



SOLIDISK TECHNOLOGY LIMITED

COMPUTERS PERIPHERALS MICROPROCESSOR DEDICATED SYSTEMS

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SOLIDISK SIDEWAYS RAM

1 JULY 1984

PLEASE READ THIS MANUAL THOROUGHLY BEFORE YOU RING US UP!

SOLIDISK BBC SIDWAYS RAM

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* CHAPTER 1: SYSTEM OVERVIEW *

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WHAT IT IS, HOW IT WORKS AND WHAT IT DOES.

1.1. PRELIMINARY:

The sideways RAM system consists of:

- A cartridge base which provides easy access to the computer address, data and control buses.
- A mini ROM cartridge which accommodates and protects any ROM from being damaged through handling.
- A sideways Ram card which conveniently replaces any ROM.
- A Solidisk Extension card which is basically more Sideways Rams (optional).
- A SWR system disc which contains utility programs such as MENU, STL150, SILEX, INDEX, PRINTER, STLOEOO etc..(The supplied disc is formatted as single density, 40 tracks or 80 tracks to Acorn's DFS specifications).

1.2 COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER DEVICES.

1.2.1 COMPATIBILITY WITH ACORN COMPUTERS ADD-ONS:

Solidisk hardware is completely compatible with all add-ons produced by Acorn Computers for the BBC micro, including Teletext Adapter, Econet, IEEE Interface Controller, 6502 Second Processor, Z80 Second Processor, Joystick and Ink Jet Printer.

On the Software side, the BBC micro fitted with Sideways RAM will run ALL commercially available software, from Acornsoft and other main producers. It will also run MOST of the Specially Written Programs.

Some Specially Written Programs (as detailed in chapter 3 require a standard DISK INTERFACE.

1.2.1 STANDARD DISK INTERFACE:

The standard disk interface is the SINGLE DENSITY DFS, based on the INTEL 8271 Disk controller.

This system is the ONLY official one. It can be supplied by Acorn, Watford Electronics, Pace, Cumana, Viglen etc.. They all are the same EXCEPT for the Disk Filing System EPROM (DFS), which for reasons of copyright cannot be the same as Acorn own products. Here are some Single Density DFSs: Acorn version .90, .98, .9a, .9f, .9v, DNFS (as supplied with the Second Processors), DFS1.3 (Watfs), C.U.C. DOS and AMCOM.

1.2.2 DUAL DENSITY DISK INTERFACE:

This system is NOT official. The dual density disk.

interface allows you to select either single density or double density to store your software onto disk. Double density means that you can store twice as much data and programs onto the same diskette. In single density mode, it allows you to run all commercial software diskettes.

THE DUAL DENSITY DISK INTERFACE IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH SOME IMPORTANT SPECIALLY WRITTEN PROGRAMS.

These are:

- The STLOEOO, STL150, STLDISC and VMPL2.

Some Dual Density Disk Interfaces are: LVL, OPUS, MICROWARE, KENDA.

***NOTE: KENDA PROFESSIONAL DFS IS NOT AT ALL COMPATIBLE WITH SOLIDISK HARDWARE. PLEASE REFER TO OUR SALES OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

The Solidisk Software Support Service will support Dual Density Disk Interfaces EXCEPT Kenda's . The Kenda problem is hardware related.

1.2.3 THE 6502 SECOND PROCESSOR:

The 6502 Second processor comes with 2 new sideways ROMs: the DNFS and the High BASIC. The DNFS will replace the old DFS ROM and the High Basic the old Basic ROM.

SET UP YOUR SIDEWAYS FIRMWARE (SEE SECTION 3.1) THEN SWITCH ON THE SECOND PROCESSOR. HOLD THE CONTROL KEY DOWN WHILE PRESSING THE BREAK KEY.

STLOEOO, STL150, STLDISC and in general all other filing system will not operate with the Second Processor.

Solidisk will release Specially Written programs for the Second Processor in September.

1.2.4 THE Z80 SECOND PROCESSOR:

The Z80 Second Processor is quite a different animal, it will not run any of the existing software except Basic programs.

None of the Specially Written Programs will run on the Z80 processor. Solidisk Software Support Service will provide the RAM disk facility to Z80 users in September.

1.2.5 THE SIDEWAYS RAM IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH ANY SIDEWAYS ROM EXTENSION BOARDS:

It will be explained later, in section 1.3.2 why Sideways RAM is not compatible with any Sideways ROM extension board, including boards made by SIR, Watford Electronics, APTL and Romex.

1.2.6 THE MACE JOYSTICK AND OTHER INSTRUMENT CONNECTED TO THE USER PORT:

Devices making use of the user port are not compatible with Solidisk's 32K system or larger. It is possible to switch off (and/or disconnect) the external devices, set up all Sideways Software as per section 3.1 then reconnect or switch on the external device. It must be pointed out that the RAM disk facility will not work with any external devices connected to the user port.

1.2.7 WRITE PROTECT THE SIDEWAYS RAM CONTENTS:

You should not write protect the Sideways RAM as all specially written programs will not work. Under some circumstances, you may need to write protect it. Connect an external switch in series on the WRITE signal so that you can turn it off.

1.2.8 COUNT UP TO 10 BEFORE YOU SWITCH ON THE COMPUTER.

This is to destroy the contents of Sideways RAM before the machine is powered. Always unlock the disk drive door if the machine is left unattended.

1.3 HOW DOES THE SIDEWAYS RAM WORK?

If you are already familiar with memory addressing on the BBC computer, please skip paragraphs 1.3.1 and 1.3.2

1.3.1 MEMORY ADDRESSING ON THE BBC COMPUTER:

The BBC computer is built around the 6502 CPU, IC1 on the main processor board. The 6502, like many other CPUs uses 16 bits to address its memory. Each bit is capable of being either 0 or 1 resulting in the number of 2 (for zeroes and ones) to the power of 16 (for its 16 bits). In other words, it can address $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 65,536$ locations or bytes. To make it simpler, one can count in chunks of 1024 bytes or Kilobytes or Kbytes. 65,536 are equal to 64k bytes.

The BBC 64k bytes are divided into three main areas: from the bottom up: the RAM area, 32k bytes, then the Sideways ROM area, 16k bytes, and the MOS area, the remaining 16k bytes.

The term RAM stands for Random Access Memory or memory that you can write to and read from. ROM is, on the contrary, Read Only Memory or permanent memory, non-eraseable and written only once in the manufacturing process. The term MOS stands for Machine Operating System. Inside the BBC computer, each memory area has a predetermined role: the RAM is the general working

space for all sorts of programs, the Sideways ROM area usually contains BASIC, Disk Filing System (DFS), Wordprocessor, etc., whereas the MOS keeps the machine busy and responsive.

On page 498 of your USER GUIDE, you will find a map showing the RAM on the right hand side of the computer board and the ROMs just below it.

1.3.2 THE SIDEWAYS ROMS

If you open the computer case and remove the keyboard, you will notice that the ROM area actually has 5 sockets. Probably 3 of them are factory fitted: the leftmost one is the MOS, next to it is the BASIC ROM and the DFS ROM. They are all essential to the computer.

You could compare the MOS with a landlord, controlling some 32k bytes of land (RAM) and a row of 4 socket/shops (Sideways ROMs).

The socket/shops may be occupied (by BASIC, DFS etc) or empty.

Every time you power on or press the BREAK key, the MOS landlord checks on his tenants; he looks and tries to identify a copyrighted ROM. If this copyright (denoted by the word '(c)' programmed onto the ROM) is there, the socket/shop is occupied, otherwise it is empty.

The socket/shops are organised in a row. The MOS handles the task of choosing a particular shop at any time to be placed in the 6502 memory, in the manner of a slide projector. The 6502 then 'sees' that socket/shop-slide. The hardware and software to perform all this Sideways ROM slide show is quite complex but as far as the user is concerned, the service shop/program such as Wordprocessing, electronic filing, Speech, Graphic etc..is brought to him/her automatically by the MOS upon request.

Although only 4 socket/shops are provided on the standard BBC computer, the MOS is capable of controlling up to 16 socket/shops. In other words, there is still commercial land to build an extra 12 shops. You guess that many firms will try to supply the extra socket/shops. They can be REAL socket/shops (such as on Sideways ROM extension boards), similar to the ones already installed or MUTANT socket/shops such as the Sideways RAM system.

The difference is: you PLUG ROM SOFTWARE CHIPS into REAL sockets, you LOAD the same software from your DISKETTES into Sideways RAM which then MUTATE into ROM chips.

This explains why you cannot have BOTH an extension ROM board and the Sideways RAM system. This is like selling the same land to 2 different companies.

1.3.3 WHERE IS THE SIDEWAYS RAM ON THE MEMORY MAP?

The Sideways RAM system consists of additional RAM sharing the same sideways area (&8000 to &BFFF) in the BBC computer with Sideways ROMs.

Unlike Sideways ROMs, the contents of Sideways RAM have to be loaded from disk (or tape or Econet) and will be lost when the power goes off. If you load into Sideways RAM memory the image of a Sideways ROM, the Sideways RAM will then be identical to the ROM, a little like a video cassette recorder.

You can also load into Sideways RAM specially written programs such as those supplied by the Software Support Service.

Figure 1 illustrates the memory map of a BBC computer fitted with Solidisk Sideways system.

1.3.4 READING AND WRITING INTO SIDEWAYS RAMS

Under normal circumstances, you should not be concerned with reading or writing into Sideways RAMs. This job can be left to the MOS alone. You simply select the program/software and it loads (writes) itself in 1-2 seconds. Unlike having a ROM extension board, you lose one second each time but there is no limit to the number of programs you can use.

The built-in hardware to select any one of the Sideways RAM is the pair &F4-&FE30 for reading, &FE62-&FE60 for writing. This dual selection allows one Sideways RAM or ROM to load software into another Sideways RAM.

If you are writing your own system software, the rule is simple: to load software into a particular Sideways RAM, store 15 into &FE62 and the Sideways RAM number into &FE60. To read out the contents of any ROM or RAM, store the Sideways RAM number into &F4 and &FE30. For more technical details, please refer to the SOLIDISK TECHNICAL MANUAL.

1.4 USES OF SIDEWAYS RAM:

The first use of Sideways RAM is to run Sideways Software.

Broadly speaking, there are 2 categories of Sideways software: Sideways ROMs and Specially Written Programs

(SWPs).

Sideways ROMs are commercially available. You will have to transfer them to disk before using them with the Sideways RAM system.

Specially Written Programs (SWPs) are available only on diskettes, ready for use with your Sideways RAM system. At present, most SWPs are supplied by the Solidisk Software Support Service. They are originally developed by Solidisk's engineers to support the products but almost all new material is bought from Sideways RAM users.

1.5 FREE SOFTWARE FROM SOLIDISK:

It is important that you know about the Solidisk Sideways RAM Software Support Service.

For every Sideways RAM board sold, \$1.00 is spent on SWPs. When you buy your Sideways RAM system, you receive 1 free diskette. After copying it onto your own disks, you can exchange it for another one, then another one etc.. Alternatively, you can buy extra SWR UTILITY DISKS to complete your collection. SWR UTILITY DISKS are organised in volumes, Volumes 3 and after have their own SUPPLEMENT to this MANUAL. Software available on these disks is not for sale: it is free to any user and is given with as much explanation as possible.

Each month, it is estimated that more than 500 man hours are spent on SWPs, all paid for by new Sideways RAM users.

Specially Written Programs fall into 4 main categories:

1) ROM overlays: such as the STL150 program. They add extra facilities and commands to existing ROMs. These programs are only useful if you possess the relevant ROMs. For STL150 you will need the Acorn DFS version .90.

2) Language and Service Programs: such as the Keyboard program, the STLOEOO or the Printer program. They are structurally similar to ROM software and will run on any BBC computer.

3) Modular or Procedural programs: such as the Solidisk Datafile and the Macro Basic. These programs consist of several disk resident modules (Solidisk Datafile) or libraries of Procedures (Macro Basic) copied into Sideways RAM. These programs work with MAINFRAME methods: they download wanted PROCEDURES from Sideways RAM and are capable of outperforming the 6502 Second Processor. Their use requires the SOLIDISK

to be installed.

4) Fast disk access programs: such as Silexicon and WORD64. These programs depend heavily on the speed of accessing a great number of small portions of data so that although you can use them with twin disk drives, they are 100 times faster when using the SOLIDISK.

NB:-----
All ROM software can have a SWP version but no SWP will work in ROM form.-----

If you would like to contribute your own program please ring Southend (0702) 354 674. The usual rate of payment is \$1.00 for every 4 bytes of machine code.

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* CHAPTER 2: SYSTEM INSTALLATION *

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INSTALLATION OF THE SIDEWAYS RAM

- Check the utility disk.
- Open the computer and instal the Sideways RAM.
- Test the Sideways RAM.

2.1 CHECK THE UTILITY DISK

2.1.1 BOOT UP THE UTILITY DISK.

Insert the utility disk and boot up the disk by holding down the Shift key while powering on the computer. Alternatively, you can hold the shift key down while pressing the BREAK key.

If a disk error occurs, check the disk label. The disk label SWR40T requires a 40 track disk drive, SWR80T an 80 track disk drive. Switch your drive if necessary and repeat.

You should see:

BBC Computer
Acorn DFS
BASIC

CHAIN "MENU"

PLEASE WAIT....

The MENU program is a sort of HELLO program. Its purpose is to illustrate the way the Sideways RAM is integrated into your computer. More about the MENU

program later on.

2.1.2 MAKE ONE OR SEVERAL BACKUPS OF THE UTILITY DISK.

Label one of these the 'LANGUAGE DISK'. Then *WIPE out all files on this disk except:

-!BOOT
-MENU

2.1.3 TRANSFERING ROMS TO THE LANGUAGE DISK:

Boot up the LANGUAGE disk as in 2.1.1

You should now see:

SIDEWAYS SOFTWARE FIRMWARE INSTALLED

0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	A	B
C BASIC*	D DFS *	E (*)	F (*)

0 Sideways RAM bank(s) available

SWR40/01/07 DISK DIRECTORY

A !BOOT	B MENU	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	

New disk, press ? Save SWR, press @

Enter letter _

(*)NB:

This MENU refers to the BBC computer before the base unit is installed. After this installation, BASIC and DFS will be moved up 4 lines i.e. occupying box 0 and box 1.

Secondly, the positions of the different ROMs may be different, depending on the actual setting of your machine. For example, if you have TORCH 280 card, the MCP chip would appear in box 2 or 3.

PRESS THE '@' KEY.

The computer prompts

@- From SWR slot (0 to F)?_

Look at the top part of the screen. Choose 'D' for example.

You should see:

SAVING DFS in red.

The screen refreshes. The disk directory will now contain DFS. If you want to save any SWR onto disk, CHOOSE '@' and then SUPPLY the BOX NUMBER as it appears in the TOP PART. Please note that the only acceptable reply in this section is 0...9 then A,B,C,D,E or F in capital letters. Giving a box number which does not contain a name results in an error.

Repeat the previous step several times to get used to the system.

2.2 CHECKING THE BASE UNIT

The base unit is a module measuring about 2" x 2" x 2" with either 6 wires (6 wire base unit) or 11 wires (11 wire base unit as we call them). The base unit is meant to be plugged into the rightmost ROM socket and the wires connected to the main computer board.

Check all the coloured wires against diagram 2. Check all pins are straight; press them against a flat surface to straighten the pins if necessary.

2.3 CHECKING THE MINI ROM CARTRIDGE

The Mini ROM cartridge is a small PCB with only one 28 pin socket soldered to it. The card has a double row of 'fingers' and is meant to be inserted into the (black) edge connector of the BASE unit. The finger portion also has a slot which will mate with the plastic key position on the edge connector. Later on, with the slot towards the South, you MUST instal your ROM so that the notch on the ROM is facing NORTH. We cannot assume any responsibility for damage caused to your ROMs by wrong positionning.

2.4 CHECKING THE RAMCARD

The RAMCARD is the long board containing all the chips with a double row of 'fingers' on the right hand side. Check that there is not wrapping foil stuck to any part of the card.

WRONG CONNECTION WILL NOT DAMAGE YOUR COMPUTER BUT MAY LOCK IT UP. ALWAYS PROCEED ONE STEP A TIME. CHECK CAREFULLY BEFORE MOVING TO THE NEXT ONE. YOU MAY SEND US THE COMPUTER AND \$8.00 FOR SECURICOR COLLECTION OR EVEN BETTER, BRING YOUR COMPUTER TO US FOR FREE FITTING. NOTE OUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: SOUTHEND 354 674

NOTE: if the coloured wires do not match diagram 2, either return the base unit for replacement or mark the wires according to their position in diagram 2, thereby disregarding the colours.

2.5 REMOVE THE TOP CASE.

2.5.1 Undo the 4 screws labelled 'FIX', 2 at the rear of the computer, 2 under the keyboard.

2.5.2 Undo the 2 fixing bolts. Slide the keyboard to the front revealing the ROM sockets. They are found in the right hand corner. 3 of them are factory fitted with from left to right: the MOS, the BASIC (black plastic ROM) and DFS ROM (usually a brown ceramic EPROM with a sticker over the glass window). If you have already got all 5 sockets filled up, remove the least frequently used (NOT any of the 3 above) to make room for the base unit. However, copy it onto the language disk using the MENU program (SEE SECTION 2.1).

2.6 INSTAL THE BASE UNIT

The base unit plugs into the rightmost sideways ROM socket on the computer board.

Check all the pins of the base unit. Straighten them if necessary.

*** If you have an issue 3 board, you will notice that below the rightmost ROM socket there is a small resistor (R153 or R163-100 Ohm 1/4 watt) not found on the issue 4 boards and later boards. If you have a soldering iron, you may cut R163 and bridge the two ends. Otherwise, simply bend it down VERY gently until there is enough clearance for the base unit. If you also have a long blue capacitor in the vicinity, you may simply cut it out. The resistor and capacitor are suppressed on later issue boards.

POSITION the base unit so that the card connector (colour black) is to the right and all the pins are just above the socket receptacles. If the pins are slightly splayed out, press them against a flat surface like the edge of a table to get them exactly in line. Press the base unit firmly down.

** When pressing down the base unit, the computer board may flex a little bit because there is no spacer support right at the corner.

Power on. The Base unit should not have any effect on the computer.

2.7 USE THE MINI ROM CARTRIDGE

The MINI ROM cartridge provides an easy way of inserting and removing Sideways ROMs. When installing any ROM onto the cartridge, CHECK:

- a) No IC pin is bent or lies outside the socket.
 - b) The ROM has the same orientation as if it were socketted on the computer board. The BOTTOM of the cartridge has the word STL and the key slot.
- Insert any sideways ROM or even the Basic ROM into the Mini ROM cartridge. Insert the cartridge into the

card connector. Make sure that the ROM is orientated in the same way as it was when installed on the BBC board, ie with the notch facing NORTH. Power on the computer. Your Sideways ROM should still be running. If not, check for bent pins on the base unit, bent IC pins on the Mini ROM cartridge, and/or repeat the operation with another ROM. If you are unsuccessful, ring us for advice.
If all is well, and the Sideways ROM is still running, enter:

*BASIC

Insert the LANGUAGE DISK and do Shift-Break to boot it up.

Use option '@' to save this ROM onto disk.

** NOTE: at this point, 28 pins of the base unit have been proved to be making good contact with the rightmost ROM socket. However, the Sideways RAM system requires another 4 signals as we shall see later.

Power off the computer and remove the Mini ROM cartridge.

** NOTE: The base unit is simply inserted into the ROM socket. Therefore it is advisable that you keep the base unit steady in the ROM socket with one finger while pulling out the mini ROM cartridge. This will prevent the base unit from being unnecessarily detached from the socket.

2.8 CONNECT THE CONTROL WIRES OF THE BASE UNIT

a) 3 WIRES TO THE 6522 (IC69):

pins 10,11 and 12: Locate IC69 (6522, south of IC1). Remove it with a small screwdriver, push the green (pin 10), yellow (pin 11) and orange wires (pin 12) into the socket. Then line up the left row of IC pins in the socket so that the 3 coloured wires are held in place, together with the IC pins 10,11 and 12. Exert a little pressure on the right of the IC to align the righthand row of pins then press down firmly. The wires will be retained in the socket at the same time as the IC pins.

This operation is in fact quite easy but if you are really wary, simply raise the IC about 5 mm so that the pins are still lined up. Push the wires in carefully and press down on the chip. This method does not ensure you a 'tight fit' but is perfectly adequate in our experience.

b) 2 WIRES TO THE 74LS163 (IC 76):

These are pins 11 (3rd up on the right) and 12 (4th up). Locate IC76 (74LS163 under the keyboard tail). Remove or raise the IC, push the 2 wire terminals into

the IC socket (yellow to pin 12, orange to pin 11) and press the IC down into the socket. If this IC is soldered to the board (issues 4 and 7), use the blue socket to extend the legs of the IC and simply, while holding the socket with 2 fingers, push the wires into the same position (see diagram).

This is the trickiest operation on the whole, so take your time to make sure that the blue socket legs are all correctly mating the IC legs and that the wires are not too loose. If you have a soldering iron, solder the wires directly to the IC legs.

You have gone through the worst and are left with only 6 wires. They are all common to both the simple 6 wire base unit (for the SWR16) and the 11 wire unit.

c) 2 WIRES TO THE 6502 (IC1):

2 of them, yellow and orange, will go to the 6502 processor chip, North of the 6522 (IC69, see section 2.8.a). The orange wire will be attached to pin 39, second down, on the right hand side. The yellow wire will be attached to pin 34, the 7th pin down, on the right hand side. Raise the IC, push in the 2 wires and press down on the IC exactly as per section 2.8.a above.

c) 4 WIRES TO S20 and S22:

Locate the 2 jumper blocks labelled S20 and S22 on the BBC board. They are about 1/2" to the left of the 6522 (IC69). S20 is South of S22. Remove the jumpers (colour black or blue - they are both initially in the north position). Replace them with the white ended plugs.

d) DECISIVE TEST: POWER ON THE COMPUTER!

WATCH OUT FOR THE DREADFUL 'Language?'

If you get 'Language?', then:

2.8.1 The base unit was pulled slightly out of the ROM socket when you removed the Mini ROM cartridge.

2.8.2 you may have put the white end plugs the wrong way round.

2.8.3 the step (on IC76) failed. Possible causes: loose blue socket, reversing the yellow and orange wires or one of them has been detached.

Go back to the previous step, if you are not successful, send back the base unit for replacement.

Power off the computer. Keep the 2 jumpers in a safe place.

2.9 INSTAL THE RAM CARD:

Insert the RAM CARD in place of the Mini ROM cartridge. Power on. The RAM card should not affect the computer.

2.10 TESTING THE SIDEWAYS RAM.

Insert the utility disk and press Shift Break to boot it up.

Just under the 'Sideways Firmware Installed' panel, you will notice the number of Sideways RAMs in your system. If you have a SWR16, this number is 1, a SWR32 gives 2 and a Solidisk gives 8.

If this number differs, the installation is not right. Check as follows:

2.10.1 MENU SHOWS 0 SWR BANK

Check the 2 wires going to the 6502. Make sure that the ORANGE wire goes to pin 39, North of the YELLOW wire. Make sure that none of them is detached from the IC socket.

2.10.2 MENU SHOWS 1 SWR BANK WITH THE SWR32 OR THE SOLIDISK:

Check that the GREEN wire is not detached from pin 10 of the 6522, (IC69) or connected to a wrong place.

2.10.3 MENU SHOWS 2 SWR BANKS WITH THE SOLIDISK:

Check that the YELLOW wire is not detached from pin 11 of the 6522, (IC69) or connected to a wrong place.

2.10.4 MENU SHOWS 4 SWR BANKS WITH THE SOLIDISK:

Check that the orange wire is not detached from pin 12 of the 6522.

2.10.5 MENU STILL DOES NOT SHOW THE RIGHT NUMBER OF SWR BANKS:

Ring us for technical advice. (Between 4.30-5.30 pm).

2.10.6 TESTING ONE SWR BANK (STANDARD TEST FOR SWR16):

Power on the computer and enter:

*PRINTER <RETURN>

You should see:

BBC computer
Printer Buffer
Acorn DFS
BASIC
>

Now enter:

OLD <RETURN>

<control>-B

LIST <RETURN>

The MENU program will be listed. Do not turn on your printer. The listing will be then forced into the printer buffer. LIST it again a second time and a 3rd time. The Shift lock light will then be lit,

signalling that the Printer Buffer is full.
Now turn on your printer, it will start printing immediately.
To stop printing, press the BREAK key.
A faulty RAM card will not go through this test and will 'hang' the computer.

2.10.7 TESTING THE SOLIDISK:

If you have the ACORN .90 DFS, choose the STLDISC program from the MENU. The screen should show '100k available as drive 1'.

Press the function key 'f2'. You should see:

VERIFY OK.

Power off.

2.10.8 REPLACE THE KEYBOARD AND THE TOP CASE.

* CHAPTER 3: SOLIDISK SPECIALLY WRITTEN PROGRAMS. *

****NOTE:** Certain programs are overlays for Sideways ROM software such as STL150 for the Acorn .90 DFS and WORD64 for Computer Concepts, due to their popularity. Their use implies that the above mentioned ROMs be installed on your system. They are not in anyway essential to the performance of Solidisk Sideways RAM system. They merely add some desirable facilities to the existing features of these ROMs. The advertisement of these programs does not infringe the Sale of Goods act with regard to the description of the merchandise.

Specially written programs as supplied free to all Sideways RAM users are divided into volumes. Each volume is recorded on a 40 track single density disk format, compatible with all versions of Acorn disk filing systems. In some circumstances, we may be able to supply these volumes on 80 track diskettes each containing 2 consecutive volumes. Volumes 1 to 10 are intended to be the basic software library for the Solidisk Sideways RAM system, volumes 11 and above are Source Code and Technical Documentation, they are very useful if you intend to write your own Sideways Software. At present, volumes 1 and 2 are out, volume 3 is under preparation, volumes 4,5 and 6 constitute the Silexicon package, Volumes 11 to 16 are the Source Code for all programs contained in volumes 1 and 2.

Although the software is free as it is paid for every month by new Sideways RAM users, the media (diskettes) are not. Solidisk Software Support Service will charge \$2.00 for every new diskette to cover the cost of the media. Packing and postage for any number of diskettes is fixed at \$1.00 per parcel. However, you may return any software disk for replacement with another volume. You are naturally free to make your own back up copy. Please ensure that disks are well wrapped in unbendable

carton. We shall then only charge £1 for post and packing.
If you need to enquire about the Software Support Service, please ring Southend (0702) 354 674 preferably in the afternoon, between 3.30 PM to 5.30 PM. Do not worry about the phone lines being jammed - we now have 10 lines open for customer enquiries.

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VOLUME 1

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3.1 THE MENU PROGRAM:

3.1.1 THE MENU PROGRAM AND THE COMPUTER RESSOURCES:

The MENU program presents the computer resources in 3 parts:

- The Sideways Firmware Installed, the top part.
- The number of Sideways RAM banks still available and the disk title, the middle part.
- The disk directory, the bottom part.

3.1.1.1 FIRST THE SIDEWAYS SYSTEM:

The BBC computer can use up to 16 Sideways ROMs or RAMs. The Sideways ROMs are normally inserted into Sideways ROM sockets. The Sideways RAMs do not have sockets of their own but use the rightmost socket collectively. The machine does not make any distinction between ROMs or RAMs. If there is any Sideways System software in the socket, the name of the software will be displayed in the corresponding box. For example the above screen shows that the BASIC ROM is in the leftmost socket (number=0), the Acorn DFS ROM is in the next socket (number=1). When you power on the computer, there is no SWP or ROM program loaded into Sideways RAM and 13 boxes from 3 to F are empty. Later on, when you load in any Sideways program such as STLOE00, the name of the RAM (or 'ROM') will be in one of the 8 boxes from 8 to F.

****NOTE:** When the 208K Solidisk becomes available in July, 13 boxes from 3 to F will all be used. Boxes 0, 1 and 2 are normally reserved for Sideways Roms, but will be made switchable under software control for the 256K Solidisk.

3.1.1.2 THE SIDEWAYS RAM BANK(S) AVAILABLE.

This information shows you how many 'Languages' or 'Services' you can instal into your system before you start using the computer.

Please read section 3.1.5 below for more details.

3.1.1.3 THE DISK TITLE:

The disk title contains the creation date of your Utility disk.

This User Manual refers to the current diskette (JULY 84)

3.1.1.4 THE DISK DIRECTORY:

This is the middle part of the screen. All disk

filenames are displayed in alphabetical order. A green letter to the left of each filename facilitates your choice.

3.1.2 SELECTING A PROGRAM:

To select a file, press the corresponding green letter. If the file is a text file, it will be printed, a Basic program CHAINED, a machine code program will be RUNned or loaded depending on other criteria. Sideways software is treated differently. It will be loaded one program at a time into consecutive Sideways RAM banks (or boxes), starting at the lowest priority bank (or box). As soon as a sideways software is loaded, the name will appear in the corresponding box. When you finish choosing your software, press the BREAK key. But try this first:

1) Press the letter A.

You should see:

A-PRINT !BOOT (Y/N)_

2) Press Y

The !BOOT file will be displayed on the screen i.e.

"PAGE=&1900:CHAIN "MENU""

3) Press the letter K

K-PRINT help! (Y/N)_

4) Press Y

The help! text will be displayed.

5) Insert the LANGUAGE DISK. Press the ?

You will see printed: New disk, please wait...

The top part of the screen does not change but the directory of the new disk will be displayed.

3.1.3 RUNNING ROM BASED SOFTWARE:

3.1.3.1 LOADING SIDEWAYS SOFTWARE:

Under the 'Sideways Firmware Installed' panel, you will find the number of Sideways RAMs available or the number of Languages and Services you can select from your diskettes to be part of your machine at any time. You can choose any language or service in direct mode or set up everything you need using the MENU program.

3.1.3.2 DIRECT LOADING OF SIDEWAYS SOFTWARE:

Ideal for the 16K sideways RAM (SWR16) and quite useful with larger units, the direct mode loads into Sideways RAM bank (or box) F, the last one.

Note that you do not have to load into Sideways RAM everything before you start using the computer. To load any Language or Service, enter '*' followed by the filename. The screen will then be cleared and the

Sideways RAM 'F' loaded.

Evoke the Language or Service with the appropriate * command as usual.

Example:

To load and run STLOE00, enter:

*STLE00 <RETURN>

To load and run VMPl.0:

*VMPl.0 <RETURN>

etc..

3.1.3.3 USING THE MENU PROGRAM TO SET UP SIDEWAYS SOFTWARE:

The MENU program helps to set up the computer resources BEFORE you start using it.

Enter:

CHAIN"MENU" <RETURN>

In the disk directory section, there is a green letter in front of each filename.

Press the letter in front of any Sideways ROM file. Your disc should whirl away a couple of seconds and the name of the Sideways ROM should appear in box 8 if you have a Solidisk, in box E if you have a SWR32 and in box F if you have a SWR16. That is now part of your Sideways Firmware. Choosing a second Sideways ROM file will load it automatically into the next Sideways RAM i.e. box 9 (or F with the SWR32). As more Sideways ROMs are being loaded in successive banks, the number of Sideways RAMs is decreased each time until reaching 1 (box F). This Sideways RAM box is always kept open, like a free port. You can always load into it anything at any time. To warn you that the system is reaching its free port, a message will be displayed.

3.1.3.4 CHANGING THE SIDEWAYS RAM BOX:

If you want to load your Sideways Software in a particular 'box', you can use the left or right triangular brackets (they are on the left of the '?' key). The selected box will be indicated just below the number of Sideways RAMs.

To leave the MENU program, simply press the BREAK key.

Now enter:

*HELP <RETURN>

All your software titles should be displayed.

3.1.4 MODIFYING THE MENU PROGRAM:

If you have a double sided disk drive, you may want to change line 120 to read PROCdrive(2) after formatting and saving some programs on the second side of the diskette. Please remember not to copy this modified

MENU onto single sided diskettes as it may look in vain for a non existent directory.

3.2 THE PRINTER BUFFER PROGRAM:

You can load the Printer Buffer program from the Menu or directly by: *PRINTER

The program intercepts the put, remove and count characters sent to the printer. The Printer Buffer will feed your printer in the background, so that you can use your computer immediately. It's very useful for any application.

Your printer is turned on by Control-B (or VDU2) and off by Control-C (or VDU3) as usual. The Break key will stop printing and clear the printer buffer.

You cannot have 2 Printer Buffers at the same time.

3.3 THE INDEX PROGRAM

3.3.1 USE:

This program allows you to set up a 'Mailing List' as simply as possible. You can also use the program for similar 'look-up' applications such as price list, stock inventory, patient prescriptions etc. You can INDEX any data file containing up to 1,100 records of any length.

3.3.2 DATAFILE FORMAT

Data files that can be indexed are pure ASCII or textfiles and should be created by a wordprocessor such as Wordwise. Some wordprocessors require you to SCREEN or to EXEC (other words for *SPOOL text to disk). You can also make up an indexable datafile using existing databases by *SPOOLing all the records required to disk. You then get a printout of it, count the number of fields etc and give appropriate answers to the INDEX program.

There is a sample datafile 'MAIL' on your utility disk, in which:

- Every record is in plain ASCII. Each record is separated from the next one by double carriage return.
- The first field ('name') is used for indexing, 7 characters or spaces are skipped before the 'Most Significant Letter' is picked up for sorting. Other fields like address, town etc can be anything and any number and organised in any manner.

3.3.3 INDEX IS A SEQUENTIAL FILING SYSTEM.

The difference between INDEX and other databases is that INDEX accepts any number of fields and any record size as far as the number of records does not exceed 1100. Fields are written successively, as are records. Any character -such as the carriage return-

can be used to separate fields. Any 2 characters such as /<RET> or 2 field delimiters (empty field) can be used to separate records. The INDEX allows you to lay out your datafile exactly as if you would do on a piece of paper.

3.3.4 HOW TO USE INDEX?

Copy INDEX and MAIL to a blank formatted disk.

CHAIN"INDEX" as with any ordinary BASIC program. Press <RETURN> to each question as it is set up already for use with the default parameters.

You should then see:

BBC Computer

MAIL:INDEX

Acorn DFS

BASIC

>

MAIL is the datafile chosen by default. The Index file of MAIL is now created in Sideways RAM. Later on, when you use the program with your own datafiles, you may wish to make up Index files for STOCK, PRICES, PRSCRIPT etc..

Now enter: *INDEX

The disc drive will be whirring for about 15 seconds. Index searches through 'MAIL' for records and field delimiters, saves these in Sideways RAM and copies itself to your disk under SI.MAIL (SI stands for Sequential Index).

You can check this point by *CAT.

Now enter: *LIST

You should see all records displayed in alphabetical order.

Switch off the computer.

3.3.5 INDEX IS ALWAYS READY:

Switch on the computer and enter *SI.MAIL.

Your computer is ready.

INDEX has some built-in 'star' commands. Please try:

3.3.6 *LIST

This command will list your datafile in alphabetical order according to the criteria input to the INDEX program.

In the MAIL example, the default sort criterion was the SURNAME. In field 0, skip 7 characters, including spaces, after the beginning of the record. E.g: Mr J F Kennedy's record will be sorted by the letter K. (There are seven characters, including spaces, before the letter K of Kennedy). Note that upper and lower case do not matter. If you wish to sort MAIL by the town,

answer 5 to field, 0 to 'before the Most Significant Letter'.

3.3.7 *GET

This command displays the next record in order. You would say that *LIST actually performs *GET from the beginning to the end of the file. There is a little bit more to *GET. If a name (or a town in the second example) is also given, *GET will rather display the best matching record. So *G. K (or *G. KEN or *G. KENNEDY) would display:

Mr J F Kennedy
13 Friday Road
Danbury
Essex SS2 7JQ

Other variations of these 2 commands are:

*LIST <n.mail>

This command will list MAIL but also spool the output to the file <n.mail> for other use such as mail merge.

*PRINT

This is identical to *LIST but activates also the printer.

*STEP

This is opposite to *GET, this command will display the record before the last one.

3.3.8 ADDING MORE NAMES AND ADDRESSES:

The MAIL sample datafile is done with WORDWISE. You can edit it as you like. Other Wordprocessors will require that you create a new document and MERGE the MAIL file. For compatibility, you must SPOOL your datafile to disk before indexing it.

For example, you want to keep a diary about everybody you know. First, using a wordprocessor, alter all the names and addresses to real names and addresses of people you know. Every time you need to refer to Mrs X, simply enter *G. X.

Every time something happens to Mrs X, use your wordprocessor and simply add extra text lines to her record.

****NOTE** You will have to *INDEX every time the datafile is changed as the places where INDEX expects to find your records are changed.

3.4 THE STLOEOO PROGRAM:

3.4.1 STLOEOO IS A DISK FILING SYSTEM.

The STLOEOO is only compatible with the Single density 8271 disk controller as with all Acorn Disk System (not with any Double Density controller). STLOEOO is not capable of loading Sideways Software.

You can load STLOE00 from the MENU or simply by:

*STLOE00 <RETURN>

4.4.2 STLOE00 SETS PAGE=&E00

The normal DFS requires memory workspace between &0E00 to &1900 and sets PAGE at &1900. STLOE00 uses Sideways RAM for its workspace, thus leaving PAGE at the lowest possible value of &E00, increasing memory for BASIC, VIEW, BEEBCALC etc..and allowing tape based programs to run on disk system.

4.4.3 STLOE00 HAS EXTRA DFS UTILITIES.

Enter *HELP DFS and *HELP UTILS. The list of DFS commands and utilities will be displayed.

You will notice that STLOE00 has 3 extra commands:

*F40 (disk formatter for 40 track drive), *F80 and *VERIFY.

To format a disk, switch on the computer and enter:

*STLOE00 <RETURN>

Insert a blank disk into drive 0. Enter:

*ENABLE <RETURN>

*F40 <RETURN>

To 'kill' it, enter:

?&8006=0 <RETURN>

<BREAK>

To revive it, enter:

?&8006=130 <RETURN>

<BREAK>

This method is correct for all types of Software running in Sideways RAM. If you want to kill any language or service program in the Sideways RAM system, store 0 at &8006 and to revive it, store 130. For example: to kill the STLDISC in Sideways RAM number 8, do the following:

?&FE62=15:?&FE60=8

?&8006=0

<BREAK>

3.5 THE STL150 PROGRAM:

3.5.1 STL150 IS AN OVERLAY FOR ACORN .90 DFS.

The STL150 therefore requires Acorn DFS .90.

3.5.2 STL150 ALLOWS UP TO 150 FILENAMES PER SIDE:

Word processor users can take advantage of more directory entries, up to 150 per side. This process is absolutely transparent to normal LOAD and SAVE. Diskettes formatted with STL150 are fully compatible with other DFS's.

The extra capacity of the directory comes from the use of 5 ordinary catalogs: STL0 to STL4 occupy the totality of track 0. STL150 uses these catalogs in a

'tree' structure.

When a filename is requested, STL150 looks first in the current catalog. If the filename is not there, it goes back to the 'root' of this catalog which can only be one of STL0 to STL4. It then tries other roots until either the filename is found or will have to be created. This process is transparent and extremely fast. STL150 will create as many roots as required. Each root STLx has its own domain on the disk and is protected against accidental DELETE.

STL150 has its own *FORM40 and *FORM80 commands to prepare your blank diskettes. STL150 can read and write normally formatted disks but cannot extend their directories. Other DFS can only read and write specially formatted disks in their current domain.

You MUST NOT *compact an STL150 disk using another DFS. The disk is normally protected against accidental destruction but we cannot guarantee that it is tamperproof.

The command *STL x will move the partial directory STLx to be stored in sectors 0 and 1 of the disc, thus making it accessible to any other DFS. It will not affect the STL150 as the latter scans all 5 directories before every file operation. For example: if you want to let your friend use your disc on his BBC to read files held in part 3 of your disc, do *STL3. If this STL3 has not been created, you will get 'Bad Cat' Error. STL150 has a very fast *COMPACT to enable it to cope with large disk size and large number of files. The disc head does not return to track 0 while COMPACTING. Therefore, you should never press the BREAK key while *COMPACTING.

3.5.4 FAST LOADING STL150

While STL150 is still in your computer, save it with:

*SAVE STL150C 8000 BFFF D9CD

You can give any other suitable name to avoid the original STL150 program being deleted. From now on, simply enter:

*STL150C <RET>

STL150 should be re-installed in your machine.

3.6 THE STLDISC PROGRAM:

3.6.1 THE STLDISC PROGRAM IS AN ADVANCED DISK FILING SYSTEM.

The disk filing system is an important part of your computer. It handles program loading, saving and many other functions of storage and retrieval of your software and data.

The STLDISC program has all the usual facilities of a

good disk filing system such as speed of operation, informative directory display, fast BPUT and BGET, built-in disk formatter and verifier. It also handles the RAM DISK or Solidisk.

3.6.2 THE SOLIDISK AS AN EXTRA DISK DRIVE.

The Solidisk is a large Sideways RAM system of 128k bytes, represented as 8 banks of Sideways RAMs (box 8 to box F on the MENU screen). You can use the Solidisk to load your Sideways Software, up to 8 different languages and services at any time. You can also use some of the Sideways RAM banks (or boxes) as an extra disk drive or RAM disk.

The RAM disk in its function as a storage device is identical to a floppy disk drive, just a lot faster (as there is no mechanical movement involved).

The differences with a real disk drive are:

- The contents of the RAM disk is lost if the power is lost.
- The contents of the RAM disk have to be copied (or backup-ed) from a real disk.
- The nominal drive number of the RAM disk can be altered at will, without affecting its contents. The normal drive numbers for a real drive are 0, 1, 2 and 3. The RAM disk can be given 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4. The command *OPT2,<drive number> is used to attribute any other number than 1.
- The size of the RAM disk depends on the box you choose to instal the STLDISC program. If STLDISC is loaded into box E, its size will be bigger than if it is loaded into box F, smaller than if it is loaded into box D. In any case, the size of the RAM disk will be displayed with its directory.

3.6.3 SETTING UP THE SOLIDISK:

You can choose STLDISC by *EXEC the loader program ('L' on your utility disk), this is the normal way when you want the biggest possible Solidisk.

You can also load the STLDISC with the MENU program. This is the correct way when you do not have the full 128k Solidisk.

If you enter:

*E.L <RETURN>

You should see a text informing you that 8 function keys are set up to use the Solidisk. They are as follows:

f0= Backup drive 0 to drive 1. This key duplicates the disk in drive 0 onto the Solidisk. This operation is performed in only 13 seconds and requires that the disk in drive 0 is formatted in 40 tracks, i.e. its capacity cannot be bigger than 100k bytes.

f1= Copy every file from drive 0 to drive 1. This key

copies as many files as there is still space in the Solidisk, from drive 0 to the Solidisk (drive 1). The order in which files are copied across is 'last in first copied' (not very clever is it?). The disk in drive 0 can be 40 or 80 tracks. You cannot backup an 80 track disk onto the Solidisk which has only the capacity of 40 track recording. You will get 'Disk full' error.

f2= Catalog both drive 0 and drive 1, the Solidisk.

f3= Performs verify. It is useful sometimes to verify the contents of the Solidisk, especially before making a hard backup.

f4= Run Silexicon. The Silexicon disk must be in drive-0.

f5= Run WORD64. The WW64 disk must be in drive 0. We shall see later how to prepare the Silexicon disk and the Word64 disk.

f6= *DRIVE 0 <RETURN>, select drive 0 as the current drive.

f7=*DRIVE 1<RETURN>, select the Solidisk (drive 1) as current drive.

We shall come back with more details on many aspects of the Solidisk and the use of the function keys.

You should now see:

"Press any key when ready"

Press the space bar (or any other key).

You should now see:

BBC Computer 32k

STLDISC

BASIC

>

It can now be said that the Solidisk is created from Sideways RAMs and its presence is indicated on the screen. Drive 0 is still the same, drive 1 is the Solidisk. If you have a twin disk system, the physical drive 1 is now disabled. If you did not have a twin disk drive before, you have now.

NOTE: The drive number 1 is attributed to the STLDISC is simply for convenience. If you wish to use 4 real drives together with the STLDISC, enter *OPT2,4 <RETURN>. If you need to disable the STLDISC, you may enter *OPT2,255 <RETURN>. This command is only added for completeness.

3.6.4 A QUICK DEMONSTRATION WITH THE SOLIDISK:

(This demonstration is only relevant to the 128k Solidisk or above).

You have seen previously that 8 function keys (the red keys in the top row of the computer keyboard) f0 to f7 are programmed for the Solidisk. Insert the Sideways 40 track diskette into drive 0. Press the 'f0' key.

You should see:

*EN.
*BAC.01

Key f0 is simply programmed to type in your computer
*ENABLE <RETURN> followed by *BACKUP 01 <RETURN>,
exactly as you would do with a twin disk system.
Now remove your diskette and insert into drive 0 and
enter:

*ENABLE <RETURN>
*BACKUP10 <RETURN>

You will hear drive 0 spinning and immediately see:

COPYING FROM DRIVE 1 TO DRIVE 0

Then drive 0 stops. You have made a backup of the
original diskette. The Solidisk allows you to work
fast with disk systems.

3.6.5 ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION WITH THE SOLIDISK:

Now place the SWR UTILITY disk into drive 0. Press the
'f4' key. You should see:

*COPY 01 T1
*COPY 01 DIC
*:0.SILEX

The Sillexicon program will ask for the filename of the
text that you wish to spellcheck. Please enter:

help! <RETURN>

Note the bargraph at the bottom of the screen. It
indicates the remaining length of file help! and goes
on diminishing. At the same time, the score of mis-
spelt words clocks up at an alarming rate. The
Sillexicon scans help! in just under 15 seconds.
Press the <ESC> and choose option 3.

3.6.6 MAKING A SILEXICON DISK AND A WW64 DISK.

It is convenient to have disks specially made up for
use with your Solidisk for applications such as
Sillexicon, WW64, Solidisk Datafile, Macro Basic and
VMP. Other disks could be made for Beebug Masterfile,
Starbase, View, Ultracalc etc.. They all have the same
!BOOT file and STLDISC program. Each of them will then
have other appropriate files. Start by CHAIN"STLDISC".
Next enter:

*BUILD !BOOT <RETURN>
1-*KEY0 etc...
2- *KEY1 etc..
3- etc..
4-?&FE62=15:?&FE60=8:*STLDISC

<ESCAPE>

Enter now:

*COPY 0 1 STLDISC <RETURN>
*OPT 4,3 <RETURN>

Make a backup of this disk as by section 3.6.5

Repeat as many times as you wish to prepare Solidisk diskettes.

To make the WW64 disk, switch off the computer, place the SWR utility disk in drive 0, CHAIN "WORD64". When the prompt 'Press any key when ready' appears, place a Solidisk diskette in drive 0 and press <RETURN>. *TITLE this disk S/D-WW64.

Solidisk diskettes made for Sillexicon is SWR UTILS VOLUME 2, for MACRO BASIC and Virtual Memory is VOLUME 3, for Solidisk Datafile is VOLUME 7.

3.6.7 THE SOLIDISK AND THE INDEX PROGRAM:

The Solidisk is a very good tool for any database program, specially when sorting datafile using either a conventional database program or the INDEX program. Copy the relevant datafile and its associated 'SI' file (such as MAIL and SI.MAIL).

Boot up the Solidisk as usual by Shift-Break. Press the 'f0' key to duplicate your diskette to Solidisk. You can make a sorted list for printout or mailmerge as follows:

Place a FORMATTED disk in drive 0. Enter:

*DRIVE 1

*LIST :0.SRTMAIL <RETURN>

The Mail (or any other datafile) will be sorted in alphabetical order and spooled onto drive 0 under filename SRTMAIL at around 200 characters a second. It must be the fastest method of sorting on earth.

With other databases, refer to the appropriate manual.

3.6.8 THE SOLIDISK AT WORK:

3.6.8.1 SOLIDISK WITH VIEW OR SCRIBE:

You can create documents, search and replace, merge texts etc much, much faster if the document is in Solidisk.

Start the Solidisk with *E.L <RETURN> as usual. Type in *SCRIBE <RETURN> for Scribe or *WORD <RETURN> for View. Give drive 1, the Solidisk to create a new document. Alternatively, save intermediate text onto Solidisk with View.

IMPORTANT: ***** BACKUP THE SOLIDISK BEFORE YOU SWITCH OFF *****

3.6.8.2 SOLIDISK WITH MASTERFILE OR STARBASE:

Beebug's Masterfile and the more recent GCC's Starbase are popular databases. They require that drive 0 must be used. Start with *E.L <RETURN> as usual. Press f0 key. Now enter: *OPT2,0 <RETURN>

The Solidisk is then ready as drive 0. You can then

enter 'CHAIN "MF" or *STARBASE <RETURN>

When you have finished with the programs, quit as usual and then enter *OPT2,1 to reselect Solidisk as drive 1 before backup.

Note that the use of the Solidisk with databases has a degree of risk to destroy your database due to miskeying. As the Solidisk is so fast, and silent, it can wipe clean your database even before you remove the finger from the wrong key. Therefore, we strongly advise to restrict the use of the Solidisk to viewing records, sorting or printing databases, Solidisk is most valuable in those areas.

IMPORTANT: *** BACKUP THE SOLIDISK BEFORE YOU SWITCH OFF *******

3.6.8.3 SOLIDISK IN DISK COPYING:

When you are using the BBC computer not only for fun but to make a living (like me), your Solidisk can be very helpful.

One of the uses is disk copying.

You can make up a loading file as follows:

*BUILD SPEC.L

1-*K.0 *EN.//M*F400//M*EN.//M*BAC.40//M

2-*K.2 *EN.//M*F401//M*EN.//M*BAC.41//M

3-*K.9 *EN.//M*BAC.01//M*OPT2,4

4-?&FE62=15:?&FE60=8:*STLDISC

Line 4 loads the STLDISC, line 3 copies the contents of your master disk into the Solidisk, lines 1 and 2 deal with formatting and copying blank diskettes in drives 0 and 1. Start by *E.SPEC.L <RETURN>, place the master diskette in drive 0, press f9.

Remove the master diskette.

Place blank diskettes into drives 0 and 1, press f0 and f1 alternatively for maximum production speed. Anybody can produce more than 100 diskette an hour.

3.6.8.4 SOLIDISK FOR MACHINE CODE PROGRAMMERS:

To assemble very long programs, one often uses overlay technique (see the Technical Manual, it has lots of pages on overlay).

All sections or modules to be assembled are on disk. They must be under 16k bytes, starting with "DEFPROCpart1" (or 2, 3 etc) and ending with ENDPROC.

You will then enter the following program:

REM "ASS"

1 IOMEM=&4B00

10 FOR pass=0 TO 2 STEP 2

20 *LOAD part1 1B00

30 PAGE=&1B00:PROCpart1:PAGE=&1900

40 *LOAD part2 1B00

50 PAGE=&1B00:PROCpart2:PAGE=&1900

60 REM repeat any number of the previous sequence for other 'parts'.

The reason for using DEFPROC is that the Virtual Memory Processor (VMP) will normally take care of your DEFPROCs, so you will not even have to write the 'ASS' program.

3.6.8.6 SOLIDISK AND THE VMP:

2 versions of Virtual Memory Processors are supplied: VMPl.0 and VMPl.2. Version 1.0 can control only 14k of extra program length, version 1.2 uses the Solidisk as storage thus capable of controlling up to 240k of extra program length, using the biggest Solidisk.

Either versions will run with the 128k Solidisk. Only VMPl.0 runs on smaller units.

It is not practical to use VMPl.2 on any ordinary disk drive.

3.7 THE WORD64 PROGRAM

3.7.1 WORD64 IS AN OVERLAY FOR WORDWISE 1.17:

Word64 requires that Wordwise is present on your computer.

3.7.2 WORD64 CAN EDIT FILES AS LONG AS 64K:

WORD64 uses the a second disk as a text buffer.

WORD64 will execute all Wordwise commands except 'Load text to cursor' (option 4).

3.7.3 RUNNING WORD64 THE FIRST TIME:

Place the SWR utility disk in drive 0. Enter:

```
CHAIN"WORD64" <RETURN>
```

If Wordwise is not present on your system, there will be a warning message.

When WW64, the code, is generated, the computer will prompt you to 'Press any key when ready'. Place a Solidisk diskette or the Language disk in drive 0 then press <RETURN>.

WW64 is different from you Wordwise chip only in the size of text it can handle.

To load WW64, enter *WW64 <RETURN>

3.7.4 WAITING FOR A COMMAND:

When using WW64 for the first time, you will be surprised to find that you will have to wait 5 to 10 seconds even for simple commands such as Preview text (option 7) or Save text (option 1). The reason is that WW64 has to update the buffer in drive 1 before it can execute your command. The reward is startling: preview text of any size, Search and replace, print text etc..

3.7.5 GETTING STARTED WITH WW64:

I am presuming you have made a WW64 disk in accordance with section 3.7.3. Place this disk in drive 0 and do Shift-Break to boot up STLDISC. Enter:

OLD <RETURN>

*SPOOL :O.SAMPLE <RETURN>

LIST <RETURN>

RENUMBER 20000 <RETURN>

LIST <RETURN>

*SPOOL <RETURN>

*INFO :O.SAMPLE <RETURN>

You should see:

\$.SAMPLE 0000 0000 B895

The SAMPLE text is roughly 48,000 characters.

Press the 'f5' function key.

Choose option 2. Answer "SAMPLE" to the prompt.

You should see created and deleted 'WORD64T' which will be the buffer for WW64. Then the file 'SAMPLE' is copied to the Solidisk and the activity ceases.

You can press the <ESC> to go to 'EDIT' mode.

Now go back to the Wordwise menu and choose option 7, preview text. The command line will flash for a while and the text will be displayed, continuously from begin to end. You can for example do a Search and Replace the word '&FE30' by 'ROMnumber', you will be surprised how fast it can do.

We use WW64 for editing Indexed Datafiles and for writing MACRO Basic programs.

****NOTE:** Word 64, Silexicon. Dic and Tl all require SOLIDISK

3.8 THE KEYBOARD PROGRAM:

Keyboard is a music making program. You call it up by *MUSIC. It will then turn the computer keyboard to an electric organ keyboard with the function keys used as envelope generators. Use Caps-Control to change octaves, and use all letters from Z to / to make up the lower keyboard. Letters Q to Cursor Down are for the upper keyboard.

Pressing the Escape key will stop the music.

Holding the M key down while pressing the BREAK key will start the music again.

The Help menu is displayed with *Help Keyboard.

VOLUME 2: THE SILEXICON PROGRAM

3.9 THE SILEXICON PROGRAM

3.9.1 A SPELLING CHECKER REQUIRING FAST DISK ACCESS:

This program is a VERY FAST Spelling Checker to out-

perform all other spelling checkers when used with the Solidisk. SILEXICON scans texts at more than 1,000 words a minute and is made from 3 components: SILEX the program itself, T1 the 'tree table' to find the word address in DIC, which is the dictionary. Do not try to read what is in DIC as all words are joined together by 5 bit-letters making them much shorter and unreadable. The DIC must be allowed to expand with new words and should be the last file on your SILEX disk.

3.9.2 MAKING A SPELLING CHECKER DISK:

Copy to a blank formatted disk in order:

-SILEX

-T1

-DIC

3.9.3 GETTING STARTED:

Insert this disc in DRIVE 1 and enter *:1.SILEX.

The SILEXICON screen will come up. The first thing Silexicon will do is checking that both T1 and DIC are present on drive 1.

It then asks for the text filename.

You can insert the SWR utility disk in drive 0 and type in: help!

Texts are supposed to be in drive 0 but you can override this by entering :2.BIGTEXT for example.

The text will be then scanned. Each word is compared against words held in DIC. All mismatches are picked up. You are then requested to give your verdict.

3 situations will occur:

-The word is good although not found in DIC. Add it to DIC. (answer Y for yes).

- The word is good but not to be added to DIC. (answer P for pass).

- The word is bad. Mark for correction. (answer N for no good).

If you are unsure, press the space bar and Silexicon will display the line on which the mismatch word is found.

Misspelt words are marked by the hash sign '#'. You can use a wordprocessor to search and replace '#' with correctly spelt words. Users of Wordwise can use f2 to move automatically to the next occurrence of '#'.

The DIC is automatically updated UPON COMPLETION with more words as you use it. Always exit by option 3, QUIT as it will properly close T1 and DIC.

3.9.4 SILEXICON AND SOLIDISK

I bet you are not impressed by the experience of section 3.6.3.

Now using Silexicon with Solidisk is quite a different story.

Start by running the STLDISC program. When the screen is clear, press the function key 'f4' (the red one on the top row, not the F and the 4).

Give the same filename help! and watch it running!

****NOTE** although DIC and T1 are updated with extra words but they are still on drive 1, the Silicon drive. Should you require the updated DIC and T1, copy them to your Spelling Checker disk. If you use several dictionaries, you must keep one diskette per DIC-T1 as they go together.

3.10 THE STLRFS PROGRAM:

3.10.1 STLRFS IS A FILING SYSTEM.

The STLRFS is Solidisk RAM/ROM filing system.

STLRFS is capable of LOAD and SAVE programs in Basic or Machine Code in a Sideways ROM format, suitable for making Sideways ROM with any program less than 15k bytes.

3.10.2 STLRFS ADDS A SIDEWAYS ROM HEADER TO ANY PROGRAM.

Take an example: you have a contract to implement 'Star Trek' on the BBC or the Electron for as little as possible. Place the disk containing 'Star Trek' in drive 0 and enter:

LOAD "STARTREK" <RETURN>

Place a COPY of the SWR UTILITY disk in drive 0 and enter:

*STLRFS <RETURN>

OLD <RETURN>

SAVE "STARTREK" <RETURN>

*DISK <RETURN>

CHAIN"MENU" <RETURN>

You should now see 'STLRFS' in Sideways RAM box 'F'.

Press the '@' key.

Give box number 'F' to save 'STLRFS' onto your disk.

3.10.3 TESTING THE STLRFS:

Switch off the computer and switch it on again.

Enter:

*STLRFS <RETURN>

CHAIN"STARTREK" <RETURN>

Your Star Trek program should be running.

3.10.4 STLRFS CAN PROVIDE LOW COST SOLUTIONS:

The previous experiment can be repeated with any Basic or Machine Code program (change LOAD to *LOAD, SAVE to *SAVE and CHAIN to *RUN). The result is a ROM that can run itself, without cassette recorder or disk drive. To complete your project, order an Eprom programmer and tell it to put STLRFS onto Eproms for you.

STLRFS is ideal for programs around 7k bytes or 15k bytes to fit into either a 2764 or a 27128 Eprom.

It is of no use if you do not own an EPROM Programmer.

3.11 SWR UTILS.

RUTILS is a suite of utilities specially made for the Sideways RAM system. *HELP SWR will list all the *commands available, mainly:

*RX lists all ROMs and RAMs in your computer.

If a name is preceeded by *, the ROM is temporarily disabled by *RZAP (see below). The ROM in purple is the one having RUTILS 'glued' to it.

*RLOAD <filename> <RAM number>, example *RLOAD TOOLKIT E will load TOOLKIT into bank E.

*RSAVE <filename> <ROM-RAM number> <size 1,2,3 or 4> will save the designated ROM/RAM without wiping any program in memory. The size of the wanted RAM/ROM is in mutiple of 4k bytes.

Ex: *RSAVE DFS150 F 4: Save 16k in bank F to disk as DFS150.

*RZAP <number>: disable any ROM/RAM in that socket or bank.

Ex.: *RZAP 1. Disable the ROM in socket no 1.

*RRES <number>: restore a zapped ROM/RAM.

*UNLANG <number>: the designated ROM can no longer be selected as a language.

*LANG <number>: restore an UNLANGed ROM.

*EXCEPTION <number> <new name> allows you to rename temporary a ROM that does not follow the normal naming rule.

*LINK <filename>: glue RUTILS to that file so that it does not take too much space on your disk.

*CLX: clear all exceptions (new names attributed to odd chips).

*BYE disables RUTILS.

VOLUME 3

Volume 3 deals with programming facilities offered by the Sideways RAM system. There are ways to deal with oversized programs and 'No room' error message. One is explained in section 3.6.8.6 using the Silicon disk. Volume 3 contains a more general approach that we hope the educationalist will favour - that is structured programming.

If you can divide a problem into a number of smaller problems and each can be solved by a PROCEDURE or a FUNCTION or a SUBROUTINE then Virtual Memory Processor and Macro Basic is for you.

The Virtual Memory is an aid to Acorn BASIC 2 (1982). It 'drops on demand' a DEFPROC (DEFinition of PROCEDURE) somewhere between TOP and LOWEM if BASIC fails to find it. Since DEFPROCs and DEFENS (DEFinition of FuNction) constitute the largest part of any structured program, it is easily understood that the computer can cope with programs much larger than its memory size. There is no limit to the size of the program (Megabytes are no limit).

Macro Basic on the other hand is a program generator.

Primarily, it finds any missing DEFPROCs and DEFFNs in your program, locates them somewhere in other programs and appends them to your program. The result is a 'Basically' perfect program which will run on any BBC computer.

Secondly, Macro Basic translates MACROs into Basic statements. Macros are subroutines that you create from PROCs, FNs, machine code or other programs. Macros need to be defined once. The result can be used over and over again, like DEFPROCs and DEFFNs with VMP.

The difference between Macro Basic and VMP is that Macro Basic appends PERMANENTLY ALL the missing DEFPROC where as VMP does it TEMPORARILY and one at a time. Macro Basic does not need Sideways RAM to run, VMP and VMP programs do.

3.12 MACRO BASIC.

Macro Basic is the program that writes programs using material found in other programs.

The MACRO BASIC disk has the following programs:

MBASIC (MACRO BASIC)

LINKEDT (LINKER-EDITOR)

VMPl.0 (VIRTUAL MEMORY PROCESSOR VERSION 1.0)

VMPl.2

LIB10 (LIBRARY OF PROCEDURES)

LIB30 (MORE LIBRARY)

LIB (SAMPLE LIBRARY)

TS100 (SAMPLE MACRO BASIC PROGRAM, which is not different from any other program but cannot run without MBASIC or VMP)

TV100 (SAMPLE VMP PROGRAM)

TB100 (SAMPLE BASIC PROGRAM AS GENERATED BY MBASIC)

M.VIRTUAL (Sample Macro file)

3.12.1 SOURCE PROGRAM FORMAT:

There is a sample program on the disk, 'TS100' (Test, Source, 100 passes). Load it and list it.

You will notice that line 60 reads: 60 PROCabc. There is no DEFPROCabc in this program. The same thing happens at line 70:

70 PROCghk, no DEFPROCghk in sight.

So the Source File format is the same as any Basic program except that DEFPROCs and DEFFNs are allowed to be missing.

3.12.2 LIBRARY FILE FORMAT:

Load in the 'LIB' program and list it. You will see that DEFPROCabc, def and ghk are all in LIB.

So the library file format is the same as any Basic program, complete with DEFPROCs and DEFFNs. This explains why ANY program can be a LIBRARY, as far as it contains some useful DEFINITIONS.

3.12.3 MACRO BASIC IN ACTION:

Now enter:

CHAIN "MBASIC" <RETURN>

The computer expects a filename:

```
'Source filename, please? ..... Type in:
TS100 <RETURN>
'Output filename, please?..... Type in:
TB100 <RETURN>
'>>WARNING: file TB100present<<'
'Automatic Link-Edit of program?..Type in (for yes)
Y <RETURN>
'Library name (/ to end)..... Type in:
LIB <RETURN>
'Library name (/ to end)..... Type in:
/ <RETURN>
'Simple line renumbering?..... Type in:
Y <RETURN>
'Automatic run of output program?. Type in:
Y <RETURN>
```

In less than 5 seconds, MBASIC (and LINKEDT) generates the program and runs it for you. The copy of the generated program is 'TB100', It will run perfectly on any BBC computer, even without Sideways RAM. List 'TB100'. You will find that 'TB100' is composed of 'TS100' and the missing 'DEFs' borrowed from 'LIB'.

3.12.4 MACRO BASIC AND LINK-EDITOR FOR THE TECHNICAL MINDED:

Macro Basic scans the 'Source Program' or 'Macro file' and translates all MACROS (see below) and text into a Basic program.

Macro Basic is flexible enough to accept text files produced by a wordprocessor as Source files. Users of Scribe and View please note that Text Files must be spooled to disk to strip all control characters related to the particular wordprocessor you are using. Examples of Macros are illustrated in the M.VIRTUAL file.

The previous 'TS100' is a trivial example as there is no 'Macro' present.

Usually, automatic link-edit is assumed. After generating the program from the 'Source', MBASIC repetitively calls 'LINKEDT' to scan the librar(ies) to pickup any DEFPROC or DEFFN that are still missing. For example, although PROCdef was not called in the Source program, it is called by PROCabc. So LINKEDT must scan the output program until it is satisfied that all missing 'cues' are found.

How to write your own Macros is explained in the Technical Manual. It is beyond the scope of this Manual. Solidisk Support Service will attempt to build up a library of programs, subroutines, DEFPROC, DEFFNS

etc for the BBC computer . Instead of typing DEFPROC's and DEF FN's, you may just leave it to MACRO BASIC and Solidisk program database.

But there is more to it: if the program size exceeds 24k, it won't fit into any BBC computer! You will then need VMP, the Virtual Memory Processor.

3.13 SOLIDISK VIRTUAL MEMORY PROCESSOR:

Switch off your computer and switch it on again.

Enter:

```
*VMP1.0 <RETURN>
```

```
CHAIN "TV100" <RETURN>
```

'TV100' is equivalent to 'TB100' or 'TS100' but only runs with the help of VMP1.0

'TV100' calls 100 times PROCabc, which calls PROCdef, TV100 will then call PROCghk and loop back. The time do do all that is 6 secs 890 millisecs.

On exit, TV100 chains 'TB100', the Basically perfect program that can run alone, the time for calling 300 DEFPROC's is then just 6 secs 190 millisecs.

One can estimate that VMP is capable of serving any DEFPROC missing in just under 2.2 milliseconds.

3.13.2 WRITING VMP PROGRAMS:

VMP is ideal whenever you run out of memory for your program.

To use VMP facilities, you MUST raise LOMEM by a statement like this:

```
10 LOMEM=TOP+400
```

The headroom limit is up to you. Estimate it at any realistic value to provide for the largest DEF that you may need. If LOMEM is reached, VMP will stop serving any more DEF and you will get 'No such PROC/FN error.

When VMP is first loaded, it says 'No file', i.e. it contains no library.

Make line 20 like this:

```
20 *VMP LIB
```

Any BASIC program can be used as library. For example, if you are going to need DEF FNsquare, and you know that it is in the 'Maths1' program, do 20 *VMP Math1.

You can also replace the library any time you need.

For example:

```
10 *VMP L.entry
```

```
20 etc....
```

```
1000 *VMP L.valid
```

1010etc..
2000 *VMP L.print
2010etc..
If the requested PROC is not in the VMP memory, it
will answer ' No such PROC/FN .
The number of DEFs that VMP1.0 can handle is limited
to 255 for any library.

3.13.3 USE OF THE VMP:

The VMP system could well be a standard method of
writing programs and teaching programming to students
on the BBC computer because of its simplicity. Any
program can be broken down into several logical
building blocks, each block is a library. Only the
main block has to be in memory as main programs. Other
blocks are simply loaded into the VMP in turn and only
when needed.

3.14 SOLIDISK DATAFILE:

Solidisk Datafile is a general database management
program. Options include: Access password, Create a
datafile, Enter a record, View a record, Selective
Viewing and Printing, Field calculation, Fuzzy Search,
Date stamping and more. You can create 'screen
template' for data entry and report form for output.

3.15 VOLUMES 4,5 AND 6: THE SILEXICON PACKAGE.

The Silexicon package consists of 3 diskettes, each
contains the Silex program, the Generator program and
a specially compiled Dictionary/Tree. The dictionaries
are English, French and German. There will be other
languages later on. Due to considerable delay on
dictionary compilation, delivery will commence in
early AUGUST.

3.16 VOLUMES 11,12 AND 13: THE SOURCE CODE.

The Source Code is the original material as it is sent
to us by the authors of the programs published in
other volumes. They include authors' own annotations.
You can not only modify these original programs to
suit a particular situation (such as running Silexicon
with a single disk drive) but also learn programming
techniques from their authors, especially those of you
who want to write your own Sideways Software.
We are sure that this work will provoke interest in
many users with regard to programming in machine code.

3.16 THE COST OF EXTRA DISKETTES:

All programs written for Sideways RAM may be copied for personal use. The source code may be obtained if not already present on your disc. Any extra diskette costs \$2.00. Allow \$1.00 for p&p.

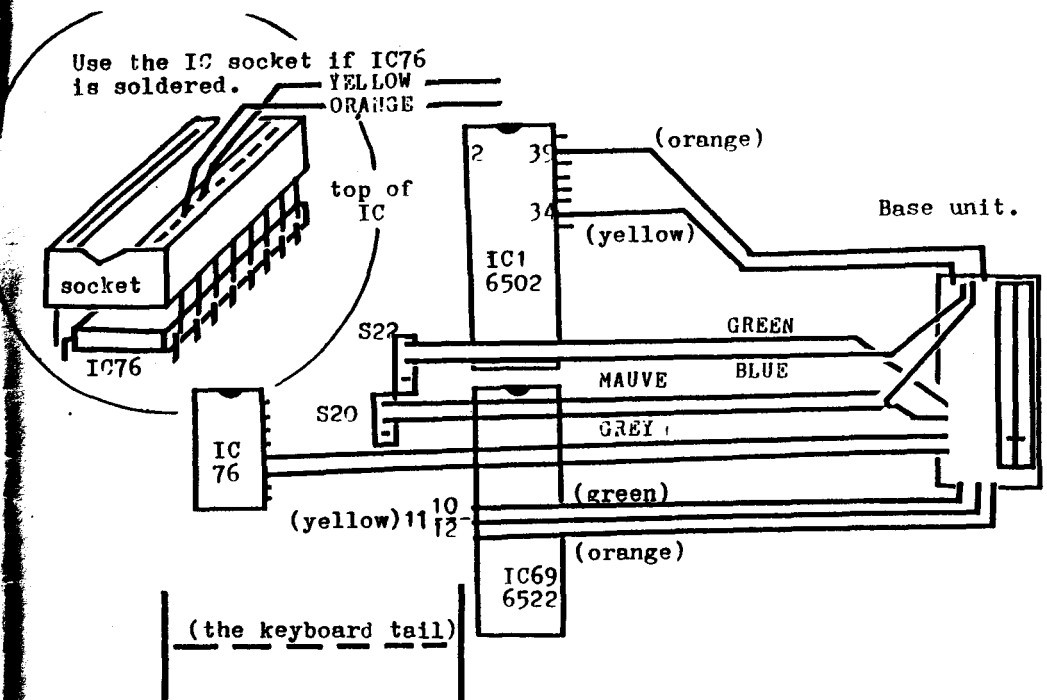
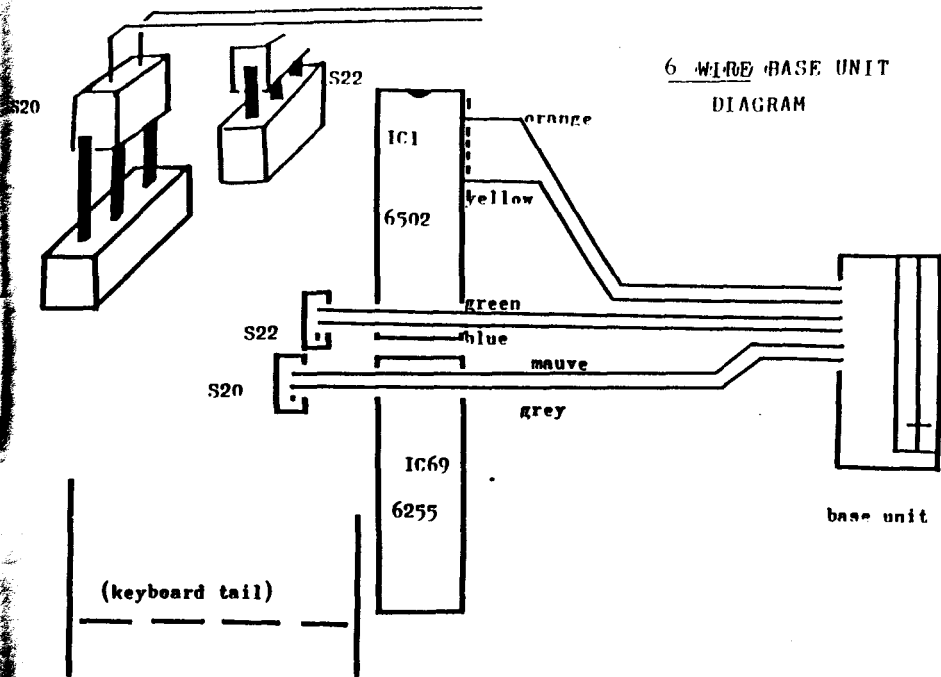
It must be understood that although the software is free, the diskettes are not. Sideways RAM software will take several diskettes to store and only the first diskette is included in the sale price.

Specially written programs are divided into volumes:

- Volume 1: labelled SWR40T.
- Volume 2: labelled Silexicon. Note that the SWR80T comprises Volumes 1 and 2.
- Volume 3: labelled WMP. It contains MACRO BASIC, LIBS/1, WMP and some program libraries.
- Volumes 4, 5 and 6: labelled English, French and German. They constitute the Silexicon package. The price of this package (including Manual) is \$10.00.
- Volumes 11 to 13 are the Source Code. Most of the programs supplied in volumes 1, 2 and 3 are machine coded and cannot be altered even by experienced users. On the contrary, the source code programs (which once run yield the machine code) are written in Basic. You can list them, add extra lines to them, modify them etc.. Listings of these programs are included in the Technical Manual.
Volumes 11 to 13 are recorded on .80 track diskettes. The price of the Technical Manual and Source Code diskettes (3) is \$10.00.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed towards our software support in general and also to this manual. Any suggestions and constructive comment are always welcome and we look forward to valuable participation in the future.

6 WIRE BASE UNIT DIAGRAM



WHAT THE SOLIDISK SIDEWAYS SYSTEM DOES

MEMORY MAPS (SIMPLIFIED) WITH ADDRESSES AND BANK NUMBERS IN HEX

a) Standard Machine - 32 K

KEY

MOS - Machine Operating System ROM

WP - Word Processor ROM

BAS - BASIC Language ROM

DFS - Disc Filing System ROM

S - Spare ROM Socket

RAM - Screen and Program RAM

DFS+P - Disc Filing System + "Patch" in RAM bank

```

_____ &FFFF
:MOS:
:ROM:
_____ &C000
:WP: :BAS: :DFS: :S:
:ROM: :ROM: :ROM: :ROM:
: C : :D : :E : :F :
:___: :___: :___: :___: &B000
:RAM:
:___: &4000
:RAM:
:___: &0000
    
```

b) With Solidisk SWR128 installed - configured as 8 Sideways RAM banks

```

_____ &FFFF
:MOS:
:ROM:
_____ &C000
:WP: :BAS: :DFS: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
:ROM: :ROM: :ROM: : : : : : : * * * * * * * * * * * *
: 0 : 1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5 : 6 : 7 : 8 : 9 : A : B : C : D : E : F : &B000
:___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: &B000
:RAM:
:___: &4000
:RAM:
:___: &0000
    
```

c) With Solidisk SWR128 installed - configured as a RAM Disc of 100 K + 1 Sideways RAM bank

```

_____ &FFFF
:MOS:
:ROM:
_____ &C000
:WP: :BAS: :DFS: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
:ROM: :ROM: :ROM: : : : : : : +P: * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
: 0 : 1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5 : 6 : 7 : 8 : 9 : A : B : C : D : E : F : &B000
:___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: :___: &B000
:RAM:
:___: &4000
:RAM:
:___: &0000
    
```

