

# AMDATA

FEBRUARY '87

THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB NEWSLETTER

## THE NOVOTEL SHOW – YOUR RESPONSE

January 9-11 saw the "Winter Season" AMSTRAD Show at the Novotel at Hammersmith, London. As usual, all the top names were there; and we took two stands; one upstairs for technical advice only; and another downstairs for sales only.

It worked wonderfully - we made lots of new friends, and sold a lot of products to members at discount prices - it was great to see so many of you there after having spoken on the 'phone.

We intend to take two stands, on a similar basis for the next show, and if you were at the last one, tell us what you thought about it; what we should or shouldn't be doing, and what products we should be offering.

The next show will be at a new venue - the **Alexandra Palace in London, on July 10-12th**. We'll be offering reduced entry to the show in a future Newsletter. The venue is easy to get to, and has ample parking. Watch the Newsletters for more information.

At the show we were delighted to meet a number of customers whom we've got to know very well over the 'phone - among them was Mr Rogers, who unfortunately bought a defective item from the stand downstairs. However, we quickly rectified the situation, and he promptly responded with a letter, thanking us - its reprinted below, with the Editors comments.

The home computer industry is still in its infancy, and until AMSTRAD broke the price barrier, big-memory computers were basically expensive business tools.

The software market is keeping pace with new developments, but now and again the software, or the instructions are not everything we'd like them to be. We're always striving to bring you the best, first, and at the most reasonable prices. Most of you realise this, and appreciate that out-of-stock, or faulty goods situations generally develop because **we've** been let down - and its highly refreshing to have a letter like the one below.

Normally we'd publish a letter which is of interest to everyone, but we just couldn't resist this one - its of general interest to **us**.

11th Jan 87

Dear Sir,

I have to-day returned from my second visit to the Amstrad Exhibition. I had already been on Friday 11th but my second visit was occasioned by the fact that I had bought a defective item on Friday from the Amsoft stand and had to return to effect the exchange of the item.

I would like to put on record of how impressed I was with your "team" on the stand. They worked 'flat out' the whole time, but with great politeness and patience. I would like to pay particular tribute to Malcom Binns for his overall help, and especially to David Lowes for his technical patience in sorting out my problem. Denise Hind I was delighted to meet as she had been a great help to me over problems I had encountered with a DMP2000 Printer which I purchased through you a few weeks ago. I had previously only had dealings with her on the phone, and it was a pleasant surprise to find her on the stand and be able to have a few words with her, and be able to thank her for all her previous help.

You certainly have an 'ace' team there that you should be very proud of: I shall be looking forward to meeting them again at the next exhibition in the Summer.

In closing I would like to wish you, the Company and especially 'THE TEAM', a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,  
H.F.B. Rogers.  
Middlesex

The Manager, Customer Relations Dept.  
Lazahold - Amsoft.  
Victoria House, P.O. Box 10.  
SUNDERLAND SR1 3PY.

### EDITOR ANSWERS...

Well, thank you Mr. Rogers - how do we respond to that? Its great to know that our efforts are appreciated, and we'll keep on trying to bring our members ther service they deserve.

EXIT

## NEW FROM THE USER CLUB LAWLINE



How many of you are fully conversant with the DATA PROTECTION ACT; the Factories Act, or any of the dozens of Statutes, Rules and Regulations which govern the business world? What would you do if you lost your Driving Licence, were sued by a rival, or were accused of causing excessive noise? The legal fees alone, could be crippling. Well now there is a scheme called **LAWLINE**, which has been developed for the individual and costs from a mere 3 pence a day to club members.

### THE BENEFITS

Lawline runs a 24 hour legal advisory service, which allows you immediate access by telephone, to a central team of legal experts, on any private, or business problem. They'll advise you on what to do immediately and pursue the matter further if necessary. You can consult the team as many times as you need to.

**In addition your joining fee can also cover you for up to £25,000 legal expenses, and up to £1 million indemnity.**

### HOW TO JOIN

The user club holds the application forms - you simply ring us for a copy, or write to the usual address. The joining fee to club members, is incredibly modest. just £9.95 to club members (normally £20.00) for individual advice only, or £12.95 pa. for individual and family advice (normally over £30.00). Insurance covering you for £25,000 legal expenses, and £1 million indemnity is also available at just £45 to club members (normally £60). The completed form is then sent back to ourselves; and we will do the rest.

### COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND

Lawline is backed by Cornhill Insurance; and Legal and Personnel Insurance Services. We feel that the membership fee is excellent value considering that Solicitors fees and court time are extremely expensive. Thousands of members have used the scheme - its a small price to pay for security, and peace of mind.

EXIT

## NEW PRODUCT: BATTLEFIELD GERMANY

There are plenty of good war games on the market - some of them are excellent - but they all delve into history for their ground material. Battlefield Germany on the other hand explores the highly topical subject of a Third World War, with the Warsaw Pact launching an attack on NATO.

Just to add that extra tension, the game also features "nuclear possibility", and as anticipated, its Germany and Middle Europe which provide the battleground for the Superpowers.

It quickly develops into a chilling tactical and strategic scenario, demanding attention, and a good analytical mind — lapses of concentration are quickly punished; and of course "nuclear" mistakes lead to huge chunks of land being obliterated, with super graphic effects.

The games features also include:

- Two player option
- One player option with "intelligent" computer opponent
- Scrolling scenario
- Hex-based map
- Strategic views, and much more. The graphics are excellent; and it's had rave reviews from the top magazines. If you feel capable of handling the fate of Europe as we know it (and going one better than Napoleon or Hitler) then the game is just:

TAPE	<b>Members</b>	<b>£11.00</b>	DISK	<b>Members</b>	<b>£15.25</b>
	Non-members	£12.95		Non-members	£17.95
	BATL0001			BATL0001	

## NEW: PROTO DISK BOX FOR 3" DISKS

A number of you have asked us to source a good disk box for 3" disks - and we promptly agreed - strange as it may seem we think that disk boxes are a key part of a system. They protect your disks from breakage, spillages, cold and dust; and keep them together in one place, rather than have them scattered around.

Finding a good box turned out to be more complicated than you might suspect: some were just too big or too heavy; one was encased in leather; some had impossible lock mechanisms; and others were just downright ugly.

However, we're now able to offer you the PROTO disk box - its compact, sturdy, and stylish and performs its job admirably. We took a quantity to the show at the NOVOTEL and quickly sold out. The box takes up to 10 3" disks - you put the disks directly into it, without their casing: keep the cases to one side; you might have to post or transport just one disk.

It's probably unfair to make comparisons; but as ever, we checked out our offer against the High Street - and we know its a winner. The only serious rival to the PROTO is from TANDY - but its an ungainly affair taking 40 disks, and prices start at £19.99. If you're a member you can buy 4 PROTOS for roughly the same price - stack them up, line them up, label them or build them up - whatever way you use them, you'll score points for tidiness and style.

PROTO DISK BOX	PRO001	<b>£5.95</b>	<b>Members</b>
		£6.95	Non-members

## NEW PRODUCT - PLAN-IT - For CPC

First it was the Lefax, then the Filofax, then the Psion organiser and then Psion II - but as any self respecting executive can tell you, the latest fashion today is a 'plan-it' program - and it is more than just a trendy accoutrement.

Anyone whose ever mislaid a Filofax will tell you of the utter helplessness and embarrassment, as the finder gets an insight into your private life, before selling the leather binder; but a 'plan-it' disk is **completely private** because only you can build it up.

Plan-it is quick and easy to load; and just as easy to use. It will keep tabs on your mortgage, credit, bills, banking and general finance, plus provide a card index, keep telephone numbers, print labels, provide expenditure accounts, an archive calendar, a diary; appointments, birthdays, anniversaries and much more! It is available on disk or tape - and it weights a lot less than the standard Filofax or Psion!

CPC Tape	<b>Members</b>	<b>£12.65</b>	CPC Disk	<b>Member</b>	<b>£16.95</b>
	Non-members	£14.95		Non-members	£19.95

**EXIT**

## THE LAW AND YOU: COPYING

Copying a program (except working copies of course!) be it disk or tape, business or leisure is **STRICTLY ILLEGAL**.

It might seem a small thing, perhaps like taping a record; but it isn't quite the same; and tough new laws against software pirates are being vigorously deployed by Software Manufacturers and Publishers.

When the new laws were introduced last year, many observers assumed that they were aimed at the professional pirate who copied in hundreds; and although, this was the primary area, the ensuing period has seen more convictions against **PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS**, than among the professionals. Most of these convictions came about through former friends, or office colleagues reporting the offence.

In addition more and more programs are having sophisticated safeguards built into them; or have a password protection. Some of the more expensive programs can also include a safeguard that allows you to go so far - then can potentially damage your hardware.

These safeguards are expensive to build in, and naturally it affects the price of the software - so if you're thinking about copying something for a friend, think again: it doesn't help anyone.

**EXIT**

## 3" DISK OFFER

We regularly compare our disk prices with the High Street retailers and its always pleasant to find that our prices are way below our rivals ... However price rises are imminent for everyone - manufacturing costs have risen dramatically, and most retailers feel obliged to pass them on.

### ONLY THE USER CLUB IS CUTTING ITS PRICES:

Incredibly, our buying power means that we can actually reduce the disks to just **£2.49 members (or 10 for £23)** £2.99 non-members (or 10 for £28.90) (inc. V.A.T.)

It means that once again, user club prices represent a terrific bargain, so hurry and get yours in, before the price rises affect us.

It's not often you can pay less for the same item; but life's like that when you join the club!



There are further discounts for bulk buying - ring us on (0783) 673395 for a quote.

**EXIT**

# COMPETITION

Last month's Wordsquare really caught your imagination - was it too easy? We don't know, but the response was incredible - the sight of the postman staggering around with the weight of entries indicated that you certainly enjoyed it!

Every entry was carefully checked, and first out of the hat was **Mr R. Walmesley** from London, SW11, member no. 011281, well done, and thank you for entering, your prize is on its way. One outstanding entry came from **Mr R.G.M. Cawson** from Northants, member no. 028299. Not content with solving the wordsquare he sent us a computer program solution - fabulous stuff - we ran it, and it worked. Everyone in the office felt that this merited some reward, so a bonus prize of 5 blank 3" disks is on its way.

Keep the entries coming in; this month's competition is hideously fiendish - and its based on fact - yes, read on and see how bored potentates would treat their captives. Just for the record, the King involved was Assurbanipal, who ruled some 1000 years B.C. **WARNING:** the solutions aren't easy and members of staff are still suffering from the effects of the "smarties" they used in place of poison pills.

If you can solve it, send your entry to the usual address - P.O. Box 10, 1-6 Low Row, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR1 3PY. Have as many entries as you like, but get them in by February 21st.

## FUNNELS OF DEATH

These funnels were devised by an ancient king to determine by lot which of his captives should die. They contained white sugar-pills and black poison-pills. Each had a spring-release at the end to let one pill fall at a time when the spring was pressed in at the point A in Fig. 1, which shows a black pill just about to fall.

Each captive's fate depended upon the *second* pill which fell into his hand. He had to replace the *first* pill in the funnel, no matter what its colour, and swallow the second one.

Referring to the picture and description, see if you can answer these questions:

- Fig. 1- shows 12 pills ready to be drawn by 9 captives. Captive No. 1 draws the black pill first; replaces it at the top and eats Pill No. 2. Then Captive No. 2 draws Pill No. 3, replaces it at the top, and eats Pill No. 4. Which of the 9 captives has to eat one of the black poison-pills? Answer: Captive No. ....
- Fig. 2- shows no poison-pills. Again supposing there are 9 captives, where would you put the 3 black pills so that none would be drawn as a second choice? Show your solution by blacking in three of the pills.
- Fig. 3- shows 6 pills for three captives named Joe, Jack, and James. Each had to spell his name, removing and replacing one pill for each letter, and then eating the *first after* his name was spelled. (That is, J-O-E swallowed Pill No. 4.) Where would you place three black pills in Funnel No. 3, so that no one would draw one after spelling his name? Indicate by blacking in three pills.

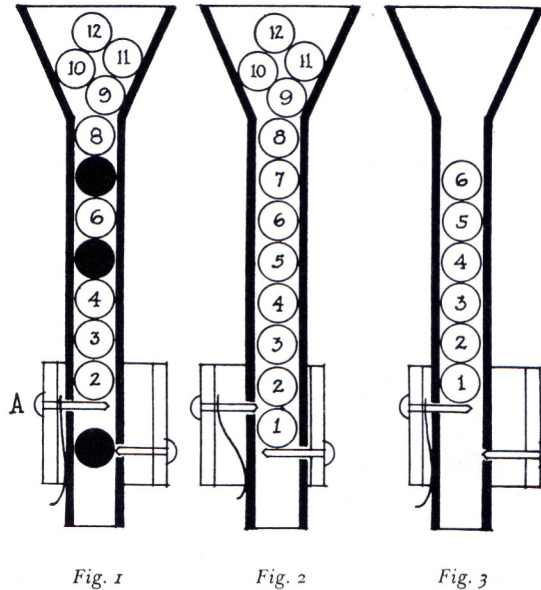
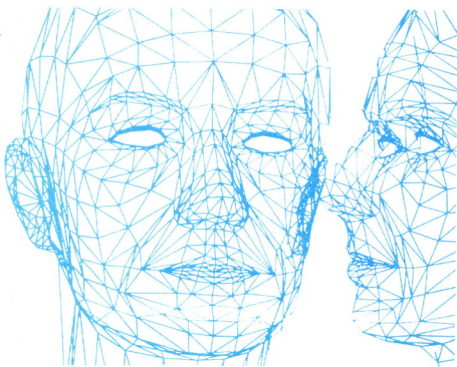


Fig. 1                      Fig. 2                      Fig. 3

**EXIT**



### NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER

This is the second of our new-look newsletters, with a new format and a fresh layout - we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed compiling it; but let us know - your letters are always welcome and we would love to have your views on the club, the offers and our service. After all, it is your club and we are here to give you what you want, at the most reasonable prices possible. Let us know if there are any particular pieces of merchandise you would like us to stock - if there is enough demand for it, we will source it and if necessary even consider having it manufactured.

Future issues will contain a "FOR SALE" and "WANTED" section, even bigger competitions, book reviews plus advice on a range of topics, and much more. Although the format is new, we still intend to bring you the best, first; so tell us what you think.

**EXIT**

## SCOOP PURCHASE!

### SPEECH SYNTHESISER AND LIGHTPEN FOR CPC

Last month we told you about two exclusive scoops - the SSA1 speech synthesiser, and the LP1 lightpen. The demand for both has been terrific and they're selling like hotcakes, but we still have a small quantity left, so if you want yours, order now - and get the pair for under £30!

- Lightpen LP1  
**£10.95 members** £12.95 non-members
- SSA1 Speech Synthesiser  
**£16.95 members** £18.95 non-members

We didn't know these items could be so much fun - the lightpen in particular is a fantastic item, which allows you to pick up options direct from the screen - and both items are complete with all the requisite software; but remember the lightpen is for colour screen only, and the synthesiser is for both green and colour.

### MINI OFFICE II for 464-664-6128

This is a superb program - we've featured it before, and since then some members of staff have been using it in the office. They've given it a 10-out-10 rating, so we thought that perhaps it was time to feature it again.

Mini Office II turns your computer into a versatile business machine. It can prepare reports, create files, compile mailing lists, draw graphs, set up financial records, print labels, communicate with other computers, (via the 'phone), help you to write letters, act as a calculator and much more. Its potential is terrific - and its great value at just -

- TAPE **£12.95 members** £14.95 non-members
- DISK **£17.95 members** £19.95 non-members

Some calculators alone can cost more than this, but rather than go into detail about all its functions, ring us for a leaflet on (0783) 673395 - you'll be surprised at its versatility, and once you've got one you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.

**EXIT**



Don't forget:  
if you have  
any tips, hints  
or "shortcuts"

we're always pleased  
to hear about them -  
ring us and let us  
know.

## FOR SALE & WANTED

We almost called this "Exchange Ams Mart" but after everyone cringed visibly, thought better of it. Quite simply, future Newsletters will carry a FOR SALE and WANTED section.

The service will be FREE to members, but £5 per advert to non-members. We can't guarantee to publish all of them at once, but we'll publish as many as possible each month. Your ad. can cover Hardware, Software, or Peripherals, and any that slip through will be published the following month.

When you send in your ad. try to ensure that it's fair, realistic, and as concise as possible. The goods must also be described accurately; and the club reserves the right not to publish, or to abbreviate where relevant.

**DON'T** use the service to advertise damaged, or worn out goods :- that will simply harm all concerned; but **DO** use it for genuine ads, unwanted gifts, books, programs that you've grown out of etc...

We look forward to hearing from you!

**EXIT**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All prices, and descriptions are correct at time of going to press. The User Club cannot be held responsible for product changes or developments which subsequently affect these descriptions.

Illustrations courtesy of TIME OUT, VIRGIN RECORDS, and DAILY MAIL.

**OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB**  
P.O. BOX 10  
1-6 LOW ROW  
SUNDERLAND  
TYNE & WEAR  
SR1 3PY

# 1

## APPLICATION NOTES

### POWER TO PIP

Some of you may remember an article on PiP by Nigel Grant in the November '86 issue of ACU, but it seems that many of you missed it - one of the most common queries we've had lately is how to make a working copy of Pip-related software; in particular with item SOFT07032 (Stock Control/Sales Invoice/Sales Ledger), which requires PiP and **not** DiscKit.

Our technical experts have now issued an easy guide, and its reprinted below -

1. Load CP/M+ and type PiP then remove the CP/M disk from the drive.
2. To copy the program disk insert the source disk into Drive B, and the newly formatted disk into Drive A. Then type A:=B: \*\* and the files will be copied one by one.
3. To copy the data disk, this time insert the source disk into Drive A and the formatted disk in Drive B, and type B:=A: \*\* (remember to put a space after the A:).

# 2

## APPLICATION NOTES

### TRICKY USING STICKYS!

Using sticky labels and LocoScript is proving to be a tricky problem for one or two of you; and we've heard stories of people getting just one address on an A4 sheet of paper!

This is simply due to your printer's form length being set at 70 (A4 size), when it should actually be at 8 or 9 (depending on the label size).

To re-set, you must be in disk management mode, and this is achieved as follows -

- i) Press the PTR button (the F1). This will bring a menu on the left hand side of the screen.
- ii) Take the cursor down to CONTINUOUS STATIONERY and press the + key, which is next to the space bar (a tick will appear beside it), then move it down the form length and change it to 8 or 9 (or whatever no. you choose depending on label size). Then press ENTER.
- iii) You will now find that you can print your labels on a continuous strip. It might take you one or two attempts to hit the size exactly; but once you've done it, its easy and it will virtually become second nature.

# 3

## APPLICATION NOTES

### RS 232/COMMSTAR MANUAL

The RS 232 manual states that a serial lead (25-way D-Type to 5-pin domino) should come with the interface.

**This is a misprint in the manual:** the lead is supplied with the V21/23 modem, and not the RS232.



If you have problems  
with your software,  
ring us during working  
hours on  
**0783-673395,**  
for technical help and  
advice.

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