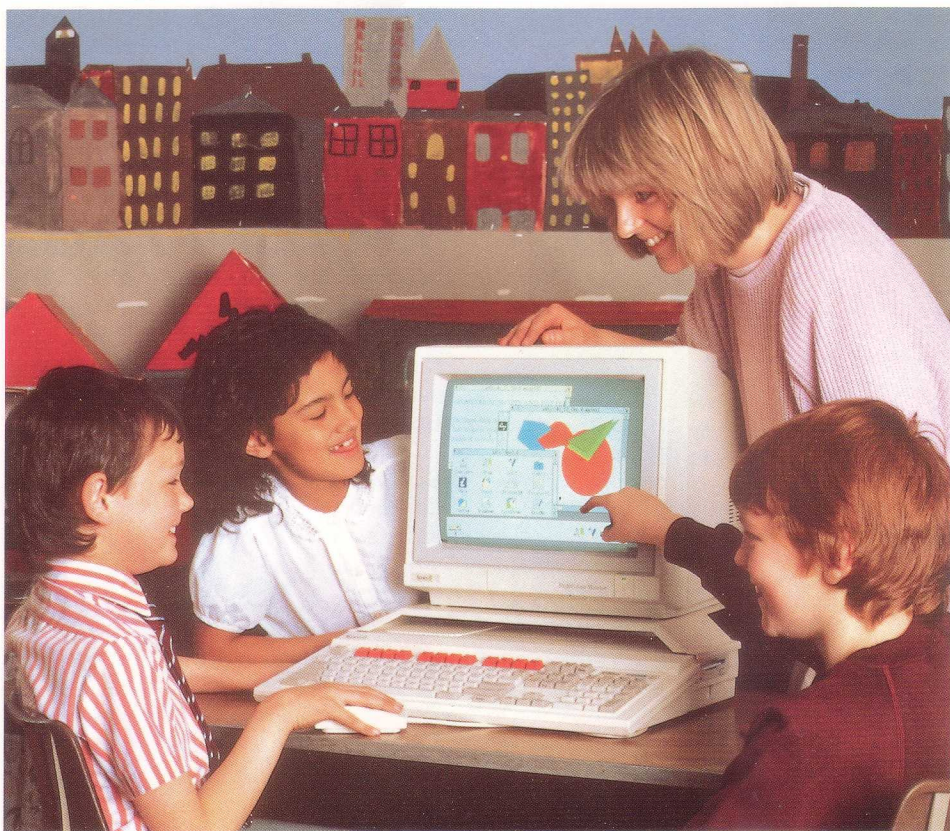


## Announcing a new BBC computer - the Acorn A3000



The A3000, Acorn's new Archimedes computer for primary and secondary education, has been enthusiastically received by education, software producers and the computer press. Since 1982, when the BBC Model B was launched, Acorn has offered outstanding power, performance and ease of use to users in schools and the home. The A3000 once again leads the way with its advanced RISC technology.

The new machine is like the Master 128 in that it incorporates its full PC-style keyboard and processor into a single unit. But in addition the A3000 has an integral 3.5 inch floppy disc drive on the right hand side of the case. The 32-bit RISC chip set has a full 1 Mbyte of fast access RAM, in line with the demand for a memory capacity greater than the inherent 640 Kbyte limitation of MS-DOS. An internal module with a user port allows Concept Keyboards and Midi equipment to be connected to the new machine.

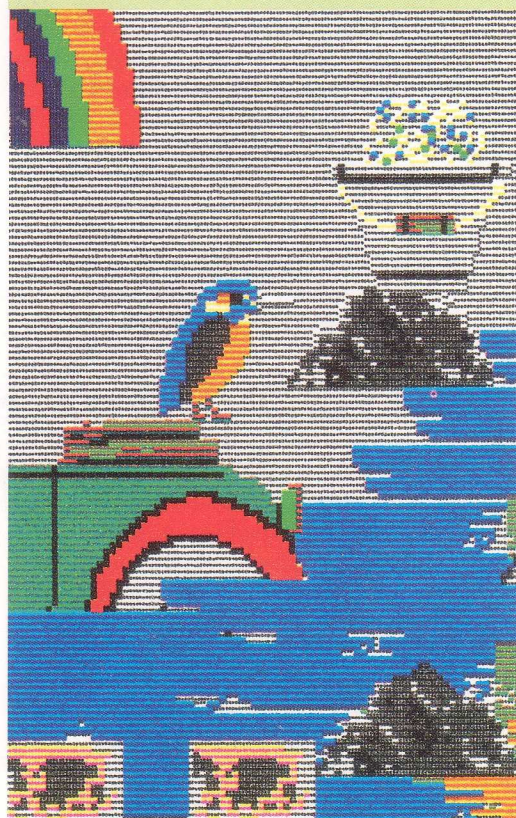
There is full software compatibility with the Archimedes 300 and 400 models. The

6502 emulator allows access to many BBC B and Master 128 software packages (where copyright permits). On top of this, an optional PC Emulator makes it possible to run MS-DOS packages on the machine.

The A3000 retails at just £649 + VAT (educational prices are available through Acorn dealers) so that many more schools, including primary schools, will be able to benefit from 32-bit technology, with powerful sound and graphics and an easy-to-use mouse and pointer interface. The A3000 is being used by peripheral and software developers and is available to LEA's for demonstration and evaluation. The machine can be first purchased at the BBC Acorn User Show at London's Alexandra Palace from 21-23 July.

Mike Matson of 4mation Educational Resources warmly welcomes the A3000. 'I'm delighted that Acorn has launched a machine with such tremendous capabilities for the primary school. Initially 4mation

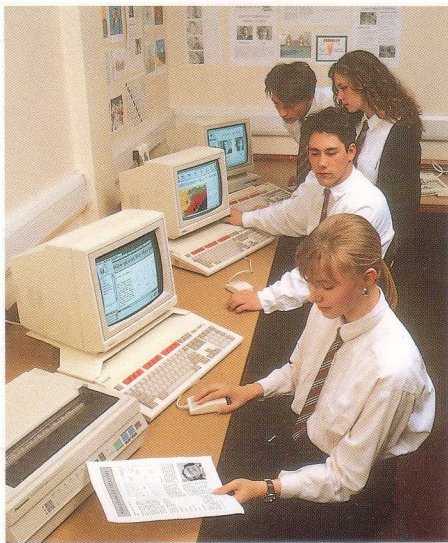
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was wary about producing software for the Archimedes series, but now that I've used one of the machines I can see just how great their potential is for education. It is the second stage in the computer revolution in schools. I am confident we'll see plenty of exciting software very soon.'

Mike is already working on a new Archimedes package that simulates a craft and design workshop and will simulate its users to produce three-dimensional craft-work. Using techniques such as quilling, curve stitching and embroidery, the children design their products on-screen.

The finished artwork can be printed out, used as templates, or displayed in a disc-based 'craft shop'.

Sherston Software is also increasing its range of software for the Archimedes system with an Archimedes version of **Typesetter**, Sherston's popular DTP package for schools. Available in November, **Typesetter +** will be enhanced to take advantage of the power and ease of use of the Archimedes computer. Bill Bonham of Sherston welcomes the announcement of the A3000 and hopes to produce Archimedes versions of Sherston's most popular software titles.

Nick Evans of Resource feels that by taking the power of the Archimedes computer and the WIMP environment into primary schools, the A3000 will fill a gaping hole in the market. 'Many software houses, like us, were waiting for the Archimedes market to be proven. With the advent of the A3000 the Archimedes-based software should flood in.' **Desktop Stories**, a story-telling environment for children aged 8 and above, is Resource's latest package for the primary school. Running on the Archimedes machine, it provides a library of graphics from which children select pictures; they can then add text and backgrounds to build up their own story pages. An Archimedes version of **Dust** –

sequel to **Droom** – that exploits the machine's graphics and sound facilities will be available for the end of the autumn term.

Brian Kennedy of Dudley LEA recently conducted a survey of the Acorn Archimedes, the RM Nimbus, and machines from Atari, Commodore and Apple in a reappraisal of computers in education. As a result of the findings he had determined to recommend the Archimedes 410/1 and the BBC Master as the mainstream computers for schools in his authority. But that was before the announcement of the Archimedes A3000. He will now also recommend the new machine. 'The A3000 is offered to schools at a tremendously attractive price,' Brian explains. 'Other appealing features are the way Archimedes computers, Masters and Beebs can be mixed together and will provide a smooth upgrade path for future expansion.'

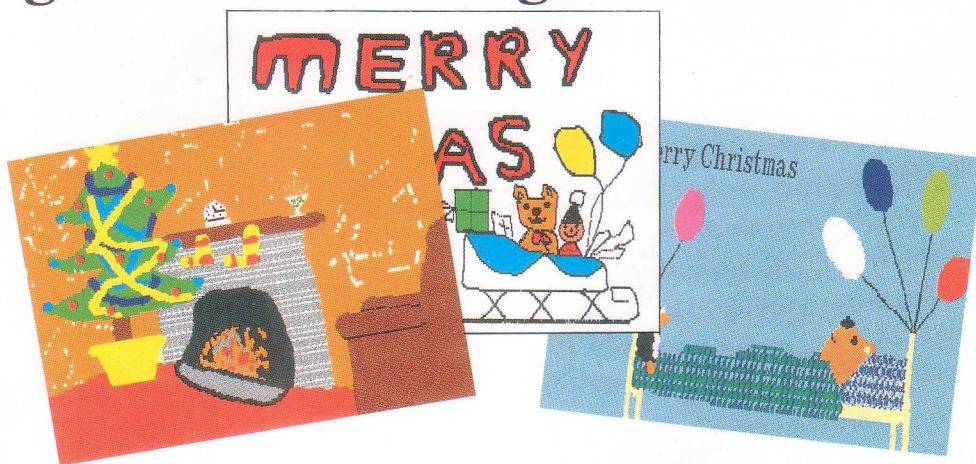
For further details of the Acorn A3000 please contact the Customer Services Department, Acorn Computers Ltd, Fulbourn Road, Cambridge CB1 4JN, or your local Acorn dealer (a member of a 350-strong national network).

## Computer-designed cards bring in the cash

Enterprising youngsters at a Reading primary school produced a range of coloured Christmas cards and sold more than one thousand copies to parents, teachers and friends. Using Clares' **Artisan** package on an Archimedes computer, pupils at Geoffrey Field Junior School designed a dozen different pictures. They then set up a mini-production line, printing out the pictures by the hundred and sticking them onto backing card before setting up shop in the school.

The project started at the beginning of the autumn term when teacher Julia Radford took in some simple commercially-produced Christmas cards to give her pupils some ideas. She then let groups of two or three pupils loose on the computer. 'First they had to learn how to draw with the mouse and create pictures freehand. Once they had mastered this basic technique they began to investigate the other facilities. Some picked up the necessary skills very quickly, others had a bit of difficulty controlling the mouse to start with. But by the end of a half-day session, all the groups were ready to work on their final design.'

The most effective designs, such as an angel appearing to shepherds, a penguin opening presents under the tree, and Father Christmas landing on a roof with



his sleigh piled high with presents, were chosen from the wide variety the children dreamed up.

Commercial printing of the designs proved too expensive, instead, a standard card with the school's logo on one side and a Christmas message on the other was printed at the near-by secondary school. Copies of the designs were printed on an Integrex colour printer. The pupils then stuck them onto the standard cards and slipped them into envelopes.

Since the success of this project the school has purchased two more Archimedes computers, and a second colour printer. The children have already got to grips with the finer points of **Artisan**, using sprites and

the zoom facility to produce extremely satisfying results. The school has just purchased a second program – **Desktop Stories** from Resource. 'The school already has a dozen Beebs and a lot of good software for them. We want to reserve the Archimedes machines for programs that use their capabilities to the full,' explains Mrs Radford. 'Ideally, we would like to have one Archimedes computer and colour printer available for each of the four year groups.'

*Acorn is providing Geoffrey Field Junior School with a copy of the new Acorn Desktop Publisher to help the school to assess how the program can simplify the scaling of drawings and publishing of cards as well as being used for other projects with text and graphics in the future.*

# Snaps and snippets

## Early orders flood in for new Beeb

Just one week after the launch of the new A3000 BBC computer, Acorn had received orders for over 3,000 machines, including an order for 500 machines from Durham Local Education Authority. This enthusiastic response comes despite the fact that the A3000 will not be available in high volume until the BBC Acorn User Show at Alexandra Palace, London, from July 21-23. David Maddox, IT and business studies adviser for Durham, commented on his LEA's order: 'We already use a lot of Acorn machines in our schools, and the new A3000 offers a powerful, cost-effective route for the future. It can deliver the performance required to implement fully the TVEI and national curriculum requirements.'

## Australian IT advisers take to the hills

This year the Australian IT advisers held their annual get-together in a hiking lodge on Cradle Mountain, Tasmania. Organized by Acorn distributor Barsons Computers, the group was bussed up a perilously winding dirt track to a hill-top chalet. Here they were greeted by a well-stocked bar and a throng of Archimedes computers with attendant RISC OS.

The formal sessions started that evening, with intervals spent watching possums and the occasional Tasmanian devil under the spotlights outside. An unexpected power cut the following day necessitated a hike or ride (horses were provided) to the nearest camping ground where – lo and behold – the computers had arrived before them and were set up and ready for use. As they sipped the wine thrust into their hand as they dismounted, and admired the ecological splendour in one of the most beautiful nature reserves on this Earth, they reflected on the differences of their meetings and the drab venues for the pommie IT advisers meetings back in England.

## Acorn has announced 3 new models to its 400 series of powerful desktop workstations

Acorn's range of computers now offers a complete upgrade path, from the original BBC micro, via the BBC Master Series and the A3000, to the Archimedes 440/1. Long-lived standards have been maintained across the whole range. All models

can be networked on Acorn's low-cost Econet network, and all run the popular BBC BASIC. The R140, Acorn's UNIX workstation provides the link to international standards. For more details contact Acorn or your local dealer.

## Advanced CDT facility available in London girls' school



Neil Fletcher, Leader of ILEA, examines an Archimedes computer after he officially opened the new building.

A new Craft, Design and Technology building equipped with 12 Archimedes computers has opened at Camden School for Girls. In a collaborative project between Acorn and the Camden Consortium of the TVEI Pilot Project in ILEA, the school will explore the use of Acorn's powerful machine in teaching CDT. The Archimedes computers and four Master 128 machines will also be used for TVEI development work. 'We can now boast one of the most advanced CDT facilities in the London area,' said headteacher Geoffrey Fallows. 'The Acorn computers open up exciting new opportunities for teachers and students in CDT and art and textiles.'

# Let the BBC Acorn User Show make your day

Children are welcome, so bring the family to this exciting computer event, the 1989 BBC Acorn User Show. This year the event runs for three days: 21st, 22nd and 23rd July. The elegance of the restored Alexandra Palace will form the backdrop for around two hundred exhibitors of software and hardware related to the BBC Master and A3000 computers. Live broadcasts on Greater London Radio will whet your appetite for the delights in store. Daily competitions, free draws, fabulous prizes, and appearances by celebrity guests will add to the fun of the fair. With product launches, new software, informative seminars, technical clinics, workshops and demonstrations, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

The new BBC computer, the Acorn A3000, will feature throughout the show, and will be on sale to the general public for the first time.

To order your tickets now – and save £1.00 on each – send cheques or postal orders made payable to Safe Sell Ltd. £2.50 for each adult and £1.50 for each child to Safe Sell Ltd, Market House, Cross Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5SR (please don't send cash).

Alexandra Palace, in Wood Green, North London, is easy to reach by road, rail or tube. There is free parking for 2,000 cars. The show is open from 3pm to 9pm on Friday 21 July and from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 22 July and Sunday 23 July.

For your free subscription to Acorn Education News, simply fill in the coupon below and send to: Acorn Computers Limited, Department 6EN, FREEPOST 4335, BS1 3YX.

Spread the 'News' by photocopying this coupon for completion by interested colleagues.

Please send me a copy of the Archimedes software catalogue. ☐

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LEA \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

# Two-day networking conference fixed for September

The fourth Econet conference will be held at the Microtechnology Centre, Manchester Polytechnic, on Monday and Tuesday, the 11–12 September. As in previous years, the emphasis will be on hands-on experience, with a range of activities designed to meet the needs of all types of network user. Econet systems in four rooms will link a range of workstations, including the Master 128, the 32-bit RISC-based Archimedes machines and the latest R140 UNIX workstation.

Among the many formal activities organized for this year's conference are sessions with information for new network managers as well as for advanced network users. The more general discussions on communication, software development, and the use of networks in various curriculum areas are also expected to be popular.

Seminar and open-forum sessions will examine the ways in which networking can enhance the use of information technology in education across the whole curriculum. The conference will analyse current trends and also look further ahead to predict pathways for the future.

An exhibition of the latest networking products, organized by software and hardware manufacturers, will run throughout the conference.

Full details and booking forms are available from the Econet '89 Office, Acorn Computers Ltd, Fulbourn Road, Cambridge CB1 4JN. Completed forms should be returned as soon as possible to guarantee a place at the conference.

# Master is the tops for special needs

It is acknowledged that microtechnology offers greater rewards to those with special needs. The Centre for Special Needs Technology was set up by Birmingham Social Services Department to co-ordinate the city's approach to special needs technology. It concentrates on developing uses of microtechnology with the disabled in five areas: rehabilitation and therapy, communication, assessment, education and training, and recreation.

Almost all the technological systems in use, both in the Centre itself and in the day centres in Birmingham, incorporate Acorn Master Series microcomputers. This machine is recommended by the Centre because a wide variety of peripheral devices can easily be plugged into it, and it is comparatively inexpensive. They consider more software for use in the caring professions is available for the Master than for any other micro. And furthermore, the Master microcomputer has proved itself very reliable and robust.

The Centre has an enormous software library with over 1,000 approved titles. Here carers can assess and compare several packages before one is selected for purchase.

In many cases the software is standard and only modified so that it can be controlled by a single switch. Programmers working for the Centre have developed an interface package, **Encoder**, which allows any switch user to run any software package on their BBC Master microcomputer. Once this package has been loaded into the machine, the range of software available to the disabled user is dramatically enlarged. A version of **Encoder** is also planned for the Archimedes computer.

An important aspect of the Centre's work is the running of training courses for people who work with the disabled, including a 3-day course that covers the basics of microtechnology, and a session that introduces word-processing applications and the various alternative input devices that are available.

The Centre now shares its experience in many ways with other social services departments and special needs organizations. For further details of the services offered by the Centre for Special Needs Technology, please contact CSNT, 14 The Gardens, Fentham Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6AG; tel: 021 350 6188.

# Excellence flourishes

Nearly 80 schools were shortlisted from the several hundreds which entered the Excellence '89 competition to find the best examples of good teaching practice in the UK. The winner of the competition, which is organized by *Teacher Magazine* and sponsored by Acorn Computers, will receive £10,000 worth of Acorn equipment. The standard of entries has been exceptionally good, and the judges are facing a difficult task to select the best.

Schools at all levels – from nursery to secondary, including many special schools entered. Topics range from research into the physical and psychological problems

faced by the left-handed, through a wild garden scheme in a nursery school, to the design of a technologically advanced electric vehicle.

When assessing the projects the judges will take into account how resources have been found and used, the ability of the children involved and the enduring effects of the work. The six judges will be visiting finalists by the end of June. The final meeting to decide the winner looks as if it will be long and arduous. But the judges are pledged to find a winner by the end of the summer term.

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