

Order form

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SEE THIS MONTH'S CD-ROM.

Use this form when you order by phone, fax or post.

ALWAYS KEEP A COPY!

SUPPLIER'S DETAILS	CUSTOMER DETAILS		
COMPANY	NAME		
SALESPERSON'S NAME	COMPANY		
ADDRESS	ADDRESS		
POSTCODE	POSTCODE		
DATE OF TELEPHONE ORDER/ TIME	DATE OF TELEPHONE ORDER		
ORDER REFERENCE NUMBER (IF QUOTED)	ADVERT APPEARED IN PCW: ISSUE DATE		
QUANTITY DETAILS OF OR	DER UNIT COST £ TOTAL £		
METHOD OF PAYMENT	SUB-TOTAL		
	DISCOUNT		
PERSONAL CHEQUE PURCHASE ORDER CREDIT CAR C.O.D DEBIT CARD OTHER (SPECIFY)	CARRIAGE		
	SURCHARGES E /		
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CARD NUMBER (below)	TOTAL		
DELIVERY DETAILS	BUYER'S CHECK LIST		
DELIVERED TO (ADDRESS)	AGREED DELIVERY DATE /		
(IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)	COST OF EXTENDED WARRANTY HELPLINE		
POSTCODE	Details:		
SIGNED DATE / /	DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER		

buying advice



Contents

562 PCs & portables

Entry-level to high-end PCs, notebooks and PDAs.

563 Printers & scanners

Inkjet, lasers, photo printers and multifunction devices.

564 Peripherals

From digital cameras to modems, monitors to storage, graphics and sound cards.

565 Software

The greats of software. Classic products like Serif PagePlus 5, Access 97 and CorelDraw.

568 Faxback

Instant access to all *PCW* reviews and features through your fax machine.

CREDIT CARD PROTECTION

Always pay by credit card when ordering goods valued in excess of £100, thereby ensuring maximum protection in the event that an advertiser ceases to trade prior to such goods being actually received.

All the best buys are here

ometimes you just want to know the names of the best products, when they were reviewed, how much they cost and where you can get them. That's where our no-nonsense buyer's guide comes in. Over the following five pages we've picked out the outstanding PCs, peripherals and software packages that we can recommend without hesitation. To make it even easier, we've included the current manufacturer's contact number and price (including VAT), as well as details of when and where we reviewed the product. For the full review, why not check out PCW on CD-ROM? Updated quarterly, PCW on CD-ROM contains the full editorial from the past 24 issues, in searchable Adobe Acrobat format — it even comes with a copy of Acrobat for viewing, searching and printing. Each CD costs just £9.95 including postage and packing, or £8.96 for subscribers. Call 01795 414870 to order your copy or turn to PCW Reader Offers [p278] for further details. If you can't wait for the next quarterly CD, try out our new Faxback service (p568) which provides 24-hour access to your favourite features and reviews.

> GORDON LAING Editor

Personal Computer World Buyer's Charter



Anthony George, our Customer Services Manager, is here to help you if things go wrong, if you have an enquiry or complaint about a supplier advertising in this magazine, or have encountered

problems as a result of goods purchased. Write to him with details of the complaint, together with your full contact details, and he will endeavour to assist you.

Anthony George Customer Relations Department VNU Business Publications VNU House, 32 - 34 Broadwick Street London W1A 2HG

MOPS — Buyers Charter

When you order goods as a <u>private</u> individual reader from a UK supplier's advertisement in <u>Personal Computer World</u> and pay by post in advance of delivery to that Mail Order Advertiser who subsequently ceases to trade and goes into Liquidation or Bankruptcy prior to delivery of such goods, you may, under the 'Buyers Charter', qualify for compensation, providing:

- 1. You have not received the goods or had your money returned.
- 2. You have followed the *Personal Computer World* guidelines when placing your order.
- 3. Have taken all reasonable steps to effect delivery or refund.
- 4. You have retained irrefutable proof of purchase, for verification purposes:
- a) A copy of the original advertisement from which the goods were ordered.
- b) Comprehensive proof of payment.

GUIDELINES

Claims must be submitted so as to arrive 'NOT EARLIER THAN TWENTY EIGHT DAYS AND NOT LATER THAN THREE MONTHS' from the official onsale date of the magazine. Claims must be submitted to the Customer Services Manager IN WRITING, summarising the situation and lodged strictly within the time schedule stated. Claims received outside this period will not qualify for consideration for compensation under the 'Buyers Charter'.

Once a supplier who has advertised in this magazine has become subject to either Liquidation or Bankruptcy proceedings and upon completion of all winding-up procedures, Personal Computer World guarantees to expeditiously process those private individual readers' claims made and submitted, in accordance with those procedures outlined, up to the following limits.

a) £2,000 in respect of any claim submitted by one Private Individual Reader.

b) £100,000 in respect of all advertisers so affected in any one year.

These sums define the Publishers maximum liability under the scheme, and any additional payments above and beyond these thresholds will be entirely at the Publisher's discretion.

As soon as legal confirmation that a state of liquidation or bankruptcy exists, the processing of claims will immediately commence. If, however, assets are available and the receiver/liquidator appointed confirms that an eventual payment will be made by way of a dividend, all claims under the 'Buyers Charter' will be subject to re-processing and will take into account any shortfall which may then exist. Payments under the scheme will also take into consideration the obligations and liabilities of other interested parties such

as credit card and/or insurance organisations etc

EXCEPTIONS

This guarantee only applies to advance postal payments made by private individuals in direct response for goods itemised /illustrated in display advertisements. It does not cover goods ordered from advertising Inserts or Cards, classified advertisements or MicroMart, or Catalogues obtained from, or supplied by, any advertiser regardless. Similarly, protection does not exist in relation to purchases made as a result of reviews and/or editorial comment.

The 'Buyer's Charter' is designed to safeguard the PRIVATE individual reader. It does not provide protection to any companies, societies, organisations, unincorporated bodies or any other commercially orientated outlet of any description. Neither is cover provided for orders placed from, or to, any overseas suppliers or for goods purchased for resale.

CAVEAT EMPTOR

Readers are reminded that the Mail Order Protection Scheme was solely implemented to provide protection to the private individual when goods are ordered 'Off the Page' and paid for by post. It was not designed for, nor will it offer any protection, in the event whereby goods are purchased via the Internet.

DISCLAIMERS

Readers are reminded that the opinions expressed, and the results published in connection with reviews and/or laboratory test reports carried out on computing systems and/or related items are confined to, and are representative of, only those goods as supplied and should not be construed as a recommendation to purchase. Whilst every precaution is taken to ensure that reliability and good business practices prevail, the Publisher cannot be held responsible for the overall trading activities of any supplier referred to, or advertising within, this publication.

best buys

DESKTOP PCs

ue to the fast moving nature of the PC industry, we can only recommend particular PCs in the month we have seen them. Prices change almost weekly as component prices from third-party suppliers fluctuate according to availability. So, for this month's best PC buy, for instance, look at the group test on p148. When buying a PC there are a few basic steps you should take: always buy with a credit card; ask for a complete specification and the final price to be sent to you before you confirm the order; ask for a definite delivery date; keep a copy of all correspondence and remember to use the PCW order form (pXXX). Also take into account what kind of warranty you will need and consider spending more for an extended or improved warranty with on-site or speedy maintenance if you depend on your PC for your work. Obviously, everyone's ideal PC will have a different mix of components, with gamers needing a very good 3D graphics card, probably a 3D sound card and excellent speakers, and business users will need a good monitor and plenty of RAM.

ENTRY-LEVEL PCs

Budget-conscious buyers might consider going for a non-Intel processor, such as an AMD. However, be aware that if you choose a Socket 7 chip you might find it hard to upgrade in future. Similarly, if you go for a Slot 1 processor, make sure you specify a motherboard with a BX chipset which will allow for greater upgrading options in the future. We would recommend the following specification:

- AMD K6-2 350 or Intel Celeron 366 processor
- 32Mb RAM
- 4Gb hard drive
- · Graphics card with 4Mb video RAM
- 15in monitor
- CD-ROM drive

You can expect to pay between £499 and £699 (ex VAT) for this configuration, with either a sound card and speakers or a modem.

MID-RANGE PCs

In the mid-range, around £1,000 (ex VAT) will get you a good all-round machine. As the PII 333 disappears, and with even PII 350s becoming scarce, it might be as well to look for a faster processor. Look for a minimum of:

- Intel PII or AMD K6-2 400MHz processor
- 64Mb RAM
- 8Gb hard disk
- Good 3D graphics card with 8Mb video RAM
- 17in monitor
- CD-ROM drive
- · Sound card, speakers, 56K modem

Most of all, look for a machine that is easy to upgrade, so specify plenty of slots and no on-board chips on a good motherboard, and lots of free bays in the case.

HIGH-END PCs

If you are after a state-of-the-art machine, be prepared to spend around £2,000 (ex VAT). What you require at this price will be specific to your needs, depending on how you intend to use the machine. However, as a basic specification we would want:

- PIII 500
- 128Mb 100MHz RAM
- 16Gb hard drive
- · Good 3D graphics card with 12Mb video RAM
- 19in monitor
- DVD drive
- Sound card, speakers, 56K modem
- Bundled office suite

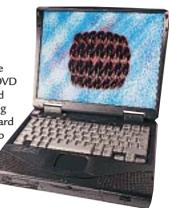
For the low-down on Intel's latest processor, the Pentium III, see page 122, this issue.

HIGH-END NOTEBOOK

Compaq **Armada 7800**

With everything you could need in a replacement to your desktop PC, the Armada 7800 even incorporates a DVD drive for movies-on-the-move. Based around a 300MHz PII it doesn't hang around and benefits from an 8Gb hard drive and 64Mb memory. With up to five hours' battery life it should be able to keep going longer than its users, and the power adapter is integrated — goodbye power brick.

PCW March '99, p79



Price £3878.68 Contact Compaq 0181 332 3000
Also Recommended Panasonic Toughbook CF-71 Price £2701.32 Contact
Panasonic 0800 444220 • IBM ThinkPad 770 Price £3795.25 Contact IBM
0870 601 0136 (both PCW March '99)

MID-RANGE NOTEBOOK

Sharp **PC-A150**

Light and portable, this notebook has enough power to run your office apps, and a screen that is big and good enough to be used in presentations. It is robust, with a magnesium alloy casing. With its excellent keyboard and external floppy drive it could even be used as a desktop replacement.

PCW March '99, p183

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Price £2,109.13 Contact Sharp 0800 262958 Also Recommended AJP 1100M Price £1,350.08 Contact AJP 0181 208 9744 • Sony Vaio 505 Price £2301.83 Contact Sony 0870 2402408 (both PCW March '99)

PDA

Hewlett-Packard

Jornada 820e

Fed up with ever-faster processors when all you need is a machine to take notes and check your email? The Jornada could be the answer to your prayers. You can work for a full day without fear of the battery dying and with an Intel StrongARM processor running at 190MHz, 16Mb RAM and an integrated 56K modem, it has everything you when on the move. And its 8.2 in STN screen with

an integrated 56K modem, it has everything you need when on the move. And its 8.2in STN screen with a resolution of 640x480 is large enough to see exactly what you're doing.

PCW February '99, p120

Price £849 Contact HP 0990 474747 Also Recommended Psion Series 5 Price £429.9 Contact Psion 0990 143050 • 3Com PalmPilot Pro Price £229 Contact 3Com 0800 225252 (both PCW May '98)

COLOUR INKIET

Hewlett-Packard

Desklet 895CXi For all-round excellence you can't do better than the HP 895CXi. The quality of its output for both text and graphics is impressive given the swift speed at which they

are produced. Even its 'econofast' mode could be used for vital documents, saving both time and ink. It takes a huge range of papers and replacing ink cartridges is a breeze.

PCW February '99, p151



Price £292.58 **Contact** HP 0990 474747 **Also Recommended** Epson Stylus Color 740 **Price** £272.60 **Contact** 0800 220546 • Epson Stylus Color 850 **Price** £318.43 **Contact** 0800 220546 (both PCW February '99)

BUDGET LASER PRINTER

Kyocera **FS-600**

This personal 6ppm laser printer easily beats all other laser printers in its class. Its speed is impressive, printing out a steady six pages per minute no matter what the paper coverage, and the quality of its output is second to none, both for graphics and text. It is easily upgradable, taking an impressive 36Mb of RAM. It has a PostScript option and there is even an ethernet port that comes as standard.

IIII PCW February '99, p199

Price £299 Contact Kyocera 0118 923 0660
Also Recommended Panasonic KX-P6300 Price £257.32 Contact Panasonic 01344 853081 (PCW February '99)

MULTIFUNCTION DEVICE

Hewlett-Packard

LaserJet 3100

Good laser-print quality from this quiet machine. It's intelligent enough to detect a document dropped into its feeder and it will launch an idiot-proof menu for scanning, copying and emailing. Fast, accurate OCR and 2Mb memory for incoming faxes when the paper supply is

exhausted, make the 3100 an ideal multifunction device.

PCW June '98, p83

Price £629 Contact HP 0990 474747 Also Recommended Canon MultiPASS MPC20 Price £370.13 Contact Canon 0181 773 3173 (PCW January '98)

COLOUR PHOTO PRINTER

Lexmark

Photo JetPrinter 5770

For dedicated digital photographers this printer is ideal, with a 1200x1200dpi maximum resolution and a slot each for direct access to CompactFlash and SmartMedia cards. There's no separate black cartridge bundled, although any standard black Lexmark cartridge will fit.

PCW April '99, p86



Price £349 Contact Lexmark 01628 481500 Also Recommended Epson Stylus Photo 700 Price £273 Contact Epson 01442 261144 (PCW September '98)

BUSINESS LASER PRINTER

Lexmark **Optra K1220**

It is rare that you find a printer which is both good value and produces exceptional-quality output, yet the Optra K1220 is just such a laser printer. With a rated speed of 12ppm it produces text in good time, but most of all its outstanding quality, both for text and

graphics, puts it second to none amongst laser printers.

PCW February '99, p201

Price £722.63 Contact Lexmark 01628 481500 Also Recommended QMS DeskLaser 1600P Price £816 Contact QMS 01784 445555 •HP LaserJet 4000TN Price £1,316 Contact HP 0990 474747 (both PCW February '99)

FLATBED SCANNER

Umax

Astra 610P

Once again, the Umax Astra 610P parallel-port scanner has won our budget flatbed scanner group test, boasting an unbeatable combination of performance and value. Note that our three recommended scanners require enhanced

parallel ports found only on modern PCs, so users wanting top performance, or those with older systems, should stick to SCSI.

PCW September '98, p229

Price £69.33 Contact Umax 01344 871329 Also Recommended Agfa SnapScan 310P Price £116.50 Contact Agfa 0181 231 4200 • Microtek Phantom 330CX Price £75.95 Contact Microtek 01908 317797 (PCW Sept'98)



best buys

DIGITAL CAMERA

Kodak **DC260**

Once again Kodak has produced the best digital camera for under £1,000. Not only does it have a high resolution, producing excellent images at 1536x1024 pixels, but it also has a 3X zoom. Add



its advanced features, including scripting facilities, and you have a highly desirable and indispensable camera.

PCW October '98, p226

Price £899 Contact Kodak 0800 281487 Also Recommended Epson PhotoPC 700 Price £587.50 Contact Epson 0800 289622 • Ricoh RDC-4300 Price £599 Contact Ricoh 01782 753355 (both PCW October '98)

Морем

Diamond SupraExpress 56e Pro

With ever-shifting goalposts, it makes sense to go for a modem which supports all the current standards, as well as simultaneous voice and data. Combine this with a roaring speed, superb ease of use and a low



price, and you have the best-value modem around.

PCW December '98, p211

Price £75 Contact Diamond Multimedia 0118 944 4401 ed Zoom FaxModem 56Kx Price £89 Contact SCS Data Communications 01494 748904 (PCW December '98)

SOUND CARD

Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live!

SoundBlaster cards have long been the best choice for non-professional users. The SoundBlaster Live! up: the ante, providing nearprofessional quality sound at a bargain price. And, it comes with an impressive bundle of dedicated digital I/O daughtercard, speakers, subwoofer and games.

PCW December '98, p92

Price £149 Contact Creative Labs 01189 344744 Also Recommended Terratec EWS64 S Price £149.23 Contact Terratec 01600 772111 (PCWJuly '98)

MONITOR

CTX **PR710T**

Not only does the PR710T look gorgeous, its performance is stunning. It sports a genuine Sony Trinitron tube, which is always a good sign. Power regulation, resolution, colour alignment and colour purity are all of the highest order, leading to a display that you can see is special straight away.

PCW April '99, p182



Price £363.08 Contact CTX 01923 810800 Also Recommended ADI MicroScan GT56 Price £351.33 Contact ADI 0181 236 0801 (PCW April '99)

REMOVABLE STORAGE

Sony

With the same form factor disks as a 3.5in drive, this could replace your floppy but crams a whopping 200Mb onto each disk. Early units will be parallel-only affairs, but will soon be joined by internal ATAPI and PC Card versions. It's a little slow but easy to use.

PCW March '99, p91

Price £149 Contact Sony 01932 816660 Also Recommended lomega Jaz 2Gb Price £270 Contact lomega 0800 973194 • Imation SuperDisk 120 Price £105 Contact Imation 01344 402200 (both PCW, August '98)

GRAPHICS CARD

Diamond Viper V550

Sporting Riva's latest TNT chipset, the Viper V550 graphics card provides absolutely storming 3D performance, with a full 3D feature set and good image quality to boot. Its 16Mb of RAM provides ultra-high 2D desktop resolutions in standard Windows applications.

PCW November '98, p198



Price Approx £150 Contact Diamond Multimedia 0118 944 4400 Also Recommended MetaByte Wicked 3D Price £211.50 Contact Watford Electronics 01582 745555 (PCW November '98)

Accounting

Intuit

Quickbooks 6

Touted as the easiest accounting package for small businesses, QuickBooks has a long history and a large user base. Version 6 is the first 32-bit incarnation. It even monitors company performance and sounds the alarm should you fall behind.



➡ PCW March 99, p92

Price £199 (Pro version) Contact Intuit 0800 585058 Also Recommended MYOB Price £229.13 Contact Bestware 01752 201901 • TAS Books Price £116.33 Contact Megatech 01372 727274 (both PCW, June '98)

DATABASE

Microsoft

Access 97

This industry-standard database application is also the best. With its wizards, infamous Office Assistants and standard Windows interface, Access 97 is relatively easy for the novice. And its powerful relational features and VBA



integration make it suitable for developers, too.

PCW November '98, p220

Price £299 Contact Microsoft 0345 002000 Also Recommended FileMaker Pro 4 Price £169 Contact FileMaker 0845 603 9100 (PCW November '98)

IMAGE EDITING

Ulead

PhotoExpress 2.0

Ulead has succeeded in removing the frustration factor often involved in getting to grips with digital pictures. PhotoExpress 2.0 is a pleasure to use, with a great, clearly structured interface and fast, in-depth tools. It has pre-set editing



modes for the novice and custom adjustments for each editing function, so the power user will be kept happy, too.

PCW January '99, p202

Price £34.95 Contact BIT 01420 83811 Also Recommended Adobe PhotoDeluxe 3 Price £45.83 Contact Adobe 0181 606 4001 • Paint Shop Pro 5 Price £69.95 Contact Digital Workshop 01295 258335 (both PCW January '99)

PERSONAL FINANCE

Microsoft

Money Financial Suite 99

Microsoft Money Financial Suite 99 is our choice for personal finance. It offers online banking and updating facilities, as well as Sage compatibility, all at a bargain price.

PCW
February '99, p80



Price £49.99 Contact Microsoft 0345 002000 Also Recommended Quicken 98 Price £39.99 Contact Intuit 0181 990 5500 (PCW June '98)

DTP

Serif

PagePlus 5

Inexpensive, easy-touse and surprisingly well equipped, PagePlus 5 offers extremely capable desktop publishing. Those wanting the choice of professional publishers will have to fork out more for Quark XPress 4x.

PCW June '98, p132





Price £99.95 Contact Serif 0800 376 7070

Also Recommended Quark XPress 4 Price £1,169

Contact Quark 01483 454397 (PCW June '98)

DRAWING

Corel

CorelDraw 8

Not one of Corel's classic years, but this is still the Windows drawing package to own. Version 8 of this giant suite boasts better drawing and new interactive tools. Artists on a budget should check out

Micrografx Windows Draw 6.

PCW October '98, p203



Price £464.13 Contact Corel 0800 581028 Also Recommended Adobe Illustrator Price £351.32 Contact Adobe 0181 606 4000 • Freehand Price £327.82 Contact Macromedia 01344 458600 (both PCW October '98)

INFORMATION MANAGERS

Starfish Sidekick 98

The best personal information manager boasts wide customisation abilities as its greatest strength. For heavyweight contact management, you need look no further than Goldmine 4 (see the details panel, below).



PCW August '98, p204

Price £39.99 Contact Starfish 0181 875 4455 nended Goldmine 4 Price £229 Contact AVG 0171 335 2222 (PCW August '98)

REMOTE ACCESS

Traveling Software LapLink Tech

The high-end version of this extremely versatile product, LapLink Tech, has all the features of the standard version but also lets you print from the host machine onto a remote printer, or vice versa, and talk to whoever is using the host machine. It includes anti-virus and hard-disk cloning utilities.



PCW December '98, p233

Price £169.95 Contact Traveling Software 01344 383232 mantec pcAnywhere **Price** £75.08 Contact Symantec 0171 616 5600 (PCW December '98)

PROGRAMMING TOOL

Inprise Delphi 4

Delphi is not a crossplatform product, but does let you build browser-independent web applications. It reaches all the way from RAD business applications to fast graphics using DirectX. It beats Visual C++ on ease of use, and Visual Basic on performance. PCW April '99, p198



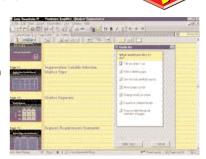
Price from £92 to £1845 Contact Inprise 0118 932 0022

Also Recommended Symantec Visual Cafe Price £217 or £580 Contact Symantec 0181 317 7777 (PCW April '99)

PRESENTATION GRAPHICS

Lotus Freelance 97

This is our choice for electronic presentations. For you, it may also come down to which office suite you own or are considering, but as part of Microsoft Office 97, PowerPoint won't let you down.



PCW March '98, p200

Price £49.35 Contact Lotus 01784 445808 Also Recommended MS PowerPoint 97 Price £325.47 Contact Microsoft 0345 002000 (PCW March '98)

WEB DESIGN

Macromedia

Dreamweaver 2

An attractive and easy to use interface make this great for those looking for something with a little more power. Good table handling, and extensive formatting options on a single, centralised property inspector, make it a joy to use.

PCW April '99, p103



Price £229 Contact Computers Unlimited 01813585857 Also Recommended Adobe PageMill 3.0 Price £92.83 Contact Adobe 01816064000 (PCW March'99)

ANTI-VIRUS

Norton AntiVirus 4.0

Norton AntiVirus 4.0 is our choice for protecting your PC. It offers the best combination of features, ease of use and performance. Its virus detection rate is first class and there are free online updates for the life of the product.

PCW April '98, p124





Price £49 Contact Symantec 0171 616 5600 Also Recommended Dr Solomon's HomeGuard Price £29 Contact Dr Solomon's 01296 318700 (PCW April '98)

Faxback Service

Missed a feature or a review? Try our 24-hour faxback service.

Updated every month, our easy-to-use Faxback service gives you instant access to a complete range of product reviews, features and workshops via your fax machine. To use the service, simply follow the instructions below. Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times, with an average duration of four minutes.

Our service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. (The faxback service is not available outside the UK.)

1 From the choices below, select the article(s) you wish to receive. Note the number of pages in the article.

2 Using the handset on your fax machine, dial 0660 600632. If you do not have a handset, press the fax machine's On Hook or Telephone button, then enter 0660 600632 on the keypad.

There will be a vocal introduction to the Faxback service which will ask you to enter the code of the article(s) you require. The voice will then ask you to press the Start / Send button on your fax machine.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For the faxback service to work correctly, you must be referring to the current issue of *Personal Computer World*, and have your machine set to use tone dialling (you may need to switch your machine from 'pulse'to 'tone').

If you have any problems with the *Personal Computer World* faxback service, please call 0171 412 3795. This helpline is open from 9:00am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday, and calls are charged at the standard rate.

Faxback Tab	le		
PCs and Notebooks	Issue	Pages	Code
Network computers	July-98	9	2002
450MHz PCs	November-98	11	2004
Undercover PC group test	December-98	20	2005
Xeon server round-up	December-98	4	2006
NT Workstations and Windows 2000 preview	March-99	11	2007
Notebooks (budget, high-end & ultra slim)	March-99	9	2008
HARDWARE GROUP TESTS	Issue	Pages	CODE
17in monitors	April-98	10	2102
PDAs and handhelds	May-98	14	2103
Sound cards	July-98	11	2104
Removable storage	August-98	5	2105
Budget flatbed scanners	September-98	9	2107
Digital cameras	October-98	12	2108
3D graphics cards	November-98	12	2109
Communications hardware	December-98	11	2110
Digital video	January-99	13	2111
Laser printers	February-99	12	2112
Colour inkjets	February-99	8	2113
USB & 1394	March-99	7	2114
SOFTWARE GROUP TESTS	Issue	PAGES	CODE
Presentation tools	March-98	9	2202

PCW Faxback number: 0660 600632

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Faxback Tab	P (cont'd)		
Taxback Tab			
Programming tools	April-98	11	2203
Anti-virus	April-98	9	2204
Accounting and personal finance	June-98	11	2205
Desktop publishing	June-98	12	2206
Information / contact managers	August-98	10	2207
Utilities	September-98	8	2208
Speech recognition	October-98	5	2209
Drawing (illustrative and technical)	October-98	11	2210
Databases	November-98	10	2211
Communications	December-98	10	2212
Image editing (budget)	January-99	11	2213
Image editing (high end)	February-99	8	2214
Web authoring tools	March-99	12	2215
HANDS ON WORKSHOPS	Issue	PAGES	CODE
Client server databases part 1	April-98	3	2305
Client server databases part 2	May-98	3	2306
Client server databases part 3	June-98	4	2307
Client server databases part 4	July-98	4	2308
Client server databases part 5	August-98	4	2309
Colour management	September-98	4	2310
Instant messaging	November-98	3	2311
Notebook tips	November-98	3	2312
Linux part 1	January-99	3	2313
Linux part 2	February-99	3	2314
Linux part 3	March-99	3	2315
Web site construction part 1	March-99	3	2316
SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOPS	ISSUE	Pages	CODE
Choosing the right comms	August-98	5	2401
Building a small network	September-98	5	2402
E-commerce for small business	October-98	5	2403
Building your own web server	November-98	6	2404
Marketing your web site	December-98	4	2405
The euro and your business	January-99	4	2406
Hubs and network starter kits	February-99	4	2407
Firewalls and Net protection	March-99	3	2408
GENERAL FEATURES	Issue	PAGES	CODE
Women and IT	February-98	4	2501
Year 2000 solutions	February-98	7	2503
PCs for home entertainment	March-98	5	2504
Education and IT	March-98	4	2505
Virtual museums	April-98	4	2506
PCW 20th Anniversary special	May-98	36	2507
Computers against crime	August-98	3	2511
PCW Service & Reliability survey	October-98	12	2513
IT and Formula 1	October-98	5	2514
Encryption technologies	November-98	4	2515
Wireless technology	December-98	5	2518

PCW Faxback number: 0660 600632