

THREE EASY PIECES

3EZPieces is the original version of Appleworks, which just beat Lotus 1-2-3 out as the best selling "business" program. 3EZPieces is made up of three separate programs, that use the same commands thruout. For example, Open Apple P (OA-P) is always print or OA-O is print Options for all three individual programs. One part is a database (really a file program) that will support 30 fields. If you have used Quickfile, you can immediately start using the DB portion of 3EZP. 3EZPs actually has more features than QF and has help screens. The second portion is a spreadsheet. I would class the spreadsheet between Visicalc and Advanced VC in power. It will load Advanced VC datafiles (much faster than Advanced VC), but does not have all the functions. I use 3EZP for smaller spreadsheets where formatting and protected fields are not important. The word processor is a "what you see is what you get" type. It is extremely easy to use, although it does not have the variety of edition commands that Word Juggler has. The WP is the portion of 3EZPs that I use the least. The real strength of 3EZPieces is that while the individual components are not the best, they do complement each other. The DB does not do many calculations on the data, but you can load the DB file into the SS portion and analyze all you want. You can sort on a column in the Spreadsheet. You can put the Spreadsheet in the WP and do search and replaces or reformat or whatever. A word of WARNING: when converting a DB file to a SS file, save the intermediate file on a floppy disk. Occasionally, it will hang up in this process and I have a "Directory Damaged" Error on my profile because of this.

You can have 12 files on your "desktop" at the same time. You switch between different files with OA-Q almost instantly. The desktop can support about 180K of files on a 256K machine (460K on a 512K machine).

The program is distributed by Haba Systems, but not really supported by them. They just sell it, but no revisions are planned. The manual is not the best, but Appleworks is practically identical (except for the interface to printers) and there are at least four books out on how to use Appleworks.

Basically, it is a easy to learn, easy to use program that I would recommend any Apple /// owner to purchase.

HARDWARE

RAM DIAGONISTIC ERRORS

INTERNAL RAM TEST

Last month I mentioned that if you have a 256K ///, which has different memory locations, you can go into monitor and run the internal ram test; however, you must use another procedure to determine the problem chip, if an inverse 1 shows up. I forgot to mention that to accurately run this test, you should remove all internal cards from your slots, especially the Grappler and Profile interface cards. Make sure you turn off your power before removing the cards. To remove you must pull up very firmly. We will be putting the Apple Technical Service Manual into our library. This manual has the procedure for determining which memory locations are bad with a 256K machine.

-Rod Whitten

