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NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 68 December 1998 & January 1999

DECEMBER 3rd Competition

This year the competition is divided into three catagories, MicroDesign, LocoScript and Other. Your entries have to be available for this meeting. In other words either bring them along on the night or send them to me to arrive at the latest on this day. It is only a bit of fun so why not join in and enter a piece of your work. Good Luck!

At last we are able to let our members with PcW 16 machines have the proposed starter pack. PcW 16 members should have this item enclosed with this newsletter. If you fall into this catagory and have not received it, please send a 31p stamp self addressed envelope (To suit an A5 booklet C4) and we will send it to you by return. If you are a member who has purchased one of these machines when you already belonged to the club and would like a copy of thes booklets I am afraid you will have to pay for them. Price £1.00 with a 31p stamp self addressed envelope.

As you will see from our last newsletter, the clubs helpline has started, we could certainly do with additional helpers. You really are not expected to be **totally expert** but having a fair understanding of a particular subject and able to assist someone who may be stuck and want some help. Why not drop me a line if you feel this could be you.

This newsletter as you will see from the heading covers the months December and January. From your committee may we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

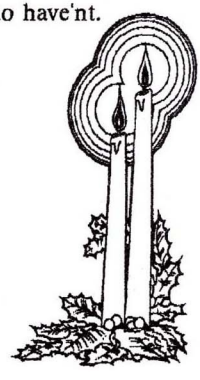
By the way, have you renewed your subscription? a friendly word of advice, we will be sending round *the boys* to those who have'nt.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

JANUARY: Competition Results and Prize Giving
followed by
LocoFile

FEBRUARY: Fundamentals of LocoScript Part 1

MARCH: Fundamentals of LocoScript Part 2



Chairman's Chatterings

You have just upgraded from LocoScript 1 or 2 to LocoScript 3 or 4 and all your documents come out looking like this. If you type a word like MINIMUM all the letters overlap each other or there's horrible great gaps between words.

If you turn justification off then the letters line up in columns just like they used to do when you used a typewriter. What *has* gone wrong?

A little background to begin: when the PCW 8256 first came out it had a built-in dot matrix printer which could print at 10, 12, 15 or 17 characters per inch across the paper, in either draft or NLQ (near letter quality) mode. These could also be printed in double width (not to be confused with *double strike* which is a sort of bold).

Ten pitch, or 10 characters per inch, is sometimes referred to as *Pica* (from the printers' Pica or 12pt type), whilst 12 pitch may be called *Elite* meaning smaller or daintier (than Pica), nearer 10pt. The other two are both confusingly called condensed (and the 17 pitch is actually 16.666 c.p.i!)

Note that these are all a fixed number of characters per inch (cpi) and all the letters across the page lined up vertically (unless you set Justify on). The individual letters are distorted, the **i** and **l** being made to look the same width as the compressed **M** or **W**.

In addition, there was the further option of *proportionally spaced* (PS) letters, about the same average pitch as Elite, but these characters *were* of varing widths as with printers' type.

Now proportionally spaced characters, where each is of its natural width, must not be confused with *justification*, which is where the left and right margins are *both* straight and vertical, and the *spaces* between the words vary according to the line length and the number of words.

When the 9512 came along with Loco 2 and its daisy wheel printer most print-wheels were 10 pitch and the defaults assumed you would use 10 cpi in templates and the resultant documents. The standard supplied wheel was England Pica, meaning 10 pitch letters with symbols such as the £ sign used in England rather than the ß used in Germany. You could get 12 pitch wheels and the excellent proportionally spaced Thesis (which looks quite good if justified) but the assumed standard was 10 cpi Pica.

The major advance which came with LocoScript 3 was the introduction of LX fonts which were proportionally spaced, just like printers' type *and* they came in different point sizes (heights) as did type. This meant that your text was no longer limited to the standard six lines per inch vertically as did the earlier dot matrix and daisywheel printers and, indeed, the earlier typewriters (in turn based on Pica printers' type which was one sixth of an inch high).

When you install LocoScript 3 or 4 you are invited to insert your old start-of-day disc for the program to copy your old templates across to the new start up disc. These will still assume 10 pitch at 6 lines to the inch (unless otherwise modified).

When you start your first document in Loco 3 or 4 you will probably find that 10 point LX Roman is the default font 0. You can change this to, say, 10pt Sanserif with [+] F 2 but the Character Pitch will remain at the default 10 cpi and the Line Pitch is still 6 lines per inch. If you increase the size of the type with [+] PT 18 the vertical distance between each line of type remains at 6 lines per inch and lines will overprint one on top of the other. Just because you have selected the new fancy LX fonts does not mean that everything else changes to suit as well.

You can make these changes yourself at the beginning of the document (but *much* more sensibly by editing the Template.Std *via* f1 Actions, Document setup, f2 Layout, Change stock layouts, 1) as follows:

[+] **F 0-3** selects the Fonts, depending on what you selected at installation. If you installed more than four use f1 Actions, Document setup, f6 Printing, [Enter] to pick another from the list presented. If the chosen font is an **LX** font then:

[+] **PI PS** tells the program that you want the PItch for a Proportionally Spaced typeface so that the characters are printed out at their natural, varying, widths (and not as the first paragraph at the beginning).

[+] **PT 6-72** determines the PoinT size, depending on what you installed. LocoScript will pick the nearest available if you ask for a size not on the disc. As soon as you change from the usual default 10 pt:

[+] **LP A** changes the Line Pitch to Automatic (no longer 6 or 8 lines per inch). LocoScript adds a couple of points to the point size to give a little space between the lines and, every time you press [Return], the text moves down *automatically* to the start of the next line at which text will not overprint the line above it. Watch the line counter in the top right hand corner, which still counts in lines of six to the inch.

Experiment with these changes by taking a test print and noting where it has improved the layout. Show the position and status of the various codes on screen with **f8** [+] (and ✓ Codes will be ticked).

There are those who complain that, when using LX fonts in the smaller sizes, the text disappears off the right hand edge of the screen even though they can see the right hand margin on the ruler above. This is because LX fonts are, on average, rather narrower than typewriter style fonts and you therefore get more letters to a printed line. The screen attempts to show how the printed page will appear. **Do not** put a [Return] <-┘ when the text gets to the edge or you'll have some very strange results.

In essence your lines are too long for the type size you are using. As a rule of thumb, lines should be no more than 55–65 lower-case (small) letters wide or the eye loses its place when coming down to the beginning of the next line. Increase the typesize at the start of the document or paragraph with [+] PT and then press [Relay]. Note also that lines will look much wider on screen than they really are if the codes are visible and you can see, for example, (+Bold) or (+Italic) in among the text on the screen.

If you really insist on cramming all this much small type onto the printed page but still want to see it all on the screen then insert, for example, (+Point14) on the first line of typing. The text will wrap around much sooner on the screen because there will be fewer characters per line on a page. Then, when you have finished typing, but *before* saving and printing, use [Alt] [Doc] to go to the top line, delete the (+Point14) code and [Relay] the text. *Then* save and print. If the larger font is not available, inserting [+] PI 10 instead of [+] PT 14 will have much the same effect, but you must delete the (+PItch10) code at the end.

Mike Elliston

SMALL ADS.

PCW Machines Complete

8256 Standard Machine £40:00
9256 Excellent like new £75:00
9512 Modified 3½"Drive £90:00
Packing and Carriage Extra

BOOKS & MANUALS

LocoScript 2 Manual with 3.0" Disc	£8:00
Using Dr Logo on the Amstrad Martin Sims	£5:00
Amstrad CP/M Plus Clarke & Powys-Lybbe rare book!	£12:50
LocoFile Manual ring bound	£6:00
LocoScript 2 with Mail/File & Spell Ian Sinclair	£5:00
Step by Step CP/M John Campbell	£5:00
LocoScript 1 & 2 Martin Poidevin	£5:00
Newsdesk International Manual	£4:00
The Desktop Publisher Manual	£4:00
Micro Design 2 Manual	£6:00

Contact:-
David Lalieu
10, Sheridan Avenue
Thundersley, Essex, SS7 1RD

Tele. (01702) 551618
Fax same number by arrangement

Various Items for Sale

9512 'B' drive with cage and screws (will fit F.O.C if asked nicely)	£15:00
Sage Accounts Plus Complete (Accounts and Invoicing)	£6:00
Sage Chit-Chat Combo (complete)	£4:00
Scrabble (complete)	£4:00
The Pawn (complete)	£4:00
Head Coach (complete)	£3:00
Stop Press reference manual	£2:00
9512 original user manual	£6:00

Postage extra on all items

John King Rainham Essex
Tel. 01708 630477

Amstrad 9256 Printer excellent £10:00 keyboard £5:00 o.n.o

ZX Microdrive plus QL Cartridges unused plus pair Stears Video Arcade 11 joysticks plus keyboard all for £20:00 640 Colour Monitor £10:00

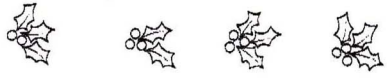
Amstrad Wordstar for 1512 unused with manual, six discs £10:00 o.n.o

5125 keyboard £5:00 1512 Colour Monitor £10:00 Five PCW Printers, Epson, Citizen, Oki at £10:00 each. Vast number of 5¼" discs Make me an offer on any items!

Contact: P. Phelps (01708) 477017) evenings

Wanted and for Sale

Can anybody local service or supply a replacement, Dot Matrix printer for a PcW 9256? please notethis is not the same printer that is supplied with the 8000 machines. The bail arm no longer grips the paper, it seems the return springs are broken.

I would like to purchase, at mutually advantageous prices, a 1.5Mb SCA MINI-RAM pack; this is the version which looks externally, like the LocoScript Power Pack. Please include delivery as I have mobility/lifting problems

Kieth Bull Southend Tel. 01702 339894