

SPIRIT SOFTWARE : POLICE INVESTIGATE

In February 1984, a company then called 'Spirit' promised a Speccy racing game and steering wheel for £8.95. If you ever pondered the origin's of the acronym WTF—say hello to it's birthplace. Thanks to the ultra-trustworthy punters of the 80's, money poured in to the mail-order company. They didn't deliver the goods and according to both Crash and C&VG they were later investigated by the Met Police. It turned out they didn't pay their advertising costs either! Blaming manufacturing delays, the game somehow did end up getting a release from Mastertronic in Mid

1985 at £1.99. So was the game/wheel any good after that long wait? Well, in describing the plastic yellow steering wheel, one can do no better than quote the fabulous Crash Magazine—Issue 16—"*Formula One was the game that promised all but gave substantially less. The ill-fated ashtray - sorry, steering wheel - was a joke. So instead of rolling it over the keyboard as intended, the keys have to be pressed - and control is appalling. Mind you, the 3D works fairly well.*"



The hands don't move and the road doesn't convey any sense of speed (no stripes)

...but the biggest crime in this game is the sound. It's like something used in a torture chamber. Your ear drum vibrates uncontrollably. It makes you cry with pain.

Crash issue 6 news section (July 1984) Police Investigate Spirit

Bogus software company Spirit Software, who widely advertised a game called *Formula One* and boasted it would come complete with a steering wheel joystick for £8.95, are being investigated by

London's Metropolitan Police. A for the investigation, are returning being sought, not cheques sent in by only by the authorities, but also by the several magazines who accepted his only those cheques advertisements and which were still have not been paid. Mr Alexander has time of Mr Alexander's disappearance. Customers software scene for whose cheques and some time, and his name has been associated with some other companies of dubious honesty. The Kensington



FORMULA ONE AND STEERING WHEEL For Sinclair ZX Spectrum 16K & 48K

THE GAME

Based on current formula one levels of acceleration, braking and roadholding, with 10 circuits to choose from (one on 16K version) including Silverstone, the world's fastest grand prix circuit, this program has been developed for the ultimate in realism with the help of The Jim Russell International Racing Drivers' School at Silverstone. It has four stages - Instruction, Practice, Qualifying and Race - with eight cars racing against you in wet or dry conditions. Incredible sound effects and smooth 3D action graphics give you all the speed and excitement of motor racing. 100% machine code.

THE STEERING WHEEL

Naturally you cannot steer a racing car effectively by pushing buttons or wiggling a joystick so we have developed a steering wheel that fits to the Spectrum. With one hand on the wheel (the other free for braking and accelerating) it gives the level of precision needed to steer the car on the fastest line through the corners and correct a skid when you overdo it. The wheel is strongly made and thanks to a brilliantly simple design we have been able to keep the cost down to a minimum. It will be used for many games in the future but is now only available with FORMULA ONE.

To order FORMULA ONE and Steering Wheel send cheque or p.o. for £8.95 to
SPIRIT SOFTWARE, 1/2 Pembroke Mews, London W8