

# VIDEOTON TV-COMPUTER

## PROGRAMMING GUIDE

version: February 9, 2023.



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# SHORT STORY OF TV-COMPUTER

The **Videoton TV-Computer** (aka **TVC**) was released in **1985, Hungary**.

In **1980**, the development department at **VIDEOTON** proposed the design of a home computer, but the company's management rejected the idea.

Then in the spring of **1984**, at a chess computer exhibition in Budapest, VIDEOTON's commercial director met a representative of a British company, **Intelligent Software Ltd** (aka **ISL**), and they agreed to develop a microcomputer.

The ISL sold VIDEOTON the designs of an early prototype of their *Enterprise* computer, which VIDEOTON's engineers improved and modified to be manufactured from components available in Hungary. ISL developer *Bruce Tanner* laid the foundations of the computer's operating system with BASIC and the VT-DOS system, polished and completed by VIDEOTON engineers.

*Interestingly, Bruce developed the TV-Computer BASIC and the VT-DOS operating system on an IBM 5150 PC, using a Z80 card called "Baby Blue."*

The first units were produced at the end of **1985**, but not until **1986** that the TV-Computer was available in larger quantities in Hungarian shops for consumers. It was cheaper than a Commodore 64 or any other microcomputer available in Hungary, except the ZX 81.

At first months, there was very little software for the TV-Computer, so VIDEOTON signed a contract with *Novotrade*, a Hungarian company, to develop and distribute TV-Computer games and school education software. Novotrade was already developing games for several microcomputers, primarily the *Commodore 64* and *ZX Spectrum*. *Novotrade* sold its developed games mainly in England. Hungarian software developers created these games.

But they needed to make a lot of games quickly, which they didn't have enough staff to do, so they also released games made at home by the high school kids who went to the TV-Computer Club.

In **1987-1988** Novotrade imported cheap *Commodore Plus/4* and *Commodore 16* computers, which had failed in other markets. These computers were bought very cheaply then sold very cheaply in Hungary. VIDEOTON could not compete with this price, so they stopped production in **1989-1990**, and Novotrade stopped releasing new games and software for VIDEOTON TV-Computers in **1990**.

# HARDVER SPECIFICATIONS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Models:   | TV-Computer 32k, TV-Computer 64k, TV-Computer 64k+  |
| CPU:  | Z80 @ 3.125 MHz   |
| Memory:   | 32 KB or 64 KB RAM  |
| Video RAM:  | separated 16 KB in the 32k and 64k models, and 4 x 16 KB in the 64k+ model  |
| ROM:  | 20 KB with BASIC, OS I/O functions, and the charset   |
| Keyboard:   | 66 keys ( <i>QWERTZ Hungarian layout</i> )+ internal joystick   |
| Graphic modes:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 512 x 240 pixels, 2 colors</li><li>• 256 x 240 pixels, 4 colors</li><li>• 128 x 240 pixels, 16 colors</li></ul>   |
| Screen controller:  | CRTC 6845   |
| Screen frequency:   | 50 Hz   |
| Colors:   | fix <b>16-colors</b> palette with 2 black colors ( <i>so actually 15 colors</i> )   |
| Screen memory:  | bitmap-like – every pixel contains color information too  |
| Screen size:  | with 240 lines (default): <b>15 360</b> bytes; with 256 lines (optional): <b>16 384</b> bytes   |
| Character mode:   | none ( <i>chars are drawn graphically by BASIC</i> )  |
| Definable characters:                                     | yes, ( <i>definable character codes: 128-233</i> )  |
| Sound:  | 1 channel, squarewave sound with 6 octaves and 4-bit volume   |
| Sprites:  | no hardware sprites   |
| OS:   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OS in <b>ROM</b> with <b>BASIC</b> and <b>I/O</b> (v1.2, v2.0, v2.1, v2.2)</li><li>• <b>VT-DOS</b> (<i>Disk Operating System</i>) which is MS-DOS compatible at the instruction level</li><li>• <b>UPM - CP/M 2.2</b> compatible at the program level</li></ul> |
| Floppy drive:   | external PC DOS compatible Floppy Disk File System with 360 KB and 720 KB disk sizes  |
| Ports:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 expansion slots</li><li>• 1 cartridge port</li><li>• 2 joystick ports</li><li>• 1 printer port</li></ul>  |
| Conectors:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 video connector</li><li>• 1 RGB connector</li><li>• 1 VHF/UHF antenna connector</li><li>• 2 tape connectors</li></ul>   |
| Switches:   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• black and white switch</li><li>• reset swith</li></ul>  |
| Expansion cards ( <i>original cards from 1985-1988</i> ): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 32 KB RAM extension for TV-Computer 32k model only</li><li>• Floppy Interface Card</li><li>• Serial Line Card</li><li>• Parallel Card</li></ul>   |

# GRAPHIC MODES

The TV-Computer has three graphical modes

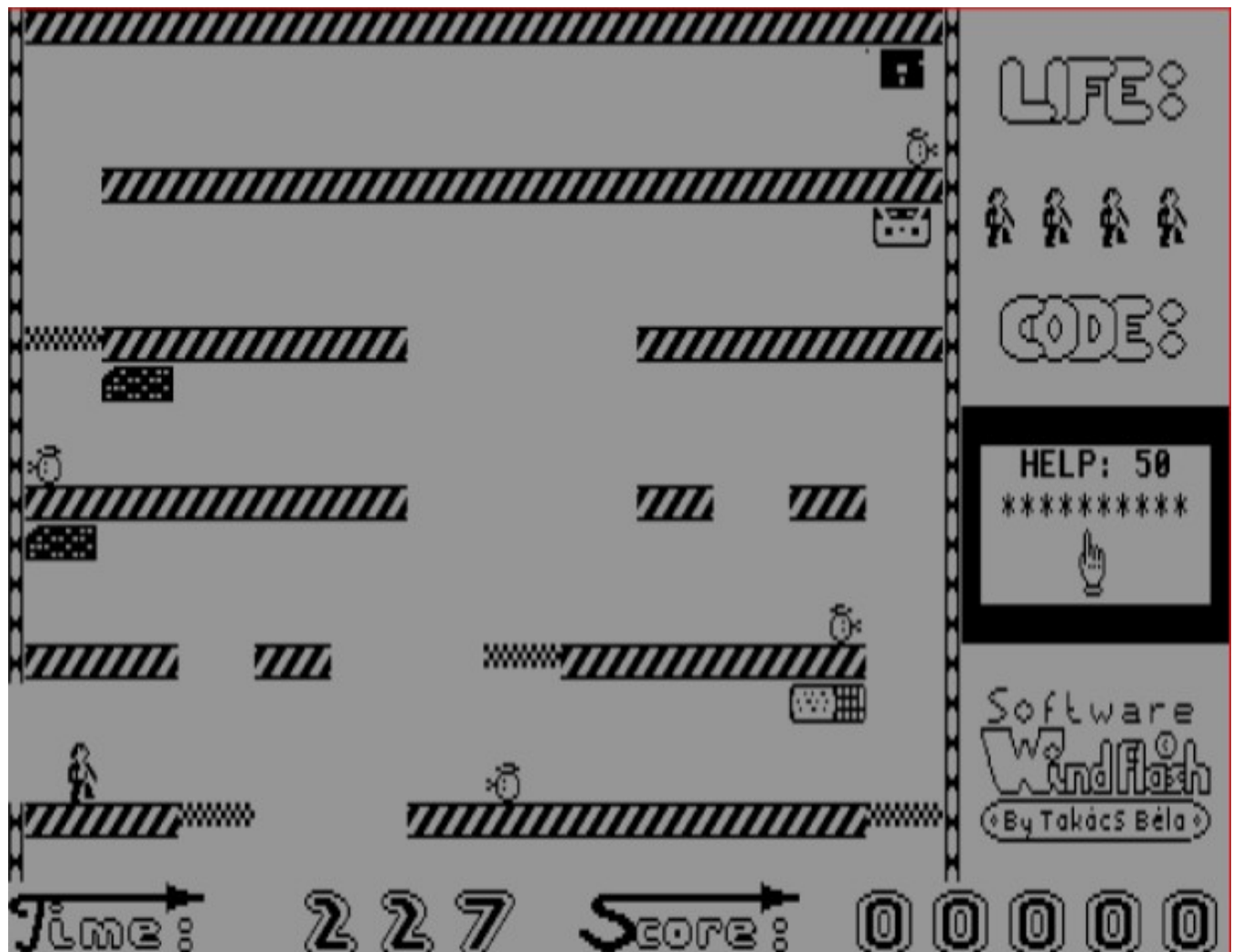
| Graphic mode | Resolution       | Colors    | Text          | Pixels / byte | Screen size     |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Graphics 2   | 512 x 240 pixels | 2 colors  | 64 x 24 chars | 8             | (512 x 240) / 8 |
| Graphics 4   | 256 x 240 pixels | 4 colors  | 32 x 24 chars | 4             | (256 x 240) / 4 |
| Graphics 16  | 128 x 240 pixels | 16 colors | 16 x 24 chars | 2             | (128 x 240) / 2 |

The screen size is **15 360** bytes in all graphic modes.

## A game in Graphics 2 mode

Resolution 512 x 240 pixels. The 2 colors of this graphics mode can be any 2 colors from the 16-color palette.

**Reaktor** (Reactor), 1987



## A game in Graphics 4 mode

Resolution 256 x 240 pixels. The 4 colors of this graphics mode can be any 4 colors from the 16-color palette. A pixel on the screen can be any color from the 4 colors selected in the palette.

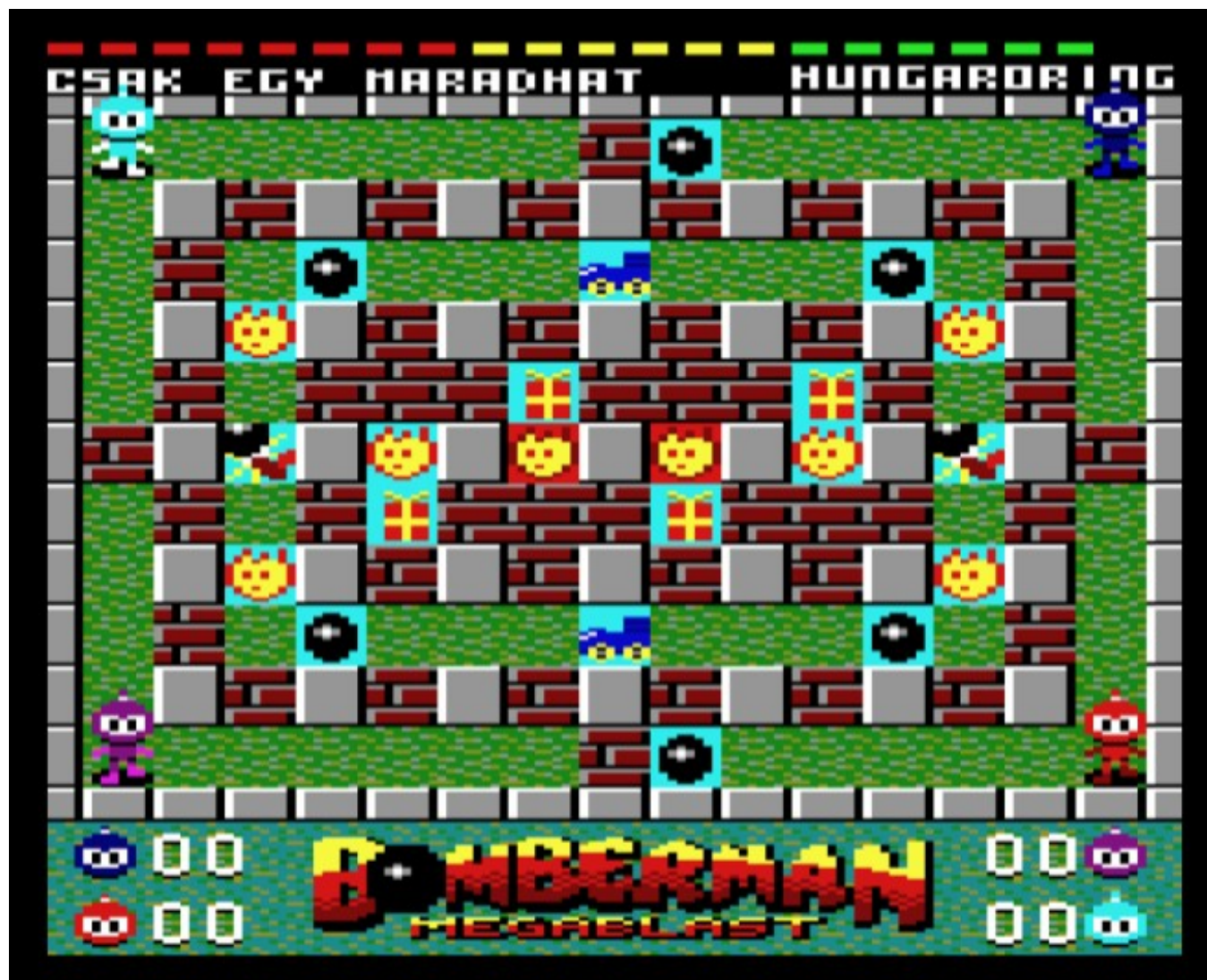
roHAMM (Attack), 1989



## A game in Graphics 16 mode

Resolution 128 x 240 pixels. All colors from the 16-color palette can be used in this graphics mode. A pixel on the screen can be any color from the 16-color palette.

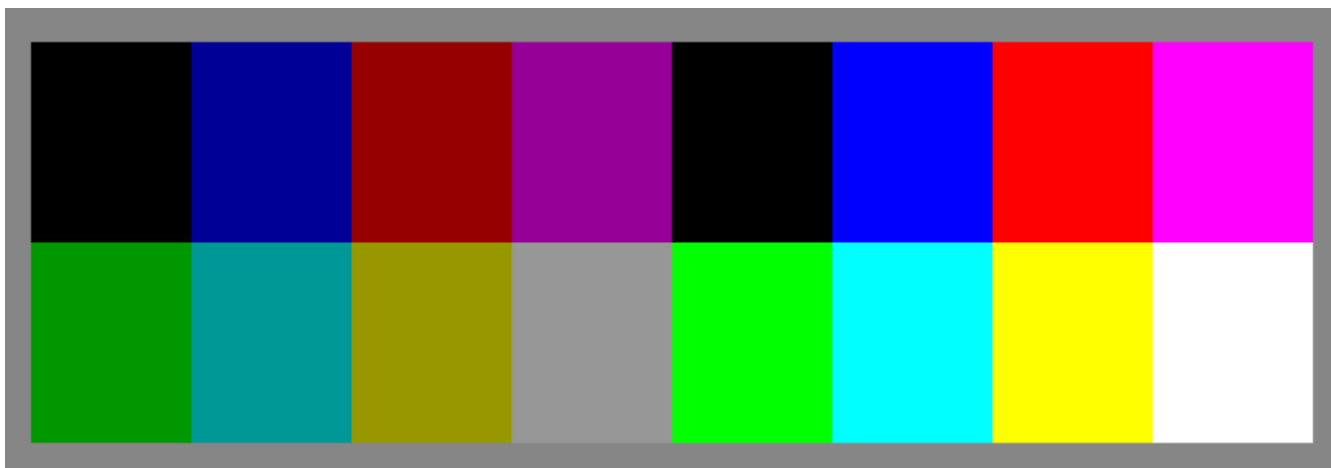
### Bomberman Megablast, 2021



# COLORS

| I | G | R | B | Color        | GRAPHICS 16          | GR. 2, 4<br>palette |      | Border |      |
|---|---|---|---|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|------|--------|------|
|   |   |   |   |              | Color codes in BASIC | hex.                | dec. | hex.   | dec. |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Black        | 0                    | 00                  | 0    | 00     | 0    |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Dark blue    | 1                    | 01                  | 1    | 02     | 2    |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Dark red     | 2                    | 04                  | 4    | 08     | 8    |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Dark magenta | 3                    | 05                  | 5    | 0A     | 10   |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Dark green   | 4                    | 10                  | 16   | 20     | 32   |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Dark cyan    | 5                    | 11                  | 17   | 22     | 34   |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Dark yellow  | 6                    | 14                  | 20   | 28     | 40   |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Gray         | 7                    | 15                  | 21   | 2A     | 42   |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Black        | 8                    | 40                  | 64   | 80     | 128  |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Blue         | 9                    | 41                  | 65   | 82     | 130  |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Red          | 10                   | 44                  | 68   | 88     | 136  |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Magenta      | 11                   | 45                  | 69   | 8A     | 138  |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Green        | 12                   | 50                  | 80   | A0     | 160  |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Cyan         | 13                   | 51                  | 81   | A2     | 162  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Yellow       | 14                   | 54                  | 84   | AA     | 168  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | White        | 15                   | 55                  | 85   | AA     | 170  |

## The palette of the TV-Computer





# MEMORY MAPPING

The default memory mapping when the TV-Computer started:

- Page 0: \$0000-3FFF -> user RAM (U0 - but \$0000-\$19EE is used by the system)
- Page 1: \$4000-7FFF -> user RAM (U1 - user memory, free to use)
- Page 2: \$8000-BFFF -> user RAM (U2 - user memory, free to use → 64 and 64+ models)
- Page 3: \$C000-FFFF -> system ROM (SYS - BASIC and system functions)

When the VIDEORAM is ON:

- Page 0: \$0000-3FFF -> user RAM (U0 - but \$0000-\$19EE is used by the system)
- Page 1: \$4000-7FFF -> user RAM (U1 - user memory, free to use)
- Page 2: \$8000-BFFF -> **VIDEORAM**
- Page 3: \$C000-FFFF -> system ROM (SYS - BASIC and system functions)

Assembly example:

```
SET_VID_ON  ld  A,$50      ; memory mapping: U0, U1, VID, SYS
            ld  ($3),A    ; save value to P_SAVE system variable
            out ($2),A    ; send value to set memory mapping
```

When the entire 64k memory is paged:

- Page 0: \$0000-3FFF -> user RAM (U0 - but \$0000-\$19EE is used by the system)
- Page 1: \$4000-7FFF -> user RAM (U1 - user memory, free to use)
- Page 2: \$8000-BFFF -> user RAM (U2 - user memory, free to use → 64 and 64+ models)
- Page 3: \$C000-FFFF -> user RAM (U3 - user memory, free to use → 64 and 64+ models)

Assembly example:

```
SET_64K_RAM ld  A,$B0      ; memory mapping: U0, U1, U2, U3
            ld  ($3),A    ; save value to P_SAVE system variable
            out ($2),A    ; send value to set memory mapping
```

|        |      |       |           |          |           |         |       |
|--------|------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Page 0 | 0000 | 0     | SYS (00)  | U0 (10)  | CART (08) | U3 (18) | **    |
|        | 3FFF | 16383 |           |          |           |         |       |
| Page 1 | 4000 | 16384 | U1 (00)   | VID (04) |           |         |       |
|        | 7FFF | 32767 |           |          |           |         |       |
| Page 2 | 8000 | 32768 | VID (00)  | U2 (20)  |           |         |       |
|        | BFFF | 49151 |           |          |           |         |       |
| Page 3 | C000 | 49152 | CART (00) | SYS (40) | U3 (80)   | (C0)    | IOMEM |
|        | DFFF | 57343 |           |          |           |         |       |
|        | E000 | 57344 |           |          |           |         |       |
|        | FFFF | 65535 |           |          |           |         | EXT   |

# SYSTEM VIDEO CALLS

These system calls are in **ROM** and are used by **BASIC**. They are not the fastest solutions, as they support all three graphical modes, but they are suitable for initialization or non-speed-critical tasks.

| Function   | Code       | Params in register(s)   | Error                                      | Assembly example  |
|--|------------|---|--|---|
| <b>VMODE</b><br>set video /<br>graphic mode                                  | <b>04h</b> | <b>C</b> : graphic mode<br><i>0: Graphics 2 (512x240)</i><br><i>1: Graphics 4 (256x240)</i><br><i>2: Graphics 16 (128x240)</i>  | <b>0F7H</b><br>invalid<br>graphics<br>mode | ld <b>C</b> ,2 ; param: graphics 16<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$4</b> ; function code                                  |
| <b>PAL</b><br>set palette  | <b>0Ch</b> | <b>DE</b> : point to palette data<br><i>4 byte data with palette<br/>color codes</i>  | -  | ld <b>DE</b> ,palette ; palette address<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$C</b> ; function code                              |
| <b>CLS</b><br>clear screen   | <b>05h</b> | -   | -  | rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$5</b> ; function code   |
| <b>BTEXT</b><br>set character<br>position                                    | <b>03h</b> | <b>B</b> : column ( <b>1-16;1-32;1-64</b> )<br><b>C</b> : line ( <b>1-24</b> )  | <b>0F9H</b><br>invalid<br>position         | ld <b>BC</b> ,\$0107 ; col.:1; line: 7<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$3</b> ; function code                               |
| <b>VID_CHOUT</b><br>write a char to<br>current pos.                          | <b>01h</b> | <b>C</b> : character code   | -  | ld <b>C</b> ,\$2A ; "*" char code<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$1</b> ; function code                                    |
| <b>VID_BKOUT</b><br>write text to<br>current pos.                            | <b>02h</b> | <b>DE</b> : text memory address<br><b>BC</b> : text length  | -  | ld <b>DE</b> ,text ; text label<br>ld <b>BC</b> ,\$1B ; text length<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$2</b> ; function code  |
| <b>BABS</b><br>set pixel pos.<br>for writing<br>char/text or<br>drawing line | <b>06h</b> | <b>DE</b> : X ( <i>horizontal</i> ) position<br><b>BC</b> : Y ( <i>vertical</i> ) position<br>X: <b>0 – 1023</b> ( <i>BASIC pos.</i> )<br>Y: <b>0 – 959</b> ( <i>BASIC pos.</i> ) | <b>0F9H</b><br>invalid<br>position         | ld <b>DE</b> ,\$CB ; X position<br>ld <b>BC</b> ,\$64 ; Y position<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$6</b> ; function code   |
| <b>BREL</b><br>set relative<br>pixel position<br>for text or line            | <b>07h</b> | <b>DE</b> : horizontal displacement<br><b>BC</b> : vertical displacement  | <b>0F9H</b><br>invalid<br>position         | d <b>DE</b> ,\$CB ; horiz. disp.<br>ld <b>BC</b> ,\$64 ; vert. sisp.<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$7</b> ; function code |
| <b>BON</b><br>pen <i>On</i>  | <b>08h</b> | <i>and put a pixel to current<br/>position</i>  | -  | rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$8</b> ; function code   |
| <b>BOFF</b><br>pen <i>Off</i>  | <b>09h</b> | Then <b>BABS</b> and <b>BREL</b> do<br>not draw a line.   | -  | rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$9</b> ; function code   |
| <b>FILL</b><br>fill from<br>current pos.                                     | <b>0Ah</b> | You can set the fill position<br>by <b>BABS</b> or <b>BREL</b> calls.   | -  | rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$A</b> ; function code   |
| <b>DEFC</b><br>define<br>character   | <b>0Bh</b> | <b>C</b> : char code ( <b>128 - 223</b> )<br><b>DE</b> : character matrix data –<br>10 bytes (1 byte = 1 line in<br>char matrix, 1 bit = 1 pixel)                                 | <b>0F8H</b><br>invalid<br>character        | ld <b>C</b> ,\$80 ; char. code<br>ld <b>DE</b> ,char_data<br>rst \$30 ; system call<br>db <b>\$B</b> ; function code            |

# SCREEN / VIDEORAM

The screen starting address is \$8000 when the VIDEORAM is mapped to page #2.

By default, the screen contains 240 lines; each line is 64 bytes in all three resolutions.

The screen is sequential in the VIDEORAM.

## VIDEORAM

| LINE no. | 0    | 1    | 2    | 3    | - | - | - | 61   | 62   | 63   | CRTC CHAR. LINE |
|----------|------|------|------|------|---|---|---|------|------|------|-----------------|
| 0        | 8000 | 8001 | 8002 | 8003 | - | - | - | 803D | 803E | 803F | 0               |
| 1        | 8040 | 8041 | 8042 | 8043 | - | - | - | 807D | 807E | 807F |                 |
| 2        | 8080 | 8081 | 8082 | 8083 | - | - | - | 80BD | 80BE | 80BF |                 |
| 3        | 80C0 | 80C1 | 80C2 | 80C3 | - | - | - | 80FD | 80FE | 80FF |                 |
| 4        | 8100 | 8101 | 8102 | 8103 | - | - | - | 813D | 813E | 813F | 1               |
| 5        | 8140 | 8141 | 8142 | 8143 | - | - | - | 817D | 817E | 817F |                 |
| 6        | 8180 | 8181 | 8182 | 8183 | - | - | - | 81BD | 81BE | 81BF |                 |
| 7        | 81C0 | 81C1 | 81C2 | 81C3 | - | - | - | 81FD | 81FE | 81FF |                 |
| 8        | 8200 | 8201 | 8202 | 8203 | - | - | - | 823D | 823E | 823F | 2               |
| 9        | 8240 | 8241 | 8242 | 8243 | - | - | - | 827D | 827E | 827F |                 |
| 10       | 8280 | 8281 | 8282 | 8283 | - | - | - | 82BD | 82BE | 82BF |                 |
| 11       | 82C0 | 82C1 | 82C2 | 82C3 | - | - | - | 82FD | 82FE | 82FF |                 |
| 232      | BA00 | BA01 | BA02 | BA03 | - | - | - | BA3D | BA3E | BA3F | 58              |
| 233      | BA40 | BA41 | BA42 | BA43 | - | - | - | BA7D | BA7E | BA7F |                 |
| 234      | BAB0 | BAB1 | BAB2 | BAB3 | - | - | - | BABD | BABE | BABF |                 |
| 235      | BAC0 | BAC1 | BAC2 | BAC3 | - | - | - | BAFD | BAFE | BAFF |                 |
| 236      | BB00 | BB01 | BB02 | BB03 | - | - | - | BB3D | BB3E | BB3F | 59              |
| 237      | BB40 | BB41 | BB42 | BB43 | - | - | - | BB7D | BB7E | BB7F |                 |
| 238      | BB80 | BB81 | BB82 | BB83 | - | - | - | BBBD | BBBE | BBBF |                 |
| 239      | BBC0 | BBC1 | BBC2 | BBC3 | - | - | - | BBFD | BBFE | BBFF |                 |

| Graphic mode | Resolution       | Colors    | Pixels / byte | Screen size |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Graphics 2   | 512 x 240 pixels | 2 colors  | 8             | (512x240)/8 |
| Graphics 4   | 256 x 240 pixels | 4 colors  | 4             | (256x240)/4 |
| Graphics 16  | 128 x 240 pixels | 16 colors | 2             | (128x240)/2 |

The screen size is **15 360** bytes in all graphic modes. If you switch on all the 256 lines, the screen size is **16 384** bytes.

The content of a byte depends on the graphics mode.

**1. Graphics 2** – 512 x 240 pixels with 2-color palette (any 2 colors from the 16-color palette)

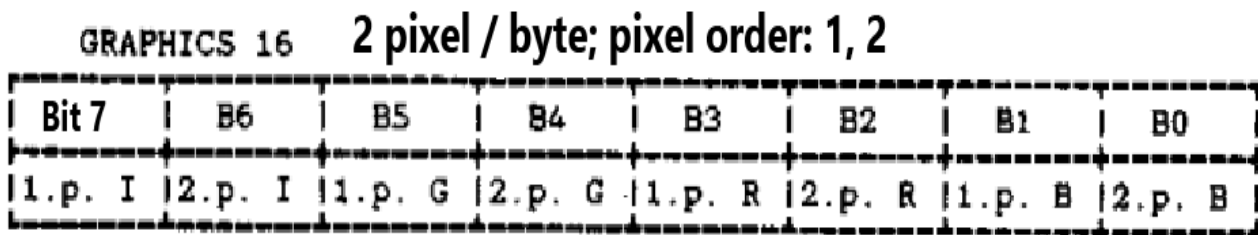
Each bit is 1 pixel in the byte. If the bit is 0, it displays the color 0 of the palette; if the bit is 1, it shows the color 1.

**2. Graphics 4** – 256 x 240 pixels with 4-color palette (any 4 colors from the 16-color palette)

This is a bit more complicated. Here there are 2 bits per pixel, which can have a value of 0-3, indicating which color of the 4-color palette the pixel will be in. The table below shows you what this looks like.

| Bit #7                   | Bit #6                   | Bit #5                   | Bit #4                   | Bit #3                   | Bit #2                   | Bit #1                   | Bit #0                   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pixel #1<br>color bit #0 | Pixel #2<br>color bit #0 | Pixel #3<br>color bit #0 | Pixel #4<br>color bit #0 | Pixel #1 color<br>bit #1 | Pixel #2 color<br>bit #1 | Pixel #3 color<br>bit #1 | Pixel #4 color<br>bit #1 |

**3. Graphics 16** – 128 x 240 pixels with 16 colors (plain 16 colors)



**I: intensity; G: green; R: red; B: blue**

If the intensity bit is 0, it is the darker version of the color; if it is 1, it is the lighter one. Since intensity is a multiplier on RGB values, there are two blacks in the 16-color palette.



# PUT IMAGE EXAMPLE

Basic information for putting a picture or a sprite to screen:

Screen memory starting address: **\$8000** (if *VIDEORAM* is set)

Width of a line: **64 bytes** (in all graphic modes)

Screen height: **240 lines** (0 - 239)

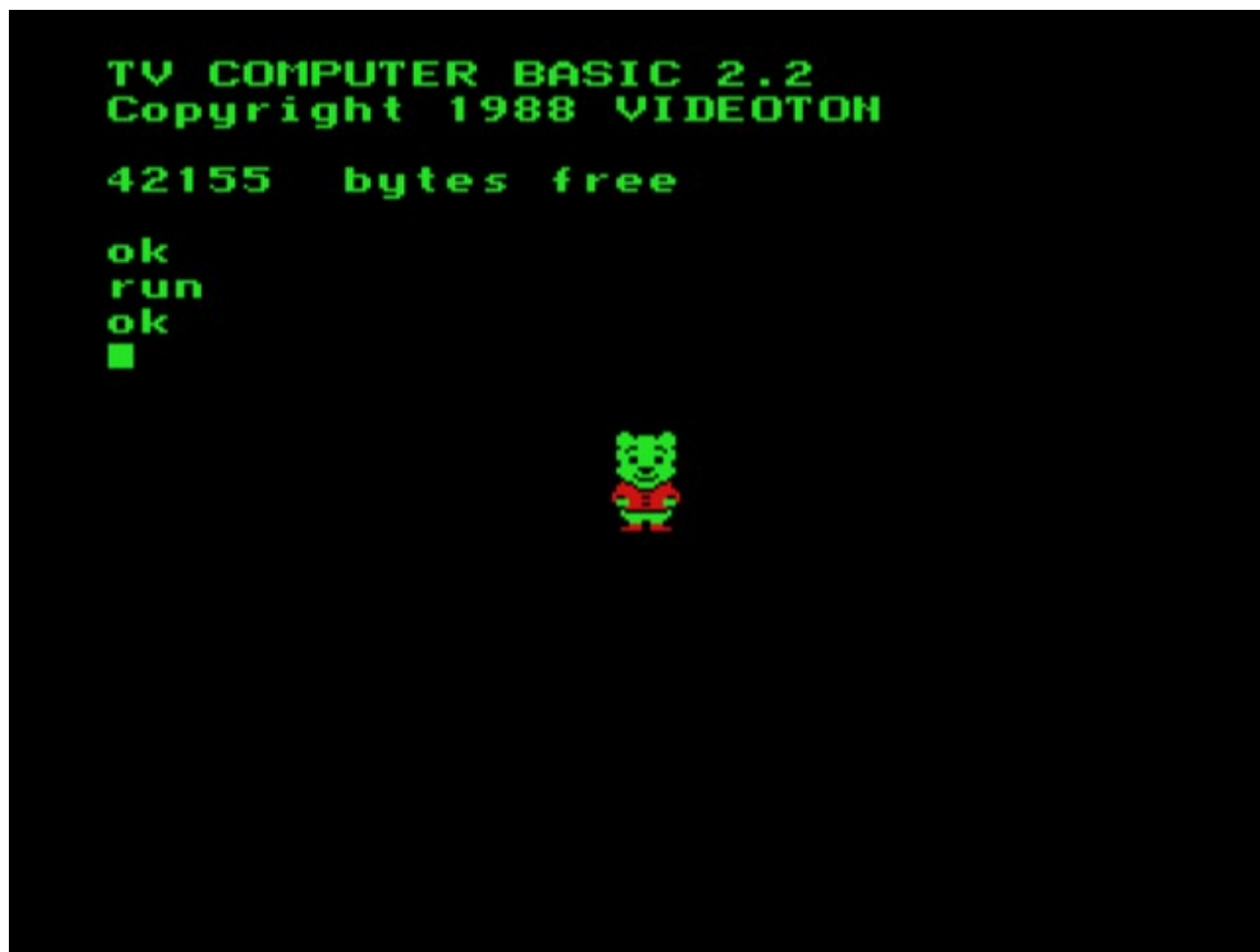
Screen position: **\$8000 + Ypos \* 64 + Xpos**

In the screen position calculation, **Xpos** is the horizontal position in bytes (0 - 63), and **Ypos** is the vertical position in lines (0 - 239).

The bytes of the image are pixels according to the graphics mode you are using. Graphics 4 mode is used in the example code below, which is the default after turning on the TV-Computer.

```
SET_VID_ON LD  A,$50          ; memory mapping: U0, U1, VID, SYS
           LD  ($3),A        ; put value to P_SAVE system variable
           OUT ($2),A        ; send value to port #2
           ; init PUT_IMAGE
           LD  HL,IMAGE_DATA ; HL → image data
           LD  DE,$8000+106*64+30 ; DE → screen pos.; line: 106; col: 30
           LD  A,28          ; A = image height in pixels
           CALL PUT_IMAGE    ; call put image subroutine
           RET              ; return to BASIC (not necessary)
           ; PUT_IMAGE - params: HL:image, DE:address; A:image height
PUT_IMAGE LD  BC,64          ; BC = 64 → one line on the screen is 64 bytes
           ; image width is 4 bytes, using 4 x LDI to put one line
           LDI              ; copy 1 byte from (HL) to (DEL) and Dec(BC)
           LDI              ; copy 1 byte from (HL) to (DEL) and Dec(BC)
           LDI              ; copy 1 byte from (HL) to (DEL) and Dec(BC)
           LDI              ; copy 1 byte from (HL) to (DEL) and Dec(BC)
           EX  DE,HL        ; switch DE <=> HL
           ADD HL,BC        ; HL = HL + (64 -Imagewidth) → new line
           EX  DE,HL        ; switch back DE <=> HL
           DEC A            ; decrement remaining lines
           JP  NZ,PUT_IMAGE ; if A > 0, then loop
           RET              ; done, return to caller
           ; the image pixels data in bytes (16x28 pixel → 4x28 bytes)
IMAGE_DATA DB  48,0,0,192,112,176,208,224,112,240,240,224,112,240,240,224
              DB  48,48,192,192,96,240,240,96,112,240,240,224,112,48,192,224
              DB  48,48,192,192,48,240,240,192,112,192,48,224,112,224,112,224
              DB  48,176,208,192,16,192,48,128,2,112,224,4,7,56,193,12
              DB  7,12,3,14,15,15,15,15,9,14,7,9,120,15,15,225
              DB  112,14,7,224,1,15,15,8,32,0,0,64,48,240,240,192
              DB  16,240,240,128,0,224,112,0,0,14,7,0,3,14,7,12
              END
```

After running the above assembly example program, you will see this on the screen.



# CRTC 6845

**IMPORTANT!** The *CRTC* uses the concept of *special characters* and *lines*. This is not the same as the characters in the texts.

One screen line is **64** *CRTC characters*, and the default 240 lines height screen contains **60** *CRTC lines*. The entire 256 lines height screen has **64** *CRTC lines*.

A *CRTC line* height is 4 pixels ( $256 / 64 = 4$ ).

## The CRTC registers

| Reg. | R/W | Unit      | Description   | Default |      |
|------|-----|-----------|---|---------|------|
|      |     |           |   | Hex.    | Dec. |
| R0   | W   | char      | (characters / line) - 1   | 63      | 99   |
| R1   | W   | char      | Displayed chars / line  | 40      | 64   |
| R2   | W   | char      | Horizontal sync position - 1  | 4B      | 75   |
| R3   | W   |           | Bit 0-3: horiz. sync. Chars; 4-7: vert. sync lines.   | 32      | 50   |
| R4   | W   | char line | Bit 0-6: (all character lines / screen) - 1   | 40      | 77   |
| R5   | W   | TV line   | Bit 0-4: additional TV lines  | 2       | 2    |
| R6   | W   | char line | Bit 0-6: displayed character lines / screen   | 3C      | 60   |
| R7   | W   | char line | Bit 0-6: vertical sync position - 1   | 42      | 66   |
| R8   | W   |           | <b>Bit 0-1:</b> interlace (0/1); <b>4-5:</b> <i>DISPTMC</i><br><b>6-7:</b> char displacement. | 0       | 0    |
| R9   | W   | TV line   | Bit 0-4: (TV lines / char. Lines) - 1   | 3       | 3    |
| R10  | W   | TV line   | Bit 0-4: cursor starting line no. in char;<br>5-6: enabled (00) / disabled (01)               | 3       | 3    |
| R11  | W   | TV line   | Bit 0-4: cursor ending line no.   | 3       | 3    |
| R12  | R/W |           | Bit 0-5: screen start address high byte   | 0       | 0    |
| R13  | R/W |           | screen start address low byte   | 0       | 0    |
| R14  | R/W |           | Bit 0-5: raster-interrupt position high byte  | 0E      | 14   |
| R15  | R/W |           | raster-interrupt position low byte  | FF      | 255  |
| R16  | R   |           | Bit 0-5: light pen position high byte   |         |      |
| R17  | R   |           | light pen position low byte   |         |      |

You can **select** a *CRTC register* by the port **\$70**.

You can **write or read** a *CRTC register* by the port **\$71**.

Please check out the following assembly source code examples.

## SET RASTRER-INTERUPT POSITION BY CRTC

By default, the Raster-interrupt position is line #239 (*CRTC line 60*) and column (byte) #63.

An example of how to set the raster-interrupt position to the last byte of the line that passed in the parameter.

```
SET_RASTER_IT_POS ; Param: HL - raster-IT position (CRTC line * 64) - 1
ld    A,$E
out   ($70),A      ; select CRTC Reg. #14
ld    A,H
out   ($71),A      ; set position HIGH byte
ld    A,$F
out   ($70),A      ; select CRTC Reg #15
ld    A,L
out   ($71),A      ; set position LOW byte
ret
```

For example, set the raster-interrupt position 16 lines above the bottom of the screen.

```
                ; Set the Raster-interrupt position to the last byte of line #240
                ; One line is 64 bytes, and one CRTC line height is 4 pixels.
ld    HL,(50*64)-1
call   SET_RASTER_IT_POS
```

### Accurate calculation of raster-interrupt

**Ypos** → raster-interrupt vertical position (0-239)

**Xpos** → raster-interrupt horizontal position (0-63)

**CharNo** = INT (Ypos /4)

**TVLineNo** = Ypos – (CharNo\*4)

**RasterPosAddr** = CharNo \* 64 + Xpos

Set CRTC registers for raster-interrupt:

**R14** = INT (RasterPosAddr / 256) ; the RasterPosAddr high byte

**R15** = RasterPosAddr - INT (RasterPosAddr / 256) ; the RasterPosAddr low byte

**R10** = TVLineNo

**R11** = TVLineNo

**IMPORTANT! Never set Xpos to 0, as this may cause an error!**

**The best practice is to set Xpos to 63. This is the last character of the CRTC line.**



## SET SCREEN START POSITION BY CRTC

```
; Param: HL - screen_offset (value: 0-4095)
; The screen contains 64 CRTC lines and 64 bytes / line
; 64*64 = 4096
; if param HL = 0, the screen starts from the VIDEORAM 1st line
; if param HL = 256, the screen starts from the VIDEORAM 16th line
; if param HL = 640, the screen starts from the VIDEORAM 40th line
```

```
SET_SCREEN_START  ld  A,$C
                   out  ($70),A      ; select CRTC Reg. #12
                   ld   A,H
                   out  ($71),A      ; set screen position HIGH byte
                   ld   A,$D
                   out  ($70),A      ; select CRTC Reg #13
                   ld   A,L
                   out  ($71),A      ; set position LOW byte
                   ret
```

If you continuously increase the starting address of the screen by one using the CRTC, it will result in a continuous vertical scroll. For each increase, the screen will move by 4 rows of pixels.

# PORTS

| Dec. | Hex. | R/W | Description  |
|------|------|-----|--|
| 0    | 0    | W   | Border port to set border color; bit 1: Blue; 3: Red; 5: Green; 7: Intensity   |
| 1    | 1    | W   | Printer data out port (character to printer)   |
| 2    | 2    | W   | Bit 2-7: memory mapping (It <b>must be set</b> at memory address <b>02h</b> first!)  |
| 3    | 3    | W   | Bit 0-3: select keyboard line from matrix; 6-7: Slots 0-3 IOMEM mapping  |
| 4    | 4    | W   | Sound low byte   |
| 5    | 5    | W   | Bit 0-3: sound high byte; 4: sound disable(1); 5: sound IT enable(1); 6-7: tape control (6: left tape connector; 7 right tape connector)             |
| 6    | 6    | W   | 0-1: graphic mode; 1-5: sound volume; 7: printer / STROBE  |
| 7    | 7    | W   | Clear raster/sound-interrupt ( <i>any value</i> )  |
| 15   | 0    | W   | Bit 4-5: set VIDEORAM bank on 64k+ model; Value = (BANK – 1) * 16  |
| 16   | 10   | W   | Slot #0: serial line data  |
| 17   | 11   | W   | Slot #0: serial line USART mode select   |
| 32   | 20   | W   | Slot #1: serial line data  |
| 33   | 21   | W   | Slot #1: serial line USART mode select   |
| 48   | 30   | W   | Slot #2: serial line data  |
| 49   | 31   | W   | Slot #2: serial line USART mode select   |
| 64   | 40   | W   | Slot #3: serial line data  |
| 65   | 41   | W   | Slot #3: serial line USART mode select   |
| 80   | 50   | W   | Tape output signal   |
| 88   | 58   | R   | Read keyboard line from the keyboard matrix (first select on port #3)  |
| 89   | 59   | R   | 0-3: Slot 0-3 irq req.; 4: raster/sound irq req.; 5: tape data; 6: B/W(0) / Color (1) mode; 7: printer ACK   |
| 90   | 0    | R   | Bit 0-1: Slot 0 ID; 2-3: Slot 1 ID; 4-5: Slot 2 ID; 6-7: Slot 3 ID<br>ID 00: serial line; ID 10: floppy interface; ID 01: not used; ID 11: not spec. |
| 91   | 0    | R   | Clearing the sound generator frequency divider for accurate timing   |
| 96   | 60   | W   | Palette color #0   |
| 97   | 61   | W   | Palette color #1   |
| 98   | 62   | W   | Palette color #2   |
| 99   | 63   | W   | Palette color #3   |
| 112  | 70   | W   | Bit 0-4: CRTC 6845 register selection (value: 0 - 17)  |
| 113  | 71   | R/W | CRTC 6845 register data  |

Set the **Dark Blue**, **Cyan**, **Dark Red**, and **Yellow** colors palette in **Graphics 4** mode:

```
ld A,$1      ; A = Dark Blue color
out ($60),A  ; set Dark Blue color to Palette Color #0
ld A,$51     ; A = Cyan color
out ($61),A  ; set Cyan color to Palette Color #1
ld A,$4      ; A = Dark Red color
out ($62),A  ; set Dark Red color to Palette Color #2
ld A,$54     ; A = Yellow color
out ($63),A  ; set Yellow color to Palette Color #0
```

### Set Border color to Dark Blue

```
ld A,$1 ; A = Dark Blue color
out ($0),A ; set border color to Dark Blue
```

### Set Graphics 16 mode

```
ld B,2 ; B = 2 → Graphics 16 mode code (0: Graphics 2; 1: Graphics 4)
ld A,($0B13) ; A = Port #6 mirror in the memory (system variable)
and 128+64+32+16+8+4 ; clear bit #0 and #1 → graphic mode bits
or B ; set graphic mode to bit #0 and #1
ld ($0B13),A ; save value to port #6 mirror system variable
out ($6),A ; send value to port
```

### Set Sound ON

```
ld A,($0B12) ; A = port #5 mirror from system variable
and 128+64 ; clear low 6 bits
or $F ; enable sound sign (bit #4)
ld ($0B12),A ; set new value to port #5 mirror system variable
out ($5),A ; send new value to port #5
```

### Sound

```
ld HL,$E5D ; HL = octave 4; note #A value (PITCH in BASIC)
ld A,L ; A = note low byte
out ($4),A ; send low byte to SOUND port
ld A,($0B12) ; A = port #5 mirror from system variable
and 128+64+32+16 ; clear low 4 bits for the note high 4 bits
or H ; A = port #5 value or note high 4 bits
out ($5),A ; send value to port #5
```

### Set Sound Volume

```
ld A,$F ; A = Volume value (0-15)
sla A ; shift bits to left
sla A ; shift bits to left → A = volume on #2 - #5 bits.
ld E,A ; E = A
ld A,($0B13) ; A = port #6 mirror system variable
and 128+64+2+1 ; clear #2 - #5 bits (volume bits)
or E ; A = port #6 value or Volume value on #2-#5 bits
ld ($0B13),A ; set new value to port #6 mirror
out ($6),A ; send Volume to port #6
```

# SYSTEM VARIABLES

SYSTEM variables on U0 (Page 0) memory (length in bytes)

| hex addr. | dec.addr. | Length | Name       | Decription   |
|-----------|-----------|--------|------------|--|
| 0003      | 3         | 1      | P_SAVE     | Memory mapping   |
| 0030      | 48        | 8      | OS_ENTRY   | Entry point of ROM functions ( <b>rst \$30</b> )                                   |
| 0038      | 56        | 8      | IT_ENTRY   | Entry point if Interrupt Handler   |
| 0040      | 64        | 192    |            | IDs of the expansion cards   |
| 0B00      | 2816      | 8      | IN_TABLE   | Input assignment table   |
| 0B08      | 2824      | 8      | OUT_TABLE  | Output assignment table  |
| 0B10      | 2832      | 1      | INT_DES    | Interrupt served device  |
| 0B11      | 2833      | 1      | PORT_03    | Memory mirror of Port #3   |
| 0B12      | 2834      | 1      | PORT_05    | Memory mirror of Port #5   |
| 0B13      | 2835      | 1      | PORT_06    | Memory mirror of Port #6   |
| 0B14      | 2836      | 1      | SND_ACTIVE | <b>FF</b> : sound is in progress   |
| 0B15      | 2837      | 1      | SND_IRQ    | <b>FF</b> : The new sound interrupts what is in progress                           |
| 0B16      | 2838      | 1      | STOP_FLAG  | <b>FF</b> : CTRL+ESC pressed ( <i>this stops the BASIC program</i> )               |
| 0B17      | 2839      | 2      | ST_LIMIT   | Lower limit of the STACK when FILL in progress                                     |
| 0B19      | 2841      | 2      | HI_MEM     | Highest memory address for BASIC   |
| 0B1b      | 2843      | 1      | P3RAM      | <b>0</b> : <b>Page 3</b> (U3) RAM test OK; <b>1</b> : <b>Page 3</b> RAM test fault |
| 0B1C      | 2844      | 1      | EX_DEF     | Default assignment of expansion card   |
| 0B1D      | 2845      | 2      | INT_INC    | Timer in the Interrupt Handler ( <i>inc by every 20 ms</i> )                       |
| 0B1F      | 2847      | 1      | IRQ_STAT   | Enabling IRQ for the expansion cards   |
| 0B20      | 2848      | 1      | INT_FLAG   | Interrupt handling in progress   |
| 0B21      | 2849      | 1      | WARM_FLAG  | <b>FF</b> : "warm" reset in progress - stop program, screen reset                  |
| 0B22      | 2850      | 1      | COLD_FLAG  | <b>FF</b> : "warm" reset is disabled   |
| 0B23      | 2851      | 20     | INFUNC     | The initial part of the system functions   |
| 0B37      | 2871      | 10     | OUTFUNC    | The ending part of the system functions  |
| 0B41      | 2881      | 8      | INT_EXIT   | The initial part of the Interrupt Handler  |
| 0B49      | 2889      | 2      | STACKT     | Temporary storage for Stack Pointer  |




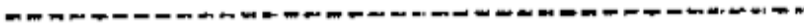










## TAPE variables

| hex addr. | dec.addr. | Length | Name    | Decription   |
|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|--|
| 0B6B      | 2923      | 1      | BUFFER  | <b>0</b> : not buffered; <b>FF</b> : bufferes file   |
| 0B6C      | 2924      | 1      | REMRED  | Select tape motor control                            |
| 0B6D      | 2925      | 1      | PROTECT | <b>0</b> : not protected; <b>FF</b> : protected file |
| 0B6E      | 2926      | 1      | EOF     | <b>FF</b> : end of file                              |
| 0B6F      | 2927      | 2      | MUDDLE  | CRC base value                                       |

## LINE, BORDER and TEXT variables

| hex addr. | dec.addr. | Length | Name    | Description  |
|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|--|
| 0B4B      | 2891      | 1      | L_MODE  | Line overwriting mode<br><i>Values: 0: overwrite; 1: OR; 2: AND; 3: XOR</i>  |
| 0B4C      | 2892      | 1      | L_STYLE | Line drawing style   |
| 0B4D      | 2893      | 1      | INK     | Line / text color<br><i>(Palette index or color in Graphics 16)</i>  |
| 0B4E      | 2894      | 1      | PAPER   | Text background color<br><i>(Palette index or color in Graphics 16)</i>  |
| 0B4F      | 2895      | 1      | BORDER  | Border color <i>(Bit 7: Intensity; 5: Green; 3: Red; 1: Blue)</i>  |
| 0B50      | 2896      | 1      | V_FLAG  | Char overwriting flag → <i>0: overwrite; 1: invisible ink; 2: transparent background; 3: invisible + transparent</i> |

### L\_STYLE – line drawing styles

|       |     |  |
|-------|-----|--|
| STYLE | 1:  |    |
| STYLE | 2:  |    |
| STYLE | 3:  |    |
| STYLE | 4:  |    |
| STYLE | 5:  |    |
| STYLE | 6:  |    |
| STYLE | 7:  |  |
| STYLE | 8:  |  |
| STYLE | 9:  |  |
| STYLE | 10: |  |
| STYLE | 11: |  |
| STYLE | 12: |  |
| STYLE | 13: |  |
| STYLE | 14: |  |

## BASIC variables

| hex addr. | dec.addr. | Length | Name   | Description                          |
|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 0008      | 8         | 25     |        | BASIC error handling routines        |
| 0021      | 33        | 14     | USRTAB | BASIC EXT instructions address table |

## SERIAL LINE variables

| hex addr. | dec.addr. | Length | Name   | Description                       |
|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 0B69      | 2821      | 1      | BAUD   | Serial line speed in BAUD         |
| 0B6A      | 2822      | 1      | FORMAT | USART mode                        |
| 0B71      | 2829      | 1      | SER_OK | Clock frequency 0: OK; FF: not OK |

## KEYBOARD variables

| hex addr. | dec.addr. | Length | Name      | Description   |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|---|
| 0B51      | 2897      | 10     | PICTURE   | Keyboard matrix 10 lines <i>(filled by the Interrupt Handler)</i> |
| 0B5B      | 2907      | 10     | OLD_PICT  | Previous keyboard matrix  |
| 0B65      | 2917      | 1      | DELAY_KEY | Auto-repeat delay   |
| 0B66      | 2918      | 1      | LOCK_KEY  | CAPS / SHIFT / ALT states   |
| 0B67      | 2919      | 1      | RATE_KEY  | Auto-repeat speed in 20 ms  |
| 0B68      | 2920      | 1      | HOLD_DIS  | FF: CTRL+P has no effect  |

### Keyboard Matrix

| LINE | PICTURE |      | B7  | B6   | B5    | B4   | B3    | B2   | B1  | B0  |
|------|---------|------|-----|------|-------|------|-------|------|-----|-----|
|      | hex.    | dec. |     |      |       |      |       |      |     |     |
| 0    | 0B51    | 2897 | ! 4 | ' 1  | ~ 1   | / 6  | & 0   | " 2  | + 3 | % 5 |
| 1    | 0B52    | 2898 | = 7 | ö 0  | o 0   | # *  | ü .   | ) 9  | ( 8 | ~ ^ |
| 2    | 0B53    | 2899 | R   | Q    | @     | Z    | \$    | W    | E   | T   |
| 3    | 0B54    | 2900 | U   | P    | ü     | { [  | ö 0   | o 0  | I   | } ] |
| 4    | 0B55    | 2901 | F   | A    | > <   | H    | \     | S    | D   | G   |
| 5    | 0B56    | 2902 | J   | E    | ü     | RET  | A     | L    | K   | DEL |
| 6    | 0B57    | 2903 | V   | Y    | LOCK  | N    | SHIFT | X    | C   | B   |
| 7    | 0B58    | 2904 | M   | =    | SPACE | CTRL | ESC   | :    | ?   | ALT |
| 8    | 0B59    | 2905 |     | LEFT | RIGHT | ACC  | FIRE  | DOWN | UP  | INS |
| 9    | 0B5A    | 2906 |     | LEFT | RIGHT | ACC  | FIRE  | DOWN | UP  |     |

Line 8: internal and Joystick #1; Line 9: Joystick #2

#### Get joystick example:

```

ld    A,($0B59)      ; register A = keyboard matrix line #8 – joystick #1
and   64              ; clear all bits except joystick LEFT
call  nz,MOVE_LEFT   ; if not zero then call MOVE_LEFT subroutine
ld    A,($0B59)      ; A = keyboard matrix line #8 – joystick #1 (again)
and   32              ; clear all bits except joystick RIGHT
call  nz,MOVE_RIGHT  ; if not zero then call MOVE_RIGHT subroutine
ld    A,($0B59)      ; A = keyboard matrix line #8 – joystick #1 (again)
and   8               ; clear all bits except joystick FIRE
call  nz,FIRE         ; if not zero then call FIRE subroutine

```

# SYSTEM AREAS

SYSTEM areas on U0 (Page 0) memory (*length in bytes*)

| hex addr.   | dec.addr.   | Length      | Name           | Decription  |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---|
| <b>0100</b> | <b>256</b>  | <b>1600</b> |                | ASCII screen ( <b>64</b> column x <b>25</b> lines) *                    |
| <b>0740</b> | <b>1856</b> | <b>960</b>  |                | Matrices of definable chars (chr: <b>128 - 223</b> x <b>10</b> bytes)** |
| <b>0B72</b> | <b>2930</b> | <b>15</b>   |                | Video working area  |
| <b>0B81</b> | <b>2945</b> | <b>100</b>  |                | I/O working area  |
| <b>0BE5</b> | <b>3045</b> | <b>10</b>   |                | Keyboard working area   |
| <b>0BEF</b> | <b>3055</b> | <b>1</b>    |                | Sound working area  |
| <b>0BF0</b> | <b>3056</b> | <b>600</b>  |                | Tape working area ***   |
| <b>0E48</b> | <b>3656</b> | <b>80</b>   |                | Editor working area *   |
| <b>0E98</b> | <b>3736</b> | <b>20</b>   | <b>PROG_ID</b> | "TV COMPUTER BASIC" text ( <i>from ROM v1.3</i> )                       |
| <b>0EAC</b> | <b>3756</b> | <b>2048</b> | <b>STACK</b>   | System STACK  |
| <b>16AC</b> | <b>5804</b> | <b>835</b>  |                | BASIC working area ****   |

\* You are free to use these memory areas.

\*\* You can use this memory area freely if you are not using the #128 - #223 characters.

\*\*\* If you don't save / load files, you can use this memory area freely.

\*\*\*\* If you are not using BASIC / SYSTEM functions, you are free to use these memory areas.