GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR ZX 81

BY TIM HARTNELL

MORE THAN **80** PROGRAMS

**Getting Acquainted with your ZX81
and New ROM ZX80**
By Tim Hartnell
120 pages £4.95

Tim Hartnell has produced this book with the intention of giving the new user of the ZX81 a series of useful and worthwhile programs. With 75 programs between its covers, this book certainly lives up to his declared intentions. The programs vary from simple games needing little skill to quite complex 'machine intelligent' programs such as Draughts and Baker's Dozen. There are programs to plot curves, sort data and calculate interest on loans to fill up the gaps too.

The programs have been chosen (we are told) not only because they are valuable in their own right, but because they demonstrate specific functions of the ZX81. Any store of programs, providing they work and are not sloppily programmed, is valuable. They not only give you a source of pleasure, whether it be working out your finances or maths homework or playing games, but also provide you with a series of references for your own work.

This book fulfills this function and also gives you the basis of a 'hands-on'

teaching program. It is not set out in a formal structure but it is easy to read, and providing you make the effort as you key in the programs you should eventually become a better programmer. The book has something for everyone. Headings include Serious Applications; demonstration plots, solving quadratic equations, standard deviation, etc as well as Games, Arrays, Random Numbers and Word Processor which is based on the special printer.

Brief instructions are given for fitting the 8K ROM to the ZX80 followed by a chapter on converting programs written for the '80 to the '81. The book concludes with the specifications of the '81 and the New ROM and the complete character set.

Throughout the book the documentation highlights the critical areas of the programs, giving the reader an added insight into the workings of his system. The practical approach used can only benefit the growing body of users.

COMPUTING TODAY