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Amiga Diary

Make Amiga music

New beginners' eries starts inside

**PIPView** 

**Blitz Basic 2** 

PLUS modem round-un



#### STOP PRESS

Latest news on the Amiga 4000-030 shows demand outstripping supply world wide. If you are having problems getting stock or perhaps feel disappointed that you opted for the A1200 before you knew about the new machine all is not lost Check out the table on the right showing the A1200 fitted with the new Microbotics M1230XA accelerator available from Indi from

ONLY £299.99

## Performance Comparison



INDI DIRECT MAIL Proudly Presents

## IAKKI BRAMBLES COLUMN

It certainly doesn't seem a month ago that I last wrote for Indi and what a month it has been.

With immaculate timing Commodore announced their superb Amiga CD, are Sega and Nintendo

Interesting question, 32 bit technology, 16.8 million colours and the amazing AA chip set; what do you think?

But more to the point, what does it mean to you if you currently own or were thinking of buying an Amiga 600 or 1200. First of all let's be clear, you cannot use the Amiga CD as a computer until there is a keyboard and drive option (promised for 1994). So if you want to do any more than run CD software remember you will not have access to the vast range of floppy based software on Amiga nor the processing power that makes the Amiga so rewarding if you want to do more than games play.

So what does this mean to the current Amigas? To make it simple, the Amiga 600 is a cheap entry level system perfect for the first time user or those working to a budget. The Amiga 1200 is the elite system for the dedicated user who wants to access the speed and performance of this mid range system; you can uperade later via an external CD solution promised to he hot on the heels of the Amiga CD.

The Amiga CD should be available to dedicated games players in August. Phone INDI to check for pricing and availability; and don't be confused, both the Amiga 600 and 1200 are around for some time. In fact Indi have already finalised their plans for Christmas!

Mail order purchasing can be worrying, sending your hard earned cash to a company that may be hundreds of miles away, will your dream machine arrive as promised and what do you do if it doesn't?

Indi is part of a very large company with their own in-house experts and systems and yet it still sometimes goes wrong. At Indi they have a Customer Care department who do nothing else but problem solve. So if Securicor couldn't find your house but will re-deliver tomorrow, or you cannot load a disk, they are there to help But what if the problem needs a fresh pair of eyes.

perhaps you feel that you have been unsympathetically or unfairly treated? I was delighted to learn that Indi take their

responsibilities so seriously that they have joined the DMA The Direct Marketing Association is a very serious

organisation (recognised by the Advertising Standards Association and other such official bodies). Getting accepted is difficult, staying in required Indi

to set and achieve real customer satisfaction and solve problems quickly if they occur. I sincerely hope that all Mail Order Companies will follow Indi and display the DMA symbol on their advertising. If they don't you should ask them why

not. Regards,

( label & Ban Her



#### CUSTOMER CHARTER

Direct Mail is original and very ng. Before you buy mail order tust first be confident that you will se the product you've ordered and he supplier will still be there in the b, should you need them.

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All prices quoted are inclusive of VAT.

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#### DEFERRED CREDIT ON ALL ORDERS OVER £200. \*PAY 10% NOW AND NOTHING MORE FOR 3 MONTHS.

#### AMIGA A1200



The Amiga 1200 supplied by INDI Direct Mail nstallation disk and hard drive utility manual. Indi are proud to be an official supplier of Amiga 1200 Hard Drive systems, that include the official softrare documentation and on - site warranty

COMIC BELIEF DACK COMIC RELIEF PACK.

The event may be over but the fund raising still goes on. If your looking for the latest in Arriga technology then this is the starter pack for you. Based around the outstanding A1200, this pack also gives you sleepwalker, a most addictive platform garine from constituent. You'll be pleased to know that every one of these packs purchased raises

another (10 for Comic Relet.
A1200 STANDARD FEATURES.

60020 Processor. PCAICIA slot. 2MB ChipRAM. 3.5" Internal
Drive. A Chipset Built in TV modulator. Alpha numeric keyaad. ive. AA Chipset but
12 Months at home maintenance

#### INDI PRICE

£379.99 or from £14.47\* per month \*(Cradit reins based on 36 monthly navments APR 29.8%

Total repayment £520.92 and 90 day deferred payments.) A1200 60 MEG HD INDI PRICE £539.99 INDI PRICE \$599.99 A1200 80 MEG HD

A1200120 MEG HD INDI PRICE £679.99 INDI A1200 ACCESSORY PACK

Pack Contains: 3 Superb Games International Games Challenge The Cool Croc Paradroid 90
 Zapsac and Zappo T- shirt

#### INDI PRICE \$19.99 60/80 Hard Disk: upgrades available on any A1200. Upgrade includes full Wang warranty on A1200 and Hard disks. Phone for a quote.

#### AMIGA A4000



It's here - The new Amiga 4000/030

The NEW Arrigor 4000/030 features a EC68000 processor running at an incredible 25Mhz, and upgradable at a la to a faster processor. The 4000/030 has a powerful 4Mb of 32 - bit RAM ( 2Mb chip & 2Mb fast) expendable to 18 Mb using graphics chipset, giving you a massive pallet of 16.8 million colours. A range of hard drive options are available form 80

4000/030 80 Mb HD INDI PRICE £939.99 4000/030 120 Mb HD INDI PRICE \$1039.99 4000/030 240 Mb HD (exclusive to INDI) 4000/030 120 Mb SCSI HD (exclusive to INDI)

the 4000 030, including additional memory modules, hard drives, PC bridge boards, FPU's (68881 & 68832) and the 24 - bit Onel vision graphics and video syste

## NEW MONITOR

THE NEW DUAL SYNC 1940/ 1942 Monitors have been specially designed for the New Amiga 1200 and 4000 computers. Both monitors feature built - in stereo cnookers



1940 Monitor £279.99 14 inch screen size - 0.39 mm

INDI PRICE 1942 Monitor £379.99



Parnet Adaptor for CDTV Connect a CDTV Player to any Amiga, and access the

and will give any Amiga owner access to the vas-range of CDTV software currently available. nge of CDTV sortware currency dramacon, se CDTV player offers excellent value for mo

your Amiga, interface cable and PD disk with INDI PRICE £39.99

COTY + PARNET

## AMIGA A600 PRICE CRASH

PACK INCLUDES: A600 single drive, built in TV modulator, 1Mb memory, 12 Months at home service

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 Kick Off 2
 Pipemania
 Space Ace
 Populous
 Microswitched £189.99 INDI PRICE £239.99

A600 EPIC PACK (40 Mb HD) PACK INCLUDES: A600 Hard Disks (20Mb) • 1Mb Memory • Epic • Rome • Myth • Trivial Pursuit • Arniga Text • Deluxe Paint III • 12 Months at home service. PLUS INDI ACCESSORIES PACK AS LISTED, COMES WITH AN EXTRA 512K RAM EXPANSION FREE.

INDI PRICE £395-99

£339.99

INDI A600 ACCESSORY PACK (Featured with WWW) Micro Switched Joystick
 Lockable Disk Box
 Disk Wallet Populous Zapsac Carry Case Zappo T-Shirt INDI PRICE £26.99



PACK CONTAINS: NEW

A600 Single Drive Built in TV Modulator 1 Mb Memory Pushover: Grandprix

PRICES Silly Putty: Deluxe Paint III £289:99

LOW LOW

Mouse and Manuals

INDI PRICE £215.99

#### AMIGA RECOMMENDED PERIPHERALS & ACCESSORIES

New from Microbotics for the A1200!!!. M1230XA Accelerator launch!!

Microbotics beats the competition on price, performance features and configurations. INDI is very pleased to announce the availability of the new 68030 accelerator product for the A1200: the microbotics M1230 XA (call it the "XA" for short) 50 MHZ speed is standard! Memory management is standard! Huge 128 MB memory design is standard (the biggest memory space on any A1200 peripheral) Just look at these specifications and prices!

M1230 XA W/40 MHZ EC 030 0MB INDI PRICE £299.99 M1230 XA W/40 MHZ EC 030 4MB INDI PRICE £399.99 M1230 XA W/50 MHZ MMU 030 0MB INDI PRICE 5399 99 M1230 XA W/50 MHZ MMU 030 4MB INDI PRICE £499.99 MEMORY UPGRADES AND ACCESSORIES

M501 The original 0.5MB battery backed upgrade

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8 Up memory board. Again designed for the

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Hard frame suitable for A1500/A2000. Allows for th

interface of a SCSI hard drive.

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AUDIO VISUAL

MEGAMIX. Low cost, hi spec digital effects

VIDI AMIGA 12. THE ultimate low cost

colour digitiser for the Amiga. "The best

value full colour digitiser on the market

TAKE 2. Animation package is a must for

As used in Rolf Harris Cartoon Club.

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DISK DRIVES.

computer artists and enthusiasts of all ages.

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The original and the best floating point unit and memory uppgrade for the Amiga A1200, Available with 0,4 0R 8 MB OF 32 BIT FAST RAM and a choice of floating point units. Now complete with real time clock (RTC)

MBX1200Z 68881 14 MHZ 0MB INDI PRICE £129 MBX1200Z 68881 14MHZ 4MB INDI PRICE \$249 MBX1200Z 68881 14 MHZ 8MB INDI PRICE £349 MBX1200Z 68882 25 MHZ 0MB INDI PRICE £189 MBX1200Z 68882 25 MHZ 4MB INDI PRICE \$339 MBX1200Z 68882 25 MHZ 8MB INDI PRICE £409 MBX1200Z 68882 50 MHZ 0 MB INDI PRICE £339 MBX1200Z 68882 50 MHZ 4MB INDI PRICE \$419 MBX1200Z 68882 50 MHZ 8MB INDI PRICE £539.



ROCTEC ROCGEN. Entry level Genlock for all Amigas. Standard video or overlay text and graphics onto a video signal.

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A600, 1MR with RTC ZAPPO 601NC.As above only 512K

2MB SMARTCARD. The original and still he only fully PCMCIA compatible memory

INB SMARTCARD Same as above but ZAPPO 601. Trapdoor upgrade for the



You've seen all the reviews on this popular and affordable second Amiga drive. Compatible with all Amigas. INDI PRICE \$59.99 'Quality: 9 out of 10." Exceptional value for money. AMIGA COMPUTING JAN 93





1084ST MONITOR.

Commodores original and best selling colour stereo monitor. Now includes swivel and tilt stand for total ease of use. INDI PRICE £189,99 (£179.99 If purchased with A600/A1200/A1500)





COMMODORE MPS 1270A INK JET PRINTER Whisper quiet yet prints at an amazing 160 CPS. Possibly the best value printer on the market.

INDI PRICE £94.99 1270A - REPLACEMENT INK JET CARTRIDGE. INDI PRICE £12.99

OMMODORE MPS 1230 A high quality 9-pin Dot Matrix Printer with paper and tractor feed and is fully compatible with Epsom FX80 and IBM Industry standards. High speed 120 CPS draft mode and an NLQ mode of 25 CPS. VALUE ADDED F D-PRINT - Design greetings cards, letters and posters. AMIGA LOGO- Educational and

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#### THE NEW CD AMIGA

Just prior to finalising this advertisement Commodore have confirmed that the new CD Amiga has been delayed until August.

If there is any change then the INDI Sales Desk will be able to take your order

However, Commodore are confident that circumstances will not change.

ABLE TERMS AVAILABLE OVER 6, 12, 18, 24 & 36 MONTHS SUBJECT TO STATUS. WHY NOT RING FOR A QUOTE. SAMEDAY RESPONSE. (SEE EXAMPLE)

Panasonic Quiet Colour Printing

We then considered that if you were coins to buy a Panasonic printer you would probably need a quality word processing package to use with it. We found that I you will be the time considered tight is to write going to day a reasoning primer you would proceed a questy with plantage to deep min. We should that mint be a little too expensive or too of your printer purphased So tonether with Parassencie we decided to give a copy of Wordworth's these with every Panasonic printer. How's that for origin value?

th real

KX-P2180

INDI PRICE

COMPLETELY FREE! WITH PANASONIC OHIET PRINTERS NORMAL BRP £129 99 inc VAT

INDI PRICE

KX- P2123

Vinting Speeds 192 CPS draft, 64 CPS LO and 32 SLO Colour Printing 7 colour palette (blue, red, green, yellow, violet, magenta and black)

7 Resident Fonts Over 152,000 type styles using Super LQ. Courier Prestigs. Bold PS.

24 PIN Diamond Printhead High performance and high quality output

#### 3 Paper Paths Paper handing from bottom, top and rear for total flexibility 1 Year warranty for total peace of mind

Fast Printing Speeds 192CPS Draft and 38 CPS NLQ

#### Panasonic LASER PRINTER **KXP - 4410 LASER PRINTER**

Colour Printing 7 colour palette (blue, red, green, yellow, violet, magenta and blaci

Quiet Printing Super quiet 45 - 48dBA sound level (most matrix printers are typically in 6 Resident Fonts Over 6,100 type styles using Courier Prestige, Bold PS, Roman,



**KXP - 4430 LASER PRINTER** MED





Once again INDI have joined together with Panasonic to offer all Amiga owners the n prices. We are also giving away a free copy of Wondworth with every Panasonic Lass sentation or complex graphic againstoner - the Panasonic range offers you the power KYP - 4410 KXP - 4430

5 pages per minute

Optional 2nd input bin (total printer capacity

Optional memory expansio to 4.5 Mb (0.5 Mb as standard) £499.99

INDI PRICE

Satinprint (optimum resolutio

 5 pages per minute. HP Laseriet III Fmulation, PCL 5 8 Scalable fonts & 28 bitmap

 Optional 2nd input bin (total) 5.0 Mb (1 Mb as standard)

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#### Panasonic PRINTER ACCESSORIES



2) PRINTER DUST COVER Specially tailored quality dust cover for Panasonic KXP 2180/ KXP2123 printer, INDI PRICE 28.99

3) PRINTER STAND 2 piece printer stand, INDI PRICE \$9.99

4) PAPER PACK 500 sheets quality A4 paper, INDI PRICE \$9.99 5) CONTINUOUS PAPER 2000 sheets 1 part listing paper. INDI PRICE \$19.99 6) PARALLEL PRINTER CARLE To be used when connecting Amigs to Panasonic Pr INDI PRICE SI 99 (55.99 if purchased with a printer

7) PANASONIC COLOUR RIBBON 7) PANASONIC COLOUR R 8) PANASONIC BLACK RIBBON Black ribbon for KXP 2180/ KXP 2123, INDI PRICE \$9.99

PANASONIC COLOUR RIBBON PACK Contains 6 colour ribbons for the KOP 2180' KXP2123 RRF 5119.99, INDI PRICE 589.99 SAVE 530.0011

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bons, 1 dust cover, 2 piece printer stand. RRP £169.99 INDI PRICE £139.99 SAVE CS0.0011

PANASONIC DELUXE ACCESSORY PACK

#### AMIGA CDTV THE MULTIMEDIA COMPUTER TOTAL HOME



PRICE CRASH £399.99

#### ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

the problem with any new product is that it always takes time for everyone to realise its full potential CDTV is no exception and in our opinion everything we have read does a pretty poor job of explaining just what CDTV can do and why it is so exciting.

#### THE INDI GUIDE TO CDTV

IT'S A CD PLAYER - Yes, it will play all your Primal Scream. Pavarotti, Pink Floyd and any other CD you care to mention in superb high quality stereo, with infra red remote control.

IT'S AN AMIGA - Plug in the keyboard, switch on the external disk drive and the colossal range of inexpen-

IT'S A MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM - Just imagine, stereo sound, images and text all on screen . It asks a question, you respond, it responds - truly interactive! Each CD disc holds hundreds of megabytes of data with instant optical access. The whole of Hutchinson's Encyclopeadia fits onto one disc. This interactive system is a unique aid for Education, Business or Leisure. The

PACK CONTENTS AS STANDARD

COTY infra red remote controller

CDTV wired mouse

CDTV wired mouse

CDTV

CDTV INDI VALUE ADDED FREE • Lemmings CDTV (£34.99) Blues Brothers (£12.99)
 Pipemania, Populous,

PACK AS SHOWN

AMIGA CDTV EXTERNAL

HARD DISK DRIVE

MULTI MEDIA PACK WITH-OUT INDI VALUE ADDED

## AMIGA CDTV ACCESSORIES



Kickoff 2, Space Ace

THE BRICK - ETTE Just plug in the Brick - ette and

your CDTV. No loading of driver programs or soft-re. No switches for mouse or joystick. Special se-gs (with mouse) allow you to blast sway with three pid fire modes 8 dual fire buttons. Comes complain

BLACK 1084S MONITOR At last the CDTVMonitor you have been waiting for. The original and best selfis now available in black to complement your CDTV. INDI PRICE £189.99 79.99 when sed with CDTV Music



If you are thinking of buying CDTV or already own one you'll be pleased to know that NDI stock all CDTV accessories and control that are available from manufacturers. We believe that are available from manufacturers who believe the CDTV and show the control to support the CDTV and show the control to support the CDTV and show have a source of product for you. CDTV knows INDI.

1: "Encore SCSI Controller + Internal Mount £109.99 CDTV Encore SCSI Controller + Internal Mount £109.99
CDTV Internal Genick
Black 10965 Ociour Stereo Monitor
(When purchased with CDTV Multi- Media Pack)
CTTV Semest Mouse
Scart TVMOrribor Lead

114.99

114.99 gachip - 1Mb Upgrade Chip RAM Upgrade CDTV



INDI PRICE

£269.99

## SOFTWARE

# **AMIGA CDTV**

#### ARTS AND LEISURE Advanced Military Systems Women in Motion Mud Huddle My Paint North Polar Expedition Paper Bag Princess Soary Poems for Rotten Kids Juliness Disc of Reco Animals in Motion Connoisseur Fine Arts Fruits & Vegetables Trees and Shrubs Jarden Plants Thomas's Snowsuit Moving Gives Me Stomach Ace EDUCATION un School - Under 5's £24.99 Long Hard Day at the Ranch £34.99 Bun for Barney £29.99 A Bun for Barney C29.99 Cinderella 239.99 Fun School for 6 to 7 224.99 Fun School for Over 7's 224.99 Heather His Her First Home Run 224.99 LTV - English as a 2nd Language 234.99 Mind Run 229.99

Fractal Universe ENTERTAINMENT

£39.99 £29.99

Wrath of the Demon Team Yankee Rattes Prehistorik Snoopy (PAL) Town with No Name Lemmings European Space Simulato

Hound of the Baskerviller

Prey Curse of Ru Space Wars MUSIC Music Maker Karaoke Fun Hits 1 REFERENCE 249.99

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The most authoritative monthly columns in the business, covering all areas of specialised Amiga activity

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Programming Assembler programmers get the inside story

on using text and graphics in intuition min-Music

The definitive loss-down on a major revision to Comms

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Ben Pointer explains how to devise, produce

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The most involved graphics and animation package goes?	

**Emplant** 

Blitz Basic 2

Does this powerful upgrade have what it takes to outdo Amos?



GAMFR

Rest your weary mind and relax with a joystick and a screenful of things to kill. Now what'll it be?

Gamer Globe lews from around the games world

A1200 software

Cheat Mode Finish Dizzy without getting in a spi

#### GAME REVIEWS

Woody's World International Rugby Challenge Flashback Sink or Swim

Championship Manager 93 Graham Gooch Cricket Nippon Safes Inc. World of Legend

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89

# Amiga Market

The monthly round-up of the latest hardware and software on the market. advice on spending those hard-earned pennies, Software Spotlight and

#### Shop Window 148

- OGVP's A1 230 Accelerator Power XL high density drive

much more

 A1200 hard drive AmigaVGA adaptor Mickey Mouse/Playroom educational software

Classifieds Spotliaht **Hard Times** Locator



# COVER STORY



**Print Manager** A unique and incredibly useful print spooler pro-gram for Workbench 2

Amiga diary Keep track of your life with the best timemanaging program ever to grace our Disk

Quoter Food for thought - every

time you switch on your Amiga, Quoter chirps up with one of hundreds of quotations

Turn to page 24

# **Bars and Pipes Pro Jnr**

Easily the most valuable and powerful Amiga music sequencer giveaway ever, the complete Bars and Pipes Pro Jnr is exclusive to AC this month

## REGULARS

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#### **GREAT OFFERS** Connect up to comms with our

great free introductory membership to Compuserve. Should you have missed the great offers upgrading recent CoverDisk packages, you can get Vidi Amiga 12 at a third discount, and a great deal on **HiSoft Basic.** 

Turn to page 42 now!





**Evelyn Glennie**, top percussionist and Amiaa aficionado, talks about her music Page 31

# £3,000 holiday competition!

Win yourself a holiday of a lifetime and ensure your copy of the best Amiga magazine ion the business to boot. For details, turn to page 130!

# The Best Word Publish (Amiga Forms



We'd simply call it the best Amiga Word Processor. But if after using it, the experts insist on calling Final Copy II the best Word Publisher as well, we're not complaining!



# Final



size they're scaled to - with absolutely no jaggies Opening multiple documents also allows editing whils

good looking letter needs creating quickly - they're far too cumbersome. This is where Final Copy II offers the perfect balance between the two requirements. Ease and speed of



A minimum of 1Mb, of available free RAM is required (A600 hard drive - 1,5Mb,) however, as with all advance graphical programs, extra memory (eg. 1,5/2Mb, - the more the better) will be required to exploit all features full

# sing Program of its Type na words not ours) Amiga Format think we have the Best Word Publisher



ord

rts

rd

We'll show you why with a list of features that users tell us are important (below). If you'd like to know who's also chosen Final Copy,

Commodore specify it as an option with some of the most powerful Amigas available in the United States. What better recommendation could you have?

	Feature	Wordworth 2	Final Copy II
T	Competible with Standard Arrica		YES, But would Suggest
١	Workberch 2 Compugraphic Fonts	YES	use of Better PostScript Fonts
	Compatible with Standard Adobe Type 1 and Nimbus Q Sosieuble Postsoriot Fonts	NONO	YESYES
	PoetSoriot Font Outlines on all Printers	NO	YES
9	Maximum Number of PostScript Fonts	Limited to a total of 35	Infinite
1	Download Extra Forts to PostScript Printer	NO, Can't download entra fonts	YES, Autometic
я	Landscape (Sideways) Printing on all Printers	NO NO	YES, Automatic
	Reclaim Printing Resolution (Quality) of Scaled Reduced and Enlarged Graphic Images	NO	YES, Same High Quality when Reduced and Enlarged
3	Print any Text or Graphic in Colour	YES	YES
	No. of Colours Printed in Imported Pictures	Limited by Screen Mode Used	Output as Original Image
	Graphics Printing (HAM & EF ILBM)	Good If Graphics not Scaled	Always Best Possible
	Text Width (Compress and Expand)	NO	YES
	Variable Text Obliquing (Slanted Text) Buth Positive and Negative Attributes	NO	YES
2	Box, Rounded Box, Circle, Ovel, Line, Variable Bonder & Arrow Drawing Tools	NO	YES
ŧ.	Conn (Trim) to Size Imported Graphics	NO.	YES
9	Supports A1200H000 AGA Chipset	YES, 256 On-Screen Colours	YES, 256 On-Screen Colours
	Create Border around Graphics and Pictures	NO.	YES
	British-English Spelling Checker	VES Colles Proximity with	YES, Collins Proximity with
		Legal & Medical Supplements	Logal & Medical Supplements
	British-Enolish Thesaurus	VES. Collins (2000) Senonyma	YES, Cullins 829000 Synonym
8	Page View Magnifications and Reductions	One Fixed Print Preview	7 Variable stages - 20% to 400%
ă	Edit Document while Magnified or Reduced	NO NO	YES
8	Search & Replace (150 words in 9000, 7 Pages)	61 Seconds (On Arrige A1200)	7 Seconds (On Amiga A1290)
	Index and Table of Contents	YES, Automatic	NO, Requires Manual Entry
3	Multiple Newspaper Style Snaking Columns	YES, 2 to 32	YES, 2 to 6
a	Style Shinets, Master Pages, Title Pages	NO NO	YES
8	Uses Standard Arriga Clipboard for Cutting & Pasting to and from Different Applications	NO	YES
	Small Caps Typographical Control	NO NO	YES
grues	Conforms to Commodore's Amiga	NO. Non Standard User	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.
	Standard Look & Feel' Guidelines	interface	YES
	On Screen Maths (Column Addition)	NO NO	YES
	Import ASCII Text from any Word Processor	YES	YES
E	UK Registration, Upgrade and Support	YES	YES
Š		1,5Ms. Minimum	1Mb, Minimum
8	Free Memory Required	More Recommended	More Recommended
	Free Orgoing Technical Phone Support	NO, C38 per year after 60 days	YES, Free of Charge

SoftWood Products Europe

AMIGA A600 LEMMINGS PACK 1 MEG RAM EXPANDABLE TO 2 MEG 1 YEAR IN-HOME SERVICE WARRANTY WORKBENCH 2.0 I FMMINGS GAME

AMIGA A1200 HOME COMPUTER WITH FAST 68020 PROCESSOR 2 MEG RAM EXPANDABLE TO 4 MEG YEAR IN-HOME SERVICE WARRANTY

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AMIGA A4000/030 HOME COMPUTER WITH 80 MEG INTERNAL HARD DRIVE POWERFUL 68030 PROCESSOR (25MHz) 4 MEG RAM (2 MEG CHIP + 2 MEG FAST)

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# NEWS

# **By John Butters**

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Under the Code, CD-based software

displayed on packaging and allow parents

to easily identify games which contain material that might be unsuitable for their Some of the first affected could be those

plan for CD games



that unless they agree on self-regulation, politicians could force computer and video be included in the Video Recordings Act

That would mean all programs includon floopy disk would be tested, costing the Bennett. "We want to avoid that situation "Our aim is to make games legal, activities that are socially acceptable. Most of our members are in favour of the action

#### Call for **Amiga PD**

lub, running A500 and A1000s, h nund Amiga Computing's editor ages a helpful source of informati id its CoverDisks invaluable.

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agazines. They will neep us be sole essful in our activity."

If you would like to join Amiga-Club he address to write to is: Bitc logdan, Street Comelia, No 8, Appt.

## **CBM** bring Amiga price inside £200

ENTRY-level Amiga prices have been slashed, bringing the com-All machines and bundles in the A600 range see the cuts, which are aimed at increasing the price gap between the entry

packs now cost £229.99 and £349.99 respectively

Dealers are expected to add their own discounts. Indi Direct

"We had expected to get down to this price by Christmas but this is a

tion of leisure software but the computer is difficult to upgrade and is not



## News Briefs

#### Kiddies CD book

ALISTAIR in Outer Space is an interactive story book which has been developed for CD Amigas by Bedford-based Altered Images (0234 340722).

It features 26 animated name an illustrated index and a selection of games. The nackage costs £24.99 and is aimed at children aged between five and nine years

#### Amiga plant sale denied

RUMOURS that Commodore have out their Amiga development plant at West Chester Pennsylvania up for sale have been denied by the firm's UK boss David

The firm own two buildings in the same area, one of which has been used for C64 manufacturing. It would now make sense to

#### put both operations under one roof, he said. Scanning costs are down

LADBROKE Computing (0772 203166) have cut the price of the Golden Image Hand Scanner with programs Touch Up and Deluxe Paint 3 to £89.99.

#### **Piracy arrest**

A 19-year-old Amiga user was arrested in Hertfordshire recently after police seized games that have not even been released

It is alleged that the man pirated the software and then sold it to other gamers through bulletin hoards. The Federation Against Software Theft joined the police in the operation.

#### One meg for £30 UPGRADE manufacturer Amitek have

announced the immediate availability of a 1Mb memory upgrade for the A500P cost-

"The new RAM board is aimed at the first time user," said spokesman Andy Leaning. "It's low cost, easy to fit, doesn't in a colourful case."

#### be telephoned on 081-309 1111. **Inside Imagine**

THE book Understanding Imagine 2 has been reprinted by Alternative Image (0533 440041) following demand from users of the rendering software. It costs £25.



TWO graphic designers have used their new Amiga to help in the production of a recent episode of London Weekend Television's South Bank Show.

Twenty-year-olds Simon Hough and Anthony Murray, both from Birmingham, were asked by LWT to illustrate a documentary about fantasy writer Terry Pratchet and his works. Part of the programme needed to show a young child play-

#### LWT tune into **Amiga graphics**

ing a computer game, for which Chrystal Haze Graphics designed a suitable animation. "Our prime objective was to emulate a game, so there was no call for advanced 3D modelling techniques because this would stray from a child's perception of a computer game," said Simon.

"The key to the success of the design was that it had to be convincing to the viewer and yet still appeal to children. The designers were already familiar with the Amiga. For over a year they have been trying to provide a low-cost computer graphics service. "We chose the Amiga computer because it was a stable

basis for producing a high standard of graphic images while maintaining a relatively low level of financial support," said Simon

"When Commodore released the AGA chip set we decided to incorporate the new system into our design criteria.

"It provides an ideal stop gap for testing animations and still before going into the process of final design or into the process of printing."

#### **Consecutive grabs** from new V-Lab

THE recent undate of V-I ah enables Amina users to import video sequences from recording decks without the timecode feature found only on expensive machines. V-Lab Y-C is the third version of the package and is now compatible with composite and Y-C video recorders. Interleave frame grabbing software is also supplied.

Its most impressive feature enables the hardware to grab consecutive video frames directly to hard disk by making multiple passes over the film. The operation is repeated until a 25 frames per second sequence has been gen-

erated. A maximum of 200 frames - about ten seconds worth of video - is accepted Martin Lowe from distributor Amiga Centre Scotland (0896 87583) claimed the

system is ideal for home users, video users and CD-ROM developers who

need to store video images. Priced at £381 88 users who want to leave the system unattended can buy

an infra red video deck controller as an optional extra. The controller's price remains to be fixed.



#### Multimedia updates for video board

GREAT Valley Products (010 1 215 337 8770) have upgraded multimedia video board IV24 to give the pack's software a range of new features and improvements. MacroPaint 2 is a real-time, 16 million colour paint package featuring a toolbox-style

interface that can be moved to a more convenient part of the screen. It can load and save JPEG compressed files and painting can be done on a 24-bit image while work is viewed at between 12 and 21 bits for extra speed and lower memory needs.

A newly-designed custom version of Caligari24 gives renderers a line-up of extras, including an unlimited number of light sources and better animation functions MyLad enables video productions to be enhanced with creative transitions while Desktop Darkroom offers image capture, retouching and a range of special effects for

image manipulation. GVP's Bill Prescott: "With the addition of this software upgrade, IV24 represents an opportunity for professionals to optimise their creative potential and productivity." British distributor Silica Systems (081-309 1111) are selling upgrade packs for £99.

#### Deluxe extras for disk utility

K utility software Quarterback Took s been improved by its Texas-base skers Central Coast Software to

ions and a better undele Other features include disk recovery sector editor, ability to improve effectly and compatibility with the lates migas. It is controlled though a new

Several additional programs are sup ed in the package: Locator olicator, File Erase, Disk Eraser

nd password-protect documents.
Information can be permanently
eleted using File Eraser and Disi

"User's can sometimes longer the huge investment in time that their work represents," said CCS's marketing director Rick Unland. "Like any cutting edge technology, problems can occur. "Quarterback Tools Deluxe is not just for emergencies any more Central Cost Software have paid close attention to their users, found out what the needed and given it to them."

teded and given it to them."

It will be sold through several Ulealers and has a US price of \$125 pgrades are available to existing. uarterback users for \$50. CCS can be lephoned on 010 1 512 328 6650. Graphice

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# Calling all **Programmers**

As a reader of Amiga Computing, you will already own one of our major products for the Amiga - assuming you saved the cover disk from the February issue. Now you can buy the complete manual for HiSoft BASIC 1.05, together with the full disk set (including an extended 1Mb compiler/editor and many examples) for only £19.95 plus P&P - just use the order form on the right. We also have all the official Commodore 3rd Edition ROM Kernel manuals in stock addition we have the excellent Mastering Amiga Assembler book which is free (honestly!) only when you buy Devpac 3 using the coupon in this ad. See the order form for some other special offers ...

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#### DIARY DATES

#### 16 to 20 September 1993

Occaniser News International (071-782 6000) Venue: Olympia London A public consumer electronics show

Commodore plan to attend.

5 to 7 September 1993 Organiser: Blenheim

London A trade-only event where new names

11 to 14 November 1993 Venue: Olympia, London A multi-format computer and console

19 to 21 November 1993 Organiser: Westminster Exhibitions (081-549.3444)

Venue: Wembley, London

#### OVERSEAS 3 to 6 June 1993

Summer CES (010 1 202 457 8728) Venue: Chicago, USA A massive consumer electronics show with Commodore presence.

. If your company is organising a show let us know so we can include the information in the diary

#### **Psygnosis** win export award

PSYGNOSIS, the Liverpool-based makers of top Amiga leisure software including Lemmings, have become the first computer games software company to receive the Queen's Award for Export.

The firm's exports to North America, Europe, Japan and Australia have more than quadrupled over the

now and we are beginning to see the fruits of these joint projects

Revenue from exports and royalties earned from Japan and America accounted for

more than 40 per cent of turnover between 1991 and 1992 "As a British-based company in the entertainment software field, we are the most successful in Japan," claimed Psygnosis development manager lan Hetherington. "Our work with major Japanese companies has been in development for some time

AMIGA owners using their computers for home productivity or small business work are among those targeted for Star Micronics latest printer.

It is the successor to the firm's 24-pin LC24-20 and features an increased buffer size of 39k - expandable to 71k - to increase the speed of graphics printing.

There are ten resident fonts and eight more can be bought as optional cartridges, including Super Letter Quality Fonts with 48-pin emula-

Print speeds are 200 characters per second in draft mode and 67cps in letter quality. Up to 210cps can be achieved in high speed draft

Amiga-specific drivers have been developed by Star. Price, £351.32.



LC24-2011: Big memory for Star printer

#### SCSI brings mass storage to A1200

and features as CII senders to make mass storage perspected to be used CIA having copies as SSSDD process ranging a SSSME and have all the make to process to be filled as an optical appeal. The The speed of the complete is improved feature by employing flower Mode pro-training the complete and the complete and the complete and the Up to 2018 of the seathful complete and the complete and larger is made on an establish in every different configurations. Prices were not fixed at the time of pump to press but a SSSMC SSCCCOO.

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#### Improved graphics for rendering system

SINGLE frame rendering system Simpatica has been improved to give video professionals AGA graphics support for IFF pictures and animation

> Also new is a 24-bit rotoscoping system which enables sequences of video frames to be digitised from tape, editing and re-rendered with full single frame

> > And the program's developers. Leicestershire-based Optonica (0455 558282), have also announced details of a new package for creating timelapse video

and stop motion sequences. Video Timelapse, or VDL for short, has a range of features including a point-and-

click user interface, on line help and onscreen video deck control. It has start sequence control by Future, Time and Manual modes and stop sequence control through Unlimited,

Rendertime, Timer, Duration, Timecode, Frames Recorded. Upgrades from earlier versions of Simpatica cost £49.95 while the full price for newcomers is £350.

VDL costs £350, or £199 will buy the software if the buyer already owns hardware included with Simpatica.

#### Power tool to help program makers

PROGRAMMERS are targeted for an interactive disassembler and software inspection utility which is claimed to be the most powerful available on any personal computer

ReSource comes from US firm The Puzzle Factory and is used to disassemble machine code into labelled and formatted source code which can It can cope with more than

200.000 lines of code per minute and Amiga enthusiasts can also use the software to examine all the software functions of the Amiga. A printed manual includes tutorials and within the program there is a

Hypertext system which is wordindexed to provide in-depth information about the software. British distributor is through Helios

Software (0623 554828). They charge £130 for the package

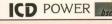
#### What do you know?

Although Amiga Computing has scores of contacts in the Amiga world we need you. If you have some hot news ring John Butters on the news desk now on 0625 878888 or fax to 0625 879966

All sources will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

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# Top secret work exposed!

Sega MegaCD.

What's

COMMODORE are working on a project so secret that they've only told a few select developers about it

At the World of Commodore Show in New York, Commodore's Lew Eggebrecht said that some projects, such as networking.



were currently on hold due to another present project. This reporter has done some snooping and discovered exactly what.

hardware unit combines the basic circuitry of an Amiga 1200 (the AGA chipset and the EC020 processor) with a top-loading CD-ROM drive, similar to that found on the

How can Commodore hope to take on CD-ROM giants like Sega and the coming Nintendo and 3DO CD-ROM units? By using an old sales tactic they dug out of their early 1980s archives - selling hot

An anonymous games house reports that Commodore told them that AmizaCD 32 is slated to sell at only \$299 (£199) com-

#### Denny Atkin with the latest news from the other side of The Pond

plete. This puts it about \$100 (667) less than a Sega Genesis (the US version of the Mega Drive) with the CD-ROM attachr at less than half the price of 3DO.

So is this just CDTV with A1200 euts? None. My informants tell me that AmigaCD 32 doesn't have all the computer-like expansion ports found on CDTV, and it looks more like a games cor sole than a VCR.

into an Amiga - Commodore are also developing an expansion unit that will allow standard computer peripherals to be Will this be the machine that puts

Commodore back on the top? Even the developers I talked to who are actually

Although the hardware is quite capable the consoles, and most companies seem to be targeting sure bets like Sega for their

# **Powering** THE ANNUAL World of Commodore Amiga show, held

April 2-4 at the New York Passenger Ship Terminal in bit more power to their hot new machines. Those who went seeking software, though, left largely disappointed. Although there were 33 exhibitors at the show, many of

those were dealers, magazines, and purveyors of public domain software. Among the more well-known developers who did attend were Centaur Development, DKB Software, Gold Disk, GVP, ICD, Microdeal, Migraph, Moonlighter, NewTek (in the guide of Video Toaster Magazine), SCALA, Soft-Logik, and Utilities Unlimited. Commodore's booth was consistently crowded, espe-

cially around the Amiga 4000T, which was shown to the The A4000T ("T" is said to stand for "floor sTanding

unit." rather than "Tower." due to NCR's ownership of the latter word) sports five Zorro III 32-bit expansion slots. four IBM AT slots, six drive bays, both IDE and SCSI-2 on the motherboard and - of particular interest to video nuts - dual video slots

#### **FUTURISTIC-LOOKING** The case is the slickest ever to come from the big C. with a futuristic-looking smoked-plastic curved door cov

ering the drive bays. The A4000T is still a couple of months away from shipping, and promises to be a premium-priced product, not one for the Zool crowd. Lew Eggebrecht, an information-seeking journalist's

dream, once again spilled the beans about Commodore's

You've read about the high and low-end 24-bit chipsets in previous columns (see the April issue of AC); the only

news there was that the low-end chip set will have support for adding a 16-bit stereo DAC for improved sound, and that the target date for the highend chipset, which ships first, has slipped to mid-1994.

Commodore's upcoming DSP chip has found a new home on a Zorro III place the chip on the 68040 CPU card, but Commodore realised they could double the performance of the AT&T DSP 32010 chip if they placed it on an expansion card with its own RAM.

This also allows them to run the card at 66MHz, instead of "only" 50MHz. The board will ship with its based on the AT&T VCOS software. Initial software will enable use of the board for real-time sound processing, modem, IPEG image decoder and encoder, and MPEG

audio decoder and encoder are in the works as well This board won't be cheap, but comparing its capabilities to those of the basic Motorola DSP in the Atari Falcon is like comparing a 33MHz 68040 to the 1MHz 6502 found Eggebrecht also said that CD-ROM drives for the rest of

the Amiga line were a top priority right now. The drives will be double-speed mechanisms and will support multisession discs (useful for Kodak's Photo-CD), and will include custom microcode to speed access dramatically. Eggebrecht said drives will be available for all Amigas, with the probable exception of the A600, since the A600

doesn't have the needed DMA access. Perhaps the most intriguing hint of the Amiga's future, though, came from Commodore US president Jim Dionne.



When asked during a question-and-answer session why Commodore hasn't been able to repeat the success of the C64 in the US market, Dionne hinted that Commodore this fall with a new machine that could be the next Commodore 64. He emphatically stated that this would not be the A600 - it's more likely to be the AmigaCD 32 Will it be the next C64? Commodore has already lost

the support of virtually all the US games developers. And a company that would sell sushi as "Commodore's Cold. Raw, Dead Fish!" is trying to go up against Nintendo and Sega in a marketing war? I don't think so. Is this the 64GS all over again?

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s mail order and high street dealers alike begin at last to ship the A1200HD in quantity, bitter feelings and cries of anger linger on over the way in which the machine's parent company

finally staggered into the hard drive market. The seeds of the furore were sewn last year when, to the stupefaction of those present, Commodore launched the A1200 in only one flavour - without a hard drive

Most observers scratched their heads and wondered whether an external hard drive connecting through the PCMCIA slot was to be announced shortly, but this did not happen and the internal expansion route became the only option for the storage

Given the easy availability of 2.5in IDE drives, it seemed that the damage could be limited. What rapidly became clear, however, was that although the hardware was easy to come by. Commodore themselves were making the ambitious owner's life a misery by supplying A1200s with five

Workbench 3.0 disks as opposed to six The missing disk? Why, the installation disk, of course, containing the hard drive tool kit and other essential hard drive utilities. Without this disk. A1200 owners might buy

their own drives, but fit them they could not. Magazines, assuming that the A1200 would be supplied with the same Workbench set as included with the A4000, wrongly reassured their readers that they would be able to buy a drive and cable then fit it at home, thus raising more doomed

#### Flies in a cesspit

Bewildered (and rather annoyed) customers tried everything from the A600HD install disk to a variety of shareware utilities, and confusion multiplied like flies in a cesspit. Commodore, fiddling merrily as the blaze developed around them, played dumb, and restricted themselves to a few statements about the naughtiness of copying disks distributed with other Amigas

Why the decision was taken to omit that vital sixth disk from the A1200 Workbench 3.0 set will probably remain a mystery. Commodore were never very good at discussing their motives, and the MD at the time of the A1200 launch, Kelly Sumner, has since left the

What is clear, however, is that the decision left a gaping hole in the market ripe for both exploitation and the confusion we rapidly saw developing

Smaller dealers, especially those in the mail order industry, took the opportunity to buy in cheap IDE drives and fit them themselves, but again they ran into the brick wall of Commodore's reluctance to give permission for dealers to supply

Commodore seem set to release a CD-based AGA

machine, but given their record on hard drives.

should we hold our breath for the

compact disc?

A4000 or A600 hard drive software. There were soon as many hard drive solutions as there were dealers and the poor punter, to judge from letters we received during the worst period, simply didn't know what was

going on. Commodore's answer was to close down their technical support division, admit in secret that they hadn't the facilities to put together their own A1200HD, and throw the hot potato

The deal struck between ZCL and Wang at last made the A1200HD a reality, but by this time a huge number of floppy-only machines had been sold and their owners were no

As no moves have been made to provide an official upgrade path for existing owners wishing to fit hard drives, and as Commodore continue to ignore the calls from mail order dealers to at least release the official formatting software, users who buy an A1200 with the aim of upgrading it at a later

date will find themselves as frustrated as those early owners.

#### **Older PCMCIA**

What about PCMCIA? Many have pointed to the slot as a potential interface for everything from fax modems to electric toothbrushes, but most have neglected to mention that the slot fitted to the A1200 is an older revision of the standard than that currently being worked on by the PCMCIA market as a whole In other words, the vast majority of manufacturers developing on the

standard are in all probability developing devices which will not work on the older A1200 PCMCIA slots. If Commodore, in their wisdom, are unwilling to make a shout about this discrepance

between marketing claim and fact. Aming Computing is not The complete lack of PCMCIA expansion options, the late arrival of the official A1200HD, the missing sixth disk, and the company's refusal to allow third parties to use

With the demise of CDTV, the Amiga 600's death by AGA, and the rumours concerning CD-based Amigas, AAA chipsets, and so on, the last thing we need at the moment is for a lack of development to stifle the A1200 market.

The machine makes for easily the best value-for-money micro ever begin to suspect that Commodore are unable to support their product or are intent on replacing it within the year, confidence in the 32-bit revolution may begin to slip.

## The AC team

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Paul Austin ART EDITORS PRODUCTION EDITOR

ADVERTISING MANAGER Sue Horsefield

AD SALES Andy Simps

expectations

Tym Lecky John Butters STAFF WRITERS

AD PRODUCTION Barbara Newell

MARKETING ASSISTANT Lucy Oliver PRODUCTION MANAGER Sandra Childs SYSTEMS MANAGER David Stowart CIRCULATION DIRECTOR David Wree DISTRIBUTION COMAG (0895) 444055

SUBSCRIPTION 051-357 2941 Member of the Audit Burezu of Circulations ABC 64,418

Published by Europress Enterprise Ltd Europa House, Adlinaton Park.

Tel 0625 828888 Fax: 0625 850652 CHAIRMAN Derek Meaki



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efore the first of AC's three-part B&Plr tutorials, it's worth spending a little time exploring the interface and installation of the software. Hard disk users will be happy to know that installing the program is simply a matter of dragging the B&PIr drawer

Assuming hard disk users have done click on the B&Plr icon will reveal the three basic elements of the interface. namely the track window, transport control and window selection icons. On certain systems loading may take a while but be patient - it's well worth the

#### Icon start

Exploring the icons is probably the best place to start - so simply move through them in turn. After a counte clicks you'll notice that some of the advanced options

Obviously it wouldn't be good business on the part of Blue Ribbon to hand over the entire package, and it's here where AC's amazing upgrade offer begins to show its worth

Although a fair selection of windows are inactive, B&PIr still offers incredible power and a real taste of the potential within B&PPro2. We'll cover the various options as and when required but for now Amiga Combuting brings you Bars&Pipes Ir, the most bowerful musical giveaway in magazine history - an eight-track sequencer with powerful editing. Midi and internal sound subbort. and full save

we'll turn our attentions to transport con-

As you may have already noticed the transport controls - like the larger track gram's windows.

tane deck controls, the present tempo setting, a song position counter plus an DAK

# The best none

assortment of flag icons and special

In subsequent support columns we'll now we'll stick to the basics. Although the sequencer is empty we can still experiment with the controls. Click on the play button and you should see the sone position marker begin to move within the

To stop playback, simply click on the

blue square or alternatively click on the square and triangle combination button to

If you choose the stop option you can still move back and forth through the sequencer with the fast-forward and rewind arrows. To adjust the tempo simply click above or below each figure using multiple clicks or a

# Focus on the edit

We'll look at editing in detail over the coming issues but for now here's a brief taste of the power on offer. Assuming some changes are required to the performance, double-click on the sequence window to reveal the track in close-up. Now click on the various icons listed below depending on you requirem





nce according to the note oth and rolume settings





- edisst the lens





and volume settings. If used with internal sounds the Span kers requester must be active Use the space bar to add re and backspace to delete

copy and erase options

## **Recording a classic**

for either Midi or internal sounds, it is time to attempt some morning. Move to the song pull-down and select New New folthe set-up procedure depending on you preference for inter-

AmonPhone tool at the end of each track and a Snare keys icon The beginning, but unlike the demo you'll have to specify the

samples yourself by double clicking on the AmigoPhone icon and defining the sample by selecting New. This will present a requester which you can use to load a samthe from the selection available within the instrument drawer on

Assuming set-up is complete, the next move is to make sure the metronome is on-line and has at least a one-bar lead-in prior

to recording. Next click on the grey box just before the sequence

affires, Jr. 1.8) 8 1991,1993 The Blue Ribbon Soundlorks, Ltd

Finally make sure the track is selected - a small red arrow

should appear just after the track name. Now move to the transnort control and click on the record button. The sequencer is now

set to record and if you click on the play button recording will All that remains is to hit the button, play your masterpiece, and press stop. When recording is complete the sequencer automatically de-selects the record button in the transport control

as a safeguard - this must be active in addition to the record or merge options on the target track before you can record anuthina If you want to re-record the sequence, simply rewind the

sequencer, re-select the record option in the transport and press play - this will automatically overwrite the original.

If however you wish to combine the old with the new, toggle the record, merge, and play button on the target track until it shows a red M. activate the record button within the transport and press play. Any new notes will then be combined with the old.

tools at both the beginning of the input pipe and the end of the output.

and out tools already in place - very For those with a suitable Midi interface and a Midi compatible sound source all that remains is to click on the small a red arrow will appear inside the

By default B&Plr loads up with Midi-in

#### Sound checks

Now move to the output on the output pipe and select one of the 16 available Midi channels by clicking on the channel icon - a pop-up requester will appear allowing you to make the appropriate

If you select a voice for the appropriate channel on your synth or module you should be able to play some notes and hear the results - assuming you have some form of amplification of

If after the aforementioned procedure between the Amiga and your instrument -

ers&Pipes Ir in full flight as the AC demo takes the stage

remember you need both Midi-in and out connections. Although B&PJr is primarily a Midi sequencer, it still allows access to the internal talents of the Amiga with notes input via mouse or keyboard.

Before the guided tour to internal sound set-up, it's essential that readers running a 1Mb system should read the instructions detailed in the hox labelled Attention 1Mh owners

By far the easiest way to learn is to load the demo sone supplied on theCoverDisk. To access the aforementioned demo, move to the song pull-down and select load - a prompt will ask whether to save before

A new requester will then pop-up showing the available volumes. Select the CoverDisk and list the contents of the Bars & Pipes-Ir drawer - at which point select

Once safely installed you'll see the basic set-up required for playback and recording. However before a close inspection, hit the play button and give it a listen. When you've become thoraughly bored, click on the stop button and we'll look at what makes the pro-

#### Atention 1Mb owners Prior to loading the B&PJr demo song

on a 1Mb system the following procedure must be carried out: 1. Type ENDCLI into the CLI window

and hit Return 2. Load B&PJr and select the memory savers option from the preferences pull-down menu. Select each option with the exception of Use Gray Scale - a small check mark

should appear alongside each 3. Once the Close Workbench option is applied certain systems may

require a re-boot in order to return to the normal CoverDisk environ-

changes you make. ful addition just below the tempo control three-quarter speed

playback and recording. adjust the tempo to play rectly, clicking on either option to temporarily slow the sequencer

when necessary Moving on to the track window we finally arrive at the heart of the sequencer offering eight tracks complete with the pipes that give the sequencer its name

reflect any tempo

Although rather unassuming, the plumbing either side of the sequence winthe program allowing the addition of varifrom simple I/O operations to special

In order to get any sound from the sequencer the first task is to place suitable

rough appear. For the moment simply click on the internal button, set the lead-in to one, and then close the requester. If you now hit the Play button and continue editing the tempo a short clicking sound will Note velocity - use

Nutr length - Used to define note

impth and relative bar position

song in memory tempo changes are pretty

the windows pull-down menu and select

the Metronome option, a small requester

utton to

to define volume of notes added via in the edit and out of the track perticularly handy for When editing is complete simply click on the closedot in the top left-hand corner and the program will

automatically store any changes and return to the track window ready to record the next track in your





gram's internal sounds tick. As you can see, all that's required to turn Midi notation into internal sound is an AmigoPhone tool placed at the end of the appropriate

Like most tools the AmigoPhone revealing the set-up for that particular tool. For the moment leave the various parameters as they are and close the requester.

Obviously the AmigoPhone tool only supplies the sample and its parameters the question is how to get the note information into the sequencer. The answer is the Spare-keys tool which can be found in the tool box or more easily as the input tool on track 8 in the demo. If you select that track by clicking

#### **Amiga Diary**

Author: Andrew K Pearson

Amiga Diary is one of those desktop utilities so often found in the public domain and so often left out of the average owner's PD collection because most of us don't realise just how useful they can be.

Rather than offer an alarm function for events which occur during a single day. Amina Diary is designed to keep track of events and appointments over the course of

a few weeks, months, or even years It features a page flicking system to simulate a real paper diary and has a quick

"look-up" function for jumping to any day required Each day can have as many pages as required for its diary entries, which means that the user need never type an entry in short form as is so often the case with diary

programs. If this isn't enough for all information, the scribble function will enable the jotting down of notes. Most programs of this type allow just a single line of text for each entry with little or

(usually) no explanatory information to remind the user about the appointment or Amina Diary will succeed where others fail simply because it offers much the

same ease of use as a normal diary without forcing the user to stick to cryptic little

on the button directly after the track name, a small red arrow will appear. Now double click on the Spare-keys tool and a miniature keyboard will pop up. assigned to that particular track will

Although useful on occasion, it's the Amiga keyboard option offered by the Spare-key tool that really makes internal sounds a viable option. Assuming the Spare-key requester is still active, try tapping in a few notes on the bottom two rows on the Amiga keyboard. You should light up on Spare-key requester - to move through the available octaves simply click

To try a different track simply click on the original Spare keys icon and drag it to button - the red arrow will move to new tool to open the requester. You should now be able to play notes as before

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#### Quoter

#### Author: Ben Merrifield

Quoter is an amusing program of the fortune cookie type which, every time it is run. provides a quote for the day. This can be either a general truism, such as Sod's Law. or a quote taken from a famous personality, such as Winston Churchill or Groucho Marx.

Most trillating of all are those which have been added down the years by wits in offices and workplaces around the world, my own favourite being: "When the plane you are on is late, the plane you are transferring to is on time." (anon).

The CoverDisk contains not only the Quoter program, but also a sizeable file of ready-made quotes which can be added to using a standard text editor or a wordprocessor. This file, called Quotes Dat, can be found in the CoverDisk's S: directory, and for the program to work on another disk must be transferred across.

In other words, if you have a hard drive called Workbench:, you would boot from the hard drive, insert the CoverDisk, and drag the Quoter drawer across, then open a Shell and type:

#### COPY AC62:S/QUOTES.DAT TO S:

Users of floopy drives can do the same to put Quoter on another disk, with the one difference that they might have to delete a few files first.

Quoter also requires the Hisofthasic library, which can be found in the CoverDisk Libs drawer. To copy this to your regular system disk, type the command:

#### COPY ACAZ:LIBS/HISOFTBASIC,LIBRARY TO LIBS:

#### The program should now function perfectly.

Readers who have access to a book of quotations or who find their favourite isn't in the data file can add their own and have the Quoter run on every boot-up. To do this, edit your startup-sequence and add the line:

where [DIR] is the name of the directory into which you have copied the program. It really can brighten up a boot-up.

# PrintManager v1.1

Author: Nicola Salmoria

Print spoolers are utilities which the non-printer owning public will take one look at and ionore. The rest of us, however, will recognise them as one of the most useful and time-saving utilities ever devised. When a program prints to any printer, be it a slow or fairly fast model, the output is

passed to the print buffer which, if available, is normally a few kilobytes of RAM hardly enough for a page of text.

When a DTP layout is printed, the resulting reduction in speed while the program waits for the printer to complete the page can be excruciating The result is a loss of productivity and, if using a very slow printer, sanity,

PrintManager is a priceless utility for Kickstart 2.0 and above which intercepts all print inhs sent to the printer ports, no matter which program originates them, and spools them to a waiting queue of print jobs. Depending on the user's preferences, the directory to which the print jobs are

spooled can be either a floopy, a hard drive, or the RAM disk. A tool type found on the PrintManager icon can be altered to suit any system, so if the user has a hard drive but not much memory, spooling to disk is the obvious and easy choice.

A graphical interface controls all organisation of jobs, enabling the pausing and rearranging of the queue, and as PrintManager runs like a Commodity, it can be hid-



The Amiga Computing CoverDisk is designed to be as simple to use as

New readers may have difficulties using our CoverDisk, so we have included this page to help you out. Below we explain how to copy files from one disk to another, how to copy the entire CoverDisk and how to de-archive programs, none

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of the first things you must do when get your CoverDisk is make a backup copy, then put the original CoverDisk away for safe keeping. As a rule you should also do this with the majority of your software collection



#### How to make a backup

To copy the entire CoverDisk, load up your Workbench disk, then either click once on the CoverDisk icon and select Duplicate, or select Copy from the Workbench menu, or open CLI/Shell and type:

#### ancereas case onn- to ann-

When prompted, put your CoverDisk (the source disk) in df0: and be ready to replace it with your blank disk (the destination disk). Follow the Amiga's on-screen prompts until the disk copy is completed. Now put the original away in a safe place and use your backup.



#### De-archiving

Occasionally we have so many programs to fit onto the CoverDisk that we have to archive them. Archiving is where we take the entire contents of a disk and compress them into one file which is much smaller, giving us space to fit more programs onto the disk.

Dearrhiving programs which are on the CoverDisk is a very simple task. If a program has been archived then you will need a blank disk to dearchive it onto.

Say we have archived a program called FRED. You simply double click on FRED's icon, and will be asked if you have a blank disk ready to dearthive to. Type "Y" or "n" accordingly

Your computer will then copy the archived file into its memory and ask you to insert your blank disk. It will proceed to format the disk, and will then de-crunch

the archived file onto your blank disk Once this has been done you can simply reboot your machine with the disk which contains the dearchived program on it and then use the program as instructed in the CoverDisk pages

Note that if you have a Workbench 2 or upward machine you must boot with the CoverDisk writeenabled to perform the dearchiving process.



## Copying individual files

You might at some point want to copy a single program from a CoverDisk to your compilation, Workbench disk or

To do this you'll need the COPY command. As most CoverDisk programs are stashed away in their own directories, the quickest way to copy a program is to copy the whole directory at once. Use the command:

#### COPY (directory) TO (newdisk) ALL

where (directory) is the full pathname of the directory you wish to copy, and {newdisk} is the name of the disk and directory into which it will be copied.

For example, if you wanted to copy a utility called FRED from CoverDisk 27's Utilities drawer to a directory called FRED on your Workbench disk, you'd type:

#### COPY COVERDISK27: UTILITIES/FRED TO WORKBENCH1.3/FRED ALL

Alternatively, you can click once on the FRED directory icon and drag it across to the new disk's window. This has the advantage of creating a new directory for you

Once you have moved a particular program to where you require it you could experience some problems running the program. This is sometimes caused by the program not being able to find files which it needs to run.

A good example is the text files on the CoverDisk These have been crunched using PowerPacker, so when you try to copy them to another disk and then try to read them you can't unless you have also copied the Powerpacker library into your LIBS drawer.



to your Work disk or hard drive make sure you also copy any other files the program requires, ie fonts, libraries, device drivers and Ccommands

#### Workbench 3

If you have a Workbench 3 machine, don't worry - most if not all of the programs on the

CoverDisk will work on your machines. If the program is specifically designed to work with Workbench 3 then you may have to copy the program to your hard drive or Workbench disk using the process described earlier on this page

# Upgrade your





Here's a money-saving opportunity to upgrade from this month's cover disk Bars&Pipes, Jr! Just £199. including VAT and p&p, buys you the new Bars&Pipes Professional 2.0 from The Blue Ribbon SoundWorks! That's a £100 saving!

Bars& Pipes Professional 2.0 is without doubt the hottest item in both the sequencer and multimedia markets... Amiga Computing

1//	
7 3	isk

The upgrade kit includes two disks, an excellent 384 page manual in a binder, and a registration card that qualifie you for upgrades and new product information.

Extra features of arguably the most powerful user interface ever include:

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28 Amiga Computing July 1993

84 page

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Do you want to overlay computer graphics or titles onto your videos? If so, you will need a Genlock. Rendale Genlocks are built to a very high standard, and are used widely in the professional environment.

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#### THE GENLOCK PEOPLE

#### RENDALE 8802 £139 -

The Rendale range of Amiga Genlocks begins with the 8802. This is a Genlock, which, when attached to an Amiga computer and a suitable video system, will allow you to mix video and computer graphics. It offers all the functions that you need, such as:

\* RGB feed through, allowing for a preview monitor.

\* High quality output video, which in default mode provides video with overlaid computer graphics.

#### RENDALE 8802 FMC £178 -

It can be supplied with a device which will allow you to fade between computer graphics and the video source, and also a mode control unit so that you can move between Amiga only, video only, background mode and kewhole modes 1 & 2.

#### RENDALE SUPER-8802 £499 -

The Rendale Super-8802 is a development of the basic 8802 unit, it performs the same functions, but has the added capability of also working with Super-VHS signals. The unit will allow the user to cross fade between the Amiga and video signal. In addition, some basic wipe patterns are provided, and also a fade to plack control. Marke control is also provided via hardware.

#### NEW! RENDALE FMC £45-fitted

8802 FMC Unit

This is a brand new piece of kit which will improve the capabilities of the popular Rendale 8802 Genlock. This untial allows you to cross fade between the Amiga and video signals, so that you can gently fade computer titles in and out. Also, the ability to switch between the various modes offered by the 8802 is provided. The required mode is selected by a push switch, giving smooth, flicker free transformations.

The FMC unit does need to be soldered into the 8802, we can do this at our factory if required.



#### UPGRADE PATHS

Rendale Genlocks are designed to be flexible, and the ability of your Genlock to grow with your system was deemed to be of paramount importance in our design process.

**LA5** –

8802

As a consequence, existing 8802 users can follow one of two upgrade paths. The fade and mode control unit (FMC unit) can be purchased independently, and fitted to your 8802 genlock by our engineer. We would only require your unit for around two days.

£400

The other upgrade path is the move from a purely composite 8802 to the Super-8802. This can also be done simply, although we do have to perform the upgrade work at our factory. We would only require your unit for around two days.

Computing July 1993



Greg Malcangi quipped: "You're lucky to offered us thousands for a picture of us together we we announced our engagement."

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Such is the fame of Evelyn Glennie, especially in Sectiond, where she was recently voted Scotswoman of the Decade. When newspapers start taking an interest in

She was born in Aberdeen, where she studied timpani the age of 12 and in 1982 she entered the Royal more from one award for excellence to the next and onto

She's played the Hollywood Bowl with the LA

thing Evelyn does is a first. You may have seen her on

She's on radio all the time too, not only performing but also talking about her extraordinary life and work -

Now she's so famous, composers are actually writing

tunes especially for her, like Dominic Muldowney, John

Evelyn is a slight, soft spoken woman who laughs readily and pays close attention when other people are speaking, and although slightly reticent to talk about herself, is very enthusiastic about her work and music in general.

I asked her how this fame affects her. Does she mind

thought about becoming famous, and that's still the case. I'm just interested in my work and doing the best I can.

"All my aims are personal ones. If I reach them, fine, if I don't, that's also fine. If I decide to give up music tomor-

row I don't want the whole world coming down on me. there's any recognition of what I do then I see it going

> number of styles she performs in or does she want to stick with the classical style?

> "I'm very interested in spreading my wings a lot more and things is something I want to

As a percussionist, and a particularly well travelled one, Evelyn has more in common

asks her why cians than a lot of Western musicians who try and fail to meld the many styles from around the world. "When people ask me 'what sort of musician are you?"

Evelyn Glennie is the only full-time

solo percussionist

in the world, and

she chose the

studio. Phil South

Amiga for he

PROFILE

in a taxi or something, I'll say percussion and they'll say "I'm not a classical musician. I'm not a jazz musician

I'm just a musician. I'm interested in all styles of music."

People, especially people who work for newspapers. love to categorise, and Evelyn defies categorisation. Writers tend to latch on to the fact that despite being in an almost exclusively hearing profession. Evelyn is in fact profoundly deaf. Does this annoy her? "Nowadays it does, especially in this country. I get a

wee bit frustrated now if it's constantly brought up. I usually make a point to newspaper journalists who are basically talking about your life. I'll mention it but that's not

"No matter what you do they'll write what they want. But abroad quite often the reviews for concerts will not know, and that's good for me."

In fact at some concerts overseas nobody present, not the audience, the orchestra or the press, will know about

Evelyn's deafness. This is the way they like it, as the risk is that someone will say the music is good "for someone who's deaf" rather than just the music is good Evelyn does, however, have the career of someone twice her age, and her credits are stunning by any yard-

stick. But as I said she puts all this back into music, teaching young people about music, and demonstrating through example that musicians are hard working people and you don't just turn up on the night in a flowery

Practice looms large in the life of any musician, more so in the life of a top musician, and Evelyn is no exception.



rlyn with a familiar set

# PROFILE For ref. for

would be when we left. She is learning new instruments all the time, some old and traditional, some new like the MIDI DrumKat in the studio. In fact she doesn't know how many instruments she can play these days – she's lost count.

count.
"A lot of them are related. I play all the main instruments, all the tuned percussion, timpani, various drums, a lot of hand percussion, bodran, lots of things.

"I constantly collect instruments, and if a piece requires an instrument I've never come across before, I'll try and find out about the instrument, and find a specialist on that instrument and learn from them."

Greg relates the learning of a new instrument to learn-

ing a computer language.

ing a computer language.

"If you've already learned Amos, then Basic or
Database Management Language is that much easier to get
into. And the more languages you learn the easier the next
one is to learn, the more points of reference you have."

One of the reasons I was talking to Evelyn was that she and Greg have recently completed their studio, which is entirely run (business and Midi) using Amigas. The A4000 nestling in the studio among the racks and

The A4000 nestling in the studio among the racks and digital recorders runs everything via Bars & Pripse Pro 2. Although the studio was made so they could record and rehearse, Evelyn composes using something far more sophisticated—the human brain.

"A lot of it is just done in my mind. Nearly all the pieces I've written are stored in my head. I haven't really got around to writing them down, which I really have to do

"Sometimes I compose at the keyboard, but very rarely do I compose at the marimba or something like that. I'm really keen to explore IV music, documentary and film music because I love to write just little snippets of music. I'm basically a composer with a tiny 'C."

She holds her forefinger and thumb about two millimetres apart. Despite this opinion of her composing skill, she's hoping her new Amiga-based studio will help her to explore the world of music for TV and films at her own pace.

"And if in the future I consider cutting back on the performances I can always work from here. I think I mentioned this to Greg and so we thought we'll get very basic stuff, and the idea grew and grew until Greg took over and left me way behind with the equipment."

So more they have a studio in which they can more deverything from classical CNs to hard grumpy. The condition of the that? Gorg is anxions to work with the classical to the dark of they ire into quality rather than quantity.

I asked him if he thought using Midi tripped up the musical process by placing too many options at a musician's disposal.

And it's of

controlled by

an Amigo...

"I think you've hit the nail on the head. I think Midi is designed to aid those people who aren't musicians. Midi is actually very difficult to work with if you're a musician. We had problems.

"The quantise was off, no metronome or anything and Evelyn just played, and of course when we came to edit something it was impossible because the music notation



Evelyn Glennie and Greg Makangi in the studio Greg built

was all over the place. With standard classical music not tion it would be relatively easy, but with Midi it take everything very literally."

With regular music it's all very loose, as far as the re-

of the world is concerned, but very tight within itself.

And as Greg pointed out, it's the little imperfection
that make classical music a performance rather than
squeaky clean record.

They can record
everything from
sicical to hard

"So were trings to work out same that are work

"So were trings to work out same
"So were trings to work out same trings to work

"So we're trying to work out way
of keeping the classical notatio
straightforward while allowing th
freedom underneath it. I think the wa
forward is for the notation to be quatised without the music itself being quantised. I have to
say Blue Ribbon are very helpful.

"It's getting there, but time signatures are still a problem. That piece I played to you earlier was in 10/8 and it the machine that's broken down into 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1 2. Getting a definable metronome is something Blu-Ribbon are working on."

As far as Greg is concerned, on the Amiga Bars & Pipe is the best sequence available, and he's tried

available, and he's tried them all. He was always an Amiga fan, and he wanted to do it all using

the Amiga if he could.

He demonstrated why
using the A4000. While
running a sequence
through the Midi stack.

he brought Superbase Pro 4 to the front and did a sort on the hundreds of sounds in the Proteus modules. The music didn't stop.

and so multitasking increases the productivity of the studio without causing all the hang-ups you'd get with the Mac or PC, which would stop the music while you worked on the database of sounds or Evelon's blisterine performance schedule.

digital recorder, Greg can print out a list of tour dates and do it all there and then without holding up the session.



Greg hard at work on the very Amigo in question

All the equipment in the studio is paid for, and they can keep the place running even if they don't get allocate quite a lot of time to them while they're there. One thing Greg is keen to do is make sure he keeps a wide spectrum of work, so he'll be cutting a CD for one of

Europe's top brass ensembles, but also a demo CD for a "What it means is that I can really be certain of the quality. If I get someone

money, but has got a lot I think are some great ideas. I can say 'Look. we'll do if for what you can afford' if it takes a week, if it takes two weeks. You pay me for the finished product. "It does mean I'm los-

because there'll be a lot more down time, but as I said before that's not a "If for example you've eot a reader who's come

up with some particu-& Pipes, and yet they haven't got the couple

"There are limits - I can't spend four weeks on some-Publicity isn't a problem due to who Evelyn is. But on

the studio has to be of very high quality, to match her rep-If she had to name one event which would be her

greatest achievement, what would it be? "If I had to name one event it would be the carnival in

allowed to compete, and even then she had to wear the male costume and wear dark make-up to make her look

"Generally though I'm happy to be the first full time solo percussionist, which means there will be others now

got a great deal of

ing money compared to

the other side of the coin, it means that any work leaving

Rio de Janiero, Brazil." Evelyn is one of the few Europeans who's ever been



tracks bring this up to about 80 tracks in total.

Extensive collection of percussion instruments (no kidding)

Yamaha DMR8 16-track, 20-bit digital recorder Akai S3000 sampler Proteus 1 XR synth module

Sony B7 reverb Sony D7 digital delay Lexicon LXP15 reverb Aural Exciter C2 with Big Bottom (R)

plus Drawmer outboard gear, and Marshall and Mesa Boogie amplification

following. I sometimes look around at musicians who are at the very top of their tree, if you like, who've been in the profession for many years "I don't want to be there at that point for the next 10 or

20 years. I think about that a lot and I don't want to be tourine around, playing in different venues, playing... not the same repertoire but it will get like that. I feel I've got to create different avenues to keep me fresh "If you asked me for example ten years ago, how do

you see your future?, I would never ever have mentioned a recording studio. So who knows what may happen?" Finally, if people are unfamiliar with her music, which CDs should people look out for to introduce themselves? I think probably Rhythm Sone, as it has a lot of the

well known pieces, but it's also got a couple that are quite atmospheric. It would give you a gentle introduction to Her current noisier and more dangerous album

Rebounds is out now on RCA/BMG records, which Greg says is his mother's least favourite for precisely the reasons he likes it!

Contact



recording Evelyn, or providing her with a place to rehearse. There are many difficulties with working in recording studoe the key difficulty which affects the quality of the final

So in setting up their own facility they ensure that time

"Also if you start playing instruments that are outside

the engineer's field of experience... anything really apart

from piano, violin, guitar or drum kit."

Pause while everyone laughs their socks off.

is a luxury they can afford, which comes out in Evelyn's sparkling recordings. Greg is also fairly critical about the

y bailt

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hink we're re working

, and he could.

n't stop,



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could provide additional complex and sophisticated capabilities to broaden even

this piece of gear is the packaging. A very

taking off.

Amiga-dedicated picture-inpicture viewing facility. Wilf Rees salivates...

is a matt-black box. 30mm high, 200mm deep and 300mm wide - almost the same

In addition to the main unit there is yet supplies of the brick type, as opposed to the mutated 13 amp plug. This terminates

in a male five-pin DIN connector, which conveys the required voltage to the main unit. An infra-red remote control unit gives the complete

insert, describing how one might connect PIP to an Amiga system. This I am sure puter systems which it might serve as

#### Inputs for all

plished by means of the remote controller. An LED numerical read-out offers information

The rear of the unit is really the business end, bristling with a collection of 12 phono inputs, one RF input, one five-pin DIN input, one three-position slider switch and a minia-

To eliminate the obvious, the DIN socket is power-in, the miniature lack socket is headphones, and the three-position slider is a volume adjustment level with three presets

of these sockets which offer the versatility.

ASSORTED

I used a camcorder, a VHS VCR, a and an Amiga. All functioned perfectly.

What was I able to do? I was able to either by selecting which source occupied the main screen, and which the picture in also selectable between the main screen and a subsidiary input. An additional fea-

any of you video buffs out there will be familiar with the name Rocter. For some time they have provided the Amiga market-place with a range of reasonably priced, yet effective genlocks.

و و و و

straight to the heart of those of us who just range of facilities which extend the Amiga's capabilities even further

TV tuner. Now you might say "So what?" offer this facility, and applied to television and video situations, are about as useful as a second-hand Atari, but what no company facility, adding a TV tuner, extending the useful tasks, and marketing it at an accept-

m

12 or: VCR1 with PIP Amina graphics overlaid on VCR2

AMICA

colour television, and makes a very ability to add a computer image inset into TV picture and vice versa, and it is this which I think offers really exciting

can enjoy playing a game, or typing a

### INFRA-RED These may well be sufficient reasons in

me is the possibilities this facility offers

below a twin lamp) is triggered, the I/O

PIP sound

adjuster

# How to set it all up MONITOR

PIPVIEW

In this schematic, I have presented a permutation of a multi-media setup, which uses the PIPView extensively. VCR1 and VCR2 both feed into the PIPView with Audio. VCR2 has the video feed going into the genlock, whereas the video out from VCR1 goes

aerial lead comes in as RF and noes into the

1 View the Amiga graphics overlaid on: VCR2 video 3 or as above: VCR2 with TV (selected channel)

4 or as above: VCR2 with VCR1 PIP 5 or as above: VCR2 with notion of VCR1 or TV

7 or as above: TV with PIP Amiga graphics overlaid on VCR2

8 or: TV with PIP VCR1 9 or: TV with PIP VCR2

Turn your monitor into a

remote controlled TV in minutes

Voltage change is detected by the I/O the PIP, and there is my son unknowingly demonstrating one of the cheapest

by a video camera offering security surveillance, or a satellite receiver could replace VCR1, offering a whole new variety of

era could be pointed at a baby's cot, and sleeping (or otherwise), little dear simply

nature of the message or procedure being

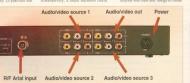
facturers wish to highlight.

record back to capture the two images.

CIRCUITRY On a banal level, it allows you to use your Amiga and monitor two other TV

### allow you to record from air, and actually eliminate the commercial breaks from the recording, due to sensing circuitry in the

That quality to which I refer is the be many things to many people - only the



EASE OF USE 7 IMPLEMENTATION 9 VALUE FOR MONEY 7 OVERALL 8

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efore the inevitable stroll through the huge and slightly might be a good time to describe what the new Real3D is all about, and who it has been designed for

ably animation, with the main thrust of plethora of new techniques which without

doubt make the program the most comprehensive animation tool on the market. fold. For the professional willing to invest the considerable amount of time needed to art platform that with practice will gener-

ate images that simply aren't possible on any other platform. egory, the user base is likely fall into two

## money is nothing compared to their Coffee table

The second could perhaps be described as the coffee table professional. In short, age, play with it once or twice and then

Although a rather brutal introduction I the praises of a package without giving the punter and the application of

In short Real3D 2 personifies profesthe images on a plate and as a result

Thanks to the intuitive design of most Amiga releases we've all become a little spoiled when it comes to user friendliness.



A classic impac from the new Real ED featuring B-solines in all their plory

Real3D v2 promises to be the most complex modelling and animation system ever to hit the Amiga, Paul Austin grits his teeth and takes it on

# **Even better** real thing

ball firmly in your court. After a little over that I've only begun to scratch the surface - however that doesn't mean I'll be offertain magazines consider a format for

A classic example of the program putting you in the hot seat is the new and

offering a unique approach which puts the

totally unique interface. Within this initially alien environment almost anything goes and it's up to you what does, and you're provided with a collection of components which can be added,

Of course this doesn't mean you're provided with a blank screen and expected to fill it, as initially you're offered a default to the interface.

They are the view, select and tool wintion of each, a brief overview of the main principles of the new environment would

We're all well aware of the multitasking skills of the Amiga but the new Real attempts to take multitasking a step further by offering an asynchronous, no wait state design.

behaves as almost a program within a prorender in one view while editing the mapping attributes of the object - ready for a simultaneous render from a different angle in another window

To take things to their extreme,

windows all rendering in differen styles simultaneously. In short, no matter how fast you apply changes the program still, you can open as many environments completely independent of the parent and

After two weeks working with the program I've only now begun to scratch the surface...

even running in a different This is ideal for specialist animation environments, freeform modelling, point

Still, however ingenious, it isn't with-

editing or emulation of other programs the old Real, Imagine, Caligari and so on. available if there's a need.

you could have half a dozen view







indeed

# than th

out its faults - a testament to this being

This problem could have been avoided

oe lex em e

upon earlier, the obvious place to start is

render the image either to the window, a file, or an external display device, the selection of which can be

defined via the main interface. tomised with various options colour - whether it be a gradi-

# **Keep on moving**

the rest of the package, animation has undergone some dramatic changes, not least of which is the total redesign of the way in which the program handles the animation process.

In the past, Real3D operated strictly on a frame-by-frame basis using key frames and tween points. Now however the programmers have cast aside the old frame format completely in preference for animation over time.

The advantage is that re-computation of a sequence is now simply a matter of adjusting the relative time of the element or scene thereby allowing the software to re-interpolate

the sequence automatically. When this new approach is combined with the hierarchical combination of object, mapping and animation, you arrive at a very logical, clean and self-contained approach to problem of complex animation - and believe me some of the program's anim

techniques can produce very complex animations Needless to say, due to the variety and complexity of the anim options you're likely to spend just as much time mastering the various animation techniques as you model the various components of the

To illustrate the various anim options here's a brief rundown of the available methods. Obviously basic motion via paths has been included, in addition to more

sophisticated options allowing shape modification to produce undulating organic forms,. There's morphing - possibly in conjunction with textures; skeletal anims, which provide a common structure for related elements; and of

course inverse kinematics - ideal for combination objects which interact to produce the illusion of joints such as hands and fingers.

On top of this comes the program's particle animation system which allows the addition of real world effects such as gravity, velocity, spin, mass and surface friction.

As a result, pool table anims will no doubt be the in-thing as the virtual cue ball crashes into the pack, automatically sending the balls spinning across the baize interacting with their counterparts just like the real

thing To put the anim options into perspective, almost 70 example scenes come as part of the package, each of which illustrate a different technique,

They include (deep breath) paths: rotation: sweeps (alias tracking): size manipulation; stretches; direction; control curves; skeleton effects: inverse kinematics: morphing; transformations; radial force (alias gravitational effects); directional force (such as turbulence); tangent (centrifugal force); collision detection; creation (for example boiling water or wriggling snakes) and finally liquids (whether they be single drops or an entire ocean).



A great example of what can be produced with practice - Image by Frank Voyt

quick rough renders which ignore any tex-

provide. The somewhat less conspicuous but under the microscope and it's from here

Old Real users will already be familiar with the program's hierarchical approach complete with a few embellishments of

In a nutshell. Real organises its scenes

all structure.

### **Target objects**

For example, adding a texture or multithe target object - thereby appearing as

The real beauty of this hierarchical approach is that if other objects or subautomatically share the same mapping

within the selection window.



package spend the extra cash but otherwise its predecessor is a real barooin

natural approach - and of course multiple retaining an overview in another.

hijacked. Thankfully however they had they now appear as icons offering all the windows also share the internal multitasking design you can open a series of user defined tool boxes with as many or as few

Like its predecessors, the new Real is a solid modeller with a heavy emphasis on As a result a huge range of shapes can be created from preset forms, either by selecting the object style from a pull-down or whether it be a prim, tube, polygon, polyedited more dramatically courtesy of the which allows one object to act as a cutting

chosen, chunks can be remov from the target object or perhaps the original nal removed completely leaving only the intersection of the tw objects behind. Better still, Booleans eve offer the ability to leave the texture and

can generate much more complex shape to be edited with a selection of almost 10 objects.

At the forefront of the organic side of the software comes the new B-spline sur polygon in sight!

the quality offered by B-splines is unbeat able but like many of the power features it least quadrupling the time taken to gener ate similar shapes created by the pro gram's primitive, compound and lathe

### Macros on disk

Another impressive feature of the modrepeated automatically as many times as necessary. Better still, such processes can be stored on disk or even appended to a On a more exotic note, Real also pro

vides a built-in fractal generator for both



takes on a totally new

### Rendering in detail As you can see from the screenshots, the program offers full support for the

AGA with all screen modes supported - even Ham8.

However, it must be stressed that actually operating in such resolutions does mean a dramatic increase in rendering and updating times. While on the subject of time, this is probably a good time to mention Activa's claim that the new Real is the fastest ray tracing environment on the machine.

This may indeed be the case in certain situations, however when the program's power features are applied I must admit to experiencing little or no differ-

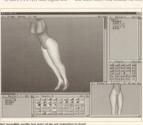
ence in relation to its predecessor. Prime candidates for painfully slow rendering include the much-hyped soft shadows and motion blur, which although dramatic, do cause huge increases in rendering time. However, having said that, even these pale in significance when compared to complex B-splines.

Even with the specially optimised 040 version - claiming rendering times eight times that of its 020/030 counterpart - I still wasn't over-impressed. If ever

a package screamed out for an 060 processor, this is the one! Leaving the rendering time aside, it must be said that the quality of the finished product is spectacular, boasting arguably the best anti-aliasing and over-

When this is combined with the respectable rather than spectacular times and the unique effects mentioned above, you can't fail to be impressed.

all image quality on the market.



in example of multiple impac blending on a single object

with assorted option - especially in the

side of

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in the

majority, it nevertheless adds a powerful of Real3D. Assuming the objects are com-

Unfortunately although Real has also

singular for each object in the some. Now

wide variety of formats. However, even addition, they're only a part of the program's material skills. Aside from apply-

... the most comprehensive mapping system

in the husiness

files onto the surface, the actual attributes of the objects can be defined by a selection

cloud of gas to a diamond. Thanks to the solid modelling approach

mapping and modelling potential of the new release

## Conclusion

As you've probably guessed, the new Real is very serious stuff which offers the most advanced ray tracing environment yet to appear on any desktop machine. As far as the manual and assorted support is concerned things are a little

mixed, with a manual which is roughly three to four times the size of its predecessor. As for readability it scores slightly higher than the Imagine2 manual courtesy of a wide selection of step-by-step examples.

Nevertheless it must be said that the authors often assume a bit too much of the reader - especially the beginner.

On the other hand, what the manual lacks the huge selection of example ani-

mations, scenes and mapping demos more than make up for In fact, once you've mastered the basics, exploring the examples can be a much quicker method of picking up the finer points. In addition to the support

files and manual, a built-in hyper-text help system also awaits if quick reference is required. Continuing on the theme of support the package comes with a familiar selec-

tion of display and conversion utilities in addition to the aforementioned huge variety of example images and scenes.

After the rollercoaster ride of the main article, hopefully your mind will already be made up. If not, here's a woefully inadequate potted opinion. For any would-be investor the question has to be is the six months needed to

really master the package worth the new features and the £400 asking price? For the professional I'd say the answer is yes, but for those new to ray tracing, Real3D Classic at roughly a quarter of the price is a much more attractive option - which in time could lead on to an upgrade when your requirements and skills demand the attentions of its muscle-bound bigger brother.

refracting light which means that if you create a flattened oval object and add the be used just like its real world

object - whether it be chrome, glass, plas-

berg courtesy of the program's 12 maptures such as bump and clip maps all

### Morphed On a personal level I'm impressed most

of all by the ability to blend maps together on the same object creating hot-spots for the materials in question. In addition

Unfortunately it's not all good news when it comes to mapping, and although flagged as one of the major selling points of the package, the program's new procedural and mathematic textures are likely to remain beyond most of us for a long, long time.

The reason is the appearance of the dreaded RPL programming language. In order to use the aforementioned features at least a rudimentary understanding of the RPL is required. Based on FORTH, the Real3D derivative isn't exactly what you'd call easy reading. After a couple of hours wading

through the RPL I can guarantee non smokers will be reaching for the Woodbines while the alcoholics leap from

the wagon like lemmings from a cliff. If the program's authors really think that a perverse interest in higher mathematics

afraid they're mistaken. By nature most artists recoil at the

frankly at £400 a time they shouldn't be expected to suddenly develop an interest. As a result I'd be very surprised if more than one in 100 users will ever make serious use of the RPL - a sad fact because not only will the new mapping options largely be ignored but also the advanced customising potential of the language throughout the package.

In reality for most people applying the RPL will be a matter of downloading files or perhaps buying in third-party RPL support software as the program gains momentum.









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# **Blame the** parents!

have just read the feature "Sex, lies, and video games" and I would like to bring up a mont that no one has addressed. Who is it that buys most of these games? Most of the time

During Christmas, how many children went and bought Street Fighter 2? Now compure this to the number of parents who bought it for their children. It is unfair to blame

As it is usually the parents who buy games software, don't you think it is their choice to allow their children to play these "violent" games?

Colin Cassidy, Rothesay

I don't know of any statistics which show the relative number of parents and children who buy somes, so your contention that parents buy most of them must remain unsubstantiated. Whether or not purents do buy violent games for their children is, however, a side issue. The law as it stands is more a supporting structure for loopholes than a guardian against

In such conditions, to spout from on high about parental responsibility and choice is a bit like Most parents will, of course avoid games with titles like Chainsaw Mossacre II, but the one you

mention is no more or less violent than many others on the market at the moment, and its title no So much hype and peer pressure was built up around Street Fighter II that many parents must

have been immensely relieved when it was finally released so they could buy it and shut the

### Disk decisions I have some questions which I would be

. Why did you drop the second disk from

· Why don't you have playable demos of new games on the CoverDisk?

· What software packages have you got on

to be much demand for them from our readers. . Do you know of any books about GFA

Thank you very much. Peter Armann, Leicester We dropped the second disk because it was becoming an expensive exercise to publish two disks and push up the price of the magazine when the supply of widely popular software was

It would be pointless to stick an extra disk on the cover for the sake of doing so, especially if less than half our readers wanted the software it

Planable game demos haven't appeared on take up most of the disk and there doesn't seem

which I can remember calling for games demos,

the CoverDisk since about 1989 because they

Ezra Surf's Postbaa

A1200 Lame

there using a single disk drive with getting printer drivers to ppear in the printer preferences aditor, even after copying the winter driver to the printers d

he Workbench 3.0 disk? Ill you need do is copy the printer erences editor on the Extras3.0 disk to the Workbench 3.0 prefs drawer and use it from there. The same goes for the other prefs editors. Hard disk and double floppy users don't suffer this problem.

to the prefs drawer, possibly be they thought this too obvious a st Just goes to show you how in the end user's perspective on a can be, eh?

other of this question, we will look at the game demo situation again, so keep those missines comine. I can't answer wour third auestion as it's an industrial secret, but for help on your fourth query you might try Computer Manuals

Lemminas I am writing to let you know that

I have saved all the Lemming Tribes. and not only saved them but sent them of gold talisman each (smart alec! - Ed). For other Lemming saviours out there

tell them not to rush as the end result is a bit of an anti-climax. I was expecting a small piece of animation as there is in the introduction, but there was just a load of unfunny credits, not Lemming-like at all. menu has an exit sign on it covered with crosses, though even when the game is

the exit button useless? Graham Wood, Northwich

Thanks for being a clever dick! It's slightly disappointing to hear that the climax to this more camestay than an over-worked finishing

sequence any day, and I'm sure the majority of Amiga game players agree. too, and we don't want to ask Psychosis

# Protext prefs puzzler

At the beginning of this year, I bought an A1200 as an upgrade to my A2000, and as I have a large collection of application software on my old hard drive I consequently purchased an IDE drive for my A1200 At that time it was not possible to obtain an "official" hard drive ungrade, so I took the risk of installing it

myself. I appreciate that this voided my warranty, but Commodore's stupid policy left me no choice A friend of mine has an A4000, so I used his software

to install Workbench 3.0 on the hard drive and all seemed well until I installed Protext v4.3. When I attempted to execute Protext I encountered the same problem as Mr McKechnie did in his letter published in your April issue I am rather surprised at this as I installed Workbench

using the method you recommended (an A4000 install

disk). However, I did some investigating of my own and came up with a partial solution that is not entirely satisfying, but which works.

In the startup-sequence is a command "IPrefs" which, I believe, initiates the Workbench with the user's preference settings. If the startup-sequence is executed without IPrefs, Protext functions perfectly, so my solution is to make a second startup-sequence without the offending

Once this has been done, your must boot with both mouse buttons held down, select "boot with no startupsequence", and then type:

EXECUTE SISTARTUP-SEQUENCE.COPY Workbench will appear as normal and Protext will function correctly. I realise this is not a complete solution, but it does allow one to use Protext from a hard drive-equipped A1200.

Simon Kerridge, Brighton

For the past month one of our technical gnomes has been trying to sort out the Workbench 3.0 hard drive solution, and this sort of thing is all he's come up with. It appears that Protext has a problem with the new display modes and the only way to

Of course a more elegant method might be to include an ASK statement in the startup-sequence or use a utility such as MBPress (which was on a CoperDisk a few months back) to detect for a mouse button press during

### More A1200 thoughts

I bought my A1200 back in November and since then I have been reading with interest all topics and letters about the A1200, compatibility with games and some experimenting with some of my mates' utilities and games.

Most work without problems, and choosing the correct chip set and display option gets the game working on some of the reluctant ones, but some are still not usable even after trying all the possible options

The best I have found is to disable the CPU caches and choose the enhanced chin set before booting the game.

Funnily enough, the age of the software seems not to be important, as I have tried stuff going back to 1988 which

Some of the games I have managed to get to work I have seen in some software lists and even some magazines, as not Fire and Ice. Switchblade IL and Lure of the Temptress (though I've only tried disk one of the latter). Newer releases such as Nick Faldo's Championship Golf work fine

As for fitting an external floppy drive, I phoned Power Computing for a PC880B and was told that the problem with there was no longer a problem with compatibility, so I bought one. No problem it's much quieter than the garbage disposal unit inside my A1200.

Speaking about noisy drives, I read an causing disks to fail to load. I have experienced this myself with Crystal Kingdom Dizzy. My machine gives and on-screen message saying "Software Protection Failure", but my mate's could it become a serious problem, and should I return my machine for repair? David Hurst, Topsham

I recently bought the game Pirates from a well done. On another note, I am contemsecond-hand car boot sale. When I returned home to examine my prize bargain, however, I was dismayed to find that part of it (the map to be precise) wasn't there Computing for producing an enjoyable adult

I contemplated suicide, decided this was too drastic, and phoned Microprose instead to see if they could help. The phone gave but two short rings, then a friendly voice said. "Can I help you?". I told her my problem, to which she replied "We have one in stock, I'll get it sent off to you.

Lo and behold, the missing piece of paper flopped onto my door mat the very next day. It is good to see that customer and after-sales service is still important on occasion and I congratulate Microprose on a job

Got something to say through the pages of AC? Erra Surf is our mailman dedicated to reading your letters and selecting the most interesting for publication. Drop him a line at:

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### he offended if you end up getting the chop A vector too far

Am I the only reader of your magazine who's interest in fractals measures somewhere below absolute zero? This area of mathematics has become something of a party bore over the past few years, with seemingly constant reviews of fractal landscape generators, fractal screen blankers, and fractal this that and the other.

No-one who works for Amiga magazines has twigged that most of us don't care a hoot whether it is mathematically possible for farting butterflies in Brazil to cause share prices to fall in New York.

I mean, I don't ask the man in Dixons to draw me a circuit diagram and explain the behaviour of air particles subjected to sound vibrations when I buy a hi-fi, so why do reviewers presume that I'm interested in phongs and gourads and other members of the Tedium Hall of Fame?

Do you really expect me to gasp in astonishment when you let drop pearls of wisdom about Mandelbrots, Julias and Lyapunovs?

The three fractal stooges sound more like a dodgy legal firm than a set of interesting computer concepts. Think about it: Mandelbrot, Julia and Lyapunov, specialists in cases of divorce caused by mental torture through repetition. Give us a break, guys

Peter Hunter, Coldstream

Phew! You certainly put your point across. In fairness to AC, you might have mentioned that use've resisted the temptation to talk directly about fractal mathematics for a long time, and only looked at the area when a program such as Vista Pro 3.0 uses fractal techniques to do something

Other magazines tend now and again to pick a subject and extract as much tiresome trivia as possible from it, but despite the temptation we've resisted the urge to indulge in this sort of page naddine. I hope our readers agree...

You seem to have reached the same conclusion as many other A1200 owners in that patibility problem isn't half as bad as it was originally painted by some, and certainly

Your experimentation seems also to have led you to the most useful method for ensurine compatibility, so you might not require the software list published in this month's Garner - but take a peck in case it contains a game you were thinking about buying. Misalioned drives can be a problem when

they come up against heavily protected software which uses non-DOS disk structures, but the problem is seldom bud enough to cause loading problems. I would suggest you return the machine for repair as soon as possible.

Pinball wizard

out/a life ad infinitum) I write to confess to a curious change of

After some highly absorbing sessions with Pinball Fantasies pinball simulator on any format, now have at least a dim compre-hension of what all the flippers hts, chutes and bonuses mear and can make a game of three balls last for more than 60 seconds. Achievement enough in itself.

but the real test came when I foun tiends in the pub last Sunch of omeone suggested a game on the id pin table.

well my turn came around, and you can imagine my glee as the oversized ball-bearing zipped around the table, kissing bonuses, gleefully rolling from chute to flip-per to million jackpot and back

Before I knew it, my score was in the multi-millions, my pint was ing warm and flat and feeling decidedly unwanted, and my cigarette had an overhang of ash longer than one would believe to be structurally possible.

The sigh I uttered as my last ball was finally lost was far more akin to the "top sportsman robbed" kind of sigh than the "idiot fails to make any mark at all" variety previous!

Not that this episode has helped me in any discernable way to achieve the sexual freedom I so desperately crave, but I fancy I desperatory clave, but have, ordered the replacement pint and list a fresh cigarette with just a hint of the "treat 'em bad, make 'em mad" masculinity used to such Hollywood stars and other Gillet using men for generations.

Who fan, Manches

direct link can be shown between nt of hand-eye co-ord

If only there was a "Six Pints and Chicken Biryani Without Regretting It" game with similar beneficial effects on the real life activity.

# In praise of Pirates

plating trading in my old A500 and investing in an A1200, but I have heard that some software doesn't work on the new machine. Oh, and congratulations to Amiga

magazine for older Amiga users. You wouldn't by any chance know the average age of Amiga owners? Richard Henderson, Levton

The average age turned up by our reader surveys varies a bit, but is usually well into the twenties and there are a significant number of people over the age of 30 among the AC readership, resulting in a much older audience than that enloyed by some of our

distant relations who specialise more in the field of platform games and the like. We don't write for a specific age group.

however, and a great many younger readers enjoy the magazine. Let's just say we cater for a certain type of reader who values the depth of editorial coverage we have always striven to make our hallmark. Your comments about Microprose are applicable to many Amiga suppliers these days, but it's always nice to hear positive feedback as opposed to tales of negative experiences.

Speaking of negative experiences, your choice on whether or not to upgrade to an A1200 should be eased by the comprehensive games compatibility list you can find in this month's Gamer.





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### TUTORIAL

migaDOS, as you will soon discover, is computing at its nurest It is what senarates real uters from consoles: the men from boys: the wheat from the chaff.

Learning AmigaDOS unlocks a whole much new heights but above all, it prondes a sense of achievement that no maphical user interface (GUI) could ever Fr. You can take pride in your work and in the knowledge it was your skill will work - anythine less will cause problems. Workbench 2.1 and 3.x are essentially the same: the higher ver-

Over the next few months we'll be looking at the construction of standalone boot disks including everything you need to set an application up and running: whether it's Workbench or Wordworth. this series will show you how.

Think about this for a moment - what actually constitutes a bootable disk? Such

the same data but cease to function at all. This is exactly what older virus killers (and a lot of viruses) used to do to game disks. Swat a fly and the essence of insect still exists but the life has

A boot disk is not a life form of course: it is not capable of independent thought and cannot replicate itself although such features could be simulated at a rudimentary level (this is, in fact, exactly what computer viruses do, hence the name) A lot of this is still far away make a copy of your Workbench disk - the one you normally start the machine with on a daily basis will do. If you have added or deleted anything from this disk, then you should make a copy of the original Workbench floppy and perform the initial configuration checks detailed in your user manual, set the preferences and

If your machine is equipped with a hard disk, you could use that but since AmiraDOS can be finicky it is better to begin with a floppy. Mistakes on a hard disk can be difficult to rectify

It is essential to ensure you have the correct "keymap" set for the machine, and even if you did not bother with this previously you must do so now. This is a menu selected under 2.04 and operated from the Input Preferences screen from 2.1 onwards. Leave the disk write enabled and mark it clearly: AmigaDOS Working Disk. Now follow these steps:

1. Boot the machine from the new disk and open it.

2. Locate and open the System drawer. 3. Locate and select the icon labelled 4 Select Leave Out from the icons menu Shell will now move to the desktop -

this is a good place to have it since you're going to need it a lot. Now the preparatory steps have been

A kick up

In the first of a new series, Mark Smiddy explains how to harness the hidden power in every Amiga... floppies

disks are specially prepared to start the er and better. The series is going to teach on v2 and v3. While these allow some of

Workbench, you are encouraged to follow the steps using AmigaDOS only. the subject, so no cheating. The series will assume you are familiar with basic Workbench terms such as Drawer, Project, Tool, Open, Close and so on and the various menu options. If you are at all unsure of these, this might be a good time to

You will also need to know the Kickstart you are using. If you have an A500 Plus or an upgraded A500 you will be running Kickstart 2.x; later machines such as the A1200 are fitted with Kickstart

Provided your machine is not fitted with a hard disk these Kickstart ROMs screen which shows a simple animation of a disk inserted into

The version number is shown in the bottom

left of the display. Machines bearing a static "disk-and-hand" display on s tartup are NOT fitted with the correct

Workbench should be easier to identify Three versions are in common use with these machines and this is printed on the is two or higher, everything detailed here machine. Awaken it, if you like. They make the startup screen go away and present you with Workbench, a game, application or whatever. Other than that there is nothing to separate bootable disks from

ordinary ones. Some thinkers consider a valid boot disk should contain more than this "proto boot-disk". True to an extent: but no-one doubts that an amoeba is a life-form any more than they dispute that mammals are - albeit more complex ones!

what makes a boot disk

For now, you will need: Your Workbench disk One blank disk At this stage you should If you remove the essence of bootable, it will still contain

and at this stage we need to get over

some basics.

taken, you can get to AmigaDOS proper. Open the Shell icon and you'll get a window. This is an AmigaDOS "Shell" win-

Shell is a fancy name for a single-line wordprocessor and parser all rolled into one. Each Shell will amount e itself with a standard title: AmigaShell and a message to the effect: "New Shell process xx". Don't worry if the number (xo) shown on your machine is different from the one

The Amiga is a multitasking environment and you can have many Shells open at the same time; the only limitation is the amount of available memory.

Process (Shell) numbers are automatically assigned by the machine – you have no control over them – although AmigaDOS will attempt to fill any free stots. If Shell oumbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 were already in use and you opened a new Shell, the next Shell would open as Process 4. Don't fret, it just works like

On the next line you'll see something called a "prompt". As before this may look different on your machine – but it will be there. The prompt is separated into four distinct parts:

- The current process (Shell) number as
- A full stop. This is called a delimiter -
- The current directory. This will probably (but not necessarily) be showing the
  - by some more punctuation the full
  - A right-handed angle bracket (>).

Just to the right of the prompt is a small square blob. This is known as the cursor and shows that AmigaDOS is ready to accept input (if the cursor is shadowed, make sure you make the window active he oll-dries inside its humdary).

Forget about all that for now. For the sake of this series we'll simplify things a little and adopt convention.

This prompt is universal. It just means whatever follows it should be typed in at the keyboard. That's what AmigaDOS is all about - leaving behind the "buttons and ball" approach and discovering how to communicate with a computer from a learness.

keyboard.

Try entering your name – not forgetting to press Return at the end of the line. For instance:

1546/se Consetting

Austicilia Amina DOS comando

dutifully, AmigaDOS responds:

AmigaDOS does not know the word "Amiga" - it's not it its vocabulary.

However, the AmigaDOS vocabulary by its very nature is infinitely extensible. Even so, basic knowledge of around 20 commands (lexicographers call them verbs) will get you started.

Each command is like a simple English sentence – it has a verb and one or more noun clauses. You don't have to be a polyglot to understand AmigaDOS though,

This word is a verb meaning to bounce, leap or vault. In itself it constitutes a complete sentence, albeit an abbreviated and demanding one. Add a few more words and you have a more specific sentence,

Jump over the fence.

This is the sort of basic English we learn in school at a very early age. So is AmigaDOS really that complex? In essence, it is like a military English. The words are, initially, strange but the gram-

phrase (do) to open the question - something which crept into our colourful language several hundred years ago. The practice of redundancy has never evolved in computer parsers its to tricky to program and wasteful. In order to understand AmigaDOS you have to think at a simple level, or at least like a Frenchman. A verb (valid command) always comes fint followed opticisally by always comes fint followed opticisally or

# It may help you to forget computers for a while...

a list of noun clauses (options or arguments). The AmigaDOS vocabulary is quite large, and since each command can be followed by a multitude of command arguments, the list of possible instruction variants runs into thousands.

convex, it is like a military brights, it is the convergence of the co

The standard Amiga boot sequence is really quite simple

"Parlez vouz Francais?" is positionally translated into English it looks this:

The French would argue this is more logical and simple since the verb comes first (just like "jump" in the previous instance). In polite English we would write this:

be you speak french?

We use a redundant prepositional

found in the AmigaDOS dictionaries it complains with the error Unknown Command. So where are all those commands? You

So where are all trose communications from may remember from time to time seeing a message like this: "Please insert volume: Workbench in any drive". Although AmigaDOS is asking for a disk, the noun "volume" is another designation for a book – a dictionary perhaps.

There's no accident in that – the designers chose the analogy deliberately. When you ask AmigaDOS to find a command it

looks it up in its internal dictionar and, if it cannot be found there, searche certain chapters (drawers) on the initial startup disk. You can override the and specify a particular volume if you

Things can become a little confusing a this stage because over the years, two completely different naming conventions

The original system talks of books volumes and directories and the later on speaks in terms of an office filing system desktops, drawers, projects, tools and so on. The evolution of GUIs (such as Workbench) is responsible for this and the AmigaDOS user should be aware of the behavior of the such as the su

All you need to know at this stage is that a drawer is a container for a collection of items, just as a directory is a list of the items held therein: an inventory if you

It may help you to forget computers for a moment and consider this. The analogies may seem unclear until you can get hold of something we take for granted.

Nip into your kitchen and have a look through a few drawers: the cutlery drawer is usually a good bet. Inside you will find a collection of knives, forks, spoons, teaspoons – possibly cheese graters and an egg slice: all manner of

If you're lucky enough to live in a wellordered household, there's a good chance the eating irons are all stored together in a drawer insert – knives in the knives slot spoons all together and so on. But if the drawer were missing where would everything go?

The organisation of a disk is no different and an intelligent user keeps similar items together. Items are sometimes stored in a sub-group.

Just like the insert in your cutlery drawer, the Amiga can store containers within containers — which computer scientists refer to as a "directory hierarchy" or a "hierarchical filing system".

You can see this in action from the Workbench (go on, one last time). Open your Workbench disk and select. Show ... All Files. Now locate and open the drawer marked DEVS. In there you'll see a few items littered about — plus more drawers like Printers and Keymaps.

month - those of you who're desperate to jump in at the deep end wearing concrete boots might like to try this from AmigaDOS. Enter this:

### 1>01R 06VS:

This will give you the same information you just retrieved from Workbeach. Note the drawers are marked in the listing (dir). That's because, as I have said, AmigaDOS refers to drawers as directories and (dir) is merely an abbreviation to prevent overcrowding the display with redundant information. Computers are good at that.





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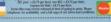
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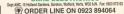
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HiSoft BASIC

ery few programs work by of instructions from beginning user-input and, based on the entrol has to be able to branch to,

sch flow control constructs, and the Next statement mentioned last month

and is often used for setting up this type

others I down value to force us into the

v\$u\*\*\*: IMPUT v\$

Also provided are Do-Until and Do-While loops, which allow pieces of code to be executed until some expression becomes true or false respectively, and a

machines, like the Amiga, a new option

The Amiga's operating system includes

# A logical

Intuition which provides the Amiga's user interface, uses this to monitor thines like window eadeets, menu and mouse

HiSoft Basic provides links to a whole range of these high-level events and timer events can all be generated and

Rocause the Amiga is a multitasking done in a special way. The idea is that rather than looping around waiting for something to happen (during which time the program would be using processor a special command that puts it to sleep until something of interest happens.

This mechanism is important in multitasking systems because it enables procespends program execution is called Sleep and the easiest way to illustrate the use of this instruction is to take a concrete example. The clock program from instalment

sequence



three again comes to the rescue because it

g\_exit\_flag=FALSE WHILE NOT g\_exit\_flag SLEEP

On the face of it this piece of code would stems from the fact that we had previously

ON TIMER (1) GOSUB UndateRand

These asked HiSoft Basic to deliver timer event messages to the clock program and the result was that once per second the program woke up and executed the rou-

used to check whether the elapsed time had become equal to some previously identified limit like this:

If secondary count THEN q\_exit\_flag=TRUE g\_count are compared and, when they

'Then' keyword are executed. This forces the variable g\_exit\_flag to be

handling loop mentioned earlier. to be used within these types of constructs but more importantly it also supports a Paul Overaa explores the reasons why most programs insist on taking a rather convoluted route from start to finish

complex case testing arrangement based on the use of Select/End statements

PRINT "Give me a number between 1 and 4" 14717 1

SELECT CASE I CASE 1 : PRINT "you've just executed the first code section CASE 2 : PRINT "you've just executed the third code section"

[455 4 : PRINT "you've just

It's not just Intuition style events that HiSoft Basic can handle. It is possible to open windows, create menus and do

number between 1 and 4"

example code and mention some of the more advanced facilities that

fissed some of the first four parts o aul Overaa's excellent HiSoft utorial? Worry not, you can re he situation by ordering the rel

# Know vour commands

Purpose: The true / false values of the Boolean expressions are evaluated and the speci-

Purpose: Allows the execution of one set of a series of statements to be made condi-

Purpose: The statements specified in the loop are executed until the condition becomes





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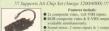
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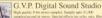
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### **EMULATION**

capabilities of the Emplant board most Amigans gave his claims about as much credence as they tend to give politicians when they promise to lower taxes. Unlike the typical politician. though. Emplant shows every sign of meeting some of the pledges made for it.

As it stands now, Emplant is a Zorro II card for the Amiga 1500/2000 (with an accelerator board), 3000, and 4000/040 that gives your Amiga the ability to run colour Macintosh software Developers Utilities Unlimited say that Emplant will adaptors like the Slingshot.

is its ability to run Macintosh software. However, UU tout the board as an all-purpose emulation solution.

They claim that modules will eventually be available which will allow you to run software designed for the IRM PC: Atari ST, TT, Falcon, and 400/800; Commodore VIC 20, 64, 128, and PET

2001; Sinclair ZX-81 and Spectrum; Sega Genesis (the US version of the Meea Of course, you should never purchase a chase Macintosh ROMs from Apple repair

You plue the ROMs into the Emplant and then run a utility that creates a diskbased copy of the ROM chips. You can then remove the chips and store them away for safekeeping. If you do have a Mac, you can use the included ROMinfo utility to create a disk-based copy of your Mar's ROMs to use on the Amira

### ONE AT A TIME ROMs may be in use at a time, so if you

take this approach the Mac and Emplant shouldn't be in use simultaneously As mentioned before, you need at least

a 68020 processor. You'll also need at least 2Mb of Fast RAM (4Mb if you're running Apple's System 7), and a hard drive is strongly suggested - mandatory for pain to use with no hard drive, try a Mac-

If you have one of the new Commodore 1.76Mb floppy drives, you can read and





only have the standard 880k drives, you'll also need to purchase Utilities Unlimited's 634 Subil board, which reads real Mac disks fairly reliably, but at the moment

doesn't write to them very well. Emplant will also read disks created by the ReadySoft A-Max emulator in standard Amiga drives, so if you have access to one of those you can use it to transfer disks to an Emplant-readable format. The

it's time to get up and running. Simple plue the Emplant board into a vacan

Zorro slot inside your Amiga, If you've got actual Mac ROM chips, plug them in If only the software side were so can to get up and running. The included 16

# **Emplant**

Denny Atkin keeps abreast of technology with Utilities Unlimited's Mac-in-a-box

# leash





for sun warm) is no help at all, and autdated ReadMe files on the disk

add much either. thes Unlimited's BBS finally got me up

1.3) or RsrvMem37 (for 2.x and 3.0)

Secause the Mac emulation makes use of the MMU on the 030 and 040.

Yes. Employt even runs games, such as Falcon MC

(nowhere is this documented...). Setup screen Here you tell Emplant how video display you want to emulate, where your ROM image file is located, and which Amira devices should be used for

#### FAST CRASH

There's another chance for a crash here. can use up to 800k on AGA machines) be safe, leave at least 1Mb of Fast RAM

The final task in setting up Emplant is allocating hard drive storage. There are two options here. You can either dedicate a specific partition on your Amiga's hard

That box on your desk now holds not only an Amiga, but a Macintosh Hci as well...

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finder in 256 belleon help -Mec users con explained to

created two 32Mb partitions on my Amiga 4000's IDE drive.

Once your hard drive is configured you're ready to install the Mac software speedy, colourful Amiga screen becomes a

Plop the Macintosh hard drive utilities disk that comes with the System software into your floppy drive and the little smiling Mac icon appears. Follow the instructions on the screen to format your Mac hard drive partitions, install the System software, and you're ready to go! After everything's set up, re-boot your only an Amiga, but the functional equivalent of a Macintosh IIci as well (or a Mac Quadra if you're lucky enough to have an A4000/040). MULTITASKING

#### But best of all, unlike the earlier A-Max

emulator, you can run both Amiga and Mac programs at the same time!

If your Amiga is equipped with the ECS chipset, then you can run Mac software in black and white, four colours, or 16 colours. If you've got an AGA system, then you can run in 256-colour mode.

The highest-colour mode on your parquite a bit, since your Amiga's graphics chips are fighting with the Emplant software for access to memory

Still. 16-colour mode is acceptable on ECS Amigas, and blazingly fast on AGA machines. The latest software

update supports the display database on 2.1 and 3.0 Amigas, so you can open in any mode, including 800 x 600 and 1.280 x 512 Although screen updates are a bit slower than the

equivalent real Mac, actual processing speed is very comis because the Mac uses the same Motorola processors as the Amiga, so





there's no translation step necessary like



there is for software-based IBM emulators. An indicator of how well - and how fast - the emulation works is that I was able to run Macintosh games on my Amiga. Falcon MC, a colour Mac version of the classic flight simulator, ran faster on my A4000 running Emplant in 16-colour mode than

Velocity's Spectre Supreme, a 3D arcade game similar to Stellar 7, ran at blazing speed under Emplant. And I was even able to play against another player on a real Macintosh using an AppleTalk connection!

on a real Mac Ilci at work

## teacons a part teachman serve Auning Entition Prosess. Defrech Rate This name! controls the how the OS handles sound. UU plan to

screen refresh rote while Emplant's

Compatibility is excellent, Every Mac program I tried worked with no problems.



Mac idea of multitasking simultaneously laughable and frustrating.

MultiFinder under System 6 and the Finder under System 7 do allow you to run more than one program, but many applications aren't multitasking-friendly and will block out other programs for long periods

Also, the Mac operating system busywaits, which means that even when Emplant is sitting there doing nothing except displaying the Macintosh interface, it's taking up about 40 per cent of your processor time

You can adjust Emplant's system priority so that it takes up less time when it's just running in the background. The emulated Mac's screen is a standard Amiga screen which can be flipped and

were saved with a standard Amiga screen grabber. Unfortunately, as of this writing UU still haven't implemented any sort of file trans-

fer software, so the two brains in your Amiga can't talk to each other. To transfer files from the Mac side to the Amiga side I was forced to connect the Amiga's serial port to one of the Emplant

**EXPANSION** Although it wasn't ready as of this wrill ine. UU also promise a driver soon that will let you set up Amiga partitions on devices attached to the Emplant SCSI port. Another promised driver will let you

Multiple

personalities IIII plans to emulate a number of other 16-bit and 8-bit platforms using the Emplant hardware. Most likely next in line is the IRM 386/486 emulation Although UIU had indicated early or that they might make an adaptor to size

an Intel processor onto the Emplan board, they now believe that they can achieve 486 speed on the A4000 using software translation only. Although many knowledgeable Aminans are scentical of this claim, these same folks also said there was no will

you could create a Mac emulator the

handled by an adaptor that attaches to

the ROM sockets and will add a car

tridge connector that you can plug game

cartridges into. Nintendo and Sega am

a bit lawsuit-happy, though, so I'll be

surprised if this capability ever makes it

serial ports with a null-modem cable and

use terminal programs on each side to

UU have confirmed that transfer son

ware should be available soon that will

allow direct copying of files from Amiga

able with optional SCSI and serial ports

On the Emplant disk you'll find a drive

called Empser device which allows you a

use the Emplant serial ports on the Amin

side when the Mac emulation software

As mentioned earlier, Emplant is avail

partitions to Mac partitions.

multitask with Amiga programs.

All Emplant emulation modules will

The game console emulations will be

would multitask with the Amiga.

to market

move the files

Emplant board, add a battery, and have 512k of auto-boot, battery backed-up RAM storage. So Emplant is more than an emulator - it's also a multi-function expansion

Is Emplant worth it? If you absolutely need to run professional-quality software such as Ouark XPress and Adobe Photoshop that's not available for the Amiga At £255 for the basic board and about £150 for a set of 256k Mac ROMs. you get the capabilities of a £1,700

And although the Mac is an odd machine, it's much easier for Amiga users to make this transition than to the PC Even if UU never deliver on the additional Mac emulator. Any additional feat extra icing in the cake.

#### NO TROUBLES Compatibility is excellent. Every Mac

program I tried on Emplant, including the games listed above and heavy-duty applications such as Adobe PhotoShop and Illustrator, worked with no problems I also tried a number of public domain

and shareware programs, once again with no troubles. I was even able to use Apple File Exchange to read an MS-DOS disk in my Amiga's DF0: drive.

According to Utilities Unlimited, the only programs they've found that won't work under Emplant are Apple's DiskCopy program (which talks directly to the Mac hardware) and a couple of Microsoft applications, including Word.

Apparently Microsoft break a few of Apple's programming guidelines, and UU are working on patching those problems so even misbehaving programs like Word will work. Stereo sound is available if you're running System 6, but the emulation is silent under System 7 due to changes in address this problem in a future update. The Emplant board is available

equipped with two Macintosh-compatible serial ports, which are necessary if you plan to use a modem or printer with your Mac software or if you want to connect Emplant to an AppleTalk network

The ports are hardware-compatible with those on a real Mac, so you can even attach a Mac Midi interface to them for use with music software

Note that the Mac System software only supports ImageWriter and LaserWriter (PostScript) printers, so if you've got another model you'll have to purchase a separate Mac driver for your printer -

unlike A-Max. Emplant doesn't provide ImageWriter emulation for other printer As I mentioned, you can run Macintosh

and Amiga programs simultaneously. This is the best way to get multitasking on the Mac - actually. Amiga users will find the

## Things change constantly

int is still a product under development. When it first shipped in late 1992, it wasn't ready - the emulation was unstable, and it didn't even support hard drives. As this review is written the company are up to v2.5, and Emplant finally shows signs of stability and maturity. However, Utilities Unlimited are still hard at work on

Among features planned for future updates are support for the sound digitises built onto the Emplant hoard: Amina-to-Mac file transfer; and support for 24-bit video

UU say that OpalVision, Merlin, and Harlequin support may be provided eventually

as well, pending support from the manufacturers. Updates of the Mac emulation software are available free of charge on various ine networks, from UU's BBS, and from Emplant dealers.



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Ithough the Amiga has always won und, the ever increasing popularity of dards are much higher than they used to be - especially for those involved in pre-

sophistication of multimedia in general. Midi support is becoming the norm rather

than the exception, and it's this window in the market that The One Stop Music Shop As you've probably guessed, TOSMS is ples - rather than connection via a stan-

Zorro slot offering stereo RCA outs plus a Free port

#### The question is, why bother? With the

huge range of modules and keyboards on the market, what's the big advantage in having an internal version Well, for the studio musician the

answer is none at all. However for multidistinct advantages, as indeed it does for DTV, which often depends on additional

Obviously with the aforesaid port free. still available which can then be combined with TOSMS via ARexx, SMPTE or the

The Amiga's first plug-in synth offers 16-bit Midi sound from inside

the machine. Paul Austin

auditions...

If you don't happen to own any of the nector to a standard Midi interface, effecbiggest ever PSU

In short, running TOSMS without Blue appeal of the unit is sacrificed, primarily course, the lack of any direct links to the lent editor - which I'll return to later - the

changes are passed directly to the card allowing the auditioning of sounds without the need for on-line

sequencing software.

italise on the card's multidedicated One-Ston Midi

> the package, allowing any previously loaded-up either singularly or as part of then played back button. No channel changes, no

interface, the player also boasts full ARexx support, a feature which is ably demonstrated by a demo provided as part of the software support. This ARexx link again illus-

ARexx-compatible software to address the card, loading and playing

standard adopted by the module. In effect this means that any Midi composition play back faultlessly, as both modules by default share common sounds at any specific patch number. As mentioned earlier, TOSMS comes complete with its own

# The One Stop **Music Shop**

links to various 24-bit boards, Scala, genlocks - the list goes on and on. Once safely installed, complete with

connections to an amplifier and preferably a compatible master keyboard,

software in the form of default bands and within the new B&PPro2 which provides assorted tools and plug-in accessories. With the hardware hidden within the bowels of an A1500 or whatever, control

obviously has to be software-oriented, and as a consequence the disk accompanying of its biggest attractions providing the available for any Midi module

As you'd expect from Blue Ribbon, the manipulate with the main thrust being aimed at the manipulation of the



A close-up of the main edit window in concert with the twin primary and secondary sound sources



These two elements are the key to the E-MU Proteus SoundEngine allowing the combination of any two of the 213 sampled waveforms stored within the ROMs at the heart of this award-winning

At its most simplistic, sound generation is simply a matter of selecting two complementary sounds which then combine to produce the new tone.

As you can see from the screenshots, each instrument source comes complete with a selection of slider controlled parameters to adjust the tuning, volume, pan position, starting point and the relative delay of the component sound within the overall sound.

#### **Envelopes**

In addition, each of the components has its own amplitude envelope providing complete control over the Attack, hold, decay and release of the chosen sound—with any changes being auditioned instantly via a miniature keyboard with chorus and sound reversal close at hand with a simple click on the appropriate button.

Assuming the new sound is roughly to your taste, the fine tuning can begin courtesy of the most ingenious element within

In order to blend the component instruments within the new sound, adjusting the volume within each instrument window will be more than adequate. However if a more dramatic combination is required, the editor's crossfade option has to be the next port of call.

From here you can define exactly how the two sounds interact, either over time or according to the relative strength of the key depression. For example, at its most simple a crossfade could start with one sound and gradually evolve into the next using the speed and direction of your

choice.

Alternatively, when combined with the real-time and velocity modulation options the crossfade can produce a split keyboard, or perhaps a sound that uses one tone below a certain depression strength



ne impressive sound building power of the link ation elongside the LFOs and crosslade control



The subtle side of sound creation as all the elements blend to create the ultimate patch

# Saving your creations

Assuming your new patch or bank of patches are finally complete, the next task is to save it. Obviously the new sound can't be written to the ROM and if the Amiga happens to be switched off all your hard work will be lost.

As a result, either individuals or entire banks can be saved to disk and loaded

As a result, either individuals or entire banks can be sirved to use, and observe back into the synth as required - temporarily overwriting the defaults. Obviously for performance use constantly loading the editor and subse-

quently the necessary voices would be cumbersome at best.

As a consequence yet another utility allows an entire user-defined sound set to be loaded by simply clicking on a start-up icon on the Workbench or alternatively placing the appropriate command in either the WBstartup drawer or

ore firmly.

Assuming tone generation, mixing and cross fading is complete, we can safely move to the penultimate dust in the editing department, namely the twin LFOs, or Low Frequency Oscillators that dominate the left side of the main edit

Five waveforms are available within each LFO, including sawtooth, sine, triangle, square and random with each LFO applying its particular selection to add old favourites such as vibrato, modulation and tremolo to the rapidly evolving

If required, the effects produced by the LFO duet can be combine with other features within the editor such as real-time and key velocity modulation to apply the desired feature over time and according to the strength of key depression.

Although rather complex initially, both forms of modulation and their relation to the LFOs do become clearer with a little

With the duet chosen and assorted parameters applied you'd think the new sound would be complete, but there's one last twist in the tail. Courtesy of yet another window hidden in the upper right corner of the main window, even more schooling number.

Once opened, the Link option reveals a series of sliders allowing an additional three existing presets to be appended to

As a result it's possible to build really big sounds via a multiple preset combination. However, it must be stressed that using multiple presets to build a new voice does have its drawbacks.

Just like the original Proteus, the Amiga variant – like most sound modules – has a maximum 32-note polyphony which means that no more than 32 notes or voices can be played

samutaneousy.

As a result, adding up to four presets to a single note means polyphony can suffer quite dramatically, especially if the aforesaid note is played as part of a triad chord thereby instantly burning 12 of the 32 voices on just one chord and leaving precious few for the rest of the

#### **Keyboard** splits

However, this doesn't mean the feature is useless, and in fact if used wisely with perhaps two or three presets and thoughtful application any voice and thereby song can really improve.

In addition, all the component presets can be defined to play between a specific pitch allowing multiple keyboard splits with up to four voices spread over a single patch location.

On the plus side the accompanying

software is excellent offering all the utilities and editing options you could ask for. In addition, the card fits seamlessily into the overall Blue Ribbon range with input and output tools for B&PPNc, an accessory version of the edition for on-line editing, a pre-defined plug-in band for Superlaw (1.1) plus total compatibility with Platchmeister – Blue Ribbon's very own liberain anotytuser. When you add all of the above to the board's obvious multimart and output the probably one of the first tallents, and probably one of the first tallents, and probably one of the best of the probably one of the p

sound-to-noise ratios available from an module, the overall combination seem unbeatable.

However TOSMS isn't without is faults. Firstly the preset tones can sound a little dated in relation to the latest standalone modules, primarily because the ROMs inside are from the very first generation of the SoundEngine which is now at the little and the soundEngine which is now at the little and the soundEngine which is now at the little and the soundEngine which is now at the little and the soundEngine which is now at the little and the soundEngine which is now at the

#### Addition

Although the ROM sounds are a little disappointing the situation could have been easily resolved by the addition of the one thing that the module lacks more than anything else – a built-in digital reverb.

Almost all modern stand-alone modules come with reverb as standard but alisthe TOSMS isn't one of them, resulting a a very dry overall sound.

Eyen with the problems mentioned TOSMS remains a viable and portable solution to the problem of incorporatin quality sound into multimedla produtions. It's pretty unlikely the card wi find its way into the average studio to for those Involved in DTV and multime dia in general it's worth consideration.



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indscape's Miracle keyboard, reviewed some months ago. attracted rave reviews in this most other magazines because it was to use, extremely well thought out, and amaily capable of teaching idiots like me to

ming haltingly through the songs supplied the package, but recently have failed to up with practice because many of the are less than contemporary.

For example, the ultimate lesson which, I to add. I'm still some way off, focuses Handel's Water Music. Now, I wouldn't want to offend our classical-loving readers by

modern ear, but it's not exactly toe-tap-Never fear! To the rescue of the jaded Tusical palate come the Miracle Song election volumes one and two, each disk mammed with 40 songs from a variety of

The net has been cast fairly wide to make confirm the presence of songs as diverse the gut-churningly soppy Hello from arnel Richie and perhaps the ultimate indict-

Taking the collection as a whole, some of the songs seem to have been included so that me can practice a tune for Christmas to which old aunty Gladys knows the words.



The idiot's maide to





# The seco coming upda

but sheer diversity makes up for this. brought a variety of reactions, from pleasant

seems to be a fair amount on each to suit most tastes. My own favourite inclusiare Hey Jude. In the Midnight Hour and Dream

Weaver, and though I can't play any of them yet. I'll be Installing the songs is simply a matter of double clicking on the disk's Install icon

Learn to play Motown Longs Song files to breath new life into the Miracle keyboard, and Imagine gets a revamp. Stevie Kennedy reports

will be accessible to Miracle software, but only as additional practice pieces.

Extra songs (of which there are over 200 on the original disks) can be played in the practice room using either left, right, or degree of competence is reached, but there

This to play a song from the new collecgresses through the original lessons to the

Any attempt to jump straight into one of the more difficult ones is therefore doomed unfamiliar chords and techniques he or she has never before had to use. Luckily, those clever Software Toolworks chappies have built a certain degree of idiot-proofness into

#### SKILL LEVELS

Each and every song comes in two flavours, easy and difficult. The easy songs Miracle terms (less than half way to the final level 40), and the difficult versions at a

It is therefore possible for the beginner to learn his or her favourite tunes while still on the nursery slopes, then progress to the black runs with the development of either suffi-

cient mastery or enough blind arrogance. I had a crack at the easy level 15 version of Hey lude and found it to be playable, though not exactly a version Mr McCartney would have been proud of, so there's hope for the

Overall, the Song Collection disks are a "must buy" for any Miracle owner and enhance the wider appeal of the whole ensemble to prospective new students of the

The disks are available from Mindscape (0444 246333) and cost £49.95 each, a price which is pretty steep for a single floppy, but which presumably takes into account the fact all of them take a small cut.

#### **Imagine 3.0**

The review of Real 3D v2 in this issue is guaranteed to build speculation and expectation for the release of the next version of its closest rival. Imagine 3.0 is due to see the light of day later in the summer

and promises to include enough features to ensure hostilities on the ray tracing front recommence with their old vigour Developments in the commercial world which have been

reflected in Real 3D v2 include modelling tools such as twist, taper, bend, and shear, all of which will appear in Imagine 3.0. In addition, the inclusion of brush and texture "tacking" - the process of assigning brushes easily to individual polygons rather than entire objects - should make complex objects much easier Jointed objects, which have always been rather unwieldy,

could become a thing of the past with Imagine 3.0's new bones feature. Working in much the same way as skeletal splines, bones will make human or animal-like figures more natural and give the user much more control over the way they move.

Other major new features include real-time 3D animation preview. AGA support, an enhanced forms editor, a new terrain edi-



The face of Imagine 2.0 will soon be changing for the better

tor for creating landscapes, and (at long last) much improved mation, and there is no way of knowing if Imagine 3.0 will be able

to match Real 3D's advanced animation techniques such as the Watch this space for more updates as they happen



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Paul Overaa puts the latest version of

All the second tones of compiler antisms are provided

# **Blitzing the** competition lity Basic has been around for

time it has acquired the reputaion of being one of the most interesting The package has never really been

aggressively marketed in the UK although elsewhere in the Amiga world there are a great many satisfied Blitz users. With the compiler market, a lot of alternative Basics and GFA Basics. Of late, however, it has been Amos that

has stolen most of the limelight, but there is little doubt that the latest update of Blitz Basic, called Blitz Basic 2 - or Blitz 2 for short - will also make its mark on the Amiga Basic scene.

Blitz Basic 2, like its predecessor, can produce incredibly fast code - easily fast ers. As with most Basics it offers its own set of Amiga-specific commands although, having said that, quite a few of its "main core" Basic commands follow, with one or two quite surprising exceptions, the usual de facto standard set by Microsoft Basic. When you get to the more esoteric things but of course in this respect it is no

packages Talking of packages, the new Blitz 2 offering consists of three disks - Program,

# ment of manuals, Blitz magazines and

## The review package also provided a

honest it wasn't made clear whether these are now part of the Blitz 2 package or

The main documentation is spilt into

#### **EXTRA GAMES**

two parts, namely an A4-sized reference manual, and an A5-sized user guide. The laid out, and very adequate One of the things that I particularly

liked is that commands and functions are grouped according to use, rather than simply being thrown together as a straight This makes the manual easy to use and it's a doddle for example to locate all the string functions, or all of the program flow guage. There are plenty of examples of use (one for almost every command) although reserved for the user guide which does an

language. you need a text editor. Blitz 2 comes with an editor called Ted which acts as both an interface to the Blitz 2 compiler and as a

standalone text editor. Ted is a fast, reliable editor which has

Acid Software's Blitz Basic 2 compiler under the spotlight. The results are quite literally stunning

> all of the usual types of project and block loading and saving options. There's search/replace facilities which include case sensitive/insensitive search toggles. As with most such editors. Ted is fairly average looking display-wise but it's

pretty obvious that some thought has gone into this offering and in use some nice touches can be found HIGHLIGHTS

### You can, for instance, reset the current

directory from Blitz 2's file requester - this is useful when additional files need to be loaded as a program is run. Another feature, especially useful for

structured programmers, is the Amiga-A combination which automatically highlights the current line and any lines above or below it which are indented by the

from the editor menu and provides all the usual types of user-definable options for

#### **Grand graphics** On the graphics front, Blitz 2 scores very highly indeed. The language provides the pro-

grammer with a whole range of easy-to-use high-level objects including Intuition eventpriented mouse, menu, gadget, window, and screen support. Also on offer are objects which concern themselves with sprites, bitmaps, palettes, shapes. Intuifonts and Bitzfonts (special 8 x 8 fonts for fast Bitmap text).

Incidentally, Blitz 2 also allows the use of both IFF samples and Soundtracker/Noisetracker song modules. One of the nice things about the overall Bitz 2 object approach is that all objects tend to be handled in a similarly consistent fashion this help to make programs easier to both write and read.

#### Building structures

Anyone who has ever done any C programming on the Amiga knows how important the C structure is. Structures are complex variables which allow the programmer to bundle together sets of use-related vari-

ables and treat them as a single unit. One of the most interesting additions to Blitz 2 is that the compiler now supports NewType variables which to all intents and purposes are Bitz 2-style C structure definitions. Supposing, for example, that you wanted to define a unit for storing details of appointments held in a computerised diary. With Blitz 2 you could do it like this:



Once this type of unit has been defined variables can be assigned to it by using the NewType name as a suffix.. eq example appointment, and from this point on individual members of the unit can be manipulated using the backslash (1) character

NewTypes are extremely useful and as well as being able to include other NewTypes within a NewType definition it is also possible to include arrays

Some more good news for the serious programmer is that direct support for linked list operations has now been implemented. Lists are dimensioned in much the same way as arrays but can be manipulated with

If, for example you wished to create a list of 30 of the appointment structures just illustrated you could do it like this

and from that point on you could use any or all of Blitz 2's List manipulation functions on that NewType variable set! The Blitz example disk has some extremely good illustrations of how lists of graphic object NewTypes can be created and

Another facility that Blitz 2 supports, and which though not usually found will be beloved by users with some C experience. is the use of \* pointer operator. More C style magic is provided with support for manifest constants, conditional compilation, Blitz 2 macro definitions and the use of Resident NewTypes, macros and constants

If this is not enough the manual mentions loop\_count% you'd need to use that facilities that allow programmers to link loop count w with Blitz2. Blitz 2 programs to C code modules will be available in the near future.



Ted the editor - simple but effective



ports an array of control directives that when placed within the programs themselves control such things as mode selection, file inclusion and error message

Like most Basic compilers Blitz 2 can report two types of errors - compile time errors which cause the compiler to stop and display a diagnostic message on the screen, and run time errors

To help with detection of the latter, Blitz 2 provides a run-time debugger that, if enabled, will be activated automatically when, and if, such errors occur.

It's possible to trace program execution, switch between debugging and program displays, and perform things like expression evaluation. Trace options include both backwards and forward single stepping and of course the ability to step backwards through the code that was executed prior to a break gives the programmer much better than average chances of seeing why the error occurred in the first place

#### ASSEMBLER Blitz 2 also provides other tools includ-

ine the Intuitools, shape maker, and map edit utilities, and... an assembler. Like all Basics, Blitz 2 has areas where it has its own flavour and one of these is in the way variable types are declared. Blitz 2

supports six different types of primitive variables - five number types plus the Numeric variables can be byte (8-bit). word (16-bit), long word (32-bit), or floating point and there's also a q (quick) number type which offers a two-byte fixed

point format for fast manipulation of deci-Where Blitz 2 differs from other Basics is in its type notation - number variables have in, say, HiSoft Basic you'd might write a 16-bit integer called loop\_count as

Although it is admittedly easy enough to convert from one form to the other it is, SCREEN/WINDOW/GADGET PLANNER DHINDON THE test only test only test only test only

The Intuitools utility in action

## ...blisteringly fast and offers some stunning Amiga-orientated graphics

to minimise potential portability problems, probably a good idea to instead use Blitz2's DefType command. This allows you to predeclare variable types and so avoid the use

Surprisingly Blitz Basic does not peopnise RFM as a remark indicator - it uses the semicolon instead (a common 68000 assembler convention). To my mind this is plain stupidly in the world of Basic but to be honest it doesn't really cause any serious problems once you are aware of the fact

Even when physically converting files written using other Basics it is only a matter of globally replacing all REMs with semi-

One things that is likely to attract many of the more advanced Amiga programmers to Blitz 2 is the fact that an in-line 68000 assembler is provided. OK, so 68k coding isn't everybody's cup

of tea, but it's nice to know that these facilities are there if, or when, you need them. The good news for most coders is that even without dropping into 68k code, Blitz Basic 2, like the original Blitz Basic, is blisteringly fast and it offers some stunning Amiga-oriented graphics facilities.

These include super-smooth scrolling and dual-playfield tricks available using Blitz Basic's Blitz Mode command, which allows programs to suspend normal multitasking and take over the whole machine.

While many of the Blitz 2 display tricks can be achieved by anyone (including beginners) there is no shortage of provision for the more advanced user and if you fancy a Basic whose options include commands for things like copper list manipulation and so on, then you need look no further than Blitz2.

I've certainly been very impressed with the enhancements provided by Blitz Basic

2. especially with the C-style language extensions, but when I first encountered the Blitz way of doing certain operation my first reaction was "some of these things may cause problems for the new Base coder"

Within hours of using the package III changed my mind and now suspect that because the overall size of the language (even with its extensions) is smaller than alternative offerings. Blitz Basic 2 is going to be less difficult to get to grips with than many other Basics

Certainly even novice programmers an going to be able to produce a lot of cleve effects very easily indeed. Needless to say the more experienced coders will find that Blitz 2 offers stunning possibilities.

It deserves to do well, but obvious acquiring this success is likely to be some thing of an uphill struggle given that Amos. HiSoft Basic and GFA Basic have already captured most of the potential market.

Whether current Basic programmen will'swap to Blitz 2 remains to be seen, but it may well draw its support from other areas. There are, for instance, an awful lot of serious C/assembler coders who cur rently tend to be unimpressed with Basic. III you fall into this category my advice is to have a look at Blitz 2 because I suspect that it may change your mind.





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#### Old hard drive

My son has an Amina 500 Plus and has just recently acquired a hard drive with extra memory and power supply from a defunct A500

Problem is, the person who gave my son the drive did not give instructions on how to install it and unfortunately has since emigrated to Singapore. I therefore ask your advice and, if pos-

sible, full instructions for installation. Also, as it is a "used but good" hard drive, how does my son de-install it in

Are there any manuals available dealing with bard drives, both the hardware and software side, which cover topics such as creating directories, copying

files, and so on? I have heard that some games will not run from a hard drive. Please explain why and whether there is any indication when buying the game that they will not run.

Lastly, do you know of any reputable companies supplying shareware or PD software specifically for the A500 Plus or even any bulletin boards specifically for the Amina? I have access to a PC-based modern at work. Are there any utilities to convert IBM games to run on the Amiga? D Lewis, Caerphilly

Hmm ... a nervous first time Amiga hard drive owner if ever I've seen one. Luckily, as the hard drive has already been used on an Amiga, you might have very little work to

Assuming the drive has not been damaged, plug it in, turn on (first the drive power, then the Amiga power) and wait until boot-up. With luck, the hard drive will kick in and you won't have to bother with formatting or any tiresome partitioning

If the drive fails to boot, check to see if it has a game switch and, if so, that it is in the boot position. If this pans out, you may have to locate the drive's manufacturers for software with which to format it.

As you failed to mention the drive make or model. I can't help you on this score, so we'll assume the drive works. Manuals do exist for hard drives in general, but they are more often than not a bit technical and concentrate on the

hardware side almost exclusively. A good general AmigaDOS guide from Bruce Smith Books (0923 894355) would be of Finally, games which require a full 1Mb RAM in which to run will often fail to run

from hard drive because the act of booting a Workbench uses as much as 200k. If the hard drive comes with its own RAM expansion, this should not be a problem, but the insistence of Amiga software companies on disk protection which makes it impossible to install a game to hard drive will cause you much more grief, Good luck!



Monitors, broken disk drives and boorly bower subblies tax our experts in the definitive Amiga technical clinic

#### Out of print

I have an Amira A500 Plus and a Commodore MPS 1270 printer. The problem is, I can't get the printer to work. I've tried several books but with no success. Please give me a stepby-step guide on what to do. I'm desperate.

Fr at the risk of woording facetions. comes with the printer? You should follow the standard troubleshooter steps such as making sure the printer is played in, switched on, and a suitable cable is connecting it to the

Next, make sure that the printer is on-line by checking the front panel for the indicator light lebelled "ready", but as long as it is active, your printer is ready to receive data. If all this is taken care of and the printer has paper, boot from Workbench, open a Shell, and type:

### COPY SISTARTUP-SEQUENCE TO PRT:

selected in your prefs settings (generic will do to begin with), the printer should now reel off your startup-sequence. If it doesn't, go back to the

#### **CDTV** queries I have an A500 with 512k fast

RAM and 512k chip RAM and I am considering buying the A570 CD-ROM drive now that the price has gone down to £150. However, I have some

Does the Amiga boot using a CDTV-style

2. When using Workbench, does the A570 count as a device like an external floppy

4. How will I be able to hook up my Amiga to a hi-fi so that I can play CDs using my amp and speakers?

Finally, one of my main reasons for getting the A570 is the fact that I buy a lot of PD. so the CDPD collections could be of great use to me. However, I thought the charge for the disc copying costs. Surely

lim McKenzie. Old Stenenger

In answer to your questions, I should start by pointing out that use of the A570 requires 1Mb chip RAM and Kickstart 2.04, so please bear in mind that you'll have to upgrade your

1. With the A570 in place, the Amiga will boot either from the internal flowny, if it contains a disk or from the CD. 2. Yes, the A570 appears as CD0:, and if a

non-protected disc is being used its contents

port, so you'll have to make sure that you can

4. To enable the playing of CD music through external speakers, the A570 has stereo audio out phono sockets in the rear casing, so it is a simple matter of hooking the drive up to your

Your comments on the price of PD CD discs should really be redirected to Almathera I'm sure they'll be happy to answer any gueries you have about buying 600 PD disks

#### **Diskfont dabbling** I have an A500 Plus and an Amstrad NC100 Notepad which I bought after

reading the review in your Amiga Market Shop Window section. The only drawback in what is otherwise a fine machine is the non-backlit screen. Protest v4.3 from the January CoverDisk, so I decided to invest in the lotter and cable and now the Amiga can talk to the Notepad and vice versa. Diskfont.library v37". Strangely enough, if you click on Abort, the program carrie on and runs perfectly well.

I rang Arnor at Peterborough where I purchased the Lapcat software and they told
me that the program doesn't call for this library. He said it must be a problem with

What does my Amiga want? This is most annoying every time you load up speat, which is not a self-booting disk and must be loaded from Workbench. What

David Langley, Cambridge

You can check the Libs drawer on your Workbench disk for a start. It should contain a copy of the Diskfont Library and if it doesn't, you should copy it to the drawer immediately. Other than this, I can't figure out what The copy of Lapcat we use in the office has no problems on our Workbench 2.04 and 3.0 machines, so there is no bug in the software. In the last analysis, the problem is merely annoying and not fatal, so you can at least live with it if you need to.

#### Screen trouble

I have recently upgraded to an A4000/030 (am I be your friend? - Ed) and I am experiencing some compatibility problems with serious programs and hardware that I had expected to work correctly. Can you help?

I cannot get Amos v1.3 to run in DBLPAL mode, even with mode promotion on Is there an easy solution and does Amos Professional have the same problem?

I am also experiencing problems with my 16in NEC 4D multisync monitor as I am not able to display a full width Workbench screen, even when using This monitor's horizontal sync is from

30kHz to 57kHz and displays a very stable picture when VGA only is activated, but almost an inch of viewing width on both sides of the Workbench backdrop is inaccessible. The monitor worked fine with my ICD

flicker fixed A500 and utilised all the available viewing area.

Your recent articles and reviews on monitors make no mention of such problems with VGA or multisyncs. Can you offer any advice? Also, your A1200 and A4000 articles mention that you need multisyne monitors which horizontally sync from 15kHz to 75kHz to display all the



new resolutions, but with the exception of Commodore's 1960 monitor, only 30kHz minimum sync rate VGA monitors have

Can you please review a greater range of multisync monitors, especially ones that can display lower resolutions including Super72 mode?

P Sodler Redditch

Amos 1.3 does not work under Workbench and instead uses its own screen, so it does not work well with made promotion. There's nothing I know of which can be done about this apart from buying Amos Professional, which functions hetter under Workhench 3.0. Phone Furomess Software on 0625 859333 for more details.

Your monitor mon't use the entire viewing area because the AGA chins don't output a standard VGA sional, unlike the flicker fixer you mention which does this and a lot more hesides. The inch of lost screen area cannot be regained on most monitors, though you may be able to reduce it by experimenting with different monitor types. Finally, the reason the mentioned only the

1960 in relation to the complete range of AGA screen modes is because it is the only monitor sobich will corru out this feet.

A new range of Commodore AGA monitors with stereo sound are on the way (look out for a review soon!) and other manufacturers look set to release better matching monitors in the near future, so keep your eyes peeled for news.

#### Which printer? I own an A500 with 1Mb RAM

and I was thinking seriously about converting to the new Amiga 1200. However, I have only had my A500 for about seven months and my parents aren't too keen on the idea. Could you outline the advantages so I can use them as arguments?

I am now studying for my A-levels and need to use a wordprocessor for reports and essays. Which printer can you recommend for about £230? The same goes for monitors. Can you recommend one?

Will the PD program Kick1.3 work with the A1200 to make it more compatible with older games and so on? David Browley, Grinshy

I wouldn't dream aiding an abetting an avaricious teenager in the pursuit of shallow mate rialistic ends! As for your printer, the Canon B/10sx or

Star LC24-20 Mk2 are the obvious choices. A bit more cash would secure you a faster bubblejet or a few extras such as colour or a sheet feeder, but the basic printers should be good Computer Centre on 0532 319444. For the price range you specify, the only rest

choices are the 1084 or the Philips CM8833. Indie Direct are doing a good deal on the 1084 at the moment, so check out their ad.

#### Video titler

I have bought an A600 to use for video titing. At the moment I use a VEC 1070 video processor (an excellent unit) and a Some Video Sketch Titler for titling, though the latter is not powerful enough

I will have about £200 to spend on a genlock, but will the genlock work with mi video processor, and what type or make

do you recommend? With a good freeze frame on my video recorder, would the genlock act as a frame grabber?

Lastly I want to send messages or even digitised pictures across the country to my family. What type of modern and message cruncher/de-cruncher software would you recommend for £120?

Brian Gibson, Blackpool

Any Amiga genlock will work perfectly with your video processor as long as you ensure you have the same sort of signals. In other words, make sure that if your video processor accepts composite PAL signals that you buy a composite PAL genlock rather than an S-VHS unit.

Most of the cheaper genlocks are composite, so this should present no problem unless you have an S-VHS processor, in which case you'll need a much more expensive genlock

Try the Roogen unit available from a number of our advertisers. It is reliable and has a good quality output and shouldn't cost more than about £140. One other good entry level unit with good outout is the Rendale 8902, so shop around for a good price.

In common with most genlocks, neither unit will act as a frame grabber, and for this you'll need some extra hardware. The Vidi Amiga 12 offer on our May issue CoverDisk sounds ideal for you, as it offers a high quality colour digitiser for only £69. If you didn't catch that issue, buy it for the bargain price of only £3.10 courtesy of our back issue service.

A cheaper Supra modern should just about squeeze into your budget for such a device, though the money you save on the genlock might go towards a faster model which would be cheaper in the long run.

Software for comms use is mostly excellent and most shareware. You might give NComm and JR-Comm a look, and you'd be mad not to go for PowerPacker 4.0 from Europress Direct.

You got problems too? Then drop a line to Amiga Computing Advice Service, Europa House, Adlington Park Macclesfield SK10 4NP and we'll move heaven and earth to help in these columns. But sorry, we cannot reply personally, so save those SAEs.

#### **Brother bother** I am using an old Brother HR-40 with my A500 Plus and have found it to be very reliable. However, I am thinking of replacing it in the near future

and I have been looking at the new Brother HJ-100i. Will I be able to use the HJ-100i with my Amiga? Resident emulations are IBM ProPrinter X24e and Epson LQ550, and the interface is Centronics parallel, which I assume is the same as my HR-40. It's only a mono printer, but being an inkjet I imagine I should be able to use fonts which I can't at the moment.

I have seen the HJ-100i advertised at £299 including the connection lead and VAT, which seems a very reasonable price for an inkjet and would be ideal for my needs (letters, CVs, and so on). I have never seen it reviewed in your magazine, so

information about this printer is scarce. I would be grateful for any advice that points me in the right direction, as I have

heard of many people buying printers then having trouble with them. Phillip Cole, Coventry

As the printer you mention amulates the Epson LQ550, it should work perfectly well with the EpsonQ printer driver supplied with your A500 Plus Workbench 2.04 disks. The parallel printer lead you presently use will also work fine with the new printer As for using more fonts, only a PostScript laser printer actually gives access to

more fonts, but any that you have will print better on a decent quality inkjet. I don't know much about the Brother HJ-100i, so check before you buy what its maxim print resolution is.

This shouldn't be less than about 300dpi if the printer is to justify its price tag, and you might like to compare it to the Star SJ-10 reviewed in this month's Shop Window The SJ-48, a Canon BJ-10 rebadge, will print at 360dpl, albeit slowly, and costs

only £215. Alternatively, try taking a look at the Hewlett Packard 550, a much quicker printer with sheet feeder as standard.

It retails for about £330, so isn't much more than the Brother and takes quite a bit of beating in the value for money stakes.



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CLG 18 SKAN 29 This is a fun platform game in which you must quide like through 20 screens and deleting the hig denies at the end of acoch lives, the game will not faster if you are lucky amough to have an Amige 12001 This game should keep you occupied for a long time! Cames on 1 dies priced 3 50. \*

CLG. 20 JUNGLE BUNGLE by Len Tucker. This game is essentially an icon driven adventure written making for the younger person in mind but anyone des play. You must calculate the vinelinges but device of making to be a smalling more probability. You will calculate a making more probability. You will colourly despite, Cemes on 1 dek 3 50. \*



CLUGG TYPING TUTORS A program here now for all you budding office clerks, learning to type can be a real pain, learness ceed a forming, but not when you have an emige 1 This program will sake you step by sep through a full typing course, aboving where to pleae your fingless and solt more. Selfors long you'll be elde to type as fast say is call the typing course.



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#### PD and SHAREWARE

ter the post-Christmas lul the quality seems to be ning to the public sec ers are getting the grip o Amos's and Seucks and begin

hatever the reason, this mo sees a truly absorbing golf game th could well have been wo de game in the strangely titled Jacky; and possibly the mos hed music disks I've ever had

e aural pleasure of reviewing Before starting, my apolog en't had room to review. I've ot of worthy programs have, fortunately, had to fall by the

#### **Text Engine** 17 Rit 2465

If you're short of money but decide you you may wish to look and see what's available for free in the public domain.

Until recently, PD wordprocessors have commercial rivals to warrant serious consideration by all but the most light users. but the arrival of disks like Text Engine is

heralding an end to all of that. Text Engine is a professional-looking, fast and solid program, which has enough of the features you'd find on a commercial variant to make it genuinely useful to the

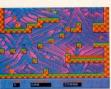
average user On loading, it immediately resembles ton and down the side - Wordworth or Kindwords 3, and has a palette adjuster paper and guidelines to suit your preferences. Included in its impressive list of

TEXTENGINE 14.8, COPYRIGHT 8 HICHOLAS BRIVEY 1953.

large postbag of quality gear to bring you the latest top quality free and shareware games,

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#### **EasyCalc**

Roberta Smith, 2507 Spreadsheets. Even the word is enough to Plain, boring and impossible to use are majority of examples in the public domain - either that, or they're so completely basis possibly warrant the painful learning curve necessary is nigh-on impossible. All criticisms which the author of spreadsheet worth using, before giving up and deciding to write his own

Soreadsheets - for those who have the good fortune of having never found outare meant to simplify accounts, forecast ing cashflows and the like, by taking in all of your numerical information and learn ing the links between say, salary and tax when you get that whopping pay rise you were hoping for, to cite an unlikely exar



Of our brace of animated spectacles this month, possibly the lesser is Spar Trek 2 NBS (P100/101). That's not to say it isn't worth a look, thou uring the customary age it takes to load – a fact about whi cess begins - we're left to wait with the faint hope of

th it is all a bit awkward, the plot getting cluttered by the



canados are a 36.000-word dictionary, full support for Ascii loading and saving (so files can be used from other wordprocessors, or you can take Text Engine-created ability to handle interlace if you're lucky enough to have a compatible monitor, and a comprehensive set of editing

Add to this macro support, a large selection of font styles (although only one font) patible printers, and it becomes clear that Text Engine is nothing less than a perfectly acceptable basic wordprocessor for the price of a meagre shareware fee.

on in the centre of a vaccous

Text Engine in use is as professional as it looks

ple. Claiming to be easy to use, by conous extras (the very extras you pay rial spreadsheet). FasyCalc's author is anything but modest about the carabilities

Luckily, it lives up to all of the claims. ally presented - you know, the icons look polished, it does indeed race along at a hare's pace as the author claims, and over-

from-the-ground-up package. workhorse spreadsheet, this one justifies the rather steen shareware registration fee of £15 - there's even an order form on the

#### **Fruit Salad**

#### 17 Bit, 2499 In this unlikely platformer, your friends

have turned into fruit and vegetables, and what's more, they've got it into them that your destruction is of prime importance. You collect rather unoriginal "eems" from each screen, which allow you to leave by a predefined exit. When you collect the last gem, the background colours scroll

the

ut -

explodes, and I only exaggerate a little. Indeed its looks - both in-game and the overall presentation - are its strong point, along with some amusing sound samples to pepper things up. The actual gameplay itself is rather average, which is not to say that it's unplayable, just that the characters

18th Male h a aretty and fun.to.oles and ann

move around rather simply and at a slow-

Still, the use of the Fire button instead of lowstick Up to jump is a first for me, and it's worth playing just for those

#### **18th Hole**

#### 17 Rit. 2994A/B A graphically excellent golf game, 18th

Hole combines a complete course of varied holes with lots of engaging control over your shots, quaranteed to keep you playine right until the very end - especially if you utilise the two-player option and get some healthy human competitiveness in

You start by using a simple method to select direction, power and swing, and then watch as you hit the ball - which gets

bigger on your plan-view of the course as it nearer to the green.

When you reach the green you get a special, full-screen close-up of what's going on, as you attempt to glide the ball home and

unrealistic - how could a golf simulator on a computer be anything but? - and this one feels more like an obstacle course than a

This is because you cannot hit over the trees, of which there are quite a few more than you'd expect to find. What's more, they're invariably positioned between where you tee off and the green, meaning it's like going through a maze

get an authentic score card), and neat touches lend the mood if not the authentic gameplay of the real thing. A great game, golfers not impressed by the cost of commercial alternatives.

#### PD, please!

I'm always on the look-out for top quality PD, whether it be utilities, games, applications, animations or music (and music

doesn't have to be ravel's So if you're the author of something so off-beat or original that a languid commercial giant wouldn't touch it with a barge pole, then get it in the post with a

great deal of haste Or if you run a library, send me your star disks for possible free publicity in

these very pages Please ensure that all submissions come clearly marked with the title and type of program, the address it can be

obtained from and any other information you feel to be relevant. A ReadMe on disk is always useful as is a hard copy list detailing exactly what is enclosed in your package. All of these measures will dramatically increase the chances of your product

making it into print.

#### Menu Launcher

#### 17 Bit. 2486

A tool designed to start any application game or whatever you've got installed on your hard drive, using a very simple method involving simply clicking on a

Menu Launcher shrinks on your Workbench to just a window with a title bar, and can be expanded to display up to 15 programs for choice of loading. It comes complete with a comprehensive on-disk the utility. I envisage a use for this in, say, a



msy screenplay at times, it is also rather amusing, and is ultimately saved by the us use of original Star Trek music and samples.

The bit where Captain Kirk is moving his mouth on the screen in time to real audio footage of his voice is particularly imp

Indeed, with both William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy getting a shout in, a emingly irrelevant green kangaroo-style thing and the emergence of a shock lest from Star Trek: The New Generation towards the end, this is a larf if nothing

More accomplished, though, is Marco's Box of Fun from 17 Bit (2497). A collect ions on one disk, this collection - penned by one M Vigelius - opens on a short relying on the old Fat Freddy's Cat gag of animal

sing cruel to owner. This time it's a dog, showing that our canine chums car be anything but Man's Best Friend when they want to .

What all four of these animations lack in graphical complexity they make up for in pleasing animation and a wickedly sick sense of humour. Oh, and they load quickly. Petty Amiga owners will most certainly extract a wry giggle from the anim entitled Atari ST Game - I'll leave it to you to find out what this one's

HERE IS A GAME That IS ESPECIALLY WRILLEN FOR THE ATARI ST.



#### PD and SHAREWARE



Strange gameplay Indeed In Accursed Toys

small business where the computer is used exclusively for a number of pre-defined tasks, such as a wordprocessor, spreadsheet or calendar, or for setting up education games for a child to use unaccompanied, for instance - although in the latter case, it could do with being a little

young fingers. Still if you like it, it only costs a bargain 65 shaneware peristration, and for this you get a fully working version including the ability to load and save your preferences quite an important addition, when you

### **Bomb Jacky**

17 Bit. 2476

come to think about it.

Apart from the wicked title, this is an awesome example of what the public domain occasionally throws up - a game so fresh and off-beat that no commercial house, with their highly polished sprites and movements, would ever consider releasing

The excellent opening sequence involves the credits being written in 3D hand gronades (you gotta see it, really) combined with some nunchy, drum 'n' hass rave-style music all very professional. The whole game feels friendly and

playable, from the bouncy. up-to-date tunes to the special effects to the clever, colourful graphics It's basically a fast platformer, with a

young edge devoid of the vawning, predictable nature of many a slick release. This originality, combined with well-programmed gameplay, makes Bomb Jacky as addictive as it is original. Respect!

#### Assassins games 58

NBS. ASS8 Three games are collected on this compilation by the Assassins bunch-with the usual

flash selection menu The first of these, a Seuck-effort called Super Raid IV, exhibits the usual jumpy-'n'-clunky feel of Seuck games, but is in fact a half-decent copy of Thunderblade, com-

plete with an Assassin's-added unlimited lives feature at the beginning. The second of the three failed to load on the basic A600 I was reviewing it on, but the third - apparently called Accursed

Toys and opening on a rather sick picture involving a teddy bear and a knife -

is another Seuck effort, and decidedly weind to boot (no nun intended)

Apparently meant to "help Tilka and Hyssop battle to make the grade", whatever that means. Anyway, involves your scrolling vertically in a jumpy, clunky kind of way, shooting at ground-based plantlike creations which emit balls of botanical nastiness in your gen-

I can't work out exactly what the majority of the sprites are meant to be, but they're all original, which is nice to

see considering the decidedly unoriginal constraints imposed on such games by the limitations of the construction kit. Oh, and according to the game itself, it is actually called Realm of Maivessae.

Weird... · Assassins game disk 1 to 64 are cur-

## rently available from the same distributor. Sanity

#### Amiganuts/Battleaxe PD

Hmmm. This one's about a character who - if the opening sequence is anything to go by - loses his mind, quite

Not surprisingly, he wants it back, leading to a highly trippy platformer full of cycling colours and extremely fast tribal drums and music with definite hardcore



Out of their minds or off their trees? The jury's out on the arganamers of Sanity...

leanings, including the classic "here we go again!" sample. Oh, and as far as I can recall, I've never controlled a bubble before. Sanity? I have my doubts...

#### Where to get 'em Amiganuts, 12 Hinkler Road.

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It's all dance stuff this month - if you want to send me your sequenced Schubert I'd be more than grateful for the change, but of the disks that I could actually get to load, the only ones worth reviewing had a decidedly, erm, foottapping feel to them.

No Limits, by John Crawford, takes No Limits by 2 Unlimited and Felix's neo-hiNRG classic Don't You Want Me, and submits them to the classic Amiga cut 'n' paste

To the visual accompaniment of a crudely drawn but stroboscopically flashing dancefloor - complete with lights

and even a glitter ball - the Amiga crunches its way through some crudely cut-up chunks of music, whose lack



of subtlety distracts from the actually quite effective onscreen colour onslaught. A "no" from the jury, I'm afraid.

Far better musically, and indeed possibly the best sequenced Amiga dance music I've ever had the pleasure of reviewing, are entitled Dance Classics 1 and 2. which come from Andrew McEnin Six classic dance choons are here spread across two

disks, from the fittingly chopped up Liberation (a song which itself borrows nearly everything from other records) to Italy's best Capella and the less immediate but undeniably hypnotic (Hablandol by Ramirez and Pizarro Even Zero B's seminal (and highly unavailable) Lock Up is here. This collection is presented complete with tasteful and fashionable on-screen stills.

Wall complet complets and presented in an uncluttered and pleasing form, this is a dance-on-disk mile stone. The jury are stood on the sofa with their hands in the air... I think they quite like it.



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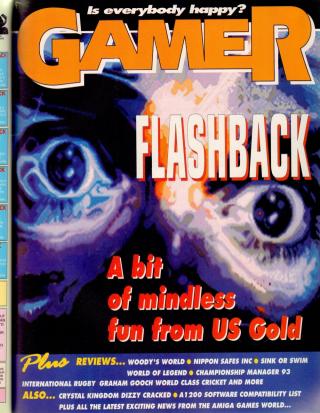
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#### News from the world of Amiga games that's almost to hot to handle...



film will feature a stunning array of life-like visual effects that like nothing else ever to be brought to the screen. Its s will gain entry to a world they en imagined. A combination of scien nd in its scope and diversi If you know what they are

Jurassic Park - The Film is no directed by Steven Spielberg and is based on a sk written by Michael Crichten. It's a story about a me park with a difference. The park contains real din

The software is currently in development on bot sides of the Atlantic, in Ocean's Son Jose and Manchester studios. it is as half as good as the book then it's going to sell by the larry load

mations. Out to lunch is planned for release on the Amiga at Christmas. Expect a preview in the ne couple of months, but in the meantime, chill out an take a gander at this paltry screenshot.

#### **Bullfrog hops back**

Electronic Arts are back in the fray with the release Syndicate. The brand new tifle from Bullings, the am ators of the Populous and Powermonaer series games. Syndicate thus comes from one of the man innovative software development teams in the

The setting is a grim and dangerous future water some time after the Corporation Wars. The world multi-national corporations had grown to such a extent that their power began to rival that of small countries. The CHP was then developed.

The CHP was a technological revolution that wa better than any drug. Inserted into a person's head could after a person's perception of the outside work and give them hope by numbing their senses to the misery and saudor surrounding them.

For example a person living in a grimy apar black could buy a Mansion CHIP which once inserted would make the user believe he/she was living in at grand and expensive mansion Unfortunately this led to war between the corpora tions who were bottling to monopolise CHIP manufac

ture, toppling nations and governments in the This areed become to attract dangerous criminal and soon the crime syndicates had infiltrated the car

parate boardrooms. Using custom-built cybers agents, they hunted down rivals and battled each other for ultimate control of the entire globe. You take control of a young executive in one sud

### Too many cooks spoil the broth

Mindscape are one of the businst software companies around at the moment. They haven't even released Alfred Chicken or Contine 2 set but how already got another release planned

ng on about write in and let us

Out to Lunch is an addictive platformer and features Pierre Le Chef, an eccentric yet worldrenowned master of his trade. As he tours the world preparing international cuisine, his plans are plagued by serbacks.

Unfortunately for Pierre, the ingredients he requires for his dishes are unwilling to be used, so the bankers chef must first capture and contain his incredients in "The Cage". Pierre must also avoid and destroy the diseases and insects which infect or

Le Chef's main rival is an evil masked chef dressed in black called Chef Noir who is scheming

to ruin Pierre's chances by releasing all his ingredients. The game features 48 challenging levels scread across six countries, each with its own theme includ-

ing specific foods and music to fully capture the flavour of each country Levels include the West Indies, Mexico and even



Pierre le Chef is out to lunch

Pierre's hame country of France. Also featured are tons of secret levels, unique power-ups and over 1,000 frames of superb humarous character ani-

#### Team 17 rev up the releases Team 17 have been working on their forthcoming release Overdrive which will be released in July. Team 1 supremo Martyn Brown explains: "We felt that the overhead perspective racing genre had really not been

given adequate justice on the Amiga save a couple of now old titles so we thought we would give it "the The game is a very fast, very smooth and superbly playable racer with four types of vehicle and five types

of track. For technical reasons it is one player only - although a serial link allows two players to compete head-to-head - and involves racing through a combination of vehicles/tracks for prize money and features. There are 4x4s, Formula One, Sports and Buggies - all of which handle differently on each of the five types of terrain. The game's feel is based on a number of all-time classics of the genre including Super Sprint but on a

much bigger scale Gamer had a quick look at the game at the ECTS and we were duly impressed. It looks like Team 17 are back with another





PUNE 1993



Bullfrog's biggest release since Popules 2

from his control plaform in an airship high above the city, he observes as his agents spread the shadow of terror in a bid to conquer territory, ousling the rival andicates and striving for world domination.

The game features a sturring atmospheric intro securace with state-of-the-art, television broadcastaudity rendered graphics. You are faced with over 50 missions, each set in a living city populated by ateliaent men and women, cars and commuter

trains, rival agents and law enforcement forces. With the use of new graphic technology and realistic sound effects including music and digitised speech, Syndicate is Bulling's most unique title to

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tion of Project X. The game features some lavely tweaks,

such as not losing weaponry when you die,

It will available in June for £34.99, so start to save your money now because this is going to be worth every penny.

#### They call him **Flipper**

Digital flusions are rumoured to be working or the third instalment of their highly successful pin ball series of games. The follow up to Pinbal Droams and Fantasies will be entitled Pinbal flusions. Sources say that the third game will include a new multi-ball feature. Digital flusions say that they wanted to include it in their previous es, but couldn't due to the fact that it slower

e action down too much:

DI are trying to combat the problem by esigning a brand spanking new mathematical add of a pinball table which will speed it all considerably. Look out for it around as time. Expect more news as we get it.

#### Short 'n' sweet

Psygnosis return to the Amiga scene with the follow-up to First Samurai. The sequel is side-splittingly emitted Second Samurai and garners should expect more of the same. The sword-slashing adventure will this time have a simultaneous two-player option

 Dark Seed fans will be pleased to know that the game won the 1993 Software Publisher's Association Excellence in Software Award in the Best Fantasy Role Playing/Adventure category. Even better news is that Cyberdreams are currently work-ing on Dark Seed 2 which is meant to be ten times more scary and weird than the original

· You can't beat a bit of Bully! Alternative Software's next release is Bully's Sporting Darts, It will retail at the incredibly law price of £9.99 and is unique in that it features six popular sports each played on a tailor made darfboard. Expect a full review next month.  Alternative have also launched a brand new range of home computer games produced especially for 3 to 12-year-olds

The Children's Range is a collection of award winning and best-selling titles with many based on popular TV and film characters. Included in the collection will be current favourites such as Postman Pat, Thomas the Tank Engine, Popeye and The Munsters along tank Engine, ropeye and the Munaers along with new arrivals Pixie & Dixie, Huckleberry Hound and Alvin & the Chipmunks. All games will sell at the low price of \$7.99.

• The release of James Pond 3 has been put back to September. Subtitled Operation Starfish, it is a massive action-packed jump and run platform game which will feature over 100 sections, large character sprites, extensive parallax scrolling last seen in Pond 2 and in two-player mode, Finnius Frog — Pand's sidekick. It will initially be available for the A1200



shorter levels and in general changes which Also re-released on budget is Assassin which will also have changed a little from it's original format. The hero is now armed with a hand gun and the levels are built up of smaller stages rather than sprawling

Blimey, Team 17 are just about the most helpful and kindest software you could ever wish for. Which other companies bother to change their earlier games in an attempt to improve gameplay? Maybe other software houses should sit up and take notice because Team 17 are simply kicking your ass.

Make a cuppa, chill out and look at... REVIEWS • REVIEWS • REVIEWS

Woody's World
International Rugby Challenge 113 Cor, try it and see. Acme Gamer Pun No 531
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A1200 List......126 The definitive list of games that do or don't work on the A1200 

Codemaster's latest Dizzy game is given a thorough bashing



us round where Woody has to collect loa of dosh. The money is then turned into points

there was ever a pence that's been over-used ince the day when computers first began, it has to be the platformer. The unusual thing about platformers is the fact that they are almost identical to each other.

That blasted Mario has ant a lot to answer for. Every since the early days of computers we've been plaqued by Mario wannabes and Sonic

lookalikes. The shame is that a lot of these are just pure unadulterated crop Platformers are big business, mainly because evenbody loves them. I can bet that every gamer

in the world has at least one in their collection. For every amazing one you can expect another 20 copycats which are a load of old

The Amiga world is packed full of rubbish as well, but when a good platform game comes out

you know about it. Switchblade, Another World. Myth. Putty. Rainbaw Islands. Zool and more recently Superfrog are just a few examples I could

The thing is that these tend to be fairly easy and are quite small in size. Vision Software claim that Woody's World is the world's biggest Amiga platform game - a pretty brash and bold statement, especially as this is their very first full price release It could well be true though. I've always fancied being a detective, so I'll don my deerstalker like Sherlock, my false moustache like Poirot, hop in

my Jaa like Morse, be fat like Tash from The Bill If you ask me, the evil baddies are a right pain

If they're not taking over a whole universe then they're robbing old Mrs Miggins, the lody down the street. This time in Woody's World they nicked a magic crystal and a few TVs and videos to boot The King was incressable because the costal

had been stolen. Kingy had lost control and his marbles and his kingdom had been overthrown by, yep you've guessed it, evil baddies Woody was just your average kind of hero

whose thoughts were more concerned with the up The King decided that Woody should find his beloved crystal because of the fact that Woody is.

umm, an athlete and can run fast, err probably. The King then gave Woody a map and

described each of the costles illustrated and the dangers that surrounded them. He explained that there was a seventh costle that was missing from the map. It was at this castle that the King thought Woody would the het find the monic crystal Woody knew that he would have to travel across his whole world to find the mysterious sev-

enth castle, but if that's what the King wanted then The chances of him finding the crystal before the Olympics would be very slim, but you never

The people behind the PD classic Cybernetix are dipping their toes into the pond of full-time computer games publishing with Woody's World. allegedly the biggest Amiga platform game in existence

## WOODY



The map of Woody's World. Venture forth from the Steam Castle and the world is your oyster...

know, he might just get lucky. Woody then bound-

ed off to complete his quest What this basically means is that this platformer involves you trekking through many different and varied levels in the desperate hope to find

a crystal. A cheesy plot doesn't always make for a bad piece of software though! The adventure starts in the mysterious Steam Castle where Woody must beware of the, err, steam and also the evil begvers and birds that inhabit the place. If you bumped in to Woody in the street he'd look a fairly normal chap and if he was your mate you'd probably buy him a pint, but Woody is for from normal. Remember it's always the quiet, shy, retiring types that are the serial killers. Woody changes his appearance more times from his underwear. He starts off in an oil the shoulder wizard outfit and isn't that here like because he's quite slow and can only kill his ene mies by bouncing on their heads. Contained in the



is finally let loose in the outside level, but if he 't watch it he'll playing the death level. Gulp!



a sad pun, but I just couldn't resist it...



t's not everyday you get chased by rocks unless your n Indiana Jones. One of the many problems in the cave level



some are hundreds of heart blacks. When Woody tonos them with his head he scores bonus points. but some of these blocks contain special powerurs. Every collect a scentre. Woody transforms mio Prince Woody which gives him greater jump-

to power and the ability to kick enemies If you manage to grab a crown then Woody amping power and the ability to fire stars at his memies, and he gets to wear a smart shiny crown

Each power-up also speeds Woody up thus making the game more smooth and in the process more enjoyable to play.

The graphics in Woody's World are brilliant blands. In fact to put it into perspective, imagine a sutesy puppy dog with sad eyes looking up at you with its tongue out and begaing with its pow.

Aww cute you may think, but the graphics in Woody's are ten times cuter than that. Even when our hom dies it's really rute. The backdrops are just as good as the sprites

with some really nice effects - they're as impressive as anything I've seen for a long time For instance, take the clouds level where Woody jumps from cumulus to nimbus and where the wind actually blaws our stocky hero all over the place making the game more interesting that f I was stupid and didn't have much sense I could instantly compare this to Superfrog, but some neonle will simply because it come out last month and is still in people's minds, but I won't because they are two totally different

If I had to compare it to anything it'd probably never and will never appear on the Amiga I can

quite happily compare it, so there On the sound front there is a whole abundance of fantastic tures. The music seems to fit the action perfectly and for a change it doesn't get annoying

- you could actually find yourself humming it, even when you're not playing! The sound effects are kept to a minimum, but are more than adequate for this type of game.

Playability-wise I can't really knock it. There aren't any design faults that I could find. It looks suited to small kids, but it's one of the hardest platform games I've ever played and is recommended to platform experts wanting a bit of a

challenge. You only get three lives and these will rapidly run out if you don't keep on collecting energy and extra lives. I'll take you a while, before you actually manage to get through a few levels.

Lastability isn't a problem because I've carried out a thorough investigation and Woody's World is the biggest Amiga platform game to date

The number of levels is incredible. Put it this way - you won't be able to complete it very quickly unless you're some kind of computer games hero or genius. Vision have come up with a crack-



has to fight off some fish with an attitude problem...



TIME 4:54

Take time out on your adventure and inspect the local wildlife. The Woodster chills out...

er and for their full price debut they couldn't have written a better game. Woody's World has an everything - great graphics, top tunes, packed full of playability and an addiction factor that is so dangerous it broke the Gamer addictive-a-meter

If you liked Superfrog then this is your cup of ten and I would heartily recommend it to anyone. although it is a bit of the difficult side, but more than definitely worth persevering with. Wood you believe it a brilliant debut and no mistake. Platform fans have never had it so good

JONATHAN MADDOCK



Beavers with spiky sticks. Not very fear might think, but they're a right pain in the botty...



the level. They didn't hide it very well, did they?



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o-like

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# MEGA

ACTION

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ALL YOU CAN
HANDLE FOR
JUST 99p







but not flashe



into the game but not too much to bog the gameolay



England's new all-stars team, England (Joystick) takes the nitch

# INTERNATIONA

# RUGBY

Sellotape back your ears and grunt at people with Domark's latest...

take away the fact that you

have to be six foot two

15 stone and drink

masses of bitter to

be a rugby

player. If you are a ten-stone weaking and a very fimely release indeed this. with England steaming through coward to boot like me you don't want to be the Rugby Sevens to win. It on the wrong end of huge bloke hurtling seems fitting that we should through the air with an odd-shaped ball. release a game and have a So what can you do if you still want the excitement and the gameplay? Get the comquick gloat. But this respectable win doesn't puter game, of course.

When I first booted up IRC I was impressed by the smoothness with which everything ran. The title screen and intros good frame of mind for the game. The control screen isn't the most detailed The seen but after a few minutes of fiddling

you get the hang of what all the tools do. One aspect I found very impressive was the use of hot keys on the menus - it's possible to just press the one designated letter of the option you want instead of waiting until your cursor gets over there. By far my favourite aspect is the fact that you can play the game on different levels, so if you are purely pletely ignore the management side

> If you just fancy going for a quick knockabout you don't have to take into account that three of your men are injured and that you are in deep financial trouble - that is if you don't want to. As soon



Conversion time - be rareful of the wind, it really does make a

nudge nudge, wink wink, some planker's made a rugby game. But as it turns out they have made a pretty

fair job of the control method. It's similar to more of the football simulations - the member of the team that you are controlling at one particular time is depicted by an arrow above his head. This changes as the ball move As you probably know, you have to get

the ball past the line at the end of the pitch and as near to the posts as you possibly can. Once this is achieved you can convert your try and gain more points The conversion entails you kicking the ball

from a set distance away over the crossbar but still between the two upright poles. In Rugby the conversions control is very similar to a golf sim - you have to dick at the right time for the speed and power then you have to click for the aim

To pass to other players on your way down the field there are two methods You can either dick your button quickly and your player will make a pass in the direction where a team member should be, or you can hold down the button and a target will annear. You have to do this pretty guiddy and aiming takes a bit of getting used to but it works in the end. As far as we could tell the

rules and the gameplay were almost perfect ly faithful to the real thing. There was the acrosional discrepancy or

niggle, for instance when the opposition kick the ball back into your half you men seem to run around it and not pick it up until the opposition have caught up with it. But apart from that IRC is a winner! Well done Domark

BEN STYLES

VISION DIFFICULT LASTABILITY

playable sports have been a tricky made a very good lob of it

leveloper > Domori Price > \$25.99 Install > N/A Size > 1 meg

My 1993 GAMER

he natural thing to do would be to compare Flashback with Another World Although they are aesthetically very simi lar. Flashback offers much more in the way of gameplay than Another World did.

In fact there is a common misconception that Flashback is actually a sequel to Another World. This is not the case, which is further reinforced by the fact that securily to both Another World and Flashback are under way.

Prince of Persia first set the standard by which character animation was subsequently judged. thee came Another World and Cruise for a Carpse, both by Delphine. Flashback continues this animation excellence and throws in a large and healthy dolloo of gamealay to boot

Such animation, married with excellent back ground graphics, seems to be a trademark of games from our French friends. But despite the excellent visuals, they never quite seemed to master that most ethereal ingredient of good gameolay until now that is Flashback is not only visually areat - the control

method, atmosphere and general difficulty level have been balanced to a point of perfection. This is a game everyone will finish because it will grab you by the throat and drag you back for more purely because it's so good

So, what's it all about, I hear you ask? Well, the story goes something like this. Conrad B Hart, a research scientist, has prepared his end-of-year thesis. He has developed a pair of glasses which can measure molecular density.

His device reveals aliens, whose molecular density is far areater than ours. living among the population. As is the case with the majority of aliens. they are not on Earth for a holiday but to take the place over

Unfortunately, Conrad's investigations raise suspicion among the aliens who, quite understand ably, don't want some human strolling around conveying to all and sundry the exact nature of



The Death Tower scenario is very reminiscent of the Arnold Schwarzennegger film, Running Man

combined with his fear of capture. Conrad prepares a holographic message and then saves the contents of his memory, which he then sends to his

Conrad is eventually captured and his memory erased by the aliens. Still held captive, he man goes to escape via a hoverbike with the aliens in

During the chase, Conrad's bike is shot and he crashes to the jurgle below. Content that Conrad did not survive the fall, his pursuers leave. However, Conrad is a lucky bugger and has surrised the court

He awakes, not knowing who he is or where he is. This is where you take over. You have to guide Conrad on his mission to find his pal, Ian, and to



wins the first prize, a ticket to Earth

recover his memory. However, as is the case with most missions, to find your memory as well as a bloke called Ian. things are not axing to be simple. There are codies of obstacles, most of which shoot at you, so some nifty jaystick manipulation will be required.

Thank goodness good of Conrad just happens to have a rather mean handgun, which, as is humorously evident in so many TV Westerns, doesn't seem to exhaust its supply of bullets.

Thankfully, Flashback's control method is as good as the main characters animation which it controls. Too many good games have died a quick death due to poor joystick programming and Delphine are obviously aware of that fact. Once you grab hold of the joystick, you will have Conrad running, jumping, rolling ground

In fact, the key to success is the ability to quick ly master the various movements which Corrad is able to do. Those of you who have played Prince of Persia will no doubt take to the controls immediately as they are extremely similar

As you guide Conrad around the various screens, blasting away all appanents, you will also have to contend with puzzles. You will come

animation and great back

that accur when such actions as picking up a object or using one are done An example is the shield which obsorbs for hits from a apparent, after which you will die Various power oufets are dated around the ter

rain and when stood next to one, you may recharge the shield to full strength. Therefore, a good memory is involvable when you find your shield low. Knowing where the near est power outlet is will improve your chances a survival against a particularly son-of-a-bi... I mean

rather difficult to kill enemy or enemies, on believe me, there are quite a few laitering around One suspicion I was harbouring when asked to mire his was hot Flashback although visual stunning, was going to be one of those game whose philosophy is to put you right back to at unreasonably early position on the level should

you be unfortunate enough to be killed. I was pleasantly proven wrong on that point a the game has various Save Game points at well thought-out positions on the levels. However, to game isn't saved to disk, so if you turn off you Aming you'll have to start from the very beginning of the level you are an. Combine this RAM save feature throughout each level, with the level pass words which are









# BACK

Delphine do it again with this excellent arcade adventure featuring jaw-dropping animation and eye-popping graphics

provided as you complete each part and you have a system whereby even the most impatient of us who throw the joystick against the wall shouting "Oh \$5°E. it took me gges to get to this point!" will find adequate. Most gamers expect a lot from today's games.

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both in terms of visuals and sonics. Well, from the screenshats, you can get a good idea of the overall look of the game - you'll just have to take my word for it about the stunning animation. The sound effects are equally impressive. As

well as various "spot soundtracks" as you move from screen to screen, there are lots of sound effects interspersed throughout the game.

These are especially evident on levels which are outdoors, where you get the effect of chirps, bleats and general noises of hidden alien beasts ringing in your ears. Very atmospheric I can tell you. find yourself on, which, in general, need to be shot

Besides the nasty occupants of this planet you as soon as you see them, there are also some friendly falk eager to help (if only to make a fast

There is limited interaction with these people in that you simply walk over to them, press the joystick button and read the conversation between

Corrad and the aforementioned person Many of the conversations will give clues as to your next course of action and pretty soon, Conrad regains his memory and the action really begins to speed up. To conclude Floshback is as slick as a James

Comeron film and I for one can't wait for the

DARREN EVANS



onimation and sound all add up to a superb gaming experience. I war

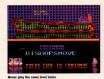
Price > \$29.99

Size > 1Mb

July 1993

The chap down below is one of the more cult opponents to kill

still alive after the hoverbike crash. He's about to wake up in a not too friendly jungle







#### ere's a novel variation on the old mminas theme. You play Kevin Codner, a man for whom integrity and brayery are so much a part of his make-up that they might as well be his middle names. As you read the intimate interview with the man whose very actions you'll soon be controlling. you realise the scale of your mission.

The SS Lucifer is, you see, sinking, and full of Dim Passengers, all with a marked dislike of rapidly rising waters. Your job is to guide them safely from where they enter each compartment to the exit. Sounds gretty similar to Lemmings still, doesn't it?

There are differences, though. For a start, kevin is an actual character who has nothing to do with the Dim Passengers. You can't make the passengers actually do anything like you can Lemmings actions are controlled by a number of means apart from the passengers themselves, about which more

Also, the Dim Passengers might be lacking enough of the grey stuff to snotch the chair of MENSA from Sir Clive, but they haven't got a pathological desire to end it all in the same way that our diff-laving churs of old have.

Indeed, they'll do everything they can to run away from the rising waters when they come across

Oh, and control is not via a crosshair and a mouse, but by the more conventional joystick and Fire button approach, your button being used to set off bombs, pick things up and so on.

So, we've established that although based on the Lemmings idea, Sink or Swim has enough going for it to warrant consideration in its own right, so consider it we will Let's take a wander through the

average level, shall we? Kevin appears, followed very shortly by a number of Dim Passengers. They're hip, chunky affairs, and there aren't Kevin comes with his own born

that many of them to look after. At the bottom of the screen are a load of statistics which it certainly pays to keep your eve on - especially the one that tells you how much axygen you've got left. There are windows for possengers remaining to be saved, lives, and how much time is left on the fuses of any bombs you've planted.

#### JETPAC TO SAFETY

lier. Jetpacs are very useful - when you call them off the wall, they drop into any rising waters which have stranded passengers in it, allowing the passengers to ietoac to safety, or the top of the screen - whichever comes first

There's cargo knocking around, which you use to make bridges and platforms to complete an escape mute for your possengers, but conversely it can get in the way, hindering the essential route to the chute,

in which case you can move it.

Various objects can be utilised as mentioned ear-

action-packed platform romper that makes the Poseidon Adventure look like bath time

decrees, but you can crawl along them and seal

them... all with your Fire button! There are various hazards apart from the water based ones: crushers do just that to anything that gets in their way, for instance. Many other helps

hindronces and curious objects knock around the various levels - swinging chains, magnetic haists, electric fields crew lifts - all have their uses, and those that don't teach you to avoid them very quickly indeed. There's even an emergency life-raft for when things are all going horribly wrong Graphically the game is a couple of years behind its time, with dumay not particularly well animated sprites - although it must be said that the water effects are quite impressive especially the wobbly reflection of the Lucifer in the title screens. But the movement of the characters does let it

all down a little, as does their rather pedestrian speed. Soundwise too it's OK, with some admittedly very nice water effects, but again it seems to be a couple of years behinds its time - the theme tune reminds me of one of the bet

#### ter PD music demo disks SIMPLISTIC MAGIC

As for as the gameplay goes, it's a nice idea and a credible attempt to deviate from the Lemmings idea, but like so many copied games, the more it deviates, the more it seems to lose some kind of simplistic magic. It feels rather cluttered, with

This has the effect of making it hard deciding exactly what's happening, which in turn makes it hard to settle back into some serious, contemplative Pause on puzzle-type thinking as one could do with great pleasure in Lemmings. So, the presentation is

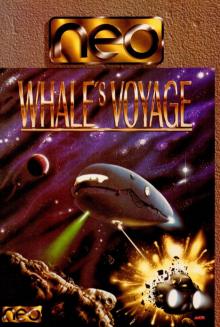
**Kevin Codner** stars in an

> OK, the idea - albeit borrowed - is an excelle one, and the sound and graphics are passable to nothing special It's the kind of game that, should you have particular maritime bent, you'll enjoy, but for to average gamesplayer. I'd say that there's a late for sincer smoother and more exciting staff aroun Sink or swim? This one's struggling to tread water





Targan thang





water







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## CHAMPIONSH

Could you manage Manchester United and win the Premier League title? Here's your big chance, grab your mouse and get down to it...

nse. Not only do you have to run the i make sure you've got the best 11 play-e park on a Saturday afternoon, but you neral running of the club. Istion to be asked in this review is, have done it? Could you have taken a oll club like Manchester United to the league Well thanks to Domark you can find out. I the great Bill Shankly once remarked

isn't a game of life and death - it's here are two types of computer football es. The first is the action/arcade game like lible Soccer or Kick Off where you have direct

of over your team. There is much more to all than just playing it, though, and this is lected in the second type of game.

The management type has been around since

Week 1 Preseason 1			
CONTINUE SEASON		TÄBLES	FIXTURE IMFO
CLUB DETAILS	ARRANGE FRIENDLY	PEAVER	BOARD RESIGN
MANAGER JOES	MATIONAL SQUADS	PICTURE	SAVE

the days of the Spectrum whe

A year or so ago, Domark released Champiorchip Manager and it fared pretty well in the cruel world of computer games sales. It ment game I'd ever played, so you can w agine the grin on my face when I hea

and it promises to be the best football in ment simulation ever in the whole wide That's some statement, but I have the sness suspicion that Domark fully intend not to bre that promise. If I were to detail every new for

en't got time. I'll run through a though. Basically everything has d. The Premier League is now eir proper names.

All the player data is now correct and when so click on the player's name you get a full room of statistics. You basically get a full room of statistics.

or of his underparts. his information coupled with the player's name gives CM 93 that edge of realism, sly because you can relate to the players Other features include a brand new scout

tem, player loans, upgrading of stadio, my time, manager's salary, own goals, win There is also a five-week gap before the

Take a gander at the screenshats and you'll see that CM 93 is not graphically fantasis. The whole game is controlled using the mouse and centres around a menu system which involves a Oto of clicking.

The only graphic of interest is the choice of pictures which you can have as your backdrap to the game. There are seven or so to choose

You can choose a nice picture of the charm ing Chelsea midfield dynama Andy Townsend or you can even leave it totally blank - the

One thing you should know about is the actu-al match day. Now this is nothing like what I screen is incredibly basic with the time set in the right corner, the two team names and six lit

You get a running commentary of the game but it's all done in broken English. An exampl would be "Rush rounds keeper. Rolls it in net Goal, Goal disallowed, Referee spotted hon offence," It does seem strange at first, but after

#### Stockport Squad

Trns Staf Leag Fixt Accs Info Rsrv

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 11 DONE

## Stockport Accounts

2 July 1993

# MANAGER '93

the first makes you be core or of to it.

We I can see that of experiting it its leaves as the control of the core of the core

he his type of game warrants amozing graphics anyway. The sound department is virtually non-existent with only a couple of chees in fere when you score a good, but again it's not he type of game that mode sound. It's positive by overflowing with playability and as highly

addictive.

There are two ways to buy the gene. The first is trus down the stops and poy \$29.99 fee it. The second is to upgrade your original Championship Monager by sending the disks and \$7.99 to those rise claps at table who are to restrict the first own to restrict the stops of the point of the stops and table who are provided and Commonthing.

Manager '93, Intelek, PO Box 1738, Bournemouth BH4 8YN. To put it simply, Championship Manager is Ryan Giggs, while all the other management



Hmm, this program is true t life. Look County play the long hal game, just like in real-life, coo!







The teleprinter just like Grandstand have. Where's Des Lynam when





Price ➤ \$29.99/ \$7.99 Install ➤ N/A Size ➤ 1 meg



There is a brief news flash in between games which keeps you up to date on the squad and

July 1993 GAMER

ew sporting moments can shr the juices of the back page headline writers as effectively as yet another England crickeing disaster, especially when defeat of the hands of Sri Lanka occurs only a tew months before the Ozzies harn up to defend the Ashes. National pride demands a spirited perfor-

monor and nothing short of victory will drag the names of the 11 unfortunate white-dad sportsman out of the minth circle of hell to which every sports journo in Wapping banished them ofter the winter tour. Graham Gooch's Warld Class Cricket is the

latest of a small group of garnes which have often ghed to simulate his sport, and cones closer from anything set relocated in the ord hing. Good garnes of this sort are difficult to price become critical desert had falled as football to a fast exciting computer game, but GGWICC combises simulation accuracy with sick gameplay and brings it off very nicely. Uset about every risk and oppet of cricket is

merb graphics in play as lashing delivery goes in another



wzat! An ozzie goes for just one run

# GRAHAM GOOCH

implemented, from LBWs to run-outs, and the superb graphics catch the eye as soon as play

Crammed onto one disk as it is, GGWCC loads quickly, plays quickly, and disk access is minimal, so nothing gets in the way of the

simulation.

In play, the game can be as complex or simple as one likes, and there should be enough options to keep even the cricket fanalics happy. Play can be over anything from one to the days and the nember of overs can be set from 20 to

unlimited.

A selection of world teams is an offer, complete with realistic and current player lists, but

the novice need only have the computer select the best 11 to proceed to the action.

The more finisky among us can chop and change team selection by dipping into the full squad, and the even more dedicated will find the

option to edit teams, team names, and even players' individual characteristics to suit any taste. It would, for instance, be perfectly possible for a nostalgic player to change the England and Australia line up to repeat the infamous "bodyline" tour of the 30's complete with Don Bradman and company. In play, bowling, botting, and fielding are all

taken care of in simple but effective fashion. Bowling is a matter of placing the intended landing point for the ball then clicking the joystick button, at which point one of two things will happen depending on the type of bowler being used.

pen depending on the type of bowler being used.

If playing a last bowler, the player will see a speed bor in the corner of the screen which can be controlled by waggling the joystick back and forth to increase speed.

Spin bowlers vary in that they bring up a selection for leg or off spin, then the player wag-

gles the jaystick to increase the amount of spin. For added realism, a natural leg spin bowler will be able to spin the ball faster in that direction. Tired of watching the familiar old middle order collapse? Now's your chance to don the white jumper and see if you can do any better

Batting can be tricky - my first innings score of ten all out should be ample testament to that but with practice and good firming the eight types of shot on offer give the player enough fisecibility to deal with all sorts of bavlers.

WORLD CLASS CRICKET

flexibility to deal with all sorts of bankers.
There is little in the way of the delicate touch, but the choice of where in the crease to stand, when to hit the button, and which shot to play makes batting a challerging enough affair with-out fancy extracts.

Once you manage to pull a decent shot out of the bag, joyatick waggling is again needly marked the battern und a anything more than a relaxed conter, so play can become quite physical as one player waggles turously to deliver a faut ball and the other does likewise to squeeze a single out of a short cut to the midfield. Fielding is less controllable, but one feature I

liked was the ability to set a different field placement for each bowler, then save them to disk for later use. It is possible to arrange the fielders for one fast bowler then copy it to all the other fast

bowlers, so quick todies changes are possible before and during play. When an apposing bottom hits the ball, the display changes to a more distant view showing about a quarter of the field, and the fielder under control is highlighted by an arrow. Players have little or no control over what

happens, and my input seemed to be limited to just pressing the button to throw the boll. Overall, despite using the same graphics for European, Caribbean, and Asian players, the lack of a four or World Cup option, and a few reservatives, about some cricket float, willingness. to indulge in joystick waggling, GGWCC is easily the best cricket game available on the Amigo, and one of the most well polished and neath-implemented sports games I've ever had the pleasure to play.

STEVIE KENNEDY









all that's the normal procedure when robbing banks. Let's go to work!

Strangely named emember the days when games were simple? When the graphics and sound and even stranger were basic and the titles were straightforward, like Asteroids or Fragger? to play. Take a trip They more often than not told you something about the game. For instance, a game like Fragger into the mysterious obviously features a frag, but these days game creators just seem to call their games anything metropolis of they want to, a prime example being Nippon Tvoko in this What on earth is that all about? Well, from the

title you'd think it'd be about a load of Japanese highly original safes running around the world causing havoc and adventure

No despite the title Nippon Safes Inc is an interactive adventure game, and it has to be said that it's certainly a little bit strange. Not surreal and for out, but definitely weird It uniquely features three different central characters to choose from each with their own adven-

ture and puzzles to solve. Each character's story proceeds alongside the others - they're irrevocably It's up to you whether you decide to solve them

one at a time or alternate between them. The characters themselves are voutly different from one another, but they all have similar objectives. The game is set in and around the fictitious city of Tyoko in Japan where in the more disreputable

parts of the metropolis a shady character has been wondering around looking suspicious. The object is to discover who he or she is and what they could be up to Nippon Safes takes a lot of its ideas from traditional Japanese culture, incorporating tea making.

mouhem

played before and looks a lot different to every thing else on the market at the moment. The group ics aren't quite as impressive as Mankey Island 2. but they do have a unique look to them. The presentation makes a nice change and the whole thing has a very cortoon-like appeal and

feel to it. All the characters are quite well Your perspective changes as you play the game. It's hard to explain, but look at the screen-

shots on the page and you'll see the different From the for away view on the highway to the full-screen close-up outside the Hot Sushi to the view from the Metro which uses only a small part of the screen, the different angles make it all that little bit more interesting.

Control is a point-and-click affair using the mouse, but there also is an icon system. This can be called up using the right mouse button and allows you to select either a command or an object



Doug Nuts falls the bank job for the 137th time! When will be ever learn...



Dino gets caught up in some dodgy dealings with a suspicious and shady character

## **NIPPON**

to use. There are four commands in all. You can pick things up; examine objects; open and close chierty and most importantly talk to people When you talk to another character, a picture

of you and his or her head appears. You then get two or three choices on what to say and the con versation will continue like this until you've said all you need to You can use objects with other objects, which

can be done by holding the left mouse button down while clicking the right. All in all, the system is incredibly easy to use.

Some of the puzzles are very strange and not quite as straightforward as in something like Mankey Island or Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis. You'll solve most of them by stumbling around different parts of Tyoko.

Unless you check everything you're likely to miss an object which will become very important later on in the game. It's always best to pick up everything you find because it can be a real hassle having to go back for stuff.

The centre of Typko is quite large, but several other parts of the city can be accessed using the very reliable Metro tube trains. Once bought the ticket can be used as many times as you like and will never run out. British Rail take nate

There is a certain amount of humour. For example, the programmers put in an appearance, but most of their jokes only apply to themselves. Nippon Safes is nowhere near as funny as Mankey Island, but is far funnier than Jimmy Tarbuck. Its best point is that it's so different from

The presentation is spot on and all the graphics are brilliant, especially the backgrounds. There isn't much to listen to on the sound front, but there are several spot effects like birds tweeting in the park to test your ears out on. At least there isn't a bloody annoying tune that

nlays all the way through like some other odvertures I could mention, but won't. The control system is well designed and you'll he able to master it after only a couple of minutes' play. The biggest borus has to be the fact that you've literally got three games in one. All three adventures, despite having similar objectives, are letely different

One thing I have to mention is the fact that the name comes on five disks, so a hard drive is a

## Three



#### **Donna Fatale**

Donna is a variety actress who aband og career as a ballet dancer to ente world of show business. She a zzled by the promises of a self ons, left her to a life on the border y. Will do anything (ahem) to get ah



I'H INNOCEEEENT!

Dino tries his hardest to get a walk-on part on The Bill while on his way to the local nick



# SAFES INC

company

computer, students, sind.

He then moved to Japan, the homeland of intronics. He gets picked up by the caps every se one of his gadgets fails when trying to eak into his local bank. A dirty little too leaf



Dino Fagioli

A former boxer with Italian origins. Basically a good and honest soul, but often fells into traps set by people taking advantage of the fact that he isn't very well endowed in the brain

partment.
After a series of defeats in the boxing sold, he boorded a ship bound for Japan orking as a deck hand. Following his speechs scrape, he was shown off the ship to the ship to the same of th o, where he is desperately trying to

definite must. If you do play on disks then you'll be swapping until the cows come home - fine if you can put up with it! If you're gasping for an adverture having completed everything else around, Nippon Safes Inc could be well worth your time and money. One thing I can't work out is just why the cre

ators called it Nippon Safes Inc. I suppose it's just going have to be one of life's little mysteries



na performs her infamous strip act at the Hot Sushi



Our beefy chum meets Mr Bill Stickers....



Doug Nuts is let out of prison and begins his adventure in the city of Tyoko

This one of the frongest games I carbon, Loads of disk swaps guired if you haven't a hard disk

Aly 1993 GARCER (23)





## RLDS OF LEGER

sets me to see how little time and effort it takes for such a large company to knack out a game like Worlds of Legend. The small amount of documentation that we got with states that it "provides new players with a comnletely new experience in adventure role playing

world of Amiga games; the way the game is constructed is about as original as writing another Space Invaders.

So now I've completely destroyed it, I should explain why. Well for a start it's a totally unoriginal nal idea - how may games in the last year or so can you name that entail you controlling four characters with a quest to fulfil? Each of the characters

anything new and fresh to a tired genre? on? Sound familiar vet? The first to do this proper ly was Dungeon Master, which was and still is a

comes to tell one of the four members of the group of the death of his father. This death means that the land in which they live will be plunged into

classic. Same games have followed a slightly different vein and come good - Sabre Team for instance - but nothing has ever quite equalled the Worlds of Leaend begins when a messenger

stoo the whole land falling into the wrong hands. As soon as you get the message that your father has been murdered, the rest of the land goes crazy and starts fighting. This makes it very hard to travel to different towns because most people won't let you in unless you have the prop er pass, so to get in you have to bribe them or beat them up which can get pretty tedious because it's the same old thing

time and time again The fight sequences are laughable. The computer does most of the fighting for you all you have to do is occasionally make the wizard cost a spell or turn one of the fighters into a berserker. You can even make one of the other characters sing a

What that is supposed to do I don't know - some prot singing 'Tie me kongoroo down, sport" to several bloodhirsty, alcoholcrazed psychopaths isn't going to have much effect I fect

To look at, the fight sequences remind me slightly of Space Crusade only not as detailed. There are some really nice touches to the screen, for instance in the too left-hand corner there is a dumpy looking dragon with a briefcase observing and acting as a cartographer

But as a rule the graphical representation of the people you meet is pretty bog standard and uninteresting, and the animation pretty poor as well. The character control method is pretty simple

Can another role-playing adventure add - that's the game's saving grace, really. Nowhere does the gameplay involve you clicking an arrows. moving your band left, right, forward or back which is one thing I despise about the original Dungeon Master, But you do feel very limited as to what you artually have control over when playing Worlds of Legend

I am, I'm afraid, very disappointed indeed.



This is a map of all the places you might have to visit

VISION

DIFFICULTY

the odd feature which sets it apart but



The main screen graphics aren't that hot but



bars which allow the different characters' skills



ng the bottom of the screen you can see the menu



A320 Airbus AV8B Harrier Abandoned Places	YES
AV8B Harrier	YES YES
Appropried Places Accolade All Favourities Accolade Plack Air Combat Aces Only G Air Support	NO NO
Accolade Pack	
Air Combat Aces Only G	UNSHIP Works
Air Support	YES
Airball Airbourne Ranger Allen Breed'92 Altered Beast	NO NO
Airbourne Hanger	VEC
Alien Breed 92	YES NO
Anered beast	YES
Acuatic Games	YES
Archer Mclean's Pool	YES YES
Archipelagos	
Apidya Aquatic Games Ancher Mclean's Pool Archipelagos Artura	NO NO
Axel's Megic Hammer B.S.S Jane Seymore Back To The Future 3 Bad Company	Director Carche
B.S.S Jane Seymore	YES
Bad Company	YES
	NO
Barbarians 2 (Palace) Barbarians 2 (Psygnosis) Batman The Movie	NO
Barbarians 2 (Psygnosis)	YES
Betman The Movie	TES
Battle Chess Battle Chess 2	YES YES NO
Battle Chess 2 Battle Isles	YES
Battle Ships	NO
Battle Valley	YES
Beach Volley	NO YES
Better Maths	YES
Bitmap Collection Blood Money	Disable Cache
Blood Money	Dissble Carbe
Bloodwych Blue Max	YES
	NO YES
BudYesan CJ Elephant Antics	
CJ Elephant Antics	YES
CJ in U.S.A	DISABLE CACHE
California German	Disable Cache NO NO
Campaign	
Captain Blood	Disable Cache
Cadever Calfornia Garnes Campaign Captain Blood Captain Dynamo	YES YES
	s NO - Rest YES
Cartoon Classics Simpson	YES YES
Caus Manie	Disabled Cache
Cave Mania Chase H.Q	NO.
Chessmaster 2100	YES
Chessmaster 2100 Chicargo 90 Chips Challenger	NO
Chips Challenger Chucki Egg	NO
	YES
Combo Bacer	YES
Combo Racer Continental Circus Conqueror Cool Croc Twins	NO NO
Conqueror	NO YES
Cool Croc Twins Count Duckula 2	YES
Count Action	YES
Covert Action Crackdown	YES
Crazy Cars	NO
Crystal Kingdom Dizzy	YES YES
Crackdown Crazy Cars Crystal Kingdom Dizzy Curse of Enchantia	NO NO
	NO
Deathtro	Disable Carbs
Damocles Deathtrap Delux Strip Teaser	YES NO NO
Demolition	NO
Disc	NO
Dizzy Collection	Disable Cache YES YES
Dizzy Excellent Adventure	YES
Dizzy Prince-Yolk Folk	YES
Dogs Of War	YES
Doodlebug	Disable Cache
Double Dragon 2	NO YES
Double Dragon 3	YES
Dragon renal	YES
Dream Team T2	YES - Rest NO
Drum Studio	NO
Dungeon Master+Chaos	YES
Disc Dizzy Collection Dizzy Exollent Adventure Dizzy Parice Dizzy Parice Dizzy Parice Dizzy Parice Double Dizzy Dizzy Double Dizzy Dizzy Double Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Dizzy Massar-Chaos Dynasty Wars E-Motion	Disable Cache
E-Motion	NO NO
Electronic Pool Elvira	NO YES
Emlyn Hughes	NO

# A1200 owners!

The most comprehensive list yet produced of the games which work (or not) on the A1200

WOIK	(01 1100
List compiled by Whitero	e computers. Repri
Eye Of The Beholder	YES
F16 Combat Pilot	NO YES
Fast Food	Works Too Fast
Ferrari F1	YES
Fighter Mission	NO NO
Fighting Soccer Final Command	NO
Final Flight Only	NO
Final Flight Super Fight	YES
Fire Force	NO Disable Cache
Flimbo's Quest Footballer of The Year	YES
Forgotten Worlds	YES
Fun School 2	YES Disable Cache
Fuzzball Games-Espana '92	Disable Cache
Gary Lineker's Hotshot	NO
Gauntlet 2	YES NO
Gauntlet 3 Gemi Wing	NO NO
Global Effect	NO
Go For Gold	Disable Cache
Gold Rush Goldrunner	YES NO
Grand Monster Slam	· NO
Grid Iron	YES
Guardian Angel	Disable Cache YES
Hagar Hard Ball	NO NO
Hard Drivin'	NO
Harlequin	YES
Head Over Heels Heimdall	YES NO
Homes Of The Lance	NO.
Highway Patrol 2	NO
	YES BY BATMAN Works
HoYes -	YES
Horror Zombies	YES
Humans Ice Hockey	NO NO
Impossamole	NO
Indy Fate Atlantis Act	YES
Indy's Last Crusade Act	NO YES
Indy's Last Crusade Artv. International Soccer	NO NO
Italia 90	NO
Italy 1990	YES
Jaguar XJ220 Jack Nicklaus Great 18	Disable Cache YES
Jack Nicklaus Unlimited	YES
Jahangir Khan Squash	YES
James Pond Jet Set Willy 2	Disable Cache Disable Cache
Jimmy White's Snooker	NO
Kick Off+ Extra Time	NO Disable Cache
Kid Gloves Knightmare	VES.
Kwick Snax	YES
Kyrandia	NO YES
Last Battle Last Ninja 2	YES
Leander	YES
Lemmings + Oh No More!	Disable Cache
Lethal Wespon	YES Disable Cache
Little Puff Lotus 1	NO
	NO
Lure Of Temptress	YES YES
M1 Tank Platoon	

	d by kind permission of Comp	wter Trade Weekly
	Manchester United	NO
		IRRICAN2 Works
	Mean 18+ Data Disk Mega Twins	NO NO
	Mega Twins Meros	Disable Cache
	Miami Chase	Works but Fast
	Microprose F1-GP	YES
	Midnight Resistance	NO NO
	Midwinter Midwinter 2 Flames	NO
	Mig 29 (Codemasters)	NO
	Mig 29M Super Fulcrum	YES
	Monkey Island Monty Python	YES YES
	Monty Pyticii Moorwalker	NO
	Mousetrap	NO
	Myth	YES NO
	Naro	Disable Cacho
	Navy Moves New Zealand Story	NO
	Nicel Mansell Champ	YES
	Nightbreed The Movie	NO
	Ninja Warriors	NO NO
	Nitro Boost 100cc Turbo	YES
	Operation Thunderball	YES
	Outrun	NO
	Outrun Europa	NO YES
	Paperboy 1	YES
	Paperboy 2 Parasol Stars	YES
	Passing Shot	NO
	Phantasma	NO YES
	Pictionary	YES
	Piribal Fantasies Pit Fighter	YES
	Plutos	YES
	Popeye 2	NO NO
	Populous 1	YES
	Populous 2 Postman Pat	YES
	Postman Pat 3	YES
	Po	YES
	Pro Fight	NO YES
	Prospector Protector	NO
	Push Over	YES
	Putty	YES
	Puzznic	Disable Cache NO
	Quadratien Quantox	YES
	Quatro Fighters	YES
	Quest+ Glory	YES NO
	Quest Of Agryain	YES
	R-Type Rail Road Tycoon	YES
	Rainbow Island	YES
	Rambo3	YES
3	Raving Mad	YES NO
	Rebellion Red Lightning	YES
3	Red Zone	YES
3	Roadblasters	YES
3	Robin Hood	YES NO
6	Robin Smith Cricket Robocod-James Pond 2	YES
5	RoboCop 2	YES
	Robo Sport	NO
0	Robozone	NO
S	Rodand	YES

Samurai	YES
Sarna's Xmas Caper	YES
Savage Cal Review	NO.
Seconds Out Boxing Sensible Soccer 92/3	YES
Swimmer Goas Hollywood	YES
Shadow Of Beast 3 Shadow Sorcerer	NO.
Shinobi .	NO.
Shufflepack Cafe	YES
Shuttle	YES
Stent Service Sinbad-Throne of Falcon	YES
Sim Ant	YES
Simpsons Bart V Mutants	NO NO
Skid Sky High Sturrtman	YES
Sky High Sturman Sightly Majic Sky Spy	YES
Sly Spy	YES
	NO YES
Soccer Pinball Soccerer	NO.
Sooty+Sweep Fun Numbers	NO.
Space Ace 2 Space Crusade	YES
Space Crusade Space Quest 1	YES
Space Station	YES
Special Forces	YES
SpellBound Spellbound Dizzy	YES
	NO.
Spike IN Transylvania	YES
Star Blaze	VES
Starglider Stargoose	YES
Steel	YES
	Disable Cache
Steg THe Slug Steve Davis SnoYeser Street Fighter 1	YES
Steve Davis Shoreser	NO NO
	NO
Strider	YES but Very Fast
Strider 2	YES but Very Fast NO
Strip Teaser+ Data Strike Fleet	YES
Striker	YES
Super All Stars	YES NO
Super Cars Super Fighters WW	
Super Goard Prix	NO
	NO.
Super Off Road	NO NO
Super Ski Super Tetris	YES
Swap	NO NO
Switchblade 2	NO NO
Swiv 3D Pool	NO
Tag Team Wrestling	YES
Test Drive	YES NO
Test Drive 2 Thai Boxing	NO NO
Thomas The Tank Engine	YES
Thomas Tank Fun Words	YES
Thunderblade	YES YES
Thunderhawke Thunderstrike	YES
Top Banana	NO
Tower Of Babel	NO YES
Total Recall Treasure Island Dizzy	YES
Turbo Trax	NO:
Turrican	YES
Tusker	NO -
Twin Turbos Ultimate Golf	NO NO
Vor.	YES
Voyager W.W.F.1	NO NO
	YES
War Zone Windwalker	YES
Wing Commander	YES
Wipe Out	NO
Wiz Ball Wiz Kid	YES YES
Wiz Kid World Class Boxing	NO NO
World Class Leaderboard World Class Rugby	
World Class Rugby	YES YES
World Cricket World Series Cricket	YES
X-Ove	NO NO
Z-Out	NO NO



flower - the Princess Laila as she stands on a balcony high above the gardens.

Away in an eerie floating castle dark deeds are at hand. The evil Vizier, in his dastardly plan to rule the kingdom, has despatched a demon from the nether regions of hell to kidnap the princess and cast a mighty spell over the kingdom.

As Sinbad stares up at the balcony a dark shape descends from the sky, mauling and clawing at Laila.

Laila screams and the demon lifts off clutching the beautiful princess. Sinbad makes a desperate leap to grab the claw of the monster, but is left on the balcony flat on his back. As the demon disappears into the clouds Sinbad is surrounded by the Caliph's guards and hurled into prison on a charge of sorcery. Now, taking on the role of Sinbad Junior, you not only have to escape the palace dungeons, but rescue Laila from the evil Vizier.



## SABRE TEAM

At long last we can dig the dirt on the Krisalis's Sabre Team. We sent in Ben Styles to smoke some embassies and complete the jungle level

#### W Jones - Trooper



His two most outstanding abilifies one his speed and strength. comes to grenades as he can from them much further than any of his colleagues. Unfortunately, Jones is lacking in the marksmanship department. This

can be helped by giving him on LTA2 which will increase his ability. He also lacks intelligence which plays a part in his ability to natice or hear things. His height can also accosionally be an advantage as he is pretty short

## C Calvert - Trooper



T L Roderick - Sergeant The leader of the group is also the third fastest soldier in the party. His obility with a gun is incredible so you should arm him with the M16A2. Although he possesses an

average perception rating and poor strength, his other qualities more than make up for it. One final thing to remember! Do not. under any circumstances, expect him to throw a grenade accurately

This is extremely important when he is accomparied by a hostage.



lightest weapon with the langest conge. Make sure he is kitted out with at least two magazines. This is because he will have more encounters due to his obility to soot

#### L P McDonald - Lance Corporal



Although he is pretty much your Mr Average, McDonald has good speed, and when you give him an

17A2 his marksmanship is very good. As the dodgy saying goes: "Jack of all trades, master of name!" His main weakness is his necreation but even in this department he is only second to Trooper Colvert.

Choosing the correct weapons and equipment is also important when you are about to enter a mission. Each player should be given a bullet-proof vest and an \$10 respirator. Give CS gas grenades (no

more than two) to Transer Jones and Lance Corporal McDonald Give the medical kit to McDonald as well (I'll explain later!) but don't use the spare. This will safeguard you in case McDanald is lost

Make sure you only use one magazine for those ours that have a good capacity. Any more (except in the case of Calvett) are a waste if your soldiers are cut down in action Stun arenades are the least effective weapons but they can actually " kill an enemy when they are used at close range. They are quite limited,

however, so try not to use them all.

#### WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

#### 1742

Usually two shots from this machine aun are enough to take out the enemy at a great distance. Unfortunately, only two are available and ammo is scorce. If you find any ammo for this gun, grab it

#### M16A2 & G3

These are usually the second choice for ours. There is nothing much between them in terms of close combat accuracy and weight. Three shots will usually kill someone but the G3 leaves a lot to be desired at great distances.

. Do not swap any weapon between the missions as this results in a loss of ammo which is already loaded in the guns.

#### The medical kit

There are only two of these to begin with but you

can find some more on later missions. It is a good idea to split the team up into teams of two, each can then carry a medical kit, passing it on to the injured person

#### CS gas & stun grenades

These two items are both very handy in fight corners. when you are under attack from all sides. Make sure you have enough action points to throw them or you could end up in a tricky situation.

#### Gas mask

An essential item and fortunately there are enough to go around.

#### **Bullet-proof vest**

Another indispensable item. It cuts down the amount of damage inflicted by bullets.





General tips

Always collect useful regionness from the deceased members of your trom. For instance, gas masks, build proof with, medical bits and any diesest weapons. Always grib the medical less.

Manus alouly in teams of two and cover each other's backs. Some at least 20 action points in sidely

#### JUNGLE TACTICS - LEVEL ONE

Your objective for mission one is to rescue four hostages who are being held within the confines of a prisoner of war camp. Once all the hostages have been rescued you must guide the remaining members of your team

When reinforcements are called in they usually come through the main gate that you used to enter the camp. It is a good idea if you leave one of your party on these gates to deal with them when they arrive. This acts as perfect protection when your other team

perfect protection when your orner recur members are bringing out hostoges. You'll probably find that McDanald is the best man for the job. You can also leave a medical pack with him as he will be in the best position to aid any of his fellow soldiers.

The first two hostages are in the hut at the bottom left hand-corner of the camp. Trooper Jones is the best man to tackle this as there are quite a few enemy soldiers patrolling the area. Using his speed, he can get in the door and dispose of the main guard. The main guards, unlike the randomly-placed enemy troopers, are always positioned in the same

the easiest hostage to rescue, Sergeant Roderick is best used here as he doesn't quite have the speed of Trooper Calvert. The last hostage is situated in the hut to the for right of the camp. He is one of the

trickiest to rescue because of the surrounding windows and the open space. Use Trooper Colvert to get the hostage out and take him back through the trees. Don't take him back near the fence as the reinforcements will be able to pick you both

off with considerable ease. When operating your soldiers, always try to leave them with about 15 action points at the end of their turn. This will give you a bet-

troopers, are always positioned in the same place. One such guard is always near the main gates at the beginning of this level. The next hostage is placed in the hut directly in front of the main gates. As this is

ter chance of getting an opportunity move.

When you are searching one of the huts and your turn ends, try to leave your soldier with his back to the wall. This way he can see all the camp and it will be easier for him to If you do get shot and manage to survive, try to head for cover. The two best forms of over are the trees and huts so try to get to them if you have enough action points left.

Even after you have received treatment, keep well hidden until you have enough action points left to make it to some more cover The more experienced players will find

the insee experienced prayers will had this level pretty easy to complete with just two soldiers, namely Janes and Calvert. Although it will take longer, you'll be able to save your other team members for the later





Move into the jungle, but keep an eye out for the enemy



should be

# WINADRE

Later this year one of our readers will be invited to go on a holiday of a lifetime - to just about anywhere in the world. It could see you basking in the Bahamas, or cruising in the Caribbean. It could be ambling around Australia, or night-clubbing in New York. Even trekking in Tibet, or pottering around the Pyramids, Literally, the world is your oyster! It could be a holiday for one. Or for a whole family, lust as you wish - providing the total cost comes to no more than £3,000. How do you go about winning such a fantastic invitation? Simply by completing the coupon opposite and handing it in to your newsagent. He will then enter it for

this unique competition, in time for the draw which will take place on July 12. If you win you will be asked to select the

If you will you will be asset to Secret the holiday of your choice from any you see on offer – either nationally advertised or available from your local travel agent. There will be absolutely no restriction on the location, or the company you choose to provide the holiday.

It will be entirely up to you to decide which is the right holiday to suit your tastes.

And that's not all. As a thank you to your own newsagent, we

will also be sending him two free tickets for a fabulous holiday in Paris, staying at a top hotel, going on a grand sightseeing tour and taking in a spectacular show at an exotic night club!







# HOU



ACORN - One of Britain's longest-running computer magazines, Acorn Computing (£2.95) is the pre-eminent choice for users of the Archimedes and BBC Micro.

COMMODORE - Three magazines serve the dedicated Amiga fraternity. For games players there is Amiga Action (£3.95) and Amiga Force (£1.95), while Amiga Computing (£2.99) covers every aspect of this versatile machine. Owners of the C64 will find all they need in Commodore Force (£2.95).

ATARI - For the Atari ST enthusiast there are three magazines - ST Action (£3.95) for gamers, with Atari ST User (£.3.40) and Atari ST Review (£3.50) satisfying the more general ST owner.

NINTENDO - The whole of the ever-expanding Nintendo scene is covered by N-Force (£.1.95), while dedicated fans of the Super NES have Super Action (99p) and for Game Boy freaks there's G8 Action (99p).

PC - Most dynamic newcomer on the PC magazine scene is PC Home (£3.95), covering both business and leisure interests. PC Today (£3.95) is devoted to supplying practical solutions for the small businessman. SEGA - All the Sega games machines have their champion in

Seen Force (£1.95), with Mega Action (99p) serving the needs of Mera Drive owners (to be lounched on May 20). \_\_\_\_\_\_

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# **AMIGA**

Expert views on the latest applications















nce you start getting to grips with the practical aspects of ARexx, one of the first issues that crops up is the control of its output. Since ARexy is so enod with text-oriented applications, it makes sense to be able to present them attractively

Various solutions have been proposed for linking Allowy with Intuition the Amiga's windowing environment. However, these can be tricky for beginners, we have looked at them in the past, and no doubt we will look at them again in the future. Today, instead, we will look at something much simpler

I am referring to the presentation of text-based output, which, at first glance, seems very limited. After all, the only output facility supplied by ARexx is the restrictive SAY instruction, right?

Readers of this column will know that things are not quite that bad. Along with the SAY instruction. Allows can open its own text output windows (consoles), and write to them just as if they were files.

In addition, by using the so-called ANSI codes, you can form and so on We looked at this subject briefly way back in October 92, but there is currently enough interest to look at it again, in a bit more depth.

Return after it has finished printing. You cannot write data on a line, get some more data, and then write it on the same line

The way around this is to treat the console (ie the CLI window) as a file, and write data directly to it. This method is more flexible, and can be used to write either lines or characters. The procedure for opening a new window is very easy; we use the same function, open(), which we use for regular files.

The open() function takes three arguments. Firstly, a looical filename, or filehandle (which you specify), used for referring to the output stream. Secondly, the AmigaDOS specification for the window, which looks like

#### Device:x/y/width/height/name/flags

The device is most often con: - there are others, but they will not concern us here. Workbench 2.0 users may also use the optional flags, for instance to add a Close gadget. You can also specify the AmigaDOS shorthand for the current CU window, which is "

Finally, there is a flag to say whether we are opening for reading or writing, which in our case is 'w

Before writing, remember to test if your new window has opened successfully - something may have prevented

success = open(output1,"con:20/20/400/100/bur window","w")
If success THEM writech(output1,"01d it.")

Remember that if you have opened your own console window it will close automatically as soon as your program exits. This may not give the user enough time to



read all the information. In this case you should either have a short name or else specifically ask the user if he/she is readto ouit. The best way to pause is by calling the delay(ticks) function. A tick is 1/50 of a second

The delay() function is not a part of the main ARexx package, but is found in the rexxsupport library supplied with ARexy. You should therefore ensure that it is available, either

rxlib rexxsupport.library 0 -30 0

in your startup-sequence, or else by checking that it is present from within the program:

IF "show(Libraries, 'rexsupport.library')
THEN add(ib('rexsupport.library',0,-30,0)

Now, onto a problem that is quite common once users start opening their own output windows. Suppose that a piece of code outputs some text, and then nins an AmigaDOS command which also outputs text, such as:

success \* openiconsole,'\*','a') len \* writele(console, Here is the c: directory listing') ADDRESS COMMAND 'List c:'

As long as the program is directing its output to the same CII unusual. However, if the output is going to a different console for instance, if the first line had been:

success a specimental a "con:10/10/300/70/Output window", "w")

then the output of SAY and writech(console,) would appear in the new window but the results of the AmizaDOS community would still get printed out at the old window!

The naive approach to this problem is to redirect the

# Finely

AntigaDOS output to a temporary file, and then to read and print this file out in the new window. It works, but it's messy There is a far simpler and more elegant approach, which is not often documented (even some of the available books an ARexx do not mention it: however more of that story next issu when we start reviewing the available ARexx literature...)

ARexx maintains a logical filename, called STDOUT, where all output (including stuff from AmigaDOS) is directed. But default this is the initial CLI or Shell. In the above example, even though you are writing to a new window, AmigaDOS is still writing to STDOUT

The obvious thing to do then, is to close STDOUT, and reopen it in your new wirklow. After this, everything will appear there correctly. Even the output of the SAY instruction will appear in the new window, since SAY xxxx is equivalent to writeln('STDOUT',xxxx). Here is an example:

/\* changing STDOUT \*/ succ = close('STBOUT' /\* output is now disabled \*/ succ = spen('STB001','com:20/20/250/100/New STB001','w') /\* all cutput is now redirected to new window \*/ ADDRESS COMMAND 'List co

Les = writels['STDOUT','=== Boe for new \*\*\*\*)

```
/* ANSI demo.ress */
/* The window we'll use */
window = 'con-220/20/200/200/Counters
open(cutput,window,'w')
/* Some rades we use *)
hold : men(1) : italic + men(5)
under n men(4) : reset = men(0)
tab2 = '0909'x
newline = CSI || E
setuhite = CSI || 'D;D8' || pen(41) || CSI || J
clockpen = pen('32;43')
blackpen = pen('32;41')
/* Set up our window *
writechloutput, setubite)
writechloutput, clockpen || clockfield || time())
writechloutput, (SI || "46" )
writeln(output, blackpen || ' Do same counting:')
writeln(output, (SI || '2E')
```

writele(output, bold || blackpen 'Sumber' reset)

writeleCoutput, italic || blackpen 'Mex' reset) writels(output, blackpen 'Char.' )
writels(output, "' under || 'sin(i/10)'|| reset) /\* A report loop \*/ 90 1 = 65 to 90 writeln(output, clockpen || clockfield || time()) writein(output, blackpen)

writeln(cutput, CS1 || '6E', newline tab2 || 1 , newline tab2 || 42c(1) , newline tab? || d2c(i) . newline tab? || delatr(\*sin(i/10).6)) /\* Delstr() was used to format the sin() \*/ /\* The + sion converts the characters \*/ /\* received from rexxmathlib to a number \*/

J\* Function for easier graphic codes \*1

dal 24 (100)

pen: series cst II are(1) II 'e'



#### Listing I

of

an

Allery also maintains two other logical filenames, or streams, called STDIN and STDERR STDIN is the regular input, from which data is PULLed, and STDERR is used when tracing a program. If the global tracing console is open, it takes over as STDERR. The other way of controlling the appearance of the output is by means of ANSI codes. These are special characters, included in the text, which will not

annear when it is printed. They are most commonly used for creating effects like bold or italic text, and for changing the colour of the text and background An ANSI code is indicated by a Control Sequence Introducer. which is most often Escl (or '1b5b'x in ARexx), followed by the code.

9b'x can also be used. The ANSI codes for the control of the console can do much more than just change the colour and the style of the text. They provide full control of the console, including random positioning of the cursor, control of tabulation, insertion and deletion of lines, clearing of the display, as well as a few more arcane. Amiga-specific functions. With these resources at their disposal, ARexx programmers can make versatile and useful displays, without having to resort to GUI proeramming. These displays are somewhat like the old DOS cursor driven displays or the Unix "curses" envi-

ronment - not exactly state of the art, but they do the job.

A fairly comprehensive listing of the ANSI commands can be found in the Amiga ROM Kernel Manuals under console device, but any ANSI documentation should list them. The codes are a machine independent standard. ANSI is the American National Standards Institute, a bit like our own BSI. There are many consoles and terminals that conform to the ANSI standard, and it is widespread in the

In addition many textfile readers (such as Muchmore) will accept embedded ANSI codes, and display them correctly. I have included a table of the most common and useful codes. In conjunction with the example shown in Listing I, which you can run and watch, you may get a few ideas for your own programs.

## tuned lettering

#### Commonly used ANSI codes

<n> indicates a value and should not be typed directly.

	Insert n characters (characters must follow)
Esc[ <n>A</n>	Cursor n positions up (preserve horiz' pos')
Esc( <n>B</n>	Cursor n positions down (preserve horiz' pos'
Esc[ <n>C</n>	Cursor n positions forward
Esc[ <n>D</n>	Cursor n positions back
Esc[ <n>E</n>	Cursor to next line
Esc[ <n>F</n>	Cursor to previous line
Esc[ <n1,n2>H</n1,n2>	Cursor to position n1,n2
Esc[ <n>J</n>	Clear screen to end of display
Esc[ <n>K</n>	Erase to end of line
Esc[ <n>L</n>	Insert a line
Esc[ <n>M</n>	Delete a line
Esc[ <n>P</n>	Delete a character
	This code controls the graphics rendition Multiple values for n, separated by semi colons are acceptable, E.g. Esc[3:32;41m]

	n Workbench 2.0 only
	22 Bold off
	23 Italic off
Underline	24 Underline off
	27 Reversed
	Character colour (pen)
10-17	Cell colour (background)

Beep (Flash on the Amiga)
Backspace
Next Taly

Alex Gian looks at ways of making your ARexx text output more interesting

# TAKE COMMAND



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empire

lightpaths seems quite promising with two disks. a video and a mini manual - all for £49.95. However after close inspection of the photocopied video sleeve a complete with a different font for almost ever word my confidence slowly began to fade.

Intrigued by the dodgy packaging, I sat back ready to be impressed by the contents of the aforesaid video. Alas the extenor was only a taste of what lurked within

The action began with a spectacular example of Amiga videographics at their most cheesy with the graphics outdone only by backing music which screamed out for a vocal overdub along the lines of: "Hi my name is Sven, would you like to

see my knockwurst? (20) After suppressing the urge to do the overdub myself, a disembodied voice of a thankfully anonymous orator began bestowing the virtues of the software to a now thoroughly

Apparently the whole point of this 25-minute epic is to explain how to use the move requester and more precisely its load option - the key to application of Flightpuths - otherwise known as pre-saved DPaint move files.

Over 200 moves await, 130 of which are multiples building into a varied collection of fairly complex and admittedly quite impressive manoeuvres, while the remaining 70 consist of standard single move ins and outs.

In the case of the multiple effects, each move segment is loaded sequentially and applied to the brush offering a variety of complete effects with titles such as chute, bounce, leaf, rico-

As you've probably deduced, the moves available are primarily aimed at text with either complete words or their component letters flying about the screen according to the specified effect

In addition, styles can be mixed within multiple brush anims to vary the performance. The necessary techniques and essen-



State-of-the-art scalable fonts for the serious videophile

tial hints and tips are provided during the video thereby beloing to make sense of the rather sparse manual

I'm not exactly impressed by a collection of move files lumped together on a floppy retailine at \$49.95. Of course you do get a free fonts disk with not one but two colour fonts, each with four fill styles and a selection of alternate palettes - what a bargain! Oh ves, and let's not forget the video -25 minutes of lift music and jerky graphics spattered with the odd Scala backdrop and transition - obviously in a vain attempt to add some much-needed plamour.

If you happen to be utterly useless when it comes to the move requester, Flightnaths does offer a vishle solution. However it you are looking for quality titling, investing in either BAS2 or ScalaHVT would be a much more effective use of your cash. It's obvious that the creators of Flightpaths have a detailed knowledge of



# Flights of fancy

DPaint and as a result would have produced a much more viable product if the video was a complete tricks-of-the-trade quide to DPaint with the move files thrown in as an added

Quite simply, paying £49.95 for a collection of move files no matter how clever - is simply out of the question. If Mediascape decide to slash the price by half. Flightpaths could be worth the investment for the dedicated DPaint user, but at the moment the product simply doesn't justify the asking price. For more information contact Mediascape on 0533

Paul Austin takes off with Flightpaths and peruses Agfa's impressive selection of video-specific fonts

Agfa Typography Ltd are the de facto standard when it comes to font technolo-oy whether it be Mac, PC, Amiga or what-

With such an illustrious background it's not a total surprise that their Video Unlimited fonts are of great quality - if erhaps a little pricey at £45 for the 25

egia confection isn't a simple selection of oithaps. In fact all the typefaces included are scalable being designed specifically or WB 2.04 and above. For those not amiliar with scalable technology, such onts can be scaled to any size you

#### Workbench 2 Unlimited

similar vein on the observer.

This brief excursion into publishing reveals another potential use for the Agfa collection. Due to their scalable design all

the fonts can be used direct within DTP ing seamless continuity between video and any hard copy that may

spread across an entire multimedia pro-

uniform quality production.

As you'd expect from a collection costing £45, an installer comes as part of the kage, however in my experience by any scalable font is to temporarily cast the installer aside and simply copy the <[ii]fontname(D).type for each font into the Bullet\_Outlines draw in you fonts directory.

Once safely added simply run the intellifonts utility from Workbench which will promptly inform that installation is not

complete, at which point simply finish the you've added. Alas it's not all good news especially for DPaint fans as 10 per cent of the fonts in the collection flatly refuse

However the fault doesn't appear to be with the fonts themselves as all work perfectly with other packages such as PageStream - perhaps it's time for yet another update to the DPaintfV.

If you're interested in the Agfa collec-tion contact Megatype on 0759 58988. If the Agta asking price is a bit much but you're still interested in additional scal-able fonts try contacting George Thompson Services for information or their PD scalable font collection on 070

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his month's programming page features graphics, text. and Intuition window events for new assembler programmers. There is also a home grown pseudo-random number generator which will give a random number in a

required range The last Programming page featured Intuition window events. and graphics library routines for C programmers. When an event occurs in an active Intuition window, an informational message is generated. Blocks of data (or data structures) called message ports can be used to communicate with these messages.

An Intuition window has two separate message ports, the UserPort for IDCMP events and the WindowPort for window events handled automatically by Intuition.

Each IDCMP flag represents an event that a program could be informed about by a message in the window's UserPort. The main feature of an Intuition program is usually a polling loop

The demonstration program's blue window polling loop waits for a VANILLAKEY MOUSEBUTTONS WINDOWCLOSE or INTUITICKS event to occur, stores the class and code in its own variables and releases the memory for the next incoming

The second window has a message port that is only informed

VANILLAKEY event. For a RAWKEY event, the code structure member of the Intuinessage contains the raw key code, depending on the key's position on the keyboard. For a VANILLAKEY event, the Ascii value of the key is stored as the "code" value.

A low resolution screen is like a page with 256 narrow lines, and 320 dos(nixels) on each line. Each pixel can be clear (logical colour 0) or set in logical colour 1. Each logical colour is allocated a physical colour, made up of differing proportions of red, green and blue.

If more than one page (orbitplane) is used, more logical colours are available. The Amiga graphics library communds can draw lines and shapes, paint large areas, or write on the

Many of these commands used the address of the Window's RastPort, which is a structure containing all the Window's options for drawing shapes or producing letters on the screen. The full structure.

## PROGRAMMING

with any flags used, is found in an Amiga Assembler header file.

The mutine SetAPen() can be used to change the logical colour of the foreground pen. SetDrMd() can be used to change the

The Draw() command will draw a line between two given pixels on the screen. and the RextFill() command will fill a given

rectangle in the current foreground colour. graphics cursor to specific pixel on the screen. The Text() routine can be used to display a given string of Ascii characters, from a starting point at the graphics cursor.

The cursor's x (or horizontal) position gives the left hand edge, and the v (or vertical) position the baseline of the first letter. The SetRGB() command can change the quantity of red, green and blue in one of

the screen's logical colours. The routine uses the address of the Screen's ViewPort, which is a structure containing all the Screen's display ontions

The DisplayBeen() command flashes the screen's background colour briefly - it takes the address of the Screen structure



# Assembling windows

#### Random seeds in microseconds

languages, like U. have a pre-written broary profines. Most computers use a pseudor-ran-dom number generator, which will give a series of random numbers, starting to man initial number or seed. Each time the current number is modified by a bit of arithmetic, so that a different number will be generated not trime the controller is used. My rou-tine doubles the last random number, CDDs it with a constant, and stores the

The timer device is a collection of software routines like a library. When a device is opened, there is an associat-ed parameter block which contains all the structures a device may need to handle incoming and outgoing

**Margaret Stanger** looks at text and graphics in intuition windows for assembler programmers



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## MUSIC

f you've not encountered SuperJum before, a brief history lesson is probably in order. As the name suggests, the package is essentially the Amiga's very own version of Band in a Box, with numerous unique refinements thrown in which make it ideal for both beginners and experts alike.

The idea behind the system is that you're provided with a fivepiece backing hand which can then be orchestrated via a selection of styles. Your primary input is providing the styles and a suitable chord progression for your automated counterparts to Jam along with.

In theory, the quintet will then jum an infinite number of variations on the theme – no matter how many repeats are made – and believe it or not 59.9 per cent of the time that's exactly what happens?

This access to infinite variety is personified in the Section Design window, an area which invariably becomes the next stop on the creative road after setting up instrument patches and experimented with the various styles on offer.

Once safely entrenched in the section window you're presented with the specified number of bars complete with all the virtual musicians manned above.

You then simply punch in/out the various players as required and assign your preferred chord changes via a pop-up required refining like-ally every chord imaginable — and if by some weird quirk of fate the chord you require isn't on hand you can create your own in seconds countesy of yet another pop-up required. Your newly reasted materiples can then be played and more

importantly saved by the program's Snapshot function. Due to SuperJam's tendency to Jam over every playback, the snapshot option

becomes essential to preserve you favourite version of each measure within the bar.

Once active the snanshot

d

Once active the snapshot holds the last playback for each instrument in each bar. If the bar is then locked the play

If the bar is then locked the playback will always repeat the selected variation. As a result it's easy to build the best section possible by simply auditioning the passage bar by bar to build the best possible verse, chorus or whatever.

In addition, the much-hyped Turbo sounds and samples which claimed to offer a stereo Superlam voice direct from the Amiga sound chip flatly refused to do as promised.

sound chip flatly refused to do as promised.

Fortunately, this again has been revised and now both
Turbosound – alias FM synthesis sounds – and Turbo Samples

both work perfectly in stereo.

Perhaps the most dramatic improvement of the new version is four grooves within each style which in effect mean a song in a consolio, order one build and very within itself before the various

four grooves within each style which in effect mean a song in a specific style can build and vary within isself before the various players add their own embellishments.

Thankfully Blue Ribbon have also added patch storing within

Thurdsfully Blue Ribbon have also added patch storing within each style, so now if you create a selection of patches which are ideal for that particular style they remain resident every time you apply that style in the future productions – saving literally hours of irritation and re-selection for regular users. Another pleasant



touch is the option to select between two octaves when making chord changes which in effect means much more direct user control over the virtual musicians during the construction of sections.

For the musically disabled, an embarrassingly simple system entitled the Eas-O-Matic MusicMaker has been added which in effect means the software will not only jam around the chosen chords but will also generate a fitting chord progression for you.

erate a litting chord progressors for you.

When active, simply tapping in suitable
rhythm on a selection of four keys generates
a fitting riff or progression for the selected
style – spoon feeding at its most patronising
perhaps but nevertheless quite handy if
inspiration allodes and either studio time or

perhaps but nevertheless quite handy it inspiration alloides and either studio time or deadlines are a little too close for comfort. Yet another major innovation is the addition of graphic volume and pan editing, with all the players depoted as icons within

a small matrix.

With the assistance of the mouse they can



# Won't you come Jammin' 2?

be moved up, down, left and right, thereby adjusting the output in real time - even during playback.

Although the title and game-esque graphics do tend to point a picture of a glorified version of a cheap and cheerful Casio variant, don't be deceived. Under the user-friendly veneer lurk some

real power features.

Like most quality products, the closer you look, the better it becomes. In the case of SuperJam1.1, this is personified by style editing options built-in to the software.

Thanks to this hidden depth, it's possible to dissect any style removing any elements which offend, or perhaps create new styles using an existing style as a foundation.

styles using an existing style as a foundation.

With the assistance of standard B&PPro editing tools, the imperfections can be removed from your virtual drummer's technique prior to recording the section thereby saving valuable edit-

ing time later on.

The reference to editing offers a prime opportunity to round off the column with a mention of Superjam's potential as an accessory to the aforementioned B&PPto.

Although SuperJam and B&PPro are pretty special as individuals, when combined SuperJam really starts to shine. Once installed, SuperJam.1.1 provides virtual musicians as tools which can be drugged direct into the B&PPro tipeline.

installed, Superjam I. J provides virtual musicaria is toots when can be dropped direct into the B&PPro pipeline.

Although the cutsie graphics and title don't inspire much confidence, don't be put off. For the amateur it's a great learning tool that can be fun as well as functional. For the professional it's very

much a matter of application.

For would-be pop stars there's very little originality, however if you need quality lift music for video, multimedia or whatever else, it's ideal and worth every penny.

Price £129.95 ● Upgrade from 1.0 – £35.99 Upgrade from TigerCub or Sonix – £79.95 Paul Austin explores a major update to Blue Ribbon's smash hit music generator as the new SuperJam takes to the stage

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he subject of computer security is one which will

It's a paranoid world out there, and none more paranoid than the USA where more people are frightened of the FBI than they are of the bad guys

But Land of The Free, Home of the Brave is also home to some security which is for free PGP stands for Pretty Good (with only marginal pressure to pay any money, sort of guiltware) and very high security.

Anyone who happens across any files you might have will find it totally impossible to get at it unless they have the key. The system is so well made, in fact, that the FBI want to make it illegal.

Yes, unbelievably they want to force all security software to have a trandoor to which they have the key. Thank God such things couldn't happen here

Or could they? In case they do I'd get a line on this privacy

#### PUBLIC-KEY ENCRYPTION

I got my cony from Internet, and it's really very impressive. PGP Amiga port author Colin Plumb told me that "a mostlysite. Luse fro etsu edu in Texas, and the centre of the uni-

"I think there's one in England: the amiga.physik.unizh.ch

Email and data files. It allows you to communicate securely with people you've never met, with no secure channels needed for prior exchange of the keys you need to decrypt the

PGP is a high security cryptographic software application. According to the author Philip Zimmerman, PGP allows you to exchange files or messages "with privacy, authentication

and convenience." "Privacy means that only those intended to receive a message can read it. Authentication means that messages that appear to be from a particular person can only have originat-

"Convenience means that privacy and authentication are

with conventional cryptographic soft-

exchange keys between users, which makes PGP much easier to use. This is been available to high end users for some time, like governments and miliphy for the masses.

A single key system works by me send me. We both have the same key.



## Top secret!

That key has to be sent to the other person securely, or you risk it being stolen and the encryption is rendered useless. So you send the keys back and forth through secure channels... but if you have a really secure channel what

#### COMPLEMENTARY KEY

In public key cryptosystems, everyone has two related complementary keys, a publicly revealed key and a secret key. Each key unlocks the code that the other key makes. Knowing secret key. The public key can be published and widely pub-

> This protocol provides privacy without the need for the secure channels that a conventional cryptosystem requires. It's complex but doubly

> It doesn't matter if you distribute keys in nonopen the file you can't use it. The keys rely on each other to decrypt the file. Which is what all the legal heat in the US is all about.

> All this legal nonsense is very disturbing, as it is disproportionate to the impact such a technology will have on computer security - you have been anyway, as anyone with a copy of TransScript will

> If like me you're deeply paranoid regardless of and worry about people calling you a maniac later. You're being private if you send letters in envelopes rather than on postcards, so why send your Email open to anyone with the desire to peek

Phil South looks at a system which ensures nothing you send through vour modem can be seen by anyone except the intended recipient

#### Secure contacts... Sources of PGP for all platforms

are available via anonymous FTP on Internet and very soon on your local friendly securityconscious BBS Or Email the writers:

> Philip Zimmerman prz@sage.cod.ucar.edu

Colin Plumb colin@web.apc.org

## Big brother?

Why are so many agencies alarmed by something which provides better security on computer files, the property of private individuals like you and I, which they shouldn't be allowed to see in the firs!

and computer networks, they want to at best be able to peek into them whenever they want, and at worst take control of them

completely.

Sounds like paranoid rubbish, but it's a fact of life in some places.

Eastern Bloc countries now free from communism are tooling up with

Toograms like PGP so that the "police state", should it arise refreshed

rom its little sleep can't stomp all over their newly-spread compute

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ractals are a normar use for home computers. Their creation is a tricky thing involving a lot of maths and heavy duty repetitive calculations.

In fact without computers there would be no fractals, because although mathematicians who invented the processes like Mandelbrot and Julia did Jone-hand calculations on paper, the true beauty of fractals didn't really shine through until the advent. of personal computers in the late 70s.

To create fractals in Amos you simply need a formula and to nump that formula with numbers over and over until you build up a picture of the fractal in question.

Our Amos Mandelbrot program begins by setting up all the program's basic screen modes and then starts the procedure FRAC to which it passes some variables about the screen size and so on-

> Screen Open 0,320,220,32,Loures Flash Off : Hide On : Curs Off : Cls O Pan 2 - Paner O

This loop sets all the variables and then activates the proc-

Then we get to the main procedure. All the basic variables are assigned, and these are by necessity floating point variables due to the fractional nature of fractals (fractals are based on fractional dimensions, a unique topological principle):

> Procedure FRACES.1.23 CTOT : CIOI : EO 186-2.25 : XX+0.75 : Y88-1.5 : YX8-1.5

Having given values to all the variables, we can then start to manipulate them and add more variables with values based on

simple sums:

88+(114-184)/CI : VF+(114-184)/CF

CX and CY are equal to the screen size. Due to the nature of this program, it scans the fractal in line by line, the height and width of the screen is important to when points can be plotted and

where the fractal sits on the screen. Next we have the program loop which calculates the position

#### Amos news

s Pro compiler isn't out yet, at the time of me writtins anyway. It will however be out on June 17 reding to Europress Software.

e new improved and bug-tested Amos Pro v1.12 is glistributed via the usual PD networks and should be a second to the province of the second to the secon

ent bug free, but then I suppose what can you say bloou? At least now the compiler is out (or at least e very soon) we can get started evaluating exactly kind of program Amos Pro really is. ce you can compile programs you stand at least a rate chance of producing something serious with hough I for one won't be trading up fully to the new misst vie.

em just yet. an trust my old Amos, it does the job and is hass about 98 per cent of the time. Don't get me wrong, t Pro is definitely the future of Amos, but like mo-es it hasn't happened yet.

of the points by doing the sums over and over again so we have two nested

For A=0 To CY-1 For R=0 To CY-1 METANIFER : MICTARIANTE : 0-0 : XI-0 :

which contain this conditional loop. which returns to the label L when R#<4

Merters - Merters - Mentell -T##2\*18\*78+NF : 18-48-18-88 : Inc D

And finally after a little curb to make sure D doesn't go above the value of Z, we actually set to the plotting command. The line scans across the screen and the colour of the plot changes as the calculations decide which part of the fractal are



## Chaos is beauty Phil South jumps

at that point. End the proc and the two loops and you're out of there.

Best 8

Once you have a formula actually writing a program to plot them is easy. Fractal formulas are easy to get hold of, as most fractal programs are peppered with them

The plot routine is really nice in this program, so simply strip out the initial values and initial sums from the first few lines of the FRAC procedure and replace them with your own.

on the fractals bandwagon and shows you how to make them using Amos



diebrots are really easy with Amos

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The program will work on any Amiga and has an excellent "point and click" user interface which has intentionally been designed to be simple to use. ACK is a modular programme, which gives users the ability to add new fonts and styles easily from additional ACK data disks, which will be available soon, ACK is available exclusively from E.M.C., and for a special introductory period the program is available for:-

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am one of those music freaks who likes to make up compilation tapes of favourite tracks from several albums. Eve always used one computer program of another to produce inlay cards for tapes, but in the past they've always been simple - and very boring - text-based

With the acquisition of a colour printer I thought this would be the ideal time to spruce up the collection, so I set about chose a simple design which could be produced quickly, while at the same time giving enough flexibility to individu-

alise each inlay. PmPage was used for the design, but you could just as well use PageStream or PageSetter3. I considered creating a ProPage page genie to automate the job, but in the event

The first things to fix are the overall dimensions and basic elements. My inlays have a backflap that can be read through cover or face, and an inside flap that folds into the case for a more detailed listing of what's on the tape

The overall dimensions are 16.5cm wide by 10cm high. To provide room for cropping marks on the printout - they make it easier to cut out the inlay accurately - increase the page size by 1cm in both directions to 17.5cm by 11cm. Turn the Snap

to Grid feature on and make the grid 0.5cm square Create a box 16.5cm by 10cm and position it 0.5cm in from the left and 0.5cm from the top of the page. If the inlay is to have an overall background colour, this is the box to

Before we go any further, let's place the crop marks. From the ton left comer of the box you have just created draw a 0.5cm line to the left of the page, and another to the top . Rement this for all four corners. When the inlay is printed you will be able to line up your ruler with these marks ready to nin the knife along

The backflap is the next job. Create a box 2.5cm by 10cm and position it exactly over the left-hand side of the large box. The backflan is where you will list all the names of the tracks and artists on the tape

of the inlay - backflap, spine, face and inside flap - and I've allowed 0.1cm for each of these. So the left-hand edge of the next element, the spine, will be positioned 0.1cm to the right of the right-hand edge of the backflap.

Create a box 1.2cm by 10cm and position its left edge at 3.1cm. On the spine will go the title of the tape. This will be printed sideways, so when you are ready to do that part of the inlay create a box 10cm by 1.2cm, type in the text, rotate it by 270 degrees, and place it into position over the spine element (PageSetter3 doesn't allow rotated boxes, so if you are using

this program you'll have to come up with another idea). Now for the face. Create a box 6.4cm by 10cm and position its left edge at 4.4cm (the top edges are at 0.5cm, by the way). On the face will go the title of the tape plus a graphic to indi-

#### PUBLISHING

vidualise it. It's often nice to make the background colour of the face different bits. Up to you.

6.1cm by 10cm, and its left edge is positioned at 10.9cm. The right edge of this box should be exactly on top of the right edge of the big background box we go a more detailed listing of tracks. And that's it. All you have to do now

is the fun bit - fill in the elements with paper you print on to, the more robust



## Sound and vision



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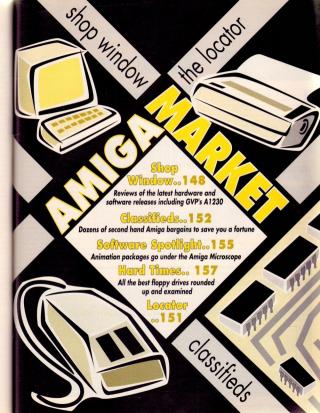
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A1200 68030 accelerator card with space for extra RAM and FPU Her: Silica Systems one: 081,309 1111

Price: £299 (0Mb) 4Mb SIMM: £141 t is one of the most significant facts about the early A1200 market that a host of third-party manufacturers rushed immediately upon the machine's release to produce FPU/RAM expansions and accelerator cards

With the machine's potential as a graphics and multimedia workstation limited by its lack of co-processor and slowish 68020 CPU, manufacturers on both sides of the

Atlantic dashed to be the first to soup it up. The result us that little more than six months after the A1200's launch, the ambitious owner has a choice of several FPU and RAM expansions with a crop of 68030 and SCSI boards on the way

Of the more powerful cards being developed, GVP's A1230 has reached the Amiga Computing offices first, beating the Microbotics VXI.1230 and ICD's Viper by a length. so we decided to test just how close the

lowly A1200 can come to its bigger

Designed as a fairly standard 68030 board and utilising techniques taken from the A530 to squeeze more power into a smaller package, the A1230 is a small card with space for CPU and FPU socket, and two SIMM slots GVP claim the latter will enable the board to be upgraded to 32Mb, but few users will require or have funds

for anything more than 8Mb Provided that 16Mb SIMMs can be found and eventually fall in price, 32Mb is a possibility with this

hoard, but most users will no doubt settle for less As with the A530, a 40MHz 68EC030 chip provides the



# **Thirty**

With the addition of GVP's latest accelerator, the A1200 comes of age...

something

power, and the FPU socket will accept a 40MHz 68882, so the fully equipped A1230 machine will be capable of blowing away any A3000 or A4000/030. Our review unit wasn't fitted with a 68882, so we were unable to carry out floating point tests, but there is no reason to believe the than, say, a 40MHz combo card with

> A4000/040, the limitations of the 68030 chip showed up, with the oard less than half as fast

is only to be expected. In tests against a GVP 33MHz 68030 combo and a standard 25MHz A3000, the A1230 wiped the floor with the opposition, its significantly faster clock speed giving it an advantage in

The AGA chins help in tests such as WritePixel, which depend mostly on the graphics chips, but this really only serves to highlight the power of an AGA Amiga with a beefy processor in tow

Retailing at £299 with no RAM, and about £440 with a 4Mb SIMM, the A1230 is capable of boosting the A1200 way over the head of the A3000, and at this price, it is bound to do well, though the surprising early popularity of the A4000/030 might dampen the A1200 68030 card market in months in even its best tests, but this

#### The Playroom

Educational software Supplier: Infogrames Phone: 071-738 8199 Price: 625.99

This is one of the best presented pieces of educational software on the market. Inside the colour box are two disks, a manual, some colouring pencils (more later), the copy protection sheet, a registration card and a set of stickers which can be attached to the oard as your child is learning what to do - very

The manual is extremely well pitched and presented. As well as containing clear and concisely presented information on using the software, it also contains various exercises and extra bits and pieces to that little bit more out of your investment. What better way to show that you wish to give the very best value for money for your products than to

To give a feel for what the software is about, I'll look at a few of the activities on offer Clicking on the computer lets the child play a let-r recognition game, where the "computer" asks the child to type in a letter, or select one using the arrow keys, to match that which is on the screen

include a set of colouring crayons and a co ok-style selection of characters and activities in the back of the manual?

The game is set, Fun School-like, in a world where the child explores by clicking on anything that interests him or her. However, unlike Fun School there is no difference between the environment and activities - you click on something that interests you and use it, returning to where you left off afterwards

It is advisable to install this program onto your hard drive, as the disk prompt will pop up every now and then when the child selects an object or activity - not conducive to keeping attentions focused where they should be

> The parent can make this more ch of testing and choosing words to be spelled, all by selecting the parental use control panel. A more conventional activity is the



In development for almost two years, Power Computing's XL floppy drive at last hits the streets this month, and becomes the first drive of its kind to offer every Amiga user the same storage capabilities as enjoyed by A4000 owners. Formatting HD floppy disks to a capacity of 1.76Mb,

the XL drive doubles up on capacity and makes possible the reading of 1 44Mb PC and Atari

Installation, as one would expect of a

floppy drive, is painless and quick. The user simply boots from the supplied disk and chooses to carry out either a hard drive or floppy installation, then reboots his or her marhine at which time a natch program will run at the beginning of the startupsequence to insert the operating system patch, thus forcing Workbench to write HD floppies. If the patch program installation is not used or, as in the case of a commercial name which hoots from its own custom disk, cannot be activated, the drive will act

as a standard 880k drive for writing purposes, though the system will still be able to read HD disks of either 1.44Mb (PC and Atari) or 1.76Mb (Amiga) capacity However, it is when the drive is fully set

up and used under Workbench that it comes into its own. The XL drive accepts

standard HD disks as used on other machines and will format them to 1.76Mb. Workbench and CII. automatically adjusting to the new capacity depending on what type of disk is in the drive

With the use of the Workheach 3.0 CrossDOS utility or the shareware MultiDOS, the user can also choose to format Atari HD or 1.44Mb PC disks, a fact which alone will make the drive a favourite with IBM emulator

Speed is good in all modes, and the Amiga 1.76Mb floppies format in about two minutes and 50 seconds, only



a few seconds dower than equivalent disks on the \$4000 internal drive

IBM 1.44Mb format takes longer at about four minutes 25 seconds, but this is unlikely to bother those who have previously never had access to the most popular PC disk

To compensate standard Amina 880k and IBM 720k formats take place at a good speed and the drive is almost whisner quiet in most modes

Probably the XL drive's only drawback is its price, which at £129 is very high for a floopy drive. In its favour, the XL is at the moment the only HD floopy available for the Amina and it works very well, but users with no real need for HD will probably stick with cheaper standard drives.

Those to whom the drive will appeal include those who regularly transfer files to and from PC, those who need larger floopies for 24-bit files or other artwork, and hard drive users looking for a much more effective backup system. To these people, the Power XI, drive will be a godsend.

#### A1200 hard drive kit

80Mb IDE hard drive with cable and formatting software Supplier: First Computer Centre Phone: 0532 319444

Price: £195.99 Though it is true that one IDE drive unit is much the same

as another, it is certainly not the case that one piece of hard drive formatting software is in any way similar to another designed to do the same job. Since the A1200 was released without hard drive or for-

matting software, the quality of hard drive kits has varied between the passable, which will prep and format a drive after some painful faffing about, and the downright garbage which simply won't work. The hard drive kit from First Computer Centre is one of

the best so far released, and it's all thanks to an excellent toolbox disk containing software from the experienced American company Microbotics. RDPrep is an easy to use program which will enable the A1200 user to prep and partition any IDE drive

(the unit supplied was a reliable Seagate), which can then be formatted from Workbench in the same way as a What struck me as particularly helpful was that the icons for prepping, formatting, and installing

Workbench 3.0 to the drive were numbered 1, 2 and 3 to aunid confusion All steps towards setting up the drive are painless and

quick, and to top things off, the excellent Commodore Installer program will automatically install the user's Workbench disks to the system partition As a bonus, the software checks which version of

Kickstart is being used and asks for either the Workbench2.0 or Workbench3.0 disks as required.

This is a neat, quick, and simple solution to the hard drive problem for any upgrading A1200 user, though until Commodore release their iron-like grip on the official upgrade path it will remain one which invalidates the machine's warranty.

mixed up toy, which is a character containing three parts - a head, a body and legs - which are - you've guessed - mixed up. Clicking on any body part will swap it for a new one. In time, the child will ork out how to create complete characte encouraging logical thinking as well as playful

Other activities include the Mousehole, which is a board game involving the child practising his or her counting skills; the clock, which shows what Pepper the Mouse is doing at any time selected by the child; and a favourite of mine - the spinner toy

This contains two wheels, one with numbers on one with objects. Spinning, say, the number five on one wheel and an apple on the other will result in five apples being displayed on the screen.

It's simple, fun and very educational, teaching a myriad of skills such as learning to recognise a num-

ber of objects without counting them, the whole concept that "five" means "five" whether it's app UFOs... and a first lesson in the roulette concept! Hmmm. This software as well as being designed for the child, has the quardian or parent very much in mind too, which is partly the reason it stands out.

Parents gain an unequalled amount of control thanks to a Playroom menu on F1 (again, no dis for prying hands) allowing alteration of the case (upper or lower) that the games' text appears in; various levels of numbers and letters to suit various stages of a child's development; the ability to choose

between keyboard, joystick and mouse for control; and various printer options. You can save your preferred settings, meaning that

this menu only need be accessed when the child's

The Playroom is excellent. Not as graphically excellent as Mickey's Puzzles, it makes up for this in the breadth of its scope. It's well presented, well written, and contains enough to keep a child happy for quite a while. Above all, it's excellent value.



#### Starlet SJ-48 printer

back and sheet feeder lier: First Computer Centre Phone: 0532 319444 Price: (214.99

The low end of the bubbleiet market has become one of the most fiercely contended peripherals markets of recent years, and since the release of the Canon BI10, an increasing number of printers have jostled for position at the consumer feeding trough

The Star SI-48, in reality a rebadged BJ10, makes no pretence to be anything other than a cheap printer with good output, but at its present price it is great value for money In the main, the only substantial difference between the Star and the BJ10 is that the latest version of the Canon has a larger printer buffer which gives it a speed advantage, but for those on a tight budget the Star's £20 price advantage will outweigh this.

Options for expansion are identical to the BJ10, with an automatic sheet feeder and NiCad battery pack available for the owner with either a heavy print load or a burning desire to be nortable

The tight design of the unit, with its diminutive dimensions and weight of only 4lbs, makes it a doddle to slip into a briefcase, though we didn't have a look at the battery pack, so can't say how bulky or heavy that might be

In operation, the SJ-48 is quiet and fairly quick, turning in a respectable 100 characters per second letter quality text. Roughly translated, an A4 page of mixed text and graphics will print in around three minutes, though a page of text using one of the two built-in printer fonts will appear in half this time. Print quality is superb for internal fonts and just about as good when using scalable fonts such as Agfa Intellifonts.

The downside of this and most other bubblejet printers is that draft mode is fairly slow compared to a dot matrix. and there is no facility for tractor-fed continuous stationery

Users with requirements for fast draft output - vital when proofing large documents - would find the SI-48 virtually useless.

Others with letter writing, business, or other correspondence needs can rest assured that the Star SJ-48 is an excellent, low cost printer and a thoroughly good buy.



#### **SignEngine**

Sign making and cutting software lier: Parallel Motion Graphics Phone: 0101 519 942 8822 Price: \$559

Possibly the first specific sign making software available for the Amiga, SignEngine is a curious beast combining the talents of a basic layout package with the specific requirements of a program designed to cut shapes and signs from plastic or vinyl using a plotter.

Many readers might wonder of what possible use a program such as this can be, but SignEngine is actually a well targeted response to a solid practical application gap which few Amiga programs have hitherto attempted to fill

Signs of all kinds from company logos to advertising slogans, posters, and signposts are produced every day on thousands of vinyl cutters worldwide, and the flexibility of being able to generare and cut a sign in the same room cannot be understated

Exhibition companies who design and erect stands for computer shows, TV companies who need quick production graphics, and many other organisations make regular use of either their own in-house cutter or go to another company for stickybacked output. SignEngine makes it possible for the Amiga to fulfil these commercial needs for the first

The program is fairly straightforward in use. No drawing tools are included, so the user must import either a ProDraw clip format or IFF-DR2D structured drawing. Once imported, however, the user has an exhaustive list of controls over the final product.

Using the Arc-weld tool, letters which overlap can be merged, saving a lot of falling about at the cutting stage, shadows, borders, and outlines can be placed around and below any object with user-definable attributes, and there

is an auto-tiling feature to enable the production of huge hillboard-size designs. More than 50 sign cutter specific controls are included to give the user as much say over how the finished sign will look, including everything from the exotically named Pounce feature to an automatic allowance for vinyl shrinking.

In all, SignEngine, though expensive, offers a great deal more than the existing Amiga packages with HPGL plotter support and opens the way for Amiga infiltration in a very specialised marketplace.

#### The 17 Bit Collection

Phone: 081-483 4418 Drice: (39.95

If, as Kelly Sumner recently said, CDTV's time has been and gone, one would expect the software available or CDTV format to decline in both number and quality, but the latest offering from Almathera systems bucks this trend by doubling the number of CDs and halving the

The 17 Rit Collection is made up of a huge number of PD demos, tunes, games, and utilities from the gargan tuan vaults of one of the biggest libraries around, and at first glance looks to be an attractive buy. However, when one discovers the price and opens the package, things begin to turn sour.

One entire CD is given over to what is euphemistically titled The Early Classics, in reality a wodge of old demos which ceased to be state-of-the-art several years ago (remember the Red Sector vectorballs?), utilities which are often way out of date, and so on The second disk is a great improvement as it

offers more recent material, much of which can be very useful, but as a complete compilation this one fails to

To ask £40 for what is a collection of freely distributable software is to ask too much, and though many users would no doubt buy the second CD on it own, I'd be more than a little gob-smacked if the 17 Bit Collection made its compilers anything approaching a fortune.





#### **AmiVGA**

VGA adoptor for machines with Super Denise chip (ASOO Plus and later) Supplier: Advanced Micro Interfacing Phone: 0703 511164 Price: 439.79

Touted as a VCA adaptor, the AmWCA box is a monitor connector for all Amigas, A500 Plus and beyond, which have the Super Denise chip installed, and promises to bring the brendits of non-interlaced high resolution displays to anyone with access to a suitable monitor.

A hardware and software double act. AmWCA consists

of a small black box with monitor ports for both a 15-pin SVGA connector and the standard Amiga 23-pin cables. It fits in the Amiga monitor port and its through port allows the connection of two monitors at the same time.

AmiVGA's software is a simple initialisation program running off a floppy supplied with the hardware which, when activated, offers the choice of VGA or CGA screen modes.

#### Amiga monitors

CGA, for those not familiar with quaint PC terminology, is similar to the standard Amiga 1084 display, and will enable the user to make use of any normal Amiga monitors.

The VCA driver software survives warm reboots, so the floppy boot disk will only have to be used once per session. Some sort of hard drive-based solution would have been better, but as initialisation is very quick, the floppy-phobic (all hard drive owners, in other words) shouldn't suffer too much distress.

In use, AmiVCA was less than trouble-free, and proved incapable of displaying a strong signal on one of the standard SVGA monitors we borrowed for texting. The picture was stable enough and dot pitch appeared high enough

for a sharp display, but despite cranking brightness way up, the little black box's image remained very dark. Users with Super Denise-equipped Amigas would be

Users with Super Denise-equipped Amigas would be advised to give this cheap VGA solution a look, but are advised to check thoroughly beforehand whether the monitor on which they intend to use it will be capable of

displaying a decent picture.

Trying to lay hands on Commodore's £30 adaptor for the A1200/A4000 might be a wiser course of action, though the latter can be incredibly difficult to find.

#### Mickey's Jigsaw Puzzles

Educational software Supplier: Infogrames Phone: 071-738 8199 Price: £25.99

You'd expect something special from a product with Mickey Mouse and Disney plastered all over the box, and indeed this looks a very slick package from the beginning.

Inside the box are the usual couple of disks, instruction manual and registration card. It's nice to see that the program is hard diven installable — so much Amiga software neglects to allow one to do this, which is especially important with education packages, where the differences in save of use and speed between a hard and a floppy drive could be the difference between a child having fun or losings his or here pathere and/or interest.

Basically the program is what it sounds like – a collection of puzzles (15 in all) featuring Walt Disney's favourite cartoon hero. Of course, being done on a computer, there are various twists...

Provided the program is installed to a hard disk, you can see on loading a selection of buttons down the right of the screen allowing you to choose a puzzle to attempt (floppy owners have to load puzzles from disk when they want them –

hardly a major chore).

No picture is tied to any type of puzzle. You can select a picture and then decide what type of puzzle you wish it to be.

For instance there's the silhouette puzzle, where you drop darkened shapes into the picture – this teaches children shape silks. Or you can choose normal jigsaw picces or square bits. You can alsoselect the number of pieces – the range is from 4 to 64.

The method of actually putting the puzzles together is very simple. You get a piece to start with, drop it where you think it goes, and then the computer automatically "picks up" another piece for you.

You can move two or more puzzle pieces at



once, and control can be by mouse (the easiest), lygrick or keybourd, using the arrow keys. There is a timer option to the puzzles can be constructed against a ticking clock, adding an element of fun for the child who has cracked the idea and can do 4-peice puzzles without much elfort yield all the time in the world. The added incentive for initiality as puzzle is the ability to animute the completed picture or doing so -what more would you expect from Disney? Clicking on the little canners withch appears when a little canner with a papears when a proper page of the control of the control of the puzzle is the ability to animute the completed picture or doing so -what more would you expect from Disney?

Clicking on the little camera which appears when a puzzle has been finished does the business here, and the animations are very good indeed – again as one would expect. This is the bit children will really love, as the pictures are brilliant enough anyway before any movement has taken place.

The function keys offer a good deal of flexibility, and some cheats, too – it would have been nice to have a way of disabling these to force impatient little minds to think instead of taking short-cuts.

#### Helpful functions

As it stands, though, F1 will show you where a piece goes, or the entire puzzle, depending upon whether Mickey actually has a piece in his hand at that time; F2 rearranges the jigsaw correctly should you have completed it but got some pieces in the wrong places.

The other function keys concern themselves with toggling the puzzle grid lines, the timer, text messages, Mickey's hand (the cursor), the music, and pausing the game – only necessary if you're jigsawing against the clock, of course.

Finally, it's possible to print the puzzles out, although to do any isstice to the quality of these 15 pictures – which are all shown in full colour in the booklet – means that unless you have thousands of pounds for a decent colour laser printer, you're best off admiring them on-screen.

I liked Mickey's Jigsaw Puzzles. It's a non-nonsense program, taking a very traditional infant pastime and adding more in genuine flexibility to it than it removes in lack of simplicity. Recommended.



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hard drive to gillop around in.

Memory is also crucial, but only up to a point. The
sort of animations created by most animators not
using ray tracers are demanding on chip memory
(you'il need IMb chip. RAM for sure) but usually don't
require more than about 2Mb to run in, and a lot less

during the creation process.

If the intention is to produce five-minute long demos stretching across three or four floppies, then 4Mb RAM would be better, but for most purposes 2Mb is ample.

#### Disney Animation Studio

Coming from the past masters of animation, you'd think this program would be the best around. That it doesn't quite make it to the top of the ladder, however, shouldn't put off the potential

DAS is made up of three programs: One for creating pencil drawings, one for colouring the finished animation, and another for synchronising the anim with sound effects and other clips of animation. In effect, it works in a similar manner to the real animators – a fact that the manual is at pains to point out.

In terms of features, DAS can stand up there with the likes of DPaint, but it is most definitely a non-HAM package designed for earness designed.

cartoon drawings.

The onion skin feature, enabling the artist to see the last three cells through the present cell, is ideal for creating smooth animations, but if you want a spinning logo or a HAM animation, try

As a paint package, DAS does well enough, if not brilliantly, but where it scores very highly is in its dedicated nature. Budding Disney's can learn a great deal about the animator's art from this package, helped by some wonderful Disney demonstration anims, so it is easily the best package for the educational emironment.

another package

Supplier: Entertainment International Phone: 0268 541126 Price: £79.95

#### Spectracolor

Basically a HAM paint package, Spectracolor was the first of its kind to offer animation, and has a few extra features which help the program to give DPaint a run for its money. Morphing is one, a feature which Spectracolor boasted many

months before DPaint 4 was released, but the brush wrapping is Spectracolor's most unique tool. This enables the user to pick up a brush then "wrap" is around a sphere, cube, or one of the severe basic shapes supported, to produce quire remarkable effects for a program in this price bracket. There are a few draw-

## Software spotlight

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backs with Spectracolor, of course, and the main one is that it is HAM only. If you want to produce an eight-colour anim you can, but it will just be an eight-colour HAM anim, which means slow refersh rates and wasted memory.

To add to this, the animation controls are a little difficult to come to terms with, so unless the unique features are desperately required. Spectracolor is best used as a static image generator.

> Supplier: Micro-PACE Phone: 0753 551888 Price: £77.54

#### Take 2

A recent product and one which is designed more as an animation finisher than something in which to create the entire anim. For this reason the paint facility is limited.

Instead, the animator creates cells and, more importantly, plans which key cells will be used more than once in another package, then ports them across to Take 2 for editing.

Once the cells are available, Take 2 can go to work on them

using its powerful dope sheet and video scripting utilities.

The former enables the correct timing of when a frame will be played and allows the setting up of complex routines to mix and match frames, use them more than once, and generally harangue them into a sequence.

Video scripting enables the correlation of scenes and sequences as one large anim ready to be taped to video. The most powerful feature of the program, however, has to be its ability to our four-level line tests. This means that the

The most powerful feature of the program, however, has to be its ability to run four-level line tests. This means that the animator can have up to four separate animations going on at once in the same screen, and can edit or cut any one of them at any time.

It is the sort of feature usually found only in professional

packages costing hundreds, or even thousands, of pounds, and could lead to Take 2 making an appearance in commercial studios as a valuable and very cheap line tester.

> Supplier: Rombo Phone: 0506 414631 Price: 649.95

#### **Animation Station**

A package with certain similarities to Take 2, Animation Station manages to sit on its own as an animation editor and special effects generator.

Like Take 2. Animation Station is designed to be used once all arimation cells are complete. At this stage, the user loads the sequence inco Animation station, and uses the power of the package to combine animations, tack other on at the end, swap frames around, and assign times for the exposure of indisidial frames?

Special effects, such as wipes, resizing, scrolling, and others can be added across a user-defined number of frames, making it possible for the user to create professional cuts and edits in a computer cartoon.

a computer cartoon.

Animation Station supports all Amiga resolutions and screen modes, including interface and overscan, so it is a great tool for use in conjunction with one of the more traditional paint and animate packages.

Supplier: Marcam Phone: 0604 790466 Price: £99.95

#### **Deluxe Paint 4**

Though a little slow as a HAM paint package, DPaint has been many things since the release of v2, not the least of which is probably the best animation program available on the Amiga. Version four's improvements to the already powerful animation section have simply reinforced the package's

Animators can now use a "light table" similar to the Disney "onion skin" to enable the creation of smooth animations, and all animation controls, such as frame advance and add frame. have been gathered together on a VCR-style panel for easier control.

In addition, there is now a morphing feature which can transform one brush into another over a series of frames, and though painfully slow, this feature can be a great aid when animating.

As usual, the DPaint perspective controls and move requester are still available, the latter of which has given birth to countless rotating, tumbling logo animations. As an overall package for the animator, DPaint 4 is number one.

> Supplier: Electronic Arts Phone: 0753 549442 Price: £89.95

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Again unlike at lot of the competition it comes with anti-click and anti-virus which when added to its pure elegance and speed make it a very attractive buy. If you're looking for a stylish slimline drive that can outpace the opposition and still retail at a respectable price. Roclite is the one for you.

> Price: £66.99 Supplier: The First Computer Centre Tel: 0532 319444

#### Cumana

Cumana drives have been around almost as long as the Amiga and to their credit I'd be surprised is the very first unit isn't still providing sterling service Strong, sturdy, reliable, boring, noisy... in fact we're talking the

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the Cumana is the perfect choice and dirt cheap to boot Price: £57.95 Supplier: Gordon Harwood Tel: 0773 836781

#### **Power Dual Drive**

As the name suggests, the second offering from Power Computing is a twin drive comprising two PC8808 drives within one amazingly small case. Like Power's single drive both the

This month's shoppers' guide looks at the most important addition to any Amiga setup - the essential external floppy...

component units offer anti-click, anti-virus and of course the Blitz copying option

The drives themselves are totally independent as far as the Amiga is concerned and like all the drives in the roundup through ports and on/off switches are provided as standard. Unlike all the other available units the Dual Drive also boasts a separate power supply - an extremely useful addition if you're machine is already heavily laden with additional hardware

It's worth stressing that the anti-virus option does not actually check for a viral presence. Both the single and dual drives simply disable the machine's ability to write information to disk whether that be the Power drive or the internal. Because of this it's still essential that your disks are write protected where possible. The anti-virus option wouldn't

know a virus if it ran up with a how of chocolates and a hunch of flowers, it simply disables the ability to write data - so don't let your guard down If you're in the market for a twin external system the Dual

Drive offers a compact, economical and feature packed answer that avoids the power problems often encountered on heavily extanded system.

> Price: £125 Supplier: Power Computing Tel- 0234 843388

#### Power PC880B Now here's a drive that's fit to burst with additional features

Aside from working as a standard drive the unit also boasts an anti-virus mode which immediately write protects all the your floories by completely disabling the write-to option. The next feature is a slightly dubious addition which takes

the form of a software/hardware copying system entitled Blitz copy. As you might have guessed this isn't meant for normal Amigados copving tasks and that's about a far as we should go with this particular line of thought

Although rather long the drive still remains surprisingly thin considering the amount of hardware crammed inside - anticlick. Blitz and of course the drive mechanism itself

As an all-purpose drive the PC8808 has to be one of the best buys on the market especially when its obvious flexibility is combined with a very reasonable asking price. Available in both black and untilla

> Price: £65 Supplier: Power Computing Tel: 0234 843388

#### Internal exchange

In a break from the external tradition, the final drive in the round up offers an even more important purchase - especially for those in the somewhat trick position of owning a dicky internal. For those working exclusively on a floppy system, the lose of the Amiga's essential internal is nothing short of a catastrophe. If the unthinkable happens a fast and reliable replacement

In such dubious circumstances. Evesham Micros can come to the rescue with a replacement double density-drive compatible with the entire Amira range - including the A1200 and 4000. Thankfully the installation is a breeze even for the technically

inept thanks to very simple and straightforward instructions. The drive unit is the same tried and tested machinis found within the Zydec mentioned earlier - as a result, reliability shouldn't be a problem. Simple to fit, reliable and cheap. What more could an ailing Amiga ask for.

> Price: £44.99 Supplier: Evesham Micros Tel: 0386 765500

#### u're repelled by the designer Zydec bel look, the Zydec drive provides

imalist appeal and space mental friendly Amiga user would ly swap his or her 2CV for Although small and amazingly iet considering the lack of any click hardware, the Zydec does

s more bulky and feature packed se of the extremely slim styling, the designers have been forced to add vents on the top and rear of the drive. Although this m initially seem a perfectly acceptable design, the cold light of day or perhaps a cup of coffee could reveal a drawback to placing holes in the top

puter hardware In my personal experience floppy ives invariably see more cups than

tures offered by many of the oppo sition I must admit it wouldn't be my first choice unless desk space was extremely tight. Price: £52.99 Supplier: Evesham Micros

the average coaster. As a re

disaster. If you're looking for a

basic but efficient drive the Zydec is

fine, but considering the extra fea-

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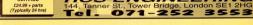
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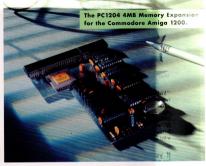
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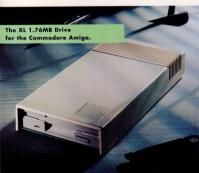
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