YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO PC LEISURE

PC REVIEW

MAY 1995 • £4.95 21.95 HFI



11th HOUR

Terror from the tick-tock men...

CD-ROM EDITION
Also available with 2 HD disks

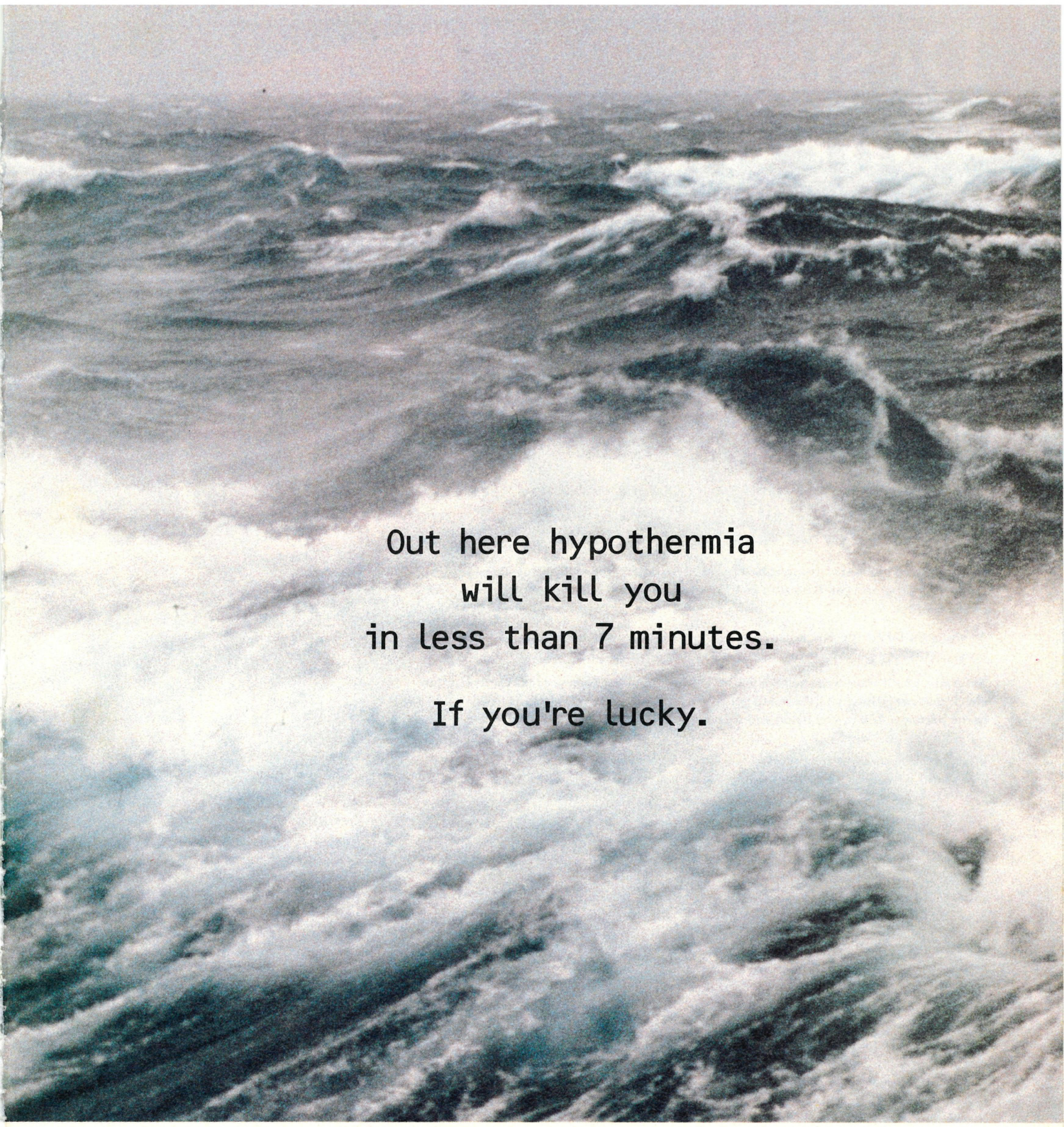
GOBSMACKED!

- What hand scanner?
- Which game with gratuitous sex 'n' violence?

printers at a price you'll love...

IF YOUR CD-ROM IS MISSING, CONSULT YOUR NEWSAGENT





Let's face it – you're in deep water. Stalking the sea beds of the world is a new, more terrifying enemy. They're smarter than before. They're more deadly. And if you don't go looking for them, they will come looking for you. Success will need brains not brawn. We're talking strategy, tactics, leadership. Bay Watch this isn't.

MICROPROSE

For IBM Compatibles and CD-ROM.



Design your own newsletter in 92 seconds!*

*Timing based on running a 486/33MHz PC with 8 MB of RAM



Designing documents is a complicated business, so when you're choosing a desktop publishing program, you'll need to pick one that can guide you through the whole process.

As you gain DTP experience, you'll become more and more ambitious, so you'll need a program that can grow with you and offer a real depth of professional features.

Naturally, you'll want to make sure you're getting value for money, so it's always best to check that everything you'll need to get started straight away is included FREE in the package. If not, you could end up paying a lot more.





When you compare the current programs on offer we think you'll find Pressworks 2 is the one to go for. What's more, we'll offer you a 30 day money back guarantee when you buy Pressworks 2, giving you the chance to test our claims at NO RISK whatsoever. So if you're interested in desktop publishing, now there's a program offering genuine ease-of-use, real value for money and a guarantee of instant, professional results.

Genuine ease of use is a hard thing to find

Whether or not you choose to use a Pressworks' PagePilot, you'll find that working in Pressworks 2 couldn't be easier.

New 'Button Bars' give you instant access to features when you need them and handy tips are available throughout the program. Easy-to-follow tutorials will introduce you to all the major features, and you can rely on Pressworks' comprehensive help system if you get stuck.

NEW PagePilots™ will get you off to a flying start

As a beginner you'll find Pressworks' new PagePilots are the ideal way to get started. To create your own designs for any of the classic DTP documents you simply choose from a sequence of step-by-step options to produce a newsletter design, for example, in just 92 seconds!

And as you become more experienced you'll find that Pressworks' PagePilots will be a handy source of inspiration, with options to create fresh designs for: Newsletters, Faxes, Fliers & Leaflets, Memos, Reports & Manuals, Notices, Books and Stationery.

You can even save time and money with Pressworks 2 by producing your own professional stationery range on your desktop printer. This new feature allows you to match your PagePilot design to a choice of pre-printed Company Colours™ stationery - including the "Boardroom" style business cards shown here.



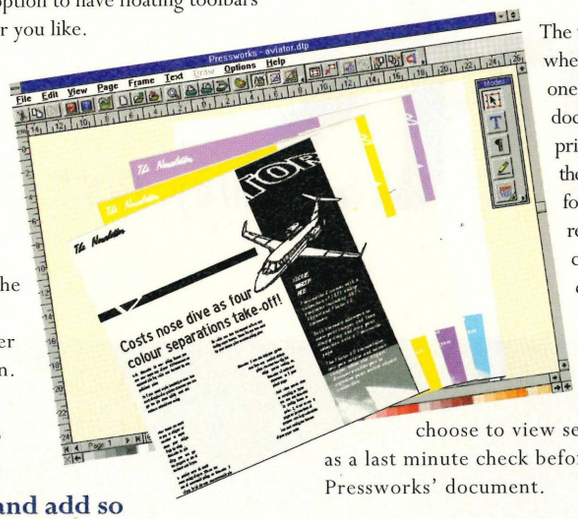
And when you register your copy of Pressworks 2, we'll send you a FREE Company Colours™ sample pack so you can try out some of the designs yourself.

Pressworks 2 is available now from select branches of most major high street retailers,

PC WORLD THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE · MrPC · inmac · STAPLES The Office Superstore · GAME · TECHNOMATIC LTD Tel: 081-205 9558 Fax: 081-205 0190 · WH SMITH

As you become more confident you can start to arrange your desktop in a way which suits you, by using Pressworks' option to have floating toolbars positioned wherever you like.

Working with Pressworks 2's NEW pasteboard area makes things so much simpler, because you can position elements of your work off the page while you're focusing on another part of your design.



FREE Utilities will make life even easier - and add so much more to your designs

Unlike other DTP programs, Pressworks 2 comes with a complete set of utilities supplied FREE with the program.

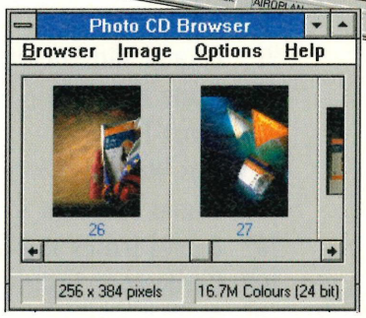
So when you need a logo or special effect, you can call on Pressworks 2's new version of PowerText without having to call your bank manager first!

PowerText is a powerful 'text effects generator' which will let you shape, bend, rotate, distort and add backgrounds to text, creating some really stunning logos and designs to add to your documents.

Adding clipart or Photo-CD images to your designs is just as easy with 2 drag-and-drop browsers supplied FREE with Pressworks 2.



You can even use Pressworks' Clipart browser to categorise and organise your entire collection.



This new version can handle all the standard formats (.BMP, .TIF, .GIF, .JPG, .WMF, .CGM, .EPS) so locating your favourite images has never been easier.

Professional features are available as you need them

The time may come when you'll want to have one of your Pressworks' documents professionally printed. With Pressworks 2 there's no need to pay for your design to be re-created because you can now produce full colour separations on disk to give straight to your printer.

You can even choose to view separations on screen, as a last minute check before printing your Pressworks' document.

We've also included professional CMYK, PANTONE® and HLS colour models in Pressworks 2, but if you want to experiment quickly Pressworks has a brilliantly simple colour mixing palette for you to use.

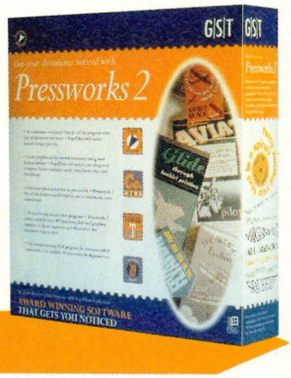
This is just the start of what Pressworks 2 can offer you

Whether you're new to desktop publishing or upgrading from a previous GST program, you'll benefit from the host of new features we've added to every part of Pressworks 2, including:

- Decorative Borders.
- A Choice of Frame Shapes.
- A Font Organiser, 'FontGroups'.
- Print Proofs Option.
- Automatic Booklet Printing.
- A 'Nudge' Positioning Tool.
- Foreground & Background Frames.
- An 'On-Screen' Tab Bar.
- Auto-Text Runaround.
- Independent Paper Size Selection.
- Filing Information on Every Document.
- A Document Contents Viewer.

And the list goes on! But to really appreciate the depth of features on offer you need to try the program for yourself.

To get your copy of Pressworks 2 simply contact your local dealer, complete the coupon opposite or call GST Software Publishing.



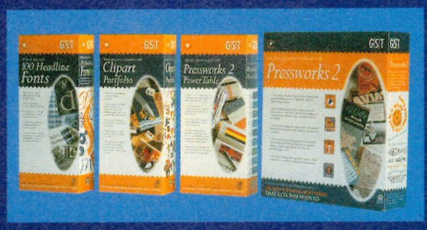
ONLY £39.95 inc. VAT

POWERpack Special Edition

Build up a collection of DTP programs and increase your design options with the Pressworks 2 POWERpack.

This bumper value pack features three extra titles* (worth £64.80) for just an extra £30. Includes:

- ***Headline Fonts*** *- a collection of 100 original TrueType Fonts*
- ***Clipart Portfolio*** *- 600 top quality colour images*
- ***PowerTable*** *- a powerful mini-spreadsheet to style Pressworks' order forms, price lists, etc*



*Supplied in single box (not shown).

Upgrade from 1st Press, Pressworks 1 or Timeworks Publisher for just £29.95

01480 496575

YES! PLEASE RUSH ME:

- ❑ ***Pressworks 2 at £39.95 + 4.95 P&P*** (£44.90 inc. P&P and VAT)
- ❑ ***Pressworks 2 POWERpack at £69.95 + 4.95 P&P*** (£74.90 inc. P&P and VAT)
- ❑ ***Pressworks 2 Upgrade* at £29.95 + 4.95 P&P*** (£34.90 inc. P&P and VAT)
- ❑ ***Pressworks 2 POWERpack Upgrade* at £39.95 + 4.95 P&P*** (£44.90 inc. P&P and VAT)

**Please enclose proof of Timeworks Publisher, 1st Press or Pressworks 1 ownership i.e. registration number program disk or manual cover.*

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE:
Fill in this form then post it to GST with a cheque made payable to GST Software Publishing Limited.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD:
Phone: +44(0)1480 496 575 with your details.
Fax: Fax this coupon to +44(0)1480 460 206
Post: Fill in this coupon and post it to: GST Customer Services, FREEPOST(PE717), Meadow Lane, St. Ives, HUNTINGDON, Cambs. PE17 4BR.
Email: send to cserv@gst-soft.demon.co.uk.

Please charge my:

❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Switch - Issue No: _____

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Delivery Address: _____

_____

_____

_____ Postcode: _____

Please indicate elsewhere if statement address differs from delivery address.

Daytime Tel No. _____

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery

Minimum System Requirements: IBM Compatible PC, 386 Processor or above, 4MB RAM (8MB recommended), Windows 3.1 or above, from 7MB to 27MB hard disk space. POWERpack - an extra 12MB hard disk space.

CODE:PCRMAY95

mail order specialists and all good independent stockists

BEATTIES · Virgin MEGASTORES · Byte The Computer Superstore · Dixons · TIME Computer Systems Ltd · Currys

Contents

May 1995 Issue 43

Features

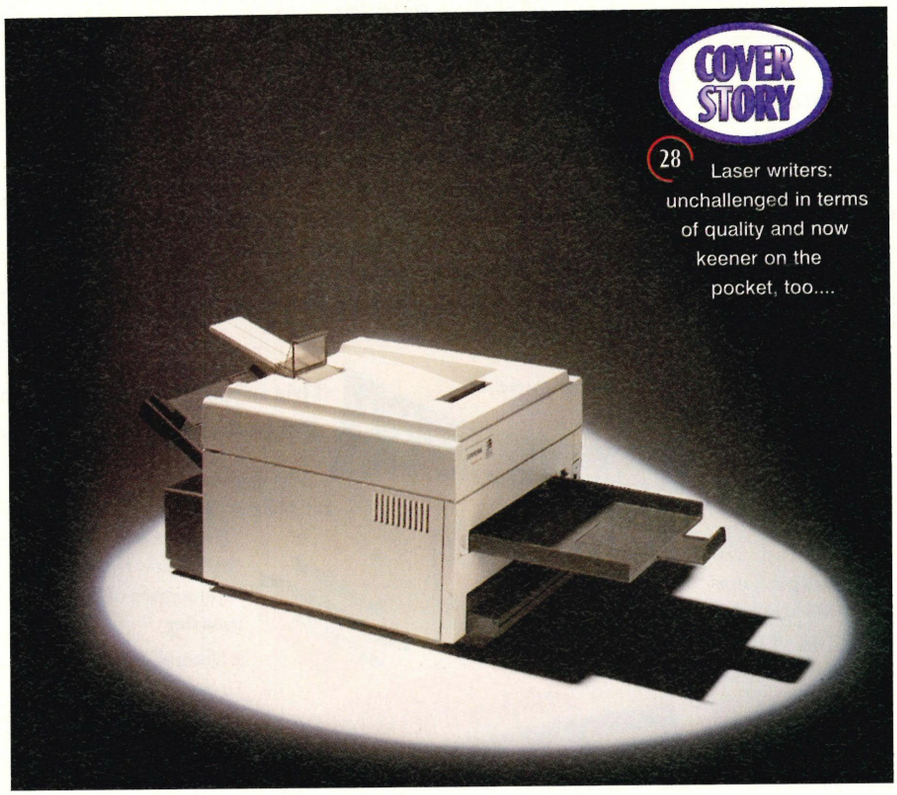
28 **Laser Burn**
With laser printers getting ever cheaper, good quality printing is now much more affordable. Andy Leaning reports.

39 **The 11th Hour**
Cal Jones visits Trilobyte to take a look behind the terrifying 11th Hour. Be scared, be very scared.

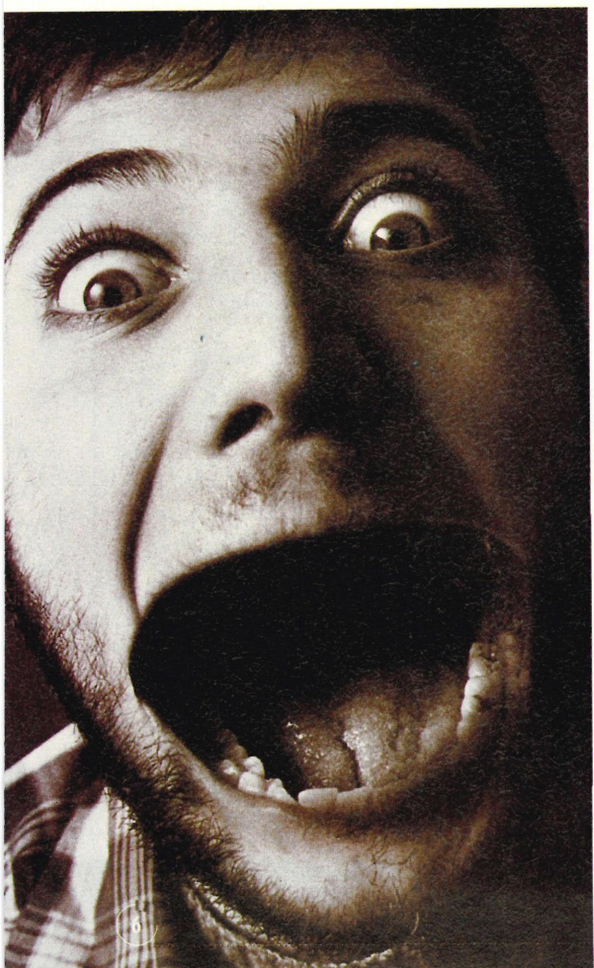
48 **Oh, what a lovely war!**
Strategy expert Simon Shaw brings you the low-down on the current crop of wargames, and compares them to the greats of the past.

109 **Hand scanners**
After outputting via a laser printer, why not try inputting via a scanner? But should you buy a handheld or a flatbed scanner? We test the best.

146 **Which non PC PC game?**
Games that are less politically correct than Bernard Manning — and then some.



28 Laser writers: unchallenged in terms of quality and now keener on the pocket, too....



Workshops

124 **Internet**
David Bradwell logs onto the Net, surfs around for a while and brings you back his Top 20 Tips for newbie Net users.

129 **Music**
Making music on your PC is easy — especially when we've done all the hard work for you and rounded up the best music making packages on offer.

132 **Getting Started**
Need a hand sorting your hard disk? This month's Getting Started shows you how.



39 Gobsmacking! Trilobyte takes us behind the scenes of its latest chiller, The 11th Hour.

Regulars

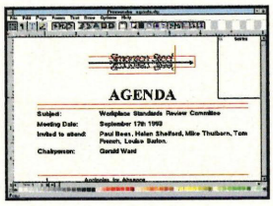
8 Competition
18 News
22 Charts
51 Reviews Index
81 Review Shorts
91 CD and Multimedia shorts
94 Game Solutions
99 Short Tips
100 Tips Wanted
105 Games Previews
107 Games Scores at a Glance
108 Hardware & Utilities Reviews
119 Book Reviews
122 Shareware
123 Recommended "serious stuff"
124 Technical Help Index
138 Q&A
141 Back Issues
142 Letters
144 Subscriptions

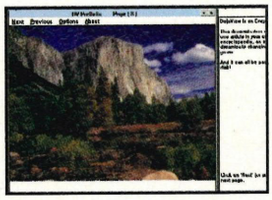
Cover disks



10 All the details for loading and installing the programs on PC Review's cover-mounted CD-ROM and disks that you need.

Please note: PC Review is printed in two separate versions, one with a cover CD, and one with two floppy disks.







Previews

102 **The Daedalus Encounter**
The hot new interactive movie from Mechadeus, starring Tia Carrere.

104 **Ultimate Soccer Manager**
Has Premier Manager 3 finally met its match? Impressions moves the goal posts.

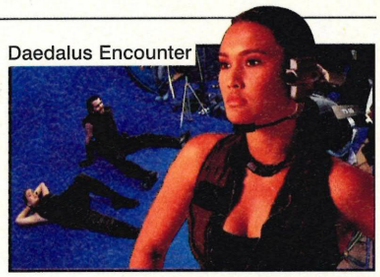
105 **Fairway to Heaven**

105 **Power House**

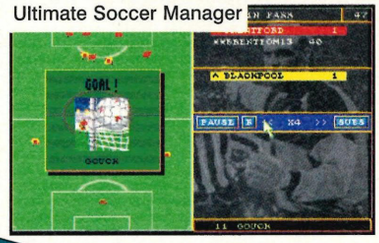
105 **Top Gun**

105 **Micro Machines 2**

Daedalus Encounter

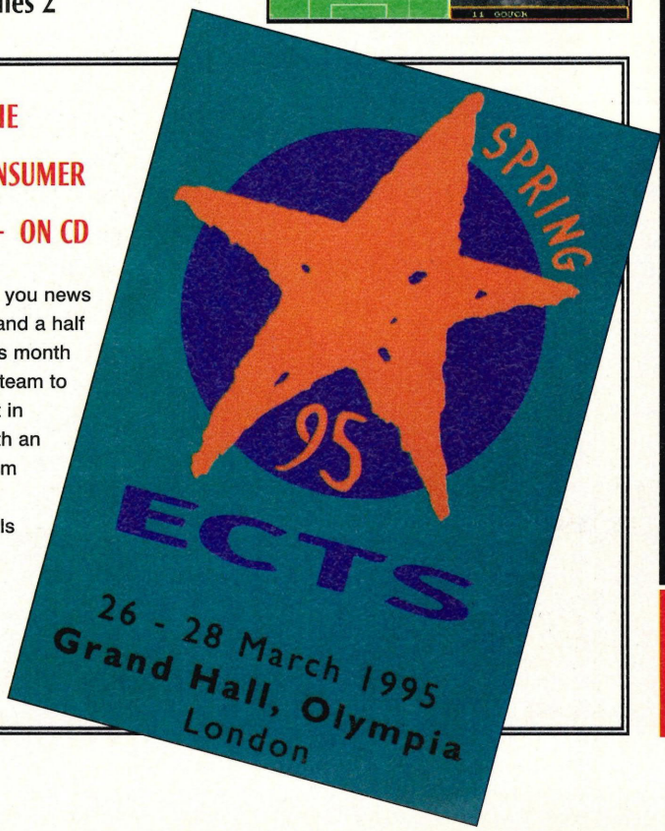


Ultimate Soccer Manager



"LIVE" FROM THE ELECTRONIC CONSUMER TRADE SHOW — ON CD

As well as bringing you news in the usual brace and a half of paper pages, this month we've sent out our team to bring you the latest in digital sleuthing with an exclusive report from the recent ECTS games show at Earls Court Olympia. It's hot off the CD presses. Enjoy.



REVIEWS

Disk Games

65 Stalingrad *US Gold*
75 BC Racers *Core*
81 Card Game Classics *Expert Software*
81 Favourite Games *Expert Software*
81 Crosswords & More *Expert Software*
83 Football Glory *Black Legend*
83 Elite Plus *Action Sixteen*
83 Task Force 1942 *PowerPlus*
83 Tornado *Action Sixteen*

CD Games

52 Flight of the Amazon Queen *Warner Interac*
56 BioForge *Origin*
60 Super Karts *Virgin*
62 XCOM: Terror of the Deep *MicroProse*
66 Jungle Strike *Gremlin*
68 Ticonderoga *Mindscape*
73 Front Lines *Impressions*
77 Radio Active *US Gold*
78 Atari 2600 Pack *Activision*
79 NBA Live 95 *Electronic Arts*
81 Pinball Fantasies Deluxe *21st Century Entertainment*
81 Alone ' Dark/Shadow of the Comet *Telstar*
83 Ishar 2: Messengers of Doom *Daze*

Multimedia

84 Great Artists on CD-ROM *Attica*
86 Romeo and Juliet *Attica*
88 Star Trek TNG Interactive Manual *S & S*
89 Driving Test *Ten out of Ten*
89 Mavis Beacon:Typing for Kids *Mindscape*
90 Fun School 5 *Europress Software*
91 MTV's Club Dead *Viacom*
91 One Tribe *Virgin*
91 New York, NY *Softkey*
91 Americana *Softkey*
91 Worldview *Softkey*
93 Wild Cards *Corel*
93 Time Almanac *Softkey*
93 CNN Newsroom Global View *Softkey*
93 Total Health: Body and Mind *Softkey*
93 One Stop CD Shop *Softkey*

Hardware & Utilities

112 Logitech ScanMan Colour 32/*Scanner*
112 Logitech ScanMan Colour 256/*Scanner*
112 Mustek CG8400/*Scanner*
112 Epson GT65000/*Scanner*
112 Hewlett Packard Scan-Jet 3p/*Scanner*
112 Mustek Paragon 600/*Scanner*
112 Mustek Paragon 1200/*Scanner*
112 Logitech PowerPage!/*Scanner*
114 Simply 3D/*Rendering software*
114 Gamerunner/*Memory manager*
115 Serif Draw Plus 2.0/*Drawing package*
115 Astound/*Multimedia presentation software*
116 Inspiration/*Visualisation software*
116 CD Speed/*CD accelerator*
116 Pace Linnet Message Desk/*Fax modem*
116 Virtus WalkThrough Pro/*Drawing package*
117 PageKeeper 2.0/*Organisation package*
117 Pressworks 2.0/*Desktop publishing*
119 Windows '95 Revealed/*Book*
119 Understanding Windows '95/*Book*
119 Introducing Microsoft Windows '95/*Book*
120 Microsoft Golf Strategy Guide/*Book*
120 Colonization/*Book*

Shareware

122 The Athera Chronicles/*Goodman*
122 Trugg/*Shareware Support*
122 Windows Commander/*Goodman*
122 Geoclock/*Testware Publishing*
123 Tried and Tested

Win!

Three tickets to the British Open courtesy of Gametek, the creators of Fairway to Heaven (previewed this issue)

Not only is a Fairway to Heaven the most godawful pun ever devised ever, it just happens to be the not-so-godawful-looking sports sim in the pipeline from Gametek. (In fact, how it looks right now is pretty smart.)

Fairway is based on the golfing video of the same name, and features the very best holes from eighteen courses plus tips on how to play them from recognised experts, including Jack Nicklaus, Peter Oosterhuis, Gary Player and Tom Weiskopf. More on page 105 this issue.

To enter simply answer the following question . . .



How many clubs can a tournament player carry in a bag including the putter?

(a) 10
(b) 14
(c) 17

Fairway to Heaven Competition

Send your entries to Fairway to Heaven Competition, PC Review, Priory Court, 30 32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....

❒ I am over 18 ❒ I am under 18

Closing date May 15

Answers .....

❒ Data Protection Tick this box if you do not wish to receive information on other offers or services in the future

RULES Employees of Emap, NEC their families and associates are not elegible to enter ● No multiple entries please ● No cash equivalent to the stated prizes is available.● No entries received after the closing date will be accepted.●The editor's decision is final

PC REVIEW ISSUE 43

PC Review is published by EMAP Images, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Printed in the UK

EDITORIAL

Tel (0171) 972 6700 ~ Fax (0171) 972 6710 ~ E-mail: pcreview@cix.compulink.co.uk

Managing Editor Steve James ~ *Consultant Editor* Christina Erskine ~ *Reviews editor* Cal Jones ~ *Production editor* Jackie Ryan ~ *CD-ROM editor* ~ Tony Dillon *Contributors* David Bradwell, Matt Broughton, Mark Cantrell, Steve Cooke, Dean Evans, Charles Hathaway, Lucy Hickman, Gordon Houghton, Mike James, Sue James, Martin Klimes, Andy Leaning, Andrew Wright

DESIGN

Art editor Mark Edwards ~ *Deputy art editor* Aileen O'Donnell ~ Additional Design Niki Creed, Gordon Barrick ~ *Photographs:* Paul Ashley, Terrence Beddis *Illustrations* Ian Bott, Steve MacFarlane, Gary Boller

ADVERTISING

Tel (0171) 972 6700 Fax (0171) 216 6219 ~ *Advertisement manager* Maria Clarke ~ *Advertising production manager* Tina Gynn ~ *Production assistant* Ian Thompson

MANAGEMENT

Systems manager Sarah-Jane Leavey ~ *Technical assistant* Nick Claridge ~ *Promotions publisher* Nigel Taylor ~ *Marketing assistant* Fiona Malloch

Editorial director David Kelly ~ *Editorial assistant* Jo Briar ~ *Publishing director* Graham Taylor ~ *Managing director* Terry Pratt

Page output and colour origination by Sarah-Jane Leavey at EMAP Images. Colour scans by Team Graphics. 105-109 Oxford Street, London W1.
Printed by Duncan Web, Farleigh Hill, Tovil, Maidstone, Kent. Distributed by BBC Frontline.

© EMAP Images 1994.
No part of this magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, either electronic or mechanical, without the express written permission of the publishing director.
PC Review does its best to ensure that the information contained in this magazine is accurate, but cannot be held responsible for any errors which may occur.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & BACK ISSUES

Tower Publishing, Tower House, Sovereign Park, Lathkill Street, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9EF.
tel (01858) 468888 Back issues cost £5.95 each (CD-ROM edition) and £4.95 (disk edition) in the UK and £7.95 for delivery to the rest of the world. Write to Tower Publishing at the above address for details.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES (12 issues, incl postage) United Kingdom and BFPO £47.40 Europe and Eire (airmail) £55.00 Airmail Europe and Eire £65.00
Rest of the World (airmail zone 1) £95.00 Rest of the World (airmail zone 2) £95.00

Now launched

Fun School 5

...the best just got better!

'Fun School is back with a vengeance...brilliantly conceived, inventive and humorous...'

wrote Matthew Richards in the March issue of PC Plus

'The first thing that strikes you about Fun School in Dreamland is the quality of the program's illustration. It's gorgeous...

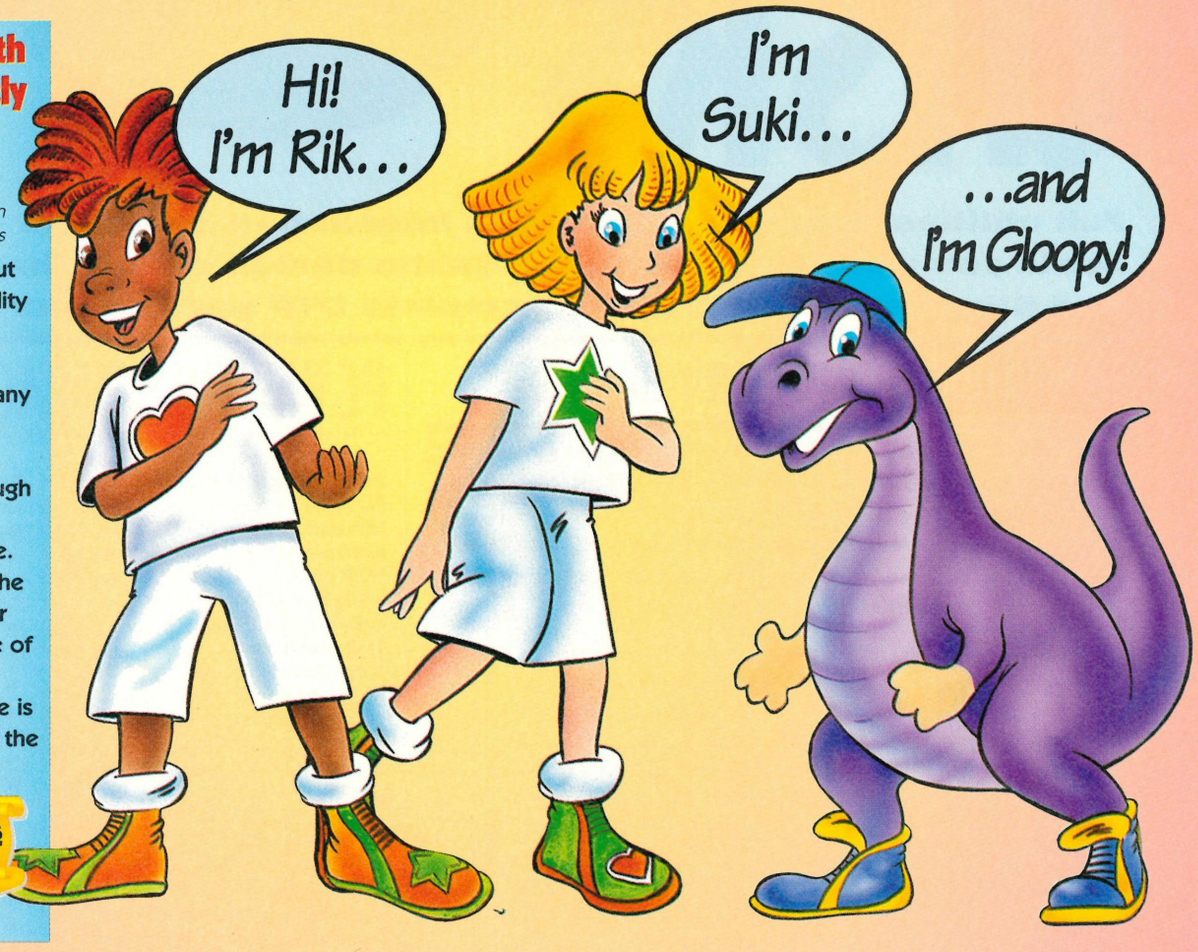
'Click one of the icons in almost any other program and you'd simply be dumped in the relevant activity. In Dreamland you're transported through a richly coloured fractal vortex that swirls into the dream of your choice.

'It all sounds slightly freaky, but the effect is stunning and is yet another step in setting the high quality tone of the program.

'The design is excellent, and there is a unique, fresh and original look to the program. Overall, it's a dream'.

PC Plus awarded Fun School in Dreamland 10 out of 10 – and gave it the coveted

PC Plus GOLD



- Three new titles are in the latest range: Fun School in Dreamland (4-7 years), Fun School in Space (6-9 years), Fun School in Time (8-11 years)
- Core subjects covered: English, maths, science, ecology and geography (five games in each pack).

International Bestseller! OVER 800,000 FUN SCHOOL PACKAGES SOLD

TECH SPEC

Minimum requirements:-
386 DX 33Mhz, 4Mb RAM, 1Mb SVGA card and monitor, DOS 3.0 or above, hard disk, and MS compatible mouse.

Sound cards supported:
SoundBlaster Pro, SoundBlaster 16 and compatibles.

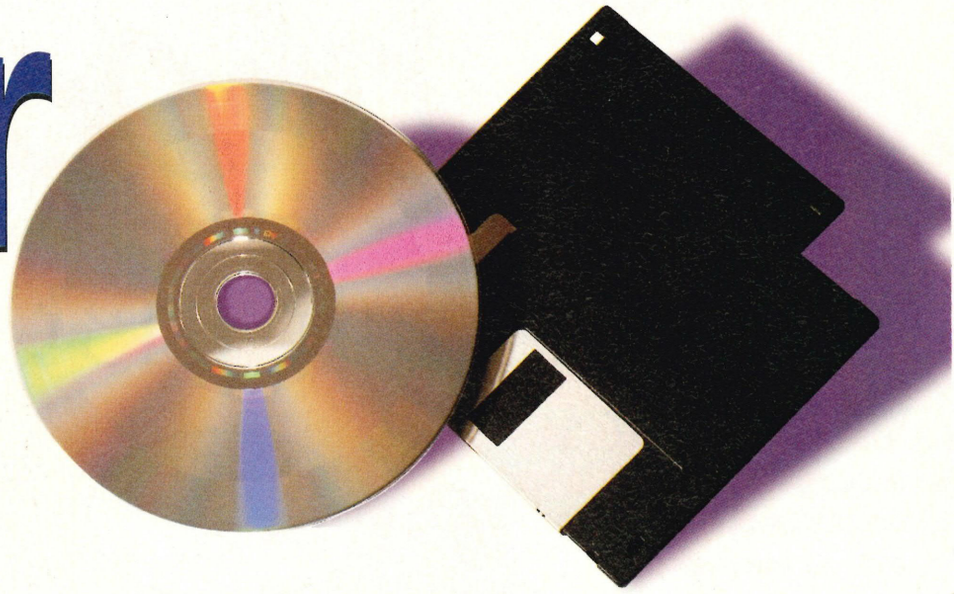
Video cards:
Cirrus Logic, Trident 8900 A/B/C, S3, Tseng 4000, Western Digital.

Recommended retail price: **£29.99**
Available on: **PC CD Rom & Floppy**

europress SOFTWARE

Europa House, Adlington Park,
Macclesfield, SK10 4NP
Tel: 01625 859333
Fax: 01625 879962

Cover disks



Full utilities, huge demos and an interactive magazine — what more could you want? How about fantastic demos of Full Throttle, Bioforge and Slipstream 5000 and a complete DTP package for Windows!

HOW TO LOAD YOUR PC REVIEW COVER CD

As soon as you load your PC Review cover CD this month, you'll notice that things aren't quite what you're used to. This is all part of our commitment to bring you the best in CD-ROM entertainment. Let us guide you through the future of covermounts.

From now on, loading and installing all of our cover demos could not be easier.

1) The first thing to do is to insert your CD-ROM into the drive and wait for the light on the front of the drive to go out.

2) Next, log on to the CD-ROM drive by typing its drive letter, press Enter.

3) The first thing you'll come across when you type PCREVIEW at the CD-ROM directory prompt is the brand new menu screen. From now on, loading and installing all of our cover demos could not be easier.

The screen is laid out into nine boxes, with each box containing a screenshot of a demo, which is titled underneath. Clicking on one of the boxes, or moving the highlight over it with the cursor keys and then pressing Return, brings up a two line menu which gives you the option of reading about the demo or running it. (In some cases, the Run option will be replaced with the Install option, but this is only when the game/utility refuses to run from the CD.) When we have more than nine items on the CD-ROM, (which is generally the case every month) you'll find a Page Down icon on the bottom of the screen, which takes you to subsequent pages of the menu screen.

HOW TO LOAD YOUR PC REVIEW FLOPPY DISKS

Place your disk into your internal drive and type A:[Enter] followed by PCR[Enter] and then follow onscreen instructions.

PC REVIEW INTERACTIVE

PC REVIEW INTERACTIVE

PC Review Interactive is a fully interactive version of PC Review. It comes in five sections. Click on the PCRi panel at the bottom of the menu screen to launch into the main menu of PCRi.

1) Reviews Index

A complete index of every software review we have ever run. Select a category in the menu bar at the top of the screen, then browse through the list, or click on the 'Search' button and jump to a particular game.

2) Interactive Q&A

This point and click screen gives instant access to all past Q&A solutions. Click on the button which covers your problem, and then scroll through to find the solution!

3) Glossary

Don't know your RAM from your OCR? Our interactive glossary will soon sort you out. Browse by sliding through the text onscreen, or try the direct approach by clicking on the 'Search' button.

4) Game Shots

Impressed by the screenshots in this magazine?This is your chance to find out what that game would look like on your machine? Just click the button for the game you wish to view, then sit back and enjoy!

5) Back Issues

A complete list of all available previous issues is here for you to see.

PCRI PROBLEMS

Occasionally some people may find that PC Review Interactive doesn't work quite as it should.

If you are having problems running the program, we recommend you try running the following checking procedures:

1) Ensure that you have WIN set in your path.

When you click on the PCRi logo on the main menu, it tries to launch Windows by typing WIN. If you don't have WIN in your path (check your Autoexec.bat to see if you do or not), then you will be given a Bad Filename or Command message. From here, the easiest thing to do is launch Windows as you normally do, and then use the File Manager to run PCRI.EXE from the CD-ROM drive.

2) Part of the page seems to be missing.

You will need Windows running in 800*600 mode to use PCRi. Use your Windows Setup to change your video driver if necessary.

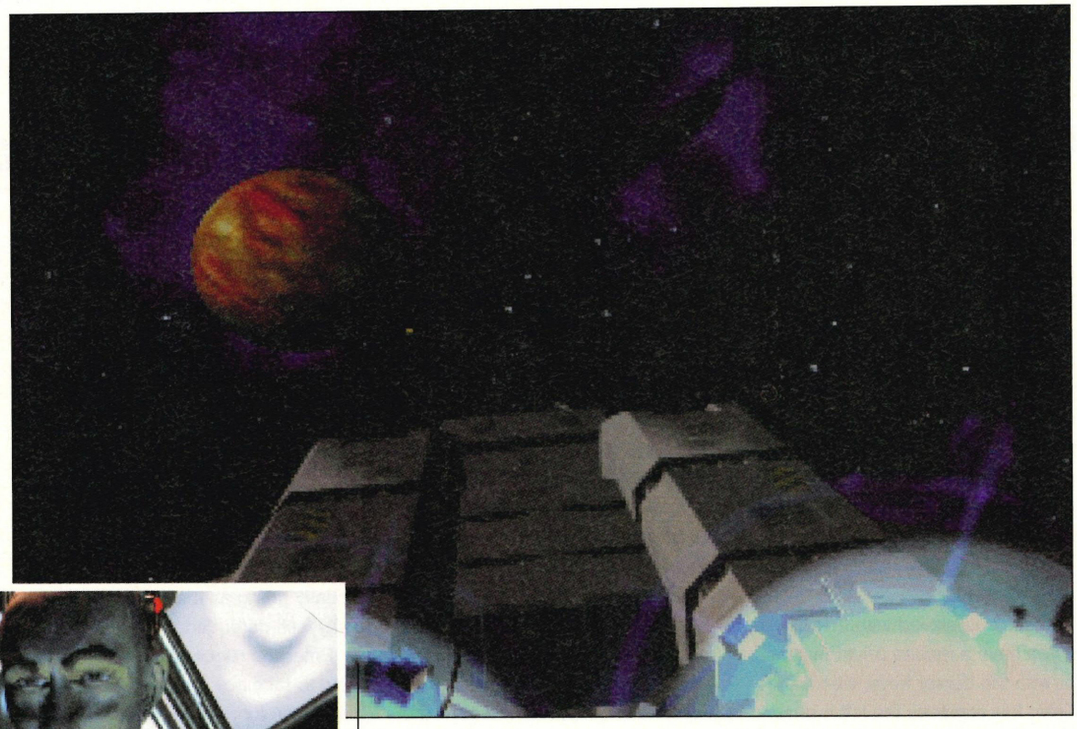
3) The Reviews Index/Glossary/Back Issues section is blank.

This is a memory problem on some machines, but the structure of the program has been changed to ensure that this should now no longer be the case. If you do still find it happening however, check your EMS settings.

BIOFORGE *playable demo*

Being made into a cyborg isn't all it's cracked up to be, you know. I mean, Robocop may look cool and all that, but what happens when the wrong people want to mechanise you? Ask Origin we say, as it is just about to release one of the eeriest and most technophobia inducing graphic adventures ever — Bioforge.

In our playable demo on this month's cover disk, you begin by waking up in your cell with a robot 'nurse' stabbing at you with a cattle prod. What she wants to do is to keep you in bed — the thing is, all you want to do is escape.





How To Play

The game is played with the keyboard, using a similar control method to Alone In The Dark/Little Big Adventure. The following keys control our hero in his escape bid:

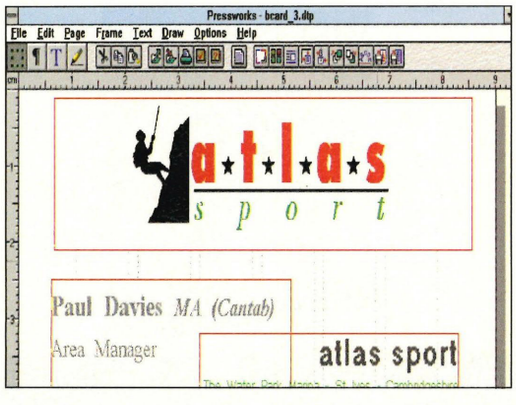
Up/Down:	Walk forward, walk backward
Left/Right:	Rotate left, rotate right
Shift with the above:	Fast movement
Space bar:	Use currently held object
Enter:	Pick up/Drop
P:	Personal Info Manager
5 (on keypad):	Use weapon
C:	Enter/Exit combat mode
Alt+Keypad:	Hand attacks
CTRL+Keypad:	Foot attacks
F1:	Help screen

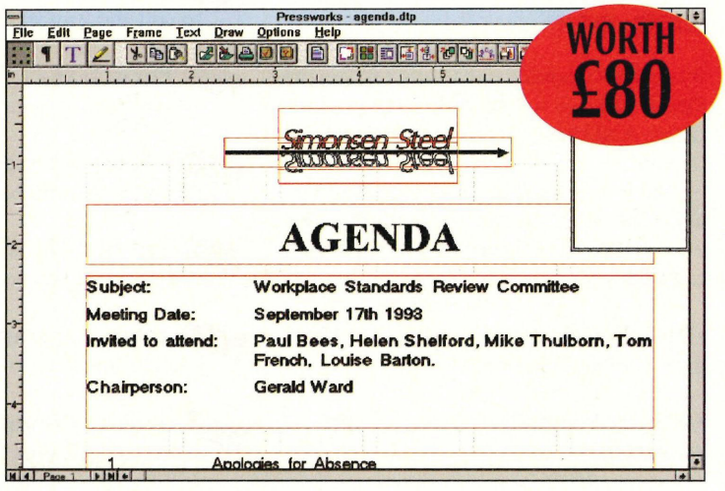
PRESSWORKS *utility*

This month PC Review is proud to present, as part of our ongoing quest to get you the packages you need without the prices of the high street, Pressworks — the only DTP package the home user ever needs to own.

This outstanding package can be used to create all kinds of documents, from business cards to flyers to posters to newspapers and fanzines.

Pressworks supports all major word processor formats, so you can write your document in your favourite one, and then import it along with graphics saved in any of the main graphic formats to brighten up those pages. What's more, as it runs entirely in Windows, you can use your standard Windows printer drivers to output your documents when done!





WORTH £80

How To Use

Pressworks is a very easy package to use, and features a full on-line help section, so you should have no problems getting to grips with it.

One thing you might want to do first however, is load some of the example files that come with the program, which you can do by selecting Load from the drop down menus. For more information on Pressworks see page 12.

ORION CONSPIRACY *playable demo*

They brought us Innocent Until Caught. They brought us its sequel Guilty, and now we have The Orion Conspiracy — another fine graphic adventure where you find yourself on the run from the authorities in a futuristic, BladeRunner like world. Or do you? The theme of this game is to trust absolutely no-one, only your own resources, as you try to escape from the sealed observatory at the start of the game.

How To Play

The game is played with the mouse, if you have a mouse driver installed, or with the cursor keys, where the Enter key replaces the left mouse button. In both instances, the space bar is used to call up the icon panel.

Moving the mouse pointer over certain items on screen, such as the door or the console will cause their name to appear. Clicking the with left mouse button now will either bring up a text description of the item, or a selection of icons (if the item can be interacted with — such as the telescope on the tripod). Moving the mouse pointer over the icons reveals what they do, so you shouldn't have too much trouble getting through this one.

Just in case you do, though, here's the solution. Collect the telescope, and then select it in your inventory by pressing the space bar and then clicking on its icon. Now dismantle it, and dismantle the bar that comes from it. Use the lens from the telescope to unscrew the grille on the wall, and then place the metal bar in the new hole.

Examine your rations, and stuff the wet thing into the metal bar, and the door will open!

PYROTECHNICA *playable demo*

Aliens are a strange bunch, aren't they? First they trek all the way across space to see a bunch of little pink guys on a planet in the middle of nowhere, and then those self same pink guys discover that the aliens have been hiding huge amounts of information in the middle of stars.

Being the nosey bunch that humans can be, they decide to go and retrieve as much of this information as possible, but find it very heavy going as the stars are generally well defended.

Enter the rogue pilot, who is willing to face any danger and breach any star, for a price. Guess where you step in?

How to play

The entire game is played with the keyboard, using the following keys:

Cursor keys:	Rotates the ship in three dimensions
0-9:	Set speed of ship
F1-F4:	Select primary weapon
F5-F8:	Select secondary weapon
Space:	Fire primary weapon
S, Alt:	Fire secondary weapon
C:	Drop chaff
F:	Drop flare
ESC:	Eject.

EXCLUSIVE UPGRADE OFFER

PC Review readers can upgrade to Pressworks 2 straight away for just £29.95!

By now you should be realising just how easy Pressworks 1 is to use. Well, Pressworks 2 is easier, AND faster. It even creates new designs for you!

And if you want to quickly build up your DTP collection, you can opt for the Pressworks 2 POWER pack upgrade, which features 3 extra titles (worth £64.80) for just an extra £10.

- **Headline Fonts** – a collection of 100 original TrueType fonts.
- **Clipart Portfolio** – 600 top quality colour images.
- **PowerTable** – a powerful mini spreadsheet to style Pressworks 2 order forms, price, list, etc.

NEW **PagePilots** – To help you create a range of instant new designs.

NEW **Screen Interface** – Floating toolbars to suit the way you work.

NEW **PowerText** – With a host of new options for logo and headline effects.

NEW **Clipart Browser 2.0** – Now handles all the popular clipart formats.

NEW **Tab Bar** – Now appears on screen to style the text you're working on.

NEW **Colour Separations** – To output colour films for professional printing.

NEW **Booklet Printing**– Automatically orders pages, plus "print proofs" option.

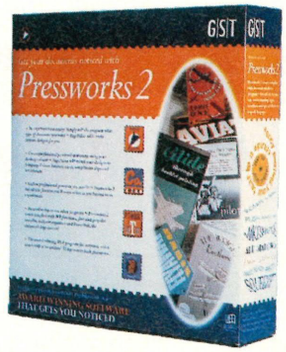
NEW **Decorative Borders** – Liven up any design with a host of artistic effects.

NEW **Text Runaround** – Allows you to automatically run text around graphics.

NEW **Colours and Tints** – Featuring PANTONE, RGB, CMYK and HLS colour models.

NEW **Frame Shapes** – Place text and graphics in different shapes or create your own.

NEW **Pasteboard** – Allows a more flexible way of working, positioning items off the page.



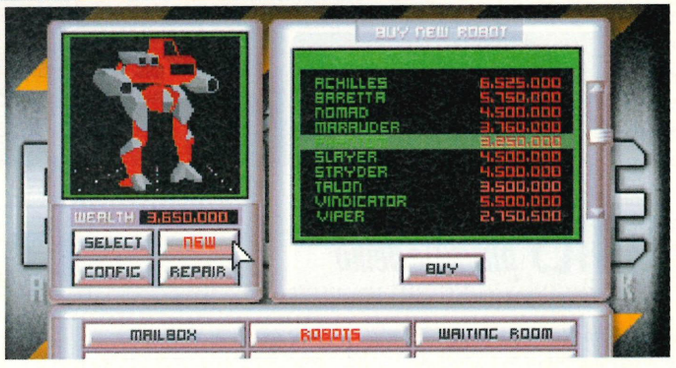
To order your upgrade, fill in the coupon on page 5 or call GST Software on:
TEL: 01480 496575 FAX: 01480 460206 Quote ref: PCRMAY95U

BATTLEDROME *playable demo*

The idea of taking control of a giant walking robot with large guns, and then using it to attack other giant walking creatures has always been a popular part of the science fiction culture, coming to a head in recent times with the advent of Battletech. Recently we've seen Earthsiege tackle the subject well, and now is the time of Battledrome, where instead of taking to the wild plains and open countryside to do battle, you fight inside a gigantic indoor arena. This demo only allows you to take on computer controlled opponents, but in the full game, you can link machines and play head to head with your friends — sounds like fun!

This is only a very brief rundown of what Battledrome is. For more information, log onto your CD-ROM directory and type
CD BATTLE [Enter]
followed by
README [enter]





How To Play

The game is controlled with joystick or keyboard, using the following keys:

ARENA CONTROLS

Surrender Match	Esc
Preferences	Alt+P or F12
Calibrate Joystick	Ctrl+J
Brighten Screen	F8
Quit to DOS	Ctrl+Q

VIEW CONTROL

Cockpit	F1
Probes	F2-F5
Attach Probe On/Off	A
Next Probe	Alt+N
Toggle Control Between HERC/Probe (must be in a Probe)	Tab
Controlling Attached Probes:	
Move around herc	Arrow Keys
Zoom In/Out	Up/Down Arrow + >
Controlling Detached Probe:	
Change view dir.	Arrow Keys
Probe Forward	>
Probe Backwards	<

HERC CONTROL

Change Between HERC/Turret	Insert or Button 2
Forward/Reverse	Up/Down Arrows
Left	Left arrow
Right	Right arrow
HERC Left	[
HERC Right	]
Turret Up	I
Turret Down	M
Turret Left	J
Turret Right	K
Turret Centered	Backspace
Throttle	
Zero	0
Decrease	-
Increase	+
Full or Reverse	/

WEAPON CONTROL

Fire Next Weapon	Space
Single-Fire Weapon	1-6
Add/Remove Weapon from Chain	Alt+1-6

HEADS UP DISPLAY (HUD)

HUD On/Off	U
Reset HUD	Ctrl+U
Energy Allocation	E
Shields	
to 80%	X
+10%	Shift+X
-10%	Ctrl+X
Engine	
to 80%	C
+10%	Shift+C
-10%	Ctrl+C
Weapons	
to 80%	V
+10%	Shift+V
-10%	Ctrl+V
Balance Energy	Z
Weapons Display	W
Target Info	T
View/Control Status	B
Throttle/Heading	H
Probe List	P
Probe Orientation	O
Damage/Shield	D
Internal Systems Status	S
Game Message Display	G

JOYSTICK

HERC MODE

Button 1 (Trigger):	Fire Weapon
Button 2:	Switch to Turret Mode
Forward/Back	Forward /Reverse
Left/Right:	Steer

TURRET MODE

Button 1 (Trigger):	Fire Weapon
Button 2:	Switch to HERC Mode
Forward/Back:	Turret Down/Up
Left/Right:	Turret Left/Right

PROBE ATTACHED MODE

Normal:
Forward/Back: Move Up/Down around HERC
Left/Right: Move Left/Right around HERC
Button 1 (trigger) depressed:
Forward/Back: Move towards/away from HERC
Left/Right: Move Left/Right around HERC

PROBE DETATCHED MODE

Button 1 (Trigger):	Move Probe Forward
Button 2:	Move Probe Backward
Forward/Back:	Look Down/Up
Left/Right:	Look Left/Right

If available:

Button 3:	Align Turret
Button 4:	Zero Throttle

"Hat" Button:

If Joystick Controls:	Hat Controls:
HERC	Turret
Turret	HERC
Probe	Probe

When in a Probe, the Tab key switches from HERC/Turret mode to Probe mode.

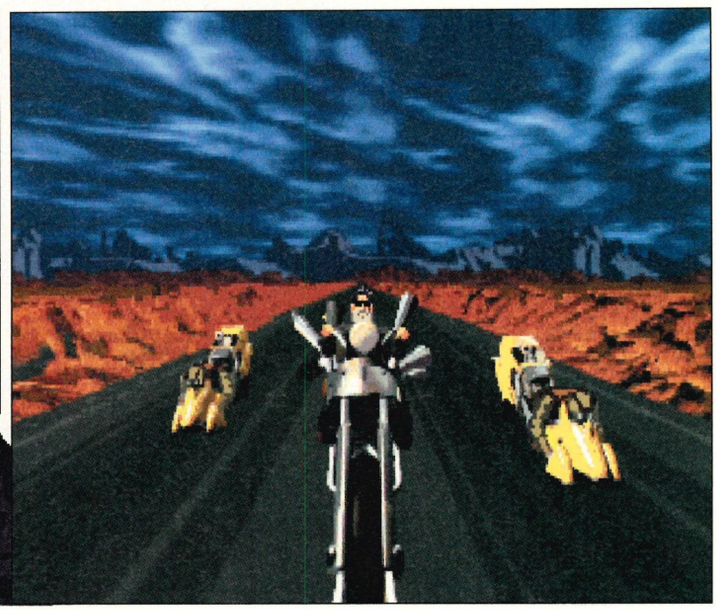
FULL THROTTLE *playable demo*

If this isn't the coolest thing that LucasArts has ever done, I'll eat my copy of Dark Forces. Full Throttle is the most successful attempt at an interactive cartoon ever, and before you start thinking of Dragon's Lair, this is actually interactive OK? You are a lone biker, tricked into an ambush and then left for dead in a skip, minus the keys for your bike. What's a guy to do?

How To Play

The game is controlled with the mouse or cursor keys, and is a fairly straight-forward graphic adventure. Moving the pointer around the screen until it changes shape over an object, hold down the left mouse button to make the icon panel for that object appear. There are four things you can do to any object — look,talk/eat, use and kick, all selectable from the frame that appears around the object when you select it. Just play it, will you?



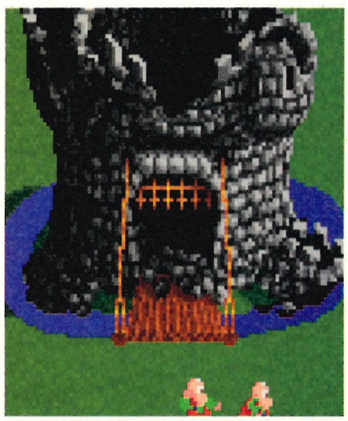


BALDIES *playable demo*

Baldies from Gametek looks like it's going to be a lot of fun when it comes out. Take Populous, Sim City or The Settlers, and add even more colour and personality to them, and you're somewhere towards what this great game is all about.

You control a tribe of young men with no hair, who have to forage for tools, create inventions and then use them in the most imaginative way possible to destroy the enemy. A skunk and a catapult is the easiest way of clearing an enemy castle!

This rolling demo should give you some idea as to the sorts of things you will be able to get up to in the game, but watch this space for a full review and playable demo soon.

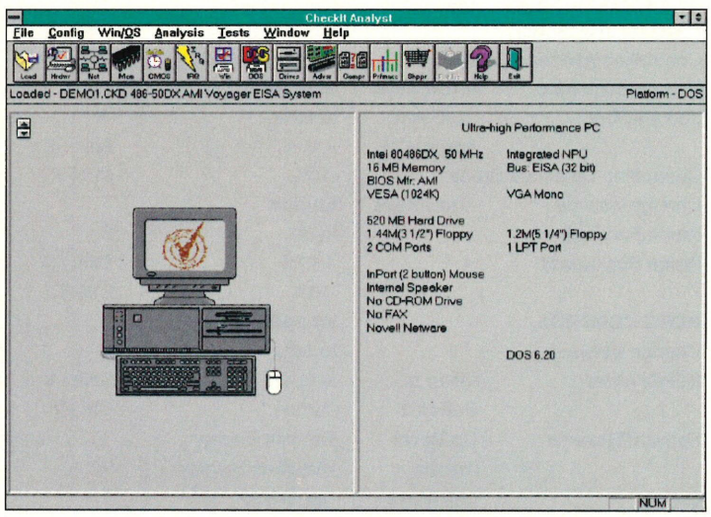


CHECK IT *utility*

Owing to a slight error last month, Checkit Analyst failed to appear on the CD-ROM as promised. So, to make up for that miscalculation, here it is in its entirety. If you missed last month's issue, then here are the instructions printed there, also in their entirety. Checkit Analyst is a full system diagnostic tool.

Whenever your computer throws up a glitch, it will give you a run-down on any failings. It's particularly useful for those annoying occasions when you get conflicts from installing that new sound card or CD-ROM drive into your machine, because Checkit Analyst searches out all the IRQ settings that your bits of kit are using.

Using the package couldn't be much easier. Once the program is installed, it will create a program group on your desktop. Click on the program's icon to launch it, and from that point on the rest of the program is simple, with the icons along the top of the screen giving you various system reports.



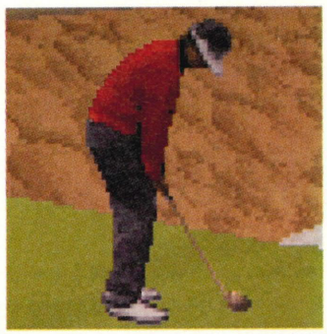
FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN *playable demo*

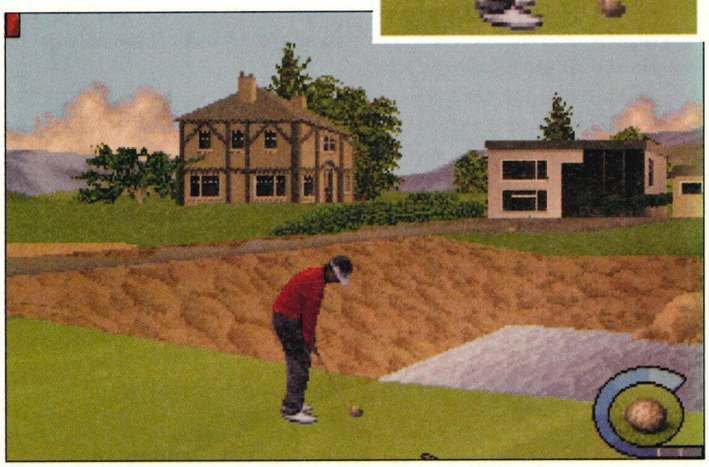
Golf games have always been popular things, many people feeling just a little too couch bound to ever find themselves with the fairway beneath their feet and success in the shape of a tiny flag fluttering 300 yards away.

Things started so simply with games like Leaderboard back in the mid-eighties, and have become progressively more complicated, and now Gametek come to the fray with their own attempt at the most realistic golf game ever, and this one includes some quite novel features, not the least being the interactive golf tutorial included as part of the package. Now not only will you need to be good with your mouse finger, you'll also need to get the hang of your woods as well!

Featuring some of the most realistic looking courses yet seen in a computer game, the full game also features full spoken commentary from world famous golfers such as Jack Nicklaus (surely he did his own game anyway?).

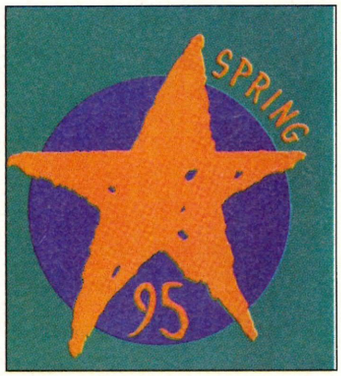
This demo is an early working version of the game, and already shows how this could be the best golf title yet seen on the PC! Watch this space for a full review soon!



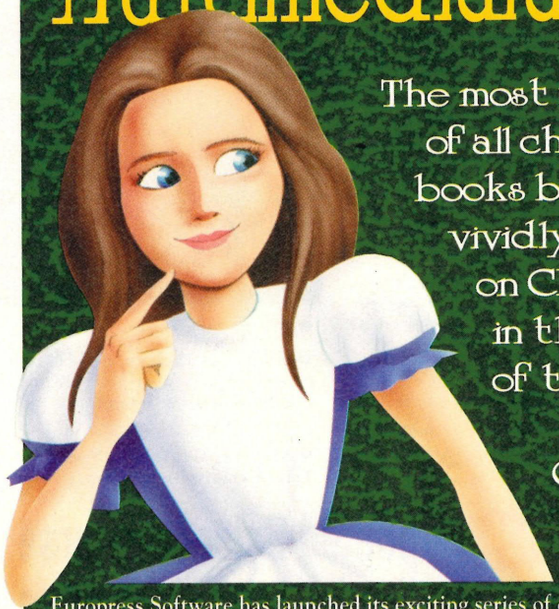


ECTS *exclusive show report*

The Spring ECTS saw the biggest names in the software world coming together once again for this twice yearly trade show, this time under the roof of Kensington Olympia. The ticket says 'sorry, this show is for trade only', but we couldn't see why you should be left out of the fun, so we've included this full exclusive interactive documentary profiling the show and all the top products you can expect to see this summer!



Now it's Alice in Multimedialand!



The most famous of all children's books brought vividly to life on CD-Rom in the first of the new Living Classics series

Europress Software has launched its exciting series of children's CD-Roms with the best-loved story of them all – Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland.

In this fully interactive book, Sir John Tenniel's 133-year old engravings miraculously come to life and burst into glowing colour.

Conversations pour out of the pages in a variety of accents – the throaty roar of the Duchess, the screeching of the Cheshire Cat, the nervous mutterings of the White Rabbit and the strident tones of the Mad Hatter.

LIVING Classics

Everything is there – right to the moment the Queen shouts "Off with her head!" and Alice's famous retort: "You're nothing but a pack of cards!"

The 'book' consists of more than 50 graphic screens. Among the pages are four multi-level interactive games. Help Alice escape from the strange hall at the foot of the Rabbit-hole, play a noisy Simon game with the hookah-puffing Caterpillar, ward off a army of lethal cups and saucers in the Duchess's kitchen, and interrupt the Queen of Hearts in the middle of a tense game of croquet.

Even non-PC users will be able to enjoy Alice's adventures. The disc, with the complete story, including dialogue and original music, can also be played on an audio CD player.

It has been released at only £19.99.

The first package to be produced in Klik & Play

Alice in Wonderland requires a PC 386 (486 recommended), Windows 3.1, 4Mb RAM (8Mb recommended), 256 colour graphics, Windows-compatible sound card.

Now available at most computer stores or direct from mail order suppliers. Or ring Europress Software for more details on

01625 859333

EUROPRESS SOFTWARE

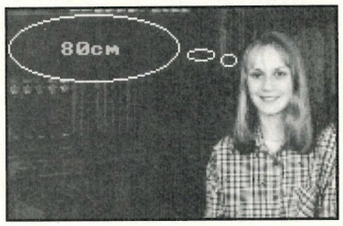


NEW GCSE Maths made easy and fun!!

NATIONAL CURRICULUM*

CD MICRO MATHS (11yrs - GCSE) NEW

CD Micro Maths is a self-tuition course of 30 programs following the National Curriculum taking beginners up to GCSE. It is for the PC CD-ROM (See the screen shot in 256 colours).



- Interactive film-like animations with speech are included. Hold conversations with actors. Work out if "Dodgy Del" is cheating you with his Discounts. Carry out GCSE Maths Aurals, etc.
- Very easy to use. It will help improve GCSE grades, yet is sufficiently enjoyable to motivate the student to move through the course.
- CD modern orchestral music.
- Maths instruction & **millions** of problems, with different levels of help & complete explanations.
- Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, Trigonometry & Arithmetic.

Also new updated Science course & speech on disc in language course



Reach the top

LCL Self-tuition courses will open up a whole new world for you as each course is specifically designed to take beginners up to a recognised level (such as GCSE, A-Level or National Curriculum tests) in a fun but effective way. Everything you are likely to need is included - you don't have to keep buying new packs. Each course includes an incredible 24 programs or tutorials, and even a book. They are so easy to use and ideal for Intensive Revision. Choose from the largest popular range of GCSE courses in the world:

New! Windows front ends

CD MICRO FRENCH (Beginners - GCSE) NEW

CD MICRO MATHS (11yrs - GCSE) NEW

MICRO FRENCH (Beginners - GCSE) 95% in Review

MICRO MATHS (11yrs - GCSE) Top Seller

MICRO SPANISH (Beginners - GCSE & Business) 95% in Review

MICRO SCIENCE (8 yrs - GCSE) New! with animation

MICRO GERMAN (Beginners - GCSE & Business) 95% in Review

PRIMARY MATHS COURSE (3 - 12 yrs)

MICRO ENGLISH (8yrs - GCSE)

MEGA MATHS (A Level course)

£5 OFF TOTAL FOR 2 COURSES, £10 OFF FOR 3, £17 OFF FOR 4

Only £24.99 per floppy disk course.

Only £34.99 for CD Courses (UK).

"Excellent value for money, easy and fun to use" PC HOME

Overseas add £2 per course. Cheques payable to LCL. Free catalogue. Trade enquiries welcome.

(*All Appropriate LCL courses are National Curriculum compatible and run on most PCs.)

Send orders to:

LCL (Dept PCR), Thames House, 73 Blandy Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1QB.

Phone 01491 579345 (sent in 24hrs) LCL VISA

DEJA VIEWER *utility demo*

If you work regularly with graphic files, be you a 3D artist or working with multimedia, you'll know just how quickly even the larger hard drives can fill up.

Make no bones about it, the better quality the graphic, the more space you're going to lose. And what happens when you want to make your images portable — give them to friends for example, or put together a demonstration that needs a lot of photographic images?

One answer is to get hold of a CD-ROM recorder or a SyQuest drive. Neither are cheap, or even that practical for day to day use.

That's why those nice people at have come up with Deja Viewer — a fractal compression program that can turn a full screen GIF into a 30k file in minutes, and then display that same image instantly as part of a portfolio program.

The demonstration on our cover disk takes up less than a floppy disk, yet contains forty huge graphic images!

If you don't believe us, check the Deja directory on the CD.

Using the demo is a fairly straightforward thing, so why not run it and see how it can save you all the hard drive space you could want.

WARRIORS *playable demo*

Virtua Fighters looks like it's going to cause the same number of spin offs and better — than StreetFighter did. No sooner has there been a texture mapped polygon combat game in the arcades than the software industry answers with their own games along the same lines. Mindscape's Warriors is a one-on-one combat title where you go up against a succession of computer opponents, with the aim of beating the stuffing out of all of them. This demo gives you two of the game's finished characters to play with, or play against as the case may be.

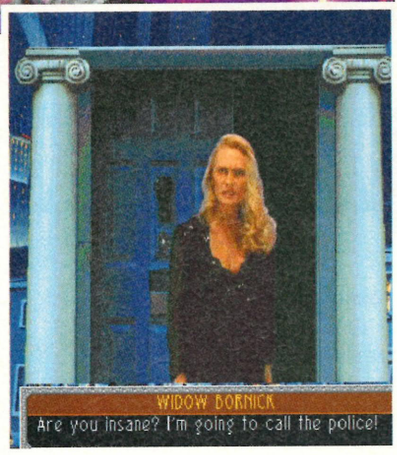
How to play

The game is played with either joystick or keys, using the cursor keys to control your on-screen persona, the Enter key to perform hand combat moves, the shift key for kicking combat moves and the numeric keypad to select the camera view of the action.



NOCTROPOLIS *playable demo*

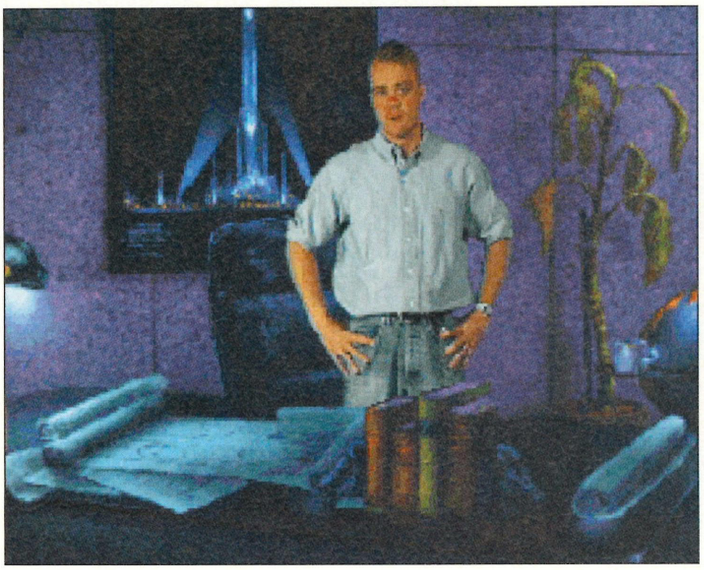




Reviewed in Issue 39, Electronic Art's dark, adult adventure follows the exploits of book-shop owner Peter Grey after he is magically transported to the comic-strip city of Noctropolis. Aided by his tough blonde sidekick, Stiletto, Grey must assume the role of superhero Darksheer in order to battle a team of evil villains who threaten the city. One of the most atmospheric games of the year.

How To Play

Using the mouse, there are a number of different things you can get the star of the game to do. If you click with the right mouse button, you'll see an inverted triangle of options appear. These are all the things our hero can do. Select an obvious one, such as Open, and then move the mouse pointer around the screen. You'll notice that is has now changed to a small arrow with the word Open written beneath it. Click on the door behind the main character, and you'll see it open. Experiment with some of the other options to see how they work, and enjoy it!



CD-ROM /COVER DISK

The PC Review cover disks and CD-ROM discs are rigorously checked and scanned for all known viruses at each stage of production.

However, cover disks and cover CDs are used at the reader's own risk.

PC Review can therefore accept no responsibility for damage to either data or hardware caused by the use of our cover disks or CD-ROMs.

If circumstances dictate that we are unable to supply the stated program, we will endeavour to provide alternative software.

We will not be held responsible for unnotified content changes.

HELP MY CD-ROM /COVER DISK WON'T WORK

DISK ONLY

If you're having problems finding your way round the cover disks or CD-ROM disc, or making them work with your PC, then try the PC Review cover disks/CD-ROM disc helpline on (01451) 810788. The helpline number operates between 3.00 and 5.00pm weekdays.

CD ONLY

(01451) 810788

HELP! MY CD-ROM / COVER DISK IS DAMAGED

Out of the thousands of cover disks and CD-ROM discs we duplicate every month, a very small number may get damaged during transit. If you think your cover disk or CD-ROM disc might be faulty, we'll replace it. Just pop the cover disk or CD-ROM disc in a jiffy bag with a suitably sized, self addressed envelope and postage to the value of 28p (55p from overseas) and the form below (filled in), and send the package to the following address:

DiskXpress, Unit 7, Willow Court, Bourton Industrial Park, Bourton-on-the-water, Gloucestershire GL54 2HQ.

Please DO NOT send the cover disk or CD-ROM disc back to the PC Review — we don't hold stocks of spares.

Name .....

.....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

The cover disk/CD-ROM disc (delete as applicable) on my copy of PC Review was damaged. Please send me a replacement — I enclose return postage to the value of 28p (55p overseas) and the original disk/disc.

NEWS

Toshiba produces a CD-ROM notebook, Epson launches a new inkjet colour printer and sneak previews of Windows '95 are revealed.



Thumping good

You should soon be able to run portable PCs for 20 per cent longer using Duracell's smart Ni-MH batteries. The new batteries use a chip and software which measures, calculates, updates and communicates info on battery status and usage to the host device. The batteries also feature an LED fuel gauge to indicate battery capacity level, to see if a battery needs to be charged before being inserted into a device. Companies expected to use the technology within future products include Canon, Compaq, Samsung, Citizen, Husky, Hyundai, BCC and Daewoo.

TICK TOCK!



Time flies

If you're someone with one of those calculator, alarm, do-it-all watches, then you'll be interested in the latest offering from Timex. Called the Data Link it's being flagged as one of the "next generation" watches, and downloads scheduling info such as appointments, phone numbers and to-do lists from a PC using software developed by Microsoft and Timex. An eye on the watch face reads the data from a CRT monitor in the form of flashing bars of light. It needs a PC running Windows 3.1 or higher and a monitor, it can also be used with PC-compatible lap tops or connected to a monitor. On top of that it's water resistant to 100m, has five programmable alarms and a chime, and the alarms can be set manually or with the PC; but we still think we'll wait for the Rolex version. It costs £120. For information call 0171 630 8180.

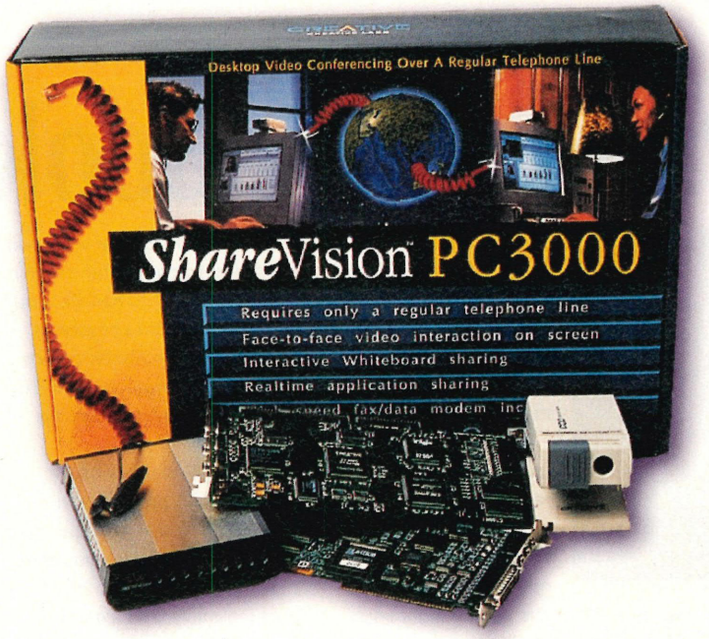
Third World Aid on CD-ROM

Third World development charity Action Aid has produced the first ever CD-ROM devoted to overseas development. The Discover India disc contains over 400 still images, 80 film clips and 25 minutes of music and narration. You can see a day in the life of one of the country's street children or spend a day with a girl working in a match factory. The charity has been working in India for over 22 years, helping families and children in poor communities. The CD costs £55 and is available from Action Aid on 01460 62972.



ACTION AID!

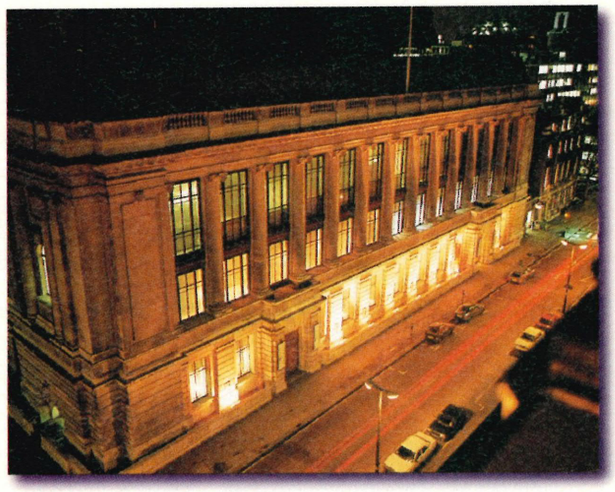
Giving People Choices
ACTIONAID



On the road You can now plan your car journey with the help of your PC and Microsoft's route planner and computerised road atlas AutoRoute Express UK and Ireland. You just tell the program where you are leaving from, where you want to go and places along the way. It finds the fastest, shortest or least expensive route, plots it on a high-quality map and gives you step-by-step instructions on how to get there. It also points out places such as cricket grounds, golf courses and football grounds. Covering more than 100,000 miles of roads and 33,000 place names, it costs £49 and comes on CD-ROM. Contact Microsoft on 01734 270001.

Beam me over **Soon there will be no need to go to work or leave your PC at all, as video conferencing is becoming more affordable. Multimedia company Creative Labs, has provided a glimpse of the future with its ShareVision PC3000 desktop video communications system. The product offers screen-based video and telephone, an interactive on-line white-board, application sharing, file transfer and image capture, all via regular phone line, with an external fax/modem, colour video camera, headset, software and video capture and comp**

Super Science Highway You can get a glimpse of the Internet at an interactive exhibition being held at the Science Museum from the 26 April to 3 September. Called the Information Superhighway, it is co-sponsored by BT and Oracle, and aims to raise awareness of what the Highway is and look at the possibilities for a global communications network with developments such as virtual surgery, interactive TV and home shopping. Staff will also be on hand to aid visitors who want to try out the Internet in its Surf City area. The Science Museum is at Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD.





Up for sale **A London estate agent, Spyer and Dove, has now put a list of the properties it has for sale on the Internet. Buyers can browse through a list of for sale properties situated in Hampstead, starting at £60,000 and going up to £2.5 million. Viewers can click on a property they are interested in and see photos and a description of it. So far the scheme has attracted interest from potential buyers in the US, Hong Kong and Russia. The World Wide Web page is at http://www.ws.pipex.com/pwave/.**

ZIP FILES

Utilities S&S International has released Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit version 7.0. The new version scans archived and compressed files, and can detect over 6,000 types of virus. The DOS version costs £99 and the Windows version £125. The prices include quarterly upgrades. Call 01296 318700. • Ini-Guard makes continuous back-ups of the last working set of System Files for both Windows and DOS, avoiding the need to manually rebuild these or re-install the system software should they become corrupted. It costs £19.99. Win-Tuner evaluates and suggests improvements to obtain greater speed and efficiency from the Windows environment. The Ini-Guard/Win-Tuner bundle costs £24.99. Call Kimberley Computer Services on 01942 677777. **Business** Accent Software is offering two new multi-lingual word processors. The £39 Accent Express 1.1 allows users to type in 34 languages, it offers 15 menu languages, 50 keyboards and 30 TrueType fonts. The £119 Accent Special Edition 1.1 offers full language support for spell checking, hyphenation, thesaurus and the Berlitz Interpreter dictionary in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. It comes with 50 keyboards, over 75 TrueType fonts and 15 menu languages. One month complimentary membership to CompuServe is

Home buyers pay more

You are now expecting to pay more for a PC than you have for the last three years, according to a survey 'PCs in the Home', done by market research group Inteco.

For the first time since the company started to track home PC sales in the UK, France and Germany, the average price expectation has gone up rather than down. In the UK this price is now £1,540, a rise of 23 per cent from the £1,250 average price in 1992.

The reason for the price hike is that over a third of potential purchasers are now looking to buy a fully configured multimedia PC and over half of those expect to buy a CD-ROM drive.

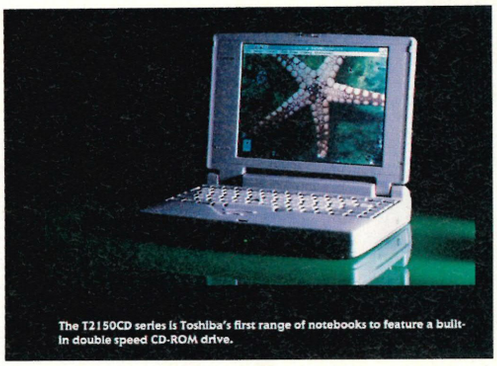
The survey interviewed 23,000 householders and questioned in depth 2,400 people, who had bought a PC since September 1993, or who were planning to buy one before April of this year.

Other facts turned up by the survey include:

- **It is still relatively wealthy households that buy PC — 80 per cent of new PCs are bought by the top 40 per cent of households by income.**
- **Typical time spent using PCs is 10 to 12 hours a week.**
- **The number of family members who use the PC has increased noticeably over the past year.**
- **About 5 per cent of UK users expect to buy modems, possibly this low figure is because people buy modems bundled with PCs.**
- **The 486 reigns supreme with 69 per cent of would-be buyers expected to buy a 486 machine, and 9 per cent wanting a Pentium.**

For further information contact Inteco 01483 731777.

CD-ROMs in a notebook



The T2150CD series is Toshiba's first range of notebooks to feature a built-in double speed CD-ROM drive.

The T2150CD from Toshiba heralds a new generation of notebooks

Toshiba has now combined its expertise in CD-ROM drives and portables to produce a CD-ROM notebook.

Starting at £2,695, the T2150CD series is aimed at those who want to be able to use CD-ROM software, particularly those who may need to access large amounts of data or images, as well as multimedia software.

The notebook format has been redesigned to incorporate the slimline drive at the rear right-hand side of the machine. The drive is an enhanced IDE double-speed Toshiba XM1102B with data transfer rates of 300Kb/sec and an average access time of 385ms. CD-ROMs can be inserted into a tray mechanism which inserts and ejects discs without the need for a caddy. A 3.5in floppy drive is attached to the notebook via a port on the left-hand side of the machine.

Sound capability comes via a built-in Sound Blaster Pro compatible system, and the notebook comes with speaker, microphone and line out sockets as well as a volume control.

The T2150CD series is built around a DX4/75 processor. It comes with a 10.4in dual scan passive colour screen which supports resolutions of 640x480 at 256 colours internally, and externally runs at 1,024x768 at 256 colours and 640x480 at 65,536 colours. There is 4Mb of memory as standard and two hard disk options, 260 or 520Mb, priced at £2,695 and £2,995.

Contact Toshiba 01932 841600.

Novell ships Perfect Office 3.0

Novell's Perfect Office 3.0 is now shipping; and buyers who purchase before 30 April can take advantage of a special introductory offer price of £179 (or £149 for existing users who want to upgrade to the Standard version).

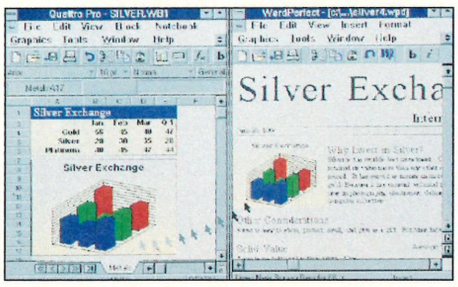
The suite of programs comes in both Standard and Professional versions. The Standard version includes the WordPerfect 6.1 word processor, Quattro pro 6.0 spreadsheet, Presentations 3.0 presentation graphics program, InfoCentral 1.1 personal information manager, Envoy 1.0 workgroup publishing tool and GroupWise 4.1 client license with email, calendaring and scheduling. The Professional version comes with Borland's Paradox 5.0 relational database and Novell Appware development tool.

A third version, called Perfect Office Select is scheduled for release in the summer, and using CD-ROM technology, users will be able to select from any of the applications offered in either version, as well as MainStreet products, GroupWare applications and third-party applications.

PerfectOffice runs on a 386-based PC running at 25MHz or better with 8Mb of RAM and Windows 3.1 or higher.

Call Novell on 01344 724460.

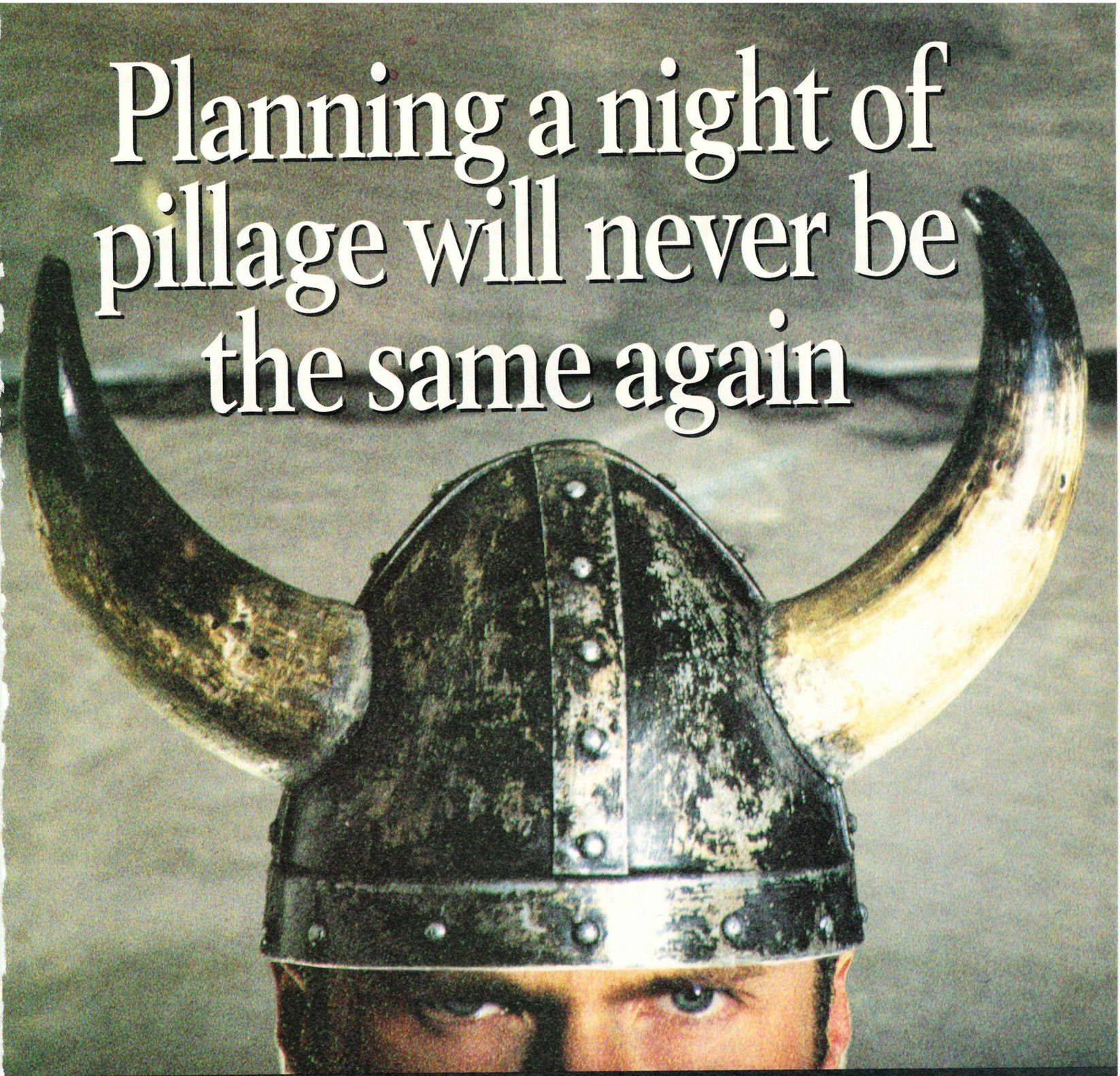
Perfect Office 3.0 can help you organise your working life perfectly.

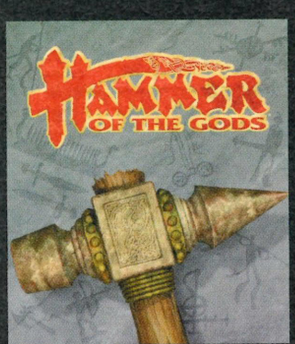


ZIP FILES

included with the products. Ring Accent Software 0171 490 0212. • Claris is bundling its FileMaker Pro database with a CompuServe introduction kit and Bacchus Junior wine information database for around £117. Call Claris on 0181 756 0101. • The London-based PC database specialists The Database Doctors has launched a dial-in service for users of Microsoft Access and Claris FileMaker Pro. Users can dial 0171 831 4890 with a question and receive a response within 48 hours. The service is free of charge in office hours. **Games** Blue Byte has announced a number of CD-ROM games. The Escape from F5 graphic adventure, Shadow of the Empire 3D multi-player actioner and Albion role-playing game are expected later this year, while Euro Rally is expected in July. The eight-player animated graphics Euro Rally game is claimed to be violence free and takes you to 100 European cities. Prices have yet to be announced. BlueByte is on 01604 ▶

Planning a night of pillage will never be the same again





HAMMER OF THE GODS™

Get into character for a night of cunning exploits, heroic deeds and sheer courage. Carve out your empire and win the right to become "Hammer of the Gods".

If you are up to the challenge, your position beside Odin awaits!

"COLONIZATION FANS WILL LOVE IT" PC HOME

HDI
HOLISTIC DESIGN INC.

NEW WORLD COMPUTING®

U.S. GOLD®
A DIVISION OF CENTREGOLD PLC

DOS CD-ROM IBM 386 or greater and 100% compatible. REQUIRES: 4Mb RAM, CD-ROM drive, Hard Disk, MS-DOS 5.0 or greater, Mouse required. SUPPORTS: All major sound cards, Super VGA graphics.

Software ©1994 Holistic Design, Inc. All other materials ©1994 New World Computing, Inc. Hammer of the Gods is a trademark of New World Computing. New World Computing and its distinctive logo are registered trademarks of New World Computing, Inc. All rights reserved. Marketed and distributed under licence in the U.K. by U.S. Gold Ltd, 1-4 Cuckoo Wharf, 427 Lichfield Road, Aston, Birmingham B6 7SS. U.S. Gold is a registered trademark of U.S. Gold Ltd. All rights reserved.

GALLUP PC CHARTS FULL PRICE

We bring you the latest best-selling software for your home PC

1	**SimCity 2000**	
(1)	*Maxis 29/9*	
2	**Doom 2**	
(5)	*Virgin 37/7*	
3	**Premier Manager 3**	
(2)	*Gremlin 41/8*	
4	**Descent**	
(-)	*Interplay 42/9*	
5	**Flight Simulator 5.0**	
(3)	*Microsoft –/–*	
6	**The Lion King**	
(10)	*Virgin 40/7*	
7	**FIFA International Soccer**	
(7)	*Electronic Arts 34/8*	
8	**TIE Fighter**	
(6)	*LucasArts 35/8*	
9	**Space Simulator**	
(13)	*MicroProse 38/5*	
10	**All New World of Lemmings**	
(19)	*Psygnosis 39/8*	
11	**Indy Car Racing**	
(4)	*Virgin 27/9*	
12	**Theme Park**	
(12)	*Electronic Arts 34/9*	
13	**Colonisation**	
(-)	*MicroProse 36/9*	
14	**TIE Fighter: DOE**	
(9)	*LucasArts*	
15	**NASCAR Racing**	
(10)	*Virgin 40/7*	
16	**Aladdin**	
(-)	Virgin 41/8	
17	**Overlord**	
(11)	*Virgin 35/7*	
18	**Mavis Beacon 2**	
(20)	*Mindscape -/-*	
19	**Championship Manager 93**	
(-)	Domark 38/5	
20	**Transport Tycoon**	
(17)	Microprose 38/9	

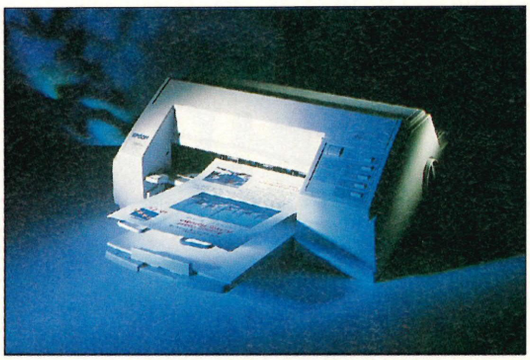
Details show position week ending March 24, 1995, product title, previous position, publisher, issue reviewed and rating.

Charts compiled by Gallup. Copyright ELSPA.



Decent has shot to no 4.

Epson launches Stylus Colour



Epson has launched the £550 Stylus Colour inkjet printer which it claims offers photographic colour printing. The company says that it achieves very high-quality printing thanks to its cool crystal piezo technology and can be used for straightforward colour graphics or even high-quality reproduction of colour photographs. The machine prints at 720x720dpi and can be used with normal plain paper. But the company says a variety of special papers available for the machine, will provide particularly high-quality printing for important documents. It holds 100 A4 sheets, 10 envelopes or 50 transparencies.

A custom Windows printer driver allows users to select automatic colour matching or control all aspects of the printer setup, including colour balance. The printer supports DOS applications with Epson's ESC/P@ language at prints at 200cps.

Epson is on 01442 61144.

Windows 95 sneak preview

Prior to its long-awaited release later this year, Microsoft is soon scheduled to release 40,000 Windows '95 preview copies to UK users at a nominal cost. The Beta 3 copies (M8), include a pre-release version of the software on both CD-ROM and 3.5in floppy disks, documentation including a user's guide and evaluation guide, Resource Kit technical guide to the installation and configuration in CD-ROM version. There will also be regular newsletters packed with hints and tips to keep you up to date with Windows '95 until its expected release in the autumn, as well as technical support via telephone, and free access to the Microsoft Network until the full launch of Windows '95.

For further information contact Microsoft on 01734 270001.

Making music

Yamaha's Hello! Music! beginner's music package is now available for £169 including VAT, £230 less than its normal retail price, and less than the price of many sound cards allowing you to play pre-recorded music files or produce your own music.

The offer is available from London-based retailer Turnkey, and is expected to last until May, depending on availability of stock. The Hello! Music! desktop music system includes the Yamaha CBX-T3 MIDI sound module comes with separate LED lights for each MIDI channel, 192 instrumental sounds, sound effects such as gunshots and helicopters, 10 drum and percussion sets, 16-track recording, 28-note polyphony to play 28 notes at once and on-board reverb controllable for each channel separately.

The package also includes Steinberg's Cubase Lite and the Steinberg Music Box and song disk containing 20 titles including West End Girls, Billie Jean, Addicted to Love, Nights in White Satin, If You Don't Know Me By Now and Killer.



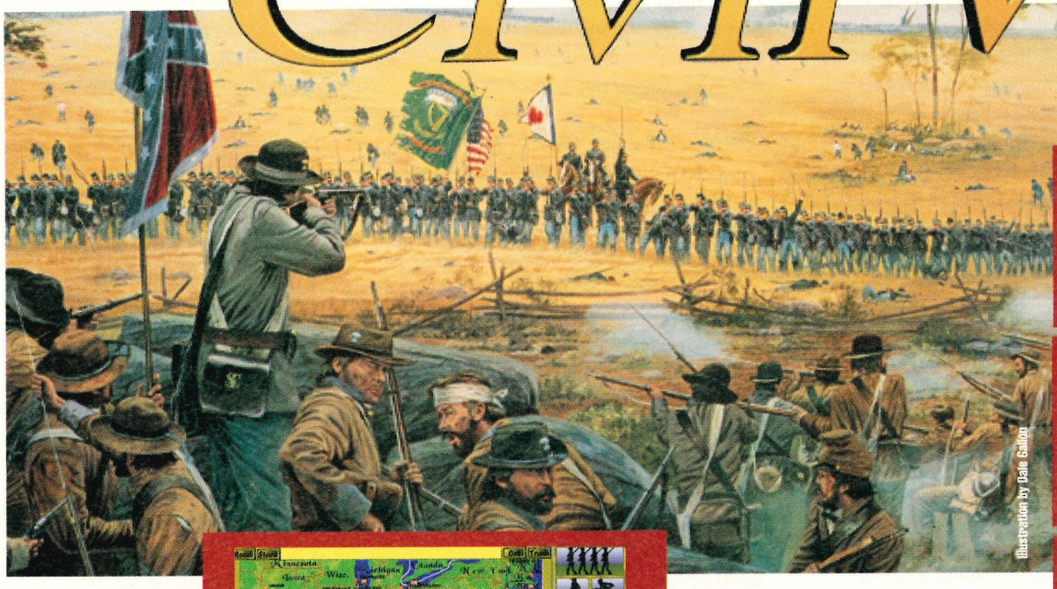
ZIP FILES

232200. • The Shades fantasy multi-user on-line game is now available via New Prestel. To join call 0171 591 9000 for a Shades-only account which costs £5 per month and 1p per minute time off-peak, 4p per minute peak rate. **Peripherals** Golden Images' Alfa Twin two-in-one joystick adaptor has a 6ft long cable and enables players to play the same game with two different kinds of joystick. It costs £14.95. Golden Images is on 0181 900 9291. • SPEA's V7-Vega video card offers 32-bit TrueColor graphics with Video-AVI and MPEG playback for under £100. It can play back all popular video formats including MPEG, Motion-JPEG, Video for Windows, CinePak, Indeo and QuickTime for Windows. For details contact SPEA on 01844 261886. • Wearnes Computer Systems has launched the CDD-22- Quad-Speed CD-ROM drive. The £175 drive offers a data-transfer rate of 600Kb/sec and a seek time of 185 msec. It also features a 16-bit DMA ▶

20,000 DEAD ON THE BATTLEFIELD...
ENEMY GUNS RIPPING INTO YOUR FLANK...
CAVALRY ADVANCING TOWARDS YOUR CAPITAL...

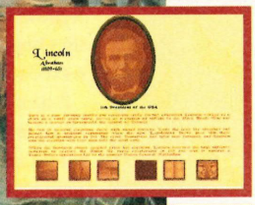
DECIDING THE FATE OF A NATION WAS NEVER GOING TO BE EASY

The Civil War

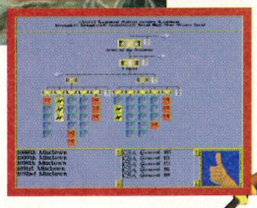




BUILD-
RECRUIT ARMIES, BUILD FLEETS, SET UP BLOCKADES, IMPROVE RAILWAYS AND CONSTRUCT FORTIFICATIONS.



DATABASE-
ACCESS TO ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WILL EVER NEED, GENERALS, WEAPONS AND WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.



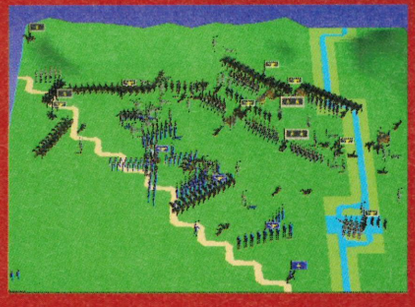
COMMAND-
APPOINT, PROMOTE AND DISMISS HISTORICAL GENERALS. DECIDE ARMY STRENGTHS AND FORMATIONS, PUT YOUR STRATEGY INTO ACTION.



MANOEUVRE-
USE THE DETAILED CAMPAIGN MAP OF THE USA TO MOVE YOUR ARMIES BY LAND, SEA, RAIL AND RIVER.



FIGHT-
MOVE AND FIGHT INDIVIDUAL ARTILLERY, CAVALRY AND INFANTRY UNITS ON 3D TEXTURE MAPPED GOURAUD SHADED BATTLEFIELDS.





THE TEAM THAT DEVELOPED THE AWARD WINNING *FIELDS OF GLORY* PUSH BACK THE BOUNDARIES OF STRATEGY AND SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY ONCE MORE WITH *THE CIVIL WAR*.

THE CIVIL WAR ALLOWS YOU TO PLAN AND FIGHT EVERY MAJOR BATTLE AND CAMPAIGN OF THE WAR. LEAD NORTH OR SOUTH IN ONE OR TWO PLAYER MODES OVER SERIAL LINK, MODEM OR NETWORK; THROUGH FOUR "BLOODY" YEARS THAT SHAPED THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NATION.

EVERYTHING IS IN REAL TIME, THE CLOCK IS RUNNING...

CIVIL WAR, THE DEFINITIVE GAME OF STRATEGY, LEADERSHIP AND TERRITORIAL ADVANTAGE.

PC CD-ROM

DAGGER
INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

Empire Interactive, The Spires, 677 High Road, North Finchley, London N12 0DA
Tel: 0181 343 9143 Fax 0181 343 7447 Modem: 0181 343 7557

empire®
INTERACTIVE

PC CHARTS
CD-ROM

1	**Dark Forces**	
(-)	*LucasArts*	
2	**Decent**	
(1)	*Interplay*	
3	**Star Trek Final Unity Demo**	
(2)	*Microprose*	
4	**Doom 2**	
(3)	*Virgin 37/7*	
5	**Wing Commander 3**	
(5)	*Electronic Arts 40/9*	
6	**Creature Shock**	
(5)	*Virgin 39/4*	
7	**Theme Park**	
(10)	*Electronic Arts 34/9*	
8	**Encarta 95**	
(-)	*Microsoft 26/-*	
9	**Magic Carpet**	
(7)	*Electronic Arts 38/9*	
10	**Wing Commander 1&2**	
(9)	*Electronic Arts 40/9*	

BUDGET

1	**Armour Geddon**	
(2)	*Psygnosis*	
2	**Theatre of Death**	
(1)	*Psygnosis 34/5*	
3	**Descent Demo**	
(4)	*Interplay 42/9*	
4	**Winter Olympics**	
(3)	*US Gold*	
5	**Clip Art**	
(-)	*Software*	
6	**Champ. Man. 94 : EOS**	
(-)	*Domark 30/6*	
7	**Easy to Learn Computing**	
(-)	*VCI*	
8	**Formula 1 Grand Prix**	
(-)	*DI/MicroProse*	
9	**Monkey Island 2**	
(-)	*US Gold*	
10	**Hired Guns**	
(5)	*Psygnosis 30/6*	

Future shock

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates has to be prepared to parcel out some responsibility according to a survey released by Zenith Data Systems on The Third Age of Computing, which predicts that large companies will have to subcontract work out to smaller companies in order to succeed in the future.

The survey predicts greater use of technology in the home, less demarcation between home and work, and a growing gap between the information haves and have nots over the next decade.

It also predicts that the Internet will change the software market. In the future, companies will just put products straight onto the Internet and let people grab it. They will perhaps give the first bit away, and then charge users later on when they have started to use the product and become dependent on it.

At present, Microsoft has the widest scale of penetration of any software company, but its competitors in the future will be those organisations which can pull together the marketing as well as the products and money, and companies will have to cooperate much more. It says that Microsoft itself has to look for diversity, but already is showing signs of getting too large, which is why Gates will start having to devolve responsibility.

Contact Zenith on 0181 568 5050.

Back to the Future

Zenith's report focuses on a number of changes that will take place in our society because of technology. The prediction on how organisations in the future will operate and how software will be sold is not mere star gazing but very likely.

Software companies are already investigating how they can sell software to users via the Internet. It is cheaper for their users to download software, and since companies no longer have to produce disks, they can cut out the retailer. At the same time they then have direct access to their user base and whenever there is a bug fix, they can send it direct, or offer users upgrades.

The organisations themselves will change too, Gates himself predicted that large companies will even have to start competing against themselves in order to stay in the market. Once a company has a large installed base, it is more concerned about keeping them happy and selling more to them than innovating products which could wipe away that user base. Thus monoliths like Microsoft will have to start setting up satellite subsidiaries to encourage innovation, and perhaps launch products that rival the parent company's.

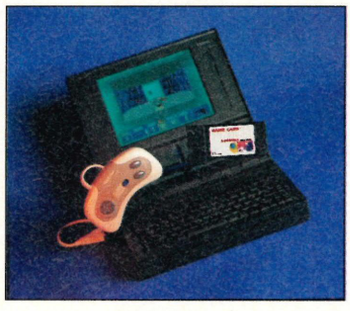
Play on the run

It's now possible to play games with a joystick on a portable. Portable Add-Ons has launched the £69 Game PC Card which allows users to play games on a PC using a joystick or joypad.

The card adds a standard 15-pin connector to any PCMCIA-equipped computer, with a running speed of between 8 and 200MHz. It comes with a Windows 3.1 joystick configuration and driver program. It also comes with the Wolfenstein 3D graphic adventure game on disk.

Also bundled with the package is a QuickShot joypad, similar in layout to the controllers supplied with dedicated games machines. The two-button, two-axis design pad offers a rapid fire features.

Contact Micro Anvika 0171 636 2547.



Mine's a half

If you're net surfing and dying for a pint, you can now look up the best place to go as The Good Pub Guide is now available on CompuServe. The guide contains descriptions of over 1,300 pubs all visited by the guide's anonymous inspectors. There's also a list of 4,000 shorter entries of recommended pubs and CompuServe members can add their favourites too. So to find out where you can get that pint of Badger Tanglefoot just dial UKPUBS on CompuServe.

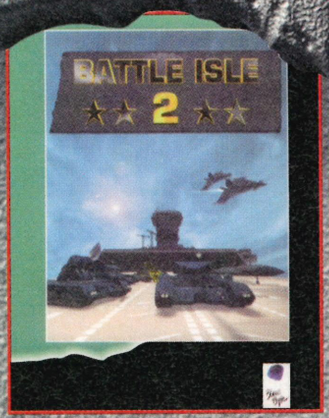
IN	BINNED
Timex Datalink	Rolex
11th Hour	7th Guest
Interactive TV	Normal TV
Heart of Darkness	Flashback
Live nude video-conferencing	Red Hot Dutch
Cardiff movie browser	Halliwell's
Worms	Lemmings
Z	Dune 2

ZIP FILES

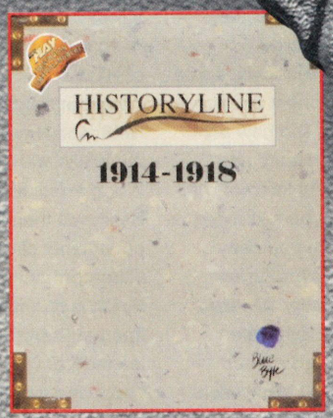
transfer mode, and support for CD-ROM formats such as Kodak Multisession Photo CD, audio CD-DA, CD-XA, CD-I and High Sierra. Ring Wearnes on 01727 836330. • Seikosha has introduced the £275 SpeedJet 360 Colour ink-jet A4 printer with a resolution of 300x300dpi. It comes with 128K print memory and PCL Plus 3 emulation, cartridges for IBM Proprinter 4207 and Epson LQ 850, a 258K download memory and a serial port are available as options. The company has also released the £349 9-pin MP-5450 dot-matrix capable of 300cps. It offers draft and letter-quality mode and a full colour kit is available. Contact Seikosha on 01753 685873. • Owners of Supra V Fast Class modems can now get them upgraded to V34 as well as VFast class for £74.99 including return postage. The offer is available until 20 June only. For information contact the First Computer Centre on 01113 2319444. • Et Cetera Distribution has announced the £399 MIDIEngine

BLUE BYTE

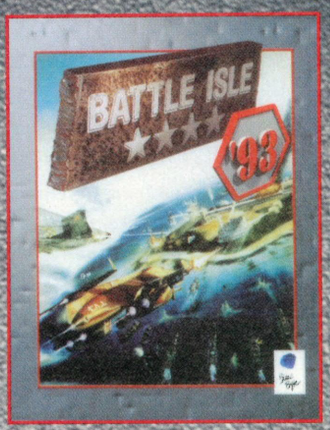
THE HEAVY WEIGHTS



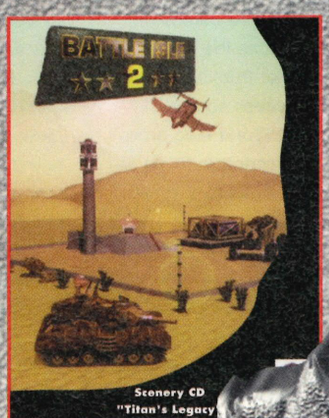
BATTLE ISLE 2
IBM PC - £39.99
PC CD-ROM £44.99
93% PC Gamer



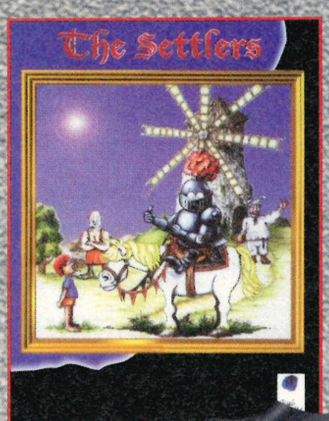
BATTLE ISLE '93
IBM PC - £29.99
AMIGA -£29.99
93% PC Gamer



SCENEY CD
'Titans Legacy'
PC CD-ROM - £25.99
CD-ROM Today
★★★★★



HISTORYLINE
IBM PC - £39.99
AMIGA - £34.99
94% Amiga Format



THE SETTLERS
IBM PC - £39.99
AMIGA - £34.99
92% CU Amiga

BITES BACK WITH

Dr DRAGO'S MAD CAP CHASE

ALBION

SHADOW OF THE EMPIRE

CHEWY "ESCAPE FROM F5"

For the PC CD-ROM, Windows and Macintosh CD-ROM

Hitting the Streets in 1995

TECHNICAL HOTLINE NUMBER - 01604 259090

Blue Byte

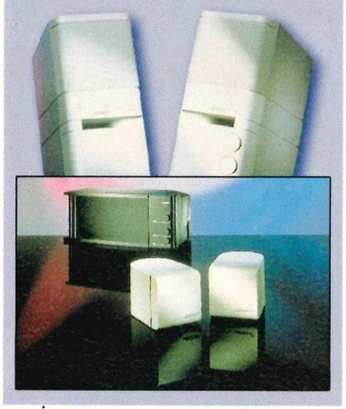
Luxury speakers

The maker of upmarket hi-fi speakers, Bose, has introduced the MediaMate computer loudspeaker and the Acoustimass multimedia speaker. Neither system comes cheap at £329 and £599.95 respectively.

The MediaMate system is claimed to provide deep bass performance normally only available from larger speakers, and can be used with a range of multimedia hardware including dual source input to accommodate CD-ROM use and mix control. The speakers can be mounted on the side of the computer and measure 19x8.5x21cm.

The Acoustimass multimedia speaker system is billed by Bose as being the best multimedia speaker system around and offers the kind of sound only available as part of high-end home stereos. It is aimed at professionals as well as the aspiring PC hi-fi enthusiast. The bass module measures 19x47x22cm and it delivers 50 watts to the bass driver and 20 watts to each imaging cube. Bose says that unlike conventional systems the speakers launch sound waves into a room in the form of a moving air mass.

Contact Bose on 01795 475341.



Web access gets easier

Novell has announced the WordPerfect Internet Publisher for Windows, a free add-on to the WordPerfect 6.1 word-processing package. The new program allows users to create and view documents on the Internet without having to learn hypertext markup language (HTML). The company also announced the WordPerfect Internet Publisher Pro for Windows. Both products will be available towards the end of the summer.

Internet Publisher will allow users to create documents for the World Wide Web. A template will guide users through the process of creating an HTML document, and a conversion program converts the WordPerfect document into a native HTML file.

Users will also be able to access features such as hypertext links, graphics and bullet lists through the WordPerfect toolbar, so users do not need to have a detailed knowledge of HTML.

Internet Publisher also includes NetScape Navigator, a browser for the WWW with integrated WordPerfect and Envoy viewers. Users will then be able to publish documents directly on the Web in either format, and no conversion to HTML is required. WordPerfect Internet Publisher can be downloaded from the Internet at http://www.novell.com/ and from online services.

Internet Publisher Pro comes on CD-ROM and includes the same tools as the Internet Publisher, plus dial-up Internet access software from Novell's LAN WorkPlace product and a trial subscription to several Internet service providers. It will cost around £40.

Contact Novell on 01344 724460.

On the Web

Novell has introduced its Internet access program straight after Microsoft announced Internet Assistant for Word for Windows, which can be used with Word 6.0. Microsoft's product is also free and can be accessed from the World Wide Web at http://www.microsoft.com/.

The two products differ slightly in their capabilities, but whatever, the race is on for companies to encourage users to get publishing on the Internet. It seems yet again that computer companies are keen to make every product do absolutely everything. But why? Although the Internet may be big news, the average Word or WordPerfect user is unlikely to want to spend their time producing pages for the Internet given the price of telephone and online charges here in the UK. The time when we do will depend as much on money as on technology.

Serif launches budget graphics

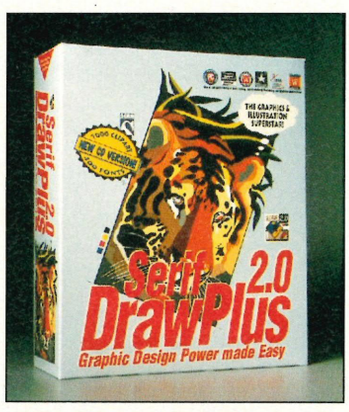
Serif has launched a £99.95 drawing and illustration package that goes by the name of DrawPlus 2.0.

The vector drawing package contains 7,000 clip art images and 400 TrueType fonts as well as the PagePlus Lite DTP program and the PhotoPlus 1.0 photo manipulator. Its QuickShapes drawing tool can be used to draw circles, polygons, arrow heads, starbursts, etc.

It also includes productivity enhancing features such as a HintLine, ToolHints and QuickHelp, and includes the option to choose from two levels of user power. It supports OLE and so can be used in conjunction with other Windows programs, and has been designed to work as an add-on to Serif's Page Plus DTP program as well as a stand-alone package.

The package requires Windows 3.1 or higher, DOS 3.3 or higher, an IBM 386SX or higher, 3Mb RAM, minimum 3MB hard disk space and EGA, VGA or higher graphics card.

Contact Serif on 0800 924925.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

In our May 1994 issue we brought you news of Forte's virtual reality headset. One year on, the VFX1 still hasn't made it into the shops. NEC also announced that it would be launching a triple-speed CD-ROM drive costing £379 — now it's quad-speed or nothing. Top games included Cannon Fodder and Ultima VIII.

ZIP FILES

8Port/SE with eight MIDI inputs and outputs, SMPTE support for video and audio applications, and an 8x8 MIDI patchbay facility. The eight ports provide 128 MIDI channels with message filtering, channel change and monitor LEDs on all inputs and outputs. It comes in a 19in rack mount enclosure and connects to the PC's parallel port. Call Et Cetera on 01706 228039. • A new interface for playing Video CDs on the PC aims to make playing and controlling the program as easy and intuitive as on a CD-i dedicated system. The software, named Penguin, has been developed by Status Visual Communication, and is to be licensed to Video CD publishers for incorporation with their titles. Penguin gives the user a VCR-style control panel for playing the CDs, plus a number of extras, such as a Help module available as both text and speech and the option to play CDs in any order. Note: Video CD on the PC requires a MPEG decoder to be fitted into the machine. •

Strategic PLUS SOFTWARE

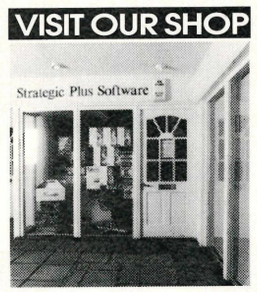
FAST & FRIENDLY MAIL ORDER

081 977 8088

WE STOCK THE LATEST USA RELEASES
Call 081 977 8088 for the latest information

We Specialise in:

■ *Flight Simulations* ■ **Strategy** ■ SPORTS SIMULATIONS
■ **Role-Playing** ■ **WARGAMES** ■ ADVENTURES ■ ***CD Software***



Strategic Plus Software
28 D&E The Courtyard
High Street
Hampton Hill
Middlesex
TW12 1PD

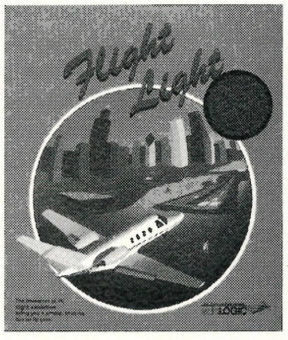
Tel: 081 977 8088
Fax: 081 977 4822
Cserve ID 100014,3466
CIX STRAT_PLUS

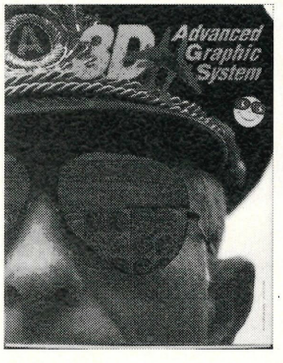
Europe 1 for FS5	*£35.99*	*1830 'Railway Business Sim'*	*£call*
Flight Light	*£29.99*	*Premier Manager 3*	*£call*
ATP 3D Graphics add-on	*£34.99*	*Panzer General*	*£39.99*
Stalingrad PC & CD	*£39.99*	*'Star Trail' Arkania*	*£39.99*
Operation Crusader PC	*£39.99*	*Earth Siege 'MetalTech'*	*£35.99*
Harpoon II Battleset 2 (Westpac)	*£29.99*		
Harpoon II	*£call*		
Front Page Football '95 - CD	*£call*		
Menzoberranzan CD	*£call*		
Discworld CD	*£call*		
Wing Commander III - CD	*£49.99*		
Flight Com II PC & CD (Win)	*£39.99*		
KA 50	*£call*		
Legions (Win)	*£39.99*		
5th Fleet PC & CD	*£39.99*		
Lords Of Midnight	*£call*		
Dark Forces - CD	*£call*		
Wargame Con Set II 'Tanks' V1.25	*£call*		
Harpoon II Book	*£18.95*		
Star Trek TNG Tech Manual CD	*£39.99*		

SSI Classics

BATTLE OF ANTIETAM
BATTLES OF NAPOLEON
BATTLES /NAPOLEON SCENARIO 1-6
CONFLICT MIDDLE EAST,
GETTYSBURG
KAMPFGRUPPE
MECH BRIGADE
REBEL CHARGE AT CHICKAMAUGA
RED LIGHTNING
SONS OF LIBERTY
STAR COMMAND
STELLAR CRUSADE
STORM ACROSS EUROPE
WARSHIP
WESTERN FRONT
WARGAME CON. II Scenario 1&6
Each.....£14.99









THRUSTMASTER - the ultimate in flight control realism. *Weapons Control System II* - £109.99, *Rudder Pedals* - £119.99. And now the *Formula T1 Wheel with gear shift and pedals* - £145.99



NOW IN F-16 FCS £139.99

Nº1 FOR PC GAMES

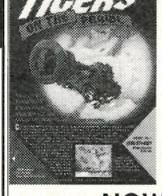
Overseas Orders & Enquiries Welcome

10 % Discount

Receive a further 10% discount on ALL advanced order.

PLUS priority despatch!

Call for details or see our current catalogue for details



Covering the ENTIRE Eastern Front from 1939-45 includes a detailed database of hundreds of fighting vehicles, weapons and forces structures for Axis, Allied and Soviet Forces. £49.99

NOW AVAILABLE
CAMPAIGN DISK £14.99

New! **13th Edition Catalogue**

Send £1.50 for our New 60+ page catalogue

Name _____

Address _____

_____

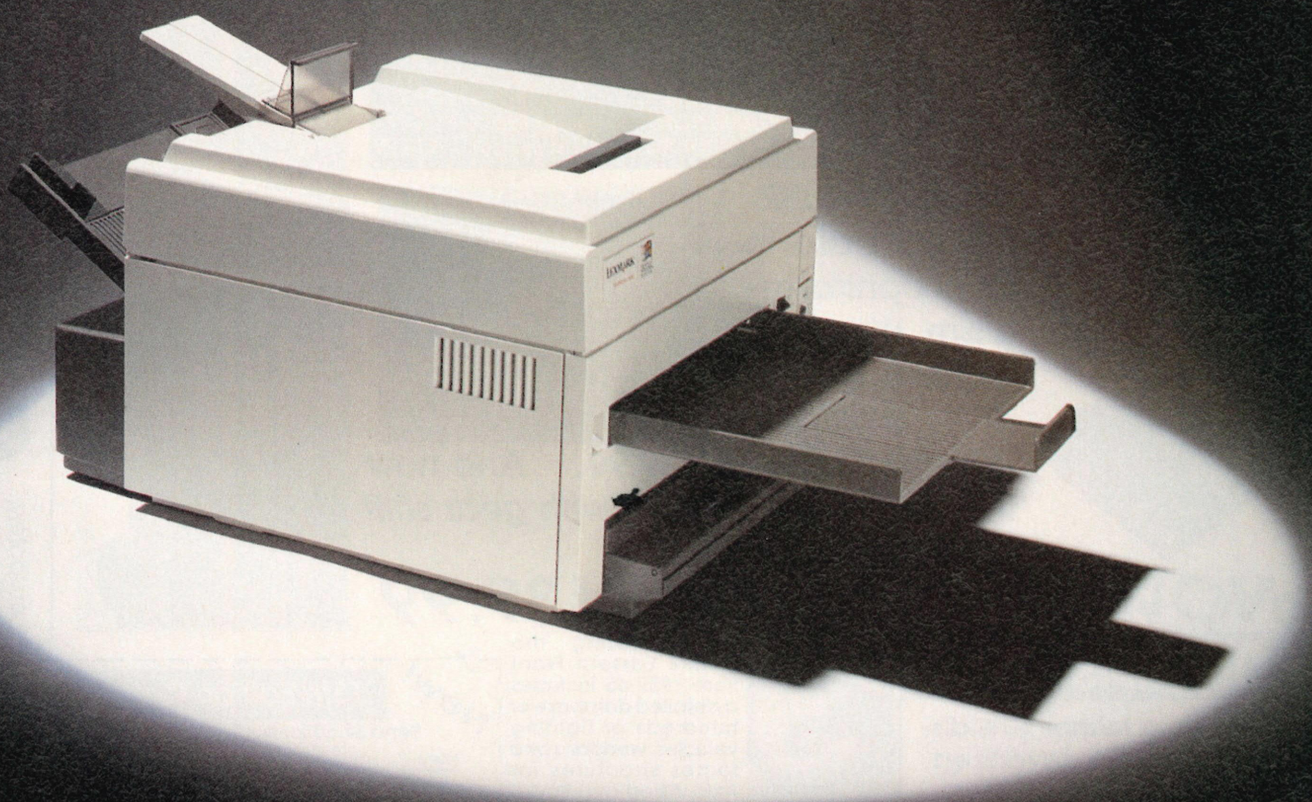
Country _____ Postcode _____

PCR0395

Send to: Strategic Plus Software - 28D The Courtyard, High St, Hampton Hill. Middlesex. TW12 1PD

laser burn

This month, Andy "the artist formerly known as prints" Leaning puts low cost laser printers under the spotlight. If you want an all singing, all dancing laser printer that won't cost a packet, then look no further...



Laser printers rule. They offer the fastest print times, quietest operation and the highest quality prints — but, Hell, don't they cost you the proverbial arm and a leg?

Not exactly. In the last few months It's been possible to pick up a laser printer for just a few hundred pounds. At the same time the quality of the output has increased. Where 300 dots per inch was the standard, today 600dpi models are common and resolution enhancement techniques can be found on even low-priced models. So, given the combination of rapidly falling prices and better specs, it's time to take another look at some of the models available.

Three of the four models reviewed here comply with the US government's environmentally friendly Energy Star program. Basically this specifies the amount of electricity a printer should use whilst in use and when in 'stand-by' mode. The Hewlett Packard model reviewed here, for instance, uses 180 watts less when in stand-by mode (ticking over using just 5W). Given the amount of time a laser printer sits doing nothing, the ability to shut down and reduce power consumption could save you more than a few pennies during its lifetime.

Another consideration is whether you want a GDI laser. In simple terms GDI lasers use the electronic circuitry of your PC, rather than their own, to carry out calculations. The main reason for this, is that it results in lower priced models, but it also means your Windows applications will slow up whilst printing. Weigh up how you work with your PC. If you can afford to take a break while printing then a GDI model will save you several hundred pounds. But if you are constantly using your PC and can't afford any reduction in speed, go for a traditional model. Two of the models looked at here work on a GDI basis.

Really, the term laser printer is no longer appropriate. One of the printers in this test uses light emitting diodes instead of a laser beam (see HOW THEY WORK). LED printers are cheaper than laser printers but also produce lower quality prints. If price is a primary concern (over quality), consider an LED model. Either way from now we'll refer to these printers as page printers rather than laser printers.

SINCLAIR DIRECT

CD ROM

GAMES

A D&D Collectors Ed.	£34.95
Ades of the Deep	£29.95
Advantage Tennis	£9.95
Al Qadim	£19.95
Armoured Fist	£27.95
Award Winners (Lemmings, Elite 2 and Civilisation)	£23.95
Battle Isle 2	£29.95
Beneath a Steel Sky	£29.95
BioForge Not yet released Price Available Soon	
Colonization	£28.95
Cyber Race	£32.95
Dark Legions	£23.75
Dark Forces	£35.95
David Leadbetters Golf	£27.95
Dawn Patrol	£27.95
Delta V	£29.95
Descent	£27.95
Dragonsphere	£25.75
Dream Web	£29.95
Dune	£31.95
Dungeon Hack	£25.75
Earth Siege - Metal Tech	£31.95
Ecstatica	£28.95
Eric the Unready	£19.95
Even More Incredible Machine	£19.95
F14 Gold	£27.95
Falcon Gold	£31.95
Falcon 3.0	£11.95
Fields of Glory	£11.95
FIFA International Soccer	£27.95
Fifth Fleet	£31.95
Flight Commander 2	£29.95
Flight Unlimited Not yet released	£35.95
Fortress of Dr Radiaki	£27.95
Goblins III	£31.95
Harpoon Classics	£24.95
Harrier Jump Jet	£11.95
Heimdall II	£25.75
Hell	£33.95
Inferno	£36.95
Ishar III	£31.95
Jack Nicklaus Signature	£12.75
Kings Quest Collectors Edition I-VI	£29.55
Kings Quest VII	£29.95
Klik and Play	£27.95
Labyrinth	£19.95
Laura Bow 2	£28.95
Leisure Suit Larry VI	£29.55
Little Big Adventure	£34.95
Magic Carpet	£34.95
Master of Magic	£29.95
Myst	£34.95
Nascar Racing	£27.95
NHL Hockey 95	£29.95
PGA 486 Tour	£33.95
Pinball Dreams Deluxe	£24.75
Pinball Fantasies Deluxe	£25.95
Premier Manager 3	£22.95
Privateer	£33.95
Rebel Assault	£31.95
Retribution	£26.95
Rise of the Robots	£38.95
Sam & Max	£29.95
SeaWolf SSN-21	£29.95
Sensible Soccer International	£12.75
Shadow of the Comet	£25.75
Shuttle	£32.25
Simon the Sorcerer	£26.95
Space Quest Anthology 1-5	£29.55
Star Trail (Realms of Arkania)	£29.95
Star Trek Technical Manual	£31.95
Star Trek 25th	£34.95
Star Control Compendium	£13.95
Strike Commander	£24.95
Syndicate	£32.95
System Shock	£33.95
Temptation (7th Guest, Indy Car,Hand of Fate, Lands of Lore) Not yet released Price Available Soon	
The Horde	£29.95
Theme Park	£33.95
Transport Tycoon	£28.95
Ultima Underworld I and II	£34.95
Ultima VII Complete	£32.95
Under a Killing Moon	£39.95
US Navy Fighters	£33.95
Voyeur	£27.95
Wads of Wads (Doom Utilities)	£9.95
Warcraft	£29.95
Wing Commander 3	£41.95
Woodruff & the Schnibble of Azimuth	£27.95
World Cup USA 94	£14.95
World Cup Golf	£29.95
X Wing Collectors	£34.95

REFERENCE

10 Manmade Wonders	£54.95
3D World Atlas	£38.95
3d Body Adventure	£31.95
A Hard Days Night	£28.95
A Brief History of Time	£35.95
Allegro PC Library	£47.95
American Adventure	£32.95
American Girls CERT 18	£24.95
Art Gallery (Microsoft)	£39.95
Barrons Book Notes	£49.95
Beethoven and Beyond	£19.95
Beethovens 5th	£34.95
Berlitz Think and Talk German, Spanish, French or Italian	£109.95
Better Homes CD Cookbook	£33.95
Body Works 3.0	£33.95
Bookshelf (Microsoft)	£39.95
CIA: The Secret Files	£28.95
Cinemania 95 (Microsoft)	£39.95
Complete Works of Shakespeare	£29.95
Dangerous Creatures (Microsoft)	£39.95
Distant Suns 2.0	£44.95
Doctors Book of Home Remedies	£29.95
Dont Play Track One	£19.95
Elite European Models CERT 18	£19.95
Encarta 95	£68.95
Endless Beach Babes CERT 18	£19.95
Exotic Japan	£39.95
Exploring Modern Art	£42.95
Exploring Ancient Architecture	£35.95
Family Doctor	£26.95
First Emperor of China	£47.95
Gold Medal Vol 1, 2 or 3 Shareware	£9.95
Great Mystery Classics	£21.95
Guinness Disc of Records	£40.95
Headcandy	£16.95
Interactive Space Encyclopedia	£38.95
Interactive Periodic Table	£52.95
J.F.K. Assasination	£33.95
Jane Austin	£21.95
Joy of Sex CERT 18	£21.95



LOOK OUT! DETAILS ON OUR NEW CLUB WILL BE SENT WITH YOUR ORDER

MAIL ORDER WITH INTEGRITY!

We aim to offer the highest possible level of service to our customers with our unique money back guarantee on all CD titles, insured same day despatch, with optional next day delivery (guaranteed - or £10 off your next order) plus our price pledge - *simply put:*

We promise to beat any advertised price*.

Add to this our helplines - manned by PC enthusiasts - and you can order with complete confidence, whilst saving an average 34% off High Street prices.

SPECIAL OFFERS

CD SPECIAL OFFERS

10 Year Anthology	£9.95
7th Guest OEM	£9.95
Aegis Guardian of Fleet	£19.95
Arthur Teaches Trouble OEM	£18.95
Capital Hill	£14.95
CD Game Pack (10 Games incl. Chess, Draughts, Backgammon) OEM	£19.95
Chess Master 4000 OEM	£19.95
Compton's Encycl. '95 Interactive OEM	£29.95
Dark Sun - Wake of the Ravager	£19.95
Dark Sun Shattered Lands OEM	£19.95
Darksseed OEM	£19.95
Day of the Tentacle OEM	£19.95
Dinosaurs (Microsoft) OEM	£28.95
Doctors Book of Home Remedies OEM	£18.95
Doom 2	£35.95
Elite II	£19.95
Encyclopedia of Science	£42.95
Family Doctor 3rd Ed.	£18.95
Formula 1 Grand Prix	£12.95
Gabriel Knight	£17.95
Great Naval Battles II	£19.95
Groliers Encyclopedia 95 Ver 7 OEM	£29.95
Gunship 2000 + Scenario Disks	£19.55
Hand of Fate OEM	£19.95
Indy. Fate of Atlantis OEM	£19.95
Infopedia OEM	£26.95
Iron Helix OEM	£19.95
Ishar II	£9.95
Just Grandma and Me OEM	£18.95
Kodak Photo CD Access	£14.95
Legend of Kyrandia III	£19.95
Mad Dog McCree II OEM	£19.95
Mad Dog McCree OEM	£19.95
Mario Teaches Words	£13.95
Microcosm OEM	£18.95
Outpost	£23.95
Oxford Thesaurus	£19.95
Oxford Dict. of Quotes	£19.95
Panzer General OEM	£19.95
Patrician	£14.95
Police Quest IV OEM	£22.95
Red Shift	£39.95
Reunion	£14.95
Sim City 2000 OEM	£22.95
Sink or Swim	£8.95
Strip Poker CERT 18	£9.95
Subwar 2050 OEM	£19.95
TFX	£21.95
Tornado + Desert Storm	£19.95
UFO Enemy Unknown OEM	£19.95
World Atlas Ver. 5 OEM	£19.95

PC SPECIAL OFFERS

Beneath a Steel Sky	£14.95
Chess Master 3000	£4.95
Comanche Max Overkill	£19.95
David Leadbetters Golf	£7.95
F15 Strike Eagle III	£4.95
Formula 1 Grand Prix	£11.75
Pool	£4.95
Premier Manager 2	£9.95
Sim City and Populous	£9.95
Star Lord	£14.95
World Atlas IV	£4.95
X Wing	£9.95
Zool	£4.95

CD ROM (CONTINUED)

Jump	£37.95
Last Chance to See	£35.95
Lewis Carroll	£21.95
Library of the Future	£199.95
Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous	£29.95
Lover's Guide CERT 18	£22.75
Macbeth	£69.95
Midnight Movie Madness	£34.95
New Dictionary of the Living World	£31.95
New Basics Cookbook	£42.95
OS/2 Warp	£69.95
Oxford Compendium CD	£34.95
Peter Gabriel Explorer	£32.95
Photo CD Workshop	£24.95
Playboy Interviews CERT 18	£36.95
Playboy Screen Saver 1 or 2 CERT 18	£24.95
Prehistoria	£49.95
Prince Interactive	£36.95
Residents Freakshow	£44.95
Small Blue Planet	£44.95
Sources of Faith	£24.95
Southern Beauties CERT 18	£24.95
Space Age Encyclopeadia	£41.95
Spinal Tap	£28.95
Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring	£28.95
Syracuse Spanish or French 9-Adult	£22.75
Tchaikovskys 1812	£22.95
The Bronte Sisters	£22.95
USA Wars: Desert Storm	£28.95
Warplanes: Modern Fighting Aircraft	£31.95

REFERENCE

Ancient Lands (Microsoft)	£39.95
Biosphere	£38.95
Capital Hill	£14.95
Discoveries of the Deep	£19.95
Kids Arts Centre	£24.95
Little Monster at School	£29.95
Magic School Bus (MS) Human Body or Solar System	£35.95
My 1st Incredible Dictionary	£34.95
The Ultimate Human Body	£42.95
The Way Things Work	£42.95
Tortoise and the Hare	£30.95

PC TITLES

A Brief History of Time	£35.95
Aces over Europe	£14.95
Advantage Tennis	£9.95
Air Warrior	£4.95
Al Qadim	£19.95
Alien Breed	£14.95
Alone in the Dark	£14.95
Alone in The Dark 2	£24.95
Big Red Adventure	£28.95
Bram Stoker's Dracula	£7.95
Cannon Fodder II	£21.95
Cannon Fodder	£14.95
Carriers at War 2	£19.95
Champ. Man. '94 End of Season	£12.95
Champ. Manager Compendium	£19.95
Chuck Yeagers Air Combat	£9.95
Creative Writer (Microsoft)	£29.95
Dark Legions	£19.95
Dark Sun - Wake of the Ravager	£24.95
Day of the Tentacle	£24.95
Defender of the Empire (Tie Fighter)	£13.95
Delta V	£19.95
Disc World	£35.95
Doom 2	£36.95
Doom	£22.95
Eternam	£9.95
Evasive Action	£14.95
Eye of the Beholder III	£10.75
F14 Fleet Defender	£24.95
F19 and Mig 29	£4.95
Fantasy Empires	£9.95
FIFA International Soccer	£19.95
Flight Sim 5	£32.95
Flight Sim Toolkit	£4.95
Gateway 2	£9.95
Goal!	£9.95
Great Naval Battles II	£19.95
Hand of Fate	£19.95
Heimdall II	£14.95
Hired Guns	£14.95
In Extremis	£14.95
Indianapolis 500	£4.95
Indy Fate of Atlantis Adv.	£16.95
Interactive Periodic Table	£52.95
Jurassic Park	£9.95
Ka - 50 Hokum	£26.95
Kasparov's Gambit	£19.95
Kick Off III	£9.95
King's Quest V	£9.95
Leisure Larry VI	£14.95
Links	£4.95
Masters of Orion	£14.95
Mig 29 Fulcrum	£4.95
Mig 29 (Falcon 3 Mission)	£9.95
Monkey Island II	£11.95
Mortal Kombat	£9.95
On the Ball	£14.95
OS/2 Warp	£69.95
Outpost	£19.95
Pacific Strike	£19.95
PGA Tour Golf Plus	£4.95
Pinball Dreams	£24.95
Planet Football	£19.95
Populous and Promised Lands	£4.95
Privateer	£24.95
Push-Over	£2.95
Quarantine	£19.95
Return to Zork	£24.95
Reunion	£19.95
Sam & Max	£19.95
Shadow Caster	£14.95
Shadowlands	£3.95
Sim City Deluxe	£14.95
SimCity & Lemmings	£9.95
Simon the Sorceror	£19.95
Star Trek - Judgement R.	£19.95
Street Fighter 2	£9.95
Strike Commander	£19.95
Subwar 2050	£19.95
Terminator 2	£9.95
Tie Fighter	£33.95
Tornado + Desert Storm	£19.95
Troddlers	£9.95
Wing Comm. Academy	£9.95
World Cup USA 94	£9.95
X Wing B Wing	£13.95
X Wing Imperial Pursuit	£12.95

HARDWARE

10 Unbranded HD 3.5 Disks (Pre-formatted & Guaranteed)	£2.95
10 TDK HD 3.5" Disks	£4.95
40 Capacity Disk Box	£0.99
CH Mach 3 Joystick	£14.95
CH Flight Stick Joystick	£34.95
CH Flight Stick Pro Joystick	£59.95
Gravis Joystick - Black	£24.95
Gravis Analogue Pro Stick	£34.95
Logic 3 Gamecard (8-20 or 25-60MHz)	£7.95
Sound Blaster Ver 2.	£49.95

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT. PHONE FOR SAME DAY DESPATCH . MANY MORE ITEMS IN STOCK, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

0171 263 2333

POSTAGE & PACKING

UK 1st Class Insured £3.50 per order, 2nd Class Insured £2.70 per order. UK guaranteed next day delivery £4 extra. EEC £3.00 per item, (Non EEC £5.00 per item & VAT exempt). Send orders by mail to:- Sinclair Direct, P.O. Box 3601, London N19 3HW, or Fax on: 0171 272 5553 Make cheques payable to Sinclair Direct Ltd or quote credit card number plus expiry date. All major credit cards accepted.

*For the price promise the item must be in stock at other suppliers at their advertised price. Price promise does not apply to trade or multiple orders, other conditions apply. Special offer CD's marked as OEM are complete with instructions but are unboxed - our money back guarantee still applies, phone. All prices include VAT. All items guaranteed for one year. Same day despatch and next day delivery applies to stock items only and to orders placed before 3pm Mon to Fri. With 'next day delivery' orders placed Fri. are only guaranteed for Mon (but normally arrive Sat). Some 'Special Offer' items are available only whilst stocks last. Full terms and conditions available on request. E & O.E. All trade marks acknowledged. Prices and availability subject to change without further notice. Your statutory rights are not affected. Registered Office 15-16 Margaret St. London W1. Sinclair Direct has no connection with Amstrad plc. Clive Sinclair is a consultant to the company.

Lexmark WinWriter 600

I liked the Lexmark WinWriter 600 from the start. From getting it out of the box to first print took surprisingly little time. Although the software install time could have been faster, it was simple to setup and very quick to print.

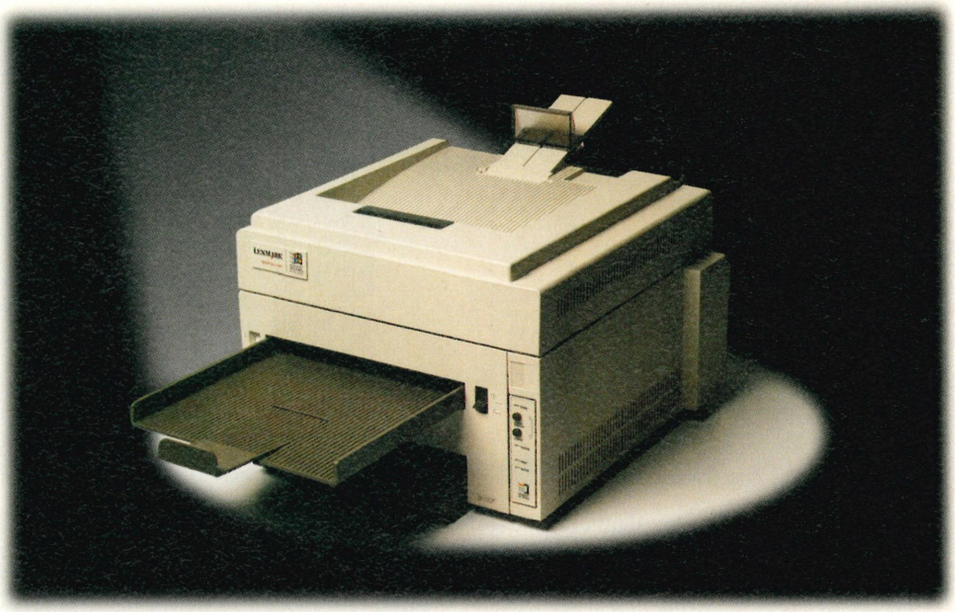
Lexmark has gone to great trouble to make the entire printing process as painless as possible. The manual, software and even mechanics of inserting the paper and setting the printer hardware up, have been very well thought out, and are blissfully trouble-free. It was the only printer in the group that didn't suffer a paper jam during the test period.

Being a GDI laser, it's driven by Windows, and as a result, control of its settings is via Windows applications — there are hardly any controls on the printer itself. These applications are very simple, friendly and easy to use — far more so than those for the Star GDI model seen later. I didn't experience a single problem throughout the test period, this includes using both with the software and the printer itself!

The print quality was exceptional. With a resolution of 600 dpi, we expected superior quality printouts, but the increase in detail and clarity was wonderful — beyond our expectations. Even in 300 dpi mode, the quality was well above the Mannesmann Tally printer, with the advantages of print enhancement clearly visible. The only downfall being, somewhat faint, almost washed out tones for light (under forty percent solid) greys. This was compensated to some extent by the rich, solid blacks it produced.

The Lexmark print engine clocked in at an impressive 10 pages a minute when at 300dpi, and a respectable 8 ppm at 600dpi. To some extent this is a bit misleading, as the processing is done using your PCs guts, and if you have a slow PC, the results will suffer. However on a good PC (486 33 or above) you won't wait long.

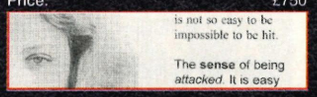
Overall, the Lexmark proved to be a reliable, fast and very capable printer.



RATING 8
Lexmark WinWriter 600

Admirable, fast laser printer for Windows users.

Supplier:	Lexmark
Contact:	(01628) 481 500
Price:	£750



JARGON

DPI — Dots Per Inch. The more dots per inch, the better the print quality.

PPM — Pages Per Minute. The more pages a printer can produce in a minute, the better.

GDI — Graphics Device Interface. Windows controls the printer, using the internals of your PC. See GDI — A Future in '95?

LED — Light Emitting Diodes. Some makers use LED light source instead of a laser beam.

IMAGE ENHANCEMENT

Without big increases in price, it's impossible to increase the resolution of a laser printer.

But by using smaller dots and placing them between the larger dots around the edges of shapes, the size of the dots produced can be changed. The difference can be noticeable.

Most manufacturers employ this technique to 'enhance' the resolution, each calling their technology a different name — Hewlett Packard calls its RET, others being PQET, FIAL etc.

Most people couldn't spot the difference between 300dpi print out with enhancement and a 600dpi print — only under closer examination did the 600dpi print outs have the edge. But if you're in the market for a 300dpi engine it's definitely worth choosing a laser with enhancement technology.

HOW THEY WORK

In operation, laser printers are very similar to photocopiers. They work by bouncing a laser beam off a rotating mirror. The mirror sweeps the laser horizontally across a drum, the drum in turn rotates, so the entire image can be marked on the drum surface. The drum is covered in a thin film of negatively charged particles, where the laser hits the drum surface, the negatively charged particles change to positively charged. Ink is then applied to the drum sticking to the uncovered, now positively charged, areas. Next, the paper is passed over the drum surface and the ink transferred to the paper.

The final step is to heat the paper with the freshly applied ink. The heat melts the ink, fuzzing it permanently onto the paper.

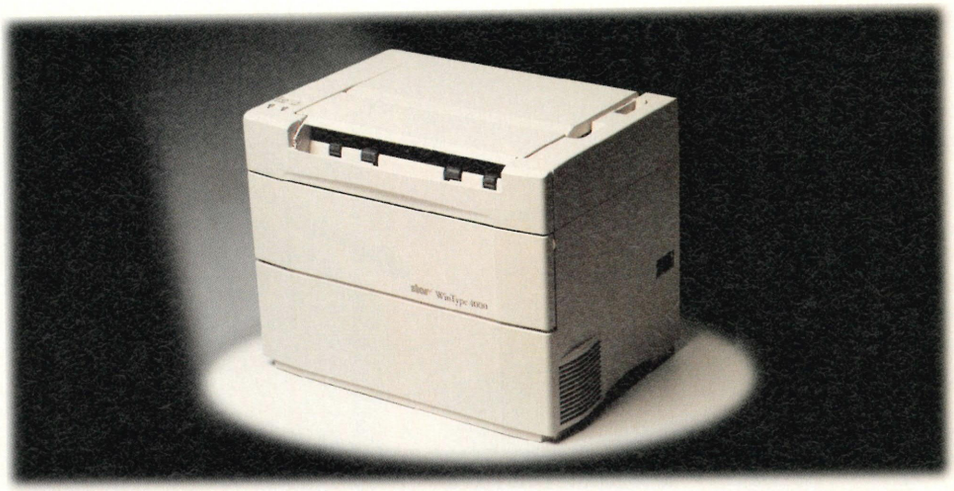
Shades of grey are created by varying the intensity of the laser — resulting in more or less negatively charged particles remaining. With fewer particles, more ink sticks to the drum, creating darker greys.

This, in simple terms, is how laser based printers work. An alternative method, is to use a row of LED (Light Emitting Diodes) to expose the drum surface. This cuts down the amount of moving parts (read Lower Prices) but has, in the past, resulted in lower quality prints. However recent developments have largely overcome this problem.

Star WinType 4000

Having used the Lexmark GDI laser I had high hopes for the Star model — the other GDI laser of the group. Sadly, although it performed well it didn't live up the standards set by Lexmark.

From the start I had problems with the software. The Windows utilities offer many of the same facilities of IBM's subsidiary, but somewhere along the development path they seemed to have missed a quality check. Having installed the driver software, a test print is carried out — this failed. Yet on entering the printer setup requester, cancelling the job, and trying again, it worked perfectly — very strange! Frequently the print controller displayed error messages (the most common being a reported cable fault), yet doing no more than reprinting, would cor-



rect the situation. This is a shame, as the software, when it did work, was very nice. Animated pictures show potential problems while text messages are well written and explain what's happening clearly and concisely.

This friendly software complements an overall design that makes it ideal for use in a home environment. It occupies little desk space, reaching vertically rather than horizontally and its paper trays fold away into the case when not in use. In usage the WinType 4000 offered 300dpi output with enhancement technology giving 600dpi 'class' output. This resulted in impressive print quality, in most cases almost as good as that produced by the Lexmark model. Where Star's model beat Lexmark's offering was on graphics. Unlike the WinWriter 600 it didn't become faint on greys, instead holding the pattern for both continuous areas of grey and in graduated tints.

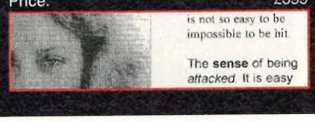
Its compact yet stylish design, print quality and simple operation makes it an ideal choice for home use. If the peculiarities of the software could be cleared up, Star's printer would be high on my birthday wish list.

RATING **7**

Star Win Type 4000

A good little printer, but software drivers need improvement

Supplier:	Star
Contact:	(01494) 471111
Price:	£399



A QUESTION OF COLOUR

All the printers seen here are black and white laser printers. Sadly, whilst high resolution printer prices have fallen to almost dot matrix prices, colour models are still prohibitively expensive.

At the moment if you want colour prints, you'll either need to win the lottery or opt for ink jet technologies.

However, whilst colour laser technology is only edging down in price, other technologies that offer the print qualities of a laser, but with colour, are falling in price.

GDI — A FUTURE IN '95?

Laser printers take the image sent by your PC and convert it into a pattern of dots in an area of its memory representing the page. The print engine (see How They Work) then prints the page placing a dot on the paper for every dot in its memory.

The process to calculate where dots should go, is very complex. In fact so much power is needed, that the processing power of a typical laser printer is often equal to or greater than that of an average PC.

But if you've just spent a fortune on buying a PC with a Pentium or 486 CPU, why should you then have to buy a laser printer that duplicates this processing power? GDI models provide the answer — they use the electronics of your PC to do all the work, saving manufacturing costs which are passed on to you.

Apart from having to wait for your PC to 'process' the page before you can get back to work this approach sounds too good to be true? It could well be. GDI models rely on software in Windows, and Microsoft has stated that Windows '95 will use different software — so GDI lasers may not work with Windows '95. Many manufactures have already promised that their models will work, while others are working on upgrades. A few others have remained mysteriously quiet. In brief, if you are planning to buy a GDI laser, and are also thinking about Windows '95, we recommend that you ask the manufacturer where they stand on this.

Mannesmann Tally T9005

If the Star model looks stylish and ideal for home use, the Mannesmann Tally printer looks clunky, and office bound. This is definitely a printer designed by the old school of printer designers — functional rather than elegant. It's basically a large box, and looks very similar to small photocopies now available.

And it's not just its design that's slightly out. In nearly every category, the T9005 is poorly specified compared to other models seen here. Memory is a meagre half a megabyte (not enough to print out our test samples), resolution is 300dpi with no enhancement technology, and speed is a sluggish five pages per minute.

These, however, are all forgivable, given the low price. What isn't so forgivable, however, is the awful software installation procedure. Every other model reviewed came with setup programs that handled the installation for you. Apart from running the 'Setup' program and selecting a few choices ('do you want the fonts installed' being a typical question) the other printers left little for you to do. When it came to the Mannesmann Tally model, no setup program could be found. Instead you have to enter the Printer Setup program from Windows and install it yourself. If Mannesman Tally wants to stay in the Windows printer market, it definitely needs to work on its installation routines.

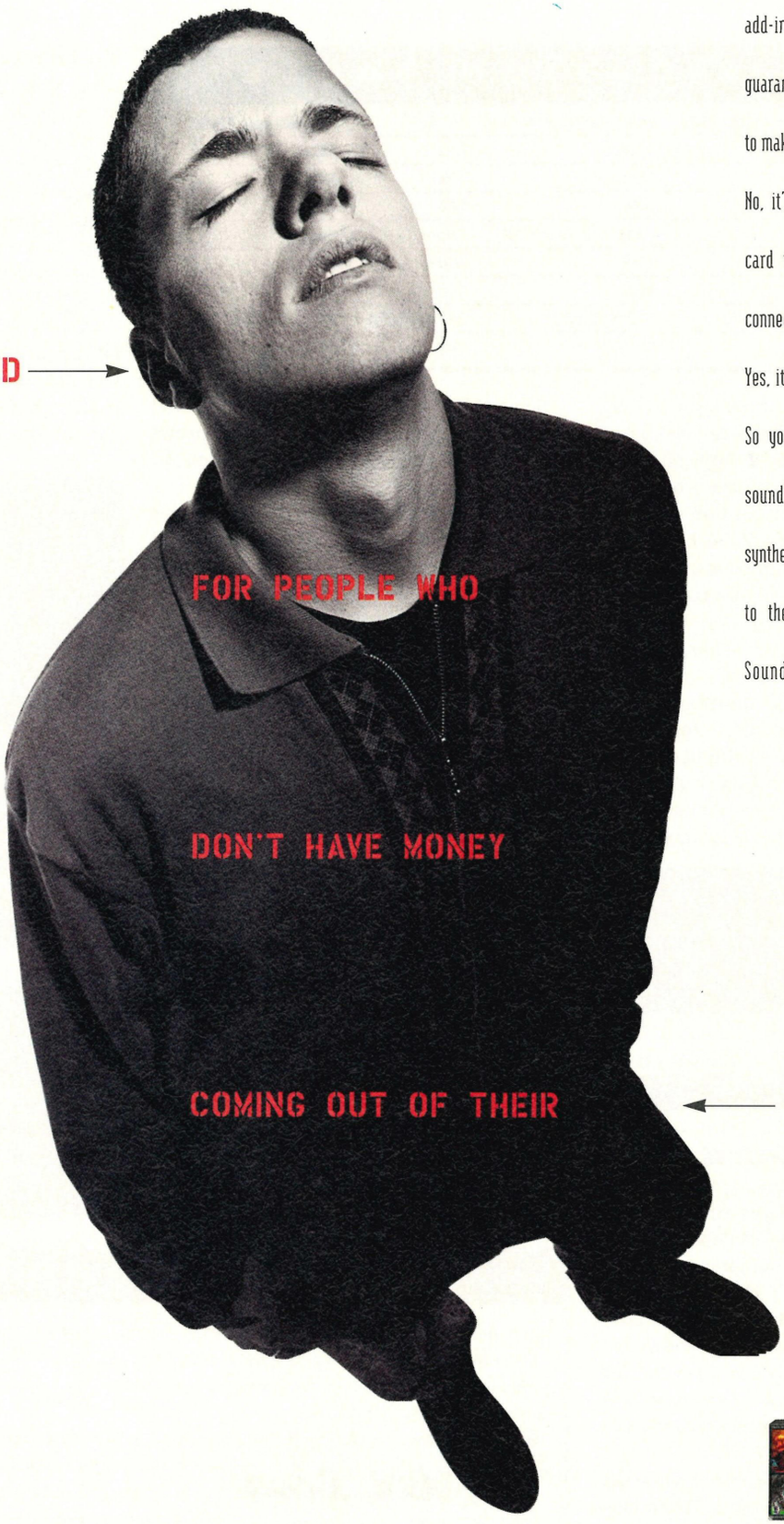
Once you get it working, the T9005 is an okay printer. Being the only LED based printer in the test, I was interested to see how it compared. Sadly it doesn't feature any kind of resolution enhancement and as a result, came in a poor fourth in the print quality tests. I've seen other LED printers recently and their print quality was easily passable compared to laser technology. It's a shame the 9005 isn't as good — at this low price it would be a winner with better print quality. As an aside from print quality, I



Introducing the UltraSound ACE™ from Gravis. The 32-voice wavetable add-in card for your PC that's guaranteed (as in money back) to make your games sound better. No, it's not some lame daughter-card that needs Wave Blaster™ connectors, whatever they are. Yes, it works with any sound card. So you're able to say hello to sounds created by wavetable synthesis without saying goodbye to the ones created by older Sound Blaster™ FM technology.

Advanced GRAVIS

HIGH END SOUND →



← REAR END.



WAVETABLE TECHNOLOGY. 16-BIT CD QUALITY SOUND. 89 POUNDS. HEARD ENOUGH?

Advanced Gravis Computer Technology Ltd. Europe, Antennestraat 70, 1322 Almere, The Netherlands. For more information call +31.36.536.4443 or fax +31.36.536.6011. UltraSound and UltraSound ACE are trademarks of Advanced Gravis. ©1995 Advanced Gravis. All rights reserved. All other brands or product names are trademarks owned by their respective companies. Available from PC stores and computer games specialists. Around £89.99.

SPECIFICATION TABLE

Model	StarWinType 4000	LexmarkWinWriter600	HP 4L	Mannesmann T9005
Type	Laser	Laser	Laser	LED
Memory	2Mb	1Mb	1Mb	512k
Resolution	300	600	300	300
Speed (pgs/min)	4ppm	10ppm (8 @ 600dpi)	4ppm	4ppm
Pages (cartridge)	4000	7000	3000	2500
Paper capacity	200	100	100	100
Dimensions(whd)	265x330x235	378x315x530	362x164x353	351x271x373
Weight	16Kg	15.7Kg	7Kg	13Kg

should stress that the T9005 comes with only half a megabyte of RAM. This is not enough to print a full page of graphics, or large bit maps, and even text documents may have problems if they have lots of fonts or contain pictures. Upgrading the on-board RAM will be a necessity if you want to use this printer in a Windows environment. And even if you upgrade this RAM you'll still have problems printing from Windows — it doesn't support Windows TrueType fonts.

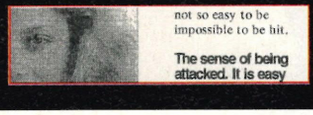
All in all, the T9005 was a disappointment. The computer industry is based upon technology allowing lower prices without compromising quality. In this case, however, you get what you pay for — a low price, low specification printer which produced low quality prints.

RATING 4

Mannesmann Tally T9005

Cheap, but not cheerful.

Supplier:	Mannesmann Tally
Contact:	(01734) 788711
Price:	£449



Hewlett Packard 4L

Here's a company that's synonymous with the laser printer market. Say laser printer to most people and they'll say Hewlett Packard, in the same way that Ford 'own' the car market.

Against this background, Hewlett Packard's entry in this test had a lot to lose. So how did it compare? Well, if the decision rested on design, their printer would probably win. Compact, low lying and elegantly styled, the Hewlett Packard 4L looked very tasty next to my PC and easily fits into a home environment.

Its noise level too, left no room for doubt that this was a printer suitable for use in a living environment. Whilst the Mannesmann Tally required the TV to be turned up, and the Lexmark generated a slightly annoying hum, when in use, Hewlett Packard's model allowed the full drama of the mystery virus unwinding in Brookside to be heard!

Being able to hear Brookside is all very well but if the printer can't produce decent prints then this whole argument is a bit pointless, so how did it compare?

Well on specification at least, Hewlett Packard's printer was third best. Its 300dpi mode and alarming slow sounding four pages per minutes certainly won't win awards. But in our tests it fared somewhat better than the paper specifications implied it would. Although the engine can only produce 300 dots per inch, it also features Hewlett Packard's Resolution Enhancement Technology (Hewlett Packard was the first to develop this), and when enabled, this produced surprisingly good results. In fact in a quick examination of 12, 14 and 24 point text prints, I was hard pushed to spot a difference between it and the 600 dpi Lexmark. More in-depth analysis did reveal an edge — as you would expect — but Hewlett Packard's RET does a good job of covering up some of the weaknesses of 300dpi. In terms of speed, the results were also surprising. Both the Lexmark and Star are on paper at least, quicker print engines. However, both of these use your PCs processor so although you wait longer for the prints to come out on the Hewlett Packard, you gain back control of the PC quicker and can get back to work sooner. This can be worked around, but it's worth considering.

A final point to note is that Hewlett Packard has really gone to town when it comes to environmental care. In addition to being Energy Star compliant, the printer has a Toner Conservation (EconoMode) mode to cut down the amount of toner used. Supporting this, the manual has an appendix exclusively detailing environmental savings employed (recycled paper for the manual etc). They'll even cover the cost of returning toner units to Hewlett Packard for recycling. Full marks to Hewlett Packard.

In the end I wish the Hewlett Packard was a 600 dpi model with a faster print engine. If it was, I'd have no doubts that it would be the printer to use -—as it is, it's a toss up between it and the Star/Lexmark models.

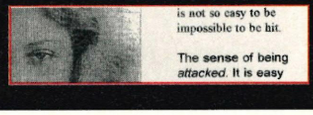


RATING 7

HP4L

A good all round model.

Supplier:	Hewlett Packard
Contact:	(01344) 360000
Price:	£489



SUMMARY

Which printer is for you? It's a difficult question with no immediate answer.

If you want the very best in print quality and ease of use, it has to be Lexmark. Its 600dpi output, fast performance and well thought-out software drivers, ensure technically at least, it stood head and shoulders above the others in this test.

But consider for a minute that the HP will offer prints that most people will be hard pressed to notice a difference with, whilst also having much lower running costs and is also much cheaper.

The Star WinType also has advantages. If your PC system is in a living room environment then you'll want a laser printer to look smart, unobtrusive and also be quiet — the WinType is all of these.

My final choice is the Hewlett Packard, with the Lexmark WinWriter as a close second. Although it has a lower on-paper specification and our tests rated it behind the WinWriter in real terms, the 4L's lower resolution isn't a real handicap. Its styling is good enough, while Hewlett Packard's low priced consumables will save a fortune in the long run and of course its price is very attractive.

Hewlett Packard's reputation in the laser printer market is safe for the time being.

"Methinks the Sheriff will be green with envy when he sees our new Amstrad PC, Long John."

"Aye Robin, it be great value – an' Amstrad be giv'n us all the advice an' support we need."

"PCs are great! PCs are great!"



Amstrad DIRECT.

"With Amstrad, getting costs surprisingly little,

Why buy Amstrad Direct?

Because you deal direct with the manufacturer, you can always call on our technical support when you need it - from the time of making your first enquiry, right through the lifetime of your PC. Because you have our 30-day, no quibble, money back guarantee, and because on price, you'll get the best deal there is from Amstrad Direct.

Amstrad POWER PACK PC9486i

Outstanding value for word-processing, spreadsheet and graphics. Operated by a fast 486 processor, the Power Pack is delivered ready to go. All the programmes you need to run are ready installed, including an interactive on-screen tutorial that answers all the questions you will most likely ask.



SOFTWARE

MS-DOS® 6.2

MS Windows® 3.11

WordPerfect Works

PCI LOCAL BUS

SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

- 66MHz 486/DX2 Processor
- Intel Pentium OverDrive Ready
- 4MB RAM
- 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics, IDE plus expansion
- 270MB IDE Hard Disk
- 1MB Video RAM
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp Low Radiation Colour Monitor
- Ergonomic Keyboard & Mouse
- Desktop Case
- MS-DOS® 6.2 & MS-Windows® 3.11
- WordPerfect Works

MANUALS AND DISKS INCLUDED FREE OF CHARGE

AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICE

£699.00 EX VAT

£838.96 INC VAT & DEL.

£42.00 PER MONTH

See Order Page for full credit details.

UPGRADE OPTIONS*

	Add		Add
100MHz DX4 Processor	£95	Internal 14.4 Fax/Modem Card	£150
4MB to 8MB RAM	£120	CD-ROM & Lotus Smartsuite	£170
256K Cache	£25	16bit Stereo Soundcard & Speakers (inc full Multimedia Software-only suitable with CD-ROM)	£100
420MB Hard Disk Drive	£50		
850MB Hard Disk Drive	£120	Three Year at home or office service upgrade	£149
1.05GB Hard Disk Drive	£200		
15" Monitor	£130		
17" Monitor	£390		

ENHANCED IDE

MICROSOFT WINDOWS READY-TO-RUN

All prices exclude VAT

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Life FREE LIFETIME TELEPHONE SUPPORT

12 MONTHS FREE WARRANTY PARTS & LABOUR

12 MONTHS FREE AT HOME OR OFFICE SERVICE

All AT AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICES

72 HOUR DESPATCH TO YOUR DOOR

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

started in computing John."

"Quite so, Robin. That's the advantage of buying direct from the manufacturer. And even though the new Amstrad PC range features the very latest technology, Amstrad makes it as easy to use as running rings round the Sheriff."

Amstrad MULTIMEDIA 1 PC9486i

On top of everything the Power Pack offers, the PC9486i Multimedia system comes with a double-speed CD-ROM, 16bit stereo soundcard and stereo speakers. This will give you access to the very latest, fast-growing selection of sound and video software packages, offering you superb educational presentations, movie-like video sequences and the most amazing games.

SOFTWARE


Theme Park®

MS Encarta® '95'



Descent


Little Big Adventure®

- WordPerfect Works
- MS-DOS® 6.2
- MS-Windows®3.11
- Liinks-Pro®

SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

- 66MHz 486i/DX2 Processor
- Intel Pentium OverDrive Ready
- 4MB RAM
- 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics, IDE plus expansion
- 270MB IDE Hard Disk
- 1MB Video RAM
- Double speed CD-ROM
- 16bit Stereo Soundcard & Speakers
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp Low Radiation Colour Monitor
- Ergonomic Keyboard & Mouse
- Desktop Case
- MS-DOS® 6.2 & MS-Windows® 3.11
- WordPerfect Works
- MS Encarta®'95, Theme Park, Little Big Adventure, Links-Pro, Descent

NOW EVEN GREATER VALUE!

UPGRADE OPTIONS*

	Add
100MHz DX4 Processor	£95
4MB to 8MB RAM	£120
256K Cache	£25
420MB Hard Disk Drive	£50
850MB Hard Disk Drive	£120
1.05GB Hard Disk Drive	£200
15" Monitor	£130
17" Monitor	£390
Internal 14.4 Fax/Modem Card	£150
Three Year at home or office service upgrade	£149

All prices exclude VAT

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICE
£899.00 EX VAT
£1073.96 INC VAT & DEL.
£54.00 PER MONTH
See Order Page for full credit details.

ENHANCED IDE
MICROSOFT WINDOWS READY-TO-RUN
PCI LOCAL BUS

Amstrad MULTIMEDIA 2 PC9555i

Our top-of-the-range Pentium Multimedia package offers everything you'll find in the PC9486i, plus double the 'thinking space' (8MB RAM plus 256K Cache), 50% more data storage (420MB Hard Disk) as well as spell-binding Pentium performance.



SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

- 75MHz Pentium Processor
- 256K Cache
- 8MB RAM
- 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics, IDE plus expansion
- 420MB IDE Hard Disk
- 1MB Video RAM
- Double Speed CD-ROM
- 16bit Stereo Soundcard & Speakers
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp Low Radiation Colour Monitor
- Ergonomic Keyboard & Mouse
- Desktop Case
- MS-DOS® 6.2 & MS-Windows® 3.11
- WordPerfect Works
- MS Encarta®'95, Theme Park, Little Big Adventure, Links Pro, Descent

UPGRADE OPTIONS*

	Add
8MB to 16MB RAM	£240
850MB Hard Disk Drive	£70
1.05GB Hard Disk Drive	£150
15" Monitor	£130
17" Monitor	£390
Internal 14.4 Fax/Modem Card	£150
Three Year at home or office service upgrade	£149

All prices exclude VAT

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICE
£1249.00 EX VAT
£1485.21 INC VAT & DEL.
£75.00 PER MONTH
See Order Page for full credit details.

MANUALS AND DISKS INCLUDED FREE OF CHARGE



intel inside
pentium PROCESSOR

PCI LOCAL BUS
ENHANCED IDE
MICROSOFT WINDOWS READY-TO-RUN

Amstrad® DIRECT.

Freephone DIRECT LINE 0800 338844

*Upgrade option prices are only applicable when ordered with the associated PC system. Accessories may differ cosmetically from those depicted.

"Shiver me timbers! Amstrad's gives me all the support

Amstrad HOME OFFICE PC9486i

Easy enough to use at home, yet powerful enough to run a small office, catering for all your correspondence, financial planning and presentation graphics.

Driven by the lightning-fast 100MHz DX4 processor, pre-installed software incorporates ready-to-run WordPerfect Works, which includes programmes for word processing, spreadsheets and even drawing and painting.

SOFTWARE



WordPerfect Works



MS Windows® 3.11

- MS-DOS®6.2

SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

- 100MHz DX4 Processor
- 256K Cache
- 4MB RAM
- 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics, IDE plus expansion
- 420MB IDE Hard Disk
- 1MB Video RAM
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp Low Radiation Colour Monitor
- Ergonomic Keyboard & Mouse
- Desktop Case
- MS-DOS® 6.2 & MS-Windows® 3.11
- WordPerfect Works

ENHANCED IDE

MICROSOFT WINDOWS READY-TO-RUN

MANUALS AND DISKS INCLUDED FREE OF CHARGE



UPGRADE OPTIONS*

	Add
4MB to 8MB RAM	£120
4MB to 16MB RAM	£360
850MB Hard Disk Drive	£70
1.05GB Hard Disk Drive	£150
15" Monitor	£130
17" Monitor	£390
Internal 14.4 Fax/Modem Card	£150
Three year at home or office service upgrade	£149
CD-ROM & Lotus Smartsuite	£170
16bit Soundcard & Speakers (inc full Multimedia Software-only suitable with CD-ROM)	£100

All prices exclude VAT

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICE

£849.00 EX VAT

£1015.21 INC VAT & DEL.

£51.00 PER MONTH

See Order Page for full credit details.

PCI LOCAL BUS

Amstrad OFFICE PACK PC9555i



AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICE

£1249.00 EX VAT

£1485.21 INC VAT & DEL.

£75.00 PER MONTH

See Order Page for full credit details.

PCI LOCAL BUS

SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

- 75MHz Pentium Processor
- 256K Cache
- 8MB RAM
- 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics, IDE plus expansion
- 420MB IDE Hard Disk
- 1MB Video RAM
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp Low Radiation Colour Monitor
- Ergonomic Keyboard & Mouse
- Double Speed CD-ROM
- Desktop Case
- MS-DOS® 6.2 & MS-Windows® 3.11
- Lotus Smartsuite (Lotus 1-2-3, Ami-Pro, Freelance Graphics, Approach and Organizer)

UPGRADE OPTIONS*

	Add
90MHz Pentium Processor	£220
100MHz Pentium Processor	£330
8MB to 16MB RAM	£240
850MB Hard Disk Drive	£70
1.05GB Hard Disk Drive	£150
15" Monitor	£130
17" Monitor	£390
Internal 14.4 Fax/Modem Card	£150
Three year at home or office service upgrade	£149
16bit Stereo Soundcard & Speakers only	£55

All prices exclude VAT

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

ENHANCED IDE

MICROSOFT WINDOWS READY-TO-RUN

intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Life FREE LIFETIME TELEPHONE SUPPORT

12 MONTHS FREE WARRANTY PARTS & LABOUR

12 MONTHS FREE AT HOME OR OFFICE SERVICE

All AT AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICES

72 HOUR DESPATCH TO YOUR DOOR

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

Business Package, I need, and more!"

"As good as a new leg, Long John. Truth is when you're in business you need to know the support's right there when you need it. Technical or operating query, you know Amstrad will be around to carry you along."

Amstrad **BUSINESS PACK** PC9555i

SOFTWARE

MS-DOS® 6.2

MS Windows® 3.11

Lotus Smartsuite

MANUALS AND DISKS INCLUDED FREE OF CHARGE



A true business workhorse with massive processing power driven by the 90MHz Pentium CPU, and huge data storage capacity with an 850MB hard disk. The PC9555i Business Pack also incorporates a double speed CD-ROM.

The PC9555i Business Pack comes supplied with Lotus Smartsuite on CD, giving fully featured word processing, spreadsheet and professional presentation graphics and much much more!

SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

- 90MHz Pentium Processor
- 256K Cache
- 8MB RAM
- 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics, IDE plus expansion
- 850MB IDE Hard Disk
- 1MB Video RAM
- 14" SVGA 0.28dp Low Radiation Colour Monitor
- Ergonomic Keyboard & Mouse
- Double Speed CD-ROM
- Desktop Case
- MS-DOS® 6.2 & MS-Windows® 3.11
- Lotus Smartsuite (Lotus 1-2-3, Ami-Pro, Freelance Graphics, Approach and Organizer)

UPGRADE OPTIONS*

	Add
100MHz Pentium Processor	£110
8MB to 16MB RAM	£240
1.05GB Hard Disk Drive	£80
15" Monitor	£130
17" Monitor	£390
Internal 14.4 Fax/Modem Card	£150
16bit Stereo Soundcard & Speakers only	£55
Three Year at home & office service upgrade	£149

All prices exclude VAT

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

ENHANCED IDE

MICROSOFT WINDOWS READY-TO-RUN

intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICE

£1499.00 EX VAT

£1778.96 INC VAT & DEL.

£89.00 PER MONTH

See Order Page for full credit details.

Amstrad LARGE DISPLAY **MONITOR** OPTIONS

Manufactured by Tatung



SPECIFICATION

- Super VGA Colour
- FST (Flatter Squarer Tube)
- 0.28 Dot Pitch Anti-Glare Tubes
- Flicker-free Non-interlaced Display
- High Resolution 1280x1024
- MPR11 Low Radiation Compliant
- EPA/Energy Star Power Saving Compliant

UPGRADE OPTIONS*

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

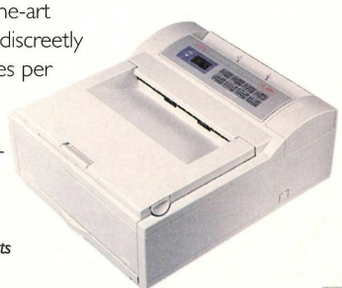
	Add
15" Monitor	£130
17" Monitor	£390

All prices exclude VAT



OKI **PRINTER** OL400ex

The OKI OL400ex printer is a state-of-the-art LED/laser quality printer, designed to sit discreetly and quietly on any desktop, prints 4 pages per minute, and is easy to use.



SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

- Laser quality
- LED printer
- Fast Risc processor
- 4 pages per minute printing
- Low running costs
- Near silent printing
- Small footprint
- 42 resident fonts (optional)

AMSTRAD FACTORY PRICE

£299.00 EX VAT

£363.08 INC VAT & DEL.

£19.00 PER MONTH

See Order Page for full credit details.

Amstrad® DIRECT.

Freephone DIRECT LINE 0800 33 88 44

*Upgrade option prices are only applicable when ordered with the associated PC system. Accessories may differ cosmetically from those depicted.

"Design your own computer and we'll tailor-make it."

7 DAY TAILOR-MADE SYSTEMS

HOW TO SELECT YOUR TAILOR-MADE SYSTEM AND HAVE IT DESPATCHED WITHIN 7 DAYS

The reason we can turn around your tailor-made system in this industry-beating time is because all our PCs are built in our own factory right here in Britain. It's simple - just call us on **FREEPHONE 0800 33 88 44** and discuss your needs with one of our consultants.
We recommend you start with either the standard PC9486i or PC9555i systems, and then select the upgrade options that most closely mirror your needs. Add to that your choice of high-resolution colour monitor - 14", 15", even 17" - and we take it from there!

EXAMPLE 1

A fast system suitable for the home or office without CD-ROM

Power Pack PC9486i	£699.00
Upgrade 100MHz DX4 Processor	£95.00
Upgrade 8MB RAM	£120.00
Upgrade 420MB Hard Disk	£50.00
System Price	**£964.00**
Delivery	£15.00
VAT 17.5%	£171.32
Total to pay	**£1150.32**

EXAMPLE 2

The fastest possible system for complex Desktop Publishing

Business Pack PC9555i	£1499.00
Upgrade 100MHz Pentium Processor	£110.00
Upgrade 8-16MB RAM	£240.00
Upgrade 1.05GB Hard Disk	£130.00
Upgrade 17" Monitor	£390.00
OKI OL400ex Printer	£299.00
System Price	**£2668.00**
Delivery	£15.00
VAT 17.5%	£469.53
Total to pay	**£3152.52**

THE AMSTRAD 8 POINT PC WARRANTY

1. ***We warrant** that every PC we sell is manufactured in our own British factories to the highest standards.*
2. ***We warrant** you will only pay Amstrad factory prices for your PC, and not a penny more.*
3. ***We warrant** you assistance with spreading the cost of your PC purchase, if you so wish.*
4. ***We warrant** despatch of your standard configuration PC system within 72 hours to your door, anywhere on the British mainland.*
5. ***We warrant** that at any time, within the first 30 days from receipt of your order, you may return your PC and get your money back.**
6. ***We warrant** you 12 months' free on-site service of your Amstrad PC, at home or at the office.*
7. ***We warrant** you a free telephone support service for the **lifetime** of your Amstrad PC.*
8. ***We warrant** you that any Amstrad PC system manufactured to your own specifications at our British factory will be despatched to you within 7 days of cleared payment.*

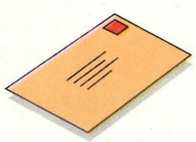
* *Charges will be made for any missing items, including manuals. We may supply sealed back-up disks for pre-installed software. A charge may also be levied if the seals on these disks are broken.*

HOW TO ORDER



BY PHONE

Have your Credit/Debit card ready and call Amstrad FREE on **0800 33 88 44**



BY POST

Paying by cheque, enclose a cheque for the full amount made payable to AMSTRAD DIRECT and write your cheque guarantee card number and the expiry date on the reverse.
Paying by credit/debit card, provide your credit/debit card details including expiry date.
Don't forget to include a full list of the products you require together with your name, address and telephone number and post to:
Amstrad Direct,
FREEPOST, Brentwood Essex CM14 4YW.

TRANSAX®

We use TRANSAX cheque clearance so there's no delay in despatching your order.



BY FAX

Send a list of the products you require together with credit/debit card details including expiry date, your name, address and telephone number to:
01277 20 90 09

DELIVERY CHARGE

Please remember to include £15 + VAT (£17.63) for delivery of your PC system to your door.



AMSTRAD EVEN HELP TO SPREAD THE COST OF YOUR PAYMENTS

The Amstrad Direct Card is a new service from Amstrad in conjunction with AVCO Trust, offering a credit facility to spread the costs of purchases.

Credit is available immediately your application is accepted, with flexible repayment terms to suit your budget. You can then use your card to make all your future Amstrad purchases, and take advantage of some special offers exclusive to Amstrad Direct cardholders.

AMSTRAD DIRECT CARD EXAMPLES (PC9486i Power Pack £838.96, PC9486i Multimedia 1 £1073.96)

TYPICAL EXAMPLE	CASH PRICE INC. VAT & DELIVERY	DEPOSIT	NO. OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS	EACH PAYMENT	ONE FINAL PAYMENT	TOTAL REPAYABLE	APR
GOODS	£838.96	NIL	25	£42.00	£31.75	£1081.75	26.8%
GOODS	£1073.96	NIL	25	£54.00	£32.96	£1382.96	26.8%

Payments are calculated as 5% of initial debit balance. All credit loans subject to status. Written quotations are available on request from Amstrad Direct. Amstrad Direct is a licensed credit broker.

Call **FREEPHONE 0800 33 88 44** for further details.

Amstrad® DIRECT.

Amstrad really means business.
Now put us to the test!

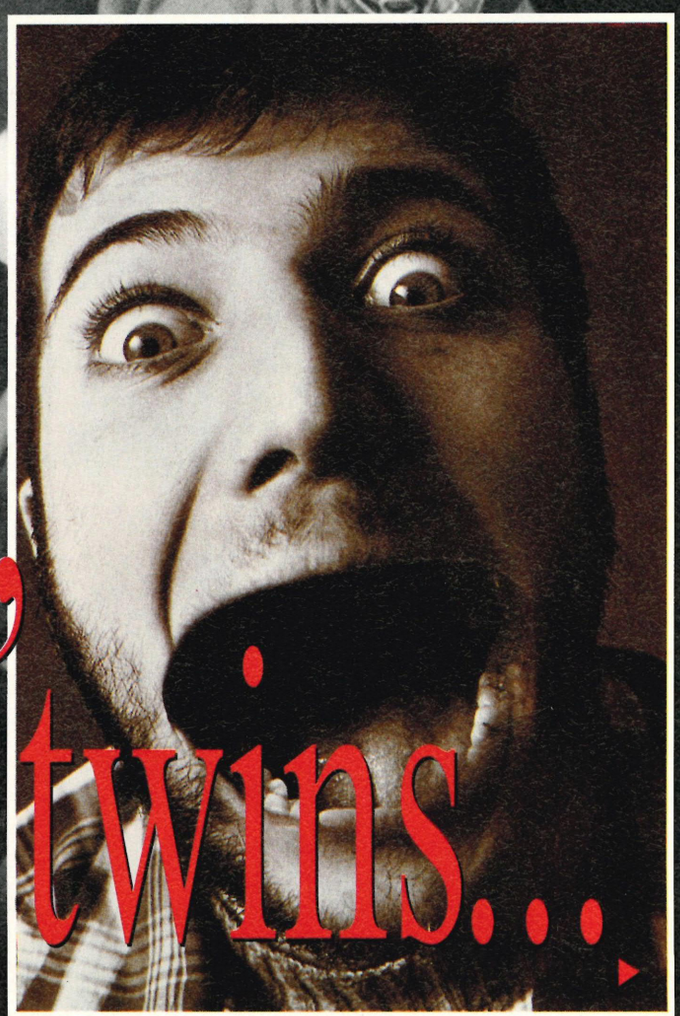
Freephone DIRECT LINE 0800 33 88 44

PLEASE QUOTE PCR02

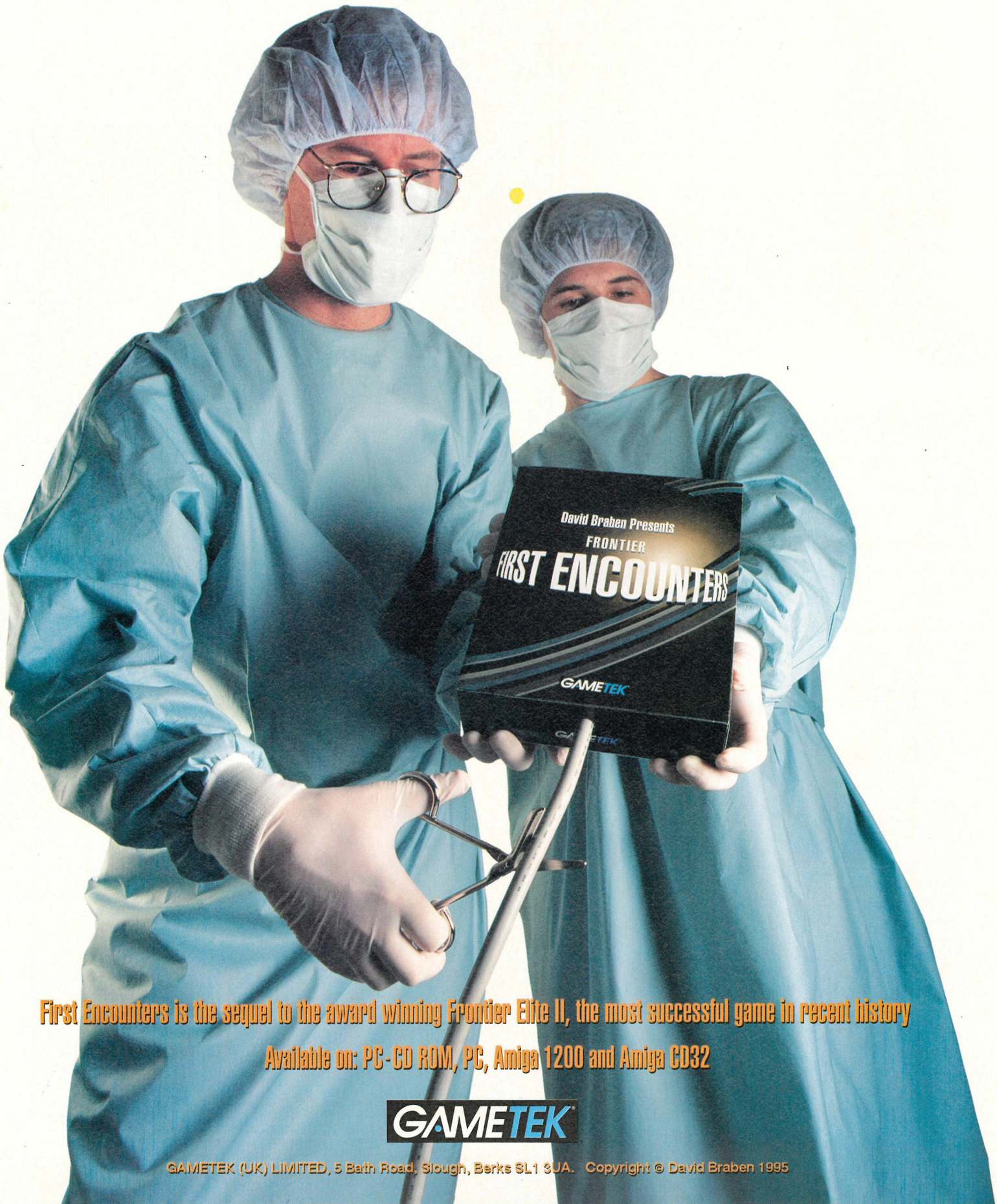
Amstrad DIRECT is a division of Amstrad plc. All trademarks are acknowledged.

Cal Jones goes stateside to meet Graeme Devine and Rob Landeros, the brains behind The 11th Hour, the sequel to the award winning 7th Guest...

Tick tock, the terror twins...



Like all new babies, this will keep you up all night



First Encounters is the sequel to the award winning Frontier Elite II, the most successful game in recent history

Available on: PC-CD ROM, PC, Amiga 1200 and Amiga CD32

GAMETEK

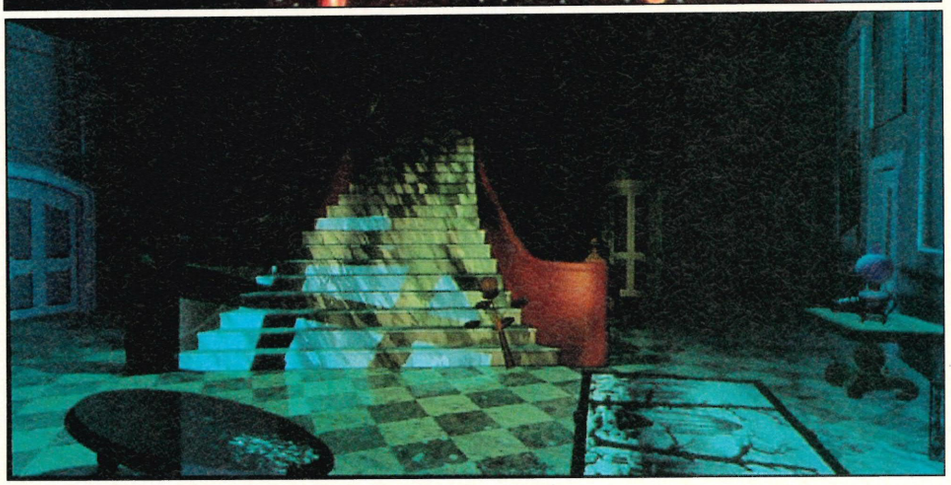
GAMETEK (UK) LIMITED, 5 Bath Road, Slough, Berks SL1 3UA. Copyright © David Braben 1995

A "Trilobyte" is a prehistoric woodlouse, so it's a strange name to be adopted by a pioneering company. After all, Trilobyte introduced gamers to CD-ROM with its award winning, million selling 7th Guest. And this is also the company that, when technology fails to come up to scratch, creates its own, superior games development utilities rather than compromising.

Oregon-based Trilobyte is headed up by two former Virgin employees. Devine began programming as a teenager — when he was expelled from school for taking time off to finish the British version of Pole Position — whilst Landeros has created graphics for games such as Defender of the Crown and Rocket Ranger.

Trilobyte's aim is to create sophisticated CD-ROM-based software, and when sales of 7th Guest hit the million mark, it would have been one can short of a six pack not to produce a sequel . . .





Top: now I've heard of some pretty kinky uses for a cheese grater, but this is taking things too far!

Above: the computer-generated backgrounds look absolutely stunning, thanks to the high frame rate and screen resolution.

Ambitious project

11th Hour is a very ambitious project. One criticism often levelled at 7th Guest is that it doesn't have much of a plot — the player floats around a large, graphically impressive house and solves a few logic-based puzzles, but is never really involved in the story. But according to Trilobyte, with 11th Hour those problems have been addressed.

Return to Stauf Mansion

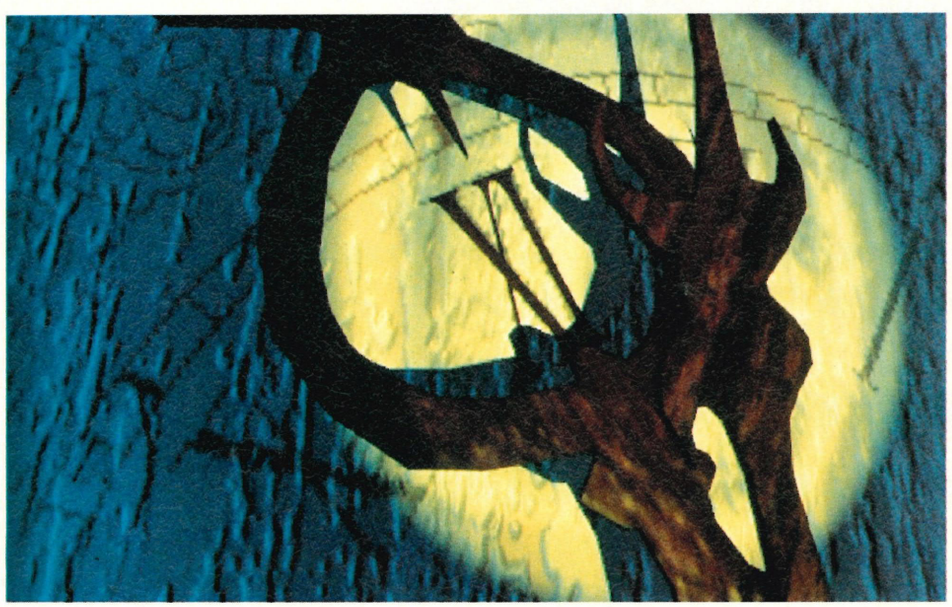
The game marks the return of demented toy maker Henry Stauf. However it takes place 70 years after the events of 7th Guest, and the player now takes the role of Carl Denning, a young investigative reporter for a fictional television show called "Case Unsolved". When Denning's producer and lover, Robin Morales, disappears during a murder investigation in Stauf's home town, Denning decides to explore the now derelict mansion in the hope of finding her. He gets more than he bargained for . . .

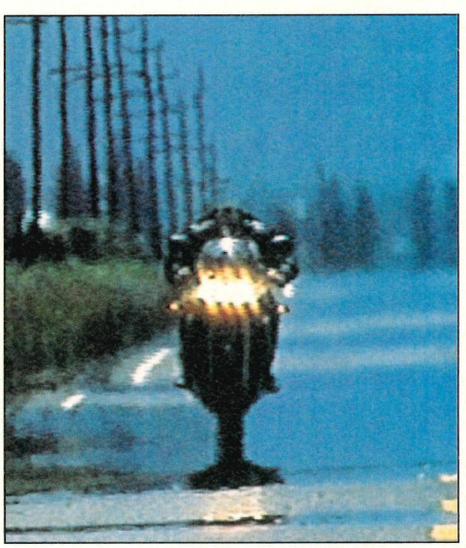
The action is similar to 7th Guest: progress is made by solving logic-based puzzles. However, the game is more complex, with plenty of video clips, better character development and tougher problems to sort. David Wheeler, 11th Hour's writer and director, reveals how the game will work: "The player goes into a room and must discover the one hot spot, which is a puzzle. The correct solution brings the other objects alive and when the right one is in ownership, the player is rewarded by a glimpse of the story. .

The story is divided into five acts, or modules. When the player solved the final puzzle in a module, he then views the story that has been completed to that point in total. At the end of the final act, he is faced with the decision as to how to complete the story."

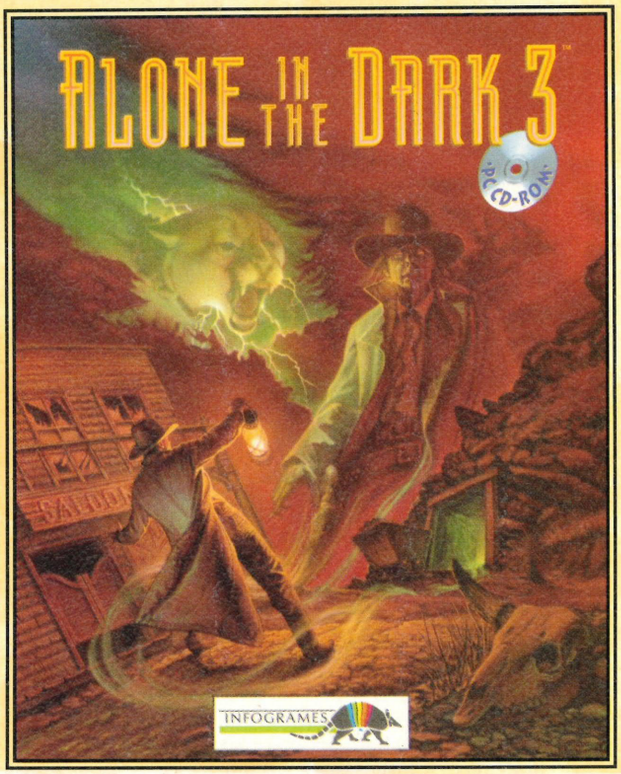
Decisions, decisions

The decision in question revolves around choosing which one of three women you should save. Although you originally set out to find Robin Morales, two other female characters entreat you to help them and you are forced to decide which one you will rescue. If you attempt to save one and then decide that you've made the wrong decision, you could backtrack and go in search of another, but the game becomes more





WANTED



"PC ZONE 95% Classic Award"

"PC GAMER 90% Recommended Award"

"THE WILDEST 3-D ADVENTURE IN THE WEST"

REWARD

Only Available on CD ROM

Recommended... 386 DX 33 MHz or higher

No 3 in the series of award-winning games sold to over ½ million people worldwide Investigate "SLAUGHTER GULCH" the aptly named Ghost Town where a film crew has mysteriously disappeared 270 backgrounds and 10 saved games included Change into a puma with the forces of Navajo magic.

"A FISTFUL OF HORRORS"

Call 0891 244 444.

"For Hints & Tips on Alone in the Dark 3 and other Infogrames titles" (Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate, 49p per min all other times. Max cost per call £3.68. Please get permission from the person paying the bill.

ocean

Distributed by Ocean

INFOGRAMES

14 Smedley Street London SW4 6PF



The Jeremiah Nunan House was the inspiration for Stauf Mansion. Built in 1892 by Nunan, a wealthy Jacksonville merchant, the house was chosen from a catalogue, shipped by boxcar from Knoxville, Tennessee and then assembled by local workman in Jacksonville.

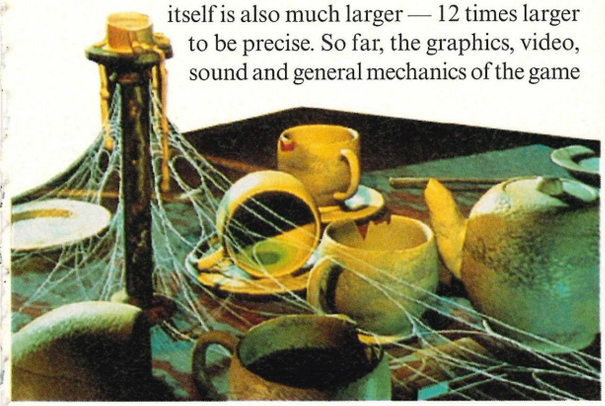
difficult as a result. Alternatively, you could play the game three times and explore all the endings, but the puzzles might well be tough enough to dissuade you from sampling them more than once.

Improved help

Yes, the puzzles are what you might describe as 'a bit on the hard side'. Fortunately, Trilobyte has included a help option to make life easier for us mere mortals. you may remember that 7th Guest also had a help facility, but you had to leave the game in order to make use of it. 11th Hour's help takes the form of a pocket organiser which you can access at any time during the game, and the clues come complete with video clips.

Graphically superior

Whilst it's true that 11th Hour's storyline is a lot more involving than that of 7th Guest, the game itself is also much larger — 12 times larger to be precise. So far, the graphics, video, sound and general mechanics of the game amount to a staggering 134Gb of uncompressed data, the equivalent of 68 CD-ROMs. Somehow, though, Trilobyte has managed to compress all that information onto only two CD-ROMs, with a third being used for the soundtrack. As they say on a certain TV programme, just how do they do that?



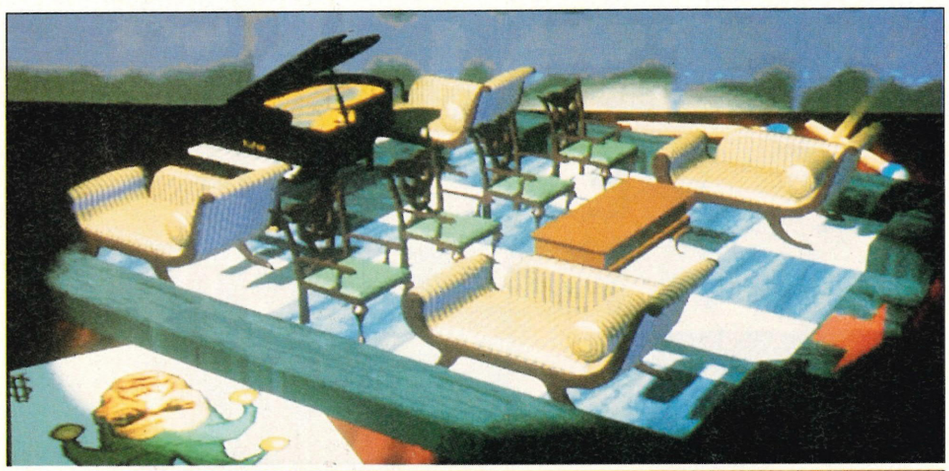
Distinctive look

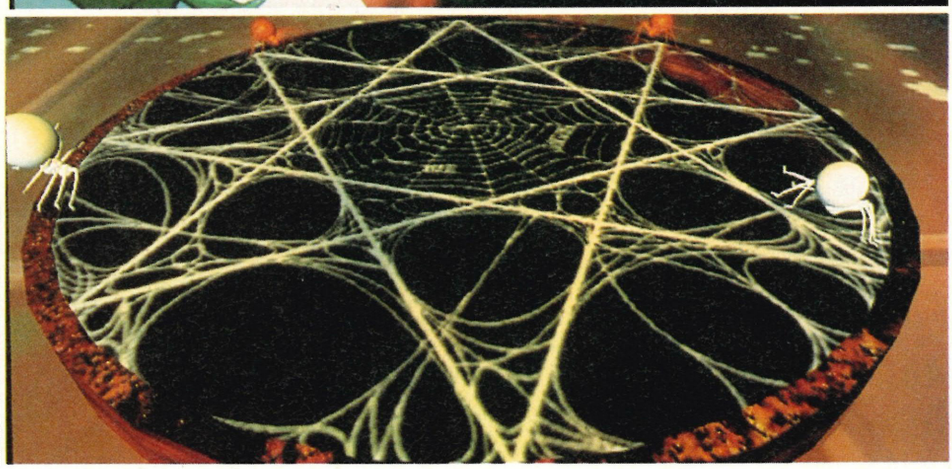
Well, they began by looking at their previous game. When Trilobyte decided to make a sequel to 7th Guest, it set its programmers the goal of creating a game that was a close to TV quality as you could possibly get. This was no easy task. 7th Guest's distinctive look came from using a mixture of computer graphics and video: actors were filmed against bluescreen backgrounds and then the video images were superimposed over the 3D Studio-rendered backgrounds. To achieve this, Graeme Devine wrote his own game development system, GROOVIE (Graeme's Object Oriented Viewer), which allowed audio and video clips to be integrated with the computer generated graphics.

However, 7th Guest is not quite TV quality. It uses partial-motion video running at 15 frames per second, and although this looked

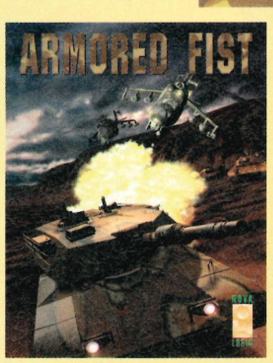
Below: this is the toughest of the 13 logic puzzles which appear in 11th Hour. It's a variation on the old sliding block puzzles you used to get in your Christmas stocking, and the idea is to shunt the furniture around so that you can move the piano off the board. With many of the pieces taking up more than one square, it's a lot tougher than it sounds.

Bottom: 11th Hour's puzzles are very testing — half the difficulty comes from actually figuring out what you're meant to be doing. In this case, you have to swap the brown spiders with the white spiders by moving them around the star, but the number of moves are limited.





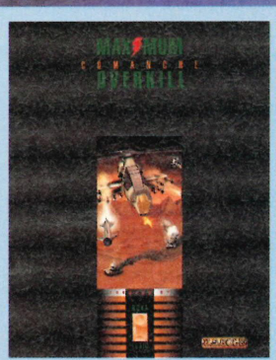
THE REALISM WILL GO TO YOUR HEAD



ARMORED FIST™

A realistic tank sim where American and Russian next-generation tanks do some state-of-the-art damage. Lead your platoon over no man's land and brace yourself as the advance weapons system locks onto your prey and delivers an earpounding blast.

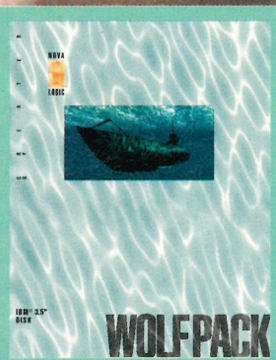
PC CD-ROM



COMANCHE™ MAXIMUM OVERKILL™

A flight simulation that's as near to sitting in the seat of the world's most technologically advanced flying machine as you can go without a top priority pass and permission from the President.

PC CD-ROM



WOLFPACK™

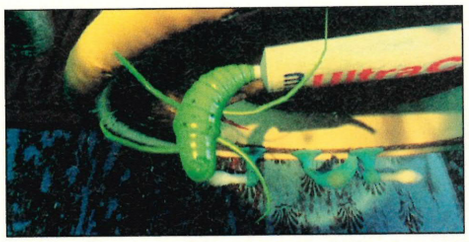
An accurate portrayal of World War II submarine vs destroyer warfare where you are transported into the dangerous, icy depths of the North Atlantic. Hailed as a genre buster, prepare for the complete gameplaying experience.

PC, PC CD-ROM, Mac CD-ROM, Mac

NOVA LOGIC™

Armored Fist, NovaLogic and NovaLogic logo are trademarks of NovaLogic, Inc. ©1994 NovaLogic, Inc. All rights reserved. Comanche, Maximum Overkill, NovaLogic, VOXEL SPACE and the NovaLogic logo are trademarks of NovaLogic, Inc. ©1992 NovaLogic, Inc. All rights reserved. Wolfpack, NovaLogic and the NovaLogic logo are trademarks of NovaLogic, Inc. ©1994 NovaLogic, Inc. All rights reserved. Marketed and distributed by U.S. Gold Ltd. Units 2/3, Holford Way, Holford, Birmingham B6 7AX. Tel: 0121 625 3366.

U.S. GOLD



Above: come on, own up, who left the cap off the toothpaste?

Bottom: the bluescreen video sequences were filmed in a converted warehouse in Oregon. Because the backgrounds are computer generated, the actors can't see them during filming and have to imagine their surroundings.

impressive enough at the time, Trilobyte want to go one better with the sequel. Consequently, the company decided that 11th Hour would use full motion video, and what's more, it would have to run at 30 frames per second — twice the speed of 7th Guest. Add to that a full MIDI soundtrack, and you can begin to understand how difficult it would be to get the game running at a reasonable rate . . .

Compact and bijou

How it does it is via compression. Trilobyte has developed its own compression algorithm, Encode, and as a result 11th Hour looks cleaner, runs faster and is less demanding on your hardware than anything that could be achieved using MPEG or other similar compression techniques.

Money making scheme

But if Encode is so much better than anything else, isn't Trilobyte keen to make money out of it by licensing it to other software developers? The short answer is no. "We're in the business of selling games, not new technologies," says Devine.

Which means that Trilobyte has a huge advantage over its rival games companies, and intends to keep it that way. Let's hope that 11th Hour's gameplay is as impressive as its technology.

DOG EAT DOG



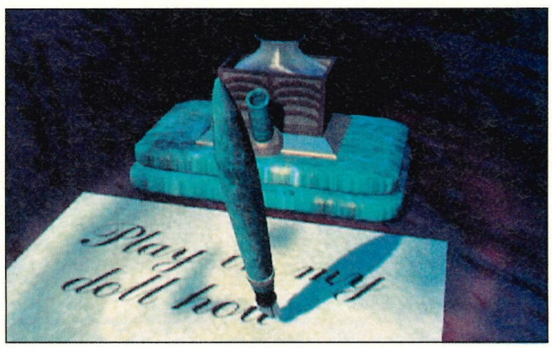
Described as an interactive sit-com, Dog Eat Dog is an adventure which takes office politics as its main theme. The plot covers two days in the life of a young marketing graduate (the player has a choice of male or female characters) who has just started work at a multinational corporation called Big Black Box Industries. As the game begins, the once successful BBBI is on the verge of bankruptcy, with plummeting sales and neurotic staff. As the new marketing assistant, you could be just what the company needs, but you have to contend with jealous colleagues, uncooperative managers, incompetent temps and office scandals.

Your ultimate goal is to become CEO of BBBI and steer it back to success — a tough task given that you only have two days in which to achieve it. There are, however, several alternative endings, both happy and sad: you could end up writing self help manuals on a mountain in Tibet, sunning yourself on a tropical island, languishing in jail or even in a loony bin! Although the game takes only six or seven hours to complete, you can play it over and over again.

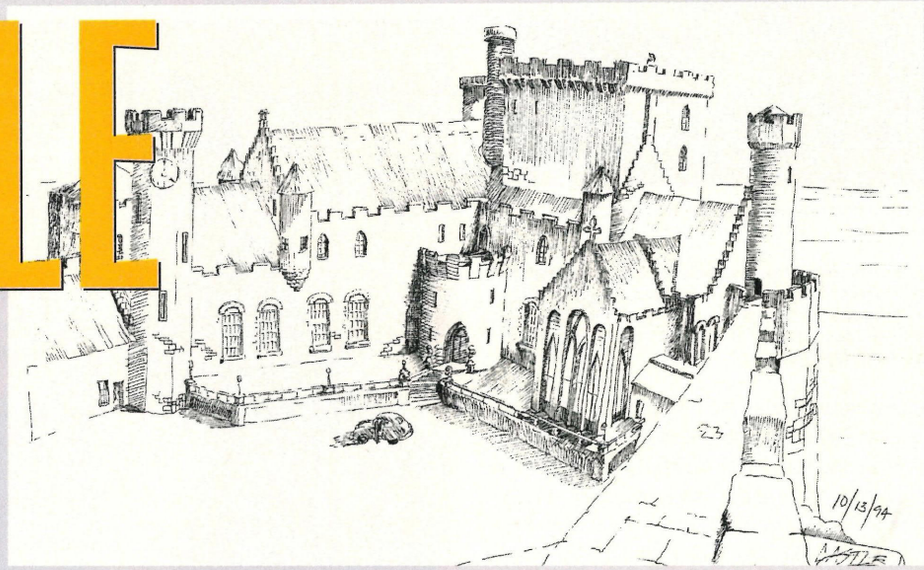


Above: Dog Eat Dog was created by three women, Darlene Waddington, Tamara Williams and Susan Chow, who together make up the writing team Open Mind. The trio wanted to create a game which would appeal not only to hard-core games players, but also people who owned a PC but didn't normally use it for leisure purposes, particularly women. The result will be quite unlike anything you've seen on your PC before. It may be just what female games players are looking for.
Left: as with 7th Guest and 11th Hour, Dog Eat Dog uses a combination of live actors and computer generated backgrounds. Following filming, the footage then has to be edited.





CASTLE

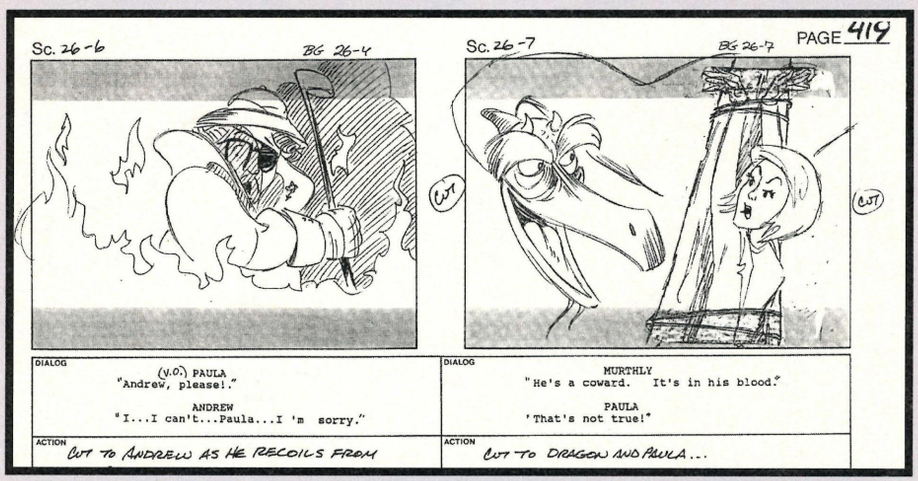


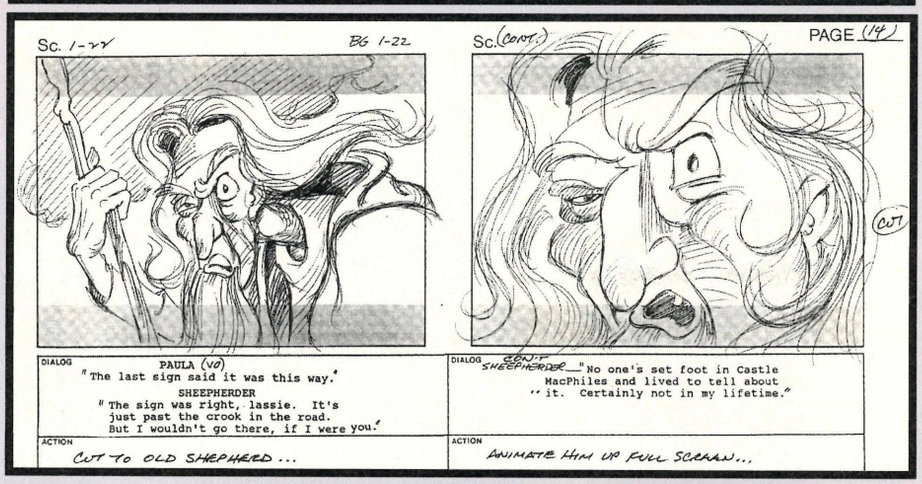
Trilobyte's third release, currently titled Castle, is a very different sort of game from either 7th Guest or 11th Hour. Whilst those two games are strictly adult-oriented, Castle is aimed at a much broader audience. Like 7th Guest and 11th Hour, it's an adventure, and like 7th Guest and 11th Hour, the backgrounds have been created using Autodesk 3D Studio. However, it's something of a departure for Trilobyte in that it doesn't use video; rather, the characters in the game are Hanna Barbera-style cartoon animations.

Set in Scotland, the story follows Andrew MacPhiles and his girlfriend Paula's adventure at the Clan MacPhiles castle. The plot includes a treasure guarded by a mysterious, fierce beast, and a curse that must be broken, and the action is spiced up with its own distinctive brand of humour.

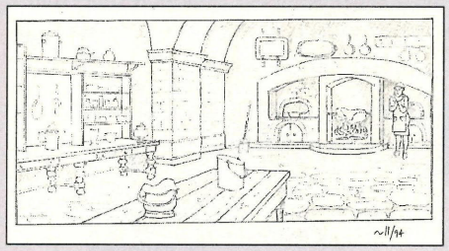
In addition to Trilobyte's custom development system, GROOVIE, and 3D Studio, the game makes use of a cell animation package called Animo. Animo is able to generate characters 300% faster than traditional animation techniques, and since Castle contains around 45 minutes of animation, use of Animo will speed the game's production considerably.

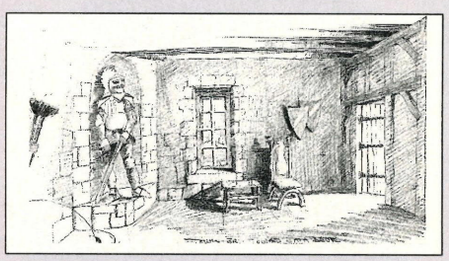
Using Animo, the locations were first sketched out by hand (top) before then being rendered in 3D Studio. Then, every scene in Castle had to be sketched out in storyboard format — a time consuming process. Hundreds of images, such as these ones (left and bottom) make up each scene — in fact, Trilobyte needs an entire room to store them in, as Castle producer John Gaffey demonstrates here (below).











2 NEW CD-ROM double value games

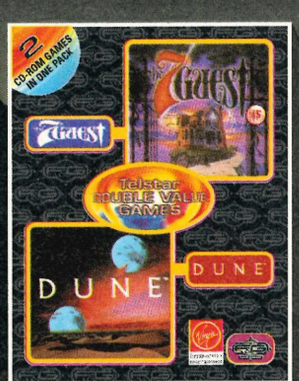
AT AN UNBELIEVABLY LOW PRICE

BLOODNET/MEGARACE + SYNDICATE PLUS/UFO

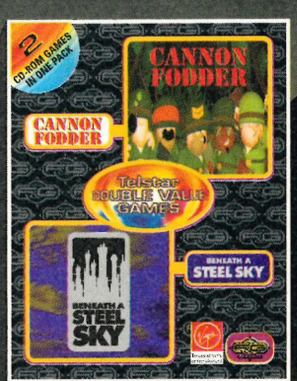


AVAILABLE NOW!









Telstar DOUBLE VALUE GAMES

AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD STORES

also available THE 7th GUEST/DUNE, CANNON FODDER/BENEATH A STEEL SKY and ALONE IN THE DARK/SHADOW OF THE COMET

Oh, what a lovely war!

Strategy expert Simon Shaw dons his combat boots and gives us the low-down on war games, past, present and future.

Back in Issue 22 (August 1993), we looked at the best of the current crop of war games and found many to be wanting (see That Was Then, box opposite). The recurrent theme was, to put it bluntly, "Why are war games so bad?". The graphics were often poor, sometimes even appearing to be an afterthought. Basic polygon landscapes were the norm and the idea of fresh and innovative approaches to gameplay were sadly lacking. But finally it seems, things are changing, for the better.

Terrific trio

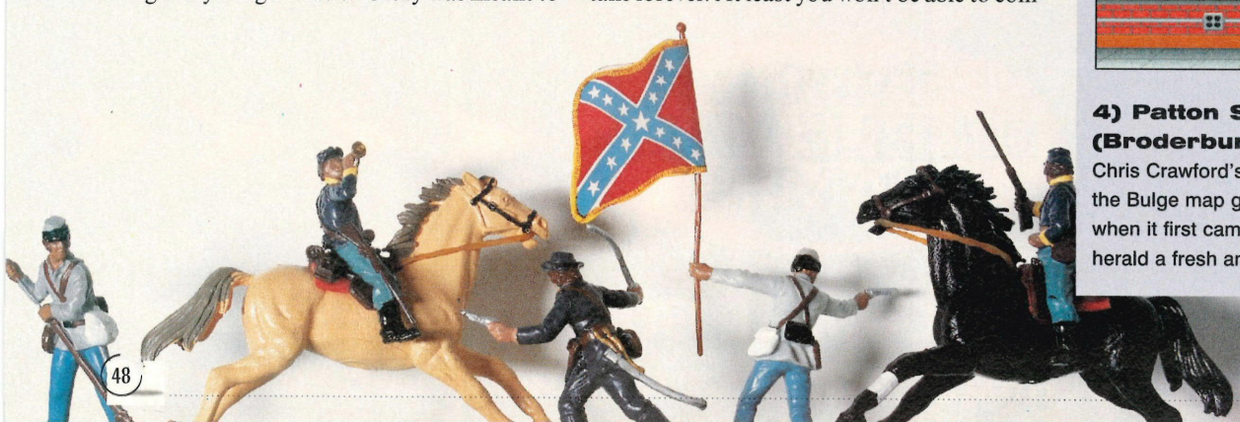
There are three reasons for this, or rather three companies — Dagger, SSI and Avalon Hill.

It isn't due for release until Easter, but from what we've seen of Civil War, Dagger's exciting new American Civil War simulation, it looks like being everything Fields of Glory was meant to be and then some.

Civil War comes from the same design team of Adrian Earle and Steven Green, who originally conceived Fields of Glory as a campaign system with battles tacked on, only to find it rush-released by MicroProse as a battle game with no campaign element. So those of you who have been wondering about some of the peculiar scenarios (eg Wavre) may find some of your queries answered.

Strategic simulation

Civil War does come with some historical battles tacked on, but essentially it is a huge-scale strategic simulation, and if you get too absorbed in the logistics and economics you have the option to turn the battles off altogether. Played this way, Adrian reckons there's about 100 hours of gameplay per campaign, but if you want to slog through every scrap and skirmish it could take forever. At least you won't be able to com-



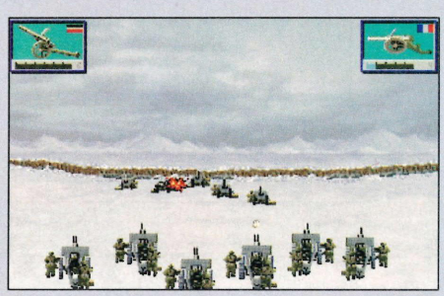
TOP EIGHT WAR GAMES 1993

1) Perfect General (Ubisoft)

A great game when it came out. It was easy to get to grips with, fun and colourful. But loading it up again, I've been amazed at how grotty it looks, and, more importantly, greatly irritated by the clunky interface. Well past its sell-by date.

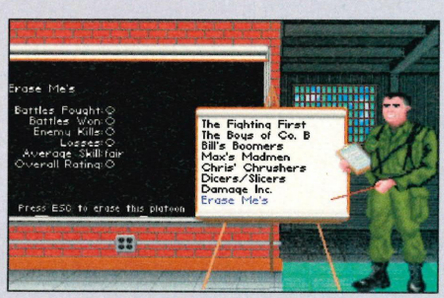
2) Historyline (Bluebyte)

If we loved Perfect General, we frothed amorously at the mouth over Historyline. But just about everything we thought was brilliant about it has recently been done a hundred times better by SSI with Panzer General.



3) M1 Tank Platoon (MicroProse)

If some others in our first war games round up now look a trifle dated, this one is positively Jurassic. The four-colour polygon landscapes look ridiculous by today's standards, but having said that, this is nonetheless one of the few games on the list to which I did give serious consideration this time around. There is nothing else in the "action" line to replace it. Across The Rhine has still not been released, and I shan't mention Armored Fist out of politeness. M1 Tank Platoon is one of those ancient venerable titles that really does deserve its classic status.



4) Patton Strikes Back (Broderbund)

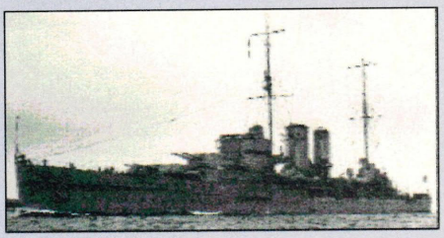
Chris Crawford's elegant and colourful Battle of the Bulge map game was very well received when it first came out, and looked as if it might herald a fresh and innovative approach to the

THAT WAS THEN . . .

computer war game. It didn't. An interesting little historical footnote nowadays, perhaps, but by no means enthralling.

5) Great Naval Battles (SSI)

This was a good game, and if nothing better in the same line had come along it would still be worth a look. However, something better did come along, and it was Great Naval Battles 2. And it's much, MUCH better.



6) Dreadnoughts (Turcan Research)

Peter Turcan's latest game was even then looking a little dated, but at the time we considered looks less important than strategic depth, which the game could boast in plenty. Unfortunately, Turcan's latest release, Midway, has not given the basic system the overhaul which it now seriously needs.

7) V for Victory (Electronic Arts)

Still wonderful a year and a half on. I chose Velikye Luki because it happened to be the one I was playing the most at the time, but as I said I would have happily taken any game in the series. That still applies. Atomic Games has moved on from 360 Pacific (and Electronic Arts) but the series, renamed World At War, continues under the aegis of Avalon Hill.

8) Fields Of Glory (MicroProse)

This was the Great White Hope, the game that we all wanted to look so good and play so well that it would make even people who didn't normally touch war games with bargepoles sit up and take notice. It almost succeeded.



plain about not getting value for money.

The battle system itself has been smoothed out and greatly improved, and while it doesn't look as colourful as Fields of Glory (the blue and grey uniforms are actually rather drab), it plays much better.

When Fields of Glory was released, MicroProse proudly announced that it was the first in a series of action strategy games. Sadly it was also the last. Fortunately Dagger has now picked up the baton and has every intention of running on with it. It is already working on its next project with Bill Steeley's new company, Interactive Magic. Watch this space.

Here is the news . . .

But the emergence of Dagger and the reincarnation of the potentially brilliant Fields of Glory engine is only one of three excellent items of recent news for keen war gamers everywhere. The other two are that there is a new wave of top-class SSI games and Avalon Hill is about to make a return.

SSI has long enjoyed an enviable reputation as the war games specialist. What's less enviable is its general perception of dryness and user-unfriendliness. That began to change with Great Naval Battles, but for a time that looked as though it might be a one-off, as SSI still continued to churn out the old-style heavy duty hex-based stuff.

Then came Clash of Steel, a fine World War 2 strategy game, which owed a considerable debt to Avalon Hill's Third Reich, but boasted vastly improved graphics and interface. This was followed by Tanks, which proved an excellent and innovative modern tactical combat game. And then, of course, SSI released Panzer General.

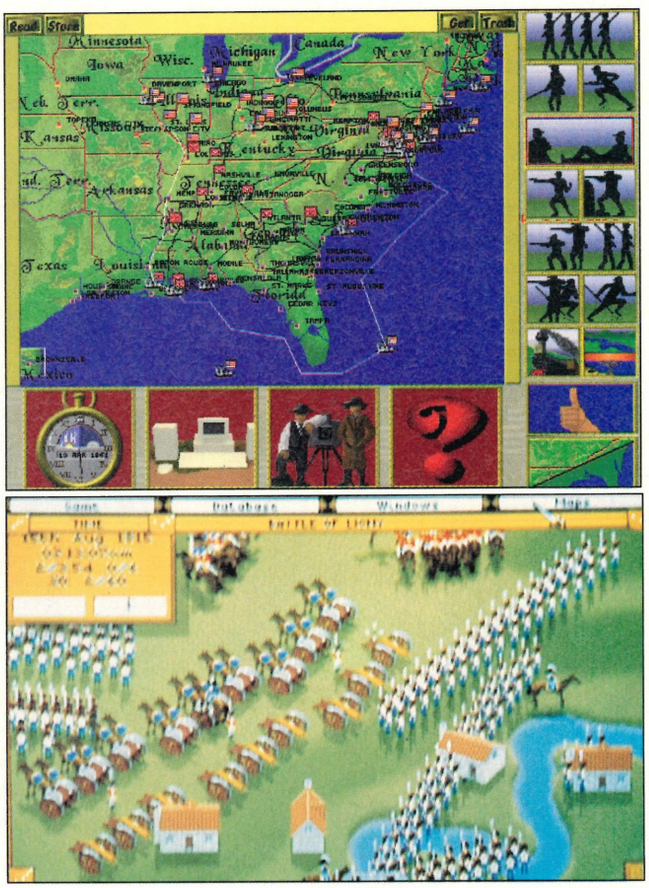
Panzer General is, quite simply, a masterpiece, and if you haven't yet played it I urge you to buy, beg or borrow a copy at the earliest opportunity. Although it's hex-based it's ingeniously conceived, beautifully designed and presented, and is infuriatingly addictive to boot. It's user-friendly and very easy to learn, though it is also difficult to master and if the Artificial Intelligence is occasionally erratic (and show me a game where it isn't), it's still bright enough to cause problems even to experienced players. In a marked break from SSI tradition, it's fun rather than realistic, and a pure pleasure to play. If I were forced to choose just one game from the new list, this would be it.

Old kid on the block

SSI's main competition in the foreseeable future is likely to come from Avalon Hill, the world's premier board strategy game company. No less an authority than Sid Meier has commented on the fact that Avalon Hill is sitting on the games world's greatest back catalogue, and the good news is that after many years of unsatisfactory fumbling with the wrong formats, the top brass at the company have finally cottoned on to the fact that the PC is where it's at. Now that they've identified their target they're coming for us with a vengeance.

To kick off its attack, Avalon Hill has snaffled up Atomic Games, (producer of the outstanding V For Victory series) and has already produced Operation Crusader.

Despite cosmetic adjustments, Crusader is to all intents and purposes the fifth in the V for Victory series. But the project on which the company is currently engaged, Stalingrad, promises



Fields of Glory (bottom right) was the most potentially exciting war game innovation since the dawn of computer time. Sadly it was released prematurely and ended up begging more questions than it answered. Now Civil War (top right), from the same design team, finally looks like giving us what FOG promised. Look out for a full review soon.

to herald the first major overhaul of the system since the far-off days of Utah Beach. Not that the system is in need of an overhaul — what we can expect to see is a change of scale.

We say "the project", but the diverse talents of the Atomic designers have also been applied to the development of what for me is without doubt the most mouthwatering prospect in the Avalon Hill catalogue — Beyond Squad Leader.

Back from beyond

Avalon Hill pushed out a feeble Atari version of this classic tactical combat board game some years ago, but with Atomic now on board I think this time its seriously threatening to get it right. All we've seen so far is a screen shot (it looks like a minitanks tabletop war game in SVGA), but even that's got us foaming at the mouth with anticipation. As if that weren't enough we're also promised the definitive Third Reich before the end of the year, while bursting out of the non-military pipeline will be adaptations of famous strategy titles like the railway-building 1828 and, most intriguingly, the original board game Civilization. I wonder if we'd be able to get Sid Meier to do the reviews?

We have lift-off

So, after many years of comparative dullness, it looks as if computer war games might actually be about to take flight. Besides the games and companies mentioned, this will actually be the year when we get MicroProse's Across the Rhine (we described it as "forthcoming" back in issue 22 — ho ho!), while Intelligent Games is releasing Ticonderoga, a potentially promising modern naval simulation. There's a lot to look forward to.

And just before we end this piece with a run down of our current eight faves in the war games field, just a quick note on our selection criteria: this is a personal selection of our favourite military and naval war games; no flight sims; no sci-fi. Nevertheless you should have a lot more fun with the eight excellent titles on this list. We enthusiastically recommend them.

❍ **Simon Shaw**

THIS IS NOW...

TOP EIGHT WAR GAMES 1995

Panzer General (SSI)

The game that has exhausted my stock of superlatives. Excellent range of scenarios covering all Western/Eastern Front WW2 battles, but the heart of the game is a superb campaign module which lets you nurture units from green to veteran status. Outstanding.



Great Naval Battles 2 (SSI)

Updated version of the fine Atlantic battleships game. Huge playing area, impressively detailed and complex. I have doubts over the controls, but serious war gamers won't be disappointed.



Operation Crusader (Avalon Hill)

For various reasons this wasn't reviewed, but it's worth an eight. It deals with North Africa, and restores the freedom of movement that was lost in the attritional slugfest of Gold/Juno/Sword. Forget the change of publisher and title — there's no appreciable difference between World At War and V For Victory.

Tanks (SSI)

My heart sank when I first saw this — it looked for all the world like a stodgy UMS clone. But it's an excellent WW2 and modern tactical game, which tries to do too much, but gets away with it. Many battles provided, and there's a fine do-it-yourself scenario builder.

Civil War (Empire)

To be released shortly, Dagger's all-encompassing ACW simulation does look as though it might actually fulfil the promise of Fields of Glory. This is an exciting and innovative small British company, and I expect them to go far. Civil War is a monster game, and should keep you glued to your screen for months.

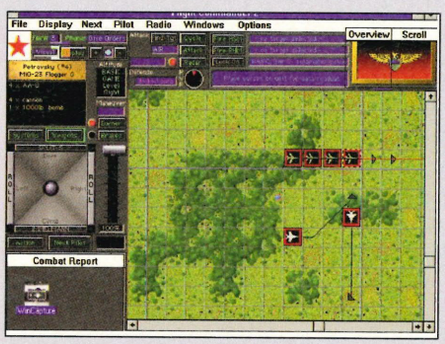


Harpoon 2 (Electronic Arts)

The sequel to Harpoon (which probably should have been on the last list for old times' sake) is the most authentic and detailed simulation on the market. I admire rather than love this game, but for the dedicated serious war gamer, nothing else compares.

Flight Commander 2 (Avalon Hill)

One of AH's new batch of board game conversions, FC2 is an unusual but very playable 2D map-based game with aircraft — not a flight sim. Very obviously a board game, it's nonetheless very well done and at the least the subject matter makes for a change.

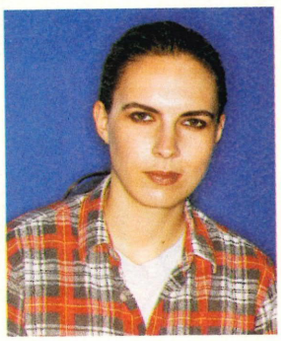


Clash of Steel (SSI)

Will face serious competition when AH get around to releasing Third Reich, but in the mean time it's an excellent strategic overview of World War 2, with some economics, research etc. as well as the obvious military factors. Improved AI would make it a classic.



Reviews Index

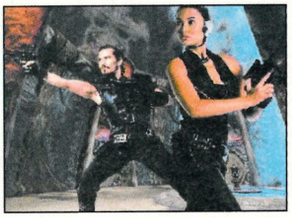


Don't call me prejudiced, but when I hear a game being described as an "interactive movie," I automatically think "nice graphics, lots of cut-scenes and no gameplay whatsoever." This month, however, Origin has demonstrated that interactive movies need not be all graphics and no fun. BioForge is one of the most superb games I've seen this year. True, the year may yet be young, but I'd bet my bottom dollar that it will be a strong contender for THE game of 1995. What makes it superb? The fast-moving plot, hard-hitting combat, cinematic presentation and the unbearable tension of the action all contribute to what could well be Origin's best game to date. Turn to page 56 to find out more.

The best of the rest include Virgin's SuperKarts (page 60), a fast and fun racing game; XCOM: Terror of the Deep (page 62), MicroProse's great follow-up to UFO; NBA Live 95 (page 79), Electronic Arts' brilliant basketball game; and Flight of the Amazon Queen (page 52), a comedy adventure in the Indiana Jones mould. This superb selection just goes to prove that the best games don't necessarily come out at Christmas. Happy reading.



BioForge (page 56)



Daedalus Encounter (page 102)



SuperKarts (page 60)

Reviewed this issue

Disk game reviews

Stalingrad.....65
BC Racers.....75
Card Game Classics.....81
Favourite Games.....81
Crosswords & More.....81
Football Glory.....83
Elite Plus.....83
Task Force 1942.....83
Tornado.....83

CD Rom game reviews

Flight of the Amazon Queen.....53
BioForge.....56
SuperKarts.....60
XCOM: Terror of the Deep.....62
Jungle Strike.....66
Ticonderoga.....68
Front Lines.....73
Radio Active.....77
Atari 2600 Pack.....78
NBA Live 95.....79
Pinball Fantasies.....81
Alone in the Dark/
Shadow of the Comet.....81
Ishar 2: Messengers of Doom.....83

Regulars

This month's reviews.....107

Multimedia reviews

Great Artists on CD-ROM.....84
Romeo and Juliet.....86
Star Trek TNG Interactive Manual.....88
Driving Test.....89
Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing for Kids.....89
Fun School.....90
MTV's Club Dead.....91
One Tribe.....91
New York, NY.....91
Americana.....91
Worldview.....91
Wild Cards.....93
Time Almanac.....93
CNN Newsroom Global View.....93
Total Health: Body and Mind.....93
One Stop CD Shop.....93

Previews

The Daedalus Encounter.....102
Ultimate Soccer Manager.....104
Fairway to Heaven.....105
Power House.....105
Top Gun.....105
Micro Machines 2.....105

QED Tips

Alone in the Dark III.....94
Inside Info.....99

The rating system explained

PC Review gives a single mark out of 10 to rate games and multimedia products. The score takes into account all the product's elements, with particular regard to playability, graphics and sound. We aim to test to completion — where applicable. We can be pretty tough on games and multimedia too — since 'five' is the halfway mark between 0 and 10, you can assume we consider anything rated more than five to be above average in quality.

0: A title with absolutely nothing to recommend it to anyone.
1-2: Poorly implemented, badly programmed, very disappointing.
3-4: A product with some good ideas, but serious drawbacks.
5: Solidly average. Competent without being anything special, probably enjoyable in the short term.
6: Won't disappoint any fans of the genre; an above average title, but probably one which doesn't break any new ground.
7: Good, imaginatively programmed release which should appeal to the majority of game players.
8: Very good indeed — a product will need something special in the way of gameplay, scope, innovation, graphics or sound, to make it worth an eight.
9: Outstanding as an all-rounder. Few, if any, failings in graphics, sound, atmosphere, playability, ease of use, etc, etc.
10: The ultimate score. Sheer perfection.

Flight of the Amazon Queen

Adventure heroes come and adventure heroes go, but has Flight of the Amazon Queen got one? You must be Joe King!

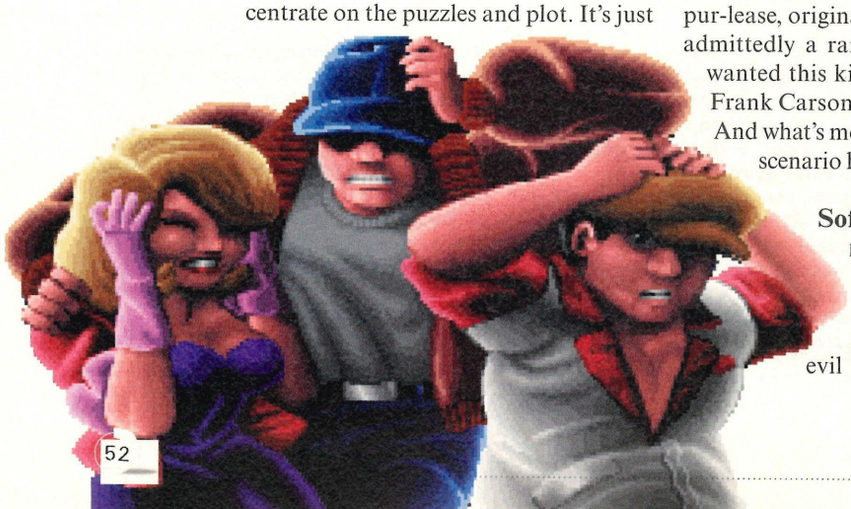
There are three forms of point-and-click graphic adventures and that's official. Firstly there's your serious type of affair with engrossing plot-lines and gritty realism (à la Beneath The Steel Sky). Then you've got the ones that reside in the more humorous drawer of the genre's dresser, with laughs aloud and cartoony graphics (Day of The Tentacle being at the forefront of this particular type). And lastly, dragging their heels, are the "comedy" adventure games that mark themselves as being different by just not being funny. We've already had a few of these recently (Simon The Sorcerer and Discworld being two prime examples), and although there's nothing inherently wrong with them, if you're going to label yourself in such a fashion, you deserve to be knocked off your pedestal with a mighty thump.

Unfortunately, Flight of The Amazon Queen sits slap bang in the last category. But that doesn't mean it's a bad game, after all, you can always ignore the gags and concentrate on the puzzles and plot. It's just that the jokes are so awful.



When it comes to feeding fish it's always handy to have some kind of meat-based product available. I tend to keep a Pepperami in my pocket for just an occasion, but then I haven't got any friends.

For instance, the main character is called Joe King, which is a real groaner from the very beginning and doesn't exactly push the boundaries of ironic comedy, and the arch enemy is Dr. Frank Einstein. I mean pur-lease, originality in current games is admittedly a rare commodity, but if I wanted this kind of fare I would buy Frank Carson's big book of hilarities. And what's most sad is that the overall scenario had so much potential.



Softer than a bag of marshmallows

I'm a big fan of B-movies and there's nothing I like better than evil professors cooking up some world domination plan that involves pretty film stars and transformo-rays, but there are very few games that actually exploit this. Flight of The Amazon Queen has got the lot.

It's 1949 and you play Joe, a pilot for hire. Once you've managed to solve the first few puzzles and get The Amazon Queen, your old flying crate, into the air, a cunning blend of hamminess hits you like a sock full of snooker balls. Dr Einstein reveals that he has invented a ray which is meant to transform Amazonian women into she-dinosaurs who possess a viciousness that





Bud and Tex are two hopelessly lost explorers with more than a passing resemblance to Abbot and Costello. Bud is a keen comic fan and will share all collecting-related stories with you, and Tex has a nasty rash in his nether regions (ahem) that needs soothing (just one of the problems you must solve).

is only usually seen at Millwall vs Chelsea matches. Trouble is, he hasn't quite perfected it and his dinolettes are coming out softer than a bag of Marshmallow Flumps. So he needs more subjects to experiment on, and you end up trying to save the world so that Mankind can destroy itself and the environment without any extra help.

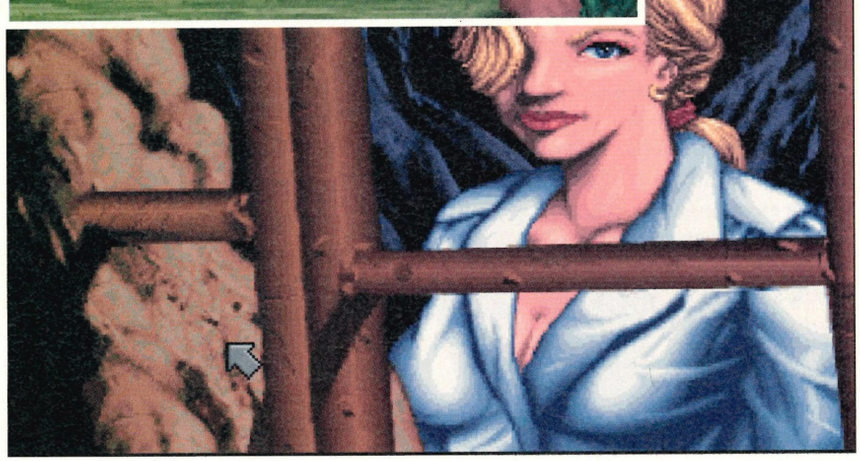
Now that you've got the final objective in mind, it's time to amble through subplots and minor tasks, solving puzzles, meeting characters and just generally having a jolly old time in the tropical rainforest (before some giant of the fast food industry comes along and rips the whole lot down... er, I seem to have my cynical hat firmly stapled to my head today). In fact, it's the character interaction that actually places Flight of The Amazon Queen back into the realms of respectability, and the minor characters (or bit-part actors as the movie industry would have it) are more fleshed-out than any of the major ones.

Chatsville USA

Talking to the other beings that populate this green and not so pleasant land is actually very adequately done. You stroll up to them, select the talk icon and let the CD speech do the rest. Eventually, when you've heard what they have to say, you'll be presented with a choice of four responses — although most are only included for purely joke-related reasons, there'll always be one that will lead your conversational partner into a line that will either contain a clue as to how to progress further in the game, or a direct plea for you to embark into another puzzle-solving incident.

Another more positive aspect about this character involvement is that, even though none of the voices are provided by anybody famous (I suppose they may have appeared in The Sullivans or some other Aussie soap, as it was developed Down Under), they're better performed than many of the recent games that have employed big names (Discworld had Eric Idle and Tony Robinson, and Simon The Sorcerer had Chris Barrie from Red Dwarf). This is possibly because "unknowns", being cheaper, will have more time to spend perfecting their technique during the recording days. Also, when you





IS IT PC CD-ROM?

One thing that Flight of The Amazon Queen most certainly isn't is politically correct. Like most of the movies that it aims to pastiche, the entire plot, from the helpless pleas of the girl tied up in the intro to the innuendo used later in the game, is a little on the sexist side, and obviously comes from the mind of a male member of our species. But it's all too easy to dismiss Flight for this — after all it is only intended to be lighthearted and doesn't outwardly show that it intends to offend. Generally though, it's best to remember that the game has its tongue placed firmly in its own cheek, not anybody else's, and should be regarded as about as offensive as a Carry On film or the like.



ALTERNATIVELY

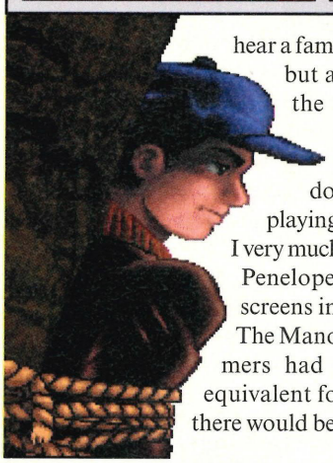
INDIANA JONES AND THE FATE OF ATLANTIS
LucasArts, £37.99
Rated 9, Issue 11
Roughly based in the same era as Flight of The Amazon Queen, Indy is superior in style and plot, mainly because it was written by Steven Spielberg. The definitive graphic adventure game.



DISCWORLD
Psygnosis, £49.99
Rated 8, Issue 42
For fans of Terry Pratchett's debatably humorous books, Discworld offers more of the same. Unfortunately, the originally funny jokes get lost amongst tons of tedious plot development. But it'll keep you going for ages.



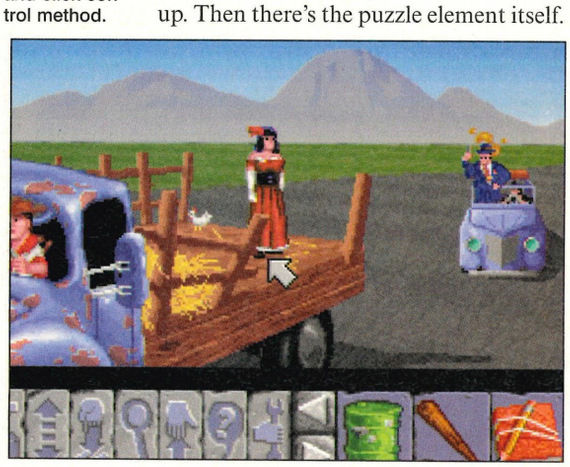




hear a famous voice, you can't help but associate it with one of the actor's more familiar roles. Bizarrely though, the voice-over credits do include Penelope Keith playing the Temple Guard, but I very much doubt that it's the same Penelope Keith that graced our screens in the Good Life and To The Manor Born. If the programmers had found an Australian equivalent for Richard Briers, now there would be a story.

Click and play

Another part of the game that some graphic adventures really fall down on, is the icon-driven interface. Amazon Queen has possibly the easiest interface I've seen since Delphine's Cruise For A Corpse (definitive in its time), with only a small smattering of main commands and a well illustrated inventory. Although it does take up a sizeable section of the screen during play, it disappears like a cat with a rocket tied to its tail when any conversation starts up. Then there's the puzzle element itself.



There are some inventive screens in the game, here the road underneath you scrolls rapidly to give a travelling effect. It doesn't interact any differently though, and has the same point-and-click control method.

Flight of The Amazon Queen puffs out its chest in a style akin to a peacock, and boasts that it has a "progressively difficult level of play". This basically means that at the beginning of the game, the solutions to any problems that you happen to chance upon are so mind-numbingly easy that you'll probably solve them by accident, whereas later on you'll find yourself banging your head against a wall.

Fortunately, unlike most graphic adventure games, all the specific areas of play are accessible from a superbly drawn main menu screen. Joe stands upon a pinnacle observing the vast jungle before him, and you can zoom straight to the area you wish to explore just by clicking on it. This means that if you have to collect an item in one area to use in another, you don't have to trudge through numerous backdrops to be able to get there, essentially speeding up the pace of the game and allowing you to concentrate on more important issues.

But . . .

There's no denying that Flight of The Amazon Queen could have been infinitely better. The icon-driven system works very well indeed, and the graphics are not all that far off LucasArts' high standards (although its forthcoming Full Throttle is about to dump on it from a great height). Even the character invention is top notch, and avoids easy stereotypes — save for making fun of the Australian, Trader Bob, who paints a picture of what the Aussie programmers must deem to be the typical male of their own culture. But for a supposedly "funny" game, it just doesn't cut the mustard, and some of the puzzles are nonsensical due to the sense of humour used (to rid yourself of a talking gorilla, you simply state that talking apes don't exist and he disappears in a puff of smoke — an overdose of Hitchhikers' Guide methinks).



All this said, however, Flight of The Amazon Queen is an enjoyable romp and owes a lot to Sierra's range of adventure games. I would happily put aside a weekend and escape from the rigours of deciding to either pay off the rent or my slate in the pub, in order to take Joe out for a spin. Mind you, I don't think I'd be straining my voice from laughing.

❍ Rik Henderson



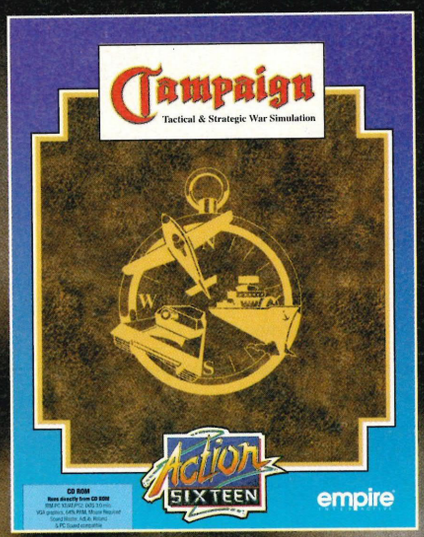
Depraved, and deprived humour.

TECHSPEC 7 RATING

Publisher:	Warner Interactive
Price:	£39.99 CD £32.99 Disk
Contact:	(0171) 391 4300
Minimum PC:	33MHz£386(486 CD)MS DOS 5.0
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster, Roland

DISK & CD

ENEMY ACTION

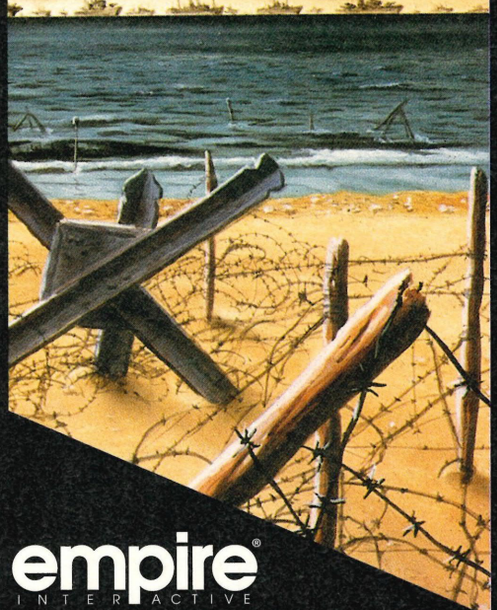


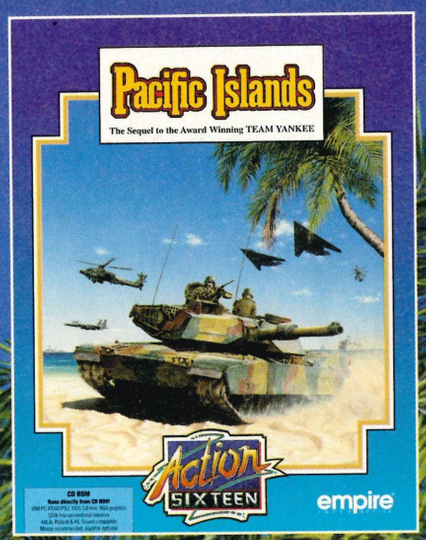


PC Screen Shots

CAMPAIGN
£14.99

"an excellent mixture of strategy planning and romping around in a nice metal death machine" *The One Amiga*

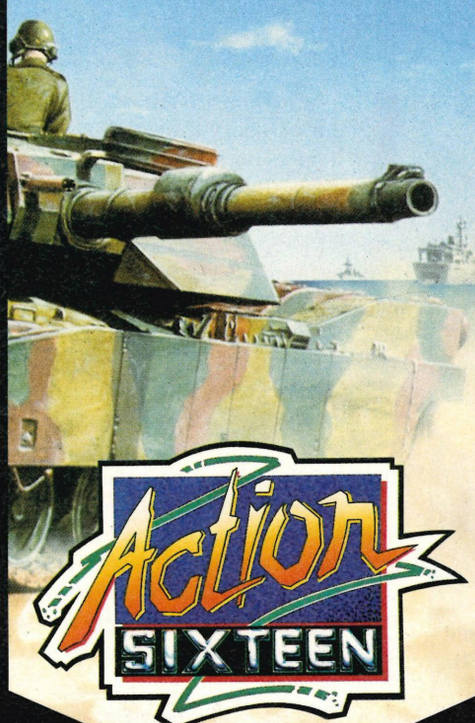


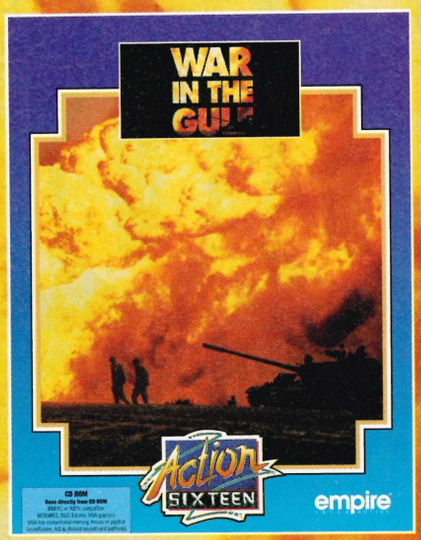




PACIFIC ISLANDS
£14.99

"Frighteningly realistic: Pacific Islands is like juggling with smouldering dynamite. Lose your cool once and you're dead" *Amiga Format*

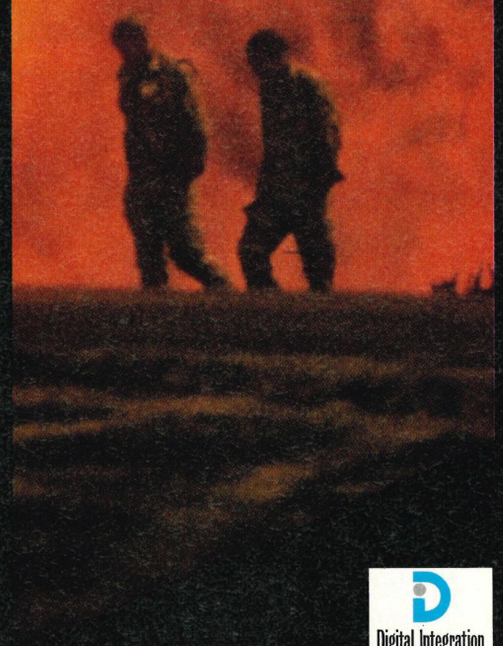






WAR IN THE GULF
£16.99

"Another great set of blood-thirsty missions for one of the most playable 3D battle sims ever." *PC Zone*



Action SIXTEEN

empire INTERACTIVE

Available from leading retail outlets. In case of difficulty phone 01276 684959.

Digital Integration

Available on CD ROM, AMIGA & IBM PC formats.

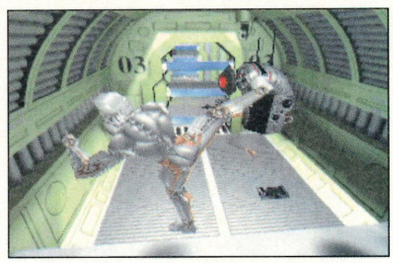
For a catalogue send S.A.E. to: Digital Integration Limited, Watchmoor Trade Centre, Watchmoor Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3AJ.

VISA Access

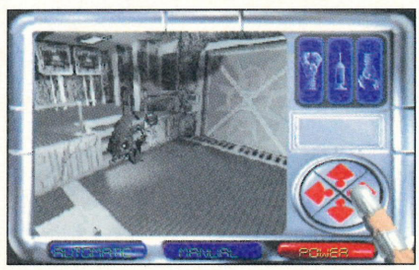
BioForge

Origin pushes back the boundaries of PC gaming once again as it re-writes the rules of the interactive movie.

IN THE BEGINNING



Awakening in a small steel cell, Lex is immediately attacked by an interrogation droid wielding a large needle. Switching into combat mode, Lex fights back...

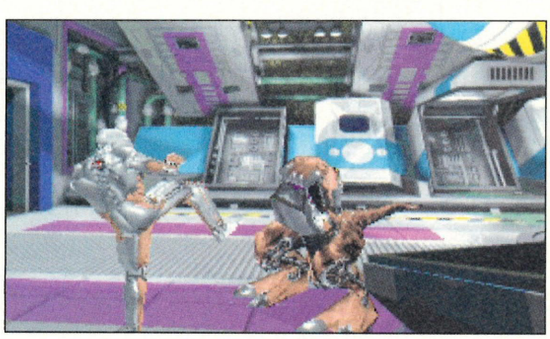


Lex must move the robot, via remote control, to open the security locked blast door.



That robot is BIG. Take the sensible approach — don't bother attacking, just hide in the corner.





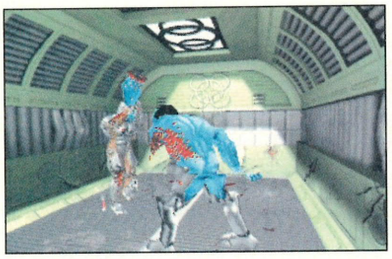
Top left: uh oh, it's trouser-filling time for Lex — that saw-blade looks mighty sharp!
Bottom left: beat seven shades out of the Cyber-Raptor using Lex's impressive array of punches, kicks and cooking skills.

Lex had always known this was a rough part of town, but this was ridiculous. He'd only asked the guy for a light and what did he get in return? A thump on the back of the head with a very large stick, followed by the migraine from hell. He should have listened to his mother when she told him never to talk to strangers, but now he was paying the price for his mistake.

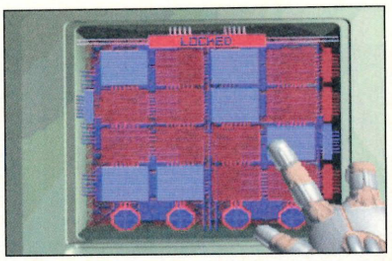
Like many of us, he had always had a fear of sharp objects, which more than explains why Lex passed out as soon as he caught a glimpse of the whirring circular saw blade tearing through his chest. "Cripes," he thought, " all this for a cigarette". Now he lays motionless on a stainless steel bunk-bed, wondering just what the hell happened. Where is he, why is he here, who wrapped him up in silver foil and, more importantly, has he missed last orders? These questions and many more will be answered in the next few hours, as our bio-chipped buddy fights his way through Origin's biggest budget-bustin' bonanza since the extravagant space opera, Wing Commander 3.

BioForge has many things in common with Wing 3, hardly surprising considering its origin. Firstly it's lavishly presented, having many of the cinematic qualities of its deep-space cousin. The plot is gripping too, something that was equally true of Wing 3. Above all though, like Wing 3, BioForge is, dare I say it, an interactive movie. Or at least that's what Origin reckons.

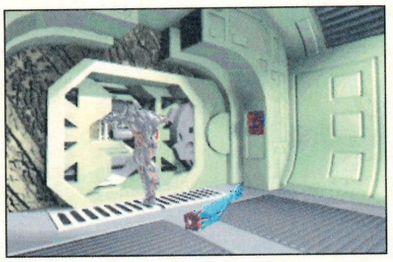
Interactive movie is a term that leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Why? Because past examples of this yet-unsuccessful genre have been dire games and are little more than simplistic shoot 'em ups with a load of fuzzy video footage and next-to-no gameplay. BioForge, I'm glad to report, breaks all the rules.



Defeating the robot and escaping his cell, Lex heads up the corridor to the next interrogation chamber. Inside, Lex beats the captive using a severed limb.



He finds a fork, which he uses to prize open the blast door control panel. Inside, Lex faces his first puzzle. To unlock the doors, a circuit must be created.



Unngh...through sheer brute strength Lex wrenches apart huge steel doors. What nightmares lie beyond the gate, though? Get in there and find out, meat head!

Back to the future

The concept behind BioForge is nothing new. Basically it's Alone in the Dark, but the voodoo dolls and 'things that go bump in the night' have been replaced by cybernetic implants, silicon chips and laser rifles. It's not just the scenario that's light years ahead either. Visually, BioForge is unparalleled. Don't believe me? Check out these screen-shots or, even better, take a look at the demo on this issue's cover-mounted CD-ROM.

Compared to the magnificent texture-mapped graphics featured in BioForge, the hero of Alone in the Dark, Edward Carnby, looks angular and primitive. Forget polygon stickmen, Lex's cyborg body is all rippling muscles and hydraulic limbs that move smoothly and with stunning realism. Lex is, after all, a synthetic actor — a computer-generated alternative to the desperate Hollywood thesps who can't even muster up a supporting role on the silver-screen and resort to appearing in computer games instead. Because Lex is himself entirely computer-generated, he therefore looks more realistic — better than grainy digitised actors pasted badly onto computer-generated backdrops. He's also more versatile, because he can do just about anything he wants. Could you imagine Mark Hamill back-flipping in a tin-foil spacesuit? No, I didn't think so.

Lex doesn't just look more realistic, he actually moves and acts like a (fairly) normal human being. Rather than walking in a stiff-legged, I-think-I-just-peed-my-pants kind of way like most other rendered characters, cyber-psycho Lex strolls quite naturally. Until he is injured, that is. Lex's metal torso is unsurprisingly susceptible to blaster shots and each time he sustains a hit, blood pours from the wound. Likewise, if Lex is kicked in the leg he'll limp, stagger and eventually fall over until it's repaired. This attention to detail is a rare treat, and is just one of the qualities that makes BioForge more enjoyable than the majority of other so-called interactive movies.

"BioForge has plenty of meat beneath its glossy exterior and proves enormously addictive"

'Armless fun

Another shining quality of BioForge is the combat system, a brilliant hand-to-hand slug-out which could, with a few tweaks, easily serve as a stand-alone beat 'em up rather than just a small section of the game. Switching Lex into combat mode, he adopts the clichéd gloves-up fighting stance and prepares for battle. The array of punches, kicks and blocks is impressive, and through a combination of key presses Lex can high-kick, roundhouse, jab, hook, back-flip... the list goes on. Each attack is animated smoothly to give fluid, realistic movements which really do look excellent.

Lex isn't just a bare-fist brawler either, and can pick up a variety of make-shift clubs and powerful laser pistols. Guns are simple to use — just point and fire — but are useless against some types of power armour, so other methods of attack must be used. For example, at one stage during the game, Lex grabs a severed arm and uses it to bludgeon a guard to death. What's more, the arm belonged to one of his previous victims! Whatever happened to the Queensbury rules?!

Above right: iced scorpion-beast, anyone? Right: use reflective walls to bounce laser blasts at enemy 'bots which are lurking around corners.

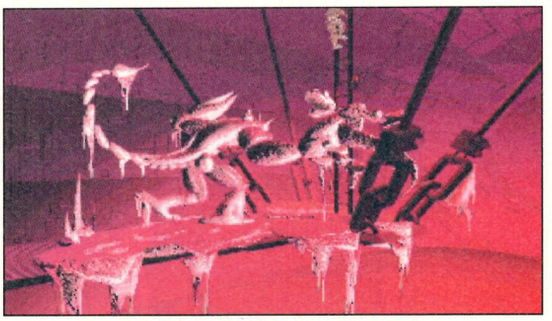
ALTERNATIVELY

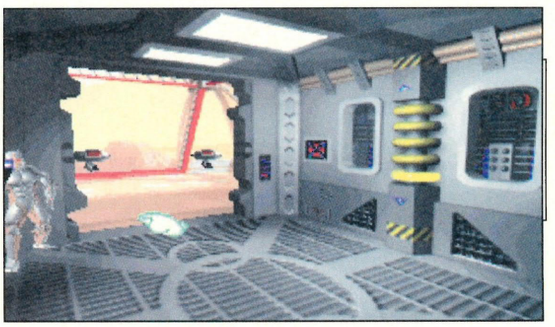
Alone In The Dark 3
Infogrames £44.99
Rated 8, Issue 40
Edward Carnby travels to the Wild West in the third Alone in the Dark game. Returning to the puzzle-based gameplay of the original rather than the gung-ho action of AITD2, Alone 3 is an excellent adventure, but is a far cry from the unbeatable presentation and absorbing gameplay found in BioForge.



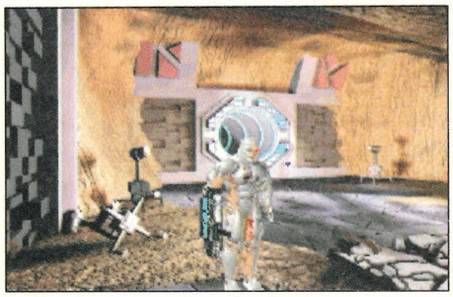
Ecstatica
Psygnosis, £44.99
Rated 8, Issue 38
This creepy, Alone-style adventure is not for the faint hearted. Don't be deceived by the cute graphics: this is one of the most blood-thirsty games I've seen, and is definitely adults only. It's also very entertaining, but could be a little easy for experienced adventurers. Well worth looking at.



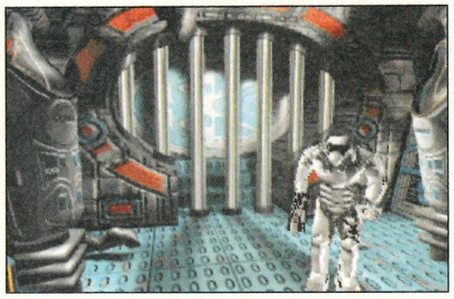




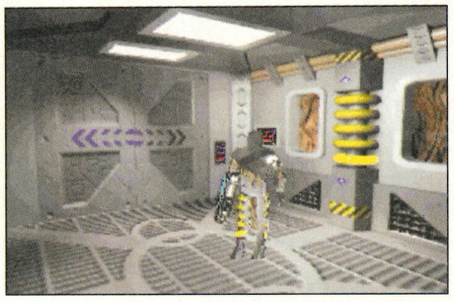
ARMED AND ARMOURED



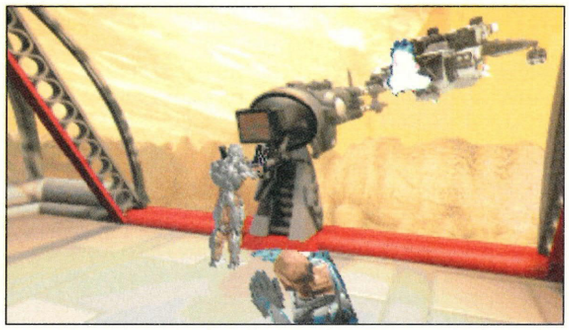
STEEL 'N' SKIN
Lex's fragile body has been through hell and the last thing he wants is a return ticket. Dodge the laser blasts, fella!



HARDSUIT
The suit makes Lex look like a stormtrooper. Well, sort of. The suit is air-tight, allowing Lex to survive in the hard vacuum of deep space.



REFLECTIVE ARMOUR
This holo-suit is totally sealed, and because it reflects light it's impervious to laser attacks. It's useless against a kick in the face, though.



Above: bored of his pathetic laser pistol, Lex finds a weapon with a bit more 'oomph'. Way to go, metal-head.

You're a free man

As with Alone in the Dark, you're not limited to walking along pre-set paths and can walk anywhere and look at everything you want. This can, on occasion, lead to your untimely demise if you accidentally walk straight off a high ledge (one of the game's few faults is the inability to prevent such ridiculous things from happening), but also allows you to scour the floor for weapons and other desirable objects.

Personal log books, often found next to the rotting corpse of an unfortunate guard, sometimes hold valuable information, and contain secret codes and passwords to access computer databanks and open locked doors. Unfortunately, this means you must read through seemingly endless e-mail messages and reams of cyber-nonsense before you get the all-important clue, which soon becomes a bit tedious.

Thankfully, the majority of the puzzles in BioForge are relatively logical, and can be solved by searching for hints hidden within some computer terminal. It's extremely unlikely you'll be stumped by any one puzzle for more than an hour or two, and if you are, the solution won't be completely ridiculous or illogical.

Small-screen cinema

As previously mentioned, BioForge borrows elements from the Alone in the Dark games and also Ecstatica, with the action viewed from various camera angles, giving the game a cinematic feel. This powerful atmosphere is further enhanced by the sound, a combination of sweeping musical scores and futuristic sound effects. The digitised voices of each character matches their individual image perfectly (Lex's gravelly growl is superb). Some dialogue sounds out of place (Lex pleading for peace while beating the crap out of someone) and some of the macho gestures are naff (punching the air in victory), but these are minor gripes and are over-shadowed by gorgeous presentation and gripping gameplay.

Speaking of which, BioForge has plenty of meat beneath its glossy exterior and proves very addictive, possessing the elusive 'just one more go' quality that hooks game players in right from the start. It's huge too, and immensely rewarding — solve a puzzle and you're treated to a small animated sequence.

Because BioForge isn't just a simple shoot 'em up or a plain old beat 'em up, it's brimming over with longevity. If I had to sum it up, I'd say BioForge was an arcade adventure, and one that carefully balanced action sequences and mind-wracking puzzles. Sometimes it even combines the two, a perfect example being the reactor meltdown sequence in which you have seconds to reactivate the power core before it blows sky-high. This is made even harder by a virtually indestructible alien who relentlessly attacks poor Lex as he tries to key in the shut-down code. To say this scene is exciting is an understatement.

What's the catch?

The cost of this standard of game doesn't come cheap. Not in terms of money, you understand, but in processing power. Like Wing Commander 3, BioForge is a Pentium-recommended game and therefore isn't as good on anything less. But, it's more than playable on a 33MHz 486, if you're prepared for the laborious disk-accessing and the painfully slow animation.

Basically, if you have a slower 486, think carefully before shelling out for BioForge — it's still an awesome game, but the lack of speed could put some people off. But if you've got a spanking new Pentium or DX4, grab your wallet and snap up a copy of BioForge now — it really is the groundbreaking game we've all been waiting for.

❍ **Cal Jones**



Could turn out to be the best game of '95.

TECHSPEC 9 RATING

DISK ONLY

Publisher:	Electronic Arts
Price:	TBA
Contact:	(01753) 549442
Minimum PC:	33MHz 486, CD-ROM drive, mouse
Minimum memory:	8Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Roland, Sound Blaster, Ad Lib

GAMEplay

PRICE! CHOICE! QUALITY! SERVICE!

These have made us one of the largest suppliers of computer & video games in the country today!

CD ROM GAMES

CD ROM PRICE-BREAKER PACK

Wing Commander 3 + Magic Carpet + Rise of the Robots.....RRP £159.97



SPECIAL OFFER PRICE **£91.99**

Airbus 2	£19.99
Alex Dampier's Pro Hockey '95	£LOWEST
Alien Olympics	£25.99
All New World of Lemmings	£24.99
Alone in the Dark 3	£31.99
America's Greatest (101 Games)	£18.49
Armoured Fist	£26.99
Award Winners Platinum	£22.49
Battle Bugs	£25.25
Battle Isle 2	£29.99
BC Racers	£22.99
Big Red Adventure	£24.99
Bioforce	**£LOWEST**
Bitmap Compilation	£21.49
Blind Date	£24.99
Bloodnet	£24.99
Bureau 13	£24.99
Burntime	£19.99
Campaign	£17.99
Campaign 2	£11.99
Cannon Fodder & Beneath a Steel Sky	£34.99
Champions of Sport (champ mgr '93, F1, rugby chal.)	£14.99
Classic Collection - Velocity	£18.49
Colonization	£28.49
Comanche Maximum Overkill	£30.49
Combat Classics 3	£22.99
Cover Girl Strip Poker	£22.99
Creature Shock	£31.99
Cyberwar	£30.49
Cyberia	£31.99
Cyclemania	£25.25
Dark Forces	**£33.49**
Dark Legions	£22.99
Dark Sun - Shattered Lands	£28.49
Day of the Tentacle	£24.99
Descent	£25.99
Digital Dreamware	£15.99
Discworld	£33.49
Doom 2	£31.50
Dreamweb	£25.25
Dune 2 & Seventh Guest	£31.99
Dune 2 & Lure of the Temptress	£15.49
Dungeon Master 2	£27.99
Earthsiege	£27.99
Ecstatica	£31.49
Eye of the Beholder	£12.99
F-15 Strike Eagle 3	£13.49
Fields of Glory	£13.99
FIFA Soccer	£26.49
Fighter Wing	£30.99
Flashback	£LOWEST
Flight Commander 2	£25.25
Front Lines	£24.99
Guilty	£25.25
Hardball 4	£25.49
Harpoon Classics	£22.25
High Seas Trader	£24.99
Iron Assault	£23.99
Jungle Strike	£22.49
Kings Quest 7	£27.99
Legend of Kyrandia 3	£LOWEST
Leisure Suit Larry Collection (1-6)	£27.99
Links Golf Pro Super Pack	£18.75
Little Big Adventure	£32.49
Magic Carpet	£30.99
Mario's Game Challenge	£19.99
Master of Magic	£27.99
Menzo Berranzan	£27.99
Mortal Kombat 2	£22.49
MS Musical Instruments	£36.49
Myst	£31.99
Nascar	£25.25
NBA '95	£LOWEST
NHL Hockey '95	£27.99
Noctropolis	£31.99
One Tribe	£35.99
One World	£27.99
Operation Bodycount	£LOWEST
Outpost	£30.49
PGA Tour Golf	£33.99
Pinball Dreams Deluxe	£23.99
Pizza Tycoon	£28.99
Police Quest	£14.99
Police Quest 7	£29.49
Powerdrive	£19.99
Psycho Pinball	£27.99
Premier Manager 3	£22.75
Quarantine	£16.99
Rebel Assault	£29.99
Retribution	£25.25
Return to Ringworld	£27.99
Rise of the Robots	£26.99
Rise of the Triad	£ LOWEST
Robocop 3 & Dune	£14.99
Sam & Max hit the road	£25.49
Scottish Open	£LOWEST
Sea Wolf	£27.99
Secret of Monkey Island	£15.49
Sensible Soccer International Edition	£15.99
Sim City 2000	£30.75
Simon the Sorcerer	£27.99
Simon the Sorcerer 2	£27.99
Skidmarks	**£19.99**
Space Adventure 2	£27.99
Space Quest	£13.99
Space Quest Collection	£28.25
Spectre VR	£ LOWEST
Subwar 2050	£28.49

Tenth year anthology- Out Of This World, Star Trek 25th Anniversary, Castles, Lord of the Rings, Battlechess, Dragon Wars, Wasteland, Bird's Tale, Tass Times & Mindshadow ..£18.99

Temptation Compilation	£30.49
TFX	£19.99
Theme Park	£27.99
Transport Tycoon	£28.99
Triple Action Pack Vols. 1-5	each £11.99
U.F.O.	£28.49
Under a Killing Moon	£35.49
Unnecessary Roughness '95	£25.25
US Navy Fighters	£31.99
USS Ticonderoga	£30.49
Virtual Worlds Compilation	£19.99
Voyeur	£27.99
Who Shot Johnny Rock?	£23.99
Wild Blue Yonder	£27.99
Wing Commander 3	£36.99
Wing Commander 3 Clue Book	£CALL
Wing Commander Armada	£27.99
Wing Commander & Indy 500	£17.99
Wings of Glory	£29.99
Woodstock 25th Anniversary	£21.99
World Cup Golf	£30.99
Xplora (Peter Gabriel)	£34.99

Interactive Collection Vol. 1 - 16 incredible titles on 10 CD's - Links Golf, World Cup USA '94, Winter Olympics, Out Run, Thunderhawk, Robocod, Curse of Enchantia, World Atlas, Space Encyclopedia, The Animals, Paint & Paint Power, It's All Relative (Comedy), Madonna, Michael Jackson, Phil Collins and Johnny Castaway Screensaver. Amazing value at **£30.99**

CD ROM EDUCATION

Fun School 5. (Three Versions: In Dreamland (5-7 yrs.), In Space (6-9 yrs.), In Time (8-11 yrs.), - multi-disciplinary education package conforming to the National Curriculum. Teaches Maths, English, Geography, Art, History and Ecology £19.99

Microsoft Magic Schoolbus - Solar System & Human Body ..... each £31.99

Global Languages - Learn to speak French, German, Italian or Spanish through listening, speaking and writing. Three levels on each disk - Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced ..... each £40.99

Kiik 'N' Play - unique windows game creator. Invent adventure games, puzzles or shoot 'em-ups. No previous experience necessary! £28.99

Undersea Adventure - Seven entertaining and educational ways to explore all one hundred million square miles of water on the planet! £31.99

Microsoft Creative Writer £33.99

CD ROM O.E.M.

All CD ROM O.E.M. titles are brand new, official UK disks that are exactly the same as those shown in the preceding columns. The only difference is that they are unboxed, which makes them far cheaper than the packaged versions. So why pay £20+ for a box that you will probably just throw away? Save yourself a fortune and carry on reading.....

	RRP	OUR PRICE
Alien Logic	£49.99	£18.99
Ancient Lands	£49.99	£25.99
Arthur's Teacher Trouble	£39.99	£17.99
Beneath a Steel Sky	£44.99	£19.99
Bookshelf '94 (Microsoft)	£116.33	£39.99
Comptons '95 Encyclopedia	£49.99	£23.99
Dangerous Creatures (Microsoft)	£57.50	£26.99
Dark Legions	£39.99	£18.99
Dark Sun - Wake of Ravanger	£49.99	£18.99
Dinosaurs (Microsoft)	£57.50	£27.99
Dks Book of Homes Remedies	£29.99	£13.99
Encarta '95 (Microsoft)	£99.99	£39.99
Family Doctor	£34.99	£14.99
Gabriel Knight	£44.99	£18.99
Golf (Microsoft)	£57.50	£19.99
Great Naval Battles 2	£39.99	£18.99
Grolier Version 7	£59.99	£22.99
Heimdall 2	£39.99	£16.99
Indiana Jones Fate of Atlantis	£39.99	£17.99
Leisure Suit Larry 6	£39.99	£20.99
Menzo Berranzan	£44.99	£19.99
Myst & Sim City	£104.98	£35.99
Panza General	£44.99	£19.99
Rebel Assault	£49.99	£24.99
Sim City 2000	£49.99	£22.99
World Atlas V5	£59.99	£18.99

NEW TITLES AVAILABLE EVERY WEEK - CALL FOR LATEST!

CD ROM HOME & REFERENCE

MICROSOFT SPECIAL OFFERS



	RRP	OFFER
Ancient Lands	£49.99	**£36.99**
Art Gallery	£49.99	**£37.99**
Bookshelf '95	£99.99	**£74.99**
Cinemania '95	£49.99	**£37.99**
Dangerous Creatures	£57.50	**£38.99**
Dinosaurs	£57.50	**£38.99**
Encarta '95	£99.99	**£54.99**
Music (Per Composer)	£57.50	**£38.99**

3D Body Adventure - bring anatomy to life with some of the most incredible graphics seen yet. Comprehensive reference for adults and challenging learning for kids £30.99

Art Gallery (Microsoft) - covers over 2000 of the world's most famous paintings including a history of each one £37.99

Bookshelf (Microsoft) - redefines reference with lightning fast searches, includes encyclopedia, dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, quotations and almanac. Most comprehensive reference package ever £74.99

Cinemania '95 (Microsoft) - covering 1000's of the world's greatest films including screen shots, quotes, casts and reviews £37.99

Encarta '95 (Microsoft) - The world's best-selling Multimedia encyclopaedia. More than 26,000 articles, 8,000 photos, 800 maps, 8 hours of sound in 60 languages, study guides and report-writing tips ..... Special Offer £54.99

Guinness '94 disk of records - contains everything in the world-famous book plus relevant video footage £37.99

Microsoft music - explore the works of Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Strauss or Stravinsky with or without commentary £38.99

Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, Thesaurus and Concise Dictionary - you've used the books, now use the software - much faster! ..... each £33.49

The way things work - David Macaulay's mammoth guide to a magical world of machines, inventors, science & technology £43.99

DK The way things work	£43.99
DK Encyclopedia of Science	£46.99
DK Ultimate Human Body	£43.99

P.C. 3.5 DISK

Pressworks Version 2 - The most user-friendly desk-top publisher ever with full money-back guarantee if not suitably impressed! Excellent reviews by all critics £31.99

Atari 2600 Action Pack - 15 original Atari games including Pitfall, River Raid, Kaboom, Crack Pot	£17.50
Aces of the Deep	£25.99
ADI English/French/Maths	each £17.99
Alex Dampiers Pro Hockey '95	£24.99
Alien Olympics	£17.49
All New World of Lemmings	£22.49
Backgammon	£4.99
Battle Bugs	£22.75
Battle Isle 2	£24.99
BBC Gardeners World 3D Garden Designer	£15.49
BC Racers	£22.75
Beneath a Steel Sky	£25.99
Big Red Adventure	£24.99
Blues Brothers	£6.99
Bureau 13	£24.99
Cannon Fodder 2	£22.99
Cardmania	£17.99
Championship Manager '94 Season disk	£8.99
Championship Manager Italia '95	£19.99
Classic Collection - Access	£16.99
Classic Collection - Delphine	£19.49
Classic Collection - Lucas Arts	£19.49
Classic Collection - Velocity	£16.99
Colonisation	£28.99
Comanche Maximum Overkill	£28.49
Combat Classics 3	£22.75
Crystal Maze	£24.99
Daemonsgate	£8.50
Descent	**£24.99**
Dominus	£26.99
Dark Legions	£22.99
Dark Seed 3	£12.99
Dark Sun-Shattered Lands	£28.49
Day of the Tentacle	£17.49
Defender of the Empire (add to tie fighter)	£14.75
Descent	£24.99
Discworld	**£27.99**
Doom 2	£32.99
Dune 2	£11.99
Dungeon Master 2	£27.99
Earthsiege	£25.49
Ecstatica	£24.99
Epic Pinball	£4.99
Eye of the Beholder	£12.49
Eye of the Beholder 2	£12.49
Eye of the Beholder 3	£12.49
Eye of the Beholder 1, 2 & 3	£32.75
F-15 Strike Eagle 3	£12.99
Fantasy Manager - Baddiel & Skinner	£19.99
FIFA International Soccer	£25.99
Fighter Wing	£30.49
Flight Commander 2	£27.99
Flight Simulator 5.0	£29.99
Flight Sim 5 New York/Japan/Caribbean/Paris ..... each	£14.75
Front Lines	£25.25
Fun School 2 <6/6-8 years ..... each	£9.49
Fun School 3 <6/6-8 years ..... each	£14.75
Fun School 4 <5/5-7/7-11 years ..... each	£17.49
Fun School 5 5-7/6-9/8-11 years	£19.99
Giger Screensaver	£14.99
Graham Gooch World Class Cricket	£21.99
Great Naval Battles 2	£25.99
Great Naval Battles	£11.99
Guilty	£25.25
Harrier Jump Jet Flight Simulator	£12.99
Hardball 4	£24.99
Hardball 3	£10.75
Harpoon 2 V2.0	£LOWEST
Heimdall 2	£24.99
High Seas Trader	£22.49
Hoklun KA-50	£24.99
Impact	£11.99
Indy Car Racing	£19.99
Indy Car Track Pack	£13.49
Jimmy White's Snooker	£11.99
Le Chuck's Revenge	£12.99
Legends of Valour	£10.99
Leisure Suit Larry 3	£11.99
Leisure Suit Larry 6	£24.99
Lemmings	£9.25
Links 386 PRO	£28.50
Links Golf Courses ..... each	£17.49
Lion King	£19.99
Little Divil	£24.99
Lords of the Realm	£24.49
Lords of Midnight	£25.25
Lucas Arts Triple Pack (X-Wing, B-Wing, Imperial Pursuit)	£30.49
Lucas Arts Triple Pack 2 (Indiana Jones Fate of Atlantis, Day of the Tentacle, Sam & Max hit the Road)	£35.99
Magic Carpet	**£LOWEST**
Mario's Game Challenge	£19.99
Master of Magic	£28.25
Menzo Berranzan	£27.99
Micro Machines	£19.49
Mortal Kombat	£19.99
Mortal Kombat 2	£22.49
MS Golf	£22.49
NHL Hockey	£26.99
NASCAR	£25.49
On The Ball League Edition	£21.99
On The Ball World Cup Edition	£21.99
Outpost	£25.49
Overlord	£27.99
PGA Tour Golf Plus	£11.99
Pizza Tycoon	£28.99
Police Quest 3	£12.99
Populous 2	£11.75
Powerdrive	£19.99
Premier Manager 3	£21.99
Psycho Pinball	£24.99
Ravenloft	£28.75
Red Baron	£11.99
Retribution	£24.99
Rise of the Robots (VGA)	£26.99
Rise of the Robots (SVGA)	£28.99
Sam 'n' Max Hit the Road	£17.75
Scottish Open	£CALL
Secret of Monkey Island	£12.49
Sensible Soccer International Edition	£14.49
Settlers	£24.99
Shoot 'Em Off (18+)	£17.99
Sim City 2000	£25.49
Sim City Classics	£22.75
Sim City & Lemmings	£19.99
Simon The Sorceror	£24.99
Skidmarks	£19.99
Space Hulk	£11.99
Space Simulator (Microsoft)	£30.99
Spectre VR	£24.99
Streetfighter 2	£11.49
Subwar 2050	£28.49
Subwar Scenario Disk	£14.99
Superfrog	£14.99
Syndicate	£27.99
System Shock	£27.99
Tactical Manager	£22.99
Tactical Manager Scottish/Italia ..... each	£22.99
Theme Park	£27.99
Transport Tycoon	£28.99
U.F.O. Enemy Unknown	£27.99
Ultima 7 : The Black Gate	£12.99
Ultima Underworld	£11.99
Universe	£24.99
Unnecessary Roughness	£24.99
Wolfenstein 3D	£14.99
Wolfpack	£19.99
World of Football	£17.99
World of Golf	£17.99
X-Wing	£28.49
X-Wing Data Disk (B-Wing)	£15.49
X-Wing Data Disk (Imperial Pursuit)	£14.75
Xmas Lemmings '94	£12.99

SPECIAL OFFER

Autoroute Express V.3 + G.P.T. Motoring Expenses + Powerdrive ..... only £49.99

ACCESSORIES

DISKS

3.5" **DSDD** x 10	£6.75	3.5" **DSHD** x 10	£7.50
3.5" **DSDD** x 50	£19.50	3.5" **DSHD** x 50	£21.99
3.5" **DSDD** x 100	£36.99	3.5" **DSHD** x 100	£40.99



Super Warrior SQS201 Joystick (Analogue, Auto-Fire, 15 Pin) £14.99

Warrior 5 QS123 Joystick (Analogue, 15 Pin) £11.50

CH Flightstick Pro Joystick - with four fire buttons, throttle control and built-in mini joystick RRP£79.95, ... Our Price Only £59.99

Hawk Junior (Auto-fire, Auto-centering, 15 pin) £9.99

Hawk Plus (Turbo-fire, Auto-fire, Auto-centering, 15 pin) £11.99

Eagle Control Pad (Turbo-fire, 8 Direction Pad) £11.99

Microsoft Mouse with 18 games (best of the entertainment packs and arcade pack) ..... ONLY £27.99

Eclipse Mouse - 290-2900 DPI variable resolution. 3 button microswitched, comes with free mouse mat £10.99

Spare mouse mat (choice of colours/designs) £4.75

Pack of 3 Mouse Mats ..... Only £7.99

3DO Blaster - Allows you to play all 3DO Games on your PC £339.99

Microsoft 'Natural' keyboard - special ergonomic shape is designed to alleviate repetitive strain injury RRP £99.99 ..... Our Price £89.99

Quad Speed CD ROM drives now in stock£Call for Lowest Prices!

Panasonic CR562B internal CD ROM drive (double speed, 300KB/Sec, easy to install) £116.99

Yamaha YST-10 Speakers - 10 Watts per speaker £64.99

QS Soundmate 400 speakers £16.99

Powersound 2 speaker system - booster circuitry to enhance stereo quality, battery or mains, can be mounted on monitor for extra convenience £16.99

Soundblaster 16 Value & 10 EA games including Wing Commander 2, PGA Golf, Indy 500 ..... Only £109.99

Soundblaster AWE 32 Sound Card - CD quality sampling and playback (5-44.1kHz), 512K RAM, 32 voices, 16 channels, all relevant software. The new generation of soundblaster technology! (RRP : £279.99) £219.99

Soundblaster 16 value pack - 16 bit sound card, 20 voices, 16 bit or 8 bit sampling and playback (4-44kHz), 4 operator FM synthesiser, all relevant software (RRP £105.99) £84.99



Tecnoplus Audiosound 16 - 16 bit sampling and playback, 20 voices, Panasonic & Sony interface, Soundblaster compatible (RRP £99.99) £69.99

PC Sound System 2 - comprehensive starter kit includes: 100% soundblaster compatible soundcard, hawk plus turbo-fire joystick, high-performance powersound speakers, all relevant software (RRP £99.99) £74.99

FREE MEMBERSHIP

All Prices include VAT.

- FREE MEMBERSHIP! SIMPLY FILL IN YOUR DETAILS ON THE FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.
- WE PROVIDE ONE OF THE FASTEST DELIVERY SERVICES AROUND, 2-3 DAYS MAX ON STOCK ITEMS.
- ALL ITEMS ORDERED FROM US ARE FULLY INSURED AGAINST LOSS OR DAMAGE
- ALL GOODS ARE FULLY GUARANTEED. IF ANY ITEM DOESN'T WORK AS IT SHOULD, WE'LL REPLACE IT IMMEDIATELY AT NO COST TO YOU.
- 1000'S OF TITLES AVAILABLE, IF YOU CAN'T SEE THE ITEM YOU WANT, PLEASE RING AS STOCK ARRIVES DAILY. SOFTWARE AND ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE FOR ALL MACHINES.
- ORDER BY PHONE, FAX OR THROUGH OUR EXCLUSIVE FREE POST SERVICE.

Games available for all machines eg. Theme Park (3DO) - £37.49, FIFA Soccer (Amiga) - £21.99, Soleil (Megadrive) - £38.99, AVP (Jaguar) - £47.99

01924 473157
SALES HOTLINES
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

FAX ORDERS ON - 01924 473157 (24 HOURS A DAY)

- LINES OPEN 9AM-8PM MON-FRI, 9AM-7PM SAT, 10.30AM-4PM SUN. ANSWERPHONE ALL OTHER TIMES.
- ORDER BY CREDIT CARD, CHEQUE POSTAL ORDERS OR CASH (PLEASE SEND CASH IN A REGISTERED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION.
- NEXT DAY DELIVERY £3.50 FOR ORDERS UP TO £50, £5 FOR ORDERS OVER £50, PLEASE ORDER BEFORE 3PM TO ENSURE IMMEDIATE DESPATCH.

GAMEplay

Cut Out This order form and post to :

GAMEPLAY, FREEPOST LS5924, BATLEY, W. YORKSHIRE WF17 7BR.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: ..... Signature: .....

Tel: ..... Fax: .....

Item	Format	Price
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
	P&P	£
	TOTAL	£

Postage is **FREE** on all accessories and orders of more than one item. Please ADD £1 for orders of just one software item.

Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Postal Order ☐ Card ☐ Access VISA DELTA

Card Number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry Date ☐☐/☐☐

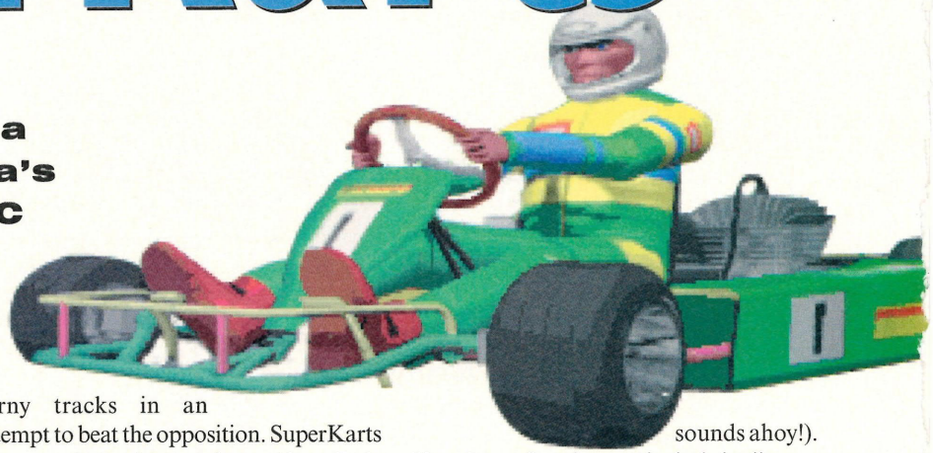
Cheques payable to 'Gameplay'.

Prices correct at time of going to press. E & OE.

PC REVIEW

SuperKarts

Live fast, die young and have a beautiful corpse. Manic Media's go-karting sim will put your PC back in the fast lane.



Everyone enjoys a good simulation or strategy game, but there are times when you just want to plonk yourself down in front of your PC and do something really brainless. Something which gets the old adrenaline going. Like a spreadsheet or database, perhaps. Anyway, there are times when nothing fits the bill quite like a driving game. Speed, mayhem, action . . . Just the ticket if you've had a stressful day at the office. Which is everyday, if you're me. And if it's driving you want, then you could do a hell of a lot worse than to load up SuperKarts, Manic Media's new go-karting game.

> "The kart handles very realistically — it leans and skids as a real kart should."

SuperKarts isn't a serious simulation, although the mathematics of it are all very impressive. It's really more of an arcade game. Like most driving games, you climb into your vehicle and whiz around a succession of twisty-turny tracks in an attempt to beat the opposition. SuperKarts gives you the option to take part in a single race, a championship season or, if you're pushed for time, half a season. And there's also arcade mode, which means that you can't progress to the next race unless you finish in the top three. But whichever you choose, you can expect a fair amount of bumping and barging, and since there's no referee, you can play it as dirty as you like.

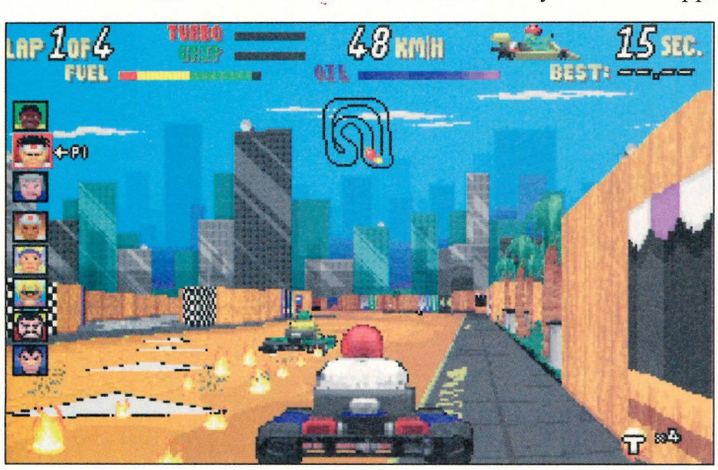
Dirty money, dirty tactics

You start with a certain amount of cash which you can then use to upgrade your kart — bigger engine, larger fuel tank, armour to stop your kart being damaged quite so quickly, wider wheels and so on. You can also buy bonuses such as turbo boosts, things to make your kart stay on the track when you corner and oil which you drop during the race to put one over on the opposition (satisfying skidding sounds ahoy!). If you're performing particularly badly, you can even purchase points to help you zoom up the championship table. But that's only for wimps, of course — real karters earn their points through grit and determination. Or something like that.

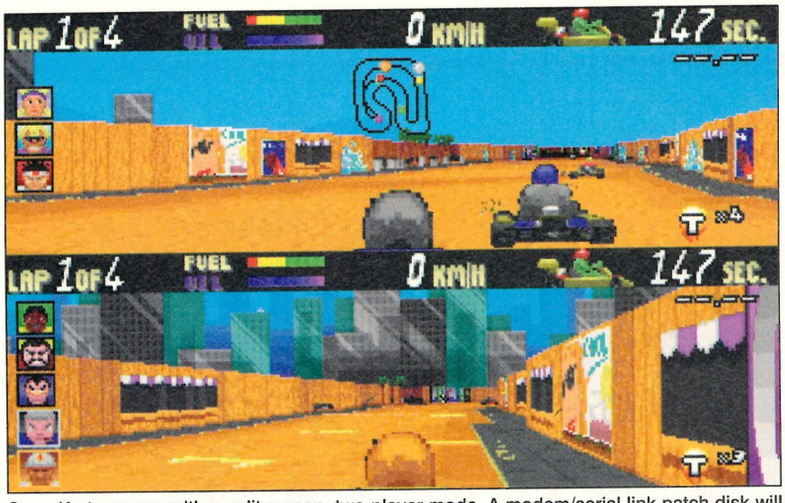
After you've spent that little lot, you have to rely on prize money to pay your way. You can get bonuses for free since they're littered around the courses, but upgrades have to be bought — so if you do badly, you're obviously going to be at a disadvantage against the other racers. That, then, is the game in very simple terms, and on the surface of it, it doesn't sound like

Below left: the graphics have been designed so that distant objects are paler than those in the foreground, giving you the illusion of 3D surroundings.

Below: India is the gaudiest track of the lot, and it's also one of the trickiest.



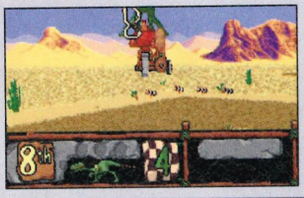




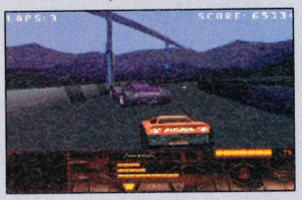
SuperKarts comes with a split-screen, two-player mode. A modem/serial link patch disk will be released later, allowing two players to compete on separate machines.

ALTERNATIVELY

BC RACERS
Core, £34.99
Rated 6, Issue 43
If you like karting, this isn't a bad little game. It has a comedy pre-historic theme with dinosaurs and cavemen battling it out in ancient vehicles. It isn't up to SuperKarts standard but it's competent, if not overly stimulating.



MEGARACE
Cryo/Mindscape, £44.99
Rated 8, issue 31
This is an altogether different type of driving game — it's a futuristic car-based racer which takes place over a series of roller-coaster-style tracks. You object isn't to beat the other drivers, but to destroy them before the laps run out. Fun.



anything out of the ordinary. But it is actually very good, and I'd be hard pressed to name another arcade racer which reaches the same sort of standard.

What makes it special, then? The graphics are part of the reason — not because they look especially good but because they have a direct effect on the intelligence of the computer-controlled drivers. Yes, I know this sounds hard to believe, but just bear with me for a moment. The graphics are ray-traced (and by that I don't mean Myst-standard rendered scenes — you'd never get that moving at speed) rather than polygon-based — which basically means that each competitor has their own view of the track, allowing them to negotiate hazards and react to other players. What it all boils down to is that the computer players don't have any advantage over you in terms of speed or handling, but they're able to take advantage of the conditions and if you cock things up, you're going to fall behind.

The other advantage of ray-tracing is that you have the option to view the race from a variety of perspectives, including inside the kart, behind the kart or from the side. There's a slight fish-eye lens effect which makes the view appear more natural (whichever view you choose), and you even get a slight tilt when you corner.



To start with, you get to choose which one of several dubious racial stereotypes you want to be.

Handle with care

The kart also handles very realistically — it leans and skids as a real kart should — and the programmers have taken pains to make sure that performance and handling varies according to the different surface types (water, grass, tarmac, sand and so on) and the size of your wheels. So all very satisfactory, then.

And there's more. SuperKarts includes a two-player split-screen mode, and you can opt to have the screen split either vertically or horizontally. There's also a network option which allows up to eight players to take part (brilliant fun if you have access to one — and the boss isn't around, of course), and although there's no serial link option at the moment, a patch disk which allows serial and modem play will be issued in the future.

So here we have a game that plays well, looks good and will run at a respectable speed on a 33MHz 486 (needless to say, it's superb on a Pentium). Surely there must be a catch somewhere? Well yes (she says, putting on her "cynical journalist" hat), there is. I don't honestly think that SuperKarts has a huge amount of longevity unless you have regular access to a network. Sure, it'll take time to work your way through the four difficulty levels (though "easy" level is a piece of cake, even for a malcoordinated being like myself), but once you've beaten it on "pro" level your interest is going to drop off quite considerably. Still, this isn't quite as bad a flaw as you might imagine, since most games suffer from the same problem — even Doom gets boring eventually.



You get a sneak preview of the track before each race, along with a couple of handy tips and tactics.

SuperKarts, then, is almost certainly the best game in its class. Of the arcade racing games I've played, I can't think of any that would offer it serious competition (I must confess a liking for Cryo's MegaRace but that was largely down to the music), therefore if that's what you're after, look no further. So what if you don't have to engage your brain very often? SuperKarts is a laugh.

❍ Cal Jones



TECHSPEC 8 RATING

Fast, furious and a lot of fun.

Publisher:	Virgin
Price:	£44.99
Contact:	(0181) 960 2255
Minimum PC:	386, MS-DOS 5.0
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Ad Lib

CD ONLY



X-COM: Terror From The Deep



There are terrors lurking in the deep, but has MicroProse got another smash hit or a game that smells decidedly fishy?

Although it doesn't boast texture-mapping, ray-traced cutscenes, digitised speech or shading of any kind, MicroProse's latest foray into the strategy market, a little gem called X-COM: Terror From The Deep, could easily become one of this year's PC classics.

Initially, however, you can't really see why. At first glance the sequel to the highly acclaimed UFO: Enemy Unknown, *seems* fairly uninspiring. Little has changed. It's still a turn-based strategy game, the isometric 3D graphics are nice, but rarely gorgeous and the resource management section is once again comprehensive without being too complex. If you've played the original game, you'd be forgiven for thinking that TFTD is just UFO with a bluey-green backdrop; a data disk masquerading as a completely new game. In fact,the sense of deja-vu is overwhelming.

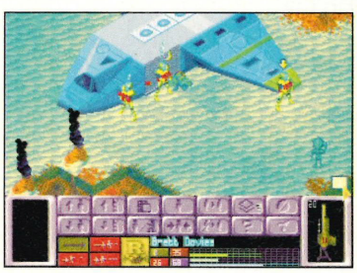
But after you've played it for a week, you come to realise that TFTD isn't a data disk at all. It's almost a completely new game. MicroProse has listened to the criticisms levelled at UFO, enhanced the game engine and added lots of new monsters and missions. Like the original, TFTD is still a turn-based affair (why alter a successful game engine?), but this time the alien threat comes from the ocean where a lost colony ship is about to unleash an army of lobstermen and strange biomechanical jellyfish brains to terrorise the world.



Terror From The Deep has some very nice visual effects like air bubbles and wakes...



VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE



In TFTD battles are fought underwater...

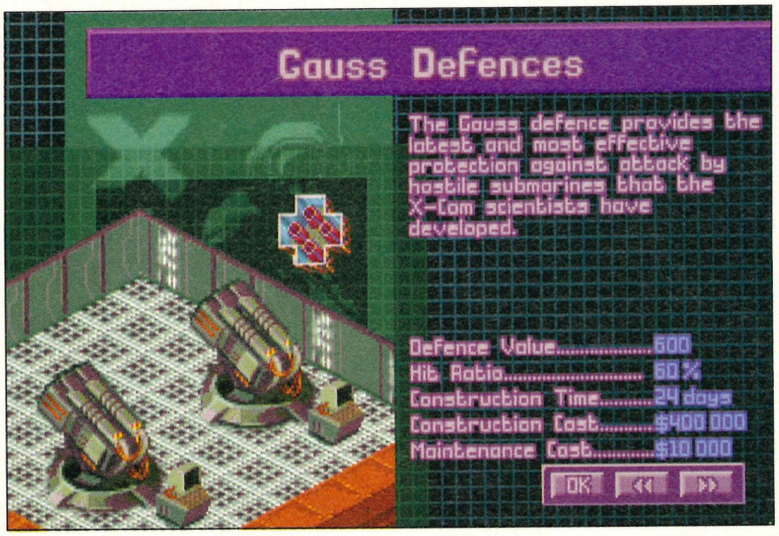


... and also in ports, towns and bases.

Alien

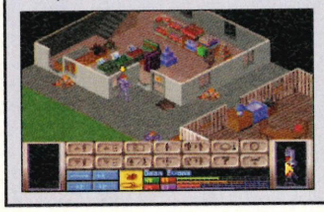
Although the graphics have changed and the plot is different, the gameplay in TFTD is almost identical to UFO. Once again, you take command of X-COM, a world-funded organisation that has been set up to combat the alien threat. With your meagre resources, you must build a number of floating bases around the globe and from these strategic platforms you can launch sleek interceptor subs to shoot down the UFO menace.

Once you've detected an alien submarine and forced it down, you can then dispatch a squad of highly trained frogmen to search the crash site and recover any alien goodies. Here the game switches to an arcade-style, 3D isometric view and the seabed encounter is played out on a turn-by-turn basis. All movement and combat is controlled using a system of "action points" (these points are used up when you move, turn and fire) and, armed with harpoon guns, grenades and torpedo launchers,



ALTERNATIVELY

UFO: ENEMY UNKNOWN
MicroProse, £44.99
Rated 7, Issue 30
UFO pits mankind against a whole host of planet-conquering, cow-stealing aliens and as the leader of X-COM, it's up to you to juggle the finances and shoot down the ETs. A great game. Terror From The Deep without the water.

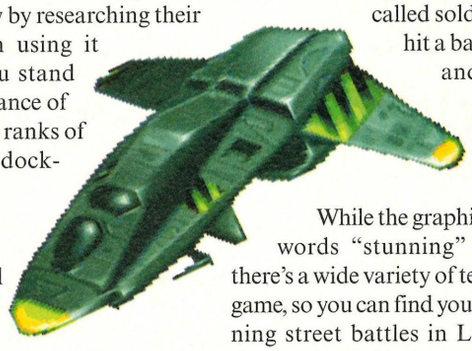


SYNDICATE
Electronic Arts, £44.99
Rated 9, Issue 21
MicroProse has hinted that the next X-COM game, entitled The Apocalypse will feature a real-time 3D engine and if you're looking for violence in an isometric 3D landscape, Syndicate will more than satisfy your bloodlust.



your soldiers must locate and kill any surviving aliens in the playing area.

When you've done this and the crash site is secure, the alien submarine and any extraterrestrial corpses are automatically retrieved by your band of heavily armed snorkellers before you nip back to your base to study what you've found. The next step in the X-COM masterplan is to analyse the alien artefacts that you've nabbed, because only by researching their weaponry and then using it against them do you stand even the remotest chance of defeating the massed ranks of the evil alien haddock-legions.



Aliens

And if that was all there was to it, life as an X-COM boss would be positively peachy. Unfortunately, it's a bit more complicated. As X-COM exists on financial hand-outs, you've got to balance your books, putting money aside for new labs (which allow you to research alien technology faster), more workshop space (so you can mass produce what you've researched) and the bare essentials like fuel, weaponry and ammunition. Nothing is free in TFTD, and if you're less than successful, your benefactors will lose confidence in your alien-bashing abilities and eventually withdraw their funding.

And that's really all there is to it. In the best traditions of sci-fi plotting, you've got to find out what the bug-eyed fish monsters are up to, reverse-engineer their weaponry so you can fight them on equal terms and then finally save the planet, mankind and life as we know it, in a glorious and watery finale. It's an addictive and utterly absorbing game, and although TFTD isn't much of a looker by today's standards, it probably has more gameplay crammed inside it than Wing Commander 3, Lost Eden and Heretic put together.

Alien 3

For a start, TFTD is much more of a challenge than the original game. OK, most of the underwater weapons closely resemble the UFO hardware and the new aliens have similar strengths and weaknesses to the first bunch, but the enemy intelligence has been vastly improved. The aliens move around a lot more, they make more use of natural cover and they're depressingly accurate when they shoot. In comparison, most of your so-called soldiers still couldn't hit a barn door at 10 feet and in the early stages of the game your losses can be heavy.

While the graphics don't merit the words "stunning" or "gorgeous", there's a wide variety of terrain types in the game, so you can find yourself fighting running street battles in Lisbon, tiptoeing through the ruined temples of Atlantis or even liberating a cruise liner from alien infestation. The sprite animation is much better than UFO and TFTD also has some nice incidental effects — torpedoes leave a wake in the water, air bubbles escape from air tanks and after particularly gruesome explosions, blood can hang eerily in the water, obscuring your soldier's line of sight.

TFTD is like a computerised table-top wargame. Combat requires some serious tactical thought, and just when you think you've got the aliens licked, a new one will appear who won't succumb to your carefully constructed strategies. Like UFO, TFTD gets better the more you play it and even though it's not the most stunningly imaginative sequel ever, it's a tense and highly exciting game.

Oh no! More aliens

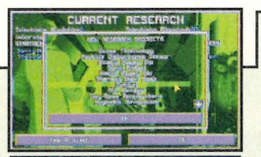
I know it doesn't look it, but Terror From The Deep is a wonderful game. If you haven't played UFO, it's practically impossible to explain why a turn-based strategy game is so addictive, but if you give it a chance, and you're prepared to get well and truly stuck in, this is a game that you'll still be playing months after you've finished games like Dark Forces and Wing Commander 3. It's this longevity that forms a big part of the game's appeal. TFTD is not the kind of game that makes you sit back and think "wow"; it's the sort of game that will either impress the hell out of you or bore you stupid within ten minutes.

X-COM: Terror From The Deep will keep you more than happy. Don't listen to what anybody else says about it, just bear in mind that TFTD is an excellent sequel and a massive tactical challenge. Come on and play it — if you think you're hard enough...

❍ **Dean Evans**



Like UFO, TFTD isn't just a glorified bug-hunt. Fighting the alien fish-legions is an expensive business and you've got to balance the X-COM budgets if you want to be successful.



TECHSPEC 8 RATING

A bit of deja vu, but great nevertheless.

Publisher:	MicroProse
Price:	£44.99
Contact:	(01454) 326532

CD ONLY

Minimum PC:	33 MHz386, MS DOS 5.0 mouse
Minimum memory:	4Mb RAM
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster, Ad Lib Roland

Micro Max — On the pulse of Micro-tainment

For the CD-Rom Drive

11th Hour	£39.99
Aces of the Deep	£28.99
Alone in the Dark 3	£28.99
Armoured Fist	£28.99
BC Racer	TBA
Bioforge	£29.99
Bloodnet	£25.99
Campaign	£27.99
Chaos Control	£25.99
Commander Blood	£27.99
Creature Shock	£33.99
Cyberia	£31.49
Cyclemania	£24.99
Dark Forces	£31.99
Dark Seed 2	£27.99
Deathgate	£28.99
Delta V	£29.99
Descent	£27.99
Discworld	£28.99
Dominus	£25.99
DOOM 2	£34.99
Dragon Lore	£28.99
DreamWeb	£28.49
Dungeon Master 2	£28.99
Ecstatica	£30.99
Falcon Gold	£27.99
First Encounters	£26.99
Fortress of Dr Radiaki	£27.99
Full Throttle	TBA
Hammer of the Gods	£26.99
Harvester	£34.99
Hell	£28.99
Hunters of Falk	£27.99
Inferno	£33.99
Iron Assault	£28.99
Jungle Strike	£22.99
Kings Quest VII	£28.99
Klik and Play	£28.99
Kyrandia 3	£24.99
Last Dynasty	TBA
Little Big Adventure	£33.99
Lords of Midnight	£24.99
Lost Eden	£31.99
Magic Carpet	£33.99
Menzoberranzan	£27.99
Metal Tech-Earth Siege	£29.99
Nascar Racing	£27.99
Outpost	£31.49
Premier Manager 3	£22.99
PGA Tour 486	£33.99
Quarantine	£24.99
Retribution	£25.99
Rise of the Robots	£31.49
Rise of the Robots Ltd	£36.49
Spectre VR	£28.99
Stereoworld	£19.99
Star Trek Tec. Manual	£31.49
Stone Keep	£32.99
Tower Assault	£22.99
The Dig	TBA
US Navy Fighters	£32.75
Virtuoso	£26.99
Voyeur	£25.99
Wing Commander 3	£36.99
Wolfpack	£22.99
World of Lemmings	£27.99

For the Hard Disk Drive

Aces of the Deep	£25.99
Armoured Fist	£25.99
BC Racer	TBA
Blackhawk	£23.99
Colonization	£32.75
Dawn Patrol	£27.99
Descent	£28.99
DOOM 2	£31.99
Dominus	£31.99
DreamWeb	£26.49
Dungeon Master 2	£28.99
FIFA International Soccer	£25.99
First Encounters	£26.99
Flite Lite	£17.99
Flight Sim 5	£28.99
Fortress of Dr Radiaki	£23.99
Front Page Baseball	£28.99
Inferno	£27.99
Jungle Strike	£22.99
KA-50 Hokum	£24.99
Klik and Play	£25.99
Micro Machines	£19.99
Nascar Racing	£25.99
Outpost	£25.99
Overlord	£27.99
Premier Manager 3	£22.99
Quarantine	£24.99
Rise of the Robots VGA	£26.99
Rise of the Robots SVGA	£28.99
Sensible Golf	£22.99
Sensible World Soccer	£19.99
Spectre VR	£27.99
Super Streetfighter 2	£21.99
Theme Park	£28.99
TIE Fighter	£31.99
Defender of the Empire	£14.49
TFX	£28.99
Tower Assault	£19.99
Transport Tycoon	£27.99
World of Lemmings	£27.99

Microsoft

Ancient Lands	£38.99
Art Gallery	£38.99
Cinemania '95	£38.99
Dangerous Creatures	£38.99
Dinosaurs	£38.99
Encarta '95	£72.99
Musical Instruments	£38.99

Knowledge Adventure

3D Body Adventure	£32.99
3D Dinosaur Adventure	£32.99
Bugs Adventure	£32.99
Discoverers	£32.99
Magic Theatre	£32.99
Science Adventure	£32.99
Undersea Adventure	£32.99

Dorling Kindersley

Encyclopedia of Science	£74.99
Incredible Cross Sections Stowaway	£34.99
My Incredible Amazing Dictionary	£34.99
The Ultimate Human Body	£57.99
The Way Things Work	£57.99

Broderbund Living Books

Arthur's Birthday	£28.99
Arthur's Teacher Trouble	£28.99
Harry & Haunter House	£32.99
Just Grandma & Me	£28.99
Little Monster at School	£32.99
Ruff's Bone	£32.99
Tortoise & Hare	£32.99

All Prices Include VAT

Please add £1.95 First Class Postage and Packaging.

All prices subject to change.

All items dispatched same day unless advised.

Hours of Business

Mon - Sun: 7am - 10pm

Send Cheques (payable to J Godfrey) to Micro Max
8 Yorick Road, West Mersea
Essex Co5 8HT
Please allow up to 7 days for clearance.

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE: (01206) 385830

ENHANCED IDE HARD DRIVES

IBM Seagate WESTERN DIGITAL CONNER

Mode 3 and 4 Enhanced IDE drives
365Mb £119 + VAT = £139.83
420Mb £125 + VAT = £146.88
540Mb £139 + VAT = £163.33
850Mb £189 + VAT = £222.08
1GB £279 + VAT = £327.83
Hard Drive prices are unstable Please call for updates

Mode 3, 4 & 5 Enhanced VL Bus IDE Multi I/O Card
For Maximum performance from the new Drives.
Supports 4 IDE devices.
£35 + VAT = £41.13
£5 off with any drive.
Call for cheaper cards & PCI

TDK 74 Minute £7.75 + VAT .. £9.11
Kodak CDR Gold 74 Minute:
Branded £7.80 + VAT ... £8.17
Unbranded £5.95 + VAT £6.99
CD Writer Media from £5.95 + VAT Call for quantity prices

Conner 420Mb Tape Stor £135 + VAT = £158.63
Sony QIC Wide 420Mb Tapes £15.80 + VAT = £18.57
Formatted DC2120 Tapes £8 + VAT = £9.40
We stock a wide range of tape drives, data cartridges, DAT tapes, opticals, CDR etc - Please call for details

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY BULK DISKS

High clip Sony / Dysan / Verbatim bulk.
The error-free, durable disks used by major software distributors. If you are fed up with the cheap, substandard disks, give us a call!
(Disk Prices include VAT, labels and UK delivery.)

	20	50	100	200	500
DSDD 3.5"	£9.40	£18.50	£29.35	£54.35	£126.95
DSHD 3.5"	£10.95	£21.50	£36.95	£64.63	£152.75
DSDD 5.25"	£7.20	£13.92	£22.48	£42.19	£96.06
DSHD 5.25"	£11.19	£22.49	£36.52	£69.92	£167.74

SPECIAL OFFERS ON QUALITY DISKS
(Prices Include VAT and Overnight Delivery)
100 DYSAN / VERBATIM BULK DSHD 3.5" Disks £34.50
100 DYSAN BULK DSDD 3.5" (720K) Disks £28.95
100 BRANDED preformatted DSHD 3.5" disks £44.95
ANY ONE WITH 100 CAPACITY LOCKABLE BOX - add £3.50

DSHD 3.5" Duplication Standard Disks from the Far East
SPECIAL PURCHASE
100 £24.25 + VAT = £28.50
200 £42.55 + VAT = £49.99
500 £95.20 + VAT = £111.86
Price includes free courier delivery!

DUPLICATION OVERRUNS *(New Ex-Software Disks)*
Minimum order 50 disks. Price includes VAT. Delivery £3.50
3.5": 1.44MB 25p, 720k 21p. 5.25": 1.2MB 15p.

DUPLICATION OVERRUNS *(New Ex-Software Disks)*
Minimum order 50 disks. Price includes VAT. Delivery £3.50
3.5": 1.44MB 25p, 720k 21p. 5.25": 1.2MB 15p.

CONSUMABLES: PRICES INCLUDE VAT

LOCKABLE DISK BOXES Capacity:	60	100
3.5"	£3.50	£5.50
5.25"	£5.20	£6.50

STACKABLE DISK BOXES Capacity	1 Box	3 Boxes	5 Boxes
3.5 x 80 (BANX)	£9.95	£28.00	£44.00
3.5 x 200 (MEDIALIFE)	£15.45	£39.00	£49.50

LIBRARY CASES (FOR 10 DISKS): 3.5" - 95P 5.25" - £1.19
RE-INK RENEWS 20 - 40 dot matrix RIBBONS. - £9.45
INKJET REFILLS (HP, Canon etc) BLACK £9.50 TRICOLOUR £18

PUBLICATIONS - NO VAT, DELIVERY FREE
COMPUTER TRADE DIRECTORY UK SUPPLIERS... £6.50
BUILD YOUR OWN PC New Edition £5.00
INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIRECTORY £12.50

FAX MODEMS Cables + software included
9,600 Fax / 2400 Modem £34 + VAT = £39.95
NEW 14.4 Fax Modem £55 + VAT = £64.63
14.4 Voice Fax Modem £75 + VAT = £88.13
28.8 Modem / 14.4 Fax £109 + VAT = £128.08
EXTERNAL MODEMS
14.4 Fax Modem £74 + VAT = £86.95
28.8 Modem / 14.4 Fax £127 + VAT = £149.23
BABT Approved X-Link FAX / MODEMS *with Winfax Lite.*
14.4k £79 + VAT= £92.83 14.4k External £89 + VAT = £104.58
V34 £195 + VAT = £229.13 V34 External £205 + VAT = £240.88

CD-ROM DRIVES
NAKAMICHI MBR-7 External SCSI-2 Dual Speed 7 disk CD-ROM Autochanger £259 +VAT = £304.33
Pioneer DRU-104X Quad Speed £229 + VAT = £269.08
Panasonic CR562B Dual Speed £89 + VAT = £104.58
Wearnes CDD120X 2.5 Speed IDE £95 + VAT = £111.63
Sony CDU56E Dual Speed IDE £89 + VAT = £104.58
NEC Quad Speed IDE £159 + VAT = £186.83

SOUND CARDS
- Trust Sound Expert 16 £55 + VAT = £64.63
- Sound FX 16 £64+VAT = £75.20
- Gravis ULTRASOUND Max £135 + VAT = £158.63
- Sound FX Classic 3000 MCD £115 +VAT = £135.13
- Turtle Beach Cards - Call

MULTIMEDIA UPGRADES *(CD-ROM Drive with Soundcard)*
Sony CDU56E + Sound Expert 16 £142 + VAT = £166.85
Panasonic CR562B + Sound FX16 £145 + VAT = £170.38
With Sound FX Classic 3000 - add £59 + VAT = £69.33
Stereo speakers £7.50 Amplified £14.95 Trust 80 Watt £48.95
10 CD Starter Pack £29.95 7th Guest £14.90 MS Encarta 95 £39.95
Infopaedia £25 Grolier Encyclopedia 95 £25 Comptons 95 £25
Minerva III £9.50; Minerva IV £11.50; Minerva V £12.50
Minerva Set (3 CD'S 19,000 Shareware / PD titles) - £22.00

DYNAMIC NEW PROCESSORS
These are the new generation ULTRA FAST CPU's you have been reading about. Now available at the keenest prices in the UK
AMD DX4-100 £149 + VAT = £175.08
AMD DX2-80 £105 + VAT = £123.38
AMD DX2-66 £95 + VAT = £111.63
IBM DX2-66 £85 + VAT = £99.88
SGST DX2-50 £65 + VAT = £76.38
UMC S5 SX-2 66/80 £45 + VAT = £52.88
Gigabyte GA486VF Motherboard
Probably the best 486 board on the market
£75 + VAT £88.13
With any of the above CPU's £69 + VAT £81.08
Intel CPU's & Plato Pentium 60, 90 & 100 - Call

SCANNERS
- Trust 1200 dpi True Colour Flatbed Scanner £339 + VAT £398.33
- Logitech Scanman 32 £68 + VAT £79.90
- Logitech Scanman 256 £120 + VAT £141.00
- Logitech Scanman Colour £229 + VAT £269.08
- Addup 256 Greyscale £85 + VAT £99.88
- Addup Colour 24 bit £150 + VAT £176.25

DEXXA Products from LOGITECH: (VAT included)
Joystick £12.95 Control Pad £12.95
Mouse £9.95 Infra-red Control Pad £22.95

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT. Carriage: DISKS - FREE CONSUMABLES - £3.50 HARDWARE £5

Delivery normally 24 OR 48 hours(excluding weekends). for Guaranteed Overnight or Saturday Delivery add £3.00.
Buying Computer Equipment can be confusing. We are here to help - before or after you buy. Please call!

LINEFEED 0171 474 1765 24 HOURS
Unit 7 Ashmead Business Centre, North Crescent,
Cody Road, London E16 4TG
Fax 0171 474 3440 E-mail Sales@linefeed.com NO CREDIT CARD SURCHARGES

NJH PD

Dept PCR 12 Meesons Mead
Rochford, Essex SS4 1RN
Tel/Fax:01702 546796

Free Disks
For every 10 disks ordered choose 1 free

FROM 90p A DISK

All orders sent 1st class the same day
(Subject to stock)

Many more disks in stock - if you can't see what you are after please phone and see if we have it. Titles listed are shareware.Full catalogue available for only 75p or 3 1st class stamps. (No.)=Number of disks

1-3 Disks £1.20 each
4-9 Disks £1.10 each
10-19 Disks £1 each
20+ Disks 90p each
Add 70p per order for P&P
Cheques/PO payable to NJH

GAMES	GAMES	UTILITIES	CD ROM TITLES
HERETIC (2)	CARD GAMES (5)	FILE MAGICIAN 3.6	CICA 4 WINDOWS £13.99
DESCENT (2)	TOM, DICK, HARRY (2)	SPECTRUM EMULATOR (2)	ADULT SENSATIONS £15.99
SUPERCARTS (2)	WALL ST RAIDER	C64 EMULATOR (2)	POV-RAY £17.99
A DAY AT THE RACES	GRAVITON	IMAGINE OBJECTS (4)	DOOM ADD-ONS £13.99
MUTANT CAMELS	WILDLIFE TRIS VGA	IMAGINE OBJECTS 2(4)	DOOM TOOLKIT £13.99
TRAFFIC DEPT (2)	DRAGONFIELD KEEP	GRAPHICS WORKSHOP	HOTTEST PC MEGADEMOS £17.99
VGA CARD GAMES	BLOODTHIRSTY	CDROM UTILS	GOLD MEDAL 5 £17.99
FOOTBALL MANAGER	BODYBLOWS	PAGE PLUS DTP (2)	TOOLKIT FOR LINUX £17.99
QUATRIS 2 PLUS	SHOOTING GALLERY	MAXIMUM PAYOUT	FONTS & CLIPART £17.99
TURBOTREK	RAPTOR (2)	1,100 ICONS (2)	GRAPHICS SENSATIONS £17.99
BOMBER	SKYBOMBERS	GOOD TO FIRM	SOURCE CODE £17.99
SPACE INVADERS	DRAGONS QUEST	BOOTS	INTERNET INFO £17.99
GALAGA 94	COBAT TANKS	SIMPLY LABELS	SPACE & ASTRONOMY £17.99
ICE QUEEN	ABYSS VGA	FONT EDITOR	CLIPART CD £8.99
SIM SPACE (4)	BALLTRIS	RECOVER IT BACK	FONTS CD £8.99
EPIC PINBALL (2)	WORLD EMPIRE	DEMO MAKERS	SOUNDS TERRIFIC £17.99
DESERT STORM (3)	NIGHT RAID	PC DRAFT CAD 2	C USERS GROUP £20.99
WOLFENSTEIN 3D (2)	RAYX	MCSHELL	WICKED PCX CLIPART £17.99
DOOM (3)	SEAQUEST	PC CONFIG	WICKED GIF PICTURES £17.99
DOOM HINTS	TILEMATCH VGA	THE INVOICE STORE	SENTIMENTAL WINGS £22.99
DOOM (DEU) v5.2	NIGHT RAID VGA	3D ATLAS	ILLUSIONS IN 3D £8.99
DOOM 2 EDITOR	POOL SHARK VGA	HARD DRIVE UTILS	SPECTRUM EMULATOR CD £17.99
DOOM TO DOOM 2	SIDETRIS VGA	DEMO WORKSHOP	
200 DOOM LEVELS (7)	LOADER LARRY VGA	WORLD ATLAS	
200 DOOM LEVELS 2(7)	SHADOW KNIGHT	ENV PUBLISHER	
200 DOOM LEVELS 3(7)	GAMMA WING VGA	AQUARIUM	

FULL SCREEN - ADULT ENTERTAINMENT on CD-ROM

Without additional hardware!

Candy Vol 1 and 2 each contain 9 stunning "no plot/all action" erotic movies which can be viewed 'full screen'! Price: £49.95 + P&P each, or buy both and receive 'Candy Extra' absolutely FREE plus free delivery!

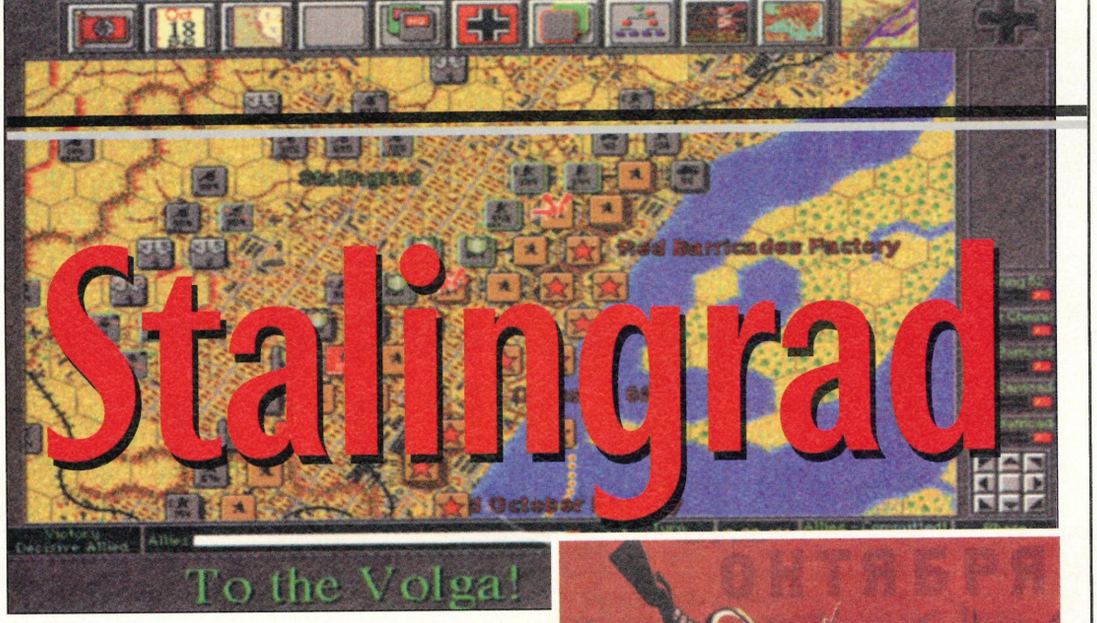
"SIZZLING STILLS" CD COLLECTIONS

"BEST OF 1994" contains over 2,000 high resolution .GIF format images in the following categories: Massive Mammaries, Lez, S&M, Shavers, Wet, Messy, Asian, Famous, Mature, Close-Ups, Stockings & Suspenders, Centrefolds, Swimsuits, Lingerie & More. LIMITED EDITION - Get it while you can! JUST £49.95 + P&P. SAMPLE 3.5" FLOPPY £4.95

"Amateur Models Vol 1" £34.95 + P&P. Buy both and receive Volume 2 absolutely FREE plus free delivery!

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE: 01745 337438

WE CAN ACCEPT PAYMENT IN PUNTS (Add £5) / DM's (£ x 3) Delivery £3 UK / £5 Overseas
Guaranteed Next Day UK Delivery £10 (subject to availability)
Selective, PCRZ, 36 St Marys Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SX
ADULT BBS : 0131 447 8051 : 6pm - 8pm / All Weekend



Will you be russian out to buy Atomic Games' new WW2 strategy game? Simon Shaw finds out.



The sixth game in Atomic Games' magnificent World War 2 strategy series (previously published by 360 Pacific under the generic title 'V for Victory') is the biggest to date by some way, and includes a thorough overhaul of the gaming system.

If you hadn't played these games, you might think that after five outings, an overhaul must be long overdue. The reason there's been so little tinkering is simply that the system was initially so painstakingly conceived, designed and executed that it really wasn't necessary. That said, the new features making their bow in Stalingrad are to be enthusiastically welcomed.

Familiar landmarks in greater detail

Perhaps the most significant change is that there's been a review of the game-scale. The old one kilometre per hex still applies in some scenarios, but the designers have rightly concluded that the huge variety of operations spanned by this most decisive of WW2 battles cannot be adequately represented at one level only. As a result, two new scales have been introduced, 400 metres and three kilometres per hex. At 400 metres, the street fighting around Stalingrad itself can be represented in greater detail, and experienced war gamers will be pleased to see that familiar landmarks like the tractor works and the ferry landings duly appear The three kilometre scale is for the biggest of the strategic scenarios, including the whole of Operation Uranus.

This last has to be the most massive war game yet designed on the computer. The map is huge, simply swallowing up the vast and detailed order of battle. My one criticism is that it's so big that just keeping track of who, what and where is a constant headache. To make matters even more complicated, the old limited intelligence rules have been developed to make them even more realistic.

In the early games, unknown enemy units appeared as blank counters; here they remain invisible until spotted. You can no longer afford to range over the map with impunity — you might bump into something nasty. The solution is to send out reconnaissance aircraft (a new class of unit) on broad sweeps. This adds an extra dimension to the game.

There are other new features, the most welcome being the introduction of selective colour-coding to indicate supply and command status. However, in its essence, the system remains the same, and if you're familiar with it, you'll pick this up in no time.

In the past I've exhausted my stock of superlatives in writing about this series. It's never going to pick up any casual trade — the appeal is strictly to hardcore war gamers — but if you fall into that category then buy Stalingrad and do yourself a big favour. I think it's the best yet — and that's saying something.

Simon Shaw



The best simply gets better.

TECHSPEC 8 RATING

Publisher:	Avalon Hill/US Gold
Price:	TBA
Contact:	(0121) 606 1800
Minimum PC:	386SX, MS DOS 3.0 mouse
Minimum memory:	8Mb
Minimum graphics:	SVGA (VESA compatible)
Sound:	Sound Blaster, Gravis

CD ONLY

TOP 50 CD ROCK BOTTOM PRICE

SHAREWARE & COMPILATION CD ROM

5 FOOT 10 PACK VOL.1 : 10 CD VOL. 1 OR VOL 2	£27.00
PLATINUM (EDUCATION/PUBLISHERS/GAMES ETC) EACH	£9.00
CD ROM DELUXE PACK (MAVIS BEACON ETC)	£13.00
HOCUS POCUS / MYSTIC TOWERS	£8.50
NIGHT OWL 15 (LATEST AND GREATEST)	£17.00
CHALLENGE PACK (9 POPULAR GAMES)	£10.00
ONE STOP CD SHOP - 11 CD COMPILATION	£27.00
SIRILIS 3`6 PACK - KIDS COMPILATION	£17.00
TEN YEAR ANTHOLOGY (CLASSIC GAMES)	£13.00

OEM & UNBOXED CD ROM

7TH GUEST - (UNBOXED)	£10.00
ARTHUR'S TEACHER TROUBLE (UNBOXED)	£13.00
COMPTONS INTERACTIVE 1995 (UNBOXED)	£18.00
CREEPY CRAWLIES (DOS) (UNBOXED)	£10.00
DARKSEED (UNBOXED)	£10.00
DAY OF THE TENTICLE (UNBOXED)	£12.00
DICTIONARY OF THE LIVING WORLD (UNBOXED)	£13.00
DUNE (UNBOXED)	£11.50
ECOQUEST (UNBOXED)	£13.00
GROLIER ENCYCLOPEDIA V.7 (UNBOXED)	£18.00
INFOPEDIA (UNBOXED)	£17.00
IRON HELIX (UNBOXED)	£10.50
JOURNEYMAN PROJECT - TURBO (UNBOXED)	£12.50
JUST GRANDMA & ME (UNBOXED)	£12.00
KINGS QUEST VI (UNBOXED)	£10.00
LAWNMOWER MAN (UNBOXED)	£11.00
LEGEND OF KYRANDIA (UNBOXED)	£11.00
MEGARACE (UNBOXED)	£10.00
MULTIMEDIA WORLD HISTORY (UNBOXED)	£14.50
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAMMALS - (UNBOXED)	£16.20
OCEANS BELOW (UNBOXED)	£10.00
PUTT PUTT JOINS THE PARADE (UNBOXED)	£11.00
REBEL ASSAULT (UNBOXED)	£21.00
REDSHIFT (UNBOXED)	£29.00
RETURN TO ZORK - (UNBOXED)	£11.00
SIM CITY 2000 - (UNBOXED)	£17.00
SPACE ADVENTURE - (UNBOXED)	£9.00
STAR WARS CHESS (UNBOXED)	£12.00
T.F.X. FLIGHT SIM - (UNBOXED)	£16.00
WOLFENSTEIN 3D/BLAKESTONE (UNBOXED)	£10.00
WORLD ATLAS Vs (UNBOXED)	£10.00

FULL RETAIL BOXED CD ROM

COOL SCHOOL 3 CD EDUCATIONAL	£15.00
COREL DRAW 3 CD	£54.60
DAEMONSGATE (FULL BOX)	£12.00
DOOM II	£37.60
KINGS QUEST VII	£28.00
HARRY AN D THE HAUNTED HOUSE	£29.26
LION KING STORY BOOK	£26.39
MACMILLAN'S DICTIONARY FOR CHILDREN	£17.00
MICROSOFT WORKS 3.0	£40.00
MICROSOFT ANCIENT LANDS	£32.00
MICROSOFT BOOKSHELF	£32.00
MICROSOFT DANGEROUS CREATURES	£32.00
MICROSOFT ART GALLERY	£32.00
MICROSOFT CINEMANIA 95	£39.00
MICROSOFT DINOSAURS	£32.00
MICROSOFT CREATIVE WRITER	£32.00
MICROSOFT FINE ARTIST	£32.00
MICROSOFT MAGIC SCHOOL BUS SOLAR SYSTEM	£30.00
MICROSOFT MAGIC SCHOOL BUS HUMAN BODY	£30.00

REFERENCE & RESOURCES CD ROM

AIRCRAFT ENCYCLOPEDIA	£10.00
ANIMALS OF SAN DIEGO ZOO	£10.00
ENDANGERED & THREATENED SPECIES	£10.00
EYEWITNESS ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE (DK)	£39.00
FAMILY DOCTOR III	£10.00
INCREDIBLE CROSS SECTIONS (DK)	£32.00
INTERACTIVE SPACE ENCYCLOPEDIA	£33.00
LIBRIS BRITANNICA IV (SCIENCE & TECH LIBRARY)	£12.00
MY 1ST INCREDIBLE AMAZING DICTIONARY	£32.00
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM	£10.00
THE ULTIMATE HUMAN BODY (DK)	£39.00
THE WAY THINGS WORK (DK)	£39.00
WORLD OF FLIGHT	£12.00
WORLD OF TRAINS	£12.00

MORE GREAT SAVINGS - S.A.E. FOR CATALOGUE

Tick & Total the Price Shown Above £
Add VAT @ 17.5% £
Add Post & Packing @ £ 2.00
CHEQUE/P.O./VISA/ACC/SWITCH Total £
CARD No: Exp Date:

MICRO STUDIO

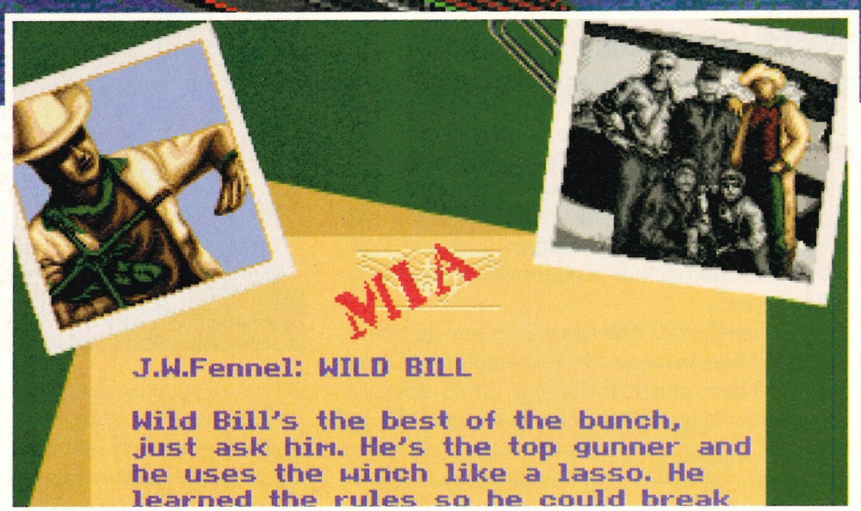
22 CHURCHGATE STREET
SOHAM, CAMBS CB7 5DS

ORDER HOTLINE
01353 624997
FAX ORDER LINE
01353 624232

9.30am - 4.30pm
MONDAY - SATURDAY

Jungle Strike

Dive into your cockpit and prepare yourself for an orgy of blasting action with a helicopter sequel to die for . . .



Right: choose your co-pilot carefully using the detailed dossiers you get at the beginning of each level. Below: don't blow up the White House, you dopey git, otherwise it's the dole queue for you.

Many, many moons after it appeared on console systems, Jungle Strike finally makes it to CD-ROM. So you'll be pleased to hear that it hasn't dated at all and has converted well on to the PC, even to the extent of retaining the isometric 3D viewpoint and extremely addictive gameplay of its predecessor.

In Desert Strike, the first game in the series, you were cast as a member of an elite American military unit, and battled from the cockpit of your trusty 'copter in the blistering heat of the desert sun, to wipe out the evil forces of the barking mad megalomaniac, General Kilbaba.

Continuing very much on the same lines, Jungle Strike pitches you against Kilbaba Junior, (the General's son) and his sidekick, a notorious South American drugs baron. This madcap deadly duo are set on a quest to continue the General's nuclear weapon building programme, with the ultimate aim of dropping the finished products on America and wiping out the entire continent. You, funnily enough, have got to stop them single-handedly. Big thrills.



Whirlybird catches the worm

Once again, your main form of transport and attack is via your whirlybird — a top class Comanche helicopter equipped with the height of sophisticated weaponry such as chainguns (lots of ammo but fairly ineffectual on the maiming and killing front), hydras (more powerful but less in number) and hellfires (devastating effect but an extremely limited amount).

But instead of being restricted to just the chopper, there are three new vehicles into which you must transfer to complete certain missions. These include an X-9 attack hovercraft, F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter and a special forces assault motorcycle, all of which have different weaponry unique to them.

That's all very well and good from a variety point of view and the programmers should be given credit for trying to create a true sequel instead of just a revamp of the original. The only problem is, these new vehicles aren't a fraction as good as the Comanche and are mostly unwieldy, difficult to control and have inferior weapon power. The stealth fighter particularly is dire — it may be ultra-fast, but it never slows down, making it very difficult to steer



and after one crash into something the craft just disintegrates.

Presentation wise the game can't be faulted. There are scores of neat FMV cut -screens which are clean and effective, although the acting is a bit wooden. The sound is also good, with clear speech during the mission briefings, and fairly good sound effects in-game. There are maps galore which detail where you should be heading and where you can replenish fuel, armour and weaponry. Plus detailed mission objective screens and intelligence updates throughout the game. The graphics in and out of the game are hardly stunning, but highly functional and quite good enough for the purposes of playing and deriving enjoyment.

Well blow me!

Each of the game's eight levels set you several missions to complete in a certain order.

In Washington DC you must save the famous monuments from certain destruction from a terrorist onslaught, blow up a few terrorist headquarters and rescue the President from an assassination attempt.

In Sub Hunt your task is to prevent Kilbaba's plutonium stash crossing the water to its hidden inland destination; rescue a few navy seals; and zip about in your hovercraft, destroying any passing nuclear subs.

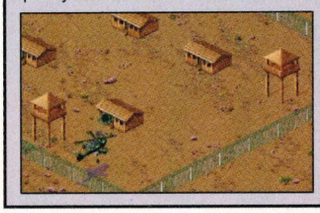
Then it's on to the madman's training ground, where wiping out would-be killers is top of the menu, followed by a bit of tasty death and destruction with a few rescue missions thrown in for good measure.

And so it goes on, through a darkened night strike mission, city-based strikes, over rivers, mountains and even one snow-covered campaign, rescuing, shooting, bombing, ducking, diving and generally trying to keep alive in a battle of wits against the hordes of heavily armed foes which keep up a constant wave of attack. Some may complain of a lack of variety in the gameplay and indeed, if you didn't like the general feel of Desert Strike, you're unlikely to get much joy out of this sequel — particularly since the vehicle variations aren't very playable. Personally, I think it's pretty fab and although you're doing the same sort of things over and over, the vastly different background graphics give you a feeling of diversity. The difficulty setting is pitched just right too, so although the game is still damn hard, it's user-friendly controls and some elusive addictive quality — possibly being given the chance to blast the blazes out of anything that moves, but having to think in a vaguely tactical fashion before you do so — keeps dragging you back for just one more go.

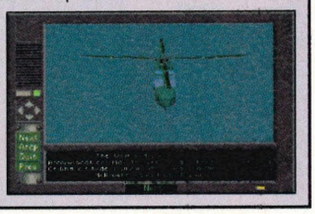
❍ **Lucy Hickman**

ALTERNATIVELY

DESERT STRIKE
Gremlin, £34.99
Rated 7, Issue 36
The first game in Gremlin's Strike series is very similar in style to Jungle Strike. Whilst Jungle Strike is more varied in that you have more vehicles to control, some of us at Emap Images prefer the simplicity of Desert. A matter of taste.



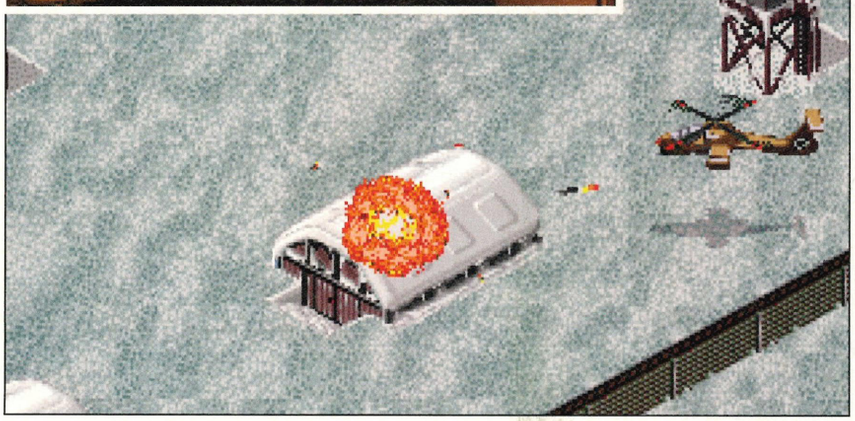
KA-50 HOKUM,
Virgin, £49.99
Rated 7, Issue 41
For those of you who prefer a more serious kind of helicopter game, Virgin's strategic heli simulation should fit the bill. The choppers fly very accurately, and this is definitely the best in its class since Gunship 2000.





Above: the hostages come racing out, so drop your ladder, pick 'em up and whizz them off to safety.





Inset above: helpful little maps show you the position and details of your next mission objective, Above: as your quest takes you further north, it gets damned chilly. Pack your thermals.



Exciting sequel, marred by glitches.

TECHSPEC 8 RATING

Publisher:	Gremlin
Price:	£34.99
Contact:	(01742) 753423
Minimum PC:	33MHz 386
Minimum memory:	2Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster

CD ONLY

Ticonderoga

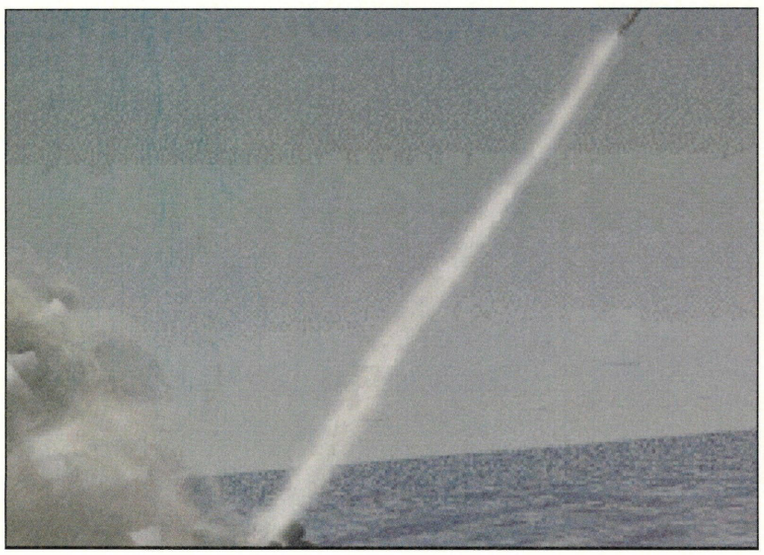
Enlist for a life on the ocean wave in Intelligent Games' eagerly awaited first release.

Ticonderoga is a map-based contemporary naval warfare simulation that puts you in command of a state-of-the-art American cruiser and challenges you to save the free world from the usual assortment of Iranians, North Koreans and Russian born-again bad guys. Sound at all familiar? It ought to, it's a well-furrowed field.

Last year Time Warner gave us Aegis, which funnily enough starred a Ticonderoga class cruiser, and recently we also got Harpoon 2, which despite some bizarre scenarios effortlessly took the laurel in the heavy-duty simulation stakes. Harpoon will inevitably cast a shadow over any modern naval game, and it's by no means to Ticonderoga's discredit that I kept getting a powerful sense of deja vu. But does Ticonderoga do anything more, or is it just fated to be dubbed a poor man's Harpoon?

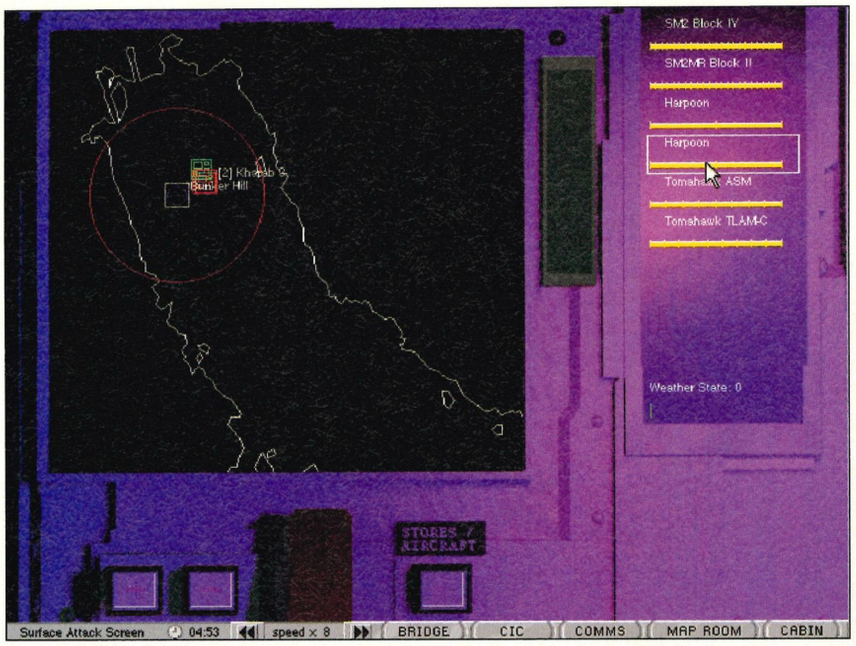
Middle of the road

I think that depends on what kind of game you're looking for. On a complexity scale where Aegis is near the bottom and Harpoon firmly at the top, I'd put Ticonderoga pretty well slap bang in the middle. If you want to learn Harpoon you'll need to treat the manual like an academic textbook and follow the numerous tutorials religiously; I picked up Ticonderoga in about ten minutes with a bit of hit-and-miss and some selective browsing. The manual, incidentally, though quite thick, consists in large part of reference sections. It could be better laid out. The tutorial is effectively the first scenario in the Persian Gulf campaign. There are three of these campaigns, and your first task after watching the attractive introduction is to choose a theatre of war in which to operate. Besides the Gulf there's





Above: you get a choice of three theatres in which to operate. This is an overview of the Korean sector. Left: a missile streaks off to intercept the foe.



All of the maps look pretty much the same. This happens to be the surface map, so if you want to check out submarine or air threats you'll have to go elsewhere. Those little abstract dots may not look very exciting, but that's modern computer-controlled naval warfare for you.

Korea and the Atlantic (to face down those resurgent Russians). Make your choice and get ready to start squinting at those maps.

Maps? We got 'em!

Well, not quite. The problem with maps, as any but the most aesthetically bone-headed of wargamers will surely acknowledge, is that really they're a bit dull, and nautical maps are a great deal duller than land maps — a case of any colour so long as it's blue.

With Harpoon 2 the answer was to ignore it altogether. Harpoon simply makes no concessions. It's a map-based war game so maps is what you get — period. There are a few fuzzy clips of missiles and planes whizzing about, but effectively what you're buying is 2D maps with a lot of boring slow-moving blips and dots. You've got a better chance of being visually stimulated flicking through the Yellow Pages.

Aegis tried to jazz things up by introducing a bit of 3D perspective to the maps, and even dared to substitute figurative icons for abstract military symbols. And it had some more video clips of missiles and planes. Not a bad attempt, and it was aiming to be playable rather than realistic, but the end result wasn't sufficiently out of the ordinary.

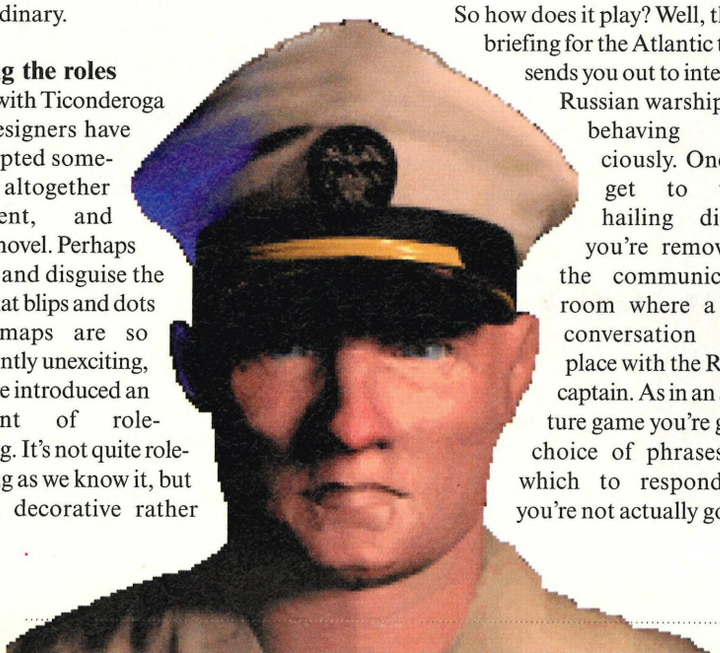
Ruling the roles

Now with Ticonderoga the designers have attempted something altogether different, and quite novel. Perhaps to try and disguise the fact that blips and dots and maps are so inherently unexciting, they've introduced an element of role-playing. It's not quite role-playing as we know it, but has a decorative rather than dramatic function. You can actually tour your Ticonderoga cruiser, which is drawn in a 3D environment. Click on a door and it'll open. In the captain's cabin you can even turn on the tap (pointlessly) or use the TV to watch video recordings of combat action. Good music and sound effects add to the atmosphere. The aim is obviously to make you feel as if you're in command of a real ship, not just a map reader.

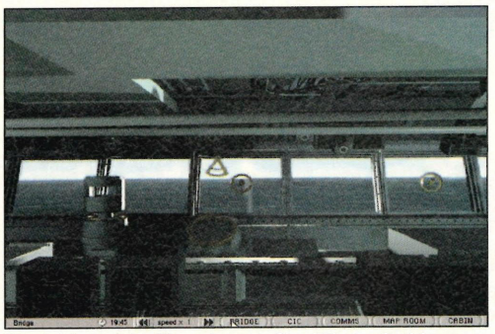
What's the point?

But there's no disguising the fact that they're irrelevant. True, in the map room you can access one of those dull old cartographical screens by clicking on the picture of the, er, map, but you can do that anyway with a shortcut keyboard command. None of the shipboard locations have any real game-playing function. Nor, I suspect, do the allegedly role-playing episodes which punctuate scenarios.

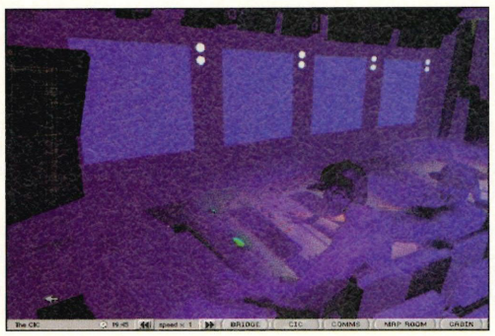
So how does it play? Well, the first briefing for the Atlantic theatre sends you out to intercept a Russian warship that's behaving suspiciously. Once you get to within hailing distance you're removed to the communications room where a radio conversation takes place with the Russian captain. As in an adventure game you're given a choice of phrases with which to respond, but you're not actually going to



STATION TO STATION:



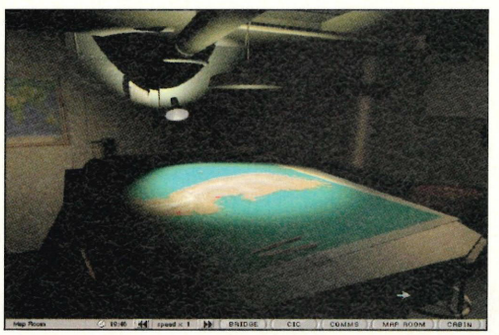
The bridge of the Ticonderoga. Smell that salt air!



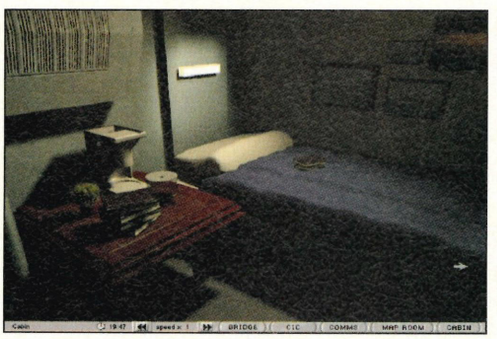
In the Control room. Click on the computer screens to access the various maps.



The Communications room. You'll be brought here during role-playing episodes.



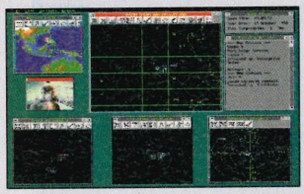
In the map room. Click on the map itself to get a view of the area of operations.



The Captain's Cabin. So what if nothing happens here — it's beautifully drawn.

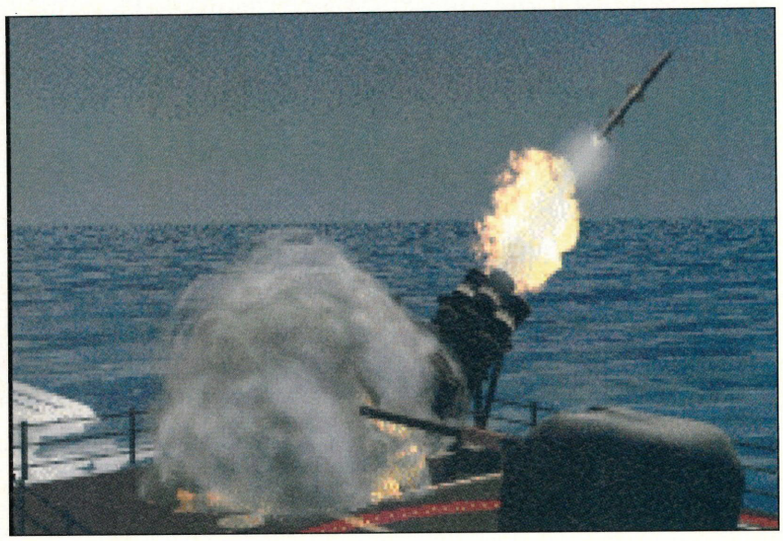
ALTERNATIVELY

HARPOON 2
Electronic Arts
Rated 8, Issue 35
An indimidatingly realistic modern naval simulation. But can it really be described as a game? Though it's only for the dedicated naval strategist it's one of the most impressive items of software on the market.



GREAT NAVAL BATTLES 2
SSI
Rated 8, Issue 32
Hugely ambitious in scale, GNB2 puts you in command of massive carrier-based fleets in the WW2 Pacific Theatre. Superior graphics, complex and deep, but surprisingly playable. The best naval simulation around.





affect the action in any way, because it turns out that the Russian is trying to defect, and this is the point of the (hardly original) scenario. You now receive new orders to escort the defector to safety and the game proper starts. Why couldn't that have just been the original briefing?

Anoraks anonymous

So who is going to buy this game? Not fans of Monkey Island or Sam and Max. It's for those saddest of anoraks (I admit I'm one), hardcore war gamers, who are going to judge it solely by what takes place on those frequently aforementioned maps. And fortunately Ticonderoga scores well in the department that matters, though I'm not sure why it needs quite so many of the damned things — there are separate screens for surface, anti-submarine, and air operations. In addition you have to go to a separate navigational screen to actually move your ships, and to yet another to control your sensors. I got used to it all reasonably quickly, but in quiet spells there's an inevitable temptation to whack up the time compression, and then if you're not lightning fast on your mouse button you can get badly caught out.

> "There really is no getting away from the fact that this game is all about maps. Who is going to buy it? Not fans of Monkey Island."

Only obeying orders

When push comes to shove, as in any war game, Ticonderoga is simply about blowing things up while avoiding getting blown up yourself. The scenario structure adds a bit of window-dressing, but essentially enemy blips and dots are going to keep on appearing and you're going to have to fry them before they fry you.

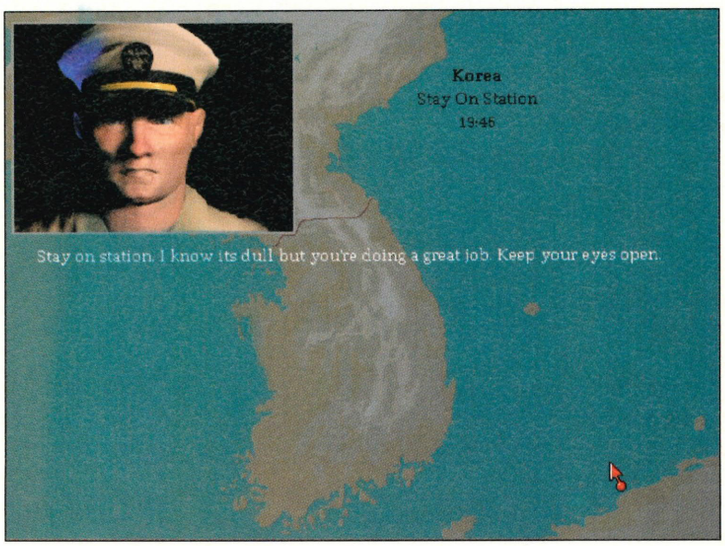
Naturally the scenarios increase in difficulty, so the pace can get pretty frantic. Reconnaissance is vital, and so is selecting the right weapon the moment a target is identified. All modern weaponry is here.

You may have a number of ships under your command, in which case you'll need to issue multiple orders. Thankfully a menu allows you to define general instructions, though there may be occasions when you feel compelled to take personal command. Although it's a strategy game, you'll need to think and react rapidly. Dull as those old map graphics are, Ticonderoga is absorbing and challenging.

This is the first release from Intelligent Games, a small but exciting British company with a lot of interesting projects in the pipeline. It's cleverly designed and — well, intelligent. But in its essence it's not strikingly original. That needn't necessarily matter.

If you like the idea of Harpoon 2, but are put off by its complexity, this would be an excellent choice. It's more easily playable, and considerably less taxing on the old grey matter. Just don't be fooled by the role-playing element into thinking it's something new or different. Ticonderoga is a war game, pure and simple. In my view that's no bad thing.

❍ Simon Shaw





TECHSPEC 7 RATING

A fine addition to the genre.

Publisher:	Intelligent Games/Mindscape
Price:	£44.99
Contact:	(01444) 246333

CD ONLY

Minimum PC:	486DX DOS 5.0+Double speed CD
Minimum memory:	8Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA (VESA compatibility)
Sound:	Sound Blaster & compatible

TRANSPORT TYCOON

$ World $ EDITOR



"Bloody brilliant!"
PC GAMES 93%

"More compelling than Sim City 2000"
PC HOME 93%

"In short, Transport Tycoon is brilliant."
PC GAMER 91%

GOLD

"Massive and brilliant!"
PC FORMAT 90%

"It's fabulous!"
PC REVIEW 9/10

"One of the best MicroProse games"
PC POWER 90%

$ INCLUDES MODEM LINK REQUIRES THE ORIGINAL TRANSPORT TYCOON $

DESIGNED AND WRITTEN BY

Chris Sawyer

We've made it big, now you can make it better!

Now, build your own Transport Tycoon world from scratch.
Nothing is left to chance. YOU create the towns, rivers, mountains and industries.
The tools are all there, can you finish the job?

PLUS, a new fun feature: the Mars Graphics. The gameplay remains the same, but the game is played on a 'steam-punk' style Martian landscape.

PLUS, an all-new challenge: play a friend or rival via the fully featured Modem Link.

Transport Tycoon World Editor. The freedom to make it big, YOUR WAY!

FOR IBM PC COMPATIBLES MICROPROSE

Quarterdeck
OFFICE SYSTEMS

BRING ON THE CAVALRY...

GAMERUNNER
RETAIL PRICE
ONLY £50
(inc VAT)

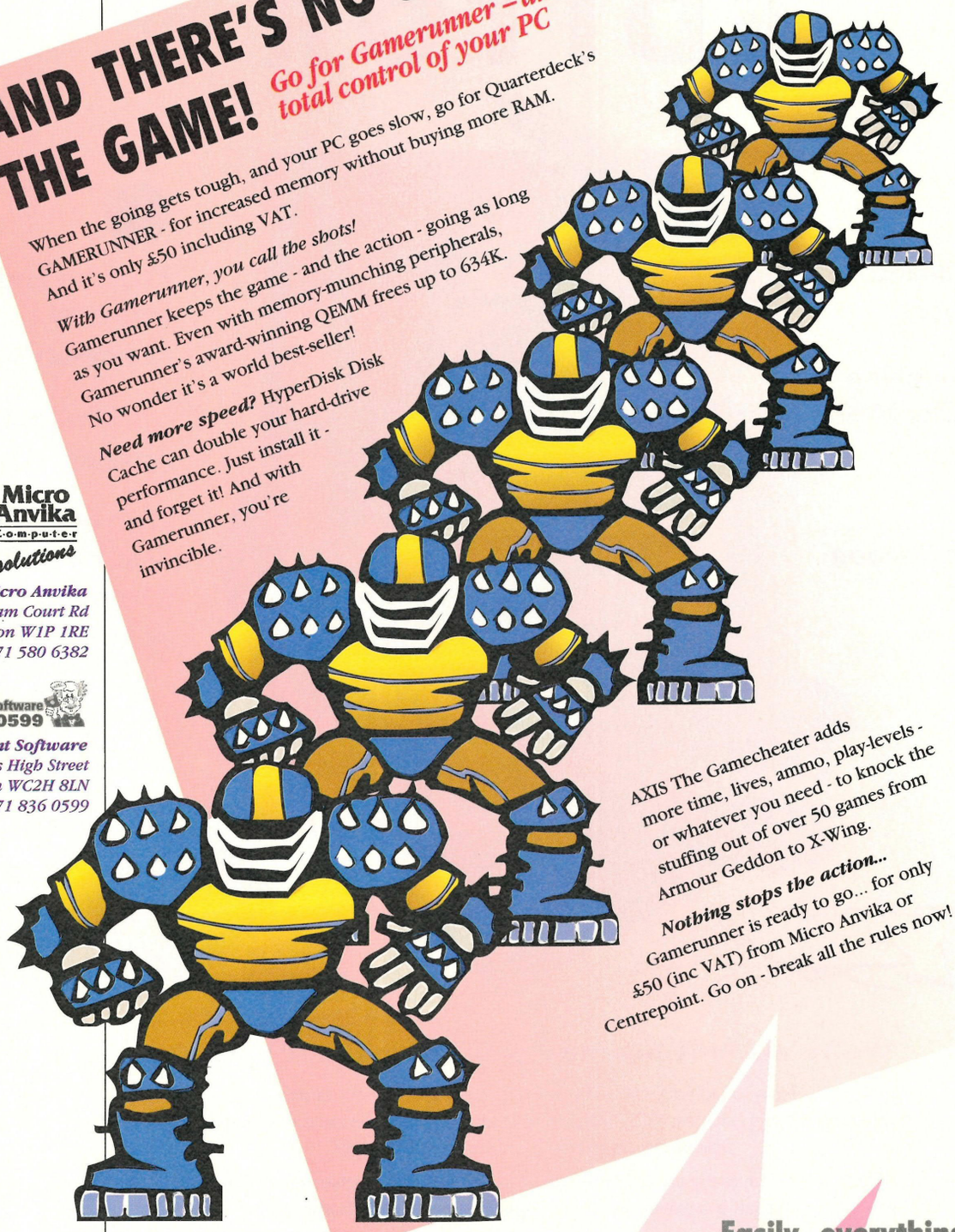
AND THERE'S NO STOPPING THE GAME!

Go for Gamerunner – and total control of your PC

When the going gets tough, and your PC goes slow, go for Quarterdeck's GAMERUNNER - for increased memory without buying more RAM. And it's only £50 including VAT.

With Gamerunner, you call the shots! Gamerunner keeps the game - and the action - going as long as you want. Even with memory-munching peripherals, Gamerunner's award-winning QEMM frees up to 634K. No wonder it's a world best-seller!

Need more speed? HyperDisk Disk Cache can double your hard-drive performance. Just install it - and forget it! And with Gamerunner, you're invincible.



AXIS The Gamecheater adds more time, lives, ammo, play-levels - or whatever you need - to knock the stuffing out of over 50 games from Armour Geddon to X-Wing.

Nothing stops the action... Gamerunner is ready to go... for only £50 (inc VAT) from Micro Anvika or Centrepoint. Go on - break all the rules now!

Micro Anvika
Computer solutions

Micro Anvika
53-54 Tottenham Court Rd
London W1P 1RE
Tel: 0171 580 6382

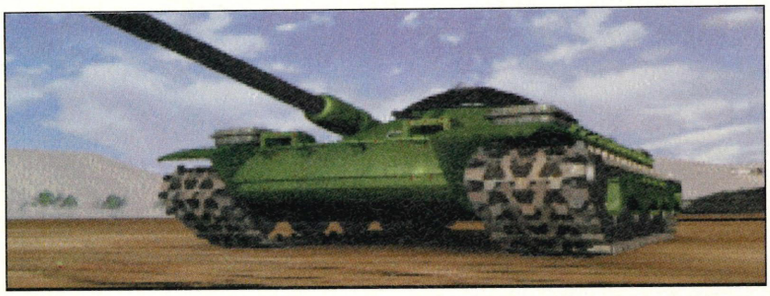
Centrepoint Software
071 836 0599

Centrepoint Software
20-21 St Giles High Street
London WC2H 8LN
Tel: 0171 836 0599

Easily, everything you need

FRONTLINE
COMPUTER 2000 GROUP

Call Micro Anvika on 0171 580 6382
or Centrepoint Software on 0171 836 0599



Front Lines

How many hex-based war games do you need? Just one more, according to Impressions.

If you're going to invade somewhere, you might as well go the whole hog and go for world domination. Fortunately for us, the cartel leaders in Front Lines *are* set on world domination, so you, either as the leader of the government forces or the industrial cartel, must wipe out the enemy. To be honest, all this background stuff is fairly incidental, because however you dress it up, this is really just another hex-mapped, turn-based war game, and despite the naff plot, actually quite a respectable one.

As if the plot wasn't bad enough, the introduction sequence joins the growing number of nominees for the, ' waste of a CD' award. The floppy and CD versions take the same amount of hard disk space, so it seems all the CD is for is the odd bit of speech and dull animated sequences.

Once into the game, it does get better. After choosing sides, play one of the predefined scenarios, which vary in difficulty or — if you don't find them challenging enough — create your own with a scenario builder, where practically everything is modifiable. The game itself follows the standard move, move, fire, fire turn system, but has loads of options to break this up, including opportunity fire, close assault, unit quality and limited visibility. Standard stuff in war games, but it's good to see them all here.

Hit the button bar

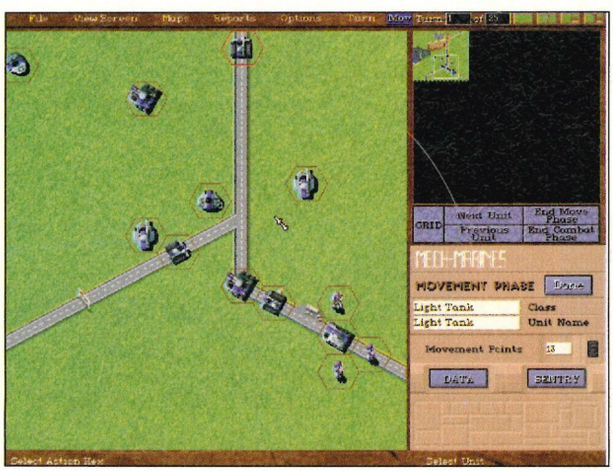
The in-game graphics are crisp SVGA. The main battle map is clear and has a host of options which show various statistics and you can add other windows to convey more detailed information about unit disposition. Information about the 14 unit types available can be found in a unit summary database, strengths and weaknesses of each unit being described by a suitably over-the-top voiceover.

The scenarios come in three flavours — easy, medium and hard — the most obvious differences being the size of the battle area and the number of units involved. Like the background for the game itself, the political situation for each scenario is incidental to the game. This becomes even more apparent when no matter how you fare in one battle, it has no effect on the others. Once play starts it takes time for your units to trundle slowly across the battlefield into position and then you have to wait for the machine to make its move. More than once I popped out for a cuppa and yes, I did have the double speed animations switched on. If you don't find the computer opponent a turn on though, you can always challenge mates instead via a modem, which gives the game almost limitless life when coupled with the Scenario Builder.

All in all the, once the exterior is stripped away Front Lines is a competent turned-based war game.



Above: battle tanks in the future may look something like this.



It won't win any graphics awards, but at least the screen is clear.

❍ Tony Cocks



TECHSPEC 7 RATING

A respectable, turn-based war game.

Publisher:	Impressions
Price:	£39.99
Contact:	(0181) 780 0329
Minimum PC:	386 DX
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	SVGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster & compatibles

CD ONLY

when you insist on Quality & CHOICE...



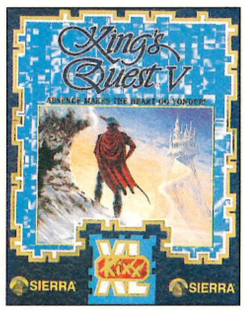
Indiana Jones® and the Fate of Atlantis™
CBM Amiga, IBM PC & Compatibles 3.5"
RRP £16.99

Monkey Island 2: Le Chuck's Revenge®
CBM Amiga, IBM PC & Compatibles 3.5"
RRP £16.99

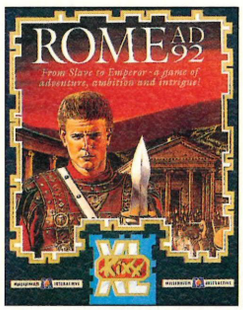
Monkey Island™
Atari ST, CBM Amiga,
IBM PC & Compatibles 3.5" **RRP £16.99**
PC CD-ROM **RRP £19.99**



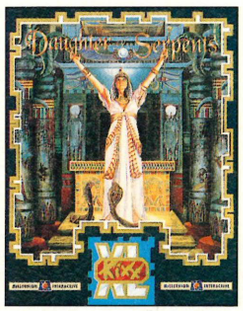
Red Baron™
CBM Amiga, IBM PC
& Compatibles 3.5"
RRP £14.99



King's Quest®
CBM Amiga, IBM PC
& Compatibles 3.5"
RRP £16.99



Rome AD92
CBM Amiga, IBM PC
& Compatibles 3.5"
RRP £14.99



Daughter of Serpents
IBM PC &
Compatibles 3.5"
RRP £16.99

...You need to...

Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis game © 1992 Lucasfilm Ltd. and LucasArts Entertainment Company. Indiana Jones is a registered trademark of Lucasfilm Ltd. Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis is a trademark of LucasArts Entertainment Company. Monkey Island 2: Le Chuck's Revenge ® and © 1991 LucasArts Entertainment Company. The Secret of Monkey Island ® and © 1990 LucasArts Entertainment Company. The LucasArts logo is a registered trademark of LucasArts Entertainment Company. All rights reserved. Used under authorization. IMUSE U.S. Patent No. 5,315,057. Licensed to KIXX.

KIXX XL
A DIVISION OF CENTREGOLD PLC

...Make the ConneXion

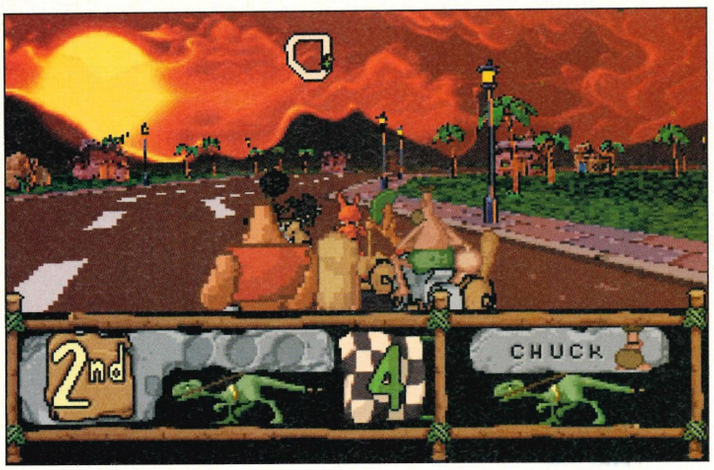
Red Baron is a trademark of Dynamix, Inc. ® is a registered trademark of Dynamix, Inc. King's Quest® is a registered trademark of Sierra On-Line, Inc. ©1990, 1991 Sierra On-Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Licensed to KIXX.

Daughter of Serpents, ROME AD92 © 1992 Millennium. Licensed to KIXX.

Kixx, 1-4 Cuckoo Wharf, 427 Lichfield Road, Aston, Birmingham B6 7SS. Tel: 0121 625 3366.

BC Racers

Put the pedal to the metal and burn some rubber . . . Nah, sod that — try racing around tracks on wooden wheels and kicking dino ass instead.



We're going back in time, folks, back, back, back to a time when microchips were still small fried potatoes. We are talking Stone Age here, when men were men and sabre-toothed tigers were frightened. A bit. Well, not very much at all, actually — in fact, the men only succeeded in killing them off because the tigers couldn't fight for laughing so much at their little naked bods, pointy sticks and comedy fierce expressions.

Using typical creative licence, Core Design has fudged historical accuracy and created a cartoonesque racing game where bearskin bedecked humanoids team up with anyone stupid enough — be it animal, vegetable or mineral — to engage in a rough and tumble race to the finish against like-minded and similarly attired opponents.



The aim of the game is simplicity itself: you control one of the bizarre contraptions, just like the Boulder Brothers in Wacky Races and hare round the tracks like a whippet with a rocket up its jacksy without smashing into barriers, houses, trees, pot-holes or other obstacles.

Rucking around

Each car holds two beings — one to drive and one to indulge in one of my favourite features of the game — hitting anything or anybody opponent-wise who starts getting too close. There are numerous teams to choose from, all of which have their own strengths and weaknesses. Big, bold and comically cartoony in the intro sequence, these characters sadly lose much of their endearing features in the game itself because of the pixellated graphic style.

Under control

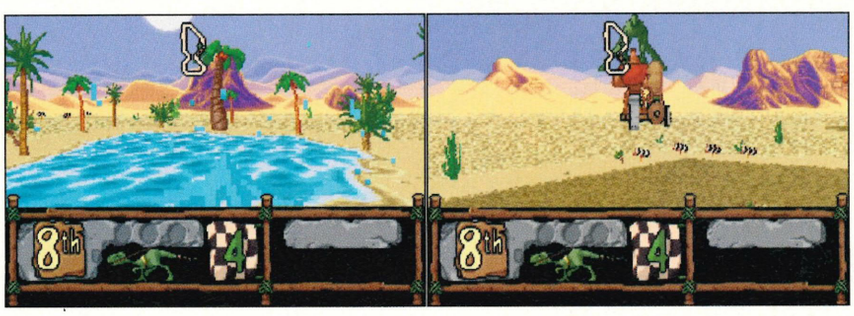
The game employs a simple yet effective control system — accelerate, break, left/right and punch — but I was fairly disappointed with the gameplay in Easy mode because you can fly round and qualify on most of the seven tracks without too much trouble. However, stick it on Rock Hard setting and you get ridiculously windy tracks and much tougher opponents. The waterlogged level is the best — your co-ordination is tested to the hilt while you have to corner and position your vehicle exactly right to ensure you hit the bridge and not a watery grave.

The two-player option provides some split screen fun, with one player using the keyboard and the other using mouse or joystick. It may be that my mouse is a bit dodgy, but I found it completely unplayable using that particular method, so you have been warned.

All in all, this isn't ground-breaking stuff, but it's an easy game to control which, although let down a bit on the graphics front, still provides a fair amount of fun, particularly in two-player mode.

Above: Saddo and Sid slip through the narrow gap to take the lead after indulging in some thoroughly unedifying scrapping action.

❍ Lucy Hickman



Above left: mistime the bridge and you head straight for a watery grave. Above right: fortunately, your friendly neighbourhood flying reptile gives you a helping hand — if you ask him nicely.



TECHSPEC 6 RATING

Fun, but let down by shoddy graphics.

DISK ONLY

Publisher:	Core Design
Price:	£34.99
Contact:	(0332) 297797
Minimum PC:	486, MS-DOD 5.0
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster, Gravis, General Midi

FLIGHT OF THE AMAZON Queen



Crash Land Into Adventure !



FULL CD-ROM TALKIE

An animated graphic adventure featuring PROGRESSIVELY DIFFICULT LEVEL OF PLAY • 100 DIFFERENT GRAPHIC LOCATIONS
OVER 40 CHARACTERS WITH WHICH TO INTERACT • ATMOSPHERIC MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS

A GAME BY **JOHN PASSFIELD** AND **STEVE STAMATIADIS**

Renegade

C1, METROPOLITAN WHARF, WAPPING WALL, LONDON E1 9SS © 1995 INTERACTIVE BINARY ILLUSIONS. PUBLISHED BY RENEGADE.

An INTERACTIVE BINARY ILLUSIONS ADVENTURE

Radio Active

Ho hum. US Gold's music trivia quiz show gives the word 'crass' a new dimension.

Why, I want to know, has Radio Active been released in Britain? This horrible, brash apology of a game is the sort of thing that could only really appeal to spaced out Californians (possibly): the 'humour' is so far off the mark that it may as well be on the Moon. If I said it was diabolical I would be doing it a favour. It's worse.

Radio Active, you see, is a completely unamusing send-up of a cringe-worthy American music trivia quiz show. The idea is to choose a contestant from a gallery of unlikeable stereotypes (brainless surfer-dude, aerobics bimbo, and so on) and then answer, well, music trivia questions. Usually this takes the format of a snatch of a music which you then have to identify through a multiple choice format. When it's time for your turn, you get to choose whether the question will be easy, medium or hard, and a spinning wheel comes up with the musical era from which your question will be taken.





Rogues' gallery? Gits' gallery, more like. Choose your ugly mug here.



If you get it right (which is most of the time, even on hard level), you then have the opportunity to attempt a bonus question for extra points. This entails arranging the lines from a song in the correct order by placing musical notes on a stave. Thrilling.

Verbal inanities

The problem is not the quiz itself — although the bias towards American music is tiresome — but the string of verbal inanities uttered by each contestant (particularly the surfer) after their turns. I'm sorry, but pass the barf-bag. If I wanted to listen to this sort of rubbish I'd have bought a satellite dish. I guess it might have a certain appeal if you'd just crawled out of the pub at 11.30pm, but even then the appeal is short-lived. Given the choice between playing this and indulging in all sorts of daft drinking games at the local curry emporium, there's no contest. I'd take the hangover and the dodgy gut any day. It's unfortunate to say, but this is the sort of game WinDelete was made for.

❍ **Cal Jones**



Take it away, before I kill myself.

TECHSPEC

3

RATING

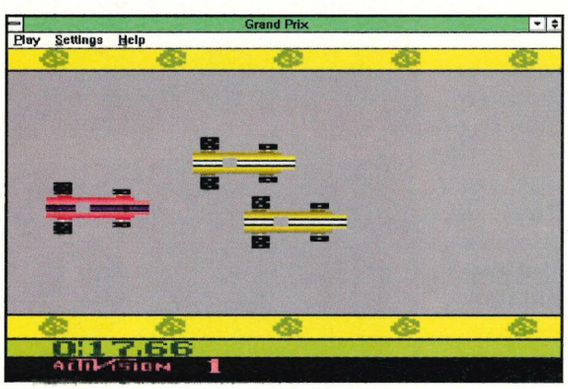
Publisher:	US Gold
Price:	£29.99
Contact:	(0121) 606 1800

CD ONLY

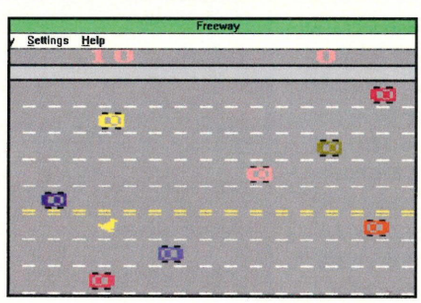
Minimum PC:	33 MHz 386, Windows 3.1, mouse
Minimum memory:	8Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster

Your eyes do not deceive you. These ARE pictures of PC games, faithfully ported from the ancient Atari 2600 console. But do any of them stand the test of time?

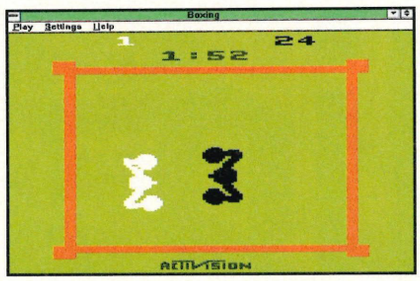
Atari 2600 Action Pack



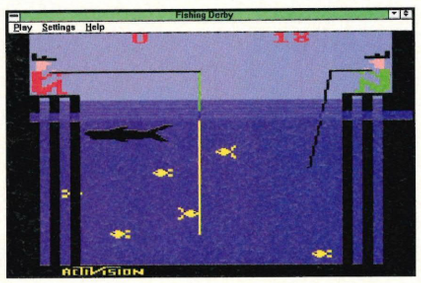
Fans of MicroProse's F1GP can breathe a sigh of relief: Atari's Grand Prix may be cheaper, but it's also pretty hopeless.



Remember the superb graphics of those old Atari games? No, we thought not.



With Mindscape's 4D Sports Boxing as its main rival, Atari's effort is heading for a first-round knockout.



Fishing Derby is easily the most frustrating game in the pack. It's also one of the few that bear playing for more than 10 minutes.

I was looking forward to this review. Anyone who's ever owned an Atari 2600 will understand why — it's a machine people remember with affection. You can only take affection so far, though. This 15 game compilation of some of the ancient console's finest moments proves that resurrection works best when the corpse is still fresh.

Part of the problem is the quality of the original games. I played some of them when they were first released, and they weren't astounding even then. I ran across them again about seven years ago, when some were converted to the Commodore 64 as budget releases; they still looked pretty creaky. Now they're available for the PC in a Windows-based package, and age hasn't improved them.

Simplistic arcade games

This is the list of games you get for £25. My personal favourites are River Raid (a vertically-scrolling shoot 'em up), HERO (a search and rescue arcade game), Fishing Derby (a single-screen fishing tournament, far more exciting than it sounds) and Pitfall! (a decent arcade adventure, an updated version of which is soon to be released on PC). The rest consists of a mainly hopeless group of simplistic arcade games with miserable graphics — including Freeway (a sad Frogger clone), Cosmic Commuter (a poor Defender variant), Chopper Command and Seaquest (two-way scrolling shoot 'em ups), Grand Prix, Boxing, Frostbyte, Sky Jinks, Kaboom!, Crackpots and Spider Fighter. None of this last group are really worth explaining in any detail: if you didn't know them then, you won't want to now.

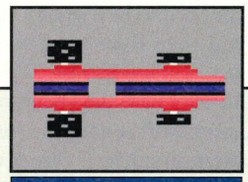
There are some positive aspects to the conversions. The irritating sound and tacky graphics are spot-on, and will bring back floods of memories. There's a two-player option which allows someone to share your misery, particularly in Freeway, Fishing Derby and Boxing. And you don't have to replace a cartridge every time you want to try something new.

Windows environment

The Windows environment gives you plenty of additional options. For example, you can use a joystick (preferable) or redefine keys; you can toggle the difficulty levels, choose between smooth or fast animation and keep a list of high scores. There's also a substantial help menu with full instructions on how to play, keyboard short-cuts, hints, and even extensive notes on the games' history. These historical details are often more interesting than the games themselves.

I can't see any overwhelming reasons for recommending this collection. It's cheap, it provides some nostalgic fun, and there are probably a couple of games you'll like if you really forget the fact that you're running them on a high-powered PC. Even so, I don't think nostalgia is a good enough excuse for re-releasing games so ancient that playing them for more than a few minutes induces mind-numbing boredom.

Gordon Houghton

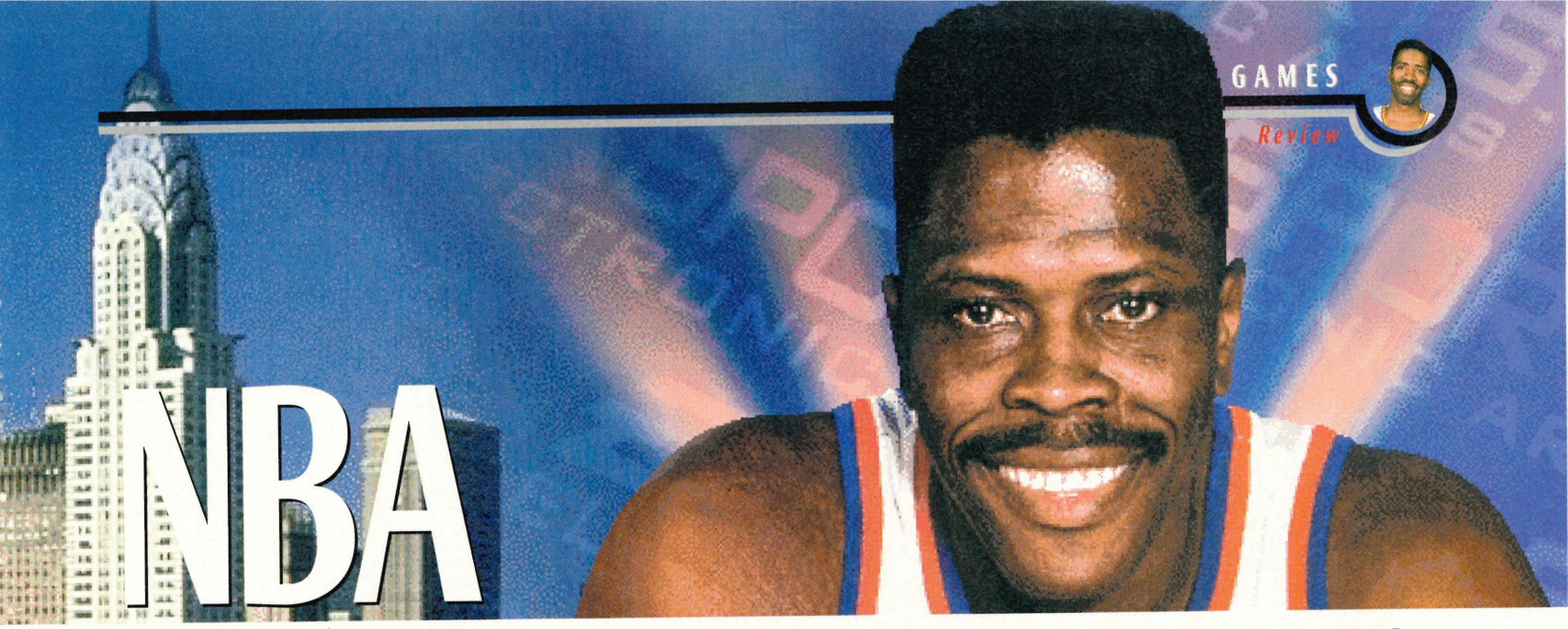


One for die-hard Atari 2600 fans only.

TECHSPEC 3 RATING

DISK & CD

Publisher:	Activision
Price:	£24.99
Contact:	(0181) 742 9400
Minimum PC:	486DX, MS-DOS 5.0, Windows 3.1
	(Windows 95 not supported), CD-ROM drive,
	joystick recommended
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster



NBA LIVE 95

Get out your popcorn, bite into your 'dog' and enjoy a taste of slam-dunkin' action.

Basketball, in case you were a little unsure, is a game for two teams of five players. The object is to shoot a ball through a basket set ten feet off the ground. If a player manages to get the ball in the net he scores two points. If, however, you score from behind the "D" marked on the floor, then a bonus point is added. The match is split into four quarters. Time-outs (where tactics can be discussed) are common and the regular use of substitutes is recommended.

NBA Live 95, in case you were also a little unsure, is a computerised basketball simulation that interweaves furious basketball style-ee gameplay with enough facts, figures and statistics on every team and player registered for the 1995 season to keep pretentious American teenagers happy for the foreseeable future.

You control a team of five players, toggling between players as the gameplay demands When attacking, you control the player with the ball, while in defence the player with a star surrounding him will be under your guidance.

Since basketball is an end-to-end game, there is little chance that you'll be out of the action for long, no matter how bad a player you think you are. If you are playing the game with a joystick or joypad (and I recommend the joypad), you'll soon realise just how easy and user friendly the whole game is to control.

Move your joypad and the player moves; press one button and he passes the ball; press the other and he'll attempt a shot. Defensively, you can choose which player to control — again just by pressing one of the buttons.

It won't take you long before you find yourself passing like a veteran and popping the ball in the basket with some of the most insulting and outrageous moves you are ever likely to see.

NBA Live 95 can be played against the computer, or placed in to two-player mode so that you can go head to head against a friend.

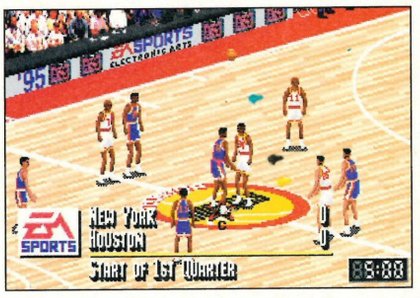
Because you're able to choose the skills of your opponents, and the type of match — exhibition, league or play-offs — and because you're able to trade players, alter your starting line up and influence game tactics, NBA Live 95 is more than competently equipped to keep you coming back time, after time, after time.

Mouth watering SVGA graphics set the atmosphere, and the commentator informs you of the quarterly scores with unbelievable realism. The only down side I could find is that you need a stonking great 8MB RAM if you want to benefit from playing in SVGA.

As a game, NBA Live 95 is brilliant. With all the accompaniments it's outstanding. Welcome to the Hall of Fame. Now where's my star-spangled banner?

❍ **Mike Wigley**





Main: before each game you have a run down of all the players. All displayed in glorious SVGA and all of the highest quality.



Above:the crowd goes wild as my eight foot six centre plops the ball through the net for two points. "Easy, easy."

Above left: well, all the talk has been done. It's now time to show what you can do.

Just start calling me Magic Mike.

TECHSPEC 8 RATING

Publisher:	Electronic Arts
Price:	£39.99
Contact:	(01753) 549552

CD ONLY

Minimum PC:	33MHz, 486DX, double speed drive, 10Mb disk space
Minimum memory:	4Mb (8Mb recommended)
Minimum graphics:	VGA, SVGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster, Roland, AdLib

TANK COMMANDER

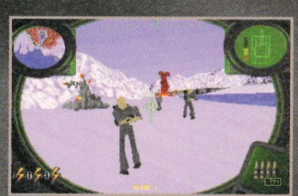
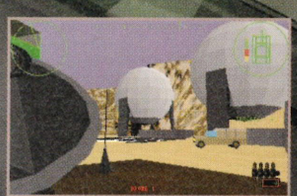
"An extremely playable blend of two-fisted destruction and subtle strategy."
NEXT GENERATION MAGAZINE

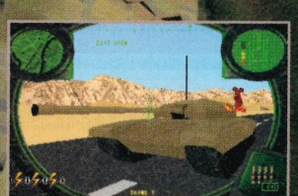
"The most enjoyable tank game I've ever played."
PC REVIEW

"Very addictive."
PC ZONE

- PC CD ROM
- 40 comprehensive missions
- Texture mapped landscapes
- Weaponry, ranging from machine guns and cannon to armour-piercing missiles and flame-throwers
- Modem and serial play for one-on-one head to head battles
- Supports IPX networks for multi-player action
- Highly accurate tank modelling, satellite views, FMV sequences, air strike support and above all OUTSTANDING gameplay . . .

FEATURES NETWORK AND MODEM PLAY

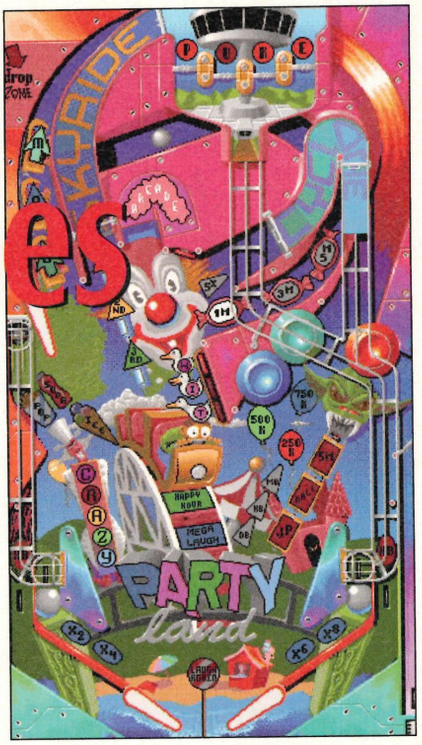
big red software

D MARK

PC CD ROM

Pinball Fantasies Deluxe

What, more pinball? Surely PC owners have had their fill of shiny balls and floppy flippers...



One thing's for certain, 21st Century Entertainment certainly knows how to make a good pinball game. Whether the company can actually make any other kind of game is debatable, because its back-catalogue of PC titles consists entirely of pinball simulations: Pinball Dreams, Pinball Dreams 2, Pinball Fantasies and the Deluxe versions. I guess the company philosophy is that if you can do something well, then do it to death. Which is why we now have Pinball Fantasies Deluxe, shortly to be followed by Pinball Illusions and Pinball World at a later date.

Pinball Fantasies Deluxe, like Pinball Dreams Deluxe (yes, I know it's confusing), is basically the CD-ROM version of Pinball Fantasies with four extra tables tacked on (making a total of eight). And like every other 21st Century Pinball game, it's satisfyingly accurate and extremely addictive. As I said, the company has had a lot of practice.



Tarantula is one of the four new tables, but it takes a bit of time to get into.

Having said that, I prefer the old Fantasies tables to the new four: Tarantula, Jailbreak, Kick Off and Jackpot. Jackpot, with its casino theme, is the most playable, but I could have done without the free-form jazz soundtrack. Whilst the new tables seem to have more in the way of flippers, the old set were somehow more interesting to play — Stones and Bones is still my favourite, and I also have a soft spot for Partyland. Still, eight tables for 40 quid is pretty good value — most other pinball games have only half that amount.

In all, this is a pretty good package. I wouldn't recommend it if you already have the floppy-disk version of Fantasies, but



One of the best pinball sims around

TECHSPEC 7 RATING

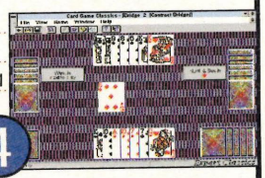
Publisher:	US Gold
Price:	£29.99
Contact:	(01235) 851533
Minimum PC:	386, MS DOS 3.3
Minimum memory:	640K
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster, Ad Lib, Roland

CD ONLY

SHORTS

Card Game Classics for Windows

Expert Software, £14.99
(0161) 832 6633
386, 4Mb RAM, VGA, Windows3.1
First reviewed
This issue



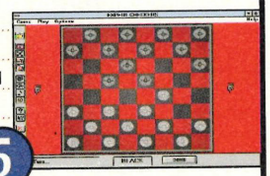
4

Card games galore including poker, bridge, cribbage and three types of solitaire. The cribbage and the solitaire games are fine, but the whole fun of poker is bluffing and winning piles of cash — not an easy job against the computer. The bridge game is a total dead loss — unintelligent and lacking in the conventions of bridge.

DISK ONLY

Favourite Games For Windows

Expert Software, £14.99
(0121) 625 3388
386, 4Mb RAM, VGA,Windows3.1
First reviewed
This issue



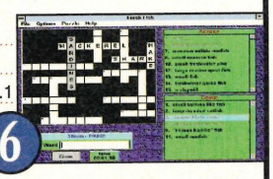
5

Rummy, Backgammon, Hearts, Draughts (or Checkers as the Yanks insist on calling it) and Yacht (similar to Poker Dice) all stuffed into one package. They all play OK (although you do tend to win every game with monotonous regularity) but there should be different skill settings and quite frankly, it's much more fun playing the real thing.

DISK ONLY

Crosswords & More For Windows

Expert Software, £14.99
(0121) 625 3366
386, 4Mb RAM, VGA, Windows3.1
First reviewed
This issue



6

Definitely the best of this month's Expert Software bunch — a choice of 400 categorised WordSearch puzzles, 150 general and themed Crossword puzzles and the chance to create 850 new crosswords and 600 new WordSearches — all good stuff except many of the answers are Americanisms.

DISK ONLY

Alone in the Dark\Shadow of theComet CD

Telstar, £39.99
(0181) 878 7888
386, 2Mb RAM, VGA,
MS DOS 5.0
Disk version first reviewed
This Issue



7

Two Infogrames games fill this CD. The original Alone in the Dark is still the creepiest game of that series, and although a bit on the small side, is an game essential in anyone's collection. Shadow is more of a conventional adventure, though like Alone is based on HP Lovecraft's horror myths. Entertaining, but the interface lets it down.

CD ONLY

Armed and Dangerous

APACHE LONGBOW

Apache-Longbow...frontline action with unprecedented detail, realism and gameplay. From quickstart free-for-all to demanding real-world missions...Apache-Longbow rules the battlefield - day and night.







Digital Integration

AVAILABLE ON CD ROM - £39.99

Digital Integration Limited, Watchmoor Trade Centre, Watchmoor Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3AJ. Tel:(01276) 684959

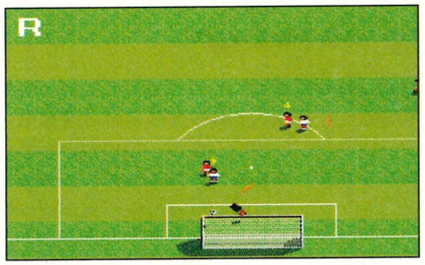
VISA Access

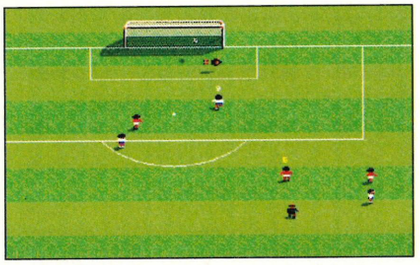
Football Glory

It looks like Sensible Soccer, but is it Football Glory "Uh Oh" rather than "Ooh Ah"? We booted up to find out.

In many respects, Football Glory looks identical to Sensible Soccer. For starters, the pitch is the same, the goals look similar and the tiny player sprites are practically identical. It also seems to play in exactly the same way, because Football Glory has a comparable aftertouch system and the sort of one-touch passing that made Sensible Soccer, oh so easy to get into.

But unfortunately, while Black Legend appears to have used Sensible Soccer as a football template, it hasn't quite managed to capture the style and the feel of the original game. Of course, it's got the look down pat and plays a competent game of football, but somehow the "feel" that made Sensible Soccer so good is missing.





If you haven't played Sensible Soccer, this lack of "feel" is quite hard to explain. But suffice it to say that with a combination of weird ball physics and the extra "silly" features that have been added to spice up the on-screen action, Football Glory would be well down my list when it comes to recommending a football game.

Annoying glitches

Why? Well, there are several major things that annoy me about Football Glory. Firstly, the ball doesn't seem to obey the laws of physics. The aftertouch system has been so exaggerated that instead of being able to bend the ball around a defensive wall in a smooth arc, you can turn and face the corner flag and try a banana shot with equal success.

Secondly, and probably most importantly, I hate the little Football Glory animations. These interludes, which include a streaker who runs onto the pitch and stretcher bearers who dash on to carry off an injured player, interrupt and destroy the flow of play. When you're 3-2 down with 10 minutes to go, the last thing you need is a fan running across the pitch pursued by an angry policeman. And don't talk to me about realism either. That went out with the bendy aftertouch.

All in all, if you're a Sensi fan or own a copy of the superb FIFA Soccer, then Football Glory doesn't and can't give you anything that you don't already have. If you haven't yet got a football game in your collection, the fact that you could probably pick up Football Glory for about £20 in large software stores might make it sound like a bargain. But don't be fooled. Football Glory isn't half the game that Sensi is, and if it's the big-match razzmatazz that you long for, either hang on for Sensible World Of Soccer or get a copy of FIFA. Football Glory is an acquired taste.

❍ **Dean Evans**

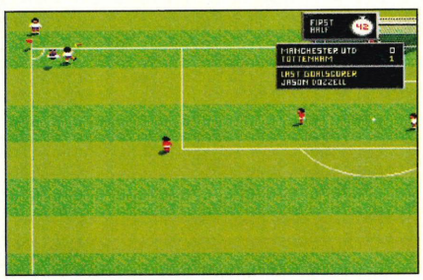


TECHSPEC 6 RATING

Looks like Sensi, but doesn't play as well.

DISK ONLY

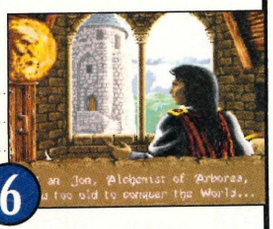
Publisher:	Black Legend
Price:	£24.99
Contact:	(01438) 840004
Minimum PC:	386
Minimum memory:	4Mb RAM
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster



SHORTS

Ishar 2: Messengers of Doom

Daze, £12.99
(0171) 372 7435
386, 640K RAM, VGA, mouse
First reviewed
Issue 22, rated 6



6

Silmarils' flick-scrolling, first person RPG already looked long in the tooth when first released in 1993, but now it's decidedly ancient. The graphics are quite attractive, but the quirky interface and combat system seem very old fashioned by today's standards. This isn't bad for the price, but I'd rather play the more atmospheric Ultima Underworld, which is also available on budget.

CD ONLY

Elite Plus

Action Sixteen, £16.99
(01276) 684959
8086, 640K RAM, EGA
First reviewed
This issue



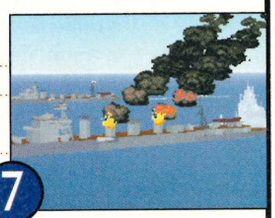
8

I loved this game to death when I first bought it five years ago — David Braben's classic space trading sim is still as compulsive as ever. It's not as technically advanced as the follow-up, Frontier, but combat is a lot more satisfying and it's an easier game to play. It looks primitive by modern standards, but don't let that put you off. This is a corker.

CD ONLY

Task Force 1942

Powerplus, £16.99
(01276) 684959
25MHz 386, 2Mb RAM, VGA, mouse
First reviewed
Issue 16, rated 7



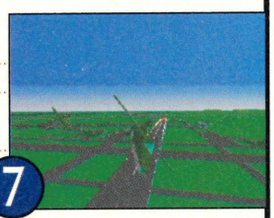
7

Despite its age, this is still an excellent simulation of surface naval combat in World War Two. You have to command a naval task force during the Pacific War, including overall strategies and first hand, on-ship action. You can play historical battles or create your own, and though it looks dull, it's a playable .

CD ONLY

Tornado

Action 16, £16.99
(01276) 684959
25MHz 386, 1Mb RAM, VGA, mouse
First reviewed
Issue 22, rated 9



7

Not the most exciting looking game, Tornado is a superbly accurate simulation of the all-purpose fighter-bomber. The mission planner is extremely detailed, the campaign mode very in-depth and the flight model is second to none. This is, however, a real hard-core game and the nature of the aircraft makes it occasionally dull to play.

CD ONLY

Great Artists



Attica's introduction to the world of great painters will appeal to anyone who has always felt they should know more about art.

No multimedia package can include every painting from every gallery in the world. Even if you could find a CD big enough to store the information, copyright problems would make it too expensive. As a result, development teams are forced to focus on specific topics. Microsoft's Art Gallery, for example, works well as an interactive catalogue of the National Gallery collection.

Great Artists is also published in association with the National Gallery, but its aims are more ambitious. It combines an in-depth study of 40 of the world's "great" paintings (with brief details on about 900 others), a detailed introduction to 40 artists, a workshop which allows you to fiddle around with the major works, a simple search facility, and a choice of geographical and historical approaches to the development of art in the western world.

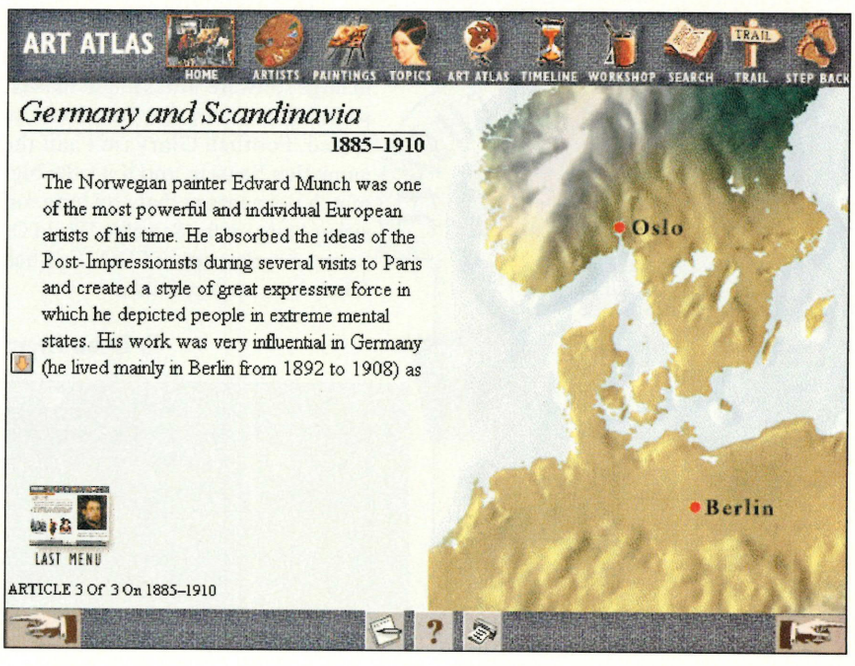
The first problem with such a narrow main selection is its subjectivity: it will inevitably exclude some of your favourite paintings and artists, and include some that you probably wouldn't go to see even if someone paid you. For example, you might feel indifferent about Constable or Stubbs (who are featured heavily), but crave more information on Monet or Mantegna (who aren't). That said, the list both of artists and paintings fits a popular mould. You'll have no trouble finding information on Botticelli, Leonardo, Poussin, Rembrandt or Van Gogh.

"Once you've accepted its limitations, Great Artists is impressively detailed and simple to use."

The second problem is the scope of the selection. Because of its association with the National Gallery, the program only includes paintings from 1250-1910. Modern works of art, like those found in the Tate, are excluded — so you won't find an awful lot on abstract expressionism, cubism or surrealism, for example. The title, Great Artists, implies a more inclusive approach.

Art attack

Once you've accepted its limitations however, Great Artists is impressively detailed and simple to use. If you're new to Windows or multimedia packages, the on-line tutorial is useful, and the manual is clear, concise and helpful. Once loaded, a menu bar containing the eight major sections — artists, paintings, topics, atlas, timeline, workshop, search and trail — is on view at



The art atlas section offers a general, geographical approach to art history. Each of the ten major time periods from 1250 to 1910 reveals which countries and artists were at the forefront of new art movements.

all times, allowing you to skip easily between subjects. All selections are made with the mouse, and a simple tree structure leads you from a general approach to each topic through increasingly detailed articles (see Lives of the Artists box, right).

The program's primary focus is on 40 "great" artists and 40 "great" paintings. As well as being able to examine the artists, their techniques and contemporary influences, you can also bring up a list of key dates, make a printed copy of the painting or text, or copy a section of the text to a Windows notepad. The major paintings can be studied in similar depth, with submenus leading you to related topics and a gallery of the artist's other works. Two other features are also worth mentioning: a slightly inaccurate zoom facility allows more detailed examination, and commentary on each painting is provided by National Gallery curators.

Arty facts

Six other menus provide a variety of useful tools. Topics is an illustrative guide to painting types, themes and methods. No less than 23 subjects are discussed in all, encompassing portraits, still life, mythical and religious themes, the use of light and shade, and artists' materials. The art atlas and timeline provide geographical and historical context with 45 maps and 10 different time periods. Trail keeps a list of the last 50 selections you have made, and lets you construct your own sequence for later playback.

Search enables you to select any painting from a list of almost 1,000 and any artist from a list of over 150. Apart from the 40 major works and painters in each category, these references are disappointingly brief, but at least they provide some kind of introduction. Search also includes a list of 187 glossary terms, so if you've always wanted to know what sinopia is, what The Golden Legend was or how sugar aquatint is used, it's all here.

The workshop lets you explore in a practical way the different aspects of each major painting. For example, you can compare two works, zoom in on or crop sections from a painting, play around with the colour balance and the effects of light and shade, and sketch lines to help study perspective. Workshop also provides 20 minutes of video sequences on seven different topics, ranging from a geometrical analysis of Claude's The Embarkation of the Queen of Sheba to Rembrandt's glazing techniques.

Art to art

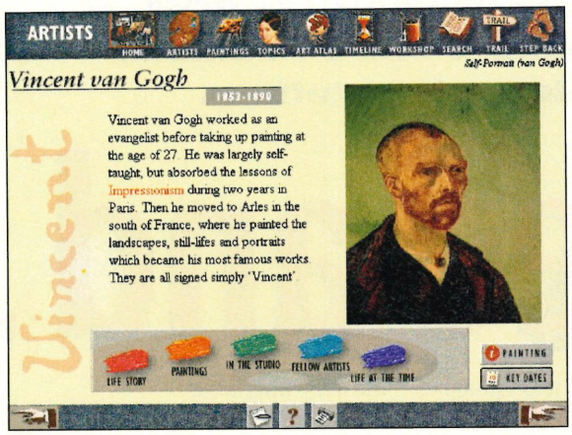
Great Artists is an ambitious attempt to combine a wide variety of paintings with a narrow focus on specific artists and their works. Some features, such as the workshop tools, leave you wanting more because of the potential they suggest; others, such as the detailed study of major artists and paintings, are simply very good indeed.

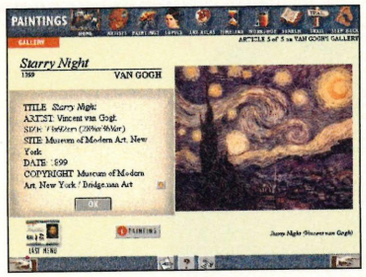
Inevitably, because of the subjectivity of the selection, this isn't going to please absolutely everyone, but overall it's an impressive and interesting introduction to art.

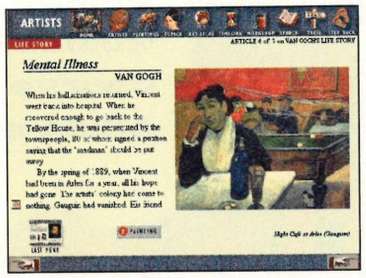
❍ Gordon Houghton

LIVES OF THE ARTISTS

The interface is simple and logical, using a tree system to help you explore subjects in more detail. For example, if you want to read up on the life and times of Vincent van Gogh, you select him from the list of 40 major painters featured in Great Artists. This gives you some brief background information (main screen) and access to more specific topics (other screens). These include a detailed life story, other examples of the artist's work, a simple study of technique, brief biographies of fellow painters and general information on life at the time.

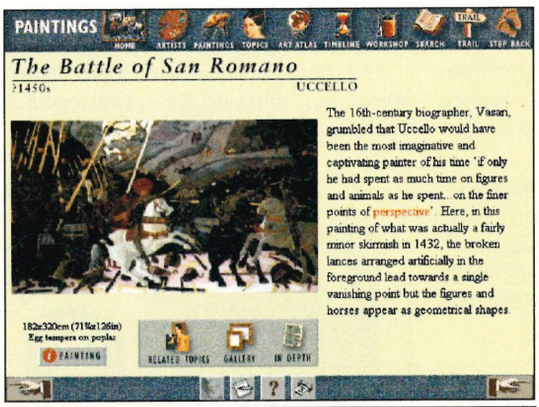


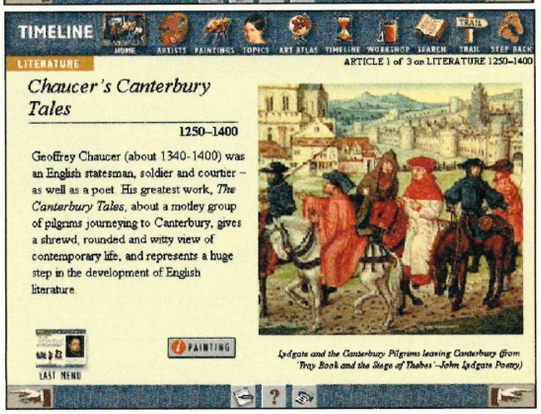






Above: main screen
Right top: life story (mental illness)
Middle: paintings (Starry Night)
Bottom: life at the time (general)







Above left: Uccello's Battle of San Romano

Below left: The timeline is similar to the atlas, allowing you to examine the broad historical background for each of the ten major periods, including fashion, literature, famous people, music and technology — as well as the artists and paintings.

TECHSPEC

7

RATING

Interesting, but not without flaws

Publisher:	Attica Cybernetics
Price:	£64.57
Contact:	(01865) 791346
Minimum PC:	386, MS-DOS 5.0
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	SVGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster

CD ONLY



Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? On this new CD-ROM, of course, where else? Publisher Attica enters stage left . . .

Romeo and Juliet

I suppose someone had to get round to it at some point. We've had games, films and operas on CD-ROM. Why not a play? Why not indeed — especially if you make it fully interactive with point and click access to information about the plot, the characters and the language. That was clearly Attica's aim with its new Romeo and Juliet CD-ROM — and an excellent job it has made of it too.

Romeo and Juliet is actually a joint production by Attica with the BBC and Harper Collins. The single CD includes 30 minutes of video with 17 clips and a hundred or so stills from the BBC archives. There's also plenty to listen to with part of Tchaikovsky's overture and several interviews with people like Peggy Ashcroft.

The centrepiece of the CD is, of course, the play itself — nothing less than the entire script plus synchronised audio from the Harper-Collins audio book version. You can listen to the entire play from beginning to end with the words coming up on the left of the screen page by page as they're spoken. Stills representing the characters currently on stage appear on the right-hand side of the screen.



But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks? Juliet, obviously.

Flowery language

As well as the play, the CD includes The Life of Shakespeare, a short but well illustrated summary of the life of the bard himself. There are also some related video clips such as an interview with Sam Wanamaker about the Globe Theatre restoration.

Most people might find Shakespeare's flowery language a little difficult, so the text of the play includes embedded help icons at strategic points. These explain in clear English exactly what is going on. Words that are used in a strange manner are highlighted and clicking on them produces a popup box with a modern day translation. There is a good deal of excellent background and analysis too. Germaine Greer expounds some of her less controversial thoughts on love and the sanctity of marriage while Peggy Ashcroft, Franco Zefirelli and John Gielgud chip in their pennyworths too.

The themes running through the play — such as fate and time and so on — are examined in detail as is the language itself, from an explanation of the bawdy bits to Shakespeare's strategic use of iambic pentameter and rhyming couplets .

Star cross'd lovers

You can search through the entire script for words or phrases, which is an unbeatable way of exploring themes and the ways characters interact. Unfortunately the search tools aren't nearly powerful enough. You want to search for the bit about "star-crossed lovers" that you vaguely remember from A level days? Enter the word "star-crossed". What do you see? Absolutely nothing because Shakespeare wrote "star-cross'd". Even entering the word "star" on its own won't find it as the search tool only looks for single matching words. Enter a word and it won't find plurals of the word either. It's just a little bit too inflexible and lacking even basic wildcard features. On the plus side you can leap straight to the relevant play when you've scored a hit, making navigation very easy.

The general ease of use is one of Romeo and Juliet's great assets and it will be particularly useful in schools. The interface is well-designed and intuitive and nothing is ever more than a couple of clicks away. The opening screen offers access to all the main sections and even when the play is running, a series of boxes along the bottom of the screen will produce popup menus when clicked on. Video is presented in the standard Video for Windows boxes and it is extremely good quality — some of the best I've seen on CD-ROM.

I was quite surprised to find that Shakespeare and multimedia go so well together. It's interactive learning at its best.

❍ **Charles Hathaway**



TECHSPEC 8 RATING

Entertaining and educational.

Publisher:	Attica
Price:	£57.56
Contact:	(01865) 791346
Minimum PC:	486
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	SVGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster and compatibles

CD ONLY

Simply the BEST



The best interactive match action ever!



Check out your player's skills and watch them develop



Keep your bank manager happy, or face the consequences!



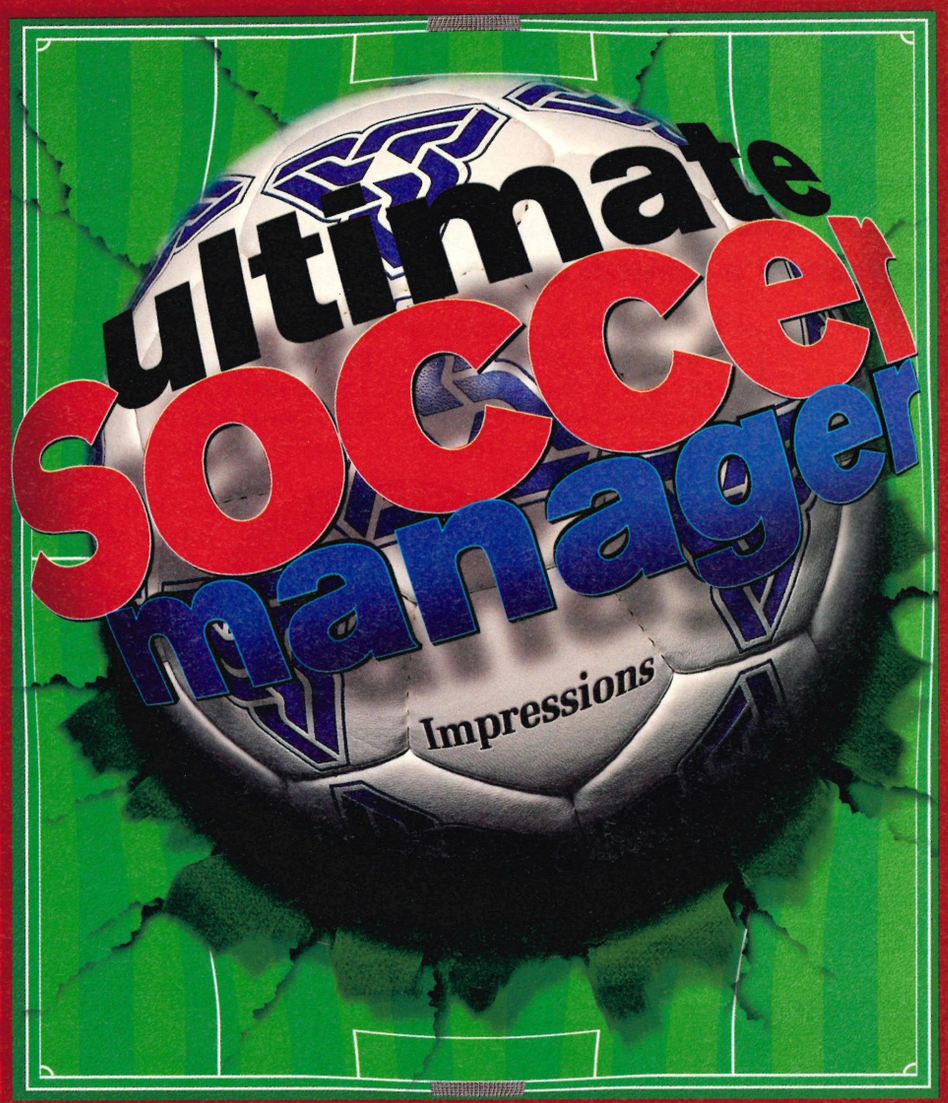
Watch your stadium develop in 3D!



Read about your team's exploits in rich detail



Interact with agents, fans and press from your office



the Future of Football Management

Impressions

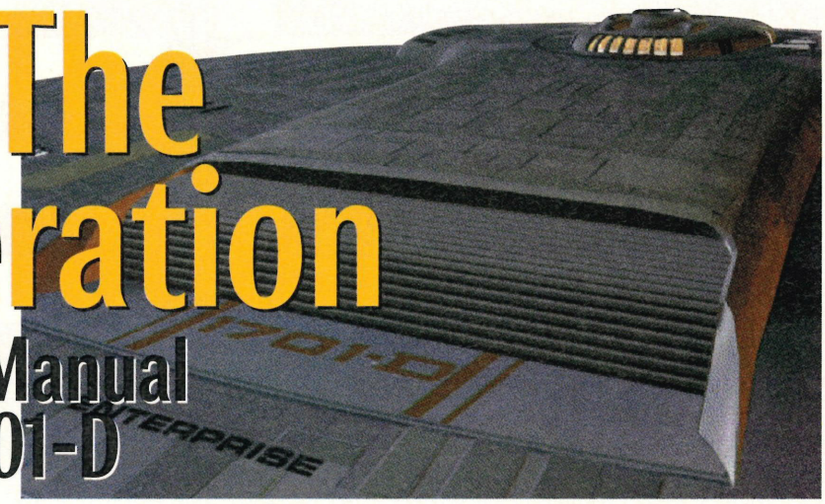
IBM PC VGA Screenshots may vary

© 1995 Impressions

Unit 9, Princeton Court, Felsham Road, Putney, London SW15 1AZ.

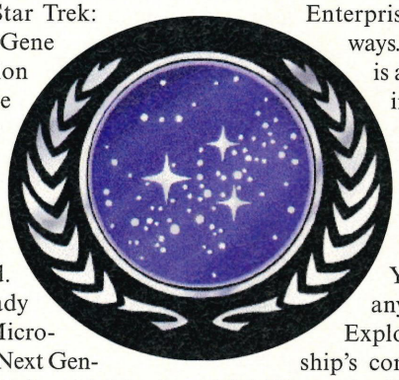
Star Trek: The Next Generation

Interactive Technical Manual USS Enterprise NCC 1701-D

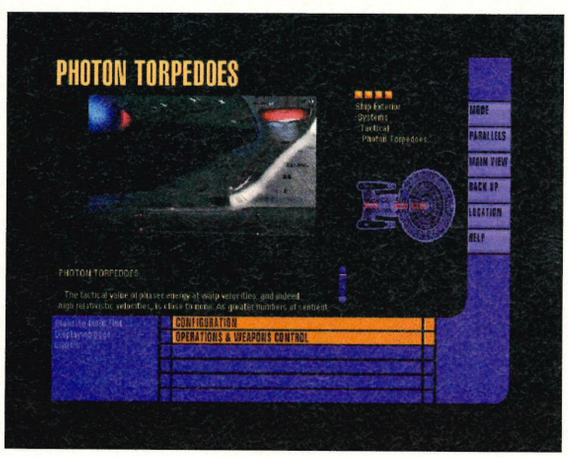


Ever wanted to know how to define the sub-space field geometry of a Galaxy-class starship? Now you can with this latest package from publisher's Simon and Schuster.

The Star Trek bandwagon just seems to keep on rolling — even the death of Captain James T Kirk doesn't seem to be slowing it down. With the arrival of another new series, Star Trek: Voyager, it looks like Gene Roddenberry's creation will be around, in one form or another, for some time to come. And for fans with PCs, the next couple of months promise to be very interesting indeed. You've probably already seen articles about MicroProse's Star Trek: The Next Generation — The Final Unity which looks very sexy, but for real Trekkers, Simon & Schuster has produced Star Trek: The Next Generation — The Interactive Technical Manual.



Below: the problem with the original Enterprise was the lack of rear-firing photon torpedoes — but not any more.



Detailed look

Based on the book of the same name, it's a detailed look inside the USS Enterprise NCC 1701-D, and I do mean detailed.

The CD-ROM allows you to explore the Enterprise-D in one of three ways. The first, Tour Mode, is a guided tour (surprisingly enough) with Commander Riker (the voice of Jonathan Frakes), who shows you all the main features around the ship. You can stop the tour at any point and skip to Explore Mode, where the ship's computer (the voice of Majel Barrett) will fill you in with more details. If that's not enough, even more information can be found using the LCARS index. This is really just a simple search system using a alphabetical list of topic names. You can jump back and forth between these options whenever you like, and at each screen you're given a number of element buttons allowing you find related information. At some locations, background information about the series is also available.

Beam me up, Scotty

The level of detail is really quite frightening, and all credit to the creators who have obviously done their homework. The interface is very slick, as are the transitions from screen to screen. You have to wait sometimes while the shiny disk is being accessed, but that's CD-ROM for you.

To be honest, you're only going to enjoy this if you are a real, live, tie-dyed, screaming Trekker. You end up spending hours wandering around the ship, finding out about tactical procedures, learning about warp theory or just being plain nosy. Those of you who aren't fans then will probably find this a total turn-off. It is a niche product, make no mistake.

But in a world where anything with a Star Trek logo on the outside sells by the skip load, Simon & Schuster is on to a winner. The CD oozes class, and if this is the quality of the PC-based Star Trek products we can expect in the future, the sun will never set on the Federation.

❍ **Tony Cocks**



Star Trek heaven for Star Trek fans.

TECHSPEC 8 RATING

Publisher:	Simon & Schuster
Price:	£49.95
Contact:	(01626) 332233
Minimum PC:	386, Windows 3.1, Mouse
Minimum memory:	8Mb
Minimum graphics:	SVGA
Sound:	All Windows-compatible cards

CD ONLY



Driving Test

No prizes for working out what this question and answer based package is centred around. Asking questions on you, your car and road markings as well as motorway driving and the law, it presents its driving test related questions in a series of customisable sessions and lets you choose from six levels of difficulty.

Instead of a straightforward question and answer format however, the questions are posed within six different games — including a patience card game, a hidden word square and the familiar memory game where you match pairs. Answer the questions correctly and you will eventually progress to test standard. But you can only take your test when you have completed five lessons — which translates at scoring 70% or more at Level 4 or above.

The games format is not particularly motivating however and it seems better to restrict the questions to the categories most relevant to the highway code.

When it comes to the test itself there is a realistic mix of questions. But again it's multiple choice questions — the only difference being that you are not told whether you've got them right. In this respect it's like the real event — no feedback unless something awful happens.

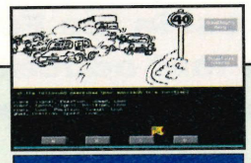
After the test you get an evaluation of your performance and either a pass or a recommendation to complete more lessons before re-attempting the test. Success brings its own rewards in the shape of a certificate which you can then print out. But it may take a while to reach pass level.

Left: the cartoons used in the test add a welcome touch of humour.



Below: a DOS program Driving Test uses lots of incidental graphics.

Sue James



Bland, but relatively informative.

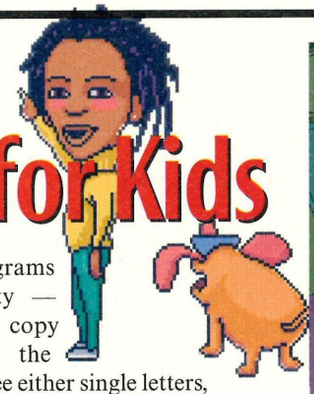
TECHSPEC 7 RATING

Publisher:	Ten out of Ten
Price:	£24.95
Contact:	(01142) 780370

CD ONLY

Minimum PC:	386
Minimum memory:	2Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	n/a

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing for Kids



It originally struck me as strange that this program was targetted at four to eight-year-olds. I mean, the idea that kids of this age might require a typing skill seemed a little odd to say the least.

But then, when I thought about it some more, it did begin to make sense. In fact, teaching a child typing seemed a much better idea than teaching a child handwriting — writing requires much more motor co-ordination. So, why not learn the alphabet and the position of the letters on a keyboard at the same time?

Many PC users have developed their typing skills using one of the many other easily available Mavis Beacon typing programs. These programs included games as rewards, but here in this version for kids, the format is different.

In the introduction you meet a young version of Mavis and her dog, Dizzy. You initially meet at her grandparents' house. You then choose a location — a room inside the house or the pond or the garden for the programs only activity — which is copy typing. On the screen you see either single letters, short words or sentences. Apart from presenting the alphabet in order, which is obviously vital for this age group, the program uses the approved approach of introducing a few keys at a time — starting with the home keys (the middle row) and then including the top and bottom rows.

The unusual aspects are that the program does not distinguish between a correct match or an incorrect one — it just carries on regardless and (unless specifically disabled) unrelated animations go on in the background together with constant chatter from Mavis, sound effects and background music. Some might find it distracting but the kids who tried it typed on regardless. Overall, Mavis Beacon is an adequate introduction to typing for kids

❍ **Sue James**



Above: young Mavis Beacon, and Dizzy the dog, welcome you to her grandparents' house
Inset: Mavis bakes a cake while the user types A's and S's



Useful teaching tool for kids.

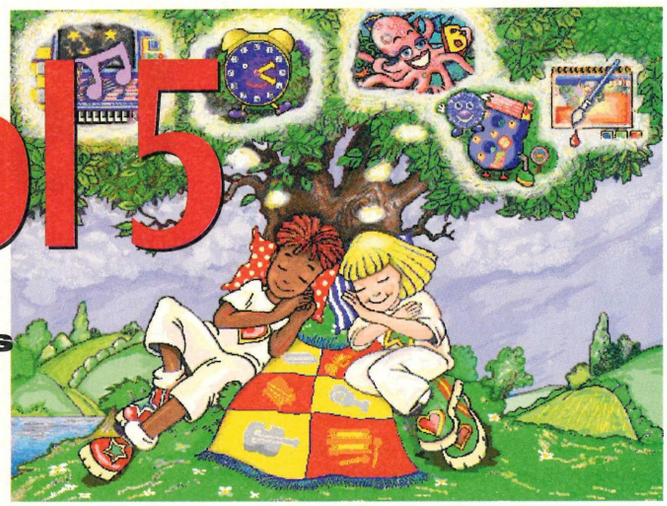
TECHSPEC 7 RATING

Publisher:	Mindscape
Price:	£34.99
Contact:	(0444) 246333

CD ONLY

Minimum PC:	486
Minimum memory:	4Mb, 6Mb with music
Minimum graphics:	SVGA
Sound:	MPC compatible

Fun School 5



The latest in the Fun School range proves that educational multimedia is both entertaining and of high quality.



Europress, who has been leading the way with its educational software over a period of 10 years has brought out a new set of programs — the Fun School 5 series. Available either on CD or on diskette the three new titles take advantage of multimedia facilities to make learning even more stimulating than before.

Fun School in Dreamland is aimed at four to seven year olds and opens with the program's three main characters, Rik, Suki and Gloopy asleep under a tree. The next in the series overlaps the age range as it's for six to nine year olds and has a space theme with the characters heading off to far distant planets. The final program, Fun School in Time, is intended for children aged seven to 11 and finds the trio travelling back through time, anywhere from the Stone Age to Mayan civilisation.



All the programs include maths and english at an appropriate level for the age group concerned and they succeed in presenting these subjects in a way that kids find appealing. There are different levels of difficulty within each program, so that kids can find a test that suits their own abilities and can be encouraged by their successes to proceed to more difficult challenges. The programs are characterised by lots of encouragement plus feedback about where the kids may sometimes go wrong.

Graphics play a very important part in this range and get increasingly sophisticated as the series progresses.



This animated clock makes it fun to tell the time.

The english sections of the Dreamland program asks the youngsters to rearrange simple sentences and correct mistakes in spelling and punctuation in an undersea setting called watery world. The slightly older children have to answer grammar questions in a platform game scenario on an alien world in space. In the Time version, the children can visit a pre-historic cave school to solve anagrams, find hidden words and test their skill at spelling. The finale is a quiz presented as a television game show.

Another aspect that all the programs have in common is a painting activity with some additional tools such as a spirograph and smudge effects.

Activity centre

Each of the programs has two other activities and these are distinctly different in each case. Dreamland has' music box' and 'tell time', which features an animated clock that jumps around and then stops with its hands in a position that the child has to interpret. Space has a game called Taxi which involves identifying first continents, then specific countries.

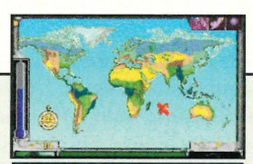
The aim of the farming activity in Fun School is to develop a larger population by growing and harvesting crops and it obviously has its roots in a number of classic computer games. The ideas of deploying limited resources and setting up viable trade could loosely be considered economics while the relationship between crops, water and the weather is part of the science syllabus. Other science topics such as gravity, force, and hydraulics all come into

Join Rik and Suki here in Dreamland, go out into space or go back with them through time.

Time's final game,'roller coaster'. Here the aim is to fine tune a fairground ride to make it as enjoyable as possible.

This suite of programs is well produced and a lot of thought has gone into making it successful in educational terms. There is a pleasing mix of traditional and unexpected elements together with a lot of positive feedback to encourage kids when they get things right and to help enable them understand their mistakes when they don't. The software is very demanding of resources and underpowered hardware spoils the effect by making it unacceptably slow. It was written using DOS 4GW and early versions of the program had problems with some video drivers. Once this was recognised the entire stock was recalled and a revised version produced — so if you do have problems contact Europress.

Sue James



An entertaining, well presented package.

TECHSPEC 9 RATING

Publisher:	Europress
Price:	£29.99
Contact:	(01625) 859333
Minimum PC:	386
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	SVGA
Sound:	Sound MPC compatible

CD ONLY

MTV's Club Dead

This is one club you don't want to join. Viacom's first foray into multimedia is not so much dead as extinct.

MTV — billed as "the world's coolest TV network" — has broken into the CD-ROM market and produced what could well be a future contender for "world's saddest adventure game". Set in the year 2024, the game casts you as Sam Frost, a cyberplumber, convict and virtual reality addict. For some reason, which is never fully explained, Sam is plucked from his prison cell and assigned the task of investigating a spate of mysterious deaths of wealthy fat cats at the infamous Alexandria — an exclusive resort where only the true elite such as the US President (a 17-year-old girl) hangs out.

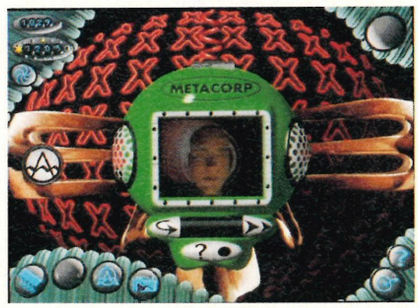
Working against the clock (which you can put forward at great speed if you have a deathwish), with only four days to solve the mystery, Sam must tramp the long and lonely corridors of Alexandria, pick up objects, complete strange tasks and explore and observe the 150 live-action scenes over the 20 different locations.

Money for old rope

The game kicks off with an intro sequence accompanied by some dire thrashy music which is littered with time lags giving you gaping silences where there should be continuous sounds.

Once in the game, you're only allowed access to a certain number of floors at a time, and these are reached via an elevator. The way the game works is bizarre because on exiting the lift you can't see yourself or move about, but you can instead click on the various objects in view. If you get lucky, the game will cut to an FMV screen and you watch yourself explore the room, although you have no control over your actions. Failing that, you watch others in a room who may or may not give you clues as to what you should be doing next. Either way it's an unsatisfactory control method and makes for deeply dull gameplay.

Presentation-wise the game doesn't seem too bad; there are many devices at your disposal such as the personal data system, the electronic access guide, the telecommunication system which stores your messages, and, of course your inventory. Unfortunately, none of these devices are particularly user-friendly and the information they give you tends to be pretty obscure as well.



Above: the weird and wacky world of Club Dead. Travelling via the elevator, you find yourself climbing out in the most unusual places.

And that's about it really. Club Dead is a pretty poor first effort from Viacom — a product which I really cannot recommend to anybody.

Sorry guys, better luck next time.

❍ **Lucy Hickman**



One of the worst adventures around.

TECHSPEC 4 RATING

Publisher:	Viacom New Media
Price:	£TBA
Contact:	(0181) 846 9433
Minimum PC:	20MHz 386, DOS 5.0, mouse
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	Sound Blaster, Ad Lib

CD ONLY

MULTIMEDIA SHORTS

One Tribe

Virgin, £59.99
(0181) 960 2255
486, 4Mb RAM, CD ROM
First reviewed
This issue



6

As a right-on alternative to the standard geography CD-ROM, Virgin's One Tribe scores highly on its politically correct cultural awareness. Presenter Pip Dann (of MTV fame) invites you to click around various part of her living room-cum museum, to access various stills and video clips of cultures from around the world.

CD ONLY

New York, NY

Softkey, £19.99
(0181)789 2000
386, 4Mb RAM, mouse
First reviewed
This issue



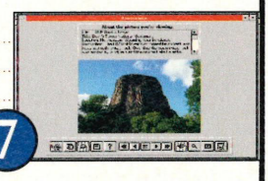
7

So good they named the CD-ROM twice. All of New York's most famous landmarks, sights and sounds are recorded as static TIFF, BMP and PICT images, in movie format as Video for Windows, QuickTime and MPEG files, and also with WAV and SND Resource sound files. Primarily a very clean and usable clipart collection, New York, NY has a simple front-end for easy perusal.

CD ONLY

Americana

Softkey, £19.99
(0181) 789 2000
386, 4Mb RAM, mouse
First reviewed
This issue



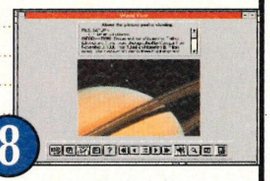
7

From the producer of New York, NY, Americana uses the same framework as New York, NY to present its impressive range of stills, movie clips and sounds. This "visually stunning chronicle of famous places" lives up to Softkey's claims surprisingly well. Good quality clip art with no frills attached.

CD ONLY

Worldview

Softkey, £19.99
(0181) 789 2000
386, 4Mb mouse,
MS DOS 5.0
Disk version first reviewed
This Issue

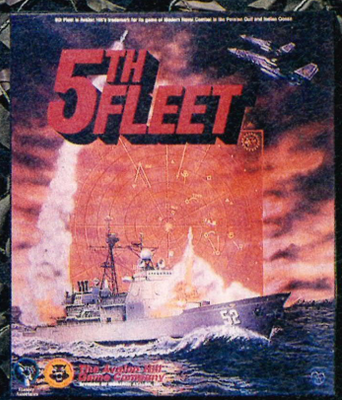


8

Worldview is the third from the Softkey clipart stable this month, and gets itself an extra point for being interesting as well as useful. Stacks of satellite pictures bring the beauty of the planets to your screen, with sections on the Earth, Moon, and those other ones with rings around them. Stills, movies and sounds are all here.

CD ONLY

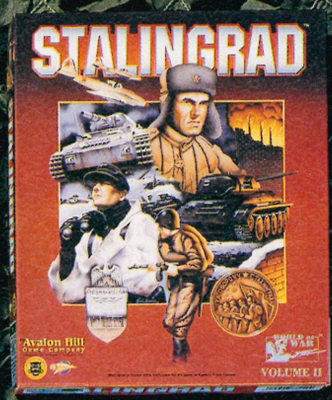
RECONNAISSANCE OPERATION REVEALS WAR GAMES



5TH FLEET
IBM PC 3.5" Mac 3.5"



HARPOON II V2.0
IBM PC 3.5"



STALINGRAD
IBM PC 3.5" IBM PC CD-ROM
Mac 3.5" Mac CD-ROM

HARPOON II (SCENARIO EDITOR)
IBM PC 3.5"
Released May '95



FLIGHT COMMANDER 2
IBM PC 3.5" IBM PC CD-ROM
Mac 3.5" Mac CD-ROM

HARPOON III
IBM PC CD-ROM Mac CD-ROM
Coming Soon



OPERATION CRUSADER
IBM PC 3.5"
Mac 3.5" Mac CD-ROM

EMPIRE DELUXE II
Coming Soon



COLD WAR BATTLESET
(Requires Harpoon II) IBM PC 3.5"
Mac 3.5" Released May '95

THREE-SIXTY

U.S. GOLD
A DIVISION OF CENTRESOFT PLC

AH
GAMES OF STRATEGY

GO TO BATTLE STATIONS

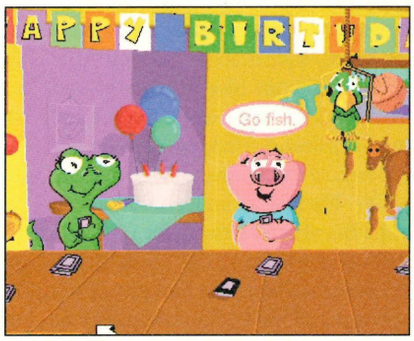
Harpoon II V2.0, Cold War BattleSet, Harpoon II (Scenario Editor), Harpoon III: Copyright © 1994 Three-Sixty Pacific, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide. Harpoon is a registered trademark of GDW Incorporated. BattleSet is a registered trademark of ASCI. Flight Commander 2, Stalingrad, Operation Crusader, 5th Fleet: © 1994 The Avalon Hill Game Company. Stalingrad © 1994 Atomic Games Inc. Stalingrad is Avalon Hill's trademark for its game of Eastern Front Combat. 5th Fleet is Avalon Hill's trademark for its game of Modern Naval Combat in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. © 1995 U.S. Gold. Marketed and distributed in the U.K. by U.S. Gold Ltd. All rights reserved. U.S. Gold is a registered trademark of U.S. Gold Ltd. 1-4 Cuckoo Wharf, 427 Lichfield Road, Aston, Birmingham B6 7SS. Tel: 0121 625 3366.

Wild Cards

For those who want to teach their kids the ways of the card table, this could be just the ticket. Alternatively use it to brush up your own skills.



Above: meet Jack and choose which card game to play. Below: playing Fish with Jack, Lizzy and Swanky in the birthday party setting



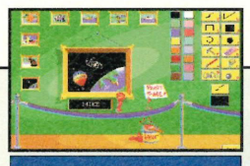
Most kids go through a phase of being mad about card games which is fine as long as they can find enough other players for the game of their choice. If not then Wild Cards can come to the rescue by providing cartoon characters for the other hands in the game.

The chief playmate in this game is a rabbit called Jack and he starts by asking the user's name. Only a single name can be typed in and one of our youngsters objected as he likes to use his surname as well. Jack then asks 'What do you wanna play?' in response to which the user can click one of the game icons.

Fish, Old Maid, War, Crazy Eights and Klondike are all in the Little Kids group. The Big Kids group has Hearts and Twenty-one. There are four possible locations for the chosen game — a wild west saloon, a birthday party, the kitchen or the back of a battered old car. Each has distinctive, if tinny and repetitive, music — which was acceptable to the youngsters who heard it but upset any adults in earshot. Vital playing instructions are spoken but to discover the rules of the game you click the Help button to reveals printed instructions.

The graphics in this program fall into the bold and brash category with plenty of cartoon animation and the characters and sound effects are strictly for the kids.

Sue James



Bold, brash and nice for the kids

TECHSPEC

6

RATING

Publisher:	Corel
Price:	TBA
Contact:	00 3531 706 3912
Minimum PC:	386, mouse
Minimum memory:	4Mb
Minimum graphics:	VGA
Sound:	N/A

CD ONLY

MULTIMEDIA SHORTS

Time Almanac



Softkey, £46.99
Contact: (0181) 789 2000
486, 4Mb RAM, mouse
First reviewed
This issue

8

The Time Almanac brings together the big events in the history of the world (in the eyes of America), most of which have already made it to CD-ROMs in the past. Presented in an attractively idiot-proof format, this encyclopaedic disc also includes the text from every issue of Time Magazine from 1989 through to January 3rd, 1994. One of the better general reference CD-ROMs around.

CD ONLY

CNN Newsroom Global View



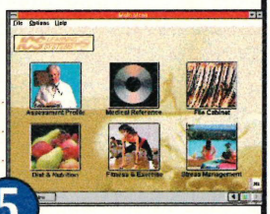
Softkey, £46.99
Contact: (0181) 789 2000
486, 4Mb RAM, mouse
First reviewed
This issue

7

Snoop around in the archives of the CNN international news network. It's got the lot: movie clips, magazine and newspaper re-prints, maps and charts. Would-be news producers can have plenty of fun pressing buttons on the control panel, and saying this like "5-4-3-2-1 run VT". There's stacks of stuff for fact-addicts to get stuck into.

CD ONLY

Total Health: Body and Mind



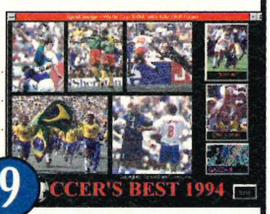
Softkey, £49.99
Contact: (0181) 789 2000
486, 4Mb RAM, mouse
First reviewed
This issue

5

If you want shallow information covering a very wide variety of sports and fitness activities, look no further. Total Health: Body and Mind aims to help you fight the flab by working it off with your own choice of exercise. Rather than get in-depth in any particular area, it skirts around too many to be of any real use — perhaps too ambitious for its own good.

CD ONLY

One Stop CD Shop



Softkey, £29.99
Contact: (0181) 789 2000
486 CD-ROM 4Mb RAM
First reviewed
This issue

9

One Stop CD Shop is a compilation of 11 discs: Time Almanac (reviewed separately on this page); Game Empire (a compilation of 250 games on one disc); Key Gourmet (interactive cook book); CNN Newsroom Global View (reviewed above); Key Fonts Plus (collection of PostScript and TrueType fonts); Key Clip Art (5001 clip art images); Sports Image World Cup 1994 (World Cup reference) and others. Very good value.

CD ONLY

Alone in the Dark III

Hassled by zombies? Troubled by puzzles? Mr C M Lee provides a complete solution to help you through Carnby's final caper.

General tips

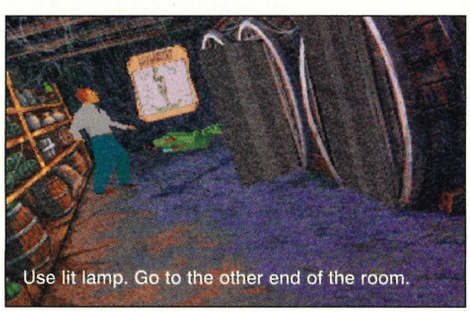
Save your games regularly, especially when situations might get hairy. You can skip sections by loading the pre-saved games in Nevada and Oklahoma.

The Start

First cross the bridge. Then take the gas can near the swing doors to the saloon. Enter the saloon. Use the gas can on the generating set to see a clip of The Last Ranger. Take the oil can from the corner, the maraca from the stage, the key from table and the box of matches from the store area near the bar. Dodge the bullets from the bad guy upstairs, then search the shelves for the wood alcohol, a bottle and a flask. Go to the animal skull and push the left horn. The trap door will open and a zombie will emerge with two guns. If you stay behind the skull, most of the bullets should miss you. Once the zombie is out of bullets, he should be easier to get rid of. He leaves an ace of diamonds and a gold bullet. Take these, go through the trap door and get the lamp.

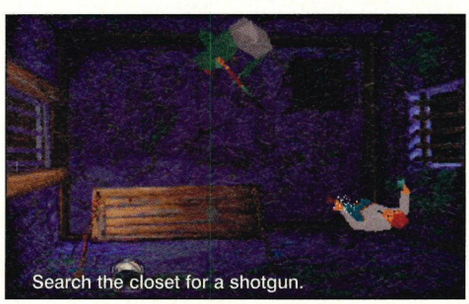
Cellar

The screen is blank, which means you're in the dark. Use the oil can to fill the lamp, then use the matches. Use the lit lamp. Go to the other end of the room. Get the cane, search the poster for a note from Lefty and go to the door of the nearest barrel (nearest to poster). Open the door. Step away from the door and use the maraca to lure the red snakes out of the barrel. Go to the end of the barrel. You may want to save here before you climb up.


Use lit lamp. Go to the other end of the room.

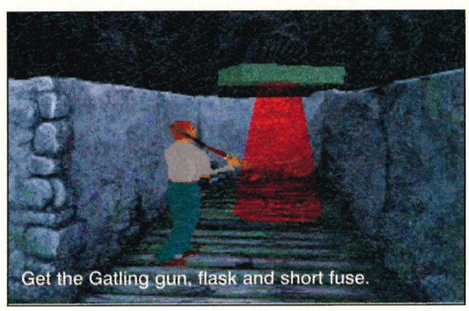
Ground floor jail

Get the stone from the bench and go to the cell door. Use the cane to get the keys and use them to get out of the cell. If you kill the bad guy, he just reappears a little later, so you have to hurry. Throw the stone to turn it into an Indian amulet (you'll need this later). Go to the other end of the corridor and enter the room. Drop the wood alcohol to get rid of Lefty, then take the flask. The amulet will protect you from the pentagram on the floor. Go to the room to the right (the Sheriff's office). Take the Sheriff's badge and Winchester bullets from the desk. Search the posters for information. Use the key you got from the saloon to unlock the gun case and get the Winchester. There's not much in the room opposite, other than the bad guy in the fireplace. Open the grille if you want to fight him. If you use the Winchester to fight the bad guy, don't worry if you run out of bullets. Go down the side corridor to the front of the jail. Push the closet in front of the doors to stop a zombie from breaking them down. This also reveals a rope ladder. Search the closet for a shotgun.


Search the closet for a shotgun.

Jail roof

Get the whip. Go to the hovering block, and time your movement to avoid the red beam. Get the voodoo hangman's rope. Continue round and get the cast iron plate. Use it to protect you from being shot. Get the cartridge belt (for the Gatling gun). Use the gold bullet, which will be loaded into the Winchester, replacing any bullets already in it. Shoot Burris with the gold bullet, and get the bag of scorpions. From the other area get the Gatling gun, flask and short fuse from beside the barrel.

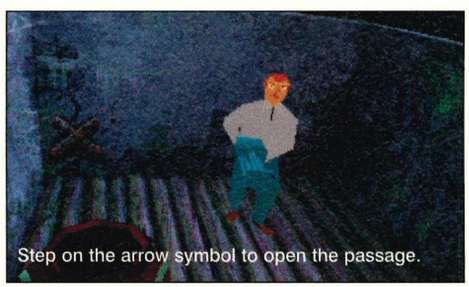

Get the Gatling gun, flask and short fuse.

Return to where you found the cast iron plate. Shoot the door to open it. Once inside, light the lamp. Use the voodoo hangman's rope to help you breathe more easily. Drop the bag of scorpions down the trapdoor. Push the lever to close the trapdoor, allowing you to reach the corner and find dynamite and a piece of dried meat.

Return to the barrel's and kill the two zombies. Once you are near the barrel, the door will close and someone will try to shoot you through the door. Use the short fuse to complete the dynamite stick and use it by the largest crack in the wall nearest the barrel. Use the matches to light it and take cover! Go through the hole.

Walking the plank

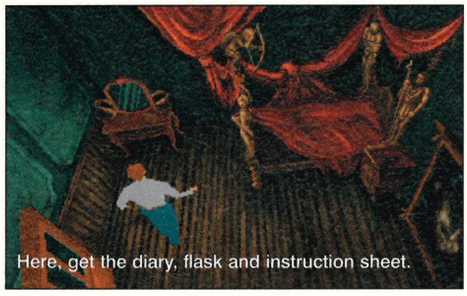
Once through, step on the arrow symbol to open the passageway (otherwise you'd have to fight a


Step on the arrow symbol to open the passage.

zombie with a knife). Continue until you meet another zombie, ignoring the broken wall for now. After you get rid of him, go to the mechanism. Use the sheriff's badge to fix it, then use your whip to pull the lever above, opening the door. Go through and get the flask and bullets on the plank. Run to the end of the plank and you should end up on the first floor of the saloon (if you fall you'll meet the Elwood brothers).

Saloon first floor

On the landing, light the two lamps nearest the broken window. One will open a door; the other will give you a message. Go back through the now open door. When the vulture squawks and the ghost of the Arizona Kid appears, use the piece of dried meat on the clock. You should be given a token. You will need the night valet. There is a flask in the corner by the painting. Go through the painting. When you're in the bedroom, search the table with the mirror for a 30/30 bullet, a bulb and a pearl. Push the mirror to get a key. Search the foot of the bed for an arrow, which you then use on the cupid figure on the bedpost. Go back through the painting to the landing. At this point you will need to get the costume jewellery ring near the hole in the floor. Use it to separate the ring from the diamond. Use the key from the mirror to open the door nearest the hole in the floor. In the small bedroom, get the diary, instruction sheet and flask from the floor. Next, bump into the dragon figure on the stand beside the bed to get a close-up view. Use the diamond from the ring to get some more Winchester bullets. Go through the opening to the ledge.


Here, get the diary, flask and instruction sheet.

Balcony

On the ledge, go to the open window and put the night valet in front of it. You may have to reposition it before the bad guy comes out and falls to his death.

Enter the darkroom. Take the shutter release, instruction sheet and flash from by the table and the key which is on the table itself. You can look at the photographs on the wall. Leave via the window and return through the small bedroom to the landing. Use the key from the photo room to unlock the last door by the broken window. You can use the bulb and shutter release before entering the next room.

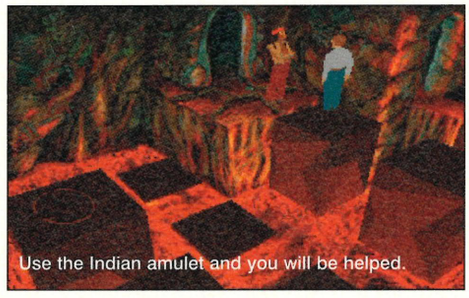
Enter the room with the piano. When the flash is ready, use it next to the reel of the film on the floor to get rid of the monster.


On the ledge, go to the open window.

Get the oil can from beside the piano and use the token at the end of the piano to make it play. Shoot the target to open it. Search inside for a flask and war stick, then the block should move to reveal a hole in the floor.

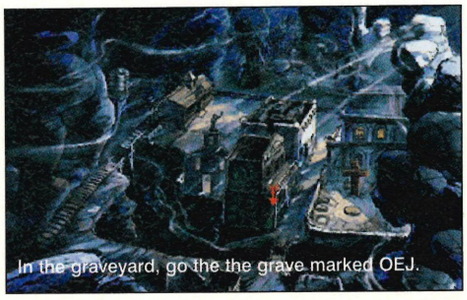
Meet a native American

In the cave, use the oil can, matches and the lit lamp again. Leave the cave and enter a second cavern. You need to save after each jump. Walk onto the first block and jump across to the other blocks until you reach the shaman. Use war stick and he will walk back to let you pass. There's a box of cartridges and a small key in the centre of the platform. At this point you should step on to the next block, and jump across the other blocks until you reach the block with a symbol on it. You must then jump to the block on the right of the screen, then back to the block with the symbol. Keep on jumping until you reach a block that hasn't risen up and you can't go further. Use the Indian amulet and you will be helped across.


Use the Indian amulet and you will be helped.

Mansion ground floor

Kill the two zombies. The first leaves a flask; the second a top hat and a key. The cask of silver salts is used later. Go to the doors at the other end of the room which the most recent key should open. Once in the library, search the shelves for books: a white book (blank), a book (watchmaker's manual), and a locked book (A book on Navajo traditions which will open with the small key from the Indian). The bust at the end of the room conceals a pocket watch.


In the graveyard, go the the grave marked OEJ.

There's a printing plate on the table that you can use in front of the mirror if you want to read it. Go to doors by the cask.

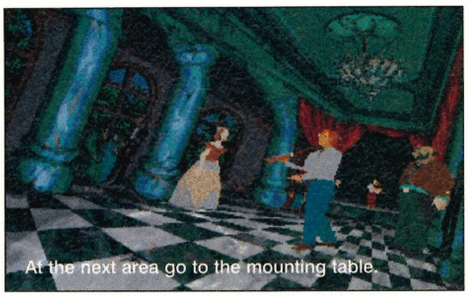
Use the pocket watch to unlock the next set of doors. Enter the room and meet Morrison. Go up to him to receive a story-board, after which he'll leave. Use the top hat on the bust of Abraham Lincoln to get some cartridges. A zombie appears and pulls back the curtains on a stained glass window, while another attacks Morrison. After killing the zombie, be a vandal and shoot the window. Go up the steps and exit.

Graveyard

Use the war stick by the round stone in the centre to avoid meeting two nasty grave-diggers. There's a vault in the far corner, but it is too small for you to enter. Instead, go to the grave marked OEJ (One Eyed Jack) and use the Ace of Diamonds on the right hand side of the grave. Get the message before being lifted up to a kitchen. There you'll find an oil can on the table, roll of film on the floor and a bag of pemmican on the sideboard. Use the oil can on the mechanism in the fireplace to reveal another room.

In the ballroom, search the female figure for cartridges and the male figure for a hammer. You will be shot at by the guy by the stage, who will then follow you. Try to avoid being hit by other musicians when you cross to the gramophone. There you will find a guitar string, musical score and a key to a safe. Go back to the kitchen, walk behind the sideboard and go through the door to the next area. Use 30/30 bullet and hammer to get through.



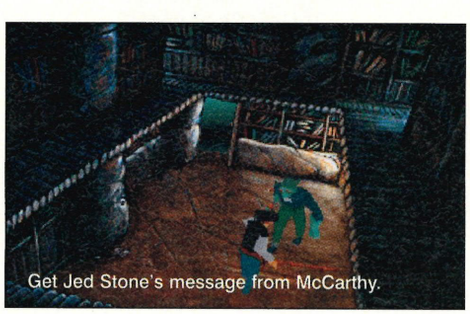

At the next area go to the mounting table.

You'll find yourself in a dressing room. Search the dressing table near the model of a station for a blasting cap, map and light bulb. Go to the next area and on to the mounting table. Use the guitar string, light bulb then the roll of film. Then use the musical score to get the combination (it is 806).

In the bank, get the astronomy book from the table and search the picture at the end of the room. Keep on searching until the combination is 806, then go behind the counter. Go up to the large safe, use the pearl and then the safe key. Kill the zombie to get the amulet and then you can get the suitcase which contains some cartridges and Hill Century's money. The money is booby-trapped so don't bother trying to get it. Open the window.

Meet McCarthy

Get Jed Stone's message from McCarthy by walking up to him. Get flask from the saddle in the corner. Search the mine cart for detonator box and cartridges and ride past the zombies. When the mine cart stops, go through the nearest open doors. Quickly push the large 'Station' sign. The blue bucket of paint will spoil it and the station master in the rafters will cry. If you fail to push the sign, he'll whistle for help. Get the key and search the rails by the sign for an eye-bolt. Go to the corner by the door and use the eye-bolt to ring the bell about three times. The door rises once slowly, then three times quickly, so you have to time it carefully to avoid getting killed. Once outside, quickly put the blasting cap beside the fence and use the detonator box to finish off the story-board scene. Go to the water tank opposite the station. Put the suitcase and key for the suitcase in front of the water tank. The Elwood brothers will then kill you. Don't worry: this is meant to happen.


Get Jed Stone's message from McCarthy.

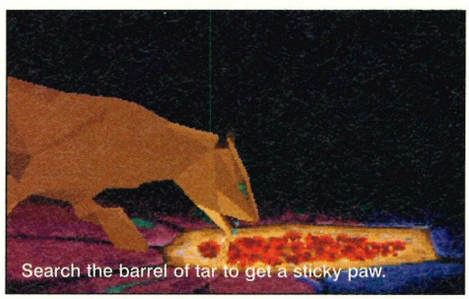
Reincarnation

Ignore the craving for cat food, since you only have about 100 seconds to complete your task. Quickly leave the vault and go to the saloon.

Go up the broken stairs and on to the first floor. Jump the hole and run towards the broken window. On the jail roof, run to the large gap in the wall where you can see the statue. Run to the edge and jump onto the statue. Go to the area between where you saw McCarthy and the bank, and search the barrel of tar to get a sticky paw.

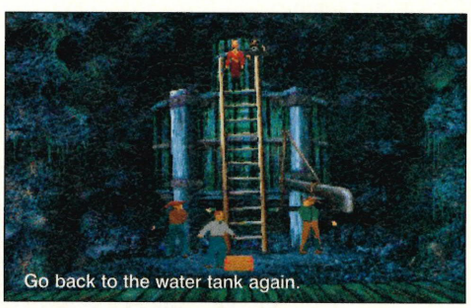
Next, go to the front hall of the building where you found the cask of silver salts. When you arrive, search the cask to coat your paw with silver before heading back towards the area between saloon and graveyard.

Once in the area, you need to kill the werewolf, enter the graveyard and kill the second werewolf. Go back to the vault and drop the eagle nugget on the fire.


Search the barrel of tar to get a sticky paw.

Back to humanity

You're not dead any more, but you were certainly buried! Get the Colt 45 left by the one armed man and a bar of soap from behind the grave. Go back to the water tank again. Drop the Colt by your double because you are 'against violence', then walk up to your double. Don't bother to try and attack him because you will probably injure yourself. Once you have your cowboy hat on, you can pick up the Colt. Climb the ladder, then go down to see what's inside the tank. Once inside, use the soap and the zombie will leave. Get the metallic brush that he will drop, as well as the flask by the tank wall. Use the brush in the large peg with the hole to open up a trap door. Down you go.


Go back to the water tank again.

Underground

Go along the passage to the next area. Get the dead leaf and put it in the Indian bust. Look at the map on the wall and take the notebook by the corner. Climb the rungs.

General tips

Some characters can only be killed by specific means. For full information you should check out the 'wanted' posters for complete details.

In the sleeping quarters, take the pick axe from the bed and use it to kill the zombies (a second will appear after the first one has died). Take the flask at the far end of the room.

You must now cross a pit full of spikes, so save your game here. Imagine the pit as if it was four squares wide.

The path is as follows: start on the second square from the far wall, then step one square forward (towards the other end of the pit), one square towards the near wall, two squares forward, one towards the far wall.

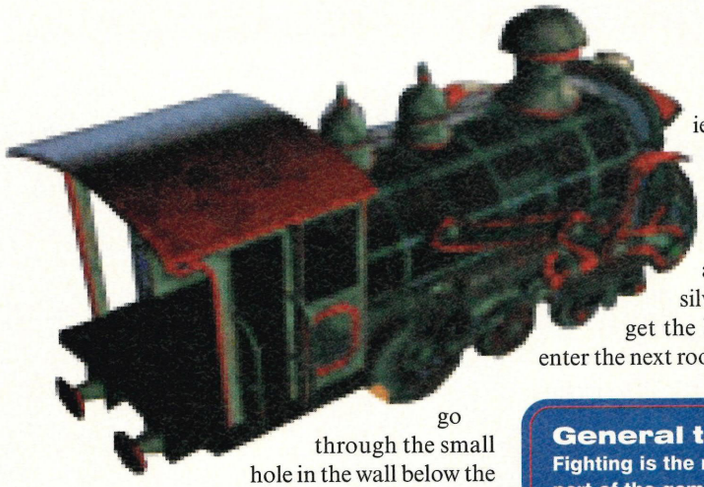
Keep moving one square forward and one square towards far wall until you reach the other end of the pit. Kill the zombie with the pick axe and enter the next room.

Kill the zombie and pick up the scorched book, candlestick, water pitcher and needle. The door opens when the candlestick is removed. Go down the passage to the lift. Go up to the rifle man and use the water pitcher to give him a drink. The doors should now open. Take the piggy bank and throw it to release a glass microscope plate. Pick it up, push the lever and go up.

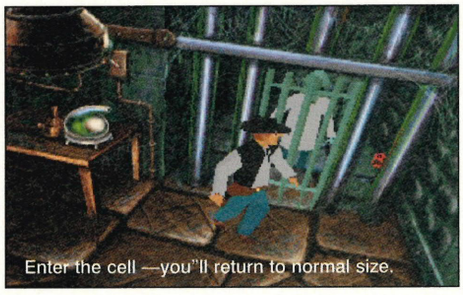

You must now cross a pit full of spikes.

The laboratory

Exit the lift, go to the far end of the room and use the glass plate on the microscope. The colour of the blobs gives you the order in which to push the switches to open the door — grey, green, blue, red. Take the bottle of poison from the table beside the tank and go to the cell. Use the poison on the needle, then go to the table near the cell. Once you find the distilling coil, use the poison to shrink yourself. Enter the cell — you'll return to normal size. Unfortunately, the doctor doesn't like you, so kill him with the poisoned needle. When he dies, take a piece of straw and the key, plus the bottle of ammonia. Use the poison by the distilling coil again, but this time



go through the small hole in the wall below the table. Use the straw to pole vault across the gap, and take the vial of potion on the other side. Go through before the shrinking effect wears off.


Enter the cell —you"ll return to normal size.

Creepy crawly

Move quickly to the other side of the room where some liquid is leaking through a crack in the wall. Use the vial of potion on the liquid to spike the spider monster's drink and get out of the way. When it shrinks, stamp on it. Get the pot of glue, but avoid getting too close to the big sticky web. You can see what is going on in the next room by opening the eye-shaped window, but Jed Stone will shoot at you if you do. Use the pot of glue to sticky your hands, then climb the wall. Save here.

The headless zombie (Hammer) will chase you around the room a few times before you manage to pick up his head (this is difficult to pick up since you have to be positioned perfectly). The idea is to throw the head down the hole, but again you'll be pursued and it's difficult to throw the head and run at the same time. Alternatively, you may be able to push the anvil so that it blocks Hammer's way, leaving you free to get the head. When Hammer takes a dive, get the lead ing out from the anvil, the flask and the Winchester.

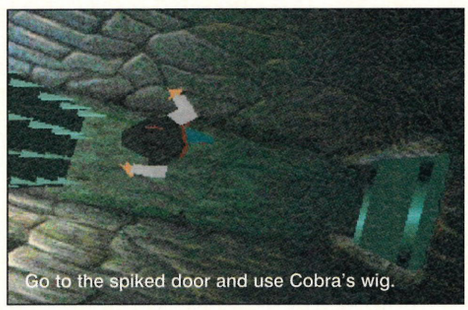
You'll now be attacked by Cobra, and it's easiest to kill him using the Winchester. When he's dead, take his wig and silver dollar. There is a flask in the corner. Search the poster and you'll find a slot. Use the silver dollar in it. Go down and get the box of matches before you enter the next room.

General tips

Fighting is the most difficult part of the game. So try adjusting Edward's statistics to make him extra rough before you start.

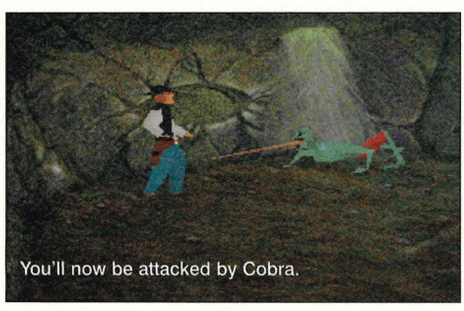
Freeing Emily

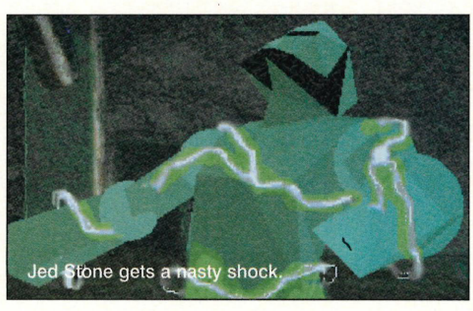
Jed Stone runs off when he sees you (the coward). To free Emily, go to the crucible, but avoid stepping over the skull pattern or the radioactive rock. Use the lead ingot and matches on the crucible to neutralise the threat. The lead solidifies into an evil wand with a mineral tip. Take this, along with the ammunition in the corner. You can also get a scorched paper and parchment. Save before the next section. Go through the doorway. When you are allowed to move, step back and throw the bottle of ammonia at the door to wake Emily. When you've killed the zombie, take the knife. Go to the spiked door and use Cobra's wig to pull the switch above. You may need the flask, and don't forget to save before opening the door.


Go to the spiked door and use Cobra's wig.

Final showdown

Quickly run to the large eagle totem and use the evil wand in front of it. Hey presto! No more Elwood brothers. Jed Stone won't follow you into the area around the totem, so save the game here. Then go to the tap by the ditch and open it, filling the ditch with water. Next, get the rubber glove from the corner and use it before cutting the cables near the machinery with the knife. Once you've done that (positioning is vital), go back to the totem and wait for Jed to put his foot in it. When Emily has opened the door, get the sack of coal near the totem pole and go through the door. Climb on to the train and use the coal and matches, then push the lever to start the engine. Hope you enjoyed your visit to Slaughter Gulch! All that 's left is for you to sit back, listen to the music and watch the credits.


You'll now be attacked by Cobra.


Jed Stone gets a nasty shock.

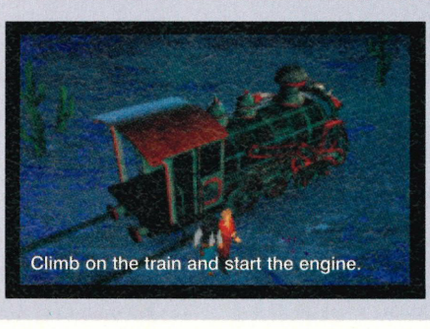
PROGRAMMING HACKS

If you can't manage to get past those evil-doers even on beginner level, try these cheats. Save a game and write down where you saved it. Then exit the game, change to the directory in which you saved the game. If you saved in California change to SAVE00 directory. Use the table to work out which directory to change to:

California	SAVE00	
Montana	SAVE01	
Nevada	SAVE02	— pre-saved games chapters 1 to 6
Oklahoma	SAVE03	— pre-saved games chapters 7 to 10

If you saved the game in the first slot, edit SAVE0.ITD. The second slot is SAVE1.ITD and so on to SAVE5.ITD. If you have a file editor change the following offsets for desired results:

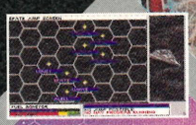
Decimal offset	Hex	Change Offset	For to
44,388	AD 64	00 40	Health
45,006	AF CE	00 40	38 Special
44,998	AF C6	00 40	Winchester
45,248	B0 C0	00 40	Gatling gun
45,162	B0 6A	00 40	Shot gun
44,410	AD 7A	00 40	Health when re-born
45,290	B0 EA	00 40	Colt


Climb on the train and start the engine.

MEGATRAVELLER I
DM 49.95
Komplex und doch von hoher Spielbarkeit- ein SciFi-Rollenspiel der Extraklasse!













CAMPAIGN II
DM 49.95
der Nachfolger des berühmten Strategiespiels - noch bessere Graphik, noch mehr Action!

DARKSEED
DM 49.95
das Kult-Gruseladventure in der Welt des H.R. Giger.







TRAUM ODER WIRKLICHKEIT?

Action SIXTEEN

Digital Integration

Erhältlich für PC, PC CD-ROM und AMIGA.
(Darkseed ist auch für Macintosh CD-ROM erhältlich)

empire INTERACTIVE
CYBERDREAMS™

Inside Info

Heretic

star tip

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Darcy Kendall of New Zealand has discovered the cheats for id Software's Doom-style blast, so now you should be able to get yourself kitted out with morph ova galore. Just type the following codes to get you sorted:

QUICKEN	God mode (invincibility)
RAMBO	Gives you all the weapons
SHAZAM	Tome of power
SKEL	Gives you all the keys
MASSACRE	Kills all monsters on the level
KITTY	Toggles clipping mode on and off
RAVMAP	Reveals entire map
PONCE	Restores health to 100%
ENGAGE**	Warps you to another level

(where ** equals episode followed by level number, eg ENGAGE22 warps to episode 2, level2)

GIMME	Gives you different objects:
a =	Ring of invincibility
b =	Shadowsphere
c =	Quartz flask
e =	Tome of power
f =	Torch
g =	Bomb of the ancients
h =	Morph ovum
i =	Wings of wrath

Cheers for that, matey!

Magic Carpet

R A J Crookes of Warrington has an outrageous cheat for Bullfrog's bloke-on-a-rug spectacular. Start the game as normal, then press the 'I' key when you enter the level. A red DOS-type prompt will appear below the menu bar. Now type 'ratty' and press Return. The prompt should now disappear. Press the Alt key, followed by a function key to get the following results:



F1	Access all spells
F2	More mana
F3	Kill all other wizards
F4	Destroy all castles except own
F5	Destroy all balloons except own
F6	Heal yourself
F7	Destroy all creatures

Little Big Adventure

Andrew Hawkings of Stevenage has this unsavoury tip for Adeline Software's brilliant adventure. On Principle Island, visit the library. In the first room, throw your ball at the rabbibunny behind the till. When he runs to sound the alarm, step on to the staircase on the left. The guard who runs in should be within range of your ball, but he won't be able to hit you. Kill him, and then repeat the whole thing until the rabbibunny is dead (you nasty man, Andrew). You can then get at the till which contains 25 kaches. You can return to the library as many times as you like, killing other rabbibunnies and getting more dosh in the same way. Or then again, you could introduce myxomatosis to Principle Island . . .

Blackthorne

Iain Hoey, who particularly wanted us to mention his home town, Briech in Scotland (happy now?), has helpfully provided all the level codes for Interplay's platform romp. These are:

Level 1	no code
Level 2	FBWC
Level 3	QPZR
Level 4	WJTV
Level 5	RRYB
Level 6	ZS4P
Level 7	XJSW
Level 8	CGDM
Level 9	TJ1F
Level 10	GSG3
Level 11	BMHS
Level 12	Y4DJ
Level 13	HCKD
Level 14	NRLF
Level 15	J6BZ
Level 16	MJYB
Level 17	K3LH

Raptor

Here's another cheat from our obliging Scot, this time for Apogee's shoot 'em up. Hold Space and Backspace down together to get a deathray, and repeat as many times as you want. You can sell these for extra cash.

Theme Park

Barton-on-Humber's Thomas Anderton has discovered a smart cheat for Bullfrog's fun fair simulator. When you go to enter your name, type FORZA. Then enter the game. Press Shift-Z, Alt-Z and Ctrl-Z to get all the rides, and Ctrl-C for extra dosh.



Warcraft

DANGER!

Jarle Berakvam has been playing Interplay's Warcraft, and being the thoroughly reasonable chap that he is, he's decided to share his little cheat with us. To get more timber and gold, do the following:

Start a new game. Save at Game.1. Then using a disk editor, edit the file c:\warcraft\save1.sav (if you are using a drive other than C:, enter that drive letter instead).

Go to the offset 1542 (timber) and 1562 (gold) and change the values to 20 A1 07 to boost your supplies.



Jazz Jackrabbit

Ian Hardingham of Drayton St Leonard has found a way to play the bonus level competition in Epic's Sonic-beater. Simply go to the world select screen and press the up arrow, then Enter. It's so simple, anyone can do it.

DANGER!

Do not attempt the cheats marked with the Danger icon unless you have access to a file editor such as Norton or PC Tools and you are confident that you know what you are doing. PC Review will not accept responsibility for damage to data caused by trying out these cheats. Remember: always back up your files before editing so that you can restore the originals if you need to.

HELP WANTED

I'm playing Little Big Adventure and my problem is that I can't get past the Grobos with the propellers on their backs in the sewers on Fortress Island. *Help!*

Andrew Hawkins, Stevenage, Herts.

Answer: Drain out the water,and try and run past them, using the pillars for natural cover.

I'm stuck in Ecstatica. I've got myself turned into a frog, so I thought it would be a good idea to explore the crypt below the church because I was too large to get in there in human form. I went through some passages and found a flight of stairs to climb, but for some reason I can't seem to get out into the room above. What am I doing wrong?

John Lipscombe, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

Answer: Your basic problem is that you're not meant to get yourself turned into a frog, but it will happen if you visit the wizard before you've been knighted by the lady of the lake. To get back to human form, you must pay a visit to the witch in the cottage by the castle — she'll restore you with a kiss. To get into the crypt beneath the church, you have to transform yourself into a weasel rather than a frog. You do this by finding three ingredients and combining them to make a spell. The spellbook and cauldron is in the house where you find the farting bear. Once you've got your weasel gear on, enter the crypt and you'll return to human form just before you have to climb the stairs. Sorted.

I am stuck on Monkey Island 2. I want to raise 6,000 pieces of eight to charter Kate's boat.

Adrian Murphy, Lissarda, County Cork

Answer: No worries. You need to win the spitting contest, whereupon you will receive a plaque. You can then flog this at the shop to get the money you need. To win the spitting contest, you have to have the green cocktail from the bar (this makes your spit thick) and then you also have to cheat by moving the flags. Maybe you could arrange a distraction, eh?

Please can you help with Myst? I am stuck in the Mechanical Age. I can't figure out how to make the fortress rotate. I have found the holograph machine, the two secret compartments where the red and blue papers are located and the shapes which illuminate when the hand is placed on them.

M W Ramsden, Rickmansworth

Answer: Achenar's room has a fortress rotation simulator which you can practice on, but it isn't the real thing. The actual rotation device is in a lift between two rooms. Press the red switch to open the staircase to the elevator controls. Downstairs you'll find another lever which you use to line up the openings on the circles diagram. the picture should turn red, meaning that you can now use the lift. Go upstairs and press the red button to gain access to it. Press the 'up' button in the lift, and then when you reach the top, press the middle button and step out. The lift will descend half way down, revealing the rotation controls. Turn the fortress to the north and call the lift. Go down and head to the north island where you'll find two symbols. Make a note of these. Then return to the fortress and turn it to the east. There are two more symbols there, so make a note of these as well. You should now have a string of four symbols. Turn the fortress south and enter the four symbols into the control panel to reveal a hidden room. You'll find the next book in here.

I have tried to play Innocent Until Caught for a good six months, but I'm stuck. I can't get to the zoo or the gallery or the bank. And shouldn't I be able to ride on the subway? I heard somewhere that a couple of copies of the game were defective. Please print this, you're my last hope.

Jimmy Pak, Johannesburg, South Africa

Answer: To get into the subway, do the following: pick the pocket of the guy who's propping up the bar to get a pawn ticket. Take the ticket to the pawnbroker's and exchange it for a camera. Also, take the chewing gum wrapper from inside the vase. Charge the camera using the socket in the diner, then go into the alley and use the flash to temporarily blind the tramp. Nick the spare change in his hat, then use it to buy a drink at the bar. The barman will give you one coin in change, so wrap this in the gun wrapper and you've made yourself a subway token. If you can get into the subway but can't get on the train, then you must have an early version of the game.

There was a small fault in early versions which meant that people with slow PCs (eg, a 16MHz or 20MHx 386SX) might not be able to get on to the trains. If this describes you, then call Psygnosis on (0151) 709 5755 for a patchdisk. The same version should work perfectly on faster PCs, however, so you could always try it on a friend's machine beforehand, just to check that it works.

Send your QED Tips to PC Review, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Your cries (or replies) for help should go to Help Wanted or Help Supplied at the same address.

PUBLISHERS HELPLINES

Hopelessly stuck in a game? Many software publishers run games helplines to help out hapless souls with hints and tips.

Accolade
Helpline number: (0181) 887 0880

Cyberdreams
Helpline number: (0171) 372 4307

Electronic Arts
Helpline number: (01753) 546465

Gametek
Helpline number: (01753) 553445

Gremlin Graphics
Helpline number: (01742) 753423

Interplay
Helpline number: (01865) 390029

Microprose
Helpline number: (01454) 329510

Ocean
Helpline number: (0161) 839 0999

Renegade
Helpline number: (0171) 481 9214

Sierra
Helpline number:
(Games after 1993): (01336) 417410
(Games before 1993): (01734) 304004

US Gold
Helpline number: (0121) 326 6418

With automated numbers (0891) get the permission of whoever pays the phone bills first. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times.

QED SOLUTIONS

Every issue we print solutions or playing guides to one or two new games. If you have completed a game recently and would like to see your name in print, either in the magazine or on the cover CD, send your solutions to QED at the usual address. You can send them on paper, or even better, on floppy disks as a word processor file (preferably ASCII). We will be giving away a software prize for, but please, no Day of the Tentacle solutions as we have enough to paper the PC Review offices.

EPIC

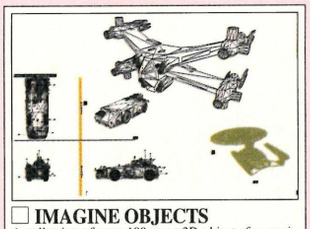
Order hotline. 0793 514188

VISA MasterCard EUROCARD VISA

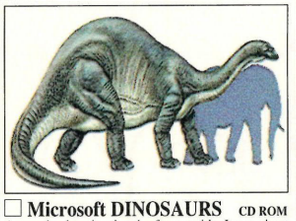
Powerful Software for Powerful PC Systems



☐ **Microsoft ENCARTA '95** CD ROM
The most up to date Encyclopedia available on CD ROM. Includes hundreds of megabytes of infomation, animations, sound and picture files.
Only £65.00 ex. VAT
£76.38 inc. VAT



☐ **IMAGINE OBJECTS**
A collection of over 100 great 3D objects for use in *Imagine* as featured on PC Format cover disk.
£17.00 inc. VAT



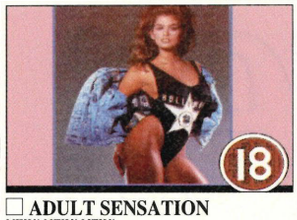
☐ **Microsoft DINOSAURS** CD ROM
A superb educational and reference title. Learn about every dinosaur, how they lived, what they ate, and why they died. A superb title for all the family.
£39.95 inc. VAT



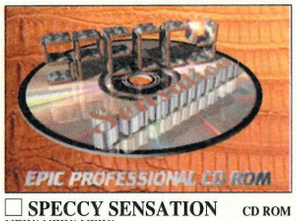
☐ **DELUXE STRIP POKER 2**
Play poker against some of the most glamorous women in the world. Various opponents to play against. (Available on 3.5" disks)
£12.00 inc. VAT



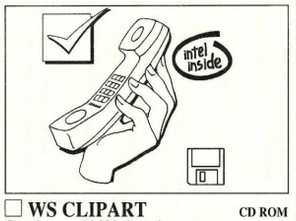
☐ **THE CHESSMASTER 3000** CD ROM
Features Chess Tutor, Teaching Display. An opening library of over 150,000 moves. Up to 10 players, stunning graphics and more.
☐ **CD Rom version** *£19.99 inc. VAT*
☐ **Floppy version** *£18.99 inc. VAT*



☐ **ADULT SENSATION**
NEW! NEW! NEW!
Over 3000 high quality GIF images on CD all in glorious 256 colours.
£19.99 inc. VAT



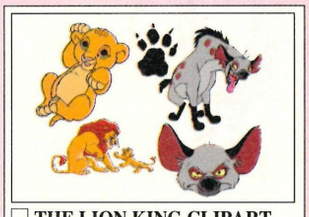
☐ **SPECCY SENSATION** CD ROM
NEW! NEW! NEW!
Over 200 classic Spectrum games with the emulator on one CD. All the classics are here. A great buy at just
£19.99 inc. VAT



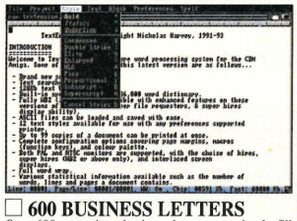
☐ **WS CLIPART** CD ROM
Contains over 25,000 clipart images.
Colour and Mono
There's no better value Clipart CD.
£9.99 inc. VAT



☐ **JUST LOTTO**
Just Lotto is a new Windows package. Each week you enter the winning numbers from that week's draw, and Just Lotto learns from experience using Link Number Theory to fine tune your entry for the following week *£19.99 inc VAT*



☐ **THE LION KING CLIPART**
Over 130 colour images. Great for DTP or Painting packages
Order code: PLKA7-2
£7.00 inc. VAT



☐ **600 BUSINESS LETTERS**
Over 600 pre-written business letters, you simply fill in the gaps. From disputing your phone bill to sacking an employee, they're all here, over 600 of them.
£4.00 inc. VAT



☐ **GFX SENSATION** CD ROM
Superb new CD title containing hundreds of great Imagine objects. Lightwave objects, Graphics tools, 24bit Images etc.
☐ **CD Rom version** *£19.99 inc. VAT*

CD ROM TITLES

☐ **STARTREK MULTIMEDIA**
Hundreds of Star Trek images and WAV files
Now only £27.99

☐ **WORLD ATLAS 4**
The complete World Atlas on your PC. Learn about different countries. Includes over 1000 colour images, and over 150 video clips
Only £24.99

☐ **DISTANT SUNS 2 FOR WIN.**
The complete Astronomy packages. Track planets, loot at star systems solar systems. Also features a huge amount of information about our solar system. *Only £29.95*

☐ **MICROPROSE 6 PACK**
Includes 6 all time classic MicroProse games, 3D POOL, GUNSHIP, MIDWINDER, SOCCER and more. *Only £19.99*

☐ **CYBERWORLDS**
3 ways to add a new dimension to your computer. Includes GLOBAL EFFECT, CYBER CHESS & AIR WARRIOR. *Only £19.99*

☐ **DIGITAL LOVE**
Unique Adult title. *Only £19.99*

☐ **MAVIS BEACON TYPING TUTOR**
Voted THE BEST typing tutor available on the PC. *Only £39.99*

☐ **SUPER ARCADE GAMES**
Features a huge range of classic arcade games. *£24.99*

☐ **WOMEN IN MOTION**
Animation files *£14.99*

☐ **SPACE SHUTTLE**
The Space Shuttle simulator *Only £19.99*

☐ **SOFTWARE TREASURE CHEST**
Large collection of games, tools, fonts & graphics. *£19.99*

☐ **ADULT VISION CDROM**
Over 1000 GIF images *£19.99*

☐ **SOURCE CODE CDROM**
Over 600 Sourcecodes. *£19.99*

☐ **SUPER GAMES FOR WINDOWS**
Over one hundred ready to run Windows games. Classic games as well as some new unique games are included. *Only £19.99*

☐ **CLIPART WAREHOUSE**
Over 11,000 top quality PCX, TIF clipart images for use in almost any Desktop Publishing Package. An absolute bargain at *£19.99*

☐ **MULTIMEDIA PLATINUM WIN**
Includes Video clips, full colour images, icons, sound files and animations *£19.99*

☐ **PUBLISHER PLATINUM WIN**
A collection of the best clipart (over 5000 images), Hundreds of fonts and dozens of publishing tools for Windows. *£19.99*

☐ **EDUCATION PLATINUM WIN**
Easy to use CD full of learning games. Requires Windows. ♪ *Only £19.99*

☐ **GAMES PLATINUM WIN**
Hundreds of top quality games for Windows. *£19.99*

☐ **CICA WINDOWS COLLECTION**
Over 3000 programs for use in Windows. Utils, 400 games, Icons & Programming tools. Latest release only *£19.99*

☐ **PCSIG'S WORLD OF WINDOWS**
Over 350 tools, Over 2000 sound files, 900 True Type fonts, and over 10,000 Windows Icons. *£19.99*

☐ **WORLD OF EDUCATION**
Over 600 Educational programs for all ages. Maths, spelling etc *Only £19.99*

☐ **SOUND SENSATION**
Includes SoundFX, Voices, Music, Sound clips and utilities for use with any PC fitted with a sound card. *Only £19.99*

☐ **WINTER SUPERSPORTS CD**
The Arcade sports game of the year. Introductory price. *£14.99*

☐ **SPACE AND ASTRONOMY**
Over 1,000 superb 256 colour images of our solar system. Also includes official NASA documentation dating back to 1962 *Only £19.99*

☐ **WS FONTS CD**
Thousands upon thousands of fonts, suitable for Windows. An absolute bargain at *£9.99*

☐ **PRO. GIF CLIPART**
Over 3000 high quality GIF images. All subjects included. Aviation, Models, People, Workers, Cars, Animals and more. *£19.99*

☐ **GIFS GALORE**
A collection of over 5000 images. *£19.99*

☐ **DOOM COMPANION**
Includes hundreds of new levles and tools for DOOM *Only £24.99*

☐ **CD SPEED UP**
Speed up the performance of your CD ROM drive by over 600%, an essential purchase at just *£29.99*

☐ **GROLIER ENCYCLOPEDIA**
Superb encyclopedia for all the family. *£25.99*

☐ **COREL DRAW**
Corel Draw complete with manuals, Clipart Book etc. *£59.99*

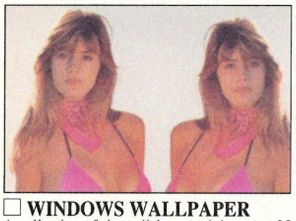
☐ **ANIMALS IN MOTION**
Animation files of animals *£14.99*

☐ **SUPER VGA HARRIER**
Superb looking Flight sim. *£19.99*

☐ **SOUNDS TERRIFIC (Double CD)**
Thousands of WAVS and sound FX on 2 CD Roms *£19.99*

☐ **THE BUSINESS CD ROM**
Contains all the best Word processors databases, spreadsheets, Diarys, Invoicing software etc. *£19.99*

☐ **SHAREWARE TRIO**
A three CD ROM set of thousands of great software titles. Games, Utils, Comms, Graphics, Sounds, and loads & loads more. *£29.99*



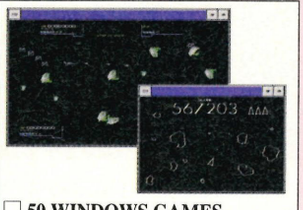
☐ **WINDOWS WALLPAPER**
A collection of three disks containing over 25 stunning wallpaper images of glamour girls for use in Windows.
£10.00 inc. VAT



☐ **THE CLASSIC COLLECTION** CD ROM
Features four excellent adult games. Strip Poker, Centrefold Squares, Jigsaw Pinups and Strip Poker 2
Only £29.99



☐ **COVERGIRL STRIP POKER** CD ROM
Play Poker against eight beautiful women, including Maria Whittaker & Trine Michelsen. Features over 15 minutes of video, 3 players, 6 music tracks and a choice of language.
£19.99 inc. VAT



☐ **50 WINDOWS GAMES**
Over 50 great arcade games for Windows. Includes: Battle Zone, Asteroids, Missile-Command, Invaders and loads more.
Order Code: PWDG6-3
£6.00 inc. VAT

MULTIMEDIA SPECIALISTS

CD ROM DRIVES, SOUND CARDS, CD ROM SOFTWARE.

Priority Order Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....

PC Model..... Payment.....

Credit Card No.....

Exp.....

Goods are not sold on a trial basis.
ALL TITLES ARE FULL VERSIONS, UNLESS STATED.
Please add **a total of £1.00 per item ordered for Delivery** in the UK & Mainland.
Most orders are despatched within 48 hours.
Free blank disks with orders over £35 only apply to UK orders.

Order Value

Please send me:	QTY	= £ INC VAT
Total goods value		= £ INC VAT
Postage & Packing Software & CD Rom titles add £1.00 per item. Sound Cards add £4.00 CD Rom Drives add £7.00 All postage costs include VAT		= £
Amount enclosed		= £

ALL PRICES INCLUDE V.A.T

Ordering by Post
Simply send us a written order with a list of the disks you require, or simply tick the boxes of the titles you require, fill in your name and address, remove or photocopy this page and send it along with full payment to: EPIC MARKETING, 138-139 VICTORIA RD, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE, SN1 3BU.

Collecting Disks
PD disks can be collected same day, but if your order is quite large, please phone in a few hours previous to pick-up.

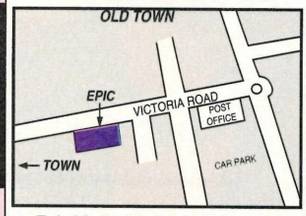
Overseas Orders
Overseas orders are welcome, A minimum of 5 titles applies. Overseas please add £1.00 to each floppy disk based item ordered for 1st class delivery, and £2.00 per CD Rom title ordered.

Postage & Packing
Please add £1.00 per item, for postage and packing in the UK and Mainland.

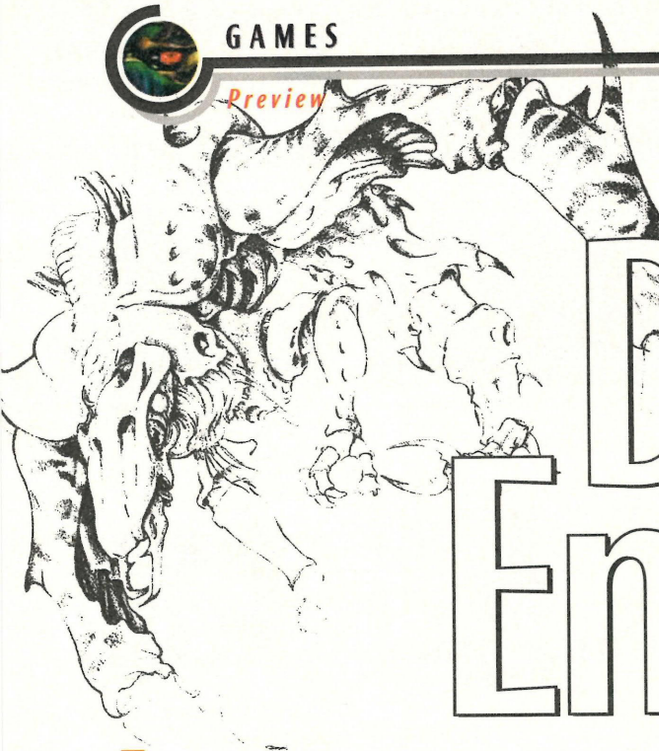
Compatibility
All titles advertised work on any PC with a 386 or 486 processor and VGA or SVGA graphics, unless stated. Most titles support SoundBlaster. 4Mb RAM recommended.

Ordering by Phone
To place an order over the phone simply call any time between 9.30 & 5.30pm Monday to Saturday with your credit card details and the disks you would like to order. (Orders can usually be placed up to 6pm every evening).

WHERE TO FIND US



Epic Marketing, Victoria Centre,
138-139 Victoria Rd,
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 3BU.
Tel: 0793 514188 Fax: 514187

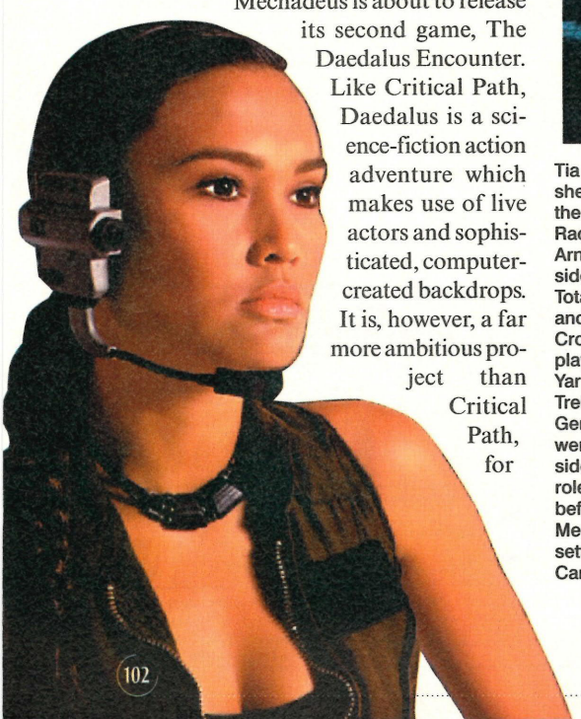


The Daedalus Encounter

The Daedalus Encounter could well be the slickest multimedia game you've ever seen. The interactive movie makes a comeback.

It's fairly unlikely that you've heard of Mechadeus — it's not the sort of name that springs readily to mind — but you might just remember a game called Critical Path. Critical Path (rated 5, issue 29) was one of the earliest examples of multimedia entertainment, and whilst it looked impressive, it received criticism for its lack of gameplay. Given that it was Mechadeus' first foray into the field of multimedia entertainment, and that it was put together in just four and a half months, this is perhaps a little unfair. John Evershed, president of Mechadeus, describes Critical Path as "an experiment," claiming that it was intended more as a demo than a full-blown game. As an offshoot of corporate multimedia specialist Mondo Media, Mechadeus had next to no experience of the games market, so it was hardly surprising that Critical Path failed to meet expectations.

Now older and infinitely wiser, Mechadeus is about to release its second game, The Daedalus Encounter. Like Critical Path, Daedalus is a science-fiction action adventure which makes use of live actors and sophisticated, computer-created backdrops. It is, however, a far more ambitious project than Critical Path, for not only has Mechadeus spent 14 months fine-tuning it, but it also features ultimate babe Tia Carrere in one of the leading roles.



Tia Carrere as she appears in the game. Rachel Ticotin, Arnie's female sidekick in Total Recall, and Denise Crosby, who played Tasha Yar in Star Trek: The Next Generation, were also considered for the role of Ari before Mechadeus settled on Carrere.



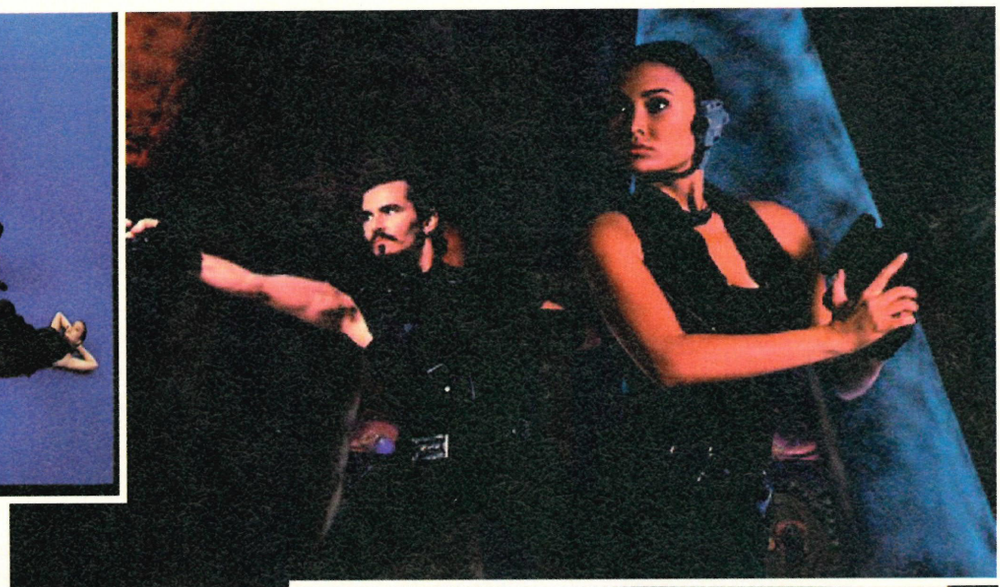
Star quality

Unlike the majority of actors who have appeared in computer games, Carrere is neither an unknown nor a star in decline. Her roles in Wayne's World, Rising Sun and summer blockbuster True Lies mean that good movie offers come her way regularly, but she was attracted to the game by the tough-but-feminine qualities of her gun-toting character, Ari. Ari's partner, Zack, is played by Christian Boucher.

The story is set in the 22nd century, and follows the fortunes of three survivors of the First Intergalactic War: Ari, Zack and the player character, Casey. When the trio's fighter crashes into an alien ship during the final battle, Ari and Zack survive, but Casey is injured so badly that only his brain is left intact. The only way to save him is to wire him into the ship's computer, thus enabling him to control a flying, mechanical probe which becomes his "body" for the duration of the game.

If the player character seems a little unusual, there's a very good reason for this. In most adventure games, you play a





The actors were filmed against blue screen before being superimposed on rendered backgrounds. Filming took place over a fortnight's worth of ten-hour days — a gruelling schedule to say the least.

human (or at least, humanoid) character, but the limits of the traditional point-'n'-click interface means that interaction with your surroundings remains on a very artificial level.

It's a classic

And on with the plot. After the war, the intrepid threesome enter the spaceship salvage business, but during their first mission they become entangled with a stricken, alien ship which is on a collision course with a nearby star. The aim of the game, then, is to save the three characters from a particularly unpleasant, fiery death by exploring the ship and sussing out how to control it. In other words, this means a lot of exploration, puzzle solving and character interaction — the three classic elements of any good adventure game.

The combination of film footage and computer graphics (rendered in 3D Studio) works particularly well. The quality of the video is exceptional, and you'll notice that the joins are not especially evident, thanks to many hours spent painstakingly removing the blue lines from around the characters. In default mode, the video window fills just one quarter of the screen, but it's possible to blow it up to full-screen using the on-screen toggle without too much loss of quality — provided that your hardware is powerful enough, that is. Mechadeus recommends a local bus 33MHz 486 as the bare minimum, but in reality you're far better off with a Pentium. I saw it running on two different Pentiums, a 60MHz model with a PCI bus, and a 90MHz model with a standard VESA bus, and it was noticeably smoother on the slower PCI machine. The moral of that is that the quality of your graphics card and bus is far more important than raw processing power, so be warned.



Carrere and Boucher relax between takes.

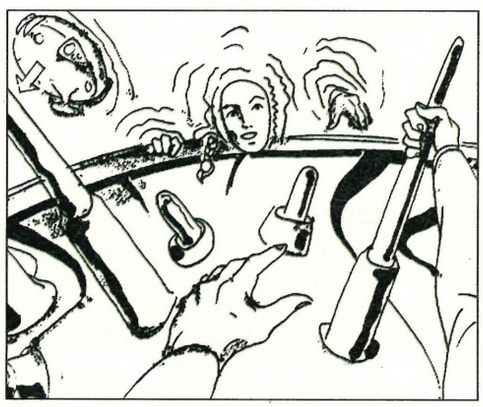
You've been framed

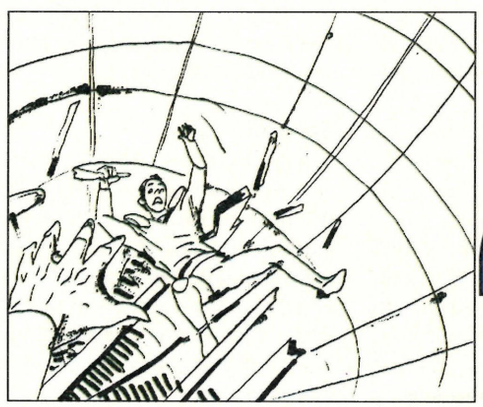
The Daedalus Encounter runs under Windows, achieving a maximum frame rate of 15 frames per second — the same speed as American television. Although this is half the rate of Trilobyte's 11th Hour (which runs at 30 frames per second), it's still a respectable speed, and the resulting game looks extremely slick. Thanks to the Windows environment, it's also a very easy game to install.

Mechadeus is keen to promote multimedia as a means of entertainment, but its major drawback is that unlike television and video, you often have to spend ages messing about with your PC's memory configuration before you can begin to enjoy your games. With this in mind, the programmers have taken pains to ensure that you'll be able to get Daedalus up and running with the minimum of fuss.

The Daedalus Encounter was almost finished when I saw it in March, and Mechadeus is hoping to release it in May. Whilst I'm not prepared to stick my neck out and say that it's the best game I've ever seen — I refuse to pass judgement on anything I haven't played thoroughly — it's definitely a huge improvement on Critical Path. I can't fault its presentation, but will it play as well as it looks? You'll just have to wait until our next issue to find out.

❍ Cal Jones





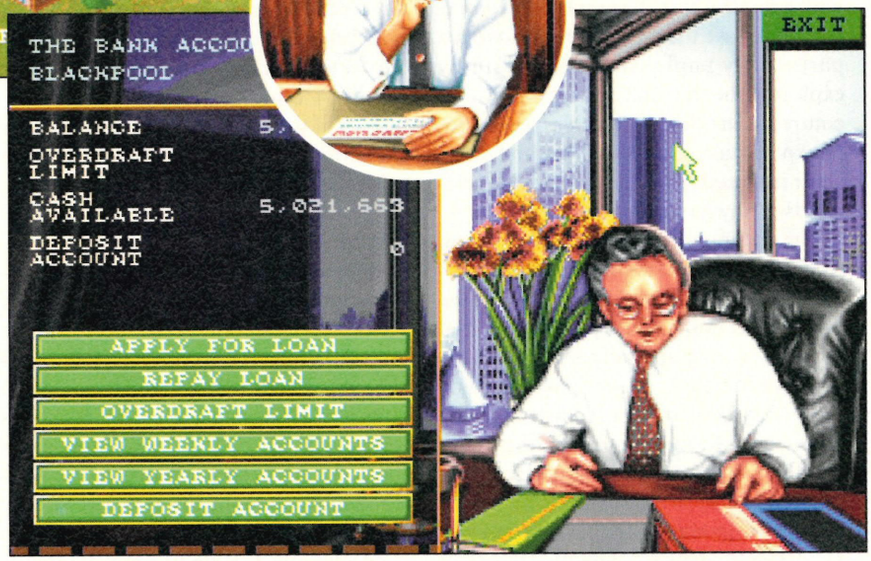
Every scene was carefully mapped out using story-boards before filming began.

FAXBOX

Developer:	Mechadeus
Publisher:	Virgin
Release Date:	May 1995
Genre:	Interactive movie

Ultimate Soccer Manager





Premier Manager 3 and Championship Manager have had it good for too long. Now Ultimate Soccer Manager aims to kick them out of the ball park.

Ask any football fan what their 'ultimate soccer manager' would be, and most of them would say that he would have to be rotund, wear sheepskin jackets, don a trilby and smoke the hugest of cheroots — it doesn't matter about success on the field as long as the 'guv'ner' looks right. But then, it's well known that most football fans are more than happy to see their team languishing in the depths of the Endsleigh league. Not so Impressions, who has now made an all out bid to attack the 'two-horse race' that the football management game market has endured for so long.

Ultimate Soccer Manager is a football strategy game with a difference, and combines the everyday running of a team with financial and business aspects reminiscent of games such as Sim City and Transport Tycoon. And whereas normally crossing finance with soccer would see managers sacked and investigated by the fraud squad, here it enriches an existing game format, and essentially adds a new twist to the staid tried and tested theme.

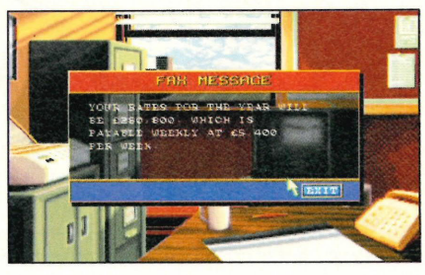
First, the footy

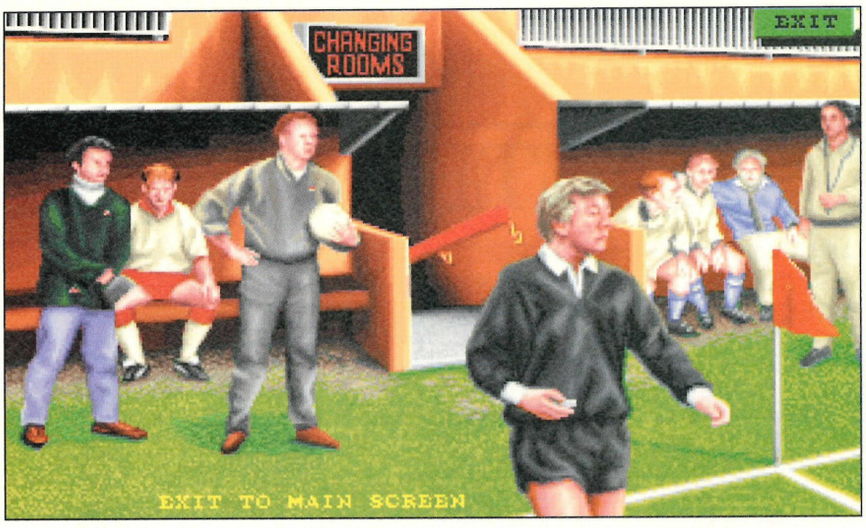
The football side of the game features almost everything you could possibly want. All the teams in the Premier, Endsleigh and Conference leagues are there to choose from, and unlike Gremlin's Premier Manager 3 you can access any of them from the start. This, of course, means that you don't have to plod your way through season after season in an attempt to take Dagenham & Redbridge to Premiership and European glory. You can just take over Manchester United and be done with it. Also, instead of a difficulty level, you can choose how much money your team has in the coffers when you start, which can be anywhere from £250,000 to £5,000,000. So if you're completely die-hard, like me, you can take over the worst team in the bottom league with but a ha'penny and a smile and build them up to be footballing behemoths.

Then it's time to get down to grass-roots level, and you realise that Ultimate is options a-go-go. You can train your players or get the assistant manager to help, select your team from a healthy squad or

Above: usually a visit to the bank would be something to dread, but when you've got £5 million stashed under your mattress you'll find the manager more than willing to help out.

Below: both the fax and the 'phone in your office allow you to communicate with other managers, even when offering them a 'bung'.

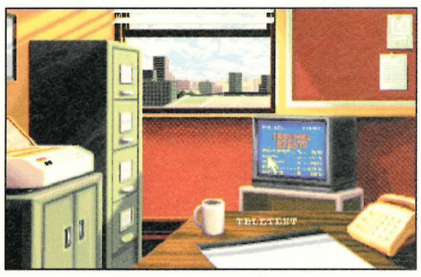




Above: everything has a function on these pretty menu screens. The bench is for information on your team, the changing room will allow you to choose you players and the ref, er, blows his whistle!

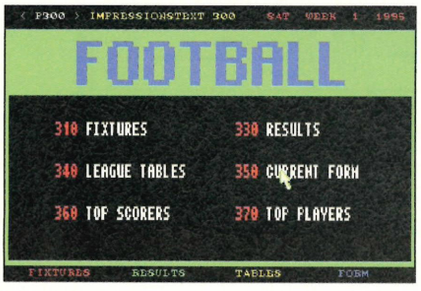
FAXBOX

Developer:	Impressions
Publisher:	Impressions
Release Date:	April 19th
Genre:	Football strategy









get the assistant manager's comments — to be honest, I don't know why the chairman employs you to do the job — he should give it to the assistant manager. But then he wouldn't fit in the chair in your office, and, the statistical act of the actual football games aside, this is where Ultimate Soccer Manager comes into its own.

Getting around

Your office, you see, is one of the many buildings that exist on possibly the best presented menu screen in any game of this type. And within each building — the bank, the chairman's office, your own office — you're presented with an interactive scene allowing you to access any of the objects within, each with their own sub-menu and on the spot animations. Admittedly, this is the ribbon on the already well packed parcel that is Ultimate Soccer Manager, and most management fans would be more than happy with a scrolling screen of statistics and text, but it makes it so user friendly that even non-train-spotter types could find their way around.

Then, to cap it all off, there's the Sim City 2000 style building section. When you start at a lower club, your main menu screen consists of a couple of buildings, one stand (if you're lucky) and a few grassy knolls, so unless you're the CIA and a president is about to come round the corner in a cavalcade, you'll want to develop new stands, a few hamburger stalls, a car-park and all the other features that make a modern football ground a centre-piece for the community. These will also give you an important source of extra income. In fact, there are far too many features to include here, and I haven't really been able to delve into the way the football matches themselves are actually played, I'll leave that until the review appears.

I haven't been this excited about a theoretically 'boring' statistical game for ages. I hope it appears soon, then we can all play.

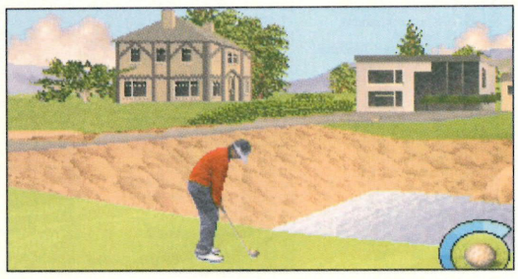
❍ Rik Henderson

COMING SOON

Fairway to Heaven

GameTek

Fairway to Heaven part golf-game, part interactive tutorial. It includes 18 holes picked from famous courses all over the world, with commentary from well-known golfers such as Jack Nicklaus. Due out sometime this month, if we're lucky.



Power House

Impressions/Daze

Power House is a Windows-based strategy game in which your aim is to build an international power generating business empire. Fight off rivals, balance profit with environmental damage and choose either to use fossil fuels or research alternative power. Out May.



Top Gun

MicroProse

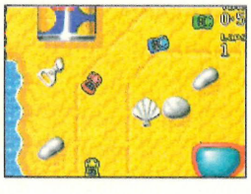
At long last, Top Gun the movie has made it onto PC. More of an action flying game than a hardcore sim, Top Gun puts you, as Maverick, through training school before letting you loose in an F-14 against the Russian MiGs. No Kelly McGillis, mind.



Micro Machines 2

Codemasters

Codemasters, publisher of Psycho Pinball, is currently putting the finishing touches to Micro Machines 2. This arcade-style, top-down racing game puts you in control of a miniature car racing over a selection of unlikely settings. Fast, fun and especially good in two-player mode. Due out sometime in May.



POST HASTE

11a, Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 2HH

TRY US.. WE LIVE UP TO OUR NAME.. RING NOW!!!

TEL.01227-764204 9.30am to 7.00pm

(Answerphone outside normal hours)

Select any 3 titles £7.99 or less for only £20.00
Select any 3 titles £9.99 or less for only £25.00

SOFTWARE

Some of the following games titles are limited offers at the time of going to press. Order early to avoid disappointment.We stock all the latest titles which we offer at appx. 30% OFF R.R.P.

EDUCATIONAL PC 3 1/2

10/10 Early Essentials	17.99
10/10 Essential Maths	17.99
10/10 Junior Essentials	17.99
10/10 Maths (Numbers)	17.99
10/10 Maths (algebra)	17.99
10/10 English	17.99
10/10 Structured Spelling	17.99
10/10 French	17.99
10/10 German	17.99
10/10 Dinosaurs	17.99
10/10 Driving Test	17.99
ADI English 11/12	16.99
ADI English 12/13	16.99
ADI English 13/14	16.99
ADI English 14/15	16.99
ADI English GCSE	22.99
ADI French 11/12	16.99
ADI French 12/13	16.99
ADI French 13/14	16.99
ADI French 14/15	16.99
ADI French GCSE	22.99
ADI Maths 11/12	16.99
ADI Maths 12/13	16.99
ADI Maths 13/14	16.99
ADI Maths 14/15	16.99
ADI Maths GCSE	22.99
ADI Junior Counting 4/5	13.99
ADI Junior Counting 5/6	13.99
ADI Junior Reading 4/5	13.99
ADI Junior Reading 5/6	13.99
Alistair & Alien (CD)	24.99
Arthur Birthday S'prise(CD)	27.99
Better Spelling	13.99
Count and Add 3-8	9.99
Creative Fine Artist	34.99
Creative Writer	34.99
Fisher Price ABC (CD)	24.99
Fun School2(2-6,6-8 or 8+)	7.99
Fun School3(2-5,5-7 or 7+)	13.99
Fun School4(2-5,5-7 or 7+)	16.99
Fun School5-Dream (4-7)	19.99
Fun School5-Space (6-9)	19.99
Fun School5-Time (8-11)	19.99
Grammar Games-Win	22.99
Kid Cad	24.99

CombatClassics3	*WorldCup Year94*
Campaign Gunship 2000 History Line	Sensible Soccer Goal, Striker, Champ.Man 94
.....£23.99.....	.....£16.99.....
AwardWinners 3	*Sim Classics x 3*
Civilisation, Lemmings, Elite 2	Sim City .. Sim Life Sim Ant
.....£23.99.....	.....£24.99.....

Kid Desk	24.99
Kid Keys	24.99
Kid Phonics (CD)	26.99
Kid Pix	9.99
Magic Maths	13.99
Mario is Missing	24.99
Mario Teaches Sums 3-6	22.99
Mario Teaches Typing	19.99
Marios Time Machine	24.99
Marios Playschool 3-5	24.99
Mavis Typing for Kids	23.99
Mega Maths (A-Level)	16.99
Merlins Maths 7-11	16.99
Micro English	16.99
Micro French	16.99
Micro German	16.99
Micro Maths	16.99
Micro Science	16.99
Micro Spanish	16.99
Mixed-Up Mother Goose	9.99
Noddys Big Adventure	19.99
Noddys Playtime	19.99
Putt Putt goes to the Moon	24.99
Putt Putt Joins the Parade	19.99
Putt Putts Fun Pack	19.99
Reading Adventures in OZ	24.99
Scooters Magic Castle	23.99
Spelling Fair 7-13	16.99
Story Book Weaver	16.99
Thumbelina	14.99
Time Flies	9.99

CD-ROM GAMES

7th Guest	12.99
Aces of the Deep	28.99
All New Lemmings	26.99
Alone in the Dark	15.99
Alone in the Dark 2	27.99
Armoured Fist	27.99
Battle Isle 2	27.99
Beneath the Steel Sky	27.99
Bloodnet	25.99
Colonization	28.99
Commanche CD	29.99
Creature Shock	31.99
Cyberia	31.99
Cyberwar	29.99
Cyclemania	19.99
Dawn Patrol	28.99
Deathgate	24.99
Doom 2	35.99
Dragonlore	28.99
Ecstatica	30.99
Falcon Gold	30.99
FIFA Intern. Soccer	26.99
Fleet Defender Gold	27.99
Gabriel Knight	19.99
Guilty	26.99
Hell	30.99
Indy Jones Fate Atlantis	21.99
Inferno	32.99
Kings Quest Collection	28.99
Legend of Kyrandia 3	19.99
Little Big Adventure	32.99
Lost in Time	28.99
Magic Carpet	32.99
MYST	31.99
NASCAR Racing	26.99
Noctropolis	31.99

VISA, MASTERCARD, EUROCARD, P.O. despatched same day! Please allow 4 working days for cheques to clear. CHEQUES/P.O. payable to POST HASTE, 11a, Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent.CT12HH. Overseas Orders add £2.00 postage for Software. Hardware-overseas postage charged at cost. Prices are subject to alteration.

GAMES PC 3 1/2

A-Train + Constr.	15.99
Aladdin	19.99
All New Lemmings	22.99
Arcade Pool	10.99
A.Mcleans Pool	10.99
Armoured Fist	25.99
B-Wing (Data)	14.99
Belfry Course 386 Pro	16.99
Beneath Steel Sky	22.99
Blitzkrieg	7.99
Cadaver	10.99
Cannon Fodder 2	22.99
Car & Driver	10.99
CastlePinesCourse-Pro386	16.99
Colonization	28.99
Colossus 4 Bridge	6.99
Colossus Chess X	6.99
Curse Of Enchantia	9.99
Daily Double Racing	6.99
Dawn Patrol	28.99
Day of the Tentacle	19.99
Desert Strike	14.99
Dogfight	11.99
Doom 2	27.99
Dune	10.99
Ecstatica	29.99
Epic	10.99
Eye Of Beholder 1,2 or 3	11.99
F15 Strike Eagle 2	11.99
F19 Stealth Fighter	11.99
F29 Retaliator	10.99
Falcon 3.0	29.99
Fantasy Football Man.	13.99
Fields Of Glory	11.99
FIFA Soccer	24.99
Flight Sim.5	27.99
Football Director 2	6.99
Frontier Elite 2	19.99
Gabriel Knight	22.99
Grand Prix (Prose)	11.99
Great Naval Battles	10.99
Gunship	9.99
Gunship 2000	10.99
Heart of China	12.99
Heimdell	9.99
Heimdell 2	9.99
Hoyles Games1,2 or 3	9.99
Imperial Pursuit Data	13.99
Indianapolis 500	10.99
Indy Car Race Ltd.Ed	19.99
Indy Car Track Pack	12.99
Indy Jones Fate Atl.	19.99
Indy Jones L.C.Graph	10.99
Int. Sensible Soccer	14.99
Iron Cross	24.44
Jimmy White Snooker	10.99
J.Madden Football	10.99
KGB	9.99
Kings Quest 1,2 or 3	9.99
Knights of the Sky	11.99
Lands of Lore	24.99
Legend of Kyrandia	10.99
Leisure Suit Larry 1,20r3	10.99
Links 386 Pro	29.99
Links Golf	11.99
Lion King	19.99
Litil Divil	12.99
Loom	10.99
Lure of the Temptress	10.99
M1 Tank Platoon	10.99
Mig 29 Superfulcrum	10.99
Monkey Island	11.99
Monkey Island 2	11.99
Monopoly	19.99
Mortal Kombat	9.99
NASCAR Racing	24.99
New York Scenery FS5	16.99
Nick Faldo Golf	9.99
On The Ball League	23.99
Operation Stealth	9.99
Outpost	19.99
Overlord	29.99
Pacific Strike	19.99
Paperboy 2	9.99
Paris Scenery FS5	16.99
Pebble Beach for 386Pro	16.99
PGA Tour Golf Plus	10.99
Pinball Fantasies	24.99
Pirates	9.99
Police Quest 1, 2 or 3	11.99
Populous + Lands	9.99
Populous 2	10.99
Powermonger	10.99
Pirates Gold	14.99
Prince of Persia	9.99
Project X	13.99
Quest for Glory 1	11.99
Quest for Glory 2	13.99
Railroad Tycoon	11.99
Reach for the Skies	10.99
Realms	9.99
Rise of the Robots VGA	19.99
Rise of the Robots SVGA	19.99
Robocop 3	10.99
Ryder Cup Golf	9.99
Sam and Max	19.99
San Francisco Scene FS5	24.99
Scrabble DeLuxe	19.99
Secret Weapons Luftwaffe	11.99
Settlers	25.99
Shuttle	11.99
Silent Service 2	11.99
Sim City 2000	25.99
Sim City Classic	12.99
Sim Earth	14.99
Simon the Sorcerer	24.99
Soccer Kid	7.99
Space Quest 1 or 3	11.99
Space Quest 2	9.99
Space Simulator	25.99
Speedball 2	7.99
Spellcraft	9.99
Star Trek 25th Anniv.	9.99
Streetfighter 2	10.99
Strike Commander	30.99
Supremacy	9.99
Syndicate	27.99
System Shock	30.99
T.F.X.	19.99
Tactical Manager(GB/Sco)	9.99
Taskforce 1942 (+CD)	11.99
Tennis Cup 2	7.99
Test Drive 3	9.99
Their Finest Hour	11.99
Their Finest Missions	7.99
Theme Park	24.99
Thunderhawk	6.99
Tie Fighter	26.99
Tornado	14.99
Transport Tycoon	28.99
U.F.O.	28.99
Ultima 6	10.99
Ultima 7 Black Gate	11.99
Ultima 8	28.99
Ultimate Body Blows	19.99
Universe	24.99
Urban Renewal-Sim2000	13.99
Washington DC FS5	24.99
White Death	7.99
Wing Commander	10.99
Winter Olympics	9.99
World Class Cricket	14.99
Worlds at War	7.99
X-Wing	19.99
Zak Mckracken	9.99
Zool 2	12.99

TOP EDUCATIONAL CD-ROM

Microsoft Cinemania 1995	£38.99
My First Incredible Amazing Dictionary	£34.99
The Way Things Work(Dorling Kindersley)	£55.99
The Ultimate Human Body...("" "")	£55.99
Eyewitness Encyclopedia Of Science("")	£64.99
Microsoft Ancient Lands	£36.99
Microsoft Encarta	£69.99
Microsoft Art Gallery	£38.99
Bodyworks 3.0	£36.99
Microsoft Composer Collection	£62.99
Microsoft Creative Writer	£33.99
Microsoft Creative Artist	£33.99
Dictionary of the Living World	£72.99
The Animals	£12.99
Complete Works of William Shakespear	£19.99
World Atlas V5	£19.99
Comptons Encyclopedia95	£42.99
Dangerous Creatures	£37.99
Microsoft Bookshelf	£69.99

Classic - Lucas	*Classic-Delphine*	*Classic - Access*	*Colossus Coll.*
Monkey Island, /Indy/Mansio/ Loom/Mckrack.	Flashback/Corps A.World/F.Wars /Op.Stealth.	Links Golf/ Bount./Firest./ Pinehurst/Bayh.	Chess X Bridge 4 Backgamon £9.99
.....£19.99.....	.....£19.99.....	.....£19.99.....	

A10-Tank Killer	11.99
Alone in Dark 3 (CD)	29.99
Alien Logic (CD)	27.99
Alien Breed Tower Ass.	13.99
BC Racers (CD)	22.99
Big Red Adventure (CD)	23.99
Bureau 13 (CD)	24.99
Campaign 1 0r 2 (+CD)	10.99
Champ.Man.Italia95	10.99
D. Leadbetter Golf(+CD)	10.99
DARK FORCES (CD)	32.99
Dark Seed (+CD)	11.99
Dark Sun-Wake Ravager	23.99
Deocent (CD)	24.99
Deluxe Strip Poker 2	6.99
Discworld (+CD)	32.99
Dungeon Master 2	24.99
Elite Plus (+CD)	11.99
Falcon 3.0 (+CD)	11.99
Flight Unlimited (CD)	29.99
Fleet Def./Subwar 2050	28.99
Frontlines (+CD)	25.99
Harpoon Classics (+CD)	20.99
Harrier Jump Jet (+CD)	11.99
Heroes 357th/F29	14.99
Inordinate Desire (CD)	15.99
Iron Assault (CD)	24.99
Jungle Strike (+CD)	22.99
Jurassic Park	10.99
KA-50 Hokum	22.99
Leg. Kyrandia/Hook (CD)	14.99
Leisure Suit Larry 1-6(CD)	26.99
Legends of Valour	9.99
Lost Eden (CD)	29.99
Menzoberranzan (+CD)	27.99
Mortal Kombat 2 (+CD)	23.99
Pacific Air War Gold (CD)	28.99
Pacific Island (+CD)	10.99
Patrician (+CD)	11.99
Pizza Tycoon (+CD)	25.99
Premier Manager 3 (+CD)	21.99
Paycho Pinball (CD)	24.99
Prairie Dunes (Links 386)	16.99
Space Hulk	10.99
Stalingrad (+CD)	31.99
Star Trek Next Gen. (CD)	Ring
Super Karts (CD)	29.99
Superfrog	13.99
Tie Fighter Missions	13.99
Tornado (CD)	11.99
Trans. Tycoon Data(+CD)	13.99
War in the Gulf (+CD)	11.99

MAY ORDER FORM - PC-REVIEW

Name_____

Address_____

_____

_____

_____

Tel.No._____

Cheque/Credit No._____

Expiry Date._____ Description of

Customer Ref.No._____ Machine

Titles_____

_____

SERIOUS PC 3 1/2

CREATIVE

M/Soft PublisherV2-Win	79.99
Page PlusV3-Win	53.99
Pageplus Art Pack	25.99
Home Design Gold-Win	25.99
Design Works-Win	19.99
1st. Press - Win	19.99
1st. Design - Win	19.99
Drafix CAD - Win	52.99
3D BBC Garden Design	13.99
3D Interior Designer	13.99
Claris Works - Win	69.99
Floor Plan Plus	59.99
Imagine 3.0	89.99
Professional Draw	79.99
Print Shop DeLuxe	42.99
Timeworks PublisherV2	19.99
Visio 2.0	89.99
Turbocad V2.0	74.99

BUSINESS

Quicken V4 - Win	35.99
Quicken Home Inventory	24.99
Quicken DL Bus.Pk-Win	49.99
Quicken DL Home-Win	49.99
Quicken Invoice	39.99
Quicktax 95	39.99
M/Soft WorksV3 - Win	119.99
M/Soft MoneyV3 - Win	38.99
M/Soft MS-Dos V6.22	47.99
M/Soft Windows 3.1	39.99
Quickbooks V2 - Win	99.99
OS/2 Warp	64.99
Quickfax 94- Win	38.99
Borland Quattro Pro5	54.99
Visio V3.0	109.99
WP Grammatik	29.99
WP Infocentral	58.99
WP Letter Perfect	29.99
WP Works	58.99
CA Supercalc - Win	69.99
Lotus Approach	89.99
Lotus Organizer	44.99
Lotus Write	44.99
Instant Accounting	89.99

TOOLS & UTILITIES

After Dark V3	26.99
StarTrek Screen Saver	24.99
Winfax Pro V4	75.99
Do it on your Desktop	17.99
Compuserve Info.Manager	9.99
Klik and Play	25.99
Uninstaller V2	42.99
Gamerunner (Quemm)	39.99
Soundbit Hanna Barbara	14.99
Family Tree Maker	39.99
ECCO Simplicity	52.99
First Aid for Windows	33.99
Instant Calendar	13.99
Instant Fonts	13.99
Mavis Beacon 2 - Win	22.99
Autoroute Express +	39.99
Tarot For Windows	9.99
M/Soft Visual Basic	89.99
M/Soft Visual Basic Pro	249.99
Windows Workgroups	89.99

CD-ROM GAMES

Navy Strike	Ring
Outpost	31.99
PGA Tour Golf 486	32.99
Pinball Fantasy Deluxe	27.99
Rebel Assault	29.99
Rise of Robots SVGA	19.99
Robocop 3/Dune	15.99
Sam & Max	24.99
Shadow of the Comet	26.99
Sim City CD	27.99
Sim City 2000	27.99
Simon the Sorcerer	28.99
Space Hulk	30.99
Space Quest Collection	28.99
Star Crusader	27.99
Star Trek 25th. Anniv.	31.99
Syndicate	31.99
System Shock	30.99
T.F.X.	19.99
Theme Park	27.99
Tornado	19.99
Transport Tycoon	27.99
U.S.Navy Fighters	31.99
UFO / Master of Orion	27.99
Ultima 8	36.99
Under a Killing Moon	39.99
Virtuoso	26.99
Voyeur	25.99
War Craft-Orks & Humans	25.99
Wild Blue Yonder	26.99
Wing Commander 3	35.99
Wing Commander/Ultima6	15.99
Wolf	26.99
Woodruff MPC	25.99
X-Wing Collectors Pack	31.99
Zephyr	24.99

ADVANCE BOOKINGS

We accept advance orders for new releases. You can order with peace of mind as we will despatch on day of release. Your account will not be debited until date of release.

CD-ROM SPOT

Adventures In Heaven	11.99
Adventures In Heaven 2	11.99
Barney Bear goes to School	11.99
Barney Bear goes to Space	11.99
Clipart Warehouse	9.99
Clipart Cornucopia	13.99
Clipart Extravaganza	24.99
Clipart Heaven 2	17.99
Colossal Cookbook	9.99
Dr. Clipart	9.99
Dr. Communication	9.99
Dr. Fonts	9.99
Dr. Games	9.99
Dr. Graphics	9.99
Dr. Music Lab.	9.99
Dr. O/S2 Gold	9.99
Dr. Book of Home Remedies	9.99
Dr. Shareware	9.99
Dr. Windows	9.99
Educational Platinum	9.99
Entertainment Platinum(4CD)	17.99
Family Doctor 3rd.Edition	9.99
Fonts Platinum	9.99
Games Platinum	9.99
Ghostbusters 2 (+2)	7.99
Gif Gallery	9.99
Gifs Galaxy	12.99
Gifs Galore	12.99
Ham Radio	9.99
Home & Business Platinum	9.99
It Came From the Desert(+2)	7.99
Learning Heaven	17.99
Mayo Clinic	12.99
Midi Master Collection	9.99
Multimedia Mania	9.99
Multimedia Platinum	9.99
Night Owl 14	17.99
Pro Music Producer	14.99

X-Wing CD Pack	*Combat Classics3*
X-Wing B-Wing Data ImperialPursuit	Campaign Gunship 2000 History Line
..CD.£35.99.CD..	..CD.£23.99.CD..
Award Winners3	*Gremlin Comp.1*
Civilisation Elite 2 Lemmings	Zool Lotus 3 Nigel Mansell
..CD.£23.99.CD..	..CD.£12.99.CD..

Publishers Platinum	9.99
Return to Zork	13.99
Shareware Extravaganza 4	21.99
Solar Heaven 2	9.99
Supremacy (+2)	7.99
Titus The Fox (+2)	7.99
Too Many Typefonts	9.99
Utilities Platinum	9.99
Win Platinum	9.99
Wolfenstein3D/Blakestone	9.99

Discis CDs Read & Learn

Helping Children Read/Learn	9.99
Aesops Fables	9.99
Heathers First Home Run	9.99
Tale of Benjamin Bunny	9.99
Tale of Peter Rabbit	9.99
Scarey Poems & Rotten Kids	9.99
Long Hard Day at the Ranch	9.99
Whales,	9.99
Spiders,	9.99
Dinosaurs	9.99
Butterflies,	9.99
Trees through the Seasons	9.99
Farm Animals	9.99
Birds and how they grow	9.99
What Air can do	9.99
Discoveries of the deep	9.99

You name it!...We do it!...Just phone and we'll quote!
WE STOCK AMIGA CD32 S/W ATARI ST S/W
MAC JAGUAR 3DO SNES SEGA LYNX C64
MAIL & TELEPHONE ORDERS ONLY!.....
NO PERSONAL CALLERS!
Allow up to 10 days delivery Out of Stock items.
All trade subject to our terms & conditions available o/r

Reviewed this month

THE BEST OF THE LAST THREE MONTHS

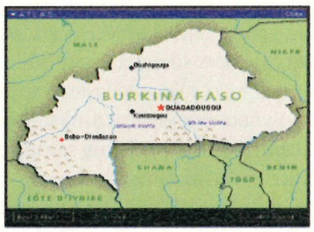
Dark Forces
LucasArts/Virgin, £49.99
Star Wars meets Doom in this action-packed, 3D blast-fest from LucasArts. You play a Rebel agent who must break into an Imperial military base and steal the plans for the new Death Star. Cue Storm Troopers, big guns and tense, adrenaline-pumping action. Unmissable.





Descent
Interplay, £39.99
A Doom lookey-likey with a difference, Descent places you in control of a high-speed skimmer which you must manoeuvre around a series of labyrinthine mines infested with killer droids. This brilliant blaster is well presented, frantic and addictive.

Encarta '95
Microsoft, £90.00
Pricey but extensive, Microsoft's multimedia encyclopaedia is way ahead of the rest of the field. Easy to use, beautifully presented and packed with in-depth information, this is one package that will keep you coming time and time again.



REVIEWED THIS ISSUE

Disk-based games	Rating	
Elite Plus (budget)	Action Sixteen	8
Stalingrad	US Gold	8
Task Force 1942 (budget)	PowerPlus	7
Tornado	Action Sixteen	7
BC Racers	Core Design	6
Crosswords & More	Expert Software	6
Favourite Games	Expert Software	5
Card Game Classics	Expert Software	4
CD based games	**Rating**	
Bioforge	Origin	9
Jungle Strike	Gremlin	8
NBA Live 95	Electronic Arts	8
SuperKarts	Virgin	8
XCOM: Terror of the Deep	MicroProse	8
Alone in the Dark/Shadow of the Comet	Telstar	7
Flight of the Amazon Queen	Warner	7
Front Lines	Impressions	7
Pinball Fantasies Deluxe	21st Century	7
Ticonderoga	Mindscape	7
Ishar 2	Daze	6
Atari 2600 Action Pack	Activision	3
Radio Active	US Gold	3
Multimedia reviews	**Rating**	
Fun School 5	Europress	9
One Stop CD Shop	Softkey	9
Romeo and Juliet	Attica	8
Star Trek Interactive Manual	S&Schuster	8
Time Almanac	Softkey	8
Worldview	Softkey	8
Americana	Softkey	7
CNN Newsroom Global View	Softkey	7
Driving Test	Ten out of Ten	7
Great Artists	Attica	7
Mavis Beacon Typing for Kids	Mindscape	7
New York, NY	Softkey	7
One Tribe	Virgin	6
Wild Cards	Corel	6
Total Health: Body and Mind	Softkey	5
MTV's Club Dead	Viacom	4

PC REVIEW PLAYLIST

Christina Erskine



It's all change at PC Review. This month we bid a fond farewell to Christina, who has been editing the magazine since Issue 1. Christina has moved on to a mystery project which is so secret that even she doesn't know what it is. Meanwhile, she will continue to write for PC Review as consultant editor.

Steve James



Meet our new editor, Steve James. Steve's past crimes include editing our sister magazines, Computer and Video Games and CU Amiga, but now he has seen the light and decided that the PC is where it's at. Unfortunately, that also means that he gets to work with Cal. Still, you can't have everything, can you?

Cal Jones



Cal has been a very happy bunny this month, because after two years of working on PC Review, she finally got her first trip to America. Cal visited Trilobyte in Oregon to peek behind the scenes of 11th Hour, the sequel to 7th Guest. You can find out more on page 36. She also reviewed Virgin's superb SuperKarts (p 60).

Simon Shaw



Simon, crime novelist and strategy games expert, has put his extensive knowledge to good use by bringing you a round-up of the best wargames of recent months (page 44). He also reviews Ticonderoga for us this month, the first release from Intelligent Games, (page 68), and Avalon Hill's Stalingrad (page 65).

Hardware & Utilities

Are you often bemused by the amount of 'must have' add-ons and software packages crying out to be purchased in your local PC super store? Do you find it difficult to sort the wheat from the chaff when it comes to choosing hardware or a new utility for your PC? Then let this month's Hardware and Utilities section help you out. We take a close look at hand-held and flatbed scanners on page 108. Give comprehensive reviews of all the latest hardware, software and shareware on release on page114. Plus the latest PC guides reviewed on page 119.

Hardware

Logitech ScanMan Color 32 ..... **112**
Logitech ScanMan Colour 256 ..... **112**
Mustek CG8400 ..... **112**
Epson GT65000 ..... **112**
Hewlett Packard Scan-Jet 3p **112**
Mustek Paragon 600 ..... **112**
Mustek Paragon 1200 ..... **112**
Logitech PowerPage! **112**
CD Speed **116**
Pace Linnet Message Desk **116**

Utilities & Software

Simply 3D **114**
Gamerunner **114**
Serif Draw Plus 2.0 ..... **115**
Astound 2.0 ..... **115**
Inspiration **116**
Virtus WalkThrough Pro **116**
PageKeeper 2.0 ..... **117**
Pressworks 2 ..... **117**

Book reviews

Windows '95 Revealed **119**
Understanding Windows '95 ..... **119**
Introducing Microsoft Windows '95 ..... **119**
Microsoft Golf 2: Strategy Guide.. ..... **120**
Colonization **120**

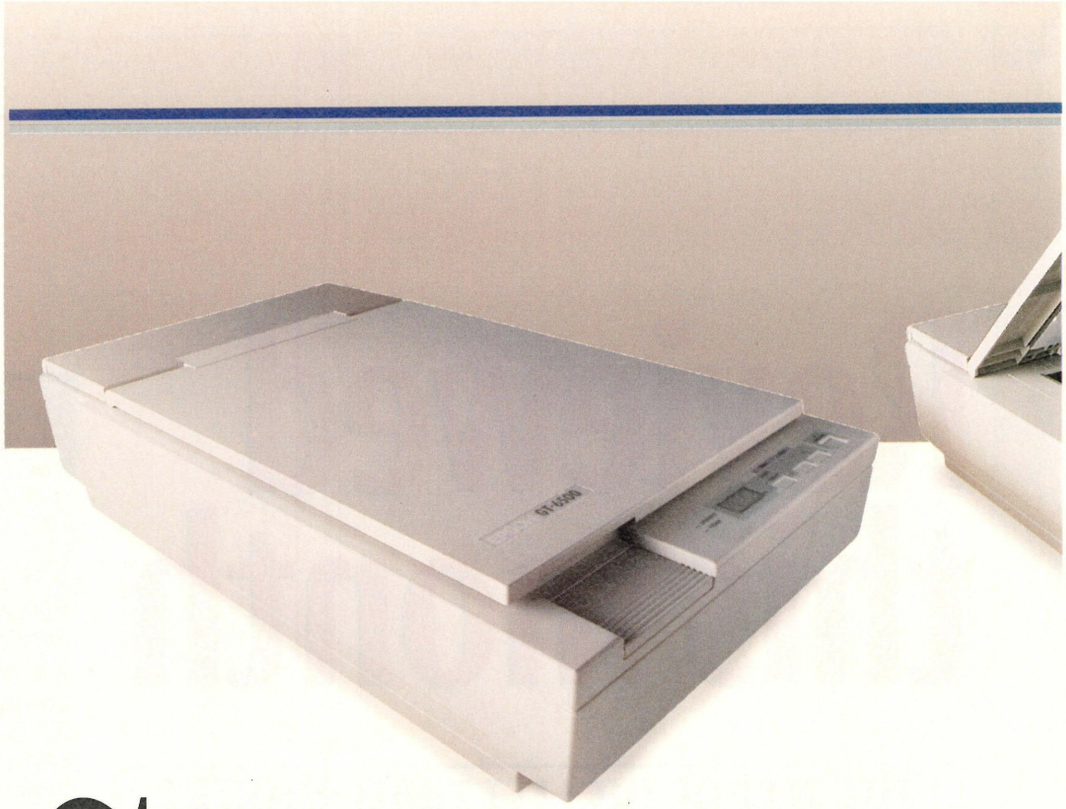
Shareware & Tried and Tested

The Aethra Chronicles **122**
Trugg **122**
Windows Commander **122**
Geoclock **122**
Tried and Tested **123**

The rating system explained

Whether it's shareware, software, shareware or general interest products, everything in the hardware and utilities section is scored out of the magic ten:

- **0:** How anyone could produce some thing this bad is beyond us.
- **1-3:** Poorly done, irrelevant and generally lacking in any redeeming features.
- **4-5:** Averagely useful, but lacks anything special.
- **6-7:** Does the job it's supposed to well, has interesting/powerful features.
- **8-9:** Good bordering on exceptional. Must be on any shortlist.
- **10:** Unique and impossible to live without.



Scanner

It's not so long ago that a scanner was such a costly piece of equipment that it was difficult to justify buying one for anything except an absolute need. But scanners are now so much more affordable, that their usage has become more widespread, and PC owners everywhere are realising that adding a scanner to their existing setup can open up whole new worlds of performance.

Put a scanner with an image editing package for instance and you too can perform the tricks of the electronic photo retoucher. Use a scanner to scan original artwork and you can create the basis for your own designs. Position photos for the newsletter that you edit, or create images for printed documents to feed to your fax/modem card. Or why not organise your collection of magazines by scanning in the pages and using a document indexing and retrieval program. By using an OCR — Optical Character Recognition — package you can even convert printed text into editable word processor files.

There are two main types of scanner that will do the many of the above tasks — hand-held and flatbed. Put simply hand held scanners are cheaper, but flatbed scanners are more convenient. However it isn't necessarily the case that you would always choose to use a flatbed scanner for the job, as for some tasks a hand-held may be just as suitable. A flatbed scanner, for instance, takes up a lot of space, whilst a hand-held scanner is better at scanning objects that aren't 100% flat!

But let's take a closer look at the two main types of scanner and how they work.

Top left and centre: Epson's GT6500 costs £575. Contact: 0800 220546
Top right: Hewlett Packard's Scanjet 3P costs £350. Contact: 0800 220546.

Using a hand-held

A hand-held scanner takes the form of a small scanning head that has to be moved across the original piece of artwork. A small roller under the scanning head rotates as you move the scanner and lets the PC know how fast you are scanning. You have to move at a nice steady rate in as straight a line as you can manage. If you wobble then the input image will contain wiggles and distortions. As you scan, image data is sent to your PC as fast as the hardware can cope with it. However the amount of data in an image is so large that it is possible to swamp the machine. In simple terms, if you move the scanner too fast then the data will be generated faster than it can be accepted and bits of the



tastic

You may have thought about the need for a printer to get text and pictures out of your machine — but what about input? A scanner is a printer in reverse in the sense that it will turn paper into disk files. But to choose a scanner you will need to balance cost, convenience and quality. Mike James reports.

image will be missing. How do you know what is too fast? Most scanners either have a light on the scanning head or an on-screen display that provides feedback — slow, fast, too fast.

So using a hand scanner is something of a skill — like driving a toy car down the page while keeping your eye on how fast it should be going. It isn't a difficult skill to master, however, and many users swear by the convenience of the hand scanner for occasional image input. Another factor that you have to keep in mind is that most hand scanners are only four inches wide. To input an original that is wider than this you have to scan more than once and use special software to 'stitch' the separate strips together. This sounds like a big disadvantage, but in practice it isn't so bad and can even be an advantage because you can run the small scanning head over surfaces that aren't completely flat — e.g. a page in a very thick book.

TO SUM UP

- hand scanners are

- low cost
- slightly fiddly to use
- only able to scan narrow strips which have to be stitched together
- but able to scan slightly curved surfaces

Using a flat bed

A flatbed scanner on the other hand works much like a photocopier. You place the original art work on a glass plate, close the cover, and the scanning head moves automatically down the page. All this happens under the control of your PC so there is no need to worry about keeping the scan straight or getting the right speed as in the case of a hand scanner. However the original still has to be placed squarely on the scanning plate — more difficult than you might imagine — and it has to be as flat as possible. For example if you want to scan a thick book or magazine then it is often better to remove the page in question than to try to flatten it with heavy weights!

The advantage of a flatbed scanner is that once you have placed the original in it, everything happens automatically. You can go away and do something else while a scan is in progress — and a full colour A4 scan can take minutes to complete. You can even get sheet feeder attachments that will allow you to scan in a pile of A4 pages completely automatically. The scanning method is also accurate in the sense that it doesn't rely on how well you move a hand scanner down the original. This allows flatbed scanners to offer a higher resolution than hand scanners — although it has to be admitted that there is a lot of overlap in specified performance.

TO SUM UP

- flatbed scanners are

- easy to use as long as the original can be placed flat on the scanning plate
- able to scan large areas in one pass
- can work at higher resolutions
- expensive

Scan and scan again

At this point you may think that the slight disadvantage of a hand held scanner is something you can cope with. After all one scan and it's all done. Well you need to realise that this isn't generally the case. Most scanner users will tell you that sometimes they spend hours trying to complete a scan that should only take a few minutes — why? The reason is that there are a lot of fac-

VS/QS Computers. TEL 0473 274831. FAX 0473 274827

VS/QS

VS/QS CABRIOLET RANGE UNPARALLELED: Value, Service/Quality, Support.

Give us a ring – we are here to help. We will spend the time you need, to talk through your requirements and how our systems can exceed them, ring now on!

0473 274831. FAX 274827 INFO AND SALES LINE

9AM-7PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY. & 10AM-12 NOON SATURDAY



THE 486 CABRIOLET RANGE

- The 486/DX2-66 MHz Intel or DX2-80 MHz AMD CPU
- Pentium® Upgradeable
- 4 MB RAM 70NS Zif Socket 256KB Cache
- 420MB Western Digital Ide Hard Drive 12msec
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Enhanced IDE HD Controller/Multi I/O with Mode 3
- Windows Accelerated Local Bus Video Card with 1 MEG, which is upgradeable
- 14" SVGA Monitor, .28 Dot Pitch, N-I, Low Rad,
- Desktop or Minitower Case
- 3*32 Bit Vesa 3*16 Bit 1*8 Bit Slots
- 102 Keyboard & Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.22 & WFWG 3.1 + Disks & Manuals
- MS Works for Win 3.0 + Disks & Manuals or Encarta CD

£775

All systems carry our limited 3 years on site BS5750 Parts & Labour Warranty. See full info below.

- 486/DX2-66 MHz Intel or DX2-80 MHz AMD CPU
- Pentium® Upgradeable
- 8 MB RAM 70NS Zif Socket 256KB Cache
- 420MB Western Digital Ide Hard Drive 12 msec
- Double Speed CD-ROM + Software
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Enhanced Ide HD Controller/Multi I/O with Mode 3
- Windows Accelerated PCI Video Card with 1 MEG, which is upgradeable
- 15" SVGA Monitor, .28 Dot Pitch, N-I, Low RAD,
- Desktop or Minitower Case
- 102 Keyboard & Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.22 & WFWG 3.11 + Disks & Manuals
- MS Works for Win 3.0 + Disks & Manuals or Encarta CD

£1079

CABRIOLET PROFESSIONAL RANGE

- Pentium® 66MHz Processor
- 8 MB RAM 70NS Zif Socket 256KB Cache
- 540 MB Western Digital Ide Hard Drive 12 msec
- Double Speed CD-ROM + Software
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Enhanced IDE HD Controller/Multi I/O with Mode 3
- Windows Accelerated PCI Video Card with 1MEG, which is upgradeable
- 15" SVGA Monitor, .28 Dot Pitch, N-I, Low RAD,
- Desktop or Minitower Case
- 102 Keyboard & Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.22 & WFWG 3.11 + Disks & Manuals

MS Works for Win 3.0 + Disks & Manuals or Encarta CD

£1299

Limited 3 years on site BS5750 Parts & Labour Warranty. See full info below

Pentium® 90MHz as above + £1499

Pentium® 100MHz as above PHONE

With the latest Lotus Smartsuite (not MS Works) for all of the above systems, add: £150

With MS Office Professional 4.3 on CD (not MS Works) for all of the above systems, add: £245

There are plenty of other additional options, contact us for details: 15" 17" 21" Monitors, Larger Hard Drives, 2/4Mb VLB Cards, Extra RAM, Additional Software, Back up Tape Drives, CD-Rom & Sound Cards, Fax/Modems, and Printers.

Multi Media Madness add on a Media Magic ISP-16BIT Audio Board, Sound Blaster PRO, MPC Level 2, ADIB and Windows Sound Compatibility, CD Quality + Speakers for £69.00

When you buy a VS/QS System your assured of friendly service , life time technical support line, "on site" repair service (first year) provided by Mellordata Eurosystems Ltd which has been providing support for 21 years and is BS5750 Registered. Following two year's parts back to base. First year "on site" free. 2 years £70. 3 years £145.

INFO AND SALES LINE 9AM-7PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY. & 10AM-12 NOON SATURDAY

TEL. (01473) 274831. FAX. (01473) 274827

UNIT 55 HUTLAND ROAD, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP4 4HQ

Payment by Credit Card (only charged after goods despatched), Cheque or C.O.D.

All trademarks are recognised. Prices exclude delivery and 17.5% VAT. Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice.



Addup 256 Grey Scale
Supplier: Zye Technology
Contact: 01293 538666
Price: £79

tors that you can fiddle with — brightness, contrast, exact scan area, resolution and so on — each scan may only take a minute but it is tempting to repeat the operation time and time again in an attempt to achieve perfection! With this in mind perhaps you can now see why a flat bed scanner makes life so much easier.

B/W, grey or colour

Once you have chosen the type of scanner you want to use there are still a lot of other choices to be made. The most obvious is whether or not you need a full colour scanner.

Obviously if you are hoping to use your scanner to input artwork, then colour is fairly essential. Until recently colour hand scanners weren't available, but now they offer results that are almost as good as high cost flatbed colour scanners.

If you only need a black and white scanner for inputting photographs, say for a newsletter or for OCR work, then you need to be aware that the number of grey levels that scanners can read in vary.

The cheapest, and now almost obsolete, scanner is the black and white or 1-bit scanner. This can be used to input line drawings or any original that doesn't have any intermediate grey tones. This is simple enough to understand the confusing factor is that some 1-bit scanners can be used to read in limited grey level images using a technique called "dithering". Avoid this like the plague — the results sometimes look good, but a dithered image is very difficult to scale, i.e. change size, and almost impossible to edit.

For most applications however, you need at least a 32 grey level or 5-bit scanner. You can't use such a scanner to read in a black and white photo with anything like reasonable results — but then you can't print more than 32 grey levels on most printers. So if you only want to scan in line drawings with some shading a 32 grey level scanner might do the job.

For full photographic quality you need a 256 grey level or 8-bit scanner. It is generally said that the human eye can't distinguish more than 256 grey tones so in principle at least this sort of scanner is as good as you need. You can, of course, always opt to scan an original at a lower number of grey levels — ie 32 or just black and white — if this suits the original better.

Colour scans are generally achieved by scanning in a red, blue and green image. Some flatbed scanners do the job by actually repeating the scan three times, but obviously this trick cannot be used to turn a grey level hand scanner into a colour model! There is nothing wrong with a flat bed scanner that makes more than one pass — it's slower but usually gives good quality accurate colour. The lowest quality colour scanners are based on 8-bit or 256 colour scanners. In general these produce poor results and are fairly useless at scanning in colour photos. For high quality colour you need a 24-bit scanner which reads in 256 shades of red, green and blue, that's a total of 16777216 different colours which is more than enough to represent a colour photo.

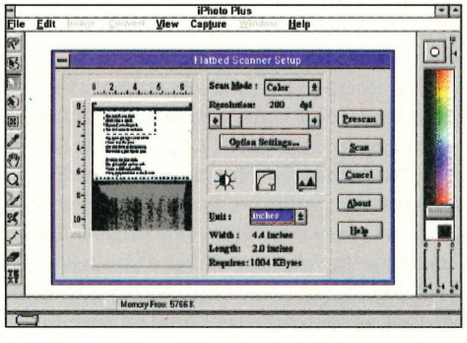
How much resolution is enough

The number of colours or shades of grey that a scanner can read in is a fundamental limitation on what it can be used for. For example, there is no way that a grey level scanner can read in a colour image and no way that an 8-bit colour scanner can ever read in more than 256 colours. However when it comes to the resolution of a scanner — the number of dots per inch that it can read in — the situation is very different. How much resolution you need depends on the size of the original and what size you are going to use the final image at. For example, suppose you scan in an image using 300 dots per inch and the original is A4 size. If you display the final image at half this size, ie A5, then it actually has 600 dots per inch. The point is that by altering the size of the original and the final image you can increase or decrease the number of dots per inch and so alter how "dotty" it looks.

There is another complication to do with "dots per inch". Some scanners claim a very high resolution 1200 dpi by quoting an interpolated value. The word may be long but the idea is very simple. The software inside the scanner adds extra points between the scan points and works out what brightness they should have by taking an average. The interpolated points don't add anything to the actual image quality but they do make it look less dotty. You should always find out what a scanners actual, or optical, resolution is rather than its interpolated resolution — this is the real measure of how good it is.

Meeting Twain

Scanners are one of the few areas of computing where sense has managed to prevail in the organisation of standards. Scanners connect to your PC either via an existing parallel or serial port, via a special purpose interface card that you have to fit or via a SCSI interface. In the early days each scanner needed special drivers and mixing and matching scanners and software was a huge problem. These days nearly all scanners now come with a TWAIN standard driver. It doesn't matter what scanner you have and what software you want to make it work with if they both support TWAIN they will work together. This isn't to say that there aren't differences in software support. A very basic TWAIN driver will allow you to preview the scan to select the region of the original that you want to read in and that's about all. More friendly TWAIN drivers will



Right: Setting up a flatbed scanner using the Twain interface.



Mustek CG8400
Supplier: Evesham Micros
Contact: 01386 765500
Price: £129

also let you adjust brightness, contrast, colour balance, resolution and so on via easy to use sliders and dialog boxes. It is still possible to buy a really good scanner only to find that it isn't easy to use because of the poor quality of the TWAIN driver supplied with it.

Some real scanners

When you buy a scanner you obviously have to choose the type and performance that you need, but after that it may be a question of paying for the extra software that is bundled with it. If you don't need this extra software then a cheaper, hardware only package is preferable. Try to find out exactly what you get and decide which parts of the bundle are going to be useful.

If you only have a black and white printer, a 256 grey scale scanner is likely to be adequate. The Addup scanner is a widely available model that offers 400dpi resolution and is Twain compatible. It comes with the iPhoto Plus image editor and the Perceive Personal OCR package for converting printed text to files.

Colour hand scanners

If you want a colour hand scanner then don't economise on input colour quality — make sure you get a 24-bit model that can scan at 400 dpi. Of course all such scanners can be used at lower resolutions and can work at 256 grey levels and black and white.

The Logitech ScanMan Color is the top of the Logitech's well known range of hand scanners, the ScanMan 32 being the cheapest, but only working at 32 grey levels and the ScanMan 256 giving acceptable grey level performance. The ScanMan Color's best feature is its software. A really easy to use TWAIN scanner driver is combined with PhotoTouch Color — Logitech's own image editing software. There is good feedback on how the scan is going — you can actually see the image as you scan it in and you can easily stick together up to four separate scanned strips. As long as you get a recent product you also get an OCR package thrown in.

As far as hardware goes the Mustek CG 8400 from Evesham is as good as the Logitech model and it's much cheaper. You even get more software for your money — the only catch is that the quality of the software isn't as good. It all works but it just isn't as easy to use. If you can put up with this then the bundle which includes a 24-bit 400 dpi colour scanner, iPhoto Plus and the Perceive OCR package is excellent value and does the job.

Flatbed scanners

If you really do want the best then you need a flatbed scanner — and this need not cost that much more than the best hand scanner.

The best known names in flatbed scanning are Epson and Hewlett Packard. Epson make a family of scanners that include professional quality models. For home use the GT6500 is more than good enough — 24-bit colour, 300 dpi resolution and single pass colour scanning It also has a software controlled zoom that allows you to reduce to 50% or enlarge to 200%. What software you get included with the scanner depends on the exact package you choose. The basic GT6500 package includes PhotoShop LE (a cut down version of the best known image editing package) and an OCR program. You can also get an optional slide scanner and sheet feeder. It's perhaps the easiest scanner to use but it's not cheap

If you want a grey level flatbed scanner, something that is becoming a rarity, then the HP Scan-Jet 3p is excellent. It's only a 300 dpi 256 grey scale scanner but the software that comes with it is very easy to use. This is the scanner you should aim for if OCR is your main interest.

For a budget colour flatbed scanner than I can recommend the Mustek Paragon 600 and 1200. Both are full 24-bit colour scanners the only difference being that the 600 can scan at 300 dpi and the 1200 can scan at 600 dpi. The only real disadvantage is that they are three pass scanners — which means they take three times as long to read in a full colour scan. However the price of the 600 isn't much more than a hand scanner and given the software bundled with them — iPhoto and an OCR package — they are excellent value.

Something different

Just when you thought you'd seen every possible type of scanner Logitech introduce the PowerPage! This is the ideal scanner for the portable computer user. It is only a 256 grey scale scanner working at 400 dpi. But what is special is that it plugs into your portable's parallel port and comes with software that allows you to scan in single A4 sheets for OCR or for faxing. The software that comes with the scanner is excellent and easy to use. Although it looks as if you can only scan through single A4 sheets you can also remove the bottom of the scanner and allow it to "crawl" across the original like a motorised hand scanner! Great if you want OCR or fax input on the move but not cheap enough for general use.

Scanning alternatives

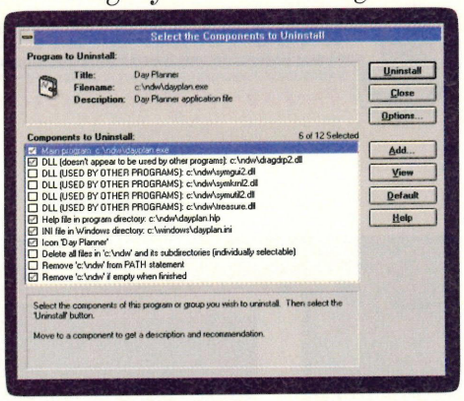
There are two main alternatives to using a scanner — video grabbers and PhotoCD. A video grabber connects to a video camera, usually a camcorder to keep costs down, and allows you to read in still video images. In general the results are not as good as you can get from a standard scanner mainly because the quality of the video signal isn't wonderful.

A much more reasonable alternative is Kodak's PhotoCD process. You take some photos, send them off to a processing lab and they send you back a CD-ROM complete with the images at a range of resolutions. The quality is usually excellent and it has the advantage that you haven't had to spend the time getting the scan just right. The only downside is that you have to send the film away and you are charged for each image scanned in — £8 for the CD-ROM blank and then £30 per 36 exposure film.

Megabytes More Storage!

NEW!

Cut The Clutter!



CleanSweep®

What a mess! Windows programs leave fragments in every corner of your system. So, even after you've attempted to remove them, you end up running low on hard disk space.

Trying to free up space without knowing where every component is concealed can cost you valuable time… with no guarantee that useless fragments haven't slipped through the cracks. Until now!

With amazing new **CleanSweep®**, you'll have spotlessly clean Windows. ***Reclaim megabytes of storage*** for dramatically **more hard disk space** and **better system performance!**

Easy-to-use **CleanSweep** is the safest, most powerful uninstaller… and more! Designed by **Quarterdeck®** to run ***in all Windows environments,*** it sweeps away outdated applications and unnecessary files **safely and completely!** Now, you can…

- **Uninstall Unwanted Applications:** Analyse programs instantly… then do thorough uninstalls file-by-file or all at once.
- **Remove Unused Files:** Get rid of temporary files, backup files, archive files, help files, graphic files.
- **Eliminate Unneeded System Components:** Clean out fonts, display drivers, Windows documents, wallpaper, screen savers, help files and more.
- **Remove Wasteful Duplicate Files.**

You can't make a mistake! CleanSweep backs up and confirms every action automatically, allows you to view *before* deleting, and even restores files if necessary. **CleanSweep** includes a network uninstall to remove programs from *all* workstations… not just the server.

POWER USERS: CleanSweep can be modified to *your* taste. Bypass file confirmation. Review master logs of all activities. Search by wildcard! And, this powerful utility supports Drag-And-Drop.

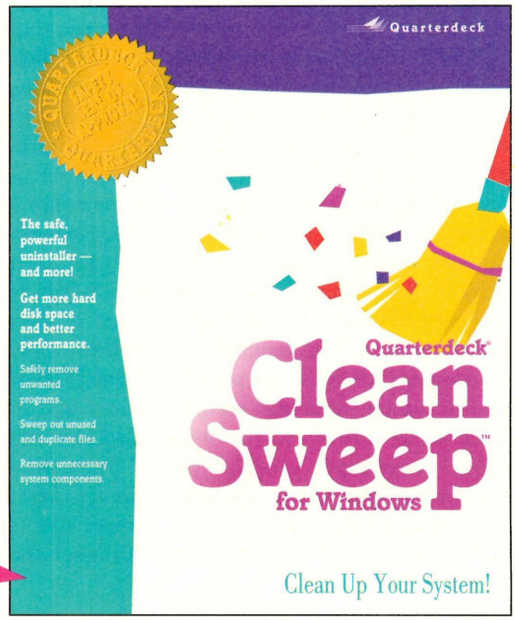
Clean Up Your System with CleanSweep!

Available at Software Retailers Nationwide

JUST £39.95 EX VAT

For details of your nearest QUARTERDECK dealer:

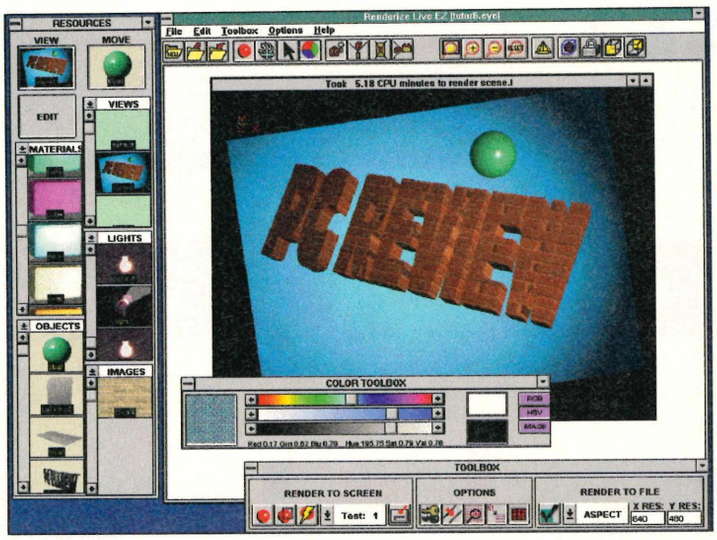
01245 496699



Quarterdeck®

QUARTERDECK OFFICE SYSTEMS UK LTD.
Widford Hall, Widford Hall Lane, CHELMSFORD CM2 8TD
Tel 01245 496699 Fax 01245 495284 E-mail info@qdeck.co.uk

Copyright ©1995 Quarterdeck Office Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Quarterdeck and CleanSweep are registered trademarks of Quarterdeck Office Systems, Inc. All other products mentioned are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.



Simply 3D

Rendering software

Simply 3D is a suite of 3D graphics programs for Windows 3.1, and is intended to provide an easy to use environment for creating rendered images and simple camera animations. It consists of the main rendering application Renderize Live EZ, a utility called Visual Font for extruding (turning 2D objects into 3D) and bevelling TrueType fonts, and a library of 3D objects and textures. It is aimed at people who need to generate the occasional 3D scene from existing clip art, which is fair enough as it is definitely not a full blown 3D modelling package.

Renderize Live EZ has an attractive and intuitive interface which makes intelligent use of drag-and-drop. You compose rendered images by combining different resource types: views (the configuration of objects and lights in 3D); objects (the shapes to be rendered); materials (qualities such as colour, texture and shininess which can be applied to objects); lights (to illuminate objects from various angles), and images (bitmaps used for material textures and backdrops). Resources are manipulated by dragging icons from a palette and dropping them into rectangular areas known as "drop-in wells". For example, to edit a light you drop its icon into the edit well, which brings then up the light designer window. To move the same light you drop it into the move well.

3D objects may be read in from the clip art provided on the CD-ROM, imported as 3D text generated with the Visual Font utility, or loaded from ".AI" files written by a 2D drawing package such as CorelDRAW! Imported objects must be placed in a view to be displayed. Once there, they may be moved around, rotated and scaled. You can assign materials to their surfaces using the materials editor.

Rendering itself is fairly quick with adjustable detail levels for previews. On my 50MHz 486DX a typical scene would take just a couple of minutes to render to screen at the maximum resolution of 640x480, but adding features such as shadows and anti-aliasing increased this by a factor of about five. The final results can be rendered to disk in a number of formats including 24-bit ".TGA" files.

One of my favourite features of Renderize Live EZ is the way it provides several ways to perform the same action. For example, to add a shape to the current view you could drag its icon into the view designer or into the main viewport. Alternatively, clicking the right mouse button over it will display a pop-up menu of relevant actions. Icons can be dragged from anywhere they are displayed, not just from the palette.

There are just a couple of bad points. Firstly, the disk space requirements are rather unusual. Although the software itself takes only 10.5Mb of disk space, it needs at least another 25Mb for a permanent swap file. That's over 35Mb of disk space occupied even before you start rendering, which is a bit excessive given that it can't create rendered images larger than 640x480. Secondly, the collection of 3D clip art is somewhat limited so how do you create new objects if your 2D drawing package doesn't write ".AI" files?

I have to admit that I found this package so addictive that I reached the sorry state of walking into rooms and wondering how to render them. In short, Simply 3D succeeds admirably in its aim of providing an easy to use rendering environment. Its well designed interface means that novices can create reasonable quality rendered images with very little effort.

❍ Roderick Hyde

SIMPLY 3D
- 33MHz 486DX, 8Mb RAM, CD, SVGA, Windows 3.1, mouse

Supplier: Visual Software
Contact: (01481) 714572
Price: £69.00

PC REVIEW RATING 8

Gamerunner

Memory management software

One of the most precious commodities in a PC is memory, and when it comes to memory, Quarterdeck is a past master in the art of maximising it. This US-based company has been squeezing the best out of DOS for years with its extended memory manager (QEMM for short), showing Microsoft a trick or two in the process. In fact, its memory management software has regularly been one of the most popular PC utilities — but not, apparently, among games players.

Hence the launch of Gamerunner. This is basically QEMM with a couple of additional utilities tacked on, packaged and priced to fit on the shelf alongside Wing Commander 3 or NASCAR.

It should be made clear at the outset that this is not the latest version of QEMM (that's version 7.5) — what we have here is version 7.04. It still does its job, however, and does it well. With a very basic PC configuration (loading keyboard driver and mouse), the best I could manage using Microsoft's MemMaker was 619K of base memory. Gamerunner gave me 634K. But this simple comparison doesn't really do justice to Gamerunner: I actually had to use MemMaker's custom set-up to optimise the memory, since it gave me only 557K when I used the express set-up. Gamerunner did everything by itself.

This is one of Gamerunner's strengths. The QEMM software comes with a program called Optimize which does exactly what its name implies. It will run automatically during the installation process, and you can run it again later when you change your configuration by adding drivers for something new like a new CD-ROM drive.

QEMM's strength is in creating the maximum base memory possible. All those games that either wouldn't load, or you had to sit through in silence because you didn't have enough space for the sound, should work a treat. But it won't help with games like Ultima VII part II which come with their own memory managers because the two will conflict. It isn't really necessary, either, for games which use extended memory because these generally don't make such heavy demands on base memory.

Memory management forms the core of the Gamerunner package but it has two additional sets of utilities, the HyperDisk SpeedKit from HyperWare and Axis — The Gamecheater from Baseline Publishing. Both are useful utilities in their own way, and adds to the overall value of this useful utility.

❍ Paul Breeze

GAMERUNNER
- 386

Supplier: Quarterdeck Internat.
Contact: (01245) 496699
Price: £49.99

PC REVIEW RATING 7

Serif DrawPlus 2.0

Graphics Package

The DrawPlus 2.0 packaging is what you might call misleading. After reading the box, I expected that it would contain a simple vector graphics program, since DrawPlus is the only program mentioned on the exterior. When I opened it, however, two extra programs were revealed: PagePlus Lite, a DTP program, and PhotoPlus, an image processing title.

DrawPlus 2.0 itself is indeed a very capable vector graphics program. It's just oozing with power and features.

Given its reasonable price, I had expected something far less effective, but to my surprise it does everything most users will want.

To give you an idea, text can be broken down in to curves for distortion, fills can be continuous colour or graduated tints, individual shapes can be grouped together and edited as one, and previously created objects (including text) can be distorted to fit into other shapes: circles, stars, ovals and so on.

You can also save files in Windows Metafile to ensure compatibility with many Windows programs load files created with CorelDraw.

An impressively simple interface holds the power of DrawPlus together. As your cursor moves over the icons, little messages pop up telling you what they do, and small tips also appear from time to time to provide further assistance.

The other programs aren't bad either. Although not in the same league as DrawPlus 2.0, they'll still give you many of the facilities you'd want. PhotoPlus will allow you to do many useful things to pictures before importing them into a DTP program. This includes the usual resizing, cropping, brightening, darkening and converting to greyscale. But you can also do some other things, such as converting images to sepia shades, randomly changing colours, breaking them up into large squares, and changing the drawing so that it looks as if it was etched in charcoal. In addition, you can save and load most of the major file formats.

PagePlus Lite is the last program in the group and is a simple yet effective DTP package. It contains most of the basic DTP tools, allowing you to place text and graphics on a page, mix them, wrap text around graphics and change the size of page elements. I found it a bit lacking in typographical control, and I couldn't find any way to set character width and height separately, and character spacing is set as a percentage rather than in points. Even so, it's still very useful.

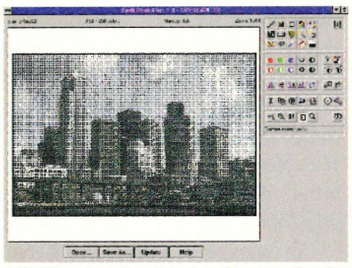
This package is worth having for DrawPlus alone, but at £100, the three packages together constitute a great value starting block for users looking to create graphic based documents. Highly recommended.

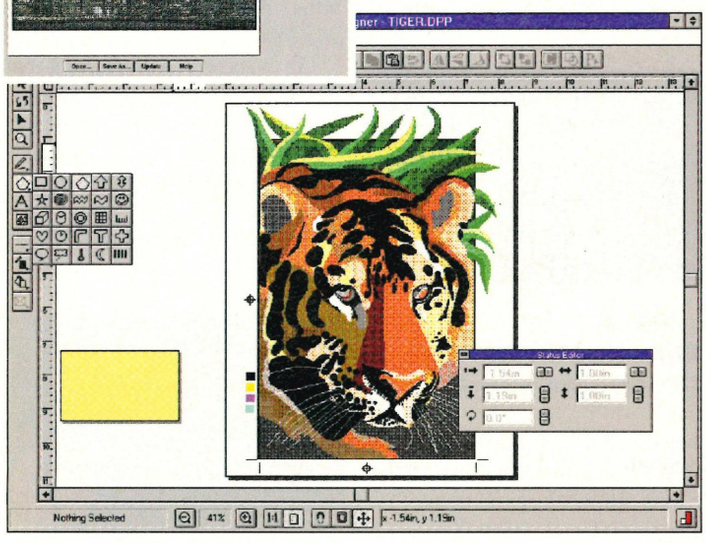
❍ Andy Leaning

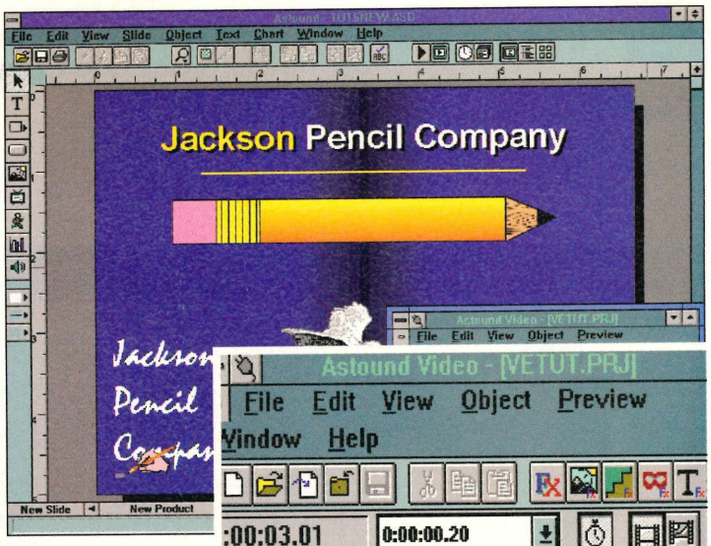
SERIF DRAWPLUS 2.0
- 33MHz 386, 4MB RAM

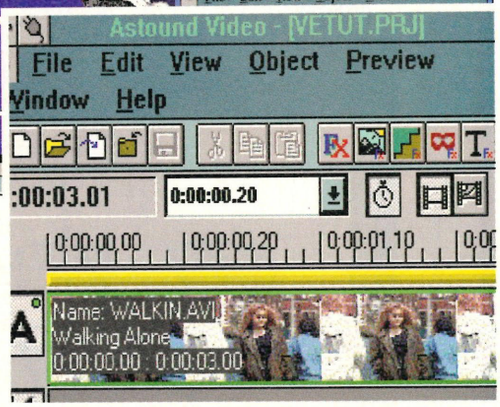
Supplier: Serif
Contact: (01602) 421502
Price: £99.95

PC REVIEW RATING 9









Astound 2.0

Multimedia presentation software

There's more to multimedia than games or Microsoft Encarta. Given the right software you can create your own eye-catching presentations and if you're really adventurous, your own multimedia programs. Gold Disk's Astound started life as a multimedia business graphics program. In other words, it helped you create effective business presentations by allowing the use of sound, video and animation effects.

The new version goes one step further in that it can also be used for a wide range of more imaginative projects.

The program itself has over 70 templates to help you get productive straight away. All you have to do is fill in the spaces and, within a matter of minutes, you have created a multimedia presentation.

You can add text, charts, graphics, sound, video and animated clip art to any slide and then create buttons which move the presentation forward, launch other applications or play media clips. Look further though, and you'll discover the real power of the software.

In the Astound Studio you'll find comprehensive editing programs for video, animation, sound, pictures and more, so you can easily develop your own multimedia products.

Rather usefully, Astound also includes a Media Manager to help keep track of all the graphic, video and sound files on your hard disk. It scans your disk and presents you with a thumbnail library which you can then brows through at leisure. Astound offers all sorts of special effects, on top of the inclusion of multimedia elements. Charts and graphs can be animated so that they bounce into view or grow as the slide's timeline progresses. The presentations you create can take the form of rolling demonstrations, or be fully interactive, where the end user clicks on buttons to head off in whichever direction they choose.

When you've finished compiling a presentation you could distribute it on floppy disks. Astound gathers together all the information, text, video, graphics and animation and puts it together into one large, self-contained executable file for easy distribution. The end user installs this as they would any other Windows program, and it could even have its own Program Manager icon.

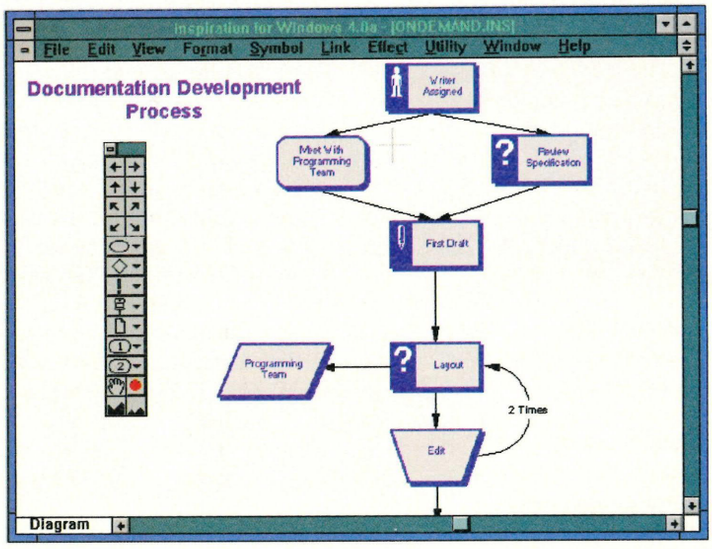
With all the editors and its inherent ease of use, Astound is a top piece of software if you fancy dabbling with multimedia or if you're looking for a serious presentation or authoring tool at a realistic price. It offers everything you need to create highly polished presentations, and comes highly recommended indeed.

❍ David Bradwell

ASTOUND
- 486, 4MB RAM (8MB for Astound Studio), Windows 3.1, sound card, CD-ROM drive, 40MB hard disk space.

Supplier: Gold Disk
Contact: (01753) 832383
Price: £189

PC REVIEW RATING 9



Inspiration

Visualisation software

If you've got a good idea but you don't know how to put it into practice, you need Inspiration. Inspiration is an innovative piece of software which helps you develop, plan and communicate ideas, combining flow-charting software with presentation tools. It has a "rapid fire" feature which lets you type related ideas into one symbol while the program automatically creates linked multiple symbols, so there's no interruption of the thought process. Another feature called Point and Type lets you quickly capture random thoughts. You can start typing anywhere on the screen and Inspiration will pop a symbol around it to hold the idea until you're ready to work with it. Symbols automatically grow to hold any amount of text and when symbols are moved, links automatically adjust to ensure connections are maintained. Each symbol also has a notes window so you can attach unlimited pages of text.

Once you've got some symbols on screen you can organise them in any way to help clarify your thoughts, and you can then produce presentation diagrams to show to other people. There's even a 200,000 word spell checker to help you look more professional. A single keystroke transforms the visual view into an outline of your content. The outline view then lets you organise topics by dragging them, while any sub-topics move automatically. When it comes to diagramming, you've got a full set of the standard flow-charting symbols or, if you prefer, you can use up to 100 custom symbols. The applications of Inspiration are endless. You can use it to help structure any process from complex manufacturing routines to the plot of a book or the structure of an essay. It takes a lot of the strain out of developing a train of thought, and can help you develop new and innovative ideas.

David Bradwell

INSPIRATION
- 386SX, 4Mb RAM, Windows 3.1.

Supplier: Roderick Manhattan
Contact: (0181) 875 4400
Price: £149

PC REVIEW RATING 8

CD-Speed

Speed booster

In theory CD-Speed sounds like a great product. It's designed to boost the speed of your CD-ROM drive to help achieve better performance, with the inference that multimedia CDs will run more successfully, and video clips will appear less jerky. In fact, the program claims your CD-ROM access speed will be boosted by up to 600 per cent and that working from a CD will be as speedy as working from a hard disk. Hmmmm....

It works by reserving an area of your hard disk for buffering frequently needed data from the CD-ROM currently in use. When data is first read from the CD, CD-Speed places it in RAM, and then if it's not being accessed constantly, transfers it to this so-called QuickImage file. Then, whenever the data is retrieved again, CD-Speed gets it from the hard disk, rather than waiting for the slow CD-ROM drive. To use the program you have to dabble with your PC's virtual memory settings (found under the 386 Enhanced section in the Control Panel) and ensure that 32-bit disk access is turned off. Messing with virtual memory is not to be taken lightly. In fact I've got my doubts about the whole installation procedure for CD-Speed because I've had nothing but trouble. Rather than speed up the CD-ROM drive on the first test machine, CD-Speed actually disabled it, and I had to edit my PC's configuration files and then re-install the original driver from a 3.5-inch disk. Then, on the second machine, it caused regular General Protection Faults. Not the sort of thing to inspire confidence.

So, should you spend 30 quid on CD-Speed? Well, if it works for you there will be a noticeable improvement in performance, although not as dramatic as the makers claim. If it doesn't, you could run into serious technical problems — so keep original driver disks and the technical support number close to hand, you may well need them.

CD SPEED BOOSTER
- 386DX, 4Mb RAM (8Mb recommended), DOS 6.0 (Windows 3.1/3.11 recommended), 20Mb hard disk space, CD-ROM

Supplier: DB Software
Contact: (01420) 22707
Price: £29.95

PC REVIEW RATING 4

Virtus WalkThrough Pro

3D visualisation software

Virtus WalkThrough Pro 2.0 (VWTP) is a visualisation package which allows you to create 3D shapes and walk through them. It has been put to good use as a production tool by directors of Hollywood movies, but can be used equally well for humbler projects.

On start-up you are shown a tool palette, a top view and a 3D walk view. Clicking on the rectangle tool then drawing a rectangle in the top view creates a 3D room. By switching to the front view and dragging the room's handles you can adjust its height and distance from the ground. Defaults are set by depth control gauges so if you wanted to draw the first floor of a house you could adjust the vertical depth control gauge in the front view to create objects seven feet high and eight feet up.

Objects can be be rotated in 3D and sliced to change their shape. They can also be reshaped by adding handles to create new surfaces which can be set to opaque, translucent or transparent with the surface editor. By grouping objects you can create a composite object — very useful for stairs. More usefully, VWTP comes with several libraries of 3D shapes which can be added to your creation and you can even create your own libraries.

VWTP is reasonably easy to use. and comes with the freeware Virtus Player so you can distribute your 3D creations But I was.rather disappointed with the speed of the walkthroughs and couldn't help but make comparisons with games such as Descent or Doom. I know speed is not the most important factor in visualisation software, but if it's slow on a 50MHz 486DX then what's it like on the minimum spec of a 386?

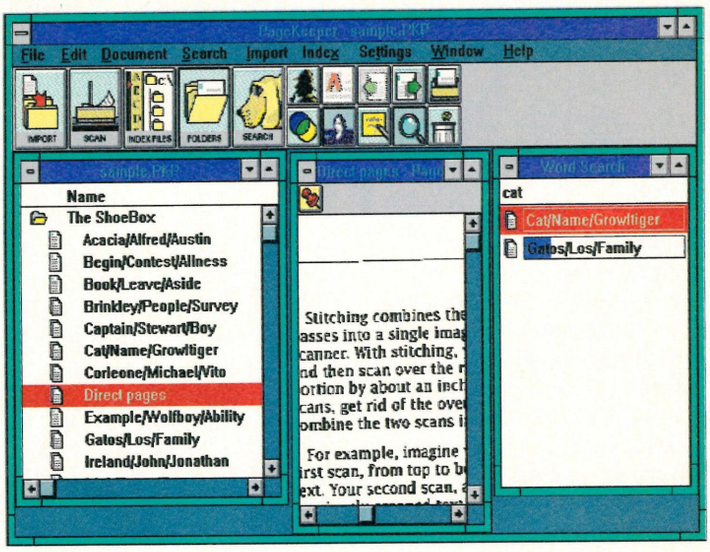
Given its price, I don't think that VWTP is suitable for casual use. However, if you are into set design or planning the layout for a new office it is worth every penny.

❍ Roderick Hyde

VIRTUS WALKTHROUGH PRO
- 386DX, Windows 3.1, 8MB RAM, VGA, mouse.

Supplier: Roderick Manhattan
Contact: (0181) 875 4400
Price: £295 plus VAT

PC REVIEW RATING 7



PageKeeper 2.0

Organisation package

As the flood of information grows ever more widespread, we're all in danger of drowning in a sea of documents and ideas. Thank heavens, then, for PageKeeper, which offers a life jacket to help weather the storm. The program is more than just a pretty box. It gathers information from any source, including word processor documents, faxes, electronic mail, scanned pages and on-line services, and organises it all so the information you need is always close to hand.

PageKeeper isn't shy. It reads every document on your PC and then uses natural language processing technology to understand the content. It also includes the same optical character recognition engine as Caere's OCR program OmniPage to convert faxes and scanned documents into computer readable, editable text. Once you've read all the documents, PageKeeper indexes them according to content and stores them in a compressed form. When you then set up a search, to look, for example, for all documents about cats, PageKeeper searches its index and shows you a list of all the applicable files, ranked in order of relevance. The program integrates with several leading word processing and spreadsheet programs, so you can start a search without leaving your main application. It also links in with CompuServe to sort through the information you download whenever you connect.

In practice it all works very well, especially when you've got more information on your hard disk than you know what to do with. Once you've got PageKeeper, forgotten files and lost documents can soon be a thing of the past.

❍ David Bradwell

PAGEKEEPER

- 386, 8Mb RAM, Windows 3.1, 15MB disk space, 10Mb Windows swap file.

Supplier: Caere
Contact: (01442) 227411
Price: £79/£159

PC REVIEW RATING 8

Pressworks 2

Desktop publishing package

We looked briefly at version 2 of Pressworks in our March issue when it was still in the final stages of pre-release testing.

Now it's finally been released, and the wait has been worthwhile. Competition at the budget end of the desktop publishing market is intense, but Pressworks 2 is a much more serious competitor to the likes of Serif's Page Plus and Microsoft Publisher than its predecessor.

The program offers professional features such as the ability to produce colour separations, yet is still very easy to use.

The manual is a slim volume, but it's all you need to get to grips with the basics. PagePilots offer a step-by-step guide to producing all sorts of documents, and there are bundled utilities for screen capturing, browsing clip art and Photo CDs, and organising your fonts.

On the subject of fonts, if you buy the PowerPack version you get 100 of the things, as well as 600 pieces of clip art and a mini spreadsheet program for compiling tables.

It's very easy to get started with Pressworks 2. The opening screen asks if you want to run a Pilot, start a new blank document or open an existing file. Then, once you're working on a document, all you have to do is import the relevant text and pictures and use some of the program's intelligent layout features to create the design you want.

The PowerText feature is on a par with the WordArt/TextArt features in high end word processors. You can't do the ever-so-trendy fuzzy shadows which are all the rage at the moment, but you can quickly and easily create impressive logos.

Despite its strengths though, the program's still not perfect. It's quite a sluggish performer and at some magnifications there appear to be unfeasibly large gaps between adjacent words.

What you see is what you definitely might not get. Being able to select text in both text and paragraph modes is also a bit confusing. It's easy to select text in paragraph mode and then try to change it without success, or to change the font of one word and have the whole of the rest of the paragraph follow suit.

Finally, there are a limited number of text import filters. If, for example, you want to take text from a Microsoft Word for Windows document you must first open the document in Word and then save it as a Rich Text Format (.RTF) file. This is slow and cumbersome, and not to mention highly irritating, although, curiously, Word for DOS files can be imported directly.

But those snags aside, Pressworks 2 is still a fundamentally powerful and flexible program.

It's easier to use than Serif's Page Plus 3.0 and more professional than Microsoft Publisher 2.0 — although both of those packages have their strengths and admirers in abundance.

The budget DTP market is highly competitive at the moment. Pressworks is strong enough to create an impact, and it's excellent value with the PowerPack at £69.95.

If you're looking for DTP software for serious daily use, you may find its quirks to be an irritation, but they shouldn't be a deterrent unless you're a power user.

❍ Christina Erskine

PRESS WORKS 2

- 386, Windows 3.1, 4Mb RAM (8Mb recommended), 7Mb to 39Mb hard disk space.

Supplier: GST
Contact: (01480) 496666
Price: £69.95/£39.95

PC REVIEW RATING 7

Pace Linnet Message Desk

Fax modem

With the help of this gizmo you could chuck out your answerphone, set up separate voice mail boxes for every member of your family, receive faxes and access the Internet. All you need is your computer, the Linnet Message Desk and a high speed COM port (voice transfers a lot of data so your PC really needs a 16550 COM port to deal with it).

The Message Desk is an external fax and voice modem. Set up is simple: all you do is connect the Message Desk to your PC, a phone and a power point.

The system works by automatically detecting what kind of call is coming in — be it a fax, voice message or data — and handling it accordingly. If it's a fax or data that's coming in, it's simply stored on your PC, but if it's a voice message, the SuperVoice software steps in and, at its most basic level, allows your PC to behave like a simple answerphone.

If you want to set up separate mailboxes for members of your family or staff, then the Message Desk can handle it. Just tailor the voice scripts to your own needs, allocate each user a mailbox number and a password (so other members of the family can't listen in on you) and away you go.

At its most advanced, the Message Desk can support a mixture of services — including faxback and mailboxes. Faxback is great for small businesses, since it allows you to store information customers often ask for (price lists, product details and so on) in fax format ready for callers to access direct from your PC. This can be a real time and money saver.

The bundle also includes a month's free membership to CompuServe and to the Almac bulletin board (containing files to download, forums and access to the Internet). At a street price of around £250, this is a fabulously useful bit of hardware.

❍ Gail Robinson

PACE LINNET MESSAGE DESK

- 486, Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM, fast COM port

Supplier: Pace
Contact: (01274) 537032
Price: £299

PC REVIEW RATING 8












RISE OF THE TRIAD

DARK WARS

18

YOU'RE GONNA GET BLOODY !

(c) 1994 Apogee Software

As a member of the High Risk United Nations Taskforce (HUNT) you are sent to investigate cult activity in an old monastery on a small island off the coast of Los Angeles. In the distance you hear your boat explode. You hear desperate newsmen describing the systematic destruction of Los Angeles. The Oscurido cult in the monastery are planning to kill millions of innocent people.

Features 32 levels of death, mayhem, chaos and terror with four cool bosses, nine wicked weapons including firebombs, sadistic split missiles and flamewalls - these even shatter the windows. Look and shoot up and down. Avoid spinblades, firechutes, pit-traps and lavawalls. Fly off jump pads to reach new heights. Optional modem play for up to 8 players, with real cross modem speech,
NETWORK PLAY FOR UP TO 20 PLAYERS!
Parental option to permanently alter the level of violence, as it is excessive.

Requires minimum 386, 4mb RAM. Supports all major soundcards.

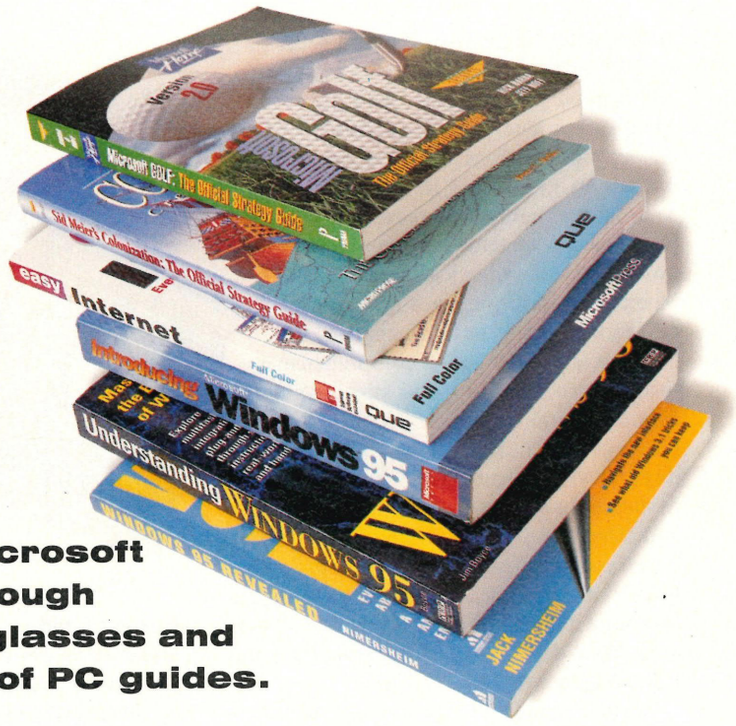
8 Level Shareware Version £7.75
30 Level Full Disk Version £30.00
Enhanced C.D. Version £38.00

Order Yours Now
(0474)-325802

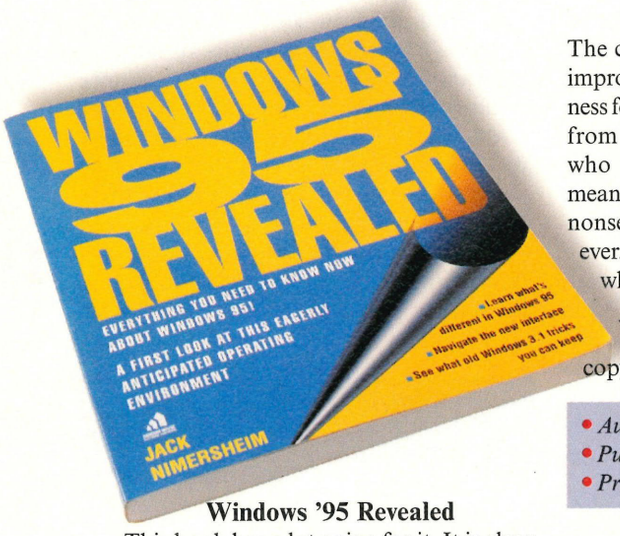
PD SELECTIONS LTD
The White House, Clifton Marine Parade,
Gravesend, Kent DA11 0DY
Tel: (0474) 325802 Fax: (0474) 320442

APOGEE™ APOGEE MEANS ACTION

The good PC guides



If you want to find out more about Window's '95, learn how to win at Microsoft Golf or just how to ease your way through Colonization, then don your reading glasses and follow David Bradwell into the world of PC guides.



Windows '95 Revealed

This book has a lot going for it. It is clear, concise, generally to the point, and as the author explains, it doesn't simply paraphrase information that is buried in official vendor documentation. A bit difficult seeing as there are no proper manuals for Windows '95 yet, but a valid point nevertheless. The book, therefore, is aimed squarely at the typical end user, which, let's be honest, will make up 99% of all Windows '95 users. It is written in a non-technical style, but does assume some experience with GUI's. It doesn't cover the installation of Windows '95, presumably because the type of user it's aimed at would have already had that done for them.

The problem with titles looking at Beta versions of any software, is that no sooner are they published, than a later Beta is released. This edition looks at the version current as of September 1994, where you apparently had to do daft things like, shell out to DOS to format floppy disks. The current Beta, M7, has had a number of improvements; doing away with that DOS silliness for one! So look for the latest edition. Apart from that I would recommend this to anyone who considers themselves a typical user, meaning you can't be bothered with all the techy nonsense. One nagging thought remains however. If you do consider yourself a 'typical user' why not wait until '95 is finally released (no jokes please) and spend your £17.49 then. At least you won't have to buy another copy until Windows '96 arrives.

- *Author: Jack Nimersheim*
- *Publisher: Random House*
- *Price: £17.49*

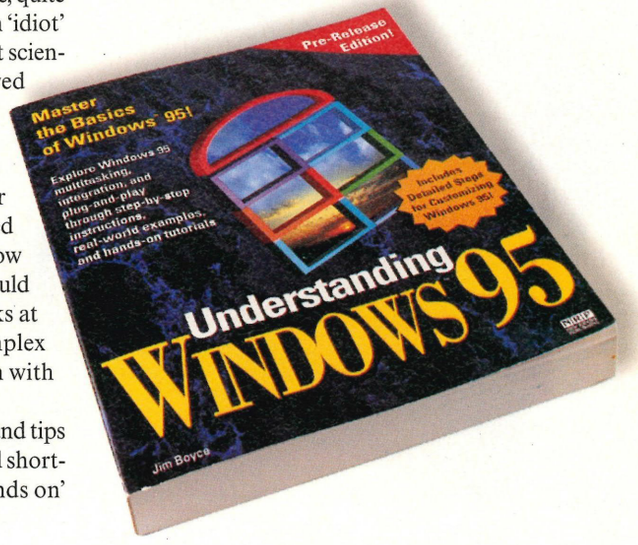
Understanding Windows '95

Understanding Window '95 tries to bridge, quite successfully I might add, the gap between 'idiot' guides and those only readable by rocket scientists. Of the Windows '95 titles reviewed here, this is the only one which covers in any detail the installation process, which is bizarre seeing as most people want to know what will happen to their copy of Windows 3.1 when '95 is installed on top. And if it all goes wrong, even how to uninstall the thing. This is what one would term an intermediate user guide, it looks at both the basics as well as some complex aspects of Windows '95 like interaction with networks and remote access.

Throughout the book there are notes and tips which give background information and shortcuts, and added to this are specific 'hands on' sections which are the typical hand holding exercises. Reading between the lines you can see Windows '95 current weak spots too, one being Plug and Play, the book reflects this by managing to cover the topic in three pages.

I rather liked Understanding Windows '95, it's pretty extensive and overcomes the usual problem of computer books by actually having a half decent index. That nagging thought still remains however. Why purchase a manual aimed at users when the product is still in Beta form, and the only people using the product at the moment are either the odd journalist, or IT specialist? Worth a look if your lucky enough to have a Beta copy.

- *Author: Jim Boyce*
- *Publisher: New Riders*
- *Price: £22.99*



Introducing Microsoft Windows '95

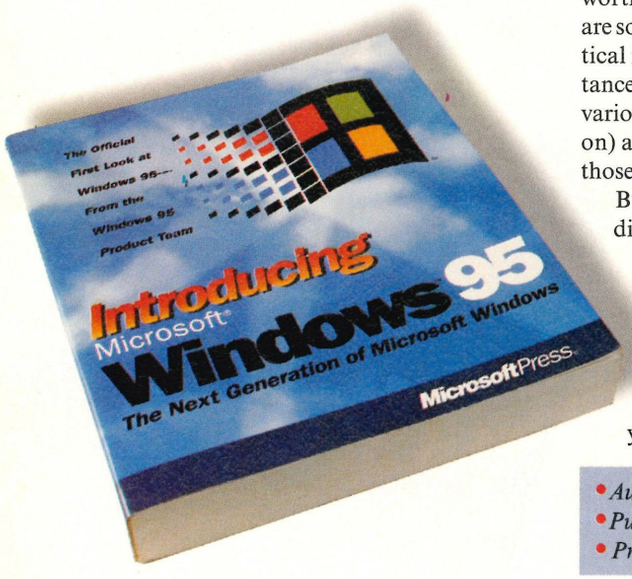
As a rule, Microsoft Press titles are well written and a good place to start with any Microsoft product, after all if it can't answer your questions relating to one of their own, who can? Introducing Microsoft Windows '95 seems to be part mission statement, part background and part practical, so shouldn't be considered if you want an end user guide tour, despite the blurb on the back.

If you are looking for a comprehensive insight into the aims and objectives of Microsoft and Windows '95, this is ideal. Amongst other things, it explains how Windows '95 will link straight into the Internet, what Microsoft hopes to achieve with Plug and Play and other wonderful ideas like Hot-Docking. So, all you technical bods who want to find out how Windows '95 will impact on your business, and more importantly what it means to you in your day to day job, will probably find that this is a good place to start.

At times however it can sound a little like a propaganda manual, therefore, some of it can be greeted with a small degree of scepticism. This fact is highlighted by the Question and Answer section which gives the shipping date of Windows '95 as being sometime in the first half of this year, with the errata that Microsoft want to ship the best product possible.

If the book's technical content was diluted, this would be nothing more than a Microsoft flag waving exercise, and I would have consigned it to the nearest bin. But it's not and despite the fact the index is about as useful as a chocolate teapot, I can recommend it. And at £11.95 you can't argue with the price.

- *Author: Brent Ethington*
- *Publisher: Microsoft Press*
- *Price: £11.99*





Microsoft Golf 2: The Official Strategy Guide

This latest handbook in Prima's 'Secrets of the Games' series weighs in with a hefty 270 glossy, well-illustrated pages. When you consider that all this is just telling you how to put a ball into a hole, it does rather boggle the mind. Just how do you stretch out a mere golf tips book to this length? The answer is simple padding.

I've rarely seen a more blatant example of uncondensed waffle. First of all it pretty much reproduces the entire manual verbatim. Secondly, it devotes nearly half its length to a meticulous hole by hole commentary on five Microsoft Golf/Links courses (for dedicated trainspotting golfers everywhere). And lastly, it fills out a few more remaining acres of innocent white paper with profound quotations from famous and infamous golfers past and present. That's 'profound' in inverted commas. Frankly it's the kind of stuff that makes Eric Cantona sound like Jean-Paul Sartre.

This isn't to say that the book is completely worthless. Not completely, just mostly. There are some helpful playing hints and useful statistical information, such as the exhaustive distance tables which take full account of the various lies (rough, sand, asphalt and so on) and are much more detailed than those supplied in the manual.

But if you cut out the verbiage and distilled it to its essence, you'd get about 10 pages or so of wheat, and 260 plus of chaff. And for that you're expected to shell out £18.49 — for a paperback! Talk about a run of the green stuff. You'd probably be better advised to keep yours safely in your pocket.

- *Authors: Rick Barba\Jeff Hoff*
- *Publisher: Prima*
- *Price: £18.49*

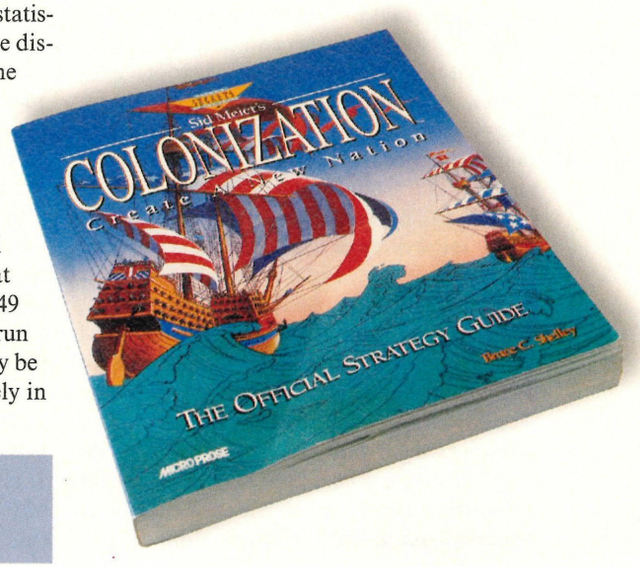
Colonization

Just like the Microsoft Golf book, Prima's new guide to Colonization brazenly reproduces huge chunks of the manual. It is, however, a much better read, principally for two reasons. The first is that it's written by Bruce Shelley, long-time Sid Meier collaborator and experienced designer in his own right. The second is that it's a bigger and more varied subject. There are tips on almost every page, some obvious, some excellent; and there's a host of fascinating insights into the game's development. Shelley was taking notes on the project well before publication, and he charts changes and improvements which were continuously incorporated right up until the last minute. Indeed, this process is still in train and we should expect to see further adjustments in the future.

There's a tutorial (absent in the manual), detailed hints on how to maximise your score, an attempted grading of the Founding Fathers and a good examination of alternative strategies. Shelley also made me reconsider two points in particular, firstly my attitude to privateering (he thinks it's vital), and secondly my tactics in the War of Independence — mine tend to be defensive, he makes a good case for aggression.

Although there's a lot of padding here too, it's less obvious than in the Golf book. This is by no means an essential text, but beginners will find it handy and even advanced players should glean something of interest. My principal objection, again, is the price. Shop around in the small ads and you can buy the game itself for not much more.

- *Author: Bruce C Shelley*
- *Publisher: Prima*
- *Price: £18.49*



MultiMax

The Best Software The Best Service The Best Prices

TOP CD ENTERTAINMENT

PC3 = also on 3.5": call for prices

ACES OF THE DEEP	PC3 £28.00
AIR HAVOC CONTROL	£22.00
ALONE IN THE DARK & JACK	£17.50
ALONE IN THE DARK 3	£32.00
BATTLE ISLE 2	PC3 £26.50
BENEATH A STEEL SKY UNBOXED	£16.00
BENEATH A STEEL SKY/CANNON FODDER	£32.00
BIG RED ADVENTURE	£24.00
BRIDGE CHAMP WITH OMAR SHARIFF	PC3 £23.50
CASTLES 2	£25.00
CD INTERACTIVE 16 Titles/10 CD's	£30.00
CIVILISATION/RAILROAD TYCOON	£22.00
COLONIZATION	PC3 £29.00
COMMANCHE UNBOXED	£19.50
COMPLETE CHESS SYSTEM	PC3 £23.50
CYCLE MANIA	£24.10
DARK FORCES	£30.00
DAWN PATROL	PC3 £28.00
DAY OF TENTACLE	PC3 £26.00
DAY OF THE TENTACLE UNBOXED	£16.00
DESCENT	PC3 £25.00
DOOM V2	PC3 £35.75
DUNE/7TH GUEST	£28.50
ECSTATICA	£30.60
ELITE 2 FRONTIER	PC3 £14.60
FALCON GOLD	£29.00
FIFA INT. SOCCER	PC3 £24.50
GABRIEL KNIGHT	PC3 £27.50
GABRIEL KNIGHT UNBOXED	£15.00
GREAT NAVAL BATTLES 2	PC3 £25.00
HELL	£29.00
INDI JONES FATE OF ATLANTIS UNBOXED	PC3 £16.00
INFERNO	PC3 £29.00
JACK NICKLAUS + COURSES	£12.50
KYRANDIA 3	£24.00
LEMMINGS 1 & 2	£18.50
LEMMINGS – ALL NEW WORLD	£26.00
LEISURE SUIT LARRY 6 UNBOXED	£17.00
LITTLE BIG ADVENTURE	£32.80
MAD DOG McCREE UNBOXED	£15.00
MAD DOG McCREE 2 UNBOXED	£16.00
MAGIC CARPET	£32.80
MEGARACE	PC3 £24.00
MONTY PYTHON - COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME	£31.20
MYST	£30.00
NASCAR RACING	PC3 £27.00
NHL HOCKEY	PC3 £28.00
OUTPOST	£22.00
PINBALL DREAMS DELUXE	£24.00
PGA TOUR GOLF 486	£31.50
PIZZA TYCOON	£29.00
POWER RANGERS UNBOXED	£14.00
QUARANTINE UNBOXED	£13.00
REBEL ASSAULT UNBOXED	£21.50
RETURN TO ZORK UNBOXED	£16.00
RISE OF THE ROBOTS	PC3 £31.20
SAM & MAX HIT THE ROAD	PC3 £25.50
SEA WOLF	PC3 £25.60
SEVENTH GUEST UNBOXED	£13.00
SIM CITY 2000	PC3 £31.00
SIM CITY 2000 WINDOWS	PC3 £21.00
SIMON THE SORCERER	PC3 £26.50
SPACE HULK	PC3 £26.50
STAR TREK 25TH ANNIVERSARY	PC3 £28.00
SUBWARS 2050	PC3 £26.00
SYNDICATE +	PC3 £29.00
SYSTEM SHOCK	PC3 £27.00
TFX UNBOXED	£16.50
THEME PARK PC/MAC	PC3 £26.00
TORNADO + DESERT STORM	£13.50
TRANSPORT TYCOON	PC3 £29.00
ULTIMA 8 + SPEECH PACK	£32.00
UNDER A KILLING MOON	£34.00
VOYEUR	£25.00
WING COMMANDER III	£35.00
X WING COLLECTORS	£32.90

MANY OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL

TOP 3.5 ENTERTAINMENT

(3.5" versions of many CDs above also available – prices may vary)

1942 PACIFIC AIR WAR	£27.00
ALONE IN THE DARK 2	£24.50
BREAKTHROUGH	£18.00
CANNON FODDER 2	£21.50
DOOM V1.2	£23.00
DOOM V2	£32.00
EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE MACHINE	£28.00
F14 FLEET DEFENDER	£26.00
INTELLIGENT STRATEGY GAMES (10)	£25.00
LINKS 386 PRO	£26.00
LINKS COURSES EACH	£15.50
LUCAS 3	
(Sam & Max, Tentacle, Indy)	£37.50
MICRO MACHINES	£18.00
MS ARCADE	£14.00
MS FLIGHT SIM. V5	£25.50
- NEW YORK/PARIS DISKS EACH	£15.00
MS GOLF V2	£27.00
MS SPACE SIMULATOR	£29.00
OVERLORD	£25.50
SCRABBLE	£20.00
SIM CITY 2000	£23.00
THE SETTLERS	£23.50
TIE FIGHTER	£28.00
X-WING	£24.00
- B WING MISSION	£12.50
- IMPERIAL PURSUIT	£12.50

MANY OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL

LANGUAGE

BERLITZ FR/GER/ITAL/SP	£88.00
EZ LANGUAGE CD FR/GER/IT/JAP 1 CD	£49.00
GLOBAL FR/GER/ITAL EACH	£38.00
HYPERGLOT LEARN TO SPEAK FR/SP	£50.50
LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD	£17.00
LEARN FRENCH WITH ASTERIX 1 CD	£45.50
LEARN FRENCH WITH ASTERIX 2 CD	£90.00
SYRACUSE 4-9 ENG/FR/GER/SP/JAP	£17.50
SYRACUSE 9-ADULT ENG/FR/SPAN	£26.00

CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL (see also Reference)

10/10 RANGE @	£17.00
ADI ENGLISH 11/12/13/14 3.5"	£16.00
ADI FRENCH 11/12/13/14 EACH 3.5"	£16.00
ADI MATHS 11/12/13/14 EACH 3.5"	£16.00
ADI ENG/FR/MATHS GCSE 3.5" EACH	£21.00
A-LEVEL MATHS WORKSHOP	£235.00
GCSE MATHS WORKSHOP	£135.00
ADVENTURES IN FAIRY LAND CD	£24.90
ART CENTRE	£21.50
ARTHUR'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE	£27.50
ARTHUR'S TEACHER TROUBLE (UNBOXED)	£14.50
BUG INSECT ADVENTURE CD/3.5"	£28.00
BUSY TOWN CD	£37.00
CREATIVITY CENTRE 3.5"	£21.90
FUN SCHOOL 4 UNDER 5s 3.5"	£15.50
FUN SCHOOL 4 5-7 3.5"	£15.50
FUN SCHOOL 4 7-113.5"	£15.50
FUN SCHOOL 5 TITLES	£CALL
FUN SCHOOL MATHS 7+	£16.00
FUN SCHOOL PAINT & CREATE 3.5"	£16.00
FUN SCHOOL SPELLING 7+ 3.5"	£16.00
HENRIETTA'S BOOK OF SPELLS 3.5"	£25.00
HORRAY FOR HENRIETTA	£25.00
JUST GRANDMA & ME (UNBOXED)	£14.50
KID DESK 3.5"	£25.00
KID PIX	£24.00
KID WORKS 2	£24.00
KINGFISHER MICROPAEDIA	£60.00
LEGENDS OF OZ CD	£17.00
LITTLE MONSTER AT SCHOOL	£27.50
MACMILLANS DICTIONARY FOR CHILDREN	£18.00
MAGIC THEATRE 3.5" CD	£30.00
MARIO MISSING/TIME/SUMS/PLAYTIME EACH	£17.00
MATHS BLASTER 3.5"/CD	£22.70
MIND GAMES	£17.00
MS CREATIVE WRITER 3.5"	£32.50
MS FINE ARTIST 3.5"	£32.50
MS MAGIC SCHOOL BUS HUMAN BODY	£33.00
MS MAGIC SCHOOL BUS SOLAR SYSTEM	£33.00
NEW KID ON THE BLOCK	£27.70
NODDY'S BIG ADVENTURE 3.5"	£18.00
NODDY'S PLAYTIME 3.5"	£18.00
PETER PAN	£25.20
PUTT PUTT GOES TO THE MOON	£28.50
PUTT PUTT JOINS THE PARADE	£25.50
RAINBOW RASCAL	£15.00
READING ADVENTURES IN WORD LAND	£26.00
RUFFS BONE	£27.50
SCOOTER'S MAGIC CASTLE	£30.95
SPELLBOUND	£22.90
THE CHEMISTRY SET	£145.00
THE TALE OF BENJAMIN BUNNY	£19.50
THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT	£19.50
THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE CD	£29.00
THUMBERLINA	£15.00
TUNELAND CD	£28.00
TWINS IN TROUBLE CD	£21.90
UPSIDE TOWN	£22.00
WHERE IN THE WORLD CARMEN S'DIEGO CD	£16.50

MANY OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL

DORLING KINDERSLEY MULTIMEDIA RANGE

Excellent "Edutainment" for all ages

EYEWITNESS ENCYCLOPAEDIA SCIENCE	£45.00
INCREDIBLE CROSS-SECTIONS STOWAWAY	£32.00
MY 1ST INC AMAZING D/CT UK VERSION	£32.00
THE ULTIMATE HUMAN BODY	£40.00
THE WAY THINGS WORK	£40.00

NEW DK TITLES (Nature/Hist/Sex/Atlas) due soon

MUSIC

A HARD DAY'S NIGHT - THE BEATLES	£25.00
CAKEWALK HOME STUDIO	£107.00
JAMMER PRO	£115.74
INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MUSIC	£31.60
MIRACLE PIANO SYSTEM	£55.00
MS BEET/SCHUB/MOZ/STRAV EACH	£37.50
MS COMPOSER COLLECTION	£55.00
MS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS	£34.00
MULTIMEDIA HISTORY OF JAZZ	£25.00
MUSICWARE PIANO TUTOR	£63.00
PETER GABRIEL EXPLORA	£32.00
PETER GABRIEL SPEC EDITION	£55.00
PRINCE INTERACTIVE	£30.50
THE ROCK & ROLL YEARS 50's	£15.50
WOODSTOCK 25TH ANNIV	£19.00
VIKING GUIDE TO OPERA	£55.00

TOP REFERENCE EDUCATIONAL

11 CD PACK	SEE SPECIAL OFFERS
2000 GREATER & LESSER MYSTERIES	£16.80
3D BODY ADVENTURE 3.5 CD	£28.00
3D DINOSAUR ADVENTURE CD 3.5"	£28.00
3FT 6 PACK VOL (6 KIDS CD'S)	£19.00
5FT 10 PACK VOL 1 (10CD'S)	£29.00
5FT 10 PACK VOL 2 (10 CD'S)	£28.00
AIRCRAFT ENCYCLOPAEDIA	£14.00
ANCIENT LANDS CD	£37.00
ANGLO SAXONS	£95.00
ANIMALS OF SAN DIEGO ZOO CD	£11.00
BARTENDER'S COMPLETE GUIDE	£18.00
BETTER HOME & GARDEN HEALTHY COOKING CD	£19.00
BIBLES AND RELIGION CD	£10.00
BIBLIOTECH (1000s of books)	£16.80
BODY/COMPUTER/MOTOR INSIGHT on 1 CD	£28.00
BODYWORKS V3 CD	£36.50
CAR + PC + BODY INSIGHT REFERENCE 1 CD	£28.00
CHEMISTRY WORKS	£20.50
CIRCLE OF KNOWLEDGE 2 CD SET	£21.00
CLASSIC LIBRARY CD	£34.00
COMPTONS INTERACTIVE 95 CD	£21.00
COOKBOOK HEAVEN CD	£14.00
DANGEROUS CREATURES CD	£37.00
DICTIONARY OF THE LIVING WORLD	£15.00
DRIVING TEST	£20.00
EXPLORING ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE CD	£30.50
EXPLORING MODERN ART CD (TATE GAL)	£55.00
FAMILY DOCTOR VER 3 CD	£16.00
FAMILY TREE MAKER	£42.00
GARDENING CD	£10.00
GLOBAL EXPLORER CD	£55.00
GREAT ARTISTS AND PAINTINGS	£45.00
GROLIER V7 ENC CD (UNBOXED)	£21.00
HACKERS CHRONICLES II	£20.00
HOME GARDENER	£22.00
HUTCHINSON'S ENCY 1995 CD	£46.50
INTERACTIVE PERIODIC TABLE	£60.00
INTERACTIVE SPACE ENCYC CD	£39.00
ISAAC ASIMOV SCIENCE ADV II CD	£29.00
JFK ASSASSINATION CD	£30.50
KARAOKE MACBETH/R&J/MIDE DREAM EACH	£36.00
MAVIS BEACON V2 + CHESS + ATLASES CD	£19.00
MAYO HEALTH CLINIC CD	£14.50
MS ART GALLERY CD	£36.50
MS BOOKSHELF CD	£39.00
MS DINOSAUR CD	£34.00
MS CINEMANIA 95 CD	£36.50
MS COMPOSERS SCHUB/MOZ/BEET	£55.00
MS ENCARTA 1995 CD	£55.00
MS SCHUB/MOZ/BEET/STRAV CD EACH	£37.50
MS COMPOSERS SCHU/MOZ/BEET	£55.00
MS THE ULTIMATE ROBOT	£36.00
MULTIMEDIA HISTORY OF WORLD	£25.00
NAT GEOGRAPHIC MAMMALS	£17.00
OCEANS BELOW	£10.00
OXFORD COMPENDIUM (DICT/THE S/QUOT)	£59.00
OXFORD REF SHELF (16 REF BOOKS!!!)	£59.00
OXFORD SHAKESPEARE CD	£25.00
OXFORD STUDY SHELF	£29.50
REDSHIFT ASTRONOMY CD	£42.00
REDSHIFT ASTRONOMY CD (UNBOXED)	£34.00
SOURCES OF FAITH CD	£33.00
SURVEY OF WESTERN ART	£18.00
THE DISCOVERERS CD	£29.50
TOTAL FOOTBALL CD (ENCYCLOPAEDIA)	£33.00
TOTAL HEALTH BODY & MIND	£37.00
UNDERSEA ADVENTURE CD	£28.00
UFO CD (PHOTOS, ACCOUNTS ETC)	£34.50
WHALES & DOLPHINS	£16.00
WINES OF THE WORLD CD	£19.00
WORLD ATLAS 5 CD	£15.00
VISTA PRO	£60.00
YOGA MULTIMEDIA GUIDE	£9.50

MANY OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL

SHAREWARE CD'S

CICA	£15.30
ENCYCL OF SOUND I & II EACH	£10.00
GIFS GALAXY	£24.00
GIFS GALORE	£13.00
GIF GALLERY (ALL VOLS)	£14.00
HOT SOUND AND VISION 2	£18.00
LIBRIS BRITANNIA III	£25.00
LIBRIS BRITANNIA 4 SCIENCE & TECH	£25.00
LIBRIS BRITANNIA 4	£25.00
NIGHT OWL 14	£20.00
PLATINUM DISKS EACH	£10.50
EDUCATION/HOME AND BUSINESS/MULTIMEDIA PUBLISHER/UTILITIES/WINDOWS	
PLATINUM 4 CD PACK (ED/MM/PUB/GAMES)	£20.00
SHAREWARE HEAVEN 3	£14.50
SIMTEL '94	£11.00

MANY OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL

OFFICE/FONTS/DTP ETC

2000 TRUE TYPE FNTS + CLIPART + BOOK CD	£16.80
CLIPART HEAVEN V2 CD	£22.00
CLIPART EXTRAVAGANZA	£25.50
COLOUR CLIPART 2,500 PICS CD	£24.20
COREL DRAW V3	£59.00
COREL GALLERY 10,000 IMAGES	£29.00
COREL PHOTO CD'S EACH	£14.00
MS WORKS	£49.00
OS/2 WARP 3.5	£65.00
OS/2 WARP CD	£53.00
PAGE PLUS V3	£51.50
PAGE PLUS PUBLISHER	£81.50
QUICKBOOKS	£109.00
QUICKEN V3	£37.45
QUICK INVOICE	£33.50
TURBOCAD V2	£69.50
TURBOCAD V3.2	£75.00
WORDSTAR FOR WINDOWS V2	£31.00

MANY OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL

How to calculate your order

Value of goods shown on page	
VAT @ 17.5%	
P&P	
TOTAL	

LESS £7.50 IF APPLICABLE (SEE BELOW)

£7.50 Extra Discount

When you purchase any title with

The Very Best Games..**Volume 1**

A collection of 450+ of the latest and bestShareware Games on CD

for just £24.95* fully inclusive

or less than 5 pence a game "Highly recommended" Practical PC 1994

"Game of the Month" PC Format September 1994

The CD contains over 450 great games in uncompressed format, ready to run, hassle free! We have selected only the very best titles from major companies such as Epic, Apogee and Id. All the game scome ready to run ... so you won't need to waste time unzipping files every time you want to play a game or move it to your hard disk.

Among the many titles you will receive are:

Doom, Wolfenstein, 3D, Spear of Destiny, Duke Nukem, Major Stryer, Shotting Gallery,. Epic Pinball, Bio Menance, Jill of the Jungle, Cosmo's Cosmic Adventure, Balek Stone, Defencer of Boston, Moster Bash, Halloween,Harry, Commander Keen, Sherlock, Poker, Blackjack, Mahjong, Chess, Pirada, Anagram, Word games ... and many more Arcade, Adventure, Educational, Casino, Card, Simulation and Strategy games too numerous to mention. We guarantee there is absolutely no padding – only the very best games are included.

*The Very Best Games volume 1 contains shareware tiles. These require separate payment of authors if found useful.

SPECIAL OFFERS

GAMERUNNER

Specialist Memory management for the games enthusiast. Includes QEMM 7 for memory management, AXIS THE GAME CHEATER for that extra help with tricky situations, HYPERDISK cacheing utility for boosted hard drive performance and MANIFEST for system tuning help.

ONLY **£39.00**

ONE STOP CD SHOP ONLY £25.00

11 CDs from Softkey in one pack!! Includes Time Almanac - the 1990S, Game Empire (250 games, Key Gourmet, CCN Global View, Key Fonts Plus, Key Clipart, Slob Zone 3D, World Cup 1994, MPC Wizard v2, UFO 9 (photos, accounts etc), Video Cube.

THE COMPLETE AFTER DARK CD COLLECTION

Over 80 screen saver modules for MAC/Windows including After Dark 3 and More After Dark. With sample Star Trek, ST Next Generation, X-men, Simpsons, Marvel Screen Savers.

ONLY £38.00

MULTIMEDIA MAGIC CD

Creat your own animated movies with this 6 pack special. Includes ANIMATION WORKS, HALO DESK-TOP MANAGER, animated screensavers, over 1000 animated actors, clipart, photos, sound clips. Record your own sound, narration, music, etc.

ONLY **£19.50** (RRP £300+)

GOLDMASTER DISKS

PRE-FORMATTED DSHD (1.44MB) BOX OF 50

ONLY £22.00

CD³ DISK STORAGE UNIT

Brilliantly designed for storing, protecting, cataloguing and transporting up to 40 CD's

ONLY **£19.00** (RRP £35)

Credit Card Hotline 01652 651651 (4 Lines) Mon-Fri 9.00-6.30, Sat 9.00-1.00

By Post: Cheques/PO to Multimax, PO Box 28, Scunthorpe, DN16 3UF

P&P £2.50 per order UK, £4.00 Europe (EC), £5.50 elsewhere. All prices exclude VAT at 17.5%. Prices correct at time of going to press

Shareware

Charles Hathaway chucks away File Manager, sorts out some puzzles, works out when it's dark in Timbuctoo and ends up in yet another dungeon. All in the name of try-before-you-buy . . .

The Aethra Chronicles

The Aethra Chronicles is an old-fashioned role-playing game similar to early games in the Ultima series. It has a complex plot and a well-defined game world which includes many of the traditional Dungeons and Dragons-type character classes and a few new ones besides. To install the Aethra Chronicles you'll need 7.5Mb of space on your hard drive, a 286 PC or better and an EGA or VGA graphics card.

The object of the game is to create your party with characters from the ten possible classes: fighter, rogue, thief, ranger, bard, cleric, elementalist, sorcerer, mentalist, conjurer, paladin, or ashikari, and set out on the inevitable quest. The combat, spell casting and abilities are standard fare for seasoned adventurers, and despite the run-of-the-mill graphics, the adventure element of the game is pretty good. It may lack the finesse of Dungeon Master but it still has plenty to offer.

Evaluation copy from Goodman International (01782) 335650
Registered version via CompuServe

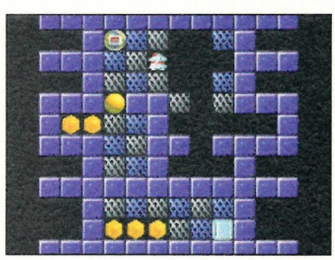
Price £25.00 — PC REVIEW RATING 6



Trugg

Trugg is a fiendishly addictive, arcade-style, puzzle game with nice graphics and a thumpingly good soundtrack. The object of the game is to guide a thing called Trugg (I'm still not quite sure what he, she or it actually is) through the increasingly difficult levels, collecting treasures and avoiding boulders, guns, forcefields and guardians.

The shareware version has 20 levels so you should get a good feel for the game, while the registered version offers another 60 more levels with three new zones. There's also a WYSIWYG level editor that you can use to create and distribute your own collections of puzzles.



You'll need a 386 PC or better with VGA graphics and a Sound Blaster compatible sound card. For younger players there is a Junior version costing £4.95 with easier levels and a different set of cartoon graphics. Digital Workshop also promises new sets of levels soon.

Evaluation copy from Shareware Support BBS (01442) 891109
Registered version from Digital Workshop on (01295) 258335

Price £14.95 (£4.95 for Junior version) — PC REVIEW RATING 8

Windows Commander

There have been dozens of replacements for Microsoft's much maligned file manager over the years, but few have had quite as many features as Windows Commander.

A new release, 1.51, fixes a few bugs and adds dozens more facilities, making it well worth checking out if you need a little more power.

Windows Commander has two fixed windows displaying the files in the current directories.

There is a configurable toolbar along the top and a set of buttons along the bottom, providing rapid mouse access to file management commands such as copy and delete.

Drag and drop file handling is supported and you can also delete, move and copy multiple directories across too.

The program also contains the code for decompressing archive files in ZIP, LZH and ARJ formats. Most of these compressed files are treated as directories so you can always see the contents of archived files and then open them without using the related DOS unpacking program.

Other features include powerful file searching, viewing any text or binary file and command line or menu based launching of any Windows programs.

Evaluation copy from Goodman International (01782) 335650
Registered version via CompuServe or author in USA

Price £30.00 — PC REVIEW RATING 8

Geoclock

Geoclock 6.1 is an impressive program that shows the movement of the Earth in relation to the Sun and allows you to work out which parts of the Earth's surface are in darkness, twilight or daylight at any given time or on any date. The movement can be animated too.

The program also handles time zones and includes a gazetteer of all the countries and many of the big cities in the world, plus various features for HAM radio enthusiasts. Other handy tools are the distance tool that lets you calculate the distance in miles or kilometres between any two points on the Earth's surface, and the ability to zoom in closer. In all, over 200 maps are available with the registered version.



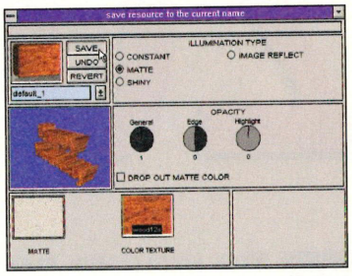
A 286 PC with colour monitor and hard disk is required and the program supports SVGA as well as EGA and VGA. If you've ever wondered how the Sun, Earth and Moon interact, check this out.

Evaluation and registered versions from Testware Publishing on (01423) 886415

Price £35.00 — PC REVIEW RATING 7

Some software gets deleted from the hard disk the minute the review is written, some we wish we'd never laid eyes on. But, every month there are products that do prove to be reliable and enjoyable, and above all genuinely useful. All of the products featured in the PC Review Tried and Tested section are worthy candidates for anybody's short list.

Simply 3D



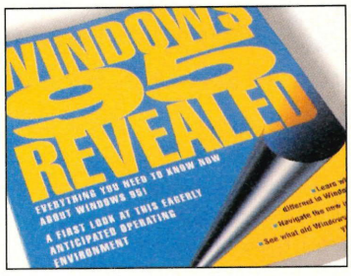
Simply 3D is a suite of 3D graphics programs for Windows 3.1 that provides an easy to use environment for rendering images and simple camera animations. Incredibly addictive and so well designed too.

Diamond Stealth 64 DRAM



The Diamond Stealth is a blisteringly fast graphics accelerator that isn't just limited to speeding up lumbering Microsoft Windows displays. Both Local Bus and PCI versions are available.

Windows '95 Revealed



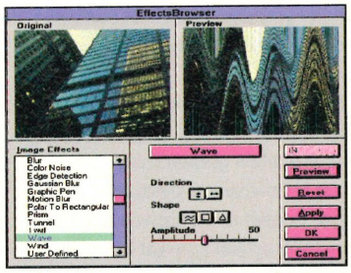
Probably the best so far of the pre-Windows '95 guides. Aimed squarely at the typical end user it's written in a non-technical style and as such is suitable for most potential Windows '95 users.

Paint Shop Pro



The venerable shareware graphics utility has finally got itself a full commercial upgrade — and it was definitely worth the wait. This is still one of the most useful graphics conversion and editing programs ever made.

Micrografx Picture Publisher



A longstanding heavyweight in PC graphics, Picture Publisher is the best option if you want to get serious about image editing and can't afford a second mortgage for Adobe Photoshop.

Logitech Wingman Extreme



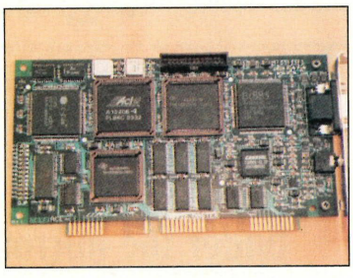
If you're looking for a joystick and haven't got a spare £200 in your back pocket, then there's only one alternative for serious flight sim fans: Logitech's superb Wingman Extreme

Maxtor Hard Disk Drive Kit



The easy and effective way to solve a lack of disk space on your PC is to add a new drive. The Maxtor kit is well priced, easy to install and a thoroughly good performer.

Ace Coin MovieMaster 24



MPEG cards are big news at the moment, and the ultra-sharp, 24-bit, screen-capturable MovieMaster 24 is arguably head and shoulders above the rest of the FMV pack.

Recommended so far

❍ Gateway 2000 486SX/33 (PC) ❍ Fauve Matisse (art software) ❍ Art Gallery (art CD) ❍ Fine Artist (kids' drawing software) ❍ Gamewave 32 (sound card) ❍ Sound FX Classic 3000 (sound card) ❍ Micrograph Tabby (tablet) ❍ Dan Vantage MM (486PC) ❍ KidDesk (PC front-end) ❍ NEC3Xi (CD-ROM drive) ❍ InfoCentral (PIM) ❍ Mitsumi FX001D (CD-ROM drive) ❍ QY8 (sequencer) ❍ Vivid 3D (surround sound) ❍ MJM 486/66 (486PC) ❍ Stowaway! (edutainment CD) ❍ IBM Aptiva (PC) ❍ Prehistoria (edutainment CD) ❍ DR-U104x (CD-ROM drive) ❍ Diamond Stealth 64 DRAM (Video accelerator) ❍ Paint Shop Pro (graphics and conversion software) ❍ Joyswitch (controller switching box) ❍ Ace Coin MovieMaster 24 (MPEG video playback card)

Technical Help



This is the part of PC Review where we give you something to get your teeth into — the Workshop section — where each month, step by step, we aim to guide you painlessly through some of the more intricate and exciting things you can do with your PC. Not only that, but our resident PC agony uncle is on hand to answer all your PC problems too.

Under the microscope this month

Internet Workshop
Check out our top 20 Netiquette tips 124
Music Workshop
All the software you need to get started on your musical career 129
Getting Started
Discover the best way to optimise your hard disk 132
Questions and Answers
All your personal PC problems answered 138

20 tips for

Part 5

So you've surfed the Web and lurked in a few newsgroups. What's next? Time to learn the ground rules. David Bradwell guides you through the art of 'netiquette'.

In one sense, rules are an anathema to the Internet. A major part of its appeal is that it is not under the control of any one institution and that governments find it hard to regulate what goes on. If you're so inclined you can access all sorts of files that would be frowned upon in conventional society. The Internet is a law unto itself. However, despite this outward appearance of anarchy, there are a few golden rules that would-be Netizens would be wise to follow. Known as Netiquette, these form an essential survival guide that can help you get the most out of the Internet without falling foul of the rest of the community.

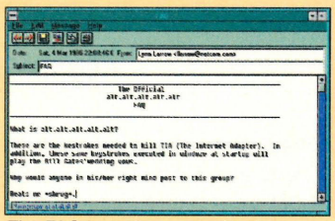
1. Read news.announce.newusers.

First and foremost when you start investigating newsgroups, you should subscribe to news.announce.newusers. The group is provided to help newbies, as they're known, to get up to speed as quickly as possible. It contains answers to frequently asked Internet questions, and guidelines on the dos and don'ts of Usenet.

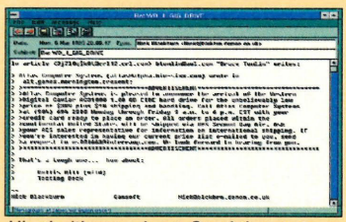
2. Lurk first before posting

There's nothing that shows up your lack of Internet awareness more than diving straight into somebody else's conversation — and getting it horribly wrong. It's worth reading a newsgroup for a couple of weeks before joining in discussions, so you can get a feel for the type of dialogue it carries. Post your thoughts only when you're sure they'll be of interest to other people. Remember, if you make a prat of yourself there are thousands of people watching — and they all have your address.

FAQS EVERYWHERE!



The FAQ has all you need to know... this one's from alt.alt.alt.alt.alt.



Uh oh, it's an advert. Send these at your peril.

Internet survival

3. Read the FAQ

In a similar vein, it's essential to read the Frequently Asked Questions file for each group before wading in. The FAQ will almost certainly explain the nuances you don't understand because that's what it's there for. Sending a frequently asked question to a group will normally elicit a wealth of unfriendly replies and take up valuable bandwidth. The FAQ can help you learn the basics instantly to make your time on the Internet much more profitable. Want to know how to download and decode multipart pictures from the binaries groups? Read the FAQ.

4. Don't spam

Spamming is the 'technical' term for sending the same message to more than one related newsgroup. Nothing gets under the skin of Usenet veterans more than a newbie spammer. Remember — people have to pay to read or download whatever you send to a newsgroup. There is no benefit in having four copies of your Ode to Cyberspace and Pamela Anderson when one (or less) will suffice.

5. Don't shout

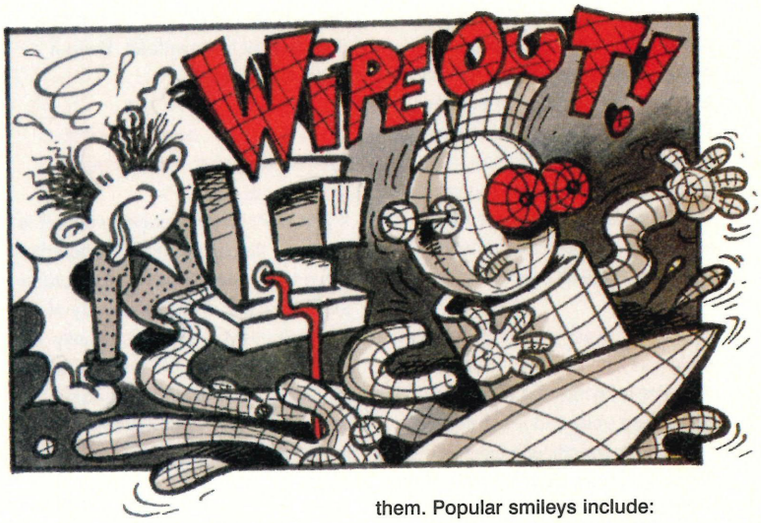
Block capitals are used to convey emotion, but use them sparingly. A whole message written in block capitals will be perceived as shouting and is likely to offend the delicate ears of Internet users. You can also use an asterix on either side of a word to italicise it or put angled brackets around other words to turn them into emotions. For example, "Don't use capitals unless you *really* have to, or you'll be in *big* trouble <grin>."

6. Judge people by what they say, not how they say it

Remember that the Internet is a global community, but all you know about another user is his or her Internet address. Before sending a derisory message ridiculing someone for their bad spelling, poor grammar, or lack of punctuation (unless they're from a rival computer magazine <grin>), consider that they may be suffering from dyslexia or that English may not be their first language. One of the attractions of Usenet is that in any given newsgroup you could find an American university professor holding a discussion with a 12-year-old Malaysian schoolboy. Help to keep it that way by not deterring those who may genuinely not know better. At the same time, try to observe a good code of written English yourself. Not everyone may be as tolerant as you.

7. Don't advertise

This one goes without saying. The Internet is a forum for mature (and often immature) debate and the



swapping of files and information. Do *not* try to sell something via a newsgroup, unless the group is specifically set up for that purpose. Advertisers are likely to be flamed. At best this means they will get their mailbox filled up with offensive correspondence. At worst they'll find that each of those messages comes with a few megabytes of garbage, and they'll spend so long downloading gigabytes of rubbish they'll have no time left for running a business.

8. Use smileys to convey emotion

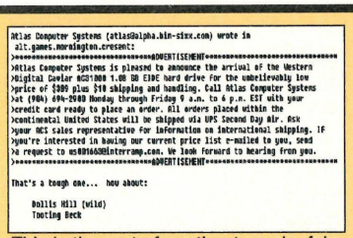
Smiling sideways faces (such as :-)) are used to convey a wide range of emotions — much easier than the written word. The only problem is that you look like a geek if you use them. Popular smileys include:

;-) (wink) user just made a flirtatious or sarcastic remark
:-((frown) user is unhappy
:-> user made a sarcastic remark
{:-) user wears a toupee

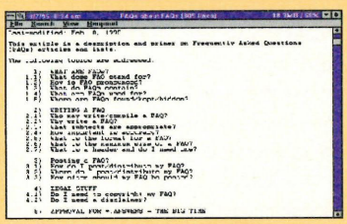
Remember that the American sense of humour is different to the British, and that what the Americans think is cute is often a pain in the arm to stiff upper-lipped Brits. Smileys fall into that category. If you must use them try not to overdo it — unless you can think up some new ones which are genuinely funny.

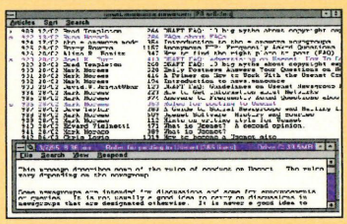
9. BTW, learn the abbreviations

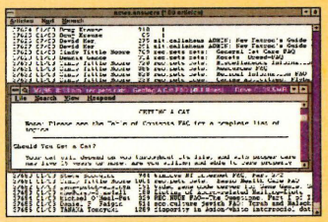
There are some common abbreviations which, unlike smileys, are a genuinely useful time-saver. These crop up all over newsgroups and



This is the sort of posting to make fellow Internauts hot under the collar.


This is the ultimate FAQ: the FAQ FAQ.


news.announce.newusers is an essential stopping off point for newcomers.


Another FAQ. This one's all about getting a cat.

within e-mail messages, and it's worth using them to save space. Popular ones include BTW (by the way), IMHO (in my humble opinion), FYI (for your information) and RTFM (read the, er, manual).

10. Don't send binaries to non-binary groups

Binaries are encoded program and data files and they take up a lot of bandwidth. Don't send them to a group unless it has binaries in its name. If you're posting a message extolling the virtues of a holiday in Wales it would be unwise to send a picture of yourself sunning it up Mount Snowdon. By all means offer to post binaries to anyone who's interested, but do it via e-mail so only they have to pay.

11. Know who you're replying to

If you're replying to a message, make sure you read it carefully. If the sender specifically asks you to reply via e-mail, do that rather than posting to the whole of the group. Otherwise you get the 'me too' scenario where dozens of newsgroup messages have the same message.

12. Don't post e-mail to newsgroups

If you want to send a message to one particular person, make the effort to find their correct e-mail address. Don't just send it to a newsgroup in the hope that they'll see it. The chances are they won't — and all the other Usenauts will get very cross indeed.

13. Avoid repetition

If you're posting a follow-up article, beware that the entire text of the original post will appear at the bottom of your message. So get rid of anything unimportant.

14. Keep your line width short

You should always endeavour to keep the length of a line of text within the width of a screen. Remember that your messages may be read by people with different size monitors, and they'll get pretty annoyed if they have to scroll sideways as well as down to read your outpourings.

15. Keep it informal

Niceties take up space — and thus cost money to download. Keep it short and simple.

16. Don't send test messages to newsgroups

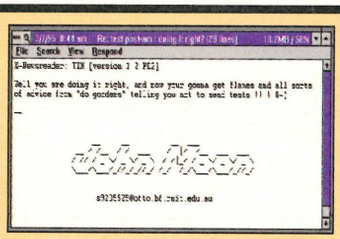
If you want to test your equipment is working, there are many acceptable ways to do this. They do not include sending a test message to any of the main newsgroups, especially with a subject line of "Test — please ignore". This is as irritating to read as a Woodrow Wyatt editorial so avoid, avoid, avoid.

17. Try not to offend anyone

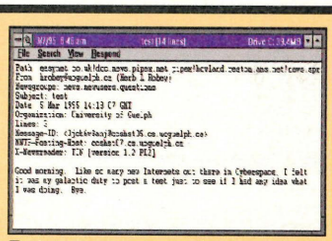
It may seem obvious, but it's easy to overstep the mark. The Internet is a liberal society, but at the same time it's also multiracial and multicultural. Don't risk offending anyone by posting racist or sexist remarks. You're only likely to get flamed.

18. Don't have a massive signature file

A signature file is a piece of text you set up to attach itself automatically to everything you post. Normally signature files are used to give extra contact details — perhaps your snail mail address. But they can also contain witty quotes or ASCII drawings. The secret is not to overdo it. Three lines is an acceptable maximum.



Send test messages at your own risk.



Test messages waste the time of other Internet users.

19. Conserve resources

Bear in mind that the Internet does have finite hardware limits and that if you're clogging up resources for an unnecessary length of time it may prevent somebody else connecting. It also lines the pockets of those seriously rich people at BT, and they've got enough cash already. So, don't stay connected just for the sake of it, and try not to send too much worthless information. That way your phone bill stays down and you stay happy.

20. Unsubscribe if you leave the Net.

Finally, if all this gets too much, it's common courtesy to unsubscribe to newsgroups and mailing lists if you decide to leave the Internet. It does not take long and it can save a lot of people a lot of time and effort trying to track you down.

Part 6

Next month, we'll be evaluating some Internet access software, testing the programs, seeing how easy they are to set up for your PC and finally how

GLOSSARY

Binary files: encoded program and data files often found in specialist newsgroups.
Cyberspace: the place where any form of digital communication occurs.
Electronic mail: a message delivered electronically from one computer to another — normally via the Internet.
E-mail: an abbreviation of electronic mail.
ftp sites: computers on the Internet which have files available for public downloading.
Lurking: the art of regularly reading a newsgroup without ever sending a message of your own.
Netiquette: internet etiquette
Netizen: internet user.
Newbie: new Internet user.
Posting: the act of sending a message to a newsgroup.
Surfing: the art of wandering around the Internet, searching for useful and/or wacky information.
Usenaut: inhabitant of Usenet newsgroups.
Usenet newsgroups: a collection of around 6,000 discussion forums, some of which are highly controversial.

HOW TO CONTACT PC REVIEW ONLINE

PC Review has its own electronic mail account with CIX. You can contact us on

pcreview@cix.compulink.co.uk

By sending your messages from your own site to the full PC Review address it should reach us through various gateways and you should be notified by your system if the mail doesn't get through.

Note: we do welcome your views via e-mail, and we will attempt to reply to your comments and queries, but there are only so many hours in the day, and you can help us cope with the weight of mail we receive.

The following is a set of guidelines for contacting us:

1) please don't necessarily expect a reply if your mail goes something like "Hi guys, how are you doing? I'm just trying out my new modem". We're doing fine, thank you.

2) subscription queries need to include your snail mail address as well.

3) please don't ask for game tips; wherever possible, try the publisher of the game instead. Some publishers have their own e-mail addresses and bulletin boards.

4) we treat e-mail like all other letters we receive, ie, we assume mail is to be considered for publication in the magazine, unless you specifically state otherwise. We will also publish your e-mail address, again, unless you ask us not to.

Strategic PLUS SOFTWARE

Established in 1985

FAST & FRIENDLY MAIL ORDER

0181 977 8088

WE STOCK THE LATEST USA RELEASES
Call 081 977 8088 for the latest information

We Specialise in:

■ *Flight Simulations* ■ **Strategy** ■ SPORTS SIMULATIONS
■ **Role-Playing** ■ **WARGAMES** ■ ADVENTURES ■ ***CD Software***



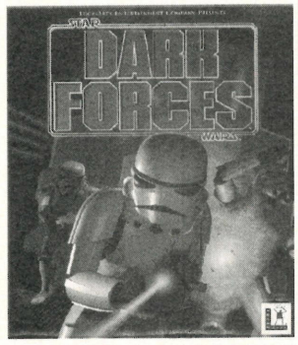
Strategic Plus Software
28 D&E The Courtyard
High Street
Hampton Hill
Middlesex
TW12 1PD

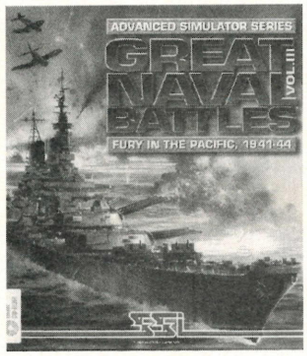
Tel: 0181 977 8088
Fax: 0181 977 4822
Cserve ID 100014,3466
Internet:Strat@Strat.Demon.Co.UK

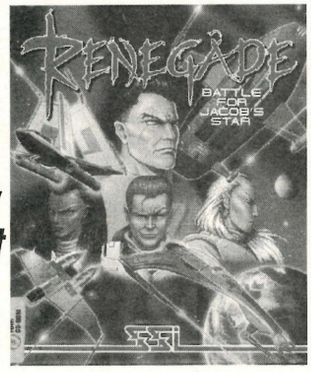
Flight Unlimited	£call	*1830 'Railway Business Sim' CD*	£call
Elite II - First Encounters	£call	*Dark Forces CD*	£call
Flight Sim 5.1 CD NEW	£call	*Panzer General CD & PC*	£39.99
Europe 1 for FS5	£34.99	*'Star Trail' Arkania*	£39.99
UFO - Xcom Terror/Deep CD	£call	*Great Naval Battles III CD*	£call
ATP 3D Graphics add-on	£34.99	*Renegade-Jacob Star CD*	£call
Stalingrad PC & CD	£39.99	*Tower Controller*	£call
Operation Crusader PC	£39.99	*Las Vegas FSV Scenery*	£call
Harpoon II	£call	*Cyberia CD*	£29.99
Harpoon II Battleset 2 (Westpac)	£call	*Topgun*	£call
Harpoon II Battleset 3 (Coldwar)	£call	*Discworld*	£call
Harpoon II Book	£18.95		
Front Page Football '95 - CD	£call		
Menzoberranzan CD	£call		
Flight Com II PC & CD (Win)	£39.99		
KA 50	£call		
Legions (Win)	£39.99		
5th Fleet PC & CD	£39.99		
Lords Of Midnight	£call		
Wargame Con Set II 'Tanks' V1.25	£call		
Pizza Tycoon	£call		
The Big 3 CD (windows)	£39.99		

SSI Classics

BATTLE OF ANTIETAM - BATTLES OF NAPOLEON - BATTLES /NAPOLEON SCENARIO 1-6 - CONFLICT MIDDLE EAST - GETTYSBURG - KAMPFGRUPPE - MECH BRIGADE - REBEL CHARGE AT CHICKAMAUGA - RED LIGHTNING - SONS OF LIBERTY - STAR COMMAND - STELLAR CRUSADE - STORM ACROSS EUROPE - WARSHIP - WESTERN FRONT - WARGAME CON II Scenario 1&9
Each.....£14.99









THRUSTMASTER - the ultimate in flight control realism. *Weapons Control System II* - £109.99, *Rudder Pedals* - £119.99. And now the *Formula T1 Wheel with gear shift and pedals* - £145.99



NOW IN F-16 FCS £139.99

NOT FOR PC GAMES

Overseas Orders & Enquiries Welcome

10 % Discount

Receive a further 10% discount on ALL advanced order.
PLUS priority despatch!
Call for details or see our current catalogue for details



Covering the ENTIRE Eastern Front from 1939-45 includes a detailed database of hundreds of fighting vehicles, weapons and forces structures for Axis, Allied and Soviet Forces. £49.99

NOW AVAILABLE
CAMPAIGN DISK £14.99

13th Edition Catalogue

Send £1.50 for our New 60+ page catalogue

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Country _____ Postcode _____

PCR0395

Send to: Strategic Plus Software - 28D The Courtyard, High St, Hampton Hill. Middlesex. TW12 1PD

CREDIT CARDS NOT CHARGED UNTIL DAY OF DESPATCH

DIRECT SOFTWARE LTD

REGULAR FREE GIVEAWAYS WHEN YOU BUY FROM DIRECT

DEPT: PCR0595, 36 Benbow Court, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes, MK5 6JG
TELEPHONE: 01908 379550 FAX: 01908 277142

IBM PC TITLES

A Train + Construction Kit	£14·99	Dreamweb	£26.99
Across the Rhine	£27·99	Earth Seige	£25·99
Addiction	£19·99	Elder Scrolls	£25·99
Alex D Ice Hockey	£25·99	Empire Soccer	£16·99
Alien Breed 2	£19.99	Evasive Action	£20·99
Alien Breed Tower Assault	£19.99	F.P.S Baseball	£25·99
Alien Legacy	£19·99	F.P.S. Pro Football	£25·99
Alien Olympics	£15.99	F1 World Champions Domark	£18·99
Alone in the Dark & Jack	£15.99	F14 Fleet Defender	£27.99
Alone in the Dark 2	£25·99	Fantasy Football	£12·99
Amazon Queen	£22.99	Fatman	£16·99
Ambermoon	£22.99	Fields Of Glory	£27.99
Arcade Pool/Overdrive	£9·99	FIFA Soccer	£24.99
Archie Macleans Pool	£9·99	Fighterwing	£25.99
Armoured Fist	£24·99	Flight Sim 5	£25.99
Award Winners 3 (Platinum)	£22.99	Flight Sim Tool Kit Deluxe	£31.99
B-Wing	£13.99	Flight Sim Tool Compendium	£19.99
Banshee	£19·99	Flight Unlimited	£31.99
Bat 2	£12.99	Formula 1 Team Manager	£19·99
Battlebugs	£22.99	Frontier Elite 2	£19·99
Battle Isle 2	£24.99	Frontier First Encounters	£25.99
BC Racers	£22.99	Frontlines	£25.99
Beneath Steel Sky	£19·99	Gabriel Knight	£24.99
Betrayal at Krondor	£25·99	Genesia	£9·99
Big Sea	£19·99	Global Domination	£24·99
Bloodnet	£24·99	Graham Gooch Cricket	£19.99
Bloodstone	£11·99	Grandest Fleet	£27·99
Body Blows	£11·99	Great Naval Battles	£9·99
Bodycount	£19·99	Hokum KA 50	£22.99
Breach 3	£25·99	Hanna Barbera Animation	£29·99
Brett Hull Hockey 95	£25.99	Hardball 4	£22·99
Burn Time	£19·99	Harpoon	£9.99
Burning Rubber	£19·99	High Sea Traders	£22.99
Campaign 2	£19·99	Hired Guns	£24·99
Champ Manager Comp 2	£19·99	Imperial Pursuit	£12.99
Champ Manager Italia 95	£19.99	Incredible Machine 2	£22·99
Champ Manager Italia Data Disk	£7.99	Incredible Toons	£24·99
Chaos Engine	£19.99	Indy Car Racing	£19·99
Chess Maniac	£22·99	Indy Car Track Pack	£9.99
Chess Master 4000 Turbo	£22·99	Indy Fate of Atlantis	£12.99
Chess System Tol	£28.99	Inferno	£28·99
Civilisation	£23·99	Inordinate Desire	£19.99
Classic Collection Access	£16.99	International Pro Hockey 95	£25.99
Classic Collection Lucas	£19.99	Ishar 3	£21·99
Classic Collection Velocity	£16.99	Jetstrike	£16.99
Colonization	£28.99	Jungle Strike	£20·99
Combat Air Patrol	£22.99	Kick Off 3	£19·99
Combat Classics 3	£22.99	Kids Rule OK 2	£9.99
Commanche + Mission Disk	£25.99	Kingdom (The Far Reaches)	£25.99
Commanche Max Overkill	£26.99	Kingdoms Of Germany	£19.99
Command Adv Starship	£19.99	Kingmaker	£23.99
Crystal Maze	£25·99	Kings Quest 5	£12.99
Cyberspace	£22·99	Kings Quest 6	£26.99
D Day Beginning of the End	£23·99	Kyrandia 2	£22·99
Dawn Patrol	£27.99	Lambourghini	£19·99
Day Of The Tentacle	£15.99	Lands Of Lore	£22.99
Defender of the Earth	£12.99	Legend of Kyrandia	£10.99
Defender of the Empire	£12.99	Legend of Myra	£9·99
Delta 5	£26·99	Legions	£22.99
Demongate	£19·99	Legions (Windows)	£22.99
Dennis & Gnasher	£15·99	Leisure Suit Larry 6	£25·99
Descent	£25.99	Links Prarie Dune	£16.99
Desert Strike	£20·99	Lode Runner	£22.99
Detroit	£22.99	Lode Runner (Windows)	£22.99
Diskworld	£31.99	Lords of Midnight	£22·99
Doom	£22.99	Lords of the Realm	£25.99
Dragons Lair	£8.99	Lost in Time	£25·99
Dragonsphere	£19·99	Maelstrom	£22·99
Dreamlands	£18·99	Magic Boy	£12·99

ALADDIN £19·99 | **DOOM 2 £29·99** | **CANNON FODDER 2 £22·99**

DUNGEON MASTER 2 £25·99 | **LION KING £19·99** | **SENSIBLE GOLF £22.99**

DIRECT SPECIAL OFFERS

Brutal Sports Football	£5.99	Quik The Thunder Rabbit	£6.99
Cannon Fodder	£14.99	Railroad Tycoon	£12·99
Club Football	£14.99	Raptor Part 1	£4.99
Dangerous Streets	£6.99	Reach For The Skies	£9.99
Diggers	£6.99	Realms	£9.99
Dogfight	£12.99	Robocod	£6.99
Doom 2 Editor Pack	£9·99	Rugby League Boss	£8.99
Doom 2 Extra Levels Vol 1	£9.99	Ryder Cup Golf	£9.99
Doom Editor Pack	£9.99	Silent Service 2	£12.99
Doom Extras Vol 1	£9.99	Sim Earth	£10.99
Doom Extras Vol 2	£9.99	Sim Life	£10.99
Doom Extras Vol 3	£9.99	Sink Or Swim	£6.99
Dune 2	£10.99	Space Quest 1	£9.99
Flashback	£14.99	Space Quest 2	£9.99
Jimmy Whites Whirl. Snooker	£9.99	Space Quest 3	£9.99
Jurassic Park	£9.99	Space Quest 4	£9.99
Lemmings 2	£12.99	Street Fighter 2	£9.99
Life & Death 2 Bundle	£7.99	Titus The Fox	£9.99
Litil Divil	£14.99	Ultima Underworld	£9.99
Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing	£7.99	Wing Commander Academy	£9.99
Patriot	£14.99	Wing Commander Bundle	£9.99
PGA Golf & Courses	£9.99	World Atlas 4	£12.99
Police Quest 3	£10.99	Zool	£9.99
Prince Of Persia	£7.99	Zool 2	£16.99

EDUCATIONAL & UTILITIES

Fun School 4 (5-7)	£16.99
Fun School 4 (7-11)	£16.99
Fun School 4 (Under 5)	£16.99
Fun School Space	£16.99
Fun School Time (8-11)	£16.99
Mario Teaches Typing	£19.99
Mario's Time Machine	£19.99
Noddy's Big Adventure	£19.99
Noddy's Playtime	£19.99
Thomas Paint Package	£10.99

WE ALSO SELL BLANK DISKS, PLEASE PHONE OR VISIT OUR NEW RETAIL OUTLET.

IBM PC TITLES

Magic Carpet	£28.99	Simon The Sorcerer	£24.99
Man United Premier Champ (4 Meg)	£17·99	Skidmarks	£19.99
Mario's Game Gallery	£19.99	Slipstream 5000	£25·99
Master of Orion	£27·99	Space Federation	£22·99
Master of Magic	£27·99	Space Legends	£12.99
Match of the Day	£19·99	Space Quest 2	£9.99
Micro Machines	£18.99	Space Quest 4	£12.99
Microprose F1 Grand Prix	£9·99	Space Quest V	£21.99
Monkey Island 2	£12.99	Special Edition Pinball	£19.99
Mortal Kombat	£19·99	Speed Racer	£25·99
Mr Blobby	£12·99	Split Screen Soccer Manager	£12.99
Nascar Racing	£24.99	Star Control 2	£16·99
National Lottery	£9.99	Star Trek 2 Judgement Rites	£25·99
NFL Football	£19·99	Star Trek 25th Anniversary	£23.99
Omar Sharif's Bridge	£21·99	Star Wars Chess	£29·99
On the Ball League Edition	£21.99	Star Wars Screen Ent.	£19·99
Outpost	£24·99	Stardust	£19·99
Overlord	£26.99	Starlord	£18·99
Pacific Air War	£27·99	Strike Commander	£26.99
Pacific Strike	£26·99	Strike Squad	£24·99
Pacific Strike Speech Pack	£12·99	Striker	£19.99
Pacific Worlds	£28·99	Suburban Commando	£9·99
Perfect General 2	£21·99	Super Karts	£31.99
Perfect Trilogy	£27·99	Super Hero League	£25.99
Pinball Dreams	£21·99	Super League Manager	£19·99
Pinball Fantasies Deluxe	£22.99	Super Ski Pro	£22.99
Pinball Fantasies	£21.99	T.F.X	£22.99
Pirates Gold	£12·99	Tactical Manager 94/95	£9.99
Pizza Tycoon	£28.99	Tactical Manager (England)	£22.99
Police Quest 4 : Open Season	£19.99	Tactical Manager (Italy)	£22·99
Populous & Promised Lands	£10·99	Tactical Manager (Scotland)	£22·99
Populous 2+	£9.99	Terminator 2 - Arcade Game	£6·99
Power Slide	£25.99	Terminator Rampage	£21·99
Powerdrive	£19·99	Tesserae (Windows)	£19·99
Powermonger	£9·99	Test Drive 3	£8·99
Premier Manager 3	£21.99	The Big Red Adventure	£25.99
Premier Manager 3 Multi Edit System	£101.99	The Blue & the Grey	£22·99
Prince of Persia 2	£24·99	The Complete Chess System	£21·99
Private Righteous Fire	£12·99	Theme Park	£25.99
Privateer	£29·99	Tie Fighter	£27·99
Psycho Pinball	£22·99	The Fighter Mission Disk 2	£12.99
Quarantine	£25·99	Thomas Paint Package	£19.99
Quest for Glory 2	£13·99	Tornado	£25.99
Quest for Glory 4	£24·99	Tracksuit Manager 2	£17.99
RAC Rally	£12.99	Transport Tycoon	£28.99
Railroad Tycoon Deluxe	£24·99	Triple Actions	£16.99
Red Baron	£10·99	Turning Points	£9.99
Red Crystal	£27·99	UFO	£27.99
Retribution	£24·99	Ultima 8 SAP	£12·99
Return To Zork	£25.99	Ultima Underworld 2	£25.99
Robinsons Requiem	£24.99	Ultimate Body Blows	£19.99
Rugby League Tracksuit Manager	£16.99	Ultimate Pinball	£18·99
Rules of Engagement 2	£24·99	Ultimate Soccer Manager	£22.99
Sabre Team	£18·99	Unnecessary Roughness 95	£24·99
Sam and Max Hit the Road	£16.99	Valhalla	£21·99
San Francisco	£25·99	Virtual Chess	£19.99
Scottish Open	£25.99	Virtual Worlds	£19·99
Scrabble	£19.99	Vital Light	£19.99
Seal Team	£13·99	Voyages of Discovery	£22.99
Settlers	£22.99	Whale's Voyage	£9·99
Shadow Worlds	£8.99	Wing Commander Armada	£25·99
Shadow Caster	£27·99	Wolfsbane	£19.99
Sid & Als Incredible Toons (Win)	£25·99	World Cup USA 94	£18.99
Sid & Als Incredible Toons	£25·99	World of Football	£19.99
Silver Ball	£19·99	World Of War	£19.99
Sim City 2000	£23.99	World War 2:Battle of South	£9·99
Sim Earth (Windows)	£10.99	X-Wing	£27.99
Sim City 2000 Scenario 1	£9.99	Xmas Lemmings	£9.99

CD ROM TITLES

11th Hour	£28.99	Combat Air Patrol	£22.99	Fighter Wing	£25.99	Lands of Lore	£27·99	Premier Manager 3	£22.99	Tactical Manager (Italy)	£22·99
1942 Across the Rhine	£28.99	Combat Classics 3	£22.99	Flight Amazon Queen	£22.99	Leisure Suit Larry Collection	£28.99	Privateer	£26.99	Tactical Manager (Scotland)	£22·99
1942 Pacific Strike	£28.99	Commanche Max Overkill	£26·99	Flight Unlimited	£31.99	Lemmings 1 & 2	£19·99	Psycho Pinball	£19.99	Temptation	£28.99
7th Guest	£16·99	Command Adv Starship	£19.99	Football Glory	£22.99	Lemmings for Windows	£16.99	Quest for Glory 4	£27·99	TFX Bundle	£29·99
7th Guest/Dune	£29·99	Command And Conquer	£38.99	Frontier Elite 2	£19·99	Little Divil	£17·99	Quik the Thunder Rabbit	£6.99	The Big Red Adventure	£25.99
Advantage Tennis	£19·99	Conspiracy	£28·99	Frontlines	£25.99	Little Big Adventure	£27·99	Rebel Assault (Bundle)	£19.99	The Clue	£22·99
Alex D Ice Hockey	£23.99	Creature Shock	£31.99	FST Compendium	£12.99	Live Action Football	£25.99	Renegade	£28.99	The Last Dynasty	£31.99
Alien Breed/Tower Assault	£22.99	Cybermage	£25.99	Funschool 5 - Dreamland	£22.99	Lords of Midnight	£25.99	Retribution	£25·99	The Lost Eden	£22.99
Alien Legacy	£25.99	Cyberspace	£28.99	Gabriel Knight Bundle	£19·99	Lords of the Realm	£24.99	Rise of the Robots	£25.99	Thumbelina	£12.99
Alien Logic	£28.99	Dark Forces	£28.99	Genesia	£19·99	Lovers Guide	£25·99	Rise of the Robots Limited Edition	£32·99	Tornado	£19.99
Alien Olympics	£19.99	Dark Legions	£27.99	Ghost	£25.99	Maelstrom	£9.99	Robinsons Requiem	£26.99	Tower Assault	£22·99
Alone in The Dark 3	£28.99	Dark Seed	£27·99	Goblins 3	£28·99	Magic Carpet	£28.99	Rugby League Boss	£9.99	Tracksuit Manager 94/95	£19·99
Arcade Pool/Overdrive	£11.99	Dawn Patrol	£27·99	Golf	£28.99	Man United Interactive	£19·99	Rugby League Tracksuit Manager	£19.99	Tracksuit Manager 2	£19.99
Award Winners 3	£22.99	Day of the Tentacle	£19.99	Hard Ball 4	£25.99	Man United Premier Champs	£19·99	Sam & Max	£16·99	Transport Tycoon	£27.99
Battlebugs	£25.99	Delta V	£26.99	Heimdall 2	£23·99	Man Utd Prem Champs Double	£22·99	Scottish Open	£25.99	U.S. Navy Fighters	£31.99
BC Racers	£22·99	Descent	£25.99	High Seas Trader	£25.99	Mario is Missing Deluxe	£15·99	Secret Weapons Of The Luftwaffe	£12.99	UFO	£25.99
Beneath a Steel Sky	£25·99	Desert Strike	£20·99	Hodj 'n' Podj	£25.99	Monkey Island (XL)	£12.99	Shoot Em Off	£19.99	Ultimate Football	£28.99
Betrayal at Krondor	£22·99	Digital Dreamware	£12.99	Indiana and the Fate of Atlantis	£26.99	Mysl (Windows)	£31·99	Sim City	£26.99	Under A Killing Moon	£35.99
Biforge	£31.99	Diskworld	£31.99	Inferno	£31·99	Nascar Racing	£25.99	Sim Town	£25.99	Unecessary Roughness 95	£25.99
Bitmap Compilation	£19.99	Dominus	£28.99	Iron Assault	£22.99	National Basketball Association 95	£28.99	Simon the Sorcerer	£24·99	Unecessary Roughness 95	£25.99
Blade Warriors 2	£12.99	Doom 2	£32·99	Izzys Olympic Adventure	£25.99	Nick Faldos Golf	£25.99	Skidmarks	£19.99	Virtua Golf	£25.99
Cannon Fodder	£22.99	Doom Ultimate	£14.99	Jazz Jack Rabbiit	£24.99	On the Ball League Edition	£24.99	Soccer Kid	£19·99	Virtual Worlds	£19.99
Central Intelligence	£25·99	Dracula Unleashed	£29·99	Jungle Strike	£22.99	One Tribe (Windows)	£38.99	Split Screen Soccer Manager	£15.99	Wing Commander 3	£35.99
Chessmaster 4000	£24·99	Dragonsphere	£25·99	Jurassic Park	£25·99	One World (Windows)	£28.99	Star Trek Next Generation	£31.99	Wings of Glory	£28.99
Civilisation & Railroad Tycoon	£19.99	Dungeon Master 2	£25.99	Kick Off 3 Euro Challenge	£19·99	Outpost (new version)	£31.99	Strike Commander	£31·99	World Cup Golf	£27·99
Classic Collection Access	£15.99	Elder Scrolls	£27.99	Kids Rule OK 2	£9.99	Pinball Dreams Deluxe	£25·99	Subwar V2 & Scenario	£27·99	World Cup USA 94	£20·99
Classic Collection Lucas	£15.99	Evasive Action MPC	£25.99	Kings Quest 7	£28.99	Pizza Tycoon	£28.99	System Shock	£27.99	World of Soccer	£19.99
Club Football	£22.99	F1 Team Manager	£19.99	Kingdom (The Far Reaches)	£25.99	Powerdrive	£19.99	Tactical Manager 94/95	£9.99	X-Wing Collection CD	£28.99
Colonization	£27·99	FIFA Soccer	£24.99	Lamborghini AC	£9.99	Powerslide	£25.99	Tactical Manager (England)	£22·99	Zool 2	£21·99

WE WILL MATCH PRICES!! "NEVER BEATEN" TRY US

ACCESS/VISA CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE / SIGNATURE

Please supply me with the following titles for computer _____

ITEM	PRICE
POSTAGE	
TOTAL	

PC REVIEW MAY 95

DATE

NAME

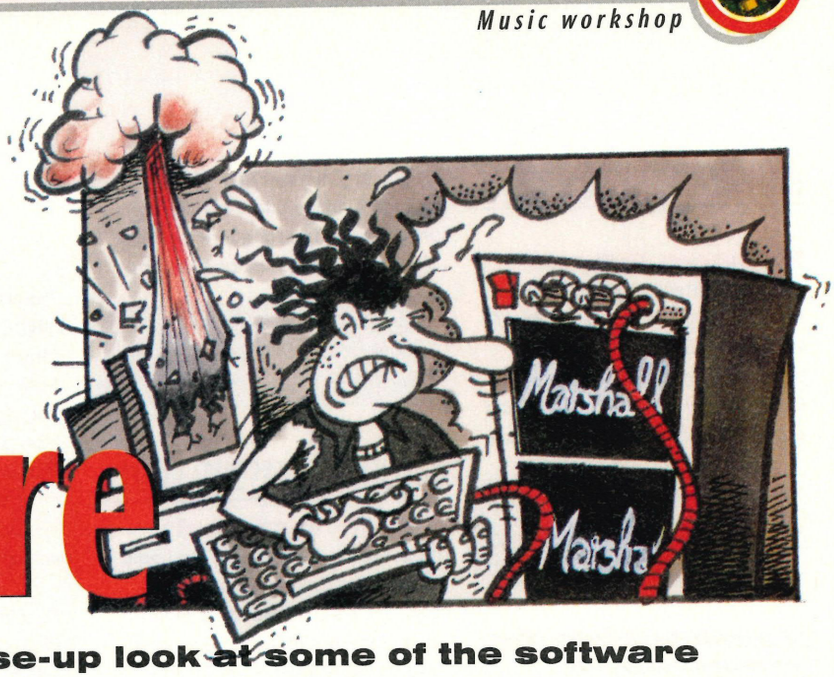
ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

Please make cheques and P.O's payable to:
DIRECT SOFTWARE LIMITED
UK Mainland - Delivery Free
EEC (Games only) £2.00 per item
NON EEC (Games only) £4.50 per item.
All parcels are sent by recorded delivery for customer peace of mind.
All items subject to availability. All prices subject to change without notice. E&OE.
Please allow for cheque clearance.
Some titles may not be released at time of going to press.

Music Software



Part 3

This month we take a close-up look at some of the software packages available to assist all budding PC musicians everywhere. Yes, turning your computer into a self contained MIDI production studio is easy, as David Bradwell shows you.

The most important program you'll need to help you make music on your PC is a sequencing program — and there are plenty to choose from.

From entry level packages which offer a relatively simple route to MIDI music production to more expensive packages that offer more sophisticated editing features, there are plenty available. We take a look at the top ten packages around.

TOP OF THE RANGE (£200 PLUS)

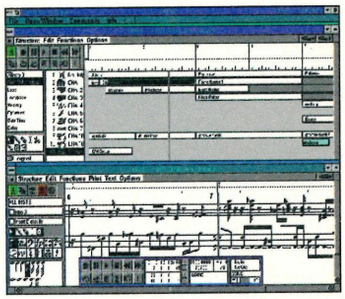
Emagic Logic

Logic is one of the most highly respected PC sequencer programs and it certainly comes in the coolest packaging. It offers phenomenal sequencing power and can convert the notes you play into a score for printing, together with your lyrics.

With Logic you can have an unlimited number of tracks, sequences and staves, resolution down to 1/3840th of a note and a tempo range of from 0.5 to 9999.99 beats per minute.

There's real-time quantisation, and several event editors to help you make the most of the notes you play. You can also create your own virtual MIDI studio by choosing any number of objects such as master keyboards and effects devices.

As you can imagine, there's a lot to learn, and the program suffers by



failing to observe several Windows conventions. Consequently there's no on-line help, and you'll have to struggle through the manual if you want to make the most of the software. You may also have problems if you use a Logitech mouse driver, but that's the price you pay for being at the cutting edge!

Supplier: Sound Technology
Phone: (01462) 480000
Price: £349

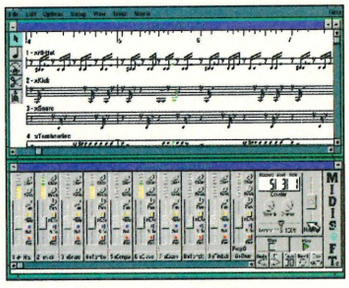
Steinberg Cubase Score

Cubase is another of the market leading sequencer packages. The program first came to prominence on the Atari ST platform many years ago, as the successor to the classic Pro 24.

Again Cubase combines top notch sequencing with music notation. In fact, Steinberg has been concentrating on developing the notation side of the program for the last couple of years, with emphasis on translating the MIDI data into a readable score.

The sequencer itself has 64 tracks, although the new version, due in June, will have an unlimited number. Unique features include the interactive phase synthesiser which lets you modulate a melody line to create automatic variations.

Supplier: Harman Audio
Phone: (0181) 207 5050
Price: £499



Cakewalk Professional

It may have a silly name, but Cakewalk benefits from a long Windows history. The program is now in its third version on the PC and it looks and feels like a competent piece of software.

There are 256 tracks for music creation, score printing and SMPTE sync code for connecting to professional video or tape machines.

Top features in version 3.0 include the groove quantise option which lets you borrow the feel from one piece of music and impose it on another. You can add lyrics in the staff view, or for on-stage performances use the lyrics view to see scrolling song lyrics or stage cues in large fonts.

Cakewalk is very easy to configure for use with a PC sound card, and it even comes with a virtual piano. This lets you play notes with your computer's keyboard or mouse and is extremely useful if you haven't got a proper MIDI keyboard.

Supplier: Etcetera
Phone: (01706) 228039
Price: £299

Musicator

Musicator integrates sequencing and notation with 32 tracks of sequence data and 32 staves of music. There's SMPTE support for external tape synchronisation and an automated mixer for when you want to record.

Music entered with a mouse or via a MIDI keyboard is displayed instantly on the stave, and there are loads of edit display windows.

One track of direct to disk recording is available with any sound card.

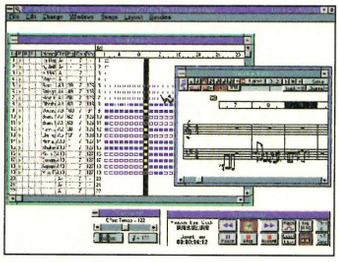
Supplier: Arbiter Pro MIDI
Phone: (0181) 202 1199
Price: £299.95

INTERMEDIATE (£100 -£200)

Steinberg Cubasis

Cubasis is Steinberg's competitor for Micro Logic. It offers reasonably sophisticated sequencing and score-printing features and has 64 tracks — four times as many as the program it replaces — Cubase Lite.

Supplier: Harman Audio
Phone: (0181) 207 5050
Price: £149



Steinberg MusicStation

MusicStation offers all of the features of Cubasis and adds an auto-accompaniment facility. There's also a WavePlayer program from playing waveform audio (.WAV) files.

Supplier: Harman Audio
Phone: (0181) 207 5050
Price: £199

Passport Master Tracks Pro 4

Master Tracks Pro is a 64 track sequencer which lets you audition and select sounds for any synth.

You can create an automated MIDI mixdown with MT Pro's graphic, recordable faders and independently loop any number of tracks, or change a note's pitch, duration or timing as well as to record and play .WAV files. It has multiport support.

Supplier: Arbiter Pro MIDI
Phone: (0181) 202 1199
Price: £149.95

ENTRY LEVEL (LESS THAN£100)

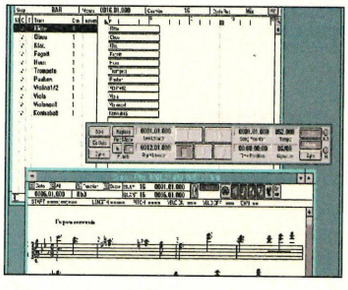
Emagic MicroLogic

As the name suggests, Micro Logic is based on Emagic's Logic concept, but it's a cut-down version of the company's flagship sequencer. Like its big brother, it combines sequencing and notation and again you can have unlimited MIDI tracks and sequences.

There are four editing windows. The arrange editor is where you record, edit and organise tracks, while you can move, erase and enter notes with the mouse in the score editor. Meanwhile, the event editor offers an alphanumeric listing of all events while the matrix editor is for graphical editing of note positions, length and velocity.

Again there's no on-line help, and the program may clash with your Logitech mouse. But if you want to get into the Logic system, it serves as a good, low-price package, and you can always upgrade to Logic itself at a special rate.

Supplier: Sound Technology
Phone: (01462) 480000
Price: £99



Cakewalk Home Studio

Cakewalk Home Studio is the award-winning intermediate version of Twelve Tone Systems' market leader at an entry-level price.

It offers 256-track sequencing, a staff view, piano roll and event list, although unfortunately it does lack the ability to sync to tape.

You can record in real time or step time, and enter notes with your mouse or with the Virtual Piano if you don't have a MIDI keyboard.

Supplier: Etcetera
Phone: (01706) 228039
Price: £99

Cakewalk Express

Cakewalk Express is designed as an entry-level music program for Windows PC owners with no MIDI equipment apart from their sound card. Like Cakewalk Professional it includes the Virtual Piano, and it supports the playback of wave files or even .AVI video files if you're so inclined.

It comes with a variety of ready prepared sequences and drum patterns so you can load and play in the shortest possible time. However you can't print musical scores without upgrading.

Supplier: Etcetera
Phone: (01706) 228039
Price: £69

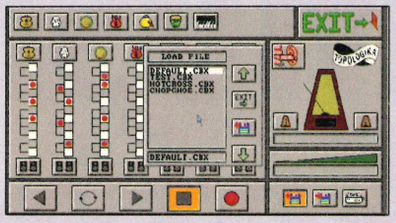
RECOMMENDED READING

How Music and Computers Work
Erik Holsinger
Ziff Davis Press
Contact 021-706 6000

Becoming a Computer Musician
Jeff Bowen
SAMS
Contact 021-706 6000

OTHER MUSIC SOFTWARE

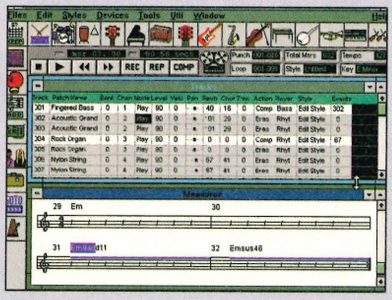
Topologika Music Box



Music Box is designed to help you learn about music and develop skills which can then be used to play real instruments. You can experiment with over 30 sampled instruments in the Music Box, but it is not a substitute for a standalone sequencer. Useful for the musical novice.

Supplier: Topologika Software
Phone: (01326) 377771
Price: £35 plus VAT

Soundtrek Jammer



Jammer is hailed as the complete PC MIDI studio, with studio musicians included. It creates music for you even if you have no musical ability of your own.

Choose a style, press the compose button and the program writes the entire piece. Is it cheating? Well yes, maybe, and it'll never sound as good as one of your own creations, but until you learn how to write all the parts on your own, Jammer is a useful shortcut.

Supplier: Etcetera
Phone: (01706) 228039
Price: £149

Part 4 Next month David Bradwell demonstrates how to create your first song using Cakewalk in a unique step by step guide that demonstrates how easy it is to create music.

SOFT EXPRESS LTD

ORDER HOTLINE

TEL: – 01908 277177

FAX: – 01908 645397

HOW TO ORDER

Order by telephone quoting your credit card number and expiry date (credit cards are not charged until day of despatch).

If paying by cheque, please make payable to:

SOFT EXPRESS LTD

DEPT. NO. PCR05CM

6 WHARFSIDE,

FENNY STRATFORD,

BLETCHLEY, MILTON KEYNES,

BUCKS MK2 2AZ

PLEASE NO VISITORS, MAIL ORDER ONLY

Access

VISA

ALADDIN £19.99 | **ALIEN BREED 2 £19.99** | **CANNON FODDER 2 £22.99** | **DUNGEON MASTER 2 £25.99** | **LION KING £19.99** | **SENSIBLE GOLF £22.99** | **PIZZA TYCOON £28.99** | **DOOM 2 £29.99**

A Train + Construction Kit	£14·99	Dreamlands	£18·99	Magic Carpet	£28.99	Sim Earth (Windows)	£10.99
Across the Rhine	£27·99	Dreamweb	£26.99	Man United Premier Champ (4 Meg)		Sim City 2000 Scenario 1	£9.99
Addiction	£19·99	Earth Seige	£25·99		£17·99	Simon The Sorcerer	£24.99
Alex D Ice Hockey	£25·99	Elder Scrolls	£25·99	Mario's Game Gallery	£19.99	Skidmarks	£19.99
Alien Breed 2	£19.99	Empire Soccer	£16·99	Mario Teaches Typing	£19.99	Slipstream	£25·99
Alien Breed Tower Assault	£19.99	Epic	£9·99	Master of Orion	£27·99	Space Federation	£22·99
Alien Legacy	£19·99	Evasive Action	£20·99	Master of Magic	£27·99	Space Legends	£12.99
Alien Olympics	£15.99	F.P.S Baseball	£25·99	Match of the Day	£19·99	Space Quest Trilogy	£33·00
Alone in the Dark & Jack	£15.99	F.P.S. Pro Football	£25·99	Micro Machines	£18.99	Space Quest 2	£9.99
Alone in the Dark 2	£25·99	F1 World Champions Domark		Microprose F1 Grand Prix	£9·99	Space Quest 4	£12.99
Amazon Queen	£22.99		£18·99	Monkey Island 2	£12.99	Space Quest V	£21.99
Ambermoon	£22.99	F14 Fleet Defender	£27.99	Mortal Kombat	£19·99	Special Edition Pinball	£19.99
Arcade Pool/Overdrive	£9·99	Fantasy Football	£12·99	Mr Blobby	£12·99	Speed Racer	£25·99
Archie Macleans Pool	£9·99	Fatman	£16·99	Nascar Racing	£24.99	Split Screen Soccer Manager	£12.99
Armoured Fist	£24·99	Fields Of Glory	£27.99	National Lottery	£9.99	Stardust	£16.99
Award Winners 3	£22.99	FIFA Soccer	£24.99	NFL Football	£19·99	Star Control 2	£16·99
B-Wing	£13.99	Fight Unlimited	£31.99	Omar Sharif's Bridge	£21·99	Star Trek 2 Judgement Rites	£25·99
Banshee	£19·99	Fighterwing	£31.99	On the Ball League Edition	£21.99	Star Trek 25th Anniversary	£23.99
Bat 2	£12.99	Flight Sim 5	£25.99	Outpost	£24·99	Star Wars Chess	£29·99
Battlebugs	£22.99	Flight Sim Tool Kit Deluxe	£31.99	Overlord	£26.99	Star Wars Screen Ent.	£19·99
Battle Isle 2	£24.99	Flight Sim Tool Compendium	£19.99	Pacific Air War	£27·99	Stardust	£19·99
BC Racers	£22.99	Formula 1 Team Manager	£19·99	Pacific Strike	£26·99	Starlord	£18·99
Beneath Steel Sky	£19·99	Frontier Elite 2	£19·99	Pacific Strike Speech Pack	£12·99	Strike Commander	£26.99
Betrayal at Krondor	£25·99	Frontier First Encounters	£25.99	Pacific Worlds	£28·99	Strike Squad	£24·99
Big Sea	£19·99	Frontlines	£25.99	Perfect General 2	£21·99	Striker	£19.99
Bloodnet	£24·99	Gabriel Knight	£24.99	Perfect Trilogy	£27·99	Suburban Commando	£9·99
Bloodstone	£11·99	Genesia	£9·99	Pinball Dreams	£21·99	Super Karts	£31.99
Body Blows	£11·99	Global Domination	£24·99	Pinball Fantasies Deluxe	£25.99	Super Hero League	£25.99
Bodycount	£19·99	Graham Gooch Cricket	£19.99	Pinball Fantasies	£21.99	Super League Manager	£19·99
Breach 3	£25·99	Grandest Fleet	£27·99	Pirates Gold	£12·99	Super Ski Pro	£22.99
Brett Hull Hockey 95	£25.99	Great Naval Battles	£9·99	Pizza Tycoon	£28.99	T.F.X	£22.99
Burn Time	£19·99	Hokum KA 50	£22.99	Police Quest 4 : Open Season		Tactical Manager 94/95	£9.99
Burning Rubber	£19·99	Hanna Barbera Animation	£29·99		£19.99	Tactical Manager (England)	£22.99
Campaign 2	£19·99	Hardball 4	£22·99	Populous & Promised Lands	£10·99	Tactical Manager (Italy)	£22·99
Champ Manager Comp 2	£19·99	Harpoon	£9.99	Populous 2+	£9.99	Tactical Manager (Scotland)	£22·99
Champ Manager Compendium		High Sea Traders	£22.99	Power Slide	£25.99	Terminator 2 - Arcade Game	£6·99
	£8.99	Hired Guns	£24·99	Powerdrive	£19·99	Terminator Rampage	£21·99
Champ Manager Italia 95	£19.99	Imperial Pursuit	£12.99	Powermonger	£9·99	Tesserae (Windows)	£19·99
Champ Manager Italia Data Disk		Incredible Machine 2	£22·99	Premier Manager 3	£21.99	Test Drive 3	£8·99
	£7.99	Incredible Toons	£24·99	Premier Manager 3 Multi Edit		The Big Red Adventure	£25.99
Champions of Sport	£12.99	Indy Car Racing	£19·99	System	£10.99	The Blue & the Grey	£22.99
Chaos Engine	£19.99	Indy Car Track Pack	£9.99	Prince of Persia 2	£24·99	The Complete Chess System	£21·99
Chess Maniac	£22·99	Indy Fate of Atlantis	£12.99	Private Righteous Fire	£12·99	Theme Park	£25.99
Chess Master 4000 Turbo	£22·99	Inferno	£28·99	Privateer	£29·99	Tie Fighter	£27·99
Chess System Toi	£28.99	Inordinate Desire	£19.99	Psycho Pinball	£22·99	The Fighter Mission Disk 2	£12.99
Civilisation	£23·99	International Pro Hockey 95	£25.99	Quarantine	£25·99	Thomas Paint Package	£19.99
Classic Collection Access	£16.99	Ishar 3	£21·99	Quest for Glory 2	£13·99	Tornado	£25.99
Classic Collection Lucas	£19.99	Jetstrike	£16.99	Quest for Glory 4	£24·99	Tracksuit Manager 2	£17.99
Classic Collection Velocity	£16.99	Jungle Strike	£20·99	RAC Rally	£12.99	Transport Tycoon	£28.99
Colonization	£28.99	Kick Off 3	£19·99	Railroad Tycoon Deluxe	£24·99	Triple Actions	£16.99
Combat Air Patrol	£22.99	Kids Rule OK 2	£9.99	Red Baron	£10·99	Turning Points	£9.99
Combat Classics 3	£22.99	Kingdom (The Far Reaches)	£25.99	Red Crystal	£27·99	UFO	£27.99
Commanche + Mission Disk	£25.99	Kingdoms Of Germany	£19.99	Retribution	£24·99	Ultima 8 SAP	£12·99
Commanche Max Overkill	£26.99	Kingmaker	£23.99	Return To Zork	£25.99	Ultima Underworld 2	£25.99
Command Adv Starship	£19.99	Kings Quest 5	£12.99	Robinsons Requiem	£24.99	Ultimate Body Blows	£19.99
Crystal Maze	£25·99	Kings Quest 6	£26.99	Rugby League Tracksuit Manager		Ultimate Pinball	£18·99
Cyberspace	£22·99	Kyrandia 2	£22·99		£16.99	Ultimate Soccer Manager	£22.99
D Day Beginning of the End	£23·99	Lambourghini	£19·99	Rules of Engagement 2	£24·99	Unnecessary Roughness	£24·99
Dawn Patrol	£27.99	Lands Of Lore	£22.99	Sabre Team	£18·99	Valhalla	£21·99
Day Of The Tentacle	£15.99	Legend of Kyrandia	£10.99	Sam and Max Hit the Road	£16.99	Virtual Chess	£19.99
Defender of the Earth	£12.99	Legend of Myra	£9·99	San Francisco	£25·99	Virtual Worlds	£19·99
Defender of the Empire	£12.99	Legions	£22.99	Scottish Open	£25.99	Vital Light	£19.99
Delta 5	£26·99	Legions (Windows)	£22.99	Scrabble	£19.99	Voyages of Discovery	£22.99
Demongate	£19·99	Leisure Suit Larry 6	£25·99	Seal Team	£13·99	Whale's Voyage	£9·99
Dennis & Gnasher	£15·99	Links Prarie Dune	£16.99	Settlers	£22.99	Wing Commander Armada	£25·99
Descent	£25.99	Lode Runner	£22.99	Shadow Worlds	£8.99	Wolfsbane	£19.99
Desert Strike	£20·99	Lode Runner (Windows)	£22.99	Shadow Caster	£27·99	World Cup USA 94	£18.99
Detroit	£22.99	Lords of Midnight	£22·99	Sid & Als Incredible Toons (Win)		World Of War	£19.99
Diskworld	£31.99	Lords of the Realm	£25.99		£25·99	World War 2:Battle of South	£9·99
Doom	£22.99	Lost in Time	£22·99	Sid & Als Incredible Toons	£25·99	X-Wing	£27.99
Dragons Lair	£8.99	Maelstrom	£25·99	Silver Ball	£19.99	Xmas Lemmings	£9.99
Dragonsphere	£19·99	Magic Boy	£12·99	Sim City 2000	£23.99		

SOFT EXPRESS PC SPECIALS

Brutal Sports Football	£5.99	Prince Of Persia	£7.99
Cannon Fodder	£14.99	Quik The Thunder Rabbit	£6.99
Club Football	£14.99	Railroad Tycoon	£12·99
Dangerous Streets	£6.99	Raptor Part 1	£4.99
Diggers	£6.99	Reach For The Skies	£9.99
Dogfight	£12.99	Realms	£9.99
Doom 2 Editor Pack	£9·99	Robocod	£6.99
Doom 2 Extra Levels Vol 1	£9.99	Rugby League Boss	£8.99
Doom Editor Pack	£9.99	Ryder Cup Golf	£9.99
Doom Extras Vol 1	£9.99	Silent Service 2	£12.99
Doom Extras Vol 2	£9.99	Sim Earth	£12.99
Doom Extras Vol 3	£9.99	Sim Life	£10.99
Dune 2	£10.99	Sink Or Swim	£6.99
Flashback	£14.99	Space Quest 1	£9.99
Jimmy Whites Whirl. Snooker	£9.99	Space Quest 3	£9.99
Jurassic Park	£9.99	Street Fighter 2	£9.99
King Quest 5 Bundle	£12.99	Titus The Fox	£9.99
Lemmings 2	£12.99	Ultima Underworld	£9.99
Life & Death 2 Bundle	£7.99	Wing Commander Academy	£9.99
Litil Divil	£14.99	Wing Commander Bundle	£9.99
Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing	£7.99	World Atlas 4	£12.99
Patriot	£14.99	Zool	£9.99
PGA Golf & Courses	£9.99	Zool 2	£16.99
Police Quest 3	£10.99		

CD-ROM TITLES

11th Hour	£28.99	Frontier Elite 2	£19·99	Psycho Pinball	£19.99
1942 Across the Rhine	£28.99	Frontlines	£25.99	Quest for Glory 4	£27·99
1942 Pacific Strike	£28.99	FST Compendium	£12.99	Quik the Thunder Rabbit	
7th Guest	£18.99	Funschool 5 - Dreamland		£6.99	
7th Guest/Dune	£29·99		£22.99	Rebel Assault (Bundle)	
Advantage Tennis	£19·99	Gabriel Knight Bundle	£19·99	£19.99	
Alex D Ice Hockey	£23.99	Genesia	£19·99	Renegade	£28.99
Alien Breed/Tower Assault		Ghost	£25.99	Retribution	£25·99
	£19.99	Goblins 3	£28·99	Rise of the Robots	£25.99
Alien Legacy	£25.99	Golf	£28.99	Rise of the Robots Limited	
Alien Logic	£28.99	Hard Ball 4	£25.99	Edition	£32.99
Alien Olympics	£19.99	Heimdall 2	£23·99	Robinsons Requiem	£26.99
Alone in The Dark 3	£28.99	High Seas Trader	£25.99	Rugby League Boss	£9.99
Arcade Pool/Overdrive	£11.99	Hool'n'Pool	£25.99	Rugby League Tracksuit	
Award Winners 3	£22.99	Indiana and the		Manager	£19.99
Battlebugs	£25.99	Fate of Atlantis	£26.99	Sam & Max	£16·99
BC Racers	£22.99	Inferno	£31·99	Scottish Open	£25.99
Beneath a Steel Sky	£25·99	Iron Assault	£22.99	Secret Weapons	
Betrayal at Krondor	£22.99	Izzys Olympic Adventure		Of The Luftwaffe	£12.99
Bioforge	£31.99		£25.99	Shoot Em Off	£19.99
Bitmap Compilation	£19.99	Jazz Jack Rabbiit	£24.99	Sim City	£26.99
Blade Warriors 2	£12.99	Jungle Strike	£22.99	Sim Town	£25.99
Cannon Fodder	£22.99	Jurassic Park	£25·99	Simon the Sorcerer	£24·99
Central Intelligence	£25·99	Kick Off 3 Euro Challenge		Skidmarks	£19.99
Chessmaster 4000	£24·99		£19.99	Soccer Kid	£19.99
Civilisation & Railroad Tycoon		Kids Rule OK 2	£9.99	Split Screen Soccer Manager	
	£19.99	Kings Quest 7	£28.99		£15.99
Classic Collection Access		Kingdom (The Far Reaches)		Star Trek Next Generation	
	£15.99		£31.99		£31.99
Classic Collection Lucas		Lamborghini AC	£9.99	Strike Commander	£31·99
£15.99		Lands of Lore	£27·99	Subwar V2 & Scenario	£27·99
Club Football	£22.99	Leisure Suit Larry Collection		System Shock	£27.99
Colonization	£27.99		£28.99	Tactical Manager 94/95	£9.99
Combat Air Patrol	£22.99	Lemmings 1 & 2	£19·99	Tactical Manager (England)	
Combat Classics 3	£22.99	Lemmings for Windows			£22.99
Commanche Max Overkill		£16.99		Tactical Manager (Italy)	
	£26·99	Little Divil	£17.99	£22.99	
Command Adv Starship		Little Big Adventure	£27.99	Tactical Manager (Scotland)	
£19.99		Live Action Football	£25.99		£22.99
Command And Conquer		Lords of Midnight	£25.99	Temptation	£28.99
£38.99		Lords of the Realm	£24.99	TFX Bundle	£29·99
Conspiracy	£28·99	Lost in Eden	£31.99	The Big Red Adventure	
Creature Shock	£31.99	Lovers Guide	£25.99	£25.99	
Cybermage	£25.99	Maelstrom	£9.99	The Clue	£22.99
Cyberspace	£28.99	Magic Carpet	£28.99	The Last Dynasty	£31.99
Dark Forces	£28.99	Man United Interactive	£19.99	The Lost Eden	£22.99
Dark Legions	£27.99	Man United Premier Champs		Thumbelina	£12.99
Dark Seed	£27·99		£19·99	Tornado	£19.99
Dawn Patrol	£27·99	Man Utd Prem Champs		Tower Assault	£22.99
Day of the Tentacle	£19.99	Double	£22.99	Tracksuit Manager 94/95	
Delta V	£26.99	Mario is Missing Deluxe			£19.99
Descent	£25.99	£15·99		Tracksuit Manager 2	£19.99
Desert Strike	£20·99	Monkey Island (XL)	£12.99	Transport Tycoon	£27.99
Digital Dreamware	£12.99	Myst (Windows)	£31·99	U.S. Navy Fighters	£31.99
Diskworld	£31.99	Nascar Racing	£25.99	UFO	£25.99
Dominus	£26.99	National Basketball		Ultimate Football	£28.99
Doom 2	£32.99	Association 95	£28.99	Under A Killing Moon	£35.99
Doom Ultimate	£14.99	Nick Faldos Golf	£25.99	Unnecessary Roughness	
Dracula Unleashed	£29.99	On the Ball League Edition			£25.99
Dragonsphere	£25·99		£24.99	Virtua Golf	£25.99
Dungeon Master 2	£25.99	One Tribe (Windows)	£38.99	Virtual Worlds	£19.99
Elder Scrolls	£27.99	One World (Windows)	£28.99	Wing Commander 3	£35.99
Evasive Action MPC	£25.99	Outpost (new version)	£31.99	Wings of Glory	£28.99
F1 Team Manager	£19.99	Pinball Dreams Deluxe	£25.99	World Cup Golf	£27.99
FIFA Soccer	£24.99	Powerdrive	£19.99	World Cup USA 94	£20·99
Fighter Wing	£31.99	Powerslide	£25.99	World of Soccer	£19.99
Flight Amazon Queen	£22.99	Premier Manager 3	£22.99	X-Wing Collection CD	£28.99
Flight Unlimited	£31.99	Prisms Of Ice	£28.99	Zool 2	£21·99
Football Glory	£22.99	Privateer	£26.99		

THE LOWEST PRICES ANYWHERE NO MEMBERSHIP FEES

ACCESS/VISA CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE / SIGNATURE

Please supply me with the following titles for computer

ITEM	PRICE
POSTAGE	
TOTAL	

PC REVIEW MAY 1995

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

REMEMBER- IF YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT YOU WANT, PLEASE PHONE AND ASK!!!

DELIVERY CHARGES

UK MAINLAND - 2nd Class FREE

EEC - £2 per item

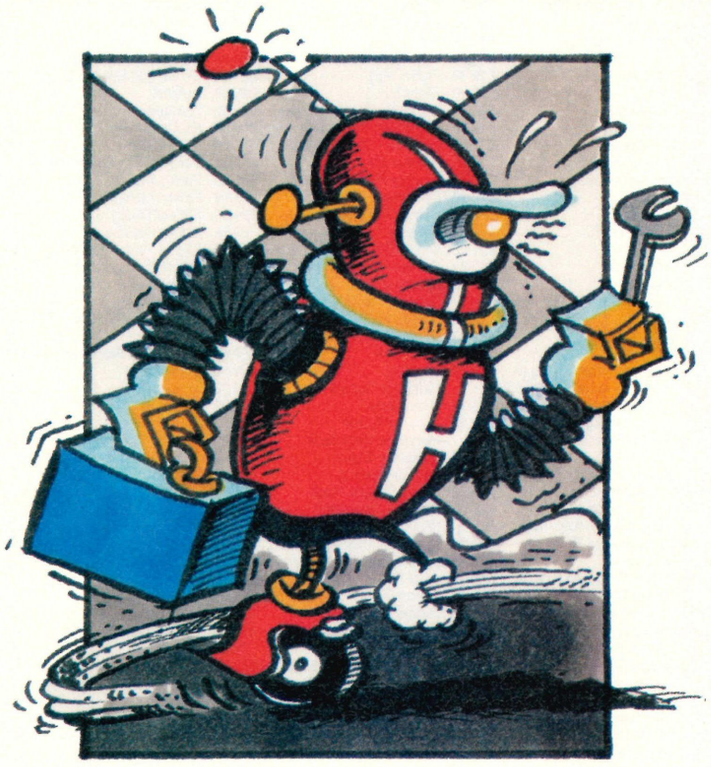
NON EEC - £4.50 per item

PRICES INCLUDE VAT AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE NOTE SOME TITLES MAY NOT BE RELEASED AT THE TIME OF PRESS. ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. E&OE.

Keep your hard disk clean

Part 2

In the second part of our Getting Started series, we show you how to keep your hard disk clean, healthy and in perfect working order.



Probably the most valuable component in your PC is its hard disk. Not in terms of monetary value, but because it contains all your precious data. Even if you are more conscientious than most about keeping back-ups of all your data files (and for most people, a full hard disk back-up is way overdue) the hassle factor of having to re-install every program and copy over every data file is just as bad as discovering that there were a couple of important files that had somehow slipped through the back-up net.

The good news is that hard disks don't break down very often; the bad news is that if they do, repair is frequently out of the question. Even rescuing your data from the undamaged parts of the broken disk is unlikely.

The hard disk is a delicate mechanism — in fact, in some ways, it's surprising that they don't seize up more often.

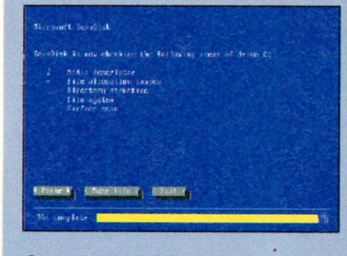
The device is made up of a number of different platters, stacked one on top of the other and each with their own read/write head, which is positioned just fractions of a millimetre above the surface of the platter. If you drop the PC or jolt it violently so that the head crashes on to the disk's surface, that is, at the least corrupted data.

Dust and debris getting into the hard disk would have exactly the same effect, ie, they would result in damaging the disk, which is why the device is a sealed unit.

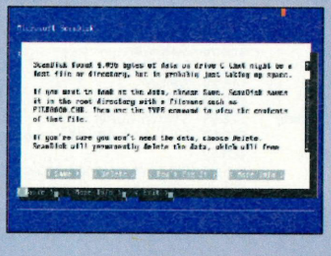
Regular scanning

As with so many PC operations, you can minimise your chances of suffering a hard disk crash in a number of ways — and unlike many PC operations, it needn't involve buying expensive accessory packages. To be strictly accurate, you can't guarantee against a hard disk going faulty, but you can certainly reduce the adverse effects.

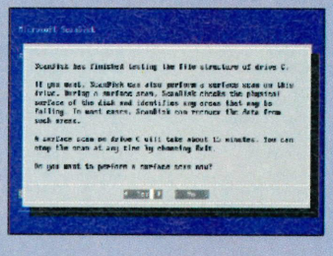
The first and most important thing to do is to check up regularly on your hard disk's performance — give it a medical, if you like. There are two programs which come with MS-DOS which you can use, say, once a week, to make sure that everything is ticking over as it should: Chkdsk (stands for Check



Scandisk in DOS 6 will check your PC's file allocation table and directory structure first before moving on to check on the physical condition of the hard disk. Here, it is running through the file allocation tables which keep track of the files written to each disk cluster to make sure all the figures add up.



Here, Scandisk has found one segment of data that doesn't seem to belong to any particular file. You can either remove these lost clusters or save them into files so that you can view them in case they turn out to be important (mind you, unless they're plain text files, they're unlikely to make too much sense to you).



Scandisk will also offer to do a surface scan of the hard disk, checking for 'bad sectors', or areas which are damaged. These will then be marked as 'bad' and DOS won't try to save data to these sectors. You will, however, lose the space that is damaged, ie, if 10K is marked 'bad' that's 10K off your total disk capacity.

CLEANING UP YOUR HARD DISK

USEFUL PRODUCTS

DOS 6.2 (includes Scandisk and virus checker)
Price: £69
Supplier: Microsoft
Contact: (01734) 270 001

Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit
Price: varies according to type of protection bought — under £100
Supplier: S & S International
Contact: (01296) 318 700

disk) and Scandisk. Chkdsk has been around since the days of DOS 3, and is a fairly superficial program for trapping file errors. Scandisk comes with DOS 6.x and is an altogether superior beast testing for file errors and the physical condition of the disk itself.

This is important, because if DOS tries to write or save one of your files to an area of your hard disk which has become damaged then you almost certainly won't be able to retrieve that file. Getting Scandisk to spot damaged areas and metaphorically fence them off so that DOS won't try to write to them will save you from the hassle of having files that won't open and programs that won't run.

Physical damage and file errors are the most likely disasters waiting to happen. One problem with diagnosing the latter is that most of the time it's not actually the file that is damaged.

It's more likely to be a problem with the file allocation table or the directory entry.

The file allocation table

When you type the command Dir at the C:> to get a listing of all the files in that directory, DOS doesn't literally trawl through the entire hard disk searching for files which come under the banner of the current directory. Think about it: you might create a new directory and call it MYSTUFF and put a few files in it, then a few weeks later, after you'd installed and deleted several other programs you might come back to MYSTUFF and save a few more files there. Those files could be scattered all over the hard disk in terms of where they are literally stored, so on a 300Mb hard disk, DOS would have to plough through the lot before finding every file in MYSTUFF.

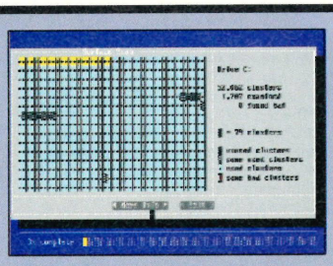
When you type Dir, DOS simply looks up the directory entry, which is basically an index, or table of contents for that directory.

For more on disk housekeeping and guarding against disk errors, see our cover story, Sorted!, in PC Review, Issue 42.

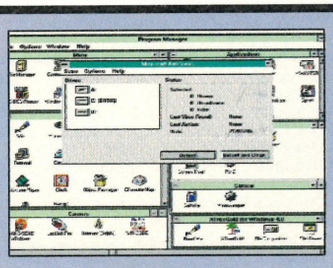
The file allocation table, or FAT, as the acronym goes, is also a sort of index to the hard disk, but is more an index of clusters — the small segments of the disk which each contain files, or more often, parts of files.

One relatively common fault which relates to directory entries and the FAT is the file listing which looks like gobbledegook. You type Dir, and up comes a list consisting of non-alphabetic characters, which claim to be many gigabytes in size and created on nonsense dates such as 00/99/82. It's understandable to conclude that the file has become corrupt or the disk damaged in some way; it's more likely that the file itself is perfectly OK, but that its directory entry has got scrambled.

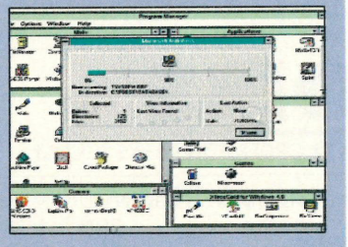
Either way, you won't be able to simply rename the file in DOS or Windows. You'll need Scandisk again, to run through the directory



Scandisk is performing the surface scan. The screen shows a 'map' of the hard disk, displaying the unused sectors (shaded), sectors which already contain data, and sectors already marked as 'bad' — although we haven't suffered any of those on this disk yet! It's probably only a matter of time, though ...



The Microsoft Anti-Virus introductory screen running under Windows 3.1. To check your disk(s) for viruses, click first on the disk required then on either Detect, or Detect and Clean. It's well worth running a virus check on your hard disk regularly, or to install the memory-resident module for constant monitoring.



Checking the hard disk. The program will scan through all the directories on your hard disk, looking for file contents which have altered unexpectedly or strangely. It's not foolproof, since some viruses are designed to circumvent this, but it does trap many common viruses (not that any viruses are *that* common).

GLOSSARY

Back-up
To copy files from your hard disk on to floppy disk (or a tape streamer if you're very wealthy or at work) so that in the event that you lose any data, you can copy the duplicate files back again.

Batch files
Files which consist of a series of DOS commands. The start-up file Autoexec.bat, for example, is made up commands which you could have typed one at a time at the C:> prompt. Putting them all together in a batch file saves time and typing.

Cluster
The smallest division of the hard disk in which files can be saved.This is the division that holds bytes of data, so files are normally saved over many different clusters.

Defragging
Stands for defragmenting: reorganising your hard disk, so that the data in files and programs is saved contiguously rather than wherever on the disk they will fit.

Directory Entry
A 'table of contents' for the current directory. Specifies the filename and details, plus the hard disk cluster in which the file begins.

File Allocation Table
A 'table of contents' for the clusters and sectors on the hard disk.
Lists which ones are used and which ones contain data from the same file.

Virus
A program which is specifically designed to alter the contents of a file — usually with malicious intent.

PD SELECTIONS

THE BEST AND LATEST IN SHAREWARE
DISK PRICES: £2.25 EACH, 6 FOR £12

(NUMBER OF DISKS IN BRACKETS IF MORE THAN ONE)

A separate payment is payable to the author if you continue using shareware programs

PLEASE ADD £1 POSTAGE TO UK ORDERS, £4 OVERSEAS

APOGEE GAMES

RISE OF THE TRIADS

New from Apogee. You're gonna get bloody! Look and shoot up and down. Heat seeking missiles, fire-bombs and 7 other mass weapons. Avoid lava wall, spinblades, fire chutes and more. Optional modem, serial, network play. Shareware £6.75.
FULL BOXED REGISTERED VERSION £30.00
ENHANCED CD ROM VERSION £36.00

WACKY WHEELS 3D (2) - Apogee 3D car racing game with optional modem play, split screen 2 player game, network play. So many options and features. Registered version only £25 with 30 racetracks and 12 duckshoots. CD version with 22 top Apogee shareware games £28.
ALIEN CARNAGE (2) - Good new platform game.

RAPTOR CD - Includes the ful version of Raptor playable from CD and the shareware versions of 20 other Apogee games. All this for only £28.

Follow up to Halloween Harry. Full version £17

PLANET STRIKE - BLAKESTONE 2 - Commercial only sequel. Written with the Wolfenstein engine. Good value at only £20. No shareware version.

BOPPIN - Great new puzzle game from Apogee.
MYSTIC TOWERS - New Apogee 3D adventure
HOCUS POCUS (2) - Apogee Duke Nukem type game
RAPTOR (2) - New Apogee best ever shoot em up.
BLAKE STONE (2) - Good Wolfenstein sequel.
DUKE NUKEM 2 (2) - Much improved follow up.
SPEAR OF DESTINY - Follow up to Wolfenstein.
WOLFENSTEIN 3D - Virtual really shoot the Nazis.
COSMO'S COSMIC ADVENTURES - Best platformer.

VINYL GODDESS FROM MARS - From Union Logic, the new force in quality shareware games. 256 colour, super sound and great gameplay. Help the sexy goddess gather capsules to return her crashed spaceship to Mars. Shareware £4.50.
Full boxed registered version £26.

KEEN DREAMS - The last Keen game.

DESCENT (2) - Interplay Productions. Possibly the best game ever. Gut wrenching full 3D action. Texture mapped enemies, network, serial, modem play, etc. Needs fast 486/Pentium. Reg Version £35.

COMMANDER KEEN 4 & 6 - 2 top Apogee games
DARK AGES - Get this if you haven't already!

SIX OF THE BEST CD - RISE OF THE TRIAD, RAPTOR, WACKY WHEELS, ONE MUST FALL, JAZZ JACK RABBIT, EPIC PINBALL £6.75

TOP GAMES

XATAX - Excellent new shoot-em up like Scramble.
KRYPTON EGG - THE ULTIMATE BREAKOUT - Highly recommended - try this one today - it's brilliant.
WRATH OF EARTH (2) - Excellent new 3D Doom/Wolf type game. One of the best games this year.
GREATEST PAPER AIRPLANES - make your own.
TUBULAR WORLDS - Very good shoot-em up - try it.
DARKWOLF - D'India S/ware. Good platform game.
SPACE NIGHTMARE - Classy fast and furious shoot em up with loads of weapons by Microdern.
WALLS OF BRATOCK - Fight fearsome monsters & more in shareware's best ever role playing game.
ANTRUN - One of the best puzzle games ever.
SUPERBLOX - Superb Tetris game with bombs.
BRUDAL BADDLE - New fighting game by Sandbird.
CANNON FODDER - Virgin's top commercial war game like Lemmings now on shareware.
STACKER - High quality action. Search a radioactive wasteland for the Golden Sphere. By MM Software.
GAMMA WING (2) - 486 ONLY Space flight sim.
HIGHWAY HUNTER - Fast, furious arcade blaster from Safari Software/Epic Megagames.
OPERATION BODYCOUNT (2) - New Wolfenstein type game.
ENTOMBED (2) - Fantastic new Windows 3D adventure game SVGA raytraced graphics better than Myst and 7th Guest.
ALIEN INVASION - Wolfenstein clone.
F18 NO FLY ZONE - Windows air combat game
QUATRA COMMAND - Good Windows shoot em up.
JAZZ JACK RABBIT (2) - New from Epic. Huge ratings in all main mags. Like Sega's Sonic.
ONE MUST FALL (2) - Superb robot fighting game, excellent gameplay - Epic Megagames.
NITEMARE 3D (2) - Excellent Wolfenstein style 3D adventure by David Gray (Hugo series).
1994 POOL - Great new American Pool game.
DESERT STORM COMMAND - Gulf War shooting game.
NYET 3 - A large variety of Tetris games.
GALACTIX - Excellent shoot em up from the makers of Raptor - Cygnus Software.
MONOPOLY - Like the board game, up to 20 players.
CORNCOB - Flight Simulator.
CD MAN - Brilliant Pacman game.
WORLD CUP CRICKET - Even you can beat England.
ZENTRIS - like the original Tetris.
CLASSIC PINBALL - Difficult but great fun pinball.
MVP BRIDGE - Best bridge game.
CYBERCHESS - Superb new chess with robots.
SUPER ANDROID - Brand new version of Epic Pinball.
DR RIPTIDE - Superb underwater submarine adventure.
SPECTRUM EMULATOR (2) - Play those ole games.
SIM SPACE (2) - Spaceship flight and combat sim.
MUTANT SPACE BATS OF DOOM - Superb shoot em up.
COMBAT ZONE - Good new strategy war game. 2mb.
6 CARD GAMES - Bridge, Poker, Patience, Rummy.
ZONE 66 - 91% review in PC Format, Epic Games.
MAHJONG - The original and the best!
XMAS LEMMiNGS - Dressed as Santa Claus!

MUSIC

SCREAMTRACKER 3 - MOD music composer
MUSIC EASE - Musical score editor, etc. Can print out & import/export MIDI files. Input from keyboard or MIDI.
UNTITLED - Best ever 3D Demo - by dust.
GOOD BAD AND THE UGLY - Top Gravis demo
CASCADA HOLISTIC - 2nd at Assembly 2/94
ASSEMBLY 94 - Demo by Future Crew/Sonic PC
TECHNOHOLIC DEMO by EXTREME - Good 14 part demo with many variation. Rave Music.
PANIC - Brill Future Crew demo with gfx.
UNREAL - 386* top Future Crew demo
2ND REALITY (2) - Ultimate Future Crew demo. 4mb
CRYSTAL DREAMS (2) - Triton demo - excellent.
MUZIKA FOR WINDOWS - MIDI musical encore editor
DRUMBLASTER - Electronic Drum machine
GF MUSIC - 255 track professional MIDI sequencer
SEQUENCER PLUS - Elaborate midi controller
TREKVOCS - Star Trek VOC files.
MUSIC STYLES MIDI FILES - Blues, Rock etc.
MOD FILES (3 HD) - Loads of MOD files.
MIDI FILES (5) - Rock and Pop MIDI files
SOUND EFFECTS VOC FILES
XTRACKER - professional MOD sound studio.
WINDOWS WAV FILES - Mainly sound efx.
BLASTER MASTER 6.0 - Edit sound files.

PD SELECTIONS CD-ROM

You can now get every single shareware title in this advert and a whole lot more on our very own CD -Rom. Only £19.95
Updates for existing owners £12.50

MONO PCX CLIPART

COOPER CARTOONS (2) - 329 pics.
COOPER SET (2) - 1800 various small pics.
PANTHERSOFT SMART ART 5 - New and good.
HOLIDAY SNAPS PCX (2)

FISH	HOUSES	MEN
BIRDS	CARS	CHILDREN
MEDICAL	AIRCRAFT	ANIMALS
CATS	DOGS	MUSIC
FLOWERS	SPORTS	TEDDY
BEARS		

COLOURED CLIP ART

All available as PCX or GIF files
PAGE 3 TYPE GIRLS (6 disks £10) - over 18s
ADULT SENSATIONS CD - loads of superb pictures of beautiful ladies £17.50
SCI -FI quality colour pics
AVIATION CARS & SPACE - superb set
CARTOONS - all in full colour
STAR TREK & STAR WARS - Good pics
PANTHERSOFT COLOUR PCX SMART ART (2)

WINDOWS

ENVISION PUBLISHER FOR WINDOWS
High quality desktop publisher. Open 100 files at once, import loads of different graphics file formats, much more. SHareware £4.50. Registered £40. Pro version £66. CD version - runs from CD with extra clipart & fonts £70.
WINDOWS GAMES PACK (2) - 30 games Includes Pool, Pacman, Backgammon, Tetris, Win Trek, Risk, & loads of card, board & puzzle games etc.
POPOUT - 3D stereogram generator.
SCREEN THIEF FOR WINDOWS - The superb screen capture system now available for Windows.
SCREEN SAVERS (2) - loads of them.
FONT MONSTER - prints catalogues of fonts, etc.
FONT SPEC PRO - Full font handling utility.
MACAFFEES ANTI VIRUS - latest version
WILL WRITER - Write you own wills
CD PLAYER - with database and loads of features.
WINSPELL - Spellchecker for Write.
WINPROOF - Grammar checker.
WINZIP - Front end for PKZip etc.
THE CLEANERS - Clears out icons, BMPs, etc.
VIA PRINT - print labels, business cards, etc.
TOP DRAW - Excellent drawing program.
JAMWARE ICONS - nearly 2000 of them.
TOMMYSOFT CAD (2) - Top rated CAD prog.
GAMMACAD - Full featured CAD program.
GRAPHICS WORKSHOP - Latest version.
PAINT SHOP PRO - File converter/viewer.
MAHJONG FOR WINDOWS - Top version.
BRIDGE FOR WINDOWS - The card game.
500 TRUE TYPE FONTS FOR WINDOWS ONLY £16 (9 HD DISKS)

EDUCATION

GCSE MATHEMATICS - Calfacts.
GCSE PHYSICS - Multiple choice.
GCSE SCIENCE - National curriculum.
GCSE COMPUTER STUDIES
WORD RESCUE - Apogee spelling game.
MATHS RESCUE - Apogee maths game.
SEA SCHOOL - Superb kids maths game.
ABC FUN KEYS - fun learning the alphabet.
TALKING TEACHER FOR SOUNDCARDS.
123-TALK FOR SOUNDBOARDS
ANIMATED ALPHABET for infants.
ANIMATED MATHS for infants.
ANIMATED WORDS for infants.
ANIMATED MULTIPLICATION & DIVISION
ANIMATED CLOCK
BASIC ALGEBRA - equations, fractions, etc.
GAKUSEI - Japanese tutor.
JURASSIC SPELLING - with real speech

FULL VERSIONS

RISE OF THE TRIAD		£30
R.O.T.T. ENHANCED CD-ROM		£38
WRATH OF EARTH		£34
PLANET STRIKE - BLAKESTONE 2 (No shareware version)		£20
WACKY WHEELS 30 tracks		£25
WACKY WHEELS CD		£28
ALIEN CARNAGE		£17
VINYL GODDESS FROM MARS		£25
JAZZ JACK RABBIT (6 LEVELS)		£26
JAZZ ENHANCED CDROM		£32
ONE MUST FALL		£26
OMF STRATEGY GUIDE		£8
RAPTOR £23	RAPTOR CD	£28
HOCUS POCUS		£20
BLAKESTONE - 66 LEVELS		£26
WORD RESCUE		£19
MATHS RESCUE		£19
WOLFENSTEIN 3D		£28

LINGUAPRO SPANISH TUTOR - 19000 words
FRENCH TUTOR - Learn French.

UNUX DEVELOPERS REFERENCE CD £17.50
ADA 2 CD SET source, info, etc CD £17.50
C USERS GROUP LIBRARY CD £17.50

GERMAN TUTOR - Learn German.
EDUCATIONAL ATLAS 1994 - Superb.
PC TUTOR - All about computers.
PC FASTYPE VGA - typing tutor

GENERAL

FILE COMPRESSORS - ARJ, PKzip etc.
EASY BASE - simple but powerful database
EASY WORD - simple but powerful w/processor
FREEWAY LEDGERMASTER - UK accounts.
FREEWAY PAYE - Best UK PAYE System.
SCREEN THIEF - Best DOS screen captures
KITH N KIN FOR WINDOWS - Geneology
FORMGEN II - Superb form generator.
625 BUSINESS LETTERS - For your WP
ASTRO (2) - Best astrology program.
KITH N KIN FOR WINDOWS - Geneology.
BROTHERS KEEPER 5.1 (2) - Best geneology.
FAMILY TREE JOURNAL - Make history books.
FOOTBALL FORECAST - Aids pools winning.
BOOKIE BREAKER - horse racing prediction.
EDNA'S COOKBOOK - recipe database.
ORGANISE YOUR PLANTS/GARDEN.
GROWIT MK II - Superb garden planner.
LANDSCAPE PLANT MANAGER
GARDENERS ASSISTANT
ORGANISE YOUR RECORDS , TAPES, CD's.

GRAPHICS/RAYTRACING

PERSISTENCE OF VISION v2(2) - New. version of the best raytracing program.

POVRAY CD - Persistence of Vision and loads of addons. Everything you need to create your own raytraced images. CD only £17.50

POVCAD - Wire frame CAD add on.
MORAY - Gild style editor for POVRAY.
PV3D MODELLER - POVRAY/VIVID2 GUI
GUM 3D INTERACTIVE MODELLER - also for POVRAY
RAYCE v2.8 - POV compatible raytracer.
DAVES TARGA ANIMATOR.
VIVID II RAYTRACER & VIVIDIRA (2) - Good.
D-MORPH 1.1.2 - Best 1GA/GIF morphing.
ENVISION PUBLISHER v2 - Best DTP.
HOME PLAN - layout your house.
NEOPAINT v3.0 - Best graphics program.
NEOPAINT FONTS (2) 40 extra fonts.
GRAPHICS WORKSHOP for DOS.
PROTOCAD - 3D CAD program.
DANCAD 3D - Superb wire fram CAD

CD ROMS

PLEASE ADD £2 UK POSTAGE TO TOTAL ORDER, OVERSEAS ADD £4.

GAMES CD-ROM

	Ex VAT	Incl
7th Guest	11.91	14.00
Dark Forces	32.34	38.00
Discworld	29.79	35.00
F1 Grand Prix	13.62	16.00
Frontier Elite 2 - boxed	17.02	20.00
Kyrandia 2 - Hand of Fate	17.02	20.00
Kings Quest VII *NEW*	28.94	34.00
Kings Quest 1-6 Special	29.79	35.00
Kings Quest VI	13.62	16.00
Magic Carpet	28.94	34.00
Megarace boxed	17.02	20.00
Outpost	17.02	20.00
Quarantine - full boxed	17.02	20.00
Raptor plus 20 bonus games	23.83	28.00
Rebel Assault	23.83	28.00
Rise Of The Triad	32.34	38.00
Sam & Max Hit the Road	26.38	31.00
Tornado/Falcon 3	19.57	23.00
Wacky Wheels	23.83	28.00

ADULT CD-ROM (over 18s only)

Fiesta Magazine	34.04	40.00
Joy of Sex	29.78	35.00
Lovers Guide	29.78	35.00
Penthouse Photo Shoot 1	34.04	40.00
Penthouse Photo Shoot 2	34.04	40.00
Playboy Screen Saver	21.28	25.00

ART & DTP CD-ROM

Clipart Extravaganza (20000 PCX pics on 2 CD's with book showing all)	25.53	30.00
Clipart Warehouse	8.51	12.00
Clipart Heaven	11.91	14.00
Clipart Heaven 2 - 12000 PCX pictures with a book showing all pictures	18.72	22.00
Corel Draw 3 - full boxed UK	53.61	63.00
Corel Ventura 5 - full boxed desktop publisher with 17000 mono & colour clip out files and 650 fonts and book showing pictures of them all - 3 CD set - super value	68.08	80.00
Font Heaven	11.91	14.00
Gifs Galore	13.62	17.00
Kodak Photo CD Access	13.62	17.00
Professional Clip Art PCX - 10000 PCX pictures, superb menu interface	11.91	14.00
Professional Clip Art GIF	13.62	17.00
Professional Fonts & Clip Art - now with a book showing what's on the CD	16.17	19.00

SHAREWARE CD-ROM

Adv In Heaven 2 - games	11.91	14.00
CICA Windows Feb 95	11.91	14.00
CICA Windows Dec 94 - 3 CDs	14.89	17.50
CookBook Heaven 2	11.91	14.00
Gold Medal Vol5 Mar 95	16.98	19.95
Ham Radio	10.64	12.50
Hot Sound & Vision	14.89	17.50
Hot Sound & Vision 2	18.72	22.00
Libris Britannia 4 + Book - general games, applications, etc.	22.13	33.00
Minerva 3	4.26	5.00
Minerva 4	4.26	5.00
Minerva 5 - 710 Mb	5.96	7.00
Minerva 6 - 710 Mb	18.72	22.00
Night Owl 14	18.72	22.00
Night Owl 15	18.72	22.00
PD Selections CD - best of all categories produced March 95	16.98	19.95
POVRAY - raytracing	15.32	18.00
QRZ Ham Radio	14.89	17.50
Shareware Extravaganza - 4 CD set best of all shareware types	22.13	26.00
Shareware Heaven 3	15.32	18.00
Shareware Overload Trio	15.32	18.00
Windows Heaven	11.06	13.00
Windows Heaven 2	11.06	13.00

EDUCATION CD-ROM

Animals of San Diego Zoo	13.62	16.00
Arthurs Teacher Trouble	13.62	16.00
Berlitz Think & Talk series - 8 CD sets - Spanish, German or French	85.11	100.00
Bugs Bunny - animations, etc	10.21	12.00
Family Doctor	13.62	16.00
Groliers Encyclopaedia V7 - 1995	20.43	24.00
Harry & the Haunted House	29.79	35.00
Just Grandma & Me	17.02	20.00
Little Big Adventure	33.19	39.00
Microsoft Ancient Lands	31.49	37.00
Microsoft Art Gallery	35.74	42.00
Microsoft Cinemamania 95	35.74	42.00

DORLING KINDERSLEY - SPECIAL OFFER

Encyclopaedia of Science	40.85	48.00
My First Incredible Dictionary	32.34	38.00
The Ultimate Human Body	40.85	48.00
The Way Things Work	40.85	48.00

DISK CATALOGUE FREE WITH ORDERS, OR SEND £2 IN STAMPS. CHEQUES PAYABLE TO PD SELECTIONS LTD, THE WHITE HOUSE, CLIFTON MARINE PARADE, GRAVESEND, KENT DA11 0DY. FAX ORDERS: 01474 320442

CREDIT CARD ORDERS: 01474 325802 OR 01474 331191

entries and fix any problems it finds. In fact, one excellent rule of thumb is always to run Scandisk immediately, if your hard disk starts misbehaving. That way you can rescue most, if not all, of your data before the problem gets serious.

Defragging

Hard disk problems such as errors reading files or saving them, and that awful grinding noise you get when DOS is trying to write to a part of the disk that just doesn't want to be written to, are easy enough to identify. But if you've had your PC for a while, you may have found that the hard disk just doesn't seem to be performing as well as it used to.

Rather than just being a problem of perception, and the novelty of having a new PC wearing off, this could well be the case if your hard disk has become very fragmented. As mentioned above, files save themselves in clusters which aren't necessarily adjacent to each other — in order to load one file, the read/write head on the hard disk may have to gather information from all over the place.

When you delete files and programs, you leave a gap on the disk, which MS-DOS will then fill up at the first opportunity it gets, which means that the different files required for a program will get spread across the available gaps. Then as the disk fills up with data, you may get to the stage where a program which needs 10Mb free simply won't fit into a contiguous part of the disk — there may be 50Mb-60Mb free but not in 10Mb chunks.

So, if every time you try to open a file or access the disk, the read head has to scurry all over the disk to find the various program elements, it will take longer and the hard disk will appear to be slower. What you need is to use a program to defragment the hard disk: a wonderfully rude-sounding 'defragger', in fact. And yes, DOS 6 includes a defragger — just type Defrag at the C:> prompt — though you should leave around an hour free for the operation if you have a large and very full disk.

Preventing viruses

People often think that the symptoms described above — the hard disk running slow, nonsense characters in file listings — must be the result of a virus. They're not, but viruses have become the stuff of PC legend, so that it becomes easy to attribute any strange behaviour by your machine to a malevolent program.

In fact, viruses are comparatively rare, and you should be able to tell quite easily whether you've enabled one to transfer to your machine. If you've been using only commercial disks, cover disks, and data disks which you've formatted yourself, the chances of you having a virus are as near to nil as they can get. If you've been swapping data disks with your mates, copying files over from hand-labelled disks you found lying around (but which aren't yours) "just to see what's on them", or your PC is attached to a network without a virus detection program, then, yes, it's possible. You see, the virus has to come from somewhere; it can't just grow of its own accord.

Better safe than sorry

Still, better safe than sorry. Viruses can wreak real havoc once they are lodged on your system, either on the hard disk or in the boot sector. More likely, a virus will just hang your machine completely and you won't be able to get into the system to find out just how much havoc has been wreaked. It just isn't worth the aggro.

Having said above that you can keep tabs on your hard disk without spending lots of money, I'd be inclined to make an exception for a virus detection and repair program if you use the PC a lot and you need to use disks and files from various sources.

There are virus scanning programs on the market which are designed to check the PC for specific viruses, and while the virus program supplied with DOS 6 is effective, it checks for strange alterations to files which may be virus-related, and is thus less accurate.

Anyway, whether you do splash out on a product such as Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit, or whether you stick with the DOS 6 program, make sure you use it regularly. After all, if you have a memory-resident virus checking option, then logically the only time you'll be taken by surprise by a virus is when you don't use it.

Part 3

Our trouble-shooting expertise will be back in next month's Getting Started section when we will endeavour to solve some more of your annoying little PC problems.

FIVE OTHER WAYS TO KEEP HARD DISKS CLEAN AND TIDY

1) Be rigorous about disk housekeeping. Put all the files into logical, ordered sub-directories so that if you want to delete them, or do a big clean-up to make more room on the disk, you aren't left with a whole load of files sitting around in the root directory which you can't identify but have a vague feeling might be important.

2) For the same reason, be organised about the names you give your files. It's very tempting when you're prompted to save a file and you're in a hurry to just call it Stuff.doc, or Notes.txt, but again, when you want to delete files, Stuff.doc and Notes.txt will just sit there like a bad smell. Also, try locating and opening up your draft of the firm's annual report when you've called it Moretext.doc and saved it somewhere silly.

3) Stick to the usual naming conventions for file extensions. Don't for example, call your downloaded e-mail email.com, because it's a 'comms' file; .com is used by DOS for command files. Other extensions to avoid are .exe (executable program files), .bat (batch files), .sys (system files) and widely known extensions used by other programs such as .zip (for PKzip compressed programs), or picture file extensions such as .gif, .tif, .pcx.

4) If you have programs on your hard disk which take up quite a bit of space, which you don't use very often, but which you don't want to delete, consider compressing them with a shareware program such as PKzip, so that they take up less space but are still there ready to be unzipped if you do need to use them again.

5) Clear out as much crap from the root directory as you can. Put all batch files (except Autoexec.bat) in a directory called BATCH and write a path statement for C:\BATCH in your Autoexec.bat file (see previous Technical Help for details on how to do this). If you have old versions of Config.sys and Autoexec.bat, with extensions such as .old, .001, .002, .bak, put all these in a separate sub-directory as well. Delete odd batch and start-up files for programs you have de-installed or removed. Whether you work in Windows or in DOS, a machine with a concise root directory is always easier to manage.

Making a boot disk

If you're having difficulties freeing up enough memory to run a program and you're fed up to the back teeth with editing Config.sys and Autoexec.bat to no avail, an easy way out is to make a boot disk.

This is a floppy disk with just enough files on it to load MS-DOS, but not so many that it eats into your conventional memory.

There are two ways to create a boot disk, one for formatted floppy disks, and one for unformatted. All you need is the floppy disk, a sticky label and a pen.

If your floppy disk is already formatted, make sure it's blank, put it in your disk drive and then, at the C:\ prompt, type:

SYS A:

This will transfer three files (four in DOS 6) from the hard drive to the floppy drive. The two system files, which are probably called Io.sys and Msdos.sys, are 'hidden' and not normally visible to a directory listing (so just take our word for it that they're copied across). The third is the all-important Command.com. The fourth, exclusive to DOS 6, is Dblspace.bin, which is also a hidden file. Once the files have copied over, your floppy disk is now a boot disk. It contains the bare minimum to run MS-DOS, while leaving plenty of memory free for running all those hefty games.

If your floppy disk is unformatted, you can format it and make it a system disk in one fell swoop. Put the disk in your floppy disk drive and type:

FORMAT A:/S

The format command will format the disk. The /s is called a switch, and tells DOS to transfer the three main system files to the floppy disk, making it a boot disk.

Now take the sticky label and pen and label the floppy as a boot disk.

Because the Sys and Format/s only transfer the fewest files necessary to boot the system, your mouse will not be loaded, nor will a sound card or CD-ROM drive be loaded with a device driver.

You can load these separately from the C:> prompt, after using the boot disk to start up, but it's probably easier to make Autoexec.bat and Config.sys files on the boot disk itself. And the easiest way to do this is to copy over your standard Config.sys and Autoexec.bat files from your hard disk and then remove all the lines except the ones you need for the program to run, such as the mouse driver, sound card settings, or expanded memory manager lines. This at least guards against typing errors when you try to create the new Autoexec.bat and Config.sys on the floppy disk.

Note: several program manuals explain how to make a boot disk and suggest specific commands to go into the Config and Autoexec files on the boot disk — usually with regard to extended and/or expanded memory requirements specific to the



Creating a boot disk is easy if you follow our instructions to the letter.

program in question. Let the program manuals recommendations override your existing configuration if you want the program to work properly.

Formatting your disks

The blank disks that you buy from the shops will almost always be unformatted: that is, they are truly blank. In order to use them on a PC, you will need to format them. Formatting imposes a structure on the disk, marking the disk magnetically into areas called tracks and sectors, which makes it easier for the operating system to keep track of files when you store them on the disk. If you format your blank 3.5" disk in an Apple Macintosh, it will be formatted for use only in an Apple Mac; if you format it in a PC, the tracks and sectors will be marked specifically for use in a PC.

To format a high density (1.44Mb) floppy disk in a high density drive A:

1) Put the disk you want to format into your floppy disk drive A:.
2) At the C:\ prompt, type FORMAT A: /F:1.44 (don't hit Enter just yet)
3) Check that it really does say A: in the line you've typed.
4) Press Enter.
5) You will be prompted to insert the correct disk into drive A:.

This you have already done, but you do have a chance to double-check that it's the right one now.

6) Press Enter to confirm the format.

The formatting process should now start. Note that if the disk is write-protected, you will get a message saying "Write-protect error" (write-protected disks cannot be (re)formatted). You can simply take the disk out, move the write-protect notch down, re-insert it and start again. First, however, you should try to remember why you write-protected it in the first place.

The PC should make a regular ticking noise as it marks the tracks and sectors. However, if this gives way to a distinct grinding sound, then the format program has found some bad sectors — areas on the disk that are damaged. Don't worry. The format program will mark these sectors as 'bad' and henceforth, your programs will not attempt to write data to these areas, although you will lose the space that the bad sectors take up. Your 1.44Mb disk will only hold 1.43Mb of data if there is around 10K in bad sectors.

Once complete, you will be prompted to enter a 'label', or name for the disk. This prompt will always occur, whether or not you wish to format another disk of the same type. So, hit Y for yes and have the second disk handy, or N for no, and exit the format program.

If you want to format a low density (720K, or 'double density') in a high density drive, you should specify it at the C:\ prompt:

FORMAT A: F:/720

Don't try to format disks at the wrong density. As for formatting hard disks, DON'T, unless you absolutely have to.



Floppy disk formatting made simple — PC Review style.

Where formatting gets a bit scary is that, a) you can reformat disks with data already on them, and the process of formatting also erases any information already on the disk, and, b) you can format hard disks as well as floppy disks.

We defy anyone who has used a PC for any length of time to claim that they have never formatted the wrong disk by accident. However, while it can be agonisingly easy to reformat the wrong floppy disk, current versions of DOS will warn you in capital letters if you try to format the hard disk by mistake.

If you do accidentally wipe out the wrong data with the Format command, and you have version 5 or 6 of DOS, try running the Unformat program immediately (type Unformat at the C:\DOS prompt). Failing that, you need a program such as Norton or PC Tools to try to recover your data.

PC INTERACTIVE

This month sees the second outing of PC Review Interactive on our cover mounted CD-ROM.

PC Review Interactive is an exclusive program that lets you link directly to the pages of PC Review via your CD-ROM.

In this month's PC Review Interactive you will find useful information from many of our past Technical Help sections, including a complete glossary to the weird and wonderful world of PC terminology. So if you want to know what Chkkdsk means, load PC Review Interactive now.

Premier Mail Order

Please Send Cheques/PO's (made out to Premier Mail Order) or Access/Visa/(Switch + Issue No) & Expiry Date to:
Dept: PCR05 - 9-10 THE CAPRICORN CENTRE CRANES FARM ROAD, BASILDON, ESSEX SS14 3JJ.
Telephone orders: 01268-271172 Fax your order on: 01268-271173 Mon-Fri 9am-7pm Sat&Sun 10am-4pm. We are open 364 days a year
P&P and VAT included for all UK orders. Please add per item £2 P&P for Europe and £3.50 for the rest of the world. Next day service available UK only @ £4.00 per item.
Please note: Some titles may not be released at the time of going to press. Most titles are despatched same day, but can take up to 28 days. E&OE

	3.5"	CD
7th Guest / Dune	-----	29.99
11th Hour-7th Guest 2	-----	32.99
1942 Pacific Air War	27.99	29.99
A-Train & Construction Kit	14.99	-----
A10 Tank Killer	12.99	-----
A320 Airbus Europa	22.99	22.99
Absolute Zero	-----	26.99
Aces Over Europe	14.99	-----
Aces Of The Deep	27.99	27.99
Across The Rhine	27.99	-----
AD&D Dragonlance Trilogy	19.99	-----
AD&D Forgotten Realms Trilogy	19.99	-----
AD&D TRIPLE TRILOGY	-----	29.99
Advantage Tennis	-----	27.99
Aegis Guardian Of The Fleet	-----	32.99
Air Bucks 1,2	12.99	-----
Air Havoc Controller	-----	22.99
Aladdin	22.99	-----
Alex Dampier's Pro Hockey '95	26.99	26.99
Alien Logic	-----	29.99
Alone in the Dark 3	-----	29.99
Amazon Queen	22.99	-----
Arcade Pool	12.99	13.99
Archer Macleans Pool	9.99	13.99
Armored Fist	25.99	27.99
ATP	22.99	-----
ATP v5.0	29.99	29.99
ATP + East & West USA	-----	56.99
ATP 3D Advanced Graphic System	27.99	-----
ATP Canada - Montreal	19.99	19.99
ATP Canada - Toronto	19.99	19.99
ATP Great Britain or California	24.99	-----
ATP E or W USA Scenery (EGA)	29.99	-----
ATP E or W USA Scenery (VGA)	34.99	34.99
ATP Flight Controls Driver v1.0	17.99	-----
ATP Japan or Hawaiian Scenery	16.99	-----
ATP New Facilities Locator	12.99	-----
ATP Chicago/St Louis/Cincinnati	13.99	-----
ATP Detroit/Lake Huron	13.99	-----
ATP New York/Montreal/Halifax	13.99	-----
ATP Western European Tour	16.99	-----
Award Winners Platinum (Compilation)	22.99	-----
B17 Flying Fortress	12.99	12.99
Battle Bugs	22.99	26.99
Battlechess Compilation	-----	29.99
Battledrome - Metal Tech	26.99	-----
Battle Isle 2	26.99	27.99
Battle Isle 2 Titans Legacy	-----	17.99
BC Racers	22.99	22.99
Beat the House	22.99	-----
Beneath A Steel Sky	22.99	32.99
Bioforge	-----	36.99
Blackhawk	26.99	29.99
Blind Date	-----	26.99
Blitzkrieg	8.99	8.99
Bloodnet	27.99	27.99
Bloodstone	-----	12.99
Breach 3	26.99	26.99
Bridge Champion - Omar Sharif	26.99	26.99
Bridge Olympiad	27.99	-----
Bureau 13	26.99	26.99
Burning Rubber	19.99	-----
Burntime	19.99	19.99
Cadillacs & Dinosaurs	-----	29.99
Caesar Deluxe	12.99	-----
Cannon Fodder/Beneath a Steel Sky	-----	29.99
CANNON FODDER 2	22.99	-----
Cartoon Carnival	-----	17.99
Celebrity Poker	26.99	26.99
Champ Manager End of Season	11.99	-----
CHAMP MANAGER ITALIA 95	19.99	-----
Champions of Sport	13.99	13.99
Chessmaster 4000 (Windows)	22.99	26.99
Civil War - Fields of Glory 2	-----	29.99
Civilisation DOS or Windows	26.99	-----
Civilisation/Railroad Tycoon	-----	19.99
CLASSIC COLL - DELPHINE	19.99	-----
CLASSIC COLL - LUCAS ARTS	19.99	-----
Classic Collection (Interplay)	-----	26.99
Club Football - The Manager	22.99	-----
Cluedo/Risk/Monopoly/Scrabble	12.99	-----
Colossus Compilation	12.99	14.99
COLONISATION	29.99	29.99
Combat Air Patrol	26.99	29.99
Combat Classics 3	22.99	22.99
Commander Maximum	22.99	26.99
Command Adventures Starship	19.99	19.99
Complete Chess System 2	26.99	26.99
Conquered Kingdoms	27.99	-----
Conspiracy Overkill	-----	32.99
Coral Reef (Windows)	26.99	-----
Covergirl Poker	12.99	12.99
Creature Shock	-----	31.99
Cyber Judas	-----	27.99
Cyberace	27.99	-----
Cyberia	-----	32.99
Cyberspace	26.99	26.99
Cyberworlds	22.99	22.99
Darker	19.99	-----
Daring To Fly (Windows)	26.99	-----
Day Of The Tentacle	16.99	26.99
Day Of The Tent/Indy/Sam & Max	29.99	-----
Damnesia	-----	29.99
Damocles	22.99	29.99
DARK FORCES	-----	36.99
Dark Seed 2	-----	26.99
DAUGHTER OF SERPANTS	12.99	-----
Dawn Patrol	27.99	27.99
Deathgate	-----	26.99
Delta 7	27.99	27.99
Deluxe Strip Poker 1 & 2	12.99	12.99
Descent	26.99	29.99
Desert Strike	22.99	22.99
Detroit	26.99	-----
Digital Dreamware	-----	14.99
Digital Love	-----	12.99
Discworld	-----	32.99
Dominus	27.99	29.99
Doom	25.99	-----
Doom Add - Ons	-----	17.99
Doom Addons (Wolfdoom etc)	8.99	-----
Doom Companion Edition	-----	13.99
Doom Data Disk 1 or 2 or 3 or 4	8.99	-----
Doom Hint Book	12.99	-----
Doom Utilities + 900	-----	17.99
Doom Wads of Wads	-----	12.99
Doom 1/2 Accessory Pack	-----	17.99
Doom 2	32.99	36.99
Doom 2 Cheats	4.99	-----
Doom 2 Extra Levels Vol 1	8.99	-----
Doom 2 Editor Pack	8.99	-----
DUNE 1 OR 2	12.99	13.99
Dungeon Master 2	26.99	29.99
Earth Siege	-----	29.99
Ecstatica	-----	27.99
Elder scrolls	27.99	27.99
Elite +	12.99	12.99
Elite 2	26.99	28.99
Emperor's New Clothes	-----	13.99
ENCARTA 1995	-----	59.99
Essential Guide to Better Sex	-----	19.99
Excellent Games (Compilation)	26.99	-----
Extractors	-----	27.99
Eye of the Beholder 1 or 2 or 3	12.99	-----
F1 Manager	16.99	19.99
F117A Stealthfighter	12.99	12.99
F14 Fleet Defender	27.99	29.99
F14 Fleet Defender/Subwar 2050	29.99	-----
F14 FLEET DEFENDER DATA DISK	13.99	-----
F15 Strike Eagle 2 or 3	12.99	12.99
F19 Stealthfighter	12.99	12.99
Falcon 3.0	12.99	12.99
Falcon Gold	-----	29.99
Fields Of Glory	22.99	22.99
FIFA International Soccer	26.99	26.99
Fighter Wing	29.99	29.99
First Encounters/Elite 3	26.99	27.99
Fist	-----	16.99
Fifth Fleet	27.99	-----
Flight Commander 2	27.99	29.99
FLIGHT SIMULATOR 5	29.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Canada - Montreal (v5.0)	19.99	19.99
F Sim 5 - Canada - Toronto (v5.0)	19.99	19.99
F Sim 5 - Caribbean Scenery	15.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Eastern England	19.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Europe 1	19.99	-----
F Sim 5 - GEE Scenery Library	19.99	-----
F Sim 4/5 - Grand Canyon Scenery	7.99	-----
F Sim 4/5 - Hawaii or Tahiti Scenery	7.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Italy or Washington	19.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Japan Scenery	15.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Las Vegas	22.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Midlands Combo	29.99	-----
F Sim 5 - New York or Paris	19.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Ralleye Around the World	22.99	-----
F Sim 5 - S East England (London)	16.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Scotland	19.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Southern England Combo	26.99	-----
F Sim 5 - South West England	16.99	-----
F SIM 5 - UNITED KINGDOM	49.99	39.99
F Sim 5 - West or East USA (v5.0)	34.99	34.99
F Sim 5 - West USA Scenery	29.99	-----
F Sim 5 - Western England	19.99	-----
Flight Unlimited	29.99	32.99
Flight Light	16.99	16.99
Flight Light Plus	24.99	27.99
Football Glory	22.99	22.99
Formula 1 Grand Prix	12.99	12.99
Fortress of Dr Radiaki	26.99	26.99
Front Lines	26.99	26.99
Front Page Sports Baseball	26.99	26.99
Front Page Sports Football 3	26.99	26.99
Full Throttle	-----	32.99
Gabriel Knight	14.99	27.99
Ghosts	-----	29.99
Gingerbread Man	-----	28.99
Golf (Domark)	-----	29.99
Graham Gooch Cricket	22.99	22.99
Graham Gooch - 94/95 Data Disk	8.99	-----
Graham Gooch - Battle for the Ashes	8.99	-----
Great Naval Battles 2	26.99	26.99
Gremlin Triple Compilation	-----	19.99
Grooves (Royalty Free Music)	-----	29.99
Guilty	22.99	29.99
Gunship 2000	12.99	12.99
Hammer of the Gods	-----	26.99
Hardball 4	26.99	26.99
Harpoon 1	12.99	12.99
Harpoon 2 v2.0	29.99	-----
Harpoon 2 Cold War Battleset	15.99	-----
Harpoon 2 West Pacific Battleset	15.99	-----
Harrier Jump Jet	12.99	12.99
Hell	-----	29.99
High Seas Trader	26.99	26.99
Hired Guns	27.99	-----
History Line	26.99	27.99
Hokum & Hex	26.99	-----
Hoyles Book of Games 1 or 2 or 3	10.99	-----
Image Wheehouse (Royalty Free)	-----	29.99
Hunters of Ralk	27.99	27.99
International Open Tennis	-----	27.99
Indy Car Racing	19.99	-----
Indy Car Track Pack	12.99	-----
Inferno	27.99	31.99
Inherit The Earth	26.99	-----
Innocent Until Caught 2	26.99	-----
Inordinate Desire	16.99	16.99
Iron Assault	-----	24.99
Iron Forces	-----	29.99
Jazz Jack Rabbit	22.99	24.99
Jetstrike	22.99	22.99
Jimmy White's Whirlwind Snooker	12.99	13.99
J Nicklaus Signature Edition	-----	12.99
Jungle Strike	22.99	22.99
Jurassic Park	12.99	-----
Key Action Traveller (Windows)	-----	29.99
Key Garden Planner (Windows)	-----	29.99
Key Gourmet (Windows)	-----	26.99
Key Home Designer (Windows)	-----	29.99
Key Sound Studio (Windows)	-----	29.99
Kick Off 3 - Euro Champs	19.99	19.99
Kingdom	-----	26.99
Kingpin	12.99	12.99
Kings Quest 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5	12.99	-----
Kings Quest 1 - 6 Collection	-----	29.99
Kings Quest 7	-----	29.99
KLIK AND PLAY	26.99	26.99
Kyrandia 3	-----	27.99
Leading Lap	27.99	27.99
Legions (DOS or Windows)	22.99	-----
Leisure Suit Larry 1 or 2 or 3	12.99	-----
Leisure Suit Larry 1 - 6 Collection	-----	29.99
Lemmings Double Pack	27.99	27.99
Lemmings 1 & 2	-----	19.99
Lemmings 3	22.99	26.99
Link Worlds	12.99	12.99
Links 386 Pro	29.99	29.99
Links Banff or Belfry	16.99	-----
Links Big Horn or Pebble Beach	16.99	-----
Links Castle Pines or Firestone	16.99	-----
Links Innisbrook or Mauna Kea	16.99	-----
LINKS PRAIRIE DUNES (SVGA)	16.99	17.99
Lion King	22.99	-----
LITTLE BIG ADVENTURE	-----	34.99
Live Action Football	26.99	26.99
Loadstar	-----	29.99
Loderunner	22.99	26.99
Lords Of Midnight	-----	22.99
Lords Of The Realm	26.99	26.99
Lost Eden	-----	31.99
LOTTERY TREND ANALYSIS V2.0	17.99	-----
MAGIC CARPET	-----	34.99
Manchester Utd The Double	22.99	22.99
Maniac Sports	-----	26.99
Master of Magic	26.99	-----
Match Day Manager	10.99	12.99
Mechwarrior 2	27.99	-----
Menzoberranzan	27.99	27.99
Metal Marines (Windows)	22.99	-----
Microsoft Cinemania '95	-----	39.99
Micro Machines	19.99	-----
Military Masterpieces	-----	22.99
Monopoly	22.99	-----
Mortal Kombat	22.99	-----
Myst	-----	34.99
Mystic Midway	-----	12.99
NASCAR	26.99	26.99
Navy Strike	27.99	-----
NHL Hockey '95	-----	27.99
Nigel Mansell's World Championship	8.99	12.99
Noctropolis	-----	32.99
Novastorm	-----	32.99
Old Timer	-----	22.99
On the Ball W Cup or League Ed	22.99	26.99
Operation Body Count	19.99	19.99
Operation Crusader	27.99	29.99
Outpost v2.0	-----	31.99
Overdrive	13.99	-----
Overlord	26.99	-----
Pacific Strike	24.99	-----
Panzer General	27.99	27.99
Peter Gabriel Explorer	-----	32.99
PGA Tour Golf 486	-----	34.99
Pinball Dreams	22.99	25.99
Pinball Fantasies	24.99	25.99
PIZZA TYCOON	29.99	29.99
Playboy Screensaver	-----	22.99
Police Quest 1 or 2 or 3	12.99	12.99
Populous 2	12.99	-----
Powerdrive	19.99	19.99
Powergame 2	24.99	-----
Powermonger	11.99	-----
Powerslide	-----	27.99
Power Hoose	26.99	26.99
Power Tactics	22.99	-----
PREMIER MANAGER 3	22.99	22.99
Premier Manager Multi Edit System	10.99	-----
Prince Interactive	-----	36.99
PSYCHO PINBALL	22.99	-----
Pyrotechnica	19.99	-----
QEMM GAMERUNNER	39.99	-----
QEMM V8.0	59.99	-----
QUARTERDECK CLEANSWEEP	34.99	-----
Radioactive	-----	27.99
Railroad Tycoon	12.99	12.99
Railroad Tycoon Deluxe	26.99	-----
Raptor	22.99	22.99
Ravenloft II - Stone Prophet	27.99	27.99
Reach For The Skies	12.99	-----
Rebel Assault	-----	29.99
Red Shift	-----	44.99
Renegade	-----	24.99
Retribution	26.99	26.99
Return To Ringworld	19.99	21.99
Rise of the Robots (SVGA)	27.99	29.99
RISE OF THE TRIADS	22.99	22.99
Rugby League Manager	16.99	-----
Ryder Cup	10.99	-----
Sabre Team	19.99	19.99
Sam & Max Hit The Road	16.99	26.99
Scrabble	20.99	-----
Secret Of Monkey Island 1	12.99	12.99
Secret Of Monkey Island 1 or 2	12.99	-----
Secret Weapons Of The Luftwaffe	12.99	-----
SWOTL P38 or He162 D/Disk	12.99	-----
Saga Of Aces (Compilation)	-----	29.99
Seaworthy	22.99	22.99
SENSIBLE GOLF	22.99	-----
Sensible Soccer International	13.99	13.99
SENSIBLE WORLD OF SOCCER	19.99	26.99
Settlers	26.99	-----
She Queen Death Machine	16.99	-----
Sherman M4	-----	26.99
Sherrington Fox	-----	29.99
Shoot'em Off	17.99	19.99
Silent Service 2	12.99	12.99
Sim City 2000	26.99	27.99
Sim City 2000 Scenarios - Vol 1	12.99	-----
Sim City Deluxe	22.99	-----
Sim Classics Compilation	27.99	-----
Simon the Sorcerer 2	26.99	27.99
Simon The Sorcerer	26.99	26.99
Slipstream 5000	26.99	27.99
Soccer Kid	19.99	19.99
Space Academy	22.99	27.99
Space Ace	-----	26.99
Space Federation	26.99	-----
Space Hulk	12.99	32.99
Space Quest 1 or 2 or 3	12.99	-----
Space Quest Collection	-----	29.99
Space Simulator	29.99	-----
Spaceship Warlock	-----	29.99
Speedball 2	8.99	-----
Speed Racer	26.99	-----
Spectre VR	27.99	29.99
Stalingrad	27.99	29.99
Star Crusader	27.99	27.99
Star Reach	26.99	-----
Star Trail Realms of Arkania 2	27.99	27.99
Star Trek 2 Judgement Rites	26.99	-----
Star Trek Technical Manual	-----	29.99
Star Trek The Next Generation	-----	31.99
Stardust Super Edition	17.99	-----
Stereoworld	19.99	19.99
Streetfighter 2	12.99	-----
Strike Commander	26.99	32.99
Strip Pot	19.99	19.99
Stonekeep	-----	32.99
Subwar 2050	27.99	27.99
SUPER KARTS	29.99	32.99
Superfrog	13.99	-----
Superstreetfighter 2	20.99	-----
Superhero League of Hoboken	26.99	26.99
Syndicate	26.99	32.99
Syndicate Data Disk	13.99	-----
System Shock	27.99	32.99
TACOPS (Windows)	26.99	-----
Tactical Man English or Scottish	22.99	-----
TACTICAL MANAGER 94/95 D/ D	12.99	-----
Tank Commander	-----	26.99
Tarzan	16.99	-----
Task Force 1942	12.99	12.99
Team Yankee	12.99	12.99
Temptation (Compilation)	-----	29.99
Terminator 2 - Judgement Day	8.99	-----
Test Pilot	-----	26.99
TFX	27.99	29.99
The Big Red Adventure	26.99	26.99
The Blue And The Gray	26.99	26.99
Theme Park	27.99	27.99
The Clue	22.99	22.99
The Horde	-----	24.99
THE JOYS OF SEX	-----	26.99
The Last Dynasty	-----	32.99
The Louvre	-----	29.99
The Orion Conspiracy	-----	26.99
The Psychotron	-----	32.99
The Ring Cycle	-----	29.99
The Scottish Open	-----	26.99
The Scroll	-----	29.99
Thumbelina	-----	13.99
Tie Fighter	27.99	-----
Tie Fighter - Defender of the Empire	13.99	-----
Tie Fighter - Mission Disk 2	13.99	-----
Tie Ni Nog	-----	29.99
Tom Landry Strategy Football	19.99	-----
Tornado & Falcon 3.0	26.99	26.99
Tower Assault	19.99	22.99
Track Suit Manager	16.99	-----
Trans Express	22.99	22.99
TRANSPORT TYCOON	27.99	27.99
Transport Tycoon World Editor	14.99	-----
Trance Mission	-----	16.99
Turning Points	12.99	12.99
UFO Enemy Unknown	27.99	27.99
UFO / Master of Orion	-----	29.99
UK NAVY FIGHTERS	-----	34.99
Ultima 7 Complete	-----	32.99
Ultima 7 (The Black Gate)	12.99	-----
Ultima 7 (Serpant Isle)	25.99	-----
Ultima 8 (Pagan)	22.99	34.99
Ultima 8 (Lost Vale)	14.99	-----
Ultima Underworld	12.99	-----
Ultima Underworld 1 & 2	-----	29.99
Ultimate Body Blows	19.99	19.99
Ultimate Soccer Manager	22.99	22.99
Under A Killing Moon	-----	39.99
Universal Warrior	12.99	13.99
Unnecessary Roughness	26.99	26.99
USS Ticonderoga	-----	29.99
Veil Of Darkness	24.99	-----
Virtual Chess	-----	27.99
Virtual Worlds	29.99	-----
Virtuoso	-----	26.99
Vital Light (Windows)	19.99	-----
Voyages of Discovery	16.99	22.99
Voyeur	-----	27.99
Wacky Wheels	-----	24.99
Warcraft Orcs & Humans	26.99	29.99
WEMBLEY RUGBY LEAGUE	19.99	-----
Win the Lottery	8.99	-----
Wing Armada	27.99	32.99
Wing Commander Academy	10.99	-----
Wing Commander 1	11.99	-----
WING COMMANDER 2	13.99	-----
W Comm 2 Special Ops 1 & 2 + Speech	13.99	-----
Wing Commander 3	-----	35.99
Wings Of Glory	29.99	32.99
Wizardry 5,6 & 7 Compilation	27.99	-----
Wolfenstein 3D Companion Edition	-----	13.99
Wolfenstein 3D	13.99	-----
Wolfsbane	13.99	16.99
Woodruff & Schnibble	-----	27.99
World Cup Golf	-----	27.99
World Cup Year '94	-----	22.99
World of War	19.99	19.99
World Tennis	-----	22.99
Worlds at War	8.99	8.99
Worlds of Legend	14.99	14.99
Worms	19.99	22.99
Worms 2	32.99	32.99
X-WING - COLLECTION	27.99	32.99
Xenobots	10.99	-----
Zig Zag	27.99	-----
Zool 2	19.99	22.99
Zorro	26.99	26.99

SPECIAL OFFERS

7th Guest (OEM)	-----	16.99
Alien Logic (OEM)	-----	17.99
Alone In The Dark & Jack In Dark	-----	18.99
Betrayal at Krondor (OEM)	-----	18.99
Bloodnet (OEM)	-----	17.99
Board Genius	16.99	-----
Chessmaster 3000	14.99	14.99
Commander (OEM)	-----	19.99
Cyclones (OEM)	-----	17.99
Dark Legions (OEM)	-----	16.99
Dark Sun 1 Shadow of the Ravager OEM	-----	17.99
Dark Sun 2 Shattered Lands (OEM)	-----	17.99
Day Of The Tentacle (OEM)	-----	19.99
Dogfight	12.99	12.99
Dune (OEM)	-----	15.99
Eight Ball Deluxe Pinball	16.99	-----
Gabriel Knight (OEM)	-----	17.99
Great Naval Battles 2 (OEM)	-----	17.99
Hand of Fate (OEM)	-----	18.99
INDY CAR RACING (OEM)	-----	13.99
Jutland (OEM)	-----	16.99
Kings Quest 6 (OEM)	-----	14.99
Lands of Lore (OEM)	-----	14.99
Leisure Suit Larry 6 (OEM)	-----	18.99
Lost in Time (Parts 1 & 2)	16.99	-----
Mad Dog McCree 1 or 2 (OEM)	-----	16.99
Menzoberranzan (OEM)	-----	17.99
Outpost (OEM)	-----	21.99
Panzer General (OEM)	-----	17.99
Pirates Gold	-----	12.99
Ravenloft (OEM)	-----	17.99
Rebel Assault (OEM)	-----	22.99
Red Baron	-----	19.99
Red Baron Data Disk	9.99	-----
Return Of The Phantom	12.99	-----
Shadowworlds	9.99	-----
Subwar 2050 (OEM)	-----	17.99
UFO (OEM)	-----	17.99
TFX (OEM)	-----	19.99
The Shadow Of Yserbius	9.99	-----
Tornado + Desert Storm	9.99	9.99
Wing Commander (OEM)	5.99	-----
World Class Rugby (Five Nations)	9.99	-----
Vikings	9.99	-----
Yo Joe	7.99	-----
Zool	9.99	9.99

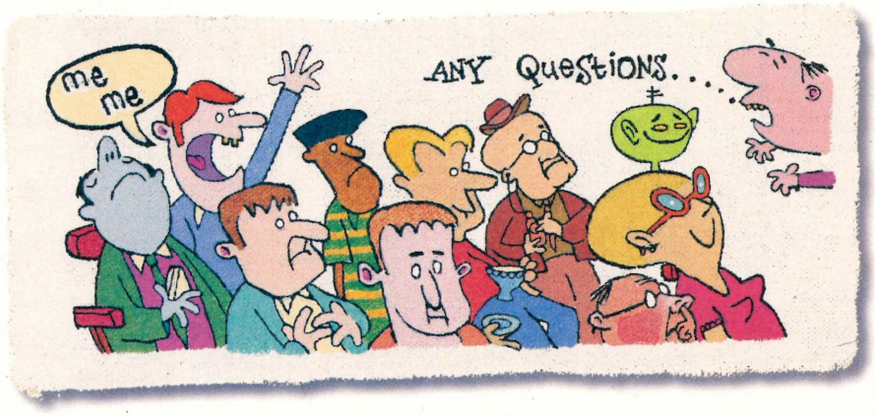
JOYSTICKS & ACCESSORIES

2M Parallel Printer Cable	-----	2.99
3M Parallel Printer Cable	-----	4.99
3M Parallel Printer Cable	-----	9.99
10M Parallel Printer Cable	-----	9.99
3 Button Serial Mouse	-----	9.99
CH FLIGHTSTICK	-----	29.99
CH FLIGHTSTICK PRO	-----	59.99
CH Pro Pedals	-----	79.99
CH Virtual Pilot	-----	64.99
CH Virtual Pilot Pro	-----	79.99
Disk Box (10 Capacity)	-----	1.99
Disk Box (40 Capacity)	-----	5.99
Disk Box (50 Capacity)	-----	6.99
Disk Box (80 Capacity)	-----	7.99
Disk Box (100 Capacity)	-----	9.99
Disk Drive Cleaning Kit 3.5"	-----	1.99
Freewheel Analog Steering Wheel	-----	27.99
FreeFlight Analog Throttle	-----	19.99
Gravis Analog Joystick	-----	29.99
GRAVIS ANALOG PRO JOYSTICK	-----	39.99
Gravis Dual Eliminator PC Gameport	-----	24.99
Gravis PC Gamepad	-----	19.99
Gravis Phoenix Flight & Weapon Control	-----	99.99
Joystick Extension Cable	-----	7.99
Keyboard	19.99	19.99
Keyboard Extension Cable	4.99	-----
Logic 3 Tornado-JT251 (Analog)	-----	12.99
Logic 3 Delta-Ray-JT256 (Digital)	-----	12.99
Mains Extension Lead/Coupler	-----	3.99
Mains Lead Moulded	-----	3.99
Microsoft IP-Serial/PS2 Mouse	-----	44.99
Microsoft Home Mouse + Pack	-----	49.99
Microsoft Natural Keyboard	-----	79.99
Monitor VGA/SVGA Extension Cable	-----	4.99
Mouse Extension Cable	-----	4.99
Mousehouse	-----	1.99
Mousemat	-----	1.99
MT Speakers 2x5 watt-SBC600	-----	19.99
Panasonic CR562 Kit	-----	129.99
Panasonic CR562 Pro	-----	139.99
Q/Joy PC Joystick Switchable-Analog/Digital	-----	29.99
Quickjoy PC Raider-SV206 (Analog)	-----	9.99
Quickjoy PC Propad-SV230	-----	10.99
Quickjoy PC Fighter MS-SV201	-----	13.99
Quickjoy PC Connection MS-SV202	-----	9.99
Quickjoy PC Topstar-SV227 (Digital)	-----	17.99
Quickjoy PC Commander-SV207	-----	16.99
Saitek Megagrip 3-MX230 (Analog)	12.99	-----
Saitek Megagrip 7-MX732 (Analog)	13.99	-----
Saitek Megagrip 8-MX734 (Digital)	-----	14.99
Saitek Megastick 3-MX130 (Digital)	-----	8.99
Screenbeat 3 Speakers - SB203	-----	12.99
Screenbeat 4 Speakers - SB204	-----	11.99
Screenbeat 5 Speakers - SB205	-----	11.99
Screenbeat Pro 50 Speakers - SB250	-----	32.99
Screenbeat Mains Adaptor	-----	7.99
50-50 Speakers (8 Watt RMS Built In)	-----	34.99
Soundblaster CD Multimedia Office	-----	519.99
Soundblaster CDROM Upgrade	-----	119.99
Soundblaster Discovery	-----	399.99
Soundblaster Discovery CD16	-----	299.99
Soundblaster Gameblaster CD16	-----	299.99
Soundblaster v2 Value SB-0100	-----	39.99
Soundblaster Pro Value SB-1600	-----	69.99
Soundblaster Video Blaster	-----	239.99
Soundblaster Video Blaster SE	-----	219.99
Soundblaster Video Blaster FS200	-----	299.99
Soundblaster 16 Value SB-2770	-----	89.99
Soundblaster 16 SCSI-2 Value	-----	149.99
Soundblaster 16 Multi CD	-----	119.99
Soundblaster 16 Multi CD ASP	-----	149.99
Soundblaster 16 SCSI-2 ASP	-----	179.99
SOUNDBLASTER 32 AWE	-----	239.99
Suncom Command Control Pad	-----	13.99
Suncom Dual Joystick Adaptor	-----	6.99
SUNCOM FX2000 (ANALOG)	-----	19.99
Suncom Flightmax (Analog)	-----	27.99
Suncom G-Force Yoke	-----	49.99

EDUCATIONAL

10 out of 10 Dinosaurs (All Ages)	18.99	18.99
10 out of 10 Driving Test (Learners)	18.99	18.99
10 out of 10 Early Essentials (3-7)	18.99	18.99
10 out of 10 English (6-16)	18.99	18.99
10 out of 10 French (8-19)	18.99	18.99
10 out of 10 Junior Essentials (5-11)	18.99	18.99
10 out of 10 Maths - Algebra (6-16)	18.99	-----
10 out of 10 Maths - Number (6-16)	18.99	18.99
Add & Subtract (4-8 Years)	9.99	-----
ADI GCSE Maths, English or French	22.99	-----
ADI Reading 4-5 or 6-7	17.99	-----
Animal Alphabet	-----	22.99
Beauty And The Beast (OEM)	-----	14.99
Berlitz Think & Talk French	-----	99.99
Berlitz Think & Talk German	-----	99.99
Berlitz Think & Talk Italian	-----	99.99
Berlitz Think & Talk Spanish	-----	99.99
Better Maths (12-16 Years)	13.99	-----
Better Spelling (8+ Years)	13.99	-----
Biology (12-16 Years)	13.99	-----
Butterflies of the World	-----	22.99
Cave Maze (8-13 Years)	10.99	-----
Chemistry (12-16 Years)	13.99	-----
Cute & Cuddlies	-----	22.99
Creepy Crawlies	22.99	22.99
Dictionary of the Living World	-----	30.99
Dinosaurs (MD)	-----	29.99
DK Encyclopedia of Nature	-----	44.99

Q&A



This month Mike James answers questions on video editing, Blue Lightning and proffers career advice for would be programmers.

Where did all the costumes go?

Q I have a game called Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis. I have got a long way into it. But I have a problem when in the third circle of Atlantis at the colossus of Nar-ab-sal. At this point there is a peg that you must put on the stone disks, but when I get the combination right and the colossus starts, suddenly everything stops and a message says:

COSTUME 29 NOT IN ROOM 40
AT 4129932 + 160371

If I then press a key or the mouse the screen goes back to the DOS command line. Please tell me what is wrong and if there are any possible solutions. For example, will loading the game again from the original disks help?

George Pontikis
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire

A *This is a common problem with this particular game, and the cause of the problem is usually either with the disk compression or a shortage of conventional memory. You don't say if your hard disk is compressed, but if it is, try installing the game on the uncompressed partition. If you are not using a compressed drive then the only thing I can suggest is to try to increase the amount of conventional memory available. As long as you are using MS-DOS 6 this is just a matter of running Memmaker. Unfortunately, if you are using an earlier version of DOS you will have to do the job manually.*

More Format tricks

Q Further to Steve Mayve's letter in the March issue of PC Review, I have a bit of extra information that might be useful concerning the Format command and its undocumented parameters (floppy disks only):

The following are supported in MS-DOS V4.0 and later version:

- /BACKUP *Skips the 'Insert new diskette for drive A: and press ENTER when ready' and the "Format another (Y/N)?" message.*
- /AUTOTEST *Skips the "Insert new diskette for drive A: and press ENTER when 'ready'" mes sage. Also suppresses the disk space report, error and "Volume label (11 characters, ENTER for none)?" messages.*

The following is supported in MS-DOS V3.3 only:

- /H *Skips the "Insert new diskette for drive A: and press ENTER when ready" message.*

Adrian Randles
Suffolk

A *Thanks for these insights into the use of the Format command. Their value really only becomes clear if you are trying to write a batch file that automatically formats disks.*

The ultimate video machine

Q I am a recent convert to the delightful world of PCs, having just installed a machine with a 486 DX2-66, a gig of hard drive and 8Mb of RAM.

At present it's just a souped up word processor, but I'm hoping in the near future to upgrade it to a non-linear editing suite. However, there doesn't seem to be too many options open to the serious video editor looking to work from home.

So my question is simply, where is the technology at present? And is there likely to be either a radical jump in technology or a pleasing price fall in the foreseeable future?

Philip Turpin
London

A *Yes, there are some radical jumps in the pipeline. The key is MPEG video compression. At the moment high quality video compression needs a super powerful computer. This usually puts it outside of the range of the desktop PC. At the moment all the chip makers are running around trying to be first with specialised chips that will perform MPEG decompression and compression in real time on a PC and are only having success with MPEG version I.*

To create a real non-linear editing suite based on a PC we need MPEG II compression/decompression so that you can store a good few minutes of high quality video in a reasonable number of Megabytes.

At the moment your best bet is probably to use a pair of video decks with code control and a copy of Video Director. This allows the PC to control the editing without the need to read the video signal in. If this isn't good enough for you then wait a while. How long? I'm not sure because things are moving quite rapidly at present, but I would be looking for the first breakthrough products in the coming year.

CorelCDX or MSCDEX?

Q If, like me, you are perplexed by the ability of your CD-ROM to chew up and throw out certain cover mounted CD-ROM discs, then the problem could be your CD driver.

I bought my CD-ROM drive from Silica Systems. It's the Dual Speed SCSI-2 Media vision CDR-H93 MV, one of their Amitek CD-ROM drive packs. I, like many people, am very happy with it — it's an excellent bundle that came crammed with software, at a good price, and works wonderfully with my Jazz 16-Bit SCSI-2 sound card.

But when I try to install certain CD-ROM cover disks, especially from within Windows, I get the message; ".inf file not found", or ".inf file corrupted".

If by pure luck, the cover disk loads, I'll cross my fingers and try to install a choice piece of software. At this point, my fingers will uncross, and my hand, with a will of its own, will slowly curl up into a fist shaped ball, and start thumping the monitor. For I'll get that dreaded ".inf file not found" message popping up before my eyes, followed shortly by, "unable to install application".

The problem is with the CD-ROM

driver supplied by Corel. The install script that came with the drive, sets it all up for you. It is also pre-installed on certain PC's by some manufacturers, notably Olivetti, ICL, and on some machines by Elonex.

The solution is to use the CD driver called MSCDEX, supplied by Microsoft. To do this you must edit your config.sys, or autoexec.bat, whichever contains the line Corelcdx.com. You can do this by using edit, or in Windows with notepad. First though, make a copy of the files for backup purposes.

Once that has been done, find the line containing Corelcdx.com and beginning with Device. It will include the complete path to the file. Change the name and path to:

device=c:\dos\mscdex.exe

Don't touch the parameters following it, these are very important. Now reboot your PC and it should work in exactly the same manner, but now it will be able to successfully run and install those problem CDs.

I hope a few people find this tip useful, and now that I've got my CD-ROM working correctly I'm busy going through all my cover disks again. I'm also trying to tear myself away from the fantastic shareware game — One Must Fall which wouldn't install before.

Mr D Rowland
Somerset

There aren't many people who use SCSI CD-ROMs any more — Mitsumi, Sony, Panasonic and now even IDE drives are cheaper, and usually just as fast. If you have got a SCSI drive however, then there is a good chance that you will be using the Corel SCSI interface software. The ASPI driver part of this software is the only sensible way of running a SCSI interface if you have more than one device connected. However, the early versions of Corelcdx was not entirely compatible with the standard Mscdex and until quite recently I would have advised readers to swap to Mscdex as Mr Rowland advises. Version 1.12a of Corelcdx does seem to work though.

So if you are getting read problems with your SCSI CD-ROM drive then try Mscdex or upgrade via the Corel SCSI kit.

How to be a professional programmer?

Q I would like to know what qualifications you need to be a professional programmer. I will soon be taking my options at school and am considering it as a possible career. I was also wondering if there was a book or some software that would teach or allow me to start programming games now. I have seen your review on Klik and Play, but I think that it looks a bit basic and limited, is it? Also, can you run a game you made in Klik and Play on a computer that does not have Klik and Play installed on it?

David Wright
Cheshire

A The strange truth is that you don't need any qualification to be a programmer as long as you can prove that you can do the job. It's the old story of "n years experience" needed for any reasonable job — and the problem, of course, is getting the experience in the first place.

If you teach yourself to program and are good at it, then you can demonstrate your abilities by showing off what you have written.

A more traditional approach is to take O and then A level computer science and then move on to a degree. But most computer science degree courses are happy to take you as long as you have A levels in science or maths, so you don't have to do computer science until then.

As for Klik and Play, I have to say that I think it's a lot of fun and yes, you can run games on a machine that doesn't have the Klik and Play installed. However this said if you want to be a "real" programmer you will have to move on to a "real" programming language. I would suggest Visual Basic or the very latest but slightly pricey Delphi language from Borland.

Blue lightning blues?

Q If I am sawn in half by my brother's silent chainsaw one more time, I'll scream. I'm talking about Doom II, my Sound Blaster Pro, IBM Blue Lightning and the complete lack of digital sound.

Having purchased a 486-DX66 powered by IBM Blue Lightning (BL2 Motherboard, DOS 6.22), it now appears to be incompatible with the latest software, Thus no digital sound on Doom II, Theme Park or the shareware versions of Heretic and the utterly brilliant Descent.

Now after trying every possible combination of DMA, interrupts and memory addresses, I telephoned the IBM Users Group who referred me to Creative Labs. After speaking to Creative Labs (Ireland) very helpful technical support team, I also got in touch with the shop that sold me the system, Computastore Belfast, who informed me that this was a "software problem". They claimed that games that run under this DOS protected mode were tested on Intel chip-sets, but not the likes of AMD, Cyrix or IBM Blue lightning and it would be up to the relevant software houses to provide patches that would allow the games to run on the Blue Lightning Systems.

Creative Labs then got back to me and reported that it had been told of numerous identical cases, where there was no digital sound with the IBM Blue Lightning machines. However IBM (UK) themselves appear to be reluctant to consider this problem and Creative Labs, Ireland have since informed me that they are hoping for a better response from IBM (France).

Through your magazine, I hoped to highlight this problem and to enquire as to the true state of affairs. Are "IBM compatibles" really more compatible with today's software that IBM machines themselves? Will software companies produce these patches to remedy the situation or is it actually a hardware difficulty unique to the Blue Lightning set-up?

Gavin Browne
Belfast

A I cannot believe that this is a compatibility problem caused by the non-Intel nature of the Blue Lightning chip — but in the PC world, all things are at least possible!

Digital audio only requires the transfer of data from CD-ROM to the sound card and I cannot think of any way that an incompatibility in the processor could cause problems with this. If it did, then there would be a lot more evidence of the incompatibility, as this is a very basic and common operation.

If there is a problem, it probably lies in the way that DMA data transfer is handled or some problem with the setup of the expansion bus. Try the Sound Blaster diagnostic program — Test-sbc or Test-sbp. If it is true that only digital sound is a problem, then this really does point the finger of suspicion at the DMA channel in use.

Digital sound will only work if it is allocated to an OK DMA channel, whereas FM sound effects don't make use of it. Try a different DMA channel — but make sure that the DRQ number is always the same as the DACK number. If this doesn't work then see if there is a way of slowing down the expansion bus — you need to use the BIOS setup.

There is small possibility that there is something wrong with the digital sound driver CT-Voice.drv — but this would generally result in some sort of error message not just silence. Finally don't forget that it isn't enough to just change the port, IRQ and DMA jumpers on the board — you also have to run the installation program or Set-env to make sure that the environment parameters are updated. Otherwise software gets very confused about where your Sound Blaster lives.

On the point about IBM compatibility — it has long been the case that real IBM machines are less compatible with the "IBM" standard than any other. They even made a sales pitch out of it by building PS/2 machines that were very different! If any one knows of any incompatibilities in the Blue Lightning motherboard please write in and let us know too.

Low cost C

Q I have recently decided to start learning C as I have always been interested in writing applications and games. But unfortunately, being a student, I cannot afford a high-tech program such as Turbo C. I have therefore decided to use a shareware compiler called PCC which I found on a cover disk from ages ago. The problem I have encountered are files called *.h files. All C

programs 'declare' them at the start of the program, but I don't seem to have the files I need. I have noticed especially the files DOS.H and ALLOC.H missing from my compiler which I apparently need so that the program will work. I have tried replacing these with the *.h files I had included with the compiler, but with no avail.

Is this an unsolvable flaw with the program, or can I just get a copy of these files and replace the files I've already got with them? One final question: do I need a faster C compiler for graphics manipulation, like fast sprite movement and so on, or can I use an ordinary compiler?

Andrew Hodges, Bristol.

A The PCC compiler is an excellent starter compiler for anyone wanting to learn C programming. As it is shareware you can try it out for 30 days before you have to register it. However, it is a very simple compiler and doesn't have the extras found in Turbo C and Microsoft C.

Files that end in .h are header files that define libraries of functions that you can use in your programs. PCC comes with four — Stdio and math being the most important. Judging by the fact that you are asking for Alloc and DOS you are probably using a book that assumes you have Turbo C. The Alloc library has functions which allocate memory and the DOS library calls for DOS routines.

It is extremely unlikely that the function libraries supplied with other compilers would work with PCC. You could code your own, but to do this you have to be more than a beginner. The simplest solution is to get hold of a book that doesn't assume that you are using a particular C compiler. Finally, you don't need a faster C compiler — PCC produces very fast code, easily fast enough for graphics. However you probably do need a more fully featured compiler, complete with a graphics library.

MIDI problems

Q Recently I have purchased Sound Blaster Pro for my 486 DX PC. I was very pleased with the sound that I got with my games. However, I also brought a MIDI cable so that I could record from my keyboard. It didn't work. I was told to put the midi in from cable to the midi out from the keyboard and vice versa with the other socket. Still no sound. I then checked to see if the port was switched on by connecting my joystick to it, it was on. Help.

Alex Luketa Chelmsford

A You don't really supply enough information about exactly what you have done to try to get your MIDI working. But if you want to connect your Sound Blaster Pro to a MIDI keyboard then the simplest solution is to buy Creative Lab's MIDI kit, MIDI box or MIDI cable adapter. The MIDI cable adapter is the cheapest and will allow you to connect to a single MIDI device while still using the joystick port. To make it work you need to connect the out socket on the adapter/box to the in socket on the keyboard and the in socket on the adapter/box to the out socket on the keyboard — in other words always connect In to Out.

Your next problem is getting the software to work. As you don't mention which software you are using it is impossible for me to be precise. If you haven't bought any special software then you might be using the Intelligent Organ that comes with Sound Blaster Pro. This can be used to record MIDI input from the keyboard — simply press F8, F5 to select MIDI mode. The problem is that while it will record from the keyboard it doesn't playback via the keyboard. When you play back, the music is reproduced over the Sound Blaster's speakers. You also need to leave MIDI mode before trying to play the tune back.

If you have Windows, a simple test of a MIDI setup is to use the Media Player (Accessories group) to play the standard MIDI file Canyon.mid. If you hear this through the Sound Blaster's speakers then you need to use MIDI Mapper (found in the Control Panel in the Main group) to select the MIDI Out Port.

Q&A UPDATE

Multimedia woes

Just at the moment it seems that the incompatibility problems encountered in running programs is actually getting worse! A while ago I wrote about new developments in plug-and-play that promised to make it easy to set up new devices such as sound cards, without the trouble of allocating IRQ numbers. However this is really only the start of the problem. It is now becoming increasingly common to discover that some piece of software or other simply refuses to work on a machine that had been considered to be perfectly configured. Not only is the failure rate on perfectly configured machines increasing, but it also raises the issue of what constitutes a standard machine.

Until quite recently the most common questions in my postbag were about finding enough conventional memory to run games. Most games seemed to need ridiculously large amounts of conventional memory and finding it either entailed using a "clean boot" disk or some very technical feats of juggling device drivers into high memory. In nearly all cases though, once the required amount of memory was available the program ran and more or less worked as advertised. Now things seem to be changing yet again and there are two reasons.

The first is that more and more programs are adopting the "multimedia" style. They expect standard Windows machines with the addition of a CD-ROM and a sound system. This approach gets rid of one headache — they no longer demand large chunks of conventional memory. However, this said, many of the new multimedia programs are upping the amount of memory that they expect to be installed. Once 4Mb was more than enough. Now many of them complain that they can't do their sound or speech output if you only have 4Mb — and 8Mb seems to be the new standard.

This isn't too bad as long as you can afford the extra, but there are completely new problems beginning to appear. One of the really good things about Windows is that applications don't need to know what sort of graphics card you have installed because all Windows applications "talk" to the hardware via the standard Windows graphics interface — the GDI. Unfortunately some multimedia applications aren't really playing fair because they expect certain features to be present. If they aren't, then instead of telling you what's wrong, they simply hang or run with a screen full of garbage. For example, many programs demand that Windows is setup in a 256 colour SVGA mode and if you run them in a 16-colour mode the result is a blank screen. Others really hate high resolution SVGA modes and will crash if you try to run them using a 1024x768 mode no matter how many colours it has!

The second problem concerns the new generation of DOS based games. Many of these are now using DOS extenders such as DOS4GW or DOS16M and so on. In principle this is a good step because a DOS extender allows a program to use as much extended memory as a machine has and so does away with the problem of having to find enough conventional memory. Fine in theory, but in practice this means that the machine has to be switched from real to protected mode and then back again, and in some cases this doesn't seem to be working properly. A machine that has been happy running Windows and all manner of DOS programs then suddenly becomes a problem, because a particular DOS extender doesn't know how to switch it from real to protected mode and then back again. Of course, the problem is that this little hiccup stops the machine running all of the games that use that particular DOS extender! This is a problem that I am looking into at the moment and I hope to be able to have some suggestions on solving the problem in the near future. In the meantime, if you have a DOS extender problem or know something useful about getting them working then please write to me.

❍ Mike James

Back Issues

Missing some of our previous editions? You can order back issues from Pc Review, Back Issues Department, Tower House, Sovereign Park, Lapkill Street, Market Harborough, Leicester LE16 9EF.

Back issues cost £4.95 (£5.95 CD ROM edition) each if you're ordering from the UK. For airmail delivery to Ireland and Continental Europe, the price is £5.95, and the rest of the world £7.95, including postage and packing. Please make your payment by cheque or credit card - don't send cash through the post.

Issues 1-23
Sold out

Issue 21, July 1993
Syndicate, Prince of Persia 2
5.25" disk edition sold out.

Issue 24, October 1993
Take your PC apart, Simon the Sorcerer, Dune CD On Disk Body Blows
5.25" disk edition sold out.

Issue 25, November 1993
Top 100 games 1993, TFX, Jurassic Park, Street Fighter II. On disk Starlord, Ancients.
5.25" disk edition sold out.

Issue 26, December 1993
486 PCs buyers guide. Frontier: Elite 2 Return to Zork reviewed. On disk Snapgrafx, Global Domination.

Issue 29, March 1994
Sound card buyer's guide. Gabriel Knight, Doom, Sim City 2000 reviewed. On disk: Cardshop Plus

Issue 30, April 1994
Educational software, Windows 3.11. UFO, BloodNet, Lawnmower Man reviewed. On Disk Sim City 2000.

PC REVIEW BACK ISSUES

Please send me the following back issues of PC Review:..... (inset issue number(s) here) with 5.25" ☐ 3.5" ☐ CD ROM ☐

I enclose a cheque ☐ postal order ☐ made payable to Emap Images for £.....

(UK rates: £4.95 (disk edition)/£5.95 (CD-ROM edition): Ireland and Continental Europe, £5.95 and to the rest of the world £7.95. Prices include postage and packing.

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diner's Club
Card number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Send this coupon and payment (if applicable) to PC Review, Back Issues Department, Tower Publishing, Tower Hse, Sovereign Hse, Lapkill Street, Market Harborough, Leicester, LE16 9EF

Issue 31, May 1994
Virtual Reality reviewed. Ultima V!!!, Megarace, Elder Scrolls reviewed. Free CD-ROM with Star Trek, Battle Isle 2, Doom.

Issue 32, June 1994
Making movies on your PC. Myst, Ravenloft, Great Naval Battles II reviewed. Two high density disks: Theme Park, Lords of Midnight.

Issue 34, July 1994
First look at Windows '95, IDE CD-ROM drives, soccer games special. Theme Park reviewed. Two high density disks: Tactical Manager, Rock and Bach, Wild Science.

Issue 36, October 1994
The film industry gets into games. Creative Labs profile. Colonization, Inferno,Desert Strike, PGA 486 reviewed. Free CD-ROM with Pinball Dreams Deluxe, Under a Killing Moon, Gravis Ultrasound collection, Creature Shock.

Issue 37, November 1994
Little Big Adventure previewed, easy Internet guide, strategy games round-up. Doom 2, System Shock reviewed. CD-ROM demos: Alone in the Dark 2, PGA 486, Dragon Lore, Cyclemania. Disk demos: Lords of the Realm.

Issue 38, December 1994
Affordable Pentiums, MPEG cards, top 100 games of 1994. Plus Magic Carpet and Transport Tycoon reviewed. CD-ROM demos: Little Big Adventure, System Shock, Warcraft, Ecstatica, Discworld, Hell. Disk demos: Hardball 4, Warcraft.

Issue 39, January 1995
PCs for the home user, 3DO cards for the PC. Kyrandia 3, Little Big Adventure, US Navy Fighters reviewed. CD-ROM demos:Magic Carpet, Lemmings 3, 101 Doom WADS, Tchaikovsky 1812. Disk demos: CAD for Windows, Discworld.

Issue 40, February 1995
Games, censorship, inkjet printers. ALone in the Dark 3 reviewed. CD-ROM demos: Wing Commander 3, GFA CAD, free Internet access. Disk demos: Psycho Pinball.

Issue 41, March 1995
The future of CD-ROM, best CD releases of '95. Hell reviewed. CD-ROM demos: Stargate. Disk demos: Premier Manager 3 and Virtual Golf.



Issue 42, April 1995
The best software tools for getting you out of trouble when the bad stuff happens. Doom — the movie previewed. Dark Forces, Sim City Urban Renewal Kit reviewed. CD_ROM demos:Flight of the Amazon Queen, Xplora plus FREE disk utilities. Disk demos: XCOM, Slay, CheckIt Analyst



Letters

PC Review welcomes your opinions on just about any PC-related subject. We reserve the right to edit your letters, and we'll also assume correspondence is for publication unless stated otherwise.

Net defender

In response to John Bennett's opinion on the Internet in your March issue, it is true the Internet is primitive and frustrating at the moment: primitive because parts of it fall over under heavy loads and frustrating because information is not always there in a recognisable format so you have to learn another tool to get at it.

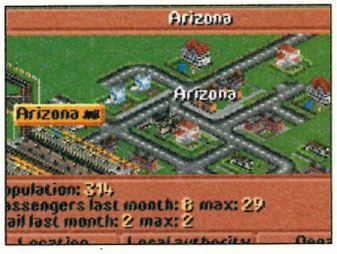
However, the information is mostly provided by people and organisations as a favour, so we can forgive them their preferences when it comes to distributing it.

John's impression of the net are similar to someone who visits a new place and stays long enough to notice the bad points, but not to sample the benefits.

In my view the net isn't full of sad computer geeks with no lives — it's full of all types, just like everywhere else on the planet.

Also, it needn't replace a social life, but can enhance one. Using email you can join some of the hundreds of mailing lists, which is like having penfriends only quicker. These can be rich sources of information — new releases, reviews, product information -—and a good way of making friends with common interests .

Then there is Usenet news. Imagine a hall full of people discussing the same thing — that's a newsgroup. Like any large gathering you get people who shout and swear, the uninterested, the self-styled experts etc, etc . . . all humanity is there. Which is why, then, that 'netiquette' exists — no hard and fast rules, just guidelines based on common courtesy and good manners in an attempt to curb anarchy for everyone's benefit.



Net info for Transport Tycoon.

Most people will forgive beginners who post obvious questions without reading the Frequently Asked Questions list. It's only Internet snobs and the small minded who will shout about it — forget them, hopefully you won't meet them again.

As for expressing emotions with smileys, what's wrong with that? With such a large international audience to communicate with, creative language often fails, and often a few simple symbols can do the job equally well.

Just one example of the net's usefulness is the patch I just got for Transport Tycoon. This patch fixes the removing buoys bug, but also changes all the vehicles' names to pretend ones — just like in the United States version.

As commercial information providers arrive, the net should become easier to use, but perhaps, sadly, even more expensive. For now, I prefer to blaze my own trail -— it may take longer and there may be dead ends, but it certainly is an experience.

Dr Mark Dobie, Southampton.
mrd@ecs.soton.ac.uk

Glutton dressed as Am

I've got an Amstrad PC 1640 1512 and am going to get an Amstrad PC 98?? Am I a dying breed or just a glutton for punishment? Do you know anybody who has got the *old* D-Base, WordPerfect or Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet programs — I am not able to load most of the modern ones as my PC cannot handle the memory. Also, can I buy add-ons such as high density disk drive and memory with step-by-step instructions that even I can work out?

Mr R Lane
London

If anyone wants to off-load some ancient versions of dBase, etc, then send them to us and we'll pass them on to Mr Lane. Now, Mr Lane, what is this Amstrad machine you're thinking of getting? We're not even sure it exists . . . and the answer to your question is 'up to a point'. I think you'd better make sure your new PC will take the add-ons and I think you should look again at the economics of your plan — you could well be better off with something which already has reasonable disk drives and memory.

Don't diss the disk

The first issue of your magazine I read was Issue 33, and soon after, I subscribed and received a copy of Indycar Racing. I like your new look as the cover has become more attractive and so has the overall look. I like the funny way your reviews are written and because of this I find them interesting.

Up until a couple of months ago I just read the games and the cover disk sections. However, I now read the magazine cover to cover and, to my surprise, actually find the rest of the features and articles quite interesting too.

Despite all these good points, I do have one bad one. I own a PC 486 with a Sound Blaster, but no CD-ROM drive. My complaint is this: turning to issue 41, there are eight disk-based games reviewed and 22 CD-based games and CD-multimedia software. Why are there three times as many CD programs as there are disk-based ones? I know five people with 486 CD-ROM drives and only one of these doesn't buy disk-based games. I think this goes to show that although more people are buying CD-ROMs, most still use disk-based games. I think you should have an equal number of CD and disk-based games reviewed in your

magazine. What do you think?

Peter Rowlett
Nottingham

We don't review games according to a format quota, we review all the games that are finished each month. At present, more than half the games being released are on CD-ROM, and frankly, the proportion of games being released on CD-ROM is going to increase even more as the year goes on. I take your point that people owning CD-ROM drives will still buy disk games, but we can't force publishers to release games on disk, even if we wanted to.

Stuck on the grid

I've waited and waited, yet still no Formula 1 Grand Prix 2 by Microprose. Suddenly the thought dawned on me... have I missed it? Also, do you know if Dark Forces will run on a single speed CD-ROM or will the fact that it doesn't, force me to go and buy a new, faster CD-ROM drive ?

Rahul Tarun Sareen
ratatak@@cix.compulink.co.k

Don't worry, you haven't missed Formula 1 Grand Prix 2 , MicroProse expect it to be released later this year. As for your Dark Forces query, it will run on a single speed CD-ROM, but a double speed is recommended.

Caught in the Net

Many thanks for your recent spate of Internet articles.

After your first one (Issue 37), I was inspired to make sure I got a modem for Christmas. Now I wait eagerly for your magazine every month so that I can read your Internet workshop and discover something new to do on the Net.

By the way, I also agree with many of the points made in your piece Information Superhypeway (Issue 41) about the 'delirious jabberings' of people using the Internet. But I also think that the potential of the Internet surely far outweighs some of its teething problems.

Please continue to supply us with lots of things to do. Oh, and more information on the World Wide Web would be especially appreciated. Keep up the good work.

S Walker-Hyde
Nuneaton

Learning curve

I have only recently bought a 486 66MHz PC (having previously been a die-hard fan of my trusty Amiga) and I must admit, when I first got it back home and tried to set it up, I felt like giving up and taking it back to the shop.

Like most people, you see, I had seen all those PC adverts on the TV that made everything about using and setting up a PC look so easy and inviting (Editor's Comment, Issue 40). So, having decided to take the plunge and buy my own equipment, I (quite foolishly of course, as it turned out) assumed things would be just as easy as they were on the television.

But instead, I suddenly discovered all those annoying little things about PCs that they don't tell you. What about RAM, and SmartRAM *(er, possibly SmartDrive. Ed.)* and cache, and upper and conventional, and, well, I could go on.

The point is that I didn't give up (I'd spent too much money on the damn machine, for one thing). I even read the manual one evening. I read lots of magazines — especially yours, of course. I tried lots of thing on my PC, and, wow, some of them worked.

Now, after three months, I think I've just about got the hang of this memory business and I can even get nearly everything to work.

More importantly, I now know more about computers and understand more about how they work (and don't work) than I ever did after four years with the Amiga. It's been hard work, but for some reason, I think it's been worth it.

Martin Harvey
Edinburgh

I feel Mr Harvey is in danger of setting up a PC Masochists User Group at some stage in the near future.

Toys for the boys?

Ms Erskine may have her 'theories' about why educational games don't sell (Editor's Comment, Issue 41), but I have just one hard fact. I can see no reason why I should part with £40-odd for a game which my ten-year-old won't touch with the proverbial barge-pole — even if it does say 'education' on the box.

The days when we tried to pretend the computer was for learning purposes are long gone, and now he (and we, his parents) see our PC simply as a leisure tool to be used in the same fashion as the TV, the Scalextric, and other similar spare time toys.

Come to think of it, that comparison with Scalextric is a good one. I seem to remember my husband bought one for our son once, only to end up using it mostly himself. Just like the PC...

Mrs M Cooke
Sutton Coldfield

NEXT MONTH *in* PC REVIEW

Cheap pentiums

According to Intel, 1995 will be the year of the Pentium. Now that the Pentium has become an affordable option for the home user, PC Review will be taking an in-depth look at the newest and cheapest Pentiums to hit the high street.



PC REVIEW JUNE 1995. IN THE SHOPS ON MAY 15TH

NB Contents may be subject to change.

Language CDs

As the world gets smaller day by day, so the importance of being able to communicate effectively in the new global village grows rapidly. With these CDs we show you how easyily you can do just that.

Games

The games market is always unpredictable at this time of year, but hopefully we'll be bringing you reviews of the hyper-realistic Flight Unlimited, the superb Full Throttle, Mortal Kombat 2 and Apache Longbow.

To be absolutely certain of getting PC Review, why not reserve your own special copy? Fill in the form below, hand it to your newsagent and he/she will make sure an issue is kept for you.

Yes, I simply can't risk missing out on the world's finest PC entertainment magazine. Please reserve me a copy of PC Review every month. It comes out on the 15th, and I know it will be selling like hot cakes.

I would like the

❒ disk-based version of PC Review

❒ CD-ROM version of PC Review

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

FREE GAME

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO PC REVIEW

6 GREAT REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

FREE GIFT*
get one of these fantastic games worth up to £44.99!

SAVE MONEY
on the CD-ROM option!

GET 14 ISSUES FOR THE PRICE OF 12
when you subscribe by Direct Debit!

FREE DELIVERY
your copy of PC Review despatched direct to your door days before it's available in the shops! (UK only)

PRICE PROTECTION
for a year — this offer is inflation proof!

GUARANTEE
your issue of PC Review each month!

Free Games

INFERNO CD Ocean
"DID's Inferno is the most exciting, tense and cinematic space combat game around. Absolutely unmissable."
8/10 rating. Minimum requirements: 386 DX PC 4 Mb RAM VGA graphics

JUNGLE STRIKE HD/CD Gremlin
"Gremlin's arcade-style helicopter game is packed full of action. Fast, furious and addictive."
8/10 rating. Minimum requirements: 386 DX PC 2 Mb RAM VGA graphics

PREMIER MANAGER 3 HD Gremlin
"Without a shadow of a doubt, Gremlin's PM3 is the best soccer management game ever."
8/10 rating. Minimum requirements: 386 DX PC 4 Mb RAM VGA graphics

PSYCHO PINBALL CD Codemasters
"A huge hit on the Sega Megadrive, Psycho Pinball is now out on PC. The best pinball simulation we've ever seen. Great fun."
8/10 rating. Minimum requirements: 386 DX PC 4 Mb RAM VGA graphics
(Please note you must pay an additional £5 for this game)

CANNON FODDER 2 HD/CD Virgin
"More missions and a tougher challenge in the sequel to one of the most addictive war games ever.
7/10 rating. Minimum requirements: 386 DX PC 4 Mb RAM VGA graphics

ECSTATICA CD Psygnosis
"This superbly spooky Alone in the Dark-style adventure will have you on the edge of your seat. Not for the faint hearted."
8/10 rating. Minimum requirements: 386 DX PC 4 Mb RAM VGA graphics



IMPORTANT Free game and discount offer available to U.K. residents only. *Except PSYCHO PINBALL Pay £5.00 extra



HOW TO ORDER

Subscribing couldn't be easier! Simply select your option, complete the coupon and send to: PC Review Subscriptions, FREEPOST (LE5981), Leicester LE87 4AB.

(Free postage within the U.K.only)

OR call the subscription hotline on

0858 468888

(9.30am to 5.30pm).

(Please quote source and offer code.)

HURRY! THIS OFFER IS AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY.

PC REVIEW SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please enter my subscription to PC Review.

Please tick as required:

HD disk option (12 issues)

- ☐ UK £47.40
- ☐ Rest of World (ROW) £55.00
- ☐ Europe airmail £65.00
- ☐ ROW Zone 1 airmail £95.00*
- ☐ ROW Zone 2 airmail £95.00*

CD-ROM option (12 issues)

- ☐ UK £49.40
- ☐ Rest of world (ROW)£67.00
- ☐ EUROPE airmail £77.00
- ☐ ROW Zone 1 airmail £107.00*
- ☐ ROW Zone 2 airmail £107.00*

HD disk free gift

- ☐ CANNON FODDER C1N
- ☐ PREMIER MANAGER 3 C1T
- ☐ JUNGLE STRIKE C1V
- ☐ PSYCHO PINBALL C1X *Pay £5 extra*

CD-ROM free gift

- ☐ INFERNO C10
- ☐ PREMIER MANAGER 3 C1U
- ☐ JUNGLE STRIKE C1W
- ☐ ECSTATICA C1Z
- ☐ PSYCHO PINBALL C1Y *Pay £5 extra*

Free gift and Direct Debit offer open to UK residents only.

Name :.....

Address.....

.....

.....**Postcode :**.....

☐ Tick this box if you do not wish to receive any direct mail that EMAP Images Ltd feels may be of interest to you.

Offer closes 20th June 1995 Source code: IC1Q

Please allow 28 days for fulfilment from receipt of order. Your game is sent separately from your 1st issue. EMAP Images reserves the right to provide an alternative game/offer in the unlikely event that your requested game should become unavailable.*Zone 1: Middle East, Africa, USA, South America, Hong Kong, Singapore, Pakistan, Indonesia. *Zone 2: Australia, China, Japan, Pacific.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

DIRECT Debit

Originators ID No. 724096

DIRECT DEBIT (UK ONLY)

GET 14 ISSUES FOR THE PRICE OF 12

Sort code ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐ **Account Number** ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Account .....

Holder(s).....

Bank .....Branch .....

Address .....

.....

.....Postcode .....

Please pay EMAP Consumer Magazines Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on the instruction subject to the safeguards on the Direct Debit guarantee.

Your Signature(s).....

Date .....

Originators identification number 724096

N.B Banks may refuse to accept instructions on some types of accounts. No acknowledgement required.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Please charge my Visa/Access/Mastercard/Amex

Card No. ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ Card Expiry Date ☐☐ ☐☐

Your signature .....Date .....

CHEQUE

A cheque is enclosed for £..... (sterling) made payable to EMAP Images Ltd.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

* This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society. * If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, you will be told of this in advance by at least 14 days as agreed. * If an error is made by EMAP Images Ltd. or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid. * You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us. Please allow 28 days from receipt of order for fulfilment.

The least PC PC games

Let's face it, computer games aren't really known for being politically correct, are they? But whilst some merely skirt the boundaries of good taste, others transgress them blatantly. Here are just a few of the worst offenders . . .

NAME	GET WITH THE PLOT . . .	WHAT MAKES IT SO OFFENSIVE?	OFFENSIVENESS RATING
Wolfenstein 3D (Apogee) 	The forerunner of Doom saw one William J Blazkowicz, American POW, trying to escape the horrors of Castle Wolfenstein where he was being tortured by the Nazis.	Could it be the stereotypical German guards, or the swastikas and the pictures of Hitler which adorn the walls? Or even Hitler himself, who appears at the end of the third episode and greets you with the immortal line, "Die, Allied Schweinhund!" Basically, anything that's guaranteed to offend the Germans crops up here — but it'll appeal to anyone who read Victor as a child.	Xenophobia: **9/10**
Noctropolis (EA) 	Set in the comic-book city of Noctropolis, the adventure pits you, the superhero Darksheer, and your nubile blonde sidekick, Stiletto, against a cast of unpleasant villains.	At what point did someone decide that the plot called for hooters? When Stiletto is possessed by an evil entity known as the Drealmer, the first thing she does is bare her boobs. Why? This has absolutely no relevance to the plot whatsoever. But you have to admit, it's quite a surprise.	Gratuitous nudity: **8/10**
Ecstatica (Psygnosis) 	Mediaeval adventurer (you) stops at a village to stock up on water and finds that everyone has been massacred by evil monsters. Can you sort out the supernatural shenanigans before you join them?	Well, there's the gore (the villagers have been killed in a number of inventive ways), the gratuitous nudity (in the harem), and the vulgarity (a farting bear and a urinating statue). But what does it for me is the naked female corpse impaled on a spear. Cannibal Holocaust, anyone?	Sex and violence: **9/10**
DreamWeb (Empire) 	Ryan, the hero, is given the job of offing six prominent people in order to maintain the balance of good and evil in the universe. Mystical stuff — which turns horribly violent as the plot progresses.	Gruesome deaths abound, including a man squashed by a large crate, a woman blown in half and a bodyguard who gets an axe in the throat — all in a day's work for Ryan. But the first death is the most mind-boggling — you discover your first victim engaging in a bit of rumpy pumpy with a young lady. Then you blow his brains out.	Gross-out: **8/10**
Body Blows (Team 17) 	Well, there isn't really much of a plot, this being a beat 'em up and all. Basically, all you have to do is guide your chosen character to victory over a series of other fighters. Nuff said.	Why is it that almost every beat 'em up you'd care to name has at least one scantily clad female fighter? And why is it that although the gals are usually fast — but in typical stereotyped fashion — they are never very strong? This game's token babe is Maria, a Spanish lass with an unfeasibly large chest. Which bounces. Is that necessary? Really?	Sexism: **7/10**

Pacman Our cheerful yellow chappie must move around the maze, gobbling up all the dots and avoiding the nasty ghosts. This so-called "classic" unwittingly takes the mick out of a serious eating disorder, bulimia nervosa, and could be extremely upsetting to the unfortunate sufferers of this ailment *(Now you're taking this too far! Ed)*. Oh.

THE NEW MOVIE MASTER SERIES OF MPEG PLAYBACK CARDS

MOVIE 24 MASTER

- 24 bit 'true colour' output (16.8 million colours) • Full X and Y scaling from 22 x 22 to 16X zoom
- Full interpolation in both X and Y directions • Full feature windowing with colour and chroma keying
- Grabs and re-displays stills from any MPEG sequence in various formats
- Stereo CD quality MPEG audio with digital filtering

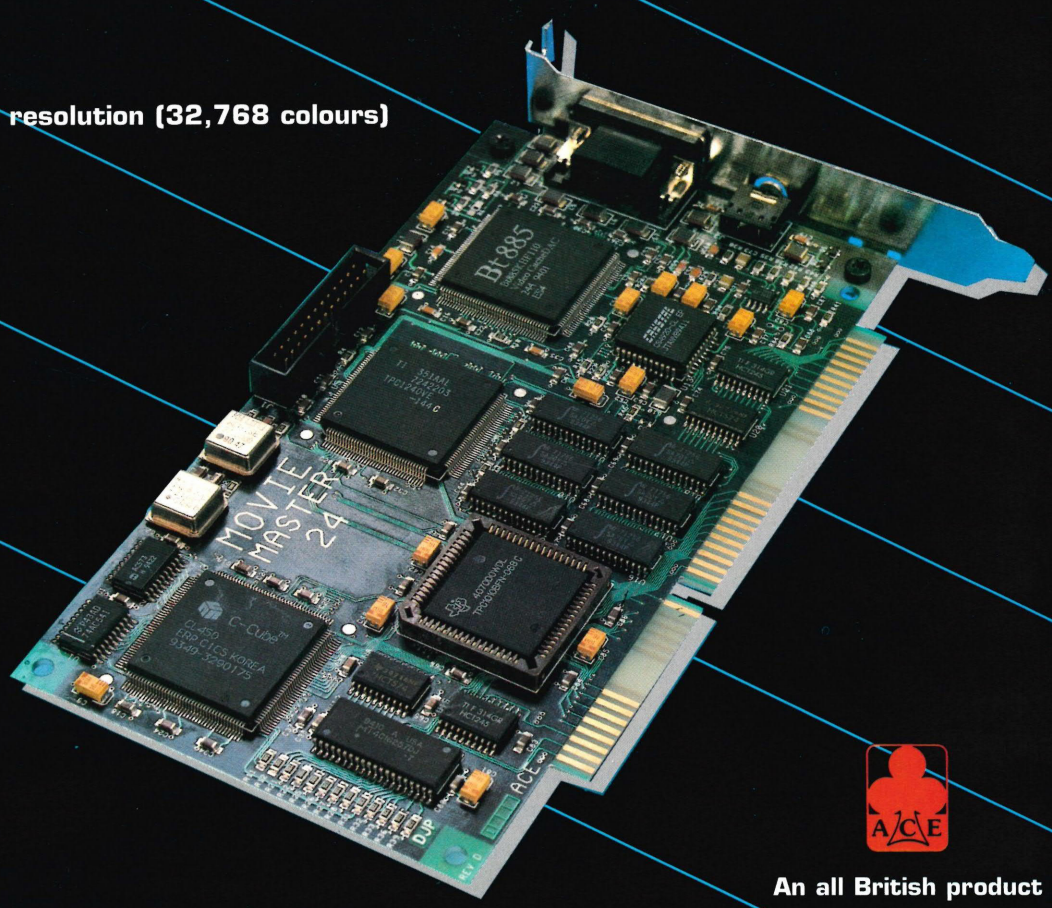
Price: £329 + VAT

MOVIE 15 MASTER

- Same as 24 bit but at 15 bit resolution (32,768 colours)

Price: £239 + VAT

Unbeatable VIDEO CD Playback Quality



ACE

An all British product

MOVIE TV MASTER

- 24 bit output to both TV and VGA
- TV output in PAL or NTSC via RGB, S-Video or composite outputs • Optional SCART RGB connector
- Automatically 'switches' VGA output between the system's graphics card and full screen 24 bit MPEG video
- Stereo CD quality MPEG audio with digital filtering

Price: £199 + VAT

PRICES INCLUDE A SELECTION OF LATEST VIDEO-CD TITLES VALUED AT OVER £40.

Distributed by Calculus: Tel No. 0543 418666, Power Computing: Tel No. 0234 273000, and Unica Ltd: Tel No. 061 429 0241, or call Ace Coin Equipment on 0952 293333

PSYCHO Pinball™

No. 2 in a series
THE ART OF PINBALL



Okay, **speed freaks,** try holding onto your stomach when your reflexes attempt to keep up with this non-stop, head - screaming ride of pure pinball adrenaline. This is **PSYCHO PINBALL,** so called 'cos it's bleedin' **PSYCHOTIC.** Get this inside y': Four all-new mind-blowing tables with over **100 features** in each, rocking music, speech, 220+ real-play sound fx and - no slow down - 3-ball m-m-m- **multi ball.** AND we've done the whole thing with **interactive vector reflection** so, for once, you get a pinball game that actually feels RIGHT. Just don't blame us if you can't hack the **pace.**

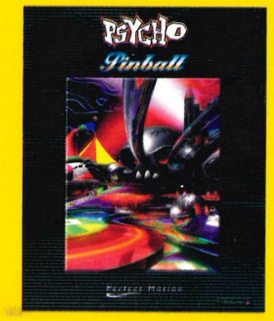








A Perfect Motion SIMULATION



Codemasters

THE FASTEST PINBALL SIM YOU'LL EXPERIENCE

Available on:
PC DISKS [5]
CD-ROM [ENHANCED]

(c) 1995 Codemasters Limited. Psycho Pinball is a trademark of Codemasters.
Codemasters: Telephone: 01 926 814 132 Facsimile: 01 926 817 595