Applied Apple Graphics

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Forer, Pip.

Applied Apple graphics.

Bibliography: p. Includes index.

1. Computer graphics. 2. Apple II (Computer)—Programming. I. Title.

T385.F65 1984 001.64'43 83-19171

ISBN 0-13-039289 8 (pbk.) ISBN 0-13-039330 4 (disk & pbk. package)

ISBN 0-13-039297 9 (disk ISBN 0-13-039355 X (disk & case package)

British Library Cataloging in Publication Data

Forer, P

Applied Apple graphics

Computer graphics

2. Apple (computer)

I. Title

001.64'43 T385

ISBN 0-13-039289 8 (pbk.)

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For permission within the United States contact Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

ISBN 0-13-039289 8 {884}

ISBN 0-13-039297 9 {DISK}

ISBN 0-13-039330 4 {PBK &{DISK}

ISBN 0-13-039355 X {CASE & DISK}

Prentice-Hall International, Inc., London
Prentice-Hall of Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney
Prentice-Hall Canada Inc., Toronto
Prentice-Hall of India Private Ltd, New Delhi
Prentice-Hall of Southeast Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore
Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey
Prentice-Hall do Brasil Ltda, Rio de Janeiro
Whitehall Books Ltd, Wellington, New Zealand

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Typeset in Great Britain by Parkway Illustrated Press, Abingdon Printed in the United States of America

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Preface

This book and its disk are about microcomputer graphics and their uses. While the book works at a practical level with a single machine, the Apple II+, Apple IIe and Apple variants compatible with this version, the general emphasis of the text is on the wider ideas behind graphics use.

One of the arguments behind this book is that graphics and the cheap computer can have revolutionary effects on how we present information, handle our personal accounting, amuse ourselves and impart knowledge to our children and each other. Part of this revolution is not that we can do new things but that we can do old things at a new order of speed. It is no discovery to draw a graph, for instance, but to be able to do so with so little effort transforms the use we make of this particular tool for viewing information.

The real appreciation of graphics applications can only come when a user sits down and experiments with different graphics uses and tries to make up his or her own. I love books, but saying what can be done with graphics through the pages of a book can only partly convey the overall possibilities of the computer medium. To circumvent the limitations of the book as a medium, almost all of the examples discussed in the text are on the disk that comes with this book.

To the extent that a book such as this is a journey, the author must give his reader some idea of where the journey starts and where he hopes it may lead. The starting point for the reader is a simple working knowledge of a microcomputer BASIC, including arrays and alphanumeric strings. Any microcomputer BASIC will do, although as you might expect, you will find it simplest if you know an Applesoft BASIC as used on the Apple II.

You will not need to know any graphics commands to start with. Nor will you need to know any machine language. Although we shall come to use commands such as POKE, PEEK and CALL for limited purposes, in general this book is set up for BASIC users. It is assumed that you want to learn to use graphics with as few immediate extra obstacles as possible, and only at a later date may wish to go for the speed of alternative languages.

You should not need a microcomputer by your side to benefit from the main points of this book. However, in writing about graphics one tailors one's points to a typical system one imagines the reader to have. The first few chapters work on the basis of an Apple II with high and low resolution color graphics, 48K RAM memory and a single disk drive. Although other peripherals are discussed later, and some of the applications in Chapter 7 require a second disk drive, this disk works on such a configuration, with a $5\frac{1}{4}$ " floppy disk operating under DOS 3.3.

The chapters that follow develop the theme of the multiple uses of graphics, and seek to provide readers with the techniques to employ some of these uses for themselves. For a start microcomputer graphics are put into a wider context of the development of graphics systems. The different views of high and low resolution

xiii

xiv PREFACE

graphics and character graphics are discussed. Most importantly the types of graphic use are set down and form a basis for the later chapters. These take the reader through the use of simple graphics commands drawing static pictures to the linking of data to graphics and the production of graphs and maps. On the way through this some simple ideas of data-banking are introduced and the examples cover software to set up a limited data bank and to recall and graphically present its contents. The question of animation is raised later, as are the educational uses of graphics. This permits a brief introduction to the PILOT language. Finally, the possibilities offered by peripherals that may not be generally available to the reader are covered. This includes both input and output devices.

You will be aware that many software packages exploiting the graphics potential of the Apple are now commercially available. Travelling through this book we will refer to these as they are relevant. The end of our journey is hopefully to leave you with a better idea of what you and your machine can do, and what further things could be done with an additional investment in hardware or authoring software.

IN SUMMARY

What This Book Does

- Provides a general introduction to microcomputer graphics over a very wide range of applications (not just arcade games or analytic geometry).
- Concentrates on one machine.
- Concerns itself with BASIC examples (although it discusses a variety of graphics options).
- Provides an overview of the analytic geometry needed for 3-D perspective work.
- Introduces existing software utilities for doing particular jobs quickly, with a particular emphasis on how to evaluate such packages.
- Discusses means of upgrading your graphics with new hardware and new languages.
- Provides a disk with working programs and suggestions on projects for them.

What It Does Not Do

- It does not cover assembler or machine-based approaches to any depth (but it will tell you what you can gain and provide references to seek further help).
- It does not provide a complete set of working graphics utilities for every graphics need. (At the latest count that would need at least 47 disks.)
- It does not provide a review of software released last week (no book can . . . but this one will tell you what to look for in a good utility).
- It does not oversell microcomputer graphics by discussing applications that the machine is unsuitable for.

What To Do With The Disk

BACK UP YOUR DISK

The first requirement of having this disk is to back it up so you have a secure copy in case your working disk corrupts for some reason. This is doubly necessary for Applied Apple Graphics since the examples suggested in the text involve modification of some programs. You may wish to replace original version of these programs by modified programs on your working copy of the disk. Therefore you need both a master and working copy of the disk so that you can always recreate the original disk from the master at any time and rework your Applied Apple Graphics examples.

Backing up the entire disk is a simple operation since the disk does not use any proprietary protection techniques. It is in most ways a completely standa.d Apple DOS 3.3 disk.

To back up the entire disk use the COPYA disk copying program on the DOS 3.3 Systems Master Disk that is supplied with each disk drive system. Simply:

Insert the DOS Systems Master Disk.
Enter the Commands RUN COPYA and RETURN

Respond to the prompts from the program as detailed in the DOS Manual (pp. 38–40). This is very straightforward if you have two disk drives. If you have only one then specify both source and copy disk drives as the same (normally slot 6 drive 1). It is then necessary to change the disks in the drives several times during the operation. To make sure that you have no problems do *not* remove the write protect tab on your master copy of the *Applied Apple Graphics* disk with either 1 or 2 disk copying. This will ensure that you do not corrupt the master by having it in the wrong drive or entered at the wrong time.

Keep the master disk in a safe place and use only the back-up.

To be doubly sure that you do not lose a working version of Applied Apple Graphics repeat this back-up procedure if ever your working copy gets corrupted.

COPY SPECIFIC FILES TO A DISK WITH SPACE IF NEEDED

The Applied Apple Graphics disk uses almost the entire storage area on the disk. Since you may want to use certain programs with your own data or routines you may want to transfer individual files across from the master disk or the back-up. For

this you should use the program FID (DOS manual pp. 184–189). Simply place the DOS System Master disk in the disk drive and enter

BRUN FID and RETURN

Choose the copying option from the menu displayed (option 1). This will copy any file on the disk which is type A, B or T. However we have tailored the catalog listing to emphasize the relationship of the chapters to the programs. This has meant that various 'dummy' (S) files have been inserted. Trying to copy these will terminate the copy sequence on FID. You therefore can not use the automatic wild card option to copy XallY named files (i.e. respond = to the question 'What Filename' and N to the query 'Do You Want Prompting'). The FID program will recognize the names of these dummy files alright (so you can = XwithY prompts) but will interrupt on an error condition if you try to copy them.

Like most programs of any complexity many of these programs require a suite of programs, such as companion data files and SHAPE tables, to be present on disk at the time of running. Check with the program notes in the book just which combinations of files will have to be copied to get any one application to run.

READ THE REMS AND LOOK AT THE LISTS

Unlike many computer texts this book is not taken up with a lot of listings. The idea of providing book and disk makes this practice rather redundant. To have bought or borrowed this book you almost certainly have a computer that can LIST and you probably have a printer that can PRINT. Consequently, only the introductory programs or those developed step by step in the text are printed in the book. You have all the rest at your disposal anyway.

The programs are set up with REM remarks that use CNTRL/J to space the listings. These REMs indicate the crucial components of the programs and their main functional blocks. They complement both the program notes sited in the text and the parts of the text dealing with the particular topic being illustrated. For instance, the simple animation demonstrations are best understood by reference to the section on animation, the panel on the ANIMATOR programs and the REMs in the listing itself. The book and disk have designed to work together and will work best if you use them together.

USE THE PROGRAMS AS BASES FOR YOUR EXPERIMENTS

You are encouraged to use these programs and modify them to your personal needs or to transform them into programs for doing things you wish to do. However,

copyright applies to the disk as provided to you, and you are not authorized to copy the disk entire or in portions except for personal use.

The only proprietary software on this disk are the fast unpacking, screen drawing routines, color fills and animation package used in the opening sequences. These are provided from the Graphics Magician by Penguin Software. This software is used under the licence offered by Penguin Software with this package. Full documentation and the editing programs comprising this utility can be obtained from Penguin Software. Their address is provided in the list at the back of this book.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS ON THE DISK

In producing this book I have had a philosophy that Apple graphics can be approached at three levels. Firstly, there are many tasks for the user which can be handled with skilful application of the standard Applesoft BASIC and a knowledge of the finer points of graphics. Secondly, many more tasks can be handled by using utilities that are interfaceable with Applesoft or some other standard Apple language in one way or another. Finally, some tasks and a minority of users will want customized graphics requiring considerable work with assembler or special processing hardware

The programs on the disk that accompanies this book are aimed largely at the first level of Apple graphics.

There are two sorts of programs on the disk: those that illustrate simple qualities of Apple graphics and those that provide a simplified idea of how a graphics application might be programmed. None of these programs are professional in the functional way. Professional applications software spends most of its time guarding the user from himself by preventing or trapping various error conditions. Such programs are user transparent and safe but structurally more complicated by the demands imposed on their design.

It is hoped that the programs on the disk are professional in another way: they aid understanding. User transparency is a minor priority for this. The main aim is structural clarity. Consequently, if you are an experienced BASIC programmer, think twice before you condemn the fact that an incorrect input can crash some of these programs, or that the fastest programming option is not always taken. The programs have been designed to include the necessities, nicely parcelled into a recognizable structure (or at least as recognizable a structure as simple BASIC allows).

Many have been deliberately left with potential for development. Learning is a sequential process and it would be mistaken to use all the concepts developed in the book in all the programs. However the building blocks are there for easily improving the simpler programs by combining programs through the use of the standard DOS Renumber/Append program.

*

The text in the book reviews what software utilities can offer and also provides pointers to evaluating the utilities and to alternative language options. For many uses (unless you enjoy programming for its own sake) utilities are the best solution for the person who wants to create his or her own working programs with maximum effect and minimum time. This is especially true of teachers and educationalists experimenting with graphics for teaching in their own subject areas. Using utilities sensibly is the intelligent way to utilize any graphics computer unless you are aiming to write custom software. A particular example of this is 3-D graphics, where utilities offer the only choice between unacceptably slow speed and an enormous personal investment in retooling to a new language and software authoring.

Enjoy the programs and experiment with the ideas suggested in the text and with improvements of your own. As a final caution remember how this guide to the disk started: back up your master copy NOW.

LIST OF PROGRAMS AND FILES

KICKSTART

Chapter 2

FLAG

POTSHOT

Chapter 4

ALPY

SHAPESEE

INFLATING ART

Chapter 6

BACKCOLORDEMO

STRIPER

Chapter 7

DATAUP

DATEDITOR

PLOTASERIES

HRTEXTSUB

Data file

TOURDAT.

Chapter 9

ROTATE

HERITAGE

HERITAGE.KEY.PAK

HERITAGE.CLIPON

BI.MAP.PIC

PACAIRNET

PACIFIC.NAMES

PACIFIC.MAP.PAK

PACIFIC.1958

OZ.MAPPER

OZ.FILLER

OZ.MAP.PAK

OZ.NAMES

OZ.DATA OZ.VARNAMES

ISLE OF WIGHT

ISLE OF WIGHT.RASTER

PACKER1

SWAPEM

GIGGLE

Chapter 10

PERSPECTIVE

SPIKED TRIANGLE

Chapter 11

EXECDEMO

RETAILGAME

MOONWALK ANIMATOR1

ANIMATOR2

ANIMATOR2

Chapter 12

RAMEXPLORER

VISIONCORE

SHAPE Table and Utilities EXPOSHAPES.SHP LETTERS.SHP SYMBOLS.SHP

BI.SHP

MOONMEN.SHP

GRANDSHAPES.SHP HOMES.SHP RUNPACK US.MAP.PAK **PICDRAW HEADERDEMO.SPC**

Contents

Preface What To Do With The Disk			xiii xv ii	
Арр	ications Of Computer Graphics		1	
1	An Overview Of Computer Graphics	·	2	
	Terms To Remember (A regrettable but necessary preliminary) The pixel or atom of graphics Coordinate systems Bytes and bits: the structure of computing		3	
	What The Big Boys Do: The Current Scope Of Graphics		6	
	Types Of Graphics		10	
	What are Graphics Applications? Interactive and elapsed time graphics Of 2-D, wire frames and solid geometry	`	14	
	An End-use Perspective		17	
	Stages In Image Creation: Passing Through Hardware		19	
	Three ways of drawing (and the rise of raster graphics)		,,,	
	Memory Mapped Graphics		22	
	The Transition From Memory To Screen	·	24	
2	Familiarizing With Low Resolution Graphics		26	
	Getting To LRG And Plotting		27	
	COLOR		28	
	PLOT Charles The M		29	
	Checking The Viewport		29	
	Drawing Lines: The Potential For Plotting VLIN		31 31	
	HLIN		32	
	Interaction: A Simple Starter		36	
	Interrogating the screen			
	Interaction And Primitive Animation		37	
	On Jerk And Flicker		42	
	Higher Low Resolution		42	
			,	
3	Of Memory And Visions I: Controlling Memory		44	
	Low Resolution Display Memory	•	46	
	High Resolution Display Memory		47	
	Tools To Manage RAM		48	
	Accessing Graphics Memory For Display		49	
	The Secret Writing Secret Promises Of Further Secrets	٠.,	51 54	
	TOTAL SECTION OF THE PROPERTY		54	

4	Pictorial High Resolution Graphics: Putting A Finer Point On Things	55
	Drawing A Landscape Clearing the slate: HGR and HGR2 Growing the grass	56
	Drawing the sky Drawing mountains: further use of HPLOT	
S	Plotting the plains: farms and towns Saving the Picture BSAVE (Binary SAVE)	63
	BLOAD (Binary LOAD) The Shape Of Things To Come: Fast Figure Drawing XDRAW	65
	A SHAPE Creation Example	71 75
	SHAPE Playing Example A Requiem For SHAPE Creation As A Fireside Pastime	78 78
5	Of Memory And Visions II: Inside Graphics RAM	80
	Monitor Calls: Edging Towards Machine Language	83
6	Supercharging Graphics: Screen Creation Utilities	85
	SHAPES And Utilities BACKCOLORDEMO: A Play With SHAPES Homely homilies from BACKCOLORDEMO And rules on making SHAPEs	85 88
	Screen Composition Beyond SHAPEs	92 96
	A Simple Screen Creation Example Mixing Utilities	101
	Final Comment	101
7	Fact Watching: Data And Graphics	104
	Graphics And Data Display Pioneers at Shantytown	106
	Disks And Data	110
	Tracks, sectors and files Data Arrangements And Moving Around In Files Harnessing dead data: simple reads and writes Setting up the data file: priority one—minimize error	114
	Reading the data Highlighting Live Data: A Simple Display Example Playing with displays Axes to find	120
-	More Jigs And Reels	127
	Imitating Lisa Plotting data and controlling screen layout	131
	Making The Viewport Work For You Data display: further reading	134
	Final Touches	136
	Putting text on the high resolution screen Commercial Software	137

		0
		^

CONTENTS

ix

8	More on Memory Management	143
	Resetting the program location	-
9	Mapping: Space, Data And Graphics	147
	Spatial Data Bases	149
	The Real World And The Mapper's Window Windowing Establishing a common coordinate system Working with resolution	151
	Saving My Atlas: Picture Packing Momma Backgrounds, SHAPEs And Maps: Program HERITAGE Shapes and Backgrounds praw/erase loops Data base Getting really interactive	164 165
	Mapping Networks: A Better Data Bank Color And Areas: Shading Maps Knowing where the area is and if you are in it	173 177
	Raster fills of outlines Mixed Colors And Intelligent Fills	180
	Socioeconomic Data Display: Mapping Australia Commercial Mapping Options	182 185
10	Supercharging Graphics II: Three-Dimensional Perspectives	199
	Three-Dimensional Graphics Utilities Coding objects	200
	A worked example Behind Three-dimensional Graphics	207
	Working In Three Dimensions	209
	Perspective for display	
	How To Move Houses	213
	Translation Scaling individual axes Overall scaling Rotation	
	A Note For The Technical: Putting It All Together The importance of relativity Perspective revisited and some final tricks	221
	Where To Go From Here	227
11	Of Education, Simulation, Animation And Application	228
	Graphics In Education	.228
	PILOT And CAI	230
	The Character Editor	233
	Turtle Graphics And LOGO Turtle graphics	237
	Simulation And Graphics	242
	Animation in Applesoft	246
	Of flicker and jerk Animation in Applesoft: coping with flicker	
	Animation in Appleatit, coping with nicker	

野

	Things wit Moving an Limitations The Key To F Animation Uti		253 257 260
12	Of Memory A	and Visions III	266
	Exploring to How best to Some Further	e Of Graphics RAM Revisited the screen RAM map to access graphics r Insights ore into monitor	266 270
	.		
13	Extensions To A Graphics System		277
	Manual Devices For Interaction And Data Entry Of Paddles, joysticks and light pens Light pens Digitizers The three dimension digitizer		278
	Hard Copy Peripherals Printers X-Y plotters: slightly out of key? Photographic capture		288
	RAM Cards And Video Interfacing For Data Storage And Acquisition Video Digitizing For Input The Horizons Of Graphics		294 297 298
	Microcomputers and the video communications complex The Video—Graphics Symbiosis Improving Your Graphics: The Language Barrier		300 303
	Pascal gra Journeying C	aphics: fast turtles In	308
	Appendix 1	Compatibility With Other Machines Using Apple II Format Graphics	311
	Appendix 2	Addresses Of Screen RAM	313
		Intrinsic Monitor Subroutines And Linkages For The Apple II+	315
	• •	Useful Addresses For Apple Graphics	318
,		The Apple IIe Enhancements The keyboard The monitor Video signal modifications Additional memory	323
	Appendix 6	Mapping Data For The United States Data tables	325
	Bibliograph	у	328

CONTENTS	<u> </u>
	200
Index	333
Index of Disk Files And Graphics Command Syntax	339
Prentice-Hall Addresses	341