

'Small experiment' in 3-D



WIRED FOR 3-D: Some "cool dudes" from Liquid Crystal Shutter SPU model Stereo Tek glasses that won a product of the year award from Antic, publisher of an Atari user magazine. Stereo Tek players are (front) Scott Harley, Mike Nichols, Mark Kimball and (rear) Doug Hepburn, Alyce Rubin, Anna Wickham, Dylenn Lilly. Ferenc Schonstal (IDG Model Shop) built the dies for the glasses. Antic magazine is available at Atari dealers.

Tek dips its toes in consumer waters

Tektronix is quietly supplying products to the consumer electronics market, but you won't see our company name on the label.

It started last summer when Mark Kimball wondered how the liquid crystal shutter technology he worked with at Tek might be applied to his Atari ST home computer.

In January, the answer was shown in the Atari exhibit at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

"Stereo Tek"—a kit for 3-dimensional viewing of some Atari software—is now being shipped by the Liquid Crystal Shutter Strategic Program Unit. It's sold through Antic, publisher of an Atari user

magazine and catalog, and distributor to retail outlets.

"LC Technologies" is the name on the box.

The reason, says LCS manager Mike Swink, is that this Atari product is a "small experiment" in the consumer market. LCS SPU does not want to position Tek as "entering the consumer market," nor do they wish to use the Tek name to drive sales of the glasses.

The Tek name will be used with the new 4126 stereo workstation from Graphic Workstations Division (that uses the LCS 19-inch stereo shutter) and LCS's stereoscopic graphics system for the IBM AT (using the LCS 16-inch stereo shutter).

Stereo Tek is a comparatively low cost (\$150), low-technology product, with noticeable flicker, using "active" glasses wired directly to the computer. The low-voltage liquid crystal technology is built into the glasses.

IDG's high-tech 4126 and LCS's 3-D-AT system, on the other hand, use high resolution monitors with no evident flicker. And the liquid crystal technology is mounted on the display so the "passive" polarized glasses need no electrical connection.

Stereo Tek was "just too good an opportunity to pass up," Mike said, "so we tried to do it in a way that wouldn't confuse our traditional commercial customers." □