

AMSTRAD

DEC
1988

THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB AND AMSOFT MAIL ORDER,
ENTERPRISE HOUSE, P.O. BOX 10, ROPER STREET, SUNDERLAND, SR4 6SN. TELEPHONE:- (091) 510 8787

THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR ALL CPC MACHINES

SUPER SEASONAL GIVEAWAY

Yes, even Santa would be laughing at our SUPER SEASONAL GIVEAWAY!! That's right, when you buy any model from the Amstrad PC, PPC, or PCW range, or PCW machine, and a host of great stocking fillers absolutely free!

PCW RANGE
Buy any PCW and we'll give you an annual subscription to Lawline (the personal legal advisory service), two blank discs to get you up and running, a dustcover to protect your machine, and 12 months *Dictaphone service, together **WORTH OVER £95.00!!**

USER CLUB PRICE
MODEL(Incl. VAT & Carriage)

PCW 8256	£401.35
PCW 8512	£516.35
PCW 9512	£573.85

PC 1640/1512 RANGE

Buy any PC and we'll give you 10 blank discs, an annual subscription to Lawline, a dustcover to protect your machine, and 12 months *Dictaphone service, together **WORTH OVER £165.00!!**

USER CLUB PRICE
MODEL(Incl. VAT & Carriage)

PC 1640SD MD	£573.85
PC 1640SD CD	£746.35
PC 1640SD ECD	£918.85
PC 1640DD MD	£746.35
PC 1640DD CD	£918.85
PC 1640DD ECD	£1091.35
PC 1640HD MD	£1091.35
PC 1640HD CD	£1263.85
PC 1640HD ECD	£1436.35
PC 1512SD MM	£458.85

PC 1512DD MM	£631.35
PC 1512SD CM	£631.35
PC 1512DD CM	£803.85

Buy any PPC and we'll give you **absolutely free of charge** 3 blank discs to get you up and running, an annual subscription to the legal advisory service Lawline, and 12 months *Dictaphone service, together **WORTH OVER £90.00!!**

USER CLUB PRICE
MODEL(Incl. VAT & Carriage)

PPC 512S	£458.85
PPC 512D	£631.35
PPC 640S	£573.85
PPC 640D	£746.35

PC2000 SERIES

Have one of Amstrad's most technologically advanced computers installed before Christmas, and we'll give you an annual subscription to Lawline and 12 months *Dictaphone service absolutely free, together **WORTH OVER £295.00!!**

MEMBERS PRICE

PC 2086 SD 12MD	£688.85
PC 2086 DD 12MD	£861.35
PC 2086 HD 12MD	£1148.85
PC 2086 SD 14CD	£861.35
PC 2086 DD 14CD	£1033.85
PC 2086 HD 14CD	£1321.35
PC 2086 SD 12HRCD	£976.35
PC 2086 DD 12HRCD	£1148.85
PC 2086 HD 12HRCD	£1436.35
PC 2086 SD 14HRCD	£1091.35

PC 2086 DD 14HRCD	£1263.85
PC 2086 HD 14HRCD	£1551.35
PC 2286 DD 12MD	£1148.85
PC 2286 HD 12MD	£1551.35
PC 2286 DD 14CD	£1321.35
PC 2286 HD 14CD	£1723.85
PC 2286 DD 12HRCD	£1436.35
PC 2286 HD 12HRCD	£1838.85
PC 2286 DD 14HRCD	£1551.35
PC 2286 HD 14HRCD	£1953.85
PC 2386 HD 12MD	£3046.35
PC 2386 HD 14CD	£3218.85
PC 2386 HD 12HRCD	£3333.85
PC 2386 HD 14HRCD	£3448.85

SINCLAIR 'PROFESSIONAL SERIES' COMPUTERS
PC200M SINCLAIR 31/2" DISC DRIVE COMPUTER COMPLETE WITH 12" MONO MONITOR & SOFTWARE £458.85

PC200C SINCLAIR 31/2" DISC DRIVE COMPUTER COMPLETE WITH 14" COLOUR MONITOR & SOFTWARE £573.85

* DICTAPHONE SERVICE

Each Amstrad machine sold by the User Club includes a 12 month Dictaphone Service agreement for nationwide on-site maintenance. The agreement covers the cost of engineer call-out, all labour (inc. travelling time), and parts. Response to requests for service is normally within 2 days, and Hotline support is provided to assist fault and to help with possible user problems.

*** ALL OF OUR PRICES INCLUDE DICTAPHONE, V.A.T. AND CARRIAGE COSTS***

We also sell the full CPC Range! Prices and full specifications on all Amstrad models are available on request. Ring 091 510 8787 for details now!

ADDITIONAL POSTAL CHARGES

ADDITIONAL POSTAL CHARGES APPLY TO THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND, PLEASE ADD £4.60, THE SCOTTISH ISLES, ISLE OF MAN, AND THE CHANNEL ISLES, PLEASE ADD £25.00.

NEW ARRIVAL....

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Order your MP-2 Modulator now before we're sold out for Christmas! A consignment has just arrived here in Sunderland, but you can be sure it won't last long!

CODE: MP-2
POWER SUPPLY/ MODULATOR (6646128)
non-members: £29.95 members £25.95
Order yours now - Ring 091 510 8787 for details!

FIRST IN LINE!

Be sure to be the first in line when we take delivery of Disc Drive/ Interfaces at the end of December/New Year. You can be certain that demand for the DDI's will again outstrip supply, so order yours now and make sure you'll be one of the lucky ones!

CODE: DDI-1 DISC DRIVE/INTERFACE CPM AND LOGO FOR 464
non-members: £159.95 members: £139.95

BUNDLE BONANZA!!

OFFER OF THE SEASON!
Yes, the User Club is giving a **FULL CREDIT REFUND** to one lucky member who orders a super CPC Bundle deal before Christmas! That's right, all the names and addresses of members who order a bundle will be put in the User Club's giant Christmas Stocking, and at 5.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve one lucky name will be drawn and a full credit refund given! See the enclosed brochure for the full Bundle details, or Ring 091 510 8787 NOW!!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
AND THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

The Northern
**AMSTRAD
COMPUTER
SHOW**

NON-MEMBERS PAY 20% MORE AT G-MEX!

User Club members had the last laugh at the Northern Amstrad Computer Show held in Manchester last month. The general public arrived only to find that the admission price had risen to £5.00 for the popular venue, and whilst they looked on in a disgruntled manner, our members simply produced their discount vouchers and were entitled to visit the show for a more realistic fee of £4.00 much to their delight!

Inside, we had the pleasure for the first time in months of seeing on display the superb new range of 2000 machines released by Amstrad at the recent PC show. Great interest was also shown in the new Amstrad SM2400 Modem and the Network System which provides the obvious solution for today's multi-user.

On the User Club's stand we thoroughly enjoyed meeting hundreds of our members who had made the journey to G-Mex. The most popular established lines at the show were undoubtedly our modem and printer ranges, with the MC2400 Card Modem performing very well, and the LQ3500 and LQ5000 printers being sold out completely by Sunday afternoon.

G-MEX PRIZE WINNERS - the following prizes kindly donated by DATABASE SOFTWARE have been won by these members:

MINI OFFICE II: F.L. Lewis from Willenhall, R.A. Wetherall from Bolton, T. F. Ward from Rochdale.
TIME & MAGIC: M. Wall from Manchester, D.W. Sanders from Lanchester, M. Ward from Rochdale.



COMPETITION

LAST MONTHS WINNER

Last month's teaser proved quite tricky, but Tidings of Great Joy go to **LES FRIPP from YEovil in SOMERSET**, whose entry was picked from the murky depths of the cut-down beer barrel!

Seasons Greetings Les, a **£25.00 credit voucher** is now yours and waiting to be spent! The answers were:

- (a) minimum weighing required is 1 and
- (b) minimum number of coins you need is 45

THIS MONTHS COMPETITION

Mrs PJ BATES from LEICESTER is to blame for any headaches this month (and not the amber nectar) with her super competition. All you have to do is unscramble the following 9 anagrams. The answers can all be found in this month's User Club order form under "Games on disc for 664/6128".

- 1 B TEAM SKATERS
- 2 CRONE CUTTER
- 3 NEW PATH
- 4 A SCOTCH BLOOM
- 5 DEFECTED LORRY
- 6 I CAN TAME A CAPRI
- 7 MILDER NATION
- 8 PUSHING
- 9 A SALON FOR MEN

Remember all competition suggestions printed earn their author a £10 credit voucher. (Competition closing date: Friday December 16th)



LAMPOST

David Stein (Age 12) from Coventry writes:

I have an Amstrad CPC 464 home computer and use it mostly for games.

Now, I have to do binary at school and I was wondering if you could convert decimal to binary on my computer. I will be very pleased if you could help me.

EDITOR REPLIES:

Yes there is a command to turn decimal numbers into their binary equivalents.

Just type in Print Bin \$ (8) and press return, This will give you the binary number of 8 which is 1000. To do calculations in decimal and get the answer in binary you simply enter Print Bin \$ (8 + 8) press return and the answer will appear in binary on the screen 10000. There are no spaces between Bin and \$ or the brackets i.e. Bin\$(8+8)

To turn binary into decimal enter print & x 1000 and the answer of 8 will appear on the screen.

Two other useful applications is to turn decimal into Hexadecimal and vice versa.

To turn a decimal number into Hexadecimal enter Print Hex \$ (16) and 10 will appear on the screen.

To turn Hexadecimal into decimal enter the following command Print & FF and 255 will appear which is the decimal equivalent of FF in Hexadecimal.

Of course this option kindly supplied to you on the machine is a very quick and easy way of doing your school work. It would make a lot more sense if you could learn the conversions the long winded way as you will be expected to do so in your exams. If you require any information on how to do this please write in for examples.

Miss G Wilkes from Leicester writes:

Recently I have noticed in manuals and magazines the reference to serial and parallel I/O. I own a CPC6128, and wish to know if my computer has this and could you please explain to me exactly what the difference is between serial and parallel I/O.

EDITOR REPLIES:

To start off with, I'm afraid that the CPC6128 only deals in serial data transfer. Serial Input/Output means that the computer sends and receives data one bit at a time which makes it very slow.

Unfortunately the CPC6128 has no parallel ports, and there are no leads or interfaces on the market at the moment to accommodate this feature. Parallel Input/Output means that a computer or a peripheral sends and receives data 8 bits at a time which makes it very fast, but susceptible to transmission errors.

This does not mean that serial connections do not experience interference from external sources, but if you can imagine that eight lines are being used to transfer data instead of one (as in serial) then the chances of data corruption is increased 8 fold. That is why parallel leads aren't used in great lengths. i.e. the longer the cable the more chance of noise affecting the line.

Mr Moore from Swansea writes:

I have a CPC 464 and a dk-Tronics 64k add on memory. I was led to believe that this would make my computer into a CPC 6128, but I still can't run Tasword 6128 or CPM-, why not?

EDITOR REPLIES:

Even though you add 64k memory, it does not make the computer into a 6128. You will still need the 6128 ROM to be able to run programs such as Tasword 6128 and CPM-.



AMSChat

THE 'BASIC' OVERWRITE MODE

Whilst in Basic editing a line of program, have you ever forgotten to delete the character you have just replaced because Basic uses insert mode? Well there is a way around this by putting the computer into the overwrite mode. This is done by pressing Control and the Tab key and if you press the same keys again this will put it back to insert mode.

COMPATIBILITY WITH PCW TO CPC BUT NOT VICE VERSA

Members who have both a CPC 6128 and PCW 8256 or PCW 8512, have been asking why it is possible for the PCW to read 6128 discs yet it is not possible for the CPC 6128 to read the PCW 8256 or 8512 discs?

Well this is due to the fact that the PCW's DOC (Disc Operating System) is slightly modified to that of the CPC6128. This is of course due to of the advancement of technology between the time the CPC6128 and PCW's were released, therefore giving compatibility upwards from CPC but not vice-versa. So I would suggest if you use both types of machines frequently then format your discs on the CPC 6128.

LEARN THE PROGRAMMERS LANGUAGE

Members, often the younger generation, write in asking what is the best route to take that will lead them to a career in programming when they leave school. At school the obvious choice is BASIC and at 'A' level standard the pupils progress onto PASCAL and assembly language. Even though the languages at school throw a little light onto programming techniques, and give the young potential programmer an insight into various application that programs are used for, I believe that this in itself is not enough to interest any employer when reading a C.V. or application form.

Don't despair however, for there is a programming language on the market that will stand you in good stead when leaving school. The language is known simply as 'C' and is used by many professional programmers. The language is structured in such a way that frequent use will give enough knowledge and experience to be able to apply your skills to other commercial languages available and used frequently in some of today's industries, and yes, it is available on your CPC Machine(Disc) CODE:ARNO0001 Non Members £49.95

Members £42.50



FOR SALE

Software collection being sold! 75+ games and utilities for sale (tape and disc). All types of games both old and new includes Renegade, E.M.U., Road Blasters, Sentinel, Deflector etc. Most £1 or under. For more details contact Gavin Smith on (0625) 73532 or at 28 South West Avenue, Bollington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 5DS.

Spectre Comms Pack comprising Prism Modem 2000 with RS232 Interface and Internal Cage Comms Rom (complete-no Rom Board needed, simply plugs into CPC expansion Port and Telephone socket) Bargain at £100.00 ono.

Contact M.G. Miller at 74 Whirlodale Crescent, Sheffield S7 2ND. Tel: (0742) 363026

On cassette: Platoon, Karnov, Bubble Bobble, Outrun, Side Arms, A.T.F etc.

Phone G. Evans on (Barry) 740638

Andrum complete with Electro Kit, Afro Kit and Latin Kit on Disc or Tape £20 (RRP £45)

Disc Based Packages

Advanced Art Studio £10 (RRP £25) Starglider £10 (RRP £20) Tel: Chris Owen on Farnborough 543945

LAST REMAINING STOCK IN UK!

Remember last Christmas and the nationwide shortage of **DMP2160 printers?** Well don't be caught out again this year, and order yours now before demand outstrips the stocks!

The **DMP2160 printer** comes complete with ribbon, lead and fold-out legs!

CODE: DMP2160 non-members: £159.95

members: £145.95

MISS THE BOAT AND YOU'LL BE WAITING FOR THE NEXT SHIPMENT!!!



ALL PRICES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS- ALL PRICES INCLUDE V.A.T.
THE OFFICIAL AMSTRAD USER CLUB, AMSOFT
MAIL ORDER, ENTERPRISE HOUSE, PALLION IND. EST.,
SUNDERLAND, TEL 091 510 8787