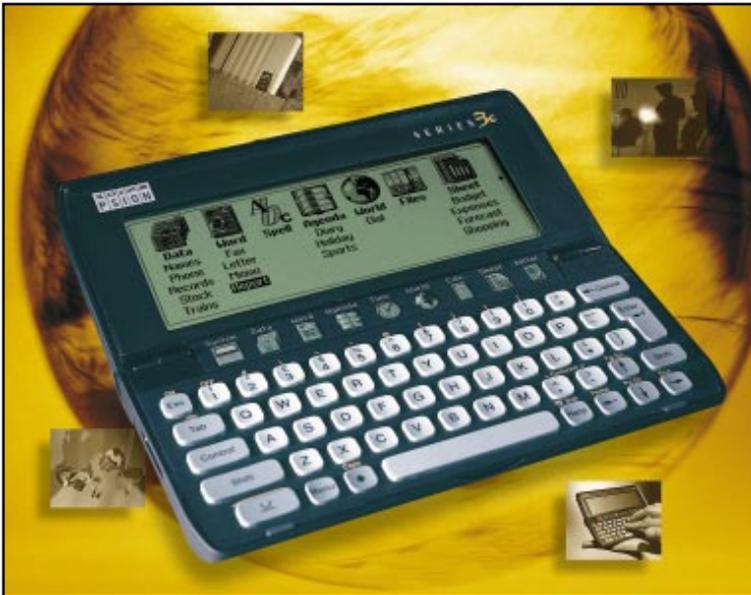


Among the new products under review are: a compact digital camera from Kodak, Paint Shop Pro version 4, WinDelete 3.0, two route-finding systems, Xerox's latest OCR package, HP's new Omnibook notebook, and two multimedia PCs from Dell and Packard Bell



Psion Series 3c

Mick Andon

Latest version of Psion's pocket computer, with enhanced communications features.

Psion's Series 3a palm-top – currently the top seller worldwide – has been around since 1993. Now, Psion is about to launch its successor – the Series 3c. This month *What PC?* has an exclusive review of the 3c, as well as a first look at a brand-new entry-level Psion, the Siena.

Psion Series 3a

After the Series 3 came the 3a, so why not the Series 3b? Apparently, some people believe 'b' has connotations of 'less than first-rate' and, according to Psion, the emphasis here is very much on communication – which starts with a 'c'.

On the outside, there's little change, apart from a shiny oval panel set into the spine – yes, the long-awaited infra-red has arrived. Also, the badge has moved to the centre of the case, and the mottled-grey Bakelite-style finish has given way to a more fashionable black rubberised coating. On the left-hand side, you'll also find a miniature RS-232 connector.

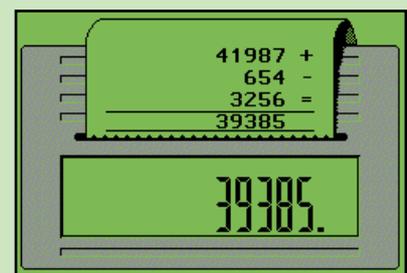
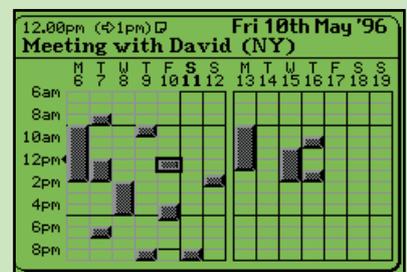
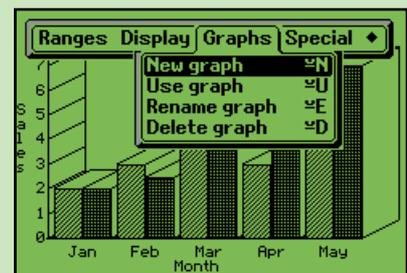
Under the lid, the button bar has an extra icon for a new 'jotter' application for making quick notes without opening a new Word file. There's also a proper file manager,

similar to Norton Commander, with a split-window display that allows local or remote files and folders to be copied, moved, or deleted – just as on your PC. One failing of the 3a was the database's inability to sort records, but now they can be sorted with ease – and Psion has added a table view too.

Agenda has been enhanced with the addition of a 'Busy' view, which essentially gives you a four-week graphical representation of the free slots in your diary. Appointments can also have 'entry codes' assigned to them to signify their type – meetings, anniversaries, and so on. In a shared environment, you can 'publish' your diary so that other users can see it, and the entry codes allow you to specify which appointment types you want made visible.

There are a few minor changes in Word and Sheet (Psion's spreadsheet), and the Comms application now supports Z-modem for file transfers. The other applications have been generally spruced up too – you can now view the world map in grey or black, for example.

SoundMaster is a new application that replaces the extremely basic Record function of the 3a. It allows you to edit digital recordings, copy and paste sections and add quite sophisticated special effects.



Psion Series 3c

(continued)

- Size: 165x85x22mm
- Weight: 275gm (with batteries)
- 1Mb or 2Mb of RAM
- 2Mb of ROM (operating system and built-in applications)
- Built-in applications: database, RTF-compatible word processor, diary, world times, alarms, calculator, spreadsheet, OPL programming language, file manager, digital sound editor, jotter, spell-checker/thesaurus, patience card game
- Batteries: two AA cells
- Battery life: around 40-50 hours
- RS-232 port
- Infra-red port
- Two SSD (solid state disk) slots for data storage cards

Although the software hasn't changed that much, the vastly improved communications make the Series 3c a worthy successor to the 3a.

- £339.95 (1Mb); £399.95 (2Mb)
- Psion: 0990 143050

Psion Series 3c

Performance	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★

The most important enhancements, though, are to do with the 3c's communications capabilities, the most obvious being the built-in infra-red. Sending data from Psion to Psion is extremely straightforward: you simply press the Psion and Tab keys and a dialog box pops up asking whether you want to send or receive; you then press the forward or back arrow to start the transfer. Transfers can be whole files or individual records, depending on the application you are in. Within Agenda, for example, you can highlight an appointment, press send, and it's transferred into the receiving copy of Agenda. If you are working within a spreadsheet, you can even send a highlighted selection of cells from one 3c to another.

We found infra-red transfers surprisingly reliable and trouble-free across distances of up to about two feet. If the line of sight is disturbed, the transfer simply pauses until it's clear again. Psion will soon be issuing serial-port emulation software which will allow the 3c to communicate with any PC equipped with an infra-red interface.

The infra-red port has two settings – high and low. Unless you're really concerned about battery conservation, it's best to leave this on high. Transfers across both the infra-red link and RS-232 port can take place at 115Kbps and, although the maximum speed for cable link transfers is 57,600bps, this is still three times faster than before. One big advantage of the RS-232 port is that there's no longer a need for the 3-Link 'soap on a rope' – a standard serial cable will suffice.

In response to the massive surge of interest in the Internet, Psion will be releasing in October a new Internet mail application called PsiMail Internet. This allows 3c users to send and receive e-mail over the Internet, as well as surf the Web. Psion's browser supports both text and graphics and there's

a zoom mode to help overcome the limited screen resolution of the 3c, compared to that of a PC. Included with the package is a trial Internet account, probably from CompuServe or AOL.

Software developers will be pleased to know that Psion's Oval runtime is now built into ROM. Oval is a programming system for Psion computers which is compatible with Visual Basic. It allows developers, with a minimum of effort, to convert many applications written in Visual Basic to run on the 3c.

Optional accessories include a new version of Psion's 3Fax modem, upgraded from the now unfeasibly slow 2,400bps model to a more reasonable 14,400bps. There is also a new PCMCIA modem adaptor that connects to the 3c's serial port and allows Type II card modems to be used. Looking a little like something from the film Independence Day, it has space for one card plus four AA batteries which, according to Psion, are necessary because of the power requirements of PCMCIA devices.

Psion Siena

If you can't justify spending over £300 to buy a fully-featured palm-top computer such as the Series 3c, the chances are you will look towards the likes of Sharp and Casio. Both these companies manufacture a wide range of electronic organisers that will adequately accommodate your address book and diary. Psion is now attempting to capture part of that lucrative sub-£200 market with the new Siena organiser.

In terms of features, it sits somewhere between the old Series 3 and the current Series 3a – most of the 3a's built-in applications are there, and Siena retains much of the character of the 3a. Its sculpted case is coated with a rubberised finish that's quite pleasing to the touch and its smaller, slimmer case fits eas-



ily into any shirt pocket – all important considerations in this market.

The Siena's case is fastened by a small clasp on the front. Release this and a section of the lid pops up by about 0.5in, exposing a miniature RS-232 connector (identical to that on the 3c) and an infra-red communications port. The battery compartment is also housed under here – the Siena should run for about 50 hours on two alkaline AAA batteries, which is about what you would expect from the 3a.

The clamshell case opens fully to reveal a half-sized screen (240x160, as compared to the 3a's 480x160 pixels) offset to the left of the lid. You get the same high-contrast LCD with black plus one level of grey. The right-hand side of the lid houses a numeric keypad, much as you'd expect to find on a pocket calculator. This makes the Siena slightly easier to use than the 3a if you're making lots of calculations or entering figures into a spreadsheet. The keypad also frees up the top line of alpha-numeric keys, making the Siena's keyboard almost as spacious as the 3a's, although we found the key action slightly less positive. Eight special function touch keys are just below the hinge, allowing you to switch between the system screen, database, word processor, agenda, time, world time, calculator, and spreadsheet applications.

These applications are pretty much identical to those on the 3c, only modified to run in a smaller window. You don't, however, get a spell-checker, fancy file manager, patience game or digital sound recording. But, you're still left with far more functionality than you could expect in another pocket organiser at this price.

Like the 3c, the Siena's database also includes a list view and you can sort records within a file. Although the reduced screen width has little effect on this application, the same cannot be said of the word processor. The smaller screen means that only forty or so characters can fit across the screen at the smallest magnification, but at least it is possible to display seventeen lines.

Otherwise, the Siena retains all the features of the 3a. Agenda still uses the Filofax metaphor, although the default view is single-page and Psion has included the new 'Busy' view as in the 3c.

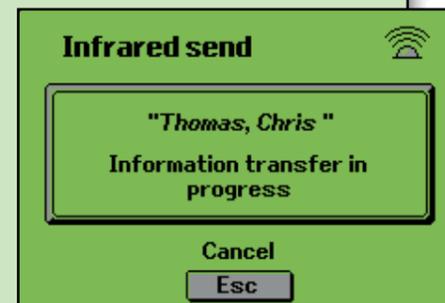
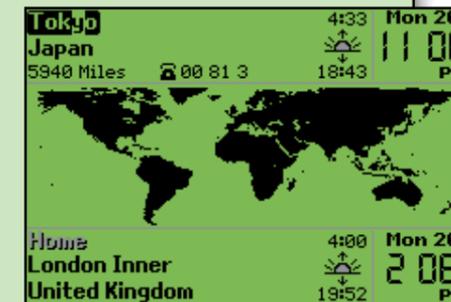
The most obvious omission on the hardware front is SSD (solid-state disk) slots – the Siena doesn't have any. Psion doesn't feel that the typical electronic organiser user will need to load data and programs other than across the PC link, and even a single SSD slot would increase the bulk of the unit significantly. Otherwise, there are surprisingly few compromises.



Psion Siena

Mick Andon

Personal organiser and pocket computer from Psion.



- Size: 150x73x19mm
- Weight: 183g (with batteries)
- 512Kb or 1Mb of RAM
- 1Mb of ROM (operating system and built-in applications)
- Built-in applications: database, RTF-compatible word processor, diary, world times, alarms, calculator, spreadsheet, OPL programming language
- Batteries: two AAA cells
- Battery life: around 40-50 hours
- RS-232 port
- Infra-red port

The Psion Siena offers plenty of power and features for your money. A larger screen would have been nice, but you can't have everything.

- £169.95 (512Kb); £229.95 (1Mb)
- Psion: 0990 143050

Psion Siena

Performance	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★



Step into any major high-street electrical store and the chances are you'll find Packard Bell PCs on display. Packard Bell is one of the market leaders in 'consumer' PCs and its latest offering, the Executive 916D, is aimed squarely at the high-street consumer.

As family multimedia PCs go, the Executive 916D looks a little more stylish than most, but it's still thoroughly unremarkable with its conservative bulky-box design. Things are a bit untidy inside with the cables covering the expansion slots, but pull them aside and you'll find two PCI and three 16-bit ISA slots free. One touch we particularly like is the colour-coding of ports at the back of the machine, which means beginners will barely need to glance at the manual. The mouse and keyboard are reasonable, although the keys on the latter might be a tad too close together for fast touch-typists.

After switching on, the Executive 916D looks a little different from other machines. Windows 95 loads as usual, swiftly followed by Packard Bell's own 'friendly' front-end, 'Navigator'. All the Executive's software and functions are accessible from Navigator's three screens, each of which resembles a room in a house. For example, in the 'Living Room', clicking on familiar objects (such as a telephone or radio) will bring up the appropriate application. By far the most useful piece of software is a communications suite entitled 'Call Centre'. Call Centre provides near-flawless integration between fax, modem, speakerphone and voice-mail facilities – all of which operate via the internal V.34 modem.

Navigator really is presented very well – considerably better, in fact, than most other manufacturers' efforts. For seasoned PC users, however, it will just get in the way,

so it is perhaps fortunate that it can be turned off.

Packard Bell has bundled a hand-held remote-control unit with the Executive 916D. This can be used to control the mouse pointer, or to call up one of the multimedia-related applications. It also has volume control buttons so you could, for example, have complete control over the speakerphone and radio functions while lying on your bed. The speakerphone system works very well indeed, although the supplied speakers are a little tinny.

One frustrating aspect of the Executive 916D is the factory-set screen resolution of 640x480. While this is easily remedied, new users – at whom the Executive 916D is so obviously aimed – may be unaware that they are missing out on higher resolutions, which are both possible and favourable. Once altered, the monitor manages to display a reasonable picture at an 800x600 resolution, but we found we needed to regularly adjust the vertical and horizontal positioning as these had a habit of wandering. The Executive 916D's integrated Cirrus Logic graphics chip can manage a maximum resolution of 1,024x768, although you'd really need a bigger monitor than the supplied 15in model to take advantage of this.

Packard Bell has really gone to town with the software bundle. As well as the Navigator front end, you get Microsoft Encarta '95, Money, Dangerous Creatures, CorelDraw 4, and numerous games and educational titles. All this software is pre-installed and Packard Bell also supplies the installation CD-ROMs, which is useful should you need to reinstall them. However, as is so often the case, the only manual you get relates to the machine itself – all other documentation is supplied in the form of electronic help files.

Packard Bell Executive 916D

Scott Colvey

A family multimedia PC with 133MHz Pentium processor, modem and radio tuner.

- Pentium 133MHz processor
- 8Mb of RAM
- 1.2Gb hard disk drive
- 15in monitor with clip-on side speakers
- Radio tuner card
- Internal fax modem
- Six-speed CD-ROM drive
- Packard Bell Navigator software included

Because of Packard Bell's excellent Navigator software, the Executive 916D is exceptionally easy to use. It is an ideal machine for the family but, for it to be a real winner, the price needs to come down.

- £2,089
- Packard Bell: 01753 831914

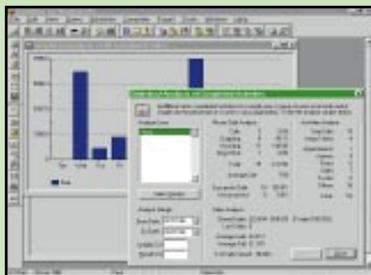
Packard Bell Executive 916D

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Build quality	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

GoldMine for Windows 95

Paul Wardley

Information and time management for users of single PCs or networks is provided in the latest version of this heavyweight contact manager.



- Address book, calendar and appointments
- Dialler for voice numbers and pagers
- Can send faxes or e-mail
- Schedules automatic events
- Generates letters and reports
- Customisable fields and layouts
- Automatic chart generation
- Scripts for making sales calls
- Statistical analysis of calls, activities and time spent

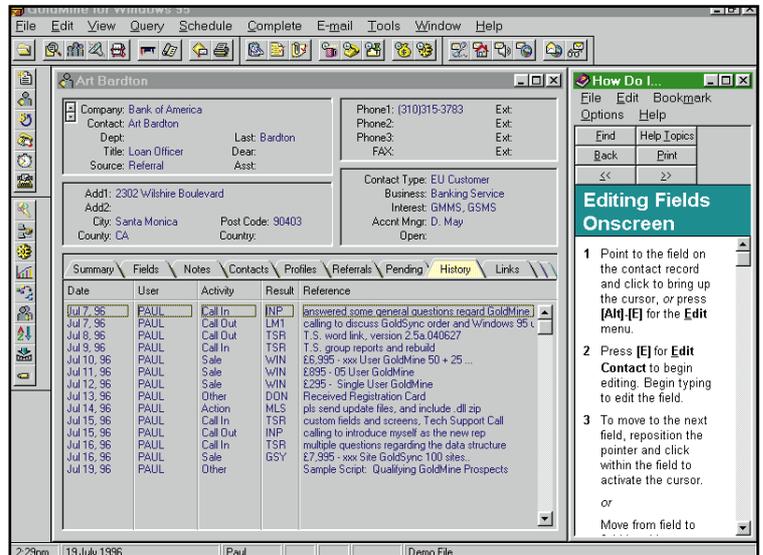
Goldmine is not easy to get to grips with, but it works logically enough once you've grasped the conventions. If you really need this level of sophistication, your initial investment of time and money will be amply repaid once you start using the program in earnest.

- £346.63 (upgrade £175)
£1,051.63 (five-user network pack)
- AVG: 0171 335 2222

GoldMine for Windows 95

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Ease of use	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Minimum requirements: Windows 95, 4Mb of RAM, 386SX, 8Mb of free hard disk space.



Everyone in business has to manage contacts – names, addresses and details of people they work with, sell to, buy from, or simply employ. In our private lives, most of us keep some form of contact database, even if it's just a list of numbers next to the phone, and there's a long list of software products designed for both types of user to help them keep on top of such information.

Simple address books and personal information managers abound and many of them are cheap and effective, but if your contact management requirements extend to the point where keeping in touch with people becomes your main business – such as in sales, marketing, advertising and PR – then you may well need a fully-developed contact manager like GoldMine.

GoldMine contains all the basic elements of a personal information manager, which means it can store addresses, phone numbers, appointments, notes and lists of things to do. It can also use this information to automate many of the regular tasks related to making, maintaining and following up business contacts. You enter the primary details of a contact (name, company, phone number, and so on) on a conventional entry form, and below this there are numerous divider tabs where you can view additional information, such as unlimited freeform notes, links to other entries, a history of previous contacts, and so on.

Many sales events follow a rigorously defined pattern involving an initial contact, followed by the sending of information and then perhaps a follow-up call before the actual sale. After the sale, there will be back-up calls and the chance to sell support services and related products. GoldMine uses a system of automated processes which can trigger calls, actions and letters automatically in response to previ-

ous events, so that contacts with customers can be made at the appropriate times. If you have a modem, the program can also be used to send faxes, e-mail messages and pager calls, and on a network, you can send internal mail to your co-workers.

Cold-callers can set up branching scripts of dialogue with multiple choices to select as they talk to a potential customer. The responses can be stored for future reference or entered automatically onto a contact form as they are made. GoldMine can then initiate the appropriate response at a later date.

Users on a network can all have access to the same information as their colleagues and be kept up to date on exactly when and why contacts have been made. In addition, the new InfoCentre offers a flexible way of sharing other types of information with members of the same workgroup. It lets you set up a structured and searchable store of information in much the same format as a Windows help screen – ideal for storing price lists, procedures and company-wide information that needs to be available to everybody.

Almost everything stored in GoldMine can be analysed to assess business performance. You can view the efforts of any individual on the system or groups of workers sharing a common project. As well as time spent on incoming and outgoing calls, sales successes can also be logged, as can forms that have been sent and the time spent working on various activities. Graphs can be generated automatically, and you can even measure actual performance against scheduled forecasts.

As a mere punter beset by unsolicited calls from double-glazing firms and insurance salesmen you might not like what GoldMine does, but it does it really well. This is now a very accomplished and mature product.

HP Omnibook 5500CT

Dominic Bucknall

HP's new Omnibook is a top-end Pentium notebook with a large, high-resolution active screen, integrated stereo audio and a modular design that allows the use of an optional CD-ROM drive.

- 133MHz Pentium processor (2.9V)
- 256Kb pipeline burst secondary cache
- 16Mb of RAM
- 1.2Gb removable hard disk
- 16-bit audio processor with stereo speakers and microphone
- 12.1in active-matrix SVGA screen
- Twin Type II/single Type III PC Card capacity
- IrDA-2 infra-red serial port
- Lithium Ion battery
- Weight: 3.08Kg
- Size: 295x226x49mm
- Windows 95/3.11 supplied

A generally well-designed and well-executed notebook, although minor improvements to the screen and keyboard could have made it even better. It's expensive, as brand-name power notebooks generally are, but for this kind of money the CD-ROM drive ought to be included as standard.

- £5,610.63 (street price: £4,768.15)
- Hewlett-Packard: 0990 474747

HP Omnibook 5500CT

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Build quality	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ★



In the past, Hewlett-Packard's Omnibook range has incorporated some innovative features, like the 'mouse on a stalk' that could be operated in midair, or the heavily hardwired approach where both Windows and its applications were stored in ROM (Read Only Memory) rather than disk. Things seem to have changed over time, though, and the company's approach has become increasingly conventional, to the extent that the new 5500CT is very much aligned with the current trends for high-end notebooks.

The core of the system is clearly aimed at users wanting desktop-like performance, hence the 133MHz Pentium processor, 256Kb of fast synchronous secondary cache and large 1.2Gb hard disk. But, as with several other recent products, the new low power consumption 2.9V Pentium has been used to improve battery life.

Power notebooks with active colour screens tend to be hefty but, at 7.5lb, the Omnibook manages not to go over the top. Not that robustness is sacrificed – the main casing is inflexible and there's no give in the palmrest, the keyboard baseplate or the surface of the lid for that matter. This is an important point when you consider the cost of a replacement screen damaged through impact.

The 12.1in active screen looked handsome enough and was comfortably readable at 800x600 resolution, but it was really rather dark overall. This was quite possibly a deliberate attempt to reduce battery drain, but we would nevertheless prefer more power in the backlight and an option in power management to turn it down if desired.

The hard drive, floppy drive and battery pack are arranged side by side along the front edge of the machine and held in place by catches or, in the hard drive's case, a security screw. Like a number of current notebooks, the Omnibook's central

bay can be used for the floppy drive or a quad-speed CD-ROM drive. If battery life is of paramount importance, then it can also hold a second battery. What is less typical is that the CD-ROM module is sold as an option costing a further £314.90, and given the Omnibook's ex-VAT list price of £4,775, it makes you wonder why it isn't included as standard.

Assuming you do go the whole hog and purchase the CD-ROM drive, the rest of the Omnibook's multimedia features are made up of a 16-bit audio processor, stereo speakers set into either side of the palmrest and a microphone just below the left screen hinge. The speakers were acceptable by notebook standards but, as usual, external amplification and speakers will be necessary for anything other than everyday personal use.

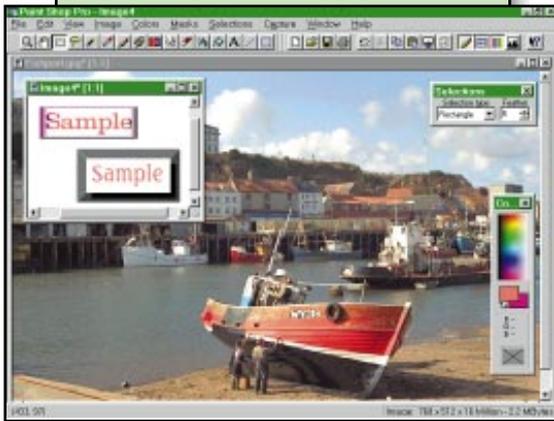
Unlike altogether too many notebooks, the Omnibook's power management setup was properly implemented with a Windows-based utility for making changes which took effect immediately without requiring the system to be restarted. You can create your own settings, but the easy and quick way is simply to pick from a selection of predefined levels of power saving. With medium-weight power management enabled, the Omnibook should run for between two-and-a-half to three hours if the Lithium Ion battery is fully charged and both disk access and audio playback are kept to a minimum.

IrDA, the Infra-red Data Association, has introduced a new, much faster standard for infra-red data transmission, designated IrDA-2. This yields data transfer rates of up to 4Mbps (megabits per second) and it makes wireless data exchange fast enough to be a serious proposition. We were encouraged to see that the Omnibook's Ir serial port conformed to the new standard, although it wasn't a great surprise as HP is one of the key players behind IrDA itself. ▶

Paint Shop Pro 4

Paul Wardley

A full Windows 95 version of this popular image-editing, painting and file-conversion program.



- Creates, edits and saves bitmap pictures
- Can convert ten vector formats into bit-mapped images
- Automatically batch-converts multiple files to different formats
- Includes screen capture tools
- Browser shows image files as thumbnails
- Floating palettes and controls can be positioned anywhere on-screen
- New painting tools include paper textures, gradient and texture fills
- New special effects include drop-shadows, chiselling, 'hot wax' effect, seamless tiling

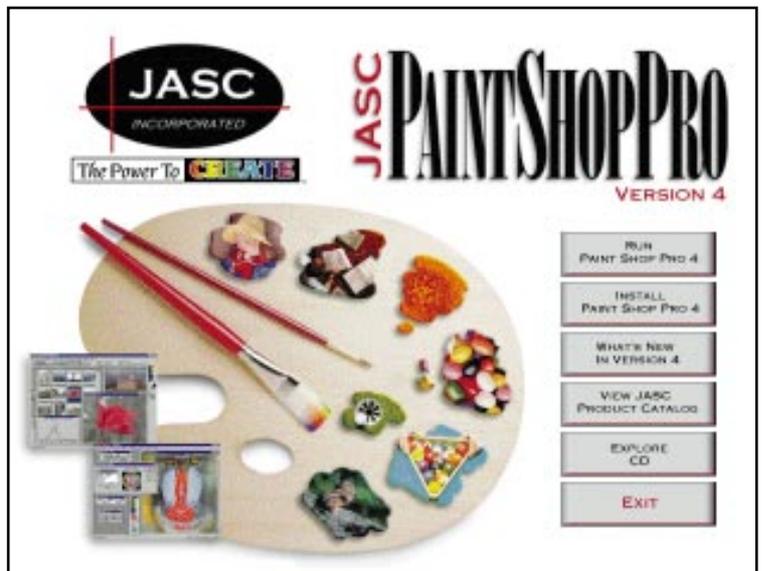
Paint Shop Pro 4 is good enough for the professional graphic designer, yet easy enough for the rest of us to use. A real winner.

- £58.69
- Digital Workshop: 01295 258335

Paint Shop Pro 4

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Ease of use	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Minimum requirements: Windows 95, CD-ROM drive, 8Mb of RAM, 486 or higher.



Paint Shop Pro is probably the most commonly used image-editing software in the world. This is mainly because its publisher, JASC, with each issue of the retail product, has also released a fully-featured shareware version, thereby guaranteeing Paint Shop Pro the widest possible audience.

Despite its shareware associations, Paint Shop Pro is nevertheless good enough to stand alongside its most expensive competitors. This is due to its range of features, stability and relatively low system requirements that enable it to run on ordinary PCs, rather than pumped-up graphics workstations.

Paint Shop Pro 4, the first full Windows 95 version, builds on the program's existing strengths and comes with a superb 250-page manual. Installation takes up only 6Mb of hard disk space, but the CD contains over 150Mb of full-colour images to practise with, and an excellent 'What's New?' section that demonstrates what you can do with the program.

On starting the program, the first difference you notice is with the toolbars: these can now be 'floated' anywhere on screen (so they don't get in the way of the image you are working on), 'docked' at the top and sides of the screen, or switched off altogether. You can also customise the toolbars to include your favourite or most-used features.

The Browse screen, which makes catalogues of pictures on a disk and displays thumbnail images of them, has been integrated into the main program, instead of running on a separate screen, so you can click on an image and edit it at any time.

The batch conversion utility was available in previous versions of Paint Shop Pro, but it's now much easier to use. As with all Paint Shop Pro's features, it uses Windows 95-style dialog boxes to simplify the selection

of options, and the help screens have tabs at the top to select step-by-step instructions if you need them.

So much for the operational improvements to version 4; what's more important is the enhanced range of painting tools. Naturally, all the usual controls for photo-retouching and creating images from scratch are present, but there are several new effects, including graduated and textured fills. More esoteric is the 'buttonise' feature, which turns text (or part of a picture) into a Windows control button.

The 'chisel' effect gives an image a bevelled edge and 'hot wax coating' simulates the effect of pouring coloured wax onto a picture that 'sticks' with different degrees of transparency to the image's contours. Speaking of transparency, you can also create pictures that let what's underneath show through – very useful if you are creating images to be displayed on Web pages with coloured backgrounds.

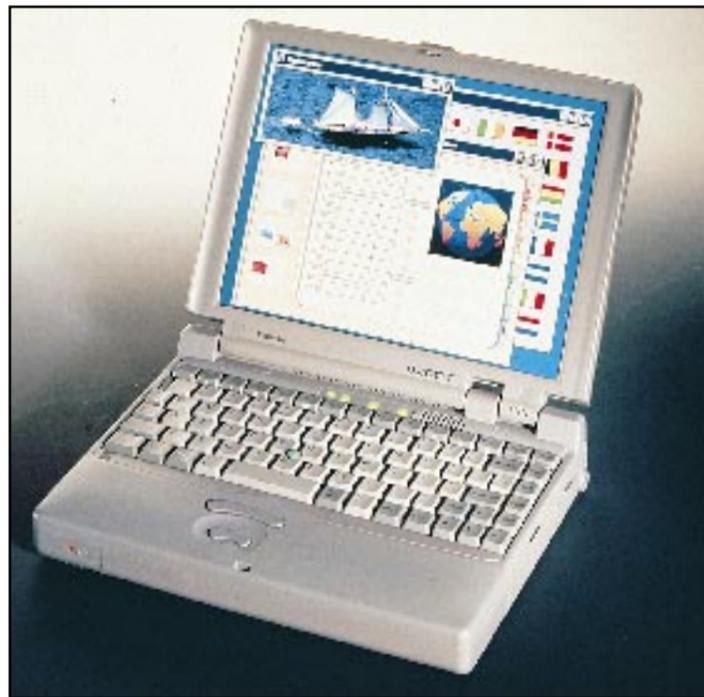
When selecting areas of a picture to work on, be they rectangular, elliptical or freeform shapes, you can now feather the edges for a smoother aspect, or you can use the cut-out feature to create the illusion of a selection that is suspended slightly above the background, complete with a corresponding shadow. This is in addition to the conventional drop-shadow tool, also provided, which is mainly used to enhance text.

As before, if you're after free artistic expression, you can paint with a number of different tools – crayon, charcoal, airbrush, and so on – but now you can also choose from twenty-nine textured surfaces to work on, including canvas, wood grain, clouds and marble. One particularly clever feature is the ability to save your creations as a pattern that can be tiled without the joins showing – perfect for personalised background wallpapers for Windows.

Toshiba Portégé 620CT

Scott Colvey

Sub-A4 notebook with TFT screen, 100MHz Pentium processor, 8Mb of RAM and a 1.2Gb hard disk.



- 100MHz Pentium processor
- 10.4in TFT screen with 800x600 resolution
- 1.2Gb hard disk
- 8Mb of EDO RAM (upgradable to 40Mb)
- Dimensions: 251x201x48mm
- Weight: 2.2Kg (with floppy drive)
- Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) battery
- Two Type II PCMCIA (PC Card) slots
- 16-bit stereo sound (on external speakers)
- Built-in mono speaker

The Portégé is small, chunky, powerful and pricey, but if you want a notebook that will fit into your briefcase with some room to spare, then it could suit you down to the ground.

- £3,519.13
- Toshiba: 01932 828828

Toshiba Portégé

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Build quality	n/a
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
Overall	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

As notebook manufacturers go, Toshiba is one of the most prolific. From low-priced workhorses to state-of-the-art dream machines, Toshiba produces notebooks to fit all briefcases and suit most wallets. Its latest machine, the Portégé 620CT, is designed for those with smaller briefcases and larger wallets. The machine we looked at was in the final stages of production and could therefore be subject to alterations before its final release.

Measuring just 251x201mm at its base, the Portégé is outstanding among notebook PCs as having one of the smallest footprints. However, despite its compact appearance, at 2.2Kg it feels surprisingly heavy and, at 48mm thick, its profile is exceptionally chunky for a brand-new model.

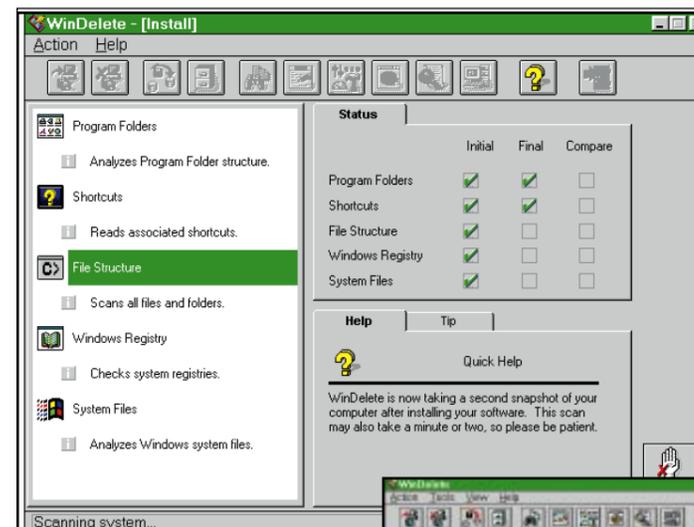
Lifting the lid of the Portégé reveals a case-filling 10.4in active-matrix screen. This produces crisp images at its top resolution of 800x600 and it has a reasonably wide viewing angle. At the bottom-right of the screen is a microphone, and just below this a mono speaker. These two tiny devices are used by the built-in ESS AudioDrive sound system which provides 16-bit Sound Blaster-compatible sound facilities under Windows 95. Understandably, the quality of output from the speaker is not particularly good, and recordings made via the mike are barely adequate. Fortunately, there's also a pair of 3.5in jack sockets on the left-hand side of the Portégé should you wish to connect an external mike and stereo speakers.

Apart from an annoyingly undersized spacebar, the keyboard

is pretty good. The keys have an excellent feel to them but, because of the Portégé's size, they are spaced just a little too closely for our liking and we often hit the wrong key while typing. At the rear of the machine there's a pair of retractable legs for altering the angle of the keyboard. In the middle of the keyboard sits the Portégé's pointing device – a trackpoint nipple. This isn't as stiff as many we've experienced, and the two-and-a-half inches of wrist-rest space in front of the keyboard allows pointing operations to be performed very steadily.

To keep down the size of the Portégé, there's no internal floppy disk drive. Instead, you get an external one which is about as slim as is mechanically possible – just under the thickness of four stacked 3.5in floppy disks and could easily, if foolishly, be carried in a back trouser pocket. The floppy drive can be 'hot swapped' (inserted or removed while the Portégé is in use), so you don't have to keep it plugged in on the off-chance of needing it. Next to the floppy drive socket, on the right-hand side of the machine, is a flap that covers two PCMCIA Type II sockets (the slots can also serve as a single Type III card socket).

On the underside of the Portégé is a small, screwed-down panel which gives access to a single RAM expansion slot. This slot can take a proprietary memory module of up to 32Mb, meaning the Portégé's standard 8Mb can be upgraded to a maximum of 40Mb. Just below this panel is a Lithium Ion battery. Toshiba estimates this will give you around four hours of typical use, and from our tests this would seem to be spot on.



Windows 3.1 was worse than hopeless in the way it allowed programs to litter the hard disk with weirdly-named files and snippets of code until there was no room left for anything useful. Windows 95 is a lot better but, although the facility to remove unwanted programs is built into the system, a deletion often leaves files and empty directories behind, which must be deleted manually.

WinDelete aims to be a foolproof solution to the problem of removing unwanted programs, regardless of whether they have their own uninstallers. It requires no knowledge of files, directories, extensions and the like but relies instead on a push-button interface and a few simple choices. It can remove two types of program – those installed before WinDelete was present and those installed afterwards. The difference is that if WinDelete is present when a program is installed, it's able to track exactly what is put on the disk (and where) and what changes are made to the hidden system files. Armed with this knowledge, it can then completely reverse the effects of a program's installation.

For this to work, WinDelete must be started up before a program is installed. It then checks out your computer and makes a log of what's on the hard disk and what's in the system files. Next, it runs the normal set-up procedure for the new program and, when this is over, WinDelete does another check on the system to see what changes have been made. This information is saved for future reference and, if you subsequently decide to delete the program, WinDelete uses it to effect a complete uninstallation.

Unfortunately, things do not always work as smoothly as intended. WinDelete can't fully remove programs that hook themselves into Windows itself (such as Microsoft



Voice) and are therefore semi-active whenever Windows is running. It also gets confused with two-part installations where, for example, you run a second setup program to modify an existing installation; WinDelete may only partially delete a compound installation of this type. When it comes to removing programs where the installation was unsupervised, WinDelete can work out which files can be safely removed, but errs on the side of caution by colouring questionable files yellow and leaving you to decide what to do with them – leaving you back at square one. Neither can it remove Dos programs – when we tried it, WinDelete crashed.

WinDelete also offers the option of keeping compressed copies of any programs it removes, so that if you change your mind, you can bring a program back. Windows 95 users can keep copies of everything they delete, but under Windows 3.1 only the most recent deletion is stored.

There are also several minor utilities to help you tidy up your disk when you first start using WinDelete. You can search for duplicated and orphan files (ones that have lost the program that created them) and there's a nifty editor for INI files if you really want to get your hands dirty.

The CD version of WinDelete includes four other programs: Office Central for file and document management, First Aid Lite, WinCheckit for diagnostics and – a real bonus – a full copy of McAfee's AntiVirus for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95.

IMSI WinDelete 3.0

Paul Wardley

Software to help you remove Windows applications you no longer need, which now works with Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 and comes with a bundle of other utility programs.

- Separate 16 and 32-bit versions on floppy disks
- Deletes obsolete applications
- Removes unnecessary system files
- Moves programs to different folders on the hard disk
- System Tuner offers performance tips
- Failsafe recovery if you delete an essential file
- Bonus CD includes WinDelete and four other programs: McAfee VirusScan, WINCheckit, Office Central, First Aid 95 Lite

WinDelete is pretty good at removing programs installed after itself, but can't do much to help with software already on the hard disk. The bonus CD programs make this a great bargain if you want more than just an uninstaller.

- £41.07 (street price: approx £30)
- IMSI: 0181 581 2000

IMSI WinDelete 3.0

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Ease of use	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Minimum requirements: Windows 3.1, 4Mb of RAM, 386 PC (or Windows 95, 8Mb of RAM, 386 PC).



Regardless of whether you're a trigger-happy camera buff or complete newcomer to the world of photography, you will have heard of Kodak. Kodak has been producing film for longer than most people can remember, so the DC20 comes as something of a surprise as it's a camera that doesn't require any film. The DC20 is a digital camera – the shots you take are stored in Ram as opposed to light-sensitive film.

There's no denying that the DC20 is extremely compact – it slips easily into a shirt or trouser pocket and its weight is almost negligible. Unfortunately, it looks and feels significantly cheaper than it actually is – and this impression is boosted by the lack of a lens cover or camera case. Without either, it wouldn't be long before the lens got scratched, which is not something you'd appreciate on a £350 camera.

The back panel is bare but for a viewfinder and three status LEDs that indicate when the camera is powered, busy or has reached its storage capacity. On the left-hand side of this panel is a flap that covers a 3V Lithium battery. Kodak estimates that this should last for around 350 hours of normal use. To prolong the life of the battery, the DC20 has a built-in power-saving feature which switches off the power after ninety seconds of inactivity.

On the top of the DC20 sit three buttons, the largest of which is the shutter control. The DC20 has a fixed-focus lens, so all you have to do to take a picture is literally point and click. Once you've released the shutter, there's a satisfying mechanical click, much like that of a traditional, film-based camera. Unlike a film-based camera, though, each shot takes a few seconds to be stored into the DC20's memory,

which means you cannot take pictures in rapid succession. A second button is used to clear the DC20's memory, which can store a maximum of eight or sixteen pictures, depending on the chosen resolution. You cannot perform selective deletion of stored pictures, even with the accompanying software. The final button simply switches the DC20 on or off.

The software Kodak has chosen to bundle with the DC20 is a mixed bunch to say the least. The main application, PhotoEnhancer Special Fun Edition, is used for transferring images from the camera to a PC. To be able to do this, you must first attach the DC20 to your PC (or Mac) via the supplied serial-connecting cable. At the DC20 end, the cable plugs into a 3.5mm jack socket, which is plugged with a rubber bung when not in use. This done, PhotoEnhancer interrogates the DC20 and gives you thumbnail images of the pictures stored in its memory. Double-click on any thumbnail and the image will be transferred to your PC and displayed at its full resolution (either 493x373 or 320x240 pixels). It is at this point that the disappointment sets in as the pictures lack the vibrancy and sharpness of those developed from film. You can improve the appearance of images somewhat by using PhotoEnhancer's correction facilities but, even after this, the images could at best be described as reasonable.

One big advantage of the DC20 is that it's a Twain-compliant device. Twain is a set of standard drivers which enables software packages to import images from any suitable device, usually a scanner. In a nutshell, this means that you can use the DC20 to take pictures and import them directly into many major graphics packages.

Kodak DC20

Scott Colvey

A low-cost compact digital camera that can store up to 8 medium-resolution or 16 low-resolution images.

- Dimensions: 31mmx102mmx61mm
- Weight: 133.24g
- Aperture range: f/4 to f/11
- Shutter speed: 1/30 to 1/4,000 of a second
- Fixed-focus lens: 0.5in to infinity
- Automatic exposure
- Stores 16 images in standard resolution (320x240 pixels) or 8 images in high resolution (493x373 pixels)

The target market for digital cameras for personal use is untested. Kodak has taken its first step in this potentially lucrative area but, on the performance of the DC20, there's a long way to go before film becomes redundant.

- £349
- Kodak: 0800 281487

Kodak DC20

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Build quality	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Ease of use	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Minimum requirements: 386PC, Windows, 6Mb of Ram, CD-ROM drive and serial port.

Dell Dimension XPS 200S

Dominic Bucknall

A 200MHz Pentium system with full multimedia capabilities, a 128-bit graphics controller and a 17in monitor.

- 200MHz Pentium processor
- 16Mb of SDRAM main memory
- 512Kb pipeline burst secondary cache
- 1.6Gb EIDE hard disk (probably 2.5Gb in current models)
- Eight-speed CD-ROM
- Creative Labs AWE32 wavetable sound card
- Altec three-piece active speaker set
- 4Mb Number 9 Imagine Series 2 128-bit graphics controller
- 17in monitor
- Windows 95
- Microsoft Office 95 Professional

Considering that this is a brand-name machine, it is very good value for money and, thanks to its quality multimedia components and powerful graphics, would make an excellent system for home use.

- £2,466
- Dell: 01344 720000

Dell Dimension XPS 200S

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Build quality	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Different people have different ideas about what constitutes a home PC. In some cases, it's the very cheapest system that just about functions with current software – say a 486DX2/66 or DX4/100 with 8Mb of RAM and probably no multimedia. Others take the view that the better the machine, the longer it will last before creeping obsolescence makes replacement unavoidable. Certainly anyone opting for the cheap way in will not be able to take advantage of features like high-resolution SVGA modes in Dos games, and performance of the latest software, regardless of its purpose, is likely to be affected adversely.

On this basis, there's a good argument for buying the best you can possibly afford in order to get the most in terms of performance, capabilities, storage and general satisfaction, for as long as possible. This is where something like the Dell Dimension XPS 200S comes in.

It's as powerful as Pentiums currently get, with a 200MHz processor supported by a practical 16Mb of fast SDRAM (synchronous dynamic RAM) and a 512Kb synchronous secondary cache. The review sample had a 1.6Gb hard disk, but this is likely to have grown to a whopping 2.5Gb by the time this is published, without affecting the price. Although 2.5Gb might sound like a ridiculous amount of storage, add Windows 95, a raft of 32-bit applications and half-a-dozen games (installed from CD for speedier access) and the megabytes soon vanish. Then picture what software you might buy over the next couple of years...

Multimedia is provided in the form of a fast eight-speed NEC CD-ROM drive and a Creative Labs AWE32 sound card, which is still considered to be a leader in its field. The quality of the components extends to the three-piece Altec Lansing speaker set, which provides

well above-average audio quality from its combination of stereo satellite units and separate sub-woofer.

Instead of the usual one or two megabytes, the Dimension's powerful Number 9 Imagine Series 2 graphics card has 4Mb of dedicated memory. This translates into 128-bit graphics processing in 16.7 million colours at 1,024x768 resolution, with the potential to run at 1,280x1,024 in 16.7 million colours if a larger monitor is purchased.

Not that the supplied 17in unit is in immediate need of replacement. It has a relatively flat screen with a 15.5in diagonal and a comprehensive set of digital controls with an on-screen menu. The picture is pleasingly sharp all over, even in the corner areas where focus is often poor. The monitor supports a fast 80Hz vertical refresh rate at 1,024x768 resolution, which eliminates the screen flicker that can be a problem at higher resolutions.

Inside the attractive midi-tower case we discovered a new-style ATX motherboard, based on the latest Triton 2 support chipset. The redesigned motherboard gets rid of the usual clutter and obstructions, leaving the available memory upgrade socket easily accessible and placing no obstructions in the paths of the two free ISA and three free PCI expansion slots. The main drive stack has three empty front-opening bays, one 5.25in and two 3.5in. There's a further 3.5in internal bay further down in the case, so expansion in any area shouldn't be a problem with this machine.

As you'd expect, this is a pretty slick performer across the board, with each aspect of the system – processor, memory, motherboard, disk and graphics – balanced and keeping up with the rest. That said, the speed gain over a similarly specified Pentium 166 is not so great, but if you want the current top-flight processor in your PC, the P200 is it.

Psion 3a with Microsoft Autoroute Express and Philips Routefinder

Julian Prokaza

Two products – one self-contained and one for the Psion – that calculate the best routes for journeys.

Philips Routefinder:

- Covers Great Britain only
- 100x160 backlit LCD screen
- Qwerty keyboard
- One PCMCIA Type II slot for data cards
- 4 AA batteries (14 hours of use)
- Dimensions: 112x103.71x27mm
- Weight: 275g (with batteries)

Microsoft AutoRoute Express:

- Covers entire British Isles
- Requires 512Kb Psion 3a
- Map view can display 0.2 miles to the inch
- Instructions can be printed, faxed & copied to the 3a's WP

Neither can replace a good road atlas, but if you want instructions on getting from A to B with the minimum of fuss, it has to be the Routefinder. The AutoRoute Express/Psion 3a combination is pricier and its route-finding ability doesn't compare but, if you already have a 3a, you might find this a useful, cheaper option.

- £199 (additional cards: £29.99)
- Philips: 0800 215315

Philips Routefinder

Performance	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★

- £69.95 (AutoRoute Express); £249.95 (Psion 3a 512Kb)
- Psion: 0171 258 7368

Microsoft Autoroute Express

Performance	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★



Route-finding programs have been available for PCs for some time. Given a starting point, destination and places to visit (or avoid) on the way, they will work out a detailed route that can be printed out and then taken on the journey. But when you've just taken the wrong exit off the M25 and are heading towards Croydon, a piece of paper giving directions to Windsor Castle isn't a great deal of use.

Forget your PC, however, and there are much more suitable, portable options – for instance, the Philips Routefinder and Microsoft's AutoRoute Express for the Psion 3a.

The Philips Routefinder is a black slab of plastic with a backlit LCD screen and small Qwerty keyboard on its top surface. Road data is supplied on a Type II PCMCIA card that slots into the side of the case. The AA card supplied as standard only covers Great Britain, but cards for other countries are also available, and a London street card is in the works.

Microsoft's AutoRoute Express, on the other hand, is not a stand-alone product, but rather an application for the Psion 3a. It is supplied on a solid Bstate disk that fits into one of the 3a's two slots and it covers the whole of the British Isles, not just Britain. It does of course need a Psion 3a before it can be used – more specifically a Psion 3a with at least 512Kb of memory.

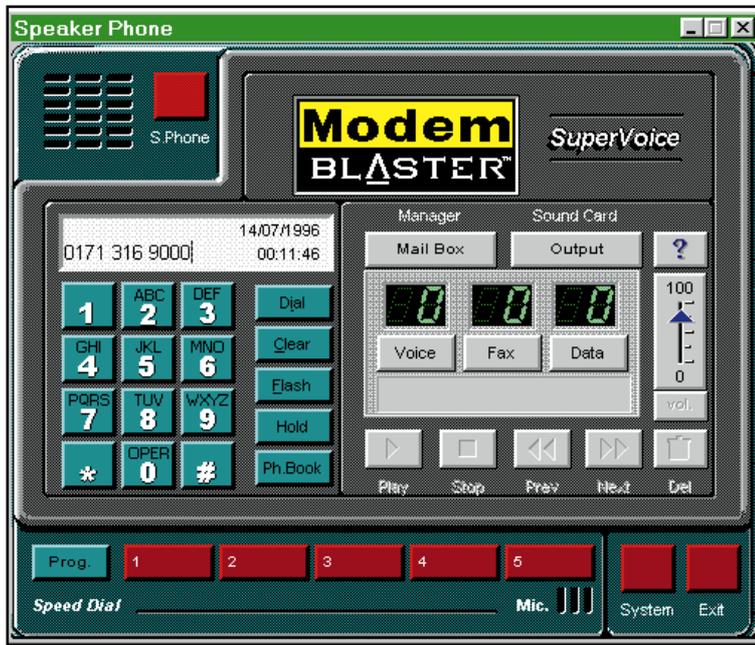
Both the Routefinder and AutoRoute Express are used in a similar way. A route obviously requires two place names – one for each end of the journey. When it comes to naming them, however, the Routefinder has the edge – it knows some 38,000 places, compared to AutoRoute Express's 7,000.

Both systems also cater for detours so that the journey can take in other places en route. Again, the Routefinder scores here. All of the journey options are set by entering place names before the route is calculated, but AutoRoute Express forces you to find a route before you can tell it where to avoid.

There isn't much between the two when it comes to actually finding a route – both products took about thirty seconds to plan a journey from Liverpool to Piccadilly Circus, for example. At this point, however, the systems differ in their approach. Although both can display the route as a step-by-step textual description, AutoRoute Express can also display a road map. As well as the calculated route, this also shows places and roads of note, and both the level of detail and magnification can be altered. Although this does give a rough idea of the direction of travel, it's difficult to read the black-and-white map on a small screen, and it simply isn't detailed enough to follow.

Miles	Instruction	Road	For	Towards
0.0	DEPART London (Gtr London) on the	A400	0.7 m	
0.7	Turn left onto	A501	0.9 m	(Paddington)
1.6	Turn off onto	A41	0.7 m	(St John's Wood)
2.3	At St John's Wood stay on the	A41	1.1 m	(Swiss Cottage)
3.4	At Swiss Cottage stay on the	A41	4.5 m	(Hendon)
7.9	At Hendon stay on the	A41	0.8 m	
8.7	Turn off onto	M1	74.5 m	(M1 J2)
83.2	At M1 J19 turn off onto	M6	99.6 m	*Check access*
182.8	At M6			
186.8	At M5			
193.9	At M5			
200.4	Turn			





Despite coming from Creative Labs and having the word 'Blaster' in its name, this is not a sound card. It is in fact a fast V.34 internal modem with added voice facilities that allow it to be used as an answering machine. Everything is supplied – the modem itself, a phone cable, manuals and software. All you need is a spare expansion slot in your PC.

Not surprisingly, the modem can be hooked up to a Sound Blaster (or any other sound card) if you want to record and play messages through your standard Windows sound system, but it works just as well using its own internal speaker and a telephone handset for recording and listening to messages.

The hardware is a two-thirds length expansion card that fits inside your PC. Although fitting an internal modem is slightly fussier than hooking up an external box, it does have the advantage of not tying up any serial ports. What's more, the serial ports on older PCs often aren't capable of handling the 28,800bps speed of a V.34 modem, so the ModemBlaster is an easy way around this.

Only one decision has to be made before installing the ModemBlaster card – do you want to use the internal speaker or your Windows sound system? If you are going to use the internal speaker, you don't need to do anything apart from push the card into an expansion slot. If you want to use a sound card, you have to disable the internal speaker by changing a single jumper connection on the board. Once connected to a phone line, you use the Creative Labs software installation disk to set up the modem in Windows 95 or 3.1.

Having got this far, the modem is ready to log on to on-line services or the Internet. If you're not a mem-

ber of either of these, you can use the free one-month trial CompuServe disks supplied in the box. To use the modem as a fax and answering machine you also need to install the SuperVoice software, which enables you to send and receive faxes and to set up a simple answering machine. It can also work as a complex voice-mail system that can issue multiple messages and send out faxes on request. SuperVoice also enables callers (or yourself, if you are using a remote computer) to connect with your PC to send and receive files.

For Windows 95 users only, there's also Microsoft Phone and Voice software. Microsoft Phone duplicates most of the telephone functions of SuperVoice but adds something extra – voice control of common Windows commands. This works pretty well, considering some of the earlier shaky attempts at voice recognition, but it's not infallible.

Microsoft Voice can be set to listen to you all the time, or to respond only when you say the word 'computer' or press the Scroll Lock key on the keyboard. As well as responding to simple commands like 'start running Microsoft Word' or 'file print', you can define longer sequences of actions and attach them to a sequence of keystrokes. In this way you could, for instance, attach your full address to the phrase 'letter heading' so that it would be typed whenever you said it.

If you try to do anything more complex than this, Voice gets confused. We had little success getting it to download e-mail automatically, as suggested in the manual. In practice, Voice understands you about half the time, misunderstands a quarter of the time and fails to hear you at all for the rest. It's an interesting novelty, but it's not going to redefine the way we use computers.

ModemBlaster Voice

Paul Wardley

A voice, fax and data modem that comes with Microsoft's voice recognition software and a full set of programs to handle all forms of electronic communication.



- Internal V.34 data modem
- Fax receive and send
- Voice chips enable use as answering machine
- Plug-and-Play setup
- Automatically detects data, voice and fax calls
- Can act as a speakerphone if used with a sound card
- Software includes: SuperVoice 2.2b; CompuServe trial (one month's free access); Microsoft Phone for Windows 95; Microsoft Voice for Windows 95

You can buy cheaper V.34 voice modems, but this one comes with a really interesting and useful collection of software, good documentation, proper manuals and Creative Labs' excellent hotline support.

- £209.99
- Creative Labs: 01245 265265

ModemBlaster Voice

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Ease of use	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Minimum requirements: 486DX/33 with 4Mb of RAM, one free ISA expansion slot, CD-ROM drive (for Microsoft products), optional sound card, speakers and microphone.

Xerox TextBridge Pro 96

Julian Prokaza

The latest version of the popular optical character recognition program for both Windows 3.1 and Windows 95.



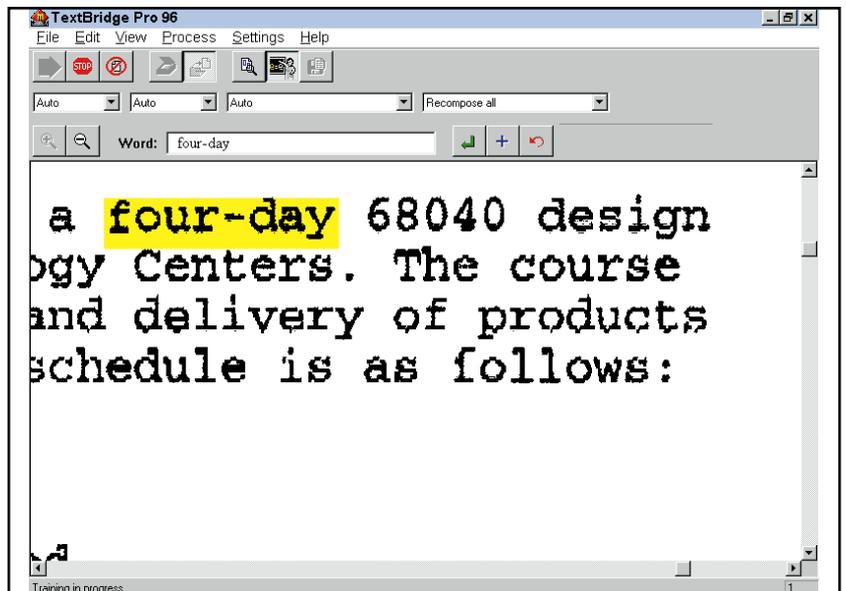
- Text output formats include Word, WordPerfect, Excel and HTML
- Image input in Tiff, PCX, DCX and BMP formats
- 'Proofreader' application allows recognised text to be edited directly from word processor
- Recognition training for words and special symbols
- Includes support for eleven Western European languages
- OLE 2 Drag and Drop
- Twain and Isis scanner support

It's not cheap, but if you frequently need to get words from page to word processor, then TextBridge Pro 96 will probably pay for itself in no time at all.

- £410.08
- Xerox Desktop Document Systems:01732 668421

Xerox Textbridge Pro 96

Performance	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Ease of use	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Features	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Value for money	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Overall	★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Optical character recognition (or OCR for short) sounds easy. Looking at a printed letter 'a' and recognising it as such seems such a simple task, but it takes us several years to get the hang of it – and we're using the most powerful computer ever created. So, when it comes to getting a program to do it on a humble PC, things obviously aren't going to be simple.

OCR programs take a scanned image of a document and attempt to turn it into text that can be edited using a word processor. In theory, this can save a lot of time that would otherwise be spent retyping. In practice, however, the resulting text usually contains so many errors that retyping would actually be quicker than correcting it. When Xerox's TextBridge OCR program came along, it made something of a splash. It was highly accurate, inexpensive and yet easy to use – something of an anomaly in OCR software. The latest version, TextBridge Pro 96, improves upon its predecessor, but as is often the way with such things, the epithet 'pro' doesn't come cheaply.

TextBridge Pro's single CD contains two versions of the program – one each for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95; SoftQuad's HotMetal Light Web page creator is thrown in for good measure. A full installation of TextBridge Pro requires about 10Mb of free hard drive space and additional languages (up to eleven are supported) take up an extra 700Kb each. TextBridge Pro can also provide its own scanner driver (Twain or otherwise) so that documents can be scanned directly from the application itself. Alternatively, a scanned document can be imported as an image in either Tiff, BMP, or PCX formats.

TextBridge Pro 96 is extremely easy to use. To 'OCR' a document, simply press the green 'go' button

and a window appears in which the document source is specified. If the source is the scanner, the window is a scan window, if it's a file, an 'open file' window. Once acquired, the document is analysed and can either be copied to the clipboard or saved in one of a variety of formats for later editing in a word processor.

If the original document is of a high quality, with just a single column of clear, regular, black text, then that's all there is to it and the final recognised text is impressively accurate. Unfortunately, documents that fit this bill are thin on the ground and, in the real world, single columns of text on a page are rare, as are ones consisting of a single, regular font. Pictures often break up pages and faxing and photocopying makes a big impact on quality. Fortunately, TextBridge Pro is adequately equipped to deal with this. Columns and pictures are easily overcome by selecting options from drop-down lists, and there are also options to present the recognised text in a single column, in its original multiple columns, or even to reconstruct the entire page layout, pictures and all.

Even with poor-quality documents (such as faxes and dot-matrix prints), TextBridge Pro performs well. But it can't work miracles and, if it does get it wrong, like most OCR programs, it can learn from its mistakes. Whenever a document is analysed in 'training' mode, any words that TextBridge Pro isn't sure about are highlighted on the original scan. As each word is highlighted, TextBridge also displays its interpretation of it. If it's correct, you can accept the word and continue; if not, you can type it in correctly and add it to the dictionary. If you're prepared to spend time training the software in this way, it will reward you with increasingly accurate documents.