

ST BUYER'S **FORMAT** GUIDE

YOUR GUIDE TO THE TOP

350

BUYS IN THE ST UNIVERSE

**WORD PROCESSORS ● DESKTOP PUBLISHING PACKAGES
● DOT MATRIX PRINTERS ● LASER PRINTERS ● RAMDISKS
● INK-JET PRINTERS ● FLOPPY DRIVES ● HARD DRIVES
● SEQUENCERS ● SAMPLERS ● KEYBOARDS ● PATCH
EDITORS ● ACCOUNTS PROGRAMS ● SPREADSHEETS
● DATABASES ● EDUCATION SOFTWARE ● MODEMS
● COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGES ● MONITORS ●
ART & GRAPHICS ● COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN
● PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES ● SCANNERS
● DIGITISERS ● MICE ● JOYSTICKS ●
CLOCKS ● GENLOCKS ● AND MORE**

FREE WITH ISSUE 21 OF *ST FORMAT* - NOT TO BE SOLD SEPARATELY

**PLUS GUIDE TO MAIL
ORDER SHOPPING
● PD LIBRARIES**



protar products include the fastest hard drives available for the Atari ST. The fully compatible auto-bootable hard-disks are mounted in an elegant housing which is perfectly at home with the ST design. They are supplied completely ready for operation – no hidden preliminaries.

The system software supplied provides access to such features as 12 partitions per disk, selectable boot partition, write protection and password, all of which are fully compatible with the numerous operating systems and emulators which are offered for the ST.

protars' 40 DC, 80 DC and 160 DC models are additionally equipped with a 64 kB cache memory integrated on the hard disk; this cache memory reduces disk accessing times by up to 50%.

Some other examples of protars' hardware include:

protar

**– a safe option
for the future.**

- the R44 removable disk drives
- the T60 and T150 tape streamers

- ProScreen TT – a large scale monitor for the Atari TT
There is a minimum guarantee of one year on all components used in our products. We guarantee fast, efficient, hassel-free technology at a price our success has allowed us to offer.

protar products are leaders on the German market which are now available to you nationwide.

We are currently renaming our hard disk series for copyright reasons. Also, we are putting the final touches to our new U.K. subsidiary. Until further notice our products are available to you without delay, direct from Germany at absolutely no extra cost. Definitely worth checking out!

For further information please contact:

contents

What's in this comprehensive, up-to-date ST buyer's guide?

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This special *ST FORMAT* supplement is not just a catalogue – it's a complete guide to the best hardware and software available for your ST. We've drawn on the experience of *FORMAT*'s team of expert reviewers to bring you all the information you need to help you decide exactly what meets your requirements. In each category, where applicable, you'll find:

◆ **Best Buy** – the best value for money in its category;

★ **State of the Art** – the one to choose for features and power if money is no object;

● **Budget Buy** – the best choice if your budget is limited;

■ **PD Choice** – the best available in the Public Domain.

All prices quoted are Recommended Retail and include VAT at 15%, but they are often discounted – even by the suppliers specified – and are subject to change, so shop around and contact manufacturers or suppliers before ordering. The opinions expressed are those of *ST FORMAT*'s reviewers and do not necessarily reflect those of Future Publishing or any of its representatives. No responsibility can be accepted for any errors or omissions.

WHERE TO FIND MORE

■ For an explanation of **Public Domain** software and *FORMAT*'s comprehensive PD library directory, see **page 21**

■ For detailed reviews of the wealth of hardware and software available for your ST, and much more, get hold of *ST FORMAT*'s book **Get the Most from Your ST** – the definitive compilation of ST hints, tips, reviews and advice. For details, see **page 26**

■ Every month, *ST FORMAT* – Britain's best-selling ST magazine – brings you the latest news from the world of the ST, authoritative reviews of new hardware and software, the best ST leisure guide around, and absorbing special features. The May issue goes on sale Thursday 11 April, the June issue on Thursday 9 May and the July issue on Thursday 13 June – but don't risk missing out! Subscribe now and you not only guarantee yourself all that, but you also get **£25 worth of software free!** For details, see **page 27**

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The wonderful *ST FORMAT* comes to you from Future Publishing, who also "do" *New Computer Express*, *Amiga Format*, *Amstrad Action*, *Commodore Format*, *Your Sinclair*, *PC Plus*, *Sega Power*, *8000 Plus*, and *Classic CD*



Word processors 3 and desktop publishing

Need more than a tripewriter? We examine 35 WP and DTP programs (many with spell-checkers)

Printers 4

Paperless offices? Don't you believe it! (Well, *wall*-paperless, maybe...) When you've just got to have hardcopy, which printer are you going to choose? We compare 29 of the best

Floppy drives and hard drives 7

Look, no risqué jokes, okay? It's nothing to do with floppiness – just memory, and more of it. From imaginary disks to 600MByte cartridges, we've got the lot... but we forget how many

Business and education 8

Annualised net yield budget pie chart plus VAT diminishing returns wealth of nations oligopoly – and, er, databases. Wonder if there's an education program to explain that lot?

Art, graphics and CAD 11

Brushes are off, paint is passé and berets are old hat. We've got over 25 art, graphics and Computer Aided Design programs for the modern artist to draw on

Classic games 13

Out of the hundreds of games currently available for your ST, our team names the very best, including 30 *FORMAT* Golds – and you know how good a game's got to be to win one of those!

Music 17

If you're interested in music, you already know that the ST, with its built-in MIDI ports, is the professional musician's choice – but what should you attach to it and run on it?

Programming languages 18

New to programming, or just looking for the best way to do the job? Look no further! We assess over 20 programming packages from Assembler to Sozobon

Communications 21

How your ST can put you in touch with the world, circumvent the Post Office and save you a packet on phone calls to America. And did you know the best software is Public Domain?

Shopping by mail order 22

You've found a bargain in the adverts in *ST FORMAT*, but is it safe to shop by mail? Breathe easy with our definitive advice on your rights and how to protect yourself

Monitors 25

Fed up with that fuzzy television display? Family threatening GBH if they miss *Neighbours* again? Restore domestic harmony and save those optician's bills with our guide to the top monitors

Subscriptions 27

The brand-new Bitmap Brothers game – *free!* A complete game-creation package – *free!* Yes, you get £25 of software *free*, plus 12 terrific issues of Britain's top ST magazine!

Scanners – and other widgets 28

The best scanners, digitisers, thingies and wassnames for your ST – and then some!

Presenting

PROTEXT 5.0

Five years to the month after Protexit version 1 was launched Arnor are pleased to present version 5, an enormous leap forward in both ease of use and performance.

Protexit 5.0 introduces a completely integrated system of pull down menus and dialogue boxes. The menus are among the many operations that may now be carried out with either the mouse or the keyboard. Protexit really does give you the best of both worlds.

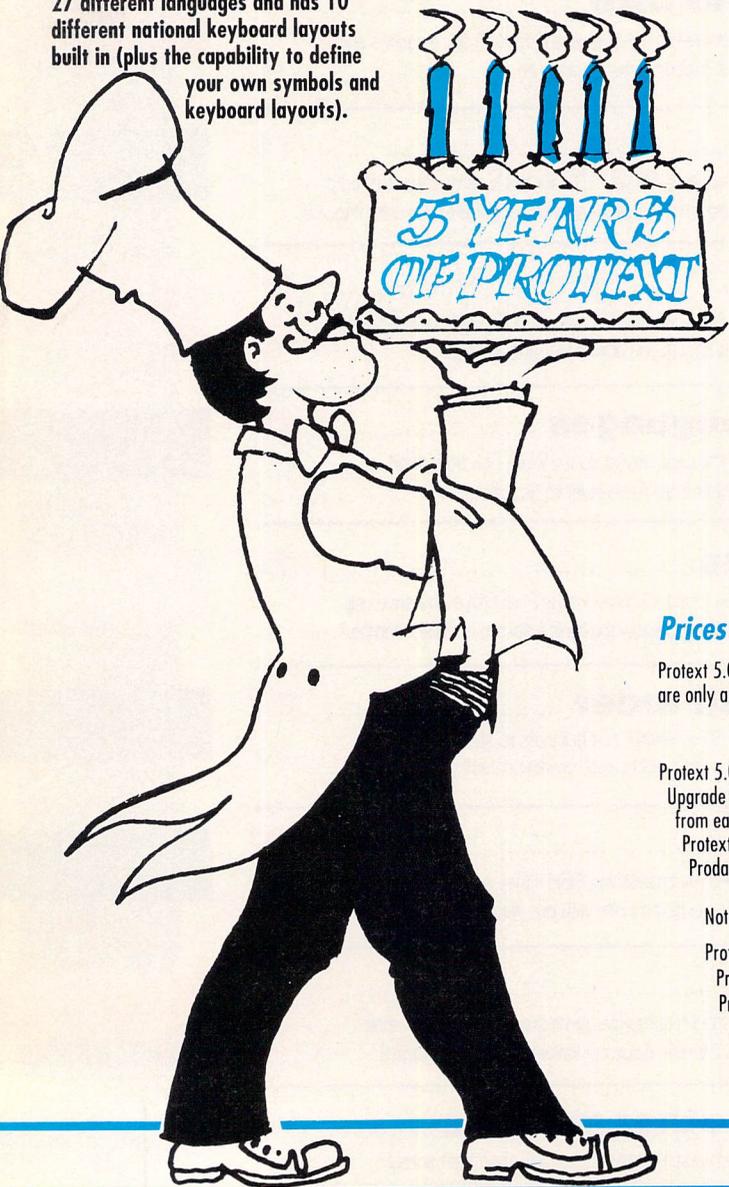
Protexit 5.0 handles printer fonts flexibly and accurately. You can make full use of any number of proportional printer fonts, mix them freely within any line, centre them in headers, use automatically formatted footnotes. And Protexit correctly formats your text as you type it, no matter how many font changes you use, showing you line and page breaks exactly as they will be printed.

Protexit 5.0 is still the fastest word processor around. Even though we have made all these major improvements we have taken great care to ensure that text editing is as fast as ever. The menus work smoothly and quickly even with high resolution displays. But of course, you can use Protexit's efficient set of commands and keys just as before and 5.0 remains compatible with all earlier versions from 1.0 onwards.

Protexit 5.0 is a worthy successor to version 4, which was described as "the best word processor at any price", "the best text processor on the Amiga" and "the most powerful word processor on the Atari ST" (AUI, ST/Amiga Format, ST User).

Protexit 5.0 heralds a new era of multi-lingual European software, in time for 1992 and the opening up of Eastern Europe. Protexit may be used in at least 27 different languages and has 10 different national keyboard layouts built in (plus the capability to define

your own symbols and keyboard layouts).



The Features

- ✧ **New fast & easy to use pull down menu system** with dialogue boxes and alerts; file selector; mouse dragging to set blocks. Menus complement existing commands and keyboard shortcuts, do not replace them. Menus may be used with mouse or keyboard. Amiga version follows Intuition guidelines.
- ✧ **Enhanced printing capabilities** supports multiple proportional fonts; mixing of different font sizes on the same line; proportional formatting whilst editing; side margin, headers and footers independent of main text font. Tabs, decimal tabs and centre tabs. Extensive range of printer drivers supplied.
- ✧ **Multiple file editing** - up to 36 files may be open; split screen editing.
- ✧ **Graphics mode support** on PC allows use in virtually any text or graphics mode including 132 column or 75 line VGA modes; user defined characters and on-screen bold, italics and underlining now on all versions; use of 13 different accents on any character.
- ✧ **Language support includes** Albanian, Basque, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Flemish, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latin, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Serbocroatian, Slovak, Spanish, Slovene, Swedish, Welsh. (Note: some printers do not support all languages).
- ✧ **Index and contents** generation. Indexer takes marked words or phrases; contents entries automatically taken from titles wrapped in control codes; many options for style of contents output.
- ✧ **Spelling checker** features completely new 110,000+ word Collins dictionary with very fast phonetic lookup. Anagrams and find word pattern. Foreign language dictionaries (German, Swedish available now, others to follow).
- ✧ **Many other enhancements** including multi-line footnotes and endnotes; automatic timed save; add column or row of figures; indent tabs; find word at cursor; 40 column mode support; sentence operations; inter-paragraph space; much improved expression evaluator; self incrementing variables; Roman numerals; newspaper-style column printing; file sorting utility with special options for names and addresses; revised manual plus new tutorial guide.
- ✧ **And don't forget Protexit still includes** background printing; box manipulation; macro recording; exec files; headers and footers; find and replace; mail merging; undelete; file conversion utility; configuration program; auto reformatting; on screen help; time and date; typewriter mode; line drawing; disc utilities.



Prices

Protexit 5.0 may be purchased from any good computer shop or directly from Arnor. Upgrades from earlier versions are only available from Arnor and the original discs should be returned with your order.

	PC	Amiga	ST/TT	Archimedes
Protexit 5.0	£149.95	£149.95	£149.95	£149.95
Upgrade from v4.2	£60	£60	£60	N/A
from earlier versions	£75	£75	£75	N/A
Protexit 4.2	£99.95	£99.95	£99.95	N/A
Prodata 1.1	£79.95	£79.95	£79.95	due 1991 Q1

Notes:

- Protexit 5.0 requires at least 640K of memory on all machines
- Protexit 4.2 requires at least 512K of memory on all machines
- Prodata requires 1MB of memory on the Amiga



WP and DTP

Processing words? Publishing desktops? Find the right package for your needs

WORD PROCESSING AND DESKTOP PUBLISHING

WORD PROCESSING

Every WP has a core of functions to modify blocks of text. Here are some useful extra features.

- **Spell Checker:** *First Word Plus* compacts its dictionary so you can easily load it, even on a 520 ST. By contrast, *Protext* is difficult to use without plenty of RAM.
- **Mail Merger:** Insert specific data and a pre-configured template does the rest.
- **Graphics:** It can be handy to include pictures in your documents.
- **Compatibility:** ASCII files are totally compatible with other suitable WPs.

First Word Plus v3: Good features with two dictionaries and mail merger. Imports graphics into documents. But too few key shortcuts and manual is poor. £79.95, Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666

First Mail: Mail merger for use with *First Word* or any other ASCII-compatible WP program. £14.95 Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666

Microsoft Write: Easy-to-use WP with keyboard shortcuts and average text handling capability. It's very slow though. £149.99 Atari ☎ 00753 33344

★ **State of the Art** *Protext 5:* Boasts an exhaustive range of features and is

PUBLIC DOMAIN

■ **PD Choice** *ST Writer Elite* (disk GD17) and *First Word* (disk WORD3) Available for £2.50 each from Goodman PD Library ☎ 0782 335650.
● Also available for £3.00 per disk from The Southwest Software Library, PO Box 562, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2YD: *AddPrint* (disk 705); *Microspell* (disk 221); *Printplus Accessory* (disk 855); *Toolkit* (disk 432TX); *Tool* (disk 219)

easily configured to suit your needs. Fast text entry and editing. A truly professional package but doesn't cater for graphics. £149.95 Arnor ☎ 0733 68909

Regent Word 2: Good editing and mail merge facilities, but unfortunately has an American spell checker and poor manual. £29.95 Regent Software ☎ 0893 864674

Script: Lightning fast with an intuitive user interface. The best of graphic output WPs. No spell checker. £89.75 Signa Publishing ☎ 0252 875031

Signum 2: Ideal for foreign language WP as well as technical writing. £184 Signa Publishing ☎ 0252 341 600

Tempus 2: A text editor, for writing program files and the like, rather than a traditional WP, but unrivalled at what it does. £34.95 HiSoft ☎ 0525 718181

That's Write: Prints pages as if they are graphic files. Good, but you really need 1MByte of memory. It's slow in reformatting paragraphs and not suitable for big documents. A new version comes out in the near future which may remedy these faults. £129 Compo ☎ 081 365 1151

Word Perfect: Most expensive but one of the best. Loads of features. £228.85 Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666

◆ **Best Buy** *Word Writer:* Comes complete with a mail merger, spell checker and thesaurus. Much faster than *First Word Plus*. £49.95 Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666

■ Keep an eye out for the next issue of *ST FORMAT* – it features a comprehensive round-up of the latest WP programs available for your ST. To make absolutely sure you don't miss this – or any other *FORMAT* features – turn to page 27 for details of how to subscribe to Britain's top ST magazine



■ **Protext 5** is a fast word processor with a huge range of useful features

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

When you're looking for a DTP package there are several features to look out for.

- **Default pages:** you need to be able to define a template if you're creating a document with many pages.
- **Auto-reflow:** Automatic rearranging of text to run around picture boxes.
- **Auto page numbering:** The ability to automatically add page numbers in a particular place on a page, in order.
- **WYSIWYG:** What You See Is What You Get – the appearance of the text on the screen exactly mirrors the final printout.

★ **State of the Art** *Calamus:* This is the one all other DTP programs try to emulate. A superlative DTP system, though it needs 1MByte. £458.85 Signa Publishing ☎ 0252 341 600

Calamus Font Editor: Excellent overall with many helpful features. Creating the fonts is difficult though and the editing area is small. £92.00 (free with *Calamus*) Signa Publishing ☎ 0252 341 600

Fleet Street Publisher v3: Flexible text manipulation; excellent typographical control. Prints fast to a good printer but not

PUBLIC DOMAIN

While there are no DTP programs proper in the Public Domain, you can certainly find a useful utility to complement a DTP system.

Available from the Southwest Software Library, PO Box 562, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2YD at £3.00 each:

- GEM Clip Art:* disk 761
- PageStream Add-Ons:* disk 608
- Publishing Partners Fonts:* disk 607
- Calamus Fonts:* disk 606
- Religious Clip Art:* disk 342
- PageStream Information:* disk 287
- Utilities:* disk 287
- Timeworks DTP demo:* disk 842
- Calamus demo:* disk 287

Also available from Goodman PD Library (☎ 0782 335650) *Easy Text Plus v1.07:* disk GD247 at £2.50.

suitable for large documents. £199.99 (£100 upgrade from v1.1) Mirrorsoft ☎ 071 928 1454

Outline Art: Design an eye-catching logo to use with *Calamus*; unbelievable effects with the minimum of effort. £172.50 Signa Publishing ☎ 0252 341 600

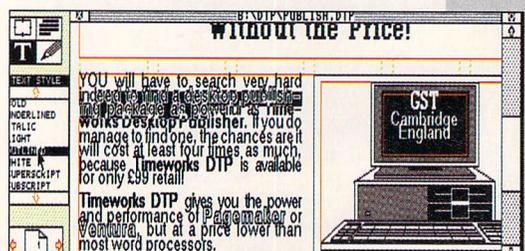
PageStream: Fully WYSIWIG, easy-to-use; handles pictures. Basically a poorer version of *Proxima* with slow screen update. £171.35 Silica ☎ 081 309 1111

POSTSCRIPT

Postscript is the industry standard printer driver for lasers and phototypesetters. High-end DTP packages like *Calamus* and *Fleet Street 3* support Postscript because it provides the best output quality.

Proxima: Though not officially recognised as such, a modified version of *PageStream*; comparable features. £155.25 Network News Service ☎ 0375 859103

◆ **Best Buy** *Timeworks DTP:* Handles multi-page documents beautifully – especially good for reports or manuals. *ST FORMAT*'s recent feature found that most fanzines use this system. £99.99 Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666



■ **Timeworks DTP** is one of the best systems for a first publishing setup

printers

Letters, graphics, desktop publishing – which printer is right for your needs?

When you're shopping for a printer, the first thing to consider is what you want it to print. For desktop publishing, you really need a laser printer or top quality inkjet. The range of dot-matrix printers now available is wide enough to meet most other needs. Daisywheel printers are slow, noisy, incapable of producing graphics, and enable you to change fonts only by swapping daisywheels, so they're largely redundant. Their only advantage is that they're now cheap – and if you want to print business letters or the like, daisy-wheel text still looks better than the output of comparable dot-matrix printers, even in Near-Letter-Quality (NLQ) mode.

General considerations to bear in mind include:

- Speed – the faster the better;
- Noise level;
- Quality of output – text and graphics;
- Range of fonts (typefaces);
- Width of carriage, if you need to print more than just business letters.

◆ **Best Buy (inkjet)**

Canon BJ-10E. For 400 quid you get the speed of a dot-matrix and better resolution than most laser printers (360dpi). Ink cartridge (450 pages life) £20 extra. Full review STF 17. Canon ☎ 081 773 3173

DOT-MATRIX PRINTERS

Printer	Price	Contact	Type	Speed	Colour
Brother 1109 [1]	£195	☎ 061 330 6531	9 pin	100/25	NO
Citizen 120D	£251.85	☎ 0895 72621	9 pin	120/25	NO
Citizen Swift 9	£274.85	☎ 0895 72621	9 pin	192/40	NO*
Citizen Prodott 9	£504.85	☎ 0895 72621	9 pin	300/60	NO*
Epson LX400 [1]	£198.95	☎ 0442 61144	9 pin	180/25	NO
Epson LX850 [2]	£320.85	☎ 0442 61144	9 pin	200/25	NO
Olivetti DM105 Colour	£287.44	☎ 0908 690790	9 pin	150/30	YES
Seikosha SP-2000 [1]	£228.85	☎ 0753 685873	9 pin	200/50	NO
Star LC10 [3]	£228.85	☎ 0494 471111	9 pin	120/30	NO*
Epson LQ550 [1]	£458.85	☎ 0442 61144	24 pin	180/60	NO
NEC P2 PLUS Pinwriter	£401.35	☎ 081 993 8111	24 pin	192/96	NO
NEC P6 PLUS	£631.35	☎ 081 993 8111	24 pin	265/90	NO*
Panasonic KX-P1124	£399	☎ 0344 862444	24 pin	192/53	NO
Citizen Prodott 24	£688.85	☎ 0895 72621	24 pin	200/66	NO*
Citizen Swift 24	£419.75	☎ 0895 72621	24 pin	192/64	NO*
Star LC24-200	£366.85	☎ 0494 471111	24 pin	222/67	NO

*Note: speed figures denote draft/NLQ mode speeds where applicable, all in characters per second.
Note: asterisks in the colour column denote upgrade kit for colour is available at extra cost
Numbered notes: [1] Entry-level machines; [2] No proportional spacing; [3] Colour version available*

INK-JET PRINTERS

Printer	Price	Contact	Speed	Comments
Canon PJ1080	£689	☎ 081 773 3173	37 cps	colour
Canon BJ-10e	£399	☎ 081 773 3173	110 cps	
Hewlett Packard DeskJet 500	£689	☎ 0344 369369	120 cps	
Xerox 4020	£1,438	☎ 0895 51133	80 cps	colour

◆ **Best Buy (laser)** Star Laserprinter 8 II. Fast, versatile; excellent output. Has all you'll ever need for top-quality printing, amateur or professional. £1989 Star Micronics ☎ 0494 471111

● **Budget Buy (laser)** Sharp JX9500 – a good quality yet reasonably-priced starter in the laser market. Excellent results are simple to attain. £1029 Epson ☎ 061 205 2333

◆ **Best Buy (dot-matrix)** Star LC24-200. 24-pin quality, a huge range of fonts, and exceptional versatility through

electronic dip-switches and front panel presets. £367 Star Micronics

● **Budget Buy (dot-matrix)** Epson LX400. A slightly older but still widely available printer; good quality output at low cost. Ideal first-time buy. £199 Epson ☎ 0442 61144

■ **ST FORMAT 17** brought you a detailed survey of recent 9-pin dot-matrix printers. See also the comprehensive feature on peripherals in issue 20. **FORMAT** reviews new hardware as it appears, so to make absolutely sure you keep up with developments, subscribe now! Turn to page 27

ST-COMPATIBLE LASER PRINTERS

Laserprinter	Price	Contact	Speed	Comments
Atari SLM804	£1379.99	☎ 0753 33344	8ppm	Builds image in ST's memory – eats memory!
Atari SLM605	£1149	☎ 0753 33344	6ppm	Smaller, newer version of SLM804
Canon LBP-4	£1380	☎ 081 773 3173	4ppm	Good buy but not the fastest
Canon LBP-8 Mk 3	£2294.25	☎ 081 773 3173	8ppm	Prints portrait and landscape
Epson EPL-7100	£1378.85	☎ 0442 61144	6ppm	First in a new range
Hewlett Packard LaserJet Series 2	£1999	☎ 0344 369369	8ppm	
Kyocera F-800	£1595	☎ 0734 311500	8ppm	Includes Kyocera's Prescribe language
Star Laserprinter 8 II	£1989	☎ 0494 471111	8ppm	Portrait/landscape on same page
Sharp JX950	£1029	☎ 061 205 2333	6ppm	Low-cost, high quality output

*Note: ppm = pages per minute.
Note: Check that your software can support the laser printer you're thinking of buying.*

■ **Entry-level dot-matrix, colour or the latest inkjet? Your printer choice depends on what you want to print. We name the best in each category**

PRINTERS

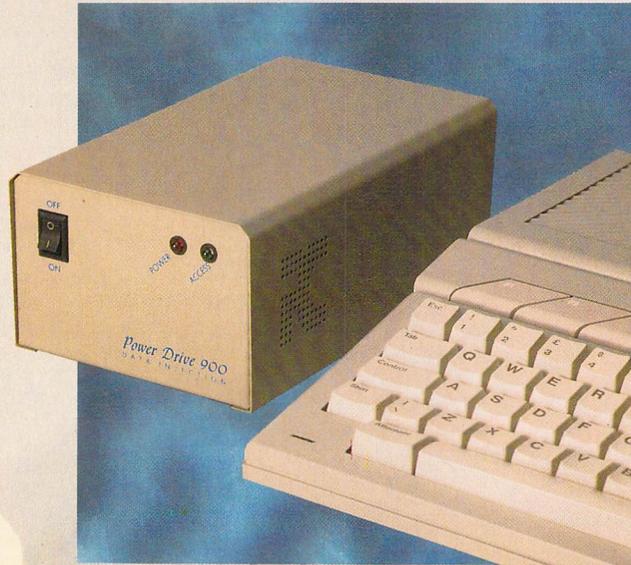




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- Lattice C v5
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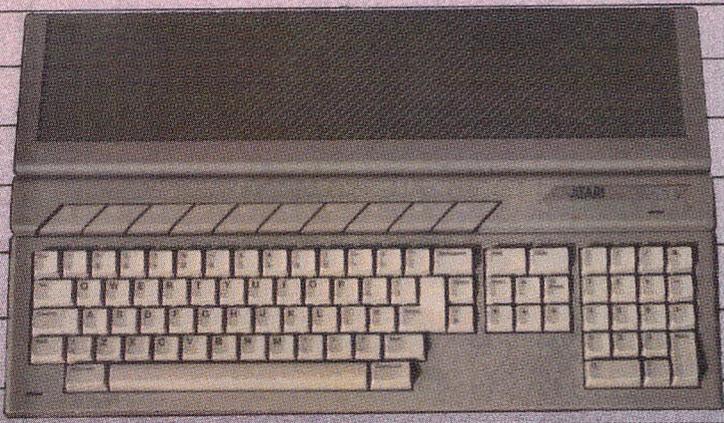
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Catalogues!

Ring or write in for our latest Atari catalogue listing hundreds of products available for this versatile Home Computer. We stock COLOUR PRINTERS, STEREO COLOUR MONITORS, EXTERNAL DISK DRIVES, MEMORY EXPANSIONS, HARD DISK DRIVES, Atari BOOKS, FRAME GRABBERS, DIGITISERS, SCANNERS, WORD PROCESSORS, DATABASES, SPREADSHEETS, ACCESSORIES and of course hundreds & hundreds of games and all at well below recommended retail prices!

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disk drives

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FLOPPY DRIVES

An extra floppy drive can double your memory and save access time and endless disk swapping.

◆ **Best Buy** Cumana CSA354. A very sound, reliable drive from a well-established, highly regarded manufacturer, recommended by many suppliers of backup software. 5.25 inch version available so you can read PC disks with the right software. From Silica ☎ 081 309 1111 or Evesham Micros ☎ 036 765500

● **Budget buy** Power PC720. Good value for a well-built drive with an internal power supply unit. Power's PC720E, £10 cheaper still, is unusual because it takes its power from the ST via the joystick port. This was never meant to be used as a power source, but the drive and ST seem to work happily together with no apparent ill effects. Power Computing ☎ 0234 273000

■ **PD Choice** RAMdisk programs. A cheap and easy way to create an extra

TOP FLOPPY DISK DRIVES

Floppy drives are reasonably inexpensive and available at most computer stores – just scour the ads in *ST FORMAT*. Here are some of the best drives on the market

DRIVE	SIZE	PRICE	COMMENTS
Atari SF314	1Mb	£149.99	Atari's own drive – colour-keyed to ST casing
Citizen	1Mb	£69.95	Internal fitting, but needs modifications for most STs
Cumana CSA354	1Mb	£89.99	internal Power Supply Unit (PSU)
PCML Double Drive	2x1Mb	£199	Twin double-sided, internal PSU
Power Dual Drive	2x1Mb	£110	Internal PSU
Power PC720	1Mb	£59.99	Built in PSU
Power PC720E	1Mb	£49.99	Takes power from joystick port
Power Multidrive	2x1Mb	£199	Built-in PSU
Power 5.25-inch Drive	1Mb	£99	5.25 inch drive with built-in PSU

(imaginary) disk drive out of thin air – no hardware needed! – though data must be copied to a real disk before you switch off the power or it's lost. In theory even a basic 520STFM can manage up to 400K in RAM – equivalent to an extra single-sided drive. Capacity depends on what applications you're running and how much RAM they leave free on your system;

otherwise RAMdisks are configurable to your needs. Various programs are available from any PD library. Some that are worth considering are *Maxidisk*, which compresses data as it stores it, to save space; *L-Ram*, which is reset-proof and installs itself automatically once configured; and *INTRAM*, which was yours free on *FORMAT* Cover Disk 19.

HARD DRIVES

Hard drives offer much greater memory and speed – at a price. Capacities vary widely, and there are other considerations:

- if it's auto-parking – if it is, the drive head automatically parks itself clear of the surface when you switch off, ensuring data isn't damaged if the unit is moved;
- speed – the faster the better – access times of 25 milliseconds are respectable;
- whether the drive comes ready to run, and what software is supplied with it;
- whether it has a throughport, so that a laser printer is "chainable" to it;
- its physical size;
- whether it has a noisy internal fan.

Atari MegaFile – 30Mb £499, 60Mb £689, etc – chainable; well-built, reliable, ST-coordinated. Silica ☎ 081 309 1111.

Gasteiner Mega Drive – 30Mb £379 (access 28ms), 40Mb (access 11ms) £549, etc – bulky but robust; quiet; auto-boot and autopark; chainable. *STF* 88%. Gasteiner ☎ 081 518 7676.

◆ **Best Buy** ICD FA.ST – 40Mb £499 (access 11ms), 85Mb £920 (22ms), etc – expandable, chainable; sturdy; auto-park; very quiet; features and software comprehensive; superb documentation. In some ways top of the range. *STF* 89%. Third Coast ☎ 0257 472444

● **Budget Buy** Power Drive 900. 40Mb £329 (26ms access), 100Mb £629, up to 200Mb (11ms) – older style casing; power from ST or separate power pack (£39.95); excellent ICD software; fans noisy. *STF* 92%. Power Computing ☎ 0234 273000

Power 900E Data Injection. 20Mb £325, 40Mb £425, etc – very compact (floppy-drive size); minimum-spec; not chainable; no noisy fan because casing cools it. Power from ST or extra PSU. Comes with ICD utilities. *STF* 85%. Power Computing.

● **Budget Buy** Reference 40 – 40Mb £399, 100Mb £599 – excellent value; chainable; auto-park; superb ICD software. Evesham Micros ☎ 0386 765500.

● **Budget Buy** Supra 40Mb £399 (access 11ms), 105Mb £699 (9ms) – from US; one of earliest for ST but fast,

dependable; auto-park; built-in clock; noisy fan; ICD utilities included. Surface Ltd ☎ 081 566 6677.

◆ **Best Buy** Vortex Datajet – 30Mb £499, 180Mb £1,499, etc – fast 25ms access; ultra-quiet; chainable; auto-park; auto-boot; well-designed, rugged; German designed custom circuitry for controls. Software very comprehensive. Easily customised with dip switches on back; extendable partitions. Pricy, but you get what you pay for. *STF* 94%. Silica.

■ *STF* refers to the overall rating for that drive in *FORMAT*'s detailed survey of Hard Drives, issue 17. You can't afford to miss *FORMAT*'s regular reviews of the latest hardware – see page 27 for information on how to subscribe to Britain's top ST mag

CARTRIDGE SYSTEMS

When you've filled all the memory, you can remove the hard drive cartridge (like about 50 floppies rolled into one) and pop in another! Recently developed, so long-term reliability untested.

Atari Mega 44Mb £920 – 40ms access. Silica ☎ 081 309 1111.

★ **State of the Art** Rewritable Optical Drive – 600Mb £2,995 – cartridge £250 extra; ICD software, but large partitions mean probably needs an STE. *STF* 93%. Power Computing ☎ 0234 273000.

Supra 44Mb £699 – chainable, auto-park/boot. Surface Ltd ☎ 081 566 6677.

Syquest Removable Cartridge Drive – 44Mb £799 – average access 23ms; variant on Gasteiner MegaDrive; chainable; auto-park; auto-boot. *STF* 89%. Gasteiner ☎ 081 518 7676.

FLOPPY DRIVES AND HARD DRIVES



■ Size matters, if your desk is small. Left to right, Power 900E; ICD FA.ST; Syquest Cartridge Drive; Power Rewritable Optical Drive; Power 900; Vortex Datajet; Gasteiner MegaDrive

business, edsoft

At a glance - all the best business and education software available for your ST

BUSINESS

The ST is a very versatile business machine, offering quality spreadsheets, databases and accounts.

SPREADSHEET

Multi-purpose programs which create cash forecasts and databases. Some even have basic WP and graphic features.

DGCalc. An easy to use spreadsheet. Fast, but has no graphics facility. £39.95 Digital International ☎ 0395 270273

DATABASE

A computer-based filing system with extra features. Some even have mail merge.

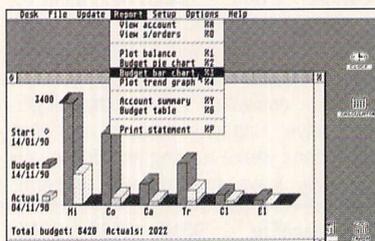
◆ **Best Buy** *Data Manager Professional*. A full-feature professional data management tool. Easy to use and good value for money. £39.95 Electric Distribution ☎ 0954 80318

◆ **Best Buy** *Prodata*. Similar to Arnor's *Protext*. You can move between fields very easily and filters provide a way of selectively viewing your data. You can also create your own layout structures and display them in a variety of different formats. Unless you own a hard drive, though, *Prodata* is painfully slow. Overall superb. £79.95 Arnor ☎ 0733 68909

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Business 12. - £2.50 disk GD312
Goodman PD ☎ 0782 335650
Card ST. - £2.50 disk GD456,
Goodman PD ☎ 0782 335650
Double-Sentry. - £3.00 disk 763,
Southwest Software Library,
PO Box 562, Wimborne,
Dorset BH21 2YD
Home Accounts v1.0. - £3.00 disk
MISC16 Softville PD ☎ 0705 266509
Sheet v2. - £2.50 disk GD371, Goodman
PD ☎ 0782 335650

Superbase Professional. A window-oriented relational database with a wide range of functions. A complete database management system. £249.95 Precision Software ☎ 081 330 7166



◆ **Personal Finance Manager Plus** - all you need to balance the books?

ACCOUNTS

A good set of accounts is vital for business. With these programs you can leave your ST to do all the hard work.

Cashbook Controller and *Final Accounts*. *Cashbook Controller* takes a more comprehensive approach to book-keeping. *Final Accounts* produces a complete set of accounts. £69.95 Digital International ☎ 0395 270273

Home Accounts. Provides a simple method of keeping track of your monthly budget. Good value. £24.95 Digital International ☎ 0395 270273

◆ **Best Buy** *Personal Finance Manager Plus*. An improved version of the original PFM to ease your personal finances. £29.95 ☎ Microdeal 0726 68020.

Small Business Accounts Extra. Gives you more customer accounts than *System 3*, but does not include stock control facilities. £114.94 Equinox Business System Ltd ☎ 071 729 0990.

System 3. Deals with the daily tasks of any business. Can generate impressive-looking invoices and you can produce a wide range of financial reports. Good for beginners. £49.95 Digital International ☎ 0395 270273

EDUCATION

When you're looking for the best edsoft there are several points to think about.

- What does the program aim to do?
- Is it easy to use?
- Does the program evaluate your skills?

◆ **Best Buy** *Fun School 2*. Testing colours and shapes with large and colourful graphics and good musical and visual rewards. It doesn't assess your progress, though. £19.95 Database Educational Software ☎ 0625 878888

★ **State of the Art** *Fun School 3*. More of the beautiful large graphics and over 18 high quality programs. Tests vary across a wide age range. Great fun.

£19.95 Database Educational Software ☎ 0625 878888

Hooray for Henrietta. Aims at five to twelve year olds and concentrates on numeracy skills. Good but has small graphics. £24.99 Scetlander Software ☎ 041 357 1659

Kid Publisher Professional. Enables you to print pages with words and pictures. £29.99 Future Publishing ☎ 0458 74011

Learn to Read with Prof. Introduces very basic reading skills for four to six year olds. Good value. £24.99 Prisma Software ☎ 0244 326244

Let's Spell At The Shops. Aims at the six through to eleven age group. Guide yourself into shops and spell what's inside. Fun and valuable. £14.99 Children's Learning Software ☎ 081 878 8761

Maths Dragons, *Cave Maze*, *Tidy the House*. Educational adventure games aimed at a wide range of ages. £12 each Coombe Valley Software ☎ 0626 779695

◆ **Best Buy** *Prof Looks at Words*, *Prof looks at Sentences*. Aimed at four to six year olds. Tests all aspects of grammar. £24.99 each Prisma Software ☎ 0244 326244

◆ **Best Buy** *School Time Maths*. This excellent maths program aims at the

PUBLIC DOMAIN

• For the **under fives**, the following are available from all good PD libraries: *ABCD*, *Kid Colour*, *Kid Potato*, *Kid Shapes 2*, *Spelling*.

■ **PD Choice** *Dot to Dot*, Pdom disk A132; *Colouring Book*, Page 6 PDL disk ST290; ST Club disk EDD8.

Other under-5s PD edsoft available from BSoft, Goodman PDL and Floppyshop. See feature in *FORMAT 18*.

• For **five to eight year olds**: *First Maths and Shipwreck*

■ **PD Choice** *Things To Do With Numbers*, *Fun Face Demo* and *Puzzle*

Other 5 to 8s edsoft available from the ST Club, Goodman PDL, BSoft and PDQ. See feature in *FORMAT 20*.

For the addresses of these and other PD libraries, see the complete directory on page 21. And don't miss *FORMAT's* continuing series on PD edsoft!

under-eights. £14.95 B.Ware Educational Software ☎ 0455 613377

Word Search. Find words hidden in a grid of letters. A fun and compulsive program. £9.95 Miked ☎ 0752 671464

■ Don't miss another part of *ST FORMAT's* comprehensive survey of PD edsoft, or any of our regular reviews of educational programs - see page 27 for information on subscribing. You can get *Kid Publisher* free when you do!

BUSINESS AND EDUCATION SOFTWARE



■ **Fun School 3** is an example of the best in modern edsoft

Distinctly Digital

Cleverly written and always favourably reviewed in the press, Digita produces a range of powerful, low cost software for the home and business user.

DGCALC

The fastest and most powerful spreadsheet available in this price bracket, with 512 rows by 52 columns, giving you up to 26624 cells. As with all Digita products, the operation of the program is clearly thought out. Being either menu, mouse or command driven you'll be able to start using it within minutes - even if you've never used a spreadsheet before. Some of the features which make it such good value are the exporting of ASCII files for integration with other programs, adjustable column width and text overflow, programmable function keys (macros), and a unique windowing facility, so that you can look at different parts of a sheet at the same time.

£39.95

E-TYPE

Do you ever have to print names and addresses at awkward places on envelopes, or do you ever need to fill in tricky forms or invoices where the text has to be in exactly the right place? Usually you have to do it by hand, or get your trusty old typewriter out of the cupboard and dust it off. Well not anymore. The Emulated TYPEwriter transforms your computer and printer into a fully fledged typewriter, supporting bold, underline, italic and other type-styles. Because it can display and print text INSTANTLY you can line up your form, press Return and Space a few times to move to the correct place, and then start typing. Alternatively you can switch to line-by-line mode, which offers word-wrap, justification and proportional spacing, so that you can edit each line before it's printed.

£39.95

PERSONAL TAX PLANNER

Are you absolutely sure your taxman is doing his job correctly? Plan your own tax with ease, this menu-driven program will calculate your income tax liability (4 tax years included) and provide pertinent facts about your tax position. You can perform 'what-if?' calculation to discover ways to minimise your tax liability. In fact, the program will advise you on things such as, if you are a married man, whether it would be advantageous to have your wife's income taxed separately or not. At this price who knows, you will probably find that PTP will pay for itself in tax savings the first time you use it!

** STOP PRESS **

July '89 - PTP user receives tax refund of over £2,000!!

£39.95

DAY-BY-DAY

An excellent way to get organised. With it you'll be reminded of birthdays and other anniversaries, meetings and appointments, phone calls to make and so on. As with all Digita products, inputting information is simplicity itself and, once entered, you can search for keywords or for particular events such as birthdays to see when one is coming up. Includes month/week/day planner, automatic reminders for overdue appointments, month and week summary at a glance. For less than £30 this is the ideal way to make sure you never miss that important occasion again!

£29.95

MAILSHOT

If you ever need to send out mailings or print labels, you know how fiddly and time-consuming it can be making sure all the labels are printed correctly. Well now all that's a thing of the past. Because Mailshot actually shows you the labels on screen, you can type names and addresses in exactly the correct place. But more than that, the labels are animated on screen as a continuous sheet, allowing you to scroll backwards and forwards, to search for particular keywords or to edit entries with the minimum of fuss. Facilities include searching, detection of duplicate labels, sorting (even surname!) 9 labels across, 999 copies of any label. This has to be the simplest and most effective method of creating a mailshot available.

£24.95

MAILSHOT PLUS

Advanced version of Mailshot for the business user with the following extra facilities:

- * integration with other software (using ASCII files)
- * column/tabulated summary (ideal for telephone lists, etc)
- * 4 extra memo lines per label (with defaults)
- * system for coding, dating and adding messages to each label
- * different layouts available for horizontal and vertical justification.

£49.95

CASHBOOK COMBO

Money saving combination pack featuring both Cashbook Controller and Final Accounts - Save £10.00.

£69.96

FINAL ACCOUNTS

The program will take information prepared by Cashbook Controller and produce a complete set of accounts including:

- * Trial Balance
- * Trading and Profit and Loss Account
- * Balance Sheet
- * Notes to the Accounts
- * Full Accounting ratios.

All reports may be produced at any time, with comparative/budget figures if required. The facility to produce these documents quickly, accurately, and regularly is of enormous help in running any business, large or small, since one shows the true profitability achieved, and the other the exact strength of the business in terms of assets and liabilities.

£29.95

CLASSIC INVADERS

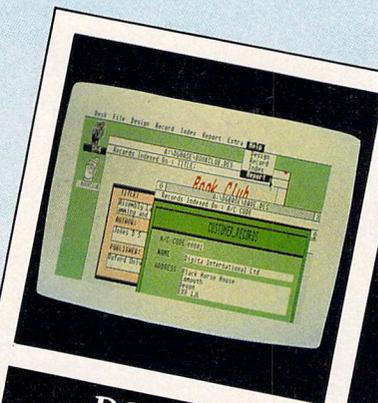
Escape from executive stress with the classic space invader game.

£14.95

PHARAOH III

Based on the classic gameplay of Galaxians, this original and unique game recreates the mystical atmosphere of ancient Egypt and the Pharaohs.

£14.95



DGBASE

If you're looking for fast access to stored data, and the ability to create customised reports, including office/personal records, labels and mail-merging, without the need for technical knowledge, then DGBase is for you. Designed and written specifically for the Atari ST, DGBase will fully utilise the facilities of your computer and GEM. This powerful, relational database offers access to 4 files simultaneously, full maths, integration with Digita's DGCALC and Mailshot Plus (and other programs using ASCII files). You can even change or add fields AFTER setting up your database.

Simplicity itself, DGBase comes on one disc which includes on-line help and is limited only by the capacity of your ST and your imagination!

£49.95

CASHBOOK

Use your computer as a powerful business tool and take the drudgery out of book keeping! In its simplest form, the program will replace your Cash and Petty Cash books BUT information includes: * Summary of VAT information to enable completion of VAT Return. * Monthly summaries and departmental analyses of sales and purchases. * Total debtors and creditors, sales, and overheads. * Total expenditure analysis. * Journal routine for entering transfers between accounts. * 198 nominal account titles, most of which are user definable. * Observes accounting procedures and meets legal requirements, assuring correct approach to book keeping. * Full audit trail and integrates with Final Accounts.

£49.95

HOME ACCOUNTS

Ideal for both home users and small business. Simple to use, this package will keep track of all your finances and cater for 10 types of income (e.g. Bank, credit card) and 60 types of expenditure (e.g. rates, mortgage, gas, food), with optional budgeting and forecasting. The program will handle Standing Orders and Direct Debits, and automatically warn if your example, Bank charges are likely, or if you have exceeded your credit limit. With the comprehensive reporting and graphics facilities you can even produce your own monthly Bank/Credit card statements! Once you've used Home Accounts, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.

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Hard Drives

- Autoparking 3.5" mechanisms.
- Full metal case suitable as monitor stand.
- On/off button and DMA device selector mounted on front.
- Integral PSU.
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- Megadrive controller, low power, controls up to 8 SCSI drives.
- Compatible with emulators such as Spectre GCR, AT Once.
- Up to 255 partitions, up to 1 Gigabyte in size.
- Selection of Accessories/boot partition with boot editor.
- Includes backup software and Midistudio demo software.

Price Breakthrough

We can now offer a range of hard drives all built around cached Quantum mechanisms with an 11ms average access time for the incredible prices shown below. QUANTUM mechanisms are used which are of the highest quality. These Quantum mechanisms are built to American military standard and include a 2 year manufacturers warranty from date of manufacture offering the best possible protection for your data.

52Mb 11ms (Quantum drive)	£ 419.99
105Mb 11ms (Quantum drive)	£ 529.99

Add £20 for HD with ICD board (includes clock). Phone for other capacities.



3.5" Drives

CSA 354: ST 3.5" drive.	£69.99
CAX 354: Amiga 3.5" drive.	£64.99
ST Internal drive upgrade.	£64.99

The Cumana ST internal drive requires the ST's case to be modified (full instructions supplied). The external ST drive is a high quality, slim, quiet drive which comes complete with integral PSU and so does not draw power from the ST which could cause problems. Add £3 P&P for drives.



Quality Disks

Quantity	Bulk Sony or Kao		Includes	Sony Brand Boxed in 10's
	Loose	Boxed		
10	£ 5.99	£ 6.99	Includes x10 Ryford black plastic box	£ 9.49
40	£ 20.99	£ 26.99	Includes x40 Lockable, disc box	£ 34.99
100	£ 48.99	£ 57.99	Includes x100 Lockable, disc box	£ 84.99
150	£ 66.99	£ 83.99	Includes x150 Posso Stackable disc box	£ 125.99

All disks carry unconditional guarantee. Add 80p P&P for each 10 disks or £3.00 for 100 and above.

ST & Amiga Packs

520STFM Discovery Pack	£279.99	520STE Turbo Pack	£349.99
1Mb STE Turbo Pack	£369.99	2Mb STE Turbo Pack	£409.99
4Mb STE Turbo Pack	£479.99	(ST) Tenstar pack, M/mat, J/stick	£30
Amiga 500 Screen Gem's Pack	£369.99	(Am) Astra pack, M/mat, J/stick	£30

A4 Scanner Monitors

- 200 Dpi scanner.
 - 16 grey scales or Black/White mode.
 - High quality thermal image printer.
 - Acts as photocopier.
 - ST & Amiga £449.99
 - PC version £479.99.
 - Requires 1Mb RAM.
- IMG scanner still available at an incredible £49.99**
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|-------------------------|----------|
| Atari SM124 Mono | £ 109.99 |
| Philips 8833MkII Colour | £ 249.99 |
| Philips 15" TV | £ 269.99 |
- Includes: FST, remote control, Scart input (giving near monitor quality display), 80 tuner presets, sleep timer and Fastext.
- All displays come with Scart cable. Deduct £10 from Monitors only, if bought with computer.

Please Read: Terms of Sale.

We are the longest established Atari dealer in the UK. We have developed an extensive customer service policy which means that we test all Hardware/Software prior to despatch to ensure that goods arrive in working order. Although our prices are not always the cheapest we do endeavour to offer consistently good service and backup. This isn't just our opinion, we were voted "Best Dealer 1989" by the readers of ST World magazine, not for "the number of boxes shifted", but for quality service.

On Site Warranty: We have recently extended our backup programme by offering on site warranty as an option on all ST's. We already offer this service on, All Star printers and Philips monitors listed.

All prices are correct at copy date 14/02/91, and are subject to change without prior notice. All prices are accurate while stocks last. Phone for up to date prices. All prices include VAT, there are no hidden extras (WYSIWYG). Delivery (in Mainland UK) is free, on orders over £100 (add £10 for next day courier delivery). All prices available on Mail Order. Shop prices may differ.

Midistudio Master

- 100 tracks storage, 20 tracks playing simultaneously.
- 240 ppq resolution.
- Realtime mix-down via mouse.
- Realtime scrolling arrange window.
- 11 levels of quantise, including humanise.
- Pipeline/Module system.
- Loop record.
- Mid soft keys.
- Works on 1040STF(MXE)

Midistudio Master
£129.99

Midistudio Junior still available £49.99
Phone for upgrades

ST FAX

Use your ST to send faxes. Fully featured modem accesses bulletin boards/commercial systems.

- Fully Hayes compatible.
- Auto dial/answer
- 300/1200/2400 Baud
- Mix text and graphics.
- Cannot receive faxes. Not BT approved.

£200

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AT 12Mhz Desktop	£ 449.99
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AT 16Mhz VGA Mini tower	
40Mb	£ 849.99
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Mono Monitor	£ 299.99
VGA Colour Monitor	£ 999.99
PC Emulators for ST	
PC Speed, XT Emulator	£ 99.99
AT Speed, AT Emulator	£ 199.99
AT Once, AT Emulator	£ 199.99

Upgrades

512K STFM, 16 or 4 chip kit.	£ 39.99	512K ST board+chips, kit.	£ 59.99
2Mb ST board+chips, kit	£ 159.99	4Mb ST boards+chips, fitted	£ 344.99
TOS 14 kit (6 or 2 ROM's)	£ 39.99	STFM Blitter chip, kit	£ 39.99
512K SIMM/SIPP (STE)	£ 39.99	2Mb SIMM/SIPP (STE)	£ 119.99
Amiga 512K no clock	£ 34.99	Amiga 512K with clock	£ 39.99
Exchange STFM PSU	£ 59.99	ROM switch + TOS 14	£ 49.99

Please check the configuration of your machine with our staff before ordering any upgrade. All upgrades/repairs carried out by our service centre carry a 90 days parts and labour guarantee. Our service centre can repair/upgrade any ST, Amiga. Please phone for repair/upgrade charges. Please add £150 P&P for upgrades priced under £100.

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- Compatible with STE, Stacy.
- 30% bigger screen area than Mac Plus.
- Runs 20% faster than Mac Plus.

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£285
Phone for 128K ROM's

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All dot matrix printers come complete with IBM Centronics cable. All Star printers include 12 months on site warranty, UK Mainland only.

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Star LC-24/10		£ 209.99	Citizen Swift	192/84cps	£ 319.99
Star LC-200 colour printer		£ 219.99	Citizen swift Colour upgrade		£ 39.99
Star LC24-200 222cps		£ 249.99	Citizen Swift 9		£ 209.99
Star LC24-200 colour printer		£ 319.99	64K buffer/3 input switcher		£ 29.99
Star Laser 8DB 2Mb RAM		£ 1899.99	256K buffer/3 input switcher		£ 49.99



How to Pay
You can phone your Access or Visa card details or send a cheque/postal orders made payable to Ladbroke Computing International. Please allow sufficient clearance time for cheques.



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art and graphics

Consider yourself another Monet? Use your ST to create exciting images with ease

What do you want to do on your ST? Paint pictures, produce graphics for your desktop publishing program, or perhaps create sprites for animation? Or do you want an all-purpose package? Whatever you need, it's probably available for your ST.

Art Tutor: Specifically aimed at teaching you how to draw. Reviewed *STF* 21. £19.95 Castlesoft ☎ 0743 723 539

● **Budget Buy** *Canvas*: You can display 4,096 colours using an STE, but you can see only the usual 16 while you draw. *Canvas* also offers excellent amateur 3D design and animation. Unfortunately, you must flip between two screens as you work. £14.95 Microdeal ☎ 0726 68020

Cyber Paint v2: Excellent paint features and great animation facilities. £49.95 Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666

Degas Elite: Top package. Works in all graphic modes and can convert images between them. Produces limited animation effects. Some functions are slow. £24.95 Electronic Arts ☎ 0462 420847

★ **State of the Art** *Deluxe Paint*: The definitive arts package for the ST. Extremely user-friendly and bursting with useful features. Improves upon all the good points of other arts programs. £49.99 Electronic Arts ☎ 0753 49442

Flair Paint: Operates as a Desk Accessory and can edit large images. Excellent for DTP, but cumbersome to use. £24.95 Database Software ☎ 0625 878888

HyperChart: A sophisticated business presentation package enabling you to create slide presentations – display them either as a rolling demo or as 35mm slides. £129.95 Atari ☎ 0753 33344

HyperDraw: An object-based drawing program – it stores the elements that go into making an image separately. £39.99 Atari ☎ 0734 33344

PUBLIC DOMAIN

■ **PD Choice** *Neochrome*: All the features of *Degas Elite*. Part of the *ST FORMAT* Graphics Collection – see Special Offers pages in each issue.

● The following are obtainable from The ST Club ☎ 0602 410241 for £3.00:

Colourburst: disk DRG.26

E-Plan: disk DRG.12,

Palette Master: disk DRG.20

Public Painter: disk DRG.19

● The following are obtainable from Softville ☎ 0705 266509 for £3.00:

Ani ST: disk: ART 25

Van Gogh: disk ART13,

● From Goodman PDL ☎ 0782 335650:
The ST Colour Book disk GD364 £3.50

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

● **Files**: Compatibility between art programs is a boon – and can your compress files to save memory?

● **Monochrome support**: If you want to use your art in DTP, make sure you can transfer files into high resolution.

● **User-friendliness**: Choose the one you find the easiest to use. A “hot-spot” area is useful – these magnify areas of the picture for detailed work.

● **Animation**: Not all packages offer animating options – and those that do, utilise different methods.

● **STE features**: Does the program make use of the STE's 4,096 colour palette and improved scrolling ability?

HyperPaint 2: Uses the STE's improved features and works efficiently. Can handle GEM-standard IMG format files, making it good for scanners and digitisers. Painfully slow at times. £34.99 Atari Corp UK ☎ 0753 33344

Image: Manipulates huge images. You can load *Calamus* files and edit them before printing out. Very easy to use. £69.95 Third Coast ☎ 0252 42442

OCP Art Studio: Design sprites by editing the pixels in a block but no direct access to the screen. Supports *Degas* and *Neochrome* formats, but sports a bizarre user interface and can be frustrating to use. £22 EEC ☎ 0753 888866

Paintpot: You can work on nine different screens, memory permitting. There are extra features too like horizontal and vertical sine/cosine ripples. Doesn't really offer much more than *Degas*, though. £19.95 Switchsoft ☎ 0325 482454

Parsec Board: Offers 4,096 colours on-screen at the same time, with up to 16



■ **Deluxe Paint** has every feature you could need to create superb artwork

colours per line. Screen resolution of 1,024 x 768 pixels. Comes with the *Da Vinci* paint program. £918.85 Elmtch Research ☎ 021 4725719

Quantum Paint v2: Creates a new screen mode with more colours than are normally possible. Astounding image quality, but you can use it only for static screen images, and it's impossible to use with DTP. £19.95 Eidersoft ☎ 0268 541212

Spectrum 512: Plenty of extra features; enables you to create your own selection of colours. However, you can't use the images in your own programs. £29.95 Electric Software ☎ 0954 61258

Trip-A-Tron: Create swirling screen effects as you input music through the MIDI ports. £34.95 Llamasoft ☎ 07356 4478

■ *ST FORMAT* not only keeps you up to date with the latest in art and graphics – every issue the *GALLERY* section features art created by readers not so very different from you, and even brings you their detailed techniques and tips, so you can learn how to produce your own graphic masterpieces! To make sure you don't miss a trick, turn to page 27 for details of how to subscribe

CAD PROGRAMS

In a Computer Aided Design (CAD) program, images are constructed with “vector graphics” – your ST stores pictures as collections of lines, defined by X and Y coordinates. As a result, the image is accurate no matter what the scale.

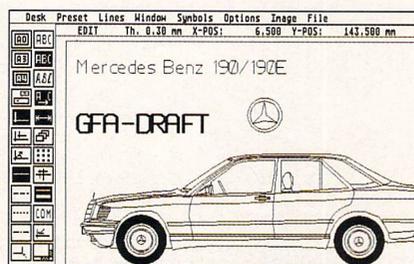
● **Budget Buy** *Campus Draft*: A really good entry-level program with excellent features. Also good for small engineering projects. It can also run on a 520 ST. £70 Power Computing ☎ 0234 273000

DynaCADD: Creates 2D or 3D technical drawings and offers all the facilities of more expensive software. Requires at least 1 MByte and a double-sided drive. £650 Expressworks ☎ 0252 726255

◆ **Best Buy** *GFA Draft Plus 3*: Produces only 2D drawings but has a

library of over 100 symbols. Brilliant value for money with all the features you need. A little slow on complex designs. £99.95 GFA Data Media ☎ 0734 749941

■ The only CAD programs available in the Public Domain are demo versions of commercial programs. See page 21 for an up-to-date PD library directory



■ From Germany, renowned for quality technology, comes *GFA Draft Plus 3*

THE COMPILATION PACK OF MEGA STARS

HOLLYWOOD

Collection



GHOSTBUSTERS II



INDIANA JONES

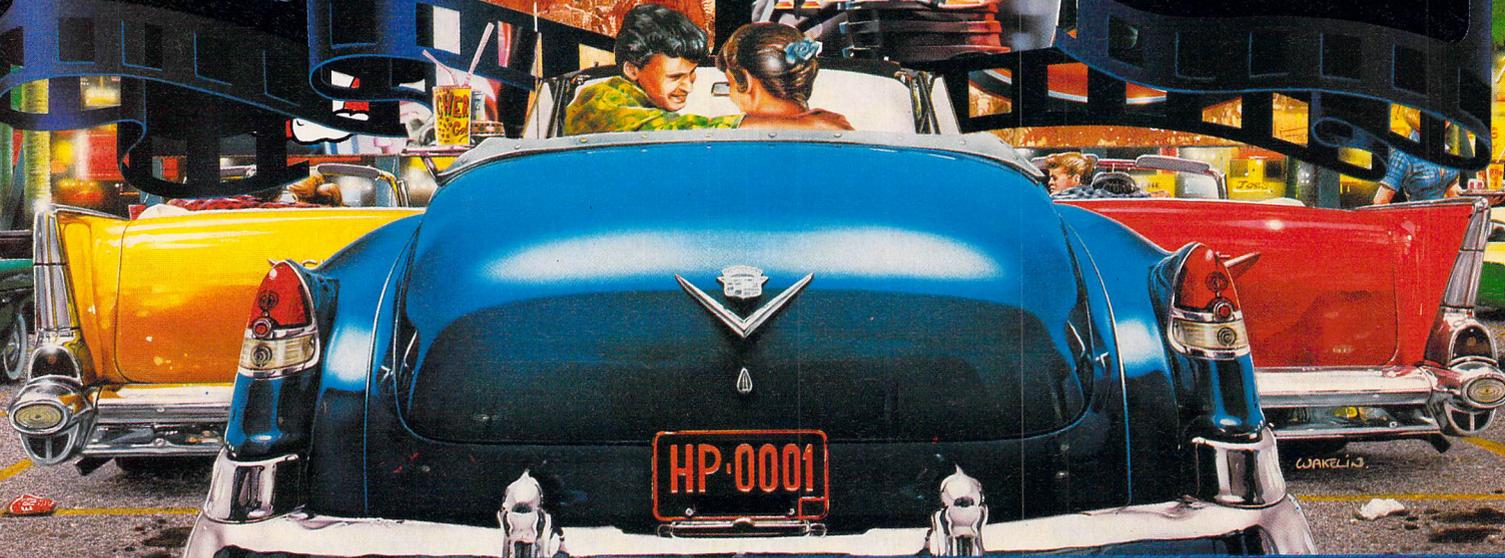


ROBOCOP



TM

BATMAN



ROBOCOP

GHOSTBUSTERS II

INDIANA JONES

BATMAN



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games



Shoot-'em-ups, beat-'em-ups, adventures, puzzles – the best games you can buy!

Over the past year, we awarded over 30 **FORMAT** Golds to the best leisure software around. They're all here, along with their overall percentage ratings. What's more, we also include a category-by-category round-up of those games that didn't quite make it into Gold status but still give you excellent value for money.

1. MidWinter 96%

Microprose £24.99

Set in 2099, when the world is plunged into another Ice Age. As Captain Stark, you must gather together a team to destroy the enemy. A classic game with innumerable ways to achieve victory.



■ The fabulous *MidWinter* has it all: excellent graphics and superb game-play

2. F-19 Stealth Fighter 96%

Microprose £29.99

One of the best military flight simulations ever with superb vector graphics. Choose from several exciting missions.

3. Damocles 94%

Novagen £24.95

Prevent the comet Damocles from crashing into the planet of Eris. Incredible 3D graphics with an entire planetary system.

4. Battle Command 93%

Ocean £24.99

Solid, smooth and fast-moving 3D graphics in this shoot-'em-up cum strategy game. Select your tank's weaponry and choose any one of the 12 missions.

5. Captive 93%

Mindscape £24.99

Try to escape from a secret space station. Role-playing game, with atmospheric 3D images and sampled sci-fi noises.



■ In *F-19 Stealth Fighter*, choose a mission and fly by night – if you dare

■ Last year, *ST FORMAT* reviewed over 200 games and brought you the most up-to-date reviews anywhere. Don't miss out this year! Turn to page 27 for details of how to subscribe – and get the latest *Bitmap Brothers* game free!

6. Gettysburg 93%

Arc/Atari £24.99

A superb wargame recreating the 1863 battle at Gettysburg in the American deep South. Enhanced with 3D graphics.

7. Gravity 93%

Mirrorsoft £24.95

A strategy/action space game. Complex and arresting graphics as you attempt to colonise new planets.

8. Operation Stealth 93%

Delphine/US Gold £24.99

A graphic adventure game with stupendous visuals. As superspy John Glames you must track down the villain who's nicked an American Stealth Bomber.

9. Player Manager 93%

Anco £19.95

A management simulation game with incredible realism. Act as football manager and guide your team up the ladder.

10. Powermonger 93%

Electronic Arts £29.99

You must conquer 195 territories to win

the game. Excellent isometric 3D displays of the landscapes, great sound effects and addictive game-play.

11. Rainbow Islands 93%

Ocean £19.99

One of the best coin-up conversions on the ST. A cutesy platform game with big cartoony sprites and bouncy soundtrack.

12. Resolution 101 93%

Millennium £24.95

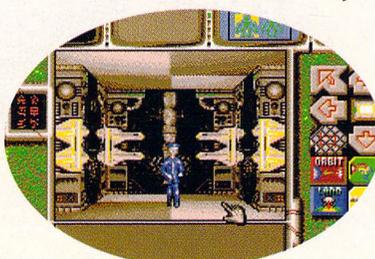
An all-action romp eliminating drug barons in a 3D city. A highly polished game and incredibly fast-moving.

13. Austerlitz 92%

Mirrorsoft £24.99

Deploy troops around 19th-century Austerlitz and relive Napoleon's finest hour. A fine wargame with solid 3D graphics.

continued on page 15 ➤



■ *Captive* is an excellent graphic adventure set in deep space

SPORTS SIMULATIONS

Days of Thunder	Mindscape	£24.99	88%
Speedball 2	Mirrorsoft	£24.99	88%
Gazza 2	Empire	£24.99	86%
Lotus Esprit Turbo Challenge	Gremlin	£19.99	86%
Projectyle	Electronic Arts	£24.99	86%
3D Tennis	Palace	£24.99	86%
Soccer Challenge	Microprose	£24.99	85%
Hard Drivin'	Domark	£24.95	84%
Championship Tie Break	Ocean	£19.99	83%
Power Drift	Activision	£24.95	83%
Future Basketball	Hewson	£24.99	81%
Cyberball	Domark	£19.99	80%

SIMULATION/STRATEGY

Lost Patrol	Ocean	£24.99	88%
Imperium	Electronic Arts	£24.95	87%
UMS 2	Microprose	£29.99	87%
M1 Tank Platoon	Microprose	£29.99	84%
Team Yankee	Empire	£29.99	84%
Breach 2	Impressions	£24.99	81%

MORE PLATFORM GAMES

Night Shift	Lucasfilm Games	£24.99	86%
Rick Dangerous 2	Microprose	£24.99	86%
James Pond	Thalion	£24.99	81%
The Toyottes	Infogrames	£19.99	81%

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DYNAMITE DUX



AMIGA

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SHINOBI



AMIGA

ENJOY FRANTIC oriental action in this Ninja beat-em-up. Search for kidnapped children and dispose of marauding thugs with blows from feet, fists and shuriken stars. Classic Sega coin-op thrills!

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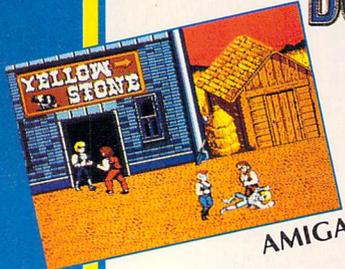


AMIGA

You are MULK, pal ... and as THE totally wicked revolutionary your gonna build 2 assassination machines — The Ninja Warriors — and attempt to chill out the evil master-greek, BANGLER.

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DOUBLE DRAGON II The Revenge

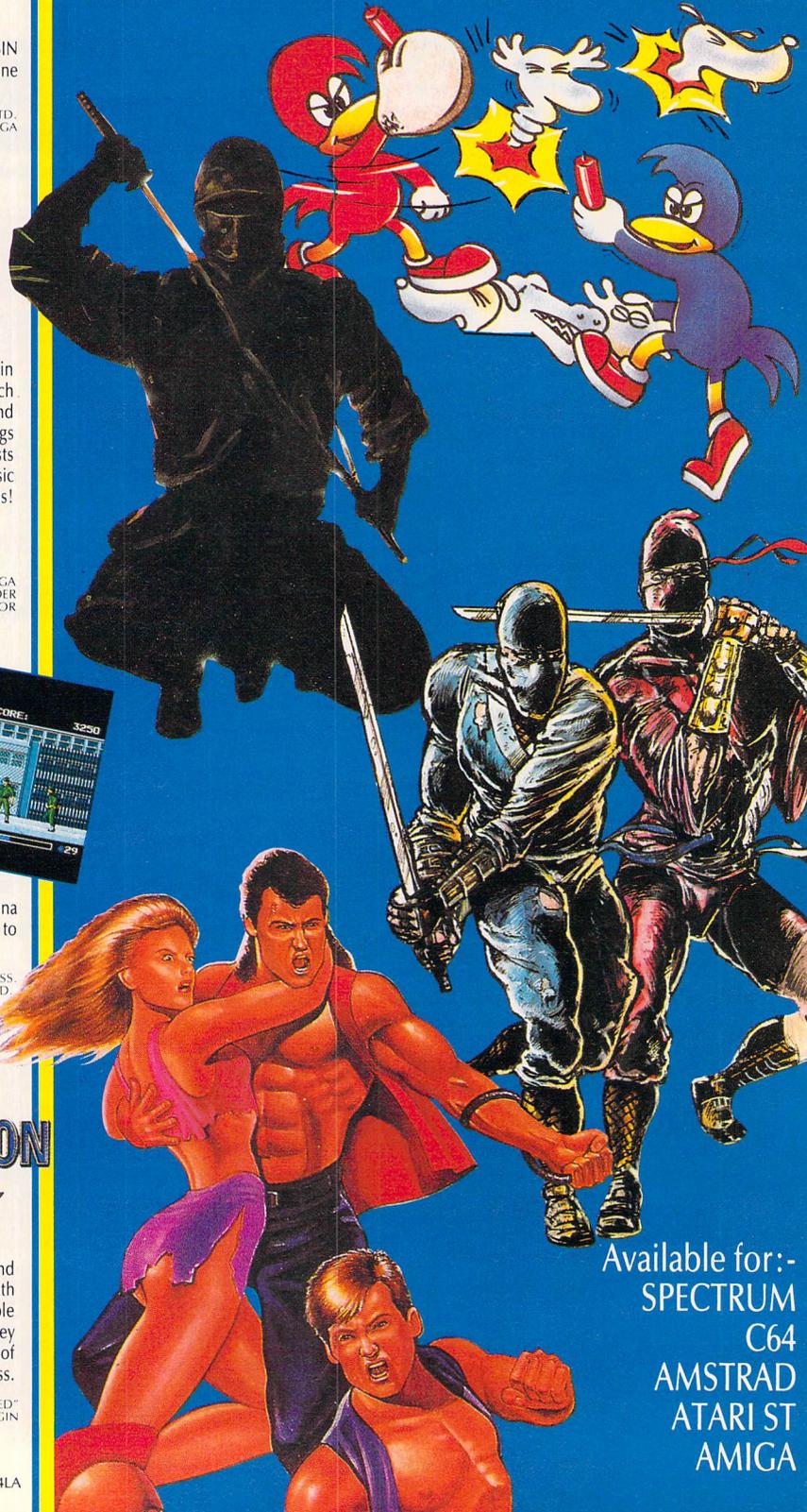


AMIGA

The Double Dragons, Billy and Jimmy, seek to avenge the death of Marian — and might even be able to bring her back to life if they can only penetrate the secret lair of the Shadow Boss.

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Available for:-
SPECTRUM
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AMIGA

► **recommended games continued from page 13**

MORE TOP ADVENTURES

Legend of Faerghail	Rainbow Arts	£29.99	89%
BSS Jane Seymour	Gremlin	£29.99	87%
Corporation	Core Design	£24.99	87%
The Immortal	Electronic Arts	£24.99	87%
Mean Streets	US Gold	£19.99	84%
Murders in Space	Infogrames	£24.99	83%
Time Machine	Activision	£24.99	83%
Battle Master	Mirrorsoft	£24.99	82%
Final Command	UBI Soft	£19.99	82%
Cadaver	Mirrorsoft	£24.99	81%
Loom	Lucasfilm Games	£29.99	81%
Treasure Trap	Electronic Arts	£24.99	81%
Theme Park Mystery	Mirrorsoft	£24.99	80%



■ Great graphics and strategic game-play in *Powermonger*

14. B.A.T. 92%
UBI Soft £34.99

Fabulously detailed graphics and addictive game-play in this graphic adventure. Price includes 16-track sound card.

15. Dragons Breath 92%
Palace £19.99

Breed dragons and impose taxes on your suffering fellows, always keeping an eye on your enemies. A strategy game with excellent static graphics.

16. Enchanted Lands 92%
Thalion £24.99

You must retrieve the parts of the broken Heart of Lore. The smoothest scrolling platform game yet with big and fluid sprites – it just oozes playability.

17. Kick Off 2 92%
Anco £19.99

The best football simulation on the ST gets even better! Smooth scrolling and satisfying footy sound effects.

18. MiG-29 Fulcrum 92%
Domark £34.99

The most recent flight sim with fast and



■ *Gettysburg* is a classic wargame with 3D views of the battleground

TEN MORE BEAT-'EM-UPS

Turrican 2	Rainbow Arts	£24.99	89%
Metal Masters	Infogrames	£24.99	88%
Last Ninja 2	System 3/Activision	£24.99	86%
Fire and Brimstone	Microprose	£24.95	84%
Ghouls 'n' Ghosts	US Gold	£19.99	84%
RoboCop 2	Ocean	£24.99	84%
Shadow of the Beast	Psygnosis	£24.99	83%
Golden Axe	Virgin	£24.99	82%
Super Boy Wonder	Activision	£24.99	82%
Turrican	Rainbow Arts	£19.99	82%

MORE PUZZLE GAMES

Brain Blasters	UBI Soft	£19.99	88%
Klax	Domark	£19.99	87%
Puzznic	Ocean	£24.99	86%
Antago	Software Business	£19.95	84%
Vaxine	US Gold	£19.99	84%
Alpha Waves	Infogrames	£24.99	83%
The Curse of Ra	Rainbow Arts	£19.99	83%
Chip's Challenge	US Gold	£19.99	82%
The Light Corridor	Infogrames	£24.99	82%

■ On average, *ST FORMAT* reviews over 20 games every month – and brings you the most up-to-date previews anywhere. If you want to keep up with what's hot and what's going to be, turn to page 27 for how to subscribe

smooth vector graphics and plenty of exciting missions.

19. Sim City 92%
Infogrames £29.99

Create and maintain your own metropolis with this award winning game. A new, hugely addictive kind of simulation.

20. Armada 91%
Arc/Atari £24.95

A great wargame set on the High Seas, where you can relive the Spanish Armada.

21. Batman 91%
Ocean £24.99

Test your platform skills or try out the 3D car chase sequence. A worthwhile game that proves not all licences are duff.

22. The Battle of Britain 91%
Lucasfilm/US Gold £29.95

Excellent graphics in this flight sim with period instruments in the cockpit.

23. Conqueror 91%
Rainbow Arts £24.95

A tank simulation with incredible 3D graphics. Beautiful to look at – and just as great to play.

24. Flood 91%
Electronic Arts £19.99

A macabre cutesy platform game with beautiful sprites. Collect all the trashcans and avoid drowning in rising floodwaters. Hugely addictive.

25. Magic Fly 91%
Electronic Arts £24.95

Outstanding visuals with smooth 3D vector graphics. Get past the vicious insects and destroy an underground complex.

26. Spindizzy worlds 91%
Activision £19.99

A deep, involving puzzle game in which you must explore 23 isometric 3D worlds with your spinning character, GERALD. Excellent gameplay at every skill level.

27. Castle Master 90%
Incentive £19.99

Explore a solid 3D world in search of your damsel. Moody graphics and tremendous atmosphere.

■ For truly fabulous animation, take a look at the graphics in *Prince of Persia*

28. Prince of Persia 90%
Domark £24.99

Perfectly smooth animation makes this game special. Enormously entertaining.

29. Supremacy 90%
Melbourne House/Virgin £29.99

Cultivate a colony on a single planet and attempt to populate the Universe.

30. Warhead 90%
Activision £24.99

Immensely playable space adventure with an atmospheric 3D environment.



■ *Supremacy* is a futuristic strategy game with very attractive visuals

SHOOT-'EM-UP EXTRA

Thunderstrike	Millennium	£24.99	88%
Pang	Ocean	£24.99	88%
Exterminator	Audiogenic	£24.99	87%
Atomic Robokid	Activision	£24.99	82%
Crackdown	US Gold	£19.99	81%
Rotox	US Gold	£19.99	81%
Simulcra	Microstyle	£24.99	81%
The Untouchables	Ocean	£19.99	81%
Wings of Death	Thalion	£24.99	81%

GAMES

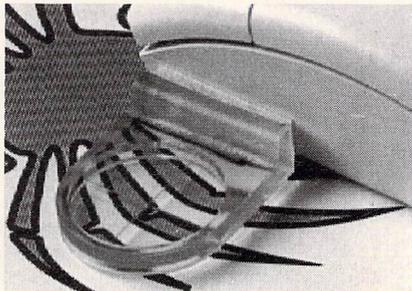
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ST UTILITIES

- (All are single sided and 1/2 meg unless otherwise stated)
- SU 038 Neochrome Master The updated version of the acclaimed PD art program
 - SU 041 B Boot Disk Boot from your second drive
 - SU 042 LOFT Comms Disk A complete comms package with over 50K of hints and tips
 - SU 044 Mono Emulator Run those mono only programs with this emulator
 - SU 521 Opus Spread Sheet A commercial quality spreadsheet, easy to use (D/S)
 - SU 522 ST Writer Version 3 Latest version of the best PD word processor (D/S)

Some Titles are 2 Disks or more. Please add 60p p/p per order

ST DEMOS (All are Double sided and 1/2 meg unless otherwise stated)

- SD 528 Overlanders Delirious Demo I The Overlanders do it again. Amazing!
- SD 529 Skid Row Megademo Disk 1 Very original menu idea, and the demos aren't
- SD 530 Skid Row Megademo Disk 2 bad either! (1 MEG ONLY)
- SD531 Syntax Terror Megademo The first I've seen from this group, impressive
- SM 024 V8 Music System II 250 (Yes! 250) music from games and demos! (S/S)
- SM 524 Madonna Like A Prayer Nice digitized music, but no picture! (1 MEG)
- SM 535 Thalio Sound Demo Similar to the V8 music, but some are digitized
- SM 536 V8 Music System I The first V8 demo, not as impressive
- SD 018 Universal Pictures Demo Fast solid 3D graphics from the Amiga (S/S)
- SD 521 Star Wars Demo Great sound and animation from the film
- SD536 FNIL Demo Colourful collection of demos with digitized sound (1 MEG)
- SN 511 Scanners 5 Seconds the pain starts, 10 you can't breathe! (1 MEG)
- SN 513 Star Trek 'To boldly go' Enterprise animation from the series (1 MEG)
- SN 514 Cyber Paint Animations A collection of impressive Cyber anims
- SN 515 Cyber Sculpt Disk Animation Brilliant story of a disk (1 MEG)

STE ONLY DEMOS (All are Double sided and 1/2 meg unless otherwise stated)

- ED 008 STE Samples High quality samples with mixing desk type controls (1 Meg)
- ED 011 Fantasi STE Simply the best solid 3D demo on the STE (1 MEG)

ST GAMES (All are single sided and 1/2 meg unless otherwise stated)

- SG 031 Robotz One of the best ever PD games, with digitized sound and good GFX
- SG 042 Who Maimed Roger Rabbit & Ayatollah Invaders Get those bunnies!

We now also stock a set of 10 instrument disks for Noisetracker, the latest POV compilation disks, a massive selection of doubled up disks (2 disks on 1 double sided disk). The latest Budgie quality games, and many other titles not listed here! See the "NEW" ST update for descriptions of all these disks and many more. Also available: for just £1.00 we will send you our new Catalogue disk which is being constantly updated with reviews of all the latest titles.

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GIST. Create sound effects directly on-screen, then incorporate them into your

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◆ **Best Buy C-Lab's Creator/Notator** (Minimum 1MByte). **FORMAT** Gold winner *Creator* (£289; 92%; *STF* 20) is one of the top sequencing programs. *Notator* (£495) complements it, with score creation/editing facilities. Expensive, though, and lacks a multi-window facility. Sound Technology ☎ 0462 480000

★ **State of the Art Steinberg Cubase v2/Cubeat** (Minimum 1MByte, mono only). *Cubase* (£475), an extension of *Pro-24*, is another highly complex program providing total professional MIDI control, but the hefty pricetag puts it way out of reach of most people. *Cubeat* (£285) is the cut-down version. Evenlode ☎ 0993 898484

EZ Track Plus. Cheap, easy-to-use, but limited editing and quantizing facilities. £49.95 Hybrid Arts ☎ 081 444 1879

K-Minstrel 2. Several good features but no MIDI synchronisation facilities. Assumes a basic theoretical knowledge of music. £29.95 Kuma ☎ 07357 4335

Omega. Most up-to-date sequencer – enables you to expand to up to 64 MIDI channels. Has many advanced features. £299 Dr T ☎ 081 963 0663

Pro-24 (Minimum 1MByte). Now superseded by Steinberg's *Cubase* series. A smaller version, *Steinberg 12*, is also available at £75. *Pro-24* is £199.99 Evenlode ☎ 0993 89 8484

Sequencer 1. Good beginners' introduction to sequencing; 32 tracks. Good value for money; easy-to-follow editing facilities. £89 Gajits ☎ 061 236 2515

Tiger Cub. (1040ST and above) Simple 12-track sequencer aimed at the first-time user – though can be frustrating to use. £99 Dr T ☎ 081 256 3454.

Trax. Nice entry-level sequencer. But slow editing; can't expand past 16 MIDI channels. £99 MCM ☎ 081 963 0663

Virtuoso (Mono STs only). Good quality. At the price competes well with the expensive professional rivals.

£239 The Digital Muse ☎ 081 586 3445

KEYBOARDS

- ◆ **Best Buy EVS-1.** £299
Sound Technology ☎ 0462 480000
- **Korg M1.**
£1,399 Korg ☎ 081 427 3397
- **Yamaha SY22.**
£250 Yamaha ☎ 0908 371771
- **CASIO Tonebank CT470**
£100 Casio ☎ 081 450 9131
- **Roland CM-32P**
£445 Roland ☎ 081 568 1247

own programs. Limited application. £19.95 Electric Software ☎ 0954 61258

MusiCAL. Excellent for beginners and even mature pupils. Good value. £39.95 Evenlode Soundworks ☎ 0993 898484

● **Budget Buy Music Construction Set** (medium res only). Some sophisticated features but limited sound editing facilities. Very easy to use, flexible, good fun. £9.99 Electronic Arts ☎ 0753 49442

Quartet. A composing tool which uses sampled sounds as the instruments. Offers four simultaneous channels. *Quartet* is also a basic sequencing package. £24.95 Microdeal ☎ 0726 68020

STOS Musician. Designed to help you create music for *STOS* games. It has several score editing facilities, four channel recording and eight track playback. £19.95 Mandarin ☎ 051 351 2961

SAMPLERS

The main expense is the hardware. Points to consider: editing needs to be clear and easy, you should be able to file sounds, and they should be compatible with other programs. MIDI support is essential.

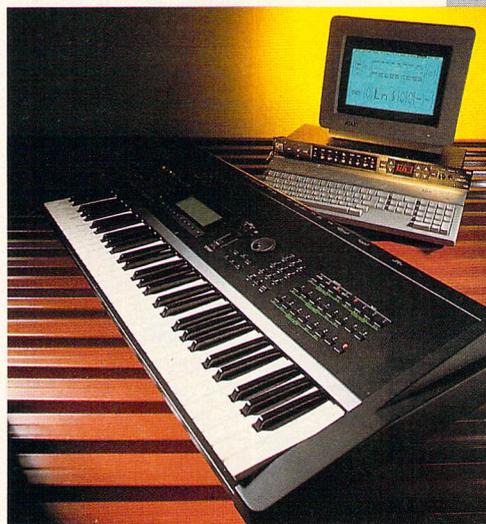
Mastersound 2. Now with STE-specific functions. One of the best samplers around and at a budget price too. £39.95 Microdeal ☎ 0726 68020

Pro-Series 12. A **FORMAT** Gold winner (94%; *STF* 16). 12-bit input/output sampler but considering the high quality of sampling, excellent value. Aimed at the professional. £245 AVR ☎ 0582 457348

Pro Sound Designer. The first ST sound sampler still stands up against most competitors, but doesn't match *Mastersound* for overall sound quality. It also has less sophisticated editing facilities. £49.95 Power Computing ☎ 0234 273000.

Replay 8 Sound Sampler. The range of features and drum-editor are unbeatable, although pricey for an 8-bit sampler. £79.95 Microdeal ☎ 0276 68020

Replay Professional. Quality sampling program, big brother to *Replay 8*. Packed onto three disks and with a hardware add-on. £129.95 Microdeal ☎ 0726 68020



■ **ST plus EVS-1 tone module plus SY22 synth equals music power**

◆ **Best Buy TCB Tracker.** Superb sample sequencer. **FORMAT** Gold winner (93%; *STF* 16). Also supports the STE's enhanced features. Very easy to get to grips with. £39.95 MPH ☎ 0603 503382

PATCH EDITORS

These enable you to store your synth's sounds in a sound library, as well as edit those sounds on the screen.

Chameleon (Min 1MByte). Good, but a few oddities. £89.95 Keynote Software ☎ 0761 32610 (PD demo version £3).

Midiman. More versatile when paired with *Trackman* (PD); the manual is off-putting. £79 Flrst Rate Limited ☎ 0481 23169

■ Every issue, *ST FORMAT* brings you the latest on the music scene – plus *MIDI Helpfile* to solve all your technical MIDI problems. Like the ST itself, *FORMAT* is the musician's choice! See page 27 for subscription details

PUBLIC DOMAIN

■ **PD Choice Accompanist** (*Cosh Sequencer*) £2 – £4 Most PD libraries
Amazing value for money with many features. Slight idiosyncrasies in operation though. Demo *STF* Cover Disk 16

- **Waddington Sequencer**
£2 – £4 Most PD Libraries
- **CZPatch**
£2.50 Goodman PD ☎ 0782 335650
- **Music Writer**
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£2.50 Goodman PD Disk GD302
- **16 Voice Sequencer**
£2.50 Goodman PD
- **MIDI Drum & Play** £3.00
Disk MUS12 Softville ☎ 0705 266509
- **Trackman Disk MUS40**
£3.00 Softville

programming

Can't decide between BASIC and Pascal? *FORMAT* helps you find the best for you

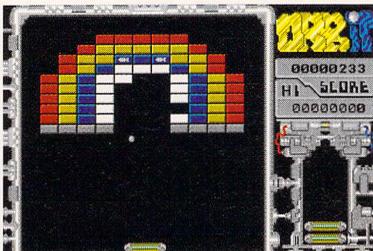
BASIC is an excellent introduction to programming, but if you intend to write complex programs, consider learning 68000 Assembler. For general applications, C is the most popular language and has excellent support. Pascal is ideal if there are several of you working on the same project at once – the code is simpler to integrate and debug. Another high-level language, Forth, is fast but difficult to learn.

BASIC

The most popular programming language for micros. Modern versions such as *GFA Basic 3* are very good – often with features of the “better” languages. However, BASIC isn't as fast as C or Pascal.

FaST ST BASIC: An easy-to-use interpreter with an excellent editor. The cartridge takes up no memory so leaves you with more space to play with. £44.95 on Disk, or £89.90 on Cartridge, Computer Concepts ☎ 0480 496789

◆ **Best Buy** *GFA BASIC 3*: GFA is faster than several compiled high-level languages. Its wealth of features make it one of the most versatile programming languages around. £64.95 GFA Data Media ☎ 0442 63933



■ Using BASIC-like instructions, you can write your own games in STOS

GFA BASIC Compiler: If you're looking to squeeze extra speed out of your GFA programs, this is a must. It's undoubtedly the best compiler on the market and makes *GFA Basic 3* the most appealing BASIC. £29.95 GFA Data Media ☎ 0442 63933

HiSoft BASIC 2: An advanced compiler with a fast GEM source editor giving you many of the advantages of an interpreter. £69.95 HiSoft ☎ 0525 718181

C

The second most popular language, C claims to offer near machine-code speed without all of the complexity. Many business programs are written in C because it's fast. C is hard to understand at first though and doesn't check errors.

C Breeze: Unusual in that it doesn't come with an editor. Reasonable. £24.95 Microdeal ☎ 0726 68020

INTERPRETERS VERSUS COMPILERS

An interpreter reads one program line at a time, converts it and then executes the code. A compiler reads the whole program, and then generates machine code for the entire amount. For ease of development interpreted languages win hands down. With compilers you discover mistakes only during compilation and program production is slow. For speed of execution, however, a compiled program – consisting of machine code – is faster than an interpreted program. What's more, you can run 'nal compiled code on its own; it doesn't need an interpreter in order to run.

HiSoft C Interpreter: Aimed specifically at BASIC programmers moving up to C. An excellent interpreter for the newcomer, though no substitute for a compiler. £49.95 HiSoft ☎ 0525 718181

◆ **Best Buy** *Lattice C v5*: Produces superb compiled code. It's an excellent system for the serious programmer. £149.95 HiSoft ☎ 0525 718181

★ **State of the Art** *Mark Williams C*: Comes with an excellent manual and many useful tools. £188.95 Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666

Prospero C: Good choice for newcomers to programming in C. £99.95 Prospero Software ☎ 081 741 8531

PASCAL

Pascal has rigid constraints which force you to write “good” code. Available only as a compiler and good if you like a language to check what you're doing – it lets you know of syntax and program errors before you get near to running the code. Particularly good for writing long programs. String handling isn't as advanced as BASIC's, nor is its machine access as good as C's. Good compilers can produce code as fast as C though.

MCC Pascal: Certainly offers far more enhancements to the Pascal language than *Prospero* but its text editor is poor. £99.99 Prospero ☎ 0272 428781

Personal Pascal: This compiler is one of the best. Programs produced by *Personal Pascal* run faster than any other – and they're smaller as well. 1MByte recommended. £79.95 HiSoft ☎ 0525 718181

◆ **Best Buy** *Prospero Pascal*: With an integrated editor, this is the best Pascal on the market. £99.95 Prospero ☎ 081 741 8531

ASSEMBLER

Most games are still done in Assembler because it's the only way to get fast graphics in the smallest possible space.

★ **State of the Art** *Devpac 2*: The definitive macro assembler. *Devpac* is packed with features. £59.95 HiSoft ☎ 0525 718181

MISCELLANEOUS

Forth MT: You can't produce stand-alone executable code and it's unfriendly to use. Nevertheless, good for the price. £49.95 GST Electric ☎ 081 330 7166

Prospero Fortran: Easily accessible, with one of the best debuggers. The compiled code is faster than *Forth MT*. £129.95 Prospero ☎ 081 741 8531

WERCS Plus: WERCS enables you to create and edit GEM resource files which hold all the WIMP data. It's friendly and comprehensive. £49.95 HiSoft ☎ 0525 718181

GAMES PROGRAMMING

SEUCK: Entirely menu driven and a dream to use for the non-programmer. You're restricted to a certain game-type though. £29.95 Palace ☎ 071 837 7032

◆ **Best Buy** *STOS*: Uses a series of BASIC-like instructions. With a separate *STOS* compiler now available priced at £12, there's nothing to hold you back. £29.95 Mandarin ☎ 051 351 2961

Talespin: *Talespin* is a do-it-yourself RPG game creator designed to enable you to build a limited adventuring universe. £29.95 Microdeal ☎ 0726 68020

■ If you're interested in programming, *ST FORMAT* has something for you too, like the *GFA Basic* tutorial series currently under way. What's more, if you take out a subscription now you can get *STOS*, the complete game-programming language, absolutely free! Turn to page 27 now for full details of this and other special subscription offers

PUBLIC DOMAIN

● *Forth 83*: The best version of Forth available in the PD. £3.00 – disk LAN24 Southville PDL ☎ 0705 266509

● *Forth Tutorial*: An invaluable and easy-to-follow tutorial on the intricacies of Forth. £2.80 – disk 510 SouthWest Software Library, PO Box 562, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2YD

● *GFA Basic v2*: A complete version of the *GFA Basic 2* interpreter. £2.50, disk GD500, Goodman PD ☎ 0782 335650

■ **PD Choice** *Sozobon C*: This is the best PD implementation of C around but you really need some knowledge of C to use it. £2.80 SouthWest Software Library, disk 299.



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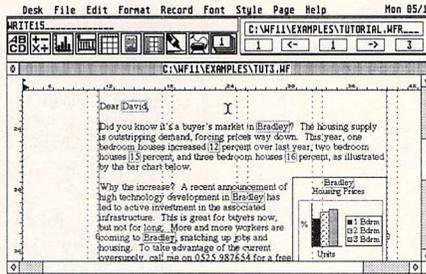
With its powerful combination of text, graphics and calculation regions together with its integrated database, Wordflair is ideal for newsletters, product brochures, form letters, mail shots etc.

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HiSoft is the exclusive distributor of the UK version of Wordflair which has full support for the UK keyboards, currency etc. and comes with a complete set of anglicised examples for you to use and study. The RRP of Wordflair is £79.95 inclusive.

HighSpeed Pascal

We have recently discovered a brand-new, and rather exciting, version of the popular Pascal language for the Atari ST/TT.



HighSpeed Pascal comes from Denmark, is extremely fast and friendly to use and is very closely compatible to the immensely popular and successful Turbo Pascal on the PC.

ProFlight Takes Off

ProFlight, our Tornado flight simulator, looks set to create a new standard of accuracy and flyability in



the simulator market. Already we have had many enthusiastic comments from ecstatic users and now we have released version 1.2 of ProFlight with improved colour graphics and many additional features. RRP £39.95. Upgrade from 1.1 is £2.50.

Compilation speed is roughly 20,000 lines per minute with excellent code generation for the ST and the new TT.

HiSoft has been appointed the exclusive distributor of HighSpeed Pascal in the UK, USA, France, Australia and New Zealand. RRP £89.95.

HiSoft software is available from good computer shops. In case of difficulty, you can order directly from HiSoft. For export terms or further details on any of our products, please call or write to us. All prices include VAT and P&P within the UK.

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Dealer Enquiries Welcome

communications

Your ST, a standard modem and a £3 program are all you need to talk to the world!

With just your ST and a modem, you can log on to a vast range of commercial and home-brew bulletin board systems (BBSs) and access news and bulletins, leave and receive electronic mail, upload PD software for the cost of the telephone call, or even be the SYStem OPERator of your very own BBS. What's more, you can use PSS (Telecom's Packet SwitchStream system) to call America on the cheap, using your ST to send data in packets down PSS's own lines under the Atlantic, with a huge saving in on-line time. As for software – the very best is Public Domain!

MODEMS

Buy the best modem you can afford; the more features the better. Look for:

- speed – the higher the baud rate (the data transfer speed, in bits per second), the better. Go for 2400 if you can;
- auto-dial and auto-answer;
- Hayes (industry standard) compatibility.

◆ **Best Buy** Amstrad SM2400. 2400 baud; auto-dial; configurable from software. £286 Amstrad ☎ 0277 230222

● **Budget Buy** Linnet Modem from Pace. Up to 1200 baud, adequate for all commercial systems and most BBSs. Auto-dial/baud/answer; battery backup. £149.99. First Choice ☎ 0532 637988

● **Budget Buy** Supra 2400 Modem. Fully Hayes compatible; Auto-dial/answer – tone or pulse; 300, 1200 and 2400 baud. Made in the US. £149. Surface Ltd ☎ 081 566 6677



■ There's a huge range of modems available – which is worth buying?

COMMS SOFTWARE

Look for support for Y-modem and Z-modem (fast data transfer protocols, for sending large files down-line quickly) and Viewdata (a graphics system like Prestel).

● **FaSTcom** by Atari. Friendly mouse-driven environment; flexible phone book to store often-used numbers; wide range of modem drivers; call log; exceptional Viewdata mode. Shortcomings: no Y or Z modem support; has been around for a while; GEM-based, so can be slow; writes data to disk while downloading, pausing the process, so downloads take longer. £49.95 Atari ☎ 0753 33344.

● **Flash**. Powerful, built-in text editor; separate Z-modem module available; GEM-based, so can be slow. £24.95 Electric Distribution ☎ 0480 496666

● **Flying Start**. Supports Viewdata systems; full support for several different modes. Can be slow, but works in both colour and mono res. £3. Softville PD library Disk COMS21. ☎ 0705 266509

● **STadel (Citadel)**. Aging but stable and reliable comms companion; includes substantial, helpful manual on disk. £3. South West Software library, PO Box 562, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2YD.

● **220-ST**. Comes with printer and screen data buffers; incoming data spooled into memory and written to disk at end of process, so one of the fastest around; but can't access Viewdata systems. £29.95 Microdeal ☎ 0726 68020.

● **Uniterm**. Feature-packed but hard to use for newcomers. Auto-dial option, telephone book; supports X, Y-modem, but can execute other programs from inside the *Uniterm* shell, so can call up a Z-modem download program. £3. Softville PD library Disk COMS3.

◆ **Best Buy** *Vanterm*. Complete terminal program featuring support for X and Y-modem download protocols. GEM based, so easy to use; documentation on disk. £3. Softville PD library Disk COMS16 (for Mono STs).

■ Every issue *ST FORMAT* brings you the latest information from the world of comms, plus that vital list of BBSs you can access. For information on subscribing, see page 27

PD – what it is, where to get it

What is PD? Basically, it's software that's free for anyone to use – you pay the PD library a nominal fee (usually around £3 or so) for the service, and you can then copy and use the program as you like (but not incorporate it into a commercial program). It might be Public Domain for many reasons: it might be a superseded version or a demo of a commercial package, or a specialised program there's little commercial market for – the reasons are as varied as the authors. **Shareware** is slightly different: you buy it just like PD, but if you like it and intend to keep using it you must send the author a fee – and often get in return an upgrade, documentation, or even a printed manual. PD and Shareware are often just as good as commercial software – and sometimes even better!

BUYER BEWARE: This directory does not imply that *ST FORMAT* endorses or recommends any individual PD Library

Advent Software, 16 Knox Close Norwich NR1 4LN
Alpha Computing, 32 Meadow Drive, Halifax, W Yorks HX3 5JZ

Atari Advantage, 56 Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7HJ ☎ 0242 224340

Awesomedemos, 3 Mason Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3EE

B-Soft, 33 Corsham Road, Calcot, Reading, Berks. RG3 5ZH ☎ 0734 416492

Budgie UK, 5 Minster Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8SF

Caledonian PDL, 250 Oldtown Road, Hilton, Inverness, IV2 4PT ☎ 0462 225736

Demo Club, 23 Alma Place, Spilsby, Lincs PE23 5LB

DMS PD, 66 Abbey Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME23 3OB

Elmsoft, PO Box 17, Loughton, Essex IG10 2EE

EM PDL, 54 Watnall Road, Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 7LE ☎ 0602 630071

Farmic Enterprises, 75 Chestnut Grove, Coleshill, Birmingham B46 1AD

Floppyshop ST, 45 Provost Graham Avenue, Hazelhead, Aberdeen AB1 8HB ☎ 0224 312756

Freaks PDL, 29 Leap Valley Crescent, Downend, Bristol BS16 6TQ ☎ 0272 570122

Goodman PDL, 16 Conrad Close, Meir Hay Estate, Longton, Stoke on Trent, Staffs ST3 1SW. ☎ 0782 335650

HAL Computing, 15 Regents Terrace, Leeds LS6 1NP ☎ 0532 435805

High Tec Sequencing Services, 20 South Lane, Shelf, Halifax, W Yorks HX3 7PN. ☎ 0274 606205

Kad-Soft, 2 Ebor Paddock, Calne, Wilts SN11 0JY

LAPD, 80 Lee Lane, Langley, Heanor, Derbyshire. DE7 7HN

Lavery Computer Services Ltd, 46/47 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG. ☎ 071 930 0697

Metropolis PD, 38 Howick Park Drive, Penwortham, Preston PR1 0LU ☎ 0772 727528, 748422

MPH, 10 Chandlers Court, Eaton, Norwich NR4 6EX
MT Software, Greensward House, The Broadway, Totland, I.O.W PO39 0BX ☎ 0983 756056

NBS, Dept F, 132 Gunville Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5LH. ☎ 0983 821983

Page 6 Publishing, PO Box 54, Stafford ST16 1DR ☎ 0785 213928

Paradise Computers, 9 Westfield Crescent, Brighton BN1 8JB

PD Essentials, 22 Fern Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1LS

PDQ, PO Box 38, Eastleigh, Hants SO5 5WR

PD Rebels, 81 Springfield Road, Rowde, Near Devizes, Wilts. SN10 2PD

Persistence of Vision, 4 Wroxton Close, Whiteholme, Blackpool, Lancs., FY5 3EY. ☎ 0253 867826.

Public Dominator PD Atari, PO Box 801, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 3TZ. ☎ 0279 757692

Riverdene PDL, 30a School Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG3 5AN ☎ 0734 452416

Senlac, 14 Oaklea Close, Old Roar Road, St Leonards On Sea, E.Sussex TN37 7HB ☎ 0424 753070

Softville PD, Unit 5, Stratfield Park, Elettra Avenue, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 7XN. ☎ 0705 266509

Solent Software, 53 Rufus Gardens, Totton, Hants. SO4 3TA ☎ 0703 868882

South West Software Library, PO Box 562, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2YD

Sphinx Software, Erw Fynydd, Carmel, Llanelli SA14 7SG

ST Club, 9 Sutton Place, 49 Stoney St, Nottingham NG1 1LX. ☎ 0602 410241

STOS/Amos PDL, Sandra Sharkey, 25 Park Road, Wigan, Lancs WN6 7AA. ☎ 0942 495261

TRuST PD, 18 The Park, Southwam, Halifax, HX3 9QY ☎ 0422 341606

West London PD, 8 Berkeley Road, Hillingdon, Mdx. UB10 9DU. ☎ 0895 53521

Wizard PD, 178 Waverley Road, Reading, Berks, RG3 2PZ. ☎ 0734 574685

WoolleySoft, Humblesknowe Cottage, Ramoley, Dunblane, Perthshire, Scotland FK15 0BA

shopping by mail

Mail order can be cheap and convenient, but what are the pitfalls to watch out for?

Mail order prices are often significantly lower than shop prices for the same goods, and you can choose what you want in the comfort of your own home and have it delivered to your door. An advertiser's cliché? Not when the weather's nasty or you live miles from the nearest computer shop. What's more, with the range of ads in *ST FORMAT* you can compare a broad selection of suppliers without pressure from pushy sales assistants. But what can go wrong, and what are your rights?

■ What if I change my mind after I've sent the money?

As soon as the mail order company accept your order (by acknowledging it or cashing your cheque) you've entered into a legally binding contract which both of you have to stick to, just as if you'd handed over your money in a shop. So it's generally too late to change your mind once you've sent money – even if it's only a deposit. Occasionally the small print gives you seven days, say, in which to cancel. If it doesn't, you can cancel or ask for something else only if the company agree.

The same thing applies if the goods arrive undamaged and in working order but you decide you simply don't like them. The big drawback of mail order shopping is not being able to try out whatever you're interested in, and not having anyone on hand to show it to you and answer your queries before you commit yourself.

■ What if something I ordered is damaged when it turns up or doesn't work?

The same laws apply to mail order sales as to shop sales: under the Sale of Goods Act, goods must be "of merchantable quality," "fit for the purpose" and "as described." If the goods were clearly faulty from the outset – if, for example, the ST you've ordered turns up without any disk drive fitted – you can ask for a full refund. But you're entitled to your money back only if you reject the faulty goods immediately, so it's always a good idea to inspect them thoroughly as soon as they arrive. After that you're entitled to compensation only – usually the cost of repair or, in this case, the cost of getting the missing disk drive.

If the hardware you've ordered simply doesn't work and you can't immediately spot why, contact the mail order company straightaway and explain the problem. It may be something simple that they can help you with on the spot. Don't try tinkering with the workings unless they tell you what to do – you won't be able to prove the machine was faulty before you

started, and just opening it up yourself automatically invalidates the manufacturer's warranty.

Software problems can be much more tricky, but as a general rule most mail order companies are willing to exchange a faulty disk for another copy of the same program.

■ The monitor I ordered arrived in pieces, but the mail order company say it left them in perfect condition. What can I do?

In practice many mail order companies generally agree to replace goods free of charge if they've been damaged in transit. The Consumers' Association think it's up to the company to prove the goods left them in perfect condition in the first place, and if they can't you may have a valid claim for the cost of the goods.

In any case, if the goods were damaged in transit you have a claim against the carrier. If that's the Post Office you should get a form P58 and send it to the Head Postmaster. If you can show that a parcel was damaged in the post you're entitled to compensation – but this may not always reflect your actual loss.

Some mail order companies offer to insure your parcel for a few pounds extra. Considering that the vast majority of orders arrive in perfect condition, it's your choice whether you want to pay a little more for the peace of mind.

■ How long should I have to wait before my order arrives?

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The best part is that you can get your money back from the credit card company if the seller goes bust. So long as you've paid part of the price by credit card it doesn't matter if you pay the balance by cheque. But it must be a credit card like Access or Visa, *not* a card you have to pay off in full when the statement comes, and *not* a debit card like a Switch card (one you can use only if you actually have enough in the bank to cover the full amount).

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What can you do to protect yourself? You can try to order Cash-on-Delivery – there's an extra charge for this, but at least you don't have to pay unless the goods actually arrive. Check that the company are reputable – ask your friends, and check back issues to see whether the company have been around for a while and haven't radically reduced the size of their adverts recently. However, even a reputable company can go out of business, as many unfortunate ST owners found when Softsellers – one of the largest distributors of ST-related software and hardware – went bust recently.

In many ways your best protection is paying by credit card – see box above.

■ If you have problems, always try to sort things out with the mail order company themselves first. If you need help, contact your local Citizen's Advice Bureau, Office of Fair Trading or Trading Standards Department, or the Consumers' Association if you're a member. All of these publish helpful booklets about "How to Complain," "How to Put Things Right," and so on, often free to anyone who asks. Note that the law may differ in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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For games and many educational packages, you can't do anything without a low resolution monitor. Atari sell their own **colour** monitor capable of displaying low and medium resolution screen displays but there are many others which are just as good.

Multisync monitors sense the vertical and horizontal scan rates of the incoming signal and adjust themselves accordingly – so they're able to display all three resolution modes. There are often compatibility problems though, and you need to buy yourself a special lead with a switch to flick between modes (contact Lightwave, ☎ 051 630 5003). A multisync can still produce a display which is superior to other colour monitors.

Atari SC1224 Colour Monitor. If you want to see more distinctive colours on your screen, then this is a suitable low or

HOW TO CHOOSE

The first thing to ask is, what do you use your ST for? If the answer is games then you should certainly consider a good-quality low resolution monitor. Your ST can display up to 320 horizontal dots by 200 vertical dots in low res, so it's not recommended for running desktop publishing or music programs that require fine detail displayed on-screen, but you can get 16 colours at once – just the thing for many art and graphics packages too.

For that authentic arcade feel, game-players might also consider a medium resolution colour monitor, on which your ST can display 640 x 200 dots but only four colours on-screen. If you use your ST primarily for business, word processing or DTP, then plump for a mono monitor, supporting high resolution (640 dots horizontally by 400 vertically), though only black and white. Also available are "portrait" monitors, which have huge displays, specially designed for DTP purposes.

Other features to look for include:

- Speaker facilities – does the monitor cater for the stereo ability of the STE, for example?
- Connections at the back – does it have a SCART socket, so you can plug it straight in to your ST?
- Clarity of the display – is there any distortion or darkening of the screen? Reflective screens can be a nuisance.

SCREEN TIPS

You can reduce reflective glare by investing in a screen filter, like the Glaredown Screen (£19.95 Silica ☎ 081 309 1111). These are made up of tiny interlaced threads which run vertically and horizontally across the unit and cut down the amount of light reaching the screen. They often darken the display but not to any great degree.

medium resolution monitor with a crisp and colourful display. Unfortunately, the reflective screen tends to be rather dark for games.

£260 Atari ☎ 0753 33344

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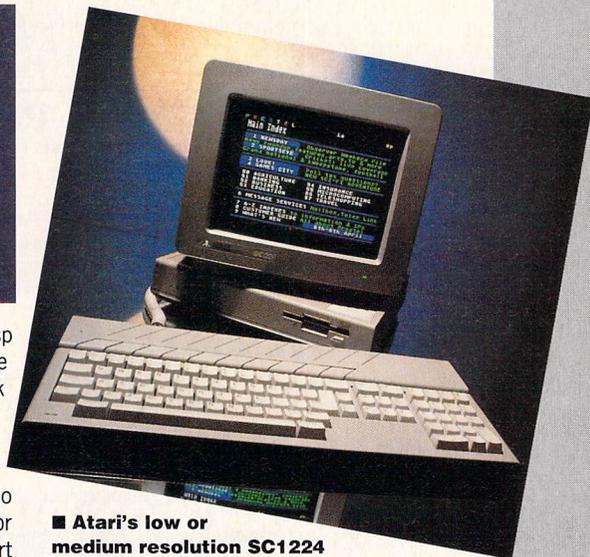
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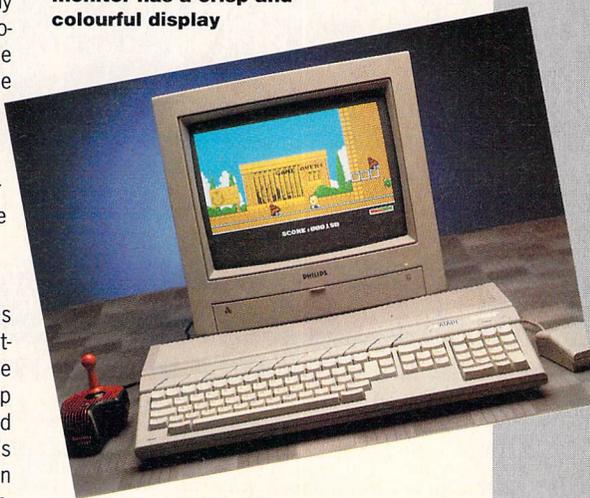
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Philips CM8852 Mark 2. A superb multisync option at the price. This is the preferred choice for many people who use their ST for a variety of different applications. There are more features on the cheaper CM8833, though.

£286 Philips ☎ 081 689 2166



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■ The CM8833 from Philips provides excellent value for money – and it caters for the STE's stereo sound

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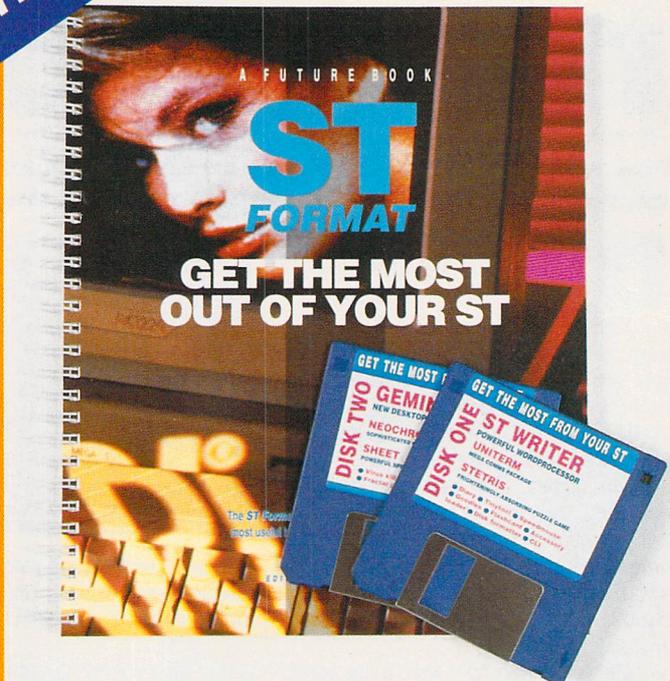
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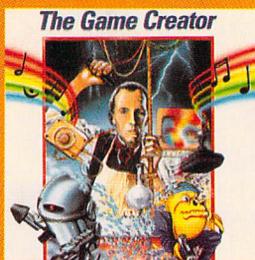
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◆ **Best Buy** VIDI ST. A monochrome digitiser which enables you to grab up to 12 frames per second, so it's good for animation. Well-priced too. £99.95 Rombo Productions ☎ 0506 414631

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- Are the switches easy to click?
- Does it move smoothly across the mouse mat?
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■ Atari mice aren't the best in the land, so why not try a better one?

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■ *ST FORMAT* keeps you up to date with the latest hardware every issue – and the regular *DESKTOP* section even shows you how to make your own DIY hardware projects! For details of how to subscribe, turn to page 27

GENLOCKS

A genlock is simply a device that superimposes one image over another. This enables you to play TV pictures on your monitor and then lay your own ST graphics over the top.

GST 40E External genlock for the STE, useful for titling and presentations. There is also a special ST version available. £249.95 Third Coast ☎ 0257 472444

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