

dotes / Brèves / Anecdotes / Bruits de Couloir / Brèves / Anec

THE BD 500 DRIVE

Information compiled from comp.sys.oric

From Jim Groom <james.groom@virgin.net>

Byte Drive 500 was used on Orics and later for other machines (Spectrum and BBC, maybe more). It was one of the first disc drives available for the Oric, beating Oric's Microdisc into the shops. It is based on the Hitachi 3" drive as used in the Oric Microdisc. I do not know if the interface electronics were contained in the power supply module or the disc drive module.

From Fabrice Francès <frances@ensica.fr>

"500" is for 500 Kb : Nearly 500 KB on a 3" disk, instead of 360KB. This is because the BD500 doesn't need to sectorize the disk in the same way as floppy disk controller chips (there's a lot of space lost between sectors).

From Jonathan Bristow <arc@twilichte.demon.co.uk>

The Byte Drive 500 was something I drooled over very much when i saw the reviews of it in an Oric magazine in the 80's. The BD500 is not specifically Oric but a standard Drive device. What makes it tick with the Oric is a special Lead that links it to the Oric. The connector that plugs into the Oric has a "Hybrid" circuit on it. This uses surface-mounted technology to interface the Oric's hardware to the Standard Byte Drive Hardware. Without it, you will get no further! Of what i can remember, the Byte Drive worked about 3 times faster than the Microdisc, and the Hybrid Lead added loads of extra Basic Commands to the system. A bit like Sedoric. I know that Jon Haworth had one, since i remember seeing him showing it at a past OUM meeting. He also had the Hybrid Lead! Also, i seem to remember that the Byte Driver was in two parts, having a PSU and drive unit in their own cases, although both cases looked the same.

From Jim Groom <james.groom@virgin.net>

Correct. I seem to recall the "interface" was "in the cable". Sounds bizarre to me! Cases were very similarly styled although not identical.

Aide Manic Miner

Noms et numéros des tableaux de Manic Miner

1	CENTRAL CAVERN	17	HOME AT LAST?
2	THE COLD ROOM	18	BACK TO WORK
3	THE MENAGERIE	19	DOWN THE PIT
4	ABANDONED URANIUM WORRKINGS	20	THE HALL OF THE MOUTAIN KONG
5	EUGENE'S LAIR	21	AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH
6	PROCESSING PLANT	22	THE END OF THE WORLD
7	THE VAT	23	THE SPACE SHUTTLE
8	MINER WILLY METTS KONG BEAST	24	THE AIR LOCK
9	WACKY AMOEBATRONS	25	WHERE'S THE HYPERSPACE BUTTON
10	ENDORIAN FOREST	26	IN A DEEP DARK HOLE
11	ATTACK OF THE MUTANT TELEPHONES	27	THE CHANNEL TUNNEL
12	RETURN OF THE KONG MEAT BEAST	28	NOT CENTRAL CAVERN
13	ORE RAFINERY	29	THE WAREHOUSE
14	SKYLAB LANDING BAY	30	AMOEBATRONS REVENGE
15	THE BANK	31	SOLAR POWERED GENERATOR
16	THE SIXTEENTH CAVERN	32	THE FINAL BARRIER