# C'AC EDIFION

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 - JUNE 1989

# The ultimate business solution.



YOUR CHOICE OF PC2086 SYSTEM + AMSTRAD LQ PRINTER + LOTUS SYMPHONY SOFTWARE

There has never been a better time to upgrade your computing system than now. Amstrad have again produced an amazing deal to offer you a complete business solution — at an extremely competitive rate. The Official Amstrad User Club have in turn taken the deal one step further, and completed the bundle with 12 months free on-site maintenance for both the printer and computer model, and a free self-study package for the PC2000 series. Ring 091 5108787 now for full details — but remember — the offer must end on June 30th 1989.

# PRICES INCLUDE FREE On-Site Maintenance & FREE Self-Study Package for the PC 2086.

PC2086 SERIES (All prices are exclusive of V.A.T.)

1 62000 SERVED (MI prices are exclusive of v.m.1.)									
	With LQ3500 Option	RRP	Offer Price	Save	With LQ5000 Option	RRP	Offer Price	Save	
	SD 12MD	1632.95	999.00	633.95	SD 12MD	1737.95	1099.00	638.95	
	DD 12MD	1795.95	1149.00	646.95	DD 12MD	1900.95	1249.00	651.95	
	HD 12MD	2070.95	1399.00	671.95	HD 12MD	2175.95	1499.00	676.95	
	SD 14CD	1795.95	1149.00	646.95	SD 14CD	1900.95	1249.00	651.95	
	DD 14CD	1960.95	1299.00	661.95	DD 14CD	2065.95	1399.00	666.95	
	HD 14CD	2234.95	1549.00	685.95	HD 14CD	2339.95	1649.00	690.95	
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	HD 12HRCD	2344.95	1649.00	695.95	HD 12HRCD	2449.95	1749.00	700.95	
	SD 14HRCD	2015.95	1349.00	666.95	SD 14HRCD	2120.95	1549.00	671.95	
	DD 14HRCD	2180.95	1499.00	681.95	DD 14HRCD	2285.95	1699.00	686.95	
	HD 14HRCD	2454.95	1749.00	705.95	HD 14HRCD	2559.95	1849.00	710.95	

# **SEE INSIDE**

# **REGULARS**

New Products, technical advice, Knockdowns and much more!

# **OFFERS**

Classiques 1 & 2 Collection
3-Tape Bundle Deal
for under £5!
Blank Discs
— SAVE £9! —

# SELLATHON SUCCESS

— the stories and picture inside now!

# **CHRISTMAS IN MAY AT THE USER CLUB!**

Santa came early for our members this year when we gave away thousands of pounds worth of presents nationwide absolutely free!

The bruised and battered eardrums of all the staff here at the User Club are gradually being nursed back to full health (and we've stopped shouting) after four weeks of balloon-bursting every minute of the working day. For those of you unlucky enough to have missed our amazing Sellathon '89 — which must surely rate as one of the most novel (if not noisyl) promotions of the year, all you had to do was to place an order over £15 and you'd receive a fantastic prize.

Your lucky number relating to your prize was placed inside a balloon, and our intrepid sales team, complete with Sellathon 'Spear' (eat your heart out Fatima Whitbread) burst balloons happily all day long. With over 2,500 balloons bobbing from the ceiling, this was no mean feat! Some members were astonished at their good fortune - like Mr. Hanson from Warley who rang in to buy a Disc Drive and a \* POP \*\*!! BANG!! — he'd won a Rombo Rom Box worth over £34! Mr. Cotton went cuckoo in Cambridge when he discovered he'd won the ace game Superman worth £9.95 within seconds of him picking up the phonel These name but two of our thousands of members who won goodies — so many thanks for your support. In the mean time, we'll carry on trying to unblock the remainder of the balloons from the hoover . . . till next time!



## **OXFAM CALLS ALL MEMBERS**

Oxfam is launching a software appeal starting on June 27th - and they need your help. Selected shops in the London area will be able to take in your old unwanted software directly, but for those of us not living in the area, contact your local shop who may forward it on your behalf. "By donating your unwanted CPC software," Richard English. Oxfam's Appeals Manager says, "You can help raise money to aid people suffering from hunger, diseases and poverty around the world". You can contact Richard on 01 585 0220 for more details.

## PUPILS MISS O

A report published at the end of April paints a poor picture of the extent to which computer-related applications are utilised within the school curriculum. The report entitled 'Information Technology from 5 to 16' by the Schools Inspectorate concludes that students are ill-prepared for the world of computing due to misuse by schools of their machines. The main criticism is that computing is still taught as an independent subject, rather than as an integral part of all subjects. Schemes which simply instruct pupils how to operate the machines and copy files have 'little educational value' and can 'mislead parents, teachers and children'. The report recommends that computers should be used for all subjects, and that pupils could use programs such as word processors, databases, spreadsheets and music packages for lessons in English, Maths, Geography, History and Music. Information Technology also has a role to play in Religious Studies, but the inspectorate does point out that the learning process will be hindered as ever by the lack of computers to go round.

The British public are buying more personal computers than ever before according to a survey recently published by leading market analysts Intelligent Electronic/Dataquest. UK sales of personal computers soared by almost 50 per cent in 1988 compared to the previous year. Total shipments in 1987 were 552,350 but the figure rose to just under 778,000 units in 1988.

# CAREER CHANGE FOR THE DISABLED

A new computer training centre recently set up in London's Docklands could provide the key to a great future for disabled youngsters. Enterprise Technology Docklands sets out to enhance disabled people's skills using PCs and provides training on the machines for professional careers. Riding on the success of a similar scheme in Northern Ireland, the centre hopes to train 50 people annually when completely operational. The courses are year long and cover the basics of computer skills.

The majority of students will go on to work in the computer industry and the centre has already received initial funding of £20,000 from an educational trust. There are no restrictions on the levels of disability to qualify for a place, and it is hoped in the long term that the centre can include the able-bodied as well.

From Tuesday, 30th May to Friday, 30th June, we're offering members the chance to buy our 10-pack of 3" blank discs for just £19.90. With a recommended retail price of £28.90, and usual members price of £22.50, this is certainly the month to buy! Please quote "Blank Disc Offer" on all orders.

Members Offer Price £19.90 | Non Members: £7.97 Code: SOFT3000. Non Members £28.90

## -BUMPER BUNDLE DEAL

We've bundled together in one deal for members 3 great tape-based games at a price to match!

ZONE TROOPER

ACE Only £4.99!

ACE 2

CODE: ACEPACK (TAPE)

**Members:** £4.99

# **GREAT NEW PRODUCTS**

#### \* CROSSWORD PUZZLES

The User Club is now stocking enough computer crossword puzzle packages to keep you going for years! Whether you're a Times freak or a Sun lover, there are volumes and volumes to keep you going!

#### The Times Jubilee Puzzles 1932-1987

This collection of fifty-six puzzles was made by choosing one puzzle from each year from 1932 to 1987 inclusive, thus tracing the development of the crossword from early days to modern times. The puzzle for 1936 is unusual, consisting entirely of quotations, and that for 1978 is an example of the once-a-year Crossword Eliminator Puzzle, designed to baffle all but the experts.

CODE: TIMESJ001 (TAPE) Non Members £9.95 Members £8.45 Members £18.95 Members £16.10

#### THE TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS

Available in six volumes, the puzzles in these collections are all typical of the Times Crossword, all having appeared in recent years.

Prices Per Volume:

TAPE: Non Members: £9.95 Members £8.45 DISC: Non Members: £18.95 Members: £16.10

## THE SUN COMPUTER CROSSWORDS

At last! A piece of unrivalled educational software! Volumes 1-6 are available on both Tape and Disc and feature a variety of skill levels. Volumes 5 and 6 include additional features such as a new "team option" so you can play with your friends

Prices Per Volume:

TAPE: Non Members: £7.95 Members £6.75
DISC: Non Members: £17.95 Members: £15.25

## 17 TAPE-BASED GAMES FOR UNDER £3

SOLOMAN'S KEY — Find the key to find the treasure. CODE: SOLOMB001 Non Members: £2.99 Memb bers: £2.54

KOKOTONI WILF — Recover the fragments of the legendary

CODE: KOKOTON001 Non Members: £1.99 Members: £1.70

- Fly over enemy territory and return safely to base. CODE: 1942001 Non Members: £2.99

BMX 2 SIMULATOR — Ten new courses, two difficulty levels, up to FOUR players. Members: £2.54

CODE: BMX200 Non Members: £2.99 BOMBJACK II — Outwit your enemies and collect the treasure.

Non Members: £1.70

Members: £1.70

TURBO ESPRIT — Drive the Lotus Turbo Esprit chasing drug

smugglers and evading the bullets. Members: £1.70 CODE: ESPRIT001 Non Members: £1.99

720 DEGREES — Perform stunts controlling the skateboard. CODE: 720B001 Non Members: £2.99

SUPERCYCLE - Open road racing - wheel to wheel. Members: £2.54 CODE: CYCLE001 Non Members: £2.99

TITANIC — Control the aquanaut and unlock the secret of the

Titanic CODE: TITANT001 Non Members: £2.99 Members: £2.54

SPY HUNTER — Your Spy Car faces various Enemy Agents you

have to overcome. Non Members: £2.99 Members: £2.54 CODE: SPY001

MOTORCROSS SIMULATOR - Dirt biking fun at its best. CODE: MOTOCRO001 Non Members: £2.99

NEXOR — Defeat the enemy with the Nemesis weapon.
CODE: NEXOR001 Non Members: £1.99 Membe embers: £2.54

RALLY SIMULATOR — Complete the course that would challenge

even the most experienced rally-car drivers Members: £2.54 CODE: BALYSIM001 Non Members: £2.99

PARA ASSAULT COURSE — Complete the most gruelling course with 2 player competition!

Members: £2.54 CODE: ASSAULT001 Non Members: £2.99

**BATTLE TANK SIMULATOR** — Seek and destroy the enemy tanks with two types of weapon.

CODE: BATTANK001 Non Members: £2.99 Members: £2.54

JOCKY WILSON'S DART CHALLENGE - Choose between Tournament, Play Round the Clock and Two Player Head to Head

Members: £2.54 CODE: DARTS001 Non Members: £2.99

#### H.A.T.E.

The year is AD2320 and the Galaxy is in turmoil. Take control of your Star Fighter, carving your way through the Aliens, collecting plasma cells as you go.

'HOSTILE ALL TERRAIN ENCOUNTER'.

Members: £12.75 HATE0001 (DISC) Non Members: £14.99 Members: £8.49 HATE001 (TAPE) Non Members: £9.99

## **MEMBERS ONLY OFFER**

The User Club has been able to create what must be the games-deal of the month! Classiques I and II are not available at these prices anywhere else in the UK so enjoy your exclusive membership bargain and take advantage while stocks last!

#### **CLASSIQUES I**

A brilliant compilation of 3 great games!

#### INVADERS:

An army of extra terrestrials threaten the planet. Can you destroy them before they destroy you?

#### GLUTTON:

As the voracious glutton tries to reach five different coaches of foods, the ghosts lurking in the mazes will be doing their best to stop it.

#### INFORMAL BREAKOUT:

Try and destroy the scenes with their unwelcome surprises: Exploding blocks, blocks that move unexpectedly etc. Discover for yourself!

CLASS001 (TAPE) Non Members: 9.00 CLASS0001 (DISC) Non Members: £14.99 Members: £7.65 Members: £12.74

#### **CLASSIQUES II**

3 games brought together on one disc!

#### PENEGO:

Lining three diamonds up on an iceberg is harder than you think. These four ice monsters are hunting for food and you're edible!

## ARNOI D

Can you lead Arnold to the centre of the maze? The difficulty grows with him, and time is your enemy.

At the wheel of a formula 1 car, your only goal is WINNING!

Members: £7.65 Members: £12.74 CLASS2001 (TAPE) Non Members: 9.00 Non Members: £19.99 CLASS20001 (DISC)

#### MIKE READ'S COMPUTER POP QUIZ

Incorporating six rounds, well over 1000 questions and a host of team members from which to choose, MIKE READ'S COMPUTER POP QUIZ will keep you, your family and your friends glued for hours . . .

Who had a hit with 'China in your Hand'? Who's album was 'Slippery When Wet'? Do you remember who wrote 'I'm a Believer'?

If not, brush up on your pop knowledge NOW before the rest of the Computer games-players beat you to it, show them who's the best.

QUIZ0001 (DISC) QUIZ001 (TAPE)

Non Members: £11.99 Non Members: £9.99

# Members: £10.19 Members: £8.49

## **Brian Clough's Football Fortunes**

Brian Clough's Football Fortunes, is a football management game with a big difference. In an exciting departure from earlier simulation games, Brian Clough's Football Fortunes combines an excellent range of computer based features with a fascinating board game. This game can be played by two to five players who take on the roles of team managers.

BRIAN001 (TAPE) BRIAN0001 (DISC)

Non Members: £7.99 Non Members: £9.99 Members: £6.79 Members: £8.49



#### WANDERER

The WANDERER is a space mercenary, hired by confederation of ten planets to destroy their evil overlord VADD. WANDERER is the ultimate rebel cruising around the Universe, gambling, amassing shields and energy, destroying friends and enemies alike. He combines both strategy and force to attain his goal.

WANDER001 (TAPE) WANDER0001 (DISC) Non Members: £9.99 Non Members: £14.99

Members: £8.49 Members: £12.74

## **SUPERTRUX**

30 tons of solid truck, under your control. Have you the ability and nerve to race it? Can you beat the other drivers to claim the SUPERTRUX Trophy? If not, back out now or else sit back for the ride of your life.

TRUX001 (TAPE) TRUX0001 (DISC)

Non Members: £9.99 Non Members: £14.99

Members: £8.49 Members: £12.74

## CRAZY CARS II

At last, the amazing follow-up to one of the most successful games of all time

This time you're at the wheel of the fabulous Ferrari F40 and in a race against time in a bid to smash a stolen car racket — the only problem is the guys involved in the racket are corrupt policemen.

With 360 degree spins, car chases, realistic 3D road junctions, hills, road blocks, and realistic mapped highways, not to mention superb 3D graphics, Crazy Cars II is here to set new standards in road racing. Don't just take our word, test drive a copy today . . . .

CRAZY2000 (DISC) Non Members: £14.99 Members: £12.74 Members: £8.49 Members: £8.49

#### TANKATTACK

- Control a full division of tanks and armoured cars.
- See all the fighting 'live' on your computer.
  Superb board and fully detailed playing pieces.
- Real time graphics. Play as Allies or Enemies.
- Suitable for all ages.
- 2-4 players.
- Simple game control. Easy to learn.

TANKAT0001 (DISC) Non Members: £14.99
TANKAT001 (TAPE) Non Members: £12.99

Members: £12.75 Members: £11.04

#### **COLOSSUS 4 BRIDGE**

COLOSSUS allows one player to play a complete game of Bridge with the computer controlling the other three hands. Each hand is bid according to the Acol system. Included are the Blackwood, Stayman and Baron conventions. The strong two club and takeout doubles are also supported. All four hands are displayed at the end of play, followed by the score to rubber. Features include:

- ★ Hand input facility ★ Card autoplay/recommend option ★ Cheat option ★ Rebid/replay facility ★ Demonstration mode ★ Bidding/play summary ★ Game save/load facility ★ Claim trick(s) ★ Backstep play ★ Skip to next hand ★ Printer option ★ Magazine subscription offer.

COLOS001 (TAPE) Non Members: £11.99 COLOS0001 (DISC) Non Members: £14.99 Members: £10.19 Members: £12.74



## RENEGADE III — THE FINAL CHAPTER

When a guy loses his girl - he loses his mind . . .

Now, in the final Chapter, Renegade must summon all his strength and lightning reactions as he chases his girlfriend's captors through time itself.

#### **COLOSSUS 4 CHESS**

COLOSSUS is probably the most complete chess program available for any home computer, written using the very latest techniques by a computer chess programmer of ten years experience. It has the widest range of true features years experience. It has the widest range of the features available, including some never before implemented on any home computer chess program. COLOSSUS has a perfect understanding of all the rules of chess, including under promotions, the fifty move rule and all draws by repetition. It can also handle all the standard mates, including the very difficult King, Bishop and Knight versus King.

CHESS001 (TAPE) Non Members: £9.99
CHESS0001 (DISC) Non Members: £14.99

Members: £8.49 Members: £12.74



#### COPIREADER

Keep your papers tidy while you typel Similar in concept to the very popular "Thingi" copyholder, the COPIREADER features a unique copyholding clip. The Copireader can be positioned on either side of the monitor and may be swivelled into position for easy eye contact, and to the side when not in use.

CODE: COPIREADER Non Members: £8.61

Members: £7.31

#### COLOSSUS MAH JONG

Colossus Mah Jong is the computer version of the ancient oriental games, enabling one player to enjoy a challenging game against the computer. Taking the part of the East Wind, you do battle against the North, South and West Winds, picking up and discarding tiles from the central playing area. Your hand is represented by 3D graphics.

MAHJON0001 (DISC) Non Members: £14.99
MAHJON001 (TAPE) Non Members: £9.99

Members: £12.74 Members: £8.49

## **AST MONTH'S WINNER**

Mr. ROY PATERSON from ROWLANDS CASTLE in HAMPSHIRE was the whizzkid programmer who unlocked the secrets of last months brain strain! He wins himself a £25 credit voucher to spoil himself with after having his winning entry pulled from the murky depths of the cut-down beer barrel!

192, 384, 576 , 219, 438, 657 , 273, 546, 819 , 327, 654, 981 .

The full running program is too long to print but is available on request.



## THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION

This month's competition to rack your brains was sent in by MR. L.W. MOLLET of WIMBORNE, DORSET who will receive a £10 credit voucher in return for this mind boggler.

#### **NUMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

CLUES FOR NUMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

#### **ACROSS**

- The reverse of 14 Across

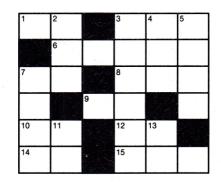
- First and last digit are the same.
  The square of 270.
  First digit times second digit = second digit of 9 Across.
  First digit times second digit = first digit of 9 Across.
  The middle digit is 1 less than half the third digit.
  The second digit is the cube of the first.

- 10. See 7 down.
- 12. A prime number. 14. See 1 Across.
- The reverse of the square of the sum of the digits of 12 Across.

#### DOWN

- The first three digits of the cube of the sum of the digits of 13 Down. A symmetrical 6 digit square (last three the reverse of the first three). The sum of its digits = the sum of the digits of 1 Across. The root of this square consists of 2 consecutive digits. The square of 10 Across.

- A palindromic number (reads the same both ways)
- less than 3 times 9 Across.



(Closing Date: Wednesday, 14th June, 1989)

# KNOCKDOWNS 9 KNOCKOUT KNOCKDOWNS FOR MEMBERS ONLY

		Q.
MAP RALLY CODE: SOFT1148 (DISC)	RRP £14.95	KP £10.95 — SAVE £4!
CODE: SOFT148 (TAPE)	RRP £9.95	KP £6.95 — SAVE £3!
CHEMISTRY		
CODE: CHEM0001 (DISC) CODE: CHEM001 (TAPE)	RRP £16.95 RRP £10.95	KP £12.95 — SAVE £4! KP £8.50 — SAVE £2!
PHYSICS		
CODE: PHYS0001 (DISC)	RRP £16.95	KP £12.95 — SAVE £4!
CODE: PHYS001 (TAPE)	RRP £10.95	KP £8.50 — SAVE £2!
COUNTDOWN CODE: COUNT001 (TAPE)	RRP £7.95	KP £4.95 — SAVE £3!
and the second s	71111 27.00	N 24.00 0/1/2 20.
MOTOR MASSACRE CODE: MOTOR0001 (DISC)	RRP £14.99	KP £9.99 — SAVE £5!
DEATH WISH II		
CODE: WISH001 (TAPE)	RRP £9.99	KP £6.50 — SAVE OVER £3!
VIXEN		
CODE: VIXEN0001 (DISC)	RRP £14.99	KP £11.75 — SAVE OVER £3!
MAXAM	RRP £26.95	KP £16.95 — SAVE £10!
CODE: MAXA0003 (DISC)	nnr 120.90	NF 110.93 — SAVE 110!
PLAN IT		

#### **FOR SALE**

All A.C.U. Magazines from Issue 1, August 1984 to present. Offers. Contact: Tony on (0386) 840399.

DISCS: Cholo £12, Biggles £5, Jail Break £3, Glen Hoddle Soccer £2, Airwolf £2.

TAPES: Nemesis £7, Karndu £7, Livingstone £5 (464 only), World Cup Soccer £3, Starion £2, Jump Jet £2, Trivial Pursuit (Extra questions) £2, Skate Rock Simulator £1, Geoff Capes Strongman £1, Caves of Doom £1, Way of the Exploding Fists £1.

RRP £19.95

Postage and packing 50 pence. Contact: James Buddell on 0279 505630 Mon-Sat after 6pm/Sun after 2pm.

RODOS CHIP AND RODOS EXTRA £20 — Contact Cameron Baptie on 0450 73402 after 5pm.

## **EXCHANGE WANTED**

CODE: PLAN0001 (DISC)

Mr. R.C. Cole has a copy of the Firmware Guide to the CPC6128 and would like to swap it for a copy of At Last Plus Database. Telephone: 0732 822321.

s are correct at time of going to press. All prices include V.A.T. The Official Amstrad User Club and Amsoft Mail Order, Enterprise House, PO Box 10, Roper Street, Pallion Industrial Estate, Sunderland, SR4 6SN. Tel: (091) 510 8787.

KP £12.95 — SAVE £7!





After spending a frustrating hour, trying to get a home-made joystick splitter to work, I would like to pass the following corrections to the 6128 manual on to fellow members.

1. The diagram pin numbers are back-to-front. Diagram pin 5 is really pin 1, 4 is 2, 3 is 3, 2 is 4, 1 is 5, 6 is 9, 7 is 8, 8 is 7 and 9 is 6.

The pin outs are wrong, they should be as follows:-

'in Number:	Function:	Use:
1	UP	J1/J2
2	RIGHT	J1/J2
3	LEFT	J1/J2
4	DOWN	J1/J2
5	SPARE	
6	FIRE	J1/J2
. 7	SPARE	
8	COMMON 1	J1
9	COMMON 2	J2

Incidentally, the joystick port is a PLUG not a socket. The shape of the conductors, and not the shell determines this, therefore the 'thing' that you push into your electric kettle is really a socket and not a plug.

Thanks for the tip off Tim. I'm sure our members will appreciate your observations.

I was reading an article in a magazine, about magnetic storage devices, when it mentioned BLOCKED RECORDS from time to time.

The article never stated exactly what this term meant, I wonder if it would be possible for you to give me brief details on what the term actually means and why it is used.

Blocking is a method of grouping together a number of records before being written or saved on to a magnetic storage device such as magnetic tape or magnetic disk. The main reason for this is to save space, by reducing the number of inter-record gaps.

INTER RECORD GAPS separate each record, therefore by using the block method you obviously reduce the number of gaps, thus giving a more efficient method of storage.

I have heard a great deal mentioned recently, regarding a piece of hardware called a MIDI interface.

I was wondering if you could tell me what a MIDI interface does, and I do know that it was something to do with music, please help.

You are indeed correct when you say that the MIDI interface is related to music. MIDI stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, and what it does is to provide a standard way to connect together electronic musical instruments, so instruments can be used to control one another. If, for example, you wished to use an electric guitar to control the sound generated by a synthesizer then you would connect them via a MIDI

The interface does not necessarily have to be connected to another musical instrument, it can also be connected to a computer. Thus enabling you to use a computer program to control a musical instrument. The potential of the system is such that, with suitable instruments, computer and software you could virtually have a personal orchestra for a relatively small price

## Mr. Williamson from Derby writes:-I would like to be able to print directly from the screen to my Star LC-10

printer. I have tried several commands and can print one line at a time, but this has to be in inverted commas with PRINT at the beginning. when you get to the end of the line and Return you lose it all. I have a CPC6128. Can you help me at all?

Editor Replies:To do this you will need to perform a little bit of programming. The following is a BASIC subroutine that will do the job in Mode 1. Change the 40 at the end of line 20 to 20 — for Mode 0, or 80 for Mode 2. Type GOSUB 10 from the main part of your program to execute the screen character dump subroutine. Note that this routine uses the COPYCHR\$ keyword, so it will only work with the CPC6128.

keyword, so it will only work with the C 10 FOR Y=1 TO 25 20 FOR Y=1 TO 40 30 LOCATE X, Y.A\$=COPYCHR\$(£0) 40 IF LEN(A\$)=0 THEN A\$=CHR\$(32) 50 PRINT 8,A\$; 60 NEXT Y 70 PRINT 8 80 NEXT X 90 RETURN



# **AMS**Chat

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Some people are still confused about the difference between an INTERPRETER and a COMPILER, so I will try to clear up the problem.

An interpreter, is a translator that accepts one line of source program at a time, produces the corresponding machine code instructions and executes them. Interpreters differ from compilers in two important aspects. Firstly, they do not check the syntax of the whole program before execution. Secondly, they repeat the process of translation every time a particular source program is executed.

Debugging is easier and less frustrating than with compilers but interpreted programs are much slower than compiled programs in execution. Moreover, a syntax error can be undetected for many program test runs, in a program instruction that is only accessed in exceptional circumstances.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In a recent report tests were carried out on an Airport Security X-Ray machine to prove whether the theory of data supplied on magnetic media was in fact affected by such devices.

X-Rays have always been looked upon by overseas distributors of magnetic media as the main cause of the corruption of data when past through the machines at customs of airports or shipping ports.

However, the tests showed that the actual X-Rays did not affect the data, and the probable cause was in fact from the magnetic fields, generated from the motors that drive the conveyor belts.

BAUD OVER MODEMS?

With Electronic mail services being very popular these days, CPC owners especially are wanting to get in on the act. Below are a few definitions of some of the features:

Autodial modems are better than manual modems because they obtain a Autodial modems are better than manual modems because they obtain a connection quicker, for obvious reasons i.e. no finger work, the autodial modem will do it automatically. When it refers to terms like V21/V23 it may get a little confusing to a novice, but the 'V' numbers represent the speeds at which the modem can transmit and receive data. You must remember that the word Baud is jargon for bits per second. V21 is transmitting and receiving at 300 Baud which is quite slow. V23 is 1200/75 Baud rate which can be sending at 1200 and receiving at 75 or vice versa which can improve efficiency when logging onto such services on Telecom Gold and Prestel.