

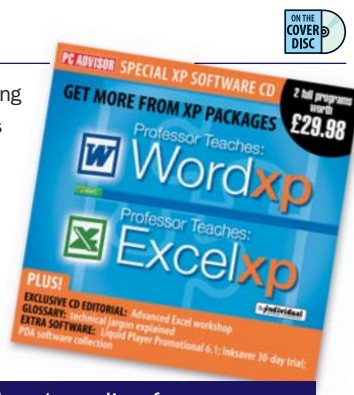
# contents

Issue 84 September 2002

## cover disc

The cover disc is full to bursting point with great programs this month, so enjoy...

- 12 CD highlights
- 13 DVD highlights
- 248 In-depth CD tutorial
- 255 In-depth DVD information



[www.pcadvisor.co.uk/about/coverdisc.cfm](http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/about/coverdisc.cfm)

## news

For up-to-the-minute IT-related news stories log on to [www.pcadvisor.co.uk/news](http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/news).

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 22 News            | 31 Future focus      |
| 27 Tokyo journal   | 33 Hot off the press |
| 28 Behind the news | 34 New products      |
|                    | 36 Top gear          |



## consumerwatch

We investigate some of the pitfalls of buying in the technology market, and give sound advice on dealing with all consumer issues.

- 40 ConsumerWatch
- 42 Consumer tips & tricks
- 43 Terms & conditions
- 44 Legal advisor
- 45 Contacts
- 46 Supplier profile: AJP



## regulars

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8 Contacts                 | 111 Subscription offer: CD |
| 18 Welcome                 | 149 Faxback                |
| 20 Readers' writes         | 259 Ad index               |
| 80 Subscription offer: DVD | 260 Next month             |

## reviews

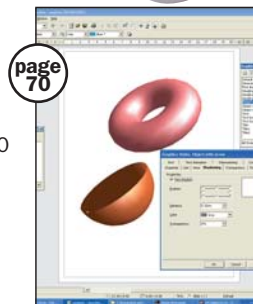
### 52 Hardware reviews

- 52 Hi-Grade Notino R5400-2000
- 52 eMac
- 53 Nokia 7650
- 54 Sony PCG-GRX416SP
- 54 Fujitsu Amilo M-7800
- 55 O2 Xda
- 55 Handspring Treo 270
- 56 Samsung SyncMaster 171P
- 56 Sony SDM-S71
- 57 Systemax Inspire 7012
- 58 La Cie CDRW FireWire 40x12x48
- 58 AOpen ESW-884



### 64 Software reviews

- 64 StarOffice 6.0
- 65 PowerQuest Drive Image 2002
- 66 Strydent Inksaver
- 66 Abbyy FineReader Professional 6.0
- 67 FotoSlate 2.0
- 67 Video Explosion Delue
- 68 Rockliffe MailSite SE 5.2
- 69 Roxio WinOnCD 5.0 Power Edition
- 69 Dataviz Documents to Go



### 72 Technofile: games consoles

Decisions, decisions. You're an avid gamer, but don't know which console is right for you. We take a look at the three main contenders – PlayStation2, Xbox and GameCube – and put them up against a top-of-the-range gaming PC.



### 78 Reader's choice: personal digital assistants

Will Head, PC Advisor's reviews editor, leads a reader through the purchasing minefield that is buying a PDA, showing her four different devices that we think might suit her needs.



### 81 Top 10 charts

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 82 Power PCs                             | 126 Flat-panel displays |
| 88 Budget PCs <b>NEW</b>                 | 128 CD drives           |
| 96 Superbudget PCs                       | 128 DVD writers         |
| 106 Monochrome laser printers <b>NEW</b> | 130 Monitors            |
|  | 134 Flatbed scanners    |
|  | 134 Digital projectors  |

### 102 Buying advice

- 102 Desktop PCs
- 112 Monochrome laser printers
- 122 Professional digital cameras
- 122 Digital camcorders
- 126 Graphics cards



## in depth



COVER STORY

### 136 25 ways to get the PC you always wanted

Want to improve your PC for little or no cash? Then read our top tips for customising, upgrading and protecting your hardware and software and get a PC that'll make you the envy of your friends and colleagues.



### 144 Sale or rent

Everyone knows that IT hardware starts depreciating the moment you purchase it, so is there a more sensible option? We take a look at leasing office equipment to find out.

## workshop



### 172 Broadband on a budget

Are you a veteran surfer fed up with slow, snail-like connection speeds? Our tutorial shows you how to install BTopenworld's broadband setup kit.



### 178 A click in time

Our timesaving tips and tricks will have you whizzing through dull and tedious computing tasks in no time at all.



### Advanced Excel

Whether you're an Excel novice or a budding professional, there's something for everyone in this interactive tutorial. Learn the basics of workbooks, charts and tables then move on to simulation and macros.



### 150 Secret service providers

We examine the latest EU legislation that forces businesses to retain our personal electronic data and ask whether this Big Brother-style spying is good news.

### 156 Waste watchers

The IT rubbish mountain is the ever-growing headache of the PC industry and a threat to the environment, so what's being done to reduce or eradicate this blot on the landscape?



### 164 Handy hardware

Personal digital assistants are the PCs of the future, with manufacturers cramming more functionality into every new release. We tell you what to expect from the latest handhelds.

## 16 Competition

Complete the PC Advisor Reader Survey 2002 to be in the running for a host of top-notch prizes, including a JVC digital camcorder and starter kit, Canon printers and scanners and a host of exciting animation software.

### 162 Brand Awareness 2002 winners

If you entered this year's Brand Awareness survey, then check now to see if you're one of the 20 lucky respondents who have won a number of prizes, including a PC and flat-panel display.



## helpline

Our experts tackle your PC problems, including those XP upgrade niggles, and offer a variety of solutions to get your PC running smoothly.

- 184 General
- 189 Windows
- 191 Internet
- 194 Applications
- 195 Pass it on



## lifestyle

- 239 Forthcoming attractions
- 240 Soldier of Fortune II: Double Helix
- 242 Tom Clancy: The Sum of All Fears
- 242 Duke Nukem Manhattan Project
- 244 Morrowind: The Elder Scrolls III
- 245 Next Generation Tennis
- 245 Michael Schumacher's Racing World Kart 2002
- 246 Universal Monsters: MonsterVille
- 246 Diva Starz

