

Getting Started with CoCo+



A quick reference guide to using CoCo + in the classroom

By Ron Allen



GETTING STARTED WITH

CoCo+

A quick reference guide to using control in the classroom

Written by Ron Allen

"CoCo +" works on any Archimedes computer running RiscOs 3.1 and above.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their support, suggestions, ideas, technical expertise, patience and co-operation during the development of this booklet.

Grace Woodford Barry Payne Ruth Darby

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GENERAL INFORMATION

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The quick reference guide gives a brief introduction (copyright free) into using CoCo +. It is not as comprehensive as the full user guide. For the clearest explanation the two should be used together.

ACTIVITY SHEETS

The activity sheets are in two parts:

The first sheet sets the scene and the problem. At the bottom of the sheet is an extension activity that may be carried out by the pupil if required. The picture puts the task into a context and may also suggest a solution.

The second part of the activity offers a suggested solution to both designing and making as well as procedure building. Teachers may offer this to pupils if required. Further to this, a disk containing the suggested procedures may also be used.

Note: As some activity cards suggest the pupils carry out extension activities which build upon the basic procedures we suggest that you make backups of the procedures disk before pupils start programming. The procedures disk only contains the basic procedure, prior to any extension activity.

LOADING CoCo+

- Place the CoCo+ disk in the drive and using the mouse point to the disk icon on the menu bar.
- Click once with the <Select> button
- Point your mouse button at !CoCo+ on the disk viewer and click twice with the <Select> button.

The program will begin to load.

An information window will appear. This displays the name of the registered user.

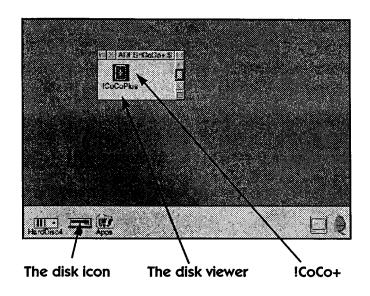
You may hear CoCo+ loading and see the disk light come on.

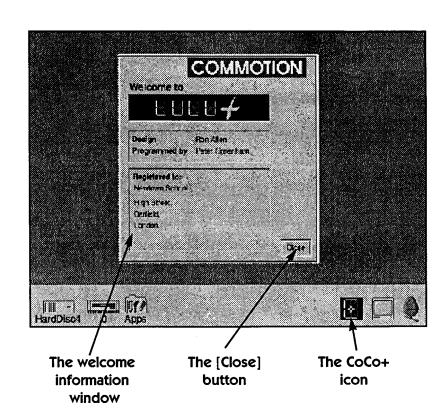
4. To remove the Welcome window click on the [Close] button.

The CoCo+ icon will appear on the icon bar at the bottom of the screen to let you know CoCo+ is ready to go.

5. Click <Select> once on the CoCo+ icon.

The program will now appear and is ready to start.





MOUSE CONTROL

The Serial interface and the Commotion control box have a row of red and black sockets numbered 1 to 8. These are the outputs and are used for switching electrical devices on and off.

There is a row of green and black sockets also numbered 1 to 8. These take input switches.

There is a row of blue sockets in pairs labelled A to D are motors.

The red and black sockets labelled POWER SUPPLY are always on and cannot be controlled by the computer. These are useful when checking that an output works prior to use within a control model.

Things to do...to make a light bulb come on.

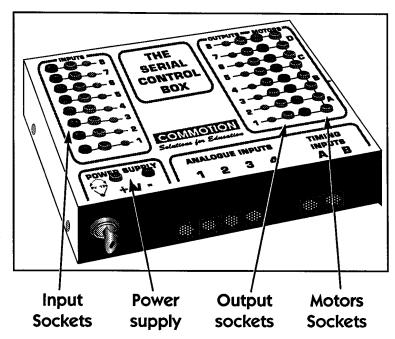
- Connect a light bulb into the output socket number 1.
- 2. Place the pointer on button [1] in the output window and press <Select>. The bulb will come on.

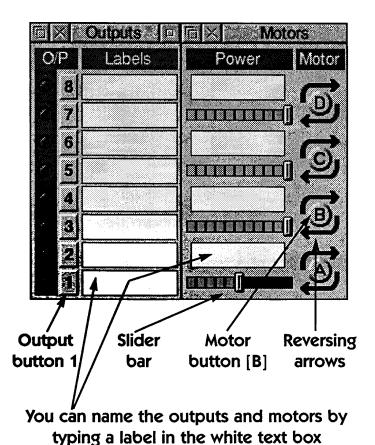
And....to turn the bulb off click again.

Connect a motor to motor socket
 Now point to the button [B]
 on the Motors window and press
 <Select>. The motor will come on.

To reverse the motors point to the arrows and press <Select>.

- 4. Place the pointer on the slide bar opposite [B]. Hold down select and drag the bar to the left. The motor slows down.
- 5. Click on motor button [B] to turn it off.





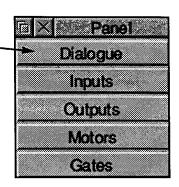
2

TYPING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Click on the dialogue button in the panel window.

This will give you a dialogue box into which you can type your instructions.

2. Plug light bulbs into output sockets 1 to 6 and type in:



SWITCH ON 1 < Return>-

3. If you label output 7 YELLOW you can type in:

SWITCH ON YELLOW

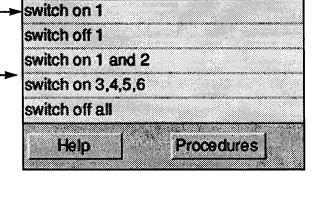
4. To control motors plugged into the blue sockets type:

MOTOR A FORWARDS MOTOR A BACKWARDS MOTOR A OFF

- Press <Select> on the
 [Commands] button on the
 dialogue window.
 Point to a word and press
 <Select>. This types the word
 for you. When the command is
 complete press [Return].
- 6. Type the following to see what happens:

ALARM [Return] CLEAN [Return]

You may also press the red function keys for selected commands.



ПX	Command	S
ALARM	ALL	AND
ĄŢ	BACKWARD	BUILD
CHANGE	CLEAN	END
FOREVER	FORWARD	IF
LIST	MOTOR	OFF
ON	POWER	PROCEDURE
REPEAT	SAY	SWITCH
THEN	WAIT	WHENEVER
1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8	9 0
A B C D	. , Spc	Del Return

YELLOW

BUILDING PROCEDURES

To write a simple procedure that will

- a. turn on a light bulb
- b. wait for 10 seconds
- c. turn the light bulb off again
- 1. Type BUILD LAMP <Return>.
- 2. In the procedure window type the commands as shown.
- 3. Click on the [OK] button when you have finished.

To carry out the procedure type: LAMP <Return>

Procedures can be changed. To change the waiting time to just one second type:

CHANGE LAMP <Return>

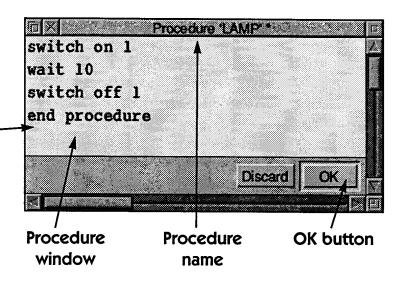
1. Move your cursor to the 10, delete and replace with 1.

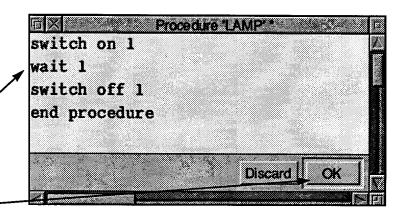
Click [OK] and it is changed.

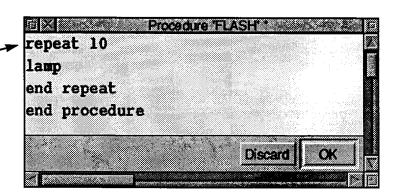
You can repeat the instructions or procedures.

2. Build the procedure FLASH that will flash the lamp 10 times.

You can add to the list of commands CoCo+ knows by teaching the computer new ones. You can build new procedures.







USING THE INPUTS

The green and black sockets on the left of the box are for plugging switches in. CoCo + is able to tell if the switch is on or off. You can use these in your procedures.

 Plug in a press switch (push to make)into input socket number
 and type the following:

Build Test1 < Return>

This procedure will wait until you press the switch before going to the alarm command. It will only check once.

You can however keep checking if a switch is pressed.

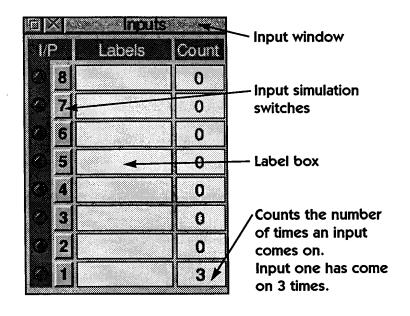
2. Type Build Test2 <Return>

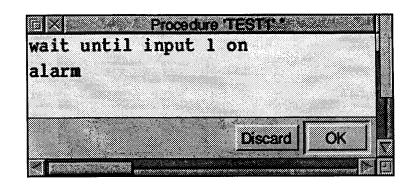
Plug a motor into socket A and run the procedure Test 2. You will need to press the <Escape> key to end it.

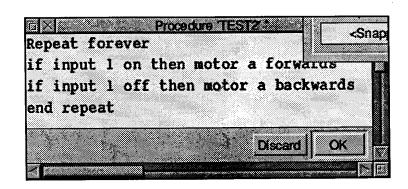
3. A third use of the input is to achieve the above with one command.

Type in the dialog box:

Whenever input 1 on alarm







USING SENSORS

On the front of the serial box (not on the standard control box) is a set of sockets into which you can plug in sensors. These can measure light, sound etc and give a value from 0 to 100.

- Point to the [Sensor] button on the Panel window and press <Select>.
- 2. Plug a light sensor into Sensor socket 1, the value will be shown in the 1st window.

You can use this value in a procedure.

3. Plug a set of light bulbs into outputs 1 to 8.

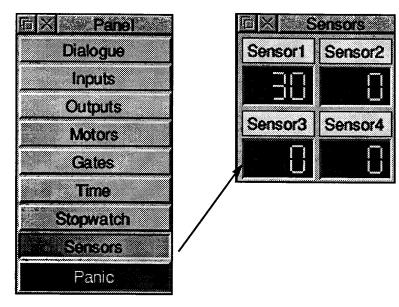
Type Build Dawn < Return>

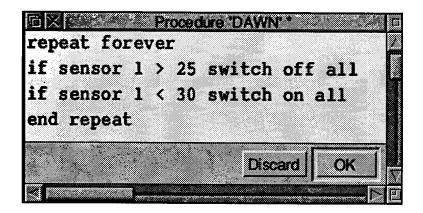
This procedure can test the amount of light in the room and switch on the outputs if it is too dark.

4. Plug a microphone into sensor socket 4. Talk into it and note the maximum value (say 90).

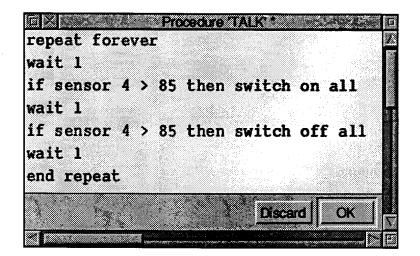
5. Build Talk <Return>

This procedure responds to your voice.





This procedure will turn the lights on when you shout ON and off when you shout OFF!



COMMAND SUMMARY

The following is a short list of the key words that CoCo+ knows. For a more comprehensive list see the user guide book supplied with the software.

SWITCH ON/OFF < number>

Switches ON and OFF specified outputs.

e.g. SWITCH ON 1
SWITCH ON ALL
SWITCH ON 1 AND 2

MOTOR <name> FORWARDS/BACKWARDS/OFF

Turns on a named motor socket in a given direction.

e.g. MOTOR A FORWARDS
MOTOR A OFF

POWER 1/B < level>

This sets the outputs to a specified power level.

e.g. POWER A 5

SAY <message>

The computer will say whatever follows in quotes.

e.g. SAY "WHAT IS THE TIME?"

CLEAN

Cleans the dialogue and write windows

e.g. CLEAN

ALARM

Makes an alarm noise through the computers own

speaker.

e.g. ALARM

BUILD cprocedure name>

Allows you to add a sequence of instructions to the

language. A procedure has to be given a name.

e.g. BUILD FLASH

CHANGE cprocedure name>

Allows you to make changes to a procedure.

e.g. CHANGE FLASH

WAIT < number>

Waits a number of seconds before going to next

command.

e.g. WAIT 12

COMMAND SUMMARY 2

The following is a short list of the key words that CoCo+ knows. For a more comprehensive list see the guide book supplied with the software.

REPEAT < number> or **FOREVER**

Repeats the following actions the number of times specified. Needs to end with an end repeat

e.g. REPEAT 10
SWITCH ON 1
SWITCH OFF 1
END REPEAT

IF INPUT 1 ON/OFF THEN <statement>

Will carry out what follows THEN, if the condition is

satisfied.

e.g. IF INPUT 1 ON THEN SWITCH ON 3

WHENEVER < condition > < task > This continues to check for a given condition until

revoked.

e.g. WHENEVER INPUT 1 ON SWITCH OFF ALL

WAIT <number> or UNTIL <condition>

Waits a specified number of seconds or UNTIL a condition is met before going to the next command.

e.g. WAIT 12

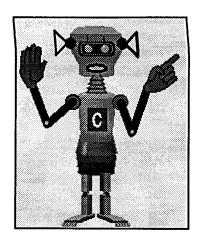
will wait for 12 seconds
WAIT UNTIL INPUT 5 OFF

WRITE <message>

Displays in a special Write window any message you wish to display.

e.g. WRITE "The barrier is now open!"

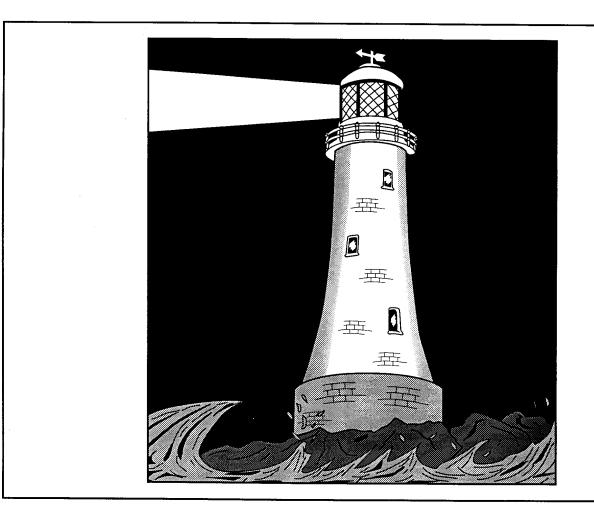
Make a working Lighthouse...Using CoCo+





Why don't you?

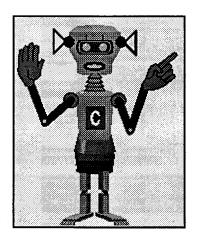
Design and make a lighthouse that flashes its light every 2 seconds



- Did you know that each lighthouse has its own flash pattern?
- Can you make your lighthouse flash to your own distinctive pattern?
- During fog you may not be able to see the light. Can you make it buzz at the same time?



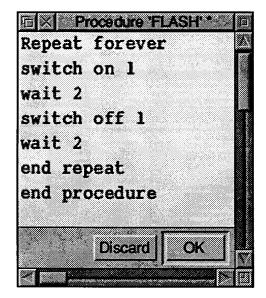






Make a model using re-cyclable material such as a drinks carton and a cardboard tube. Connect a 6V light bulb to output socket 1 on the control box and type the following:

Build Flash < Return>

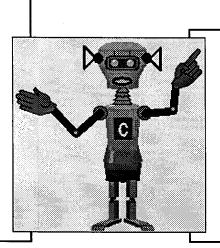


This will make the light flash every 2 seconds.

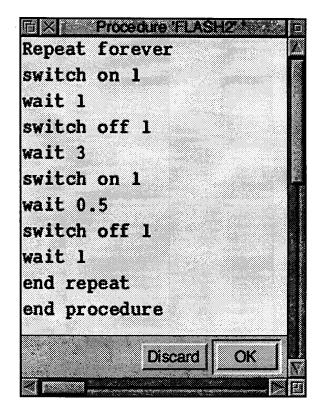
HELPFUL HINTS

To make a buzzing sound at the same time, place a buzzer in socket number 2 and change your procedure FLASH to:(see opposite)

Remember buzzers must be connected the right way round: red to the red socket and black to the black socket.

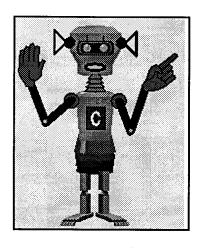


How about this!
This light will now flash in a different sequence



Repeat forever switch on 1 and 2 wait 2 switch off 1 and 2 wait 2 end repeat end procedure

Make a Clown come to life...Using CoCo+



2 Why

Why don't you?

Make a clown's face, with a nose and eyes that light up?

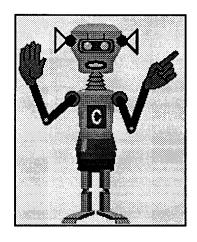
Can you make the clown talk and wink and flash the nose 5 times?



- Think of a way to make the bowtie spin round.
- First one way and then the other.





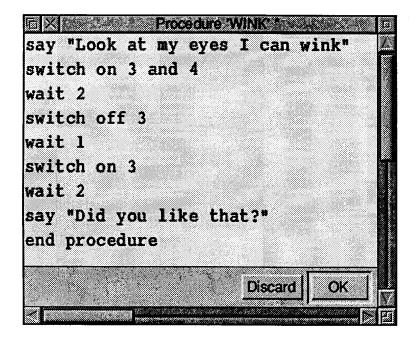


2

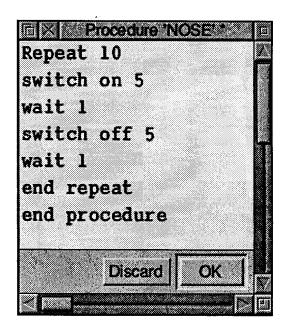
Why don't you?

Draw a clowns face on card and use two light bulbs for the eyes and another for the nose. Connect the eyes to the outputs 3 and 4 and plug the nose into output 5.

Build Wink < Return>



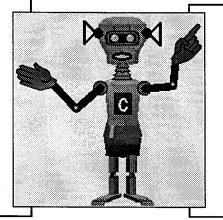
Build Nose < Return>



HELPFUL HINTS
Connect a motor to
the blue motor socket
labelled B. Make a
bowtie and stick it
on the end of
the motor shaft.

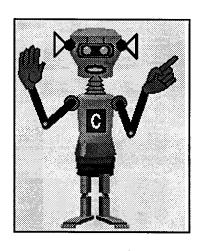
Type the following:

Build Tie < Return>



Motor b forwards
wait 5
motor b backwards
wait 5
motor b off
end procedure

Make an exciting Clown...Using CoCo+



Why don't you?

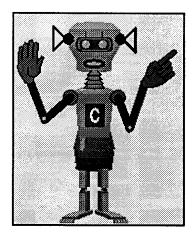
Make a Clown's face do lots of things. You can make the clown talk, wink, flash the nose and spin the bowtie one after the other in a single procedure!



- You could add a buzzer in and make it buzz every time the nose flashes.
- Think up some funny ideas and put them into action.



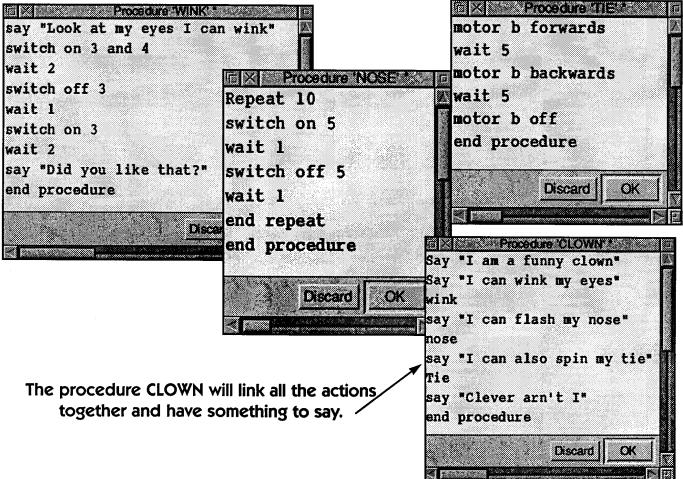






Make a clown and build the procedures Wink, Nose and Tie as described on work card 2. Did you know that you can put all these procedures into one new procedure and add more new commands if you want.

Give it a go!

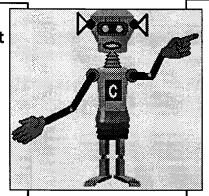


HELPFUL HINTS

Plug a buzzer into output socket 6. Change the procedure Nose to switch on 6 at the same time as 5.

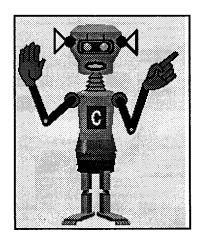
Type:

Change Nose < Return>



Repeat 10
switch on 5 and 6
wait 1
switch off 5 and 6
wait 1
end repeat
end procedure

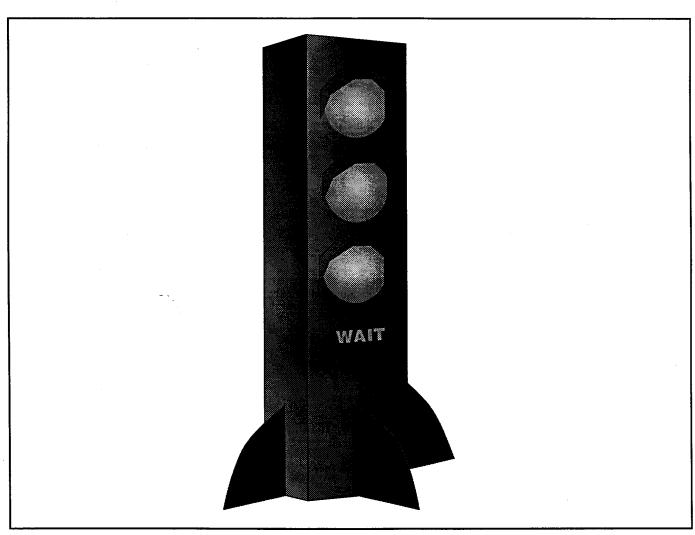
Traffic Lights...Using CoCo+



4

Why don't you?

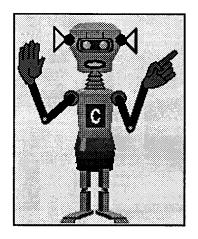
Make a set of traffic lights. The traffic lights you see on the roads have a set pattern. Find out what this is and build in the same sequence for your lights.



- When the lights are red do they give pedestrians time to cross?
- Measure and then mark out the road width on the playground, then time how long it takes to cross.
- Change your procedure to allow for this.

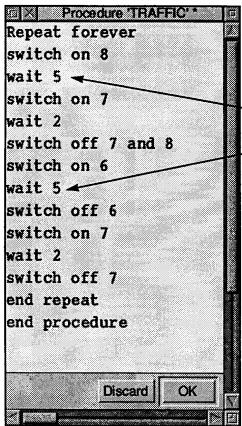








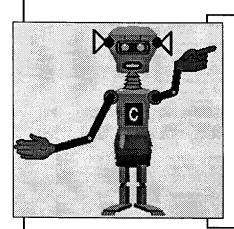
Plug a red bulb into output 8, an amber bulb into output 7 and a green bulb into output 6. If you don't have coloured bulbs try painting them or using coloured tissue paper. Indelible overhead projection pens are also ideal for this.



The wait command after each line determines how long the lights stay on for.

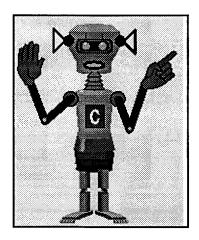
Use traffic cones or markers to represent a road crossing on the playground. Time some of your friends to see how long it takes them to cross the road. If it takes 10 seconds, change the wait time after the red light comes on to 10.

HELPFUL HINTS



Repeat forever switch on 8 wait 10 switch on 7 wait 2 switch off 7 and 8

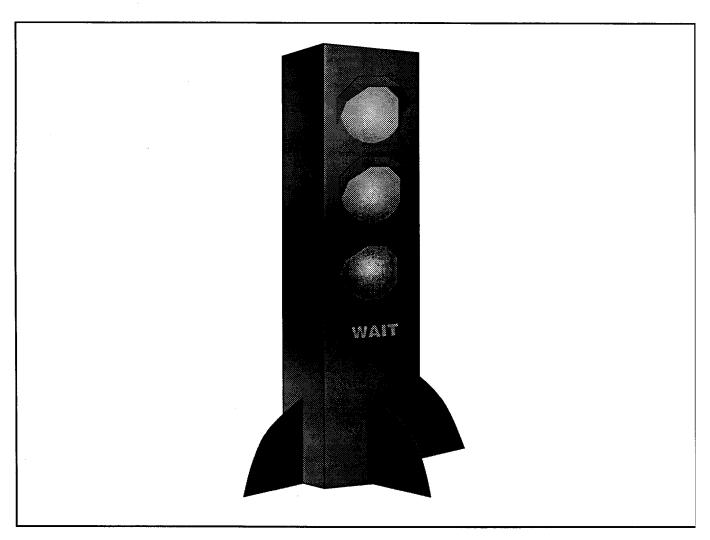
More with traffic lights...Using CoCo+



5

Why don't you?

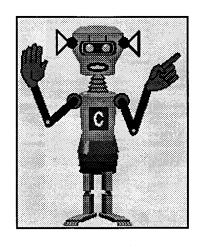
Make a set of traffic lights so that when a button is pressed a WAIT sign telling pedestrians not to cross is lit up.



- Pedestrians have the right of way to cross the road when the lights are red o if the amber light is flashing.
- This is okay if you are able to see . . . what if you are blind? Can you think of a way to let blind people know when it is safe to cross?





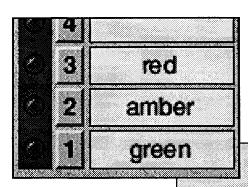




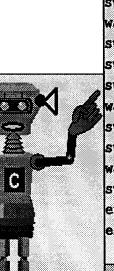
Plug a red light into output 3, an amber light into output 2 and a green light into output 1. A sign saying WAIT could be lit up with a bulb and plugged into output socket 4. Plug a push switch into input socket 1.

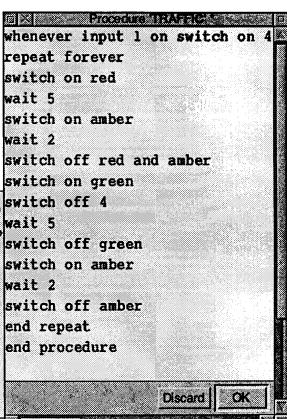
Build Traffic <Return>

Label the outputs to match the colour of your bulbs.



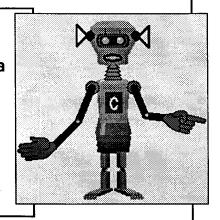
Note that this line just makes sure that the wait sign is off when the lights are green





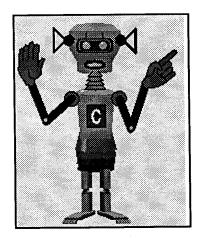
HELPFUL HINTS

After the line that turns the lights green, insert a SAY command to tell people it is safe to cross. Just before they turn amber insert another to say "do not cross ..."



switch off 4
say "The lights are now
green, you may cross"
wait 5
say "The lights are going
red, do not cross"
switch off green
switch on amber

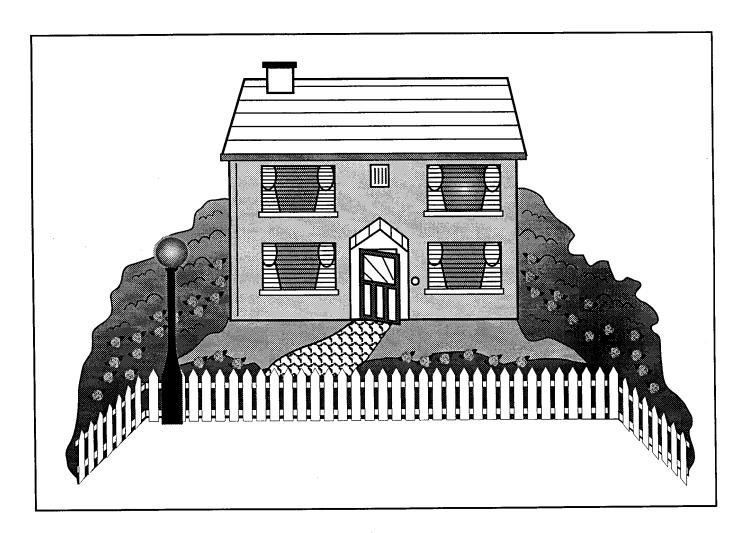
Home from Home...Using CoCo+





Why don't you?

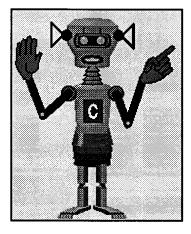
Build a model house with rooms that light up. Make a door that opens and a bell that buzzes when a button is pressed. Write a short story about the house and make it come to life.



- Perhaps you can devise a burglar alarm for your house.
- Connect it to the front door.
- Write a procedure so that when the front door is opened the alarm will go off.









Make a model house from cardboard. Show 4 windows each with a light plugged into outputs1,2,3 and 4. Cut a door in the front that opens and near it place a push switch and plug it into input 5. A buzzer can be fitted anywhere in the house but plug that into output socket 5.

Don't forget to label the output sockets

1 ... Lounge

4 ... Bedroom

2 ... Dining

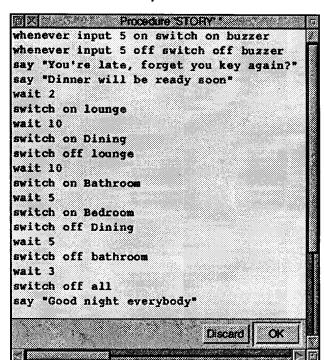
3 ... Bathroom

5 ... Buzzer

THE LOST KEY

Late one day Simon came home from work (no lights on in the house). It was dark and there were no lights to be seen. Realising he had lost his key that morning Simon rang the door bell (press button and buzzer sounds). His wife, Shena, opened the door and said... (Computer talks). They went into the lounge (front lights go on) and sat watching TV for a while. When dinner was ready they left the lounge (front lights go off) and went into the dining room (another light comes on). After dinner and feeling very tired they decided to go to bed. Shena went upstairs and was first in the bathroom. (Upstairs light goes on). Simon soon followed (Dining room light off bedroom light on) Soon they were both ready for bed (Bathroom light off). They turned the lights out and went to sleep (all lights off). Say "Good night Everybody".

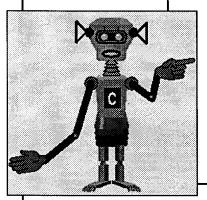
Build story <Return>



HELPFUL HINTS

Place a magnet sensor just behind the door and plug it into input socket 1. Now put a magnet on the door so that when the door is closed they are near, and sensor 1 shows as ON.

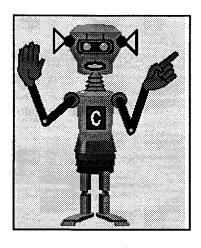
Build procedure Burglar (see opposite)



Whenever input 1 off

alarm

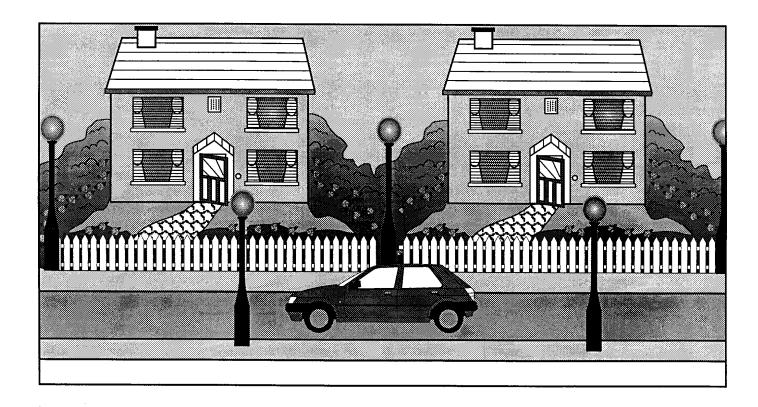
Lighting up time...Using CoCo+



7

Why don't you?

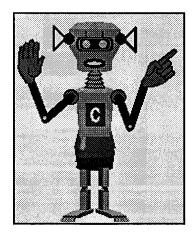
Make a small model town with houses and a road. Make some street lamps for the town that light up. Can you write a procedure that will switch the street lights on when it gets dark and turn them off when it becomes light again?



- Did you know that you can sense the amount of light in any place?
- You could use a sensor to tell the computer to turn the street lights on when the room light goes below a certain level.
- Write a procedure that uses a light sensor to switch your street lights on and off.



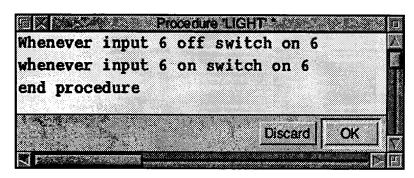






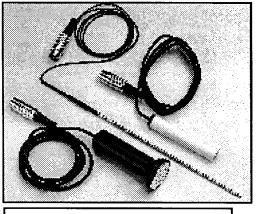
Make a model town from cardboard boxes and a street lamp using some doweling and a light bulb. Connect it up to output socket 6. Connect a light sensor into input socket 6 to check if it is on when the room is bright and off when the room is dull.

Build LIGHT <Return>

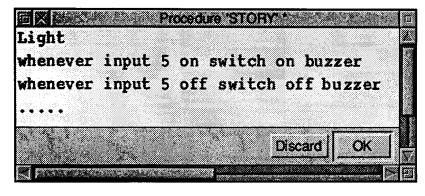


Hint!

You may be able to improve the sensitivity of the light sensor by placing it in a tube. Put just enough cotton wool in the end so that when the lights are on the sensor is on but when the lights are off the sensor shows off.

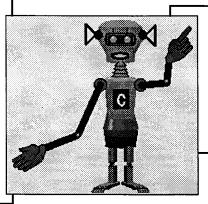


If you have a procedure story (see 5)
Change STORY <Return>



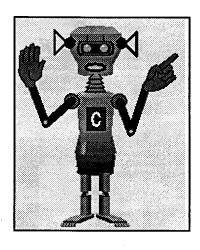
HELPFUL HINTS

If you have a light sensor, plug it in to sensor socket 1 in front of the control box. Show the sensor window by clicking on [Sensors] in the Panel window. Read the amount of light sensor 1 shows. Now turn the room lights off and read sensor 1 again. Write a procedure called SUN.



whenever sensor 1 < 50 switch on 6 whenever sensor 1 > 50 switch off 6 end procedure

Build a Barrier...Using CoCo+

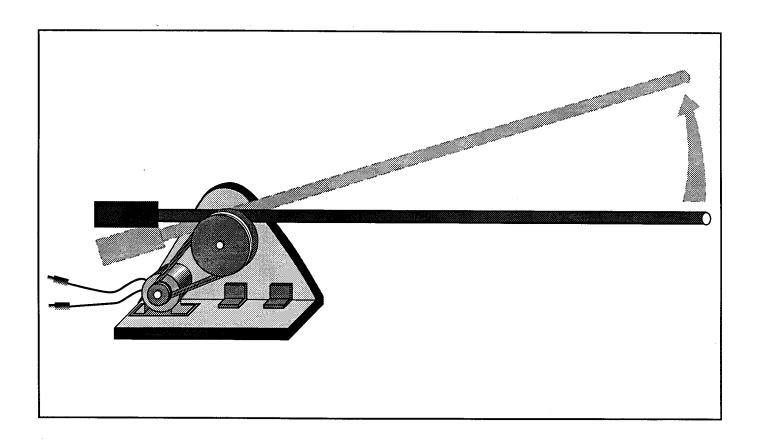


8

We see all around us barriers of different types, in supermarkets, car parks and at train crossings etc.

Why don't you?...

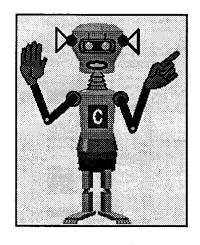
Build a barrier that can go up and down.



- Using a tilt sensor you can detect when the barrier is fully upright or horizontal.
- Choose a sensor you think is best for this.



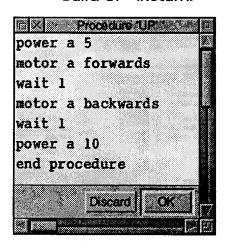




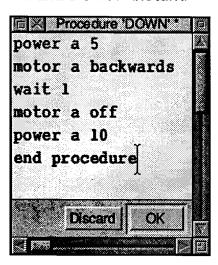
8

To build a barrier that goes up and down, you could use a construction kit or perhaps make it from wood and glue. Connect a motor to pull it up and lower it. Plug the motor into motor socket A and write some procedures to make it go up and down.

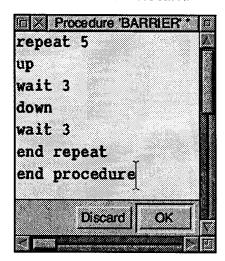
Build UP <Return>



Build DOWN <Return>



Build Barrier < Return>

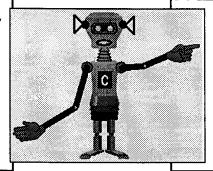


Help!
It may happen that your barrier goes down
on the UP command and up on the DOWN
command. If so, just reverse the plugs in
socket A and all should be well.

Help again!
If the barrier goes up too fast or
too slow alter the power
command to between 1 and 10

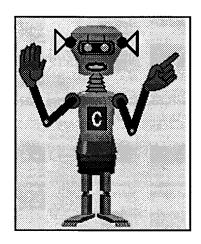
A tilt switch is a good idea. Connect one to your barrier and plug it into input socket 1 so that when the barrier is down it will show ON.

Now change DOWN



Power A 5
motor A backwards
wait until input 1 on
motor A off
end procedure

An "Are you there" Barrier...Using CoCo+

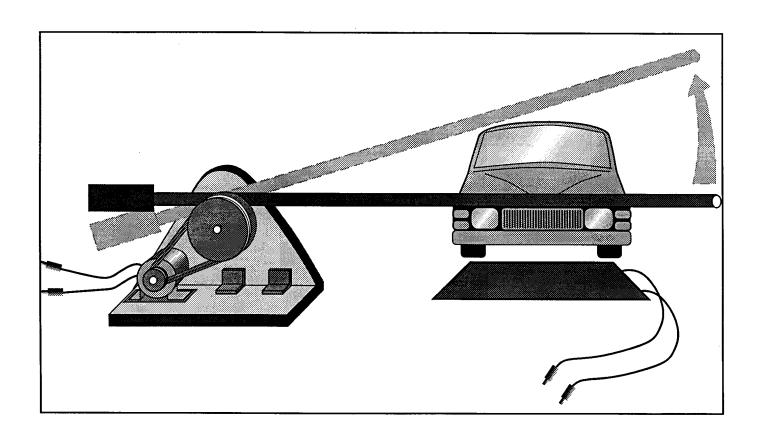


9

A car park barrier knows when to raise because a ticket is removed

Why don't you?

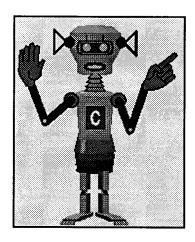
Build a barrier with a device that can detect if a ticket is taken.



- A barrier also knows when to come down after the car has passed through.
 Can you make a barrier that can do all this?
- Add a feature so that when you have collected your ticket and passed a safe distance beyond, the barrier will close.







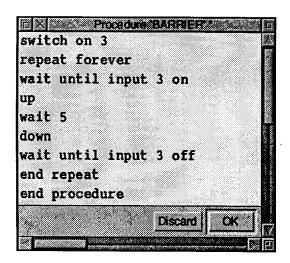
9

Near your barrier place a light sensor and a light bulb within close proximity.

Connect the sensor into input socket 3 and the bulb into output socket 3. You will need to make certain that when the light is on the sensor shows as ON, and when the light is off the sensor shows as OFF

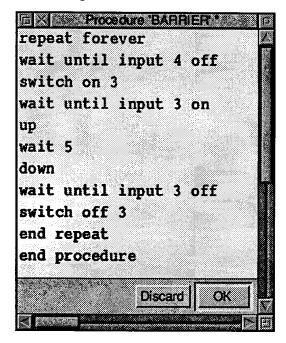
Build your procedures to make the barrier go up and down

Build Barrier < Return>



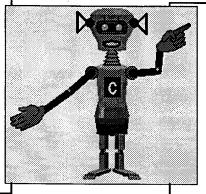
Notice that the light in output 3 is always on. To avoid this, plug a light sensor into output socket 4 and place before the barrier making certain that when a vehicle passes near, it shuts out the light and the sensor turns OFF.

Change Barrier < Return>



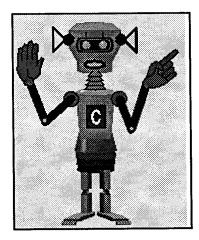
You could enhance the barrier by placing a light sensor just after the barrier connected to output 5. When the light beam is broken the barrier will come down and the sequence will be repeated again.

Change Barrier < Return>



up
wait until input 5
off
down

Make a Disco Light Show...Using CoCo+

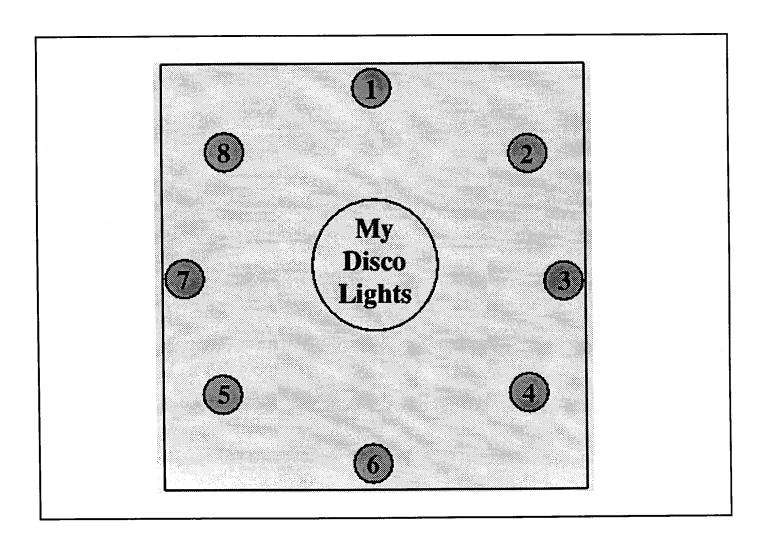




If you have lots of light bulbs ...

Why don't you?

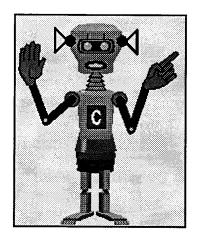
Connect some to the control box and write some procedures to make different patterns of flashing disco lights.



- Can you link some of your procedures into one single procedure?
- Play some music and see if you can make light patterns to match the rhythm.
- Change your procedures to keep in time with the music.



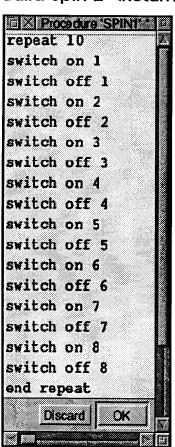




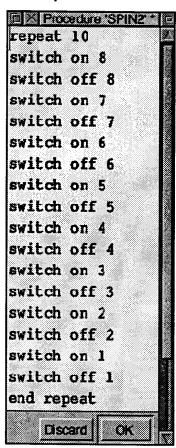
10

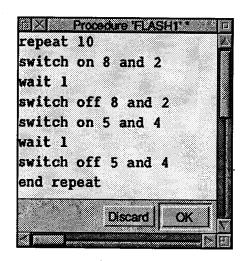
Get a piece of stiff card and fix 8 lights in the shape of a circle. Plug these into output sockets 1 to 8. Now make the lights go on and off in turn to make it look like it is going round in a circle...first one way, then the other.

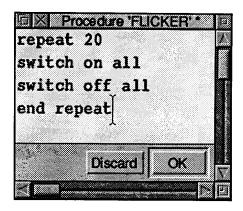
Build Spin 2 < Return>



Build Spin 2 <Return>



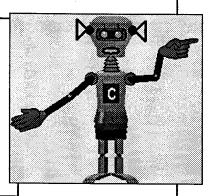




You can put all the procedures into one and repeat them in any order and any number of times.

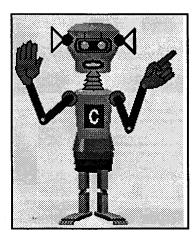
Try this:-

Build Disco < Return>



repeat 10
spin1
flash1
spin2
flash1
flicker
end repeat

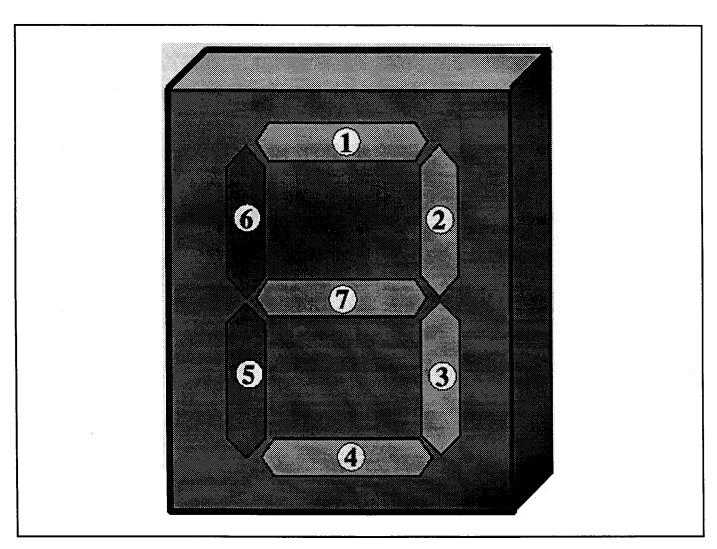
Make a Digital Display...Using CoCo+





Why don't you?

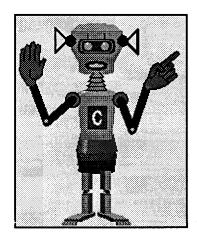
Make a seven segment display that can be used to make all of the different digits from 0 to 9. You will need a light bulb in each of the seven segments.



- Build a procedure that can make it into a clock that will count down 10 seconds.
- Why not make it talk at the same time?





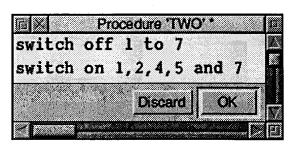


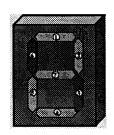


Build your display from some card and plug in 7 light bulbs behind each segment. Plug these into output sockets numbered 1 to 7. Switch on each light making certain that it only lights up a single segment. Now build your procedures.

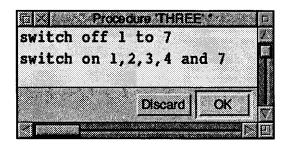
To make the display show numbers build a procedure for each separate number. Here are some examples for you.

Build two <Return>

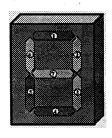


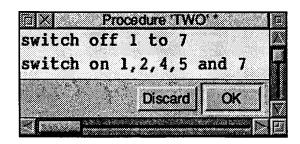


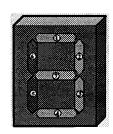
Build Three <Return>



Build Four < Return>





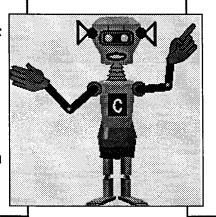


HELPFUL HINTS

When you have made all the numbers you can put them into one single procedure with a pause between each digit.

Build Clock < Return>

Help: Use the stopwatch to check how accurate your count down is.



wait l

wait 1

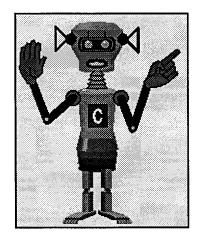
eight

wait 1

seven wait 1

end procedure

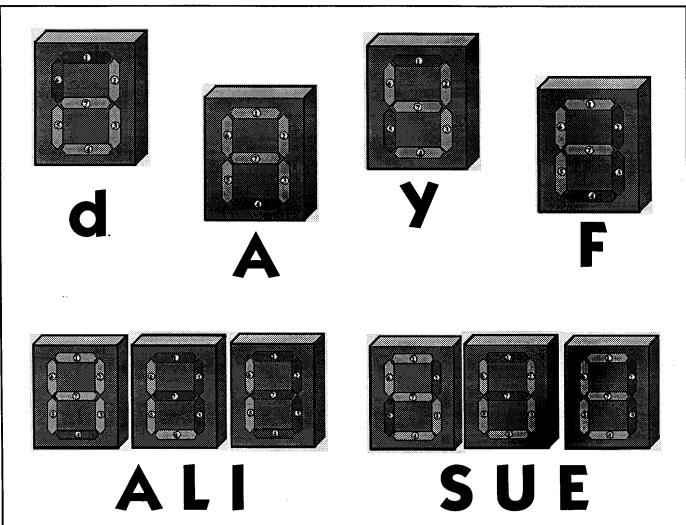
Make a Message Machine...Using CoCo+



12

Why don't you?

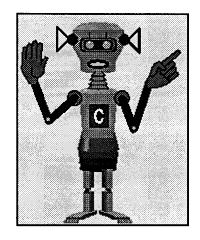
Using a seven segment display, see how many letters of the alphabet you can make. How many names of people you know can you display?



- Can you devise a system to send a message using your segment display?
- You can use the letters you have already built in procedures.



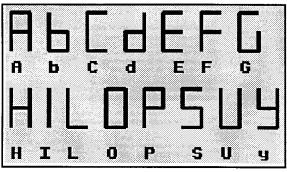




12

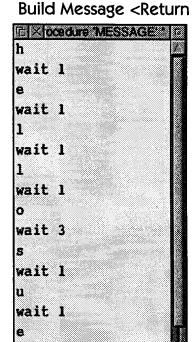
Work out on paper all the letters you could make. Then build a different procedure for each letter. All the different procedures can go into one single procedure called Message.

Here are some examples for you.

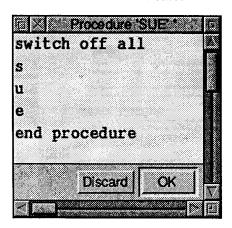


Message reads

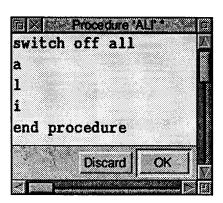
HELLO SUE



Build Sue < Return

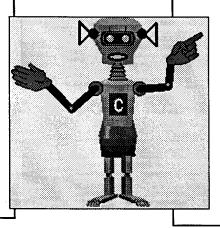


Build Ali <Return



To send a message build a procedure to flash each letter in turn... the wait 1 will keep it on for 1 second.

Note: In building your letters don't forget to switch off all before you display the letter.



Build countdown nine

wait 1

switch off all

Discard

say "nine"
eight
say "eight"
seven
say "seven"

zero say "zero"