CPC SOUTH WEST
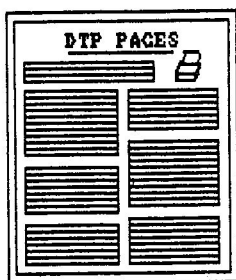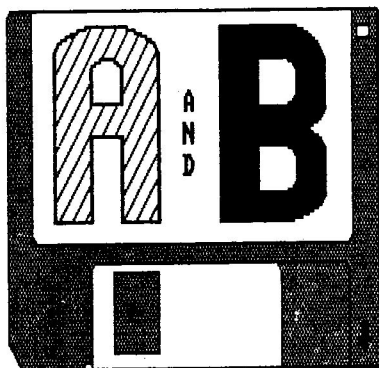
Your Guide To Desk Top Publishing

Learn the art of Desk Top Publishing with our resident Illustrious Illustrator.

WHAT MORE CAN YOU WANT FROM YOUR LOCAL (AND NOT SO LOCAL) CPC GROUP ?

☎ MEMBERS HELPLINES ☎

HELP LINES ARE PROVIDED VOLUNTARY.

TAPE TO DISC DISC TO DISC

PETER CURGENUEN
01841 - 520875.

ARTWORK AND GRAPHICS. PD.REVIEWS

JOHN REILLY
15 NORTH GREEN
FORCHES ESTATE
BARNSTAPLE
NORTH DEVON
EX32 8EA.

MUSIC FOR YOUR PROGRAMS

SIMON CRUMP
01884 - 32761
AFTER 6PM PLEASE

EPROM BLOWING HARDWARE & ELECTRONICS.

IAN NEILL
01926 - 337708.

BASIC AND MACHINE CODE.

JAMIE COOPER
01752 - 3551101.

SPACE HERE FOR ANOTHER HELP LINE MEMBER.

P H O N E   A F T E R   7 P M   P L E A S E

EDITOR. SUBSCRIPTIONS PD.SOFTWARE. GENERAL NATTER

YOURS TRULY.
DAVE STITSON
4 CONNAUGHT AVENUE
MUTLEY
PLYMOUTH
PL4 7BX
01752 - 254404

MR.FIXIT NIGEL WILL SORT IT OUT FOR YOU.

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOU CPC ?
SEND IN YOUR QUESTIONS AND
READ HOW TO FIX IT.
MONITORS
DRIVES
KEYBOARD
ADD-ON'S.
SEND IN YOUR REQUEST TO ME
DAVE >>>...

JOHN WOULD LIKE A HAND WITH
THE P.M.S REVIEWS, IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO HELP LET HIM KNOW WHAT
SOFTWARE YOU LIKE AND YOUR SET-
UP IE.. 3.5" DRIVE, COLOUR
PRINTER ETC...

PLEASE REMEMBER, IF SENDING A
LETTER, TAPE, DISC ETC, AND YOU
WANT THEM RETURNED, SEND AN
S.S.A.E. NO S.S.A.E. NO RETURN

TA !.

DAVE >>>..

No payment can be offered or
made for any material selected
for publication.

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

I DO ((DAVE)).

It's that time again for MY PAGE everyone has done their bit and here I am to do mine.
What do you mean, you don't read this part, it's the main page in the magazine where I can have my say and moan(s).

Well the WACCI convention came and went, I have spoke to a lot of members since who attended, but like me they felt the number of members who attended was way down on last years advent, and by judging the amount of tickets I have sold for our convention, the numbers will be low in attendance , we will have to wait and see.

I do like David Halls letter this month, it get's right to the heart of the matter, WE NEED MORE MEMBERS TO WRITE IN. If you want your magazine to continue, I can only add, it's up to you to send in articles, otherwise each issue will get smaller and smaller, and a tad boring reading articles from the same writes each issue. Now I'm not saying what the regular writer's send in is boring, far from it, I'm very pleased with what everyone sends in for each and every issue, but without them, there is NO MAGAZINE, just think about it and I think you'll agree with me.

You should be reading this after we have had our convention or get together as I prefer to call it, I hope Owen and Len had enough biscuits to eat and lot's of tea to drink, as you can probably guess, I'm writing this prior to the get together. I know one of our members John had a good surprise by someone turning up, sorry about that John, I was sworn to secrecy, you see I can keep somethings in confidence ((Owen take note)). I only hope, seeing that I'm writing this prior to the event, Dave did turn up and it's nice to have you as a member Dave.

I have started to receive some software from France and Germany from our overseas members, look out for it on a 'Cover Disc' coming soon.

Talking about 'Cover Disc's', from now on you will receive the Disc's with both sides full of PD. That will please Joe. I have a selection of PD Software in the library that NO ONE has ever requested a copy of, so I'll put it on the "B" side of the Cover Disc (s). The librarian strikes back again !!!!

Two sides of a disc crammed full with software, and given free with every issue.

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

The Bit No-one Reads

Back to our get together, I must say a big thank you to those of you who turned up especially if you had to travel a long distance, dedication to the CPC I call that, for the WACCI show, I started of from home at 7am and met up with John, Brian at EXETER 7-40am, John travelled down from Barnstaple when I was still tucked up in bed, so you see just for a extra bit of effort, it can be done, no excuses for next years get together if we have one ?

If we have one I hear you ask ??? Well it depends on you the members, if a get together is not supported, then I can't pay for the hire of the hall, hence NO GET TOGETHER.

OK ! I Had better shut up now, I think I have made my point and rolled over to another page, well half of it, but what's been said here and in David's letter ((Him not Me)) is a fact, we need your input to survive or end up like the demissed "A A".

((Dave))..

A SHORT DEAR DAVE'S LETTER.

My Name is Olivier, I have had details about your magazine and user group from 'Tribal Mag #6. My set up is a 6128 with a 3.5" drive, a Digiblaster, I'm into machine code and a little bit of music. ((A friend for Simon)).

Please tell me what is happening in the UK with the CPC !! I hear of many clubs and PD, but we (French guys) never see much from the English scene, can we exchange programs please.

I run a 'Discmag' named the "DIGITAL PRESS 3", can I review CPCSW in my next issue ????

I have sent you some demos on the enclosed disc, please send me your PD List by return, together with how much it cost to be a member of CPCSW.

OH ! I forgot to tell you that my pseudo ((?)) is ELIOT and I'm one of the cool members of BENEDICTION (Rainbird, Greg, The Villain and Me).
Please print my address.

FLOQUET OLIVER
39 RUE ECLUSE CHETTE
50200 COUTANCES
FRANCE.

((Nice little letter from overseas))
((Dave))...

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.

Dear Dave..

I felt compelled to write to you a letter, let me explain.

Basically I love you, not in the bibical sence of the word, PHEW ! had me worried there for a minute David, but in a syrupy, gooey ' little house on the prairie ' sort of way. If it were not for you (and others like you !) then my plastic pal would have been obselete as soon as those x?xx!?+'s at Amstrad Action slammed the door in our faces !

Recently (as you state in the September issue), CPC South West has got even better, I feel this is due to some of the first class contributers that you have now under your belt. (namely Jonty, Nigel, yourself and all the others on the help lines....Keep up the good work chaps!!!) (and chapesses..Dave)

Owen makes me laugh the most though, is he really like Victor Meldrew ? , ' cos he sure as hell comes across like that !!' (Only joking...or am I ???).

Here is an idea for the magazine, how about a request section in the magazine whereby people can write in with a ' want ' for anything CPC related eg. Software, hardware, techy probs (which you already do), articles on ie, programming in M/C or absolutely ANYTHING else,

game cheats, queries etc , etc, etc..

Nice idea David, we did try to introduce something upon those lines before, but sadly, there wasnt any take up's Dave)))...

CPC South West must have over 200 (?), (*125*) *members had a magazine drop on their door mat in August Dave)))...*

So why doesn't everyone send in a contribution, even a rubbishy letter, *OH I wish they would David Dave)))...*
So come on everybody, send something in ....YES. THAT MEANS YOU WHO IS READING THIS. *Wahay Dave I've got another idea Oh no isn't it your bed time yet!!.*
Why not make it a condition of membership, that everyone (re)subscribing has to make a contribution in the form of a letter, article, program etc,etc. *I doubt if we would keep members with conditions like that Dave.   Dave)))*
I like the idea that everyone sends in something in order that we would have tons to put in to print.

IF YOU DO'NT WANT YOUR AMSTRAD TO DIE THEN SEND DAVE SOME COPY NOW !!!...THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH (FOR YOUR AMSTRAD)!!!!.
David Hall.........

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.

FROM ERNIE...

I wonder if you, or any of the CPCSW members could help me with a problem (small one I hope). Recently I bought an Amstrad CPC 464 plus keyboard with NO LEADS or MONITOR.<< Snap say's Peter >>, and without a manual. Unfortunately I have been unable to trace a supplier of the 464 plus manuals << no need to Ernie. see Peter's page >>. I would like to marry (thought you would like that) the 464 plus and my CTM monitor together. I am at a loss as to which leads to get for the modification. << you can either make them as per Peters article, or like me take the lazy way out and get them from our Mr. Fixit Dave >>. I need help with either a 1). Drawing of the connections / leads required, an explanation of how to do it or failing that. 2). A supplier that I can contact. << Dave again - I think I have answered this for you >>.

May I say, <<yes you may >> how much I enjoyed reading the September issue of CPCSW, and I do agree with Angela Cook's comment that " You do get BETTER with each issue " << thank you Ernie, it's nice to be told you are doing a good job now and again >><<Dave>>. I for one enjoy the varied content, serious and not so serious, the balance is just about right for me. I look forward with interest to Barrie Snell's Prospell continuing article in the October issue.

I hope the convention goes well (or has gone well, by the time you read this). I'm only sorry I will not be able to attend.<me also >>Enclosed is a cheque to cover my remaining Cover Disc's. Take Care and Best Wishes.

ERNIE RUDDICK
26 SPITAFIELDS
YARM
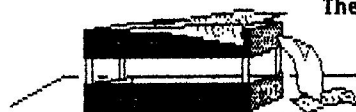STOCKTON ON TEES
TS15 9HJ

☎ 01942 - 898091.

<< DAVE HERE >>
I'm glad that I purchased a 6128 plus machine, with all the trouble that Peter and Ernie are experiencing, apart from the little problem I had to get my 2nd Drive work << soon fixed by Mr Fixit >>. I have experienced NO PROBLEMS at all, and as yet I have not come across any problems with programs running on the plus machine.
<< Dave >>...

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have Your Say.

I was asked by a New Member (JOHN) from Derby, Do I need all these add on's for my 6128. John say's, Do I need a 2nd 3.5 inch disc drive ?, what is this side switch I hear talked about, What does a ROM BOX DO ?? etc ,etc,etc,,,
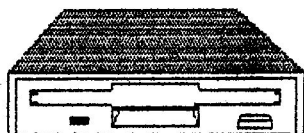
OK ! John lets us take a look at the different gadjets that you can attach to your 6128 that makes it do weird and wonderful things.

First you will see them called (PERIPHERALS) at times,(to save you asking what is peripherals). It's Bit's and Bob's that you connect to the outside or in this case to the back of your machine, take a look,and you will see some funny looking sockets Namely called *EDGE CONNECTORS*. And every machine 464,664,6128 & 6128+, have a printer socket, the 464 & 464+ have a joint disc drive / extension socket,the 6128 & 6128 + have separate second disc drive and extension sockets.

Let us first look at Disc Drives.

For the 464 machine, you will need a DD-1, with a (Interface) that turns the 464 from a Tape machine to a Disc machine,one could say that a 464 has the advantage of being able to use both systems, but just to confuse you, you can get a Computer Data Recorder with the correct lead to connect it to your 6128 and use Tape's,but more on that later.
The interface mentioned above is needed because a 464 does not have a Disc operating system built in to it, you can then add a second Disc drive 3" or 3.5". Then there is a 64 K memory extension, there is also a memory extension for the 6128,in my opinion ,it's not needed for the 6128. We then look at a ROM BOX.What does that do ???,you get faster access to the program on the Rom than you can with a disc,just ask anyone who has a Rombox fitted if they would go back to disc loading,and you will be told (no way).
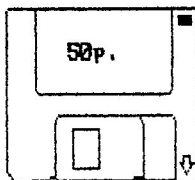
DISC DRIVE

MULTIFACE

ROM BOX

John's letter continued......

Then there is a MULTIFACE,I don't think this piece of add-on is for beginners,unless you are interested in seeing how programs are put together, or finding out how to cheat in a game.

One other thing you can add to your computer is a (MODULATOR), with it you can attach your cpc to a television,or turn your monitor into a television.

Finally of course is the PRINTER for printing out your text,drawings etc, now I know you have a printer,so I would suggest the next peripheral to go for would be a second disc drive (3.5 inch),why?, so as you can use the cheaper disc's and a large format program to cut down on the number of disc's,price is a factor here,the 3 inch disc's now cost about £3-50 new,OUCH!!!,the cost of a 3.5 disc is about 50p.

After a disc drive, I would go for a R O M B O X , w i t h P a r a d o s , P r o t e x t w o r d p r o c e s s o r , U t o i a utilities,Des,etc.You will never look back.Easier faster loading than a disc.

Of course John,if you have maga bucks, get the lot in one go,your best bet would be to try Angela at Merlin Serve for your add on's rather than laying out for new,(if you can get them) add-on's. that is..

So John, I hope this gives you some idea about add-on's for your computer,it depends on what you want from your machine as to what add-on's you get, there are a lot of opcer's who are just happy with a key board and monitor plus a printer. One thing you will find out and that is,if you do start adding periphals etc,your bank balance can suffer.

As to a (side switch-ABBA switch) etc,get a 3.5 inch drive first and I will forward the details to you of how to fit them.

One of the things we more experience user's seem to forget when talking about these add-on's etc,that there are new commers to the CPC,so perhaps when sending in articles,we should give a little explanation as to what the advantage or disadvantage's there are.

Thanks John for your letter,let us hope you stay

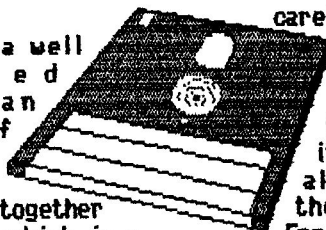*with the CPC for a long time. Dave>>>>.......*

TRIBAL-MAG (DISCZINE).

Tribal Mag (DiscZine)
Tribal Mag is now a well established German/European DiscZine. JUGGLER of POW! is the Man responsible for putting the magazine together receiving articles which is a massive task in itself. With other members (I think) of POW! who have written the Machine Code for the Zine itself. Although T.M. may not come out as frequently as other DiscZines it promises to cover all CPC happenings in between.

The reason for releasing T.M. (at the moment) 2 times a year is that it takes this time to collect enough articles! Basically Tribal Mag is massive most issues taking up 4 Disc Sides!! But with so many articles are they of a good standard? YES. There are many topics ranging from Reviews, Machine Code, BASIC, people can voice there opinions the latest News. But what makes T.M. so special? Well its not just the sheer volume of good articles and categories. The fact is that a lot of thought has gone into the presentation and user-friendly side ....

The Main Menu houses all the different categories over 12! An icon will show is used so you know if you have read those articles or have already visited a category. With so many this is extremely useful! You can print out an article if you wish. Most categories have a different piece of music playing even the music is chosen carefully, I didn't hear a single irritating tune! But if the music is not to your taste you can turn it off. Also as usual all articles state if they are in German or English or both.

Where do I get my copy?
Send 2 3", 3.5" or 5.25" Discs and a few International Reply Coupons (get them from the local Post Office) for return postage in a padded envelope to:-
Juggler of POW! Postlagernd PA 13 D-76437 Rastatt Germany
The cost to post will be around 66p because its Air mail. You may like to tell Him that you saw it reviewed in CPC South West. Apart from the postage T.M. will cost you nothing. It really is well worth getting! Juggler would also like more British Contacts for swapping etc. THIS is the current issue although TM#6 will be out soon! Of course if you want every T.M. then its only fair that you pay postage by way of sending several I.R.P.'s
If this magazine was in COLOUR you would be able to see a 'Golden' Smiley award.

Thanks again Simon for this info, I'm sure some of our members will be sending for this disczine.

What with EUROSTRAD, CPCSW is certainly getting known around the globe.

Dave)))....

```
10 DEFINT a-z: MODE 1: INK 0,0: BORDER 0
20 h=220 : INK 1,16:INK 2,14: INK 3,18
30 CLS: PRINT "+TAG+ by David Hall"
40 PRINT" Grab as much as possible"
50 PRINT" In the time limit...."
60 PRINT" GREEN objects = Time Increase"
70 PRINT" All others = score increase"
80 INPUT"PRESS <ENTER> to begin",a$:CLS
90 PEN 3:LOCATE 1,23:IF s>h THEN h=s
100 PRINT " SCORE: ": PRINT "TIME :"
110 PRINT "HIGH :";: PEN 2 : PRINT h
120 x=10:y=10:s=0:t=300: WHILE t > 0
130 LOCATE x,y : PRINT " ": v=x: w=y
140 x=x+ (INKEY (75) - INKEY (74))
150 y=y+(INKEY (73) - INKEY (72))
160 IF x <1 OR x > 40 THEN x=v
170 IF y <1 OR y > 22 THEN y=w
180 b=TEST ( -14+x*16, 410 - y*16 )
190 LOCATE x,y: PEN 3 : PRINT CHR$ (238)
200 IF b=0 THEN 240
210 IF b=3 THEN t=t+6: SOUND 4,20,2 : GOTO 240
220 SOUND 4,60,2 : s=s+1 : LOCATE 8,23
230 PEN 2 : PRINT s
240 LOCATE RND*39+1, RND*21+1 : PEN RND*4
250 PRINT CHR$ (226 + RND*3)
260 LOCATE 8,24 : PEN 2: t=t-1: PRINT t: WEND
270 LOCATE 7,13: PRINT "OUT OF TIME !"
280 FOR t=1 TO 10000: NEXT : GOTO 30
```

```
1 ' ANAGRAM SOLVER BY DAVID HALL
10 MODE 1: PAPER 0: CLS: PEN 2: INK 0,0
20 BORDER 3: PRINT "Anagram Solver" : PRINT
30 INPUT " Enter a Jumbled Anagram: " , a$
40 PRINT : PEN 1
50 PRINT " Now press the space bar to jumble
   the letters and help unscramble the anagram "
60 a$= UPPER$ (a$): PEN 3: t=LEN (a$)
70 a=INT (RND*t) + 1: b=INT (RND*t) +1
80 b$= MID$ (a$,a,1)
90 MID$ (a$,a,1) = MID$ (a$,b,1)
100 MID$ (a$,b,1) = b$: LOCATE 9,8: PRINT a$
120 WHILE INKEY (47) : WEND : GOTO 70
```

Thank you David for the Type-ins. CPCSW members had better start exercising their fingers, as in the next issue, David has sent me two nice long one's for you, look out for 'Super Hero' and the ' X-STITCH FILES '.

DAVE >>>....

FREQUENCY

ALIAS SIMON
THE MUSIC MAN

Refreshing your Printer Ribbon (the easy way).

Realising that new printer ribbons for my Star LC-20 cost £4 for Star ribbons and £3 pounds for the cheaper equivalent. I have always bought the original ribbons myself because cheaper ribbons (can) cause more wear to the print head. But please don't take my word for it.

O.K. so every now and again depending on how much you use your dot-matrix you decide that it needs a new ribbon. But if like me you have ever kept a test print of a new ribbon and then a month or so later compared printouts you may notice a quite comparable loss of print quality. The letters appear in a sort of dark brown colour instead of nice crisp black.

Well I soon got fed up with this and purchased a 'Re-Ink' kit from O.J.Software for the comparatively small price of £12.95. Judging from the size of the huge can it will last me quite a few years. Equipped with the power of Re-Ink I held aloft the mighty cardboard box and chanted the sacred inscription .... This Box Contains Re-inK for all Dot Matrix Printer Ribbons .... 30 ribbons in this Box. WoWa Cowabunga! The box opened suddenly and in a flash it was clear to me that the box contained 2 latex rubber gloves, can of ink and some instructions. But this was only the start of my task ....

Right, I'm glad I've got that out of my system. Time to get my old printer ribbon out. A good idea is to save a couple of good one's, meaning not too worn I have found the original makes ware better (personally). Firstly put on the latex gloves, unless you want black hands, as once the ink has dried its fairly hard to get shot off. You will need a fairly small-bladed screw driver. Get an old newspaper to protect your work surface.

O.K. now use the screw driver to carefully prise open the printer ribbon case (we'll deal with DMP ribbons in a moment). Shake the ink can for about 20 seconds to mix it up a bit. Spray over it giving a Maximum of 3-5 squirts on each different spray area of the ribbon. When you've done this replace the cover carefully, because you'll probably repeat a Re-Ink numerous times (as long as the ribbon still has wear in it). Now simply leave the ribbon for a few hours.

RE-INK AND SAVE CASH.

BETTER STILL CHANGE YOUR INITIALS TO (D.S.) AND GET YOUR SELF A PRINTER ON THE CHEAP ....

Frequency continues...

The Amstrad DMP ribbons are best re-inked with a small modellers paint brush using a small unwanted container to spray a few squirts of ink into. Apart .from this the instructions are the same.
Get some paper tissues and put the gloves on again if you want. Wipe any ink off the ribbon case to save getting your printer inards mucky. Now have a look at the ribbon itself (without opening the case again). Does it look incredibly wet?/very wet? Use the tissue to wipe some excess ink off of the ribbon and keep turning the ribbon through with the knob on the ribbon case (or a screw driver). Repeat this process as many times as you want. Also keep checking the case and in particular where the ribbon runs out then in the case (this will need wiping a few times). Doing this will help soak up the excess ink that will be at the bottom of the Ribbon Case. Before you pack the can away pull off the spray nozzle and give it a wash through under the tap and replace it carefully. This will stop it getting blocked up as any ink left inside will dry.
2 options now remain, if you havn't repeated the process you probably want a full re-ink rather than just a refresh so leave the ribbon for a few days and check again wiping etc, if needed the ink can take up to a week or so to dry! .... however if you just wanted to refresh your ribbon (which needs doing more frequently), if you are satisfied that the ribbon isn't dripping wet or even too wet, check and wipe the case again and try a test print.

I've certainly found these two methods the best way to RE-INK my ribbons, either a little and often, or a full RE-INK (which takes longer to do).

RE-INK is definitely worth the money, so get a can today, the price once again. £12-95.

O J. SOFTWARE
273 MOSSY LEA ROAD
WRIGHTINGTON
WIGAN
LANCS
WN6 9RN.

01257 - 421915.

FREQUENCY ALIAS (SIMON).

Thank's Simon for that info, it takes me back to my Dot-Matrix days, now all I do is purchase a cartridge and insert it in the printer and away I go.
I remember I use to use marking ink to re-ink my ribbons, it did the trick, but what a mess I use to get in.

Here is more info for all members, did you know that you can get 10 % discount for all items from OJ. SOFTWARE except on Hardware, just mention CPCSW.

Give them a phone call for their up to date catalogue, they have some good bargains on offer.

Our John also uses Re-Ink with his Canon BJ-10ex, one or two squirts a month is plenty. He prefers a little regularly rather than loads at one.
                    Dave)))....

Why Don't U ?

In the last episode on how to use PowerPage John endeavours to explain how to write an article for CPC South West, and goes on to show us all how to lay out a DTP page, complete with pretty pictures.

Writing an article is fairly easy at times, easier said than done normally I find. All you basically need is a subject you are interested in and a CPC, hopefully everyone reading this owns a CPC.

THE TOPIC

The topic you choose to write about does not need to be original, most topics have already been covered in other publications, but do not let that minor point put you off, its the way you put things across which matters.

The easiest subject to talk about is one which you are interested in, be it playing Tetris or performing minor surgery on your CPC. You will not get very far on an issue you know nothing at all about. Once you have chosen a subject do not go straight into Protext, instead write it on paper as if you were writing to a friend (in a way that is exactly what you will

be doing... Dave) then read what you have written and scrub bits out which do not make sense, then re-write the whole lot again.

PROOF READING

Read the article to make sure it sounds right, and while you are doing that see if there is any words you have used over and over again, if so invest in a thesaurus, (There is a Thesaurus in our PD library... Dave) this will give you a list of words with the same meaning.

The best way to proof read anything is to get someone else to read it for you, they should pick out if you have spelt 'WHERE' instead of 'WERE' or 'THEIR' when you meant 'THERE'. If there is no-one around to do this for you look up the words you are not sure about in a dictionary. I'm no exspurt when it comes to the English language, far from it, but I've learnt to check everything I write because there are far to

many know it alls out there ready to pounce on us for the slightest thing.

WHAT NEXT

As it stands Dave is happy to receive hand written articles but it is much easier for him if they are saved on disc (3" or 3.5", I don't mind... Dave) in Protext .DOC or PROG modes.

What Dave is not used to is the readers doing most of the work for him, it would be nice if we could lay out pages for him, so all he has to do is photocopy them.
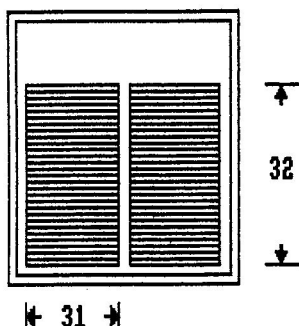
PAGE DESIGN

The last thing I want people to do is dive straight in and send Dave DTP pages, if every-one did the magazine would look a right mess because they would all look different. So to keep the pages looking uniform we have to work to the same guide lines.

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE

The way I design the first page of an article is to split the page into three sements, on top we have the title (headline), under which comes the intro and maybe a piece of clip art. Then the text, which is layed out in two columns.

How you go about laying out the text within Protext is entirely up to you, some like to use DOC mode while others prefer PROG mode. Personally I like to be a bit different, as I write the PMS reviews, which is basically small blocks of text saved individually, I need to know exactly how much I need to write to fill each page, or more to the point how many more reviews I need to write to fisish the page off.

PAGE 1

Above you will see a sketch of a DTP page, along the side is the number 32, this indicates how many lines of text it will take to fill the page. The 31 at the bottom shows the number of characters (not letters) is required to fill a line, I say characters as you also count the spaces between words.

I worked this out by typing A-Z then 1 to 5 within PP128:
ABCDEFGHIJHLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ12345

How Do U Spell It ?

Why You Should NEVER Press S To Store A New Word Onto Any Of Your Prospell Dictionary Discs. *By Barrie Snell*

Construction

My Concise Oxford dictionary has 1521 pages. Of these, 214 are for the letter 's', 140 for 'c', 131 for 'p', 95 for 't', 89 for 'r', 82 each for 'a' and 'b', and so on all the way to five for 'y', three for 'z' and one for 'x'.

A Prospell dictionary-disc is constructed so that it is organised into 178 sectors. You could just say that 178 sectors divided by 26 letters leaves about 7 sectors per letter, so store the 'a' words in sectors 1 to 7, the 'b' words in sectors 8 to 14, and so on.

Frequency

The Prospell programmer knew the frequency distribution of the letters so he (or she) saw that the above calculation was rubbish, and in any well-balanced dictionary with 178 sectors available, a simple calculation shows that 'a' needs 82/1521*178=10 sectors, as does 'b', while 's' needs 214/1521*178 = 25 sectors.

Speed-Up

So the programmer wrote Prospell in a way that if the word being checked began with 'g' the program would tell the read head on the disc drive to go straight to, for example, sector 62 and search from there to the end of sector 68, because sector 69 is the start of where the 'h' words are stored. This speeds things up a great deal.

Refinements

Things are really a little more complicated than that though, and some subtle refinements are made to the storage scheme. Taking words beginning with 'g' as our example, sectors 62 and 63 will contain words beginning

Now In The Public Domain.

Barrie has donated his dictionary to the Public Domain, which means its yours for just 25p per disc side. As the set takes up four sides it will set you back a quid. A bargain. Last issue John awarded it FIVE smileys, the maximum.

with combinations say, 'ga' to 'gd', sector 64 will store words beginning with 'ge' only, etc., and you can see that the letters after the initial l are "banded" in their own sectors within the general range of sectors for that particular very first initial letter.

Complications

Now say that you have completely filled up a particular band of sectors by storing on the dictionary nearly all of the common words beginning with 'ge' plus a few of the more abstruse ones like 'geebung' or 'gemmiparous', or even by doing repeatedly after spell-checking hundreds of documents exactly what I am explaining that you should NEVER do! This is where complications set in. You now check a document in the usual way using Prospell and this particular dictionary but you happen to come across a word in your document, for example 'geocentric', that is not on the dictionary.

If, when prompted to Store, Ignore, Change, Lookup or View, you pressed S to Store the new word on the disc, the program has to look for the first available blank bit on the disc where the words beginning with 'ge' are stored, BUT there is

NO blank area. The next piece of blank area available might be at the end of a sector where the 'gi' words are stored and the new word is added to the dictionary in that position. The words on the disc are now not in proper alphabetical order, and the natural "flow" of the program is interrupted.

Worse

An even worse situation can occur (and it HAS happened to some people that I know of who have been over-ambitious in trying to cram a disc as full as possible) when the next available blank area on the disc is at the place between where the 'i' words finish and the 'j' words start. That is a far leap from 'g', as the search has to go through all the 'h' words first, then all the 'i' words just to find the erroneously-placed 'geocentric'.

Slow

The next time you use Prospell to check another document with that particular dictionary the program has to double back on itself when it has whipped through checking for 'gi' words because it will come across the word 'geocentric' which is in the wrong position, and THIS is what slows the program down. A lot of these misplaced words

STANDARD TO A PLUS

BY PETER.

A short article for this issue of CPCSW I'm afraid, as home commitments have been very heavy over the last few weeks, did I say a few ?. Ok so what's the article about ???.

Just having aquired a 464 + but NO monitor, so I decided to look into using my 464 colour monitor, quite easy really, but the only thing is that you get NO sound. Why ? It's because with the 464 + and 6128 + the speaker's are in the monitor, not like the standard 464 & 6128 machines, you only need to use the Din plug and the 5 volt line. But the DIN PLUG is different, yes Amstrad did it again, the standard machine uses a 6 pin, where as the plus machines use an 8 pin plug, the extra two pins are for left and right speakers in the monitor. You can plug in a couple of stereo speakers of course.

Dave coming in here..Nigel our Mr.Fixit will supply you the leads to convert from standard machines to the plus machines......

To make the leads your self.......
6 WAY DIN SOCKET
8 WAY DIN PLUG
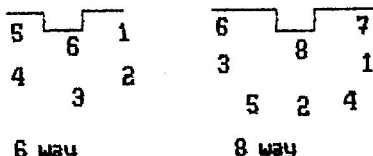6 CORE WIRE
50 WAY IDC FLAT CABLE
    CENTRONICS PLUG
50 WAY IDC EDGE CONNECTOR
50 WAY REVERSI BOARD
50 WAY CABLE.

Cost about a FIVER apart from the REVERSI board !!!!!

The 6 to 8 way wiring as follows....

6 way   8 way

PIN 1	TO	PIN 4 (RED)
PIN 2	TO	PIN 2 (GREEN)
PIN 3	TO	PIN 5 (BLUE)
PIN 4	TO	PIN 1 (SYNC)
PIN 5	TO	PIN 8 (GND)
PIN 6	TO	PIN 3 (LUM)

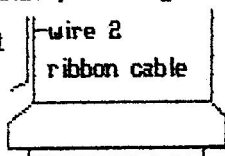PINS 6 & 7 ON THE 8 WAY ARE THE LEFT AND RIGHT SOUND.

Now to connect the DD1-1 to the 464+, clamp the 50 way centronics plug and 50 way IDC edge connector on to the 50 way cable, making sure that PIN'S ONE on both conectors line up, plug in the reversi board and of you go.

DAVE COMING IN HERE AGAIN..

Sorry Pete, but with a 6128, the second drive wiring is slightly different to what you wrote..

Yes you need a 36 way centronics plug, but cut wire one on the ribbon cable, move the cable up so as wire two of the ribbon cable becomes wire one. Confused, I was until MR.FIXIT put it right for me.

pin 1   wire 2
        ribbon cable

continued ......

Peter continues with saying that, it is easy to convert from a standard machine to fit a plus keyboard, but remember, you get NO sound unless you plug in a couple of stereo speakers, the reversi board could be a problem for you, then there is the printer connection.

I *cheated* by getting a WIDGET from Angela Cook, what's a Widget I here you ask ???, to save you the problem of looking for a reversi board, Angela and Arthur supply them with a centronics plug ready to plug into the expansion port, and you can just plug your add-on's directly to it, As to the printer port, I simply went into town a purchased a printer cable which is a plug in and go type.

Peter states it took him about 1/2 an hour to make up the cables, but he had to get his relative in Manchester to get him the parts, but me (Dave) *I cheat by buying or obtaining the cables made up for me ready to plug in.*

I have had my 6128 plus machine now for a few weeks with the mono monitor, I have the cables *supplied* by Mr.Fixit so I can use either of the monitors, the best of both worlds. Sorry Peter, this was your article and it seems that I have taken over, but the wiring is slightly different on the 6128 to what you wrote.

Peter did send this article in for the last issue, but it arrived a bit late, you never know, we may be lucky to get another article from him for this issue, Hint. Hint.

Thanks Peter......

COMP-WINNERS

Did you notice that this did not appear in the last issue ???. That was because NO ONE entered the JUNE competition's, we did however get a reply in the SEPTEMBER competition for the (WIN OVER) comp, and the winner was MARTIN BELA, well done Matin, your prize from Jonty should be with you by now. Martin's winning entry was.....

What I have decided for this issue's competition's, is to repeat the JUNE competition's, so you have another chance, arn't I good to you.

So, look back in the JUNE issue, and have a go.

Good Luck ......

DAVE))).....

" Yes Captain, but we need full steam – ahead or we'll lose sight of the one WE are Following ! ".

TIP'S

When David Hall sent me his
Dear Dave's and the
program, he didn't include the
type-ins for me, so I wrote and
ask him to forward them on,
David replied to me "list them ",
Now I know you can get the
information that way, but me
being a lazy so and so, thought
well if he has them typed out,
why not ask him to send them to
me. Yes I did know that you can
get the information that way,
but David sent to me details of
how to do it, I had FORGOTTEN
that way, so here is a reminder
of how to list a program the
easy way.

LOAD the program IE:::
   LOAD " DISC"
Nothing will appear on the
screen. Now SAVE the program as
an ASC11 file. IE:::
SAVE " DISC", a

You can now access the ASC11
version via a word processor. Or
type in and save the following
program that dumps the file to
the printer.

```
10 OPENIN "DISC"
20 WHILE NOT EOF
30 LINE INPUT #9, a$
40 PRINT #8, a$
50 WEND
60 CLOSEIN
```

You may recall me saying before that a little tip here and there for
idiots like me who forgets, is very handy. How many of you have a
simular little TIP that will jog the memory ????.....
                          Thank you David - <<Dave>>....

FOR FUN   FROM ARTHUR.

A man walked in to a Builders Merchants and ordered 3500 Bricks. What
are you building asked the Merchant. A (BARBICUE) was the man's
reply. A Barbicue the Merchant questioned. YES said the man. But you
do'nt need 3500 bricks to build a Barbicue replied the Merchant. YOU DO
SAID THE MAN IF YOU LIVE ON THE 14TH FLOOR.

                          Nice one Arthur...<<Dave>>...

Can you supply a For-Fun like Arthur has, it's a good little page filler
up'er. Please send in CLEAN one's to me << DAVE >>....

NIGEL CALLCUTT
MR. FIXIT.

FROM MARTIN...
What I want to do is to get the Z80 to make it's
M1. output go LOW , WIIHOUI an active RD. or
IORQ signal. Does the CPC do this during power
up, or is there any way to do this ???.

NIGEL'S REPLY.

On power up, the M1. out put goes LOW for less than a second, but
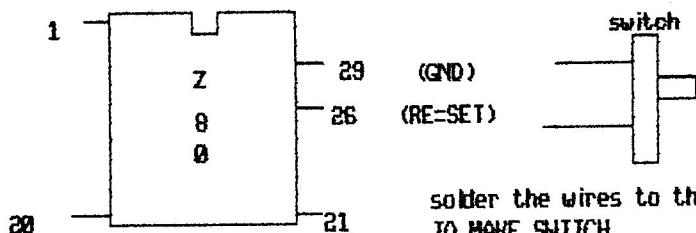you can write the software to prolong this...
PHEW !! Thank goodness for Nigel, to teckny for me... Dave >>>

DAVE ASK'S...

Can I re-set my 6128 + without CONT-SHIFT-ESC key press ???...

Below is a re-set than can be used on the standard CPC, or the plus
machines, (same as on the Multiface)...

Solder a length of wire to PIN 26 (RST) of the Z80. Another length
of wire to a GROUND / EARTH connection or PIN 29 (END) on the Z80.

```
  1 ┌───────┐
    │       │         ── 29   (GND)
    │   Z   │
    │   8   │         ── 26   (RE=SET)
    │   0   │
    │       │
 20 └───────┘ 21
```
 switch

Drawing not to scale.

solder the wires to the PUSH
TO MAKE SWITCH

NEVER USE A SPDT (single pole single
or double pole switch). confused Z80

Simple, but very effective say's Nigel, one day I will delve inside and
try it out. DAVE >>>.....

Nigel states his 3.5 " drives are on sale at £55=00, all he needs to
know is , 'What model. Standard or pluss' . Cannot do an "A" Drive
for the 464 DD1, but may be able to make it a "B" Drive for them...

WANTED....

More questions for our technical boffin Nigel , that's how he has
beem described...   Nice one...

WITHIN PROTEXT

The way I work within Protext is fairly straight forward, at the top of the screen are the X and Y co-ords, as I tap away at the keys I keep an eye on these co-ords, checking that I do not go over 31. As you type away and press ENTER / RETURN after each line things do start to look a bit messy. To show you what I mean I'll do the next couple lines as you would see them in Protext.

How this actually works is I am using PowerPage to do the justifying, I found if you justified the text with the word processor then again with PowerPage you end up with dots scattered all over the place.

Eeeeeh, doesn't that look aweful, I much prefer to see columns layed out neatly.

To keep this simple, all you have to do is to type in your article until you reach 32 lines, this is not strictly true. You see, you have to insert an extra line spacing before and after any sub-headings (WITHIN PROTEXT etc) and when you require an extra line space between paragraphs. This does make using the X,Y co-ords a bit awkward, but I normally add extra lines just before saving a file.

Talking of which you also save the text slightly different than you would normally. Instead of saving a file with:

>S 'filename'.TXT

This does work but occasionally PP128 will insert a blank space within the paragraphs, so to get around this and other minor problems use the PRINTF option:

>PF 'filename'.TXT

I personally save each column individually, putting the page together one step at a time.
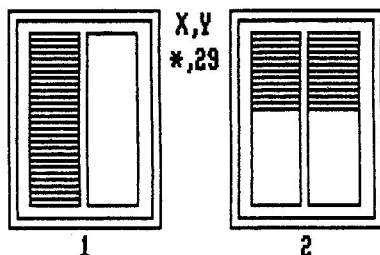
WITHIN PP128

Each time you load PowerPage the program automatically loads the SET file, this sets the borders etc. To get the text to start in the same position every time you have to place the cursor at the correct X,Y co-ords (128 for the first page).

Once PowerPage has typed in the first column, save the page and go back into Protext and write the next one. This done all you have to do is load up RIGHT.SET from your PP128 work disc, position the cursor at *,128 so all the lines marry up and the page generally looks neat and tidy.

If your article takes up more than a single page do not worry, the basics idea is just the same. But instead of having 32 lines of text you have 49 lines. The only real problem you may have is if you do not completely finish the page, here all we ask is you try to round the page off neatly, time for a couple more sketches I think.

Page 2

X,Y
*,29

1   2

Depending on how much space is left Dave should be able to put his Editor's head on and finish the page off for you, he does this with little bits and pieces he has up his sleeve. But to make this a tad easier for him try ending the page in a single column or an equal number of lines in two columns. If you find yourself pulling your hair out do not worry, send the end result to Dave to worry about, that is what he's there for (thanks a lot John.... Dave). No doubt Dave will put his other hat on and send it to me to finish off (Too right... Dave).

Once you have finished writing in the article, it is time to finish off the first page, the headline and introduction still needs to be done before the job is finished.

On the actual PowerPage disc is a very good Headline Designer, we use the Timescode option as Dave and I feel this one gives the best results. If anyone has any problems with this bit drop me a line, the designer is so easy to use I doubt anybody will have problems with it.

HELLO I'M JOHN

The introduction to an article is just that, briefly this tells the reader who you are and what the article is about.

GRAPHICS

The trick to drawing on the CPC is to keep the lines short and neat. As you know, pictures are made up of lots of lines joined together. The angles you choose to make up the object will determine the quality of the end result. In other words try to keep jagged edges to a minimum and use zoom to tidy round things off.

That's it. If anyone still has problems with PP128 feel free to drop me a line... John

dotted about all over the place will slow down the spell-checking process almost to the point of uselessness.

You get some idea of what difficulties the program is experiencing if you imagine a paper dictionary with the word 'hyperspace' hidden amongst the letter I section, or the word 'polysyllabic' buried somewhere in the letter O section. (Yes, it can misplace them backwards as well !). How would you go about finding them ? Could you find them ?

So, NEVER press the letter S to Store any words on any Main dictionary.

Best Strategy

The best strategy to obviate any inadvertent 'S' presses is to write-protect all of your Main dictionary discs by ensuring that the write-protect sliding tab shows a hole through the disc.

Best Bet

Your best bet is to keep a special book to make a note of new words, then when you have accumulated a few hundreds, transfer them to an Ascii file on a disc with a word-processor (taking extreme care to spell them properly!) and generate a new extra dictionary according

to the Prospell manual. Don't add any words directly to this new disc for the very reasons given above. When you have accumulated a few more hundred new words, add them to your first Ascii file, re-format the extra dictionary to wipe it clean, then save all the words to a new dictionary as before.

How I Did It

In compiling my four dictionaries I took the original Prospell dictionary and listed all its words on paper, of which there were approximately 25000. These are the most common words such as 'the', 'it', 'is', 'that', 'where', 'when', 'he', 'she', 'and' 'so' ' on'.

Then I took the PENGUIN Spelling Dictionary (with 110000 words) and the COLLINS Spelling Dictionary (with 146000 words) and noted down an extra 11000 common words which were not contained in the original Prospell dictionary.

I then had the unenviable task of transferring the original 25000 plus the extra 11000 to an Ascii file [really, a series of files]. The next job was to create a blank dictionary disc according to the Prospell manual and transfer the words from the Ascii file onto the dictionary and name it BAR1.

Then I went back to the Spelling Dictionaries and noted down around 19000 more words that weren't in BAR1. These were chosen to be a second line of defence in that they were none of the very common words, but were not so weird and wonderful that they wouldn't crop up in every-day conversation or business letters. Again, these were transferred to an Ascii file then copied onto a dictionary called BAR2.

Over The Top

The next bit was really going over the top because I then looked for anything at all (though still not TOO weird and wonderful) contained in the Spelling Dictionaries that I'd missed out on dictionaries BAR1 and BAR2. Anyway, you'll get the general drift if I say that I put nearly 19000 words on BAR3 and 17000 words on BAR4.

Note that when writing the words in an Ascii file that you want to transfer to a new dictionary, they don't have to be in strict alphabetical order because the Prospell program will sort them for you when you use the 'Build Dictionary' option from the menu. It will even get rid of duplications if you have inadvertently typed in a word more than once.

New Words

Is there scope for new words ? Obviously yes in theory because the words on the 4 discs is 91000 and the words in the Spelling Dictionaries total 150000 which leaves room for 59000 more. At roughly 20000 words-per-dictionary this would enable a BAR5, a BAR6 and a BAR7. (3 more disc sides! Dave).

What do these missing 59000 words look like ? They can't be very-common or nearly-common words because they should all be in BAR1 and BAR2. They can only be specialised scientific words or derivatives of some of the common words, that are not ordinarily used in every-day language. A couple of examples of the first category are 'deoxyribonuclease' and 'zygophytes'. The second category examples could be 'meddlesomeness' and 'pulverisable'.

Order

Always use dictionary BAR1 for a first scan of a 2-Pass (really Multi-Pass) spell-check. This will whip through the document like a hot knife through butter because it will eliminate all of the common words from the text, and leave only a very few for BAR2 to work on for the second pass, which itself has nearly

all of the next-most-common words. As an experiment take any document you might have and spell-check it with BAR2 first, and not BAR1. You'll then see exactly what I mean. You'll see words on-screen (that could possibly be mis-spelled or are not in BAR2 as 'the', 'is', 'that', and so on. [which is absolute nonsense.]

Necessary

Are four dictionary-discs necessary ? ** NO, most definitely NOT! **

In about 95 per cent of cases when checking ordinary documents such as composing your C.V., or letters to friends, or begging letters to your bank manager, you WON'T need dictionaries BAR3 or BAR4. Just by using BAR1 and BAR2 (which between them contain a little over 55000 of the most common words) you'll more than likely find that you have only 4 or 5 words at the very most shown at the bottom of the screen after a 2-Pass spell-checking session, and there will be no need to use the remaining two dictionaries.

On the other hand, you may be studying a specialised subject at College or the Open University and writing up your assignments on a word-

processor, but may not be very good at spelling. In that case the extra 2 dictionary discs will come in handy.

Why Do-It-Yourself ?

It took me eight solid months at three days a week of four hours a day to put together these 4 ProSpell dictionary discs. Could you go through that ? Why bother when I've done it for you ? I've put these in the Public Domain and you can get them from your disc librarian at the usual rates. (25p per disc side = £1.00... Dave)

Extra Uses

When you aren't spell-checking you could be solving difficult cross-word puzzles in the Times newspaper where the clue is "Evil fellow in charge of seizing female". It's a 7-letter word, where all you know is the 3rd letter is L and the 5th letter is F. You flash up Prospell and put in dictionary BAR1. Now press U-dictionary Utilities and F-Find words. At the screen-prompt 'Word pattern' you would enter the following; ??L?F??. The '?' symbol means that any letter from A-Z will be all right in the position of that '?' symbol. Where a definite letter exists, that letter must exist in its proper place within which you want to find.

You put in BAR1 and are rewarded with BALEFUL, DOLEFUL, HELPFUL and UPLIFTS. None of these seem right so you do the same with BAR2. This time you get HALIFAX. This isn't right either. So you try BAR3 and get FILOFAX, GALLFLY and MALEFIC. Well MALE could be the "fellow" in the clue, and IC is usually the abbreviation for "in charge", and F is the "female" bit. So when you look up the word MALEFIC in a real dictionary you see it is associated with 'evil' and you've cracked it !!

Note- Sometimes when Prospell tells you it's "Searching" it will give some matching words and then say "Press Any Key". Sometimes it won't, and will re-cycle through the words found. Other times a match won't be found at all and it may churn on forever. Use your judgement, and if no match is found after 2 minutes then press the ESC key to 'Return to the Menu'.

Barrie Snell

━━━━━ ▬▬ ▬▬ ━━━━━

Thank you Barrie, not just for donating your excellent dictionary to the Public Domain but also for writing this article and the one in the last issue for us. Hopefully you will become a CPC South West Member fairly soon.

On The CD

On this issues CD there is a new art pack called Rembrant written by Beebugsoft. This package is not bad, but the lack of information may make it a bit difficult to use, so our resident artist has given it the once over for us. If you draw a nice picture send it to John who will use it on the next CD.

ESC allows you to select the option you require from one of the three menus. It is also used to cancel while in the paste mode.
TAB swiches the menus around.
SHIFT lets you move around the screen much faster.
SPACE plots the start and finish of lines and objects.
COPY is used to increase the size of the shapes.
CONTROL + CLR switches off the menu allowing you to see the whole screen.
Numbers 1 & 2 are used to choose the colour.
Numbers 3 & 4 change the colour of the border.
Arrow keys + INKPOT icon lets you change the palette.
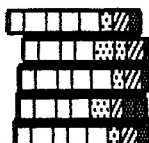FILL icon, use No's 1 & 2 to select the colours of the pattern fill.

If you require any more information about using this package do'nt hesitate to drop John a line.

Pocket Money Software

£5.00 MAX

Value for money this collection of AAS files is excellent, on the disc are 84 screens in compressed format, and 28 sets of Pattern fills / Brushes.

To fit all these files onto a 3.5" disc Jonty has used a Rom called ROMDOS. DO NOT ask for this compilation if you have not got OCP's Advanced Art Studio and Romdos.

As you may know I do like to doodle a bit myself, so it would be very easy for me to run the quality of these screens down. Unlike myself Jonty is into cartoon type pictures, on the whole I would say that these screens are fairly well drawn, and could very easily find themselves being used in a fanzine, but to be honest they are not my cup of tea, as the old saying goes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
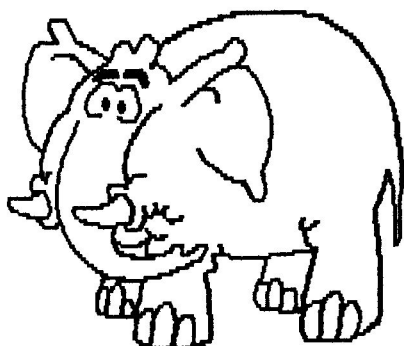
The first screen, titled Image, is meant to be an example of 3D palette switching animation, I don't think so. It is either a ball smashing through a window or one of those spring things which walks down the stairs, I can't tell which. Jonty does tend to use the same basic character again and again, just add a grey beard to Dizzy and call it Grand Dizzy idea. There are a few pictures which I am not sure about, these I have seen elsewhere.

For me, what makes this set a must is the Pattern fills, mostly these consist of 12 fills per set, but it must be said that there are a few uncompleted ones.

😊 😊 😊 ⬛

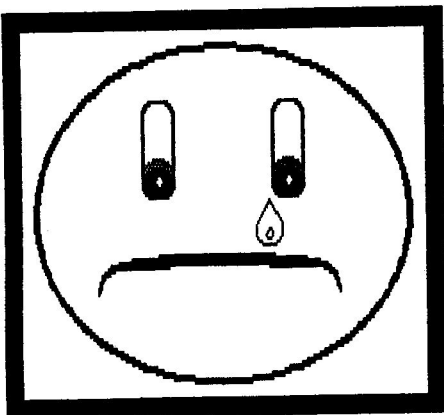For more information see the back inside cover, KAY.

(Not available at KAD)

Reviewed By Angela Cook

It's probably obvious just to look at me that I like doughnuts. Ordinary ones, jam ones, ones with holes in them. There is one type of doughnut which I don't like - Donut Mag. Most doughnuts are quite sweet, but this one seems to have turned sour.

Tom Dean is the main writer for Donut Mag, which I believe is his creation (concoction?). I also believe he is still at school (or was last time I spoke to him), which shows up in this poor attempt. The majority of Donut Mag is based loosely around sex, pre-pubescent though it maybe. If you wanted to get risque stories on your CPC you'd be better going for The Doodler's "Mums and Dads". (Angela, I'm going to smack your legs, M&D is for 18+ only... JR) Donut Mag also contains lots of bitching about other members of "the scene", which really is quite vitriolic and childishly done. If I wanted to read tales of CPCers I would do it in style and class and reach for my copy of BTL. Donut Mag does not even contain much CPC related information, or at least none worth the effort of wading through the rest of the propaganda. My overall impressions ? Pre-pubescent fantastical rubbish not worth any body's time or effort. And as for Smiley's, can I have some sour looking faces instead please ?

NON-SMILEY.. NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH A HAPPY FACE.

Many thanks for the review Angela, I hope the non-smiley is to your liking. I have not seen Donut Mag 2 myself, going by what my friends have told me I do not want to either.

Talking of friends, Dave M. has given me some Drive Belt details, if and when your 3" belt goes ask for a 'CB64F cassette belt made by SEME. TRACE CODE 145-5192964; BIN No 33.0300. LOCATION 58738.' £1.80 from local electronics stores.
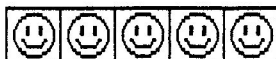
Marco Vieth

The only thing I dislike about this mini slideshow is the filename the programmer used to save the loader, the '@' key is very awkward to use, I keep pressing the SHIFT key at the same time.

Overscan 3 consists of 17 high resolution screens (MODE 2), mostly of women wearing very little or nothing at all (so it is right up you street then John... Dave). But for once the artists (these pictures were compiled by Marco, he did not draw them) have used a bit of discretion and drew the models tastefully. Apart from being better presented (backdrops) there is nothing here you would not see in a newspapers. These pictures are of the highest quality, and would look great printed out, but unfortunately this would be impossibe as they are in full overscan, you cannot grab overscan screens.

Both sides of the disc are needed to view this slide show properly, so it will set you back a huge amount of money (50p for two sides).
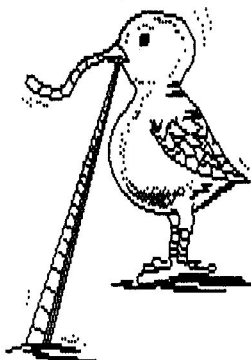
☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

SEX HOUSE - UNKNOWN

Pervy time again, how is it I always get sent this type of software, I may-be a bit kinky but I'm far from being a

Just 4 Fun

The answer to last issues little dilemma is - the lad was not tall enough to reach the button for the tenth floor, even if he jumped, so he had to walk the rest of the way. For a change can any legal eagles out there help me out with an argument I am having with my next door neighbour.

You see I breed tropical birds when I'm not working on my CPC. Last week one of my Peacocks flew over the fence and laid an egg in next doors garden. Legally, does the egg belong to me or my next door neighbour ?

Please help, he says he is going to have it for breakfast.

a pervert (That's not what I have heard.... Dave).

This is a voyeur's dream, imagine being a kinky electrician, who when asked to re-wire a mansion rigs it so by remote control can turn the lights on and off. So there you sit, one dark night, with your remote control looking at the six windows. Would'nt it be great if the occupants where at it, lets press a button and see. Weird, I can hear music coming from the house, must be that Frequency bloke at it again.

NEWS FLASH

SAD NEWS... According to a few of my contacts Richard F. has closed Robot PD, if this is the case, it is a very sad day for the CPC. Richard is one of the best programmers the CPC has ever had. Fingers crossed he will not be leaving the scene completely and continues to write PD/Commercial software for the machine he learnt his trade on.

WHERE 2 GO

DAVE STITSON
CPC SOUTH WEST PD
4 CONNAUGHT AVENUE
MUTLEY
PLYMOUTH
PL4 7BX

GNASHER PD
36 SWEETMANS ROAD
SHAFTSBURY
DORSET
SP7 8EH

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN
BRYMPTON COTTAGE
BRUNSWICK ROAD
WORTHING
SUSSEX
BN11 3NQ

PD FUN
FOLLY FARM
COLD ASHTON
CHIPPENHAM
WILTSHIRE
SN14 8JR

PENGUIN SOFTWARE
62 NURSERY ROAD
KNAPHILL
WOKING
SURREY
GU21 2NW

ROBOT PD   I've Heard
2 TRENT ROAD   Richard Has
OAKHAM   Closed His
RUTFORD   Library ...
LE15 6HF

Field Testing The Philip

When asked to field test the latest piece of CPC hardware Angela Cook was only too please to oblige. Will the self programming, all purpose Philip measure up to Angela's high standards or will it blow a memory chip ?

Review Of Philip DiRichleau

I first heard of the piece of hardware called "Philip DiRichleau" ("Philip" in this review. (He'll always be "Tigger" to me...Dave)) about a year ago. At the time I didn't know anything about the different and diverse uses this handy piece of equipment had, so passed it by, favouring my 6128 Plus.

However, as time went on I heard more and more about the Philip. Apparently it was quite useful. I still didn't know exactly what for, so I decided to see if I could get my hands on the latest version to have a play with.

One arrived and I unpacked it with anticipation. Once fully constructed (those workmen were so nice) the Philip stands at about six feet four inches. These latest models have certain physical characteristics which you can choose upon ordering. Because I had the test model I got what

was already on there. This model had long black hair which was very realistic looking. It also had brown eyes, although more colours will be available when the Philip goes into production late next year.

I immediately set about putting the Philip to it's limits. Could the Philip dig trenches if need be? Apparently so. What if I needed the gardening done? Feverishly the Philip would dig into that, results so far have been good. But what about my main area of interest.... the CPC? Could it interface at a satisfactory level with another (more advanced) piece of technology? I am pleased to report that the Philip handled the CPC and it's peripherals admirably. Actually using the machine is not a problem and programming is an easy task for this model. The Philip didn't even bat an electronic eyelid when I asked it to write a short program in machine code.

But what about other household chores? The cooking element of

the Philip's programming was handled by Delia Smith. Her vast knowledge base has been inputted into the Philip's system so that he can perform with top of the range culinary skills. His whipped up garlic mushrooms and rabbit went down very well. Diverse skills, such as the good old fashioned "bung-it-in" have also been included, but I have yet to taste the haggis that the Philip's manual tells me is so good. Mind you, there does seem to be a bug in the Philip's programming somewhere – I'm not so sure about using hacksaws for sausages and re-enacting the legends of King Arthur with a block of cheese.

Other areas that the Philip is supposed to excel in include writing and Editing. This he could do quite competently as he proved with WACCI's Fair Comment, associated tasks and various articles. Now the Philip has been given a new challenge, that of Editing the great magazine. This, strangely enough, did not cause an overload problem (some models of Philip would have in the past), although some circuitry did overheat somewhat so I had to poke around it's insides with a hot soldering iron.

The vast outdoors is where many models of Philip have fallen before. Early versions, on castors, could not manage anything more adventurous than a patio. This version, however, has proper human legs. They bend in all sorts of directions and have been a great advance on previous attempts to make this sort of hardware usable on all terrains. I have been promised by the manufacturers that the version to hit the market will have an improved knee joint as the current one is particularly complicated and susceptible to breaking down should it be hit with a large sturdy block of some kind.

Outdoor problems could include those with automobiles. Automobiles are one of the greatest inventions, enabling us to travel great distances in relatively little time. The first test with the automobile was how the Philip reacted within it. At first reactions were normal and as expected of any normal human being, although conversation could sometimes be taxing on the nervous system, especially when involving traffic lights.

As time wore on and tests became increasingly more complex, the Philip reacted in different ways. Standing out of the sun roof did not appear to be a problem, nor did scrambling around in the boot

searching for tools to free a very vital piece of equipment in danger of being crushed into oblivion. Outside the automobile the Philip worked just as well. Pushing a Maestro out of various snow drifts was not a problem, nor did de-freezing an accelerator cable or the windscreen - with the exception of replacing the wiper the wrong way round.

How the Philip reacts with other people is a major consideration when thinking of buying this expensive piece of hardware. You may have trained your Philip to your personal needs, but extra software is needed for social gatherings. Once the software is installed the Philip will work wonders. The only thing to be aware of is that it will undoubtedly steal the show. A classic example was at the 1996 WACCI Convention where I test ran this model. With nearly three hundred people attending it would be the ultimate test for the untamed Philip. He performed extremely well, talking sense to many people but confusing just as many others (this later proved to be a loose wire where the Philip's CPU is kept). The Philip was whizzing around, his batteries had just been charged which is essential if not working near a power supply that the Philip can stick his fingers in to. In smaller gatherings the Philip steals any limelight going (the solar panel at the top of his head is for this purpose) and especially relishes female company. His manual says that female interaction gives him the best learning facilities but I am yet to find it.

The Philip runs on combustible fuel, as seen at the WACCI Convention when only the non-smokeless type was available at such short notice. There are two other main sources of energy that the Philip requires which can be found in either tea bags or full bottles of Southern Comfort. The Philip does rather like his Southern Comfort every now and again as it can set him back on his tracks and relax him at the same time.

The Philip can consume most foods and drinks. Any running fuels it can extract from them it will, the rest being collected in an empty chamber in the stomach area which is then ready treated to be used as compost later. The Philip is quite able to consume alcohol, as said above, though this model can sometimes have some strange affects if too much retains in the system. Symptoms include laughter and short term memory loss, which can sometimes be a definite advantage. Other

substances can have certain affects of the Philip, although you do have to be careful not to wreck him. Details of these substances are beyond the scope of this review.

If considering keeping the Philip for long periods of time, replacement parts may be necessary. Because I have the test model, many of the components have been worn out already due to such extensive testing. Home or light users should not incur too many problems, like most appliances the Philip comes with a years guarantee, if its going to go wrong it will in the first twelve months.

I think that just about covers the Philip in his entirety. It is a very useful piece of equipment to have around the house. Because of it's calibre of programming, interesting and thought provoking conversations are one of it's strong points. On the other side of the coin, the Philip is not very portable. At over six feet tall it's not too easy to fold into luggable dimensions.

Presentation 75% :
Sometimes a little scruffy but washes up well.
Compatibility 90% :
Can interface with most things with relative ease.

Adeptability 95% :
Is prepared for nearly any situation and task.
Value For Money 95% :
If you let it, the Philip could be a drain on the purse strings, but even then it balances cost over use.
Overall 89% :
If you can afford one of these and actually have a use for it, the Philip can be quite a buy, as long as you can put in the time for the correct training and appropriate software needed to run it.

Where To Go

The Philip is only available from Merline-Serve, the place to get all your second hand CPC goods. This piece of hardware was the creation of the WACCI group, as it has exceeded all expectations the Philip has been launched into the home market.

This is not a production-line process, each part is assembled and tested by skilled engineers (That will be Arthur and Co ... Dave).

The price is yet to be announced but for more information write to Merline Serve at:

BRYMPTON COTTAGE,
BRUNSWICK ROAD,
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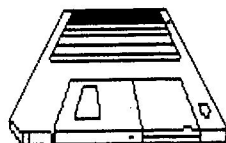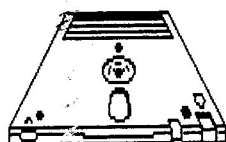to the CORRECT SUM,
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