# WHAT PC?
## AND SOFTWARE

**6** number **six**

Nine great regular sections

Volume 15 **Issue 12**
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From the the publishers of *What PC?*

**Featured games demos:** Bug, Hyperblade, RAC Rally, Azrael's Tear
**Multimedia and featured software:** Green Eggs and Ham, The Art of Coarse Fishing, The Logical Journey of the Zoombinis, Cubase demonstration
**Arts:** Eight sound tracks from Co-Star; 32 graphic images from the Image Bank; three novels: *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Treasure Island,* and *Prince Otto* by Robert Louis Stevenson.
**Getting Started:** Beginner's interactive guide to PCs & printers.
**Focus on:** *What PC?* Computer Class video about upgrading your PC's processor and memory.
**Hands on!** A section containing over 500 fully searchable pages of hints, tips and practical advice on every aspect of personal computing.
**The Room:** VNU's all-singing all-dancing e-zine, plus 'Interactive Radio.'
**Resources:** Essential utilities including Paintshop Pro v4, Oddometer, **Microsoft's Internet Explorer 3** and **Netscape Navigator 3**, Conversation Buddy, MIDIKeys, Recipe Maker, ECU, WildRide, EZ-Forms, Psion emulator, Nicholson London Pages and *What PC?* buyers guide for Series 3a, and much more.
**Reference:** Glossary of computer terms, 12-month features index of *What PC?*, plus **the complete November issue of *What PC?*** to read in Adobe Acrobat format.

Over **600Mb** of fun family software see page 4

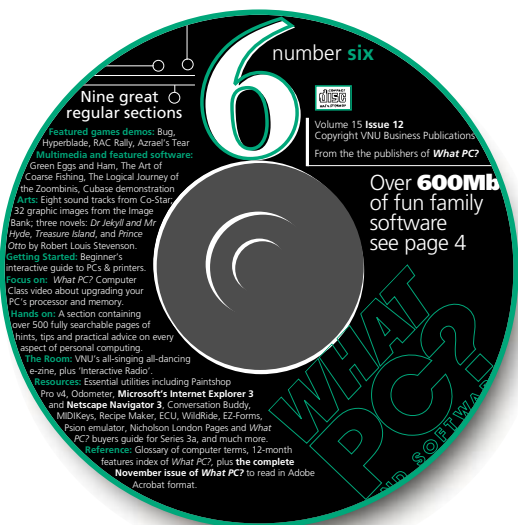## Cover CD

### 4 What CD? number six

You'll find the latest games and multimedia demos; Internet pages galore; our interactive Getting Started guide to PCs; a resources section filled with essential shareware and utilities; music, photos and novels 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.

## Cover story

### 62 Budget PCs

Today it is possible to buy a complete multimedia computer with a powerful Pentium processor for under £1,200. *What PC?* puts a group of these relatively low-cost high-performance PCs through their paces. We also look at four alternative models that will set you back less than £1,000.

## Features

### 78 Drawing software

One way of adding graphics to your word processor or DTP documents is to use a drawing package. We review a dozen of these, from budget programs to heavyweights of the kind used in commercial design.
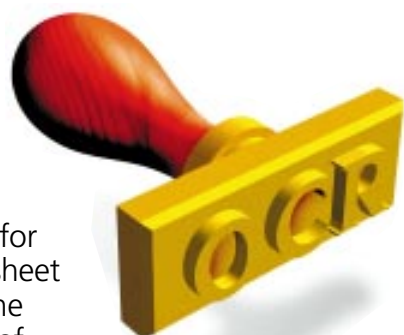
### 98 17in monitors

Most PCs are supplied with 14in or 15in screens. For more comfortable working and to get the most from today's high-resolution Windows graphics, you can upgrade to a larger, better-quality unit such as one of the 17in monitors we review this month.

### 116 Document scanners

A scanner allows you to capture paper-based images or text and transfer them to your PC. Of the various models available, document scanners are designed for scanning single loose-sheet pages. We report on the performance of seven of these devices.

## Reviews

### 23 Up front

**Lotus SmartSuite 97**  Latest version of this office suite.
**Compaq Presario 4704**  Eye-catching multimedia home PC.
**HP LaserJet 6P and 6MP**  Two compact 8ppm printers.
**Nokia 9000 Communicator**  All-in-one mobile communicator.
**Microsoft FrontPage 1.1 versus Claris Home Page 1.0 (beta)** Two Web publishing programs compared.
**JASC Media Center 2.03 for Windows**  File manager.
**Panasonic CF-62**  High-end Pentium notebook.
**WinProbe 95**  Diagnostic programs for Windows 95.
**Mini Office Tax '96**  Software to help fill in tax returns.
**Pace Message Desk 34**  Modem/fax/answering machine.
**NetAttaché Light**  Web tool to enable off-line browsing.
**QMS Magicolor WX**  Colour laser printer.
**IBM PC 330**  Business PC with 166MHz Pentium processor.

### 52 In brief

**Microsoft IntelliMouse**  Microsoft's new mouse.
**Connectix Colour QuickCam**  Captures images for a PC.
**Softkey CV Pro**  For creating a stylish CV.
**Sony MDH-10**  External MiniDisc player which can store data.
**Purple Software Cyclone Drive**  Portable drive for Psions.
**Guildsoft Family Origins**  Helps create your family tree.
**Success with Windows 95**  3 books of Win 95 tips on CD.
**Opti Databank**  An external hard disk drive for notebook PCs.
**Adaptec MiniSCSI**  SCSI interface without a SCSI card.
**VideoLogic GrafixStar 600**  Graphics card for Win95 users.
**Rastermedia 3-in-1 Multimedia Accelerator and TV Tuner**  Adds sound and graphics to a PC– plus TV option.

### 130 Computer class
An introduction to **making music on your PC**.

### 139 Computer class
How to **upgrade your processor & memory**.

## Regulars

**15  News**  hardware and software latest.

**57  Letters**  and competition winners.

**59  Competition** A Dan dantum 95/133 is this month's first prize, and 10 runners-up will get a Collins Electronic Dictionary and Thesaurus.

**149 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.

**228  Reader survey**  Give your views and you could get a Visioneer PaperPort ix.

**228 Faxline**  *What PC?* pages via your fax.

**247 Product index**

**248 Back page**  Next Month; book reviews; and Wendy Grossman surfs the Web for complaints about industry advertisements.

## *What PC?* buyer's guide

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

### 201 Buyer's guide contents

*getting*
s t a r t e d

**12,204  Getting started**  The ultimate beginner's guide to personal computing.

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

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

**227  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:
**http://www.vnu.co.uk/vnu/hc/wpc/**

## After hours

**154 Games**  We fight evil in the Neverhood, race in the Grand Prix with Damon Hill, plunder archaeological sites and try to prevent a computer virus epidemic.

**193 Family**  We look at the Toy Story Animated Storybook, the Wallace and Gromit Fun Pack and Arthur Miller's classic play *The Crucible*.

**197 On line**  On the Web, Terry Pinnell gets caught up in the drama of breaking the sound barrier in a car.