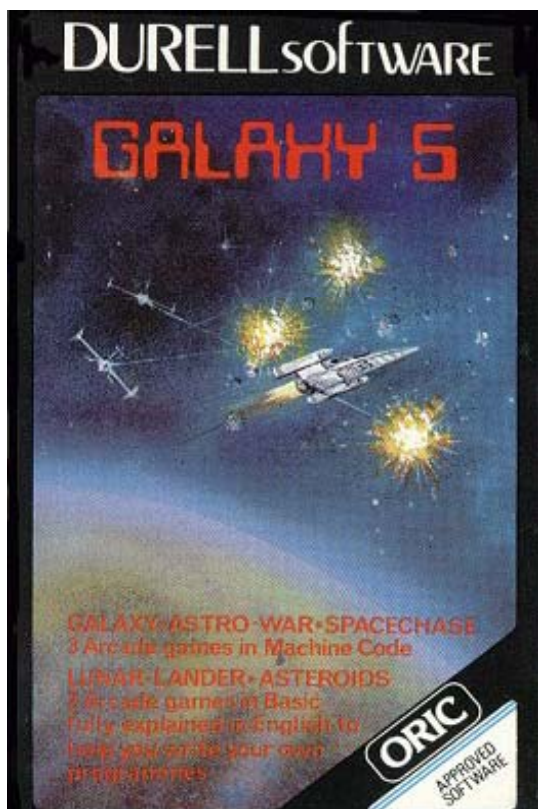


COLLECTORS CORNER

Welcome back to another look at Oric releases that were produced in various forms. This time we are going to look at Galaxy 5 - one of my favourites. It is one of the few tapes I had with my first Oric, a 16K machine. There wasn't much to choose from if you had a 16K Oric but it did all the things its 48K counterpart did. In a way I think it is a shame more people didn't get the cheaper version and produce software for it. There was a potential there as programs on this tape show. 'Galaxy' is a great invaders style game and one of the programs, along with Xenon 1 and Delta 4 that convinced me the Oric was a great machine and there must be some great titles out there for it.



Here then is the Inlay cover which you may be familiar with. Another bit of Sci Fi painting.

The tape itself features a compilation of machine code and BASIC programs. The idea with the BASIC ones is to show the user how to program, so instead of trying to hide their code as many did. Durell have it written into the program to LIST the program once you have finished playing,

It may be a slight con to cover-up the not-too-great programming, but I think it is a nice touch and I do remember spending some time changing parameters of programs like the Asteroids one to make things easier - or harder.

The problem came in trying to find the bits of code for certain parts, like how was it determined that there would be a space for the craft to move through? Those bits were hard to find so it didn't always help.

Luna Lander is a game I never really liked - except for one particular version that was on some other machine. It's an old program that dates back to text-based machines and was the sort of standard fare of type-in listings - not really a commercial program at this time. Asteroids too is not really of commercial standard. The other games are reasonable and I spent quite some time playing them. In fact my original tape is worn out!

The tape below left, is the original with black tape and 16K featured on the cover. On the later version the 16K isn't such a selling point so it makes it clear it is just for the Oric. Indeed most of these work on the Atmos if I remember correctly. Anyway, there you are Simon - another article !!!



Original Galaxy 5 tape with 'ORIC 16K' to the right



Later release with different font and only 'ORIC' on the label