

LocoScript User

February 95 Issue **£2.50**

incorporating

**PCW
USER**
FOR USERS OF THE AMSTRAD PCW8256 • 8512 • 9512 • 9256 • 10

The Essential Independent Monthly Magazine for all LocoScript Users

LOCOCLINIC Liz Bruce with six pages of advice

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A TO Z

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Individual plastic cases (clear) 3" to 3.5" disk drive	£5.95	£16.50	£50.00
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8000 Plus Tips Collection w/disc	£16.95	LocoScript 2 & Mail Spell File	£13.95
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Magic Maths (4-8)	£12.50	French Mistress	£17.95
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PCW joystick Interface	£17.50	Stampiton self adhesive labels (1 1/4" x 3/8" per 1000)	£7.95
Quickshot turbo joystick (micro-switch)	£10.95	Mouse mat (standard contriver)	£5.95
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		Printer Extension lead (8256/8512/9512/9256/9512+/9512+(B))	£14.95

AMSTRAD PCW COMPUTERS

PCW 9512 Plus (BJ10)

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The PCW9512+ with Canon BJ-10e Bubble Jet printer offers the speed and versatility of a dot matrix printer with similar quality to a daisywheel printer.

Complete system with Locoscript 2, Spell, Mail software. PLUS FREE STARTER KIT £76.00

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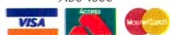
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ABOUT PUBLISHER DAVID ST JOHN THOMAS

Founder of publishers David & Charles as well as WRITERS NEWS and best-selling author in his own right, David cares passionately about writing and writers... and it shows. Out of the money he earned from writing, he established the charitable trust that funds many of the prizes. Backed by a friendly staff on the Moray Firth at the edge of the Scottish Highlands, he provides old-fashioned value... like well over 500 large pages for your trial £10. Each week he enjoys reading the letters received from those helped in their writing careers. There is probably not a more caring business in Britain!



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FOR THOSE LIVING OVERSEAS

Many of our keenest readers live overseas. In addition to WRITERS NEWS and WRITING MAGAZINE, each month they are sent a newsletter containing more overseas news than can be accommodated in WRITERS NEWS, and they are automatically enrolled in the British Overseas Writers Circle (BOWC) which helps keep overseas writers in touch and provides a number of valuable services.

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Both magazines have special question-and-answer features. In WRITING MAGAZINE, several themes are chosen each issue. But for members there is special interest and value in Helpline which answers individual questions and adds comments both from ourselves and other writers. Even bestselling writers say they always learn something extra.

SPECIAL MARKET NEWS

If one of our many ingredients stands out above the rest, it must be our market news... pages and pages of it making up the first half of WRITERS NEWS every month. A team of reporters bring you the latest market opportunities, developments in the world of book publishing, magazines and broadcasting, details of a host of competitions, awards and other financial opportunities and forthcoming events. There is no other service for writers even vaguely comparable.

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Join WRITERS NEWS, enjoy the two-magazine package, and you will never again be on your own. You will enjoy sharing the experience of others, the results of our extensive research and investigations, interviews and personality pieces... as well as the solid advice from people who practice what they preach and have a zest for communication. Many readers tell us they drop everything when the latest issue pops through the letterbox.

Join the many thousands who write better and more profitably!

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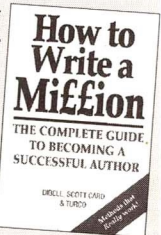
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Step up to a better System

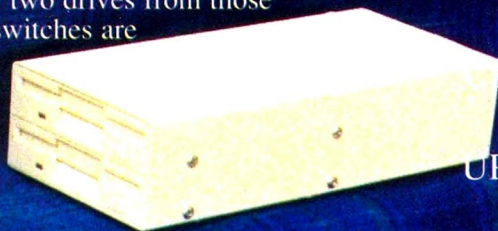
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5.

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4.

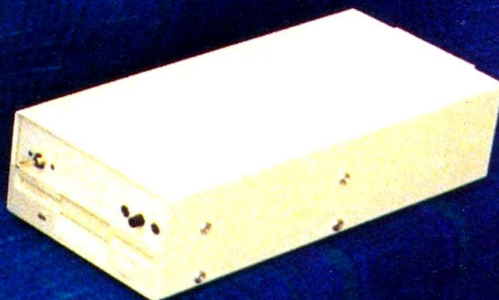
DATATWIN 8 & DATATWIN 9 **£165**

The DATATWINS are the complete floppy conversion. They leave 3" drives accessible. Can copy existing 3" software and run it entirely on 3.5" or you can upgrade and run new 3.5" software. Easy backups of 720K discs from one drive to another in either size. Has its own built in power supply.

3.

DATADUAL 8 (8256/8512) **£110**

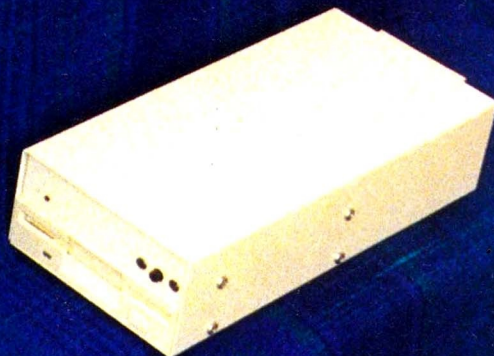
The DATADUAL 8 is unique drive. It can, at the press of a button change from being drive 'A' to become drive 'B'. It means that an 8256/8512 user can have access to 3" 180K discs or 3.5" 180K or 3.5" 720K discs without changing their software.



2.

DATADUAL 9 (9512) **£110**

The DATADUAL 9 can at the touch of a button be drive 'A' or drive 'B'. The 9512 '3"' drive always becomes it's opposite. This makes copying 3" to 3.5" discs easier using Locoscript. You can copy your existing software to 3.5" and boot from it. A light lamp shows which is 'A' to avoid back up mistakes.



1.

3.5" SWITCHABLE DRIVE **£75**

Leave your 3" drive in place and switch between the two. You can copy your own software to 3.5" and change over to 3.5" in your own time. Can be orders as an alternative 'A' or an alternative 'B'.

3.5" DRIVE NON SWITCHABLE **£65**

Ordered as an 'A' or a 'B' drive. Just unplug the corresponding 3" drive and plug on the cable extension. The 'A' drive will need either new 3.5" software or your existing 3" software copied for you.

OPTIONS

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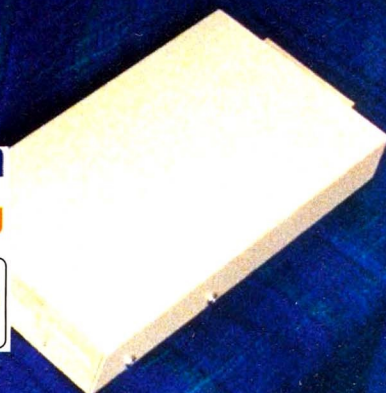
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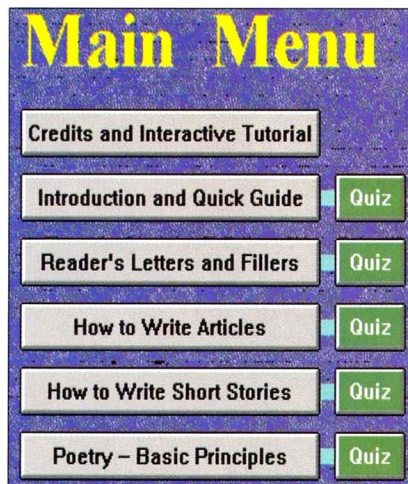
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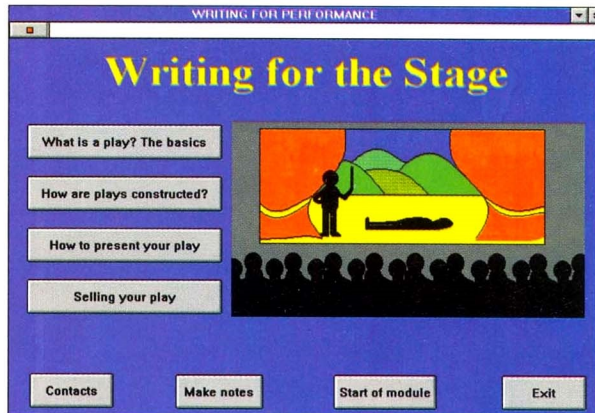
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Screenshots are from Microsoft Windows version

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* Due to smaller disk space, PCW version has fewer sections. However, additional sections are available at small extra charge. Full details sent with orders.



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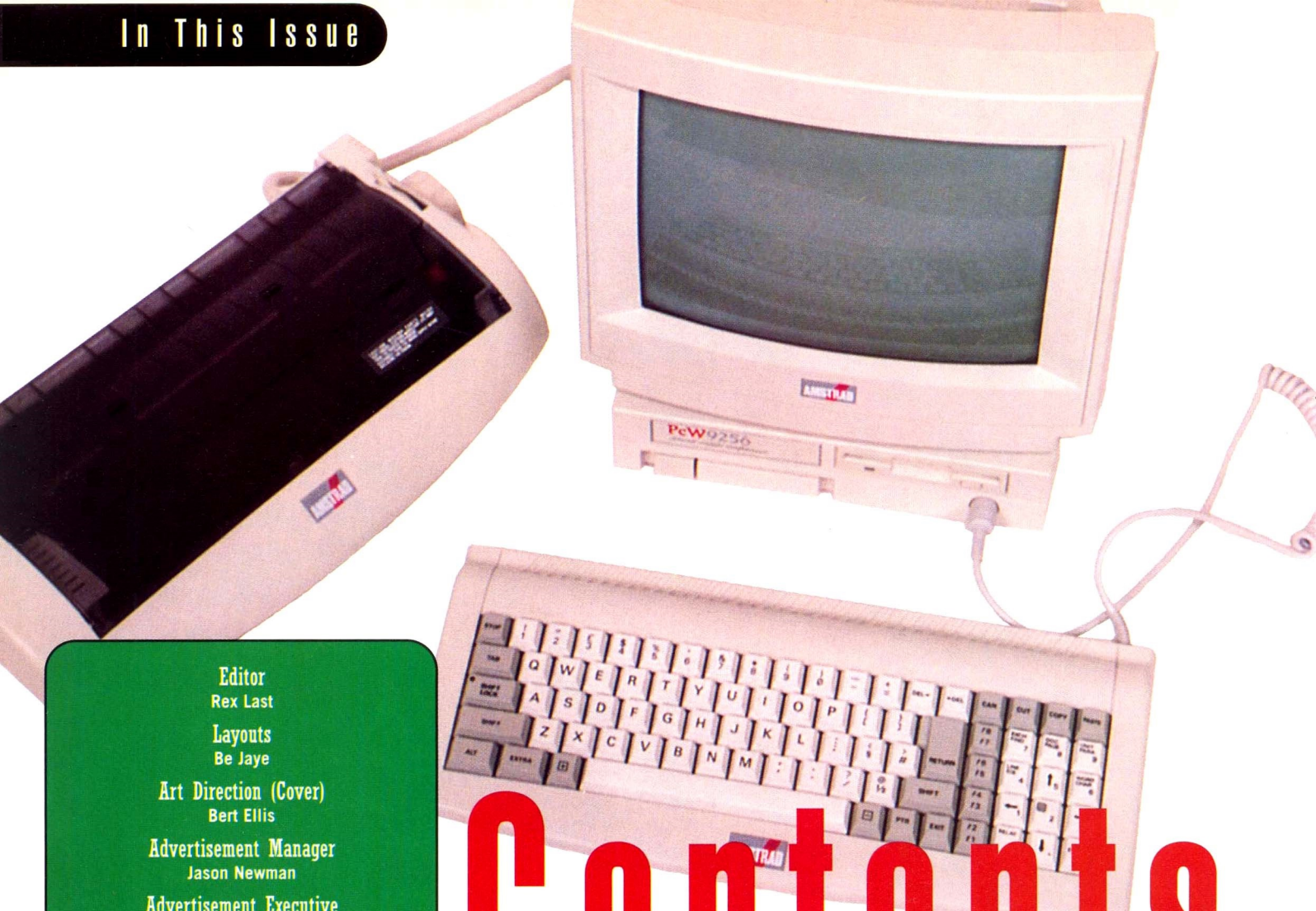
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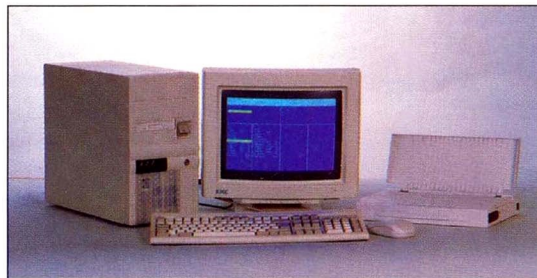
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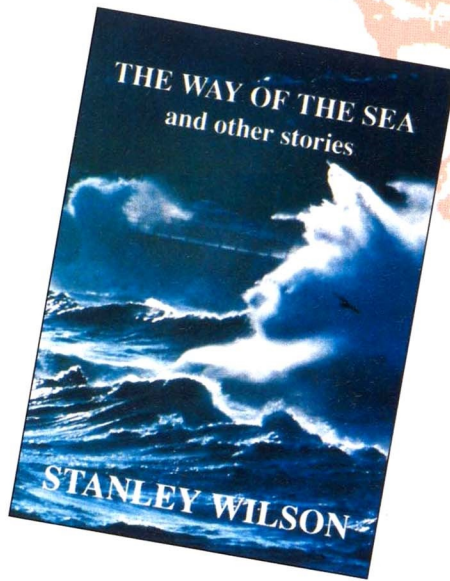
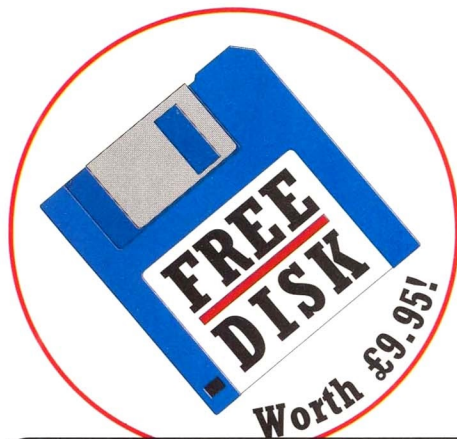
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Take up our bonus money offer and free disk - and guarantee a copy of your magazine through the letter box every month



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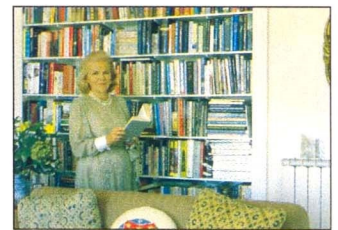
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Does the thought of getting punctuation right bring you to a full stop? Jayne Carson has all the answers



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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome aboard the very first issue of LocoScript User, a brand new monthly designed specially to fill a yawning gap in the computer magazine market. This is the first time to our knowledge that a full-blooded magazine aimed at a specific word processor has been launched - but LocoScript is no ordinary piece of software.

There are over a million of you out there with PCW computers and every survey indicates that at least 80 per cent of you concentrate your efforts on word processing with LocoScript. Then there's a growing band of thousands of users of one of the PC variations of LocoScript, from PC Easy to top of the range Professional 2 Plus.

The majority of you are home-based or running small businesses, and this is what

makes you so different and special. That's why we shall be focusing on your particular requirements, especially on how to improve your writing style and presentation of your documents, as well as business aspects of computing.

We have designed a magazine which will meet all your needs, from beginners struggling to come to terms with a whole new world of computing to more accomplished users keen to exploit the range and potential of LocoScript to the full.

There's a wealth of tutorial guides, including a step-by-step guide to LocoMail from Hazel Underwood, as well as a regular LocoCline from expert Liz Bruce, in fact a feast of features taking you through every aspect of LocoScript.

Over the coming months, we shall be presenting many fascinating special fea-

tures, among them a guide to printers, OCR (optical character recognition) on the PCW and the PC, graphics images and how to include them in your documents, and a whole range of other key topics.

We shan't neglect the more technically-minded among you, either. There's a regular section on CP/M and MS-DOS to keep you apace with the developments on the non-word processing front.

So sit back and enjoy our launch issue - and I look forward to being your host in all matters LocoScript for many months to come.

Rex Last

News Focus

All the latest news - including more printers, a Locomotive catalogue and a top writing guide

+++New DMP from Epson+++

A brand new compact 24 pin dot matrix printer was recently launched by Epson. It incorporates many advanced features not usually found in this price bracket.

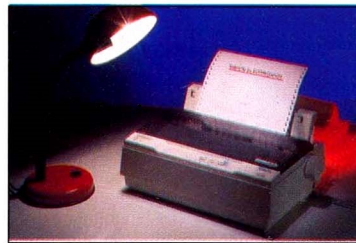
Called the LQ-300, it offers the versatility of a convertible push-pull tractor for the precise handling of multi-part stationery. This can be automatically 'parked' on the push tractor unit ready for future use, so there is no need to remove multi-part paper when printing on cut sheets.

With an optional automatic CSF (cut sheet feeder), fifty sheets of paper can be loaded ready for use at the flick of a level without impairing the push feed continuous paper facility.

A paper guide for accurate cut sheet paper feeding comes as standard, as does a recess to feed the cables away from the paper path.

With an RRP of £239, the LQ-300 is lighter and smaller than the competition's offerings, and can print at speeds of 240 cps (characters per second) at 12 cpi (characters per inch).

Commenting on the launch of the printer, Robert Clark, Epson product manager, said: 'With the LQ-300, Epson is making professional data processing available at an affordable price. The LQ-300 incorporates many ease of use features designed to make cus-



tomers' lives much easier. 'I believe that the attention to detail in this neat product sets it far above the competition's offerings.'

Graphics can be enhanced with a colour upgrade available for £40, and Epson's advanced printer language

helps the creation of attractive documents. A one year back to base warranty comes as standard with all Epson's dot matrix printers.

Epson (UK) is part of the Seiko Epson corporation, which has a turnover of \$6 billion. The corporation owns 35 factories world wide, which includes a facility in Telford, from where the company makes 80,000 printers per month for its European customers.

A network of distributors and dealers spanning the UK, Eire, Scandinavia, Africa and the Middle East is managed from the UK. **Epson (UK) Ltd is based at Campus 100, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TJ. Tel: 0442 61144.**

+++Getting into print+++

We have had a large number of enquiries about a book called *Write a Successful Novel*, which was featured in PCW User, now incorporated with this magazine, some months ago.

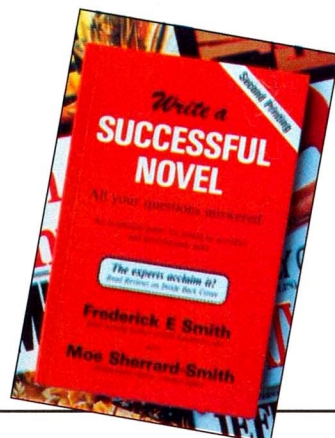
In a unique collaboration, the award winning author of *633 Squadron* and many other successful novels Frederick E Smith, and the journalist and tutor Moe Sherrard-Smith discuss over 200 topics concerned with the writing of a novel and its successful marketing.

Topics covered include:

- where to find ideas
- theme and plotting
- characterisation
- injecting conflict and suspense
- viewpoint
- dialogue
- revision
- agent or publisher?
- making submissions
- beating writer's block

The book is an invaluable directory of creative writing. If there's a novel inside you, this book will help you write it. Moe Sherrard-Smith is also the chief author of the *Essential Guide to Novel Writing*.

For a copy of the book, you can go to your bookseller, or write directly to **Escreet Publications, Garthend House, Millington, York YO4 2TX £9.79 inclusive Now in its third printing.**



+MT Newsletter+

The latest issue of the Mannesmann Tally Newsletter for members of the MT User Club highlights the new T7040 colour bubble jet printer.

At a remarkably stingy RRP of £299, it provides a combination of speed and economical operation, and near laser quality.

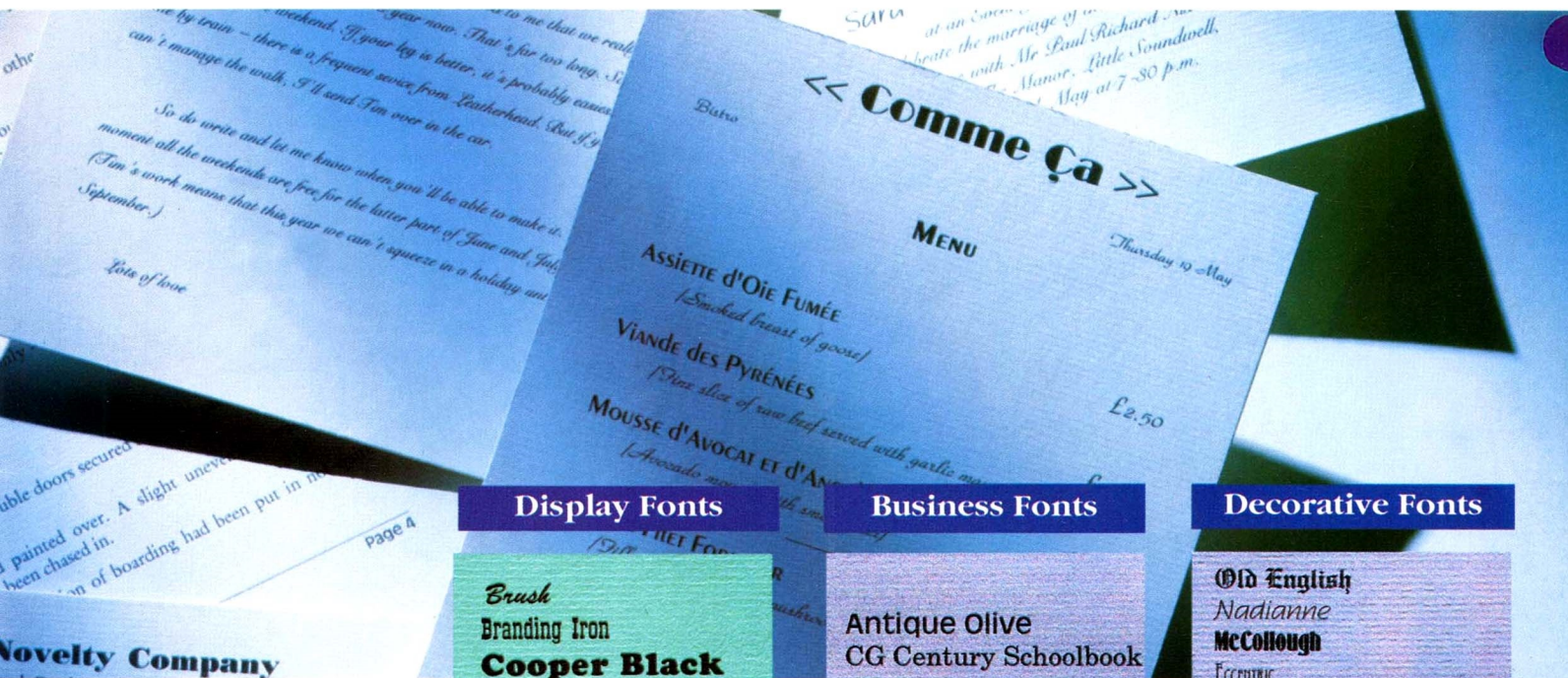
At the same time, it is clear that the good old dot matrix printer is far from dead and buried, according to an article by MT Project Manager Richard Bright. Although inkjet and laser printers are the flavour of the month, DMP printers still rule the roost as far as multi-part paper is concerned.

They are also better at continuous labels, envelopes and thick card. The tractor feed allows for accurate feeding of continuous forms - and in fact, one question that keeps going round our office where inkjet printers are concerned is why there is a lack of tractor feed capacity on them.

Another important factor is that the cost per page of a DMP is so much cheaper than inkjet or laser printer. Their costs have been estimated at 0.2 pence per page or less, according to the Newsletter article.

It's not what you say. It's how you say it!

New Display fonts



Display Fonts

Business Fonts

Decorative Fonts

Brush
Branding Iron
Cooper Black
Typo Roman
Coronet
Hobo Medium
Oxford
THUNDERBIRD
Uncial

Antique Olive
CG Century Schoolbook
CG Omega
Clarendon Book
Futura Book II
Garamond Antiqua
Rotis Semi Serif
Stymie Medium

Old English
Nadianne
McCollough
Eccentric
Broadway
CG Poster Bodoni
Park Avenue
PEIGNOT DEMIBOLD
Signet Roundhand
Dom Casual
DELPHIAN

It's easy to make a good impression with our extra LX fonts. We have an exciting new Display set to show you as well as the Business and Decorative collections.

Using these new fonts will give you enormous scope – so you'll have the freedom to be really creative with your work. Jazzing-up your documents to produce eye-catching results is simple.

The new Display set will make your documents really noticeable. For a start, Coronet is great for writing letters. While Thunderbird and Cooper Black are wonderful for designing newsletters and posters. And Uncial is ideal for sending a Christmas message.

The Business collection will give you stylish looking work. Whether it's developing your own distinctive house style or presenting a business message, these fonts will make creating a professional image easy. So your reports will look impressive and your letters will have impact.

The Decorative collection will make your documents look really impressive. Using Signet Roundhand is great for writing letters to your friends and Broadway is perfect for displaying a festive menu. And if you want to create your own invitations or announce an important event, then Park Avenue is ideal.

The new Display fonts and the Business and Decorative fonts are very affordable – just £29.95 for each set. You can order the fonts by filling in the coupon below. Or call Tina Knights on 0306 747756. We've just bought out a new catalogue with the latest on a range of products for your PCW. If you'd like a copy just phone us on 01306 747756.

To use the extra LX fonts you need LocoScript 3. 512K is sufficient for a selection of the LX fonts. You can replace fonts on drive M, to make other choices available. Expanding your PCW memory will allow a large number of fonts and sizes to be immediately available. You can print each font in the basic character set. Bold and italics are produced by thickening and slanting. Sizes available for each font vary. For full details please contact Locomotive Software. Both sets of fonts are only available for one class of printer. If you want the same fonts for an alternative printer, you may need a different version.

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

Please send me

Display Fonts – £29.95 Business Fonts – £29.95
 Decorative Fonts – £29.95 **Total £** _____

Details of Printer:

PCW Matrix PCW Inkjet Other please specify _____

Please supply the fonts on: 3" 3 1/2" disc

I enclose a cheque payable to Locomotive Software
 Please charge my Access/Visa card Exp date _____

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signed _____ Date _____

Please return this to:



LOCOMOTIVE SOFTWARE

Dorking Business Park,
Dorking, Surrey RH4 1YL
Tel 0306 747756

TK

+++Loco Catalogue+++

There are hundreds of thousands of names on Locomotive Software's user database, and they have all received a copy of the new catalogue for the PCW which is now available.

It lists the whole range of products available from Locomotive, and if you think that's just LocoScript, you are in for a few surprises.

There are disks, ribbons and labels on offer. A pack of five 3 inch disks costs £8, and a pack of ten £15. The 3.5 inch prices are £6 and £9 respectively, demonstrating how much cheaper they are than the 3 inch counterparts, which appear to be getting in short supply.

With this in mind, we shall soon be looking at 3.5 inch drives and the various options for 8000 and 9512 owners. The catalogue offers a special 3.5 inch drive kit, which we hope to review soon.

The Rocket Plus spreadsheet and MicroDesign3 are also available from the catalogue, as is the Composer's Pen, a score-writing program for the composer, arranger, music teacher and student. It allows you to create on your PCW almost all standard musical notations.

Then there's PCW Linkit, which allows you to transfer documents between any machine in the PCW/PC range. Also on offer is LocoLink, for people moving up from the PCW to any PC version of LocoScript. As an alternative, you could buy Moonstone's 2 in 1.

A brand new offering in the data transfer range is LocoLink for Windows. If you are upgrading to a PC with Windows and want to use a different word processor, then LocoLink for Windows lets you transfer and convert your LocoScript documents and datafiles to work with most popular word processors.

This new product costs £69.95 and represents an important addition to the stable of word processing support products available from Locomotive.

For straightforward no-fuss accounting on the PCW, there is the Money Manager program, an easy to use accounts program which lets you keep track of your own personal accounts, and it can even help you run your business.

If you are unsure of the state of health of your PCW, PCW CheckUp may be for you. It's a diagnostic program which makes sure you get the best performance from your machine. CheckUp tests for errors in your floppy and hard drives, RAM drive, screens, built-in and external printers.



+++LocoPrinters+++

Locomotive have also moved into the printer business. Not surprisingly, the BJ-10sx is top of the list. It is an almost silent printer which provides top quality text. It combines print head and ink supply in one tiny span-in cartridge.

It prints at up to 110 characters per second in both high quality and economy modes, using its own fonts and LocoScript 3's LX fonts. There is an optional sheet feeder.

Next in line is the Epson LQ-100, a relative of the LQ-300 reviewed in these pages. It's an affordable dot matrix machine which offers plug and go compatibility with the PCW.

Finally, an affordable laser printer from Panasonic, the KX-P4401 with a small footprint and a 100 sheet multi-purpose paper tray. The printers are bundled with LocoScript 3 and include a free copy of LocoSpell or 96K dictionary and a Start of Day disk.

Also on offer is the Locomotive Power Pack, which gives the PCW an extra 512K of memory, a printer interface and cable. There is also an adapter to take the Power Pack on US and German versions of the PCW.

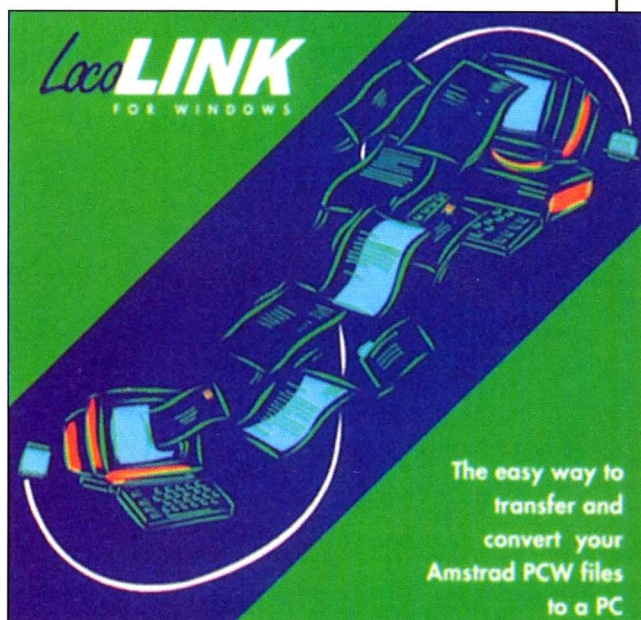
Chips needed? An inexpensive upgrade to fit directly on to the circuit board inside your PCW comes for a mere £15.95 - even less if you are upgrading to or purchasing LocoScript 3.

The Gem hard disk drive, together with the new Flash Drive (reviewed in this month's issue) are also available off the page, as is the KeyMouse from Creative Technology.

Next in line come a number of books for the PCW user, including Locomotive's guides and the LocoScripting People book from Sigma Press.

For more details, contact **Locomotive Software, Dorking Business Park, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1YL. Tel: 01306 747757. Fax: 01306 885529.**

+++New PCW → PC Transfer Package+++



LocoLink for Windows - the latest in the range of data transfer packages from Locomotive

NEW LOWER PRICES GUARANTEED

WINTER SALE

MICRODESIGN 2 FULL DTP SYSTEM £29.95 NOW £19.95

Free software with orders of £50 (Please phone for details)
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LocoScript 3	£35.00
Supercalc 2	£49.95
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PRINTERS

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Citizen 2200D+ (9 pin)	£119.00
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20 x 3" Rigid Plastic Cases	£6.95
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BULK 3.5" DS/DD	£3.95	£4.95	£9.00	£22.00	£44.00
TDK Precision 3.5" DS/HD	£7.95	£9.95	£18.90	£45.00	£90.00
BULK 3.5" DS/HD	£3.95	£8.95	£16.00	£35.00	£65.00
Philips DS/DD 5.25"	£3.50	£4.95	£8.95	£20.50	£39.50
3" or 3.5" Disk labels	.50p	.95p	£1.85	£4.00	£7.00
3" or 3.5" Rigid Plastic Cases	£3.50	£5.95	£9.95	£22.95	£39.95

3" or 3.5 Disk Drive Head Cleaning Kit.....£3.95

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LocoScript 3	£35.00	LocoScript 2 (3" 9512) without manual ..	£19.00
LocoScript 3 & Locofile	£48.50	LocoScript 2 (3" 9512) with manual	£35.50
LocoScript 3 & Spell	£43.50	LocoScript 2 (3 1/2" 9512+) without manual ..	£19.00
LocoFile & Locomail	£43.50	LocoScript 2 (3 1/2" 9512+) with manual ..	£35.50
Printer Support Pack (3)	£24.50	LocoScript 1 (3 1/2" 9256) without manual ..	£19.00
LocoSpell	£24.50	LocoScript 1 (3 1/2" 9256) with manual ..	£35.50
LocoFile	£32.50	2 in 1 file transfer	£29.95
LocoMail	£29.00	LocoLink Professional	£29.95
LocoFont 24	£29.00	LocoScript PC Manual	only £45.00
LocoFont 1 & 2	£29.50	LocoScript Professional V2+	£99.00

3.5" DISK DRIVES

For use with PCW8256, 8512 and PCW9512. All drives are latest 3.5" mechanism in quality metal case. Supplied with full (easy) fitting instructions and software and 10 x 3.5" disks Value £12.00 (FIB Files £11.75)

3.5" INTERNAL B DRIVE. A 2nd internal drive for PCW8256 or PCW9512 state which model when ordering **£85.00**

3.5" INTERNAL A DRIVE. Replacement A: drive for PCW9512 **£89.00**

EXTERNAL 5.25" B: DRIVE **£59.00**

3.5" PCW 8256/9512+ EXTERNAL ABBA SWITCHABLE DRIVE FOR PCW 8256 OR 9512 **£99.00**

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SCA PRO INTERFACE to connect a printer or modem	£49.00	RAMPAK + 512K	£79.00
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1Mb	£89.00	A4 Desktop... ..	£11.95
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PROSCAN	£149.00	PRINTER STANDS Adjustable	£4.95
MD 3 SCANNER	£120.00	Adjustable with papertray	£18.95
PCW8256/PCW9256 Memory Upgrade Chips DIY	£13.95	AMSTRAD SM 2400 MODEM	£149.00
		ANTI GLARE FILTERS Standard mesh	£9.95
		Delux Mesh... ..	£24.50
		Glass	£49.00
		Anti-Radiation glass filter	£89.00

SOFTWARE

CRACKER TURBO +	£31.95	AMX MOUSE	£42.50
MASTERFILE 8000	£36.50	MICRO DESIGN 3	£49.00
PROTEXT	£42.50	MINI OFFICE PROFESSIONAL	£25.95
FLIPPER 3	£29.95	C STAM FILE TRANSFER	£24.95
ROCKET SPREADSHEET	£37.50	FOREWORD	£33.00
SUPERCALC 2	£49.95	LOCMAIL USERGUIDE	£24.50
DESKTOP PUBLISHER	£19.95	CP/M SOFTWARE ONLY	£19.95
STOP PRESS DTP	£14.95	CP/M & MANUAL	£35.50
MICRODESIGN 2	£19.95	AMX MOUSE & MICRODESIGN 2 ..	£59.00

(But if you see it advertised cheaper, we'll beat it!) Many other titles available. Please send S.A.E. for free catalogue. Above software available for all PCWs

CUT-PRICE SOFTWARE

Remember to state disk size and PCW model when ordering. The following disks of software are all available at £4.95 per disk (inc VAT & P&P). Each disk is complete with instructions. We list here just a selection, please ask for FREE CATALOGUE 1-4 disks **£4.95 each** 5-9 disks **£3.95 each** 10+ disks **£3.50 each**

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

L/101 Small 'C' Compiler	L/105 E Basic Compiler
L/102 Pascal Compiler	L/106 Micro Cobol, Valgol,
L/103 Manual for L/102	Prolog
L/104 Forth Compiler (2 disks)	L/107 M Basic - Lisp and Stoic

UTILITIES

U/101 Expert System. Powerful aid to decision making
U/102 PRINT IT - 7 new fonts for use with CP/M
U/107 PCW - DESKTOP, Calendar, calculator, memo pad, database, label printer and more
U/109 Roff Tour - ideas processor
U/110 Diskedit - disk sector editor by UK programmer
U/111 Spreadsheet, good reviews
U/112 Home Accounts. Keep track of your expenses
U/114 Newsweep & Maxisweep, super CP/M file utilities. Shareware additional payment required to author.
U/115 Number Cruncher - manipulates figures word processor style.
U/116 MSDISK Super PCW-PC Format Transfer Software

DATABASES

D/102 PC File - powerful, by celebrated author
D/104 Video Clerk database. Comprehensive system
D/106 Inventory/Insurance database

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Stored as ASCII for use with LocoScript 1 or 2 or your favourite Word processor.
T/102 101 Standard Business Letters
T/107 T/113 - The Old Testament (7 disks) - King James version
T/114 T/117 - The New Testament (4 disks)
T/119 LocoScript 2 Tutorial - inc LocoMail/LocoFile help

Shakespeare's plays
£4.95 per play

BOOKS & TUTORIALS

"PCW: BASIC TUTORIAL"! An interactive disk based course of 6 lessons. Ideal for the novice

"PCW: PEEK & POKE" an advanced course of 15 chapters, complete with exercises **£12.95**

BOOK AND DISK: "PCW: STREAMLINED BASIC" Much valuable information not to be found elsewhere - improve your programming techniques. Complete with disk full of sample programs **£17.95**

BOOK AND DISK: "THE WORLD OF THE PCW" with free programme disk, an exciting book describing the potential of all PCW/s. See what your PCW is capable of! **£17.95**

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BASIC PROGRAMS

B101 A disk full of utilities, games and applications
B/104 Keith Simons Collection. Excellent disk, ideal for beginner, educational, business and entertainment
B/105 Bastutor - Mallard Basic Tutorial

We also stock most commercial software for the PCW range at affordable prices. Phone for catalogue/prices

TEXT EDITOR/UTILITIES

E/101 VDE, Express & VDU text editors
E/104 Utilities, word counting, sideways printing, calendar, alphabetical sort, Wordsearch & Sports League Table Generator

GAMES

GA/101 Disk full of text based games: Colossal Cave Adventure, Cube, Tic Tac Toe, etc.
GA/102 Arcade Games, 12+ Entertaining games to play on your PCW
GA/103 Arnold Blackwood Adventures
GA/104 Mountain Man Adventure
GA/105 Drafts
ED/101 Logo Program Suite. An educational disk.

GRAPHICS (not Daisy Wheel printer)

G/101 Printmaster - Easy to use DTP system. Design & print calendars, cards, banners, signs and letterheads. 8 fancy fonts and 120+ graphics.
G/103 PCW - Draw. Many featured drawing program
G/106 Microdesign 2 graphics collection 120+ pics
G/109 Printmaster Gallery. 140 extra graphics and "Toolbox" for G/101 Printmaster
G/110 X rated pin ups for Microdesign 2/3 and Printmaster
G/114 2000+ graphics for use with G/101 Printmaster (4 disk set)
G/115 Britmap. Customisable UK Map - calculate distances between place names
G/116 A 16 disk set of 2,000+ graphics for use with Microdesign 2/3 or Stop Press.
G/120 Animals - 21 MDA's and a few cuts of popular Animals.

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40 capacity	£4.95	Amstrad 10 cap disk box	£4.95
100 capacity	£6.95	10 capacity box and Complete with dividers, keys, etc	£24.50
3" head cleaning kit	£3.95	10 CF2 Disks	£24.50

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Black fabric	£2.99	PCW 8256/8512/9256/10 10+	£2.50	PCW 9512+	£2.99
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Red, blue, green, brown, purple and yellow					
Printhead cleaning ribbon (PCW 8256/8512/9256)					£6.95
Ribbon re-ink - re-inks 30 ribbons					£12.95
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green/gold/red/blue					Twin £13.50

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True A4	Qty	11"x9.5"	Qty		
White bond	200	£5.95	White bond	500	£7.95
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White bond	1,000	£14.95	60gsm White	2,000	£19.95
White bond	2,000	£21.95	80gsm A4	2,000	£22.95
A4 90gsm	1,500	£18.95			

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2 3/4 x 1 1/16	£8.50	£14.95	£39.00	
3 1/2 x 1 5/16	£8.50	£14.95	£39.00	
3 1/2 x 1 7/16	£8.50	£14.95	£39.00	
3 1/2 x 2	£8.50	£14.95	£39.00	

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+++ Club News +++

SCOTWEST.PCW

This Club meets on the first Saturday of the month in the Auldhouse Community Centre, Mamore Place, Hillend, Glasgow G43 2YY, from 10 am to 6 pm. This allows members and visitors to travel to Glasgow from outlying districts.

Spouses not interested in computing (are there such people?) are able to go shopping in the city. Enquiries, queries, problems, and so forth can be discussed with other members, many of whom will be able to advise and demonstrate answers and remedies.

Contact David Williams on 01698 732403. Alternatively, try Ferguson Carbine on 0141 6373354.

CORNWALL PCW CLUB

We've just had sight of the December Newsletter, which features on its front cover a piece of medieval clip art - a saintly figure using a goose quill to sub-edit what looks like a very early edition of PCW User.

As befits the festive season, there's a BASIC game listing, which gets you playing noughts and crosses. The next offering is a LocoFile routine to computerise a record or CD collection.

Then there's a crossword, and finally a mathematical game. The February meeting of the Club is on Saturday, 11 February to discuss the sticky topic of labels.

On Saturday, 11 March, LocoMail is on the menu. The speaker, John Walker, will be on hand to discuss this powerful add-on and the many uses to which it can be put.

For further details contact Treasurer John Walker, 23 Weir Close, Mainstone, Plymouth PL6 8SD. Tel: 01752 706266.

HEADS OF THE VALLEYS

The Heads of the Valleys PCW Users Group has sent in its latest Newsletter. It includes the usual information, plus a page full of mathematical teasers, an article on early computing, and an introduction to computer software.

Club Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at Birchachre, Croes Bychan, Llwydcoed, Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan CF44 0EJ.

For more details contact Roy Underwood on 01685 874972, or Anthony Hill on 01222 618012.

Next Month...

Coming to *LocoScript* User in March:

- **The ins and outs of OCR** - how optical character recognition can transform the task of converting the written word to the computer screen (and, yes, there's a PCW product just out from PhiloSoft)
- **Sitting comfortably?** Part two of our special series for the absolute computing beginner focuses on chairs, lighting and getting organised
- **Fonts a million** - how to find your way about the fonts jungle, with technical terms fully explained from kerning to x-height and leading
- **LocoClinic** - bring your problems to Liz Bruce and have them solved
- **Putting on the style** - how to ensure that you write proper (or should that be properly?)
- Plus all the regulars and a surprise or two

So why not take out a subscription now and guarantee a copy?

See our special subscription offer on page 60

The Highest
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PINBOARD COMPUTERS

2 year warranty
on 3.5" drives

"WYSIWYP" - What you see is what you pay - Includes VAT & UK Carriage

NEW LOWER PRICES FOR OUR 3.5" DISK DRIVES AND DRIVE UPGRADES

NEW LOWER PRICES FOR OUR 3.5" DISK DRIVES AND DRIVE UPGRADES

COME TO THE EXPERTS

We were producing bootable 3.5" disc drives when the magazines and the major software companies were still saying it was not possible. Now the inevitable demise of the 3" disc approaches, they realise that the future of the PCW lies in 3.5".

Thousands of happy users have realised that the conversion to 3.5" can be simply accomplished at their own speed and with no changes to their familiar software, by fitting a switchable drive; leaving them free to concentrate on their work, knowing that they have the security of identical 3" and 3.5" systems and knowing that they can upgrade their software as and when they want to for genuine reasons - not just because they changed their disc shape.

A PINBOARD COMPUTERS ADD-ON 3.5" SWITCHABLE DRIVE PROVIDES EXTRA FACILITIES NOT INSTEAD OF.

Flexibility - Expandability - Upgrade Ability - Easier to fit - No cutting or filing the case - No bodging to get a 3.5" pint in 3" pot. Leave the existing drives where they are - still in use and add a smart custom-made unit outside. The cables just 'Piggy-Back' onto the 3" drives. All drives unplug for easy transit.

Copy your existing software to your new drive and run. Drives are upgradeable - e.g. send us your single 3.5" drive and we will rebuild it into a twin unit.

BUILT IN POWER SUPPLY OPTION

After the demise of the 3" disc and the 3" drives the next component to need attention in your PCW, to keep it going will probably be the power supply. All our external drives can be supplied with their own power to lessen the load on the PCW Power Supply.

THE BEST DOES NOT COST THE MOST

Add up the items and compare our prices e.g. to upgrade from an 8256 3" 'A' running LOCOSCRIPT 1 to a 3.5" 'A' drive plus LOCOSCRIPT 3 plus a CPM/FIB upgrade disc

TOTAL PRICE £109.50

To upgrade a PCW already on LOCOSCRIPT 3 requires a switchable 'A' drive

TOTAL PRICE £75.00

Telephone and fax support at normal rates, fitting services, disc transfer services, help with Locomotive and Non-Loomotive software and repair facilities all adds up to the best 3.5" drive upgrade you can buy.

FREE INFORMATION LEAFLET

Fortunately choosing which disc drive suits your needs best is harder than buying, fitting or using it, so send for our free information leaflet on disc drives.

DATADUAL 8 (8256/8512)	£110.00
DATADUAL 9 (9512)	£110.00

DATADUALS are single drives that work as either an 'A' drive or a 'B' drive and still allow access to all 3" drives or another 3.5" or 5.25" drive. With no new software you can copy start-up and data to 3.5".

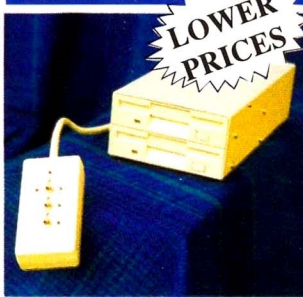
The **DATADUAL 8** can work as two drives even if it is the only drive left on the system. It can copy files or complete 3" 'A' or 'B' discs to 3.5" or copy files from 3" 'A' to 3.5" 'B' and vice versa. As an 'A' drive it can run 180K copies of your existing single sided software and at the touch of a button it is a 720K 'B' drive. Alternatively you can upgrade to new 720K 'A' software.

DATADUAL 9's on single drive 9512's change the internal drive from 'A' to 'B' when the DATADUAL is set as 'A' so copying can be done from 3" to 3.5" in LOCOSCRIPT.

DATADUAL's have forward facing controls; indicator lamps to show when set as 'A' and on 8256/8512's in single sided mode, which side of an 'A' 183K disc is in use.



DATATWIN 8 (8256/8512)	£165.00
DATATWIN 9 (9512)	£165.00
DATATWIN NSP	£130.00



Complete 3.5" conversion. Two disk drives and a power supply in one case (104mm wide 55 high x 235 deep). Your PCW can run any combination of 3" or 3.5". (Reviewed in the October 1992 PCW PLUS "DOUBLE DECKER" and Feb 1992 "OPEN DRIVING" how to fit guides).

With your DATATWIN you copy your existing software (Both 'A' & 'B') to 3.5" and you only need to use your 3" occasionally again. Because you can change from 3" to 3.5" any time without rebooting, you can load from one and save to the other. The 'A' drive can run either as a 183 K single sided duplicate of your old 3" or as a 720K 'A' drive, with the new LOCOMOTIVE upgrades and LOCOSCRIPT 3.

The whole package is only about the price you can pay for one internal 3" 'B'. If you think you may be swapping from 3" to 3.5" for some time then for an extra £20.00 a DATATWIN can be supplied with a cable remote control unit to sit beside your keyboard with the switches and indicator lamps on. The DATATWIN NSP is a non switchable unit with no PSU, which replaces the original drives completely with two external 3.5" drives, and will only run 3.5" software.

3.5" 'B' DRIVES AND 'A' DRIVE SWITCHABLES



EXTERNAL 3.5" DRIVE NON SWITCHABLE. Just 26mm high and normally used as 'B' drive it can, later on, be simply altered to become drive 'A' if the internal drive 'A' fails and is disconnected. **£65.00**

EXTERNAL 3.5" DRIVE SWITCHABLE between a 3" internal drive. They can be ordered as alternative 'A' or alternative 'B' but cannot be both. **£75.00**

DRIVE UPGRADES

DATADUAL to a DATATWIN	£70.00
PINBOARD 3.5" 'B' drive to a DATADUAL	£45.00
Most other 3.5" 'B' drives to a DATADUAL	£60.00
PINBOARD 3.5" 'B' drive to a DATATWIN	£90.00
Most other 3.5" 'B' drives to a DATATWIN	£105.00

CONFIDENTIAL DISK TRANSFER SERVICES

The price includes the 3.5" disk and return postage. The contents of the files is not displayed during copying.

3" CPM TO 3.5" CPM	£3.00
3" CPM TO 3.5" MSDOS	£4.00
EXTRA FOR RETURNING DOS FILES	
ON 1.44 MEG HD DISK	£1.00
LOCOSCRIPT FILES MADE INTO ASCII @ 20P PER FILE.	

REPAIRS AND SPARES

We repair PCW's down to component level. If you cannot call we can have your faulty computer picked up and returned by carrier for an additional **£30.00** We can also supply spares and exchange parts.

FITTING SERVICES

We can fit our own or other equipment to your PCW. For example we can fit an internal 3.5" drive, or Sprinter, or a hard drive for **£20.00** We can also supply and/or fit Sprinters and Insydys, Gems etc.

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REFURBISHED EXCHANGE 3" DISK DRIVES - 3 MONTHS WARRANTY

Exchange 3" 'A' drive for 8256/8512 **£50.00**
If we are out of stock of exchange drives, we may be able to repair your own economically.

HP DESKJET 520 £270

THE HEWLETT PACKARD DESKJET 520, 600 x 300 DPI

Cut sheet feeder as standard	
HP DESKJET 520 (inc. cable, courier & VAT)	£270.00
HP DESKJET ink cartridge HP51626A	£25.00
INK REFILLS FOR HP DESKJET (2 fills)	£18.00

CANON BJ10 SX BUBBLEJET £190

40/50 SHEET CUT SHEET FEEDER FOR CANON BJ10EX/SX	£49.00
CANON BC-01 INK CARTRIDGE FOR BJ10'S	£18.00
INKJET REFILLS (2 FILLS PER PACK)	£15.00

DOT MATRIX PRINTERS

PANASONIC KXP 1150 9 pin Printer	£149.00
PANASONIC KXP 2135 24 pin Printer	£169.00

PRINTER/DATA/VIDEO SHARING SWITCHES (BI-DIRECTIONAL)

MANUAL 2 TO 1	£15.00	MANUAL 4 TO 1	£25.00
MANUAL CROSSOVER 2 X 2			£22.50
PARALLEL PRINTER CABLES (25 WAY to 36 WAY)			
2M	£6.00	3M	£7.00
5M	£12.00	10M	£15.00
36 WAY CENTRONICS TO CENTRONICS			
2M	£6.00	3M	£9.00
5M	£12.00	10M	£15.00
8256/8512 PRINTER EXTENSION CABLES			£9.00
9512 DAISY WHEEL EXTENSION CABLES			£12.50
KEYBOARD EXTENSION CABLES			£7.50

PRINTER RIBBONS 8256 **£3.60** each or 3 for **£9.00**
9512 **£2.50** each or 5 for **£10.00**

CIRTECH PARALLEL PRINTER INTERFACE with cable **£30.00**

SPEEDPRINT parallel PRINTER INTERFACE WITH BUFFER

256K BUFFER **£60.00** 512K BUFFER **£75.00**

SCA RAMPAC 512K **£64.00** : 1 MEG **£85.00** : 1.5 MEG **£109.00**

SCA MINIRAM 512K **£49.00** : 1 MEG **£79.00** : 1.5 MEG **£104.00**

SCA RAMPAC PLUS'S 512K **£79.00** : 1 MEG **£99.00** : 1.5MEG **£124.00**

SCA MINIRAM PLUS'S 512K **£59.00** : 1 MEG **£85.00** : 1.5MEG **£109.00** (all with CPM 1.15)

3.5" DS/DD "Rapid" disks with labels **£6.50 per box of 10**

3.5"/3" lockable disk boxes (3.5" capacity in brackets)

(to hold 50) **£6.50** (To hold 100) **£7.50**

CPM 1.15 (3.5" disk only) (needed for 3.5" MD Network) **£12.50**

8256/9256 - 256K TO 512K MEMORY UPGRADE KITS **£14.00**

LOCOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

LOCOSCRIPT 3 **£37.00** LOCO 3 with LOCOSPELL **£45.00**

LOCO 3 with LOCOFILE **£47.00** LOCOFONT **£29.95**

LOCOMOTIVE POWER PACK **£59.00**

2 IN 1 DISK MSDOS/CPM FILE TRANSFER **£29.95**

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISK £3.00

MANY USEFUL UTILITIES FOR DISK COPYING AND FILE TRANSFER INCLUDING SWITCH.COM FOR USING 180K 3" DISKS AFTER BOOTING 720K 3.5" CPM.
Also CPM - MSDOS FILE TRANSFER.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFERS

Parallel Printer Compact Switch cables for two printers to share. One computer or two computers to one printer **£9.00**
Connect both a printer and modem **£29.00**

SECOND HAND CORNER

One nearly new Amstrad 9256 complete	£199.00
Refurbished 9512's fitted with internal 3.5" drives, equivalent to 9512+	£175.00
2nd hand PCW's from	£125.00 + VAT
2nd hand PCXT's from	£60.00 PC AT's from £90 + VAT

TRADE ORDERS
WELCOME

What's my line?

Another successful PCW author, Stanley Wilson, tells us about the benefits of electronic wizardry

Among the innovative features of my electronic typewriter was a key that eliminated a whole line without going near a rubber eraser or liquid paper. But that machine, like its portable predecessor, is now as outdated as the cranking handle for a car engine. I am a convert to the wonders of a word processor.

For a typist like myself, still something of a picker-and-pecker at the QWERTY keyboard even after thirty years of freelance writing, my PCW is a godsend: not a sign of correction or erasure anywhere in any of my typescripts.

I write plays, novels, articles, news items but mainly short stories. Many of those stories, all printed in newspapers and magazines, have been broadcast on radio in the UK and then have roamed the globe.

One of my yarns, for example, is currently due to hit the air waves from Radio Hong Kong.

Others have been broadcast in New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, Malta and Eire.

PCW DISCIPLINE

I am now painlessly PCW office-disciplined. Filing my work no longer remains a chore. A hefty four-drawer cabinet, which was for ever threatening the ceiling below, is in honourable retirement.

On the Disk manager screen, I allocate separate Groups to articles, short stories, news items and plays/sketches. At the touch of the key 'E' for edit I can call up immediately any one of scores of items.

For novels I maintain separate disks, showing the book's introduction, chapters, bibliography and index. Gone are the days of carbon paper and carbon copies now that I use compact, floppy disks. And the operative word is 'compact'.

Portable under one arm, a 40-capacity disk box can hold hundred of thousands, maybe

millions of words. No longer must I file carbon copies of my tales.

If a story is rejected by one editor I have no need for the return of the discarded script. I can readily print out a further copy.

In any case, it is bad policy to submit the rejected sheets to another likely market even though they have been given the smoothing-iron treatment.

BAD OLD STEAM DAYS

I tremble to recall those steam-typewriter days and the laborious preparation of fresh copies for despatch to other potential markets.

Now, when submitting work, I ask the recipients to ditch unacceptable material so my return postage cost is limited to a 19p stamp for the editor/producer's verdict. Incidentally, those about to launch into the freelance writing mode, should know that

I tremble to recall those steam-typewriter days and the laborious preparation of fresh copies for despatch to other potential markets.

stamped, self-addressed envelopes are an essential courtesy to prospective purchasers of material. An additional way to an editor's heart is the receipt of unfolded scripts on A4 paper.

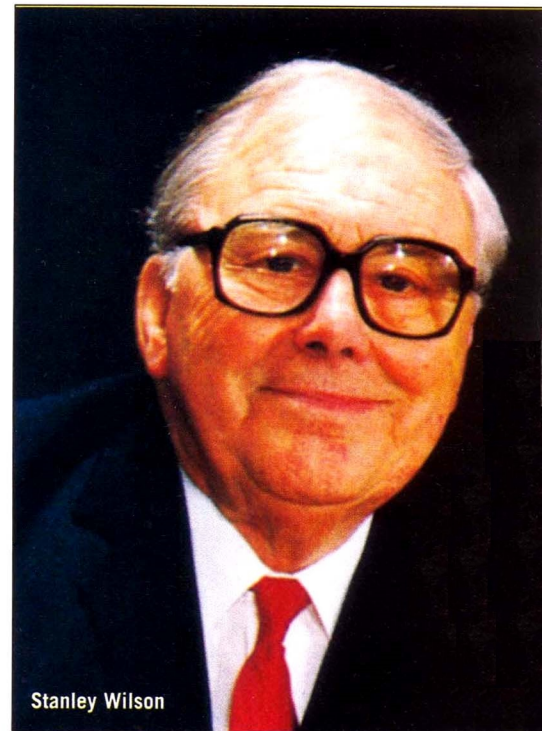
As an addict of plays and sketches, two of the most interesting years of my writing life were spent editing and also writing material of a weekly cabaret-style show for the playwright Alan Ayckbourn, another famous devotee of the PCW.

KEEP REWRITING

It is said that the best writing is re-writing then more and more re-writing. The novelist can alter his work ten times, but the playwright may need twenty stabs before he gets the script exactly right for the spoken word on stage.

Every word and every phrase must appear in the right place and this entails repeated re-writes.

The implications of using a steam-typewriter in terms of paper consumption for play



Stanley Wilson

writing are horrendous. But with the keys of a PCW the playwright can alter, alter and alter yet again until his words are exactly right for the actor before finally being committed to paper.

TRYING IT OUT

Some playwrights try out their work with local drama groups who require, perhaps, ten copies of a script at a time.

How painless, cheap and convenient it is to produce the required number on the word processor's printer without the humbug of carbon paper and the irritation of muzzy fourth copies.

HOUSE STYLE

A correspondent for two newspapers, I write a weekly news column containing identical information about local events, local affairs and people.

Each paper has its own rigid house style and these I can follow readily because of the time-saving PCW. For example, one newspaper requires full stops after courtesy titles, thus Mr., Mrs. and also after an initial, for example, Mr. A. L. Brown.

ADVANTAGE Budget Software

Great value Menu-driven software for ALL PCW's. NO MORE TO PAY on copyright and Public Domain (PD) titles. Shareware requires extra payment if found useful.

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- Make education fun with our special low prices on SCHOOL SOFTWARE
- **MAGIC MATHS (Age 4-8)** £9.95
A stimulating program to interest children in early maths and numeracy.
 - **MATHS MANIA (Age 8-12)** £9.95
Learn arithmetic through this lively multi-level game. Copyright.
 - **BETTER MATHS (Age 12-16)** £9.95
Hours of tuition, revision and testing to current GCSE standards. Copyright.
 - **BETTER SPELLING (Age 8-Adult)** £9.95
An effective spelling course by language expert and psychologist. Copyright.
 - **ABC-123** £9.95
Teaches pre-school children their alphabet, numbers and shapes using clever combination of graphics and sound. Copyright.
 - **WORD PLAY** £9.95
Help under 7's to recognise a variety of objects and their spellings by matching pictures to spelling and spelling to spellings. Copyright.
 - **EASY DRAW** £9.95
Learn the alphabet, numbers, simple shapes and draw simple pictures which can be saved to disk and printed. Age 4-8. Copyright.
 - **FRENCH TUTOR FOR GCSE** £9.95
Tried and tested at Language College. Wide selection of menu-driven studies, tests and revision aids. Copyright. Shareware version £5.
 - **PHYSICS TUTOR FOR GCSE** £9.95
Interactive learning and testing on full range of GCSE topics. Copyright.
 - **CHEMISTRY TUTOR FOR GCSE** £9.95
Interactive learning and testing on full range of GCSE topics. Copyright.
 - **BIOLOGY TUTOR FOR GCSE** £9.95
Interactive learning and testing on full range of GCSE topics. Copyright.
 - **SPELL-IT: WORLD OF WORDS** £9.95
Guess the hidden word game based on "Hangman" but with setting system and option for up to four players. Ten categories. Excellent game. Rating: 19/20 PCW Plus.
 - **SPELLING BEE** £5.00
An easy to play spelling game which uses animated pictures with three levels of difficulty. Shareware.
 - **BRITMAP** £5.00
Displays map showing O/S symbols. You have to find a feature and type in the reference. Plus database of locations in UK. Display simple map, calculate distances, plan trips around locations. Shareware.
 - **SKYCHART ASTRONOMY** £5.00
Data and charts showing the sky at a time and location selected by the user. Plus a range of astronomical calculations. Shareware.
 - **LOGOA LOGIC** £5.00
Features a fun selection of games and challenges using LOGO graphics. AIRLINER, ANAGRAM, HANGMAN, UFO HUNTER, DRAW, MUSIC, LABEL MAKER. PD.
 - **MATHS TUTOR** £5.00
A collection of mathematical ideas showing the power of the computer. For all ages. Graphs, trigonometry, calculus, chaos theory. Shareware.
 - **THE ELEMENTS For GCSE Chemistry students**, centred around the Periodic Table, you type in the element symbol and a list of facts is displayed or printed. Shareware.
 - **NATIVE BRITISH PLANTS** £5.00
Answer a series of questions and this program will attempt to determine the name of your plant from its extensive database. Shareware.
 - **FRACTAL MAGIC** £5.00
Patterns created by fractals have been a source of great interest for many computer users. Create your own designs and print them out. Shareware.
 - **FUN WITH GRAPHICS** £5.00
Features a simple drawing program, a fascinating graphic illustration of natural selection called BIOMORPH plus new GRAPHICS ROUTINES. PD
 - **MORSE CODE TUTOR** £5.00
Learn Morse Code using a simple graphics display and the PCW beep tone, then test yourself and measure your progress with the tutor in terms of interpretation speed and range of knowledge. Shareware.
 - **PCW TOOLBOX** £5.00
Simplify your PCW housekeeping with full point and select control over

UTILITIES

- any disk. Organise your files. Sector Edit, Format Disk Map, Change Attributes, Unerase. PD
- **COMPLETE UTILITIES** £5.00
Thousands sold - an essential disk for all PCW Owners using CP/M. MaxiSweep, Unerase, File and disk Sector Editor, Faulty Disk Recovery, Memory Map, Password Protection, Screen Blanker and more. Mostly PD.
 - **INSTA-MENU** £5.00
Locoscript-style menu presentation when running all your CP/M programs. A better "front-end" for your PCW. Copyright.
 - **EASY WORD PROCESSOR** £5.00
A powerful WordStar-like editor which offers full screen editing, block

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PROGRAMMING

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+++ Stanley Wilson +++

Hundreds of Stanley Wilson's short stories, articles and photographs have appeared in magazines and newspapers throughout the United Kingdom and overseas. Many of the stories have been broadcast by the BBC, and in New Zealand, South Africa, Eire, and elsewhere.

Past Chairman of the Writers' Summer School, Swanwick, he regularly conducts courses and discussions on various aspects of writing at the School and at writers' gatherings elsewhere.

He lectures on creative writing in general and on short story writing in particular. He has given talks on radio on the subject and has presented a series on BBC Radio York. For Alan Ayckbourn, at Scarborough's Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, he was editor of a weekly cabaret-style show 'Scarborough Airings'.

It also demands a comma before the word 'and', thus 'Mrs. H. Kirby, Mr. A. L. Brown, and Miss M. E. Burns were present'. The other paper spurns this requirement.

With a typewriter it was necessary to produce two separate reports. Now, on the PCW, I prepare one with the special punctuation and then the other simply by going back to the screen and deleting all those specially required full stops and commas.

Spelling checks are another boon to the PCW user. I pride myself on my spelling but my typing is often inaccurate. My wary PCW, however, never fails to point out that HIMSLEF should be HIMSELF and that I intended to type TOGETHER not TOGEHTER, BOARDED not BORDDED.

HUNT THE WORD

There is nothing more laborious than the hunt through a lengthy typescript for an unsuitable or incorrect word. In a somewhat involved piece recently I mistakenly referred to a man as 'the secretary' whereas he was 'the chairman' of an association.

Nothing fazed, my faithful PCW, in a 'Find and Exchange' exercise, swiftly put the matter right and there was not a sign of an erasure mark or liquid paper blob anywhere.

Once, outfaced by the prospect of fair typing on my portable a novel of 120,000 words, I paid a professional typist over a hundred pounds to produce a script. She completed the work promptly and was equally promptly paid.

+++ Why not write? +++

If you use LocoScript in an interesting or unusual way, why don't you sit down and write an article like this one to tell others what you have achieved? A successful article should be around 1600 words and accompanied where possible by illustrations. Any successful author will receive £100 for the published result.

When I settled down to check her work I discovered that she had misspelt the name 'Friendship'. 'Friendship' was the name of a ship central to the story line and the word appeared at least 150 times in my script.

But it didn't appear once in hers. One hundred and fifty times that woman had carefully typed 'FrEIndship'. I spent furious hours making the corrections with liquid paper.

If I had owned a PCW in those days I would never have farmed out the final typing of that novel but undertaken it myself, with the correct 'Friendship' spelling all the way through. Or, if not correct, then the PCW's 'Find and Exchange' would have promptly come to my rescue.

No, the novel has not yet sold. But I remain optimistic.

SHORT STORIES

Primarily a writer of short stories, I never fail to enthuse over the PCW facilities afforded to this genre of creative writing.

Most short story writers in order to 'get into the mood' start a story at some point in the past, often referred to as the 'limbering up' process.

To seize the immediate attention of the reader it is essential to launch a story in the present. That is, the point at which some significant event is about to occur and then, later for the sake of clarification, bring in the past as a flashback.

This is where a PCW becomes invaluable. Resorting to the keys 'Cut and Paste' I can hold the limbering up paragraph in reserve then later re-introduce it to assist the story line.

When I was using the steam typewriter I had to type then literally cut out that limber paragraph with scissors and insert it with adhesive in the selected place on my penultimate draft.

PAPER HANGING

A highly successful novelist friend, not yet sold on PCWs, actually hangs pages of her typed script around the walls of her study, snipping out sections here for glueing in there and there.

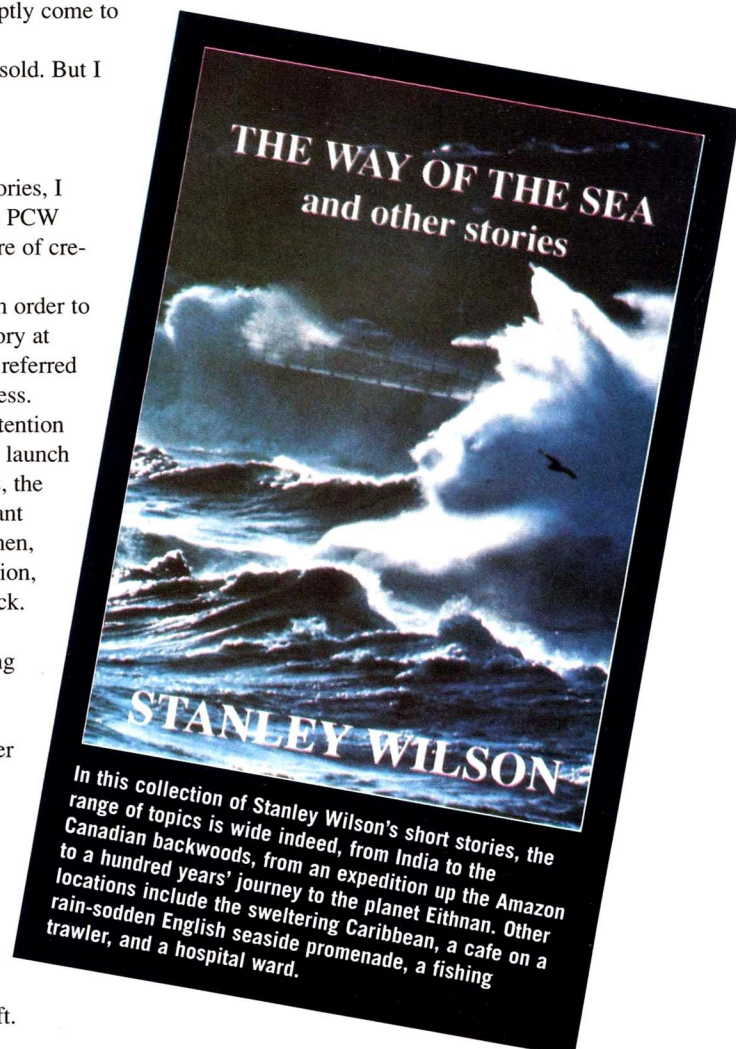
I have not, as yet, persuaded her to plunge into a PCW with its menus and Cut and Paste capacities.

The PCW's facilities for copying and moving are further boons to the short story writer. For example, I may have a piece of 2250 words on disk, the required length for a 15-minute radio yarn, but I have a demand for a 1500-word similar story.

By instructing my word processor to Copy and Move to another group I retain my 2250-word story in its original group and can then streamline the copy in the destination group to the required 1500 words.

I am currently engaged in a Copy and Move exercise on a 2500-word story. An editor has asked for it to be serialised in three equal parts.

Even with my PCW, adding and subtracting words to create a cliff-hanger for the ends of the first and second parts of the serial is far from easy. With an ordinary typewriter the task, like most other writing tasks for me on that outmoded machine, could be truly formidable. ■



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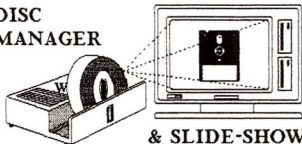


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MD3 is a powerful program, but it is also simple to learn: PCW Plus Magazine gave *MD3* five marks out of five for "ease of use" in their review. The *MD3* package comes complete with a comprehensive Beginner's Tutorial, and we also provide a Technical Support hotline free of charge between 4pm and 7pm every weekday.

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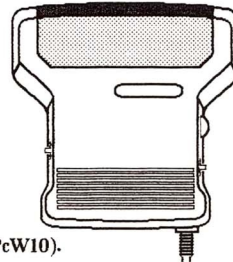
ViewPoint PCW-PC Conversion Program	£35.00
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MD3 Scanner

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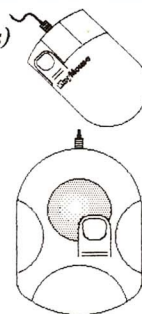
- Scan your own images and clip-art into MD3;
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CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Get to grips with LocoMail

Hazel Underwood
boldly goes into the
complex world of
LocoScript's most
powerful add-on

LocoMail is a member of the LocoScript family. Although it is most commonly associated with sending out mailshot letters to all the people on an address list, there are also many other ways in which it can be used effectively. These range from carrying out simple tasks, such as 'filling' standard letters, to performing quite complex calculations.

This article looks at 'filling' standard letters and memos. If you are not sure what is meant by 'filling', take the example of a standard letter that is sent out from time to time, with just a few details, such as the name and address, changing each time it is produced.

It is a waste of time to type in each copy of the letter from scratch, so many people are tempted to edit an old version and alter the appropriate details. However, using this method, there is always a danger that the letter will be sent out with the name and address correct but the date over two months old!

With LocoMail it is possible to set up a master copy of the letter, leaving gaps for the details that need to be filled in. When a copy of the letter is required, LocoMail works through the master 'filling' each gap with information typed in from the keyboard.

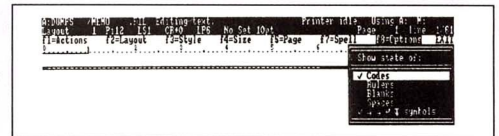
The steps set out in this article show how to set up a memo and two letters as FILL documents. However, the same principles could also be used for other standard documents, such as fax forms, reports, contracts or simple invoices.

+++ Step 1 GETTING STARTED +++

First, you need to check that the LocoMail options F=Fill and M=Merge appear on the second or third line of your Disk manager Screen. If they are missing, LocoMail is not currently available on your system.

Assuming that LocoMail has been loaded successfully, press C to create a LocoScript document. Now type in MEMO.FIL for the document name to show that the memo is to be used in LocoMail's FILL mode. Press Enter to continue.

With the blank document now on the screen, press F8 to get the Options menu and make sure that the codes are set to be shown. (If the tick next to Codes is missing, press the spacebar to produce one). Now press Enter to continue.



+ Step 2 SETTING UP THE MASTER +

LocoMail is called up from within a LocoScript document by the use of the (+Mail) code. If you are a PCW user, this is obtained by pressing the [+] key next to the spacebar, followed by the letter M. PC users obtain the (+Mail) code by pressing the + key on the numeric pad to the right of the keyboard, before pressing the M.

By using the corresponding [-] key with the M, you produce the (-Mail) code and return to LocoScript. Anything that appears on the screen between a set of (+Mail) and (-Mail) codes is highlighted to

show that you are using LocoMail.

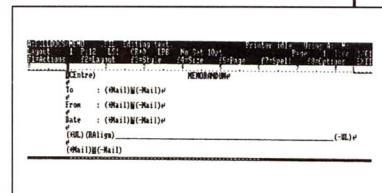
For the master document to work, you must use special instructions that LocoMail can understand. The simplest instruction that you can give LocoMail is a single question mark:

(+Mail)?(-Mail)

This instruction tells LocoMail to ask for the gap in the document to be filled in from the keyboard. It is used four times in the memo we are producing, so that each time the document is used, the typist will be asked to enter the name of the person to whom

the memo is being sent, who the memo is from, the date and the message.

Now type in the outline of the memo as shown, making sure that each question mark is between a set of (+Mail) and (-Mail) codes. Once you are happy with the result, take the Finish Edit option to return to the Disc Management Screen.



+ Step 3 FILLING IN THE GAPS +

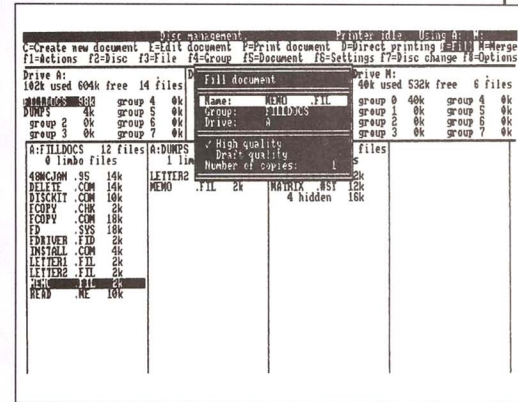
With the cursor still on MEMO.FIL, press F to use LocoMail in FILL mode. A LocoMail menu will then appear giving you the option to change the print quality or number of copies to be printed. Press Enter to continue.

A blank memo will now appear on the screen with the cursor positioned at the first question mark ready for you to start typing in the name. If you make any mistakes whilst you are doing this, you can use the cursor and delete keys to go back and correct them.

You can also use word processing codes,

such as underline or bold, to highlight any important items. If you find the appearance of the various (+Mail) and (-Mail) codes off-putting whilst you are typing, press F8 for the Options menu and select for the codes not to be shown.

Once you are happy with the name, press the Enter key to go on to the next item. (PC users, press the F10 key). The cursor will then jump to the next question mark, and so on down the page until you press Enter, or F10, to indicate that you have finished typing in the message.



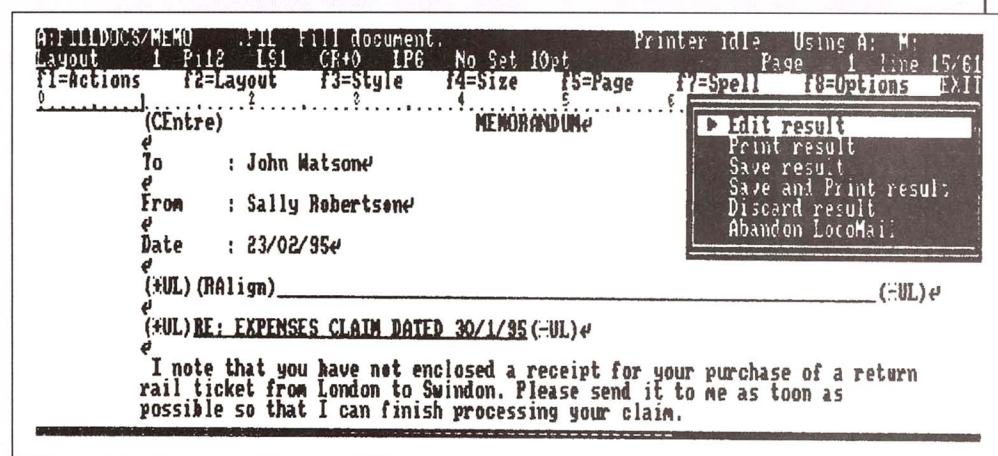
+++ Step 4 PRINTING THE RESULTS +++

The LocoMail closing menu will now appear giving you various options. If you notice that you have made any mistakes when filling in the memo details, you can take the Edit result option.

The completed memo is now just an ordinary LocoScript document and changes can be made in the usual ways. You can even use LocoSpell to check the spellings if necessary. Once you have made your corrections, press Exit (F10 on the PC) to return to the menu.

If you are not interested in keeping the completed memo in any form, take the Discard result option. Alternatively, if you just want a printed copy, take the Print result option. However, if you need to keep a copy of the memo on your disk for future reference, take either the Save result or Save and Print result option as appropriate.

In order to save the memo, you will be taken to the Disk manager screen where the cursor will still be on MEMO.FIL. If you do



not wish to store the completed memo in this Group (on the PC subdirectory), move the cursor into another one.

Now press Enter, give the memo an appropriate name and then press Enter again. If you have chosen the Save and Print option, the memo will now be printed.

Whether you have chosen to Save, Print or Discard the result, once the action has been completed, LocoMail will give you the option to Fill again or Finish. If you decide to Fill again, another blank memo will be displayed ready for you to fill in the gaps. If you choose to Finish, you will be taken back to the Disk manager screen.

+++ Step 5 A STANDARD LETTER +++

If you should decide to set up all your standard documents using just the single question mark instruction, you could soon find yourself running into difficulties. In the memo the use of question marks was quite straightforward.

This is because they were positioned next to headings showing the typist exactly what to type. However, in a document where there are no such headings, it is necessary to give some guidance about what details are expected to be entered at a

given point.

If you look at the example over the page of a standard FILL letter, you will see that all the instructions to accept information from the keyboard are accompanied by comments about what to type, for example: **(+Mail)?;Enter today's date (-Mail)**

The question mark is followed by a semi-colon (;) and then a comment. When LocoMail stops at the question mark, it will display the comment on the screen until

the typist has finished typing and has pressed Enter (F10 on the PC) to continue.

Now take another look at the letter. This document has been set up to produce first the letter and then the corresponding envelope. Instead of asking for the name and address information to be typed in twice, we have used instructions that tell LocoMail to accept details from the keyboard, store these details, and then use them again later on in the document.

continued on next page

+ Step 5 A STANDARD LETTER +

continued from previous page

The first of these instructions appears on the fifth line down:

(+Mail)?FIRST;Enter first name(-Mail)

It tells LocoMail to ask for the first name to be typed in from the keyboard, and then to store this information under the name FIRST. Notice that the LocoMail instruction is once again separated from the comment by a semi-colon. Similar instructions are used to accept and store the surname and the address.

Further down the page, the instruction:

Dear (+Mail)FIRST(-Mail)

- tells LocoMail to use any details it has stored under the name FIRST to fill this gap in the document.

Now create a document and type in the letter exactly as it appears in our example. When you have finished typing it in, take the Finish Edit option to return to the Disk Management Screen. With the cursor still on the letter, press F and then Enter to use the document in LocoMail's FILL mode.

The blank letter will now appear on the screen. Fill in the reference, date, first name, surname and address gaps as they come up and notice how the first name automatically appears next to the word Dear. Now type in the course name and press Enter (F10), to see LocoScript perfectly wrapping the rest of the letter around the name, whatever its length.

The name and address details will now be inserted into the gaps in the envelope and you will be taken to the closing LocoMail menu. If you choose to Discard Result and then to Fill again, another blank letter will appear on your screen. The contents of FIRST, SURNAME and ADDRESS will have been wiped out so that new details can be typed in.

```

G:\L10057\LETTER.DOC  Editing text. Printer id: Using A: W:
Page: 1 P10 L51 C040 IP6 No Set 10pt Page 1 Line 1/61
F1=Actions F2=Layout F3=Style F4=Size F5=Page F7=Spell F9=Options F11
Dear ref: (Mail)Enter today's date (Mail)
(Mail)Enter today's date (Mail)
(Mail)Enter first name (Mail) (Mail)Enter surname (Mail)
(Mail)Enter address (Mail)
Dear (Mail)
I am delighted to be able to inform you that your
application for inclusion on the (Mail)Enter the name of the
course (Mail) course has been successful. Your joining
instructions are enclosed.
Yours sincerely
COURSE ADMINISTRATOR
(Layout) (Mail) (Mail) (Mail)
(Mail) (Mail)

```

+ Step 6 GETTING MORE COMPLICATED +

The letter in this example is to be sent out to all squad members selected to play in a particular match. Obviously the name and address details will change each time the letter is produced, but the date, opposing team and match date will all stay the same.

In the last document any information we typed in at a FILL prompt was only stored for that particular letter. However, in this case it would be useful to be able to store information typed into the first letter and then use it in all subsequent letters produced in the same FILL session.

The instruction which allows you to do this is found on the first line:

(+Mail)!?DATE;Enter today's date(-Mail)

The basic accept and store instruction is the same, but the addition of the exclamation mark tells LocoMail not to wipe out the contents of DATE each time the letter is completed. Similar instructions are used to ask for

```

G:\L10057\LETTER.DOC  Editing text. Printer id: Using A: W:
Page: 1 P10 L51 C040 IP6 No Set 10pt Page 1 Line 1/61
F1=Actions F2=Layout F3=Style F4=Size F5=Page F7=Spell F9=Options F11
(Mail)Enter today's date (Mail)
(Mail)Enter first name (Mail) (Mail)Enter surname (Mail)
(Mail)Enter address (Mail)
Dear (Mail)
You have been picked for the team to play a home match
against (Mail)Enter name of team (Mail) on (Mail)Enter
match date (Mail). Please let me know as soon as possible if you
will be unable to attend.
Yours sincerely
Club Secretary

```

the name of the opposing team and the date of the match.

Now create a new document and type in the letter exactly as it is shown. When you have finished, return to the Disk Management Screen, press F and then Enter.

The first time that the letter appears on the screen, you will be prompted to fill in all the details. When the letter has been completed and the closing LocoMail menu appears, take the Discard result and Fill again options.

This time, when the letter appears, LocoMail will not ask for the date, team name or match date details. They will be inserted into the appropriate gaps automatically.

+ Step 7 PROBLEM SOLVING +

LocoMail is very particular about the instructions that it will accept. If a semicolon, exclamation mark or (+Mail) code is out of place, it will stop working through the document and display the error message, LocoMail Syntax Error.

If this should happen, take the option to Abandon LocoMail, edit the document, check for any mistakes and then start again.

If you are asked to enter the same piece of information twice, for example the first name, check the spelling of the word used to store the details, for example, FIRST. It must be spelt exactly the same each time it is used. So be precise when working with LocoMail.

Next time, we move on to slightly more advanced topics. In the meantime, do practise what you have learned so far, so that you can become thoroughly familiar with the basics of using FILL in LocoMail.

```

G:\L10057\LETTER.DOC  Editing text. Printer id: Using A: W:
Page: 1 P10 L51 C040 IP6 No Set 10pt Page 1 Line 1/61
F1=Actions F2=Layout F3=Style F4=Size F5=Page F7=Spell F9=Options F11
(Mail)Enter today's date (Mail)
(Mail)Enter first name (Mail) (Mail)Enter surname (Mail)
(Mail)Enter address (Mail)
Dear (Mail)
ERROR 20: LocoMail
You have been p
against (Mail)
LocoMail: I command syntax error
(Mail)Enter
will be unable
Abandon LocoMail
Discard document
Edit document
Yours sincerely
Club Secretary

```

Say Goodbye to 3" Disc Problems

If you have a PCW with 3" disc drives you may be concerned that your drive is wearing out, and 3" drives can be difficult to repair or replace. And of course, 3" discs are becoming expensive and often difficult to buy.

Adding a new drive so that you can use 3 1/2" discs means you can go on using your PCW for years to come. We are offering an easy to install 3 1/2" drive kit. This includes LocoScript 3 (if you have LocoScript 1 or 2), CP/M Upgrade and a FIB file, to give you the best performance from your new drive. And we'll exchange your 3" Locomotive Software Master discs for new 3 1/2" ones free of charge.

So moving to your new drive will be trouble free and you can say goodbye to 3" disc problems.

Our internal 3 1/2" drive kit is easy to fit and, unlike other kits, replaces your existing drive, so there is no need to modify your PCW case.

Once installed, the **FREE START-OF-DAY DISC** included means you can start work straight away. And you can still use all your documents you've stored on 3" discs because your old 3" Drive A can become your PCW's B Drive. (You will however need a Drive B conversion cable to do this on a PCW8256 or a PCW9512).

3 1/2" Drive Kits cost £99 for LocoScript 3 Users and £139.00 for LocoScript 1 and 2 Users.

To order your 3 1/2" Drive Kit, simply return this form together with your payment and any 3" Locomotive master discs you want to exchange for 3 1/2" master discs.

Or if you would like more information, tick the box on the coupon or 'phone Tina Knights on 01306 747756.



Please tick

- Please send me more information on Locomotive 3 1/2" drive kits.
- Please send me the following Drive Kit:
The Kit comes with full fitting instructions.
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 - LocoScript 3 3 1/2" Drive Kit £99.00
 - Drive B conversion cable £2.50
- Please send me a copy of your PCW catalogue.

Please list any Locomotive Software master discs you are returning with this order for free exchange to 3 1/2" versions.

Note your 3" discs will not be returned.

Locomotive Software may make your details available to other companies for the mailing of information which we believe will be of interest to you.

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Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone no _____

Type of PCW: 8256 8512 9512

Payment details:

Cheque or Postal Order, payable to Locomotive Software

Credit card. Please debit my Visa/ Access/ MasterCard/ Delta account number:

Signature _____

Please return to:
TK



LOCOMOTIVE SOFTWARE
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Dorking, Surrey RH4 1YL
Tel 0306 747756

From PCW → PC



How do you go about extending your PCW or upgrading? We think we've found one very attractive solution from PC Microfix

Most of us are content with our PCW machines and their performance, and do not feel the need to move away from them. But for some users, a need to move on can arise for one of two reasons:

- Your faithful machine has finally given up the ghost and is beyond repair, or repair is not really worth the expense and

time involved.

- Often for business purposes, an additional machine is needed, preferably one with more power than the PCW can deliver.

In such circumstances, the decision has to be taken as to whether to seek out a replacement PCW or to upgrade to a PC.

It's not clear at the time of writing what

the future of the PCW is - by all accounts, the last version to run off the production lines, the PcW10, was a runaway success, but once that batch had sold out, Amstrad is not clear as to where it is now going. If, then, we assume that there is not much likelihood of a new range of PCWs appearing, what do we do?

As you have become more expert on your computer, you will have realised the most important truth about the relative merits of hardware and software. The hardware is fairly easy to master: just find the 'on' switch, insert a disk, wait a few moments and then work from the keyboard. Simple.

But the software's quite a different kettle of fish. For a non-computer person to master

**LOCOSCRIPT USER
RECOMMENDED**

+ Tech Spec +

- PC Microfix WPC386 with Cannon Bubble Jet printer**
- Power supply:** 65W PS/2 type power supply with 115/240V switch
- CPU:** 386sx-40
- Coprocessor:** optional 80387sx Intel processor
- BIOS:** AMI BIOS
- Memory:** 1 MB, expandable to 16MB.
- Backup battery:** On-board Ni-Cad battery
- Board slots:** Three 16-bit slots
- Keyboard connector:** 102 key, AT compatible



What comes out of the box

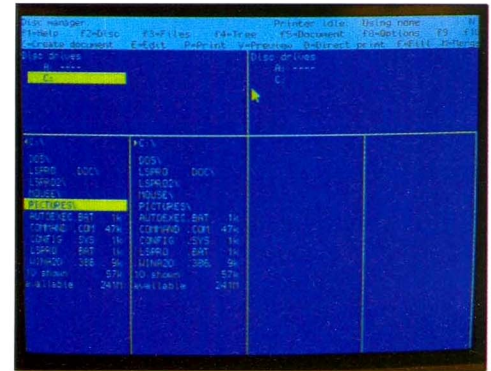
that newsletter out to the printer, you cannot afford to spend the months you devoted to learning LocoScript all over again.

The ideal solution, then, would be a look-alike system which would give you the additional power and speed you require but would be sufficiently similar to the PCW for you to be able to 'plug in and go', to use the jargon term.

There are no prizes for guessing that the obvious upgrade path is to a PC machine (see the Jargon Buster panel) on which you can run LocoScript PC in one of its manifestations.

That is not quite as simple as it sounds, though. One of the biggest attractions of the PCW has always been its 'one-plug' operation, in other words, the whole caboose comes as a single, integrated unit. You don't know just how lucky you are. Until you try and buy a PC and a separate printer, that is.

What emulation do you require? Which port does it employ? How is it linked to the computer? Those are just some of the issues which the PCW dealt with for you, and only if you went for an external printer have you begun to glimpse some of the hairy complexities of the situation.



We advise you to go for the high resolution colour screen - both mono and colour are VGA

The only hope is that somewhere out there there's a PC which thinks it's a PCW, which offers us as nearly as possible a one-plug solution with LocoScript already built in. If that's at the top of your wish list, read on. We think we have found the solution. It's called the WPC.

It's an ingenious variation on the PCW acronym, standing for a Wordprocessing PC, one which tries to offer you a seamless upgrade from a PCW, but with the added benefits of the PC.

+ Beyond LocoScript +



unlike many PC purchases, it does not come with Windows, which has to be purchased separately. As for programming, there is an excellent bundled BASIC (one of the real unsung features of MS-DOS 5) called QBASIC,

a complex piece of software like a word processor, it takes many hours of painful effort, and even the experts have to struggle to come to terms with the more advanced aspects of the package.

This means that you really cannot afford to throw away all that hard-earned knowledge, and go back to being a beginner with a different operating system and an entirely new set of applications software to come to terms with. On top of that there's the data you have written - more of that later, though.

PRODUCTIVE TIME

Apart from anything else, there's the serious issue of productive time. If you have to get those mailshots done, those invoices written,

While a lot of you will be content to stick with LocoScript, a venturesome few will want to spread their wings and explore other aspects of the machine. What about spreadsheets, accounts packages, games, programming?

That's a very large topic, and one which we shall be covering in future issues of the magazine, in order to give you a full picture of software available on the PCW and the PC without too much upgrading effort.

Suffice it to say that the WPC is a fully-fledged PC in its own right, and it can be expanded and normal PC programs and packages can be run on it. Do note that,

which is an interpreted BASIC like Mallard BASIC on the PCW, but for which you can buy a compiled version for professional program development.

It comes with its own editor, which can also be used as a stand-alone editor by calling up EDIT from the MS-DOS prompt.

If you are keen to explore the world of MS-DOS, your local bookshop's shelves will be groaning under the weight of volumes of advice and information for everyone from the raw beginner to the most advanced expert on just about every PC topic imaginable.

+++ Jargon Buster +++

AT - The IBM PC was upgraded in 1983 to an XT version (eXtended Technology), with bigger memory and a hard disk (10 MB, minute by modern standards). Then along came the AT (Advanced Technology) machine, with a 286 processor and bigger capacity floppy disk drive.

BIOS - The Basic Input Output System, which checks out the system when it is switched on, and also acts as a linke between software and hardware.

Coprocessor - This is an additional processor which works alongside the main CPU to speed up mathematical operations.

CPU - Central Processing Unit, the micro-processor which runs your computer. Give or take a few technical wrinkles, the speed of the processor is determined by its type. The original IBM PC strolled along at 8 Mhz (millions of instructions per second, twice the speed of an unmodified PCW) with a processor called the 8088.

Next came the 8086, then the 286, 386 and 486. The machine under review is a mid speed 386, quite fast enough for word processing purposes.

MB - Megabyte, a million bytes. The more memory a computer has, the more capable it is of running large software applications efficiently, particularly Windows.

MS-DOS - The operating system for the PC computer. Stands for Microsoft Disk Operating System, it owes a lot of its ori-

gins to CP/M, the PCW's operating system, and has developed a great deal over the years, to enable the computer to cope with ever larger hard disks; screen types, and so forth.

The current version is 6.2, and the WPC comes with version 5, which is perfectly adequate. You can upgrade without difficulty if you wish to.

PC - The acronym 'PC' originally meant personal computer, as opposed to mini-computer or mainframe, in other words, a machine which requires only one operator - you - to carry out all its functions, except repair and maintenance, which, unlike its bigger brothers, is minimal on a PC.

Then the phrase was absorbed into 'IBM PC', the first mass market business PC. Finally, the 'PC' broke free from the International Business Machines tag, and came to mean an IBM PC compatible computer, in contrast to, say, an Apple Macintosh or an Amiga, which are designed and operate differently.

Nowadays, then, PC is used almost exclusively as shorthand for an IBM PC compatible personal computer, or PC clone, as it used to be called.

Windows - Currently at version 3.1, with a new version hovering in the wings, this is a GUI (graphics user interface), which enables you to use a mouse and pull-down menus to run applications. Requires a fast PC with a reasonable amount of on-board memory to run successfully.

divide your PC directories up into a PCW lookalike version, as we'll show.

KEYBOARD

There are no specialised word processing keys on the PC (Exch/Find, Doc/Page, Word/Char, and so on), but fear not, there is a very sensible use of the AT keyboard, which makes it pretty painless to adapt to it. The function keys perform a similar role to the PCW, with the added advantage that there are more of them.

DATA TRANSFER

And what about your precious data? If you have a PCW with a 3.5 inch drive, there's no problem at all. Otherwise, you will have to acquire a cable and some software.

We'll be covering all aspects of file transfer in a forthcoming issue of the magazine, so watch out for details.

CONCLUSION

For those of you who require to upgrade without the worry of acquiring all the necessary hardware and software bits and pieces yourself, the WPC offers an attractive solution.

WHAT TO GO FOR:

- Monitor - if you can possibly scrape enough used fivers together, do go for colour. It is much more restful on the eye, once you have mastered the rather bizarre screen setup technique used by LocoScript on the PC.
- Hard disk - get the biggest size you can afford. 42 MB may seem a lot, but this reviewer is currently struggling along with 110 MB and wishing he had gone for more three years ago!

Modern software applications - Windows, DTP packages and so forth - are extremely greedy of space. Half tone images can also gobble up a couple of megabytes and more, so don't just buy with your current requirements in mind.

GETTING GOING

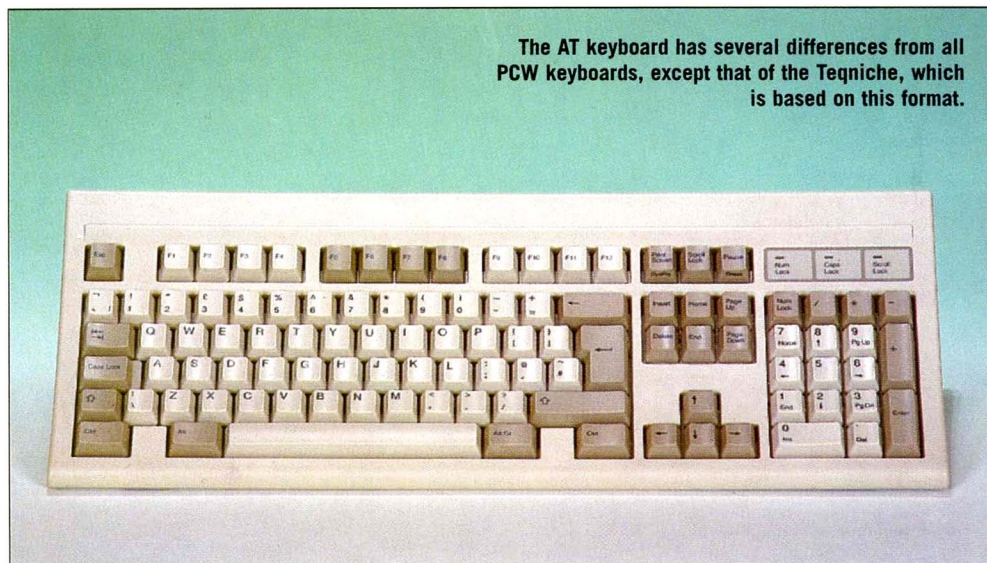
Once you have plugged in and switched on, the WPC is configured to load LocoScript automatically, and you are ready to go. There are two main differences between the PCW and PC which will strike you at once:

DIRECTORIES

Files or documents on the PC have a filename of up to eight characters and an extension or filetype of three characters, just like the PCW.

Where CP/M has User areas (which LocoScript calls Groups), PC has directories and subdirectories, which can be given names up to eleven characters long.

The question of User areas and directories can be quite complex - see the panel on the subject - but, if you like, you can actually



The AT keyboard has several differences from all PCW keyboards, except that of the Teqniche, which is based on this format.

A basic system, which will set you back £899 inclusive of VAT, includes a mono VGA screen, a 200 MB hard drive, LocoScript Professional, and the Canon BJ-10sx printer.

You can ask for LocoEasy if you prefer something more basic, and you can also talk to PC Microfix about Windows 3.1, a sound card, CD-ROM drive, or other add-ons.

You are offered up to ten disks worth of transfers from your PCW free of charge, and the company are prepared to consider part exchanges for your old PCW, up to a top price of around £150.

There's a one-year labour and parts warranty (return to base), and a five-year labour-only support, all as part of the package.

CONCLUSION

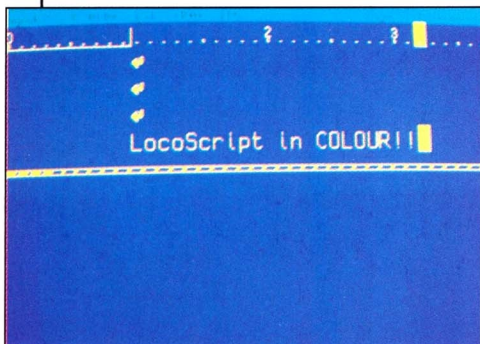
All in all, this is a neat piece of equipment, well thought out and put together, which is ideal for someone wanting to move on to a PC for whatever reason, but who is a little nervous of the computing jungle out there.

With a PC Microfix machine, you have a ready-to-go upgrade with the minimum of fuss and bother. And even if you do get into a mess, there's a customer helpline to put you straight. The whole deal is very well worth considering, and we have put our LocoScript User Recommended seal of approval on the product. ■

+Coloured images+

One of the great bonuses of the PC is that screen colours are available, which can ease eye strain a great deal. Yellow on blue makes for a restful combination on the main edit part of the screen. As you can see from the illustration, you can also have large edit characters, which is a real boon for the visually handicapped.

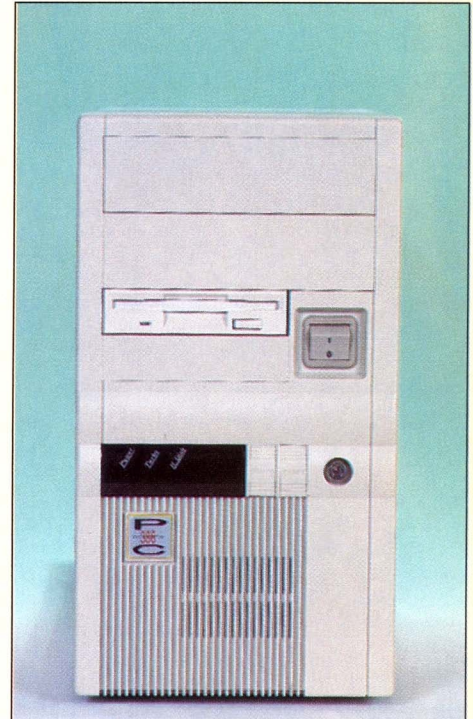
This feature is also available on newer versions of LocoScript for the PCW. You can change the foreground and background colours on the PC, although the way this is done is a little bit idiosyncratic.



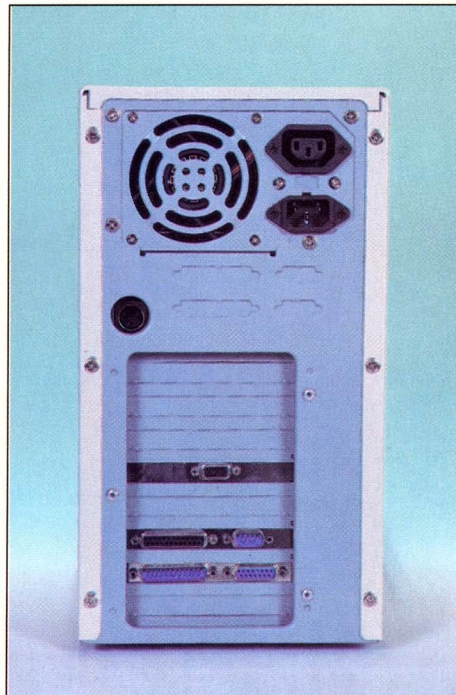
+ Tower or base unit +

One of the choices you will have to make is whether to go for a tower or a base unit. The differences are that the screen sits on top of a base unit, whilst a tower stands next to the screen, to the left or the right.

It's partly a matter of preference - a tower is really no more than a base unit turned on its side, and in fact that's what you can do with a base unit if you are so inclined. The other considerations are space (if you are short of space, a base



Front view of the tower unit, showing disk drive.



Rear view of the tower unit, showing spare slots at the back.

unit is better) and screen height above the desktop.

With a tower, your screen sits quite a lot lower on the worksurface, and you may well prefer such a setup. If you are buying by mail order, go first into a local high street computer retailer and check out the pros and cons for yourself.

There's an extra spare expansion slot on a tower, too (for CD-ROM, scanner, sound card, and so on) - four as against three on the base unit.



What the system looks like with LocoScript up and running in my preferred screen colours

+ PC Groups +

You may well feel more comfortable with good old PCW-type Groups, at least to begin with. The panel on the right shows the differences between the PCW and the PC as far as directories are concerned, and the screen shot shows you how you can provide an emulation of CP/M Groups.

In the simple example, I have created eight subdirectories, called GROUP0, GROUP1, and so on. If you want to take the idea further, you could first create subdirectories called, say, DISK1, DISK2, DISK3, and so on, and then have subdirectories branching down from each of them called GROUP0, GROUP1, and so on.

If you look at the top righthand side of the directory display, you will see that a couple of directories are marked with a cross. This means that they are not displayed by LocoScript, and this is useful if you want to ensure that irrelevant material is not displayed.

To make a subdirectory hidden like this, ensure that the highlight bar is on the relevant directory, using Ctrl plus the cursor keys. Then press the minus key on the numeric pad. To reinstate a hidden subdirectory, highlight it, then press the plus key on the numeric pad.

+++ Users and Directories +++

As you can see from the illustration, the directory structure of CP/M, which LocoScript uses, is quite different from that on the PC. CP/M is divided into 16 User areas, numbered 0-15, and the concept was devised partly to allow different programmers to have access to the same drive without getting in each other's way.

LocoScript calls them Groups, and employs the first half of them (0-7) to store documents in, and the rest (8-15) to keep backups in what's called 'limbo'. When the disk fills up, these backups are erased in a pretty random fashion, so one tip is never to mix use of LocoScript and CP/M on one disk, especially if you use areas 8-15, as your CP/M files might get obliterated!

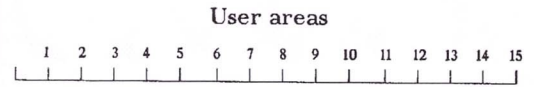
Backups from Group 1 are stored in Group 8, and so on, and the technically minded among you will see that the backup can be shifted from one Group to its limbo Group simply by adding a bit to the byte which contains the number. The first three bits range between 0-7 (0 and 111 in binary), and if you add 1000 to each in binary, you end up with values in the range 8-15.

LocoScript Professional lands you in a directory called LSPRO.ETC, and you can create subdirectories from there in a tree structure, getting as complicated as you like. It's best to allocate one subdirectory to each task that you perform.

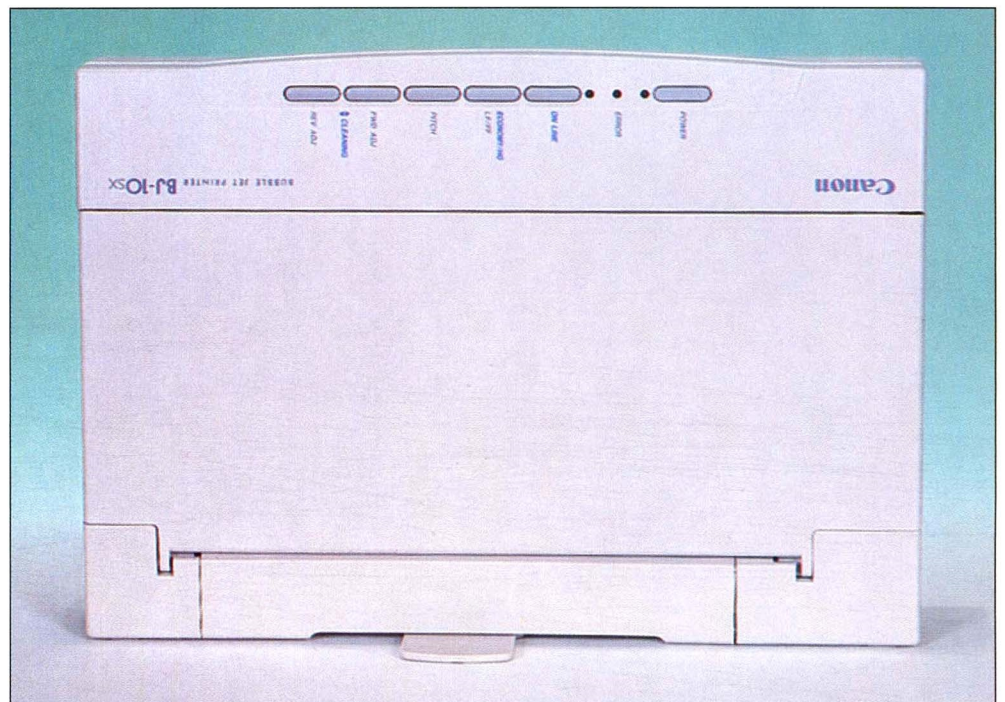
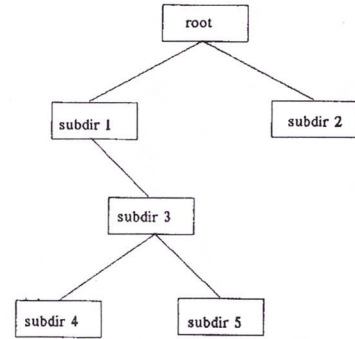
For example, the computer on which this review is being typed has twelve subdirectories, one for each month of the magazine year, and other directories for different projects.

Note that in the case of PC versions of LocoScript, there is no concept of limbo. Instead, a backup version of the file is created, with the filetype BAK, which you can access from the Disk manager by pressing F8 and opting to make those files visible.

CP/M DIRECTORY STRUCTURE



MS-DOS DIRECTORY STRUCTURE



The classy-looking Canon printer which comes bundled with the system and offers high quality output

+ FACTS BOX +

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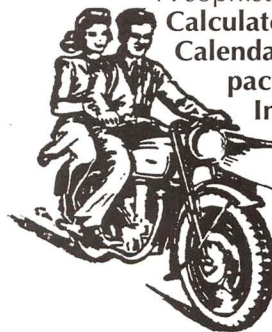
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ON LOCOMAIL

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Illumination: Large capital letters and designs featuring Celtic creatures, Medieval monks and Saxon spirals. Up to 7 different designs for each letter of the alphabet. Presented in a beautiful display case.

Such elements are not to be found within LocoScript. But all are available on your PCW. There are three secrets you must discover: **MicroDesign3**, **Literatus3** and **Illumination**. Discovery is made all the easier by friendly step-by-step manuals which guide you to the real power of your PCW.

MicroDesign3 is a 'desktop-publishing' package from *Creative Technology* which allows you to mix text and graphics at high quality on the same page. See their advertisement in this issue.

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Write away!



Romance and a PCW

Anne Weale's first romantic fiction book was published in 1955 and this month the company will publish her sixty-seventh title, *Never Go Back*. I decided to find out more about her and her writing life.

Question: Can you tell me at what stage in your long career as a professional author word processing became important to you?

Anne Weale: Yes, I remember it well. In 1988, when I had a backlist of fifty-five Mills and Boon romances, translated into twenty-five languages and my first mainstream novel *All My Worldly Goods* was about to enter the *Guardian's* list of that year's fastest-selling paperbacks, I was in London shopping for a new dress for a special occasion.

But what caught my eye in the window of Dixon's in Bond Street, was an Amstrad PCW9512, complete with daisywheel printer and LocoScript word processing package. I forgot the dress and bought the PCW.

I'd lost count of the number of portable typewriters I'd worn out in the 30-odd years since my first book had been published and decided there had to be an easier way to revise my first drafts than by re-typing and scissors-and-pasting my way through innumerable reams of A4!

Question: And did you find the changeover easy?

Anne Weale: Relatively! At that time my winter home was a cottage on the edge of one of Spain's national parks, the Ebro Delta. I was waiting for a telephone to be installed and couldn't ring Locomotive's excellent hot-line when I got in a muddle during the early days of owning a computer.

I never actually lost any text, but it took me about six weeks to feel comfortably in charge. Since then LocoScript has taken all the grind out of writing, leaving only the pleasure.

Question: Do you still use LocoScript?

Anne Weale: I do! I've tried several other packages, but LocoScript is still my favourite. I use LocoScript Professional these days, run on a PC 386, which gives me a wider selection of fonts and preview and graphics capabilities. I

Welcome to a regular session of interviews, help and advice for the budding LocoScript author from expert Marian Hardless



Anne Weale

spend the winters in Spain and we have quite a number of power cuts, so I have a laptop too, which means I can continue working whatever happens!

Question: How did you start writing for publication?

Anne Weale: I think I was born to write. I sold several romantic short stories while I was still at school, then became a newspaper reporter and worked on three provincial dailies.

Journalism is the ideal training for a novelist, because it teaches you how to catch the reader's interest and how to find things out. When I married my husband he was in the

army and we were posted to South East Asia for two years. That experience gave me the plot of my first book, *Winter is Past*, which was published by Mills and Boon when I was 25.

Question: Can you describe a typical working day?

Anne Weale: When I'm working on a book, I work a seven day week, getting up at 5.45 am and making sure I'm at my desk at six! First I read through the day before's output, then I start on my daily 'quota' of 1000 words.

Occasionally I complete this before breakfast at eight, but mostly it takes me till noon.

Then I usually go for a brisk two-mile walk, but if a book is going well I may stay at the screen all day.

Question: Would you still say, sixty plus books into your career, that writing is a satisfying occupation.

Anne Weale: Absolutely! I'm extremely happy being a romance writer. My favourite time of day is six o'clock in the morning when I switch on my PC and continue my current story. Even though I've been writing for several decades, I still find it exciting to type 'Chapter One' and begin a new adventure with my latest heroine.

Question: Where do your ideas come from?

Anne Weale: Some romantic novels are pure fantasy, but I draw heavily on my own experiences and interests. One of my early books was a spin-off from talks with the midwife who delivered my son.

He was born at midnight and as I couldn't sleep for happiness and excitement, I worked out the plot of *A Call for Nurse Templar*. Nineteen years later, when my son enlisted in the Spanish Foreign Legion, his experiences gave me the background for *A Touch of the Devil*.

I travel a lot and that gives me inspiration. A recent trek through southern Turkey was the background for *Turkish Delights* and a trip to see the ruined cities of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula gave me the idea for *Tequila Sunrise*.

Spain, my adopted country, is the setting for *Night Train* and *Catalan Christmas*, and we spend the summers in our house in Guernsey, which is the setting for *Do You Remember Babylon?*

Question: And are you planning to continue writing.

Anne Weale: Yes, my sixty-eighth book, *A Night to Remember*, is in the pipeline and I've no plans to stop. I enjoy all the letters I receive from satisfied readers asking for more of my fiction and I don't want to disappoint them! ■



Recent and forthcoming titles about an innocent abroad and a Mediterranean romance

+++ Help is at hand +++

First, some do's and don'ts to bear in mind when writing romantic fiction:

DO

- have a strong entertaining plot.
- make the hero and heroine sympathetic characters, even if one or both is misunderstood to begin with! But sympathetic does not mean goody-goody. They must be believable, well-rounded people.
- choose a setting which you know enough about to describe convincingly.
- read plenty of published material by other writers in your target market.

DON'T

- let your plot rely too much on misunderstandings or unlikely coincidences.
- write scenes involving explicit sex or violence.
- include controversial topics such as religion or politics.
- copy any other writer. Read, assimilate, originate!

A set of guidelines on writing publishable Romantic fiction is available (SAE

please!) from Mills and Boon Ltd, Eton House, 18-24 Paradise Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1SR.

If you'd like more detailed guidance you can buy a book and tape package full of practical advice designed to help you become a successful Mills & Boon author. It's called 'And Then He Kissed Her...', costs £7.50 and is available from the above address. Cheques should be made payable to Harlequin Mills and Boon.

Books on Romantic Fiction

The first of two very readable books on the subject of writing romantic fiction is *The Craft of Writing Romance* by Jean Saunders, Allison and Busby, £7.99. An up-dated version will be published in April this year.

Book number two is *Writing Popular Fiction* by Rona Randall, A & C Black, £7.99, which covers writing thrillers and fantasy as well as romance.

+++ Coming soon +++

The following course fees include tuition and board and lodging unless stated. Where prices were not available at the time of going to press, or if you require further information, please contact the institutions direct.

17-19 February. Writing Fiction and Getting Published. The Earnley Concourse, Earnley, Chichester, Sussex. PO20 7JL. Tel: 0243 670392.

24-26 February. Writing and Illustrating For Young People. £74. Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants, NN9 7EU. Tel: 0933 312104.

3-5 March Writing For Publication. £85. Wensum Lodge, King Street, Norwich, NR1 1QW. Tel: 0603 666021.

10-12 March Writing Workshop. Urchfont Manor College, Urchfont, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 4RG. Tel: 0380 840495

26-28 February Ways With Words - programme of literary events at The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath. Book a complete luxury package from £235 or book individual events separately as available.

The programme includes lectures by Mary Wesley, Susan Hill, Celia Sandys, Laurie Lee, Philippa Gregory and Ivan March and

a literary dinner with Jonathon Dimbleby during which he will speak on 'Prince Charles in Perspective.' Details from Ways With Words, Droridge Farm, Dartington, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 6JQ. Credit card bookings Tel: 0225 319090.

The Ian St James Awards 1995

The closing date for the 1995 competition is 28 February, so there is just still time to enter. The Awards, set up in 1989, aim to offer new writers a first step towards a literary career. You are asked to write an original short story on any subject and in any genre with the exception of stories for children.

There are two categories, one for stories over 3000 words (9 prizes of £500 and a top prize of £5000) and one for stories under 3000 words (9 prizes of £ 250 and a top prize of £2500). All entries will receive an individual reader's report and the entry fees are £ 6 per story in the shorter length and £9 per story for those over 3000 words.

The twenty winning stories will be published in an anthology and if you'd like to read last year's award-winners, look out for the 1994 anthology, Brought to Book, published by Harper and Collins.

Dear Sir or Madam

Stephen Wells helps you create effective business correspondence on your word processor

Successful business people are invariably good communicators. In addition to the basic occupational skill which they offer to their employers, associates or customers, they can maintain an open dialogue which encourages confidence.

Often, the people who fail in business are proficient enough in their craft or profession. What they lack is the ability to convey their accomplishments, intentions and requirements to others.

Whether you're silver-tongued or not doesn't concern us here. The subject of this series is the written message: letters or memos to be sent by traditional mail, e-mail, fax or personal delivery.

I have a relative who is a regional manager. He has a company car, chauffeur (although the preferred job title these days is 'driver'), laptop with a modem and a cellular phone. While he is being driven between appointments, he has on hand the facilities for keyboarding and sending his own letters.

But he prefers to dictate his correspondence into a tape recorder. The cassettes are turned over to a secretary for typing at the end of the trip, often several days later.

Call Forwarding enables telephone calls which have been made to him at the office to be automatically connected to his car. His appointments can be scheduled over a network using software like Lotus Notes. Sooner or later his employer may decide that there is no other real need for him to have a secretary.

There will be nobody to dot his i's and cross

his t's. He'll have the computer and LocoScript, and have to get on with it. I dedicate this short series to him.

ALL KINDS OF LETTERS

We'll look at the many kinds of letters and their parts. We'll consider the practicalities like maintaining address records and use of templates and envelopes. We'll review the social courtesies like titles and salutations, forms of address and subscription.

But the most emphasis will be given to the language of the letter. For instance, would you say that a judge for a suggestions awards scheme should be disinterested or uninterested? This month we look at such commonly misused words (see the panel).

We'll also examine other topics, including:

- grammatical pitfalls
- use of capital letters
- choices of spelling, particularly English versus American
- malapropisms
- trade names and trade marks
- Cliches to avoid
- officialese, jargon, circumlocution and pomposity.

We'll try and define the line between unacceptable flippancy and good-humoured friendliness. And we'll look at other dangers like copyright, libel, and defamation of character.

There will be lots of specific examples, like how to send and reply to invitations, how to

offer sympathy, or congratulations, or apologies. And how to provide references; and write a letter of resignation.

One of the reasons why children often have trouble trying to learn to write is that they are so involved with the concepts of right and wrong. They are surrounded by adults and older children who love laying down the law for them.

It is confusing for them that the English language is continuously changing and there are so often exceptions to what are otherwise reliable rules.

Teenagers would much prefer it if black was black, and white was white, and they could get back to thinking about Man. United and Take That.

Adults realise that the insurance company which is accused of providing policies backed with small-print are only trying to satisfy the concerns of their lawyers.

Stock underwriters are another group who get their communications in a twist. They worry about the city regulatory bodies looking over their shoulders.

CRYSTAL CLEAR

If there could be one rule for your business correspondence it would be for you to write letters which you'd like to receive. Your letters would be perfectly clear in their messages - and polite.

It can be great therapy to get your feelings out on paper and I would not discourage you from using writing as an outlet. There is a place for the angry letter: it's called the wastepaper basket.

Take for example the apocryphal correspondence between Messrs. Nettleton, Embolism, Moorhead and Co. Ltd, Food and Drug

Exports, of Chancery Street, Ambles Under Close, Licks, and The Scram Petroleum Co.

The latter company recently had sent a demand note to the former for £275.87. This was for a quantity of oil delivered some 40 months previously. The reason given by the N.E. & M. Co. for the delay in payment was dissatisfaction with the quality.

This must be borne in mind while reading the ensuing exchanges.

Messrs. Nettleweed, Clot,
Blockhead and Co. Ltd.
Drug Importers,
Chicanery Street,
Shambles-upon-Chaos,
Licks.

Dear Sir,
Your letter of uneven date contains the suggestion, advanced for the first time in this protracted correspondence, that we supplied you with contaminated oil. If it does not overtax your powers of invention, please let us have the details of the alleged 'deleterious matter' found in the oil.
Assuring you of service at time and a half,
We remain, Yours faithfully,

The Scram Petroleum Company

The Scrum Petroleum Company Ltd.
Bubonic House
London SW1 7XY

Dear Sirs,
Among the objects found in your alleged machinery oil as supplied to us, the following have been positively identified:

- i Two left-footed elastic-sided boots
- ii One siege gun left over from the Battle of Hastings
- iii The last of the Pharaohs
- iv Three non-returnable Polynesian fret-saws
- v A photocopy of the Treaty of Utrecht upholstered in pre-digested seaweed

Also in the same drum is what appears to be the decomposed viscera of a carrion crow and other Saturnalian relics too numerous and scandalous to mention. As we do not share your apparent interest in depraved rituals associated with the Black Mass, please remove this disgusting miscellany from our premises immediately.

Assuring you of service for the last time,
We remain,
Yours faithfully,

Messrs. Nettleton, Embolism, Moorhead and Co. Ltd.

Messrs. Nettlerash, Cholera,
Muttonhead and Co. Ltd.
Drug Addicts
Calumny Alley
Blot-upon-Escutcheon
Licks.

Dear Sirs,
Your puerile attempt to evade liability by such hoary and transparent subterfuge heightens the unfavourable impression we have formed of your mental and moral status.
We have been patient. We have been courteous. We have been restrained, even in the face of unparalleled provocation. But the time has now come for plain speaking.

Quite dispassionately, then, may we say that after mature consideration we have decided to slap a writ on you - you unspeakable grab-bag of lice-invested, slime-encased, pock-marked commercial vampires.
Assuring you of service over our mutilated bodies.
We remain,
Yours faithfully,

The Scram Petroleum Company Ltd.

The Scum Petroleum Company Ltd.
The Leprosorium
London SW1 7XY

Dear Sirs,
We wish to protest against the tone of your latest letter which comes perilously close to offensive. While it is our inflexible rule never to bandy personalities we feel justified in expressing our opinion of your organisation as unethical - you scrofulous shower of culturally-maimed, vice-defiled, calamitous encrusted industrial thugs. Furthermore, you can...

NO POINTS

No problem with clarity there. But 0 out of 10 for letters you'd like to receive. Having made that point, next month I'll get back to the ingredients of good letter writing detailed at the start of this introduction. ■

+++ 25 regular mix-ups +++

English has such diverse roots that there are many very similar words with completely different meanings. This can lead to misspellings and misuses. Here are some of the most common confusions.

- Accept** - to receive, agree to, believe in or approve of
- Except** - to leave out or exclude. Also, 'if it were not for'
- Affect** - a verb, meaning to cause or have an influence on, to stir the emotions, to feign, or like to have
- Effect** - a noun, meaning a result, or influence. Also an impression produced
- Alternately** - succeeding each other or a variety of substitutes
- Alternatively** - a choice, usually restricted to one other option
- Allusion** - an indirect reference
- Illusion** - a false idea or misleading image
- Appraise** - to set a price for, or to estimate the quantity or quality of
- Apprise** - to inform or notify
- Baring** - to uncover
- Bearing** - carrying (a load, a message, a child, arms or a grudge) or to tolerate or endure
- Bimonthly** - every two months, but so frequently misinterpreted as twice a month that the word is best avoided
- Semi-monthly** - every half month, or, twice a month
- Capital** - a city that's a seat of government. Money or property used in business. Upper case (in typography).
The top of a column or pilaster.
- Capitol** - a legislative building, like the federal Capitol in Washington D.C. or the temple of Jupiter on Capitoline Hill in ancient Rome
- Complement** - that which completes, including the officers and crew needed to man a ship
- Compliment** - something said in praise
- Dependant** - a noun, meaning a person reliant on someone else
- Dependent** - an adjective, meaning a situation of relying on, or subordinate to
- Disinterested** - impartial, not involved
- Uninterested** - bored, lacking in interest
- Dyeing** - colouring
- Dying** - about to cease to live
- Formally** - done according to strict rules
- Formerly** - in the past
- Foreword** - an introductory statement
- Forward** - towards the front, presumptuous, team players in a front position
- Forth** - forwards, out in front
- Fourth** - preceded by three others
- Imply** - to suggest or hint
- Infer** - to deduce or conclude
- Miner** - a person whose work is digging
- Minor** - lesser in size, or under legal age
- Personal** - an adjective, as in making personal remarks
- Personnel** - a noun, meaning the staff employed
- Perspicacity** - having keen judgement, clearness of understanding
- Perspicuity** - easily understood, clearness of statement
- Practice** - a noun, most often used to mean a business like a doctor's
- Practise** - a verb, meaning to work at a profession, as in a doctor practises medicine
- Principal** - first in rank, like a headmaster, but also the amount of an investment or debt on which interest accrues
- Principle** - a rule of conduct, fundamental truth or essential element
- Rebut** - to contradict or oppose
- Refute** - to prove a person or argument is wrong
- Salary** - a fixed payment (usually stated at an annual rate) paid at regular intervals (usually monthly or semi-monthly)
- Wages** - remuneration to an employee, often calculated at an hourly rate and paid weekly
- Stationary** - not moving or movable
- Stationery** - paper and envelopes
- Weather** - the general condition of the atmosphere
- Whether** - if it be the case or fact that

+++ First impressions +++

All of us have to write business letters at one time or another, and if we are infrequent writers the letters we do have to put together are usually pretty important: to the bank, the solicitor, or a company we are in dispute with.

All the more reason to get the formalities of writing correct, as our letter is far more likely to be taken seriously if it is set out properly and contains no blemishes of style or spelling. After all, the recipient is likely to be a very regular reader and writer of business letters of all kinds.

Nearly 10 years ago Amstrad launched the PCW and SCA brought out the first Add-on.

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SCA bring you a choice of two communications packages. Our standard package includes a modem, which is the data transmission device. This plugs into a spare phone socket, and works at 2400 baud, or about 240 characters per second. It is BAPT approved, compatible with PCs, and comes complete with a mains adaptor, a serial interface that connects the PCW to the modem, manual and easy to use software (specify 3" or 3.5" disc). Total cost £169.

Deluxe Package! As above, but with a very fast 14400 baud Modem for smaller phone bills, high speed serial interface, and *Fax facilities*. You can fax direct from disc (LocoScript text, or Microdesign graphics), and receive onto disc or plain paper. The complete package costs £299. If you already have a fax machine, our FaxScan device costing £39 can turn it into a MicroDesign compatible scanner

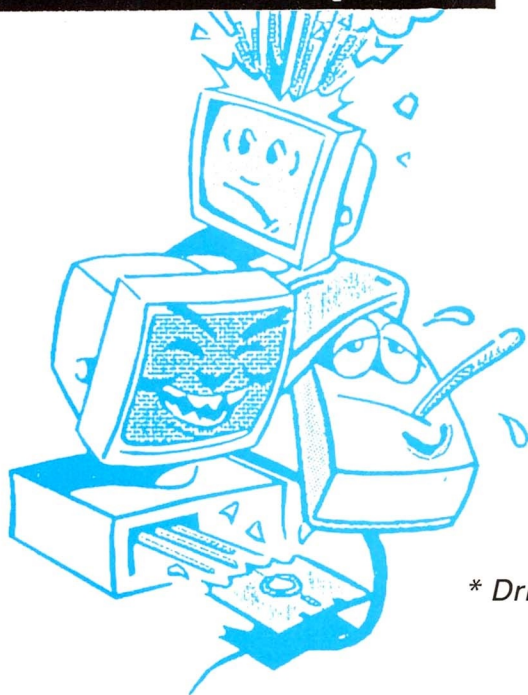
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Quick as a flash

**LOCOSCRIPT USER
EDITOR'S CHOICE**

Rex Last gets his hands on the brand new Flash Drive from Cirtech and discovers a whole new world for the PCW

What is the greatest disadvantage of your PCW? If you are mainly using it for LocoScript, chances are that your biggest beef is the fact that it takes an eternity to load when you switch on, especially if you have version 3 with a large number of Character set files.

If you have an urgent letter to get in the post, it seems to take even longer. Once up and running, though, the speed and capacity of the machine is more than adequate, though if you are still using LocoScript 1, you will find Save and Continue a leisurely operation, to say the least.

One inexpensive way to cut that start-up time down to virtually nothing is to go for a Flash Drive. No, I don't mean buying a

Chevrolet Impala or a Ford Thunderbird, I'm referring to a new product from Cirtech, a company well known for its innovative hardware for the PCW.

As you can see, it's a tiny piece of hardware, and it fits on to the expansion port at the back of your machine. What does it do?

It's a storage device which keeps its memory intact even when switched off and whose main application is for rapid access to information which is read-only, for example, a LocoScript Start of Day disk, or a product like one of the Essential Guides series, or Cracker, or a piece of games software.

WHEN ORDERING

If you decide to purchase a Flash Drive, you can save yourself quite a bit of bother by checking first which versions of LocoScript and CP/M you own. For LocoScript, this must be version 2.56 (or 3.06) or later.

For CP/M, your version number should be 1.15 (or 2.15) or later. When you first load LocoScript, the screen will tell you which version is in place. Under CP/M, the version number appears as the first line when loading.

In case you are confused about this, don't be surprised. These version numbers can border on the inscrutable, especially when some of them turn out to be not as they should be.

Your first consideration should be whether you intend to use LocoScript exclusively - or almost exclusively - on your PCW for the foreseeable future.

If so, then you do not need to acquire a recent version of CP/M. Your old version will be acceptable for the purposes of installation or re-installation of the Flash Drive.

Once the Flash Drive has been installed, for occasional use (or when re-installing), insert your CP/M Start of Day disk into Drive A, and press the spacebar when you switch on the machine. This will override the Flash Drive and



load from Drive A. Remember, though, that you cannot access the Flash Drive in this operational mode.

On the LocoScript side, you should consider carefully whether this is not the best moment for you to take the plunge and go all the way to LocoScript 3.

Do remember that, if you have documents (or LocoFile or LocoMail data) created under an earlier version of LocoScript, there is no difficulty in converting them for use in a later version.

NEXT QUESTION

The next question to consider is: Which size drive do I want, and do I need a feed-through version? The Flash Drive exists in two sizes: one megabyte or two megabytes. Let's put that into perspective.

A single density disk (for PCW8000 machines) holds 180K on each side. For all

Step 1

Before you get to work on the Flash Drive itself, it's important to do some preliminary planning. I have already indicated that you need to think about versions of LocoScript and CP/M before you buy a Flash Drive - now you have to think about what you are going to put on it.

Here are the points to ponder:

- Are you going to be using your machine mainly for LocoScript? That will be the first question the Flash Drive installation procedure poses.

The autoboot switches from the default to the alternate system if you hold down the Alt key, so both LocoScript and CP/M are available.

- What non-LocoScript programs or data do you want to locate on the Flash Drive? It's a bit of a palaver adding material at a later stage, so try and ensure you have everything ready to set the drive up once and for all. See the panel for a tip on an

easy menu system.

- The Flash Drive is ideal for users of the CP/M-based Network program from Creative Technology. Do ensure, though, that you have the Network set up as you want it before copying it and the programs which run with it across.

One piece of advanced planning which can reap considerable rewards is to set up a simple menu system. You can either write yourself a program which loads the packages or programs you want, or go for this very straightforward technique.

Use RPED to create a file called MENU.TXT, containing something like this:

Press a number plus Enter to select:

1. BASIC
2. Logo

3. MicroDesign
4. Essential Guide to CP/M
5. Advanced Guide to CP/M

Next, use RPED again to modify your PROFILE.SUB file. Add as the last line the command:

```
TYPE MENU.TXT
```

Then rename the COM or SUB files with the appropriate number:

```
REN 1.COM=BASIC.COM
REN 2.SUB=LOGO.SUB
```

- and so on. When you see the menu, type the appropriate number + Enter to load the program automatically. If you don't want any of them, you are already in CP/M and ready to run something else.

Step 2

First, if you have a new generation PcW, you expose the edge connector by undoing the two screws which hold the cover in place at the rear of the machine.

If you have kept the cover on, the edge connector is unlikely to be dirty, but all other PCW owners who have not used the edge connector at all or recently should use a soft white eraser to clean the metal contacts.

Then gently push the Flash Drive on to the edge connector, and do ensure that it is fully inserted and square on to the computer's body.

Step 3

Now you switch on your machine, insert the installation disk which comes with the package and type:

INSTALL

At this point, you will be asked if you want LocoScript or CP/M to be the default start-up system. Next, you press Y to erase the Drive. This process can be gone

over again at a later stage if you wish to change the contents of the Flash Drive.

At this point, you may have to copy some files to Drive M (see the manual), and then you can get down to the serious business of copying material across to the Flash Drive. It's all pretty simple, and the instructions are clear and unambiguous.

larger capacity.

As for the through connector option (not fitted to our review equipment), you will normally put the Flash Drive as the outermost of the items of hardware on the back of the machine.

However, there are at least four situations in which a feed-through is needed:

- If you have LocoLink
- If you have an SCA PRO9256

Step 4

Once you have loaded the programs and data you want, it's best to switch off, remove the Flash Drive and push the toggle to the autoboot position. Replace it, switch on, and there you go.

To access your alternative choice, you need to hold down Alt as you boot (or Shift+Extra+Alt to warm boot), and to bypass the Flash Drive, you need to hold down the spacebar when you switch on - and have a boot disk ready for Drive A.

- If you have the Locomotive Power pack
- If you have any item of hardware which fits on to the edge connector but has no feed through itself.

GETTING INSTALLED

The installation process is quite painless, and could be made even more so by a 'This way up' sticker on the metal cover of the drive (an addition which I understand Cirtech are currently considering).

CONCLUSION

Just about the only PCW owner who won't benefit from the Flash Drive is the one who already has a hard disk. It's a simple, unobtrusive means of adding power, storage and speed to your PCW - and I thoroughly recommend it.

other machines (and for Drive B on the PCW8512), the capacity is 720K.

The Flash Drive will hold 1024K or 2048K of data and programs.

So, if you are going to use the Flash Drive mainly as a means of booting up LocoScript quickly (and as you will see, LocoScript 3 with just about every font known to man fairly whizzes on to the screen), the smaller size will suffice. Otherwise you should go for the

+ Watch for Diskit +

Once the installation process is complete and you have returned to CP/M, keep the installation disk in Drive A and type:

FCOPY A:DISCKIT.COM

The reason for this is to ensure that your Flash Drive contains the correct version of this disk copying program. The one on the CP/M disk is not suitable for the new set up, because it gets confused over drive letters (see the panel Simple as ABM?).

If you are copying CP/M and its associated programs across to the Flash Drive, the FCOPY program will stop when it gets to its version of DISCKIT, because of course you cannot have two files with the same name on the drive.

Press 'S' to skip that file and continue the process.

As you will now be copying quite a lot of material across to the Flash Drive, insert your CP/M disk and type:

PIP

At the asterisk prompt, type:

M:=FC*.*

- which gets FCOPY.COM to Drive M. Now you can go ahead and copy files across from Drive A like this:

M:FCOPY A:

If you only want some files copied, you can specify the name or names in the usual way:

M:FCOPY A:*.DAT

+++ Getting technical.+++

This product is for the PCW range of computers. Many Notepad and hand-held PCs have PCMCIA devices which can be written to and read from like a floppy disk or hard drive. The Flash Drive is designed to be a backup and fixed Start of Day device.

It does not use PCMCIA technology. It's based on the EPROM, a kind of ROM (read-only memory) which can be Erased and is Programmable, in other words, it can be written to.

Think of it as rather like a writeable compact disc which contains a set of tracks which can be added to but not altered. However, the whole disc can be swept clean and reused from empty again.

If you have a LocoScript file on the Flash Drive and try to edit it, you will get an error message: 'Flash Drive is read only!'

You might have expected a different message, to the effect that the drive is write protected and would you like to put the output on Drive M. However, for various reasons, the Flash Drive doesn't work like that.

There are two ways of overcoming the problem. The first is to ensure that any files you wish to use in this way are set to read only before they are copied across to the Flash Drive.

The second, preferred, option is to keep your documents away from the Flash Drive altogether.

Product: Flash Drive

Price: 1024K £65

2048K £95

Feed-through versions £12.50 extra.

- but see our special exclusive deal on page 66.

Supplier: Cirtech (UK) Ltd, Monksford Stables, Newton St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0RU. Tel: 0835 823898. Fax: 0835 822471

+++ Speed Tests+++

As you can see from the illustration, there's a remarkable difference in loading speeds with the Flash Drive and without, and if you have a Sprinter fitted, the variation is quite amazing.

Notes to the table

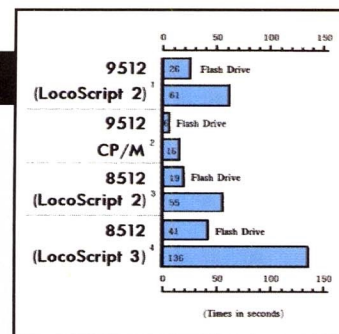
1. This was an ordinary Start of Day disk with LocoMail, LocoSpell and

LocoFile.

2. From a warm boot. Loading from switch on, CP/M is ready almost instantaneously with the Sprinter.

3. LocoScript v. 3.06A with LocoSpell (with the new compressed dictionary), LocoFile, and four printers.

4. LocoScript 3 with a large number of font files - and a



Sprinter fitted to the machine for good measure made this test 70 per cent faster with the Flash Drive.

+++ Simple as ABM?+++

There is a problem related to drive letters and actual drives which is common to all add-on hardware which can be used for auto-booting (a hard disk or the Flash Drive).

It's caused by the fact that, way back when the first PCWs came blinking into the light of day, there was only one disk drive, Drive A, single sided and single density.

It was hardly surprising that some software suppliers designed their software with just Drive A in mind, although single drive PCWs can be fooled into thinking that Drive A is Drive B, simply by typing B: at the CP/M prompt.

This means that you may have to resort

to booting them from Drive A, which you do by holding down the spacebar when you power on. Of course, you cannot access the Flash Drive if you do this - until you reboot.

The confusion is caused by the fact that CP/M boots from Drive A, and the Flash Drive remains as Drive A. If you have software which only recognises that drive and, as part of its operation, writes to it, then the problem arises, as you cannot use the Flash Drive as if it was a disk.

One way round the problem with a program like Cracker, for example, is to load and save data from Drive B or C, your floppy drives - but, as we said, some programs don't allow for that to happen.

LocoClinic

Our regular section in which questions posed to expert Liz Bruce are answered at your command

WELCOME TO THE CLINIC

Here's the place where you can ask anything, complain, or tell us your solutions. You'll find appeals when I'm stuck, you might have the answers. Whether you have a PCW8256 or the latest in all-singing all-dancing PCs we don't care, as long as you're using LocoScript.

I started with one of the very first PCW8256s, being rather short of money at the time, and have grown up with LocoScript, so I've seen it on all possible machines and in all its guises.

The only condition to reading these pages is you that you don't laugh at other people's problems - I won't be. The question which might seem jaw-droppingly stupid to you is causing some beginner real distress. Just remember your own first fumbling attempts and sympathise.

THINK BACK

If you do think back, honestly, you'll remember that the simplest things - once you'd cracked them - did cause honest distress, whether it was how to copy a disk or why your PCW9512 never remembered the words you added to the dictionary.

As part of my job I have to experiment with all sorts of new hardware and software and I've noticed something curious. It's as if the machine knows a beginner is at the controls

and decides to have a little fun at my expense.

Time after time, manual at my side, I've seen messages that shouldn't be there, had the screen go blank, lost information completely and all sorts of other weird events. Then never seen them again.

I've also been called out to people who have had inexplicable problems that neither they nor I have been able to reproduce and they've never been seen again, either.

TWILIGHT ZONE

So here's my first piece of advice: If your computer has entered the twilight zone, it's late, you're tired and losing your temper, close it all down and go to bed. The odds are that when you start up again it will behave perfectly and you'll never see the weird event again.

Computers have a crude sense of humour. Once you're more confident and you've learned to laugh at its pretty feeble attempts at tormenting you, it will submit to your mastery and give up.

You may sometimes wonder at some answers. You may have a quicker solution, but part of my promise is to answer in the vein of the letter. If you have a problem with basics, I won't tell you to use LocoMail, even if that might be the quickest solution. I'll find you an answer you can use. And we won't publish your real name.

So don't be embarrassed. You can ask any-

This is the first LocoScript clinic, run by our top expert Liz Bruce. The letters which we are using in this issue have been sent to her over the years, and represent commonly-posed problems among the thousands of cries for help she has received in the past.

If you want to write in, please read the panel on page 42 carefully first. We look forward to hearing from you.

thing even if you do think it's silly. And even if you think you know the answer, read on anyway, you just might pick up something you didn't know.

In this first issue, I've tried to stick to broader topics which will be of interest to everyone and emphasise the poor PC users who have had nowhere to turn. But I'll have a try at any more detailed or technical questions you choose to throw at me! ■

+ In this month's LocoClinic +

On page 38 you'll find the Tip of the Month, which is usually sent in by a reader, but this time Liz Bruce gets on her hobby horse and rides it roughshod over anyone daring not to back their disks up again ... and again ... and again.

Then there's a wish list for hopefuls wanting new features added to the already impressive list of what's actually available.

On page 40 a cry for help about headed

paper is mingled with what to do with all those telephone changes looming up over the horizon.

And finally, we offer you a checklist of what your system has and what versions of this, that and the other you are running, so that when you send in a question we know what the exact circumstances are in which things went wrong. We hope they don't, but if they do - we're here to help!



Whichever version or type of LocoScript you have, we are here to help you

RED LABEL DAY

I would like to print a big red label and give a copy to every reader. It would be designed as a banner to go across the top of the screen. It would say, 'WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE NEXT TIME YOU SWITCH ME ON I MAKE A GRINDING GROAN AND CRUNCH TO A HALT, DESTROYING ALL YOUR DATA?'

Would that work? Would that make you hesitate before you switch off? Would that make you sigh and resignedly fetch your box of back up floppies and update them? It might, but there will still be people who dismiss the message and oddly enough, they tend to be the ones who have the disasters.

It was bad enough when people were working only with floppies. At least they could physically see the fragile physical disk they were working with and were slightly more likely to get the message and automatically copy their updated files at the end of a session.

But with hard disks... They're invisible, you just switch on the computer and call up whatever file you like, you only ever see it on screen. Yet what you have inside that hum-

+ What's yours? +

What do you wish for? My own wishes have been pretty well fulfilled now, though I've done my share of swearing at Loco 1 in my time. That Shift lock problem is one that catches me out sometimes.

Also, I have a tendency to type very fast when I'm thinking and often type two capitals at the start of a sentence. Like this. The spell checker catches it, but always offers me the replacement of 'like', no capital at the beginning which annoys me.

My only wistful wish is for a calculator. It does seem silly that I can be working on my super PC, writing an article or letter and come across a simple piece of arithmetic. I either have to fetch my calculator or do frantic mental arithmetic. Then I have to fetch the calculator to check it.

You can do it through Windows, but it's time consuming. It would be nice to have a pull down or pop up calculator, wouldn't it?

So what do you wish for? No one's asked before, so here's your chance. Write and tell us. We'll publish the wishes here, from the outrageous to the ones pleaded for by many people and you never know, your wish might just come true...

+++ Tip Of The Month +++

GETTING YOUR BACK UP

Here I'm asking for your contributions, tips and short-cuts for PCW or PC for the entire range of LocoScripts. As this is the first issue, this time I get my say. Those of you who know me can roll your eyes if you like but I'm going to preach my favourite sermon.

I've been preaching for years and I'm still getting the pathetic letters from those who've rolled their eyes and ignored the sermon.

It's very simple: don't trust the computer. Don't trust your disks. Don't trust your security, either. The computer and/or disks may be stolen, and what are you going to do then?

Never, never forget that your hardware can be replaced. Your data cannot. I cannot express my frustration about the fact that I still cannot get that message through to people. Not a week goes by without an anguished cry for help because someone's lost their data one way or another, with appalling consequences ranging from the horrifically inconvenient to imminent suicide. That's not an exaggeration.

Yes, hard disks are wonderful. Yes they make life much easier and data access easier but my heart sank as they became more and more available. Because they're so easy to use for data access and because they're more and more reliable, it is more and more tempting to trust them. They do break down. They do get stolen.

ming, whirring box is a fragile piece of electronics. Not quite as fragile as they used to be but don't drop it!

SAFETY CONSCIOUS

I once attended a Civil Aviation Association Safety Evening for pilots. At the beginning of the evening the presenter solemnly handed us small pieces of card. When I read mine I was initially puzzled. It told me that I was now statistically significantly less likely to be killed in a plane I was flying than pilots who were not at the meeting.

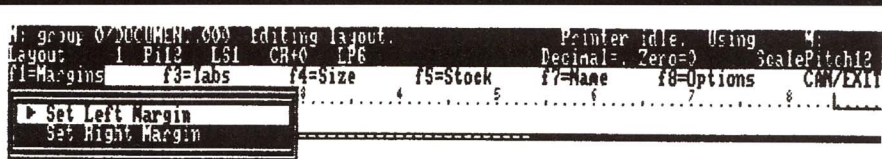
Having let us stew for a little, the presenter

explained. The very fact that we were there, had bothered to turn up at all, before we had even heard the lecture and seen the sobering video of horrors, showed that we were safety minded to start with, because we'd cared enough to attend.

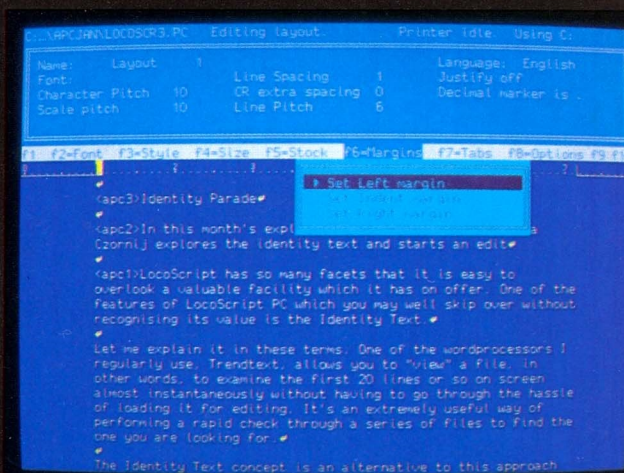
That has stayed with me, and I think it applies to many of these computer problems I see time after time. The people who bother to think about the dangers, the what ifs, the safety factors, rarely get into trouble in the first place.

Presumably because they pay attention to their equipment, bother to use dust covers and keep their equipment clean, little details like

+++ Editing Layouts +++



Note the differences between PCW and PC versions. You use different function keys to change the margins - but note also the similarities. In this as in most aspects of the two types of LocoScript, you will find the transition between them is pretty painless. It is remarkable how easy it is to move from one to another.



that. They don't take the 'Oh, it'll be okay,' or 'it won't happen to me.' attitude that kills pilots- and computers.

Remember the famous adage. There are old pilots, there are bold pilots, but there are no old bold pilots. What's true in aviation holds good in computing.

THE HAND OF FATE

That's the rational explanation. I have a sneaky leaning to another one. I rather like the idea of fate, or whatever you want to call it, taking revenge on those who tempt it.

Do I hear less about disastrous events from people who take the safety precautions because they just sigh and sort it out from their faithfully backed up data, or do they actually suffer less disasters in the first place?

I confess a slightly vengeful leaning towards the latter. It is so incredibly frustrating to have been preaching this lesson for so many years and still having to pick up the pieces of fragmented businesses tottering on the verge of bankruptcy and suicidal thesis writers who have trusted their only data copies to one, solitary hard disk.

It doesn't need to happen and it shouldn't happen. I have never actually said 'Serves you right.' and walked out but I've been close. So don't let it happen to you. Back it up.

Not just once, keep important data on at least two separate sets of floppies, preferably in different buildings. Your office can be rebuilt, the burned data is gone forever. You might be very, very grateful that your Mum has a spare box of reasonably recent back ups, swapped and updated once a month, at the back of her linen cupboard.

What more can I say? Over the years I've said it all and people still won't listen. If you do let it happen to you - and 'let it' is the operative phrase here - I will try to help. But don't expect much in the way of sympathy. ■

+++ I wish . . . +++

You may have been disgruntled sometimes, but believe it or not, Locomotive do listen to their users and pay a great deal of attention to magazines like this. Right from the original LocoScript 1, we've had anguished cries of 'I wish it could...', and in new versions Locomotive have done their best to include those wishes.

People who just use the programs often don't understand the technology involved, so some 'I wishes' which seem simple are not at all. For instance, it's been a frequent moan to me that people sometimes press Shift Lock or Caps Lock by mistake when they only meant to press Shift and may type several lines in capitals before they realise.

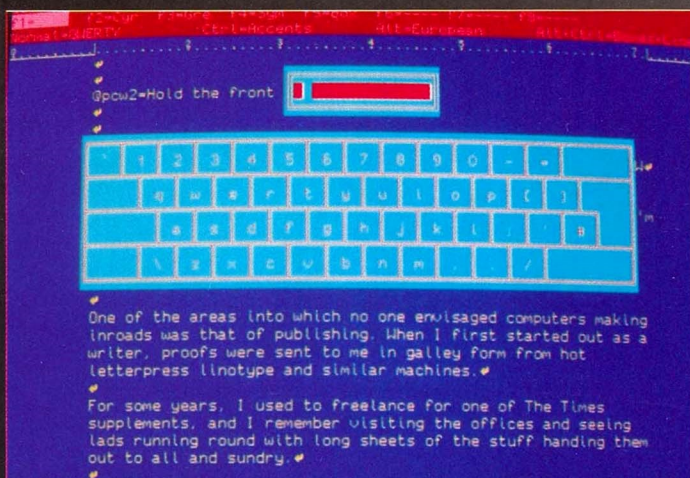
They wish they could put a code in to turn upper to lower case or vice versa. For technical reasons that is not as simple as you would think. But perhaps we could be offered a font of simple capitals we could add by code when necessary.

Loco 3 has covered a lot of I wishes and the latest Script Plus a lot more, but there are still things people wish LocoScript would do. So tell us. Some might be minority wishes or outrageous or technically impossible, but if we receive several wishes on the same lines we'll certainly pass it on to Locomotive.



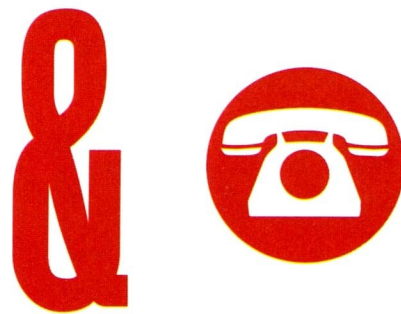
'That's your wish come true, Cinderella. But for Heaven's sake, do finish typing by midnight!'

+++ Characters and effects +++



If you have a PC with a subdirectory LS.DOC or LSPRO.DOC you should find the file ALLCHARS present. It lists all the character sets available on the machine. The PC versions also have an option under the F9 menu (Keyboard super-shifts) which allow you to find out which keys produce what characters. You can even type in the small panel above the display specific characters which are then inserted at the current cursor position of the document.

TYPEFACE & telephone troubles



QUESTION:

Prompted by a son home from university, I finally gave in and bought a computer. Having seen my reaction to his box of whirring and buzzing things, he at least had the sense to steer me to a PCW. I haven't got very far.

I can manage to type letters, which is what I really wanted to do but they don't look as impressive as I'd hoped. I'm retired but still in professional correspondence and because of the telephone number changes coming up, both local and national, I don't have any headed paper at the moment.

I had hoped I would be able to print my own but either I don't have the equipment or the program or I'm missing something, my address just looks as if it had been typed, or I end up with it on every sheet, or if I do get nice big letters the whole document is in them. I have a PCW9512 with an inkjet printer and I'm using LocoScript 3 and extra fonts.

ANSWER:

I'm glad you're managing to use the machine to some extent at least. That's a better start than many achieve - and I'm not being sarcastic! You're not the only one with the headed paper worry, either.

BRRR, BRRR

Just in case any of you haven't got it yet, I'd better explain what we're talking about. BT seem to be spending plenty on other advertising but I've been running a small survey of my own and it's alarming how many people have no idea what our correspondent is talking about.

Because of the demand for extra lines caused by more and more people working from home and wanting fax lines, for instance, BT is changing all STD codes on 1 April 1995 by the addition of a 1 after the 0. If your code is 0566 it will become 01566.

Unless, that is, you live in Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester or Bristol, which are getting completely new codes. On top of that, many local numbers are also being changed to 6 digits if they aren't already.

This has two consequences to worry about. First, there's your own number which will change at least once, making any pre-printed paper out of date. Secondly, those of us with databases have a lovely job to do, changing every single telephone number.

It would be easy if it weren't for the five rogue cities. We could have done it by turning a datafile into a document and using 'Find and

Replace' to turn space plus zero into space plus 1. Unfortunately, although that could still help, there are those five completely new codes ones to complicate things.

However, you don't have to spend 31 March changing everything. Also not commonly known is that the new codes have been in effect alongside the existing codes since 1 August 1994. This means that either 0566 or 01566 will work, so you can take your time to update any databases. If you need headed notepaper, you can have your new code put on it now.

With the equipment we have available we should certainly be able to make our own headed paper, and impressively, too. The software is certainly capable, now that we have the fonts available. There were fonts for LocoScript2 and there are plenty for LocoScript 3 and the PC versions.

SCALED FONTS

Depending on which version you have, you can also 'scale' some fonts which means you can alter the actual size of the characters. Even if you can't do that, you can double the size of the character.

Note to users of the latest versions: Height and width used to be doubled together, you only had to change one. Now they're independent so you can distort a character if you want to, by making the Character Height x 2 and the Character Width x 4 for instance.

These effects are all on the effects menu which you can see by simply pressing the [+]
Set key and waiting. (On a PC there are alternatives: The plus on the keypad or f11 both work as 'set' keys; the - on the keypad or f12 as finish keys. This can be a problem on portables if you don't know about the f11 and 12 as the keypad symbols are 'buried')

You can also use colour, whichever printer you have. There are coloured ribbons available for dot matrix and daisywheel printers and coloured inks for the inkjets. And on that subject, the message still doesn't seem to have got through that yes, you can refill those cartridges.

In fact, I wouldn't have bought an inkjet if I couldn't refill them. It seems criminal to me - in an ecological sense - to throw that whole cartridge, complete with PCBs in the circuit

board, away each time one runs dry. I'm still using my original cartridge which I'm running as an experiment, and it has now been refilled seven times.

The print is no longer quite as crystal clear as it was but it's perfectly adequate for drafting work, and it's so easy to change a cartridge it's simple to slip a newer one in for finished work.

Re-filling is not as messy as you might think, and once you have an empty cartridge, you can clean it and fill it with any colour you like. You can even buy the cyan, magenta and yellow you need to make colour separations, which will match up as long as you have a paper feeder, making full colour pictures with a PCW!

The real restriction is print quality. It's true that the nine pin dot matrix cannot give clear enough definition to look 'printed' and the daisywheel, although sharp, can only print what's on the wheel, so you can't exploit the fonts, sizes, and so on.

Lasers, though they give excellent quality and speed, have yet to conquer the colour problem. If you have a 24 pin printer or, even better, an inkjet, you can really go to town.

HEADING FOR TROUBLE

I've played with the headed paper problem for a long time, because for various reasons, we've known we're due a telephone number change in the foreseeable future for the last five years - three numbers and now this latest round, due to local factors. Every time I've thought about having some paper printed, I've held off. Now, I'm glad I didn't, as I think I have it cracked at last.

The first thing I tried, as most people do, was putting the address in the header. Problem. Although you can set the header to be printed only on the first page, the space allowed for the header still appears as blank on all continuation sheets.

Not so good. After much experimentation, I decided it was better to set my headed paper as a separate document. That way I run off a dozen or so sheets at a time when I'm using the computer for something else.

The template for the actual letters is set up with the right number of returns at the top of the first page to allow for the headed area, so all I have to do is press Page Down when I create a letter and I'm in the right place to start the letter. I just have to be careful that if I make a mistake, I don't delete one of those necessary returns at the top. Continuation sheets automatically revert to the top of the page.

If you're only using one colour, you can make the headed page the first page of your template but be warned, using different fonts slows things down considerably in the printing process. I've found it more efficient to print the fancy heading separately.

+++ Scaling fonts +++

Here's what you can do with Script Professional 2 Plus. The font can be stretched for height, width or both. The codes will be seen as (+CHeight3), (+CWidth3), and so on. These effects can be pretty striking, as you can see. The quality of the type is maintained. That is the key difference between bit-mapped fonts, which are tied to a certain dot pattern, and scalable fonts.

This is LX Cooper Black 24 pt.
This is with x 3 height
This is x 3 width
& both x 3

Then I got more adventurous when I discovered colour and more yet when I got to grips with the fonts. And then ... well then I started using the ability the latest LocoPro has to import pictures and added a logo. The result, I think, is pretty good.

The margins are reduced from the normal inch per side so that the heading goes across more of the page than the letter itself, I print it in green on recycled unbleached paper, 100gsm so it gives a parchment effect and I think it looks just as good as anything a printer could do.

If you have a scanner, you can go even further. Yes, the scanner and MicroDesign files you may have for your PCW will work with the PC. Creative Technology supply an expansion card which will let the scanner work, and if you're already used to MicroDesign, there is a PC version, which will also let you turn those files into graphics LocoScript can use.

They do another program called Viewpoint which will be helpful if you want to use graphics from other sources, as LocoScript is limited in which formats it will accept. Apart from displaying graphics files, Viewpoint will allow you to convert between different standards, specifically PCX (which LocoScript uses) and MDA (MicroDesign's native format).

So if you have a logo already, you can scan it, then change size, and so on, to make it fit your heading.

TAKE YOUR TIME

I think the real secret to success is to never try to do this sort of thing under pressure. Treat it as fun, an experiment, a challenge all by itself. I know what I'm doing and it still took me many, many tries to end up with something I'm satisfied with. But I learned a lot in

the process.

While you're still experimenting, there's nothing wrong with a neatly typed heading in the meantime. Try using an extra layout which gives those narrower margins, put the telephone number over at the left and the address right aligned to the far margin. That in itself adds a printed look as you then put the normal layout code in when you've finished, so the letter is 'inside' the heading.

Remember to cancel any fancy codes you've used in the heading though, or you'll end up with large letters all the way through. The trouble here is that the PCW screen is limited in what it can show.

It's always worth switching the codes on before you print. Use F8 and tick 'Show codes' by pressing the plus key. You'll be able to see codes clearly so you can make sure there's a minus code for each plus.

When you really get the hang of things, you can experiment further. You could put a coloured line all the way round the page, you could put a line of small print information at the bottom, the possibilities are as endless as your imagination.

Start looking at all the mail that comes in from companies, and remember, they pay a great deal of money to graphic designers to lay out these beautiful offerings! You might as well make use of that experience. See what impresses you and what you don't like, and use what you learn in your experiments.

In the meantime, there is nothing wrong with a neatly typed address. It probably looks better with each line centred, and if you've cracked the font problem, you can use a larger or fancier font there. ■

Writing in...

If you want to send in a letter asking about any aspect of LocoScript, please include the following details as a checklist with your letter. If you like, you can either cut out or photocopy the form set out here and send that in. Important: If something goes wrong with LocoScript, do if at all possible stop for a moment and write down exactly what happened and what the precise circumstances were when the blip occurred. This information can be crucial to resolving the problem.

You may not think some of the questions are relevant to your particular problem, but I often cannot answer questions because I just don't have the information I need. And it may well be one aspect of your system and set-up which you have not thought was necessary to include with your request for help.

Don't worry if you can't find all the information, give me what you can. And, in looking for that information, you may well end up by solving the problem yourself!

+++ Enquiries checklist +++

Please ring where appropriate, or fill in details requested.

TYPE OF COMPUTER:

PCW PC

MODEL: Amstrad PCW8256 / PCW8512 / PCW9512 / PcW9256 / PcW9512+ / PcW10 / PC

If PCW, is a Sprinter fitted? Yes / No

If PC, please give details of make and model

If PC, please give processor: 8088 / 8086 / 8026 / 8036 / 8046

If PC, clock speed:

(You should find this in the manual, expressed as MHz.)

If PCW, RAM size: PCW 256K / 512K / Other (please specify)

If PC, RAM size: 512K / 640K / 1Mb / 2Mb / 4Mb / Other (please specify)

Number of floppy disk drives: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

Disk sizes and capacity:

Floppy drive A: size 3 inch / 3.5 inch / 5 inch

Floppy drive A: capacity 180K / 320K / 360K / 720K / 1.2Mb / 1.44Mb / 2.88Mb / Other (please specify):

Floppy drive B: size 3 inch / 3.5 inch / 5 inch

Floppy drive B: capacity 180K / 320K / 360K / 720K / 1.2Mb / 1.44Mb / 2.88Mb / Other (please specify):

Floppy drive C: size 3 inch / 3.5 inch / 5 inch:

Floppy drive C: capacity 180K / 320K / 360K / 720K / 1.2Mb / 1.44Mb / 2.88Mb / Other (please specify):

If you have a hard disk, please give capacity: 20Mb / 40Mb / Other (please specify)

Please indicate any add-ons you have fitted:

Mouse / Type:

Flash Drive (PCW only) / Capacity: 1Mb / 2Mb

CD-ROM (PC only)

Scanner / Type: mono/colour / hand-held / sheet fed / flatbed

Sound card (PC only)

LocoLink / LocoLink for Windows

Modem / Type and speed:

Other add-ons (please specify):

If PC, operating system and Version: MS-DOS / Other (please specify) Version number

(If you are not sure which version, type VER from

the prompt.)

Type / Version of LocoScript (note that the version number appears on the loading screen):

LocoScript 1 / Version

LocoScript 2 / Version

LocoScript 3 / Version

LocoScript PC / Version

LocoScript PC Easy / Version

LocoScript Professional / 2 / Plus / Version

If PCW, which add-ons do you have:

LocoSpell / Version

LocoFile / Version

LocoMail / Version

LocoChar / Version

LocoFont / Version

Other (please specify):

(please specify, including Fonts disks):.....

If PC, do you have any other programs loaded when running LocoScript? If yes, please specify

(These may well be TSRs, terminate and stay resident programs, which can affect the running of LocoScript. They may include pop-up diaries or virus checkers.)

If PC, which system do you run from: DOS / Windows Version

(If Windows, do you have other parts of Windows running at the time (fax or comms, for example)? Please specify:

If PCW, type of printer(s): PCW dot matrix / PCW daisywheel / PCW Canon bubble jet.

Other printers (please give make, type, and whether 9-pin, 24-pin, inkjet, laser printer or other, also if mono or colour):.....

Printer software: Printer support pack / Other (please specify):

Note: In your letter, please give the fullest possible details of what the problem is, how it happened, and anything else you feel is relevant.

Send your enquiries to:

LocoClinic, Nexus Media Communications plc, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QQ.

(Please note that it is not possible to answer questions individually)

Powerful posters

Oksana Czornij serves up some striking poster ideas from the LocoScript 3 fonts on offer

There are two golden rules as far as I'm concerned when it comes to posters: Rule One: Keep it Simple. Rule Two: Make it Shout. If you think about it, there is a world of difference between a poster and a page of normal text, even one with an advertisement on it.

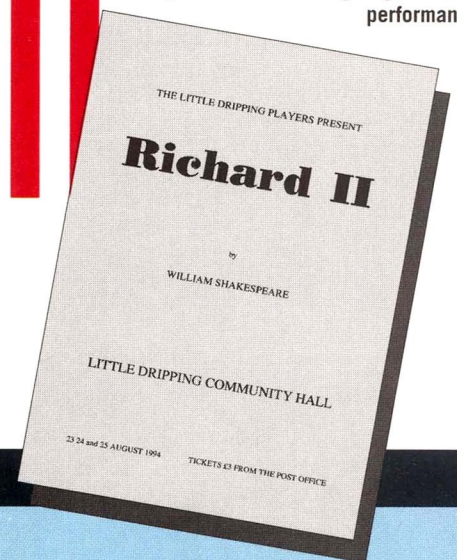
The difference is that, while you are close

for all

up to a page of text, a poster is often stuck on a wall, in a window or in some other public place, and you are likely just to glance at it from a distance.

If it doesn't catch your eye immediately,

A simple but attractive poster which on light coloured paper should get them clamouring to get into the performance.



+++ Typesetting Terms +++

■ **CHARACTER PITCH** This is defined in terms of the 'space' required by individual characters. See the section on PITCH which explains character and line pitch in full and demonstrates the effect of giving them different values.

In PS (proportional space) fonts, like all the LX fonts in LocoScript 3, the characters each take up a different amount of space, unlike the pica and elite faces of the old typewriting days - or on this computer screen now, where letters like i and l are broadened out to fit the fixed character width, and letters like m and w appear squashed.

PS makes for a much more professional appearance of the text, and PS of gaps between words allows right justification to look immeasurably better than with fixed spaces.

■ **SET OF CHARACTERS:** There is a 'normal' set of characters, which is what you get by default, and which is fine for most purposes. Alternative sets are available on the Symbol disk. They are: Extended, Symbol, Greek and Cyrillic. One reason why you don't get the complete set at a time is the space it would take up on Drive M.

■ **FONT:** This is also known as the typeface, like Bodoni, or Roman, or Sanserif.

■ **SIZE:** Point sizes range from 6 to 36 point. However, the Roman, Sanserif and Business fonts range from 8-18, and the Decorative fonts 10-24 (although not all of these fonts come in all these sizes). A Sizes disk increases Roman and Sanserif to the full range, and up to 72 point can be obtained by multiplying up existing point sizes.

■ **TYPESTYLE:** Available are normal (or regular, as LocoScript 3 calls it), bold, italic, and bold+italic (where appropriate). The bold and italic are 'manufactured' from the existing normal files, but for Roman and Sanserif there is a Style disk which offers true italics and bold in 8-18 point.

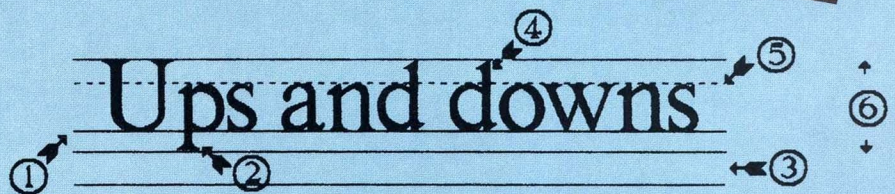
■ **HOT METAL:** The terminology of typesetting goes back to the old days of hot metal, and some terms (like leading) still remain in use even in these computerised days.

Type is set on a baseline (1), and characters which go below that line have descenders (2) and those which appear above have ascenders (4).

The leading (pronounced as in the metal) is the gap between lines of text (3), and was originally a lead strip which could be changed in width.

The mean line marks the top of normal lower case characters and is also called the x height (5).

The Point Size is measured in 72nds of an inch, but a capital letter in 72 point isn't an inch tall. The measure used is in (6), the original height of the lead block used for producing the type.



then you will ignore the poster and its message will never get across.

So the poster has to shout at you and the message must be simple.

Let's take an example or two. If you are organising a Whist Drive in the local church hall, the obvious key piece of text is the phrase 'Whist Drive'.

No prizes for guessing that. However, there are two further points to consider.

The first is that the world is full of whist drives and other competing functions, so why not add a bit of spice to the proceedings by calling it a Grand Whist Drive.

Not just any old common or garden whist drive like they hold in the next parish, but a grand whist drive.

If there are special prizes on offer, call it a Prize Whist Drive. If there's a charity motive, call it a Charity Whist Drive.

So in your main heading you have identified the product on offer, as it were, and you have also tried to set it apart from other similar products and specified precisely what kind of whist drive it is.

FEW WORDS

While we are on the topic of the main heading, it is important to keep the number of words down to an absolute minimum and in my view it's also imperative to avoid punctuation, especially an exclamation mark.

When I said earlier that you should make your poster shout, it's the design that shouts - don't overdo it with a Grand Whist Drive!

The exclamation mark makes me feel uncomfortable, as if it's announcing a rather second rate event which can only draw attention by screaming at you rather than just shouting.

As to the number of words, remember that people's eyesight and reading ability are limited, and that if you are passing by on foot it's an instant impression from a large typeface which will catch the eye - how much more important that is if you are going past in a car or on the bus.

So don't make the heading GRAND CHARITY AUCTION WINTER WHIST DRIVE - not least because, even if people could see that mouthful spread across a huge poster, they would have long since passed by before they got to the main words:

**As to the number of words,
remember that people's
eyesight and reading ability
are limited.**

Whist Drive.

Now I'd like to air a personal prejudice. I think capital letters are harder to read than upper and lower case. Try them out for yourself and see.

If you look at the illustration, you will see a variety of different ways of displaying the whist drive message.

POINT SIZE

A few words about the point size. As you may remember, a 'point' in typesetting is 1/72 inch.

The relative position of the main title is also important. The way in which I consider the problem relates to the technique which is employed on the television screen when showing a person in head and shoulders.

Imagine a border drawn round the edge of the TV screen about 1/5 of the way in. If the person is looking from left to right, the eyes should be somewhere around the top left intersection of that border, and the

reverse if the person is looking from right to left.

So the eyes are near the top of the screen, and the main headline, I believe, should be towards the top of the page and centred for maximum legibility. ■

Experiment with a number of variations on the typeface you select. Choose with legibility from a distance and visual impact firmly in mind. My favourite here is the second line. The first doesn't fit on the line, and the rest are too spindly.

**GRAND WHIST
DRIVE**

Grand Whist Drive

GRAND WHIST DRIVE

Grand Whist Drive

GRAND WHIST DRIVE

Grand Whist Drive

+ Extra Fonts +

These are the extra fonts disks currently available for the PCW:

■ **LX Symbol** - allows you to print out the full range of characters in the LX fonts (Greek or Russian, for example).

■ **LX Style** - allows you to print true bold and true italics. Not available for 9 pin dot matrix printers.

■ **LX Size** - offers extra point sizes in LX Roman and LX Sanserif: 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 32, 36 point. Note that 7, 9, 11 are not available for the 9 pin dot matrix printers.

■ **LX Business fonts** - eight extra fonts: Clarendon Book, Antique Olive, Futura II, CG Omega, CG Century Schoolbook, Garamond Antiqua, Rotis Semi-Serif, CG Stymie.

■ **LX Decorative fonts** - Signet Roundhand, Dom Casual, Delphian, Park Avenue, Peignot Demibold, Old English, Nadianne, McCollough, Eccentric, Broadway, CG Poster Bodoni.

■ **LX Fixed fonts** - LX Courier, LX Prestige, LX Letter Gothic at fixed character widths for tables, etc.

■ **LocoFont** - extra fonts for use with the built-in dot matrix printer: Capital, Copper plate, Deco, Definite, Finesse, Modern, Mini 15/17, Mini PS, Old English, Penman, Roman, Script. Additionally, contains LocoChar to allow the creation of up to 16 supplementary characters.

■ **LocoFont 24 and LocoFont BJ** - extra fonts for use with the Printer Support Pack on printers which accept Download fonts: Capital, Copper plate, Deco, Definite, Finesse, Mini PS, Old English, Penman, Roman, Script. Additionally, contains LocoChar to allow the creation of up to 16 supplementary characters.

The Business and Decorative set are also available for LocoScript Professional on the PC, as well as an additional Display set with ten extra fonts.

The company that is NUMBER ONE for PCW 3.5" disc drives bring you . . .

EVERY DRIVE YOU'LL EVER NEED

INTERNAL DRIVES

INTERNAL ABBA 9 £89.95

Designed particularly for those users who have a 'dicky' 3" A: drive or those who are worried that their 3" A: drive is getting the worse for wear, the ABBA drive is the ideal solution. The ABBA drive is installed in the right hand drive bay of your PCW9512. Its incorporated ABBA switch allows it to be logically swapped over with the 3" A: drive so that your 3.5" drive becomes your A: drive and your 3" drive becomes your B: drive. You can then boot up from whichever drive you prefer, depending on the position of the ABBA switch. You can copy all your 3" discs to 3.5" discs so that if your 3" drive fails you do not lose any valuable data.

INTERNAL £79.95

Our internal drive for the PCW9512 is designed to be installed into either the right hand or left hand drive bay of your PCW and incorporates a switch so that you can select whether you wish to install it as an A: drive or a B: drive. When fitted as a B: drive you can copy all your 3" discs to 3.5" and then should your 3" A: drive fail it is a simple task to change it to a 3.5" A: drive. You will be up and running again in no time at all.

INTERNAL £79.95

Our internal drive for the PCW 8256/8512 is designed to fit in either the top or bottom drive bay of your PCW and incorporates a switch so that you can select whether you wish to fit it as an A: drive or a B: drive. If it is fitted as a B: drive you can copy all your 3" discs to 3.5" discs then should your 3" A: drive fail it is a simple task to change your 3.5" drive to an A: drive. We will copy your Start of Day discs for you, FREE OF CHARGE to enable you to boot up from your 3.5" disc drive. You will be up and running again in no time at all.

ABBA 8 DRIVE £89.95

The ABBA 8 drive, INTERNAL or EXTERNAL, is effectively a FOUR IN ONE drive. (1) Initially it is a B drive, used in conjunction with your 3" A drive, and will format to 720K. (2) It can also be used as a SWITCHABLE 'A' DRIVE, allowing copying between the 3" A drive and 3.5" A drive. (3) It can be used as a 3.5" bootable A drive and then switched to become a 720K B drive. (4) When replacing a 3" A drive in a PCW8512 it will work as a SWITCHABLE 'B' DRIVE, allowing copying between the 3" B drive and the 3.5" B drive. The Internal model is designed to fit in the bottom drive bay, but if preferred can be fitted in the top drive bay.

256k RAM Upgrade £14.95

Our 256K RAM upgrade kit, to increase the size of your M: drive, is suitable for the PCW8256 and PcW 9256, an will substantially increase the working capacity of your computer. The kit comes with full 'step by step' fitting instructions so that the non technical user can cope. The PcW upgrade is not supplied with "an essential spanner". We find that a small pair of pliers can do the job equally as well.

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

We have industry standard 3.5" disc drives to suit your every PCW need. We have internals and externals, basic types and switchable types and we have them for all PCW and PcW models. All our 3.5" drives incorporate the world renowned TEAC 1.44Mb mechanism to ensure the maximum reliability. To further assure you we also offer our unique 2 year RTB guarantee. All our drives are designed and manufactured 'in house' to suit your needs and use only top quality parts and materials. They are supplied with full 'step by step' fitting instructions so that even the non technical user can fit them. In the unlikely event of difficulty we have a very experienced technical help line to assist with your queries. Our external drives take their power from the 12 volt line for reliability and are housed in 1mm sturdy steel cases and finished in a fine ivory texture. External power supplies can be supplied and fitted if preferred. All our external drives detach outside the PCW for ease of transportation and to allow them to be used on other computers e.g. PCs. We supply extension lead adaptors for this purpose.

FIB Files £14.95

Christmas Presents Galore

10 x 3.5" Discs
3.5" Disc Drive Head Cleaner
FIB Files

(Total Package Worth £27.95)

FREE

with all 3.5" Disc Drives

(Offer ends 31st December 1994)

PC1512/1640 3.5" Disc Drives

We make a full range of 3.5" disc drives, Hard Drives, and memory upgrade kits for the Amstrad PC1512/1640 computers. These drives will fit any PC XT/AT computers and are fully interchangeable with the PCW range of external 3.5" disc drives. PLEASE PHONE FOR PRICES AND DETAILS

3.5" Disc Drive Summary Table

DRIVE MODEL	PRICE	PCW 8256	PCW 8512	PCW 9512	PcW 9256
Internal 8	£79.95	*	*		
Internal 9	£79.95			*	
Internal ABBA 8	£89.95	*	*		
External ABBA 8	£89.95	*	*		
Internal ABBA 9	£89.95			*	
External ABBA 9	£89.95			*	
External MFD1	£69.95	*	*	*	
External MFD1+	£69.95				*
External MFD2	£79.95	*	*	*	
Ext MFD1DD	£124.95	*	*		
Ext MFD2DD	£149.95	*	*		

EXTERNAL DRIVES

EXTERNAL MFD1 £69.95

Our original external 3.5" for use with the PCW8256/8512/9512 with only one disc drive fitted. When connected as a B: drive it will format to 720k giving much more storage and flexibility to your computer. It is suitable for those users who do not wish to 'hack away' at the cabinet of their PCW and fit an internal 3.5" disc drive. Measuring only 4" side to side, 1" high and 7" front to back, the MFD1 sits very neatly at the side or on the top of your PCW. The MFD1 is detachable outside your PCW making it easier to transport, and allows you to use it on other computers, e.g. PCs. We supply extension lead adaptors for this purpose.

EXTERNAL MFD2 £79.95

Our MFD2 is the switchable version of our MFD1, for use with the PCW8256/8512/9512 with two disc drives already fitted. When connected, it becomes an alternative B: drive to your internal 3" B: drive. Its incorporated drive selection switch allows the selection of internal 3" or external 3.5" B: drive. We chose the more reliable manual switch, which makes disc copying easier, than the less reliable auto switch which can cause inadvertent formatting of important discs.

EXT. MFD1+ £69.95

Our MFD1+ is the equivalent of our MFD1, for use with the PcW9256/9512/10 with only one disc drive fitted. When fitted as a B: drive, our MFD1+ will give you more storage and flexibility. In the event of your less reliable Citizen A: drive failing, it is a simple task to disconnect your internal drive and convert your external drive to be an A: drive. You will be up and running.

EXT. ABBA 9 £89.95

Our external ABBA 9 drive is the equivalent of our internal ABBA 9 drive. It is particularly useful for those users who do not want to install an internal drive.

MFD2DD DOUBLE DECKER £149.95

Our TOP OF THE RANGE MFD2DD Double Decker for use on the PCW8256/8512 with either one or two internal drives fitted. The MFD2DD incorporates built in switches to allow the selection of internal 3" or external 3.5" A: drive and B: drive. Booting up can be from either your internal 3" drive or your 3.5" external drive. You can choose to store your data on either your 3" or your 3.5" discs whether A: drive or B: drive. The addition of this TOP OF THE RANGE model will give you all the versatility and choices that you will ever need.

MFD1DD DOUBLE DECKER £124.95

Our MFD1DD is designed for those users who do not require switching between internal and external drives. All other specifications are the same as our MFD2DD above.

**NORMALLY SAME DAY
DESPATCH ON
ORDERS PHONED
IN BY 3PM**

**ALL PRICES ARE
FULLY INC FOR UK
AND BFPO DELIVERY
OVERSEAS ORDERS,
P&P EXTRA**

**ALL MAJOR CREDIT
CARDS ACCEPTED**

Subject to our usual terms of trading

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191 Watling Street Road,
Fulwood, PRESTON PR2 4AE

Phone: 01772 701248 Fax: 01772 703131

Absolute Beginners

If you are about to take your first hesitant steps in computing, this is the place to come for expert advice and support

Just about every article I've read about first steps in computing starts with the assumption that you have bought your computer and are sitting nervously in front of it daring yourself to press the 'on' switch.

That's fine - we all need a great deal of advice and support at this point, but there's a lot missing if the assumption is that you just

need help from this point on.

The advice should really have started way back before you even bought the machine in the first place. Have you got the right system for you? Are your needs



The PcW9256 with printer and keyboard

+++ Put in a plug +++

One of the vital aspects of setting up a computer workstation is the electricity supply. Ensure that you have enough sockets available. If not, purchase a trailing block with switches on it and locate it where you can easily get at it.

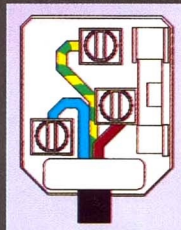
It has always struck me as eccentric that electrical sockets in our houses, apart from the kitchen, are located near the floor to make it as difficult and dangerous as possible to access them, especially as they are often hidden behind pieces of furniture or television sets.

If you put your trailing block on the wall above the desktop level, you can easily access the sockets. In addition, do label each plug so that you do not accidentally pull out the wrong one and lose several hours' work.

I recommend sticking a label on to a plug rather than slipping a piece of card between the plug and the socket, because that may mean that the connection

between plug and socket is not as sound as it should be.

In addition, do check that the fuses in each plug are of the correct type. A 13-amp fuse is always placed by the manufacturer in a plug, but it is not often the right one for most domestic and computing equipment.



Line drawings

The line drawings in this article have been adapted from clip art in a collection from HD Design called *Fineline Plus* for the PCW. Covering office illustrations and a wide range of other topics from maps to oil rigs, *Fineline Plus* is available for £21.45 from **Anthony Withers, 34 Beachampstead Rd, Great Staughton PE19 4DX.**

going to expand in a way that the machine you have in mind won't be able to cope with?

Now, we're not going to go that far back in this particular series (that's something we shall be dealing with in coming months elsewhere in the magazine). I'd like to start at the point where the decision has been made to buy - whether a PCW, new or refurbished, or a PC, doesn't matter - and the next stage in the process is about to unfold.

WHERE, OH WHERE?

What has always astonished me is that when people go out and buy what the trade calls brown or white goods (hi-fi and TV count as brown, fridges, dishwashers, and so on as white), there is one thing they almost always do first.

They look round their lounge, kitchen or whatever and ask themselves: Where are we going to put it? You don't, for example, sally forth and buy a huge chest freezer without some idea of where the beast is going to fit: under the stairs, in the garage or in the corner of the kitchen.



However, lots of potential computer purchasers buy their machine, bring it back home - and only then wonder where it is going to be located. At this point a tug of war generally ensues between various claimants for the dining room table: the whole family for eating, children for homework, wife for sewing machine, and so on.

LEAVE IT THERE

The key point to bear in mind is that, if humanly possible, the computer should be set up in one place and left there. There is nothing more potentially damaging to a machine than constantly moving it around. At the very least, connecting cables can get loosened, and the various parts of the equipment can get damaged with constant moving around.

Apart from that, it's pretty inconvenient to have to set up a computing system just to write

a quick letter or print a couple of invoices.

Homes are not always ideal places for computers, and it may well be that quite a bit of ingenuity will have to go into working out where to locate the machine where it can be left when not in use.

That space has to be fairly generous, too. Your computer system will consist of quite a number of bits and pieces:

- the screen, or console, which in the case of the PCW also contains the electronics that drive the machine
- for other machines, the unit containing the electronics, which is either a base unit (on which the console sits) or a tower (which stands to one side of the console, or sometimes

- under the table in the case of large towers)
- the keyboard, which in the case of the Teqniche keyboard for the PCW or the AT for PC machines, can take up quite a bit of space
 - a printer, which can either have a tiny footprint, like some of the inkjets, or be pretty bulky, like the PCW9512 daisywheel or a laser printer
 - external storage units, like hard or floppy drives
 - boxes to hold your disks
 - space for a document holder or similar product
 - an optional mouse, which needs a mat or a space to move around in
 - possible additional equipment, like interfaces, CD-ROM, scanner (hand or otherwise), and so forth

All this kit has to be found somewhere to live - and to be operated properly, comfortably and safely.



SPACE SAVERS

There are a number of purpose built computer workstations and space-saving units on the market, and if your budget reaches that far, they may well be worth considering.

Alternatively, if you are a DIY enthusiast, this is just the project to keep you happy for many a long evening. Do remember, though, that one of the most important considerations is where to put all those cables.

One item which even the most modest handyman should manage is a box of some kind to put your disks in. Alternatively, it doesn't cost too much to purchase them. Your average office supplier has storage boxes on offer for under £3, and the fancier 100 capacity units weigh in at under £9.

You may not need anything as elaborate as the Accodata Multi-Media Tray illustrated, which costs a whisker under £15, and I hope you do not store your 3.5 inch disks upside down as they appear to be in the picture.

continued on page 55

User Direct Special Offers

We have top bargains galore for the very best products for sale by mail order just for you

++++Straight to you++++

These offers are specially designed for LocoScript User readers, and we shall be adding to them in the coming months. Please note each product's availability (whether for the PCW, the PC, or both).

NEW ESSENTIAL GUIDES

This highly popular series for the PCW has now been relaunched, with some titles already available for the PC, and others in the pipeline.

CALLED TO ACCOUNT

Are you fazed by accounts? Puzzled by figures? Confused by cash flows? Then this is just the thing for you: the Essential Guide to Accounting. This is an area of vital importance for so many of us, especially if we run a small business.

The whole subject seems to be cloaked in an aura of mystery, and I half wonder sometimes (perish the thought) whether or not this is a smokescreen created by accountants to prevent us mere mortals from doing the work ourselves and saving a whole heap of money.

Created by Derek Rogers of Total Accounting, this is a lively and well-written general introduction, not specific to his package, together with a demonstration version of his program. The good news is that the Guide is available for both PCW and PC machines.

It falls into two parts. First, there is a book on a disk, with Chapters on the following topics:

Chapter One: Introduction and explanation of the disk's contents.

Chapter Two: Why keep accounts? An explanation of the compelling need to keep your accounts in order.

Chapter Three: The balance sheet. Keeping track of your assets and liabilities.

Chapter Four: Bank reconciliation. This vital monthly exercise ensures that your version of your current balance agrees with that of the bank.

Chapter Five: Debits and credits. How to ensure that you put income, expenditure, assets and the

rest on the correct sides of the balance sheet.

Chapter Six: Double-entry bookkeeping. Why it is so important to have a system like this which balances out the pluses and minuses.

Chapter Seven: Harry Fastbuck. Demonstrates the Nominal Ledger at work using the example of a fictional entrepreneur with ten grand to invest.

Chapter Eight: Integrated ledgers. How to ensure that all your transactions are properly recorded and cross-referenced.

Chapter Nine: Miscellaneous topics. A round-up of various items relating to the Nominal Ledger.

Chapter Ten: Monthly routine. How to establish and maintain a regular habit with accounting practices.

Chapter Eleven: Nominal Ledger. How to maintain this essential part of any accounting system.

Chapter Twelve: The Profit and Loss account. One half of the Nominal Ledger recording day-to-day trading activities.

Chapter Thirteen: The Purchase Ledger. Recording dealings with your suppliers.

Chapter Fourteen: The Sales Ledger. Recording sales to your customers.

Chapter Fifteen: Take-on. The hairy business of setting up a new accounting system.

Chapter Sixteen: VAT. The dreaded value added tax and how to cope with it.

Then there's a database of accounting terms, which you can use to check up on those baffling accounting terms. On the PC, this is in the form of a LocoFile file. For the PCW, a special database program has been written. All in all, this adds up to an extremely impressive piece of software for a bargain price.

The RRP for all the New Essential Guides is £14.95, but it has been trimmed down exclusively for us to a mere £11.95.

CORNIX INVOICING

Cornix Invoicing provides any business with a comprehensive and powerful invoicing and credit control suite. The unique features section enables you to tailor the program to suit often used text blocks which may be rapidly recalled during invoice build-up.

Also included is a comprehensive report section for full analysis of your transactions, including turnover, sales and stock levels. Cornix Invoicing is menu-led and fully screen prompted for maximum ease of use.

Features include:

- full on-disk manual
- cash sale option
- range of payment terms
- automatic VAT calculation
- user-defined messages
- aged debtor reports
- part payment option
- credit note facility
- letterheads

• many more options
Don't just take our word on how good it is. This is what the *Financial Times* says: 'For all-round features and flexibility, Cornix Invoicing is perhaps the best invoicing package on the market at any price.'

Availability PCW and PC. Price: £29.95 (RRP is £89 - so this represents a huge saving.)

WANT TO WRITE FICTION?

Another popular offering is the Essential Guide to Fiction Writing, with a special bonus additional guide to essay writing, now available for the PC as well as the PCW.

Moe Sherrard-Smith is a well-known name in the world of those aspiring to break into published print, and her book - Write a Successful Novel - has helped many hopefuls along their way.

The Guide is a completely new introduction to the art of writing fiction, which takes you through all the stages from the original idea to the final manuscript and how to send it on its successful road to publication. This part of the Guide is divided into these sections:

- 1) Ideas and using them for a novel
- 2) The important differences between theme and plot
- 3) Planning the synopsis to work from
- 4) Sub-plots and their necessity
- 5) Creating living characters
- 6) Essential and natural dialogue
- 7) Viewpoint - who's telling the story
- 8) Gender - male/female emotional differences
- 9) Conflict makes a book readable
- 10) Beginnings and endings
- 11) Writing techniques
- 12) Revision

These sections look in turn at what is required of the writer when the idea first comes, how plot, characterisation and viewpoint must all be considered and interwoven before any writing is done if the novel is to have a good strong storyline and believable characters. Novels don't just happen, they are created.

DATABASE, TOO

That's not all you will find on this disk. There's a special database, too, with scores of topics arranged in alphabetical order, including valuable question and answer sessions. On the PC version, this is in the form of a LocoFile file.

All in all, a top value new software product for the aspiring writer. But there's more to come too - there's the added bonus of a full-scale study skills Guide to Essay Writing covering every aspect of this important area of school and college work.

The Guide covers everything from the planning stages to all aspects of writing the essay, from punctuation to general overall style, to revision and submission.

It's worth the price of the disk alone, and it was written by Rex Last after years of experience in marking and correcting college and university essays by generations of students. The Guide is based on the text of his book Making Sense of Essay Writing.

The RRP for The New Essential Guide to Writing Fiction is £14.95, but it has been trimmed down for us to a mere £11.95. Please use the order form in our PCW User Direct pages.

ALSO AVAILABLE

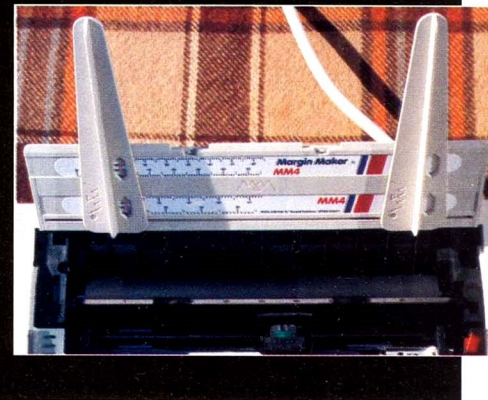
For the PCW only, the Essential Guide to CP/M covers all basic aspects of the PCW's operating system. The Advanced Guide to CP/M is for the more experienced user, and contains a straightforward introduction to assembly language programming. There is also an Essential Guide to BASIC, with a unique on-line help system which you can summon up while BASIC is running.

For the PCW only (but soon to be released in a

different form for the PC), there is the Essential Guide to LocoScript, which is strictly for beginners, and the Essential Guide to LocoScript 3, which offers an indispensable introduction to the use of fonts and how to lay out your text effectively.

MARGIN MAKER

This excellent little self-assembly product for ensuring that your paper feeds neatly into the printer is available for the PCW built-in dot matrix printers only. It is simplicity itself to assemble, as the illustrations show. The price of the Margin Maker MM4 is £14.99, RRP £19.95.



BACK ISSUES

There are back issues available for the magazine which has now been incorporated into *LocoScript User*, *PCW User*. Please note that only copies from January 1994 to January 1995 are now available.

Details of the contents of these magazines will be published in a future issue of *LocoScript User*.

+++ User Direct Special Offers +++

Please send me

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £ Please tick disk size required 3"disk 3.5"disk

Name Please state machine PCW PC

Address

Daytime telephone number (in case we need to contact you) Please allow 28 days for delivery.

All prices include VAT and postage. Make cheques payable to LocoScript User.
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Agaha Drive, Swanley, Kent BR8 8HY

please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information from other companies.
The specification of the products advertised is subject to change without notice

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Putting on the

In the first of a brand new series
**Jayne Carson explores some of the
 basics of punctuation**

In this series, we are going to examine every nook and cranny of language in order to help you improve your writing style. And we're starting off with the humble little punctuation marks.

First, though, a couple of preliminaries. Some people might argue that punctuation and all that boring stuff doesn't matter, just as long as you can get your point across.

But style is all about clarity and precision, of ensuring that what you have to say isn't obscured by your inability to express yourself clearly.

Ambiguity is one of the key faults of the writer who hasn't learned his or her trade, and some of the more amusing results can be found in the classified advertisements section of the newspapers.

Here are a couple of classics: 'Chair for sale by old gentleman with carved wooden legs'; and 'Students required for planting in the fields.'

But it's not just ambiguity, it's all aspects of writing which have to be controlled and disciplined so that the reader enjoys and understands what you have written.

Do remember: style isn't a science.

And lastly: style isn't a fixed ideal, like Goodness or Charity. It varies according to the individual writer and the circumstances in which you are writing.

RAISING THE TONE

The tone or 'register', to give it its proper name, should be appropriate to the audience which you are aiming at. A formal invitation to a wedding is couched in quite different terms from a letter to friends asking them to come and stay.

Style is quite often called a matter of choice. It's not so much what you are saying, but the terms in which you are expressing yourself that are important.

Try this experiment. Describe an object,

let's say your house, in three or four different styles, but presenting exactly the same information.

Depict it (a) in the manner of an estate agent's description, (b) in a letter to a close friend, (c) in the style of a House and Gardens type of article.

Exercises such as these are extremely valuable to anyone who wants to improve their writing style.

PUNCTUATION

Now down to business. We are going to look at commas, full stops,

You could shake a pepper-pot full of punctuation on your manuscript, but even the Bard would stop short of that - or would he?



+++ THE SEMICOLON +++

The semicolon (which is by preference spelled as one word) is a halfway house between a comma and a full stop, and should be used sparingly.

Its principal application is in a sentence, like this one, which probably has commas in it already; and if you were to divide it up without using a semicolon, you would make the sentence more difficult to read, or downright ambiguous.

Another use of the semicolon, and one which I personally have little use for is as a sort of full stop; my view is that it reveals a hesitancy of style. Either a sentence has come to a full stop or it hasn't; this kind of thing can all too often smack of pretentiousness.

Remember that a reader is least impressed when you are setting out to impress with your wit, stylishness and wisdom.



style

semicolons, colons, brackets (round, square, curly and angle), and so on. This month we shall focus on the colon, the semicolon and the full stop, as you can see in the panels. But surely, you are muttering, these little things don't matter.

I believe that they matter a great deal, and in fact I tend to take a similar view to the proverb about the pennies and the pounds. In other words, if you get the simple things, the basics, right, then the bigger and more complex aspects of style will - with a modicum of luck - fall into place almost by themselves.

Writing is a craft, and it's essential to get every little aspect of that craft right. In describing how to use these punctuation marks, I'll be using the actual sentences of the panels to demonstrate the use of these vital little marks, so keep a watchful eye open. ■

+++The Colon+++

Two dots one above the other serve several purposes: the first, as in what you are reading now, is to indicate that the second part of the sentence expands on or explains what has gone before.

Alternatively, it can indicate that what follows is a list of items: (1) this one, (2) that one, and (3) another one.

In these circumstances it replaces phrases like 'that is', 'in other words', 'viz.', and so on. In other words, you can avoid such forms of words and use the colon instead - unless, of course, you are putting down on the page words to be broadcast or spoken aloud.

Next, the colon is found when what follows is a piece of indented text, most often a quotation of some kind, and in those circumstances a common error is to use a semicolon instead of a colon. Watch out for that blunder.

An indented quotation is not surrounded by quotation marks (whose turn for examination will come later).

One point to bear in mind is that the form ':' is both unsightly and unnecessary, a throw-back to the days of manual

typewriters, when it was a fairly common sight (or eyesore, to put it bluntly).

So much for the colon as a structural marker within a sentence. It has further uses, too.

FURTHER USES

When you are quoting the title of a book, the main title is separated from the subtitle either by a colon or a full stop. One example might be *Beekeeping for Beginners: How to Profit from Honey*.

The colon is also used in times and dates, with the slash as an alternative. The last day of June this year is 30:6:95 or 30/6/95 (alternatively, the year can be given in full, especially to avoid ambiguity when dealing with more than one century), and the time at which I am writing this article is 22:12.40. Hours and minutes are separated by colons - a full stop comes before the seconds.

One further use for the colon comes in Biblical references: God loveth a cheerful giver (Corinthians 9:7).

+++Full Stop+++

Known in American English as a 'period', its main use is to denote the end of a sentence. Above all else, avoid ending a sentence with a comma, that is very poor style indeed (as you just saw, I hope).

The other ways of ending a sentence are with a question mark or exclamation mark - but do not put a full stop after them. More on such marks next time.

In numbers, the full stop marks the decimal point in English, which in German, for example, is replaced by the comma. More confusingly, where in English the comma separates large numbers in groups of three digits, other languages use either a space - or even a full stop!

SHORT STOPS

Full stops are also used - but not all the time - for abbreviations. These fall into two categories.

The first is acronyms, abbreviations based on the initial letters of words, like UNO, the United Nations Organisation, or the TUC, Trades Union Congress. (Have you

noticed that TUC is - quite literally - cut-back?)

By the way, as you saw in the previous sentence, the full stop (or other sentence terminator) is located inside parentheses when they bracket a complete sentence (but not part of one).

As I was saying when I interrupted myself, and as you will have seen, acronym-type abbreviations do not have full stops after the initial letters. And anyway, it looks much neater and is easier to read than U.N.I.C.E.F. Note that there is no additional stop at the end of the previous sentence.

In the plural, where used, do not add an apostrophe. So the plural of MP and MEP is MPs and MEPs, not MP's and MEP's.

The second additional use of the full stop is in words which have been cut short, like doz. for a dozen, but why isn't it used for cwt, short for a hundredweight?

The general rule is that if the contracted form contains the first and last letter of the word of which it's a boiled-down version, then you don't have a full stop, so Capt. for

Captain has a full stop but Cpl for Corporal doesn't.

However (and in language there are always exceptions), no. for number and nos. for the plural do have a full stop. I have seen it argued that this is because it's a shortened form of numero, but my best guess is that in the singular at least, it avoids confusion with 'no', the negative.

LITTLE WORDS

Here comes another set of exceptions. When an abbreviation has become a word in its own right, the full stop goes, as in:

zoo - for *zoological gardens*

bra - for *brassiere*

telly - for *television*

pub - for *public house*

vet - for *veterinary surgeon* (in US, *army veteran*)

In values after numerals, do not use the full stop: 2 lb, 25 st, 66.5 cm and so forth (and do not use a plural version, either: 2 lbs is wrong).

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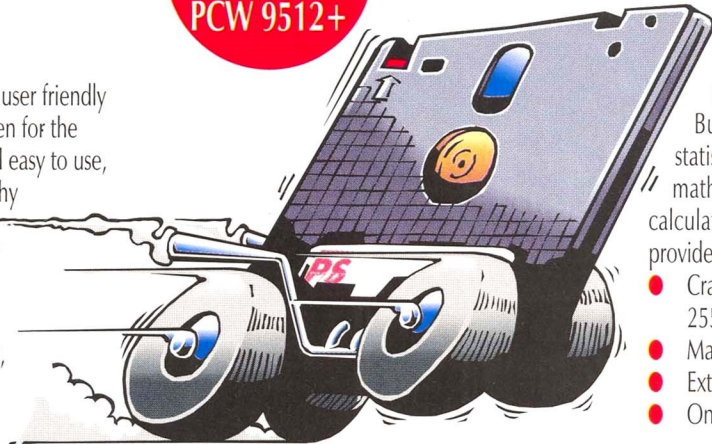
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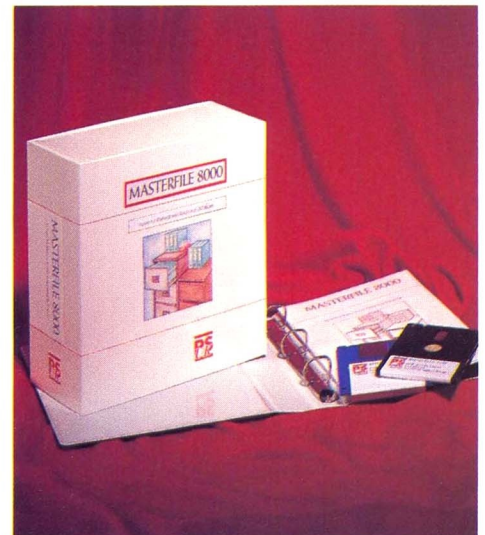
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continued from page 47

These boxes usually have a lock, but I cannot see the purpose of locking a box which can easily be picked up and carted off by someone with evil intent. One colleague who designed his own worktop drills two holes in the bottom of each disk tray and screws it to the level surface.

This is not recommended for the dining room table, though! And fastening the box down does make the layout of your working surface rather inflexible.

MORE TO COME

One final point for this month: When you have set your computer and other equipment up, do cover it when not in use. Dust is one of the enemies of the computer, and a simple sheet protects your investment. Do make sure, though, that you have switched everything off before covering it.

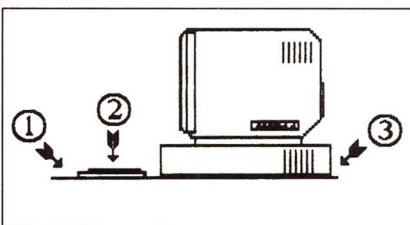
So far, we have discussed some of the basic issues of creating a workstation. Next time, we'll move on to matters like seating and lighting. And after that, we move on to the question of organising your work. ■

+++ Front to rear +++

Your workstation front to rear can take up between 25" and 30" or more. Note the following points:

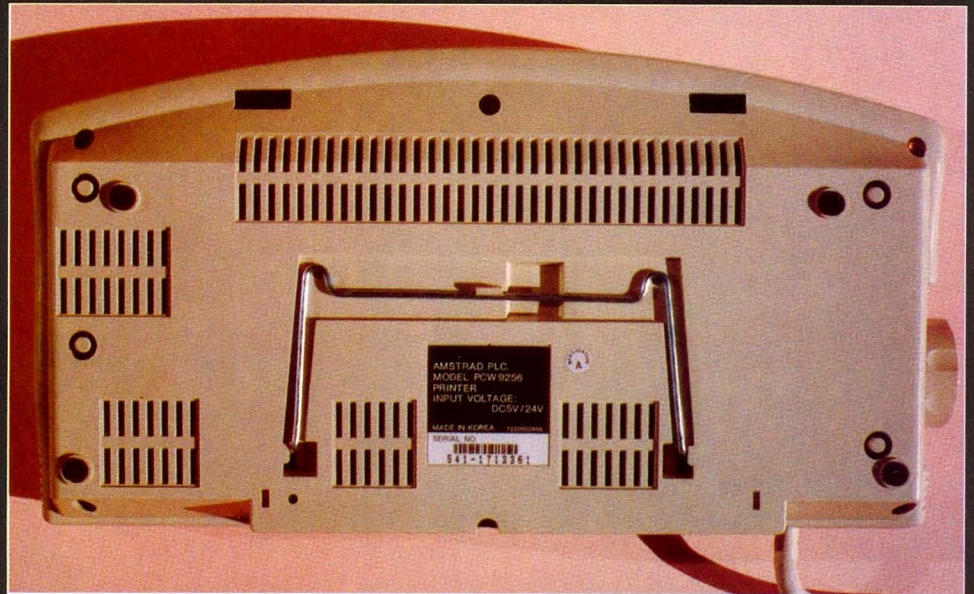
- (1) Ideally, you should have a space on the desktop to allow you to rest your wrists - to help avoid RSI and other muscular discomforts.
- (2) The keyboard should not be jammed up against the screen. You need to keep a sensible distance between your eyes and the screen, again to avoid strain.
- (3) Cables and other equipment may project to the rear, so allow room for them, too.

Also note that with some equipment (the PCW8000 series, for example, or a PC with a tower) you can build an open box to sit the console on, and you can then park the keyboard under it when not in use to save a little space.



+++ Printer placing +++

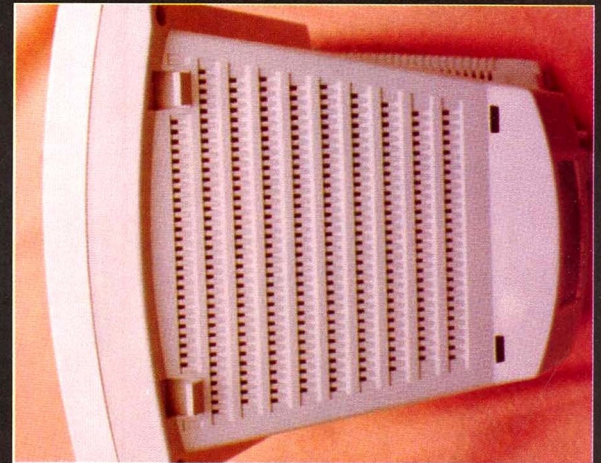
Here are some basic ways of saving space with a printer:



Above the worktop

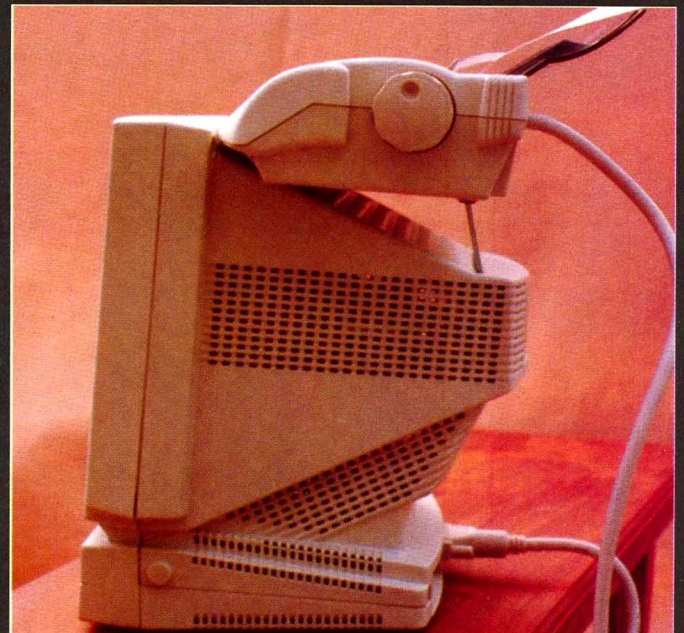
The PCW9256 has an ingenious system for doing just that, as you can see. Two holes in the bottom of the printer fit neatly into lugs on the top of the console and there are two metal arms which swing out from the base of the printer to hold it firmly in position.

Not many machines are that accommodating, though. An alternative approach is to fit a shelf above the worktop on to which you place the printer. The difficulty here is that of access to the printer for ribbon changing, paper handling and so on. Also, check that the cable is long enough to reach.



Below the worktop

A printer can readily be stowed under a table, on a small stool, perhaps. Be careful that it doesn't get in the way of your feet, though, and ensure that cables are held down to avoid nasty accidents if feet get tangled up in them.



CP/M Corner

Dave Greenhough digs into the mysteries of the Identity

text and offers a program or two to catalogue your

LocoScript documents

Over the next couple of months I will be looking at how we can use CP/M programs to extend the usefulness of LocoScript or to simply make life a little bit easier. We have all read the warning in the LocoScript manual, about not using a LocoScript data disk when running a CP/M program or package. What the warning doesn't say is why. The principal reason for keeping LocoScript data disks away from CP/M programs is the LocoScript Limbo file.

When you save or erase a file, LocoScript makes a copy of the old file which LocoScript calls a Limbo file. This file is hidden on the disk and is not normally visible on the LocoScript disk management screen.

Of course, LocoScript knows about Limbo files and when the disk becomes full, as it must, LocoScript will erase enough Limbo files as necessary to be able to safely store new files on the disk.

When a LocoScript data disk is used by a CP/M program it is quite possible that the CP/M program will report that the disk is full even though the LocoScript disk management screen shows the disk is only half full.

The fact is that these Limbo files are still on the disk and occupy disk space, so as far as CP/M is concerned the disk is full. The best advice is to keep LocoScript files and CP/M files on different disks.

Erasing Limbo files

```

10 REM ***** LIMBO.BAS  erase
LocoScript Limbo files *****
20 c1$=CHR$(27)+"E"+CHR$(27)+"H"
30 PRINT c1$:PRINT:PRINT TAB(30)
" LIMBO"
40 PRINT c1$;"Insert the Disc to be
cleaned of Limbo files: ":INPUT
"Enter drive (a/b) ";drive$
50 drive$=UPPER$(drive$)
60 IF drive$ <> "A" AND drive$ <> "B"
THEN GOTO 40
70 nofile%=0
80 FOR group = 8 TO 15
90 user$=STR$(group)
100 user$=user$+drive$
110 OPTION FILES user$
120 IF FIND$ ("*.") = "" THEN GOTO
240
130 nofile%=1
140 PRINT "Limbo group number ";group
150 DIR
160 PRINT "Do you wish to erase these
files (y/n)"
170 z$=UPPER$(INKEY$):IF z$="" THEN
170
180 IF z$="N" THEN 240
190 IF z$<>"Y" THEN GOTO 170
200 z$="*";WHILE z$<>"*"
210 z$=FIND$ ("*.")
220 IF z$<>"*" THEN KILL z$
230 WEND
240 NEXT group
250 OPTION FILES "0"
260 IF nofile%=0 THEN PRINT "No Limbo
files found"
@End box=

```

While it is possible to erase Limbo files from the LocoScript disk management screen this is a long tedious job which can be automated by the short BASIC program in the panel.

CATALOGUING DOCUMENTS

Some time ago, Angela Bray of Exmouth wrote to me asking if it was possible to write a program that would print a catalogue of LocoScript documents. Your wish is my command.

The program in the panel will produce a

Drive A:	empty	0k used	0k free	0 files
B:LETTERS	1 files	0 limbo files		
B:MAILING	1 files	0 limbo files		
B:INVOICE	3 files	0 limbo files		
B:CUSTOMER	3 files	0 limbo files		
BANK001	2k			
MAILING	.LST 6k			
IN0001	2k			
IN0002	2k			
IN0003	2k			
BROWN	2k			
JONES	2k			
SMITH	2k			

How to find out what is in the Identity text of a file - and edit it, too

printed catalogue of all the files on a single disk, sorted into alphabetical order and will also print the LocoScript Group name and any Identity text you may have added to the file.

If you can't get these programs to work correctly, or you just don't have the patience fear not, next month I will be announcing details of a new budget price disk full of useful CP/M programs chosen to make using LocoScript easier.

+++ Don't trust Limbo files +++

Unfortunately when LocoScript needs to erase a Limbo file LocoScript has no way of knowing whether a particular Limbo file is going to be required or not. As far as I can tell Limbo files are erased on a first found first erased basis, this means that Limbo files must not be treated as a genuine back-up file once the disk is physically full.

You can improve this situation by ensuring that the disk is never physically full so that LocoScript never needs to erase any Limbo files. This can be achieved by making back-up copies of your LocoScript data disks at regular intervals, once you are happy that the disk has been successfully copied you can erase all the Limbo files from your working disk.

IDENTITY TEXT

Here's a word of explanation about Identity text. It's useful when you have a large number of documents that have a similar file name. I tend to name files with the name followed by a serial number, so the first letter to the bank is BANK001 and the second file is named BANK002, and so on, which is fine for keeping all the files to the same person together but it can become difficult to find the exact file quickly.

If only LocoScript supported file date stamping, life would be a lot easier. Still, the Identity text offers a reasonable alternative. To view or edit the Identity text of any file (documents, Character set files, anything), from the Disk management screen place the file cursor bar over the filename and press the f5 key.

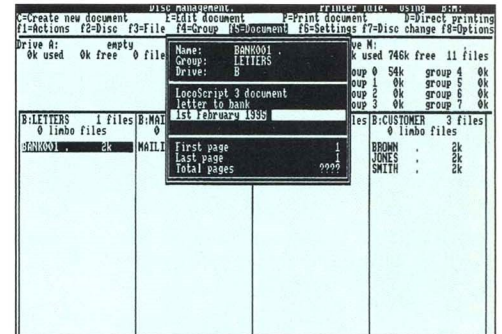
Making sure that the first menu option, Inspect document, is highlighted, press Enter. The text can then be edited. Try to keep the most useful information in the first line as the amount of Identity text the

```
BANK001 .    *** LETTERS *** letter to bank
BROWN      .    *** CUSTOMER *** J. BROWN 123 NEW STREET ANYTOWN
INV001     .    *** INVOICE *** INVOICE 001 LINDA SMITH
INV002     .    *** INVOICE *** INVOICE 002 LINDA SMITH
INV003     .    *** INVOICE *** INVOICE 003 FRED JONES
JONES      .    *** CUSTOMER *** FRED JONES BIRMINGHAM
MAILING    .LST *** MAILING *** MAILING LIST
SMITH      .    *** CUSTOMER *** LINDA SMITH MANCHESTER
```

press a key to continue

Sample output from the Identity text inspection program (above)

You can add your own information to what LocoScript already provides (right)



BASIC program can print is limited.

I hope you find these programs of value. If you're not too sure about BASIC programs and how to type them in, I'll tell you how next time. ■

Catalogue program

```
10 ***** LOCAT.BAS *****
20 esc$=CHR$(27)
30 cls$=esc$+"E"+esc$+"H"
40 DEF
FNat$(r,c)=esc$+"Y"+CHR$(r+32)+CHR$(c+32)
50
con$=esc$+"e":coff$=esc$+"f"
60
ron$=esc$+"p":roff$=esc$+"q"
70 DIM t$(1000):t=0
80 PRINT cls$;"Insert the
Disc to indexed and "
90 INPUT "Enter drive to be
indexed (a/b) ";drive$
100 drive$=UPPER$(drive$)
110 IF drive$ <> "A" AND
drive$ <> "B" AND drive$
<> "M" THEN END
120 drive$=drive$+":"
130 INPUT "Enter disc name
"; name$
140 LINE INPUT "Enter
Today's Date ";date$
150 PRINT "Catalogue";
160 FOR group = 0 TO 7
170 OPTION FILES STR$(group)
180 IF FIND$(drive$+"*.*")
= "" THEN GOTO 460
190 groupname$=""
200
groupname$=LEFT$(FIND$(drive
$+"*.GRP"),8)
210 IF groupname$="" THEN
groupname$="Group
"+STR$(group)
220 a$="":a=0
230 WHILE a$<>""
240 tx$="":rem$="":a=a+1
250 a$=FIND$(drive$+"*.*",a)
260 a$=STRIP$(a$)
270 f1$=RIGHT$(a$,4)
280 f$=LEFT$(a$,8)
290 IF RIGHT$(f$,1)=" " THEN
f$=LEFT$(f$,LEN(f$)-1):GOTO
290
300 f$=f$+f1$
310 IF f$="" THEN
a=1000:GOTO 450
320 IF RIGHT$(f$,3)="GRP"
THEN GOTO 450
330 PRINT TAB(10)"- "+f$
340 OPEN "I",1,f$
350 IF LOF(1) <3 THEN GOTO
430
360 tx$= INPUT$(3,#1)
370 IF tx$ <> "JOY" THEN
GOTO 430
380 tx$=INPUT$(2,#1)
390 tx$=INPUT$(30,#1):GOSUB
790:rem$=tx$
400 tx$=INPUT$(30,#1):GOSUB
790:rem$=rem$+" "+tx$
410 tx$=INPUT$(30,#1):GOSUB
790:rem$=rem$+" "+tx$
420 '
430 CLOSE
440 t$(t)=a$+" *** "+group-
name$+" *** "+rem$:t=t+1
450 WEND
460 NEXT group
470 OPTION FILES "0"
480 ***** Sort
*****
490 PRINT:PRINT"Sorting cat-
alogue"
500 FOR i=2 TO t
510 FOR j=i TO 1 STEP -1
520 IF t$(j) > t$(j-1) THEN
GOTO 540
530 SWAP t$(j),t$(j-1)
540 NEXT j
550 NEXT i
560 ***** PRINT
*****
570 li=0:prn$="":PRINT "Send
Catalogue to Printer (y/n)"
580 prn$=UPPER$(INKEY$):IF
prn$="" THEN 580
590 IF prn$="N" THEN PRINT
cls$:GOTO 620
600 IF prn$="Y" THEN GOSUB
870
610 prn$="":GOTO 580
620 FOR i=1 TO 1000
630 IF t$(i)="" THEN
i=1000:GOTO 750
640 tx$=t$(i)
650 IF LEN(tx$) <88 THEN
GOTO 690
660 tx$=LEFT$(tx$,LEN(tx$)-
1)
670 IF RIGHT$(tx$,1) <> " "
THEN tx$=LEFT$(tx$,LEN(tx$)-
1):GOTO 660
680 tx$=tx$+"->":GOTO 650
690 IF li=0 AND prn$="Y"
THEN GOSUB 920
700 IF prn$="Y" THEN LPRINT
tx$ ELSE PRINT tx$
710 li=li+1
720 IF li=28 AND prn$="N"
THEN PRINT:PRINT "press a
key for next page":z$=""
730 IF li=28 AND prn$="N"
THEN z$="":WHILE
z$="" :z$=INKEY$:WEND:li=0:z$
="":PRINT
CHR$(27)+"A"+CHR$(27)+"A"+CH
R$(27)+"J"+CHR$(27)+"A"
740 IF li=55 AND prn$="Y"
THEN li=0:LPRINT CHR$(12)
750 NEXT
760 PRINT:PRINT "press a key
to continue"
770 z$=INKEY$:IF z$="" THEN
770
780 END
790 ' ***** CLOSE BLANK
*****
800 IF LEFT$(tx$,1)=" " THEN
tx$=RIGHT$(tx$,LEN(tx$)-1)
810 IF tx$="" THEN GOTO 860
820 IF LEFT$(tx$,1)=" " THEN
GOTO 800
830 IF RIGHT$(tx$,1)=" "
THEN tx$=LEFT$(tx$,LEN(tx$)-
1)
840 IF tx$="" THEN GOTO 860
850 IF RIGHT$(tx$,1)=" "
THEN GOTO 830
860 RETURN
870 PRINT:PRINT "Is your
printer ready (y/n)"
880 z$=UPPER$(INKEY$):IF
z$="" THEN 880
890 IF z$="N" THEN PRINT
"What are you waiting for
?":GOTO 870
900 IF z$="Y" THEN RETURN
910 GOTO 880
920 IF prn$="Y" THEN LPRINT
"Disc Catalogue":LPRINT
name$+" Printed
"+date$
930 RETURN
```

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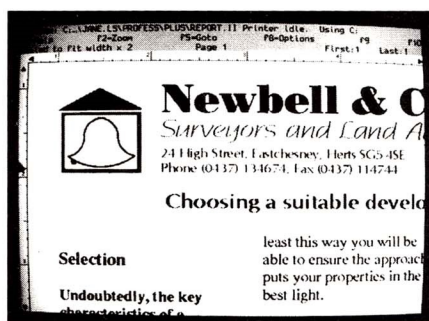
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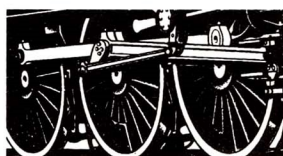
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MS-DOS Corner

Welcome to a regular spot for PC owners who wish to enhance the running of LocoScript on their machines - and do a bit of technical digging and delving

When you switch on your machine, you may or may not have it set up to load LocoScript automatically - if you wish to do so, see the panel. Whichever way you go, you will probably find that there's an annoying little light on your keyboard. It's the NumLock LED which sets the pad on the right to numerical keys, just what you don't want for running LocoScript.

How many times have you pressed Alt+5 (on the numeric pad) to get the Find menu and discover that nothing of the sort happens? Isn't it a bore to have to keep switching the NumLock key off? Wouldn't it be nice not to have to do so?

There is a way round the problem, which involves you typing in a few lines of assembler (which you need not understand, though I'll explain it anyway) and adding them to a special file called AUTOEXEC.BAT.

DEBUG TO THE FORE

First, exit from LocoScript to the MS-DOS prompt. If you don't have a hard disk, insert your MS-DOS disk in Drive A (ensuring that during this process it isn't write protected), otherwise first ensure you are in the root directory. Now type:

```
DEBUG
```

Up comes a minus sign. That isn't a comment on your programming skills, by the way, it's DEBUG's rather negative attempt at a prompt. DEBUG allows you to inspect parts of the computer's memory and the contents of files. It also allows you to write assembly language programs, and we are going to write a six-liner now.

Now type (upper or lower case will do):

```
N NUMAWAY.COM
```

That tells DEBUG to 'name' a file for future use. It has to have the COM extension to be recognised as an executable program.

Now we type in the program. If you are a beginner at this and get something wrong, press Enter a couple of times, then Q plus Enter, which gets you back to the prompt. Type DEBUG again to get back in business. Deep breath, then, and type:

```
A
```

- which stands for 'assemble'. Up comes a mystifying number with a colon in the middle. Note that the number on the left of the colon probably isn't the same as here (that doesn't matter):

```
2328:0100
```

The cursor sits alongside the number, waiting for you to type something, so key in these lines, each of course followed by Enter, with an extra Enter at the end:

```
MOV DX,40
MOV DS,DX
MOV AL,[17]
AND AL,DF
MOV [17],AL
INT 20
```

Now type:

```
R CX
```

- and when a number appears, type:

```
20
```

```
W
```

```
Q
```

At this point, you are back at the prompt. Now, I hear you wondering, what exactly have you done? Let me explain the last bit first.

When you typed R CX, you were asking to inspect/alter one of the registers which are at the heart of the processor which drives your machine. Into the CX register you place a value - 20 (in hex, as are all the numbers you have

typed) - and that tells DEBUG, when it comes to the W for 'write' command to write 32 bytes to the named file.

BELT AND BRACES

That's more than is needed, but I believe in belt and braces at all times with assembly language. The Q gets you back to the prompt. Now type:

```
DEBUG NUMAWAY.COM
```

```
U
```

- and the U 'un-assemble' command will

bring up a listing like this:

```
2343:0100 BA4000      MOV     DX,0040
2343:0103 8EDA          MOV     DS,DX
2343:0105 A01700      MOV     AL,[0017]
2343:0108 24DF          AND     AL,DF
2343:010A A21700      MOV     [0017],AL
2343:010D CD20          INT     20
```

Again, the number of the memory segment before the colon may well be different. If you find that your result is not the same as mine, go through the entire process again (there are other ways, but for such a short program it isn't worth telling you).

Without getting excessively technical, the memory of your PC is split up into segments, and way down in the bargain basement at segment 40 offset 17 is a byte which deals with the NumLock, Scroll Lock and Caps Lock - and any combination of them.

ON AND OFF

Each bit of the lower half of the byte is either set to 1 or zero depending on the state of the locks, and our program first takes two lines - for technical reasons - to load into the DS register (the data segment register) the value 40, so that when we ask for data we get it from there, and not the current segment (2343 in the listing above).

Once the byte is in the AL register, the AND command changes the appropriate bit to switch off the Num Lock, and then the program ends.

Add that to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, and your NumLock will be off when LocoScript is loaded. How to do that? See the panel. ■

+++LocoAuto+++

In the root directory of your hard disk - or on your MS-DOS floppy if you don't have a hard drive - there should be a file called AUTOEXEC.BAT. It's a special batch file which the computer looks for when it loads. If it finds it, it executes the commands in it as if you had typed them in from the keyboard.

If you have created the NUMAWAY.COM program as described on this page, add it to the end of the batch file by editing the file and typing:

```
NUMAWAY
```

If you have MS-DOS 5 or above, the pro-

gram EDIT will do that for you. If you have an early Amstrad PC, RPED will serve the same purpose, otherwise import it into LocoScript, add the line and export it again.

If your AUTOEXEC.BAT file contains the last line:

```
LS or LSPRO
```

- to load LocoScript automatically, depending on which version you have, do put the NUMAWAY just before that line. Add LS or LSPRO to load LocoScript automatically if it isn't there.

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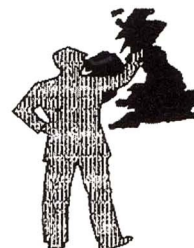
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Token offerings

A bonus treat to celebrate our first issue - from Locomotive, SCA Systems, DGC Software and Cirtech

+++What a gift+++

We thought of all kinds of ways of celebrating the launch issue of this magazine. First in line was a cover mount of some kind, as they call it in the trade. But what could we do?

Given all the different disk formats for PCW and PC LocoScript users we reckon we would end up with four different disks on the cover, costing an absolute fortune, and not guaranteeing to please even some of the readers some of the time.

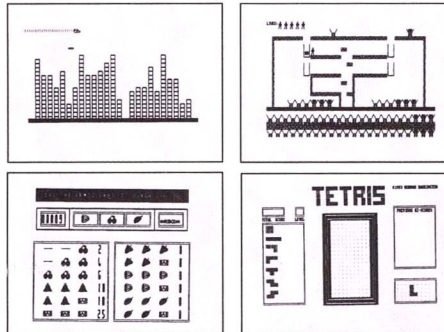
As one cynic said, 'I like to buy a magazine with a free disk on it. It saves me having to buy blanks.'

So what else? If we were a golfing magazine, a golf ball might do. If we were about gardening, a rose bush (without too many thorns, we hope). Or if we were about stamps, a few samples.

But word processing? In the end, we came up with the bright idea of offering you

these special money-saving tokens on a range of top products - giving you the choice, rather than forcing something on you.

Do hurry, though - the offer runs out on 31 March 1995. Note that the original token from this page must be sent. Photocopies are not valid.



Four screens from Top Twenty Games III

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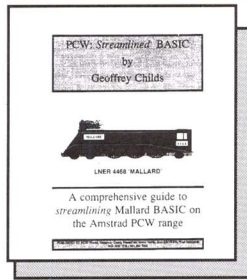
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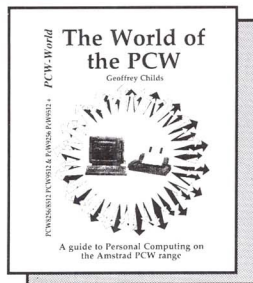
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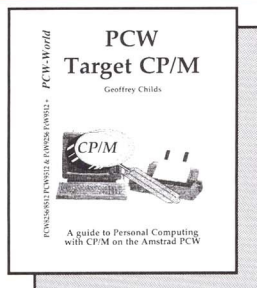
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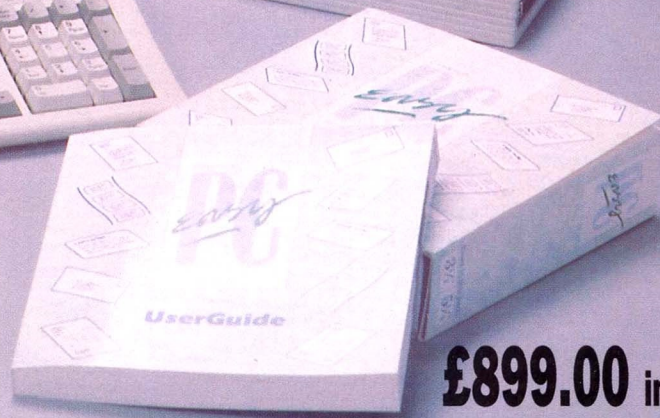
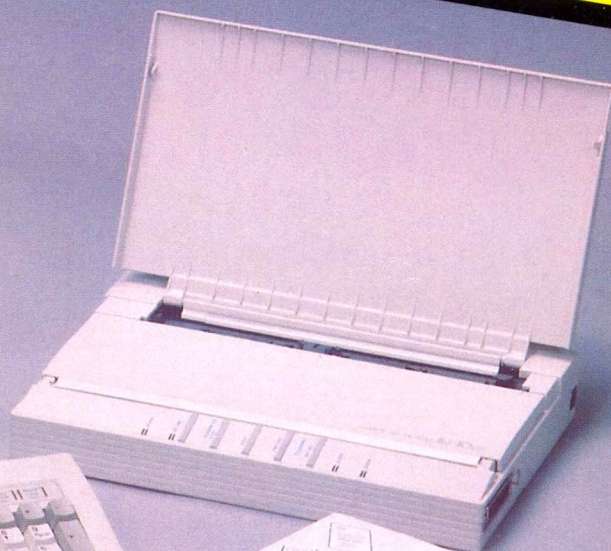
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