New Concepts

Computer Concepts is launching a number of new products at Acorn World. Publisher Plus (£299, or £130 upgrade for Publisher owners) is the professional version of Impression which supports OPI, import of EPS files, and enhanced colour facilities. TV Tuner (£159 with Teletext, £89 without) is a card which allows TV signals to be received directly by the computer and displayed on screen via a suitable digitiser. The enhanced version of the card can receive Teletext, which can be displayed without a digitiser and controlled with software. Formulix (£69) is a new equation and formula editor. It is file compatible with Equasor, and includes support for OLE. Finally, MPEG is the buzzword at the moment, and CC is launching its Movie Magic MPEG card. The card will be available in two versions (for Risc PC only): one designed for full-screen display on a PAL monitor or TV, the other providing multi-tasking desktop video on a multisync monitor. Prices have not yet been fixed. Contact Computer Concepts at Gaddesden

Net a CD

Cumana has launched CD-Net, a software package which gives users fast access to CD-ROMs across an Acorn AUN or SJ Research Nexus network. The package consists of CD-Server and CD-Filer. A CD-ROM drive is attached to one machine on the network, which acts as the CD server. Any other networked computer with CD-Filer installed can then access data from the CD-ROM, often at greater speed than with a stand-alone machine, according to Cumana.

CD-Net is Photo CD compatible (when used with a suitable drive) and comes packaged with Clares ProArtisan 2CD and Cumana s Photo Album CD sampler disc. The package costs £150 ex. VAT. Further details can be obtained from Cumana Ltd, Pines Trading Estate, Broad Street, Guildford GU3 3BH, tel. 01483 503121, fax 01483

Solent s Recorder Gets to Number 3

Solent s sound sampling system is now in its third incarnation. Oak Recorder 3 takes advantage of the bi-directional parallel port on newer Acorn machines (A3010, A3020, A4000, A5000, A4 and Risc PC) to sample at 20kHz or above (up to 32kHz on some Risc PC models). The SoundLab software accompanying the sampler has been rewritten to complement the new hardware, with a new user interface sporting a button bar to access functions such as amplifying, fading and echoing sections, high or low pass filtering, and altering the base sampling rate. The software handles Armadeus and PC compatible WAV files, can output Replay sound tracks or create voice modules, and can export a

In-flight Magazine

Akalat is the name of a family of birds resident in West Africa (in case you didn't know). Akalat Publishing is also the name of a new company formed by none other than former RISC User editor Mike Williams. Akalat will be launching a range of publications at Acorn World, including a new magazine entitled Acorn Publisher. We wish Mike well in his new venture, and in the meantime you can contact Akalat at PO Box 231, Barton, Bedford MK45 4HQ, tel/fax 01582 881614.

Child's Play

Creative Curriculum Software are releasing a new range of educational games for children aged 3-9 years, entitled Happy Matrix. Five games will be available initially: Happy Time, Happy Sea, Happy Life, Happy Numbers and Happy Reading. All the games include a game board and computer software, and can be played as either board or computer games. The aim is to introduce children to logical concepts and analytical processes. Each game in the series costs £34.95 inc. VAT. Further details are available from Creative Curriculum Software, 5 Clover Hill Road, Savile Park, Halifax HX1 2YG, tel.

Take the Tablets and Blow Your Sox Off

The graphics tablet scene is hotting up, with the announcement of the Wacom Artpad, an A6-sized pressure-sensitive tablet. It is being marketed by both Computer Concepts, who are bundling Photodesk and their own driver with it for around £200, and by Eesox in association with Vaughan Allanson, who already market the larger Wacom tablets together with the Eesox drivers. Eesox are selling the Artpad with their own driver at £159 ex. VAT, or bundled with Studio24 for £239 ex. VAT.

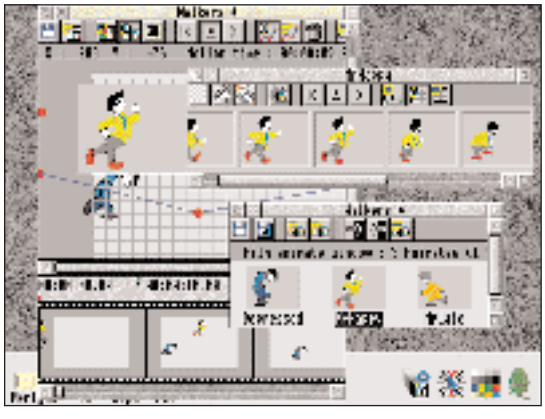
Also new from Eesox/Vaughan Allanson is the College Board, an all-in-one mouse, digitising tablet and drawing board. The system can be used as a direct replacement for the mouse, or with the A3 drawing board supplied (which has parallel motion and set square) as a professional digitising tablet for CAD work. The College Board costs £175 ex. VAT. Further details can be obtained from Vaughan Allanson at 7 Harraton House, Church Lane, Exning, Newmarket CB8

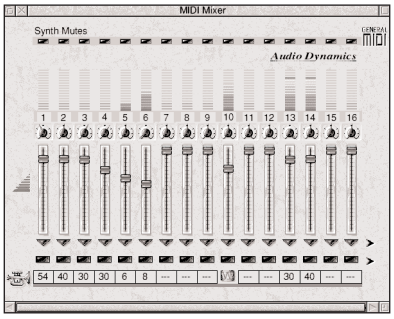
Millipede Caters for Video Enthusiasts

Millipede Electronic Graphics is launching a high-quality video genlock/overlay adaptor for the Risc PC. The company hopes to have AlphaLock on view at Acorn World. The system allows images from the Risc PC to be combined with other video signals, with cross-fading facilities, and variable transparency which enables anti-aliased text to be superimposed on a video image for true professional quality. The price is not yet fixed but is expected to be around £600 ex. VAT. Millipede is at Cambridge House, Hargrave, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 5HS, tel. 01284 850594, fax 01284 850351.

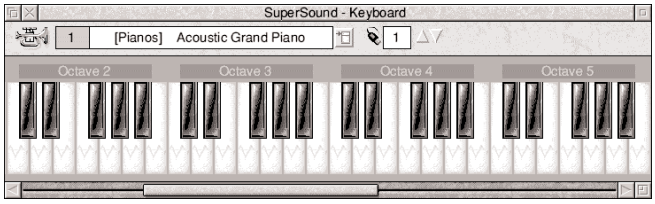
A Prime Reason for Moving

Acorn World will see the launch of Minerva's PrimeMover animation system. This system, which works on all RISC OS computers, allows the creation of frame sequences for simple animation, but also allows the animated sprites to be moved around the screen under the control of a simple user interface. Minerva claims the system is unique in using a real-time system for its animation control, making it easier for the user to understand the relationship between various elements of the animation. Animations can be exported in ACE film format. PrimeMover costs £59.53 ex. VAT, and further details are available from Minerva at Minerva House, Baring Crescent, Exeter EX1 1TL, tel.





The Orchestral A3000



Audio Dynamics has announced a new version of its Super Sound Expansion System (reviewed in RISC User 7:9) for the A3000/A4000 series. It has all the features of the original but now comes on a mini card suitable for the above-

Another Bite of the Apple

Hot on the heels of Computer Concepts MacFS (reviewed in RISC User 7:9) comes AppleFS from Oregan Developments, which provides a similar function, i.e. the ability to read and write Apple Macintosh discs on an Acorn computer. According to Oregan, AppleFS supports both low and high density format discs, and allows selectable data or resource fork transfer. The price is £51.02 ex. VAT. Oregan can be contacted at 36 Grosvenor Avenue, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield B74 3PE, tel. 0121 353 6044.

Eastern Promise

Anglia Television has announced some major new developments in its range of CD-ROM resources. As a result of collaboration between Anglia, Acorn and Computer Concepts/Wild Vision, MPEG video will soon be available on all Anglia s CD-ROMs which include video. The MPEG system has been designed so that computers without MPEG will treat video clips as Replay sequences, while those that have MPEG will see the video in all its glory. If you haven t yet seen an MPEG movie, get along to Acorn World and watch one - it s quite stunning, with quality better than anything you re likely to have seen from VHS.

In another development, Anglia will start releasing CD-ROMs that can run on either Acorn, Macintosh or PC systems. However, Anglia will continue to produce all CDs on RISC OS systems using Key Author. Anglia Television can be contacted at Anglia House, Norwich NR1 3JG,

Go Easy on the C++

C++ is considered by many to be the language of the future, and Beebug is pleased to announce the first native C++ compiler for RISC OS. Easy C++, which will be demonstrated at Acorn World, contains a full implementation of the ANSI C/Version 3 C++ compiler, together with the popular Easy C front-end, linker and libraries.

Easy C++ should be available by Christmas and costs £99 + VAT - an

On the Beebug stand at Acorn World will be demonstrations of Ovation 2.0 and Sleuth 2.0. Ovation is Beebug s very popular DTP package, and version 2 will have a brand new user interface as well as many exciting and powerful new features, some of which are not available on any other DTP system on the Acorn platform.

The optical character recognition (OCR) package Sleuth will also undergo a major upgrade. Version 2 offers a significant improvement in recognition accuracy mainly as a result of the integrated spelling checker. It will also recognise a wider range of fonts, with bold and italics now supported. Other features include automatic page zoning and saveable zone templates.

For more details of all Beebug products, the company can be contacted at 117 Hatfield Road, St. Albans AL1 4JS, tel. 01727 840303, fax 01727 860263.

More CD-ROMs, by eck

Environment II: Land & Air, Science II: Materials and World War II: Global Conflict are the titles of major new CD releases from Yorkshire Television and Interactive Learning Productions. The first of these is a follow-up to their successful Water CD, and covers topical environmental issues such as climate change and conservation. These two topics, as well as Dwindling Resources, are also the themes of three further CD-ROMs released as supplementary materials to explore each of the topics further.

The second science-based CD is a sequel to the award-winning Elements, and provides an introduction to over 150 different materials (from chalk to cheese - what else?). The World War II CD contains a wealth of archive material and a number of video sequences.

The CDs cost £130 ex. VAT each and are distributed by Academy