

PRESTO NEWS.

June '92
Issue 2.

The Ultimate CPC
Fanzine.

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*In this month's packed
issue...*

Slideshow Special.

*PD Librarians have
their say.*

Edmund Spicer Story.

Merle's Demo Page

*All the latest news
and views.*

Contents.

This is probably the most useless part of the magazine. The reason? Well, what is the point of a contents page in a magazine without page numbers?

So, here are the contents, in the order that they come.

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Opinion.

All formats computer flop.

As the day of the Bristol All formats computer fair approached, I found myself getting more and more excited at the prospect of seeing lots of bargains for my CPC, and meeting like minded people.

Imagine my surprise when, on arriving at The Brunel Centre after almost 3 hours on the train, I was confronted by a dingy venue, little bigger than most church halls half filled with about 30 stands.

Among these stands were huge bargains, public domain software, hardware, software, leads, mice and just about everything else. Excited? You shouldn't be. All of these were for either the ST, Amiga or PC. There were no stands devoted to 8 bits in general, let alone CPCs in particular.

There were a few CPC related things on offer. One stall stocked a fairly comprehensive range of out of date budget games for our beloved machine. Another was trying to sell broken 464s for £30. If you wanted to buy a CPC, a rather dodgy looking bloke was willing to sell you one for a vastly overpriced sum. I was interested in a second 6128 and the man absolutely refused to haggle. Ah well, his loss.

So, was the trip a total waste of time? Well, yes, and no. I did pick up 100 DSDD 3.5" coloured discs and box for under £40. Another purchase was an absolute bargain though, I stumbled upon a stall with a lot of PCW software. A program called New Word caught my eye. After reading a review of this in Print-Out some months ago, I was intrigued. I bought said program for a fiver, happy in the knowledge that it retailed normally for £70.50.

On getting New Word home, I soon discovered that it would work on my CPC after I had transferred the files to a CPC format disc other than the PCW one it was supplied on. Thank god for READPCW on Presto Disc 24. Without this, my money would have been wasted.

Matt.

A few words from the Ed.

A bit of a change.

Regular readers will notice that the style of this month's Presto News is a bit different. This is because this month, Presto News is produced on Powerpage v1.3, the excellent PD desktop publisher. This will enable me to squeeze even more info into your favourite mag. (Well, almost favourite.)

Response to Issue 1.

The response to issue 1 has been very favourable. All who have read it have been pleased. With the new changes, I hope that you like it even more.

Competition Result.

Put simply, there is no result, as none of you have bothered to enter. Come on, where's your competitive spirit?

Just for you, I have decided to repeat the competition. The full details can be found later on in the mag.

Queries.

No, not Julian Clary, but queries regarding a few things to do with the Presto PD library.

First of all, some of you who have received orders on 3.5" discs have had a few problems. This is due to the fact that your drives have all been Siren ones. I use a Microstyle drive with MS800. However, this causes a few problems if an MS800 format is used when Romdos is plugged in. If any of you have difficulties reading 3.5" discs from Presto, just turn your Romdos ROM off, or unplug your ROM box.

If you have a recent model of Siren drive, you will not have a side switch, which means that you will not be able to access side B of the discs. If you do not have a side switch, I can only supply you with PD taking up 2 selections for MS800 formats or 1 for data formats per disc.

Mono modulator problems.

A number of you have written to me asking why a number of the demos available from Presto are in black and

white when used with a TV modulator.

I don't know the exact reason why this happens, but it seems to happen when there are objects on the screen that move through the border. For some unknown reason, the Modulator cannot keep up with this, so it just gives the most accurate representation of what is going on that it can. In the majority of cases, this is done by showing the entire screen in various shades of grey.

This problem has caused me much heart ache and disappointment, as I am very partial to the odd demo now and again, and this little glitch has a habit of turning up in some of the best of them such as Merlyn III, Parts of the YAO demo and 2 out of the 8 parts of Logon System's THE DEMO.

There is however a solution at hand which may save you trying to get a colour monitor. However, it is a bit tricky.

First of all you will need a colour TV with either an RGB input or a composite video input.

The RGB way of doing things is the easiest as all you have to do is to get a lead and connect the right pins on the computer's RGB out socket to the ones on the TV's RGB in socket. This can easily be done with the aid of the pin-out diagrams in your manuals for computer and TV. Don't forget though that the LUM pin doesn't have to be connected if your TV doesn't have one.

Making up an RGB to composite video lead is a bit trickier. To get a colour picture needs the signal to be boosted. I have not tried doing it this way so you would be best advised to consult your local electronics expert or ask at your nearest Tandy or Radio Shack shop.

Both of these methods will not only allow you to enjoy the full pleasure of demos, but will also improve your picture quality dramatically.

Final Word.

If you have any suggestions to do with the new format of the mag, or anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me and tell me what you think.

Enjoy the Mag.
Matt.

Public Domain News.

The latest rumblings in the



wonderful world of P.D.

Developments at Scull SL.

Libraries close down.

News has been flooding into the Presto office (err, bedroom) about a number of CPC PD libraries that have closed down or are closing. So far only two of these reports have been confirmed, but we will bring you the latest as soon as possible.

One library on the definite list is Data PD, who for some time have had the dubious honour of being the most expensive CPC library in the UK. Head Data Librarian Tony Kingsmill has moved on to new pastures, while cassette librarian David Nagle has started his own disc only library, Demo PD.

Another definite closure is Paolo Cuomo's Pisces PD, which was the first library in the UK to offer PD on 3.5" discs. Paolo has been fighting a losing battle to balance his library with his school work for some time now, and it would seem that school has won. (Grrrr.) People wanting PD on 3.5" discs should read on.

Penguin Software rumours.

Rumours have been abounding about Penguin Software for some time now. It all started with a report in Robot PD's catalogue disc news section that Penguin Software was about to close. According to Richard Fairhurst, any new releases into the public domain by David Carter, the originator of the Amiga Graphics discs, will be made through Robot PD.



Is Robot PD set to close?

Robot PD, the UK's largest and most innovative library may be set to close down due to Richard Fairhurst going to university in September. Richard fears that he will not have time to do both, and as his education is more important, it may result in Robot either closing or running a vastly reduced service.

If this does happen, it will be a sad day for the CPC PD scene as Robot has been responsible for writing and importing some of the best PD around. As far as I know, the only person to be happy about seeing Robot go would be Alan Scully.

I have recently heard from Graeme Chesser, Scull SL's librarian. He has told me lots of interesting new developments at Scull SL.

The first development is the opening of the library to all and sundry, not just subscribers to CPC Domain disc-zine. Subscribers will be entitled to half price PD.



Graeme is currently awaiting permission from Alan Scully to go ahead with this idea, but this shouldn't be a problem as Alan is taking more of a back seat due to the pressures of his work at uni.

Scull have also scrapped the lending system. This has now been replaced with a normal library system.

3.5" discs take off in PD land.

The 3.5" format for PD distribution is really taking off. Another 3 libraries have adopted the format. The table below shows the varying formats which each library can supply PD on.

	Presto	Scull	Demon	Tuck
Data (1)	X	X	X	X
Data (2)	X	X		
MS800 (2)	X			
MS800 (4)	X			
Romdos (4)		X	X	X

The numbers in brackets show how many normal sides of a 3" disc can be fitted onto the 3.5" disc.

Both Tuck and Demon suffer from the problem of not having a side switch, which means that side B can only be accessed from Romdos. If you don't have a side switch, then both Presto and Scull can supply you with PD just on side A, using a data format. Presto can supply you with 2 normal sides on side A using an MS800 format. All the libraries except Presto can supply you with PD on a 4 sided Romdos format which does not need a side switch, but does need Romdos and Ramdos.

Matt.

The Big Scene.

The latest news from the world



outside the Public Domain scene.

Goodbye ACU, hello CPC Attack.

Let's face it, it had to happen. After seven years of being the most boring magazine in existence, it has finally folded. The magazine however was one of the last outposts that stopped serious software from going right down the pan on the CPC. In its long history, the mag never gave in to Amstrad Action's tendency to cater for the lowest common denominator.

In ACUs place will come CPC Attack, an altogether different magazine which, from what has been seen of it, gives the impression of being more in the direction of Amstrad Action.

The Public Domain Column, which has brought life to the CPC PD scene will be continued. However, many will now be fearing for the future of serious software coverage in the glossy magazines. It would seem that this has now been finally dropped by the commercial world and left to the PD scene to pick up the pieces.

Here at Presto, we wish CPC Attack every success and we hope that the awful problem of distribution that ACU had will be ironed out. (The nearest stockist to me was 40 miles away.)

Sorry Codemasters.

Well, at least I can admit my mistakes. Last month I brought you news of a game called Striker and the Crypts of Chaos, which used full advantage of the Plus machine's extra features. Since then, CodeMasters have decided to change the name to Striker and the Crypts of Trogan. Presumably this is to distance it from the Switchblade games, which were written by the same authors.

Microstyle misery.

Microstyle, the largest producer of 3.5" second drives for the CPC have had a lot of problems in filling the huge amount of orders they have been having recently. Many customers have complained of poor service and long waits for delivery. To help tackle the problem, Microstyle have withdrawn their ads from the last two issues of AA and ACU to try and slow things

down. If you are looking for a Microstyle drive, with MS800 software. (in Presto's opinion these are the best type.) you would be best advised to get your drive from GVL Microform, 191 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 4AE. Tel. 0772 701248 Fax. 0772 703131.

GX4000 cartridges seen in Shifnal.

For all of you desperately seeking some cartridge software, fear not. The Trade in Post (0952 462135) can offer cartridge software covering most titles at £14.99 for carts with no box or instructions or £24.99 for ones with everything. They are also running a special deal for 10 mixed unboxed carts for only £100.00. The Trade in Post also stock quite a variety of other items of CPC hardware. In fact I even bought a modulator (gold dust) from them a few months ago.

AA to blow the lid on Fanzines.

Look out for the June edition of Amstrad Action. It should be running a feature on the CPC fanzines. Hopefully Presto News will be included in this article, so no longer will PN be the best kept secret since Rush. You see, you've never heard of them. That's because it is a well kept secret.

Among the other fanzines that should be included are Print-out, AOK, Playmates, Artificial Intelligence and CPC Domain. Trying my hardest not to be cynical here, but am I the only person thinking that the bulk of this article will be devoted to the usual Scully-plugging fashion that we have come to expect from AA?

ADVERT.

PRESTO is Proud to Present.....

THE CARTRIDGE SWAPPING LIBRARY.

For all PLUS and GX4000 owners.

See the Consoles and Cartridge page for details.

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Letters Page.

Where your problems can be shared and your views can be aired.



I was extremely surprised at the quality of the Presto catalogue. In fact I am ordering two sides for instant review in AI! With so many new libraries making no contribution to the CPC scene by just copying other libraries - exactly, DON'T LET THEM DO IT. Them ones that ask for your library and give nothing in return! it is nice to see someone putting some effort into a library. Keep up the quite literally PD-tastic work, mate. Enclosed are two copies of AI, I hope you enjoy them. There is no reason why the two magazines should be breaking down into street brawling.

Smoke me a kipper, I'll be back for breakfast.

Tim Blackburn, Ed. Artificial Intelligence Fanzine.

Matt: Thanks for the praise Tim, I am glad that we can be friendly rivals. It would be very childish to have a feud. Are you listening AS and RF? Don't worry about me giving away my library to some wastrel, all the libraries that I swap with swap with me on a one for one basis. This is quite handy as I am one of the larger libraries of those I swap with, so I can call the shots even more. As for you reviewing Presto discs in Artificial Intelligence, feel free to review the ones you've ordered. I will also send you some other stuff for review that you probably haven't seen before.

Please find enclosed cheque for six quid for a six month subscription to Presto News. It is very good, especially the layout of the pictures with the text around it. Was the piccie of the GX4000 taken on your kitchen floor or something?

Graeme Chesser (Scull SL)

Thanks for the subscription and the praise Graeme. The piccy of the GX wasn't taken on the floor in the kitchen. I did want to do this but those carrier bags that always seem to congregate around the rubbish bin because you can't be bothered to take the rubbish out kept getting in the way.

I have just ordered your Presto PD disc 26 (adventures 2). It is very good, but there is one file on the disc which doesn't seem to do anything. This file is called PART2.BAS It doesn't seem to do anything except make the disc drive not work. I hope this isn't some sort of virus.

James, Essex.

Don't worry James, you can rest easily PART2.BAS is just the little program that lets me use the 2nd 40 tracks of my 80 track 3.5" discs that all the PD is stored on. Usually, I try not to copy it onto peoples' orders but occasionally one slips through. There is absolutely no way that you can get a virus on your CPC. They are really confined to the 16/32 bit machines. Have a good laugh, and be glad that you've stuck with your CPC. Let's face it, you know it make sense.

Thanks for the copy of Presto News, it is very good content wise. However I think you could make a few improvements to the layout.

Why don't you produce the fanzine on a Mac or a PC using a laser printer. This will give the whole thing an air of professionalism. If you don't have access to a laser printer, I would be glad to help, as we have one in our office.

Geoff Tate.
Middlesex.

Thanks for the suggestions Geoff, though it is a bit cheeky of you to say that PN looks rough. In fact, I'll let you into a secret. Presto News is produced entirely on an 80486 50MHz PC running Wordperfect v5.1, Corel Draw v2.0 and Aldus Pagemaker, all under Windows 3. I have tweaked each program individually to make the output seem as though it has come from a CPC and a cheap 9 pin instead of the Canon 100 sheets per minute laser printer that I have in my bedroom.

Seriously though, the whole point is that it is produced entirely on a CPC using PD Software. I hope the new layout gains your approval though.

MERLE'S DEMO PAGE.

Ignore the obvious.

When I was asked to do this column on multi-part demos, a few obvious ones came to mind. These were THE DEMO, The Yao Demo and The Terrific Demo. So, on this page, I won't review any of these, but instead I will introduce you to a number of multi-part demos you may not have heard of before.

Bitmap Vandals.

By LDC and OBI
Originally from Demon PD.

This demo takes up the whole side of the disc I recieved it on. It gives a professional impression right from the start with its message when you CAT the disc. Into the demo, and you will see that it is by far the best demo that LDC has ever done. This may be due to help by the other Bitmap Vandals, in particular, the main accomplice, OBI.

The demo kicks off with an excellent tune, accompanied by 2 rasters which go in opposite directions. On pressing SPACE, you go into the next part. This, at first is a screen accompanied by music which The LDC has hacked from Robocop 2. Don't worry, this demo is perfectly legal as the coders have obtained permission from Ocean to use the tune. On pressing SPACE again the music stops and a set of rasters and a scroll created using Vorspann appear. This is standard fare for Vorspann demos. Pressing the bar once again we are greeted by a remixed version of Weee's music from the Merlyn III demo. While this is playing a picture of a Lotus Esprit winks its headlights at you. After this there is another simple animation with the Weee music.

On pressing space once again we are greeted with the main greetings. This is done using Vorspann once again. After this comes another greetings scrolly, this time with some very good music. Finally there is one more Vorspann demo and then the credits.

Overall this demo does have it's moments, but some of the sections are



Hi! I'm Merle, and I'm here to write the new demo column in Presto News. This is about the 100th job I've had since I was kicked out of wizard's school for turning the lecturer into a scotter on the mining spaceship Red Dwarf. I hope I fare better in this job. Anyway, down to business. This month we look at a number of multi-part demos.

very simple, and it does rely on Andromeda's Vorspann a little heavily. Overall 65%

1st Demo.

By Keule
Originally from Demo PD.

This demo is a bit of a disappointment. Most parts of it are simple Mode 0 screens with scrollies. The saving graces are the the music, which can be quite good, and the rock band animation.

This part features a rendition of Surfin'USA complete with flashing lights, nodding heads and kicking drums. This alone is responsible for the demos overall score of 40%

Twimblast Demo.

By Asterix and Elmsoft.
Originally from Scull SL.

By far the most professional demo reviewed here. This one has got it all. Options for English or German, colour or green screen start the demo which proceeds to kick in with an amazing multicolour raster display. Following this is a big scrolly with bouncy stick-men. On pressing SPACE we are treated to the best bit. This section features split rasters, Pseudo rasters, brilliant music and an overscan screen and scrolly that doesn't make a modulator go mono.

This part has a few surprises. Firstly you can alter the rasters in the scrolly, you can also change the scrolly's height. The next surprise is the greets. Instead of sitting through all of them, they are selected with a separate demo which allocates each greet a different key. Each greet is accompanied by excellent music.

This demo is a must for all demo collectors. It really must be commended for the last part which overcomes the annoying mono modulator problems. This was probably because the writer Asterix uses an MP2 himself. A classic in our time? Well, not exactly, but definitely enough to warrant 85%

Merle.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH.

Our regular opportunity to let other PD librarians have their say.

Before we start.

Aha I hear you all cry, a new column in Presto News, and one that I plan to make a regular feature of. I first thought of it after I had read through the first issue of Presto News, and I thought, "well, all well and good, but isn't it just a tad biased? Yes, I am prepared to admit that all the plugs for Presto PD in issue 1 did have all the subtlety of a melon, so for issue 2 I decided to get a few other PD librarians on side and get them to plug their libraries as well. So here goes.

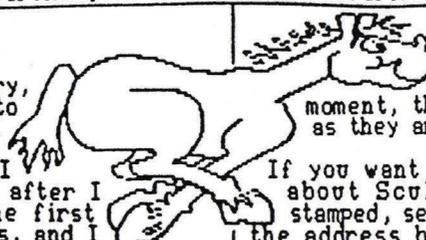
SCULL SL.
Librarian: Graeme Chesser.

The aims of Scull SL (Software Library) are simple - to provide CPC users with quality public domain software WITHOUT making a profit and to help support the Amstrad CPC and keep it alive for many years to come.

As many commercial companies decide to give up the ghost with the CPC market, many users of this great machine also give up and go out and buy the latest console with games at half the price of the machine itself. This is where Scull SL comes in. We want to stop people from wasting their money on inferior machines and to keep the existing Amstrad fans from making the demise even quicker.

I first started out in the PD scene running a small library called 3DPD. I did this because I enjoy using my CPC and I'm on it non stop, so I thought "what the hell, let's give this PD lark a try." Some time in february I recieved a phonecall from Alan Scully (Editor of Amstrad Action. Ops er CPC Domain - Ed.) He said that he was very busy in university and he needed someone to run Scull SL for him. I pondered over this idea for a few microseconds and immediately blurted out a big "YES!" and that's how I came to drop 3DPD and take over Scull.

At the moment Scull is only open to CPC Domain subscribers, but I find this very unfair, after all, not everyone can afford a subscription and so are left out in the cold. At the moment I plan to get Alan Scully's permission to



open up the library to everyone once again. However, for the moment, things will have to stay as they are.

If you want some more information about Scull SL, just send me a stamped, self addressed envelope at the address below and I will be most happy to help you.

Presto's opinion.

There was a time, not so long ago, in the world of CPC PD that the word SCULL was considered to be a swear word. This mainly was due to the fact that Alan Scully seemed to be doing an awful lot, getting reports in AA nearly every month, launching CPC Domain, starting his own non PD software business etc. All this led many people to believe that Alan was raking in the money, at everyone elses expense. This tends to go against the fabled "True spirit of PD." Looking at this more objectively though, perhaps much of the animosity between other PD figures and Scull was simply a case of jealousy. After all, Scull SL is one of the largest (101 double sided collections.) libraries in the UK and other libraries do not like to be outdone.

Now that Graeme Chesser has taken over from Alan, most libraries have dropped their grievances and given Scull another chance. The PD buying public have always known that Scull have always been a good library to deal with, and have a varied selection of quality PD. The average PD buyer in the street has never had any cause for a beef with Scull, so why should all the other libraries? Who knows? All I can say is that you have heard it from the horse's mouth, and it sounds pretty good doesn't it.

Recommended orders.

- ART 5 - The best piccies ever.
- GAM 1 - Croco, Drehdriss and more.
- GAM 6 - Give us a break, music break.
- ADV 3 - Eve of Shadows, Lost Phirious.

It is hard to choose 4 from 101, so drop Graeme a line for all the full details. He's a really nice chap and I wish him the best on opening up the library to all and sundry.

FN.

Consoles & Cartridges.

The latest from the Plus and GX4000 scene and much more.

Games to avoid.

Despite the amazing quality of a select few cartridge games, there have been quite a number of duffers. Many of these have been converted from original CPC versions with few enhancements to make use of the awesome power of the ASIC chip. In this issue, we will sort out the games that are best left alone.

Tin Tin on the Moon has to be one of the worst games available on cartridge. It looks and plays exactly the same as the original CPC version. In fact it is, and that was rubbish too.

Dick Tracey, surprisingly isn't a conversion job, it looks very pretty but is just a little bit awful in the gameplay stakes. The sprites are slow and jerky, a little like the plot of the original film.

Barbarian 2 was already available on budget cassette when this, an exact replica was released. It's a fairly good hack and slash type game, but if you want it, get it on tape for £3.99 and save yourself £21.00.

Batman the Movie also suffers from the 'lets make lots of money by re-releasing a budget game on cart and see which suckers buy it' syndrome. This also is a very good game, but there is nothing to stop you buying it on budget tape.

I sincerely hope that you avoid the cartridge formats of these games like you would a dose of bubonic plague. There are other rip off jobs currently available on cartridge. My advice is to check the screen shots on the reverse of the box, and if they look like they don't have any extra features, DON'T BUY.

Another Presto first!!!

Presto PD and Presto News is proud to be the first to tell you about an exciting new prospect for all cartridge users. Yes, in the spirit of offering the ultimate service for all your CPC needs, Presto is launching a CARTRIDGE SWAPPING LIBRARY. This will allow cartridge users to exchange their cartridges for a limited time for other

cartridges.

The whole thing works like this...

Firstly you send your cartridge to the usual Presto address along with cash, cheque or postal order for £1.50 to cover administration fees. With this, you should provide a list of your requests for the cart / carts that you want to borrow. You should put 4 requests as some cartridges may be a little hard to find, or maybe just too popular. The term which you lend your cart for is approximately a month.

Once you have sent your cart, you should then receive one of the carts that you requested. You are expected to keep this cartridge for a month also, after which, you return it to Presto. All carts are cleared through Presto and no carts will be returned to their owner unless they have returned all borrowed carts first. If you do not return the cart we will get very annoyed, you will be blacklisted from Presto and other PD libraries, and you won't get your original cart back. The original owner is also entitled to take legal action to get his / her cart back.

Hopefully there are no such unscrupulous people about and the cartridge library will help all those people dying to get their hands on cartridge software, but have been let down by the high street shops.

To be of further assistance to cartridge owners, anyone trying to sell carts can have a FREE advert in these pages, the only monthly column dedicated to the Amstrad Cartridge machines.

Anyone wanting further information about the cartridge swapping library or the free ad service should write to the usual address with an SAE and they will be given further details.

Beware Maverick Joystick owners.

Don't be tempted to plug the 2 leads of your Maverick into your CPC and GX at the same time. I did while both were switched on. Once I flicked the switch the GX blew up completely and the CPC had to have nearly £70 worth of repairs done. Matt.

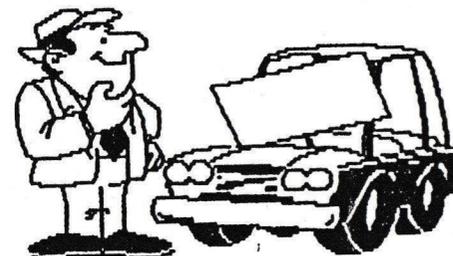
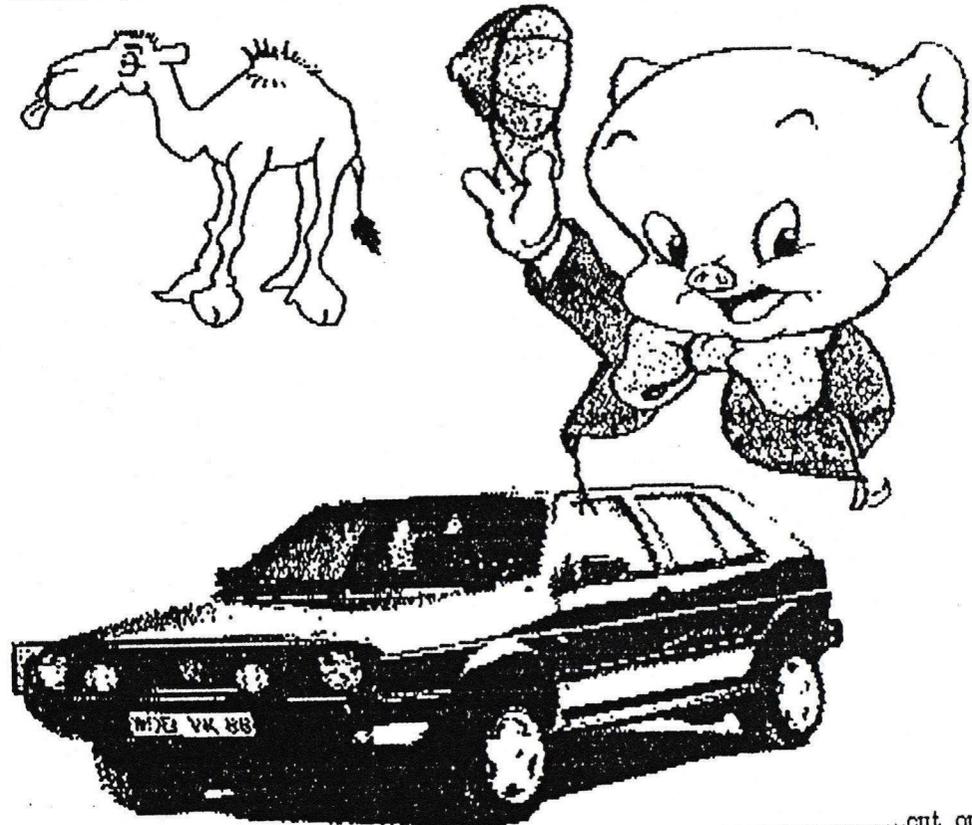
CLIP...CLIP...CLIP...

SO, YOU'VE JUST GOT INTO DTP, you've got a copy of Powerpage from Robot PD, and you've created your first DTP'd page. Let's face it, it is pretty dull isn't it? That is because you haven't got any pictures.

What you need is some clip-art, but where do you get it from? Well, you could get it from MJC or SD Microsystems and pay over a tenner for a couple of discs of it, or you could contact your friendly PD library. PD

libraries with a good selection of clips are Demon, Presto, Robot and Scull. The quality of this stuff is all as good as you would get commercially. Much of it has been imported from Europe, or converted from digitised screens.

I would guess that there are about 2000 pieces of clip-art currently doing the rounds in the UK PD libraries. It is something you can't have enough of, so get ordering some now.



...cut out...
2 free selections of clip-art from Presto PD.

Use this voucher and save 50p

ADDICTION TO PD SOFTWARE: THE HORRIFYING TRUTH.

As the CPC Public Domain scene expands, so does the risk from one of the greatest threats to the minds of the nation's youth.

Once again seeking out the exclusives, Presto News brings you the full nightmare story of these poor thousands of tortured souls.

PD sells, but who's buying?

The majority of victims of this cruel addiction are likely to be male, between the ages of 12 and 20. PD addiction is particularly prevalent in young people as the adolescent brain provides a much more comfortable nesting place for its evil.

The unfortunate addict is at first unaware of what is happening to him or her. S/he thinks that s/he has found a brand new hobby to get stuck into, little do they know, that their psyche is being eaten away by an insatiable lust for new PD software.

PD kills, so who's dying.

Once the addiction has taken a grip, the victim is left a quivering wreck, a mere shadow of his or her former self, who's emotions hinge on whether or not strange brown packages arrive through the door. Eventually, the victim's speech will become incoherent to all Non PD-ers. As the mind deteriorates so does the body,

as the victim spend somuch time in the green glow of the CPC monitor, s/he comes to suffer from radiation sickness as well as malnutrition. The eyes retract into the head, the skin becomes pale and eventually grey. Death is a slow process.

IS YOUR CHILD ADDICTED TO PD SOFTWARE?

Spot the symptoms.

1. Intense excitement when post is delivered.
2. Nervousness and agitation if kept away from their CPC for long periods of time.
3. Violent mood swings, especially when the words 'Commercial Software' are uttered.
4. Depression when no post is delivered to them.
5. Screams of excitement from behind bedroom doors when packages are delivered.
6. Letters start arriving in Jiffy bags.

Is there a cure?

So far, doctors in Britain, Japan and the USA have been working non stop to help save the lives of PD software's many victims. So far, none of the attempts have been successful.

Being a mental addiction, rather than a physical one, the victim must first want to give up. This is where the problem lies. CPC PD is so good that the victim doesn't want to give it up, s/he is oblivious to the affects that the stuff is having on his/her body.

Many parents have found that their unfortunate offspring have responded to positive encouragement. If an interest is expressed in what the child is doing, meals and vitamins can be slipped in.
Matt.

THE BEST PD IN TOWN.

We take a look at the best PD progs in a particular field. This month the best graphical programs are singled out.

Another broken promise.

In the last issue's THE BEST PD IN TOWN' feature I promised you that this week we would round up the best serious software. I was soon to find out that this was foolish. After all, where do you start? Also, when I listed the best programs, most of them were graphical, so this month we have a somewhat artistic feel to the column.

Powerpage v1.3

Originally from Robot PD.

Not only is this the best graphical program, it is also the best CPC public domain program full stop. It could easily pass for an expensive commercial package, yet author Richard Fairhurst has most kindly donated it to the public domain rather than make his millions with it.

If you have been on Mars for a while, you won't already know that it is a desktop publishing program, nay, suite of programs which manages to see off all the competition including PM Deluxe, Advanced DTP, Edition 1 and PM+. The program's strength lies in it's high degree of compatability with other programs, both in the public domain and the commercial world. Put simply, you can import just about anything into Powerpage. Standard screens, Stop Press compatible clip-art, standard fonts, Stop Press big fonts, ASCII text with an option for embedded style codes and much more.

The program really does live up to its its name. It certainly is a POWERful PAGEmaker. In fact, this entire magazine was produced using it. Now if that isn't proof enough, you probably require a good clubbing with a blunt instrument.

Mini Print Shop.

Originally from Robot PD.

If Powerpage was responsible for the layout of issue 2, then Mini Print Shop was responsible for most of the graphics in issue 1. It is an extremely good program that lets you design screens using two headline fonts and over 200 pieces of small clip-art. These can then be printed or saved.

Most impressive results can be obtained by loading the screens into an art package, or into a DTP like Powerpage. The program is not over user friendly, but once you've got the hang of it, you really will wonder what you did without it.

GPaint v1.42e

Originally from Robot PD.

Robot PD seem to have the edge when it comes to graphical programs don't they. This art package was translated by librarian Richard (that name sounds familiar) Fairhurst, although some of the menus are unavoidably still in the native German. This isn't much of a problem as there are pictorial icons to point your little arrow at so everything is fairly straight forward.

So, what can GPaint do then? Well, just about anything except make a cup of tea. It allows painting in all modes, using editable fills and brushes. It uses standard screen files that GPaint doesn't need a separate palette file for. This makes loading mode 2 screens into Powerpage really easy. Allowing you to make changes to a Powerpage page that PP isn't quite subtle enough to handle.

All the usual art package features are there including fill, circle, box, erase, spraycan etc. as well as a few features that come in handy such as simple disc utilities, a selection of proportional fonts, patterned fills and magnifying glass. All in all, GPaint is only beaten by Advanced Art Studio, and it gives that a fair run for its money.

Mconvert

Origin: Unknown.

This is probably one of the most useful little programs you are likely to find, even though it only takes up 1k. It allows multiface users to convert multiface screens to standard ones, which can then be loaded into an art package and printed or messed about with. Endless fun can be had defacing game loading screens in this manner. Paint moustaches on everyone!

Matt.

THE PRESTO PD LIBRARY CATALOGUE SUMMARY.

The part of the magazine where all our claims to impartiality fall by the wayside and we get on down to some serious plugs for Presto PD.

Disc No.	Title	Some of the programs on the disc, or a description.
Games.		
1	Games 1	Box Clever, Croco Magneto, Total Eclipse Trainer...
2	Games 2	Drehdriss, Space Froggy, Firefox, Whack Attack...
13	Games 3	AA Tetris, Timebomb and loads more BASIC games.
14	Games 4	Amstrad vs Sinclair, Kill 'em all...
38	Games 5	Polish Tetris, Wipeout, Dotman, Tanx...
49	Games 6	Forcefield, Italian Campaign, Merlin, Scabby...
58	Tetris	Every PD version of Tetris on the CPC.
62	Games 7	Mac 2, Tennis, Soccer Management Sim demo...
67	Crosswords	200k crossword compiler by K. Mortimer.
68	Board Games	Also by K Mortimer.
69	Games 8	Raider, Space Storm, Red Ore 2, Postman...
70	Games 9	Krazy Chaser, Mastermind, 464 board games.
73	Games 10	Galaxians, Roland, Sun Crosswords, Gribbet...
75	Games 11	3D Priz, Pirates, Lucky Squares...
76	Games 12	Data PD Soccer Management game, more BASIC games.
99	CP/M Games	Games for CP/M only. Tornado, Quatris, Pacman...
101	Games 13	Give us a break, Give us a music break.
Adventures.		
15	CPM adventures	Island, Base, Holiday 1, 2 & 3.
19	Adventures 1	Conch, Dick Ed, Quest, Summer camp, Dungeons of hell
26	Adventures 2	Death, Doom, Spacey, Welladay and more Simon Avery.
41	Adventures 3	Castle, Crazy, The Ring, Darkness, Simsoft promo...
47	Adventures 4	Eve of Shadows. (whole side graphic adventure.)
48	Adventures 5	Cave of the Bew Bews, Quad X, Escape, The Race...
50	Adventures 6	Storm Mountain, Lost Shadow, Talisman demo...
55	Adventures 7	Adult 2 & 3, Firestone, Jason and more S.Avery.
56	Adventures 8	Cacodemon, Secrets of Ur, Largo Grann...
57	Adventures 9	Lost Phirovs Trilogy by vidipix.
66	Adventures 10	Geno (massive) and Once a Knight is Enough.
90	Adventures 11	The Coin, Orkon, Rouge Midget, Midworld...
92	Adventures 12	Hoot, Treasure, Kidnapped, Revenge demo...
Clip-Art.		
5	Clips 1	Stop Press / Powerpage format clip-art.
6	Clips 2	And again.
7	Clips 3	And again.
8	Clips 4	And again.
17	Clips 5	And again.
18	Clips 6	Stop Press format and clips from Printmaster.
47	Clips 7	Stop Press / Powerpage format clip-art.
Serious.		
3	Utilities 1	Rambase 2, Screen Squeeze 23, Mini Print Shop...
4	Utilities 2	The rest of Mini Print Shop.

Disc No.	Title	Some of the programs on the disc, or a description.
9	Utilities 3	Gpaint, Anti Multiface, Protext demo (+ patches).
10	Utilities 4	Labelbase, Telephone cost, Car origins...
20	Utilities 5	Powerbase 2, Basic +, loads of fonts...
23	Office	Everything you need in a computerised office.
35	Disc Utilities	A full directory of disc utilities.
37	Utilities 6	Fantasy Mapmaker, Power assembler, Rambase 3...
39	Utilities 7	Banner Mania. Create big banners. Includes fonts.
40	Utilities 8	Diary, Edition 1 DTP (includes fonts)...
45	Utilities 9	Robot PD Animator, Pagemaker Plus...
86	Utilities 10	J.W.Brown's suite of disc and hacking utilities.
89	Utilities 11	IsPELL, Paul Dwerryhouse's Spell Checker.
95	Utilities 12	Alyssa, Flik, B-ASIC (for Plusses), Supersonic...
102	Tiny DTP	A shareware DTP.
103	PD Planner	A spreadsheet program by P. Dwerryhouse.
Slideshows.		
27	Amiga Graphics 2	David Carter's second collection of digitisations
28	Amiga Graphics 2	from the Commodore Amiga.
29	Amiga Graphics 1	The first of the Amiga Graphics series.
30	Amiga Graphics 1	Side 2 of A.G. 1.
31	Slideshow 1	Penguin Software's TV Logos selection.
32	Slideshow 2	Digital Women (clean) and Pic.
33	Slideshow 3	Pics from the Manchester Amstrad User Group.
43	Slideshow 4	MPD Pix 1. Hand drawn pictures.
44	Slideshow 5	MPD Pix 1. Side 2.
77	Slideshow 6	Presto's Star Trek slideshow.
78	Slideshow 7	Presto's Neighbours slideshow.
81	Slideshow 8	Demon Slideshow.
82	Slideshow 9	Demon Slideshow side 2.
85	Slideshow 10	Fractals slideshow.
93	Slideshow 11	David Carter and Tim Blackburn hand drawn pics.
94	Slideshow 12	Nullos Cracker Rock-Show.
105	Slideshow 13	Digi Vidi 2000. Digitised from TV shows.
106	Slideshow 14	The best hand drawn artwork ever. By anon.
107	Slideshow 15	Overscan (no border) slideshow.
108	Slideshow 16	Runstrad caricatures slideshow.
112	Slideshow 17	Turtlemuck. A hilarious mickey take of the turtles
Demos.		
12	Demos 1	Black Mission 3, Crackers fight, Violin...
42	Demos 2	Vorspann demo maker, Lumberjack, Hob&Gobi...
51	Demos 3	BMC Saurian Copyparty, PC1512, Beat...
59	Demos 4	The Yao demo. Full side of disc.
61	Demos 5	Logon System Revolution, Tom&Jerry meets Kreator...
71	Demos 6	THE DEMO by LOGON SYSTEM. The best Demo ever.
72	Demos 7	THE DEMO side 2. (128k only)
74	Demos 8	McPaddy, Marilyn III, Crash, Digi Demo, CRTC 3.
79	Demos 9	Four animations from David Carter. (128k only)
80	Demos 10	Three more 128k animations from David Carter.
87	Demos 11	68000 Killer, Musique, The story of Ma Baker...
88	Demos 12	Keule 1st demo, Bart Simpson, Spock & Kirk...
91	Demos 13	Cocktail shaker, Iron Bidon, Rebound demo...
110	Demos 14	Twinblast multi-part demo, Sam Fox (Clean).
111	Demos 15	Bitmap Vandals multi-part by OBI and LDC.
CP/M		
24	CP/M 1	Newsweep, Poor man's spell check, ZSM, Calendar...
54	CP/M 2	VDE, Andybase, Food inventory and more.
96	Forth 83	A complete programming language. 3.5" drive needed.
97	Printmaster	A utility for making cards, posters etc. Not
98	Printmaster	WYSIWYG though. Complete with clip-art.

Disc No.	Title	Some of the programs on the disc, or a description.
100	CP/M 3	CPC to PCW and PC transfers...
	Other things.	
11	Chests	Loads of pokes and a multiface poke lister.
16	Miscellaneous 1	Just about everything you could imagine.
21	Diversions	IQ test, Jokes, Eliza, Welsh tour guide...
22	Mini Demos	CETC music, Paolo's flags, More BASIC demos.
25	WAVE price list	WAVE's price list on a disc.Plus NSWAP to unsqueeze
34	Advanced Art	Pictures, fills, brushes for Advanced Art Studio.
36	Music & Education	Musical and educational programs.
52	Computext	A teletext like computer tutor, By LDC.
53	Miscellaneous 2	More misc programs. Many graphical.
60	Mini Demos 2	LDCs collection of mini demos.
63	MPD Megamix	Not very full. Some pokes and short programs.
64	MPD Megamix	Side 2 of MPD Software's megamix.
65	MPD Printer	Another not very full disc from MPD. Printer utils.
83	DW1	The famous PD discs from David Wild. Including
84	DW2	DESK, the WIMP system.
104	Mini Demos 3	Loads of mini demos chained by LDC.
109	Miscellaneous 3	Loads of Amstrad Action Type ins.

THE COMPLETE PRESTO PD SERVICE.

Take a look at what is offered by Presto PD, and you'll know that it makes sense.

Large selection.

As you have just seen, the Presto PD Library is big. This gives you far more choice when it comes to choosing your PD.

7 day reply guarantee.

Providing that your postage and return postage is first class, Presto PD guarantees that your PD will be returned within 7 days. If it is late, you will be compensated with a free selection of PD for every day that your package is late.

3.5" discs that everyone can use.

Using MS800 means that anyone with a 3.5" drive can use our 3.5" PD.



1st Prize.

- A three month Presto News subscription.
- 5 Free selections from Presto PD.
- 2 Commercial games.

2nd Prize.

- A free copy of Presto News.
- 2 Free selections from Presto PD
- A commercial game.

All other correct entries.

- A free selection from Presto PD.

The Question!

Contrary to popular belief, Presto PD and Presto News do not take their names from a supermarket. They are in fact, named after an album by the editor's favourite rock band.

The question is...

- a) What is the name of the rock band?
- b) Are they...American?
British?
Canadian?
French?
Brazilian?

Send your answers to the usual address before the 20th July 1992.

*** Please note, PD Librarians can not enter this competition. You'll have to swap with Presto to get free PD.



This man is happy!

He is happy because he is a regular contributor to Presto News.

You could be this happy too!

Presto News needs regular contributors of articles. Anybody wanting to contribute can send their article as a complete Powerpage file or on paper. All articles will be rewarded with selections from the Presto PD library. Sorry, I can not pay money for articles, but I'm sure that writing one will make you happy. It worked for him, why not you?

THE EDMUND SPICER STORY!

How did I start?

I got my CPC 6128 in the Christmas of 1986. I remember the first thing I tried to do was load the games discs that came with the computer. They were the sort that were loaded by typing jcpm. I couldn't for the life of me find the character. In the end I found it by accident. You will discover most things about your CPC when you are not particularly looking for them.

I've been writing software for the PD scene for a while now. Why did I start? How did I start? All these questions and more (that I haven't thought of yet) will be answered in this edition of PRESTO NEWS. STAY TUNED!



This is probably as near a likeness to me as you'll get on any clip art!!!

PD Encounters.

My first encounter with a PD library was with Robot PD. I wrote to them and sent a tape and a postal order. Within 5 days my tape was returned. I then ordered another tape, and this one took about 2 weeks to return. The more I ordered the longer it seemed to arrive. One day I sent off a tape, and 9 months later it still hadn't returned. I sent off another tape and there was no sign of it either. Even if Richard Fairhurst returned my tapes right now, he wouldn't be able to cash the cheques, and postal rates have gone up twice since then.

Getting back to the point, on these missing tapes, I had sent some of the programs which I had written with the intention of donating them to the public domain. The first proggy I ever wrote was a shoot em up called RED ORE.

While the strange case of the missing tapes was going on, I decided to send some of my PD to other libraries. Reading through a copy of ACU (R.I.P - Ed.) I found details of 2 other libraries. These were DPD (Now called Penguin Software) and Data. Unfortunately nobody knew DPD's address. I tried everywhere, I asked ACU, who told me to phone Alan Scully, who was no help either. It was hopeless, so I sent all my PD to Data PD (Also R.I.P - Ed.) and there got to be a regular pattern. I would send him a disc with some of my programs on it, and he would return my disc with more

PD on it a few days later. Many other libraries including Presto got my programs from the Data librarian Tony Kingsmill. (Err, no I didn't. I got them mostly from Daniel York of Yorkie PD - Ed.) I have sent my programs to a few other libraries but Data PD have probably got the most as they are the key distributors of my programs.

The Push.

The man who really gave me "The Push" so to speak was K.N. Bond from Leeds

who has written loads of adventures for homegrown and PD sources, including The Island, The Base, The Spiro Legacy and some others that I can't seem to remember. He was offering free copies of his PD games The Island and The Base in ACU, so I wrote to him and asked for a copy. He sent them to me, and I discovered that they were CP/M adventures. They were very good (I know, but are they difficult or what! - Ed.) and I thought "Cor, how did he do that?" Ken told me that they were written with The P.A.W. (Professional Adventure Writer) I bought this program and I found it really heavy going at first, but now it is a bit easier. Since then I have written many many adventures using the P.A.W and the G.A.C. Matt has quite a few of them in the Presto PD Library. If you want to find out more about them, why not order some, or read my regular column on adventuring in Artificial Intelligence.

Edmund's games.

Presto PD has a load of Edmund Spicer games within its vast stock list. Some of the best are listed below.

Adventures...

- Holiday 1,2 & 3. (For CP/M)
- Minette (For CP/M)
- The Well (Graphic adventure.)
- The Ring (Graphic adventure.)
- Cave of the Bew Bews (Graphic adventure.)

PN

Slideshow special.

Amiga Graphics 1 & 2.

By David Carter. Originally from Penguin Software.

These 2 discs were reviewed in issue 1. All the pictures were vidi digitised from graphics on the Commodore Amiga. As with all vidi digitised pictures, the quality is superb. Some of the screens are famous pictures that were seen around the launch of the Amiga to show off its capabilities, such as The Mona Lisa and Tutankhamen. Other screens including all of Amiga Graphics 2 were digitised from Amiga PD sources. All screens are in Mode 1 and squeezed.

There are absolutely loads of slideshow discs in the public domain. We put them to the test.

1. All the screens are squeezed. 70%

TV Logos.

By David Carter and Richard Fairhurst. Originally from

Penguin Software.

A mixed bag slideshow this one, it features mostly traced images from the TV screen. This was presumably before David Carter got his vidi digitiser. Because these were once supplied in an unsqueezed form, more screens have been added by David and some have been hand drawn by Richard Fairhurst. Although the slideshow is called TV logos, these only make up about half of this collection. 65%

MPD Pix 1.

By Martin Elliott. Originally from MPD Software.

These pictures were all hand drawn by MPD's librarian with his light pen. The subject matter is to the greater part abstract and the pictures are not particularly stunning. They are in Mode 2 and uncompressed. 25%

Digi Women and Pic.

Imported by R Fairhurst. Originally from Robot PD.

The digi women slideshow at one time took up a whole side of a disc, however in the interests of decency and as not to deprive everyone from the rest, the X rated pictures were removed. To fill the gap there is a smaller slideshow of cartoons called 'pic' The quality of both slideshows is excellent. Note that in some libraries these 2 slideshows are distributed separately. All screens are digitised in mode 2 and are squeezed. 75%

Star Trek (The Next Generation.)

By Matthew Gullam. Originally from Presto PD.

This slideshow features what I believe to be the best programme on TV. The pictures are all high quality vidi digitised screens from the hit sci-fi TV show. All your favourite characters from the Enterprise crew are here, accurately digitised into 4 colour mode

Demon Slideshow.

By David Long. Originally from Demon PD.

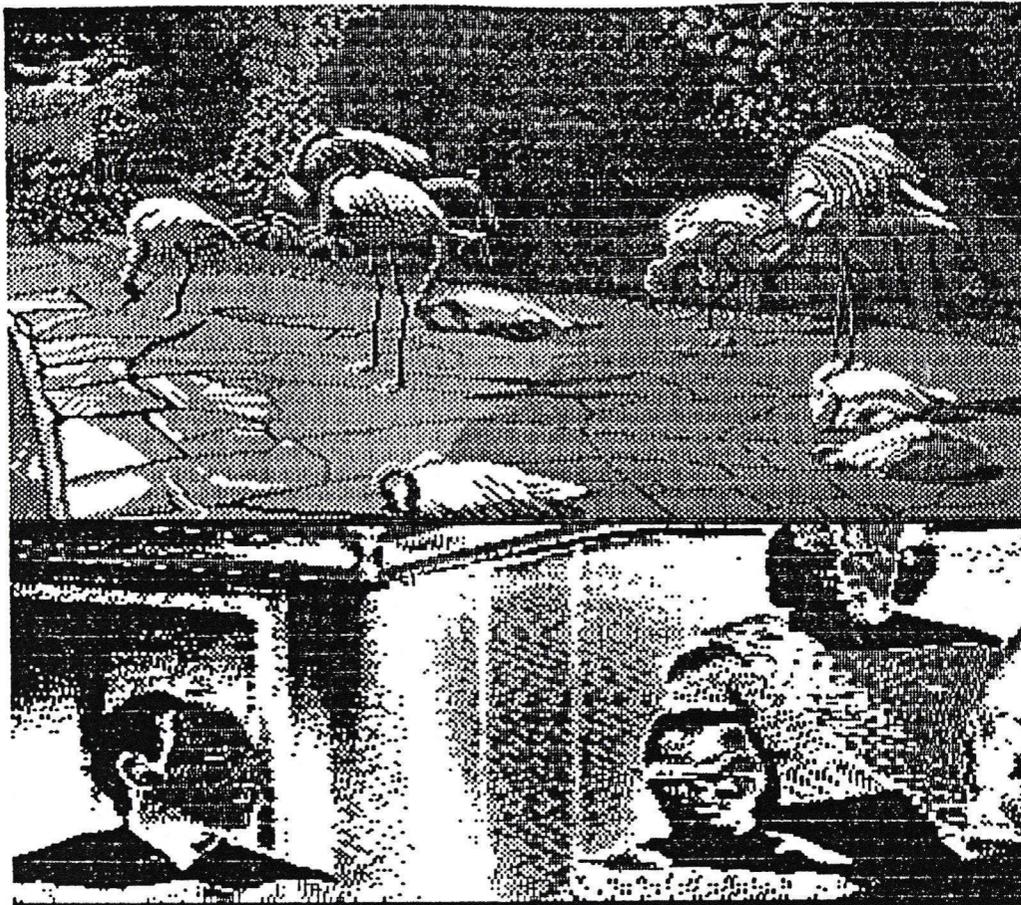
This slideshow has, as far as I know, got the most amount of screens in any slideshow in the public domain. However, quantity does not always mean quality. Many of the screens are promos of sorts of the programs in the Demon PD library. As a promo disc it is good, however it is hard to imagine a screen full of fonts to be aesthetically pleasing and other screens are similarly dire. The disc does have some saving graces however, namely some of the screens generated by mini demos etc. 30%

Hand Drawn Pictures.

By an unknown artist. Originally from Scull SL.

In all my years of CPCing I have yet to come across graphics that have looked this good. The screens are all in mode 1, but colour shading techniques give the impression of there being many more. The result is the best hand drawn artwork you will ever see on the CPC. In fact it is better and more detailed than digitised screens. I know that it is a terrible cliché, but these screens really have to be seen to be believed. The art itself is also of the highest standard, obviously done by an enormous talent. Such a shame that he or she has chosen to be anonymous. 100%

Slideshow special.

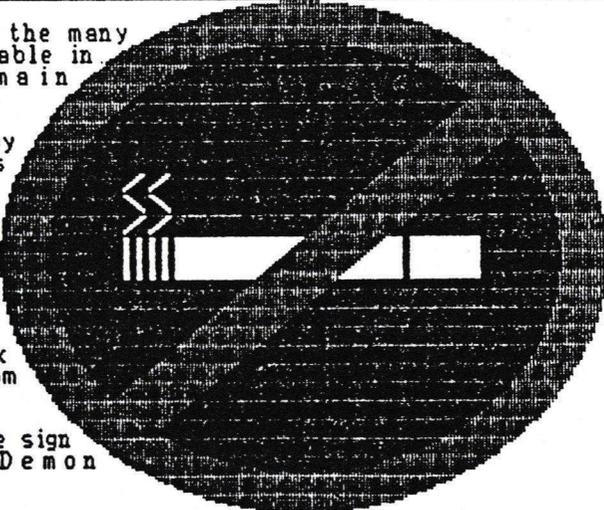


Just some of the many screens available in public domain slideshow discs.

Top: Flamingo by an anonymous artist, from Hand drawn artwork. Originally available from Scull.

Middle: One of the Star Trek slideshow from Presto.

Bottom: A little sign from the Demon Slideshow.



Slideshow special.



NULLOS CRACKER PRESENTE



Top: The Digi Women slideshow from Robot.
Middle: The Nullos Cracker Rock-show, also from Robot.

M.A.U.G. Slideshow.

By various people.
Originally from M.A.U.G.

This selection of pictures was compiled by the Manchester Amstrad User Group. All of the screens were hand drawn by members of the group. There are a few that are of good quality, however none stand out in particular. The screens are in various modes and are uncompressed.
30%

Tim and David Slideshow.

By Tim Blackbond and David Carter.
Originally from Scull SL

Tim Blackbond, editor of PN's friendly rival Artificial Intelligence is a man of many talents. Not only is he a writer, but he is also an artist. This

selection features a number of hand drawn pictures. They are mostly cartoony. Many of them have been featured in Amstrad Action's picture gallery pages over the last few months. All are hand drawn and are of excellent quality. The David Carter hand drawn pics are the same as can be found among the TV logos slideshow. It is my guess that these were put in to fill the disc. These also are of good quality.
70%

Neighbours.

By Matthew Gullam
Originally from Presto PD.

What can I say. It's the worst soap ever, they're vidi digitised, squeezed and in mode 1. They feature all your favourites including some dead ones.
65%

Slideshow special.

Rock Show.

By Nullos Cracker.
Originally from Robot PD.

When is a slideshow not a slideshow? When it's a demo of course! This slideshow features a number of mode 2 digitised pictures of famous British and American rock stars, and some French ones that nobody has heard of. Well, you say, what makes this a demo then? Well, it's the way that the pictures appear on the screen. Some scroll, some materialise and others unfold. The whole effect is rather nice. All the pictures are squeezed.
80%

Caricatures.

By Runstrad.
Originally from Scull SL.

Yet another French slideshow. This one is full of caricatures (a bit like Spitting Image - patronising Ed.) of famous and not so famous (maybe in France) people. The screens are all well presented, although the first one is full of text in French. This is of little consequence (especially if you speak the language) as all the screens are squeezed. This selection can be rather funny.
80%

Digi Vidi ~~2000~~.

Originally from Scull SL.

This is yet another slideshow which shows the amazing powers of Rombo's Vidi Digitiser. In it's time a top selling add-on for the CPC, The Vidi has been developed since for the ST, Amiga, PC and Archimedes. Well, I'm full of facts today, but what is the slideshow like? Well, it's average. The quality of the pictures is, as ever excellent, however it has one annoying problem. All the screens are in shades of blue. Now, much as I like blue, after about 20 screens, you soon get fed up of it. The screens feature a number of TV programs such as Red Dwarf. (Brilliant!)
70%

Overscan slides.

Originally from Scull SL.

Yet another slideshow that is really a demo, or should that be the other way around? Anyway, this is most definitely

a slideshow with a difference. The difference is that there is no border! This type of screen is known in serious and demo writing circles as an overscan screen. There are only seven overscan screens on offer here because each one of them takes up a fair whack of disc space and cannot be compressed. However, all are of the most excellent quality. The subject matter is mostly fantasy but there are 2 cartoons and an excellent African landscape, truly panoramic because of the lack of border. If this wasn't enough to satisfy all of you there is also an end screen featuring a racing car and some extremely nifty music.
95%

How to make a slideshow.

There are, as we have seen, an enormous amount of slideshows for the CPC PD scene. However, being the greedy beggars that we are, we always want more of such good things. So, here it is, the Presto News guide to making a slideshow.

Talent, what's that?

If you haven't got any artistic talent then don't worry, we'll cover you later, but if you have, read on.

Firstly you have to produce some piccies. If you are artistic, you probably have an art package and have produced loads of good pictures. You'll need about 20 for a one sided slideshow, so if you don't have that many, you'd better get drawing.

If you have no talent you can use digitised screens made using a vidi, or a dart scanner. You'll also need about 20.

The big squeeze.

Your screens must be squeezed using a program like the PD SQ23. This allows more screens per disc. Once squeezed, fit onto the destination disc, but leave about 3k spare.

The loader.

Just write a program to load each screen in individually. Don't forget that palette values must be set in the loader and that SQ23'd screens must be loaded into an address (&4000 is best) and then CALLED.

Matt.

BATTLE OF THE SPELL CHECKERS.

The ultimate test of any piece of PD software is how it fares against an equivalent commercial package. To this end, we put Paul Dwerryhouse's ISPELL and the CP/M POOR MAN'S SPELLCHECKER up against one of the most powerful CP/M spell checkers, THE WORD by Oasis. This is the spellchecker that is supplied with the ultimate CP/M WP New Word 2.

In this test we shall be looking at each package in terms of dictionary size, speed and user friendliness.

	The Word	Ispell	PMSC
Price.	£70.50 incl NW.	£0.25	approx £0.08
Dictionary size.	139k	47k	48k
Words in dictionary.	45,000	15,500	16,000
Speed. (sec)	150	530	190
Edit dictionary?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Add to dictionary?	Yes	No	Yes
Hang ups on correctly spelt words	15	134	119

The speed and amount of hangups were tested on a 7k letter in plain ASCII.

So, which is best?

At first glance you would think that New Word's THE WORD is by far the best. However, the PD spell checkers do have a number of distinct advantages. Firstly there is the price. Secondly ISPELL actually goes through the document with you and lets you make on the spot changes. This is one of the main reasons for the length of time that it takes. ISPELL's only real downfall is the size of its dictionary. PMSC is fast and efficient, but is less user friendly.

Overall.

The Word - 75%
Ispell - 70%
PMSC - 65%

In all, the PD spell checkers fared very well against this monster of a commercial package. It just goes to show the value of PD software.

Matt

PRESTO PD LIBRARY

Fast, efficient and friendly service.

Over 115 selections.

Some of the best PD from the UK and Europe.

Brought to you by the staff of Presto News.

Only 25p per single sided selection.

Copyright Warning.

BC.COM, The Basic Compiler is not a Public Domain program.

Presto has now withdrawn it, and we suggest that all other libraries do the same.

It has been replaced on Presto Disc 24 with Forest Adventure.

Sorry.

USEFUL ADDRESSES.

PD Libraries.

Demon PD
47 Hilton Ave.
Hall Green
Birmingham
B28 0PE

Robot PD
2 Trent Road
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HF

Yorkie PD
11 Beechwood Ave.
St Albans
Herts
AL1 4XP

Tuck PD
15 Ravencar Road
Eckington
Sheffield
S31 9GJ

MPD Software
23 Nobes Avenue
Bridgemary
Gosport
PO13 0HS

Scull SL
44 Echline Grove
South Queensferry
West Lothian
EH30 9RU

Fanzines.

Artificial Intelligence
19 Lee Street
Liversedge
West Yorkshire
WF15 6DZ

CPC Domain (Subs)
20 Montague Road
Saltford
Bristol
Avon, BS18 3LA.

WACCI
12 Trafalgar Terr.
Long Eaton
Nottingham
NG10 1GP

Other Services.

Wow Software
78 Radipole Lane
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9RS

Adventure Swaps
c/o S. Avery
71 Fore Street
Chudleigh
S. Devon
TQ13 0HT

DEMON PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY.

47 Hilton Avenue, Hall Green, Birmingham,
B28 0PE.

- * Fast reply guaranteed
 - * Over 170 selections.
 - * 3.5" Romdos discs supported
 - * Only 50p per single side.
- Look at these fantabulous reasons to use Demon PD. What are you waiting for? Go on, be a Demon!

2nd anniversary offer: Half price PD throughout June.

Sorry!

Presto News is late!!!
How could such a terrible thing
come to happen?

We investigate.

Excuses Excuses.

Everybody knows how it is, I suppose it is just part of human nature. You know that you have got a job to do, but you just keep putting it off until tomorrow. When you finally get around to doing it, there are a thousand other things that require your attention. Whenever you try to do the job, something else crops up.

The job.

I suppose that this is the main reason for Presto News arriving over a week late through your letterbox. About five weeks ago I started work for Alfred Mc Alpine Construction so that I could get some money to keep myself in the essentials of a PD librarians life, that is, stamps, discs, padded envelopes, magazines, beer, mars bars etc, as well as the trivial things like food and board.

I leave for work each day at 7.00am and don't return until 6.30 pm as you can guess, this doesn't leave me much time to get on with writing the magazine, which now takes more time than ever before because the new format allows even more info to be packed into the pages.

On top of these restrictions, I also have to run the PD library, which can occupy all of my time on some nights, especially when I get swaps discs from other libraries.

The future.

As of next month, Presto News will be a bi-monthly magazine. Take heart though, it will include more pages than ever before.

Sorry for any inconvenience caused, I hope you let me make it up to you.

Matt.

Subscribe! Subscribe! Subscribe!

Have you enjoyed this issue of Presto News?

If so, why not treat yourself to a subscription?

Subscription Rates:

2 issues -	1.90
3 issues -	2.80
4 issues -	3.70
5 issues -	4.60
6 issues -	5.50

This includes postage and packing.

Normal price for 1 issue = 75p or 1.00 including p&p

HELPLINE.

Got a problem to do with your CPC? Well this is the place to go. Unfortunately this column is new so I'm the only Helpliner this month.

If anyone else can offer their services I would be glad to hear from you.

I can offer help in simple BASIC programming, most aspects of Public Domain and with desktop publishing using Powerpage. If you've got a problem using your 3.5" drive then I can offer help there too. I can also help you with any program in the Presto PD Library.

Matt Gullam
1 Pembroke Close
The Mount
Par
Cornwall
PL24 2BT

Tel (0726) 813084.

ALL TIME PD TOP 10.

So, what is the best PD software to get then? As ever here at Presto News we supply you with the hard facts. Err, well, we supply you with total speculation and personal opinion. So here it is.

1. Powerpage
2. Protext demo (with patches.)
3. Mini Print Shop
4. GPaint
5. Anonymous artwork.
6. Croco Magneto
7. Drehdriss
8. Ispell
9. Eve of shadows
10. The Demo

CAUSE FOR CONCERN?

With new PD libraries cropping up like mushrooms, have we reached a state of PD library saturation?

Loads of libraries.

In the last two weeks, no less than three brand new PD libraries have come to my attention. At first glance the amount of new libraries appearing might seem to be a good thing. But is it?

Copy cats.

Many of the smaller new libraries contain selections which are exact copies of selections from major libraries. Many of these selections were ordered under false pretences. (i.e. by not telling the PD librarian that they would be included in another library.)

This type of acquisition of PD takes very little effort compared to the lengths that some libraries go to to expand their catalogues. Most of the larger libraries import PD from Europe, others supplement their catalogue with the librarian's own programs.

A truly hard working PD librarian is practically glued to his or her CPC keyboard. The simple fact is that running a PD library is practically a full time job. Add to this the added pressures of swapping / writing / importing and translating PD, or writing a fanzine and the poor librarian is run off his / her feet most of the time.

Lazy librarians.

The new breed of PD librarian does not conform to this work ethic. He thinks that the PD scene owes him a living. This is not true, you only get out what you put in. Every established PD librarian knows that there is no money in running a PD library. In fact in most cases they are loss making. When these new fly by nights find this out they will crawl into a corner and die, leaving behind them unfulfilled orders and angry customers. To all these people, please don't start. It is a job best left to someone who cares.

Things you ought to know.

Production Method.

Presto News is produced mostly using Robot PD's excellent Powerpage Desktop Publishing Suite.

Graphics all come from Public Domain sources and titles come from Mini Print Shop. Some of the smaller graphics come from MPS also and are converted into Clip Art using News-Lib.

All of this is done on a CPC 6128, outputting to a Panasonic EX-P1170 9 pin printer.

Once the pages are printed, the mag is then photocopied and stapled.

The Address.

Send all your comments, letters, articles, adverts and just about everything else, to the following address...



Presto PD Library
c/o Matt Gullam
1 Pembroke Close
The Mount
Par
Cornwall
PL24 2BT

Please include an SSAE if you want a reply.

About me.

A few people have asked about me, and what I am like. As I seem the best qualified person to talk about me, here it is, the profile of your friendly PD Librarian, Fanzine Editor and Cart Swapping Librarian.



Full Name: Matthew James Gullam.

Age: 19

Height: 6' 2"

Hair: Red.

Eyes: 2

Occupation: Student taking a year off before going to Higher Ed. Currently working as a building site labourer to make ends meet.

Qualifications: 10 GCSEs, 2 A levels, BSc (Bronze Swimming Certificate.)

IQ: 137

Favourite TV progs: Red Dwarf, Star Trek (NG), Twin Peaks.

Favourite rock group: Rush.

Computing History: 1982 - TI 99 4/A, 1985 - Acorn Electron, 1986 - Amstrad CPC 6128.

Well, now that you all know a little bit about me, I'll bet you wished you had never asked.

Credits and thanks.

The following people were instrumental in getting this issue of Presto News to you. I would like to thank all of them, so here goes.

Richard Fairhurst: Thanks for writing Powerpage, without which PN would look as bad as it did last month.

Graeme Chesser, Martin Elliot, Edmund Spicer and all other contributors. Thanks for writing articles for Presto News. Keep it up.

Alfred McAlpine Construction: Thanks for the use of the photocopier.

To my girlfriend, thanks for being so understanding when I have kicked you out of my house so that I can get on and write the mag.

Tim Blackburn: Thanks for inspiring me to use Powerpage, and thanks for writing AI. Keep up all the good work. The inquisitor will most certainly NOT be knocking on your door.

Finally.

The next edition of Presto News, the world's biggest magazine that nobody has heard of will be out around the 20th of June 1992.

I'm not going to give anything away about what is going to be in it because I don't know yet myself. Needless to say it will be more of the same worthless trash. Err, brilliantly informative news packed good read.

Keep CPCing all of you. Keep the faith brothers and sisters. YO!

HOLD THE BACK PAGE.

All the bits that we forgot, plus up to the minute news.

Presto News read by 37,000 people.

Erm, well, actually Amstrad Action is read by 37,000 people and it's got a mention of Presto News in it.

The Public Image feature on CPC fanzines did feature this very organ within its pages. What it had to say was most encouraging. However Mr Peters did mention that you "Don't get many words for your wonga." This was due to the old style Presto News cut & paste layout. Now that the mag is Powerpaged your "wonga" buys you more words than ever before, and its the same price as before!

CPC Attack Shock. It's actually good.

ACU's replacement CPC Attack has finally hit the newsagent's shelves. Yes, even here in sunny Cornwall. Looking through it gives a very 'gamey' impression. However, it is only the games reviews that are laid out in this manner. Well done to editor Pat Kelly for keeping the serious elements going.

Presto News goes bi-monthly.

Yes, I'm sorry to say, that Presto News will shortly become a bi-monthly magazine. However, this isn't going to happen quite yet. The next issue will be out in about a month, but the one after that will come after two months. The reason for the change is the huge amount of work involved with the PD library, and producing the mag on a DTP, which means more words.

The bi-monthly issues will have more pages than ever before. Currently I am aiming for about 50. Whether or not I can do this without a price increase I have yet to find out. Let me know what you think. You can give me your ideas by writing to the usual address.

Alan Scully becomes a CPC recluse.

Yes, it's official. Alan Scully is no longer the editor of CPC Domain. He passed on the running of Scull SL to Graeme Chesser some time ago. What is this man going to do with his life? For someone who has been so much a part of the CPC PD scene these past few years, it seems rather strange. So far the only possible explanations have involved aliens taking over his body, or that he's turned 16 bit. I'm not

sure which is worse to be honest. The editor's job has been passed on to Simon Warford.

Who is Dr Bertram X Fegg?

This strange character has had his "How to run a PD library" article printed just about everywhere. First it was the Robot PD Disc Catalogue, then Artificial Intelligence, and now Amstrad Action. So, the bloke is famous now, but who is he really? Well, it's certainly not likely to be Bruce Forsyth, as the picture in AA indicates. My guess is that this king of all sceptics is in fact Richard Fairhurst of Robot PD. Well Richard, are you going to own up?

Library reports.

The news about the closure of Penguin Software has been confirmed. We are sad to see it go. Good luck with whatever you are doing next David.

The Robot PD news remains unconfirmed. Richard Fairhurst is still CPCing away as ever. His current plans include a 128k version of Powerpage. We can't wait here at Presto. At last, less disc accessing. The 64k version will be found in it's entirety on the AA cover tape next month. If you don't have the program, get a copy of AA, or write to Richard direct. It really is the best PD program ever.

New libraries open.

You know the old saying, "As one door closes, another opens." Well this is especially true of PD libraries. Presto News has recently heard of a load of new ones, including an adventure specialist and 2 demo specialists. More news when I have written to them to find out if they are good guys or bad guys. A current list of good guys can be found in the Useful Addresses section of this mag.

The End.

No, not really, but just the beggining. Presto News has made it to issue 2, and it's bigger, bolder and brighter than ever. Sounds like Persil Automatic.

See you all next month.

Matt
Gullam.