

PC MAGAZINE



PC Magazine At Home PC Labs Torture- Tests 9 Leading Home PCs

**Safe and Sound?
Doing Business
On the Internet**

**IBM's OS/2
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GETTING READY FOR WINDOWS 95

**Plus John Dvorak
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**Is Plug
And Play
For Real?**

New & Improved

classroom series, the product emphasizes that the SAT measures test-taking skills rather than intelligence and provides a humorous comic book-style interface to soothe students' nerves.

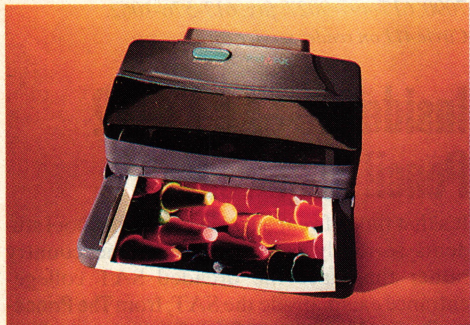
Inside the SAT. *Estimated street price: \$54. The Princeton Review Management Corp., New York, NY; 800-955-3700 ext. 3335, 212-874-8282.*

Circle 408 on reader service card

ColorMobile Office: One if By Hand, Two if by Sheet

Primax Electronics has introduced the ColorMobile Office color scanner, a modular unit that does both hand-held and sheet-fed scanning. You simply snap on attachments to turn the handheld unit—which is useful for scanning pages of a bound book—into a sheet-fed scanner for handling photographs and other single sheets. Snap on the motor module instead for hands-free image scanning; the trackpad attachment allows you to scan up to A4-size documents.

ColorMobile Office is capable of handling true-color scanning and resolutions of 100 to 400 dots per inch. You can change resolution, image size, and image type via the included Twain-compliant software. With all its attachments, ColorMobile Office weighs a mere 2 pounds; Primax offers the scanner without the attachments for \$249.



HANDY-DANDY: With all the attachments, the scanner weighs only 2 pounds.

Primax ColorMobile Office. *List price: \$329. Primax Electronics, Campbell, CA; 800-388-3693, 408-364-2800.*

Circle 409 on reader service card

Suite Little Deal

Software suites may provide all the modules you'll need for business computing, but packages such as Microsoft Office or Lotus SmartSuite can take up loads of hard disk space and can be difficult to learn. Ability for Windows, from **Ability Plus Software**, is an office suite that contains modules for word processing, spreadsheets, databases, forms, charts, and communications—all with a single interface and command structure. You can launch any of the modules from a

HARDWARE BRIEFS

If your IBM PS/2 is collecting dust, you can now upgrade it to 486 power with a \$295 Genesis/PC Replacement Motherboard from **PC Enterprises**. There are Genesis boards for use with PS/2 models 25, 25 286, 30 286, and 55SX. Each replacement board uses a Texas Instruments 40-MHz 486 CPU with 1K of internal cache and provides two serial ports, an enhanced parallel port, two 16-bit ISA expansion slots, and sockets for 128K of secondary cache. You can install up to 32MB of memory, and the Genesis provides 256-color SVGA graphics. 800-922-7257.

Upgrade your computer for multimedia with the new Sound Blaster Multimedia Home 4x from **Creative Technology**. This hardware kit is available on the street for about \$579 and includes an internal quad-speed CD-ROM drive, a Sound Blaster 16 card, speakers, and a hands-free microphone. The CD-ROM drive provides a 600-Kbps maximum transfer rate and a 250-ms access rate. 800-998-5227.

With former New York Giants great Lawrence Taylor at the helm, **Virtual Entertainment Systems** will soon be shipping its 7th Sense virtual-reality entertainment system. Designed for PC-based game playing, the \$399 7th Sense comprises a 28-ounce head-mounted display (HMD), an interface card, and bundled game software. The HMD features 360-degree head tracking, stereo sound, external controls, and a built-in microphone. 914-631-9400; fax, 914-631-9487.

ViewSonic Corp., now in partnership with **Optquest**, has expanded the Optquest Value Line of monitors with the \$699 17-inch Model 1765DC. The new monitor features 0.28-mm dot pitch, a flat-square tube, a nonglare screen, and on-screen digital controls and can handle an 80-Hz refresh rate at a resolution of 1,024-by-768. 909-468-3750; fax, 909-468-3770.

The \$395 DrawingSlate II digitizer tablet from **CalComp** features 2,540-line-per-inch maximum resolution, works as either a tablet or a pointing device, measures a mere 0.25 inches in thickness, and weighs only 1.5 pounds. The bundled software now features area mapping, which lets you determine the ratio of tablet area to screen area for precision work, and recordable macros, which let you program the tablet or the buttons of the included pointing tool. 602-948-6540.

set of icons in the Ability Library Manager, a control module where you can also browse, search, or copy any of your Ability files. More important, the OLE 2.0-compliant Ability requires only 20MB of hard disk space. When you change figures in a document, for example, linked spreadsheets or graphs automatically



LITTLE BIG MAN: The 3.1-pound BJC-70 prints 0.8 pages per minute in color.

change accordingly. You can fax an open file or export it to a third-party application with a single mouse-click. Ability features an interactive tutorial called Quick Tutor and cheat sheet-style Quickcards to help first-time users master the product.

Ability for Windows. *List price: \$229. Ability Plus Software, Charlotte, NC; 800-946-4277, 704-364-3346; fax, 704-364-5676.*

Circle 412 on reader service card

Baby-Size Printer Offers Full-Grown Features

It's not as compact and portable as Pentax's Citizen PN60 color printer, but then again, you aren't forced to sacrifice print speed or features, either. The new BJC-70 color printer from **Canon Computer Systems** packs quite a bit of performance into a refreshing design: It measures 2.2 by 11.8 by 6.2 inches (HWD) and weighs 3.1 pounds. It manages 720- by 360-dpi resolution in black mode and 360-by-360 in color; the printer can turn out a full-color sheet in about 75 seconds.

The BJC-70's moisture- and light-resistant inks come in compact cartridges; a single black replacement tank costs \$12, and a color tank costs \$22. The cartridges are rated for 170 printed monochrome pages and 40 to 50 color pages, while the included nickel-hydride battery will print up to 200 pages on a single charge. You can print on plain or coated paper, cardstock, transparencies, or envelopes, and the printer handles letter-, legal-, and A4-size paper. It even automatically feeds up to 30 sheets and includes 7 built-in bitmap fonts and 20 scalable TrueType fonts.

Canon BJC-70. *List price: \$399. Canon Computer Systems, Costa Mesa, CA; 800-848-4123.*

Circle 407 on reader service card