

avolta Re-Viewed

Video

CHOOSING
YOUR FIRST
VIDEO SYSTEM

The #1 Magazine Of Home Video

Improvising Your Own Production Kit—Cheaply

The New Stereo VCRs: True Hi-Fi Sound?

The Baseball Tapes: Home Runs for Old Ballgames

BERGER-BRAITHWAITE VIDEOTESTS

Pioneer's New LaserDisc Player Panasonic Portable VCR & Cable Adapter RCA Portable VCR

'TRON'

DISNEY'S
Electronic Wizardry
Creates
A Dazzling Fantasy



Retailers See Page 106 For Display Allowance Plan

48 'Tron': A Dazzling Breakthrough from Disney by Tim Onosko

Video games, computers—technological fantasy is the new stomping ground for Disney filmmakers.

52 Choosing Your First Video System by Dawn Gordon

For all you beginners out there, a primer on what's what and how much it should cost you.

56 Making a Grip Kit—Cheaply by John Morell

For the home videomaker, the simplest, cheapest tools can turn out to be the most useful.

60 Stereo into Video: Cinema Sound Comes Home by Gary Stock

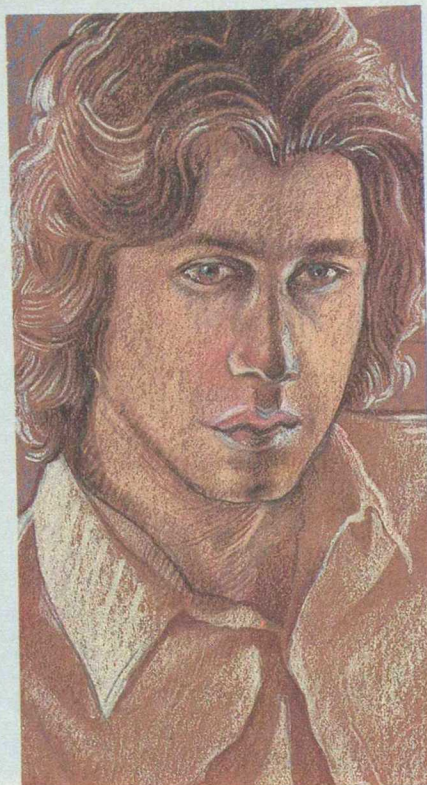
Coming to a VCR near you: stereo and noise reduction, the techniques that transformed audio into hifi.

64 Can Movie Theaters Survive Video? by Tim Onosko

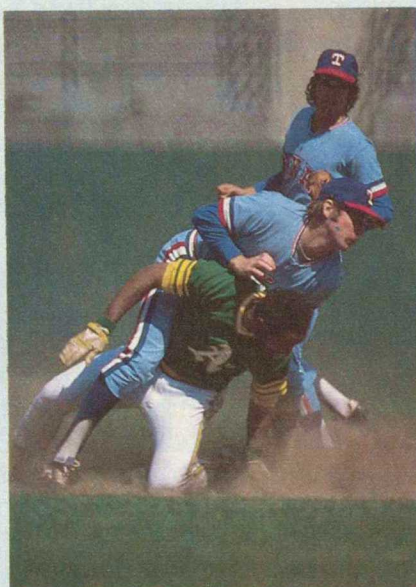
Are high ticket prices and decaying theaters the unhappy price of the video revolution?

66 John Travolta: Saturday Night Superstar Or Monday Morning Has-Been? by Harvey Elliott

Travolta has walked a tricky tightrope between triviality and art. Which way is he headed?



Page 66



Page 72

70 A Computer in Every Home? by Mark Andrews

A million more new computers may be beeping away in people's homes by the end of this year.

72 The Baseball Tapes by Ron Smith

Oh, take me home to the ball game. Give the World Series a home run.

Program Guide

News & Views	23
Top 15 Bestselling Titles	25
Directory	26
Reviews	31

Videotests

by Berger-Braithwaite Labs	76
RCR VGP 170 Convertible VHS VCR	
Pioneer LD-1100 LV Disc Player	
Panasonic PV-5500 Portable VHS VCR	
and Programmable Tuner/Timer	
Panasonic PV-CT2 Cable Converter	

Columns

Channel One	6
The editorial eye	
Feedback	10
VIDEO readers air their views	
Arcade Alley	16
CommaVid and U.S. Games debut	
Videogram	20
News from the world of video	
Fine Tuning	34
Pertinent Qs, helpful As	
Video Programmer	42
Why tape packaging is changing	
TV Den	46
All about the new thinner tapes	
New Products	92
The latest in equipment	

ABOUT THE COVER
The 'Star Wars' movies made a virtue of technoflash. Now comes Disney Studios with 'Tron' and a new special-effects twist: computer-generated graphics, the likes of which you've never seen.



PHOTO CREDITS: Walt Disney Productions © MCMLXXXII, World Rights Reserved—cover, 48-50; John Morell, Milt Wallace, courtesy SFO Productions, San Francisco, Sonoma Valley H.S. Drama Club—56-8; Les Morsillo—72-3, 76-90

ILLUSTRATION CREDITS: Carl Potts—20-1; David Prestone—23-5, 42, 52-3; Bob Aise—60-1; Neil McFeeters—65; David Febland—66; Bob Pasternak—70



VIDEO (ISSN 0147-8907) is published monthly by Reese Publishing Company, Inc., 235 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003. Second-class postage rates paid at N.Y.C., N.Y. and additional mailing office. © 1982 by Reese Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. © under Universal, International, and Pan American Copyright Conventions. Reproduction of the editorial or pictorial content in any manner is prohibited. Single copy price \$1.75; \$2.00 in Canada; 1 Pound Sterling in U.K. One-year subscription (12 issues) \$15.00; Canada \$18.00 U.S.; foreign \$23.00 U.S. Address orders to VIDEO, Box 1118, Dover, N.J. 07801. Address all subscription correspondence and inquiries to VIDEO, Box 1116, Dover, N.J. 07801. Change of address takes 60 days to process; send old address label, new address, and zip code. All material listed in this magazine is subject to manufacturer's change without notice, and publisher assumes no responsibility for such change. Printed in the U.S.A.

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to VIDEO, Box 1116, Dover, N.J. 07801.

Arcade Alley

A Critical Look at Video Cartridge Games & Programs

by Bill Kunkel & Arnie Katz



Cosmic Swarm, Space Jockey Debut

If all the plans announced so far come to fruition, we're going to be up to our armpits in video games. For instance, there may be as many as 100 new cartridges for the Atari VCS available this year. That would more than triple the size of the game library for that popular system.

Of course, making ambitious plans and carrying them through aren't quite the same thing. Some potential video-game makers will undoubtedly get scared off by the competition or stumble over some other obstacle long before their games reach the public.

But our hunch is that a surprisingly high percentage of the games sneak-previewed over the last year or so will see the light of day. Two companies that promised VCS-compatible cartridges have just delivered their first titles, so let's look at these new entries from CommaVid and U.S. Games.

Cosmic Swarm (CommaVid/Atari VCS) could be called a workmanlike video game. The graphics, though entirely adequate and serviceable, aren't pretty. The sounds suit the game perfectly, but won't blow video-gaming veterans out of their chairs with surprise. So what rescues "Cosmic Swarm" from being just another decent game? Its ingenious play mechanics.

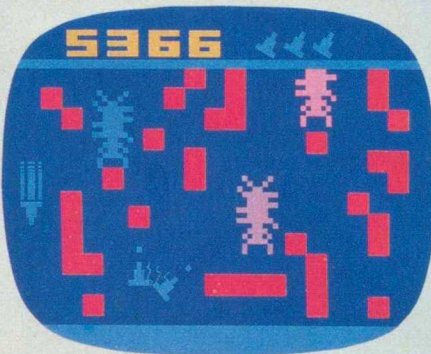
Gamers command "Asteroids"-like spaceships, available one at a time during the course of the game, using a highly original control system. Holding down the action button allows the pilot to rotate the ship in either direction using the stick. Releasing the button fires the craft's front-mounted laser cannon. When the action button is not pressed, the stick governs the spaceship's horizontal and vertical movement on the screen.

The arrival of one or more space termites begins the action. The intergalactic insects carry blocklike nest components with which they attempt to fill the entire playfield. If the ship touches either a space bug or its nest material, the craft is obliterated and replaced by a reserve spaceship. Three rounds constitute a complete

game, though bonus ships may be earned.

The laser cannon can easily zap one of the bugs, but the nest segments pose a more nettlesome problem. They are invulnerable when they are their normal green color, so the player must attempt to hit the nest particle while a termite is actually toting it. This energizes all blocks on the screen, turning them a bright red to signify their new status. While in this state, nest blocks are vulnerable to the ship's laser fire. The nest segments stay red until the player shoots a space termite, something the arcader will be forced to do before very long.

Just to make things a little more difficult, the spaceship must periodically dock to restore depleted energy. A trilling



'Cosmic Swarm': not especially pretty—but, ah, you should see how it plays.

alarm signals the appearance of a docking craft from either edge of the screen. The gamer must then align his craft with the mothership and dock before it exits the playfield. If the player fails to dock or accidentally destroys the mothership, the game immediately ends.

Because the action is non-repetitive, "Cosmic Swarm" is suitable for long gaming sessions. Its biggest challenge is to master the steering and firing, because you must glide through some mighty tight spots on the way to rolling up a big score.

"Cosmic Swarm" is an excellent first effort from CommaVid. Recommended.


With "Defender" sucking up quarters at

a furious pace in the commercial arcades, it was only a matter of time before the first scrolling shootout reached the home market. **Space Jockey** (U.S. Games/Atari VCR) is an outstanding example of the breed.

The Arcader uses the joystick to maneuver an attack saucer which enters the fray on the left side of the screen. A variety of armed and unarmed targets zoom into view from the righthand edge and head toward the saucer. Tanks, jets, prop planes, and helicopters can all fire at the arcader's ship, while lesser-value objects such as balloons, trees, and houses are passive targets that serve mainly as obstacles.

The human pilot begins the game with a complement of three saucers, useable one at a time. Scoring 1000 points earns an extra attack craft. There are 16 game variations, though most players will want to concentrate on the full-featured choices. In game 16, for instance, the enemy ships move randomly, collisions with the targets destroy the saucer, and the player's ship can move horizontally as well as vertically. Another option allows for steerable missiles much in the manner of "Air-Sea Battle."

One design flaw mars an otherwise excellent cartridge. It is possible to tote up 20,000 points or even more by keeping your saucer in the lower lefthand corner of the screen and holding your finger down on the action button to produce rapid fire. Fortunately, this is correctable by putting the righthand difficulty switch in the up position to allow the enemy weapons to fire more often. (It could have been corrected altogether if the saucer disintegrated when it touched the line representing ground terrain.)

This glitch aside, "Space Jockey" is first-rate action from start to finish. The visuals are especially charming. The helicopter blades spin and the balloons float through the air with gravity-defying realism. This fine cartridge gives Atari-VCS owners a chance to sample a kind of play action not previously available with the system. 

track of each employee right on down to the mail room persons. It's called Vortacs.

Employees carry passes the size of a cigarette pack. These emit signals picked up by sensors around the office. Too much time on a coffee break or in the cafeteria will show up on the master computer. It is expected that Vortacs will cut down on such naughty stuff as social interaction.

In addition to surveillance, Vortacs has other uses. It also keeps track of how many people eat in the cafeteria, how many are vegetarians, and handy things like that.

It's already being distributed in Europe, and its British distributor says that though people will initially call it a Big Brother, they'll get used to it just as they got used to surveillance cameras in department stores.

MPAA = KGB²

If your aged father asked that you dub a tape for him, would you do it? Of course not. If you did, he might have you thrown in the clinker.

That's what happened to Don Johnson, owner of a store called Magic Video in Chicago, when he copied a movie tape for Robert Zimmerman, an elderly man for whom Johnson says "I did things just as I would for my father." Zimmerman became friendly with Johnson and talked Johnson into copying a tape, giving him a story about a son who lived in Wisconsin without a nearby video store.

That's when the trouble began. Zimmerman was an undercover agent from the Motion Picture Association of America, those watchdogs of video piracy.

"Federal marshalls came in and just tore the place apart," says Johnson. "All they got was my briefcase with my own tapes in it." Those tapes were all that a bunch of movie companies needed to sue Johnson.

"This is definitely entrapment. That's what my lawyer says," according to Johnson. "And as far as bootlegging goes, Magic Video has always been honest, so honest that I'm losing money. I can't believe

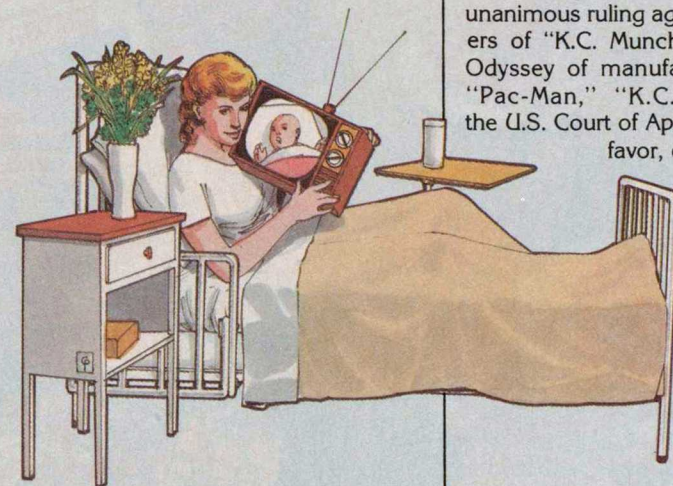
I could go to jail for doing something so innocent. My wife just had a baby, and she's scared. I don't know what we're going to do."



Marcus Welby, VHS

It's the kind of plot you'd have seen on *Marcus Welby M.D.* After a difficult Caesarean delivery at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, California, Elaine Respass was rushed to an intensive-care unit to be treated for postoperative infection. At the same time, her newborn daughter Tori was whisked away for emergency treatment at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Oakland.

"I never got to see her," says the new mom. "I didn't know if she'd make it or if I'd make it. I'd find myself crying at no provocation. I had no idea of what my daughter was like."



Concerned nurses working with mother and daughter requested that a videotape be made of newborn Tori Respass. Tori, Registered Nurse Terry Jones, and Dr. Michael LeNoir were the stars in this drama with Jones and LeNoir announcing on tape to Mrs. Respass that her daughter would be fine, and showing the little bundle of joy to mama. According to Children's Hospital spokeswoman Peggy Green, knowing that her daughter was OK sped Mrs. Respass' recovery and now she and daughter are doing fine.

Video systems are being used in pediatric training programs, according to Green, and moms in hospital beds across the country now are tracking their newborns' progress with closed-circuit TVs connected to the nursery.

Is Pac-Man a Bad Man?

In the midst of the battle over whether video games are healthy amusements or menaces to the younger generation come a few words from Sherry Turkle, professor of sociology at MIT.

Turkle has done a study on the psychological effects of the electronic marvels. The gist of her findings are: "Interactiveness used to be the criteria by which we decided if something was or was not alive." The age of the computer has changed all that, she says, and the danger comes when kids find relationships with the machines more rewarding than their relationships with other human beings.



Hard proof that video games are harmless.

In other words, have you taken a "Pac-Man" home to meet the family?

Speaking of "Pac-Man," Atari has won a unanimous ruling against Odyssey, makers of "K.C. Munchkin." Atari accused Odyssey of manufacturing a ripoff of "Pac-Man," "K.C. Munchkin," and the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in Atari's favor, expanding copyright protection of video games. Get ready for other imitators to bite the dust in court.

Vidbits

In Texas, a judge is taking courtroom taping a step further than electronic newsgathering and having juries rule on videotaped trials. Judge John Marshall of Dallas had a jury watch three hours of television to decide on a woman's workman's compensation claim, after deciding that a videotaped trial would be easier and cheaper for everyone.

McDonald's could be the first fast-food chain to make video games part of the work force. McDonald's has approached Atari about designing a video game that would take the customer's order and help him while away the waiting time with a game.

Researchers are blaming television for a strong bias against old people, which they say affects children as young as three years old. A Colorado state study shows that preschoolers already describe old people as poor, ugly, dirty, and sick, and the prejudice is strongest among middle-class white children whose opinions have been formed by television rather than direct contact with elderly people.

IBM researchers are developing the latest in dictating machines. Within five years, they say, all you'll have to do is talk into the machine and see your words printed on the video screen. At the flick of another button, you could also commit the memo to paper.



VIDEO LIVERY

VIDEO GAME SPECTACULAR

CARTRIDGES

BUY 5 AND GET 5% DISCOUNT — BUY 10 AND GET 10% DISCOUNT

Atari

Street Racer	12.95
Space War	12.95
Surround	12.95
Home Run	12.95
Football	12.95
Human Cannonball	12.95
Combat	22.95
Air-Sea Battle	22.95
Outlaw	22.95
Slot Racers	22.95
3-D Tic-Tac-Toe	22.95
Video Olympics	22.95
Sky Diver	22.95
Breakout	22.95
Basketball	22.95
Bowling	22.95
Dodge 'Em	22.95
Golf	22.95
Hangman	22.95
A Game of Concentration	22.95
Brain Games	22.95
Codebreaker	22.95
Math Gran Prix	22.95
Video Checkers	22.95
Othello	22.95
Night Driver	26.95
Circus Atari	26.95
Haunted House	26.95
Maze Craze	26.95
Hot Rod	26.95
Video Chess	26.95
Backgammon	26.95
Basic Programming	26.95
Adventure	31.95
Casino	31.95
Missile Command	31.95
Pele's Soccer	31.95
Space Invaders	31.95
Superman	31.95
Video Pinball	31.95
Warlords	31.95
Super Breakout	31.95
Asteroids	37.95
Pac-Man	37.95
Defender	37.95

Accessory Controllers

Driving Controller Pair	21.95
Paddle Controller Pair	21.95
Keyboard Controller Pair	21.95
Joystick Controller Single	10.95

AC Adapter	9.95
Switch Box	9.95

Storage Accessory

Atari Game Program Case	9.95
Atari Modular Cartridge Library	14.95
Atari Game Center	39.95

Activision Fits Atari

Drag Race	22.95
Boxing	22.95
Checkers	22.95
Fishing Derby	22.95
Skiing	22.95
Bridge	22.95
Tennis	22.95
Laser Blast	22.95
Freeway	22.95
Kaboom	22.95
Stampede	22.95
Hockey	29.95
Barnstorming	29.95
Grand Prix	29.95

Imagic Fits Atari

Trick Shot	24.95
Video Action Center	29.95
Demon Attack	31.95
Star Voyager	31.95

Mattel

Las Vegas Roulette	15.99
Checkers	15.99
Elect. Co. Word Fun	15.99
Las Vegas Poker & Black Jack	15.99
Elect. Co. Math Fun	15.99
ABPA Backgammon	20.99
HGL Hockey	24.99
Horse Racing	24.99
NASL Soccer	24.99
Tennis	24.99
PGA Golf	24.99
Snafu	24.99
Triple Action	24.99
Auto Racing	29.99

Armor Battle	29.99
US Ski Team Skiing	29.99
Boxing	29.99
NFL Football	29.99
Space Battle	29.99
Major League Baseball	29.99
NBA Basketball	29.99
Astromash	29.99
Space Armada	29.99
Sea Battle	34.99

Odyssey

Take the Money and Run	14.95
I've Got Your Number	14.95
Dynasty	14.95
Las Vegas Blackjack	22.95
Football	22.95
Take the Money and Run	14.95
I've Got Your Number	14.95
Dynasty	14.95
Football	14.95
Las Vegas Blackjack	22.95
Football	22.95
Armored Encounter/Sub Chase	22.95
Bowling/Basketball	22.95
Math-A-Magic/Echo	22.95
Matchmaker/Logix/Buzzword	22.95
Baseball	22.95
Computer Golf	22.95
Cosmic Conflict	22.95
Invaders from Hyperspace	22.95
Thunderball	22.95
Showdown in 2100 A.D.	22.95
War of Nerves	22.95
Alpine Skiing	22.95
Helicopter Rescue/Out of World	22.95
Hockey/Soccer	22.95
Volleyball	22.95
Pocket Billiards	22.95
Pachinko	22.95
Slot Machine	22.95
Blastout	22.95
Alien Invaders	22.95
Message Center	22.95
UFO	29.95
Monkeyshines	29.95
K.C. Munchkin	29.95
Freedom Fighter	29.95
Computer Intro	39.95
Quest for the Rings	49.95
Conquest of the World	49.95
Great Wall Street Fortune Hunt	49.95

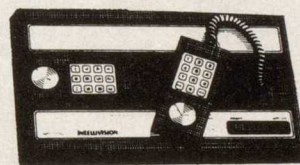
GAME BOARDS

ATARI CX2600 149.95



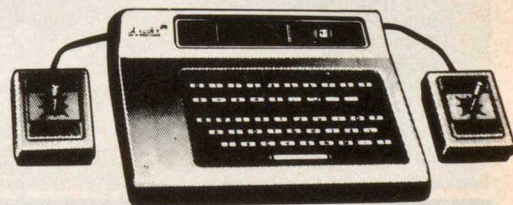
MATTEL INTELLIVISION

249.95



MAGNAVOX ODYSSEY²

139.95



ORDER FROM **VIDEO LIVERY** P.O. BOX 686 • SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL 60411

For additional information, circle No. 65 on Reader Service Card.

ORDER BLANK

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Bank Card _____ No. _____
Interbank No. _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

*HOW TO ORDER BY MAIL

For prompt shipment, send money order, certified check, cashier's check, MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, Carte Blanche, American Express (include card number, interbank number, expiration date, and signature). There will be a two-week delay for check clearance. Shipping and insurance charge is 4% of total order with a \$3.95 minimum charge. Illinois residents add 6% sales tax.

QTY.	ITEM	PRICE	TOTAL
	Less Discount (if applicable)		
	Add Tax, Shipping, & Insurance*		
	TOTAL		

Most orders processed and shipped within 10 days.

☐ Check here to be on our regular mailing list.