

## GROUP TESTS

**TIME 550-3t SV:**  
This Pentium III  
system could  
take pride of place  
in any home  
**p162**



## 138 Ultimate Home PCs

"Bring me the finest PCs known to humanity!" you may well ask. Will Head and Riyad Emeran are only too happy to oblige.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>140</b> Big Red Computers<br>REDi/R500<br>Dan Technology Dantum<br>CEL500/PS | <b>152</b> Mesh Computers<br>Matrix 500CW<br>Panrix Athlon 550  |
| <b>141</b> Dell Dimension XPS 75<br>Elonex ProSentry 2000                       | <b>157</b> Quantex Microsystems<br>Game 500 XE<br>Home networking with HAVi                                 |
| <b>144</b> Gateway Performance 450<br>Hi-Grade Computers Ultis<br>PVIII         | <b>162</b> Simply Computers<br>Systemax 3500<br>Time Computers 550-3t SV                                    |
| <b>149</b> Inetdata Viking Ecstasy<br>Mertec Computers Extreme<br>K6-III 450    | <b>165</b> SYSmark and 3DMark test<br>results<br><b>166</b> Table of features<br><b>170</b> Editor's Choice |



## 172 Accounting software

Accounting software can take much of the pain out of keeping track of your finances. And why pay someone else?

- 174 Company accounting software:** DO\$H CashBook, BestWare MYOB, Pegasus Capital Lite, Intuit QuickBooks 6, Sage Instant Accounting, TAS Books Accounting
- 174** Creating a company; nominal ledger accounts  
**176** Purchase ledger accounts  
**178** Sales ledger accounts  
**178** VAT handling  
**181** Help and Drill down  
**182 Personal accounting software:** Intuit Quicken 2000, Microsoft Money  
**183** Choosing the right package and Year 2000 compliance  
**184** Table of features  
**185** Editor's Choice

## FEATURES

### 116 Service and reliability survey

Meeting and buying your dream PC package is only the first part. As in any relationship, what affects the quality of that experience is the reliability and support available. Eira Hayward and Bobby Pickering find out which companies come up trumps after you part with your hard-earned cash



See how the HP DeskJet 970Cxi fares in a business context

**p133**

### 132 Colour printing

At a time when the price of high-quality, colour printers are plummeting into the realms of affordability, few small businesses can now do without one. Roger Gann looks at what's on offer to keep all your printing needs in-house.

### 31 Psion Series 7

We take a first look at Psion's new mini notebook.



## 188 Scanners

For under £200, any one of these 12 scanners could. Jason Jenkins puts them through their paces.

- 190** Agfa Snapscan 1212U, Black Widow 9636 USB, Canon Canoscan FB620U  
**191** Epson GT-7000 USB, Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 4200C, Microtek Phantom C6  
**194** Microtek ScanMaker X6, Mustek ScanExpress 600CU, Mustek ScanExpress 1200 USB  
**195** Primax Colorado USB 9600, Primax Colorado USB 19200, Umax Astra 2000USB  
**196** Table of features  
**199** Labs test results  
**200** Editor's Choice



## 203 Monitors

We look over some of the latest 17in and 19in displays. Is Iiyama still ahead of the pack?

- 204** Iiyama Vision Master Pro 410  
LG Flatron  
795FT Plus  
**207** Mitsubishi  
Diamond Pro 710  
Samsung  
SyncMaster 700IFT  
**208** Sony GDM-F400T9  
Taxan Ergovision 980  
**213** Editor's Choice



### REVIEWS

#### NEW PRODUCTS

- 73 Carrera Octane Frio**  
Fastest PC ever
- 76 Paint Shop Pro 6 beta 5**  
All you need for graphic work
- 78 Encarta Reference Suite 2000**  
Exclusive review of Microsoft's reference library 
- 80 Amari R3K-600 MP2**  
Video-editing workstation
- 81 Advent 8707**  
Linux PC
- 84 Gateway Solo 9300**  
Desktop replacement notebook
- 84 Sony Cyber-shot**  
2.1 mega-pixel digital camera
- 86 NEC Teammate Express**  
Desktop PC disguised as a server?
- 88 Delphi 5**  
Windows development platform
- 91 Fujifilm MX-2900 Zoom**  
Top-range, feature-packed camera
- 91 Canon BJC-5100**  
Home and office A3 printer
- 92 McAfee First Aid 2000**  
Problem-solving software
- 92 3Com Palm V modem**  
Reliable, pocket-sized connectivity
- 95 HP DeskJet 970Cxi**  
Quality printer with speedy results
- 95 Sony Multiscan CPD-L181**  
Large TFT display
- 96 HP OfficeJet R45**  
Multi-functional printer
- 96 Philips Nino 500**  
Stylish and useful handheld
- 100 Xircom CompactCard Ethernet 10**  
Networking hardware
- 100 Adaptec SlimSCSI 1460**  
WinCE SCSI interface
- 102 Lotus SmartSuite 9.5**  
Great-value office suite
- 105 Web Page Construction Kit 5.0 Deluxe**  
Online publishing suite
- 106 Sybase SQL Anywhere Studio**  
Database software suite

#### HEAD TO HEAD

- 112 Print vs electronic publishing**  
Which of the two media will go the distance in this six-round bout?

### REGULARS

- 9 Editorial**
- 10 Subscriptions & Back Issues**
- 12 Cover Disc Notes**  
A full version of **Lotus SmartSuite 97**, and a copy of **UK Info Disk**
- 27 News & Analysis**  
Psion's series 7 and NetBook mobiles; Tiny dumps free PC offer
- 66 Letters**
- 70 Gadgets**
- 214 Best Buys**
- 283 Futures**  
Increasing mobile network data rates and microscopic, organic computers
- 540 Faxback Service**
- 542 Reader Offers**
- 546 Competitions**  
**WIN!** a copy of Voice Xpress Pro or a copy of Omniform 4.0.
- 548 Flashback**
- 550 Projects & Resources**
- 552 Retro**

### LEISURE LINES

- 274 News**
- 275 Screenplay**  
C&C: Tiberian Sun, Microsoft International Football 2000, Dungeon Keeper 2, Descent 3, Braveheart, Ultima Online, International Cricket Captain 2
- 279 CD-ROMs**  
Backstreet Boys: Moving Puzzle, The Hutchinson History Reference Suite, Masters of the Elements, Thumbs Plus 4.0
- 281 Books**

### COLUMNS

- 57 Inside Information**  
The third-generation mobile road leads Gordon Laing to Guildford
- 61 Straight Talking**  
Barry Fox asks why Compuserve's CS 2000 arrived almost unnoticed
- 62 Business Matters**  
Brian Clegg says BT should make local phone calls free
- 64 Out of Site**  
Paul Smith gives some advice to BT over our dependency on ISDN

### 285 Direct Buyers' World

- 293 Buying Advice & Buyers' Charter**
- 521 Micromart**
- 535 Directory of Product Suppliers**
- 538 Index of Advertisers**



- 221 Introduction**  
A look at this month's features
- 222 Year 2000: PDAs**  
How organised will your PDA be when the millennium rolls around?
- 225 Internet**  
Nigel Whitfield explains how to prepare for high-speed net access
- 229 Windows**  
Tim Nott shares tips on toolbars and graphics previews
- 234 Web Development**  
A beginners' introduction to Perl
- 238 Windows NT**  
Andrew Ward fixes links and sizes a server
- 242 PDAs**  
Happiness is trouble-free data transfer, says Mark Whitehorn
- 245 Unix**  
Chris Bidmead explains the ins and outs of the Linux software-packaging system
- 248 OS/2**  
Terence Green provides pointers for new drivers and other software
- 250 Word Processing**  
Tim Nott explores Calendars, characters and Word 2000
- 252 Spreadsheets**  
Pivot tables can be a useful tool for producing summaries
- 254 Databases**  
Mark Whitehorn unlocks the key to successfully managing data, when your users have gone mobile
- 256 Hardware**  
Experimenting with resolutions is vital for great scanner results
- 260 Sound**  
Steven Helstrip shares some of the techniques he uses in his own music and the joys of plug-ins
- 262 Graphics & DTP**  
Ken McMahon explains how to hide the joins in tiled backgrounds
- 264 3D Graphics**  
Benjamin Woolley employs a cinematic approach to create top-quality animations on the PC
- 266 Visual Programming**  
There are a variety of tools to help take the work out of delivering your data to printer and screen
- 271 Mac**  
Cliff Joseph reports from the US on how you can confidently take to the air with cordless networking
- 272 Networks**  
Bob Walder explains how to get around an ID crisis when communicating with other networks