A Guide to Blitz Basic

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Credits

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Preface

This guide is written for new and experienced users of Blitz Basic 2, the revolutionary BASIC language for the Amiga. A GUIDE TO BLITZ BASIC is designed as a complete reference guide, rather than a step-by-step programming tutorial; it will rapidly become one of your most valuable reference works. The guide begins with the basics of programming and by the time you reach its end you will have been introduced to the main features of the Blitz Basic language.

It contains an explanation of every single Blitz command, gives a useful example in each case, and tells you about known bugs and how to work round them. The heart of the guide is a self-instructional Blitz Basic course, taking the reader through basic programming concepts, math commands, graphics, music and sound effects. Shapes, sprites and Intuition are all covered in detail.

You will find the guide most pleasurable if you work through the examples as you read it. Programming is primarily a practical activity and you are encouraged at times to increase understanding of Blitz Basic by creating your own programs.

If you are learning to program Blitz as a hobby you will find it absorbing and intellectually challenging. Even the most inexperienced user will soon develop an appetite for Blitz. After all, programming is fun.

Disk 2 of the guide contains all of the examples in Blitz Basic format, together with several useful programs and game demos.

Contents

Chapter 1 : The Basics

A couple of years ago the computer press speculated on Commodore's expected domination of the home computer market and the continuing success of the Amiga. Events in 1994 confirmed both, though no-one could have anticipated the eccentric mishandling of the CD32 console and the subsequent caution with which the machine was to be regarded by manufacturers and buyers alike.

At the back end of 1994 it was still uncertain whether the Amiga - and the CD32 especially - would sell in quantities hoped for by Commodore, and which would justify large investment by software houses. They didn't, and the mighty Commodore was destroyed.

However, it hasn't been all doom and gloom. The advent of high-level programming languages, such as Blitz Basic 2, is just one sign amongst many that software development on the Amiga is far from dead.

1.1 Welcome to Blitz Basic

BASIC stands for Beginners All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. It uses an easily grasped mixture of English, numbers, strings, arithmetic signs and parameters which will enable you to start programming without having to learn a daunting low-level language such as Assembly Language. BASIC is a high-level language which was first devised for education purposes only, but during recent years it has undergone many improvements and is now widely used throughout the Amiga world in the form of Blitz Basic 2.

A few years ago Blitz Basic was a breakthrough, the first programming language that ran anywhere near as fast as Assembly Language (with the obvious exception of the C language). It was developed to run solely on the Amiga - an A500 at the time - and some of the peculiarities of that machine have been enshrined in the language ever since.

There were a number of pretenders to Blitz Basic's crown, including AMOS, GFA Basic and HiSoft Basic, but it built up a large following and went through several versions and revisions - like the Amiga, but more slowly. Blitz Basic 2 is currently up to version 1.9, the version covered in this guide, although the information contained herein is relevant in part to all versions of Blitz.

In its relatively short lifetime, Blitz Basic has established itself as a BASIC dialect on the Amiga. It is certainly a highly satisfactory package for the budding Amiga programmer - this is indicated by the abundance of Blitz-created software in the Public Domain.

Blitz Basic is functional but does not welcome the novice. That is not because the program is badly implemented - far from it - but because the documentation that accompanies the software is poor and over-complicated. Together with Blitz Basic, this guide will help you unlock the power of your Amiga! Here goes...

1.2 Using this guide

The following chapters provide a thorough and comprehensive index of all the Blitz Basic tokens, as well as a valuable amount of reference material for using Blitz Basic 2. The commands are arranged in relevant chapters and each description follows an identical format, for ease of reference. After the command name the operating modes are given and a brief explanation of the command and the command syntax.

PRINT

Mode(s):	Amiga/Blitz
Statement:	print items on screen
Syntax:	Print EXPRESSION

PRINT for example. This is followed by a fuller explanation and, where appropriate, an example of the command's use. The following conventions are used in the syntax descriptions:

- Command parameters are in capitals
- Square brackets indicate optional parameters []
- Three dots indicate more parameters of the same format may be added as necessary (...)

If you are already familiar with the Blitz Basic 2 instruction set, be sure to read through the chapters for any information that you may not know. You may be pleasantly surprised!

1.3 Basic programming concepts

The Blitz Basic 2 instruction set consists of a number of reserved keywords which perform a specific task. It includes the names of all Blitz Basic statements, functions, commands and operators. Examples include PRINT, EDIT$, WAITEVENT and <>.

Reserved words can be entered in either uppercase or lowercase, and Blitz Basic will automatically highlight and format the keyword. You should always separate Blitz reserved keywords from parameters, data, or other elements of a command with spaces. This lowers the risk of Blitz Basic not recognising a token name.

1.3.1 functions, statements & commands

The Blitz Basic 2 instruction set comes in three different flavors:

- functions
- Statements
- commands

Functions (pink boxes) are Blitz Basic tokens that require parameters in parentheses, and return a value:

```
; *** Functions example- Functions.bb2
N=Abs(-10)
MouseWait
End
```

Statements (purple boxes) are Blitz Basic tokens that only perform an action but do not return a value. Their arguments do not require parentheses:

```
; *** Statements example- Statements.bb2
NPrint "Blitz Basic 2"
MouseWait
End
```

Commands are Blitz Basic tokens that can be used as either a function or a statement:

```
; *** Commands example - Commands.bb2
ev.l=Waitevent ; *** As a function
Waitevent      ; *** As a statement
MouseWait
End
```

1.4 Amiga Vs Blitz

Blitz Basic runs under two modes, namely Amiga mode and Blitz mode, and some of its commands are limited in the mode under which they can run. Although the Amiga's Operating System is great, it often gets in the way of games programmers and slows the machine down. Blitz mode chucks the Operating System out of the window, so that Blitz Basic can talk directly to the Amiga's hardware. Blitz mode programs run ok and smooth scrolling and dual playfield displays can be created. However, all Blitz reserved keywords are restricted in that they can operate under Amiga mode, OR Blitz mode, OR both.

The operating modes for all reserved keywords are given in this guide. The following commands (commonly known as directives) are used to temporarily alter the Blitz Basic operating mode.

The **AMIGA** directive is used to enter Amiga mode and to return to the Intuition environment. This is the default Blitz Basic operating mode:

AMIGA/BLITZ

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Directive: enter Amiga/Blitz mode
Syntax: AMIGA/BLITZ

```
; *** AMIGA example, Filename - AMIGA.bb2
; *** Enter Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Create Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Output some text
NPrint "Blitz mode"
VWait 100
; *** Enter Amiga mode
AMIGA
; *** Output some more text
DefaultOutput
NPrint "Amiga mode"
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

Similarly, the **BLITZ** directive is used to enter Blitz mode. Any further commands which require the presence of the Operating System (such as the File access, Window and Gadget commands) will become temporarily unavailable. File access especially should not occur directly before you enter Blitz mode. To ensure that this is the case, after file access insert the following line before executing the BLITZ directive:

```
VWait 100
```

Blitz mode is not a permanent state. Once your program has finished executing, Blitz Basic returns to Amiga mode. For example:

```
; *** BLITZ example - BLITZ.bb2
; *** Enter Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Create Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

The **QAMIGA** directive is used to enter Quick Amiga mode. Quick Amiga mode is similar to Amiga mode, however the current display is unaffected (i.e. you are not returned to the Intuition environment). This allows you to jump into Amiga mode without having to corrupt a Blitz mode display. Here's an example:

QAMIGA

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Directive: enter Quick Amiga mode
Syntax: QAMIGA

```
; *** QAMIGA example - QAMIGA.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Create Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
```

```
; *** Output some text
NPrint "Blitz mode"
VWait 100
; *** Enter Quick Amiga mode
QAMIGA
; *** Output some more text
NPrint "QAmiga mode (same display)"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

1.5 Label Definitions

Alphanumeric labels can consist of letters, special characters, or numbers. However, they must begin with an alphabetical character. This allows the use of mnemonic labels to make your program code easier to understand. For example, the following labels are valid:

```
Bob:
BOB:
A100:
_Print:
```

However, the following label names are not allowed:

```
1:      ; *** begins with a number, not a letter
101:    ; *** begins with a number, not a letter
Print:  ; *** Blitz Basic reserved keyword
```

Capital label names are treated differently to lowercase label names. For example, Bob: and BOB: are recognised as two different labels by Blitz Basic.

1.5.1 restrictions

Alphanumeric labels are distinguished from variables by a terminating colon (:) - a legal label cannot have a space between the name and the colon. When you refer to a label in a GOSUB or GOTO or other control structure, do not include the colon as part of the label name. You cannot use any Blitz Basic reserved keyword as an alphanumeric label, as Blitz Basic will generate an error.

1.6 Variables

Variables represent values that are used in a program. In Blitz Basic there are two types of variable: numeric and string. A numeric variable can only be assigned a value that is a number:

```
; *** Variables example 1 - Variable1.bb2
*** Define numeric variable
A=1
; *** Output contents of variable
NPrint A
MouseWait
End
```

A string variable can only be assigned a character string value:

```
; *** Variables example 2 - Variable2.bb2
; *** Define string variable
A$="Blitz Basic"
; *** Output contents of variable
NPrint A$
MouseWait
End
```

You can assign a value to a variable, or it can be assigned as the result of calculations in the

program - this is known as an expression. Before a variable is assigned a value, its value is zero (numeric variables) or null (string variables). While a variable name cannot be a reserved keyword, a reserved keyword embedded in a variable name is allowed:

```
; *** Variables example 3 - Variable3.bb2
; *** Define numeric variable
APrint=10
; *** Output contents of variable
NPrint APrint
MouseWait
End
```

LET is an optional statement which is used to assign a value to a variable.
For example:

LET

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: assign a value to a variable
Syntax: Let VARIABLE=EXPRESSION

```
; *** Let example - Let1.bb2
; *** Define numeric variable
Let A=1
; *** Output contents of variable
NPrint A
; *** Define numeric variable
A=1
; *** Output contents of variable
NPrint A
MouseWait
End
```

Here are some more examples of LET:

```
; *** Two Let - Let2.bb2
Let A=180   ; *** Load variable A with 180
Let A=B*10  ; *** Load ten lots of variable B into A
Let B+1     ; *** Increase B by 1
Let B-1     ; *** Decrease B by 1
Let C*10    ; *** Multiply C by 10
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

This useful little statement swaps the contents of two variables of the same type (i.e. A is assigned the value of B and B, the value of A).
For example:

EXCHANGE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: swap the contents of two variables
Syntax: Exchange A,B

```
; *** Exchange example- Exchange.bb2
NUM=10
; *** Dimension an array
Dim RANDOM(NUM)
; *** Generate NUM (default is 10) numbers
For A=1 To NUM
  RANDOM(A)=A
Next A
Repeat
  Repeat
    ; *** Generate some random numbers
    B=Rnd(NUM)+1
  Until B>0
  ; *** Swap variables
  Exchange RANDOM(B),RANDOM(NUM)
```

```
  Let C+1
Until C=NUM
; *** Output random numbers
For T=1 To NUM
  NPrint RANDOM(T)
Next T
MouseWait
End
```

1.7 Numeric types

Blitz Basic currently supports six different types of variable: five numeric types with different ranges and accuracies for numeric data, and one string type ($) for character strings (we'll take a look at the string type later on).

Table 1.1 : Numeric types

Type	Suffix	Range	Accuracy	Bytes	Example
Byte	.b	+/- 128	Integer	1	Neil.b=125
Word	.w	+/- 32768	Integer	2	Dan.w=30000
Long	.l	+/- 2147483648	Integer	4	Jon.l=$dff000
Quick	.q	+/- 32768.0000	1/65536	2	Richard.q=500/7
Float	.f	+/- 9e18	1/10e18	4	Craig.f=4e7

To assign a type to a variable simply add the relevant suffix from the above table to the variable name:

```
; *** Blitz Basic types- Types.bb2
*** Define numeric variables
BYTE.b=126
WORD.w=32767
LONG.l=3200000
QUICK.q=3.1415
FLOAT.f=3e8
; *** Output numeric variables
NPrint BYTE
NPrint WORD
NPrint LONG
NPrint QUICK
NPrint FLOAT
MouseWait
End
```

If no suffix is used in the first reference of a variable then Blitz Basic will assign that variable then Blitz Basic will assign that variable with the default type. The default type is quick, however the DEFTYPE statement can be used to change this.

DEFTYPE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: declare a list of variables as a particular type
Syntax: DEFTYPE.TYPE [VARIABLE[,VARIABLE2,...]

The **DEFTYPE** statement has two main uses. It can change the default type and it can also be used to declare a list of variables as being of a particular type (the default type is not affected). In this case, the optional VARIABLE parameters must be included.

```
; *** DEFTYPE example- DEFTYPE.bb2
A=Pi
; *** A is a quick
NPrint A
; *** Set default type to word
DEFTYPE.w
NPrint Pi
; *** Declare variables A and B as quicks
```

```
DEFTYPE.q A,B
A=Pi
B=Sqr(Pi)
NPrint A
NPrint B
MouseWait
End
```

SIZEOF returns the amount of memory, in bytes, that a variable type takes up. If the optional PATH parameter is included then the offset from the start of the type, to the specified entry, is returned.

SIZEOF

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return amount of memory a variable takes up
Syntax: s=SizeOf.TYPE[,PATH]

```
; *** SizeOf example- SizeOf.bb2
; *** NewType definition
NEWTYPE.NAME
  A.l
  B.w
  C.q
End NEWTYPE
; *** Return size of NewType
NPrint SizeOf.NAME
MouseWait
End
```

1.7.1 manipulating quick numbers

As has been explained, the quick type is a fixed point type, with an accuracy of four decimal places. Quick numbers can be manipulated with the following functions.

Use the **QLIMIT** function to limit the range of a quick number. If QUICK is greater than or equal to LOW, and less or equal to HIGH, then the value of QUICK is returned. If QUICK is less than LOW then LOW is returned. Conversely, if QUICK is greater than HIGH then HIGH is returned.

QLIMIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: limit the range of a quick number
Syntax: QLimit(QUICK,LOW,HIGH)

```
; *** QLimit example - QLimit.bb2
NPrint QLimit(100,0,90) ; *** Returns 90
NPrint QLimit(90,95,100) ; *** Returns 95
MouseWait
End
```

QWRAP wraps the result of the quick expression if QUICK is greater than or equal to HIGH, or less than LOW. If QUICK is less than LOW then QUICK-LOW+HIGH is returned. If QUICK is greater than or equal to HIGH then QUICK-HIGH+LOW is returned.

QWRAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: wrap the result of a quick expression
Syntax: QWrap(QUICK,LOW,HIGH)

```
; *** QWrap example - QWrap.bb2
NPrint QWrap(-10,0,320) ; *** Returns 310
NPrint QWrap(100,0,90) ; *** Returns 10
MouseWait
End
```

1.8 NewTypes

In addition to the six primitive types available, programmers can also create their own custom types, or NewTypes. A NewType is a collection of fields, similar to a database or C structure,

NEWTYPE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: begin/ end a NewType definition
Syntax: NEWTYPE .NAME End NEWTYPE

which enables you to group together relevant fields in one variable type. **NEWTYPE** must be followed by a list of fields, separated by colons and/or newlines:

```
NEWTYPE .NAME
  X.w
  Y.w
  SPEED.w
End NEWTYPE
```

Once a NewType is defined, variables are assigned the new type by using a suffix of .NAME:

```
A.NAME
```

Which would assign the contents of the "NAME" NewType to the "A" variable.

1.8.1 newType fields

When defining a NewType structure, field names without a suffix will be assigned the type of the previous field:

```
NEWTYPE .NAME
  X.l
  Y
  SPEED
End NEWTYPE
```

In the above example the X field is assigned the long type, so the Y and SPEED fields are assigned the same type. Individual fields within a NewType variable are accessed and assigned using the "" character:

```
NEWTYPE .NAME
  X.w
  Y.w
  SPEED.w
End NEWTYPE
A.NAME\X=10
NPrint A\X
MouseWait
End
```

Which would assign the value 10 to the X field. To assign values to all of the fields at once, separate the values with commas:

```
NEWTYPE .NAME
  X.w
  Y.w
  SPEED.w
End NEWTYPE
A.NAME\X=10,20,30
NPrint A\X
```

Which would assign the values 10, 20 and 30 to the X, Y and SPEED fields respectively.

1.8.2 restrictions

References to string fields do not require the $ or .s suffix to be present. The following example will generate an error:

```
NEWTYPE .NAME
  NAME$
  AGE.q
```

```
End NEWTYPE
A.NAME\NAME$="Neil Wright"
NPrint A\NAME$
MouseWait
End
```

This is the correct procedure:

```
NEWTYPE .NAME
  NAME$
  AGE.q
End NEWTYPE
A.NAME\NAME="Neil Wright"
NPrint A\NAME
MouseWait
End
```

1.8.3 newType in action

Once you have gained an understanding of how NewTypes are created, the next step is to see how they are used within a Blitz Basic program. Here is full example:

```
; *** NEWTYPE example - NEWTYPE.bb2
; *** Create NewType with three fields
NEWTYPE.NAME
  A.l
  B.w
  C.q
End NEWTYPE
; *** Assign three values to the three fields
A.NAME\A=10,20,30
; *** Output the contents of the fields
NPrint A\A
NPrint A\B
NPrint A\C
MouseWait
End
```

1.9 Constants

A constant is a values which is defined by the programmer, but does not change during program execution. Constants are faster than variables and do not consume any memory.
However, the following must be obeyed when using constants:

- Constants can only hold integer values
- Constants can be used in assembler
- Constants can be used in conditional compiling evaluation

A constant is defined by adding the hash symbol (#) before a variable name. For example, #X=100 means that the #X variable is a constant, and will always be equal to 100. This allows the Blitz programmer to replace meaningless numbers with mnemonic constants:

```
; *** Constants example- Constants.bb2
; *** Define constants
#WIDTH=320
#HEIGHT=256
#DEPTH=3
; *** Create Blitz mode display using constants
BLITZ
BitMap 0,#WIDTH,#HEIGHT,#DEPTH
Slice 0,44,#DEPTH
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
```

```
; *** Output constants
NPrint "Width = ",#WIDTH
NPrint "Height = ",#HEIGHT
NPrint "Depth = ",#DEPTH
MouseWait
End
```

1.10 Strings

A string variable is one which contains text, rather than numbers. Strings are surrounded by quotation marks and all string names must end with the dollar ($) character. They can comprise of characters, numbers or spaces. The example below creates a new string (A$) and stuffs it with the contents of the subsequent quote marks:

```
; *** Strings example- Strings1.bb2
; *** Define a numeric variable
A$="Blitz BASIC 2"
; *** Output variable
Print A$
MouseWait
End
```

MAXLEN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define maximum length of string variable
Syntax: MaxLen "STRING"=EXPRESSION

The **MAXLEN** statement is used to define the maximum length of a string variable. EXPRESSION specifies the maximum number of characters for the string. This is only necessary when using the Blitz Basic commands which require this definition (FILEREQUEST$ and FIELDS).

```
; *** MaxLen example- MaxLen.bb2
; *** Open a hi-res screen
Screen 0,3+8
; *** Set maximum length of variables
MaxLen PATH$=160
MaxLen FILENAME$=64
; *** Create a file requester
F$=FileRequest$("File requester",PATH$,FILENAME$)
MouseWait
End
```

Blitz Basic's string functions are extensive, which is why we have devoted the whole of Chapter 2 to them.

1.11 Blitz Basic operators

Operators perform mathematical or logical operations on values. When several operators are used within the same program statement, they are processed in a specific order. This order is dependent on the operator list, or hierarchy. The operators found at the top of this list are processed first. If the operators are of the same level, the leftmost one is executed first, the rightmost last:

Table 1.2 : Blitz Basic operators

Operator	Description	Example
NOT	Logical NOT	NOT A
BITSET	A with B bit set	A BitSet B
BITCLR	A with B bit cleared	A BitClr B
BITCHG	A with B bit changed	A BitChg B
BITTST	True if A bit of B set	A BitTst B
^	Exponentiation	A^B
LSL	A left B times (logical)	A LSL B
ASL	A left B times (arithmetical)	A ASL B
LSR	A right B times (logical)	A LSR B
ASR	A right B times (arithmetical)	A ASR B
&	Logical AND	A&B
|	Logical OR	A|B
*	Multiply	A*B
/	Divide	A/B
+	Add	A+B
-	Subtract	A-B
=	Equal	A=1
<>	Unequal	A<>B
<	Less than A Greater than	A>B
<=	Less than or equal to	A<=B
>=	Greater than or equal to	A>=B
AND	Logical AND	A AND B
OR	Logical OR	A OR B

1.11.1 relational operators

Relational operators are used to compare two values. The result of the comparison is either true (-1) or false (0). This result can then be used to make a decision regarding program execution. The following table lists the relational operators:

Table 1.3 : Relational operators

Operator	Description	Example
=	Equal	A=1
<>	Unequal	A<>B
<	Less than A Greater than	A>B
<=	Less than or equal to	A<=B
>=	Greater than or equal to	A>=B

The "=" operator compares two numerical or character string expressions. When both are equal the logical true is returned, otherwise logical false will be returned:

```
; *** = operator
A=3
B=3
If A=B Then End
Repeat
Forever
```

The <, >, <= and >= operators serve to compare numerical and string expressions:

- A>B is true when A is greater than B
- A<B is true when A is less than B
- A<=B is true then A is less than or equal to B
- A>=B is true when A is greater than or equal to B

The <> operator determines if two numerical or string expressions are unequal:

- A<>B is true when A is unequal to B

When arithmetic and relational operators are combined in one expression, the arithmetic operation is always performed first.

1.11.2 logical operators

Logical operators perform bit manipulation, Boolean operations, or tests on multiple relations. Like relational operators, logical operators can be used to make decisions regarding program execution. A logical operator returns the result from the combination of true-false operands. The result (in bits) is either true (-1) or false (0). The Blitz Basic logical operators are NOT (logical complement), AND (conjunction) and OR (disjunction). For example:

```
; *** Logical operators - Logic.bb2
NPrint NOT 3      ; *** returns -4
NPrint NOT -4     ; *** returns 3
NPrint 50 AND 40 ; *** returns 32
NPrint 12 AND 11 ; *** returns 8
NPrint 2 OR 1     ; *** returns 3
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

1.12 Using operators with strings

A string expression consists of string constants, string variables, and other string expressions combined by operators. There are two types of string operation: concatenation and relation.

1.12.1 concatenation

Combining two strings together is called concatenation. The plus (+) operator is used to perform concatenation. Here is an example of the use of the operator:

```
; *** A piece of string - Strings2.bb2
; *** Define string variables
A$="Blitz "
B$="Basic "
C$="is tops!"
; *** Concatenate strings
Print A$+B$+C$
MouseWait
End
```

In the above example the “+” operator is used join together two strings. Running the example produces the following on the screen:

```
Blitz Basic is tops!
```

Note that the other arithmetic operators (i.e. -, /, *) should not be applied to strings.

1.12.2 relational operators

Strings can also be compared using the same relational operators that are used with numeric variables (i.e. =, <, >, <>, <= and >=). With strings, the relational operators compare the ASCII codes of the characters which comprise the string. The ASCII code system assigns a different number to each keyboard character. If all the ASCII codes are the same, the strings are equal. If the ASCII codes differ, the lower code number precedes the higher.
All string constants used in comparison expressions must be enclosed in quotation marks. Here is an example:

```
; *** Relational operators - Relation.bb2
; *** Define string variables
A$="A"
```

```
B$="B"
C$="Blitz"
D$="Basic"
; *** Evaluate variables
If A$<B$ Then NPrint A$,"<",B$
If B$>A$ Then NPrint B$,">",A$
If C$>D$ Then NPrint C$,">",D$
If C$=C$ Then NPrint C$,"=",C$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

1.13 Arrays

An array is a list of variables of the same name that are distinguished by subscripts (values that identify each variable or element in the array). Arrays can be made up from any type of variable. Creation of such an array is accomplished by the DIM statement.

The DIM statement is used to dimension (set up) an array of a given number of numeric or string variables. In numeric arrays, DIM is followed by a single letter or word that names the array, and one or more numeric values (dimensions) separated by commas. String arrays are created in the same way, however a single letter or word followed by a ($) is used for the array name. Here is an example:

DIM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: dimension an array
Syntax: Dim ARRAY_NAME(DIMENSION LIST)
Syntax 2: Dim List ARRAY_NAME(DIMENSION LIST)

```
; *** Dim example - Dim.bb2
; *** Dimension array
Dim A(20)
; *** Define array contents
For B=1 To 20
  A(B)=Int(Rnd(100))
Next B
; *** Print array contents
For C=1 To 20
  NPrint A(C)
Next C
MouseWait
End
```

1.13.1 list arrays

The optional List parameter, if included, denotes a List array. List arrays differ from normal arrays in that Blitz Basic keeps an internal count of how many elements are stored in the List and an internal pointer to the current element within the List. List arrays are restricted in size to one dimension:

```
; *** Dim example 2 - Dim2.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(20)
; *** Define array contents
For B=1 To 20
  A(B)=Int(Rnd(100))
Next B
; *** Output List array contents
For C=1 To 20
  NPrint A(C)
Next C
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

RESET/CLEARLIST

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: reset/clear /List array to first item
Syntax: Reset/ClearList ARRAY()

RESETLIST sets the current List array element to the first item. This prepares the array for processing with the NEXTITEM statement. The **CLEARLIST** statement clears a List array. List arrays are automatically cleared when they are dimensioned.

```
; *** ResetList ClearList example - ClearList.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(10)
; *** Process List array
While AddFirst(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
ClearList A()
ResetList A()
; *** Output List array contents
While NextItem(A())
  NPrint A()
Wend
MouseWait
End
```

ADDFIRST/LAST

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: insert array item at the beginning/ end of an array List
Syntax: a=AddFirst/AddLast [ARRAY()]

ADDFIRST enables you to insert an array item at the beginning of a List array. ADDFIRST returns (-1) if there is enough room in the array to add an element, and (0) if no array element is available.

```
; *** AddFirst example - AddFirst.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(100)
; *** Process List array
While AddFirst(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
NPrint B," items added"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

ADDLAST enables you to insert an array item at the end of a List array. It returns (-1) if there is enough room in the array to add an element, and (0) if no array element is available. For example:

```
; *** AddLast example - AddLast.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(100)
; *** Process List array
While AddLast(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
; *** Output List array contents
For C=1 To 100
  NPrint A(C)
Next C
NPrint B," items added"
MouseWait
End
```

ADDITEM enables you to insert an array item after a List array's current item. The function returns (-1) and sets the array's "current item" pointer to the item added if there is enough room to add an element, and (0) if no array element is available.

ADDITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: insert array item after current item in array List
Syntax: a=AddItem [ARRAY()]

```
; *** AddItem example- AddItem.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(2)
; *** Process List array
If AddFirst(A()) Then A()=1
If AddItem(A()) Then A()=2
If AddItem(A()) Then A()=3
NPrint "List array is:-"
ResetList A()
; *** Output List array contents
While NextItem(A())
  NPrint A()
Wend
MouseWait
End
```

The **KILLITEM** statement is used to delete the current item from a List array. The "current item" pointer is then set to the item before the deleted element. Here is an example:

KILLITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: remove current item from array List
Syntax: k=KillItem ARRAY()

```
; *** KillItem example-KillItem.bb2
Dim List A(30)
While AddItem(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
ResetList A()
While NextItem(A())
  If A()/2<>Int(A()/2)
    KillItem A()
  EndIf
Wend
ResetList A()
While NextItem(A())
  NPrint A()
Wend
MouseWait
End
```

PREVITEM sets the List array's "current item" pointer to the previous item, for backward processing of a List array. PREVITEM returns (-1) if a previous item is available, and (0) if one is unavailable.

PREV/NEXTITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: set pointer to previous/ next item
Syntax: p=PrevItem/ NextItem [ARRAY()]

```
; *** PrevItem example - PrevItem.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(25)
; *** Process List array
While AddLast(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
```

```
If LastItem(A())
  ; *** Output List array contents
  Repeat
    NPrint A()
  Until NOT PrevItem(A())
EndIf
MouseWait
End
```

The **NEXTITEM** function sets the List array's "current item" pointer to the next item, allowing for forward processing of a List array. It returns (-1) if the next item is available, and (0) if one is unavailable.

```
; *** NextItem example- NextItem.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(25)
; *** Process List array
While AddLast(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
ResetList A()
; *** Output List array contents
While NextItem(A())
  NPrint A()
Wend
MouseWait
End
```

FIRST/LASTITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: set pointer to first/last item
Syntax: f=FirstItem/ LastItem [ARRAY()]

FIRSTITEM sets the "current item" pointer in a List array to the first item in the array. The function returns (-1) if there is a first item available, and (0) if there are no items in the List array. For example:

```
; *** FirstItem example - FirstItem.bb2
; *** Dimension List array
Dim List A(25)
While AddFirst(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
If FirstItem(A())
  NPrint "First item = ",A()
EndIf
MouseWait
End
```

LASTITEM sets the "current item" pointer in a List array to the last item in the array. The function returns (-1) if there is a last item available, and (0) if there are no items in the List array.

```
; *** LastItem example - LastItem.bb2
Dim List A(25)
; *** Process List array
While AddFirst(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
If LastItem(A())
  NPrint "Last item = ",A()
EndIf
MouseWait
End
```

The **PUSHITEM** statement "pushes" a List array's "current item" pointer onto an internal stack. This pointer can be recalled at a later date by POPITEM. The internal item pointer stack can be pushed 8 times. **POPITEM** retrieves a pushed "current item" pointer from the internal stack. The ARRAY() parameter must be the name of the most recently pushed List array.

PUSH/ POPITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: push/ get pointer to/from internal stack
Syntax: PushItem/ PopItem ARRAY()

```
; *** PushItem/PopItem example- PopItem.bb2
Dim List A(10)
; *** Process List array
While AddLast(A())
  A()=B
  Let B+1
Wend
ResetList A()
While NextItem(A())
  If A()=5 Then PushItem A()
Wend
PopItem A()
KillItem A()
ResetList A()
; *** Output List array contents
While NextItem(A())
  NPrint A()
Wend
MouseWait
End
```

ITEMSTACKSIZE defines the maximum number of List array items that may be pushed.

ITEMSTACKSIZE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set push stack size
Syntax: ItemStackSize MAXIMUM

1.13.2 sorting arrays

If you were creating a database-type application, or a program that required the contents of an array to be in order, then it would be very time consuming to manually sort through the array.
Blitz Basic provides four statements which can be used to automatically order an array.

The **SORT** statement sorts the specified array in ascending order. Direction of the sort may be changed using the **SORTUP** and **SORTDOWN** statements (default is ascending). Note that NewType arrays and List arrays cannot be sorted with this statement.

SORT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: sort a specified array in ascending order (default)
Syntax: Sort ARRAY()

SORTUP/DOWN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: force the SORT command to sort into ascending/descending order
Syntax: SortUp/ SortDown

```
; *** Sort example - Sort.bb2
; *** Dimension an array
Dim A(10)
; *** Create an array of random numbers
For B=1 To 10
  A(B)=Int(Rnd(100))
  NPrint A(B)
Next B
NPrint ""
; *** Sort the array in ascending order
Sort A()
; *** Output array
For C=1 To 10
  NPrint A(C)
```

```
Next C
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** SortUp example Filename - SortUp.bb2
; *** Dimension an array
Dim A(10)
For B=1 To 10
  A(B)=Int(Rnd(100))
Next B
; *** Sort array in ascending order
SortUp
Sort A()
For C=1 To 10
  NPrint A(C)
Next C
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** SortDown example- SortDown.bb2
Dim A(10)
; *** Create an array of random numbers
For B=1 To 10
  A(B)=Int(Rnd(100))
Next B
; *** Sort array in descending order
SortDown
Sort A()
; *** Output new array
For C=1 To 10
  NPrint A(C)
Next C
MouseWait
End
```

SORTLIST

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: rearrange the elements in linked list
Syntax: SortList ARRAY()

The **SORTLIST** statement is used to rearrange the order of elements in a Blitz Basic linked list. The order in which the items are sorted depends on the first field of the linked list type, which must be a single integer word:

```
; *** SortList example - SortList.bb2
; *** Dimension a List array
Dim List A(10)
; *** Create a List array of random numbers
While AddLast(A())
  A()=Int(Rnd(100))
  Let B+1
Wend
ResetList A()
; *** Sort List array
SortList A(),0
; *** Output new array
While NextItem(A())
  NPrint A()
Wend
MouseWait
End
```

1.14 Program control

The following statements are used to control Blitz Basic program execution. The **END** statement serves to end the current program. Program execution may not be continued.

```
; *** End example - End.bb2
NPrint "Press left mouse button to return to editor"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

The **STOP** statement interrupts the current program. Program execution may be resumed using the CONT statement:

END/STOP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: end/interrupt current program
Syntax: End Stop

```
; *** Stop example- Stop.bb2
A=Int(Rnd(5))
NPrint "Press left mouse button to stop"
MouseWait
Stop
```

This statement is only available in direct mode. **CONT** resumes program execution from the instruction following the STOP statement. The optional N parameter can be used to ignore a specified number of STOP statements after a CONT.

CONT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: continue current program
Syntax: Cont [N]

1.15 Using data

What is Data? Well, 99% of all programs ever written operate on and use data of one kind or another. Information and data are really one and the same; we enter information into a computer and get out a different type of information at the end of processing. Large amounts of this data can be stored in your Blitz programs with the **DATA** statement.

The **DATA** statement allows you to store constant values in your programs. A data pointer is associated with the commands DATA and READ. This pointer always points to the next DATA item to be read with the **READ** statement and is set initially to the first DATA item.

The data pointer can be set at a specific DATA line with the **RESTORE** statement. For this purpose, a label must be set in front of the DATA line and the data pointer set with RESTORE PROGRAM LABEL. If no label follows the RESTORE statement the data pointer will be set to the very first DATA item in the program.

DATA

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define data items in a program
Syntax: Data LIST
Syntax 2: Data .TYPE LIST

READ

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: read data into a variable
Syntax: Read LIST

RESTORE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set the current READ pointer
Syntax: Restore PROGRAM_LABEL

```
; *** Using Data - Data.bb2
Dim A$(5)
; *** Return location of program data
Restore MY_DATA
For A=1 To 5; *** Read data elements into string array
  Read A$(A)
  NPrint A$(A)
Next A
MouseWait
End
MY_DATA: ; *** Program data
Data$ "Blitz","Basic","Is","Truly","Remarkable"
```

When data is being read into a variable, the .TYPE of the data being read must match the type of the variable it is being read into:

Table 1.4 : Data types

Data	Data	Type Example
Byte	Data.b	Data.b=125
Word	Data.w	Data.w=30000
Long	Data.l	Data.l=$dff000
Quick	Data.q	Data.q=500/7
Floating point	Data.f	Data.f 3.14,1.79
String	Data$	Data$ "Blitz","BASIC"

```
; *** Using Data 2- Data2.bb2
; *** Read program data into variables
Read A$,B,C.w
; *** Output variable contents
NPrint A$
NPrint B
NPrint C
MouseWait
End
; *** Program data
Data$ "Blitz" ; *** String type data
Data 39 ; *** Quick type data
Data -10 ; *** Word type data
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- There are three different types of Blitz Basic token: functions, statements and commands.
- Functions are tokens that require parameters in parentheses, and return a value.
- Statements perform an action but do not return a value. Parentheses not required.
- Commands are Blitz Basic tokens that can be used as either a function or a statement, depending upon whether the arguments were in parentheses or not.
- Blitz Basic 2 runs under two modes: Amiga and Blitz.
- For system-friendly programs use Amiga mode.
- For extra speed, throw the operating system out of the window with Blitz mode.
- Variables represent values that are used in a program.
- Blitz Basic supports six different types of variable - five numeric types with different ranges and accuracies for numeric data - and one string type ($) for character strings. Custom types can be created with the NEWTYPE statement.
- Constants are user defined values that do not change during program execution.
- A string variable is one which contains text, rather than numbers. Strings are surrounded by quotation marks and all string names must end with the dollar ($) character.
- Operators perform mathematical or logical operations on values.
- An array is a list of variables of the same name that are distinguished by subscripts (values that identify each variable or element in the array). List arrays are limited in size to one dimension.
- Program execution is stopped with the END statement.
- Large amounts of data can be stored in your programs with the DATA statement

Chapter 2 : String Functions

As we have already found out, a string variable is one which contains text, rather than numbers. Strings are surrounded by quotation marks and all string names must end with the dollar ($) character. They can comprise of characters, numbers or even spaces. In this chapter you will learn how to manipulate strings using the comprehensive Blitz Basic string functions.

2.1 Strings and roundabouts

Strings can be sliced, diced and chopped up into individual words and letters using LEFT$, RIGHT$ and MID$. These are the most useful string functions in Blitz Basic.

LEFT$ takes the specified number of characters from a source string, beginning with the first character, and pastes them into a destination string. For example:

LEFT/RIGHT$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the leftmost/rightmost characters of a string
Syntax: destination$=Left$/Right$(SOURCE$, NUMBER_OF_CHARACTERS)

```
; *** Left$ example
; *** Filename - Left$.bb2
NPrint "Enter a string:"
; *** Input text string (40 characters maximum)
A$=Edit$(40)
; *** Input number of characters
NPrint "How many characters from left?:"
A=Edit(10)
; *** Grab the specified characters
NPrint Left$(A$,A)
MouseWait
End
```

The equivalent function for the right-hand side of text strings is the aptly named **RIGHT$.** RIGHT$ takes the specified number of rightmost characters from a source string and pastes them into a destination string. The following example can be used to generate numbers with preceding zero characters, such as those found in shoot-em-up games and high-score tables:

```
; *** Right$ example
; *** Filename - Right$.bb2
SCORE=1000
; *** Turn variable into a string
S$=Str$(SCORE)
; *** Add zeros
S$=Right$("0000000"+S$,7)
NPrint S$
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

The **MID$** function also works along the same lines. It returns the specified number of characters from the middle of a string, starting with character number START.

If the optional NUMBER_OF_CHARACTERS parameter is omitted then all characters from START to the end of the string are returned.

MID$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return number of characters from middle of string
Syntax: destination$=Mid$(SOURCE$, STARTNUMBER_OF_CHARACTERS])

Here are some examples which demonstrate the correct use of MID$. Our first example splits up the source string (A$) into its component letters and displays them vertically:

```
; *** Vertical text
; *** Filename - Vertical_Text.bb2
A$="Blitz Basic"
; *** Use Workbench screen for output
WbToScreen 0
; *** Send Workbench to front of display
WBenchToFront_
; *** Attach window to Workbench screen
Window 0,10,50,600,160,$1|$2|$3|$8,"Vertical Text",0,1
For N=1 To Len(A$)
  ; *** Split string up into characters
  NPrint Mid$(A$,N,1)
Next
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Send Workbench to back of display
WBenchToBack_
End
```

The second example also splits up a string into letters, but this time the string is displayed horizontally, one character at a time. This results in a "typewriter" effect, although some typists may disagree!:

```
; *** Typewriter- Typewriter.bb2
; *** Character delay
DELAY=4
; *** Text string to output
TXT$="Blitz Basic is the most versatile BASIC on planet Earth!"
; *** Use Workbench screen for output
WbToScreen 0
; *** Send Workbench to front of display
WBenchToFront_
Window 0,10,50,600,160,$1|$2|$3|$8,"Typewriter",0,1
; *** Character pointer
A=1
For B=0 To Len(TXT$)
  ; *** Split string up into characters
  Print Mid$(TXT$,A,1)
  Let A+1
  ; *** Pause typewriter
  VWait DELAY
Next B
; *** Send Workbench to back of display
WBenchToBack_
End
```

2.2 Manipulating strings

Just as numbers can be added, subtracted, multiplied and divided, strings can be manipulated with the following functions.

UNLEFT$/ UNRIGHT$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: remove a number of leftmost/rightmost characters from string
Syntax: new$=UnLeft$/ UnRight$((SOURCE$,LENGTH)

UNLEFT$ removes the specified number of characters from the end of a string and places the remaining characters into a new string. The LENGTH parameter specifies the number of characters to remove.

```
; *** UnLeft$ example - UnLeft$.bb2
NPrint "Enter a string:"
; *** Input text string to manipulate
A$=Edit$(40)
; *** Input number of characters
```

```
NPrint "How many characters from end?:"
A=Edit(10)
; *** Output new text string
NPrint UnLeft$(A$,A)
MouseWait; *** Wait for a mouse click
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

Newton's third law of motion states thus: "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.". In Blitz Basic it often seems like every function has an equal and opposite function!

UNRIGHT$, as you may have guessed, removes a specified number of characters from the beginning of a string. The LENGTH parameter specifies the number of characters to remove. Here's an example:

```
; *** UnRight$ example - UnRight$.bb2
; *** Returns "Blitz is best!"
Print UnRight$("AMOSBlitz is best!",4)
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

The **LSET$** function returns a string of text of LENGTH characters long. If SOURCE$ is shorter than LENGTH then the right-hand side of the string will be padded with spaces. The string will be truncated if it is longer than LENGTH.

LSET/RSET$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return a string of text of a given length
Syntax: new$=LSet$(SOURCE$,LENGTH)

```
; *** LSet$ example - LSet$.bb2
; *** Returns "Blitz"
NPrint LSet$("Blitz Basic",5)
; *** Returns "S"
NPrint LSet$("Spaced out!",1)
MouseWait
End
```

The **RSET$** function returns a string of text of LENGTH characters long. If SOURCE$ is shorter than LENGTH then the left-hand side of the string will be padded with spaces. The left-hand side of the string will be truncated if it is longer than LENGTH. Try the following examples:

```
; *** RSet$ example - RSet$.bb2
; *** Returns "Wright"
NPrint RSet$("Neil Wright",6)
; *** Centres "Richard Irving"
NPrint RSet$("Richard Irving",45)
MouseWait
End
```

The **STRIPLEAD$** function removes all leading occurrences of an ASCII character from a source string. EXPRESSION is the decimal ASCII code value to be removed.

STRIPLEAD/TRAIL$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: remove all leading/trailing occurrences of a character
Syntax: new$=StripLead$/StripTrail$(SOURCE$, EXPRESSION)

```
; *** StripLead$ example - StripLead$.bb2
; *** Remove leading B character
; *** (Returns "litz Basic")
Print StripLead$("Blitz Basic",66)
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

To remove all trailing occurrences of an ASCII character the equivalent **STRIPTRAIL$** function may be used.

```
; *** StripTrail$ example- StripTrail$.bb2
A$="There are          "
; *** Remove trailing spaces
Print StripTrail$(A$,32)+" no spaces"
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

CENTRE$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return a centred text string
Syntax: a$=Centre$(SOURCE$,CHARACTERS

The **CENTRE$** function returns a centered text string of length CHARACTERS. If SOURCE$ is shorter than the specified number of characters then the resulting string will be padded with spaces. If SOURCE$ is longer, it will be truncated on either side.

```
; *** Detention centre$- Centre$.bb2
; *** Returns "tz Ba"
NPrint Centre$("Blitz Basic",5)
; *** Returns " Blitz "
NPrint Centre$("Blitz",7)
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

STRING$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: create a new string using copies of an old string
Syntax: new$=String$(SOURCE$, NUMBER)

Just as dinosaurs can be cloned (or so movie-makers would like us to believe!), so can text strings. Blitz Basic doesn't support DNA directly so you have to make do with the STRING$ function. **STRING$** will create a new string containing a specified number of copies of a source string.

```
; *** String$ example - String$.bb2
NPrint ""
NPrint "Input any old garbage:-"
NPrint ""
; *** Input a text string
A$=Edit$(10)
NPrint ""
; *** Multiply string by five
B$=String$(A$,5)
Print "* 5 = ",B$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

2.3 String searching

Applications such as word processors and programming utilities often have string searching facilities. These work by breaking down and analysing text files until matching strings are found (the search), and replacing text with new strings (the replace). Blitz Basic has two commands for total control over string searching.

2.3.1 searching for characters in a string

The **INSTR** function enables you to search for one string within another. If the search is successful then the character position of the first matching character will be returned. If the

search is unsuccessful then (0) will be returned. The optional START parameter allows you to specify the starting character for the search. Values for START may range from zero to the length of the string.

INSTR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: search for occurrences of one string within another
Syntax: a=Instr(SOURCE$,FIND$[,START])

```
; *** String searching - Instr_Example.bb2
Restore DAT
NPrint "Input a letter or word to search"
; *** Input word to search
SEARCH$=Edit$(40)
; *** Convert to upper case
SEARCH$=UCase$(SEARCH$)
For A=1 To 6
  ; *** Read data statements
  Read A$
  B$=UCase$(A$)
  ; *** Does string exist?
  If Instr(B$,SEARCH$)
    Print A$
    ; *** Wait for a mouse click
    MouseWait
    End
  End If
Next A
; *** Unsuccessful search
NPrint "No match found"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
; *** Data to search
DAT:
Data$ "Blitz"
Data$ "AMOS"
Data$ "GFA"
Data$ "Hisoft"
Data$ "Amiga"
Data$ "Spectrum"
```

2.3.2 replacing characters in a string

**REPLACE$** is used to search for one string within another and replace it with a new string. SOURCE$ is the string to be searched, FIND$ is the string to be found and NEW$ is the replacement string.

REPLACE$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: replace any occurrences of a string with a new string
Syntax: new$=Replace$(SOURCE$,FIND$,NEW$)

```
; *** Replace$ example - Replace$.bb2
; *** Text string to manipulate
A$="AMOS Basic is tops!"
NPrint A$
VWait 50
; *** Replace the word "AMOS" with "Blitz"
A$=Replace$(A$,"AMOS","Blitz")
NPrint A$
MouseWait
End
```

The CASESENSE statement may be used to determine whether the search is case sensitive.

2.3.3 case sensitivity

Upper and lower case letters are treated as completely different letters by Blitz Basic. For example, the word “natch” is different to “NATCH”. This is known as case sensitivity.
The INSTR and REPLACE$ commands are, by default, case sensitive.

CASESENSE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: control the searching mode used by INSTR and REPLACE$
Syntax: CaseSense On/Off

CASESENSE is used to determine whether or not the INSTR and REPLACE$ functions are case sensitive. In the example below, the string to search must be entered in the correct case (e.g. DOG, cAT, HAmster), otherwise a match will not be found:

```
; *** CaseSense example - CaseSense.bb2
Dim A$(5)
; *** Read data into memory
Restore DAT
For A=1 To 5
  Read A$(A)
Next A
; *** Case sensitivity on
CaseSense On
NPrint "Input string to search (from data list)"
B$=Edit$(10)
For B=1 To 5
  ; *** Exact match found
  If Instr(A$(B),B$)=1
    NPrint B$," found at location ",B
    MouseWait
    ; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
    End
  Else
    ; *** No match found
    NPrint B$," not found"
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
Next B
; *** Program data
DAT:
Data$ "DOG"
Data$ "cAt"
Data$ "HAmster"
Data$ "rAt"
Data$ "WoMaN"
```

This is the same example, but this time without case sensitivity (i.e. the strings can be entered in any case). For example:

```
; *** CaseSense example 2
; *** Filename - CaseSense2.bb2
Dim A$(5)
; *** Read data into memory
Restore DAT
For A=1 To 5
  Read A$(A)
Next A
; *** Case sensitivity off
CaseSense Off
NPrint "Input string to search (from data list)"
B$=Edit$(10)
For B=1 To 5
  ; *** Match found (case ignored)
```

```
  If Instr(A$(B),B$)=1
    NPrint B$," found at location ",B
    ; *** Wait for a mouse click
    MouseWait
    ; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
    End
  Else
    ; *** No match found
    NPrint B$," not found"
    ; *** Wait for a mouse click
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
Next B

; *** Program data
DAT:
Data$ "DOG"
Data$ "cAt"
Data$ "HAmster"
Data$ "rAt"
Data$ "WoMaN"
```

2.4 Converting strings

One facility that we haven't looked at so far is the conversion between upper and lower case. Upper case letters are often referred to as "capitals". The **UCASE$** function simply converts a source string into upper case characters.

U/LCASE$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: convert a string of text to upper/lower case
Syntax: upper$/lower$==UCase$/LCase$(SOURCE$)

```
; *** UCase$ example
; *** Filename - UCase$.bb2
; *** Will print "BLITZ BASIC"
Print UCase$("blitz basic")
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

This second example splits up a string of text into individual words and capitalises the first letter of each word. It is a good demonstration of how MID$ can be used to chop up strings:

```
; *** UCase$ example2 - UCase$_Example2.bb2
Print "Please input your full name:"
; *** Input string and convert to lower case
A$=Edit$(80)
A$=LCase$(A$)
A=1
B=1
; *** Chop up string into words
While A<=Len(A$)
  If B=1
    ; *** Convert first letter to capitals
    A$=Mid$(A$,1,A-1)+UCase$(Mid$(A$,A,1))+Mid$(A$,A+1)
    B=0
  End If
  ; *** New word found
  If Mid$(A$,A,1)=" "
    B=1
  End If
  Let A+1
```

```
Wend
; *** Output new string
NPrint A$
VWait 50
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

Working along similar lines, the **LCASE$** function converts a source string into lower case characters.

```
; *** Lower and lower - LCase$.bb2
LOWER$="TOTALLY BLITZED"
LOWER$=LCase$(LOWER$)
; *** Will print "totally blitzed"
Print LOWER$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

STR$/USTR$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: convert a number into a text string
Syntax: new$=Str$/ UStr$(EXPRESSION)

You may find it useful, at times, to manipulate numbers in the same way as strings. Unfortunately the Blitz Basic string functions do not support numeric expressions directly. To get around this problem you have to convert numeric variables into text strings using the STR$ function. **STR$** converts a numeric variable into a text string. This function allows you to manipulate numbers using string functions.

```
; *** Str$ example - Str$.bb2
SCORE=100
; *** Convert number to string
S$=Str$(SCORE)
Print S$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

**USTR$** converts a numeric variable into a text string. This function allows you to manipulate numbers using string functions. Unlike STR$, USTR$ is not affected by any active FORMAT commands (consult Chapter 5 for more information on formatting numeric strings).

```
; *** UStr$ example - UStr$.bb2
A=999
A$=UStr$(A)
; *** Will print "999"
NPrint A$
A$=Left$(A$,1)
; *** Will print "9"
NPrint A$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

VAL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: convert a text string into a number
Syntax: a=Val(SOURCE$)

The logical opposite of STR$ is the **VAL** function. VAL converts a numeric string back into a numeric variable. This conversion will fail, and return (0), if a non-numeric value or second decimal point is found. Here are some examples:

```
; *** Added VALue- Val.bb2
; *** Will print 180
NPrint Val("180")
; *** Will print 0 (failed conversion)
NPrint Val("ABC")
; *** Will print 0 (failed conversion)
NPrint Val("10.10.10")
MouseWait
End
```

2.5 Obtaining string information

The **CHR$** function will return a one-character string equivalent to the specified ASCII code. This little example outputs the whole ASCII character set to the screen:

CHR$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return a one character string with a given ASCII code
Syntax: s$=Chr$(CODE)

```
; *** Chr$ example - Chr$.bb2
For A=32 To 253
  Print Chr$(A)
VWait
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

ASC will return the ASCII code of the first character in SOURCE$. Try the following examples:

ASC

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the ASCII code of a given character
Syntax: code=Asc(SOURCE$)

```
; *** Some Asc examples- Asc.bb2
; *** Returns "32"
NPrint Asc(" ")
; *** Returns "65"
NPrint Asc("A")
; *** Returns "66" ("B")
NPrint Asc("BLITZ BASIC")
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

One of the most important things you need to know about a string is its length. This can be determined as follows. The **LEN** function returns the number of characters in SOURCE$. For example:

LEN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the length of a string
Syntax: length=Len(SOURCE$)

```
; *** Len example - Len.bb2
NPrint ""
; *** Input string to test
NPrint "Input your name:"
A$=Edit$(30)
; *** Count characters in string
Print "Your name is ",Len(A$)," letter(s) long"
VWait 100
End
```

2.6 Character strings

The following functions are used to convert complex numbers into simple two and four byte text strings in order to save space when writing values to sequential files. Integers, long values, and quick values are currently supported by Blitz Basic (consult Chapter 1 for a full discussion of Blitz Basic types).

2.6.1 integers

Integers, as we have already established, are whole numbers (e.g. 8, 108, 1008, and 10,008). This function creates a two byte character string from the two byte INTEGER parameter. **MKI$** is often used when writing integer values to sequential files to save on disk space.

CVI is the logical opposite of MKI$. The function is used to convert the two byte character string generated by MKI$ back to an integer.

MKI$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return a two byte character string
Syntax: m$=Mki$(INTEGER)

CVI

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: logical opposite of MKI$
Syntax: c=Cvi(STRING$)

```
; *** Mki$/Cvi example- Cvi.bb2
; *** Filename If WriteFile (0,"RAM:INTEGER")
  ; *** Open sequential file
  FileOutput 0
  ; *** Convert integer and save to file
  Print Mki$(16705)
  ; *** Close sequential file
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:INTEGER")
    ; *** Read sequential file
    FileInput 0
    ; *** Convert character string
    NPrint Cvi(Edit$(40))
    ; *** Close sequential file
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultInput
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

2.6.2 long values

Long values are integers with much greater range (+/- 2147483648). The **MKL$** function creates a four byte character string from the four byte LONG parameter. MKL$ is often used when writing long values to sequential files to save on disk space.

CVL is the logical opposite of MKL$. The function is used to convert the four byte character string generated by MKL$ back to a long:

MKL$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return a four byte character string
Syntax: m$=Mkl$(LONG)

CVL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: logical opposite of MKL$
Syntax: c=Cvl(STRING$)

```
; *** Mkl$/Cvl example - Cvl.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:LONG")
  ; *** Open sequential file
  FileOutput 0
  ; *** Convert long and save to file
  Print Mkl$($dff000)
  ; *** Close sequential file
```

```
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:LONG")
    ; *** Read sequential file
    FileInput 0
    ; *** Convert character string
    NPrint Hex$(Cvl(Edit$(40)))
    ; *** Close sequential file
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultInput
    ; *** Wait for a mouse click
    MouseWait
    ; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

2.6.3 quick values

Quick values are fixed-point numeric types, with four decimal point accuracy (e.g. 56.0000, 3.1415 and 45,6789). Quicks are less accurate than floating point numbers but much faster.

**MKQ$** creates a four byte character string from the four byte QUICK parameter. MKQ$ is often used when writing quick values to sequential files to save on disk space.

CVQ is the logical opposite of MKQ$. The function is used to convert the four byte character string generated by MKQ$ back to a quick.

MKQ$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return a four byte character string
Syntax: m$=Mkq$(QUICK)

CVQ

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: logical opposite of MKQ$
Syntax: c=Cvq(STRING$)

```
; *** Mkq$/Cvq example- Cvq.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:QUICK")
  ; *** Open sequential file
  FileOutput 0
  ; *** Convert quick and save to file
  Print Mkq$(500/7)
  ; *** Close sequential file
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:QUICK")
    ; *** Read sequential file
    FileInput 0
    ; *** Convert character string
    NPrint Cvq(Edit$(40))
    ; *** Close sequential file
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultInput
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

end-of-Chapter summary

Text strings are surrounded by quotation marks and all string names must end with the dollar ($) character. They can comprise of characters, numbers or even spaces. Strings can be shortened, lengthened, converted to upper and lower case, counted, cloned, searched and even turned into numbers!

Table 2.1 : String functions

Command	Function
ASC	Return ASCII code of character
CASESENSE	Toggle case sensitivity
CENTRE$	Centre a string
CHR$	Return character given ASCII code
CVI	Logical opposite of MkI$
CVL	Logical opposite of MkI$
CVQ	Logical opposite of MkQ$
INSTR	Search for character in a string
LCASE$	Convert a string into lower case
LEFT$	Return leftmost characters of a string
LEN	Return length of a string
LSET$	Return a string of given length
MID$	Return middle characters of a string
MKI$	Create a two byte string from an integer
MKL$	Create a four byte string from a long
MKQ$	Create a four byte string from a quick
REPLACE$	Replace character in a string
RIGHT$	Return rightmost characters of a string
RSET$	Return a string of given length
STRING$	Clone a string
STRIPLEAD$	Remove leading character
STRIPTRAIL$	Remove ending character
STR$	Convert a number into a string
UCASE$	Convert a string into upper case
UNLEFT$	Remove rightmost characters
UNRIGHT$	Remove leftmost characters
USTR$	Convert a number into a string
VAL	Convert a string into a number

Chapter 3 : Mathematics

Computers are basically giant number crunchers, so it will come as no great surprise that the Amiga - and Blitz Basic 2 - are great at performing mathematical functions. This chapter will introduce the Blitz Basic maths commands, before moving onto more advanced machine code instructions.

3.1 Arithmetical operators

As explained in Chapter 1, the following operators are used to perform arithmetical operations:

Table 3.1 : Arithmetical operators

Operator	Description
*	Multiplication
/	Division
+	Addition
-	Subtraction
^	Exponential

For example:

```
; *** Arithmetic
; *** Filename - Arithmetic.bb2
NPrint 2*5 ; *** 2 times 5 = 10
NPrint 20/2 ; *** 20 divided by 2 = 10
NPrint 5+5 ; *** 5 plus 5 = 10
NPrint 15-5 ; *** 15 minus 5 = 10
NPrint 10^1 ; *** 10 to the power 1 = 10
MouseWait
End
```

The following text provides an insight into Blitz Basic's significant mathematical commands.

3.2 Sign on the dotted line

The **SGN** function returns a value which indicates the sign of a number. If the number is negative then (-1) is returned. If the number is zero then (0) is returned, and if the number is positive then (1) is returned.

SGN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the sign of a number
Syntax: sign=Sgn(EXPRESSION)

Table 3.2 : Values returned by SGN

Expression	Result
Negative	-1
Zero	0
Positive	1

For example:

```
; *** Return the sign of a number- Sgn.bb2
Print "Input a number:"
; *** Input number to test
E=Edit(40)
; *** Return sign of number
SIGN=Sgn(E)
; *** Number is negative
If SIGN=-1 Then Print "Negative"
; *** Number is equal to 0
If SIGN=0 Then Print "Zero"
```

```
; *** Number is positive
If SIGN=1 Then Print "Positive"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End ; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
```

ABS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return an absolute value
Syntax: a=Abs(EXPRESSION)

The ABS function returns the absolute value of a number. It is used to convert a numeric expression into a positive number. This results in the following return values:

Table 3.3 : Values returned by ABS

Expression	Abs(EXPRESSION) is:
Negative	Positive
Zero	0
Positive	Positive

For example:

```
; *** Return the absolute of a number- Abs.bb2
A=Abs(-100)
; *** Returns "100"
Print A
MouseWait
End
```

QABS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the absolute value of a quick value
Syntax: q=QAbs(QUICK)

QABS works similarly to ABS except that is uses quick values. Because of this the function operates noticeably quicker than ABS. However, you are limited by the restrictions of the quick type of value.

```
; *** QAbs example - QAbs.bb2
; *** Returns "16"
Print QAbs(-16)
MouseWait
End
```

3.3 Floating point numbers

FLOATMODE enables you to change how floating point numbers are output by the PRINT and NPRINT commands. Floating point numbers may be displayed in one of three ways, as follows:

- Exponential format (Mode 1)
- Standard format (Mode -1)
- Guessed format (Mode 0 - Default mode)

FLOATMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change format of floating point numbers
Syntax: FloatMode MODE

Exponential format displays a floating point number as a value multiplied by ten raised to a power. Standard format displays values as they are (What You See Is What You Get). Guessed format forces Blitz to take a stab-in-the-dark as to the most appropriate mode to use. Here are some examples:

```
; *** FloatMode examples- FloatMode.bb2
A.f=180.57
NPrint A," best guess"
FloatMode 1
```

```
NPrint A," exponential"
FloatMode -1
NPrint A," standard"
MouseWait
End
```

The **INT** function returns the integer part of a floating point number by rounding down it down to the nearest whole number. For example:

INT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: convert floating point number to integer
Syntax: i=Int(EXPRESSION)

```
; *** INTeresting- Int.bb2
NPrint "Input a number with decimal places"
; *** Input floating point number
A=Edit(40)
; *** Return integer part of number
Print Int(A)
MouseWait
End
```

The **FRAC** function returns the fractional part of a number (the figures after the decimal point), thus removing the whole number value:

FRAC

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the fractional part of an expression
Syntax: f=Frac(EXPRESSION)

```
; *** Frac example- Frac.bb2
; *** Returns "1415925"
Print Frac(Pi)
MouseWait
End
```

QFRAC returns the fractional part of a quick value. It is significantly faster than FRAC, however it can only use quick values. Here is an example:

QFRAC

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the fractional part of a quick value
Syntax: q=QFrac(QUICK)

```
; *** QFrac example- QFrac.bb2
; *** Returns ".4"
Print QFrac(3.4)
MouseWait
End
```

3.4 Standard mathematical functions

SQR calculates the square root of a numeric expression. The expression must be a positive number. When the expression is smaller than zero an error is returned.

SQR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate square root
Syntax: square=Sqr(EXPRESSION)

```
; *** Square eyed - Sqr.bb2
; *** Returns "3"
NPrint Sqr(9)
; *** Returns "2.828427"
NPrint Sqr(8)
MouseWait
End
```

EXP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate exponential
Syntax: exponential=Exp(VALUE)

The **EXP** function is used to return the exponential of a specified value. It calculates the xth power to the base of the number (e=2.1782818284):

```
; *** EXPressive example - Exp.bb2
Print Exp(1)
MouseWait
End
```

LOG10

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return logarithm
Syntax: a=Log10(VALUE)

LOG10 returns the base 10 logarithm of a given value. For example:

```
; *** Log10 example - Log10.bb2
; *** Returns ".9999999"
Print Log10(10)
MouseWait
End
```

LOG

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return natural logarithm
Syntax: a=Log(VALUE)

LOG returns the natural (base e) logarithm of a given value. For example:

```
; *** Log example- Log.bb2
; *** Returns "2.302584"
Print Log(10)
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

3.5 Trigonometry

PI

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the Pi constant
Syntax: p=Pi

PI returns the Pi constant (3.14159265359...). This number is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, and is often used in trig-based calculations. There is no actual value for Pi as it goes on for an infinite number of decimal places. In Blitz Basic, Pi is accurate to six decimal places.

```
; *** A slice of Pi- Pi.bb2
; *** Returns "3.141592"
Print Pi
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

SIN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate sine of an angle
Syntax: s=Sin(ANGLE)

The **SIN** function returns the sine of an angle. One very important graph, the sine wave is used to model many natural phenomena, including sound and light waves. Because the sine function repeats every 360 degrees the graph of (Y=Sin(X)) is periodic. The following example uses SIN to display a string on a sine wave:

```
; *** Sine text - Sine_Text.bb2
; *** Sine wave variables
RADIUS=10
OFFSET=0
YOFFSET=15
; *** Text string to sine
SINE$="Realtime sine wave text in Blitz BASIC!"
; *** Define palette
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
PalRGB 0,1,13,13,13
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,1,"Sine text"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Direct PRINT statement to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
Use Palette 0
While X<=Len(SINE$)
  ; *** Grab characters, one by one
  TXT$=Mid$(SINE$,OFFSET,1)
  ; *** Y co-ordinate on sine wave
  Y=Sin(XY)*RADIUS
  Let XY+0.1
  If XY6
    XY=0
  End If
  ; *** Output characters
  Locate X,Y+YOFFSET
  Print TXT$
  ; *** Next character
  Let X+1
  Let OFFSET+1
Wend
MouseWait
End
```

The **COS** function returns the cosine of an angle. The graph of (Y=Cos(X)) is exactly the same shape as the sine curve except that it has been translated 90 degrees to the left. For example:

COS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate cosine of an angle
Syntax: c=Cos(ANGLE)

```
; *** Cosine wave- Cos.bb2
; *** Define palette
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
PalRGB 0,1,13,13,13
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,1
Slice 0,44,320,DispHeight,$fff8,1,8,2,320,320
Use Palette 0
Show 0
; *** Draw line at centre of cosine wave
Line 0,100,320,100,1
; *** Plot simple cosine wave
For A=1 To 3000
  Plot 10+A/10,Cos(Pi*2*A/1000)*80+100,1
Next
MouseWait
End
```

The **TAN** function returns the tangent of an angle. The following example uses TAN to create tangent contours (a silly idea of mine):

TAN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate tangent of an angle
Syntax: t=Tan(ANGLE)

```
; *** Tangent contours- Tan.bb2
; *** Define palette
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
PalRGB 0,2,0,6,0
; *** Open Intuition screen
Screen 0,3,"Hello"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Grab user palette
Use Palette 0
Cls 2
; *** Plot tangent wave
For B=1 To 4000
  Plot B/10,Tan(Pi+B)*80+80,1
Next
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

ASIN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate arc sine
Syntax: a=ASin(NUMBER)

ASIN calculates the angle needed to generate a value with SIN (an arc sine).

ACOS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate arc cosine
Syntax: a=ACos(NUMBER)

Similarly, **ACOS** returns the arc cosine of a given number.

ATAN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate arc tangent
Syntax: a=ATan(NUMBER)

The **ATAN** function returns the arc tangent of a given number.

HSIN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate hyperbolic sine
Syntax: h=HSin(ANGLE)

The **HSIN** function calculates the hyperbolic sine of an angle.

HCOS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate hyperbolic cosine
Syntax: h=HCos(ANGLE)

HCOS is find the hyperbolic cosine of an angle.

HTAN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: calculate hyperbolic tangent
Syntax: h=HTan(ANGLE)

HTAN returns the hyperbolic tangent of an angle.

3.6 Random numbers

Blitz Basic 2 comes complete with an inbuilt function to generate random numbers. Actually the numbers aren't really random as they're the result of a decision made by the computer. If you knew how Blitz created its random numbers then you'd be able to predict exactly which "random number" it would select next.

It'd be pretty difficult to do this though because the computer chooses each number from a very long list, and then repeats the list when it gets to the end. It would be almost impossible to figure out when the list began again.

Public awareness of random numbers and of the laws of probability has increased greatly since the launch of the National Lottery. Whilst Blitz Basic can't predict the results of the Lottery, it can be used to generate a personalised set of numbers for you! Right, now you've got the basic concept behind random numbers here's how Blitz Basic generates them.

The **RND** function returns a random integer between zero and NUMBER. If the optional NUMBER parameter is not included then a random decimal between (0) and (1) is returned. Here is an example:

RND

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: generate a random number
Syntax: r=Rnd[(NUMBER)]

```
; *** Plot Starfield - Plot_Example.bb2
; *** Number of stars in starfield
STARS=100
; *** Define palette (lots of whites and greys)
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
PalRGB 0,1,10,10,10
PalRGB 0,2,7,7,7
PalRGB 0,3,3,3,3
; *** Pop into Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Open BitMap
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,2
; *** Plot starfield at random co-ordinates
For A=0 To STARS
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight),Rnd(3)+1
Next A
; *** Open slice to display BitMap graphics
Slice 0,44,320,DispHeight,$fff8,2,8,8,320,320
; *** Grab user palette
Use Palette 0
Show 0
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

3.7 Machine code

Instead of using the decimal system, with ten as its base, computers use a form of binary called hexadecimal (or hex for short), based on sixteen. As there are only ten digits available in our number system we need six extra digits to do the counting. So we use A, B, C, D, E and F. And what comes after F? Just as we, with ten fingers, write 10 for ten, so computers write 10 for sixteen.

The **HEX$** function converts numbers from the decimal system into hexadecimal numbers. The hexadecimal system counts in units of 16 rather than 10, so a total of 16 different digits is needed to represent the different numbers. The digits from 0 to 9 are used as normal, but the digits from 10 to 15 are signified by the letters A to F inclusive. The decimal value to be converted is specified in brackets. The following chart shows the first 15 hexadecimal numbers, along with their decimal equivalents.

HEX$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: convert a decimal number into a hexadecimal number
Syntax: h=Hex$(VALUE)

Table 3.4 : Hexadecimal notation

Hex digit:	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F
Decimal:	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Here are a couple of examples:

```
; *** Hex$ example - Hex$.bb2
; *** Returns "9"
NPrint Hex$(9)
; *** Returns "A"
NPrint Hex$(10)
MouseWait
End
```

In fact, computers behave as though they had only two digits, represented by a low voltage, or off (0), and a high voltage, or on (1). This is called the binary system, and the two binary digits are called bits: so a bit is either (0) or (1).

BIN$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: convert a decimal number into a binary number
Syntax: b=Bin$(VALUE)

BIN$ converts a decimal number into the equivalent binary number. Here is a short program which prints the first 50 binary and hexadecimal numbers:

```
; *** Bin$ it! - Bin$.bb2
For A=1 To 50
  NPrint Hex$(A),"  ",Bin$(A)
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

PEEK and POKE are two Basic commands which beginners often have problems with, although they are really very simple. They differ from most Basic in that they act directly on the numbers stored in computer memory. When you PEEK into a memory location the result is the number stored there with POKE. The **POKE** statement moves a number from zero to 255 into the memory location at the specified address.

POKE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: poke data into a memory location
Syntax: Poke [.TYPE] ADDRESS,DATA

```
; *** Poke example- Poke.bb2
; *** Nip into BLITZ mode
BLITZ
; *** 32 colour display
BitMap 0,320,256,5
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
X=0
; *** Poke colour register
For A=0 To 5000
  Poke.w $DFF180,X
  Let X+1
  If X=255
    X=0
  End If
Next A
End
```

PEEK

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the contents of a memory location
Syntax: p=Peek .TYPE

The **PEEK** function returns a single 8-bit byte from a memory location at the specified address. For example:

```
; *** Peek example - Peek.bb2
*** Put number 39 in address 10
Poke 10,39
; *** Grab contents of address 10
NPrint Peek(10)
MouseWait
End
```

PEEK$ reads the maximum number of characters specified in the LENGTH parameter, into a new string. The ADDRESS parameter is the location of the first character to be read:

PEEKS$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return a string of peeked bytes
Syntax: p$=Peeks$(ADDRESS,LENGTH)

```
; *** Peek$ example - Peek$.bb2
; *** Put Blitz Basic in address 10
Poke$ 10,"Blitz Basic"
; *** Grab contents of address 10
NPrint Peek$(10)
MouseWait
End
```

The **CALL** statement is used to run a machine code program straight from the memory location specified by the ADDRESS parameter. For example:

CALL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: call a machine code program
Syntax: Call ADDRESS

```
; *** Call example- Call.bb2
a.l=AllocMem_(14,1)
; *** Read machine code into memory
For k=0 To 12 Step 2
  Read w.w
  Poke a+k,w
Next
; *** Call machine code program
For B=1 To 10
  Call a
Next B
MouseWait
FreeMem_ a,14
; *** A machine code program
Data.w $70ff,$33c0,$00df,$f180,$51c8,$fff8,$4e75
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- Blitz Basic supports standard mathematical functions such as exponentials and logarithms.
- Trigonometry functions include sine (SIN), cosine (COS) and tangent (TAN).
- Random numbers can be generated using the RND function.
- The hexadecimal system counts in units of 16 and the binary system uses zeros (0) and ones (1).
- Machine code programs can be run from memory using the CALL statement.

Table 3.5 : Mathematics commands

Command	Function
ABS	Return an absolute value
ACOS	Calculate arc cosine
ASIN	Calculate arc sine
ATAN	Calculate arc tangent
BIN$	Return binary number
CALL	Call a machine code program
COS	Calculate cosine of an angle
EXP	Calculate exponential
FLOATMODE	Change format of floating point numbers
FRAC	Return fractional part of an expression
HCOS	Calculate hyperbolic cosine
HEX$	Return hexadecimal number
HSIN	Calculate hyperbolic sine
HTAN	Calculate hyperbolic tangent
INT	Return an integer
LOG	Return natural logarithm
LOG10	Return logarithm
PEEK	Return contents of memory location
PEEK$	Return a string of peeked bytes
PI	Return Pi constant
POKE	Poke data into memory location
QABS	Return the absolute value of a quick
QFRAC	Return fractional part of a quick
RND	Generate a random number
SGN	Return the sign of a number
SIN	Calculate sine of an angle
SQR	Calculate square root
TAN	Calculate tangent of an angle

Chapter 4 : Control Structures

Control structures are those instructions which allow the Blitz Basic programmer to make decisions. There are five main types of control structure: unconditional jumps, conditional jumps and structured tests, conditional loops, unconditional loops, and controlled loops. The chapter will also show you how to create Interrupt and error-trapping structures, and procedure definitions.

4.1 Unconditional jumps

Unconditional jumps are those which require no decision-making whatsoever - they simply allow branching from one part of a program to another. If computer programs were executed one line after another, and jumping about to different parts of the program was not possible then code would very quickly become messy and inefficient (see later). Here's how program flow can be transferred from the main program to a sub-program, or sub-routine.

With the help of a label, positions within a program can be set to allow branching with the **GOTO** statement. The program execution is then branched to the position of the label. The label can be made up of letters and numbers, however it must end with a colon. When branching to a label with GOTO, the colon is not included in the name. It is not possible to branch out of or into procedures with the GOTO statement.

GOTO

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: jump to a specified program label
Syntax: Goto LABEL

```
; *** Goto example
; *** Filename - Goto.bb2
NPrint "Jumping to label in a tick..."
VWait 50
; *** Jump to sub-routine
Goto LABEL
; *** Program flow cannot continue
End
; *** Sub-routine
LABEL:
NPrint "Arrived at label"
VWait 50
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

Most programmers (such as myself) hate GOTOS as they make code messy and unreadable, so do use them sparingly! Another popular unconditional jump is the GOSUB, which is used to branch program flow from the main program, to a sub-routine. A sub-routine is a sort of mini-program within a program. It carries out a particular task, such as updating the display or printing a message, and you can send the computer to it whenever you want this task carried out. This saves writing out the same program lines each time and makes the program shorter and infinitely more readable.

In Blitz Basic, to tell the computer to branch to a sub-routine, you use the GOSUB statement. These sub-routines can be positioned anywhere in your code and can be called as many or as few times as you like.

The **GOSUB** statement branches program execution to the position of the label (known as a sub-routine). The sub-routine is terminated by the **RETURN** statement. Unlike GOTO, GOSUB remembers the location of the command

GOSUB/RETURN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: jump to, return from a sub-routine
Syntax: Gosub LABEL, Return

immediately after the GOSUB (known as the stack). The RETURN statement branches program execution back to the stack. This method allows one part of a program to be accessed by many other parts of the same program.

```
; *** Gosub and Return example- Gosub_Return.bb2
For A=1 To 3
  NPrint "This is the main program."
  VWait 50
  ; *** Jump to sub-routine
  Gosub LABEL2
Next A
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
; *** Sub-routine
LABEL2:
NPrint "This is the sub-routine."
VWait 50
NPrint "(Returning to main program)"
VWait 50
; *** Return to main program
Return
End
```

POP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: exit from a program loop
Syntax: Pop For/Gosub/If/Repeat/Select/While

On occasions it may be necessary to exit from a particular type of program loop in order to branch program execution to a different part of the program. **POP** is used to exit from jumps (both conditional and unconditional), structured tests and conditional and controlled loops:

Table 4.1 : Control structures which can be POPped

Control structure	Pop?
GOSUB	Y
IF...ENDIF	Y
WHILE...WEND	Y
REPEAT...UNTIL	Y
FOR...TO...NEXT	Y
SELECT...CASE...END SELECT	Y

For example:

```
; *** Pop example - Pop!.bb2
; *** Call sub-routine forever
Repeat
  Gosub JOYSTICK
Forever

MOOSE:
NPrint "Pop has called the MOUSE sub-routine"
VWait 50
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End

JOYSTICK:
NPrint "Press left mouse button"
; *** Exit sub-routine upon joystick event
If Joyb(0)=1 Then Pop Gosub : Goto MOOSE
Return
; *** Program flow cannot continue
End
```

4.2 Conditional jumps and structured tests

Often you will want to execute different parts of a program, depending on the outcome of an expression. This is called a conditional jump, or structured test, depending upon the test format.

This command structure makes it possible to make one or more instructions operational only when a logical condition if fulfilled. **IF** a condition is true **THEN** the following statements are executed.

IF [THEN]

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: choose between alternative actions
Syntax: If EXPRESSION Then STATEMENTS

```
; *** If...Then example
; *** Conditional test
; *** Filename - Iffy.bb2
NPrint "Input your age (in years):-"
A=Edit(40)
If A<40 Then Print "You are young!"
If A>=40 Then Print "You are over the hill!"
VWait 100
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

The logical **AND** operator can also be used to qualify a condition. If CONDITION1 is true, and CONDITION2 is true, then STATEMENT is executed. The **OR** operator can be used in the same way. If CONDITION1 or CONDITION 2 is true, then STATEMENT is executed.

AND OR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: qualify a condition
Syntax: If CONDITION1 AND CONDITION2 Then STATEMENT
Syntax 2: If CONDITION1 OR CONDITION2 Then STATEMENT

```
; *** AND...OR example
; *** Filename - AND...OR.bb2

A=5
B=5
C=11
; *** A=B and C is >10
If A=B AND C>10 Then NPrint "True"
; *** A=B, but C is >10
If A<B OR C>10 Then NPrint "Also True"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

The **NOT** operator negates a logical expression. It is the only logical operation with one argument. Here are some examples:

NOT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: negate logical expression
Syntax: n=NOT EXPRESSION

```
; *** NOT example
; *** Filename - NOT.bb2
NPrint NOT False ; *** returns -1
NPrint NOT True ; *** returns 0
NPrint NOT 0 ; *** returns -1
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

```
; *** NOT example 2
; *** Filename - NOT2.bb2
; *** If...Then structure
A=5
B=5
NPrint "A = ",A
NPrint "B = ",B
If A=B Then NPrint "A=B"
NPrint ""
; *** NOT (negate) structure
A=5
B=10
NPrint "A = ",A
NPrint "B = ",B
If NOT A=B Then NPrint "A<>B"
MouseWait
End
```

ENDIF

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: terminate a structured test
Syntax: If STRUCTURED_TEST
EndIf

However, the IF...THEN conditional jump has been superseded in most BASIC languages by the infinitely more useful IF...ELSE...ENDIF structured test. If the optional THEN command is omitted then the test becomes a structured one and must be terminated with the **ENDIF** command. This allows you to execute many lines of Blitz code depending on the outcome of a single condition:

```
; *** If...EndIf example
; *** Structured test
; *** Filename - EndIffy.bb2
NPrint "Input your age (in years):-"
; *** Input some numbers
A=Edit(40)
If A<40
  Print "You are young!"
  ; *** If A>40...
  Else
  Print "You are over the hill!"
EndIf
VWait 100
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

ELSE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: qualify a condition
Syntax: If CONDITION Then STATEMENT Else STATEMENT2
Syntax 2: If CONDITION
LIST OF STATEMENTS
Else
LIST OF STATEMENTS
EndIf

ELSE is used in conjunction with IF and THEN (IF and ENDIF in a structured test) to qualify a condition. The commands between IF and ELSE are executed when the logical condition following IF is true. Then program execution continues with the next command in the program. If the condition following IF is false then the commands after ELSE are executed instead.

```
; *** Else example 1
; *** Conditional test
; *** Filename - Else1.bb2
; *** Generate a random integer
A=Int(Rnd(100))
NPrint A," is a random number"
; *** Make a decision
If A<50 Then NPrint A," is less than 50" Else Gosub GREAT
```

```
VWait 100
End
; *** Sub-routine
GREAT:
NPrint A," is greater than 50"
Return
```

```
; *** Else example2, Structured test
; *** Filename - Else2.bb2
A=Int(Rnd(100))
NPrint A," is a random number"
If A<50
  NPrint A," is less than 50"
  ; *** If A>50...
  Else
  Gosub GREAT
EndIf
VWait 100
End
; *** Sub-routine
GREAT:
NPrint A," is greater than 50"
Return
```

TRUE returns the logical true of a constant. This is represented by the number (-1). A value of either true (-1) or false (0) is produced every time a conditional test is executed. Try this example:

TRUE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: return logical true (-1)
Syntax: t=True

```
; *** True example- True.bb2
Screen 0,3+8,"Mawwage"
Window 0,0,20,640,200,0,"Twoo Wove",1,2
For LOOP=1 To 5
  A=Int(Rnd(3))
  B=Int(Rnd(3))
  NPrint "A = ",A
  NPrint "B = ",B
  C=A<>B
  ; *** Logical true
  If C=True
    NPrint "A<>B"
  ; *** Logical false
  Else
    NPrint "A=B"
  EndIf
  NPrint ""
  VWait 20
Next LOOP
MouseWait
End
```

FALSE returns the logical false of a constant. This is represented by the number (0). A value of either true (-1) or false (0) is produced every time a conditional test is executed.

FALSE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: return logical false (0)
Syntax: f=False

```
; *** False example - False.bb2
Screen 0,3+8,"Skween"
Window 0,0,20,640,200,$1000,"Whindoow",1,2
A$=Edit$(10)
B=Len(A$)
```

```
; *** Logical false
If B=False
  NPrint "NO TEXT WAS ENTERED!"
; *** Logical true
Else
  NPrint "Length = ",B," characters"
EndIf
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

SELECT CASE END SELECT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: hold the result of an expression
Syntax: Select EXPRESSION
Case 1
; *** Execute if expression = 1
Case 2
; *** Execute if expression = 2
End Select

SELECT examines and stores the result of the specified expression. The **CASE** statement is used following **SELECT** to execute a section of program code when the expression specified by CASE is equivalent to the expression specified by SELECT. END SELECT is used to terminate a SELECT...CASE control structure.

```
; *** Select example- Select.bb2
For A=1 To 10
  N=Int(Rnd(3))+1
  Select N
    ; *** Number one generated
    Case 1
      NPrint "One"
    ; *** Number two generated
    Case 2
     NPrint "Two"
    ; *** Number three generated
    Case 3
      NPrint "Three"
  End Select
  VWait 10
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

DEFAULT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: execute if CASE not satisfied
Syntax: Default

If none of the CASE statements are satisfied then **DEFAULT** may be used to cause a section of program code to be executed if none of the CASE statements were satisfied.

```
; *** Default example
; *** Filename - Default.bb2
For A=1 To 25
  N=Int(Rnd(10))+1
  Select N
    ; *** Number one generated
    Case 1
      NPrint "One"
    ; *** Number two generated
    Case 2
      NPrint "Two"
    ; *** Number three generated
    Case 3
      NPrint "Three"
    ; *** Case not satisfied (N>3)
    Default
```

```
      NPrint "Number greater than 3!"
  End Select
  VWait 10
Next A
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

ON tells a program to branch, via either a GOTO or a GOSUB, to one of a number of program labels depending upon the result of the expression. The program labels must be separated by commas. If the expression results in one then the first program label will be branched to. If the expression results in two then the second program label will be branched to and so on. If the result of the expression is negative, or greater than the number of program labels, then program execution will continue from the command following ON. Try the following example on (no pun intended) for size:

ON

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: jump to a label on the result of an expression
Syntax: On EXPRESSION Goto LIST OF LABELS
Syntax 2: On EXPRESSION Gosub LIST OF LABELS

```
; *** On example- On.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Branch to sub-routines in turn
For LOOP=1 To 3
  On LOOP Gosub STARS,LINES,CIRCLES
VWait 50
Next LOOP
End
; *** Draw 100 stars
STARS:
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(30)+1
Next A
Return
; *** Draw 100 lines
LINES:
For B=1 To 100
  Line Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(30)+1
Next B
Return
; *** Draw 100 circles
CIRCLES:
For C=1 To 100
  Circle Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(10)+1,Rnd(30)+1
Next C
Return
```

4.3 Conditional loops

The conditional loop is one of the most used BASIC control structures. It is used to repeat a section of code until the condition of the loop is satisfied. The **WHILE** and **WEND** instructions are used to create a loop which is to be executed as long as a logical condition is true. When a WHILE statement is encountered, its condition is checked and the loop is only executed if the condition is true. When WEND is reached the program execution jumps back to WHILE and the loop is repeated. Try the following examples:

WHILE WEND

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: repeat loop while condition is true
Syntax: While CONDITION
LIST OF STATEMENTS
Wend

```
; *** While...Wend example ** Filename - While...Wend.bb2
NPrint "Counting to 100:"
VWait 50
; *** Repeat until A=100
While A<100
  Let A+1
  NPrint A
Wend
NPrint "Finished!"
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** While...Wend example 2
; *** Filename - While...Wend2.bb2
BLITZ
Mouse On
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Repeat until mouse button is pressed
While Joyb(0)=0
  Line Rnd(320),Rnd(256),MouseX,MouseY,Rnd(5)+1
Wend
End
```

REPEAT UNTIL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: repeat loop until condition is satisfied
Syntax: Repeat
LIST OF STATEMENTS
Until CONDITION

The instructions **REPEAT** and **UNTIL** are used to create a loop which is to be executed until a logical condition exists. When the REPEAT statement is encountered in a program, the loop is executed. Then the logical condition is checked. If true, then the loop is cancelled and program execution continues after the UNTIL instruction. Both commands should occupy their own lines. Here are some examples:

```
; *** Repeat...Until example- Repeat...Until.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Repeat loop until mouse button is pressed
Repeat
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(10)+5,Rnd(6)+1
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

```
; *** Repeat...Until example 2 - Repeat...Until2.bb2
PalRGB 0,1,15,15,15
BLITZ
Mouse On
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Use Palette 0
; *** Plot a random starfield
For A=1 To 15
  Plot Int(Rnd(320)),Int(Rnd(50)),Rnd(5)+2
Next A
For B=1 To 15
  ; *** Search for coloured stars
  Repeat
    X=Int(Rnd(320))
```

```
    Y=Int(Rnd(50))
  Until Joyb(0)>0 OR Point(X,Y)>1
  ; *** Change coloured star to white
  Plot X,Y,1
; *** Loop back until all stars recoloured
Next B
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

4.4 Unconditional loops

Unconditional loops, like unconditional jumps, require no decision-making whatsoever. These loops are used to repeat a section of code forever, hence the following Blitz Basic keyword.

FOREVER is used instead of UNTIL in a REPEAT...UNTIL loop to create an endless loop. The program executes the commands between REPEAT and UNTIL and branches back to REPEAT when UNTIL is reached. Both commands should occupy their own lines, as in the following example:

FOREVER

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: cause a Repeat loop to repeat infinitely
Syntax: Repeat
LIST OF STATEMENTS
Forever

```
; *** Repeat...Forever example ; *** Filename - Repeat...Forever.bb2
; *** Repeat loop forever
Repeat
  NPrint "This loop will never end. Don't run this example!"
Forever
; *** This command is never reached
End
```

4.5 Controlled loops

Often you need to do the same thing several times in a program. Although you can repeat part of a program using GOTO, a much better way is to repeat the same lines several times using the FOR...TO...NEXT structure. This is known as a controlled loop as the loop is controlled by the programmer, rather than the user.

The **FOR...TO...NEXT** loop repeats a list of instructions a specified number of times. INDEX counts the number of times the loop is repeated and is increased by one each time the loop repeats. The number that INDEX is increased by (or decreased by) can be altered by including the Step INC parameter (see later). At the start of the loop, the INDEX counter is loaded with the FIRST_NUMBER value and is increased each program loop until it reaches the LAST_NUMBER value.

FOR TO NEXT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: repeat loop a specific number of times
Syntax: For INDEX=FIRST_NUMBER To LAST_NUMBER [Step INC]

```
; *** For...To...Next example - For...To...Next.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,5
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
NPrint "200 rectangles!"
VWait 100
Cls
; *** Simple For...To...Next loop (200 loops)
For A=1 To 200
  Boxf Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(30)+1
Next A
```

```
VWait 50
Cls
NPrint "1000 circles!"
VWait 100
Cls
; *** A larger For...To...Next loop (1000 loops)
For B=1 To 1000
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(10)+5,Rnd(30)+1
Next B
VWait 50
End
```

If the optional Step INC parameter is included then INC will be added to the counter after each loop instead of one (the default). If the value for INC is negative then the entire loop will be performed in reverse. For example:

```
; *** For..To...Next example 2 - For...To...Next2.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,1
Show 0
Locate 0,0
; *** Step 2 loop
For A=1 To 10 Step 2
  NPrint A
Next A
VWait 50
Locate 0,0
; *** Decreasing loop
For B=10 To 1 Step -1
  NPrint B
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

4.6 Interrupt handling

Interrupts are hardware signals which cause the Amiga's processor to stop what it is doing (usually the execution of the main program) and execute a pre-defined piece of code called an interrupt routine, or interrupt handler. Once the interrupt handler has finished executing, the main program is restarted as if nothing has happened. There are 14 different types of interrupt on the Amiga:

Table 4.2 : Blitz Basic Interrupts

Interrupt	Cause of Interrupt
0	Serial transmit buffer empty
1	Disk block read/written
2	Software interrupt
3	CIA ports interrupt
4	Copper interrupt
5	Vertical blank
6	Blitter finished
7	Audio channel 0 pointer/length fetched
8	Audio channel 1 pointer/length fetched
9	Audio channel 2 pointer/length fetched
10	Audio channel 3 pointer/length fetched
11	Serial receive buffer full
12	Floppy disk sync
13	External interrupt

Interrupt handlers should never access string variables or literal strings. In Amiga mode no Blitter, Intuition or file access command may be executed by interrupt handlers. The most useful interrupt is the vertical blank interrupt (number 5). This interrupt occurs every time a vertical blank period has elapsed (about every sixtieth of a second). Consequently, any code defined as a vertical blank interrupt is executed every sixtieth of a second. Vertical blank interrupt handlers must never take longer than one sixtieth of a second to execute, otherwise you are asking for trouble!

SETINT/END SETINT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: declare/end code as interrupt code
Syntax: SetInt TYPE, End SetInt

The **SETINT** statement is used to define interrupt code. Any code which appears within an interrupt definition is executed every time the specified interrupt occurs. **END SETINT** is used to terminate an interrupt definition. In the first example I am using the vertical blank interrupt to modify a colour register during vertical blank periods, and in the second the same interrupt is used to flash the Amiga's power light:

```
; *** SetInt example 1 - SetInt1.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Create background task
SetInt 5
  Let A+1
  Poke.w $dff180,A
End SetInt

; *** Main program
For B=1 To 3000
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(200)+50,Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(5)+1
Next B
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** SetInt example 2 - SetInt2.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
D=1
; *** Create background task
SetInt 5
  ; *** Toggle power light rapidly
  If D=0
    Filter On
  Else
    Filter Off
  EndIf
  D=1-D
End SetInt
; *** Main program
For B=1 To 3000
  Colour Rnd(5)+1
  Locate Rnd(40),Rnd(20)+10
  Print "Hello"
Next B
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

CLRINT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: remove interrupt handler
Syntax: ClrInt TYPE

CLRINT is used to remove an interrupt handler. The TYPE parameter specifies the interrupt type. For example:

```
; *** ClrInt example
; *** Filename - ClrInt.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
D=1
; *** Create background task
SetInt 5
  Cls Rnd(5)+1
End SetInt
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Remove background task
ClrInt 5
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

4.7 Error handling

Normally any runtime errors which may occur are reported by Blitz Basic's direct mode. However, it is often useful to trap these errors before they are reported by Blitz; this is where custom error handling come in. Custom error handlers are often used during the development stage, and removed once all of the bugs - or "undocumented features", as some programmers refer to them - have been ironed out.

SETERR/ END SETERR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: declare error handler
Syntax: SetErr, End SetErr

The **SETERR** statement defines a custom error handler. Any program code which appears inside a custom error handler will be executed when any Blitz Basic runtime errors occur. Error handlers should be terminated with the **END SETERR** statement. This will work fine until the program tries to blit a shape and it is discovered that there are no shape objects in memory:

```
; *** SetErr example 1
; *** Filename - SetErr1.bb2
; *** Create error handler
SetErr
  NPrint "Error!!!"
  NPrint "Press Left Mouse Button"
  ; *** Wait for a mouse click
  MouseWait
  ; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
  End
End SetErr
; *** There is no object to blit!
Blit 0,100,100
; *** These commands are never reached
MouseWait
End
```

The second error handler generates an error when the program tries to access an array which has too few dimensions:

```
; *** SetErr example 2 - SetErr2.bb2
; *** Create error handler
SetErr
  NPrint "Error!!!"
  NPrint "Press Left Mouse Button"
  ; *** Wait for a mouse click
  MouseWait
  End
End SetErr
; *** A$ has too few dimensions!
Dim A$(3)
; *** Generate dimension overflow error
For B=1 To 4
  A$(B)="Blitz Basic "+Str$(B)
  NPrint A$(B)
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

This statement is used to remove a custom error handler. For example:

CLRERR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: remove error handler
Syntax: ClrErr

```
; *** ClrErr example ** Filename - ClrErr.bb2
; *** Create custom error handler
SetErr
  NPrint "This error handler will never work"
End SetErr
; *** Remove custom error handler
ClrErr
; *** Generate error
Blit 0,100,100
MouseWait
End
```

The **ERRFAIL** statement is used to temporarily suspend the custom error handler (i.e. the error occurs as normal). Error reporting is then returned to direct mode. Here is an example:

ERRFAIL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: cause a normal error within error handler
Syntax: ErrFail

```
; *** ErrFail example; ErrFail.bb2
; *** Define error handler
SetErr
  NPrint "Error!!!"
  NPrint ""
  NPrint "Press left mouse button to print"
  NPrint "actual error in direct mode."
  ; *** Wait for a mouse click
  MouseWait
  ; *** Suspend error handler
  ErrFail
End SetErr
; *** Create error
Dim A$(3)
For B=1 To 4
  A$(B)="Blitz Basic "+Str$(B)
  NPrint A$(B)
Next B
; *** These commands are never reached
MouseWait
End
```

4.8 Procedures

A procedure is a specially defined module of code that can be called from your main program. Blitz Basic 2 supports two types of procedure, the function-type procedure and the statement-type procedure. A procedure which does not return a value is known as a statement and a procedure which does return a value is known as a function. Both are able to use their own local variables and may gain access to global variables through the use of the SHARED statement. You may pass up to six variables to a procedure. These variables must be of primitive type. NewType variables may not be used.

4.8.1 statement-type procedures

STATEMENT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a statement-type procedure
Syntax: Statement NAME{}
Syntax 2: Statement NAME{LIST OF OPTIONAL PARAMETERS}

A statement-type procedure is created by defining the statement with the **STATEMENT** statement. If the optional list of parameters is included then parameters may be passed to the procedure. The procedure must be closed with the **END STATEMENT** statement. Procedures must be called up as follows:

```
NAME{}
```

or:

```
NAME{LIST OF OPTIONAL PARAMETERS}
```

```
; *** Statement-type procedure - Statement.bb2
; *** Define procedure
Statement AGE{A}
  NPrint "You are ",A*12," months old."
End Statement
NPrint "Please input your age in years:"
A=Edit(20)
; *** Call procedure
AGE{A}
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Statement-type procedure 2 - Statement2.bb2
; *** Define procedure
Statement UPPER{A$}
  C$=UCASE$(Mid$(A$,1,1))
  B$=Right$(A$,Len(A$)-1)
  D$=C$+B$
  NPrint D$
End Statement
; *** Input name
NPrint "Enter your first name in lower case:-"
A$=Edit$(20)
; *** Call procedure
UPPER{A$}
MouseWait
End
```

STATEMENT RETURN is used to exit from a statement-type procedure before the end of the procedure. Here is an example which exits from the procedure structure once the value(0) is generated:

STATEMENT RETURN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: exit a statement-type procedure immediately
Syntax: Statement Return

```
; *** Statement Return - Statement_Return.bb2
; *** Define procedure
Statement RANDOM{A}
  B=Int(Rnd(A))
  If B=0 Then Statement Return
  NPrint "Random number is: ",B
  ; *** Wait for a mouse click
  MouseWait
  ; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
  End
End Statement
; *** Input maximum number
NPrint "Input maximum random number:"
A=Edit(20)
; *** Call procedure
RANDOM{A}
; *** These commands are never reached
MouseWait
End
```

4.8.2 function-type procedures

FUNCTION

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a function-type procedure
Syntax: Function [.TYPE] NAME{}
Syntax 2: Function [.TYPE] NAME{LIST OF OPTIONAL PARAMETERS}

The function-type procedure returns a value. It is created by defining the function with the **FUNCTION** statement. If the optional list of parameters are included then parameters may be passed to the procedure. The procedure must be closed with the **END FUNCTION** statement. The optional TYPE parameter may be used to determine what type of result is returned by the function using **FUNCTION RETURN**. It must be one of Blitz Basic's six primitive variable types:

Table 4.3 : Blitz Basic types

Type	Suffix	Example
Byte	.b	Function.b
Word	.w	Function.w
Long	.l	Function.l
Quick	.q	Function.q
Float	.f	Function.f
String	$	Function$

If TYPE is omitted then the current default type will be used (default is quick). FUNCTION RETURN is used within function-type procedures to return the result of the function. Try the following examples:

```
; *** Function-type procedure
; *** Filename - Function.bb2
; *** Define procedure
Function$ HEXBIN{A}
  Function Return Hex$(A)+" "+Bin$(A)
End Function

; *** Call procedure 10 times
For A=1 To 10
  NPrint HEXBIN{A}
Next A
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

```
; *** Function-type procedure 2
; *** Filename - Function2.bb2
; *** Define procedure
Function$ BACKWARDS{A$}
  A=Len(A$)
  For LOOP=1 To A
    B$=B$+Mid$(A$,A,1)
    Let A-1
  Next LOOP
  Function Return UCase$(B$)
End Function

; *** Input name
NPrint "Enter your name :-"
A$=Edit$(20)
; *** Call procedure
NPrint BACKWARDS{A$}
MouseWait
End
```

4.8.3 global variables

Normally, variables inside procedures cannot be written to or read from the main program. We call these variables "local variables" as they can only be used by the procedure itself. All the variables outside of procedures are known as "global variables" - they can be accessed from anywhere.

The **SHARED** statement takes a list of local variables inside a procedure definition and converts them to global variables, which can be accessed by the main program. This offers a way of transferring large amounts of data between procedures.

SHARED

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define a list of global variables
Syntax: Shared LIST OF VARIABLES

```
; *** Shared example
; *** Filename - Shared.bb2
SPEED=100
; *** Define procedure
Statement AGE{}
  NPrint SPEED ; *** Prints "0"
  SHARED SPEED
  NPrint SPEED ; *** Prints "100"
End Statement

; *** Call procedure
AGE{}
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

4.8.4 some useful procedures

Experienced programmers will find that, over the years, they build up a large collection of useful programs, routines and procedures.

For the more inexperienced among us, here are three really useful (depending on your point of view) procedures that can be easily incorporated into your own creations, or used independently. Our first procedure centres a text string on the x-axis. It works by dividing a string in two and positioning one half left of the centre of the display, and the other half right of the centre. At present the procedure only works on low-resolution BitMaps. Try improving it so that it automatically centres a string on any resolution screen or BitMap:

```
; *** Useful Procedure 1 - Proc1.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Define procedure
Statement CENTRE{A$}
  ; *** Half screen width and text
  X=40/2-Len(A$)/2
  Locate X,10
  Colour 4
  Print A$
End Statement
; *** Call procedure
A$="Blitz Basic centred text"
CENTRE{A$}
MouseWait
End
```

Our second procedure generates a specified number of random numbers. “But what’s wrong with the RND function”, I hear you cry! Well, if you were to generate a series of random numbers using RND then the chances are that the same number will come up more than once. This routine can be used to generate any amount of random numbers, and what’s more, they will never repeat:

```
; *** Useful Procedure 2 - Proc2.bb2
; *** Number of random numbers
MAX=10
; *** Array to hold numbers
Dim RANDOM(MAX)
; *** Define procedure
Statement RANDOM{MAX}
  SHARED RANDOM()
  ; *** Generate random numbers
  For A=1 To MAX
    RANDOM(A)=A
  Next A
  ; *** Mix them up
  Repeat
    Repeat
      B=Rnd(MAX)+1
    Until B>0
    Exchange RANDOM(B),RANDOM(MAX)
    Let C+1
  Until C=MAX
End Statement
; *** Call procedure
RANDOM{MAX}
For T=1 To MAX
  NPrint RANDOM(T)
Next T
MouseWait
End
```

Our third and final procedure is used to solve general quadratic equations. It is primarily of use to A-Level Mathematics students (who will understand what a general quadratic equation is!). Simply enter the appropriate values for A, B and C and the procedure will do the rest. Try adding an error generator for quadratic equations which cannot be solved:

```
; *** Useful Procedure 3 - Proc3.bb2
Statement QUADRATIC{A,B,C}
  ; *** Negate B
  B=NOT B
  ; *** Maths jiggery pokery
```

```
   D=Sqr((B*B)-(4*A*C))
   E=(B+D)/(2*A)
   F=(B-D)/(2*A)
   ; *** Output answer
   NPrint "X  = ",E
   NPrint "or = ",F
End Statement
; *** Input appropriate values
NPrint "Enter A:"
A=Edit(2)
NPrint "Enter B:"
B=Edit(2)
NPrint "Enter C:"
C=Edit(2)
NPrint ""
; *** Call procedure
QUADRATIC{A,B,C}
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- There are five control structures in Blitz Basic: unconditional jumps (GOTO and GOSUB), conditional jumps and structured tests (IF…ENDIF & SELECT…CASE…END SELECT), conditional loops (WHILE…WEND & REPEAT…UNTIL), unconditional loops (REPEAT…FOREVER), and controlled loops (FOR…TO…NEXT).
- Unconditional jumps are those which require no decision-making whatsoever - they simply allow branching from one part of a program to another.
- Conditional jumps and structured tests are used to execute different parts of a program, depending on the outcome of an expression.
- Use the conditional loop to repeat a code section until the loop condition is satisfied
- Unconditional loops, like unconditional jumps, require no decision-making whatsoever. These loops are used to repeat a section of code forever.
- Use Controlled loops to execute the same program lines several times in a program.
- Interrupt handlers are defined using SETINT and END SETINT. Interrupts are hardware signals which cause the Amiga's processor to stop what it is doing (usually the execution of the main program) and execute a pre-defined piece of code called an interrupt handler. Vertical blank interrupts are executed every sixtieth of a second.
- Runtime errors can be trapped using custom error handlers. These are created with the SETERR and END SETERR statements. Error handlers are suspended with ERRFAIL.
- Blitz Basic 2 supports two types of procedure: functions and statements. Procedures which do not return values are known as statements. Procedures which do return values are known as functions. Up to six values can be passed to Blitz Basic 2 procedures.
- GOTOs and GOSUBS from inside procedures to labels outside of procedure definitions are illegal.
- Variables used in procedure definitions are initialised with every call of the procedure.
- Function-type procedures can return any primitive type using the FUNCTION RETURN statement.
- Local variables are those contained within procedure definitions and may only be used by procedures.
- Procedures may gain access to global variables through the use of the SHARED statement.

Chapter 5 : Input/Output

This chapter will show you how to output text onto a screen or BitMap. It will aid you in the reading of the keyboard and the joystick and mice ports, and teach you the basics of file access.

5.1 Text

Virtually all computer programs use text. Text can be used to prompt the user for input, or to display a congratulatory message or high-score table. Blitz Basic can be used to create anything from simple messages to fully-blown text adventures!

5.1.1 printing on screen

PRINT/NPRINT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: print items on screen
Syntax: Print/NPRINT EXPRESSION

The **PRINT** statement is used to output numeric variables and strings to the current output channel. PRINT followed by a string variable or expression displays the string or strings they represent (strings must be enclosed in quotation marks). Followed by a numeric expression, PRINT displays the expression's value. Followed by a null string (""), PRINT displays a blank line. Here are some examples which all produce the same output:

```
; *** Print examples- Print.bb2
Print "Blitz Basic is the best!"
Print "Blitz Basic"+" is the best!"
Print "Blitz Basic"," is the best!"
MouseWait
End
```

NPRINT is used to output numeric variables and strings to the current output channel. NPRINT followed by a string variable or expression displays the string or strings they represent (strings must be enclosed in quotation marks). Followed by a numeric expression, NPRINT displays the expression's value. Followed by a null string (""), NPRINT displays a blank line. Unlike PRINT, NPRINT automatically outputs a newline character. For example:

```
; *** NPrint example - NPrint.bb2
Print "Going "
Print "down"
NPrint ""
NPrint ""
NPrint "Going"
NPrint "Down"
MouseWait
End
```

BITMAPOUTPUT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: direct PRINT commands to a BitMap
Syntax: BitMapOutput BITMAP#

BITMAPOUTPUT is used to direct all future PRINT or NPRINT statements to a BitMap. Fonts used for BitMap output must be eight-by-eight non-proportional fonts (see later).

```
; *** BitMapOutput example - BitMapOutput.bb2
; *** Pop into Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Open BitMap to display graphics
BitMap 0,320,256,3
; *** Direct PRINT statements to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Open a Slice and display BitMap
```

```
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Output some text
For A=1 To 50
  Locate Rnd(40),Rnd(25)
  Colour Rnd(5)+1
  Print "BitMap Output"
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

DEFAULTOUTPUT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: send PRINT statements to the default CLI window
Syntax: DefaultOutput

This statement causes all future PRINT and NPRINT statements to send their output to the default CLI window. This is the CLI window the program was run from. For example:

```
; *** DefaultOutput example - DefaultOutput.bb2
; *** Open an Intuition screen and window
Screen 0,0,100,320,200,3,0,"A Screen",1,2
Window 0,10,40,200,50,0,"A Window",1,2
; *** Output text to window
Print "hello from window"
; *** Direct PRINT statement to CLI window
DefaultOutput
Print "Hello from CLI window"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

5.1.2 formatting numeric strings

FORMAT is used to control the output of numeric values with PRINT and NPRINT. STRING$ is a string expression, of up to 80 characters in length, containing formatting information:

FORMAT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: control output of numeric values
Syntax: Format STRING$

Table 5.1 : Text formatting

Character	Description
0	Replace missing digits with zeros
.	Insert decimal point
,	Insert commas every 3 digits to the left
+	Insert sign of value
-	Insert sign of value, if negative
#	Replace missing digits with spaces

Here is an example:

```
; *** Amiga Format- Format.bb2
Format "###.00"
NPrint 156 ; *** Returns "156.00"
Format "+#"
NPrint 5 ; *** Returns "+5"
Format "###,###,###"
NPrint 390000000 ; *** Returns "390,000,000"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

5.1.3 changing the text style

LOADBLITZFONT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load a new font for BitMap output
Syntax: LoadBlitzFont FONT#, "FILENAME.FONT"

LOADBLITZFONT creates a blitzfont object. Blitzfonts are used in the rendering of text to BitMaps only. The default font is the ROM-resident topaz font, however this can be replaced with the blitzfont of your choice. The "FILENAME.FONT" parameter specifies the name of the font to load, which must be located in the fonts directory of the disk. LOADBLITZFONT can only be used with eight-by-eight non-proportional fonts. Here is an example:

```
; *** LoadBlitzFont example - LoadBlitzFont.bb2
; *** Load a BlitzFont into memory
LoadBlitzFont 0,"FILENAME.FONT"
; *** Wait for disk access to finish
VWait 20
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Direct NPRINT statement to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,5
Colour 4
NPrint "THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED ETC."
MouseWait
End
```

USEBLITZFONT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: select current font
Syntax: UseBlitzFont FONT#

If there is more than one blitzfont in memory then **USEBLITZFONT** provides a method for switching between them. FONT# is the number of the blitzfont to use. For example:

```
; *** Use BlitzFont example- Use BlitzFont.bb2
; *** Load two BlitzFonts into memory
LoadBlitzFont 0,"FILENAME.FONT"
LoadBlitzFont 1,"FILENAME2.FONT"
; *** Wait for disk access to finish
VWait 20
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,5
Colour 4
; *** First BlitzFont
Use BlitzFont 0
NPrint "THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED ETC."
Colour 2
; *** Second BlitzFont
Use BlitzFont 1
NPrint "OVER THE LAZY DOG..."
MouseWait
End
```

FREEBLITZFONT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase a font from memory
Syntax: FreeBlitzFont FONT#

FREEBLITZFONT erases a specified blitzfont from memory. This frees any memory previously occupied by the font. Here's an example:

```
; *** FreeBlitzFont example - FreeBlitzFont.bb2
; *** Load a BlitzFont into memory
LoadBlitzFont 0,"FILENAME.FONT"
VWait 20
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
NPrint "THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED ETC."
; *** Remove BlitzFont from memory
FreeBlitzFont 0
NPrint "THE SLOW RED SLUG DUCKED ETC."
MouseWait
End
```

5.1.4 setting the text colour

Even if the output of your programs consists just of PRINT or NPRINT statements, there is no reason why they cannot be arranged on the screen in an interesting, clear and attractive way. Use of colour within PRINT statements from time to time can enhance the message and improve its legibility. Random colour changes, for example, can be effective.

COLOUR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set the colour of text
Syntax: Colour FOREGROUND [,BACKGROUND]

The **COLOUR** statement is used to set the colour used to render text to BitMaps. FOREGROUND is the colour of the text and BACKGROUND is the colour of the text background. Here are a couple of examples which illustrate the use of COLOUR in both Blitz and Amiga mode:

```
; *** Colour example 1- Colour1.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open a Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,5
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
; *** Direct NPRINT statements to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
For A=1 To 30
  ; *** Select a random colour
  Colour Rnd(30)+1
  NPrint "All the colours of the rainbow(and some)"
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Colour example 2 - Colour2.bb2
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,5,"My screen"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Direct NPRINT statements to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,4
For B=1 To 20
  ; *** Select a random colour
  Colour Rnd(30)+1
  NPrint "A million colours on an Intuition screen"
Next B
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

5.1.5 the text cursor

The position of print output on the screen can also be important, and the LOCATE statement you can place your information wherever you want it.

LOCATE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: position the text cursor
Syntax: Locate X,Y

LOCATE positions the text cursor on the current BitMap. The X parameter specifies the horizontal position (rounded down to a multiple of eight) and the Y parameter specifies the vertical position (not rounded). LOCATE must follow a BITMAPOUTPUT statement:

```
; *** A nice location
; *** Filename - Locate.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,640,256,3
Slice 0,44,3+8
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,0
Colour Int(Rnd(6)+1)
NPrint "Top left"
Locate 36,12
Colour 5
NPrint "Middle"
Locate 67,30
Colour Int(Rnd(6)+1)
NPrint "Bottom right"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

CURSX/Y

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the horizontal position of the text cursor
Syntax: x=CursX, y=CursY

The **CURSX** statement returns the current horizontal character position of the text cursor. CURSX must follow a BITMAPOUTPUT statement.

CURSY returns the current vertical character position of the text cursor and must follow a BITMAPOUTPUT statement.

```
; *** CursX example- CursX.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open a Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,640,256,3
Slice 0,44,3+8
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
For A=1 To 5
  ; *** Randomly locate cursor
  Locate Int(Rnd(60)),Int(Rnd(30))
  Colour 2
  Print ""
  ; *** Return cursor location
  X=CursX
  Locate 0,0
  Colour 4
  NPrint "X = ",X
  VWait 100
  Cls
Next A
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

CursY example:

```
; *** CursX/Y example
; *** Filename - CursY.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open a Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,640,256,3
Slice 0,44,3+8
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
For A=1 To 5
  ; *** Randomly locate cursor
  Locate Int(Rnd(60)),Int(Rnd(30))
  Colour 2
  Print "Hello"
  ; *** Return cursor location
  X=CursX
  Y=CursY
  Locate 0,0
  Colour 4
  NPrint "Hello X = ",X
  NPrint "Hello Y = ",Y
  VWait 100
  Cls
Next A
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

CURSOR

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set the thickness of the text cursor
Syntax: Cursor THICKNESS

The **CURSOR** statement is used to set the thickness of the text cursor. If THICKNESS is negative then a block cursor will be used, otherwise an underline cursor, THICKNESS pixels high will be used.

```
; *** Cursor thickness
; *** Filename - Cursor.bb2

Screen 0,3+8,"My screen"
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$1000,"Cursors",0,1
NPrint "This is a block cursor:"
A$=Edit$(10)
Cursor 1
NPrint "This is an underlined one:"
A$=Edit$(10)
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

5.2 The Keyboard

Input is a simple term which means the feeding of information into the computer where it is processed. Such processing may be addition and subtraction of numbers or storing information such as text. On the Amiga information can be entered using the keyboard. This section covers the commands which can be used to read the Amiga's 96 (I counted every one of them!) key keyboard.

5.2.1 reading the keyboard

BLITZKEYS

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: toggle Blitz mode keyboard reading
Syntax: BlitzKeys On

The **BLITZKEYS** statement is used to toggle Blitz mode keyboard reading (note that BlitzKeys Off is no longer supported by Blitz Basic 2). If keyboard reading is enabled then the keyboard can be read in Blitz mode.

```
; *** BlitzKeys example
; *** Filename - BlitzKeys.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open a Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Enable Blitz mode keyboard reading
BlitzKeys On
NPrint "Type some rubbish..."
; *** Input some text
While Joyb(0)=0
  Print Inkey$
Wend
End ; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
```

Note that the following commands can only work in Blitz mode if Blitz mode keyboard reading is enabled, as in the above example.

BLITZREPEAT

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: vary Blitz mode key repeat delays
Syntax: BlitzRepeat DELAY,SPEED

The **BLITZREPEAT** statement is no longer supported by Blitz Basic 2. As such there is no example.

INKEY$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: check for a key-press
Syntax: i$=Inkey$[(CHARACTERS)]

The **INKEY$** function is used to detect the pressing of keys on the keyboard. It requires no argument and is generally used to assign a character to a string variable or to test for a particular character. If no key is being pressed, then INKEY$ returns a null string (““). Note that INKEY$ distinguishes between capital and lower-case letters. If the optional CHARACTERS parameter is included then more than one character (the default) may be collected. For example:

```
; *** Inkey$ example
; *** Filename - Inkey$.bb2
Screen 0,3+8,"Screen"
; *** Open window to output text
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$1000,"My word, another window",1,2
NPrint "Type some rubbish..."
Repeat
  ; *** Wait for a key-press
  Waitevent
  Print Inkey$
Until Joyb(0)>0
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

RAWSTATUS

Mode(s): Blitz
Function: test for a specific key-press
Syntax: k=RawStatus(RAW_CODE)

Use this function to determine whether or not a specific key is being pressed. RAW_CODE is the raw code of the key to be tested. If the key is being pressed then a value of (-1) will be returned, otherwise (0) will be returned.

```
; *** RawStatus example
; *** Filename - RawStatus.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open a Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
```

```
; *** Enable Blitz mode keyboard reading
BlitzKeys On
While Joyb(0)=0
  Locate 0,1
  Print "Del key is : "
  ; *** Test status of DEL key
  If RawStatus(70)
    Print "down"
  Else
    Print "up   "
  EndIf
Wend
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

EDIT$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: input a text string
Syntax: e$=Edit$([DEFAULT,]CHARACTERS)

**EDIT$** enables text strings to be entered during the execution of a program, with or without an input cursor (DEFAULT). The cursor is always positioned at the last cursor position. CHARACTERS specifies the number of characters that can be imputed with EDIT$.

If the EDIT$ function follows a WINDOWINPUT command, then EDIT$ will input from and output to the current window. A preceding FILEINPUT command will cause EDIT$ to receive its input from a file.

```
; *** Edit$ example 1
; *** Filename - Edit$1.bb2
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3+8,"A Screen"
Window 0,0,20,200,200,$1000,"Window",1,0
NPrint "Enter your first name..."
; *** Input some text (10 characters max)
A$=Edit$(10)
NPrint "Hello ",A$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

```
; *** Edit$ example 2 - Edit$2.bb2
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3+8,"Another Screen"
Window 0,0,20,200,200,$1000,"Another Window",1,0
NPrint "Enter your first name..."
; *** Input some text (with default prompt)
A$=Edit$("Default name",12)
NPrint "Hello ",A$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

EDIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: input a numeric value
Syntax: e=Edit([DEFAULT,]CHARACTERS)

EDIT enables numbers to be entered during the execution of a program, with or without an input cursor (DEFAULT). The cursor is always positioned at the last cursor position. CHARACTERS specifies the number of characters that can be imputed with EDIT. For example, if the EDIT function follows a WINDOWINPUT command then EDIT will

input from and output to the current window, whereas a preceding FILEINPUT command will cause EDIT to receive its input from a file.

```
; *** Edit example - Edit.bb2
NPrint "Enter a number:"
; *** Input a number (10 characters max)
A=Edit(10)
NPrint "Your number was ",A
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

DEFAULTINPUT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: receive Edit$ input from CLI window
Syntax: DefaultInput

DEFAULTINPUT forces all future EDIT$ functions to receive input from the CLI window the program was run from. This is the default channel used when a Blitz Basic program is first run. For example:

```
; *** DefaultInput example - DefaultInput.bb2
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,0,100,320,200,3,0,"A Screen",1,2
Window 0,10,40,200,50,$1000,"A Window",1,2
NPrint "Enter text into window"
; *** Input some text (10 characters max)
A$=Edit$(10)
; *** Send input/output to CLI window
DefaultInput
DefaultOutput
; *** Remove window from display
CloseWindow 0
NPrint "Enter some text into CLI window"
; *** Input some more text (10 characters max)
B$=Edit$(10)
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

BITMAPINPUT

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: enable Edit & Edit$ in Blitz mode
Syntax: BitMapInput

The **BIMAPINPUT** statement enables the EDIT and EDIT$ functions in Blitz mode. A BLITZKEYS ON statement must have been executed prior to BITMAPINPUT, otherwise it will not function correctly. A BITMAPOUTPUT statement must also be executed before an EDIT or EDIT$ function.

```
; *** Using Edit$ in Blitz mode
; *** Filename - BitMapInput.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open a Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Direct text output to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Enable Blitz mode keyboard reading
BlitzKeys On
BitMapInput
Locate 0,2
; *** Input some text (9 characters max)
A$=Edit$("Type away",9)
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

5.3 The Joystick

A joystick is, if you play games, the single most important peripheral for your Amiga. That little black box of electrical trickery can be used to blast baddies, dodge dinosaurs and drive Diabolos! Thankfully Blitz Basic provides us with a number of exciting commands which take full control over the common or garden joystick.

JOYR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the status of a joystick
Syntax: direction=Joyr(PORT)

The **JOYR** function is used to find out in which way the joystick is being waggled. If you want to take a look at the joystick port then you must tell Blitz to investigate port (1). Or, if you want to snoop around the mouse port (if another joystick is connected) then point Blitz towards port (0). Try the following example which prints the status of a joystick in port 1:

```
; *** Joyr example
; *** Filename - Joyr.bb2
; *** Repeat until fire button is pressed
Repeat
  ; *** Output joystick status
  NPrint Joyr(1)
Until Joyb(1)<>0
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

When you run the program, irrelevant numbers appear on the screen that change according to joystick movement. Wouldn't it be nice if you knew what these numbers meant? Then why not take a look at the table below (for your convenience I have also included corresponding compass bearings).

Table 5.2 : Reading the joystick port using JOYR

Bit number	Joystick	direction
0	Up	[N]
1	Up & Right	[NE]
2	Right	[E]
3	Down & Right	[SE]
4	Down	[S]
5	Down & Left	[SW]
6	Left	[W]
7	Up & Left	[NW]
8	No direction	

JOYX/Y

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return left/right/up/down joystick status
Syntax: direction=Joyx/y(PORT)

This returns a value of (-1) if the joystick connected to the given port number has been moved to the left. If the joystick is held to the right then this value is (1), otherwise a value of (0) is returned (meaning the joystick is held neither left nor right). Here is an example:

```
; *** Joyx example
; *** Filename - Joyx.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
; *** Create BOB
Boxf 1,1,10,10,1
GetaShape 0,0,0,11,11
Cls
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
; *** Starting co-ordinates of BOB
```

```
X=150
Y=100
; *** BitMap storage buffer
Buffer 0,16384
Repeat
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  ; *** Test joystick and move BOB
  If Joyx(1)=-1 AND X>0 Then X-2
  If Joyx(1)=1 AND X<300 Then X+2
  BBlit 0,0,X,Y
Until Joyb(1)>0
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

Similarly **JOYY** returns a value of (-1) if the joystick connected to the given port is held upwards, and a value of (1) if it is held downwards. Otherwise it returns a value of (0) (meaning the joystick is held neither upwards nor downwards).

```
; *** Joystick control
; *** Filename - Joyy.bb2

BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
; *** Create BOB
Boxf 1,1,10,10,1
GetaShape 0,0,0,11,11
Cls
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
; *** Starting co-ordinates of BOB
X=150
Y=100
; *** BitMap storage buffer
Buffer 0,16384
Repeat
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  ; *** Test joystick and move BOB
  If Joyx(1)=-1 AND X>0 Then X-2
  If Joyx(1)=1 AND X<300 Then X+2
  If Joyy(1)=-1 AND Y>10 Then Y-2
  If Joyy(1)=1 AND Y<200 Then Y+2
  BBlit 0,0,X,Y
Until Joyb(1)>0
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

JOYB

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the button status of the joystick/mouse
Syntax: button=Joyb(PORT)

In order to read the status of either the joystick or mouse buttons you must use the **JOYB** command, followed by the port number. A value of (1) will be returned only if the left button is held down. If the right button is held down then a value of (2) is returned. You may also find it useful, on some occasions, to test if both buttons are pressed (a value of (3) is returned). Finally, if no buttons are held down then JOYB will graciously return (0). Try the following example:

```
; *** Joyb example
; *** Filename - Joyb.bb2

OK=1
Repeat
```

```
  VWait
  A=Joyb(0)
  If A>0
    If A=1 Then NPrint "Left mouse button"
    If A=2 Then NPrint "Right mouse button"
    If A=3
      NPrint "Both buttons"
      VWait 50
      OK=0
    EndIf
    Repeat : Until Joyb(0)=0
  EndIf
Until OK=0
End
```

5.4 Reading the mouse status

Whereas the joystick has come to be regarded as the tool of the games player, the mouse has had a much wider use. It has been used as a control method for games (as in Populous and Syndicate), and more often for controlling applications (such as those involving Intuition). Blitz Basic's mouse commands can be used to create both.

MOUSE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: turn Blitz mode mouse reading on or off
Syntax: Mouse On/Off

The **MOUSE** statement toggles Blitz mode mouse reading. In order for the following functions to work in Blitz mode, mouse reading must have been previously enabled:

```
; *** Mouse example -  Mouse.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,2
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,2
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,10,10,1
GetaShape 0,0,0,10,10
GetaSprite 0,0
Mouse On
Pointer 0,0
While Joyb(0)=0
  VWait
  Locate 0,0
  NPrint "X = ",MouseX,"  "
  NPrint "Y = ",MouseY,"  "
Wend
End
```

MOUSEX/Y

Mode(s): Blitz
Function: return the current horizontal/vertical location of the mouse pointer
Syntax: x=MouseX/ y=MouseY

MOUSEX is a Blitz mode command whose purpose is to find the current horizontal location of the mouse pointer. Blitz mode mouse reading must have been previously enabled using MOUSE ON.

MOUSEY is the vertical equivalent of MOUSEX in that it returns the current vertical location of the mouse pointer. Blitz mode mouse reading must have been previously enabled using MOUSE ON.

```
; *** Mouse coordinates
; *** Filename - MouseX.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
Slice 0,44,1
Show 0
```

```
BitMapOutput 0
Mouse On
MouseArea 0,0,320,256
Repeat
  Locate 0,0 : Print "X coord: ",MouseX,"  "
  Locate 0,1 : Print "Y coord: ",MouseY,"  "
  VWait
Until Joyb(0)>0
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

MOUSEX/YSPEED

Mode(s): Blitz
Function: return the current horizontal/vertical direction of mouse movement
Syntax: xdirection=MouseXSpeed
ydirection=MouseYSpeed

MOUSEXSPEED is one of those blindingly obvious commands, whose function is to find the current horizontal speed of mouse movement. Again, Blitz mode mouse reading must have been previously enabled using MOUSE ON. If a negative value is returned, then the mouse has been moved leftwards. Conversely, positive values mean that the mouse has been moved rightwards.

If Blitz mode mouse reading has been enabled, MOUSEYSPEED can be used to return the current vertical speed of mouse movement. If a negative value is returned, then the mouse has been moved upwards. If a positive value is returned, the mouse has been moved downwards. Here is an example:

```
; *** Mouse speed
; *** Filename - MouseXSpeed.bb2

BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
Slice 0,44,1
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
Mouse On
MouseArea 0,0,320,256
Repeat
  Locate 0,0:Print "X speed: ",MouseXSpeed,"  "
  Locate 0,1:Print "Y speed: ",MouseYSpeed,"  "
  VWait 5
Until Joyb(0)>0
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

MOUSEWAIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: wait for click of left mouse button
Syntax: MouseWait

Note that MOUSEXSPEED should only be used after the execution of VWAIT, or during a vertical blank interrupt (#5).

MOUSEWAIT halts program flow until the left mouse button is clicked. This is often useful in Blitz Basic to prevent a program from terminating too quickly and returning you to the editor.

```
; *** Waiting room - MouseWait.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
NPrint "Game Over - Press left mouse button"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

MOUSEWAIT should normally only be used ofor program testing purposes as it severely slows down multi-tasking.

5.4.1 the mouse pointer

If, like me, you hate WIMP (Windows, Icons, Menus and Pointers to the boffins) then you'll be glad to know that you can change the shape of the pointer. The Amiga's mouse pointer is boring. Sorry to offend any hardened pointer-spotters, but a red white and black arrow is hardly indicative of the Amiga's graphical prowess. How about a splash of real colour?

POINTER

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: attach a sprite to the mouse pointer
Syntax: Pointer SPRITE#,CHANNEL

The **POINTER** command can be used to dress the mouse pointer in Sunday best. In theory, to change the shape of the pointer arrow, you use the POINTER command followed by the sprite and channel numbers. However, in practice you must execute the following sequence:

1. Load a suitable sprite
2. Create a Slice
3. Execute MOUSE On
4. Execute POINTER

For example:

```
; *** Point me in the right...
; *** Filename - Pointer.bb2

LoadShape 0,"pointer_sprite"
LoadPalette 0,"pointer_sprite",16
GetaSprite 0,0
BLITZ
Bitmap 0,320,DispHeight,4
Slice 0,44,4
Use Palette 0
Show 0
Mouse On
Pointer 0,0
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

For more information on sprites and their use, please consult Chapter 8.

MOUSEAREA

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: limit mouse pointer to part of the display
Syntax: MouseArea X1,Y1,X2,Y2

MOUSEAREA is one of those cunning commands whose use is best described by an analogy. Imagine if you would, a little mouse (the fury kind) running freely about the house. MOUSEAREA is rather like a cage, which keeps the mouse from roaming freely. The command creates a rectangular area in which the mouse pointer can move, but cannot move out of. For example:

```
; *** MouseArea example1
; *** Filename - MouseArea1.bb2
MouseArea 10,10,100,100
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

If you need to free the mouse from its cage then simply increase the size of its play area:

```
; *** MouseArea example2
; *** Filename - MouseArea.bb2
MouseArea 0,0,320,200 ; *** This is the default area
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

Who needs cats?

5.5 File access

This section will teach you about all aspects of file access. Note that none of these commands are available in Blitz mode.

5.5.1 file requesters

File requesters are used to select files from within simple and complex disk structures (ie. directories and sub-directories).

FILEREQUEST$

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: open a file requester
Syntax: f$=FileRequest$("TITLE", "PATHNAME","FILENAME")

The **FILEREQUEST$** function opens a standard Amiga-style file requester on the currently used screen. Program flow will halt until the user either selects a file, or hits the requester's "CANCEL" button. If a file was selected, FILEREQUEST$ will return the full name as a string. If "CANCEL" was selected then a null string ("") is returned.

The TITLE$ parameter may be any text string to be used as a title for the file requester. PATHNAME is a string with a maximum length of at least 160. FILENAME is a string with a maximum length of at least 64. The PATHNAME and FILENAME parameters must be set with the MAXLEN statement before a file requester is opened.

```
; *** FileRequest$ example
; *** Filename - FileRequest$.bb2

Screen 0,3+8
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Maximum length of path and filename
MaxLen PATH$=160
MaxLen FILENAME$=64
; *** Create file requester
A$=FileRequest$("Select a file",PATH$,FILENAME$)
Locate 0,5
; *** Output selected file
NPrint A$
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

5.5.2 opening a file

OPENFILE

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: open a file
Syntax: o=OpenFile(FILE#,"FILENAME")

OPENFILE is used to open both sequential and random access files. If the file is successfully opened then OPENFILE returns (-1), otherwise (0) is returned. OPENFILE can be used to both read from and write to files. If "FILENAME" does not exist then it will be created by OPENFILE.

```
; *** OpenFile example- OpenFile.bb2
; *** Save file to RAM disk
If OpenFile(0,"RAM:FILE")
  MaxLen ASTRING$=32
  Fields 0,ANUMBER,ASTRING$
  ANUMBER=Int(Rnd(10)+1)
  ASTRING$="Blitz Basic"
  Put 0,0
  CloseFile 0
  ; *** Read file back into memory
  If OpenFile(0,"RAM:FILE")
    Fields 0,ANUMBER,ASTRING$
    ANUMBER=0
    ASTRING$=""
    Get 0,0
    NPrint ANUMBER
    NPrint ASTRING$
    CloseFile 0
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

5.5.3 examining files

The LOF function delivers the length of a file in bytes. FILE# is the channel number of the file the function will access. The LOF function can only be used with a file that has previously been opened with OPENFILE.

LOF

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the length of a file
Syntax: l=Lof(FILE#)

```
; *** Lof example- Lof.bb2
If OpenFile(0,"RAM:FILE")
  MaxLen ASTRING$=32
  Fields 0,ASTRING$
  ASTRING$="Douglas"
  Put 0,0
  NPrint Lof(0)," bytes"
  CloseFile 0
  MouseWait
  End
EndIf
```

EXISTS

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the length of a file if it exists
Syntax: e=Exists("FILENAME")

This function returns the length of a file. If the file specified in the "FILENAME" parameter does not exist, or a disk is not present in the specified drive, then (0) is returned. For example:

```
; *** Exists example- Exists.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,3
; *** Is Blitz Basic in DF0?
If Exists("DF0:Blitz2")
  NPrint "File exists!"
Else
  NPrint "File does not exist!"
EndIf
MouseWait
End
```

The **EOF** function reads the file data pointer and returns the following values depending on if it has reached the end of the specified file or not. The LOF function can only be used with a file that has previously been opened with OPENFILE:

EOF

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: read the end status of a file
Syntax: e=Eof(FILE#)

Table 5.3 : Values returned by EOF

End of file?	Return
True	-1
False	0

```
; *** Eof example- Eof.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:A FILE")
  ; *** Create file to read
  FileOutput 0
  Print "This is a Blitz Basic file"
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:A FILE")
    FileInput 0
    ; *** Read file until end is reached
    While Eof(0)=0
      VWait
      Print Inkey$
    Wend
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

LOC returns the current position of the data pointer in a file. When a file is first opened, the data pointer is located at position (0). For example:

LOC

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return position in a file
Syntax: l=Loc(FILE#)

```
; *** Loc example- Loc.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:TESTER")
  ; *** Create file
  FileOutput 0
  Print "Hello from Blitz Basic 2!"
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  ; *** Read file
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:TESTER")
    FileInput 0
    NPrint Edit$(40)
    Print "File length = ",Loc(0)," characters"
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultInput
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

5.5.4 deleting files

KILLFILE is a rather sinister-sounding command whose purpose is to erase a file from disk. Do be warned that any killed file cannot be replaced. So only kill unimportant data! Here is an example:

KILLFILE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: delete a file
Syntax: KillFile "FILENAME"

```
; *** KillFile example- KillFile.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:KILLER")
  ; *** Create file
  FileOutput 0
  Print "I will not exist!"
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  ; *** Delete file
  KillFile "RAM:KILLER"
EndIf
End
```

5.5.5 sequential files

Sequential files are those that allow you to read the contents of a file only in the order in which it was originally created. To alter the contents of a sequential file you have to load the entire file into memory, alter the information, and save the whole file back to disk.

READ/WRITEFILE

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: open an existing file for sequential reading/writing
Syntax: r=ReadFile/ WriteFile (FILE#,"FILENAME")

The **READFILE** statement opens an already existing file, specified by "FILENAME", for sequential reading. If the file was successfully opened then (-1) is returned, otherwise (0) is returned. For example:

```
; *** ReadFile example- ReadFile.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:A FILE")
  ; *** Create file
  FileOutput 0
  Print "Hello from Blitz Basic!"
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  ; *** Read file
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:A FILE")
    FileInput 0
    NPrint Edit$(40)
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultInput
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

WRITEFILE creates a new file, specified by "FILENAME", for the purpose of sequential file writing. If the file was successfully opened then (-1) is returned, otherwise (0) is returned.

```
; *** WriteFile example- WriteFile.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:FILE")
  ; *** Create file
  FileOutput 0
  Print "WriteFile example"
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  ; *** Read file
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:FILE")
    FileInput 0
    NPrint Edit$(40)
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultInput
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

FILEOUTPUT sends all future print commands to the specified sequential file (FILE#). Upon file closure, printing should be directed to another output channel. **FILEINPUT** causes all future input commands to receive from the specified sequential file (FILE#). Upon file closure, input should be directed to another input channel.

FILEINPUT/OUTPUT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: cause input commands to receive/output from/to sequential file
Syntax: FileInput/FileOutput FILE#

```
; *** FileOutput/Input example- FileOutput.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:INOUT")
  FileOutput 0
  Print "A load of rubbish!"
  CloseFile 0
  DefaultOutput
  If ReadFile (0,"RAM:INOUT")
    FileInput 0
    NPrint Edit$(40)
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultInput
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
EndIf
```

FILESEEK can be used to moves to a particular point in the specified file (FILE#). The POSITION parameter must be less than the length of the file. For example:

FILESEEK

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: move to a point in the specified file
Syntax: FileSeek FILE#,POSITION

```
; *** FileSeek example- FileSeek.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:FILE")
  FileOutput 0
  Print "The best BASIC is Blitz "
  CloseFile 0
  If OpenFile (0,"RAM:FILE")
    ; *** Search for end of file
    FileSeek 0,Lof(0)
    ; *** Add word to file
    NPrint "Basic!"
    CloseFile 0
    DefaultOutput
    If ReadFile (0,"RAM:FILE")
      FileInput 0
      NPrint Edit$(80)
      MouseWait
    EndIf
  EndIf
EndIf
End
```

CLOSEFILE closes the file specified by FILE#. Try the following example:

CLOSEFILE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: close a file
Syntax: CloseFile FILE#

```
; *** CloseFile example - CloseFile.bb2
If WriteFile (0,"RAM:FILEOFAX")
  FileOutput 0
  Print "A closed case"
  CloseFile 0
EndIf
End
```

5.5.6 random access files

The most obvious difference between a random access file and a sequential file is in the access method. With a sequential file the entire file must be loaded into memory in order to access one field. In a random access file, however, one record can be read into memory without having to read in the entire file. The disadvantage of random access files is that a larger file area is required on disk.

FIELDS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set-up fields of a random access file record
Syntax: Fields FILE#,VAR1[,VAR2...]

The **FIELDS** statement is used to set-up the fields of a random access file record. The numeric expression FILE# is the number of the data channel of a data file previously opened with OPENFILE. The VAR parameters specify a list of variables that can be read from or written to the file. Any string variables in this list must have been initialised to contain a maximum number of characters using the MAXLEN statement.

GET/PUT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: Read/Write a specific record to a random access file.
Syntax: Get/Put FILE#,RECORD

PUT writes a specific record to a random access file. **GET** reads a specific record from a random access file. The following example demonstrates the use of the FIELDS, GET, and PUT statements in the creation of random access files:

```
; *** Random access file example
; *** Filename - Random_Access.bb2
If OpenFile (0,"RAM:TEST")
  ; *** Maximum length of string field
  MaxLen B$=32
  ; *** Define fields
  Fields 0,A,B$
  ; *** Field contents
  A=17
  B$="Blitz Basic"
  Put 0,0
  CloseFile 0
  ; *** Read file
  If OpenFile (0,"RAM:TEST")
    ; *** Define fields
    Fields 0,A,B$
    ; *** Initialise variables (not necessary)
    A=0
    B$=""
    ; *** Grab variables from file
    Get 0,0
    NPrint "A = ",A
    NPrint "B$ = ",B$
    CloseFile 0
    ; *** Wait for a mouse click
    MouseWait
  EndIf
EndIf
End
```

5.5.7 advanced file access

The following commands are primarily of use to the advanced Blitz Basic programmer. If you don't know what you're doing, then hands off!

DOSBUFFLEN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set file buffer
Syntax: DosBuffLen BYTES

The **DOSBUFFLEN** statement controls the Blitz Basic file handling buffer. Initially, each file is allocated a 2048 byte buffer, however this may be decreased if memory is tight.

```
; *** DosBuffLen example- DosBuffLen.bb2
DosBuffLen 2000
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

CATCHDOSERRORS is used to force AmigaDOS I/O errors into opening on a Blitz Basic window, as opposed to the Workbench screen. Try the following example:

CATCHDOSERRORS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: force DOS errors to report on a Blitz window
Syntax: CatchDosErrors

```
; *** CatchDosErrs example
; *** Filename - CatchDosErrs.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,12,320,DispHeight-12,$1008,"Window",1,2
; *** Send errors to window
CatchDosErrs
; *** Try reading file
If ReadFile (0,"DF0:GARBAGE")
Else
  Print "Can't open file"
EndIf
Repeat
Until Waitevent=$200
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

The **READMEM** statement reads a number of bytes, determined by the LENGTH parameter, into an absolute memory location, specified by the ADDRESS parameter, from a file. FILE# is the number of a file already opened with OPENFILE.

READ/WRITEMEM

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: read/write a number of bytes into/from an absolute memory location
Syntax: ReadMem/WriteMem FILE#, ADDRESS,LENGTH

The **WRITEMEM** statement writes a number of bytes, determined by the LENGTH parameter, from an absolute memory location, specified by the ADDRESS parameter, to a file. FILE# is the number of a file already opened with OPENFILE.

end-of-Chapter summary

- Text can be printed onto the screen using PRINT and NPRINT. NPRINT automatically outputs a newline character.
- The text style can be altered using LOADBLITZFONT. LOADBLITZFONT can only be used with eight-by-eight non-proportional fonts.
- The COLOUR statement is used to alter the colour used to render text to BitMaps.
- LOCATE can be used to position the text cursor.
- The CURSOR statement is used to alter the appearance of the text cursor.
- Blitz Basic provides full control over the Amiga keyboard. The keyboard must be correctly enabled to be read in Blitz mode.
- The appearance of the mouse pointer can be changed with POINTER. Blitz Basic also provides full control over standard nine pin joysticks.
- There are two types of file access: sequential and random access. With sequential files the entire file must be loaded into memory in order to access one field. In random access files, however, one record can be read into memory without having to read in the entire file.

Chapter 6 : BitMaps and Slices

This chapter explains how BitMaps and Slices are created and manipulated. It will also show you how to create smooth-scrolling and dual-playfield displays.

6.1 Creating a BitMap

BitMap objects, or BitMaps, are used for the rendering of graphics. Nearly all of the Blitz Basic 2 graphic commands require a BitMap to output onto, with the notable exceptions being the window and sprite commands (more on those later). BitMaps can either be created from scratch by the **BITMAP** statement, or borrowed from a convenient screen using SCREENSBITMAP.

This statement creates and initialises a BitMap (BITMAP#). The WIDTH and HEIGHT parameters specify the dimensions of the BitMap in pixels. The BITPLANES parameter is the number of bitplanes associated with the BitMap. The value you specify (ranging from one to six) determines the number of colours that can be displayed on the BitMap.

BITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: open a new BitMap
Syntax: BitMap BITMAP#,WIDTH, HEIGHT,BITPLANES

Table 6.1 : Number of colours per bitplane

Bitplanes	Colours
1	2
2	4
3	8
4	16
5	32
6	64

Here are some examples:

```
; *** BitMap example- BitMap.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1 ; *** 2 colour BitMap
Slice 0,44,1
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** BitMap example 2- BitMap2.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,640,256,5 ; *** Double-width 32 colour BitMap
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** BitMap example 3 - BitMap3.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3 ; *** 8 colour BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Locate 15,10
NPrint "A BitMap"
MouseWait
End
```

6.1.2 manipulating BitMaps

USE BITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set current BitMap
Syntax: Use BitMap BITMAP#

USE BITMAP is used to set a specified BitMap as the current BitMap. For example:

```
; *** Use BitMap example
; *** Filename - Use BitMap.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(6)+1
Next A
BitMap 1,320,256,3
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,3
For A=1 To 10
  Show MAP : MAP=1-MAP: Use BitMap MAP
VWait 30
Next A
End
```

FREE BITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase a BitMap
Syntax: Free BitMap BITMAP#

The **FREE BITMAP** statement closes a BitMap and frees any memory occupied it. For example:

```
; *** Free BitMap example - Free BitMap.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
For A=1 To 100
  Circle Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(10)+2,Rnd(6)+1
Next A
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
VWait 100
Free BitMap 0
End
```

COPYBITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: clone a BitMap
Syntax: CopyBitMap SOURCE,DESTINATION

This statement makes a carbon copy of a BitMap. SOURCE is the number of the BitMap to clone and DESTINATION is the number of the destination BitMap.

```
; *** CopyBitMap example- CopyBitMap.bb2
BitMap 1,320,256,3
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
For A=1 To 100
  Locate Rnd(25)+3,Rnd(25)
  Colour Rnd(6)+1
  Print "Game Over"
VWait
Next A
CopyBitMap 0,1
VWait 20
```

```
Cls 0
VWait 50
Use BitMap 1
Show 1
MouseWait
End
```

Blitz Basic also allows the user to "attach" a BitMap to an Intuition Screen. BitMaps are automatically created when these Screens are opened.

SCREENSBITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: attach a BitMap to an intuition screen
Syntax: ScreensBitMap SCREEN#,BITMAP#

```
; *** ScreensBitMap example- ScreensBitMap.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
Screen 0,3,"Stardom"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
Use Palette 0
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200)+30,Rnd(6)+1
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

This statement allows you to move, or scroll, a rectangular portion of a BitMap. X1 and Y1 are the co-ordinates of the upper left-hand corner of the rectangle and WIDTH and HEIGHT specify its size. The X2 and Y2 parameters are the destination co-ordinates. If the optional BITMAP# parameter is included then the rectangle is taken from this BitMap instead, and copied to the current BitMap. Here's an example:

SCROLL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: move a portion of a BitMap
Syntax: Scroll X1,Y1,WIDTH,HEIGHT, X2,Y2[,BITMAP#]

```
; *** Scroll example- Scroll.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
For A=1 To 50
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(100),Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(5)+1
Next A
Scroll 0,0,320,100,0,140
MouseWait
End
```

The **REMAP** statement can change pixels of one colour on a BitMap to another colour. COLOUR1# specifies the colour to change and COLOUR2# is the number of the new colour. If the optional BITMAP# parameter is included then a BitMap other than the current BitMap may be used.

REMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change pixels of one colour to another colour
Syntax: ReMap COLOUR1#,COLOUR2#[,BITMAP#]

```
; *** ReMap example- ReMap.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,5
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
; *** Plot a boring white starfield
```

```
For COLS=1 To 14
  RGB COLS,15,15,15
Next COLS
For A=0 To 300
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(14)+1
Next A
MouseWait
For B=1 To 14
  ReMap B,B+8
Next B
Repeat : Until Joyb(0)=0
MouseWait
End
```

This statement is used to create a "dummy" BitMap (DESTINATION) from the source BitMap (SOURCE), with only the bitplanes specified by the BITPLANES parameter. This is useful for increasing blitting speed because of the fewer bitplanes involved.

BITPLANESBITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create new BitMap with bitplanes from old BitMap
Syntax: BitPlanesBitMap SOURCE, DESTINATION, BITPLANES

Table 6.2 : The BITPLANES parameter

Bitplane	Flag
1	$01
2	$02
3	$04
4	$08
5	$10
6	$20
7	$40
8	$80

Flags can be combined with the logical (|) operator. The BITPLANESBITMAP statement can also be used to create special effects, such as shadows. Tim Caldwell example:

```
; *** BitPlanesBitMap example- BitPlanesBitMap.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,5
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Create dummy BitMap (bitplane 5)
BitPlanesBitMap 0,1,$10
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
X=80 : Y=48 : W=160 : H=160
Use BitMap 0
; *** Draw BitMap graphics
For COL=0 To 15
  R=QLimit(Red(COL)-5,0,15)
  G=QLimit(Green(COL)-5,0,15)
  B=QLimit(Blue(COL)-5,0,15)
  RGB COL+16,R,G,B
  Boxf X,Y,X+W,Y+H,COL
  X+4 : Y+4 : W-8 : H-8
Next COL
X=120 : Y=88 : W=80 : H=80
; *** Use dummy BitMap
Use BitMap 1
While Joyb(1)=0
  ; *** Use joystick to move shadow
  JX=Joyx(1) : JY=Joyy(1)
  If JX OR JY=True
    Cls
    X=QLimit(X+JX,0,320-W)
```

```
    Y=QLimit(Y+JY,0,256-H)
  EndIf
  ; *** Draw shadow
  Boxf X,Y,X+W,Y+H,1
  VWait
Wend
End
```

6.1.3 loading and saving BitMaps

The **LOADBITMAP** statement loads an IFF picture (such as a DPaint file) into a previously opened BitMap. If the optional PALETTE parameter is included then the picture's palette may be loaded into a palette object.

LOAD/SAVEBITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load/save an IFF screen to disk
Syntax: LoadBitMap/SaveBitmap BITMAP#,"FILENAME" [,PALETTE#]

```
; *** LoadBitMap example - LoadBitMap.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,5
LoadBitMap 0,"FILENAME.IFF",0
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
Use Palette 0
MouseWait
End
```

SAVEBITMAP saves a BitMap to disk as an IFF file. If the optional PALETTE# parameter is included then the picture's palette may be saved to disk as well:

```
; *** SaveBitMap example - SaveBitMap.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,5
; *** Draw a nice random picture
For A=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(10)+5,Rnd(10)+5,Rnd(6)+1
Next A
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
; *** Pop into Amiga mode and save BitMap
QAMIGA
SaveBitMap 0,"df0:Elipse.IFF"
MouseWait
End
```

6.1.4 display synchronisation

The computer display is updated fifty times every second on PAL systems, and sixty times a second on NTSC systems. Here, the display is created by an electron beam which scans across every line of the screen until it reaches the bottom right-hand corner, where it jumps back to the top of the screen again. The period between the completion of one display cycle and the next is known as the "vertical blank period".

Because some Blitz commands work faster than others, it is often useful to wait for the next vertical blank period before executing them, so as to achieve perfect display synchronisation. This is where the VWAIT statement comes in.

VWAIT waits for the next vertical blank period to achieve perfect display synchronisation. The optional FRAMES parameter may be used to specify a particular number of vertical blanks (the default is one).

VWAIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: wait for next vertical blank period
Syntax: VWait [FRAMES]

```
; *** VWait example- VWait.bb2
; *** Pop onto Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Create a Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Create a shape
Boxf 10,10,50,50,5
GetaShape 0,10,10,50,50
Cls
; *** Initialize BBLIT buffer
Buffer 0,16384
; *** Flickery animation
For X=1 To 250
  UnBuffer 0
  BBlit 0,0,X,50
Next X
VWait 50
; *** No flicker!
For X2=1 To 250
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  BBlit 0,0,X2,50
Next X2
MouseWait
End
```

VPOS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the video beam's vertical position
Syntax: v=VPos

VPOS returns the video beam's vertical position. This is primarily of use in high-speed animations where screen update needs to by synchronised to a certain video beam position (not the top of the frame as with VWAIT). However, it can also be used as a high-speed random number generator.

```
; *** VPos example ** Filename - VPos.bb2
; *** Loop 20 times
For A=1 To 20
  ; *** Return video beam position
  RANDOM=VPos
  ; *** Output returned value
  NPrint RANDOM
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

6.2 Defining a Slice

Slices are Blitz mode screens. However, unlike screens, Slices can be used to create dual-playfield displays (more on these later), smooth scrolling, double buffering and more! A Slice description includes information on display mode, palette and sprite and bitplane details. A Slice's x co-ordinate is calculated in a way which causes the Slice to be horizontally centred based on its width. More than one Slice may be set up at a time, allowing different areas of the display to take on different properties:

The SHOW statement is used to display a BitMap in a Slice.

Arranging multiple Slices does have some limits. They must be stacked vertically with a gap of two horizontal lines and cannot overlap or sit side-by-side on the x-axis.

6.2.1 syntax 1

SLICE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a Slice object
Syntax: Slice SLICE#,Y,FLAGS1
Syntax 2: Slice SLICE#, Y, W, H, FLAGS2, D, S, COLS, WIDTH1, WIDTH2

The Slice statement is used to define a Slice object. SLICE# is the number of the Slice to be defined. The Y parameter specifies the vertical location of the top of the Slice, ranging from 44 to the bottom of the current display. In other words, a value of 44 displays the Slice at the very top of a display.

In the first syntax, FLAGS1 refers to the number of bitplanes to be shown in the Slice, from one (a maximum of two colours) to six (a maximum of 64 colours). This syntax automatically creates a low-resolution Slice, however by adding eight to the FLAGS1 parameter this may be changed to a high-resolution Slice.

Table 6.3 : The FLAGS1 parameter

FLAGS1	Resolution	Width	Bitplanes	Colours
1	Low	320	1	2
2	Low	320	2	4
3	Low	320	3	8
4	Low	320	4	16
5	Low	320	5	32
6	Low	320	6	64 (Half-Brite)
9	High	640	1	2
10	High	640	2	4
11	High	640	3	8
12	High	640	4	16

Note that the height of a Slice set up with the first syntax will be 256 pixels on a PAL Amiga, or 200 pixels on an NTSC Amiga. Here are some examples:

```
; *** Slice example ** Filename - Slice1.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,9
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,1 ; *** 2 colour hi-res Slice
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Slice example 2 ** Filename - Slice2.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,5
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,5 ; *** 32 colour low-res Slice
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

6.2.2 syntax 2

W and H specify the width and height (in pixels) of the Slice. D, or DEPTH, is the number of bitplanes to be shown in the Slice. The S parameter specifies the number of available sprite channels. Each Slice can have up to eight sprite channels.

The WIDTH1 and WIDTH2 parameters specify the width, in pixels, of any BitMaps to be shown in the Slice. If a dual-playfield Slice is created then WIDTH1 refers to the width of the foreground BitMap and WIDTH2 refers to the background BitMap. Otherwise, both WIDTH1 and WIDTH2 should be set the same. These parameters allow you to display super-BitMaps (those larger than the physical display). The FLAGS2 parameter is used to customise the Slice to your every requirement.

Table 6.4 : The FLAGS2 parameter

FLAGS2	Slice	Maximum bitplanes
$fff8	Low-resolution	6
$fff9	High-resolution	4
$fffa	Low-resolution, dual-playfield	6
$fffb	High-resolution, dual-playfield	4
$fffc	HAM-mode	6

Here are some examples:

```
; *** Slice example 3 - Slice3.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BLITZ
; *** 8 colour low-res Slice
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,3,8,8,320,320
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Slice example 4 - Slice4.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,1
BLITZ
; *** 2 colour hi-res Slice
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff9,1,8,2,320,320
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
Print "Hello"
MouseWait
End
```

6.2.3 manipulating Slices

USE SLICE is used to set the currently used Slice. This allows you to direct all Slice manipulating commands to the specified Slice number:

USE SLICE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set current Slice
Syntax: Use Slice SLICE#

```
; *** Use Slice example - Use Slice.bb2
Use Slice 1
MouseWait
End
```

FREESLICES

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase all Slices in use
Syntax: FreeSlices

Use the **FREESLICES** command to free all Slices currently in use. For example:

```
; *** FreeSlices example - FreeSlices.bb2
; *** Open a BitMap
BitMap 0,320,256,3
; *** Create some BitMap graphics
For A=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(10)+2,Rnd(6)+1
Next A
; *** Pop into Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Create a slice
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,3,8,8,320,320
; *** Display BitMap graphics in slice
Show 0
```

```
; *** Pause briefly
VWait 100
; *** Remove old slice
FreeSlices
; *** Create another slice
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff9,3,8,8,320,320
; *** Display BitMap graphics in slice
Show 0
VWait 100
; *** Remove old slice (again!)
FreeSlices
MouseWait
End
```

This statement allows advanced control of Slice display modes. The DEFAULT parameter should be set as follows:

SETBPLCON0

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set Slice display mode
Syntax: SetBPLCON0 DEFAULT

Table 6.5 : Display modes

BIT	Mode
1	External sync (for genlock enabling)
2	Interlace mode
3	Enable light pen

Here is an example:

```
; *** SetBPLCON0 example - SetBPLCON0.bb2
; *** Create a BitMap (4 bitplanes)
BitMap 0,640,512,4
; *** Set Interlace mode
SetBPLCON0 4
; *** Pop into Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Open large slice
Slice 0,44,640,256,$fffb,4,8,8,1280,1280
; *** Declare interrupt
SetInt 5
  If Peek($dff004)<0 Show 0,0,0 Else Show 0,0,1
End SetInt
; *** Output BitMap graphics
For A=1 To 400
  Circle Rnd(640),Rnd(512),Rnd(30)+10,Rnd(16)
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

6.2.4 displaying a BitMap in a Slice

The **SHOW** statement is used to display a BitMap in the currently used Slice. If the optional X and Y parameters are included then the BitMap is positioned at these co-ordinates.

SHOW

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: display a BitMap in the current Slice
Syntax: Show BITMAP#[,X,Y]1

```
; *** Show example - Show.bb2
; *** Number of stars to plot
STARS=100
BLITZ
; *** Open a BitMap (2 bitplanes)
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,2
; *** Plot a random starfield
For A=0 To STARS
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight),Rnd(3)+1
```

```
Next A
Slice 0,44,2
; *** Grab BitMap's palette
Use Palette 0
; *** Display BitMap
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

If the BitMap is physically larger than the Slice then the SHOW statement may be used to scroll the BitMap about the display. Here is an example:

```
; *** Land generator - Show2.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open 2-screen wide display
BitMap 0,640,256,2
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,2,8,4,640,640
Show 0
; *** Simple colour graduation
For A=0 To 15
  ColSplit 1,0,A,A,A*17
  ColSplit 3,A,A,A,100+A*17
Next
Cls 1
; *** Draw mountain landscape
Y=200 : LAND=3 : DI=-1
For X=0 To 640
  D=Int(Rnd(LAND))
  If D=1 Then DI=-1
  If D=2 Then DI=1
  Let Y+DI
  If Y<0 Then Y=0
  If Y>256-1 Then Y=255
  Line X,256,X,Y,3
Next X
; *** Scroll landscape
For A=1 To 320
  Show 0,A,0
VWait
Next A
End
```

Do not use SHOW for dual-playfield Slices. Use the following commands instead.

SHOWF/B

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: display a BitMap in the foreground/ background of the current Slice
Syntax: ShowF/ShowB BITMAP#[,X,Y]
Syntax 2: ShowF/ShowB BITMAP#,X,Y, ShowB/ShowF X2

The **SHOWF** statement is used to display a BitMap in the foreground of the currently used dual-playfield Slice. If the optional X and Y parameters are included then the BitMap is positioned at these coordinates. The optional SHOWB X2 parameter (syntax 2) is of use when a Slice has been set up to display a foreground BitMap only. In this case, the x offset of the background BitMap should be specified by the SHOWB parameter.

The **SHOWB** statement is used to display a BitMap in the background of the currently used dual-playfield Slice. If the optional X and Y parameters are included then the BitMap is positioned at these coordinates. The optional SHOWF X2 parameter (syntax 2) is of use when a Slice has been set up to display a background BitMap only. In this case, specify the x offset of the foreground BitMap with the SHOWF parameter:

```
; *** Dual Playfield example - ShowF.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open 2 BitMaps
```

```
BitMap 0,352,256+32,2
BitMap 1,352,256+32,2
; *** Create single Slice to house BitMaps
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fffa,4,8,32,352,352
; *** Display BitMap 0 in background
ShowB 0
; *** Display BitMap 1 in foreground
ShowF 1
RGB 1,0,0,15
RGB 9,15,0,0
Use BitMap 0
; *** Draw foreground graphics
For Y=0 To 256 Step 16
  For X=0 To 352 Step 16
    COL=1-COL
    Boxf X,Y,X+16,Y+16,COL
  Next
Next
Use BitMap 1
; *** Draw background graphics
For Y=0 To 288 Step 16
  For X=0 To 352 Step 16
    COL=1-COL
    Boxf X,Y,X+16,Y+16,COL
  Next
Next
; *** Scroll playfields
While Joyb(0)=0
  VWait
  X=QWrap(X+1,0,32)
  Y=QWrap(Y+1,0,32)
  ShowB 0,X,0,Y
  ShowF 1,0,Y,X
Wend
End
```

SHOWBLITZ redisplays all of the Slices currently opened. This is primarily of use when you have made a trip into Amiga mode and wish to return to Blitz mode without corrupting any Slices.

SHOWBLITZ

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: redisplay all Slices
Syntax: ShowBlitz

The **DISPLAY** statement is used to turn the whole display on or off. If DISPLAY is set to OFF then the display will become a solid block of colour 0.

DISPLAY

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: allows you to turn the display on or off
Syntax: DisplayOn/Off

```
; *** Display example - Display.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
; *** Direct PRINT statements to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
For A=1 To 100
  ; *** Select a random cursor location...
  Locate Rnd(30),Rnd(25)
  ; *** ...And a random colour
  Colour Rnd(6)+1
  Print "Blitz Basic"
Next A
; *** Enter Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Turn off display
DisplayOff
Slice 0,44,3
```

```
Show 0
VWait 100
; *** Turn on display
DisplayOn
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- BitMaps are used for rendering graphics and may be created using the BITMAP statement, or borrowed from a screen using the SCREENSBITMAP statement.
- Blitz Basic also allows you to load and manipulate BitMaps in the form of IFF graphics.
- Slices are Blitz mode screens. However, unlike screens, Slices can be used to create dual-playfield and double-buffered displays.
- BitMaps are displayed in Slices using the SHOW statement. The SHOW statement may also be used to create gigantic scrolling displays.

Table 6.6 : BitMap and Slice commands

Command	Function
BITMAP	Create a BitMap
BITPLANESBITMAP	Create a “Dummy” BitMap
COPYBITMAP	Clone a BitMap
DISPLAY	Turn display on or off
FREE BITMAP	Close a BitMap
FREESLICES	Close all Slices
LOADBITMAP	Load an IFF screen
REMAP	Change BitMap colours
SAVEBITMAP	Save an IFF screen
SCREENSBITMAP	Attach BitMap to Intuition screen
SHOW	Display BitMap in a Slice
SHOWB	Display BitMap in background
SHOWBLITZ	Redisplay all Slices
SHOWF	Display BitMap in foreground
SLICE	Create a Slice
USE BITMAP	Set current BitMap
USE SLICE	Set current Slice

Chapter 7 : Graphics

Blitz Basic 2 is an extended BASIC language. This means that it supports commands not present in languages such as AmigaBasic or HiSoft Basic. As well as a comprehensive array of drawing commands, the Blitz programmer also has Colour Palettes, IFF Animation and Copper Lists at their disposal. Read on...

7.1 2D Drawing

Blitz Basic can generate fabulous low-resolution and high-resolution graphic displays using drawing commands. These graphic displays are made up of small blocks of colour called pixels and all screens are composed of thousands of pixels in varying arrangements. Here's how we manipulate these pixels to produce anything from lines and circles to starfields and megademos.

7.1.1 clearing with colour

This statement is used to fill the currently used BitMap with the colour specified by the COLOUR parameter. If the optional COLOUR parameter is omitted then the BitMap will be cleared with colour (0). A COLOUR parameter of (-1) will cause the entire BitMap to be inverted.

CLS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: clear a BitMap
Syntax: Cls [COLOUR]

```
; *** Cls example- Cls.bb2
; *** Open a screen...
Screen 0,3
; *** ...And grab its BitMap
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Loop until mouse button clicked
While Joyb(0)=0
  ; *** Clear screen a variety of different colours
  Cls Rnd(5)+1
  ; *** Pause briefly
  VWait 10
Wend
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

7.1.2 gunpowder plot

The **PLOT** statement plots a single pixel at coordinates X,Y in colour COLOUR on the currently used BitMap. A COLOUR parameter of (-1) will cause the pixel to be inverted.

PLOT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: plot an individual colour pixel
Syntax: Plot X,Y,COLOUR

```
; *** Plot Starfield- Plot_Example.bb2
; *** Number of stars in starfield
STARS=100
; *** Nice space-type palette (i.e. grey!)
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
PalRGB 0,1,10,10,10
PalRGB 0,2,7,7,7
PalRGB 0,3,3,3,3
; *** Create Blitz mode display
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,2
; *** Plot a random starfield
For A=0 To STARS
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight),Rnd(3)+1
Next A
```

```
Slice 0,44,320,DispHeight,$fff8,2,8,8,320,320
Use Palette 0
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

You can really only make very simple pictures with PLOT. To make more complicated ones you need special equipment such as a graphics tablet. Blitz Basic does not support these devices directly, so any graphics should be created using a paint package, such as Deluxe Paint, saved in IFF format and loaded into Blitz using the LOADBITMAP statement.

7.1.3 a few pointers

Use the **POINT** function to return the colour of a particular pixel on the currently used BitMap. If the chosen coordinates specify a pixel outside the currently defined BitMap then a value of (-1) will be returned.

POINT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the colour of an individual pixel
Syntax: a=Point(X,Y)

```
; *** Point me in the right... - Point_Example.bb2
; *** Define palette
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
PalRGB 0,1,10,0,7
; *** Open a screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Direct PRINT statement to BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
Use Palette 0
; *** Draw 1000 coloured boxes
For A=1 To 1000
  X1=Rnd(310)
  X2=X1+10
  Y1=Rnd(DispHeight-20)+15
  Y2=Y1+10
  Boxf X1,Y1,X2,Y2,Rnd(5)
Next A
Locate 0,2
; *** Select random pixel to test
B=Point(Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight))
Print B
MouseWait
End
```

7.1.4 it's a fine line

The **LINE** statement draws a line connecting two pixels on the currently used BitMap. The first syntax uses two sets of graphic coordinates to join, followed by the colour of the line. A COLOUR parameter of (-1) will cause the line to be inverted. For example:

LINE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a line
Syntax: Line X1,Y1,X2,Y2,COLOUR
Syntax 2: Line X2,Y2,COLOUR

```
; *** Line Example - Line.bb2
; *** Open a screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitmap 0,0
; *** Draw a simple straight line
Line 10,10,50,10,1
MouseWait
End
```

If the optional X1 and Y1 parameters are omitted, as in the second syntax, then the current

position of the graphics cursor will be used as the starting co-ordinates:

```
; *** More Lines - Line2.bb2
; *** Open a screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitmap 0,0
; *** Draw 50 lines at random co-ordinates
For A=1 To 50
  Line Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight),Rnd(7)+1
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

7.1.5 boxing clever

BOX/F

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a rectangular outline
Syntax: Box/Boxf X1,Y1,X2,Y2,COLOUR

Rectangular outlines can be drawn on the currently used BitMap with the **BOX** statement. X1 and Y1 are the coordinates of the top left-hand corner of the rectangle and X2 and Y2 are the coordinates of the bottom right-hand corner. COLOUR is the colour of the outline; a COLOUR parameter of (-1) will cause the rectangle to be inverted. For example:

```
; *** Boxing ring - Box.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,5
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,5,8,32,320,320
Show 0
; *** Alter palette
RGB 1,0,0,15
; *** Vertical boxes
For Y=0 To 256 Step 16
  ; *** Horizontal boxes
  For X=0 To 320 Step 16
    ; *** Toggle square colour
    COL=1-COL
    ; *** Draw square
    Box X,Y,X+15,Y+15,COL
  Next X
Next Y
MouseWait
End
```

BOXF is identical to the BOX statement above except it is used to draw solid rectangular shapes, as opposed to outlines. X1 and Y1 are the coordinates of the top left-hand corner of the rectangle and X2 and Y2 are the coordinates of the bottom right-hand corner. COLOUR is the colour of the outline; a COLOUR parameter of (-1) will cause the rectangle to be inverted. Simple but effective screen wipes can be created with BOXF.

```
; *** Screen wipe- Wipe.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open 2 BitMaps for double-buffering
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,3
Cls 7
BitMap 1,320,DispHeight,3
Cls 7
; *** Define display Slice
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,3,8,8,320,320
Show 0
; *** Starting co-ordinates for box
X1=160
X2=160
```

```
Y1=DispHeight/2
Y2=DispHeight/2
Repeat
  ; *** Draw rectangle
  Boxf X1,Y1,X2,Y2,0
  ; *** Decrease box size
  Let X1-1
  Let X2+1
  Let Y1+1
  Let Y2-1
  ; *** Wait for Vertical Blank
  VWait
  ; *** Double-buffering routine
  Show MAP : MAP=1-MAP : Use BitMap MAP
; *** Until co-ordinates meet
Until X1=0
End
```

7.1.6 circle circus

CIRCLE/F

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a circular or elliptical outline
Syntax: Circle/Circlef X,Y,RADIUS,COLOUR
Syntax 2: Circle/Circlef X,Y,RADIUS,YRADIUS,COLOUR

Drawing circles and ellipses is very simple with Blitz Basic. Set the position of the centre of the circle using X and Y, followed by the radius of the circle. If the optional YRADIUS parameter is included then an ellipse may be drawn instead. COLOUR is the colour of the outline; a COLOUR parameter of (-1) will cause the circle to be inverted. The following example generates a dual playfield circle effect, reminiscent of the "Spaceballs: State Of The Art" megademo:

```
; *** Demo circle effect- Silly_Circles.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open 2 BitMaps for double buffering
BitMap 0,640,512,3
BitMap 1,640,512,3
; *** Draw differently sized circles
For A=0 To 400 Step 10
  Circle 320,250,400-A,Rnd(7)+1
Next A
; *** Clone BitMap graphics
CopyBitMap 1,0
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fffa,6,8,16,640,640
Repeat
  VWait
  ; *** Define circular path
  X1=160+Sin(R)*160
  Y1=128+Cos(R)*128
  X2=160-Sin(R)*160
  Y2=128-Cos(R)*128
  ; *** Show foreground graphics
  ShowF 1,X1,Y1,X2
  ; *** Show background graphics
  ShowB 0,X2,Y2,X1
  Let R+0.05
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

CIRCLEF works the same as **CIRCLE** except that it draws solid circles, as opposed to outlines. If the optional YRADIUS parameter is included then an ellipse may be drawn instead. COLOUR is the colour of the outline; a COLOUR parameter of (-1) will cause the circle to be inverted. For example:

```
; *** Solid Circles
; *** Filename - Circlef.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,5
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
; *** Draw 100 random circles and ellipses
For A=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(10)+5,Rnd(15)+2,Rnd(30)+1
Next A
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

7.1.7 polygon power

POLY

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw multiple line
Syntax: Poly POINTS,COORDS.w,COLOUR

The **POLY** statement is another BitMap-based command which is used to draw multiple line objects. The COORDS.w parameter contains the co-ordinates of each point to join up, from either an array or NewType of words. In this way, complex outlines can be created using a single statement. COLOUR is the colour of the polygon.

```
; *** Hyperspace
; *** Filename - Poly.bb2
NEWTYPE .HYP
  ; *** Define polygon co-ordinates
  XOFF.w
  YOFF
  X1
  Y1
End NEWTYPE
BLITZ
; *** Open 2 BitMaps for double buffering
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,3
BitMap 1,320,DispHeight,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Mouse On
While Joyb(0)=0
  Cls
  ; *** Wait for Vertical Blank
  VWait
  ; *** Set polygon co-ordinates
  A.HYP\XOFF=Rnd(320),Rnd(256),MouseX,MouseY
  ; *** Draw polygon
  Poly 2,A,Rnd(7)+1
  ; *** Double-buffering routine
  Show MAP : MAP=1-MAP : Use BitMap MAP
Wend
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

POLYF

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a solid polygon
Syntax: Polyf POINTS,COORDS.w,COLOUR [,COLOUR2]

POLYF is used to draw polygons and is the filled equivalent of POLY. The COORDS.w parameter contains the co-ordinates of each point to join up, from either an array or NewType of words.

The optional COLOUR2 parameter, if included, will be used if the co-ordinates are listed in anti-clockwise order. If COLOUR2 is equal to (-1) then the polygon will not be drawn if

the vertices are listed in anti-clockwise order. This is useful when designing three-dimensional objects to create depth. Here's an example:

```
; *** Polygon triangles- Polyf.bb2
NEWTYPE .TRIG
  ; *** Define polygon co-ordinates
  XOFF.w
  YOFF
  X1
  Y1
  X2
  Y2
End NEWTYPE
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Repeat until mouse click
While Joyb(0)=0
  VWait
  ; *** Set polygon co-ordinates
  A.TRIG\XOFF=Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(320),Rnd(256)
  ; *** Draw polygon
  Polyf 3,A,Rnd(7)+1
Wend
End
```

7.1.8 fill her up!

The FLOODFILL statement will fill any part of the screen with a solid block of colour, starting at coordinates X,Y. If the optional BORDER parameter is included then the filled region will be surrounded by a border of that colour:

FLOODFILL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: fill a screen region with colour
Syntax: FloodFill X,Y,COLOUR[,BORDER]

```
; *** Filling station - FloodFill.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Fill screen ten times
For A=1 To 10
  FloodFill 1,1,A
Next A
End
```

```
; *** FloodFill example 2 - FloodFill2.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Box 1,1,319,199,1
Repeat
  ; *** Generate random colour
  COL=Int(Rnd(5)+2)
  ; *** Fill rectangle
  FloodFill 50,50,COL,1
  Locate 15,27
  ; *** Print current colour
  Colour COL
```

```
  NPrint "Colour ",COL
Until Joyb(0)>0
MouseWait
End
```

Blitz Basic uses a single monochrome BitMap the size of the BitMap being used to calculate its filled routines. **FREEFILL** will free any memory that Blitz uses to execute the commands BOXF, CIRCLEF and FLOODFILL. Only use FREEFILL if you don't need access to any of these commands.

FREEFILL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: free 2D fill drawing memory
Syntax: FreeFill

```
; *** FreeFill example- FreeFill.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open Blitz mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Fill screen ten times
For A=1 To 10
  FloodFill 1,1,A
Next A
; *** No more access to drawing commands!
FreeFill
; *** Illegal access!
For A=1 To 10
  FloodFill 1,1,A
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

7.2 Palettes

Palette objects, or palettes, are temporary storage areas of colour information. This information can be taken either from an IFF (Interchangeable File Format) file or created from scratch. If colour information is created by the user then it will not affect the current screen colours until the USE PALETTE statement has been executed.

7.2.1 loading a palette object

LOADPALETTE loads a palette object from disk. The "FILENAME" parameter specifies the name of an IFF file (such as a DPaint picture) containing colour information. If the file contains colour cycling information, then this will also be loaded into the palette object. LOADPALETTE will not affect currently displayed colours until USE PALETTE is executed. For example:

LOADPALETTE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load a palette object
Syntax: LoadPalette PALETTE#,"FILENAME" [,OFFSET]

```
; *** LoadPalette example - LoadPalette.bb2
Screen 0,5,"Loading screen and palette"
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Load IFF screen from disk
LoadScreen 0,F$
; *** Load IFF screen's palette
LoadPalette 0,F$
; *** Add screen's palette to display
Use Palette 0
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

7.2.2 controlling palette objects

This statement sets the specified palette object as the current palette object. **USE PALETTE** is used to add the colours contained within a colour palette to the current display. Here is an example:

USE PALETTE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set current palette object
Syntax: Use Palette PALETTE#

```
; *** Use Palette example- Use Palette.bb2
For A=1 To 10
  ; *** Create custom palette
  PalRGB 0,A,Rnd(7),Rnd(7),Rnd(7)
Next A
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3,"Colour screen"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Draw some BitMap graphics in default colours
For B=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(200)+30,Rnd(10)+5,Rnd(15)+3,Rnd(6)+1
Next B
Locate 0,2
NPrint "Before Use Palette"
; *** Display custom palette
VWait 100
Use Palette 0
Locate 0,2
NPrint "After Use Palette "
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

SHOWPALETTE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: display current palette object
Syntax: ShowPalette PALETTE#

The **SHOWPALETTE** statement displays a palette object in the current screen or Slice. SHOWPALETTE must be executed after a palette object has been defined, otherwise it will not be visible.

```
; *** ShowPalette example - ShowPalette.bb2
; *** Define a random palette
For A=0 To 10
  PalRGB 0,A,Rnd(9),Rnd(9),Rnd(9)
Next A
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3,"ShowPalette"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Add palette to display
ShowPalette 0
; *** Plot a random starfield
For B=0 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200)+20,Rnd(8)+1
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

NEWPALETTEMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set output of Use Palette
Syntax: NewPaletteMode On/Off

NEWPALETTEMODE is used to enhance compatibility with older Blitz Basic 2 programs.

If NEWPALETTEMODE is set to (Off) then USE PALETTE will perform identically to SHOWPALETTE, and if it is set to (On) then USE PALETTE will perform as normal. This is because the USE PALETTE statement has been replaced by the SHOWPALETTE statement.

FREE PALETTE erases the contents of the palette object specified by PALETTE#. It does not affect the current display colours.

FREE PALETTE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase a palette object
Syntax: Free Palette PALETTE#

```
; *** Free Palette example- Free_Palette.bb2
;*** Define a random palette
For A=0 To 10
  PalRGB 0,A,Rnd(9),Rnd(9),Rnd(9)
Next A
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3,"ShowPalette"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Add palette to display
ShowPalette 0
; *** Plot a random starfield
For B=0 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200)+20,Rnd(8)+1
Next B
; *** Remove palette
Free Palette 0
Cls 0
; *** Plot another random starfield
For B=0 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200)+20,Rnd(8)+1
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

7.2.3 manipulating palettes

The PALRGB statement allows you to set an individual colour register within a palette object. Values for REGISTER are taken from the Amiga's standard 32 colour registers. The colour change will not become evident until the USE PALETTE statement is used. Try the following example:

```
; *** PalRGB example
; *** Filename - PalRGB.bb2
; *** Define random colour palette
PalRGB 0,0,Rnd(7),Rnd(7),Rnd(7)
PalRGB 0,1,Rnd(15),Rnd(15),Rnd(15)
PalRGB 0,2,0,0,0
; *** Open screen (3 bitplanes)
Screen 0,3,"Colour screen"
; *** Add colour palette to display
Use Palette 0
MouseWait
End
```

Use **RGB** to set an individual colour register in a palette to an RGB colour value. REGISTER values are standard 32 colour registers. RGB does not affect palette objects. For example:

RGB

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set a colour register to an RGB colour value
Syntax: RGB REGISTER,RED,GREEN,BLUE

```
; *** RGB example- RGB.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Change colour register 0, 15 times
For A=1 To 15
```

```
  RGB 0,Rnd(15),Rnd(15),Rnd(15)
  VWait 20
Next A
End
```

RED/GREEN/BLUE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the amount of RGB red/green/blue in a colour register
Syntax: r=Red(REGISTER) b=Blue(REGISTER) g=Green(REGISTER)

The **RED**, **GREEN** and **BLUE** statements return the amount of their respected colour in a specified colour register. The returned values range from zero to 15. Values for REGISTER are taken from the Amiga's standard 32 colour registers.

```
; *** Red example- Red.bb2
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Set red to 8
RGB 0,8,0,0
Locate 0,3
; *** Returns "8"
NPrint "Red = ",Red(0)
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Green example- Green.bb2
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Set green to 10
RGB 0,0,10,0
Locate 0,3
; *** Returns "10"
NPrint "Green = ",Green(0)
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

```
; *** Blue example
; *** Filename - Blue.bb2
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Set blue to 14
RGB 0,0,0,14
Locate 0,3
; *** Returns "14"
NPrint "Blue = ",Blue(0)
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

7.3 Fades

The Blitz Basic fade commands can be used to create impressive screen wipes and transitions. Here's a brief overview...

7.3.1 fading into and out of reality

FADEIN/OUT

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: fade in/out a colour palette
Syntax: FadeIn/ FadeOut PALETTE#[,RATE][,LOW,HIGH]

The **FADEIN** statement is used to fade in the palette of the current Slice from black, to the RGB values in PALETTE#. The optional RATE parameter allows you to control the speed of the fade (0 is the fastest fade). The optional LOW and HIGH parameters allow you to control which palette registers are affected by the fade. All palette registers between the values of LOW and HIGH will fade in.

FADEOUT is used to fade out the palette of the current Slice from the RGB values in PALETTE#, to black. The optional RATE parameter allows you to control the speed of the fade (0 is the fastest fade). The optional LOW and HIGH parameters allow you to control which palette registers are affected by the fade. All palette registers between the values of LOW and HIGH will fade out. Try the following example:

```
; *** Fading Example - Fade.bb2
SPEED=2
BitMap 0,320,256,4
; *** Load IFF file to fade in
LoadBitMap 0,"FILENAME.IFF",0
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,4
; *** Set all colours to black
For A=0 To 15
  RGB A,0,0,0
Next A
Show 0
; *** Fade in image
VWait 100
FadeIn 0,SPEED
; *** Fade out image
VWait 100
FadeOut 0,SPEED
VWait 100
End
```

7.3.2 manual fading

If Blitz Basic's automatic fading isn't to your satisfaction then why not try the manual fading commands. These allow you much more control over the speed of the fade and enable you to synchronise screen fading with program execution.

ASYNCFADE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: control palette fading
Syntax: ASyncFade On/Off

ASYNCFADE controls how the above fade commands operate. Normally, FADEIN and FADEOUT will halt program execution, fade, and then continue program execution (ASYNCFADE OFF - the default mode). ASYNCFADE ON switches this auto-fade off and DOFADE must be executed to perform the next step of the fade.

DOFADE

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: execute the next step of a fade
Syntax: DoFade

The **DOFADE** statement executes the next step of a fade. It must be called after one of the above fade commands.

FADESTATUS

Mode(s): Blitz
Function: return number of remaining fade steps
Syntax: f=FadeStatus

FADESTATUS may be used in conjunction with the DOFADE statement to determine whether or not there are any more

fade steps to execute. If a fade has finished then (0) is returned, and if there are fade steps left then (-1) is returned. Here is a complete manual fade example:

```
; *** Manual fading - DoFade.bb2
SPEED=2
BitMap 0,320,256,4
LoadBitMap 0,"FILENAME.IFF",0
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,4
; *** Set all colours to black
For A=0 To 15
  RGB A,0,0,0
Next A
; *** Turn manual fading on
ASyncFade On
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
FadeIn 0,1
; *** Fade in picture
Repeat
  DoFade
  Let B+1
  Locate 0,0
  Print "Fade step ",B
  VWait 20
Until FadeStatus=0
End
```

7.4 Colour cycling

If you are familiar with the Deluxe Paint series of programs then you will probably already know about the simplest form of colour cycling. This type makes each of the colours in the colour palette change places, or cycle.

SETCYCLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: define colour cycling for a specified palette
Syntax: SetCycle PALETTE#,CYCLE#,LOW,HIGH[,SPEED]

The **SETCYCLE** statement is used to define colour cycling information for the CYCLE statement. PALETTE# is the number of the palette to cycle. You may define a maximum of seven different colour cycles for a single palette, each determined by a unique CYCLE# number. All palette registers between the values of LOW and HIGH will cycle. The optional SPEED parameter specifies the speed of the cycle, either (-1) or (1); a negative value will cycle the colours in reverse. For example:

```
; *** SetCycle example - SetCycle.bb2
Screen 0,5
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
LoadScreen 0,F$
LoadPalette 0,F$
; *** Add colour palette to display
Use Palette 0
; *** Cycle backwards
SetCycle 0,0,1,10,-1
Cycle 0
MouseWait
End
```

CYCLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: execute defined colour cycling
Syntax: Cycle PALETTE#

CYCLE is used to execute the colour cycling information defined with SETCYCLE. PALETTE# is the number of the palette to cycle. Here is an example:

```
; *** A nice day for a Cycle- Cycle.bb2
Screen 0,5
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Load IFF file and colour information
LoadScreen 0,F$
LoadPalette 0,F$
; *** Add colour palette to display
Use Palette 0
; *** Cycle palette
Cycle 0
MouseWait
End
```

The **STOPCYCLE** statement stops all colour cycling in its tracks. For example:

STOPCYCLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: stop defined colour cycling
Syntax: StopCycle

```
; *** StopCycle example- StopCycle.bb2
Screen 0,5
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Load IFF screen and colour information
LoadScreen 0,F$
LoadPalette 0,F$
; *** Add colour palette to display
Use Palette 0
; *** Cycle colour palette
Cycle 0
MouseWait
; *** Stop colour palette cycling
StopCycle
VWait 100
End
```

7.5 Copper Lists

The Amiga's co-processor, or Copper, is used to generate subtly coloured "rainbow" backgrounds, and to create special display effects. Because the Copper works in parallel it can execute instructions at the same time as the main processor.

7.5.1 copper load of this

If you've ever marvelled at the colourful "rainbows" that seem to be part of every platform game or demo, and wondered how to create them in Blitz Basic then look no further.

The **COLSPLIT** statement is used to change the palette colour registers at a position relative to the top of the current Slice. As will be explained in the next chapter, the Amiga's hardware provides 32 colour registers. However, only colour registers zero through 15 can be affected by COLSPLIT. In practice, this colour can be assigned a different value for each horizontal scan line, to create really smooth colour graduations.

COLSPLIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: control palette colour registers
Syntax: ColSplit REGISTER,RED,GREEN,BLUE,Y

RED, GREEN and BLUE are the RGB components of the colour register, and the Y parameter specifies a vertical offset from the top of the Slice. Here are some examples:

```
; *** Simple copper - planet mars - ColSplit1.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display (1 bitplane)
BitMap 0,320,260,1
```

```
Slice 0,44,320,260,$fff8,1,8,2,320,320
Show 0
; *** Define colour registers 1 through 11
For A=1 To 11
  ColSplit 0,A,0,A,A*20
Next
; *** Define colour register 0
ColSplit 0,0,0,0,260
MouseWait
End
```

The second example gives a useful demonstration of how the copper instructions can be used to generate “rainbow text”. This is where a copper list is placed behind a text string to create multi-colour text. To produce rainbow text, the text must be generated using the same colour register as is affected by COLSPLIT (the copper list must also be placed at the same y co-ordinate as the text!):

```
; *** ColSplit example 2- ColSplit2.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display (1 bitplane)
BitMap 0,320,256,1
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,1,8,2,320,320
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
For A=0 To 7
  ColSplit 0,A,A,A,A
Next A
; *** Generate upper rainbow
For B=8 To 15
  ColSplit 0,15-B,15-B,15-B,B
Next B
For C=0 To 7
  ColSplit 0,C,C,C,55+C
Next C
; *** Generate lower rainbow
For D=8 To 15
  ColSplit 0,15-D,15-D,15-D,55+D
Next D
For E=0 To 7
  ColSplit 1,E,0,E,20+E*3
Next E
; *** Text message to display between rainbows
Locate 1,4
Print "Cool copper bars Blitz Basic 2 style!"
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

7.5.2 custom copper lists

If the COLSPLIT statement is not enough for your needs then why not take a look at the other Copper-based statement, CUSTOMCOP. This allows the advanced Blitz Basic programmer to introduce custom copper instructions.

CUSTOMCOP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create custom copper lists
Syntax: CustomCop SOURCE$,Y

The **CUSTOMCOP** statement is used to execute custom copper instructions at a specified position from the top of the display. SOURCE$ is a string of characters equivalent to a series of copper instructions. The Y parameter is the y offset of the copper list. Custom copper lists are not for the faint hearted!

```
; *** CustomCop example - CustomCop.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Some hardware trickery
#BPLMOD1=$108
#BPLMOD2=$10A
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BitMap 0,640,256,3
Slice 0,44,320,256,$FFF8,3,8,32,640,640
Show 0
; *** Create mountain landscape
RGB 2,9,0,0
Y=100 : LAND=3 : DI=-1
For X=0 To 640
  D=Int(Rnd(LAND))
  If D=1 Then DI=-1
  If D=2 Then DI=1
  Let Y+DI
  If Y<0 Then Y=0
  If Y>356-1 Then Y=355
  Line X,356,X,Y,2
Next X
; *** Mirror mountain
ColSplit 2,0,0,8,150
CO$=Mki$(#BPLMOD1)+Mki$(-122)
CO$+Mki$(#BPLMOD2)+Mki$(-122)
CustomCop CO$,150+44
; *** Scroll display
For X=0 To 320
  VWait
Show 0,X,0
Next X
End
```

7.5.3 copper list functions

COPLOC

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the memory address of Blitz mode copper list
Syntax: c=CopLoc

The following functions are used to obtain information about the Blitz mode copper list. Blitz Basic merges all Slices and copper lists into a single copper list. The COPLOC function returns the Blitz mode copper list memory address:

```
; *** CopLoc example - CopLoc.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BitMap 0,320,260,1
Slice 0,44,320,260,$fff8,1,8,2,320,320
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Create a simple copper list
For A=1 To 10
  ColSplit 1,A,A,A,A*2
Next
; *** Output address of copper list
Locate 0,1
NPrint CopLoc
MouseWait
End
```

COPLEN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the length of Blitz mode copper list
Syntax: c=CopLen

Blitz Basic merges all Slices and copper lists into a single copper list. COPLEN returns the length, in bytes, of the Blitz mode copper list. Try the following example:

```
; *** CopLen example- CopLen.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open BLITZ mode display
BitMap 0,320,260,1
Slice 0,44,320,260,$fff8,1,8,2,320,320
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Output length, in bytes, of copper list
NPrint CopLen," bytes before rainbow."
VWait 100
Cls
; *** Create simple copper list
For A=1 To 11
  ColSplit 0,0,A,A,A*20
Next
ColSplit 0,0,0,0,260
; *** Output new length of copper list
Locate 0,0
NPrint CopLen," bytes after rainbow."
MouseWait
End
```

7.6 IFF Animation

Blitz Basic can also display full-screen IFF animations, such as those created with the suberb Deluxe Paint IV program. Remember that, the larger the animation, and the more colours involved, the more memory intensive the animation will be! Animations with fewer colours do tend to run faster when displayed using Blitz Basic animation commands. Here's how...

7.6.1 animated antics

LOADANIM

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load an IFF animation into memory
Syntax: LoadAnim ANIM#,"FILENAME"[,PALETTE#]

The **LOADANIM** statement is used to load an IFF animation into memory. In order to create the correct screen size and resolution for the animation you may use the ILBMINFO statement. The optional PALETTE# parameter can be used to load the animation's colour palette into memory.

```
; *** Loading Animations- LoadAnim.bb2
F$="FILENAME.ANIM"
; *** Analyse animation
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Open screen to animation dimensions
Screen 0,0,0,ILBMWidth,ILBMHeight,ILBMDepth,ILBMViewMode,"",1,2
; *** Grab screen's BitMap
ScreensBitmap 0,0
Bitmap 1,ILBMWidth,ILBMHeight,ILBMDepth
; *** Load animation
LoadAnim 0,F$,0
Use Palette 0
MouseWait
End
```

INITANIM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: initialise animation
Syntax: InitAnim ANIM#[,BITMAP#]

INITANIM renders the first frame of the animation onto the current BitMap and, if the optional BITMAP# parameter is included, renders the second frame onto the specified BitMap. This is for creating flicker-free double-buffered animations. For example:

```
; *** InitAnim example - InitAnim.bb2
F$="FILENAME.ANIM"
; *** Analyse animation
```

```
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Open screen to animation dimensions
Screen 0,0,0,ILBMWidth,ILBMHeight,ILBMDepth,ILBMViewMode,"",1,2
; *** Grab screen's BitMap
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMap 1,ILBMWidth,ILBMHeight,ILBMDepth
; *** Load animation
LoadAnim 0,F$,0
Use Palette 0
; *** Render 1st and 2nd frames of animation
InitAnim 0,0
MouseWait
End
```

Rendering of frames to the current BitMap is achieved through the use of the **NEXTFRAME** statement. If the last frame of the animation has been rendered NEXTFRAME will automatically loop back to the beginning of the animation.

NEXTFRAME

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw next animation frame
Syntax: NextFrame ANIM#

```
; *** NextFrame example - NextFrame.bb2
; *** Repeat until mouse click
While Joyb(0)=0
  ; *** Double buffering routine
  ShowBitMap DB
  VWait SPEED
  DB=1-DB
  Use BitMap DB
  ; *** Loop back to beginning of animation
  NextFrame 0
Wend
End
```

The **FRAMES** function simply returns the number of frames in a specified animation. This is useful if, for example, you want to stop an animation before it loops. For example (load an animation into memory prior to the following code):

FRAMES

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the number of frames in an animation
Syntax: f=Frames(ANIMATION)

```
; *** Frames example - Frames.bb2
F=Frames(0)
A=1
; *** Repeat until last frame is reached
While A<=F
  ; *** Double buffering routine
  ShowBitmap DB
  VWait
  DB=1-DB
  Use Bitmap DB
  ; *** Next frame of animation
  NextFrame 0
  Let A+1
Wend
End
```

7.6.2 a full example

The following example is a general-purpose animation viewer. It uses the double-buffering technique explained above to create perfect, flicker-free animations. Remember to insert your own filename into F$. Example:

```
; *** Displaying an animation - Animation_example.bb2
F$="FILENAME.ANIM"
SPEED=1 ; *** Frame delay
; *** Analyse animation
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Open screen to animation dimensions
Screen 0,0,0,ILBMWidth,ILBMHeight,ILBMDepth,ILBMViewMode,"",1,2
; *** Grab screen's BitMap
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMap 1,ILBMWidth,ILBMHeight,ILBMDepth
; *** Load animation
LoadAnim 0,F$,0
Use Palette 0
; *** Initialise animation
InitAnim 0,0
While Joyb(0)=0
  ; *** Double buffering routine
  ShowBitMap DB
  VWait SPEED
  DB=1-DB
  Use BitMap DB
  ; *** Next frame of animation
  NextFrame 0
Wend
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

Pixels are the thousands of tiny elements which make up the Amiga's display. Single pixels are plotted using the PLOT statement. Pixel colours are read using the POINT statement.

Table 7.1 : 2D drawing commands

Shape	Command
Square	BOX/BOXF
Rectangle	BOX/BOXF
Circle	CIRCLE/CIRCLEF
Ellipse	CIRCLE/CIRCLEF
Polygon	POLY/POLYF

- Palettes are temporary storage areas of colour information. This information can be taken either from an IFF (Interchangeable File Format) file or created from scratch using PALRGB or RGB.
- The COLSPLIT statement is used manipulate the Copper chip in order to create colour rainbows. Custom copper lists can be created with the CUSTOMCOP statement. The Copper can be programmed to mirror text, stretch graphics and clone images. For a full example of custom copper lists please consult Appendix 2.
- Blitz Basic can display and manipulate standard Deluxe Paint animations. Remember that, the larger the animation, and the more colours involved, the more memory intensive the animation will be! Animations with fewer colours do tend to run faster when displayed in Blitz.

Chapter 8 : Sprites and Shapes

This chapter covers the manipulation of sprites and shape objects in Blitz Basic 2. It will also show you the finer points of collision detection. Here goes...

8.1 Sprites

What is a sprite? Well, it's an object which can move across the screen - a monster or car - independently of other objects or the background. Sprites are initialised by either loading them from disk, or by converting a shape object into a sprite object using the GETASPRITE statement.

Sprites are handled entirely by the Amiga's hardware so they do not interfere or corrupt BitMap graphics in any way. Basically this means that sprites do not have to be erased manually when they are moved. However, there are some limitations that must be observed when using sprites:

- Sprites are only available in Blitz mode
- Sprites must be of either three or 15 colours (two/four bitplanes)

The resolution of all sprites corresponds to the lowest screen resolution (i.e. 320*200 or 320*256 pixels). Sprite co-ordinates are also always given in the lowest resolution (320*200 or 320*256).

Slices can display a maximum of eight sprites. This is because sprites are displayed by the Amiga's eight sprite channels, numbered (0) through (7). If you are displaying a three-colour sprite, you may specify any of the eight sprite channels (0 through 7). However, if you are displaying a 15-colour sprite, you may only specify an even-numbered sprite channel (e.g. 0,2,4 or 6). Because 15-colour sprites require two sprite channels, they also need to use the associated odd-numbered sprite channel. For example, displaying a 15-colour sprite through sprite channel (2) will make sprite channel (3) unavailable.

The Amiga's hardware limits individual sprites to a maximum width of 16 low-resolution pixels. All sprites are therefore 16 pixels wide and have selectable height. However, Blitz Basic allows you to display sprites of greater width by splitting a shape up into groups of sixteen pixels. This means that a sprite may take up more than one sprite channel. The number of sprite channels needed can be worked out using the following formulae:

```
For 3-colour sprites use :    CHANNELS=(WIDTH/16)
For 15-colour sprites use :   CHANNELS=(WIDTH/16) * 2
```

For example, a 32 pixel wide 3-colour sprite displayed through sprite channel (2) will actually be converted to two 16 pixel wide sprites displayed through channels (2) and (3) - (32 pixels wide/16 = two sprite channels).

Similarly, a 48 pixel wide 15-colour sprite displayed through sprite channel (0) will take up sprite channels (0) through (5) - ((48 pixels wide/16) * 2 = six sprite channels!).

All sprite colours are taken from the Amiga's standard 32 colour registers, but the number of registers needed depend on the number of colours and the sprite channels involved.

Fifteen-colour sprites take their RGB values from colour registers 17 through 31. These are initially taken from the current Slice palette, but can be altered using the RGB statement. This means that, to display a 15-colour sprite on a 32 colour Slice, you would create your background or palette in 32-colour mode, and draw your sprites using colour numbers 17 to 31 only. When you come to display your sprites they will be drawn the correct colour.

Three-colour sprites, however, take on RGB values depending upon the sprite channels being used to display them. Each pair of three-colour sprite channels (0/1,2/3,4/5 and 6/7) use the

same colour registers for definition of sprite colours. The following table shows the colour register assignment:

Table 8.1 : Sprite colour registers

Sprite	channel	Transparent Colour registers
0,	1	16 17-19
2,	3	20 21-23
4,	5	24 25-27
6,	7	28 29-31

Note that for each pair of sprites there is one register that is transparent, and three colour registers. So, to display a three-colour sprite on a 32 colour Slice, you would draw your sprites using colour numbers 17 to 19 only.

8.1.1 loading sprites from disk

LOAD/SAVESPRITES

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load/save a range of sprites from disk
Syntax: LoadSprites/ SaveSprites FIRST[,LAST], "FILENAME"

The **LOADSPRITES** statement is used to load a range of sprites into memory from disk. The FIRST parameter is the number of the first sprite to load from a previously created sprite bank, and the optional LAST parameter specifies the number of the last sprite to load.

```
; *** LoadSprites example - LoadSprites.bb2
LoadSprites 0,"SPRITES"
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
ShowSprite 0,150,100,0
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

8.1.2 saving sprites to disk

SAVESPRITES saves a range of sprites to disk from memory. The FIRST parameter is the number of the first sprite to save from a sprite bank held in memory, and the LAST parameter specifies the number of the last sprite to save.

```
; *** SaveSprites example - SaveSprites.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,4
Boxf 0,0,20,20,3
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
SaveSprites 0,0,"RAM:SPRITE"
Cls
Free Sprite 0
LoadSprites 0,"RAM:SPRITE"
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
ShowSprite 0,150,100,0
MouseWait
End
```

8.1.3 sprite commands

This statement puts a hardware sprite on the screen, whose resolution corresponds to the current screen resolution. The X and Y parameters specify the coordinates of the sprite

(in low-resolution pixels only). The Amiga hardware sprites can be controlled using channel numbers 0-7.

SHOWSPRITE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: display a Sprite on the screen
Syntax: ShowSprite SPRITE#,X,Y,CHANNEL

```
; *** ShowSprite example - ShowSprite.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,4
Circle 10,10,9,3
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
For X=0 To 320
  VWait
  ShowSprite 0,X,20,0
Next X
End
```

The **GETASPRITE** statement converts a shape object to a sprite object. SHAPE# is the number of a previously initialised shape object to convert and SPRITE# is the number of the destination sprite object. For example:

GETASPRITE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: convert shape object to a sprite object
Syntax: GetaSprite SPRITE#,SHAPE#

```
; *** GetaSprite example - GetaSprite.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,2
Boxf 0,0,63,63,2
GetaShape 0,0,0,32,32
GetaSprite 0,0
Free Shape 0
Cls
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,2
Show 0
For A=0 To 3
  RGB A*4+17,15,15,0
  RGB A*4+18,15,8,0
  RGB A*4+19,15,4,0
Next A
For X=0 To 320
  VWait
  ShowSprite 0,X,20,0
Next X
End
```

One of the great features of hardware sprites is that they may be displayed in front of or behind any BitMap graphics. The **INFRONT** statement is used to convert sprite display to in front/behind BitMaps. CHANNEL must be an even number of value 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8. Sprites displayed using sprite channels greater than or equal to CHANNEL will appear behind any BitMap graphics, whilst those less than CHANNEL will appear in front:

INFRONT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: convert sprite display to in front/ behind a BitMap
Syntax: InFront CHANNEL

```
; *** Using InFront- InFront.bb2
; *** ... Create sprite here
InFront 4
; *** ... Insert display routines
MouseWait
End
```

In the above example (pseudo code only), sprites 4, 5, 6 and 7 will appear behind and sprites 0, 1, 2 and 3 will appear in front. Here is a full example:

```
; *** InFront example- InFront2.bb2
PalRGB 0,1,15,0,15
BitMap 0,320,256,2
Boxf 0,0,63,63,1
GetaShape 0,0,0,64,64
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 10,10
For WORDS=1 To 50
  Locate Rnd(30)+5,Rnd(20)+3
  Print "Hello"
Next WORDS
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,2
Show 0
Use Palette 0
For A=0 To 3
  RGB A*4+17,15,15,0
  RGB A*4+18,15,8,0
  RGB A*4+19,15,4,0
Next A
InFront 4
For X=0 To 320
  VWait
  ShowSprite 0,X,20,0
  ShowSprite 0,X,120,4
Next X
End
```

Note that you should only use the INFRONT statement with single-playfield Slices. If you want to create some dual-playfield Slice magic then use the following two commands.

INFRONTF/B

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: dual playfield version of InFront (foreground/background)
Syntax: InFrontF/ InFrontB CHANNEL

INFRONTF is used with dual-playfield Slices to control sprite/playfield priority with respect to the foreground playfield. CHANNEL must be an even number of value 0,2,4,6 or 8. Sprites displayed using sprite channels greater than or equal to CHANNEL will appear behind any BitMap graphics, whilst those less than CHANNEL will appear in front.

INFRONTB is used with dual-playfield Slices to control sprite/playfield priority with respect to the background playfield. CHANNEL must be an even number of value 0,2,4,6 or 8. Sprites displayed using sprite channels greater than or equal to CHANNEL will appear behind any BitMap graphics, whilst those less than CHANNEL will appear in front:

```
; *** InFrontF/InFrontB example- InFrontB.bb2
BitMap 1,320,256,2
Boxf 80,50,240,150,3
BitMap 0,320,256,2
Boxf 0,0,63,63,1
GetaShape 0,0,0,32,32
GetaSprite 0,0
Free Shape 0
Cls
Circlef 160,100,90,3
Circlef 160,100,50,0
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff2,4,8,32,320,320
ShowF 0
```

```
ShowB 0,10,0
For A=0 To 3
  RGB A*4+17,15,15,0
  RGB A*4+18,15,8,0
  RGB A*4+19,15,4,0
Next A
InFrontF 4
InFrontF 2
InFrontB 4
For X=0 To 320
  VWait
  ShowSprite 0,X,20,0
  ShowSprite 0,X,80,2
  ShowSprite 0,X,140,4
Next X
End
```

8.2 Shapes

The Amiga range of computers have access to a graphic shifter called the Blitter chip. Blitter Objects, or "Bobs" for short, are images which can be displayed on screen with lightning speed, but must be displayed and updated by the user to avoid graphic corruption. For reasons know only to Acid Software, Blitz Basic refers to these Bobs as shapes, or shape objects. These shape objects may be used in a variety of different ways, such as gadgets, menu items or game graphics.

Many commands are available for the purpose of drawing shapes onto a BitMap. These commands use the Amiga's blitter chip to achieve this, and are therefore very fast. The process of putting a shape onto a BitMap using the blitter is often referred to as "blitting" a shape.

The blitting speed of a shape is affected by its size and the blitting technique (in Blitz Basic there are three main blitting techniques). Obviously, larger shapes take longer to "blit" than smaller ones. Also, shapes with more colours take longer to blit.

The technique used to draw a shape also affects its speed. The fastest blitting command is the BLIT statement, however this provides no way of erasing the shape to allow for movement. QBLIT allows for movement, but it does corrupt BitMap graphics in the process. The most used blitting command, BBLIT, is also the slowest, as it allows for movement and doesn't corrupt any BitMap graphics.

8.2.1 loading and saving shapes

This statement loads an IFF file (such as a DPaint picture) into a shape object. The optional PALETTE# parameter is used to load the colour information contained in the file into a palette object.

LOAD/SAVESHAPE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: save/load an IFF file into a shape object
Syntax: SaveShape/LoadShape SHAPE#,"FILENAME" [,PALETTE#]

```
; *** LoadShape example- LoadShape.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
LoadShape 0,"A SHAPE.IFF",0
Use Palette 0
Blit 0,30,30
MouseWait
End
```

SAVESHAPE saves the information contained in a shape object into an IFF file. The optional PALETTE# parameter allows you to save the shape's colour information as well. For example:

```
; *** SaveShape example- SaveShape.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,5
Slice 0,44,5
```

```
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
For A=1 To 50
  Locate Rnd(30),Rnd(20)
  Colour Rnd(30)+1,Rnd(30)+1
  NPrint "Totally flipped!"
Next A
GetaShape 0,0,0,320,200
QAMIGA
SaveShape 0,"RAM:SHAPE.IFF"
Cls
LoadShape 0,"RAM:SHAPE.IFF"
Blit 0,0,0
MouseWait
End
```

LOAD/SAVESHAPES

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: save/load a range of shapes from disk
Syntax: SaveShapes/LoadShapes FIRST,[,LAST],"FILENAME"

The **LOADSHAPES** statement is used to load a range of shapes into memory from disk. The FIRST parameter specifies the number of the first shape object to be loaded. If the optional LAST parameter is included then only the shapes up to and including this value will be loaded:

```
; *** LoadShapes example- LoadShapes.bb2
LoadShapes 0,"SHAPES"
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,5
Slice 0,44,5
Show 0
Use Palette 0
; *** Blit first shape in range
Blit 0,0,0
MouseWait
End
```

SAVESHAPES is used to save a range of shapes to disk. The FIRST parameter specifies the number of the first shape object to be saved, and the LAST parameter specifies the number of the last shape object to be saved. Here's an example:

```
; *** SaveShapes example - SaveShapes.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,10,10,2
GetaShape 0,0,0,10,10
Boxf 0,0,10,10,3
GetaShape 1,0,0,10,10
QAMIGA
SaveShapes 0,2,"RAM:SHAPES"
Cls
LoadShapes 0,"RAM:SHAPES"
Blit 0,140,100
Blit 1,160,100
MouseWait
End
```

8.2.2 grabbing shapes

Grabbing chunks of BitMaps is a speciality of Blitz Basic. The **GETASHAPE** statement copies a rectangular area of the currently used BitMap into the shape object specified by

GETASHAPE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: grab a BitMap image into a shape object
Syntax: GetaShape SHAPE#,X,Y,WIDTH,HEIGHT

SHAPE#. The X and Y parameters are the coordinates of the top left of the box and the WIDTH and HEIGHT parameters specify the size of the area in pixels.

```
; *** GetaShape example - GetaShape.bb2
Screen 0,3,"My Blobs"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
Circlef 100,100,10,5
GetaShape 0,80,80,120,120
For A=1 To 10
  Blit 0,Rnd(100)+10,Rnd(100)+30
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

8.2.3 manipulating shapes

The **COPYSHAPE** statement copies one shape object (SOURCE) into another shape object (DESTINATION). This is a quick and simple way of creating "carbon copies" of shapes.

COPYSHAPE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: copy one shape object to another shape object
Syntax: CopyShape SOURCE,DESTINATION

```
; *** CopyShape example- CopyShape.bb2
PalRGB 0,1,15,15,15
Screen 0,3,"Hello"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
GetaShape 0,0,0,50,10
For A=1 To 4
  CopyShape 0,A
  Blit A,50,50+(A*20)
Next A
Use Palette 0
MouseWait
End
```

The **HANDLE** statement sets the reference point of the shape object, SHAPE#. The handle offset (X,Y) is measured in pixels from the top left-hand corner of the shape. For example:

HANDLE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set reference point for all shape coordinate calculations
Syntax: Handle SHAPE#,X,Y

```
; *** Handle example- Handle.bb2
Screen 0,3,"My Blobs"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
Circle 100,100,10,6
GetaShape 0,80,80,120,120
Cls
NPrint "Default handle"
Blit 0,50,50
Locate 0,6
NPrint "User handle"
Handle 0,40,40
Blit 0,50,50
MouseWait
End
```

For those who don't fancy getting their hands dirty, Blitz Basic provides an automatic method of centring these reference points.

MIDHANDLE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set reference point to shape's centre
Syntax: MidHandle SHAPE#

```
; *** MidHandle example- MidHandle.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
Circle 100,100,10,6
GetaShape 0,80,80,120,120
Cls
NPrint "Using Midhandle"
MidHandle 0
Blit 0,70,60
VWait 100
Cls
Locate 0,0
NPrint "Manual handle"
Handle 0,ShapeWidth(0)/2,ShapeHeight(0)/2
Blit 0,70,60
MouseWait
End
```

8.2.4 shape functions

SHAPEWIDTH returns the width of a shape object in pixels. **SHAPEHEIGHT** returns the height of a shape object in pixels.

SHAPEWIDTH/HEIGHT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the width of a shape object
Syntax: w=ShapeWidth/ShapeHeigh SHAPE#

```
; *** Shape dimensions example- ShapeHeight.bb2
VWait 20
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
For A=0 To 10
Boxf 10,10,200,200,Rnd(6)+1
  GetaShape A,10,10,Rnd(100)+60,Rnd(100)+70
Next A
Cls
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
For B=0 To 10
  Blit B,10,50
  W=ShapeWidth(B)
  H=ShapeHeight(B)
  Locate 0,0
  NPrint "Shape  : ",B
  NPrint "Width  : ",W," pixels"
  NPrint "Height : ",H," pixels"
  VWait 50
  Cls
Next B
End
```

8.2.5 automatic shape flipping

The characters in most commercial computer games are composed of hundreds of individual, different direction, frames of animation. Naturally, the more frames you have, the greater the disk space needed to store the objects, and the greater the amount of memory needed to display the objects. Instead of storing separate objects in the shape bank for reversed images, you can use Blitz 2's automatic shape flipping commands.

X/YFLIP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: flip a shape horizontally
Syntax: YFlip/ XFlip SHAPE#

This statement reverses a shape object horizontally about the y-axis, thus creating a mirror image. **XFLIP** replaces the old shape object with this mirror image. To avoid this happening, use the COPYSHAPE statement to

"clone" a shape and perform all shape manipulation commands on this instead. Try the following example:

```
; *** XFlip example - XFlip.bb2
PalRGB 0,1,15,15,15
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 1,1
NPrint "Totally flipped!"
Box 7,5,134,17,1
GetaShape 0,7,5,134,17
Cls
CopyShape 0,1
XFlip 1
Slice 0,44,1
Use Palette 0
Show 0
Blit 0,10,10
Blit 1,4,25
MouseWait
End
```

Use **YFLIP** To mirror a shape object about the x-axis (i.e. vertically)

```
; *** YFlip example
; *** Filename - YFlip.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,5
BitMapOutput 0
For A=1 To 50
  Locate Rnd(30),Rnd(20)
  Colour Rnd(30)+1,Rnd(30)+1
  NPrint "Totally flipped!"
Next A
GetaShape 0,0,0,320,100
Cls
CopyShape 0,1
YFlip 1
Slice 0,44,5
Use Palette 0
Show 0
Blit 0,0,0
Blit 1,0,105
MouseWait
End
```

8.2.6 shape scaling and rotation

If you are familiar with the Super Nintendo console then you will be aware of its special graphics mode: Mode 7. Mode 7 uses the SNES hardware to bend, rotate, twist and scale graphics to create totally new images - and in real time too! Whilst Blitz Basic is no match for the Super Nintendo's custom hardware, it can be used to create some wonderful special effects, such as scaling and rotation.

Blitz Basic allows direct manipulation of a shape's size, although unfortunately not in real time. The **SCALE** statement is used to stretch and shrink shape objects beyond recognition!

The X RATIO and Y RATIO parameters control the ratio of the enlargement/reduction. They are fully independent of each other and as such, different scaling can be applied to each axis:

SCALE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: scale a shape object
Syntax: Scale SHAPE#,X_RATIO,Y_RATIO[,PALETTE#]

Table 8.2 : SCALE ratios

RATIO	Effect
<1	Reduction in size
=1	No reduction/enlargement
>1	Enlargement in size

The optional PALETTE# parameter is used to specify a palette object for use in the scaling operation. If a palette is supplied then a shape may be shrunk without experiencing a loss in detail. Try the following example, which uses the SCALE statement to magnify a text string. The routine takes a little while to generate the text, so do be patient!:

```
; *** Shape Scaling - Scale.bb2
PalRGB 0,1,15,15,15
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,1
Use Palette 0
Show 0
Locate 1,1
NPrint "Magnified text!!"
GetaShape 0,7,5,134,17
Cls
CopyShape 0,1
Scale 0,2,2
Blit 1,10,10
Blit 0,4,100
MouseWait
End
```

ROTATE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: rotate a shape object
Syntax: Rotate SHAPE#,ANGLE_RATIO

The **ROTATE** statement is used to rotate a shape object. The ANGLE_RATIO parameter specifies the size of clockwise rotation to be applied, in the range 0-1:

Table 8.3 : ROTATE angle ratios

ANGLE_	RATIO	Size of rotation
0.00	0	degrees
0.25	90	degrees
0.50	180	degrees
0.75	270	degrees
1.00	360	degrees

Here is an example:

```
; *** Shape Rotation- Rotate.bb2
PalRGB 0,1,15,15,15
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 1,1
NPrint "Rotated, I'm sure"
Box 7,5,144,17,1
GetaShape 0,7,5,144,17
Cls
For A=1 To 4
  CopyShape 0,A
  Rotate A,A/10
  Blit A,50+(A*20),50
```

```
Next A
Slice 0,44,1
Use Palette 0
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

8.2.7 cookiecuts

When shape objects are used by any of the blitting commands they usually require the presence of a "cookiecut". These cookiecuts do not affect the appearance or qualities of a shape object, but they do consume Chip memory.

When a shape is created using the LOADSHAPE or GETASHAPE commands, a cookiecut is automatically created for it. This may be turned off using the **AUTOCOOKIE OFF** statement and is primarily of use for shapes used as gadgets or in menus.

AUTOCOOKIE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: toggle cookiecut mode
Syntax: AutoCookie On/Off

```
; *** AutoCookie example - AutoCookie.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
For A=7 To 1 Step -1
  Circlef 16,32,A*2,A
Next
GetaShape 0,0,16,32,32
SaveShape 0,"RAM:SHAPE"
Cls
AutoCookie Off
LoadShape 0,"RAM:SHAPE"
ShapeGadget 0,148,50,0,1,0
TextGadget 0,140,180,0,2," Quit "
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=2
End
```

MAKECOOKIE is used to create a cookiecut for a shape object. Here's an example:

MAKECOOKIE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a cookiecut for a shape
Syntax: MakeCookie SHAPE#

```
; *** MakeCookie example- MakeCookie.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
For A=7 To 1 Step -1
  Circlef 16,32,A*2,A
Next
GetaShape 0,0,16,32,32
SaveShape 0,"RAM:SHAPE"
Cls
AutoCookie Off
LoadShape 0,"RAM:SHAPE"
; *** Try removing the next line
MakeCookie 0
For B=1 To 100
  Blit 0,Rnd(260)+30,Rnd(150)+30
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

8.3 Blitting

The following section covers all of the commands that are used to draw shapes on to BitMaps using the Amiga's Blitter chip. As has been explained, there are three main blitting techniques: BLIT, QBLIT and BBLIT.

BLIT is the simplest blitting technique. It is primarily of use when displaying static images as it has no provision for the movement of shapes.
QBLIT does allow for movement, however it does corrupt any background graphics present. It is useful for animating shapes on blank backgrounds or on dual-playfield displays (where the shapes are displayed on one playfield and the background is held on another).

The great thing about BBLIT is that you don't have to worry about shapes corrupting your background graphics. Because the background is held in a special storage buffer, Blitz automatically redraws the background BitMap every time the shapes are moved.

8.3.1 a simple blit

BLIT/CLIPBLIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a shape object on a BitMap
Syntax: Blit/ClipBlit SHAPE#,X,Y[,EXCESS]

The **BLIT** statement is the simplest of the blitting commands. It is used to draw a shape object (SHAPE#) on the currently used BitMap at the co-ordinates specified by the X and Y parameters. If the optional EXCESS parameter is included then any excess bitplanes may be set on or off. This is primarily of use when a shape object has fewer bitplanes than the BitMap on which it is displayed. EXCESS allows you to specify an on/off value for the excess bitplanes (i.e. the bitplanes beyond those altered by the shape):

Table 8.4 : The EXCESS parameter

Bit	On/Off value for...
0	First bitplane
1	Second bitplane
2	Third bitplane
3	Fourth bitplane
4	Fifth bitplane

The BLITMODE statement may be used to alter the output of the BLIT statement.

```
; *** Blit example - Blit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,640,256,3
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,3,8,8,640,640
Show 0
For A=1 To 15
  ColSplit 1,A,A,A,99+A
Next A
RGB 0,0,0,0
RGB 1,15,15,15
Boxf 20,20,40,40,1
GetaShape 0,20,20,40,40
Cls 0
For X=0 To 320
  VWait
  Blit 0,X,100
Next X
MouseWait
End
```

CLIPBLIT works identically to the BLIT statement, except it will clip the shape object to the inside of the currently used BitMap. For example:

```
; *** ClipBlit example
; *** Filename - ClipBlit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
RGB 0,0,0,0
RGB 1,15,0,15
Boxf 20,20,40,40,1
GetaShape 0,20,20,40,40
Cls 0
; *** If you replace this line with
; *** a normal blit command then
; *** Blitz will generate a "Coords
; *** outside of BitMap" error
ClipBlit 0,310,100
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

BLOCK

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a shape object on a BitMap
Syntax: Block SHAPE#,X,Y

This is a slightly faster version of the BLIT statement. However, **BLOCK** should only be used with shapes that are 16,32,48,64 etc. pixels wide and that are blitted to an x co-ordinate of 0,16,32,48,64 etc. (i.e. divisible by 16). The height and y co-ordinate of the shape are not limited by the BLOCK statement.

```
; *** Block example- Block.bb2
Dim MAP(10,5)
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
For A=0 To 7
  Boxf 9+A,9+A,26-A,26-A,A
Next A
GetaShape 0,10,10,26,26
Cls
Restore DAT
For Y=1 To 5
  For X=1 To 10
    Read MAP(X,Y)
    If MAP(X,Y)=1
      Block 0,X*16,Y*16
    End If
  Next X
Next Y
MouseWait
End

DAT:
Data 1,0,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,0
Data 1,0,0,1,0,0,0,1,0,0
Data 1,1,1,1,0,0,0,1,0,0
Data 1,0,0,1,0,0,0,1,0,0
Data 1,0,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,0
```

8.3.2 blit modes

BLITMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change Blit mode
Syntax: BlitMode BLTCON0

The **BLITMODE** statement is used to alter the output of the BLIT statement when drawing shape objects onto BitMaps:

Table 8.5 : Blit modes

BLTCON0	Description
CookieMode	Shape drawn normally (default mode)
EraseMode	Shape erases destination BitMap
InvMode	Shape inversed on destination BitMap
SolidMode	Shape drawn as a solid area of one colour

COOKIEMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: change Blit mode to default
Syntax: BlitMode CookieMode

ERASEMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: change Blit mode to erase mode
Syntax: BlitMode EraseMode

INVMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: change Blit mode to inverse mode
Syntax: BlitMode InvMode

SOLIDMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: change Blit mode to one-colour mode
Syntax: BlitMode SolidMode

The **COOKIEMODE** function returns a value which may be used by one of the commands involved in blitting modes. Using COOKIEMODE as a blitting mode will cause a shape to be blitted normally onto a BitMap. The **ERASEMODE** function returns a value which may be used by one of the commands involved in blitting modes. Using ERASEMODE as a blitting mode will cause a shape to erase a section of a BitMap corresponding to the outline of the shape.

INVMODE returns a value which may be used by one of the commands involved in blitting modes. Using INVMODE as a blitting mode will cause a shape to invert a section of a BitMap corresponding to the outline of the shape.

SOLIDMODE returns a value which may be used by one of the commands involved in blitting modes. Using SOLIDMODE as a blitting mode will cause a shape to overwrite a section of a BitMap corresponding to the outline of the shape. Here is a full example which demonstrates the various blitting modes:

```
; *** BlitMode example- BlitMode.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
RGB 0,0,0,0
RGB 1,15,0,15
Circlef 32,32,28,5
Box 15,10,49,54,6
GetaShape 0,0,0,64,64
Boxf 0,0,250,130,4
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Default mode
BlitMode CookieMode
Blit 0,0,0
; *** Erase mode
BlitMode EraseMode
Blit 0,160,0
; *** Inverse mode
BlitMode InvMode
Blit 0,0,100
; *** Solid mode
BlitMode SolidMode
Blit 0,160,100
MouseWait;
End;
```

8.3.3 queue blits

The correct procedure for creating a Queue blit is as follows:

1. Define a queue using QUEUE
2. Blit the shapes using QBLIT
3. Erase the shapes using UNQUEUE

The **QUEUE** statement defines a queue object for use with the **QBLIT** and **UNQUEUE** statements The ITEMS parameter specifies the maximum number of shapes the queue is capable of remembering.

QBLIT is used to draw a shape onto the currently used BitMap. It also stores the size and co-ordinates of the shape (consult the BLIT statement for parameter information).

The **UNQUEUE** statement is used to erase all remembered shapes in a queue. If the optional BITMAP# parameter is included then items may be erased by way of replacement from another BitMap. Here's an example:

QUEUE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a queue object
Syntax: Queue QUEUE#,ITEMS

QBLIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a shape object on a BitMap
Syntax: QBlit QUEUE#,SHAPE#,X,Y[,EXCESS]

UNQUEUE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase all previously QBlitted items
Syntax: Unqueue QUEUE#[,BITMAP#]

```
; *** QBlit example - QBlit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Boxf 10,10,20,20,6
GetaShape 0,10,10,20,20
Cls 0
; *** Define a queue for 10 shapes
Queue 0,10
For X=32 To 300
  VWait
  ; *** Erase shapes
  UnQueue 0
  ; *** Draw shapes
  For Y=1 To 10
    QBlit 0,0,X,10+Y*16
  Next Y
Next X
MouseWait
End
```

FLUSHQUEUE is used to erase a queue object, causing the next UNQUEUE statement to have no effect.

The **QBLITMODE** statement is used to alter the output of the QBLIT statement, when drawing shape objects onto BitMaps. It works identically to the BLITMODE statement:

FLUSHQUEUE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase a queue
Syntax: FlushQueue QUEUE#

QBLITMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change QBlit mode
Syntax: QBlitMode BLTCON0

Table 8.6 : QBlit modes

BLTCON0	Description
CookieMode	Shape drawn normally (default mode)
EraseMode	Shape erases destination BitMap
InvMode	Shape inversed on destination BitMap
SolidMode	Shape drawn as a solid area of one colour

8.3.4 buffer blits

The correct procedure for creating a Buffer blit is as follows:

1. Define a storage buffer using BUFFER
2. Blit the shapes using BBLIT
3. Erase the shapes using UNBUFFER

BUFFER

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a buffer object
Syntax: Buffer BUFFER#,LENGTH

BBLIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a shape object on a BitMap
Syntax: BBlit BUFFER#,SHAPE#,X,Y[,EXCESS]

UNBUFFER

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase all previously BBlitted items
Syntax: UnBuffer BUFFER#

The **BUFFER** statement is used to create a buffer object. Buffers differ from queues in their ability to preserve background graphics. The LENGTH parameter specifies the memory, in bytes, to be used as temporary storage for the preservation of background graphics. The value of this parameter varies depending upon the size and maximum number of shapes to blit. A LENGTH of 16384 bytes (the default) should be enough, but this may be increased if you get "Buffer Overflow" error messages.

BBLIT is used to draw a shape onto the currently used BitMap, and preserve the overwritten area into a previously initialised buffer (consult the BLIT statement for parameter information). **UNBUFFER** simply replaces areas on a BitMap overwritten by the BBLIT statement.

```
; *** BBlit example- BBlit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Boxf 10,10,20,20,7
GetaShape 0,10,10,20,20
Cls 0
For A=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(30)+10,Rnd(5)+1
Next A
; *** Create storage buffer
Buffer 0,16384
For X=32 To 300
  VWait
  ; *** Restore background
  UnBuffer 0
  For Y=1 To 10
    ; *** Draw shapes
    BBlit 0,0,X,10+Y*16
  Next Y
Next X
MouseWait
End
```

FLUSHBUFFER erases a buffer, causing the next UNBUFFER statement to have no effect.

The **BBLITMODE** statement is used to alter the output of the BBLIT statement, when drawing shape objects onto BitMaps. It works identically to the BLITMODE statement:

FLUSHBUFFER
Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: erase a buffer
Syntax: FlushBuffer BUFFER#

BBLITMODE
Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change BBlit mode
Syntax: BBlitMode BLTCON0

Table 8.7 : BBlit modes

BLTCON0	Description
CookieMode	Shape drawn normally (default mode)
EraseMode	Shape erases destination BitMap
InvMode	Shape inversed on destination BitMap
SolidMode	Shape drawn as a solid area of one colour

For example:

```
; *** BBlitMode example- BBlitMode.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Boxf 10,10,20,20,7
GetaShape 0,10,10,20,20
Cls 0
For A=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(30)+10,Rnd(5)+1
Next A
BBlitMode InvMode
Buffer 0,16384
For X=32 To 300
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  For Y=1 To 10
    BBlit 0,0,X,10+Y*16
  Next Y
Next X
MouseWait
End
```

8.3.5 stencil blits

The blitting technique which we haven't covered so far is the stencil blit. Stencils allow you to move shapes between background and foreground graphics to produce an illusion of depth. Here is the correct procedure:

1. Draw a BitMap comprised of both foreground and background graphics.
2. Create a stencil with only the foreground graphics on it, using either STENCIL or SBLIT.
3. BBLIT the shapes.
4. Display the foreground graphics on top of the shapes using SHOWSTENCIL.

STENCIL
Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a stencil object
Syntax: Stencil STENCIL#,BITMAP#

SHOWSTENCIL
Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: show stencil on a BitMap
Syntax: ShowStencil BUFFER#,STENCIL#

The **STENCIL** statement creates a stencil object containing the contents of a BitMap. **SHOWSTENCIL** is used to display the stencil object on a BitMap.

```
; *** Stencil example - Stencil.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Circlef 30,30,30,2
GetaShape 0,0,0,61,60
Cls
; *** Draw mountain background
Y=200 : LAND=3 : DI=-1
For X=0 To 320
  D=Int(Rnd(LAND))
  If D=1 Then DI=-1
  If D=2 Then DI=1
  Let Y+DI
  If Y<0 Then Y=0
  If Y>256-1 Then Y=255
  Line X,256,X,Y-10,4
Next X
; *** Store mountain in memory
Stencil 0,0
Buffer 0,16384
For X=20 To 250
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  ; *** Show shape
  BBlit 0,0,X,150
  ; *** Replace mountain on top
  ShowStencil 0,0
Next X
MouseWait
End
```

SBLIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a shape object on a BitMap and update stencil
Syntax: SBlit STENCIL#,SHAPE#,X,Y[,EXCESS]

SBLIT works identically to the BLIT statement and also updates the specified stencil. This is a way to render foreground graphics to a BitMap.

```
; *** SBlit example- SBlit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,20,20,6
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
Boxf 0,0,20,20,7
GetaShape 1,0,0,20,20
Cls
; *** Set stencil
Stencil 0,0
For A=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(20)+5,Rnd(4)+1
Next A
; *** Update stencil and add shapes
For B=1 To 50
  SBlit 0,1,Rnd(280)+20,Rnd(180)+20
Next B
Buffer 0,16384
For X=20 To 300
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  ; *** Show shapes
```

```
   BBlit 0,0,X,50
   BBlit 0,0,X,100
   BBlit 0,0,X,150
   ; *** Replace stencil
   ShowStencil 0,0
Next X
MouseWait
End
```

The SBLITMODE statement is used to alter the output of the SBLIT statement, when drawing shape objects onto BitMaps. It works identically to the BLITMODE statement:

SBLITMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change SBlit mode
Syntax: SBlitMode BLTCON0

Table 8.8 : SBlit modes

BLTCON0	Description
CookieMode	Shape drawn normally (default mode)
EraseMode	Shape erases destination BitMap
InvMode	Shape inversed on destination BitMap
SolidMode	Shape drawn as a solid area of one colour

8.4 Detecting Collisions

Virtually every computer game ever created uses collision detection to some extent. If the aliens didn't explode, or the cars didn't crash then there would be little point in playing. The secret of good collision detection lies with its accuracy: if the collision detection is too accurate then the player will die unnecessarily, and if the detection is too lenient then the player will always win. Striking the right balance between the two is easy with Blitz Basic and its comprehensive command set. This entire section is devoted to the finer points of collision detection.

8.4.1 colours and sprites

SETCOLL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set collision detection to between a screen colour and sprite
Syntax: c=SetColl COLOUR,BITPLANES[,PLAYFIELD]

This statement sets sprite/BitMap collisions to between sprites and individual screen colours.

SETCOLL allows you to specify a single colour (the COLOUR parameter) which, when present in a BitMap, and in contact with a sprite, will cause a collision. The BITPLANES parameter specifies the number of bitplanes in the currently used BitMap (since SETCOLL involves sprites, this figure should be either 2 or 4). SETCOLL does not detect the actual collisions; it is used in conjunction with the PCOLL statement to control the finer points of collision detection.

The optional PLAYFIELD parameter should be included when dual-playfield Slices are being used. If PLAYFIELD is set to (1), then COLOUR refers to a colour on the foreground BitMap, and a PLAYFIELD value of (0) refers to a colour on the background BitMap. Try the following example, in which a collision occurs when the sprite collides with colour 15:

```
; *** SetColl example - SetColl.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Boxf 0,0,7,7,3
GetaShape 0,0,0,8,8
GetaSprite 0,0
Free Shape 0
Cls
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
```

```
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(14)+1
Next A
Boxf 80,100,250,200,15
SetColl 15,4
X=50: Y=50
X1=4 : Y1=4
Repeat
  VWait
  DoColl
  Locate 0,0
  If PColl(0)
    Print "Collision"
  Else
    Print "         "
  EndIf
  ShowSprite 0,X,Y,1
  Let X+X1 : Let Y+Y1
  If X<=10 OR X>=300 Then X1=-X1
  If Y<=20 OR Y>=200 Then Y1=-Y1
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

SETCOLLODD

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set collision detection between odd screen colours and sprites
Syntax: SetCollOdd BITPLANES

The **SETCOLLODD** statement sets sprite/BitMap collisions to between sprites and the odd colours of the colour palette (e.g.. 1,3,5,7,9 etc.). The BITPLANES parameter should be set to the number of bitplanes in the current BitMap (either 2 or 4).

```
; *** SetCollOdd example- SetCollOdd.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,20,20,1
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
; *** Set odd colours to white
For COLS=1 To 16 Step 2
  RGB COLS,15,15,15
Next COLS
For A=1 To 30
  X=Rnd(320)
  Y=Rnd(200)
  Boxf X,Y,X+20,Y+20,Rnd(15)
Next A
; *** Set collision type
SetCollOdd
Mouse On
Pointer 0,0
Repeat
  VWait
  DoColl
  Locate 0,0
  ; *** Detect if white square touched
  If PColl(0)
    Print "Collision"
  Else
    Print "         "
  EndIf
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

This statement sets sprite/BitMap collisions to between sprites and the upper-half of the colour palette:

SETCOLLHI

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set collision detection to between upper palette and sprites
Syntax: SetCollHi BITPLANES

Table 8.9 : The upper-half of a colour palette

Bitplanes	Colours	Upper-half
2	4	3+
4	16	8+

The BITPLANES parameter should be set to the number of bitplanes in the current BitMap. For example:

```
; *** SetCollHi example- SetCollHi.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,20,20,1
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
For A=1 To 8
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(9)+7
Next A
SetCollHi 4
Mouse On
Pointer 0,0
Repeat
  VWait
  DoColl
  Locate 0,0
  If PColl(0)
    Print "Collision"
  Else
    Print "         "
  EndIf
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

8.4.2 executing collision detection

The **DOCOLL** statement executes sprite/BitMap collision detection and must be called before each PCOLL and SCOLL statement. Before DOCOLL can be used in conjunction with PCOLL, the type of BitMap collisions to be detected must have been specified using either SETCOLL, SETCOLLODD or SETCOLLHI.

DOCOLL

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: execute collision detection
Syntax: DoColl

Table 8.10 : The detection methods which need DoColl

Detection method	DoColl?
PCOLL	Y
SCOLL	Y
SHAPESHIT	N
BLITCOLL	N
SHAPESPRITEHIT	N
SPRITESHIT	N
RECTSHIT	N

```
; *** DoColl example- DoColl.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,20,20,13
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
For A=1 To 20
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(7)+9
Next A
SetCollHi 4
For X=10 To 300
  VWait
  ShowSprite 0,X,100,0
  DoColl
  Locate 0,0
  If PColl(0)
    Print "Collision"
  Else
    Print "         "
  EndIf
Next X
End
```

8.4.3 collision checking

PCOLL checks for collisions between a sprite and any BitMap graphics. If a collision has occurred then (-1) is returned, otherwise (0) is returned. PCOLL must follow a DCOLL statement.

PCOLL

Mode(s): Blitz
Function: check for collision between a particular sprite and screen colour
Syntax: p=PColl(SPRITE#)

8.4.4 sprite collisions

The **SCOLL** function returns the collision status between two sprites (SPRITE1# and SPRITE2#). If the sprites have collided then (-1) is returned, otherwise (0) is returned. SCOLL must follow a DCOLL statement.

SCOLL

Mode(s): Blitz
Function: check for collision between 2 sprites
Syntax: s=SColl(SPRITE1#,SPRITE2#)

```
; *** SColl example- SColl.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,20,20,13
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(7)+9
Next A
X2=300
For X=10 To 300
  VWait
  DoColl
  ShowSprite 0,X,100,0
  ShowSprite 0,X2,100,4
  Locate 0,0
  If SColl(0,4)
    Print "BOOM!!!"
```

```
  Else
    Print "       "
  EndIf
  Let X2-1
Next X
End
```

8.4.5 shape collisions

SHAPESHIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: check for collision between 2 shapes
Syntax: ShapesHit(SHAPE1#,X1,Y1,SHAPE2#,X2,Y2)

This function returns the collision status of two rectangular shape areas. The X and Y parameters are the coordinates of the shapes to check. If the two shapes overlap then (-1) will be returned, otherwise (0) will be returned.

```
; *** ShapesHit example - ShapesHit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,20,20,1
Boxf 5,5,15,15,2
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
Cls
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(7)+9
Next A
X2=300
Buffer 0,16384
For X=10 To 300
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  BBlit 0,0,X,100,0
  BBlit 0,0,X2,100,4
  Locate 0,0
  If ShapesHit(0,X,100,0,X2,100)
    Print "BOOM!!!"
  Else
    Print "       "
  EndIf
  Let X2-1
Next X
End
```

BLITCOLL

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the collision status of a shape
Syntax: b=BlitColl(SHAPE#,X,Y)

The **BLITCOLL** function provides a fast way of testing the collision status of a shape (SHAPE#). A collision occurs if the shape object touches any pixel on the currently used BitMap that is not of colour zero. If a collision occurs then (-1) is returned, otherwise (0) is returned.

```
; *** BlitColl example- BlitColl.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
For COLS=1 To 8
  Boxf 0+COLS,0+COLS,20-COLS,20-COLS,COLS
Next COLS
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
Cls
```

```
For A=1 To 15
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(7)+9
Next A
Buffer 0,16384
For X=10 To 300
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  Locate 0,0
  If BlitColl(0,X,100)
    Print "Collision detected"
  Else
    Print "                    "
  EndIf
  BBlit 0,0,X,100,0
Next X
End
```

8.4.6 shape and sprite collisions

SHAPESPRITEHIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: check for collision between a shape and a sprite
Syntax: s=ShapeSpriteHit(SHAPE#,X1,Y1,SPRITE#,X2,Y2)

The **SHAPESPRITEHIT** function returns the collision status of a rectangular sprite area and a rectangular shape area. The X and Y parameters are the coordinates of the sprite/shape to check. If the sprite and the shape overlap then (-1) will be returned, otherwise (0) will be returned:

```
; *** ShapeSpriteHit example- ShapeSpriteHit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
For COLS=1 To 8
  Boxf 0+COLS,0+COLS,20-COLS,20-COLS,COLS
Next COLS
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
Buffer 0,16384
X2=300
For X=10 To 300
  VWait
  UnBuffer 0
  Locate 0,0
  If ShapeSpriteHit(0,X,100,0,X2,100)
    Print "Collision detected"
  Else
    Print "                    "
  EndIf
  BBlit 0,0,X,100,0
  ShowSprite 0,X2,100,0
  Let X2-1
Next X
End
```

8.4.7 sprite area collisions

SPRITESHIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: check for collision between 2 rectangular sprite areas
Syntax: s=SpritesHit(SPRITE1#,X1,Y1, SPRITE2#,X2,Y2)

This function returns the collision status of two rectangular sprite areas. The X and Y parameters are the coordinates of the sprites to check. If the two sprites overlap then (-1) will be returned, otherwise (0) will be returned.

```
; *** SpritesHit example- SpritesHit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
Boxf 0,0,20,20,13
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200),Rnd(7)+9
Next A
X2=300
For X=10 To 300
  VWait
  ShowSprite 0,X,100,0
  ShowSprite 0,X2,100,4
  Locate 0,0
  If SpritesHit(0,X,100,0,X2,100)
    Print "BOOM!!!"
  Else
    Print "       "
  EndIf
Let X2-1
Next X
End
```

8.4.8 rectangular area collisions

The **RECTSHIT** function returns the collision status of two rectangular areas. X1,Y1,WIDTH1 and HEIGHT1 are the coordinates of the first rectangular area and X2,Y2,WIDTH2 and HEIGHT2 are the coordinates of the second. If the two areas overlap (or collide) then (-1) will be returned, otherwise (0) will be returned.

RECTSHIT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: check for collision between 2 rectangular areas
Syntax: r=RectsHit(X1,Y1,WIDTH1,HEIGHT1, X2,Y2,WIDTH2,HEIGHT2)

```
; *** RectsHit example- RectsHit.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,4
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,4
Show 0
GetaShape 0,0,0,20,20
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
X2=300
Y2=100
For X=10 To 300
  VWait
  Locate 0,0
  If RectsHit(0,100,30+X,120,X2,Y2,X2+50,Y2+50)
    Print "Collision detected"
    MouseWait
    End
  EndIf
  Boxf 0+X,100,30+X,150,8
  Boxf X2,Y2,X2+50,Y2+50,3
  Let X2-1
Next X
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- A sprite is a graphical object which is moved by the Amiga's hardware and does not corrupt background graphics. Sprites are initialised by either loading them from disk, or by converting a shape object into a sprite object using the GETASPRITE statement.
- Shapes are objects drawn, or blitted, by the Amiga's Blitter chip. There are three main blitting techniques: BLIT, QBLIT and BBLIT.
- Collisions between colours and sprites are defined using the SETCOLL statement.
- The DOCOLL statement executes sprite/BitMap collision detection and must be called before each PCOLL and SCOLL statement.
- The SCOLL function returns the collision status between two sprites.
- PCOLL checks for collisions between a sprite and any BitMap graphics.
- Collisions involving shapes are tested using the SHAPESHIT and BLITCOLL functions.
- Collisions between sprites are tested using SPRITESHIT.
- Collisions between shapes and sprites are tested using the SHAPESPRITEHIT function.
- Collisions between two rectangular areas are tested using RECTSHIT.

Chapter 9 : Audio

9.1 Pump up the volume

The **VOLUME** statement controls the volume of sound which passes through one or more of the Amiga's four sound channels. The MASK parameter specifies which of the Amiga's four audio channels the sound should be played through, from one to 15:

VOLUME

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: control sound volume
Syntax: Volume MASK,VOL1[,VOL2] [,VOL3][,VOL4]

Table 9.1 : Audio masks

MASK	Channel 0	Channel 1	Channel 2	Channel 3
1	on	off	off	off
2	off	on	off	off
3	on	on	off	off
4	off	off	on	off
5	on	off	on	off
6	off	on	on	off
7	on	on	on	off
8	off	off	off	on
9	on	off	off	on
10	off	on	off	on
11	on	on	off	on
12	off	off	on	on
13	on	off	on	on
14	off	on	on	on
15	on	on	on	on

The optional VOL parameters are used to set the volume of the four audio channels. Volume settings should be in the range zero (silence) to 64 (loudest). The first VOL parameter specifies the volume of the first "on" audio channel, the second VOL for the next "on" audio channel and so on. If any VOL parameters are not included then their associated channel will be given a volume of 64. For example:

```
; *** Pump up the ... - Volume.bb2
; *** Initialise sound object
InitSound 0,32
; *** Create sound data using sine waveform
For A=0 To 31
  SoundData 0,A,Sin(A*150)*127
Next A
; *** Play sound
LoopSound 0,1
; *** Fade out volume
For V=64 To 0 Step -1
  VWait
  Volume 1,V
Next V
MouseWait
End
```

The FILTER statement is used to toggle sound distortion with the Amiga's audio filter. Some prefer FILTER to be set to ON, whilst other enthusiasts prefer it to remain OFF.
Simply a matter of preference.

FILTER

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: toggle the Amiga's low pass audio filter
Syntax: Filter On/Off

```
; *** Engine sound - Filter.bb2
; *** Initialise sound object
InitSound 0,32
; *** Create sound data using sine waveform
For A=0 To 31
  SoundData 0,A,Sin(A*50)*127
Next A
; *** Play sound 100 times
For B=0 To 100
  ; *** Toggle filter on
  Filter On
  ; *** Play sound
  Sound 0,15
  VWait 3
  ; *** Toggle filter off
  Filter Off
  ; *** Play sound
  Sound 0,15
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

9.2 Rave the waves

INITSOUND

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: initialise a sound object
Syntax: InitSound SOUND#,LENGTH [,PERIOD[,REPEAT]]

This statement is used to initialise a sound object. Sound objects can be simple sine or square waveforms, created with SOUNDDATA. The LENGTH parameter specifies the length, in bytes, of the sound object. This must be less than 128K and an even number!

The optional PERIOD parameter, if included, allows you to specify the default pitch for the sound object. The optional REPEAT parameter is used in conjunction with the LOOPSOUND statement. It specifies a position in the sound at which repeating should begin. Consult LOOPSOUND for more information.

```
; *** InitSound example - InitSound.bb2
; *** Initialise sound object
InitSound 0,32
; *** Create sound data using sine waveform
For A=0 To 31
  SoundData 0,A,Sin(A*2)*127
Next A
; *** Play sound (loop)
LoopSound 0,15
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

SOUNDDATA

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define a wave form
Syntax: SoundData SOUND#,OFFSET,DATA

SOUNDDATA is used to define the waveform of a sound object. It alters one byte of sound data at the specified OFFSET. The DATA parameter specifies the actual byte to be placed into the sound, and should be in the range -128 to +127.

```
; *** SoundData example - SoundData.bb2
; *** Initialise sound object
InitSound 0,32
; *** Create sound data using a waveform
For A=0 To 31
  If A<16
    SoundData 0,A,127
```

```
  Else
    SoundData 0,A,-128
  EndIf
Next
; *** Play sound (loop)
LoopSound 0,15
MouseWait
End
```

9.3 Samples

9.3.1 playing samples from memory

LOADSOUND

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load a sample into memory
Syntax: LoadSound SOUND#,"FILENAME"

This statement loads a sample into memory. The sample should be in 8SVX IFF format, otherwise an error will be generated. Try this example:

```
; *** LoadSound example - LoadSound.bb2
; *** Load sound sample from disk
LoadSound 0,"FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Play sound
Sound 0,1
MouseWait
End
```

SOUND/LOOPSOUND

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: play/loop a sample from memory
Syntax: Sound/ LoopSound SOUND#,MASK[,VOL1][,VOL2][,VOL3][,VOL4]

The **SOUND** statement is used to play a sample from memory. The MASK parameter specifies which of the Amiga's four audio channels the sample should be played through, from one to 15 as shown in table 9.1. The optional VOL parameters are used to set the volume of the four audio channels. Volume settings should be in the range zero (silence) to 64 (loudest). The first VOL parameter specifies the volume of the first "on" audio channel, the second VOL for the next "on" audio channel and so on. If any VOL parameters are not included then their associated channel will be given a volume of 64. For example, the following syntax is used:

```
Sound 0,12,32,64
```

This would cause channels zero and one to be "off", and channels two and three to be "on". Because channels two and three are the first "on" channels, channel two would be given a volume setting of 32, and channel three a setting of 64. If this syntax was used instead then channel three would be set to 32, as it is the only "on" audio channel:

```
Sound 0,8,32
```

Here is a full example:

```
; *** A Sound example- Sound.bb2
; *** Load sound sample from disk
LoadSound 0,"FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Play sound
; *** (Channels 1 and 2 are half volume)
; *** (Channels 3 and 4 are full volume)
Sound 0,15,32,32,64,64
MouseWait
End
```

LOOPSOUND works identically to SOUND, except the sample will loop. Consult the LOADSOUND statement for parameter information. For example:

```
; *** LoopSound- LoopSound.bb2
; *** Load sound sample from disk
LoadSound 0,"FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Play sound (loop)
LoopSound 0,15
MouseWait
End
```

9.3.2 playing samples from disk

DISKPLAY

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: play a sample straight from disk
Syntax: DiskPlay "FILENAME",MASK[,VOL1][,VOL2][,VOL3][,VOL4]

The **DISKPLAY** statement is used to play an 8SVX IFF sound sample straight from disk. It suspends program execution until the sample has stopped playing. DISKPLAY allows samples of any length, whereas LOADSOUND restricts its samples to 128K in length. Consult the LOADSOUND statement for parameter information.

```
; *** DiskPlay example - DiskPlay.bb2
; *** Load sound sample from disk and play
DiskPlay "FILENAME.IFF",1,64
MouseWait
End
```

9.3.3 manipulating samples

DISKBUFFER

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set size of DiskPlay memory buffer
Syntax: DiskBuffer LENGTH

This is used to set the size of the DISKPLAY memory buffer. The buffer is initially set to 1024 bytes, although this may be increased or decreased as needed. However, decreasing the memory buffer may cause a loss in sound quality. Here's an example:

```
; *** DiskBuffer example
; *** Filename - DiskBuffer.bb2
F$="A SAMPLE"
; *** Play sample normally
DiskPlay F$,15
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Reduce buffer
DiskBuffer 128
; *** Play sample again (altered)
DiskPlay F$,15
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

PEEKSOUND

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the byte of a sample
Syntax: PeekSound SOUND#,OFFSET

PEEKSOUND returns the byte of a sample at the specified offset of a sound object. For example:

```
; *** PeekSound example ** Filename - PeekSound.bb2
; *** Initialise sound object
InitSound 0,32
For A=0 To 31
  ; *** Set first half to max byte
  If A<16
    SoundData 0,A,127
  Else
```

```
    ; *** Set second half to min byte
    SoundData 0,A,-128
  EndIf
Next A
; *** Output all sample bytes
For B=0 To 31
  NPrint PeekSound(0,B)
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

9.4 Playing Tracker modules

17 Bit Software
1st Floor Offices
2/8 Market Street
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF1 1DH
Tel: (01924) 366982

A Tracker is a sequencing program which allows you to enter musical motes and arrange them to create a song, or module. The standard Tracker program on the Amiga is the Public Domain package Protracker. Protracker is based on the ageing Soundtracker program, a commercial piece of software which was unwittingly released into the Public Domain. The latest version of Protracker is available from 17 Bit Software.

To load a Tracker module into memory, use **LOADMODULE**. The unique MODULE# parameter allows storing multiple modules in memory simultaneously.

LOAD/PLAY/STOP/FREE MODULE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load/play/stop/erase a Tracker module
Syntax: LoadModule/ PlayModule/ StopModule/ Free Module MODULE#,"FILENAME"

The **PLAYMODULE** statement is used to start a Tracker module playing from memory. MODULE# is the number of the module to play.

```
; *** Loading a tracker module- LoadModule.bb2
; *** Open a basic screen
Screen 0,3,"Module Master..."
; *** Load Tracker module from disk
LoadModule 0,"FILENAME.MOD"
; *** Start the module playing
PlayModule 0
MouseWait
End
```

Use **STOPMODULE** to stop ALL Tracker modules currently being played. If you want to free a Tracker module from memory then use **FREE MODULE.**The MODULE# parameter specifies a module to erase. For example:

```
; *** Stop! - StopModule.bb2
; *** Open another screen
Screen 0,3,"Module Master..."
; *** Load Tracker module from disk
LoadModule 0,"FILENAME.MOD"
; *** Start module playing
PlayModule 0
MouseWait
; *** Stop module from playing
StopModule
; *** Remove module from memory
Free Module 0
MouseWait
End
```

9.5 Med modules

Med, or more recently OctaMed, is a superior music Tracker. Med modules are created in much the same way as Tracker ones, by playing notes on the Amiga's keyboard. Each note can be a different sample, and patterns of up to 64 steps can be created and pasted together to form a musical masterpiece. Other notable options include:

- Sample editor
- Synthesized sound editor
- MIDI support
- On-line help

The latest incarnation of Med, namely OctaMed Pro V5, allows you to enter eight tracks of audio instead of four. This is achieved by playing two samples out of each audio channel. However, Blitz Basic does not currently support eight channel modules, so you are advised to stick with four. OctaMed Pro V5 requires Kickstart 2.04 or later, and is available through Seasoft Computing, priced £30.00

Seasoft Computing
Unit 3
Martello Enterprise Centre
Courtwick Lane
Littlehampton
West Sussex
England
BN17 7PA
Tel: (01903) 850378

9.5.1 playing Med modules

The **LOADMEDMODULE** statement loads any four channel OctaMed module. The following commands support up to and including version 3 of the Amiganuts Med standard.

LOAD/STARTMEDMODULE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load/ initialise a Med module
Syntax: LoadMedModule/ StartMedModule MODULE#,"FILENAME"

STARTMEDMODULE is responsible for initialising the module including linking after it is loaded from disk using the LOADMEMODULE statement. It can also be used to restart a module from the beginning.

PLAY/STOPMED

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: play/stop a Med module
Syntax: PlayMed/ StopMed

The **PLAYMED** statement plays the current Med module. It must be called every 50th of a second, either on an interrupt (#5), or after a VWAIT statement. **STOPMED** will cause any Med module to stop playing. Here is a full example which demonstrates the correct procedure for loading and playing a Med module:

```
; *** Playing a Med module- PlayMed.bb2
; *** Load Med module from disk
LoadMedModule 0,"MED_MODULE"
; *** Initialise Med module
StartMedModule 0
Repeat
  ; *** Play module every 50Hz
  VWait
  PlayMed
Until Joyb(0)>0
StopMed
MouseWait
End
```

9.5.2 manipulating Med modules

The **SETMEDVOLUME** statement changes the volume of a Med module. All music channels are affected by this statement. For example:

SETMEDVOLUME

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set the volume of a Med module
Syntax: SetMedVolume VOLUME

```
; *** Music fading- SetMedVolume.bb2
LoadMedModule 0,"MED_MODULE"
; *** Initialise Med module
StartMedModule 0
```

```
Repeat
  VWait
  PlayMed
Until Joyb(0)>0
; *** Fade out module volume
For A=64 To 1 Step -1
  VWait
  PlayMed
  SetMedVolume A
Next A
StopMed
MouseWait
End
```

This function returns the current volume setting of the specified audio channel. GETMEDVOLUME may be used to create graphic equalisers that move in time with the music. Try the following example:

GETMEDVOLUME

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the current volume setting of an audio channel
Syntax: g=GetMedVolume(CHANNEL)

```
; *** GetMedVolume example- GetMedVolume.bb2
; *** Load Med module from disk
LoadMedModule 0,"MED_MODULE"
; *** Initialise Med module
StartMedModule 0
Repeat
  ; *** Play module every 50Hz
  VWait
  PlayMed
  ; *** Output volume of channel 0
  If Int(Rnd(100))=0
    A=GetMedVolume(0)
    NPrint "Volume 0 = ",A
  EndIf
Until Joyb(0)>0
; *** Stop module from playing
StopMed
MouseWait
End
```

SETMEDMASK allows the user to mask out an audio channel. The CHANNEL parameter specifies the number of a channel to mask, or silence. Try the following example:

SETMEDMASK

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: mask a Med audio channel
Syntax: SetMedMask CHANNEL

```
; *** Masking example- SetMedMask.bb2
; *** Load Med module from disk
LoadMedModule 0,"MED_MODULE"
; *** Initialise Med module
StartMedModule 0
; *** Mask all channels except channel 3
SetMedMask 0
SetMedMask 1
SetMedMask 2
Print "Channel 3 playing only"
Repeat
  ; *** Play module every 50Hz
  VWait
  PlayMed
Until Joyb(0)>0
StopMed
```

```
MouseWait
End
```

JUMPMED

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change pattern being played in current Med module
Syntax: JumpMed PATTERN

The **JUMPMED** statement is used to change the pattern being played in the current Med module. This is useful if you want the music to change in your games at different points. Say, for example, that you wanted a short piece of music to play once the player completed the game. You would write the music so that a few patterns (the end-game piece) are never played by the main module. These could then be jumped to, when required, by the JUMPMED statement.

```
; *** JumpMed example- JumpMed.bb2
LoadMedModule 0,"MED_MODULE"
StartMedModule 0
Repeat
  ; *** Play module every 50Hz
  VWait
  PlayMed
  ; *** Jump between module patterns
  If Int(Rnd(100))=0
    A=Int(Rnd(10)+1)
    NPrint "Jumping to pattern ",A
    JumpMed A
  EndIf
Until Joyb(0)>0
StopMed
MouseWait
End
```

GETMEDNOTE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return current note playing through a channel
Syntax: n=GetMedNote(CHANNEL)

This function returns the current note playing through the specified audio channel. Here is an example:

```
; *** GetMedNote example - GetMedNote.bb2
; *** Load Med module from disk
LoadMedModule 0,"MED_MODULE"
; *** Initialise Med module
StartMedModule 0
Repeat
  VWait
  PlayMed
  ; *** Output current note (channel 0)
  A=GetMedNote(0)
  Print A
Until Joyb(0)>0
StopMed
MouseWait
End
```

GETMEDINSTR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return current instrument playing through a channel
Syntax: i=GetMedInstr(CHANNEL)

GETMEDINSTR returns the current instrument playing through the specified audio channel:

```
; *** GetMedInstr example- GetMedInstr.bb2
; *** Load Med module from disk
LoadMedModule 0,"MED_MODULE"
; *** Initialise Med module
```

```
StartMedModule 0
Repeat
  ; *** Play module every 50Hz
  VWait
  PlayMed
  ; *** Output instrument in a given channel
  If Int(Rnd(100))=0
    A=Int(Rnd(3)+1)
    B=GetMedInstr(A)
    NPrint "Instrument (channel ",A,") = ",B
  EndIf
Until Joyb(0)>0
StopMed
MouseWait
End
```

9.6 Speech

Although Commodore removed the original "narrator device" enabled speech from Workbench 3, a recent Blitz Basic 2 update restores this speech facility for all Amigas, including AGA models.

9.6.1 walkie Talkie

The **SPEAK** statement is used to pass a string of phonemes to the Amiga's voice synthesizer. SPEAK automatically converts any string to to phonetics, so you don't need to worry with the translation.

SPEAK

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: speak a string
Syntax: Speak TEXT$

```
; *** Speak demo - Speak.bb2
Repeat
  NPrint ""
  ; *** Input a string to speak
  NPrint "Please input some stuff:>"
  A$=Edit$(70)
  ; *** Talk!!!
  Speak A$
Until A$=""
End
```

SETVOICE can be used to alter the style of speech by changing the rate, pitch, expression, sex, volume and frequency of the Amiga's voice synthesizer:

SETVOICE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set style of speech
Syntax: SetVoice RATE,PITCH,EXPRESSION, SEX,VOLUME,FREQUENCY

Table 9.3 : SETVOICE parameters

Parameter	Description	Range	Default
RATE	Words per minute	40-400	150
PITCH	Baseline pitch in Hz	65-320	110
EXPRESSION	0=robot 1=natural 2=manual	0-2	1
SEX	0=male 1=female	0-1	0
VOLUME	Volume	0-64	64
FREQUENCY	Samples per second	0-22,200	22,200

```
; *** A fine voice - SetVoice.bb2
; *** Toggle audio filter on
Filter On
Repeat
  NPrint ""
  ; *** Input a string to speak
  NPrint "Enter some words or numbers to spell:>"
```

```
  A$=Edit$(70)
  A=1
  For B=0 To Len(A$)
    ; *** Split up string into characters
    B$=Mid$(A$,A,1)
    Let A+1
    VWait 5
    ; *** Alter audio voice randomly
    RATE=40+Rnd(360)
    PITCH=65+Rnd(255)
    SEX=Rnd(1)
    SetVoice RATE,PITCH,1,SEX,64,22200
    ; *** Speak next letter of string
    Speak B$
  Next B
  ; *** Speak entire string
  Speak A$
Until A$=""
End
```

9.6.2 it's a foreign language

TRANSLATE$ returns the phonetic equivalent of a string. For example:

TRANSLATE$

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the phonetic equivalent of a string
Syntax: phonetic$=Translate$(TEXT$)

```
; *** Translate$ example - Translate$.bb2
NPrint ""
NPrint "Enter a sentence:"
A$=Edit$(70)
NPrint"Phonetic =",Translate$(A$)
MouseWait
End
```

PHONETICSPEAK

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: speak a phonetic string
Syntax: PhoneticSpeak TEXT$

This statement is identical to the SPEAK statement, except the string to speak must contain legal phonemes. TEXT$ should be created by the TRANSLATE$ function. Try the following example:

```
; *** PhoneticSpeak example- PhoneticSpeak.bb2
NPrint ""
NPrint "Enter a sentence:"
A$=Edit$(70)
PhoneticSpeak Translate$(A$)
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- The VOLUME statement controls the volume of sound which passes through one or more of the Amiga's four sound channels.
- The FILTER statement is used to toggle sound distortion with the Amiga's audio filter.
- INITSOUND and SOUNDDATA are used to create sound data from scratch.
- Sound samples are played using LOADSOUND, SOUND and LOOPSOUND. Samples can be played straight from disk using the DISKPLAY statement.
- Blitz Basic can play Tracker modules and four channel Med, or OctaMed, modules.
- The Amiga can be made to "talk" using the SPEAK statement, and the style of this speech can be altered using SETVOICE.

Chapter 10 : Screens

This chapter explains how Intuition screens are created and manipulated by Blitz Basic 2. A screen is an area of the display that shares the same attributes, such as size, resolution and colours. The Amiga can have several screens open at once. However, unlike Slices, there are no limits placed upon how multiple screens may be arranged. Multiple screens can be positioned vertically on top of each other and may overlap.

10.1 Defining a screen

10.1.1 syntax 1

SCREEN

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: open an Intuition screen
Syntax: Screen SCREEN#,MODE[,TITLE$]
Syntax 2: Screen SCREEN#,X,Y,W,H,MODE, VIEWMODE,T$,D,B[,BITMAP#]

The **SCREEN** statement is used to open an Intuition screen. The first syntax uses three parameters: SCREEN# (the screen number), MODE and the optional TITLE$ parameter.

The MODE parameter specifies the number of bitplanes for the screen, ranging from (1) to (6). The value you specify determines the number of colours that can be displayed on the screen, as shown in the following table (AGA screen modes are not currently supported by Blitz Basic 2):

Table 10.1 : Number of colours per bitplane

Bitplanes	Colours
1	2
2	4
3	8
4	16
5	32
6	64

As with Slices, high-resolution screens can be opened by adding eight to this figure. High-resolution screens may use a maximum of four bitplanes (16 colours). Adding 16 to the MODE parameter creates an interlaced screen. Note that the height of the screen will be 256 pixels on a PAL Amiga, or 200 pixels on an NTSC Amiga. Here are some examples:

```
; *** Screen example 1 - Screen1.bb2
; *** Untitled low-res screen (3 bitplanes)
Screen 0,3
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

```
; *** Screen example 2- Screen2.bb2
; *** Titled hi-res screen (2 bitplanes)
Screen 0,10,"Blitz"
MouseWait
End
```

10.1.2 syntax 2

The second SCREEN syntax is more involved and requires more parameters to operate:

Table 10.2 : SCREEN parameters

Parameter	Function
X	Horizontal position of top-left of screen
Y	Vertical position of top-left of screen
W	Width of screen (at least 320)
H	Height of screen
MODE	Number of bitplanes (up to 6 - 64/4096 colours)
VIEWMODE	Screen ViewMode
T$	Screen title
D	Detail pen colour
B	Block pen colour
[BITMAP#]	Attach BitMap to a screen

It is worth mentioning that screen widths must be a multiple of 16 and they are always at least the full width of the viewable area (a minimum of 320 pixels). The height of the screen will be 256 pixels on a PAL Amiga, or 200 pixels on an NTSC Amiga.

All of the other parameters are self-explanatory, except perhaps for VIEWMODE. VIEWMODE is a special parameter which enables the Blitz Basic programmer to create Half-Brite, HAM, Interlaced, High-resolution and Super-hi-res screens.

Table 10.3 : Screen ViewModes

VIEWMODE	Description
$0000	Low-res
$0004	Interlace
$0080	Half-brite
$0800	HAM
$8000	Hi-res
$8020	Super-hi-res (AGA only - max 2 bitplanes)

```
; *** Low-resolution Screen example- LowResScreen.bb2
Screen 0,0,100,320,100,3,$0000,"Low-res",1,2
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Hi-resolution Screen example- HiResScreen.bb2
Screen 0,0,0,640,200,4,$8000,"Hi-res",1,0
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Super-hi-res Screen example- SuperHiresScreen.bb2
Screen 0,0,0,1280,256,2,$8020,"Super-hi-res",1,0
MouseWait
End
```

10.1.3 interlaced screens

Interlaced screens have twice the number of vertical lines as low-resolution screens.
Like low-resolution mode, interlace format allows up to 64 colours to be displayed. However, interlaced screens induce flicker on some computer screens (use a multi-sync monitor to avoid this):

```
; *** Interlaced Screen example - InterlacedScreen.bb2
Screen 0,0,0,320,200,3,$0004,"Interlace",1,0
MouseWait
End
```

10.1.4 extra Half-Brite

Usually known as just “Half-Brite”, this is a special display mode which doubles the number of colours on screen by duplicating the existing palette at half its brightness. This doubles the number of available screen colours to 64:

```
; *** Half-Brite Screen example- HalfBriteScreen.bb2
Screen 0,0,0,320,200,6,$0080,"Half-Brite",1,0
ScreensBitMap 0,0
For A=0 To 31
  Boxf 10,22+X,30,24+X,A
  Boxf 60,22+X,80,24+X,A+32
  Let X+5
Next
MouseWait
End
```

10.1.5 hold And Modify

The Hold And Modify display mode (HAM) uses only 16 colour registers, but manages to display the full Amiga colour palette - all 4096 colours on the screen at the same time. A HAM colour is formed by taking the RGB value of the preceding pixel on the screen, and substituting a new value for one of the RGB components:

```
; *** HAM Screen example- HAMScreen.bb2
Screen 0,0,0,320,200,6,$0800,"HAM",1,0
ScreensBitMap 0,0
For X=1 To 81
  For A=0 To 50
    Boxf 1+X,12+Y,13+X,17+Y,A
    Let Y+4
  Next
  Let X+9
  Y=0
Next
MouseWait
End
```

10.1.6 screen BitMaps

Screens can also display graphics from a previously initialised BitMap, by the inclusion of the optional BITMAP# parameter. This is of use when the BitMap graphics have been created BEFORE the screen definition. The SCREENSBITMAP statement can be used to attach BitMap graphics to a screen AFTER it has been opened (consult Chapter 6 for more information):

```
; *** Screen example 2- Screen2.bb2
; *** Define BitMap (3 bitplanes)
BitMap 0,320,256,3
; *** Draw BitMap graphics
For A=1 To 50
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(150)+50,Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(5)+1
Next A
; *** Open screen and attach BitMap
Screen 0,0,0,320,DispHeight,3,0,"Title",1,0,0
MouseWait
End
```

10.2 Controlling screens

As its name implies, **CLOSESCREEN** closes the specified screen and removes it from the display:

CLOSE/SHOW/HIDESCREEN

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: close/show/move a screen to back of display
Syntax: CloseScreen/ShowScreen/HideScreen SCREEN#

```
; *** CloseScreen example - CloseScreen.bb2
; *** Open screen
Screen 0,1,"Closing down..."
; *** Pause briefly
VWait 50
; *** Remove screen from display
CloseScreen 0
MouseWait
End
```

10.3 Screen priority

As multiple screens are opened, they are positioned in front of one another. The following commands can be used to affect screen priority. The **HIDESCREEN** statement moves the specified screen to the back of the current display. It places it behind all other opened screens. **SHOWSCREEN** moves the specified screen to the front of the current display.

```
; *** HideScreen example - HideScreen.bb2
Screen 0,2,"Hide and seek"
VWait 100
; *** Move screen to back of display
HideScreen 0
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** ShowScreen example - ShowScreen.bb2
; *** Open 2 screens
Screen 0,2,"Back"
Screen 1,10,"Front"
For A=1 To 5
  VWait 50
  ; *** Toggle screen priority
  SCR=1-SCR
  ShowScreen SCR
Next A
End
```

10.4 Manipulating screens

MOVESCREEN is used to move a screen about the current display. The X and Y parameters specify the amount for the screen to be moved. The **BEEPSCREEN** statement flashes a specified screen (SCREEN#). That's it!

MOVE/BEEPSCREEN

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: move/flash a screen
Syntax: MoveScreen/ BeepScreen SCREEN#,X,Y

```
; *** MoveScreen example - MoveScreen.bb2
Screen 0,2,"Going down..."
; *** Move screen down display
For Y=1 To 30
  MoveScreen 0,0,Y
Next Y
End
```

```
; *** BeepScreen example - BeepScreen.bb2
Screen 0,2,"Flasher"
VWait 50
; *** Flash screen 5 times
For A=1 To 5
  BeepScreen 0
  VWait 50
Next A
End
```

WBTOSCREEN

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: assign the Workbench screen to a screen object number
Syntax: WbToScreen SCREEN#

The **WBTOSCREEN** statement assigns the Workbench screen a screen number. This allows you to perform any of the screen functions on the Workbench screen. Upon execution, the Workbench screen becomes the current screen.

```
; *** WbToScreen example
; *** Filename - WbToScreen.bb2
; *** Assign Workbench screen for manipulation
WbToScreen 0
; *** Pause briefly
VWait 100
; *** Flash screen
BeepScreen 0
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

FINDSCREEN

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: assign an object number to a screen
Syntax: FindScreen SCREEN#[,TITLE$]

This statement will search for a screen and give it an object number. If the optional TITLE$ parameter is specified then a screen that has this name will be searched for, otherwise the front screen will be given the object number SCREEN#. If the screen is found then it becomes the current screen. Here is an example:

```
; *** FindScreen!
; *** Filename - FindScreen.bb2

; *** Search for screen 0
FindScreen 0
; *** Open window on found screen
Window 0,0,0,100,100,0,"Found it!",0,1
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
; *** Return to Blitz Basic 2 editor
End
```

SHOWBITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: show a BitMap on a screen
Syntax: ShowBitMap [BITMAP#]

The **SHOWBITMAP** statement is used to display a BitMap on the current screen. It is a system-friendly version of the Slice SHOW statement. This allows the Blitz Basic programmer to create double-buffered animations on Intuition screens. Here is an example:

```
; *** ShowBitmap example
; *** Filename - ShowBitmap.bb2
; *** Open BitMap (3 bitplanes)
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,3
; *** Plot random starfield on BitMap
For A=1 To 200
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight),Rnd(5)+1
```

```
Next A
; *** Open screen
Screen 0,3
; *** Alter screen's palette
RGB 0,0,0,0
; *** Attach BitMap to screen
ShowBitMap 0
; *** Wait for a mouse click
MouseWait
End
```

SCREENPENS

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: configure the 10 default pens used for system gadgets
Syntax: ScreenPens(TEXT,SHINE,SHADOW, FILL,TEXT,BACK,HIGHLIGHT)

The SCREENPENS statement is used to configure the 10 default pens used for system gadgets in Workbench 2.0/3.0. All screens opened after the SCREENPENS statement will use these pens. Try the following example which brightens up the dullest of Intuition screens:

```
; *** ScreenPens example- ScreenPens.bb2
; *** Set screen pens
ScreenPens 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
Screen 0,3,"Hello"
; *** Simple text gadget
TextGadget 0,30,30,0,0,"Click on me"
; *** Open window and attach gadget
Window 0,0,20,300,200,0,"Window",1,2,0
; *** Output defined colours
WLocate 0,6
For A=1 To 7
  WColour A
  NPrint A
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

10.5 Screen functions

The SMOUSEX function returns the horizontal mouse position relative to the left edge of the currently used screen: The SMOUSEY function returns the vertical mouse position relative to the top of the currently used screen.

SMOUSEX/Y

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return horizontal/ vertical mouse position relative to left edge of screen
Syntax: x=SMouseX SMouseY

```
; *** SMouseX example- SMouseX.bb2
; *** Open simple screen
Screen 0,3,"Mouse co-ords"
; *** Grab screen's BitMap
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Enable text output onto BitMap
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Alter screen's palette
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
Use Palette 0
Repeat
  ; *** Return horizontal location of mouse
  Locate 0,2 : Print "X=",SMouseX,"  "
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

```
; *** SMouseY example- SMouseY.bb2
Screen 0,3,"Mouse co-ords"
```

```
; *** Grab screen's BitMap
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Alter screen's palette
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
Use Palette 0
Repeat
  ; *** Return vertical location of mouse
  Locate 0,2 : Print "Y=",SMouseY,"  "
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

VIEWPORT is used to return the location of a screen's ViewPort. The ViewPort address can be used in conjunction with the Amiga's system libraries:

VIEWPORT

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the location of screen's ViewPort
Syntax: v=ViewPort(SCREEN#)

```
; *** ViewPort Example- ViewPort.bb2
; *** Use Workbench screen
WbToScreen 0
; *** Output scren's ViewPort
NPrint ViewPort(0)
MouseWait
End
```

10.6 IFF screens

IFF (Interchangeable File Format), created by Electronic Arts, is the Amiga standard for pictures and sound. This section covers IFF graphics created in paint programs like Deluxe Paint IV.

10.6.1 loading and saving screens

LOADSCREEN loads an IFF picture ("FILENAME.IFF") into the screen specified by SCREEN#. If the optional PALETTE# parameter is included then the picture's palette will be loaded into that palette object.

LOAD/SAVESCREEN

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load/save a screen into a screen object
Syntax: LoadScreen/ SaveScreen SCREEN#, "FILENAME.IFF"[,PALETTE#]

```
; *** LoadScreen example - LoadScreen.bb2
; *** Open screen (32 colours)
Screen 0,5,"Left mouse button exits"
; *** Load screen and palette
LoadScreen 0,"FILENAME.IFF",0
; *** Attach palette to screen
Use Palette 0
MouseWait
End
```

The **SAVESCREEN** statement saves a screen (SCREEN#) to disk as an IFF picture file ("FILENAME.IFF"):

```
; *** SaveScreen example - SaveScreen.bb2
; *** Open screen and attach BitMap
Screen 0,3,"SaveScreen example"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Alter screen's palette
PalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
Use Palette 0
; *** Plot a random starfield
For A=1 To 100
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200)+30,Rnd(6)+1
```

```
Next A
; *** Save IFF file
SaveScreen 0,"df0:STARS.IFF"
Cls 0
VWait 20
; *** Load new file
LoadScreen 0,"df0:STARS.IFF"
MouseWait
End
```

10.6.2 ILBM

ILBM stands for InterLeaved BitMap - think of it as a posh name for an IFF file. The following commands are used to obtain information about IFF files, including size, number of colours and resolution. Before an ILBM file can be investigated, it first has to be initialized using the **ILBMINFO** statement. The "FILENAME" parameter is the name of the file to examine:

ILBMINFO

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: initialize a file for ILBM examination
Syntax: ILBMInfo "FILENAME"

```
; *** ILBMInfo example - ILBMInfo.bb2
; *** IFF filename
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Initialize file
ILBMInfo F$
MouseWait
End
```

ILBMWIDTH/HEIGHT/DEPTH

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the width/height/depth of an ILBM image
Syntax: w=ILBMWidth/ ILBMHeight/ ILBMDepth

The **ILBMWIDTH** function returns the pixel width of an initialized ILBM image. **ILBMHEIGHT** returns the pixel height of an initialized ILBM image. **ILBMDEPTH** statement returns the depth of an ILBM image, in bitplanes:

```
; *** ILBMWidth example - ILBMWidth.bb2
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Output picture's width
NPrint ILBMWidth," pixels"
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** ILBMHeight example - ILBMHeight.bb2
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Output picture's height
NPrint ILBMHeight," pixels"
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** ILBMDepth example - ILBMDepth.bb2
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Output picture's depth
NPrint ILBMDepth," bitplanes"
MouseWait
End
```

ILBMViewMode returns the ViewMode, or resolution, of the file that was processed by ILBMInfo. This is useful for opening a screen in the right mode before using LOADSCREEN. The different values of ILBMVIEWMODE are as follows:

ILBMVIEWMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: return the viewmode of an ILBM file
Syntax: ILBMViewMode

Table 10.4 : Values returned by ILBMVIEWMODE

Value	Description
32768 ($8000)	Hi-res
2048 ($0800)	HAM
128 ($0080)	Half-Brite
4 ($0004)	Interlaced
0 ($0000)	Low-res

Here is an example:

```
; *** ILBMViewMode example - ILBMViewMode.bb2
; *** IFF filename
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
; *** Initialize file
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Output picture's ViewMode
NPrint ILBMViewMode
MouseWait
End
```

Here is a full example which demonstrates the use of the Blitz Basic ILBM commands in the opening of screens:

```
; *** A thorough examination - ILBM.bb2
; *** Analyse IFF file
F$="FILENAME.IFF"
ILBMInfo F$
; *** Open screen to file specifications
Screen 0,0,0,ILBMWidth,ILBMHeight,ILBMDepth,ILBMViewMode,"",1,2
; *** Load file
LoadScreen 0,F$,0
Use Palette 0
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- A screen is an area of the display that shares the same attributes, such as size, resolution and colours.
- Screen widths must be a multiple of 16 and they are always at least the full width of the viewable area (a minimum of 320 pixels).
- The height of a screen will be 256 pixels on a PAL Amiga, or 200 pixels on an NTSC Amiga.
- IFF stands for Interchangeable File Format. It has been adopted as the standard way of storing pictures on the Amiga. Blitz Basic can load and save files in this format.
- ILBM stands for InterLeaved BitMap. You can obtain information about ILBM files, including size, number of colours and resolution.

Table 10.5 : Screen commands

Command	Function
BEEPSCREEN	Flash a screen
CLOSESCREEN	Close a screen
FINDSCREEN	Search for a screen
HIDESCREEN	Move screen to back of display
ILBMDEPTH	Return depth of IFF image
ILBMHEIGHT	Return height of IFF image
ILBMINFO	Initialize IFF file for examination
ILBMVIEWMODE	Return ViewMode of IFF image
ILBMWIDTH	Return width of IFF image
LOADSCREEN	Load an IFF file
MOVESCREEN	Move a screen
SAVESCREEN	Save an IFF file
SCREEN	Open a screen
SCREENPENS	Set default screen pens
SHOWBITMAP	Display BitMap in a screen
SHOWSCREEN	Move screen to front of display
SMOUSEX	Return x co-ordinate of mouse
SMOUSEY	Return y co-ordinate of mouse
VIEWPORT	Return screen's ViewPort
WBTOSCREEN	Assign screen number to Workbench screen

Chapter 11 : Windows

A window is an independent rectangular area of text and graphics on the screen, which can accept or display information. Windows can be enlarged, shrunk and moved, without altering the main screen. All windows can have a title bar and may contain special gadgets in their borders. (Note that windows must always appear in an Intuition screen). When using windows the following procedure is recommended:

1. Open a screen using SCREEN or WBTOSCREEN
2. Open a window using WINDOW
3. Use WAITEVENT to detect any user activity in the window
4. Return to step 3

11.1 Opening a window

WINDOW

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: open an intuition window
Syntax: Window WINDOW#,X,Y,W,H,F,TITLE$, D,B[,G_LIST#[,BITMAP#]]

WINDOW opens the Intuition window index WINDOW#. The X and Y parameters contain the jump coordinates relative to the top left corner of the screen. The W and H parameters contain the width and height of the window. The F, or FLAGS, parameter specifies the special elements that a window may contain, such as sizing gadgets, close gadgets and drag-bars:

Table 11.1 : The FLAGS parameter

Window	flag	Value	Description
WINDOWSIZING	$0001	Attach	sizing gadget to window
WINDOWDRAG	$0002	Attach	drag-bar to window
WINDOWDEPTH	$0004	Attach	depth gadget to window
WINDOWCLOSE	$0008	Attach	close gadget to window
SIZEBRIGHT	$0010	Leave	right hand window margin clear
SIZEBOTTOM	$0020	Leave	bottom window margin clear
BACKDROP	$0100	Open	window at back of display
GIMMEZEROZERO	$0400	Keep	border separate from window area
BORDERLESS	$0800	Open	window with no border
ACTIVATE	$1000	Activate	the window once opened

To use more than one of these flags they must be logically combined using the "|" operator. For example:

```
$0001|$0002|$0004
```

Which, when used as the FLAGS parameter, would attach a sizing gadget, drag-bar and depth gadget to the window. TITLE$ is a string which contains the title of the window, to be displayed at the very top of the window. If you do not want a title for the window then use a null string for TITLE$ (""). The D parameter specifies the colour of the detail pen of the window, as used in the window title. B is the block pen of the window, as used in the window border. The optional G_LIST# parameter is the number of a gadgetlist object to be attached to the window - consult Chapter 13 for more information. Here are some examples:

```
; *** Window examples- Window.bb2
WbToScreen 0
WBenchToFront_
Window 0,0,0,150,100,$0001,"Sizing gadget",1,0
Window 1,150,0,150,100,$0002,"Drag gadget",1,0
Window 2,300,0,150,100,$0004,"Depth gadget",1,0
```

```
Window 3,450,0,150,100,$0008,"Close gadget",1,0
Window 4,0,100,150,100,$0001|$0008,"Sizing & Close",1,0
MouseWait
WBenchToBack_
End
```

11.1.1 super-BitMap windows

Super-BitMap windows can also be created. These allow the window to have its own BitMap which can be physically larger than the window. The BitMap can then be scrolled about the window. To attach a BitMap to a window, set the SuperBitMap flag in the FLAGS parameter and include the number of the BitMap to be attached in the BITMAP# parameter in your window definition.

GET/PUT/POSITIONSUPERBITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: get/put/position a super-BitMap
Syntax: Get/Put/PositionSuperBitMap

GETSUPERBITMAP is used to grab the contents of a super-BitMap. This allows you to update the contents of the super-BitMap.

PUTSUPERBITMAP is used to put (i.e. refresh) the super-BitMap back into the current window. In the following example, which demonstrates the above commands, click in the window to clear the super-BitMap:

```
; *** GetSuperBitMap/PutSuperBitMap example - PutSuperBitMap.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
; *** Draw BitMap graphics
Boxf 0,0,319,255,4
For A=1 To 7
  Circlef 160,100,160-A*5,100-A*5,A
Next A
Screen 0,11,"My Screen"
WIDTH=320
HEIGHT=256
PropGadget 0,3,-8,$18000+4+8+64,1,-20,8
PropGadget 0,-14,10,$11000+2+16+128,2,12,-20
AddIDCMP $10
SizeLimits 32,32,320+22,256+20
Window 0,0,20,200,150,$1489,"Window",1,2,0,0
Gosub DRAW
; *** Main loop
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  If ev=2 Then Gosub SIZE
  If ev=$8 Then Gosub ALTER
  If ev=$20 Then Gosub MOVIE
Until ev=$200
End
; *** Draw sliders
SIZE:
SetHProp 0,1,X/WIDTH,InnerWidth/WIDTH
SetVProp 0,2,Y/HEIGHT,InnerHeight/HEIGHT
Redraw 0,1
Redraw 0,2
Goto DRAW
; *** Move SuperBitMap
MOVIE:
Repeat
Gosub DRAW
Until Waitevent<>$10
Return
; *** Position SuperBitMap
DRAW:
W=WIDTH-InnerWidth
H=HEIGHT-InnerHeight
```

```
X=QLimit(HPropPot(0,1)*(W+1),0,W)
Y=QLimit(VPropPot(0,2)*(H+1),0,H)
PositionSuperBitMap X,Y
Return
; *** Alter the contents of SuperBitMap
ALTER:
GetSuperBitMap
Cls
GetSuperBitMap
Return
```

Use **POSITIONSUPERBITMAP** to position the BitMap in the current super-BitMap window. The X and Y parameters specify the new co-ordinates of the top left-hand corner of the BitMap.

```
; *** PositionSuperBitMap example - PositionSuperBitMap.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
; *** Draw BitMap graphics
Boxf 0,0,319,255,4
For A=1 To 7
  Circlef 160,100,160-A*5,100-A*5,A
Next A
Screen 0,11,"My Screen"
WIDTH=320
HEIGHT=256
PropGadget 0,3,-8,$18000+4+8+64,1,-20,8
PropGadget 0,-14,10,$11000+2+16+128,2,12,-20
AddIDCMP $10
SizeLimits 32,32,320+22,256+20
Window 0,0,20,200,150,$1489,"Window",1,2,0,0
Gosub DRAW
; *** Main loop
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  If ev=2 Then Gosub SIZE
  If ev=$20 Then Gosub MOVIE
Until ev=$200
End
; *** Draw sliders
SIZE:
SetHProp 0,1,X/WIDTH,InnerWidth/WIDTH
SetVProp 0,2,Y/HEIGHT,InnerHeight/HEIGHT
Redraw 0,1
Redraw 0,2
Goto DRAW
; *** Move SuperBitMap
MOVIE:
Repeat
Gosub DRAW
Until Waitevent<>$10
Return
; *** Position SuperBitMap
DRAW:
W=WIDTH-InnerWidth
H=HEIGHT-InnerHeight
X=QLimit(HPropPot(0,1)*(W+1),0,W)
Y=QLimit(VPropPot(0,2)*(H+1),0,H)
PositionSuperBitMap X,Y
Return
```

11.2 Manipulating windows

The following commands are used to manipulate windows after they have been created with the WINDOW statement.

11.2.1 moving between windows

The **USE WINDOW** statement sets the specified window (WINDOW#) as the currently used window. USE WINDOW automatically performs a WINDOWINPUT and WINDOWOUTPUT on the window. For example:

USE/FREE/CLOSE WINDOW

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set/close a current window
Syntax: Use/Free/CloseWindow WINDOW#

```
; *** Use Window example- Use Window.bb2
WbToScreen 0
WBenchToFront_
Window 0,0,10,300,100,$0001,"",1,0
Window 1,300,10,300,100,$0001,"",1,0
Use Window 0
Print "Hello from window 0"
Use Window 1
Print "Hello from window 1"
MouseWait
WBenchToBack_
End
```

11.2.2 closing a window

FREE WINDOW closes the specified window and removes it from the display. **CLOSEWINDOW** works exactly the same as FREE WINDOW. Why? Who knows? Just for the sake of it, here's the same example, but this time using CLOSEWINDOW:

```
; *** Free Window example - Free Window.bb2
WbToScreen 0
WBenchToFront_
Window 0,0,10,300,100,$0001,"Click mouse",1,0
MouseWait
Free Window 0
VWait 50
End
```

```
; *** CloseWindow example- CloseWindow.bb2
WbToScreen 0
WBenchToFront_
Window 0,0,10,300,100,$0001,"Click mouse",1,0
MouseWait
CloseWindow 0
VWait 50
End
```

11.2.3 activating a window

The **ACTIVATE** statement is used to activate a specified window (WINDOW#). For example:

ACTIVATE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: activate a window
Syntax: Activate WINDOW#

```
; *** Activate example ** Filename - Activate.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,0,320,100,0,"Window 1",0,1
Window 1,0,100,320,100,0,"Window 2",0,1
VWait 100
Activate 0
Use Window 0
Print "Hello from Window 1"
VWait 100
Activate 1
Use Window 1
Print "Hello from Window 2"
MouseWait
End
```

11.2.4 window titles

The **WTITLE** statement is used to alter, or update, the current window and screen titles:

WTITLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: update window and screen title
Syntax: WTitle "WINDOW TITLE","SCREEN TITLE"

```
; *** WTitle example - WTitle.bb2
Screen 0,3,"Blitz"
Window 0,0,12,320,200,0,"Basic",1,2
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$8
WTitle "Tops","Is"
VWait 20
MouseWait
End
```

11.2.5 altering window menus

The **MENUS** statement may be used to turn ALL menus on or off in the currently used window. Here is an example:

MENUS

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: turn ALL menus on or off
Syntax: Menus On/Off

```
; *** Menus example- Menus.bb2
MenuTitle 0,0,"PROJECT"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"Load"
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$0001+$0008+$100f,"",1,2
SetMenu 0
; *** Press left mouse to toggle menus on/off
T=1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  If Joyb(0)=1
    If T=1
      Menus Off
    Else
      Menus On
    End If
    T=1-T
  EndIf
Until ev=$200
End
```

11.2.6 moving a window

This statement physically moves the currently used window to the coordinates specified by the X and Y parameters. For example:

WMOVE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: move the current window
Syntax: WMove X,Y

```
; *** WMove examples - WMove.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,0,150,100,0,"Moving window",0,1
VWait 100
WMove 100,0
VWait 50
WMove 100,100
MouseWait
End
```

11.2.7 window scrolling

The WSCROLL statement is used to scroll a portion of the current window. (X1, Y1) and (X2, Y2) define the top-left and bottom-right corners of the scroll area. DELTA X and DELTA_Y specify
specify movement distance and direction values:

WSCROLL

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: scroll a rectangular area of the current window
Syntax: WScroll X1,Y1,X2,Y2,DELTA_X, DELTA_Y

Table 11.2 : Delta values

Delta values DELTA_X DELTA_Y
Positive Left Up Negative Right Down

Here's an example:

```
; *** WScroll example - WScroll.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Scrolled",0,1
For A=1 To 50
  WCircle Rnd(260)+30,Rnd(100)+40,Rnd(20)+5,Rnd(8)
Next A
VWait 50
WScroll 4,13,310,180,0,-20
VWait 50
WScroll 4,13,310,180,0,20
MouseWait
End
```

11.2.8 window sizing

WSIZE is used to change the size of the currently used window. WIDTH and HEIGHT are measured in pixels:

WSIZE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: alter the width and height of the current window
Syntax: WSize WIDTH,HEIGHT

```
; *** WSize example - WSize.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,0,150,100,0,"Growing window",0,1
VWait 100
WSize 320,200
MouseWait
End
```

SIZELIMITS is used to set the limits that any new windows can be sized to using the sizing gadget. The MIN_WIDTH and MIN_HEIGHT parameters define the minimum size of the window, and MAX_WIDTH and MAX_HEIGHT the maximum size, in pixels.

SIZELIMITS

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set the limits that windows can be sized with sizing gadget
Syntax: SizeLimits MIN_WIDTH,MIN_HEIGHT, MAX_WIDTH,MAX_HEIGHT

```
; *** Size restrictions - SizeLimits.bb2
Screen 0,2
SizeLimits 100,100,320,100
Window 0,0,00,320,100,$0001+$0008,"Change my size",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

11.2.9 window BitMaps

This statement is used to copy a BitMap (BITMAP#) to a window (WINDOW#). The optional parameters are as follows:

BITMAPTOWINDOW

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: copy a BitMap to a window
Syntax: BitmapToWindowBITMAP#,WINDOW#[,X1,Y1,X2,Y2,W,H]

Table 11.3 : BITMAPTOWINDOW parameters

Parameter	Description
X1	X co-ordinate of BitMap
Y1	Y co-ordinate of BitMap
X2	X co-ordinate of window
Y2	Y co-ordinate of window
W	Width of BitMap to copy (in pixels)
H	Height of BitMap to copy (in pixels)

For example:

```
; *** BitMaptoWindow example- BitMaptoWindow.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
Cls
For A=1 To 100
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(80),Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(5)+1
Next A
Window 0,0,110,320,100,0,"Click mouse button",1,2
BitMaptoWindow 0,0,20,20,10,15,300,80
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$8
End
```

11.3 Window functions

The following functions return information about previously initialised windows.

11.3.1 window dimensions

The **WINDOWX** function returns the horizontal location, in pixels, of the top left-hand corner of the currently used window, relative to the screen that the window appears in. To return the vertical location of the window, use the corresponding **WINDOWY** function.

WINDOWX/Y

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return horizontal/vertical location of the top left corner of the window
Syntax: x=WindowX/ WindowY

```
; *** WindowX/Y example- WindowY.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,Rnd(200)+10,Rnd(100)+10,150,100,0,"",0,1
WLocate 0,0
NPrint "Window X = ",WindowX
NPrint "Window Y = ",WindowY
MouseWait
End
```

WINDOWWIDTH returns the width of the currently used window.

WINDOWHEIGHT returns the height of the currently used window:

WINDOWWIDTH/HEIGHT

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the width/height of the current window
Syntax: w=WindowWidth/ h=WindowHeight

```
; *** Window dimensions - WindowHeight.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,20,Rnd(150)+170,Rnd(100)+10,0,"",0,1
WLocate 0,0
NPrint "Window width = ",WindowWidth
NPrint "Window height = ",WindowHeight
MouseWait
End
```

INNERWIDTH/HEIGHT

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the width/height inside the border of the current window
Syntax: w=InnerWidth/ h=WindowHeight

The **INNERWIDTH** function returns the width, in pixels, of the area inside the border of the currently used window.

INNERHEIGHT returns the height, in pixels, of the area inside the border of the currently used window.

```
; *** Window dimensions 2 - InnerHeight.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,20,Rnd(150)+170,Rnd(100)+10,0,"",0,1
WLocate 0,0
NPrint "Inner width = ",InnerWidth
NPrint "Inner height = ",InnerHeight
MouseWait
End
```

WTOP/LEFTOFF

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return distance between top/ left edge of window border and its inside
Syntax: t=WTopOff/ l=WLeftOff

The **WTOPOFF** function returns the distance between the top of the current window border and the inside of the window, in pixels.

WLEFTOFF returns the distance between the left edge of the current window border and the inside of the window, in pixels:

```
; *** Window dimensions 3- WLeftOff.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,20,320,100,0,"Window",0,1
WLocate 0,0
NPrint "WTopOff = ",WTopOff
NPrint "WLeftOff = ",WLeftOff
MouseWait
End
```

11.3.2 window RastPort

This function returns the RastPort address of the specified window:

RASTPORT

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the specified Window's RastPort address
Syntax: r=RastPort(WINDOW#)

```
; *** RastPort example- RastPort.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,00,320,100,$0001+$0008,"",0,1
NPrint "RastPort = ",RastPort(0)
MouseWait
End
```

11.4 Window events

11.4.1 IDCMP flags

IDCMP flags are special flags which are attached to windows. They describe the type of "event" which can be reported by a window. Events occur when a window has its size changed with the

sizing gadgets, or when a mouse button is pressed, or when a disk is removed etc. (see below for full list). Events are reported by the WAITEVENT and EVENT functions.

Table 11.4 : IDCMP flags

IDCMP flag	Event
$2	Reported when window has its size changed
$4	Reported when window contents corrupted
$8	Reported when mouse button is pressed
$10	Reported when mouse has been moved
$20	Reported when window gadget has been pushed down
$40	Reported when window gadget has been released
$100	Reported when menu operation in window has occurred
$200	Reported when close gadget has been selected
$400	Reported upon keypress
$8000	Reported when disk is inserted
$10000	Reported when disk is removed
$40000	Reported when window has been activated
$80000	Reported when window has been de-activated

11.4.2 defining IDCMP flags

By default, all windows are opened with an IDCMP flags setting of:

```
$02|$4|$8|$20|$40|$100|$200|$400|$40000|$80000
```

However, this may be changed by the **DEFAULTIDCMP** statement. This statement is used to define the window IDCMP flags. Each window can have its own set of IDCMP flags, although they must be defined before the window is opened. If you require more than one IDCMP flag then you can use the (|) operator to add them together.

DEFAULTIDCMP

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set window IDCMP flags
Syntax: DefaultIDCMP IDCMP_FLAGS

```
; *** DefaultIDCMP example - DefaultIDCMP.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** closes window using mouse, not a close gagdet
DefaultIDCMP $8
Window 0,0,20,320,100,0,"Press mouse button",0,1
ev.l=Waitevent
If ev=$8 Then Free Window 0
VWait 100
End
```

```
; *** DefaultIDCMP example 2 - DefaultIDCMP2.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** flashes the screen upon a key-press
DefaultIDCMP $8|$400
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$1000,"Press a key",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  If ev=$400 Then BeepScreen 0
Until ev=$8
End
```

```
; *** DefaultIDCMP example 3 - DefaultIDCMP3.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** ends when the close gadget is selected
DefaultIDCMP $200
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$0008|$1000,"Hit close gadget",0,1
Repeat
```

```
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** DefaultIDCMP example 4 - DefaultIDCMP4.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** ends when the mouse pointer is moved
DefaultIDCMP $10
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$1000,"Move mouse pointer",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$10
End
```

```
; *** DefaultIDCMP example 5 - DefaultIDCMP5.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** ends when a disk is inserted
DefaultIDCMP $80000
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$1000,"Insert a disk",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$80000
End
```

11.4.3 adding IDCMP flags

This statement is used to add IDCMP flags to those selected by the DEFAULTIDCMP statement. **ADDIDCMP** must be executed before the window is opened.

ADD/SUBIDCMP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: add/subtract IDCMP flags
Syntax: AddIDCMP/ SubIDCMP IDCMP_FLAGS

```
; *** AddIDCMP example - AddIDCMP.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** Close gadget exits program
DefaultIDCMP $200
; *** Add IDCMP flag (key-press)
AddIDCMP $400
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$0008|$1000,"Close me",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  ; *** Flash screen upon key-press
  If ev=$400 Then BeepScreen 0
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** AddIDCMP example 2 - AddIDCMP2.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** Close gadget exits program
DefaultIDCMP $200
; *** Add IDCMP flag (window de-activation)
AddIDCMP $80000
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$0008|$1000,"Close me",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  ; *** Clear window upon de-activation
  If ev=$80000 Then InnerCls Rnd(4)+1 : Activate 0
Until ev=$200
End
```

11.4.4 subtracting IDCMP flags

Similarly, the **SUBIDCMP** statement subtracts IDCMP flags from those selected by the DEFAULTIDCMP statement. SUBIDCMP must be executed before the window is opened.

```
; *** SubIDCMP example - SubIDCMP.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** Close gadget exits program
DefaultIDCMP $200|$80000
; *** Remove de-activation IDCMP flag
SubIDCMP $80000
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$0008|$1000,"Close me",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  ; *** This line won't work
  If ev=$80000 Then InnerCls Rnd(4)+1 : Activate 0
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** SubIDCMP example 2 - SubIDCMP2.bb2
Screen 0,3
; *** Close gadget exits program
DefaultIDCMP $200|$400
; *** Try removing the following line
SubIDCMP $400
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$0008|$1000,"Close me",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  ; *** This line won't work
  If ev=$400 Then End
Until ev=$200
End
```

11.4.5 window event functions

WAITEVENT/EVENT

Mode(s): Amiga
Command: return the IDCMP flag of an Intuition event
Syntax: ev.l=WaitEvent/ Event

The following commands are used to return the IDCMP flags of the Intuition events which occur in windows. **WAITEVENT**, as a statement, is used to halt program execution until an Intuition event occurs. This event must satisfy the relevant IDCMP flags. Used as a function, WAITEVENT will return the IDCMP flag of the event. If no event has occurred then (0) is returned. Note that the value returned by the WAITEVENT function must be assigned to a long type variable (e.g. ev.l=WaitEvent). For example:

```
; *** Waitevent example
; *** Filename - Waitevent.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$0008,"Close me",0,1
; *** Exit only if close gadget is selected
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

The **EVENT** function also returns the IDCMP flag of an Intuition event, except it does not halt program execution. If no event has occurred then (0) is returned. Here's an example:

```
; *** Event example - Event.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
DefaultIDCMP $400
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$1000,"Press any key",0,1
While Event=0
  InnerCls Rnd(7)+1
  VWait 6
Wend
End
```

EVENTWINDOW

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the window number in which a window event occurred
Syntax: e=EventWindow

The **EVENTWINDOW** statement returns the number of the window in which the most recent window event occurred. Window events are those detected by the WAITEVENT or EVENT statements. For example:

```
; *** EventWindow example- EventWindow.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,160,100,$100f,"Window 0",1,2
Window 1,160,0,160,100,$100f,"Window 1",1,2
Window 2,0,100,160,100,$100f,"Window 2",1,2
Window 3,160,100,160,100,$100f,"Window 3",1,2
; *** Try fiddling with the windows in this demo
; *** (Press escape to quit)
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  Use Window lw
  InnerCls
  Use Window EventWindow
  WLocate 0,0
  Print "Event here!"
  lw=EventWindow
Until Inkey$=Chr$(27)
End
```

11.4.6 gadget events

The **GADGETHIT** function returns the number of the gadget that caused the last gadget event. As gadgets in different windows may use the same identification numbers, the EVENTWINDOW statement may be used to locate the correct gadget. If no gadgets have been selected then (-1) will be returned. For example:

GADGET/MENUHIT

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return number of gadget/menu that caused the last gadget/menu event
Syntax: g=Gadget/MenuHit

```
; *** GadgetHit example- GadgetHit.bb2
Screen 0,3
TextGadget 0,20,20,0,1,"A gadget"
TextGadget 0,20,40,0,2,"Another gadget"
TextGadget 0,20,60,0,3,"QUIT"
Window 0,0,0,160,100,0,"A Window",1,2,0
Repeat
  Repeat
    ev.l=Waitevent
  Until ev=$40
  If GadgetHit=3 Then End
Forever
```

11.4.7 menu events

MENUHIT returns the number of the menu that caused the last menu event. As menus in different windows may use the same identification numbers, the EVENTWINDOW statement may be used to locate the correct menu. If no menus have been selected then (-1) will be returned:

```
; *** MenuHit example- MenuHit.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,160,100,$1000,"Press right mouse",1,2
MenuColour 5
MenuTitle 0,0,"This is a menu title"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"This is a menu item"
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"And this is another"
```

```
SetMenu 0
While MenuHit<>0
  ev.l=Waitevent
Wend
End
```

The **ITEMHIT** function returns the number of the menu item that caused the last menu event. If no items have been selected then (-1) will be returned. For example:

ITEM/SUBHIT

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return number of menu item/subitem that caused the last menu event
Syntax: i=ItemHit/ s=SubHit

```
; *** ItemHit example
; *** Filename - ItemHit.bb2

Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,160,100,$1000,"Press right mouse",1,2
MenuColour 5
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"Load"
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"QUIT"
SetMenu 0
Repeat
  Waitevent
Until ItemHit=1
End
```

The **SUBHIT** function returns the number of the menu subitem that caused the last menu event. If no subitem has been selected then (-1) will be returned. Here is an example:

```
; *** SubHit example
; *** Filename - SubHit.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,160,100,$1000,"Press right mouse",1,2
MenuColour 5
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"Hello"
SubItem 0,0,0,0,0,"QUIT"
SetMenu 0
Repeat
  Waitevent
Until SubHit=0
End
```

11.4.8 keyboard events

This function returns the code of the last keyboard event. For example:

EVENTCODE/QUALIFIER

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return keyboard event code/qualifier
Syntax: e=EventCode/ EventQualifier

```
; *** EventCode example- EventCode.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,320,200,$1000,"Amiga mode",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  A$=Inkey$
Until ev.l>0
NPrint EventCode
VWait 50
End
```

The **EVENTQUALIFIER** function returns a code which indicates the control key used during the most recent keyboard event. Below is a table of of possible codes:

Table 11.5 : Qualifier codes

Control	key Code
[None]	$8000
[Ctrl]	$8008
[Caps Lock]	$8004
Left [Shift]	$8001
Right [Shift]	$8002
Left [Alt]	$8010
Right [Alt]	$8020
Left [Amiga]	$8040
Right [Amiga]	$8080

Try this example:

```
; *** EventQualifier example
; *** Filename - EventQualifier.bb2

Screen 0,3
DefaultIDCMP $400
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$1000,"Type something",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$400
WLocate 0,0
NPrint Hex$(EventQualifier)
VWait 80
End
```

11.4.9 clearing the event queue

Window events are automatically stored in a special event queue, or storage buffer, so that they can be read at a later stage in your program. **FLUSHEVENTS** can be used to clear the event queue, if necessary. If the optional IDCMP_FLAGS parameter is included then only these events are cleared.

FLUSHEVENTS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: clear events from event queue
Syntax: FlushEvents [IDCMP_FLAGS]

11.5 Window text

All Workbench-based applications use text to a certain degree. Text can be used to prompt the user for input, or to display a message, or help file. As already explained, the PRINT and NPRINT statements are used to output text onto BitMaps, and in windows. Hence the following commands are provided by Blitz Basic for the manipulation of window text.

The **WINDOWOUTPUT** statement causes all future print statements (PRINT and NPRINT) to send their output to the specified window. WINDOWOUTPUT is automatically executed when a window is opened or USE WINDOW is executed. When a window is closed, WINDOWOUTPUT must be used to re-direct print output.

WINDOWOUTPUT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: cause print commands to output to window object
Syntax: WindowOutput WINDOW#

```
; *** WindowOutput example - WindowOutput.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,320,100,0,"",0,1
Window 1,0,100,320,100,0,"",0,1
WindowInput 0
```

```
WindowOutput 0
Activate 0
A$=Edit$("Type something",15)
End
```

This statement is used to scroll the current window contents upwards if the text cursor reaches the bottom of the window. **WPRINTSCROLL** only works with windows opened with flag ($400) set. For example:

WPRINTSCROLL

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: force text to be scrolled in window
Syntax: WPrintScroll

```
; *** WPrintScroll example- WPrintScroll.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,15,320,100,$400,"",1,2
For A=0 To 200
  VWait
  NPrint "Scrolling ",A
  WPrintScroll
Next A
End
```

11.5.1 changing the text style

The **LOADFONT** statement is used to load an intuition font into memory. The Y_SIZE parameter is the size of the intuition font to load. If the optional STYLE parameter is included then styling may be applied to the font.

LOAD/WINDOWFONT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load/set an intuition font
Syntax: LoadFont FONT#,"FILENAME.FONT", Y_SIZE[,STYLE]/
WindowFont FONT#

Table 11.6 : The STYLE parameter

STYLE	Description
1	Underlined
2	Bold
4	Italic
8	Width increase

WINDOWFONT is used to set the font for the currently used window. Any further text output to this window will appear in this text style. The FONT# parameter specifies a previously initialised intuition font. For example:

```
; *** LoadFont/WindowFont example - LoadFont.bb2
Screen 0,3,"Hello"
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$1000,"Fonts",1,0
NPrint "Normal"
LoadFont 0,"FILENAME.FONT",12
WindowFont 0
NPrint "Your font"
MouseWait
End
```

11.5.2 setting the text colour

The **WCOLOUR** statement specifies the foreground and background colour of all text printed in the currently used window. For example:

WCOLOUR

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set foreground and background colour of window text
Syntax: WColour FOREGROUND,BACKGROUND

```
; *** A splash of WColour - WColour.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$1000,"Text colour",1,0
WColour 0,1
NPrint "Hilight"
WColour 1,0
NPrint "No hilight"
MouseWait
End
```

11.5.3 changing the text mode

WJAM is used to select which parts of the text characters are printed on the currently used window. MODE is a special parameter which sets the print mode:

WJAM

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set window text drawing mode
Syntax: WJam MODE

Table 11.7 : WJam modes

Value	Mode	Description
0	Jam1	Only the foreground colour to be printed
1	Jam2	Print foreground and background colours
2	Complement	Combine characters (XOR)
4	Inverse	Print inverse video characters

Here is an example:

```
; *** WJam session ** Filename - WJam.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Examples",1,0
Print "Overlap"
VWait 100
WJam 0
WLocate 0,0
Print "Rubbish"
VWait 100
WJam 1
WLocate 0,0
Print "Rubbish"
VWait 100
WLocate 0,10
WJam 4
Print "Inverse video"
MouseWait
End
```

11.5.4 the text cursor

The **WLOCATE** statement sets the text cursor position in the currently used window. The X and Y parameters specify the distance, in pixels, from the upper left corner of the window. Each window can have a different text cursor position. For example:

WLOCATE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set the text cursor position
Syntax: WLocate X,Y

```
; *** WLocate example - WLocate.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,20,170,100,0,"",0,1
WLocate 0,0
NPrint "Top left"
WLocate 60,85
NPrint "Bottom right"
MouseWait
End
```

The following two functions return the horizontal and vertical positions of the text cursor respectively. For example:

WCURSX/Y

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the horizontal/vertical cursor position
Syntax: x=WCursX/ y=WCursY

```
; *** WCursX example ** Filename - WCursX.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,20,170,100,0,"Cursor X =",0,1
For A=1 To 5
  Print WCursX
VWait
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** WCursY example- WCursY.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,20,170,100,0,"Cursor Y =",0,1
For A=1 To 5
  NPrint WCursY
VWait
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

11.6 Window input

The **WINDOWINPUT** statement causes all future input functions to receive their input from the specified window (WINDOW#). WINDOWINPUT is automatically executed when a window is opened or USE WINDOW is executed. When a window is closed, WINDOWINPUT must be used to re-direct keyboard input. Try this example:

WINDOWINPUT

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: cause input commands to receive info from window object
Syntax: WindowInput WINDOW#

```
; *** WindowInput example- WindowInput.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,320,100,0,"",0,1
Window 1,0,100,320,100,0,"",0,1
WindowInput 0
WindowOutput 0
Activate 0
A$=Edit$("Type something",15)
End
```

11.6.1 reading the keyboard

RAWKEY and QUALIFIER are used to read the 96 alphanumeric and special keys which make up the Amiga's keyboard. RAWKEY returns the code of a key that has already been detected using the INKEY$ function. Here is an example:

RAWKEY

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the raw key code of the most recent key-press
Syntax: k=RawKey

```
; *** RawKey example
; *** Filename - RawKey.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,320,200,$1000,"Hello!",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
```

```
  WLocate 0,0
  A$=Inkey$
  Print RawKey
Until ev.l=$8
End
```

QUALIFIER is used to return a code which indicates the control key used during the most recent key-press. Below is a table of of possible codes:

QUALIFIER

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the control key(s) used in the most recent key-press
Syntax: q=Qualifier

Table 11.8 : Qualifier codes

Control	key Code
[None]	$8000
[Ctrl]	$8008
[Caps Lock]	$8004
Left [Shift]	$8001
Right [Shift]	$8002
Left [Alt]	$8010
Right [Alt]	$8020
Left [Amiga]	$8040
Right [Amiga]	$8080

For example:

```
; *** Qualifier example ** Filename - Qualifier.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,320,200,$1000,"Amiga mode",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  WLocate 0,0
  A$=Inkey$
  NPrint RawKey
Until A$<>""
NPrint Qualifier
VWait 50
End
```

If more than one control keys are pressed, then several codes will be returned. To read individual codes, use the logical AND operator.

11.6.2 the input cursor

These commands are used in conjunction with the EDIT and EDIT$ functions when obtaining window text input from the user.

This function returns the horizontal character position of the cursor.

EDITAT

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the horizontal cursor character position
Syntax: x=Editat

```
; *** Editat example ** Filename - Editat.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$1000,"A window",1,2
NPrint "Enter some text:"
A$=Edit$(20)
NPrint Editat
MouseWait
End
```

EDITFROM controls how EDIT and EDIT$ operate within windows. If the optional POSITION parameter is included then editing will begin at this character position. Example:

EDITFROM
Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: control how Edit & Edit$ operate within windows
Syntax: EditFrom [POSITION]

```
; *** EditFrom example - EditFrom.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$1000,"A window",1,2
NPrint "Enter some text:"
EditFrom 16
A$=Edit$(30)
MouseWait
End
```

This function returns the ASCII code of the character that was used to exit a window-based EDIT or EDIT$ function. EDITFROM must be used prior to **EDITEXIT** to initialise alternate termination keys.

EDITEXIT
Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the ASCII value of the Edit($) exit character
Syntax: e=EditExit

```
; *** EditExit example - EditExit.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,100,$1000,"",1,2
NPrint "Enter text or press escape:"
EditFrom 1
A$=Edit$(30)
If EditExit=27
  NPrint "Escape key pressed"
EndIf
MouseWait
End
```

11.7 The mouse pointer

The mouse is often used for controlling applications, especially those involving aspects of Intuition, such as windows. Here's how.

11.7.1 mouse functions

The **WMOUSEX** function returns the mouse pointer horizontal position relative to the left of the currently used window. Use WMOUSEY to return the mouse pointer vertical position

WMOUSEX/Y
Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return horizontal/vertical mouse position relative to left/top of window
Syntax: x=WMouseX/ WMouseY

```
; *** Mouse coordinates- WMouseY.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,0,150,100,0,"Mouse coordinates",0,1
While Joyb(0)=0
  WLocate 0,0
  NPrint "X = ",WMouseX,"  "
  NPrint "Y = ",WMouseY,"  "
Wend
End
```

EMOUSEX and **EMOUSEY** function return mouse pointer horizontal or vertical position when the most recent "window event" occurred. Window events occur when a window's properties are altered.

EMOUSEX/Y
Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return horizontal/vertical mouse position when last window event occurred
Syntax: x=EMouseX/ EMouseY

Detect them using the EVENT or WAITEVENT statements:

```
; *** Mouse coordinates 2- EMouseY.bb2
Screen 0,2
ScreensBitMap 0,0
Window 0,50,50,170,100,$0008,"Close me",0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
NPrint "X was ",EMouseX,"  "
NPrint "Y was ",EMouseY,"  "
VWait 100
End
```

11.7.2 mouse buttons

This function returns the code of the mouse button that caused the last "mouse button event".
If menus have been turned off using the MENUS OFF statement then the right mouse button will also register an event:

MBUTTONS

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return code of the button that caused the last mouse event
Syntax: m=MButtons

Table 11.9 : MButtons return values

Button	Down	Up
Left	1	5
Right	2	6

```
; *** MButtons example - MButtons.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,320,200,$1000,"Click left mouse",0,1
Repeat
  Waitevent
Until MButtons=1
End
```

11.7.3 the mouse pointer

I've already expressed my dislike of the WIMP (Windows, Icons, Menus and Pointers) environment. So, if you feel the same way, then you'll be glad to know that the shape of the window pointer can be altered with **WPOINTER**.
WPOINTER is similar to the POINTER statement in that it is used to change the shape of the mouse pointer. SHAPE# must be a previously-initialised four colour shape object:

WPOINTER

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: change the mouse pointer in the current window
Syntax: WPointer SHAPE#

```
; *** Point me in the right direction - WPointer.bb2
Screen 0,2
Window 0,0,0,320,100,$1000,"Pointer",0,1
LoadShape 0,"POINTER.SHAPE"
WPointer 0
MouseWait
End
```

11.8 Window graphics

Using drawing commands, Blitz Basic generates both low- and high-resolution windows which consist of thousands of pixels arranged in various patterns. **WCLS** clears the current window

WCLS

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: clear current window
Syntax: WCls [COLOUR]

with colour (0). If the optional COLOUR parameter is included then the window will be cleared with this colour. If the current window was unopened then this statement will clear the window border and title bar.

```
; *** When I'm cleaning windows - WCls.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$400,"A window",0,1
WBox 100,70,200,150,4
VWait 100
WCls
VWait 100
For A=1 To 50
  WCls Rnd(8)
  VWait 6
Next A
End
```

The **INNERCLS** statement is identical to WCLS, however it will only clear the inner portion of the current window, not the window border or title bar:

INNERCLS

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: clear inner portion of current window
Syntax: InnerCls [COLOUR]

```
; *** When I'm cleaning windows take 2
; *** Filename - InnerCls.bb2

Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",0,1
VWait 100
WCls 2
VWait 100
Free Window 0
; *** Same example using InnerCls
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",0,1
VWait 100
InnerCls 2
MouseWait
End
```

The **WPLOT** statement plots a single pixel at coordinates X,Y in colour COLOUR in the currently used window.
You can really only make very simple pictures with WPLOT. For example:

WPLOT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: plot a single point
Syntax: WPlot X,Y,COLOUR

```
; *** WPlot example- WPlot.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,10,300,100,$0001|$1000,"",1,0
For A=1 To 100
  WPlot Rnd(270)+20,Rnd(80)+10,Rnd(6)+1
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

The **WLINE** statement draws a line connecting two pixels on the currently used window. X1, Y1 and X2, Y2 specify the line's start and end points. Additional X and Y parameters construct polygons. Example:

WLINE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: draw a line or series of lines
Syntax: WLine X1,Y1,X2,Y2[,XN,YN...],COLOUR

```
; *** WLine examples ** Filename - WLine.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"",0,1
; *** Building a square with WLine
Wline 10,10,20,10,20,20,10,20,10,10,4
VWait 100
; *** Move the mouse to make pretty patterns
Repeat
  Wline SMouseX,SMouseY,Rnd(280)+20,Rnd(180)+10,Rnd(8)
Until Joyb(0)>0
MouseWait
End
```

WBOX

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: draw a solid rectangle
Syntax: WBox X1,Y1,X2,Y2,COLOUR

WBOX draws a solid rectangle in the current window using top-left (X1, Y1) and bottom-right (X2, Y2) coordinates in the specified COLOUR.

```
; *** WBox example- WBox.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Boxing clever",0,1
For A=1 To 500
  WBox Rnd(300)+10,Rnd(180)+15,Rnd(300)+5,Rnd(180)+15,Rnd(8)
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

WCIRCLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: draw a circular outline
Syntax: WCircle X,Y,RADIUS,COLOUR

The **WCIRCLE** statement allows you to draw a circle in the currently used window. The position and size of the circle is set using the X and Y parameters, followed by the radius of the circle.
COLOUR specifies the colour of the circle.

```
; *** WCircle example- WCircle.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Silly circles",0,1
For A=1 To 50
  WCircle Rnd(260)+30,Rnd(100)+60,Rnd(20)+5,Rnd(8)
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

WELLIPSE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: draw an elliptical outline
Syntax: WEllipse X,Y,X_RADIUS, Y_RADIUS,COLOUR

Ellipses can be drawn just as easily with the **WELLIPSE** statement. WELLIPSE works in the same way as WCIRCLE, however an extra Y_RADIUS parameter is included which specifies the vertical radius of the ellipse. For example:

```
; *** WEllipse example- WEllipse.bb2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Elliptical outlines",0,1
For A=1 To 90
  WEllipse Rnd(260)+30,Rnd(100)+60,Rnd(20)+5,Rnd(10)+5,Rnd(8)
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

This statement is used to draw, or blit, a shape object in a window, at co-ordinates (X,Y). Here's an example:

WBLIT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: draw a shape object in a window
Syntax: WBlit SHAPE#,X,Y

```
; *** WBlit example ** Filename - WBlit.bb2
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Boxf 10,10,20,20,5
GetaShape 0,10,10,20,20
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"",1,2
For A=1 To 50
  WBlit 0,Rnd(260)+30,Rnd(150)+30
Next A
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev>0
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- A window is an independent rectangular area of text and graphics on the screen, which can accept or display information. Windows are opened using the WINDOW statement.
- Windows can also be closed, moved, scrolled, cleared and re-sized.
- IDCMP flags are special flags which are attached to windows. They describe the type of "event" which can be reported by a window. Events are reported by the WAITEVENT and EVENT functions.
- The style and rendering mode for window text can be altered, as can the shape of the window pointer.
- The window library also supports some 2D drawing commands:

Table 11.10 : Window drawing commands

Shape	Command
Square	WBOX
Rectangle	WBOX
Circle	WCIRCLE
Ellipse	WELLIPSE

Chapter 12 : Menus

For anyone who wishes to use their Amiga for other purposes than playing games there is a wealth of literature aimed at teaching basic programming techniques. Many who have mastered aspects of the BASIC language find themselves directed towards writing games programs rather than more serious applications. The main reason for that is the lack of direction in the literature towards developing business or educational type programs.

We can, however develop a technique for writing non-games type programs which is both simple in concept and in widespread use on all computer systems. The resulting programs come under the general category of "Menu driven programs".

Menus are lists of items, or options. Menu titles can be seen by pressing the right-hand mouse button. To observe the contents of a menu, point at the appropriate title with the mouse pointer and the options will appear directly beneath the menu title. These options are selected by moving the mouse pointer over the desired option and releasing the mouse button whilst it is highlighted.

These menus, or MenuList objects, can contain menu titles, menu items and possible even sub-menu items. Menus are attached to windows after the window has been opened, with the SETMENU statement. Each window can have its own menus, allowing complex user interfaces to be created. This chapter will take a look at creating menu driven programs and manipulating menus in Blitz Basic 2.

12.1 Defining menus

Each list of menu options must have a menu title, which appears at the very top of the menu. This statement is used to create the Intuition menu titles which appear when the right mouse button is held down. The MENU# parameter specifies the number of the title. The title at the left-hand edge of the menu title is given a value of (0), followed by (1) for the next title and so on. TITLE$ is the text that will appear when the right mouse button is used. Here is an example:

MENUTITLE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: add a menu title to a MenuList
Syntax: MenuTitle MENULIST,MENU#,TITLE$

```
; *** MenuTitle example- MenuTitle.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
; *** Define menu option (see later)
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"QUIT"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,160,100,$100f,"Blitz Basic",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window (see later)
SetMenu 0
; *** Repeat until QUIT option is selected
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=0
End
```

12.1.1 text menu items

Menu items are the text options appearing directly below a menu title in Intuition menus, created

MENUITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a text menu item
Syntax: MenuItem MENULIST,FLAGS,MENU#,ITEM,TEXT$[,SHORT$]

using the **MENUITEM** statement. Their individual status is controlled by a special parameter called FLAGS.

Table 12.1 : The FLAGS parameter

FLAG	Description
0	Standard menu item
1	Toggle-type menu item (toggled by user)
2	Toggle-type menu item (toggled by FLAG 2 items)
3	As FLAG 1 but initially "On"
4	As FLAG 2 but initially "On"

The MENU# parameter is the number of the menu title under which the menu item will appear. ITEM is the option number for the menu item. Menu items with an option number of (0) appear at the top of an options list, followed by (1), and so on. TEXT$ is the option text. The optional SHORT$ parameter specifies a one character "keyboard shortcut" for the menu item. For example:

```
; *** MenuItem example - MenuItem.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
; *** Define menu options
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"Load"
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"Save"
MenuItem 0,0,0,2,"QUIT"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,160,100,$100f,"Blitz Basic",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
; *** Repeat until QUIT option is selected
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=2
End
```

```
; *** MenuItem example 2 - MenuItem2.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
; *** toggle item and has the keyboard short-cut right Amiga + T:
MenuItem 0,3,0,0," Toggle    ","T"
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"QUIT"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
; *** Repeat until QUIT option is selected
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=1
End
```

SUBITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a sub-menu item
Syntax: SubItem MENULIST,FLAGS,MENU#, ITEM ,SUB,TEXT$[,SHORT$]

All menu items may have an optional list of sub-menu items attached to them. This is where the **SUBITEM** statement comes in. The ITEM parameter specifies the menu item to attach the sub item to. SUB is the index number for this sub item, those with number (0) appear at the top of the sub item list, followed by (1) and so on. The TEXT$ parameter is the sub item text.
As with menu items, sub items may have keyboard shortcuts attached with the optional SHORT$ parameter (see the MENUITEM statement for details of the other parameters):

```
; *** SubItem example - SubItem.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
; *** Define menu option 0
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"Load"
; *** Define menu option 0 sub-options
SubItem 0,0,0,0,0,"Picture"
SubItem 0,0,0,0,1,"Sample"
; *** Define menu option 1
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"QUIT"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=1
End
```

12.1.2 shape menu items

SHAPEITEM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a graphical menu item
Syntax: ShapeItem MENULIST,FLAGS,MENU#, ITEM,SHAPE#

Shape menu items are the graphical elements which appear directly beneath menu titles. They use pictures, instead of words, as options.

The **SHAPEITEM** statement is used to create a graphical menu item. As with the MENUITEM statement, the FLAGS parameter controls the status of an individual menu item as show in Table 12.1. The MENU# parameter is the number of the menu title under which the menu item will appear. ITEM is the option number for the menu item. Menu items with an option number of (0) appear at the top of an options list, followed by (1), and so on. SHAPE# specifies the number of a previously initialised shape object to be used as the graphics. Here is an example:

```
; *** ShapeItem example - ShapeItem.bb2
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Create a shape
Cls 2
Boxf 30,30,60,60,5
Circlef 100,40,10,6
GetaShape 0,30,30,60,60
GetaShape 1,90,30,110,50
Cls
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Shape item"
; *** Define shape options
ShapeItem 0,0,0,0,0
ShapeItem 0,0,0,1,1
; *** Open Intuition window
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Select a menu",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
; *** Circle item quits
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=1
End
```

SHAPESUB

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a graphic sub-menu item
Syntax: ShapeSub MENULIST,FLAGS,MENU#, ITEM,SUBITEM,SHAPE#

SHAPESUB creates a graphical sub-menu item. The ITEM parameter specifies the menu item to attach the sub item to. SUBITEM is the index number for this sub item, those with number (0) appear at the top of the sub item list, followed by (1) and so on. The SUBTEXT$ parameter is the sub item text.

As with menu items, sub items may have keyboard shortcuts attached with the optional SHORTCUT$ parameter (see the SHAPEITEM statement for details of the other parameters). SHAPE# is the number of a previously initialised shape object to be used as the graphic.

```
; *** ShapeSub example - ShapeSub.bb2
; *** Open screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Create a shape
Cls 2
Boxf 30,30,60,60,5
Circlef 100,40,10,6
GetaShape 0,30,30,60,60
GetaShape 1,90,30,110,50
Cls
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Shape item"
; *** Define shape option
ShapeItem 0,0,0,0,0
; *** Define shape sub-option
ShapeSub 0,0,0,0,0,1
; *** Open Intuition window
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Select a menu",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
; *** Circle item quits
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=0
End
```

12.2 Creating menus

To make a menu visible it must be attached to a window with the **SETMENU** statement. This statement attaches a MenuList to the currently used window. Each window may have only one MenuList attached to it.

SETMENU

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: attach a MenuList to the current window
Syntax: SetMenu MENULIST

```
; *** SetMenu example - SetMenu.bb2
; *** Define a menu
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"QUIT"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
; *** Repeat until QUIT option is selected
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=0
End
```

12.3 Manipulating menus

The state, layout and colour of menus and menu options can be altered with the following MenuList commands. The **MENUCOLOUR** statement is used to set the colour of the text in a menu item or sub item. Here is an example:

MENUCOLOUR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: determine the colour of a menu item
Syntax: MenuColour COLOUR

```
; *** MenuColour example - MenuColour.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
; *** Alter text colour
MenuColour 3
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"I want to"
; *** Alter text colour again
MenuColour 5
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"QUIT"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
; *** Repeat until QUIT option is selected
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=1
End
```

Executing **MENUGAP** before creating any menu titles, items or sub items, allows you to control the layout of the menu. The X_GAP and Y_GAP parameters specify an amount, in pixels, to be inserted to the left and right of all menu items and sub-menu items.

MENUGAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: control layout of a menu
Syntax: MenuGap X_GAP,Y_GAP

```
; *** MenuGap example - MenuGap.bb2
; *** Set menu gap
MenuGap 60,30
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"QUIT"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
; *** Repeat until QUIT option is selected
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=0
End
```

The **SUBITEMOFF** statement controls the relative position of the top of a list of sub-menu items in relation to their associated menu item:

SUBITEMOFF

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: control the position of sub items to menu options
Syntax: SubItemOff X_OFFSET,Y_OFFSET

```
; *** SubItemOff example - SubItemOff.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"I want to"
```

```
; *** Set option offset
SubItemOff 80,80
SubItem 0,0,0,0,0,"Quit"
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=256 AND MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=0
End
```

MENUSTATE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: turn menu items on or off
Syntax: MenuState MENULIST[,MENU#[,ITEM[,SUB]]],On/Off

This statement is used to turn entire menus or parts of menus on or off. If the following syntax is used then a whole active menu may be turned off:

```
MenuState MENULIST On/Off
```

If the MENU# parameter is included then a menu may be turned on or off:

```
MenuState MENULIST,MENU#,On/Off
```

Menu items and sub items can also be toggled by the inclusion of the appropriate parameters. Try the following example which illustrates this:

```
; *** MenuState example - MenuState.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
MenuColour 3
; ** This item will be turned off
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"Load"
; *** Open an Intuition display
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
; *** Attach menu to window
SetMenu 0
MenuState 0,0,0,Off
; *** Wait for a mouse click
Repeat
Until Waitevent=$8
End
```

MENUCHECKED

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: read status of a toggle-type menu item
Syntax: s=MenuChecked(MENULIST,MENU#,ITEM[,SUBITEM])

The **MENUCHECKED** function reads the status of a toggle menu item or sub-item, returning (-1) if checked and (0) if not..

```
; *** MenuChecked example - MenuChecked.bb2
; *** Define menu title
MenuTitle 0,0,"Project"
MenuColour 3
MenuItem 0,1,0,0," Enable quit"
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"QUIT"
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,200,100,$100f,"Press right mouse",1,2
SetMenu 0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  ; *** End if QUIT is enabled
  If ev=256 AND ItemHit=1
```

```
    If MenuChecked(0,0,0)
      End
    ; *** QUIT option is not enabled
    Else
      WLocate 0,0
      Print "Quit not enabled"
    EndIf
  EndIf
Forever
```

12.4 A full example

Here is a full example which demonstrates one of the practical applications of menus in Blitz Basic programs. It is a very simple IFF image displayer. At present it can only load IFF files and clear them from the screen. Why not try adding the ability to save screens, or add more options, such as screen distortion and palette manipulation:

```
; *** Menu example- MoreMenus.bb2

; *** First menu
MenuTitle 0,0,"PROJECT"
MenuItem 0,0,0,0,"LOAD    ","L"
MenuItem 0,0,0,1,"SAVE    ","S"
MenuItem 0,0,0,2,"QUIT    ","Q"

; *** Second menu
MenuTitle 0,1,"SPECIAL"
MenuItem 0,0,1,0,"CLEAR    ","C"

; *** Output screen and window
Screen 0,0,0,320,200,5,0,"Complete menu example",1,7
Window 0,0,0,320,200,$1900,"",1,0

; *** Attach MenuList to window
SetMenu 0

Repeat
  A.l=Waitevent

  If A=256
    ; *** "LOAD" option
    If MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=0
      MaxLen PATH$=160
      MaxLen NAME$=64
      A$=FileRequest$("Load",PATH$,NAME$)
      If A$<>""
        LoadScreen 0,A$,0
        Use Palette 0
      EndIf
    EndIf

    ; *** "QUIT" option
    If MenuHit=0 AND ItemHit=2 Then End
    ; *** "CLEAR" option
    If MenuHit=1 AND ItemHit=0 Then WCls
  EndIf
Forever
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- Menus are created using MenuList objects. Each MenuList contains an entire set of menu titles, items, and sub-items
- MENUTITLE is used to create the Intuition menu titles which appear when the right mouse button is held down.
- The MENUITEM statement creates a text menu item.
- The SHAPEITEM statement is used to create a graphical menu item.
- All menu items may have an optional list of sub-menu items attached to them. This is achieved with the SUBITEM and SHAPESUBITEM statements.
- Menus are attached to windows by the SETMENU statement.
- The layout of menus can be altered with MENUGAP and SUBITEMOFF.
- Menu status can be read and altered with the MENUSTATE and MENUCHECKED commands.

Table 12.3 : Menu commands

Command	Function
MENUCHECKED	Read status of a toggle-type menu item
MENUCOLOUR	Determine the colour of a menu item
MENUGAP	Control layout of a menu
MENUITEM	Create a text menu item
MENUSTATE	Turn menu items on or off
MENUTITLE	Add a menu title to a MenuList
SETMENU	Attach a MenuList to the current window
SHAPEITEM	Create a graphical menu item
SHAPESUB	Create a graphic sub-menu item
SUBITEM	Create a sub-menu item
SUBITEMOFF	Control position of sub items to menu options

Chapter 13 : Gadgets

Gadgets are the boxes which appear when the program requires you to enter or alter information. They are selected by clicking on the gadget once with the mouse pointer, although some gadgets require you to enter text (string gadgets). Note that all Blitz gadgets are created inside a previously initialised window. As a brief reminder, the syntax of the WINDOW statement is as follows:

```
Window WINDOW#,X,Y,W,H,F,TITLE$,D,B[,G_LIST#[,BITMAP#]]
```

Gadgets are created through the use of GadgetList objects. This allows you to group several gadgets, with differing identification numbers, under one GadgetList. This requires the presence of yet another parameter in the window's definition. The optional G_LIST# parameter is the number of a GadgetList object to be attached to the window. For example:

```
; *** Gadgets example - Gadgets.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

All Blitz Basic gadgets need X and Y parameters, and some require you to specify the size of the gadget, in pixels. Let's begin with text gadgets, the simplest in Blitz Basic's repertoire...

13.1 Text gadgets

The **TEXTGADGET** statement adds a text gadget to a GadgetList. A text gadget is the simplest type of gadget, consisting of a sequence of characters surrounded by an optional border. X and Y specify the co-ordinates of the gadget in the currently used window. The FLAGS parameter should be set as follows:

TEXTGADGET

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: add a text gadget to a GadgetList
Syntax: TextGadget GADGETLIST,X,Y, FLAGS,ID,TEXT$

Table 13.1 : The FLAGS parameter

Bit#	Description
0	Toggle on/off
1	Relative to right of window
2	Relative to bottom of window
5	Box select

If BIT# 1 is set then the X parameter should be negative, and if BIT# 2 is set then the Y parameter should be negative. ID is a specific identification number, greater than zero, attached to this gadget. The TEXT$ parameter holds the actual text string to appear in the gadget. Here is a full example:

```
; *** TextGadget example - TextGadget.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
TextGadget 0,170,100,0,2," Don't quit "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

GADGETPENS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define text colours for text gadgets
Syntax: GadgetPens FOREGROUND [,BACKGROUND]

This statement sets the text colours used when text gadgets are created using the TEXTGADGET statement. Obviously, the FOREGROUND parameter defines the foreground colour (default colour is 1) and the optional BACKGROUND parameter, the background colour (default colour is 0).

```
; *** GadgetPens example - GadgetPens.bb2
GadgetPens 6
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
GadgetPens 4,5
TextGadget 0,170,100,0,2," Don't quit "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

GADGETJAM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: determine text rendering method for text gadgets
Syntax: GadgetJam MODE

GADGETJAM controls the text rendering method when creating text gadgets. The MODE parameter is identical to that of the WJAM statement in Chapter 11. Here is a brief reminder:

Table 13.2 : The MODE parameter

Value	Mode	Description
0	Jam1	Only the foreground colour to be printed
1	Jam2	Print foreground and background colours
2	Complement	Print old characters that overlap with new ones (XOR)
4	Inverse	Print inverse video characters

Try the following example:

```
; *** GadgetJam example- GadgetJam.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
GadgetJam 4
TextGadget 0,150,100,0,2," Inverse video "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

13.1.1 cycling text gadgets

Cycling gadgets are similar to text gadgets, however when they are selected by the user, another text string is displayed in the gadget. To create a cycling text gadget, use the "|" character in the TEXT$ parameter to separate the options:

```
; *** TextGadget example 2- TextGadget2.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
TextGadget 0,170,100,0,2,"CYCLE |GADGET"
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Cycle the gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

This statement sets the status of a cycling text gadget. The VALUE parameter is the number of the text item to be displayed. The REDRAW statement should be used to update the gadget. Here's an example:

SETGADGETSTATUS

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set cycling gadget
Syntax: SetGadgetStatus GADGETLIST#, ID,VALUE

```
; *** SetGadgetStatus example - SetGadgetStatus.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
TextGadget 0,140,100,0,2,"First Option|Second option"
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Window",1,2,0
SetGadgetStatus 0,2,2
Redraw 0,2
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

This function returns the status of a gadget. If the specified gadget is a "toggle" type gadget then GADGETSTATUS will return (-1) if the gadget is on, or (0) if the gadget is off. If the specified gadget is a "cycling text" type gadget, then GADGETSTATUS will return a value representing the text item number.

GADGETSTATUS

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return gadget status
Syntax: GadgetStatus(GADGETLIST#,ID)

```
; *** GadgetStatus example - GadgetStatus.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
TextGadget 0,170,100,0,2,"Blitz|Basic| Two "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Cycle Blitz gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
  WLocate 0,0
  NPrint "Cycle text ",GadgetStatus(0,2)
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

13.2 Shape gadgets

The SHAPEGADGET statement is used to create gadgets with graphic elements, taken from a previously initialised shape bank. SHAPE# is the number of the shape object to appear in the gadget. The FLAGS parameter should be set as follows:

SHAPEGADGET

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: add a shape gadget to a GadgetList
Syntax: ShapeGadget GADGETLIST,X,Y,FLAGS, ID,SHAPE#[,SHAPE2#]

Table 13.3 : The SHAPEGADGET FLAGS parameter

Bit#	Description
0	Toggle on/off
1	Relative to right of window
2	Relative to bottom of window
5	Box select

All of the other parameters are the same as for the TEXTGADGET statement. If the optional SHAPE2# parameter is included then an alternative shape when the gadget is selected.

```
; *** ShapeGadget example - ShapeGadget.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
For A=7 To 1 Step -1
  Circlef 16,32,A*2,A
```

```
Next
GetaShape 0,0,16,32,32
Cls
ShapeGadget 0,148,50,0,1,0
TextGadget 0,140,180,0,2," Quit "
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=2
End
```

TOGGLE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: turn a text or shape object on or off
Syntax: Toggle GADGETLIST,ID[,On/Off]

This statement is used to turn a toggle-type shape or text gadget on or off. If the optional On/Off parameter is missing then the gadget will be toggled to its alternate state (i.e. if the gadget is currently on then it will be toggled off, and vice versa). Toggle-type gadgets are those created with BIT# 0 set (consult the TEXTGADGET statement for more information):

```
; *** Toggle example
; *** Filename - Toggle.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
TextGadget 0,170,100,0,2," Toggled On "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
Toggle 0,2,On
Redraw 0,2
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

13.3 String gadgets

STRINGGADGET

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: add a text entry gadget to a GadgetList
Syntax: StringGadget GADGETLIST,X,Y,FLAGS,ID, LENGTH,WIDTH

The **STRINGGADGET** statement is used to create an Intuition "text input" gadget. When a string gadget is selected, a text cursor appears and characters may be input into the gadget from the keyboard.
X and Y control the gadgets horizontal and vertical position, in pixels, relative to the top left of the currently used window. FLAGS should be set as follows:

Table 13.4 : STRINGGADGET FLAGS parameter

Bit#	Description
1	Relative to right of window
2	Relative to bottom of window
5	Box select

If BIT# 1 is set then the X parameter should be negative, and if BIT# 2 is set then the Y parameter should be negative. The ID parameter is the number of the gadget. The LENGTH parameter specifies the maximum number of characters that may appear in the gadget. WIDTH specifies the width of the string gadget in pixels. If WIDTH is less than LENGTH then excess characters will be scrolled in the gadget. Here is a full example:

```
; *** StringGadget example - StringGadget.bb2
StringGadget 0,80,16,0,1,40,160
StringGadget 0,80,32,0,2,40,160
TextGadget 0,8,180,0,3," QUIT "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
WLocate 8,8
```

```
Print "Name:"
WLocate 8,24
Print "Address:"
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=3
End
```

13.3.1 manipulating string gadgets

This function returns the contents of a string gadget. The GADGETLIST parameter specifies the number of the GadgetList and the ID parameter specifies the number of the string gadget. For example:

STRINGTEXT$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the contents of a string gadget
Syntax: c=StringText$(GADGETLIST,ID)

```
; *** StringText$ example - StringText$.bb2
StringGadget 0,80,16,0,1,40,160
TextGadget 0,8,180,0,2," QUIT "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
WLocate 4,8
Print "Name:"
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  If ev=64 AND GadgetHit=1
    WLocate 8,96
    Print "Hello there "+StringText$(0,1)
    ClearString 0,1
    Redraw 0,1
  EndIf
Until ev=64 AND GadgetHit=2
End
```

The **ACTIVATESTRING** statement is used to automatically activate a string gadget. Here is an example:

ACTIVATESTRING

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: activate a string gadget
Syntax: ActivateString WINDOW#,ID

```
; *** ActivateString example
; *** Filename - ActivateString.bb2
StringGadget 0,80,16,0,1,40,160
TextGadget 0,8,180,0,2," QUIT "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
WLocate 4,8
Print "Type:"
ActivateString 0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=64 AND GadgetHit=2
End
```

RESETSTRING resets a string gadget and moves its cursor position to the left of the gadget. **CLEARSTRING** erases the contents of a string gadget (ID). If a string gadget is erased while it is displayed in a window then the text will not be erased until the REDRAW statement is executed. **SETSTRING** is used to initialise the contents of a string gadget created using the

RESET/CLEAR/SETSTRING

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: reset/erase/initialise a string gadget
Syntax: ResetString/ ClearString/ SetString GADGETLIST,ID, STRING$

STRINGGADGET statement. REDRAW may be used to update any changes. Try the following example which demonstrates RESETSTRING, CLEARSTRING and SETSTRING:

```
; *** Manipulating string gadgets- SetString.bb2
StringGadget 0,80,16,0,1,40,160
TextGadget 0,8,180,0,2," QUIT "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Select a gadget",1,2,0
WLocate 4,8
Print "Name:"
ActivateString 0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  If ev=64 AND GadgetHit=1
    ReSetString 0,1
    ClearString 0,1
    SetString 0,1,"is cool!"
    ActivateString 0,1
  EndIf
Until ev=64 AND GadgetHit=2
End
```

13.4 Gadget groups

If a gadget group is defined then all button gadgets created become part of a mutually exclusive group. This means that, if one gadget is selected, then all other gadgets of the same group become unselected.

BUTTONGROUP

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: define a number of button-type gadgets
Syntax: ButtonGroup GROUP

This statement is used to define a number of gadgets as being of the same, mutually exclusive group. After **BUTTONGROUP** has been executed, all button gadgets created become part of this group.

```
; *** ButtonGroup example - ButtonGroup.bb2
Screen 0,10
TextGadget 0,48,14,0,0,"Cycle 1|Cycle 2|Cycle 3"
ButtonGroup 1
For A=1 To 5
  TextGadget 0,48,14+A*14,512,A,"Button "+Str$(A)
Next A
Window 0,20,20,160,100,$1008,"ButtonGroup",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

BUTTONID

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return selected gadget in button group
Syntax: ButtonId(GADGETLIST#,BUTTONGROUP)

This function returns which gadget in a button group is currently selected. Here's an example:

```
; *** ButtonId example - ButtonId.bb2
Screen 0,10
ButtonGroup 1
For A=1 To 5
  TextGadget 0,48,14+A*14,512,A,"Button "+Str$(A)
Next A
Window 0,20,20,320,100,$1008,"ButtonId",1,2,0
Repeat
  WLocate 45,4
```

```
  NPrint "Button ",ButtonId(0,1)," "
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

13.5 Proportional gadgets

Proportional gadgets are commonly known as “slider bars”, such as the gadgets that are used to scroll the contents of Workbench windows around.

Prop gadgets have two main qualities: a potentiometer setting (or pot), and a body setting. The pot setting specifies the current position of the slider bar, in the range zero to one. For example, a proportional gadget with a pot setting of 0.5 would be positioned centrally. The body setting specifies the size of the units the proportional gadget represents, in the range zero to one. The body setting also alters the width of the slider bar. Proportional gadgets may be either horizontal or vertical, or a combination of both.

PROPGADGET

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a proportional gadget
Syntax: PropGadget GADGETLIST,X,Y,FLAGS,ID, WIDTH,HEIGHT

Use **PROPGADGET** to create a proportional gadget. The X and Y parameters specify the position of the gadget, relative to the top left of the currently used window. WIDTH and HEIGHT specify the size of the proportional gadget, in pixels. ID is simply the identification number of the gadget. The FLAGS parameter should be set as follows:

Table 13.5 : The PROPGADGET FLAGS parameter

Bit#	Description
1	Relative to right of window
2	Relative to bottom of window
3	Size relative to window width
4	Size relative to window height
5	Box select
6	Prop gadget has X movement
7	Prop gadget has Y movement
8	No border around prop gadget

If BIT# 1 is set then the X parameter should be negative, and if BIT# 2 is set then the Y parameter should be negative. Here are some examples:

```
; *** Proportional gadgets - PropGadget.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128,0,16,54
Window 0,0,20,300,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** Proportional gadgets 2 - PropGadget2.bb2
Screen 0,3
PropGadget 0,100,25,8+(7*8),0,100,50
Window 0,0,20,300,200,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

SETH/VPROP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: change the horizontal/vertical slider qualities of a proportional gadget
Syntax: SetHProp/ SetVProp GADGETLIST,ID,POT,BODY

The **SETHPROP** statement is used to change the horizontal slider qualities of a proportional gadget. REDRAW may be used to update any changes. Here are some examples:

```
; *** SetHProp example - SetHProp.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128-64,0,120,24
; *** Position slider at left
SetHProp 0,0,0,0.3
Window 0,0,20,640,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** SetHProp example 2 - SetHProp2.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128-64,0,120,24
; *** Position slider at right
SetHProp 0,0,1,0.3
Window 0,0,20,640,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** SetHProp example 3 - SetHProp3.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128-64,0,120,24
; *** Change width of slider
SetHProp 0,0,0.5,0.1
Window 0,0,20,640,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

The **SETVPROP** statement is used to change the vertical slider qualities of a proportional gadget. REDRAW may be used to update any changes. Here are some examples:

```
; *** SetVProp example - SetVProp.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128,0,16,54
; *** Position pot at top
SetVProp 0,0,0,0.5
Window 0,0,20,640,200,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** SetVProp example 2 - SetVProp2.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128,0,16,54
; *** Position pot at bottom
SetVProp 0,0,1,0.5
Window 0,0,20,640,200,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

```
; *** SetVProp example 3 - SetVProp3.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128,0,16,54
; *** Smaller width of slider bar
SetVProp 0,0,0.5,0.1
Window 0,0,20,640,200,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

HPROPPOT returns a number ranging from zero, up to but not including one, reflecting the horizontal "pot" setting of a proportional gadget. For example:

HPROPPOT/BODY

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return proportional gadget horizontal pot/body setting
Syntax: hp=HPropPot/HPropBody(GADGETLIST,ID)

```
; *** HPropPot example - HPropPot.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128-64,0,120,24
SetHProp 0,0,0.5,0.2
Window 0,0,20,640,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
  WLocate 0,0
  NPrint HPropPot(0,0),"    "
Until ev=$200
End
```

HPROPBODY returns a number ranging from zero, up to but not including one, reflecting the horizontal "body" setting of a proportional gadget. Example:

```
; *** HPropBody example - HPropBody.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128-64,0,120,24
SetHProp 0,0,0.5,0.3
Window 0,0,20,640,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
WLocate 0,0
; *** Returns 0.3
NPrint HPropBody(0,0),"    "
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

VPROPPOT returns a number ranging from zero, up to but not including one, reflecting the vertical "pot" setting of a proportional gadget. Try this example:

VPROPPOT/BODY

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return the vertical pot/body setting of a proportional gadget
Syntax: vp=VPropPot/VPropBody (GADGETLIST,ID)

```
; *** VPropPot example- VPropPot.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128,0,16,54
Window 0,0,20,300,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
Repeat
  V=VPropPot(0,0)
  WLocate 0,0
  NPrint V,"   "
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

VPROPBODY returns a number ranging from zero, up to but not including one, reflecting the vertical "body" setting of a proportional gadget. For example:

```
; *** VPropBody example- VPropBody.bb2
FindScreen 0
PropGadget 0,130,25,128,0,32,64
SetVProp 0,0,0.5,0.3
Window 0,0,20,640,100,$100A,"",1,2,0
WLocate 0,0
; *** Returns 0.3
NPrint VPropBody(0,0),"    "
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until ev=$200
End
```

Here is a full example which demonstrates the use of proportional-type gadgets:

```
; *** Palette Requester- PaletteRequester.bb2
FindScreen 0
For A=0 To 2
  PropGadget 0,A*22+8,14,128,A,16,54
Next A
For B=0 To 3
  GadgetJam 1
  GadgetPens 0,B
  X=B AND 7
  Y=Int(B/8)
  TextGadget 0,X*28+72,14+Y*14,32,3+B,"  "
Next B
Window 0,100,50,300,72,$100A,"Palette requester",1,2,0
CC=0
Toggle 0,3+CC,On
Redraw 0,3+CC
Repeat
  SetVProp 0,0,1-Red(CC)/15,1/16
  SetVProp 0,1,1-Green(CC)/15,1/16
  SetVProp 0,2,1-Blue(CC)/15,1/16
  Redraw 0,0 : Redraw 0,1 : Redraw 0,2
  ev.l=Waitevent
  If ev=$40 AND GadgetHit>2
    Toggle 0,3+CC,On : Redraw 0,3+CC
    CC=GadgetHit-3
    Toggle 0,3+CC,On : Redraw 0,3+CC
  EndIf
  If(ev=$20 OR ev=$40) AND GadgetHit<3
    r.b=VPropPot(0,0)*16
    g.b=VPropPot(0,1)*16
    b.b=VPropPot(0,2)*16
    RGB CC,15-r,15-g,15-b
  EndIf
Until ev=$200
End
```

REDRAW

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: redisplay a gadget
Syntax: Redraw WINDOW#,ID

The **REDRAW** statement redisplays a gadget in the specified window. This is primarily of use when proportional gadgets or string gadgets have been altered. Example:

```
; *** Redraw example - Redraw.bb2
TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
TextGadget 0,140,100,0,2,"First Option|Second option"
Screen 0,3
```

```
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Window",1,2,0
SetGadgetStatus 0,2,2
Redraw 0,2
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

13.6 Gadget borders

BORDERS is one of a number of Blitz Basic statements with two purposes. The first syntax is used to toggle automatic gadget border creation. Gadget borders are created when the TEXTGADGET or STRINGGADGET statements are used. To disable this process use:

```
Borders Off
```

The **BORDERS** statement may also be used to specify the spacing between a gadget and its border. In this case, the WIDTH parameter refers to the left/right spacing and HEIGHT refers to the top/bottom spacing. Try the following example:

BORDERS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: toggle automatic border creation/ specify gadget-border spacing
Syntax: Borders On/Off
Syntax 2: Borders WIDTH,HEIGHT

```
; *** Flower Borders
; *** Filename - Borders.bb2

Borders Off
TextGadget 0,8,16,0,1,"No borders"
Borders On
TextGadget 0,8,32,0,2,"Borders"
Borders 16,8
TextGadget 0,8,64,0,3,"Big borders"
Borders 8,4
TextGadget 0,8,180,0,4," QUIT "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Sliders",1,3,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=4
End
```

The **BORDERPENS** statement is used to define the colours used when gadget borders are created using TEXTGADGET, STRINGGADGET and GADGETBORDER. The HILIGHT_COLOUR parameter specifies the colour of the top and left edges of the border (default colour is 1) and SHADOW_COLOUR specifies the colour of the right and bottom edges (default colour is 2). For example:

BORDERPENS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define created gadget borders colours used
Syntax: BorderPens HILIGHT_COLOUR, SHADOW_COLOUR

```
; *** BorderPens examples
; *** Filename - BorderPens.bb2
Borders Off
TextGadget 0,8,16,0,1,"No border"
Borders On
BorderPens 2,1
TextGadget 0,8,32,0,2,"Indented"
Borders 16,8
BorderPens 4,5
TextGadget 0,8,64,0,3,"Jolly"
Borders 8,4
BorderPens 1,2
TextGadget 0,8,180,0,4," QUIT "
```

```
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Sliders",1,3,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=4
End
```

GADGETBORDER

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: draw a rectangular border into the current window
Syntax: GadgetBorder X,Y,WIDTH,HEIGHT

This statement draws a rectangular border into the currently used window. Both proportional gadgets and shape gadgets do not have borders automatically created for them, so GADGETBORDER can be employed to do this. The X and Y parameters are the coordinates for the top left-hand corner of the border, and WIDTH and HEIGHT specify the width and height, in pixels, of the border.

```
; *** GadgetBorder example
; *** Filename - GadgetBorder.bb2

Borders Off
TextGadget 0,8,16,0,1," No border "
Borders On
TextGadget 0,8,32,0,2," QUIT "
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Sliders",1,3,0
VWait 100
GadgetBorder 12,15,80,10
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=2
End
```

13.7 Disabling gadgets

These two statements can disable and enable gadgets respectively. If a gadget is disabled then it is covered by a "mesh" and cannot be accessed by the user. Once a gadget is enabled, this mesh is removed and the gadget can be accessed.

DISABLE/ENABLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: disable/enable gadget
Syntax: Disable/ Enable GADGETLIST#,ID

```
; *** Disable example
; *** Filename - Disable.bb2

TextGadget 0,60,100,0,1," Quit "
TextGadget 0,140,100,0,2,"Disabled gadget"
Disable 0,2
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$100f,"Window",1,2,0
Repeat
Until Waitevent=64 AND GadgetHit=1
End
```

13.8 The GadTools Library

The GadTools library is an extension to the Blitz Basic system, which requires Kickstart 2.04 or greater. GadTools allows you to create more functional interfaces, involving list gadgets, cycle gadgets and highlight gadgets.

13.8.1 basics of GadTools

All GadTools gadgets have a unique ID number, enabling you to mix standard Blitz gadgets with GadTools. GadTools gadgets have X, Y, W (width) and H (height) parameters which specify the location and dimensions of the gadget.

ATTACHGTLIST

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: attach GadTools gadgets to a window
Syntax: AttachGTList GTLIST#,WINDOW#

They also have a TEXT$ parameter which is used as a title for the gadget. Unlike standard Blitz Basic gadgets, GadTools gadgets are attached to the window after it has been opened. This is achieved with the **ATTACHGTLIST**. This statement is used to attach a series of GadTools gadgets to a window, after it has been opened. Here's an example:

```
; *** AttachGTList example - AttachGTList.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
Window 0,0,20,320,70,$1000,"A simple example",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

In all of the GadTools commands, where a FLAGS parameter is required, it should be set as follows:

Table 13.6 : The FLAGS parameter

Flag	Description
1	Text label to left of gadget
2	Text label to right of gadget
4	Text label above gadget
8	Text label below gadget
$10	Text label inside gadget
$20	Gadget highlighted
$40	Gadget disabled
$80	Immediate flag
$100	Set Boolean gadget to (On)
$200	Attach arrows to scroller gadget
$400	Make GTPROPGADGET vertical

Here are some examples:

```
; *** FLAGS example 1 - FLAGS.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTNumber 0,1,150,30,60,20,"Left",1,100000
GTNumber 0,2,150,60,60,20,"Right",2,100000
GTNumber 0,3,150,100,60,20,"Above",4,100000
GTNumber 0,4,150,140,60,20,"Below",8,100000
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

```
; *** FLAGS example 2 - FLAGS2.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTMX 0,1,150,80,60,20,"Disabled",$40,"Blitz|Amiga"
GTCheckBox 0,2,150,110,60,20,"On",$100
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.2 numeric gadgets

GTINTEGER

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a number string gadget
Syntax: GTInteger GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H,TEXT$, FLAGS,DEFAULT

This statement creates a string gadget which only allows numbers to be entered by the user. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. DEFAULT is the number that will initially appear in the box. Try the following example:

```
; *** GTInteger example - GTInteger.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTInteger 0,1,150,80,60,20,"Enter a number",0,69
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTNUMBER

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a read-only number gadget
Syntax: GTNumber GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H, TEXT$,FLAGS,VALUE

The GTNUMBER statement creates a read-only numeric gadget. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The VALUE parameter is the number to be displayed in the gadget:

```
; *** GTNumber example - GTNumber.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTNumber 0,1,150,80,60,20,"Read only",0,100000
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTSETINTEGER

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: update contents of a GTInteger or GTNumber gadget
Syntax: GTSetInteger GTLIST#,ID,VALUE

This statement updates and redraws the contents of a GTINTEGER or GTNUMBER gadget. VALUE is the new number to be displayed. Here's an example:

```
; *** GTSetInteger example - GTSetInteger.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTInteger 0,1,150,80,60,20,"Enter a number",0,69
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
GTSetInteger 0,1,39
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTGETINTEGER returns the contents of a GTINTEGER or GTNUMBER gadget. For example:

GTGETINTEGER

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return contents of a GTInteger or GTNumber gadget
Syntax: i=GTGetInteger(GTLIST#,ID)

```
; *** GTGetInteger example - GTGetInteger.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTInteger 0,1,150,80,60,20,"Enter a number",0,69
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
A=GTGetInteger(0,1)
WLocate 10,120
NPrint "Your number is ",A
VWait 50
End
```

13.8.3 text and string gadgets

GTBUTTON

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a text string gadget
Syntax: GTButton GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H, TEXT$,FLAGS

GTBUTTON is used to create a text gadget. A text gadget is the simplest type of gadget, consisting of a sequence of characters (TEXT$) surrounded by a border. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. For example:

```
; *** GTButton example - GTButton.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTButton 0,1,100,10,90,20," Click me ",0
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTSTRING

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a string gadget
Syntax: GTString GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H,TEXT$, FLAGS,CHARACTERS

The **GTSTRING** statement creates an Intuition-style "text input" gadget. When a string gadget is selected, a text cursor appears and characters may be input into the gadget, from the keyboard.

The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The CHARACTERS parameter specifies the maximum number of characters that can be entered by the user.

```
; *** GTString example - GTString.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTString 0,1,100,80,100,20,"Name:",0,11
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
```

```
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTTEXT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a read-only text gadget
Syntax: GTText GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H,TEXT$, FLAGS, DISPLAY$

The **GTTEXT** statement creates a read-only text gadget. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The DISPLAY$ parameter specifies a text string to display in the gadget:

```
; *** GTText example - GTText.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTText 0,1,100,80,150,30,"Read only:",0,"This is a message"
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Howdy Partner!",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTSETSTRING

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: update contents of a GTString or GTText gadget
Syntax: GTSetString GTLIST#,ID,TEXT$

This statement updates the contents of a GTSTRING or GTTEXT gadget. The TEXT$ parameter specifies the new contents of the gadget. Example:

```
; *** GTSetString example - GTSetString.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTString 0,1,100,80,100,20,"Name:",0,11
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
GTSetString 0,1,"Neil Wright"
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTGETSTRING

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return contents of a GTString or GTText gadget
Syntax: s$=GTGetString(GTLIST#,ID)

The **GTGETSTRING** function returns the contents of a GTSTRING or GTTEXT gadget. Here is an example:

```
; *** GTGetString example - GTGetString.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTString 0,1,100,80,100,20,"Name:",0,11
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
A$=GTGetString(0,1)
WLocate 10,120
NPrint "Your name is ",A$
VWait 50
End
```

13.8.4 check box gadgets

GTCHECKBOX

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a check box gadget
Syntax: GTCheckBox GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H, TEXT$,FLAGS

GTCHECKBOX creates an Intuition-style check box. A check box is a gadget which toggles between on (the box is filled with a tick) and off (the box is empty).
The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget:

```
; *** GTCheckBox example - GTCheckBox.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTCheckBox 0,1,110,80,60,20,"Click on me",0
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.5 cycle gadgets

GTCYCLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a cycle gadget
Syntax: GTCycle GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H,TEXT$, FLAGS,OPTIONS$

The GTCYCLE statement is used to create cycle gadgets, which offer the user a range of options. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The OPTION$ parameter should consist of a list of options separated by the | character (located directly above the return key).

```
; *** GTCycle example - GTCycle.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTCycle 0,1,50,50,90,20,"Cycle",0,"Blitz|Basic|Is|Tops"
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.6 list gadgets

GTLISTVIEW

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a list gadget
Syntax: GTListView GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H, TEXT$,FLAGS,LIST()

The next statement creates a list gadget. This gadget displays a list of options for the user to highlight. The options must be stored in the second field (a string) of a Blitz Basic linked list, following a first field of a word type.

The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. Example:

```
; *** GTListView example- GTListView.bb2
NEWTYPE .LIST
  A.w- GTCheckBox.bb2
  B$
```

```
End NEWTYPE
; *** First field (word type)
Dim List EMPTY.LIST(1000)
; *** Second field (string field)
Dim List GADGET.LIST(10)
While AddItem(GADGET()):GADGET()\B="Item #"+Str$(I)
  Let I+1
Wend
Screen 0,3+8
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTListView 0,0,100,60,98,36,"GTListView",0,GADGET()
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$1000,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

This statement is used to modify a GTLISTVIEW list. The correct procedure is as follows:

1. Execute GTCHANGELIST with no LIST() parameter.
2. Modify list.
3. Attach list with GTCHANGELIST and LIST() parameter.

GTCHANGELIST

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: modify GTListView list
Syntax: GTChangeList GTLIST#,ID[,LIST()]

```
; *** GTChangeList example - GTChangeList.bb2
NEWTYPE .LIST
  A.w
  B$
End NEWTYPE
; *** First field (word type)
Dim List EMPTY.LIST(1000)
; *** Second field (string field)
Dim List GADGET.LIST(10)
While AddItem(GADGET()):GADGET()\B="Item #"+Str$(I)
  Let I+1
Wend
Screen 0,3+8
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTListView 0,0,100,60,98,36,"GTListView",0,GADGET()
Window 0,0,20,320,200,$1000,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
; *** Halve linked list
GTChangeList 0,0
For A=1 To 5
  KillItem GADGET()
Next A
; *** Add linked list
GTChangeList 0,0,GADGET()
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.7 highlight gadgets

GTMX creates an exclusive selection gadget. This is a gadget which consists of a number of options which may be highlighted.

GTMX

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create highlight gadget
Syntax: GTMX GTLIST#, ID, X, Y, W, H, TEXT$, FLAGS, OPTIONS$

The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is “attached” to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget

respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The OPTION$ parameter should consist of a list of options separated by the | character (located directly above the return key). For example:

```
; *** GTMX example - GTMX.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTMX 0,1,150,80,60,20,"",0,"Blitz|Amiga"
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.8 palette gadgets

GTPALETTE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create colour box gadget
Syntax: GTPalette GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H,TEXT$, FLAGS,DEPTH

This statement is used to create a number of coloured box gadgets. One of its main uses is as a palette selector.

The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The DEPTH parameter specifies the number of box gadgets. For example:

```
; *** GTPalette example - GTPalette.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTPalette 0,1,150,80,100,80,"Palette",0,5
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Different",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.9 proportional gadgets

As explained, proportional gadgets are "slider bars", such as the palette requesters in Electronic Art's excellent Deluxe Paint series.

GTSCROLLER

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a proportional gadget
Syntax: GTScroller GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H,TEXT$, FLAGS,VISIBLE,TOTAL

This statement creates a proportional gadget. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The VISIBLE and TOTAL parameters specify the amount of visible and total amount of data to scroll through. For example:

```
; *** GTScroller example - GTScroller.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTScroller 0,1,150,80,60,20,"Move me",0,5,200,100
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

GTSLIDER

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a proportional gadget
Syntax: GTSlider GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,W,H,TEXT$, FLAGS,MIN,MAX

This statement creates a proportional gadget for controlling the position of the display inside a larger view. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. The W and H parameters specify the width and height of the gadget respectively, again in pixels. TEXT$ is a text string, or title, for the gadget. The MIN and MAX parameters specify the minimum and maximum amount of data to scroll through.

```
; *** GTSlider example - GTSlider.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTSlider 0,1,150,80,60,20,"Move me",0,0,5
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"A Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.10 shape gadgets

GTSHAPE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create a shape gadget
Syntax: GTShape GTLIST#,ID,X,Y,FLAGS, SHAPE1#[,SHAPE2#]

The **GTSHAPE** statement is used to create gadgets with graphic elements, taken from a previously initialised shape bank.

The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates of the top-left of the gadget, relative to the window it is "attached" to, in pixels. If the optional SHAPE2# parameter is included then an alternative shape may be displayed when the gadget is selected. Try the following example:

```
; *** GTShape example - GTShape.bb2
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
Boxf 30,30,60,60,3
GetaShape 0,30,30,60,60
Boxf 30,30,60,60,1
Locate 4,5
NPrint "Hi!"
GetaShape 1,30,30,60,60
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTShape 0,1,190,80,0,0,1
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
WLocate 10,90
NPrint "Click on square shape:"
AttachGTList 0,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.11 gadget borders

GTBEVELBOX

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: create border in current window
Syntax: GTBevelBox GTLIST#,X,Y,WIDTH, HEIGHT,FLAGS

This statement draws a rectangular border into the currently used window. The X and Y parameters are the co-ordinates for the top left-hand corner of the border, and WIDTH and HEIGHT specify the width and height, in pixels, of the border.

```
; *** GTBevelBox example - GTBevelBox.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
GTBevelBox 0,50,50,100,100,0
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

13.8.12 manipulating gadgets

GadTools gadgets, like Blitz gadgets, can be altered or updated during runtime.
This statement toggles a toggle-type gadget (On) or (Off). For example:

GTTOGGLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: toggle a toggle-type gadget
Syntax: GTToggle GTLIST#,ID[,On/Off]

```
; *** GTToggle example - GTToggle.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTCheckBox 0,1,110,80,60,20,"Click on me",0
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
For A=1 To 20
  VWait 20
  GTToggle 0,1
  Redraw 0,1
Next A
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

These two statements can disable and enable gadgets respectively. If a gadget is disabled then it is covered by a “mesh” and cannot be accessed by the user. Once a gadget is enabled, this mesh is removed and the gadget can be accessed.

GTENABLE/DISABLE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: enable/disable a gadget
Syntax: GTEnable/ GTDisable GTLIST#,ID

```
; *** GTDisable/GTEnable example - GTDisable.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
GTButton 0,1,130,80,120,20,"Disable/Enable",0
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"Window",1,0
GTDisable 0,1
AttachGTList 0,0
VWait 100
GTEnable 0,1
Redraw 0,1
Repeat
  ev.l=Waitevent
Until GadgetHit=0
End
```

This function returns the exact location of a GadTools gadget in memory:

GTGADPTR

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return location of GadTools gadget in memory
Syntax: g=GTGadPtr(GTLIST#,ID)

```
; *** GTGadPtr example - GTGadPtr.bb2
Screen 0,3
GTButton 0,0,10,10,60,20," QUIT ",0
Window 0,0,20,320,200,0,"A Window",1,0
AttachGTList 0,0
WLocate 5,80
Print "Location of gadget : ",GTGadPtr(0,0)
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- A text gadget is the simplest type of gadget, consisting of a sequence of characters surrounded by an optional border.
- The STRINGGADGET statement is used to create an Intuition “text input” gadget.
- The SHAPEGADGET statement is used to create gadgets with graphic elements.
- Proportional gadgets, or “slider bars”, are the gadgets that are used to scroll the contents of Workbench windows around.
- The GadTools library allows you to create more functional interfaces, involving list gadgets, cycle gadgets and highlight gadgets.
- All gadgets can be enabled and disabled.

Chapter 14 : AGA

14.1 Advanced Graphics Architecture

The Amiga 1200 and 4000 series of computers are built around the AGA (Advanced Graphics Architecture) custom chipset, which supersedes the chipsets of earlier Amigas in graphics capability. The AGA (AA) chipset supports two to 256 colour register modes in resolutions from 320*200 to 1280*400 pixels. All colour display modes can display up to 256 colours from a palette of 16.8 million. Sprites can be displayed in high resolution and up to four times larger and the new HAM-8 mode, available in any display resolution, can display over 256,000 colours at once, from the 16.8 million colour palette.

Naturally, Blitz Basic 2 can take full control over the AGA chipset with the new Display Library. The library is an alternative to the Slice series of commands (consult the Chapter 6 for further information). Instead of simply extending the Slice library to support the new chipset, those clever people at Acid Software chose to develop a completely new set of commands.

Besides support for extended sprites, super hi-resolution scrolling and up to eight bitplanes, a more modular method of creating displays has been implemented with the use of CopLists. CopLists need only be initialised once at the start of the program. Displays can then be created using and combination of CopLists and, most importantly, the CreateDisplay command does not allocate any memory, thus avoiding any memory fragmenting problems.

Yes, I do know that this chapter is entitled "AGA", but the new display library is also semi-compatible with pre-AGA Amigas. CopLists can be created on ECS Amigas, however none of the AGA-specific flags (i.e. super high-resolution or 128/256 colours), nor any of the AGA-specific commands may be used on pre-AGA Amigas. You have been warned!

14.2 Creating a CopList

INITCOPLIST

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: create a CopList
Syntax: InitCopList LIST#,Y,H,FLAGS,SPRITES, COLS,CUSTOM

The **INITCOPLIST** statement, as its name implies, is used to create a CopList for use with the CREATEDISPLAY statement. Y and H parameters specify the vertical positioning and height of the CopList respectively. The Y parameter specifies the vertical location of the top of the CopList, ranging from 44 to the bottom of the current display. In other words, a value of 44 displays the CopList at the very top of the display.

The FLAGS parameter holds information on the number of colours, resolution etc. of the CopList (more on this later). SPRITES specifies the number of sprites that can be displayed in the CopList (this should always be set to eight!). The COLS parameter specifies the number of colours in the CopList, and the CUSTOM parameter should always be set to zero. These are the FLAGS to be used with INITCOPLIST:

Table 14.1 : Screen Modes

Mode	Flag
Low-Res Mode	$00000
Hi-Res Mode	$00100
Super Hi-Res Mode	$00200

Table 14.2 : Screen Colours

Colours	Flag
2 Colours	$00001
4 Colours	$00002
8 Colours	$00003
16 Colours	$00004
32 Colours	$00005
64 Colours	$00006
128 Colours	$00007
256 Colours	$00008

Table 14.3 : New Flags

Option	Flag
24-Bit palette	$10000
Fetch Mode : Single	$00000
: Double	$01000
: Triple	$03000

Table 14.4 : Screen Options

Option Flag	
Smooth-Scroll	$00010
Dual-Playfield	$00020
Extra Half Bright	$00040
Hold And Modify	$00080

Table 14.5 : Sprite Modes

Mode Flag	
Low-Res sprites	$00000
Hi-Res sprites	$00400
Super Hi-Res sprites	$00800

To use more than one flag, you simply add them together using the "+" operator. This example would give you a 24-Bit palette, 256 colour CopList:

```
; *** InitCopList example- InitCopList.bb2
BLITZ ; *** Pop into Blitz mode
; *** Open BitMap (256 colours)
BitMap 0,320,256,8
; *** Initialize CopList (256 colours)
InitCopList 0,44,256,$10000+$00008,8,256,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
MouseWait
End
```

Or:

```
; *** InitCopList example 2 - InitCopList2.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,8
InitCopList 0,44,256,$10000+$03000+$00100+$00008,8,256,0
CreateDisplay 0
DisplayBitMap 0,0
MouseWait
End
```

Which would give you a 24-Bit palette, triple fetch, hi-resolution, 256 colour CopList.

14.2.1 multiple CopLists

You can also display multiple CopLists on a single BitMap like this:

```
; *** Multiple CopLists - MultiCopList.bb2
; *** Open BitMap (256 colours)
BitMap 0,320,256,8
; *** Alter palette
For A=0 To 255
  AGAPalRGB 0,A,A,0,A
Next
; *** Open 2 CopLists
InitCopList 0,44,120,$13008,8,256,0
InitCopList 1,44+132,120,$13008,8,256,0
BLITZ
CreateDisplay 0,1
; *** Display CopList 0 in BitMap
DisplayBitMap 0,0
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Display CopList 1 in BitMap
DisplayBitMap 1,0
DisplayPalette 1,0
; *** Draw some BitMap graphics
For B=0 To 130
  Boxf B,B,320-B,255-B,B
Next
MouseWait
End
```

14.2.2 non-AGA CopLists

The INITCOPLIST statement can also be used to create non-AGA displays, however only low-resolution sprites, single fetch mode, and a maximum of 64 colours are allowed:

```
; *** 2 colour CopList - InitCopList3.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
; *** Low-resolution 2 colour CopList
InitCopList 0,44,256,$00001,8,2,0
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
MouseWait
End
```

This is the same as the following SLICE example:

```
; *** Slice Vs CopList- Sliced.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,1
Slice 0,44,1
Show 0
MouseWait
End
```

CREATEDISPLAY

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: setup screen display
Syntax: CreateDisplay LIST#[,LIST#...]

CREATEDISPLAY is used to set up a new screen display with the new display library. Any number of CopLists can be passed to CREATEDISPLAY although at present they must be in order of vertical position and not overlap. CREATEDISPLAY then links the CopLists together using internal pointers. BitMaps, colours and sprites attached to CopLists are not affected. Here is a simple example:

```
; *** CreateDisplay example - CreateDisplay.bb2
; *** Set colour 0 to black
AGAPalRGB 0,0,0,0,0
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,8
; *** 256 colour, 24-Bit CopList
InitCopList 0,44,256,$10000+$00008,8,256,0
; *** Attach palette to display
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
MouseWait
End
```

14.3 Displaying a BitMap in a CopList

The DISPLAYBITMAP statement is used to display a BitMap in the specified CopList. If the optional X and Y parameters are included then the BitMap is positioned at these co-ordinates.

```
; *** DisplayBitmap example - DisplayBitmap.bb2
For COL=0 To 254
  AGAPalRGB 0,COL,COL,COL,COL
Next COL
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,8
InitCopList 0,44,256,$10000+$00008,8,256,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach palette to display
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
For A=0 To 200
  Circle Rnd(320),Rnd(250),Rnd(30)+10,A
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

DISPLAYBITMAP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: show CopList
Syntax: DisplayBitMap LIST#,BITMAP#[,X,Y] [,BITMAP2#[X2,Y2]]

If the BitMap is physically larger than the CopList then the **DISPLAYBITMAP** statement may be used to scroll the BitMap about the display.

AGA machines use the X parameter's fractional part for super-smooth CopList scrolling. If using X and Y parameters, initialize the CopList with the smooth-scrolling flag ($00010) set.

For dual-playfield CopLists (flag $00020), if the optional BITMAP2# parameter is included then a second BitMap is displayed in the background of the CopList (the first BitMap (BITMAP#) is displayed in the foreground). If the optional X2 and Y2 parameters are included then the background BitMap is positioned at these co-ordinates. The following example uses DISPLAYBITMAP to scroll an AGA starfield:

```
; *** DisplayBitMap example 2 - DisplayBitMap2.bb2
; *** Create colour palette
For A=0 To 255
  AGAPalRGB 0,A,A,0,0
Next A
BLITZ
BitMap 0,640,256,8
; *** 256 colour, 24-Bit, smooth-scroll CopList
```

```
InitCopList 0,44,256,$10000+$00008+$00010,8,256,0
; *** Attach palette to display
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
; *** Plot starfield
For B=0 To 2500
  Plot Rnd(640),Rnd(250),Rnd(254)+1
Next B
; *** Scroll BitMap
Repeat
  VWait
  DisplayBitMap 0,0,X,0
  X=QWrap(X+1,0,640)
Until Joyb(0)>0
MouseWait
End
```

14.4 Palettes

Palette objects, or palettes, are temporary storage areas of colour information. This information can be taken either from an IFF file or created from scratch. The LOADPALETTE statement can be used to load a palette object from disk (consult Chapter 7 for more information). If colour information is created by the user then it will not affect the current display colours until the **DISPLAYPALETTE** statement has been executed. This statement copies colour information from a Palette to the CopList specified. It is similar in usage to the USE PALETTE statement.

DISPLAYPALETTE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: copy colour information to CopList
Syntax: DisplayPalette LIST#,PALETTE# [,COLOUR_OFFSET]

```
; *** 256 colour CopList - DisplayPalette.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Define palette
For A=0 To 255
  AGAPalRGB 0,A,A,0,0
Next A
BitMap 0,320,256,8
; *** 256 colour, 24-Bit CopList
InitCopList 0,44,256,$10000+$00008,8,256,0
; *** Attach palette to display
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
; *** Create BitMap graphics
For A=0 To 1500
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(20)+1,Rnd(254)+1
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

The **AGAPALRGB** statement allows you to set an individual colour register within a palette object. The colour change will not become evident until either of the USE PALETTE or DISPLAY PALETTE statements is used. Try the following example:

AGAPALRGB

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set a colour register within a palette object
Syntax: AGAPalRGB PALETTE#,REGISTER,RED,GREEN,BLUE

```
; *** AGAPalRGB example
; *** Filename - AGAPalRGB.bb2

BLITZ
; *** Define palette
For A=0 To 255
  AGAPalRGB 0,A,0,A,0
Next A
BitMap 0,320,256,8
; *** 256 colour, 24-Bit CopList
InitCopList 0,44,256,$10000+$00008,8,256,0
; *** Attach palette to display
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
; *** Draw BitMap graphics
For B=0 To 254
  X=Rnd(320)
  Y=Rnd(256)
  Boxf X,Y,X+Rnd(50),Y+Rnd(50),B
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

AGARGB allows you to set an individual colour register in a palette to an RGB colour value. AGARGB does not affect palette objects.

AGARGB

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: set a colour register to an RGB colour value
Syntax: AGARGB REGISTER,RED,GREEN,BLUE

The **AGARED**, **AGAGREEN** and **AGABLUE** functions return the amount of their respected colour in a specified colour register. The returned values range from zero to 255.

AGARED/GREEN/BLUE

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the amount of RGB red/green/blue in a colour register
Syntax: r=AGARed(REGISTER)/ g=AGAGreen(REGISTER)/ b=AGABlue(REGISTER)

14.5 A full example

The following example shows how to display AGA graphics in Blitz Basic. Replace the filename with your own AGA file to prevent errors. I personally recommend the Tutankhamun picture from Deluxe Paint IV AGA:

```
; *** AGA display example - AGA.bb2
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,8
; *** Load AGA picture plus palette
LoadBitMap 0,"FILENAME.IFF"
LoadPalette 0,"FILENAME.PALETTE",0
; *** Create 256 colour CopList
InitCopList 0,34,200,$10418,8,256,0
BLITZ
Mouse On
MouseArea 0,0,320,DispHeight
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach palette to display
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Scroll BitMap with mouse
While Joyb(0)=0
  VWait
  DisplayBitMap 0,0,MouseX,0
Wend
End
```

14.6 AGA Sprite handling

AGA Sprites are initialised by either loading them from disk, or by converting a shape object into a sprite object using the GETASPRITE statement. Sprites are handled entirely by the Amiga's hardware so they do not interfere or corrupt BitMap graphics in any way. AGA Sprites can be displayed in high-resolution and up to four times larger than normal!

DISPLAYSPRITE is used to display a sprite in a CopList. LIST# is the number of the CopList to display the sprite on and SPRITE# is the sprite number (taken from a previously initialised sprite bank). The X and Y parameters specify the co-ordinates of the sprite, in pixels, and the CHANNEL parameter specifies the sprite channel to be used to display the sprite:

DISPLAYSPRITE

Mode(s): Blitz
Statement: position a sprite
Syntax: DisplaySprite LIST#,SPRITE#,X,Y,CHANNEL

```
; *** DisplaySprite example - DisplaySprite.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Define palette
For COLS=0 To 16
  AGAPalRGB 0,COLS,COLS,0,0
Next COLS
BitMap 0,320,256,4
; *** Make a sprite
For A=4 To 10
  Boxf 10+A*2,10+A*2,55-A*2,55-A*2,A
Next A
GetaShape 0,10,10,40,40
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
; *** Create CopList
InitCopList 0,44,256,$00001,8,16,0
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
; *** Move sprite
For X=1 To 260
  VWait
  DisplaySprite 0,0,X,50,0
Next X
End
```

SPRITEMODE specifies the width of sprites to be used in a Blitz Basic program:

SPRITEMODE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define the width of sprites to be used
Syntax: SpriteMode MODE

Table 14.6 : The MODE parameter

MODE	Sprite width
0	16
1	32
2	64

For example:

```
; *** SpriteMode example - SpriteMode.bb2
; Set sprite width to 64 pixels
SpriteMode 2
BLITZ
; *** Define palette
```

```
For COLS=0 To 16
  AGAPalRGB 0,COLS,COLS,0,0
Next COLS
BitMap 0,320,256,4
; *** Make a sprite
Boxf 0,0,64,64,6
GetaShape 0,0,0,64,64
GetaSprite 0,0
Cls
; *** Create CopList
InitCopList 0,44,256,$00001,8,16,0
; *** Attach palette to display
DisplayPalette 0,0
; *** Set up screen display
CreateDisplay 0
; *** Attach BitMap to CopList
DisplayBitMap 0,0
; *** Move sprite
For X=1 To 260
  VWait
  DisplaySprite 0,0,X,50,0
Next X
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- The new display library is an alternative to the Slice commands. Slices are replaced by CopLists, a more modular method of creating displays.
- CopLists can use from two to 256 colours from a palette of 16.8 million.
- CopLists can be created on ECS Amigas, however none of the AGA-specific flags (i.e. super hi-resolution or 128/256 colours), nor any of the AGA-specific commands may be used on pre-AGA Amigas.
- The **DISPLAYBITMAP** statement can be used to scroll a super-BitMap (one larger than the physical display) around a CopList.
- Sprites can be up to 64 pixels in width and displayed in high-resolution.

Chapter 15 : System Functions

This chapter will show you how to design software which can dynamically adjust itself to different displays (NTSC or PAL). It will show you how to obtain information about Blitz Basic objects, the system processor and the Workbench screen. You will also learn about the BREXX system.

15.1 Display heights

In the United Kingdom we have adopted the PAL (I) standard of television system. However, half of the world use the NTSC system. This is where the programmer's problems begin.

PAL updates 50 times a second (50Hz) and can display a maximum of 256 horizontal lines. NTSC, however, updates 60 times a second (60Hz), and can only display a maximum of 200 horizontal lines. The update problem can be overcome by making sure that all time-essential routines can be executed in under a sixtieth of a second. If you don't make allowances for this then your programs will appear jerky on the other system. This is because, although the VWAIT statement can be used to tie-in screen synchronisation, its delay varies between PAL and NTSC systems.

The screen height problem is also relatively easy to work around. Say, for example, you have created a piece of software on a PAL system which uses a screen display of 320 by 256 pixels. Under the NTSC system the bottom part of the screen would be hidden from view! This is where the following two commands come in.

NTSC

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: identify NTSC or PAL machines
Syntax: n=NTSC

The **NTSC** function is used to identify whether or not an NTSC machine is in use. The function returns (-1) if the display is currently in NTSC mode and (0) if the display is in PAL mode. This is primarily of use when designing software which can dynamically adjust itself to different displays.

```
; *** NTSC example - NTSC.bb2
If NTSC
  ; *** The good old U.S of A (probably!)
  NPrint "NTSC mode"
Else
  ; *** We're in England, mate!
  NPrint "PAL mode"
EndIf
MouseWait
End
```

This function returns a value of 256 if it is executed in PAL mode, or 200 if executed on an NTSC Amiga:

DISPHEIGHT

Mode(s): Amiga/BLitz
Function: return maximum available screen height
Syntax: d=DispHeight

```
; *** DispHeight example - DispHeight.bb2
NPrint DispHeight," pixels high"
MouseWait
End
```

15.2 Object handling

Objects are structures designed to control multiple system elements, such as graphics, files and screens. Here is a list of the Blitz Basic 2 objects:

Table 15.1 : Blitz Basic objects

Object	Description
BitMaps	Display elements
Blitzfonts	BitMap fonts
CopLists	Display elements
Files	File handling
GadgetLists	Intuition gadgets
Intuifonts	Intuition fonts
MenuLists	Intuition menus
Modules	Tracker music
Palettes	Palette information
Screens	Intuition screens
Shapes	Blitter objects
Sounds	Samples
Sprites	Hardware sprites
Windows	Intuition windows

All objects can be created, manipulated and destroyed, or deleted. The manipulation of the above objects has been covered in the previous chapters. Objects can also be controlled with the following commands.

USE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: set specified object as current object
Syntax: Use NAME OBJECT#

The **USE** statement sets the current object (NAME) as number OBJECT#. NAME can be any object, such as Screen, Slice, BitMap, Window etc. The OBJECT# parameter specifies the object number. Try the following example:

```
; *** Use example - Use.bb2
; *** Open a screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,3,"Back"
ScreensBitMap 0,0
; *** Enable text output
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Open screen at front of display
Screen 1,0,30,320,200,3,0,"Front",1,2
; *** Set current screen as 0
Use Screen 0
Locate 0,2
NPrint "I feel Used!"
MouseWait
End
```

FREE

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: free the specified object
Syntax: Free NAME OBJECT#

FREE is used to remove a specified object. All Blitz Basic objects can be removed with the FREE statement (e.g. Free BitMap 0). NAME can be any object (Screen, Slice, BitMap, Window, etc.), while OBJECT# specifies its number. Objects are automatically freed when the program ends.

```
; *** Free example - Free.bb2
Screen 0,3,"Bye!"
VWait 100
; *** Remove screen from display
Free Screen 0
MouseWait
End
```

USED

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return currently used object number
Syntax: u=Used NAME

This function returns the currently used object number. NAME can be any object, such as Screen, Slice, BitMap, Window etc. Here's an example:

```
; *** Used example - Used.bb2
BLITZ
; *** Open a Blitz mode display
BitMap 1,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 1
Slice 2,44,3
Show 1
; *** Return BitMap number (1)
NPrint "BitMap number = ",Used BitMap
; *** Return Slice number (2)
NPrint "Slice number  = ",Used Slice
MouseWait
End
```

ADDR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return in memory object address
Syntax: a=Addr NAME(OBJECT#)

The **ADDR** function returns the address of a particular object in memory. NAME can be any object, such as Screen, Slice, BitMap, Window etc. The OBJECT# parameter specifies the object number.

```
; *** Addr example - Addr.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
; *** Return address of Slice
NPrint "Slice object 0 is at: ",Addr Slice(0)
MouseWait
End
```

MAXIMUM

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return maximum setting for an object
Syntax: m=Maximum NAME

MAXIMUM returns the maximum setting for an object (i.e. the maximum number of allowed Blitz object). Name any object (e.g. Screen, Slice, Bitmap, Window). Enter maximum settings in the Blitz Basic editor's "COMPILER" "OPTIONS menu.

```
; *** Maximum example - Maximum.bb2
NPrint "Maximum screens = ",Maximum Screen
NPrint "Maximum windows = ",Maximum Window
NPrint "Maximum menus   = ",Maximum Menus
NPrint "Maximum Slices  = ",Maximum Slice
MouseWait
End
```

15.3 System date and time

SYSTEMDATE

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the system date
Syntax: s=SystemDate

The following statements and functions can be used to read and manipulate the system date and time, as displayed on the Workbench screen. The **SYSTEMDATE** function returns the system date as the number of days passed since 1/1/1978.

```
; *** SystemDate example - SystemDate.bb2
NPrint SystemDate," days passed"
MouseWait
End
```

DATE$

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return system date (formatted)
Syntax: d$=Date$(DAYS)

DATE$ converts the format returned by SystemDate (days passed since 1/1/1978) into a string format of dd/mm/yyyy or mm/dd/yyyy depending on the date format (defaults to 0). For example:

```
; *** Date$ example - Date$.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
MouseWait
End
```

NUMDAYS

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return system date (day count)
Syntax: n=NumDays(DATE$)

This function converts a string created using DATE$ to the relevant day count since 1/1/1978. Example:

```
; *** NumDays example - NumDays.bb2
; *** Return date
A=SystemDate
NPrint A
; *** Format date
B$=Date$(A)
NPrint B$
; *** Return day count
C=NumDays(B$)
NPrint C
MouseWait
End
```

DATEFORMAT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: format string representation
Syntax: DateFormat FORMAT#

The **DATEFORMAT** statement is used to configure the way both DAY$ and NUMDAYS output. The FORMAT# parameter can be either (0) or (1):

Table 15.2 : Date format

FORMAT#	Output Example
0 dd/mm/yyyy	28/03/1978
1 mm/dd/yyyy	03/28/1978

Here is an example:

```
; *** DateFormat example - DateFormat.bb2
A=SystemDate
B$=Date$(A)
; *** dd/mm/yyyy format (e.g. 25/12/1994)
DateFormat 0
NPrint B$
; *** mm/dd/yyyy format (e.g. 01/31/2001)
DateFormat 1
NPrint B$
MouseWait
End
```

HOURS/MINS/SECS/DAYS/MONTHS/YEARS/WEEKDAY

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return hours/mins.seconds/days/etc etc relevant to SystemDate
Syntax: h=Hours

The following functions return the hours, minutes, seconds, days, months and years when SYSTEMDATE was last called respectively. Some examples to consider:

```
; *** Hours example - Hours.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
NPrint Hours
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Mins example - Mins.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
NPrint Mins," minutes"
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Secs example - Secs.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
For A=1 To 10
  A$=Date$(SystemDate)
  NPrint Secs," seconds"
  VWait 50
Next A
End
```

```
; *** Days example - Days.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
NPrint Days
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Months example - Months.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
NPrint Months
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Years example - Years.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
NPrint Years
MouseWait
End
```

The WEEKDAY function returns the weekday relevant to the last call to SYSTEMDATE.

Table 15.3 : Values returned by WEEKDAY

Value	Weekday
0	Sunday
1	Monday
2	Tuesday
3	Wednesday
4	Thursday
5	Friday
6	Saturday

Try the following example:

```
; *** WeekDay example - WeekDay.bb2
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
NPrint WeekDay
MouseWait
End
```

Here is a full example which demonstrates the above statements and functions:

```
; *** Got the time? - SystemDate.bb2
; *** Arrays to hold day and month strings
Dim D$(6),M$(12)
; *** Read day and month data into arrays
Restore DAYNAMES
For A=0 To 6
```

```
  Read D$(A)
Next A
Restore MONTHNAMES
For B=1 To 12
  Read M$(B)
Next B
; *** Output system date and time
NPrint Date$(SystemDate)
NPrint D$(WeekDay)," ",Days," ",M$(Months)," ",Years
NPrint Hours,":",Mins,":",Secs
MouseWait
End
; *** Day data
DAY:
Data$ SUNDAY,MONDAY,TUESDAY,WEDNESDAY
Data$ THURSDAY,FRIDAY,SATURDAY
; *** Month data
MONTH:
Data$ JAN,FEB,MAR,APR,MAY,JUN,JUL
Data$ AUG,SEP,OCT,NOV,DEC
```

15.4 Workbench functions

WBWIDTH/HEIGHT/DEPTH

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the width/height/depth of Workbench screen
Syntax: w=WBWidth/ WBHeight/ WBDepth

The following two functions return the width and height of the current Workbench screen, in pixels, respectively. WBDEPTH returns the depth of the current Workbench screen, in bitplanes.

```
; *** WBWidth example - WBWidth.bb2
X=WBWidth
NPrint "Workbench is:"
NPrint ""
NPrint X," pixels wide"
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** WBHeight example - WBHeight.bb2
Y=WBHeight
NPrint "Workbench is:"
NPrint ""
NPrint Y," pixels high"
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** WBDepth - WBDepth.bb2
D=WBDepth
NPrint "Workbench is:"
NPrint ""
NPrint D," bitplanes"
NPrint 2^D," colours"
MouseWait
End
```

WBVIEWMODE

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the viewmode of Workbench screen
Syntax: v=WBViewMode

This statement returns the viewmode of the current Workbench screen. The different values of WBViewMode are as follows:

Table 15.4 : Values returned by WBVIEWMODE

Value		Description
32768	($8000)	Hires
4	($0004)	Interlace
0	($0000)	Lowres

For example:

```
; *** WBViewMode example - WBViewMode.bb2
NPrint Abs(WBViewMode)
MouseWait
End
```

15.5 Food processor

The Central Processing Unit, or CPU, lies at the heart of the Amiga. All Amigas are powered by a Motorola chip, from the 68000 (Amiga 500), to the 68040 (Amiga 4000). You may find it useful, at times, to find out the processor of the "host" computer. This is primarily of use when designing math-intensive software which can take advantage of a faster processor.

The **PROCESSOR** function returns a value which indicates the system processor number (the chip inside the Amiga that your program is running on).

PROCESSOR
Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the system processor number
Syntax: p=Processor

Table 15.5 : Values returned by PROCESSOR

Value	Processor
0	68000
1	68010
2	68020
3	68030
4	68040

For example, if zero is returned then your system processor is a 68000 microprocessor, and if four is returned then you are lucky enough to own a 68040 processor. Here is a full example:

```
; *** Processor example - Processor.bb2
A=Processor
Print "Your processor is a 680",A,"0"
MouseWait
End
```

Similarly, **EXECVERSION** returns a value which indicates the Operating System number:

EXECVERSION
Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return the Exec version number
Syntax: e=ExecVersion

Table 15.6 : Values returned by EXECVERSION

Value	Operating system	Amiga
33	1.2	A1000/A2000
34	1.3	A500/A2000/A3000
36	2.0	A500P/A600
39	3.0	A1200/A4000

```
; *** ExecVersion example- ExecVersion.bb2
A=ExecVersion
Print "Your EXEC version is ",A
MouseWait
End
```

15.6 BREXX

BREXX describes a set of Blitz Basic commands which can be used to simulate user input, such as mouse movements and keyboard input.

The BREXX system also allows you to create tape objects. Tape objects are predefined sequences of events which can be played back at any time, independently of the main program. Each tape object can store the movement of the mouse pointer, the status of the mouse buttons, or keyboard input. None of the BREXX commands are available in Blitz mode.

15.6.1 emulating user input

ABSMOUSE/RELMOUSE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: move mouse pointer
Syntax: AbsMouse X,Y/ RelMouse XOFFSET,YOFFSET

The following commands can be used to move the mouse pointer, alter the status of the mouse buttons and emulate keyboard input, without the user having touched the keyboard or mouse.

The **ABSMOUSE** statement is used to position the mouse pointer at an absolute display location. The X and Y parameters specify the new co-ordinates of the pointer. X must be in the range zero to 639 and Y must be in the range zero to 399 (NTSC) or zero to 511 (PAL). Here's an example:

```
; *** AbsMouse example- AbsMouse.bb2
; *** Position mouse at top-left of screen
AbsMouse 0,0
VWait 30
; *** Position mouse in middle of screen
AbsMouse 319,199
VWait 30
; *** Position mouse at bottom-right of screen
AbsMouse 630,390
MouseWait
End
```

RELMOUSE is similar to ABSMOUSE, except is moves the mouse pointer a relative distance from its current position. If the XOFFSET parameter is positive then the pointer will be moved rightwards, and if it is negative then the pointer will be moved leftwards. If YOFFSET is positive then the pointer is moved downwards, and if it is negative then the pointer is moved upwards.

```
; *** RelMouse example- RelMouse.bb2
*** Position mouse near middle of display
AbsMouse 300,100
; *** Move mouse rightwards
For X=1 To 40
  RelMouse 6,0
Next X
MouseWait
End
```

MOUSEBUTTON

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: alter status of mouse button
Syntax: MouseButton BUTTON,On/Off

This statement is used to alter the status of either mouse button. The BUTTON parameter should be set to (0) for the left mouse button and (1) for the right mouse button. If a button is set to "On" then it is pressed, and if it is set "Off" then it is released.

```
; *** MouseButton example - MouseButton.bb2
For A=1 To 10
  VWait 2
  ; *** Toggle right mouse button on
  MouseButton 1,On
  VWait 2
  ; *** Toggle right mouse button off
```

```
  MouseButton 1,Off
Next A
End
```

CLICKBUTTON works similarly to **MOUSEBUTTON**, except it presses and releases the specified mouse button. The BUTTON parameter should be set to (0) for the left mouse button and (1) for the right mouse button. Try this example:

CLICKBUTTON

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: alter status of mouse button
Syntax: ClickButton BUTTON

```
; *** ClickButton example- ClickButton.bb2
; *** Open a standard text gadget
TextGadget 0,32,32,0,1," Magic gadget "
; *** Open screen and window for gadget
Screen 0,3
Window 0,0,0,320,200,$100f,"Window",1,2,0
; *** Position mouse pointer at top of display
AbsMouse 0,70
; *** Move mouse pointer to gadget
For A=1 To 30
  RelMouse 4,0
Next A
; *** Highlight gadget
ClickButton 0 MouseWait End
```

The **TYPE** statement outputs a text string to the screen, character by character. This generates a "typewriter-style" effect. For example:

TYPE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: output a text string character by character
Syntax: Type TEXT$

```
; *** Type example - Type.bb2
NPrint "Input your name:-"
; *** Input some text
NAME$=Edit$(20)
; *** Type text string, character by character
Type "Your name is "+NAME$
MouseWait
End
```

15.6.2 recording tape objects

This statement allows you to record a tape object. Tape objects are sequences of mouse movements and/or keyboard events which may be played back at any time.Include the optional TAPE# parameter to record a tape with RECORD

RECORD

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: record a tape object
Syntax: Record [TAPE#]

```
Record 0 ; *** Record tape 0
```

To finish recording, the RECORD statement with no parameters should be used instead:

```
Record ; *** Stop recording
```

Here is an example:

```
; *** Record example - Record.bb2
NPrint "Move the mouse then press the right button"
; *** Position mouse pointer at top-left of display
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Start recording mouse movements
Record 0
; *** Record until right mouse button pressed
```

```
While Joyb(0)<>2
Wend
; *** Stop recording
Record
; *** Position mouse at top-left again
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Play tape
PlayBack 0
MouseWait
End
```

15.6.3 playing tape objects

The PLAYBACK statement plays a previously initialised tape object. To play a tape the optional TAPE# parameter must be included:

PLAYBACK

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: play a tape object
Syntax: PlayBack [TAPE#]

```
PlayBack 0 ; *** Play tape 0
```

To finish playing, the PLAYBACK statement with no parameters should be used instead:

```
PlayBack ; *** Stop tape
```

Try the following example:

```
; *** PlayBack example
; *** Filename - PlayBack.bb2

NPrint "Move the mouse then press the right button"
; *** Position mouse at top-left
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Start recording mouse movements
Record 0
While Joyb(0)<>2
Wend
; *** Stop recording
Record
; *** Position mouse at top-left again
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Play tape
PlayBack 0
MouseWait
End
```

QUICKPLAY

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: toggle PlayBack execution mode
Syntax: QuickPlay On/Off

QUICKPLAY is used to alter the way in which tape objects are played by the PLAYBACK statement. If QUICKPLAY is set to (On) then tapes will be played with no delays between actions (any pauses will be ignored). If QUICKPLAY is set to (Off) then the pauses will be included - this is the default mode. For example:

```
; *** QuickPlay example - QuickPlay.bb2
NPrint "Move the mouse then press the right button"
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Start recording mouse movements
Record 0
While Joyb(0)<>2
Wend
; *** Stop recording
Record
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Toggle QuickPlay on (no delays)
QuickPlay On
```

```
; *** Play tape
PlayBack 0
MouseWait
End
```

PLAYWAIT pauses program execution until the PLAYBACK statement has finished playing a tape. The TAPE# parameter should be set to the current tape object. Example:

PLAYWAIT

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: pause program execution
Syntax: PlayWait(TAPE#)

```
; *** PlayWait example - PlayWait.bb2
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Record mouse movements
Record 0
While Joyb(0)<>2
Wend
; *** Stop recording
Record
AbsMouse 0,0
NPrint "Program execution stopped"
PlayBack 0
; *** Halt program execution
PlayWait(0)
NPrint "Program execution started"
MouseWait
End
```

15.6.4 BREXX functions

This function returns the status of the BREXX system.

XSTATUS

Mode(s): Amiga
Function: return status of BREXX system
Syntax: x=XStatus

Table 15.7 : XStatus return values

Value	Description
0	BREXX is currently inactive
1	BREXX is recording a tape
2	BREXX is playing a tape

Here's an example:

```
; *** XStatus example - XStatus.bb2
; *** Open a screen and grab its BitMap
Screen 0,11
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,3
NPrint "Move the mouse then press the right button"
AbsMouse 0,0
Record 0
VWait 20
Locate 0,6
; *** BREXX is recording
NPrint XStatus," - recording !!!!"
While Joyb(0)=0
Wend
Record
Locate 0,6
; *** BREXX is inactive
NPrint XStatus," - inactive !!!! "
VWait 100
AbsMouse 0,0
PlayBack 0
```

```
VWait 20
Locate 0,6
; *** BREXX is playing
NPrint XStatus," - playing !!!!  "
MouseWait
End
```

15.6.5 loading and saving tape objects

LOAD/SAVETAPE

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: load/save a tape object
Syntax: LoadTape/SaveTape TAPE#,"FILENAME"

This statement is used to load a tape object into memory. For example:

```
; *** LoadTape example - LoadTape.bb2
NPrint "Move the mouse then press the right button"
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Create a tape object and save to RAM:
Record 0
While Joyb(0)<>2
Wend
Record
SaveTape 0,"RAM:TAPE"
VWait 20
; *** Load tape from RAM:
LoadTape 0,"RAM:TAPE"
AbsMouse 0,0
; *** Play tape
PlayBack 0
MouseWait
End
```

This statement saves a tape object to disk. For example:

```
; *** SaveTape example - SaveTape.bb2
NPrint "Move the mouse then press the right button"
; *** Create a tape object
AbsMouse 0,0
Record 0
While Joyb(0)<>2
Wend
Record
; *** Save tape to RAM:
SaveTape 0,"RAM:TAPE"
End
```

15.6.6 recording BREXX commands

TAPETRAP

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: record a sequence of BREXX commands
Syntax: TapeTrap [TAPE#]

The following commands are also used to record tape objects. However, TAPETRAP and QUIETTRAP are used to record sequences of BREXX commands, and not mouse movements or keyboard events. **TAPETRAP** records BREXX command sequences (ABSMOUSE, RELMOUSE, MOUSEBUTTON, or CLICKBUTTON). Include the optional TAPE# parameter to record:

```
TapeTrap 0 ; *** Record tape 0
```

To finish recording, the TAPETRAP statement with no parameters should be used instead:

```
TapeTrap ; *** Stop tape
```

```
; *** TapeTrap example- TapeTrap.bb2
AbsMouse 0,150
TapeTrap 0
RelMouse 380,0
TapeTrap
MouseWait
AbsMouse 0,150
PlayBack 0
VWait 30
End
```

This statement toggles the TAPETRAP execution mode. If **QUIETTRAP** is set to (On) then the BREXX commands recorded with TAPETRAP will not be displayed until they are played back. If QUIETTRAP is set to (Off) then the BREXX commands will be displayed as they are recorded. Here's an example:

QUIETTRAP

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: toggle TapeTrap execution mode
Syntax: QuietTrap On/Off

```
; *** QuietTrap example- QuietTrap.bb2
AbsMouse 0,150
; *** Display mouse movement
; *** when creating tape
QuietTrap Off
TapeTrap 0
RelMouse 380,0
TapeTrap
MouseWait
; *** Don't display mouse movement
; *** when creating tape
QuietTrap Off
AbsMouse 0,150
TapeTrap 0
RelMouse 0,200
TapeTrap
PlayBack 0
VWait 30
End
```

15.6.7 macro keys

MACROKEY attaches keyboard to tape object. One key can be used to start the tape playing. The RAW_CODE and QUALIFER parameters are used to specify the macro key. For example:

MACROKEY

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: define a macro key
Syntax: MacroKey TAPE#,RAW_CODE,QUALIFIER

```
; *** MacroKey example - MacroKey.bb2
AbsMouse 0,150
TapeTrap 0
RelMouse 380,0
TapeTrap
; *** Press HELP key
MacroKey 0,95,0
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** MacroKey example 2 - MacroKey2.bb2
AbsMouse 150,0
TapeTrap 0
RelMouse 0,200
TapeTrap
; *** Press escape key
MacroKey 0,69,0
MouseWait
End
```

FREEMACROKEY

Mode(s): Amiga
Statement: remove a macro key
Syntax: FreeMacroKey RAW_CODE,QUALIFIER

This statement removes the tape object attached to the specified macro key. For example:

```
; *** FreeMacroKey example ** Filename - FreeMacroKey.bb2
AbsMouse 0,150
TapeTrap 0
RelMouse 380,0
TapeTrap
; *** Assign macro to HELP key
MacroKey 0,95,0
; *** Remove macro key
FreeMacroKey 95,0
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- The NTSC and DISPHEIGHT functions should be used when designing software which can dynamically adjust itself to different displays (NTSC or PAL). DISPHEIGHT returns a value of 256 if it is executed in PAL mode, or 200 if executed on an NTSC Amiga.
- Objects can be Blitz Basic screens, Slices, BitMaps, shapes etc. The USE, FREE, USED, ADDR and MAXIMUM commands are used to find out information about these objects.
- WBHEIGHT, WBWIDTH, WBDEPTH and WBVIEWMODE are used to find out information about the Workbench screen.
- Tape objects are predefined sequences of events which can be played back at any time, independently of the main program.

Chapter 16 : Advanced programming

The chapter contains information on conditional compilation techniques. It also covers the commands related to Blitz Basic's in-line assembler.

16.1 Compiler directives

The following section covers the commands which affect how a program is compiled by Blitz Basic.

16.1.1 include files

These are files of predefined data which may be "included" in a source code file using a special directive. When the program is compiled these additional files are compiled as part of the main source code. The **INCLUDE** directive is used to compile an external file as part of the current Blitz Basic program. The file must be a tokenised Blitz 2 program.

INCLUDE/ XINCLUDE

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: compile a file as part of the current program
Syntax: INCLUDE/ XINCLUDE "FILENAME"

```
; *** INCLUDE example - INCLUDE.bb2
; *** Create the following program
; *** and save it to df0: as "BITMAP.bb2"
;BLITZ
;BitMap 0,320,256,3
;Slice 0,44,3
;Show 0
; *** Then enter the following listing
INCDIR "df0:"
INCLUDE "BITMAP.bb2"
For A=1 To 300
  Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight),Rnd(5)+1
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

The **XINCLUDE** (exclusive include) directive works identically to INCLUDE, however XINCLUDE files are only included once, regardless of the number of times the same filename is used.

```
; *** XINCLUDE example - XINCLUDE.bb2
; *** Create the following program and save it to df0: as "SCREEN.bb2":
;Screen 0,3
;ScreensBitMap 0,0
;Cls 0
; *** Then enter the following listing
INCDIR "df0:"
XINCLUDE "SCREEN.bb2"
For B=1 To 300
  Circlef Rnd(320),Rnd(DispHeight),Rnd(20)+10,Rnd(5)+1
Next B
MouseWait
End
```

The **INCBIN** directive is used to include a binary file as part of the current Blitz Basic program. For example:

INCBIN

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: compile a binary file as part of the current program
Syntax: INCBIN "FILENAME"

```
; *** INCBIN example - INCBIN.bb2
INCDIR "df0:"
INCBIN "Binary file"
MouseWait
End
```

INCDIR

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: specify file path for INCLUDE directives
Syntax: INCDIR PATH

INCDIR is used to specify the correct filename path for the INCLUDE, XINCLUDE and INCBIN directives. Example:

```
; *** INCDIR example- INCDIR.bb2
INCDIR "RAM:"
INCLUDE "A FILE.bb2"
MouseWait
End
```

RUNERRSOFF/ON

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: disable/enable error checking
Syntax: Runerrsoff/ Runerrson

The **RUNERRSOFF** directive can be used to disable error checking in different parts of your programs. It overrides the COMPILER OPTIONS settings. This allows you to make mistakes, without the Blitz Basic editor reporting them:

```
; *** Runerrsoff example - Runerrsoff.bb2
Runerrsoff
; *** Should generate error
Blit 0,100,100
MouseWait
End
```

RUNERRSON enables error checking. It also overrides the COMPILER OPTIONS settings.

```
; *** Runerrson example - Runerrson.bb2
Runerrsoff
; *** Should generate error
Blit 0,100,100
Runerrson
; *** Does generate error
Blit 0,100,100
MouseWait
End
```

16.1.2 conditional compiling

CNIF

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: define start of conditional compiling
Syntax: CNIF CONSTANT1 COMPARISON CONSTANT2

Conditional compiling allows you to select which parts of a program are compiled by Blitz Basic.
It can be used to produce “crippled” demonstration software (e.g. a utility with the save function disabled). The **CNIF** directive is used to set the start of a conditional compiling definition. It allows you to conditionally compile a section of code based on a comparison of two constants. The COMPARISON parameter should be one of the following Blitz Basic operators:

Table 16.1 : Conditional compiling operators

Operator	Description	Example
<	Less than	CNIF A<B
>	Greater than	CNIF A>B
=	Equal	CNIF A=B
<>	Unequal	CNIF A<>B
<=	Less than or equal to	CNIF A<=B
>=	Greater than or equal to	CNIF A>=B

If the comparison is true then the code will be compiled, but if it is false then the program code will not be compiled until a CEND directive is executed. CEND terminates a conditional compiling definition. Try the following example:

CEND

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: end conditional compiling definition
Syntax: CEND

```
; *** CNIF example - CNIF.bb2
#DISABLED=0
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
CNIF #DISABLED=1
  For B=1 To 50
    Locate Rnd(30),Rnd(20)
    Colour Rnd(5)+1
    NPrint "Blitz Basic"
  Next B
  MouseWait
CEND
End
```

In the above example the whole program is not compiled, as the #DISABLED constant is set to (0). However, if the #DISABLED constant is set to (1) then the whole program will be compiled.

CSIF

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: compile based on string comparison
Syntax: CSIF "STRING" COMPARISON "STRING"

The **CSIF** directive is used to set the start of a conditional compiling definition. It allows you to conditionally compile a section of code based on a comparison of two text strings. The COMPARISON parameter should be one of the previous Blitz Basic operators.
If the comparison is true then the code will be compiled, but if it is false then the program code will not be compiled until a CEND directive is executed. CEND must be used to terminate the definition. Here is an example:

```
; *** CSIF example- CSIF.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
CSIF "String"="String"
  NPrint "Compiled!"
CELSE
  NPrint "Not compiled!"
CEND
MouseWait
End
```

CELSE

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: compile when a comparison is false
Syntax: CELSE

The **CELSE** directive is used in conjunction with CNIF and CEND, or CSIF and CEND, to qualify a condition. The commands between CNIF or CSIF and CELSE are compiled when the logical condition following CNIF or CSIF is true. If the condition following CNIF or CSIF is false then the commands after CELSE are compiled instead. Here's an example:

```
; *** CELSE example - CELSE.bb2
#DISABLED=0
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
CNIF #DISABLED=1
  For B=1 To 20
    VWait 5
    Cls Rnd(7)
  Next B
CELSE
  NPrint "Colour flash not compiled!"
  MouseWait
CEND
End
```

CERR

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: generate compile-time error message
Syntax: CERR MESSAGE

The **CERR** directive is used to generate compile-time error messages. CERR is normally used in conjunction with macros and conditional compiling to generate errors when incorrect macro parameters are passed.

```
; *** CERR example
; *** Filename - CERR.bb2

Macro ERROR
  ; *** One parameter passed to macro?
  CNIF `0=1
    CERR "Correct number of parameters"
  CELSE
    ; *** Wrong number of parameters
    CERR "Illegal number of macro parameters"
  CEND
End Macro

!ERROR{A}
MouseWait
End
```

16.1.3 macros

A macro is simply a list of commands which is called up by typing the macro name (preceded by an exclamation mark). Once a macro has been defined it can be used anywhere in the program, and will have exactly the same effect as if the assigned commands had been entered from the keyboard. The **MACRO** directive is used to declare the start of a macro definition. All commands following this directive are included in the macro's contents. **END MACRO** terminates a macro definition. Here are some examples:

MACRO/END MACRO

Mode(s): N/A
Directive: declare start/end of macro definition
Syntax: Macro NAME/ End Macro

```
; *** Macro example - Macro.bb2
Macro AMACRO
  NPrint "This is a macro"
  NPrint "definition"
End Macro

; *** Call macro 10 times
For A=1 To 10
  !AMACRO
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** Macro example 2 - Macro2.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0

Macro ANOTHERMACRO
  For A=1 To 200
    Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(256),Rnd(5)+1
  Next A
End Macro

; *** Call macro 10 times
For B=1 To 10
  Cls 0
  !ANOTHERMACRO
  VWait 25
Next B
End
```

16.2 Assembler

Assembly language can be included either in-line, using GETREG and PUTREG to access variables, or inside procedures. This allows the experienced Amiga programmer to speed up processor-intensive BASIC with faster machine code.

Blitz Basic's in-line assembler is reasonable if you are an experienced 68000 programmer!. All 68000 mnemonics are tokenised as if they were BASIC reserved keywords, and are assembled into machine code when your program is compiled. However, the in-line assembler does have a couple of limitations: the Absolute Short addressing mode and Short Branches are not supported, and assembler expressions must use curly brackets ({ }) to force operator precedence.

The in-line assembler can be treated as an assembler instead of a compiler, although why you'd want to do this is not certain (surely Devpac 3.0, with its superior debugging tools is a much more stable assembler!?). However, in order to correctly mix assembler with BASIC then the following rule must be obeyed:

- Address registers A4-A6 must be preserved and restored by any assembly language routines.
- Blitz 2 uses A5 as a global variable base, A4 as a local variable base, and tries to keep A6 from having to be re-loaded too often.

DC

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define constant
Syntax: Dc[.SIZE] DATA[,DATA...]

DC stands for Define Constant, and is used to define areas of data for assembly language programs.

DCB

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define constant block
Syntax: Dcb[.SIZE] REPEATS,DATA

DCB stands for Define Constant Block. It is used to insert a repeating series of the same value into assembly language programs.

DS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: define storage
Syntax: Ds[.SIZE] LENGTH

DS stands for Define Storage. It is used to insert a gap into a program, which may be used as a data storage area.

EVEN

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: word align internal program counter
Syntax: Even

EVEN is used to word align the Blitz Basic internal program counter. This may be necessary if a DC, DCB or DS statement has left the program counter at an odd address.

GETREG

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: transfer result to register
Syntax: GetReg 68000 REG,EXPRESSION

GETREG is used to transfer the result of a BASIC expression to a 68000 register. The result of the expression is converted into a long value before being moved to the data register. GETREG should only be used to transfer expressions to one of the eight data registers (d0-d7). GETREG uses the stack to temporarily store any registers used in the calculation of the expression. See PUTREG examples.

PUTREG

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: transfer register to variable
Syntax: PutReg 68000 REG,VARIABLE

The **PUTREG** statement is used to transfer a value from any 68000 register (d0-d7/a0-a7) into a variable. If the specified variable is a string, long, float or quick, then all four bytes from the register will be transferred. If the specified variable is a word or a byte, then only the relevant low bytes will be transferred.

```
; *** GetReg/PutReg example
; *** Filename - PutReg.bb2

A.w=100
; *** Put variable into register
GetReg d0,A
; *** Negate number
NEG d0
; *** Grab contents of register
PutReg d0,B.w
NPrint B
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** GetReg/PutReg example 2
; *** Filename - PutReg2.bb2

A.w=100
B.w=5
; *** Put variables into registers
```

```
GetReg d0,A
GetReg d1,B
; *** Add register 0 to register 1
ADD d0,d1
; *** Grab contents of register 1
PutReg d1,C.w
NPrint C
MouseWait
End
```

SYSJSR is used to call Blitz Basic's system routines. The ROUTINE parameter specifies the routine number to call.

SYSJSR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: call system routine
Syntax: SysJsr ROUTINE

TOKEJSR is used to call Blitz Basic's library-based routines. The TOKEN parameter specifies a token number, or token name. FORM is a particular form of the token.

TOKEJSR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: call library based routine
Syntax: TokeJsr TOKEN[,FORM]

ALIBJSR is used to call a routine from one library to another. Please refer to the library writing section of the programmer's guide for more information on library writing.

ALIBJSR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: call routine from one library to another
Syntax: ALibJsr TOKEN[,FORM]

BLIBJSR is used to call a routine from one library to another. Please refer to the library writing section of the programmers guide for more information on library writing.

BLIBJSR

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: call routine from one library to another
Syntax: BLibJsr TOKEN[,FORM]

end-of-Chapter summary

- Includes are files of predefined data which may be “included” in a source code file using a special directive. When the program is compiled these additional files are compiled as part of the main source code.
- Conditional compiling allows you to select which parts of a program are compiled by Blitz Basic. It can be used to produce “crippled” demonstration software (e.g. a utility with the save function disabled).
- A macro is simply a list of commands, which is called up by typing the macro name. Once a macro has been defined it can be used anywhere in the program, and will have exactly the same effect as if the assigned commands had been entered from the keyboard.
- Blitz Basic incorporates a full in-line Assembler. Address registers A4-A6 must be preserved and restored by any assembly language routines. Note that the Absolute Short addressing mode and Short Branches are not supported, and assembler expressions must use curly brackets ({}) to force operator precedence.

Chapter 17 : Program startup

This chapter covers all of the commands involved in program startup. It will teach you all you need to know about executable files, parameter passing and Blitz Basic runtime.

17.1 Executable files

Executable files are those which can be run independently from the Blitz Basic 2 environment. Creating an executable file is easy. First, load the program you wish to create an executable file for into the Blitz Basic editor.

If you want Blitz to create an icon for your program then make sure that the "Create Icons for Executable Files" option in the COMPILER OPTIONS is set to on (i.e. highlighted). Then select "CREATE EXECUTABLE" from the COMPILER menu, or press Amiga & E. Type in the filename of the program you wish to create and press the return key. Blitz Basic will then create your executable file.

In order for any Blitz Basic program to run from outside of the Blitz Basic 2 system, **WBSTARTUP** MUST be placed at the very beginning of your program code. If it is not included then your program will not run from Workbench, it's as simple as that.

If you want your Blitz Basic creation to run from Workbench then you MUST include this statement in the program, otherwise, the program will crash. You have been warned! Here are some examples:

WBSTARTUP

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: allow program to run from Workbench
Syntax: WBStartup

```
; *** WBStartup example - WBStartup.bb2
WBStartup
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,3
NPrint "I will start from Workbench"
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** WBStartup example 2 - WBStartup2.bb2
; *** No WBSTARTUP statement!!!
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
Locate 0,3
NPrint "I won't start from Workbench"
MouseWait
End
```

OPENWORKBENCH reopens the Workbench screen. **CLOSEWORKBENCH** closes it, freeing about 40K of valuable memory for your own programs. Example:

OPEN/CLOSEWORKBENCH_

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: open/close Workbench
Syntax: OpenWorkBench_/CloseWorkBench_

```
; *** CloseWorkBench_ example
; *** Filename - CloseWorkBench_.bb2
CloseWorkBench_
MouseWait
End
```

```
; *** OpenWorkBench_ example
; *** Filename - OpenWorkBench_.bb2
OpenWorkBench_
MouseWait
End
```

17.1 CLI Parameters

When a program is run from the CLI, various parameters can be passed to the program. This allows the user to alter, or influence, various aspects of the program without getting their hands dirty in the actual program code.

NUMPARS and PAR$ return the number of parameters and grab the contents of the CLI command line respectively. They can be used to return strings containing all the parameters which have been entered from the command line. If parameters have not been defined, you'll get (0) from NUMPARS, or a null string ("") from PAR$ instead.

For example, if you wanted to run an executable file from the CLI and tell it to open a high-resolution screen, then you would call the program something like this:

```
Program HIGHRES
```

The following code could be used to read this parameter and set the screen mode accordingly:

```
; *** Passing parameters - Pass.bb2
If Par$(1)="HIGHRES"
  Screen 0,11,"High-res"
Else
  Screen 0,3,"Low-res"
EndIf
MouseWait
End
```

Another interesting use of parameter passing is illustrated in the following example. If you wanted to tailor software to the user, without having to prompt them for questions about name, age etc., then you could get them to call your program with the parameters as their details:

```
Program NEIL,WRIGHT,197
```

Your program could then display this information upon loading:

```
; *** Parameter passing 2 - Pass2.bb2
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
If NumPars=3
  Colour 1
  ; *** First parameter
  NPrint "First Name: ",Par$(1)
  Colour 2
  ; *** Second parameter
  NPrint "Surname: ",Par$(2)
```

```
  Colour 3
  ; *** Third parameter
  NPrint "Age: ",Par$(3)
End If
MouseWait
End
```

The "CLI Argument" menu option can be used to test CLI parameters. Here, parameters can be entered and tested on non-executable programs prior to the creation of executable files. These parameters may be read by the **NUMPARS** and PAR$ functions.

The NUMPARS function returns the number of parameters passed to an executable program from either the Workbench or the CLI. If no parameters are supplied then NUMPARS will return (0). For example, if a Blitz Basic program is called in the following way, through the CLI, then (2) is returned because two parameters are passed:

NUMPARS

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return number of parameters passed to program
Syntax: p=NumPars

```
Program PARAMETER1 PARAMETER2
```

Programs run from Workbench, however, are only capable of picking up one parameter. This is achieved through the file's "Default tool" (contained in the .Info file), or by multiple selection through the shift key. Here's an example:

```
; *** NumPars example - NumPars.bb2
NPrint NumPars," parameters passed"
MouseWait
End
```

The **PAR$** function returns a string equivalent to a parameter passed to an executable file through either the CLI or Workbench. If no parameters have been defined, a null string ("") is returned.

PAR$

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Function: return string equivalent to a passed parameter
Syntax: p$=Par$(PARAMETER)

```
BLASTER one two three
```

Runs a program called "BLASTER", with parameters "one", "two" and "three". These parameters can be returned by the following code:

```
; *** Par$ example - Par$.bb2
For A=1 To NumPars
  NPrint Par$(A)
Next A
MouseWait
End
```

17.2 Runtime program startup

The following commands have no effect on programs run outside of the Blitz Basic 2 environment (i.e. programs that have been converted to executable files). They are primarily of use during program development.

CLOSEED is used to close the Blitz Basic 2 editor screen when programs are executed from within Blitz Basic. This frees around 40K of valuable chip memory. CLOSEED has no effect on executable files run outside of the Blitz environment. Here's an example:

CLOSEED

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: close Blitz Basic editor
Syntax: CloseEd

```
; *** CloseEd example - CloseEd.bb2
CloseEd
NPrint "No editor!!!"
MouseWait
End
```

NOCLI

Mode(s): Amiga/Blitz
Statement: prevent default CLI from opening under Blitz Basic
Syntax: NoCli

NOCLI prevents the default CLI from opening when programs are executed from within Blitz Basic. This has no effect on executable files run outside of the Blitz environment. For example:

```
; *** NoCli example
; *** Filename - NoCli.bb2
NoCli
Screen 0,3
ScreensBitMap 0,0
BitMapOutput 0
Locate 0,3
NPrint "No default CLI"
MouseWait
End
```

end-of-Chapter summary

- If an executable file is to start from Workbench then the WBSTARTUP statement must be the very first line in your program.
- The NUMPARS function returns the number of parameters passed to an executable file. PAR$ returns a string equivalent to a parameter passed to an executable file through either the CLI or Workbench.
- CLOSEED can be used to close the Blitz Basic 2 editor. This frees around 40K of valuable chip memory.
- Executing the NOCLI statement prevents the default CLI from opening.

Chapter 18: The Future

For the duration of this guide's 300 pages I have tried to help you get the most from Blitz Basic 2 by providing a comprehensive command reference. By this stage you should have a reasonable knowledge of the Blitz instruction set and of the techniques that can be used to create professional software in BASIC. I hope you have enjoyed the journey!

If you want to hone your coding skills and make contact with other Blitz Basic programmers then join one of the many user clubs. They are all run by friendly, helpful folk whose main goal in life is to make your coding a little less painful. For really up to date information the only way to turn is to the Blitz User Group.

18.1 The Blitz User Group

B.U.G is a new (at the time of writing) club dedicated to all aspects of Blitz Basic 2. The aims of the club are simple: to teach people how to create commercial quality games in Blitz and make as much money from their programs as possible. Or something.

Each issue of the bi-monthly B.U.G disk magazine contains all the latest Blitz news, reviews, tips and previews, together with comprehensive tutorials, loads of Blitz source code and plenty of free commercial quality graphics. Each issue costs £3.50 and is available from Seasoft Computing

Seasoft Computing
Unit 3
Martello Enterprise Centre
Courtwick Lane
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 7PA
Tel: (01903) 850378

18.2 Blitz User International

The Blitz User International Magazine is produced by Matthew Tillett & Kevin Winspear, in the UK, to provide support for all Blitz programmers. B.U.I is a monthly printed magazine, with coverdisk, which covers the main aspects of Blitz programming. If you would like to join this group, or purchase their fanzine, then write to (with S.A.E).

B.U.I
27 Hillside Avenue
Worlingham
Beccles
Suffolk
NR34 7AJ

18.3 Blitz User Magazine

The unfortunately named BUM magazine is the official offering from Acid Software, the producers of Blitz Basic. Your £15 subscription fee gets you five issues full of extensions, upgrades, source code and other goodies. All users who register with Acid Software in the United Kingdom will receive information on the Blitz User Magazine.

Acid Software Distribution Centre
Unit 15 Guildhall Industrial Estate
Kirk Sandle
Doncaster
England
DN3 1QR
Tel: (01302) 890000

18.4 Blitz User Disk Magazine

If you want to communicate with Blitz users nationwide, here is your chance. The Blitz User Disk Magazine is produced by Michael Milne, in the UK, to provide local support for all Blitz Basic users. It covers the main features of Blitz Basic and has sections on programming, graphics, music and new Amiga hardware.

Blitz User Disk Magazine
c/o 39 The Drive
Earley
Berkshire
England
RG6 1EG

The B.U.D (great acronym, guys) magazine covers the main areas of interest to Blitz users with routines as its main feature. Users can talk about themselves, their interests, equipment and exchange information with fellow programmers.

Readers are encouraged to submit programs for publication and Michael will try his best to answer any programming queries. If you would like to participate in this user club you can obtain a free copy of the first issue by sending a blank disk and SAE.

18.5 Magazine columns

As well as the various Blitz clubs and societies, there are a number of Blitz-dedicated columns in the monthly Amiga magazines. **Amiga Format** and **Amiga Shopper** are both good sources of Blitz Basic information. You may also be interested in **CU Amiga** semi-regular column which aims to teach the fabled art of games programming, often with varying degrees of success.

18.6 Useful contacts

Acid Software
10 St Kevins Arcade
Auckland 1
New Zealand
Tel: (64)-9-358 1658

Acid Software headquarters, New Zealand. To contact the authors of Blitz Basic 2 at this address.

Gothik PD
7 Denmark Road
Northampton
England
NN1 5QR
Tel: (01604) 22456

Gothik PD specialise in Blitz Basic 2 programming and public domain software.

Tornado Software
10 Colenso Street
Hartlepool
Cleveland
TS26 9BD

For a comprehensive selection of Amiga Public Domain, including Blitz Basic games, demos and utilities, write to Tornado Software. For £1 you will receive a catalogue listing over 8000+ titles.
(Cheques & PO's Payable to K. Winspear)

Appendix A : Blitz Basic Applications

There are a clutch of useful utilities available for the Blitz Basic 2 development system. Obviously we have Shapesmaker and MapEdit, the two utilities bundled with Blitz Basic, but we also have Shape-Ed V2 and BobEd, two superior object editors, and Blitz-Case, a complete software engineering package. Naturally, all of these applications were written using the Blitz Basic language.

One of the many pitfalls of the Blitz Basic 2 documentation is that it does not contain details of the Shapesmaker and MapEdit programs. Here are those illustrious instructions!

A.1 Shapesmaker

The Amiga range of computers have access to a graphic shifter called the Blitter chip. Blitter Objects, or "Bobs" for short, are images which can be displayed on screen with lightning speed, but must be displayed and updated by the user to avoid graphic corruption. For reasons know only to Acid Software, Blitz Basic refers to these Bobs as shapes, or shape objects. These shape objects may be used in a variety of different ways, such as gadgets, menu items or game graphics.

The Shapesmaker utility can be found in the "tools" directory of the Blitz Basic 2 System disk. This program was, until a short while ago, the only way of producing shape objects for your Blitz programs.

When designing your shapes in a utility such as Deluxe Paint IV, you should make sure that each row of objects is aligned on exactly the same line across the screen, otherwise they will not be recognised by Blitz Basic. Also, all shapes on the same row must be of the same vertical size (the horizontal size is not important). This is crucial if you want your shapes to be recognised by the shape editor.

After the Shapesmaker program has loaded, hold down the right-hand mouse button. You should be greeted by the following list of menu options:

PROJECT	OPTIONS	COLOUR
LOAD	MAKE SHAPES	REMOVE COLOUR?
CONVERT	MAKE SPRITES	
QUIT	AUTO CENTRE	

Shapesmaker is fully menu-driven so I will run through each of the menu options in turn and (hopefully) give you a complete guide to shape creation.

A.1.1 loading an IFF file

To load an IFF file into memory you select the LOAD menu option (located under the PROJECT menu) and input the relevant filename. The QUIT option is also located under the PROJECT menu, but you won't want to select that just yet.

A.1.2 shapes or sprites?

The next step is to tell Shapesmaker which type of object you will be dealing with, either shapes or sprites. If you look under the OPTIONS menu then you will see that the MAKE SHAPES option is selected. So, if you want to create shape objects then you can leave this option alone, but if you want to create some sprites then select MAKE SPRITES.

A.1.3 detention centre

AUTO CENTRE tells Shapesmaker to automatically centre each object's hot spot (handle) during conversion. A handle is the pixel offset from the shape's upper left corner used to calculate coordinates. See Chapter 8 for more information.

A.1.4 masking tape

When designing shapes and sprites, it often helps to set aside a single colour which can be used as a background "mask" colour. To create a mask, simply create a series of filled rectangle of size greater than your largest shape, then paste each shape on top of a rectangle. When you convert your IFF files to shape objects using the editor, you can automatically remove this background mask by selecting the REMOVE COLOUR? option from the COLOUR menu.

Using a background mask allows you to overcome the vertical sizing restriction imposed by the shape editor. Say, for example, that you had drawn an animating alien that increased in size from frame to frame. Under normal circumstances Shapesmaker wouldn't recognise the shapes, but if a background mask was used then all of the objects would be of the same vertical size.

A.1.5 preaching to the converted

Having loaded your IFF file and set the object type, handle offset, and background mask, the final step is to convert the picture to a series of shape objects. This is achieved by selecting CONVERT from the PROJECT menu. Naturally you will be asked to input a filename and, all being well, Shapesmaker will chop up your graphics and save them onto a disk.

Whilst Shapesmaker lacks the raw power of utilities such as BobEd and Shape-Ed V2, it more than makes up for it in its ease of use.

A.2 MapEdit

The MapEdit program can also be found in the "tools" directory of the Blitz Basic 2 System disk. MapEdit is a fabulous utility which enables you to create the backgrounds used in mapped games. It allows you to create giant screens in memory using a series of simple building blocks, much like a jigsaw or collage. You can design giant maps, the height of many screens and they will not take up nearly as much memory as normal pictures.

The practical use of MapEdit can be seen in many different commercial games, such as Woody's World (a cute-style platform game) and Roadkill (an overhead driving game written entirely in Blitz Basic 2!).

A.2.1 first steps

Create blocks first using something like Deluxe Paint IV. These square or rectangular areas can be glued together in various arrangements and reused on the same background. The actual size of the blocks is up to you, but common sizes are 16*16 pixels, 32*32 pixels, 32*16 pixels and 16*32 pixels. Bear in mind that all blocks must be of the same size (i.e. all 16*16 pixels, or all 32*32 pixels) otherwise they will be of no use to MapEdit.

The next step is to use the Shapesmaker utility to grab your screen blocks from an IFF file and convert them to shape objects (see above for more details). Then you can use MapEdit to paste these building blocks together, thus creating a complete game backdrop.

A.2.2 starting from scratch

Upon loading the MapEdit utility you will be greeted by a list of parameters :

Map	Parameters
Block Width:	16
Block Height:	16
Map Width:	20
Map Height:	12

Set Block Width and Height to match your graphic blocks. Map Width and Height define your map's dimensions in blocks. For example 20 blocks at 16x16 pixels equals 320 pixels wide, or one full screen in width. Leave these values as they are, click the USE gadget, and we will begin. MapEdit is fully menu-driven; here are the options:

PROJECT	BLOCKS	GROUP
NEW	LOAD SHAPES	CREATE
LOAD	LOAD PALETTE	DELETE
SAVE		
QUIT		

The NEW option is primarily of use when you want to clear the map editing screen. This also erases any maps from memory, so remember to save your work before you access this function!

The lOAD option loads a previously created map into memory. Try loading the "demomap" file from the "mapedit.demo" directory of your Blitz Basic 2 System disk. It doesn't look very exciting, does it? That's because we haven't loaded any screen blocks into memory. To do this, highlight the LOAD SHAPES option and load the "blocks.shapes" file, also from the "mapedit.demo" directory. Right, that's the map and blocks in place, but what's wrong with the screen colours? You've guessed it, we need to load the shapes' palette as well. To do this, highlight the LOAD PALETTE option and load the "blocks.palette" file, again from the "mapedit.demo" directory.

Not all of the blocks can be displayed at once. To cycle through all of the blocks, use the two white arrows at the top left and top middle of the screen. To paste a block on the map, simply click on it, move the mouse pointer to the relevant position and press the left mouse button. Easy when you know how!

A.2.3 I'm a map - edit me!

Groups are what Blitz Basic calls a number of blocks joined together. For example, instead of moving a map section block by block, you can create a group to manipulate many blocks at once.

To create a group, select CREATE from the GROUP menu. In the small window that appears, click the blocks you want to join in order, then click the window's close gadget. The completed group will appear under your mouse pointer, allowing you to manipulate it like a single block.

As with single blocks, you will often find that there are too many groups to display at the top-right of the screen. To cycle through them use the white arrows at the top-middle and top-right of the display. To erase a group from memory, simply click on the group icon (at the top-right of the screen) and select the DELETE option from the GROUP menu.

A.3 Shape-Ed V2

While the supplied Blitz Basic shape editor is adequate, it cannot directly manipulate a shape's appearance. Shape-Ed V2 provides a comprehensive toolset for this task. It is easy to use and excellently demonstrates building Intuition-based applications with Blitz Basic. Important features include:

- Convert AMOS Bobs to Blitz shapes
- Rotate and mirror shapes
- Fill, airbrush, text
- Draw circles, rectangles, lines
- Cut and paste shapes
- Comprehensive animation displayer
- Magnify shapes

Eclipse Software
144 Ravenbourne Avenue
Shortlands
Bromley
Kent
England
BR2 OAY
Tel: (081) 464 8416

Blitz users who register with Eclipse Software receive the full program, annotated source code, and a printed manual. To purchase Shape-Ed V2, send a £7 cheque payable to Aaron Sethi at Eclipse Software.

A.4 BobEd V1.2

BobEd has been developed by Paul Thompson to "offer Blitz Basic users flexibility, power & convenience in the handling of shape objects". What sets BobEd above Shape-Ed and similar utilities is its comprehensive set of editing tools. Although the system has a feature list as long as your arm, some of the more important features are:

- 256 colour hi-res shape editing (AGA)
- Shape grabbing tools
- Palette manipulation
- Wide range of drawing tools and functions
- Handles brushes, anim-brushes, shapes and sprites

Aspire 2
Strathspey
Pentre Hill
Flint Mountain
Clwyd
England
CH6 5QN
Tel: 0352 761798

As well as a shape editor, the BobEd package includes a number of fully-annotated example programs which make use of BobEd-created shapes. BobEd V1.2 costs just £11.95 including P&P.

A.5 Blitz-Case

Blitz-Case gives Blitz Basic programmers a CASE (Computer Aided Software Engineering) environment in which to code, allowing the programmer to mix easy flowchart symbols with source code.

The basic structure of a Blitz Basic program can be quickly designed and constructed using easy to understand flowchart icons. The exact source code is then assigned to certain icons before the flowchart is converted into Blitz Basic source code. There are icons to replace all the standard BASIC constructs such as:

- If…Then
- Select…End Select
- Procedures

Icons containing source code are called processes. Blitz-Case features three process icon types that function identically—holding BASIC commands—but help make flowchart comprehension easier. The generic type is PROCESS, while INPUT handles user input, and PREPARATION prepares for subsequent actions. Anyone who programs Blitz Basic normally will quickly learn these CASE techniques.

At its simplest level, Blitz-Case can be used to plan out a program - outlining the procedures and processes that are likely to be required. At its most complex Blitz-Case can reduce the need for the Blitz Basic Compiler to simply final compilation, with all the editing and programming done in Blitz-Case.

Richard Jones
14 Torrington Avenue
Weeping Cross
Stafford
England
ST17 0HZ

The program is perhaps the biggest accessory yet to appear for Blitz Basic, and is only the second of its type to appear on the Amiga (Fed-Case being the other, which is for the C programming language). Full AmigaGuide instructions are included on the disk, although the program is fairly intuitive to use. If you are interested in Blitz-Case then contact the author, Richard Jones.

Blitz-Case is just one of those things you have to have if you're serious about Blitz Basic. As you can probably tell, I was impressed!

Appendix B : Useful Programs

One of the best ways of learning any computer language is by typing in programs and routines and learning from the work of others. This appendix contains several handy programs and routines that can easily be adapted and incorporated into your own Blitz Basic creations. Thanks must go to all of the Blitz users who sent in their routines for inclusion. Where possible I have included programs that illustrate various programming techniques and solve some common programming problems. And you don't even have to type in the programs - they can all be found on disk 2 of the guide.

B.1 X-Plane starfield

One of the fiendishly clever, yet surprisingly simple routines is the parallaxing dot starfield. Parallaxing is a technique whereby speed is used to create an illusion of depth, and is achieved by moving individual pixels around at different speeds. This little proglet can throw up to 44 pixels about with no slow-down whatsoever, such is the speed of Blitz Basic. A few words of warning - because the routine draws up to 44 pixels on the screen in one frame, you really do need to turn the Runtime Error Debugger off for silky-smooth movement. Secondly, although the routine can display more than 44 pixels on screen, it will slow down to snail's pace.

You can customise the routine in a number of ways. To alter the number and speed of the stars simply change the values of the NUM and SPEED variables respectively. Try improving the routine so that stars moving at different speeds are plotted in different colours:

```
; *** X-Plane Starfield - X-Plane_Starfield.bb2
; *** Author - Neil Wright
NEWTYPE .p
  X.w
  Y.w
  SPEED.w
End NEWTYPE

; *** Number of stars and maximum speed
NUM=40
MXSPEED=8

Dim List STAR.p(NUM)

BLITZ
; *** Open two BitMaps for double-buffering
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,2
BitMap 1,320,DispHeight,2
Slice 0,44,320,DispHeight,$fff8,2,8,2,320,320
RGB 1,15,15,15
USEPATH STAR()
ResetList STAR()

; *** Generate random numbers
While AddItem(STAR())
  \X=Rnd(320)
  \Y=Rnd(DispHeight)
  \SPEED=Rnd(MXSPEED)+1
Wend

; *** Main loop
Repeat
  VWAIT
  Show MAP : MAP=1-MAP : Use BitMap MAP
  Cls
```

```
  Gosub STARS
Until Joyb(0)>0
End

; *** Star drawing sub-routine
STARS:
  USEPATH STAR()
  ResetList STAR()
  While NextItem(STAR())
    Plot \X,\Y,1
    \X=QWRAP(\X+\SPEED,0,320)
  Wend
Return
```

B.2 Z-Plane starfield

This little snippet of code creates a fantastic "hyperspace" effect by moving pixels outwards, from the centre of the screen, on the z-axis. Up to 115 stars can move in one frame (50Hz) with no slowdown, but remember to turn the Runtime Error Debugger off for maximum speed.

Again, you can customise the routine to your own needs. The number and speed of the stars can be controlled by altering the STARS and SPEED variables.

You may like to add a copper list to the background, or if you are feeling really adventurous, then try making the starfield rotate (hint: you may have to use SIN and COS to achieve this):

```
; *** Parallaxing Z-Plane Starfield - Z-Plane_Starfield.bb2
; *** Author - Neil Wright
BLITZ
; *** Open two BitMaps for double-buffering
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,1
BitMap 1,320,DispHeight,1
Slice 0,44,320,DispHeight,$fff8,1,8,2,320,320
RGB 1,15,15,15
Show 0

; *** Number of stars and speed
STARS=115
SPEED=1.07

Dim X(STARS),Y(STARS)

; *** Generate random numbers
For A=0 To STARS-1
  X(A)=Rnd(320)-160
  Y(A)=Rnd(DispHeight)-(DispHeight/2)
Next A

; *** Main loop
Repeat
  Cls 0
  For A=0 To STARS-1
    Plot X(A)+150,Y(A)+120,1
    X(A)=X(A)*SPEED
    Y(A)=Y(A)*SPEED
    If X(A)>160 Then X(A)=X(A)-160
    If Y(A)>160 Then Y(A)=Y(A)-160
    If X(A)<-160 Then X(A)=X(A)+160
    If Y(A)<-160 Then Y(A)=Y(A)+160
  Next A
  VWait
  Show MAP : MAP=1-MAP : Use BitMap MAP
Until Joyb(0)=1
```

B.3 Mandelbrot

Mandelbrots were first discovered by the IBM scientist Benoit Mandelbrot in the late 1970s. With Blitz Basic, fractals and Mandelbrots can be generated in a matter of minutes. You needn't be able to understand fractals in order to generate amazing pictures - all you need is the following listing:

```
; *** Simple Mandelbrot
; *** Filename - Mandelbrot.bb2
; *** Author - Neil Wright
BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,4
Slice 0,44,320,DispHeight,$fff8,4,8,16,320,320
Show 0

; *** Set up palette
For A=0 To 15
  RGB A,A,A,0
Next A

; *** Main loop
For Y=0 To 255
  For X=0 To 319
    X1=-2.0+X/81.92
    Y1=1.6-Y/81.92
    COL=0
    A=0
    C=0
    Repeat
      B=A*A-C*C+X1
      C=2*A*C+Y1
      A=B
      COL+1
    Until A*A+C*C>4 OR COL=16
    ; *** Plot pixel
    Plot X,Y,COL
  Next X
Next Y
MouseWait
End
```

B.4 Mirrored text

The Amiga's Copper (co-processor) chip is not only used to create colourful rainbow backgrounds. As the Copper executes its instructions in parallel with the main processor, fantastic hardware effects can also be generated. With careful use of the CUSTOMCOP statement we can mirror BitMap output on the y-axis:

```
; *** Mirrored text - Mirror.bb2
; *** Author - Neil Wright
BLITZ
; *** A touch of hardware trickery
#BPLMOD1=$108
#BPLMOD2=$10A
BitMap 0,320,400,3
Line 0,200,320,200,5
BitMapOutput 0
Colour 4

; *** Text to mirror
A$="Blitz BASIC is tops!"
Locate 40/2-(Len(A$)/2),30
NPRINT A$
A$="(C) Blitz User Group"
Locate 40/2-(Len(A$)/2),32
```

```
NPrint A$
Slice 0,44,320,220,$fff8,3,8,32,320,320
; *** More hardware tom-foolery
CO$=Mki$(#BPLMOD1)+Mki$(-122)
CO$+Mki$(#BPLMOD2)+Mki$(-122)
CustomCop CO$,150+44
For A=1 To 180
  VWait
  Show 0,0,A
Next
MouseWait
End
```

B.5 System reset

For all the tech-heads, here is a useful routine written by Noel Baldacchino which resets the computer (much the same as pressing the [CTRL] and [Amiga] keys together). It is an excellent example of Blitz Basic's in-line assembler. Remember to save your work before you execute the program:

```
; *** System reset routine - Reset.bb2
; *** Author - Noel Baldacchino
SysReset:  MOVE.l   $4,a6          ; *** ExecBase
           JSR      -150(a6)       ; *** SuperState()
           LEA      $fc0002,a0
           MOVE.l   a0,$20
           JSR      (a0)           ; *** Go for it!
```

B.6 DF1: test

Another routine by Noel Baldacchino, this useful snippet of code is used to find out if DF1: (an external disk drive) is present. Use it when designing multi-disk games to find out if another drive is available, in order to minimise disk swapping:

```
; *** DF1: test routine
; *** Filename - Test.bb2
; *** Author - Noel Baldacchino
Gosub DF1_test
If DF1
  NPrint "DF1: is available."
  Else NPrint "No DF1!"
EndIf
MouseWait
End

.DF1_test
      MOVE.l $4,a6
      MOVEQ  #0,d0
      LEA    ResourceName(pc),a1
      JSR    -498(a6)
      MOVE.l d0,a0
      TST.l  52(a0)
      BEQ    DF1_OK:
only_DF0:
      DF1=False
      Return
DF1_OK:
      DF1=True
      Return

ResourceName: Dc.b "disk.resource",0
```

B.7 Splerge!

If you know your AMOS then you will be familiar with the Splerge! routine. Basically it stretches an image off the screen, starting at the bottom. Why not improve the routine so that the image stretches onto the screen, or fades away as it disappears?:

```
; *** Splerge using the Copper
; *** Filename - Splerge.bb2
; *** Author - Neil Wright
#BPLMOD1=$108
#BPLMOD2=$10A
BitMap 0,320,DispHeight,5
; *** Load an IFF screen to splerge
LoadBitMap 0,"INSERT YOUR OWN FILENAME HERE",0
VWait 100
BLITZ
Slice 0,44,320,DispHeight,$fff8,5,8,32,320,320
; *** Hardware bashing
CO$=Mki$(#BPLMOD1)+Mki$(-41)
CO$+Mki$(#BPLMOD2)+Mki$(-41)
Show 0
Use Palette 0
VWait 50
CustomCop CO$,DispHeight
; *** Stretch the display
For A=DispHeight To 0 Step -1
  CustomCop CO$,A
  VWait
Next
VWait
End
```

B.8 Fireworks

This program, based on an original routine by Paul Thompson, throws a firework into the air and explodes it. Try adding a splash of colour to the explosion (hint: use a copper list in the background) and perhaps a few more fireworks here and there. Remember to turn the Runtime Error Debugger off for maximum speed:

```
; *** Fireworks - Fireworks.bb2
; *** Author - Paul Thompson
BLITZ
; *** Initialise arrays
Dim X(100),Y(100),XS(100),YS(100)
BitMap 0,320,256,1
BitMap 1,320,256,1
Slice 0,44,1
Use BitMap 0
RGB 0,0,0,0
RGB 1,15,15,15

Repeat
  TIM=0 : X=160 : Y=255
  XS=Rnd(4)-2 : YS=-Int(Rnd(3)+9)
  Repeat
    ; *** Launch rocket
    Cls
    Boxf X,Y,X+1,Y+1,1
    Y+YS
    YS+0.25
    X+XS
    VWait
    ; *** Double-buffer
    Show MAP : MAP=1-MAP : Use BitMap MAP
```

```
  Until YS=0
  For A=0 To 90
    X(A)=X
    Y(A)=Y
    XS(A)=Int(Rnd(15)-7)
    YS(A)=Int(Rnd(15)-7)
  Next A
  Repeat
  ; *** Explode!
    For B=0 To 30
      Plot X(B),Y(B),1
      X(B)+XS(B)
      Y(B)+YS(B)
      YS(B)+.25
    Next B
    VWait
    ; *** Double-buffer
    Show MAP : MAP=1-MAP : Use BitMap MAP
    Cls
    TIM+1
  Until TIM=>100
Until Joyb(0)>0
End
```

B.9 Scrolling text

If you have ever seen an Amiga demo then you will be familiar with scrolling text.

Here is a little routine which demonstrates scrolling text, Blitz Basic 2 style. The program copies a text message from the buffer (an area which cannot be seen by the user) onto the screen, one pixel at a time.

Try adding some clever effects to the text, such as diagonal scrolling. For the ultimate in text scrollers, why not incorporate the Mirrored Text routine so that the text is mirrored on the x-axis as it scrolls:

```
; *** Scrolling text - Scroll_Text.bb2
; *** Author - Neil Wright
BLITZ
BitMap 0,384,270,3
BitMapOutput 0
Slice 0,44,320,256,$fff8,3,8,8,384,384
Use Palette 0
Show 0

; *** Change TEXT$ to anything you like
TEXT$="This is Neil Wright's fabulous text scrolling routine, "
TEXT$+"written completely in Blitz Basic 2!                  "
Colour 2

; *** Simple colour rainbow
For A=15 To 1 Step -1
  ColSplit 2,A,A,A,-3+A*2
Next A
B=1

; *** Main loop
Repeat
  Locate 43,1
  Print Mid$(TEXT$,B,1)
  Scroll 8,5,350,16,0,5
  VWait
  Let B+1
  If B=Len(TEXT$) Then B=1
Until Joyb(0)>0
```

B.10 Chipset?

If you are developing software for the Amiga series of computers then you may find it useful to know what chipset the host machine has. This small (but perfectly-formed) routine by Noel Baldacchino does just that:

```
; *** Chipset?
; *** Filename - Chipset.bb2
; *** Author - Noel Baldacchino
Function chipset{}
        MOVE.b  $dff07d,d0          ; *** ChipSet ID
        CMP.b   #$fc,d0             ; *** ECS?
        BNE.b   NoECS
        Function Return 0
NoECS:  CMP.b   #$f8,d0             ; *** AGA?
        BNE.b   NoAGA
        Function Return 1
NoAGA:  Function Return 2
End Function

R=chipset{}
Select R
  Case 0 : M$="You have an ECS machine! Upgrade now!"
  Case 1 : M$="Wow! You have an AGA machine!"
  Case 2 : M$="What! Why do you still have an OCS Amiga?"
End Select
NPrint M$
MouseWait
End
```

Well that's just about it on the programming front, folks; I hope you find the above programs useful. Now it is your turn - see if you can add some improvements to make the above programs better. As any hacker knows, the best way to learn about computing is to get lots of hands-on experience. Altering other people's programs is a good step on the way to producing your own programs completely from scratch - I would love to see what you come up with. Send your source code to the Blitz User Group, care of Neil Wright, at the address shown in Chapter 18. And do remember to include an SAE if you want your programs returned!.

Thank you for using my guide - happy programming, and I hope you enjoy a fruitful relationship with Blitz Basic 2!

Appendix C : Error Messages

C.1 You're bugging me

The two major stumbling blocks for computer programmers are bugs and errors. These may be typing mistakes made when you typed the program into the computer, or errors of logic in your code. Before you can get the program to work correctly you have to find all of the bugs and correct them.

When you are writing programs it often helps to remember that the computer can carry out three main activities: simple instructions, loops, and making decisions; these are the building blocks of all Blitz Basic programs. This guide has covered all of the instructions you need in Blitz Basic to tell the computer to carry out these activities.

There are usually several different ways to write a program and some of them may be shorter and faster than others. When you are writing a long program is it a good idea to divide it up into lots of sections with sub-routines or procedures to carry out each activity. Breaking up programs into sections like this makes it much easier to find any mistakes.

Usually it's a simple matter of correcting spellings and syntax. Blitz Basic does try to help by reporting errors as they occur, but wouldn't it be nice if we knew what these errors actually meant?

C.2 Blitz error messages

The bold text is the actual message that is reported by Blitz Basic when an error occurs. Underneath is a brief description of the problem, and/or the possible solution.

"**Already Included**"
The same source code has been previously included in the code.

"**Array already Dim'd**"
A DIM statement is trying to dimension an array that has already been dimensioned. Arrays may not be re-dimensioned:

```
Dim A$(10)
;
Dim A$(10)
```

"**Array is not a List**"
A LIST function has been applied to an array that was not dimensioned as a List array.

"**Array not Dim'd**"
An undimensioned array has been unsuccessfully accessed. Check that the array names are correct.

"**Array not found**"
An array cannot be found in the main program.

"**Array not yet Dim'd**"
An undimensioned array has been unsuccessfully accessed. Check that the array names are correct.

"Bad Data"
The data following a DATA statement is of incorrect Type. Consult Chapter 1 for the correct Data Types.

"Bad Type for For...Next"
The FOR...NEXT index must be of numeric Type.

"Can't Access Label"
An undefined label has been unsuccessfully accessed. Check spelling of labels and GOTO/GOSUB branches.

"Can't Assign Constant"
Constant values cannot be assigned to variables.

"Can't Assign Expression"
The expression cannot be evaluated, or the evaluation has generated a value that is incompatible with the equate.

"Can't Compare Types"
The Type is incompatible with operations such as compares.

"Can't Convert Types"
The two Types are incompatible and one cannot be converted to the other.

"Can't Create in Direct Mode"
Variables cannot and must not be created in direct mode.

"Can't create Macro inside Macro"
Macro definitions cannot be created inside other macro definitions.

"Can't Create Variable inside Dim"
An undefined variable has been used as a dimension parameter with the DIM statement.

"Can't Dim Globals in Procedures"
Global variables cannot be defined within procedure definitions.

"Can't Exchange different types"
The EXCHANGE statement can only swap two variables of the same Type.

"Can't Exchange NewTypes"
The EXCHANGE statement cannot use NewTypes.

"Can't Goto/Gosub a Procedure"
Procedures cannot be branched to using GOTO/GOSUB.

"Can't Load Resident"
Blitz Basic cannot find the Resident file listed in the Options requester. Check the pathname.

"Can't Nest Procedures"
Procedures may not be defined within other procedure definitions.

"**Can't nest SetErr**"
Interrupt handlers cannot be nested.

"**Can't open Include**"
Blitz Basic cannot find the Include file; check the pathname.

"**Can't use comma in Let**"
The assigned variable is not a NewType or has only one entry.

"**Can't Use Constant**"
This is caused by clashing constant names.

"**Can't use Set/ClrInt in Local Mode**"
Error handling must occur in the primary code.

"**Case Without Select**"
A CASE statement has been found which does not have a corresponding SELECT statement.

"**CEND without CNIF/CSIF...**"
A CEND statement has been found which does not have a corresponding CNIF/CSIF statement.

"**Clash in Residents**"
Residents may not include the same Macro and Constant definitions.

"**CNIF/CSIF without CEND**"
A CNIF/CSIF statement has been found which does not have a corresponding CEND statement.

"**Constant already defined**"
Constants may only be defined once.

"**Constant not defined**"
An undefined constant has been used in an expression.

"**Constant Not Found**"
An undefined constant has been used in an expression.

"**Cont only Available in Direct Mode**"
CONT can only be called from Direct Mode.

"**Cont Option Disabled**"
The CONT option in the Options menu has been disabled.

"**Default without Select**"
A DEFAULT statement has been found which does not have a corresponding SELECT statement.

"**Direct Mode Buffer Overflow**"
Direct Mode has run out of memory. Try turning the "**make smallest code**" option off.

"Duplicate For...Next Error"
The same index has been used within two nested FOR...NEXT loops:

```
For A=1 To 10
  For A=1 To 10
    Print " "
  Next A
Next A
```

"Duplicate Label"
The same label has been used more than once within a program.

"Duplicate Offset (Entry) Error"
The NewType has two entries with the same name.

"Duplicate parameter variable"
Parameters listed in Blitz Basic keywords must be unique.

"Duplicate Procedure name"
Procedures must be unique in name.

"Duplicated Type"
Types must be unique in name.

"Element isn't a pointer"
The variable used is not a VAR Type and cannot point to another variable.

"End NewType without NewType"
An END NEWTYPE statement has been found which does not have a corresponding NEWTYPE statement.

"End Select without Select"
An END SELECT statement has been found which does not have a corresponding SELECT statement.

"End SetErr without SetErr"
An END SETERR statement has been found which does not have a corresponding SETERR statement.

"End SetInt without SetInt"
An END SETINT statement has been found which does not have a corresponding SETINT statement.

"Error Reading File"
AmigaDOS has generated an error whilst reading a file from disk. Some of the data may be corrupt or missing.

"Expression too Complex"
This should never occur.

"For...Next Block too Long"
A FOR...NEXT loop has exceeded the Blitz limit of 32K in size. Try removing or repositioning any non-essential code.

"For Without Next"
A FOR statement has been found which does not have a corresponding NEXT statement. Make sure the FOR index matches the NEXT index:

```
; *** This is wrong
For A=1 To 10
Next B
```

"Fractions Not allowed in Constants"
Constants can only contain absolute values.

"Garbage at End of Line"
This usually happens when semi-colons are omitted from REMarks.

"If Block too Large"
An IF...ENDIF control structure has exceeded the Blitz limit of 32K in size. Remove any non-essential code from the structure.

"If Without End If"
An IF statement has been found which does not have a corresponding END IF statement. Both commands must be present:

```
A=1
If A>0
  Print "A is greater than zero"
  MouseWait
End If
```

"Illegal Absolute"
The Absolute location specified must be defined and in range.

"Illegal Array type"
This should never occur.

"Illegal Assembler Addressing Mode"
The addressing mode is not available for the opcode. Check the Blitz Basic Reference Manual for more information.
"Illegal Assembler Instruction Size"
The instruction size is not available. Check the Blitz Basic Reference Manual for more information.

"Illegal Constant"
Constant values may not be assigned to variables.

"Illegal Constant Expression"
Constants can only consist of integers.

"Illegal direct mode command"
Direct Mode cannot execute this command.

"Illegal Displacement"
The Displacement location specified must be defined and in range.

"Illegal Else in While Block"
Check Chapter 4 in this guide for the correct use of the ELSE statement within a WHILE...WEND block.
"Illegal End Procedure"
The procedure return syntax is incorrect. Check the relevant syntax in Chapter 4.

"Illegal Function Type"
A function may not return a NewType.

"Illegal Immediate Value"
An Immediate value must be a constant and in range. Check the Blitz Basic Reference Manual for more information.

"Illegal Interrupt Number"
Amiga Interrupts may range from zero to 13 only.

"Illegal Label Name"
Consult Chapter 1 for the correct use of variables.
"Illegal Local Name"
The variable name is not valid. Consult Chapter 1 for acceptable variable names.

"Illegal number of Dimensions"
List arrays are limited to single dimensions.

"Illegal Operator for Type"
The operator for a Type is incorrect.

"Illegal Parameter Type"
NewTypes cannot be passed to procedures.

"Illegal Procedure Call"
The procedure call syntax is incorrect. Check the relevant syntax in Chapter 4.

"Illegal Procedure return"
The procedure return syntax is incorrect. Check the relevant syntax in Chapter 4.

"Illegal TokeJsr token number"
A library routine referred to by the TOKEJSR statement cannot be accessed. This is usually caused by the absence of a specific library from DefLibs.
"Illegal Token"
This should never occur.

"Illegal Trap Vector"
The 68000 microprocessor has only 16 trap vectors.

"Illegal Type"
An illegal Type has been used in a function or statement.

"Illegally nested Interrupts"
Interrupt handlers cannot be nested.

"Label has been used as a Constant"
A label and a constant have been named the same; labels and constants cannot share the same name.

"Label not Found"
An undefined label has been unsuccessfully accessed. Check for any spelling mistakes in label names.

"Label reference out of context"
This should never occur.

"Library not Available in Direct Mode"
The library is not available in direct mode.

"Library not Found : 'library number'"
A library routine referred to by a token cannot be accessed. This is usually caused by the absence of a specific library from DefLibs.

"Macro already Defined"
Macros must be unique in name.

"Macro Buffer Overflow"
Increase the size of the macro buffer in the Options requester.

"Macro not Found"
An undefined macro has been unsuccessfully accessed.

"Macro too Big"
Macros are limited to the buffer size defined in the Options requester.

"Macro without End Macro"
A MACRO statement has been found which does not have a corresponding END MACRO statement.

"Macros Nested too Deep"
This should never occur.

"Mismatched Types"
This usually happens when string variables are given numeric values or vice versa. It can also arise when you try to EXCHANGE the values of string variables with numeric values.

"Next without For"
A NEXT statement has been found which does not have a corresponding FOR statement. Both commands must be present.

“No Terminating Quote”
All text strings should be enclosed in quote marks (e.g. ”STRING”).
“

Not Enough Parameters”
A command has been given too few parameters. Check the relevant command syntax in this guide.
“Not Supported”
This should never occur.

“Numeric Over Flow”
The signed value is too large to fit in the provided variable space.

“Offset not Found”
The offset has not been defined in the NewType definition.

“Only Available in Amiga mode”
A command is only available in Amiga mode. Refer to the relevant command in this guide for correct mode details. If in doubt, try adding QAMIGA before the command:

```
; *** Go into a quick Amiga mode
QAMIGA
; *** Execute command
Waitevent
; *** Return to Blitz mode
BLITZ
```

“Only Available in Blitz mode”
A command is only available in Blitz mode. Refer to the relevant command in this guide for correct mode details.

“Optimizer Error! - $’”
This should never occur.

“Precedence Stack Overflow”
This should never occur.

“Previous Case Block too Large”
The CASE section in a SELECT...END SELECT block has exceeded the Blitz limit of 32K in size. Try removing or repositioning any non-essential code.

“Procedure not found”
An undefined procedure has been called. Check for spelling mistakes and typing errors.

“Repeat Block too large”
REPEAT...UNTIL/FOREVER blocks are limited to 32K in length.

“Repeat without Until”
A REPEAT statement has been found which does not have a corresponding UNTIL statement.

"Select without End Select"
A SELECT statement has been found which does not have a corresponding END SELECT statement.

"SetErr not allowed in Procedures"
Error handling cannot be accessed in a procedure definition.

"SetInt without End SetInt"
A SETINT statement has been found which does not have a corresponding END SETINT statement.

"Shared outside of Procedure"
The SHARED statement must be contained within a procedure definition.

"Syntax Error"
There is a syntax error in the program. Either a command is not a Blitz reserved keyword or has an incorrect parameter - refer to the relevant syntax in this guide. It's a common problem.

"Token Not Found : 'token number'"
An unknown token has been found. Check the spelling of all Blitz reserved keywords.

"Too many commas in Let"
A NewType has fewer entries than the number of values in LET.

"Too many parameters"
A command has been given too many parameters. Check the relevant command syntax in this guide.

"Type Mismatch"
This usually happens when string variables are given numeric values or vice versa. It can also arise when you try to EXCHANGE the values of string variables with numeric values.

"Type Not Found"
An undefined Type has been unsuccessfully accessed.

"Type too Big"
The unsigned value is too large to fit in the variable space provided.

"Unterminated Procedure"
A procedure has been created but its definition has not been terminated. The relevant END FUNCTION or END STATEMENT commands must be present.

"Until without Repeat"
An UNTIL statement has been found which does not have a corresponding REPEAT statement. A REPEAT...UNTIL loop requires both statements to be present, otherwise an error is generated.

"Variable already Shared"
Variables can only be SHARED once.

Appendix D : Glossary

The programming world is littered with words which are exclusive to computing. Here is a list of some of the computer "jargon" used in this guide.

D.1 Glossary of terms

Address
An address is an integer number which identifies a memory location. All memory locations have different addresses.

AGA
The Amiga 1200 is built around the AGA (Advanced Graphics Architecture) custom chipset which can display up to 256 colours from a palette of 16.8 million, amongst other things. In Blitz Basic this translates to more colours, higher resolutions and wider sprites.

Amiga
Designed by a company called Amiga Incorporated and was produced by Commodore in 1985. At the time of writing (1995) the Amiga brand name is over ten years old!

Application
Software prepared for a specific function or set of functions, such as a paint package or map editor.

Array
An array is a list of variables of the same name that are distinguished by subscripts (values that identify each variable or element in the array).

ASCII
An acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A set of definitions for bit composition of characters and symbols. ASCII defines 128 symbols using seven binary digits and one parity bit.

BASIC
BASIC stands for Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. It uses an easily grasped mixture of English, numbers, strings, arithmetic signs and parameters which will enable you to start programming without having to learn a daunting low-level language such as Assembly Language. BASIC is a high-level language, as opposed to a low-level language such as machine code. Blitz Basic 2 is an optimised and extended dialect of BASIC.

Binary
Binary is a base two numeric system, in which all numbers are represented by the digits zero and one:

Table D.1 : Binary notation

Decimal:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Binary:	1	10	11	100	101	110	111	1000	1001	1010

BitMap
BitMaps are used primarily for rendering graphics. Most commands in Blitz Basic for generating graphics (excluding the Window and Sprite commands) depend upon a currently used BitMap.

Blitter
The Amiga's BLock Image TransfER device, or "bit blatter", is used for copying large areas of memory from A to B, or to combine different areas into one single image. Widely used to generate Blitz Basic shape objects.

Blitting
Blitting is the name for the drawing of shape objects to BitMaps.

Blitz Basic
The world's most powerful BASIC for the Amiga range of computers. Blitz Basic has it all: speed, looks and a poor set of manuals. If Blitz Basic 2 was a car then it would be a Ferrari!

Blitzfont
Blitzfonts are used in the rendering of text to BitMaps. They must be eight-by-eight non-proportional fonts.

Buffer
A part of the computer's memory where data for input or output is held until it can be processed. Some makes of printer also have storage buffers.

Bug
A bug is a mistake, or error in a program. The process of removing these bugs is known as debugging.

B.U.G
B.U.G is a new (at the time of writing) club dedicated to all aspects of Blitz Basic 2. The aims of the club are simple: to teach people how to create commercial quality games in Blitz and make as much money from their programs as possible. Or something. Consult Chapter 18 for more information.

Byte
A unit of computer memory. Each individual byte can hold a single character or number from 0-255.

CLI
The Command Line Interface opens a window to communicate directly with AmigaDOS. It offers an alternative method of control to the Workbench icons.

Command
Commands are Blitz Basic tokens that can be used as either a function or a statement:

```
; *** Commands example
; *** Filename - Commands.bb2
ev.l=Waitevent ; *** as a function
Waitevent      ; *** as a statement
MouseWait
End
```

Comments

Comments, or REMarks are lines in BASIC programs which are not executed. They are used to annotate programs, so as to make them easier to comprehend. In Blitz Basic comments must be preceded by a semi-colon:

```
; *** Comments example
; *** Filename - Comments.bb2
; *** Enter super-speedy Blitz mode
BLITZ
; *** Open Blitz mode display (3 bitplanes)
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
; *** Enable BitMap output
BitMapOutput 0
; *** This line prints "Hello"
NPrint "Hello"
; *** Wait for a mouse press
MouseWait
; *** End the program
End
```

Commercial games

Commercial, or full price, games are those available in the shops. Blitz Basic has been used to create a number of top commercial games, including Skidmarks (an isometric driving game with hundreds of frames of animation), Roadkill (an overhead driving game), and Worms (a weird puzzle game). Although some companies shy away from games created using BASIC, Acid Software, the publishers of Blitz Basic 2, don't. They love them!

Compiler

Compilers take programs written in a form that humans can understand and translate them into machine code, the simple, fast language of the processor chip inside the computer.

Co-ordinates

Co-ordinates are used to specify the position of a window, Slice, cursor, or sprite on the display. The X co-ordinate specifies the horizontal distance from the left-hand side of the screen, and the Y co-ordinate determines the vertical distance from the top of the screen. Both are measured in pixels.

Copper

The Copper (Co Processor) is used to generate subtly coloured backgrounds, or copper lists - this device, built into the Agnus chip, can alter colours while the screen is being generated. It can execute instructions at the same time as the main processor.

Cursor

The cursor is a marker which shows the area of the screen at which you are located. This is the position at which typed characters will appear. In Ted, the Blitz Basic editor, the cursor is a yellow block which marks the position in the program where you are working.

Cycling

Cycling in computer terms refers to the ability of colours in a colour palette to change place, or cycle. This primitive form of animation can be used to produce simple fades and psychedelic displays.

Data
Data describes information entered into or used by a computer.

Debugging
The process of removing bugs, or mistakes, from computer programs. When you are writing a long program it is a good idea to divide it up into lots of sections with sub-routines or procedures to carry out major activities. Breaking up programs into sections makes it much easier to find any mistakes.

Decimal
Decimal is the base ten number system in which all numbers are represented by the digits 0-9.

Directory
A directory, or drawer, is a structure on a disk. The space available on disks can be divided into a hierarchy of directories to allow the individual files to be split up into related categories.

Disk
Diskettes are used for storing and retrieving information, or data. Floppy disks are always spelt with a “k”, no matter what some people may tell you. Compact Discs are the exception to the rule.

Double buffering
Graphics are drawn on a hidden screen and copied to the displayed screen to create super-smooth displays.

Expression
An expression is a combination of constants, variables, and other expressions with operators. Expressions are evaluated by the interpreter to produce a string or numeric value.

Extra Half-Brite
Usually known as just “Half-Brite”, this is a special display mode which doubles the number of colours on screen by duplicating the existing palette at half its brightness.

File
A file is a sequence of bytes which can be held in memory or stored to disk. These bytes can represent any type of data, such as pictures, samples, and music.

Floating Point Numbers
Floating Point Numbers are what the Mathematics world refers to as “Real numbers”. They are numbers which can contain a decimal fraction as well as a whole number part (e.g. 16.17).

Fonts
In typography, a complete set of characters of the same size and style.

Fractal
A mathematical pattern created using recursion.

Function
Functions are Blitz Basic tokens that require parameters in parentheses, and return a value:

```
; *** Functions example- Functions.bb2
N=Abs(-10)
MouseWait
End
```

Gadget
Gadgets are boxes which appear when the program requires you to enter or alter information. They are selected by clicking on the gadget once with the mouse pointer, although some gadgets require you to enter text (string gadgets).

HAM
Hold And Modify (HAM) is a special display mode which allows the full Amiga colour palette (4096 colours) to be displayed.

Handle
The single-pixel reference point of a graphical image. Commonly referred to as a “hot spot”.

Hexadecimal
The hexadecimal system counts in units of 16 rather than ten, so a total of 16 different digits is needed to represent the different numbers. The digits from zero to nine are used as normal, but the digits from ten to 15 are signified by the letters A to F inclusive:

Table D.2 : Hexadecimal notation

Hex digit:	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F
Decimal:	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Icon
Icons are visual representations of tools, projects, drawers, or disks.

IFF
IFF stands for Interchangeable File Format. Devised by Electronic Arts, it has been adopted as the standard way of storing pictures and sound on the Amiga.

Include files
These are files of predefined data which may be “included” in a source code file using a special directive. When the program is compiled these additional files are compiled as part of the main source code.

Integer
Integers are whole numbers (e.g. 10, 16 and 256), as opposed to floating point numbers, which do have a fractional part.

Interlace
A special display mode which doubles the vertical screen, or Slice, resolution.

Interrupt
Interrupts are hardware signals which cause the Amiga's processor to stop what it is doing (usually the execution of the main program) and execute a pre-defined piece of code called an interrupt routine, or interrupt handler.

Keyboard shortcut
A method for performing a mouse action, such as the selection of a menu item, by pressing a key.

Keyword
The Blitz Basic 2 instruction set consists of a number of reserved keywords which perform a specific task. It includes the names of all Blitz Basic statements, functions, commands and operators. Examples include PRINT, EDIT$, WAITEVENT and <>.

Kilobyte (K)
The kilobyte is a unit of measurement of computer memory. One kilobyte is equal to 1,024 bytes. Although the name implies 1,000, the kilobyte is not, and never will be, 1,000 bytes - it is a corruption of the English language!

List arrays
List arrays differ from normal arrays in that Blitz Basic keeps an internal count of how many elements are stored in the List and an internal pointer to the current element within the List. List arrays are restricted in size to one dimension.

Macro
A single statement which can be used to represent a larger sequence of functions, statements or commands.

Mark Sibly
Father of Blitz Basic and all-round programming God. Mark hand-crafted Blitz using assembly language. Wow!

Menu
Menus are lists of items. You can see the titles of the menus available at a particular time by pressing the right-hand mouse button. Menu items are accessed by holding down the right mouse button and highlighting the correct item, before releasing the mouse button.

Menu item
An option which appears below a menu title.

NewType
In addition to the six primitive types available, programmers can also create their own custom types, or NewTypes. A NewType is a collection of fields, similar to a database or C structure, which enables you to group together relevant fields in one variable type. NEWTYPE must be followed by a list of entry names separated by colons and/or newlines:

```
; *** NewTypes example - NewTypes.bb2
NEWTYPE .p
  X.w
  Y.w
  SPEED.w
End NEWTYPE
MouseWait
End
```

Palettes
Palettes, or palette objects, are temporary storage areas of colour information. This information can be taken either from an IFF file or created from scratch using Blitz Basic's palette functions.

Parallaxing
Parallaxing is a technique whereby parts of the display are scrolled at different speeds to create an illusion of depth. Because the television or monitor screen is 2-dimensional, all moving graphics appear flat. Parallax scrolling attempts to overcome the limits imposed by the screen, to produce a pseudo-3-dimensional display.

Parameter
A parameter is a piece of user-defined data which forms part of a Blitz Basic command. Parameters are used to control how commands operate:

```
; *** Parameters example
; *** Filename - Parameters.bb2

BLITZ
BitMap 0,320,256,3
Slice 0,44,3
Show 0
BitMapOutput 0
X=20
Y=10
; *** X and Y are parameters
Locate X,Y
NPrint "Moved, I'm sure"
MouseWait
End
```

Pixels
This is short for picture elements, allegedly. Pixels are the tiny graphical elements which make up the display. A standard, low-resolution PAL display has a resolution of 320 (horizontal) by 256 (vertical) pixels, or 81,920 pixels. By increasing the resolution, higher graphical definition can be achieved.

Procedure
A procedure is a specially defined module of code that can be called from your main program. Blitz Basic 2 supports two types of procedure: the function-type procedure and the statement-type procedure. A procedure which does not return a value is known as a statement and a procedure which does return a value is known as a function.

Proglet
A small snippet of code which demonstrates a basic principle or programming technique. Some programmers refer to these as routines, or pseudo-code, but I prefer proglets!

Program
A list of instructions which tell the computer to carry out a particular task or tasks. Blitz Basic is a program, and so is the code it creates.

Public Domain (PD)
Public Domain, or PD, describes the thousands of copyright-free disks that can be copied and sold by anybody. PD is non-profit making and as such very cheap to obtain. Blitz Basic 2 has been

used to create some spectacular Public Domain software, including Zombie Apocalypse (an Operation Wolf-style shoot-em-up), Defender (an update of one of the original arcade games), Insectoids (a vertically scrolling shoot-em-up similar to Galaxians), and Speed (a very slick card game).

Qualifier
Key which "qualifies", or changes the state of, a key-press. Examples include Shift, Ctrl, Alt and L Amiga/R Amiga.

Rainbow
A background colour graduation created using the COLSPLIT statement. Rainbows can provide a relatively good alternative to BitMap graphics in computer games.

RAM disk
A storage area which can be used to temporarily hold programs in memory for faster access than loading from disk.

Redraw
To redisplay the contents of a display. Technique used when the status of a gadget is altered.

Resolution
This describes the dimensions, in pixels, of a particular display mode. A low-res PAL screen has a resolution of 320 (horizontal) by 256 (vertical) pixels. A hi-res NTSC screen has a resolution of 640 (horizontal) by 200 (vertical) pixels.

Routine
An independent section of code which either works as part of the main program and can be reused again and again, or demonstrates a programming technique. See also "proglet".

Sample
Short sounds that can be played individually or as part of a song, or module. Samples are stored digitally in the Amiga's memory.

Scrolling
Scrolling is a technique whereby a display larger than the physical screen (a super-BitMap) is moved about one step at a time.

Slice
Slices are Blitz Basic objects which are the heart of Blitz mode's graphics system. Through the use of Slices, many weird and wonderful graphical effects can be achieved, effects not normally possible in Amiga mode. This includes such things as dual playfield displays, smooth scrolling, double buffering and much more!

Speech
One of the fun utilities provided with the Amiga was the narrator device; this allowed pre-AGA Amigas to "talk". For reasons known only to themselves, Commodore chose to remove the "speech" facility from Workbench 3. A recent update has added speech to Blitz, so that owners of all Amigas (including those equipped with the AGA chipset) can access this fabulous facility through BASIC.

Sprites
Sprites are graphical elements which can be moved independent of the background. They are fast-moving but are restricted in size, colour and number.

Stack
The stack is an area of memory which is used by Blitz Basic for temporary information storage.

Statement
Statements are Blitz Basic tokens that perform an action but do not return a value. Their arguments do not require parentheses:

```
; *** Statements example
; *** Filename - Statements.bb2

NPrint "Blitz Basic 2"
MouseWait
End
```

String
A string variable is one which contains text, rather than numbers. Strings are surrounded by quotation marks and all string names must end with the dollar ($) character.

Sub-routine
A sub-routine is a section of code that is separate to the main program. A sub-routine is a sort of mini-program within a program. It carries out a particular task, such as updating the display, or controlling object movement. All sub-routines are preceded by a program label and may be called using the GOTO and GOSUB statements.

Title bar
The optional top border of a screen or window, which displays the screen and window titles respectively.

Toggle
An option, such as a gadget, which can be toggled between two states (usually on and off).

Tracker
A Tracker is a sequencing program which allows you to enter musical motes and arrange them to create a song, or module. The best Tracker program on the Amiga is the commercial OctaMed program.

Types
Blitz BASIC currently supports six different types of variable, five numeric types for numeric data and one string type ($) for strings:

Table D.3 : Blitz Basic Types

Type	Suffix	Range	Accuracy	Bytes	Example
Byte	.b	+/- 128	Integer	1	Neil.b=125
Word	.w	+/- 32768	Integer	2	Dan.w=30000
Long	.l	+/- 2147483648	Integer	4	Jon.l=$dff000
Quick	.q	+/- 32768.0000	1/65536	2	Richard.q=500/7
Float	.f	+/- 9e18	1/10e18	4	Craig.f=4e7

Variable

Variables are numeric pointers used to store pieces of information. A variable containing numbers is called a numeric variable. If it contains letters and symbols is known as a string variable. Values can be assigned to variables as follows:

```
; *** Variables example
; *** Filename - Variables.bb2
Let A=5
; *** Assign the value 5 to variable A
NPrint A
; *** Print the contents of variable A
MouseWait
End
```

Venus

The second-closest planet to the sun, Venus has an oven-hot surface temperature of over 470 degrees Celsius and a diameter of nearly 7,500 miles. Venus is a happening planet!

Window

A rectangular area of the screen that can accept or display information. A window may have an optional title bar and/or gadgets in its border.

Workbench

Workbench is the Amiga's icon-based "point and click" Graphical User Interface. There are three main Workbenches in popular usage: Workbench 1.3 (Amiga 500), Workbench 2.X (Amiga 500+/600), and Workbench 3.X (Amiga 1200/4000).

WYSIWYG

What You See Is What You Get, or WYSIWYG is a term used in word processing and desk-top publishing which refers to the screen display, relative to the final output. WYSIWYG does not feature in this guide in any shape or form, so what you see is definitely not what you get!

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