

APPLE TALKER

Add the power of speech to your Apple without hardware. A combination of Applesoft and machine language programming makes it possible to build a disk library of sounds or words and to combine them in novel ways.

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Computerized speech is becoming more available for home computers. Speech boards for the Apple are now available in the \$200 range. APPLE TALKER is the software alternative which allows you to add speech (and other complex sounds) to your programs without purchasing more hardware.

APPLE TALKER turns your Apple into a digital recorder. Sounds and words pre-recorded on tape are introduced into the Apple via the cassette input, sampled, and stored in memory. Once in memory, the sounds may be transferred to disk, combined with other sounds, and replayed.

THEORY

Just as programs can be stored in memory as a series of 0's and 1's, so can sound. By sampling sound at a fixed rate and then playing the samples back at the same rate, the sound can be reconstructed. The sound fidelity can be made as good as desired by increasing the sample rate and the measurement accuracy. By taking very good samples, very fast, it is possible to produce a digital recording that is indistinguishable from the original.

This is the principle behind digital audio which is just now becoming available for the home. These new systems use 40 to 50 thousand samples, of 12 to 16 bits each, every second. APPLE TALKER will make 7300 1-bit samples per second. This rate and resolution are adequate to produce recognizable voice, although quite a bit of distortion is introduced. APPLE TALKER works best with short, common words.

ENTERING APPLE TALKER

APPLE TALKER consists of an Applesoft main routine which calls the assembly language routine for the time-critical tasks.

First, enter Applesoft and type in the main routine. Save it on disk under the name APPLE TALKER.

Next, enter the machine code directly into memory, or assemble the source. Use **BSAVE APPLE TALKER.OBJ,A\$300,LSCE** to save your work to disk.

RUNNING APPLE TALKER

Connect your tape recorder to the cassette input port of your Apple. You need not connect the output port. Next, record some sounds on tape. To experiment with the features of APPLE TALKER, I suggest you record yourself counting from 1 to 5. Count slowly and clearly.

Now, RUN APPLE TALKER. The menu will appear along with a buffer status at the bottom of the screen. There are eight menu choices (FIGURE 1). As you step through the various options, the name of the currently selected option will appear below the menu. As you fill memory with your sounds, the pointers P1 and P2 in the status line will indicate your working buffer. The minimum and maximum values of P1 and P2 are given for reference.

Type '1' to enter the echo routine, and begin playing your cassette. As the cassette plays, your voice is sampled every 137 milliseconds. This sample is fed back to your Apple speaker. What you are hearing is exactly what your digital recording will sound like. You can control the quality somewhat by adjusting the volume control on the cassette. Adjust the volume for best response, press any key to quit echoing, and rewind your cassette.

Type '2' to enter the record routine. Play your cassette. It will be echoed until you press a key to begin recording. This gives you some additional control over the recording process. The routine will record the first five seconds of your monologue. Note that P2 has changed to point to the end of your recording. You are now done with the cassette.

Type '3' to play what you have recorded. Do not press keys 1 or 2 at this time. You will hear everything in the buffer from P1 to P2.

Type '4' to save your recording on disk. This will become the master you use for editing. The recording will be saved under the name you give with ".SOUND" appended.

BUILDING A LIBRARY

Now that you have created a master recording, you can go back and create a library of words. In option 3 (play), keys 1 and 2 can be used to adjust the buffer pointer.

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ers to isolate words. Each word can be saved in its own disk file, and then combined with other words to form new phrases. After isolating and saving a word, option 6 can be used to restore P1 and P2 to the values they had before you used the 1 and 2 keys. You can then isolate another word in the master recording.

If you need even finer control of P1 and P2 than provided by the play option, you can invoke option 7 to specify values for P1 and P2. You can also adjust the default recording time, and vary the sampling rate. The minimum time between samples is 87 microseconds. Additional delay can be added in 5 microsecond increments. The additional delay is defaulted to 50 microseconds for a total delay of 137 microseconds between samples. Unusual effects can be achieved by sampling at one rate and replaying at another.

After building a library, you can form new phrases using option 5 to load in the different words. Option 5 allows you to either load a word at the beginning of the buffer, or to append to the words already in place.

To exit the program, use option 8. This will restore HIMEM to its original value. If the program should crash for any reason, reboot the system to restore HIMEM.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The main routine BLOADs the assembly language routines into page 3. This page is not used by Applesoft or DOS, and keeps the routines out of the way. The main routine also resets HIMEM to make room for the sound buffer. HIMEM is set to a multiple of a thousand so that the program has at least a thousand bytes of memory available for variable and string storage. The sound buffer extends from the new HIMEM to the old HIMEM. The old HIMEM is restored when the program ends.

The assembly language routines are the most important part of APPLE TALKER. These routines have been carefully constructed so that each loop takes exactly the same amount of time, even though the loop does not always execute the same instructions.

For example, the input loop must read a bit, rotate it into the accumulator via the carry, and, if the accumulator is full (eight samples/byte), store it in the buffer. If the accumulator is not full, the address calcu-

lation is skipped. To maintain a constant loop time, a wait loop had to be added.

The output loop is similar to the input loop except that the program must compare the old sample to the new sample. If the samples are different, then the speaker is nudged; otherwise, the speaker is left alone. These two different actions required another delay loop to equalize processing time.

The echo routine is the simplest of the three sound routines, and has only one main processing path.

**“If the samples are different,
then the speaker is nudged...”**

All the sound routines possess a “universal delay” loop. This loop was added so that the sample interval of all the routines can be changed by modifying only one, common parameter.

One note on program structure. As APPLE TALKER evolved, the assembly language routines moved and so did their entry points. This required editing the main routine to correct the CALL statements. I decided to place JMPs to each routine in the beginning. Now the CALLs point to these indirect entry points, and changes can be made to the assembly portion without affecting the main routine.

MODIFYING APPLE TALKER

You may wish to improve APPLE TALKER by increasing the sample rate. It is possible to decrease the sample time to 35-40 microseconds by replacing the JSRs with in-line code. This will give you a whopping 25,000 samples/second (about 3K bytes/second); however, be forewarned that APPLE TALKER's limiting factor for speech is not the sample rate, but the sample resolution. With only one bit/sample, the added samples will not be worthwhile.

The assembly language portion of APPLE TALKER may be easily incorporated into your own programs. Simply have the main routine BLOAD the assembly routines, allocate and load a sound buffer, and POKE the buffer pointers into locations 6-9. Liberal use of disk files is indicated to conserve memory.

In closing, as APPLE TALKER would say, “Have fun!”

APPLE TALKER

- 1) ECHO**
- 2) RECORD**
- 3) PLAY**
- 4) SAVE**
- 5) LOAD**
- 6) RESTORE POINTERS**
- 7) SET POINTERS**
- 8) QUIT**

COMMAND ?

MIN 7000 MAX 38400 P1 7000 P2 7000

FIGURE 1 THE APPLE TALKER MENU

Apple Talker (Cont.)

LISTING 1: APPLE TALKER

```

1 REM *****
2 REM * APPLE TALKER *
3 REM * BY MIKE EVE *
4 REM * COPYRIGHT (C) 1983 *
5 REM * BY MICROSPARC, INC *
6 REM * LINCOLN, MA. 01773 *
7 REM *****
20 PRINT CHR$(4);"BLOAD APPLE TALKER.OBJ": REM L
   OAD AT $300
30 REM INITIALIZATION
40 DEF FN PK(X) = PEEK (X) + 256 * PEEK (X + 1)
50 ONERR GOTO 1210
60 M2 = FN PK(115): REM GET HIMEM
70 M1 = FN PK(105): REM TOP OF PROGRAM
80 M1 = (2 + INT (M1 / 1000)) * 1000: REM 1000(VARIA
   BLE STORAGE<2000
90 P1 = M1:P2 = P1: REM BUFFER PTRS
100 O1 = P1:O2 = P2
110 TW = 5
120 TD = 11: POKE 780, INT (TD): REM COMMON DELAY
130 HIMEM: M1: REM SET NEW HIMEM
140 BS = 1 / (8 * (5 * (TD - 1) + 87)) * 1E - 6): REM B
   YTES/SECOND
150 S$ = ".SOUND": REM SAVE FILE SUFFIX
160 REM DEFINE MENU ITEMS
170 C$(1) = "ECHO"
180 C$(2) = "RECORD"
190 C$(3) = "PLAY"
200 C$(4) = "SAVE"
210 C$(5) = "LOAD"
220 C$(6) = "RESTORE POINTERS"
230 C$(7) = "SET POINTERS"
240 C$(8) = "QUIT"
250 MC = 8
260 REM DISPLAY SCREEN
270 HOME : PRINT "*** COPYRIGHT 1983 BY MICROSPARC, IN
   C. **": PRINT TAB (13);"APPLE TALKER": PRINT
280 FOR I = 1 TO MC: PRINT TAB (10);I;" ";C$(I): NEXT
   I
290 GOSUB 1150: REM PRINT STATUS
300 VTAB MC + 5: HTAB 10
310 INPUT "COMMAND ?":C: IF C < 1 OR C > MC THEN 260
320 HTAB 10: INVERSE : PRINT : PRINT C$(C): NORMAL : PRINT
330 ON C GOSUB 350,390,470,660,700,820,950,1050
340 GOTO 260
350 REM ECHO
360 PRINT "HIT ANY KEY TO STOP"
370 CALL 774
380 RETURN
390 REM RECORD
400 P1 = M1:P2 = P1 + TW * BS - 1
410 GOSUB 1090: CALL 777: REM ZERO BUFFER
420 GOSUB 1090: REM SETUP
430 PRINT "HIT ANY KEY TO BEGIN"
440 CALL 774: REM ECHO TILL KEY
450 CALL 768: REM RECORD
460 RETURN
470 REM PLAYBACK
480 PRINT "USE KEYS 1 AND 2 TO EDIT": PRINT "ANY OTH
   R TO EXIT"
490 GOSUB 1090: REM SETUP
500 CALL 771: REM PLAY
510 KY = PEEK (25): REM READ KEY
520 IF KY = 0 THEN RETURN: REM NO KEY
530 KY = KY - 128 - ASC ("0")
540 IF KY = 1 THEN GOTO 570
550 IF KY = 2 THEN GOTO 620
560 RETURN
570 IF P2 < FN PK(6) THEN 500: REM P1 MUST BE > P2
580 O1 = P1:P1 = FN PK(6): REM SAVE BEGIN
590 GOSUB 1150: REM PRINT STATUS
600 GOSUB 1130: REM PAUSE
610 GOTO 500: REM PLAY MORE
620 O2 = P2:P2 = FN PK(6): REM SAVE END
630 GOSUB 1150: REM PRINT STATUS
640 GOSUB 1130: REM PAUSE
650 GOTO 500
660 REM SAVE
670 INPUT "FILENAME ? ":F$:
680 PRINT CHR$(4)"BSAVE"F$S$,A" INT (P1):",L": INT
   (P2 - P1)
690 RETURN
700 REM LOAD
710 IF P2 = M1 THEN 770: REM DO NOTHING
720 INPUT "APPEND ?(Y/N)":A$:
730 IF A$ < > "Y" AND A$ < > "N" THEN 720
740 IF A$ = "Y" THEN 770
750 P1 = M1:P2 = M2: GOSUB 1090: CALL 777:P2 = P1: REM
   ZERO BUFFER
760 GOSUB 1150: GOTO 780: REM PRINT STATUS
770 O1 = P1:P1 = P2:P2 = M2: GOSUB 1090: CALL 777:P2 =
   P1:P1 = O1: REM ZERO REMAINING BUFFER

```

ED. RAM DISK, P.A.C. and APPLE TALKER are available on diskette for an introductory price of \$19.95 plus \$1.50 shipping/handling (\$2.50 outside the U.S.) from NIBBLE, P.O. Box 325, Lincoln, MA 01773. Offer expires 2/29/84.

```

780 CALL - 868: INPUT "FILENAME ? ":F$: PRINT CHR$(
   4)"BLOAD"F$S$,A" INT (P2)
790 P2 = P2 + FN PK(- 21920): REM CALCULATE END OF
   BLOAD
800 IF P2 > M2 THEN PRINT "ERROR:BLOAD WENT PAST HIM
   EM": PRINT "PLEASE REBOOT": END
810 RETURN
820 REM RESET P1 AND P2
830 P1 = O1:P2 = O2
840 RETURN
850 REM SET PARAMETERS
860 PRINT "ENTER NEW VALUE OR RETURN IF NO CHANGE"
870 PRINT : PRINT "P1=": INT (P1):
880 INPUT " ":A$: IF LEN (A$) = 0 THEN 910
890 T1 = VAL (A$): IF T1 > = M1 AND T1 < = M2 THEN
   P1 = T1: GOTO 910: REM ACCEPT IF IN RANGE
900 GOTC 860
910 PRINT "P2=": INT (P2):
920 INPUT " ":A$: IF LEN (A$) = 0 THEN 950
930 T2 = VAL (A$): IF T2 < = M2 AND T2 > = P1 THEN
   P2 = T2: GOTO 950: REM ACCEPT IF IN RANGE
940 GOTC 910
950 T1 = 5 * (TD - 1) + 87: REM COMPUTE DELAY TIME
960 PRINT "SAMPLE INTERVAL=": INT (T1):
970 INPUT " ":A$: IF LEN (A$) = 0 THEN GOTO 1000
980 T2 = VAL (A$): IF T2 < 87 OR T2 > 343 THEN GOTO
   950: REM 343=256+87(MAX DELAY THAT FITS IN ONE B
   YTE)
990 TD = INT ((T2 - 87) / 5) + 1: POKE 780, INT (TD):
   BS = 1 / (8 * (5 * (TD - 1) + 87)) * 1E - 6)
1000 PRINT "TIME WINDOW=": INT (TW):
1010 INPUT " ":A$: IF LEN (A$) = 0 THEN GOTO 1040
1020 T3 = VAL (A$): IF T3 > 0 AND M1 + BS * T3 < M2 THEN
   TW = T3: GOTO 1040
1030 GOTO 1000
1040 RETURN
1050 REM QUIT
1060 GOSUB 1300: REM RESET HIMEM
1070 HOME
1080 END
1090 REM SETUP P1 AND P2
1100 POKE 7, INT (P1 / 256): POKE 6, INT (P1 - 256 *
   INT (P1 / 256))
1110 POKE 9, INT (P2 / 256): POKE 8, INT (P2 - 256 *
   INT (P2 / 256))
1120 RETURN
1130 REM PAUSE
1140 FOR I = 1 TO 200: NEXT I: RETURN
1150 REM PRINT STATUS
1160 CV = PEEK (37): REM SAVE CURSOR ROW
1170 VTAB 22: CALL - 868: REM CLEAR LINE
1180 VTAB 22: INVERSE : PRINT "MIN ": INT (M1):" MAX
   ": INT (M2):" P1 ": INT (P1):" P2 ": INT (P2): NORMAL
1190 VTAB CV: REM RESTORE CURSOR
1200 RETURN
1210 REM ERROR
1220 ER = PEEK (222)
1230 PRINT "ERROR # ":ER
1240 POKE 216,0
1250 PRINT "RESTARTING PROGRAM"
1260 GOSUB 1300: REM RESTORE HIMEM
1270 CLEAR : REM RESET SUBROUTINE STACK,ETC
1280 FOR I = 1 TO 2000: NEXT I: REM PAUSE
1290 GOTO 30
1300 REM RESET HIMEM
1310 POKE 116, INT (M2 / 256): POKE 115,(M2 - 256 * PEEK
   (116))
1320 RETURN

```

KEY PERFECT 4.0 RUN ON APPLE TALKER

CODE	LINE# - LINE#	
6FA9	1 - 40	
78F3	50 - 140	CHECK CODE 3.0
5868	150 - 240	
7DB9	250 - 340	ON: APPLE TALKER
4BF7	350 - 440	TYPE: A
503C	450 - 540	
5AA5	550 - 640	LENGTH: 8AAC
4CB8	650 - 740	CHECKSUM: 70
982C	750 - 840	
7CB7	850 - 940	
9D19	950 - 1040	
4DF8	1050 - 1140	
5BF2	1150 - 1240	
5057	1250 - 1320	
TOTAL PROGRAM CHECK IS : 0C4C		

LISTING 2: APPLE TALKER.OBJ

```

:ASM
1 * APPLE TALKER
2 * ML ROUTINES
3 * BY MIKE EVE
4 * COPYRIGHT (C) 1983
5 * MICROSPARC, INC.
6
7 P1L EQU $6
8 P1H EQU P1L+1
9 P2L EQU P1H+1
10 P2H EQU P2L+1
11 KEYSAU EQU $19
12 KEYIN EQU $C000
13 KEYSTR EQU $C010
14 TAPEIN EQU $C060
15 SPKR EQU $C030
16
17 ORG $300
18
19 * CONSTANT ENTRY POINTS
20
21 JMP INPUT
22 JMP OUTPUT
23 JMP ECHO
24 JMP ZERO
25 DELAY DFB $0B ;ADDITIONAL DELAY DEFAULT
26
27 * INPUT ROUTINE
28
29 INPUT LDA #$00 ;ZERO SAMPLE SAVE
30 LDY #$00 ;Y IS BIT COUNTER
31 LDX #$00 ;FOR INDIRECT ADDR
32 INLOOP LDX DELAY ;UNIVERSAL DELAY LOOP
33 INDLY DEX BNE INDLY
34
35 PHA ;SAVE CURRENT BITS
36 LDA TAPEIN ;GET NEW BIT
37 ROL ;BIT TO CARRY
38 PLA ;RECALL CURRENT
39 ROL ;APPEND NEW BIT
40 DEY ;ONE LESS BIT
41 BNE DELAY1 ;FULL BYTE?
42 STA (P1L,X) ;YES, SAVE IT.
43 JSR NXTP1 ;ADDRESS NEXT BYTE
44 BCS INRTS ;RETURN IF DONE,
45 LDY $02 ;RESET BIT COUNTER
46 LDX $02 ;DELAY COUNTER
47 INDX DEX ;DELAY LOOP
48 BNE INDX ;
49 BEQ INLOOP ;ALWAYS BRANCH
50 DELAY1 LDX #$0B ;ALTERNATE DELAY
51 INDX2 DEX
52 BNE INDX2
53 BEQ INLOOP ;ALWAYS BRANCH
54 INRTS RTS
55
56 * OUTPUT ROUTINE
57
58 OUTPUT LDX #$00 ;ASSUME OLD=ZERO
59 STX OLD
60 STX KEYSAU ;NO KEY YET
61 LDA (P1L,X) ;GET FIRST BYTE
62 LDY $00 ;BIT COUNTER
63 OUTLOOP LDX DELAY ;UNIVERSAL DELAY LOOP
64 OUTDLY DEX
65 BNE OUTDLY
66 DEY ;ONE LESS BIT
67 BNE WAIT1 ;BRANCH IF MORE BITS
68 WAIT1 JSR NXTP1 ;GET NEXT ADDRESS
69 BCS OUTRTS ;EXIT IF DONE
70 LDA (P1L,X) ;GET NEXT BYTE
71 LDY $00 ;RESET BIT COUNTER
72 BCC CMPBIT ;ALWAYS BRANCH
73 WAIT1 LDX KEYIN ;KEY PRESSED?
74 BPL WAIT2 ;IF NO, BRANCH
75 BML OUTKEY ;IF SO, EXIT
76 WAIT2 LDX DELAY ;DELAY
77 OUTDX DEX
78 BNE OUTDX
79 CMPBIT PHA ;SAVE CURRENT BITS
80 EOR OLD ;COMPARE TO OLD.
81 BPL QUIET ;SIGN BIT IMPORTANT
82 LDA SPKR ;NOT SAME, HIT SPKR
83 PLA ;RECALL CURRENT
84 STA OLD ;SAVE AS OLD
85 ROL ;NEXT BIT TO SIGN
86 JMP OUTLOOP
87 BPL NXTBIT
88 OUTKEY STX KEYSAU ;SAVE KEY
89 LDX KEYSTR ;CLEAR STROBE
90 OUTRTS RTS

```

```

91
92 * NXTP1 ROUTINE
93 * REPLACES NXTP1 WITH EQUAL TIME
94 * BRANCHES.
95
96 NXTP1 LDA P1L
97 CMP P2L
98 LDA P1H
99 SBC P2H
100 INC P1L
101 BNE NXTRTS
102 INC P1H
103 RTS
104 NXTRTS NOP
105 NOP
106 RTS
107
108 * ECHO ROUTINE
109
110 ECHO LDA #$00
111 STA OLD
112 ELOOP LDX DELAY ;UNIVERSAL DELAY LOOP
113 ECHODLY DEX
114 BNE ECHODLY
115 LDA TAPEIN
116 EOR OLD
117 BML EOUTPT
118 NOP
119 BPL SAVE ;ALWAYS BRANCH
120 EOUTPT LDX SPKR
121 SAVE EOR OLD
122 STA OLD
123 LDA KEYIN
124 BPL ECHODX
125 LDA KEYSTR
126 RTS
127 ECHODX LDX #$09
128 DX DEX
129 BNE DX
130 JMP ELOOP
131
132 * ZERO FROM P1 TO P2
133
134 ZERO LDY $00
135 ZLOOP LDA #$00
136 STA (P1L),Y
137 JSR NXTP1
138 BCC ZLOOP
139 RTS
140
141 OLD DS 1

```

--End assembly--

206 bytes

Errors: 0

KEY PERFECT 4.0		
RUN ON		
APPLE TALKER.OBJ		
CODE	ADDR#	ADDR#
2C3C	0300	034F
2920	0350	039F
160D	03A0	03CD
TOTAL PROGRAM CHECK IS : CE		
CHECK CODE 3.0		
ON: APPLE TALKER.OBJ		
TYPE: B		
LENGTH: 00CE		
CHECKSUM: 4C		

Apple Talker (Cont.)

```

91
92 * NXTPI ROUTINE
93 * REPLACES NXTPI WITH EQUAL TIME
94 * BRANCHES.
95
037F: A5 06 96 NXTPI LDA P1L
0381: C5 08 97 CMP P2L
0383: A5 07 98 LDA P1H
0385: E5 09 99 SBC P2H
0387: E6 06 100 INC P1L
0389: D0 03 101 BNE NXTRTS
038B: E6 07 102 INC P1H
038D: 60 103 RTS
038E: EA 104 NXTRTS NOP
038F: EA 105 NOP
0390: 60 106 RTS
107
108 * ECHO ROUTINE
109
0391: A9 00 110 ECHO LDA #000
0393: 8D CD 03 111 STA OLD
0396: AE 8C 03 112 ELOOP LDX DELAY ;UNIVERSAL DELAY LOOP
0399: CA 113 ECHODLY DEX
039A: D0 FD 114 BNE ECHODLY
039C: AD 60 C0 115 LDA TAPEIN
039F: 4D CD 03 116 EOR OLD
03A2: 30 03 117 BMI EOUTPT
03A4: EA 118 NOP
03A5: 10 03 119 BPL SAVE ;ALWAYS BRANCH
03A7: AE 30 C0 120 EOUTPT LDX SPKR
03AA: 4D CD 03 121 SAVE EOR OLD
03AD: 8D CD 03 122 STA OLD
03B0: AD 00 C0 123 LDA KEYIN
03B3: 10 04 124 BPL ECHODX
03B5: AD 1A CA 125 LDA KEYSTR
03B8: 60 126 RTS
03B9: A2 09 127 ECHODX LDX #09
03BB: CA 128 DX
03BC: D0 FD 129 BNE DX
03BE: 4C 96 03 130 JMP ELOOP
131

```

```

132 * ZERO FROM P1 TO P2
133
03C1: A0 00 134 ZERO LDY #00
03C3: A9 00 135 ZLOOP LDA #00
03C5: 91 06 136 STA (P1),Y
03C7: 20 7F 03 137 JSR NXTPI
03CA: 90 F7 138 BCC ZLOOP
03CC: 60 139 RTS
140
141 OLD DS 1

```

--End assembly--

206 bytes

Errors: 0

```

KEY PERFECT 4.0
RUN ON
APPLE TALKER.OBJ
-----
CODE      ADDR# - ADDR#
-----
2C3C      0300 - 034F
2920      0350 - 039F
160D      03A0 - 03CD
TOTAL PROGRAM CHECK IS : CE

CHECK CODE 3.0

ON: APPLE TALKER.OBJ
TYPE: B

LENGTH: 00CE
CHECKSUM: 4C

```