

ISSUE NO. 8

Archimedeian

New Developments

New Impression

AudioWorks

WordWorks

ScanLight Video

Eagle multimedia

New colour printer

Clip-Art CD

Ultra-fast CD drive



Computer Concepts Ltd

DONT FORGET
ACORN WORLD
SHOW
OCTOBER 1993

... SEE US ON STAND 67-68 29th.-31st OCTOBER

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See some of the best entries. We gave away thousands of pounds worth of prizes for some excellent pictures.

Product Guide 8

The complete one-page summary guide to Computer Concepts products.



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The Archimedean is issued free of charge to registered owners of Computer Concepts' Archimedes products.

Production

This issue of The Archimedean was created entirely in Impression II, using an Archimedes A5000 with 8MB RAM and a 80MB hard disc. All proofing and layout checks were output on a BJC600. Final negative film was created from PostScript output files through a Linotronic 300 imagesetter. All colour separations were created with the aid of The Impression Business Supplement.

Apple's Newton arrives

Apple's heavily 'hyped' Newton has been on the way for what seems like a lifetime. As the biggest development in the computer industry for years, I eagerly awaited its arrival. So when the opportunity finally arrived I bought one.

There is no equivalent competition because no other product is quite like Newton. It's unique in its reliance on recognising your handwriting, because it has *no keyboard*. And apart from the Archimedes, it's the only computer that contains an ARM processor – an ARM 610 in fact – about as powerful as an ARM3.

However, if you view the Newton Message Pad as a general purpose information assistant then it does have competition from other pocket-sized information assistants, such as the Acorn Pocket Book or even a traditional and somewhat cheaper FiloFax.

Newton's uniqueness – handwriting recognition – is in my opinion also its failing. People who have used it say that it takes time for Newton to become trained to your own handwriting, and you shouldn't expect too much too early. Apple labour the point with extra notes and even a video, explaining the correct way to write to get the best results. You can manually train it on specific letters and it's got a special learning mode where you can write words, which it tries to guess correctly. You then correct it, and it learns. The documentation says that it should get a pretty good grip on your handwriting after entering only 100 words. But after eight hours of solid use I'm not sure it was any better than when I first turned it on!

Here are four successive results of my writing the same sentence:

Hit quickly jumped theory clay

The quick brown toy jumps over the lazy dog

Hit quick Downtown jumps outline lazy gog

the quick brown toy jumps alike lazy dry

You can see what I was trying to type – the second time it almost got it right. Newton guesses the nearest matching word from its extendable dictionary.

Some words it wouldn't guess correctly at all – "I'll" or any word beginning with a capital N. No doubt "I'll" is one of the most difficult

words to get right, but it turns out that I write a capital N the wrong way. I always write the left edge as a down stroke, when apparently I should do it as an up stroke. Perhaps my teachers never knew that one day I would have to be understood by Newton? And there are quite a few other characters that I write the 'wrong' way. No matter how many times I trained it on these words, it never got them right!

Newton has an on-screen keyboard rather like !Chars, so you can tap on the characters to spell out a word, but it's not really intended to enter text in volume and is a very slow way to type anyway.

In summary, the software included is really rather basic: a name and address list handler, a diary and scheduler, and a note pad where you can write short messages or draw simple diagrams. It does have quite a few gimmicks like an infra-red link to beam data to other Newtons, Fax capability (if you buy a fax modem), drag and drop editing, gesture recognition, and so on. All very neat, but not mind blowing.

So does it stack up as a personal information assistant? Not for me. Look at it this way – the Acorn Pocket Book has a real word processor and spreadsheet, has two card slots rather than one, weighs less than the Newton, is considerably more pocketable, uses 2 AA batteries rather than the Newton's four AAA cells – and in my experience the batteries last perhaps five times longer than those in the Newton. Coincidentally they both have almost the same amount of free RAM – 170K. And I almost forgot, the cost of the Acorn Pocket book is about one third that of the Newton.

It's fair to say that the Pocket Book is more traditional, almost boring when compared to some of the cute tricks of the Newton. But when it comes to which I would actually carry with me in my pocket – no choice. Not even close. Anyone want to buy a second-hand Newton?

I'm told that in two weeks I'll have a different opinion – we'll see. Were it able to get 99% correct handwriting recognition I might well have a different opinion, but I don't think I'd have a different conclusion.

Acorn World

The next major exhibition we will be attending is Acorn World, to be held on October 29th-31st at Wembley Exhibition Centre, London. All our latest products will be on show and, as always, we will have some very special offers.

Laser printer price crash

Laser printers continue to fall in price at an amazing rate. We have been able to cut £200 off the price of LaserDirect HiRes4, bringing it down to just £799 +VAT, and we've reduced LaserDirect HiRes8 from £1,495 to just £1,099. If you've been wanting to buy a laser printer but thought the cost prohibitive, maybe it's time to think again. Purchase now, and you can take advantage of our special offer to receive a FREE copy of Impression II.

LaserDirect HiRes 4 is the lowest cost 600dpi laser printer available anywhere, yet it also offers the highest performance, thanks to our TurboDriver technology. For higher speed printing, LaserDirect HiRes8 prints at eight pages per minute.

RISC OS 3 Printer Drivers – UPDATE

In the previous issue of The Archimedean we said that fully featured RISC OS 3 versions of TurboDrivers and LaserDirect drivers would shortly be available. Anyone who has asked for a free TurboDrivers update should now have received it, but the LaserDirect version is only just released and being sent on request.

Originally we had not intended to produce an update for the earlier Qume devices, but owners persuaded us otherwise! The version now available supports the Qume in addition to the current models, and we hope the consequential delay did not cause unnecessary inconvenience. Please remember always to register your products in order to receive software updates.

Impression changes

Currently we offer two versions of Impression – Impression Junior and Impression II. This is about to change.

In late '93, perhaps in time for the Acorn World Show, we will introduce Impression Style as a vastly superior replacement for Junior, at a very attractive upgrade price of £29 + VAT. The full price of the product to new users will be £99 + VAT.

Shortly after Style, in early '94, we will release Impression Publisher as a superior replacement for Impression II, at the same upgrade price of £29 + VAT. And for the most advanced users we will also release Impression-OPI, an add-on for Publisher. The RRP of Publisher will be the same as Impression II, £169 + VAT.

The changes are very significant in both products and many new features are common to both. However, the intention is to make Impression Style the ideal word processor, while Impression Publisher is aimed at the desktop publishing user.

We expect the majority of owners to upgrade and have accordingly set the price compellingly low at just £29+VAT. This is the price to upgrade from Junior to Style, or from Impression II to Publisher. In order to provide our customers with maximum choice, we will also allow Impression II owners to 'cross-grade' to Style for the same price, just in case anyone wants to.

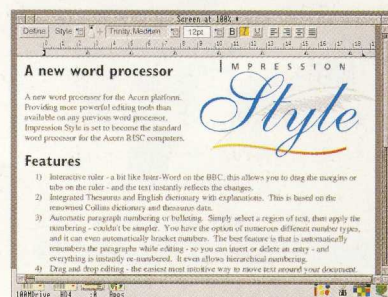
Initially we planned to detail both of these new products here in The Archimedean, but the specification is so comprehensive that it runs to several pages. Instead we have listed some of the main features below and will produce full specifications separately. If you would like a full spec, please call or write. Remember that Impression Publisher will be released slightly later than Style, so you may have to wait if you request a full spec or upgrade immediately.

If you would like to order the upgrade, please send us Disc 1 (no others) from your package, together with payment for £29+VAT (£34.07), stating clearly the upgrade required and of course your name and address.



Impression Style features include:

- Bundled thesaurus and dictionary
- On line help and full hyper text help
- Impression Junior, II and Advance file compatibility
- New powerful but simple to use ruler and tab system
- Automatic section and paragraph bulleting, numbering and re-numbering
- Full support for 24 bit images
- Object linking and embedding
- An open, extendable, graphics filter system with TIFF loaders

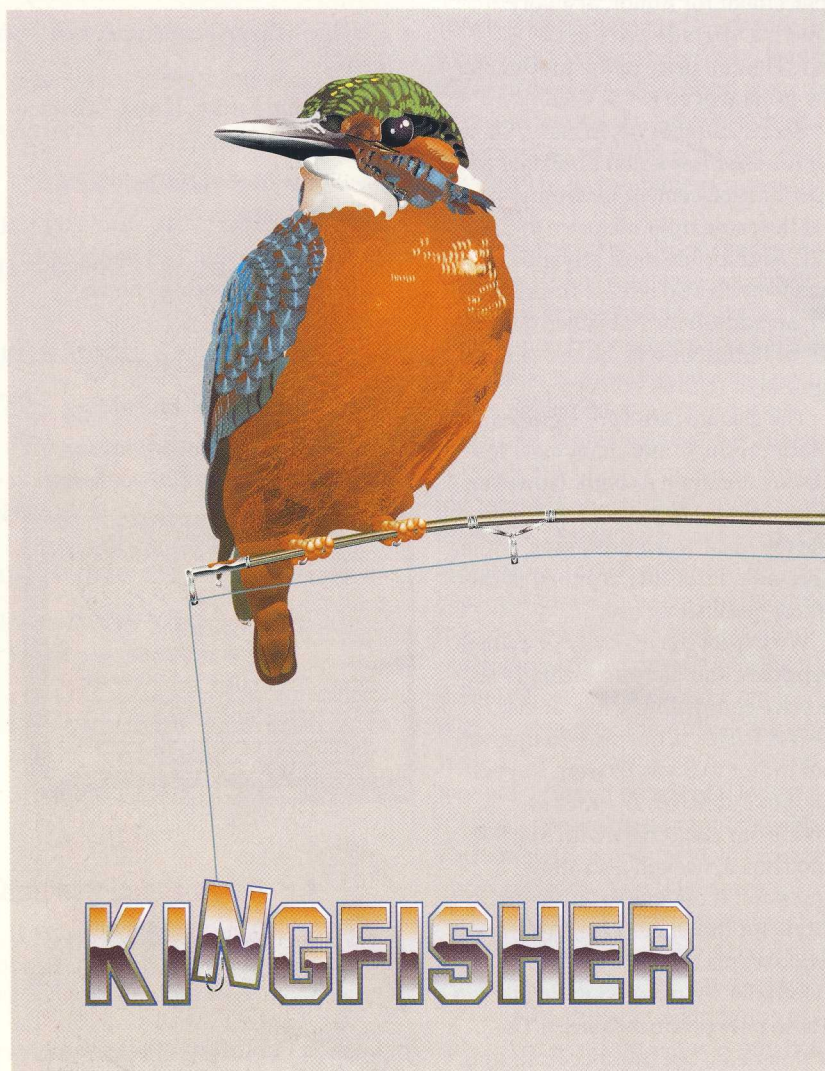


Impression Publisher is the new high end of the Impression range; it will cost £169 + VAT and has all the new user friendly word processor features described in Style above, but also has features which professional users have been increasingly demanding:

- Auto tracking and kerning
- Flow text around irregular shaped objects
- Full colour separation capability
- Control over crop marks, page bleed area, halftone screen types
- Brightness and contrast control of graphics.

Artworks Competition

1st Prize Winner



*The winning entry - "KINGFISHER" by Mr W J Briggs of County Down
The 738K file is an amazing example of what can be achieved*

The Artworks Competition was launched in the Archimedean in March this year. We expected the entries to start flowing in, but after several weeks and only a few entries we were feeling worried. Then as the closing date approached, entries came thick and fast. We weren't sure what quality to expect, and we have been very pleasantly surprised. Altogether we have had over seven hundred entries! Obviously with that many entries the competition for the top prizes was rather tough.

The first prize entry, above, is a stunning picture of a Kingfisher, drawn by Mr W J Briggs of County Down. He wins a Canon BJC800 colour printer worth almost £1,500. Mr Briggs has quite a story to tell, and maybe he'll share it with our readers one day. Spurred on by this success he has started his own freelance business as an illustrator. We are pleased to advertise his contact address in the hope that it will help his business get off the ground.

Anyone wishing to commission

work can contact :
Walter Briggs
24 Ashfield Court
Donaghadee
County Down
Tel: 0247 888698

And the name of his company? Well, appropriately he's named it Kingfisher Graphics.

The ten runner-up prizes we offered were vouchers worth £100 against the purchase of Computer Concepts products. You can see the excellent ten winners on the opposite page. As you might imagine, it was very difficult to choose the winners from so many good entries. Every other entrant received a £10 voucher for their effort.

We were so pleased with the quality of entries and the imaginative use of Artworks that we plan to run another competition in the future. Keep drawing, and watch this space.

Winners on CD

At the end of October '93 we will be launching the Clip-art CD, containing all of the winning entries pictured here, hundreds of other excellent entries too. The CD will contain:

- Over 700 high quality Artworks drawings, including the entries pictured here.
- 100 high quality 24-bit photographs (sprite and TIFF format).
- !AudioWorks demo version and dozens of sample sounds.

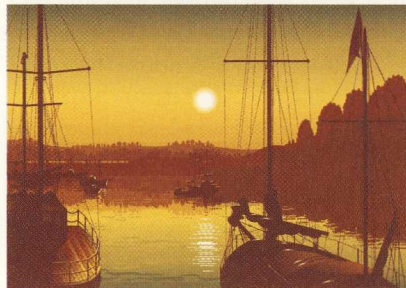
The images may all be published in printed form, royalty free, by anyone purchasing the CD.

Price: £19.00 + VAT (£22.32 inc)

We expect many more products to be released on CD, indeed we will publish Artworks itself on CD later

...and the ten runner up prize winners

These ten entries were awarded the runner-up prizes of a £100 voucher to be used against the purchase of Computer Concepts products. As you can see, they are all of extremely high quality. Although we had to pick just one first prize winner, we would like to point out that "Torquay" shown on the right was separated from "Kingfisher" by just three votes.



Torquay
By Brian Trott

One of the most interesting points to notice about the entries is their spread across Europe. We didn't just receive entries from the UK, we had them from Holland, Germany, Poland and Romania. Truly an international effort!



Rolex Watch
By N Flavell



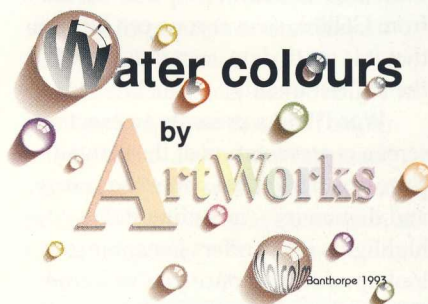
Canon EOS 1000F
By T Shaw



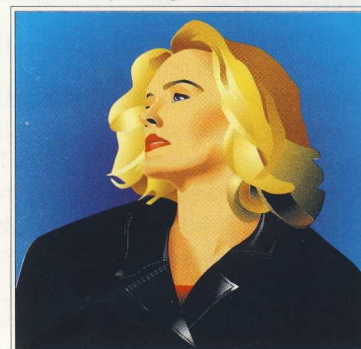
Tournament
By Greg Williams



Poppies
By Elaine Jones



Water droplets
By Malcolm Banthorpe



Portrait
By Alistair Brown



'Cocktail'
By Glenn Burnett



Old Continental Booking Office
Falt-Perry Pier, Harwich

Booking Office
By Eric Bramhill



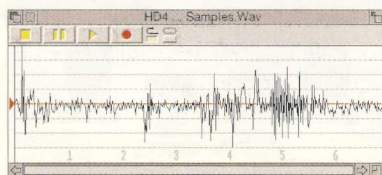
Mask & fan
By Adnan Elmecky

AudioWorks

AudioWorks is a new software package which provides a complete suite of sound editing functions in one easy to use, low cost application.

AudioWorks is compatible with a whole range of sound files – including those from the PC and Amiga. In addition to playing back from the standard Archimedes speaker, the software can sample from and play-back to more advanced audio boards, such as the new Eagle MultiMedia card and the Lark 16-bit audio card.

AudioWorks supports 8 bit, 12 bit, 16 bit, linear signed, linear unsigned, VIDC logarithmic, m - law logarithmic, mono and stereo samples.



Features include:

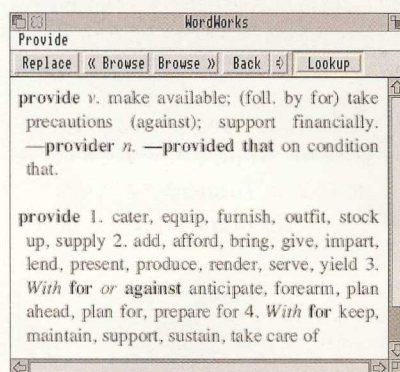
- Accurate waveform display with instantaneous zoom
- Cut, copy and paste of any selected part of the sound sample
- A utility for playing back from hard disc in the background
- Effects such as echo, amplify, wave form centering, ramp, pitch and amplitude bending, high and low pass filtering, re-sampling etc.
- On screen real-time spectrum analyser and oscilloscope displays
- Import and export MicroSoft WAV, Armadeus, DataVox, Sound-Tracker, raw data formats and others
- Full background operation
- Repeat loops
- Multiple channel & multiple sample operations.

Note: To record sounds of your own it will be necessary to purchase suitable hardware separately.

RRP: £49 + VAT (£57.57 inc)

WordWorks

For well over a year we have been working on a thesaurus product, now released as WordWorks. It combines both the Collins thesaurus and dictionary, with full definitions, for only £39.00 + VAT.



This new stand-alone application will work with all word processors, although of course it is more integrated with Impression and will be included as standard in the new Impression Style and Impression Publisher products. The data for the thesaurus and dictionary is licensed from Collins, so everyone can be sure that it is up to date, accurate and of the highest quality.

WordWorks presents an exact on-screen representation of the printed page of a traditional paper thesaurus and dictionary – including italics, highlights etc. It offers instantaneous lookup of words; once you've found the word or phrase you want, simply double click on it to transfer the selected word to your word processor or editor (this works with all desktop word processors).

Note this product is bundled with Impression Style and Impression Publisher full products and is also included in the upgrades as well. However, if you don't use Impression, you can still purchase WordWorks on its own to work with your own WP or DTP package.

RRP: £39.00 + VAT (£45.82 inc)

ScanLight Video - the ultimate image capture solution



ScanLight Video was launched by Computer Concepts in August. The idea is simple – the ScanLight 256 scanner and the GreyHawk greyscale video digitiser are two products that complement each other perfectly and since many Archimedes owners are short of slots in their machine, why not combine both products on one board and save money at the same time.

Just to recap, ScanLight 256 is a 105mm handheld scanner, with 100 to 400 dpi scanning resolution suitable for monochrome, 16 grey level and 256 grey level image capture. It is sold with the ScanLight Plus image processing software. GreyHawk can also digitise at 256 greylevels, has a composite video input and offers real time capture (much faster than the alternative in other words). GreyHawk includes the Take One video preview application which provides video in a window on the desktop.

ScanLight Video is a combination of the full ScanLight 256 and GreyHawk digitiser packages - at a cost only £40 more than the RRP of ScanLight 256. It is suitable for A300, 400, 500 and A5000 computers. An internal A3000/4000 version will follow shortly. Both ScanLight 256 and the GreyHawk digitiser are still available separately.

ScanLight Video: £220 + VAT (£258.50 inc) includes 105mm hand-held scanner.

ScanLight 256: £189 + VAT (£222.07 inc) includes 105mm hand-held scanner.

Greyhawk video digitiser: £99 + VAT (£116.32 inc)



WildVision Eagle Multimedia card

Developed in conjunction with Wild-Vision is the Eagle Multimedia card. This fully-featured card does just about everything you could hope for in multimedia, including: still-image digitising in greyscale or 24-bit colour, sound digitising and replay in stereo, MIDI interface, and movie recording to create your own !Replay compatible movies.

The card will hopefully be launched at the Acorn World show at a very competitive price. See it there, or contact WildVision for a detailed specification.

The Ultimate CD drive

With an ever increasing number of products being launched on CD format, we are intending to launch the fastest CD drive currently available. The Pioneer DRM-604X is not only four times the normal speed (600Kbytes per second sustained data

transfer) but it takes 6 discs at once and has an auto changer mechanism so you can access any disc direct from the desktop. It's not cheap at £999 + VAT, but when compared to the cost of even just a couple of normal or double speed drives, it represents excellent value for money. (This is also several hundred pounds less than the Pioneer RRP.) It works with all Acorn compatible SCSI interfaces (obviously the faster the SCSI interface the better). Ideal for network situations where you want to provide access to multiple discs at once.

We hope to have these on display at the Acorn World exhibition and will be available around that time.



If all goes well, we will be showing a new version of ArtWorks (1.5) for the Acorn World Show, which will include full support for 24bpp sprites, making it amongst the first Acorn applications to support full colour sprites. Version 1.5 will be compatible with the new graphics filter system used by Impression and includes a filter for TIFF files.

1.5 will also include the ability to print and separate these full colour images. 1.5 is also a new 'fast load' version of ArtWorks, ideally suited to relatively slow filing systems such as CD or networks.



TurboDrivers support new printers

Since the last issue of the Archimedeian which announced the RISC OS 3 version of TurboDrivers, we have added support for a wide range of additional printers. The following printers are now supported:

- Canon monochrome (BJ200, BJ230, BJ10, BJ300, BJ330)
- Canon colour (BJC800, BJC600)
- HP (all inkjets and lasers)
- Epson Stylus 800

We are also now offering the the Canon BJ230 (an A3 version of the popular BJ200) and the brand new BJC600 as complete packages. See the back cover for details.

The falling price of colour: The BJC600 at just £529 + VAT

The new Canon BJC600, now available from Computer Concepts, sets the new standard. At just over £500 it prints on A4 plain paper in full colour at high resolution - 40% more dots per square inch than 300 dpi printers.

The package includes the BJC600 printer, TurboDriver software (worth £49+VAT separately), and printer cable. The TurboDriver software is the fastest way to print colour and the BJC600 print quality is just miles ahead of any colour printer in this price range. The key features of the printer are:

- Four colour CMYK printing
- Separate ink cartridges for each colour - saves ink and money
- Full 360dpi resolution
- Prints on plain paper - no need for expensive coated papers

Price: £529 + £10 P&P + VAT (£633.32)

CURRENT VERSIONS

Impression II	2.19
Impression Junior	1.19
ArtWorks	1.12
Equasor	1.02
Impression Business Supplement	2.11
Compression	1.17
LaserDirect (all versions)	2.10
TurboDriver(RISCOS3)	3.03
ScanLight (all versions)	2.01
FaxPack	2.00
ColourCard	1.14 or 2.14

Note: Upgrades are only available to registered owners.

Product Guide

NEW
PRODUCTS
NEW PRICES

Impression II

Used by tens of thousands of users as their day-to-day word processor, but also capable of professional quality desk-top publishing applications (eg this magazine and Acorn User). 2Mbytes RAM recommended. All copies ordered from Sept 1st have a free upgrade voucher to Impression Publisher. **£169 + VAT (£198.57 inc)**

Impression Style

The ultimate word processor. Well suited to short documents such as letters, right up to long documents such as books. Includes: spelling checker, thesaurus, dictionary, mail-merge, auto-paragraph numbering, style sheets, graphics. Full on-line help. Fast, easy to use. 2MB RAM recommended. **£99.00 + VAT (£116.32 inc)**

Impression borders disc

100 new frame border designs for Impression II or Impression Style. **£12.77 + VAT (£15.00 inc)**

Equasor

Mathematical equation creation and editing tool. Exports !Draw files. **£49 + VAT (£57.57 inc)**

ArtWorks

The most powerful and flexible graphics illustration program for the Archimedes. Package includes 220 outline fonts. 2Mbytes RAM minimum recommended. Files can be easily loaded into Impression for superb illustrated documents. **£169 + VAT (£198.57 inc)**

Clip-Art CD

CD with over 700 ArtWorks drawings, over 100 24-bit full colour photographs, and a demo version of AudioWorks and sounds. **£19 + VAT (£22.32 inc)**

AudioWorks

A general purpose audio sample editing application. Works with a variety of different file formats and can play back through the Archimedes sound system. **£49 + VAT (£57.57 inc)**

WordWorks

The ultimate combined English thesaurus and dictionary, with definitions. Based on the well known Collins books. Hard disc recommended. **£39 + VAT (£45.82 inc)**

Compression

Very fast automatic general purpose file compressing utility. Acts like a filing system, compatible with all applications. **£39 + VAT (£45.82 inc)**

TurboDrivers

The fastest printer driver software available for the Archimedes. Suitable for all current mono and colour Canon and Hewlett Packard inkjet printers (and HP laser printers) and Epson Stylus inkjet. Now fully RISC OS 3 compatible. Includes printer cable. 4MB RAM recommended for colour. **£49 + VAT (£57.57 inc)**

ColourCard

Graphics accelerator expansion card. Provides much higher resolution, more colours, less flicker (higher refresh rates) and faster graphics drawing. 32,000 colour screen modes and video pass-through for Acorn modes. If your RISC OS desktop is becoming cluttered how about upgrading to a screen size of 1600 pixels across? **£249 + £6 p&p + VAT (£299.62 inc)**

ScanLight 256

The very popular hand-held scanner capable of scanning 256 grey-levels for photographic quality image capture. The best way to get pictures into your computer. Includes internal expansion card. Versions available for all Acorn computers - so please specify model of computer when ordering. **£189 + VAT (£222.07 inc)**
A30X0, A4000 versions £199 + VAT (£233.82 inc)

ScanLight Video

A combination of 256 greyscale scanner and 256 greyscale video digitising capability on a single card. **£220 + VAT (£258.50 inc)**

ScanLight Professional

Flatbed A4 256 grey-level scanner. Requires SCSI interface card (available as optional extra). **£595 + £10 p&p + VAT (£710.87 inc)**

LaserDirect HiRes8

8 page per minute, 600 dpi, laser printer. Direct drive from the Archimedes for the fastest printing speeds of any Archimedes laser printer. 2Mbytes RAM minimum, 4Mbytes recommended. **£1099 + £10 p&p + VAT (£1303.07 inc)**

LaserDirect HiRes4

Package includes 4 page per minute, 600 dpi laser printer with interface board and software. (Note: For existing owners of a standard Canon LBP-4 Plus printer the Interface board and software are available separately - please ask for details.) **£799 + £10 p&p + VAT (£950.57 inc)**

Canon BJC-600 colour printer

The brand new low cost A4 colour printer. Designed specifically to get the best possible results on plain paper. 360dpi, separate CMYK inks, combined with the RISC OS 3 TurboDrivers this is quite simply the best colour printer in the price range. **£529 + £10 p&p + VAT (£633.32 inc)**

Canon BJC-800 colour printer

A3, 360 dpi, full colour printer combined with Turbodriver software. 4Mbytes RAM min recommended. **£1499 + £10 p&p + VAT (£1773.07 inc)**

Canon BJ-200 mono printer

Fast, 360 dpi, inkjet printer. Includes Turbo-Driver software to provide the fastest inkjet printing of any printer in its class. Printer has built-in sheet feeder and power-supply. Includes printer cable. **£275 + £10 p&p + VAT (£334.87 inc)**

Canon BJ-230 mono printer

Same as above except takes A3 paper. **£319 + £10 p&p + VAT (£386.57 inc)**

Pioneer DRM-604X fast multi-disc CD drive

Four times faster than conventional CD ROM drives. Holds 6 CDs and includes automatic disc changer. PhotoCD compatible. Includes driver software for all Acorn compatible SCSI interface cards, compatible with AUN networks. **£999 + £10 p&p + VAT (£1185.57 inc)**

Hawk V9 MkII digitiser

Real-time colour digitiser. Capture colour images from any video source. **£199 + £6 p&p + VAT (£240.87 inc)**

E&OE. Prices and descriptions are subject to change without prior notice. VAT quoted at 17.5%.