

IMAGES OF IMAGERY

Palette Studio, producer of Imagery (reviewed in RISC User 6:3), has announced low cost ImageArt clip art packs. Users can mix and match from a 20 disc set which includes illuminated lettering, high resolution colour scans and paint by numbers pictures for children to colour in. Each five-disc pack costs £5.00. Imagery itself is now available with a site licence for £269.85, and additional manuals can be purchased in packs of five for £7.50. For more information contact Palette Studio at 108 Smug Oak Centre, Lye Lane, Bricket



Image processing with Imagery

Wood, Herts AL2 3UG, tel. 0923 894355.

STATE MACHINE STEPS UP THE COMPETITION

State Machine has released an upgrade for its G8 colour card (see review in RISC User 6:3) to allow full animation compatibility of 16-bit Replay decompression sequences in new true 32768 colour modes. The TrueView application allows 24-bit clear files to be loaded, converted and displayed automatically. It allows panning and scaling of images larger than the screen and will cope with all formats of clear files. In addition, Acorn's ARMovie application is also supplied under licence with some sample clear files.

The upgrade is available to purchasers of the G8 card for an extra £30.00 ex. VAT, but as a special offer to existing G8 users the 16-bit upgrade is available for £20.00 ex. VAT (inc. p&p).

A further enhancement has been made to the G8 allowing all TV broadcast modes (modes 12/13 etc.) to be displayed full size on any monitor. All G8 cards now include this feature as standard. Existing G8 cards can be

upgraded for £10.00 ex. VAT, but the cost is included with the 16-bit upgrade.

For more information contact State Machine at Advanced House, 75 Upper Wellington Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 5AA, tel. 0582 483377, fax 9582 480833.

GAMES UPDATE

Aldebaran and Ego: Repton 4 are now available, and promise to keep games addicts amused for many hours to come. Aldebaran, produced by Arc Angels Software in Switzerland provides a combination of Zarch and Elite which is already proving popular despite its price of £34.90 inc. VAT. Ego: Repton 4 is the latest, and according to its producers Superior Software, the cleverest and most puzzling of all Repton games to date. It costs £24.95 inc. VAT.

Latest mega-game to hit the Arc is Hero Quest, ported from the PC world by Krisalis Software. This is a fantasy adventure game where you explore



Aldebaran

the magical underground world of Morcar. Hero Quest is priced at £29.99 inc. VAT, and all three games are available through dealers, including Beebug Ltd.

THE ULTIMATE IN PODULES

HCCS Associates has announced a new system of so-called MicroPodules which enhances the expansion capabilities of many machines in the Archimedes range. Taking advantage of the latest technology, HCCS has managed to design a host board which accommodates much smaller podules than usual. For example, the Ultimate MultiPodule, for the A3010, A3020 and A4000 will house up to three MicroPodules (interfaces). Thus an internal hard drive, digitiser and SCSI interface can all be added to the MultiPodule. MultiPodules are also available for the A300/A400/A5000 ranges to accommodate the same MicroPodules.

The MultiPodule costs approximately £40 (depending on host), and MicroPodules for a Colour Video Digitiser, HiVision Digitiser, Analogue Port, SCSI Card and laser Express are already available at prices from £29 (analogue port) to £249 (Laser Express). HCCS expects to release further MicroPodules in due course, and is also talking to other hardware developers with a view to versioning their hardware in MicroPodule format. We hope to report in much more detail in a future RISC User on all these developments. HCCS Associates Ltd. is at 575-583 Durham Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE9 5JJ, tel. 091 487 0760, fax 091 491 0431.

GRANNY S GARDEN IS BACK

One of the most popular educational programs on the 8-bit BBC micro was Granny s Garden. Granny s Garden achieved almost legendary status, and now a new reincarnation is available from 4Mation. There is also a supplementary Granny s Garden Resource Pack complete with a full set of activity sheets and an art disc. There is also a special information disc entitled The making of Granny s Garden . This emphasises some of the features of the new program which 4Mation believe will add a new dimension to animation in educational software. Granny s Garden costs £24.50 ex. VAT, site licence £49.00 ex. VAT, and the Resource Pack costs £15.00 ex. VAT. A demo version of Granny s Garden is also available on receipt of a blank 3.5 disc. For more information contact 4Mation, 14 Castle Park Road, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 8PA, tel. 0271 25353, fax 0271 22974.

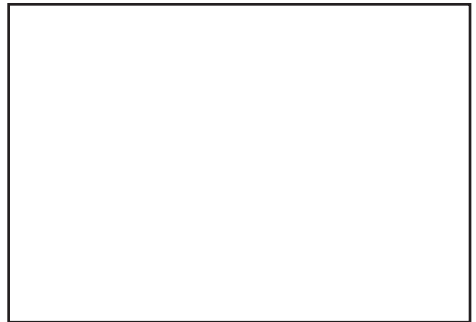
COMPUTER CONCEPTS GETS UPDATED

Computer Concepts has announced a number of upgrades to recent products. There is a free software update for the ColourCard which gives the user the option to configure the screen update speed to 25Hz, rather than the default 12Hz. This

should improve the use of the card for animations and fast screen movements, though there is a trade off with computer processing speed. There is also a new A3000 version of the board.

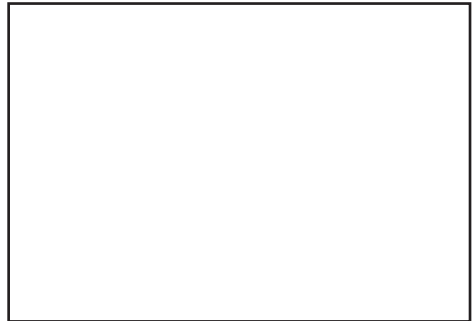
CC also says that the FaxPack file transfer and answer phone facilities (see review in last month s RISC User) are now available as a software and EPROM upgrade free to existing users.

Last, but not least, there is an ArtWorks Viewer which enables ArtWorks files to be displayed on screen without the presence of ArtWorks itself. This is now included as part of the ArtWorks package, but a free copy can be obtained on request from Computer Concepts. The Viewer can be distributed without charge enabling users to



Original Rats-Nest design

pass on ArtWorks files to others. Computer



Double-sided board

Concepts are at Gaddesden Place, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 6EX, tel. 0442 63933, fax 0442 231632.

SILICON VISIONS NEW ROUTING SOFTWARE

Silicon Vision has announced that the new PowerROUTER add-on is now ready for its ARC-PCB circuit design package. It has been developed to provide full 100% Rip-up Retry autorouting. This is a significant improvement over

ARC-PCB's built-in autorouters, and can generate 100% automatic routing results for any circuit for which a physical solution exists to the routing problem.

Silicon Vision has also announced Alpha-Tracks providing a complete electronics teaching course based on the company's popular ARC-PCB design software in conjunction with the Unilab Alpha System Electronics modules. The course has been designed for Key Stage 3 (age 13+). The price of Alpha-Tracks is £95 for a site licence with full photo-copying rights. The ARC-PCB software is also needed.

Contact Silicon Vision at Signal House, Lyon Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AG, tel. 081 861 2173, fax 081 247 5169.

CLARES HAS IT ALL

Clares Micro Supplies took the opportunity to give advance details of a host of new and updated products at BETT. Typographer is a detailed mapping package for the geography curriculum. It allows accurate maps to be created, with all the symbols, contour lines and other features to be expected, with the added advantage of providing 3D views of the mapped landscape. Typographer is expected to cost £79.95 with a projected release in April.

NightSky is another completely new application in the form of a versatile and comprehensive astronomy package. It draws star maps for any place on earth, and at any date and time showing stars down to magnitude 7.55 (26104 stars). It also copes with the moon and planets, and will show lunar and solar eclipses. NightSky is expected to sell for £79.95 and be ready soon.

Two more new releases on the way are Plot, a flexible data manipulation and presentation package working either from data or from a formula, again priced provisionally at £79.96. Serenade is a new Desktop MIDI sequencer expected very soon at £135.00.

Existing software is also being upgraded with the expected release of Rhapsody 3 (£99.95, May 1993), Schema 2 (£135.00, summer 1993), Knowledge Organiser 2 (£99.95, April 1993), ProArtisan 2 (£135.00, summer 1993).

For more information on all Clares products contact Clares, 98 Middlewich Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7DA, tel. 0606 48511.

STALLION SOFTWARE - LEXICON

Lexicon is a personalised dictionary designed to help in the learning of a foreign language, either in conjunction with a teacher or as a self study course. It provides a computerised notebook on the Desktop which will develop and grow as the student progresses. At present, Lexicon caters for students of French, German and Russian, and costs £40.00. Equivalent language dictionaries are available as optional extras at £20.00 each (ex. VAT in both cases). For more information contact Stallion Software Ltd., Arundel House, Arundel Road, Camden, Bath BA1 5JX, tel. 0225 483236.

TELETEXT UPDATE FROM IVORYASH

With the new teletext franchise for ITV and Channel 4, the multi-tasking teletext software



from Ivoryash no longer works 100% correctly on ITV and Channel 4. Existing customers can receive a free upgrade to fix the problems by returning their original disc with a stamped addressed label to Ivoryash Ltd., 14 Perwell Close, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7LJ, tel. 0684 73173.

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Mathematical Association has published a report entitled Computers in the Mathematical Curriculum at a price of £6.75 (members) and £9.95 (non-members). The report covers primary and secondary age ranges, including a separate chapter on the 16-19 age group. There are also general chapters on using a computer and teaching maths with a computer. There are appendices on logo, Basic, spreadsheets, graphics, functions and recursion. The report runs to 173 pages including index and is available post free from The mathematical Association, 259

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