# **SPHINX**

GALAXY



# CONTENTS

- 1. Batteries
- 2. Starting a game
- 3. Making moves
- 4. Computer moves
- 5. Special moves
- 6. Illegal moves
- 7. Check, mate, Draw and Resign
- 8. New game
- 9. Levels
- 10. Sound
- 11. Information display
- 12. Changing sides
- 13. Changing the direction of play
- 14. Taking back moves
- 15. Terminate search
- 16. Checking the position
- 17. Enter position
- 18. Multi move
- 19. Replay game
- 20. Library
- 21. Autoplayer
- 22. Easy mode

## Welcome to the CXG 3018 COMMANDER

Thank you for buying our latest product. It has been our intention to provide you with a value beyond comparison, an extremely strong chess program in an attractive and easy to use housing.

Naturally, your chess computer knows all the rules of chess and will not make illegal moves. It has a large opening book from which you can select your own lines, or add new lines to it, and it will not be fooled if you transpose the moves of a particular line. During a game all the moves are stored in memory so that you can replay all the moves from the beginning to the end (max. 250 single moves).

The computer allows you to examine its analysis and keep track of the time used by both players. It will make move suggestions and will monitor games between humans on its board. A final possibility is to program positions and move sequences of your choice into the computer and to let the computer analyse these.

Although all these features are easy to use, we strongly recommend that you read this manual first, in order to get the most out of your computer.

#### 1. The batteries.

To insert the batteries, open the battery door at the bottom of the unit and place the batteries as indicated by the + and - signes.

If you want to use an adapter, first check that the voltage specified is the one used in your country. The adapter socket is located at the back of your computer. Note that you must only use the adapter specified for your computer. The use of another automatically invalidates the warrenty.

#### 2. Starting a game

Set up the pieces on the chess board in their starting position, and switch on the computer. You will hear the characteristic tones and the COLOR light will come on, indicating that it is your your turn to move. There are two color lights, one for white and one for black. Remember that the color lights always show who is next to move. You should also notice the two digital chess clocks. These clocks show how much time white and black have used for thinking. When you start a game, the chess clocks are of course set to zero.

## Making moves

Your computer has magnetic sensors under each square, which automatically detect your moves. The pieces must however be placed at the center of the squares. Therefor, first check that all the lights on the chess board are off. A misplaced piece is indicated by a light on the chess board.

To make a move, first take up the piece you want to move, then put the piece down on the destination square. Make sure that you place the piece on the center off the square. The computer will sound a beep, indicating that your move has been registered.

## 4. Computer moves

While the computer is computing its reply, it will flash the colorlight of the side it is playing. At the beginning of the game the computer will be able to move immidiately because of its extensive opening library, with more then 8000 moves in it. When the computer has decided its move, it sounds two beeps, and flashes the two squares that indicate the move.

## Special moves

CAPTURES can be performed just like any other move. Just remove the captured piece from the board, before or after you move your own piece.

EN PASSENT CAPTURES are performed in the same way. The computer will remind you to remove the captured pawn.

CASTLING is done by first making the king's move in the usual way. The computer wil automatically remind you to move the rook.

PAWN PROMOTION is performed automatically by the computer. If your pawn reaches the 8th rank, the computer asks you to select a piece by flashing the knight, bishop, rook and queen light. When the computer promotes one of its pawns, it will indicate which piece it wants by lighting one of the piece lights. If you did not pay attention you can always check by testing the position (see section 16).

#### 6. Illegal moves

If you try to make an illegal or impossible move, or try to do something else that is not possible, you will hear the error signal, and the error light will come on. Whenever you hear this signal, it means that you have done something wrong, and that your last entry has been ignored.

# 7. Check, mate, draw and resign

When the computer checks you, the checklight will flash.

A checkmate is indicated by the mate light.

If a draw occurs, the draw light will flash. The computer recognizes draw by stalemate, 3rd repetition and the 50 move rule,

If the computer decides to resign, the resign light will flash. The computer will resign if it is heavily behind in material, or if it cannot avoid an upcoming mate. When the computer resigns, you can always choose to ignore the resignation, and continue the game.

## New game

To start a new game, simply press the NEW GAME key and set up the pieces in the start up position again. You can always reset the computer by pressing the NEW GAME key.

#### 9. Levels

When you press the LEVEL key you enter the LEVEL mode. The computer will show you the current level, by lighting the appropriate square. When you switch on the computer, it will start at level A2 (10 seconds per move).

You can change the level simply by placing a piece on the square of the level on which you want to play. When you have entered the correct level, press the LEVEL key once more, to leave the LEVEL mode. The level can ofcourse be changed at any time during the game, when it is your turn to move.

Your computer has 34 different levels.

The first 8 levels: A1-A8 are the normal playing levels. When selecting one of these 8 levels you select an average response time for the computer.

LEVEL	TIME PER MOVE	
A1	3	sec.
A2	10	sec.
A3	30	sec.
A4	1	min.
A5	2	min.
A6	3	min.
A7	6	miri.
AB	10	min.

There are 8 preprogrammed tournament levels: B1-B8. Should one of the players exceed the allowed time for a given number of moves, the computer will sound a beep and flash the display. If however you wish to continue the game, simply continue.

B1 B2	40 35	1 hour 30 min. 1 hour 45 min.
	35	1 hour 45 min
		THOU 45 IIIII.
B3	40	1 hour 45 min.
B4	35	1 hour 30 min.
B5	40	2 hours
B6	45	2 hours 30 min
B7	50	2 hours
B8	40	3 hours
	B5 B6 B7	B5 40 B6 45 B7 50

If you wish to play speed chess against your computer, you may select from 8 levels: C1–C8 that set the total time for the whole game. When a tournament or speed chess level is selected, the chess clocks will display the countdown time. The other levels will show the total time used.

LEVEL	TOTAL TIME	
C1	1 min.	
C2	5 min.	
C3	10 min.	
C4	15 min.	
C5	20 min.	
C6	30 min.	
C7	45 min.	
СВ	60 min.	

Levels D1-D8 are training levels. On these levels the search depth is limited to the number of moves corresponding to the level set. For example on level D1 the computer will only look one move ahead, and thus it will often overlook mate in one from the opponent. This gives weaker play, and thus gives average players a better chance of winning against the computer.

-7-

Level E1 is the infinite level. On this level the computer will think infinitly, unless the position is found in its opening library or you terminate the search (see section 15). This can be used for postal chess where you let the computer think for a couple of days at each move.

Level E2 is a special level used for solving mate problems. The computer will first try to find a mate in 1, then a mate in 2, 3, 4, up to mate in 10.

#### 10. Sounds

If you prefer your computer to operate without its audio signals, just press the SOUND/COLOR key. The sound can be swiched on again by pressing the SOUND/COLOR key again.

## 11. Information display

The information display allows you to look at the computer's thought processes. By repeatedly pressing the HINT key, the computer will show on its left display the line of play that it considers best so far, to a maximum of 6 moves. On its right display it will show in sucsession:

- The evaluation of the position is shown as a number, with a pawn being worth 100 points. A positive number means that the computer is ahead.
- The time that has been used for this particular move.
- The move that is under consideration now.
- The number of moves that have been played so far
- The depth to which the computer is looking ahead every line.
- The selective search depth to which the computer analyses the possible lines of play.

#### 12. Changing sides.

If you press the MOVE key the computer will make a move. Thus if you want to change sides with the computer, just press the MOVE key. The computer will make a move and expect you to move for the other side. If you want to play a game with the black pieces, press the MOVE key in the starting position.

## 13. Changing the direction of play

At any point in the game you can change the direction of play, for example if you want to play the black pieces from the bottom of the chess board. To change the direction of play you first enter LEVEL mode with the LEVEL key.

Then you lift the piece from square H2 and put it back again. The displays will show you the CHANGE DIRECTION status: ON or OFF. By again putting a piece on square H2 you toggle the direction of play. Press the LEVEL key once more to exit from the LEVEL mode.

## 14. Taking back moves

If you take up a piece but then decide not to move it after all, just put it down again on its original square. If you made a mistake and wish to retract your move, you may press the TAKE BACK key. If the move was a capture, the computer will remind you to replace the captured piece, by indicating the square and the type of the captured piece. If you want to take back more moves, simply continue taking back moves as long as you wish. The computer remembers the last 120 moves for each player.

#### 15. Terminate search

If you press the MOVE key while the computer is thinking, it will immediatly terminate the search and play the move that it considers best. \*

## 16. Checking the position

In case of confusion, you can make the computer show you where every piece should be, according to its memory.

Press one of the six keys with a piece on it, and the computer will show you where the pieces of that type are. A steady light indixates a white piece while a flashing light indicates a black piece.

#### 17. Enter position

When you press the ENTER POSITION key, the computer will enter the ENTER POSITION mode. The ENTER POSITION mode is used to change or set up a position on the board. In the ENTER POSITION mode, the computer will show you the position as described in the previous section; Checking the position.

If you want to remove a piece, simply remove it from the board. Thus if you want to clear the whole board, simply remove all the pieces. You may also use the TAKE BACK key to clear the board.

If you want to move a piece from one square to another, simply take it up and place it immediatly on the new square. The light of the square will be turne on when you place the piece on the new square.

If you want to add a piece, first press the corresponding piece key. The computer will show you the positions of the pieces of that type. Then check that the color light indicates the color of the piece, you want to add. If not, press the SOUND/COLOR key to change the color. When the piece and color lights show the correct type and color, simply place the piece on the square.

When you have entered the correct position, first make sure that the color light shows the color of the side to move. You can change the color by pressing the SOUND/COLOR key. Then press the ENTER POSITION key once more to exit from the POSITION mode.

The position can of course be changed at any time during the game, when it is your turn to move, However the previous moves

will be erased from memory by any change that you make to the position.

## 18. Multi move

Pressing the MULTI MOVE key places the computer in the MULTI MOVE mode. In this mode the computer will not move itself, so that you may enter the moves for both sides. This feature may be used to enter a particular opening, to replay a game to a certain position, or to use the computer as a normal chess board, allowing two humans to play against each other, while the computer checks the legality of the moves.

The MULTI MOVE is switched off by again pressing the MULTI MOVE key.

## 19. Replay game.

When you have played a nice game you will often want to write it down afterwards, or mayoe just study one of the interesting positions more carefully. The replay game readure allows you to replay the game, you have just played

To replay a game, set up the pieces in the starting position and press the REPLAY key (do not press the NEW GAME key). This puts the computer in the special REPLAY mode. The computer will show you the move on the board, and the displays will at the same time show the movenumber and the move itself, if you want to replay the game on the board, you can play the moves one after the other as the computer presents them to you. You can also step through the game, forward or backward, without playing the moves by pressing the MOVE or TAKEBACK key. If you press the REPLAY key the computer will immediately jump to the end of the game. If you press the TAKE BACK key the computer leaves the REPLAY mode.

## 20. Library

Your computer has an extensive opening library with more then 8000 moves. If this is not enough your computer offers you the ability to program openings and variations into the computer yourself. This feature allows you to store up to 64 complete games, to a total of 3000 moves in the computer memory. To enter an opening line or game into the computer memory you first play the moves as usual on the chess board. Then you press the LIBRARY key. You can now simply store the line / game, by pressing the ENTER POSITION key. The computer will assign a square to each stored line or game and show the square on the display. The display will also tell you the length of the line / game that you have just stored.

The computer will always select the first unused square to store a line or a game, but you may also select a square yourself, by picking up a piece and putting it down on the square of your choice. If this square is not already in use, the length that will read in the display will show 0. If not, you can defete a stored line or game with the TAKEBACK key.

To quickly find out which squares are in use and which squares are not, you press the hint key. The light on every used square will come on.

To exit from the LIBRARY mode, press the LIBRARY key.

If you have stored a game in the computer memory, you will like to restore it and resume the game, or perhaps go through it again. Press the LIBRARY key, to enter the LIBRARY mode. Select the square to which the game was assigned. The game will now be restored by pressing the REPLAY mode. If you leave the LIBRARY mode, with the LIBRARY key you can resume the game from the last move.

The librarian will refuse to store a line or game if the selected square is not free, or if the game that you want to store does not start from the normal starting position, or if the total amount of 3000 moves storage capacity is exceeded.

#### 21. Autoplayer

When the AUTOPLAYER mode is switched on the computer will play a game against itself until the game is decided by mate or draw.

The moves will be indicated over the board by the flashing of the "from" and "to" squares, so that you may follow the game in progress. The autoplayer is activated in the LEVEL mode, so you will first have to enter the LEVEL mode with the LEVEL key. Then you lift the piece from square H1 and put it back again. The display will show you the AUTOPLAYER status: AP: on/off. By again putting a piece on square H2 you toggle the AUTOPLAYER status. Press the LEVEL key once more to exit from the LEVEL mode. The MOVE key is used to start the game, you may terminate the AUTOPLAYER at any time by pressing the MOVE key.

## 22. Easy mode

EASY mode is an option that weakens all playing levels without affecting the computer's time controls. This is accomplished by restricting the computer's use of its allotted time. Ordinarily, the computer will do some thinking on your time, while you are contemplating your next move. This feature is part of what makes your chess computer such a tough opponent.

Selecting EASY mode will prevent the computer from thinking on your time. Since this weakens all of the skill levels, you are thus given the option of having more playing levels to choose from.

EASY mode is selected through square H3 in LEVEL mode, in the same way as AUTOPLAYER and CHANGE DIRECTION (see section 13 and 21).

#### TROUBLE SHOOTING LIST

## Nothing happens when I turn on the computer

There is probably something wrong with the power. If you use batteries, check that they are placed correctly in the holder and that they are new ones. If you use an adapter, check that the power is on.

#### The computer does not accept my move

If the computer answers your move with the ERROR signal, you have made an illegal move, check that your king is not in check !

If the computer doesn't respond at all, then check the lights on the board to see if all the pieces are at their proper place.

When you capture one of the computer's pieces, do not replace it with your own piece to hastily. The computer has no way of telling the pieces apart, and might not record the capture at all.

## The computer doesn't move

If the computer is flashing a move, it has already moved. If the color light is flashing, the computer is still thinking. Otherwise try the MOVE key.

# How do I beat the computer?

Use level D1, this is the weakest level. When you do not know what to do, use the hint function. Use the take back function to take back your move when you made a bad move.

#### QUICK REFERENCE

Making moves Just move the piece.

Computer moves move the piece as indicated by the lights.

Special moves Just make the move. (section 5)

Start new game NEW GAME.

Reset computer NEW GAME,

Change level LEVEL, square, LEVEL (section 9)

Turn off sounds SOUND

Piece of advice HINT

Play black pieces NEW GAME, MOVE

Take back move TAKE BACK, take back move

Terminate search MOVE

Checking position Piece keys (steady light white, flashing black)

Enter position ENTER POSITION, change position

- Remove piece Just remove the piece

Move piece
Just move the piece

Add piece
Piece key, color key, place piece

- Change color COLOR

- Exit from mode ENTER POSITION

Display best line HINT several times Replay game REPLAY

Store game/line LIBRARY, ENTER POSITION, LIBRARY

# Technical data

Microprocessor:

65C02

Speed:

4 MHz

Program memory:

32 KByte

User memory :

8 KByte

Program:

High speed selective search type

Levols:

8 playing levels

8 speed chess levels

B tournament levels

1 correspondence level

1 mate solving level

Openingbook:

8000 moves, 1200 lines, user expandable with

3000 moves

Display:

2x4 character LCDs

Monitor of analysis:

Mainline 6 halfmoves.

Position evaluation, analysis depth,

move counter.