

HINTS

&

T I P S

Keep sending in your hints on anything relevant to the Archimedes range. And remember, we pay for every hint we publish.

NEW FONTS FOR OLD

Danny Kilgariff

How about a whole new selection of typefaces like those shown in the illustration, using only the fonts you already have plus a small RISC User application called Streetmap? The application was supplied originally on the 5:8 magazine disc and is included again on this

A Streetmap

Named Desire

month's disc.

Achieving the effect is really quite simple. Open a Draw document, select the text option and type in the required text. Now select the resulting text object and using the Style submenu, choose the required font. Drag the object out to a suitable largish size using the lower ear on the dotted box, then click on the bottom item in the Font size submenu in order to set the correct aspect ratio of the characters. Now choose the Convert to path option from the Select submenu. Go to the Style submenu and set the line colour to black (you won't see any change in the text at this point), and the fill colour to white. You should now have an outline of the text, at which point you should save the file.

Now load Streetmap, set the road width to 3mm, and drag your saved Draw file into its window. The conversion will be made instantly and you can now save the output file. Double-click on this to load it into Draw, and your new typeface will be revealed in all its glory.

You may find that in order to achieve the exact effect you require, you need to play around with the size of text in the original Draw file, and also the road width in Streetmap.

TASK WINDOW IDIOSYNCRACIES

Lee Calcraft

Using the Task window provided by Edit on RISC OS 3 (including RISC OS 3.5), you can make use of function keys F1-F9. For example, if you type the following into a task window:

*Key1 "Key one defined"

then subsequently pressing F1 at any time will cause this text to appear in the task window, providing it has the input focus. But you cannot use F0 (the Print key) or keys F10 and F11.

However, if F10 is defined, it can be activated by pressing the Tab key, while F11 will be entered by pressing the End key. Most odd!

NB. As technophiles will know, you can add the two characters |M to a function key string to make it do a Carriage Return, and so actually execute the command all by itself.

RISC OS 3 FILER SELECTIONS

Tony Shew

With RISC OS 3, groups of files can be selected from the Filer window by dragging a box around them. First place the pointer on an unused part of the window then drag over the whole selection with Select held down. This is useful in a number of situations, including when using the Count option from the Filer submenu to find out the size of a selection of files. Adjust dragging can also be used to add further groups to the original selection made with Select.

HELP WITH ABSOLUTE FILES

G.N.Steeper

Some applications written in Basic, for example Alarm on Acorn's application disc, have their !RunImage files saved as an Absolute filetype. These programs can be accessed as follows: first go to the Command line by pressing F12, then enter

```
Run <pathname>
```

where <pathname> is the full pathname of the application, e.g. adfs::0.\$.!Alarm. You will return to the desktop with the application installed on the icon bar. Now choose Quit from the application's memory, and you will be back at the * prompt. Enter Basic by typing *BASIC, then type OLD. You can now LIST the program.

SHRINKING HOTKEYS

Ken Cowap

Many prospective users of RISC User's very useful Shrink utility (7:5) will need to change the hotkeys codes if the originals (Ctrl-Tab & Ctrl-Shift-Tab) clash with other applications (in my case Clares Plot and RISC Developments Ovation and DeskEdit). Unfortunately the application on the magazine disc uses very different !RunImage code from that in the magazine; most significantly the instructions related to hotkey codes are not relevant. To alter these codes in the disc version, amend the hex values in line 3380 & 3390 to those for the keys of your choice, e.g. for Ctrl-Print and Ctrl-Shift-Print:

```
3380 key1%=&1A0
3390 key2%=&1B0
```

Finding the codes for your chosen hotkeys is easiest using Kell Gatherer's neat application KeyTest (RISC User 4:7) which includes F-key codes, unlike the method described in the Shrink article. To restore all shrunk windows so that all title bars remain visible in a tidy stack, amend the !RunImage file as follows:

```
3640 FOR i%=windlimit% TO 0 STEP -1
```

DOS FILENAMES WITH /

Nathan Micholey

It is possible to create a file on a DOS disc whose name contains more than one / character. These are translated by DOSFS into . characters, only one of which is legal in a DOS filename. The resulting file cannot therefore be read on PCs or the Archimedes, though other machines that attempt to read DOS discs might be able to do so. The file

cannot be deleted either, so the disc must be reformatted in order to lose it. Particular care must be taken when copying files, as incorrect filenames can pass through unnoticed.

SpyGlass UPDATE

N.W.James

I have from time to time found the Spyglass program (RISC User 4:6) useful. I recently wanted to extend it in a small way to include information on existing tasks. Under RISC OS 3.10, this is relatively straightforward, and now means I can start SpyGlass while the target application is already running. First of all change the following two lines from the magazine listing:

```
150 tasks=0:PROCinittasks:quit=FALSE:bstart=-1
520 WHILE b?off%>32
```

Now swap the position of lines 2010 and 2020. Finally add the following lines at the end of the program:

```
3000 DEF PROCinittasks
3010 LOCAL t%,l%,i%,a%
3020 REPEAT
3030 SYS
"TaskManager_EnumerateTasks",t%,buffer%,bsize
% TO t%,l%
3040 i%=buffer%
3050 WHILE (i%<1%)
3060 block!4=i%!0:block!24=i%!8
3070 a%=i%!4:A$=""
3080 WHILE (?a%>32)
3090 A$+=CHR$(?a%):a%+=1
3100 ENDWHILE
3110 $(block+28)=A$
3120 IF ((i%!12 AND 1)=0)
PROCnewtask(block)
3130 i%+=16
3140 ENDWHILE
3150 UNTIL (t%<0)
3160 ENDPROC
```

SUNTAN PROTECTION FOR MICE?

Nathan Micholey

Mice exposed to bright sunlight can become sticky (particularly those of Logitech manufacture). This is because the light can penetrate the mouse's casing and interfere with the optical tracking system. This can easily be cured by moving the mouse to a shaded area or placing your hand on the mouse so that the case joins and the bottom edges of the mouse are cast in shadow, or using some

