

Developers' Newsletter Supplement to

No 27 - November 1992

Contents:

General News

Acorn Pocket Book - details of Special Offer for Registered Developers
A540 Technical Reference Manual
Viruses
Acorn User Show
Acorn Product Directory

Technical News

ISOForm
BBC Model B Emulator
New RISC OS 3 Support disc
Sprite Display infelicities

News from non-Acorn sources

Killer from Pineapple Software
Joystick extension module from Simon Clay

Enclosures

Developer Support Scheme explanation leaflet
Developer Discount Scheme Price List Acorn Pocket Book Supplement
Acorn Pocket Book Special Offer order form and agreement
Retail Price List
Acorn Video Collection One
Developers' Disc 27
Replay - Minimum hardware requirements

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Acorn 

General News

Acorn Pocket Book

We are pleased to announce the promised Developers' introductory special offer for the Acorn Pocket Book. The contents of the Special Offer are as follows:

AHB03 Acorn Pocket Book
AHA30 A-Link
AHA31 Parallel Link
AHA41 OPL Editor
AHA35 Mains Adaptor

The A-Link allows you to transfer files to your Acorn Archimedes computer from your Acorn Pocket Book while the parallel link provides the means to connect directly to a printer. The OPL Editor provides simple programming facilities. Psion themselves have a comprehensive C Development package, C SDK, for details of which you should contact Psion (Psion UK plc, Alexander House, 85 Frampton Street, London, NW8 8NO).

If you wish to take advantage of the Acorn Pocket Book Special Offer, please send your completed order form, purchase agreement and payment to Developer Support. The offer remains open until 1 March 1993.

Normal Developer Discount prices for the Acorn Pocket Book and for the peripherals are listed on the price list supplement enclosed with this newsletter. Normal ordering procedure should be followed for these items, as explained on the Developers' Discount Scheme Price List, September 1992.

A540 Technical Reference Manual

This Manual is out of print. If you have ordered and paid for a manual but not received it, please contact Developer Support. Alternatively, if you have not ordered the manual

but feel you need the information, we may be able to provide it but will charge a small fee to cover costs.

Retail Price Lists

A copy of Acorn's October 1992 Retail Price List is enclosed for your information.

Acorn Video Collection One

A CD-ROM containing some example Replay files is enclosed with our compliments. Please refer to the Hardware for Replay leaflet also enclosed for details of the hardware you will need to access the CD-ROM.

Please note that the Cumana Chinon CD-ROM drive cannot deliver Replay files at 25 frames per second.

Viruses

The malicious dissemination of computer viruses causes inconvenience to users. Details of how to obtain the virus decontaminator, Killer, are given in the 'News from other sources' section of this supplement.

Acorn User Show

This year's Acorn User Show at Wembley was a great success. Next year, the show, under the new name of The Acorn World Show, will be run by Acorn. If you require details for booking stands, please contact Michael White Associates. The show will be held in October 1993 at Wembley in Hall 1.

Acorn Product Directory

A copy of the Product Directory, as published in October, is enclosed for those Developers to whom a copy has not already been sent.

Technical News

ISOForm

Issue 2 of ISOForm, the CD-ROM formatter, has been released. If you require a copy for CD-ROM development, please contact Developer Support.

BBC Model B Emulator

There was a bug in 65 Emulation discovered on new hardware and fixed in RISC OS 3.10. If you are shipping pre-packaged applications using the 1.60 6502 Emulation your customers may have problems on new hardware (A3010/A3020/A4000).

New RISC OS 3 Support disc

A new Support Disc for RISC OS 3 has just been put into production. The disc contains a new version of NetUtils which corrects problems in RISC OS 3 v 3.10 ROMs with some machines. Otherwise the disc remains the same. If you need a copy please contact Developer Support.

Sprite display infelicities

Applications that allow the import and display of sprites, such as dtp packages, drawing packages, painting packages, may have problems representing sprites that have no palette on screen. This can be resolved by using Wimp_ReadPalette (SWI &400E5) to read all the current Wimp palette settings.

Developers' Disc 27

Developer Disc 27 which is enclosed with this supplement contains the following software:

Request for requesting filetype allocations
Reserve for asking for application names etc. to be reserved

Alloc for requesting the allocation of SWIs, Error blocks etc.
3DWorkRnd the workaround for the WindowManager fault in RISC OS 3 v 3.10

News from non-Acorn sources

Joystick extension module from Simon Clay

Simon has been working on an enhanced Joystick support module, an extension to Acorn's Joystick SWI interface as provided in RISC OS 3. If you wish for details, please contact Simon. His contact details are as follows:

421 Sprowston Road
Norwich
Norfolk
NR3 4EH

Tel: 0603 402819
Fax: 0603 417447

Simon is hoping that games writers will use the calls.

Killer from Pineapple Software

Be aware of viruses!

Over the past year the number of viruses for Archimedes machines has risen steadily (to a present total of 27) punctuated by various incidents where a virus has been

inadvertently shipped with commercial software or on a cover disc.

To ensure the safety of your customers, and your own equipment you should check all master discs and any discs returned by customers using a virus detection/removal utility. Pineapple Software's !Killer is designed for this purpose.

Where freelance or remotely-based programmers contribute to your products, you should also check any discs from them as they arrive.

We cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of using an up-to-date virus detection/removal tool, and of using one from a responsible commercial source.

For details of Killer, contact:

Pineapple Software
39 Brownlea Gardens
Seven Kings
Ilford
Essex
IG3 9NL

Tel: 081 599 1476
Fax: 081 598 2343.

Pineapple's technical support service for the anti-virus software (and viral issues in general) is at PO Box 459, Cambridge, CB1 4QB (Fax 0223 415222).