CONTEMPORARY SOFTWARE

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Contemporary Software News
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New Goodies for the Macintosh

Hardware Goodies	List	Ours
1-Megabyte SIMMs	350.00	Call
4-color heat transfer ribbon	29.95	24.95
Abaton 300/GS	2190.00	1799.95
Advanced Gravis MouseStick (ADB)	129.00	99.95
Anchor Automation MacPac	259.00	189.00
(2400 baud modem with cable, software)		
Crate Technologies drives (many models)	Varies	Call
Mass Micro ColorSpace II	1995.00	1799.00
Neotech Image Grabber	Varies	Call
Shiva NetModem 2400	595.00	520.00
Tripp-Lite Isobar Isotel	99.95	79.95
U.S. Robotics HST V.32 DS 9600	1595.00	1249.00
U.S. Robotics Sportster 2400	249.00	225.00
U.S. Robotics Courier 2400	499.00	399.00
Western Digital Preference WD20AP	849.00	499.95
Western Digital Preference WD40AP	1195.00	699.95

Software Goodies	List	Ours
Atlas Explorer	49.95	34.95
Anti-Virus Kit (1st Aid Software)	79.95	69.95
Big Thesaurus	99.95	74.95
CanOpener	125.00	99.95
Check Mark Multi-Ledger	395.00	299.00
Check Mark Payroll	295.00	229.00
Cosmic Osmo	69.95	55.95
Digi-Art (each volume)	99.00	69.95
Excel 2.2	395.00	295.00
FontSizer	99.95	84.95
FoxBase+/Mac 2.0	495.00	395.00

	List	Ours
FullWrite 1.1	395.00	279.00
Harmony Grid	99.00	89.95
HyperComposer	69.95	49.95
Leprechaun	59.00	49.95
LetraStudio	495.00	349.00
MacWrite II	249.00	225.00
Microsoft File (works with 512KE)	195.00	159.95
Omnis 5	695.00	429.00
OneWrite	299.00	199.00
Panorama	395.00	269.00
Prototyper	249.00	189.95
Publish-It!	395.00	295.00
Screen Recorder	195.00	169.95
Shopkeeper	395.00	325.00
SimCity	49.95	39.95
Smart Alarms with Appointment Diary	99.95	69.95
SmartArt I	149.00	119.95
Soft PC	395.00	325.00
Sticky Business	179.95	139.95
Strategic Conquest 2.0	59.95	49.95
Studio/1	149.95	129.95
SuperCard	199.00	159.95
Symantec Anti-Virus Utilities (SAM)	99.95	84.95
Synchronicity	49.95	39.95
To Artemis	69.95	59.95
Top Down	295.00	249.00
WingZ	399.00	325.00
Word 4.0	395.00	295.00
WriteNow 2.0 (works with 512KE)	195.00	149.95
XTree Mac	99.00	74.95

New and Interesting Hardware

Abaton 300/GS

Want to have a magazine-quality picture in your newsletter? The "GS" in the Abaton 300/GS stands for "Gray Scale," with up to 256 shades of gray. Compared to the 16 shades available in Abaton's (and everybody else's) earlier models, the difference is astounding — and the price is quite affordable. Combined with Abaton's unique PanelScan software and Letraset's **ImageStudio** (included), the GS could just as easily stand for "Great Stuff."

Gravis MouseStick

There are many ways to describe the Gravis MouseStick, but "modest" is not among them. This is the Rolls Royce of joysticks, with adjustment controls for things you probably didn't even know could be adjusted. If it doesn't improve your performance in **Falcon**, you'd better go back to ground school.

Western Digital Preference WD20

Western Digital may not be a household name, but the company is actually older than Apple, and has long been regarded as one of the most respected firms in the industry. When you see their new Preference 20-megabyte drive, you'll see why: it is elegant, it is fast, and it takes up only a third as much space as anyone else's drive (it will fit in a crowded briefcase). We usually don't like to recommend 20-megabyte drives, but now we have a definite **Preference**.

Western Digital Preference WD40

Don't think 20-megabytes is enough? The Preference WD40 will give you twice as much storage, while still offering the same elegance, speed and small size. Like theWD20, it has a 32K RAM cache, works with every SCSI-equipped Mac without any kind of adjustment, and comes with several megabytes of utilities and demo software. All you have to do to get it up and running is plug it in and turn it on.

Mass Micro ColorSpace II

Desktop Video is the newest frontier in the Mac world, and this board can take most of the blame. It plugs into any NuBus slot on a Mac II, and allows the Mac to display, digitize, and edit video images from videotape machines, laser disc players or the new "still video" cameras. With a multisynch monitor, you can show live video (old reruns?) on the screen while working simultaneously in any Mac program. More practically, you can create training videotapes, add captions to existing videos, or simply record whatever appears on your Mac screen to tape — or what appears on tape to your Mac. Naturally, it performs all this magic in either color or black and white (actually, shades of gray). Best of all, it's fun.
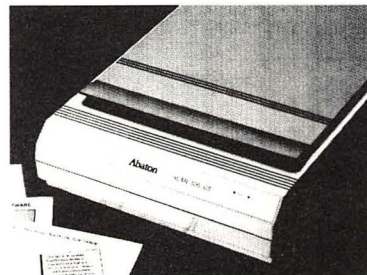
Neotech Image Grabber

Video input and output is not limited to the Mac II. Neotech offers video capture boards for both the Mac SE and the Mac II, allowing you to capture images from a video camera, video tape, laser disc player or still video camera in up to 256 shades of gray. The software is very easy to use, and captured images can later be altered in Silicon Beach's **Digital Darkroom** or Letraset's **ImageStudio** (it comes with drivers for both). In addition to capturing images for desktop publishing, personnel files, and letters to Grandma, the board can also be used (with appropriate software) in laboratory image analysis and other scientific pursuits.
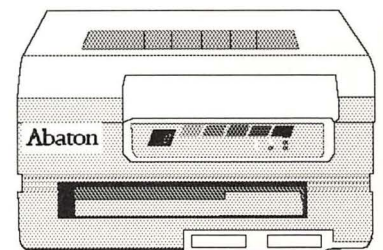
RasterOps ColorBoard 264

Available in both Mac II and SE/30 versions, the ColorBoard 264 may emerge as the most exciting video board of the year. It can display images in 2, 4, 16, 256, or 16.8 million colors — a much wider range than most competing products. You don't have to go out and buy a special, expensive monitor, either — it can show 16.8 million colors on Apple's standard 13" monitor. It fully supports Apple's new 32-bit QuickDraw. It brings vivid color to the SE/30. And the *list* price of the Mac II version is under $1000!

Note: photos reproduced with 16-gray level scanner.

Hardware Spotlight:
What can I do with a 512K (or smaller) Mac?

Once upon a time, there was the 128K Mac. It lacked the power to do much more than write short letters in MacWrite and draw simple pictures in MacPaint. This didn't matter much, though, as the computer had one extra ingredient: it was FUN!

Within a few months a new version, the 512K "Fat Mac," was introduced. It, too, was fun, and with more memory to play with you could run more complex programs.

Then came the big change: the Mac Plus. From that point on, every new model — the SE, Mac II, IIx, IIcx, and SE/30 — came with a minimum of one megabyte of memory and an SCSI hard disk port. Macintosh sales exploded, and powerful new software seemed to be introduced almost daily. And almost every one of these software packages requires a megabyte of memory, and many also require a hard disk.

If you don't have at least a megabyte of memory, you should think about getting an upgrade — quickly. Only a few manufacturers produce the upgrade kits,

and there are hints they may soon stop making them.

As it stands, none of the top word processors — Microsoft Word, MacWrite II, WordPerfect and FullWrite — will run in less than a megabyte, and all require a hard disk if you intend to use the spelling checkers, thesauruses and other goodies. **WriteNow 2.0** will work on a 512K Mac — if you have an 800K internal floppy.

With a 512K Mac and 800K floppy you can also use **Reflex Plus** or **Microsoft File 2.0** as a database, but the more popular Double Helix II, FileMaker II, Panorama, FoxBase+/Mac, Omnis 5 and 4th Dimension all require at least a megabyte, and usually a hard disk drive. Excel, Full Impact and Wingz — engaged in an intense battle for the spreadsheet market — will not work on anything less than a Mac Plus. Most new games also require at least a megabyte of memory, and some also require a hard disk. Starting next year, many programs will need two megabytes of memory.

What can you do with a 512K Mac? You can think about getting an upgrade — soon.

New, Interesting and Fun (Even Useful

Atlas Explorer

Both a reference and a recreation program, Atlas Explorer offers thousands of facts and figures about the countries and cultures of the world, complete with maps.

Anti-Virus Kit

From the makers of **1st Aid Kit**, Anti-Virus Kit is a simple, effective package designed to keep computer viruses from corrupting data on your Mac.

Big Thesaurus

The makers of **Spelling Coach Professional** are back with a really Big Thesaurus: over 1.4 million synonyms, all just a desk accessory away.

CanOpener

This ingenious utility allows you to open almost any file and then view, copy, or extract text, icons, pictures, or sounds embedded in the file. In addition to snooping, it is ideal for programming, for extracting valuable information from "crashed" files, or for building up libraries of commonly used text, sounds, icons and pictures. Both stand-alone and desk accessory versions of the program are included.

Check Mark Accounting

Entering the Mac accounting wars with a vengeance, Check Mark has released a full spectrum of innovative, easy to use accounting tools which can be used by seasoned veterans and novices alike.

Cosmic Osmo

Fresh on the heels of **Manhole**, their award-winning HyperCard game, Cyan has returned with a new, even larger game based on VideoWorks and HyperCard. Where Manhole had an Alice-in-Wonderland feel, Cosmic Osmo seems more like a hilarious B-grade science fiction movie, but with a better plot. Wait until you try the Swabs button . . .

Digi-Art

Now that you have this wonderful computer for drawing pretty pictures, how do you overcome the fact that you can't draw? Get Digi-Art, a huge collection of predrawn PICT (MacDraw) and EPSF (Illustrator or Freehand) images, ready for use or for editing with your own personal touch.

Excel 2.2

After a lengthy slumber, Excel has returned to reestablish its reputation as the "industry standard" spreadsheet with new functions and capabilities. You can now have varying font sizes, add notes to your spreadsheet cells, and create spreadsheets up to 8 megabytes in size — perfect for the office coffee fund.

FontSizer

Ever need a screen version of a laser font in a non-standard size? FontSizer will put your Postscript printer to work, creating beautiful screen fonts in the sizes you need — automatically. A must if you need accurate on-screen layouts.

FullWrite 1.1

It can write, do spelling, find synonyms and draw, and the latest version offers some nice performance enhancements. FullWrite is easily the most powerful word processor available, on any computer, and also performs well as a page layout package.

Harmony Grid

Allegedly a useful teaching tool, Harmony Grid is actually great fun. Sure, you can learn all about chords, keys, and other musical minutiae, but you can also generate intricate, graceful, original compositions — without knowing a thing about music.

HyperComposer

HyperCard has a "play" command for making music, but have you ever tried to use it? HyperComposer is a complete HyperCard-based application for creating, playing and printing music, with ridiculous ease and at a bargain price.

Leprechaun

Several experts predicted no one would ever write games for the Mac II. Leprechaun has color, sound, mazes you can customize, evil trolls, pots of gold and leprechauns. But it runs on a Mac II, so must be some kind of complex business application, right?

LetraStudio

Have you ever wanted to write text around a circle? Tie your name in knots? Shape a word so it looks like an apple, or a fish? The "All-Macintosh" banner on this page is a modest example of LetraStudio's power.

MacWrite II

The original MacWrite launched the Great Macintosh Revolution, offering tremendous ease of use and the "Mac" look. MacWrite II adds five years of improvements: multiple documents open at one time, a spelling checker, thesaurus, multiple columns, import and export of WriteNow, MacWrite, and Word documents, mail merge, footnotes . . . And it's fast! Like they say in the soap commercials, you won't believe the difference.

Software Goodies for Your Macintosh

Microsoft File 2.0

As one of the first database packages for the Macintosh, File earned high marks for ease of use, but slowly lost ground as other products became more faddishly popular. Version 2.0 retains File's famous ease of use, and adds over 100 predesigned forms and templates for printing labels and reports. File is also one of the few databases that will run on everything from a Mac 512KE to a Mac II.

Omnis 5

With this latest release, Omnis should reinforce its reputation as a heavy-duty database, and shed its reputation for having an "un-Mac-like" interface. It now sports all the buttons, graphics and other goodies you expect in a Mac program while retaining its famous speed and flexibility.

Panorama

If you are looking for an easy to learn, easy to use, flexible database, Panorama may be exactly what you need. But what if you'd also like built-in charting capability, blistering speed, outstanding forms generation, and great statistical support? Panorama can handle this, too. Provue calls this "the database that thinks it's a spreadsheet," and they're right.

Prototyper

Programming is not an easy task. Often, you get so lost in the details, you lose track of the end result. Prototyper can greatly cut the time and effort required in program design by allowing you to graphically chart your needs, set up the program interface — and then automatically generate the required C or Pascal code. It's so easy it's probably a sin.

Publish-It!

What the world wants, some people say, is a true page layout package for the price of a word processor. Publish-It! fills this need. It includes all the usual page layout tools, plus many graphics tools (Bezier curves, anyone?), a thesaurus and spelling checker, and runs on everything from a Mac 512KE to a Mac IIx. It is also the only page layout package offering text rotation and patterned text.

Screen Recorder

Screen Recorder will record a "film" of everything you do on the Mac, and then play it back. It is the ideal tool for creating tutorials and demos.

SimCity

People who don't play games will play SimCity. Starting out with a modest treasury, you have to design a city — zone for housing, commerce, utilities, industry and roads — budget for police and fire protection, and set the tax rate. If this seems too tame, you can also unleash floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and giant prehistoric lizards on the unsuspecting citizens.

Soft PC

Now you can use Lotus 1-2-3, dBASE III and other MS-DOS programs on your Mac II or SE/30 — without any expensive hardware purchases. SoftPC is 100% software, and takes just minutes to install.

Strategic Conquest 2.0

One of the more challenging early Mac games returns in a new form, and now works on the Mac II (in color). Do you have what it takes to succeed as a world conqueror?

SuperCard

HyperCard is great, but it only offers one window, in one size, has no color, limited printing options, etc. SuperCard has **no** such limitations, is **far** better documented, and can produce stand-alone applications. "Super" may be too modest a name...

Symantec Anti-Virus Utilities (SAM)

SAM isn't the cheapest anti-virus kit, but it may be the most comprehensive. It can detect and repair damage from all known viruses, and can be set up to automatically scan every floppy disk inserted in the Mac for viral infections.

Synchronicity

Designed as a decision support tool (based on Chinese philosophy), Synchronicity is startlingly beautiful, a pleasure to the eyes and ears and a genuinely original piece of software.

Word 4.0

Microsoft's best-selling word processor has been extensively revised and improved. It now supports on-screen multiple columns, color, complete customization of the menu and keyboard commands, and is even easier to use. Wait till you see what the "Screen Test" command does —

XTree Mac

Now that you have that new billion byte hard disk, how do you find anything? XTree Mac draws a tree chart of your disk's structure, allowing you to easily rearrange, copy and delete items. It even offers an unerase option, for those occasional mishaps.
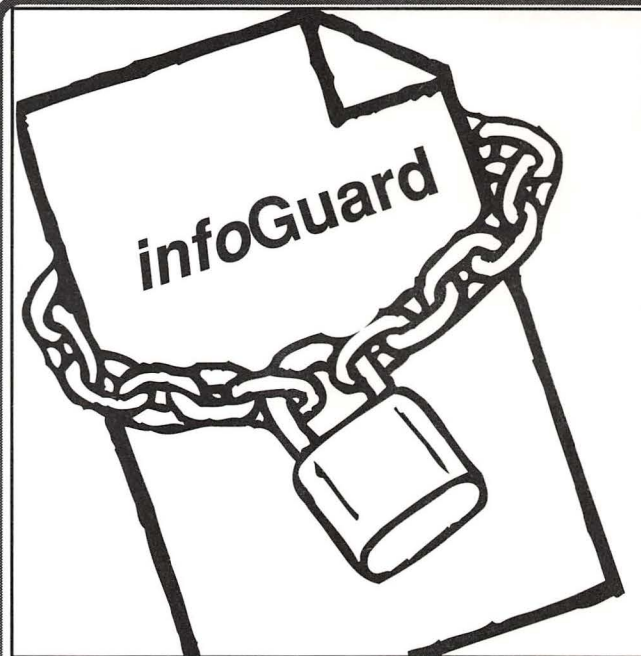
CINTOSH

Hints and Suggestions —
Creating a Newsletter in Less Than a Year

After our last issue of **Contemporary Software News** (which, admittedly, was also our first), several readers wanted to know how we produced it. And the surprise answer is: on a Mac!

All the text was written using Microsoft's **Word 4.0** (the best-selling Macintosh word processor), Preferred Publishers' **Vantage** (a desk accessory text editor) and Letraset's **Ready,Set,Go! 4.5a** (a page layout package). Spelling was checked (honest) using Ready,Set,Go!'s dictionary. We thought about using Claris' **MacWrite II**, T/Maker's **WriteNow 2.0**, Ashton-Tate's **FullWrite 1.1**, Aldus' **PageMaker 3.0** and Quark's **Express 2.0** as well. It would have been great fun, but saner heads prevailed.

Rules and screens (shading) were done in Ready,Set,Go! Our logo, the map on the back page, and the "self-portrait" of the Abaton/Qume printer were drawn in Adobe **Illustrator '88**. (We thought about doing them in Aldus **Freehand 2.0**, but never got around to it.) The Mac next to our logo was drawn in Claris' **MacDraw II**. Various "fudges" were performed with Abbott Systems' **CanOpener**. "Proof" printing was done by "Speedy Gonzales," our Qume **CrystalPrint Publisher** printer. Scanned images were produced on an **Abaton 300/S** scanner.

Most of the graphics were drawn by Eddie. Most of the layout and text was produced by Lawrence. Roger designed most of the advertising. Roger, Eddie, Greg, Steve, Steve, and anyone who happened by offered countless suggestions on how it could be improved. Among the suggestions: a centerfold, color pictures, an illustrated price list showing all 3,000+ items we carry, and predictions on what new software and hardware will be invented over the next few years.

Not counting the suggestions, drawings and final proofing, it took about eight hours to produce the newsletter, which is very fast. Among the reasons: the layout was planned in advance, drawings were "object oriented" so they could be easily resized, responsibilities for each section were predetermined, and we were familiar with the hardware and software. The suggestions added two months to the schedule.

Really Soft Hardware?
Using MS-DOS: The Macintosh Way

Someone has just developed this great new program that does just what you want, but it only works on an MS-DOS computer. You'd rather run it on your Mac. What can you do?

Go ahead. Run it on your Mac.

SoftPC, by Insignia Designs, is one of the most elegant programs ever written. Without buying any other hardware or software, it allows any model Mac II or SE/30 (or accelerated SE) to run MS-DOS programs, without modification. With 2 megabytes of RAM, you can emulate a 640K IBM PC/XT with a Color Graphics Adapter. Depending on how much hard disk space you have, you can create up to two "hard disk drives" (Drive C: and Drive D:), each 1 to 30 megabytes in size. Your Mac mouse can be set to emulate a Microsoft Mouse, your serial ports can emulate MS-DOS serial ports, and your Mac printer can pretend it is an Epson FX-80, the most widely supported MS-DOS printer.

SoftPC includes a full working version of MS-DOS 3.3 and Microsoft GW BASIC. SlavePC, which is also included, allows you to connect an MS-DOS computer to your Mac and directly control the floppy disk drives on the MS-DOS computer.

How do you get MS-DOS programs into your Mac? The easiest way is to use the SlavePC utility. If you don't happen to have an MS-DOS machine handy, but you do have a SuperDrive-equipped Mac, SoftPC can use the SuperDrive as an MS-DOS 720K or 1.4 megabyte Drive A: floppy disk. Apple's PC 5.25" Drive can be used as a 360K Drive A:, and the various models of DaynaFile can read 360K, 720K, 1.2 megabyte and 1.4 megabyte MS-DOS disks.

Our favorite technique, however, is to call up MS-DOS bulletin boards and download programs. It really startles the bulletin board owners to discover callers using Macs . . . and running their programs.

Since all this magic takes place on a Mac, you still have full use of such great Mac features as Desk Accessories and MultiFinder. So go ahead. Run WordStar on your Mac. It's easy.

Details, Details . . .

Contemporary Software does more than sell software. We also sell hardware. And accessories. And books. And magazines. Virtually anything you might want for your Macintosh. We can also provide:

❏ Custom software design,
❏ Consulting services,
❏ Training and tutoring,
❏ FAX, modem and printing services,
❏ Lots of other things we've probably forgotten.

Hours of operation

We've modified our store hours of operation to better meet the varying needs of our customers. Our hours are:

Mon. — Fri.: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon to 4 p.m.

After-hours consulting and training is also available by special arrangement.

What's Happening: Upcoming Events

Software Saturdays

Software Saturdays are held from 1-4 p.m. on a "regularly irregular" schedule, and feature informal demonstrations of leading packages by the actual manufacturers and developers.

Among the presentations scheduled are:

❏ **Quark** (Quark XPress and Quark Style)

❏ **Blyth** (Omnis 5)

❏ **Insignia Solutions** (SoftPC)

❏ **Letraset** (Ready,Set,Go!, LetraStudio, ImageStudio)

❏ **Silicon Beach** (Digital Darkroom, SuperPaint, SuperCard, Super 3D)

❏ **Flexware** (accounting software),

❏ **Aldus** (PageMaker, Persuasion, Freehand).

Special Interest Groups

Contemporary Software hosts several "SIGs" (Special Interest Groups) which focus on a particular facet of Macintosh computers. These SIGs are part of the San Diego Macintosh User Group (SDMUG), one of the most prominent and influential Mac groups in the world. There are no fees for SDMUG events.

❏ **MIDI SIG**, covering music applications, meets the first Monday of every month, from 7 to 9 p.m.

❏ **Programming SIG**, for those interested in writing programs for the Mac, meets the third Monday of every month, from 7 to 9 p.m.

❏ **Novice SIG**, with advice and help for the new Macintosh user, meets the third Thursday of every month, from 7 to 9 p.m.

❏ **Mac II SIG**, covering all the various models of the Mac II and SE/30, meets the fourth Wednesday of every month, from 7 to 9 p.m.

❏ **CAD SIG**, for those interested in Computer Aided Drafting and Design on the Mac, meets the fourth Thursday of every month, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Financing

Would you like the convenience of a **Contemporary Software** credit card? Or do you just need financing for a one-time purchase? We can help. We can also arrange for leasing on some items, such as that monitor, printer, scanner or hard disk drive you've always wanted. Ask for details.

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"All Macintosh"