

require a number of timers, Orpheus provides a `T0vcTimerPool` control which allows for up to 32,767 different timer events while requiring only a single timer at the API level.

Another interesting component, `T0vcRotatedLabel`, works just as its name describes. It's used to display any TrueType font at an arbitrary angle on the screen. It does only work with TrueType fonts, though, if you try to use another font type and then set a non-zero angle, the component will cunningly swap back to a TrueType font! There's also a progress bar (TurboPower call it a meter) which can be oriented either horizontally or vertically, another variation on the calendar theme (it had to come...) and a set of 'tweaker' components. The tweakers include a spin button, a four-way spinner and a four-way star-shaped spinner. These last two controls could be used to advantage in drawing programs, allowing you to 'nudge' individual objects a tiny

amount in any direction. The `T0vcTransfer` looks rather useful: it provides a mechanism for writing code which transfers data between one or more components (edit box, combo box, etc) and an associated data structure.

Orpheus contains a very powerful spreadsheet-style grid component and a number of subsidiary components which can be used to include checkboxes, pictures, comboboxes and so forth inside the cells of the grid. The library is rounded out by another triplet of the three data entry fields (simple, picture and numeric), this time with a data-aware flavour to them. Last but not least, there's a data-aware text editor component which can be used to directly edit the contents of database memo fields.

As with all TurboPower products, full source code is included in the package which means that you're in a good position to port the aforementioned controls to Windows 95 or NT once the 32-bit

version of Delphi is released. A number of example programs are also included in the package.

Orpheus generally costs £135 in the UK and is available from most development tools retailers. As with all TurboPower tools, full source code is included. It requires about 6Mb of disk space and includes full on-line help for the various Orpheus components. A 'preview' version can be downloaded from CompuServe (Library 22 in the Delphi forum), CIX, or TurboPower's ftp site. The preview version is fully functional, except that none of the components will function unless Delphi is itself loaded into memory.

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