

# VIDEOFACE DIGITISER

## INTRODUCTION.

The *VIDEOFACE DIGITISER* is compatible with **ANY** Spectrum. It is **very easy to use**, fully **menu-driven** and with **screen prompts**. To achieve the *best possible results* and to *minimise any difficulties* you may encounter, please **read the MANUAL thoroughly**.

## INSTALLING THE VIDEOFACE.

- 1) Disconnect the power supply from your Spectrum.  
**NEVER ATTACH/REMOVE THE VIDEOFACE WHEN THE SPECTRUM IS ON!**
- 2) Insert the **phono plug** of your video lead into the left side socket of the *VIDEOFACE*.  
Turn the power of your TV or VCR **ON** at this stage, as power switching **ON/OFF** of other devices is known to be able to **CRASH** the Spectrum.
- 3) Push the *VIDEOFACE* firmly onto the Spectrum Extension Bus.
- 4) Connect the *power supply* and switch the Spectrum **ON**.
- 5) Insert the tape with the **VIDEOFACE** label *facing up* into your tape recorder, type **LOAD""** and *start* the tape recorder. The loading is *complete* when a *menu appears*.  
Provided the **GREEN LED** on the *VIDEOFACE* is **ON**, you are **READY TO DIGITISE!**

Should you encounter **any problems**, please **READ CAREFULLY** the *whole manual*, ensure that **all the connections are good** and *try again*. If you still should not succeed, please **do NOT return the VIDEOFACE**, but contact our technical dept. Instead - we should be able to **solve most of the problems over the phone** on: **081-200 8870**

## Note for programmers on the VIDEOFACE SOFTWARE.

The software consists of **BASIC** and **m/code** starting at 63232. It is **not protected** and can be **copied** (to *disk, cartridge*, etc.). The **m/code** part handles all *real-time hardware procedures*. The *menu* and *SAVE instructions* are in **BASIC** and can thus be **altered**. The area between **BASIC** and **m/code** is used for storing the *latest six screens*. By switching the **ANIMATION OFF** (see further), you could use this area for other purposes

## GENERAL TIPS.

Whilst the *VIDEOFACE* can produce **black & white screens** only, best results may come from a *colour source*. The colours are transformed into *grey scale patterns* giving a nice appearance. The *grey scale* can also be influenced by the *amount of lighting* when using a *VIDEO CAMERA* - please experiment whilst changing the *contrast* on the *VIDEOFACE* at the same time. Always try to *feed* the *VIDEOFACE* with a **clear and steady signal**.

## GETTING THE RIGHT SIGNAL.

*VIDEOFACE* takes pictures from any *video* source and **digitises** them by *converting* the *analogue pictures* into *pixels*. To start with, it is absolutely **essential** to feed your *VIDEOFACE* with the **right signal** - the **COMPOSITE VIDEO** - which can be found on:

- 1) **VIDEO CAMERAS**. Usually, it is very easy to get the signal from **VIDEO CAMERAS**. The **composite video** should always be available and it is just a question of having the right lead; most cameras actually come with a lead giving a **composite video** on a **PHONO** (also called **RCA** or **CINCH**) **plug** and that is *all you need*.
- 2) **VIDEO RECORDERS**. Most **VIDEO RECORDERS** should provide **composite video**. However, it is very common to mistake the *UHF* signal (labelled *TV OUT* or similar - it's simply the signal going *from the Video recorder to TV*) for the **composite video**. The **UHF** signal is utterly **USELESS for digitising** and you have to look for the **VIDEO OUT** signal. It can be available on either a:
  - a) **PHONO** socket - the most typical socket used on HI-FI
  - b) **BNC** bayonet screw-on type socket
  - c) a big rectangular **SCART/EUROCONNECTOR** 21-pin socket
  - d) a 6-pin round DIN type **AV** socket

Ideally, your video will have the lead you require - you need a **phono** plug labelled (COMPOSITE) **VIDEO** irrespective of what the other end is or what else may also be on the cable (*AUDIO*, etc.). Any **HI-FI** dealer will have a *phono-to-phono* cable, but you may need to go to a **VIDEO** shop for any of the other 3 cables - make sure you know the exact make of your video recorder or take the manual with you. You should always be able to obtain the cable you need as they are all standard ones.

**VIDEO RECORDERS** can be used in three ways:

- a) as a passive **TUNER** - i.e. just receiving *UHF* signal and converting it into **COMPOSITE VIDEO**
  - b) in **STILL** mode - by freezing a picture on the video recorder, you can ideally adjust the contrast on the *VIDEOFACE*
  - c) in **PLAY** mode - moving pictures are no problem for the *VIDEOFACE* because of its high scanning speed
- 3) **TV TUNERS**. **TVs** are usable **ONLY** if they provide **COMPOSITE VIDEO** signal. Please look for the connections/cables as described under **VIDEO RECORDERS**.
  - 4) **COMPUTERS** may give you a **COMPOSITE VIDEO** signal directly and you can just bring a phono plug, if available, into the *VIDEOFACE*. Alternatively, you may need to use a TV or VCR to convert a *UHF* signal into **COMPOSITE VIDEO** by plugging the aerial lead from the computer into your TV or VCR and then taking the usual **COMPOSITE VIDEO** signal for the *VIDEOFACE*.

In all cases, a **GREEN LED** on the *VIDEOFACE* **MUST BE LIT** and it lights up as soon as the **COMPOSITE VIDEO** signal is provided.

## USING THE VIDEOFACE - THE MENU.

'Z' or 'SPACE' = STOP SCANNING  
'Q' or 'P' = START SCANNING  
'S' = SAVE SCREENS 1-6 OR ALL  
'C' = COPY  
'E' = EXIT TO MENU  
'O' = STEP SCREENS  
'5' = MOVE SCANNING LEFT  
'6' = MOVE SCANNING RIGHT  
'7' = MOVE SCANNING UP  
'8' = MOVE SCANNING DOWN

'A' = ANIMATION (6 screen\$)  
'F' = FAST  
'S' = SLOW

ADJUST LEVEL CONTROLS FOR THE BEST RESULTS  
PRESS '1' = START SCANNING  
'2' = ANIMATION ON  
'3' = ANIMATION OFF

The menu is horizontally divided into **three parts**:

- the **top boxed** part is applicable **ONLY** during the **DIGITISING**
- the **middle** part (blue on colour monitors) during **ANIMATION**
- the **bottom** part is your main starting choice, so pressing  
'1' starts **scanning/digitising** and the **RED LED** comes **ON**  
'2' turns the **animation ON** - (it is normally **ON** as a default)  
'3' turns the **animation OFF** if you wish to use the part of RAM reserved for animation for other purposes

To **start scanning**, press '1'. The next vital step is to find the right **CONTRAST** by *turning the knob* on top of the **VIDEOFACE**. Depending on your set-up, the contrast may *range from an all-black to an all-white screen* at the extreme knob positions. You should have no problem finding the best results. You can create **special effects** by **atypical contrast**.

Whilst scanning, you can **shift** the *entire picture* by using the **cursor keys**. The only other keys you can use are '**z**' or '**space**' which will *stop scanning, freeze the last frame* and, provided the animation was **ON**, automatically *retain 5 previous screens*; a small *sub-menu* will appear with these **options**:

- 'q' or 'p' to re-start scanning
- 'e' to EXIT to the main menu to turn animation on/off
- 's' to SAVE - again, saving is menu-driven and you can
  - save screens **INDIVIDUALLY** (1-6) or **ALL** together (0)
  - save to **MICROdrive**, **OPUS**, Disciple **DISK** or **TAPE** - on Spectrum +3 the **TAPE** option will save to **DISK** instead, provided it is formatted with enough room
- 'c' to COPY a current screen to an EPSON type printer
- 'o' to STEP manually through the 6 available screens
- 'a' to ANIMATE the 6 screens at a speed which you can control by pressing  
'f' for faster or 's' for slower

## USING THE VIDEOFACE WITH OTHER HARDWARE.

The VIDEOFACE has been tested and found to be compatible with:

<i>Multiprint</i>	<i>Interface 1 &amp; 2</i>	<i>Any Multiface</i>
<i>ZX Lprint III</i>	<i>RGB Interfaces</i>	<i>Plus D Interface</i>
<i>AMX Mouse</i>	<i>Beta Disc Interface</i>	<i>Cheetah Spectrum</i>
<i>Opus Discovery</i>	<i>Kempston Joystick Interface</i>	<i>Disciple Disc Interface</i>

## TROUBLESHOOTING.

Complaint	Cause	Tip
Pressing '1' in the main menu has no effect	<b>You are not getting the composite video signal.</b>	<i>Check all cables to bring the green LED on.</i>
Vertical stripes over the picture.	<b>The edge connector is dirty.</b>	<i>Clean connector using alcohol or hard rubber.</i>
Horizontal stripes over the picture.	<b>The video level is too low or there is not enough contrast.</b>	<i>Adjust the light and/or contrast</i>
No sub-menu	<b>BREAK has been pressed.</b>	<i>Reload software.</i>

## GUARANTEE.

This guarantee is in addition to and does not affect any statutory or other rights of consumers or purchasers.

**ROMANTIC ROBOT** guarantee that if within **6 months** of the date of purchase the **Videoface** proves to be defective by reason of faulty design, workmanship or materials, it will be repaired or replaced free of charge, provided that:

- 1) It has not been in any way misused, used with unsuitable equipment or subjected to deliberate, accidental or consequential damage
- 2) No unauthorized modifications, repairs or adjustments were made to the **Videoface**
- 3) A dated proof of purchase will be provided to confirm that the **Videoface** is still under guarantee; for units purchased directly from us, please supply the details of the original order instead

The purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy under this guarantee is for the **Videoface** repair or replacement. No other remedy, including but not limited to, incidental or consequential damage or loss of whatsoever nature shall be available to the purchaser

**Also available from ROMANTIC ROBOT:**

**MULTIFACE 3** for Spectrum +3/+2A  
**MULTIFACE 1 or 128** for Spectrum 48/128/+2  
**MULTIPRINT** Printer Interface for Spectrum 48/128/+2  
**GENIE** Disassembler for Spectrum 48/128/+2 with a Multiface  
**LIFEGUARD** for any Spectrum with any Multiface  
**MUSIC TYPEWRITER** for any Spectrum

Please send a SAE for further information on the range of our products

**Designed and manufactured by ROMANTIC ROBOT UK Ltd.  
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