letter-quality equipment priced at only $799.)

The problem with true letter-quality, daisywheel printers is that they can do only half the work necessary in the office because they do not have graphics capabilities; and in these times, this failing can be of some import. Therefore, the dot matrix folks have tried to bring their quality up to, or at least as close to, the daisywheel printers as possible. This is commonly done by improving the print density (adding more dots, or at least moving the dots closer together).

This is what Juki has attempted to do with the 5510/5520. Its attempt was amazingly good. In its near-letter-quality state, its dots can be reproduced (xeroxed) and seen to be much harder to discern than the dots of other printers. If you are ever in doubt about whether a printer is dot or daisy, reproduce (xerox) the page, and the dots will stand out more clearly.

The 5510’s ease of handling, installation (as with most dot matrix printers), and general usage, was very good. The manual was well written, easy to read, and complete, as was true with the earlier Juki 6300. Even the instructions that came with the accompanying color conversion kit were easy to follow and complete.

This printer, which sells, depending on your source, for around $499 with the color kit, or as a 5520 complete with color for $150 or so more, could be an excellent addition to your office equipment if you need a color graphics printer as well as a black-and-white dot matrix printer.

The 5510 unit was relatively trouble free, even in my hands when installing the color conversion kit. I did have a chance to talk with the service group; they seemed helpful and fairly knowledgeable. The test run comes, however, when you are in trouble and in a hurry. If you have had experience with some of the manufacturers I have talked about, or others of interest, I would like to hear from you about their quality.

For ease of use, ease of conversion, general quality, and definitely for the manual, give Juki’s 5510 an 8.5 and the near-letter-quality mode a 9.5. I was impressed, hope you are.

Remember, Juki has both the 5510 standard dot matrix printer with black ribbon that can be upgraded to a color printer, and the 5520 that is already a color printer with a four-color ribbon that mixes to seven.

Software

Gessler Educational Software, 900 Broadway, New York, NY 10003-1291; $49.95.

The other day I received a call from HWH, Inc., representatives of Gessler Educational Software, asking whether I would like to see their foreign language series, “Word Attack.” To review something different, I asked for a Spanish version called “Batalla de Palabras.”

I looked through it and found what appeared to be a well-designed, PC-compatible package. Since I have not taken or spoken much Spanish in 20 years, I asked my 13-year-old son, who is currently studying the language in middle school, to check it out.

His comments were, “The game is ‘all right’ (kind of dumb), but I learned a lot.” One might be able to read this as favorable to the product. Adding this to my preliminary observations leads me to tentatively recommend that you investigate the package. The series may even be appropriate for those of us who have not studied the subject for a time and would like to have some fun brushing up on our vocabulary. You can expect to see more on educational software on this page in the future, along with more about “Batalla de Palabras” or its French and German equivalent.

I’m signing off now, it’s vacation time. Please keep the reader service cards coming with your suggestions and comments, or write me a letter or a postcard in care of this magazine with your comments.

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