PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD

CONTENTS

GROUP TESTS

130 Easy PCs

Not everyone is undaunted by the morass of wires and boxes you find after unpacking your new PC. This group test spares a thought for the novice user, challenging manufacturers to supply a £999 PC with ease-of-assembly in mind

133 Atlas Meridian A500W, Big Red Phantom
136 Carrera Octan M600, Compaq Presario 5476
140 Dan Dantum Cel500/NU, Dell Dimension XPS T500
141 Elonex WebRider, Evesham 500 Athlon TNT2
146 Gateway Performance 500, Lexon Ultima 702
147 Mesh Matrix 500 Pro, Panrix Force
150 Simply Systemax Pro 500, SMC Direct Infinite DVD Gamer
152 Viglen HomePro P3-500FWr SoundBlaster upgrades
153 SYSmark and 3DMark test results
156 Table of features
160 **Editor's Choice**

162 Printers

With such a vast array of machines on the market these days, there's no reason why you shouldn't expect top quality results, whatever your price range

Low-end printers:
165 Brother HL-1250, Canon LBP-800, Epson EPL-5700
169 HP LaserJet 1100A, Kyocera FS-680, Lexmark Optra E310
172 Oki Okipage 6w, Samsung ML-5100A, Tally T9308
173 Xerox DocuPrint P8EX
High-end printers:
173 Epson EPL-N1600, HP LaserJet 2100
176 HP LaserJet 4050T, Kyocera FS-1750, Lexmark Optra M410
177 Minolta PagePro 18L, Minolta PagePro 18N, Oki Okipage 12i/n
180 Samsung ML-7000N, Tally T9116D, Xerox DocuPrint N17
182 Graphs of printer test results
184 Table of features
186 Test samples
188 **Editor's Choice**

190 Databases

Databases are increasingly becoming an integral part of life on the Internet, yet how many of them can really cope with such a task? Tim Anderson investigates

193 Microsoft Access 2000
195 Lotus Approach
196 FileMaker Pro 5
198 Corel Paradox 9
200 Sun StarBase 5.1
202 Beginner's guide
203 Web-enabled databases
206 High-end server databases
209 Table of features
209 **Editor's Choice**

COVER STORY

106 Windows 2000

Better late than never? Terence Green takes a look at what the new OS has to offer and who will benefit from it

FEATURES

118 Web millionaires

If you're green with envy at the tales of Internet entrepreneurs being valued in millions, here's how to grab a piece of the action

126 Futures

It's all getting smaller, with storage at an atomic level and computers in a speck of dust

16 Schools giveaway

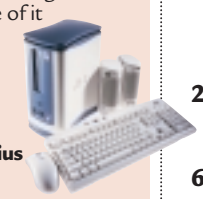
The last chance to get software tokens for your school or kids

REVIEWS

INTRO

74 **Nik Lite and speed freaks**
Nik Rawlinson on the dangers of installing for the sake of it

HARDWARE



76 **AST Century City**
The first EasyPC standard machine

77 **Fujitsu Siemens Celsius**
3D-graphics mobile workstation

78 **Gateway Profile 2**
A tiny PC that cuts a fine figure

79 **Sony Vaio PCG-X9**
Video-editing notebook

PERIPHERALS

80 **Kodak DC290**
High-end digital camera

82 **NEC MultiSync FE700 and Hansol 710P**
Impressive performance from budget monitors

83 **SoundBlaster Live! Platinum**
Turn your PC into a sound studio

83 **Matrox Marvel G400-TV**
Watch your enhanced graphics on TV

84 **Kodak DC240i**
Mac-friendly digital camera

84 **OnStream SC50**
Inexpensive tape storage drive

86 **Kyocera KI-G100/SD-66K**
You're never alone with this phone

SOFTWARE

88 **Macromedia Dreamweaver 3 and Fireworks 3**
Web design packages in their latest incarnations

91 **Microsoft Money 2000**
Money's latest bid to outdo its rivals

92 **Adobe PhotoDeluxe HE 4**
Photo editing for the home user

94 **Norton Utilities 2000 and Systemworks**
Software to save your skin

94 **Adobe PressReady**
Colour-proofing software to save you time and money

96 **McAfee Office 2000 v2.0**
A six-program bundle of utilities

97 **Omnipage Pro 10**
OCR sofware you can't do without

97 **ZipMagic 2000**
Make zips behave like normal files

BOOKS

101 **Learning Red hat Linux**
A comprehensive beginners' guide

101 **The Clickable Corporation**
Making a success of an online venture

HEAD TO HEAD

102 **All in one machine vs phone, fax and modem**
With desk space at a premium, combining your office peripherals would seem to make a lot of sense

REGULARS

9 Editorial

10 Subscriptions & Back Issues

12 Cover Disc Notes
The full version of Sidekick, plus Dr Schueler's Medical Adviser and Tomb Raider:The Last Revelation

21 News & Analysis
UK set for ADSL free-for-all, plus all the latest from Comdex '99

69 Letters

72 Gadgets

210 Best Buys

520 Faxback Service

522 Reader Offers

LEISURE LINES

524 Previews

525 Games
Freespace 2, Rally Championship, FIFA 2000, Age of Empires II and the NeoGeo Pocket Color

532 Brainteasers and crossword

533 Competition
WIN! a VideoLogic DigiTheatre speaker system worth £249.99

534 Flashback

536 Retro
The joys of the Sinclair ZX81

COLUMNS

60 Inside Information
Gordon Laing on FireWire – the Dr Dolittle of home entertainment

63 Straight Talking
As the DVD war rages on, Barry Fox looks to a bright and Sony future

64 Business Matters
Brian Clegg says the light revolution is nearer than you think

66 404 Not Found
Dave Fearon fears that big business is draining the spirit of the Internet

269 Direct Buyers' World

515 Buying Advice & Buyers' Charter

277 Micromart

291 Directory of Product Suppliers

518 Index of Advertisers

hands on advice

217 **Introduction**
A look at this month's features

218 **Workshop: Perl**
First steps in this powerful and versatile programming language

221 **Internet**
Squashing OE5 bugs on the Mac

225 **Windows**
Changing the background in Explorer toolbars

230 **Web Development**
Displaying live data with ASP and Windows web server

232 **Windows NT**
How to make the capacity of a floppy that bit more elastic

235 **PDAs**
IBM's Microdrive is on trial for having such incredible storage

238 **Unix**
A medley of tricks to demonstrate the power of pipeline code

242 **OS/2**
Tracking down elusive soundcard drivers and FTP clients

244 **Word Processing**
A bit of fieldwork can make sure your documents are up-to-date

248 **Spreadsheets**
How to calculate loan interest

250 **Databases**
Making multiple changes to both data and databases

252 **Hardware**
E numbers are good for you, in Intel's Pentium IIIs

256 **Sound**
There's a new animal in the SoundBlaster stable

258 **Graphics & DTP**
Nip problems in the rip, PDF-style

260 **3D Graphics**
Unexplored terrains and inventive algorithms

262 **Visual Programming**
A look at Microsoft's free client/server database engine, MSDE

265 **Mac**
Voice activation in the Mac OS9

267 **Networks**
The right wires for linking PCs