PSION USER

Taken as infrared

Look, no wires – that's the way to send emails, faxes and browse the web on the move with the Series 5. Mobile phone users have the choice of two of the latest handsets to connect to the Series 5 by infrared. Both the Nokia 8810 and the Ericsson SH888 have a built-in infrared modem. All you need to do is configure the latest version of Psion's Message Suite on your Series 5, place it next to the phone, line up the infrared ports, and you're ready to transmit and receive email and faxes – and browse the Internet – without worrying about cumbersome wires. Ericsson users can also buy a tiny modem, the DI27, that clips onto other phones in the range. You can buy software that allows you to sort and dial phonebook entries from your Series 5, and also manages SMS (short message service) traffic. The package, called Mobile Phone Manager, is shareware, and works with the Ericsson SH888 and DI27. A version for the Nokia 8810 is planned.

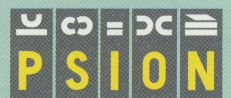*Visit http://www.sgsoftware.co.uk for details.*

● The latest version of Message Suite, V1.52, available by free download from Psion's website, allows you to send and receive Word attachments.

PLUS...

symbian

The 'dream team' of Psion, Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola have formed Symbian, the company that will deliver future mobile technology. See page 2 for details.

mx High Speed Processor

Psion has launched the speedy Series 3mx, which has a new processor that allows you to carry out all your personal organisation jobs a good deal faster. More on page 3.

Green machine

Psion has brought out a Special Edition Series 5 in 'pearlescent' aqua green. The new design, on sale now in selected countries, adds a classy new dimension to your mobile computing. The Series 5 recently won a 'Millennium Product' award from Britain's Design Council – the Special Edition gives added distinction to this award-winning palmtop. See p8 for more details.

PSION

symbian

Smart move for mobiles

Symbian, Psion's joint venture with Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola, has been set up to produce the mobile technology of the future. The company, formed this summer, will deliver the technology for a new generation of mobile solutions, such as smartphones and communicators – two classes of new, digital devices that will increase dramatically the use of mobile computing and communications. By 2002, the world's population of mobile phone users will reach some 600 million – and some analysts believe that not long after, wireless connections will exceed fixed line links. Symbian's technologies will drive the convergence of mobile computing and wireless technology, enabling Internet access, messaging and information access, – all within a device that fits in a shirt pocket. Mobile users can look forward to:

● Smartphones – digital phones on a GSM network with the capability to browse the Internet, and receive and send faxes, SMS and email. Smartphones might even have scheduling and contact management software built-in. Already announced is the Philips Synergy clip-on unit that adds organising capability to a mobile phone – and which uses Symbian technology.

● Communicators that offer even richer functionality than smartphones. They will have keyboard input facilities, the ability to link seamlessly with a PC, with printers, and with the Internet – to send and receive files, to synchronise seamlessly and to be practical to carry around. The result: a powerful palmtop computer and digital phone in one unit.

For more details, see the Symbian web site at: http://www.symbian.com

Files for your Psion

PocketInfo is a free Internet-based resource for all palmtop computer users. Sponsored by Psion, and with machines and accessories on offer as prizes, PocketInfo contains many hundreds of useful databases, spreadsheets and agenda files, all submitted by users.
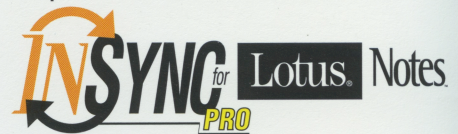
Over 30 megabytes of information is neatly set out within the categories Business, Sport, Leisure, Reference, Travel and Sound. Although the prevalent format is Psion Series 5, the vast majority of information is also downloadable in Series 3 and PC-generic format as well. All files are supplied ready-to-use, with no special decompression software needed. Popular items include spreadsheets for share and cashflow analysis, vehicle economy and checking your lottery syndicate's numbers.

PocketInfo can be found at: http://www.pocketinfo.org

InSync with Lotus

Some 20 million Lotus Notes users can now take advantage of the benefits of handheld computing thanks to Psion's InSync Pro, which is part of a wider agreement between Psion and Lotus. The companies have agreed to work together on future products.

InSync Pro allows Lotus Notes users to synchronise their Notes Calendar and Address book with the Psion personal management applications on

the Series 5 and Series 3c/3mx. It also allows Lotus Notes 4.5/4.6 users to synchronise databases with the Series 5.
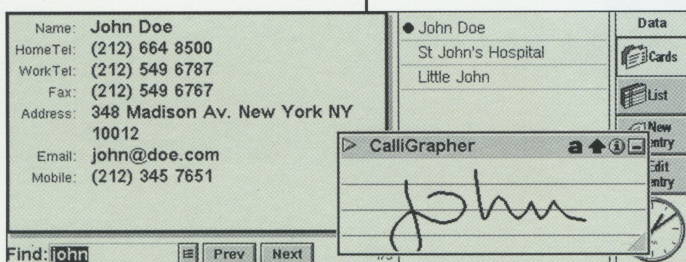
Mobile users who want to access their email while on the move can use Psion's Message Suite which ships with every Series 5. Message Suite's web browser also provides access to corporate information stored on a Lotus Domino server.

InSync Pro is available in English with German and French versions to follow.

See also the 'Connecting to Lotus' area on the Psion website, which also has details of linking to Lotus Organizer and SmartSuite. The address of the pages is:
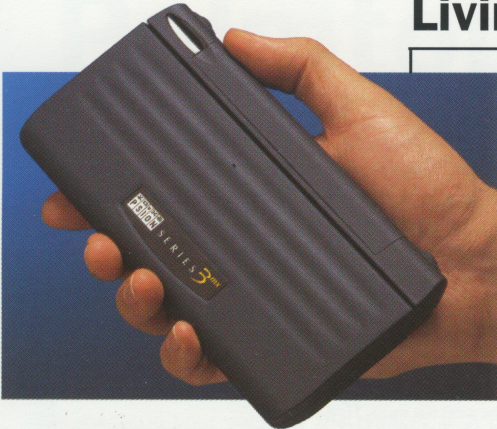*http://www.psion.com/lotus*

Write on with Atelier's CalliGrapher

Write directly in English to applications such as Data using CalliGrapher

You've got a pen in hand with your Series 5 – so use it to write with CalliGrapher, which accurately transforms your English handwriting into text without needing to use special keystrokes. Atelier's CalliGrapher operates seamlessly in the background, recognising handwriting within any Series 5 document or dialogue. It's perfect for entering addresses into Data and appointments into Agenda, and writing text or emails. It Includes a 65,000 word dictionary, and an editable user dictionary. You can extend the recognition system with proper names and shortcuts for frequently used sentences. CalliGrapher is available from retail outlets, and from Widget Software in the UK, New World Technologies in the US, and Atelier's on-line store at http://www.atelier.tm UK price: £49.95.
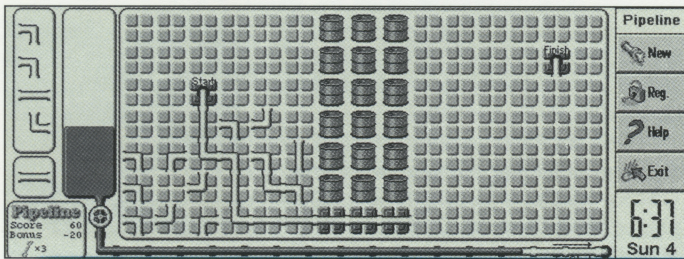
Living life to the 'mx'

The launch of the Series 3mx brings even more scope to the classic Psion design, with a processor that's three times as fast, a speeded up communications port – and a sleek new graphite finish case. There are particular applications where you'll notice great improvement:

● There are people who amass huge quantities of information on their trusty Psions. If you make searches through a database of several thousand items, the time saved in locating the records can be a major boon.

● The calculation of journeys in route-finding software such as Route Planner is more speedy.

● The 3mx boosts Sheet's performance, so that cell recalculation, and inserting and deleting rows and columns, will happen a good deal faster.

The 'triple speed' Series 3mx is available now in six languages for the major European markets. The 3mx costs £229.95 and includes a free software voucher. Call Psion direct on 0990 143050 for further details.
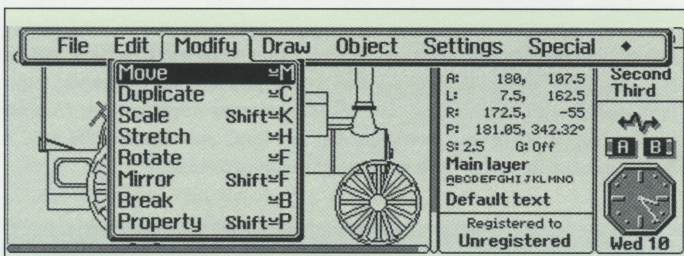
Shareware update

The success of the Series 5 has led to a explosion in the number of Psion-compatible programs available on the Internet and on CD-ROM – there are now more than 450 Series 5 applications and utilities. The Series 3 range hasn't been forgotten either, with

Pipeline adds an obstacle course in this version of a classic game

many updates to some of the 2,000 existing programs to make use of the extra power of the Series 3mx.

Games are always popular on both Psion series, with pride of place perhaps going to **Pipeline**, an updated version of the old Pipemania classic puzzle. Rather than just extending a pipe to a certain length, you now have to battle your way around obstacles and towards a specified finishing point. Also impressive is **Mis5ile Defense**, a version of the 1980s arcade classic in which the Series 5's touch screen is used to its best effect in launching missiles at incoming invaders. **RMRBoxx** is the old Sokobox
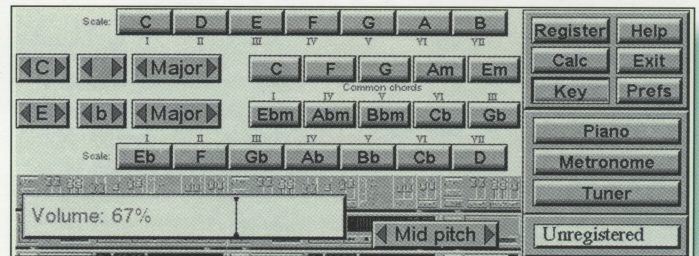

Vector is a graphics package for the Series 3 range

crate-shoving game and **Frotz5** is a text adventure engine capable of running all the old Infocom games you used to love in the days before flashy in-game graphics.

On a more serious note, **ConvertPro** is a tremendously useful free unit conversion and formula calculation utility and **Macro5** is a macro system which lets you perform complex or repetitive operations at the press of a single key.

More than 100 small utilities are also available to transform your Series 5's interface, with application short-cuts (**ExtraBars**, **Shortcut Wizard**), Agenda plug-ins (**BusyView32**, **MonthManager**) and search tools (**JB5Utils**, **Ferret**), not to mention more than 60 macros for **Macro5**, each with its own dedicated function.

A wide range of reference software has grown up around the

Piano, a music aid, with chords, notes and beats

Series 5, some commercial but others shareware, such as **ProcyonX** (an astronomy suite), **Piano** (a music aid, with chords, notes and beats), **UK Pocket Directory** (a 'yellow pages') and the freeware **Trivia** (great for pub quizzes).

With finance being so close to many of our hearts it's not surprising to see many programs dedicated to making the most of what we've got. **ABP**, **RMRBank** and **HomeBank** are just some of the contenders.

The Series 3 scene has understandably been a lot quieter in the last year, but most of the quality applications have been maintained and updated by their authors. In particular, look out for **Portfolio** (shares and investments), **Draw** and **Vector** (bitmap and vector graphics packages respectively) and **Plan** (a project management system).

All the programs can be downloaded from the Internet. Good places to look are the 3-Lib library (http://3lib.ukonline.co.uk), the links page of Psion's website (http://www.psion.com), and the Psionking site (http://www.psionking.com).

Steve Litchfield

On-Board Info

Knowing what's in store for the year ahead – and getting the best out of travelling to major destinations. That's the strength of On-Board Info's Economist Diary Companion and AA Travel Companions

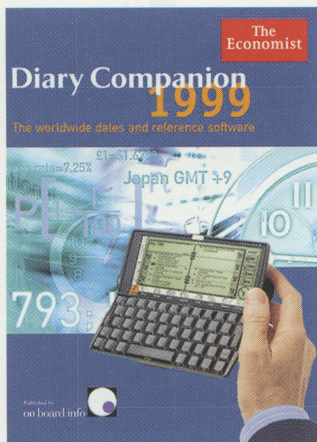## The year ahead

The Economist

On-Board Info is aptly named. The company specialises in diary and travel information that you load onto your Psion – and which is at your fingertips wherever you are. The company's flagship product, the yearly **Diary Companion**, has now undergone a luxury refit – and **The Economist Diary Companion**, produced in partnership with the world-famous magazine, is the result.

Fully loaded: boost your Agenda with key events from Diary Companion

The existing **Diary Companion** is of course still available – and has been described as 'the most useful Psion add-on, ever'. A simple installation 'wizard' allows you to select the countries and topics you require, from your PC – the chosen events are copied to your Psion. The **Diary Companion** has public holidays for more than 80 countries; more than 4,000 dates for the UK, US, France and Germany such as summer/winter times, trade fairs, sports fixtures and cultural events; a 'useful information' section (time zones, weights and measures etc.); and free access to a website where you can download monthly updates.

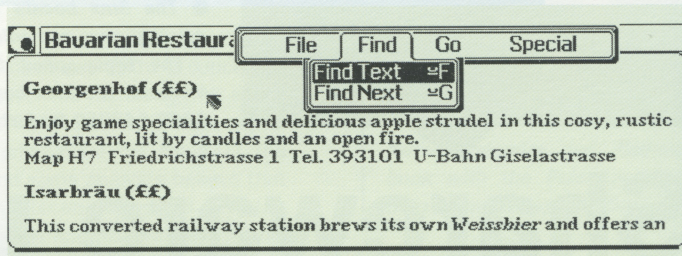The Economist 'deluxe' version adds:
- *Hundreds of essential dates for business, finance and politics, such as government elections, companies' annual reporting dates and world conferences.*
- *Extensive worldwide references data sourced from* **The Economist**, *such as economic data, including international comparisons and statistics; abbreviations and symbols; wines and spirits; finance.*
- *A built in calculator for conversions and formulae.*
- *London Underground map.*

The **Diary Companion 1999** (£12.95), and **The Economist Diary Companion 1999** (£17.95) are compatible with all the main Psion 'platforms' – Series 5, Series 3a/3c/3mx and Siena – and also with PC packages such as Lotus Notes and Microsoft Outlook. **Both diaries are available in English, German and French.**

Out in the city

AA

Where are the top sights, the places to eat and the best tours in major cities around the world? On-Board's **Travel Companions**, based on the best-selling AA CityPack series, provides the answers. Each city **Companion** comprises

Where to stay: a typical restaurant description from a Travel Companion

more than 80% of the book equivalent – yet requires only 150-300KB of storage on your Psion. Once loaded, you'll be armed with practical travel information for your destination; useful phrases; where to eat, shop, stay and be entertained; the top 25 sights; and itineraries for a full day or just an evening out on the town.

There are three versions:
- **European edition** – Amsterdam, Berlin, London, Madrid, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Prague, Rome, Vienna. (£24.95)
- **World Edition** – the 10 cities in the European edition, plus Atlanta, Bangkok, Chicago, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York, San Francisco, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington. (£29.95)
- **7 City Update** – Atlanta, London, New York, Paris, Rome, San Francisco, Washington (city revisions for use with Travel Companions v1.2 and earlier). (£9.95)

The Travel Companions run on the Series 3a/3c/3mx, Series 5 and Siena.

Luach

Luach customises your Psion Agenda for all Jewish calender items – and you can use it to calculate shabbat times for every major city in the world; sidrah of the week, special maftirs and haftarot; festival and fast dates and times; barmitzvah sidrah and date; and many other important Hebrew dates. You can also customise Luach for where you are in the world, your preferred halachic interpretation, and preferred spellings for Hebrew words. Luach runs on the Series 3a/3c/3mx, and Siena (£24.95). A Series 5 version will be available by the end of 1998.
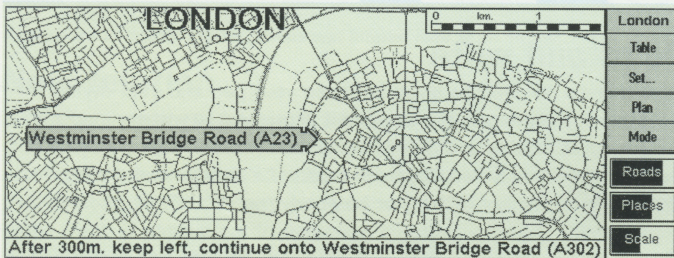
Palmtop bv

It's hard to believe, but detailed street plans maps of not just a few, but thousands of European cities and towns are available for download to your Psion Series 5, thanks to Palmtop

Journey on: a Europe-wide view from Route Planner

NEW ▸ Street march

Palmtop reckons it has stolen a march on the competition – literally – with the release of **Street Planner '99**, a huge collection of maps that make it easy to find your way around all the major cities and towns in Europe. Described as 'door-to-door route planning in your pocket', the product is a companion to **Route Planner**, Palmtop's country route finding package, and promises to plan perfect routes within a city – as it 'knows' every road,
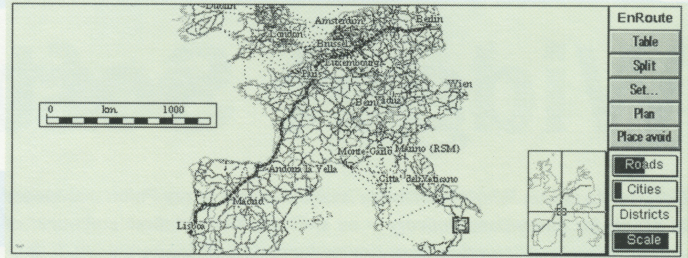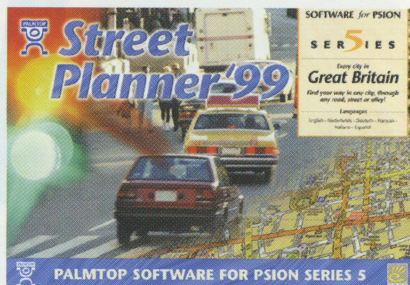

Way to go: Street Planner gives you the right directions

street and alley, and all traffic regulations. **Street Planner** shows which roads are one-way – and in which direction – and also highlights important locations, such as airports, railway stations and subway stations. Search facilities allow you to find any street in seconds, or any intersection between two streets, and the package will help you even if you don't know the correct spelling of the street name. Other features include the ability to 'zoom' to show more and more detail, the option to add your own locations – and find them with a single key press – and to 'put yourself on the map' by connecting up a GPS satellite receiver.

Like Palmtop's **Route Planner**, the city software allows you to calculate the quickest way to get to your destination, and to avoid certain roads if you know they are closed or prone to traffic jams. It isn't just for car drivers – you can also plot the shortest route on foot. **Street Planner** gives step by step instructions as you move along your chosen route. **Two Streetplanner '99 choices are available on CD-ROM: Great Britain (4,400 cities and towns in England, Scotland and Wales) and Europe (36,195 cities and towns in France, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Luxembourg, Italy and Austria). Memory requirements depend on the maps you install. Most cities are between 40KB and 150KB, but cities such as Paris or Frankfurt can be as large as 1MB. Street Planner runs in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch. Price: £49.95.**

Map in hand

Route Planner, Palmtop's country map product, is available for both the Series 5 and Series 3a/3c/3mx, although the Series 5 version has been redesigned to make optimal use of the larger screen, the pen and the speed of the latest Psion.

With the Series 5 version, you can display any section of the road map at various scales, and at varying levels of detail. There are several ways of displaying location names, routes, legends, locators and scales. Similarly, you can display driving instructions in several formats and at several levels of detail. In the 'split view' you can even follow your route graphically, on the map, as you go through the list of driving instructions. Additionally *Route Planner* allows you to add locations, and build 'collections', say of friends, customers, or historical sites.

The CD-ROM contains overlays for most countries, ranging from airports to toll booths to railway stations. As with *Street Planner*, you can attach a GPS receiver to your Series 5 and *Route Planner* will locate you on the map.
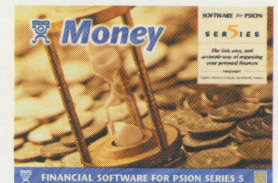
Series 5 versions (£49.95) are Route Planner North-America and Route Planner Europe, in English, German, French, Italian and Dutch. Series 3 versions (£69.95) cover certain European countries.

Money in your pocket

Money for the Series 5 makes it easy to manage your finances. It allows you to enter transactions on the spot, predicts your bank and credit card statements and allows you to budget your expenses. But Money can do much more than manage your personal finances – it can also run your business, as it handles double-entry bookkeeping, foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, VAT management, and balance analysis. It will also import and export many file formats, including QIF (used by Quicken and Microsoft Money).

There are also many reporting options and graph options, providing further insight into your finances. And the package is easy to use – as the many thousands of people already using Money on the Series 3a/3c will tell you. (You can, of course, import your Psion Money files to Series 5 Money.)

Money runs in English, French, German, Italian and Dutch, and is distributed on CD-ROM. Price: £49.95.

About Palmtop
Palmtop bv, Zandsteen 54, 2132 MR Hoofddorp, The Netherlands. Fax: +31 20 446 9496; email: info@palmtop.nl http://www.palmtop.nl Other products include: Portable Chef; Halliwell's Film and Video Guide; Financial Calculator; Expense Manager; The Holy Bible; and Soundmaster. You can find them at most Psion stockists. In the UK you can also order by mail from Widget Software (see p6).

Widget Software

Despite its name, Widget Software has just about every Psion accessory in stock for immediate delivery – as well as all the latest software, of course. Here's a selection from the company's catalogue
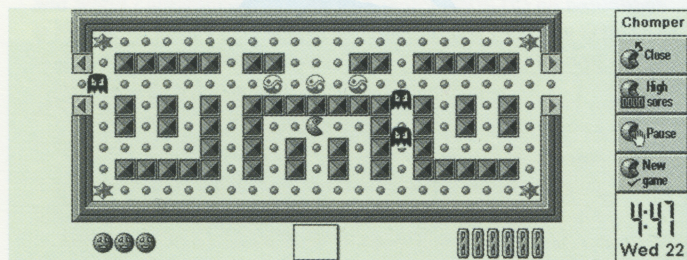

Stand to attention

Designed to make your Series 3, 5 or Siena stand out above a large mound of paperwork, the **Desk Stand** tilts your Psion to the optimum angle for reading the screen and provides a comfortable, ergonomic tilt to the keyboard that makes typing on these systems a breeze. Thanks to its non-slip base, the **Desk Stand** ensures that your Psion doesn't slip around your desk, even on polished surfaces. *Black Desk Stands: Siena (Ref VS04) £14.99; Series 3 (Ref VS01) £16.99; Series 5 (Ref VS01) £19.99.*

Magnificent seven

The Widget **Leisure Pack** comprises no fewer than seven games for your Series 5/3a/3c/3mx that are a major distraction...

- ● *PalmTris. The latest version of this established favourite is imaginatively displayed, making full use of the Psion's graphics.*
- ● *Chomper. Another arcade favourite. Guide your character round the course, eating all the food and avoiding the monsters.*
- ● *Poker. A gambler's delight.*
- ● *Solo. A form of Patience ideal for strategists.*
- ● *Bandit. Why go to Las Vegas when you can run a one-arm bandit on your Psion computer, without losing real money!*
- ● *Reversi. The ancient game of black and white counters.*
- ● *Castle. Full text adventure game, based in a haunted castle.*
Leisure Pack on 3.5" disk Ref VG20 £29.99; or on 4MB CompactFlash £69.99 Ref VG21.

Happy eaters: Chomper is one of seven games in the Leisure Pack

In good time

Timebase is a program that allows you to record and manage your time on your Psion Series 3a/3c/3mx and Series 5. Lawyers, accountants, architects, management consultants, computer engineers and many other professionals are using **Timebase** to manage their most precious commodity. The package records time, activity, expenses and costs electronically, either in 'real time' using the built-in clock of the Psion or by manual entry after the event. Even if your Psion turns itself off, **Timebase** continues recording your time. New clients or new work types can be added at any time.
Series 3 version on SSD Ref VY03A £34.99; Series 5 version on 3.5" disk Ref VY010 £59.99.

Point and write

Now there's no need to swap between your pen and your stylus. Turn this ingenious pen one way and it allows you to write on paper. Turn it the other way and it becomes a touch screen stylus for your Series 5. *The 2 in 1 Pen/Stylus is made of a durable metal barrel, finished in black (ref KF105) or burgundy (ref KF106) at £14.99.*

Mulberry posh

Produced by Mulberry from the finest leather for Widget, this case will make your Series 5 very special. Ingeniously, it allows your Series 5 to be used in position, without having to stick on a Velcro patch on the back of your Psion. The case includes slots for business and credit cards, there's a battery or pen holder. This is an ideal luxury gift at £184.99, in black Ref KL020 or teak Ref KL022.
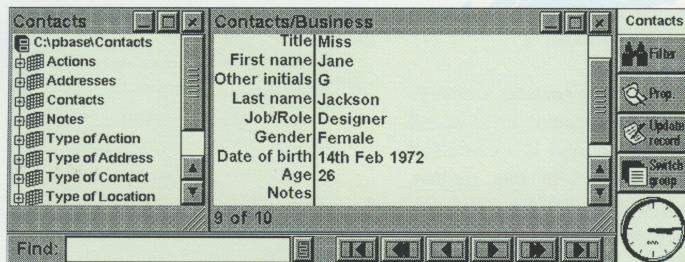
Stop Press...

New Widget-branded 64MB CompactFlash discs available at £199.99 Ref KF264.

About Widget Software
Widget Software, 121 London Road, Knebworth, Hertfordshire, SG3 6EX, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (0) 1438 818800; fax: +44 (0) 1438 815222; email: info@widget.co.uk
Secure Internet ordering at http://www.widget.co.uk
Widget Software supplies the full range of Psion palmtops, software, peripherals and accessories from both Psion and third-party suppliers.
ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT at 17.5%.

Purple Software

Purple Software is known for its heavyweight applications – such as the new PowerBase relational database – as well as high-quality strategy games such as Chess, Backgammon and the new Bridge

PowerBase in action: create groups and filtered lists in an instant

New relation

A relational database is a must for any powerful computer – and Purple Software's new **PowerBase** meets the needs of users wanting to get the most out of their Series 5's data on the move. Designed to work in place of Psion's Data application, **PowerBase** adds a set of sophisticated database management features that are both fast and easy to use.

Here are some of the highlights:

● *Intuitive Psion Series 5 'look & feel'.*
● *Uses Psion Data files and all database files that support the import and export of text files.*
● *Familiar PC-style windowing interface with intuitive 'drag & drop'.*
● *Find records rapidly and create groups and filtered lists of records in an instant.*
● *Lightning-fast sorting on up to three fields.*
● *Field types supported include relational, text, numeric, currency, date and time.*
● *In-place editing of field contents.*
● *Powerful Expression Evaluator with more than 40 functions.*
● *Construct views simply and quickly by dragging fields to the desired position.*
● *Includes a set of templates for most popular database applications.*

PowerBase is available in English, German and French versions, and needs about 400K of memory. Price: £69.95.
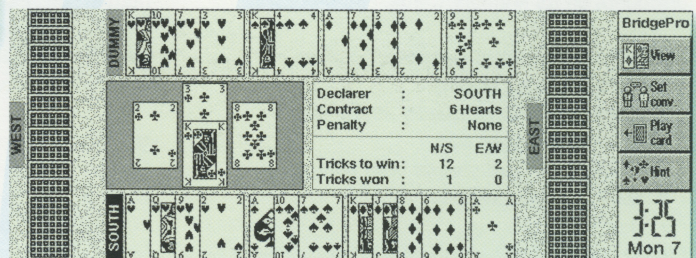
Suits you, sir

It's time to don your dinner jacket, order the champagne cocktails and get ready to play some serious cards. Purple Software's **Bridge** deals the hands and bids at a very high standard – but you don't have to be an expert to enjoy learning and playing the game on your Series 5. **Bridge** is ready to play as soon as it's loaded – you are South, and Series 5 plays the other hands. Start the bidding – and accept hints from the program if you are unsure what to do – and you're soon either playing a hand, or facing a contract by the 'opposition'.

The game makes great use of the Series 5 pen and screen — you can move a card from your hand to the table with 'drag and drop' – and t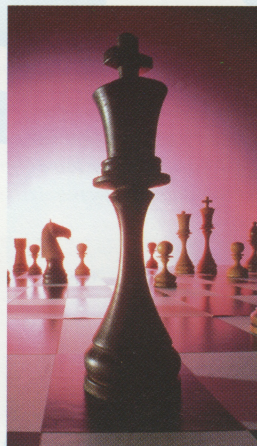here are a stack of features to help you tailor the game just the way you want. Here's a selection of some of the options available in *Bridge*:

● *A choice of board layouts, backgrounds and card backs.*
● *A natural bidding system incorporating many standard and optional conventions.*
● *Create custom hands.*
● *Play against the computer or take control of any of the players.*
● *Hints available for all bids and card play.*
● *A score card for each rubber and cumulative ledger score.*

Bridge is available in English, German and French versions. Price: £49.95.

King high: you as South win the first trick of the deal

Strategic thinking

Purple Software has a winning way with the top strategy games. Apart from the new Bridge program, the company has brought out Chess, Backgammon and Chinese Chess for both the Series 3a/3c/3mx and the Series 5. Also for the Series 5 is 5 Pack, a bargain selection of Draughts (checkers); Home Run, a variation on the classic solitaire; Yacht, modelled on the classic dice poker game; Theole, a reversi style game; and Enigma, a code breaking challenge.

Stop Press...

See Purple's new website at: http://www.purplesoft.com

Offers and briefs

● Psion is offering a special one-off promotion on the Special Edition Series 5 (featured on the front cover) with a Mulberry leather case. These two products make a stylish combination, the Series 5 in a 'pearlescent' aqua green, and the elegant Mulberry case in tan leather with the famous Mulberry trademark. Available at a special price of £449.95 while stocks last, so you will have to be quick. Contact Psion direct on 0990 143050 for further details.

● Don't be caught out if anything happens to your Psion – make sure you back up regularly to your PC, to a Psion SSD or to a Psion Memory Card (Series 5 users only). To make sure your data stays secure Psion is offering special discounts on its Memory Cards:

20MB Memory Card special offer only £99.95, a saving of £30.
10MB Memory Card special offer only £69.95, a saving of £20.
4MB Memory Card special offer only £39.95, a saving of £10.

Please contact Psion direct on 0990 143050 for details. Offer ends 31/12/98 while stocks last.

● Psion offers a number of **training courses** to get you up and running on your Psion. Courses include a full-day introduction and half-day beginners course for Series 3 and 5 users, which are aimed at new users who want an overview of all the functions. There are also a series of half-day **application workshops** for Series 5 users covering all the main applications from PsiWin to Message Suite to Agenda. The courses take place at Psion's central London offices. For details call the Customer Services team on 0990 143050.

● Psion has been vigorously testing products for Year 2000 compliance against criteria set out in BSI DISC PD2000-1 and is committed to supporting its customers in this matter. Please see the Psion website for detailed information on Psion products, Year 2000 test results and any action necessary. Enquiries relating to third-party software need to be referred back to the manufacturer concerned.

● Psion's Series 5 was a **double winner** at the Design Business Association (DBA) Awards in London, held this October. The Series 5 not only collected the prize for best Consumer Product Design, but also one for the best overall entry, the Grand Prix prize.

Competition result

Congratulations to Kiran Mistry, winner of the photo competition set in the spring 1998 edition of Psion User. He wins a Series 5 for this fine piece of work. And well done too Fergus Boyle, who is a field officer for the Save the Children Fund, and beekeeper Anne Goodman, who receive a Series 3mx and Siena, respectively.

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