

# PRESTO NEWS.

Probably the best 75p you've ever spent.



Inside this very late issue of your favourite CPC fanzine...

## Women and CPCs

We look at sex stereotyping and the role of women in the CPC scene.

## New Adventure column.

The White Witch starts her new column.

## MPD and Yorkie have their say.

Here the latest, straight from the horse's mouth.

The entire Presto PD library to be won in our fabulous competition.

We must be crazy, but we don't care.

All the latest news and views from the commercial world and the public domain.

# SHOCK HORROR!

Presto News finally gets page numbers.

# The Contents Page.

03: A FEW WORDS FROM THE ED. The part of the magazine where I get on my high horse and ride off into the sunset. Ooops wrong movie.

04: PUBLIC DOMAIN NEWS. New libraries opened, another saved from closure. It's all go in the PD scene.

05: THE BIG SCENE. All the latest news and gossip from the world of the greedy, fat capitalist pigs that run the corrupt system of commercial software and hardware. (Get down Chairman Mao -Ed)

06: SISTERS ARE DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES. A look at sex stereotyping in the world of computers, and a look at all the female CPC-ers there are out there.

07: SMALL ADS. Got something to sell, or are you looking for that elusive item? If so, try our small ads section.

08: LETTERS. A massive three pages of them. The postman has never been so knackered in his life. Is your letter there? If not, why not?

11: THE WHITE WITCH. The first in our new adventuring series. We'll be covering every aspect of PD adventuring. This month we give you the full solution to Simon Avery's Can I Cheat Death?

11.5: THE PRESTO MEGA COMPETITION. You could win every selection in the library group of your choice. Great prizes, easy questions. What more could you want?

12: THE PRESTO PLUGGING SECTION. The part of the mag that we get really biased and bring you all the news and plugs from the Presto PD Library.

13: THE PRESTO PD CATALOGUE SUMMARY. Bringing you the details on every selection in the Presto PD Library.

17: CLIP-ETY CLOP. We teach you how to convert your favourite slideshow program into clip-art for your DTP. We also have our regular gallery of PD

## Now with page numbers.

Yes, we've finally bowed to pressure and included page numbers for you. Why you wanted them is beyond me. Personally I prefer a little anarchy once in a while. Oh well, I'll just have to take it out on the cat.

You will probably notice that we've had a few teething troubles with the page numbering. Namely missing a page out where page 12 should be. For the purposes of this contents page, this page will be known as 11.5.

clips.

19: CONSOLES AND CARTRIDGES. The only column in the world dealing with the CPC+ and the GX4000. This month, bad news from Ocean.

20: BARGAINS UP FOR GRABS. We bring you the low down on 2nd hand CPC hardware. We also bring you a guide to the prices you should pay.

21: MERLE'S DEMO PAGE. This issue, Merle gives us the complete guide to Demo-Speak for beginners. Now you can talk like a FREEAAARK, and not be a lamer.

22: HELPLINE. Need some help? Then write to me, because there's nobody else in the helpline yet. Come on everybody, where's your sense of duty to your fellow man?

23: STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH. This issue, it's Daniel York of Yorkie PD, and Martin Elliott of MPD Software's chance to tell the world about their libraries.

24: USEFUL ADDRESSES. The complete list of all the CPC services that Presto recommend. Rush to the post office for a book of stamps NOW!

25: COMPETITION RESULT: The lucky winners of the competition held in issues 1 and 2. Are you a winner? Find out.

26: THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW. If you don't know it, you won't be in the know, and we'll know that you know that you don't know.

27: HOLD THE BACK PAGE. All the news views and gossip that came in to the Presto office late. Hot off the Press, smouldering stories that are going to ignite. (who is this nutter? - Ed) (It's you, Ed, Ed - Ed) (That's a lot of Eds Ed - Ed.)

Hmm, I can see these page numbers taking off. There's one over. Gatwick.

# A few words from the Ed.

## THE CHANCE FOR ME TO HAVE A RANT AND RAVE.



Shocking! Good publicity for Presto.

Yes, it might seem strange, but it's true. Presto PD and Presto News have been receiving heaps of praise in both

Artificial Intelligence and Amstrad Action.

Artificial Intelligence had no less than 74 column inches devoted to Presto. Now if that isn't good publicity I don't know what is.

Amstrad Action also piled on the praise. What's that I hear you say? AA and AI are basically the same thing because Tim Blackburn (editor of AI) writes the PD column in AA?

Yes it's true, all the good publicity, which has led to absolutely loads of enquiries and orders has been down to one man. Thanks Tim, and don't spend that 20 quid all at once.

### MS800 problems. (again)

Once again we bring you the continuing saga of the problems many of you are having with MS800. This type of format is now used by a number of libraries like MPD, Yorkie and GDPD.

There is just one small problem, it only works with CP/M 3.1 (Plus) and not with CP/M 2.2. As copying files through CP/M is the ONLY way to ensure against data corruption. (AMSDOS is useless.) unexpanded 464 users are left with a bit of a dilemma; keep the disc as it is (including programs you don't want, or already have) or risk copying the files through AMSDOS. You can only do this effectively with MSCopy, and then it is still prone to data corruption.

As a result of these problems, Presto PD is from now on only supplying PD on DATA format 3" and 3.5" discs. This makes life a lot simpler at both ends.

### Beware! Lammers on the loose.

It is a very sad day when I have to do this, but I have to tell you about some PD libraries to avoid. These type of people give the public domain a bad name. They disgust me, and I wish they would curl up and die in a hole. Their

crimes are various, so here is a list of them in order of bad to worse.

Tuck PD stands accused of putting absolutely no effort into the library at all. Currently the catalogue stands at 27 double sided collections. Sounds impressive for a small library? No, it isn't when you consider that all of them are copies of other libraries selections and 7 of them are incomplete. The library has not expanded at all since March of this year. Presto PD started in April of this year with only 21 single sided selections. If I, and all the other smaller libraries like Yorkie and GDPD can expand this fast, why can't Mr Tuck? Because it is sheer laziness.

Powerhouse PD stands accused of being a total joke. I heard about this through Dave Lawson. Its catalogue consists of 8 programs (not 8 selections) at least half of which are from AA type ins which have appeared on the cover tape. For this collection of crap, the sum of £1.00 is demanded in cash only. The catalogue itself does not come on disc, but on paper. Notepaper (the type with the rings at the top). The pitiful collection of programs has been hand written on such paper, then photocopied.

Ryles PD stands accused of the worst crime. Disc-napping. After his Scully bashing letter in AA, James Rylatt no doubt received countless discs from people wanting a copy of his catalogue disc. These discs were never to be seen again. This is the worst crime catalogued here. At least the other two are blissful in the ignorance of their crimes, but Mr Rylatt calculated to steal peoples discs. A real crime!

All the above libraries should be avoided at all costs, or given a public burning.

### New layout gains your approval.

Last month I asked you what you thought of the new layout for Presto News. Well the response has been very good. Not one person said that they preferred the old layout, though a number of you would prefer A4 pages, and nearly all of you wanted page numbers. A5 is here to stay, but as you will notice, the page numbers have finally arrived. Matt.

# PUBLIC DOMAIN NEWS.

All the latest rumblings in the wonderful world of the public domain.

Shock report!! New PD library not run by 12 year old.



THIS IS A TWELVE YEAR OLD BOY.

DAVID LAWSON OF GDPD IS M O S T DEFINITELY NOT ONE OF THESE.

If Dr Fegg is to be believed, the majority of new PD libraries popping up on the CPC scene are run by talentless money grabbing twelve year olds, offering absolutely nothing to the PD scene that wasn't available elsewhere.

GDPD, run by David Lawson is the exception to this rule (if such a rule actually exists).

David is a 23 year old welder. He's also a family man. His library currently has around 40 selections taking up 1 disc side each. David reckons this figure could be as high as 60 or 70 by the time you read this though. Such is the speed of his expansion.

GDPD's future plans include releasing some GAC adventure games written by David and a friend, as well as getting PD imported from Australia. Sounds good doesn't it?

The address to write to for more information is...

GDPD  
49 Woodville  
Barnstaple  
North Devon  
EX31 2AY

Data saved from accidental erasure.

Once again Presto News has brought you a story that was totally inaccurate. Last month we reported that Data PD was to close.

The good news is that it isn't.

Librarian Tony Kingsmill is leaving the scene, but Data has been saved at the last minute by Simon Walker, who's previous CPC credits include running the Amster's Cage bulletin board.

More details next month with a bit of luck. It is worth noting that any mail



sent to Tony Kingsmill at 202 Park Street Lane, St Albans, will not be answered after the 30th of June.

Powerpage hits the top of the DTP pile.

Not only is Powerpage the best PD (almost) program in existence, it is now the most widely owned DTP ever. In fact it is now owned by 37120 people.

You might think that because of this, Richard Fairhurst of Robot PD's waiting time is now 35 years rather than his usual 2 months. However this is not so.

The complete copy of version 1.32 is included on Amstrad Action's cover tape. This version has a few bugs of version 1.3 cleared up, however, as I have found to my annoyance, it does have one or two new ones, some of which cause your document to be lost. Oh well, what do you expect for nothing, it's still the only choice for serious DTP on the cheap.

Aarrgghh!! More new libraries!!

Recently, a number of new libraries have come to my attention. These are...

Merlins PD  
Hawk PD  
Powerhouse PD  
Signal Software  
KAT (Kiron's Adventure Team) - TAPE.

I will bring you more information when I find out if they are good guys or bad guys (or even ugly guys).

Presto News: Late again.

Yes, once again apologies are in order. Presto News is approximately 12 days late. This has been due to restructuring the Presto PD library so that there is no crap, just top quality stuff. This isn't finished yet, so the old PD selections will stay on and run parallel to the new ones. This way, everyone knows what they are ordering.

As of this issue, Presto News will be bi-monthly. **Matt.**

# THE BIG SCENE.

The latest news from the commercial world.



WHAT HOPE FOR THESE POOR CREATURES NOW?

Ocean polluted by lust for money.

As speculated about in the Consoles and Cartridges page of this very issue, Ocean software have decided not to release Space Gun on cartridge. It has been released on tape and disc though. This move heralds Oceans plans to release no more cartridge games, simply because they do not sell as much as tape and disc versions.

The only hope for new cartridges being released now are imports from France, which seem more unlikely as each month progresses.

What a star.

Goldmark Systems have just released Stardump, an excellent printer dump utility designed to get the most out of 24 pin printers. In the past, graphical representation on 24pins has always been a bit duff due to incompatibility problems, but with Stardump, it's perfect. The example dumps that I have seen are very impressive.

At last, an end to firmware purgatory.

Have you been trying for ages to get your hands on a CPC firmware manual? If you have, I am willing to bet that you have been unsuccessful.

Now, your years of waiting are over. New from the original authors of Print-Out comes THE FIRMWARE GUIDE. The book, which costs £8.95 comes with a disc or tape full of example programs.

The authors, Bob Taylor and Thomas Defoe have painstakingly written and compiled just about all the firmware calls you could ever need in the normal (and abnormal) programming in Z80 machine code.

For more info, write to 8 Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2PJ.



Glossy mags start bickering.

It was bound to happen. For too long ACU took the high moral ground and refused to be dragged into a slanging match with Amstrad Action (who have been peurile for at least the last year.) However, now that CPC attack has lowered it's age for its target audience, the slanging has started.

I know that without the glossy mags, the CPC who plummet off the face of the planet, but please, if you are reading Pat Kelly and Rod Lawton, let's work together to keep the CPC alive, not fiddle while Rome burns around us.

It is up to the glossies to fight for the survival of the CPC. As much as fanzine editors and PD librarians might crow, we don't really have much power when it comes to the corporate decision making that rules the fate of our beloved machine.

Matt

## MPD Software.

### The CPC PD library.

We supply PD on 3" and 3.5" discs.

We support MS800

We have over 60 selections.

For a free catalogue summary and newsletter, send an SAE to...

MPD Software, 23 Nobes Avenue, Bridgenary, Gosport Hampshire, PO13 0HS.

# SISTERS ARE DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES.

What could we mean? Well CPCing of course!  
We investigate and challenge the stereotypical image of the computer enthusiast.

How many???

If the hype is to be believed, then female computer users only make up around 5% of the whole figure. This, according to Presto News is complete rubbish.



The percentage of female users amongst the CPC clan (I nearly typed 'fraternity' then - oops) is almost certainly higher. This may be because many of the male CPC users have now bought 16 bit machines (suckers) while the ladies, having far more good sense have stuck with the CPC.

This, in case you weren't aware, is a woman. These creatures make up 51% of the population in the United Kingdom. However in computing circles women taking an interest is seen to be a novelty. We ask why, and find out just how many female CPCers there are out there.

The percentage of PD buyers has even higher amounts of women (good sense again). Perhaps while the lads are busy buying the latest blasto-mega turbo shoot 'em up driving platform game, the lasses prefer more subtle forms of computer entertainment.

Since Presto PD has been running, I can honestly say that around 40% of orders have come from women. Admittedly, many of these have come in since Artificial Intelligence printed my photo. Well, there's no accounting for taste is there?

Presenting the evidence...

If you are still not convinced that women play a vital role in the CPC scene, look no further. The following women have all made significant contributions.

Debby Wood - Adventure PD librarian.

Librarian of the first CPC adventures

only PD library. It is also one of the most highly thought of libraries on the CPC.

Joan Pancott - WOW Software.

Still with adventures, Joan specialises in released and homegrown adventure games. All at prices closer to PD than the commercial world. Also a very highly thought of service.

My girlfriend - Presto News.

This woman, who wishes to remain anonymous is to be the new adventure column writer. She is a total CPC freak, especially when it comes to adventure games. It is she that is responsible for the Can I Cheat Death solution in this very issue.

Krackin' Karen and Croco Passion - Demo writers.

KK is the first UK demo writer on the CPC. She has produced a few demos including the infamous Who Shot Julian Clary demo. Croco Passion is the editor of a french disc fanzine, which itself is of demo quality and style. (Thanks to Richard Fairhurst for that info.)

'Venturing on.

It would certainly seem that the females among us are very keen on adventures. In fact, these make up a large percentage of ladies' orders. There have also been female adventure writers such as Emma Kingsmill, responsible for Caves of Darkness. (yep, I forgot her from the bit above.)

PN.

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David Long  
47 Hilton Ave, Hall Green  
Birmingham  
B28 0PE



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Cornwall. PL24 2BT

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# LETTERS.

Where your problems can be shared and your views can be aired.

Congratulations on issue 2 of Presto News. It is a huge improvement on issue 1. (not that issue 1 was bad - it just looks better now.)

Anyway, I have a couple of suggestions on how to make the mag even better.

Firstly, how about a PD adventure column. Lets face it, the public domain is the only place to get adventures these days.

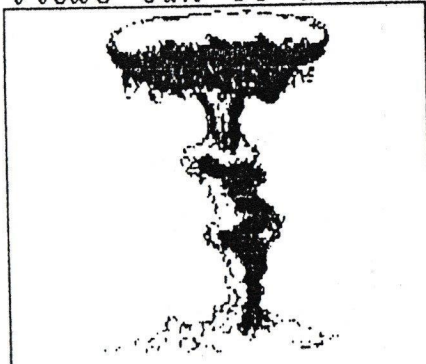
Secondly, how about some page numbers?

Dave Alton

Well Dave, thanks for the praise. I like the new format too.

A PD adventure column huh? Well, are you volunteering for the job? I would write it, but there is a slight snag. I am hopeless when it comes to adventure games. My girlfriend is the one for that. In fact it is she that provided the map for Can I Cheat Death elsewhere in this issue. I will have to persuade her to write the column if nobody else volunteers. I desperately need experts in various fields including Adventuring, Machine Code and CP/M.

About the page numbers. It is a bit difficult to anticipate which page will end up going where in the final layout. However, I have had quite a few letters asking for them so I will bow to pressure and make my job even harder just for you. I hope you appreciate this completely selfless act, but I doubt that I will get any thanks for it. I'll just go back to my dark office and let the warders put the handcuffs back on. Such is my lot.



An explosive load of mail this month, covering loads of topics. If you have something to say or you have some advice to give, send it in. Each letter gets a free PD voucher for Presto PD.

I've just spent over £150 on a new Panasonic printer. This has left me absolutely skint. Due to this problem, I've not been able to buy a proper word processor. Could you recommend a good PD one?

Linda Leominster.

In the world of commercial software, there are 2 main choices, Protext or Brunword. I will not go into the debate over which one is best. Alternatively, you could go for the CPM+ option of either Wordstar or New Word 2 (NW2 is the best.)

In the fabulous world of PD the choice is huge, and really depends what you want from your WP.

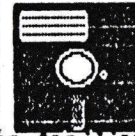
If you are just interested in a quick and dirty text editor, I would recommend Scull PD advanced text editor. I use it to process the full Presto PD catalogue. It does have the infuriating habit of printing everything four times though. Further up the market is Graeme Chesser's Proword+ which is only available from Scull and Presto.

If it is serious word processing you want then the Protext Demo complete with patch programs is excellent. It does not have all the features of the original, but it is very good if you don't mind running a separate file to print your saved documents.

If this is too much hassle, then VDE is your only other serious choice. It runs under CPM+ and is compatible with both Wordstar and New Word 2. It is fully featured and comes with extensive documentation.

## LETTERS...Continued...

Are you open to suggestions? How about an all inclusive option for ordering PD. This would include the disc, the copy charge and the postage and packing. I'm sure you are familiar with Robot PD. He has this option and it is very handy. You could charge £3.00 for a complete disc. This would leave you a fairly healthy profit if you ordered your blank discs from MJC supplies (the cheapest I've seen.)



May Glos.

Well May, there are a number of reasons why Robot PD can do this sort of ordering system and Presto PD can not. The main problem is time. Robot PD can take up to 2 months to fulfill your order. In this time, Richard can count up the number of customers with this type of order, and get the required amount of discs from a mail order company. Presto PD can't do this because our turnaround time is usually 2 days. This leaves absolutely no time to order discs. There is also the monetary aspect. Because of the time restrictions, we'd have to have loads of blank discs in stock. This costs money (Too much money - 3" discs are ridiculously expensive) and I'm not really prepared to spend loads of cash on blank discs that may be hanging around the Presto PD office (err, bedroom) for ages until I get this sort of order.

I'd like to say thank to Merle for reviewing the Demoware demo (I'm the Legendary Demon Cracker). Coming soon from the Bitmap Vandals...DEMOWARE II. I'll send Merle a preview soon. The first part is just like Speedball I on the Amiga, PC etc. But instead of saying "Speedball 2 - A Bitmap Brothers game" it says "Demoware II - A Bitmap Vandals Demo". The second bit is like the start of THE DEMO, a countdown timer but with full screen and a textwriter underneath.

How good are you at Machine Code? Which assembler do you use? I can do proper rasters now (not like Vorspann) You can see them in the second Bitmap Vandals Demoware demo.

David (LDC) Long (Demon PD.) Birmingham.

You don't have to thank Merle for his

review of your demo, that's his job. Thanks for the news about the new Bitmap Vandals demo. I told Merle and he got very excited, in fact so excited he went on a bit of a rampage with his magic wand and turned my joystick into a frog. Now if he'd turned it into a Bug (from Cheetah) I wouldn't have minded, but it's pretty difficult to play Croco Magneto with a frog attached to your CPC. It sort of squelches in your hand and it's not very responsive. I suppose it is the lack of microswitches.

Hmm, machine code eh? well I'm sorry to have to say that the only assembly that I have ever done is kitchen assembly. I have got a copy of The Code Machine from Discovery, but the manual completely confused me. If I want a machine code routine, it is far easier to write it in basic and compile it with a certain program that no longer adorns the UK CPC PD libraries. All of the Presto Maniac demos are created in this way, or by using utilities such as Vorspann. Yes I know I'm a cheat.

I totally agree with the "Chain Store Massacre" part of your Console Special in issue 1. However it is not just restricted to the cartridge machines, it has been happening with the CPC and CPC software for ages now. I recently went into W H Smith, only to find that they had stopped stocking CPC games, even the budget ones. This I cannot understand as The CPC has a 5% share of the UK games market, while the Speccy now only has 2% yet the Spectrum games were lined up in full force. They even had full price ones. Why is this? Has Alan Sugar upset everybody?

Daryl Exeter.

Well Daryl, the simple truth is that Alan Sugar couldn't care less. The CPC is now officially out of production and AMSTRAD have left us up the creek without a joystick. It is all a matter of profits to them, and the CPC is no longer profitable. The chain stores have always hated the CPC, I don't know why, but I have a theory. Because the CPC is the only 'all rounder' of the 8 bits, they plan to kill it off by software starvation, so that we will all give up and buy more expensive (in all ways) 16 bits. If you're tempted, DON'T DO IT, you'll regret it when you have to buy games for £20, and you get your first virus, and when a PD disc is just a slideshow of about 10 screens or a digitised sample.

## LETTERS...Continued...

Now, you all know what it's like to be nagged to death by the wife, mother, girlfriend etc, if you spend a lot of time with your PD library, or spend every waking hour at the helm of your CPC. The nightmare is twice as bad, as I'm sure you all know, if 'you know who' nags you when you are doing something mega important on your machine.

Everyone out there own up if this has ever happened to you! There you are on the last line of a 30k program which you haven't bothered to save regularly, when someone pulls the plug with an apology like "Sorry, I thought it was the Hoover!", or when you are sat there quietly (did I say quietly?) tapping away at your computer keyboard when a devastatingly witty comment comes flying in your direction, like "I don't know why you don't sleep in that chair, you spend all the rest of your time in it", or "You'll need glasses you will, staring at that screen for so long". Yes, we have heard it all before.

I find the worst aggravation for me is when you are concentrating on something and every two seconds, you're asked some very unimportant question like "what did you think of last night's film?" when it's common knowledge that you spent all last night working with your CPC.

I have found a solution to the problem though. However, what works for me may not work for you, especially if you are over protective of your computer.

Yes, you have guessed it, let them have a go! There is one major drawback though. When I want to do some work now, I can't get near the keyboard, especially if we have had some new clip-art delivered.

So, where would we be without women? Able to program our CPCs in peace!!

Dave Lawson (GDPD)

Dave, I really don't know why your wife puts up with you! You're such a sexist pig! Thanks for your opinions though.

Your plan of action actually works. However, I have developed it a bit. I actually bought my girlfriend a CPC of her own, thus getting her interested (so less nags) and keeping her off my machine.

My only drawback is that now she keeps

nagging me for more discs of PD adventure games. She also has a good moan when I give her a piece of software and it needs 128k, or it isn't 464 compatible. Oh well.

When she reads this, I will be in big trouble. So will you when your missus reads your letter. Oooh heck! Here she is now!!!

After Dave phoned you on Sunday, he promptly sat down and typed his letter (with a bit of help from the nag) He even had the nerve to ask me to type it because he had sore fingers after a number of failed attempts to do the whole thing with Powerpage.

I believe that it is proper to say that you have the right to change or edit anything he has said in his letter. However it is my personal opinion that you, as a serious sort of fellow, should not print such sexist rubbish (knowing full well that you probably will).

Ged Lawson (GDPD)

That's right Ged, you tell him off. How anyone can be so sexist is beyond me. What is that you say? I'm being sexist just by printing the letter? Not really, I'll print anything that could be controversial. We're not afraid to tackle dangerous issues here at Presto News.

If anyone else has anything to say about the sexism that is inherent in the world of computing, then please write in and get it off your chest. We won't censor anything you have to say, so go right ahead and say it. Let's try and keep it civil, and loosely based on the CPC though.

Any other dangerous issues can also be tackled on these pages.

Erm, how can I put this, I've made a mistake in the demo column.

I wrongly stated that CRIC no longer does the demo pages in ACU. Well, on reading this month's CPC Attack I find that he has returned.

Have I got the sack?

Merle Camelot

No Merle, you haven't got the sack, I'll leave that to Santa Claus. By the way, Robinson Crusoe is leaving Friday. Ha ha ha.

## The white witch's adventure column



A brand new column in Presto News, dealing with all your favourite PD adventures.

### Can I cheat death? by S. Query.

Having trouble with Simon Avery's excellent but naughty text only adventure? Well help is at hand. I toyed with the idea of giving just a few hints, but I decided in the end to give the full solution, so here goes.

BUY DRINK - N - EXAMINE CISTERN - LOOK - GET RING - EXAMINE URINAL - LOOK - GET BLOCK - EXAMINE MACHINE - BUY CONDOM - GET CONDOM - S - E - EXAMINE CAR - LOOK - GET WHEELBRACE - S - E - LIFT COVER - D - E - S - TALK TO RAT - GIVE BLOCK - N - E - E - N - GET BIKINI - S - S - E - S - READ SIGN - STRIP - FOLLOW LADY - WEAR CONDOM - SCREW LADY - EXAMINE CABINET - LOOK - GET KEY - S - OPEN DOOR - E - S - D - N - E - E - BUY CHAMPAGNE - W - W - S - U - U - N - OPEN DOOR - E - E - GIVE BIKINI - KISS MODEL - GIVE CHAMPAGNE - KISS MODEL - GIVE RING - KISS MODEL - LOOK - GET FLOWER - GET TRUNKS - W - W - S - D - D - N - E - N - N - E - E - E - E - GIVE FLOWER - W - W - S - PRAY - E - E - E - JUMP TO TREE - D - E - S - E - SHOOT SQUIRREL - S - W - WEAR TRUNKS - SWIM - W - N - N - GIVE EGG TIMER.

Hello adventurers, UUW here with the first of Presto News' new adventure column. I've been nagging Matt to let me have a crack at an adventure column in the mag. It's about time as adventure fans were represented in this magazine.

## Adventure News.

Find that adventure!

Are you trying desperately to find a particular commercial adventure game? If you have been having trouble why not contact Simon Avery. He has started a helpline sort of database thing to help people find the games they have been looking for. The address is in the useful addresses section of the mag.



UUW's postbag.



type in the author's name. This happens in a number of stages in the game. Am I missing a file, or perhaps you could tell me his name.

Dear Matt,  
(I don't think so, do you? - UUW)

Steve Brecon

I wonder if you could help me with Ghost House which I ordered on one of your adventures discs. In the game, it keeps asking for the author's name. Normally this would be written in the loader file which comes with most adventures made with the Graphic Adventure Creator. Unfortunately the copy you sent me doesn't do this, it just appears to launch straight into it. I cannot progress until I

Unfortunately this one has got me stumped too. It would seem that there was a loader file, then someone has lost it. I wouldn't blame Matt if it were you because my copy wasn't from Presto and that doesn't have the loader file either.

If anyone can help, then please write to the usual address.

# PRESTO'S MEGA COMPETITION.

To celebrate Presto PD's new high quality selections system, we're giving away the complete library in separate chunks. You will have a chance to win all the selections in any of the new categories.

<p><b>Serious discs.</b></p> <p>To win every Presto serious disc, answer these 3 questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who wrote Rambase and Datafile?</li> <li>2. How many sectors per track are there on a DATA format 3" disc?</li> <li>3. Which library did Pro Word+ come from?</li> </ol>	<p><b>How it works.</b></p> <p>All you have to do is answer the questions in one of the categories and send them in to the usual address.</p> <p>Each entrant will only be allowed to enter the competition in one category only.</p> <p>The answers and winners will be printed next issue.</p>	<p><b>Games discs.</b></p> <p>Win loadsa games by answering these.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where does Croco Magneto come from?</li> <li>2. Who wrote Mac 2?</li> <li>3. Name 3 clones of Tetris in the public domain, and name the countries they were imported from originally.</li> </ol>
<p><b>CP/M discs.</b></p> <p>If the A&gt; prompt is your thing, answer these.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does CP/M stand for?</li> <li>2. How do you get a file to load automatically after booting?</li> <li>3. What does VDE stand for?</li> </ol>	<p><b>Adventures discs.</b></p> <p>Put on your adventuring hat, because with a bit of luck you could have more than you can handle.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name the Author of the Lost Phirovs Trilogy.</li> <li>2. Which furry animal has appeared in a number of Simon Avery adventures?</li> <li>3. Name 3 Edmund Spicer adventures.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Demos discs.</b></p> <p>To win some demos answer these.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who are the 2 coders behind the Bitmap Vandals?</li> <li>2. Who is CRTC better known as?</li> <li>3. Who wrote the music for the BMC/Saurian copy party demo.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Clip Art discs.</b></p> <p>If DTP is your thing then get hold of some clips to brighten up your pages.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the extension on a standard clip-art filename?</li> <li>2. What mode is clip-art in?</li> <li>3. Name 10 clips.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Slideshow discs.</b></p> <p>Give your eyes a treat and relax and watch a slideshow or 14.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where does the Runstrad slideshow come from?</li> <li>2. With what was the Presto Star Trek slideshow made?</li> <li>3. All the screens in slideshows are compressed, but what is the normal screen file size?</li> </ol>	<p><b>Various discs.</b></p> <p>Some general questions about Presto PD to win the Various discs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name Presto's P.D librarian.</li> <li>2. How much is would the copy charge be for 12 selections?</li> <li>3. Which fanzine does the librarian edit?</li> </ol>

# THE PRESTO PLUGGING SECTION.

The part of the magazine that we give up all claims to impartiality and get on with the latest news (and loads of plugs) from the Presto PD Library.

Orders, orders and (yep!) more orders.

No, I haven't joined the Army. We've been getting more orders than ever before here at Presto PD. In fact, we've had so many that this issue of Presto News is very late indeed.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not moaning. The simple fact that we have been getting so many, and having so many people keep coming back just proves that we are doing something right. (I don't know what!)

Because of the huge amount of time that processing orders actually takes up, we have had to take a number of drastic measures to speed things up a little. All the orders have been dispatched within 2 or 3 days of their arrival, but going at this sort of pace does very little for the deadlines for Presto News.

The first change that will have to be implemented is the transferal of the library's master discs to data format 3.5" discs. Up until now, the library has been stored on Part1 of an MS800 Part1/Part2 format. Unfortunately Diskit3 on the CP/M Plus master disc won't touch this type of format, so discs had to be copied file by file using NewsWeep.

Using data format will make life much easier for 3.5" orders too, as Diskit allows B to B copying. Up until now, all files had to be copied to a spare blank 3" disc and then copied back to the 3.5" B drive, thus making a long and arduous task take twice as long.

The second change to the library is not so much to do with speed, but to do with quality.

Only the best from Presto!

I am currently in the process of completely restructuring the library. Weeding out the programs that don't come up to scratch and making new selections chock full of the best PD available. Absolutely no disc fillers

will be tolerated. I have also had a crack down on wasted space too. For example, Tiny Desktop Publisher, which used to be supplied on a disc with nothing else now shares a selection with Flik and Robot's tune bank program. PD Planner has similarly been re-housed. It now sits along side five other top notch programs.

The library will be organised into sections, somewhat like those used by Scull SL. These sections will be...

## Serious, Slideshows, Adventures, Games, Demos, Clips, Various.

There will be no system of numbering every selection with a continuous number as before, so if you want to work out how many selections are available, you'll need to be good at counting. Each selection takes up 1 side.

Each disc will have a menu program, something sadly lacking on the current system as some of the selections with large amounts of files don't have one.

Each disc will also have nothing but the best programs available. Programs that actually do something, not silly little routines that do nothing. Small graphical programs are also out, as are the countless amounts of disc utilities that all do the same things.

There will be no repeats of previous programs either, so if you've ordered it on one selection, you won't get it on another.

All in all, it looks as if the future here at Presto is going to be brighter than ever. Stick with us, and you'll go a long way.

New additions for July.

RSX-Lib, STD Codes,  
JRT Pascal, Classic Adventure,  
TOTALLY NEW clip-art, Classic Adv (CP/M)

# The Presto PD Library Catalogue Summary.

We take a look at those new and improved selections.

## Serious discs.

- S 01 - Mini Print Shop, Magic Dos, Rambase 2, MPack, SQ23, Adv-Text, Home Budget, Calendar, Car Numberplates, Cassette inlays, Phone Cost.
- S 02 - The data files for Mini Print Shop.
- S 03 - Gpaint v1.42e, Protext demo with patches, Animator, Mini lists, Power assembler, Power edit 40, Datafile, Diary, Trans 40-80, MGP.
- S 04 - Deluxe WP, Rambase 3, Label print, Labelbase, Spreadsheet, JL Copy, Robot Animator 2, Power Edit, Label Cat, Organiser, Phonebook.
- S 05 - Edition 1 DTP, Fonts for E1, Lockcopy, 8 Bit+, B-Asic, Proword+, Discopy.
- S 06 - PD Interactive Spellchecker by Paul Dwerryhouse. (ISpell)
- S 07 - RSX-Lib (50 odd handy RSXs), Robot PD Font system.
- S 08 - Flik (splits 128k machines in 2), Music (8 tunes to use in your programs), Tiny Desktop Publisher (Shareware)
- S 09 - PD Planner (spreadsheet), Anti Multiface, Smart1, Smart2, WordPro, Hackers Basic.
- S 10 - J.W. Brown's Disc and Hacking utilities.
- S 11 - Ascii - Basic, Minicad+, Morse Code Tutor, Desk, Other David Wild.
- S 12 - Bigdump, Clip art system, Cutout Converter, Transfont, Softarc, Scan, Printer Buffer 6128, Wireplot, Loads of disc utilities.

## Clip-art

- A 1 - Various bits of Clip-art for Stop Press, Microdesign+, Powerpage etc.
- A 2 - Planes Trains and Automobiles Clip-art.
- A 3 - More various bits.
- A 4 - More various bits.
- A 5 - Conversions from Printmaster and more various bits.
- A 6 - Conversions from Digi-Women and more various bits.
- A 7 - Includes many cartoons and other various bits.
- A 8 - Includes loads of Rock Stars and music related clips.

If you want a list of each piece of clip-art in the library, Presto would be glad to send you printed catalogues of each of the discs. However, it is worth noting that filenames may be different between libraries, as some libraries (including Presto) have a policy of translating foreign filenames into English to make them easier to recognise and remember.

## Games discs.

- G 01 - 3D-Demo, Box Clever, Croco Magneto, Total Eclipse Trainer, Trapper, Yahtzee.
- G 02 - Drehdriss, Firefox, Space Froggy, Market, Pontoon, Play your Cards Right, Robotank, Whack, Grenze, Timebomb, Cars, Picture pairs.
- G 03 - Castle, Cleudo, Connect 4, Isotope+, Killem, Dotman, Driller, Solitaire, Wipeout, Forcefield.
- G 04 - Italian Campaign, Scabby Squares, Reflect, Mac 2, Hell Awaits, Postman, Space.
- G 05 - Keith Mortimer's Crossword Compiler. Very good, with examples.
- G 06 - Keith's Board Games. Example Crosswords and good board and word games.
- G 07 - Soccer Management Sim demo, PJ Bomber, Steal, Galactic, Sun Crosswords, Daleks, Gribbet, Neutron.
- G 08 - 3D Priz, Lucky Squares, Maze Game, Football League, Treasure Hunt.
- G 09 - The Tetris Collection. (AA Tetris, Amstetris, Blockup, Drehdriss, Polish Tetris) Also, Hangman, Space dodge, Lawnmower Simulator, 4 in a row, Roland Takes a Running Jump, Gunslinger.
- G 10 - Give us a Break (128k only quiz game. Like DLT's on Radio 1)  
Give us a Music Break (GUAB with music questions)

## Slideshows.

- SL01 - Penguin Software's TV Logos. (Mk 2 with compressed screens)
  - SL02 - Digi Women (clean) and Pic. Mode 2 digitised screens.
  - SL03 - Presto PD's Star Trek slideshow. Picard etc in Mode 1.
  - SL04 - Presto PD's Neighbours slideshow.
  - SL05 - David Carter and Tim Blackburn hand drawn screens.
  - SL06 - Nullos Cracker Rock Show. Mode 2 digitised screens with a twist.
  - SL07 - Digi Vidi 2000. Mode 1 digitised screens from TV comedy.
  - SL08 - Anonymous hand drawn art. The best CPC art yet!
  - SL09 - Overscan slides. A slideshow without the screen border.
  - SL10 - Runstrad Caricatural Digits. Humorous screens from France.
  - SL11 - Turtlemuck. David Carter of Penguin's mickey take of the turtles.
  - SL12 - Fractals. Computer generated pictures. Untouched by human hands.
  - SL13 - Amiga Graphics 1. David Carter's famous port over from the Amiga.
  - SL14 - Side 2 of Amiga Graphics 1. Must be ordered with SL13.
  - SL15 - Amiga Graphics 2. The follow up to AG1. As good as the first.
  - SL16 - Side 2 of Amiga Graphics 2. Must be ordered with SL15.
- All these slideshows are supplied as compressed screens to give better value.



## CP/M.

- C 01 - The WACCI Forth disc. Everything you need to start FORTHing.
- C 02 - WACCI Forth disc part 2. Needs part 1. Extensive documentation.
- C 03 - The WACCI MBasic disc. Compatible with Mallard Basic on the PCW.
- C 04 - WACCI MBasic 2. Complete with compiler and loads of help files.
- C 05 - Poor Man's spellcheck, VDE (Brilliant WP), Newsweep (Disc Utility)
- C 06 - ZSM Assembler, Read PCW formats, Sort, Inventory, Nulu (Library util), LDir (Cat library files), Andybase, DU.
- C 07 - Forth 83. Probably the best version of Forth in the Public Domain. Requires a large capacity B drive. Files are libaried and compressed. LT29 is enclosed to decompress/de-archive.
- C 08 - Games for CP/M including Chess, Maze, Othello, Pacman, Ping Pong, Pressup, Puzzle, Quatris (tetris), Rogue and Star Trek.
- C 09 - Printmaster. Excellent Graphics system for CP/M Plus. Makes banners, cards, calendars, posters etc. Some printers are incompatible though.
- C 10 - Printmaster side 2. Both are required.
- C 11 - CP/M Adventures. Including The Base, The Island, Holiday 1, Holiday 2, Holiday 3.
- C 12 - More adventures. Classic Adventure (120k version), Escape, Taeek, Forest adventure.
- C 13 - Adventures and games. Including Mell, Minette, Trucker, Tornado, Tic Tac Toe, Golf.
- C 14 - The JRT Pascal interpreter and compiler. This must be the bargain of the decade. This former commercial program used to retail in the USA for \$499.95. Now you can get it for only 75p. Large format B drive recommended.
- C 15 - JRT Pascal side 2.
- C 16 - JRT Pascal Side 3. All the parts are needed. Extensive Documentation.
- C 17 - Small C Interpreter, E-Prolog, Multiple File Transfer, XFormat (820k formats on 80 track B drives.) Example files for Small C and E-Prolog.

## Adventures.

- AD01 - Conch, Dick-Ed, Dungeons of Hell, Quest (P Cuomo version), Summer Camp, Treasure, Haunted.
- AD02 - Can I Cheat Death?, Doolords, Roog, Spaced Out, Welladay.
- AD03 - Wizard's Castle, Crazy, Caves of Darkness, The Ring, The Well, Yawn, Sinsoft promo.
- AD04 - AA Adventure, Cave of the Bew Bews, Escape:Planet of Doom, Quad X (1&2), The Race.
- AD05 - House out of Town, Storm Mountain, Lost Shadow, Talisman of Lost Souls (cut down version), CacoDemon.
- AD06 - Quest, Ghost House, Largo Grann, Secrets of Ur, Stripey, Labyrinth.

- AD07 - Adult2, Boredom, Dungeon, Firestone, Tizpan, Jason and the argonauts.
- AD08 - Lost Phirous trilogy by Vidipix. Brilliant.
- AD09 - Cities of Flames, Journey to Geno (huge), Once a knight is enough.
- AD10 - Orkon, Rouge Midget, Masters of Midworld, Quest (Basic), The Coin.
- AD11 - Cave Capers, Hoot, Nite Time, 3D Construction Kit adventure.
- AD12 - Caves 90 (Brilliant), Kidnapped, Revenge of chaos (demo), Csaal.
- AD13 - Eve of Shadows by Rob Buckley. Brilliant graphic adventure. (Big!)

## Demos.

- D 01 - GPA Noel, Crackers fight, Lumberjack, Vorspann demo maker, Black Mission3 Donald Duck, Violin, UAC at Xmas.
- D 02 - Krackin Karen, Grafikdemo, BMC/Saurian/Wee, Logon Revolution, Tom&Jerry.
- D 03 - Merlyn 3, Crash, McPaddy, 68000 Killer, Cocktail shaker.
- D 04 - Keule 1st demo, Spock&Kirk, Malibu 3.
- D 05 - Twinblast multi-part, Bart demo, Maggie demo.
- D 06 - The Yao demo (big multi part), SLCIntro.
- D 07 - Dirty Raincoat Demos. FOR ADULTS ONLY. Sam Fox, CCC Boys, MTI 6.
- D 08 - Bitmap Vandals multi part demo.
- D 09 - The Demo by Logon System. The best CPC Demo ever. 128k only.
- D 10 - The demo by Logon, side 2. Must be ordered with side 1.
- D 11 - Ha! Simple demo. Half Machine Code, half BASIC (aaerrrggghh!!!)

## Various.

- V 01 - Multiface Pokes lister, Bulletin Board List, Poppie's Super Keyboard, Wales Tourist Guide, Chord finder, Calendar, Biorythms.
- V 02 - Pools predictor, Football results database, LDC's Computext, Music Theory tests, Thomas, Thomas meets Eliza, Makecash, Organ.
- V 03 - Presto PD bad jokes collection, Eliza 6128, W.A.V.E Hardware price list. (now uncompressed due to single drive owners problems)
- V 04 - W.A.V.E. Software price list, so big, it takes up the whole side.
- V 05 - STD Codes Database (vital for all with a telephone), IQ Test (correct to +/- 4 points.)
- V 06 - STD Codes lister. Lists the STD codes. Includes London codes, mobile and radiofone numbers.

I hope that you find these selections to be an improvement. However, some of you may think that I have maybe missed out a program that was in the old library when I built up the new one. If this is the case, please let me know and I will see if it is up to scratch. All the best. Matt.

# CLIP-ety CLOP.

## How to make Clip-Art.

Continuing our features on CPC DIY for the talentless gimp, Presto News is proud to present the complete idiots guide to making clip-art.

## What you need.

Several PD slideshows.  
USQ2 (the decompression program)  
Powerpage.

## So, how do you do it then?

Firstly, you need to decompress your

slideshow's screen files. Do this with USQ2 as it isn't too fussy about the way it was squeezed.

After saving the decompressed screens, load them into Powerpage with the 'Import Picture' option from the import menu.

Then draw a box around the bit you want using SHIFT and COPY. Go to the BLOCK menu and choose CUT. Enter your filename, and your pic is saved as a clip.

Matt.

Just to show you how it's done, in the true spirit of Blue Peter, here are some I did earlier.



These clips were converted from the Nullos Cracker Rock-Show using the technique detailed above.



More clip art conversions from The Nullos Cracker Rock Show.

Luckily this slideshow was in mode 2. However, Mode 1 slideshows can be made into clip-art using Powerpage's mode 1 to mode 2 screen converter.

More features on DTP next issue.



MARK  
KNOFLER



# Consoles & Cartridges.

The latest from the Plus and GX4000 scene and much more.

## News on the Ocean wave.

Ocean Software, one of the few software houses still supporting the cartridge format have dropped a bit of a bombshell on the Amstrad Cartridge fraternity. Their planned release of Robocop 3, the game currently doing so well on the ST and Amiga has been shelved.

Ocean says that the game is too big to fit into the 128k permitted by the cartridge system. The game will be released on tape and disc for the standard CPC though.

One can't help thinking that this move has more to do with money than memory restrictions. After all, a tape and disc game will undoubtedly sell far more copies than a cart only game.

Whether Ocean will take the plunge and issue an enhanced version for Plus machine owners in a similar way to Stryker etc. by Codemasters is anyone's guess.

Meanwhile at Ocean, the planned release of Space Gun, a game similar to Operation Wolf is still scheduled to be released on cartridge. However with declining sales on the Amstrad in general, and on cartridge in particular, and new releases from Ocean are likely to be tentative proposals rather than firm releases.

## Next issue.

Next issue, the Consoles and Cartridges page will return in it's full glory, with a special feature on converting your GX4000 to run on your CTM 640 and CTM 644 colour monitors. We'll also be looking at which joysticks will work with your CPC Plus and GX4000, and how to convert those that won't work. In all it should be as fun packed and freaky as ever on the nations only regular Amstrad Cartridge column.

## Navy Seals.

Can anybody get off level 2 ???

I am well and truly beaten by it.

Matt.

**ARE YOU FED UP WITH THE SAME OLD CARTRIDGES?**

**DO YOU WISH IT WAS EASIER TO GET HOLD OF CARTRIDGES FOR YOUR CPC+ AND GX4000 MACHINES?**

**DO YOU WANT TO SWAP CARTRIDGES WITH SOMEBODY FOR A MONTH?**

**IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS IS YES, THEN YOU NEED THE PRESTO CARTRIDGE SWAPPING SERVICE.**

**FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT PRESTO AT I PEMBROKE CLOSE, THE MOUNT, PAR, CORNWALL, PL24 2BT.**

**WE'LL GET YOUR MACHINE MOVING AGAIN!**

# Bargains up for grabs.

As more and more CPC owners buy Amigas or PCs, loads of CPC gear is being released into the 2nd hand market at ridiculously cheap prices. We check it out.

Fed up with your CPC as it is? Do you wish that your machine could do just that little bit more? Did you think that the only way to achieve this was to buy a PC or an Amiga?

Did you ever consider upgrading your current system?

The CPC is probably the most add-on-able machine around, and there are a fair few things to buy for it to make it even better.

To buy these items brand new would cost an absolute bomb, so Presto News brings you the complete guide to what to pay when buying 2nd hand from private sellers.

The following prices should be a rough guide to the prices to pay. By all means go lower, but try not to go too much higher.

Mouse and Interface	£12.00
Lightpen	£ 5.00
Extra 3" drive	£28.00
Extra 5.25" drive	£45.00
Extra 3.5" drive	£45.00
First 3" drive	£60.00
Vidi Digitiser	£30.00
Dart Scanner	£30.00
MP2 Modulator	£15.00
Amstrad DMP printer	£40.00
Rombox	£10.00
Roms (each)	£10.00
GX4000	£25.00
GX / Plus Cartridges	£10.00
Ram Music Machine	£25.00
256k Silicon Disc	£30.00
256k Memory Expansion	£25.00
64k Memory Expansion	£15.00
MP3 TV Tuner	£15.00
Speech Synthesiser	£10.00
RS232 port	£10.00
8 Bit Printer port	£10.00

I hope you find the above list helpful.

Matt.

# G.D.P.D Software.

A brand new PD library.

49 Woodville  
Barnstaple  
North Devon  
EX31 2HL

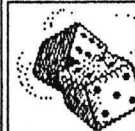
Over 50 selections of the best Public Domain Software available.

Only 35p per disc side.

Quality, Service and Value for money.

What more could you ask for?

Librarians: Ged and Dave Lawson.



Why Gamble?  
GDPD is the new library you can trust.

# MERLE'S DEMO PAGE.

## Demo-WHAT???

Demospeak is, put simply, the language of the demo. Whether it is on the CPC, The ST or the Amiga, the language is always similar. As with all languages, it has its dialects, so we will be giving you the definitions of the global and local terms.

## FREEEAKAAXX.

A Freeeak is a person watching a demo. Whatever this person is, whether a butcher or banker, while he or she is watching a demo, s/he becomes a freeeak.

## LAMERS.

This term is rather derogatory. It applies to people who have not seen the light of demo writing and watching. It also applies to the sort of people who used to wear padded anoraks and wear National Health specs when you were at school. Another definition is of a demo writer who cannot program to save his life, (e.g. The Prestomaniac) (I heard that - Matt.)

To add extra insult when using this term, it is best combined with other nasty words. For example, to call someone a Commodore 64 Lamer would be most insulting.

## RASTER.

Okay, away from people and on to the demos themselves. A raster is not, as you first may believe, a reggae singer. It is in fact a horizontal bar of colour which traverses the screen (usually ignoring the existence of the border) in accordance with a particular algorithm. Rasters usually hang around in gangs. Each one usually sporting a different colour.

## OVERSCAN.

In the perfect world, an overscan would be what you do when you first get a demo (i.e. SCAN it once OVER),

however this is not a perfect world, and it means no such thing. Overscan refers to the size of the screen area. A true overscan screen completely ignores the fact that the computer has a border, and ploughs whatever is to be displayed right through it. Modulator owners often find their TV screens going black and white when there is too much activity in the border.

Hi there demo lovers, it's me again. This month we give the demo reviews a bit of a break to bring you the full dictionary of DEMO-SPEAK, that strange language spoken by demo fans, demo coders and other complete wierdos. Fasten your belts.

## VORSPANN.

A bit of a CPC specific one this. Vorspann is actually German for demo. Nothing specific there I here you cry. However, Vorspann is also the other name for Andromeda Software's PD demo creating program. This

handy little utility lets anyone who can change a few variables in a short BASIC program become the creator of streams of colourful raster bars. By adding a nice screen as a background, and perhaps a little music, most impressive results can be achieved. In recent times though, most people can spot demos created in this way a mile off. The end results can all appear to be a bit samey.

## ROBOT PD LIBRARY.

Why put a PD library in the dictionary? Well, if it wasn't for Robot PD, practically nobody in the UK would have heard of writing demos for the CPC. Around 80% of the demos doing the rounds among PD libraries have been imported from France, Germany, Denmark etc, by Robot librarian Richard Fairhurst. The man is also responsible for a few demos of his own in his guise as CRTIC (CharleyTronic.)

## MERLE.

Short for Merlin, Merle's page is the only monthly column (bi-monthly as of this issue - Matt) to be devoted to CPC demos. CRTIC did have a column in ACU for a few months, but no more.



So, you've enjoyed reading this issue of Presto News have you?

Well, have you considered how much more you would enjoy it if you were a contributor?

We need writers of articles on anything to do with the CPC.

As well as one off features, we also need the following column writers...

Adventures,  
CP/M,  
Programming,  
and Games.

Contact Presto NOW!

# HELPLINE.

Got a problem to do with your CPC? Well this is the place to go. Unfortunately this column is new so I'm the only Helpliner this month. If anyone else can offer their services I would be glad to hear from you.

I can offer help in simple BASIC programming, most aspects of Public Domain and with desktop publishing using Powerpage. If you've got a problem using your 3.5" drive then I can offer help there too. I can also help you with any program in the Presto PD Library.

Matt Gullam  
1 Pembroke Close  
The Mount  
Par  
Cornwall  
PL24 2BT

Tel (0726) 813084.

## Demon PD Library.

One of the largest libraries in the U.K

Over 200 selections.

Only 50p per selection.

Fast efficient service.

Demon PD  
47 Hilton Avenue.  
Hall Green  
Birmingham, B28 0PE

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH.

MPD SOFTWARE.

YORKIE PD.

With the demise of full price games on the CPC, many users are moving on to 16 bit machines or consoles. It's up to the loyal Amstrad fans that remain to keep the computer alive. The main way to do this is to use and write PD software. Hopefully libraries like Yorkie, Presto, MPD, the ever innovative Robot PD and many others can provide a medium through which users can get hold of the many PD programs available, and so will think twice before selling their CPC.

But there are so many new PD libraries on the CPC now that it's difficult to know where to spend your hard earned cash. Some of these new libraries set up for a few months, discover that it's hard work, and give up. Yorkie PD is not one of those libraries. Yorkie PD aims to provide its customers with a fast and reliable service. I try to return all orders next day, (although when I have quite a few things to deal with there is some delay) and if I can't manage that then rest assured that your order will arrive within seven days of receipt.

I set up Yorkie PD in January 1992. At first I had only eight selections. This has now grown to over 50 and the total is still increasing. I hope to reach 100 selections by the end of the year. Donations of software to the library are welcomed, and there is a prize for the best program received each month. For a free catalogue and more information please send an SAE to the address elsewhere in Presto News. A monthly A4 News Letter is also available. It is priced at 10p, or you can get a copy free with any order. If there are any other librarians reading this, please get in touch so we can arrange some swaps with each other.

Goodbye for now, readers. I hope I will be hearing from you soon!

**Presto's opinion.**

There have been a flood of small libraries starting out on the CPC recently. Unfortunately, many of them don't even come near the quality and friendliness offered by Daniel York.



It all started in September 1991. I started with just two selections.

I started swapping with a few other libraries and I soon had a few more selections.

I've now got my 3.5" disc drive. I have copied all the PD to 3.5" discs, so this should make orders even quicker.

I produce a monthly newsletter which is free. I started this in January 1992. It contained reviews, comments etc. There is also a spot for other libraries so if you run one then write to me.

I am still getting loads of orders from my featurettes in Artificial Intelligence and Amstrad Action. My stock list has now increased to 64 selections thanks to swaps with Yorkie, GDPD and of course Presto. I hope to swap with other libraries soon.

My set up is a CPC 464 with DDI-1 and drive as well as a printer and 3.5" drive. (big huh? Ed.)

All contributions to the library are very welcome. For each side you send in, I will send you a 50p token, redeemable against one side of MPD public domain.

Send me an SAE for a free catalogue and a copy of the newsletter. The address should be somewhere in this issue of Presto News.

**Presto's opinion.**

Although not perhaps one of the most innovative or original libraries, MPD are swift in response and friendly. The PD is nothing really new though. Many of them are available on other (fuller!) selections from other libraries.



WOULD YOU BUY A USED CAR FROM DANIEL OR MARTIN?

# USEFUL ADDRESSES.

## PD Libraries.

Demon PD  
47 Hilton Ave.  
Hall Green  
Birmingham  
B28 0PE

GDPD Software  
49 Woodville  
Barnstaple  
North Devon  
EX31 2AY

Robot PD  
2 Trent Road  
Oakham  
Rutland  
LE15 6HF

MPD Software  
23 Nobes Avenue  
Bridgemaury  
Gosport  
PO13 0RS

Yorkie PD  
11 Beechwood Ave.  
St Albans  
Herts  
AL1 4XP

Scull SL  
44 Echline Grove  
South Queensferry  
West Lothian  
EH30 9RU

## Fanzines.

Artificial Intelligence  
19 Lee Street  
Liversedge  
West Yorkshire  
WF15 6DZ

CPC Domain (subs.)  
20 Montague Road  
Saltford  
Bristol  
BS18 3LA

WACCI  
12 Trafalgar Terr.  
Long Eaton  
Nottingham  
NG10 1GP

## Other Services.

Wow Software  
78 Radipole Lane  
Weymouth  
Dorset  
DT4 9RS

Adventure Swaps  
c/o S. Avery  
71 Fore Street  
Chudleigh  
S. Devon  
TQ13 0HT

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

BRITAIN'S BRIGHTEST  
BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC DOMAIN  
JOURNAL.

1. The only CPC magazine with a cover disc.
2. The only CPC magazine full of PD and nothing else.
3. The only CPC magazine to keep you up to date with ALL the CPC public domain libraries.
4. The only CPC magazine with celebrity biscuits.

Price: 80p

Not including postage or disc.

Smoke me a kipper...

19 Lee Street, Liversedge, W.Yorks, WF15 6DZ.

# COMPETITION RESULT.

Yes, we've finally got some winners in the fabulous Presto News competition. It would seem that Amstrad Action are wrong to say that nobody enters competitions in fanzines, because the entries have been flooding in.

The questions were very easy, so here goes. Let's see who has won those amazing prizes.

The first question asked you what the editor's favourite rock group were. Let's face it, there were enough hints dotted about the mag. The answer had to be RUSH.

The second question was a bit trickier. We asked you where Rush came from. The answer was CANADA.

Congratulations to all those who won a free selection, but the 2 main winners were...

With the 2nd Prize of a free copy of Presto News, 2 free selections and a commercial game was DAVID CROOKES.

With the 1st Prize of a 3 month subscription, 5 free selections and 2 commercial games was STEVE LEE.

Congratulations to the both of you. Please see the box on the right for what to do next.

## What do I do now?

All of you who have won free selections can just forget about the copy charge for one of the selections in your next order from Presto PD.

The 2 main winners should send a padded envelope to the usual address complete with 74p of stamps and the correct amount of discs.

3" or 3.5", we don't mind, as long as you don't expect more than 2 selections per disc.

As an added bonus, both the 1st and 2nd Prize winners will be entitled to half price PD until the end of September, and 20% off all future orders and subscriptions for the rest of their lives.

## Domain PD Library.

Formerly SCULL SL.

**NOW OPEN TO EVERYONE!!!**

Yes, it's true. We're opening our doors to the whole world. Not just CPC Domain Subscribers. We're the largest library in the UK, with a consistent high quality of PD software.

Write to Domain PD, 44 Echline Grove, South Queensferry, West Lothian, EH30 9RU and find out what you've been missing out on.

Price: £1.00 per disc. Half price to subscribers.

# Things you ought to know.

## Production Method.

Presto News is produced mostly using Robot PD's excellent Powerpage Desktop Publishing Suite.

Graphics all come from Public Domain sources and titles come from Mini Print Shop. Some of the smaller graphics come from MPS also and are converted into Clip Art using News-Lib.

All of this is done on a CPC 6128, outputting to a Panasonic KX-P1170 9 pin printer.

Once the pages are printed, the mag is then photocopied and stapled.

## The Address.

Send all your comments, letters, articles, adverts and just about everything else, to the following address...



Presto PD Library  
c/o Matt Gullam  
1 Pembroke Close  
The Mount  
Par  
Cornwall  
PL24 2BT

Please include an SSAE if you want a reply.

## Don't Forget...

Next month there won't be an issue of Presto News dropping through your letterbox. This is because Presto News will from now on be bi-monthly. Do not despair though, this will not affect those of you with subscriptions, you'll still get the right amount of issue, it will only take longer to run out. The bi-monthly issues will be even bigger than ever before. All for the same price as before. Now that's what I call a good deal!

## Presto PD Library news.

A little problem concerning the Presto PD library has come to my attention. When you are using MS800 formatted 3.5" discs on a 464 or 664, you can not use them under CP/M as the CP/M disc parameter block changing program only works under CP/M Plus. As a result of this, I am dropping the

MS800 formats for 3.5" discs. If you want PD on 3.5" disc from Presto from now on, it will have to be data format only, letting you have only 2 normal sides per disc, providing you have a side switch. I hope that this has not caused any inconvenience to customers with 3.5" drives. I have been experiencing problems with MS800 for some time now as far as compatibility with customers' drives, so dropping it is probably the best idea. In the near future I may get Romdos, or one of the new products about to be released, so large format 3.5" discs will one again be supported. Once again, sorry for the inconvenience.

## Credits and thanks.

The following people were instrumental in getting this issue of Presto News to you. I would like to thank all of them, so here goes.

Richard Fairhurst: Thanks for writing Powerpage, without which PN would look as bad as it did last month.

To all contributors: Keep up the good work, without you, this issue of Presto News would be even later than it is already. Thanks.

Alfred McAlpine Construction: Thanks for the use of the photocopier.

To my girlfriend: Thanks for being so understanding all the times when I have kicked you out of the house so I could get on with writing the mag.

Tim Blackbond: Thanks for inspiring me to use Powerpage, and thanks for writing AI. Keep up all the good work. The inquisitor will most certainly NOT be knocking on your door.

## Finally.

The next edition of Presto News, the world's biggest magazine that nobody has heard of will be out around the 20th of ~~Sept~~ 1992.

I'm not going to give anything away about what is going to be in it because I don't know yet myself. Needless to say it will be more of the same worthless trash. Err, brilliantly informative news packed good read.

Keep CPCing all of you. Keep the faith brothers and sisters. YO!

# HOLD THE BACK PAGE.

All the bits that we forgot, plus up to the minute news.

## All change at Scull.

Guaranteed to shake up the PD scene is the latest news from Graeme Chesser, the librarian of Scull SL.

As reported last month, CPC Domain has changed editors, with Alan Scully taking a back seat. Alan has now broken all ties with CPC Domain and Scull SL.

Until now, Scull SL has only been open to CPC Domain subscribers. All this is set to change. Graeme Chesser has been trying to persuade Alan Scully to open up the library to everyone for some time now. However Alan was not gone on the idea. Now that Alan is out of the picture, Graeme has decided to go ahead with his plans.

CPC Domain subscribers will receive a healthy discount on the copy charge, paying 50p per double sided selection, while non subscribers will pay £1.00.

Because Alan is no longer involved, it would be silly to carry on calling the library Scull SL. So, as of now, the library will be known as Domain PD.

Domain PD is now the largest library in the UK and can supply its 120+ discs on 3.5" DATA and ROMDOS formats, as well as the usual 3" ones.

## Alan Scully latest.

Refused and dejected, despised and alone, Alan kisses isolation on it's fevered brow and wallows in self pity.

Absolutely not! Alan is currently establishing a trade in some of his home grown software range.

Currently on offer are upgraded versions of previous releases Pagemaker Deluxe and Label Designer.

PMD is a rather good DTP system. Only beaten in the budget stakes by Powerpage. Label Designer is a rather nifty program which designs disc labels. Nothing special about that eh? Well what if I was to say that you can import a number of fonts and Stop Press compatible clip-art onto the labels, which can be designed in 3", 3.5" and 5.25" disc label size.

The price of both of these programs is

under £3.00, providing you supply the disc.

For those of you who don't know Alan's address, it's PO Box 435, Glasgow, G12 8SG.

## GDPD's world connections.

Ged and Dave Lawson are not ones to rest idle. While their library is still relatively new, and they have plenty of time on their hands, they have been taking the opportunity of importing PD from France and Australia.

Their latest import is Alyssa v1.6. This is an improved and updated version of Alyssa which has been available from Robot PD for some time. Currently GDPD is the only library with permission to distribute this excellent utility.

For those of you that don't know, Alyssa is a database program which stores details about your disc collection. Many PD librarians and fanzine editors use it to keep track of their selections.

Dave and Ged are determined to import far more software from abroad. Their aim is to allow users who don't like using Robot PD for various reasons to have a bite at the foreign PD cherry.

GDPD and Robot do not get on too well. After all, Richard Fairhurst will need another library to despise now that Alan Scully has gone. Watch out for Ged and Dave to appear in PDEB, Robot PD's news section of their catalogue disc.

You have been warned. There could be bullets flying very soon.

## Playmates closes down.

Playmates, the games fanzine run by Carl Surry has closed down. The reasons are not yet known.

I have never seen a copy, but from all accounts it was rougher than Presto News.

## Presto News punctuality disgrace.

Presto News is probably the latest magazine in history. By the time it is printed it will be a month later than expected. Sorry to all subscribers.