 JSR help
980 LDX ≠255
990 more
I000 INX
I010 LDA lists,X
I020 BMI alldone
I030 JSR &FFE3
I040 BRA more
I050 \
I060 alldone
I070 PLY
I080 PLX
I090 PLA
I100 RTS
I110 \
I120 com
I130 EQU "COMMANDS"
I140 EQUB &FE
I150 command
I160 EQU ' Commands"
I170 EQUB 0
I180 lists
I190 EQU " MODERN"
I200 EQUB I3
I210 EQU " ITALICS"
I220 EQUB I3
I230 EQU " STANDARD"
I240 EQUB I3
I250 EQUB &FF
I260 \
I270 unrecognised
I280 LDX ≠255
I290 DEY
I300 PHY
I310 identify
I320 INX
I330 INY
I340 LDA (comline),Y
I350 AND ≠&DF
I360 CMP comtable,X
I370 BEQ identify
I380 LDA comtable,X
I390 BMI address
I400 \
I410 moveon
I420 INX
I430 LDA comtable,X
I440 BPL moveon
```

## Listing 5 I continued

```
I450 BNE notend
I460 PLY
I470 BRA alldone
I480 \
I490 notend
I500 INX
I510 PLY
I520 PHY
I530 JMP identify
I540 \
I550 address
I560 CMP ≠&FF
I570 BNE notFF
I580 PLY
I590 BRA alldone
I600 notFF
I610 \
I620 STA &39
I630 INX
I640 LDA comtable,X
I650 STA &38
I660 JMP (&38)
I670 \
I680 comtable
I690 EQU "MODERN"
I700 EQUB modern DIV 256
I710 EQUB modern MOD 256
I720 EQU "ITALICS"
I730 EQUB italics DIV 256
I740 EQUB italics MOD 256
I750 EQU "STANDARD"
I760 EQUB standard DIV 256
I770 EQUB standard MOD 256
I780 EQUB &FF
I790 \
I800 modern
I810 italics
I820 standard
I830 LDA ≠7
I840 JSR osasc1
I850 \
I860 found
I870 PLY
I880 PLY
I890 PLX
I900 PLA
I910 LDA ≠0
I920 RTS
```

## Listing 5 I continued

```

I930 ]
I940 NEXT
I950 ENDPROC
I960
I970 DEF PROCchecksum
I980 X%=0
I990 FOR N%=&5000 TO &5136
2000 X%=X%+?N%
2010 NEXT
2020 IF X%=35915 THEN ENDPROC
2030 VDU 7
2040 PRINT"Assembler error - re check!"
2050 STOP

```

Listing 5 2 Font command code (these lines should be saved as SCOMMS and SPOOLED onto listing 5 I, see text for details)

```

55 PROCread
2000 standard
2010 LDA #20
2020 LDX #0
2030 LDY #0
2040 JSR &FFF4
2050 JMP found
2060 \
2070 modern
2080 LDA #data DIV 256
2090 STA &7I
2100 LDA #data MOD 256
2110 STA &70
2120 LDA #33
2130 STA &72
2140 outerloop
2150 LDY #0
2160 LDX #0
2170 LDA #23
2180 JSR oswrch
2190 LDA &72
2200 JSR oswrch
2210 innerloop
2220 LDA (&70),Y
2230 JSR oswrch
2240 INC &70
2250 BNE noh1
2260 INC &7I
2270 noh1

```



## Listing 5 2 continued

```

228Ø INX
229Ø CPX ≠8
230Ø BNE innerloop
231Ø LDA &72
232Ø INC A
233Ø STA &72
234Ø CMP ≠I27
235Ø BNE outerloop
236Ø \
237Ø JMP found
238Ø \
239Ø data
240Ø ]
241Ø NEXT
242Ø ENDPROC
243Ø
244Ø DEF PROCread
245Ø RESTORE
246Ø DATA I2,I2,I2,I2,I2,Ø,I2,Ø
247Ø DATA 46,46,46,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø
248Ø DATA 23,23,63,23,63,23,23,Ø
249Ø DATA 6,3I,44,3I,3,63,I2,Ø
250Ø DATA 48,39,6,I2,24,39,3,Ø
251Ø DATA 28,46,46,28,45,39,27,Ø
252Ø DATA 6,I2,24,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø
253Ø DATA 6,I2,24,24,24,I2,6,Ø
254Ø DATA 24,I2,6,6,6,I2,24,Ø
255Ø DATA Ø,I2,63,3Ø,63,I2,Ø,Ø
256Ø DATA Ø,I2,I2,63,I2,I2,Ø,Ø
257Ø DATA Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,I2,I2,24
258Ø DATA Ø,Ø,Ø,63,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø
259Ø DATA Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,I2,I2,Ø
260Ø DATA Ø,3,6,I2,24,48,Ø,Ø
261Ø DATA 3Ø,39,47,63,55,39,3Ø,Ø
262Ø DATA I2,28,I2,I2,I2,I2,63,Ø
263Ø DATA 3Ø,39,3,6,I2,24,63,Ø
264Ø DATA 3Ø,39,3,I4,3,39,3Ø,Ø
265Ø DATA 6,I4,3Ø,46,63,6,6,Ø
266Ø DATA 63,48,62,3,3,39,3Ø,Ø
267Ø DATA I4,24,48,62,39,39,3Ø,Ø
268Ø DATA 63,3,6,I2,24,24,24,Ø
269Ø DATA 3Ø,39,39,3Ø,39,39,3Ø,Ø
270Ø DATA 3Ø,39,39,3I,3,6,28,Ø
271Ø DATA Ø,Ø,I2,I2,Ø,I2,I2,Ø
272Ø DATA Ø,Ø,I2,I2,Ø,I2,I2,24
273Ø DATA 6,I2,24,48,24,I2,6,Ø
274Ø DATA Ø,Ø,63,Ø,63,Ø,Ø,Ø
275Ø DATA 24,I2,6,3,6,I2,24,Ø

```

## Listing 5 2 continued

```

276Ø DATA 3Ø,39,6,I2,I2,Ø,I2,Ø
277Ø DATA 3Ø,39,47,43,47,48,3Ø,Ø
278Ø DATA 3Ø,39,39,63,39,39,39,Ø
279Ø DATA 62,39,39,62,39,39,62,Ø
28ØØ DATA 3Ø,39,48,48,48,39,3Ø,Ø
28IØ DATA 6Ø,46,39,39,39,46,6Ø,Ø
282Ø DATA 63,48,48,62,48,48,63,Ø
283Ø DATA 63,48,48,62,48,48,48,Ø
284Ø DATA 3Ø,39,48,47,39,39,3Ø,Ø
285Ø DATA 39,39,39,63,39,39,39,Ø
286Ø DATA 63,I2,I2,I2,I2,I2,63,Ø
287Ø DATA 3I,6,6,6,6,46,28,Ø
288Ø DATA 39,46,6Ø,56,6Ø,46,39,Ø
289Ø DATA 48,48,48,48,48,48,63,Ø
29ØØ DATA 35,55,63,43,43,35,35,Ø
29IØ DATA 39,39,55,63,47,39,39,Ø
292Ø DATA 3Ø,39,39,39,39,39,3Ø,Ø
293Ø DATA 62,39,39,62,48,48,48,Ø
294Ø DATA 3Ø,39,39,39,43,46,23,Ø
295Ø DATA 62,39,39,62,46,39,39,Ø
296Ø DATA 3Ø,39,48,3Ø,3,39,3Ø,Ø
297Ø DATA 63,I2,I2,I2,I2,I2,I2,Ø
298Ø DATA 39,39,39,39,39,39,3Ø,Ø
299Ø DATA 39,39,39,39,39,3Ø,I2,Ø
3ØØØ DATA 35,35,43,43,63,55,35,Ø
3ØIØ DATA 39,39,3Ø,I2,3Ø,39,39,Ø
3Ø2Ø DATA 39,39,39,3Ø,I2,I2,I2,Ø
3Ø3Ø DATA 63,3,6,I2,24,48,63,Ø
3Ø4Ø DATA 62,48,48,48,48,48,62,Ø
3Ø5Ø DATA Ø,48,24,I2,6,3,Ø,Ø
3Ø6Ø DATA 3I,3,3,3,3,3,3I,Ø
3Ø7Ø DATA I2,3Ø,39,3,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø
3Ø8Ø DATA Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,I27
3Ø9Ø DATA I4,23,24,62,24,24,63,Ø
3IØØ DATA Ø,Ø,3Ø,3,3I,39,3I,Ø
3IIØ DATA 48,48,62,39,39,39,62,Ø
3I2Ø DATA Ø,Ø,3Ø,39,48,39,3Ø,Ø
3I3Ø DATA 3,3,3I,39,39,39,3I,Ø
3I4Ø DATA Ø,Ø,3Ø,39,63,48,3Ø,Ø
3I5Ø DATA I4,24,24,62,24,24,24,Ø
3I6Ø DATA Ø,Ø,3I,39,39,3I,3,3Ø
3I7Ø DATA 48,48,62,39,39,39,39,Ø
3I8Ø DATA I2,Ø,28,I2,I2,I2,3Ø,Ø
3I9Ø DATA I2,Ø,28,I2,I2,I2,I2,56
32ØØ DATA 48,48,39,46,6Ø,46,39,Ø
32IØ DATA 28,I2,I2,I2,I2,I2,3Ø,Ø
322Ø DATA Ø,Ø,23,63,43,43,35,Ø
323Ø DATA Ø,Ø,62,39,39,39,39,Ø

```

## Listing 5 2 continued

```

324Ø DATA Ø,Ø,3Ø,39,39,39,3Ø,Ø
325Ø DATA Ø,Ø,62,39,39,62,48,48
326Ø DATA Ø,Ø,3I,39,39,3I,3,3
327Ø DATA Ø,Ø,46,55,48,48,48,Ø
328Ø DATA Ø,Ø,3I,48,3Ø,3,62,Ø
329Ø DATA 24,24,62,24,24,24,I4,Ø
330Ø DATA Ø,Ø,39,39,39,39,3I,Ø
331Ø DATA Ø,Ø,39,39,39,3Ø,I2,Ø
332Ø DATA Ø,Ø,35,43,43,63,23,Ø
333Ø DATA Ø,Ø,39,3Ø,I2,3Ø,39,Ø
334Ø DATA Ø,Ø,39,39,39,3I,3,3Ø
335Ø DATA Ø,Ø,63,6,I2,24,63,Ø
336Ø DATA 6,I2,I2,56,I2,I2,6,Ø
337Ø DATA I2,I2,I2,Ø,I2,I2,I2,Ø
338Ø DATA 24,I2,I2,7,I2,I2,24,Ø
339Ø DATA I7,43,7,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø,Ø
340ØØ
341Ø C%=Ø
342Ø FOR R%=Ø TO 75I
343Ø READ D%
344Ø R%?O%=D%
345Ø C%=C%+D%
346Ø NEXT
347Ø IF C%=I8388 THEN ENDPROC
348Ø VDU 7
349Ø PRINT "Error in data
350ØØ STOP
351ØØ
352Ø DEF PROCchecksum
353Ø N%=Ø
354Ø FOR R%=&5ØØØØ TO &5I78
355Ø N%=N%+?R%
356Ø NEXT
357Ø IF N%=44796 THEN ENDPROC
358Ø VDU 7
359Ø PRINT "Assembler error
360ØØ STOP

```

# Chapter Six

## OSBYTE and OSWORD

Service calls 7 and 8 are provided to allow you to implement your own OSBYTE and OSWORD calls. This is a great way to add clever little routines to your Master, particularly those that you use regularly.

For instance, I have over the past year or so been adding to a ROM image. The ROM is a conversion ROM. It provides an increasing number of handy machine code conversion routines, such as hex to decimal, floating point and mathematical routines. Rather than keep including them in each machine code program I write, I just access an OSBYTE or OSWORD call. The one major disadvantage here is that without the conversion ROM present the machine code won't work, and in many cases I have to add the routines proper at a later stage - but it does allow me to get on and get the task in hand working correctly first without having to write long assembler programs to do it.

I have presented a couple of the routines here to show how easy OSBYTE and OSWORD calls are to implement.

Before starting you will need to find an unused OSBYTE and OSWORD number to use. If you are hoping to sell your firmware commercially then you can ask Acorn Computers to assign you a number officially. Once this has been done you are the bona fida user of that number and no other commercial software should clash. Of course it is unlikely that Acorn will give you a number unless it is for commercial purposes, so just choose one that is not used by the Master or any of the software running on it. In the examples below I use &64 and &65.

When the MOS encounters a new OSBYTE or OSWORD call

it issues service call 7 or 8 respectively. Before doing this however it will place the contents of the accumulator, X and Y registers in zero page locations, thus

```
&EF accumulator
&F0 X register
&FI Y register
```

It is important to know this as both OSBYTE and OSWORD calls use these registers to pass information.

The first thing your polling routine should do is to extract the contents of &EF and see if the call is for you. If it is then the index register contents can be extracted from &F0 and &FI. In the case of an OSWORD call these two locations can be used as a vector to an information parameter block. On completion any information that is to be returned should be placed into the relevant registers and copied to the respective zero page locations. The accumulator should be set to zero to tell the MOS that the service call has been successful.

### OSBYTE

An OSBYTE call is made by placing the call number in the accumulator and any further information required by the call in the X and Y registers. On return from the call the index registers will contain any results or information.

Listing 6 implements OSBYTE call &64, or \*FXI00 if you prefer. It will convert the number passed to it in the X register to its ASCII counterpart with the character codes returned in the X and Y registers, high and low bytes respectively. For example, if X contained 255 then on return X and Y would contain &46, the ASCII code for 'F', ie 255=&FF. The OSBYTE extraction code can be found from line II60.

```
osbyte
PHA          \ push all registers
PHX
PHY
LDA &EF      \ get call number
CMP #&64     \ is it us?
BEQ yes64    \ yes, branch
JMP restore  \ else return
yes64
LDA &F0      \ get X register
PHA          \ save it on stack
```

```

LSR A          \ move high nibble to low nibble
LSR A
LSR A
LSR A
JSR convert    \ perform conversion
STA &F0        \ save high character in 'X'
PLA            \ retrieve byte
JSR convert    \ perform conversion on low nibble
STA &FI        \ save low character in 'Y'
PLY           \ balance stack
PLX
PLA
LDY &FI       \ make sure registers match
LDX &F0
LDA ≠0        \ signal to MOS
RTS           \ and return

```

Listing 6 I is shown below in full. If you have listing 4 3 from Chapter 4 ('HELP3') available then you can use this as the base and make the following additions and alterations

```

Change Lines  I0,220,I040,I070,II00,II20
Add lines     55 PROCchecksum
              3I1 CMP ≠7
              3I2 BNE notseven
              3I3 JMP osbyte
              3I4 notseven
Delete lines  II50 onwards
Add lines     II50 to I650 inclusive

```

Listing 6 2 tests the new OSBYTE call provided by listing 6 I and provides a tutorial by showing how easy it is to use

### OSWORD

OSWORD calls are performed by placing the call number into the accumulator and then seeding an address into the index registers before calling &FFF1. The address is in fact that of a parameter block anywhere within RAM that contains further information for the call to manipulate. Information is passed back to the calling program via the parameter block. As with OSBYTE, locations &EF, &F0 and &FI contain the register contents.

If you are clever then a single OSWORD number can meet all your needs as the listing below illustrates. You can use the first byte in the parameter block to contain a number which your OSWORD routine looks at

before deciding what action to take. In this way a single OSWORD number, &65 in this case, can be used to call up to 256 different functions, simply by placing a number from 0 to 255 in the first parameter block byte. If this is not enough, use the second byte as well that'll give you over 60,000 possible functions! I don't quite go that far, but two functions are possible here. Placing a I or I29 in the first byte of the parameter block will allow you to use the following two routines

- I - Convert two bytes into a four-byte hex ASCII string
- I29 - As above but print it as well

Before you write your OSWORD call, work out how the parameter block will be constructed. OSWORD &65 requires this set-up

Address	Function
XY+0	action byte
XY+1	low byte to be converted
XY+2	high byte to be converted
XY+3	high order ASCII character
XY+4	ASCII character
XY+6	ASCII character
XY+7	low order ASCII character

For example, if XY+0 contained I and XY+1=&80 and XY+2=&FF, then on return from the call the parameter block would look like this

Address	Contents
XY+0	I
XY+1	&80
XY+2	&FF
XY+3	ASC"F"
XY+4	ASC'F'
XY+6	ASC"8"
XY+7	ASC"0"

As with OSBYTE, the OSWORD coding is not difficult to follow

```

osword
PHA          \ save registers
PHX
PHY
LDA #&65    \ is it ours?
BEQ yes65   \ branch if so

```

```

JMP restore          \ else return
  yes65
LDY #0               \ clear index
LDA (&F0),Y         \ get action byte from parameter
                    \ block
AND #&7F            \ mask off high (printing) bit
CMP #I              \ is it a I?
BEQ hexasc1         \ continue if so
JMP restore         \ else return
  hexasc1
INY                 \ increment index
LDA (&F0),Y        \ get low byte from parameter
                    \ block
PHA                 \ save it on stack
INY                 \ increment index
LDA (&F0),Y        \ get high byte from parameter
                    \ block
JSR hexconvert      \ convert and save in parameter
                    \ block
PLA                 \ get low byte
JSR hexconvert      \ convert and save in parameter
                    \ block
LDY #0              \ clear index again
LDA (&F0),Y        \ get action byte again
BMI display         \ if negative then print ASCII
                    \ string
JMP alldone         \ else return

```

You can now see why I chose I29 for printing. It's not the number itself I'm interested in, but the fact that it has the top bit set.

I29 = &8I = I000 000I

This means that any of your routines can be printed by the same piece of code if they conform to the same parameter block layout. The printing routine is

```

display
LDY #3              \ first byte to print is at XY+3
  print
LDA (&F0),Y        \ get ASCII character
JSR osasc1         \ print it
INY                \ bump index
CPY #7             \ four bytes done yet?
BNE print          \ branch if not
JMP alldone        \ else finish

```

Both of these routines can be seen in listing 6 3. As before, if you have listing 4 3 ('HELP3') handy, you can



use this as a base for the OSWORD listing by making the following changes

Change lines	I0, 220, I040, I070, II00, II20
Add lines	55 PROCchecksum
	3I1 CMP ≠8
	3I2 BNE noteight
	3I3 JMP osword
	3I4 noteight
	II33 EQU " XY+0=I29    Print I"
	II34 EQUB I3
	II50 to I920 inclusive

Listing 6 4 puts OSWORD &65 into action

Listing 6 I Implements new OSBYTE call &64 Save as  
OSBYTE Use listing 4 3 (HELP3) as the basis for this

```

10 REM Implement OSBYTE
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
55 PROCchecksum
60 *SRWRITE 50000 +2000 80000 6
70 END
80 DEF PROCassemble
90 osnew1=&FFE7
100 comline=&F2
110 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
120 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
130 [
140 OPT pass
150 EQUB 0
160 EQUW 0
170 JMP service
180 EQUB &82
190 EQUB offset MOD 256
200 EQUB I
210 title
220 EQUB 'Osbyte Extension ROM"
230 EQUB 0
240 version
250 EQUB " I 00"
260 EQUB 0
270 offset
280 EQUB 0
290 EQUB "(C) Bruce Smith"
300 EQUB 0
310 service
311 CMP #7
312 BNE notseven
313 JMP osbyte
314 notseven
320 CMP #9
330 BNE nothelp
340 PHA
350 PHX
360 PHY
370 LDA (comline),Y
380 CMP #I3
390 BNE check
400 JSR help
410 LDX #255
420 details

```

## Listing 6 I continued

```
430 INX
440 LDA command,X
450 BEQ donecommand
460 JSR &FFE3
470 BRA details
480 donecommand
490 JSR osnewl
500 BRA restore
510 \
520 check
530 LDX #255
540 DEY
550 again
560 INX
570 INY
580 LDA (comline),Y
590 AND #&DF
600 CMP com,X
610 BEQ again
620 LDA com,X
630 CMP #&FE
640 BEQ mine
650 restore
660 PLY
670 PLX
680 PLA
690 nothelp
700 RTS
710 \
720 help
730 JSR osnewl
740 LDX #&FF
750 JSR helploop
760 JSR helploop
770 JSR osnewl
780 RTS
790 \
800 helploop
810 INX
820 LDA title,X
830 BEQ done
840 JSR &FFE3
850 BRA helploop
860 done
870 RTS
880 mine
890 JSR help
900 LDX #255
```

## Listing 6 I continued

```

910 more
920 INX
930 LDA lists,X
940 BMI alldone
950 JSR &FFE3
960 BRA more
970 alldone
980 PLY
990 PLX
I000 PLA
I010 LDA #0
I020 RTS
I030 com
I040 EQU "OSBYTE"
I050 EQUB &FE
I060 command
I070 EQU " Osbyte"
I080 EQUB 0
I090 lists
I100 EQU " A=&64, X=byte for conversi
on"
I110 EQUB I3
I120 EQU " On completion X=hi, Y=lo
"
I130 EQUB I3
I140 EQUB &FF
I150 \
I160 osbyte
I170 PHA
I180 PHX
I190 PHY
I200 LDA &EF
I210 CMP #&64
I220 BEQ yes64
I230 JMP restore
I240 \
I250 yes64
I260 LDA &F0
I270 PHA
I280 LSR A
I290 LSR A
I300 LSR A
I310 LSR A
I320 JSR convert
I330 STA &F0
I340 PLA
I350 JSR convert
I360 STA &FI

```

## Listing 6 1 continued

```

I370 PLY
I380 PLX
I390 PLA
I400 LDY &FI
I410 LDX &F0
I420 LDA #0
I430 RTS
I440 \
I450 convert
I460 AND #I5
I470 CMP #I0
I480 BCC over
I490 ADC #6
I500 over
I510 ADC #48
I520 RTS
I530 ]
I540 NEXT
I550 ENDPROC
I560
I570 DEF PROCchecksum
I580 N%=0
I590 FOR X%=&5000 TO &5I27
I600 N%=N%+?X%
I610 NEXT
I620 IF N%=33496 THEN ENDPROC
I630 VDU 7
I640 PRINT"Assembler error"
I650 STOP

```

## Listing 6 2 Tutorial and test for new OSBYTE Save as OSBTEST

```

10 REM OSBYTE Tutorial
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 MODE 7
60 REPEAT
70 REPEAT
80 INPUT "Enter number in range 1-255
' X%
90 UNTIL X%>0 AND X%<256
I00 A%=&64 Y%=0
I10 R%=USR(&FFF4)
I20 X%=(R% AND &FF00) DIV &FF
I30 Y%=(R% AND &FFFF00) DIV &FFFF

```

## Listing 6 2 continued

```

140 PRINT In hex that is " CHR$(X%) C
HR$(Y%)
150 PRINT
160 UNTIL0

```

Listing 6 3 Creates OSWORD &65 to convert and print binary numbers as ASCII hex string Save as OSWORD Can be built up from listing 4 3 (HELP3)

```

10 REM Implement OSWORD
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
55 PROCchecksum
60 *SRWRITE 5000 +200 8000 6
70 END
80 DEF PROCassemble
90 osnew1=&FFE7 osasc1=&FFE3
100 comline=&F2
110 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
120 P%=&8000 O%=&5000
130 I
140 OPT pass
150 EQUB 0
160 EQUW 0
170 JMP service
180 EQUB &82
190 EQUB offset MOD 256
200 EQUB I
210 title
220 EQUB "Osword Extension ROM"
230 EQUB 0
240 version
250 EQUB ' I 00"
260 EQUB 0
270 offset
280 EQUB 0
290 EQUB "(C) Bruce Smith"
300 EQUB 0
310 service
311 CMP #8
312 BNE noteight
313 JMP osword
314 noteight
320 CMP #9
330 BNE nothelp

```

## Listing 6 3 continued

```
340 PHA
350 PHX
360 PHY
370 LDA (comline),Y
380 CMP #I3
390 BNE check
400 JSR help
410 LDX #255
420 details
430 INX
440 LDA command,X
450 BEQ donecommand
460 JSR &FFE3
470 BRA details
480 donecommand
490 JSR osnewl
500 BRA restore
510 \
520 check
530 LDX #255
540 DEY
550 again
560 INX
570 INY
580 LDA (comline),Y
590 AND #&DF
600 CMP com,X
610 BEQ again
620 LDA com,X
630 CMP #&FE
640 BEQ mine
650 restore
660 PLY
670 PLX
680 PLA
690 nothelp
700 RTS
710 \
720 help
730 JSR osnewl
740 LDX #&FF
750 JSR helploop
760 JSR helploop
770 JSR osnewl
780 RTS
790 \
800 helploop
810 INX
```

## Listing 6 3 continued

```

820 LDA title,X
830 BEQ done
840 JSR &FFE3
850 BRA helploop
860 done
870 RTS
880 mine
890 JSR help
900 LDX #255
910 more
920 INX
930 LDA lists,X
940 BMI alldone
950 JSR &FFE3
960 BRA more
970 alldone
980 PLY
990 PLX
I000 PLA
I010 LDA #0
I020 RTS
I030 com
I040 EQU "OSWORD"
I050 EQUB &FE
I060 command
I070 EQU ' Osword '
I080 EQUB 0
I090 lists
I100 EQU " A=&65, XY+0=action byte"
I110 EQUB I3
I120 EQU " XY+0=I Hex to ASCII"
I130 EQUB I3
I133 EQU " XY+0=I29 Print I
I134 EQUB I3
I140 EQUB &FF
I150 \
I160 osword
I170 PHA
I180 PHX
I190 PHY
I200 LDA &EF
I210 CMP #&65
I220 BEQ yes65
I230 JMP restore
I240 yes65
I250 \
I260 LDY#0
I270 LDA (&F0),Y

```



## Listing 6 3 continued

```
I280 AND #7F
I290 CMP #I
I300 BEQ hexasci
I310 JMP restore
I320 \
I330 hexasci
I340 INY
I350 LDA (&F0),Y
I360 PHA
I370 INY
I380 LDA (&F0),Y
I390 JSR hexconvert
I400 PLA
I410 JSR hexconvert
I420 LDY#0
I430 LDA (&F0),Y
I440 BMI display
I450 JMP alldone
I460 \
I470 display
I480 LDY#3
I490 print
I500 LDA (&F0),Y
I510 JSR osasci
I520 INY
I530 CPY #7
I540 BNE print
I550 JMP alldone
I560 \
I570 hexconvert
I580 INY
I590 PHA
I600 LSR A
I610 LSR A
I620 LSR A
I630 LSR A
I640 JSR first
I650 STA (&F0),Y
I660 INY
I670 PLA
I680 JSR first
I690 STA (&F0),Y
I700 RTS
I710 \
I720 first
I730 AND #I5
I740 CMP #I0
I750 BCC over
```

## Listing 6 3 continued

```

I76Ø ADC ≠6
I77Ø over
I78Ø ADC ≠48
I79Ø RTS
I8ØØ ]
I8IØ NEXT
I82Ø ENDPROC
I83Ø
I84Ø DEF PROCchecksum
I85Ø N%=Ø
I86Ø FOR X%=&5ØØØ TO &5I5E
I87Ø N%=N%+?X%
I88Ø NEXT
I89Ø IF N%=38567 THEN ENDPROC
I9ØØ VDU 7
I9IØ PRINT"Assembler error"
I92Ø STOP

```

 Listing 6 4 Tutorial and test for new OSWORD call  
 Save as OSWTEST

```

IØ REM OSWORD Tutorial
2Ø REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
3Ø REM Advanced SRAM Guide
4Ø
5Ø MODE 7
6Ø REPEAT
7Ø REPEAT
8Ø INPUT "Enter number in range 1-655
35 "R%
9Ø UNTIL R%>Ø AND R%<65536
IØØ A%=&65 Y%=Ø X%=&7Ø
IIØ ?&7Ø=I29
I2Ø ?&7I=R% MOD 256
I3Ø ?&72=R% DIV 256
I4Ø PRINT"In hex that is ",
I5Ø CALL &FFFI
I6Ø PRINT
I7Ø UNTILØ

```

# Chapter Seven

## Extended Vectors

When designing ROM images you might need to add facilities that are automatically accessed by the MOS as and when required. For example, when an error occurs during program operation the Master will print out an error message, it would be nice however to add a patch that would call the routine in your sideways ROM to print out the erroneous line and perhaps even highlight the error itself.

Similarly, filing system ROMs, such as disc filing systems, must be accessible from the calling program or command. However, calls cannot be made directly by a simple JSR command as the coding is held within a sideways ROM. What needs to take place is for the current ROM to be switched out and for the new one to be switched in then the JMP or JSR can be carried out. This sounds, and indeed would be, a convoluted and difficult job as it would mean keeping a machine code patch in RAM to handle all the switching.

A mechanism exists in the MOS called 'extended vector entry'. This allows the main operating system vectors to point into the MOS and tell it to hand control over to another ROM. It will also handle transfer of control from the current ROM to a routine in another ROM and then switch back to the original ROM.

Twenty seven such vectors are implemented on the Master and each is allocated a number such that the physical address of the vector is located at

$2000 + 2 * \langle \text{vector number} \rangle$

Table 7 I lists all the information you'll need so you

don't have to worry about having to calculate anything yourself

To redirect a vector we need to point the vector itself into a part of the MOS called the 'extended vector processing area'. The vector must have the following address placed into it

$\&FF\theta\theta+3*\langle\text{vector number}\rangle$

Table 7 I lists the actual entry points each vector must be made to point to so it will be processed correctly

Vector	Location	Entry point	Offset
USERV	$\&2\theta\theta$	$\&FF\theta\theta$	$\theta-2$
BRKV	$\&2\theta2$	$\&FF\theta3$	3-5
IRQIV	$\&2\theta4$	$\&FF\theta6$	6-8
IRQ2V	$\&2\theta6$	$\&FF\theta9$	9-11
CLIV	$\&2\theta8$	$\&FF\thetaC$	12-14
BYTEV	$\&2\thetaA$	$\&FF\thetaF$	15-17
WORDV	$\&2\thetaC$	$\&FF12$	18-20
WRCHV	$\&2\thetaE$	$\&FF15$	21-23
RDCHV	$\&21\theta$	$\&FF18$	24-26
FILEV	$\&212$	$\&FF1B$	27-29
ARGSV	$\&214$	$\&FF1E$	30-32
BGETV	$\&216$	$\&FF21$	33-35
BPUTV	$\&218$	$\&FF24$	36-38
GBPBV	$\&21A$	$\&FF27$	39-41
FINDV	$\&21C$	$\&FF2A$	42-44
FSCV	$\&21E$	$\&FF2D$	45-47
EVENTV	$\&22\theta$	$\&FF3\theta$	48-50
UPTV	$\&222$	$\&FF33$	51-53
NETV	$\&224$	$\&FF36$	54-56
VDUV	$\&226$	$\&FF39$	57-59
KEYV	$\&228$	$\&FF3C$	60-62
INSV	$\&22A$	$\&FF3F$	63-65
REMV	$\&22C$	$\&FF42$	66-68
CNPV	$\&22E$	$\&FF45$	69-71
INDIV	$\&23\theta$	$\&FF48$	72-74
IND2V	$\&232$	$\&FF4B$	75-77
IND3V	$\&234$	$\&FF4E$	78-80

Table 7 I Extended vectors

As table 7 I shows, each extended vector entry point is offset by three bytes from the next, to allow the instruction JSR  $\&FF51$  to be assembled (NB MOS3  $\theta$  may vary on other MOS's) This address marks the start of

the extended vector processing coding

The MOS needs to know which ROM to page in and which address to call in it. Space is provided in RAM for this information in an area called the 'extended vector space', the start address of which is ascertained by issuing an OSBYTE call as follows

```
LDA #&A8
LDX #&000
LDY #&FF
JSR osbyte
```

This call will return with the start address of the extended vector space in the index registers. In MOS3 0 this address is &D9F.

Each vector is allocated three bytes in the extended vector space, and the bytes corresponding to each are found by calculating

Vector space+3\*<vector number>

These bytes must have the following information poked into them

- 1 Low byte of address in ROM
- 2 High byte of address in ROM
- 3 ROM number - copied from &F4

### Working example

All of what went on above may have seemed long-winded, but as the following example of an extended vector proves it really is straightforward - all you need to do is to refer to table 7 I.

The USERV is located at &200 and &201. This is normally associated with the two commands \*LINE and \*CODE. These are implemented solely to allow you to add customised routines to the Master. Try executing either of these now type in \*LINE or \*CODE and you will get the 'Bad command' error message. This is because they have not been assigned a task at present and currently point directly to the error message.

We can change this. In this worked example we'll get both of these commands to produce a bleep when called. Again, the action is not spectacular but it is kept simple so that you can concentrate on the extended vector coding.

The first task is to save the current vector contents as we will either need to restore them or jump onto the vector once we have finished with it. Here they are

stored at &8E and &8F Looking at table 7 I we see that the USRV is located at &200 and &201, so

```
LDA &200      \ get low byte
STA &8E       \ save it
LDA &201      \ get high byte
STA &8F       \ save it
```

Remember to preserve the low byte first so that you can use &8E as a vector to jump through

The next step is to point the vector to the extended vector processing code Again looking at table 7 I we can see that this address is at &FF00 This is placed in the vector thus

```
LDA #0        \ low byte of &FF00
STA &200
LDA #&FF     \ high byte of &FF00
STA &201
```

The final action required is to place the address of the new vector routine and the identity number of the ROM it is contained in within the correct three bytes in the extended vector space The extended vector space starts at &D9F in MOS3 0 Looking at table 7 I we see that the offset into this area is at 0,1 and 2 Assuming the new USERV routine is at 'new' we get

```
LDA #new MOD 256 \ calculate low byte address
STA &D9F         \ save it
LDA #new DIV 256 \ calculate high byte address
STA &D9F+1      \ save it
LDA &F4         \ get ROM identity
STA &D9F+2      \ save it
```

Location &F4 always contains the identity number of the currently selected ROM And that's all there is to it'

If you need to reset the vector to its original address simply transfer the contents of &8E and &8F back to &200 and &201 - there's no need to reset the extended vector space

```
LDA &8E
STA &200      \ reset low byte
LDA &8F
STA &201      \ reset high byte
```

Obviously it is important not to alter the contents of &8E and &8F in any way

Listing 7 I puts all this into action Once run and

initialised the commands \*ON and \*OFF turn the extended vector on and off respectively Typing \*ON and entering \*LINE or \*CODE will cause a beep to be made Typing \*OFF will mean you get the error message 'Bad command' when you use either command

If you have listing 5 I ('INTERP') to hand you can use this as the basis for this new listing ('VECTOR') To do this make the following alterations

Change lines	I0,250,II20,II50,II80,I200,I260 I690 to I770 inclusive, I800, I810,I820,I840
Delete lines	I940 to 2050 inclusive
Add new lines	I940 onwards

Note that when you are changing the contents of a vector in this way you should always disable interrupts first with SEI and enable them with CLI after the change This is to prevent the vector being used while it is being changed which could be disastrous if only one byte had been changed at the time! It is also a good idea to save the status register on the stack at this time as well for later restoration Hence use

```
PHP
SEI
```

prior to change, and

```
CLI
PLP
```

after revectoring

Listing 7 I How to use extended vector to point into a sideways ROM Save as VECTOR Based on listing 5 I (INTERP)

```

100 REM Extended Vector ROM
200 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
300 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
400
500 PROCassemble
600 PROCchecksum
700 *SRWRITE 50000 +5000 80000 6
800 END
900
1000 DEF PROCassemble
1100 osnew1=&FFE7
1200 osasc1=&FFE3
1300 comline=&F2
1400 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
1500 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
1600 [
1700 OPT pass
1800 EQUB 0
1900 EQUW 0
2000 JMP service
2100 EQUB &82
2200 EQUB offset MOD 256
2300 EQUB I
2400 title
2500 EQU "Extended Vector ROM"
2600 EQUB 0
2700 version
2800 EQU " I 00"
2900 EQUB 0
3000 offset
3100 EQUB 0
3200 EQU "(C) Bruce Smith"
3300 EQUB 0
3400 service
3500 PHA
3600 PHX
3700 PHY
3800 CMP #9
3900 BNE nothelp
4000 LDA (comline),Y
4100 CMP #13
4200 BNE check
4300 JSR help
4400 LDX #255
4500 details
4600 INX

```



## Listing 7 I continued

```
470 LDA command,X
480 BEQ donecommand
490 JSR &FFE3
500 BRA details
510 donecommand
520 JSR osnewl
530 BRA restore
540 \
550 check
560 LDX ≠255
570 DEY
580 again
590 INX
600 INY
610 LDA (comline),Y
620 AND ≠&DF
630 CMP com,X
640 BEQ again
650 LDA com,X
660 CMP ≠&FE
670 BEQ mine
680 restore
690 PLY
700 PLX
710 PLA
720 RTS
730 \
740 nothelp
750 CMP ≠4
760 BEQ unrecognised
770 BRA alldone
780 \
790 help
800 JSR osnewl
810 LDX ≠&FF
820 JSR helploop
830 JSR helploop
840 JSR osnewl
850 RTS
860 \
870 helploop
880 INX
890 LDA title,X
900 BEQ done
910 JSR &FFE3
920 BRA helploop
930 done
940 RTS
```

## Listing 7 I continued

```

950 \
960 mine
970 JSR help
980 LDX #255
990 more
I000 INX
I010 LDA lists,X
I020 BMI alldone
I030 JSR &FFE3
I040 BRA more
I050 \
I060 alldone
I070 PLY
I080 PLX
I090 PLA
I100 RTS
I110 \
I120 com
I130 EQU "VECTORS"
I140 EQUB &FE
I150 command
I160 EQU " Vectors"
I170 EQUB 0
I180 lists
I190 EQU " Redirects USERV at &200"
I200 EQUB I3
I210 EQU ON"
I220 EQUB I3
I230 EQU " OFF"
I240 EQUB I3
I250 EQUB &FF
I260 \
I270 unrecognised
I280 LDX #255
I290 DEY
I300 PHY
I310 identify
I320 INX
I330 INY
I340 LDA (comline),Y
I350 AND #&DF
I360 CMP comtable,X
I370 BEQ identify
I380 LDA comtable,X
I390 BMI address
I400 \
I410 moveon
I420 INX

```

## Listing 7 I continued

```

I430 LDA comtable,X
I440 BPL moveon
I450 BNE notend
I460 PLY
I470 BRA alldone
I480 \
I490 notend
I500 INX
I510 PLY
I520 PHY
I530 JMP identify
I540 \
I550 address
I560 CMP ≠&FF
I570 BNE notFF
I580 PLY
I590 BRA alldone
I600 notFF
I610 \
I620 STA &39
I630 INX
I640 LDA comtable,X
I650 STA &38
I660 JMP (&38)
I670 \
I680 comtable
I690 EQU "ON"
I700 EQU on DIV 256
I710 EQU on MOD 256
I720 EQU "OFF"
I730 EQU off DIV 256
I740 EQU off MOD 256
I750
I760
I770
I780 EQU &FF
I790 \
I800
I810
I820
I830
I840
I850 \
I860 found
I870 PLY
I880 PLY
I890 PLX
I900 PLA

```

## Listing 7 I continued

```

1910 LDA #0
1920 RTS
1930 \
1940 on
1950 LDA &200
1960 STA &8E
1970 LDA &201
1980 STA &8F
1990 LDA #0
2000 STA &200
2010 LDA #&FF
2020 STA &201
2030 LDA #new MOD 256
2040 STA &D9F
2050 LDA #new DIV 256
2060 STA &D9F+1
2070 LDA &F4
2080 STA &D9F+2
2090 CLI
2100 JMP found
2110 \
2120 new
2130 LDA #7
2140 JSR &FFEE
2150 RTS
2160 \
2170 off
2180 LDA &8E
2190 STA &200
2200 LDA &8F
2210 STA &201
2220 JMP found
2230 |
2240 NEXT
2250 ENDPROC
2260
2270 DEF PROCchecksum
2280 N%=0
2290 FOR X%=&5000 TO &515D
2300 N%=N%+?X%
2310 NEXT
2320 IF N%=&40201 THEN ENDPROC
2330 VDU 7
2340 PRINT"Assembler error!"
2350 STOP

```

# Chapter Eight

## Pot Pourri

So far it's been quite easy to demonstrate the service calls, but some are not that simple. For example, service call I2 allows a ROM to claim the non-maskable interrupts (NMIs) which effectively control the operation of the Master Filing systems such as net and disc are typical cases where you would want to claim NMIs - but space doesn't allow me to include a filing system program! In this chapter we will have a general look at routines of this type, and briefly examine writing a filing system. Calls not covered here will be dealt with in greater depth in chapters to come.

### Service Call 5

This call is issued by the MOS when an interrupt request (IRQ) that it does not recognise occurs. If your paged ROM makes use of the IRQ line then it should be directed to a suitable interrupt request polling routine and check any device(s) to find the source of the IRQ. Any ROM recognising the interrupt should process it, set the accumulator to zero to indicate that the interrupt has been serviced, and then return with an RTS instruction and NOT an RTI as is generally the norm when an IRQ has occurred. The following code shows how a suitable polling routine might be instigated.

```
CMP #5          \ is it unrecognised IRQ?
BNE next       \ branch to next test if not
JSR polling    \ execute IRQ polling
BCC notfound   \ carry clear if IRQ not identified
```

PLA	\ pull stack to balance previous push
LDA $\neq \emptyset$	\ call serviced
RTS	\ return
notfound	
PLA	\ put service code in accumulator
RTS	\ and return

As usual, this code assumes that on entry the service call type was preserved on the stack. If an IRQ is not identified by any of the ROMs then the MOS directs a final call through the user vector IRQ2.

### Service Call 6

This service call is used to inform paged ROMs that a BRK has occurred, before the MOS hands control over to the current language ROM via the BRK vector (BRKV), to process the BRK. In many instances the BRK is used to signal an error, and print an error message. If the service call does not intend to process the BRK, for example to produce some extra fancy error messages and pointers, the contents of all registers should be preserved. The vectored address at &FD and &FE points to the error number in memory while the byte at &F0 contains the value of the hardware stack pointer after the BRK was executed. As the BRK may have occurred in a ROM other than the one currently processing the BRK, it is important to be able to ascertain in which ROM it did occur. To do this OSBYTE &BA should be called, and the ROM number is returned in the X register. As always if your ROM traps this call it should load the accumulator with  $\emptyset$  before returning to the MOS, otherwise the service call number should be preserved so that the MOS can poll other ROMs.

### Service Call II

The major filing and networking systems on the BBC micros make extensive use of non-maskable interrupts (NMIs). This call should be used when the ROM system currently using it (ie a DFS ROM) no longer needs to do so and is prepared to release it. When this service call is issued the Y register holds the number of the ROM that was using the NMIs before the claim for them was made. Each ROM that recognises this call should check the contents of the Y register with its own ROM number, available in the X register and location &F4 at the time of the service. If it is the same then the accumulator should hold zero on return from the service call, otherwise all registers should be preserved. The

following coding shows the general procedure for handling this call if the ROM is making use of the NMIs

```

CMP #I2          \ is it NMI release?
BNE next        \ branch to next if not
TYA             \ move last ROM number into
               \ accumulator
CMP &F4         \ is it this ROM?
BNE notme      \ branch if not
PLA            \ balance previous push
LDA #0         \ recognised code
RTS           \ and return
notme
PLA           \ restore service call number
RTS

```

To return the use of the NMI to its previous user OSBYTE I43 should be executed as follows

```

LDA #I43        \ OSBYTE code
LDX #II        \ service call code
LDY #255
JSR OSBYTE     \ issue request

```

As mentioned before, service call II will normally only be trapped if the user is implementing a filing system. Care must be taken when using NMIs as all BBC micros are interrupt-driven and funny things can happen to general housekeeping chores if they are not treated with respect. Note also that the zero page locations associated with the filing system should not be used during this service call's execution.

### Service Call I2

This call is issued to claim use of the NMIs. It is called with OSBYTE I43 as follows

```

LDA #I43        \ OSBYTE code
LDX #I2        \ service call I2
LDY #255
JSR OSBYTE     \ perform call

```

The ROM that currently has claim of the NMIs should place its ROM number into the Y register and store any important data in its own private storage area (covered shortly). It should also inhibit any further use of NMIs until it has reclaimed the NMI at a later stage. The claiming ROM should also store the ROM number of

the current NMI for use when releasing the NMI claim. If the ROM was not using the NMIs, then the Y register must remain unaltered. Once claimed the zero page area associated with NMI handling from &A0 to &A7 is free for use and the ROM's resident NMI service routine should be copied to &D00.

### Service Call I5

Whenever a new filing system is initialised it must perform a number of operations. One of these is to re-point all vectors into the coding of the new filing system. After writing relevant addresses into the various filing system vectors, service call I5 should be issued by the new filing system, to inform all other paged software that a change in filing system has taken place.

### Service Call I6

This call is performed to inform paged ROMs that may be using SPOOL or EXEC files that a filing system change is being performed. On receipt of this call any ROM using such files should perform any required housekeeping to tidy things up. If a ROM wants a SPOOL or EXEC file to remain open, a zero should be placed in the accumulator before releasing the service call.

### Service Call I7

This call is issued when the character font, ie the user definable character set, is about to explode or implode. On the Master of course the character font is permanently exploded, so checking for a pending explosion is not important - unless you also wish your code to work on a BBC micro. Checking for an implosion may be of use however - perhaps in conjunction with the Font ROM listing given earlier. This service call is therefore issued when the MOS encounters OSBYTE &I5 (\*FX20).

### Service Call I8

This call is provided to allow filing systems to be initialised without having to issue any operating system commands. This is important as a program may need to have files open in two or more filing systems. The filing system should check the contents of the Y register to see if they agree with its operating system filing system code as defined by OSARGS. If the ROM



identifies as the called filing system it should initialise itself and restore all the files that were open at the time it was previously shut down

### Service Call 2f

This call allows you to process software-generated interrupts. It is issued 100 times every second after an OSBYTE &16 (\*FX22) command has been used. On receipt of an OSBYTE &17 (\*FX23) the MOS stops issuing the service call. The call is effectively an interrupt polling routine. Its main use would be for control of peripherals, and on receipt your ROM should check its hardware accordingly. Of course it can be used for other things as the next example shows!

Listing 8f will begin to increment a two-byte counter after \*FX22 has been issued. It will stop incrementing the counter, held at &70 and &71, after \*FX23. The code requires nothing other than to catch the service call and direct it to the polling routine. You can use listing 4.3 from Chapter 4 (saved as 'HELP3') as the base for the program and make the following changes:

Change lines	I0, 220, I040, I070, II00, II20
Add lines	55, 311, 312, 313, 314, II50 to I370 inclusive

To see the program in action, type \*FX22 and enter this one-liner:

```
REPEAT P '&70 AND &FFFF UNTIL 0
```

Pressing ESCAPE and typing \*FX23 will stop the interrupt polling.

Obviously the ROM processing this call will need to know if it should return with A=0 to terminate this call, however other ROMs may also be using this call to operate their own routines and as such the accumulator should return with &15 to ensure the MOS passes the service call onto other ROMs. To this end the Y register will always hold a number which should be decremented by the number of claims made by your ROM. For example if you previously claimed this call twice to poll devices, then the Y register should be decremented twice on completion of the two polling routines. If Y is 0 then the accumulator should return holding 0 else it should be re-set with the service call number.

Service Call 37

This call should be trapped by filing system ROMs only. It is issued as a request for information about the filing systems installed in the micro. If your filing system ROM receives this call it should supply II bytes of information as follows:

- 8 bytes     Filing system name padded out with spaces
- I byte     Lowest handle number used
- I byte     Highest handle number used
- I byte     The filing system number

This information should be stored at the address pointed to by the vector at &F2 and &F3. Y should be set to zero and will end up incremented by II.

```

service37
LDY #0
nextbyte
LDA info,Y           \ get information byte
STA (&F2),Y         \ write byte
INY                  \ increment index
CPY #II              \ II bytes done?
BNE nextbyte         \ if not continue
    
```

As an example, the ADFS would return the following on receipt of this service call:

Decimal	ASCII
96	a
I00	d
I02	f
II5	s
32	<space>
32	<space>
32	<space>
32	<space>
45	Lowest handle used
57	Highest handle used
8	Filing system number

Service Call 38

This is issued to all ROMs when \*SHUT is used.

Service Call 39

Call 39 is issued on a hard reset, ie when the micro is switched on or after CTRL-BREAK. If you run the trace

program (listing 3 1 in Chapter 3), you will notice that it is issued immediately prior to the initialisation of the Acorn DFS, and obviously directly after the MOS has initialised. Intercepting this call will allow you to initialise your own ROM as needs be. Program 8 2 does just that and prints the date onto the screen. It does this by intercepting call 39 (&27), reads the CMOS clock with OSWORD &E, and then prints just the date onto the screen. It uses memory from &70 for the OSWORD parameter block and you could print the time as well simply by extending the loop from line I290. You can use listing 4 3 as the base for the program and adapt as follows.

Change lines	I0, 220, I040, I070, I100, I120
Add lines	55, 3I1, 3I2, 3I3, 3I4, I150 to I460 inclusive

### Service Call 254

If the Tube interface is present this service call is issued after OSHWM has been defined, to see if it is active. If it is then service call 255 will be issued.

### Service Call 255

This call is issued if a co-processor or second processor is active. It is issued prior to final setting of the OSHWM in the co- or second processor, thus allowing languages and start-up messages to be copied.

### About Filing Systems

A filing system ROM such as the Disc Filing System (DFS), Advanced DFS (ADFS) or Network Filing System (NFS) can be selected in a number of ways. The most obvious of these is via a MOS command such as \*DISC. The MOS will issue service call 4 here and the DFS ROM will recognise the command and muscle its way in as the active filing system as described below.

A filing system may be selected in two other ways however, namely through service call I8 with the Y register containing the filing system number, or via service call 3 where a special recognised key is pressed in conjunction with the BREAK key, eg D-BREAK for Disc, N-BREAK for Net and so on.

Because a filing system will never be required to run directly in either a second or co-processor it should always be written in the native code of the 6502-series.

microprocessor in the BBC micro or Master

All filing systems must be capable of responding to the following service calls

I, 2, 3, 4, 9, IØ, I5, I6, I8, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38 and 39

When a filing system recognises that it has been selected it should initialise itself in the following stages

First, call OSFSC with A=6 thus enabling the outgoing filing system to tidy up shop and shut itself down. This MOS call does not have a recognised vector entry point so it should be called in a slightly convoluted way to allow control to be restored to the point after the JMP, this is done by performing a JSR to a place which contains the instruction, JMP(&2IE), 1e

```
JSR dofsc
xx
xx
dofsc JMP (&2IE)
```

Second, set up the extended vectors required by the filing system

Next, issue service call I5 to inform other ROMs that the filing system vectors have been altered

Finally, restore any files that remain open since the filing system was last in use

In addition to its own static workspace claimed, the filing system has some other exclusive memory locations free for use. These are

&AØ to &A7	The NMI workspace - available when filing system has claimed NMIs
&A8 to &AF	* workspace - for when * commands are issued
&BØ to &BF	Temporary workspace. Contents may change between commands
&CØ to &CF	Private workspace. Contents here do not change between commands if filing system does not change
&DØØ to &D5F	NMI service code space. If ROM uses NMIs the service code for them should be loaded here (claim with service call I2 first)

Listing 8 I Traps service call 2I which polls ROMs  
 I00 times a second Save as POLLING Adapt from listing  
 4 3 (HELP3)

```

I0 REM Polling ROM
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
55 PROCchecksum
60 *SRWRITE 5000 +200 8000 7
70 END
80 DEF PROCassemble
90 osnewl=&FFE7
I00 comline=&F2
II0 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
I20 P%=&8000 O%=&5000
I30 [
I40 OPT pass
I50 EQUB 0
I60 EQUW 0
I70 JMP service
I80 EQUB &82
I90 EQUB offset MOD 256
200 EQUB I
2I0 title
220 EQU "Polling Interrupt ROM"
230 EQUB 0
240 version
250 EQU " I 00"
260 EQUB 0
270 offset
280 EQUB 0
290 EQU "(C) Bruce Smith"
300 EQUB 0
3I0 service
3II CMP #I5
3I2 BNE tryhelp
3I3 JMP time
3I4 tryhelp
320 CMP #9
330 BNE nothelp
340 PHA
350 PHX
360 PHY
370 LDA (comline),Y
380 CMP #I3
390 BNE check
400 JSR help
4I0 LDX #255

```

## Listing 8 I continued

```
420 details
430 INX
440 LDA command,X
450 BEQ donecommand
460 JSR &FFE3
470 BRA details
480 donecommand
490 JSR osnewl
500 BRA restore
510 \
520 check
530 LDX #255
540 DEY
550 again
560 INX
570 INY
580 LDA (comline),Y
590 AND #&DF
600 CMP com,X
610 BEQ again
620 LDA com,X
630 CMP #&FE
640 BEQ mine
650 restore
660 PLY
670 PLX
680 PLA
690 nothelp
700 RTS
710 \
720 help
730 JSR osnewl
740 LDX #&FF
750 JSR helploop
760 JSR helploop
770 JSR osnewl
780 RTS
790 \
800 helploop
810 INX
820 LDA title,X
830 BEQ done
840 JSR &FFE3
850 BRA helploop
860 done
870 RTS
880 mine
890 JSR help
```

## Listing 8 I continued

```

900 LDX #255
910 more
920 INX
930 LDA lists,X
940 BMI alldone
950 JSR &FFE3
960 BRA more
970 alldone
980 PLY
990 PLX
I000 PLA
I010 LDA #0
I020 RTS
I030 com
I040 EQU 'POLLING'
I050 EQUB &FE
I060 command
I070 EQU " Polling"
I080 EQUB 0
I090 lists
I100 EQU " Start with *FX22 Cancel
with *FX23"
I110 EQUB I3
I120 EQU Increments a two byte numb
er at &70"
I130 EQUB I3
I140 EQUB &FF
I150 \
I160 time
I170 PHA
I180 PHX
I190 PHY
I200 INC &70
I210 BNE nohigh
I220 INC &71
I230 nohigh
I240 JMP restore
I250 ]
I260 NEXT
I270 ENDPROC
I280
I290 DEF PROCchecksum
I300 N%=0
I310 FOR X%=&50000 TO &5114
I320 N%=N%+?X%
I330 NEXT
I340 IF N%=30501 THEN ENDPROC
I350 VDU 7

```

## Listing 8 I continued

```

I360 PRINT"Assembler error!"
I370 STOP

```

Listing 8 2 Traps service call 39 to print date on the screen after a hard reset Save as TIME Developed from listing 4 3 (HELP3)

```

I0 REM Date on Reset
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
55 PROCchecksum
60 *SRWRITE 50000 +200 80000 6
70 END
80 DEF PROCassemble
90 osnewl=&FFE7
I00 comline=&F2
I10 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
I20 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
I30 [
I40 OPT pass
I50 EQUB 0
I60 EQUW 0
I70 JMP service
I80 EQUB &82
I90 EQUB offset MOD 256
200 EQUB I
210 title
220 EQU "Date ROM"
230 EQUB 0
240 version
250 EQU " I 00
260 EQUB 0
270 offset
280 EQUB 0
290 EQU "(C) Bruce Smith"
300 EQUB 0
310 service
311 CMP #&27
312 BNE tryhelp
313 JMP time
314 tryhelp
320 CMP #9
330 BNE nothelp
340 PHA
350 PHX

```



## Listing 8 2 continued

```
360 PHY
370 LDA (comline),Y
380 CMP #I3
390 BNE check
400 JSR help
410 LDX #255
420 details
430 INX
440 LDA command,X
450 BEQ donecommand
460 JSR &FFE3
470 BRA details
480 donecommand
490 JSR osnewl
500 BRA restore
510 \
520 check
530 LDX #255
540 DEY
550 again
560 INX
570 INY
580 LDA (comline),Y
590 AND #&DF
600 CMP com,X
610 BEQ again
620 LDA com,X
630 CMP #&FE
640 BEQ mine
650 restore
660 PLY
670 PLX
680 PLA
690 nothelp
700 RTS
710 \
720 help
730 JSR osnewl
740 LDX #&FF
750 JSR helploop
760 JSR helploop
770 JSR osnewl
780 RTS
790 \
800 helploop
810 INX
820 LDA title,X
830 BEQ done
```

## Listing 8 2 continued

```

840 JSR &FFE3
850 BRA helploop
860 done
870 RTS
880 mine
890 JSR help
900 LDX #255
910 more
920 INX
930 LDA lists,X
940 BMI alldone
950 JSR &FFE3
960 BRA more
970 alldone
980 PLY
990 PLX
I000 PLA
I010 LDA #0
I020 RTS
I030 com
I040 EQU$ "DATE"
I050 EQU$ &FE
I060 command
I070 EQU$ " Date"
I080 EQU$ 0
I090 lists
I100 EQU$ " Date is displayed on Reset
"
I110 EQU$ I3
I120 EQU$ " Time string stored at &70"
I130 EQU$ I3
I140 EQU$ &FF
I150 \
I160 time
I170 PHA
I180 PHX
I190 PHY
I200 LDA #I4
I210 LDX #&70
I220 LDY #0
I230 JSR &FFFI
I240 LDY #0
I250 date
I260 LDA &70,Y
I270 JSR &FFE3
I280 INY
I290 CPY #I5
I300 BNE date

```

## Listing 8 2 continued

```
I31Ø JSR &FFE7
I32Ø JSR &FFE7
I33Ø JMP restore
I34Ø ]
I35Ø NEXT
I36Ø ENDPROC
I37Ø
I38Ø DEF PROCchecksum
I39Ø N%=Ø
I4ØØ FOR X%=&5ØØØ TO &5IØ3
I41Ø N%=N%+?X%
I42Ø NEXT
I43Ø IF N%=3Ø4I9 THEN ENDPROC
I44Ø VDU 7
I45Ø PRINT"Assembler error!"
I46Ø STOP
```

# Chapter Nine

## Configure and Status

The commands \*CONFIGURE and \*STATUS allow the Master power-up and reset configuration to be defined by writing to certain of the 50 bytes of battery-backed CMOS RAM. The allocation of these bytes is as follows:

Byte numbers	Allocation
0 to 19	Configuration system
20 to 29	Acorn future use
30 to 38	Third party ROM use
39 to 49	User memory

Bytes 30 to 38 are allocated for specific use of sideways RAM and ROM software.

Service calls 40 and 41 are provided by the MOS to allow extension of the range of \*CONFIGURE and \*STATUS options by trapping each call as appropriate. In the examples that follow, the date printing on reset routine from the last chapter is extended so it may be switched on and off via the \*CONFIGURE command. Use of \*STATUS will enable the user to read the currently-selected option at any time.

### Choosing the byte

First let us examine how we go about deciding which of the reserved ROM bytes we can use. Well, that's easy -- the choice is already made for us. There are only eight bytes available and these correspond directly with the spare number of sideways ROM/RAM slots available. For example, ROM slot 0 corresponds with byte number 30, slot 1 with byte number 31, slot 2 with byte number 32.

and so on To locate the byte associated with our ROM slot we simply need to find which ROM slot the program is running in and add it to 30, thus

```
CLC           \ clear carry read to add
LDA &F4       \ get ROM slot number
ADC #30       \ add it to 30
```

The byte number is now held in the accumulator Location &F4 always contains a copy of the selected ROM bank

Once we know which byte is ours we need to be able to read and write to it OSBYTE I61 and I62 allow us to do this respectively The accumulator should hold the OSBYTE number and the X register the byte in CMOS RAM to be read from or written to In the case of a read operation the Y register returns the data, in the instance of a write it should contain the data to be written

For example, to read the contents of our byte we proceed as follows

```
TAX           \ move byte number into X
LDA #I61      \ OSBYTE number
JSR &FFF4     \ and read byte
```

The Y register now holds the contents of the allocated battery-backed byte

The allocation of a single byte may seem mean, but remember that a single bit can be used to signal an ON/OFF condition Therefore by conservative use your own firmware could provide up to eight new options

### It's a Date

The new status/configuration extension chosen here is

DATE ON/OFF

Typing

\*CONFIGURE DATE ON

will cause the date to be printed on the screen whenever a reset is made (ie on CTRL-BREAK) Likewise, typing

\*CONFIGURE DATE OFF

will disable this action and no date will be printed at

a reset \*STATUS DATE will print either ON or OFF depending on the current configuration

The two straight commands \*CONFIGURE and \*STATUS must also be catered for The former will print

DATE ON/OFF

and the latter will print, DATE followed by the current configuration status

Just by defining these objectives we have really already clarified what our new firmware must be capable of and each item can be coded (and tested if your are writing your own specific items) in turn

The first action would be to extend the 'time' routine given in the last chapter so that it first reads the appropriate CMOS battery-backed byte as already described By examining the contents of the Y register the routine can determine whether to print the date If a 0 is returned the date is not printed otherwise it is printed

```

CPY #0          \ is DATE OFF?
BNE carryon    \ no, so read and print
JMP restore    \ yes, so return

```

### Extending status

The MOS will issue service call &29 (4F) on two occasions First, if a straight \*STATUS is encountered This requires that a complete list of all options are printed After printing the configuration status as defined in bytes 0 to I9, the MOS issues the call to allow other ROMs to respond Second, the call is issued if the status command is followed by an unknown option This enables the current ROM to check to see if it is familiar with the option As with other \* commands the vector at &F2 is used to point to the first unknown, non-space, character after the \*STATUS command The first instance is easily checked, simply test directly for a return character, ie I3 (&0D) and branch to the printing routine thus

```

LDA (&F2),Y    \ get first non-space character
CMP #I3        \ is it a return?
BEQ dotime     \ if yes then branch to print

```

If the character is not a return then we need to check this against our own possible status options - just one in this case - in a similar manner to checking for extended help options as described in chapter 3

However, here's the routine to do just that

```

trytime
DEY
LDX #255      \ initialise counters
  loopt
INY
INX           \ increment counters
CPX #4       \ only 4 letters in DATE
BEQ ours     \ if here then it must be ours
LDA (&F2),Y  \ get next byte
AND #&DF     \ force to upper case
CMP string,X \ is it the same?
BEQ loopt    \ if yes, try next byte
SEC         \ set carry to signal failure
RTS        \ and return to calling routine
  ours
CLC         \ set carry to signal success
RTS        \ and return
  string
EQU$"DATE"

```

This routine is written in the form of a subroutine, called with JSR trytime, as it will be needed by the configure routine to be discussed later. The carry flag is used to indicate whether the command is identified. A successful match is indicated by clearing the carry flag, while a failure sets it. On return, the carry flag can be tested and the necessary action taken.

```

BCC end      \ it's us, so branch to end routine
JMP restore  \ not known, so return to MOS

```

Obviously we now need to find out which option to print, ie 'ON' or 'OFF'. This is done by reading the ROM status byte within the CMOS RAM as already described and printing the correct ASCII string.

```

end
CLC
LDA &F4      \ get ROM number
ADC #30     \ calculate byte number
TAX         \ move into X register
LDA #I6I    \ OSBYTE number
JSR &FFF4   \ get byte
CPY #0     \ is it 'off'?
BEQ off     \ yes branch
LDY #5     \ no, it's 'on' so get new index
  off
LDA onoff,Y \ get byte

```

```

BEQ finished      \ if zero then finished
JSR &FFE3         \ else print it
BRA off           \ branch until finished
  onoff
EQU$ "OFF"        \ index Y=0
EQU$ I3
EQU$ 0
EQU$ "ON"         \ index Y=5
EQU$ I3
EQU$ 0

```

### Extending Configure

Service call 40 is issued by the MOS whenever it encounters an unknown configure option, such as, \*CONFIGURE DATE. It is also put out to each ROM when a simple \*CONFIGURE is encountered, and in such instances the ROM should print the possible options. In both cases the code is not too different from that used above for \*STATUS. A simple \*CONFIGURE is indicated by looking at the next byte and testing for a return character. The string to be printed is simply 'DATE' followed by the two possible options separated by a slash character. The character strings at 'string' and 'onoff' can be used with the ASCII character for '/' being printed at the appropriate point to give

```
DATE      OFF/ON
```

The spaces between DATE and ON/OFF are deliberate to keep to the format taken by the MOS options.

To configure DATE we will specify two slightly different command strings

```
*CONFIGURE DATE ON
*CONFIGURE DATE OFF
```

Our ROM will receive the call with (&F2),Y pointing to D. Our code must therefore test for DATE (using the routine described above - 'trytime') and then, after moving past any spaces, test for ON or OFF

```

spaces          \ start after DATE
LDA (&F2),Y    \ get next byte
CMP #32        \ is it a space?
BNE none       \ carry on if not
INY            \ else increment index
BRA spaces     \ and try again
  none
AND #&DF      \ force to upper case

```



```

CMP #ASC("O") \ is it O?
BEQ tryN      \ branch if so
JMP restore  \ else not us so restore
INY          \ increment index
LDA (&F2),Y  \ get next byte
AND #&DF     \ force to upper case
CMP #ASC("N") \ is it N (for ON)
BNE tryF     \ no try F
LDY #I      \ get byte for ON
BRA write   \ and branch to write it there
tryF
CMP #ASC("F") \ is it F (for OFF)
BEQ yesF    \ branch if so
JMP restore \ else not us so restore
yesF
LDY #0      \ get OFF flag

```

All that is needed now is to write the relevant byte into the correct byte for future reference. The Y register already contains the byte to be written so

```

write
CLC          \ clear carry
LDA &F4      \ get ROM number
ADC #30     \ calculate byte number
TAX         \ move into X register
LDA #I62    \ write code number
JSR &FFF4   \ and call OSBYTE

```

In both specific \*STATUS and \*CONFIGURE instances, once the call has been identified and serviced the accumulator should return to the MOS containing zero

### The Program

Listing 9 I puts the above code into practice. It uses listing 8 2 ('TIME') as its base, and the changes and additions needed to adapt this are listed below. Save the program under the filename 'DATE'

```

Change lines  I0, 60, 220, 320, I040, I070, II00,
              II20
Add lines     3II, 3I2, 3I3, 3I4, 3I5, 3I6, 3I7,
              3I8 3I9, II3I, II32, II50 to 3I30
              inclusive

```

### The Right Byte

In the examples above the numbers 0 and I have been loaded directly into the Y register before writing to

the battery-backed RAM As already mentioned however we are only using a single bit in the assigned ROM byte and we may wish to use more In such cases it is most important that the status of the other bits in the byte are preserved otherwise we will change options when not wishing to counteract this make good use of the AND and OR operators to either mask or force bits in the byte Look at the following byte, represented at bit level

```
1111 1001
```

Suppose we wish to set bit 2 (third from the right) to a 1 We need to logically OR the byte with

```
0000 0100
```

to give

```
1111 1101
```

In assembler this would be

```
LDA byte      \ get byte, ie 1111 1001
ORA #4        \ OR with 0000 0100
STA byte      \ save result ie 1111 1101
```

To clear or mask a byte the AND operator can be used Assuming we now wish to clear the same bit we need to AND the byte with

```
1111 1011
```

Bit 3 is clear and will therefore be masked clear no matter what its original contents Set bits will be preserved as 1's are placed in every other position The assembler is simply

```
LDA byte      \ get byte, ie 1111 1101
AND #&F7     \ OR with 1111 1011
STA byte      \ save result ie 1111 1001
```

### Compact Note

The techniques in this chapter are applicable to the Compact and the listings which follow do work However, they rely on the real-time clock which is present in the Master but not the Compact Hence only the default TIME\$ will be displayed

Listing 9 1 Adds date display to configure options  
Save as DATE Based on listing 8 2 (TIME)

```
10 REM CONFIG and *STATUS
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
55 PROCchecksum
60 *SRWRITE 50000 +300 80000 6
70 END
80 DEF PROCassemble
90 osnewl=&FFb7
100 comline=&F2
110 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
120 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
130 [
140 OPT pass
150 EQUB 0
160 EQUW 0
170 JMP service
180 EQUB &82
190 EQUB offset MOD 256
200 EQUB I
210 title
220 EQUB "Configure and Status ROM"
230 EQUB 0
240 version
250 EQUB " I 00"
260 EQUB 0
270 offset
280 EQUB 0
290 EQUB "(C) Bruce Smith"
300 EQUB 0
310 service
311 CMP #&27
312 BNE tryhelp
313 JMP time
314 tryhelp
315 CMP#4I BNE nextry
316 JMP status
317 nextry
318 CMP#40 BNE andnext
319 JMP configure
320 andnext CMP #9
330 BNE nothelp
340 PHA
350 PHX
360 PHY
370 LDA (comline),Y
```

## Listing 9 I continued

```
380 CMP #I3
390 BNE check
400 JSR help
410 LDX #255
420 details
430 INX
440 LDA command,X
450 BEQ donecommand
460 JSR &FFE3
470 BRA details
480 donecommand
490 JSR osnewl
500 BRA restore
510 \
520 check
530 LDX #255
540 DEY
550 again
560 INX
570 INY
580 LDA (comline),Y
590 AND #&DF
600 CMP com,X
610 BEQ again
620 LDA com,X
630 CMP #&FE
640 BEQ mine
650 restore
660 PLY
670 PLX
680 PLA
690 nothelp
700 RTS
710 \
720 help
730 JSR osnewl
740 LDX #&FF
750 JSR helploop
760 JSR helploop
770 JSR osnewl
780 RTS
790 \
800 helploop
810 INX
820 LDA title,X
830 BEQ done
840 JSR &FFE3
850 BRA helploop
```

## Listing 9 I continued

```

860 done
870 RTS
880 mine
890 JSR help
900 LDX #255
910 more
920 INX
930 LDA lists,X
940 BMI alldone
950 JSR &FFE3
960 BRA more
970 alldone
980 PLY
990 PLX
I000 PLA
I010 LDA #0
I020 RTS
I030 com
I040 EQU$ "DATE"
I050 EQU$ &FE
I060 command
I070 EQU$ " Date"
I080 EQU$ 0
I090 lists
I100 EQU$ ' *CONFIG DATE ON"
I110 EQU$ I3
I120 EQU$ *CONFIG DATE OFF"
I130 EQU$ I3
I131 EQU$ " *STATUS DATE"
I132 EQU$ I3
I140 EQU$ &FF
I150 \
I160 time
I170 PHA
I180 PHX
I190 PHY
I200 CLC
I210 LDA &F4
I220 ADC #30
I230 TAX
I240 LDA #I6I
I250 JSR &FFF4
I260 CPY #0
I270 BNE carryon
I280 JMP restore
I290 \
I300 carryon
I310 LDA #I4

```

## Listing 9 I continued

```
I320 LDX #&70
I330 LDY #0
I340 JSR &FFFF1
I350 LDY #0
I360 \
I370 date
I380 LDA &70,Y
I390 JSR &FFE3
I400 INY
I410 CPY #15
I420 BNE date
I430 JSR &FFE7
I440 JSR &FFE7
I450 JMP restore
I460 \
I470 status
I480 PHA
I490 PHX
I500 PHY
I510 LDA (&F2),Y
I520 CMP #13
I530 BEQ dotime
I540 JSR trytime
I550 BCC end
I560 JMP restore
I570 \
I580 itstime
I590 dotime
I600 LDX #255
I610 timeloop
I620 INX
I630 LDA string,X
I640 BEQ end
I650 JSR &FFE3
I660 BRA timeloop
I670 end
I680 CLC
I690 LDA &F4
I700 ADC #30
I710 TAX
I720 LDA #I6I
I730 JSR &FFF4
I740 CPY #0
I750 BEQ off
I760 LDY #5
I770 off
I780 LDA onoff,Y
I790 BEQ finished
```

## Listing 9 I continued

```

1800 JSR &FFE3
1810 INY
1820 BRA off
1830 \
1840 finished
1850 PLY
1860 PLX
1870 PLA
1880 LDA ≠0
1890 RTS
1900 \
1910 string
1920 EQU 'DATE'
1930 EQU &20202020
1940 EQUW &0020
1950 \
1960 onoff
1970 EQU "OFF'
1980 EQUB I3
1990 EQUB 0
2000 EQU "ON"
2010 EQUB I3
2020 EQUB 0
2030 \
2040 configure
2050 PHA
2060 PHX
2070 PHY
2080 LDA (&F2),Y
2090 CMP ≠I3
2100 BNE notCR
2110 LDX ≠255
2120 conloop
2130 INX
2140 LDA string,X
2150 BEQ condone
2160 JSR &FFEE
2170 BRA conloop
2180 \
2190 condone
2200 INX
2210 LDA string,X
2220 CMP≠I3
2230 BEQ nextcon
2240 JSR &FFE3
2250 BRA condone
2260 \
2270 nextcon

```

## Listing 9 I continued

```
2280 INX
2290 LDA #ASC"/
2300 JSR &FFE3
2310 doon
2320 INX
2330 LDA string,X
2340 BEQ thatsall
2350 JSR &FFE3
2360 BRA doon
2370 \
2380 thatsall
2390 JMP restore
2400 notCR
2410 JSR trytime
2420 BCC spaces
2430 JMP restore
2440 \
2450 spaces
2460 LDA (&F2),Y
2470 CMP #32
2480 BNE none
2490 INY
2500 BRA spaces
2510 \
2520 none
2530 AND #&DF
2540 CMP #ASC"O"
2550 BEQ tryN
2560 JMP restore
2570 \
2580 tryN
2590 INY
2600 LDA(&F2),Y
2610 AND #&DF
2620 CMP #ASC"N"
2630 BNE tryF
2640 LDY #I
2650 BRA write
2660 \
2670 tryF
2680 CMP #ASC'F"
2690 BEQ yesF
2700 JMP restore
2710 yesF
2720 \
2730 LDY #0
2740 write
2750 CLC
```



## Listing 9 I continued

```
2760 LDA &F4
2770 ADC #30
2780 TAX
2790 LDA #I62
2800 JSR &FFF4
2810 JMP finished
2820 \
2830 trytime
2840 DEY
2850 LDX #255
2860 loopt
2870 INY
2880 INX
2890 CPX#4
2900 BEQ ours
2910 LDA (&F2),Y
2920 AND #&DF
2930 CMP string,X
2940 BEQ loopt
2950 SEC
2960 RTS
2970 \
2980 ours
2990 CLC
3000 RTS
3010 ]
3020 NEXT
3030 ENDPROC
3040
3050 DEF PROCchecksum
3060 N%=0
3070 FOR X%=&5000 TO &520E
3080 N%=N%+?X%
3090 NEXT
3100 IF N%=645II THEN ENDPROC
3110 VDU 7
3120 PRINT"Assembler error!"
3130 STOP
```

# Chapter Ten

## Booting ROMs

ROMs may be turned on at a 'hard reset' -- by depressing a particular key while also pressing the CTRL and BREAK keys together. For example, holding the D key down while pressing CTRL and BREAK together (written CTRL-D-BREAK) and the disc filing system will be booted. In a similar manner, hold the A key down when pressing CTRL-BREAK (CTRL-A-BREAK) to select the Advanced Disc Filing System. If you have an Econet board fitted then you can boot the Advanced Network Filing System by pressing down the N key with CTRL-BREAK (CTRL-N-BREAK). This auto selection does not happen by magic - obviously the ROM concerned must look to see if its chosen key is being depressed at the same time, and if so take the necessary action. To facilitate this a service call is provided - number 3 - and ROMs which can take advantage of it should test for it and trap in the normal fashion.

Service call 3 is not issued by the MOS at every hard reset. When this occurs the MOS looks at the keyboard to see if any other key(s) is being pressed. Only if one is will it issue a service call 3.

Once the service call is caught the first step is to 'look' at the keyboard to see what 'other' key was being pressed. This is performed by OSBYTE &7A which will return the INTERNAL key number of any key detected in the X register. Note this is the internal key number as used by the Master itself. Table IØ I lists the internal number for each key.

Obviously you will need to choose a key that is not being used to auto-boot another ROM so beware of choosing letters such as D, A, N and F (which is also used by the ADFS).

In the example program detailed here two boot options are

Key	ASCII	INKEY	Key	ASCII	INKEY
SPACE	32	&62	'	44	&66
-	45	&17		46	&67
/	47	&68	Ø	48	&27
1	49	&3Ø	2	5Ø	&31
3	51	&11	4	52	&12
5	53	&13	6	54	&34
7	55	&24	8	56	&15
9	57	&25		58	&48
,	59	&57		64	&47
A	65	&41	B	66	&64
C	67	&52	D	68	&32
E	69	&22	F	7Ø	&43
G	71	&53	H	72	&54
I	73	&26	J	74	&45
K	75	&46	L	76	&56
M	77	&65	N	78	&55
O	79	&36	P	8Ø	&37
Q	81	&1Ø	R	82	&33
S	83	&51	T	84	&23
U	85	&35	V	86	&63
W	87	&21	X	88	&42
Y	89	&44	Z	9Ø	&61
[	91	&38	\	92	&78
]	93	&58	^	94	&18
	95	&28	ESCAPE	27	&7Ø
TAB	9	&6Ø	CAPSLK		&4Ø
CTRL		&1	SHIFTLK		&5Ø
SHIFT		&Ø	DELETE	I27	&59
COPY		&69	RETURN	I3	&49
UP CRSR		&39	DN CRSR		&29
LT CRSR		&19	RT CRSR		&79
fØ		&2Ø	f1		&71
f2		&72	f3		&73
f4		&14	f5		&74
f6		&75	f7		&16
f8		&76	f9		&77

Table IØ I Internal key numbers

provided The first allows you to catalogue a disc by pressing CTRL-C-BREAK, and the second will instigate the ROM Filing System (examined in Chapter I4) with CTRL-R-BREAK

Therefore we need to test the X register for the internal key codes for the letters C and R, that is &52 and &33

respectively The coding to do this is given in the following lines

```

boot
PHA          \ save registers
PHX
PHY
LDA #&7A
JSR &FFF4   \ read keyboard
CPX #&52    \ was it a 'C'?
BEQ cat     \ yes so do *CAT
CPX #&33    \ was it an 'R'?
BEQ rom     \ yes so do *ROM
JMP restore \ else restore and return
    
```

If a 'C' is detected then before we can \*CAT the disc, the disc filing system must be selected To do this we place the command \*DISC (abbreviated to \*DI ) into the input buffer using OSBYTE &8A X should contain 0 and the Y register the ASCII value of the character to be inserted Writing a return character (ASCII I3) will complete the operation Before doing this the keyboard buffer should be flushed with OSBYTE I5 to remove any surplus keypresses

```

LDA #I5
JSR &FFF4   \ flush buffers
LDA #&8A    \ character insert code
LDX #0
LDY #ASC("**") \ insert *
JSR &FFF4
LDY #ASC("D") \ insert D
JSR &FFF4
LDY #ASC("I") \ insert I
JSR &FFF4
LDY #ASC(" ") \ insert
JSR &FFF4
LDY #I3     \ do *DI
JSR &FFF4
    
```

The next action is to catalogue the disc using \* as an abbreviation for \*CAT

```

LDA #&8A    \ character insert code
LDX #0
LDY #ASC("**") \ insert *
JSR &FFF4
LDY #ASC(" ") \ insert
JSR &FFF4
LDY #I3     \ do *CAT
JSR &FFF4
    
```

All that remains is for the stack to be pulled and the accumulator loaded with zero to acknowledge a successful boot

The \*ROM coding is the same except that we insert \*ROM into the keyboard buffer, remembering to flush it first of all though

```

LDA #I5
JSR &FFF4      \ flush buffers
LDA #&8A       \ character insert code
LDX #0
LDY #ASC("*")  \ insert *
JSR &FFF4
LDY #ASC("R")  \ insert R
JSR &FFF4
LDY #ASC("O")  \ insert O
JSR &FFF4
LDY #ASC("M")  \ insert M
JSR &FFF4
LDY #I3        \ do *ROM
JSR &FFF4

```

Before restoring the registers the routine prints a short filing system message on to the screen to signify that the ROM filing system is active

### Entering the Program

You can use program 4 3 (saved as 'HELP3') as the basis for listing I0 I and make the changes and additions detailed below Once complete save the program as 'BOOT'

```

Change lines  I0, 220, I040, I070, II00, II20
Add lines     55, 3II, 3I2, 3I3, 3I4, II50 to I990
              inclusive

```

Listing IØ I Sets up two boot options CTRL-C-BREAK will catalogue a disc, CTRL-R-BREAK will set up the ROM Filing System Save as BOOT Can be adapted from listing 4 3 (HELP3)

```

IØ REM Autoboot ROM
2Ø REM (C) Bruce Smith June I986
3Ø REM Advanced SRAM Guide
4Ø
5Ø PROCassemble
55 PROCchecksum
6Ø *SRWRITE 5ØØØ +2ØØ 8ØØØ 6
7Ø END
8Ø DEF PROCassemble
9Ø osnewl=&FFE7
IØØ comline=&F2
IIØ FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
I2Ø P%=&8ØØØ O%=&5ØØØ
I3Ø [
I4Ø OPT pass
I5Ø EQUB Ø
I6Ø EQUW Ø
I7Ø JMP service
I8Ø EQUB &82
I9Ø EQUB offset MOD 256
2ØØ EQUB I
2IØ title
22Ø EQU "CTRL Boot ROM '
23Ø EQUB Ø
24Ø version
25Ø EQU " I ØØ
26Ø EQUB Ø
27Ø offset
28Ø EQUB Ø
29Ø EQU "(C) Bruce Smith"
3ØØ EQUB Ø
3IØ service
3II CMP ≠3
3I2 BNE tryhelp
3I3 JMP boot
3I4 tryhelp
32Ø CMP ≠9
33Ø BNE nothelp
34Ø PHA
35Ø PHX
36Ø PHY
37Ø LDA (comline),Y
38Ø CMP ≠I3
39Ø BNE check
4ØØ JSR help

```

## Listing IØ I continued

```
4IØ LDX #255
42Ø details
43Ø INX
44Ø LDA command,X
45Ø BEQ donecommand
46Ø JSR &FFE3
47Ø BRA details
48Ø donecommand
49Ø JSR osnewl
5ØØ BRA restore
5IØ \
52Ø check
53Ø LDX #255
54Ø DEY
55Ø again
56Ø INX
57Ø INY
58Ø LDA (comline),Y
59Ø AND #&DF
6ØØ CMP com,X
6IØ BEQ again
62Ø LDA com,X
63Ø CMP #&FE
64Ø BEQ mine
65Ø restore
66Ø PLY
67Ø PLX
68Ø PLA
69Ø nothelp
7ØØ RTS
7IØ \
72Ø help
73Ø JSR osnewl
74Ø LDX #&FF
75Ø JSR helploop
76Ø JSR helploop
77Ø JSR osnewl
78Ø RTS
79Ø \
8ØØ helploop
8IØ INX
82Ø LDA title,X
83Ø BEQ done
84Ø JSR &FFE3
85Ø BRA helploop
86Ø done
87Ø RTS
88Ø mine
```

## Booting ROMs

## Listing IØ I continued

```

89Ø JSR help
9ØØ LDX ≠255
9IØ more
92Ø INX
93Ø LDA lists,X
94Ø BMI alldone
95Ø JSR &FFE3
96Ø BRA more
97Ø alldone
98Ø PLY
99Ø PLX
IØØØ PLA
IØIØ LDA ≠Ø
IØ2Ø RTS
IØ3Ø com
IØ4Ø EQU "BOOT"
IØ5Ø EQUB &FE
IØ6Ø command
IØ7Ø EQU " Boot"
IØ8Ø EQUB Ø
IØ9Ø lists
IØØØ EQU " CTRL-C-BREAK Catalogue D
isc"
IØIØ EQUB I3
IØ2Ø EQU " CTRL-R-BREAK ROM Filing
System"
IØ3Ø EQUB I3
IØ4Ø EQUB &FF
IØ5Ø \
IØ6Ø boot
IØ7Ø PHA
IØ8Ø PHX
IØ9Ø PHY
I2ØØ LDA ≠7A
I2IØ JSR &FFF4
I22Ø CPX ≠52
I23Ø BEQ cat
I24Ø CPX ≠33
I25Ø BEQ rom
I26Ø JMP restore
I27Ø \
I28Ø cat
I29Ø LDA ≠I5
I3ØØ JSR &FFF4
I3IØ LDA ≠8A
I32Ø LDX ≠Ø
I33Ø LDY ≠ASC(" *")
I34Ø JSR &FFF4

```



## Listing IØ I continued

```

I35Ø LDY ≠ASC("D")
I36Ø JSR &FFF4
I37Ø LDY ≠ASC("I")
I38Ø JSR &FFF4
I39Ø LDY ≠ASC(" ")
I40Ø JSR &FFF4
I41Ø LDY ≠I3
I42Ø JSR &FFF4
I43Ø LDA ≠&8A
I44Ø LDX ≠Ø
I45Ø LDY ≠ASC("**")
I46Ø JSR &FFF4
I47Ø LDY ≠ASC(" ")
I48Ø JSR &FFF4
I49Ø LDY ≠I3
I50Ø JSR &FFF4
I51Ø JMP out
I52Ø \
I53Ø rom
I54Ø LDA ≠I5
I55Ø LDA ≠&8A
I56Ø LDX ≠Ø
I57Ø LDY ≠ASC("**")
I58Ø JSR &FFF4
I59Ø LDY ≠ASC("R")
I60Ø JSR &FFF4
I61Ø LDY ≠ASC('O')
I62Ø JSR &FFF4
I63Ø LDY ≠ASC("M")
I64Ø JSR &FFF4
I65Ø LDY ≠I3
I66Ø JSR &FFF4
I67Ø \
I68Ø LDX ≠255
I69Ø rfs
I70Ø INX
I71Ø LDA romfs,X
I72Ø BEQ out
I73Ø JSR &FFE3
I74Ø BRA rfs
I75Ø \
I76Ø out
I77Ø PLY
I78Ø PLX
I79Ø PLA
I80Ø LDA ≠Ø
I81Ø RTS
I82Ø \

```

## Listing IØ I continued

```
I83Ø romfs
I84Ø EQU$ "ROM Filing System"
I85Ø EQU$ &ØDØD
I86Ø EQU$ Ø
I87Ø }
I88Ø NEXT
I89Ø ENDPROC
I90Ø
I91Ø DEF PROCchecksum
I92Ø NØ=Ø
I93Ø FOR XØ=&5ØØØ TO &5I83
I94Ø NØ=NØ+?XØ
I95Ø NEXT
I96Ø IF NØ = 457I8 THEN ENDPROC
I97Ø VDU 7
I98Ø PRINT"Assembler error!"
I99Ø STOP
```

# Chapter Eleven

## Workspace

Finding workspace in which ROM software can perform calculations and keep tabs on various values and addresses can be problematic when writing service ROMs. Language ROMs are no problem as they are allowed a free run of the memory map and need avoid only the space allocated to the MOS and VDU drivers. But service ROMs are another matter. They must interact with the current language ROM and not corrupt any of its or the MOS's data. One way was mentioned earlier - to use the zero page user's area from &70 to &8F inclusive, preserving its contents first by copying it onto the bottom of the

&DFFF	
&DD00	MOS workspace
&C000	Paged ROM workspace
&8FFF	
&8900	Character font
&8800	VDU variables
&8400	VDU workspace
&8000	Soft key buffer

Figure II I Hidden memory map

stack and restoring it by copying it back before returning. While this method works it does not provide any permanent means of storing data across several commands or actions. However, there is a way by which service ROMs can grab their own memory in steps of 256 bytes - a memory page at a time.

Figure II I shows how the 12k of 'hidden' memory is arranged. This contains the function key definition buffer, MOS drivers, exploded character fonts and, most importantly, ROM workspace. This ROM workspace is a 7 25k block that stretches from &C0000 to &DCFF inclusive - 29 pages of memory in all, which is free for use by ROMs.

However this is not all for our use remember that the Master comes fitted with a host of firmware and two of these, the DFS and the ADFS bite heavily into this - but more on this in a moment.

### Static and Dynamic

There are two types of ROM workspace. The first is the 'static' type, so called because it has fixed start and end boundaries. The start is &C0000 and the end can be any value up to a maximum of &DBFF. Static workspace is open to all ROMs - generally to use as they wish, although before doing so they must inform other ROMs of their needs via service call I0. The second type of ROM workspace is 'dynamic', which has a moveable boundary and depends on a ROM or ROM's requirements. Any ROM can claim its own 'private' workspace that only it has access to. Thus important data and information can be stored away without fear of corruption by other ROMs or the MOS.

Obviously there is only a finite amount of private workspace within the allotted 7 25k hidden RAM. If this is exceeded then the ROM workspace is moved into the user RAM starting at PAGE, which you mightn't notice, but the user will when using a program where memory is tight. As a general rule it should be considered as bad form to exceed and break out of the hidden RAM workspace.

Now let's go through the the service calls associated with this workspace.

### Service Call 36 (&24)

This is the second call issued by the MOS after a hard reset and it asks ROMs to indicate how much private workspace they will require. However, it does not actually allocate any workspace.

On entry the Y register will contain the page number of the current upper limit of the private workspace. All that ROMs need do is to increment the Y register by the number of pages of memory required. If one page is required they increment it once, if two are required then increment it twice and so forth. On completion the accumulator should be cleared, thus

```

call36
INY          \ only one page (256 bytes) needed
LDA #0      \ acknowledge
RTS         \ and return

```

Note how simple it is. With all the calls discussed here it is vitally important that the Y register is treated with respect. It must not be decremented, or a crash is sure to result!

### Service Call 33 (&21)

This is the next service call issued. Its action is similar to the call above but is more concerned with static workspace, that is, workspace that may be used by all ROMs, though only one at a time. Static workspace starts at &C000 and has an upper limit of &DBFF, which should not be exceeded. Any ROM which requires static workspace should check the contents of the Y register on receiving the call. If there is not enough space then Y should be incremented to the desired value. It should not go beyond &DB at any time. For example, if a ROM requires static workspace from &C000 to &D600 then if the contents of the Y register are less than &D6, Y should be loaded with &D6. If the contents are higher then they should not be altered in any way.

```

call33
CPY #&D6    \ is it?
BCC loadit  \ branch if less than
JMP return  \ enough, so return
loadit
LDY #&D6    \ set Y to our requirements
JMP return

```

### Service Call 34 (&22)

This call allows ROMs to locate their own private workspace in hidden RAM. The first two calls detailed above allow the MOS to calculate where this begins, and then use this call to inform each ROM just where its

own private workspace starts. On issuing the service call the Y register contains the value of the first free page. If the ROM is claiming private workspace it must save the current contents of the Y register in a special ROM workspace table that runs from &DF0. Table II I details the byte associated with each ROM

ROM number	Table byte
0	&DF0
1	&DF1
2	&DF2
3	&DF3
4	&DF4
5	&DF5
6	&DF6
7	&DF7
8	&DF8
9	&DF9
I0	&DFA
I1	&DFB
I2	&DFC
I3	&DFD
I4	&DFE
I5	&DFF

Table II I ROM workspace

ROM 6 would therefore place the Y register contents at &DF6. However, firmware can be placed in any one of 15 slots, so the correct way to locate the correct ROM table position is to use the X register as an index

```
LDX &F4      \ get ROM position
TYA         \ move Y across
STA &DF0,X  \ and save
```

The contents of the Y register can then be incremented by the desired amount to make space for the current ROM's private area before the 'new' base value is passed back to the MOS. It is important that you only claim the number of pages specified during service call 36 (&24).

Whenever the private workspace is needed its start address can be obtained from the table and used with indirect addressing as required. Further details on this along with a working program example can be found below.

Service Call 1

This service call provides compatibility with standard BBC micros and should be used by BBC B, B+ and B+128 users. Its purpose is akin to that of service call 36 in that it is trying to determine the total amount of shared workspace required by ROMs. The memory used for this is not in private RAM but is claimed directly above PAGE, ie from  $\&E000$ , and as such will reduce the amount of programming memory available to the user.

When this service call is issued the Y register contains the page number of the present upper limit of this absolute workspace. This value should be checked by a ROM requiring workspace. If the value is less than that required then the value of the Y register should be incremented until there is sufficient memory.

As an example, consider that a ROM you are writing requires two pages of RAM for workspace. The coding to check and implement this might look like this:

```

CMP #1          \ was it absolute claim?
BNE next        \ branch if not
CPY #&10        \ is it >= &E000+2000?
BCC no          \ branch if needs incrementing
RTS             \ all okay so return
no
CPY #&0E        \ is it +1 or +2?
BNE one        \ branch if only one page
INY            \ increment page value
one
INY            \ increment page value
RTS            \ and return

```

It is vital that the value in the Y register is not decremented, as this could lead to corrupted programs.

Service Call 2

This call is issued after service call 1 has been completed. It allows ROMs to claim their very own private workspace area above the static workspace area. This area of memory is exclusive to the ROM claiming it and may not be used by any other ROM. Trapping this call and storing the Y register in the ROM table is performed as described above when servicing call &22.

Using Private Workspace

Because of the way the sideways RAM/ROM memory is addressed, it is not possible to read and write

directly to the area of memory designated as private workspace for a particular ROM. The reasons for this are somewhat technical, but it is not necessary to understand them to use the private workspace. (The reasons are discussed below for readers who are more technically-minded.) For the general reader it is sufficient to know that before any information is written to or read from private RAM the following code must be performed

```

writeon
LDA #8
TSB &FE34

```

And on completion the following code

```

writeoff
LDA #&F7
TRB &FE34

```

**IMPORTANT** Once you have performed 'writeon' you cannot use any of the regular MOS calls until 'writeoff' is performed

Listing II I demonstrates the use of private RAM workspace to implement two new commands, these are \*PUSH and \*PULL. \*PUSH saves the contents of zero page locations &70 to &8F to private workspace, while \*PULL will restore them. This routine will allow you to use these locations for workspace without fear of losing the contents of this area.

The two routines 'writeon' and 'writeoff' are used to select and de-select the private workspace as described above. Of course these two routines need only be used when private RAM is being used in the hidden RAM. If service calls 1 and 2 have been trapped then the private workspace will be located in normal RAM above &E00 and this can be read from and written to in the normal manner.

The actual \*PUSH and \*PULL routines can be located in lines 2020 to 2190 inclusive.

Once entered, save the program as 'PRIVATE'

### Using Static Workspace

Static workspace is straightforward to use, but before you do you must inform the other ROMs in your computer by issuing service call I0 (&0A). This is done with OSBYTE I43, with the X register holding the service call number.



```

LDA #I43          \ OSBYTE code
LDX #I0           \ service call number
LDY #255
JSR &FFF4

```

Once this has been done the ROM is free to use the static workspace. It is a good idea to keep a flag within the ROM's private workspace so that the ROM can determine whether it has use of the static workspace at any time.

Obviously a ROM that is capable of claiming static workspace must also be capable of releasing it. So therefore the service call software must be capable of trapping service call I0. On receiving the call the ROM should save any vital information in private workspace, and generally close up shop. Once this has been done the accumulator should be loaded with zero before returning.

As with private workspace, static workspace can only be used after 'writeon' has been performed. No MOS calls can be used until 'writeoff' has been completed. Similarly if the static RAM is located in normal memory above &E00 then read-write can be performed directly.

#### For the Technically Inclined

Location &FE34 is the Access Control Latch, ACCCON for short. The state of individual bits within this latch determine what areas of memory are in use at any time. It effectively dictates the activity of two regions of memory:

- 1) &3000 to &7FFF
- 2) &C000 to &DFFF

It is the second area we are concerned with here - this is the static and private ROM workspace in the hidden RAM.

As our firmware is itself in paged memory it cannot directly access the private and static workspace in the hidden RAM which is mapped in a similar area. What the routine 'writeon' does is to overlay this area on the MOS, so that it appears 'above' the firmware using it. It therefore 'covers' the MOS, and in particular the VDU drivers which therefore cannot be seen. It is for this reason that firmware should not attempt to use them, until the hidden RAM is removed from this area by the 'writeoff' routine. What these two routines do is to toggle bit 3 within ACCCON - this is the bit that determines whether the hidden RAM is overlaid or not.

To overlay the hidden RAM this bit must be set, but do not disturb the other bits in this latch which have specific functions themselves

```
LDA #8          \ set bit 3, ie 0000 1000
TSB &FE34       \ test and reset bit in latch
```

Removing the hidden RAM, thus giving access to the MOS calls again, simply involves clearing bit 3 in the ACCCON latch. Again the status of the other bits in the latch must be preserved so the AND operator should be used

```
LDA #&F7        \ clear bit 3, ie 1111 0111
TRB &FE34       \ test and reset bit in latch
```

Listing II I Implements two new commands, \*PUSH and \*PULL to demonstrate use of private RAM workspace  
Save as PRIVATE

```

10 REM Private Workspace ROM
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCassemble
60 PROCchecksum
70 *SRWRITE 50000 +200 80000 6
80 END
90
100 DEF PROCassemble
110 osnew1=&FFE7
120 osasc1=&FFE3
130 comline=&F2
140 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
150 P%=&80000 O%=&50000
160 [
170 OPT pass
180 EQUB 0
190 EQUW 0
200 JMP service
210 EQUB &82
220 EQUB offset MOD 256
230 EQUB I
240 title
250 EQUB "Private Workspace ROM"
260 EQUB 0
270 version
280 EQUB ' I 00"
290 EQUB 0
300 offset
310 EQUB 0
320 EQUB "(C) Bruce Smith"
330 EQUB 0
340 service
350 CMP #34
360 BNE try36
370 JMP its34
380 try36
390 CMP #36
400 BNE tryhelp
410 JMP its36
420 tryhelp
430 PHA
440 PHX
450 PHY
460 CMP #9

```

## Listing II I continued

```
470 BNE nothelp
480 LDA (comline),Y
490 CMP #I3
500 BNE check
510 JSR help
520 LDX #255
530 details
540 INX
550 LDA command,X
560 BEQ donecommand
570 JSR &FFE3
580 BRA details
590 donecommand
600 JSR osnewl
610 BRA restore
620 \
630 check
640 LDX #255
650 DEY
660 again
670 INX
680 INY
690 LDA (comline),Y
700 AND #&DF
710 CMP com,X
720 BEQ again
730 LDA com,X
740 CMP #&FE
750 BEQ mine
760 restore
770 PLY
780 PLX
790 PLA
800 RTS
810 \
820 nothelp
830 CMP #4
840 BEQ unrecognised
850 BRA alldone
860 \
870 help
880 JSR osnewl
890 LDX #&FF
900 JSR helploop
910 JSR helploop
920 JSR osnewl
930 RTS
940 \
```

## Listing II I continued

```
950 helploop
960 INX
970 LDA title,X
980 BEQ done
990 JSR &FFE3
I000 BRA helploop
I010 done
I020 RTS
I030 \
I040 mine
I050 JSR help
I060 LDX #255
I070 more
I080 INX
I090 LDA lists,X
I100 BMI alldone
I110 JSR &FFE3
I120 BRA more
I130 \
I140 alldone
I150 PLY
I160 PLX
I170 PLA
I180 RTS
I190 \
I200 com
I210 EQU$ COMMANDS"
I220 EQU$ &FE
I230 command
I240 EQU$ " Commands"
I250 EQU$ 0
I260 lists
I270 EQU$ PUSH"
I280 EQU$ I3
I290 EQU$ " PULL"
I300 EQU$ I3
I310 EQU$ &FF
I320 \
I330 unrecognized
I340 LDX #255
I350 DEY
I360 PHY
I370 identify
I380 INX
I390 INY
I400 LDA (comline),Y
I410 AND #&DF
I420 CMP comtable,X
```

## Listing II I continued

```
I430 BEQ identify
I440 LDA comtable,X
I450 BMI address
I460 \
I470 moveon
I480 INX
I490 LDA comtable,X
I500 BPL moveon
I510 BNE notend
I520 PLY
I530 BRA alldone
I540 \
I550 notend
I560 INX
I570 PLY
I580 PHY
I590 JMP identify
I600 \
I610 address
I620 CMP ≠&FF
I630 BNE notFF
I640 PLY
I650 BRA alldone
I660 notFF
I670 \
I680 STA &39
I690 INX
I700 LDA comtable,X
I710 STA &38
I720 JMP (&38)
I730 \
I740 comtable
I750 EQU "PUSH"
I760 EQU push DIV 256
I770 EQU push MOD 256
I780 EQU "PULL"
I790 EQU pull DIV 256
I800 EQU pull MOD 256
I810 EQU &FF
I820 \
I830 found
I840 PLY
I850 PLY
I860 PLX
I870 PLA
I880 okay
I890 LDA ≠0
I900 RTS
```

## Listing II I continued

```
I910 \
I920  its36
I930 INY
I940 BRA okay
I950 \
I960  its34
I970 TYA  LDX &F4
I980 STA &DF0,X
I990 INY
2000 BRA okay
2010 \
2020  push
2030 JSR writeon
2040 LDX &F4
2050 LDA &DF0,X
2060 STA &39
2070 LDY ≠0
2080 STY &38
2090 DEY
2100 pushloop
2110 INY
2120 LDA &70,Y
2130 STA (&38),Y
2140 CPY ≠&IF
2150 BNE pushloop
2160 JSR writeoff
2170 JMP found
2180 \
2190  pull
2200 JSR writeon
2210 LDX &F4
2220 LDA &DF0,X
2230 STA &39
2240 LDY ≠0
2250 STY &38
2260 DEY
2270 pullloop
2280 INY
2290 LDA (&38),Y
2300 STA &70,Y
2310 CPY ≠&IF
2320 BNE pullloop
2330 JSR writeoff
2340 BRA found
2350 \
2360  writeon
2370 LDA ≠8
2380 ORA &FE34
```

## Listing II I continued

```
239Ø STA &FE34
240Ø RTS
241Ø \
242Ø writeoff
243Ø LDA &F7
244Ø AND &FE34
245Ø STA &FE34
246Ø RTS
247Ø ]
248Ø NEXT
249Ø ENDPROC
250Ø
251Ø DEF PROCchecksum
252Ø N%=Ø
253Ø FOR X%=&5000 TO &517C
254Ø N%=N%+?X%
255Ø NEXT
256Ø IF N%=46643 THEN ENDPROC
257Ø VDU 7
258Ø PRINT"Assembler error!"
259Ø STOP
```



# Chapter Twelve

## ROM Calls

The switch that controls which of the sideways ROMs is paged in at any time is software controlled. In fact a particular ROM is selected simply by writing the binary representation of the ROM socket number, into the low four bits of the paged ROM select register at &FE30. The MOS also keeps a copy of this at location &F4 and this must also be written to when you wish to select a particular ROM in this way. The coding required to select a particular sideways ROM is very simple. For example, to select the ROM in ROM socket 15 the coding would be

```
LDX #15          \ load X register with ROM number
STX &F4          \ write RAM copy
STX &FE30        \ write to ROM select register
```

Note the order in which the ROM slot number is written. It must be written to the RAM copy at &F4 first. Performing the operation in reverse could cause the Master to crash if an interrupt was to occur during the two write operations. Note also that &FE30 should never be read - always use &F4 when you wish to ascertain the ROM number. Poking these addresses directly from BASIC or any other language will almost certainly result in the Master hanging up.

In addition to location &F4 there are several other bytes within zero page RAM that are associated with the ROM system. These are detailed in Table I2 I.

We have already used the vectored address at &F2 several times. To recap, the MOS uses it as a text pointer for processing commands. Normally it holds the address of the first character after the asterisk in the command, and the Y register holds the 'post indirect index' to the command.

Address	Function
&F2 - &F3	Text pointer vector
&F4	Value of currently selected ROM (copy of ROM select register)
&F6 - &F7	Vectored address of current position in paged ROM

Table I2 I Paged ROM associated RAM addresses

Finally, the vectored address at &F6 holds the exact address of a position in a paged ROM (see below). Manipulating any of these addresses including the paged ROM select register must be done from machine code, otherwise the Master will hang up.

### Operating System Read ROM Call (OSRDRM)

At &FFB9 is the 'operating system read byte from paged ROM' call - OSRDRM for short. This call allows single bytes within paged ROMs to be read from machine code or from other paged ROMs. On entry the Y register should contain the number of the ROM to be read, while the vector at &F6 holds the address of the byte to be read. On return from OSRDRM the accumulator contains the byte itself. Listing I2 I illustrates how this call can be used to read the BASIC title string. The program begins by poking the address vector at &F6 with the start address of the title string, &8008 (lines I20 to I50). The print 'loop' is entered at line I60. As we are entering the machine code from BASIC itself then the ROM socket number of BASIC can be extracted directly from &F4 (line I70). The low byte of

OSBYTE	Function
&I6 (22)	Increment ROM polling semaphore
&I7 (23)	Decrement ROM polling semaphore
&8D (I4I)	Perform *ROM
&8E (I42)	Enter language ROM
&8F (I43)	Issue service request
&A8 (I68)	Read address of ROM pointer table
&AA (I70)	Read address of ROM information table
&B3 (I79)	Read/Write ROM polling semaphore
&BA (I86)	Read number of ROM active at last BRK/error
&BB (I87)	Read number of socket holding BASIC ROM
&FC (252)	Read/write current language ROM number

Table I2 2 OSBYTE calls associated with sideways ROMs

the address to be read is incremented (line 180), and the byte is read (line 190). A zero byte will indicate the end of the title string so this is tested for by line 200, otherwise the byte in the accumulator is printed and the loop re-executed (lines 210 to 220). If you have several sideways ROMs present then their title strings can be printed simply by altering line 170.

### ROM Byte

There are several OSBYTE calls associated with the sideways ROM system, these are outlined here. Table I2.2 lists the associated calls.

#### OSBYTE &16 (\*FX 22)

This causes the MOS to begin issuing service call number &15 (2I) 100 times every second. See Chapter 8 for details.

#### OSBYTE &17 (\*FX 23)

Stops MOS issuing service call number &15 (2I). Chapter 8 has more details.

#### OSBYTE &8D (\*FX 141)

Allows the \*ROM filing system to be selected. There are no set up entry parameters and the accumulator contents are preserved. See Chapter 13 for full details of the ROM filing system.

#### OSBYTE &8E (\*FX 142)

This call will boot up a selected language ROM. On entry the X register contains the socket number of the language to be entered. To enter View from BASIC or any other language, use

\*FX 142,14

View being in socket number 14 (&E)

#### OSBYTE &8F (\*FX143)

This call will cause the MOS to issue a paged ROM service request. Thus any ROM can get the MOS to issue a particular service call at any time it wishes. The entry parameters for this call are that the X register contains the service code and the Y register the service argument, if any. On exit the Y register may return a result if appropriate.

#### OSBYTE &A8 (\*FX 168)

This call returns the address of a ROM pointer table containing vectored addresses for entry into ROMs. This subject is dealt with in chapter 7. On exit from the call

the index registers return the address of the pointer table, low byte in X, high byte in Y For the 3 20 MOS the address returned is &D9F

#### OSBYTE &AA (\*FX I70)

This call returns the address of a ROM information table that contains details of types of sideways ROMs present in the Master This information table is detailed in Chapter II The address is returned in the index registers - low byte in X, high byte in Y For the 3 20 MOS this address is &2A1

#### OSBYTE &B3 (\*FX I79)

Using this call it is possible to read or write the state of the ROM polling semaphore

A=I79 X=n Y=0 will read the semaphore into X and set the state to n

A=I79 X=0 Y=255 reads semaphore into X

Note that use of this call to set the state directly will interfere with \*FX22 and \*FX23

#### OSBYTE &BA (\*FX I86)

This call returns the number of the ROM that was active when the last BRK error occurred The value is returned in the X register

#### OSBYTE &BB (\*FX I87)

This call reads the number of the ROM socket which contains the BASIC ROM The number is returned in the X register Chapter I4 contains details of its use to re-boot BASIC to exit from another language ROM

#### OSBYTE &FC (\*FX 252)

This call returns the number of the ROM socket containing the current language ROM in the X register It is written to whenever a new language ROM is booted with OSBYTE &8E

Listing 12 I Reads BASIC title string to demonstrate  
OSRDRM Save as READ

```
10 REM Read title string from ROM
20 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
30 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
40
50 osrdrm=&FFB9
60 osasc1=&FFE3
70 FOR pass=0 TO 3 STEP 3
80 P%=&A000
90 [
100 OPT pass
110 readstring
120 LDA #&80
130 STA &F7
140 LDA #8
150 STA &F6
160 loop
170 LDY &F4
180 INC &F6
190 JSR osrdrm
200 BEQ out
210 JSR osasc1
220 BNE loop
230 out
240 RTS
250 ]
260 NEXT
270 CALL readstring
```

# Chapter Thirteen

## ROM Filing System

The ROM Filing System (RFS), may contain either BASIC, or machine code programs and may be loaded, chained, or run as normal. Table I3 I lists the commands and operating system calls with the RFS, which is selected by the \*ROM command.

As with any other filing system, eg tape, disc, ADFS, files must be saved to a particular format. In the case of RFS they must be formatted as an image that can be loaded directly into sideways RAM or blown into an EPROM. The number of files stored per ROM image is limited only by the amount of space within the sideways RAM block. Thus RFS-formatted images may be up to 16k in length.

Just like any other software that is to be placed in sideways RAM, the RFS image must contain a standard header along with a service entry point and any relevant coding. In addition to any standard \*HELP messages, etc, that you may wish to include, service

---

LOAD  
\*CAT  
\*EXEC  
\*LOAD  
\*RUN  
OSARGS (filing system identification only)  
OSBGET  
OSFILE (save is not possible)  
OSFIND (output opening is not possible)

---

Table I3 I ROM Filing System commands and calls

calls I3 (&ØD) and I4 (&ØE) must be caught and processed as these inform the MOS of the RFS details

### Service Call I3

This is the RFS initialisation call. It is issued by the MOS when a filing system command is used while the RFS is active. It allows a ROM to inform the MOS that it contains a ROM image, along with the start address.

The service call number is held in the accumulator on entry and the Y register contains a number which is I5 minus the number of the next ROM to be scanned. If this value is less than the number of the current ROM being investigated then the ROM should ignore the service call as it has already been processed earlier. If not, the current ROM's number (at &F4) should be put in the accumulator and placed in zero page location &F5. This is an important step as it indicates to the MOS that an RFS-formatted ROM is present.

The final act of the ROM header coding should be to place the start address of the ROM file data into the vector at &F6 and &F7. To complete the call and inform the MOS that the current ROM is now active the call should return with the accumulator holding zero.

```

entry
CMP #I3           \ service call I3?
BNE tryagain     \ if not branch over
PHA              \ push accumulator
TYA              \ Y holds ROM number
EOR #I5          \ calculate (I5-ROM number)
CMP &F4          \ less than current ROM
                  \ number?
BCC return       \ yes if carry clear so
                  \ return
LDA #filename MOD 256 \ low byte file start
                  \ address
STA &F6          \ save in vector low byte
LDA #filename DIV 256 \ high byte file start
                  \ address
STA &F7          \ save in vector high byte
LDA &F4          \ get current ROM number
EOR #I5          \ restore ROM number on
                  \ entry
STA &F5          \ save the flag
JMP restore     \ jump to exit routine
return
PLA              \ restore service type
RTS              \ back to MOS
tryagain

```

The label 'filename' is used to mark the start of the programs in RFS format. In the formatting program presented later on, I have in fact given this an absolute address, namely &8I00 and have therefore loaded these two bytes immediately into the accumulator on both occasions.

### Service Call I4

This call is a simple RFS 'get byte' routine. To respond to this the current ROM must check location &F5. If this byte is equal to I5-?&F4, then the current ROM is indicated. The MOS uses this call to read bytes from the ROM when performing filing system actions, such as \*CAT, LOAD etc.

To extract the correct byte the Y register must be cleared as used for post indirect address to peek the byte held at the vectored address in &F6. The read byte should be returned in the Y register with the accumulator clear to indicate that the call has been serviced correctly. The ROM byte request is handled as follows:

```

tryagain      \ entry
CMP #&0E     \ is it ROM byte get?
BNE back     \ if not then branch to back
PHA          \ save service call
LDA &F5      \ get 'current' ROM value
EOR #I5     \ calculate (I5-ROM number)
CMP &F4      \ is it same as this ROM number?
BNE return   \ no, it's another ROM so return
LDY #0       \ clear indexing register
LDA (&F6),Y \ read byte into accumulator
TAY          \ move into Y register
INC &F6      \ increment low byte vector
BNE restore  \ branch if not zero
INC &F7      \ else increment high byte of
              \ vector

restore
PLA          \ pull service type off stack
LDA #0       \ clear accumulator to indicate
              \ that service has been performed
RTS         \ and back to MOS

```

Again, nothing too difficult in the coding. The service call handling routine is the minimum required. It can be expanded to include a \*HELP service call, as in the formatting program (listing I3 I) where the above code can be seen in lines I740 to I9I0 inclusive. Standard service ROM utility programs and languages can be mixed



with RFS formatted programs, as long as there is enough space and the correct service call coding is present

### The ROM Image

The construction of the actual RFS program image is similar to the cassette filing system, using a block structure. Each block consists of a header followed by the file data. The header construction is important and is laid out as follows:

- 1 Synchronisation byte, &2A (ASCII"\*)
- 2 Filename, up to ten characters long
- 3 A filename terminating zero byte, &ØØ
- 4 File load address
- 5 File execution address
- 6 Two-byte block number
- 7 Two-byte block length
- 8 File flag
- 9 Address of first byte after end of file
- 1Ø Two-byte header cyclic redundancy check (CRC)

The synchronisation byte must always be &2A (ASCII"\*) so that the filename always looks as though it was in \*RUN format, ie, \*FILENAME. A filename cannot be a null string so must contain a minimum of just one character though it must not exceed ten characters in length. The filename is terminated with a zero byte. The load and execution addresses occupy four bytes, the low byte being stored first. The high two bytes provide space for a second or co-processor relocation address. The block number and length details consist of two bytes stored low byte first.

The file flag provides details about the file stored at bit level. Three bits are used thus:

- Bit 7 If set, indicates this is the last block of the current file
- Bit 6 If set, indicates this block contains no data
- Bit Ø Protection bit. If set, the file can only be \*RUN

The function of bit 6 may seem odd at first sight. An empty block can be created at ROM image formation time if the file is opened for output and then closed before any data can be written to it using BPUT.

The header cyclic redundancy check (CRC) is contained in two bytes, stored high byte first. The CRC is an error check against data corruption. Each CRC is unique.

to the item it refers to as it is calculated from all the data that it relates to' A suitable algorithm for calculating the CRC of a piece of data would be

```

High Byte = data EOR high byte
For loop=1 TO 8
Carry=0
IF (msb of high byte=1) THEN high and low bytes EOR
&810 Carry=1
high and low bytes=(high and low bytes*2+carry) AND
&FFFF
NEXT loop

```

After the header comes the file block which is, for a full block, 256 bytes The last block of a file may be shorter if the file length is not exactly divisible by 256 The length of the block is specified in the two header bytes, block length The file data is terminated by the two CRC bytes as calculated for the header CRC

To save ROM space the header of file blocks, other than the first and last file blocks, may be abbreviated by a single character, the hash, '#' which is ASCII &43 If a hash header is used the MOS assumes the header details are the same as in the first file block

Finally, the end of the ROM image, that is the byte after the last file of the last program, is marked by an end-of-ROM marker, typically '+', ASCII code &2B This marker may be omitted only if the ROM image spans over to another ROM which must be positioned as the next ROM number in order of priority

### ROM Filing System Vectors

As is common on the Master micro, indirect entry to the RFS processing is performed via the standard page two vectors Table I3 2 lists the vectors changed by initialisation of the RFS and the address contained within them for the 3 20 MOS

Vector	Address	Indirection address
FILEV	&212	&FF1B
ARGSV	&214	&FF1E
BGETV	&216	&FF21
BPUTV	&218	&FF24
GPPBV	&21A	&FF27
FINDV	&21C	&FF2A
FSCV	&21E	&FB69

Table I3 2 ROM Filing System Vectors

Table I3 2 indicates that provision for a OSBPUT has been included in the RFS vectored entry, but this is rather meaningless as a ROM may only be read from

### ROM Image Formatter

Listing I3 I is a tried and tested ROM image formatting program. Because of its use of random access filing, it will not work effectively on a tape-based system, and as such has been written with disc or net in mind. The program will read in specified files from the storage medium in use and format them into a ROM image for use with the RFS. As written the program assumes that a I6k image is required though it may be any length up to this value.

If the total file image length will exceed I6k then you are informed and the last file entered is not accepted. On completion, the ROM image may be saved to the current filing system, written directly into sideways RAM or left in memory.

### Using the Formatter

A brief description of the program can be found at the end of this chapter. Once you have entered the program save it under the filename 'ROMFS'. You can then go ahead and use it as described below.

The RFS formatter is simple to use. First ensure that you have all the programs that you wish to format to hand, preferably on the same disc (or in the current directory if running ADFS or ANFS).

On running the screen will clear and you will be asked to enter the title of the ROM you wish to format. This is the string that will be printed out in response to a \*HELP. After this you will be prompted for any copyright string. You need not enter anything if you so wish, the obligatory '(C)' is entered by the program. Now you will be requested to enter the name of the first file. Do this and press return. The file will then be read in and formatted. The formatting process may take several moments for a longish program. Once the file has been read in and formatted the amount of memory remaining in the ROM image will be displayed. You will then be asked for the name of the next file. If the file size exceeds that of the space remaining or the specified file cannot be found then an error will be displayed and you will be asked for the next filename once again.

Once formatting is complete, simply press the return key when the next filename prompt is issued to complete

the construction of the ROM image You will then be asked if you wish to

- 1) Quit
- 2) Save the ROM image
- 3) Write the image to sideways RAM

Simply press the appropriate key to select In the case of 1 and 2 you will be asked to enter either a filename or the sideways RAM bank number respectively

Once in sideways RAM press CTRL-BREAK to initialise the ROM Typing \*ROM and then \*CAT should show that all is in order Files can then be loaded in as normal

### Checking the Image

Of course it is possible that your ROM image will not work correctly first time round The two possible errors you could get are 'Bad Rom' and 'Data' The Bad ROM error message means that your header coding is not correct so recheck through lines I360 to 2090 'Data' infers that the problem lies elsewhere in the program and will need to be checked thoroughly The following pages details the formation and checking of a 'standard' ROM image If you are having problems, work through what follows and try to locate where your problem lies

The first step is to enter and save a short test program

```
I0REM demo listing
20REM for use with
30REM RFS format
40REM program
```

It is important that the program is entered exactly as shown, with no extra spaces The program should occupy just 67 bytes, so ensure that the memory marker TOP is &E43 Check this by typing

```
PRINT ^TOP
```

If this is not the case ensure that you have not entered any extra spaces at the end of a line Once you are satisfied all is well save the program twice using the filenames 'DEMO1' and 'DEMO2'

Access to a hexadecimal and ASCII dump routine is vital If you have a suitable utility available in a sideways ROM then all is well In case you don't, program I3 2 is just such a routine Enter and test

this then save it to disc as 'DUMPER' The next stage is to enter the formatter, and clear the buffer using

```
FOR N%=&3000 TO &4000 STEP 4 'N%=@ NEXT
```

This process is not normally required but it will enable us to see where the ROM image ends clearly The next step is to run the formatter and use DEMO and TEST (in uppercase) as the title and copyright strings Now enter DEMO1 as the name of the first file to be formatted Once this has been read in the number of bytes remaining should be shown to be 16033 Enter DEMO2 as the second file to be formatted After formatting the bytes remaining should be 15938 Now press return and select option I from the menu, ie Quit

The next stage in the process is to load the DUMPER program Running this will produce a dump of the ROM image as shown in figure 13 I This should be examined closely byte by byte and the following description should help

The bytes from &3000 to &306D contain the ROM service call header as described earlier The title and copyright strings can clearly be seen in the ASCII dump section on the right hand side of the listing

```

3000 00 00 00 4C I7 80 82 0D          L
3008 00 44 45 4D 4F 00 28 43        DEMO (C
3010 29 20 54 45 53 54 00 C9        ) TEST
3018 09 F0 3B C9 0D D0 1B 48                H
3020 98 49 0F C5 F4 90 11 A9          I
3028 00 85 F6 A9 81 85 F7 A5
3030 F4 49 0F 85 F5 4C 52 80          I   LR
3038 68 60 C9 0E D0 FB 48 A5          h   H
3040 F5 49 0F C5 F4 D0 F1 A0          I
3048 00 B1 F6 A8 E6 F6 D0 02
3050 E6 F7 68 A9 00 60 DA 20          h
3058 E7 FF A2 FF E8 BD 09 80
3060 F0 05 20 E3 FF 80 F5 20
3068 E7 FF FA 4C 52 80 00 00          LR

```

Figure 13 I Hexadecimal dump of ROM image

The bytes from 3070 to 30FF should all contain zero as these are not used

The line starting 3100 contains the synchronisation byte, &2A, followed by the ASCII filename and then the terminator byte, &00

```
3100 2A 44 45 4D 4F 31 00 00 *DEMOI
```

The next four bytes, the last one, &00, in the above dumped line and the first three in the line beginning 3I08 hold the program load address. This is stored low byte first. It should show as being FFFF0E00. The next four bytes hold the execution address, again low byte first. This should be FFFF802B. The next two bytes (one in this line and one first in the next line) are the block number. Both are zero as this is block zero.

```
3I08 0E FF FF 2B 80 FF FF 00      +
3I09 00 43 00 80 5F 81 00 00      C  _
```

The line beginning 3II0 contains the file length in the second and third bytes, 43 00 in this case, low byte first. The next byte, 80, is the block byte, followed by four bytes holding the address of the byte after the end of the current file, which should be as shown.

The first two bytes in the line beginning at 3II8 is the header CRC. The test program is then stored in file form from 3IIA to 3I5C, with the last byte &FF being the program TOP. The next two bytes at 3I5D and 3I5E contain the file data CRC.

```
3II8 B8 AB 0D 00 0A I2 F4 20
3I20 64 65 6D 6F 20 6C 69 73      demo lis
3I28 74 69 6E 67 0D 00 I4 I2      ting
3I30 F4 20 66 6F 72 20 75 73      for us
3I38 65 20 77 69 74 68 0D 00      e with
3I40 IE I0 F4 20 52 46 53 20      RFS
3I48 66 6F 72 6D 6I 74 0D 00      format
3I50 28 0D F4 20 70 72 6F 67      ( prog
3I58 72 6I 6D 0D FF 6C 5D 2A      ram ll)*
```

The last byte in the line above is the synchronisation byte for the second file DEMO2. This then follows the same format and is listed below.

```
3I60 44 45 4D 4F 32 00 00 0E      DEMO2
3I68 FF FF 2B 80 FF FF 00 00      +
3I70 43 00 80 BE 8I 00 00 38      C      8
3I78 F5 0D 00 0A I2 F4 20 64      d
3I80 65 6D 6F 20 6C 69 73 74      emo list
3I88 69 6E 67 0D 00 I4 I2 F4      ing
3I90 20 66 6F 72 20 75 73 65      for use
3I98 20 77 69 74 68 0D 00 IE      with
3IA0 I0 F4 20 52 46 53 20 66      RFS f
3IA8 6F 72 6D 6I 74 0D 00 28      ormat (
3IB0 0D F4 20 70 72 6F 67 72      progr
3IB8 6I 6D 0D FF 6C 5D 2B 00      am ll+
```

The final byte in the ROM image is the end of ROM marker, &2B, located at &31BE. All bytes beyond this should be set to zero.

If your ROM image is as shown then the program is operating correctly. If it will not function as a ROM image then check that you are installing it into sideways RAM correctly. Because of space, the hash headers are not checked, so if the formatter works for small programs, but not longer ones, then the error will almost certainly be in PROChash.

### The Procedures

The formatter includes eleven procedures which form the basis of the program. The function of each is as follows.

**PROCformat** This procedure first tests to see if there is more than one block in a file. If this is the case then PROChandle is called. On return from PROChandle only the last block remains to be formatted so this is undertaken by the call to PROCfilehead. The last action of this procedure is to close the open reading channel.

**PROCfilehead** Constructs a detailed block header for the first and last blocks of a file, including the calculation of the header CRCs.

**PROCgetdata** As its name implies this procedure reads each byte of data from a file and pokes it into the correct position in the ROM image. It also provides the data CRC value.

**PROChash** This procedure is called for all file blocks except the first and last. It creates the abbreviated hash header for the intermediary files and also initialises each PROCgetdata call to fetch 256 bytes, in addition to keeping track of the block count.

**PROCassemble** This simply assembles the machine code that calculates the CRC for both headers and data bytes.

**PROCromhead** Assembles the ROM head details required by the MOS and also the service call polling as required. These are assembled directly in the front of the ROM image.

**PROChandle** This creates the first block image of a file and then controls the formatting of the intermediate blocks but not the very last block of a file.

**PROCnottape** Reads the catalogue information of the specified file from a disc using OSFILE.

**PROCsav** Simple saves the ROM image to the current filing medium.

## Listing I3 I RFS Formatter Save as RFS

```

10 REM ROM Filing System Formatter
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 ON ERROR GOTO 2790
60
70 MODE7
80 @%=0
90 DIM block% 20,name% 20,mcode% 250
100 size=&4000 flag%=1
110 remain%=16128
120 buffer%=&3000 marker%=&3100
130 PROCassemble
140 PROCheading
150 PROCdetails
160 PROCromhead(buffer%)
170
180 REPEAT
190 PRINTTAB(0,5),SPC(38)
200 PRINTTAB(0,5),
210 PRINT Enter file name ' CHR$(I29)
'
220 INPUT " $name%"
230 IF $name%<> " THEN IF FNinfo THEN
PROCformat
240 IF flag% remain%=size-(nextfile%-&
8000)
250 flag%=1
260 PRINT "Space remaining ",
270 PRINTremain%," bytes "
280 UNTIL $name%=" '
290 ?marker%=ASC("+")
300 finish%=marker%+1
310 PROCsave
320 VDU 26
330 CLS
340 END
350
360 DEF PROCformat
370 LOCAL block%
380 block%=0
390 IF extent%>256 THEN PROChandle
400 PROCfilehead(marker%,name%,load%,e
xecution%,block%,&80,extent%)
410 CLOSE#channel%
420 ENDPROC
430
440 DEF FNinfo

```



## Listing I3 I continued

```

45Ø LOCAL L$
46Ø A%=Ø Y%=Ø
47Ø channel%=OPENUP($name%)
48Ø PROCnottape
49Ø nextfile%=&8ØØØØ+marker%-buffer%+(L
EN($name%)+23)-(LEN($name%)+23)*(extent%
>256)-3*(extent%>5I2)*(((extent%-I) DIV
256)-I)+extent%
50Ø space%=(nextfile%<&8ØØØØ+size-I)AND
(channel%<>Ø)
51Ø IF NOT space% THEN PROCerror
52Ø =space%
53Ø
54Ø DEF PROCfilehead(position%,file%,l
address%,execaddr%,bcount%,flag%,length%
)
55Ø LOCAL pos%
56Ø ?position%=ASC("*")
57Ø position%=position%+I
58Ø $position%=$file%
59Ø pos%=LEN($file%)+position%
60Ø ?pos%=Ø
61Ø pos%'I=address%
62Ø pos%'5=execaddr%
63Ø pos%'9=bcount%
64Ø pos%'I1=length%
65Ø pos?'I3=flag%
66Ø pos%'I4=nextfile%
67Ø ?&84=pos%-position%+I8
68Ø '&8Ø=position%
69Ø CALL docrc
70Ø pos%'I8='&82
71Ø marker%=pos%+2Ø
72Ø PROCgetdata(length%)
73Ø block%=block%+I
74Ø ENDPROC
75Ø
76Ø DEF PROCgetdata(length%)
77Ø LOCAL pos%
78Ø FOR pos%=Ø TO length%-I
79Ø marker%?pos%=BGET#channel%
80Ø NEXTpos%
81Ø '&8Ø=marker%
82Ø ?&84=length%
83Ø CALL docrc
84Ø marker%'length%='&82
85Ø extent%=extent%-length%
86Ø marker%=marker%+length%+2

```

## Listing I3 I continued

```
870 ENDPROC
880
890 DEF PROCash
900 ?marker%=ASC("#")
910 marker%=marker%+I
920 PROCgetdata(&I00)
930 block%=block%+I
940 ENDPROC
950
960 DEF PROCassemble
970 address=&80
980 crc1=&82
990 crc2=&83
I000 FOR pass=0 TO 2 STEP 2
I010 P%=mcode%
I020 [OPT pass
I030 docrc
I040 LDA #0
I050 STA crc1
I060 STA crc2
I070 TAY
I080 next
I090 LDA crc1
I100 EOR (address),Y
I110 STA crc1
I120 LDX #8
I130 again
I140 LDA crc1
I150 ROL A
I160 BCC over
I170 LDA crc1
I180 EOR #8
I190 STA crc1
I200 LDA crc2
I210 EOR #&I0
I220 STA crc2
I230 over
I240 ROL crc2
I250 ROL crc1
I260 DEX
I270 BNE again
I280 INY
I290 CPY crc2+I
I300 BNE next
I310 RTS
I320 ]
I330 NEXT pass
I340 ENDPROC
```

## Listing I3 I continued

```
I350
I360 DEF PROCromhead (header%)
I370 FOR pass=4 TO 6 STEP 2
I380 P%=&8000 O%=header%
I390 [OPT pass
I400 EQUW 0
I410 EQU B 0
I420 JMP entry
I430 EQU B &82
I440 EQU B offset MOD 256
I450 EQU B 0
I460 title
I470 EQU title$
I480 offset
I490 EQU B 0
I500 EQU "(C) "+copy$
I510 EQU B 0
I520 entry
I530 CMP #9
I540 BEQ help
I550 CMP #I3
I560 BNE tryagain
I570 PHA
I580 TYA
I590 EOR #I5
I600 CMP &F4
I610 BCC return
I620 LDA #0
I630 STA &F6
I640 LDA #&8I
I650 STA &F7
I660 LDA &F4
I670 EOR #I5
I680 STA &F5
I690 JMP restore
I700 return
I710 PLA
I720 back
I730 RTS
I740 tryagain
I750 CMP #&0E
I760 BNE back
I770 PHA
I780 LDA &F5
I790 EOR #I5
I800 CMP &F4
I810 BNE return
I820 LDY #0
```

## Listing I3 I continued

```
I830 LDA (&F6),Y
I840 TAY
I850 INC &F6
I860 BNE restore
I870 INC &F7
I880 restore
I890 PLA
I900 LDA #0
I910 RTS
I920 \
I930 help
I940 PHX
I950 JSR &FFE7
I960 LDX #255
I970 helploop
I980 INX
I990 LDA title,X
2000 BEQ alldone
2010 JSR &FFE3
2020 BRA helploop
2030 alldone
2040 JSR &FFE7
2050 PLX
2060 JMP restore
2070 ]
2080 NEXT
2090 ENDPROC
2100
2110 DEF PROChandle
2120 PROCfilehead(marker%,name%,load%,e
xecution%,block%,0,&I00)
2130 IF extent%>256 THEN REPEAT PROCas
h UNTIL extent%<=256
2140 ENDPROC
2150
2160 DEF PROCnottape
2170 'block%=name%
2180 A%=5 X%=block% MOD 256
2190 Y%=block% DIV 256
2200 CALL &FFDD
2210 load%=block%'2
2220 execution%=block%'6
2230 extent%=block%'I0
2240 flen%=extent%
2250 ENDPROC
2260
2270 DEF PROCsave
2280 CLS
```

## Listing I3 I continued

```

229Ø PRINT'Please select "
230Ø PRINT' I) Quit"
231Ø PRINT" 2) Save Formatted File"
232Ø PRINT" 3) Write Formatted File
233Ø key%=GET
234Ø IF key%=ASC("I ) THEN ENDPROC
235Ø IF key%=ASC( "3") THEN GOTO 242Ø
236Ø PRINT''
237Ø INPUT 'Enter filename title$
238Ø save$="SAVE "+title$+' 3ØØØ +4ØØØ
239Ø OSCLI (save$)
240Ø ENDPROC
241Ø
242Ø PRINT''
243Ø INPUT "Enter RAM bank (4,5,6,7)
rb$
244Ø OSCLI ("SRWRITE 3ØØØ +4ØØØ 8ØØØ +
rb$)
245Ø PRINT'"Press CTRL-BREAK to initiali
se"
246Ø END
247Ø
248Ø DEF PROCheading
249Ø FOR N%=I TO 2
250Ø PRINTCHR$(I3Ø) CHR$(I4I) SPC(9),
251Ø PRINT"RFS Formatter"
252Ø NEXT N%
253Ø PRINT'CHR$(I29),SPC(6),
254Ø PRINT "(C) Bruce Smith I986 '
255Ø PRINT TAB(Ø,24),CHR$(I3I) SPC(7)
256Ø PRINT "Press RETURN to end',
257Ø PRINT TAB(Ø,5),
258Ø VDU 28,Ø,23,39,5
259Ø ENDPROC
260Ø
261Ø DEF PROCdetails
262Ø INPUT "Enter ROM title title$
263Ø INPUT "Enter Copyright "copy$
264Ø ENDPROC
265Ø
266Ø DEF PROCerror
267Ø PRINTTAB(Ø,8), ERROR"
268Ø VDU 7
269Ø PRINT File not found / File to big
"
270Ø CLOSE#channel% flag%=Ø
271Ø PRINT' 'Press any key to continue",
272Ø REPEAT UNTIL GET

```

## Listing I3 I continued

```

2730 PRINTTAB(0,8),SPC(30)
2740 PRINTSPC(30)'SPC(30)'SPC(30)
2750 PRINTTAB(0,6)
2760 ENDPROC
2770
2780 ***** ERROR HANDLER *****
2790 CLOSE #0
2800 VDU 26,7
2810 CLS
2820 REPORT
2830 PRINT" ERROR at line ",ERL
2840 END

```

## Listing I3 2 Hex and ASCII dump utility Save as DUMPER

```

I0 REM Hex & ASCII Dump
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 MODE 7
60 #=0
70 FOR P#=&3000 TO &31FF STEP8
80 PRINT~P# " ',
90 FOR N#=0 TO 7
I00 IF P#?N#<I6 PRINT'0"
I10 PRINT ~P#?N# " ,
I20 NEXT
I30 PRINT ' ",
I40 FOR N#=0 TO 7
I50 A#=P#?N#
I60 IF A#<32 OR A#>I27 PRINT" ', ELSE
PRINTCHR$(A#),
I70 NEXT
I80 PRINT
I90 NEXT

```

# Chapter Fourteen

## Language ROMs

The first three bytes of a paged ROM are referred to as its language entry point, the first byte will normally contain the JMP opcode, &4C, followed by the two-byte address of the beginning of the language coding. If it is a service ROM, these three bytes should be set to zero.

The normal way in which a language is entered is to type in a command that the ROM will recognise. For this purpose all language ROMs must contain a service entry point to an interpreter that will attempt to recognise the command, for example, the command \*FORTH might select a FORTH language ROM. The service entry interpreter must be capable of recognising this command and then select itself as the new language ROM. To do this the ROM must issue OSBYTE &8E, with the X register containing the ROM number. It is important to remember that this OSBYTE call returns through the ROM's language entry point, so there is no real need to preserve registers as they are destroyed anyway! The coding to perform the language entry is

```
LDA #&8E
JSR &FFF4
```

The X register should already hold the ROM identity though this can always be extracted from &F4 if it is lost for some reason.

To start up the selected language the MOS notes the number of the ROM so that it can reselect the language ROM when a 'soft break' is performed, and then displays the ROM title string to indicate the particular language is in use. The error message vector is pointed towards the copyright message or version string if it is present, whereupon the

language point is entered with the accumulator containing the value I to indicate a normal start up

Once a language has been initialised it has I024 bytes of workspace free for private use running in a single block from &400 to &800 in addition to the zero page locations normally associated with a language ROM between &00 to &8F The language program space exists between the Operating System High Water Mark (OSHWM) and the bottom of the currently selected screen mode

Language ROMs may also be entered by two other methods First by issuing an \*FXI42 call This call must be postfixed by a number which relates to the ROM socket number containing the language to be switched in Thus to select the language in ROM socket number I2, use

```
*FX I42,I2
```

A language may also be auto-booted by pressing the BREAK key in combination with another specific key To do this the service interpreter must trap the auto-boot service call, 3, issued by the MOS on BREAK, and test for its particular auto-boot key (This technique is explained in Chapter I0 )

### Absolute Musts

There are three things a language must do, otherwise it will cause the Master to 'hang up' First, interrupt requests must be enabled for the MOS to continue to work correctly, a simple CLI will perform this Second, the BRK vector, BRKV at &202, must also be set ready to handle errors as they occur All language ROMs must include error handling facilities, as even the simplest task such as an OSWRCH call can generate an error The technique of error handling is examined in chapter I5 Finally the stack pointer will be undefined so this should be re-initialised These three tasks require a minimum of code

```

|  CLI                \ enable IRQs
|  LDX #&FF           \ reset stack pointer
|  TXS
|  LDA #brkhandle MOD 256 \ get low byte error handling
|                          \ entry
|  STA &202           \ store low-byte BRKV
|  LDA #brkhandle DIV 256 \ get high byte of same
|  STA &203           \ and poke into BRKV high byte

```

On entering a language, the accumulator will contain a language entry code Normally these can be ignored though two will be of interest if the language ROM is to be



compatible with the Electron The four entry codes are as follows

Accumulator=0 There is no language present and the Tube ROM is being called This call must not be intercepted other than by the Tube ROM itself

Accumulator=1 Normal entry to language

Accumulator=2 Request next byte of soft key expansion The key number is set using a call with the accumulator containing 3, and the byte result is in the Y register This entry call is applicable on the Electron only

Accumulator=3 Requesting length of soft key expansion The key number is held in the Y register and the length should be substituted for it Again, an Electron-only call

Language entry calls 2 and 3 are Electron-specific and should not be looked at by Master or BBC-only firmware

### Languages and the Tube

Because of the popularity of BBC model B second processors and Master coprocessors it is essential that languages will run across the Tube This simply means that they are capable of relocating in the second processor and running correctly If you write your languages 'correctly' this is automatic But what is 'correctly'? Well, it simply means that all the input/output processes should be performed using the MOS commands and memory should not be peeked and poked Thus the screen should be written to using OSWRCH and not by poking the ASCII character of a code there directly For example, the letter A should be printed at the current cursor position using

```
LDA #ASC("A ")
JSR oswrch
```

and not by using poking such as

```
LDA #ASC("A")
STA screen+offset
```

To take advantage of the increased memory capacity offered by the second processor, a 'H1' version of the language you are writing may be required This option is available simply by assembling your language coding so that it will run at a higher re-location address, &B800 for example as with H1-BASIC The service entry point and its associated coding should remain assembled at the normal addresses as this is not copied across in the second processor by the Tube ROM and is required to function within the Master Such a H1 version of your language would not run in the normal Master however due to the change in absolute

addresses Changing the addressing is done simply by resetting the value assigned to P% at the language entry, as defined by the address given at the language entry point For example

```

FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
O%=&50000 REM assemble at &50000
P%=&80000 REM service code at &80000
[OPT pass
JMP language
JMP service
\ rest of service code is here
\
] REM exit at end of service code
P%=&B0000 REM repoint P%
[OPT pass
language
\ language code here
\ assembled for &B0000
]
NEXT pass

```

Listing I4 I provides a very simple but working example of a language ROM The listing forms the machine code for a language that will give a hex and ASCII dump The language is called by \*MASMON

When MASMON is entered, the screen clears and the title and copyright strings are displayed A text window is set up which ensures that these items remain on-screen throughout the languages operation You are then prompted to enter a start and end address in hexadecimal format - note that the '&' is already provided so you need only enter the hex digits themselves Once this has occurred, the area of memory between these two addresses is dumped to the screen The format for each line is current address, followed by the eight bytes from this address displayed in hex, and then in ASCII form (figure I4 I) If the byte is not displayable ASCII, a full stop is shown instead The listing may be halted by the CTRL-SHIFT key combination in the usual manner

When the listing has completed, you will be asked if you wish to display a further area of memory Pressing Y will reset the language and the process will repeat, otherwise BASIC will be re-entered

Having said that redirecting the BRK vector into your own language ROM is an absolute must, listing I4 I does not do that! The reason for my madness will be looked at in the chapter I5 where errors will be discussed As it stands, the language is not capable of creating an error - although pressing the ESCAPE key will lock the language up The

## Master Monitor

```

8000 4C 6B 80 4C 29 80 C2 18 Lk L)
8008 01 4D 61 73 74 65 72 20 Master
8010 4D 6F 6E 69 74 6F 72 00 Monitor
8018 00 28 43 29 20 42 72 75 (C) Bru
8020 63 65 20 53 6D 69 74 68 ce Smith
8028 00 48 C9 09 F0 06 C9 04 H
8030 F0 12 68 60 A2 FF E8 BD hf
8038 09 80 20 E3 FF D0 F7 20
8040 E7 FF 68 60 DA 5A A2 FF hf Z
8048 88 E8 C8 B1 F2 29 DF DD )
8050 64 80 F0 F5 BD 64 80 30 d d 0
8058 04 7A FA 68 60 A9 8E A6 z hf
8060 F4 20 F4 FF 4D 41 53 4D MASM
8068 4F 4E FF 58 A2 FF 9A A9 ON X
8070 16 20 EE FF A9 07 20 EE
8078 FF A0 02 A2 FF E8 BD FA
8080 81 F0 05 20 E3 FF 80 F5
8088 A2 FF 88 D0 F0 E8 BD DE

```

Go again (Y/N)?

Figure I4 I Screen dump of MASMOM display

reasons why this happens are discussed in the next chapter on errors

Now for a listing description PROCvars sets up the variables required by the language to operate, namely operating system calls and zero page storage for vectored addresses

The ROM header is assembled in lines 270 to 900 It is much the same as for service ROMs, but there are some differences A language entry jump address must be assembled into the first three ROM header bytes (line 270) the ROM type value must also be amended to include the now set language bit, bit 6, therefore the byte to be assembled is I100 0010, or &C2 hex Line 290 takes care of this A service entry point, and therefore interpreter, must also be included to handle any \*HELP service requests and unrecognised command requests This is assembled by lines 400 to 790 The unrecognised command we are trying to trap is MASMOM This is assembled in lines 800 to 990 and looked for by the interpreter assembled at lines 600 to 730 Once recognised the language is entered through the language entry point by executing OSBYTE &8E (lines 810 to 840)

The language entry point is entered via the JMP instruction located at &80000, which is in effect a jump to line 920. First things first, the MOS must be reset by re-enabling interrupts with CLI, followed closely by resetting of the stack (lines 930 to 950). To see how important these processes are, try omitting these lines and running the re-assembled code!

The screen set-up routine and hex/ASCII dump output is controlled in a standard manner by lines 960 to 2160, using machine code subroutines based at lines 2290 to 3100.

BASIC is re-entered by locating its ROM socket number via OSBYTE &BB. OSBYTE &8E is used to select it in the standard way (lines 2210 to 2250).

### Service Call 42 (&2A)

The MOS issues service call 42 (&2A) before a ROM-based language starts up. This gives other languages including the current one, plus service ROMs, the chance to do any necessary house-keeping.

Listing I4 I Master machine code hex and ASCII dump  
Save as MASM0N

```

I0 REM Implement a language ROM
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June I986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 PROCvars
60 PROCassemble
70 PROCchecksum
80 *SRWRITE 50000 +3000 80000 7
90 END
I00 DEF PROCvars
I10 mshigh=&50 mslow=&5I
I20 lshigh=&52 lslow=&53
I30 temp=&54
I40 hbyte=&63 lobyte=&62
I50 hibegin=&6I lobegin=&60
I60 osrdch=&FFE0 osbyte=&FFF4
I70 oswrch=&FFEE osnewl=&FFE7
I80 osasci=&FFE3
I90 comline=&F2
200 ENDPROC
2I0
220 DEF PROCassemble
230 FOR Pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
240 P%=&8000 O%=&5000
250 [
260 OPT Pass
270 JMP language
280 JMP service
290 EQUB &C2
300 EQUB offset MOD 256
3I0 EQUB I
320 title
330 EQUB "Master Monitor"
340 EQUB 0
350 offset
360 EQUB 0
370 EQUB "(C) Bruce Smith
380 EQUB 0
390
400 service
4I0 PHA
420 CMP #9
430 BEQ help
440 CMP #4
450 BEQ unrecognised
460 PLA
470 RTS

```

## Listing I4 I continued

```
480
490 help
500 LDX ≠&FF
510 helploop
520 INX
530 LDA title,X
540 JSR osasci
550 BNE helploop
560 JSR osnewl
570 PLA
580 RTS
590
600 unrecognized
610 PHX
620 PHY
630 LDX ≠&FF
640 DEY
650 ctloop
660 INX
670 INY
680 LDA (comline),Y
690 AND ≠&DF
700 CMP table,X
710 BEQ ctloop
720 LDA table,X
730 BMI found
740 \
750 nothisrom
760 PLY
770 PLX
780 PLA
790 RTS
800 \
810 found
820 LDA ≠&8E
830 LDX &F4
840 JSR &FFF4
850 \ No return!
860 \
870 \ set up Command Table
880 table
890 EQU$ MASMOM"
900 EQU$ &FF
910
920 language
930 CLI
940 LDX ≠&FF
950 TXS
```

## Listing I4 I continued

```
960 LDA #22
970 JSR oswrch
980 LDA #7
990 JSR oswrch
I000 LDY #2
I010 LDX #&FF
I020 langloop
I030 INX
I040 LDA heading,X
I050 BEQ out
I060 JSR osasc1
I070 BRA langloop
I080 out
I090 \
I100 LDX #&FF
I110 DEY
I120 BNE langloop
I130 \
I140 copyloop
I150 INX
I160 LDA copyright,X
I170 BEQ out2
I180 JSR osasc1
I190 BRA copyloop
I200 \
I210 out2
I220 LDA #28
I230 JSR oswrch
I240 LDA #0
I250 JSR oswrch
I260 LDA #24
I270 JSR oswrch
I280 LDA #39
I290 JSR oswrch
I300 LDA #5
I310 JSR oswrch
I320 LDX #&FF
I330 \
I340 stloop
I350 INX
I360 LDA start,X
I370 JSR osasc1
I380 BNE stloop
I390 JSR inputaddr
I400 LDA hibyte
I410 STA hibegin
I420 LDA lobyte
I430 STA lobegin
```

## Listing I4 I continued

```
I440 \
I450 LDX #&FF
I460 endloop
I470 INX
I480 LDA end,X
I490 JSR osasc1
I500 BNE endloop
I510 JSR inputaddr
I520 LDA #I3
I530 JSR osasc1
I540 \
I550 nextline
I560 JSR address
I570 LDY #0
I580 LDX #7
I590 hexloop
I600 LDA (lobegin),Y
I610 JSR hexout
I620 JSR space
I630 INY
I640 DEX
I650 BPL hexloop
I660 LDA #I34
I670 JSR oswrch
I680 \
I690 LDY #0
I700 LDX #7
I710 ascloop
I720 LDA (lobegin),Y
I730 CMP #32
I740 BCC spot
I750 CMP #I28
I760 BCC jumpover
I770 \
I780 spot
I790 LDA #ASC(" ")
I800 jumpover
I810 JSR oswrch
I820 INY
I830 DEX
I840 BPL ascloop
I850 \
I860 LDA #&0D
I870 JSR osasc1
I880 CLC
I890 LDA lobegin
I900 ADC #8
I910 STA lobegin
```



## Listing I4 I continued

```
I920 BCC nocarry
I930 INC hibegin
I940 nocarry
I950 LDA lobegin
I960 CMP lobyte
I970 BCC nextline
I980 LDA hibegin
I990 CMP hibyte
2000 BCC nextline
2010 \
2020 JSR osnewl
2030 LDX #&FF
2040 goonloop
2050 INX
2060 LDA continue,X
2070 JSR oswrch
2080 BNE goonloop
2090 testkey
2100 JSR osrdch
2110 CMP #ASC("Y")
2120 BNE skipover
2130 JMP language
2140 skipover
2150 CMP #ASC("N")
2160 BNE testkey
2170 \
2180 LDA #26
2190 JSR oswrch
2200 LDA #I2
2210 JSR oswrch
2220 LDA #&BB
2230 JSR osbyte
2240 LDA #&8E
2250 JMP osbyte
2260
2270 \ machine code subroutines
2280
2290 inputaddr
2300 JSR characters
2310 LDA mshigh
2320 JSR check
2330 ASL A
2340 ASL A
2350 ASL A
2360 ASL A
2370 STA temp
2380 LDA mslow
2390 JSR check
```

## Listing I4 I continued

```
2400 ORA temp
2410 STA hbyte
2420 LDA lshigh
2430 JSR check
2440 ASL A
2450 ASL A
2460 ASL A
2470 ASL A
2480 STA temp
2490 LDA lslow
2500 JSR check
2510 ORA temp
2520 STA lbyte
2530 RTS
2540 \
2550 characters
2560 JSR osrdch
2570 JSR osasci
2580 STA mshigh
2590 JSR osrdch
2600 STA mslow
2610 JSR osasci
2620 JSR osrdch
2630 JSR osasci
2640 STA lshigh
2650 JSR osrdch
2660 JSR osasci
2670 STA lslow
2680 RTS
2690 \
2700 check
2710 CMP #58
2720 BCS atof
2730 AND #I5
2740 RTS
2750 atof
2760 SBC #55
2770 RTS
2780 \
2790 space
2800 LDA #32
2810 JMP oswrch
2820 \
2830 address
2840 LDA #I29
2850 JSR oswrch
2860 LDX #lobegin
2870 LDA I,X
```

## Listing I4 I continued

```
2880 JSR hexout
2890 LDA 0,X
2900 JSR hexout
2910 LDA #I30
2920 JSR oswrch
2930 RTS
2940 \
2950 hexout
2960 PHA
2970 LSR A
2980 LSR A
2990 LSR A
3000 LSR A
3010 JSR digit
3020 PLA
3030 digit
3040 AND #I5
3050 CMP #I0
3060 BCC no
3070 ADC #6
3080 no
3090 ADC #48
3100 JMP oswrch
3110
3120 \ ASCII string storage area
3130
3140 copyright
3150 EQU 20202086
3160 EQUW 2020
3170 EQU "(C) Bruce Smith 1986"
3180 EQUB I3
3190 EQUB 0
3200 heading
3210 EQUB I4I
3220 EQUB I3I
3230 EQU 20202020
3240 EQU 20202020
3250 EQU Master Monitor
3260 EQUB I3
3270 EQUB 0
3280 EQUB I4I
3290 start
3300 EQUB I30
3310 EQU "Start &"
3320 EQUB I29
3330 EQUB 0
3340 end
3350 EQUB I30
```

## Listing I4 I continued

```
336Ø EQU$ "      End      &"
337Ø EQU$ I29
338Ø EQU$ Ø
339Ø continue
340Ø EQU$ I3Ø
341Ø EQU$ "Go again (Y/N)? "
342Ø EQU$ Ø
343Ø ]
344Ø NEXT
345Ø ENDPROC
346Ø
347Ø DEF PROCchecksum
348Ø N%=Ø
349Ø FOR X%=&5ØØØ TO &524Ø
350Ø N%=N%+?X%
351Ø NEXT
352Ø IF N%≠7Ø332 THEN ENDPROC
353Ø VDU 7
354Ø PRINT"Assembler error!"
355Ø STOP
```

# Chapter 15

## Errors

When writing any sideways ROM format program that needs input from the user, other than just entering a command name, the ROM code must be capable of identifying what is acceptable and what is not. In the latter case it must signal the fact to the user in the way of an error message.

For example, consider the two-line program

```
10 MODE 2
20 MOVE
```

When BASIC interprets this program it expects to find a number after the MODE command. It looks to find one that is acceptable so performs a mode 2 command. It moves onto the next line and identifies the MOVE command which it expects to be followed by two numbers, variables or expressions for evaluation. In this case it finds none, just a carriage return. Obviously this is not acceptable, so it signals the error message

No such variable at line 20

The BRK command is used on the Master to print error messages. When the MOS sees a BRK it tries to print the string following on the screen until it encounters another BRK. Listing 15.1 shows how the technique works. Enter and run the program.

Lines 50 and 60 simply signal an error with a customary beep. Line 70 assembles the first BRK. Line 80 assembles the error number that you are assigning to the error. Line 90 assembles the error message and

finally line 100 the final BRK instruction In fact we're not so much interested in BRK as its opcode, &00, so EQU 0 is equally as effective as BRK for that purpose Figure 15 1 shows how the error message is stored in memory

Address	Contents	Description
&3000	&A9	LDA#
&3001	&07	7
&3002	&20	JSR
&3003	&EE	&FFEE
&3004	&FF	
&3005	&00	BRK
&3006	&20	Error code
&3007	&54	ASC"T
&3008	&68	ASC"h
&3009	&69	ASC'1"
&300A	&73	ASC's'
&300B	&20	ASC" '
&300C	&69	ASC"1
&300D	&73	ASC"s"
&300E	&20	ASC"
&300F	&61	ASC"a
&3010	&6E	ASC"n
&3011	&20	ASC' '
&3012	&65	ASC"e"
&3013	&72	ASC"r"
&3014	&72	ASC"r'
&3015	&6F	ASC'o
&3016	&72	ASC'r
&3017	&00	BRK

Figure 15 1 Error message storage

When the Master executes a BRK instruction the following events take place The address of the BRK instruction plus 2 is pushed onto the hardware stack, high byte first The status register is pushed onto the stack Interrupts are disabled and the BRK flag is set, ie bit 4 of the status register Execution continues from the address found at &FFFE and &FFFF (In Master 3 20 MOS this is &E59E )

Once here, the following action takes place First the accumulator is saved in location &FC The stack is then pulled into the accumulator - this will be the status register It is then pushed back to leave a copy in the accumulator This is then ANDed with &10 to isolate bit four If the result is not zero then a BRK has occurred - otherwise it was an IRQ and an

appropriate jump to IRQIV is made. The previously pushed address is removed from the stack, has one subtracted from it and stored in locations &FD and &FE. This address now points to the error number, stored directly before the error message. Location &F4 is read to get the currently active ROM and this is copied into &24A. Service call 6 is then issued to each of the ROMs present. On return the currently active language ROM is re-enabled, interrupts are re-enabled and a jump to BRKV is performed.

### Service ROM Errors

Errors within service ROMs are easy to process, however we must bear in mind that the currently active language ROM at this time (BASIC say) would be responsible for handling this error and as such would not expect to find it within another paged ROM. So what the service ROM must do is to copy the error details down into an area of RAM that the language ROM can access. The area of memory reserved for this is in fact the error message buffer located at the very bottom of the hardware stack, &100 upwards. This is easy to do

```

LDY #0           \ BRK opcode
STY &100        \ put it at &100
  errorloop
LDA message,Y   \ get character
STA &101,Y      \ save it on stack
BEQ ifdone      \ exit if 0
INY             \ increment index
BRA errorloop   \ do next byte
  ifdone
JMP &100        \ execute BRK
  message
EQUB 20         \ error number
EQU "Error"     \ error message
EQUB 0         \ terminating BRK

```

Listing 15 2 sets up a service ROM with a single command, \*CONVERT. This will convert the hexadecimal value following it into binary and store the result in zero page locations &70 and &71. Two error conditions can occur here. First, the number may not be a legitimate hex value - this is signalled with the 'Bad hex' error message. Second, only numbers in the range 0 to &FFFF are allowed and so numbers bigger than this must be signalled and rejected with a 'Too big' error. Enter the program and save as 'ERRORI'. Try the program yourself, the hex number should not be prefixed with &

```

*CONVERT          - gives no error
*CONVERT DS       - gives 'Bad hex' error
*CONVERT FFFFFFFF - gives 'too big' error
*CONVERT EF       - is legitimate

```

If you use this command from within a BASIC program you will notice that BASIC will add 'at line xx' onto the end of the error message. This shows that BASIC is extending your error message to make it more explicit and is an example of the sort of responsibility language ROMs can take.

### Language ROMs

As already mentioned, it is the responsibility of the current language ROM to handle any errors that occur within it. This is normally done by pointing BRKV at &202 and &203 to the appropriate handling routine.

What a language ROM does when it receives an error is up to you. As a rule however, it should print out the error message after a BRK so the user at least has some idea as to what is wrong and second to re-initialise the stack pointer.

As we have seen, the vector at &FD is set by the MOS to point to the data immediately after the BRK that caused the error, so printing the error message is straightforward.

```

error
LDY #0           \ initialise index
LDA (&FD),Y     \ get error number
STA errno       \ and save where appropriate

loop
INY             \ increment Y
LDA (&FD),Y     \ get character
BEQ ifdone     \ branch if done
JSR &FFEE      \ print it
BRA loop       \ do next byte
ifdone

```

The stack pointer should be initialised as follows

```

LDX #255
TSX

```

Listing I5 3 produces a language ROM that expects an error! Basically anything other than a RETURN or an "\*" is an error, with a suitable message printed out. If you type in an asterisk, the language, suitably called



ErrorWise, will expect you to enter a star command, such as \*HELP and will pass it to the command line interpreter. Save the program as 'ERROR2' and enter the language with \*ERRORWISE

### ESCAPE

When you write any sort of ROM software you must look to see if the ESCAPE key is pressed. This is even more important if you are looking at the keyboard for data. If you don't then your ROM will lock up, crash if you prefer. All escapes must be acknowledged with an OSBYTE I26

```
LDA #I26
JSR &FFF4
```

There are two ways in which the ESCAPE key can be tested. The best way is to use OSRDCH at &FFE0 to read the keyboard. If ESCAPE is pressed then the carry flag will be set on return so that

BCS escape

as in line I020 of listing I5 3 is acceptable. Less acceptable is to look at location &FF. If bit 7 is set then ESCAPE has been pressed

```
BIT &FF
BMI escape
```

### Error Numbers

If writing a language ROM, you can choose and use your own error numbers. Service ROMs should be more discrete however and use numbers not used by the MegaROM, ie Basic, DFS and ADFS. These can be found in the Advanced Reference Guide published by Acorn.

Listing I5 I Shows how error codes and messages are stored in ROMs

```

I0 REM BRK error demo
20
30 P%=&30000
40 [
50 LDA #7
60 JSR &FFEE
70 BRK
80 EQUB 32
90 EQU "This is an error"
I00 BRK
II0 ]
I20 CALL &30000

```

Listing I5 2 Printing error messages from within a service ROM

```

I0 REM Error Test ROM
20 REM (C) Bruce Smith June 1986
30 REM Advanced SRAM Guide
40
50 lo=&70 h1=&7F
60 PROCassemble
70 PROCchecksum
80 *SRWRITE 5000 +200 8000 7
90 END
I00
II0 DEF PROCassemble
I20 osnewl=&FFE7
I30 FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
I40 P%=&8000 O%=&5000
I50 [
I60 OPT pass
I70 EQUB 0
I80 EQUW 0
I90 JMP service
200 EQUB &82
2I0 EQUB offset MOD 256
220 EQUB I
230 title
240 EQU "Error Test ROM"
250 EQUB 0
260 version
270 EQU " I 00'
280 EQUB 0
290 offset
300 EQUB 0

```

## Listing 15 2 continued

```
310 EQU$ "(C) Bruce Smith"
320 EQU$ 0
330 service
340 CMP #9
350 BEQ help
360 CMP #4
370 BEQ unrecognised
380 RTS
390 \
400 help
410 JSR osnewl
420 LDX #&FF
430 JSR helploop
440 JSR helploop
450 JSR osnewl
460 RTS
470 \
480 helploop
490 INX
500 LDA title,X
510 BEQ finish
520 JSR &FFE3
530 BRA helploop
540 finish
550 RTS
560
570 exit
580 PLY
590 PLX
600 PLA
610 RTS
620 \
630 complete
640 PLY
650 PLX
660 PLA
670 LDA #0
680 RTS
690 \
700 convert
710 EQU$ 'CONVERT'
720 \
730 unrecognised
740 PHA
750 PHX
760 PHY
770 LDX #0
780 loop
```

## Listing 15 2 continued

```
790 LDA (&F2),Y
800 AND ≠&DF
810 CMP convert,X
820 BNE exit
830 INY
840 INX
850 CPX ≠7
860 BNE loop
870 \
880 STZ lo
890 STZ hi
900 \
910 JSR spaces
920 \
930 nextchar
940 LDA (&F2),Y
950 CMP ≠I3
960 BEQ complete
970 CMP ≠ASC" "
980 BEQ end
990 CMP ≠ASC'Ø'
I000 BCC bad
I010 CMP ≠&3A
I020 BCC digit
I030 CMP ≠ASC"A"
I040 BCC bad
I050 CMP ≠ASC"G"
I060 BCS bad
I070 SBC ≠&36
I080 \
I090 digit
I100 ASL A
I110 ASL A
I120 ASL A
I130 ASL A
I140 LDX ≠4
I150 \
I160 aslrol
I170 ASL A
I180 ROL lo
I190 ROL hi
I200 BCS large
I210 DEX
I220 BNE aslrol
I230 INY
I240 BNE nextchar
I250 \
I260 end
```

## Listing 15 2 continued

```

I270 JSR spaces
I280 CMP #I3
I290 BEQ complete
I300 LDX #0
I310 BEQ skipI
I320 bad
I330 LDX #badnum-size
I340 BNE skipI
I350 \
I360 large
I370 LDX #0
I380 skipI
I390 LDY #0
I400 STY &I00
I410 \
I420 transfer
I430 LDA size,X
I440 STA &I0I,Y
I450 BEQ done
I460 INX
I470 INY
I480 BNE transfer
I490 \
I500 done
I510 JMP &I00
I520 \
I530 size
I540 EQUB 20
I550 EQU "ErrorROM Too big"
I560 EQUB 0
I570 badnum
I580 EQUB 28
I590 EQU "ErrorROM Bad Hex"
I600 EQUB 0
I610
I620 loop2
I630 INY
I640 spaces
I650 LDA (&F2),Y
I660 CMP#ASC" "
I670 BEQ loop2
I680 RTS
I690
I700 ]
I710 NEXT pass
I720 ENDPROC
I730
I740 DEF PROCchecksum

```

## Listing I5 2 continued

```

I75Ø N%=Ø
I76Ø FOR X%=&5ØØØ TO &5IØØ
I77Ø N%=N%+?X%
I78Ø NEXT
I79Ø IF N%=28Ø8Ø THEN ENDPROC
I8ØØ VDU 7
I8IØ PRINT"Assembler error'
I82Ø STOP

```

## Listing I5 3 Demonstration of printing and handling errors from within a ROM

```

IØ REM ErrorWise Language ROM
2Ø REM (C) Bruce Smith June I986
3Ø REM Advanced SRAM Guide
4Ø
5Ø osrdch=&FFEØ buffer=&3ØØØ
6Ø brklo=&2Ø2 brkhi=&2Ø3
7Ø PROCassemble
8Ø PROCchecksum
9Ø *SRWRITE 5ØØØ +2ØØ 8ØØØ 7
IØØ END
IIØ
I2Ø DEF PROCassemble
I3Ø osnewl=&FFE7
I4Ø FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
I5Ø P%=&8ØØØ O%=&5ØØØ
I6Ø I
I7Ø OPT pass
I8Ø JMP language
I9Ø JMP service
2ØØ EQUB &C2
2IØ EQUB offset MOD 256
22Ø EQUB I
23Ø title
24Ø EQUB "ErrorWise"
25Ø EQUB Ø
26Ø version
27Ø EQUB " I ØØ"
28Ø EQUB Ø
29Ø offset
3ØØ EQUB Ø
3IØ EQUB "(C) Bruce Smith"
32Ø EQUB Ø
33Ø service
34Ø CMP ≠9
35Ø BEQ help

```

## Listing I5 3 continued

```
360 CMP #4
370 BEQ unrecognized
380 RTS
390 \
400 help
410 JSR osnewl
420 LDX #&FF
430 JSR helploop
440 JSR helploop
450 JSR osnewl
460 RTS
470 \
480 helploop
490 INX
500 LDA title,X
510 BEQ finish
520 JSR &FFE3
530 BRA helploop
540 finish
550 RTS
560
570 exit
580 PLY
590 PLX
600 PLA
610 RTS
620 \
630 command
640 EQU "ERRORWISE"
650 \
660 unrecognized
670 PHA
680 PHX
690 PHY
700 LDX #0
710 loop
720 LDA (&F2),Y
730 AND #&DF
740 CMP command,X
750 BNE exit
760 INY
770 INX
780 CPX #9
790 BNE loop
800 \
810
820 LDX &F4
830 LDA #I42
```

## Listing I5 3 continued

```

840 JMP &FFF4
850
860 language
870 LDA ≠error DIV 256
880 STA brkh1
890 LDA ≠error MOD 256
900 STA brklo
910
920 stackset
930 LDX ≠255
940 TXS
950 CLI
960 JSR &FFE7
970
980 mainloop
990 LDA ≠ASC"="
I000 JSR &FFEE
I010 JSR osrdch
I020 BCS escape
I030 CMP ≠ASC"*"
I040 BEQ star
I050 CMP ≠I3
I060 BNE doerror
I070 JSR &FFE7
I080 BRA mainloop
I090
I100 star
I110 JSR &FFE7
I120 LDA ≠ASC"*"
I130 JSR &FFEE
I140 LDY ≠blk DIV 256
I150 LDX ≠blk MOD 256
I160 LDA ≠0
I170 JSR &FFF1
I180 BCS escape
I190
I200 LDY ≠buffer DIV 256
I210 LDX ≠buffer MOD 256
I220 JSR &FFF7
I230 JMP mainloop
I240
I250 escape
I260 LDA ≠I26
I270 JSR &FFF4
I280 BRK
I290 EQUB I
I300 EQUB "ErrorROM Escape"
I310 EQUB 0

```



## Listing I5 3 continued

```
I320
I330 doerror
I340 BRK
I350 EQUB 2
I360 EQU$ "ErrorROM  Illegal Command"
I370 EQUB 0
I380
I390
I400 error
I410 LDY #I
I420 JSR &FFE7
I430 loop
I440 LDA (&FD),Y
I450 BEQ end
I460 JSR &FFEE
I470 INY
I480 BNE loop
I490 end
I500 JSR &FFE7
I510 JMP stackset
I520
I530 blk
I540 EQUB buffer MOD 256
I550 EQUB buffer DIV 256
I560 EQUB 20
I570 EQUB 32
I580 EQUB I27
I590
I600 ]
I610 NEXT pass
I620 ENDPROC
I630
I640 DEF PROCchecksum
I650 N%=0
I660 FOR X%=&50000 TO &5I08
I670 N%=N%+?X%
I680 NEXT
I690 IF N%=3I28I THEN ENDPROC
I700 PRINT"Assembler error!"
I710 VDU 7
I720 STOP
```

# Glossary

absolute address	an exact address, ie &20000 is an absolute address
absolute workspace	workspace given over to ROMs which may be used freely by all ROMs
accumulator	the main register of the 6502/65I2 microprocessor
ADFS	Advanced Disc Filing System
ANFS	Advanced Network Filing System
assembler	mnemonic language in which assembly language programs may be written Part of the BASIC ROM which converts assembler mnemonics into machine code
auto-boot	pressing the SHIFT and BREAK keys together will allow a previously-written 'BOOT' file to be run directly
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange - the character coding scheme whereby each number, letter or symbol key has its own special code that may be printed to display the character
bank	a sideways RAM bank - one of several areas of memory similar in size and memory address
battery-backed	memory that has a charge applied by a small battery when the machine is turned off thereby preserving its contents

binary	a numbering system to a base of 2 using only the 1 and 0 digits
bit	a single digit in a binary number
boot	to initialise/start-up a computer or program
branch	to move the operation of a program to another point, normally calculated as an offset from the current position
BRK	the assembler mnemonic for the BRK (break) operation
BRKV	vector through which control is passed when the computer executes a BRK instruction
buffer	area of memory used to store incoming/outgoing information
bump	to increment by one
byte	the smallest area of memory - capable of holding a number in the range 0 to 255 inclusive
carry (flag)	flag in the status register used to indicate overflow or underflow during addition or subtraction
channel	memory path along which information is passed
checksum	utility which counts the number of commands in a program This can be compared to a given value
CMOS	Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor - a family of chips with low power consumption
configure	to define a system to personal needs
co-processor	board which fits inside the main case and takes over the computer's main tasks
crash	to cease operating as expected, normally caused by a program malfunction
CRC	cyclic redundancy check - a common error detecting code
debugging	process of weeding out errors in a program
DFS	Disc Filing System controls access of micro to disc drive
directory	a specially-defined area of a disc into which files can be saved
DNFS	Disc Network Filing System - a combined DFS and NFS chip

dump	paper copy (usually) or screen display of memory or file contents
dynamic workspace	memory claimed by ROM for its own use The amount claimed will vary from ROM to ROM and the memory boundary will move, ie, is dynamic
entry point	point in a program where control is transferred to, ie from where it begins its operation
EPROM	Erasable/Programable Read Only Memory - a chip which may be programmed with an EPROM programmer The contents are permanent unless erased by an ultra violet light source
EQUB/EQUW	commands used by the assembler in BASIC 2 and later versions, to assemble specific items of data
error number	code number which defines the last error that occurred Obtained with PRINT ERR
execution address	the point at which control is transferred to carry out the task of the program or command
explode	to load the character set from ROM into main user memory thus allowing it to be changed
extended vector entry	a means whereby a vector may be redirected into ROMs other than the current language thus enabling them to perform tasks along with the current language ROM
filing system	ROM chip that controls the flow of data to and from storage medium such as disc, net or cassette
firmware flag	programs supplied in chip form a byte, bit or variable that is used to signal that a condition has or has not be met with
font	design of the letters in a character set, eg standard, italic, bold etc
garbage	undefined or random memory contents
handle	number assigned to the current file by the filing system

hash header	an abbreviated form of header used in the ROM Filing System, so called because it uses the ≠ symbol
hex	hexadecimal - a number system based on I6
high-level language	language not written in the native language of the computer (ie not machine code)
hang-up	micro becomes unresponsive unless the BREAK or CTRL-BREAK keys are pressed to reset the system
header	section of code containing a CRC and file information at the start of a file stored on a filing medium
H1 language	languages that have been customised to run in a second or co-processor, eg H1-BASIC
hidden RAM	I2k area of memory that is used by the MOS and ROMs It is not available for normal use and hence is 'hidden'
high byte	the upper, higher value byte in a two-byte number
housekeeping	to tidy up and do chores required to keep operation smooth running
id	identifier each ROM slot has an id number associated with it
image	copy of a ROM on disc or cassette, etc
implode	opposite of explode, ie, to use the ROM-based character set
increment	add one to the contents of a number or register
initialise	reset/set before continuing
internal key number	each ASCII character has a specific number for the micro's own use
interpreter	section of machine code that is capable of recognising/ identifying a sequence of ASCII characters
interrupt	signal generated by a chip or external device that stops the microprocessor's operation
IRQ	Interrupt Request - an interrupt that may be ignored by the processor under certain conditions
JMP/JSR	assembler mnemonics JMP is JuMP to a given address, JSR is Jump Save Return, a form of GOSUB

language ROM low byte	ROM containing a language lower value byte of a two-byte number
machine code	native language of all microprocessors
main Tube initialisation masking	main routine used to set up and define the operation of the Tube technique whereby the bits within a byte may be manipulated using a logical operator, eg, AND
megaROM	main sideways ROM within the Master containing all of the ROMs supplied Referred to as the Megabit ROM because of its 128k size (1 million bits)
monitor	watch, observe and alter the contents of memory Software used to watch the operation of a machine code program
OS	Machine Operating System - the firmware that controls the micro
net	network filing systems, eg Econet, whereby machines are linked together via a series of cables and share one main disc drive
FS	Network Filing System
nibble	group of 4 bits, half a byte
MI	Non-Maskable Interrupt - this may not be ignored by the microprocessor
offset pointer	index which, when added to an absolute address, will point to a selected address
opcode	term given to the operation code for a byte of machine code
OPT	variable used to assign the output required during the assembly of a machine code program
SHWM	Operating System High Water Mark - usually the same value as PAGE, but the first byte free for use above the workspace stored at the beginning of memory
PAGE	address at which a program will be stored
paged ROM paging	another term for sideways ROM process of selecting and

parameter block	deselecting sideways ROMs area of memory into which information is stored to pass it to the MOS when an OS call is used
peek	examine memory contents
poke	alter memory contents
polling interrupt	process of ascertaining which device caused an interrupt by asking each one in turn
power-up	switching on the micro
private RAM	memory used privately by a ROM - no other ROM may use the private workspace
pull	remove an item of data from a stack
push	place an item of data on a stack
RAM	Random Access Memory - volatile memory used to store programs and information for use by the computer The contents are erased when power is removed
RAM bank	see bank
register	special location within the microprocessor
reset	initialise the system
second processor	see co-processor
service call	message issued by the MOS The resulting action is defined by a code number in the accumulator
service entry point	point in a ROM through which a service call is processed
service ROM	ROM that is only capable of actioning service calls, ie it does not have a language - only * commands are recognised
sideways RAM	technique whereby ROM images can be switched in and out of the same area of memory
soft reset	reset that is only partial Happens when BREAK key is pressed
stack	area of memory onto which data can be pushed and pulled in the form of a linear list which appears to move up and down on each push and/or pull
static workspace	reserved memory that does not change in size and is available for use by all ROMs (ie the Master

	version of BBC micro's absolute workspace in hidden RAM)
table	list of commands, addresses or data for use by a program
toggle	single command that works like a switch Use of the command will set or reset depending on the current status, ie if set it will reset and vice versa
TOP	BASIC's variable that stores the address of the next free byte after the program
transfer routine	small program or subroutine that will move data from one point to another
Tube	registered trademark of Acorn used to describe the connection mechanism between computer and second or co-processor
type table	table stored in memory in which the ROM type is held by the MOS
USERV	USER Vector address
vector	two-byte location which contains an address
volatile (RAM)	contents are erased when power is removed
workspace	area of memory in which ROMs may perform calculations
X register	store in the 6502/65I2 microprocessor used by assembler
Y register	store in the 6502/65I2 microprocessor used by assembler
zero page	area of memory whose address runs from &00 to &FF
6502 series	family of microprocessors which includes the 6502 and 65I2 chips used in the BBC and Master series



# Appendix A

## Hex and Binary

This book makes no attempt to teach assembly language to readers, and those who are unclear on this topic should look to the books in the reference list. However, as a grasp of assembler and binary techniques is necessary to make the most of this book, a brief summary is given here.

Computers work by manipulating numbers, though in most instances this is transparent to the user, especially in high level languages such as BASIC. However, the numbering system used by computers is not a decimal one. It is based on the binary number system.

In binary there are only two numbers, namely 0 and 1. At first sight this seems to be a severe limitation. But consider a number system that you are familiar with - the decimal system. Here there are just ten digits, 0 to 9 inclusive. However, we can form larger numbers by forming groups of numbers, for example, 12, 345 and 5678 are larger numbers, using the base numbers, 0 to 9, as building blocks. In the same way we can use the base digits 0 and 1 to form larger binary numbers, for example, 01, 1010, 001001 and so forth.

The next step is to learn how these numbers of binary digits, or bits, are read. Again consider the decimal system and the number 1234. As we are working to a base of 10, the value of each digit increases ten fold as we move from right to left. Therefore reading from right to left we have

- 4 units, or  $4 \times 1 = 4$
- 3 tens, or  $3 \times (10 \times 1) = 30$
- 2 hundreds, or  $2 \times (100 \times 1) = 200$
- 1 thousand, or  $1 \times (1000 \times 1) = 1000$

adding this together gives

$$1000 + 200 + 30 + 4 = 1234$$

It is no different in binary except that we are now working to a base of 2, therefore numbers increase by a factor of two as we move from right to left. Consider the binary number 1101. Reading from right to left we have

- 1 unit, or  $1 * 1 = 1$
- 0 twos, or  $0 * (2 * 1) = 0$
- 1 fours, or  $1 * (2 * 2 * 1) = 4$
- 1 eights, or  $1 * (2 * 2 * 2 * 1) = 8$

adding these together gives

$$8 + 4 + 0 + 1 = 13$$

therefore 1101 is 13 in decimal

Each piece of computer memory, into which an item of data can be stored is called a byte. There are eight binary digits in a single byte, or in the jargon, eight bits in a byte. Therefore the largest binary value that can be stored in a single byte is

11111111

If you multiply this out as above you find that this is 255 decimal

Decimal	Binary	Hexadecimal
0	0000	0
1	0001	1
2	0010	2
3	0011	3
4	0100	4
5	0101	5
6	0110	6
7	0111	7
8	1000	8
9	1001	9
10	1010	A
11	1011	B
12	1100	C
13	1101	D
14	1110	E
15	1111	F

Table AF Number conversion

As you can imagine when dealing with computers using a numbering system that is simply lines of ones and zeroes is somewhat long-winded and very prone to error. So a numbering system called hexadecimal was introduced. The hexadecimal system is calculated to a base of 16. This is not as difficult as it may at first seem.

First, we cannot just use the numbers 0 to 9 to represent all possible 16 digits. So to represent the decimal equivalents of 10 to 15 we use the letters A to F inclusive. Table A1 summarises the decimal, binary and hexadecimal equivalents.

Table A1 will enable you to convert any binary number to hexadecimal and vice versa, believe it or not!

If you look at the binary column you will see that I have always used four digits. This is because the largest single hex (short for hexadecimal) digit is represented in four bits, ie F=IIII. I mentioned above that a byte is eight bits wide, therefore the value of a byte can be represented by just two hex digits, simply by converting the byte into two halves and using the above table.

Consider the binary number, IIOOOIOI. Break this into two halves of four bits, called nibbles, and we have

IIOO and OIOI

Use the above table and we see that

IIOO = C and OIOI = 5

therefore IIOOOIOI in binary is C5 in hex. To distinguish that it is a hex number we place an & in front of it, &C5.

To convert a hex number into binary we work in the opposite direction. Thus the number &DA simplifies to

D = IIOI

A = IOIO

therefore &DA = IIOIOIO

Converting between hex and decimal and vice versa is less straightforward. It can be done using the Master. For example, typing

PRINT &DA

would cause the Master to print the decimal equivalent of &DA. Typing

PRINT ~I23

would print the hexadecimal value of the decimal I23.

Obviously we have just dealt with single-byte numbers. But multibyte numbers are converted in exactly the same fashion. Just break the number down into single bytes and then proceed as normal. As an example, the number &CAFE becomes

C = 1100  
A = 1010  
F = 1111  
E = 1110

Therefore &CAFE = 1100 1010 1111 1110. Note that the number is split into its basic nibbles. This makes reading and manipulating it that much easier on the eyes!

# Appendix B

## Conversions and Compatibility: BBC and Electron

The techniques contained in this book are primarily written for the Master series of computers. However, bearing in mind that the BBC series of computers is an evolutionary one and that compatibility is an important feature of that evolution, many programs will run with minimal changes. Certainly the techniques discussed are applicable. The notes that follow will point out the main areas of incompatibility with solutions where possible. Table B1 lists the programs that will work providing suitable adaptations, as detailed below, are performed.

### Assembler

The Master is based on the 65C12 microprocessor chip. This has a slightly better machine code instruction set than the 6502 and 65I2 microprocessors that form the heart of the BBC B and BBC B+ micros. The assembler listings presented here are written to take advantage of the increased instruction set.

Instructions used within listings that are not supported by the 6502 and 65I2 microprocessors in the BBC B, BBC B+ and BBC B+I28 micros are

- PHX - Push X onto stack
- PHY - Push Y onto stack
- PLX - Pull X from stack
- PLY - Pull Y from stack
- STZ - Store zero at location

Program	BBC B+I28k	BBC B+	BBC B
I I	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 2	Yes	Yes	Yes
3 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 2	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 3	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 4	No	No	No
5 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
5 2	Yes *	Yes*	Yes *
6 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 2	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 3	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 4	Yes	Yes	Yes
7 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
8 I	No	No	No
8 2	No	No	No
9 I	No	No	No
I0 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
II I	Yes	Yes	Yes
I3 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
I4 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
I5 I	Yes	Yes	Yes
I5 2	Yes	Yes	Yes

\* Character font must be exploded with \*FX20,6

#### Table BI Program compatibility

However, these are simple to simulate, the equivalents of each are

Master	BBC B,B+,B+I28
PHX	TXA PHA
PHY	TYA PHA
PLX	PHA TAX
PLY	PHA TAY
STZ location	PHA LDA $\neq$ STA location PHA

Assembler options 4 to 7 rely on BASIC 2 in non-Master machines. The only easy way to simulate these in BASIC I is to add an offset to all absolute addresses

```
I0 d%=&3000 P%=&5000
I00 STA base+d%
```

would ensure address in the &8000 range (details later)

Important Note Altering assembler listings will alter the checksum value calculated, so giving an 'Assembler error' message This should be ignored or the checksum calculation routine left out of the program

### Service Calls

The following service calls are unique to the Master series

- &I5 - Polling interrupt
- &I8 - Interactive \*HELP
- &2I - Indicate static workspace in hidden RAM
- &22 - Claim private workspace
- &23 - Top of static workspace
- &24 - Indicate workspace requirements
- &25 - Inform MOS of filing system details
- &26 - Close all files
- &27 - Reset has occurred
- &28 - Unknown \*CONFIGURE
- &29 - Unknown \*STATUS
- &2A - ROM language starting up

Calls &24 and &22 have direct equivalents in calls &I and &2 in the BBC B series computers and these should be used instead, claiming normal RAM as static and private RAM

It is likely that Acorn may release an upgraded version of the MOS to include these calls at a future date In such a case the above calls may well be of use

### BBC B+ I28k

This micro has the same memory arrangements as the Master, except that the hidden RAM is not used as per the Master Refer to your User Guide for possible applications for this space As the BBC B+ I28k contains four I6k banks of sideways RAM, the sideways RAM utilities described, ie \*SRWRITE, \*SRLOAD, \*SRREAD and \*SRSAVE are all implemented However the ROM identities are different, sideways RAM banks have identities W, X, Y and Z Thus references to ROM identities 4,5,6 and 7 in text and listings should be changed to W, X, Y or Z

### BBC B and B+

These micros need to have sideways RAM fitted Consult magazine reviews and advertisements for details on the types available The sideways RAM utilities detailed above are not present, however your RAM board should explain how to transfer ROM images from disc into the RAM In addition

to assembler changes you will need to alter the line containing the sideways RAM utility, typically \*SRWRITE. This need just be changed to a simple \*SAVE to save the code generated by the assembly listing. Thus

```
*SAVE name <start addr> <end addr>
```

where 'name' is the assigned filename. The file can then be loaded into sideways RAM with the appropriate utility. Some sideways RAM boards allow you to assemble directly into the sideways RAM itself. In such cases \*SAVE is not necessary. P% can be set directly to &80000, O% can be omitted and the OPT parameters can be adapted to 0 and 3 thus

```
FOR pass=0 TO 3 STEP 3
```

For assembling in this manner you will need to use a special routine to read the ROM image back into memory prior to saving it to tape or disc. Again your ROM board instruction manual should contain details. If not, simply place the OSRDRM routine at &FFB9 in a suitable loop. Details of this call can be found in Chapter 12.

### Electron

There are some SRAM boards available for the Electron, notably those marketed by Advanced Computer Products (ACP) and Solidisk (incorporated with their Electron DFS - EFS). Both of these require the PlusI to be fitted.

To convert the programs to run then follow the conversion notes above for the BBC B micro. BASIC 2 is fitted on the Electron therefore both OPT and EQU functions are present.

### OPT 4 to 7

BASIC version 4 as supplied with the Master series, and BASIC version 2 as supplied with later versions of the BBC B, B+ and B+ 128k micros contain extra assembly options that cater directly for offset assembly.

It is not normally possible to assemble ROM images into sideways RAM. Straight assembly into other areas of memory is of little use as all absolute addresses will not be correct. Consider the following short segment of assembler

```
FOR pass=0 TO 3 STEP 3
P%=&50000
[OPT pass
start
JMP language
JMP service
```



```

    service
  ] NEXT pass

```

If the label service was offset from start by &52 bytes then the code assembled by JMP service will be the equivalent of

```
JMP &5052
```

This could not be used correctly within sideways RAM The address that should be assembled, needs to be

```
JMP &8052
```

One way around this is to add an offset to all absolute addresses, thus the above code becomes

```

FOR pass=0 TO 3 STEP 3
P%=&5000 D%=&8000-P%
[OPT pass
  start
  JMP language+D%
  JMP service+D%

```

```

    service
  ] NEXT pass

```

Now when JMP service is evaluated it will have &3000 added to it to give the correct address

This is not an elegant and friendly solution The BASIC assembler now caters for this OPTs 4, 5, 6, and 7 are the direct equivalents of OPTs 0, 1, 2, and 3 except that offset assembly takes place Now code is listed on the screen as though it is assembling to P% but in actual fact it is being assembled at the location pointed to by O%

```

FOR pass=4 TO 7 STEP 3
P%=&8000 O%=&5000
[OPT pass
  start
  JMP language
  JMP service

```

```

    service
  ] NEXT pass

```

In the above program machine code is generated correctly for &8000, but is in fact stored at &5000

# Appendix C

## Listings Details

Details of the 25 programs contained in this book are listed below, along with any special commands or procedures they include which could be used in your own programs. The suggested save names in the chapters are also given in brackets.

**Listing 1 I** Simple sideways RAM demonstration (DEMO)  
This listing shows just how easy it can be to produce a sideways RAM image. It does not use assembler, instead it uses machine code as DATA statements.

**Commands added** \*BEEP produces a beep on the speaker  
\*HELP processes a simple \*HELP message  
**Procedures** PROCread reads DATA  
PROCchecksum checks program entered  
**Other features** First use of \*SRWRITE command

**Listing 2 I** Read ROM table address (TABLE)  
Demonstrates use of OSBYTE I70 to read start address of ROM table in RAM

**Listing 2 2** Form ROM header (HEADER)  
Illustrates how a standard ROM header is produced

**Commands added** \*HELP processes a simple \*HELP message  
**Procedures** PROCgetstring inputs title and copyright strings  
PROCassemble assembles header using above information  
**Other features** Illustrates use of service entry

## Listing 3 I Trace ROM (TRACE)

Forms sideways ROM image to show what service calls are being issued by the MOS as and when they are

Other features Binary to ASCII hexadecimal string conversion routine to print service call number as a two-digit hex number

## Listing 4 I Simple \*HELP ROM (HELPI)

Shows how service call 9 is trapped to output a standard \*HELP message defined by the title string of the ROM

Commands added \*HELP processes a simple \*HELP message  
Other features Provides standard print routine for \*HELP response Outputs ROM title string

## Listing 4 2 Print version number on \*HELP (HELP2)

Enhanced version of listing 4 I It prints the ASCII version number in addition to the standard \*HELP message

Commands added \*HELP processes a simple \*HELP  
Other features Recodes \*HELP printing algorithm more efficiently

## Listing 4 3 Extended \*HELP (HELP3)

Shows how to make \*HELP response more informative In addition to printing title string message, it prints a string called 'Command' When \*HELP COMMAND is entered the ROM will respond with a description of commands that would be contained within the ROM image

Commands added \*HELP prints title message version number  
\*HELP COMMANDS prints details of commands that may be held within that ROM

Other features Illustrates use of a simple one-command interpreter Shows how characters may be forced to upper case Uses MOS vector at &F2 Shows how marker bytes may be used Demonstrates how to preserve and restore processor registers This listing is the basis for many in the book

## Listing 4 4 Interactive \*HELP (HELP4)

Shows how service call 24 may be trapped to provide interactive \*HELP messages, perhaps to print more information should it be required by the user

Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version number

Other features Traps service call 24 Asks if you wish more details about the ROM If reply is Y then more information is printed by the print routine, else ROM returns control

## Listing 5 I Test interpreter (INTERP)

Shows how three new commands can be added This demonstrates the standard way of interpreting commands entered at the keyboard

Commands added \*MODERN bleeps speaker initially  
\*STANDARD bleeps speaker initially  
\*ITALICS bleeps speaker  
\*HELP prints title string, version  
\*HELP COMMANDS prints extended help

Other features First use of service call 4 trapping  
Shows construction of command and address table Illustrates use of marker bytes and use of status register flags to indicate where you are in the command table Provides interpreter routine Uses search and compare routine to compare command entered with commands in the command table Provides 'move on' routine to search for next command in table Shows how command execution address may be extracted from command table and jumped to

## Listing 5 2 Command coding (MODERN)

This listing is added to listing 5 I and provides you with a 'modern' style character font that can be used in all modes except mode 7

Commands added \*MODERN selects modern characters  
\*STANDARD reselects standard font  
\*ITALICS produces bleep on speaker  
\*HELP prints title string, version number

Other features Shows how look-up and data tables can be used Routines provided to save and restore zero page workspace onto stack

## Listing 6 I OSBYTE ROM (OSBYTE)

Implements a new OSBYTE call number &64 to convert the binary value in X to a two-digit ASCII hex value returned in X and Y

- Commands added \*HELP prints title and version number  
 \*HELP OSBYTE prints OSBYTE call details
- Other features Traps service call 7 Uses binary to ASCII hex conversion routine

## Listing 6 2 Test new OSBYTE call (OSBTEST)

This routine shows how easy it is to use the new OSBYTE call provided by listing 6 I

## Listing 6 3 OSWORD ROM (OSWORD)

Implements new OSWORD call, number &65, to convert, and, if required, print two binary numbers into a ASCII hex string

- Commands added \*HELP prints title string, version number  
 \*HELP OSWORD prints OSWORD call details
- Other features Two-byte binary to ASCII hex conversion routine Illustrates how to place and extract details from a parameter block How to use sign bytes in parameter block

## Listing 6 4 Test new OSWORD call (OSWTEST)

Shows how to use new OSWORD call provided by listing 6 3

## Listing 7 I Extended vector ROM (VECTOR)

Demonstrates how to set up an extended vector to point into a sideways ROM It resets USERV

- Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version number  
 \*HELP VECTORS prints extended vector details  
 \*ON turns extended vector on  
 \*OFF turns extended vector off
- Other features Shows use of ROM extended vector table Illustrates resetting of MOS vectors to point into a sideways ROM, and how to reset them again

## Listing 8 I Polling interrupt ROM (POLLING)

Shows how to trap service call 2I after \*FX22 issued

- Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version number
- Other features \*HELP POLLING prints polling details  
Shows how interrupts can be caught I00 times per second to increment a counter  
Shows how to increment two-byte number

## Listing 8 2 Print date on reset (TIME)

Traps reset service call, number 39, and uses it to print the date onto the screen Thus each time a hard reset is performed the date will be displayed as well as the standard start-up messages

- Commands added \*HELP prints title string, version number  
\*HELP DATE prints date details
- Other features Reads real time clock using OSWORD &E  
Illustrates trapping of service call 39

## Listing 9 I Configure and status ROM (DATE)

This program adds a new \*CONFIGURE and \*STATUS option to the ones already existing Namely whether or not to display the date on a reset as detailed above

- Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version number  
\*HELP DATE prints configure/status details  
\*CONFIGURE DATE ON/OFF configures date option so it is either on or off  
\*STATUS DATE displays current date status
- Other features Shows use of service calls 40 and 4I and how to use battery-backed bytes allocated to sideways ROM Use of OSWORD &E to read real-time clock

## Listing I0 I Auto-boot ROM (BOOT)

How ROMs may be booted to perform specific tasks by pressing another key in addition to SHIFT-BREAK

- Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version number  
\*HELP BOOT prints Boot options available
- Other features Shows use of service call 3 Provides boot facilities for choosing ROM filing

system and to catalogue disc How to use OSBYTE &8A to insert commands into input buffer

Listing II 1 Private workspace ROM (PRIVATE)  
Claiming and using private ROM workspace in hidden RAM

Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version  
\*HELP COMMANDS prints command details  
\*PUSH saves locations &70 to &8F in private ROM workspace  
\*PULL transfers \*PUSHed bytes from private ROM workspace back into locations &70 to &8F

Other features Shows use of service calls 34 and 36  
How to claim 256 bytes of private ROM workspace within hidden RAM Shows how to use private ROM workspace and ROM workspace table Routines 'writeon' and 'writeoff' supplied to enable hidden RAM workspace to be used

Listing I2 1 Read title string from ROM (READ)  
Demonstrates OSRDRM

Listing I3 1 ROM Filing System (RFS) formatter (ROMFS)  
Converts any BASIC programs into a 16k ROM image  
Programs can be loaded from sideways RAM directly into memory using the ROM filing system (RFS)

Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version

Other features Shows use of service calls I3 and I4  
How to calculate header and program checksum values Formatting of BASIC programs into RFS format

Procedures PROCformat controls main formatting  
PROChandle formats multi-block code  
PROCfilehead forms block header and calculates header check (CRC)  
PROCgetdata reads program from disc and places it in ROM image  
PROChash creates hash header  
PROCassemble assembles machine code to calculate CRC  
PROCromhead assembles ROM header with service calls  
PROCnottape reads file catalogue  
PROCsave saves ROM image to disc, etc

Listing I3 2 Hex and ASCII dump utility (DUMPER)

## Listing I4 I MASMOM language ROM (MASMOM)

How to write a simple language ROM The example is MASMOM the Master Monitor, a machine code hex and ASCII dump program

Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version  
\*MASMOM enters the language ROM

Other features Shows use of language entry point Use of OSBYTE &8E Hex and ASCII dump routine How to convert ASCII hex string into a two-byte binary number

## Listing I5 I BRK errors (BRK)

Small assembly language program showing how error codes and error messages are stored within ROMs

## Listing I5 2 Error test ROM (ERRORI)

How to print error messages from within a service ROM

Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version  
\*CONVERT converts following hex number into a two-byte binary value

Other features Supplies two new errors  
ErrorROM Too Big, greater than &FFFF  
ErrorROM Bad Hex, number not hex  
Sets up error table and shows use of error numbers Uses stack as error buffer and provides routine to copy message from ROM onto stack

## Listing I5 3 Errorwise language ROM (ERROR2)

How to print and handle errors from within a language

Commands added \*HELP prints title string and version  
\*ERRORWISE enters language ROM

Other features Shows how to claim BRKV  
How to restore ROM after an error  
How to implement OSCLI within a ROM  
Further example of a language ROM

Program Disc

Note that all these programs are available on a disc from Victory Publishing Please turn to order form after the Index



# Appendix D

## Links

When you receive your Master, the sideways RAM is set up and ready to use. However, if you wish to use any of the internal ROM sockets this can only be done at the loss of some SRAM. The option you decide to take up is defined by the position of two links inside the Master's case on the main circuit board. The links are LK18 and LK19.

To change the links you will need to remove the top of the Master case - this is done by undoing the four fixing screws marked 'fix' on the underside. With the lid removed and the keyboard facing you the four ROM slots can be clearly seen to the right side immediately

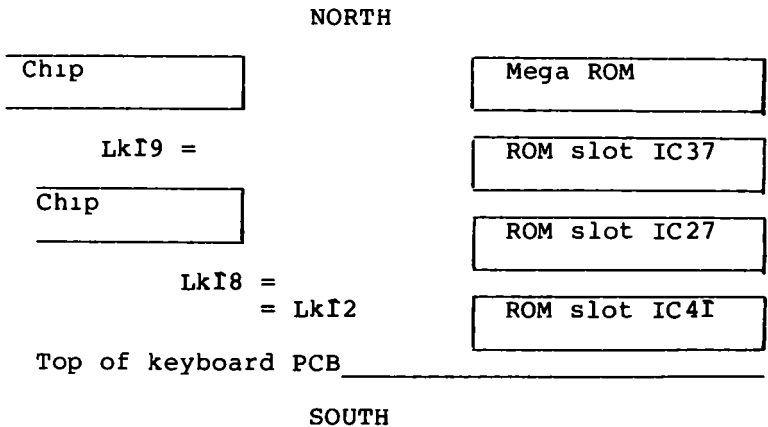


Figure DI Position of links on circuit board

above the keyboard The MegaROM can be clearly seen in the topmost of these sockets Link LKI9 can be found to the left and slightly below the MegaROM while link LKI8 is to the left of the bottom most 'empty' ROM socket, and above link LKI2 The links are marked on the main circuit board in white Take a look at figure D1

### Link I8

When fitted in the WEST position, this link cause I6k of RAM to appear in each of the SRAM memory slots numbers 6 and 7 When fitted in the EAST position, a ROM up to 32k in size occupying slots 4 and 5 may be plugged into the socket labelled IC4F

### Link I9

When fitted in the WEST position, this link will allow I6k of SRAM to appear in slots 4 and 5 When fitted in the EAST position a ROM up to 32k may be plugged in socket IC37 The ROM will occupy slots 6 and 7

### Link Geography

Link settings are referred to by points of the compass With the keyboard facing you, south is nearest, north is to the rear, west is to the left and east is to the right Most links consist of three pins and a shorting link of two pins is placed across the central pin to one on either side If a link is made WEST then the shorting link is placed on the west or leftmost of the three pins Similarly if a link is made east, the shorting pins are placed across the rightmost of the three links Figure D2 shows this

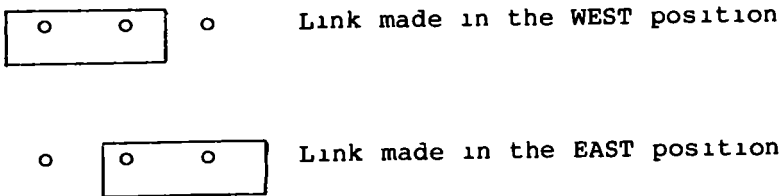


Figure D2 Link settings

Note also that all the chips on the circuit board are placed with the half-moon at one end facing north

# Appendix E

## Postscript

Since writing and preparing this text the following items have come to light prior to going to press

### Interactive Help

This service call is primarily intended for use with networks. On receiving the call, the ANFS will look at the fileserver for a file called 'HELP' and run this. With the ANFS installed the service call may not get passed to sideways ROMs of a lower priority.

### Language ROMs

If you try to boot a language ROM that does not conform strictly to the protocols defined in this book then the MOS will respond with the error message

'This is not a Language'

and refuse to boot the ROM. The most common culprit is the use of a lower-case 'c' rather than the required upper-case 'C' to form the copyright string.

### OSWORD Calls

Two OSWORD calls are provided to allow emulation of \*SRREAD, \*SRWRITE, SRLOAD and SRSAVE from machine code programs - details are as follows

OSWORD 66 (&42)	Block transfer to/from SRAM (performs *SRREAD and *SRWRITE)
Parameter block	
XY+Ø	bit7 - Ø to read SRAM
	bit7 - I to write to SRAM

```

        bit6 - 0 for absolute addressing
        bit6 - 1 for psuedo addressing
        bits 0-5 - all at 0
XY+1 <LSB of start address>
XY+2
XY+3
XY+4 <MSB of start address>
XY+5 <LSB of block length>
XY+6 <MSB of block length>
XY+7 <ROM id>
XY+8 <LSB of sideways address>
XY+9 <MSB of sideways address>

```

On exit, the parameter block remains unchanged Note that ROM ids W,X,Y and Z for the BBC B+I28 are denoted by the values &I0, &I1, &I2, &I3 respectively

NB LSB = least significant byte  
MSB = most significant byte

OSWORD 67(&43) Block save to/from SRAM  
(performs \*SRLOAD and \*SRSAVE)

Parameter bock

```

XY+0 bit7 - 0 to save from SRAM
        bit7 - 1 to load into SRAM
        bit6 - 0 for absolute addressing
        bit6 - 1 for pseudo addressing
XY+1 <LSB of file name address>
XY+2 <MSB of file name address>
XY+3 <ROM id>
XY+4 <LSB of start address>
XY+5 <MSB of start address>
XY+6 <LSB of file length> - save only
XY+7 <MSB of file length>
XY+8 <LSB of buffer start address>
XY+9 <MSB of buffer start address>
XY+I0 <LSB of buffer length>
XY+I1 <MSB of buffer length>

```

On exit, the parameter block remains unaltered unless the buffer addresses cause it to be overwritten during file transfer The buffer relates to the area of memory used to save file blocks during the transfer to or from the filing system If the bytes at XY+I0 and XY+I1 are set to zero then the default buffer is used, using any start address specified in XY+8 and XY+9 - this is the equivalent operation of \*SRLOAD or \*SRSAVE without specifying a Q parameter, ie a slow transfer is performed If the value in XY+I0 and XY+I1 is a value between 1 and 32768 then the specified number of bytes are used for the buffer starting at the buffer start

address given in XY+8 and XY+9. If the value in XY+I0 and XY+I1 is greater than 32768 then a buffer that runs from OSHWM to just below the screen is used for the transfer. This is the equivalent of specifying a Q parameter.

As with OSWORD, 66 ROM ids W, X, Y and Z are represented by &I0, &I1, &I2 and &I3 respectively.

### OSBYTE Calls

Two OSBYTE calls are implemented for use with SRAM, these are calls 68 and 69.

#### OSBYTE 68(&44) Test RAM presence

This call simply allows you to test if each of the four SRAM banks are present, ie if they can be used. SRAM cannot be used if PCB links are altered (Appendix D).

Entry parameters none

Exit parameters the X register returns a value in the least significant four bits to indicate which banks are present. If the bit is set the bank is present, if clear it is absent. The corresponding bits are

bit	bank
0	4
1	5
2	6
3	7

#### OSBYTE 69(&45) Test use of SRAM bank

This call allows use of each of the four SRAM banks, ie if they are being used in pseudo or absolute mode.

Entry parameters None

Exit parameters the X register returns a value in the least significant four bits to indicate the operation mode. If the bit is set pseudo addressing is being used, if clear, absolute addressing. The corresponding bits are

bit	bank
0	4
1	5
2	6
3	7

### \*INSERT and \*UNPLUG

To prevent clashes of ROM commands it is possible to 'remove' ROMs under software control - this is done with \*UNPLUG. The command should be followed by the ROM id, ie \*UNPLUG 7. \*INSERT will 'plug' the ROM back in - \*INSERT 7. A CTRL-BREAK will complete the process.

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The following books and articles are recommended reading

Title           The Advanced Disc User Guide  
 Author         Colin Pharo  
 Publisher      Cambridge    Microcomputer Centre  
 Price         £14 95  
 Comments      Good detailed description of the Acorn DFS  
               Contents apply to 8271 disc controller chip

'Chatting with a chip' by David Atherton   Details  
 differences between 8271 and 1770 disc controllers  
 Published in Acorn User July 1986   Pages 143, 144, 145  
 Back issues available from   Redwood Publishing, 141-143  
 Drury Lane, London, WC2B 5TF Describes how the 1770 works  
 and in particular its 8271 emulation

Title           Mastering Practical Interpreters and Compilers  
 Author         Bruce Smith  
 Publisher      BBC Publications  
 Price         £14 95 (published April 1987)  
 Comments      A book describing the writing of languages and  
               compilers   Practical examples are given  
               throughout and include a graphics language  
               (Grafrite) and a compiler that will compile to  
               stand-alone machine code

Title           BASIC ROM User Guide  
 Author         Mark Plumley  
 Publisher      Adder Publishing  
 Price         £9 95  
 Comments      A good description of how BASIC works   Contents  
               are limited to BASIC 1 and 2, but are applicable  
               to later versions of BASIC though the routine  
               addresses will have changed

Title           Advanced User Guide  
 Authors        Bray, Dickens and Holmes  
 Publisher      Cambridge Microcomputer Centre  
 Price         £14 95  
 Comments      Limited to BBC B but still a useful guide

Title           Mastering Assembly Language  
 Author         Richard Vialls  
 Publisher      BBC Publications  
 Price         £8 95

Addendum

Chapter 4 All ROMs should respond to the command \*HELP and provide full extended help details and lists

Chapter 7 Location &D9F is used (page 83) to gain the start address for extended vectors The 'legal' way to do this is to use OSBYTE &A8 However, since Acorn uses &D9F in ROMs I feel it is safe to use the 'illegal' method'

Chapter 9 See note on page 111

Chapter 10 It is not necessary to press the CTRL key when auto-booting ROMs, with a key-BREAK combination Pressing key-BREAK is sufficient Page 121 and 122 \*DISC could be selected more elegantly using OSBYTE &8F, Y=&12, X=4 Similarly \*CAT via the OSFSC vector with A=5 (page 97) \*ROM can be done with OSBYTE &8D

Chapter 11 The use of memory from &100 upwards (ie the error message buffer) to act as a temporary store for the contents of memory &70 to &8F by listing 11 1 has been described as 'untidy', and that it would be better to push the contents onto the top of the stack directly This is not necessarily so - pushing directly onto the stack creates problems in that the command \*PUSH could not be used from within a subroutine as the top of stack contents will have changed Error messages when issued by service ROMs will overwrite the pushed data, but as the program will exit this is of no importance Of course the effect of a \*PUSH would be to render REPORT useless However, I would remind readers of the philosophy of this book (page 10)

Listing 11 1 uses memory locations &38 and &39 as a vector This is fine when BASIC is the main language resident or if you are writing your own language ROM However, it should be avoided in service ROMs The user locations &70 to &8F inclusive are an alternative Use of &F2 and &F3 is acceptable or better still the 'official' workspace locations &A8 to &AF

Appendix B The BRA instruction can be replaced with JMP to run on a BBC B or Electron

General

Some confusion has occurred over the clearing of the accumulator after a service call is trapped In general the accumulator should only be cleared with zero (ie LDA &0) if the service call is not to be passed onto another ROM (ie if a command is identified on service call 4) On the other hand, it should not be cleared on service calls 1,2,9,15,16,34,35,36,37,38,39 and 42



Discs

Long listings mean tired eyes and fingers So avoid the strain and the pain and treat yourself to a copy of the programs listing disc The Master 128 and Compact discs contain several extra listings showing the new OSBYTE and OSWORD calls in action All discs (including the BBC version) include a ROM image combining many of listings into a single ROM image The following versions are available

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