

THE MESSENGER

This is the Messenger - SAMCo's device to allow a Spectrum to communicate with your SAM Coupe. Now you'll be able to run just about any 48K title in your Spectrum library on SAM - as well as all the great new SAM software, of course!

The Messenger will work with any Spectrum, from the 48K to the +3. Note though that you can't use a 128K program on the Coupe. Normally that's no problem: most software houses allow their Spectrum cassette titles to work in either 128K or 48K mode.

How many of your 48K Spectrum titles will work? Well, no guarantees, because we simply aren't able to test 5000 pieces of software. But we have tested lots - and we've yet to find a game that didn't work (though we did have problems with the old favourite, Specdrum.) We're sure you're going to be able to enjoy virtually all your old favourites on the Coupe.

Now a very serious warning. You'll love being able to transfer your Spectrum software to SAM disk for very rapid loading. But you **MUST ONLY** make back-up copies of your own software for your personal use. It is a criminal offense - THEFT - to make a copy and to give it to a friend - let alone to sell it! All manufacturers and software houses in our industry are united in the battle against software theft, and legal action will be taken against anyone who is found to have broken the law.

WHAT YOU GET AND WHAT YOU'LL NEED

In this package you'll find :-

- a) The Messenger interface (the one in the black case)
- b) The SAM NMI card (the smaller interface that's uncased)
- c) The Messenger program disk - for your SAM disk drive

Of course you'll need your Coupe, the Spectrum, and a TV - if you can lay your hands on 2 TVs, transferring programs from one machine to the other will be a bit easier, because you can see what's going on with both computers. If you've only got one TV, don't worry: we tell you when you have to change the TV cables to the Spectrum or SAM, and you'll soon get used to it. In the notes below we say (Change C), which means change to the TV cable coming from the Coupe - or (Change S), to use the Spectrum TV cable. Soon you won't even have to think about it.

If you're using a single TV, you may find that the two computers require a slightly different tuning. If so, set them up on two separate TV channels - and don't forget to change to the right channel when you change computers!

(Note that with some versions of the +3, where the power supply connector is very close to the expansion port, you may have to remove the Messenger's case so that it fits. Just unscrew the four screws on the underside of the Messenger: you won't invalidate warranty, and it's perfectly safe to run.)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

1. Have both the Spectrum and the Coupe switched off.
2. Connect the Messenger to the edge connector on the Spectrum. Make sure it's centred on the connector before pushing it in.
3. There's a lead coming from the Messenger. Plug the 7 pin DIN connector at the end of it to the MIDI socket nearest the right-hand edge of the Coupe.
4. Plug the SAM NMI card to SAM's expansion connector - or into the SAMBus if you have it.

CHECKING THAT EVERYTHING'S WORKING

1. Switch on both computers. First connect the Spectrum to your TV. Check that the normal title screen is present and select 48K mode.

If the title screen isn't present:

- a) Turn off the power, disconnect the Messenger, check that it's centred and try again.
 - b) Try cleaning the Spectrum edge connector with a pencil eraser (yes, really!) or cotton buds.
 - c) Still no success? There may be a problem with the Spectrum NMI line - which doesn't show with most other interfaces, but is a fairly common problem. Call our repairs house, PBT, on 0639-885008 for help.
2. Press the SNAP button on the back of the Messenger. You should see a striped border on the screen, rolling gently upwards. Press the SPACE bar to cancel the snap.
 3. Connect the Coupe to the TV screen. (Change C). You should see the normal title screen. (In case of screen corruption, turn off the Coupe and try reconnecting the plug into the MIDI port - you don't need to switch off the Spectrum.)
 4. Insert the Messenger program disk and press F9. This is the Menu screen you'll see:

EXIT MENU	A	RX ZXROM	G
RX SCRN	B	RX PROG	H
VIEW SCRN	C	RUN PROG	I
SAVE SCRN	D	SAVE PROG	J
TX SCRN	E	TX PROG	K
LOAD SCRN	F	LOAD PROG	L

The left-hand side has to do mainly with screen transfers, the right-hand side with entire programs. TX means "transmit" (from the Coupe), while RX means "receive" (material sent to the Coupe). The letters are simply the keys you press on the Coupe to select a Menu option.

5. For safety, make a back-up of your Messenger disk. Press A to exit from the Menu, and use the COPY command in the normal way. Press key F4 or F9 to return to the Messenger Menu.

GOING FOR HIGH COMPATIBILITY

Menu selection "G" allows you to transfer the Spectrum ROM and save it in place of the Emulation file "ZXROM.SPX" which we supply on the Messenger disk. It is advisable to do this to ensure greater success in running your Spectrum programs on SAM. (Again though, please note that it would be ILLEGAL to pass this on to a friend; it must be for your own use only.) To transfer your ROM, press the Messenger SNAP button, then key "G" on the SAM keyboard. The screen borders will flash for a few seconds, until you are asked whether you want to overwrite the "ZXROM.SPX" file. Press key "Y" on the Coupe to overwrite the emulation file. Coupe key "A" then returns you to Basic. Now press F9 to reboot using the new copy of the Spectrum ROM. The disk is now ready for use and you won't have to go through this procedure in subsequent sessions, although you'll need to do the same for every other work disk you create.

TRANSFERRING PROGRAMS TO THE COUPE

1. (Change S) Load your Spectrum cassette software on the Spectrum in the normal way. In 48K mode, remember?!
2. When the software's loaded and running, you can interrupt it at any point to transmit it at its current status to the Coupe. (Thus, if you interrupt it at the beginning of a program, it will start at the beginning on the Coupe; if in the middle, then in the middle on the Coupe. To interrupt the program press the Messenger Snap Button.
3. Then press key "E" on the Coupe (because menu selection H is "Receive a program"). The screen borders will flash quickly for anything up to a minute, while the data is being transmitted across the network.
4. The flashing stops and the Spectrum version resumes. Right, the program should be waiting for you on the Coupe. Change C to check.
5. In fact, you'll find the Menu screen first. You could decide to save the program to disk at this point, but let's see what we've got first. Press Coupe key "I" (that's the capital letter, not the number) to run the program. Satisfied? Now for the first time we'll press the SNAP button at the back of the Coupe NMI card. This interrupts the program running on SAM and returns you to the menu for further selections.
6. Let's save the program to disk. When you select option J you'll be asked for a file name. You can use any name up to 8 letters long. The Coupe will automatically add .p to the name to indicate that it's a Messenger program file. Now you can save a screen. It's the same procedure: the Snap button on the NMI card, D from the Menu and a file name no longer than 8 letters, to which the Coupe adds .s .

COUPE CALLING SPECTRUM

The Messenger lets you send a Spectrum program or screen running on SAM back to the Spectrum too. All you do is press the Messenger Snap button, then key "E" or "K" on the Coupe - depending on whether it's a screen or a program you're sending - and then Change S.

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

You transferred Spectrum programs onto SAM disk yesterday. Well, all you need to run them today is the Messenger work disk, and if you want to make further saves or modifications, the NMI card. You won't need the Spectrum or the Messenger interface.

When you boot the Messenger disk (F9) the Messenger Menu will appear. Select Menu option L and you'll be shown a directory of all the program files you've saved on the Messenger disk. Just type in the number of the program you want and you're away. If you want to, you can press the NMI Snap button later and resave the program or a screen from a different point.

HINTS N'TIPS

1. If you select the wrong Menu option by mistake, press the Coupe's SPACE bar to escape.
2. If communication seems to be locked up and the Coupe keyboard doesn't respond, press the Messenger's Snap button and then press the SPACE bar and you'll usually cure the problem.
3. The Spectrum's SPACE bar cancels a Messenger snap.
4. When transferring programs, remember it's always the Messenger button that you press first, then type in the menu letter on the Coupe. The button on the Coupe NMI card is only used to interrupt programs or screens running on the Coupe.
5. When you want to use a program saved to the Coupe in an earlier session, don't forget that you have to load the program or screen before you can run it or view it.
6. If the Coupe reverts to Basic, F4 will return to the Menu.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS

1. When you save a screen under Messenger control, it's compatible with Mode 1 in the Flash art package - so you can modify it there.
2. With multi-load games, you can load up the first part of the program on the Coupe, stop the tape, transfer the program to the Coupe, and then when you've finished level 1, transfer back to the Spectrum. Now you can load in level 2... and carry on like this until you have all levels on SAM disk.
3. Menu option A returns to Basic; now enter your favourite Spectrum pokes for infinite lives, palette changes etc.

You'll think of much more... ENJOY THE MESSENGER!

The Messenger is another great SAM product from....

SAM Computers Ltd, Lakeside, Phoenix Way, Swansea SA7 9EH