

## GROUP TESTS



**PC PLOD**  
Tracking down  
good-quality  
machines for  
only £699  
**p134**

### 134 £699 PCs

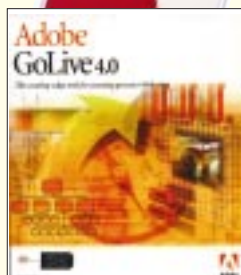
Buying a budget PC doesn't mean you have to skimp on the specifications. Ian Robson looks at 10 machines that have plenty to offer.

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>137</b> A-Class A6               | <b>142</b> Elonex MCX-6466/I  |
| <b>137</b> Big Red Mercury 350/3D   | <b>144</b> Protek UltraMX     |
| <b>139</b> Carrera Lynx W466        | <b>144</b> Simply Soho        |
| <b>139</b> DCS Solo DVD             | <b>148</b> Time 466t SV       |
| <b>142</b> Dotlink Charisma 400 Pro | <b>148</b> Watford Aries 6100 |

### 162 Drawing software

Michaelangelo eat your heart out. Ken McMahon checks out the best drawing packages around for creating everything from professional artwork through business logos to network diagrams.

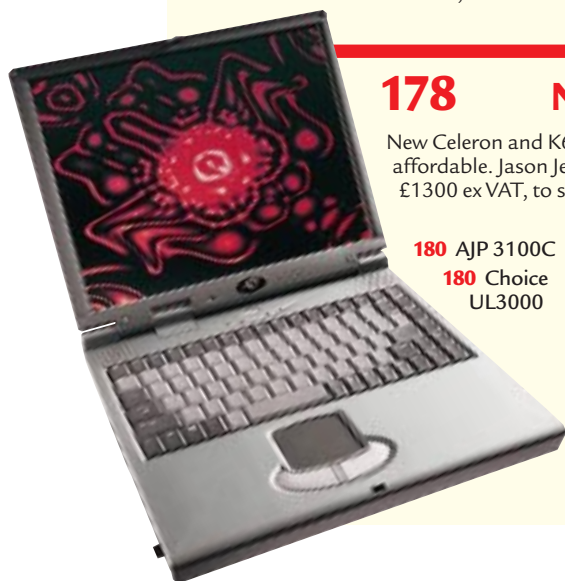
- 165 Professional packages:** Adobe Illustrator 8, CorelDraw 9, Macromedia Freehand 8
- 168 Budget packages:** Sierra Windows Draw 7, SerifDrawPlus 4, GSP Designworks
- 170 Miscellaneous drawing tools:** Expression, Painter 5.5 Web, Art Dabbler 2.0, Poser 3 [all from MetaCreations]
- 172 Technical packages:** iGrafx Designer, IMSI TurboCad 6, Actrix Visio 5 Professional



### 178 Notebooks

New Celeron and K6-2 mobile processors have made notebooks affordable. Jason Jenkins looks at six notebook PCs, all under £1300 ex VAT, to see how these budget machines shape up.

- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>180</b> AJP 3100C     | <b>181</b> Dell Inspiron 3500 366GT  |
| <b>180</b> Choice UL3000 | <b>181</b> Esprit Tycoon             |
|                          | <b>182</b> Pico Desknote             |
|                          | <b>182</b> Toshiba Satellite 2520CDT |



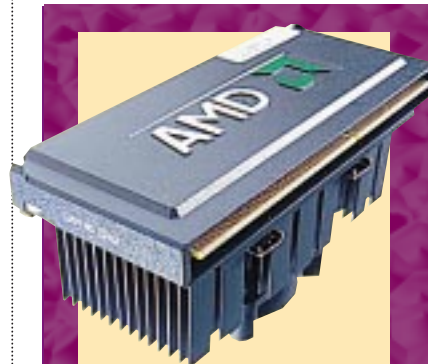
## FEATURES

### 110 Building a network

Businesses with more than one employee can stay one step ahead of the pack by being networked. Dave Mitchell tells you what you will need and how to set it all up.

### 122 Athlon unveiled and Intel futures

AMD is about to release a processor that will beat the Pentium III hands down. Ian Robson takes a close look at the new chip on the block, while John Webster talks to Intel about its plans to produce even faster CPUs.



In the blue corner, defending champion PIII! In the red corner, AMD's mighty Athlon!  
**p122**

### 130 Douglas Adams interview

The Hitch-Hiker's author hangs loose with Ian Burley to talk about films, the web and everything.



All there is to know about  
Adams and Adams' Apple  
**p130**

## REVIEWS

### NEW PRODUCTS

- 73 450MHz G3 Power Mac**  
Faster power from Apple
- 75 Panrix Fusion 600**  
Pentium III 600MHz PC
- 77 Carrera Lynx M500**  
500MHz Celeron Desktop PC
- 79 Adobe Photoshop 5.5**  
Professional web and print graphics
- 82 Microsoft MapPoint 2000**  
Demographics made easy
- 86 MetaCreations Canoma**  
Turn your pics 3D
- 88 Adobe GoLive 4.0**  
Professional web design
- 92 Quicken 2000**  
Get your books in order
- 93 Evesham Vale Platinum TNT Ultra**  
Sturdy office workhorse PC
- 96 Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 4050TN**  
Office workgroup laser printer
- 96 Kyocera FS-680**  
Laser printer with style
- 97 Philips Voice Tracer**  
Speak your email
- 97 Microsoft Tax Saver**  
Tax analysis and advice
- 98 Tiny Home Executive 500**  
500MHz Celeron value PC



- 101 Olympus Camedia C2000 Zoom**  
Two-megapixel digital camera
- 101 Sony Vaio 505E**  
Faster, slimmer Sony notebook
- 102 OnStream SC30**  
Capacious, affordable backup
- 102 TNT TravelManager Office**  
Street-level route planning
- 104 Pagis Pro 3.0 Scanning Suite and PageKeeper Pro 3.0**  
Document management packages

### HEAD TO HEAD

- 106 Head to Head**  
CRT or TFT? The choice is yours.

## REGULARS

- 9 Editorial**
- 10 Subscriptions & Back Issues**
- 12 Cover Disc Notes**  
Full versions of the Penguin Hutchinson Reference Library and trueSpace 2
- 30 News & Analysis**  
Security scares mar web speed-up; mini-screen breakthrough; mobile comms special report.
- 66 Letters**
- 70 Gadgets**
- 190 Futures**  
Two cells that have the fate of the PC locked up tight.
- 246 Reader Offers**
- 500 Faxback Service**
- 510 Projects & Resources**

## LEISURE LINES

- 249 Screenplay**  
The Phantom Menace/Racer, Puma Street Soccer, Sports Car GT, Silver, and Hidden & Dangerous.
- 252 CDs**
- 254 Kids**
- 255 Competition**  
**WIN!** a copy of Power Publisher or a copy of LapLink Pro.
- 256 Retro**  
Gordon Laing on Atari's VCS.
- 258 Books**  
The iMac for Dummies, The Victorian Internet, Who's Afraid of HTML?, and Philip and Alex's Guide to Web Publishing.

## COLUMNS

- 60 Sounding Off**  
Movie special effects are a huge leap backwards, says Michael Hewitt.
- 61 Straight Talking**  
Barry Fox pleads with managers to fix their faulty software.
- 62 Business Matters**  
Programmers should remember that we're only human, says Brian Clegg.
- 64 Out of Site**  
Paul Smith on who will be the cat that gets the e-commerce cream.

**260 Direct Buyers' World**

**269 Buying Advice & Buyers Charter**

**481 Micromart**

**494 Best Buys**

**503 Directory of Product Suppliers**

**506 Index of Advertisers**



- 193 Introduction**  
A look at this month's features.
- 194 Workshop: trueSpace 2**  
Geoff Bains gets animated with Caligari's 3D package, included free on this month's cover disc.
- 198 Year 2000: DOS**  
Microsoft's DOS is 'compliant with minor issues', but Roger Gann finds there are no plans to issue a patch.
- 199 Internet**  
Nigel Whitfield finds that giving a spammer a taste of his own luncheon meat can backfire.
- 202 Windows**  
The way to win the performance war is to divide and conquer. Tim Nott charges into battle.
- 206 Web Development NEW!**  
Tim Anderson begins a new Hands On series with a look at dynamic website development.
- 208 Windows NT**  
Andrew Ward answers your questions — from using a joystick to hiding the C: drive.
- 212 PDAs**  
Mark Whitehorn on why he grabs the PDA, not the laptop.
- 215 Unix**  
Chris Bidmead finds that Gnome is no common-or-garden GUI for a multi-desktop environment.
- 218 OS/2**  
Is an upgrade to Warp 4 a vital move? Terence Green decides.
- 220 Word Processing**  
Tim Nott warns that deleting copy in your documents may not be the last that you see of it.
- 222 Spreadsheets**  
Stephen Wells answers questions raised by the IF function.
- 224 Databases**  
Mark Whitehorn finds that size does matter as he looks at big text files and small database engines.
- 226 Hardware**  
The truth about parallel processing is out there amid the search for ET. David Fearon investigates.
- 230 Sound**  
Steven Helstrip on how optimising your system can free up much-needed resources for sound.
- 232 Graphics & DTP**  
Adding a graph to your document can give it that touch of class. Ken McMahon shows you how.
- 234 3D Graphics**  
Benjamin Woolley promotes himself to editor as he looks at post-production video techniques.
- 236 Visual Programming**  
Tim Anderson on how to build COM add-ins in Office 2000.
- 240 Mac**  
Cliff Joseph talks you through the speech recognition software included with the latest version of the Mac operating system.
- 244 Networks**  
In a return to his mini-series on mail servers, Bob Walder looks at the Internet Mail Connector.