



PRESS Y FOR ANOTHER GO



Christopher Leigh presents a new version of a favourite shoot-'em-up using sprites in glorious colour.

SPACE EGGS

position — top left = 0, 0 — whilst the cursor must be reset to the logical position — top left = 1, 1 — hence the extra increment instructions.

The second and third routines control the sprites and are called using Resident System Extension (RSX) commands. Move and Erase must be preceded by the elongated colon — shift @ — and IMove must be followed by a comma and its parameter which is the address of the first byte of the move data for the sprite.

The screen is 80 bytes wide and the sprite routines divide it into 50 half lines high, so that each sprite unit is a quarter of a Mode 1 character. These routines can cope with sprites of any size and — with slight alterations — of any shape. All our sprites will be set in a square sprite shape definition, but since zero bytes are not written to the screen — making the sprite transparent — the sprite can be any shape within that framework.

As written the procedure allows full wrap-around, adjusting for sprites being partly off a screen edge. Again fairly simple alterations will allow sprites to bounce.

I Erase simply erases a sprite and turns it

off. I Move works by calculating the old sprite position and then writing it with an ink mask of zero to rub it out, then calculating the new position and writing with the ink mask given in the move data.

This ink mask can be set to produce pure colours or colour mixtures for a whole sprite. The new position is calculated by adding the speed components to the old position and then ensuring it is on the screen. The move data also includes the address of the shape data for a particular sprite and a collision byte. This collision byte is the last non zero byte read off the screen when writing the sprite. This allows us to know if it is on top of anything and also what it is n top of.

The move data consists of nine bytes formatted thus: on/off flag, right position, down position, right speed, down speed, ink mask, shape address low, shape address high, collision byte. I Move will, in fact, move every sprite, whose on/off flag is one, in the block of move data and the routine is stopped by a value of two. The shape data address can be altered to change the shape of a sprite during the game as is done to rotate your space ship.

The first byte of the shape data is the size of the sprite in quarters. The rest of the shape data comprises bytes made up in the same way as characters are plotted on the screen in Mode 1.

As already suggested, I Move only needs to be called once a game cycle to move everything. Printing of score and bonus is done once a second by calling the routine at line 200. All that remains is to read the keys, produce sound effects, check for collisions and keep the bullets firing.

For the sake of speed the last two requirements are covered by two routines tailored for this game. Collision checking is done by reading the collision flags of each sprite and by checking for identical positioning. The latter is only needed for a stationary sprite.

Eight bullets are allowed on screen at any time so as each is fired the one eight back must be erased. Key checking is left in Basic so that you can easily change the program to suit your fingers, and the speed can be changed using p% in 1070 and 4010.

Note that your subspace thrusters always work in the direction you are pointing so that once moving you need to turn round in order to slow down. Remember your hyper space dive is kaput so using it could well land you in the middle of one of those eggs or in the firing line of your own bullets. The faster you shoot the aliens the larger the bonus — if you take too long your bonus will become negative having a disastrous effect on your score!

Should you wish to start firing immediately without typing in the lengthy data, you should send £3 for a tape to C.J. Leigh, 12 The Bassetts, Cashes Green, Stroud, Glos GL5 4SJ. Ask for Space Eggs and don't forget your name and address.

Listing 2.

E5	ORIGIN A34A	C5	PUSH BC
F5	PUSH HL	D5	PUSH DE
CD1ABC	PUSH AF ;save cursor position	0604	LD B,04 ;stretch to 4 bytes
F1	CALL BC1A ;save character code	AF	XOR A
EB	POP AF ;SCR_CHAR_POSITION	CB21	SLA C ;first pixel
EB	EX DE,HL ;screen address in DE	3002	JRNC 02 ;pixel to screen byte
CDA5BB	CALL BBA5 ;TXT_GET_MATRIX	F6CC	OR A,CC ;mask pen 3
0607	LD B,07 ;only top 7 rows	CB21	SLA C ;next pixel
4E	CHRRW LD C,(HL) ;character byte		

(continued on page 67)

(continued from page 65)

3802	JRNC 02		E1	POP HL	
F633	OR A,33	;other half of byte	23	INC HL	;next character byte
12	LD (DE),A	;byte to screen	C1	POP BC	;recover row count
13	INC DE	;next screen address	10DE	DJNZ CHRROW	;next character row
10EF	DJNZ BYTE	;back for next pixel	E1	POP HL	;recover cursor position
D1	POP DE	;screen address	24	INC H	
E5	PUSH HL	;save matrix address	24	INC H	
210008	LD HL,800		24	INC H	
19	ADD HL,DE	;next screen row	2C	INC L	;reposition cursor
EB	EX DE,HL	;back in DE	C375BB	JP BB75	;TXT_SET_CURSOR

Listing 3.

010EA4	LOGON	LD BC,JMPTAB	;set up new commands	FE30	CP 30	;off screen bottom?
210AA4		LD HL,BUFFER	;system workspace	3802	JR C,02	
CDD1BC		CALL BCD1	;KL_LOG_EXT	D630	SUB 30	
C9		RET		CB3F	SRL A	;divide by two
00000000	BUFFER	DEFS 4		3002	JR NC,02	
16A4	JMPTAB	DEFW NMETAB	;command names address	1620	LD,20	;middle of line
C3ECA4		JP ERASE		6F	LD L,A	
C320A4		JP MOVE		2600	LD H,00	;prepare to multiply
4D524153		DEFM *ERAS*		F1	POP AF	
C5		DEFB *E*+80		D5	PUSH DE	
4D4F56		DEFM *MOV*		29	ADD HL,HL	;times two
C5		DEFB *E*+80		29	ADD HL,HL	
00		NOP	;end marker	29	ADD HL,HL	
DD2100A5	MOVE	LD IX,A500		29	ADD HL,HL	
1049		JR CHKEND		19	ADD HL,DE	;times sixty four
21CAA4	NEXSPR	LD HL,MASK+1		19	ADD HL,DE	;times eighty
3600		LD (HL),0		D1	POP DE	;half line offset
DD7E01		LD A,(IX+1)	;right position	19	ADD HL,DE	
000000		DEFS 3	;for MC_WAIT_FLYBACK	16C0	LD D,C0	;start of screen
CD79A4		CALL WRISPR	;erase old sprite	5F	LD E,A	;right position
21CAA4		LD HL,MASK+1		19	ADD HL,DE	;screen address
DD7E05		LD A,(IX+5)	;sprite mask	D1	POP DE	;data address
77		LD (HL),A		3E04	LD A,04	;four lines a block
DD7E02		LD A,(IX+2)	;down position	F5	PUSH AF	
DD8604		ADD A,(IX+4)	;down speed	C5	PUSH BC	;width parameters
F246A4		JP P,02		E5	PUSH HL	
C630		ADD 30	;ensure positive	1A	LD A,(DE)	
FE30		CP 30		FE00	CP 00	
3802		JR C,02		280C	JR Z,ZERO	;ignore zero bytes
D630		SUB 30	;not too large	7E	LD A,(HL)	;screen byte
DD7702		LD (IX+2),A	;new down position	FE00	CP 00	;check collision
DD7E01		LD A,(IX+1)	;right position	2803	JR Z,03	
DD8603		ADD A,(IX+3)	;right speed	DD7700	LD (IX+8),A	;collision flag
F25AA4		JP P,02		1A	LD A,(DE)	;sprite byte
C650		ADD 50	;ensure positive	E6FF	MASK	AND FF
FE50		CP 50		77	LD (HL),A	;write screen
3802		JR C,02		13	ZERO	INC DE
D650		SUB 50	;not too large	23	INC HL	;next data
DD7701		LD (IX+1),A	;new right position	0D	DEC C	;next screen byte
DD360000		LD (IX+8),00	;clear collision flag	200B	JR NZ,ROOM	;room for sprite
CD79A4		CALL WRISPR	;write new sprite	D5	PUSH DE	
110900	MOVEON	LD DE,09		AF	XOR A	
DD19		ADD IX,DE	;check next sprite	115000	LD DE,0050	
DD7E00	CHKEND	LD A,(IX+0)		ED52	SBC HL,DE	;start of line
1F		RRA	;sprite on?	D1	POP DE	
38B1		JR C,NEXSPR		10E0	ROOM	DJNZ BYTE
1F		RRA	;no more sprites?	E1	POP HL	
30F2		JR NC,MOVEON		010000	LD BC,0800	
C9		RET		09	ADD HL,BC	;next screen line
F5	WRISPR	PUSH AF	;save right position	C1	POP BC	
D650		SUB 50		F1	POP AF	
ED44		NEG		3D	DEC A	;four lines
4F		LD C,A	;room for sprite	20D3	JRNZ,LINE	
DD6602		LD H,(IX+2)	;down position	F1	POP AF	
DD5E06		LD E,(IX+6)	;shape data address	E1	POP HL	
DD5607		LD D,(IX+7)	;shape high byte	24	INC H	
1A		LD A,(DE)	;size of sprite	2D	DEC L	
47		LD B,A	;width	20A2	JRNZ,VERT	;next vertical block
6F		LD L,A	;height	C9	RET	
13		INC DE		D5	ERASE	PUSH DE
F1		POP AF	;right position	21CAA4		LD HL,MASK+1
E5	VERT	PUSH HL		3600		LD (HL),00
F5		PUSH AF		DDE1		POP IX
D5		PUSH DE		DD360000		LD (IX+0),00
110000		LD DE,0000		DD7E01		LD A,(IX+1)
F5		PUSH AF		C379A4		JP WRISPR
7C		LD A,H	;down position			