When we introduced Microsoft Word six years ago, we weren't planning on making history.

We had just one goal, and a fairly simple one at that: to make a word processor that suited people's needs.

Then again, we knew that the people we wanted to suit were a wildly diverse, independent lot: Mac users. So it made sense to let them tell us exactly what to put into Word.

Which they did.

First, there were some folks who didn't like tabbing much. Fair enough. For them, we developed Tables—an easier way to set up side-by-side paragraphs, columns of numbers, even forms. No tabs. No hassle.

Then we heard from a few more people. "The Tables gig is working," they said. "Now, about this text-numbers-graphics combo all in one document..."

We made that simple with "warm links." Once you've linked Microsoft Excel data to a document, keeping that document updated with the latest Microsoft Excel figures is easy. Just click your mouse.

Then there were those senders of mail, who didn't want to click-click-click-click-click. So we built support for Microsoft Mail right into Word. Now, with just a click, everyone stays in the loop. And work in progress stays in progress.

Apparently, listening to what people want is a pretty good way to design software.

How else can we explain Word version 4.0 being the most popular word processor in Mac history?

And those cards and letters are still coming. "Listen," someone'll say. "In case you guys are working on the next Word..."

Which we are. In fact, if you've got some input for us, feel free to drop us a line. Or if you'd like to find out more about Word, call us at (800) 541-1261, Dept. N26.

Our goal is still simple: to make Word the best word processor around. With the latest technology—translated into human terms, of course.

After all, we're only making history because we make word processors the way you like 'em.
You do it by t
You don't become the most popular word processor in Mac history by thinking big.
First looks at laserlike personal QuickDraw printers

Third time's a charm for QuarkXPress

Optical storage: faster and cheaper than ever

Features

Erasable Optical Drives
BY JOHN RIZZO AND THE MACUSER LABS STAFF
If your hard disk runneth over with data, it's time to take the plunge into optical storage. Erasable optical drives squeeze hundreds of megabytes onto a single cartridge; when the cartridge is full, you simply pop in a new one. For file-server and data-archiving applications, optical storage is quickly emerging as the most cost-effective solution. In its look at 20 optical drives, MacUser Labs discovered that prices and performance have improved so much that the question is not so much whether you should buy an optical drive but which optical drive is the right one for you.

Affordable, Laser-Quality QuickDraw Printers
BY KELLI WISETH AND THE MACUSER LABS STAFF
When your ImageWriter isn't enough but a PostScript laser printer is just a little bit beyond your budgetary means, consider one of these capable QuickDraw laser-quality printers. MacUser Labs tested the Apple Personal LaserWriter SC, the GCC PLP US, and the Hewlett-Packard DeskWriter; all three printers install easily, print swiftly, and produce surprisingly good print quality. Find out which is best for you.

On Beyond Spreadsheets
BY MINNA LEVINE AND LINDA CUSTER
When the number crunching gets tough, the tough get crunching with one of these statistics packages: Minitab, SPSS, or SYSTAT. Equation solvers Mathematica, Theorist, Maple, and Milo turn math anxiety into math appeal. Where spreadsheet programs still fear to tread, these high-end tools can make molehills out of mountains of data. Plus: Programs that help you visualize and navigate through abstract numerical seas.

Clip Artistry
BY AILEEN ABERNATHY AND SALVATORE PARASCANDOLO
If you can't draw a straight line — even armed with the latest and greatest drawing software — you've probably already discovered the many possibilities of ready-to-use clip art. Even skilled illustrators — when ominous deadlines loom — know the value of a well-rounded clip-art library. But clip art is more than just visual Muzak — once you've learned a few tricks for transforming canned art into unique graphics. Here's how to choose, use, and edit clip art, including top packages from companies such as Adobe, Artbeats, Dynamic Graphics, Image Club Graphics, Metro ImageBase, T/Maker, and 3G Graphics.
Departments

Jon Zilber
Fighting Words .................................................. 27
Robert R. Wiggins
Why you should wait for System 7.1 ....................... 41
Guy Kawasaki
Why Guy is bored of directors ................................... 47
John C. Dvorak
Why the “home computer” is still a bust ..................... 348
Letters
Why Guy, guns, and God don’t mix ........................................ 13
Advertiser Index ....................................................... 314
Marketplace ................................................................. 329

PrePress
Making the high-end connection to Scitex Visionary and VIP, Crosfield StudioLink, Hell ScriptMaster, and CyberChrome Imaging Centers .................................................. 211

Step by Step
How to put just the right spin on an animated logo, with MacroMind Director .................................................. 222

Trouble Shots
The right software tool for network analysis and management doesn’t exist yet — but it’s coming ......................... 229

Power Techniques
14 spreadsheet solutions to the most frequently asked questions about Excel .................................................. 232

Beating the System
Build your own forms generator with software that you already have. Plus: a preview of System 7.0’s balloon help. .................................................. 241

The Expert’s Edge
Murphy’s Law and tech support: How to get the help you need .................................................. 253

Power Programming
How to use the File Manager to build a file browser: part 1 .................................................. 261

Tip Sheet ................................................................. 271

Help Folder ................................................................. 279

Reviews

QuarkXPress 3.0
pushes page-layout power plus performance past PageMaker. It looks as if third time’s a charm for this completely rewritten new version .................................................. 52

FrameMaker
gives users a big-screen solution for long-document composition .................................................. 54

GeoQuery
uses powerful geographic data-analysis tools to help you map where you are and where you’re going .................................................. 59

CDP 9000/TopScan and Parallel Reader
provide high-volume, high-quality, and high-cost OCR options .................................................. 72

Color MacCheese and DeskPaint
offer inexpensive full-color painting-program possibilities — one just for fun, the other for serious work. Both are 32-bit-color bargains .................................................. 76

Point of View
pumps life into American-history studies with a versatile non-HyperCard hypertext and authoring system. History doesn’t have to mean textbooks anymore .................................................. 82

Switchboard
lets you customize a modular keyboard into exactly the dream typing machine you’ve always wished for — with a trackball too .................................................. 85

The Magic Flute Audio Notes and
The Voyager CD AudioStack
for CD-ROM offer an annotated version of Mozart’s final operatic masterpiece and a tool kit for stackheads who want to create their own interactive-audio HyperCard productions .................................................. 88

Super Librarian and Galaxy
provide a simple and reliable means for musicians to keep track of patches for any MIDI device they can play .................................................. 92

“The IBM PS/1 has a moronic opening screen with four huge windows. You click with the mouse in one of them, and off you go. ‘Just like a Mac, huh?’ someone asked me.” page 348
It's like owning a disk drive with a bulletproof vest.

Introducing the Metro with SCSI Sentry

EMAC has found a way to prevent unnecessary Macintosh hard drive fatalities with SCSI Sentry, an engineering breakthrough in disk drive reliability. It protects your disk drive from damaging shorts that can trap data inside your hard disk. Which makes any drive with the SCSI Sentry substantially more reliable.

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When you add the SCSI Sentry to such reliable disk drives, you know your data's safe with Metro. If you want to own a disk drive with a bulletproof vest, call EMAC at 1-800-821-0806, extension 2222, (In Canada, 1-800-663-5161).

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With the new LaserSafe, a fast MO is no longer an optical illusion. In addition to a 256KB, on-board, dual-ported caching system, LaserSafe utilizes an advanced technique called "asynchronous write." By freeing the Mac from waiting for the write operation, LaserSafe can nearly double your throughput. An Iomega first that raises the level of MO performance, making LaserSafe the fastest MO for your data-intensive storage applications. The difference is clearly visible.

The LaserSafe is a 650MB optical drive that's actually easy to use, too. It allows you to partition disks for easier file management. And it's the first MO that gives you on-line disk formatting, saving you up to 40 minutes per disk of otherwise wasted time. But more important, LaserSafe uses the same simple software interface for which Bernoulli is known.

LaserSafe was designed with an attention to detail unlike any other MO. Worldwide agency approvals, a sealed mechanism and positive airflow filtration set the industry standard for reliability and data integrity. And LaserSafe has convenient, external termination, 110/220 voltage switching and SCSI ID — no panels to open, no resistors to remove, no hassles.

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So get the rest of the LaserSafe picture. Call 1-800-289-4034 for free literature and specs (not the X-Ray kind). Look into it today. Because what you're really looking into is the future of optical storage.

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About MacUser

Shooting Engineers

Ever article in MacUser is shooting at a moving target. Take the MacUser Labs optical-drive comparison in this issue, for example. No sooner had we readied the story for press than the fourth annual Rothchild Conference on Optical Drive & Media Technology rolled around— and MacUser Labs associate project leader Paul Freedman was among the staff in attendance. This is good, because we like our staffers to stay plugged into what's happening. This is bad, because Paul came back wanting to improve things in the optical-drive story.

We reminded Paul of the old saying "There comes a time in the history of any project when it becomes necessary to shoot the engineers and begin production."

Unfazed, Paul asked if he could add just a few notes about optical-drive and mass storage to this column. Here are some of his observations.

Optical discs are in short supply, which keeps their prices high. First-generation optical discs (ISO Standard A) have a low yield rate, because they store data on a single spiral track, and a flaw anywhere along that track ruins the whole disc.

Fortunately the optical-drive industry is gradually shifting to ISO Standard B, which uses concentric tracks that let the software sidestep bad sectors.

Paul said conference attendees were concerned about slow access times. Optical drives have oversized read/write heads that are burdened with a laser and a focusing lens. This means the heads can't move over the disc surface as quickly as lightweight hard-disk heads can.

One of the ways the speed problem is being addressed is by downsizing from 5.25-inch to 3.5-inch discs that require less head movement.

These problems notwithstanding, Paul's enthusiasm for optical drives was supported by the conference. He predicts that optical drives will progressively supplant hard-disk drives for storage, because developers have just scratched the surface of optical-disc density, whereas hard-disk densities are approaching their theoretical limits.

He did see one disquieting demonstration, however. Hewlett-Packard showed a magneto-optical drive with a special chip that lets you select a specifically coded disc such as a WORM disc.

A WORM disc's unalterability is valuable for legally significant data such as tax records. Paul was concerned about the potential alterability of such discs if a hacker circumvented the special chip's instructions.

We told Paul we couldn't put all this in About MacUser. But you see what happens when you tell one of our Labs experts something is impossible...
The first version of ORACLE for Macintosh was a big hit. Industry analysts gave it a thumbs up. Thousands of users gave it their support. And InfoWorld Magazine gave it Product of the Year.

Now Oracle announces ORACLE for Macintosh Version 1.2, with enhancements for both end users and developers.

Improved connectivity options make it even easier to access corporate data on servers, minis and mainframes. Version 1.2 supports virtually any network. Including Async, Apple's MacTCP, Novell's TCPort, Alisa's TSSnet, DCA's MacIRMA 3270 and Tri-Data's Netway.

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Whether for mail, teleconferencing, on-line research or you design your own bulletin boards, MicroPhone II 3.0 is helping everyone put on a happy face.
Key Issues
In his August column (page 328), John Dvorak asks, "Why develop something for a dying breed of people who can't use a keyboard?" In context, he seems to have meant this as a rhetorical question, referring to people who can't or won't take the time to learn how to type.

Actually, there happens to be a very much living breed of people who can never use a standard keyboard — people, such as quadriplegics, with some types of motor-control disabilities. And, of course, there are many persons with carpal-tunnel syndrome and other wrist disabilities that by all odds were caused in the first place by using a keyboard. I know several people who fall into these categories.

Contrary to Mr. Dvorak's assumptions, I can't count a single Neanderthal among them.

Jane Berliss
Madison, WI

Guy and God
It was refreshing to read Guy Kawasaki's "Praise the Macintosh" (August '90, page 41). Contrary to some notions, all Christians are not money-greedy charlatans. Some Christians are actually decent folk — no less capable of worthwhile achievements than the rest of humankind. A number of us even use computers . . . and read MacUser.

Special thanks to Guy for having the decency to call things as he sees them. (And tell him to cheer up! . . . He is probably not as anonymous among Christians as he thinks.)

Bruce Leveri
Compton, CA

Proof Positive
I'd like to compliment the proofreaders and copy editors of MacUser for a job well done in maintaining good use of the English language. I often notice sentences that could be very conducive to common (but usually trivial) errors in usage. yet these are usually handled perfectly correctly.

Understanding Mac computing and conveying this information as well as you do for MacUser is impressive.

Robert D. Chapman
West Covina, CA

A Reviewing Stand
Guy Kawasaki's column on "Reviewing Reviews" (July '90, page 41) was timely and well put. As a former InfoWorld reviews editor, I understand his concerns completely. Publications would be wise to heed his suggestions, especially regarding consistency and completeness.

One problem the article cites is inaccuracy. Unfortunately, there is no corresponding remedy suggested for it. In my experience, two key factors help ensure accurate reviews. The first is for vendors to publish reviewers' guides that accompany software or hardware and to send them with any product destined for review.

The second is a publication to call the vendor to check facts before the review is published. Simple as this sounds, many publications don't do it. It doesn't require giving out subjective information, scores, or opinions but rather focuses on features or double-checking benchmarks that appear incorrect.

I've made hundreds of such calls, and they certainly pay off.

Serge Timacheff
Logitech, Inc.
Fremont, CA

Car Talk
When Paul Somerson compares IBM machines to American cars and the Macto Hondas and BMWWs ("Windows Watchers," August '90, page 25), I think he's making a poor analogy. The Mac is like a BMW but not like a Honda. Honda entered the market by providing cheap, well-made transportation. People bought them in droves, and Honda responded by upgrading the quality of the cars and making them a little bit upscale. Honda's prices for the Civic and Accord remain competitive with those of domestic models, however.

BMW, on the other hand, remains a luxury car. I just bought a Ford Taurus, and I didn't see enough added value in something such as a BMW to justify parting with a lot of extra bucks. I'm not knocking BMW; its car may be significantly better than my Ford but not enough that I would pay thousands of extra dollars for the privilege of owning one.

Had Apple pursued the Honda strategy, the Mac might be going neck and neck with IBM machines right now. My decision on what car to buy was between a Taurus and an Accord.
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Dear Mr. Sculley...

Readers' marketing slogans for Apple continue to pour in. This time we promise to print some good ones, relatively speaking. Allan H. Guel of San Anselmo, California, sent three pages of impassioned prose that culminated in "The Future Is Here. Macintosh." Perhaps anticipating our yawn, he supplied an alternative: "MacEasy. Macintosh."

"Once you go Mac, you never go back," swears Elizabeth Bodnar of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. Her suggestion found favor with repellant DOS types around the office, but her favorite suggestion came from Mark W. Hervick of Kent, Washington: "Because Apple plans to produce (finally) a low-cost Macintosh, I think the new slogan should be: Fanfare for the Common Mac! (with apologies to Aaron Copland!)."

Finally, one dissenting view from Ralph Megna of Riverside, California: "Frankly, I think the 'Power to be your best' campaign still has some life in it. Apple needs to explore how the ease of setup and operation contributes to doing your work (or pleasure) faster and better."

Apple's always sold the Mac with the promise that it offers power and ease of use. As the power has increased, though, the ease of use hasn't necessarily kept pace. Just ask anyone who's tried to hook up more than three SCSI devices to one Mac:

Speak Up: When is the Mac's ease-of-use not so easy?

Send your thoughts to Dear Mr. Sculley, c/o MacUser, 950 Tierra Lane, 18th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404.
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LETTERS

overwritten the aforementioned FAT table. The hard disk is trashed — all my programs are lost. I'm not sure what caused this (aside from the fact that IBM PCs and I do not get along — they must know I have a Macintosh at home), but I will not be using Windows again in the near future.

Richard W. Martin  Raleigh, NC

Outlining Solutions

I just finished reading with great interest your August '90 article entitled "Capturing Font Outlines" (page 210). I was glad to see an article dealing with the topic, as I haven’t seen one before.

Of your nine solutions, however, not one used my method. I use LetraStudio (a program superior to TypeStyler), Adobe Illustrator 88, and some method of PostScript printing (because you’re dealing with capturing PostScript outlines). LetraStudio 1.5 lets you save any file in Illustrator 1.1 native format. Enter what you need (even the whole font set) in LetraStudio, accomplish any type manipulations, and choose the Illustrator 1.1 format option in the Save dialog box. You can open this file in Illustrator and have editable outlines!

Damon Desai  Redondo Beach, CA

At the time the article was written, LetraStudio 1.5 and FontStudio had not been released. The previous version of LetraStudio did not support Type 1 or Type 3 fonts. Two other products not mentioned in the article, Alisys' Fontographer and Image Club’s Evolution, can also create outline fonts. Although both Letraset products can produce font outlines, their price precludes buying them for that task alone. In addition, LetraStudio's outlines have a large number of control points, which makes editing difficult. — AA

Future Perfect

Apple should bring out the following products:
A $700 16-megahertz 68000 machine with a single SuperDrive, a SCSI port, and a port (with built-in circuitry) for a larger monitor. Two megabytes should be standard. It should come in a compact Mac case.
A $1,200 16-megahertz 68000 machine with a single SuperDrive, a SCSI port, a built-in color monitor (with provisions for a second monitor). Two megabytes should be standard. It should come in a compact Mac case.
A $2,500 16-megahertz 68030 machine (with math coprocessor), a single SuperDrive, a SCSI port, built-in support for a color monitor, and three NuBus slots. Four megabytes should be standard, and this model should be in a 1fx case.
And here’s a lightweight model: a $3,000 16-megahertz portable Mac — and Apple should license the ROMs to Toshiba for manufacturing.
Perhaps licensing the ROMs to a select group of companies would be the way to go. Just look at the money that Adobe makes from PostScript royalties!

Stephen Caldwell  Hurstsmith AFB, MI

Apple hasn’t gone so far as to license ROMs yet, but it did recently reach an agreement with Outsourcing Systems of Boulder, Colorado, concerning that company’s Macintosh-ROM-based portable machine. — JB

The Envelope Plea

In the September '90 Tip Sheet (page 349), Michael Conley supplied a tip about using SuperGlue to fool our product KiwiEnvelopes 3 into producing output for a dot-matrix printer.
Tests administered in cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service indicate that dot-matrix printers cannot produce a print job precisely enough to produce valid bar codes. We disabled the bar-code feature for dot-matrix printers deliberately, and this is documented in our manual.
A bad bar code makes your mail move more slowly through the postal system than no bar code at all.

Pete Gontier  Kiwi Software, Inc.  Santa Barbara, CA

SCSI Headaches

As a big fan of your magazine — which has saved me lots of money and solved several nasty technical problems — I still say your technical people have been dodging the toughest technical problem out there: SCSI issues. Thank God you had the hair to publish Thom Hogan’s article (“A Beginner’s Guide to Daisy Chains,” August '90, page 243). The accompanying graphic caught the state of the art perfectly. What good’s another speedy peripheral if you can’t hook it up?

Because you have knowledgeable technicians, please put more time and
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TO SCAN A CAT

When you want to capture graphics for your Macintosh®, there's no need to pussyfoot around with anything less than a low-cost scanner from Thunderware. ThunderScan® Plus and LightningScan® 400 let you turn any printed image into a high-resolution graphic. Then, with powerful software called ThunderWorks™, you can change, enhance and save images in many ways.

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Please circle 83 on reader service card.
effort into finding logical, consistent ways to connect SCSI devices.

John Sweeney
Seattle, WA

We last covered SCSI in depth in December '89 ("SCSI Solutions," page 229), but you can be sure we'll be returning to the topic. In the meantime, see "Dear Mr. Scully" for a chance to let Apple know what you think about standards such as SCSI. — JB

Fast Forms

I was pleased to see MacUser's review of Fast Forms 2.0 (September '90, page 73). Our research indicates that there are two types of Mac users who have forms needs: professional form creators and those who need forms to make their business more efficient.

There is one technical inaccuracy I'd like to correct. MacUser stated that Fast Forms "cannot deal with the importation of EPS graphics. It converts any graphic into a bit-mapped image when it places it in a document."

Fast Forms pastes graphics in PICT format directly from the Clipboard. The PICT format can represent object-oriented graphics as well as bit maps. Although the PICT is displayed as a bit map on-screen (72 dpi), when you print it, Fast Forms uses the available resolution of the printing device.

Steve Schaffer
Power Up Software
San Mateo, CA

First-Class Mail Order

I see many letters complaining about a vendor's service or support, so I thought it might be nice to send you something positive for a change.

MacBEAT, a new mail-order house, specializes in just one thing: letting the Mac make music. Its prices are as low as, or lower than, those of the major mail-order houses for music software, but the real reason to deal with it is support. It does not just take your order and ship it. The staff members point out programs that handle what you want to do. Twice they steered me away from programs I thought I wanted to ones that were cheaper and still did everything I needed. How often has your favorite mail-order house gone out of its way to save you $100?

James G. Haberly
Mission Hills, CA

Not very often — which is one reason why we'll be focusing on how to be a smart consumer in an upcoming issue. Maybe then we'll get more letters from satisfied customers. — VeB

Guy and Guns

I think it presumptuous of Guy Kawasaki to assume that all (or even most) of his readers will identify with his bigoted views regarding the NRA (National Rifle Association). His comparison of Microsoft to the NRA (It's a Windowsful Life," September '90, page 33) is inaccurate to the point of absurdity and logically indefensible.

I hold no illusions that I could ever change his opinions on the gun issue, so I will not waste time on that endeavor. What I may be able to accomplish, though (if I am joined by a great enough number of my fellow subscribers), is to keep that sort of political nonsense off the pages of a magazine that is supposed to be concerned with computers.

Allan Breitenbach
Farmington, NM

System 7.0 . . .

I read with interest Thom Hogan's column in the September '90 issue (page 321) but was surprised to see no opinion for partitioning your hard disk to run Systems 6.x and 7.0 on different partitions.

I recently installed a 120-megabyte hard-disk drive in my SE/30; bought LaCie's Silverlining; and partitioned my drive, anticipating running each System on a different partition. Is this not a preferable way to do what you recommend?

Larry Anderson
Largo, FL

We asked Thom the same question when we first read his column. He referred us to his first column for MacUser ("The Case of the Quirky Computer," March '90, page 211), where the ultimate culprit for a nightmarish sequence of system crashes turned out to be disk-partitioning software.

Thom doesn't recommend this approach while you're breaking in System 7.0. — JB

. . . and Counting

System 7.0 seems to be vaporware to the same extent that FullWrite was. I found the first reference to System 7.0 in the August '89 MacUser. We've since had a full year of issues telling us of how System 7.0 is the greatest thing since sliced bread. Whatever happened to the
Power Up For The '90s. Unwrap the full productivity potential of your Macintosh with Technology Works memory upgrade kits. Now you can run the new memory-hungry power programs, make disk access and menu selections faster, harness the multitasking convenience of MultiFinder, and be ready to take advantage of the new Macintosh System 7.

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Please circle 155 on reader service card.
MacUser pledge of not reviewing something until it was released?

Of the features that have not yet been dropped from System 7.0, how many are really useful and significant advances from where we are now? Is virtual memory really helpful? I have a Mac Iici with 8 megabytes of memory and haven't run out of memory. Virtual memory stores things on-disk, and disk is slow. I, for one, don't want to sit around and wait for the disk to access during a spreadsheet calculation!

If I have something on my Macintosh that needs more than 8 megabytes of memory, then I know my Mac is too small a machine and that I need to use my mainframe. Likewise, if a calculation takes more than half an hour, I should use my mainframe.

I have yet to see much use in all the so-called nifty features of System 7.0. Furthermore, I plan to wait for at least a year until most of the bugs have been sorted out before I even install it.

Alan Touchberry
Saint Louis Park, MN

We haven’t reviewed System 7.0 yet and won’t do so until it is released as a shipping product, which Apple currently says will be in December 1990. And, if it all works as promised, System 7.0 will be the most significant Mac operating-system upgrade to date. Besides providing a better Finder, System 7.0 will improve the applications we buy. For example, interapplication communication will allow linking of programs from different vendors, and the Communications Toolbox will create a consistent plug-and-play interface for communications software.

As for virtual memory, I can remember a time when people said, "128K RAM: I’ll never need that much memory!" Macintosh applications show no signs of slowing their memory-size inflation. You can continue to use your mainframe if you wish, but most users find it easier (and quite a bit cheaper) to use their Macs. — JR

Worth the Weight

As a consultant and busy owner of a graphic-design/desktop-publishing business, I’ve developed a fast system for reading through the volumes of Mac-related periodicals to which I subscribe. MacUser, being one of my favorite publications, usually gets an immediate read through, but your September ’90 issue was a killer. That thing was so full of useful information that I found myself reading features while talking to clients on the phone.

When I first pulled the September issue from the mailbox, I joked with my assistant about its weight ("What’s in here, an encyclopedia?"). How refreshing to find that the extra weight was predominantly due to more pages of relevant editorial and not a 50-page mail-order-house insert.

A.M. Concepcion
Chicago, IL

RagTime Redux

Russell Ito was correct to state that RagTime checks the network for multiple copies running with the same serial number (“Letters,” September ’90, page 18). But RagTime does this only on startup, printing, and about every ten minutes during normal operation. This means that additional network traffic is in the range of a tenth of a percent of the normal traffic on a LocalTalk network.

For large account customers, who find the necessity of installing a separate copy of RagTime at every workplace irritating, RagTime USA offers site-license agreements that allow the use of an unprotected copy of the software on the customer’s network.

Thomas Everth, President
RagTime USA
Redwood City, CA

Graphic Words

I liked the MacUser “Guide to Graphics Formats” (September ’90, page 266). It is a great help in the office when explaining graphics to IBMers.

Unfortunately, I can only give it a B+, not for what it includes but for what it doesn’t. Speaking for myself, I have become a great fan of FullWrite Professional and it wasn’t on the program compatibility list.

My use of FullWrite and its drawing program leads me to prefer it to other writing/drawing packages. When I import to FullWrite’s drawing subprogram,
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it seems to do everything I need it to do — display, edit, and print. Perhaps it does not do everything on the graphics list, but without it being included, not too many people will know.

Bud Willner
Vienna, VA

Because of the issue's time and space constraints, we decided to limit the Graphics Format poster to graphics-specific programs. Programs that focus primarily on word processing, such as FullWrite Professional, were therefore not included. — AA

Puzzling Evidence?

As sysop of the Los Angeles Macintosh Group BBS, I was quite happy to read John Rizzo's article detailing some of the features available in Apple's new Communications Toolbox ("Communications Toolbox," September '90, page 295).

There is one thing I find just a wee bit alarming, though . . . . The icons for the communication tools in Figure 2 seem to be shaped like pieces from a jigsaw puzzle. Unfortunately, and I hope this isn't an omen of things to come, the pieces don't look like they'll fit together very well.

Reed Hutchinson
Los Angeles, CA

Clarifications

"An Inside Look at Scanners." (September '90, page 132) incorrectly identified Xerox Imaging Systems as formerly associated with DEST. It was formerly Datacopy and Kurzweil Computer Products, and its correct address is 185 Albany St., Cambridge, MA 02138: (800) 248-6550.

Force 12, the hurricane-tracking program mentioned in Help Folder (July '90, page 251) is not shareware but is available directly from the author for $17 or at a cost of $12 if both a disk and a self-addressed stamped mailer are included with the order.

Jon Barry, 215 Reidland Road, Crosby, TX 77532.

"Mac CAD Takes Off" (August '90, page 114) stated that vPower from Vision Software was a VersaCAD add-on. Although vPower does work with VersaCAD as an API module, it can also import DXF files, which are a standard for many Macintosh CAD products.
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Fighting Words

There's a common thread from John Sculley's vision of the Macintosh to each user's interface with that vision: clear, concise words. Or, at least, there should be.

Omit needless words” is another fine old maxim, but it has a vital corollary: “Include necessary words.”

Words have enormous power — power to simplify or clarify as well as the power to confuse or obfuscate.

Which leads us to Apple.

Apple may not have coined the terms desktop publishing, multimedia, and insanely great, but it sure has franchised them, for better and — in some cases — for worse. In its search for a new angle to thrust the Mac into new applications and bigger markets, Apple needs some new words. Maybe even a new dictionary.

We don’t need another Helocar. We don’t need another desktop anything. And, much as I like that long-lived battery, we sure don’t need another 17-pound behemoth labeled Portable.

What we need is words drawn from the existing vocabulary of the enconced base of microcomputer users. And just what do those users actually do all day?

Memo to John Sculley: Look beyond Silicon Valley into the boardrooms and corridors of Corporate America. Apple’s agenda needs to address the real needs of your customers.

And you, Mr. Sculley, aren’t that different from your customers.

Apple’s stated goals are twofold: higher performance and lower prices. Yes, Mac users want more—powerful CPUs, and of course, Apple needs more—competitive pricing to get its foot into more doors. But Apple needs something else — the vision thing. You, Mr. Sculley, need to identify the real problems of real customers and find and communicate creative and attractive solutions. It takes straight-talking words to get that crystal-clear vision across to computer users, would-be computer users, and users of other computers.

Nowhere is the lack of vision clearer than in the delays you’re experiencing in shipping System 7.0. The testing delays stem from development delays, which in turn stem from the lack of a clear goal. Just what is it that Apple thinks users really want?

Ask not what John Sculley can do for the Mac; ask what the Mac can do for John Sculley. Your day-to-day operations aren’t measured in MIPS, coprocessors, and planar/chunky bit planes.

No, Macintosh users want solutions to problems they already know they have — not more problems. If you have to initially sell

Jockeying between terminals at Boston’s Logan Airport with a Mac Portable slung over one arm and a sheaf of manuscript revisions in the other, I was searching for a place to discard my now-worthless travel itinerary, thanks to a computer glitch on the part of the DOS-based airline industry. I spied a trash can with a label that proclaimed, in bold block letters: WASTE PAPER. Not a very good philosophy for an already environmentally beleaguered town like Boston, so I kept on moving.

Jet-lagged but thankful for the Portable’s transcontinental battery life, I eventually arrived in San Francisco, now armed with 3,000 miles’ worth of now-superfluous manuscript printouts to discard. This time the trash cans heralded a different message: Put Litter in its Place. Because litter, by definition, belongs just about anywhere but in a trash receptacle, this edict was no more appropriate than was its Beantown counterpart.

And that variable coast-to-coast jargon of unearthly delights can no doubt be found on trash cans at all points in between. And on your desktop as well.

Form, says the saying, follows function, and the form of a trash can — should make clear what its function is, even if function doesn’t always follow labeling.

Ted Nelson (the Bart Simpson of personal computing) has pointed out that the meaning of the Mac’s Trash icon can capriciously shift 180 degrees without warning. When you use the Trash to flush files into digital oblivion, the icon stands for destruction. But when you’re using it to retain that data by ejecting a floppy disk, the Trash icon represents safekeeping.

Maybe — just maybe — the graphical user interface could be improved upon with some old-fashioned text-based instructions.

Form follows function, but in the realm of the Macintosh, we don’t speak of form and function; we talk of look and feel. And in our quest for good looks and warm feelings, we sometimes forget the labels — and the words. Documentation, for example, often suffers from the bravado of developers and users alike — people who take immense pride in the belief that Mac products are so intuitive that we don’t need no stinkin’ manuals. Dialog boxes and icons use ornate, clever visual puns when a simple word or two would sometimes do just fine.

“Omit needless words” is another fine old maxim, but it has a vital corollary: “Include necessary words.”

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No, Macintosh users want solutions to problems they already know they have — not more problems. If you have to initially sell

MacUser November 1990 27
customers on the notion that they have a problem and then sell them the solution, you double your chances of losing the sale. Apple can’t afford to lose the sale. Like the rest of us, you, Mr. Sculley, write memos. You attend meetings. You talk on the phone. You don’t “do” multimedia. You don’t “do” workstation solutions. You don’t “do” faster clock speeds, more slots, or virtual memory.

Fortunately, the Macintosh already offers solutions to many of the bona fide problems of typical business computer users. The Mac “does” memos. It “does” meetings. It “does” phone. (It doesn’t do Windows, but that’s another story.)

New highs in performance and new lows in price aren’t always enough. Higher levels of performance are worth paying for only if you’re not satisfied with what you’ve got now. And lower price points can’t compete with the ultimate in low

Words are a way to tell when a technology is becoming real — with real companies developing real products with real support for real customers at realistic prices that don’t leave them reeling.

price: sticking with whatever system you’ve already got. But give me a way to avoid writing memos, keep my meetings short, or silence the phone for a few hours, and I’ll be a happy camper, ready and willing to contribute my fair share to support Apple’s sky-high executive-compensation policies.

Just say the word. The right word. The meaningful word.

Say the Secret Word

Words are also a way to tell when a technology is becoming real — with real companies developing real products with real support for real customers at realistic prices that don’t leave them reeling. When the language used to discuss it changes from the jargon of engineers (numbers and esoteric details) to the parlance of marketers (buzzwords and meaningless neologisms), it’s time to take a technology seriously. When 72-dpi output became “letter-quality” and 300-dpi multicolour layouts became “desktop publishing,” it was real. And when 600-megabyte magneto-optical storage devices become “personal archives,” you’ll know that the technology is kicking in, big time.

That time is now. Optical storage is shaping up as the Next Big Thing in business computing. This technology got
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its big break when Steve Jobs surprised the world by announcing that built-in optical storage was, in fact, the NeXT Big Thing and consumers on other platforms began clamoring for it.

An informal poll of MacUser readers revealed that optical storage tops the list of emerging technologies that need to be followed closely. And this month’s MacUser Labs report on 20 optical drives offers some good news: It’s really real. There are plenty of top-notch products at realistic prices ready and waiting to help you take the next giant step into the information age.

How significant is the coming shift to optical storage? Well, think of the changes that couldn’t have happened without the 20-megabyte hard-disk drive (that’s grown to, typically, a 40- or 60-megabyte unit). System software would be crippled without it. Most of the hottest application software couldn’t exist. The casual attitude most of us have about keeping everything we might need right at our fingertips would turn into a nightmare of constantly trying to scrape up a few hundred K of available storage space.

A few years from now, we’ll be looking back at the preoptical days with the same incredulity: Remember when most users had only one partition running? Remember when A/UX was only for big-nerd-ridden MIS departments and academic computing? Remember the days before true multitasking when you sometimes had to wait seconds—or even minutes—to regain control of your machine? Remember when applications didn’t always contain full-blown multimedia-extravaganza Help files with animation, sound, and full-color graphics to make using the product a truly pain-free experience?

Seems like only yesterday.
And it’s really only just tomorrow.

A Word from Our Sponsor

This issue of MacUser introduces a few minor changes in the magazine. You may have already noticed that we’ve tuned up our design a bit. And we’ve added a news-digest page at the start of our DTP and Bridges sections, which will keep you posted on all the latest news, products, and trends in the hot areas of desktop publishing and connectivity. You’ll also find ways to get more from our articles by downloading supplementary electronic materials through our on-line service, Zmac, which is produced in conjunction with our sister publication, MacWEEK. In fact, if you’d like to exchange a few words, leave a message on “Fighting Words” in the Editors On Line section (section 7) in the MacUser forum on Zmac. (If you’re a CompuServe subscriber, just go ZMAC at any ! prompt. If you’re not, look for the Zmac ad in this issue for information on how to sign up.)

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<td>Disk Imagery</td>
<td>$117</td>
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<td>Farallon</td>
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<td>Mark of the Unicorn</td>
<td>$117</td>
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<td>$117</td>
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<td>SPINaker</td>
<td>$117</td>
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<td>Wayzata Technologies</td>
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<td>Primera Software</td>
<td>$117</td>
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<td>Resinate</td>
<td>$117</td>
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<td>$117</td>
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<td>Europa 20</td>
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<tbody>
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<td>$117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cosmic Osmo CD ROM</td>
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<td>$117</td>
</tr>
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<td>Addison Wesley</td>
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Virtual - Mac II .......................... 124
Virtual - Mac II/PMU .................. 167
Virtual - SE/30, IIC, IIIc ............. 114

Daisy Day Digital

Fast Cache II ............................. CALL

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Mac Stack Upgrade ................. CALL

Marathon CQ Upgrade ............. CALL

Mac Plus, SE, IIC, III, IIIc ... 148

Motorola- Mac CoProcessors

68081 - 16MHz ...................... 215
68811 - 25MHz ..................... 775
68812 - 16MHz ..................... 475
68813 - 32MHz ..................... 585
68814 - 40MHz ..................... 745

Misson

Mac-128 (cache card) .............. 205

Orange Micro

Mac 256 3.0 .......................... 1,038
Mac 66 2.0 .......................... 444

Total Systems

Gemini 250/300 Accelerators

68020 - SE - 16MHz ............ 697
68020 - SE - 25MHz .......... 1,118
68830 - SE - 16MHz .......... 576
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memory ......................... 148

NETWORKING & CONNECTIVITY

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Galer Box .......................... 2,159
Galer Mail - 0 ..................... 688
Galer Share Software ............ 1,398
Galer Cards ......................... 68

C Enterprises

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CE Software

InOut (1-5 User) ................. 127
InOut (1-10 Users) ............. 167
QuickMail 2.2.1-5 Users ....... 215
QuickMail 2.2.1-10 Users ..... 315
QuickMail 2.2.1-20 Users ..... 1578

DataViz

MacLink Plus PC-45 ............ 118
MacLink Translators .......... 98

Dayna Communications

DaynaNet/4L ....................... 565
DaynaNet/16L ............. 635
DaynaNet/32L ................. 685
DaynaNet/64L ................. 745

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Media Tracks ..................... 168
Multimedia Pack ................. 318
Multimedia Pack CD ........... 3,478
Timbida Single User ......... 54
30 User Pack ..................... 1,284
Timbida Remote ................. 122
Remote Access Pack ........... 148
Remote Sleep Cable ............ 818
Portable Pack ..................... 328
Star Controller 300 ............ 824
Star Controller 500 .......... 1,059
Star Controlen ................. 1,599

Wiring Kits

Passive Star ....................... 62
Harmonics Block ................. 62
Punchdown Block ............... 62
Star Connector (singel) ....... 17
Star Connector (pair) ........... 120
Star Connector (10 Pack) ...... 120
Traffic Watch ..................... 124
Repeater ......................... 312
Phoneline Network.............. CALL
Phoneline Network/AppleTalk Adapter ... 8
DB-9 ..................... 31
DN-8 ........................... 31
DN-8 (10 Pack) ............... 188
Phoneline - Liaison ............ 174

Insinger Solutions

SelfPC .............................. 244
SelfPC Portable .................. 244
SelfPC EG/AT ...................... 124

Kinetek

EtherPort .............................. 468
EtherPort Lattis Net ............ 498
Fast Path ......................... 1,998

Microcom Software

Carbon Copy Mac ................. 116
TwainPak ......................... 168

Kovotector

Novelink II ......................... 271
Novelink 5C ......................... 308
Turbo Bridge ...................... 318
Turbo Net - DB-9 ................. 22
Turbo Net - DIN-8 ............... 22
Net Pack 5 DB-9 ................. 262
Net Pack 5 DIN-8 ............... 282
Turbo Net ST - DB-9 .......... 30
Turbo Net ST - DIN-8 .......... 32
Net Pack ST DIN-8 .......... 262
Turbo Star ......................... 1,075
Turbo Net to Appletalk adapt .............................. 8

Orange Micro

Grappler-

Mac to 512k Mac cable ........ 26
9 pin ......................... 78
Speeder ......................... 46
Mac LS ............................ 68
Mac IX ............................. 128

Shiva Corporation

EtherGate ................. 1,062
NetBridge ......................... 338
NetSerial ......................... 338
TeletBridge ....................... 338

TOPS

TOPS DSS Ver. 2.1 ............... 117
TOPS 3.0 Network Mac .......... 186
TOPS 3.0 Network PC 3.2 .......... 164
TOPS 3.0 Network PC 6.2 .......... 164
Flash Card (Box) ................. 154
Flash Card Micro Cables ....... 213
Flash Box Mac ................. 213

White Pine Software

Mac 240 ......................... 145

DISK DRIVES

Cutting Edge

External-Storage

2mb .................................. 319
3mb .................................. 376
4mb .................................. 435
6mb .................................. 485
8mb .................................. 520
16mb ................................. 760
32mb ................................. 760
64mb ................................. 800
128mb ............................ 865
Removable Media Interface ... 440

Dayna Communications

DaynaFile-Single Drive

360/5.25 ......................... 478
DaynaFile-Dual Drives

360/5.25/4.25 ................. 729
360/5.25/4.25/5.25 .......... 748
DOS Mountains ................. 54
DaynaTranslation software .. 87
Evenex - EMAC Drives

49 SE Internal ................. 599
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
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<td>Fuji Disks DS/DD/10 pk</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>Sony Disks DS/10 dp</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulk DS/DD/50 pk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulk HD (144 dp)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk HD (50 pk)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Sixes and Sevens

When System 7.0 finally ships, will you be able to entrust your valuable business data to it right away? A look at Apple’s track record for System software reveals the answer.

So much has been written about System 7.0 that you might think it is actually available. It’s still not, of course, except to developers (and the early versions developers have been working with are not especially stable, so don’t feel left out).

Those in the know are predicting that System 7.0 won’t even ship in 1990. And when it does ship, it will lack some of the advanced features that were originally promised, which will have to wait until System 8.0 (or later) to make their debut. This makes System 7.0 more than Apple’s answer to IBM’s (and Microsoft’s) OS/2; it becomes almost a cousin in terms of long delays and reduction of features.

There’s another similarity between System 7.0 and OS/2: When it finally arrives, many users may find that System 6.x is more their speed, just as many IBM PC users are staying with DOS.

Staying with System 6.x when System 7.0 ships actually has more to recommend it than you might think. Some users will actually have no choice. System 7.0 will require 2 megabytes of memory and at least the 128K ROMs, which makes a Mac Plus with upgraded memory the minimum requirement.

(Apple essentially abandoned the 512KE and earlier machines with System 6.0, but System 7.0 will make it final.)

If you do have the requisite memory, it’s probably no thanks to Apple anyway, because until recently most Apple systems, including high-end machines, were sold with only 1 megabyte. Interestingly, studies show that most of these systems have been upgraded with additional memory.

Some of the more advanced features of System 7.0, such as the much-hyped true multitasking, will need a PMMU (Paged Memory Management Unit). This requires either a 68030 machine or an upgrade to add the PMMU to 68020 machines. In a corporate environment, you’ll also have to weigh the pros and cons of running a mixed environment if all your machines can’t be upgraded to support System 7.0.

But just because you can run System 7.0 is not sufficient reason to actually do so. Staying back one level is often prudent when new versions of operating systems come out. This policy has a long history of success and stability in the mainframe world. Let other installations experience any major problems that may lurk in untried software. When all the bugs have been shaken out, then move on up.

Mac owners saw the wisdom of this strategy when System 3.0 came out saddled with serious problems that could cause data loss. System 3.0 was followed by the ill-fated System 3.1, which in turn was superseded by the finally stable System 3.2.

Those who took their time about upgrading avoided the rocks of versions 3.0 and 3.1 and smoothly sailed into System 3.2. Even more recently, System 6.0 was quickly followed by multiple updates through System 6.0.5 (although some versions were designed to support new hardware, all versions included numerous bug fixes). After many pioneers had dutifully upgraded all the way to 6.0.5, Apple changed its usual recommendation that users stay absolutely current, to recommending 6.0.5 only for users of the IIx, IIci, and Portable. The cognoscenti are already talking about System 7.01 and System 7.02, implying that the initial version will have a few too many bugs for most people’s taste and that two (or more) updates may be necessary to make System 7.0 stable.

History is on the side of the pessimists when it comes to large, complex pieces of software, and System 7.0 is certainly one of the largest and most complex to come from Apple.

Even if System 7.0 ships without a single bug (and that’s a mighty big if), you still may want to wait. Every major change to the Mac operating system has caused problems with some application programs, and a flurry of new versions is often released right after a new System comes out. Apple always says that it’s the fault of third-party developers for not following Apple’s rules, but the kind of major changes System 7.0 is brewing is making some of the rules change, so it’s possible that even good programs may have serious growing pains under the new System.

You can bet that programs with a history of System friction are really going to get burned this time. System 7.0 will no longer distinguish between Finder and MultiFinder environments, so programs known to have problems under MultiFinder are likely to have worse problems with System 7.0.

Many of those indispensable little INITs and cdevs, already often the source of problems and conflicts, are almost certain to need revision. Some may not even be able to make the transition to the new System, because so
If your statistical software is limiting your vision, who knows what you’re missing?

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Robert Wiggins

System 7.0 is one case where the Mac user’s penchant for the latest and greatest could be an even greater detriment to stability than it usually is.

much is changing. (Some of the functions of these small utilities are being folded into System 7.0, which slightly reduces the chances for conflicts.)

The long delay in the official shipping of System 7.0 gives developers extra time to get their programs working with the prerelease versions that Apple has provided. This reduces the potential for major problems, but there’s no guarantee that every developer’s software will be ready with System 7.0 versions in time.

So unless you want to find yourself at sixes and sevens with your Mac, you should examine your priorities before rushing ahead to System 7.0. Use the extra time provided by the delay to make sure you’re ready—whichever way you decide to go.

If all your machines are ready for System 7.0 (enough memory and Mac Plus ROMs or better) or can be made ready in time, you’re a risk taker, and you just can’t stand the thought of someone else having System 7.0 when you don’t, then by all means go ahead and be first in line to upgrade.

If you need the capabilities of System 7.0 for a special application (some that will require advanced features such as interapplication communication are rumored to be in development), then you have no choice but to upgrade.

However, if stability means more to you than being the first on your block with a new toy, you might just wait a few months to see how it goes for the pioneers. I’m not saying that System 7.0 doesn’t have a lot to recommend it. But if you depend on your Mac to run your business, then moving forward slowly and smoothly is much better than making a precipitous leap that exposes you and your valuable data to possible danger.

This is one case where the Mac user’s penchant for the latest and greatest could be an even greater detriment to stability than it usually is.
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ADOBE SYSTEMS
Adobe Illustrator 3.0 .................................... 339
Adobe Type Manager ..................................... 55
Adobe TypeSet 1 or 2 ..................................... 45
Adobe Type Align ......................................... 58
Streamline .................................................. 254
TrueForm ..................................................... 224
Photoshop .................................................. 89
Photoshop 4 ................................................. 58
Photoshop 4.0 .............................................. 224

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HYPERGLOT
KenjiMaster ................................................. 99
World Languages Spanish, Russian, French, Italian & German ........................................... 29
Verb Tutor for above languages ........................................... 29
Tense Tutor for above languages ........................................... 35

LOCUST SIMULATIONS
On Cue ....................................................... 34
MacKern ..................................................... 56
TIMON ......................................................... 56
HyperTIMON ................................................. 56
FeldTutor ..................................................... 56

INFORMIX
World .......................................................... 238

INNOVATIVE DATA DESIGN
Dreams ....................................................... 315
MacDraft ..................................................... 185

INSIGHT DEVELOPMENT
MacPaint ..................................................... 69

INSIGNIA
Layer .......................................................... 242

LANGUAGE SYSTEMS
Frontrun with MPW ....................................... 308
WebList ..................................................... 119

LAYERED SOFTWARE
ArtStation ................................................... 275
Insight Expert per module ........................................... 338

EXPERTISE
MacRomind ................................................. 104

MACROMIND
MacRomind Director ....................................... 435

MACROMIND
MacRomind Director ....................................... 435

MACROMIND
MacRomind Director ....................................... 435

MACROMIND
MacRomind Director ....................................... 435

MACROMIND
MacRomind Director ....................................... 435

MACROMIND
MacRomind Director ....................................... 435

PREPARED PUBLISHING
D'Asylse .................................................... 65
Exposure Pro ............................................. 65

PRESS TECHNOLOGIES
Spectrums-Quark/Pagemaker 195 ........................................... 299

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PARAGON .................................................. 238

POWER UP
Address Book Plus ......................................... 51
Address Book Plus with Binder ........................................... 75
Calendrier Creator ......................................... 35
Fast Facts .................................................... 86

PREPARED PUBLISHING
D’Asylse .................................................... 65
Exposure Pro ............................................. 65

PRESS TECHNOLOGIES
Spectrums-Quark/Pagemaker 195 ........................................... 299

SYMMETRY
Just a Slice .................................................. 26

T·MAKER
Write Now ................................................... 26
ClickArt ..................................................... 46
FastEnvelope ............................................. 48

WORDPERFECT CORP.
WordPerfect .................................................. 208

ZEDCOR
Desk .......................................................... 209

GMS
UltraScript .................................................. 119
QUARK
QuarkXPress .................................................. 509
Quantum .................................................... 166
REALITY TECHNOLOGIES
WealthBuilder ............................................. 159
REFERENCES SOFTWARE
Gramask Mac ............................................... 47
SALENT
DeskDouble ................................................... 43
Presence ..................................................... 318
SENSIBLE SOFTWARE
Sensible Grammar ......................................... 50
Sensible Tuner ............................................. 50
SILICON BEACH SOFTWARE
Super Paint 2.0 ........................................... 123
Digital Darkroom ......................................... 244
Supercap ..................................................... 185
SOLUTIONS INTERNATIONAL
Smartsnap .................................................... 46
Super Audio II .............................................. 59
The Curator ................................................... 69
STUDIO TONER
IfX Forms Designer ......................................... 164
Business Expense Reports ........................................... 47

SOFTWARE VENTURES
Microphone II .............................................. 209
STRATA
StrataVision 3D ............................................ 348
StrataFlight .................................................. 95

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STUDIO TONER
IfX Forms Designer ......................................... 164
Business Expense Reports ........................................... 47

TELETYPESETTING
Typestyle ...................................................... 89

TIME WORKS
Publish it! Mac ............................................. 219
Organizer ..................................................... 56

TOPS
Network Bundle for MAC ................................... 179
Network Bundle for DOS ................................. 149
TopsFlash .................................................... 156
Teleconnectors .............................................. 26

TOYMASTER
Maker .......................................................... 115

VERTICAL SOLUTIONS
FastLabel ...................................................... 46
FastLabel+ ................................................... 48

WORDPERFECT CORP.
WordPerfect .................................................. 208

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Squeezing the Chairman

If Guy were elected to Apple Computer's board of directors, what would it be like? Hint: Remember what Ross Perot did when he was on General Motors' board?

The Current Board

The Apple board of directors is presently made up of Peter Crisp, Albert Eisenstat, Mike Markkula, Arthur Rock, John Rollwagen, and John Sculley — as nice, famous, smart, and rich a bunch of guys as you could possibly find. There's only one thing wrong with them: Generally, they really don't use and love computers. Not the way most of us do, anyway.

The problem is that the current board members are too rich and successful. Thus, they have at least one dedicated secretary or administrative aide to do much of their computing. (This is the equivalent of Porsche's board members being chauffeured in a limo.) I suspect that they don't even add paper to their LaserWriters. This assumes, of course, that they haven't already given their Macintoshes to their kids. Don't believe me? Try this test: Send them an AppleLink, and see how long it takes for them to read it and if they respond personally.

The Impact

The impact of not using and loving computers is enormous. First, the directors are easy to fool. I should know — I used to do it. Jean-Louis would ploy up on what they wanted to hear, how to gloss over details, and how to get out of trouble. Think about it: What kind of board of directors would approve a 16-pound portable? And then wait for more than a year for a replacement that is barely lighter?

Second, they worry too much about what the financial analysts and pundits are saying. (Mind you, these are the same analysts and pundits who recommended that Apple build an MS-DOS clone in 1983.) Because they listen to these analysts and pundits, they direct Apple employees to do dumb things instead of the right things. How else, for example, could you explain Apple's deep desire to have MS-DOS cards available for Macintoshes?

Third, the directors are out of touch with what computing means for the rest of us. Frankly, no one with a net worth of more than $10 million could possibly know what it's like for the rest of us to own and operate a computer.

I mean this in two ways. First, in the sense of sensitivity to the cost of the Macintosh computer experience. Second, in terms of the excitement of seeing cool little products such as Kiwi Envelopes that may not change quarterly earnings but that make the world a slightly better place to live.

My Qualifications

I think I'm qualified. I hope I can convince you too. OK, so I haven't gone into space as Sally Ride has, but I have ridden some shuttles such as the World Trade Center-Bayside and Mosone-Haynes. I also fly coach class with a Portable all the time (I have deformed elbows and slanted eyes to prove it). And speaking of deformed eyes, I represent an oppressed minority — the Japanese-American.

Let me tell you what else I could bring to the current board.

First, I use a Macintosh about four hours a day. Although I'm not technical, very few five-minute, skin-deep, whiz-bang engineering demos fool me. And if I think I'm being deceived, I can ask Andy Hertzfeld what he thinks — not the analysts and pundits (although I might make an exception for Stewart Alsop).

Second, I understand what it's like to be an Apple developer. (Apple developer, n: synonym for oxymoron; organization that Claris creates tools for.) I evangelized them, and I was one of them. No one on the current board has a good idea what it's like to be an ant in the jungle when the elephant starts to rock and roll.

Third, I was a rank-and-file Apple employee. While all the honchos are moving employees around the board with the reorg du jour, I know what it's like to be a pawn. I also know what it's like to work at Apple without...
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What kind of board of directors would approve a 16-pound portable? And then wait for more than a year for a replacement that is barely lighter?

golden parachutes, golden handcuffs, or golden prophylactics.

Fourth, I am a member of the press. (I am certain of this, because I get a press badge for Macworld Expos without asking.) I know the gruesome details of how the Apple Computer/Regis McKenna PR machine tends to bend, shade, and purify the truth. I also know that everyone knows what it really means when Jean-Louis decides to pursue even better interests.

My Pledge

Read my lips. If elected, this is my pledge: I will represent the computing needs of the rest of us who don’t have secretaries, who ride in coach class, and who still care what things cost. I will try to increase EPS (evangelism per share) in addition to earnings per share; and if it’s the last thing I do, I will make sure you can call Apple and reach tech support (the phrase “Go back to your dealer” will be banned forever). If it’s the second-to-the-last thing I do, I will ensure that the amount of money we spend making videos is less than the amount we spend on tech support.

It Will Never Happen

One sure thing about my idea is that it will never happen. I would be the last person that Apple would want on its board, because I’d make too much trouble—just as General Motors’ board couldn’t stand having Ross Perot as a director and finally bought him out. (Actually, I consider not being wanted on Apple’s board quite flattering.) On the other hand, anyone else who could represent these points of view and evangelize these objectives could do Apple a world of good. It doesn’t have to be me.

Want to get in touch with Guy? Do it directly: America Online – MacWay; AppleLink — Kawasak12; CompuServe – 76703,3031; Fax – 415-326-2398. Or, the old analog way, he can be reached at 488 Cowper St., Palo Alto, CA 94301.
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QuarkXPress 3.0

In its third version, QuarkXPress moves to the top of the heap in page layout.

QuarkXPress 3.0 is packed with new features. Clockwise from the upper right corner are a library window, the document-layout palette (notice that the document contains a four-page-foldout spread and that a new page, based on the highlighted master page B, is being created next to page 6), the measurements palette, and the tools palette.

With its third incarnation, QuarkXPress has finally left behind its once-justified reputation as a powerful-but-daunting desktop-publishing program that made you play by its own rules — or else. In completely rewriting the program, Quark has done more than just incorporating some of the enhancements users have been clamoring for and smoothing some of the more notorious rough spots. Version 3.0 bristles with wonderful new features, and the interface has been brilliantly redesigned.

You Asked for It. First, here's a look at how some of the major complaints about earlier versions have been addressed. QuarkXPress' default pages were always a poor substitute for real master pages. Now you can have as many as 127 different retroactive master pages per document. You can easily change the master page that applies to a particular page simply by dragging icons inside the new document-layout palette, which gives an iconic view of every page and master page in a document. When you change a master page, all the changes are reflected in every page based on that master. If you apply a new master page, the document pages instantly change to reflect the new master.

The edge of each page is no longer the impenetrable boundary it once was. You can drag objects completely off a page and use the space outside the page as a pasteboard much like PageMaker's. You can also drag objects partially off pages to create bleeds, another former near-impossibility. You can even create objects that stretch across multipage spreads.

You’re no longer confined to using cumbersome parent/child boxes when you want to associate objects permanently. You can now select and permanently group multiple objects with the standard Shift-click command or by using the marquee tool. Although the parent/child-box arrangement is still available, users can opt to use the more flexible — and less confusing — option of permanently grouping objects as necessary.

QuarkXPress now lets you rotate any object or group (either text or graphic) in increments as fine as .001 degree, either by using the mouse with a new rotation tool or by typing the exact amount of rotation you want.

Improved Interface. QuarkXPress 3.0's thoroughly revamped interface makes it a joy to use. The tool palette is no longer attached to the left side of every window but now floats above the page. There are three new tools — for rotating objects, creating irregularly shaped picture boxes, and zooming the page image with a magnifying glass. In a welcome touch, you can drag the magnifying glass over a displayed page to exactly select the area to be shown when the page is zoomed. Double-clicking on most tools lets you customize their defaults.

At the heart of QuarkXPress' new look is the floating measurements palette. It displays information about any selected object, such as x,y coordinates, overall measurements, the amount of rotation, the fonts used, and so on. These numbers aren't a static display. You can click in any box and type in new information, and the selected object instantly changes accordingly. This is a great way to modify objects quickly, because you can use the palette to simultaneously modify all the objects in a multiple selection.

Quark has made things even quicker with some clever shortcuts. There's a pop-up font menu when text is selected, for example, but you don’t have to scroll to find and change fonts. You can simply begin typing the name of the new font into the field next to the menu. As soon as you've typed enough characters to identify a font, the entire font name appears.

Page Management. You can have as many as seven files open simultaneously, and if you want to move objects from one document to another, you simply select and drag whatever objects you want from one document window to another. In the Thumbnails mode, you can drag entire pages between documents.

You can also drag objects into a library palette. Library files are collections of objects — including entire pages or master pages — displayed in reduced view. You can save any object in a library and then retrieve it by simply dragging a copy...
of it from the library onto a new page.

In addition to managing master pages, the document-layout palette lets you rearrange pages by copying, pasting, and deleting them or by dragging their icons. You can easily create multipage spreads by dragging the page icons into the spread; you can then display and work on the entire spread as if it were one page.

Not only can you make multiple selections and create groups, but there's also a Space/Align command that lets you align or distribute multiple objects. This makes it a snap to create tables from multiple text boxes, for example, while making certain that all the rows and columns align properly.

The Winning Type. Although version 3.0 still doesn't have all the features professional typographers might want (such as hanging punctuation or adjustable underscores), QuarkXPress maintains its undisputed lead as the best DTP program for handling type. The program now lets you define the proportions and offsets of superscripts, subscripts, small caps, and superior type. There are several new paragraph options: You can create anchored rules above or below any paragraph, as well as create automatic dropcaps and have some amount of widow and orphan control. You can also anchor any object—text, graphic, or group—to text, simply by pasting the object into a text column.

QuarkXPress now also supports vertical text alignment within any text box: Text can be centered, justified, or aligned to the top or bottom within a box. You can also specify the exact amount of space between the top of a text box and the baseline of the first line of text.

As with type, QuarkXPress 3.0's handling of words has been beefed up. The fast spelling checker and the powerful global search-and-replace (it finds and changes text attributes as well as strings of text) can now examine all the text in a document in a single pass. There are also three new special characters: an "indent here" character, which lets you quickly indent a paragraph to the character's location; a discretionary-new-line character, which lets a word break at the end of a line without inserting a hyphen; and a nonbreaking em dash.

Style Problem. QuarkXPress' handling of style sheets hasn't benefited from 3.0's jazzy interface changes. As in previous versions, the sheets sometimes behave erratically. When you change a style, for example, the text formatting doesn't always automatically change to reflect the new style sheet, which forces you to go to the new style via No Style on the Style Sheet command. This procedure makes you lose any local formatting exceptions you may have applied to the text in a paragraph. Someday the excitement of QuarkXPress' style sheets should come from their power and speed, not their unpredictability.

Pictures Perfect. Although QuarkXPress still can't separate color TIFF images, there are several handy enhancements to the program's picture handling. You can now create polygonal graphic boxes of any shape by adding and moving points. You can create manual text runarounds for pictures. One neat trick, for example, is to create an inverted runaround that forces the text behind the picture box to flow inside the runaround you've drawn, making it easy to create star bursts and other text effects.

QuarkXPress was the first desktop-publishing program to do true process-color separations. It continues its lead in color-handling by letting you specify custom color choking and spreading information for each color in a document.

The Bottom Line. Aside from indexing and creating tables of contents, there is very little that PageMaker 4.0 can do that QuarkXPress 3.0 can't, and QuarkXPress far outpaces its rival in most other areas. This release also contains excellent documentation that is a great help in getting the most from this rich program.

Like many other high-ticket programs, QuarkXPress 3.0 checks networks for multiple copies of the same serial number. Version 3.0 won't launch if it detects a copy with the same number already active on a network.

QuarkXPress 3.0 is by far the finest Mac desktop-publishing program available. It sets a new standard in DTP.

—Eric Taub

Get Info

QuarkXPress 3.0

Published by: Quark, 300 S. Jackson St., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80209; (800) 356-9363 or (303) 934-2211.

Version: 3.0

List Price: $795.
FrameMaker

Long-document publishing power finally comes to the Mac in a powerhouse program.

FrameMaker, the first successful page-layout program designed for creating long technical documents, is a happy marriage of functionality and adherence to the Mac interface. With all its available controls, FrameMaker is best used with a large-screen display.

Although desktop publishing has revolutionized the way we generate newsletters, brochures, and corporate reports, the software used by the DTP industry presents some problems when it comes to long documents such as books or technical manuals.

Interleaf made a sporting, but abortive, attempt at porting its workstation program, Interleaf Publisher, to the Macintosh two years ago (see “A New Leaf on Life,” May '88, page 158). The program’s interface and outrageous font mismanagement, however, doomed it from the start.

Frame Technology apparently learned from Interleaf’s bitter experience and did almost everything right when it ported FrameMaker, also a workstation program, to the Macintosh. For the production of long or technical documentation, it has no equal in the Mac arena.

Frame Building. Installing FrameMaker involves simply dragging files from the eight distribution disks to a hard-disk drive. Unfortunately, Frame Technology didn’t set the application’s bundle bit on any copies of the master disks I’ve seen. That means, contrary to what the manual says, that you cannot simply double-click on a FrameMaker document from the Finder and expect it to open. You have to use a program such as ResEdit, DiskTop, or Norton Utilities to set the bundle bit. It’s hard to believe that this wasn’t caught before the product shipped, but Frame said the problem had been fixed as we went to press.

For optimal use, the $995 program needs an SE/30 or Mac II equipped with a 40-megabyte hard-disk drive, 4 megabytes of RAM, a PostScript printer, a large-screen monitor (preferably a two-page display), and System 6.0.1 or later. It can function as a hard-core word processor (albeit an expensive one) on a Mac Plus with 2 megabytes of RAM and a hard-disk drive. The program fully supports ATM and MultiFinder.

FrameMaker, like Quark XPress, DesignStudio, and many others, uses text or graphic frames as its basic building blocks. (There is no pasteboard, however, making FrameMaker less than ideal for design-intensive projects such as newsletters.) Creating a new document involves steps that are familiar to users of major DTP applications. You establish the number of pages (limited only by disk size), create up to 25 master pages, and create paragraph and character formats. Landscape and portrait pages can be mixed within the same document (useful for foldouts). You can also construct reference pages for storing frequently used graphics or text blocks so that material such as logos, rules, or boilerplate text is placed only once in a document. FrameMaker also supports registration and crop marks during printing and can output spot-color separations. From this point on, however, FrameMaker begins to distinguish itself from other DTP programs with some sophisticated, powerful features — many of them unique in the Mac world.

Characters with Style. FrameMaker provides extensive power for creating paragraph formats (usually called styles in other programs). The Paragraph Format dialog box contains controls over tabs; fonts (a built-in font harmonizer similar to Adobe Type Reunion makes selecting weights and styles a pleasure); pair kerning; auto-numbering; the option of forcing one style to always follow another style; widows and orphans; hyphenation: the option of exempting a paragraph from spell-checking (this feature lets you specify that a block of programming code, for example, should not be spell-checked); and the automatic placement of bullets, graphics from reference pages, and anchored rules. This dialog box, like most dialog boxes in FrameMaker, is not modal. In other words, it can remain open while you are working in the document. FrameMaker also supports character-level formats that can be saved in style catalogs in much the same fashion as paragraph formats. Both the paragraph and character catalogs are easily accessible from Floating palettes.

The program’s 130,000-word spell checker (augmentable with document/template-specific or user dictionaries) works well and quickly. It can automatically delete extra spaces and search for unusual capitalization or hyphenation. You can instruct it to ignore words in all
cups, words with digits, or words containing specific symbols or characters.

The program can also prevent you from typing two spaces at the end of a sentence. You can apply smart quotes and indicate where FrameMaker can break lines without hyphenating a text string (a wonderful feature for documents that include things such as DOS pathnames).

FrameMaker also has powerful GREP-like find/change capabilities and can search for paragraph and character formats, special characters and markers, cross-references, frames, and so on.

FrameMaker supports PostScript pass-throughs, much as Word 4.0 does, so you can include PostScript routines for generating special text effects.

FrameMaker includes text-import filters only for MacWrite 5.0 (not MacWrite II), Word 3.0 or 4.0, and ASCII, but the program's extensive text-editing features might well make composing in an external word processor unnecessary.

The major shortcoming in the text department is the absence of a table editor. The package contains a booklet that shows how to create tables — clumsily — in FrameMaker, but it primarily draws attention to this significant failing.

Advanced Framework. Features such as cross-referencing, automatic TOC (table of contents) generation and indexing, variables (equivalent to glossary items in other programs), book building (linking separate documents into one with full support for cross-references, footnotes, TOCs, and indexes across all parts of the "book"), and change bars make appearances in other programs, but FrameMaker's simplification surpasses the competition. And Frame has packed some other surprisingly powerful features into FrameMaker — such as MIF (Maker Interchange Format), MML (Maker Markup Language), hypertext, and FrameMath.

MIF is a format that saves FrameMaker documents for use on other platforms running FrameMaker (see the "Frame to Frame" sidebar for details on networking FrameMaker on different platforms). You can also use MIF to create custom import or output filters.

MML is a markup language that lets you use any standard text editor to provide basic format information on items such as page size, paragraph-format names, anchored frames, and the like. Text files tagged in this way can be opened as formatted documents from within a FrameMaker template.

FrameMaker's hypertext feature makes it possible to attach hypertext files to documents. A publishing work group, for example, can create a hypertext explanation of the in-house style, standardized abbreviations, or instructions on how to use a specific template and make this explanation accessible from a particular document. You can create buttons and pop-up menus to aid in navigation via a HyperTalk-like programming language.

But the jewel in the crown is FrameMath, an integrated module that lets you typeset complex display or in-line mathematical equations by using a clever floating palette without resorting to tedious code entry (as in Word). And the program not only sets the equations you key in but can solve them as well. If you've forgotten how to add fractions, FrameMaker can do it for you. Equations, once set, remain fully editable.

CALS/SGML support, fast becoming a requirement for anyone dealing with federal agencies, is also promised for a future release.

Graphic Images. FrameMaker imports the usual variety of Mac graphics formats — TIFF (color or gray scale), PICT, EPS, and MacPaint — into anchored or unanchored frames. You can also import EPSI (an encapsulated PostScript format used in the UNIX world), DOS EPS, and Sun raster files. You can bring graphics in by reference (thus cutting down on file size) or actually copy them into the FrameMaker document. Scaling and cropping are fully supported.

Within the program, you can also create graphics, including rectangles/squares, ovals/circles, polygons, arrows, and Bezier curves. You can manipulate the latter by manipulating control points. Graphic objects can be scaled, cropped, rotated (in 90-degree increments), inverted, and grouped. There are 16 fill patterns. A serious shortcoming is that fills are not, and cannot be, specified by percentages. You simply have to accept what Frame supplies.

The Bottom Line. There are some things I wish FrameMaker did better. The
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Frame to Frame

Because Frame Technology first baptized FrameMaker in the UNIX waters of Sun Microsystems and NeXT, it may not be unusual for Mac users, at least in larger companies, to have to network their Macs with UNIX platforms and transfer FrameMaker documents between them. Frame promises considerable program compatibility across platforms. MacUser Labs NetworkShop took a look to determine what limitations and problems a networked configuration might involve.

We networked a Mac IICl (4 megabytes of RAM), a NeXT computer (8 megabytes of RAM), and the new Sun SPARCstation IPC (24 megabytes of RAM, running under SunView), using Ethernet. File transfers were made with TCP/Connect II, an implementation of FTP (File Transfer Protocol) for the Mac.

The Mac and NeXT versions of FrameMaker each cost $995, and the Sun version is priced at $2,500. Frame makes both SunView and X Window versions for the Sun systems. A version for IBM RISC 6000 workstations is planned, but no release date has been announced, and it will involve hardware ranging in price from $13,000 to $74,000.

There is little difference in functionality in any of the packages. The Sun/NeXT software has a built-in macro capability that's lacking in FrameMaker for the Mac (QuickKeys or Tempo II can be used instead). The NeXT incarnation has a unique look, of course (see figure), but the basics and most of the features are identical across platforms.

Networking machines can involve frustrating complexities of cables and hardware — it took repeated visits from Sun representatives before our relatively simple network functioned properly. Once it was working, we created documents on each of the platforms and transferred them around on the network in a game of computerized musical chairs. Here are some of our conclusions:

Graphics posed the greatest difficulties by far. Mac PICT and MacPaint files had to be saved within a Mac FrameMaker file by use of the Framelmage feature. This command allows these Mac formats to be displayed on the UNIX platforms, but it also enlarges the size of the graphics by as much as 100 percent. Mac EPS files displayed normally on the NeXT machine but had to be converted for use as EPSI files on the Sun machines via Frame EPSF Converter (a utility available by request from Frame Technology) — at least for importing them by reference rather than by copying into the Sun file. In the latter situation, you must save EPS files on the Mac side with Framelmage. If you don't, the EPS image will print normally but appear as a gray box in the document.

You must also save Mac TIFF files with the Framelmage feature for display on the UNIX platforms. The obvious drawback is, in short, that although Mac TIFF and PICT images could be viewed on UNIX machines with a bit of mucking around, they printed from those machines as 72-dpi bit maps. Spot-color or color images placed in Mac documents did not display as color on the other two platforms, but such documents could be imported to the UNIX machines, modified, and then brought back to the Mac without any less of color information. Sounds scary, but it works.

EPS graphics created in the NeXT environment did not preview on the Mac and Sun machines, but they did print. NeXT TIFF files transferred to the Mac without any noticeable problems. NeXT and Sun files could be used in FrameMaker documents, but they didn't transfer to the other platforms.

Sun raster files, graphics created with popular Sun programs such as TopDraw Island Paint or Island Draw, all transferred perfectly to the Mac and NeXT machines. Text transfers were less problematic, but some anomalies appeared in transfers from the Mac to the NeXT, with characters occasionally changing into Times Roman from another font. FrameMath equations always transferred correctly from one platform to another.

In short, FrameMaker lets you successfully hook your Mac into a UNIX environment, but you shouldn't expect absolute and transparent seamlessness.

Although the NeXT version of FrameMaker is identical to the Mac version in terms of features, it has a look all its own.
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GeoQuery

GeoQuery can help you map where you are and where you're going.

So many slick graphics programs are available for the Mac that too often one particular genre of graphics applications gets overlooked. Yet one of these, mapping, was one of the first tasks that made my Mac a real business machine. Even when the only two programs I owned were MacPaint and MacWrite. Even now, I still like drawing maps, and I've created some of my most meaningful maps with Odesta's GeoQuery.

Mapping the Most of It. GeoQuery is more than just a mapping tool for the United States: it's a geographic data-analysis tool. The basic disk set comes with zip-code-keyed atlases for the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. You can create markers, called pushpins in GeoQuery, from any ASCII-formatted text file or Clipboard data that contains a zip-code field. Corporate users will appreciate GeoQuery's embedded CL/I capabilities for retrieval of information in minicomputer databases.

The program's graphing capability helps you visualize the geographic dispersion of your sales force, clients, or even relatives. Imported data can have a label and a type: types are used to group elements for abstract data views. If you were examining retail stores in the eastern U.S., for example, your data might have types called Bloomingdale's, Sears, Macy's, and so on. Their labels, however, could be more specific, such as "5th Avenue Macy's." When pushpins are first loaded, they do not display the detail associated with them, but using the Who? tool and selecting all or part of the map reveals their labels.

The zip codes are accurate to about ±2.5 miles. You can completely control your map's scale, with boundaries based on the size of your current page setup, by double-clicking on the map's legend and entering a new value for miles per inch. The Landmark feature lets you create a pushpin for anything with a zip code and can help you get a perspective on your own pushpins (and probably help your children get high marks on their geography papers). Double-clicking on any pushpin with the snooper tool reveals its associated record, and you can calculate mileage from pushpin to pushpin (as the crow flies) with the ruler tool.

If pinpointing areas on a map is not what you have in mind, you might want to create shaded regions to reflect sales data, record counts, or any other type of numeric data. Each state has a region name, and you can develop custom regions with circular or irregular outlines. Custom regions with names can be loaded directly from your data. Shading is based on the count of records, the sum of calculated records for a region, or the average of the calculated fields. You can also combine several files — shaded states might reflect the sales dimension, whereas pushpins might reveal which customers reside in the shaded region.

You can split off any region from the main map so it becomes the primary focus of your attention, and you can subdivide regions on the fly for a more refined look. The program can produce various reports that summarize your pushpin data in a region or group of regions.

Even if you don't deal in zip codes, GeoQuery can still be a useful tool. Optional atlases for regions ranging from the Pacific to New England are available, along with specialized atlases for ADI (Area of Dominant Influence), DMA (Designated Market Area), and MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area). Atlases with the counties of individual states are also available. Prices for these supplemental atlases range from $100 per state to $475 for specialized versions.

Off the Great Divide. Although GeoQuery does an excellent job of creating maps, a few technical points could be improved. GeoQuery plot data is kept on disk and not in memory, which means input files are in use while plots are active. I wanted to plot the location of a user-group membership list and also shade states according to user density. I dumped my Double Helix 3.0 report to disk and found that once I had plotted the locations of the membership, I needed to duplicate the file for shading, because it was already in use for the pushpins.

The other problem was that I had to dump data from Double Helix 3.0 at all. The Mac has no dominant dBASE III-type of database-file standard, so most database programs on it don't read much more than ASCII text or SYLK files, but I would think Odesta could at least get GeoQuery to read its own Helix format. The program could also use a more global perspective now that world markets, not just domestic markets, are so important to the economy.

The Bottom Line. GeoQuery is an excellent entry-level mapping tool and geographic data-analysis program. It produces clear maps that help you visualize your data and has a simple interface that lets you concentrate on your data rather than on the intricacies of learning the program.

— Daniel W. Rasmus

GeoQuery

Get Info

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| MacSchedule 2.0.4        | $125  |
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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**Foundation Publishing ... 60 day MBG**
6729 Comic People ................ 21.
6646 Kid Stuff .................... 21.
6728 Comic Strip Factory 1.6 .... 37.
**General Software ... 60 day MBG**
4319 General CADD Level 1 1.1 .... 83.
7454 General CADD 1.0 .......... 375.
**Innovative Data Design**
2417 MacDraft 2.0 ................ 193.
4707 Dreams 1.1 .................. 319.
Letrasit 2619 ImageStudio 1.5 .... 139.
2621 Ready Set Go! 4.5A ......... 165.
4709 LetraStudio 1.5 ............. 275.
6300 FontStudio 1.0 ............. 359.
6302 DesignStudio 1.0 .......... 489.
6301 ColorStudio 1.0 .......... 649.

**Symmetry ... 30 day MBG**
6069 KeyPlan 1.0-1989 MacUser Editors' Choice Award for Best Information Management Software. All the tools necessary to create, analyze, fine-tune, present and track plans from outline to deadline .......... $243.

**Creative Software ... 30 day MBG**
6518 ATLAS•MapMaker4.5 ........ 369.
6159 MacroMind Accelerator .... 125.
6168 CA-Cricket Graph 1.3.2 .... 125.
6170 CA-Cricket Presents 2.0 .... 319.
**Custom Applications ... 30 day MBG**
6045 Easy Color Paint 1.1 ......... 42.
**Data Base Software ... 30 day MBG**
6643 Clip-Art 3D .................. 69.
6518 ATLAS•MapMaker4.5 ........ 369.
6159 MacroMind Accelerator .... 125.
6168 CA-Cricket Graph 1.3.2 .... 125.
6170 CA-Cricket Presents 2.0 .... 319.
**DreamMaker ... 30 day MBG**
4088 MacGallery (MacPaint) ..... 27.
4115 MacGallery (HyperCard) .... 27.
4840 Cliptures: Business 1 ....... 69.
4841 Cliptures: Business 2 ....... 69.
7684 Cliptures: Sports 3 ........ 69.

**Digital Software**
2417 MacDraft 2.0—Powerful precision drawing and design software for the Macintosh. Features include advanced text handling, on-line symbol libraries, layers, Bezier and spline curves, dimensioning and more. .......... $193.

**Linguist's Software ... 60 day MBG**
Over 100 language fonts .......... call MacKanji 6.0, MacChinese, LaserHebrew, or LaserGreek, ea. 79.
**MacroMind ... 30 day MBG**
7712 MacroMind CD-ROM ........ 125.
6159 MacroMind Accelerator .... 125.
5087 MacroMind Director 2.0 .... 439.
**Mainstay ... 30 day MBG**
7714 Capture 3.0 ................. 45.
**Micro Maps ... 30 day MBG**
7554 MapArt (Paint) ............. 41.
7555 MapArt (EPS) ............... 99.
7556 MapArt (PEC) ............... 99.
**Microsoft ... 30 day MBG**
2878 PowerPoint 2.01 ............ 245.
Nec Image Gallery, Photo Gallery, Type Gallery PS (CD-ROM titles) ........ ea. 246.
6625 Clip-Art 3D (CD-ROM) .... 246.
Olduvai
7120 VideoPaint 1.0 ............. 279.

**Paracomp**
Paracomp's 24-bit version of the best-selling 3D program, may be combined with SwivelArt, to view images in unlimited perspectives.
7441 Swivel 3D Professional 1.0 .... $439.
7728 SwivelArt 1.0 .............. 82.

**PANTONE**
7466 Process Color Imaging Guide .... 49.
7421 DrawTools 1.0 ............... 62.
7728 SwivelArt 1.0 .............. 82.
4597 Swivel 3D 1.1 ............... 295.
7441 Swivel 3D Professional 1.0 .... 439.
7839 FilmMaker 1.0 ............. 439.
**Preferred Publishers ... 30 day MBG**
7828 Exposure Pro .............. 69.
7612 Quark XPress 3.0 ......... 529.
7499 Softview ...................... 169.
* MacFonts 1.0-60 day MBG
3446 The Curator 1.05 .......... 71.
**Somak Software ... 30 day MBG**
7434 LaserArt CD-ROM Volume 1 .... 62.
**Springboard ... 30 day MBG**
3530 Certificate Maker 2.0 ...... 22.
4497 Top Honors 1.01 .......... 57.
4500 Springboard Publisher II 2.0 ...... 107.
**Strata**
7772 StrataVision3D/Renderman Bundle .... 999.
**Strategic Mapping**
6518 ATLAS•MapMaker 4.5 .... 369.
**SuperMac Tech. ... 60 day MBG**
5825 PixelPaint Professional 1.0-1.1 .. 389.
**3D Graphics**
3942 Images with Impact: Graphics 1 .... 50.
4583 Images with Impact: Business 1 .... 65.
6379 Images with Impact: Accents .... 65.
**Timeworks ... 30 day MBG**
7110 Publishlt Easy 1.1 .... 113.
5908 Publishlt 1.2 ............. 222.
**T/Maker ... 30 day MBG**
6900 ClickArt Business Cartoons ...... 32.
3633 ClickArt Christian Images .... 39.
5167 EPS Business Art ......... special 69.
7424 EPS Animals & Nature .... 82.
**Wayzata Tech. ... 60 day MBG**
6576 Vietnam Remembered (CD-ROM) .... 69.
6379 QuickArt (CD-ROM) .... 175.
**Wildflower ... 30 day MBG**
6512 SnapJay 2.0 .......... 32.
**Zedcor ... 60 day MBG**
3986 DeskPaint & DeskDraw 3.0 .... 115.

Strategic Mapping
6518 ATLAS•MapMaker 4.5—Publication quality color maps of your data. Includes boundaries and data for states, counties, world countries. Plots locations and data for zip-coded address files. Mac User 5 Mouse rating .......... $369.
no longer a dream.

Insight Development ... 30 day MBG
MacPrint 1.23—Let you use any HP printer with your Mac. For a limited time, buy MacPrint 1.23 and get MacEnvelope 4.2, an envelope printing utility, absolutely free... $94.

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<td>KiwiFinder 1.0</td>
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Dantz Development ... 30 day MBG
5255 Retrospect 1.1—1989 Mac User Editors' Choice Award for Best Backup Software.
"Retrospect can quickly store data on almost every backup medium. It also makes backups chores as painless as possible." $148.

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<td>CarbonCopy Mac—Control another Mac's resources and have the ability to transfer files and access mouse, keyboard and screen controls. $117.</td>
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<td>CarbonCopy Mac (Twin Pack)</td>
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Carbon Copy MAC
1-800/334-4444  2200U
MacConnection, 14 Mill Street, Marlow, NH 03456  1-800/334-4444  603/446-7711  FAX 603/446-7791
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**Preferred Publishers ... 30 day MBG**

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<td>ON Technology</td>
<td>On Location 1.0</td>
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<td>Salient Software</td>
<td>Softstream Int'l., Inc</td>
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<td>Relational Object 1.0</td>
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<td>Salient Software</td>
<td>HyperHIT 2.2</td>
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**Software Innovations ... 30 day MBG**

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**Preferred Publishers ... 30 day MBG**

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**LEARN & PLAY**

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<td>Manhole</td>
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<td>Cosmic Cosmos</td>
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<td>Beyond Dark Castle</td>
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<td>Dark Castle 1.1</td>
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**Bullseye**

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<td>P51 Mustang (CP)</td>
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**Carina Software**

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**Casady & Greene**

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**Coda Music Systems**

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**Davidson & Associates**

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<td>Math Blaster Mystery (CP)</td>
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**Electronic Arts ... 30 day MBG**

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<td>Starlight</td>
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<td>Deluxe Music Construction Set 2.1</td>
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**First Byte ... 30 day MBG**

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<td>Dinosaur Discovery Kit 1.0 (ages 3-8)</td>
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### Individual Software

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<td>7425</td>
<td>Training for Microsoft Word 4.0</td>
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<td>Training for PageMaker 3.0</td>
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<td>Inline Design ... 30 day MBG</td>
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<td>Bomber 1.3 (includes headphones)</td>
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<td>Darwin's Dilemma</td>
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<td>Reader Rabbit 2.2 (CP) ages 4-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>5453</td>
<td>Talking Math Rabbit 1.0 (ages 4-7)</td>
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<td><strong>★</strong></td>
<td>Microsoft ... 30 day MBG</td>
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<td>2868</td>
<td>Flight Simulator (CP)</td>
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<td>5253</td>
<td>The Puzzle Gallery</td>
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<td>Penton Overseas ... 30 day MBG</td>
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<td>Strategic Conquest Plus 2.0</td>
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<td>5774</td>
<td>Net Trek — The Real Version 2.3</td>
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<td><strong>★</strong></td>
<td>Shodan ... 30 day MBG</td>
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<td>Leprechaun</td>
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<td>Colour Bears</td>
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<td>Chessmaster 2100 1.1</td>
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<td>Mavis Beacon Typing 1.5 (CP)</td>
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<td>Life &amp; Death (CP)</td>
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<td>Cribbage King-Gin King</td>
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<td>Leisure Suit Larry (CP)</td>
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<td>7615</td>
<td>Nemesis Joseki's Genius 4.7</td>
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<td>Nemesis Go Junior</td>
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<td>Nemesis Go Master</td>
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<td>Nemesis Go Master Deluxe 4.7</td>
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<td>The World Factbook 1989 (CD-ROM)</td>
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<td>6778</td>
<td>USA Factbook (CD-ROM)</td>
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<td>7374</td>
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<td>TaskMaker (CP)</td>
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### NETWORKS & COMMUNICATIONS

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<td>Abaton ... 30 day MBG</td>
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<td>6266</td>
<td>InterFax 24/96 Modern</td>
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<td>CE Software ... 60 day MBG</td>
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<td>5638</td>
<td>In/Out (10 user)</td>
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<td>5173</td>
<td>QuickMail 2.2 (10 users)</td>
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<td><strong>★</strong></td>
<td>CompuServe ... 60 day MBG</td>
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<td>1676</td>
<td>CompuServe Information Service</td>
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<td>1673</td>
<td>CompuServe Navigator 3.0</td>
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<td>Standard Service/Navigator Bundle</td>
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<td>Connect, Inc.</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>5834</td>
<td>Connect 1.5 for the Macintosh</td>
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<td><strong>★</strong></td>
<td>DataViz ... 60 day MBG</td>
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<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>MacLink Plus/PC 4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4842</td>
<td>MacLink Plus/Translators 4.5</td>
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### Dow Jones ... 30 day MBG

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<tr>
<td>5295</td>
<td>News/Retrieval Membership Package—Allows off-line set up of personalized reports to retrieve and analyze key data from Dow Jones News Retrieval's 55+ databases. Includes includes five free hours of connect time.</td>
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We ship "overnight"

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<th>Part Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5277</td>
<td>TurboBridge</td>
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<td>6750</td>
<td>NuvoLink II</td>
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<td>6272</td>
<td>NuvoLink SC</td>
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**Orchid Technology**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6949</td>
<td>OrchidFAX Modern</td>
<td>$459</td>
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<tr>
<td>3102</td>
<td>2400 Baud External Modem</td>
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<td>5285</td>
<td>PM 2400SA MNP Modem</td>
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<td>3089</td>
<td>Mac Communications Pack 1.5</td>
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**Shiva**

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<tr>
<td>3444</td>
<td>NetSerial X232</td>
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<tr>
<td>4347</td>
<td>NetBridge</td>
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<td>4942</td>
<td>TeleBridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>3443</td>
<td>NetModem V2400</td>
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<td>6917</td>
<td>NetModem V32</td>
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<td>6519</td>
<td>EtherGate</td>
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**Software Ventures**

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<th>Part Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3455</td>
<td>MicroPhone II 3.0</td>
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<td>6721</td>
<td>MailMaker 5 User Pack 1.1</td>
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<td>6720</td>
<td>FAXGATE Plus 1.1</td>
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**Synergy**

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<tr>
<td>6618</td>
<td>VersaTerm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6619</td>
<td>VersaTerm-PRO 3.1.1</td>
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**MediaTracks**

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<th>Part Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>6766</td>
<td>MediaTracks-Lets screen activities into &quot;tares&quot;. You can easily edit and add text, graphs, and sound to your tapes, which your audience can watch and listen to at their convenience. $189.</td>
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**Practical Peripherals**

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<tr>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7343</td>
<td>Mach IV Plus Joystick (Quad or ADB)</td>
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<td>7344</td>
<td>Rollermouse (ADB)</td>
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**CH Products**

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<th>Part Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6090</td>
<td>LabelWriter</td>
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<tr>
<td>6067</td>
<td>LabelWriter Labels</td>
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**Datadock**

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<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>HyperDialer</td>
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<tr>
<td>6901</td>
<td>Switchboard (modular keyboard)</td>
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**GDT Softworks**

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<th>Part Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7687</td>
<td>Mac Daisy Link</td>
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<td>6256</td>
<td>PrintLink Collection 3.0</td>
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<td>6151</td>
<td>JetLink Express 2.0</td>
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**Hewlett-Packard**

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<th>Part Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>6514</td>
<td>DeskWriter Printer</td>
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**Kensington**

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<tr>
<td>7519</td>
<td>MAC-101 Keyboards (modular keyboard)</td>
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**Kodak**

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<td>MacVis on 3.0</td>
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<td>6730</td>
<td>DICONIX M150 Plus Printer</td>
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**Kraft Systems**

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<td>7519</td>
<td>KM30 ADB Joystick</td>
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<td>6099</td>
<td>ADB Trackball (foot pedal)</td>
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**Freesoft**

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<tr>
<td>6115</td>
<td>White Knight 11-11 - Supports XMODEM, YMODEM, ZMODEM, Kermit, and Compuserve Error Correcting protocols. Includes Okyto 1.0, a Mac-to-Mac file transfer program, and a free subscription to GeEnie. $85.</td>
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**Baseline Publishing**

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<tr>
<td>7784</td>
<td>Mac Cheese 1.05 - First affordable 32-bit color or gray-scale paint program</td>
<td>$57</td>
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<tr>
<td>7783</td>
<td>INIT Manager- Locate, reorder, manage and analyze all your start-up documents</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<td>7785</td>
<td>Ttalking Mouse-Humorware for the Mac</td>
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**Dove Computer**

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<td>News/Retrieval Membership Package</td>
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<td>Deskpro Express 1.03</td>
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**Farallon Computing**

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<td>Timbuktu 3.1</td>
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<td>4867</td>
<td>Timbuktu 3.1 3.0-Pack</td>
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<td>Timbuktu/Remote 2.0</td>
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<td>6371</td>
<td>Timbuktu/Remote Access Pack</td>
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<td>2202</td>
<td>PhoneNET to LocalTalk Adapter</td>
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<td>5864</td>
<td>PhoneNET StarConnector</td>
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<td>6273</td>
<td>PhoneNET StarConnector 10-Pack</td>
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<td>2203</td>
<td>PhoneNET Connector (DIN-B)</td>
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<td>PhoneNET Connector 10-Pk (DIN-B)</td>
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<td>PhoneNET Connector (DB-9)</td>
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<td>PhoneNET CheckNET</td>
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<td>2206</td>
<td>PhoneNET StarConnector 300</td>
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<td>6667</td>
<td>PhoneNET StarConnector-EN</td>
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<td>5893</td>
<td>Portable Pack</td>
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<td>6776</td>
<td>Remote/Wakeup Cable</td>
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<tr>
<td>6767</td>
<td>MediaTracks Multimedia CD Pack</td>
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<td>6768</td>
<td>MediaTracks Multimedia Pack</td>
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**TOPS**

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<tr>
<td>4198</td>
<td>TOPS Teleconnecter (DIN-B)</td>
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<td>4598</td>
<td>TOPS FlashBox</td>
<td>$118</td>
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<td>3723</td>
<td>TOPS Mac 2.1 (limited supply)</td>
<td>$137</td>
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<td>3720</td>
<td>TOPS Flashcard</td>
<td>$155</td>
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<td>7057</td>
<td>MacPrint TOPS Network Version 1.0</td>
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<td>6264</td>
<td>TOPS Networking Bundle 3.0</td>
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**Traveling Software**

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<td>3729</td>
<td>LapLink Mac III Connectivity Pac</td>
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<td>LapLink Mac III Network Pac</td>
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**INPUT/OUTPUT**

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<td>Scan 3000GS</td>
<td>$999</td>
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<td>4343</td>
<td>Scanner Kit w/Digital Darkroom</td>
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<td>4341</td>
<td>Scanner Kit w/ImageStudio</td>
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<td>5895</td>
<td>UPS 110SE</td>
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<td>6688</td>
<td>UPS 370c</td>
<td>$295</td>
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<tr>
<td>4476</td>
<td>OmniPage 2.1</td>
<td>$539</td>
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<tr>
<td>4477</td>
<td>OmniSpool or OmniDraft</td>
<td>$69</td>
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<tr>
<td>6661</td>
<td>OmniProof</td>
<td>$105</td>
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"You make it look like fun!"

Dear MacConnection,

Congratulations on your "last peanut" catalog! We love the humor and truth you mix as you put the message out. What is clear is MacConnection's commitment to protecting our environment even while (oh no! is it possible?) turning a profit. Telco Research is also in the recycling mood. With such inspiration from MacConnection, however, we'll plan to take even more steps to reduce and reuse our materials. You make it look like fun!

Minka Thomas
Telco Research
Nashville, TN

Just for the record, all the ads in this series feature photographs of real live MacConnection customers and the real live letters they wrote us. Really!
That's AM, folks.

Software Ventures ... 30 day MBG
3455 MicroPhone II 3.0—New version of top-selling telecom software. Build graphic front-ends to remote services & corporate mainframes. Supports XCMDs & XCNs, ZMODEM, icons, European languages, color & sound. $215.

7417 Cordless Mouse ... 89.
7413 Mac IIx/CI Monitor Stand ... 40.
6733 GFP-3 The Organizer ... 199.
6682 Hard Top ImageWriter II ... 16.
2379 MacLuggage Imagentware II ... 49.
6129 Ultimate SE/Ext. Carrying Case ... 79.
2573 Till/Swivel ... 33.
2381 MacLuggage Macware II ... 75.
4973 Power Tree 20 ... 27.
2559 Apple Security Kit ... 33.

*Basic Needs ... 60 day MBG
Dust Covers ... call
Hard Top Keyboards ... ea. 15.
6682 Hard Top ImageWriter II ... 16.
7413 Mac IIx/CI Monitor Stand ... 40.
7417 Cordless Mouse ... 89.

6733 GFP-3 The Organizer ... 199.
6682 Hard Top ImageWriter II ... 16.
2379 MacLuggage Imagentware II ... 49.
6129 Ultimate SE/Ext. Carrying Case ... 79.
2573 Till/Swivel ... 33.
2381 MacLuggage Macware II ... 75.
4973 Power Tree 20 ... 27.
2559 Apple Security Kit ... 33.

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*Basic Needs ... 60 day MBG
Dust Covers ... call
Hard Top Keyboards ... ea. 15.
6682 Hard Top ImageWriter II ... 16.
7413 Mac IIx/CI Monitor Stand ... 40.
7417 Cordless Mouse ... 89.

Computer Coverup ... 60 day MBG
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Curtis Manufacturing
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2379 MacLuggage Imagentware II ... 49.
2381 MacLuggage Macware SE ... 75.
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Abaton ... 30 day MBG
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4015 Mac SE & Ext. Kybd. Carry Case ... 69.
6116 Mac IIx Carry Case ... 75.

*Tripp Lite ... 30 day MBG
6199 Isobar 4 (surge suppressor, 4 outlets) ... 49.
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6650 QD2000 40 MB Data Cartridge ... 19.
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**Micron ... 30 day MBG**
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**Orange Micro ... 30 day MBG**
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**Pacific Data Products**
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**Cutting Edge ... 30 day MBG**
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4865 Address Labels 3/4" x 11/2" (2750) 15.
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CDP 9000/TopScan and Parallel Reader

A pair of high-end OCR packages teach the Mac to speed-read.

Calera's CDP 9000/TopScan combination is the speed king of high-end OCR. It's consistently faster than Caere's Parallel Reader and is much easier to set up.

OCR (optical character recognition) has removed a considerable amount of the drudgery from translating printed material into electronic documents. Most Mac OCR software has been best suited for low-volume situations or individuals.

Now two new products from Calera Recognition Systems and Caere combine hardware and software to bring increased power, speed, and sophistication to high-volume OCR users. Calera's CDP 9000/TopScan package and Caere's Parallel Reader (both examined briefly in the July '90 issue, page 124) now vie for this lucrative market.

CDP9000/TopScan. Not for the weak-walleted (the configuration I looked at lists for $31,950), Calera's top-of-the-line entry in the Mac OCR market consists of the CDP 9000 (the "less expensive" CDP6000 lists for mere $19,950), a large scanner unit that you connect to your Mac with a SCSI cable, and TopScan software that you install on your hard disk. The system requires at least 1 megabyte of RAM, 2 megabytes if you plan to use MultiFinder. Setting up the hardware and software takes less than 30 minutes, and all the necessary cables are shipped with the hardware. The CDP unit is not internally terminated, but Calera includes a SCSI terminator.

Once you've plugged everything in and turned it on, OCR scanning is a snap. Place up to 50 pages in the bin at the top of the CDP unit, and then launch the TopScan software (which works only with the CDP hardware). Select your settings and click on OK, and the pages are pulled through the scanner and fall into a drop tray attached to the front of the device. Recognition processing takes place within the scanner, not on your Mac, and the whole process is blazingly fast and highly accurate.

All tests conducted for this review were performed on a Mac IIfx equipped with 5 megabytes of RAM. The documents used to obtain the speed and accuracy counts shown in Figures 1 and 2 were also scanned with OmniPage 2.1 on an HP ScanJet Plus for comparison.

The CDP 9000 bested the Parallel Reader in every test. For example, the complex-letter test was a 500-word letter with multiple point-size and style changes. The CDP scanned and processed it in 49 seconds, correctly recognizing 90 percent of the text and character formatting. The Caere product lagged along at 2.5 minutes and captured only 82 percent of the text and formatting features. The outcome was much the same when it came to a fax document of similar size. The CDP was more than three times as fast as the Parallel Reader when dealing with dot-matrix material, and it did a far better job of retaining tabs and spacing in the highly formatted programming code used for the dot-matrix test. The CDP also sped through a dense 20-page portion of a thesis about 30 percent faster than the Parallel Reader (5.5 versus 7.8 minutes).

The TopScan program boasts a sleek implementation of the Mac interface that sports several advantages over what OmniPage users are familiar with. TopScan lets you produce nearly fully formatted documents in ten common Mac file types, including MacWrite 5.0, MacWrite II, Word 3.0 and 4.0, WordPerfect, Write Now, and even Excel. You can specify the typeface a file will be saved in and create style sheets of your settings for future use. You can also scan and save text and graphics simultaneously by selecting zones or areas of the page in a preview mode and specifying whether the zone is text, image, or both. You can save all of these as separate documents.

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spell-checked, and you can even tell TopScan to flag suspect words or characters that might be misplaced (a drop cap, for example), so that you can easily locate them in a word processor. All recognized text retains its point size and style, given the appropriate settings.

With the CDP/9000, it's also possible to batch-process previously scanned files, so you can scan during the day and process overnight. You simply select the Defer Processing option during the initial scan and then issue the Process Deferred Documents command later. You can select as many deferred documents as you want, and you can even set a maximum recognition time so the program won't spend more than a set amount of time per page. This is useful if you've accidentally put a sheet in upside down, for example — TopScan abandons the troublesome page and moves on to recognizing the rest of the scans.

Calera had its act together when it devised this product. And it hasn't taken long for this to come to the attention of some major companies — Apple, for instance. Apple uses the CDP 9000 and TopScan to process the thousands of résumés it receives each month. Your résumé doesn't molder in somebody's file cabinet — it molders in a VAX.

**Parallel Reader.** Caere all but invented Mac-based OCR when it introduced OmniPage a year and a half ago, and it's now making its bid for the corporate high-end OCR market with a hardware/software combo called the Parallel Reader.

At $10,995, the Parallel Reader might be an attractive alternative for companies unable to justify or pay the hefty price for the Calera system. But there are some rather pronounced differences between the two systems besides the price tag.

This device, a rather austere-looking black box, is actually an IBM-compatible PC that you network to your Mac. It houses four OCR processing boards (dramatically speeding up multipage scanning, because it can process four pages at a time) and an 80386sx processor. Also included are a 16-bit VGA video card, a 40-megabyte internal hard-disk drive, and a 5.25-inch 1.2-megabyte floppy-disk drive.

You must add on one of the three scanners it supports (the Fujitsu 3093, the HP ScanJet Plus, or the Microtek MS11), an ADF (automatic document feeder), a keyboard, and a monitor. And that's not all. You need networking software (I used TOPS) and cables. And you may have to use file- translating software such as MacLink Plus to convert the DOS files the Parallel Reader deposits on your Mac's hard disk. On the other hand, if you save the scanned files in Word or WordPerfect formats, the Mac versions of those programs can open and convert the files without any problems.

Caere actually installed the configuration I tested (and dealers are supposed to do this for you as well), so I can't comment on how long it might take you to set it up for yourself. But even with everything installed, it took several false starts.
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before I could convince TOPS to function and the unit to access the scanner properly.

The software? It’s essentially OmniPage without the Mac face and minus the ability to check spelling—even though a spelling-checker feature is mentioned in the manuals (Caere plans to implement this feature in a future release). When used for scanning single pages, it roughly matches the performance of OmniPage on the Mac, but as I mentioned previously, it’s generally slower—sometimes decidedly so—than the CDP 9000.

It has settings for dot-matrix documents, style retention, and so on but nothing as startling as TopScan’s style sheets. You can save scan files in a variety of DOS formats, so the time you save in OCR you may lose during the translation unless you save them in Word or WordPerfect formats, as noted earlier. And as with the CDP, you can scan images and text at the same time, saving them to separate documents. You can store the graphics as either compressed or uncompressed TIFF, but again in DOS format. You need a program such as MacLink Plus to convert them into Mac files.

The Parallel Reader does speed up multipage OCR work, and it allows for batch deferred processing, much as the CDP unit does. I particularly liked the fact that you can pause the Parallel Reader during a scan run when the ADF bin is empty, rather than close the current job as completed. This is great for multipage jobs that the ADF can’t accommodate. But the various disadvantages noted earlier tarnish the gleam. In particular, the necessity of dealing with DOS adds to the overall confusion—at least for people accustomed to the Mac way of doing things.

The Bottom Line. If money is not an issue, Calera’s unit is really the only way to go. The CDP 9000/TopScan’s support of style sheets and its extensive formatting options are exceptional. The duo excels at multipage OCR runs and batch processing.

Caere’s Parallel Reader promises the latter features as well—and to some extent it delivers the goods—but it also forces you to do DOS and to translate your files into Mac format. Although the software operates under the relatively friendly environment of a run-time version of Windows, you need considerable DOS background to gear the whole mechanism into motion. It’s cheaper than the Calera approach, but it’s definitely a kludge solution.

The CDP 9000, on the other hand, offers greater speed, accuracy, and convenience. It offers all the instant gratification that the plug-and-play Mac crowd is accustomed to. Your office will never be the same again.

—Gregory Wasson

### DRAWING AND PAINTING

## Color MacCheese and DeskPaint

### Getting 16.8 million colors in a painting program doesn’t have to cost you 16.8 million dollars.

Even though the price of 24-bit video cards has plummeted to less than $600, 24-bit painting programs have stubbornly clung to the $500-and-up price range. This opens the market for Color MacCheese and DeskPaint, two inexpensive, full-color painting packages.

MacCheese’s name is a good indication of the developers’ approach—this isn’t a professional artists’ tool. It’s a simple package that’s meant for graphics fun.

DeskPaint, now in its third generation, is a full-featured, precision painting application in DA form. It comes bundled with DeskDraw, its object-oriented equivalent, and there’s little you can’t accomplish with these DAs together. Version 3.01 is a major upgrade that packs some high-end features I didn’t expect, and it’s less than 100K in size, smaller than many basic black-and-white applications.

The tools in both programs mimic real painting tools by varying their effect with the speed at which you move them on-screen. Stroking quickly with the paintbrush, for example, yields disconnected strokes of color, whereas slowing down applies paint more evenly.

Both programs add color-manipulation tools to the MacPaint standards. Both have an eyedropper for matching previously used hues, and a blending tool for combining colors. In MacCheese, the blending tool is the water drop; in DeskPaint, it looks like a hand with a pointed finger. In addition to solid and patterned fills, the paint cans also produce fills that gradually change from one selected color (or color saturation) to another. I found MacCheese’s color wheel, which mimics Apple’s Color Picker, easier to use than DeskPaint’s extended color palettes.

**Color MacCheese.** MacCheese is designed for artistic fun. If you’re a sketch artist, a painter, or just a kid having fun smearing colors, MacCheese is for you. It is not intended as competition for PixelPaint or Photoshop. Resolution is limited to 72 dpi, and there are no rulers. Only one document can be open at a time.

MacCheese documents are saved in color PICT format, but the program can also open MacPaint documents.

When you first open MacCheese, six palettes appear with your blank document window. Once you’re comfortable, you’ll want to close those you don’t need to reclaim screen space.

MacCheese’s tools are responsive—even when you’re working in full color. In addition to the standard polygon tool, there’s a special tool that draws polygons with any specified number of equal sides. Double-clicking on a tool brings up its Setting dialog box, where you can set its

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**Get Info**

### CDP 9000/TopScan for the Macintosh

*Manufactured by: Calera Recognition Systems, Inc., 2500 Augustine Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95054; (408) 986-8006.*

*List Price: CDP 9000/TopScan, $31,950; CDP 6000, $19,950; TopScan only, $2,995.*

### Parallel Reader

*Manufactured by: Caere Corp., 100 Cooper Court, Los Gatos, CA 95030; (800) 535-7226.*

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NanoDISK, an extended-memory utility from Technology Works (reviewed in the September '90 issue, page 92), has been upgraded to version 2.0 and is now available as a stand-alone product. Formerly available only in a bundle with Technology Works' 16-megabyte upgrade kit, the new version lets users create a RAM disk on any Mac with 4 megabytes or more and includes an INIT that lets users run programs such as Microsoft Mail that can't normally run on systems with more than 8 megabytes. Version 2.0. Technology Works, 4030 Braker Lane W., Suite 350, Austin, TX 78759; (800) 608-7466 or (512) 794-8533. $89; upgrade, free to registered owners.

Adobe Type Manager (ATM) has now been bumped up to version 2.0. Improvements include reported speed increases of up to double those of the previous version, better print quality, and easier font installation. Version 2.0 includes a new utility, Font Porter, that lets users install bit-mapped fonts simply by dragging the fonts' suitcase files into the System Folder instead of using the Font/DA Mover. (Suitcase II users, however, can already do this.) Version 2.0. Adobe Systems, 1585 Charleston Road, P.O. Box 7900, Mountain View, CA 94039; (415) 961-4400. $39; upgrade, $20 (plus $7.50 shipping and handling) for registered owners.

Timbuktu/Remote, Farallon Computing's remote-access utility, has seen its first major upgrade and now sits at version 2.0. Version 2.0's features are similar to those of the previously released Timbuktu 3.1. Version 2.0 supports v.52 modems and displays the remote screen in a movable, resizable window on the user's desktop, permitting simultaneous viewing and use of remote and local Macs. Other features include improved security with multiple passwords and differing access levels for multiple guests, a callback feature that lets the host computer call a guest to confirm that user's identity, and a guest log that records who used the machine and what they did. Timbuktu/Remote's file-transfer capabilities have been enhanced, and it now supports a wider range of CCLs. Farallon Computing, 2000 Powell St., Suite 600, Emeryville, CA 94608; (415) 596-9100. $195; upgrade, $50 for registered owners or free if version 1.0 was purchased after June 15, 1990.

Up to Date
Changes New and Noted

NanoDISK, an extended-memory utility from Technology Works (reviewed in the September '90 issue, page 92), has been upgraded to version 2.0 and is now available as a stand-alone product. Formerly available only in a bundle with Technology Works' 16-megabyte upgrade kit, the new version lets users create a RAM disk on any Mac with 4 megabytes or more and includes an INIT that lets users run programs such as Microsoft Mail that can't normally run on systems with more than 8 megabytes. Version 2.0. Technology Works, 4030 Braker Lane W., Suite 350, Austin, TX 78759; (800) 608-7466 or (512) 794-8533. $89; upgrade, free to registered owners.

Adobe Type Manager (ATM) has now been bumped up to version 2.0. Improvements include reported speed increases of up to double those of the previous version, better print quality, and easier font installation. Version 2.0 includes a new utility, Font Porter, that lets users install bit-mapped fonts simply by dragging the fonts' suitcase files into the System Folder instead of using the Font/DA Mover. (Suitcase II users, however, can already do this.) Version 2.0. Adobe Systems, 1585 Charleston Road, P.O. Box 7900, Mountain View, CA 94039; (415) 961-4400. $39; upgrade, $20 (plus $7.50 shipping and handling) for registered owners.

Timbuktu/Remote, Farallon Computing's remote-access utility, has seen its first major upgrade and now sits at version 2.0. Version 2.0's features are similar to those of the previously released Timbuktu 3.1. Version 2.0 supports v.52 modems and displays the remote screen in a movable, resizable window on the user's desktop, permitting simultaneous viewing and use of remote and local Macs. Other features include improved security with multiple passwords and differing access levels for multiple guests, a callback feature that lets the host computer call a guest to confirm that user's identity, and a guest log that records who used the machine and what they did. Timbuktu/Remote's file-transfer capabilities have been enhanced, and it now supports a wider range of CCLs. Farallon Computing, 2000 Powell St., Suite 600, Emeryville, CA 94608; (415) 596-9100. $195; upgrade, $50 for registered owners or free if version 1.0 was purchased after June 15, 1990.

MacCheese's Handy palette, which provides quick selection of 24 unchangeable colors, wasn't very handy. I closed it and placed my favorite colors on the Pattern palette to save screen space. You can turn any selected area of a graphic into a pattern, no matter how many colors it contains, with a single menu command. Only disk space limits the number of patterns you can add to the scrolling Pattern palette. The Coordinates palette provides a rudimentary level of precision by displaying (in pixels) the current cursor position and either the size of a current selection or the distance you've moved it. The Help palette's text constantly changes to explain whatever the cursor is currently pointing at, including tools, palettes, and menu items.

For any selected area, MacCheese supports 90-degree rotations, horizontal and vertical flipping, and changing pixels that match the current brush color to pixels that match the current background color.

DeskPaint. DeskPaint provides the tools professional graphic artists need. The DeskPaint/DeskDraw package comes with tutorial and reference manuals totaling more than 350 pages. You can calibrate vertical and horizontal rulers in inches, centimeters, millimeters, picas, or points/pixels for use as position guides. You can also move them to measure specific objects or areas and return them to their original position. You can specify any resolution up to 4,000 dpi and set different vertical and horizontal resolutions to maximize results from printers with unequal resolution configurations. The tools work at magnifications from 6.25 to 1,600 percent, and this new version supports up to 64 open windows, limited only by memory.

DeskPaint saves and opens MacPaint, TIFF, TIFF-compressed, and PICT documents, regardless of whether they're monochrome, gray-scale, or full-color. Because the program supports so many file formats, Zedcor provides a useful Browse command that lets you browse through or create a slide show from a folder of graphics in any combination of these formats.

DeskPaint's screen is less cluttered than MacCheese's. A single palette combines all functions, including color selection. To circumvent Apple's limitation of a single menu for any DA, each window includes full applicationlike menus below the title bar. Shape tools in the palette appear half-filled. Clicking on the unfilled half causes shapes to be drawn unfilled, regardless of the selected fill color — a MacCheese's six palettes occupy a lot of screen space. Gradient fills were used for both the octagon and square in the logo on the left. Where one color meets another, one of MacCheese's unique tools was used. The rake randomly exchanged dots between red and blue. The water drop blended the blue and green border.
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Even with all it does, perhaps the most amazing thing about ColorFast is its price: just $5,999. This includes everything: film recorder, 35mm and Pack Film adapters, instant 35mm slide processor, overhead enlarger, software, sample films, slide mounts, and cables.

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real convenience. You can draw shapes either from the corner or from the center. The charcoal tool and the spray can are functionally identical, except that the former applies color only when you move it on-screen. (The spray can sprays as long as the mouse button is down, whether the mouse is moving or not.) Although DeskPaint has no transmogrifier, you can achieve a similar effect with several passes of the spray can. Patterns and their palettes are less sophisticated than those in MacCheese. There are six editable fill-and-line-pattern palettes, each with 40 patterns, including black, white, and no fill. The editing dialog box supplies an 8-pixel-square section in which to edit or create your pattern in black and white fat bits. When you're in the Color mode, the current foreground color always replaces black and the current background color always replaces white, limiting patterns to two colors.

The auto-trace feature, similar to that in FreeHand or Streamline, converts black-and-white bit-mapped images to object-oriented lines and polygons.

In addition to flipping and 90-degree rotations, DeskPaint's standard image-manipulation repertoire includes scaling by percentage, free rotation, distortion, skewing, slanting, stretching, and 1- or 2-

With the HP DeskWriter, you can
point perspectives. Color manipulations include lightening or darkening images, tracing edges (where colors meet) to create a line drawing from a color picture, inverting images, changing contrast to soften or sharpen images, and creating gradient fills and filters. Gradient fills apply when you're drawing shapes or painting with the bucket. Filters apply gradient tones to any selected area.

You need lots of RAM to work in full color. To get around DA Handler's memory limitations, Zedcor includes with DeskPaint an application shell called Desk. The shell looks like a real application, but it's not. Double-clicking on Desk simply reserves application memory equal to the quantity specified in the Get Info dialog box and then opens the DA, which then has far more memory available than it does under DA Handler.

The Bottom Line. Both these packages work as well in black-and-white as in color, so consider them even if you have only a monochrome screen. They're inexpensive, and you never know when you might upgrade to a color Mac. Even if your Macintosh has 4- or 8-bit color, the programs' dithering capability gives you the luxury of simulating many more colors.

DeskPaint provides far more features than does Color MacCheese and costs twice as much. Should you ignore MacCheese? If you require the rulers and special effects and are willing to spend time learning a full-featured graphics program, the answer is yes. For casual painters or sketch artists who want to get to work immediately, MacCheese is perfect, and it even includes the rake and the transmogrifier! In any event, you can now work in 32-bit color without going broke in the process.

— Darryl Lewis

[As we went to press, we learned that Baseline (5100 Poplar Ave., Suite 527, Memphis, TN 38137; (901) 682-9676) will also be distributing Color MacCheese. The price will be the same. Delta Tao still owns the product and will develop and sell it as well, Delta Tao has been aggressively seeking co-marketing arrangements with several other vendors too. Color MacCheese will ship with the Animas line of hand-held color scanners and Studioresources' ColorSet.—Ed.]

Get Info

Color MacCheese

Published by: Delta Tao Software, 760 Harvard Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087; (408) 730-9336.
Version: 1.03.
List Price: $99.

DeskPaint

Published by: Zedcor, 4500 E. Speedway, Suite 22, Tucson, AZ 85712; (602) 881-8101.
Version: 3.01.
List Price: $199.95.

The HP DeskWriter printer puts laser-quality printing right at your fingertips.

With a small size and a $99.50 price tag, the DeskWriter printer easily fits on your desk and in your budget. And its advanced 300 dpi inkjet technology lets you print sparkling text and detailed graphics.

The DeskWriter is also designed for easy use with your Macintosh, and has both serial and AppleTalk interfaces. It even includes scalable and outline fonts. Combine that with the DeskWriter's whisper-quiet operation, and keeping it to yourself will be that much easier. So call 1-800-752-0900, Ext. 1004 for your authorized HP dealer.

There is a better way.
Point of View

Scholastic Software’s dynamic history program makes exploring American history interesting and fun.

Most students regard history with the kind of aversion that President Bush reserves for broccoli. The reason may even be similar: History is usually either overcooked or indigestible. History textbooks are written by committees with the goal of avoiding offense to anyone with enough political clout to block the books’ adoption. History without controversy is such bland stuff that it’s easy to see why nobody can work up much enthusiasm for teaching or learning it. Primary sources, where real history lives, are usually bulky, expensive, hard to locate, and hard to use in a classroom.

A History Lesson. Point of View, from Scholastic Software, is a bold attempt to use the computer to tame an unruly mass of source material for the high-school American-history curriculum. Delivered on eight floppy disks, it includes more than 2,000 pages of documents, hundreds of graphics, and 140 census tables, with tools for searching, accessing, and displaying the data.

The designers could have hacked it out in HyperCard but wisely chose to program a stand-alone application that provides a multiwindow environment with its own hypertext and authoring capabilities. The program supports digitized sound (the package includes a few samples) and can send commands to Pioneer and Sony videodisc players, letting teachers incorporate color graphics and full-motion video from existing educational laser discs into their lessons.

A teacher can use this package for classroom presentations, directly from the computer or from hard-copy transparencies. Students can explore it to answer their own questions, cutting and pasting text and graphics into their essays or presentations.

The main navigational tool in Point of View is the time line, a slider that runs from 1752 to 1990. You can click on a specific day by entering the date, and you can move through time in small or large jumps. You can navigate by subject, following programmed Links, or by using the Find View command from the Explore menu.

The program can display different Views: milestone charts, graphs, maps, essays, documents, pictures, and special effects (including sound and video). Milestone Views use topical icons representing 24 categories, from The Arts to Local History, U.S. Events, and World

With the HP ScanJet Plus, you’ve

The HP ScanJet Plus scanner provides 8-bit photographic-quality scanning.

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So if you want the richest, most detailed images from your Mac, you’ve got it made with Hewlett-Packard. Call 1-800-752-0800, Ext. 1005 for your authorized HP dealer.

There is a better way.

For all its amenities, ease of use, good image quality, and low price, Publish! recommends the HP ScanJet Plus as their “Best Buy!!"
Events. The Local History milestones trace the story of one small town—Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. You select the year you want to study by using the sliding time line. As you change years, the various views you have on-screen update to display the appropriate data for the newly selected year. What’s more, the program’s charts let you reverse the process: using a census chart, for example, you can stretch the bars to a particular population and the time line will snap to the year that matches that value.

Point of View is not just a canned database; it provides a flexible authoring environment that lets users edit existing data sets and create new ones. If you don’t agree with the design team’s choices, you can scan in your own graphics and enter your favorite essays and documents. The program even has an icon editor for drawing your own milestone symbols. Scholastic plans to release two additional packages for $150 each: The Civil War and Reconstruction (due to have been released in September 1990) and 1492: A Meeting of Cultures (due in the spring of 1991).

Historical Problems. The package has a few shortcomings. There is an annoying and distracting flicker during transitions between screens, when windows are resized and moved around. (HyperCard handles this more smoothly with its LockScreen command and visual effects.) The automatic scaling of data charts sometimes creates y-axis labels that are hard to understand, because they are not round numbers. Many scanned graphics are poorly cropped and centered (for example, the top of Robert E. Lee’s head is lopped off, something only the most rabid Yankee might have desired). There are more typographical errors than any carefully edited educational package should have.
With the HP LaserJet III, you can

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AS YOU LIKE IT
Switchboard

Click, snap, presto, change-o! DataDesk introduces the first customizable keyboard.

The most rigid part of every Mac is the keyboard — just ask any lefty who ever wanted to use the keypad or cursor keys. DataDesk’s Switchboard changes all that, because it’s the first modular, customizable keyboard.

The Switchboard comes with three standard modules — a cursor keypad, a numeric keypad, and a QWERTY alphanumeric keyboard module (a Dvorak module is planned) — and DataDesk plans to offer more, optional, modules. The keyboard I tested came with an optional trackball, dubbed the Switchball. The Switchball has two buttons on either side of the ball that click and lock — this lets you select and drag objects without holding down a button. The third button acts just like a normal mouse button. You can also have a mouse plugged in simultaneously.

When pressed, our test model’s keys made an audible click, reminiscent of IBM keyboards. DataDesk plans to offer a silent version. The Switchboard’s key travel felt comfortable to the touch, and the action was smooth. The cursor keys on the trackball, unfortunately, are not in the same configuration as on the cursor pad.

The Switchboard can be configured through DIP-switch settings to run on Mac and PC platforms. IBM 3270 users...
can buy an optional 24-key 3270 module. The Switchboard also lets Mac Plus owners use the Escape key and function keys without a special INIT installed in their System Folder.

A set of DIP switches located under the snap-on cover lets you customize your keyboard. IBM users can switch the Caps Lock- and Control-key placements. You can also keep the Shift key from affecting the comma and period keys, which otherwise produce the < and > characters.

Unlike its predecessor, the Mac 101, the Switchboard has ADB connectors at both ends, with the power-on switch atop the keyboard, rather than on its back edge.

The Bottom Line. If you’re looking for an alternative to Apple’s extended keyboard, look no further than DataDesk’s Switchboard. With all the options available and with DataDesk promising more in the future, you can feel safe knowing that you’ll be able to customize the Switchboard to suit your changing needs.

DataDesk was one of the first companies to produce an extended keyboard for the Mac, and over the years, its keyboards have consistently been the best. DataDesk deserves credit for introducing a product that’s significantly different. The Switchboard costs $10 more than Apple’s extended model, but in exchange for the slightly higher price, you get a keyboard that conforms to your needs, not the computer’s. And that’s what personal computing is all about.

— Andrew Eisner

Get Info

Switchboard
Manufactured by: DataDesk International, 9314 Eton Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311; (800) 826-5393 or (800) 592-9602 (in CA).
List Price: $239.95.

BetaWatch

Adobe Illustrator 3.0 is a major overhaul that boasts improved text handling, graphing and charting tools, and an improved interface. The text-handling enhancements include an unlimited number of characters, styles, sizes, and colors in a text block; text on a curve; the ability to convert PostScript fonts into editable outlines; text flow from one column to another or any other shape; automatic text wrap around an object; the ability to rotate, skew, and scale any text block while still retaining full text editability; and text importation from most popular word processors. The graph tool creates charts and graphs from live data in the program’s own spreadsheet. The spreadsheet, however, isn’t intended for computationally intensive work. Instead, you still do the number crunching in a program such as Excel and then paste the numbers into Illustrator. The graph tool then lets you create objects you can use as...
Typist is Caere's latest entry in OCR hardware. A custom-designed hand-held scanner, Typist boasts a 5-inch-wide scan path, 2-inch-per-second scan rate, automatic stitching (text only), 300-dpi resolution, horizontal or vertical scanning, automatic contrast setting, and direct input into any application. Caere's software lets you insert recognized material into any application without launching a separate OCR program, so, for example, you can scan part of your accounts ledger directly into the spreadsheet you're currently working on without launching a separate OCR application such as OmniPage. Typist's yaw control prevents the unit from slipping off-line and distorting the scan.

Caere, 100 Cooper Court, Los Gatos, CA 95030; (408) 395-7000. $695. ETA: October 1990.
The Magic Flute Audio Notes and The Voyager CD AudioStack

A finished project and a versatile tool kit let you explore your favorite music with your CD-ROM drive.

It's been a long wait. Ever since Apple set the Mac standard by including full CD-audio capability in its CD-ROM drive, we've been waiting for software that would take full advantage of the hardware. And now it looks as though the wait may finally be over. Warner New Media and Voyager have combined HyperCard and CD audio to create a music-appreciation laboratory.

The Magic Flute Audio Notes. Warner New Media's The Magic Flute Audio Notes is ambitious, if nothing else — explaining Mozart's final opera with a HyperCard stack is no easy task. Given that the opera is a complex masterpiece, it's remarkable that the Audio Notes materials actually do it justice.

The Magic Flute Audio Notes offers four primary options for real-time listening to Nicholas Harnoncourt's recording: an English libretto, the original German libretto (the opera is sung in German), a synopsis of the on-stage action, and a running musico-logical commentary.

In addition, numerous "sidebars" provide ancillary information on everything from original cast members to musico-logical terminology. Some of the sidebars include audio narration on topics such as fugue, modulation, the opera's original playbill, and Mozart's death. A hilarious excerpt of Florence Foster Jenkins' notorious rendition of the Queen of the Night's aria shows how opera shouldn't be sung, and there's an excerpt from The Magic Flute Audio Notes is ambitious, if nothing else — explaining Mozart's final opera with a HyperCard stack is no easy task. Given that the opera is a complex masterpiece, it's remarkable that the Audio Notes materials actually do it justice.

Warner New Media's The Magic Flute Audio Notes gives you an annotated version of Mozart's last opera. You can follow along with an English or German libretto or skip to one of the other primary stacks, using the Roman numerals at the top of the screen. It's not intuitive, but it works.

The Voyager CD AudioStack is a HyperCard tool kit for creating your own interactive CD-audio guides. The EventMaker is one of the main tools. Once you've identified a particular passage of CD audio, you can automatically create a button that plays it from your stack.
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Of course, ULTRA 96 also works on dial lines, leased lines, and satellite links, and it's ideal for AppleTalk bridges. It even automatically negotiates the best connection with other modems. Hayes or otherwise.

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At 38,400 bps, and the way it runs on the network, no other modem can keep up with it.
Music Man that illustrates a patter song. At times, all this information gives the package an everything-but-the-kitchen-sink flavor. Users with a MIDI setup can play MIDI examples from the score. And users with a CD-Graphics-equipped compact-disc player can listen to the opera and read the accompanying text on a monitor.

Warner New Media’s goal is to deliver a lot of value for the money. Although the $60 street price of this version of The Magic Flute is about a third more than a normal CD recording of the opera, it’s definitely impressive when the whole thing works. The graphics are attractive; the information is interesting; and the interface is serviceable, although it could be more intuitive.

The shortcomings are not in the program but in the installation instructions and documentation. The installation process is inelegant and insufficiently documented. To begin with, the opera is divided onto three CD-ROM discs, each of which has a set of controlling HyperCard stacks. If your Mac has the requisite 13 megabytes, you can install all the stacks on your hard-disk drive. After you use the automatic installation process on the first disc, however, it starts playing without giving you the option of immediately installing the next disc. Beginners to the CD-ROM/HyperCard scene will waste considerable time before they figure out how to exit gracefully from the first disc — a procedure not immediately evident.

Another minor irritation is that you must use a custom Home card whenever you run the program, which means you have to give your regular Home card a different name for the whole time you’re running the program.

No information is provided that details the package’s compatibilities or known incompatibilities with different CD-ROM players. I had some trouble getting the right combination of CD-ROM drivers to let me run The Magic Flute on a Toshiba XL-3210 drive, although once I’d obtained up-to-date drivers, everything worked fine.

Warner New Media plans to address all these problems in its second release, which will be the Beethoven String Quartet No. 14 in C, op. 131.

Overall, The Magic Flute Audio Notes is a good value for CD-ROM-drive owners who are interested in learning more about this opera. For music educators, its appeal is more than obvious.

The Voyager CD AudioStack. Warner New Media’s Magic Flute stack is protected; you can’t study its scripts to see how it was done. The Voyager Company, on the other hand, left the secrets of its earlier Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony CD Companion Series stack (see “CD-ROM Hit Parade,” April ’90, page 167) out for all to see. Voyager has now gone one step further and released the tool kit that it used to develop the Beethoven project (and the upcoming The Rite of Spring by Stravinsky).

The Voyager CD AudioStack gives you a set of scripts, buttons, and suggestions that let you use HyperCard to precisely control a compact disc (in a CD-ROM player). The hard stuff is done with XCMDs that you can install either in a specific stack or in your Home stack.

If you know enough about Beethoven, you could create your own version of Voyager’s project, or you could do something similar for “Strawberry Fields Forever.” The scripts are thoroughly and clearly commented, and anyone with a smattering of HyperTalk proficiency should find it easy to modify them.

The Bottom Line. Both Warner New Media and Voyager are still pioneering this technology. But even as initial projects, these are good efforts, well worth investigating. Until we start seeing a greater number of quality CD-ROM titles, we might best utilize our CD-ROM drives by having them help us learn more about music that we tend to take for granted.

— James Bradbury

Get Info

The Magic Flute Audio Notes

Published by: Warner New Media. 3500 W. Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91505; (818) 955-9999.
List Price: $66.

The Voyager CD AudioStack

Published by: The Voyager Company, 1351 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, CA 90401; (213) 451-1383.
List Price: $99.95.
You know you need to back up. In today's computing world, that's a fact of life.

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Which turns a major production into a very short subject.
Super Librarian and Galaxy

For overpatched musicians, a universal patch librarian may be the perfect panacea.

Super Librarian is a multiplatform universal patch librarian for MIDI synthesizers that organizes groups of instruments or different banks of a single instrument into a performance. Buttons for sending and receiving patch information are located inside each Device Folder rather than on a menu.

With the advent of synthesized music and MIDI, consumers have been exposed to an ever-expanding market of musical instruments and peripheral devices. Up to this point, organizing patches for each of your instruments has been an elaborate and expensive chore. If you were unlucky enough to be without a computer, instrument manufacturers were only too happy to sell you overpriced and instrument-specific RAM cards. Even with a computer, you needed separate librarian programs for each synthesizer and effect.

Finally, a more sensible day has dawned: The universal librarian program has been born!

Two such programs are now available for the Mac: Super Librarian, from Pixel Publishing, and Galaxy, from Opcode Systems. The programs are similar in their ability to perform the basic functions of patch-librarian work. Each operates with instruments from the major music manufacturers (Roland, Yamaha, Korg, Kawai, et al.), can save and load entire instrument setups with the help of an external MIDI patchbay, print lists of selected patch banks, store short sequences for testing sounds, and provide a way to communicate with machines not specifically supported by the software.

Super Librarian. Super Librarian opens with the Setup Window, where MIDI channels and patchbay numbers are assigned, serial ports designated, and Device Folders installed. Double-clicking on a Device Folder reveals the data files in that folder. These files contain
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that change incrementally between two different sounds.

Galaxy also shines in its relation to Vision. Opcode’s professional sequencing program (see review, December ’89, page 82). Through processes known as “publishing” and “subscribing,” Galaxy sends all patch names for a selected bundle to Vision. Any later changes you make to a Galaxy bundle are automatically updated in the other program as well. Prior to this, musicians had to view patch identities by their location (internal bank A, number 27) rather than by name (trumpet), which is tough on the memory bone in a multidevice setup. Other sequencer programs now let you enter patches by name, but you have to type each name individually.

The Bottom Line. Both Super Librarian and Galaxy provide a way to address MIDI devices not specifically supported by the programs. By using System Exclusive information supplied in a device’s manual, you can write new instrument profiles for each program. You write Super Librarian profiles with its MIDI Operating System language, a series of numbers pulled from the hexadecimal MIDI code. Opcode uses PatchTalk, a language that is based on HyperTalk. For musicians without some prior experience with hex code and System Exclusive, both systems will seem incomprehensible.

A final consideration that differentiates the two programs is philosophical. Galaxy uses Opcode’s copy-protection scheme, allowing two hard-disk installs, whereas Super Librarian is not copy-protected. Pixel Publishing argues that people will be motivated to buy rather than copy its program in order to receive updates and gain access to the Super Librarian BBS, where additional profiles are available.

Galaxy is clearly the better program, with its extra features, ease of operation, and connection to Vision. Although not as elegant, Super Librarian is a reasonable alternative for Mac musicians who, however reluctantly, deal with non-Macintosh studios.

— Christopher Breen

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Microcom Software Division

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(415) 369-8131

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Please circle 118 on reader service card.

Galaxy

Published by: Opcode Systems,
3641 Haven Drive, Suite A, Menlo Park, CA 94025; (415) 369-8131.
Version: 1.0.
List Price: $249.

Super Librarian

Published by: Pixel Publishing,
1573 Eglington Ave. W., Suite 3
Toronto, Ontario M6E 2G9, Canada; (416) 785-3036.
Version: 1.4.
List Price: $199.
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Farallon PhoneNET Connector 10-Pack $198
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DayStar PowerCard 030 25 MHz (IIc) $1095
DayStar PowerCard 030 25 MHz (IIc) $1045
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DayStar PowerCard 030 25 MHz (IIc) $955
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DayStar PowerCard 030 25 MHz (IIc) $455
DayStar PowerCard 030 25 MHz (IIc) $405
DayStar PowerCard 030 25 MHz (IIc) $355
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apple Display Card 8.24</td>
<td>$719</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple High Resolution RGB</td>
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<tr>
<td>WYSIWYG big screen outranking dual-page display</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Machines ColorPg T-16 with video card</td>
<td>$2149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnavox Mac Color 14” RGB</td>
<td>$459</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEC MacSync 14” Color HC</td>
<td>$499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radius Pivot Display with Interface Card</td>
<td>$1415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikegami CT20 20” Trinitron with 8-bit card</td>
<td>$2799</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ikegami 19” Gray Scale with 8-bit card</td>
<td>$1499</td>
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<tr>
<td>RadiusOps 81.9” Trinitron with 8-bit card</td>
<td>$4569</td>
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<tr>
<td>RasterOps 24L 19” Trinitron with 8-bit card</td>
<td>$5999</td>
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<tr>
<td>RasterOps ColorBoard 264 (Mac II)</td>
<td>$589</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generation Systems Publisher SE Card</td>
<td>$69</td>
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## Monitors & Video Cards

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<tr>
<th>Model Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apple MacColorCard 8.4</td>
<td>$599</td>
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<td>NEC MacSync 14” Color HC</td>
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<td>Radius Pivot Display with Interface Card</td>
<td>$1415</td>
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## Printers

<table>
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<tr>
<td>ImageWriter II w/cable</td>
<td>$459</td>
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<td>Olympia NP-30 w/cable</td>
<td>$289</td>
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<td>LaserWriter IINTX w/cable and toner</td>
<td>$3499</td>
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<tr>
<td>LaserWriter IINTX with cable and toner</td>
<td>$4995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal LaserWriter IIc w/cable</td>
<td>$1569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kodak Diconix M150 + w/ATM &amp; cable</td>
<td>$529</td>
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<td>QMS PS-810 w/cable &amp; toner</td>
<td>$2995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QMS PS-820 Turbo w/cable &amp; toner</td>
<td>$4695</td>
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<tr>
<td>QMS Color 100 Model 10</td>
<td>$7695</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Printers Accessories

- **The Organizer by CoStar** | $189
- **The Organizer Jr. by CoStar** | $69
- **LabelWriter by CoStar** | $189
- **Apple LaserWriter II Toner** | $109
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**CDA Price $899**  
Package #9077

*Freedom of Press gives your DeskWriter true postscript compatibility.

## Personal LaserWriter IINT Printer Package

- Personal LaserWriter IINT
- 6 ft. Printer Cable
- Printer Dust Cover
- PaperKit by PaperDirect
- Package of Paper (500)

**CDA Price $2,495**  
Package #9078

## QMS PS410 Laser Printer Package

- QMS PS-410 Printer
- 6 ft. Printer Cable
- Printer Dust Cover
- PaperKit by PaperDirect
- Package of Paper (500)

**CDA Price $2,195**  
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## Virex by Microcom

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**$56**
Big data-storage problems? One of these 20 erasable optical drives could be the solution.

BY JOHN RIZZO AND THE MACUSER LABS STAFF

Keeping up with new technology is never as easy as keeping up with the Joneses. When all the hype is said and done — and after you’ve spent your money — today’s hot product may end up being tomorrow’s cold fish. With prices continually dropping and performance steadily increasing, the Eternal Question remains: Is now the time to buy?

A year ago, we looked at the erasable optical drive, a promising new system for data storage (see “Letting in the Light,” November ’89, page 132). Since then, a dozen new drives have appeared and major improvements have been made in the supporting technology. So it seems logical to ask once again: Is now the time to buy an erasable optical drive? The answer is a definite “maybe.” In addition to being faster and less expensive than they were a year ago, erasable optical drives have become much more compatible among vendors, offer improved software, and can now be used as your Mac’s startup drive.
Erasable Optical Drives

To help potential buyers decide whether to buy a drive now, we tested drives from optical veterans MACsetra, Pinnacle, PLI, and Storage Dimensions, as well as newcomers such as FWB and Ocean Microsystems. We found that all optical drives are not alike, even if they use the same basic mechanism. We also compared each drive's performance to that of the 40-megabyte Sony magnetic hard-disk drive that Apple optionally ships with the Mac IIx. Although it's unlikely that erasable optical drives will replace hard-disk drives any time soon, they're looking more attractive every day.

Massive Mass Storage

For those of you who blinked and missed the advent of this new technology, an erasable optical drive holds between 600 megabytes and a gigabyte (1,000 megabytes) of data on a 5.25-inch disc contained within a removable cartridge. Unlike other types of optical drives, such as CD-ROM (compact disc, read-only memory) and WORM (write once, read many), erasable optical drives let you write data as well as read it, as with a magnetic hard disk. But unlike hard disks, erasable optical cartridges are impervious to magnetic fields and can hold data for at least ten years — and probably dozens more.

The cost per megabyte of erasable optical cartridges compares well with that of comparably sized hard disks (see Figure 1). In drives with a capacity of more than 600 megabytes, a megabyte of removable, erasable optical storage is cheaper than hard-disk storage. This break-even capacity is about the same as it was a year ago — retail prices for some erasable optical drives have dropped below $4,000, but hard-disk-drive prices have also been falling.

The bad news is that optical drives are still slower than hard-disk drives, which will frustrate power users. The fastest optical drives are about as fast as the slowest hard drives. Even so, those of you who have fallen asleep while your CD-ROM drive accesses data shouldn't worry: Erasable optical drives are several times faster than their read-only cousins.

Nevertheless, slow performance has limited most erasable optical drives to the role of secondary storage devices, with which speed is not the primary concern. A secondary storage device can be a network server or a second volume in addition to a hard disk that holds the System Folder, applications, and backup copies of data. Secondary-storage use also takes advantage of one of the most attractive features of erasable optical cartridges: They're removable. Like the popular SyQuest removable-hard-disk systems, an erasable optical drive can fill a cartridge, which can then be removed and swapped for a new, blank cartridge. But an optical cartridge can hold as much as 25 SyQuest cartridges can. In addition, erasable optical cartridges are immune to all but the strongest magnetic fields — even those produced by the electromagnets that pick up old BMWs in auto-wrecking yards.

With software advances, increasing speed, and now the ability to boot up as startup drives, it's now feasible to use erasable optical drives as primary storage. For example, we tested a PLI Infinity Optical (one of the fastest drives tested) as a hard-disk substitute. On a day-to-day basis, it was quite satisfactory for most casual office tasks such as word processing, electronic mail, and even light spreadsheet use. Its slowness became noticeable, however, with use of power-hungry software such as database or 3-D-graphics programs.

WORM

Before erasable optical drives appeared, there was WORM, an optical drive technology named for its write-once, read-many limitation. Because you can't erase anything, WORM drives have a limited but unique reason for being: They're the ultimate archival medium.

WORM drives write data by burning holes into the surface of a special type of disc; because the holes are physically burned into the disc, the data they represent can't be altered. The discs last for decades, longer than modern paper crumbles to dust. This indelible record, an electronic paper trail, is highly desirable in government; finance; law; medicine; and any other field that requires permanent, unalterable storage of important documents.

An additional useful aspect of WORM drives is their ability to create histories. You can "delete" a file from the desktop in the usual way — by dragging it into the Trash — but the file actually remains on the disc, whole and intact. It's just that a new Desktop file has been created that ignores the deleted file. Because everything you've ever written is still on the disc (including every previous version of the Desktop file), you can access your disc's entire history if you have the appropriate software. The Access 650 drive from Laser Magnetic Storage International of Colorado Springs, Colorado, comes with a DA that lets you "restore" a WORM-disc directory to its condition on any past date.

WORM technology is here to stay, but WORM-only drives may soon be replaced by hybrid multifunction drives that can write to and read WORM as well as erasable cartridges. Several OEM vendors have announced multifunction drives this year, and a few of these drives will soon be available for Macs (see the "On the Horizon" sidebar).

A new type of WORM technology burns holes into the surface of tape instead of into a disc. LaserTape Systems of Campbell, California, is working on such a system, which it calls digital optical tape, or DOT (we're glad LaserTape didn't end up calling it Tape WORM). A $250 DOT cartridge holds 50 gigabytes, the equivalent of 23,000 copies of War and Peace. Only 190 of these cartridges could contain the entire Library of Congress — that's one "LOC," a new measure of mass data storage that may soon join such gargantuan units as gigabyte (1,000 megabytes) and terabyte (1,000,000 megabytes). If this is somewhat more storage than you need, consider that a 1-gigabyte DOT cartridge could cost as little as $5, which is half a cent per megabyte.
Still, it is not casual office workers, but users with specialized tasks, who can really take advantage of erasable optical drives. In electronic document processing, for example, where scans of handwritten documents are stored for retrieval and on-screen processing, optical cartridges can act as a replacement for microfiche. And because they can be accessed over a network, jukeboxes containing many erasable optical cartridges make excellent general-purpose file servers.

Erasable optical is also attractive to electronic-prepress professionals who generate multimegabyte color-graphics files and have outgrown magnetic removable cartridges. Although most desktop-publishing service bureaus don’t yet support erasable optical cartridges, you can always lend them your erasable optical drive when necessary.

If you create or use multimedia presentations, the erasable optical medium offers you the advantages of portability, data security, and enormous storage capacity. Multimedia projects tend to be big: When they involve animation and sound, it’s not unusual for them to gobble up a few hundred megabytes. An optical cartridge can easily carry such a presentation, whereas a 44-megabyte SyQuest cartridge would definitely be overwhelmed.

Erasable optical drives are also appearing in industries that deal with huge individual files that must be stored on removable cartridges. Audio engineers can use an erasable optical drive to store digitized sound, as long as the drive they choose is fast enough. Scientists and engineers can use erasable optical drives for data-acquisition applications — in fact, if you need to collect and store hundreds of megabytes of data in a single data-input session, erasable optical is the only solution.

**Deeds and Speeds**

Any experienced Mac user will have no problem setting up and using an erasable optical drive. All are plug-and-play SCSI drives that follow the familiar rules for SCSI-ID numbers and the termination methods for connecting hard-disk drives (see “101 Hard Drives,” February ’90, page 153).

Likewise, if you know how to use a standard Mac floppy-disk drive, you know how to use an erasable optical drive. Like a floppy-disk drive, most erasable optical drives eject the optical cartridge when you drag its icon into the Trash — the FWB drives require you to push an Eject button.
Today's erasable optical drives use a technology called magneto-optical (MO), which uses a laser beam to write data onto and read it from a plastic disc. On the disc is a layer of a special material that, when heated, retains the magnetic polarity of a nearby magnet.

To write on the disc, a laser beam heats a spot on the material while the magnet is turned on in one of two polarities. Since the magnetic polarity of magneto-optical material can change only when it is heated, an MO disc is almost impervious to magnetic fields — unlike a hard or floppy magnetic disk.

Instead of heat, the rotation of a polarized laser beam is used to read the data. The laser beam is polarized by a beam splitter, reflected off the disc, and measured by a detector. The laser beam rotates in one of two directions, depending on the polarity of the magnetized area of the disc.

Because an erasable optical drive doesn't use a magnet to read magnetic fields, as a floppy-disk or hard-disk drive does, the optical head can be much farther away from the media than a magnetic head can. For this reason, optical discs are much less susceptible to wear, as well as to damage from dropping or shaking, than are magnetic disks.

During an erase or write pass, the laser beam briefly heats a sector of a narrow track in the spinning disc's recording layer. The heated material takes on the polarity of a magnet on the opposite side of the disc. During the erase pass, the magnet changes the entire sector to a uniform polarity. During the write pass, the magnet rapidly switches polarity to record data.
A complex assembly of lenses and mirrors controls the laser beam during its erase, read, and write passes over the disc surface. The focusing lens concentrates the laser's energy while compensating for any wobble in the spinning disc. Two photosensitive detectors translate reflected laser light into data and simultaneously check for accurate position along the disc's data tracks.
When we sat down to all the lights of color scanning seems a simple enough goal. Yet in a flash of engineering brilliance, Epson designers have raised the standard by creating the ES-300C color scanner.

Using three separate light bars, Epson’s innovative TruePass™ scanning system, does in one pass what most other color scanners require three passes to accomplish. The result is more precise images in less time. Gone are registration difficulties, poor fidelity and color dropout.

The new EPSON ES-300C is both MACINTOSH and MS-DOS compatible.

The ES-300C is as impressive in black and white or grayscale as it is in color. 256 shades of gray complement 16.8 million colors. Resolution settings can be
design a better scanner, 

don't waste time on at once.

adjusted between 50 and 600 DPI to optimize output from any printer, or to any monitor. Compatibility is assured with a choice of easily installed Macintosh® or MS-DOS® interface kits, featuring the latest industry-leading scanning and editing software.

With a price as attractive as its image would suggest, the full color ES-300C costs about the same as most black and white scanners.

A demonstration of the Epson ES-300C will be an illuminating experience. Other scanners simply pale by comparison.

Engineered For The Way You Work™
Erasable Optical Drives

Most drives eject the cartridge when you shut down, just as a floppy-disk drive does, but this can become tiresome if you’re using your optical drive as a startup device. You’ll want to keep the cartridge inside the drive when using it as a file-server volume.

Unlike floppy-disk drives, erasable optical drives can read only one side of the medium at a time: You have to flip the cartridge over to access data on the other side. Pinnacle and MicroNet get around this limitation by offering double drives (not reviewed here) that give you access to up to 650 megabytes—and MicroNet allows you to designate both drives as a single volume. In addition, the MACsetra and MicroNet units let you combine several drives on a SCSI bus into a single mounted volume. RACET offers this as an $595 option for the Cosmos SA600MO-II; SuperMac also offered such an option with the prerelease model of the LaserFrame we looked at. Buying multiple drives is an expensive solution, but it gives you access to several gigabytes at once.

To write data onto the disc, all the drives use the same magneto-optical (MO) technology, which uses laser light to read and change the magnetic properties of the medium (see the “How It Works” sidebar). There are only three OEMs (original-equipment manufacturers) of MO drives: Sony, Ricoh, and Maxtor, although new OEM suppliers are entering the market (see the “On the Horizon” sidebar). At this time, only Storage Dimensions uses Maxtor drives. Our tests show that speed varies widely, even among vendors using the same OEM drive (see Figure 3). Each manufacturer’s success in developing drive software (the instructions for controlling the drive) determines each drive’s performance.

The Maxtor (MaxOptix format) mechanism has the fastest specs, followed by Sony’s and then Ricoh’s. This generally held true in both performance tests, as the fastest drives proved to be the Maxtor-based Storage Dimensions MacinStor and FWB’s Sony-based version of the HammerDisk. The prerelease version of SuperMac’s LaserFrame (which uses a Sony mechanism) was the only other drive in the same fast range. FWB also has a Ricoh version that is slower than its Sony-based drive, although it was still faster than several of the Sony drives we tested. Other Sony vendors also offer Ricoh mechanisms.

Benchmark Specifics

Once you get past the top two drives, the performance story becomes more complex. Some drives are better than others at certain tasks, doing well in some of our tests and poorly in others. Whereas the FWB HammerDisk 600S and Storage Dimensions MacinStor always placed either first or second, the rankings of other drives varied with the type of test.

To measure read and write transfer rates independently, we used a shareware benchmark called SCSI Evaluator (developed by William

Late Arrivals

The SuperMac LaserFrame ($6,499) and Iomega LaserSafe ($4,995) arrived too late for us to include in this report. We did test them to check their overall performance, however, and discovered that the prerelease version of the LaserFrame blurred to the top of many of our speed tests.

SuperMac came up with a way to improve SCSI performance to optimize this fast drive. The LaserFrame, which uses a modified version of the standard Sony SMO-5501 subsystem and offers a formatted capacity of 286 megabytes per side, accepts only 512-byte-sector optical discs. The SuperMac driver can create SCSI partitions that encrypt/decrypt on the fly, using true DES (Data Encryption Standard, an encryption method required by many government agencies) encoding. The driver can also mount multiple drives as one volume. Although this is an ISO-standard drive, the SuperMac high-performance drive operates only with SuperMac’s mechanism; the recorded data nevertheless should be readable on any ISO-compatible optical drive. SuperMac Technology, 495 Pottero Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; (408) 245-2202.

The Iomega LaserSafe contains a modified Ricoh RO-5030 E2 mechanism housed in a case that can stand either horizontally or vertically. This drive accepts both 512-byte- and 1,024-byte-sector ISO-standard optical cartridges, and the drive’s Finder icon tells you which one is in use. The new Iomega driver/utility software can initialize and format a cartridge in a MultiFinder background operation—a feature unique among erasable optical drives and one that can save you about 40 minutes. Iomega also includes diagnostics for

The Iomega LaserSafe (left) and SuperMac LaserFrame (right) both shipped too late to be included in this report. Preliminary tests rank the LaserFrame among the fastest erasable optical drives.

Paul R. Freedman
Long and available on Zmac, MacUser's on-line service). We found that write rates are far more consistent among vendors than are read rates. The fastest write rate was 2.0 megabits per second for the FWB Sony-based drive, followed by 1.7 megabits per second for the Storage Dimensions drive. The next eight drives came in with write rates of 1.5 to 1.6 megabits per second, which was about half the rate of the Sony hard-disk drive optionally shipped with the Mac IleC. For applications that mostly write instead of read data — backup is a good example — any one of the top ten performers in the SCSI Evaluator test will do fine.

Read rates were another story, differing widely among drives. Speeds ranged from a low of 1.2 megabits per second for the Procom MEOD650 drive to 4.7 megabits per second for the Storage Dimensions MacinStor, which performed a full 50 percent faster than our benchmark 40-megabyte magnetic hard disk! If your applications are generally read-intensive, the Storage Dimensions drive is by far the best choice in conjunction with its unique MaxOptix 1-gigabyte cartridge. But be forewarned: To be compatible with other vendors’ drives, the MacinStor must use standard 650-megabyte cartridges that just aren’t able to keep up with the high-speed, high-capacity 1-gigabyte cartridges.

Our other tests measured read and write times combined and looked at different ways to access data. DiskBash!, a benchmark developed by MacUser to test hard-disk drives (also available on-line on Zmac), simulates the way applications access data as the drives read and write 10 megabytes of medium-sized files of different lengths. The FWB Sony-based drive came in first, followed closely by the MacinStor and more distantly by the Ocean Microsystems Tidalwave 650, PLI Infinity Optical, LaCie 600R Magneto-Optical, MACseta Genesis 6000, and Conversion Dynamics Optirase EOD-650.

We obtained similar results when we made a copy of a 4.6-megabyte stack, using HyperCard’s Save Copy command. Here the top four drives were the same as in the DiskBash! test, and the Pinnacle RE0-650 tied for third place. Apparently, the Pinnacle drive moves large files better than it does medium-sized files. If you move data in big chunks — for sound recording or color graphics, for instance — choose a drive that did well on this test.

We then used the Finder’s Duplicate command to copy a 10-megabyte folder that contained a variety of files that might be found on a normal hard disk: lots of small files mixed with a few big ones. The results differed from previous tests. The top two drives remained the FWB HammerDisk 600S and the Storage Dimensions MacinStor, but the next-fasted were the Bay MicroSystems 600RePack, the LaCie 600R Magneto-Optical, and the MicroNet Micro/Optical SB-SMO-1. When you’re copying a large quantity of small files, access time becomes more of a limiting factor than data throughput does, since the read/write head moves around more when it’s looking for different files. If you’re looking for an erasable optical drive for a file server that contains mostly text files, choose a drive that did well in this test.
**Figure 3: Performance of Erasable Optical Drives**

Figure 3: We ranked all the drives according to performance and features. The FWB HammerDisk 600 is our overall winner, but only by a hair over the Storage Dimensions MacInStor. Some drives appear twice in the listing because we tested them with two differently formatted cartridges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drive Name</th>
<th>Transfer data through SCSI</th>
<th>Access data through application</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FWB HammerDisk 600S (Sony)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Storage Dimensions MacInStor (1 GB)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Microsystems Tidalwave 650</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PLI Infinity Optical</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaCie 600R Magneto-Optical</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MACsetra Genesis 6000i</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conversion Dynamics Optirase EOD-650</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MicroNet Micro/Optical SB-SMO-1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinnacle REC-650 (1,024 bytes)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FWB HammerDisk 600 (Ricoh)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Microsystems 600RePack</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Relax Optical 600 Plus</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deltaic Systems OptiServer 600</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Storage Dimensions MacInStor (650 MB)</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumo RSSM600-B</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Microtech OR650</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGA MacDISCUS DR650-SE</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinnacle REC-650 (512 bytes)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RACET Cosmos SA600MO-II</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mirror RM600 Optical</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procom MEQD650</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Xyaxis XY600RW</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Transfer data through SCSI:** We used SCSI Evaluator to separate the read and write data-transfer rates. The fastest read rate was produced by the Storage Dimensions MacInStor — the only instance in which an optical drive outperformed our control hard-disk drive. Write rates were much slower than that of the hard disk and didn’t vary much among the top ten drives. Actual file-transfer rates won’t be this high — this test doesn’t consider file structures or other overhead.

**Access data through application:** The MacUser DiskBash! benchmark simulates the way an application would write and read 10 megabytes of medium-sized files (such as those on a typical hard disk). This test and the following ones are not measures of raw throughput but simulate actual use. The FWB HammerDisk 600S came in first, followed closely by the Storage Dimensions MacInStor and more distantly by a close grouping of the next six drives.
Save copy of large HyperCard stack: To test how the drives handle large files, we used HyperCard to save a copy of a 4.6-megabyte stack. The top four drives were the same as in the DiskBasher! test, but the Pinnacle REO-650 tied for third place. Choose a drive that did well on this test for applications, such as sound recording or color graphics, that move data in big chunks.

Duplicate small files in Finder: Using the Finder's Duplicate command, we measured how quickly each drive could copy a 10-megabyte folder containing mostly small files. The rates here were slower than in the other tests, because the Finder must keep track of filenames and file types and because there were many files. The Bay Microsystems, LaCie, and MicroNet drives came in behind our two leaders. Drives that did well here would be good candidates for file servers containing mostly text files.
It's clear we've helped make a name for everyone but ourselves.

No doubt you're familiar with some of today's biggest names in peripherals and office equipment.

Open these boxes and you'd find products ranging from image scanners and laser printers to bar-code readers and facsimile machines.

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The new Pentax desktop laser printer accepts fanfold paper to provide fast output and quiet operation in high-volume office applications.

Our optical disk drive with split-head design offers improved access time. And our bar-code reader incorporates special optical coatings to increase recognition, speed and accuracy.

So when you need peripherals, remember the company that’s out to make a name for itself. Pentax Technologies, 100 Technology Drive, Broomfield, CO 80021. *(303) 460-1600.*

Please circle 401 on reader service card.
Erasable Optical Drives

Soft Sell
A big part of what makes a good drive is software. Developers often say that creating the hardware was a snap but that the software required the real engineering effort (the speed of a drive is determined partly by how well the driver software resides inside the drive was written). In addition to efficient programming to match the hardware, there are certain tricks that several of the faster erasable optical drives use.

Caching is one such trick. Developers of driver software store frequently used data in a drive-resident RAM cache, from which the data can be retrieved more quickly than from the disc. Another trick is using blind data transfers through the SCSI bus. Normally, when a signal is being sent to the Mac via the SCSI interface, a drive waits for a handshake from the Mac before it sends the data. By passing the handshaking routine, greatly speeds up data transfer. Most vendors, including Sony, do not yet use blind transfers, but Sony told us that use of this method should not endanger data reliability.

Speed isn’t the only criterion on which to base a buying decision. The software packages bundled with the drives also differ radically. Some vendors bundle partitioning software, which can be useful for drives as large as these, with their formatting software. Partitioning divides the disc into several separate volumes that are mounted on the desktop independently of each other. Partitioning is of little use if you’re streaming massive amounts of data onto a disc, however.

The LaCie 600R Magneto-Optical comes with LaCie’s justly famous SilverLining formatting/partitioning software. Although its interface isn’t fancy, SilverLining provides a significant performance increase. MACsetra has good formatting software that is optimized for speed; we also found it capable of erasing a cartridge in 14 seconds, a procedure

On the Horizon

Although the ISO standard has brought compatibility to erasable optical drives, it hasn’t stifled the creativity of optical engineers. For example, at least three companies are betting that Mac users will prefer compact, “slip into your pocket” erasable optical media.

By the time you read this, Pinnacle should be shipping the REO-1303 1.5-inch erasable optical drive plus new high-performance driver software called FlashCache. The software lets the drive (manufactured by MOST) write data in two passes rather than in the normal three, boosting write throughput at least 33 percent. The REO-130 will sell for $2,995, with discs costing $129 each, and will support discs with 512- or 1,024-byte sectors. Pinnacle Micro, 15265 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92718; (800) 553-7070 or (714) 727-3300.

Ocean Microsystems has announced the Vista 130, a $3,000 drive that uses 3.5-inch cartridges that hold 130 megabytes each. Ocean claims that Vista speed rivals that of some hard-disk drives. This drive, which also uses the MOST mechanism, fits under a classic Mac and uses only single-sided media ($130 each). Ocean Microsystems, Inc., 246 Hacienda Ave., Campbell, CA 95008; (800) 262-3261.

Even though midget erasable optical cartridges are just appearing, MACsetra is already introducing a “second generation” 3.5-inch drive for less than $3,000. The company will also provide a free upgrade to version 4.0 of its driver software and is promising substantial speed improvement for its 6000 (5.25-inch) drive. MACsetra Technologies International, 2414 Koyl Ave., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 7L5, Canada; (800) 661-6000 or (306) 934-6044.

Things are also hopping in the 5.25-inch world. The new Panasonic LF-7010 multifunction optical drive ($5,000) uses phase-change technology to write data up to 33 percent faster than standard magneto-optical technology. The rewritable discs can each store up to 1 gigabyte and will cost around $250. This 5.25-inch drive can also write to and read WORM-disc cartridges. Panasonic Communications & Systems Co., Panasonic Office Automation, Two Panasonic Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094; (800) 742-6086.

Since the Pioneer DE-S7001 Rewritable Multifunction Optical Disk Drive ($4,695) uses the same format used by WORM drives to read, write, and erase data, it’s not compatible with the other erasable optical drives in our report. The DE-S7001 features a 53-millisecond average seek and supports both 512-byte- and 1,024-byte-sector 5.25-inch discs as well as WORM. Pioneer Communications of America, Inc., Shrewsbury Office Center, 600 E. Crescent Ave., Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458-1827; (800) 527-3766 or (201) 346-8360.

The OptiXchange ($5,995) from Ten X Technology uses the multifunction Pioneer DE-S7001 mechanism but performs caching and data compression/expansion on the fly to improve throughput. Ten X Technology, Inc., 4807 Spicewood Springs Road, Building 3, Suite 2200, Austin, TX 78759; (800) 922-9050 or (512) 346-8360.

MicroNet now offers the CMO-1, a 5.25-inch sampled-servo MO drive manufactured by Canon, which spins the disc at a fast 5,000 rpm, thus increasing read rates to 675K per second. MicroNet will sell this drive for $4,295 or bundled with Retrospect backup software for $4,395. MicroNet Technology, Inc., 20 Mason, Irvine, CA 92718; (714) 837-6033.

— Paul R. Freedman
Once you put MiniCad+ on your desktop...

All your other CAD software will go here.  

There are a lot of contenders—and pretenders—coming into the Macintosh market with so-called “full-featured” CAD programs. But there’s one program these imitators won’t compare to: MiniCad+. It set the standard for all Mac CAD programs when it was introduced in 1986, and continues to set the pace in Macintosh-aided design.

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MiniCad+ is an award-winning 2D/3D package. Whether you’re designing a house or high-tech mousetrap, you’ll find the precision you need.

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Don’t be confined by your CAD program. Extend the capability of MiniCad+ by developing your own palettes with our macro language. You can create your own Facilities Management palette, for instance. We’ve included a wide variety of special-topic palettes with MiniCad+; others are available from third-party vendors.

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Draw on Our Experience

Packed with features, the only thing small about MiniCad+ is the price. There’s not another high-precision, professional package with such a low price tag.

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Erasable Optical Drives

Table 1: Optical Discs at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
<th>Best Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erasable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• rewritable</td>
<td>• expensive hardware</td>
<td>• secondary storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• holds up to 1 gigabyte</td>
<td>• slow</td>
<td>• electronic prepress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• data stable at least 10 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>• document processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• data stable up to 100 years</td>
<td>• writes only once</td>
<td>• on-line archiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• writes once</td>
<td>• expensive hardware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• holds up to 1 gigabyte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-ROM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• multiplatform standardization</td>
<td>• slowest optical technology</td>
<td>• retail data and software distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• holds 650 megabytes</td>
<td>• read-only</td>
<td>• in-house data distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• permanent data storage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• inexpensive hardware and media</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Erasable optical drives were preceded by two other optical technologies: CD-ROM (compact disc, read-only memory) and WORM (write once, read many). Each technology has a different purpose in the Mac environment.

that normally takes several minutes, even on the fastest drives. Both the FWB and the Bay MicroSystems software is very easy to manage. We also liked the software from Xyxis, which offers a lot of partition formats from which to choose. At press time, Pinnacle was working on its FlashCache software, which speeds up the writing process by performing a pre-erase on the cartridge.

Everyone needs to back up (yes, even you), and several companies ship some very good backup software with their optical drives. Storage Dimensions and Procom bundle Dantz Software’s Retrospect, a full-featured, highly rated backup program. RACET’s backup software, MacXpress for the Macintosh, allows unattended archiving.

Other bundles include various additional utilities. Microtech has one of the best bundles, including its own Total Recall software, which features automatic unattended backup, and Norton Utilities for the Macintosh, one of the best disk-optimization and data-recovery packages on the market. FWB provides a handy utility that lets you duplicate copy-protected software on the cartridge. Mirror bundles Central Point’s MacTools Deluxe. Procom’s software displays the optical drive’s SCSI-ID number right on the mounted icon, which helps prevent SCSI conflicts.

Compatibility and Standards

Disc-format, error-correction, and SCSI-interface standards have been developed by the ISO (International Standards Organization) to allow a cartridge written in one vendor’s drive to be used in another’s. Because of these standards,erasable optical cartridges now enjoy more compatibility among vendors than does the older WORM technology (see the “WORM” sidebar). Erasable optical drives haven’t yet achieved the level of Mac-to-PC compatibility that CD-ROMs enjoy, though (see Table 1). An industry committee is working on such a multiplatform standard, but don’t expect any results until sometime in mid-1991.

Most of the drives we tested have at least one ISO-compliant mode. The exceptions are the Xyxis XY600RW (Xyxis was planning an ISO-compliant version at press time) and the MicroNet drive, which uses cartridges that can be read only by ISO-compliant drives based on the Sony mechanism.

Of course, a non-ISO format is perfectly fine if you don’t plan to share your data, but there is always the question of obsolescence — if you plan to keep your data around for several years and your drive dies, you’ll want to buy a drive that can read your existing format.

Because it has the full backing of Sony, the biggest mover and shaker in the optical world today, it isn’t likely that the ISO standard will become obsolete soon. Sony has had a hand in defining standards for everything from audio CD to erasable
The World's Fastest Optical System!
The Canon MO by MicroNet.

MicroNet is proud to offer the fastest rewritable optical disk system available. The difference is clear with the new Canon MO. Unlike other systems it spins at 3,000 rpm, achieving sustained reads of 675 KiloBytes per second. This is greater than double the rate of other systems.

A great deal of attention has been paid to reliability. As a result the Canon MO has become a reality far in advance of its time. The subsystem has been designed to work perfectly under various operating conditions, employing a unique air flow and dust filtration system.

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For more information and the location of an Authorized MicroNet Dealer in your area, call our sales department at 1-714-837-6033.

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Please circle 137 on reader service card.
Erasable Optical Drives

optical discs. Ricoh and Maxtor were quick to comply with the ISO standards and will probably continue to follow standards supported by Sony. This is not to say that drives with a Sony mechanism have an advantage; ISO-compliant Sony, Ricoh, and Maxtor mechanisms can all read each others' cartridges.

Some barriers to compatibility remain. A few drives offer proprietary formats in addition to the ISO-standard format. The Storage Dimensions drive can write to and read two types of optical cartridges: an ISO-compliant 650-megabyte cartridge and a non-ISO 1-gigabyte cartridge (the one that did so well in our speed tests). MicroNet also offers a double drive that writes to both types of cartridges at once (yielding a single 600-megabyte mounted volume), but its cartridges can’t be read by other drives.

The ISO-standard data format supports sectors containing 512 or 1,024 bytes each. Although all drives can read and write cartridges that have been formatted in compliance with the ISO 512-byte-sector standard, only five can also write to and read the faster ISO 1,024-byte-sector cartridges. We tested both formats on the Pinnacle drive and found that the 1,024-byte-sector cartridge was about 50 percent faster than the 512-byte-sector version. The unique MaxOptix 1-gigabyte cartridge used in the Storage Dimensions MacinStor writes to and reads 512-byte sectors both in the ISO format and in a unique array that allows one cartridge to contain a full megabyte (see Figure 2).

Drives also differ in what version of Apple’s partitioning format they support. Some of the drives follow the specifications of Apple’s Inside Macintosh, Volume IV (IMV4), whereas others follow the more recent IMV5. The newer drives can read cartridges from IMV4 drives, but the reverse is not true. In addition, IMV5 supports AU/X and IMV4 does not.

To Buy or Not to Buy

Which brings us once again to the Eternal Question: Should you buy an erasable optical drive at this time, or should you wait? Despite gains in speed, optical drives aren’t adequate replacements for hard-disk drives—the slowest hard-disk drive is still as quick as the fastest erasable optical drive—but optical drives are far more than a technological curiosity. They offer stable data storage that is large, safe, removable, and substantially cheaper than hard disks at large capacities.

If you decide to go with erasable optical, look beyond the OEM name for speed: A Sony mechanism does not guarantee a fast drive (see “The Bottom Line” for our picks). Or you can wait until erasable optical drives are as fast as hard disks, which may eventually happen. Then again, if you had waited until Macintosh computers were as inexpensive as equally powerful PCs, you’d still be using an abacus.

John Rizzo is MacUser’s technical editor. His many articles on optical technology, connectivity, and scientific applications for the Mac would barely fit on an optical cartridge.

Even with recent improvements in erasable-optical-drive technology, speed is still the biggest concern—even if you plan to use your drive only for secondary storage. A year ago, the Storage Dimensions MacinStor was the fastest erasable optical drive, beating the competition by a wide margin.

This year, however, the FWB HammerDisk 600S ($5,495 with the Sony mechanism) is the champ, if only by a nose. FWB software engineers have pushed their drive ahead of other Sony-based opticals, enough to surpass even Storage Dimensions’ fast Maxtor internal mechanism.

If you plan to use your drive mostly for tasks that involve reading discs, however, the Storage Dimensions MacinStor ($7,995) will be the fastest choice. The MacinStor offers the largest storage capacity —1 gigabyte— at overall speeds only slightly below those of the FWB HammerDisk 600S. The MacinStor’s unique 1-gigabyte format can’t be read by other drives, however, so don’t plan to swap these cartridges with other manufacturers’ drives. The MacinStor can format, read, write, and erase a standard 650-megabyte cartridge, but its performance suffers when it uses this type of cartridge.

The only other drive we tested that’s as fast as these two drives is a prerelease version of the SuperMac LaserFrame drive (see the “Late Arrivals” sidebar), which is supposed to be shipping by the time you read this. Moving down to a lower level of performance, we can recommend the Ocean Microsystems TidalWave 650 ($4,195), the FWB HammerDisk 600S (left) barely squeaked past another speedster, the Storage Dimensions MacinStor (right). An optional MacinStor nonstandard format stores up to 1 gigabyte —over 400 megabytes more than the HammerDisk 600S.

PLI Infinity Optical ($5,695), the LaCie 600R Magneto-Optical ($4,099), and the MACsetra Genesis 60001 ($5,495), a second string of drives with performance that nevertheless stands out above the crowd.
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-BMUG Newsletter, Vol. VI, No. I

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DPI FAX 408-945-8148
### Table 2: Features of Erasable Optical Drives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>AGA MacDISCUS DR 650-SE</th>
<th>Bay MicroSystems 600RePack</th>
<th>Conversion Dynamics Optirase EOD-650</th>
<th>Deltaic Systems OptiServer 600</th>
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<td>594 MB</td>
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<td>Ricoh RO-50352E A</td>
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<td>ext. DIP switches</td>
<td>ext. recessed push wheel</td>
<td>ext. recessed push wheel</td>
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<td>internal, with switch</td>
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<td>IMV4</td>
<td>IMV5</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>(800) 347-2871</td>
<td>210 Columbus Ave., #108</td>
<td>1200 Corporate Drive, #150</td>
<td>1701 Junction Court, #302B</td>
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<td>(212) 265-0655</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA 94133</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL 35242</td>
<td>San Jose, CA 95112</td>
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<td>(415) 563-8332</td>
<td>(800) 752-7658</td>
<td>(408) 441-1240</td>
</tr>
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*Disc partitions are defined by specifications in IMV5 (Inside Macintosh, Volume 5) or in the older IMV.
Until recently, high-resolution output also meant high cost. Not anymore. Personal Typesetting by LaserMAX lets you maximize your Macintosh — at an affordable price.

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- Delivers precise 1000 x 1000 TurboRes output.
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If low cost and high resolution are not enough, then consider our printing speed. Using our Advanced Printing Mode, our products communicate directly with applications and can print up to 20 times faster than a PostScript™ printer.

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For more information, Call LaserMAX at (612) 944-9696 Dept. #138
Please circle 77 on reader service card.
### Table 2: Features of Erasable Optical Drives, continued

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FWB HammerDisk 600</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(800) 661-6000</td>
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*Disc partitions are defined by specifications in IMV5 (Inside Macintosh, Volume 5) or in the older IMV4.
A drive is a drive, is a drive... or is it?

Mach One Drives
PLI Breaks the 1ms Access Time Barrier
PLI's proprietary new technology sets new performance standards with less than 1 ms access time and 5MB data transfer rate. No other drive is faster or safer. The perfect accelerator for your graphics, network servers and multi-media applications.

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- SCSI interface delivers high-speed data transfer and allows easy daisy chaining.
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The Infinity 40 Turbo
45MB Removable Cartridge Drive
With PLI's Infinity 40 Turbo, 45MB removable drive, you get 12ms effective access times, unlimited storage, IBM compatibility and valuable software (including AME from Casady and Greene and The Best of BMUG shareware). You also get PLI's experience and guaranteed high quality. The Infinity 40 Turbo is available as a single drive or a twin with another removable, or any 3.5" or half-height drive. It is perfect as a primary or secondary drive, for backup, archiving or software distribution.

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- New, 12ms effective access time with TurboCache
- Compatible with Mac, A/UX and DOS
- Reads DOS cartridges on your Macintosh
- Up to four year warranties available

600MB to 36 Gigabytes of Erasable Optical Storage
The PLI Rewritable Optical Disk Drive redefines high-capacity data storage. Now, you can store more than 600MB of data on a cartridge that is almost indestructable and weighs just a few ounces. Warranties on media go up to 25 years. Perfect for graphics, publishing, software distribution and backup.

- 572MB with a 65ms access time or 614MB with 75ms access
- High reliability, extended warranties available
- Compatible with Mac, A/UX and DOS.
- 36 Gigabyte Optical Jukebox also available
## Table 2: Features of Erasable Optical Drives, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MicroNet Micro/Optical SMO-1</th>
<th>Microtech OR650</th>
<th>Mirror RM600 Optical</th>
<th>Ocean Microsystems Tidalwave 650</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>List price</strong></td>
<td>$4,995</td>
<td>$4,795</td>
<td>$3,497</td>
<td>$4,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disc price</strong></td>
<td>$279</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comments</strong></td>
<td>Good speed. Can turn off verify pass during write. Can combine many discs into single volume.</td>
<td>Slow. Good software (Total Recall) allows unattended backup. Also includes Norton Utilities for the Macintosh.</td>
<td>Slow. Software allows manual sector mapping. Auto-eject option at dismount or shutdown.</td>
<td>Third-fastest overall. Includes MacTools Deluxe (good utilities), plus program to find and mount Ocean drives on SCSI bus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardware</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertised megabytes, both sides</td>
<td>600 MB</td>
<td>650 MB</td>
<td>600 MB</td>
<td>594 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formatted megabytes, one side</td>
<td>285.8 MB</td>
<td>312.34 MB (w/ 1,024 disc)</td>
<td>284.6 MB</td>
<td>286.37 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEM mechanism</td>
<td>Sony SMO-C501-00 2.11</td>
<td>Sony SMO-C501-00 2.11</td>
<td>Ricoh RO-5030E2 C</td>
<td>Sony SMO-C501-00 2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCSI-ID selector</td>
<td>ext. recessed push wheel</td>
<td>ext. DIP switches</td>
<td>ext. DIP switches</td>
<td>ext. recessed push wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCSI termination</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>internal, with switch</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>external</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data standards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple partition format*</td>
<td>IMV5</td>
<td>IMV5</td>
<td>IMV5</td>
<td>IMV4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc-sector sizes (bytes)</td>
<td>512 bytes</td>
<td>512/1024 bytes</td>
<td>512 bytes</td>
<td>512 bytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO-standard compliance (130mm) with Sony/ISO drives only</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Software</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partitioning</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backup</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password protection</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data encryption</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc optimizer</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions (L x W x H, inches)</td>
<td>12 x 7.5 x 10.5</td>
<td>12.25 x 8.25 x 4.75</td>
<td>12 x 7.5 x 6.5</td>
<td>10.5 x 9.5 x 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warranty</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MicroNet Technology, Inc.</td>
<td>Microtech International</td>
<td>Mirror Technologies</td>
<td>Ocean Microsystems, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 Mason</td>
<td>158 Commerce St.</td>
<td>2644 Patton Road</td>
<td>246 E. Hacienda Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irvine, CA 92718</td>
<td>East Haven, CT 06512</td>
<td>Roseville, MN 55113</td>
<td>Campbell, CA 95008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(714) 837-6033</td>
<td>(800) 626-4276</td>
<td>(800) 654-6294</td>
<td>(800) 262-3261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(203) 468-6223</td>
<td>(612) 633-4450</td>
<td>(408) 374-9300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Disc partitions are defined by specifications in IMV5 (Inside Macintosh, Volume 5) or in the older IMV4.
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1 THE PROBLEM
I need a Mac... but where do I start?

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WHO DO I TURN TO? BOY! THIS IS CONFUSING.

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Land

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MacFriends

9

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10

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- FINANCE
- LEASE
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Please circle 167 on reader service card.
## Table 2: Features of Erasable Optical Drives, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pinnacle RE0-650</th>
<th>PLI Infinity Optical</th>
<th>Procom MED0650</th>
<th>RACET Cosmos SA600MO-II</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>List price</strong></td>
<td>$5,190</td>
<td>$5,695</td>
<td>$4,495</td>
<td>$4,795</td>
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<td><strong>Disc price</strong></td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$299</td>
<td>$295</td>
<td>$295 (precertified)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hardware</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertised megabytes, both sides</td>
<td>594 MB (550 w/ 1.024 disc)</td>
<td>600 MB</td>
<td>582 MB</td>
<td>600 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formatted megabytes, one side</td>
<td>286 MB (312 w/ 1.024 disc)</td>
<td>286.39 MB (w/ 512 disc)</td>
<td>286.39 MB</td>
<td>283.14 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEM mechanism</td>
<td>Sony SMO-C501-00 2.07 ext. DIP switches</td>
<td>Sony SMO-C501-00 2.05 ext. recessed push wheel</td>
<td>Sony SMO-C501-00 2.07 ext. rotary switch</td>
<td>Ricoh RD-5000E2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCSI-ID selector</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>external</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCSI termination</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>external</td>
<td>external</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data standards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple partition format</td>
<td>IMV5</td>
<td>IMV4</td>
<td>IMV5</td>
<td>IMV5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc-sector sizes (bytes)</td>
<td>512/1,024 bytes</td>
<td>512 bytes (1,024 optional)</td>
<td>512 bytes</td>
<td>512 bytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO-standard compliance (130mm)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Software</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partitioning</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes (w/ optional software)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes (w/ optional software)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backup</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password protection</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data encryption</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc optimizer</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions (L x W x H, inches)</td>
<td>13 x 8 x 5.75</td>
<td>11.5 x 9.75 x 5</td>
<td>12 x 7.5 x 6.25</td>
<td>15 x 7 x 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warranty</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Disc partitions are defined by specifications in IMV5 (Inside Macintosh, Volume 5) or in the older IMV4.*
A lot of manufacturers say they have the best trackball, but only the Kensington Turbo Mouse® has the awards to prove it.

MacUser gave it the coveted Five Mice. And the readers of Macworld magazine voted it "Best Input Device" — not just once but four years in a row.

What makes Turbo Mouse outshine the rest? Superior optical hardware and unique software are the difference.

A light click sends the signal quietly and instantly.

One button transmits a normal mouse command. The other locks the button in the down position for extended selection and graphic applications. You decide which button performs what function.

Press both buttons simultaneously, and our time-saving chording feature executes one of seven useful commands such as "save," "print," "quit," or "undo."

Navigating the screen is easy. A comfortable ball position makes the cursor easy to move. And a smooth ball movement means no jumping or sticking.

What's more, only Turbo Mouse has a Custom Control Panel that lets you adjust both acceleration and double-click speed to exactly match the way you work. Move the ball slowly and the cursor moves pixel-by-pixel. Move it fast and it speeds across even the biggest screen.

The next time you read another claim for a trackball, remember the one that has earned all the acclaims. Turbo Mouse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Erasable Optical Drives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Table 2: Features of Erasable Optical Drives, continued</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Relax Optical 600 Plus</th>
<th>Storage Dimensions MacinStor</th>
<th>Sumo RSSM600-B</th>
<th>Xyxis XY600RW</th>
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<tr>
<td>List price</td>
<td>$4,399</td>
<td>$7,995</td>
<td>$4,300</td>
<td>$5,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc price</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$295 (gigabyte, $305)</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Hardware         |                  |                |                |               |
| Advertised megabytes, both sides | 570 MB | 650 MB (gigabyte w/ ZCAV²) | 600 MB | 600 MB |
| Formatted megabytes, one side | 286.35 MB | 287.4 MB (450 w/ ZCAV²) | 284.59 MB | 255.92 MB |
| OEM mechanism    | Ricoh R0-5030E2 A MaxOptix (Maxtor} D6 Ricoh R0-5030E2 A | Ricoh R0-5030E2 A | Ricoh R0-5030E1 |
| SCSI-ID selector | ext. recessed push wheel | ext. rotary switch | ext. recessed push wheel | ext. DIP switches |
| SCSI termination | external | external | internal, with switch | external |

| Data standards  |                  |                |                |               |
| Apple partition format | IMV5 | IMV5 | IMV5 | IMV5 |
| Disc-sector sizes (bytes) | 512 bytes | 512/512-ZCAV²(gigabyte) | 512 bytes | 512 bytes |
| ISO-standard compliance (130mm) | yes | yes | yes (650-MB disc only) | yes |

| Software         |                  |                |                |               |
| Partitioning     | no | yes | yes | yes |
| Backup           | yes | yes | no | no |
| Password protection | no | yes | yes | no |
| Data encryption   | no | no | no | no |
| Disc optimizer    | no | no | no | no |
| Diagnostics      | yes | no | no | no |

| Other            |                  |                |                |               |
| Dimensions (L x W x H, inches) | 11 x 10.25 x 3.75 | 14.5 x 7.5 x 5.5 | 9.75 x 10.5 x 4.0 | 13 x 9.25 x 5.5 |
| Warranty         | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year |

*Disc partitions are defined by specifications in IMV5 (Inside Macintosh, Volume 5) or in the older IMV4.*
*Zone Continuous Angular Velocity drives write increasingly more data on normally underutilized outer tracks.*
Your data is your data. And to keep it that way Kensington introduces PassProof™ — the first complete data protection system for the Macintosh®.

First, the hardware.
A rugged cylindrical lock keeps your disk drive safe from intruders. Two sturdy metal plates with tamper-proof screws block both rear-floppy and SCSI ports.

Next, the software.
As the master user you assign yourself a master password. From then on, you use the password as your key to unlock the system. You can add or delete additional users whenever you want. And PassProof’s User Log keeps track of every attempt to use your Mac.

Want to “lock up” in a hurry? Quick Cover™ is PassProof’s screen-locking program that lets you secure your Mac on command.

Best of all PassProof is user friendly. Unless, of course, the user is unauthorized.

Ask your dealer about other Kensington accessories including cable and lock systems for all Apple and Macintosh computers, including the Mac Portable and the LaserWriter® II. Or call for a free brochure at 800-535-4242. Outside the U.S., call 212-475-5200.
Remember all those PCs and Macs you got a couple years ago? And the way they were supposed to make you more productive? But if every deadline is still an eyeball-flattening panic, it’s no wonder. Because PCs were designed for one person. To do one thing at a time.

Of course, in publishing, you’ve got lots of people. Doing lots of different things. All at once. And you need them all in sync with each other. That’s why you should know about a system that puts more time in your day.

Sun. Our workstations give you the power to do lots of things at once. And they’re the ultimate networking machines. So everyone who’s working on a project can work on it at the same time. Without tripping over each other. For example, a writer can edit a story. While an art director revises the layout. While the production manager is redoing the separations to the new size. At the same time, the traffic manager
can check the same files to see if everyone's on schedule.

And you can do all this without trading floppies by hand. Or waiting for the PC to finish one part of your job so you can get started on the next.

With a Sun workstation you get almost four times the speed of a 386 machine. And a million-pixel display. Which gives you three times the resolution of conventional PCs.

You also get our OPEN LOOK™ user interface, which makes the system easy to learn and use. And there's a wide range of high-performance publishing software.

You don't even have to throw out your old hardware; our systems fit right in. In fact, they'll actually make your current computers more powerful.

If you'd like to know more, just call 1-800-624-8999, ext. 2064. But if you're too busy to call us right now, that's OK. We don't want to put any more deadline pressure on you.
AFFORDABLE, LASER-QUALITY QUICKDRAW Printers

You can't afford a LaserWriter, but your ImageWriter output no longer impresses your clients. You're tired of running out to the all-night copy center and paying a stranger to laser-print a confidential proposal. Not to worry. You have an alternative: a personal QuickDraw printer.

Laser-quality output is now affordable for small businesses and individuals of modest means. Even if all you have is a Mac SE perched on a workbench in your garage, here's a printing solution you can afford. Personal QuickDraw printers are, for the most part, designed for just one Mac and just one user — you — and are inexpensive enough for the noncorporate, non-volume-discount buyer.

QuickDraw printers are less expensive than their PostScript cousins for two major reasons. First, they avoid the hefty licensing fees required for Adobe PostScript. Second, they use the Mac to do the image processing usually done in the PostScript printer itself. You save money, but you lose the versatility of PostScript and the speed of in-printer processing.
MacUser Labs looked at three QuickDraw printers, each using a different printing technology. The Apple Personal LaserWriter SC ($1,999) is a true laser printer, whereas the GCC PLP IIS ($1,899) substitutes LEDs (light-emitting diodes) for laser light. The Hewlett-Packard DeskWriter ($995) uses inkjet technology. If these prices don't sound exactly cheap to you, make some phone calls and you'll discover that mail-order prices for the DeskWriter, for example, can be less than $800. Compare this price with that of the popular Apple LaserWriter IINT, which gives the same resolution for $4,499.

To test the performance of each of these low-cost printers, we created test pages with three popular applications: Microsoft Word 4.0, MacDraw II, and PageMaker 4.0. These real-world documents tested the two obvious things a potential buyer looks for in a printer: image quality and speed.

In addition to using MacUser Labs' standard testing platform—a Mac IICx with 4 megabytes of RAM—we ran the same benchmarks using a Mac SE with 2.5 megabytes of RAM, because the SE is the Mac of choice for individuals and small businesses that aren't bankrolled by venture capitalists or Microsoft's Bill Gates. On both test Macs, we installed System 6.05 and ATM (Adobe Type Manager) 1.2, which uses outline-font technology to produce smooth fonts at any resolution for both screen and print. To see how the printers performed when using the same fonts, we used ATM rather than the outline fonts or bit-mapped fonts shipped with each printer.

**You Get What You Pay For**

Any QuickDraw printer relies on the Mac to process the image that will ultimately come out of the printer. This procedure is called RIPing (raster-image processing); the Mac RIPs the image. The speed of this process differs according to CPU power and memory.

A quick look at the results of our raw-speed tests (see Figure 1) illustrates one of the primary differences between QuickDraw printers and PostScript printers (or any other printers that do their own page processing). The PostScript interpreter in the LaserWriter IINT does the RIPing, so there is very little difference in times between printing...
from an SE or a IICx. But a QuickDraw printer performs much faster when attached to a IICx rather than to an SE. Because the rasterizing occurs in the Mac's CPU, a more powerful processor and more RAM in the Mac give a clear speed advantage, as the chart comparing the two test Macs demonstrates.

QuickDraw is a set of graphics routines that resides in your Mac's ROM and System software. It's used by all Mac applications — even PostScript programs — to put images onto the screen. All these graphic operations take place in a drawing environment that QuickDraw calls a graphics port, or grafPort. For example, the windows that any application displays are grafPorts. A special printing grafPort is used for "drawing" to a printer.

How does the grafPort know what type of printer you're printing to? When you select a printer from the Chooser, you're selecting an active printer driver. Each QuickDraw printer driver takes the 72-dpi QuickDraw screen image and turns it into a printable 300-dpi bitmap image. This whole page is then sent to the printer. Because the PLP IIS and Personal LaserWriter SC each contain 1 megabyte of RAM, they can hold and then print about a page while another page is being processed back at the Mac. The DeskWriter's tiny 8K buffer isn't much help — although the DeskWriter is surprisingly speedy in some applications.

**Easy Installation**

The software setup is the same for each printer: Put the printer driver into the System Folder, install the fonts, select the printer from the Chooser, and print.

The DeskWriter offers a serial/LocalTalk connection and is the only printer in this class that can be shared on a network. Both the PLP IIS and the Personal LaserWriter SC connect to the Mac through the SCSI bus. The Personal LaserWriter SC has a second SCSI port and is not terminated. The PLP IIS has only a single SCSI port and is internally terminated, so it must be the last device in your SCSI chain. If you need to remove the internal termination, it's a simple matter of removing five screws from the printer casing, taking off a metal shield, and pulling the terminator. If you need more help, GCC's
System 7.0 and TrueType

Although it has become a rather tired refrain, System 7.0 is just around the corner. And with System 7.0 comes the eagerly awaited new font technology TrueType. If you drag a TrueType font icon into the System Folder — good-bye Font/DA Mover — TrueType will automatically create smooth screen fonts of any size. TrueType will also print smooth fonts on any QuickDraw printer.

ATM (Adobe Type Manager) was the precursor to Apple’s TrueType technology. Adobe saw TrueType as a threat to its own font standard, Type 1 PostScript fonts, so it created ATM to make Type 1 fonts smooth on-screen and in print. ATM and TrueType differ in the fonts they use. ATM works only with Adobe Type 1 fonts, whereas TrueType works only with TrueType fonts — and the two font standards are not compatible. Applications that will convert one into the other will be available, but as of this writing, none are shipping (and neither is System 7.0).

When the new Macintosh operating system finally makes its way to Macintosh users, TrueType will be included as standard on every new Macintosh sold. ATM, on the other hand, currently lists for $99. Although Apple claims that TrueType fonts will print faster and look even better than fonts printed with ATM, ATM is here today — and it’s working. Until we have TrueType in our Macintoshes, questions of performance and quality remain unanswered.

So which font technology should you go with? If you already have an Adobe font library, you would do better to use ATM. You don’t need to purchase new TrueType fonts, and you’ll remain upwardly compatible with printers that already use Adobe fonts. If you want seamless integration with System 7.0, wait for TrueType.

— Paul Yi

Figure 2: The PLP IIS provides more-powerful driver software than the other two QuickDraw printers do. Choosing Options in the Page Setup dialog box lets you control type kerning and readable area, two features exclusive to the PLP IIS.
We developed Pacific MacPage because affordable PostScript® printers are just a dream.

Imagine buying an Apple LaserWriter IINT. Or IINTX. The price tag can cause nightmares.

So, consider Pacific MacPage. It brings the quality output of a PostScript printer within reach. Just plug one of our cartridges into a HP LaserJet II, IIP, IID* or III printer with 2 megabytes of additional memory.

The results are beautiful. Pacific MacPage supports Adobe Type 1 fonts and is compatible with Adobe Type Manager. Plus, it has 35 LaserWriter IINT equivalent font families. You’ll get quality output with every character. And you’ll get it fast.

Benchmarks show Pacific MacPage on the IIP prints an average of 10% faster than the LaserWriter IINT with most applications.

Pacific MacPage can help make your dream of the affordable printer a reality. To learn more, call or write: Pacific Data Products, 9125 Rehco Road, San Diego, CA 92121, (619) 552-0880. Fax (619) 552-0889.
QuickDraw Printers

The PLP IIS, on the other hand, makes a revving noise when it prints, reminiscent of a Lear jet taking off in the distance. On the plus side, you can set your PLP IIS to “sleep” for 2, 4, 6, or 8 minutes after it finishes printing. The revving sound—the sound of the drum turning—stops, but you have to wait for the PLP IIS to warm up before it will print again. We recommend that you put the PLP IIS to sleep. In the roar of the MacUser Labs, with disk drives whirring and printers shooting out pages of Pulitzer-prize-winning copy, the rev isn’t so loud. But in less hectic environments, it can be annoying.

Fonts and Other Goodies

Although our tests used ATM to maintain type consistency, both the DeskWriter and the PLP IIS come with their own outline fonts. The DeskWriter includes 22 fonts from Compugraphic, and the PLP IIS has 13 from Bitstream. The Personal LaserWriter SC does not include outline fonts. Instead, it uses a “4x” screen-font scheme—for best results, you need to install both the size you want—say, 10 point—and also the screen font that’s four times that size (40 point). It’s the larger font size, scaled, that’s used to create the 300-dpi bit map for printing. However, adding multiple sizes of screen fonts can take up memory on your hard disk. The release of System 7.0 will help, because the new TrueType font-outline technology (see the “System 7.0 and TrueType” sidebar) will allow the Personal LaserWriter SC and any other QuickDraw printer to do away with bit-mapped screen fonts altogether.

Besides including outline fonts, the PLP IIS comes bundled with two utility programs: a $49 envelope-printing DA called QuickEnvelope and an application called GCC Print Manager that’s designed to let you print a file after it’s been RIPped. The PLP IIS also has the most impressive driver software (see Figure 2). In addition, GCC offers a $29 utility to convert Bitstream MacFonts into outline fonts for use on any of its printers. Both the Personal LaserWriter SC and the DeskWriter work with SuperLaserSpool 2.02.

Performance

Our speed-test documents consisted of a 25-page Microsoft Word 4.0 document, a 1-page MacDraw II document, and a 1-page PageMaker document with everything in it but the kitchen sink. We included a grayscale TIFF file, a half-tone TIFF, tons of text, and a gray ramp (clearly a case for the Design Police). We also tested an Excel document but didn’t include the results here because of an anomaly with the PLP IIS: It added two extra pages to our 10-page spreadsheet. It wasn’t clear whether the problem had to do with GCC’s driver or with the way Excel interfaced with it. We contacted GCC, and the company’s now working on the problem with Microsoft.

For printing, the PLP IIS has the fastest engine speed, rated at 8 ppm (pages per minute). With a Mac IIcx, the $1,899 PLP IIS even approaches the text-printing speed of the $4,499 LaserWriter IINT. The 4-ppm engine of the Personal LaserWriter SC and the slow inkjet engine of the DeskWriter lag far behind. But on the other tests—especially on the Mac SE—the results are less intuitive, because the speed of a QuickDraw printer depends so much on the Mac model.

When you compare the IIcx and SE results for the QuickDraw printers, the numbers say, “Use a faster Mac.” The PageMaker test produced the most dramatic slowdown: Both the PLP IIS and the Personal LaserWriter SC took more than 3 times as long to print from the SE than they did from the IIcx. The superior performance of the DeskWriter is puzzling, because the PLP IIS and the Personal LaserWriter SC each have 1 megabyte of RAM that can hold a page in memory until another page finishes being printed, whereas the DeskWriter relies entirely on the Mac for both memory and RIPing. Yet, in the case of the PageMaker document, the DeskWriter printing from the SE did the best of the three in terms of both raw speed and slowdown—it took just over 7 minutes, which was only 2.4 times as long as from the IIcx.

What’s the explanation? Printing is a synergistic operation involving three primary factors: the algorithms of the print driver; the transmission rate of data to the printer (SCSI versus LocalTalk); and finally, the mechanical limitations of the print engine. Our technicians are still trying to crack this conundrum.

The Jury’s Verdict

The PageMaker 4.0 test page—printed on high-quality Strathmore Legacy paper so that each printer could make its best impression—also served as the print
Figure 4: We included a scanned picture in our test page to assess image quality. The DeskWriter did a disappointing job on the gray-scale image, producing muddy-looking output, whereas the outputs from the PLP llS and Personal LaserWriter SC's were sharp and detailed. The toner-based engines of the latter two printers are better than the inkjet engine for pages filled with graphics.

Figure 5: We used Adobe Times in varying point sizes to test text quality. PostScript printers such as the Apple LaserWriter IINT have fonts built in to their hardware, but QuickDraw printers must rely on the Mac to produce high-quality fonts. Now, thanks to ATM, QuickDraw printers can produce text at any size that rivals the quality of that produced by PostScript printers. Even the DeskWriter, with its inkjet engine, prints clear, legible text. Again, the PLP llS produces the cleanest characters.
QuickDraw Printers

sample we showed to our jury of seasoned printer professionals. The GCC PLP IIS came in first in every category (see Figure 3). The output looked sharp, with little clumping or spreading of toner. The PLP IIS uses an LED printing engine that operates in much the same way as the Personal LaserWriter SC’s laser, except that instead of the latter’s single laser beam of light bouncing off a whirling mirror, it has a 300-dpi LED array that exposes a revolving light-sensitive drum. The LED engine produced crisper halftones and finer lines than did both the Personal LaserWriter SC and the DeskWriter printers (see Figure 4).

The second-place Personal LaserWriter SC is a true laser printer, using laser light, electrical charges, and toner. But our jurors found that the output sometimes appeared more clumped than the output from the PLP’s LED engine.

The inexpensive DeskWriter came in last place in the image-quality category. The DeskWriter is an inkjet printer, in which a print head is drawn back and forth, as with a dot-matrix printer, while a minuscule stream of ink jets onto the paper. One of the drawbacks of an inkjet printer is that if you have a page loaded with graphics or solids, the paper comes out soaking wet — exactly what happened to our test page. If you want to use this printer for a lot of dense graphics and solids, you should spend some time searching for a paper that will give you the best results. An absorbent paper with a high cotton-fiber content seems to reduce wet-paper curl, but the trade-off is that type is slightly less sharp. When you want to print pages that contain nothing but plain text, however, the DeskWriter does an impressive job for its price (see Figure 5).

High Quality, Low Price

For the right job, these printers are certainly priced right. For simple text and graphics output, their quality rivals that of higher-priced PostScript printers. (In fact, you can upgrade both the Apple Personal LaserWriter SC and the GCC PLP IIS to PostScript machines.) As always, you have to find a balance between your wants, your needs, and your disposable income. When you’ve figured out this equation, it will be easier to choose the right printer from our recommendations in “The Bottom Line.”

Kelli Wiseth is a free-lance writer and editor who ran a printing press in the early 80s.

The Bottom Line

If you can do without the versatility and graphics capability of PostScript printing, a QuickDraw printer may meet your needs. It can give you laser-quality output at a bargain price. For overall speed and image quality, we recommend the GCC PLP IIS ($1,899). It’s sturdily built: During its advertised lifetime, it can print three times as many pages as the Hewlett-Packard DeskWriter ($995) can. One drawback of the PLP IIS is its noisy operation, but its clever Sleep mode mitigates this annoyance. Its setup is more of a challenge than that of the other two printers, but read the instructions thoroughly, dim the lights, and then just do it — all the cautionary notes in the manual are probably a little overstated.

If the price of the PLP IIS takes you aback, consider its less expensive sibling, the PLP II ($1,399). It’s the identical printer but with a slower 4-ppm engine. And if you decide that you want added graphics abilities, you can upgrade the PLP II to the true-Adobe Postscript GCC BLP II for $999. (The PLP II can become a Postscript BLP II for the same price.)

The Apple Personal LaserWriter SC ($1,999) is also hard not to like. But it’s still slower than the PLP IIS, and its print output is not as crisp. On the plus side, its Canon toner and shutter-protected drum assembly are a feat of engineering wizardry. The setup is extremely neat and clean for a toner-based printer. The manual has Apple’s usual designer look, but on further inspection, it’s downright disappointing. We couldn’t even find such basic information as minimum hardware and System-software requirements. Both the GCC and the Hewlett-Packard manuals are more informative. You can add Postscript to the Personal LaserWriter SC with a $1,300 Personal LaserWriter IINT board upgrade.

The DeskWriter’s inkjet technology can’t compete with the toner-based system of the other two printers. Nonetheless, it is an attractive buy for the right Mac user. It’s lightweight and compact, and it prints only a few letters a day, the DeskWriter’s price/performance ratio is unbeatable. Also, for those with Mac SEs and Pluses, the DeskWriter’s performance is on a par with that of the other two printers. The DeskWriter manual devotes an entire chapter to maximizing printer performance, getting into the nitty-gritty of defragmenting your hard disk, defragmenting system memory, and so on. Hewlett-Packard’s done a great job of turning the manual into a tutorial, with cross-references to the Macintosh System-software manual.
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# Table 1: Features of QuickDraw Printers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Apple Personal LaserWriter SC</th>
<th>GCC PLP IIS</th>
<th>Hewlett-Packard DeskWriter</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>List price</strong></td>
<td>$1,999</td>
<td>$1,899</td>
<td>$995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comments</strong></td>
<td>Easy-to-use, well-designed toner cartridge. Needs System 7.0 or ATM for smooth fonts. Can be upgraded to PostScript.</td>
<td>Fastest printer. Best image quality. Nice bundled software and outline fonts. Can be upgraded to PostScript.</td>
<td>Compact design. Extremely quiet. Inkjet quality not up to par with laser or LED. For plain text, price is unbeatable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardware</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM (megabytes)</td>
<td>1 MB</td>
<td>1 MB</td>
<td>0 (8K buffer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine, type</td>
<td>Canon LBP-LX, laser</td>
<td>Okidata 400, LED</td>
<td>Hewlett-Packard, thermal inkjet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine speed (pages/minute)</td>
<td>4 ppm</td>
<td>0 ppm</td>
<td>1 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine life (pages)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>60,000 (50 pages/day, max.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly duty cycle (pages)</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>300 dpi</td>
<td>75, 150, 300 dpi</td>
<td>150, 300 dpi</td>
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<td>Minimum Mac</td>
<td>Mac Plus, 1 megabyte RAM</td>
<td>Mac Plus, 1 megabyte RAM, hard-disk drive</td>
<td>Mac Plus, 1 megabyte RAM, hard-disk drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum System</td>
<td>System 5.0 or later</td>
<td>System 6.0 or later</td>
<td>System 4.1 or later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaces</td>
<td>SCSI</td>
<td>SCSI</td>
<td>LocalTalk/serial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network support</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print-spooler support</td>
<td>SuperLaserSpool</td>
<td>GCC Print Manager</td>
<td>SuperLaserSpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Software</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline fonts</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Bitstream (22 fonts in 6 families)</td>
<td>Agfa Compugraphic (13 fonts in 4 families)</td>
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<td>Additional software</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>GCC Print Manager and QuickEnvelope</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Paper handling</strong></td>
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<td>Paper output (image up, down)</td>
<td>selectable</td>
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<td>Paper stock</td>
<td>16 – 28 lb</td>
<td>16 – 24 lb (auto-feed)</td>
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<td>Labels, transparencies</td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of trays</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Tray capacity (pages)</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>Paper sizes</td>
<td>letter, legal, A4, B5, envelopes</td>
<td>letter, legal, A4, B5, envelopes</td>
<td>letter, legal, A4, envelopes</td>
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<td>PostScript upgrade</td>
<td>upgrade to IINT, $1,300</td>
<td>upgrade to BLPIIS, $999</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supplies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Toner</td>
<td>$99 (3,500 pages)</td>
<td>$33 (2,500 pages)</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Drum</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$289 (15,000 – 20,000 pages)</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Inkjet cartridge</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$19.95 (250 – 300 pages)</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimensions (W x D x H, in.)</td>
<td>15 x 18.3 x 9.8</td>
<td>17.7 x 17.7 x 5.25</td>
<td>17.3 x 14.8 x 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
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<td>24 lb</td>
<td>14.3 lb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warranty</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple Computer, Inc.</td>
<td>20625 Mariani Ave. Cupertino, CA 95014</td>
<td>580 Winter St. Waltham, MA 02154</td>
<td>19310 Pruneridge Ave. Cupertino, CA 95014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCC Technologies</td>
<td>(408) 996-1010</td>
<td>(800) 422-7777</td>
<td>(415) 857-1501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hewlett-Packard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>144 November 1990 MacUser</td>
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Say "number crunching," and the word spreadsheet comes to mind. But even though Excel has a dozen functions you'll never use, spreadsheet programs can't do everything. For complex science and mathematics, a specialized program fills the bill much better. To prepare this article, we examined some of the most powerful number-crunching Mac programs on the market. Regardless of your profession or application, there's probably a Mac math program for you.

For those who are content to chart data only after it has been thoroughly crunched, we review three brand-new high-end statistics packages that bring the power of numeric-trend analysis to your desktop. The second part of our report compares programs for visualizing and solving equations, including the top two contenders, Mathematica and Theorist. The two differ greatly in the approach they take and have other important differences too. We tell you when and for whom each program is best.

And finally, we look at a few of the products available for visualizing data. The Mac is an ideal platform for turning a pile of data into a meaningful picture that's worth at least a thousand digits. Just be careful. After seeing these programs, you may never want to go back to your spreadsheets again.
Number Crunching

Statistics Powerhouses

Until recently, there were several sophisticated statistical procedures that you just couldn’t perform on a Mac. Now, though, three powerhouse statistical packages for the Mac — Minitab 6.2, SPSS for the Macintosh 4.0, and SYSTAT 5.0 — have changed that. The advent of these high-end packages has made the Mac a creditable choice for sophisticated statistical work.

These applications do the basics, but they do them more comprehensively than do their journeyman counterparts Data Desk 3.0, Exstatisx, and StatView (see “Business Statistics,” April ’90, page 114). Minitab, SPSS, and SYSTAT also offer several complex statistical procedures, flexible data-file importing, and the ability to perform batch processing. All this power can be expensive — these applications range in price from $695 for Minitab to nearly $2,500 for SPSS with all four of its additional modules. In comparison, the journeyman packages range from around $350 to $700.

Figure 1: You can use the SPSS Command Generator to construct commands for any analysis. A help window provides information and definitions.

So how do the high-end packages rate? To analyze the differences among Minitab, SPSS, and SYSTAT, we compared their graphics capabilities and available procedures and tested their speed.

User Interface

Don’t expect a pure, Mac-like interface from any of these programs. All were originally developed for the DOS and mainframe markets; as a result, they retain at least some elements of a command-driven interface.

SYSTAT 5.0 provides a more Mac-like interface than do Minitab, SPSS, or its own previous versions. It features pull-down, tear-off hierarchical menus, and you can specify most procedures by using menu selections and dialog boxes. The command language is still available, however, and it can be useful in situations such as batch processing.

Minitab and SPSS are basically command-driven packages. They both have pull-down menus for manipulating windows, importing, saving, and printing, but otherwise they’re nearly identical to their PC counterparts. SPSS is easier to use than Minitab: It has a Command Input window and a hierarchical menu system called the Command Generator, which lets you select and paste commands from a menu so you don’t need to remember a long list of commands (see Figure 1). This isn’t the same as using a true Mac-like graphical interface, however. You select commands in the same way as with a text-based word processor — individually or as an entire batch process — and then submit them.

Both Minitab and SPSS offer portability between the Mac and other systems. Programs for other machines (VAX, PC) written in these two applications’ internal command languages work with minimal or no changes on the Mac. PC SYSTAT command files work on the Mac as well.

Procedures Available

If you’re looking for sophisticated multivariate analyses, you’ve come to the right place. Table 1 shows which functions are available in each package. SPSS has the most procedures and options overall, but not all of them come as part of the basic package: Four optional modules, costing $395 each, cover time-series analysis, tabling, conjoint and correspondence analysis, and other advanced statistics. Not surprisingly, SPSS, counting its modules, is the most expensive of the three applications.

SYSTAT has the most procedures in its base package, and you can buy four additional modules: Design, which estimates sample sizes; Logit, for logistic regression; Probit, for estimating a multiple-regression model or analysis of covariance (ANOVA); and Testat, which provides test-summary statistics and reliability coefficients. Each of these supplements costs $110.

Minitab has the fewest procedures and options within procedures, and it doesn’t have add-on modules, although macros are available from its maker to perform some additional functions. The main procedures in Minitab that are not in Data Desk 3.0, JMP, and StatView are time
series, principal components, and discriminant analysis; if you don’t need any of these procedures, you should select one of the other three packages, which have better charts and exploratory-data-analysis procedures.

**Graphics Tools**

The charts available in these packages differ in range, quality, and flexibility. Overall, SYSTAT is the most flexible program for graphical representation of numerical data (see Figure 2). It’s the only program whose basic package provides the capability to create color charts, and it has the most-comprehensive procedures for data exploration. SYSTAT features some unusual displays, such as mapping, polar graphs, contours, and 3-D scatterplots, as well as more-traditional ones. Drawing tools are available for dressing up any plot and changing the font of axis labels and titles (see Figure 3). SYSTAT’s interactive exploratory chart tools (3-D rotating plots, brushing, and slicing, for example) aren’t available in SPSS and Minitab.

SPSS’ graphics displays are available in low-resolution mode only, although the package provides an interface to Computer Associate’s Cricket Graph, so you can create high-quality scatterplots and charts. CA-Cricket Graph lets you add color to your graphs and plots, but it cannot create 3-D scatterplots or contour plots.

Minitab produces most of its analytical charts in the Output window in low-resolution mode. You can create traditional scatterplots and bar and pie charts with high-resolution in separate graphics windows, but you can’t edit or include titles in these charts. Color is not available.

**Memory and Hardware Requirements**

Minitab, SPSS, and SYSTAT differ vastly in terms of their memory and hardware requirements. Minitab requires the least hard-disk space (2.5 megabytes) and can run in only 1 megabyte of RAM. SPSS needs plenty of hard-disk space (ranging from 6 to 15 megabytes), depending on how many modules you install, and at least 2 megabytes of RAM.

---

**Figure 3:** SYSTAT offers a rotating 3-D scatterplot. Three tools (on the lower left) locate and select points to investigate further. Note the tear-off Stats and Graph menus.

**Figure 4:** We tested each application’s speed by performing four common operations on a Mac SE/30 with 4 megabytes of RAM running under MultiFinder. The regression times include computing and saving residuals for sets of 400 and 1,200 cases. The time-series-analysis times include ARIMA modeling and ACF and PACF plots. Forecasts were both computed and saved. The charting times compare how the programs performed when creating low- and high-resolution scatterplots. The SPSS times include the time needed to transport the data to CA-Cricket Graph. The data-import times compare how long it took each application to import a tab-delimited ASCII file containing 400 cases.
Number Crunching

SYSTAT needs very little hard-disk space (only 3 to 4 megabytes), but it eats up RAM. The minimum requirement is listed as 4 megabytes, and this is truly a minimum. We couldn’t perform all the plots and analyses for this article on an SE/30 with 4 megabytes, and we couldn’t use other applications under MultiFinder at the same time. As this article went to press, SYSTAT announced a 2-megabyte version of SYSTAT 5.0 that should alleviate these problems.

Processing Speed

To test these programs’ processing speed, we used the same tests we used to rate Data Desk 3.0, Exstatax, JMP, and StatView in last April’s review. Using a Mac SE/30 with 4 megabytes of RAM running under MultiFinder, we tested each application’s speed by performing four common operations: regression (including computing and saving residuals), time-series analysis (ARIMA modeling and ACF and PACF plots), charting low- and high-resolution scatterplots, and importing a tab-delimited ASCII file containing 400 cases. Figure 4 shows the results.

If you’re looking for speed, SPSS and Minitab are the fastest, although Minitab is slow at data importing. In almost all our tests, SYSTAT brings up the rear. It’s not only slower than Minitab and SPSS, but in many cases, it’s slower than other statistical packages for the Mac. It’s important to note, however, that we tested the 4-megabyte version of SYSTAT 5.0; the slimmed-down 2-megabyte version is much less memory-intensive.

Unique Features

Each of these programs has its own unique qualities; you have to look at them individually to get the full picture.

Minitab 6.2. Minitab is much leaner than the other two packages in terms of procedural availability, charting capabilities, and interface design, but don’t be deceived by its Spartan character. Its command language is easy to learn, even for someone who comes solely from a Mac background, and it is fast for running analyses. You can edit a command-procedure file with miniWRITER (see Figure 5), a text-editor DA that comes with Minitab. A nice feature is the ability to build and nest macros to automate complicated analyses.

Minitab also handles data well. You can easily create, manipulate, and save variables (such as residuals) in regression analyses with easy-to-learn commands such as “PUT RESIDS INTO C3.”

This package would be much easier to use if its skimpy manual and on-line help were beefed up. Both of these need more general statistics information, more explanations about procedural options, and more examples. The manual clearly explains commands for common analyses, but commands for more esoteric ones (such as the ARIMA model, described in the “Time-Series Analysis” sidebar) are harder to figure out.

Minitab may well be your best choice if you need quick answers to research questions and you have other applications for doing your presentation graphics.

SPSS for the Macintosh 4.0. With its many modules, SPSS provides most procedures that professional analysts need. You pay for this wide range of procedures, however, in both software costs and disk space.

SPSS has many features — such as excellent on-line help, the useful Command Generator, and clear documentation — that make its non-Mac interface easier to use.

Although you can’t change the font size and style in SPSS’ Output window, you can edit text to include comments, remove items, or relabel output tables. A handy rectangular editing tool in this window enables columnar cutting and pasting (see Figure 6).

Graphically, SPSS has some flaws. Linking SPSS to CA-Cricket Graph for high-resolution charting is indirect and limited by CA-Cricket Graph’s somewhat narrow options. To generate a CA-Cricket Graph file, you have to submit the CRICKET command in SPSS with a list of...
**Visual Data Analysis: Not Just a Pretty Face**

Scientists and engineers at large research facilities have incredible computer power at their disposal, but a growing number of them are spending much of their time sitting in front of a Macintosh — and loving it. The Mac's ease of use, convenience, and large software library are among the things that have attracted them. In many cases, however, the drawing cards is the Macintosh's great graphics capabilities, which allow scientists to convert data into graphics for visual analysis.

Recent Macintosh applications have given users the ability to compress as many as a million points of data in a single color graphic. Add animation to it, and you can then display many times more data in rapid sequence. A lot of modern researchers use these techniques in association with mathematical and statistical modeling in order to gain the broadest possible spectrum of viewpoints for understanding a research project.

It's not only high-level researchers who make use of visual data analysis. There are a number of commonly used programs that let Macintosh users investigate data from a visual standpoint — these range from home-investment applications that let you plot stock-market trends to the mathematics and statistics programs that are discussed in this article.

Figure A shows a simulated supernova blast wave created by scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, using Image software from NCSA (the National Center for Supercomputing Applications). The NCSA created some of the first high-end visual-data-analysis applications for the Macintosh, and this project produced observation predictions to be tested with the Hubble space telescope.

NCSA Image, DataScope, and PalEdit are all public-domain software (free if you download it; $30 on-disk) that can transform large data sets into 8-bit-color graphics and that let users edit the palette for optimum effect. NCSA, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 605 E. Springfield Ave., Champaign, IL 61820; (217) 244-0072.

Spyglass markets four software products that have their origins in NCSA's public-domain software: View ($395), Transform ($395), Dicer ($495), and Format ($195). Although they have the same file format as the NCSA applications, Spyglass has polished them and added new functions. Dicer, for example, lets you view cross-sections of a color matrix (see Figure B). Spyglass Transform and Spyglass View were released earlier this year (see review, October '90, page 72); Dicer and Format should be available by the time you read this. Spyglass, Inc., 701 Devonshire Drive, C-17, Champaign, IL 61820; (217) 355-1665.

Igor ($295) is a data-analysis tool for scientists and engineers (see review, August '90, page 48). Its analysis capabilities include a general mathematical-expression evaluator, a whole range of curve-processing operations, and a macro facility. Igor's data analysis is based on a data structure called a wave. Each wave consists of a one-dimensional array of numbers; you can create as many waves as you need.

One of Igor's uses is in curve fitting, in which researchers create a math function to model data derived from experiments — for instance, the widths of laser pulses (see Figure C). WaveMetrics, Inc., P.O. Box 2088, Lake Oswego, OR 97035; (503) 630-3001.

— Scott Beamer
variables and with the chart type you need. Generating the chart requires you to leave SPSS and then open CA-Cricket Graph and the newly generated Cricket data file.

**SYSTAT 5.0.** SYSTAT 5.0 is easier to use than and remedies many of the drawbacks of previous versions but at the cost of intensive memory requirements. Its interface is now much more Mac-like, and access to its abundant statistics and charting procedures is through two convenient tear-off, hierarchical menus. It has kept some of the slow and awkward data- and variable-handling features of its earlier versions, however.

The package has exploratory-data-analysis tools, such as scatterplot brushing and selecting (see Figure 3). You can use these tools to locate outliers in the Data Editor and to make subsets of a plot’s data values for other analyses.

SYSTAT’s 3-D spinning plots let you probe your data for interesting relationships that are not visible in fixed views. These tools aren’t as extensive and flexible as those in JMP and Data Desk 3.0, but they’re superior to anything that Minotab and SPSS offer.

SYSTAT has flexible and easy-to-use charting procedures, but its speed problems, memory limitations (in the 4-megabyte version), and awkward data handling can be annoying. Unlike SPSS and Minotab, SYSTAT can’t hold new variables created by procedures in memory; instead, users must open new files in which to store them. Constructing a chart with a variable from the original data set and a newly computed variable requires you to cut and paste to combine the two data sets. To perform analyses by subgroups (by sex, for example), you have to present the data set by the grouping variable, save it in a new file, and then open the new file for the subgrouping analysis. In SPSS or Minotab, a one- or two-word “by sex” subcommand performs the same analysis.

**The Final Analysis**

If you want sophisticated statistical analysis, note that each of these packages requires some study before you can fully make use of its features. Expect also to face some performance trade-offs when deciding which application to buy. If you get SYSTAT expecting the intuitive interface of the typical Mac application, you’ll be disappointed. Yes, it has dialog boxes and tear-off menus, but selecting options in its jam-packed dialog boxes is not a trivial feat. On the other hand, if you choose SPSS and Minotab because you’re familiar with their DOS or VAX counterparts, you may end up limiting the data exploration you can do. You’ll also lose efficiency if you have to use other software for your graphics.

Whichever package you select, you’ll be happy that you no longer need to rely on other platforms to answer the research questions you want to ask.

Statistics programs can’t do everything, however. If you want to be able to manipulate algebraic equations on your Mac at a fairly sophisticated level, a program such as Prescience’s Theorist or Wolfram Research’s Mathematica may be what you need.

**Two Modern Math Labs**

Since the advent of personal computers, businesspeople have been able to ask what-if questions and find quick answers on computers. What if a loan was paid off a year sooner or a contractor’s final costs were twice the projected amount? Plot the right equations into Lotus 1-2-3 or Excel, and out pop the answers. Scientists, however, have rarely had this luxury, because most spreadsheets are poor at understanding the equations of matrices, integrals and derivatives, vectors, and complex numbers that describe the physical world.

Lately, several math programs that deal with equations have come to the rescue. These packages are modern-day mathematics labs, letting users enter, manipulate, and visualize the behavior of mathematical expressions. Two of the most popular and powerful such
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Number Crunching

Figure 7: Theorist provides many library notebooks that contain preprogrammed common mathematical operations. Every new Theorist notebook contains default definitions that you can delete, modify, or add to.

programs for the Mac are Mathematica (see "Enter Mathematica," November '88, page 199) and Theorist (see review, June '90, page 57).

Yin and Yang

Mathematica and Theorist evolved over disparate paths into programs with similar capabilities but very different user interfaces. Theorist is published by Prescience, which produces Expressionist (see review, July '90, page 80), an intuitive and much-acclaimed DA for mathematical typesetting. Expressionist knows all the rules about typography and sizes for producing pictures of equations, but it knows none of the rules for solving and manipulating them. After receiving countless requests, Prescience developed Theorist as a tool for solving, manipulating, graphing, and animating the equations Expressionist can typeset. Not surprisingly, moving equations between Expressionist and Theorist is a simple matter of standard cut and paste.

Theorist adheres strictly to the WYSIWYG doctrine, displaying equations in "standard" mathematical notation, complete with integral signs, superscripts, and proper punctuation (see Figure 7). (There is also a FORTRAN-like mode for those who'd rather work in a procedural language.) When the program performs calculations, changes take effect immediately, so you're never left wondering whether the current display needs to be updated. With Theorist, you can also manipulate equations by using point-and-drag techniques.

Mathematica takes a different approach to symbolic math. It has a command-line interface and block-character representation of equations that differs from the textbook manner of representing them.

The program requires that all input comprise linear rows of symbols, the same way equations are expressed in computer languages such as FORTRAN. Calculations are performed in batches by the command-processor kernel, the "core" of the program, which turns commands into output. The kernel defaults to returning its output in a hybrid linear-row format (see Figure 8). If you wish, you can save output equations in a file format readable by the popular TeX equation-formatting language, which is understood by a variety of Mac word processors.

Math Muscle

Interface aside, Mathematica and Theorist are built to perform many of the same tasks. Both programs can solve integral and differential equations, either numerically or exactly, if possible and if within their repertoires of known solutions. Both can factor polynomials and simplify complicated expressions. Both can solve systems of linear equations and perform matrix manipulations. Both can work with complex numbers and geometric and trigonometric functions. And both programs come with extensive libraries of special functions such as Bessel and gamma functions that you can extend indefinitely.

Mathematica performs all calculations exactly (or symbolically) unless you ask for numerical results, although you can instruct it to print any answer to a specific number of decimal places. There's no limit to how large or small numbers can be. Theorist maintains rational expressions in native form if desired, but it truncates individual numbers to 19 decimal places. Most users will notice no difference between the programs.

Both of them use the notebook metaphor. When first launched, each program opens up a text-editor-like screen, where you enter equations. As the session progresses, the programs retain information and you can edit, move, or save it as desired. Once you've collected a set of definitions, equations, and/or graphs that might be useful in the future, you can save the notebook as a starting point for later work (see Figure 7 for an example of Theorist's notebooks).

You can program both Theorist and Mathematica,
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although only Mathematica supports procedural programs, which are similar to having a macro language available. This means that Theorist and Mathematica can accept definitions such as \( a = 5 \) or rules such as \( \text{the function MYFUNCTION is defined to produce the reciprocal of the sine of its argument} \) and apply them when appropriate. Mathematica, however, lets you go beyond solving equations to automating the procedures used to solve them.

**Graphic Math**

When it comes to charting, Theorist and Mathematica can handle simple x-y plots, contour plots, parametric plots, and various kinds of 3-D plots. Both support full 32-bit color, with striking results. And both programs can animate sets of graphs — useful for visualizing the effects of modifying one parameter of an equation.

Theorist’s graphs and animations are easier to create and modify than are Mathematica’s. With Theorist, creating a graph requires selecting the appropriate equation and then selecting the desired graph type from a menu (see Figure 9). You change characteristics such as size, scale, perspective, and color by using menus, buttons, and a list of charting characteristics that accompanies each graph.

Mathematica generates each chart from a command

---

**Math Alternatives**

If you don’t need all of Theorist’s and Mathematica’s power and functions but still want a program that has some math muscle, here are a couple of programs to consider.

**Maple 4.2.1**

Maple, a popular algebra program on IBM, Digital, and Honeywell mainframe computers, has now been adapted to run on the Mac. The Mac version ($395) is somewhat akin to Maple’s procedural language to textual and expressions to be evaluated. The session notebook keeps track of your work.

**Figure E:** Milo contains ready-to-use files with useful physical constants and procedures for performing common tasks such as finding square and cubic roots.

**Milo 1.0**

Paracomp’s Milo ($249), a “math processor,” bears some resemblance to Theorist (see review, July ’90, page 80). It shares Theorist’s qualities of being true to the Mac WYSIWYG interface, it’s extensible through notebooks and rule sharing, and it doesn’t have a procedural programming language. Milo performs symbolic mathematical manipulations competently, but it’s less powerful than Theorist.

Milo’s user manual lacks some elements. It presents a thorough description of what each command is for and then neglects to show the command action for performing tasks such as solving sets of simultaneous equations. Milo supports the creation of x-y graphs, but you can’t use it to create color or 3-D plots.

Milo is the least expensive product of the four reviewed here and is also the least hungry for raw hardware — a Mac Plus and a floppy-disk drive can run Milo comfortably — so it will appeal to many less demanding yet inquisitive mathematicians. High-school and college students who want to investigate the behavior of the vectors and integrals they study will find Milo up to the task. It could also be useful for budding geniuses taking their first algebra or geometry course in gradeschool. Its well-designed user interface, which lets you enter equations in many different ways, makes the job a little easier too. Paracomp, Inc., 123 Townsend St., Suite 310, San Francisco, CA 94107; (415) 543-3848.
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Number Crunching

Figure 9: Theorist charts are always followed by a set of descriptive statements. By typing and clicking, you can change the color, shading, and orientation of a graph interactively.

batch, building up the chart from elementary pieces such as line segments and polygons. It then produces the chart in PostScript, which is interpreted into the QuickDraw picture you see on-screen (see Figure 10). Each time you change a parameter, you must modify the command (which often requires a trip to the user manual) and repeat the process.

Which Is for Me?

Although Mathematica and Theorist solve similar problems, differences in their user interfaces and networking capabilities, and even in their cost, will ultimately determine which program is best for a particular application. In a few cases, the decision will be clear-cut, because one package has a required feature and the other doesn’t. In other cases, the question of which program’s interface feels more comfortable to a particular user will carry more weight.

Both Mathematica and Theorist are well-designed and well-implemented programs. Their documentation is complete and thorough, and technical support by phone (and by fax and an electronic bulletin board, in the case of Mathematica) should quickly remedy any serious problems. If cost is an important consideration, note that Theorist, at $379.95, is less expensive than Mathematica, which costs $495 ($795 for the Mac II version).

As with any open-ended, memory-intensive program on the Mac, both Theorist and Mathematica have the habit of running out of memory when generating especially complex graphs or solving particularly involved equations (although Theorist is leaner and can run simple 3-D animations with 1 megabyte of RAM). Operating without MultiFinder and with as much RAM as possible, as well as cutting back on the number of IN1Ts in your System Folder, helps. (System 7.0's virtual-memory capabilities will also alleviate this problem—if you have hardware that supports it). Both programs usually exit gracefully from such memory shortages and tell you what has happened.

So how to choose? Here are a few features you may want to look at when deciding:

Interface. Theorist is a Mac application in the true sense. The menus, icon bars, graph buttons, and input system—in short, all aspects of the program—were designed to be easy to understand and use (see Figure 10). The dialog boxes that pop up periodically to ask for help in defining unknowns are exceptionally clear. The format of notebooks makes it easy to collect a set of definitions you use often and keep it handy. And the immediate feedback Theorist provides after every manipulation adds confidence that you’re on the right track.

On the other hand, Mathematica is a tool that will please high-end programmers. It is sufficiently un-Mac-like to make even the most devout UNIX users happy and contains a book full of commands to master. It makes good use of the Mac’s charting abilities and even adds nice Mac-style controls to the notebook editor, so you can cut, paste, and otherwise manipulate previous work easily. Its programming language is a fun tool for the curious to explore—you can use it to perform arcane tasks such as list processing and generation.

Network compatibility. Mathematica is supported not only on the Mac but also on other personal computers and on many UNIX workstations and supercomputers. All implementations of the Mathematica kernel are compatible as long as they have the same version number.

Mathematica for the Mac has a networking window and protocols, so you can make connections to other Mathematica kernels. Usually you can manipulate equations efficiently without networking, but for especially
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large calculations, the ability to use the friendly Mac interface and the raw number-crunching power of a remote computer is crucial. Theorist works only on the Mac and includes no networking capability (other than simple AppleTalk-supported file sharing).

Even if you're a lone Mac user and don't require the computational assistance of a workstation or supercomputer, you may find the ability to export Mathematica charts in native PostScript helpful. Both Mathematica and Theorist can save graphs as PICT2 items.

Procedural programming. For most applications, complex programming is not required. For some sophisticated tasks, however — such as finding roots or solving simultaneous equations — complicated functions involving decision loops or iteration are necessary. If you need these functions, Mathematica is your only choice.

The Best Fit

High-school and college math students, as well as professionals who need to automate equation manipulation, will be happiest with Theorist's capabilities. Formula-typing errors are easy to see, and you can instantly prepare complex graphs from equations. Graph default settings are well chosen and easy to change. Theorist doesn't require users to have any prior knowledge of computer programming, and it makes fewer demands on system memory and disk space than does Mathematica.

Many commercial scientists and engineers who need quick solutions to integrals or fast plots of a theory will also be pleased with Theorist's capabilities. Users who need to develop functions with procedural programming or who are networked into workstations or supercomputers running Mathematica — and who don't mind taking the time to learn its sometimes contorted procedural language — will appreciate Mathematica's additional capabilities. Often, these are users with Macs that have more than 5 megabytes of memory and plenty of disk space for intensive Mathematica sessions.

A growing number of serious number-crunching programs are filtering into the Macintosh world from other platforms; still more are being created especially for the Mac and Mac-only users. With tools such as these, the Mac can be a serious high-end tool for study, research, and analysis.

Linda Custer, a research biochemical engineer at W.R. Grace & Co. in Columbia, Maryland, reviews science, engineering, and mathematical software. Minna Levine is a statistics and market-research consultant based in Belmont, Massachusetts. She writes about business applications for DOS machines and the Mac.

**The Bottom Line**

Minitab 6.2, SPSS for the Macintosh 4.0, and SYSTAT 5.0

These high-end statistics packages allow you to perform sophisticated procedures such as time-series analyses. Deciding which statistics package to buy boils down to knowing which procedures you must have and how much money you can afford to spend.

If you need lots of procedures and can afford all its modules, SPSS ($795; additional modules, $395 each) is the top choice. If you need procedures, such as multivariate or ARIMA procedures, that are more sophisticated than those available in a lower-priced statistics package but you have limited funds and limited hardware, Minitab ($695) is best. If you need lots of procedures and high-quality charts, go for SYSTAT ($795; additional modules, $110).

Remember, however, that with SPSS or Minitab, you not only need an additional charting package but you also miss out on the fun of using the Mac's interactive graphical interface to explore your data.

Mathematica from Wolfram Research (left) and Theorist from Prescience (right) are symbolic-algebra programs. Mathematica has a procedural language that lets you automate procedures; Theorist offers powerful equation manipulation with a friendly Mac interface.

Mathematica and Theorist

Mathematica and Theorist are powerful equation solvers. Theorist from Prescience ($379.95) has an easy-to-use Mac interface and can prepare even complex graphs from equations instantly. It does not require any prior knowledge of computer programming, and it makes fewer demands on system memory and disk space than does Mathematica. Complex procedural programming is not possible.

Wolfram Research's Mathematica ($495; Mac II version, $795) is more suitable for users who need to develop functions by using procedural programming or who are networked into mainframes running Mathematica on other platforms. Mathematica is memory-intensive and requires you to learn its difficult syntax.
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### Table 1: Features of Minitab, SPSS, and SYSTAT

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**Minitab, Inc.**
3081 Enterprise Drive
State College, PA 16801
(800) 448-3555

**SPSS, Inc.**
444 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 329-3300

**SYSTAT, Inc.**
1800 Sherman Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
(708) 864-5670

### Table 2: Features of Mathematica and Theorist

<table>
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<th>Wolfram Research</th>
<th>Pre知识分子</th>
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<td><strong>Automatic simultaneous-equation solving</strong></td>
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**Wolfram Research, Inc.**
P.O. Box 6059
Champaign, IL 61826
(217) 398-0700

**Pre知识分子 Corp.**
814 Castro St.
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 282-5864
This is your hard disk severely fragmented

This is how a typical fragmented hard disk looks. The abuse fragmentation can deal is a crime, and it's causing a national epidemic in offices everywhere. But the more you use your computer, the more your files are spread all over your hard disk. As a result, your disk has to work a whole lot harder than it has to. And increased head movement not only slows down your file access times, it will slow you down, too.

This is your hard disk defragmented

Even defragmentation software can't help much. Wimpy defraggers just place pieces of individual files adjacent to each other. Defraggers just don't have the intelligence to constantly monitor your file usage. So, any increases in performance are modest and only temporary, disappearing as soon as you use your computer again.

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We bring good things to life.
There's more to clip art than meets the eye. Here's how to choose, edit, and use it — plus a look at some of the top packages.

Everything from a simple letter to a company's quarterly statement can be improved with the right graphic. Since most of us have only minimal artistic talent, there's a booming market in precreated graphics, called clip art. This "canned" artwork has several advantages: It's always ready for use; it never wears out, no matter how often you use it; it can be edited and arranged in countless combinations; and it can be cataloged in any way that suits you.

At least 60 companies — ranging from the traditional clip-art giants (Dynamic Graphics, Metro ImageBase) to mom-and-pop shops (Artbeats, 3G Graphics) — produce electronic artwork for the Mac. Size doesn't equate with quality, however; some of the best efforts come from the smallest clip-art companies, who lovingly craft each image rather than mass-produce artwork by scanning in and cleaning up images from a paper-based library.

With so much to choose from, how do you find the artwork that meets your needs? First, consider the use — are you creating newsletters, advertisements, slide presentations, or party invitations? The output format can greatly affect your choice of file type and drawing style. What subject categories do you need? Clip-art themes
range from popular (business, sports, holidays) to specialized (medical, military, maps). What hardware and software will you be using to import, edit, and print the images? Do you need color artwork? Don't invest in color EPS images if your only printer is an ImageWriter. On the other hand, if you plan to edit your artwork in Illustrator, a library of MacPaint images will be of little value. Do you prefer images with coarse or fine resolution? MacPaint images have a resolution of 72 dpi (dots per inch), providing grainy images that are prone to the jaggies; a TIFF package might offer smoother images with 300-dpi resolutions. Do you need a steady stream of new images? Several companies, such as Dynamic Graphics and Multi-Ad Services, offer subscription services. To get you started, here's some sage advice on clip artistry, including information on file formats and the storing and editing of images. Although we don't have space to list every clip-art company and its offerings, we've reviewed a few of our favorites and compiled a list of 20 vendors that produce a broad range of artwork so that you can compare prices, formats, and subject matter. (Some packages in the table have been reviewed previously; see “Clip-Art Collections,” August '89, page 173, and “Classy Clip Art,” October '89, page 229.) In future issues, we'll review packages that cover single topics and “treasure troves” of information. In addition to a pictorial catalog of the supplied patterns, a full-color section shows the various effects you can achieve by editing and coloring the tiles. There's also a guide to meshing the patterns with your artwork, some basics on selecting and moving objects, printing tips, and even procedures for making your own patterns. If you use Illustrator and want to extend both your business and artistic potential, this package is a must. Because they are stored as mathematically described objects and paths, object-oriented graphics can be resized directly import them into a page-layout program. Instead, you must create an Illustrator document, use one or more patterns, and then save the final image as EPS. Capsule Reviews

Adobe Collector's Edition: Patterns and Textures

If you're an Illustrator user and haven't yet gotten your fill of clip art, then the Adobe Collector's Edition: Patterns and Textures is the package for you. This superb collection of pattern-filled files has something for everyone, whether the job is advertising, architecture, interior design, mapping, or textile design. The 400 or so PostScript patterns include dot and line screens (simple and graduated); basic and nature-based textures; geometric, primitive, and ornamental patterns; and the standard patterns used in architecture, mapmaking, weather reporting, and geology. Each fill has repeating elements, or tiles, that you can apply to any shape to produce a seamless patterned area (see example below). Some patterns are transparent, so you can use them to simulate shadows or window screening. As with Adobe's first Collector's Edition (Symbols, Borders & Letterforms), the artwork is pretty plain as is. But that's OK, because Adobe expects you to jazz it up. All the patterns are black-and-white, but the identical elements of each pattern are subgrouped so that you can easily add shading or color (see example at left). The patterns are not saved as EPS files, so you can't two major types of electronic graphics (see Figure 1). Bit-mapped images are stored as layouts of individual pixels, or bits, whereas object-oriented clip art is composed of a series of drawing instructions. Bit maps are the default graphic type for anything that's scanned, painted, or captured from the screen. Many artists prefer the versatility of bit-mapped artwork for images with a hand-drawn or -painted look (see Figure 2). For example, you can create stippling and cross-hatching effects (such as electronic "woodcuts") much more easily with bit-mapped images than with object-oriented art. Bit-mapped images do have two major drawbacks: They are prone to the jaggies if they are reduced, enlarged, or rotated, and their resolution can't be altered to take advantage of a printer's output capabilities. Object-oriented images overcome these limitations. Because they are stored as mathematically described objects and paths, object-oriented graphics can be resized.
Club Graphics and a few other companies offer clip-art packages in PICT or PICT2 format, which can hold both object-oriented and bit-mapped art in a range of colors and resolutions. PICT and PICT2 are also the formats in which the Clipboard and the Scrapbook transfer their contents among applications.

Today, most new clip-art packages are in EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) format. The growing popularity of this object-oriented format stems from its clean, sophisticated images and crisp handling of fine details, text, and graduated fills. EPS images can be monochrome, grayscale, or color, and they print at the highest resolution available (see Figure 3). Instead of showing the actual PostScript image on-screen, EPS files display a quick-rendering preview image (in PICT format) that's a bit-mapped approximation of the printed image.

The editability of EPS clip art depends on how the file was saved. Most clip-art companies market EPS images saved as Illustrator files, which can be opened for full both high- and low-contrast versions for versatility — and prices range from $79.95 to $129.95. Potential uses include book and report covers, stationery, advertisements, packaging, party invitations, and checks (see "Avid" box).

All images are created in FreeHand and take advantage of that program's facility with PostScript blends. Some images are transparent, so you can place them over text or other backgrounds.

For instance, place the word Party behind the Confetti background (Potpourri collection), and you have an instant invitation. Because you can crop and size the backgrounds as you can any other graphic, you can even turn them into shaped fills and borders.

The disks include both the original FreeHand files (for editing purposes) and EPS files ready to drop into your favorite page-layout program. The images look great just as they are, but if you want to edit them, you need some familiarity with FreeHand and its handling of colors and fills. Then you can open a background such as Droplets (above) and apply sweeping changes, from altering the background color or shadows to changing the direction and intensity of the graduated fills. The manuals provide helpful design ideas plus tips on editing the original artwork. (At press time, Artbeats was about to release a CD-ROM disc containing all five packages plus Illustrator 88 versions of the files and several business-card templates.)

These are large and complex backgrounds — one file can be several hundred kilobytes — which means they demand RAM and take a while to print. To speed up printing, the EPS images in all packages purchased after May 16 include new PostScript code that prints graduated fills up to 80 percent faster. Still, be forewarned that the average printing time is two minutes. With Artbeats' images, however, the result is worth the wait.

Clipables

C.A.R.'s Clipables ($149.95) is an enormous collection of EPS artwork, comprising some 600 images scattered across 17 disks — a whopping 10 megabytes of data in all. Overall, this is a comprehensive, economical package with nicely drawn images. C.A.R. also plans to offer periodic supplements of 120 to 200 images, and a CD-ROM disc with more than 2,000 images will appear in early 1991.

As you might expect from a general-purpose library that tries to cover everything, Clipables is a broad but shallow package. Topics include animals, business, dingbats, mortises, people, holidays, humor, maps, sports, and transportation. The collection lacks computers.
Clip Artistry

Figure 2: If you want clip art with a hand-drawn look, check out MacPaint or TIFF packages. EPS images may be crisper, but they can’t easily reproduce sketchpad effects such as cross-hatching and stippling. This 300-dpi TIFF image comes from Metro ImageBase’s ReportMaker collection.

Clip Artistry

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Figure 2: If you want clip art with a hand-drawn look, check out MacPaint or TIFF packages. EPS images may be crisper, but they can’t easily reproduce sketchpad effects such as cross-hatching and stippling. This 300-dpi TIFF image comes from Metro ImageBase’s ReportMaker collection.

Format Follows Function

Although you can use the same clip art for a variety of purposes, you should choose a file format based on your primary output medium, because the type of output can significantly affect image quality. Here are some pointers to help you choose your graphics for the job at hand.

*PostScript printer.* PostScript printers intended for personal and business use have resolutions of between 300 and 600 dpi. You can also obtain PostScript output from many QuickDraw printers by using PostScript-interpretation software such as CAI’s Freedom of Press. In either case, EPS is the file format of choice, because it takes full advantage of the printer’s PostScript capabilities.

*Non-PostScript printer.* Printers such as the LaserWriter IIISC and HP DeskWriter can’t interpret the PostScript language, so they print only the bit-mapped preview portion of EPS images. These printers handle MacPaint, grayscale-TIFF, and PICT images quite well, however.

If you must print an EPS image on a non-PostScript device, the trick is to produce the best-looking preview image possible. To do this, open the EPS file in FreeHand or Illustrator, select the entire image, and scale it up 400 percent. This forces the preview image to be large and detailed. Resave the EPS file, import it into your layout, and reduce the image to one-fourth of its size. The result is an effective increase in resolution to about 300 dpi.

*High-resolution imagesetter.* Imagesetters have resolutions of 1,200 dpi or more and are perfect for printing particularly erratic. Some montages are subgrouped for easy separation and coloring, whereas elements of other images (pie-chart slices, countries on maps) are difficult to manipulate. For example, most of the people are Caucasian, but if image elements aren’t grouped, changing skin coloring can be a challenge. In addition, the artwork suffers from occasional sloppiness. Some images are only partially opaque—one businessman’s face is opaque but parts of his hand and shirt are transparent. The state maps’ shadows vary in size from negligible to bizarrely large.

The manual is basic, but it includes pictures of all the images. There’s no index, which would have been invaluable in locating images in such a vast collection. Although Clipables may not meet your every need, few other collections offer so much, in both quantity and quality, for so little. We think it’s worth the investment.

MacGallery

Dream Maker Software, which markets the Cliputures series of EPS artwork, also offers a modest MacPaint package called MacGallery ($49.95). This whimsical collection is definitely not business-oriented; instead, it’s ideal for children’s publications, newsletters, flyers, invitations, and announcements. The more than 400 images are all original illustrations and include holidays, food, sports, borders, phrases, mortises, animals, plants, and babies.

As always, there are images that fall outside the...
clip art with smooth gradients, sharp lines, and high-resolution bit maps. All the comments for PostScript laser printers apply here; in addition, the resolution of bit-mapped images should be 300 dpi for monochrome graphics and at least 150 dpi for gray-scale and color artwork.

Color separation. EPS and TIFF are your best bets, depending on the type of graphic. If you have a PICT2 bit-mapped image, use a color painting or image-editing program to convert it to TIFF format.

Screen presentation. If you need clip art for projected presentations, self-running demos or hypermedia, then high-resolution images will only slow things down and eat up disk space. A monitor is a low-res solution device, so a 72-dpi MacPaint image looks just fine. PICT and TIFF images (both monochrome and color) are also acceptable. If you have a favorite EPS image you really must show, use FreeHand or Illustrator to open (not place) the file and size it. Display the artwork with all its assigned colors and line weights, and then take a “snapshot” of the image with a screen-capture utility such as Capture, QuickShot, or SnapJot. You now have a compact, low-resolution PICT2 bit map that you can paste or place into your presentation.

Slides. A film recorder can turn your presentation into sharp-looking 35mm slides. As with printers, film recorders can be divided into PostScript and non-PostScript units, so many of the same comments apply. PostScript-driven film recorders output EPS images beautifully, and the other clip-art formats perform almost as well. Non-PostScript film recorders work best with MacPaint and PICT images; they can print only the bit-mapped preview portion of EPS images. If you need to include an EPS image, the scaling technique described for non-PostScript printers can help you obtain good-quality output.

Artful Management

Once you’ve purchased a few clip-art packages, you quickly learn that finding an image can be a time-consuming chore if you haven’t organized your collection. Some clip-art suppliers have thoughtfully included utilities for browsing through and accessing their collections. For example, both Dubl-Click and T/Maker provide DAs that let you open, scale, edit, and copy MacPaint images. Dubl-Click’s ArtRoundup also has a...
How Many Programs To Change A
Does It Take Light Bulb?

It's amazing how many kinds of light illuminate our world. From lamps that burn brightly to sparks that flicker warmly, light is all around us. So while nature offers sunbeams that blaze and moonbeams that shimmer, Man creates fluorescent that flash and neon that flickers. Yet, perhaps most scintillating is the light that kindles our hearts with its own kind of resplendent radiance— for it shines the brightest of all.

This is no joke. Because now it takes just one program to do everything you see in this ad. In fact, Adobe Illustrator software Version 3.0 did just that. So if you'd like to discover what this remarkable new program can do for you, call 1-800-344-8335 for the name of your nearest Adobe Authorized Dealer (outside the U.S.A. and Canada, call your local distributor). It could be enlightening.
Clip Artistry

Figure 4: Three-dimensional clip art has high visual impact. You manipulate and combine 3-D objects by using bundled programs and then export them to other applications in the common Mac file formats. This image is from Paracomp’s new SwivelArt collection.

Slideshow feature that lets you browse through many files at once without having to open and close each one.

If your clip-art packages don’t come with such goodies, don’t fret. There are other ways, both basic and specialized, to organize your art. For images stored on a hard disk, the simplest scheme is to sort them into appropriately named folders. You can view each folder’s contents by name, date modified, type (creator), size, and icon color. A file-finding utility can locate the occasional lost needle. (A few companies, such as Metro ImageBase, use cryptic codes as filenames, which means you have to rename the files if you want descriptive titles.)

For browsing through a clip-art collection, albeit slowly, you can use applications you already own. Page-layout, presentation, and drawing programs can import or directly open a variety of formats. Several applications, including Digital Darkroom, ImageStudio, and Studio/8, show a preview image in the Open dialog box. You can use outlining programs such as Acta, MindWrite, and MORE (or Word’s Outline view) to store and catalog an art collection. Equipped with the organizational tools of the outlined, you can sort, search, hide, and/or display the art and then copy or print it.

HyperCard 1.2.5 stores only 72-dpi MacPaint bit maps, although you can use the Clipboard to transfer other images in PICT format. If that suits your needs, you can create a stack that holds your art and assign words and phrases so you can search through the collection by name. (A few vendors, such as Spinnaker and T/Maker, offer their MacPaint collections as HyperCard stacks.)

Spinnaker’s Plus and Silicon Beach’s SuperCard go a step further, letting you store color PICT and PICT2 images and offering 8-bit-color painting and drawing tools to boot.

Clipboard and scrapbook utilities are a notch up the organizational scale. SmartScrap, from Solutions International, functionally replaces Apple’s Scrapbook. DA and offers expanded capabilities such as image naming, searching, thumbnail views, and the ability to select a portion of an image for copying. You can use the Option-Copy command to copy EPS art into SmartScrap and then paste it into any application that accepts PICT format. You can distribute your images among several scrapbook files and name them whatever you like. A companion

Capsule Reviews

ClickArt

T/Maker’s ClickArt is the oldest and best-selling clip art for the Mac. The ClickArt library currently consists of six MacPaint packages ($49.95 each) and three EPS offerings ($129.95 each). All the MacPaint packages include a HyperCard stack of the images and a DA called ClipOut that lets you open files, edit the images, and then paste selections into other applications. Although this isn’t the most sophisticated MacPaint artwork on the market (Dubl-Click’s WetPaint collections are arguably better), it serves most purposes quite well.

Business Images offers simple dingbat-type graphics such as arrows, logos, and flowchart symbols plus pictograms of people, animals, and equipment. Personal Graphics and Publications contain a variety of images in assorted art styles. They’re a bit unfocused but could be useful for fliers, invitations, and newsletters. Publications includes some nice illustrated headlines and decorative alphabets. The Holidays collection covers the usual events, although it’s not as complete as some other vendors’ offerings. If you require religious art, take a look at the Christian Images collection ($59.95). T/Maker’s latest — and finest — MacPaint release is Business Cartoons. All the images were drawn by award-winning cartoonist Phil Frank, who created the comic strips “Farley” and “Miles to Go,” and they have a sophisticated, editorial-page look (below left). Subjects include people, office situations, finance, headlines, cartoon balloons, and monsters (our favorite). On the EPS side, a majority of the images have sharp, clean lines, with judicious use of shading and fills. The graphics are not subgrouped, so you can’t easily separate, say, a baby penguin from its mother. The images are also unnecessarily small, forcing you to enlarge them several times to do any editing. In addition, not all the images are opaque, leading to unexpected background bleed-throughs.

EPS Business Art has some 200 images, with the emphasis on office supplies, equipment, dingbats, and occupational symbols. There are few images of people or office settings, which could limit its usefulness unless you need pictures of staplers or fax machines. EPS Illustrations contains a smattering of everything, including a barbecue grill, coat hangers, and a Porsche. The newest collection is EPS Animals & Nature. This is a nicely done collection, although the image quality is uneven. Some drawings, such as those of a fish and a pig, are inexplicably crude, whereas others are superb renderings of plants and animals, both modern and prehistoric. The collection
It’s always been Powerful.
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The new tools you’ll find on the moveable Tool palette are: the Polygon Picture Box tool " for multisided picture boxes and design elements; the Rotation tool " for manual rotation of objects; and the Zoom tool " for enlarging or reducing the document view.

You can specify page view from 10% to 400% in 1-point increments. View percent can be specified in a field with mouse clicks or by clicking and dragging with the Zoom tool selected.

A variety of specifications—such as font, size, style, leading, location, angle of rotation—are displayed for text boxes, picture boxes, and lines. You can change values interactively on-screen without using a menu or dialog box.

Creating multiple-page documents is easy with a new palette that enables you to insert, delete, and move pages graphically by dragging page icons.

A pasteboard lets you position pictures and text off the page, create bleeds, and design multipage spreads up to 48" x 48".

Library palettes provide an easy way to store text and graphics. You can copy and paste or drag items from an open library onto a page and between open libraries.

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Clip Artistry

Figure 5: Feeling disorganized? A graphics-management utility such as Solutions’ Curator catalogs your clip art — creating thumbnails of each image — and lets you search for images by filename, keyword, or thumbnail.

accessory, The Clipper, lets you precisely scale and crop a graphic before you add it to a layout. Olduvai’s MultiClip is a hybrid of a clipboard and a scrapbook. The copied portion of a graphic is automatically stored in a clipboard that can hold multiple items. MultiClip’s window shows thumbnail views of each stored item and works in the same way as a scrapbook does, letting you select a stored image and paste it into another application.

The most elegant way to organize clip art is to use a specialized cataloging program. The best-known of these is Solutions’ Curator, which comes as both a DA and an application (see Figure 5). Curator creates a catalog that contains thumbnails of each image along with identifying

data such as filename, image location, file type, and keywords. It recognizes the MacPaint, PICT, EPS (Mac and DOS versions), TIFF, PostScript, and SuperGlue formats and can perform some format conversions. You can search a Curator catalog by filename, keyword, or thumbnail view. As you acquire new artwork, you can add it to the catalog: a bundled program called Curator’s Assistant can even catalog a disk unattended.

Two other programs worth a mention are Symmetry’s PictureBase and Loop Software’s PictureBook. Instead of storing thumbnails, these cataloging utilities save the actual images in their libraries. They don’t support as many formats as Curator does, but they can automatically catalog scrapbook files as well as print a pictorial catalog of every image in the library. Also keep an eye out for Multi-Ad Search, a new cataloging and retrieval program from Multi-Ad Services. Due to ship in November, Search can compile a catalog of images from a broad range of sources. It stores any file format, including 32-bit-color images, and can display either thumbnails (in color) or actual images. Search works over a network, letting multiple users access a single library, and it’s fast — a demo version retrieved 3,400 thumbnails in just two seconds.

Working with Bit Maps

Most MacPaint clip art contains multiple images in a single file. To extract single images, you need a painting program or utility (such as Dubl-Click’s ArtRoundup or T/Marker’s ClipOut) or you can import the entire file into your page-layout program and crop it to show just the

Capsule Reviews

also includes nature-inspired borders and dingbats plus images related to weather and the solar system.

The ClickArt manuals contain image thumbnails (some images, particularly in the MacPaint collections, are almost too small to see) with helpful tips and an alphabetized index of filenames. Unfortunately, you frequently can’t see all the subtleties of detail and shading, leading you to think the art is simpler than it really is.

Images with Impact: Accents & Borders

3G Graphics has a reputation for producing high-quality EPS artwork, and its latest Images with Impact offering is no exception. Accents & Borders ($129.95) contains 270 design elements, including borders, frames, ornaments, and labels (mortises) plus symbols for education, entertainment, food, holidays, sports, and more. Many frames have matching ornaments, and there are five Designer Sets, each of which contains complementary bars, boxes, and tiles. (Minor semantic quibble: These elements are called borders, frames, and ornaments elsewhere in the collection.)

The illustrations are simply superb, with styles ranging from

natural and historical to geometric and contemporary. The art is in crisp black-and-white, but registered users receive a color bonus disk with still more images, including a beautiful stained-glass border (bottom right) and some delightful fish and Christmas lights. All the images are

opaque, and most are strategically subgrouped, allowing you to separate them into still more elements or apply color to an entire related area simultaneously (all the leaves in a border, for example). You can easily resize continuous frames without affecting their thickness by removing chunks from their lengths and widths. The ornaments, like those that come in the first Adobe Collector’s Edition, are extremely versatile and can serve as frame corners, brackets, dividers, or text accents.

A pictorial directory shows all the art printed at high resolution, and the excellent user’s manual is loaded with tips and techniques for handling, combining, and customizing the art. There’s even a section explaining the historical significance of the art styles. With Accents & Borders, 3G Graphics has once again scored a bull’s-eye. The quality and variety of this package make it an unbeatable value.
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Clip Artistry

If you check the Smoothing option in the LaserWriter Page Setup dialog box, your bit-mapped images will look smoother, with fewer jaggies on curves and diagonals. Smoothed images do take longer to print, however, and sometimes small areas (such as patterns) fill in or contours look misshapen.

Combining bit maps. You can make any area of a bit map transparent by creating a one-pixel-wide tunnel to the outside (see Figure 6). This lets you create a transparent overlay for a second bit-mapped graphic. Use an object-oriented program to produce composite images containing several pieces of bit-mapped art. Page-layout, drawing, and presentation programs treat bit maps as free-floating objects, letting you rearrange individual elements without resorting to the tedious cut-and-paste routine.

Auto-tracing. A program with auto-tracing capabilities — such as Streamline, Canvas, or Illustrator — can turn your MacPaint or TIFF clip art into object-oriented PICT or EPS images. The auto-tracing process draws objects (lines or filled shapes) along the boundaries of the areas in a bit map. The traced image often has remarkable fidelity to the original. (For tips and techniques on auto-tracing, see "The Elements of Auto-Tracing," August '90, page 206.)

Editing Object-Oriented Art

In a collection of object-oriented clip art, each image usually resides in its own file, which simplifies the importing process. PICT and Illustrator EPS images can be edited down to the smallest detail, resized without distortion, and printed at a printer’s best resolution. There’s relatively little PICT clip art, so we’ll focus on EPS images. Two measures of good-quality EPS artwork are object grouping and opaque images. Again, see your documentation for full details about working with object-oriented images.

Grouping. Most EPS images come grouped — that is, all elements are selectable as a single object — primarily so that sections don’t tear off during handling. Some clip art contains discrete components that are meant to be ungrouped and used individually. For example, when a picture of a notepad and pen is ungrouped, you have two individually useful images. Grouping can also serve a second purpose: to organize elements of an image so that you can color them easily. If the leaves in a floral border are grouped, for instance, you can alter all their colors simultaneously, rather than tediously selecting and changing one leaf at a time. Grouping provides hidden value, because you’re getting more usable art for your money; the disadvantage is that you need a PostScript editing program to ungroup and edit the images. 3G Graphics’ collections are superb examples of intelligently grouped, multipurpose artwork (see Figure 7).

Opaque images. Better-quality EPS graphics are usually opaque, meaning that all white areas are actually filled with the color white instead of being transparent.
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Clip Artistry

This allows you to place an image on top of other page elements without the background’s showing through. If an image is not opaque or has a few transparent elements, it may be due to shortcuts during the creation process. To check an image’s solidity, place it on top of another object such as a gray-filled rectangle.

Masking. Sometimes you might want to hide or remove sections of an object-oriented image. If you have a drawing program and the art can be ungrouped, you’re in luck. Another alternative is to mask unwanted portions with appropriately shaped objects. The precise technique depends on the graphic and on which program(s) you have. For simple masks or cropping, you can overlay areas with one or more white rectangles, oval, or thick lines. A polygon tool lets you hand-trace most complex shapes with fine control. If your layout program has limited drawing capabilities, import the clip art into a drawing program and construct the mask there.

Backgrounds and fills. Some clip-art offerings are meant to stay, literally, in the background. Artbeats offers EPS backgrounds that fill a page at full size, or they can be scaled to fit everything from a postage stamp to a tabloid. In addition, the backgrounds can be cropped and masked to serve as fill patterns for other objects; Adobe also offers a complete package of fill textures. In general, place background items into a layout as late as possible so that you’re not always dodging them to get your work done or waiting hours for printouts.

Backgrounds profoundly change the flavor of a layout, so test-print your work periodically. This is especially true for EPS backgrounds, because their preview images may look different from the PostScript output. Be sure that small text and objects don’t get lost over background details; one solution is to place solid shapes on top of the background as backdrops for your text blocks.

EPS conversions. Many popular programs, including word processors, can’t import EPS files directly. Fortunately, there are ways to convert an EPS image into PICT format, which is accepted by many more applications. Some graphics programs can import EPS and save as PICT, although you lose all PostScript data. A better alternative is to use the Option-Copy command. This workaround converts EPS images to PostScript data, but retains all the PostScript information of the original EPS file, so that the image prints with full PostScript quality.

To create a PICT image with embedded PostScript, first open the EPS image in FreeHand or Illustrator and select it. Hold down the Option key, and choose Copy from the Edit menu (the keyboard shortcut won’t work). This command copies both the PICT screen image and the PostScript data to the Clipboard and labels the combination as a PICT file. You can now paste this PICT/EPS image into another program or store it in the Scrapbook. The Curator and the PictureBook graphics-management utilities can also convert EPS images to PICT format with PostScript comments.

3-D Clip Art

Although 3-D clip art is versatile, it requires thoughtful handling. If you’re placing a 3-D image into a layout that contains other art, be sure the montage looks cohesive. Light the 3-D scene so that its color, shading, and shadows match the surrounding artwork. Orient objects so that the perspective looks right. When you’ve finished editing, export the scene in the desired format but be sure to keep an editable 3-D version so that you can alter the image if necessary.

Additional Resources

Once you’ve found a promising clip-art candidate, contact the company for more information and ask for a catalog or pictorial index so you can see which packages contain the images you need. Compare price versus quality and quantity, and check to see which packages are discounted at mail-order houses.

Many companies provide a wealth of advice in their manuals, plus examples of the art in action. Adobe, Dynamic Graphics, 3G Graphics, and T/Maker are exemplary in this regard. You also might check out Canned Art (PeachPit Press, $29.95), a massive pictorial compendium that includes some useful tips.

Finally, Clip Art Window Shopper is a new on-line service from Adonis that lets you preview artwork from a variety of vendors and then download individual images (for a fee) or place orders for complete packages. The user link originally ran only under Microsoft Windows, but a Mac version should be available by now. For more information, contact Adonis at (800) 234-9497.

Senior editor Aileen Abernathy is MacUser's resident DTP expert; contributing editor Salvatore Parascandolo is the graphics guru at Silicon Beach Software.
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## Table 1: Features of Clip-Art Packages

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Occasionally we win one.

On 11/15/89, as I was driving home from work, a tornado formed just to the west of me. I had enough time to pull into a safe parking lot and duck down. The “safe parking lot” turned out to be right in the path of the tornado. I was knocked out as the 200 MPH winds struck, flying my car—and me—nearly 300 yards. I woke up in the hospital with a severe concussion and blood loss. As part of the $250 million storm damage, my car was totalled and my computer was lost.

After I was released from the Hospital, my wife and I went to the Police Station where some “valuables” had been rescued from the disaster scene. There was my Macintosh SE with its Jasmine drive. The hardware was in sad shape; the front SE surface was bashed in, there was a big piece missing from the Jasmine Drive, and both were coated with a mixture of motor oil, antifreeze and water. The insurance company agreed that it was a total loss. But, realizing that the damage was finite, I began cleaning and straightening out everything. I jokingly powered up—IT WORKED! The bashed-in Jasmine drive booted the straightened out SE giving me a happy Mac, displaying the partitioned icons and sat there waiting! The clock was even right! So far, the drive has yet to fail.

I’m writing this letter (on the Jasmine drive) of appreciation to all of you in hope that you will be as pleased as I am that your products survived the forces of a major tornado that was blowing manhole covers around like frisbees. I don’t have the foggiest idea where the drive ended up, but judging from all the junk coating it, it must have been found under one of the piles of destroyed cars.

In summary: the car was totalled, I was almost totalled, but the Jasmine drive made it O.K. Congratulations on making some darn good stuff. I plan to take the scarred hardware to work and continue to use it there as a reminder of one of the positive aspects of that unfortunate experience.

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Table 1: Features of Clip-Art Packages, continued

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<td>Travel</td>
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</table>

Dream Maker Software
4020 Paige St.
Los Angeles, CA 90031
(213) 221-6436

Dubl-Click Software
18201 Gresham St.
Northridge, CA 91325
(818) 349-2758

Dynamic Graphics
6000 N. Forest Park Drive
P.O. Box 1901
Peoria, IL 61656
(800) 255-8800
(309) 688-8800

Electronic Pen
4131 Cimarron Drive
Clarkston, GA 30021
(404) 296-8623
Click, It's A MAC.

Click Click, It's A MAC And A PC.

Load SoftPC, click twice, and you've got a window wide open to the entire MS-DOS world. Everything a Mac can do plus everything a PC can do, in one machine.

Whether you're a Macintosh user who needs access to PC software and data, or a PC user who wants to go Macintosh without losing PC compatibility, you can have it all with Insignia's best-selling software solutions.

SoftPC is a software emulation precise enough to run the toughest PC applications—Norton Utilities, Lotus 1-2-3, Harvard Graphics, AutoCad, even custom development programs. You get complete XT or AT compatibility for the SE/30, Macintosh II family and the Macintosh Portable.

Add an EGA/AT Option Module, and get vibrant EGA color compatibility, LIM expanded memory and math coprocessor support.

New AccessPC lets you use PC and PS/2 disks just like Mac disks. Now you can move and view PC file and disk icons—even in locked or full disks!—format DOS disks, launch Mac applications and much more.

For more information and the name of a SoftPC dealer near you, call Insignia at 800-848-7677 (U.S. only) or 408-522-7600 (outside U.S.).

Insignia Solutions, Inc. 254 San Geronimo Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Fax 408-733-9581. We give a SoftPC (retail $399) or AccessPC program (retail $149) daily to a caller selected at random.

SoftPC is a registered trademark and AccessPC is a trademark of Insignia Solutions, Inc. Other product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

Please circle 152 on reader service card.
Table 1: Features of Clip-Art Packages, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Enabling Technologies</th>
<th>Image Club Graphics</th>
<th>Metro ImageBase</th>
<th>Multi-Ad Services</th>
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<td>List price</td>
<td>File format</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>$99 each</td>
<td>Pro3D (exports others)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Clip3D series has 8 theme packages of 3-D artwork, including Fonts, People, Geography, Color images. Fair quality. Bundled 3-D utility for editing images. No pictorial index.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts/entertainment</td>
<td>$99 each</td>
<td>EPS, PICT</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>DigitArt has 20 volumes of EPS art; some PICT. Various themes. Stylized, hip look is often cartoonish. Good quality. Nice blends. CD-ROM has all packages plus fonts and templates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backgrounds/fills</td>
<td>$145 each</td>
<td>TIFF</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>14 packages (100 images each) of 300-dpi TIFF images. Large files, must be unstuffed before use. Traditional, hand-drawn look seen in newspapers. Also on CD-ROM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>ProArt, $139</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>ProArt series has 8 theme volumes, 100 images each. PAL Potpourri has 300 images. Newspaper-ad look. Various CD-ROM subscription services available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings/cities</td>
<td>PAL Potpourri, $189.95</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cartoons</td>
<td>ArtRoom CD-ROM, $79</td>
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<td>Children</td>
<td>$139</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Occupations</td>
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<td>Enabling Technologies</td>
<td>Image Club Graphics</td>
<td>Metro ImageBase</td>
<td>Multi-Ad Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 S. Dearborn</td>
<td>1902 Eleventh St. S.E., #5</td>
<td>18823 Ventura Blvd. Suite 210</td>
<td>1720 W. Detwiler Drive Peoria, IL 61615 (800) 447-1950 (309) 682-1530</td>
<td>(312) 427-0386 (800) 661-9410 (403) 262-8008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here at Animas, our primary objective is to design innovative, easy-to-use products. From the first conceptual drawing to the finished product, our focus is always on quality. Take, for example, our Animas True-Color Hand Scanner. It's clearly the most revolutionary scanner on the market today at any price (just ask anyone who saw it at the MACWORLD Expo in Boston). And because we believe in promoting lower prices for the Macintosh masses, we are bringing it to you at the incredible price of $599.00! Look at the long list of features below:

Features:
- Animas True-Color Hand Scanner (Scan Width 4.1 inches)
- SCSI Interface with SCSI Cable
- ColorScan MacCheese Software (Suggested Retail $149.00)
- Automatic gamma correction
- Read It! OCR Software by OLDUVAI Corp. (Suggested Retail $295.00)
- 100-400 DPI selectable in increments of 10 DPI in dithered mode
- 200 DPI in halftone mode
- 16.7 million colors
- Scanning speed: 3.5 ms/line

The only questions you should have now are:

How can they sell it at such a low price?

Where can I get one?!
Table 1: Features of Clip-Art Packages, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Paracomp</th>
<th>Spinnaker Software</th>
<th>Studio Advertising Art</th>
<th>Tactic Software</th>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>MacPaint/eps</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Works of Art series</td>
<td>SwivelArt has color 3-D art in 4 categories: maps, fonts, equipment, symbols. Good quality. Includes run-time version of Swivel 3D for editing. HyperCard stack for making 3-D words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts/entertainment</td>
<td>$129.95</td>
<td>Swivel 3D (exports others)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>HyperCard stack for making 3-D words.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backgrounds/fills</td>
<td>MacPaint/eps</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>MacPaint/EPS</td>
<td>Good quality. Includes run-time version of Swivel 3D for editing. HyperCard stack for making 3-D words.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>MacPaint/eps</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>MacPaint/EPS</td>
<td>Work of Art series has three MacPaint packages (Education, Assortment, Holiday) and one EPS (Business). Fair image quality. Lots of MacPaint images for price.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings/cities</td>
<td>MacPaint/eps</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MacPaint/EPS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>MacPaint/EPS</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>MacPaint/eps</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>MacPaint/EPS</td>
<td>Work of Art series has three MacPaint packages (Education, Assortment, Holiday) and one EPS (Business). Fair image quality. Lots of MacPaint images for price.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you want clarity, brightness, and terrific contrast, and you've resigned yourself to paying a premium of hundreds of dollars to get it, you'll find our newest monitor pleasant viewing indeed.

The PanaSync C1381 gives you sharp color graphics, with 0.28 dot pitch. And virtually infinite color resolution. And it's a masterpiece of ergonomics. With front-mounted controls, tilt/swivel stand, plus a non-glare tinted black-matrix screen.

You'll find the PanaSync as comfortable with a Mac II color graphics board as it is with an IBM-compatible running VGA, SuperVGA or 8514/A graphics boards.*

All this at a suggested retail price scarcely more than monitors offering a great deal less. For more information, simply call toll-free 1-800-742-8086.

Panasonic Office Automation

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* An optional cable is required for Macintosh. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. VGA, and 8514/A are trademarks of International Business Machines Corp. IBM XT, AT and PS/2 are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corp.
### Table 1: Features of Clip-Art Packages, continued

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<th>3G Graphics</th>
<th>T/Maker</th>
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<td></td>
<td>(206) 367-9321</td>
<td>(415) 982-0195</td>
<td>(206) 352-1851</td>
<td>(217) 359-6816</td>
</tr>
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</table>
THE PIXELVIEW IS MORE DISPLAY-
When our marketing department first laid eyes on the Radius Pivot, we all agreed it was one sexy design. Then, our engineers reminded us that the Radius had 1/3 less screen, yet cost nearly $800 more (they went on to calculate the cost per square inch: $6 on the PixelView versus $18 for the Pivot... 300% more). And, our PixelView II, they noted, is true WYSIWYG and doesn’t require software that severely patches the Macintosh system just to pivot.

WORKS WITH MORE MACS - Both displays work on the Mac II and SE/30, but the PixelView II also works on the Mac Plus and SE.

OUR 19" TAKES UP LESS DESK SPACE THAN THEIR 15" - Our engineers explained that while pivoting, the Radius requires over 20" clearance (and forget about leaning anything up against one).

$800 LESS - Our engineers summed it up, “Are we buying productivity or sexy design? What the customer really needs is a monitor with a big, bright, clear image. And the PixelView II delivers more of that for less. Much less.”

If desk space or budget are tight, get our 15” PixelView II $567

“Try one for 30 days. If you don’t love it, I want it back!”

CALL TODAY
1 800 654-5294

*The Pivot can operate in the portrait mode only on the Mac Plus and SE.

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(612) 633-4450 FAX: (612) 633-3136

Please circle 109 on reader service card.

Ronald Ebensteiner
President, CEO

$897
PixelView II
with 19” diagonal
If You Can Find A Better Deal In Hard Drives . . .

Between now and October 31st, MacWarehouse is offering savings on every hard drive we sell. So, if you're thinking of buying a new hard drive, your timing couldn't be better. Check out our sale prices and your savings, compared to our December 1989 prices, in the chart.

We offer drives by leading manufacturers like Cutting Edge, C.M.S., Quantum, Power User, PLI Infinity Turbo and others — all at unheard of low prices.

Let our helpful sales staff take the hassle out of buying a drive. They'll tell you which drive mechanism uses. They'll also tell you about access speed, reliability, software and the manufacturer's warranty.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
They'll tell you which drives come with the MacWarehouse 30-day money back guarantee. Try one at home. And if, for any reason, you're not 100% satisfied, just return it to us within thirty days and we'll refund your money.

Then there's the MacWarehouse Loaner Drive Program. Buy from MacWarehouse and if you ever have a problem, you won't be without a drive for more than a few hours.

READY TO USE
A hard drive from MacWarehouse could be easier to use. We'll tell you which ones come pre-formatted — ready to use right out of the box. You just plug in, turn on your Mac and go!

If you do need any help, the MacWarehouse Technical Support staff is standing by our toll-free lines to assist you.

LIMITED TIME OFFER
MacWarehouse sale prices, based on capacity, are shown in the chart. Also shown are the savings from pre-holiday prices. (This is a limited time offer, valid through October 31, 1990.) Overnight delivery is just $3, anywhere in the Continental United States.

So call us now and tomorrow morning you'll be up and running with the best hard drive deal in the business!

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<th>20 + MB</th>
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<th>60 + MB</th>
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Savings are calculated from MacWarehouse December 1989 published prices. *Quantum drives are for internal installation and require a 3.5 Internal Drive Kit for $95. **Plus a 30MB turbo drive. ***40+ MB Removable Cartridge Drives come with 1 cartridge. Additional cartridges available.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Many of our drives come with the MacWarehouse 30-Day Money Back Guarantee. If, for any reason, you're not completely satisfied, call us within thirty days of receipt for a return authorization number and full refund of the purchase price.
Tomorrow's Upgrade For Your Mac Is Only $69*

A MacWarehouse Memory Expansion Kit will dramatically increase the power of your Mac. And our fast, reliable, overnight service will have your Kit in your hands tomorrow!

MORE BRAIN POWER FOR YOUR MAC

Never again will you have to quit your word processor just to answer a question about a spreadsheet. Install extra memory and you can leave your letter open while you refer to last month's sales figures. You can edit those monstrous scanner files with advanced graphics applications or develop your own custom HyperCard stacks. More memory means more power at your fingertips.

PLUG IN INSTALLATION

Adding memory doesn't require technicians in lab coats. Just open your Mac, slide out the main circuit board and plug in your SIMMs. Our FREE video will give you STEP-BY-STEP installation instructions. Every type of Mac is covered and we think we've made it a breeze.

WHAT DO I NEED?

Our helpful sales and technical staff is standing by to answer any questions and take the mystery out of memory upgrades. Memory cards come with one megabyte on each card and are usually sold in pairs — (2@$69 each).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Memory chips come factory-installed on plug-in cards, called SIMMs (Single Inline Memory Modules). Each one megabyte SIMM card holds eight top quality, memory chips. We carry chips by all the major manufacturers like Texas Instruments, Intel and Samsung. We also carry the full line of Dove memory products.

Prices can vary a lot, based on quality, speed and demand. At press time our price for 1MB, 120 ns SIMMS is $69. Please call for the very latest prices and availability. Our sales staff will tell you what you need and help make your choice an easy one.

SPEED

Do you need 80, 100 or 120 Nanosecond (ns) chips? Nanoseconds are billiards of a second, so an 80 ns chip responds faster than a 100 ns chip. The original Mac used relatively slow 150 ns memory chips. The 68020 processor needs 120 ns (or faster) chip, and the 68030 Macs like the speedier model.

OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Place your order by 12:00 a.m., weekdays and we'll deliver overnight for just $3.00. There's never been a better time to consider a memory upgrade. Call our toll-free number now and tomorrow morning your Mac will be off to a brand new start.

MacWAREHOUSE

1-800-255-6227

Call toll-free

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Inquiries 1-908-367-0440

Fax 1-908-905-9279

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MACWAREHOUSE

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

If, for any reason, you are dissatisfied with your MacWarehouse Memory Kit, you may return it for a full refund within thirty days of purchase. If, for any reason, you are dissatisfied with your MacWarehouse Memory Kit, you may return it for a full refund within thirty days of purchase. All you have to do is call us for a return authorization number and return the product, postage paid, in its original condition, with the original packaging and documentation.

ONE YEAR WARRANTY. MacWarehouse also guarantees its Memory Kits against manufacturer defects for one year from the date of purchase. We will repair the item or replace it at our discretion.

* SIMMs prices vary. Call for latest information.
** Limited Offer! Free video with purchase of 2 or more SIMMs.
## ACCESSORIES

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## GUARANTEE

Many of our products come with a thirty day money back guarantee. If you are not completely satisfied, ask for details when you place your order.
Version 4.0, the very latest edition of Steven Bobker's Power User's Tool Kit is available now. Eight great programs on one handy disk. There's Tidy-It-Up - a great utility to tidy your System Folder and Disk Doubler Expand - to extend all those compressed files.

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The Cordless Mouse

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The Cordless Mouse by Basic Needs gives you more freedom and smoother movements when performing all mouse functions. Features 2.56 MB, 12 MHz CPU, 200 dpi high resolution and 600mm/sec tracking speed. Runs on infrared signal transmission. ADB adapter included. $99.

The Art Importer

When it comes to collecting important art, serious Mac users give their high bid to The Art Importer. Use the Art Importer to create high resolution PostScript fonts from Mac artwork. Then use your new fonts to spice up work done in almost any application. $89.

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JAM Software

Smart Alarms & App1. Diary ..... 64.
Smart Alarms (1-1 users) ..... 125.
Smart Alarms (5-10 users) ..... 180.
Smart Alarms (9-15 users) ..... 375.
Microlyics

Inside Information ..... 60.
Prefered Publishers

Database 1.5 ..... 68.
Vantage 1.5 ..... 52.
Solutions

SmartScrap & The Cliper 2.01 ..... 56.
Vision Form Layout ..... 35.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

 Aldus

PageMaker 4.0 ..... 499.
ProPrint ..... 329.
Data Translation

ProtoMac 1.5 ..... 609.
OLDUAVI Read-It (OCR) ..... 278.
Read-It Personal 2.0 ..... 139.
Quark

QuarkStyle ..... 189.
XPress 3.0 ..... 529.
Sinnaker

Springboard Publisher II ..... 109.
TimeWorks

Publish-It Easy ..... 113.

DISK DRIVES/BOARDS

CMS

MacStack 20 Meg ..... 429.
MacStack 30 Meg ..... 489.
MacStack 45 Meg ..... 589.

ResumExpert

(A Lasting Impression)

Whether you're seeking an entry-level position or an executive's corner office, the ResumExpert Software Series is the best thing to know about the 'excellent manual' that includes expert writing tips. MacUser 12/89 rated it as one of the Top 200 Software Programs of 12/89. See line listings for all 10 editions. (business) $39. each

Power User

20 Meg Drive ..... 319.
30 Meg Drive ..... 369.
45 Meg Drive ..... 409.
60 Meg Drive ..... 459.
80 Meg Drive ..... 509.
44 Meg Removable Drive ..... 689.

Quantum

Quantum 40 MB Raw Drive ..... 399.
Quantum 80 MB Raw Drive ..... 649.

RasterOps

RasterOps Colorboard 264 ..... 699.

EDUCATIONAL/PERSONAL

Beacon Technology

GEMS of the Word ..... 25.

BrightStar

Alphabet Blocks 1.0 ..... 30.
Talking Tiles ..... 25.

Broderbund

The Playroom ..... 29.

Davidson

Matt Blaster or Speed Reader ..... 29.

Educorp

CD-ROM 4.0 ..... 115.
Clip Art CD-ROM ..... 29.

Lingu-CD-ROM ..... 279.

Sports-CD-ROM ..... 35.

Learning Company

Matt Fraction or Reader Rabbit 2.0 ea. 30.

MacKids Software (full line available)

MacKids Preschool Pack ..... 35.

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(I/O Design, Inc.)

The 'ULTIMATE' SE Carrying Case is designed with the same high quality standards as other Macstak products. This case offers internal padded compartments for an Apple Macintosh keyboard, mouse, external hard disk and cables. It also features 2 additional exterio pockets for everything from disks to umbrellas. Comes with features of a sturdy DuPont Cordura nylon and 1/2 inch high density foam padding and you'll see why this is the 'Ultimate' carrying case for your Mac. Available in black and navy blue (accessories) $79.
RightWriter Mac (RightSoft)
Clear, concise and powerful writing means increased profits, customer satisfaction and a career advancement. Not just a simple spell-checker, RightWriter Mac works with your word processor as an expert grammar instructor applying over 4,500 rules directly to your documents. Includes indexes to measure delivery. The result is powerful writing that can add the impact of voice and music to a business presentation.

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MacPhonebook 3.0 ........ Call
Vertical Solutions ......... 51.
FastLabel 2.0 ........ 89.
FastEnvelope .......... 50.
Zedcor DeskWorks .... 229.

CAD/CAE
Claris
MacDraw 2.0 ........ 625.
Graphpoint .............. 65.
MiniCAD 3.0 ........ 585.
Innovative Design Debugger .... 25.

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CE Software
Inbox (5-10 Users) .... 128.
QuickMail 2.2 (1-10 Users) .... 315.
CompuServe
CompuServe Navigator 3.0 .... 49.
CompuServe Subscription Kit .... 24.
DataVIZ
MacLink Plus/SE/30 .... 61.
Dove
FastNet SE .... 749.
FastNet SE/30 .... 245.
Dow Jones
News/Retrieval Membership ... 24.

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FastNet SE/30 .... 245.
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tion. Bicar-free 75 Hz refresh. Interface
cards and cables included. Compatible
with Mac Plus, Mac SE, Mac SE/30, and all
Mac II models. See line listing for addi-
tional MegaScreen systems. (hardware). $1275.

Toyota's Nemesis
Go Master 4.4...................... 47.
Joeski Genni...................... 29.
Nemesis Deluxe.................. 39.
Visionary Software
Synchronicity..................... 39.
XOR
Lunar Rescue or MacGall 2.0 .... 34.
MacGall Classic.................. 52.
Road Racer....................... 39.
Mac SE
NFL Challenge.................... 55.

ENTERTAINMENT

Artworx
Bridge 6.0.......................... 22.
Broderbund
Shuf11epuck Cafe................. 23.

Wh... 20.
Three Sixty
Sands of Fire..................... $32.
NFL Challenge.................... 35.5.

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for the Scholastic Aptitude Test
(educational). each $29.

MacPaint 2.0 .......................... 92.
Deneba
Canvas 2.1......................... 189.
Utra Paint......................... 125.
Digital Vision
Computer Eyes B&W.............. 199.
Computer Eyes Pro Color........... 349.

DreamMaker
Digital Vision Vol. 1, 2, 3...... 68.59.
MacAlley......................... 27.

Electronic Arts
Studio2/32......................... 449.

Fantasys
MediaTracks Multimedia pack....... 319.
MediaTracks CD ROM.............. 319.

Enhance (Micro Fronter)
Picture perfect. Enhance is an ad-
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buffers and real time on-
screen filters. Enhance
allows users to paint, filter and precisely adjust gray
levels within isolated image
parts. Use it to scrutinize
and manipulate images of
everything from microor-
organisms to entire geographic
areas (graphics). $235.

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Digital Vision
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Computer Eyes Pro Color........... 349.

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MacProof 3.2.1 (Lexpertise)
You'll never get a second chance to make a
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English proofer. Without leaving your
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your word processor, business, educa-
tional, personal and professional.
MacProof is a desk accessory for the
Macintosh Plus, SE, II, IIx. Checks: me-
chanics, word usage, writing style and
structure. You can customize the usage
and the spelling dictionaries to your spe-
cific requirements. Compatible with
MacWrite IV, 1.0, MacWrite V, 4.6, 6.b, 8.0, 5.0,
Microsoft Word 4.0, PageMaker 3.0, 3.0/1
3.0, 2/. 2mg memory, MindWrite V.1 and
V.2. (spelling) $115.
MODEMS/FAX

Abaton InterFax12/48 .................. 265.
InterFax 24/96 .................. 419.

Best Data Products
SmartOne 2400/1200 ............ 139.

Dove
Dove Fax desktop .................. 299.

Hayes
Smartmodem 2400 ............ 349.
Smartmodem 9600 (V series) .... 725.

MacSki (XOR)
Power? No Problem! MacSki brings the slopes to you! The only thing you'll need is a little snow! (entertainment). $59.

SECURITY & VIRUS PROTECTION

ASD Software, Inc.
FileGuard 2.5 .................. 145.
FileGuard Office 5-pack .......... 435.
FileGuard Office 10-pack ........ 1065.

Fifth Generation
Disk Lock .................. 118.

Microcom
Virex .................. 59.
Virex 10-pack .................. 349.

Kont Marsh
SafeFiler .................. 107.

NightWatch .................. 86.

QuickLock .................. 34.

SMARTONE 2400 Modem
(Best Data Products)

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Abacus Concepts
StatView 3.0/4.0 .................. 279.
StatView SE+Graphics ............ 179.
SuperANOVA .................. 309.
Wolfram Research
Mathematica (SE) .................. 450.

UTILITIES

Abbott Systems
CanOpen::er 1.1 .................. 64.
Choice 1.1 ........................ 63.

Aladdin Systems Inc.
Programmer's Assistants .......................... 57.

SkyWrite Deluxe .................. 179.

DIKSoft
DiskExpress II 2.04 .................. 57.
MultiDisk .................. 46.

Master Juggler .................. 46.
American Power Conversion
PowerChute .................. 69.

Berkeley System
After Dark .................. 24.

LIFE TREE

Correct Grammar .................. 49.
Microsoft Word .................. 49.

Word Finder 3.0 .................. 34.

Sensible Software
BookEnds or Sensible Grammar .... 51.

QUICKIES

WriteNow 2.2 (TM/Writer)
WriteNow now comes with Grammatik 2.0, a top grammar/style checker ($99.00 value-FREE). The two-time winner of the prestigious MacUser Eddy award, WriteNow features a 1.4 million word thesaurus, 135,000 word dictionary (the largest thesaurus/dictionary combination in the Macintosh world) and compatibility with Microsoft Word. In addition to being one of the most affordable, fastest and easiest Mac word processors available, WriteNow can still run on a floppy disk system. (word processing). $119.

QuickKeys 2 TM/CE Software
New, more intuitive QuickKeys 2 lets you customize applications to make them work the way you want. Build new applications from old ones and automate repetitive tasks. Put your extended keyboard to work by assigning anything you select or click to its keys. Automate a long task with one of the two new "watch" modes. Any QuickKeys can be activated using timer options that will repeat the task every minute, hour, day or week. (utilities). $54.
MacPro Keyboard (Keytronic)
The Mac Pro keyboard feels better, lasts longer and offers more features for your money. Keytronic's new ADS-compatible 105-key MacPro features an enlarged L-shaped Return key for faster, more accurate data entry. Dual-legend keycaps assure ease of operation in both Macintosh and MS-DOS environments. Includes a FREE copy of award-winning macro package Tempo II. Backed by a three year manufacturer warranty. (input) $118.

Now Software
Now Utilities ...................................... 89.
OLDUVAI ........................................... 45.
ClipShare ........................................... 165.
MultiClip 2.0 ....................................... 68.
ON Technology
On Location ......................................... 75.

CE Software
Alarming Events ................................. 85.
QuickKeys 2.0 ...................................... 64.
Caire
Omnip panorama 2.1 .............................. 539.

Central Point Software
Copy II Mac .......................................... 23.
Mac Tools Deluxe ................................. 75.
Custom Applications Freedom of Press 3.0 .... 255.
Dantz Development
Retrospect ........................................... 148.

Dayna Communications
DOS Mounter ......................................... 55.
Fifth Generation
FastBack II .......................................... 118.
Suitcase II 1.2 ...................................... 49.
SuperLaser/Spool 2.0 (single user) ............. 87.
SuperLaser 5.0 ...................................... 58.

ICOM Simulations
On Curve ............................................. 95.
Insight Development
MacPro .............................................. 95.
Magic Software
AutoSave II ......................................... 28.
BackMate .......................................... 50.
Mainstay
Capture 3.0 ........................................ 49.
MacFlow 3.5 ........................................ 125.

FileGuard (ASD Software)
FileGuard stands out, especially for corporate users. MacUser May, 1990 issue Protect your Hard drives and Partitions from unauthorized access (including security bypass with a system disquette), copying, and erasure. Applications and Files (including system folder) from unauthorized access, deletion, and/or illegal copying. Desktop (including system folder) from alterations by unauthorized users Keep an eye on System Usage with the system users log which continuously tracks user/group activity. (security) $145. Office 5 Pack $435. Office 10 Pack $685.

Tactic Software
FontShare 2.0 ....................................... 149.
Icon-It 2.0 ........................................... 45.

Claris
MacWrite II ......................................... 145.

Microsoft
Word 4.0 ............................................ 245.
RightSoft
RightWriter for the Mac ......................... 55.
Tactic
Clayvoyant ........................................... 49.
T-Maker
WriteNow 2.2 ....................................... 119.
WordPerfect Corp.
WordPerfect ........................................ 11.

Planisoft (ASD Software)
Planisoft increases workplace productivity through detailed management of time and resources. Use its intuitive user interface and powerful relational database to simultaneously manage and record activity concerning hundreds of people, events, materials and locations. Juggle multiple work group agendas and instantly recall your contacts and related data for a given period of time. Also tracks time spent on a particular account by individual employees. Everything is kept confidential through multi-level password protection. (Business) $139. Office 5 pack $575. Office 10 pack $939.

Please circle 153 on reader service card.
No matter what in the world you envision creatively, new Aldus PageMaker® 4.0 gives you the freedom and control to produce it. We’ve added 75 new features just to be sure.

So if in your mind’s eye you see the type condensed, then condense it. Or if you see it expanded, then expand it. Or maybe you want to rotate it 90 degrees—rotate away, New PageMaker can do it all.

Want color? New PageMaker’s 24-bit capabilities give you a choice of 16.2 million. And in PageMaker, you work within a system that’s ingeniously natural—like you never left your drawing board. So you don’t feel boxed in—you feel, well, like you have all the freedom in the world.
A PostScript virus may be on the loose, so take heed if you have a LaserWriter or imagesetter. This so-called Trojan horse is apparently a hidden line of code that’s being downloaded in print jobs. It resets the printers’ internal password, rendering the printers inoperative. The suspected source is an unidentified EPS file, such as a piece of public-domain clip art. A free prevention program is being offered by the Cheshire Group ([707] 887-7510) and Peter Fink Communications ([617] 527-1899).

By Aileen Abernathy

It’s official: Ventura Publisher is coming to the Mac. Announced August 8, Ventura Publisher, Macintosh Edition, will cost $795 and should ship by year’s end. Ventura Software (a Xerox company) has the top-selling page-layout program on the PC side, and it brings two strengths to the Mac market: cross-platform compatibility (there are three PC versions — DOS, Windows 3.0, and OS/2) and long-document processing. Its primary targets are people who produce long, structured documents (such as books and technical materials); database publishing; and work-group publishing. Networking capabilities are built in, allowing multiple users to access a document simultaneously over a network. Unfortunately, Ventura faces an uphill battle for user loyalty, because two products with significant long-document features — PageMaker 4.0 and FrameMaker — are already available.

Prepress is a fast-growing segment of the Mac publishing market, helped along by the increasing number of Mac-to-prepress links (see “Mac-to-Prepress Links” in this issue). As with any market in the growth phase, the names and players are changing quickly. Two of the Big 3 in prepress — Scitex, Crosfield, and Hell — are undergoing changes in ownership. Crosfield is now owned by DuPont Imaging Systems (the equipment still carries the Crosfield name), and Linotype is trying to acquire Hell Graphic Systems. Several other companies are jockeying for a piece of the prepress action. Kodak, for instance, recently introduced the Prophecy workstation, which lets you perform high-end color-image processing on the desktop for about half the price of traditional proprietary systems. In addition, look for one or two large Japanese companies to enter the high-end prepress market in the near future.

Product news: Altsys has added support for Type 1 fonts to its latest versions of Fontographer and Metamorphosis. In addition, Fontographer 3.1, a typeface-creation program, can now export its fonts as EPS files and offers improved automatic hinting. Metamorphosis 1.5 no longer requires a PostScript printer to generate editable outlines from PostScript fonts. Pantone has released the Process Color Imaging Guide, which shows 732 Pantone colors next to their closest CMYK simulations. The guide should make it easier to achieve accurate Pantone colors in four-color printing, because its CMYK values correlate with the percentages displayed in the Pantone dialog boxes of software such as PageMaker and QuarkXPress. (For a discussion of Pantone color on the Mac, see “The Pantone Touch,” May ’90, page 341.)
The freedom to write and think is for all of us. Now, there is a new word processor that’s just right for us, too. It’s called MacWrite® II, and it’s made by Claris. MacWrite II makes it possible to share your ideas and thoughts with other computers and word processors. You’ll be free to open documents from over 50 word processors, on all kinds of computers, with all kinds of speech, and work on them without reformatting.

But there’s more you can do. (The feature is called XTND.) You can import graphics, not only from Macs, but many computers, guaranteed. And you can scale and crop them, one and all, in your MacWrite II document. In short, MacWrite II with XTND is a powerful word processor that lets you freely exchange text and graphics. You’ll find also that your MacWrite II lets you change fonts, styles, sizes and colors, as well as text with its find/change feature. And you can create custom styles and save them as stationery — with all formats preset. You’ll share your reports and letters quickly.

But what good is freedom of expression if you find your editing to be a hassle? That’s why the page layout and editing is fully WYSIWYG: the thoughts you see are the thoughts you get. This WYSIWYG feature, by the way, is found only with MacWriteII. It’s another way Claris simplifies word processing for you, whether you’re 52, 22, or 72.

Called upon daily MacWrite II smooths your writing assignments and other chores. There’s MacWrite II spell checking, for example, and foreign dictionary programs that are optional, and a host of other features that come standard. (Like a thesaurus, and a mail merge feature you’ll discover saves lots of time.)

What it adds up to, you’ll find, is a simple and powerful tool designed for people. All the people. It is for writers, and it is for business people. And it is for those of us in between. The freedom to write is liberating. Now technology is, too.
Mac-to-Prepress Links

Using a prepress link, you can design a publication on the desktop and transmit it to a high-end prepress system for color processing and film separations.

By Keith Baumann and Aileen Abernathy

Figure 1: In the typical setup for a prepress link, color images are scanned on a high-resolution drum scanner at the prepress bureau and low-resolution versions are given to the designer for layout purposes. Completed page-layout files are returned to the prepress bureau, where final page assembly is performed and color separations are output on a film plotter.

We've all heard the hype, seen the demos, and scrutinized the eye-catching print samples. The companies all promise that "anyone can produce high-quality color separations with a Mac and our software!" True, Mac-based publishing is evolving at a rapid rate, and a new breed of sophisticated programs does let us perform tasks that were once possible only on half-million-dollar prepress systems. But producing a top-quality color publication directly on the desktop is still an iffy proposition.

For one thing, few desktop designers or service bureaus have the expertise of skilled prepress operators, who understand all the intricacies of four-color work, from color correction and line frequencies to trapping and separations. Prepress shops use carefully calibrated equipment, including color monitors, scanners, and film plotters, to ensure that the colors on-screen precisely match those in print. And because they are experts on all phases of the production process, prepress operators can correctly adjust color separations to match the type of paper, ink, and printing press being used.
Mac-based publishing also has technological barriers. Many experts feel that PostScript color hasn't attained the level of quality and reliability needed to compete with high-end prepress systems. Imagesetters still have problems with moiré patterns and misregistration, and most page-design programs can't correctly trap page elements. Calibrating colors between the screen and paper is still a problem, and desktop printers are not yet adequate proofing devices. Desktop scanners can't capture color photographs that match the quality of those produced by the drum scanners found at prepress houses. Even if they could, the files would be enormous and take forever to print on an imagesetter. (For more on color issues, see “Color: Techniques & Technologies,” May ‘90, page 199.)

No wonder many people in the advertising and publishing industries (the major users of color prepress) continue to rely on the proven professionals at high-end prepress shops. But that doesn't mean the Mac is on the sidelines when it comes to color publishing. The recent introduction of design-to-prepress links gives you the best of both worlds. A prepress link is essentially a translator that converts your Mac's PostScript files into the non-PostScript environment of the prepress system. You can design a publication on the Mac — availing yourself of its graphics power, ease of use, and flexibility — and then transmit the file to a high-end electronic prepress system for color processing and film separations. The link setup is at the prepress shop, so you don't have to purchase any additional hardware or software (Scitex Visionary is an exception).

Prepress links are growing in popularity and are available from the traditional prepress vendors (Scitex, Crosfield, and Hell) as well as from lesser-known companies such as CyberChrome. When they are used wisely, these links can save you time and money — not a minor consideration, because prepress console rates run as high as $700 per hour. To give you a feel for how the process works, here's a brief look at a typical Macintosh-to-prepress operation, followed by an overview of the offerings of the vendors just mentioned.

**How It Works**

High-quality color is the name of the prepress game, so the workflow usually begins at the prepress shop (see Figure 1).

The Mac-based designer gives the prepress operator color photographs or transparencies, which are scanned at high resolution on a drum scanner. Each scan is saved in two forms: The high-resolution image is stored in the prepress system for later use, and a low-resolution TIFF image is returned to the designer for use as a placeholder in page layout. The design builds the publication, incorporating text, PostScript illustrations, and low-resolution scans, which are positioned, sized, and cropped as needed. The completed layout is saved to disk either in the program's native format or as a PostScript file, and the file is sent to the prepress shop.

At the service bureau, the prepress link — actually a RIP (raster-image processor) — translates the Mac PostScript file into the prepress system's proprietary format. The resulting prepress file, usually called linework, is essentially a big color bit map that contains all the type, graphic shapes, and rules. Because each page is now a bit map, text and other elements cannot easily be edited or rearranged. Prepress systems were created to handle high-quality color, not page design, so the designer normally must make changes to the type or other page elements on the Mac and then resend the file to the prepress system.

Linework files are generally processed at higher resolutions than are continuous-tone images (also called contone), which consist of scanned photographs and other bit-mapped images. TIFF and PICT2 graphics are usually treated as continuous-tone images; low-resolution copies of these images may be used as placeholders in the page layout, while the original, high-quality versions are given to the prepress operator as separate files and processed as contones. All the contones — scanned color photographs and image files brought over from the Mac — are manipulated and color-corrected on a special console, using a calibrated color monitor.

Once initial preparations have been completed, the linework and contone files are merged to form the final pages. Depending on the prepress system, this process is either done manually (by an operator working on an assembly console) or automatically (through the prepress software).

If the pages must be composed manually, the prepress operator assembles and traps all the page elements, inserting the high-resolution contones and duplicating the cropping, scaling, and positioning established by the designer. Ideally, the linework file should contain clear masks to indicate to the prepress operator where to drop in the contones to complete the page assembly. Otherwise, the operator must create the masks as well as manually place the scanned images. One way the designer can save some console time is to replace all of the TIFF images in the page layout with solid-color tint boxes; the prepress operator can then use these as
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When used wisely, prepress links can save you time and money — not a minor consideration, because prepress console rates often run as high as $700 per hour.

Scitex Visionary 3.0

Scitex was the first major prepress vendor to offer a Macintosh link. Visionary provides access to sophisticated design and production features not available from other prepress systems, but it's also the only prepress link that requires a major expenditure by users. The designer must purchase — at minimum — the Visionary software, which consists of a modified version of QuarkXPress with Bitstream fonts and special coding for various Scitex features. The designer uses QuarkXPress to complete the page layouts and then transmits them via modem to a Gateway workstation at the Scitex bureau. Gateway is a Mac II-based RIP that converts the Visionary files to Scitex format for processing on the Scitex Response prepress system.

Unlike other prepress links, Visionary can generate complete page-geometry information. This means that each graphic element on a page — text, shapes, rules — is translated as a separate bit-mapped file, instead of forming one large composite graphic, which makes it easier for the prepress operator to reposition page elements if last-minute changes occur. Although the page-geometry capability is highly touted, it's often impractical. Page elements take longer to process on a prepress system, and because console time is so expensive, it's sometimes faster and more economical to make changes on the Mac and resend the file to the Scitex system.

All the scanned images in the designer's layout are low-resolution placeholders. These are replaced by high-resolution Scitex scans before the film separations are printed. This replacement process is electronically automated (as with OPI) if the low-resolution scans are produced at the Scitex bureau as opposed to being scanned on a desktop unit. (The scanning dilemma mentioned above still applies, however.) Visionary cannot accept EPS, TIFF, or PICT2 images through the prepress link. These graphics must be given to the Scitex operator as separate files; they are interpreted by Scitex Tools software, which converts them into CT (continuous-tone) format. The operator then manually positions the images on the page.

The Mac community has been highly critical of the Visionary system because of its expense and proprietary nature. It locks you completely into Visionary's version of QuarkXPress, with no other options for page-layout software. In addition, your typefaces are restricted to a specific selection of Bitstream fonts, so forget about that Adobe Galliard fonts, so much.

Only an official Scitex service bureau can sell and install Visionary, and it comes with hardware copy protection, so each single user must buy a copy. There are several Visionary configurations — software only, and software plus a Mac and/or other hardware — so the price varies. However, the software alone can cost several thousand dollars — or nothing at all — depending on what the Scitex bureau decides to charge. Remember, we're talking here about a modified version of QuarkXPress, which retail for $5795.

Visionary isn't compatible with the standard version of QuarkXPress, so you can't save money that way. There is a cheaper version, Visionary Junior, that's designed for text-intensive use, which could lower the overall cost in a multiuser environment. On the hardware side, Visionary requires a Mac IIcx (or later) with a 19-inch color monitor, 80-megabyte hard disk drive, and 8 megabytes of RAM. The Scitex bureau will be glad to sell you the entire platform or the necessary upgrades. Scitex also markets an optional modem, desktop scanner, and thermal wax color printer.

Scitex VIP 1.5

VIP (Visionary Interpreter for PostScript) was created to add PostScript capabilities to Visionary, but Scitex now offers it to its service bureaus as a separate item. This fully functional prepress link can handle both EPS images and Type 1 fonts (now you can use Adobe Galliard!), and its flexibility has encouraged some Scitex bureaus to use it instead of Visionary. VIP is a boon to designers: They pay nothing to use it, and they can work with the page-layout program of their choice.

With VIP, page layouts are saved in PostScript format and passed through the Gateway interpreter at the Scitex bureau for processing and output of four-color film. Like Visionary, VIP 1.5 can't directly handle PICT2 images or color TIFF scans. The operator must process these graphics separately, using Scitex Tools to convert them into CT format and then manually positioning them on the page. Unlike Visionary, VIP isn't able to
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generate page-geometry data and it doesn't replace low-resolution TIFF scans automatically with their high-resolution counterparts, but these aren't considered major drawbacks. VIP also has an upper limit of 256 colors on a page, which causes a problem with PostScript blends (see the "Outer Limit" sidebar).

Version 2.0 of VIP, which is expected to ship by the end of 1990, will add TIFF and PICT2 compatibility. The Scitex Gateway site will then be able to send Macintosh page files, complete with PostScript and bit-mapped images, directly to film output without requiring any operator intervention.

**Crosfield StudioLink 2.1**

Crosfield originally developed its prepress link solely to interpret Ready, Set, Go! files, but StudioLink’s capabilities have since been expanded to include a variety of input formats. Version 2.1 adds Type 1 fonts; OPI compatibility; and support for DesignStudio, PageMaker, and QuarkXPress. (StudioLink is now marketed by DuPont Imaging Systems, which acquired Crosfield in early 1990.)

StudioLink consists of a Mac II plus a Sun SPARC-based workstation, which uses a Hyphen RIP to interpret the files. The designer creates the page layout, using an off-the-shelf layout program, and then sends the file to the StudioLink setup at the prepress shop. The file goes first to the Mac, where it’s saved in PostScript format, and is afterward transferred via Ethernet to the Sun, which converts the file to linework format for processing on Crosfield’s Studio prepress system.

StudioLink handles PostScript graphics just fine, but it can’t process color TIFF or PICT2 files. If a page contains one of these image types, StudioLink automatically replaces it with a clear window, and the console operator manually drops in a high-resolution Crosfield scan. Because StudioLink supports OPI, the replacement of TIFF scans can be handled automatically, provided the low-resolution placeholders were generated from the high-resolution scan file.

Although StudioLink 2.1 works with many Mac page-layout programs, you can reap added benefits if you use DesignStudio, which is the only application that can generate complete Crosfield page-geometry information. The benefits (easier page adjustments) and drawbacks (longer processing times) are similar to those mentioned for the Scitex Visionary system.

**Hell ScriptMaster 2.0**

Hell prepress systems are respected for their immaculate, high-quality color output, and now Mac users can take advantage of this power with ScriptMaster, Hell’s PostScript-compatible prepress link. Similar to the StudioLink setup, ScriptMaster runs on a high-powered...
Apollo 3500 workstation, which uses a Hyphen RIP to convert the Mac’s PostScript files into Hell’s proprietary linework format. The files are then processed on a Hell ChromaCom prepress system.

ScriptMaster 2.0 accepts files from several Mac applications, including PageMaker, QuarkXPress, Ready.Set, Go!, DesignStudio, Illustrator, and FreeHand. It supports PostScript graphics and Type 1 fonts, but it can’t directly interpret color TIFF and PICT2 images. The next version, which was in development at press time, will accept 24-bit PICT images if they are processed as separate continuous-tone images.

Although Hell was the first prepress vendor to announce support for OPI, the current version of ScriptMaster doesn’t support this feature. The new version will include OPI compatibility, however, allowing color TIFF scans to be electronically stripped into the prepress pages. (At press time, Linotype was trying to acquire Hell Graphic Systems from Dr.-Ing. Rudolf Hell, its parent company. It’s too early to predict how the acquisition would affect Hell’s prepress offerings.)

**CyberChrome Imaging Centers**

An interesting alternative to the high-end prepress link, CyberChrome Imaging Centers provide a controlled, quality production system in an all-PostScript environment. The basic setup consists of a PC running CyberChrome’s prepress software, a color monitor, a high-resolution scanner, a color printer (for proofing), and an imagesetter (for film output). Mac PostScript files don’t have to be translated into a proprietary format, so the production process is straightforward and has few limitations.

Designers can use their favorite fonts and image formats without worrying about compatibility issues or stripping costs. In addition, they retain complete control over a document all the way to film separation, reducing the cost of last-minute changes. And because the equipment is less expensive than high-end systems, the hourly rates are usually lower.

The CyberChrome system accepts files created in QuarkXPress, PageMaker, FreeHand, or Illustrator. Color images are input with CyberChrome’s high-resolution desktop scanner and color-corrected on a 386-based PC equipped with a Targa video-display board. A low-resolution PICT2 file is then created, which the designer uses as a placeholder in the page layout. In contrast to high-end prepress systems, CyberChrome lets the designer scale and rotate continuous-tone images on the Macintosh without the requirement for rescanning.

The CyberChrome production process is similar to that of a prepress link that is equipped with OPI: Pages are assembled electronically, with placeholder images being automatically replaced by high-resolution images.

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resolution scans. (CyberChrome does not, however, use the OPI standard.) The completed pages are color-separated and then output to film on a Linotronic 300 imagesetter.

At present, there are 7 CyberChrome Imaging Centers scattered across the country (11 worldwide). If you want an in-house system, CyberChrome will sell you a complete package, including training, for $165,000 or so.

The CyberChrome solution possesses numerous benefits, but it does lack some production features of the high-end prepress systems. In addition, many experts feel that desktop scanners and PostScript imagesetters can't maintain the consistent high quality required for color prepress work.

But be forewarned: Desktop technology is advancing rapidly, and Macintosh-based color publishing may eventually match the traditional prepress systems in quality and surpass them in efficiency and price.

Keith Baumann runs BytesEyes Communications, a consulting firm specializing in the configuration and integration of electronic design and prepress systems. Senior editor Alleen Abernathy is MacUser's resident DTP expert.

**Directory**

For more information on the prepress links mentioned in this article or to locate the prepress shop nearest you, contact one of the following companies:

- **CyberChrome, Inc.**
  25 Business Park
  Branford, CT 06405
  (203) 483-8815

- **CyberChrome Imaging Centers**
- **DuPont Imaging Systems**
  65 Harristown Road
  Glen Rock, NJ 07452
  (201) 447-5800

- **Crosfield StudioLink**
- **Hell Graphic Systems**
  145 Pinelawn Road
  P.O. Box 9042
  Melville, NY 11747-9042
  (516) 753-4700

- **ScriptMaster**
- **Scitex America Corp.**
  Eight Oak Park Drive
  Bedford, MA 01730
  (617) 275-5150

- **Visionary V.I.P.**

For a list of Scitex service bureaus in your area (which also market Visionary), contact:

- Scitex Graphic Arts Users Association
  (800) 858-0489
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Putting Spin on a Logo

Creating an animation can be relatively simple if you use the tweening function of a 3-D graphics program.

By the editors of Verbum magazine

To create an animation, most people use a 3-D rendering program. Animation tools such as MacroMind Director can’t create three-dimensional animations, although they can import them and play them back with great versatility.) In traditional cel animation, creating the many frames needed to produce a smooth-looking animation is a tedious process. But some 3-D rendering programs, such as Swivel 3D Professional, provide a powerful shortcut. If you specify the beginning point and endpoint of a motion or rotation, the program will supply the in-between frames. This automatic animation process is called tweening.

We used the sophisticated animation and rendering capabilities of Swivel 3D Professional to animate a 3-D logo. Although we could have used Dimensions Presenter, DynaPerspective, or Super 3D for this project, we chose Swivel 3D Professional because it provides object-shading features that eliminate the faceted look of the original logo.

The logo is given a shiny chrome surface by editing the parameters of color, material, reflectance, and environment. Several sets of surface qualities are created and applied to the logo until the right effect is achieved.

The presentation contains two animation sequences that show the 3-D logo forming and then spinning. The individual frames, or steps, are created with Swivel 3D Professional’s tweening function and exported to MacroMind Director, where they are linked to form the finished animation. To complete the presentation, the spinning logo is combined with other elements, including a title block, interactive text, and buttons.

Verbum: The Journal of Personal Computer Aesthetics can be reached at P.O. Box 15439, San Diego, CA 92115; (619) 233-9977.

In April, 1989, the Trustees approved a capital campaign to help defray the expansion costs. The campaign, appropriately titled "Space for Science," has a $5 million goal. This goal was determined through a process of careful planning, including a feasibility study in which almost 100 people were interviewed.

The finished presentation contains two animation sequences that show the 3-D logo forming and then spinning. The individual frames, or steps, are created with Swivel 3D Professional’s tweening function and exported to MacroMind Director, where they are linked to form the finished animation. To complete the presentation, the spinning logo is combined with other elements, including a title block, interactive text, and buttons.

The original 3-D logo (not shown) was created in Swivel 3D Professional and had a flat shading. The first step in preparing the logo for animation is to apply smooth shading by choosing Smooth from the Render menu. The tonal differences are then averaged across all the facets, producing the rounded look shown here.
Beginning the Animation

Once the shading and reflectance are right, the logo's components — the three S shapes — are separated and reduced in size. This is the first frame of an animation sequence that will show the Ss enlarging and coming together to form the finished logo. The Set Key button in the Tweening dialog box is used to define the exploded view as Keyframe 1, the beginning point of the animation. The number 20 in the Frames field tells the program to create 20 "in-between" steps between Keyframes 1 and 2.

Tweening between Key Frames

The three S shapes are merged to form the original 3-D logo (the numerical values for position and scale of each element were recorded). The re-created logo is defined as Keyframe 2. Clicking on Preview provides a rudimentary wire-frame view of the 20-step animation. Clicking on 'Tween produces the finished animation steps.

Spinning the Logo

A second animation sequence is created to show the logo spinning around its y (vertical) axis. This time the finished logo is defined as Keyframe 1. The Yaw is set at -120 degrees in the Object Attitude dialog box, and the newly rotated logo is defined as Keyframe 2. The logo is rotated another 120 degrees to create Keyframe 3, and then Loop is selected in the Tween dialog box. This connects the last Keyframe to the first one, completing the 360-degree rotation effect. The logo's other two rotational axes — pitch (horizontal, or x axis) and roll (depth, or z axis) — are locked at 22.5 degrees. Ten tweens are created between each pair of Keyframes.

Exporting the Tweens

Through the Tweening Options dialog box, the completed animation sequences are saved in both PICS and Scrapbook formats. The PICS file saves the entire document (including the static background), which can be viewed as a finished animation in full motion with MacroMind Accelerator. A Scrapbook file saves only the individual frames (and is therefore a smaller file) and is used to import both animation sequences into MacroMind Director, where they are linked and then combined with other elements to form the final presentation.
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GO Corp., rumored to be developing a pen-based computer, still hasn’t let the cat out of the bag, but it recently released a small kitten. It admitted finally that it is, indeed, developing a product. Pay attention: That’s news. It also revealed a licensing agreement with — are you ready? — IBM. Big Blue will market a pen-based computer using GO system software.

By Henry Bortman

Yet another AppleShare clone. Several, in fact. Sony is marketing an AFP-compliant Worknetting Server. Hardware: Sony’s NEWS server; software: UNIX and Information Presentation Technologies’ uShare server. Prices start at around $9,000. This one looks hot. ◆Mt. Xinu has released K-AShare, which turns a Sun workstation into an AppleShare server. Pricing starts at $995 for 15 users (sorry, Sun workstation not included). ◆HP has teamed up with Pacer Software to produce a version of PacerShare that runs on HP/Apollo’s UNIX-based workstations and minicomputers. Pricing starts at $1,200 per server. ◆Finally, 3Com’s 3+Open 1.1 LAN Manager now supports AFP-compliant 3+Open for Macintosh. The Mac add-on software is $1,195 and allows Mac users to use the AppleShare icon in the Chooser to access 3Com servers. The new 3+Open also interoperates with NetWare.

Not just another mail gateway. While Apple and DEC have been putting the finishing touches on LanWORKS for Macintosh, Alisa has been busy readying AlisaMail, a store-and-forward messaging system that implements and integrates dissimilar mail systems on a VAX. It consists of an “information switch,” a SQL database that stores messages from different mail systems in a common format and then reformats them for forwarding to the recipient. The initial offering implements VMSSmail and Microsoft Mail, and others are planned to follow. At between $8,000 and $17,500, it’s not cheap.

DOS on the desktop. Insignia’s SoftPC, which enables a Mac to run DOS applications, now has a junior cousin. AccessPC lets a Mac user mount a DOS disk directly onto the Mac desktop. At $129.95, it is the first challenge to Dayna’s DOS Mounter, which performs a similar function.
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The Right Tool

Without good management tools, it's hard to analyze your network's behavior.

By Kurt VanderSluis

To analyze the performance of a network properly, you need precise tools. There are some expensive PC-based solutions, such as Network General’s Sniffer, but to date, comprehensive Mac-based software solutions have been unavailable.

A while ago, I was asked to help with a network design for ten Mac IIx workstations on Ethernet. A FastPath router was connected to a LocalTalk segment that contained eight LaserWriter IINTXs, five of which were being spooled from an AppleShare Print Server (ASPS) on an SE/30 with 4 megabytes, which was also located in the LocalTalk segment (see Figure 1). The users prepared the company's government proposals. They tended to print all the proposals in the last few days before the government representatives arrived to receive the company pitch. The documents averaged 200 pages, and a pitch involved 8 to 12 proposals. To make matters worse, the users wanted to print 25 originals rather than print 1 original and photocopy it 24 times, because they wanted each person to have a fresh, crisp copy.

The network manager noticed that it took 40 percent longer to print the 25 original documents when all eight LaserWriters were printing simultaneously than it did when only one was printing. I suspected that all this printing was generating more traffic on the LocalTalk network than it could handle and that the printers were spending a lot of time sitting idle because the data couldn't get through from the Macs. I advised dividing the LocalTalk network into two separate networks, each containing only four LaserWriters, and having the SE/30 run Liaison (a software router) as well as the Print Server (see Figure 2). The FastPath can connect only one LocalTalk network to an Ethernet network; a Mac used as a software router can connect two LocalTalk networks to Ethernet.

This approach fixed the problem, and you might think that's the end of the story. The problem is, I'm not sure why my solution worked. Maybe having the spooler on LocalTalk was doubling the print traffic (one transmission to send it from a Mac to the...
spooler and another to send it from the spooler to the printer). Maybe the FastPath couldn’t keep up with the traffic level.

Why don’t I know which reason it is? Because of the lack of good Macintosh-based network tools for AppleTalk networks. Some vendors have recently announced network-management software that may fill this gap (see “Networks: Under New Management,” August 1990, page 226), but at press time, none that would have helped me with this example were available.

So meanwhile I began building some tools of my own, such as a HyperCard stack I call Packet Cruncher. It calculates two characteristics of network behavior. The first is network utilization, a measure of exactly how much of a network’s bandwidth is being used during a specified time period. The second is statistical information about the size of the data packets on the network. In a future issue, I’ll write about how Packet Cruncher works and how you can obtain a copy from Zmac, MacUser’s on-line service.

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Figure 2: This configuration is more efficient than the one in Figure 1, but without proper network-management tools, it’s hard to say precisely why.
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14 Excel Solutions

Does this sound familiar? Every time you add new cells to your Excel spreadsheet, a dialog box appears. Why should you have to tell Excel over and over that you want to shift cells to the right?

The answer is, you don’t.

Although the manual can give you an idea of available options, you won’t find everything you ever wanted to know about squeezing maximum performance from Excel in its pages.

The following 14 answers to frequently posed questions provide tips and shortcuts that Microsoft’s product-support team considers the most useful for Excel users.

1. How can I link Excel data and charts into my Word 4.0 document so that the Word document can be automatically updated when I change my data or charts in Excel?

Using MultiFinder

- Select and copy the Excel information that you want in your Word document.
- Quit Excel, and then open your Word document.
- Position the cursor where you want to paste the information, and choose Paste Link from the Edit menu.
- To update this information in Word after you’ve changed it in Excel, select the data in Word along with the identifier paragraph preceding the data. You can update everything you earlier copied from Excel or select specific rows or columns.
- Choose Update Link from the Edit menu. Word starts up Excel (if necessary), opens your spreadsheet, copies the updated information, and then transfers it to your Word document (see Figure 1). If Word can’t find the Excel program or file it’s supposed to be linked to, it displays a dialog box and asks you to locate the program.

2. When I try to open many files, I get the error message “Can’t open or save more documents.” What limit am I running into?

When the Mac boots, the System sets the maximum number of saved files a document may have open at once. The number is generally 32, although it varies slightly from System to System and may change depending on whether or not you’re using MultiFinder. The error message means that the System won’t let Excel open any more saved files or save any previously unsaved files. You can still create additional new documents in Excel, but you can’t save them until you close some of the currently open saved files.

3. When using Excel’s database, I select a range of cells containing field names and...
choose Extract from the Data menu. I get the error message “Extract Range is not valid.” What’s wrong with my selection?

The names selected as the extract fields must exactly match the field names in the database. The names are case-sensitive and can’t have any leading or trailing spaces, and the extract range can’t have any blank cells in it. The best way to make sure the titles in your extract range match exactly the titles from your database is to copy the titles from your database directly to your extract range. Finally, any number or date field names in the database can’t be used in the extract range. If you’re still encountering problems after making sure the names match, try extracting each field independently to see which one is causing the alert.

4. How do I load a work space by default when I open Excel?

Save your worksheet, chart, macro, sheet, or work space into a file, label it Excel Startup, and place it in your System Folder. Excel then automatically opens that file whenever the application is started.

5. How can I insert cells without bringing up a dialog box that asks whether I want to shift cells up or to the right?

Hold down the Option key, and select the range you want to insert. Excel will insert the range according to the default setting in the dialog box.

6. How can I line up the numbers exactly when I use both the regular-number format and the dollar format in the same column?

You can align the regular-number and dollar formats by selecting the cells with the regular-number format and choosing Number on the Format menu. Then select the dollar format, and delete the dollar signs in the Format Number dialog box.

7. How can I use the SUM function to add up individual times of less than 24 hours when the sum of the times exceeds Excel’s clock limit of 24 hours?

This is a frequently encountered problem for many Excel users, and the solution is a simple formula. Say you want to add three triathlon times, 14:10:00, 16:15:00, and 13:23:00 and get an answer in hours and minutes. (14:10:00 is 14 hours, 10 minutes, and 0 seconds.) Type the times into cells A1:A3. Enter the following formula in cell A4 in General format to sum the times in h.m.m.s format:

\[ \text{INT} \left( \text{SUM} \left( \text{HOUR} \left( A1:A3 \right) \right) \right) + \left( \text{MOD} \left( \text{SUM} \left( \text{HOUR} \left( A1:A3 \right) \right) \right) \left( 60, 1 \right) - 6 \right) + \text{MOD} \left( \text{SUM} \left( \text{MINUTE} \left( A1:A3 \right) \right), 60 \right) / 100 \]

(In this case, the range is A1:A3—the cells in which you entered the times—so you could substitute a different range for your own spreadsheet.) To enter the formula as an array, press Command-Enter after typing in the formula. The formula should give you a total of 43:48 (43 hours, 48 minutes).

8. How do I create an x-y chart?

You can plot an x-y chart for one or more series of y data by using the Scatter format from the Gallery menu. If your data is in columns, enter the y data into the columns directly to the right of the x data on your worksheet. If your data is in rows, enter the y data into the rows directly below the x data on your worksheet.

To create an x-y chart:

• Select the data you want to plot, including column headings if you want to plot them as well. Copy the data to the Clipboard.
• Open a new chart. Choose New from the File menu, and select Chart. Click on OK, and a blank chart will appear on your screen.
• Choose Paste Special from the Edit menu. If your data is in columns (or rows), choose Values in Columns (or Rows) and Categories in First Column (or Row). If you have also copied column (or row) headings for inclusion in the chart, click on Series Names in First Column (or Row).
• Click on OK, and the data will be plotted in a bar chart.
• Select Scatter from the Gallery menu, and the data will be plotted as an x-y chart.

9. How can I plot information according to a best-fit line rather than through the actual data points?

You’ll probably want a best-fit line if you’re plotting experimental data and the trend is more important than the actual data. To create such a chart, you must first create another series on the worksheet, using the TREND function, and plot it along with your actual data. You can then hide the line drawn through your actual data points and hide the markers shown with your trend line by choosing Patterns from the Format menu. Suppose you’re measuring the height...
The best way to make sure the titles in your extract range match the titles from your database is to copy the titles from your database directly to your extract range.

- Click on the straight line, select Patterns from the Format menu, and click on Invisible for the Marker pattern. To select a different line pattern for this line, click on OK again, and the points will be removed from your straight line.
- Finally, you can add a title and labels for the Category (x) and Value axes by selecting Attach Text from the Chart menu. Select the desired label, and type it in.
- You can then add horizontal and vertical lines by selecting Gridlines from the Chart menu and clicking on Major Gridlines for the Category (x) axis and the Value (y) axis.
- The resulting chart should look like Figure 3.

10. How can I insert more than one line of text into a chart label?

In the formula bar, press Command-Return. This creates a larger space in which you can type multiple lines of text.

11. When I link worksheets in Excel, how can I rearrange the data on the supporting worksheet without affecting the link?

Let's say you have a total in cell C5 of Worksheet1 (W1) that is linked to cell D7 of your second worksheet changes, because it's still linked to cell C5. You can adjust for rearrangements by using a name instead of a cell reference. For this example, select C5 in W1. Choose Define Name from the Formula menu, type in a name such as Total, and click on OK.

On W2, change your link to read =Worksheet1!Total.

Now if you cut and paste the value in C5 to some other area of W1 or insert rows that push C5 down, the name will follow the original value in C5 wherever it goes and the link will be properly maintained. Note: This won't work if you sort the rows into a new order.

12. How do I bring a color Excel chart into Word?

Select Print Using Color in the Excel Print dialog box (you have to Click on OK and then press Command-period to stop the print job). Then when you copy the chart (by clicking on the outer edge of the chart window and choosing Copy) and Paste Link it into Word, the chart appears in color in Word and is updated in color. Copy Picture in the Shift-Edit menu in Excel also lets you bring a color chart into Word, but it lets you update the chart only in black-and-white.

13. How can I display in a cell the formula that produced a value?

Command-tilde (—) lets you toggle between showing a formula and displaying a value in a cell.

14. How do I delete formulas in selected cells on my spreadsheet while maintaining the values?

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22519 Pon ablc Pac k (faral/un) ................................. S37.l
225 18 Suu Wiring Kit Harmon ica (Fara/1011 ) ............. . S64
22506 Telc Bridge (ShfraJ
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2.1639 Acc. OJO 50mhz II w/co 68R82 (/ hryStar J .. .... 52.309
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!3645 Acc. OJO 33mhz ll x w/co 68882 (/la,1•Surr) ..... S I 539
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2364 1 Acc. 030 33mhz llcx w/co 68882 ! Du.vStar J ... S I 539
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23637 Acc. L>oveSE020w/l!81 & IMB tDm·rJ ....... S777
23634 Acc. llci CACHE Card (/Ja.vS rur) ............... S754
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23735 Drgi Vidco Color Canl (Aapps)
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2373 1 Micro r\' !Aappsl .
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Memory Expan5ion
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. $4 36
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Keyboards, Mice, Elc.
25 184 I ~ runction key module (DuwDrJkJ ................ S37
25283 Link MouS( (A.tow~ S\'Jll"nL{)
........... S77
....... 5 134
25 1 0 Moc-IOI Keyboard. ADB (/)111uD rsk)
25 18 1 Mac- IOI Kcyboard(bc1gc )l /JuwDr>kJ .
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2528 2 Mob1u o; Cordless M oust (Mnh1 uJ )
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26885 B11Pad Plus (Summa~raph1nJ
... 5318
....... SI 15
25183 S\ol.11chba ll (DataD ,skJ .
25 182 Swilchboord (/Jata/J rsk)
...................... 51 74
25 28-t Trackba ll ADB (MmucSy.stmuJ
........ .. . S72
25280 Turbo Mouse Plus (Ke11.1ington ) ................ 51 07
2528 1 Turbo Mouse ADS (Krnsi11.etrmJ . .................... SI 07
26880 Fann y Mac (fan) (M oh/Us)
.... S58
26888 Syslcm Sa\'Cr Mac Plus(Krm i11x1tm} . .... .. ...... S62
26889 Sr ,1em Sa\'cr Mac SE (Kr11si11,r.: tonJ ................. S62
26293 Powerchu1e N1wk UPS Sofl wore IA.I' C. i .. ...... 599
26292 UPS. Unin1errup1ible supply (t\ .P CJ ............. S207

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SE An1i -Glan: Filter (pla1inum) (K t'n.sin.'!ton} .. SJ2
SE An11--Glarc Filter (beige ) (Kt1u 1nxtun ) . ... S32
Apple RGB Anti -Glim Filler ( Kr mmgton) ...... S62
ll nxrDi•lcr (/Jata/Jrsil ....................... 5.12
Jmagewrirer II Dust Cove r (Cm·rr·up J .
. .... SS
La~ r W ri1 cr II Dusi Cover (Kr11s rnxtonJ ... ·-···· S12
f\>bcAvcnuc Carrying CaM'.: (Pact } ...... .............. S65
M11cAvcnue Carrying Case Ex 1. Khd . (Pa ct') .... 576
M:ic II Srnnd & Cable Kit (Kn1 .ti11 ,i.: 1011 )
.. .. S6J
Mac JI Sysltm S1and ( Knuit1glm1) .. .......... ........ S20
..... S8
Mac Plus/SE Dust Cover (Cm·r r·"f')
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23732 MIDI ln1crfacc (Passparr /Je.rign.r) .................. S76

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Build a Forms Generator

HyperCard would be among the last products one would think of using for forms design — until now.

By Michael Swaine

This month’s column is about a do-it-yourself project. We’re going to build a forms generator.

There’s a large class of documents that are more complex than typical word-processing documents and less complex than typical page-layout documents. Most of a business’s standard forms fall into this class: invoices, inventory forms, price lists. And there are the not-so-standard forms: all those documents too infrequently produced to be printed up in batches, too simple to justify using a page-layout program, and yet too complicated for a word processor. It would be handy to have a program that let you design such documents easily, flexibly, and cheaply.

The program should permit free placement of text on the page; for example, it should let you put a multicolumn block of left-justified text next to a block of single-column, right-justified text in a different font. It should be able to pull data in from several files, automatically. It should support template design, so that a new version of a document is generated when data in its supporting files is updated. And it would be nice if it had the programmability of a spreadsheet, so that a document could, for example, compute and include a due date 30 days after the date when the document is printed.

No existing program does all these things. Word processors don’t provide enough flexibility in the placement of text on the page. Page-layout programs, such as PageMaker, QuarkXPress, and FrameMaker, allow precise control over the placement of elements on the page, as do integrated products such as Ragtime and Trapeze, but these products don’t support a template approach. Forms-design packages such as Claris SmartForms, specifically designed to do this job, are the tools to use if you do a lot of forms design. But they require a commitment of money and time, and they aren’t programmable the way a spreadsheet is.

Or the way that HyperCard is. Until recently, HyperCard would be among the last products one would think of using for forms design. Support for any kind of printing in HyperCard versions 1.0 through 1.2.5 waslegendarily poor. Version 2.0, though, is a different story: Its report-printing capability is just what this project requires. And HyperCard is cheap.

Here’s a step-by-step tutorial on creating a forms generator in HyperCard 2.0.

You’ll need test data for checking out your forms generator, so save a file from a word-processing program in text-only format. Call it “text,” and put it into the same folder as HyperCard. Then open HyperCard 2.0.

When you open HyperCard, you see the Home Stack. In earlier versions, it contained five cards, but now it contains nine. Navigate to the last card (pressing the left-arrow key is one way), where you can move a vertical slider control to change the user level from 1, browsing, at the bottom, to 5, scripting, at the top. The higher the user level, the more you can do. Run the slider all the way to the top. Pull down the File menu, and select New
Forms-design packages are the tools to use if you do a lot of forms design. But they require a commitment of money and time, and they aren’t programmable the way that HyperCard is.

Stack. In the dialog box that pops up, give your stack a name and adjust the card-image rectangle at the right to set the stack’s card size. (HyperCard cards can now be different sizes, although you can have only one size per stack; if you don’t like the size you set now, you can easily change it later.) It doesn’t need to be very big — try 96 x 64 pixels. With such a small window, the stack should have a short name; call it Form. Click on New.

You’re now looking at your form generator, a tiny, entirely empty window. It’s going to stay empty. Building a HyperCard stack usually means positioning a lot of buttons and text fields, but you won’t need any of those. Pull down the File menu, and select Print Report.

What you see is the Report dialog box. You’re going to create a report template, but some of what you see here is not relevant, because it assumes you’re printing cards from the stack. Since you’re going to ignore the stack, you can also ignore the All cards/Marked cards setting as well as the settings for print order, fixed versus dynamic height, and spacing. You do want to set the page margins and run the record size out to the maximum (to fill the page). Type in a header if you like, clicking on the appropriate buttons if you want to include the print date and/or time.

Pull down the Edit menu, and select Report name, which lets you give the report template a name. You can store many report templates in this stack, so you need to name them in order to keep them straight.

The rest of the process of creating the report template consists of creating individual report items, which are the fields into which data will be placed. Pull down the Edit menu again, and select Report Items.
function getData(sourceFile, chunkNum, chunkType)
-- Function getData returns the chunkNum-the chunk
-- of text from the text file sourceFile, a chunk
-- being defined by its chunkType.
--
-- ChunkType names the character that separates,
-- or delimits, chunks. It can be "return," "tab,"
-- or "comma." "Return" and "tab" are predefined
-- in HyperCard, but we must define "comma."
put "", " into chunkType
-- "Return" is the default if nothing is supplied.
if chunkType is empty
then put "return" into chunkType
-- We don't want the literal string "comma," but
-- the character it represents: i.e., its value.
put value(chunkType) into delimit
-- ChunkNum tells which chunk of the file we want.
-- We read that many such chunks from the file.
open file sourceFile
repeat for chunkNum
read from file sourceFile until delimit
put it into sourceText
end repeat
close file sourceFile
-- The final chunk read is stored in sourceText
-- and returned as the value of function getData.
return sourceText
end getData

For each text field you want in your report, you need to create an item, size it, position it on the page, and fill in the item information, which will determine the item's contents and format. To create an item, select New Item from the Items menu. A rectangle appears. To size and position an item, drag its rectangle around on the page.

To fill in the item information, select the item by clicking on its rectangle and select Item Info from the Items menu. This brings up another dialog box, most of which is concerned with the text formatting for the item. You can set the font, size, style, leading, and alignment (you can choose right, left, or center, but not fully justified or decimal-aligned). You can also set the number of columns for this item: Individual items can wrap around several columns. These settings apply to all the data in the item, so if you want to center a 12-point heading over a block of 10-point left-justified text, you need to create two items.

You specify the item's contents in the text box labeled "Contents of item" near the top of the dialog box. The assumption is that you will get the text for the item from a text field in the stack, and the scrolling list box below this box would let you choose from these fields if there were any. But you are not constrained to get your text from a HyperCard field or even from this stack. You can put into this box any expression that HyperCard is able to interpret.

Put this into the box:

```
getData("text", 1)
```

This retrieves paragraph 1 from your text file "text" and puts it into the item. Now create two more items, give them different fonts, position them, and put the following into their contents boxes:

```
getData("text", 2)
```
and

```
getData("text", 3)
```
which do exactly what you think: They put paragraphs 2 and 3 of your text file into their respective items. If you called your text file something other than "text," substitute that name. If you want to use a...
BEATING THE SYSTEM

System 7.0 Watch: The Read Balloon

More thought goes into the documentation of nearly every Mac application than into almost any other consumer or business product. Mac developers can pat themselves on the back for the quality of their documentation, compared with that for, say, answering machines and faxes. And when they've finished congratulating themselves, they should get busy improving their documentation, because just being better than fax and answering-machine documenters is nowhere near good enough. Software keeps getting more sophisticated and complex, and its help needs help.

Application developers need to cure themselves of the delusion that an item-by-item explanation of the application menus constitutes adequate documentation, for example. It's one part of the documentation but not the main part. And the explanation doesn't belong in a printed manual but in the product itself.

The help tools built into System 7.0 should help application developers create on-line documentation for their applications. The first encounter you'll have with the use of these tools will doubtless be the balloon-help documentation for Finder 7.0.

Balloon help is a mode that you enter or leave by clicking on a question-mark icon that is always present in the System 7.0 menu bar. As you move around the screen, balloon help explains anything you point at. You don't have to click the mouse button; the explanations are triggered simply by movement of the pointer across an icon, menu header, menu item, window, or window component. Almost anything you can point at has an explanation, although in some cases, the help explanations are generic, explaining, for example, what a window is rather than what this particular window's function is. But pointing at a dimmed menu item not only produces an explanation of what the item does but it also gets you a statement that the dimmed appearance of the menu means that it is not currently available and possibly even an explanation of why it's not available.

The explanations are displayed in pop-up word balloons just like those in which comic-book characters express themselves. The balloon for an object appears as soon as the pointer passes over the object and disappears when it moves off it. Cute as the word balloons are, the metaphor is the result of some serious human-interface-design thinking. Each balloon is sized and shaped to display its text in a classic golden rectangle, the ancient Greeks' idea of a beautiful shape. And the tail of the word balloon points to the object it belongs to, a human-interface-design touch that has been tested for more than 60 years in comic books and comic strips. (And you probably thought that it was Dick Tracy's wrist-radio that was pointing the way toward the future.)

Balloon help is just one part of the new Help Manager built into System 7.0. It's designed to handle the necessary, but not central, documentation problem of annotating the elements of the application. Balloon help is for telling what the object is or what its function is. Other help tools are intended to support more-complex task-oriented documentation. We'll see them put to use later. Balloon help's functionality is more immediately useful to third-party developers, and its success will depend on what third-party developers do with it. To put a little more pressure on developers who might be feeling lazy, I'll tell you just how easy it will be for them to add balloon help to their applications.

Application developers don't need to write any specialized help code to add balloon help to an application. Adding balloon help is just a matter of creating the text and putting it into new help resources in the application. These resources can be associated with (and hence can document) active or inactive windows or applications, individual parts of windows, menus, dialog boxes, and other objects. With a little coding, ambitious application developers can also customize balloon help, displaying color pictures in the balloons, for example.

There's no reason for application developers not to add balloon help to their applications as soon as System 7.0 is released.

Users might also have reasons to modify the help text in an application. It won't be hard. Is there something you just can't remember about a tool in one of your occasional applications? Annotate it in its balloon resource.

Balloon help is only the first you'll see of the help capabilities built into System 7.0, and the what-is-this-help it provides is only one of the kinds of on-line help that users of complex applications need. Eventually users should have a rich set of alternatives for getting on-line help with applications, including a choice of viewpoints and authors ("Show me what my favorite documenter says about this tool" or "So-and-so is usually insightful about font issues; show me her comments on my present problem"), levels of depth and of assumed experience (these are not the same thing, and application developers should not assume that users will defer exploring the deeper levels of the application until they have become experts), sensory modalities (talk to me, draw me a picture, don't tell me if you can show me), and a choice of kinds of help (contextual tips and tricks, hints, cross-references, shortcuts, definitions of terms, task-oriented solutions, functional explanations, and maps).

Balloon help is one small footprint in this largely untrodden terrain.

text file that is not in the folder with HyperCard, substitute its full pathname, such as hardDiskName:WPFolder:documentFolder:text. If you want paragraphs other than the first three, substitute the appropriate numbers for 1, 2, and 3. Click on OK, and then click on Cancel to return to the stack, answering Yes to the prompt about saving your changes. Don't click on Print; you're not ready for that yet. There is one more thing to do.

It would be nice if HyperCard had a getData function, but it doesn't. You'll have to supply it yourself. Here's how you do that.

Press the Command and Option keys while you type S to invoke the script editor on the script of this stack. The blank window shows that the stack has no script, but you're going to change that.
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Beating the System

Users and Winners

The winner of April’s puzzle will be announced next month. As mentioned in the June issue (page 251), Danny Goodman was the wild-eyed optimist who thought the 128K Mac would live forever.

The May puzzle asked, “How heavy is a megabyte?” and was won by George Taniwaki, whose table of capacities, weights, and efficiencies of 39 different media ran in the August issue (page 239), but new numbers keep flitting in. I’ll share some of the more entertaining ones next month.

The winner of the June puzzle is Gary Newman, of Petaluma, California, who correctly identified the wild-eyed optimists who thought the Mac II would live forever as MacUser contributing editors Thom Hogan and Michael Swaine, writing about the now-obsolete machine in their now-obsolete newsletter The Macintosh II Report.

The July puzzle, “Ten Little Arrows,” sparked a lot of guesses about what application I was using as I wrote that month’s column. Some were more reasonable than others: Does anyone really believe that I write this column in HyperCard or 4th Dimension? The correct answer is that I was using Microsoft Word and a utility discussed in that column, Scroll2, that doubles up the scroll-bar arrows. Nobody got it right.

The system-shrinking puzzle from the December ’89 issue (page 226) continues to generate more questions than solutions, and so I’m reprising it here.

Send me your minimum System: the smallest usable System file you can create, using Font/DA Mover, ResEdit, or whatever tools you wish. Include the shrunk size and the version number of the System file, precise details of what you did to make it small, and the model of Mac you’re using. And don’t hold me or MacUser responsible for what happens if you try to use your shrunk System. This is research.

As usual, the winner will receive a nifty all-cotton “I Beat the System” T-shirt. State your size in your entry—or perhaps one size too large. You know how those things shrink.

Send your solution to:
Michael Swaine
MacUser
950 Tower Lane
18th Floor
Foster City, CA 94404

Type the script in Example 1, proofread it carefully, and then press Command-S to save it and Command-W to close the editor. (You don’t have to enter the comments, which are the lines beginning with two hyphens. They might be helpful, though, if you intend ever to modify the script.)

When you select Print Report from the File menu, the items in the report template invoke your getData function, and it picks out the specified paragraphs from the file. Text-format files produced by Mac word processors delimit paragraphs with the Return character, but Return delimits individual lines in a list too, so you can also use this function to select such lines.

To test the report template you’ve created, select Print Report and this time let it print. If you don’t like the results, go back and edit the report template. Subsequently you can generate new reports from the same template by saving new data to the text file. Or to a different file: If there aren’t too many items, it’s easy enough to change the file reference in the items when you print.

But this is all just text: It would be nice to be able to incorporate data from a database file or a spreadsheet as well. That’s not hard, although you should note that getData can’t bring in formatted groups of cells from a spreadsheet or database. The report template does all the formatting and lets you plug only individual database fields or spreadsheet cells into its items. Here’s how you do that.

The database or spreadsheet program you’re using should let you save data to files in either comma-delimited or tab-delimited format. Do that. These are
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BEATING THE SYSTEM

standard text formats for context data, and the getdata function can deal with them. Once you've saved the database or spreadsheet data in one of these formats, you can create report items to accommodate the data. For comma-delimited data, add a comma and the quoted word comma to the getdata reference:

getdata ("anotherFile", 3, "comma")

For tab-delimited data, use the quoted word tab:

getdata ("yetAnotherFile", 1, "tab")

These will return, respectively, the text between the second and third commas in the file anotherFile and the text up to the first tab character in the file yetAnotherFile. When you adapt this method to the task of creating your own forms generator, you may need to experiment to make sure that your references are to the appropriate parts of the files.

Fortunately, HyperCard displays the data in the item box immediately, so you can see right away if you're referring to the correct data.

As these examples imply, you can draw data from several different files and mix comma-delimited, tab-delimited, and standard text-file formats in one report.

formatting items in any combination of fonts and styles. You can save many report formats in one stack. And you can write your own functions, placing them in the stack script along with getdata and invoking them in report-item contents just as you did with getdata.

There is much room to extend this simple stack; for example, all the text in any one item will be assigned the same font and style. That may be appropriate for forms, but it is a limitation, and extending the stack to get around it is a puzzle. The puzzle is solvable (consider that a challenge).

HyperCard 2.0 has many welcome new features, some of which give users greater control over printing and over the user interface. I have written a stack that implements all the features discussed here and collects all the old and new printing capabilities of HyperCard on a new Print menu. The disk is available for $10 for parts and postage from the address below; it is also available for downloading from ZMac.

Michael Swaine covers HyperCard and other hyperstuff in HyperPub, a hypermedia journal published by The Press Lab, 31 Patrick Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (408) 459-9864.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Ehman</th>
<th>Mirror</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Steel Chassis</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Power Supply</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dual Convenience Outlets</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple Endorsed External Termination</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFI/EMI Filtering</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Warranty Available</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leasing Program</td>
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<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade-In Program</td>
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<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 Hour Repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>10Mb Public Software</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password Protection</td>
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<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partitioning &amp; Drive Spanning</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automated Back Up Software</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<td>Quick Keys (5-mouse rating)</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>DiskTop (4.5-mouse rating)</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>10 Additional CE Products</td>
<td>no</td>
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<td>590MP</td>
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How to Get Tech Support

If you want good technical support, you've got to play by the rules. But that doesn't mean you can never get mad.

By Thom Hogan

Murphy's Law being what it is, I'd have to guess that every product that ships probably ships with a deficiency of some kind, whether the developer knows it or not. There are just too many hardware and software combinations and permutations for programmers and engineers to worry about these days, and occasionally a problem slips through. And, quite frankly, for small companies such as my own, there's just no way to test products on every machine, with every version of the System and with every combination of memory, INITs, and applications.

Of course, the question to you, the user, is What can you do when you encounter that problem? Call Technical Support. (As noted last month [page 263], Apple is an exception. Don't bother calling them — they're too busy reorganizing to answer your questions.)

Be Articulate

What happens when you call a company's support line? Well, it varies from company to company, but judging from my own experience and what I've gathered in talking to other support reps, the first problem that comes up in a support call is that callers aren't able to articulate clearly what their problems are. Most callers spend an inordinate amount of time with a preamble about how they acquired the product or a tirade expressing their dissatisfaction. All the person at the other end of the phone can do is listen until they finish and then ask the question: "What is your problem?"

Here's an example of what I'd like to hear when I pick up the support line at Macreations: "I double-clicked on your application's icon in MultiFinder, and the application appeared to start up, because I saw the menu bar change and your About Box appear. Then a box in the center of the display turned white, and I received the bomb alert with an ID number 25." This person has clearly articulated what he tried to do and what happened when he did it. I still need to get some other information from him, but I already know that I'm dealing with a fatal System-stopping-crash situation, that the user was paying close attention to what happened and is probably describing the events accurately, and that the problem can probably be repeated.

Here's what I usually hear: "Hi. I got your program through a special offer at last year's Macworld, and I finally got around to trying it out, and it doesn't run right. I know I haven't sent the registration card in yet, but I will if you can convince me that your program is going to be compatible with System 7.0 and can be run with a SideWinder 4-millimeter Floppy Tape Drive." This user has only told me that there is a problem, although how serious, I can't tell. Moreover, his casual approach to our product is a bad sign: Usually, when a customer starts out this way, I discover somewhere along the line that he hasn't bothered to read the manual's installation instructions and that he's making assumptions based on what he wants the software to do.

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1. An exact description of the events that triggered the problem, including any messages or special ID alerts you've seen.
2. The version number of the product you were using.
3. The version number of the System software you're using.
4. The Macintosh model you're using.
5. Whether you have any special, out-of-the-ordinary hardware attached to your system (double-page displays, accelerators, cache cards, and so on).

These five items can often narrow down the problem immediately. I've been able to answer about a quarter of the calls I've taken after obtaining just these five pieces of information. Most of the time, users are using an older System with a product or too garbled for them to decipher. But does not discriminate between readers and nonreaders — I answer the question good-naturedly and point out that more information on the subject can be found in the manual on pages 4-16 through 4-20.

Read the Manual!

Assuming that those five easy pieces of data didn't narrow things down enough to solve your problem, things get nastier. First, I often make sure that the user did indeed read our documentation and follow the installation instructions. I recently had an irate caller complain about our "copy-protection scheme" on Tycho Table Maker. Well, we don't have one, so I knew something was amiss. After a few questions about how he installed the program, it became clear that the problem rested here. Had this user followed the instructions exactly, I wouldn't have had to answer the call.

Which brings me to an often-voiced complaint of customer-support folk: Users don't read manuals. I grimace every time I hear a support question starting with "How do I . . . ?" Either our manual is terrible (I'd rather not believe that — I wrote it!), or it went unread. Yes, I know that sometimes the index isn't as good as it could be, and sometimes we print things that are either too technical for lay users, or too garbled for them to decipher. But more often than not, the question is "How do I insert a new row in a table?" Well, as both our index and table of contents reference this topic, I can't believe that this person really opened the manual.

Nevertheless, good customer support doesn't discriminate between readers and nonreaders — I answer the question good-naturedly and point out that more information on the subject can be found in the manual on pages 4-16 through 4-20.

Believe It or Not: True Customer-Support Stories

1. The user who, when asked to send a copy of his disk, put it into the photocopier.
2. The user who, when asked for the serial number of his disk, carefully snipped it off the label and mailed it in.
3. The user who forced a second disk into a drive that already contained a disk.
4. The user who typed RETURN instead of pressing the Return key.
5. The user whose mouse didn't work because it wasn't plugged in.
6. The user who complained that Microsoft Word 1.05 doesn't work too well with System 3.5 and Adobe Type Manager.
7. The user who set the Alarm Clock for 4 P.M. and then, at 4 P.M., called his dealer to find out what the flashing Apple was in the upper left corner of his display.

No MacUser reader would ever be caught doing any of these things, right? Right?

If you really can't find something in the manual, say so. "I'm trying to insert a new row in a table, but I can't find any reference to that in the manual's index or table of contents" is a perfectly valid question that tells me something I need to know: Users want to perform an action that I haven't indexed.

INIT Stew

Finally, we get to the real problems, the ones that are headaches for both you, the user, and me, the software producer. Problems that fall into this category include crashes that aren't repeatable, interaction effects that show up only in some products but not others, and performance problems. I know I'm going to get flack by stating this, but it's true: About 50 percent of the crash and interaction problems we get calls about are eventually traced to a particular INIT or cdev. Many of these clever little devices hook into the System (ROM routines, for example) and thus are effectively active all the time. Besides, neither Apple nor the INIT developers have done much to police their work and inform you of possible side effects.

Did you know, for instance, that there's a fixed limit on the number of files you can have open at once (I believe it's 40 in the current version of the System)? If you have 25 INITs running and they all keep one file open for some reason or another, what happens when you run five applications at once (each of which might have four documents open simultaneously) under MultiFinder? Guess what — you've exceeded a fixed limit, and strange things happen.

Likewise, INITs are supposed to automatically adjust the System heap size when they load, but I've seen a few that don't. Others, including Apple's own Print Monitor, attempt to take memory away from running applications, if possible. Some have bugs that accidentally gobble up memory that's not their own.

In general, the more INITs and cdevs you run, the more likely you are to have problems running some programs. What's more, only some combinations of programs and INITs reveal the problem. That is, all INITs and cdevs may not be active at the same time, which makes it very difficult to isolate INITs to the problem. If you have two or more INITs running, you won't get as much help from the System because the INITs are making assumptions they shouldn't.
Thus, once I've moved beyond the five basic questions with a caller, I inevitably ask this question: “Which INITx and cdevs are installed in your System?” What amazes me is how few users can answer it readily. Even if I can't remember which ones I'm using today, I can answer the question in a few seconds by pulling up the Control Panel and looking at the list InitPicker presents. You should be able to do this too. And if you have a product such as InitPicker (highly recommended), I can tell you which ones to remove to try to remedy the problem.

Where's Your Mac?

Which brings me to another point: You should be sitting at your Mac when you call. When I ask a user to try something and he responds, “Well, I'm at home right now, and my Mac is at the office,” we come to an impasse. I can provide a list of things I'd like the user to try, but more often than not, I get another call later because the user didn't remember the list, wrote it down wrong, or hadn't clearly defined the problem in the previous call.

The nastiest problem calls I've had to handle take a great deal of detective work to solve. So please be patient. The answer isn't always obvious. For example, I've now run into several cases in which the whole problem was caused by events in the distant past: The user simply dragged the program's icons to the hard disk instead of using Apple's Installer to install a new System. Somewhere, somehow, some file didn't manage to get updated or was mismatched to the new System. This didn't cause any obvious damage, however, until a particular resource type was loaded in a particular way. Then bingo—all hell broke loose.

But let's face it, sometimes even the best customer-support personnel don't seem to comprehend your problem or they offer you a solution that seems arbitrary or asinine. (“I'm sorry, I can't send you a replacement disk unless you mail me five notarized statements, each of which must list your disk's serial number and be signed by either the dealer you bought the product from or the Pope.”) So what do you do when you fail to get the support you require?

If All Else Fails

1. Get mad. Express your displeasure, but clearly state what it is that is angering you. (Don't say, “Why you insensitive little twerp,” but try, “I am extremely dissatisfied with that response because I bought the product mail-order.”) Be clear about what you want the support reps to do to solve your problem. If they respond that they have no authority to do that, go to the next step.

2. Ask to talk to a supervisor. If that fails, call the company's main number and ask to speak to the product manager for the program or hardware you're having problems with. These days, you're likely to get a voice-mail system, so be prepared with a concise (but firm) message saying you've tried to get help and haven't and that if you can't get your problem resolved satisfactorily, you will have to stop using the product and begin

How the right brain sees MacTools.

- If you drag one file too many and empty the trash, our file recovery tools make it a snap to get files back.
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- Forget where you put a file? MacTools will find it by name or text in seconds and even let you view it to make sure it's the right one.
- Encrypt financial data, employee records, and other sensitive information in a format nobody can crack. Except you.
- With MacTools daily backups are as quick and painless as taking your vitamins. Back up your whole disk or just the files or folders you want.
- You wouldn't drive without a seat belt—don't operate your Mac without one either. MacTools copies critical volume information daily (or more often) to protect against hard disk crashes and accidental initialization.

Central Point Software
sp reading the word to other Mac users.
3. Use your clout. If you work for a Fortune 500 company, try the phrase "I'm a high-level manager at a Fortune 500 company, and if this problem is not resolved satisfactorily, I will see to it that we don't order products from your company again and that your company president knows the reason we won't." If that doesn't send a chill down the support rep's spine, he or she is indeed spineless.
4. Go public. If you subscribe to CompuServe, ask for help there. Don't be afraid to explain the response you got from the company in question. More often than not, you'll get a response directly from someone at that company, especially if it is one of the larger ones. Good companies check the boards as much as they can, just to find out what users are saying about them behind their backs. Negative comments often draw positive results from the company.
5. Put it in writing. The number of calls some companies get a day is mind-boggling. And we sometimes just plain goof with our responses. It's a lot harder to goof when you're staring at a carefully reasoned, clearly stated letter that elaborates on a problem. Be sure to provide a phone number and the best time to reach you, as the easiest way to deal with problems is with a direct dialogue and phones promote that.
6. Ask for your money back. Many companies, including my own, offer a 30- or 60-day money-back guarantee. If you have a problem that can't be solved, most will extend that offer, if pushed hard enough. My former boss, Adam Osborne, had a simple way of dealing with customers who took this tack: He sent them a check with a letter that said, in effect, "Fine, here's your money back — please don't ever buy a product from our company again." He could do that with the knowledge that for customers to have come to his attention, they would have had to be passed upward by customer support, the customer-support management, the product managers, and probably a few executives too. And he knew that all of us were doing our best to solve the problem; therefore, the only way to solve it was to turn the customers into ex-customers. Frankly, I thought this was a cynical way of looking at customers, but if it gets you your money back, who are you to complain, right? Most of the industry will probably be more polite than this when they refund your purchase price — but you never know.
So there you have it. How to get good tech support. I'm sure I left out a few things, but I'm also sure that a few of you diligent types will let me know what I forgot. Only please don't phone me asking for customer support on this column. And please don't ask me to refund your subscription price. Let's see, to get your money back, you should call Jon Zilber, and his number is . . .

Thom Hogan is president of Macreations when he isn't answering customer-support calls. From time to time, he has been known to make a few calls to other companies' support lines, just to see if anyone's really there.

How the left brain sees MacTools.

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Wouldn't it be useful to have a utility that could read any file — text or binary — and display its contents? Enter Browser, the Power Programming answer.

By Kurt W. G. Matthies and Thom Hogan

Opening Files

In September we saw how to use the Standard File Package routine SFGetFile to put up the standard file dialog box, which lets a user navigate the file system and select a file. When the user clicks on the Open button of this dialog box, SFGetFile fills an SFReply record with the name and volume number of the selected file, giving the information the program needs to open the file.

To open the file, you pass the filename and volume reference returned in the SFReply record to the high-level File Manager routine FSOpen. If the open is successful, FSOpen returns a result code of noErr and a file-access reference number in the fileNum parameter. This number is used as the access path to the file and is valid until the file is closed or the program ends.

Browser uses the function openFile() in the source file FileUtil.c to open a file for reading. Browser passes openFile() a pointer to a FileParams structure, which it uses to keep all the data associated with the open file together.

openFile() performs four standard tasks. First, it sets the file's volume, returned by SFGetFile, to the current volume with SetVol. Next, it opens the file with FSOpen, after which it gets the file's size with GetEOF and stores the value in the FileParams structure. Finally, it sets the file mark to the beginning of the file with FSSetFPos. Example 1 contains the code for openFile().

Error Handling

In Example 1, you see that openFile() calls doFileCantAlert() when an error is detected with a File Manager call. Checking the return value of File Manager calls is not just a good idea — it's the law.

File-system errors occur for various reasons: media errors, no more space, too many files open, errors in name or number, and a host of other problems. If you ignore these errors, you'll create a string of bugs that will eventually cause your program to crash. But if you program defensively, by checking a File Manager routine's result code, your program can notify the user of errors and back out of such problems gracefully.

The File Manager's functions return an OSErr value. These numeric values correspond to file-system errors, some of which we mentioned earlier. The result noErr is returned when things are OK, but a host of
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other OSErr results are possible when things go wrong.

Browser uses a standard set of functions (or error-translation utilities), declared in the source file FileErr.c, that deal with file-system errors. These functions translate a File Manager error number into a string, stored in a string-list resource (STR# 104), and print the string in a dialog.

Using ParamText

The doFileCantAlert() dialog box takes advantage of the Dialog Manager's parameter-text-substitution facilities, which you access through the ParamText routine. Say, for example, that a dialog box's text item contains one of the strings ^0, ^1, ^2, or ^3. ParamText specifies which of the strings ^0, ^1, ^2, or ^3 is to be substituted and what the substitution should be when the dialog box is displayed. ParamText is defined in Example 2; its arguments are string pointers to the strings that you want substituted. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate ParamText string substitution in the doFileCantAlert() dialog box.

Using the dialog

The doFileCantAlert() routine calls getIOErrStr(), which creates a string from the error code. The dialog box takes advantage of the Dialog Manager's parameter-text-substitution facilities, which you access through the ParamText routine. Say, for example, that a dialog box's text item contains one of the strings ^0, ^1, ^2, or ^3. ParamText specifies which of the strings ^0, ^1, ^2, or ^3 is to be substituted and what the substitution should be when the dialog box is displayed. ParamText is defined in Example 2; its arguments are string pointers to the strings that you want substituted. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate ParamText string substitution in the doFileCantAlert() dialog box.

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Reading the File

Reading can occur only after a file has been opened successfully and is a matter of transferring the contents of a file to
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memory with the File Manager routine FSRead.

Reading requires three items of information: from where, how much, and to where. To this end, FSRead accepts three arguments: the file reference number, a pointer to a long word with the number of bytes to read, and a pointer to the buffer where the read will place those bytes. FSRead returns the number of bytes read in the same long word that held the requested amount. It's always possible that your program might reach the end of file and that the number of bytes read will be less than those requested. Example 4 contains a function that reads a file and detects a bad read or just an end of file.

On-Demand File Buffering

To solve a buffering boundary problem that occurs when the window contents comprise the bytes from more than one sector, Browser uses two file buffers for input. Figure 3 illustrates this double-buffered method of handling file input.

In addition to the file buffers, which are 16,384 bytes (16K) each, Browser uses memory to hold the page or two of the file that it's displaying. This memory is called the document-display buffer, and it is built according to the relative scroll position of the document — it changes when the user scrolls or resizes the window. Scrolling also causes the buffering mechanism to read more of the file into the file buffers. The source file BufMgr.c contains the routines that manage the file buffers.

The Display Modes

Browser displays text in two modes. Text mode simulates text-editor output (although no editing is possible). It is designed for files that have the TEXT signature, such as those created with the THINK C editor. Binary mode lets you look at anything else. We'll discuss binary mode next month.

Using TextEdit

The text display makes use of TextEdit, the Mac's built-in text manager. TextEdit revolves around TEditRec, the TextEdit data structure that contains all data for the text cell. We had a brief encounter with TextEdit in the July '90 issue (page 238), where Generic App displayed the contents of a TEXT resource, using TEUpdate to draw the text. The creation process is similar in this situation, but this time we're getting
Example 1: openFile() from FileUtil.c

/* openFile - open a file, get file size, seek to beginning, return file reference number - 6.20.90kwgm */
OSErr
openFile (fileParams)
FileParamsPtr fileParams;
{
OSErr
long fSize;
short vRefNwn;
Str64 volName;

/* set vol to passed value */
if (err = SetVol (NIL, fileParams->volRefNwn))
{
doFileCantAlert (fileParams->fileName,
kOpen, err,
kNulPascalStr);
return (err);
}

/* open the file */
if (err = FSOpen (fileParams->fileName,
fileParams->volRefNwn,
&fileParams->fileRefNwn))
{
doFileCantAlert (fileParams->fileName,
kOpen, err,
kNulPascalStr);
return (err);
}

/* get the file size */
if (err = GetEOF (fileParams->fileRefNum,
&fileParams->fileSize))
{
doFileCantAlert (fileParams->fileName,
kOpen, err,
kNulPascalStr);
FSClose (fileParams->fileRefNwn);
return (err);
}

/* set the 'mark' to the beginning of the file */
if (err = SetFPos (fileParams->fileRefNum,
fsFromStart, OL))
{
doFileCantAlert (fileParams->fileName,
kOpen, err,
kNulPascalStr);
FSClose (fileParams->fileRefNwn);
return (err);
}
return (noErr);
} /* openFile */
Example 2: Declaration of ParamText

```c
void ParamText (s0, s1, s2, s3)
StringPtr s0, s1, s2, s3;
```

Example 3: Declaration of doFileCantAlert()

```c
/*
doFileCantAlert - put up the can't open/close/read advisory and print other relevant information if supplied. Pass nullstrings for filename, infoStr if not used. - 5.28.90kwgm
*/
void doFileCantAlert (fileName, whatOp, reason, infoStr)
StringPtr fileName, infoStr;
short whatOp, reason;
{
    DialogPtr theDialog;
    Str255 errStr, whatStr;
    short theItem, id, itemType;
    GrafPtr savePort;
    Handle buttonHdl;
    Rect box;
    GetPort (&savePort);
    /* get the operation string */
    GetIndString (whatStr, kIOMsgStrID, whatOp);
    if (theDialog = GetNewDialog (kIOErrDLOG, OL, -1L))
    {
        SysBeep (1);
        GetDItem (theDialog, kOutlineButton, itemType, &buttonHdl, &box);
        SetDItem (theDialog, kOutlineButton, itemType, buttonProc, &box);
        /* build error string */
        getIOErrStr (errStr, reason);
        ParamText (whatStr, fileName, errStr, infoStr);
        centerWindow (theDialog);
        ShowHide (theDialog, true);
        ModalDialog (OL, &theItem);
        DisposDialog (theDialog);
    }
    SetPort (savePort);
} /* doFileCantAlert */
```

A TRecord structure is allocated on the heap with the Toolbox call TENew, which creates the structure, initializes some of the fields, and returns a handle to the record. TENew accepts two arguments—a view-rectangle pointer and a destination-rectangle pointer.

The function in Example 5, makeTERec(), creates a TRecord structure that encompasses an entire window and that returns a handle to the record. makeFrameRect() creates a rectangle from the document's window, minus the scroll-bar areas.

The Text Selection Range

Using TextEdit routines, you can style, change, delete, or cut the text in a TRecord structure; copy it to the Clipboard; or perform other manipulations. Operations occur on the text selection range, which is controlled by two members of TRecord: selStart and selEnd. These values are specified as an offset into the text stream.

Consider the text in Figure 4, in which the word time is selected in the first line. The t in time begins at position 4, and consequently, selStart equals 4. The selection ends four characters after selStart, at the time, which makes selEnd equal 8. So to select the entire first line, you'd set selStart to 0 and selEnd to 35.

Text Styles

Prior to System 6.0, TextEdit supported only one font and style per TRecord. This kind of TRecord is created with TENew. You set font, face, and size specifications by directly writing the TRecord fields. For example, if you wanted 12-point Helvetica bold-italic text, you'd get it by calling something such as setStyleTE() in Example 6.

Since the advent of System 6.0, a new routine, TESStyleNew, has created the current variant of TRecord that supports multiple style runs. Because Browser uses the old version of TRecord, we'll save our discussion of this newer version of TextEdit for later.

The Text Buffer

TextEdit has a 32,767-character file-size limitation, which is built in to many factors of the TRecord structure, hence the use of the display buffer. Instead of limiting Browser to file sizes of less than 32K, we can coerce TextEdit to display a
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file of any size by managing the text in the **TERecord** buffer so it reflects only what's displayed.

Scrolling a Browser document consists of rebuilding the display buffer. Browser keeps track of certain anchoring values for the document — offsets of the first and last lines in the window and a file offset — and reacts to scroll commands by rebuilding the document-display buffer from the file buffers. Once Browser has created the new buffer, it instructs TextEdit to recalculate the **linestarts** array and redisplay the window.

**Line Height**

The **lineHeight** member of the **TERecord** structure contains the height of each line in pixels. Given the size of the document-frame rectangle, you can calculate how many lines of text will fit in the window. Browser needs to know this to do the scroll.

**The linestarts Array**

At the bottom of a **TERecord** structure is an extensible array of the offsets of the first character in each line of text, a function of the word-wrap. As an example, let's return to Lewis Carroll. Figure 5 illustrates the lines as they would appear on-screen and the corresponding **linestarts** array.

To demonstrate scrolling, let's say that the user pages down. Using the current line number of the last line in the window (which is the current **linestarts** position), Browser knows with just what character to begin the new top line. Using **BlockMove**, bytes starting at that offset are transferred from the file buffers (reading the file if necessary) into the new display buffer.

Browser next calls **TECalText** to rewrap the text and recalculate the **linestarts** values. After calculating the new last-line position, Browser calls **TEUpdate** to refresh the screen, which now contains new text.

**Next Month**

That's all we have room for this month. Next month Browser gets a binary interface, reads resource forks, and even adds a hierarchical menu or two.

You can download this month's source code (quickly) from Zmac, or those without a modem can get a disk (slowly) from me by sending a check for $15 made out to Kurt Matthies at P.O. Box 2233, El Granada, CA 94018.
"Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves
And the mome raths outgrabe.

Figure 5: The linestarts array holds the offset of the first character for each line.

Example 5: Creating TERecord with TENew

```c
TEHandle
makeTERec (DocPtr theDoc)
{
    TEHandle teh;
    Rect viewRect, destRect;
    makeFrameRect (theDoc, &viewRect);
    destRect = viewRect;
    return (teh = TENew (&destRect, &viewRect));
}
```

Example 6: Setting the Style of a TERecord created by TENew

```c
#include <TextEdit.h>
#include <FontMgr.h> /* for definition of helvetica */

TEHandle teh;
/* here we are in some function */
/* time to set the style */
setStyleTE (teh, helvetica, bold+italic, 12);

/* setStyleTE - set the font, face, and size of passed
TERecIdl - 10,000 B.C. kwgm */

void
setStyleTE (TEHandle teh, short short font, Style face, short size)
{
    register TEPtr tep;
    if (teh) /* never hurts to check */
    {
        tep = *teh; /* speed things up a bit */
        tep->txFont = font;
        tep->txSize = size;
        tep->txFace = face;
    }
}
```
If you can think of better ways to spend your time than backing up your hard disk, you need FastBack II or FastBack Tape. FastBack II is the world's fastest and most reliable backup software for the Macintosh. FastBack Tape gives you a fast, ultra-reliable 120 megabyte tape drive, for the ultimate backup system. It even lets you schedule automated, unattended backups to take place whenever you choose. Even when you're otherwise occupied.

After all, you have better things to do.
PowerMenus

Coach Pro and PowerMenus can’t be used at the same time when they’re set to defaults. If PowerMenus (an INIT) is loaded and you launch Coach Pro, the menu bar flackers. You can circumvent this by going to the Control Panel and telling PowerMenus not to put PowerGadgets into the menu bar. When you want to use PowerGadgets, pop them up by using the alternative activation event that you’ve selected in the Control Panel (for example, Command-click and triple-click).

Glen S. Miranker
San Francisco, CA

4th Dimension

4th Dimension offers no quick, documented way to control the format of times, dates, or numbers in the QuickReport editor. You have to resort to formulas, which is more than many users are prepared to do. It is possible to format these items automatically, however. To format a time or date, you need only type the number of the format you desire into the detail area of the column in question. The different formats and their numbers are described on page 332 of the Language Reference and in the addendum to version 2.0.10.

Formatting a number is even more straightforward: Type the desired format in the detail section just as you would in the Design environment. For example, if you want to format an integer as a dollar amount, type $#,###,00 into the correct column.

[4th Dimension also lets you type formatting numbers into the dialog box that pops up when you click on OK in the File menu’s Page Setup box. — Ed.]

David Adams
Aptos, CA

Tip of the Month

TeachText

Apple puts graphics into its Read Me TeachText documents, but how do those pretty pictures get there? The Paste command is disabled in TeachText when the Clipboard contains a picture, but you can use ResEdit to work around this. Here’s how to do it:

1. Type the text of your TeachText document, using hard returns to leave space for the graphics.
2. Type an Option-space on the line where you want each picture to start. The picture will begin at the Option-space line and extend downward.
3. Save and close your TeachText document.
4. Paste the pictures you want to use into the Scrapbook.
5. Start ResEdit, and open your TeachText document. Answer OK when asked if you want to create a resource fork.
6. When an empty window appears, copy and paste each of the pictures you want to use from the Scrapbook to the window. You won’t see the pictures as you paste them into the ResEdit window; instead, the word PICT appears.
7. Select the word PICT and choose Open General from the ResEdit File menu, which produces a list of PICT resources with IDs. Select these individual items one by one, and choose Get Info from the File menu (Command-I).
8. Change the first PICT’s resource ID number to 1000, the second PICT’s resource ID number to 1001, and so on for all your pictures (see Figure 1).
9. Quit ResEdit, and save your changes when prompted to do so.

When you open your document in TeachText, each picture appears centered horizontally. Your first picture (PICT ID 1000) begins on the line with the first Option-space, the next picture begins on the line with the next Option-space, and so on. The pictures will be superimposed over any text that happens to be there, so be sure to type enough returns to ensure that the text is not obscured.

You can make the document read-only by changing the file type from TEXT to RTF, which stands for TeachText read only.

Colin Bay
Portland, OR

Figure 1: A little resource editing, as shown here, makes it possible for anyone to import pictures from the Clipboard into a TeachText file.
FileMaker II

Have you ever wanted to select a group of records in FileMaker II that have no field in common (for example, the 23 people who lost last month's report)? Create a special "select" box on your layout — a field in a box to make it easy to find.

To use the select box, issue the Find command to locate each individual record, and then enter X in the select box. Use the Find All command and then the Find command to locate the checked boxes. The whole group is selected, and you can mail-merge or sort the results. You can sort records into several groups by entering different characters into the select box and then using the Find command to select each subgroup.

To deselect the records, highlight the select field, press Delete, and then press Command= to clear all the boxes.

Robyn Whitehood
Sydney, Australia

Panorama 1.5A

When you create a data-entry form, Panorama lets you assign field names through a pop-up menu. This is a problem if you're creating a database with more than 256 fields, because the menu handler can handle only 256 menu items. If there are more than 256, the pop-up menu won't scroll properly. When it scrolls, it won't draw the new menu choices. The highlight for the menu often won't show at all.

Here's a workaround for assigning field names to the nonexistent menu choices:

1. Duplicate the last field created. Put the duplicate into the desired location, size it, and assign a font if you want a different one.
2. Choose the field-edit/create tool. Hold the mouse button down over your newly created field. Panorama's pop-up menu appears, with the name of that field directly under the pointer. Several column names appear below the current name, depending on how much room there is on your screen. Now choose the column name you want to use for this field name.

David D. Good
Melbourne Beach, FL

Layout

Layout (a freeware program by Michael C. O'Connor) is a convenient tool for changing the way the Finder displays its various views. I use it to stagger icons in Finder's icon view, preventing the names from overlapping the icons. Unfortunately, Layout uses the rather short name "Document" for the samples that you drag on the screen to set the grid spacing and offset. The Finder allows names of up to 31 characters, so some trial and error is necessary to achieve the best spacing for the name lengths you typically use.

The name Layout uses in adjusting spacing is stored in the STR resource "DocT" (ID = 328). To eliminate the trial-and-error approach, employ ResEdit to modify this resource, which originally contains the string "Document". Replacing this string with "Document name with max 31 chars" (Figure 2) lets you space the icons to accommodate the longest names Finder lets you use.

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Read MacWrite

Many software developers continue to use MacWrite format as their standard on-disk program documentation. This can be inconvenient if you don't have MacWrite. You have to open up Microsoft Word or some other word processor and import the file, even if all you want to do is take a peek at the documentation.

In the April '90 Tip Sheet (page 259), Hari Wiguna suggested modifying Word's Creator to MACA, using ResEdit. However, if you're not comfortable with ResEdit or if text files are what you're after, there's a nice shareware utility, Read MacWrite, that opens MacWrite files and scrolls through them on the screen while saving the contents as a plain text file. Now if you need to take a look at some documentation on the fly, you can just open the file with a DA such as mini-WRITER (which is also shareware).

You can pause the scrolling, but Read MacWrite lacks a text buffer and elevator boxes for scrolling back over what you've read. Once the text has scrolled by, it's gone until you reopen the file and start at the beginning.

Read MacWrite's quick production of text files from MacWrite-formatted documents would also come in handy if you had several MacWrite files that you needed to get into plain-text format in a hurry.

[Read MacWrite is available in the Download Library Forum on Zmac, Ed.]
Steve Harmony
Los Alamos, NM

Of course, you can enter any other string here to represent the maximum length of names you normally use. As always when modifying applications with ResEdit, be careful to make your changes on a copy of Layout, not on the original.

[Layout is available in the Download Library Forum on Zmac, Ed.]
Steve Harmony
Los Alamos, NM

Figure 2: You can customize the freeware program Layout to provide more spacious spacing of icons in the Finder's View by Icon mode by using ResEdit to modify an STR resource.

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Figure 3: You can create an effective appointment or reminder list by using the Finder’s hierarchical filing system. Dummy folders contain other folders with appropriate mnemonic filenames.

Finder
This tip provides a quick and easy To-Do List function for the Finder. I’ve tried other
list generators, outliners, and organizers — both applications and DAs — but in most
cases you have to open the program or the DA to look at your list. Although a program
such as Smart Alarms solves that problem for a certain price — in money, INIT conflicts,
and memory — here’s a free and easy way to keep organized lists on your desktop.

Press Command-N to get a new folder. Then, in 31 char-
acters or fewer, enter a brief description of your memo. Do
this for each item on your list. Drag these folders onto
the desktop, where they’re constantly under your nose as a
reminder of some important activity or event. Or you can
neatly arrange these folders inside other folders appropri-
ately entitled To Do Today, Letters, Appointments, and so
on (see Figure 3). You can easily create, trash, rearrange,
and modify these folders as needed. They’re also useful as
repositories of further information on a particular project.
Christopher Cross
Allentown, PA

When you eject a selected floppy disk using the key-
board shortcut Command-E, a ghosted image of the floppy
remains on the desktop and your Mac can demand that you
insert the floppy when you least want to. To keep that from
happening, press Option-Command-E when you want
to eject a disk. You can use the Option key for the same pur-
pose when you click on the Eject button in the standard
Open dialog box — Option-click on that button to ensure
that the Mac doesn’t pester you again for that floppy
during your work session.
Eric Appar
New Haven, CT

Canvas 2.1
You may have learned the hard way that object-type art-
work that is stored in a HyperCard clip-art file loses its high
resolution and becomes 72 dpi. So how can you store large amounts of object-oriented clip art in an organized manner? Canvas 2.1 provides a simple but elegant solution:

1. Create a new document, and give it a descriptive name, such as Business Images. Then begin pasting in the graphic objects, arranging them on the page.

2. Use the scroll bars or magnification tool to center one of the objects on your screen.

3. Choose the New View command from the Layout menu, and give the view of the centered graphic a descriptive name such as Bottle Message. Click OK. Repeat this step for every graphic on the page.

Now whenever you drag your cursor down to the Views command on the Layout menu, the hierarchical pop-up menu includes the names you have given to these views, allowing you to jump quickly to any graphic on the page, modify it if desired, and copy it to the Clipboard.

Marc Knodler
Vassar, MI

WriteNow 2.2

WriteNow 2.2 does not automatically generate endnotes, but you can use the footnote feature and some editing to generate them. Create the document as you normally would, inserting footnotes into the text as needed. (They’ll appear at the bottom of the page.) When the document is finished, create endnotes as follows:

1. Choose Show Markers (Command-Y) from the View menu.

2. Choose Footnote View (Command-K) from the View menu.

3. Choose Select All (Command-A) from the Edit menu, and then choose Copy (Command-C).

4. Choose Page View (Command-D) from the View menu. Go to the end of the document, and click to place the insertion point.

5. Choose the Insert Page Break command (Command-Shift-B) from the Format menu. Type the word Endnotes (or whatever you want), and press Return.

6. Use the Paste command (Command-V) to place the footnotes at the end of the document. The footnotes are unnumbered, but there’s a footnote marker at the beginning of each note.

7. Now go to the beginning of the document, and click to place the insertion point.

8. Choose Footnote View, or press Command-K.

9. Choose Page View (Command-D). The insertion point will now be after the first footnote marker.

10. Press the Delete key to delete the marker.

11. Type Command-H (Subscript style) and then the endnote number.

Repeat steps 8 through 11 until you’ve finished numbering all the notes in the text.

12. Number all the actual endnotes at the end of the document.

You can create a macro to do much of this for you. Just have the macro stop after step 11. Then simply run the macro and type the note numbers.

John P. Walsh
Pittsburgh, PA

Hard disk utilities give you SUM of what you need, Now Utilities 2.0 provides the rest.

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Printing PostScript to Disk Again

Last April (page 262), I described the method for printing a PostScript file to disk:

1. Hold down the Command and K keys immediately after clicking on the OK button in the Print dialog box. This approach works, unless, as Luc Dubois, writing from Belgium, pointed out, you're using MultiFinder and have Background Printing enabled. If this is the case, your PostScript file will never be printed to disk.

2. If you normally use both MultiFinder and Background Printing, don't despair — you can still print a PostScript file to disk. Here's what you need to do:
   - Open the Chooser DA.
   - Select your laser printer.
   - Turn Background Printing off.
   - Close the Chooser.

3. Now, if you hold down the Command and K keys immediately after clicking on OK in the Print dialog box, you'll see a box that says, "Now printing PostScript file." Don't forget to turn Background Printing back on when you've finished.

Preserving Get Info Comments

Susan Rollinson of Clifton Forge, Virginia, writes, "I decided to see if something else could be done about preserving Get Info comments when you rebuild the desktop (Help Folder, March '90, page 231). Snooping through the Desktop file with ResEdit, I came up with the following solution:

"Finder comments are stored in FCMT resources in the Desktop file. If you store these comments in a separate file before rebuilding your desktop, they can be restored afterward. I use ResEdit to perform the surgery. Make sure you're running under the Finder, not MultiFinder. MultiFinder keeps the Desktop file open and not accessible to ResEdit. Launch ResEdit, and create a new file — I call mine FComments. Now open the Desktop file of the disk you want to rebuild. Copy the FCMT resources from the Desktop file to the FComments file. Save the FComments file, and quit ResEdit. Rebuild the desktop. Return to ResEdit, and copy the resources from the FComments file back into the desktop you copied them from. Save the desktop, and then quit ResEdit. Check the Get Info boxes when you get back to the Finder. Your comments have been restored. It works. Thanks, Susan."

Another Way to Rebuild the Desktop, or What?

Q. Frequently, as in the June '90 issue (Tip Sheet, page 293), someone recommends rebuilding the Mac's Desktop file. The method described for accomplishing this always includes rebooting the computer. I get the same dialog box by holding down the Command and Option keys while closing any application. Am I accomplishing the identical goal, or am I wasting my time and possibly damaging my machine?

Michael Garvey
Laguna Niguel, CA

A. Yes, you're doing the right thing. Holding down the Command and Option keys when you quit an application produces the same dialog box and desktop-rebuilding procedure as holding down these keys when you restart your computer. The net effect — rebuilding the desktop — is exactly the same.

By the way, this technique works under the Finder only. If you're using MultiFinder, holding down the Command and Option keys when you quit an application does nothing. You have to rebuild your desktop by restarting your Mac as described above.

On or Off?

Q. My computer at home is a Mac SE with an internal 20-megabyte hard-disk drive and
an 800K floppy-disk drive. It's used almost daily.

My question: Is it better to leave the machine running constantly or to turn it on and off daily?

William Brunco
Chehalis, WA

A. This has been one of the most debated topics in computing history. I thought I could settle it once and for all by getting Apple's official position, for the record.

Ha. An Apple spokesman told me that Apple has no official position. He said, more or less, that if you ask three different people, you will get three different answers.

Next I turned to a public forum—the Editor's On-Line area of the MacUser Forum on Zmac. I posed the question to the experts who frequent Zmac. As I expected, there were conflicting opinions; there seemed to be two main schools of thought:

Method 1: Turn the computer on in the morning and off at night.

Pros: Saves power. Less wear on hard disk.

Cons: Possibility of increasing stress on solder and electronics from heating and cooling, and creating more stress on hard disk from powering up and shutting down.

Method 2: Never turn it off unless you plan not to use it for several days. (Option: Turn off monitor at night.)

Pros: Reduces stress on solder and electronics from heating and cooling.

Cons: Hard disk spins all night, causing more wear than if it were shut down.

MacUser Labs director Andrew Eisner said, "My vote is for energy conservation. Thermal stress is probably pretty negligible with today's manufacturing techniques and solid-state circuitry. Just think of the millions of watts of wasted power if everyone left their computers running all the time."

User Jonathan A. Oski countered with "At my office, most people leave their computers on all day. Our network servers are up all the time. Some servers have been on for two to three years without any failures."

Contributing MacUser business editor Robert Wiggins chimed in with "Just be consistent. If you leave it on, leave it on. Once it's left on for long periods, switching on/off will multiply the stresses. If it gets used to on/off, leaving it on can lead to thermal problems. So pick the method that works for you, and stick with it."

I'm with Jonathan. I leave my Mac on all the time, sometimes for months on end. I shut it down only when I'll be away for a couple of days or more. But I have good reason. I set Retrospect (the archiving utility from Dantz Development) and CompuServe Navigator to run automatically at 4 a.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. So my hard-disk drive is archived and backed up, and my email is retrieved while I'm still in bed. That alone is reason enough for me to leave things running all the time.

Furthermore, I also believe that running your Mac all the time is less stressful

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to components than turning everything on and off a lot, especially if your pattern of usage is like mine, in which case your Mac might be used at any time of day or night. You should use whichever method sounds best to you, and rest assured that there is an expert out there who thinks that’s the best method too.

**Slow Scrolling**

Q. I recently installed an accelerator in my SE, but now my scroll bars are working at warp speed. When I click on the scroll arrows, instead of the normal single-line advancement, I get 10 to 15 lines flashing by. Is there any way to slow down the scroll bars without sacrificing any other speed?

Scott Junk
Costa Mesa, CA

A. Good news, Scott. There’s a little cdev called Scroll Limit that does just what you ask (see Figure 1). This is one of those utilities that’s so useful you wonder why it isn’t handled with all accelerators.

Scroll Limit is a freeware program, available from 2Mac and other shareware sources.

**The Interrupt Switch**

Q. I would like to know which programming environment I’m in after pressing the interrupt switch. What is it possible to do in the open window, and where can I find information on these possibilities?

Pierre Narvor
Nantes, France

A. Tom Chavez, one of the wizards in the Apple Developer Relations organization, says, “When a user presses the interrupt key, the machine enters a very simple debugger. In it, you can type G for Go, SM for Set Memory, and a few other commands.

A real debugger for the Mac, MacBug, is available from Developer Tools Express for $35. It’s a complete, fully featured debugger with breakpoints, tracing, and so on.”

Here’s my trick for using the interrupt switch: If you’ve crashed or the cursor is frozen, press the interrupt switch and then type G at the prompt. Leave a space after the G, and type a carriage return after the R. If the crash wasn’t too severe, you’ll be returned.

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Figure 2: You can often return safely to the Finder after you’ve crashed, by pressing the Interrupt key and then typing these words. Don’t forget to press Return afterward.

to the Finder, where you can use the Restart or Shut Down commands to close things up tidily. You’ll probably see a message telling you that the application you were working in has “unexpectedly quit.” That’s OK. Even though you’ll probably lose any work you’ve done since your last Save, chances are your file won’t be damaged.

DTE (Developer Tools Express) is a new service from Apple, designed for programmers new to Apple development. DTE lets you buy fully tested and completely documented Apple programming products directly, with no annual fee and no organizations to join. MacBug is available from it for $35. You can contact DTE at (800) 282-2732 (in the U.S.) or (408) 562-3910 (internationally).

Unreadable Disks

Q. You are my last resort before going to an Apple dealer. My system is an SE with two floppy-disk drives and an external hard-disk drive. The lower floppy-disk drive has an intermittent problem. Sometimes when I put a disk in, it works fine. At other times, I get this message, “This disk is unreadable: Do you want to initialize it?” I know that these disks are good, because I use them in the other drive and they work. Sometimes I take a perfectly good disk, put it in, and get the “Disk unreadable” message — and then, no matter what I do, I can’t get the disk to work in any drive. I’ve lost many files because of this. Currently I just avoid using that drive.

The reason I don’t want to go to the Apple dealer is that as I cannot reliably duplicate the problem for the staff, I’m sure they’ll tell me they can’t fix what’s not broken.

Neil Luckner
Brooklyn, NY

A. That hasn’t been my experience. Chances are an Apple dealer would listen to your story and then tell you that the floppy-disk drive has problems and needs to be repaired or replaced. And I bet the dealer would be right.

The behavior you describe is the behavior of a very sick drive. I suggest you see a dealer immediately.

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3. All prices are subject to change without notice.
4. Returns accepted within 7 days of purchase. A 20% restocking fee applies.
5. Tracking numbers available upon request.
6. Terms are Net 30 days. Late charges will be applied after 30 days.
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9. Credit card orders accepted (Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express).
10. COD orders accepted (minimum order $1000).
11. Local orders will be subject to 9% sales tax.
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16. Local orders subject to 9% sales tax.
17. Local orders subject to 9% sales tax.
18. Local orders subject to 9% sales tax.
19. Local orders subject to 9% sales tax.
20. Local orders subject to 9% sales tax.

Please circle 375 on reader service card.
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- 60mb Tape Backup w/ Retrospect: $695
- 150mb Tape Backup w/ Retrospect: $795
- 550mb Tape Backup w/ Retrospect: $1195
- 1.2 gig Tape Backup w/ Retrospect: $2995
- 2.4 gig Tape Backup w/ Retrospect: $3495
- Magic CD ROM - Toshiba: $749

### Hard Drives

- Includes A UX Partitioning & Disk Manager Mac
- Quantum
  - Internal Drive: 40MB $48
  - External Drive: 105MB $597
  - 205MB $657
  - 340MB $827
  - Internal Kit $29

### Magic Color Cards

- Magic makes a complete line of color cards for your Macintosh that are all 100% Apple compatible.
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- Magic 4-bit Color Card for SE, 30: $329
- Magic 24-bit Color Card 15" & 14": $499
- 19" 8-bit Color Card for Mac II & IIgs: $499

### Applied Engineering

### MacRAM Portable

- 8 MB RAM
- Expansion Card: $3415

### Quadralink

- NuBus expansion card - add 4 additional serial ports to a Mac: $219
## Quantum 12ms Access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Internal</th>
<th>External</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 mb</td>
<td>$329</td>
<td>$429</td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>599</td>
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<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>679</td>
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<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>769</td>
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<tr>
<td>170 mb</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>929</td>
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</table>

## Syquest Syquest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Removable</th>
<th>With Retrospect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 meg</td>
<td>$629</td>
<td>729</td>
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</tbody>
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- All Include one cartridge • $76 per cartridge for additional cartridges

## WREN Drives

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Capacity (mb)</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>173</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>1099</td>
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<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>2095</td>
<td>2195</td>
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<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>1349</td>
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<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>630</td>
<td>2595</td>
<td>2749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Gig</td>
<td>3699</td>
<td>3849</td>
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## Dual Drive Combo's

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Gig WREN/WangDAT</td>
<td>$5899</td>
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<tr>
<td>600 mb/WangDAT</td>
<td>4099</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>600/Teac 155</td>
<td>2699</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600/SyQuest</td>
<td>2699</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>300/Teac 155</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>300/SyQuest</td>
<td>2149</td>
<td></td>
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<td>330/Teac 155</td>
<td>2499</td>
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<tr>
<td>330/SyQuest</td>
<td>2499</td>
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</table>

## Under 15 ms average access, very low noise

<table>
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<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maxtor</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>1099</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Quantum & Maxtor Internal Drives fit Mac II/III/SE/SE30/Ci/CiFX
- Imprimus Internal Drives fit Mac II/III/IIIFX

All Drive products carry a 30 day Money-back guarantee. Quantum, Maxtor and Syquest Drives carry a two year "parts & labor" disk-for-disk replacement warranty. WREN, Teac, WangDAT and Syquest Cartridges carry a one year "parts & labor" disk-for-disk replacement warranty. All Hard Drives include all brackets, cables and cords and LED's required for operation. All Hard Drives come pre-formatted with Apple's latest stable System software. 12 5 MB of Publicly Distributable software from the SWUG Library, and the 'ALLIANCE POWER TOOLS' SCSI formatter Partitioner. If your drive fails to perform properly in the first 30 days and our technical support staff can't solve the problem over the phone, we will ship you a replacement drive overnight and have your defective drive picked up at our expense. Offer is subject to some limitations. Products being returned for credit do not apply.

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APPLE IMAGEWRITER II $410

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[Content not transcribed]

PRINTERS

[Content not transcribed]

SCANNERS & DIGITIZERS

[Content not transcribed]

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MAC 101 $135

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MASTERPAINT MAC II $125
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- International Orders: Call 206-883-8312. We ship throughout the free world. Contact Mac’s Place for information. Mail or FAX on electronic orders gladly accepted.
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Falco 2.2 ............. 30.
Fig 6 4 ............... 25.

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Nemesis Go Master ........ 47.
Nemesis-Joseki Tutor .... 28.

**Xor Corporation**
BemudaSquare ........... 19.
Candy Rescue .......... 32.

**iMicro**
Colony ................... 29.

**microchip**
Pirates! ............... 35.

**Micro League**
Harrier Strike Mission II .... 31.
Flight Simulator 1.02 .... 31.

**MicroProse**
Edifice .................. 35.

**Microsoft**
Flight Simulator 1.02 .... 32.

**Miles Computing**
Fool’s Error ......... 31.

**Mindscape**
Balance Of Power 1990 .... 29.

tological .... 29.

**Mindware**
Crossword Magic .... 29.

**Mindtrackers**
Deja Vu II (Las Vegas) .... 25.
Gameset ............... 26.

**Mindscape**

tological .... 29.

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Balance Of Power 1990 .... 29.

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CDC 300Meg 10 Meg (5.25"") 1645.
CDC 300Meg 10 Meg (5.25"") 2169.
CDC 600Meg 1145.
Half Height Drive
CDC 170Meg 1195.

Micropolis 5.25"

Full Height Drive
Micropolis 675Meg 2365.
Half Height Drive
Micropolis 1050Meg 1145.
Micropolis 1350Meg 1895.

Quantum 3.5" Drive
40 Meg 19ns 134.
80 Meg 19ns 266.
160 Meg 19ns 438.
200 Meg 19ns 486.
250 Meg 19ns 597.
300 Meg 19ns 684.
350 Meg 19ns 762.
400 Meg 19ns 854.

Syquest

44 Meg Cartridges 44 Meg Mechanisms 445.
44 Meg Cartridges 44.

Fujitsu

380K Disk Drive (Platinum) 130.

Hayes

V2400 Baud Modem 49.
V2500 Internal Software 48.

Incomm Mods

Mac II 2400B Internal 149.
9600 V.32 External 149.
56K V.32 MPS Internal 149.

Micron

2 One MB Simms (10 NS) 115.
X气势 Color Card 256.
8-bit SE/39 - 12/14" Mon 345.
8-bit SE/39 - 16" Mon 378.
8-bit Mac II - 12/14" Mon 375.
8-bit Mac II - 16" Mon 416.

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Fanny Mac (Platinum) 59.

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“We use the same computers you do.” —Mac

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Product</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acco</td>
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<td>Advanced Gravis</td>
<td>Mousesick 512K/Plus</td>
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<td>American Power</td>
<td>Conversion SMART UPS 400</td>
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<td>Toner/Laserwriter II</td>
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<td>Apple</td>
<td>Toner/Laserwriter Plus</td>
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<td>DD-Bulk (Units Of 50)</td>
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<td>Kalmar Designs</td>
<td>Task Disk Floppy 135 Disks</td>
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<td>Konstantin Microwave</td>
<td>Apple Software Kit System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laser fx</td>
<td>2nd Long ADB Keyboard Cable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laserwriter</td>
<td>Maksim (Black or Platinum)</td>
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<td>MaxTrak SE</td>
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<td>Fuji Disks</td>
<td>DD-Floppy 10 Pack</td>
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<td>Maksim (Black or Platinum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laserwriter</td>
<td>MaxTrak SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Casio** The Business Organizer Scheduling System SP9500 features Schedule Keeper/Calendar, Business Card Directory, Memo Storage and much more. You can exchange data with your Mac! (Software sold separately) - The portable business organizer of choice by Mac's Place executives.

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**Check Listings**

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<td>210 MB</td>
<td>Internal $965</td>
<td>External $1085</td>
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Refirst 131
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<tr>
<th>Model</th>
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WordPower v3.0. French, Russian, German or Spanish ... 28.

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Educational Series ...................................................... 22.
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ACCOUNTING

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Absolute Solutions, Inc.

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CoStar Corporation
Labels for LabelWriter ............................................. 11.

Computer Accessories
ACCPAC Simply Accounting ..................................... 224.

InHouse Software, Inc.
In-House Accountant ............................................... 125.

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Expert GL, AR, or AP .............................................. 384.

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Synchrony v2.0: 38
Kor Corp. Mac Courses: 39
MacSoft: 32
MacGold Classic: 45
MacMotion II: 26
MapM: 30
Pro Challenge: 22
Road Racer: 25

GRAPHICS & DESIGN

3D Graphics
Images with Impact Business: 64
Images with Impact Graphics: 50
Appa DigiVideo: 336
DigiVideo (Color): 862
Micro TV (Mac): 265

Abrasdata
D.Y.O.H. Architecture, Interiors or Landscape: SPECIAL 59.

Adobe Systems, Inc.
Illustrator 3.0: 346
Smart Art I, II, III or IV: 84

Aldus Corporation
Digital Darkroom: 245
Super 3-2.01: 205
Super Paint v2.0: 124

Allsys Corporation
Art Importer v2.0: 84
Metamorphosis: 64
Ashlar Vellum: 666

Astrid Development Corp.
Picture Publisher v2.0: 324.

Bright Star Technologies
Hyper Animator: 87
Broderbund Print Shop: 35
TypeStyler: 114

CE Software
Amazing Paint: 65
Charis Charis CAD v2.0: 578
Charis Graphic Translators 1.0: 195

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StudioTronics Coloraid: 228
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HYPERMEDIA & LANGUAGES

Aladdin Systems
Programmers Assistant: 75
Aladdin Suspend v1.1: 398
Antic Software Hot Spot: 39
Apple Computer HyperCard: 42
Borland Turbo Pascal v1.1: 66
DigitalTalk Smalltalk/V: 124
Microsoft QuickBasic: 354
Millenium Software HyperP C: 59
Now Software Prototype: 184
SoftStream
Authenticite w/ Mute: 79
HyperHIT v2.2: 125
Sennak Software ScriptEdit: 48
Spinaker Software Plus 2.0: 89
Sunrise Systems Development
SunriseGEN (genealogy): 65
Symantec Just Enough Pascal: 51
Think C or Pascal v3.0: 165
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Impact 20: 419
Impact 40 plus: 553
Impact 50: 732

Fifth Generation
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Image Bernoulli Double 20 Meg: 1626
Bernoulli Double 44 Meg: 2045

Kenan Technology
MasterDrive 1200 (25.0"):
259
Drive 2.4 w/ Fastback II (35.0"):
309
Drive 360 (5.25"):
259
Rapport:
195

LeCle Ltd., 100 MB LaserDrive Drive:
1066
120 MB LaserDrive Drive:
1084
20 MB LaserDrive Drive:
556
40 MB LaserDrive Drive:
639
60 MB LaserDrive Drive:
926

DreamTools Symbol Libraries
DreamPlotter Driver: 210
Dreams: 318
Dreams Plotter Driver:
189
Dreams Symbol Libraries:
165
MacDraft v2.0:
190

Kroessa Software
Top Down v2.0: 199

Leget 20 Color Studio:
1199
Leget Studio v1.5:
1139

MathSoft
MathCAD: 305
MGI
Eye Opener Series I, II, or III: 95
Pagepeach-Business Vol. 1: 95
USA Series I, II, or III: 89
Micro Frontier Enhance: 239
MacSoft MacInteUier:
165
MacPlot Pen Plotter Professional: 259
MacPlot Pen Plotter Standard: 133

MicroMap
MacAtlas Hyper Atlas: 59
MapArt EPS or PICT: 89
MapArt Paint: 39

OldView/VideoPaint:
215
Paracomp Model Shop:
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DataLink Mac Portable..................... 235.

Dove Desktop Fax.......................... 265.
Deskstop Fax (Networkable)............... 328.
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Intel
2400 EX MNP w/QuickLink II.............. 249.
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Zipcor ZBasic 5.0.......................... 109.

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Apple Computer MIDI Interface............ 84.

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Keytronic
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MacSnap 548s................................ 478.
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MacSnap Indel.............................. 19.
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(Mac+, SE, Mac II)......................... 449.
Marathon Installer III Cache Card....... 148.
SCSI Interface Port....................... 100.

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FastPath 4 Gateway........................1088.
Net Bridge or TelBridge...................338.
Net Serial X232..........................774.

Solution International

FaxGate+ Plus v1.1.........................228.
MailMaker (1 user).........................177.

Tatlock Software

Tail-Net/ SiteSlock.........................155.
InBox Plus (100 users)....................625.
InBox/Mac (20 users)......................214.
Network Bundle v3.0.......................167.
Repeater/Flashback......................118.

Traveling Software

LAP-LINK III Mac Connectivity...........113.

NUMBERS & DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Acis 4D Compiler..........................CALL.
4th Dimension v2.01......................665.
FileForge.....................................249.
Blitz Software Omni 5.....................605.
Chang Laboratories C.A.T. III v1.0....293.
Claris FileMaker Pro......................218.
MacProject II...............................365.
Colleague 2.................................319.
Fax Software FaxBASE + v2.0.............292.
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Lotus Lotus Marketplace Business.......CALL.
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MICRO PLANNING

MICRO PLANNER v6........................335.
Microsoft Excel v2.1....................245.
Microsoft Office..........................525.
Microsoft Works v2.0....................176.
Preferred Publishers Database.........68.
Satori IBM 486 Full Match III............75.
Symmetry KeyPlan..........................243.
Synergy Kaleidoscope v2.................145.
Systat Faststat...........................148.
Systat v5.0.................................SPECIAL 618.

PRINTERS

Apple Computer

LaserWriter II NT..........................3689.
LaserWriter II Plus.......................2285.

Eastman Kodak

Kodak Dicome M150 Plus Printer........488.

GDT Software JetLink Express...........85.
Print-Link Collection......................59.

Heath Packard

HP Deskwriter w/ATM......................859.
Laser Jet III..............................1765.
Laser Jet II Plus..........................1115.

Oringo Micro Grappler 9 & Fin...........78.

Grappler II.................................128.

Pacific Data Products

MacPage (Postscript for HPs).............455.
Seikosha SP1000............................229.

SCANNERS & DIGITIZERS

Caere Typist..................................485.
Complete PC

Complete Full Page Scanner...............758.
Complete Half Page Scanner...............269.

Digital Vision

Computer Eyes-Mac v.................194.
Computer Eyes-Mac II (color).........348.

Koala Technologies

MacVision v3.0 (Digitizer).................259.

Kurata

12" X 12" IS/AD Tablet (corded or cordless)............359.
Cordless 3 Switch Pen....................359.
Cordless 4-button Cursor................57.

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MSP-300G/MS Grey Scale................1389.
MSP-300Z Color............................1839.

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Franklin Software Language Master.69.
Lexpertise Mac Proof v.3.2.............115.

Lift Tree Correct Grammar ..........49.

Microlytics

Electronic Word Finder (handheld) ..........................50.
Inside Information SPECIAL 69.

Random House

Encyclopedia SPECIAL 69.

Word Web Psychedelic..............34.

Reference Software

Grammatic v.2.3..................50.

Right Spelling Right Writer v.3.1...........54.

Sensible Software

Sensible Grammar v.1.1 or BookEnds....51.

UTILITIES

Abbott Systems

CanOpenner v.1.1..............63.

AEC Management

AEC Information Manager........359.
FastTrack Schedule v1.5.............135.

Affinity Microsystems

Temp II v.1.0...................75.

Aladdin Systems

Shortcut...............46.

Shuttle...53.

AlSoft Disk Express II.............55.

Master Juggler.................84.

American Power Conversion

Power Charge..............67.

Avery International Corp.

MacLabelPro.................53.

Berkeley System Design

After Dark v.2.0.............22.

Stepping Out II.............46.

CECom OmniDraft or OmniSpell........69.

OmniPage v.2.1 or OmniSpell........539.

OmniProof or OmniTrace...........105.

Casady & Greene, Inc.

A.M.E. (5 user)...............509.
A.M.E. (single user)..........169.

CE Software

Alarming Events...............69.
Calendar Maker v.3.1............88.
MockPackage Plus Utilities v.4.4.....31.
QuickKeys v.2.0 or DiskTop v.4.0....63.

Central Point Software

Copy II Mac v.2.2............23.

Mac Tools Deluxe.75.

Dantz Software Development

Retrospect v.1.1..............149.

Dayne Communications, Inc.

DiskMaster II.............65.

Fifth Generation Systems

FastBack II v.2.0 or DiskLock......124.

Power Station v.2.3...........59.
Pype v.4.0......................22.

Suitcase II v.1.2.6...........52.

SuperlaserSPOOL v.2.0.2........88.

SuperSPOOL v.5.0.............58.

Icon Simulations On Cue

Insight/Development Mac v.1.2........39.

Kant March MacSafe II...........109.

NightWatch v.1.03.............83.

QuickLock......................38.

Leap Software PictureBook........39.

Magic Software Backmacm................49.

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FastEnvelopes or FastCAT...........48.
FastLabel v.2.0..................63.

Wildflower Software SnapLot......32.

Williams & Maclay Inc.

DiskFinder..................27.

MyDiskLabeler II.............69.

Sensible Software

StickyBusiness v.1.2...........69.

SuperLaserSPOOL v.2.5.............88.

SuperSpool v.5.0.............58.

Informed Multimedia

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Colors</th>
<th>Upgradable to 24-Bit Color</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry Level</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$2995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$3495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's</td>
<td>16 Million</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>System Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3775</td>
<td>Mac SE, w/2 Floppy Drives, 2.5 Mb RAM, 105 Mb Quantum Internal Hard Drive, Samsung Dual Page Display, Datadesk Mac 101 Keyboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$9850</td>
<td>Mac Ilx, w/1 Floppy Drive, 5 Mb RAM, 170 Mb Quantum Internal Hard Drive, RasterOps 8-bit Color Video Card with 19&quot; Sony Trinitron Monitor, Apple Extended Keyboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$13,200</td>
<td>Mac Ilx, w/1 Floppy Drive, 8 Mb RAM, 300 CDC Internal Hard Drive, Ikekami 24-bit 19&quot; Color Monitor and Video Card, Datadesk Mac 101 Keyboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5725</td>
<td>Mac Ilx, w/1 Floppy Drive, 5 Mb RAM, 105 Quantum Internal Hard Drive, Seiko 14&quot; Color Monitor with 24-bit RasterOps Video Card, Apple Extended Keyboard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>System Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5725</td>
<td>Mac Ilx, w/6Mb RAM, RasterOps 24-bit Video Card, Trinitron 19&quot; Color Monitor, RasterOps Video Accelerator with 4 Mb RAM, 620 Mb CDC Internal hard drive, Datadesk Mac 101 Keyboard, MicroTek 300D2 24-bit Color Scanner, QMS ColorScript 100 Thermal Color Printer with 8 Mb RAM.</td>
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  Liaison.................................. 174
  MacLink Plus.......................... 139
  Microphone II.......................... 225
  Quick Mail (10 Users).................. 262
  White Night............................ 81
  Timbuktu................................ 99
  TOPS (Mac).............................. 199

- Hardware
  Abaton InterFAX 2400/9600............ 419
  Everex 2400............................ 195
  Hayes Personal Modem 2400............ 165
  MacFax.................................. 449
  Shiva NetModem 2400................... 439
  Shiva NetSerial........................ 295
  SmartModem 2400M Bundle.............. 429

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- Mac 101 Keyboard..................... 149
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ACCELERATORS

- AOX DoubleTime SE.................... 199
- Macaccelerate SCSI Acc.............. 469
- Orchid MacSprint...................... 245

SICLONE

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- Mac Plus Case........................ 59
- SE Extended KB Case.................. 75

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Speed</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1Mb SIMM</td>
<td>70ns</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These INDEX Memory Modules use Gold Contacts and traces and are covered by lifetime warranty.

### Index Hard Drives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drive Type</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Price 1</th>
<th>Price 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantum 3.5&quot; ProDrive HD - 12ms</td>
<td>40Mb 12ms</td>
<td>$359</td>
<td>$493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantum 3.5&quot; ProDrive HD - 12ms</td>
<td>80Mb 12ms</td>
<td>$549</td>
<td>$699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantum 3.5&quot; ProDrive HD - 12ms</td>
<td>105Mb 12ms</td>
<td>$699</td>
<td>$849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantum 3.5&quot; ProDrive HD - 12ms</td>
<td>170Mb 12ms</td>
<td>$849</td>
<td>$949</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printer Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AppleTalk Connector</td>
<td>$295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AppleTalk Printer</td>
<td>$195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hewlett-Packard</td>
<td>$850</td>
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ACCELERATOR BOARDS 330
BAR CODE 330
CD-ROM 330
COMPUTER SYSTEMS 330-332
DATA ACQUISITION 332
DISK DRIVES 333
DISKETTES 333
GENERAL 333-335
INSURANCE 335
MEMORY UPGRADES 335-337
PERIPHERALS 338
PRINTERS 339
SECURITY 339

SOFTWARE 339-344
ACCOUNTING 339
BAR CODE 339
BUSINESS 339
BUSINESS TIME MANAGEMENT 340
DATA BASE 340
EDUCATIONAL 340
EMULATION 340
ENGINEERING 340-341
ENTERTAINMENT/GAMES 341
FINANCIAL 341
FONTS 341
FUND RAISING 342
GENEALOGY 342
GRAPHICS 342
HEALTH 342
LANGUAGE TOOLS 342
LOTTERY/GAMBLING 343
MEDICAL/DENTAL 343
MUSIC/MIDI 343
NETWORKING/CONNECTIVITY 343
PUBLIC DOMAIN 343
RELIGION 343-344
SALES/MARKETING 344
SHAREWARE 344
STACKWARE 344
UTILITIES 344

MISCELLANEOUS 344-347
ACCESSORIES 344-345
CATALOGUES/BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS 345
DATA CONVERSION SERVICES 345
DESKTOP PUBLISHING SERVICES 346
DISKETTE COPY SERVICES 346
INSURANCE 346
SERVICES 346-347
SUPPLIES 347

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Weenie Computers

Months have passed since the introduction of the IBM PS/1 and the newest Tandy 1000 RL machine. These weenie computers are designed for the mysterious "home" market — a market whose existence nobody can prove. It was more than a decade ago that observers realized there is no such thing as a home computer — just work-at-home computers. A home computer is supposed to do things relating to the home. The newest weenie, the Tandy 1000 RL, is a case in point.

According to the promotional material, the machine comes with 30 "select recipes" from the New Good Housekeeping Cookbook. Thirty recipes! Big friggin' deal. A McDonald's burger palace has a bigger collection of recipes than this.

Now I'm thinking all the New York Times cookbooks and putting them on a searchable CD-ROM disc would be worth doing. If you like to cook, then you like lots of resources. A mere 30 recipes doesn't cut it — neither does 3,000. Give me 300,000 recipes, and now you're talking. A weenie computer can never handle anything such as this.

When I asked some Tandy people about this machine, I kept getting the feedback that this is the machine everyone's wife wants. Oh no! The woman's computer for stereotypes! Apparently someone at Ladies' Home Journal likes the thing too. This notion should get the feminist power users rankled. The 1000 RL makes schedules, laundry lists, travel plans, and shopping lists. There is a calculator, a text editor, a drawing program, and some games. I give Tandy credit for loading it up with applications that are genuinely (and dubiously) aimed at this nebulous home market. I suppose some officious retentive supermom living in a meticulously clean suburban home outside of Des Moines might like this thing. I mean, it even has a "meal planner." Can you imagine? "...Next Wednesday, leg of lamb with canned peas and Jell-O with sliced bananas for dessert."

Let's move to the IBM PS/1. It's designed to be a tax write-off. It's definitely aimed at work-at-home types, with a wink-wink nudged-nudge sales pitch. I think IBM's real hope is that PS/1 users will subscribe to the funky Prodigy on-line service. Its "home" orientation isn't as sincere as Tandy's.

It's a weenie machine nonetheless.

All these weenie machines are earmarked by a pseudo-iconic frontend. The PS/1 has a moronic opening screen with four huge windows. You click with the mouse in one of them, and off you go. "Just like a Mac, huh?" someone asked me. The 1000 RL front end is much like a Mac's, except it's more cluttered.

I'd hate to continue this discussion without mentioning the Headstart Explorer, the forerunner of these machines, announced late last year in a fancy Leonard Nimoy-hosted superevent at the Hayden Planetarium. I haven't seen the machine since. It was a home computer aimed at kids who needed help with their schoolwork.

We also can't ignore the PCjr, the first real bust in this market. With predicted sales of 350,000 in its first year and a predicted consequent decimation of Western civilization as we know it, it fizzled.

Oops, wasn't the Atari 800 a home computer too? Wasn't the Apple II a home computer? And let's not forget the S200 Commodore 64, the closet computer. And who knows what Nintendo is up to?

With more than 80 million households, the manufacturers are convinced that there is some way to sell home computers. There has to be, dammit! They try to sell them for games; for recipes; for meal planning; for mundane work-at-home projects; for homework; as grandiose calculators; and as a way to access cheap, useless databases. They see the formula as simple. First, the machine must be, in Tandy CEO John Roach's words, "idiot-proof." This is a dubious market to cultivate — Idiots. How can you brag about your products when they're designed for idiots? What can you say? "Our customers are idiots!" "Only idiots buy our products!" It doesn't work.

Still, it seems the weenie machines are designed with idiots in mind. Now, don't get me wrong — you don't have to be an idiot to use one. But because they are idiot-proof, some lowest-common-denominator decisions have to be made to accommodate idiots. In many ways, the machine turns the user into an idiot. Use an idiot-oriented machine, and you can feel like an idiot — and then become one.

This is the problem with these machines. If you know anything about computers — and knowing about computers is the future, ask a 12-year-old — you don't want a weenie machine. And you don't want to feel like an idiot.

I guess all this nonsense, the home market and all, is based on the adage that nobody ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public. Wanna bet?
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