

British Amstrad PCW Club NEWSLETTER

Issue No 84

Notice

Small advertisements of PCW Sales or Wants are accepted free of charge from both members and non-members, on the understanding that advertisements will be included in the next available issue of the *Newsletter* as space permits and not by a specific date. Advertisements must include a telephone number and a town or locality, or a full postal address. E-mail addresses may also be included but the advertisement must indicate the town or district from which goods are to be collected.

Small advertisements should be sent to the *Newsletter* editor, by either post or e-mail, and are published free as a service to Club members. The Club will not be a party to any transaction and can not be held responsible for the quality of goods or services provided by the advertisers.

A copy of the *Newsletter* in which the announcement is published will be sent to any advertiser on request if a stamp or SAE is included with the advertisement.

Readers' Letters

I get asked why we don't publish Readers' Letters in either the *Disc Drive* or the *Newsletter*. The answer is that we will publish them if you send them in! Have you solved a PCW problem or learned a new tip? Send it in to one of the editors and let everyone know about it.

British Amstrad PCW Club Committee

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Please note that not all committee members can access their e-mail on a daily basis

PCW Disc Conversions

Following the recent article on converting PCW discs to PC versions, *PcwToday* has advertisements for PCW to Windows disc conversions from the following:

Beamish Business Machines,
14 Lower Richmond Road, Putney,
London SW15 1JP. Tel. 0208 785 3208,
e-mail: mail@bemish.com.
Rates are £12 for the first disc and £8 each thereafter.

Linda Haynes. Tel. 01306 730074.
Rates are £10 for the first disc and £6.50 each for the next four.

Dave's Disc Doctor Service,
Tel. 01892 835974, web site:
<http://www.diskdoctor.co.uk>,
e-mail: daves@diskdoctor.co.uk.
No rates are given but all profits go to charity. However, I'm not sure if he is still in the PCW market though; you'll have to check.

Trevor Laycock, 7 North Street,
Anlaby, Hull HU10 7DD.
Tel 01482 650648, fax 01482 653438,
e-mail: hcp@acs.karoo.co.uk.
No rates are given.

None of the above are recommendations, this is simply a list of advertisers for our members who may not wish to undertake the transfers themselves.

If any of our members are prepared to offer a similar facility please send in details of disc sizes, costs per disc, turn-around time, name and address, etc, and it can be published in the Club's *Newsletter* as a service to our members.

PcW16 Users Starter Pack

The Club has prepared a Starter Pack for users of the PcW16. This consists of two booklets: 'Using the PcW16—A Handbook for Beginners' and 'PcW16 Frequently Asked Questions'.

The first is sixteen pages of A5 written by Esther Welch. It explains each of the capabilities of the PcW16, the address book, the diary and alarm, word processing, etc. It gives examples of templates and advises on adding style to documents. It explains the various menus: insert, view and edit, and document menus.

There is an introduction to the spreadsheet and, exclusively, the *Account Manager* program written especially for the PcW16 by Creative Technology and the *Inventory Master* program from Comsoft. Other programs highlighted are John Elliott's *CP/M Emulator* for the PcW16 and John Cragg's *Writers' Desk*.

The second booklet is 24 A5 pages consisting of the text of the Questions and Answers file written by the Amstrad PcW16 Development Team. There is a lot of additional information and hints and tips which do not appear in the original manual. It explains the Word Match program and the Data List program which come free on the PcW16 Rescue Disc.

The Starter Pack is available to club members for £1.00 including p&p. The latest issue of the Rescue Disc, version 1.13, is available exclusively from the Club, also for £1.00 *plus a PcW16 disc*. Please send your cheque, made payable to the **British Amstrad PCW Club**, (and a disc for the Rescue Disc) to Mike Elliston, address as on front page. **The club can not accept Postal Orders** as the bank will not handle them, so please don't send them.

An Open Letter from the Committee

The *Disc Drive* operates a free exchange advertisement with *PcwToday* magazine; one whole page advertisement for the other magazine in each issue. This is because *PcwToday* is the only other magazine, devoted to the PCW user, available for readers and our members may find articles or advertisements in *PcwToday* which will be of use to them. The Club also receives a free copy of *PcwToday* for its archives and copies of the *Disc Drive* are sent in return. However, the Club is not affiliated to *PcwToday* nor does it publish it.

The following message is printed on the Contents page of each issue of the *Disc Drive*: "All advertisements in the *Disc Drive* are taken in good faith but the Club can not be held responsible for the quality of service or the goods provided by the advertisers or their agents".

Members of the Committee who are personal subscribers to *PcwToday* received their copy of issue 14, dated October 2000, in October or November last but without the cover disc (which is an extra subscription). This contains an apology for delays in publication and supply of the cover discs.

We are advised that Adrian Braddy, the publisher of *PcwToday*, had a car accident last year and that this may be the reason for the delays in supply of the cover disc, further issues of the magazine and replies to correspondence but are not in a position to add to this statement. The Chairman has submitted a number of pieces of software for inclusion which have not yet been distributed on the cover disc; his own personal subscription cheque sent last October had not been cashed by mid February this year.

Adrian has a telephone answering machine because he has to travel from home quite frequently: this answerphone number is: 01642 823117. The answer message refers to a mobile telephone: this mobile number is 07712 974035.

The website for the magazine is www.pcwtoday.co.uk and the e-mail address is editorial@pcwtoday.co.uk. His postal address is 150 Oxford Road, Middlesbrough, Teesside TS5 5EL.

It should be noted that whilst Steve Denson may write articles for *PcwToday* the magazine is not published by SD Microsystems Ltd.

The Committee, British Amstrad PCW Club

Late PCW Offers

Free PCW 8256 complete.

Contact R F Sherriff, Park Farm House, Worton, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 5RU. Please phone 01380 725849 to arrange collection.

PCW 8512 with RAM expanded to 2Mb, external Datatwin8 3½" drives, Naksha hand scanner and Canon BJ10sx printer. **Software** includes LocoScript v4.01, LocoScript v3.06, LocoSpell, LocoMail and LocoFile (all v3.06/7); Printer Support Disc for LocoScript 4, LX Symbol fonts for class E and Bonus fonts for classes B, C, E, F & G and all LocoScript manuals. CP/M upgraded to v1.5. All discs are the masters except Loco 3 which is S-o-D. **MicroDesign 3**, Font and Shade Designer v1.13, Tweak v3.02, The Network v1.05 and MD2 v1.60 plus library and Parish Magazine library, all on 3½" discs. Also MDIUG parish magazine library, Symbols and Maps; Mini Office Pro with manual; CrossWord v2, Word Search Generator, Word File Manager and Word File No.1; Protex and Proprint with manuals; Basic 98 versions 1.4 and 2.0; Maxam2 Z80 assembly language compiler with manual; PCW World Target CP/M; *PCW Plus* Tips Collection with manual. **Books:** *8000 Plus* Guide to MD2; All in One Business Computing for Mini Office Pro; PCW Logo Manual; Picture Processing on the Amstrad PCW 8256/8512; Program your PCW; Mallard Basic manual; CP/M Plus Handbook and other Z80 books. £100 the lot or could split. Fred Churchill, 27 Wemborough Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2DU, phone 020 8952 4681. (10% to club funds).

For Sale Hewlett Packard black & white, and colour inkjet printers suitable for use on PCWs (and PCs). All these printers are second hand, mainly 500 or 600 models bought at auction and are sold as seen. All have been cleaned, serviced and tested. Black/white: £35; colour: £45. Contact member Roy Blake on 020 7622 4529 or mobile 07490 254278 (London SW8).

Free to a good home:

One box of PCW 8512 items including:
Two 3½" drives, one suspect;
One 3" drive which needs attention;
One RS232C interface in good condition but may need a battery.;
One printer cable for above;
Two 8512 CPU boards;
LocoScript 3 and 4 discs with manuals;
MicroDesign 3 discs with manuals;
Sixteen CF2 discs, some with utilities;
Phone George Henwood on 01491 872782. (Goring, Thames Valley) to arrange collection. A donation made out to the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity would be appreciated but is not essential.

Late News

Club Member Ken Tether from Malaga in Spain has set up the **Computer Owners Group** for both PCWs and PCs. Meetings are held at the Manila Bar, Paseo Maritimo, Los Boliches on the first and third Monday of each month starting at 11 am and visitors are welcome if in the locality. Annual membership is Pts 2000 with no extra charge for meetings.

Contact Ken on 00 34 95 293 2096, e-mail kaytee@anit.es or Frank Samms on 00 34 670 034 245, e-mail franksamms@hotmail.com or see their website at www.cog.anit.es.

PcW16 Files

The PcW16 uses the unique Rosanne Operating System rather than C/M or DOS, although it does use standard DOS HD discs to store your data (as well as in the cabinet). DOS stands for Disc Operating System and HD means High Density, ie 1.44 Mb as distinct from the earlier 720k DD discs, both used on PCs.

In order to save space in your cabinet PcW16 files are stored in a compressed format and they are also stored in this same compressed format on the floppy discs. Now the PcW16 disc format is simply a DOS disc with one directory name PCW and sub-directories off that named (by default) Folder1, Folder2, etc. This means that you can read files on a PcW16 disc in an IBM compatible PC (not a Mac).

Why is this so important? Well, one day your PcW16 is going to fail and I'm afraid that they are failing more and more often and no-one is prepared to repair them, at least not economically.

If you have saved all your life's work only in the cabinet of your PcW16, *please* save it to disc straight away! However, if you save it in the usual compressed PcW16 file standard, whilst a PC will be able to see the file it will not be able to untangle the compressed file. There are a number of ways around this that will allow a PC to read and understand a PcW16 file.

If it is a word processor document you can Export it as an ASCII 'plain text' file. This is just raw text, as would be output by a typewriter, with no bold, italic or font size information but may be all you need. Alternatively you can Export it as a Rich Text Format file which retains much of the formatting information and which most other PC word processors can retrieve.

Both of these are explained on page 68 of the Manual. Something which does not appear in the Manual but is in the Frequently Asked Questions file included on the latest Rescue Disc is that by use of **Task+Shift+Blue** you can save Word Processor files in an uncompressed format.

If what you have been writing over the last few years is important to you for the future, please save your work onto disc using one of the above three methods so that it can be retrieved on a PC at a later date when the PcW16 fails you. Leave it on the cabinet and it is lost forever. Leave it on a disc in the usual compressed format and it will be unintelligible.

If the work you wish to be able to rescue later is a spreadsheet then, as shown on page 103 of the manual, Export it as a CSV (Comma Separated Variable) file or as a DIF (Data Interchange Format) file. Both of these file formats can be read by most PC spreadsheet programs and, indeed, by SuperCalc II on a PCW. I recall when beta testing the original PcW16 that I had great trouble with one of these—it just hung and did nothing—so I recommend you to save the spreadsheet to the cabinet first and then export it to disc as *both* a CSV and a DIF file. That way one of them should be recoverable later.

Your Address Book can also be saved to a floppy disc as a CSV file as explained on page 119 of the manual although you could import it into a word processor document and then export the information as above.

There seems to be no way of saving the Diary or Calendar information in a form which could be retrieved on a PC for this is stored as an internal function so that the machine can be woken up to sound an alarm at the required moment, but maybe someone out there can comment further.

PCW Offers

Free PCW 9512s.

Harvey Smith has two 9512s looking for a good home for free, you collect.

Dr Harvey Smith, Senior Education Officer, CfBT Education Services, The Chambers, Reading, RG1 4JD or home phone is 0118 948 3944.
hsmith@cfbt.hq.org.uk

Free PCW 9512

I have a PCW 9512 which is free to a good home if you know of anyone who fancies travelling to Lincolnshire for it. The hard drive isn't working, but everything else is - printer/sheetfeeder etc. I don't want to just bin it all. Contact Jen Cooper, telephone 01507 466193 (Alford, Lincs.) or e-mail jencooper@ukonline.co.uk

PCW Software & Hardware for sale

Tweak 3 manual + disc	£5
The Network manual + disc	£5
MicroDesign 2	£3
PCW Mini Office Professional (book + discs) (not originals)	£4
MicroDisplay manual + disc	£5
Masterfile 8000 manual + disc	£5
LocoSpell manual + disc	£3
LocoMail manual + disc	£5
LocoScript 2 manual + disc	£5
PCW 2in1 Ver 2 manual + disc	£5
MD2 graphics & charity fonts	£5
Fontarama	£2
35 x 3" discs used reformatted	£8
PCW Plus magazine various from '91-'96: Complete 94	£5

All prices plus post and packing.
Details from Carolyn on
01376 514416 or 07769 788281 or e-mail:
carolynhobbs_waller@hotmail.com

PCW software on offer:

MD3, 3½", program, library, manual	£10
MD3, 3½" Tutorial disc and manual	£5
SuperCalc 2, 3½" master disc, manual	£5
CP/M v2.15 Upgrade Disc	£2
LocoScript LX fonts, all type G, on 3½" disc, Business, Display, Decorative	£10
3½" Loco4, LocoFile and LocoSpell original discs for PcW9512+	£5
LocoScript3 Guide	£3
PcW9512+ manual (BJ)	£3
Three LocoScript2 books	£5

Contact: Steve Massam, 27 St Marks Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2PY or phone 01702 555398.

Amstrad PCW9512 with keyboard,

approx 10 years old and Daisy-wheel printer, approx six years old, plus PCW 9512 instruction manual, together with LocoScript 2 and CP/M Plus discs and LocoScript 2.29 and CP/M discs. Also LocoFile card index filing system, *Touch and Go* Typing Tutor with instruction leaflet, for use under CP/M, six spare 3" discs, two spare printer ribbon cassettes and a small computer table on castors. Please contact:
Mrs Margaret Hummer, 55 Priors Way, Windsor Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2EN

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