

The Soft Seven Dragon 32 £3.50

T. D. Copsey, 20 Thorington Avenue, Daws Heath, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex

I expected this to be a typical compilation cassette. Seven standard games, all described as "family favourites", written by a hobbyist and selling for a modest sum to compensate for below-average presentation.

Well, it wasn't quite like that. Soft Seven has more going for it than many other compilation tapes.

The programs are loaded in one go, with a menu depicting your choice displayed on screen. I was amazed that so much could be fitted into the Dragon's memory, and it's a big advantage to be able to select between programs by a

single key press, without having to reload.

The programs themselves aren't wildly original, with names like Galactic Bomber, Hear and Spell, Wordsearch, Graphix, Music Maker, Hangman and The Great Race.

Several do stand out, though. Galactic Bomber is an effective hi-res bomber game, which shows that a BASIC game can still be fast. Hear and Spell uses the often-neglected MOTOR and AUDIO commands to play a hearing/spelling word game.

In conclusion, an ideal first tape for the new Dragon owner — the sort of tape that Dragon should have supplied with the machine, in fact. **C.G.**

instructions	65%
playability	55%
graphics	35%
value for money	95%



Games Pack IV 48K Lynx £7.95

Gem Software, Unit D, The Maltings, Station Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts

Both games on this tape load in at once, and a menu option is used to select between them.

In the first, an aeroplane is trying to land on its aircraft carrier, but the way is barred by

"chemical clouds". These must be bombed away to allow the plane to land on the moving deck of the ship.

Bomb the ship by mistake, however, and you destroy part of it, leaving you less area to land on. This is a very easy and therefore uninteresting game.

The second game shows more promise, being somewhat more challenging, though you'll soon find you win this one every time, too.

Games Pack III 48K Lynx £7.95

Gem Software, Unit D, The Maltings, Station Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts

This tape contains no less than three games.

The first, Reversi (Othello), plays a reasonable game, and can be set at different levels of difficulty. It loads in two parts — first the instructions, then the game proper.

Second is Pontoon — a three-way card game simulation between two human players and the computer. The graphics on this are superb, and the game is played well. I think this is the best game on the tape, my only complaint being that it is a little slow.

Game three is a version of the old favourite where you are a snake and have to try and touch

certain objects, while growing longer all the time, and not bumping into your own body.

This is as reasonable an implementation as you can get, with good graphics and a few new twists.

All the games have good instructions, and the tape loaded with no problems on TAPE3. Excellent value for money as a starter pack — the games aren't the usual run-of-the-mill arcade variety, and should offer something for everybody. **M.R.**

instructions	80%
playability	85%
graphics	90%
value for money	80%



Here you have to try and depth charge submarines from a ship.

However, both games have excellent graphics and clear instructions for use, and loaded quickly and without fuss on TAPE3. Both written in machine-code, they were very fast. The graphics animation was smooth and flicker-free.

Perhaps this would be a good tape for younger children, or for people who can't get the hand of the more demanding video

games. And two games on the tape means that it isn't bad value for money. **M.R.**

instructions	80%
playability	20%
graphics	90%
value for money	60%

