

Supplement to Developers' Newsletter No 28

May 1993

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Two Special offers for Developers

June Opportunity

As a special offer for June 1993 only, Acorn is giving Developers the opportunity to purchase A3010s (four options are available), A5000s (one option only) and the Acorn Pocket Book with A-Link at very advantageous prices. 3-year on-site service is included in the prices, except for the Pocket Book which includes one-year hotline support. The offers are as stated; no changes to the packages can be entertained.

We hope that, by offering these machines at this time, we will make it possible for Developers to purchase demonstration machines in time for the Acorn World show in October and, in addition to provide, in the A5000, a machine suitable for serious development work.

NB To qualify for this offer, orders should be submitted with payment and on the special order form enclosed and MUST be received by 25 June 1993.

Acorn Multimedia Unit

As mentioned in Newsletter 28, the Acorn Multimedia Unit is now available. It requires RISC OS 3.1 and comes in three versions:

1. The Unit only
2. The Unit with a SCSI expansion card for Archimedes 400/I series, A540 and A5000 (NB Archimedes 310 or 440 upgraded with MEMC1A would also take the card)
3. The Unit with a SCSI mini podule for A3000, A3010, A3020 and A4000

A New Product Special Offer is available to Registered Developers for a period of three months. Developers may purchase one Multimedia Unit (any version) only at the Special Offer price and must send in orders on the special order form accompanied by a signed Developer Special Offer Purchase Agreement.

A leaflet about the Acorn Multimedia Unit is enclosed.

Developers' Discount Price List

A further price list is enclosed. This supersedes the April Price List.

Please note that the price of the A540 4MB upgrade has been reduced and the RISC OS 3 Programmer's Reference Manual (AKJ03) has been added. In addition, the 4MB A5000 (ALB24) now has a larger (162MB instead of 120MB) hard disc for the same price. This product has a new product code - ALB25.

RISC OS 3 Programmer's Reference Manual

The RISC OS 3 Programmer's Reference Manual is now published and in stock in the warehouse. A copy has been despatched to all Developers who purchased the draft

version. We trust we have remembered everyone. If you purchased a draft and have not received the published version, please contact Developer Support.

The Developers' Discount price for the PRM is £78.21. Those people who have RISC OS 2 PRMs and wish to upgrade may do so through Acorn Direct at £59 plus £4 postage and packing. Orders should be sent direct to Vector Services Ltd, 13 Dennington Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2RL and must be accompanied by the cover of the Index volume of the RISC OS 2 PRM. Cheques should be made payable to "Acorn Direct". There is no Developer discount on the upgrade.

RISC OS Technical Documentation CD-ROM

Emerald Publishing are working to complete a CD-ROM containing much of Acorn's technical documentation, including the RISC OS 3 PRM. Among the items also included are the following:

- DDE, C and Assembler manuals
- BBC BASIC Reference Manual
- Technical Publications Style Guide
- TCP/IP documentation
- RISC OS User Guides and Applications Guides

The CD-ROM will be RISC OS Compliant and will have multitasking access software. The text of the manuals will appear on screen in the same format as printed in the Acorn manuals.

The access software will allow you to display one or more books on screen, turn pages, etc. and has comprehensive search routines, a note taking facility and user-definable bookmarks.

The RRP will be £99 plus VAT but Acorn Registered Developers will be able to purchase the CD-ROM from Emerald at a discount.

Further details are available from:

Emerald Publishing
166 Shelford Road
Trumpington
Cambridge
CB2 2NE

Tel: 0223 840138

Fax: 0223 844652

Acorn Education Directory CD-ROM

Enclosed is a copy of Acorn Education Directory CD-ROM together with a letter and Errata sheet from Peter Talbot, Acorn's General Manager for UK Education.

Printing from RISC OS 3

One of the enhancements made to RISC OS 3 printing, primarily for use when producing PostScript, was the

ability for applications to declare the fonts they were using in the document they were about to print.

The SWI is PDriver_DeclareFont and it can be used in two ways: you can either pass the font handle in R0 and set 121 to 0 or you can pass the font name in R 1 and set R0 to 0.

Unfortunately, the RISC OS 3 version of PDriverPS, 3.31, does not correctly support the first form of the call, in that if you try to use the call, you will get a fatal error.

There is currently an interim solution which is as follows:

Always use the second form of the call. If you only have the font handle, you can use Font_ReadDefn to get the font name.

3D desktop

At the Developer meeting in February, attendees were told that Developer Support would be sending a copy of the

utility (which gives a 3D look to the RISC OS 3 desktop) with the Developers' newsletter. Unfortunately we are, *as yet*, unable to send the utility, NewLook. If, however, you wish to 'future-proof your software so that it can take advantage of the 3D appearance when NewLook is available, you should ensure that you use icons from the Wimp Sprite Pool. It will also be necessary, at a later date, for you to revisit some templates in order for your application to become totally 3D in appearance.

Logo

We understand that there is concern, in the Logo community, regarding the definition and use of the term Logo in application names and documentation and in advertising and product descriptions. As information on the subject becomes clearer we will communicate it to you, as appropriate. In the meantime, we would ask that, particularly with regard to product directory information, that you consider whether product titles and descriptions currently using the term 'Logo' properly relate to the Logo language.

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