

New Products ...

Product reviews, releases & services

Latest game has a built-in video display

Milton Bradley's new home video game system, Vectrex, uses a vector graphics display and is said to be the only video game unit on the market which is independent of the home television set.

Vectrex uses a vector scan video display rather than the raster scan system used by television sets and incorporates its own 23cm high video monitor. Claimed advantages of vector display systems include finer points and faster line drawing. The principal disadvantage is that colour systems are much more expensive and accordingly the Vectrex uses a monochrome display with coloured plastic screen overlays for each game.

The Vectrex system consists of the screen with a resident games cartridge and a controller with proportional joystick and four control buttons. Sound effects including music, explosions and crowd sounds are produced by a General Instrument AY38912 sound generator chip and the unit is controlled by a Motorola 6809 microprocessor.

So far some 13 games cartridges have been made available for the system including "Armour Attack", "Space Wars" and others that will be familiar to arcade game players.

The Vectrex unit is priced at "under

\$300" and will shortly be available at major department stores throughout Australia.

Also from Milton Bradley is a new computer chess game called the "Phantom" because the chess pieces move independently in response to a move by the human player.

Twelve levels of play are available from beginner to international tournament level, with each skill level increasing the time taken for the computer to calculate its move. The human player can reverse the action of the game to return to an earlier position or to study the development of a game, and a "hint" function is also provided in which the computer will indicate strong moves based on the opponent's present position.

For the beginners there is an "illegal move" indicator, and the computer chess game can also be made to play against itself at any of the 12 levels of difficulty. Two human players can also use the board and chessmen, in which case the computer will store the moves made



by each side so that the game can be replayed at any time.

For details of these and other Milton Bradley products contact the company at 9 Sydney Gate, Waterloo, NSW 2017.