

WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



Cover CD

6 What CD? number ten

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.



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Cover story

58 Pentium MMX PCs



Intel has taken the Pentium processor and enhanced it with its new MMX technology – designed to make multimedia software and games faster and better than ever before. We review the first wave of MMX PCs to be launched onto the market and find out what makes engineers dance around the room.

Features

72 Personal finance software

The end of the tax year creates a burden that can be alleviated somewhat by personal finance software. We give some advice on what to spend your money on.



Internet special

88 Internet service providers

Getting connected to the Internet may sound easy but how much does it cost and what do you get for your money? Find out who offers what in our review of Internet Service Providers.



98 Web designers

Once on the Internet, we take you through some of the packages that can help you design your own Web space.



Reviews

21 Up front

Toshiba Tecra 740CDT MMX notebook with a high-resolution screen and full multimedia capabilities.
Canvas 5 All-in-one graphics application.
Hitachi GD-1000 DVD-ROM The first drive to be launched here with the high-capacity DVD-ROM data storage standard.
Video Director Studio 200 PC-based video editing system.
Citizen Printiva 1700 Colour dry ink printer with scanner.
MicroHelp Uninstaller 4 Designed for Windows 95.
CTX Maxiputer 540C All-in-one multimedia Pentium PC.
Eudora Pro 3.0 for Windows 95 E-mail program.
Europress Language Labs Language learning programs.
Toshiba TF601 Laser-based multifunction device.
Corel Print & Photo House For drawing and photo-editing.
Personal Navigator Route-finding program.
Kyocera Ecosys FS-1700 Environmentally friendly printer.
Toplevel OfficeForms For designing electronic forms.

48 In brief

ActiveOffice 1.0 For Office users to create graphics quickly.
PartitionMagic 3.0 Front end for partitioning hard disks.
Epson PhotoPC 500 24-bit digital camera.
Discover the Internet Learning package set in 1950s-style drive-in.
Recipe for Success Recipes with searching facilities.
Xircom CreditCard Ethernet+Modem Combined card for notebook users.
ClickBook For printing non-standard sized documents.
Larousse Unabridged English-French/French-English Dictionary Searchable reference tool.
Aver FunTV Lite TV tuner Card to turn your PC into a TV.
Talk Now! – Learn Russian Teaching package.
Sanyo Flashback Digital voice recorder.

Regulars

13 News hardware and software latest.

53 Letters and competition winners.

55 Competition Two winners this month will receive the latest in Epson's printing technology, and 15 runners-up will win QuickCards to help create occasion cards.

135 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.

176 Reader survey Give your views and you could win one of two Maxi Sound cards from Ubi Soft.

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

223 Product index

224 Back page Next month; book reviews; and Terry Pinnell thinks that, despite the promises, it will be a while yet before the PC becomes a true mass-consumer product.

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

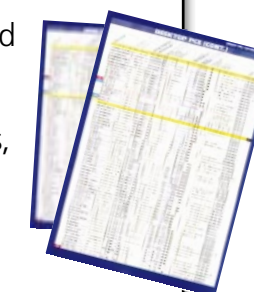
getting started

4,178 Getting started The ultimate beginner's guide to personal computing.

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

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

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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

After hours

114 Games

We try out the latest PC graphics in *Diablo*, a fantasy role-playing game, solve a mystery in a haunted Cornish vicarage, and write off some cars in *Destruction Derby 2*.

123 On line

Terry Pinnell goes in search of spiders and bugs on the Web.

129 Family

We go on our travels with a collection of multimedia atlases.