

News . . .

THE ULTIMATE GAMES MACHINE GOES ON TOUR

The first of a new generation of games machines based on the ARM powered 3DO engine is about to hit Britain with a huge bang. On the 1st September this year



Panasonic will be launching the REAL FZ-1 3DO Interactive Multiplayer System. The CD-based FZ-1 uses the revolutionary technology developed by ARM and the 3DO Company in the States to provide a powerful new interactive multimedia platform.

It attaches to a TV set and will

play music CDs, Photo CDs and custom 3DO CDs which will offer interactive entertainment and educational options for adults as well as children. Its recommended retail price has been set at £399.95 inc. VAT and the system will come with the exciting adventure game Total Eclipse from Crystal Dynamics.

In order to give as many people as possible the chance to see and use the FZ-1 before it hits the shops, Panasonic is currently undertaking a nationwide tour in a unique 45ft long showliner truck which has been designed in the form of a giant replica of the FZ-1. The Panasonic Juggernaut Roadshow will be visiting

more than 30 venues before Christmas, and anyone and everyone is welcome to



GAMESWARE BRANCHES OUT INTO EDUCATION

GamesWare, the well known Acorn games developer, is branching out into the education market with the launch of a new company called SkillsWare. According to its director, Simon Lovesey, the company's aim is to produce high quality educational products that are fun to use. SkillsWare's first release Playdays, now nearing completion, is based upon the popular children's TV series and designed for children between three to eight years old. Playdays features all the popular characters from the TV series who guide the player through thirteen different games and puzzles, and throughout the game the character Why Bird is used as a friendly guide and tutor. Playdays will retail for £25.99 ex. VAT and will be released in the late summer. For more information contact SkillsWare at The Kingley Centre, Downs Road, West Stoke,

MORE FOR YOUR POCKET

Acorn has announced a major new range of palmtop computers which builds on the success of its Pocket Book, of which 10,000 have already been sold. The Pocket Book II will be available in September, and will boast a larger, higher resolution screen, more memory and more built-in

software. As well as the word processor, spreadsheet, database, calculator, clock and alarm featured in the original Pocket Book, the new range also has a diary, spellchecker, thesaurus, sound and voice recorder, mathematical equation plotter, world maps and time zones, and the OPL

programming language. As well as the A-link for linking to Acorn desktop computers, PC and Apple links are now available. The improved software, larger screen and extra memory bring the Pocket Book II up to the specification of the Psion Series 3a on which it is based.

The price for the basic model of Pocket Book II (256K) is £229.74 ex. VAT, while the top-of-the-range model weighs in at 512K and costs £280.81 ex. VAT. The original Pocket Book is still available at £169.95 ex. VAT. As before, Acorn is supplying Class Packs consisting of 10 computers with mains adaptor, desktop links and printer links. For the Pocket Book this is priced at £1699.50, and for the Pocket Book II,

Chichester PO18 9BQ, tel. 0243 574574, fax 0243 547515.

ARM POWERED PARTNERSHIP GETS STRONGER

In a move that demonstrates the growing global presence and recognition of ARM technology, ARM Ltd signed up its seventh major partner on the 25th July this year. Asahi Kasei Microsystems Company Ltd (AKM) is a subsidiary of the US\$12 billion Japanese chemical giant, Asahi Chemical Industry Company, and is one of the biggest and fastest growing suppliers of LSI (large-scale integration) integrated circuits to the telecommunications industry. AKM's product range includes image processing ICs used in fax machines and image scanners, signal processing ICs for cellular telephones, as well as components used in data acquisition, mass data storage and audio and multimedia applications.

The licence agreement with ARM gives AKM the right to embed the ARM7D 32-bit RISC processor design into its products, and also serves to strengthen ARM's penetration in the Japanese market, where ARM supplies almost all the major electronics companies.

Robin Saxby, Managing Director of ARM, welcomed AKM to the ARM partnership, stating, 'ARM's market success is built upon the combined strengths of each of the members of our partnership. The addition of AKM

TV'S MOST FAMOUS RAG DOLLS GET

Following its success with The Crystal Maze computer game, Sherston Software has secured another agreement to produce TV related software with Chatsworth Television, this time on behalf of Ragdoll Productions. As a result of this agreement, September will bring with it the first two in a series of Rosie and Jim talking activity programs for 4 and 5 year olds.

Duck loses his quack and Jim gets the sneezes feature the two cheeky rag dolls who are watched by millions of young fans. The stories are being brought to computer using the talking book technology developed by Sherston Software for its now well established Naughty Stories and Oxford Reading Tree software. The activities, which will feature the voices of the actors from the TV series, are enhanced with amusing animations and sound effects. Prices

have yet to be announced. Further details from Sherston Software, who until September 2nd can be contacted at Swan Barton, Sherston, Malmesbury, Wilts. SN16 0LH, tel. 0666 840433, fax 0666 840048.



As from September 5th, Sherston Software's new address will be Angel House, Sherston, Malmesbury, Wilts. SN16 0LH. The telephone and fax numbers will remain unchanged. The company is moving in order to

MICROS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS EXHIBITION

This October sees the launch of Semerc's 8th National Micros for Special Needs Exhibition. As Britain's foremost IT show for users with special educational needs, the show brings together under one roof a large range of software and hardware solutions for people with special needs, ranging from physical disabilities through to learning difficulties. The show takes place at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in Oldham on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th October, and products for Acorn, Apple and IBM platforms will be featured. Further information can be obtained from



New from 4Mation is Betsi, an historical adventure aimed at 7-12 year olds. Betsi represents a return to adventure writing by Mike Matson who, in collaboration with the talented artist, Sue Edwards, has created an educational product which 4Mation believes is its best yet. Set in England at the end of the Tudor period (i.e. the end of the 16th century) the story revolves around Betsi the dog who, having been evicted from the royal hunting kennels for being too soft, is looking for someone to provide her with a comfortable home where she will be loved.

As Betsi searches for a new home she meets all sorts of interesting people ranging from vagabonds to the nobility. With 10000 words of text and dozens of beautifully drawn locations and animations, the program is crammed with historical information. A set of resource sheets contains

200 questions which will allow a teacher or parent to assess just how much information about the Tudor period a child has learned.

4Mation believes that Betsi fits well into the entertainment

category and is ideal for use both at home and school. In the revised National Curriculum, Key Stage 2 pupils must study four out of five core units. Life in Tudor times is one of these units, and according to 4Mation Betsi fits perfectly into this area.



DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD FOR ACORN

Acorn Computers is inviting all budding artists and would-be designers to enter a competition to design its 1994 Christmas card. The winning entry will be professionally printed and used worldwide by member companies of the Acorn Computer Group this coming Christmas. The winner will receive the hottest product in the Acorn line-up - a Risc PC!

The theme for the competition is A World of Opportunities. All entries must be original work and should be produced using an Acorn computer. Designs should be submitted both in Draw format and as an A4 hard copy. Entries MUST arrive no later than 10th October 1994. The winner will be presented with a Risc PC 600 2M HD210 at Acorn World '94, which takes place at Wembley from October 28th - 30th. Entries should be sent to:

Acorn Christmas Card
Competition
Corporate Affairs
Department
Acorn House
Vision Park, Histon

ANGLIA SIGNS DEAL WITH

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

Anglia TV has signed a major marketing and distribution deal with the international US publishing group Encyclopaedia Britannica. The initial agreement, which could be worth around half a million dollars to Anglia over the next five years, involves Encyclopaedia Britannica handling the worldwide distribution of Anglia's new CD-ROM, Understanding the Body. Jim Decker-Ward, executive vice president of Encyclopaedia Britannica said, we are delighted to be carrying such a fine product as Understanding the Body. It adds another excellent title to our educational product line. More

TRAINING COURSES ON THE HORIZON

This autumn Horizon IT Education Services is offering a unique series of exclusive weekend training courses on popular Acorn packages at Rumwall Manor, a luxurious country house hotel just outside Taunton in Somerset. The courses will be hosted by respected people from the Acorn world including the artist Don Slaven, and will cover programs such as Impression Style and Publisher, Artworks and Prophet Accounts. The courses are endorsed by both Computer Concepts and Apricote Studios and will make use of the latest equipment and peripherals. Each course costs £250 inc. VAT per person, and includes all tuition, meals and accommodation. A special rate of £85 is available for an accompanying non-participant.

Course Dates:	Acorns for Beginners	23/9 - 25/9,	11/11 - 13/11
	Impression for Beginners	30/9 - 2/10,	18/11 - 20/11
	Advanced Impression DTP	7/10 - 9/10,	25/11 - 27/11
	ArtWorks Technique	4/11 - 6/11,	9/12 - 11/12
	Acorn's Business Machine	14/10 - 16/10,	2/12 - 4/12

CUMANA LAUNCHES NEW CD-ROM SYSTEMS

Cumana has launched several new CD-ROM drives recently. Risc PC users can now transform their systems into fully functional multimedia machines by installing Cumana's latest 300iA CD-ROM drive which incorporates audio-mixing features. Priced at £249 ex. VAT and delivery, the new drive provides clear, high quality sound output via external speakers or headphones through an in-built audio

mixer, which combines sound

from the CD-ROM with that of the computer. The IDE-based drive, which is a double-speed multisession PhotoCD compatible unit, fits neatly into the Risc PC's standard 5.25 bay, and is accompanied by Clares ProArtisan 2CD and Cumana's own



Photo Album comprising 82 high quality images.

Cumana has also been appointed as an educational distributor for Pioneer's powerful range of autochanger CD-ROM drives. Three new Pioneer drives now form part of Cumana's Victor range. They include the DRM-602X double-speed and DRM-604X quad-speed six-disc drives, which are also sold by Computer Concepts, and the top-of-the-range DRM-1804X quad-speed CD-ROM autochanger, accommodating up to 18 CD-ROMs in its three magazines. Commenting on the appointment, Mark Brierley, Business Development Manager for Pioneer Great Britain said, Pioneer selected Cumana as one of its key educational distributors on account of both its technical expertise within the CD-ROM market and the high level of support Cumana offers to

MAKE THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS WITH OakPCB II

Having enjoyed considerable success as both a stand-alone application and as part of Oak Solutions' Design Processor package, OakPCB has recently undergone its first major revision, becoming OakPCB II in the process. The changes we have made are as a direct result of user feedback, explains Vorn Hancock of Oak Solutions. We've also taken the opportunity to incorporate all the improvements which Acorn have made to the operating system since the launch of RISC OS 3. OakPCB II costs £70 ex. VAT and upgrades are available for £35 ex. VAT. For further product information contact Oak Solutions at Dial