

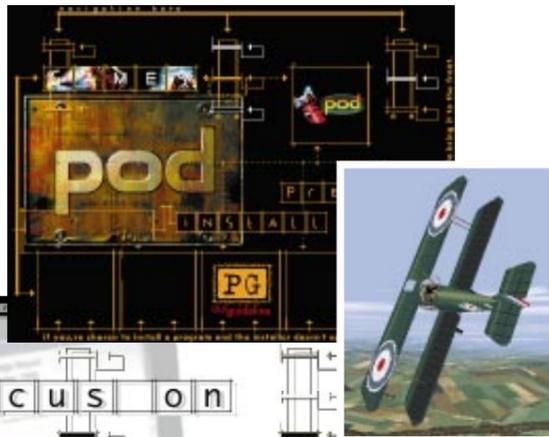
# WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



## Cover CD

### 6 What CD? number twelve

Our fully-interactive cover CD is now better than ever. Each month, you'll find the latest games and multimedia demos; Internet pages galore; our interactive Getting Started guide to PCs; a software library section filled with essential shareware and utilities; music and graphics in the arts section; a 12-month back-issues index of *What PC?*; the complete previous issue of the magazine to read on disc; plus more than 500 pages of Hands on articles; and much, much more.



**Subscribe to *What PC?***

Only £9.99 for six issues! See inside for details.

## Cover story

### 59 What PC? and Software annual awards 1997



This year we have combined our awards into one issue, to give you a single guide to the best hardware and software available – everything you need from home and business PCs to Internet Service Providers, office software suites, drawing packages and much more. Turn to page 59 to find out the winners.



## Features

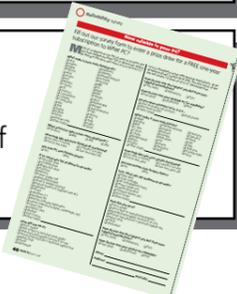
### 126 Flatbed scanners

More affordable than ever, flatbed scanners are the best way to get truly professional-looking images into your PC. We put eight of the latest through their paces.



### 46 Reliability survey

How reliable is your PC? Return our survey for a chance to win 12 issues of *What PC?* absolutely FREE.



## Reviews

### 21 Up front

- Hewlett-Packard OmniGo 320LX** Handheld PCs hit the UK.
- Internet Explorer 4 vs Netscape Communicator Suite** The battle of the Web browsers continues.
- Lexmark 2030** A colour inkjet printer for home use.
- PC PhotoStarter Kit** Low-cost image editing package.
- Dotlink 3D Raider** MMX Pentium machine with accelerated 3D graphics – ideal for games enthusiasts.
- Mini Office Draw** Powerful, low-cost design software.
- LineOne** Consumer-oriented on-line service set up by a partnership of News International and British Telecom.
- JVC GR-DVM1** Latest MiniDV digital video camera.
- GoldMine 3.2** Latest contact manager for Windows 95.
- Sharp PC-9090** Modular multimedia Pentium notebook with an impressive high-resolution screen.
- First Aid 97** Automatic problem solver/fixer for Windows 95.
- CV Write Away System** Low-cost software for designing, producing and managing resumés.

### 48 In brief

- Agent 97** Monitor your PC's memory and optimise its usage.
- Maxtor DiamondMax Hard Disk** Store up to 5.1Gb.
- Cheyenne Backup for Windows 95** Back up your data.
- Chimp** Sticky note-style memo pad for Windows 95.
- HomeGuard** Virus checker for your family PC.
- ImageRobot** Image-processing package.
- miro miroMedia PCTV** TV tuner card for your PC.
- PrintPaks Pop-Up Greetings Kit** Fun kit to produce cards.
- PowerCleaner** Clean-up program for your hard disk.
- Visioneer PaperPort Deluxe** Powerful document management software available on its own for the first time.
- WebPrinter** Turn Web pages into handy booklets.

### 148 Computer class

The second part of our guide to creating and using macros in Microsoft Word and Excel.

## Regulars

- 13 News** hardware and software latest.
- 53 Letters** and competition winners.
- 55 Competition** Two lucky readers will win a printer from OKI, and a selection of Living Books CD-ROMs go to our runners-up.
- 151 Question time** Write to us with your PC problem – if we print your letter, you'll receive a copy of either MS Works or Publisher.
- 190 Reader survey** Give your views and you could win a copy of net.jet.
- 190 Faxline** *What PC?* pages via your fax.
- 223 Product index**
- 224 Back page** Next month; book reviews; and Wendy Grossman on Web security.

## What PC? buyer's guide

Essential advice and information for beginners, plus the most comprehensive buyer's tables on the market.



### 177 Buyer's guide contents

getting started

**5 & 178 Getting started** The ultimate beginner's guide to personal computing.

**191 How to buy** Detailed advice for buyers, including a checklist and a self-questionnaire to help you reach a decision.

**195 Tables** Make an informed choice from our comprehensive listings of the latest PCs, software & peripherals – including specifications, prices and manufacturers' contact numbers.

**194 Buyer's charter**



## What PC? on the Web

If you have access to the Internet, you can now visit the *What PC?* Web site at: [www.whatpc.vnu.co.uk](http://www.whatpc.vnu.co.uk)

## After hours

### 136 Games

Visit some mummies and vampires, join the Looney Tunes characters for a basketball game, play in the FA Cup, and go to hospital.

### 141 Family

We take a look at famous battles, a science encyclopaedia, and join Goldilocks and the Three Bears for breakfast.

### 146 On line

Terry Pinnell surfs the Web.

