FEBRUARY 1996 • ISSUE 16 • £2.50

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CDi

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SEE PAGE 16 FOR DETAILS



FORE!

COMING AT YOU

WORLD CUP GOLF

PLUS THE ROOTIN', TOOTIN' MAD DOG McCREE II, CRIME PATROL, MYST, THE POLICE, AND MANGA HITS CD-i

to find out how to get your CD-i onto the

Internet

ring us on .....

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- Make contact with almost anyone – your favourite band, your local football team – or President Clinton in the White House!

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- Enter the CD-Online competitions, and win fantastic prizes – CD-i goodies and software, top-of-the-range colour TVs, and lots more!

- It's easy to use (just like CD-i), it's cheap and it's fun! So join the wired generation – call us now, and go surfing in cyberspace with CD-Online!

CD-Online

The Net on Your Set

CD-Online is a Philips Media company

inside all the latest news, reviews and scoops for CD INTERACTIVE

4 News: With details of the first CD-i realtime 3D game, the upcoming Myst, The Dame Was Loaded, Secret Mission and exclusive first shots from Discworld. Plus the winners of our crossword competition and the latest updates from the cyber universe with CD-Online

10 Preview: Shots and analysis of the imminent Crime Patrol

12 Interview: David McElhatten, Philips' Games Guru



Is this dame loaded? Just one of the many new games previewed in our marvellous news section

16 Kid's Competition: Want to win a portable telly or a stack of discs? It's easy, just design your own game

18 Games: More power to your backswing with World Cup Golf

22 Games: Reach for the skies, Mad Dog's back in Mad Dog McCree II - The Lost Gold

27 Feature: The rather nasty and disturbing world of Manga revealed



Nice hat, huh? Welcome to the first CD-i magazine of 1996. We'd just like to point out that Andy Clough has not had the most radical plastic surgery since Nancy Reagan, instead he's disappeared. Legged it in fact to pastures new leaving behind a mountain of paperwork and a very poorly computer.

If everything carries on like this, 1996 will be a seriously corking year for CD-i. This issue we bring you reviews of two new games, World Cup Golf and Mad Dog McCree II: The Lost Gold for added thumb-candy enjoyment. And if that wasn't enough, we're also deliriously happy to present the launch of Japanese anime on Video CD. Manga comes to the CD-i with a rather large bang.

Add to that an extensive section of VideoCD music reviews, the usual brace of film and educational releases and news of how CD-Online is shaping up. Mix all that up with previews and teasers of some major upcoming releases, an extensive interview with Philips' head game honcho David McElhatten and you've got the whole issue condensed and compressed into three paragraphs. Ha! He always said that this was the difficult bit :-)

Andy Stout,
(new) Editor

Looking for ultra-violence in a Japanese cartoon style? The entertaining world of Manga revealed



31 Subscriptions: Get us through your letter box six times a year

32 VideoCD: More releases in the Eyewitness series plus Akira, Adult, and hordes of others

41 Jukebox: Including The Police, The Who (again), Hawkwind and a cast of 1000s

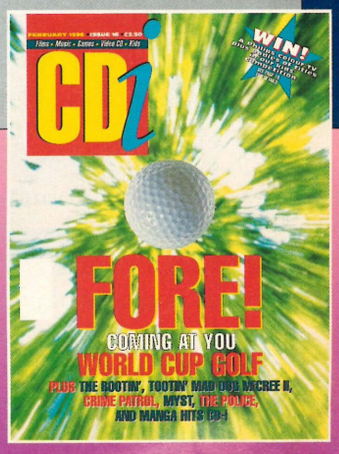
50 Top Tips: Part deux of our most excellent Flashback walkthrough

54 Letters: Your queries answered

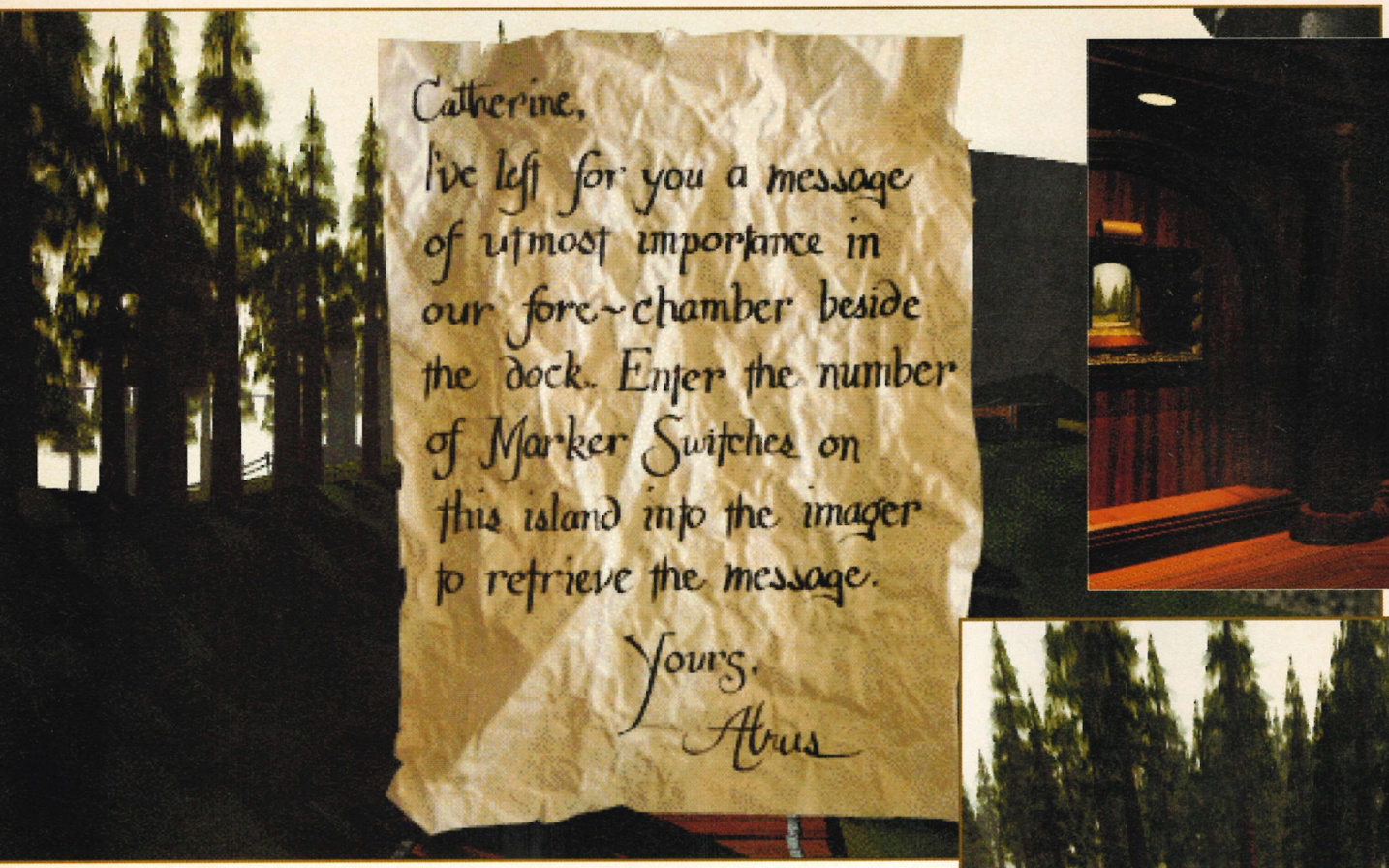


The Police kicking off our mammoth Jukebox section

COVER
Cover designed by Ursula Morgan. Photograph: Telegraph Colour Library.



Editor: Andy Stout. Art Direction: Ursula Morgan. Chief sub-editor: Sheila Reid. Contributors: Jason Alesi, Patrick Bateman, Andy Clough, Joe Fitzgerald, Dean Mortlock, Mark Ramshaw, Ben Southwell. Photography: The Tynans. Production Controller: Meurig Evans. Production assistant: Jo Harris. Publishing Manager: Emma Wright. Publisher: Peter Higham. Publishing Director: Tony Schulp. Contact: CDi Magazine, Haymarket Publishing Ltd, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 OJE, UK. Tel: 0181 943 5934 Fax 0181 943 5993. OVERSEAS SUBS: Europe/Eire - £21, Wo[illegible]do (except Australia, NZ and Japan) - £35, Australia, NZ and Japan - £41. Details: PO Box 219, Woking, Surrey GU21 1ZW. Tel: 01483 733800 Fax: 01483 776573. Printed by F[illegible]. Colour reproduction by F1 Colour. CDi Magazine is published by Haymarket Magazines Ltd. Copyright Haymarket Magazines Ltd. Second class postage is paid at Rahway[illegible], USPS *011-984, is published bi-monthly by Haymarket Magazines. Postmaster send address corrections to Cambey & West, PO Box 128, Pearl River, NY 10965. US subscription pric[illegible]7 per year.





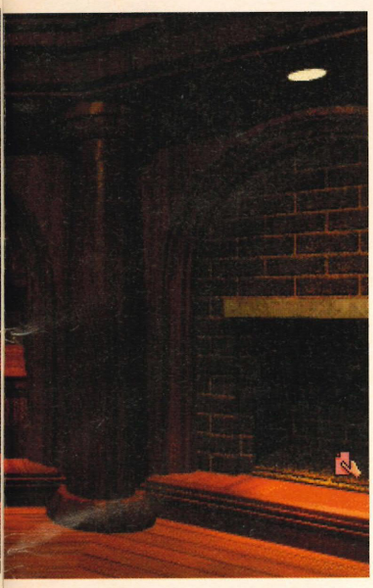


MYST FORECAST

As revealed in this issue's interview with Philips' games supremo, David McElhatten, Broderbund's award-winning adventure game *Myst* is currently being ported over to CD-i. The English language version is almost complete and Philips is simply waiting for other European language versions to be finished before readying the game for a pan-European launch, hopefully by this Summer.

Should you be excited by this? Yes, definitely. *Myst*, first released in 1993, is one of the most original, atmospheric games to appear in recent times. Beautifully rendered it's set in a vast, complex and slightly surreal gamescape around which you have to wander trying to solve logical puzzles. Said puzzles are suitably fiendish, involving tortuous amounts of lateral thinking and the game also contains more than its fair share of red herrings. What it doesn't contain are any instructions; you simply appear on the island of Myst and from there on in you have to work everything out for yourself. Rest assured, longevity will not be a problem.

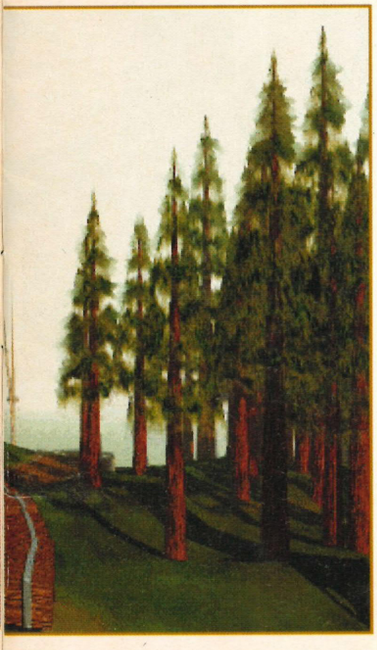
Neither is its age. Despite being nigh on three years old, *Myst* still looks stunning (as these shots taken from CD-ROM prove) and the CD-i - with its superb audio/visual capabilities - should deliver the best version yet. Expect to be seriously impressed.



REALTIME 3D

As exclusively revealed in our David McElhatten interview, the first realtime 3D game is set to appear on CD-i later this year. The result of intensive research at the new development centre in Redhill, the game is currently being developed under the working title *Atlantis*. Billed as being along the lines of *Doom* and its ilk, according to McElhatten one of the main reasons for the game's title is that it's symbolic of the discovery of something deep in the architecture that allows the CD-i to produce realtime 3D. Unfortunately, no images of the new game are available yet but for more details see our interview feature on page 12.



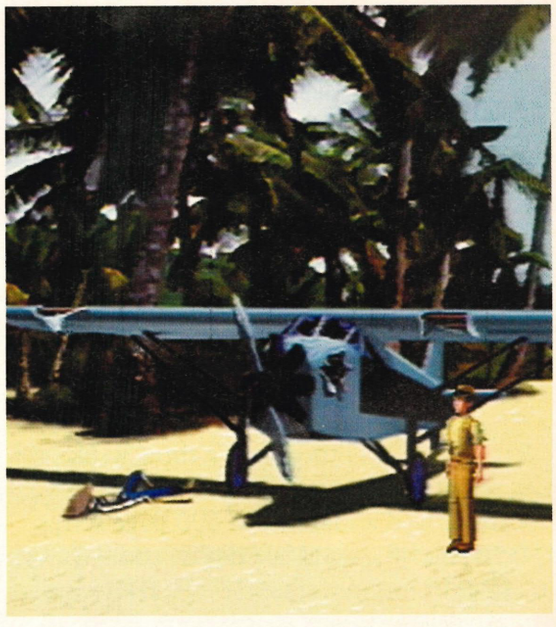


ON DISC DISCWORLD

A question: why don't we just give all our money to Bill Gates and Terry Pratchett and have done with it? Pratchett especially, who now that he's approaching his twentieth book in the Discworld *series, can be safely assumed to be raking it in somewhat. To boost the coffers a little bit more though the top selling* Discworld *(based on the books unsurprisingly enough) will be appearing on CD-i too. Developed by Teeny Weeny Games,* Discworld *has been a major success on every platform it's appeared on so far and judging by these images should be pretty darn impressive here as well. It's an adventure/strategy title concerning the somnolent and inept magician Rincewind, the enigmatic Luggage and a rather large and ill-tempered dragon. Large, witty and challenging, expect the disc hopefully by the Summer. Just don't expect to finish it too quickly. We've got an official strategy guide lurking round the office and it's 136 pages long.*







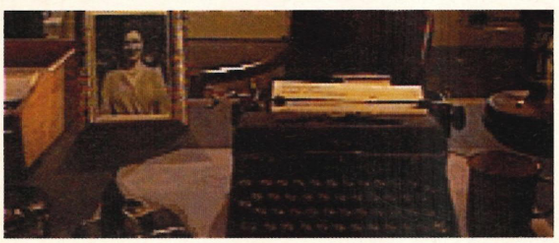
MISSION STATEMENT

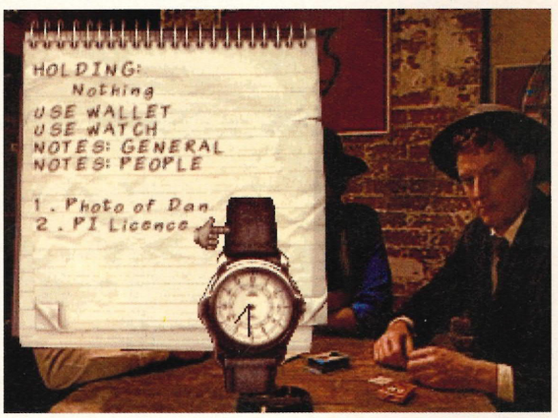
Yet another game looming rapidly over the horizon is the long-awaited *Secret Mission*. Developed by French company Microids it's a base case, prerendered cinematic-style adventure set in Indo/China in the 1950s. Apparently it's a game full of political intrigue and espionage where you not only have to recover some missing documents but also try and remember who you are (having woken up with no memory annoyingly enough). Beyond that details on its final content are sketchy but expect it to get the full review treatment very soon.



DAME ON











Out very soon is Beam Software's interactive thriller, *The Dame Was Loaded.* Filmed over a three week period, the shoot featured 25 actors, 19 crew, 20 locations and a mammoth 600 page script. The result of all that is a disc with 60 minutes of full motion video, 360 backgrounds for interactive room interiors and over six hours of audio.

The Dame is a classic American detective story (you know the sort, the ones always described as 'Chandleresque' where the detective is both 'hard-boiled' and wisecracking) set in 1940s Los Angeles. A first person interactive film, you play the part of private dick Scott Anger who has been hired by a woman named Carol Klein to find her lost brother Dan. He moved into LA to work as a City Clerk and until two months ago had sent her a cheque every month. Nothing arrived in September and now with October winds rushing in off the Pacific Carol is getting worried. Oh yeah, she also doesn't know his address which isn't really very helpful.

Fans of film noir should love this and it's certainly set up to be a deep and rather gripping mystery. If things go to plan, we'll have a full review in the next issue.

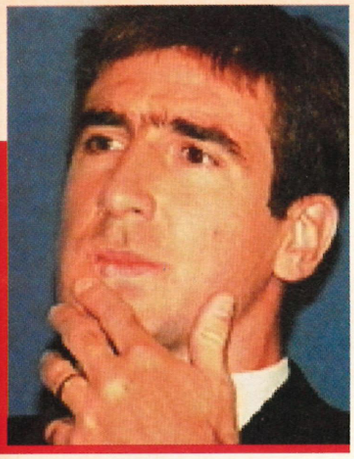
1995 Cheaper

As a special Spring offer from Philips the marvellous and informative *1995 All The News And Views* disc has been reduced in price. Previously £19.99, you can now possess all the salient points of the year for a mere £9.99. A whole year for a tenner? Can't be bad.

Manga Video

Just before Christmas, CD Vision announced that it would be releasing 20 top-selling Manga titles in 1996 after signing a deal with Manga Entertainment. The first of the titles are out now and the rest will follow at a steady rate through the year, hopefully building up to a pre-Xmas roll out





Okay, so we got the answer to 1 Across the wrong way round, but most of you knew what we were getting at. We also didn't feature Little Red Riding Hood (2 Down) in the December issue after all due to technical difficulties. We've ignored those two answers in the competition and offer our apologies for the mistakes. Heads will roll, mark my words. By the way, whoever kept phoning up and nagging us for clues, we don't approve. It's cheating. Anyway, the ten lucky CDi readers whose names came out of the hat and have won a copy of The Crayon Factory, signed by Julie Walters are:

Lynn Goate, Essex, Mrs. Magee, West Sussex, A Hopper, Kent, Dave Penny, London, Mr. Naushad Abba, Derby, Aaron Webber, London, M. A. Garbett, Formby, Peter Scott, Cumbria, S. P. Basse, Bristol, J. E. Roberts.

ACROSS

4. The sequel to Abba Gold' ABBA MORE GOLD
5. This phrase describes the game Who Shot Johnny Rock? SHOOT 'EM UP
7. See 24 across. WALTERS
9. What is a CD-i rating of 5 stars. EXCELLENT
11. See 35 down. VAN DYKE
12. Peter Gabriel's interactive album. XPLORA
14. And 21 across. This rock legend has a Private Collection. CLIFF
15. Micro Machines was the free _____ on the October issue. DISC
17. The sport featured on the cover of the April issue. AMERICAN FOOTBALL
19. This children's T.V. programme stars Rod, Jane and Freddy and also appears in the sky along with sun and rain. RAINBOW
21. See 14 across. RICHARD
24. And 7 across. This actress narrates The Crayon Factory'. JULIE
25. He wrote the music for Silicon Soldiers. BRIAN MAY
27. The instrument played by Nigel Kennedy. VIOLIN
28. This 'Smooth Operator' was on the cover of February. SADE
29. And 30 down. Leslie Nielson is trying to do this with bad golf. MAKE IT EASIER
31. And 34 down. He is The New Statesman. RIK
32. This piece of furniture has become synonymous with The Cranberries SOFA
33. Thunder in Paradise stars: a) Hulk Hogan b) Chris Lemmon c) Both BOTH
36. This designer produced the costumes for The Untouchables. ARMANI
37. 'The Most Exciting Woman In The World'. EARTHA KITT
38. Sir Anthony Hopkins met these In The Wild. LION
39. Michael Bond was the creator of this loveable bear. PADDINGTON

DOWN

1. Debra Winger can often be found In The Wild with these. PANDAS
2. And 16 down. The author of Little Red Riding Hood. ROALD
3. 2 Unlimited hale from this European country. HOLLAND
6. Andy Stout's overall rating of Flashback was a) Brilliant b) Average c) Poor BRILLIANT
8. A psychological thriller now out on CD-i. MALICE
10. He wrote Thumbelina. HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN
13. Robert De Niro won an Oscar for his role in this film. RAGING BULL
14. This Paris based company developed Lost Eden. CRYO INTERACTIVE
16. See 2 down. DAHL
18. See 22 down. CHARLES
20. This movie was No. 1 in the April Top Ten Chart. WAYNES WORLD
22. And 18 down. Who was the Genius Of Soul. RAY
23. On this Pink Floyd tour, P.U.L.S.E. was recorded. DIVISION BELL
26. This band are Infected. THE THE
30. See 29 across. EASIER
34. See 31 across. MAYALL
35. And 11 across. The actor who plays the inventor in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. DICK

On CD

of the current Ghost In The Shell - *probably the best release since* Akira. *Indeed the groundbreaking* Akira *is one of the first titles to be issued and, along with* Street Fighter II - The Animated Movie *(also out now), showcases the genre to stunning effect. See our feature on page 27 for more info.*



COMING SOON!

FEBRUARY

Games

World Cup Golf	£29.99

MARCH

Games

Mad Dog McCree II	£29.99
The Dame Was Loaded	£29.99

APRIL

Kids

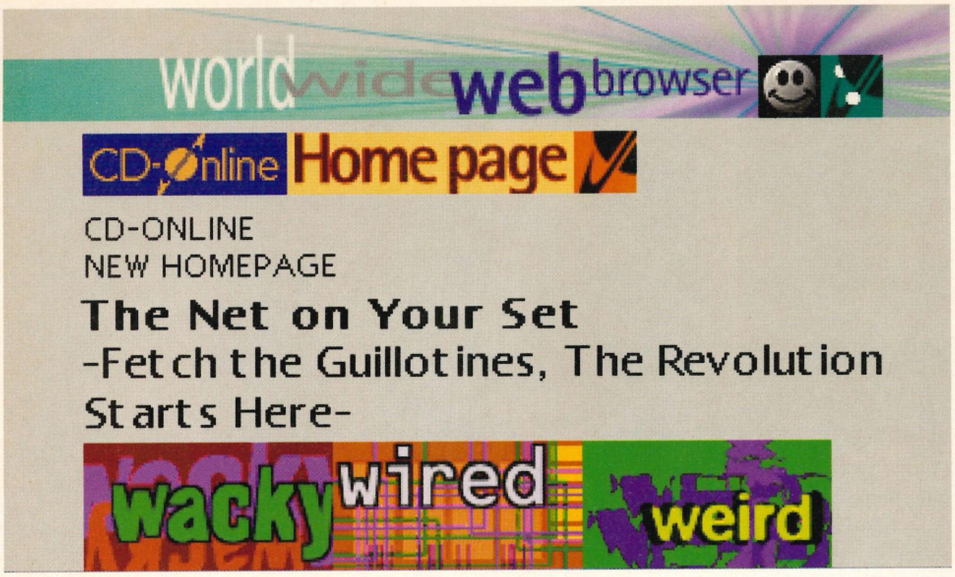
Tim & Bear At The Movies	£TBC

Games

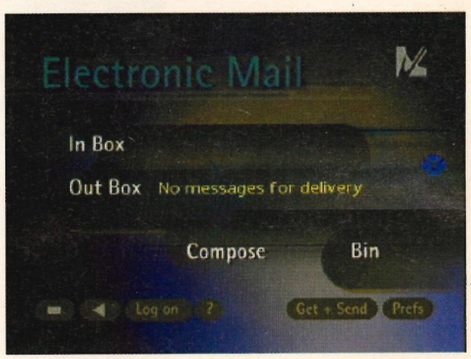
Secret Mission	£TBC

Music (VCD)

The Clash	£TBC







CD-Online

New Game, New Disc

Our mole inside CD-Online reports that their next disc, which is expected to be mailed to subscribers later this month, will feature another world first from the company - a brand-new CD-i game, which will allow subscribers to battle it out over the Internet.

First reports indicate that it's a wicked, no-holds barred shoot-'em-up, set in a stunning 3-D world. No further details at present, but we are suitably intrigued. The next disc will also fix many of the compatibility problems with Netscape (rapidly becoming the *de facto* standard on the Web) allowing far easier access to pages that support forms.

Dave's Place

CD-Online's site on the Internet is hosted by Dave, a cheerful Liverpudlian who pulls pints for a living. Aided and abetted by his ever-hopeful sister Rose (fourth place in the Club 18-30 Miss Bacardi competition), Dave presides over a cast of characters who probably wouldn't quite fit in at the Rover's Return or the Queen Vic, dispensing his mixture of Scouse wit and Internet wisdom to all comers.

On the CD-Online disc, Dave introduces himself to you with a video all about the amazing stuff you can find when you go surfing the Net. From how to sort out your love-life to where to go to settle a footie argument, Dave's been there and done that. As he says, "Gotta be a laugh, hasn't it?"

However, he's probably not laughing much at the moment. Dave provided some rather dodgy goods for a recent competition on the Net site and has had his collar felt by the Law. While he's being detained by His Majesty, the delightful Rose is looking after the site. News of Dave's release will of course be relayed as soon as possible.

E-mail

Did you know that even although the phone call you make to CD-Online is almost always at local rates, you can send and receive e-mail messages to and from any other e-mail user, no matter where in the world they live, for no additional charge?

Just as the Royal Mail has links with other postal services around the world, CD-Online is connected up with every other online service around the world, and, provided you have addressed your e-mail message correctly, it will arrive at its destination safely - often within minutes of your sending it!

The World Wide Web

CD-Online gives you easy access to the World Wide Web, the most powerful yet easy-to-use method yet devised for giving ordinary people access to vast data banks full of information.

Armed only with your remote, you can get weather information for Dallas or Doncaster, look up the world's most comprehensive catalogue of movies, find out the latest tour dates for Blur, or sneak a look at the Penthouse Pet of the Month!

Competitions

One of the most popular features of the CD-Online service is the competition section. Already, they've given away dozens of CD-i titles, and in the recent *Crystal Clear Competition*, they gave away a fabulous top-of-the-range Philips 29" colour TV, worth £900! Hopefully *that* didn't fall off the back of a lorry but we're sure that the police will inform us if Dave confesses to anything else untoward.

The company says this is only the beginning. As the service is developed over the coming months, there'll be lots more opportunities to win even more fantastic prizes - and remember, like the man said, "You've got to be in it to win it!"

POOR PRESENTATION CAN BE THE DEATH OF K.I.S.S.

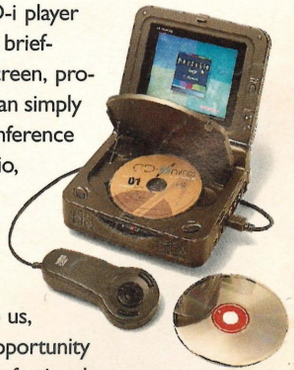


The well used sales adage, K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Stupid) is as true today as it has ever been, and poor quality or ill prepared material can have completely the opposite to the desired effect. In today's highly competitive climate, professional presentations, whether to train, sell or explain, can mean the difference between success and failure.

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CRIME PATROL

Ever had that urge to shoot criminals? Ever wanted to squeeze the trigger and watch as they're cut down by a hail of bullets? Ever been frustrated that our own noble police aren't allowed the odd Uzi 9mm? Then Capcom's Crime Patrol is right up your alley (and we recommend a nice lie down too).

Yes, you've guessed it already, Crime Patrol is yet another in the series of conversions from American Laser Games' arcade shoot-'em-ups. More digital video sequences, more condescending shakes of the head when you end up with various bits of your body decorating the sidewalk and lots and lots of people running around trying to shoot you. Haven't bought that gun for the CD-i yet? Then maybe now's the time to think about it.

Hopefully, we'll carry a full review of the game in the next issue but in the meantime things are looking promising. Okay, so dancing round your living room waving a fake pistol in the air isn't everyone's idea of entertainment, but for those who enjoy such wanton destruction (not to mention looking a bit daft if the neighbours poke their heads round the window) this should fit the bill rather nicely.

The encoding's well at the high-end of what we've seen before for a start. Inevitably there are rather a lot of action shots in this sort of game as people, cars and large, inanimate objects whiz through the air at a rate of knots, but there's very little picture break up discernible. Direction-wise it's not flawless, but then this ain't exactly a Tarantino movie. Well, it could be if you added your own dialogue but we probably shouldn't delve to far into that being a family magazine an' all. Royale with cheese, sir?

Moving swiftly past the issue of the acting (these people are paid by the death-fall after all) and we're onto the gameplay. In a word, pretty damn good. Okay, so that's three words, but it's amazing how involving one of these games can get. You've got four levels of baddie execution to plunge through, ranging from Rookie where you'll deal with such harmless incidents as armed robbery up to Delta Force where it's international terrorists who're peppering the screen with bullets. There's also three skill levels included which basically govern how quick the nefarious wrongdoers are on the draw.

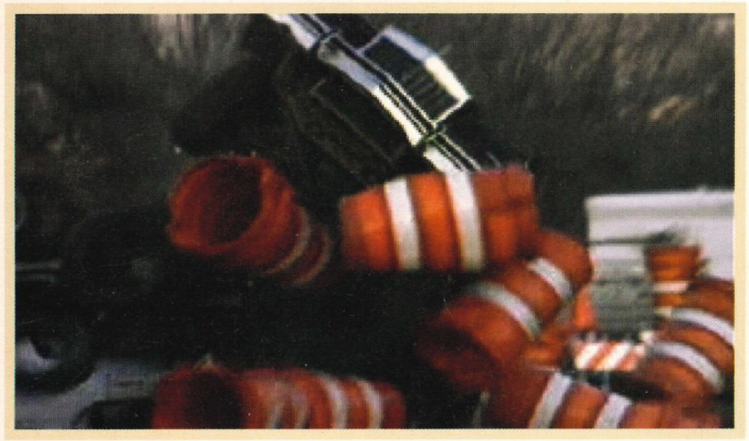
The only major criticism is that you can't shoot the annoying cow of a fellow police officer who screams "Let's kick butt!" at every opportunity. Christ, if the real American police acted like that criminals would laugh their socks off, but this is rather pathetic carping to be honest. If the finished article looks as good as this it could become one of the best in its genre.

ANDY STOUT




MAIN MENU

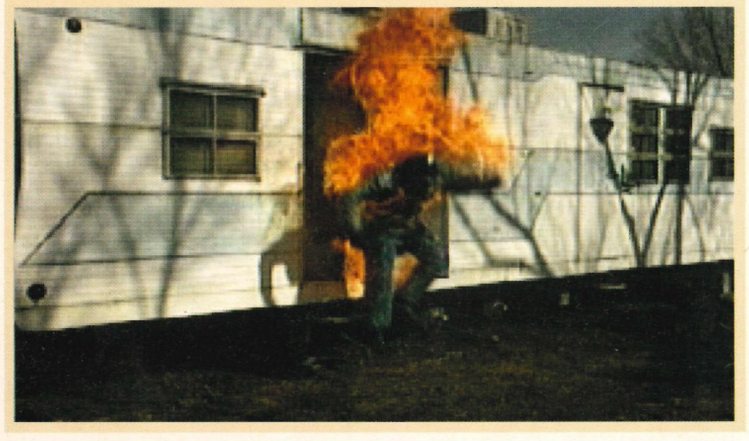














The Games Guru

Will 1996 be a vintage year for CD-i gamers? We asked David McElhatten, head of Philips games to spill the beans. Now, if you'd just like to look into this bright light, sir...

Well, that's the way we thought it was going to go anyway. A quick dose of the bright light treatment was going to be followed by the 'good interviewer/bad interviewer' routine and if we hadn't any joy after that we were going to have a go with the judicious and imaginative application of a few slivers of bamboo. Mr McElhatten was going to *squeal*. By the time we were pulling the thumbscrews out of our case we'd know all there was to know about what 1996 had in store for CD-i gamers.

Unfortunately though, as soon as the tape recorder was turned on, he started talking. Have you any idea how embarrassing it is taking an Iron Maiden back to the shop when you haven't even broken the wrapping? No torture, no pain, not even the chance to threaten to dice up his credit cards. Oh hum.

At least though he talked, starting with an overview of where games sit in the CD-i spectrum.

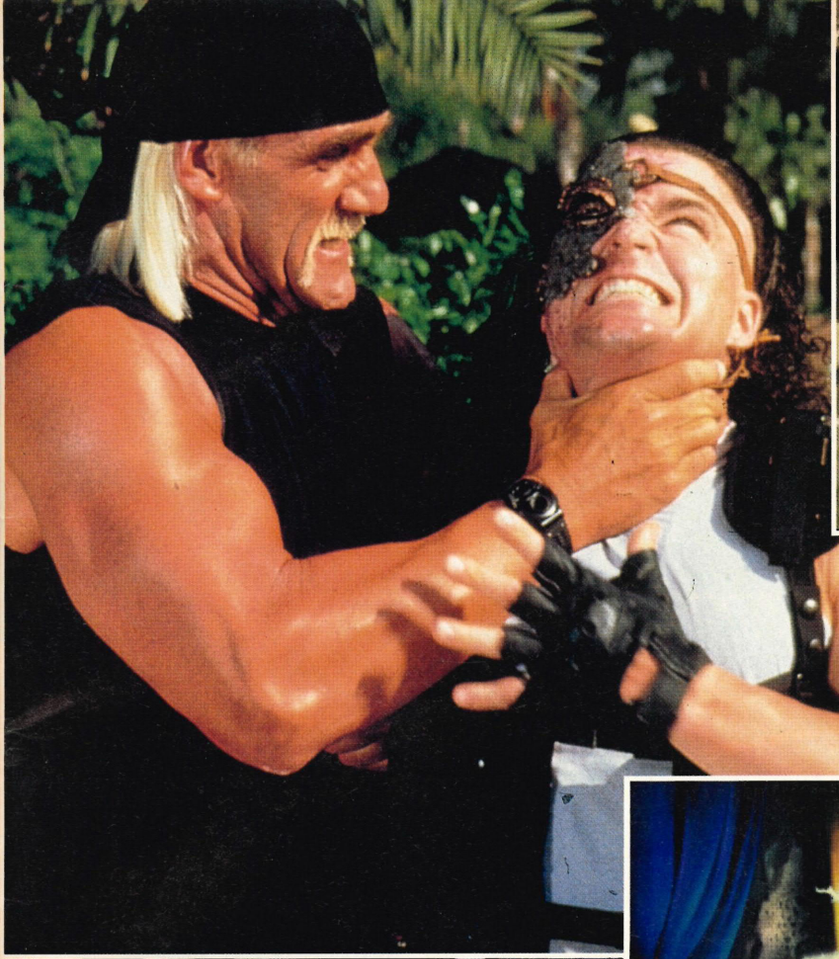
"There's certainly been a lot going on in the games market and increasingly we know that games are a key component of CD-i. I think at times people have mistaken CD-i to be solely a games machine and sometimes this had created a sense that we were not doing everything we could on the games front. We're not taking the Sony PlayStation, the Sega Saturn and all the other games consoles on. CD-i has a broader proposition but we know that games are a key component of that proposition. If we take a look at the kind of games that do well on CD-i they're not the same kinds of titles that are 'in-your-face' and hardcore. But there are some games out there that we would like to do more of on CD-i and we've got to try and do that."

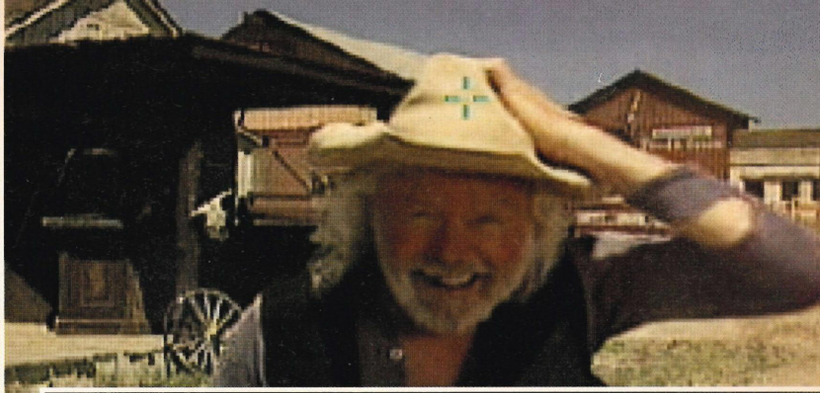
And indeed the hot news that McElhatten brings to this issue is about a realtime 3D project, currently codenamed *Atlantis* (see sidebar). But before we get all excited about the rest of this year, how about having a quick forensic look at the last one.

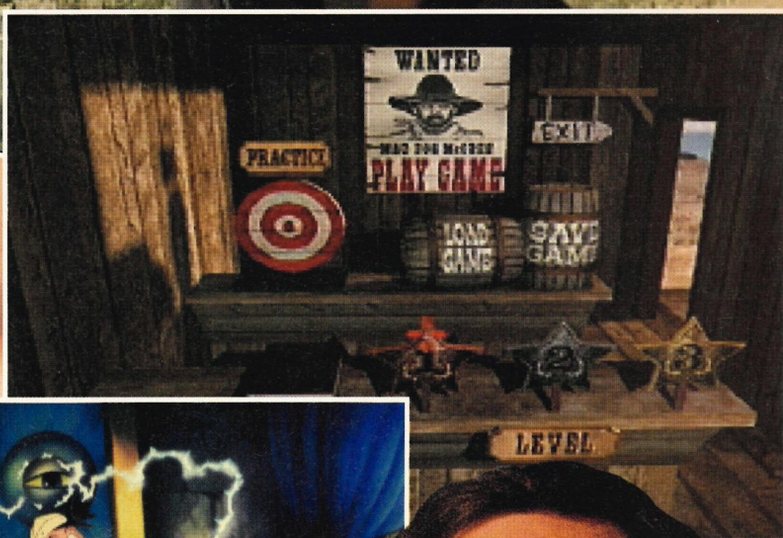
Probably the one aspect of gaming in the past year that has really got you all wondering concerns Philips licensing games from third parties. For a start, this is not a simple subject. In fact it's a whole can of worms that tends to involve lots of lawyers, brinkmanship round the negotiating table and the sort of contract that you need a PhD in Applied Linguistics just to attempt to understand. While we'd like all games in the universe to go cross-platform, the reality is way different.

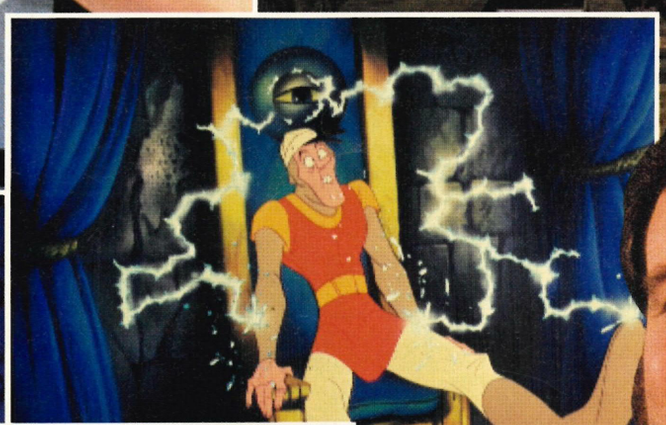
"We had a strategy last year that met with some success but it wasn't 100%," explains McElhatten. "We tried to reach out to a lot of the other publishers in the industry - from Virgin to Mirage to Interplay to US Gold - and have them bring a lot of other titles into the catalogue.

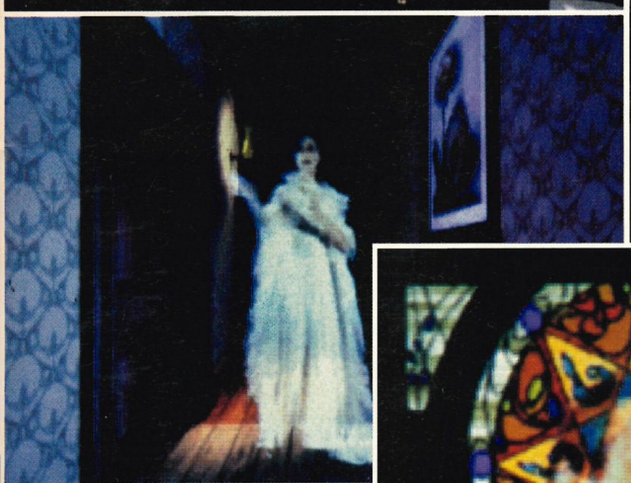




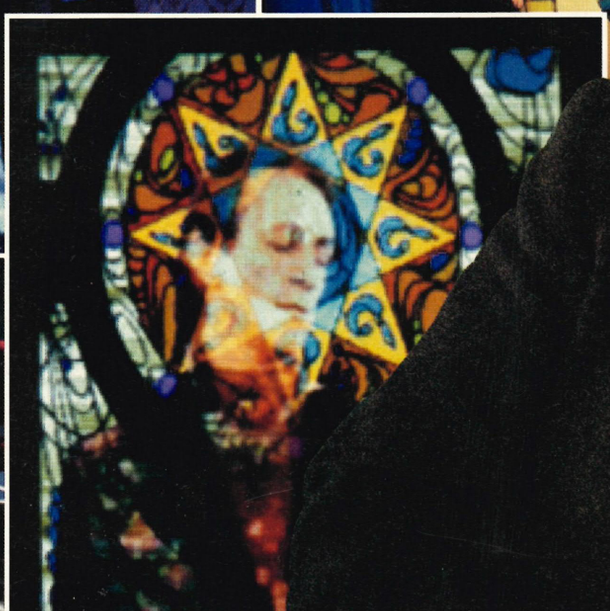


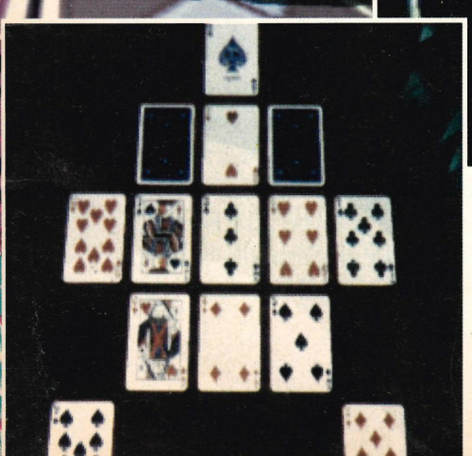

WANTED
PRACTICE
PLAY GAME
EXIT
LEVEL





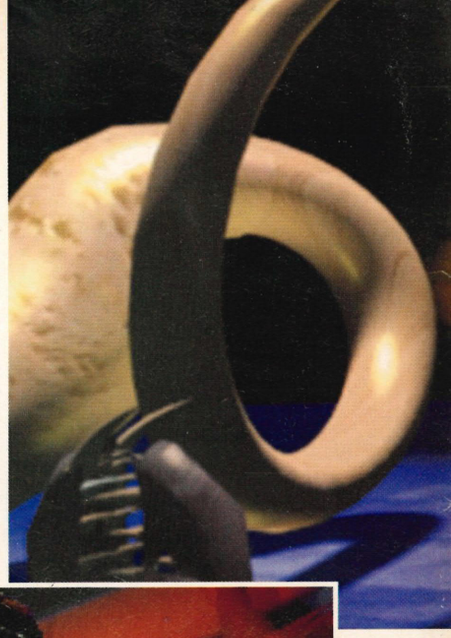


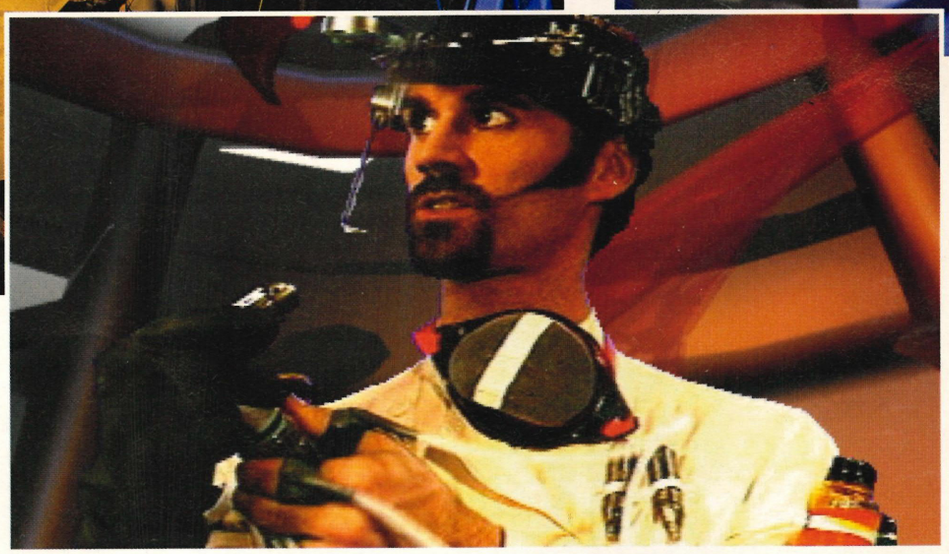






TripMedia at work on its trend-setting CDi game Burn:Cycle





As a result we tried to broaden our mix of CD-i titles by wedding to the classic game publishers."

Okay, but where were they? Many games last year were announced but some arrived late and some didn't arrive at all.

"Producing a title for any dedicated hardware platform requires a ramp-up time and I think that's a little misunderstood, or the time is underestimated. Some of the titles that we've been looking for therefore actually came out later than we thought they would by virtue of these titles being done by third parties without any previous CD-i experience. I know there were some people who were looking for these titles earlier in 1995 and we apologise for that but though they were being distributed by Philips they weren't being made by Philips. Nevertheless, we're pleased to have them and there's been a good steady supply of titles released in the last three months."

Indeed there has and jolly nice it's been too. Action is also being taken regarding the learning curve third parties face when starting to develop or port over for CD-i. A full production support centre has now been established at Redhill which will hopefully also have the knock-on effect of reinvigorating in-house production.

So what can you expect to see? Well, McElhatten expects Virgin's *Creature Shock* and Interplay's *Battlechess* to appear in the pretty near future. As to the latest CD-ROM 3D graphical extravaganza must-have product?

"Well games that are 486 processor dependant are not impossible to do," he says cautiously, "but we have to do them in different ways. Because the cost of CD-i is mass market affordable, we don't have as much technological prowess."

Next year's goodies

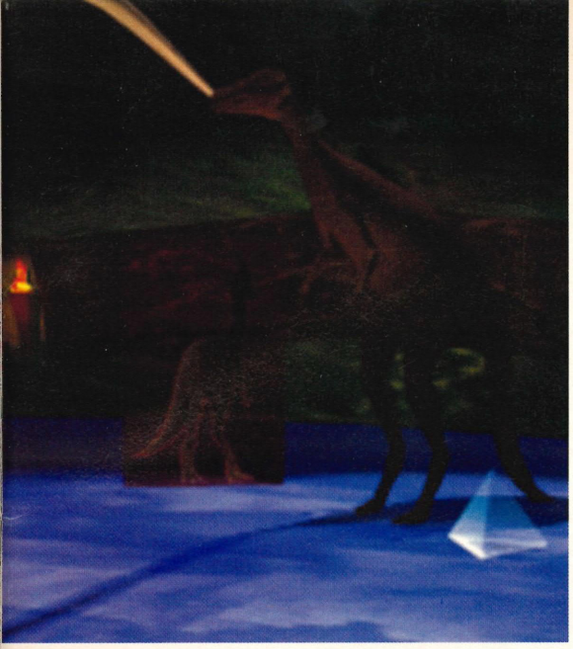
That though in no way shape or form means substandard games. Every heard the expression 'all CPU, no trousers'? No? Well, you read it here first.

In fact, probably one of the issues most agonised over by the entire games industry is that of graphics versus gameplay. It's all jolly well watching realtime, Gourard shaded 3D polygons dance across the screen but if you haven't got a decent game lurking beneath all the window dressing what have you got? A damn expensive screensaver basically.

Though discussions are continuing with various third party developers, McElhatten doesn't have anything concrete to announce at the moment. So what games can we expect to see this year?

"We're obviously very strong in the whole MPEG based areas and we will have a complete catalogue of all the American Laser Game products. We have a sequel to *Voyeur* coming which is a much different kind of a title to the original with quite a bit more gameplay and an equally chilling story with perhaps some even more sinister themes than before.

"*Myst* is coming to CD-i across all languages and we're trying to have what we think will be the best version of *Myst*. That's actually a strategy that we've changed over the years;



we're going after a good licensed product. For a while there we wanted to have strong original product on CD-i and yes, it's still important to have that mix. But there are a lot of people who have missed out on the *Myst* experience and may not have a computer. That's a title that will play very well on CD-i and is very well suited to CD-i.

"We were very successful in the past with our *Space Ace*, *Dragon's Lair* series and we're coming out with another one similar to that - it's not done by Don Bluth but by a company called Readysoft - which has a really catchy name. It's called *Braindead 13* and I think it will be at its best on the CD-i platform. *Braindead 13* is being converted into four languages and should be coming out somewhere in the late second quarter of 1996.

"We also have a little bit of a retro series on the way, if you will. *Pac Panic* was the first one in that retro camp and we have another compilation coming of *Galaxian*, *Galaga* and *Ms Pac Man*. That's being done by our internal CD-i centre at Redhill."

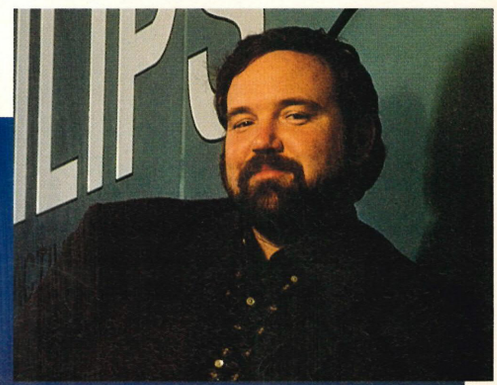
The English language version of *Myst*, probably one of the most original and successful games of recent years, is almost ready and Philips are just waiting for the other languages to be completed before embarking on a pan-European roll-out. The retro stuff harks back to the 'all graphics no content' argument and shows Philips reacting swiftly to a marketplace where you can buy emulation software to turn your two grand's worth of Pentium machine back into a C64. McElhatten hopes that these will be legitimate versions of old games, rather than sometimes less-successful copies.

"It's kind of 'give me that old time religion'. Give me that old time gaming, it was good enough for me," he comments.

It doesn't stop there either. More family-oriented games are in development, there's a derivative of a new pinball title under evaluation, links with CD-Online being investigated and a driving game constructed along similar lines to *Chaos Control* in the pipeline. Also, Philips are hoping to plug one of the major weak spots of their catalogue with more developments in the simulation/management genre.

Can there be anything else, you wonder? Oh yes, there's *Down In The Dumps*. This is a mammoth project, a riot of stop/go animation set against fully rendered backgrounds and developed with the express intention of taking on the mighty Lucas Arts - producers of the wonderful *Sam & Max* and *Day of the Tentacle* amongst about a zillion others - at their own game. It's a point and click adventure basically that McElhatten describes as 'A little bit of *Simpsons* meets *Lost In Space*' and will run over two or three discs. From what we've seen so far, it looks fantastic.

And that, as they say, is that. Okay, so we didn't get to use our torture instruments but there are always other interviews and anyway, 1996 looks like being rather a good year.



ATLANTIS

This will be the first realtime 3D game to appear on CD-i and probably one of the most eagerly awaited titles of 1996. According to McElhatten the results are amazing considering the CD-i architecture and it's certainly causing a buzz in the upper echelons of Philips. But why call it *Atlantis*?

"We've currently codenamed this title Atlantis for the reason that there's an underwater theme to it," he says, simply enough. "But also, and perhaps more importantly, it's almost symbolic of the discovery of something that perhaps was lost deep down in the architecture.

"We're looking for that to come out in the second quarter. It will be a multi-level realtime 3D game and it'll certainly have some characteristics in common with *Doom* and *Doom*-a-likes and that's going square to the gamer who wants that hardcore, reasonably vicious and violent kind of frenzy."

Which, we'd hazard a guess, is rather a lot of you. Apart from the good news that you'll soon be able to blow away things in a mindless rage along with the best of them, the project is shrouded in secrecy. It's rumoured though that the game will feature an additional on-line element for CD-Online subscribers. Also, Philips has no intention of keeping the technique behind all this a secret and will make it available to all interested third parties. Will it though stand up to the competition?

"This is not meant to compete with the 32 or 64 bit platforms," he says. "It's going to have characteristics similar to *Doom* and in certain areas we've got some tricks to try and achieve a high frame rate. There are some tricks that we're doing because it's tricks that are required to get something like that out. Some of the material I've seen is equivalent to some of the things I've seen on a 32X in terms of image quality and speed so it's going to be competitive and certainly a different kind of experience for CD-i consumers."

And once the 3D engine has been developed it can be used over a variety of games, opening up the potential for some really ground breaking titles to appear. As yet there's not even a hint of a screen shot available but we hope to bring you more news in the next couple of months. Keep tuned, keep the faith and get those trigger fingers ready.

KIDS COMPETITION

KIDS!! DO YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A GAMES DEVELOPER? CAN YOU INVENT A BETTER GAME THAN PHILIPS? WELL, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, BUT MAKE THEM GOOD, BECAUSE THE JUDGE OF THIS COMPETITION IS NONE OTHER THAN PHILIPS HEAD OF GAMES, DAVE McELHATTEN



1st PRIZE



THE PRIZES

We have divided this competition into 4 age groups and the winner of each group will win 10 fantastic kids titles on CD-i and a roller controller from Philips. The overall winner will also receive a fantastic Philips colour portable television for their bedroom. The age groups are as follows (please take your age as how old you were on the 1st of January 1996):

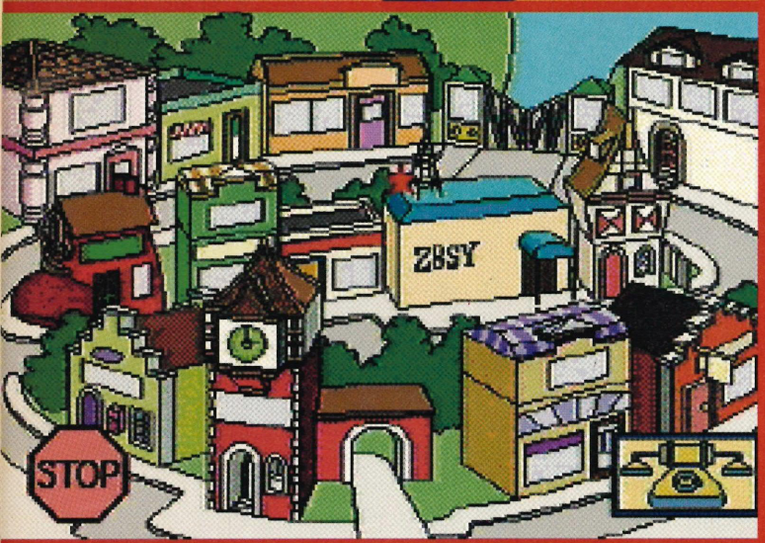
a) Ages 5 and under
b) Ages 6 to 9
c) Ages 10 to 13
d) Ages 14 to 17

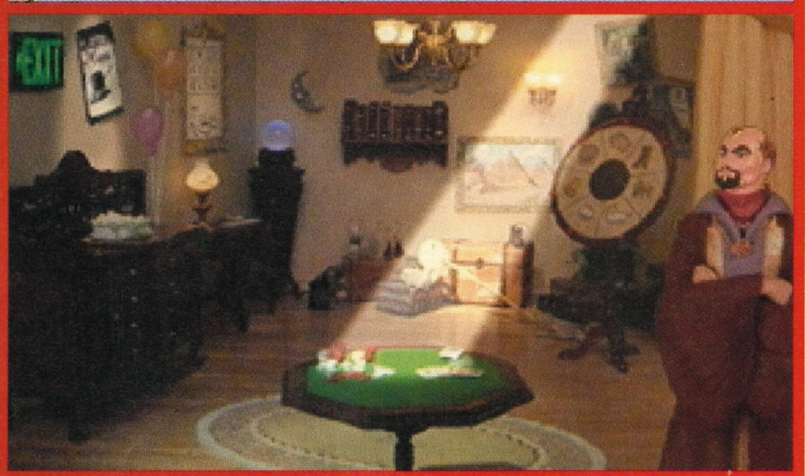
group PRIZE

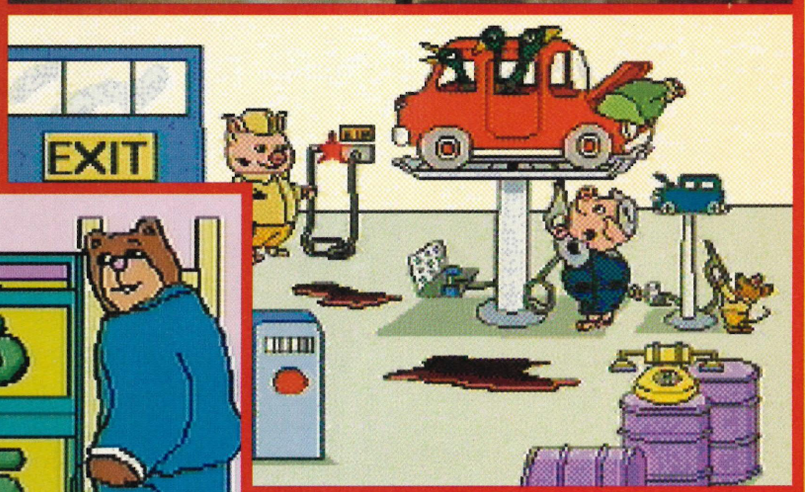














WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

Send us a design of part of your game, give it a name, and enclose a brief summary telling us what the story is about. (For young children, a parent can describe the game, but it must be in the child's own words.)

THE RULES:

You may enter as many times as you like, but remember to put your name, address, postcode, telephone number and date of birth on every entry. The closing date is Monday, 4th March 1996. Send them to: Kids Competition, CDi Magazine, 38 - 42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 OJE. The winner's designs will be shown in the next issue of CDi Magazine. Dave McElhatten's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. The children of employees of Haymarket Publishing and Philips Media are not eligible to enter. Unfortunately, we are unable to return entries.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

☐ *Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further information from Haymarket Publishing, Philips Media or any company associated with them .*


C.DOLMAN
SHOT 2
9I 126 4D5
HOLE 1
PAR 4
97 4D5





Golfers at last have an alternative to Palm Springs Open, thanks to US Gold. CD-i drives off down the verdant digital fairways

WORLD CUP GOLF

Let's be honest, golf is probably the most sedate, least nail-biting sport going. An adrenaline-fest it ain't. Rather, strategy is the key, making it ripe for translation to the video screen. Until now, CD-i golfers have been limited to playing out their David Leadbetter fantasies on the fairways of Palm Springs. But with the arrival of *World Cup Golf*, the choice is now doubled.

It seems mandatory for every sports sim to carry some kind of licence these days, and this is no exception, with the prestigious seal of the official golfing World Cup stamped proudly over its green and pleasant landscapes. Based around the Hyatt Dorado course in Puerto Rico, this is a game of Fred Perrys (sweaters that is, not the former Wimbledon champion) among the palm trees, and the beautifully rendered graphics do their utmost to convey the tropical flavour of the setting, as does the intoxicating steel drum introduction track.

Down on the green, it's obvious that much thought has gone into providing a balance between true simulation and a breezy bit of sporting fun. Features such as stance and spin settings are just a cursor click away, but novices can simply select a club from their chosen 13 and tee off, all in the comfort of an easily-understood swing simulator.

This little gadget does its best to simulate shot strength and accuracy, by letting the golfer choose the power level, then setting a bar that swings across a meter bar and back again. Click once as the bar reaches the centre, then a second time when the bar passes through the same point on the way back. Two accurate clicks result in a drive as straight as an arrow, while fumbled timing makes for some pretty ugly slicing. Compared to the horrendous complexity of some golf control screens it's refreshingly simple, as if you'd wanted to be confronted by acres of



RATINGS

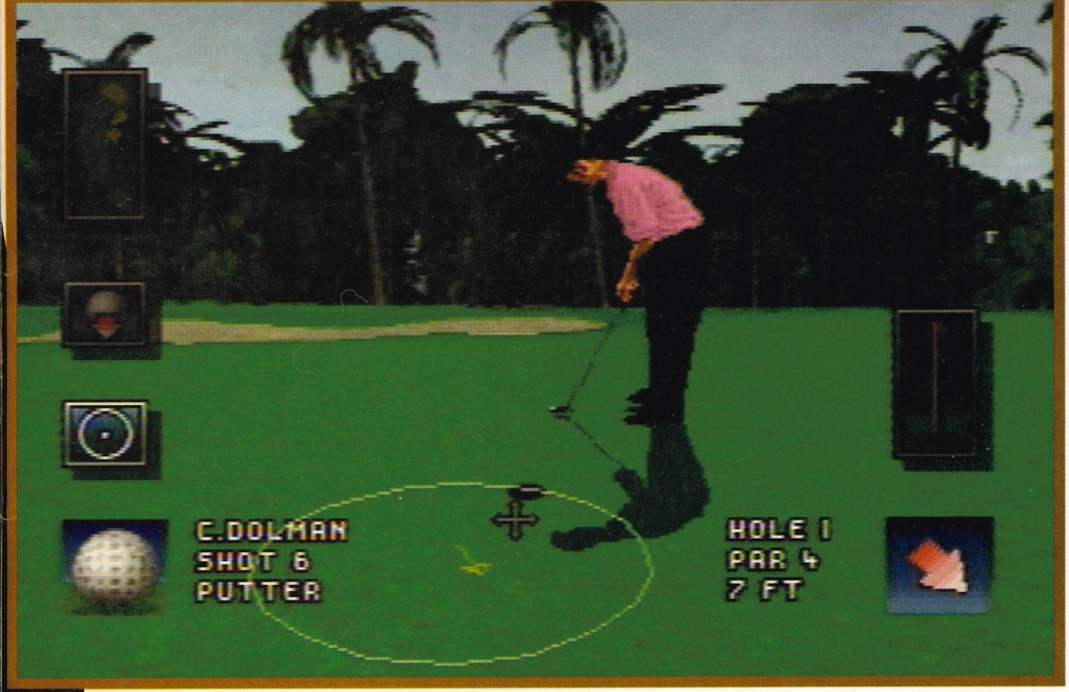
Graphics: 88%

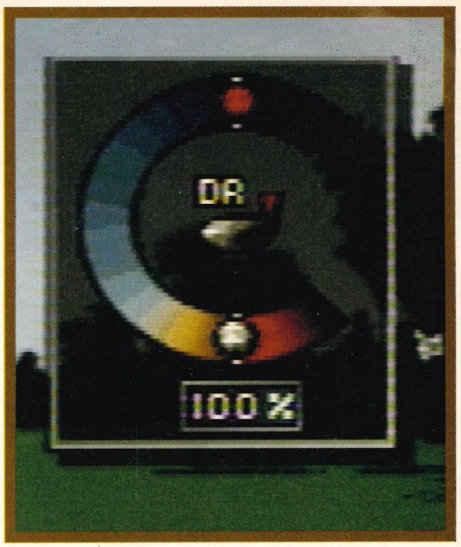
Sound: 80%

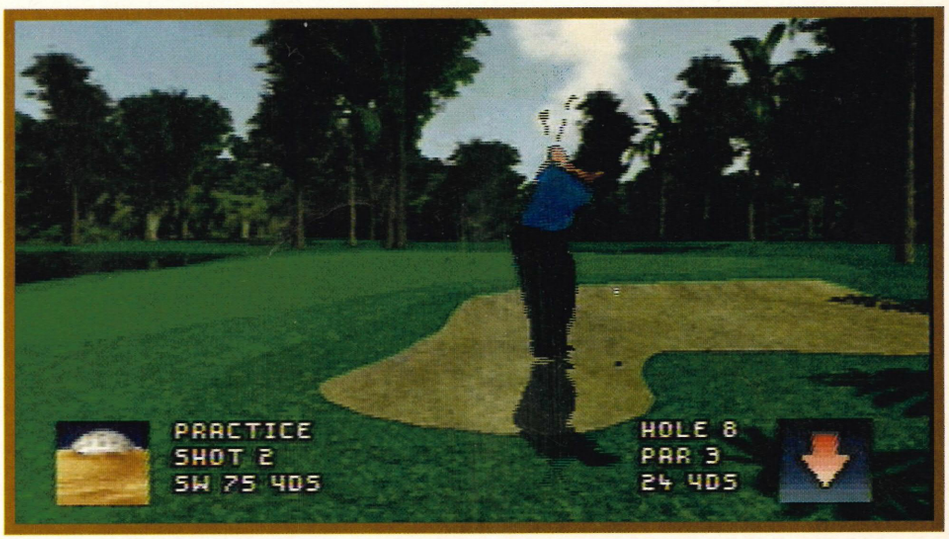
Longevity: 88%

Overall: 87%

Cost: £29.99 Out: Now







screens and menus you'd have probably become an astronaut

Though players are limited to just the one course, the addition of single or multi-player tournaments and extensive training options makes it a very multi-faceted game.

Training is crucial, as without it your competitors are going to eat you for breakfast. To prevent this ignominy a driving range has been provided to help perfect the power and accuracy of that swing. You can also pick any hole amongst the 18 to play through as well as having the option to practise putting and chipping onto the green. This is all rather handy, allowing novices to just bung the disc into the player and get cracking.

Judged purely on presentation, *World Cup Golf* is hard to fault. Spectacular pre-rendered flybys provide the eye candy, while the various information and club selection boxes all work hard to ensure that necessary data and options are within easy reach. For anybody who's played some of the more laborious golf games on the market this is wonderfully easy to use and pretty much intuitive.

Its main selling point though is its graphics and there's absolutely no denying that it does look beautiful but naturally that beauty comes at a price. The possible views available are limited by memory capacity. Your ball might be lying 50 yards away from the flag but the only pre-rendered graphic loaded in the memory is one taken from 70 yards away. It doesn't affect the gameplay as such but it can be annoying when you're playing a shot as a small blob of pixels in the near distance.

Despite that though it's a game with a lot to offer. The sheer ambience created by the music and the graphics and the general challenge offered by mastering the components of the game means a surprising amount of fun can be found down in the digital bunkers, greens and roughs.

There are more than enough aspects of club selection and putting control to keep most players content for some time, producing a nice mix between arcade playability and sports simulation that offers a convincing game for the casual over-par golfer and an entertaining one for everyone else.

The multiplayer option is fantastic, allowing you the chance to gloat outrageously when your best friends start sending balls whizzing into the sandy bunkers. And when it comes down to it, it's hard not to be won over by the eye-soaking beauty of it all.

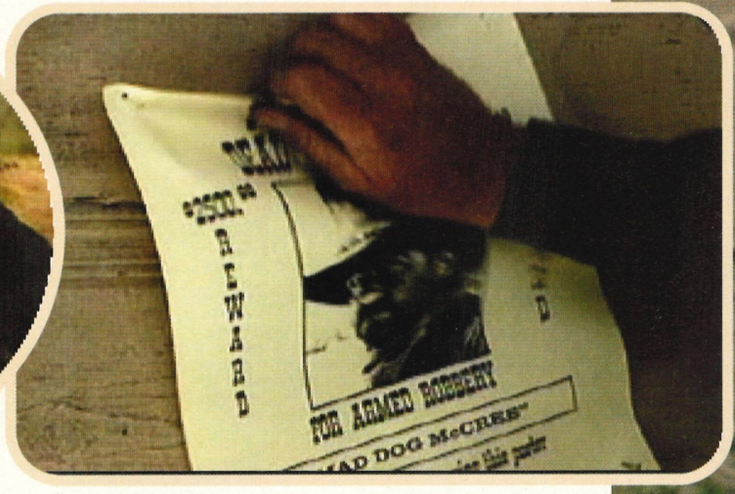
MARK RAMSHAW

Produced by US Gold and Arc Developments









Prepare to get off your horse and drink your milk, Mad Dog's back in town. Cue lots of Wild West clichés and the odd joke knicked shamelessly from "Blazing Saddles"

MAD DOG II: THE LOST GOLD

Mad Dog McCree was one of the most accomplished CD-i titles ever released. Although the gameplay was limited to shooting everything with stubble, the execution was exemplary. From the crisp MPEG video to the near-instant response times to the intuitive and amusing title screen, this was a product oozing with interactive class. So it was with extremely high expectations that I set out to review the follow-up to that classic: Mad Dog II - The Lost Gold.

The plot is simple. That cotton pickin' cattle rustlin', good-for-nothing varmint 'Mad Dog' McCree (we never do find out his first name – my money's on either Nigel or Jeremy) has raided a monastery and nabbed a hoard of Spanish Gold. The monks of the monastery are understandably miffed about this and will give you a big bonus if you get it back. Naturally though mad Dog and his minions might just put up a wee bit of resistance to this.

Luckily, you have an option to pick a guide who will help you find the lost moolah. You can choose from three people: there's a sassy Cowgirl, a mean and moody Native American (you're not allowed to call them 'Indians' any more) and a slightly dotty professor. Each guide will take you along his or her preferred route, where you will encounter different sorts of



situations and bad guys.

Of course the plot is just a device on which to hang the raison d'être of games like this but the introduction of the guides is a welcome move as one of the main criticisms of the original Mad Dog was the linearity of the gameplay. As to that raison d'être it's simple: lots and lots of interactive gunfights where you get a chance to blow away more bad guys than Clint Eastwood, Charlie Bronson and Jean-Claude Van Damme combined.

The actual gameplay is much the same as the first Mad Dog. In other words it's great fun to play if you've got the Peacekeeper revolver, incredibly tiresome if you have to use a standard CD-i controller or remote control. Once again you have video footage that looks like a b-movie (if this was a Spaghetti Western it would be Safeway's own brand, not Heinz) and once again Mad Dog's men jump out of barrels, pop up in windows and burst through doors in a desperate bid to re-locate your lead-filled hide to

RATINGS

Graphics: 88%

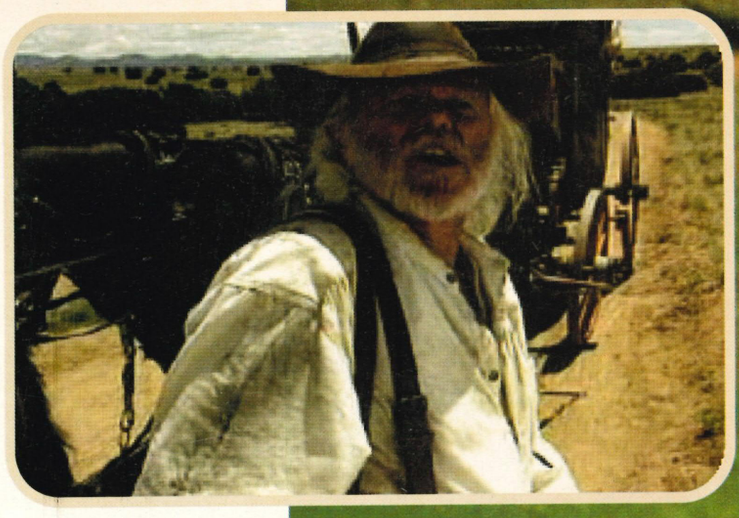
Sound: 90%

Longevity: 79%

Overall: 83%

Cost: £29.99 Out: 15/3





Boot Hill. Shoot them before they shoot you and you make it to the next set-piece shoot-out, another step closer to the final confrontation with Mad Dog and his loot. Hesitate or miss and you'll be pushing up cacti.

The Save Game facility has been vastly improved over the original. You can now save your position in the game at any time – even half way through a gunfight. This has the obvious benefit of stopping you sitting through the same piece of looped video footage umpteen times because you keep getting killed by the last gunfighter in a particular scene. It does open up the possibility of cheating and completing the game a lot quicker if you're into that sort of thing but we recommend playing it all the way through.





The main niggle with MDM II is the way the bottom of video window is blighted by three oversized panels which show the number of lives left, your remaining bullets and a button which takes you back to the opening menu screen. This can lead to the most uncool situation of suddenly finding yourself inadvertently leaving a gunfight because you've shot the main menu button by mistake. One moment you're up to your neck in Wild West lowlife, next moment you've got a menu screen in front of you. It's a trifle disconcerting to say the least and the game would have been improved by the design of a slightly less cluttered interface.

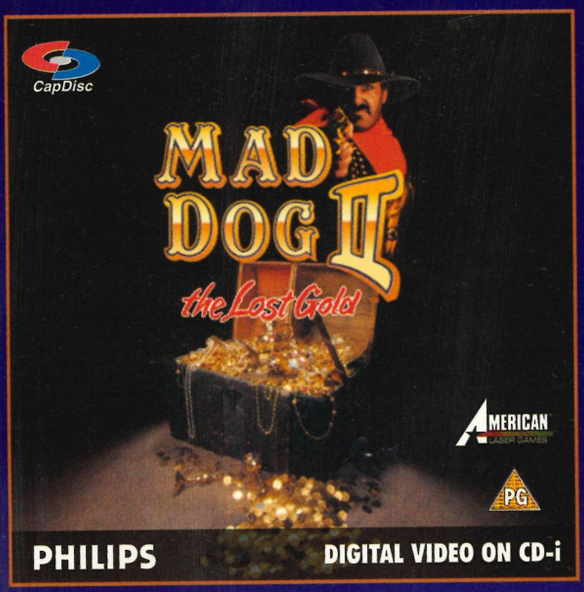
If you're new to this sort of game, Mad Dog II is an excellent introduction while if you've played Mad Dog I to death and are looking for more fodder for your Peacekeeper revolver, it does a rather fine job. Now all you have to complete the virtual western experience is don your poncho, chew on a cheroot and scream "aiee-aiee-ayyyyyyy-wha-WHA-wharrr" in a high-pitched voice...

PATRICK BATEMAN

Produced by CapDisc



KICK THE DOG



CAN BE USED WITH THE PEACEKEEPER REVOLVER £49.99



£29.99

MAD DOG II™

PG

email: iwantone@ppi.philips.co.uk

available 15TH MARCH







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PHILIPS



SLEEPING WITH THE ANIME

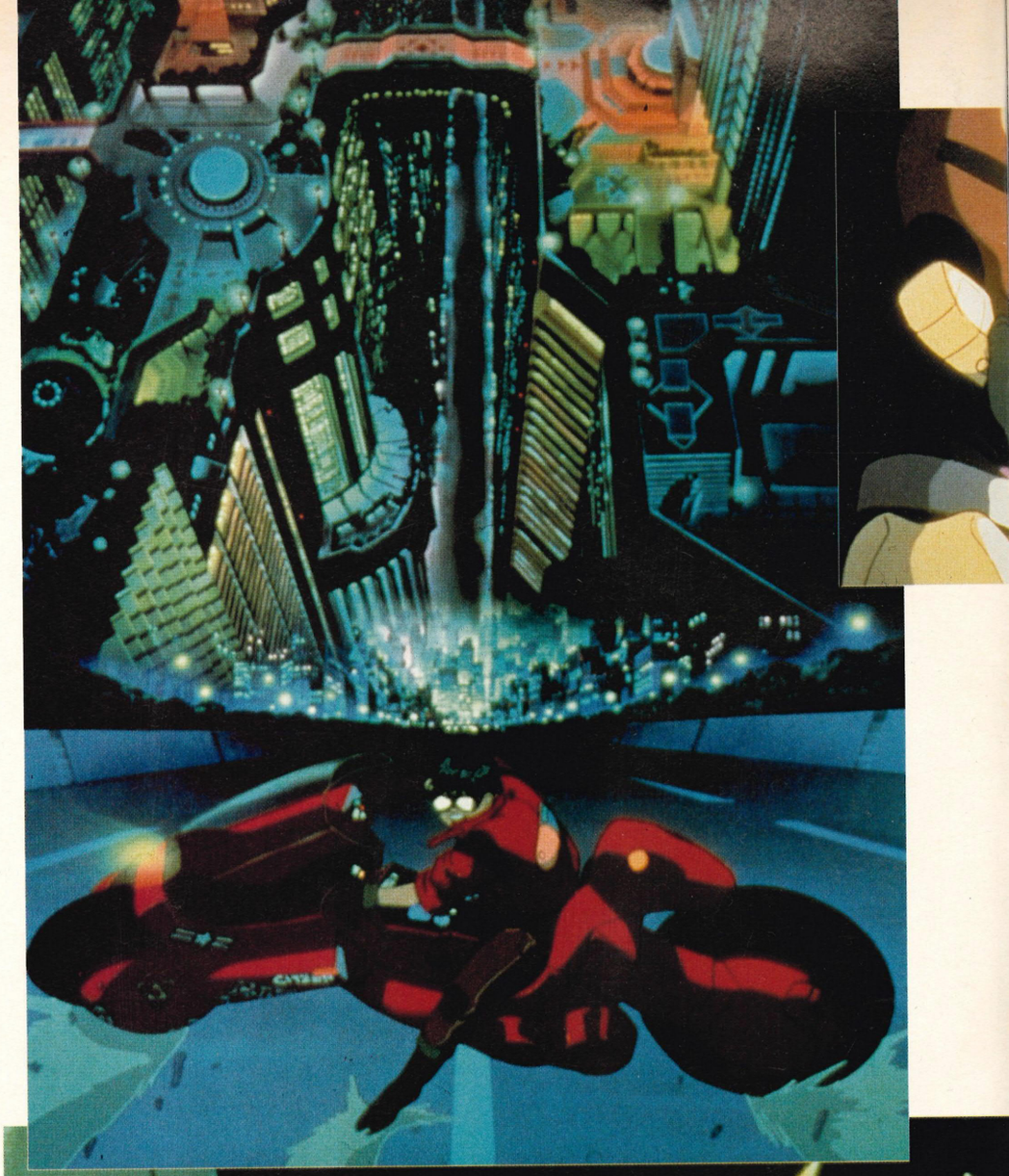
Controversial, violent and sexual, Japanese manga is a world where erotica, demons and loud music go hand in grubby hand. With 20 titles planned for release this year on Video CD, we present a quick tour of the world of anime

We've all seen cartoons, correct? Force-fed a diet of Saturday morning rubbish since the day we could say 'TV', but what if things were different. What if, instead of Wille Coyote hitting the ground in a puff of smoke and staggering off, he was ripped in half with his intestines flapping in the wind? Not pleasant, but then some of the Japanese cartoons called anime (which simply translates to animation) aren't that pleasant either.

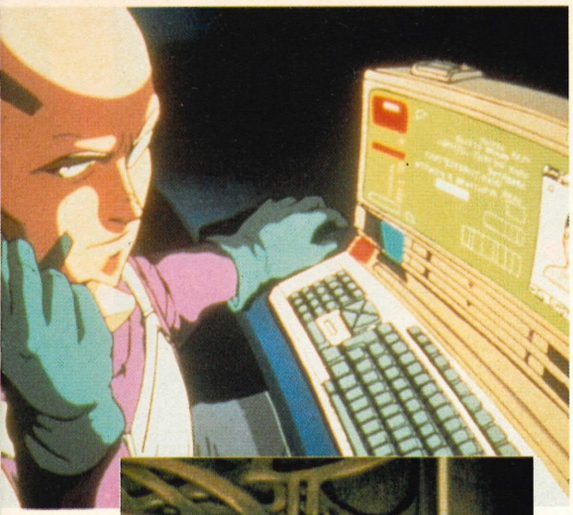
Anime (pronounced annie-may) is certainly nothing new. The Japanese have been quietly giving us cartoons since as early as 1918. The main bulk of it has been released over the past 20 years though it seems to mainly involve large robotic/humanoid creations, young women with suspiciously large eyes, sex, schoolgirls, demons, violence and suspect translation. In other words, anime manages to reflect the culture and preoccupations of modern day Japan pretty well, with more than a passing nod to Western culture, a bizarre obsession with young girls and the whole thing usually being set in the frantic neon mind explosion that is Tokyo. Simply put, it's more exciting, vibrant, graphic and adult-oriented than anything that's been seen before.

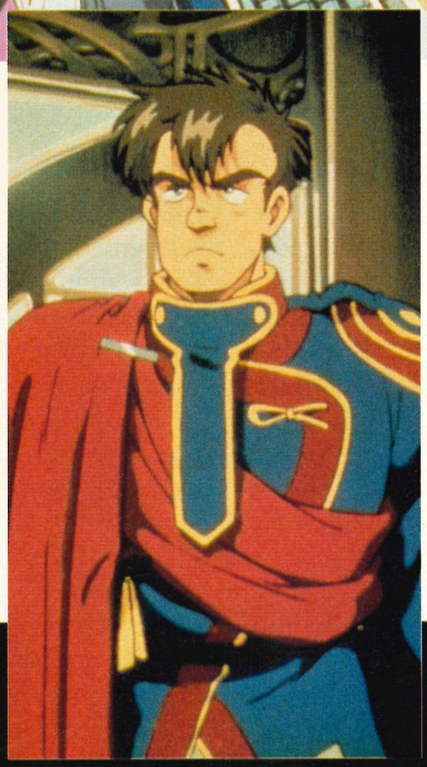
Literally translated manga means 'irresponsible pictures', but has recently mutated into the generic term 'comic', and it's also the name of the label that, since 1991, has pumped more anime into this country than any other. Some may say that Manga video has peaked in the UK, and that's probably true; the craze has died down, but there's still thousands of fanatical fans ready to slaver over the latest releases.

Helen McCarthy, editor of *Anime FX* magazine, gives the reasons for its popularity as: "Anime has been popular in the UK for the same reasons it's been popular in Europe, the USA and Asia. It has a very fresh, dynamic approach, covers a wide range of styles and subjects, and is









THE IMPORTANT RELEASES

For any medium to become successful, it needs a showcase, something to show it off in its best light. For anime, there are a few ground-breaking titles:

Lensman

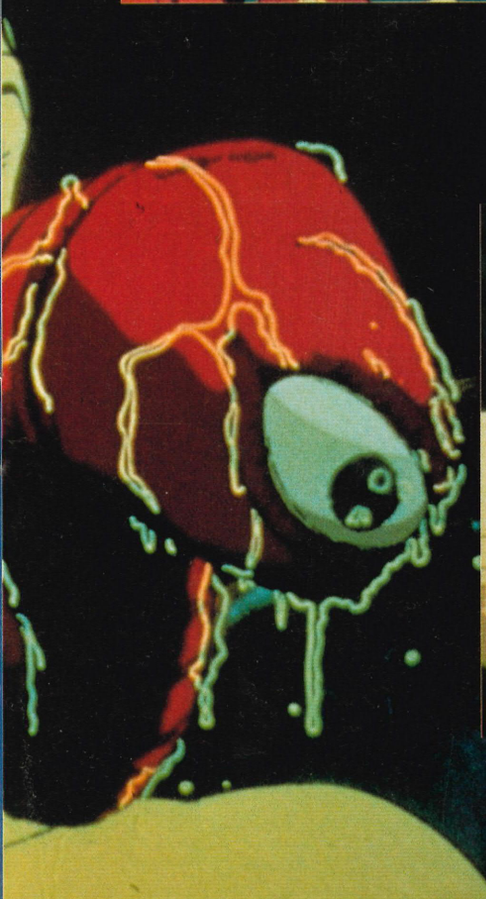
This film is loosely based on *Galactic Patrol*, the third of E.E Smith's *Lensman* SF novels. The original series was a huge influence on George Lucas when he came to write *Star Wars*, and the video release of Lensman not only takes the essence of the original book, but also returns the complement by including elements from the *Star Wars* story.
Lensman was also interesting for another reason though, being one of the first cartoons to mix hand-drawn artwork with computer animation. Sequences were composed on a CRAY-1 computer and mixed with traditional animation cells to stunning effect.

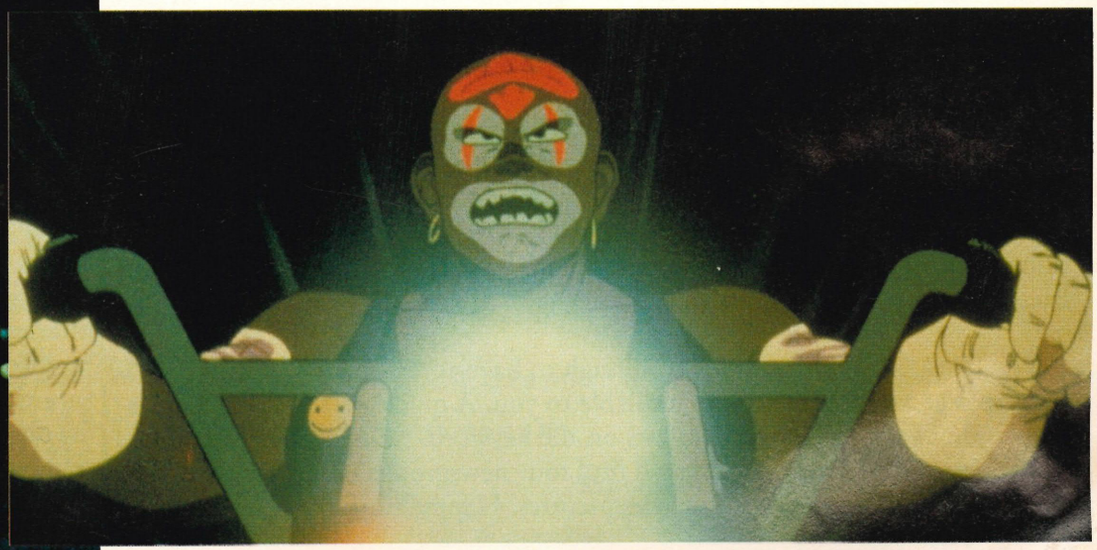
Akira

Released in 1987 in Japan and then in 1991 in the UK, *Akira* managed more than any other anime to bring Japanese cartoons to the European masses. Most notable for its fast-paced bike chases, dramatic ending and curious dream sequences with enormous teddy bears, *Akira* turned the anime industry from minor interest into a big business market in Europe. After *Akira* every Manga release (at the rate of two a month) made it into the top 10 in the video sales charts and anime had suddenly arrived, almost overnight, as part of mainstream culture.

Urotsukidoji: Legend of The Overfiend

When *Legend of The Overfiend* was released in Europe in 1992, nobody was quite ready for what they experienced. Violent scenes of murder, rape and mutilation, mixed with a dark and brooding storyline made for interesting tabloid headlines and mass interest in the 'alternative' side of anime. The storyline contains all the elements of a classic horror film; three worlds on one planet - human, demon and man-beast - and the resultant chaos produced when the three are merged. All in all *Legend of The Overfiend* managed to perfectly showcase the extremes of anime and nothing similar has been released in this country since the *Urotsukidoji* series finished. Disturbing in the extreme.





just different enough from the entertainment normally produced at home to have that crazy edge to it. And don't overlook the vital importance of the success of games consoles; anime has benefited from the general view that Japanese games are the best, and from the many game crossovers which have made some characters, like those from *Dragonball/DBZ*, familiar names without even a sniff of the anime itself in Britain outside the fan circuit."

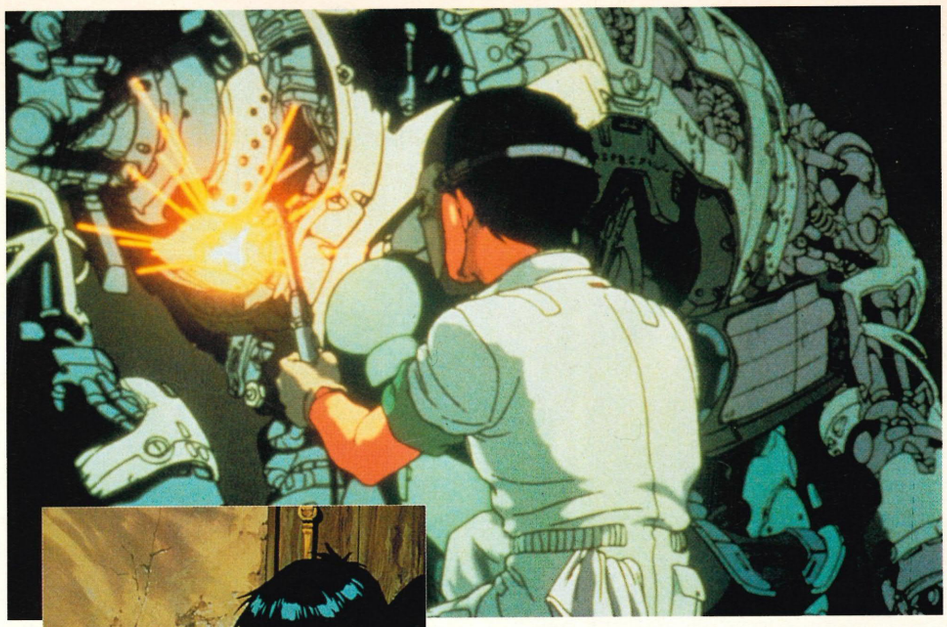
CD Vision is planning to release 20 Manga titles over the next 12 months, at the rate of four every two months. The first four titles to appear are a pretty representative cross-section of the standard of anime that you can expect. The first two, *Appleseed* and *Ninja Scroll* are fair at the very best, but the superb *Akira* (reviewed elsewhere) and *Street Fighter 2 - The Animated Movie* are among the best you'll find. You do have to be careful with what you buy though, as they're a mixed bunch at the best of times.

But what about the violence? The tabloids were quick enough to point out the sexual and brutal overtones of some of the titles, so should you be warned about their content? Are they too explicit? Helen McCarthy says, "It depends on what you mean by 'too explicit'. For whom? And why? Is there some absolute moral line that no one must ever cross in depicting sex and violence in the visual arts? Or is it just that all cartoons are always for kids and so must never involve such stuff?"

McCarthy goes on to make a principled stand against any form of adult censorship which is either fair comment or Satan speaking depending on your point of view. Whatever the rights and wrongs though, all Manga is referred to the British Board of Film Classification where it typically receives a 15 certificate (apart from the infamous *Legend of the Overfiend* which had an 18 slapped on it rather fast).

Not since Walt Disney has one style of animation caused so much interest or controversy. Anime is definitely here to stay, and seeing as it's finally out on Video CD, it might be wise to check it out. For the interested, Channel Four are showing one anime show a week on Saturday nights and this'll give you a flavour of what to expect. Just don't expect *Bambi.*

DEAN MORTLOCK





WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If all this has fuelled your interest, you'll be pleased to know that there's plenty of places you can go for more information

CD Vision - (0171) 391 4300 - It's releasing all the Video CDs and should be able to give you more information on release dates and titles.

Manga UK - (0181) 748 9000 - The big folk. For any splurge on the Manga video range, plus news on the excellent forthcoming title, *Ghost in The Shell* (currently enjoying a limited cinema release), contact these people.

Anime FX Magazine - (0171) 637 2587 - The best of the three British anime magazines, and written by one of the most knowledgeable people in the country, Helen McCarthy. The mag covers everything from English and American releases, to hard-to-find tapes and the latest news and reviews from Japan.

Internet - If you're lucky enough to have access, there's literally hundreds of anime-related sites available to you. A quick visit to a search engine should produce over 300 hits on the keyword 'Manga' alone. Also, if you have full Usenet access, you'll find four newsgroups under rec.arts and a further three under alt.binaries.pictures. Happy hunting.

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VIDEOcd

Discover Dinosaurs, investigate insects and suss out skeletons with the latest releases in the excellent Eyewitness series

Eyewitness: Dinosaurs

DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
PRICE: £9.99
RUNTIME: 35 MIN
TEXT: ANDY CLOUGH

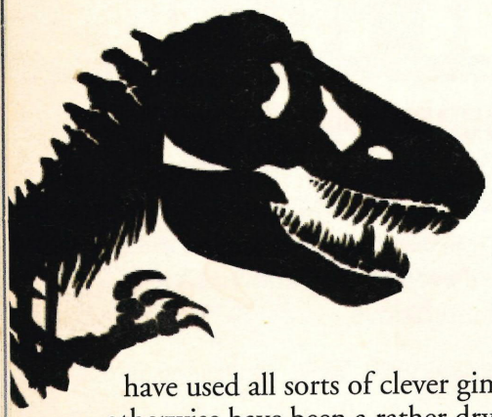
RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: VERY GOOD



Man has been fascinated by the dinosaur ever since the first fossils were discovered about 200 years ago. It is hard to imagine that these huge, lumbering creatures once inhabited the earth. But now the art of computer graphics has brought them back to life on our TV screens and in the cinema.

Dinomania reached its peak with the release of Steven Spielberg's blockbuster film "Jurassic Park". State-of-the-art animation allowed us to believe the dinosaurs in the film were real.

For those who want a more scientific study of the dinosaur, this Video CD release from the highly acclaimed Eyewitness series provides some — though by no means all — of the answers. Did you know, for instance, that a Tyrannosaurus Rex would eat seven tons of food (the equivalent of eight cows) every week? Or that the heaviest dinosaur weighed a massive 77 tons, the equivalent of two Boeing 737s? And apparently there was so much bacteria in a T. Rex's mouth that one bite would be enough to kill its prey.



Palaeontology (the study of fossils) has helped man build up a picture of what dinosaurs looked like, how they moved and when they existed. That picture is by no means complete, but this 30-minute programme tries to give an overview of how much we already know. Inevitably, 30 minutes is not enough, but as an appetiser it's a good start. The programme makers have used all sorts of clever gimmicks to liven up what might otherwise have been a rather dry subject. So there are 3D computer-generated models, a friendly plasticine dino called *Legs*, mechanical diggers filmed at night on an army shooting range to compare the mechanics of machinery with the bio-mechanics of dinosaurs, and even a "race" between man and some model dinos.

It makes for more exciting TV, but I found the constant overlaying of images irritating and was surprised there were no interviews with human dinosaur experts. For information, you have to rely on what the narrator tells you. Like so many titles in the Eyewitness series, the subject matter is ripe for conversion to a more interactive format. A proper CD-i disc on dinosaurs — now there's a good idea!

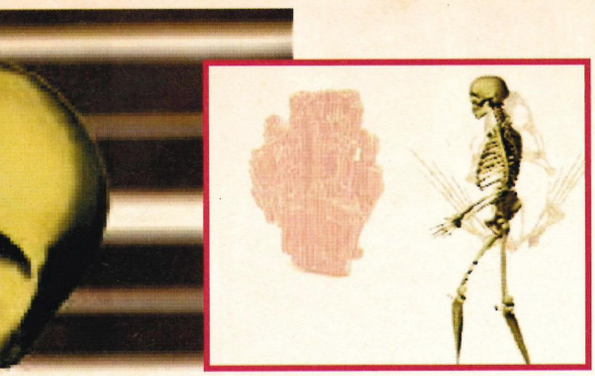


Eyewitness: Skeleton

DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
PRICE: £9.99
RUNTIME: 35 MIN
TEXT: ANDY CLOUGH

RATING: 4/5
ENCODING: VERY GOOD

There is something rather disturbing about watching an animated human skeleton. Much of it has to do with fear: the skull has long been a symbol of death — just think of a pirate's skull and crossbones flag, or images of the grim reaper. In fact, our skeleton is an immensely sophisticated and complex control system: it allows us to move, feed and procreate. Without it, there would be nothing to support our skin and protect our vital organs. It has even been said that you can read a person's character by looking at the shape and size of their skull, hence the phrase: "You need your head examining". The opening sequence of this Eyewitness programme is superb. A human model sits in a pastoral scene taken from a Victorian illustration, but as the camera moves slowly around her, the image changes almost imperceptibly to become that of a skull. It took 12 hours to create just that one scene, but the effect is mesmerising. The viewer is then introduced to a computer-generated skeleton called Smedley, who acts as the star of the show. He even has his own room to explore. Smedley can run, jump, dance and walk. It's





weird seeing a skeleton move so fluidly, without its outer skin or inner organs. But as a graphic illustration of what the skeleton does, it is superb.
Of course, it is not only humans who have skeletons: so do birds, animals and fish. The programme looks at how their skeletons have developed too, and there is plenty of excellent film footage to complement the high quality graphics.
One memorable scene shows a crab shedding its old shell and lying under its mate for protection until the new shell hardens.
Skeleton does not rely on any unnecessary gimmicks to get its message across.
High quality film footage, state-of-the-art graphics and an informative narrative are quite sufficient.

Eyewitness: Insects

DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
PRICE: £9.99
RUNTIME: 35 MIN
TEXT: ANDY CLOUGH

RATING: 4/5
ENCODING: VERY GOOD



Think about insects and you probably think of horrible creepy crawlies or disease-ridden pests. Insects are not generally considered man's best friend. But without them, plants would not be pollinated and would bear no fruit, so they have their uses.
The first insects appeared on earth one million years before dinosaurs, so they've been around for a long time. There are 200 million of them for every one of us, so it's no wonder they get everywhere. They inhabit land, water and the air and are responsible for destroying 10 to 15 per cent of the world's food supply each year. All of them have six legs, most have wings and they are also invertebrates, which means they have no internal skeleton, only a hard exoskeleton.
These are just some of the fascinating insights you will get if you watch this Video CD. The quality of the film footage is breathtaking — whether watching caterpillars munching through leaves or termites running their own colony. The transfer to Video CD is near perfect, with little evidence of picture blocking.
As ever with this series, there are some clever graphic devices to complement the film work. The best in this case is a VW Beetle car which morphs into a rhino beetle. The whole effect lasts a mere four seconds on film, but took three days to construct on computer!
If creepy crawlies are your thing, then this disc is well worth a look.





VIDEOcd

From the sublime to the ridiculous this month with the wonderful Akira, the silly Guyver and the terrible Appleseed

Akira

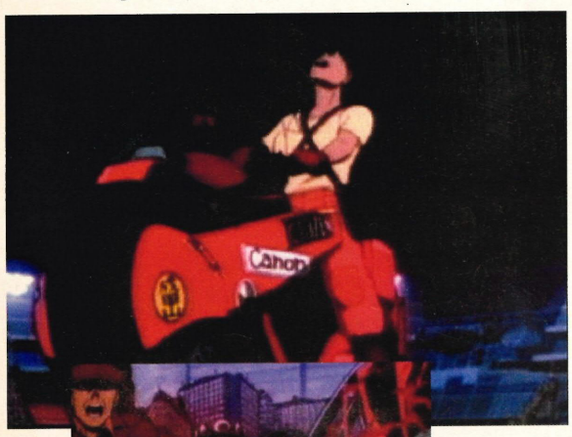
DIRECTOR: MAMORU OSHII/KATSUSHIRO OTOMO
STARRING: ERM, IT'S A CARTOON
CERT: 15
DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
RUNTIME: 124 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: ANDY STOUT

RATING: 4/5
ENCODING: EXCELLENT

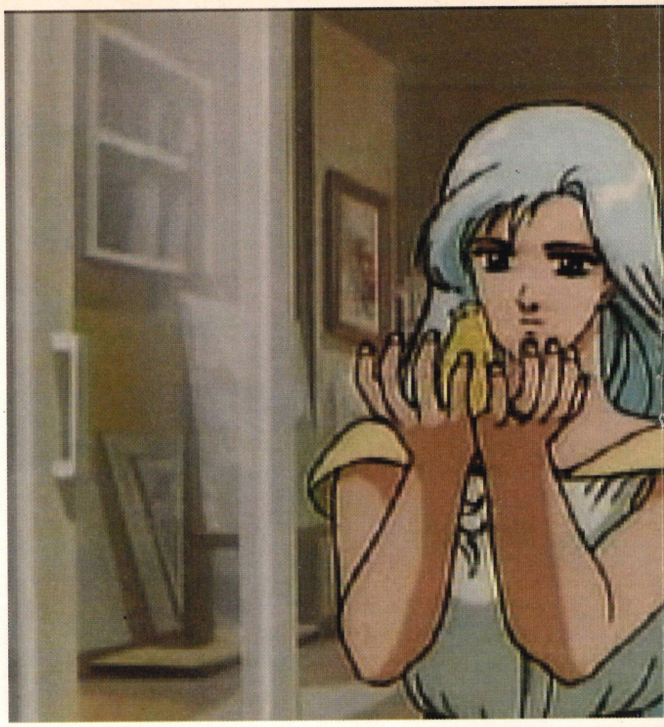


When the first copies of *Akira* arrived in UK cinemas in 1988, they caused a mild amount of consternation to say the least. Up till then mainstream cinema animation had been thought the domain of kids; syrupy schmaltz containing a couple of hummable tunes and a hackneyed moral at the end. Okay, so some films had broken the mould (Raymond Brigg's *When The Wind Blows* springs to mind, as does the rather patchy *Heavy Metal*) but in general it was talking animals, high-pitched voices, no sex and toon violence.

Akira though was different; violent, nihilistic in many respects, streetwise and peddling a very bleak view of the future. The animation was incredible, the imagery ranged from the stunning out to the totally surreal, the music was broodingly atmospheric and the whole thing meshed together in a glorification of cyberpunk, a concept that was just starting to creep across to mainstream culture. This was Tokyo in the 21st Century and it didn't seem to be a particularly happy place to live. As far as the plot went, it was on a different planet. Most people could follow the opening and spectacular bike-chase sequence but from there on in it fell into the realms of the quasi-mystical, becoming steadily more disjointed and hard to follow as the thing went on. We're talking bike gangs, mass destruction, telepathic powers and small blue people here, along with an ending of orgiastic visuals not seen since Kubrick couldn't work out how to finish *2001* properly.



Ten people see it, ten people have differering ideas about what exactly occurs but that doesn't really matter. It looks gorgeous, it sounds wonderful and it's still, eight years on, easily the most significant film of the manga genre.



Appleseed

DIRECTOR: KAZUYOSHI KATAYAMA
CERT: 15
DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
RUNTIME: 68 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: MARK RAMSHAW

RATING: 1/5
ENCODING: GOOD

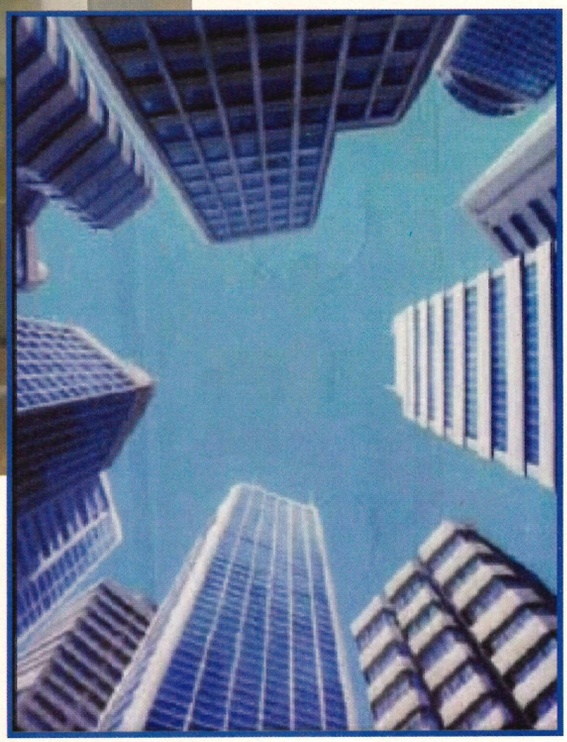
Token bad language, oversized war robots, a future world where Something Is Wrong - Appleseed is anime by numbers, lacking anything like the flair which made trendsetter Akira such a hit in the first place. A shame, because hidden behind the below-par animation, two second stabs at character development, and dialogue-by-computer Appleseed actually makes a vague stab at some kind of social comment.

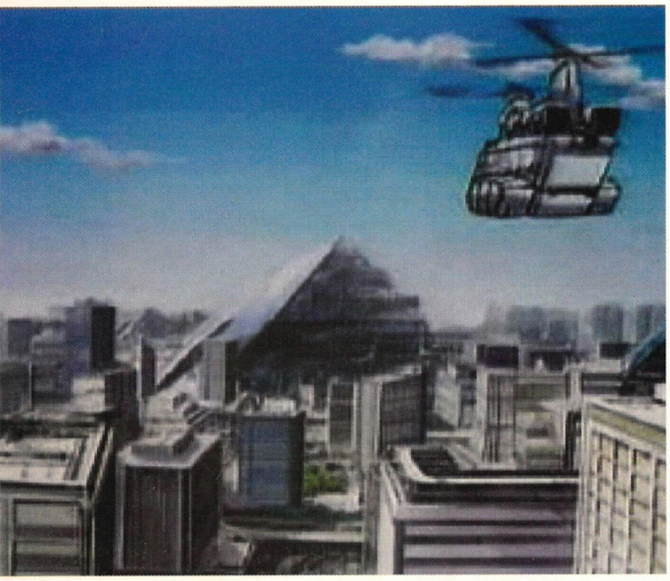
Our two heroes - typical cute but hard manga babe Dunan and half-cyborg bloke Buliarios are part a SWAT team, fighting to preserve order in the post WW3 city of Olympus, a place run and ruled by the computer Gaia and perfectly engineered biodroids. Not only are they up against typical villain of the piece, Sebastian, however, but the balance of the city is also threatened by a traitorous cop, whose wife committed suicide because of the society's lack of freedom.

Sadly, the question of whether our two trigger-happy SWATs are on the right side is never explored, the story casting aside such moments of intelligence to deliver the sort of routine plot twists and setpieces even Battle Of









Street Fighter II The Animated Movie



Director: Gisaburo Sugii
Cert: 15
Distributor: CD Vision
Runtime: 100 mins
Price: £17.99
Text: Mark Ramshaw

Rating: 4/5
Encoding: Good

In the world of the arcade beat-'em-up, *Street Fighter II* is fast becoming yesterday's news. But in this cartoon movie incarnation, the struggles of the world's most over-muscled street fighters provides one of the most enjoyable slices of anime in ages. It's also perfectly targeted at fans of the coin-op - requiring an interest in outlandish martial arts fighting rather than the possession of anything so complex as a brain.

The plot, such that it is, has arch villain Bison recruiting and mind-controlling the likes of Vega and Brit-girl Cammy, in an attempt to - you guessed it - take over the world. His plan hits something of a brick wall in the shape of Ryu, possibly the hardest street fighter of them all, but rather inconveniently nigh-on impossible to track down.

Enter old sparring partner, Ken, the grunge-loving, Seattle based street fighter. Bison whisks him away from his beloved Porsche and Alice In Chains albums, and puts him through gruelling mind-control sessions, turning him against poor old Ryu.

It's not really what happens in *Street Fighter II* that matters, however, rather it's the way it's done and the fact that the events usually lead to a face-off between two or more of the famous man-mountains.

Animation quality is pretty high throughout, with some particularly neat scenery work depicting the Far Eastern locations. The voice acting is slightly less impressive, with characters from every country all acting and sounding like bloody Americans. But all is forgiven when the movie slips into fighting gear, as kicks, punches and impossible leaps are thrown together with such aplomb you'd almost believe this kind of stuff was possible.



Sure the entire story could be scribbled down on the back of a matchbox. In thick crayon. But with a *Street Fighter II* spin-off that's hardly the point. It's fast, furious, occasionally funny, and it kicks the pantomime live actor *SFII* movie right where it hurts.



The Planets *wouldn't have dared use. And while the box blurb casts the pair as some sort of future-world answer to the* Lethal Weapon *buddy pairing, they're about as fleshed out as the rest of the* Appleseed *cast - i.e. not at all. Even the larger than life weapons and mechanised war suits do little to relieve the tedium.*

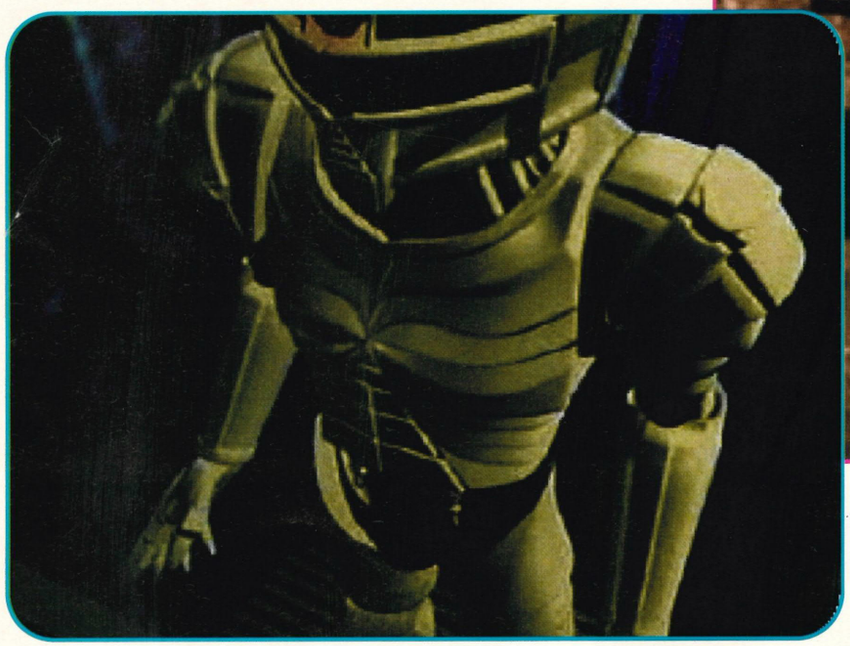
If it's a choice between knawing off your own foot or watching* Appleseed, *leave that ligament alone. But you ought to think long and hard before parting money for such generic, recycled trash.

APEX

DIRECTOR: PHILLIP J ROTH
STARRING: RICHARD KEATS, MITCHELL COX, LISA ANN RUSSELL
CERT: 15
DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
RUNTIME: 98 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: MARK RAMSHAW

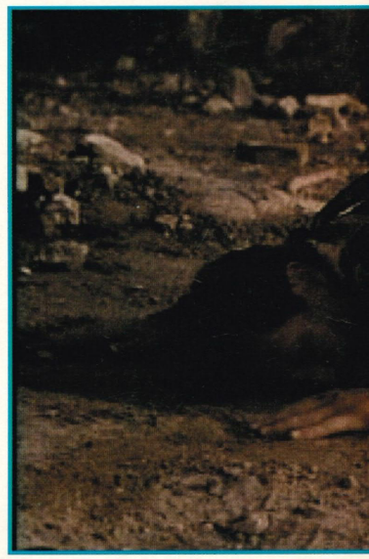
RATING: 2/5
ENCODING: GOOD





The only thing more frustrating than a brain-numbingly bad movie is one with the germ of a good idea, but cursed with weak scripting, average FX, and a complete lack of pace. Welcome to APEX, the latest attempt to tack a few words together to justify a half-arsed acronym. Hence, APEX relates to Advanced Prototype Exploration Units - droids sent back 100 years from an experimental lab near Los Angeles circa 2073, where our rather subdued - i.e. dull - hero Nicholas Sinclair is working to the iron out time travel problems - not only potential paradoxes, but also some mysterious virus which affects any living tissue sent through time. Naturally something goes wrong, Sinclair is thrown back in time along with a droid, while simultaneously the time travel computer system sends an armed droid back to wipe out anything which could change history and lead to a time paradox. Sinclair manages to jump back to the future, but finds everything has changed. He's now a soldier and the population has all but been crushed - by the mysterious virus, and from a never ending army of droids sent from the lab in Sinclair's original reality in an attempt to correct the anomaly. Can Sinclair restore the original reality? Do we care? It's hugely promising stuff in a 2000AD/Terminator sort of way, but anything promising has been buried under the poor characterisation, a complete lack of logic in the treatment of time paradoxes, and a script so incoherent that a rather grating explanatory voiceover has been added as an afterthought. Worse still, the action is almost as leaden as the acting, and anything remotely explosive always takes place in the desert or by abandoned buildings - always a sure sign of zero budget.

APEX holds the attention, but then so does daytime TV, and just











look at how stimulating that can be. It's hard not to weep at the waste of a good concept, not to mention the misuse of movie manpower.

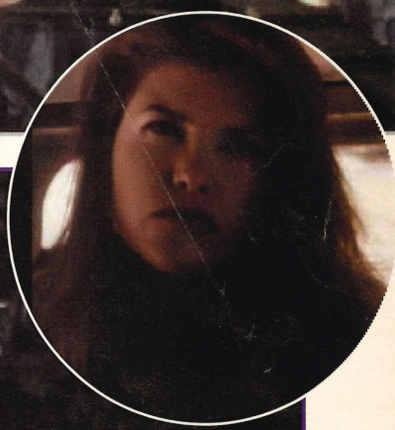


The Guyver: Dark Hero

DIRECTOR: STEVE WANG
STARRING: DAVID HAYTER, KATHY CHRISTOPHERSON, CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL
CERT: 15
DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
RUNTIME: 98 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: JASON ALESI

RATING: 2/5
ENCODING: GOOD











B-movies are pretty variable creatures. In fact some movies slip so far down the alphabet that you end up with previously unheard of letters like K-movies and L-movies; films with about as much chance of achieving an actual cinema release as the Royal Family have of having a happy marriage amongst the lot of them. Can you hear that strange choking noise in the background? Well, that's Barry Norman trying to top himself by eating his own cardigan.

Some of these wastes of good celluloid however manage to be entertaining in an unwitting sort of way. Okay, so they're not the sort of thing to sit down and analyse too deeply but with the judicious application of several pints of beer and a curry they transform into something enjoyably naff.

Such a film is *The Guyver: Dark Hero*. For those of you who may have missed the 1991 original, the Guyver itself is actually a 'mysterious mecha of alien design' which interfaces with human subjects when activated. In the blurb it says that this then 'transforms them into powerful combatant' which is cobblers. What it actually does is turn them into a Power Ranger with a fin on their head.

The plot you don't want to know about (really, trust me). What you do want to know abut though is awful acting, SFX straight from *Blue Peter* and chaps wrestling in monster suits. It's an awe-inspiring epic and must have cost, oooh, *tens* to make. Our test audience loved it, but then it was one in the morning and it had been a good night. Offering to show it again to them sober they made excuses and left rather sharpish. It's that sort of film.

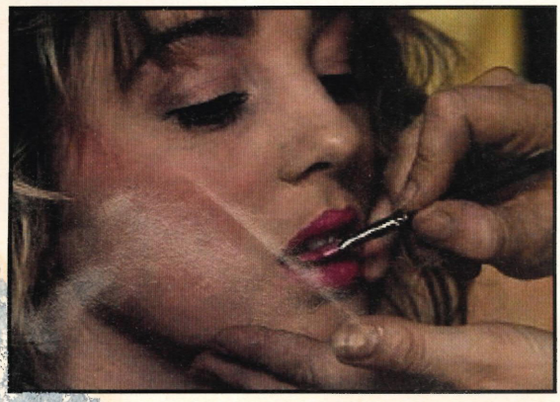
Members Only 6

DISTRIBUTOR: CD-VISION
CERT: 18
RUNTIME: 60 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: PATRICK BATEMAN

RAUNCH RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: AVERAGE

There is a pretty interesting section in *Members Only 6*. It lasts about three minutes and involves Linzi Drew "interviewing" (I use the word in its loosest sense) the two women who run the *Libido Rubberwear and Fetishist Shop* in Camden Town. The perverse appeal of rubber panties and spandex bras is a fascinating topic, despite the idiocy of Linzi's questions ("Er I don't like rubber. It makes me all hot 'n' sticky inside," says Linzi. "Er, that's the whole point," comes the droll reply). Unfortunately the interview is cut short to make way for a couple of overweight pub strippers who prance about in the gear and prove that while rubber is effective at disguising the bumps and ripples of excess flesh and cellulite, it does have its limits.

Elsewhere this is more of the usual *Members Only* soft core couplings, striptease and dodgy songs. *Lust 69FM*, as the clever pun implies, is about a randy female DJ who "makes sweet music with a lusty listener" (thank heavens for back of box blurbs); producer and interviewer pas excellence Linzi Drew makes her usual appearance in a hotel skit where the hired help delivers more than room service; while *Er Indoors* is a poor attempt to emulate the *Reader's Wives* format with an obviously professional model pretending to be an ordinary suburban housewife stripping off in front of her hubby's camcorder (hubby's shouted instructions sound remarkably like those of a professional glamour photographer). There is also guest appearance from 'top glamour model' Tracy Brown - no, I've never heard of her either. The video quality varies from poor to passable - digital blocks on screen being the biggest culprit. The soundtrack, unsurprisingly, is in mono throughout. There is a menu screen which allows you to go straight to the start of each section, the only problem is that the programmers have put in the wrong links: so clicking on *Rubber Dollies* takes you to *Er Indoors*. No doubt in the porn business this is known as a 'cock up'.





Members Only 5

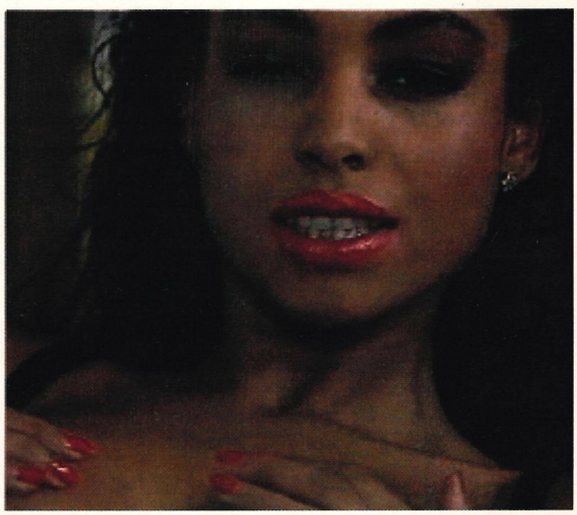
DISTRIBUTOR: CD-VISION
CERT: 18
RUNTIME:60 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: PATRICK BATEMAN

RAUNCH RATING: 2.5/5
ENCODING: NOT TOO HOT

I've a good mind to take the makers of *Members Only* to court under the Trades Description Act. After all, with a brand like that you'd expect at least one of the scores of titles in the series to have a fleeting shot of the male member, floppy or otherwise. But no, you could watch these VideoCDs forever, even play them back in pixel perfect CD-i slo-mo, and you won't see willy nilly. It's a funny old game, this soft porn lark.

Otherwise it's very much business as usual with *Members Only 5*. *Pussy Power* is a homage to Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman in *Batman Returns*, and even though the model does shed her catsuit, she's can't hold a candle to Ms Pfeiffer's fully clad original. (Incidentally, I'm sure this section was filmed in my local car workshop on Caledonian Road. No wonder they ask so much for a service...)

Once again there's a mix of female threesomes, some obviously simulated male-female bonking – where most of the K-Y Jelly ends up on the camcorder's lens – and a *Raw Talent* section where Linzi Drew wields her magic mascara and transforms a NHS nurse into a whip-cracking dominatrix. "Oooohhh Matron!" as our Kenneth used to say.



Members Only 4

DISTRIBUTOR: CD-VISION
CERT: 18
RUNTIME:60 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: PATRICK BATEMAN

RAUNCH RATING: 3.5/5
ENCODING: AVERAGE

Overall quality of encoding and content takes a turn for the better in Members Only 4, although it must be said that it's from a pretty low base (or is that a pretty base low?). For instance, the introductory copyright warning – while still referring to the VideoCD as a "video cassette" – at least avoids labelling the film as an old Chuck Norris 'Nam movie.

Meanwhile the obligatory three-way female love-in - the setting is supposedly the customs and immigration interrogation rooms at Heathrow - is a tad more interesting than usual, especially when the models have a stab at 'real' acting. There's also a rather well filmed and edited (this is all relative, mind) sequence where a prim and proper Lady of the manor shags her chauffeur senseless in the back seat of her Roller. It's nice to see une femme d'un certain age getting the chance to spread some soft-core oats. In the Raw Talent 'slot' (yes I watched too many Carry On films over Christmas, too) Linzi Drew finds an ordinary traffic warden called Sam, cakes her with eyeliner, fake tan and fluorescent lip gloss and creates a super saucy meter maid who could take down my particulars any time (oo-err).

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Music Notes: The Police

Age: Well, their first album "Outlandos D'Amour" came out in 1979.

Members: Sting (Gordon Sumner), Stewart Copeland, Andy Summers

Lots of music about rainforests then?

Absolutely not, you're thinking of Sting's solo efforts. The Police were sons of the New Wave and peddled highly successful, spiky pop music that made them fortunes. Also occasionally dipped into white reggae ("Walking On The Moon", "Message In A Bottle", etc.) before signs of serious mellowing out appeared in about 1981.

Hang on, why Sting?

So called due to a naff, striped jumper he used to wear. The history of the band could be quite different if he'd had a penchant for bottle-green corduroy cardigans with leather patches on the elbows.

Aha, he's the rainforest chappie:

How did you guess? Called by South American tribes Waalawakakaka which roughly translates as, "Quick, hide. It's that blonde bloke with the camera team again."

Weren't they all blonde?

Well remembered. They dyed their hair for a chewing gum commercial they all appeared in during the 1970s. Integrity, huh?

Fascinating. Anything else?

Well, there's always Sting's acting career to talk about — the pursuit of which was one of the factors for the disintegration of the band — but it's probably safer not to. The word "plank" springs irrevocably to mind.

Amicable split was it?

Erm, no. Sting and Copeland avoided each other as much as possible for a few years. The Police last played in public in 1986 and since then only once at Sting's wedding to Trudie Styler in 1992.

Recommended listening:

Any of the singles collections.

Tracklist:

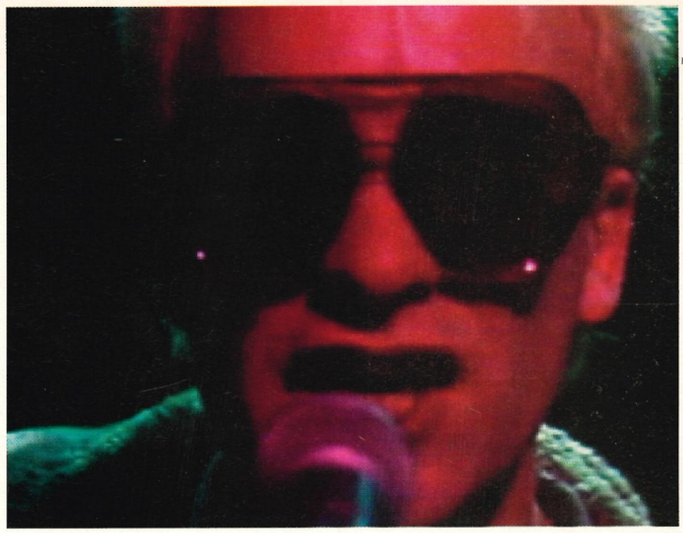
Disc One:
Every Breath You Take
Next To You
Fall Out
Message In A Bottle
Reggatta De Blanc
Can't Stand Losing You
Roxanne
So Lonely

Disc Two:
It's Alright For You
The Bed's Too Big Without You
Driven To Tears
Walking On The Moon
Demolition Man
Bring On The Night
King Of Pain
Wrapped Around Your Finger
Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic

Outlandos To Synchronicities — A History of The Police, Live!

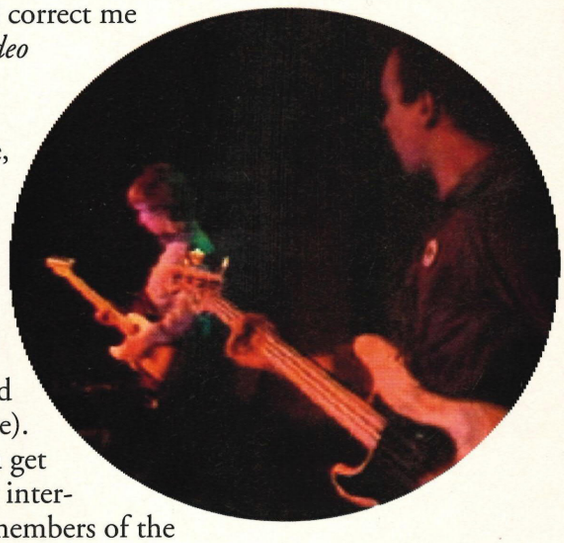
ARTIST: THE POLICE
DISTRIBUTOR: POLYGRAM
RUN TIME: 84 MIN
PRICE: £19.99
TEXT: BEN SOUTHWELL

RATING: 4/5
ENCODING: GOOD



I'd forgotten just how good The Police were and this "live" collection is a great reminder. Ah, but is it live? A couple of the songs sound like studio performances and use (admittedly great) Super 8 footage of the band on tour to disguise the fact, and correct me if I'm wrong but I don't think *The Kenny Everett Video Show* (the source for one of the tracks) featured live music did it?

So the title is a bit misleading, but let's set that aside, because what this disc gives you is a very enjoyable journey with The Police from their days as baby-faced new wavers belting out *So Lonely*, to more sedate global touring stadium performers complete with huge audience (wrapped around their fingers of course).



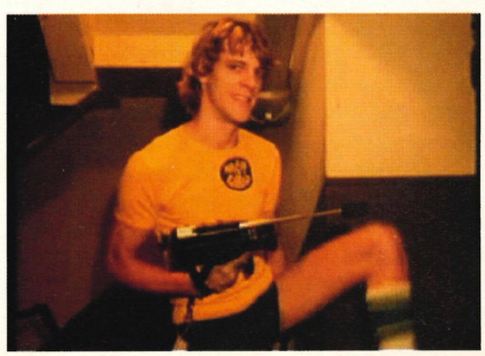
In addition to the music you get some interesting present day interviews with all three former members of the band (with Sting looking more like a country squire than a rock star) and their ex-manager as well as the home movie footage.

What about the music? Well you might expect Sting to have trouble with his voice singing as high as he does, but not a bit of it. The quality of the performances is very good, capturing the energy of the early live shows (including the first ever public performance of *Message In A Bottle*). Most of the hits are here, from *Roxanne* to *King of Pain* and while there are one or two omissions it's great to see *Regatta De Blanc*, *Bring on the Night* and *The Bed's Too Big Without You* included.



The live footage is good and it's nicely pepped up by the band's own Super 8 footage. Make sure you watch to the very end of disc 2 to catch one of the best clips.

I'll tell you what though - when all's said and done, they didn't half play some good songs.





Tracklist:

Disc One:
Calling Elvis
Walk Of Life
Heavy Fuel
Romeo And Juliet
The Bug
Private Investigations

Disc Two:
Your Latest Trick
On Every Street
You And Your Friend
Money For Nothing
Brothers In Arms
Solid Rock
Local Hero - Wild Theme

On The Night

ARTIST: DIRE STRAITS
DISTRIBUTOR: POLYGRAM
RUN TIME: 94 MIN
PRICE: £19.99
TEXT: BEN SOUTHWELL

RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: AVERAGE



Who could have guessed that the band that oh so gently, but insistently wormed their way into millions of homes with the classic Sultans of Swing *would go on to become one of THE biggest acts in the world? It may not have been an overnight success, but by the early 1980s* Brothers In Arms *was practically a compulsory purchase for anyone with a CD player.*

Dire Straits On The Night *shows the band at the height of their popularity. It's taken from two European concerts in 1992, both huge affairs. This is stadium rock at its most finely crafted, complete with superb light show, gifted musicians and multiple cameras (including one in an airship and one up a swooping crane). The massive audience could well be watching Michael Jackson, or Madonna. Except Dire Straits aren't that sort of band. And therein lies the rub. Great musicians do not necessarily make for a great show and extended instrumental tours de force inserted in all the hits may be great when you're there but on disc they just seem to go on and on and on. Of course, it does mean that* On The Night *offers you new versions of many of your favourites (*Money For Nothing, Walk of Life, Solid Rock, Calling Elvis*) and if that's your bag then you'll love it.*

I thought the slower numbers came across much better. Romeo and Juliet, Private Investigations, Brothers In Arms *— they all capture the live atmosphere magnificently. You can almost touch the emotion (although why they have to show all those flickering lighters I do not know).*

Mark Knopfler may be a decent rocker, but he's a great romantic and it's fitting that the collection ends with the beautiful and gentle Wild Theme from Local Hero, *rather than the same film's up tempo main theme.*

Mind you, if the reaction of the audience is anything to go by then these were great gigs. They loved it. And what's more, at one of the gigs it is quite literally pouring with rain. Ah well, I guess you had to be there.





The Chronicle of the Black Sword

ARTIST: HAWKWIND
DISTRIBUTOR: VISIONARY
RUN TIME: 70 MIN
PRICE: £19.99
TEXT: JASON ALESI

RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: WEIRD

Tracklist:

Song of the Swords
Sea King
Master of the Universe
Choose Your Masques
Needlegun
Zarozinia
Lords of Chaos
Brainstrom
Moonglum
Elric the Enchanter
Magnu
Horn of Destiny
Coded Languages
Born to Go
Utopia
Levitation

I saw Hawkwind once in Newcastle. Everyone was a bit out of it but, being a clean-living youth at the time, I avoided the drugs that a dodgy looking chap was trying to flog me in the gents. Instead I consumed copious amounts of export lager and achieved roughly the same effect; my brain gibbering quietly to itself in a corner of the venue while I watched the cosmic light show trying hard not to throw up. The moral? Export lager, just say no.

Now though you can recreate the mind-altering experience of a Hawkwind gig in your own living room. Just bung the disc in the player, add joss sticks, tie-dyed clothes, get someone to switch the lights on and off very fast and you've nailed it.

The question is would you want to? Well, yes, to be honest. *The Chronicles of the Black Sword* features the band's 1985 stage rendition of the concept album of the same name, all of which was based on the *Elric* books by Michael Moorcock. None of it is new territory for Hawkwind, being their traditional mix of the familiar insistent rhythms, swirling keyboards and spaced-out guitar.

For this show, though, they also added some rather odd poetry, dancers, actors hamming it up terribly and a couple of tracks that weren't on the album, such as *Master Of The Universe* just for the hell of it. At the end there are also four previously unreleased tracks featuring Moorcock performing with the band.

If it is approaching the festival season and you decide to take the plunge, a couple of words of warning: the sound quality is a bit on the poor side and the picture quality is variable too. Hawkwind being Hawkwind the footage has some rather dubious effects added to it afterwards and at times you think that your player's about to blow up. It doesn't, but then there's nothing like a quick bit of paranoia before a munchies attack is there?





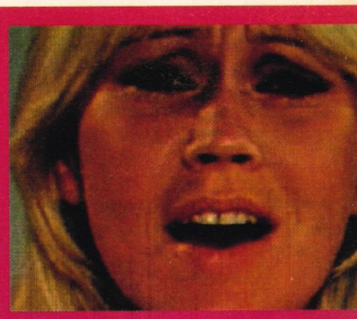










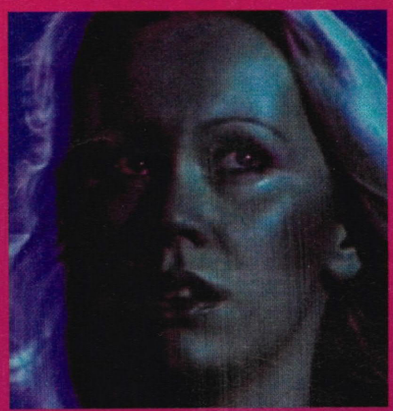


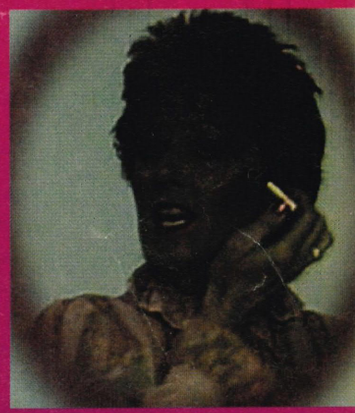


More Abba Gold

ARTIST: ABBA
DISTRIBUTOR: POLYGRAM
RUN TIME: 46 MIN
PRICE: £19.99
TEXT: JASON ALESI

RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: GOOD





Last issue we brought you Abba the Megastars — the band who couldn't put a foot wrong and crafted some of the most exquisite pop songs known to man. This issue we bring you Abba the B-sides — some four piece group from Sweden who carry tunes around in leaky buckets. No, that's being unfair, but it has to be said that Abba Gold was a pretty accurate round-up of the band's best recordings. Trying to stretch the whole concept into another greatest hits album was perhaps a tad optimistic and because of that this collection falls into two camps: the good but obscure; and the obscure and deservedly so.

The case for the defence is opened by the pulsing 1970s disco of *Summer Night City* before the lawyer points out that the whole court knows the chorus of *Eagle* even though they couldn't name the song if you paid them. Counsel then moves on to cite *I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do* as possibly the only song that should be played at modern day weddings and shows the jury a tape of *Muriel's Wedding* just to prove his case. He then points out that *When I Kissed The Teacher* and *That's Me* are terrible but in an amusingly naff way and leads the public gallery in a resounding rendition of *Happy New Year*.

The prosecution rises and with not a word to anyone plays the rest of the album. Hmm. The jury debate for hours but are so well hung they find it impossible to return a verdict. Same here. The videos are awful, some of the music terrible but there are still three or four classics lurking on the disc. One year sentence, time off for good behaviour.



Tracklist:

Summer Night City
The Day Before You Came
Eagle
I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do
On & On & On
Head Over Heels
When I Kissed The Teacher
Under Attack
When All Is Said And Done
Bang a Boomerang
One Man, One Woman
That's Me
Happy New Year

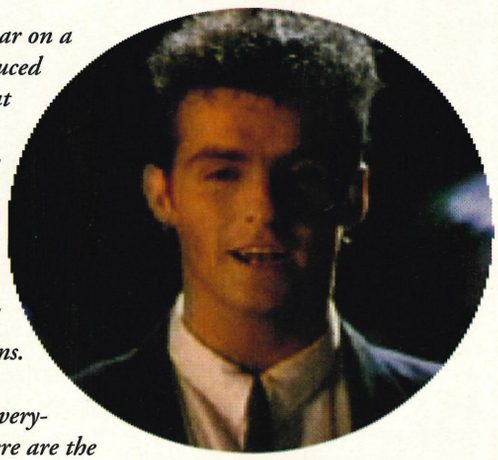
End of Part One - Their Greatest Hits

ARTIST: WET WET WET
DISTRIBUTOR: POLYGRAM
RUN TIME: 63 MIN
PRICE: £19.99
TEXT: JOE FITZGERALD

RATING: 3.5/5
ENCODING: EXCELLENT



Will anything ever wipe that smile off the face of Wet Wet Wet vocalist Marti Pellow? Probably not, judging by the inane grin he sports more often than not in this 15 track Best Of *compilation taking us from the band's arrival in the charts in 1987 through to 1993. But who can really begrudge Pellow and the rest of the Glasgow soulboy four-piece the right to feel a bit smug? They have a lot going for them apart from Pellow's now unfashionable pony tail (Steady on - Ed).*



First there is the lush studio polish and production talent clear on a range of catchy chart-topping songs which are crisply reproduced on this 63 minute VCD. Then, there are the band's clean-cut good looks and the obvious instrumental virtuosity which is demonstrated when a couple of hits are rendered here in live footage rather than pop video format.

Of course, this is just the story's beginning of how Wet Wet Wet have progressed from the early days of North-of-the-Border knicker-wettin' status. Soon they were to become internationally renowned blue-eyed soulboys - with a special place in the CD collections of the parents of their original fans. The collection kicks off with the excellent 1987 debut single Wishing I Was Lucky *- surely a classic, catchy pop song in every-one's book. Also contained among a host of familiar tunes here are the Beatles cover* With A Little Help From My Friends *and* Goodbye Girl *which also achieved No 1 status for the band in 1992.*

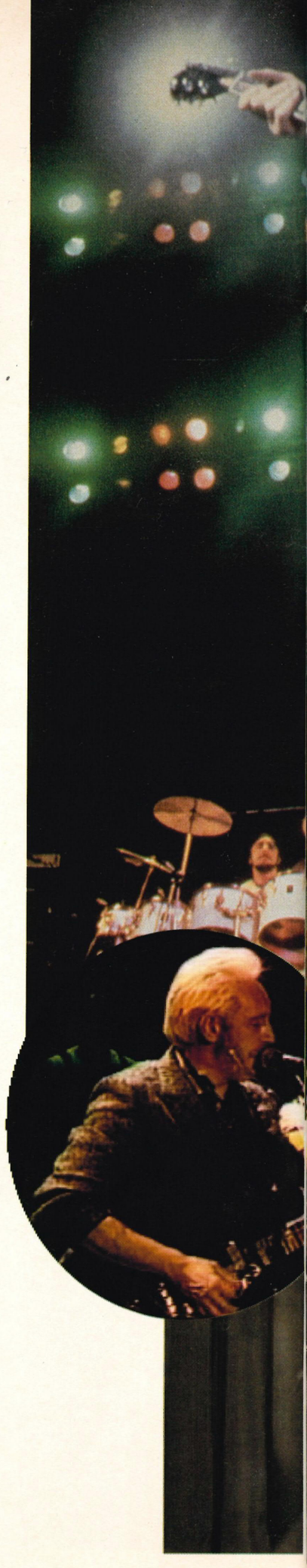
Of course, that song from Four Weddings And A Funeral *which dominated the British singles chart for so long is not included here. No doubt it will be contained in an end of Millennium, Wet Wet Wet End of Part Two.*

All the music is melodic and the well-directed pop videos come thick and fast. In essence, this is an ever-so glossy, but ever-so-slightly bland collection which will no doubt be welcomed by many members of the CD generation.



Tracklist:

Wishing I Was Lucky
Sweet Little Mystery
Angel Eyes
Temptation
With A Little Help From My Friends
Sweet Surrender
Broke Away
Hold Back The River
Stay With Me
Heartache
Make It Tonight
Put The Light On
Goodnight Girl
More Than Love
Lip Service
Shed A Tear









Thirty Years of Maximum R&B Live

ARTIST: THE WHO
DISTRIBUTOR: POLYGRAM
RUN TIME: 154 MIN
PRICE: £24.99
TEXT: JOE FITZGERALD

RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: Good in the circumstances - but note Polygram's own warning about the original quality of much of the recording

Never mind the quality, feel the width. In releasing this two and a half hour, three disc set, Polygram Video has no doubt reckoned that there are plenty of Who fans out there keen to see yet more live versions of their favourite hits.

The packaging itself warns that 'this programme contains some archive footage which may not be of a standard reflecting contemporary technology' and yes, there is plenty of poor quality material here. Unfortunately, that's not just in terms of audio and visual reproduction, but also the band's actual live performances. Thankfully, those with a low tolerance threshold to the poorer material contained here can take advantage of the VCD format and simply click past it.

But enough of the moaning. With 154 minutes of live performances from the early days of 1965 through to 1989 and interview clips ranging from the inane to the insightful, this disc is bound by sheer volume of content alone to offer some gems to fans of The Who.

And there's plenty here to demonstrate the combined live musical talent of Mssrs Townshend, Moon, Entwistle and Daltrey that were so often masked by reports of their destructive stage antics.

Versions of *Substitute*, *I Can See For Miles* and *I Can't Explain* are well worth a couple of spins as is The Who anthem *My Generation*. But it's eerie to see Roger Daltrey, now comfortably ensconced in a middle age of country houses, Range Rovers and American Express cards, crooning "Hope I die before I get old". Of course Roger didn't, but Keith Moon did.

Tracklist:

Disc 1
Magic Bus
Anyway, Anyhow, Anywhere
So Sad About Us
A Quick One
Happy Jack
Heaven And Hell
I Can't Explain
Water
Young Man Blues

Disc 2
I Don't Know Myself
My Generation
Substitute
Drowned
Bell Boy
My Generation (Blues)
Dreaming From The Waist
Sister Disco
Who Are You

Disc 3
5:15
My Wife
Music Must Change
Pinball Wizard
Behind Blue Eyes
Love Reign Over Me
Boris The Spider
I Can See For Miles
See Me Feel Me
Another Tricky Day

NEW

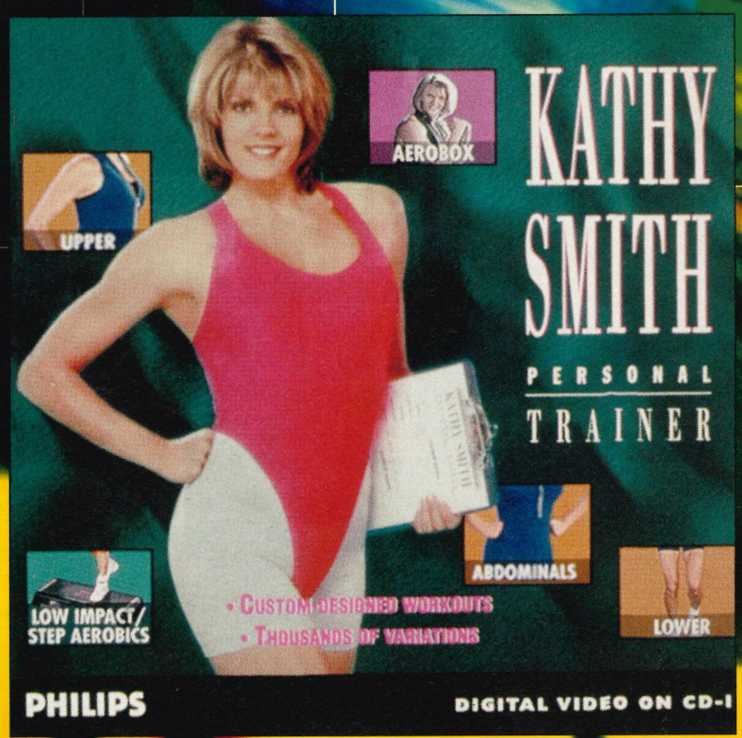
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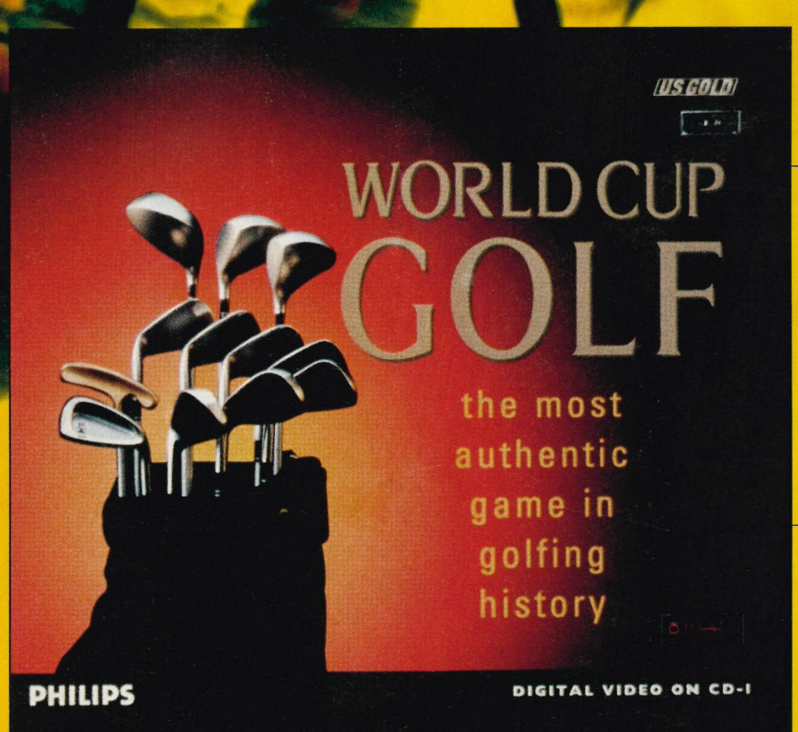
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FLASHBACK

PLAYER'S GUIDE

Still struggling through Delphine's huge adventure classic? Help is at hand with the next two levels of our complete solution

LEVEL 3:

DEATH TOWER GAMESHOW

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 8

Nasty idea this, but you really need that prize money.
Recharge your shield at the Energy generator if you need to.
Work your way left or right through the level, killing any guards you come across. Eventually, you should reach a lift in the middle of the level surrounded by glass preventing you getting to it.
This is actually an easy one. Simply activate the switch to open the door to the lift on the other side from where you are and turn around and make your way back through the level until you reach it. Enter the lift and go up to Level 7

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 7

From the start position go up and left into the next screen as sometimes there's a guard waiting.
Activate the switch to open the trapdoor, drop down it and continue left, killing any guards you come across.
Eventually you'll come across a couple of extremely vicious Hovering Bugs which have a nasty tendency to electrocute you if you get too close.
To kill these, go to the bottom of the screen and wait until they come near you, duck down and keep rolling until you are a safe distance away, draw your gun and keep shooting at them.
Once the Bugs are killed, they will activate and open the lift doors.
You might find it rather a good idea to save your position here.

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 6

From the start position, move right into the next screen, where you can activate a switch to open the access door to the lift up to level 5.
You cannot actually, so return to the first screen with the robot gun.
To pass the gun, position yourself on the lift platform, draw your gun and roll onto the green sensor. This will activate the gun and after it's fired, stand up and climb to the platform above.
Recharge your shield in the next room and make your way past the mines to the lift up to Level 5.

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 5

Draw your gun and quickly roll through the tunnel so you'll be ready for any waiting guards. Climb up onto the platform but, whatever you do, don't activate the green sensor. If you duck down and roll past the sensor, the trapdoor overhead will open and you will avoid being shot by the gun. Save the game again.
Walk left from the save game point and jump onto the next screen. If you judge your leap correctly, you will find yourself hanging from a ledge to the right of the centre of the screen. Drop down and leap across the mine to your left, before climbing up onto the next platform above you. Finally, run left and leap up onto the platform in the top, left-hand corner of the screen. Walk left to the lift to Level 4.

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 4

Easy so far, isn't it? Walk right and kill the guard by pressing the switch and waiting for him to climb down to you. Climb to the top left of the screen, run right and jump into the next screen, where you can recharge your shield. Wait for the guard to approach and shoot him.
Walk right into the next screen and activate both of the green sensors to open the trapdoor. To pass the mines, simply run into the screen from the left and jump across onto the platform. Enter the lift to Level 3.

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 3

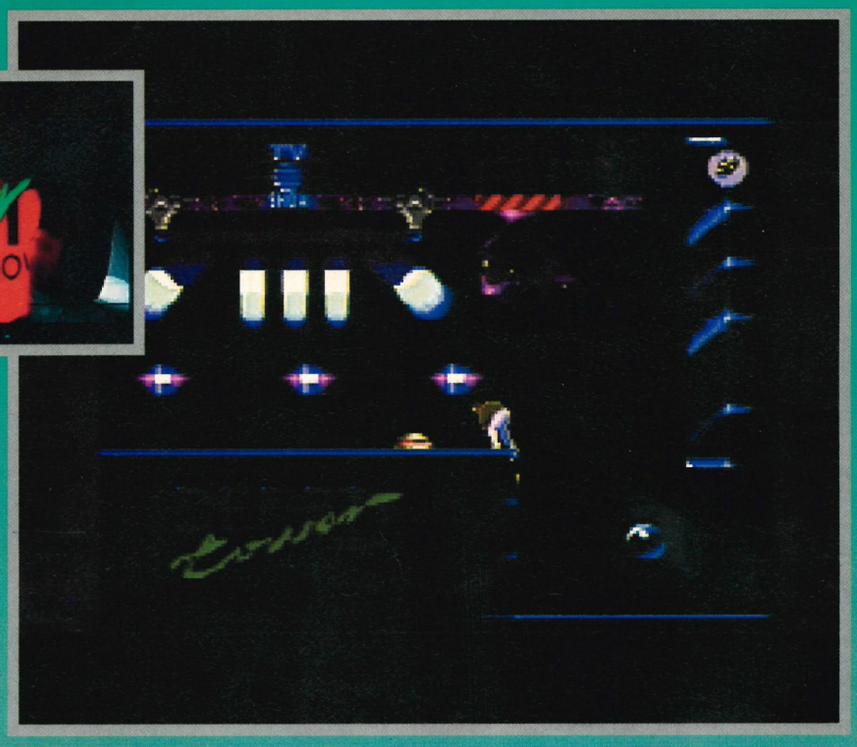
Be careful here as one false move and it can all go a bit Pete Tong. Kill all the Hover Bugs and guards on each ledge, beginning at the bottom. Try to take out the guards first, so that you are able to stand off and deal with the Bugs from a distance. Save your game at the first opportunity.
Once all the Hover Bugs have been blasted to scrap metal, you can enter the lift to the next level.

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 2

This level comprises of just one screen where there are two guards to kill.
The first guard will attack immediately and can be dispatched fairly easily. As soon as the lift stops moving, draw your gun and edge slightly to the left. Turn to face right and







kill the guard.
To kill the second guard, activate the switch to release him and then drop off the ledge. Wait until the guard reaches the bottom of the screen then shoot him. Level 1 beckons.

DEATHTOWER LEVEL 1

Only one guard on this level but he's one bad-assed mother (so to speak). To deal with him, stay to the left and keep firing and pistol-whipping him until he dies.

LEVEL 4:

EARTH

Before Taxi Rank give your forged papers to the man and enter the level proper. The guards with the jet packs can be a bit of a nightmare as they tend to hover just out of your line of fire. Use your force field wisely, only dropping it to shoot back immediately after they've taken a pot-shot at you, and you should get through them.
When you encounter the Hover Bug and guard together on the third screen, remember to duck down while you deal with the guard. Walk right along the ledge halfway down the screen to find a rather handy recharge point.
Continue moving right through the screens, killing any guards you meet, until you reach the Taxi Rank. Activate the switch and enter the taxi.

TAXI RANK TO CARGO BAY

Save your game before beginning this section. Climb to the top ledge then run right and jump onto the next screen. Pull yourself up onto the ledge, run right and jump across to the roof of the Paradise Club. Shoot out the glass window and enter the club.
Go down on the lift, walk right onto the next screen and activate the sensor. Draw your gun, duck down and shoot the guard when the door opens. Move left out of the screen for a few seconds before returning to repeat the procedure with the sensor. Continue until the guard is dead.
Once the guard has been dealt with run right and jump onto the hanging platform in the centre of the screen. Pull yourself up and shoot out the glass wall to your left before jumping across onto the platform behind it and collecting the Key.
Make your way through the screens to your right until you find a Lock which can be opened with the Key. Note the Deadly Green Haze behind the door.
Climb up onto the ledge above the door and roll left to avoid the gun. Continue rolling left, kill the robot by ducking down and shooting then press the activate switch. This will turn off the Deadly Green Haze you saw earlier.
Recharge your shield and return to the door where the haze used to be. Go down the lift and save your game.
Finally, climb up onto the suspended ledge which will open a secret door on the left of the screen. Wait for the lift and go down to the Cargo Bay.

CARGO BAY ONWARDS

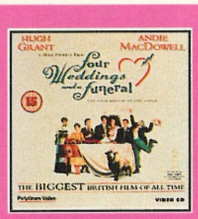
Climb up to the top right corner of the screen and go right into the next screen.
You should find yourself standing above a pit containing a small robot, a gun, a switch and a sensor.
Jump into the pit and roll to the right. Don't worry if you take damage, you can recharge your shield later. Press the switch and climb out of the pit. The switch deactivates another of the Hazes later on in the level. Go back to the left and head to the top right of the previous screen.
Jump across the gap and activate the switch to reveal the secret door.
Find the Key located under the trapdoors and use it to unlock the door where the Haze used to be.
Recharge your shield and go up in the lift.
You need to reach the switch located in the centre of the screen between the two trapdoors. If you roll onto the top trap-door from the left hand side, you will not fall through the second trap door and you will be able to reach the switch. Activate the switch to disable another Green Haze, recharge your shield and save the game.
Go down the hole where the Haze used to be and activate the switch to the door opposite. Jump across the gap and pick up the Key.
Then, climb back up the hole and walk right until you reach a locked door. Open the door with the Key before returning to the save point to save your position.
Return to the opened door and go through it. Run right through the next screens, being careful to avoid the mines and bombs.
You might just notice that a travelling Deadly Green Haze starts to chase you. Eventually you will come face-to-face with a Hover Bug which you need to kill before the Haze catches you. Quickly go through the door and drop down to the next stage of the game.

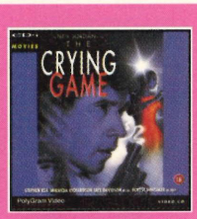
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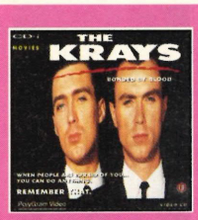
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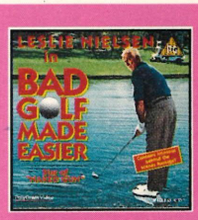
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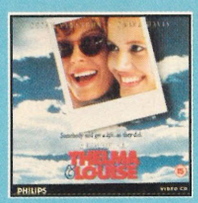




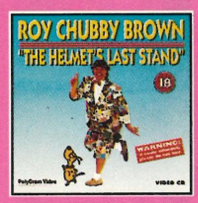


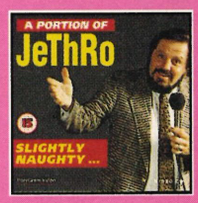


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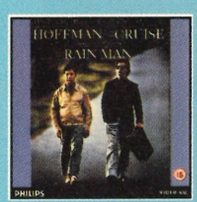




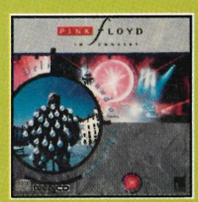




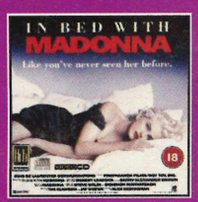


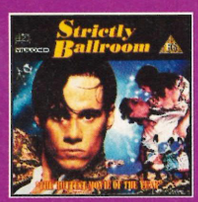


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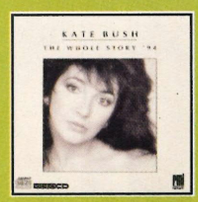


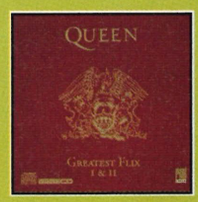
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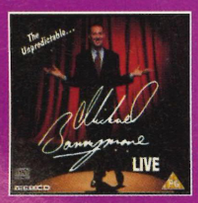




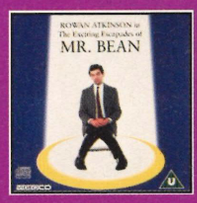


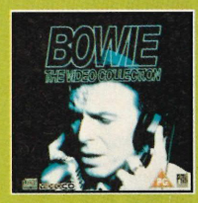














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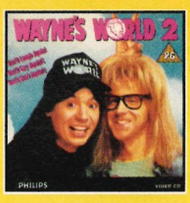
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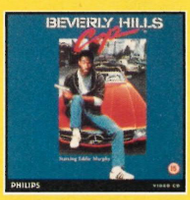






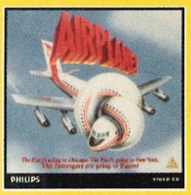


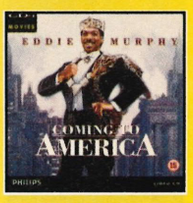


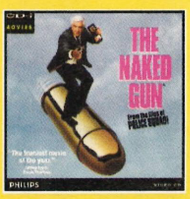




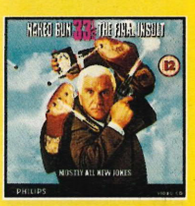


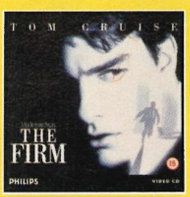


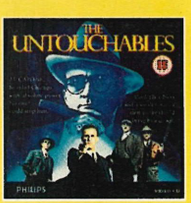




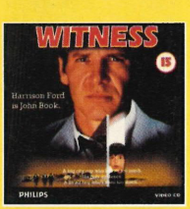


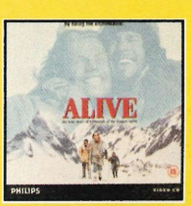


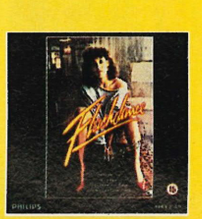


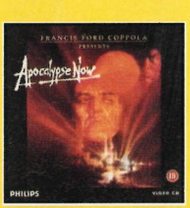


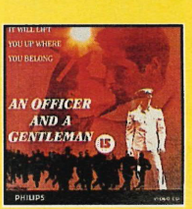


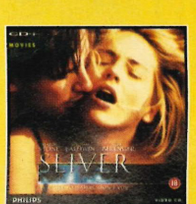




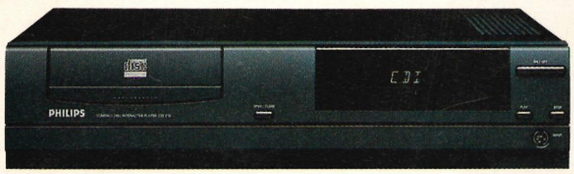








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Less of a bus, more of a top kid-targetted marketing initiative

Marketing misfires?

I purchased my Philips CD-i after being told by the store that there were 100s of titles available. I purchased the CD-i because it had been on the market longer than 3DO and therefore assumed there would be more titles available. How wrong I was. In every game store there are five or six shelves of 3D0 and only half a shelf of CD-i, mostly films. I have been told in these stores that there is less interest in CD-i products. How can this be right when Panasonic have just come on the market and CD-i have been around for a number of years?
Your questionaire is making it quite obvious in that by question 24 - no ladies' magazine choice, that any marketing is geared to men. Wake up. 95% of the choice of a child's present is left to women; 50% of decision making on the purchase of big name products is made by women and women are probably the one most influenced by CD-i's eductaional value.

At the end of the day the few titles that we've bought in the month that we have had CD-i are excellent, but we do worry that we may have been better getting 3D0 or a Saturn as the availability and number of their titles is growing daily. Sorry to be a grouch!

I also work in a school and very few of my children have heard of CD-i. Please get your act together.

Sue Martin
Manchester

Grouchiness forgiven. Philips has absolutely no control over shelf allocation in retail stores but it's worth pointing out that there are over 130 interactive CD-i titles available in all catagories plus a vast amount (well, 100s anyway) of Video CD titles knocking about. If you're having trouble getting hold of them call the CD-i Consumer Desk on 0171 911 3081 to find out your nearest stockist. The titles are out there and in a much broader range than say 3D0.
As to the schools stuff, Philips has a rather large initiative called School 2000 going on with the aim of introducing interactive learning materials into the classroom.



Dinomania

After reading the review of *Lost Eden* in Issue 14 I have a couple of points to add about the game.
The review by Jason Alesi was spot on, especially when he said, 'the graphics are superb'. If you don't believe it, go out and buy it yourselves. You will be amazed.
The overall ratings for graphics and sound are spot on too, but 82% for interactivity seems way too low for the amount of work the gameplayer has to do. I would put this well over 90% and that goes for the overall percentage as well. I have to say that Cryo and Virgin have done a brilliant job by producing a game of this standard on CD-i. Well done. Let's hope that future game releases are of this standard.

W.M. Baxter
Biggleswade

Amen.
We've had a word with Mr Alesi and though we put your points to him he's sticking to his guns. As a result he's now on coffee making duty until July.

Memories are made of this

We have had great fun with the games and spent many hours with the puzzles. But now as we have so many games the memory is full and we don't wish to destroy what memory is saved. Is Philips hoping to expand the memory capacity in the future?

M.P. Hazelton
Gwent

While we understand that there's nothing more annoying than having to delete those hard-won save positions, we had a quick word with Philips and it seems that there is no memory upgrade planned at present.
Sorry.



email corner

At last something for us long-suffering CD-i owners to shout about. Internet has restored my faith in CD-i. Who would have thought it! Anybody out there thinking about surfing the net, stop wasting time and get online now. Any chance of being the first published email? Well, it is my birthday.

Any news on the keyboard?

Nick Cassell
Chester

Happy Birthday. A quick email to the Web geezers at CD-Online confirms that Philips are still sticking to their intention of rolling out the keyboard in Spring this year. Apparently a make and model has been sourced and negotiations are currently underway to try and acheive a sub-£50 retail price.

Got December's mag. Nice one. Loaded the cdo disc and had a play. Thanks very much, that will do me. Down to Comet with voucher out of mag. Hand in pocket, £89.99. Back home. A quick install in tech corner - loads of phone cable lucky for me. Quick phone to cdo, give my credit card number, wham bam thank u mam. Power on CD-i, quick install with id and Bob's your uncle, I'm on-line. The wife hasn't seen the set since. Come to think of it, I haven't spoken to her since. Well impressed. Surf city here I come.

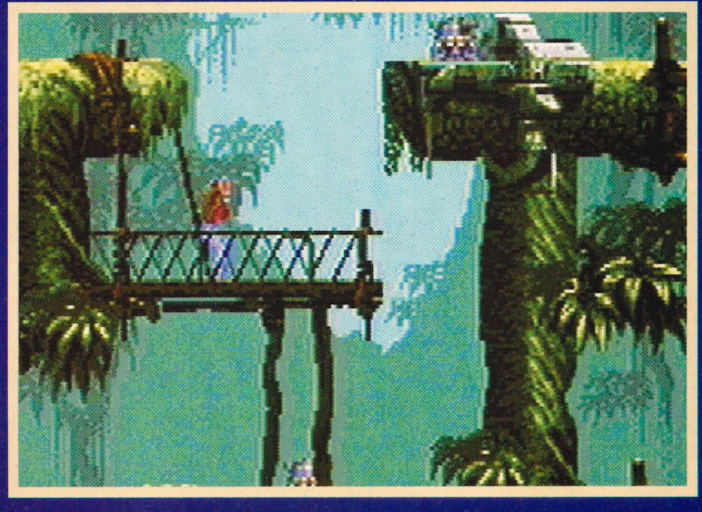
Jon
Presumably somewhere in cyberspace

Happy surfing. Remember though, the Internet is for life and not just for Xmas.

After experience with two other providers I am very pleased with CD-Online. As I have a 28,800 modem is there any hope of upgrading from 14.4k to 28,800 in the future?

Scottie

Probably not in the short term. Seeing as how the UK telecommunications network seems to be made up of yogurt pots, bits of string and some fibreoptic cable chucked in somewhere along the line it's questionable whether it's worthwhile anyway.
Even during upgrades of existing links, most companies are only laying fibreoptic to junction boxes and then relying on copper to reach your own house. And for a modem to work effectively at speeds of 28,800 it needs that fibre all along the route. Maybe in five years' time.

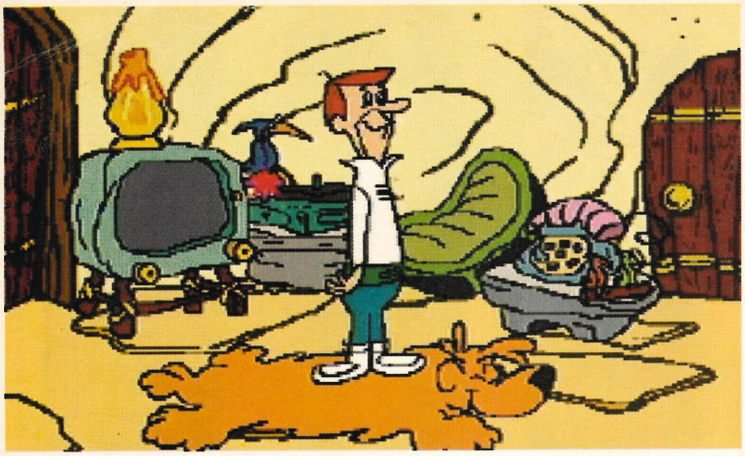


Egad, a satisfied reader

I have owned a CD-i 210 for about two years now and am very happy with it. I am sick though of all the complaints that a lot of the other readers seem to make. I also look forward to the magazine every time it's due out, I only wish it could be more often.
Could you please try to do a player's guide to Flashback as I seem to be having a few problems with it; I have just got the key, opened the key lock but can't seem to go anywhere else or find anything either. Please keep up the good work.

Scott Smith
Ashton Under Lyne

Glad to see that we're doing something right somewhere along the line. I hope that the second part of our extensive Flashback tips helps you in Conrad's quest and apologies for leaving you dangling at the end of level 4. Hopefully we'll have enough space to complete the solution in the next issue.



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STORY MACHINE STAR DREAMS
Star Dreams whisks you away on an intergalactic adventure of your own making. Create your own stories.
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SURF CITY
Sing along to the superb music of the Beach Boys as you explore a typical 1960s beach town in America.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 009 1

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
This version of one of Hans Christian Andersen's best-loved tales is told by Sir John Gielgud.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 042 2

TIM & BEAR AT THE AIRPORT
Learning adventures with Tim and his cuddly toy bear on their first journey to an airport.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 019 3

TIM & BEAR AT THE HARBOUR
Tim and Bear experience business and have fun down at the waterfront.
Price £19.99 Cat.No. 811 005 4

TOM'S MAGIC PICTURE SHOW
Help to enrich your child's English vocabulary and ensure that they make steps in languages such as French and Spanish.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 000 9

ZOMBIE DINOS FROM PLANET ZELTOID
Dexter the Dinodroid takes you back to the days when dinosaurs ruled the earth.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 001 8

CHILDREN'S VIDEO CD

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (VCD)
Classic kids' film about a mad inventor played by Dick Van Dyke who creates a magical flying car.
Price £17.99 Cat.No. 811 203 9

LEARN WITH SOOTY (VCD)
This popular character has been delighting children for over 50 years. This Start to Read disc was devised in consultation with educational specialists.
Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 7

PADDINGTON BEAR (VCD)
Four episodes of the loveable Paddington Bear feature on this two disc set.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 250 7

THE BFG (VCD)
Based on the best-selling novel by Roald Dahl. A full length animated film featuring the voice of David Jason as the Big Friendly Giant.
Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 6

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (VCD)
A Tale of Two Toads.
This feature length story is brought to life by the voices of Peter Sallis and David Jason.
Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 8

THE SECRET OF NIMH (VCD)
The story of timid Mrs Brisby, a widowed field mouse, who must summon the courage to defy man, beast and nature.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 204 0

THE BLACK STALLION (VCD)
A touching story about the adventures of a young boy and his friendship with an Arabian horse.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 203 7

THUMBELINA (VCD)
The classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale featuring a tiny girl no bigger than a thumb. Don Bluth animation brings this delightful children's tale to life.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 2078

GAMES

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Roam around Wonderland as you try to solve the rhymes and puzzles that will take you on to the next level of this adventure.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 065 2

ALIEN GATE
Hordes of nasty monsters are advancing through the Alien Gate with one objective – the destruction of your world.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 004 9

BACKGAMMON
Everything you need to play backgammon on CDi, including three animated opponents each with a different skill level, from beginner to expert.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 039 2

BATTLESHIP
You command a fleet of five ships. Your mission is to seek and destroy your enemy's ships before he destroys yours.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 033 2

BURN:CYCLE
Sol Cutter has passed out in the Softech Corporation where his brain has been downloaded with a computer virus. A live action cyberpunk game.
Price £44.99 Cat. No. 810 011 4

CAESARS WORLD OF BOXING (DV)
Join the boxers, promoters, managers and reporters at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 014 3

CAESARS WORLD OF GAMBLING
Experience the real sights and sounds of the Caesars Palace casinos.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 027 2

CD SHOOT
Practise your clay shooting skills.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 001 4

CHAOS CONTROL (DV)
This fast-paced arcade game with 5 different levels is based entirely on computer graphics in which the aim is to defeat an alien fleet which is invading the solar system.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 020 0

CHRISTMAS CRISIS (DV)
Help Father Christmas find his festive cheer in this amusing platform game.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 031 3

CLUEDO (DV)
While remaining faithful to the original board game, Cluedo on CDi is a slick and polished electronic murder mystery game for all the family.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 819 100 2

CLUEDO: THE MYSTERIES CONTINUE (DV)
The second series of interactive murder mysteries filmed at Arlington Hall in Cheshire. Plenty more fun with Professor Plum, Miss Scarlet and co.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 103 8

CONNECT FOUR
The CDi version of the popular



vertical chequers game.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 020 2

DEFENDER OF THE CROWN
The Saxon lords have chosen you to lead them in the fight against the hated Normans.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 069 2

DIMO'S QUEST
Dimo takes you on a "candy quest" as you battle your way through an increasingly difficult series of mazes.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 6

DRAGON'S LAIR 1 (DV)
Second in the series of CDi arcade games by Hollywood animation specialist Don Bluth.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 018 1

DRAGON'S LAIR 2 (DV)
Dirk the Daring is back in this madcap sequel to the original Dragon's Lair.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 012 5

EARTH COMMAND
Your task is to save the world from impending environmental disaster.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 007 2

ESCAPE FROM CYBERCITY
Your mission is to survive the dangers of CyberCity, fight your way to the train and destroy the Guardian's planet.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 071 2

FLASHBACK
2142 AD. Battle your way back to Earth to stop the invading mutant forces... FlashBack: the ultimate test in survival – the ultimate platform game.
Price: £34.99 Cat. No. 810 020 2

HOTEL MARIO
The world's most popular plumber makes his debut on CDi. Seven different locations and 80 levels to explore.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 009 0

INCA
You are the last surviving Inca. To save your race you must journey across space, battling enemies and collecting special pow-[illegible] on the way.
[illegible]£39.99 Cat. No. 810 012 6

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS OPEN
The popular tennis simulation game is in a two-player version so you can fight to match point against your friends and family.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 008 2

INVASION FROM THE PLANET SKYRON (DV)
Interactive adventures with the Monty Python team.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 100 7

KETHER
Stunning graphics in this mix of arcade action and puzzle solving.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 012 8

KINGDOM (DV)
Role playing/fantasy adventure game including 30 minutes of video.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 811 012 6

LASER LORDS
You can explore alien worlds in the Laser Lords' star cruiser.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 074 2

LEMMINGS
The classic game! Prevent these furry little creatures from killing themselves in over 100 dangerous and puzzling scenes.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 011 1

LINK: FACES OF EVIL
Ganon has captured the island of Koridai and Link must save it from the Faces of Evil.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 008 0

LITIL DIVIL (DV)
Poor old Mutt must work his way through the Labyrinth of Chaos. A game of exploration, fighting and puzzle solving.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 016 9

LORDS OF THE RISING SUN
A Japanese strategy game featuring live actors and interesting gameplay.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 098 2

LOST EDEN (DV)
Defeat the evil Moorkus Rex so dinosaurs and humans can live-together in peace. **(December)**
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 029 2

MAD DOG McCREE (with gun) (DV)
A quality shoot-'em-up set in a ramshackle Western Released with the Peacekeeper revolver.
Price £69.99 Cat. No. 810 008 9

MEGAMAZE
A series of ever more complex mazes will test your wits to the full in this exciting game of skill.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 008 3

MERLIN'S APPRENTICE
A mysterious, magical tale of medieval sorcery with over 30 different puzzles for all the family.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 019 2

MICRO MACHINES
One of the most playable games ever created — the racing classic, now re-issued for CDi with two extra levels.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 029 1

MUTANT RAMPAGE (DV)
A good old-fashioned beat-'em-up set in a post-apocalyptic world. Fast and adrenalin-stuffed action.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 017 9

MYSTIC MIDWAY R.I.P
The "master of cemeteries" Dr Dearth welcomes you to his shooting gallery. 15 targets, and ten game levels.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 690 152 2

MYSTIC MIDWAY: PHANTOM EXPRESS
Join Dr Dearth, the master of cemeteries, on a roller coaster ride in the sequel to Mystic Midway.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 017 8

NFL ULTIMATE AMERICAN FOOTBALL COLLECTION
This 3-title pack includes 100 Greatest Touchdowns, Hall of Fame and Trivia Challenge.
Price: £39.99 Cat. No. 811 011 5

OTHELLO
The electronic version of the popular board game.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 016 3

PAC-PANIC
Pac-Man, the original video game superstar, makes his debut on CDi. Munch your way through the monsters in three challenging courses.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 031 5

PALM SPRINGS OPEN
Play 18 of the world's most famous and challenging holes on your own TV. Control "live" golfers on actual courses.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 013 2

POWER HITTER
Baseball challenge which puts you up against the game's great pitchers.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 001 7

RISE OF THE ROBOTS
Mirage Technologies' beat-'em-up makes its debut on CDi, with graphics to die for.
Price £34.99 Cat.No. 819 101 2

SPACE ACE (DV)
Space Ace has been zapped by the evil Borf and you must help him defeat the dreaded Infanto Ray and save the earth.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 007 3

STEEL MACHINE
A fast and furious shoot-em-'up with a hard core soundtrack.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 0

STRIKER
Striker Pro is a based on the successful Ultimate Soccer.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 004 4

TETRIS
The classic Russian puzzle game featuring ten levels.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 188 2

TEXT TILES
A word spelling strategy game for all ages.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 043 2

THE 7TH GUEST (DV)
Virgin's fabulous mystery adventure game. With stunning sound and graphics, the CDi version comes with free CD soundtrack.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 811 004 0

THE APPRENTICE (DV)
A jump and run style platform game for all ages
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 019 9

THE ULTIMATE NOAH'S ARK
Explore in detail the wonderful painting by artist Mike Wilks and try to discover which

animal does not have a mate.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 003 1

THUNDER IN PARADISE (DV)
Join Terry "Hulk" Hogan and Chris Lemmon in this exciting interactive TV adventure. Plus free Video CD.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 019 8

VIDEO SPEEDWAY
Motor racing game with ten tracks to choose from.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 001 1

VOYEUR (18)
An adult political whodunnit.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 016 2

THE WACKY WORLD OF MINIATURE GOLF
18 hole crazy golf game.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 013 5

WHO SHOT JOHNNY ROCK? (DV)
Gangster shoot-'em-up.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 900 1

WORD PLAY
A game for 2, 3 or 4 players. Collect from a pool of letters and compete against the other players to create words with these letters and gain points.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 819 100 4

WORLD CUP GOLF
Golfing game with exquisite graphics and multiplayer options.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. TBA

ZELDA: WAND OF GAMELON
Rescue Link and save the world in this gripping adventure.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 009 6

MUSIC

ABBA: ABBA GOLD (VCD)
Classic hits and videos from Sweden's most successful band. Includes all nine singles which topped the UK chart.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 085 548 4

ABBA: MORE ABBA GOLD (VCD)
More hits from the Scandanavian quartet that brought you *I Do I Do I Do* and *Summer Night City.*
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 087 380 4

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER (DV)
The Premiere Collection from the Lloyd Webber stable.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 200 1

ANTISTATIC
More psychedelic music from Hex – rave visuals and groovy music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 017 0

BON JOVI (DV)
Bon Jovi's *Keep the Faith* album with full Digital Video to accompany every track.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 200 3

BON JOVI: CROSSROAD (VCD)
A collection of the band's greatest hits including Keep The Faith and Blaze of Glory.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 632 776 4

BRYAN ADAMS (DV)
The *Waking Up the Neighbours* video from Canadian Bryan Adams.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 200 2

CLASSICAL JUKEBOX
Study the lives of 15 of the world's classical composers and listen to their music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 005 2

CREAM OF CLAPTON (DV)
The best of Eric Clapton in full Digital Video for fans and casual listeners alike.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 083 862 4

CURE SHOW (DV)
All the wonders of The Cure's music with superb digital stereo sound and Digital Video to match.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 087 742 4

DAVID BOWIE: THE VIDEO COLLECTION (VCD)
A treat for Bowie fans – 26 stunning tracks.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 186 2

DIRE STRAITS: LIVE ON THE NIGHT (VCD)
Fabulous tracks and video footage of Dire Straits.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 086 502 4

e-SCAPE
Club music and psychedelic visuals brought to you by Hex.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 011 7

GOLDEN OLDIES JUKEBOX
Jump and jam to the tunes of the 1950s and 1960s. Lyrics appear with the music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 006 2

HEADCRASH
A three-disc pack including a brand new disc from Hex and two CDi best sellers, Antistatic and e-Scape.
Price £29.99 Cat.No. 811 005 6

JAMES BROWN
Soul singer Brown performs 13 songs on this CDi disc.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 000 6

JAZZ GIANTS
Big Band to Bossa Nova – an interactive jazz journey through 19 great songs.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 096 2

KATE BUSH: THE WHOLE STORY '94 (VCD)
Kate has made something of a comeback recently, so enjoy the best of her music on CDi.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 288 2

LOUIS ARMSTRONG
Explore the achievements and life story of Louis Armstrong as you listen to his music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 031 2

OPERA IMAGINAIRE (VCD)
This title celebrates 400 years of opera through beautifully animated 'live-action' cartoon-like video.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 819 101 1

PAVAROTTI
Listen to the world-renowned tenor sing 13 favourite songs while you explore his life story.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 040 2

PINK FLOYD: DELICATE SOUND OF THUNDER (VCD)
Two disc set of Pink Floyd with accompanying video to tracks such as *One of These Days, On the Run* and *Shine.*
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 275 2

PINK FLOYD: THE WALL (DV)
Pink Floyd's mid-80's nightmare. Stupendous soundtrack.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 812 542 2

PRELUDE
Study the art and music of the era of Post-Impressionism.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 107 2

QUEEN: GREATEST FLIX 1+2 (VCD)
Freddie Mercury and the boys strut their stuff. Includes a 16-page booklet.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 491 271 2

ROLLING STONES : GIMME SHELTER (VCD)
One of the best "rockumentaries" ever, following the band on its infamous 1969 US tour.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 086 500 4

STING: TEN SUMMONER'S TALES (DV)
The full album with Digital Video and CD sound.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 089 566 4

SADE: LIFE, PROMISE, PRIDE, LOVE (VCD)
14 track collection from this fabulous soul singer including *Your Love is King* and *Smooth Operator.*
Price: £17.99 Cat. No. OMN102

THE CRANBERRIES
The newest stars of Irish rock unveil new material on a ground-breaking interactive disc.
Price: £19.99 Cat. No. 810 900 1

THE POLICE: FROM OUTLANDOS TO SYNCHRONICITIES (VCD)
This Video CD contains exciting and previously unavailable live footage spanning the band's entire career, as well as the band's own Super 8 material.
Price: £19.99 Cat. No. 634 826 4

THE THE: INFECTED - THE MOVIE (VCD)
The movie of the 1980s album *Infected* by The The.
Price: £17.99 Cat. No. OMNI 104

THE THREE TENORS (DV)
Pavarotti, Carreras and Domingo in concert for opera fans.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 071 427 4

THE WHO: 30 YEARS MAXIMUM OF R&B LIVE (VCD)
A visual and aural treat for fans of The Who.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 631 01



THE WORLDS OF... (DV)
Five top bands from the *Rhythm King* label with DV clips, interviews and your own music mixer.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 8**

TINA TURNER: LIVE IN BARCELONA (VCD)
Features many of the songs that have brought Tina solo success.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 082 842 4**

TINA TURNER: SIMPLY THE BEST '94 (VCD)
Tina Turner compilation album featuring the best of her work.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 491 303 2**

TINA TURNER: RIO '88 (DV)
Tina Turner at her sell-out concert in Rio '88, plus full DV footage of Tina on stage.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No: 083 340 4**

TODD RUNDGREN: NO WORLD ORDER
One of the first truly interactive music discs which allows you to play DJ by altering the tracks.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 810 015 9**

TOMMY : THE MOVIE (VCD)
Classic film with music by Pete Townshend and The Who.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 087 944 4**

2 UNLIMITED: BEYOND LIMITS (DV)
One of the most successful acts of the international house scene, with eight audio tracks and five videos, plus interviews, picture book and discography.
Price £17.99 **Cat. No.819 102 1**

U2: RATTLE AND HUM (VCD)
U2 on their Joshua Tree tour.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 811 202 3**

U2: LIVE FROM SYDNEY (VCD)
Join the irrepressible Bono and the band live on their Zoo TV multimedia extravaganza tour, in glorious Video CD.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 631 150 4**

WET WET WET: GREATEST HITS (VCD)
18 top tracks played by the award-winning Wets.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 636 730 4**

XPLORA 1: PETER GABRIEL'S SECRET WORLD (DV)
Peter Gabriel appears as your on-screen guide, helping you to explore the music, videos and artwork behind his latest album *US*.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 819 102 2**

INFO & REFERENCE

A CHILD IS BORN
A complete pregnancy manual.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 810 005 0**

COMPTON'S '95 (DV)
Interactive encyclopaedia with Digital Video footage.
Price £149.99 **Cat. No. 810 022 7**

CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY
The entire dictionary on CDi, plus the Thesaurus and a Dictionary of Synonyms.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 810 008 6**

DUTCH MASTERS
Study 300 paintings from the art of 17th Century Holland.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 811 002 4**

FOOD OF FRANCE
French cuisine presented by Anne Willan, founder of the École de Cuisine la Varenne.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 810 005 5**

GREAT BRITISH GOLF
Take an historical trip through 500 years of golfing history.
Price £9.99 **Cat. No. 811 000 4**

KATHY SMITH PERSONAL TRAINER
Work that body. Go for the burn with this interactive fitness routine.
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LOVING FOR A LIFETIME (DV)
Two disc sex guide with advice on how to improve your sex life. Cert. **18**
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MAKING LOVE (VCD)
Real couples talk about their sexual problems and how to solve them. Cert. **18**
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PLAYBOY COMPLETE MASSAGE (DV)
An exotic assortment of massage techniques. Cert. **18**
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PRIVATE LESSONS: CLASSICAL GUITAR
Learn to play classical guitar on CDi. Customise your lessons to match your skill level.
Price £49.99 **Cat. No. 810 001 3**

PRIVATE LESSONS: ROCK GUITAR
Learn to play rock guitar on CDi. With examples from Jimi Hendrix to Eric Clapton.
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REMBRANDT: HIS ART AND MUSIC OF THE ERA
17th Century art and music.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 690 154 2**

RENAISSANCE OF FLORENCE
Take a tour of the Renaissance art of Florence.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 690 036 2**

RENAISSANCE GALLERY
An interactive tour through the masterpieces and music of the Italian High Renaissance.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 690 044 2**

THE JOY OF SEX (DV)
The famous sex guide by Dr Alex Comfort goes interactive in this Digital Video title. Free pocket guide with every disc. Cert. **18**
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 811 000 8**

THE SOLAR SYSTEM
Examine the planets from the comfort of your own armchair.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 9**

TIME LIFE ASTROLOGY
Obtain your daily horoscope & personal solar chart on CDi.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 810 013 6**

TIME LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY
Turn your TV screen into a "camera" for a photography course.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 690 017 2**

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE (DV)
Quiz and video clips based on the final 16 teams in the UEFA championship league. (Dec)
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 810 028 8**

WINES OF FRANCE
Interactive guide to French wine and the wine industry.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 811 012 9**

WORLD OF IMPRESSIONISM
The art and music of the era.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 690 047 2**

YEARBOOK (VCD)
History, politics and significant events that took place in 1995.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 811 013 0**

PHOTO CD

NATURE UNDER THREAT
The World Wide Fund for Nature's guide to animals in danger.
Price £9.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 6**

MOVIES

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (VCD)
Cert. **PG**
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 811 203 0**

A FISH CALLED WANDA (VCD)
Cert. **15**
Price £17.99 **Cat. No. 811 200 3**

AIRPLANE! (VCD) Cert. PG
Price £17.99 **Cat. No. 811 201 5**

ALIVE (VCD) Cert. PG
Price £17.99 **Cat. No. 811 202 9**

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 202 8

APOCALYPSE NOW (VCD) Cert. 18
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 201 8

BABY BOOM (VCD) Cert. PG
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 205 9

BEVERLY HILLS COP I & II (VCD)
Cert. 15 (two films)
£34.99 Cat. No. 811 011 3

BEVERLY HILLS COP III (VCD)
Cert. 15
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 811 204 5

BLACK RAIN (DV) Cert. PG
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 100 9

CARRIE (VCD)
Cert. 18
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 025 8

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER (VCD)
Cert. 15
Price £19.99 Cat. No.811 204 7

COMING TO AMERICA (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 200 5

CROCODILE DUNDEE 2 (VCD)
Cert. PG
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 204 2

THE CRYING GAME (VCD)
Cert. 18
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 088 902 4

FATAL ATTRACTION (DV) Cert. 18
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 100 8

THE FIRM (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 811 200 9

FLASHDANCE (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £17.99 Cat. No.811 204 3

FORREST GUMP (VCD)
Cert. 12
Price £19.99 CAT.NO. 811 2046

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 631 768 4

GHOST (DV) Cert. 15
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 100 6

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (DV)
Cert. PG
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 100 3

IN BED WITH MADONNA (VCD)
Cert. 18
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 380 900 5

INDECENT PROPOSAL (VCD)
Cert. 15
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 200 2

INTERSECTION (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £19.99 Cat.No. 811 207 0

THE JAMES BOND COLLECTION (VCD)
(three film pack) Cert. PG
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 811 005 3

MALICE (VCD) Cert. 18
Price £19.99 Cat. No.TBA

MOONSTRUCK (VCD) Cert. PG
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 201 7

THE NAKED GUN (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 200 1

NAKED GUN 2 1/2 (DV) Cert. 15
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 100 2

NAKED GUN 33 1/3 (VCD)
Cert. PG
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 811 204 4

PATRIOT GAMES (DV) Cert. 15
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 100 4

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 201 1

RAGING BULL (VCD)
Cert. 18
Price £17.99 Cat. No.811 203 3

RAIN MAN (VCD) Cert. 15
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 202 6

SCROOGED (VCD) Cert. PG
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 202 5

SHALLOW GRAVE (VCD)
Cert. 18
Price £19.99 Cat. No. TBA

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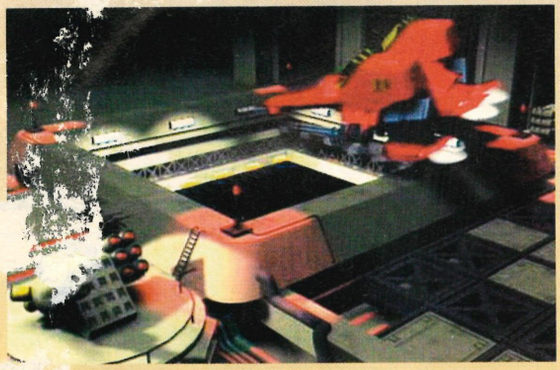
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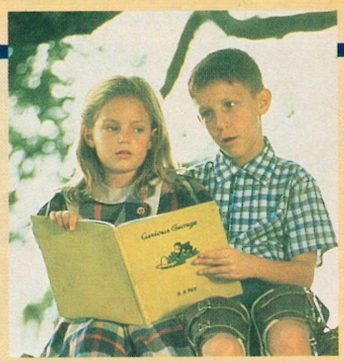
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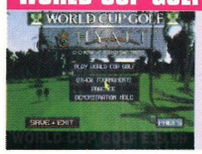
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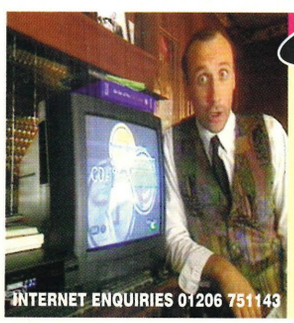
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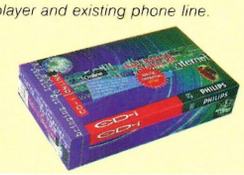
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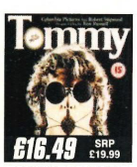
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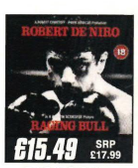
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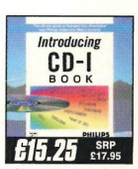
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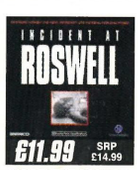
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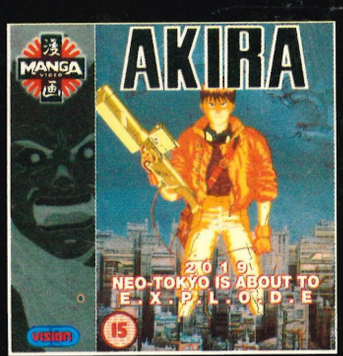


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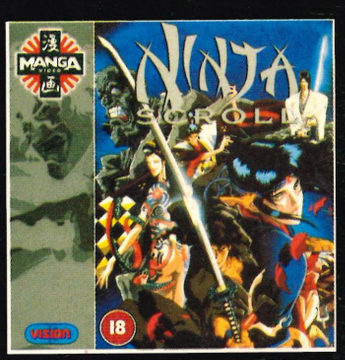
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