

# USER



# NEWS

ISSUE ONE - WINTER 1992

Welcome to the first *User News*, a quarterly newsletter for users of Acorn's 32-bit computers.

In publishing this newsletter, we are responding to numerous requests from our users to keep them informed about what is happening in the world of Acorn.

The launch of 14 new Acorn products in Autumn 1992 heralded a new era in Acorn's pioneering history.

Not only are our products more technologically advanced, yet easier to use, than the competition, they now cost much less as well.

It is exciting to see third-party developers capturing the spirit of Acorn's positive innovations by being equally inventive and entrepreneurial in the development of their products.

Never before has there been such a wide choice of applications for the user: a choice which, in itself, will stimulate new purchases, perhaps with many people upgrading from outdated games machines and PCs. Whilst we will update this newsletter, you can always refer to the pages of *BBC Acorn User*, *Acorn Computing*, *RISC User*, *Archive*, and *Archimedes World* magazines for the latest information and reviews of new products. Likewise, it is a good idea to check current prices with suppliers.

Acorn Computers organise a full programme of roadshows and attend a number of exhibitions throughout the year.

These provide an ideal forum for existing and new users of our computers to see, at first hand, the range and variety of hardware and software available.

The following dates are for your diary and will be updated in future issues.

## **Computer Shopper Show**

**November 19-22**

Grand Hall Olympia.

See the complete range of Acorn's new 32-bit computers including *The Family Solution*, *Learning Curve*, and *Home Office* systems.

Meet COLIN JACKSON and

LINFORD CHRISTIE in the Acorn Village (Friday only).

Many of Acorn's leading software houses and dealers will be in attendance, with many special show offers.

Acorn's theatre programme will feature some of the hottest topics in the world of computing.

To obtain your tickets, call the Ticket Hotline on: 071 373 8141

## **The World of Acorn**

**November 28 - December 13**

The World of Acorn will be visiting the following locations where you will be able to discuss your computing requirements and ask questions of the Acorn team, leading software houses, and local dealers. On display will

be the latest range of Acorn's powerful 32-bit computer systems and demonstrations of software, including education, word processing, desktop publishing, art, music and leisure applications.

The doors will be open at 10.00am and close at 4.00pm.

### **November 28**

Aston Court Hotel,  
Midland Road,  
Derby

### **November 29**

Forte Crest,  
South Mimms

### **December 5**

The Old Ship Hotel,  
Kings Road,  
Brighton

### **December 6**

Scandik Crown Hotel,  
Tinsley Lane South,  
Three Bridges,  
Crawley

The Copthorne Hotel,  
Clippers Quay,  
Salford Quays,  
Manchester

### **December 12**

Novotel,  
Merrydale Road,  
Bradford

### **December 13**

Leicester Moat House,  
Wigston Road,  
Oadby,  
Leicester

For further information, please contact the Consumer Marketing Co-ordinator on (0223) 254 254.

**Acorn**

The Acorn Archimedes range of 32-bit RISC computers is based around the award-winning ARM family of processors. To take full advantage of the power and performance of the ARM family, Acorn has developed RISC OS - a functionally rich operating system that offers novices a comfortable environment in which to take their first steps, whilst being powerful and flexible enough to cater for the most discerning professional user.

RISC OS has a Graphical User Interface (GUI) which provides a high degree of consistency, allowing users to learn new software packages quickly and easily. The superb development environment of RISC OS is complemented by Acorn's commitment to building partnerships with software developers.

Today, thousands of software packages are available which share the RISC OS 'look and feel', providing a consistent approach for users wishing to use several different applications. This makes Acorn systems easy to learn and easy to use. Third-party partners also give access to a complete range of professional peripheral devices such as printers, scanners and CD-ROMs.

### Acorn A3000 series



A3010 Learning Curve System

Acorn has introduced a new range of A3000 series computers. The A3010 has been designed for the home user and comes as part of *The Family Solution* - a family learning and entertainment centre - and also as part of the well-established *Learning Curve* range. The A3020, with its expandability and range of memory options, has been purpose-designed for our customers within education. As with all products in the Acorn Archimedes range, every new A3000 series computer comes with an extensive application suite including a painting package, a powerful drawing program, a text editor, a music creation, and an editing program.

**Price:**

- Family Solution pack (excluding monitor) £499 inc VAT
- A3010 Learning Curve pack with Acorn Colour Monitor £799 inc VAT
- A3010 Learning Curve pack with Acorn Colour Monitor and Acorn JP150 printer £1049 inc VAT

### Acorn A4000



A4000 Home Office System

The A4000 combines the features of the new A3000 series computers with a 3-box design that is based upon the highly successful Acorn A5000. It has a large industry standard hard disc with 80MB of storage, ideal for large amounts of data, text and graphics. For the home user, the A4000, as part of *The Home Office* pack, offers the complete office at home, including database, word processor and optional inkjet printer.

**Price:**

- Home Office pack with Acorn Colour Monitor £1174 inc VAT
- Home Office pack with Acorn Colour Monitor and Acorn JP150 printer £1424 inc VAT

### Acorn JP150 Printer



JP150 Printer

Small and compact, the Acorn JP150 printer delivers high-performance, letter quality output with superb graphics on plain paper, in almost complete silence. It offers a cost-efficient way of producing high-quality correspondence, business documents or school projects, from your office or home.

**Price:**

- £299.00 inc VAT
- Printer Sheet Feeder £81.08 inc VAT

### Acorn A5000 series

The A5000 series of computers offers a range of hard disc options. Two network models are available for users who do not have a requirement for hard disc storage on their network. For the professional home user who requires the additional processing power, the A5000 *Learning Curve* offers a complete family learning centre including desktop publishing and PC software compatibility as standard.

#### Price:

- Acorn A5000 Learning Curve, Acorn Multiscan Colour Monitor £1699 inc VAT
- Acorn A5000 Learning Curve, Acorn Multiscan colour monitor and JP150 printer £1949 inc VAT

### Acorn A4 series



A4 4MB HD System

The Acorn A4 is the latest in notebook technology, with all the features and benefits of a high performance Acorn computer. No longer will you be restricted to one choice of working environment. From home to work, room to room, on or off site, the A4 will give you total flexibility.

#### Price:

- A4 2MB FD System £1643.83 inc VAT
- A4 4MB HD 60 System £1996.33 inc VAT

### Acorn Pocket Book



The Acorn Pocket Book opens up a whole new range of opportunities for exploiting information technology. The Acorn Pocket Book provides for the first time a computer that is:

#### Personal

- Offering palm top computer power and providing links to your Archimedes computer.

#### Powerful

- With a built-in set of five software applications:

**Write** - a word processor and spell checker

**Card** - a database

**Abacus** - a spreadsheet

**Calc** - a scientific calculator

**Time** - a clock and calendar

**Portable** - small and light enough to fit into your pocket, briefcase, or school bag.

#### Versatile

- For use at school or college, at home or on the move, in the lab or on field trips.

#### Useful

- For working alongside desktop computers,

transferring information to and from the Pocket Book.

#### Friendly

- The software is driven by using windows, icons and menus.

#### Ergonomic

- With a rugged clam shell design that fits the palm and feels right.

#### Economical

- As just two AA batteries last for 80 hours of use.

The Acorn Pocket Book has been developed by Acorn and is based on a well - established product, the Psion Series 3, but has been adapted to meet the specific needs of Archimedes users. These needs are more than just hardware and software....

The Acorn Pocket Book is designed to put the power of IT in your hands.

#### Price:

- £249.95 inc VAT

#### A-Link package

The A-Link package enables users' of Acorn's Pocket Book to transfer data to and from the Archimedes computer.

Utilising the serial port of the Archimedes, data transfer is via a cable and is viewed in a window on the screen for integration into applications.

#### Price:

- £59.95 inc VAT

### RISC OS 3 upgrades

RISC OS 3 upgrades are now available to all RISC OS computer users, including A300 and A400 series owners.

The basic RISC OS 3.10 upgrade pack includes a set of replacement ROMs and manuals and is list-priced at £89 inc VAT. However, a special £49 inc VAT price will be maintained until the middle of next year. A5000 owners can receive just the new ROMs for £19 inc VAT.

RISC OS 3 improvements include the following options:

- 3D window borders
- 12 outline fonts held in ROM
- Key enhanced Acorn applications like Edit, Paint and Draw in ROM
- Faster graphics
- Background disc and printing operations
- Iconised windows.

RISC OS 3 is compatible with all levels of ARM processors fitted to Archimedes models, and is available from all Acorn dealers.

#### Merchandise

- Umbrella - £16.25
- Acorn Mug - £2.45
- 'Seriously Bad' T-shirt - £5.55
- Jamboree Mix - £7.10

To order any of the above items, please complete the enclosed order form and dispatch together with a cheque/postal order or credit card details to: Acorn Direct Mail-Order, 13 Denington Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2RL Tel: (0933) 279300 Please allow 28 days for delivery.



### PC Emulator version 1.8

Acorn has a policy of continuous development of its products, and we make the benefits available by offering software upgrades to existing customers at a special price. We have recently introduced PC Emulator version 1.8 which supports VGA graphics.

If you are unsure about whether or not you need to upgrade your existing PC Emulator, or if you would like a full information sheet, please contact our technical help-line on 0933 279300.

### Upgrades

- The upgrade contains the 1.8 PC Emulator and manual only, with no CD ROM extensions or DOS disc: users retain their current DOS disc.
- The price for upgrading from versions 1.6 and 1.7 to version 1.8 is £9 (ex VAT).
- The price for upgrading from versions earlier than 1.6 is £29.00 (ex VAT).
- The upgrade is available for all existing owners of the PC Emulator, whether originally supplied with MS DOS or DR DOS.

To take advantage of the current offer, please send your name and address, your original PC Emulator disc and your payment to:  
PC Emulator 1.8,  
Acorn Direct,  
13 Denington Road,  
WELLINGBOROUGH,  
Northants NN8 2RL.  
Most charge cards, postal orders and cheques made payable to 'Acorn Direct' are accepted.

Important note: do not send your MS DOS or DR DOS discs back; these do not need to be replaced and are not part of this offer.

### Third Party Partners

Acorn has continued its policy of fostering good relations with third-party dealers and developers in order to ensure that complete solutions are delivered to meet your requirements. The number of applications produced by third parties to run on our machines has increased considerably over the years. This was illustrated most graphically by the growth in size of our recent *Consumer Directory* featuring over 2000 applications.

Acorn's relationship with third parties, including developers of software and hardware, our manufacturers and the distributors and dealers who sell and support our products, are vital to our

success, and we intend featuring the products and services of some of these partners in future issues.

*The distribution of this issue was sponsored by Colton Software.*

### Wordz

Wordz is the new state-of-the-art RISC OS word processor from Colton Software.

Wordz contains all the features you'd expect from a powerful word processor, but its most important feature is ease of use.

New users will be able to access powerful functions such as cut and paste and customised text styles simply by clicking on one of the on-screen buttons.

Experienced Archimedes users will recognise a program written from scratch to get the very best out of their computers.

Wordz is completely WYSIWYG. What you see on screen is always what you get - no nasty surprises when your document is printed.

Help messages are displayed on screen via a status line which shows you where you are in your document, what commands you have selected, and what impact they will have on your document.

Contact: Colton Software  
Tel: (0223) 311881

### 'LOAD 'N SAVE'

Sonamara has launched its 'LOAD 'N SAVE' scheme for all Acorn computer owners. Once you've joined the new Acorn computer club, you can take advantage of loads of great offers and save money at the same time! New members ordering from Sonamara before Christmas 1992 will receive a free triple pack of TDK E180 video tapes with their first order. Sonamara also have some special offers on TDK coloured discs as well as vouchers to spend on software and hardware.

The good news does not stop there. Other great benefits from Sonamara include:-

- Monthly member offers
- Previews of new products
- Products exclusive to Sonamara
- Special software and hardware bundles
- Hotline telephone assistance.

The list goes on!

If you're using and buying Acorn software and hardware, join Sonamara today.

Contact Simone Hine on 0635-299676 (FAX 0635-297866) or write to:  
Sonamara, 3 King John House, Kingsclere Park, Kingsclere, Berks, RG15 8SW.



The second edition of the ever popular *Acorn Product Directory* is now available. The publication complements our range of *Education*, *Publishing* and *Special Needs Directories*. You will observe by its weight and densely packed pages, the volume of entries has increased beyond the point where we can sensibly count them - certainly many thousands of titles.

The cost is £3.00 (UK) including P&P. To order, please contact (0933) 279300.



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Prices are correct at the time of going to press. Acorn reserves the right to update the prices without prior notice. FIRST EDITION NOVEMBER 1992 APP 508

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# CUSTOMER ORDER FORM AND INFORMATION REQUEST



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Post Code:  
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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques and postal orders to be made payable to: 'Acorn Direct'  
For queries regarding your order, telephone: 0933 279300

When completed, send this order form to:

Acorn Direct Mail-Order  
13 Denington Road  
Wellingborough  
Northants  
NN8 2RL

ITEM	UNIT COST inc. VAT	QTY	TOTAL inc. VAT
Umbrella	£16.25		
T-shirt	£5.55		
Mug	£2.45		
Product Directory	£3.00		
Jamboree Mix:	£7.10		
Mug			
Pen			
Mints			
Mouse Mat			
Bug			
Car Sticker			
Handling			£2.50

ORDER TOTAL includes postage and VAT @ 17.5%

## Other Information

I will be attending the event at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Please send information on the following Acorn products

A3010  A4000  A5000  A4  Pocket Book

Please update my record as opposite

Please remove my record

The postcode on the address label is \_\_\_\_\_

£