



Silver Machine

While other manufacturers continue to produce ever larger and more vulgar speakers, Sony has done its usual trick of outclassing all of them. The SRS-Z1000PC speakers are small but superbly made. They're clad in a weighty metal housing, and the drive units look like mini versions of real hi-fi speakers. They've got two inputs, so you can hook up your computer and your hi-fi at the same time. The lack of a subwoofer is made up for by the sheer quality of the drive units.

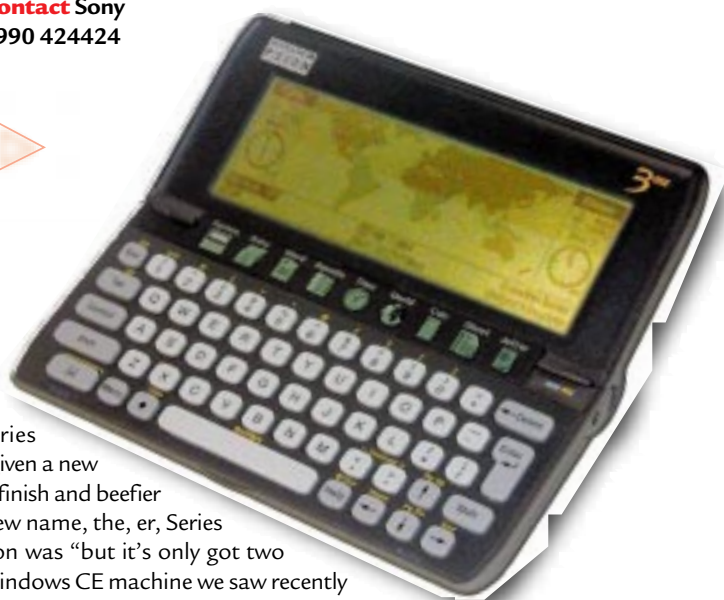
Price £147 (£125 ex VAT)
Contact Sony
0990 424424

Back to the Future



Look familiar? Everyone loves retro, but this is an oldie with a new twist. Psion's series 3a/3c design has been given a new lease of life with a sexier finish and beefier processor, plus a fab new name, the, er, Series 3mx. Our initial reaction was "but it's only got two megs of memory!" A Windows CE machine we saw recently had 10 times that. But who needs 20Mb in a PDA? Nobody, that's who, except maybe mad people.

Price £269.95 (£230 ex VAT)
Contact Psion 0990 143050
www.psion.com



Blue Condition

Cor! In our opinion, a boring-old server has absolutely no business looking this sexy. For that's what it is — the CobaltMicro Qube is a Pentium 200, designed as a basic small business internet/intranet and email server for installation with the minimum of fuss. But that means it's liable to be shoved in a corner and forgotten about, which would be verging on criminal. The little sweetie's less than a foot square, so we'd be tempted just to stick it on a shelf and look at it. Full review next month.

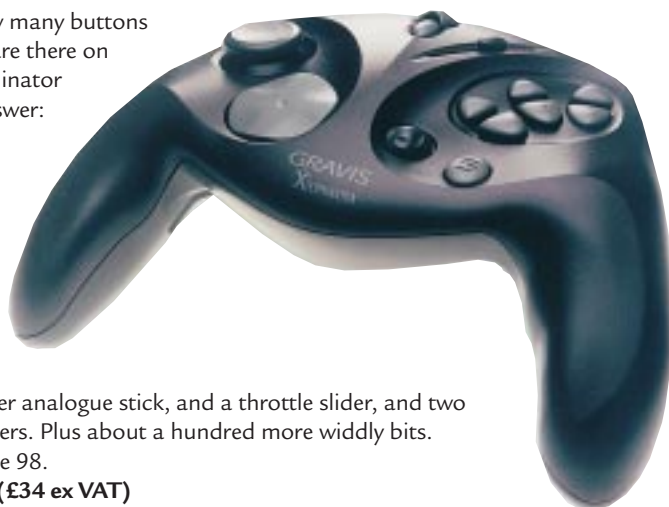
Price From £935 (£795 ex VAT)
Contact Mintra 0161 256 4030
www.cobaltmicro.com

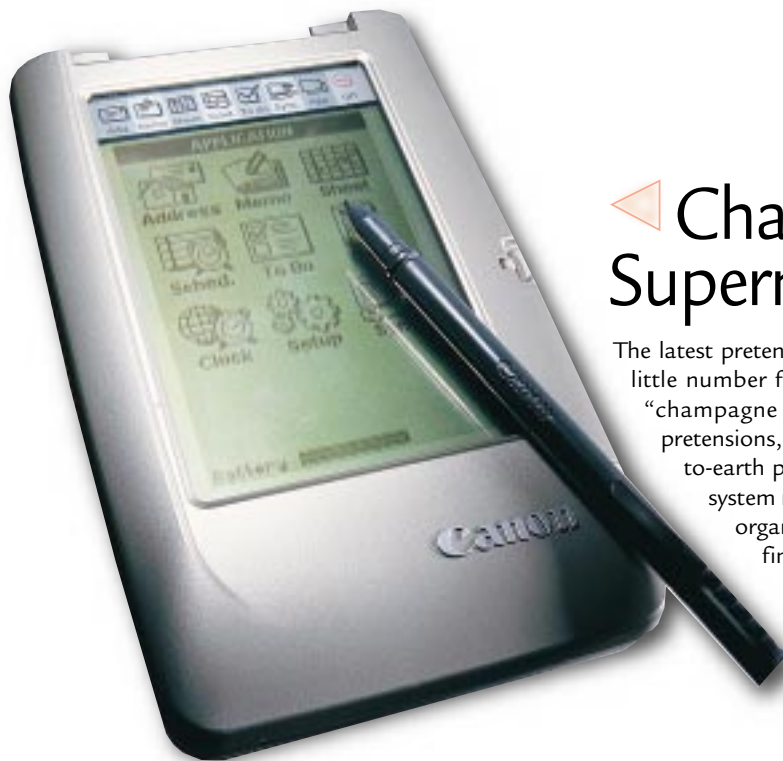
Digit(al) Joy

Question: how many buttons and switches are there on a Gravis Xterminator gamepad? Answer: loads, but we kept losing count.

"Festooned" is a word that springs to mind — with buttons, that is. And a proper analogue stick, and a throttle slider, and two analogue flippers. Plus about a hundred more widdly bits. Review on page 98.

Price £39.95 (£34 ex VAT)
Contact Gravis 0800 252359 www.gravis.com





◀ Champagne Supernova

The latest pretender attempting to wrest Psion's PDA crown is this little number from Canon. The colour is officially described as "champagne gold" — 'nuff said. But despite its high-society pretensions, it's a good-old East End lad at heart with a down-to-earth price, running as it does on Canon's own operating system rather than Windows Palm CE. This puts it into the organiser rather than palmtop-computer league, which is fine if that's all you want from your handheld.

Price £150 (£128 ex VAT)

Contact Canon 0181 451 6600

www.canon.co.uk

The White Stuff ▶

Despite the fact that the internet's bandwidth is decreasing rather than improving, companies continue to try and tell us that internet video cameras are a Good Idea. At least Logitech has put some flair into the design of the QuickCam Home. It's pushing the camera not as an internet videoconferencing tool, but as a means of sending "video email", and has done some clever things with compression and such-like to reduce file sizes. Who knows, it could catch on.

Price TBC **Contact** Logitech 0181 308 6582 www.logitech.com



◀ Kids' Stuff

If, like one particular member of PCW's editorial team, you spent your entire childhood sitting cross-legged in front of an enormous box of plastic building bricks absorbed with constructing an even bigger car/spaceship/robot than the last one, this will make your day. Merge the sad hobby of your childhood, i.e. Lego, with the sad hobby of your adulthood, i.e. computers, and *voilà!* You have Lego Mindstorms, the best reason yet to find a partner and produce sprogs. Review on page 92.

Price £160 (£136 ex VAT)

Contact Lego 0845 606 2043

www.legomindstorms.com

Filmtastic ▶

More retro! Only this time it's unintentional, we think. The Panasonic DVD-L10 is a bang-up-to-date portable DVD movie player.

Only it looks just like CD players from the time when TV presenters were unaccountably spreading peanut butter on the discs and trying to convince us that this was a real advantage of the format. But whatever, it's so hip and happening and now and trendy that our esteemed Editor himself has deigned to review it on page 91.

Price £999 (£850 ex VAT)

Contact Panasonic 0990 357357

www.panasonic.co.uk

