

WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



Cover CD

6 What CD? number eleven

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Cover story

58 High-street PCs



Buying off the page can get you the latest products at the most competitive prices. But if the thought of dealing with direct sales by mail-order is off-putting, you'll be pleased to hear that you can now buy a state-of-the-art PC on the high street, with the benefits that you can ask all the questions you like and try before you buy.

Features

82 Food and drink

The subject of food and drink is more popular than ever. We serve up a software guide for gastronomers everywhere.



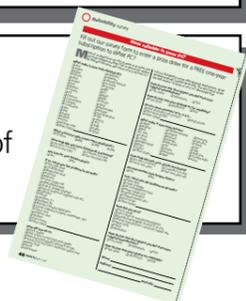
102 Personal laser printers

The prices of many laser printers make them a viable alternative to inkjets for home users. We test nine of the latest models.



46 Reliability survey

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



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Intel Pentium MMX OverDrive Processor replacement for Pentium systems to upgrade to MMX.
Micrografx Graphics Suite 2 Graphics package.
Epson Stylus Color 800 1,440dpi resolution inkjet printer.
Toshiba Portégé 660CDT Sub-A4 Pentium notebook.
Xerox Pagis Pro 97 Document management program.
US Robotics PalmPilot Two organisers with backlit screens.
Evesham Vale Quest Slimline Pentium notebook PC.
Picture It Image-editing package.
Creative Labs AWE 64 Gold High-spec sound card.
Brother Super PowerNote PN-8500MDS Notebook-sized dedicated word processor.
Carbon Copy 32 V.4 Program to connect machines and enable one computer to control another.
Mesh Elite 200TX Plus PC with MMX-specific motherboard.
Instant Accounting '97 Entry-level bookkeeping package.

48 In brief

Ricoh RDC-2 Digital camera with clip-on monitor.
Jot-It 'Sticky' notes that appear on your screen.
Infinite Disk On-the-fly compression with a difference.
The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on CD-ROM Searchable, user-friendly dictionary.
SSI MTS 100 Multimedia Home Theater System System to improve the sound quality from your PC.
net.jet Speeds up Internet surfing.
AutoGraph For creating on-screen calligraphy.
The Family Organiser Databases for the busy family.
Psion Dacom Gold Card Global Flexible PC Card modem.
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What PC? buyer's guide

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



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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

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Terry Pinnell surfs from the modern day with the Spice Girls, to a rock legend and then back to the future with *Star Wars*.