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Technical Information

Introduction

The TV DAZZLER[®] color graphics module provides a general purpose interface between your computer and your color TV. The DAZZLER[®] can be used to generate games, animated displays, educational learning drills or even light shows, all in full color. The DAZZLER[®] is manufactured by Cromemco Inc., 280 Bernardo Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040.

The DAZZLER[®] is built on two boards designed to plug directly into any computer using the S-100 microcomputer bus. The video output of the DAZZLER[®] can be connected directly to the video input of a color TV set. By using an optional RF modulator, the DAZZLER[®] can be conveniently connected to the antenna terminals of the TV set, rather than the input of the video amplifier.

With the DAZZLER[®] interface, TV games that are either unavailable, or available only in black and white, can now be programmed in full color. A football can now sail over a bright green playing field under the software control of your computer. Rocket ships can spew red-yellow flames against a brilliantly blue sky. Or perhaps you wish to challenge your computer to a game of checkers or chess on a red and black playing board—again generated on your TV screen by the TV DAZZLER[®] interface.

If you use your computer for business or accounting purposes, the DAZZLER[®] interface can be used to display multi-colored graphs of the data stored in your computer. Your computer can be used to process and format the raw data while histograms, charts or graphs of the data are displayed on your color TV.

The DAZZLER[®] interface can also turn your color TV into a TV terminal. Alphanumeric characters entered from a teletype or ASCII keyboard can be displayed directly on the screen of your TV using our DAZZLEWRITER software for character generation. Messages can also be generated internally in your computer and displayed—in full color. Alphanumeric messages, titles or comments can similarly be displayed in conjunction with DAZZLER[®] games or DAZZLER[®] graphic displays. A new interface board from Cromemco, our D+7A I/O, is particularly useful for inputting analog signals for use in conjunction with the DAZZLER[®]. Analog signals from joysticks, for example, can be input to the computer with the D+7A module for use in controlling a DAZZLER[®]-generated display.

Another use of the DAZZLER[®] interface is in computerized instruction either at home or in the classroom. Word recognition tests, "flash card" arithmetic drills, and memory training can all be carried out with the excitement of a full-color display. Games can be interspersed with learning exercises to maintain student interest and enthusiasm. (For more information on the use of the DAZ-ZLER[®] see the December 1976 issue of BYTE magazine, "The Cybernetic Crayon," pp. 24-29, 138-141, and the September 1978 issue of PERSONAL COMPUTING, "DAZZLER[®] Graphics," pp. 58-72.)

Design

The DAZZLER[®] interface is a very advanced design using over 70 MOS and TTL integrated circuits on two printed boards. Yet the DAZZLER[®] kit is easy to build. A special varnish or "solder mask" is used to guard against shorts during board construction. And a legend mask is silk-screened directly on the board to show precisely where each component is placed.

Only the highest quality parts are used in the DAZZLER[®] interface. The printed circuit boards are double-sided glass-epoxy with plated-through holes and gold plated edge contacts. IC sockets are used for all dual-in-line ICs. And carbon film resistors are used for high-speed operation and temperature stability.

The two DAZZLER[®] boards may be plugged directly into two adjacent slots in your computer. A 16-conductor ribbon cable, with DIP plugs on each end, is used to interconnect the two boards. Alternatively Board 2 may be mounted "piggyback" on Board 1 so that only one slot is required. In this configuration, seven additional jumper wires must be used to interconnect Board 1 with Board 2.

Software

Cromemco provides software support for the DAZZLER[®] interface. Two basic software packages are provided; DAZZLER[®] GAMES and DAZ-ZLER[®] GRAPHICS.

The DAZZLER[®] games package consists of a Cromemco DAZZLER[®] Games Instruction Manual and sixteen games (see box below) on either a 5" diskette (model FDG-S), or an 8" diskette (model FDG-L). Either package is available from Cromemco, Inc. for \$95.

The DAZZLER[®] graphics package allows the user to display graphs, graphics and alphanumerics on a color TV set. It consists of a DAZZLER[®] Graphics Instruction Manual and the graphics pro-

gram on either a 5" diskette (model DGR-S), or an 8" diskette (model DGR-L). Either package is available from Cromemco, Inc. for \$95.

Operation

The DAZZLER[®] interface uses high-speed direct memory access (DMA) to read the memory of the host computer and translates the information in the memory into a color TV signal. The key advantage of using DMA is that the DAZZLER[®] can display a picture while at the same time the computer is executing either a related or unrelated program. Only a 15% slow-down of the computer execution is realized during the DAZZLER[®] operation.

DAZZLER[®]Games
• CHASE!** — the cross chases the circle.
 DAZZLE DOODLE* — draw a picture using a joystick.
DAZZLE-MATION – for creating animated displays.
MAGENTA MARTINI — an amusing DAZ ZLE-MATION example.
DOGFIGHT** — an aerial battle game.
4D TIC-TAC-TOE – a 4D extension of TIC TAC-TOE.
GOTCHA!** - two players vie to occupy territory.
 KALEIDOSCOPE – for captivating color dis plays.
LIFE – an instructive game by John Conway
XLIFE – a particularly attractive LIFE dis play.
SPACEWAR** — a cosmic fight to the death
TRACK* - maneuver through a difficult maze.
DAZZLECHESS — play chess with a tirelest opponent.
AMBUSH* — take pot shots at an enemy con voy.
SOLO** – plays a tune on the JS-1 console
TANK WAR** — tanks fight in a mine field
Requires a single IS-1 invetick

** Requires two JS-1 joysticks.



A functional block diagram of the DAZZLER[®] interface is shown below. A 3.579545 MHz crystal oscillator is used to generate the color video subcarrier. The video output amplifier delivers a standard 1 V negative sync composite video signal into a 52 ohm load. A six-foot length of 52 ohm coax cable is supplied with every DAZZLER[®].

While the video output signal is generated by Board 1, Board 2 is used to communicate with the computer. A high speed (one million bytes per second) DMA controller is the heart of this board. The controller issues a "Hold" command when it is ready to access the computer memory. When the computer finishes the current machine cycle it issues a "Hold Acknowledge" signal to begin DMA.

In addition to the high-speed DMA data link, two output ports and one input port are built into DAZZLER[®] Board 2 for the exchange of control signals between the computer and DAZZLER[®]. These are output ports ØEH and ØFH and input port ØEH.

The most significant bit of output port ØEH is used to enable or disable the DAZZLER[®]. A "1" at this bit location turns the DAZZLER[®] on. A " \emptyset " turns the DAZZLER[®] off. The DAZZLER[®] can



also be turned off manually by depressing the "clear" switch on the computer front panel. The remaining seven bits of output port ØEH are used to set the starting location of the picture to be displayed in the computer's memory. As will be discussed below, the picture may require 512 bytes of memory or 2K bytes of memory depending on the mode in which the DAZZLER[®] is operating. In any event, this must be static memory with an access time of 1 microsecond or faster. A summary of the use of outpot port ØEH is shown below.



Output port ØFH is used to set the format of the TV picture. The function of each of the eight bits of this output port is shown in this table:



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Bit D7 is not used. Bit D6 is used to set normal resolution (32×32 element picture for 512 bytes or 64×64 element picture for 2K bytes) or resolution X 4 (64×64 element picture for 512 bytes or 128 x 128 element picture for 2K bytes). Bit D5 sets the amount of computer memory (starting at the location given to output port ØEH) allocated to the picture. When D5 is "1," 2K bytes of memory are used. When D5 is "Ø," 512 bytes are used. Bit D4 is used to select between a black-and-white display and a color display. Bits D3-DØ are used in resolution X 4 mode to set the color of a color picture or the intensity of a black-and-white picture. Bits D3-DØ are not used in normal resolution mode.

Only two bits of input port ØEH are used. Bit D7 is low during odd lines and high during even lines. Bit D6 goes low for 4 ms between frames to indicate end of frame.



In order to generate a TV picture with DAZ-ZLER[®], the information that the DAZZLER[®] reads from the computer memory must be properly formatted. In resolution X 4 mode, each point on the TV screen is controlled by just one bit in the computer memory. When that bit is a "1" the corresponding element of the picture is on. When that bit is a " \emptyset " the picture element is off. In resolution X 4 mode, the color and intensity of the picture is set by bits DØ to D3 of the control word at output port ØFH. For full color in resolution X 4 mode, multiple frames of different colors must be interleaved.

In normal resolution mode, the color and intensity of each element of the TV picture are controlled by a four-bit "nybble" in the computer memory. Two elements of the picture are thus stored in each byte (8 bits) of memory. (For this reason, a 64 x 64 picture in normal resolution mode requires 2K of memory.) The lowest order bit of each nybble (DØ) determines whether the corresponding element of the picture contains red (1) or no red (Ø). Similarly, D1 controls green, D2 controls blue, and D3 sets





either high intensity or low intensity color. In blackand-white mode these four bits are instead used to specify one of 16, levels of grey.

When writing programs for DAZZLER[®] displays it is important to remember that the TV picture is stored as a special coded sequence in the computer memory. The DAZZLER[®] simply interprets this code to form a TV picture. Two different codes are used depending on whether the DAZZLER[®] is used in normal resolution mode or in resolution X 4 mode (as set by the control word sent to output port ØFH).

In normal resolution mode four bits of computer memory are used to code each element of the picture. A 32 x 32 picture requires 512 bytes of memory. A 64 x 64 picture requires 2K bytes of memory. The following diagram shows how the 4-bit code works:



In resolution X 4 mode each bit of the memory is used to either turn on or off a single element of the picture. The eight picture elements controlled by a single byte have the following geometric relationship:



The 2K byte DAZZLER[®] picture is stored in memory as four quadrants. Each quadrant of the picture occupies one 512-byte page of memory. Only one page of memory is displayed for a 512-

byte picture. The sequence in which memory is scanned in making a 2K byte picture is shown below:



TV Connection

A length of RG174U coaxial cable is provided to connect the DAZZLER[®] to your TV. The center conductor of the cable should be soldered to the pad labelled "OUT" of Board 1. The shield of the cable should be soldered to the adjacent foil ground. The other end of this cable can be connected to the input of the video amplifier of the TV, being sure to terminate the cable in a 52-ohm impedance.

If you prefer to connect to the antenna terminals of the TV, rather than to the video amplifier input, an RF modulator is required. One such modulator is the Pixieverter Model PXV-2A available for \$8.50 from ATV RESEARCH, 13th and Broadway, Dakota City, Nebraska, 68731. If you use a Pixieverter you must also use a matching transformer between the output of the Pixieverter and the TV set. A standard 75 ohm to 300 ohm matching transformer, available at TV supply stores, will provide the required matching. (Radio Shack stores carry such a transformer for \$2.59, model 15-1140).

Using Two DAZZLERS In Your Computer

If you wish to control two TV sets simultaneously, you can use two DAZZLERS[®] in your computer at the same time. To synchronize the DAZZLERS[®], remove the jumper wire connecting "SYNC IN" to "G" on Board 1 of one of the DAZ-ZLERS[®]. Now connect "SYNC OUT" from the other DAZZLER[®] to the SYNC IN pad that used to be connected to "G". The two DAZZLERS[®] are synchronized with this connection so that they may be operated simultaneously in the same computer.

Test Program

The following program is useful for testing the operation of the DAZZLER[®] and is useful for initial tune-up. To operate this program you must have at least 2K bytes of memory beginning at location zero in memory. The test program and tune-up procedure makes use of the front panel switches (at input port FF) of the Cromemco Z-1 computer.

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This program begins by putting the bit sequence "10000000" into the accumulator and outputting it to port 0EH. This turns on the DAZZLER[®] and tells it that the picture that it is to display begins at location zero in memory. Next the program uses the front panel sense switches to set the control word sent to output port 0FH. This allows the user to experiment with different output formats and appreciate the fantastic versatility of the DAZZLER[®] display. When sense switch A12 is raised the DAZ-ZLER[®] goes into color mode, and a colorful quiltlike pattern will appear on the TV screen.

Tune Up

The tune-up procedure for the DAZZLER[®] is straightforward. Begin by loading and running the above test program. Raise SSW A12. Adjust R29 for a stable picture on your screen. Now raise SSWs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Adjust C17 for the brightest blue color on your screen. Now lower SSW A10 and raise A9. Adjust R28 for the brightest green. Finally lower SSW A9 and raise SSW A8. Adjust R27 for the brightest red. The tune-up of DAZZLER[®] is now complete.

ADDR	OBJECT	MNEMONICS		COMMENTS
0000	3E80	TEST: LD	A,80/H	; 10000000B TO REG. A
0002	D3ØE	ουτ	ØEH, A	; OUTPUT TO PORT ØE
0004	DBFF	ÎN	A,ØFFH	; INPUT FROM SENSE SWITCHES
0006	D3ØF	ουτ	ØFH, A	;OUTPUT TO PORT ØF
0008	C30000	ĴP	TEST	;REPEAT



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Assembly Instructions

The assembly of the DAZZLER[®] kit requires about one evening. All components are mounted on the component side of the pc boards and soldered to the foil on the opposite side. Be sure to use highquality rosin core solder for the assembly and a finetipped low wattage soldering iron. IC sockets must be used for all ICs (except for the voltage regulators IC1 and IC38).

To facilitate the assembly of your DAZZLER[®] kit, the part number of every component is printed in position on the component side of each pc board. The following symbols are used on the pc board:



Assembly Of DAZZLER Board No. 1

Solder in position IC sockets for ICs 2 through 37. Solder a 16 pin IC socket in the position labeled "TO BOARD NO. 2."

- With a heatsink mounted between IC1 (LM34ØT-5.Ø voltage regulator) and the pc board, secure this IC in position using 6-32 hardware. Solder the three leads in place.
- □ Solder in position capacitors C1-C14 (Ø.1µF disc ceramic capacitors).
- Solder in position filter capacitors C15 and C16 taking care to orient the positive (+) lead of each capacitor towards the bottom of the pc board.
- Solder in position the variable capacitor, C17. Note that the lead on the capacitor marked with an arrow goes in the hole location farthest from the XTAL. If the capacitor does not fit easily into its mounting holes, gently crimp the leads on the capacitor with a pair of needle-nose pliers before inserting it.
- Solder in position the disc ceramic capacitors C18 (180pF); C19, 20, 21 (560pF); C22 (.001); C23, 24 (220pF); C25, 26 (.001); C27 (56pF).
- Solder in place a small jumper wire, as shown, between the pads labeled "IN" and "G" on the opposite side of the board.
- Solder in place the 1N5242 Zener diode (D1) taking care to position the cathode end of the diode toward the top of the pc board. The cathode end of the diode is marked with a band.
- Solder in position diode D2 (1N914). Take care to orient the diode so that the cathode (banded) end is toward the top of the board.
- Solder in place the inductors L1 and L2. The inductors L1 and L2 are identical.
- Solder in position the ¼ watt 5% carbon film resistors R1-R26 (see Resistor Color Codes, box, page 9).
- Solder in position the three 500-ohm miniature potentiometers R27, R28 and R29. These three potentiometers are identical.
- Solder in position transistor Q1 (2N3906) taking care to position the flat face of the transistor toward the top of the pc board.

- Solder in position transistors Q2 and Q3 (2N-3904) taking care to position the flat face of the transistors toward the bottom of the pc board.
- Solder in place the 3579.545 KC crystal (XTAL). The crystal should be mechanically secured in place by running a small piece of bare wire from the pad just under the crystal, over the top of the crystal to the pad just above the crystal. The wire should be pulled tight and soldered at each pad.
- □ Insert the ICs from envelope No. 1 into their sockets on Board 1. Take special care to see that every IC is properly oriented in its socket and that each pin of every IC is properly engaged in the socket.

Assembly Of DAZZLER Board No. 2

- Solder in position IC sockets for ICs 39 through 74. Solder a 16 pin IC socket in the position labeled "TO BOARD NO. 1." Do not solder IC socket in the position labeled "NO IC."
- With a heatsink mounted between IC38 (LM-340T-5.0 voltage regulator) and the pc board, secure this IC in position using 6-32 hardware. Solder the three leads in place.
- □ Solder in position capacitors C28-C39 (\emptyset .1 μ F disc ceramics).
- Solder in position the filter capacitors C4Ø and C41 taking care to orient the positive (+) lead of each capacitor toward the bottom of the pc board.
- □ Solder in position capacitor C42, a 330pF disc.
- Solder in position R3Ø (1K, ¼ watt) and R31 (27Ø ohms, ¼ watt).
- Solder in position the seven port selection jumper wires. The jumper wires should connect pad J1 to J1, J2 to J2, J3 to J3, etc.
- Insert the ICs from envelope No. 2 into their sockets on Board 2. Take special care to see that

every IC is properly oriented in its socket and that each pin of every IC is properly engaged in the socket.

Interboard Connection

□ A 16-conductor cable, with plugs on each end, is provided to connect Board 1 to Board 2. The cable should be plugged into the socket labeled "TO BOARD NO. 2" on the front of Board 1, be routed over the top of Board 1 down the front of Board 2 and into the socket on Board 2 labeled "TO BOARD NO. 1."

TV Connection

□ A length of RG174/U cable is provided to connect the DAZZLER[®] to your TV. The center conductor of the cable should be soldered to the terminal labeled "OUT" on Board 1 (see Note below). The shield of the cable should be soldered to the adjacent foil ground. The other end of this cable can be coupled to the input of the video amplifier of a TV. If you prefer to connect to the antenna terminals of the set rather than to the video amplifier input, an RF modulator is required. The most cost-effective modulator that we know of is the Pixieverter available for \$8.50 from ATV Research, 13th and Broadway, Dakota City, Nebraska 68731.

NOTE:

The TV "OUT" pad is located in the upper right corner of Board 1. Do not confuse this with the SYNC output near the center of the board.

Before using your DAZZLER[®], carefully inspect your work. The notch on every IC should be on the left (with pin 1 of each IC toward the lower left). Be sure that all components are in the proper positions and properly oriented. Also check to be sure that you have installed the small jumper wire shown near the top of Board 1. For instructions on tuning up your DAZ-ZLER[®] refer to page 6 of this manual.



Resistor Color Codes

10	BROWN – BLACK – BLACK – GOLD
39	ORANGE – WHITE – BLACK – GOLD
150	BROWN – GREEN – BROWN – GOLD
220	RED RED BROWN GOLD
270	RED – VIOLET – BROWN – GOLD
330	ORANGE – ORANGE – BROWN – GOLD
470	YELLOW – VIOLET – BROWN – GOLD
820	GREY – RED – BROWN – GOLD
1K	BROWN – BLACK – RED – GOLD
1.5K	BROWN – GREEN – RED – GOLD
7.5K	VIOLET – GREEN – RED – GOLD
9.1K	WHITE – BROWN – RED – GOLD
10K	BROWN – BLACK – ORANGE – GOLD
15K	BROWN – GREEN – ORANGE – GOLD
18K	BROWN – GREY – ORANGE – GOLD
30K	ORANGE – BLACK – ORANGE – GOLD
36K	ORANGE – BLUE – ORANGE – GOLD
62K	BLUE – RED – ORANGE – GOLD

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Foil Diagram Board No. 1





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Foil Diagram Board No. 2



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Schematic Diagram Board No. 2



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Parts]	List

Resistors

R1 R2

R3-4

27Ø

15Ø

1K

Par	Parts List					
Part No.	Capacito	rs	Part No.			
001-0011	C1-14	.1µF DISC	004-0030			
001-0008	C15-16	10µF/50V	004-0031			
001-0018	C17	7-25pF VAR.	004-0033			
001-0029	C18	18ØpF	004-0012			
ØØ1-ØØ36	C19-21	56ØpF	004-0018			
001-0032	C22	.001µF	004-0022			
ØØ1-ØØ28	C23-24	220pF	004-0013			
ØØ1-ØØ31	C25-26	.ØØ1µF	004-0022			
ØØ1-ØØ38	C27	56pF	004-0006			
001-0034	C28-39	.1µF DISC	004-0030			
ØØ1-ØØ3Ø	C40-41	10µF/50V	004-0031			
001 0021	040	220-5	001 0025			

R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12 R13	9.1K 36K 18K 7.5K 15K 62K 3ØK 1ØK	001-0029 001-0036 001-0032 001-0028 001-0031 001-0038 001-0034 001-0030 001-0030	C18 C19-21 C22 C23-24 C25-26 C27 C28-39 C40-41 C42	180pF 560pF .001μF 220pF .001μF 56pF .1μF DISC 10μF/50V 330pF	004-0012 004-0018 004-0022 004-0013 004-0022 004-0006 004-0030 004-0031 004-0035
R14-16 R17 R18 R19	1ØK 15K 82Ø 1.5K	001-0030 001-0031 001-0017 001-0020	Inductors	22µH	Part No.
R20 R21 R22 R23	330 220 39 10	001-0012 001-0010 001-0002 001-0000	Transistor Q1 Q2-Q3	rs 2N39Ø6 2N39Ø4	Part No. 009-0002 009-0001
R24 R25 R26 R27-29 R30	330 470 330 500 POT 1K	001-0012 001-0014 001-0012 002-0002 001-0018	Diodes D1 D2	1N5242 1N914	Part No. 008-0005 008-0002
R31	270	ØØ1-ØØ11	Miscellane CRYSTAL 50 - SOCKI	eous 3.579 MHz ETS, 14 PIN	Part No. Ø26-ØØØØ Ø17-ØØØ1
		(96)	25 - SOCKI RIBBON C 1 FT. RG 1 2 - 6x32 SC 2 - 6x32 N 2 - HEATS DAZZLER DAZZLER DAZZLER MANU	ABLE ABLE 74/U CREWS UTS INKS ® PC BOARD #1 ® PC BOARD #2 ® INSTRUCTION AL	017-0002 019-0004 019-0005 015-0000 015-0013 021-0016 020-0005 020-0006 023-0003

Warranty

Your factory-built DAZZLER[®] is warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 90 days from the date of delivery. We will repair or replace products that prove to be defective during the warranty period provided that they are returned to Cromemco. No other warranty is expressed or implied. We are not liable for consequential damages.

Should your factory-built DAZZLER® fail after the warranty period, it will be repaired, provided that it is returned to Cromemco, for a fixed service fee. We reserve the right to refuse to repair any product that in our opinion has been subject to abnormal electrical or mechanical abuse. The service fee is currently \$70 and is subject to change without notice.

Your assembled DAZZLER[®] kit will be repaired, provided that it is returned to Cromemco, for a fixed service fee. We reserve the right to refuse repair of any kit that in our opinion has not been assembled in a workmanlike manner or has been subject to abnormal electrical or mechanical abuse. Payment of the service fee must accompany the returned merchandise. The service fee is currently \$7Ø and is subject to change without notice.

Schematic Diagram Board No. 1





Schematic Diagram Board No. 2

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