

Product to shield micros against WA voltage fluctuations

□ The Commodore 128, pictured with high-speed 1271 disc drive, and high-resolution color monitor

SUBIACO-based company Arlec has introduced the first of a new range of line conditioners to cope with WA's fluctuating voltage.

It is designed specifically for microcomputers and other types of voltage sensitive electronic equipment.

The 80250 provides constant 240 volts output irrespective of wide variations in mains input voltage, and offers noise reduction characteristics and low harmonic content in the output waveforms. Or to put it simply, it can protect your computer from the dangerous voltage variations which can sometimes blow more than a fuse.

Rated at 250VA, it is designed for operations on 50Hz only and supplies a stable 240-volt

RMS sine wave output, within close voltage limits, for varying mains inputs extending from 190V to 260V.

It eliminates interference carried in the power line including voltage spikes caused by electrical equipment and lightning. Output voltage can never exceed 250V RMS.

Input voltage fluctuations of up to 15 per

cent are regulated to within 3 per cent at the output ensuring a constant supply with less than 5 per cent harmonic distortion.

These excellent figures have been achieved by means of a completely new core structure. This core produces a low cost unit with low waveform distortion and very good input-output isolation

to reduce electrical noise and interference with such appliances as televisions. The unit employs an electrostatic shield to cut down noise even further.

The 80250 is short circuit protected and requires no other protective devices. It is also guaranteed for two years.

For more information call Arlec on 381 9522.



Compatibility for new 128

LAST week saw the official Australian release of the Commodore 128 but stocks are expected to be scarce in WA at first because of eastern States demand.

Its main feature is that it is three computers in one - the Commodore 128, the 64 and a CPM machine - for only \$699.

Commodore have been notorious for the incompatibility of their machines. The 128 is

the first which is truly compatible with its predecessor, the Commodore 64.

It will run the masses of programs that have been written for the 64 and then at the touch of a button will switch to an 80 column professional machine running CPM and its own 128 programs.

The C128 design is more ergonomic than the 64, having a lower front and better typing angle. It is also has a larger keyboard.

It has the standard 64 layout plus a numeric keypad with the function keys placed above it and aligned horizontally. Also along the top are another four cursor keys as well as 'Escape', 'Tab', 'Alt' and 'Caps Lock'.

These keys and the numeric keypad cannot be used in 64 mode. The 128 mode is an enhanced 64 mode, with all the features of the 64 plus 80 columns and Basic 7.0. You select 40 or 80 columns when the machine is turned on.

In 128 or CPM mode the same VIC chip used by the 64 displays 40 column graphics and sprites. There is a special chip dedicated to the 80 column display, which only produces text. No sprites or bit-mapped graphics are available in this mode.

To compensate for the lack of graphics, the character set has been made redifinable.

Three speeds

Commodore have released a special monitor for use with the 128, with composite inputs as well as analogue RGB and compatible RGB.

The 1271 (double sided) or the 1270 (single sided) disc drive which will be available runs at three speeds.

In 128 mode, the disc drive can configure itself to operate like a 1541 so it will be able to load 64 type programs. However, these programs cannot take advantage of the graphics and sound capabilities of the 128. The Basic 7.0 is perhaps the best Basic ever, outperforming the IBM Advanced Basic.

It incorporates the Disc Basic of the PET

4000 series, Simon's Basic, and Super Expander. Adding the 80 or more new commands to the already existing 70 commands brings the total to a huge 150 commands.

Finally the 81D chip is easy to operate. No longer do you have to memorise 20 locations to produce one note. Commands such as Sound and Play do it all for you.

Overall the Commodore 128 has everything that was in the 64, everything that was left out, plus a lot more.

AMSTRAD and COMMODORE 128
Now in stock

COMPUTER BASE
THE FAMILY COMPUTER PEOPLE
135 Canning Highway, South Perth
Telephone 367 4055.

AMSTRAD SHATTERS
THE PRICE/PERFORMANCE BARRIER
CPC 464 "Excellent Value"
CPC 664 "Incredible Value"
CPC 6128 What can we say?

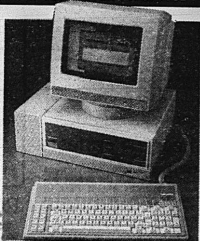
128K HOME and BUSINESS COMPUTER
includes
* Monitor * Super Fast Disk Drive
* CP/M Plus * Excellent Manual
* Logo * 3 Disks of Software
* Basic * Full Function Keyboard
GREEN \$799 COLOR \$1049
No other system comes close
Full range of economical Home and Business Software available

SEE THE EXPERTS
VICWEST
DISCOUNT COMPUTER STORE
445 2152
INNALOO SHOPPING CENTRE

SAVE \$\$\$\$ OLIVETTI M24 PERSONAL COMPUTER PACKAGE

Offer Includes

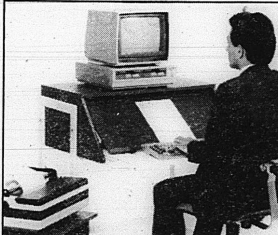
- * 10MB Hard Disk
- * 256K Memory
- * Lotus 1-2-3-Spread Sheet or D BASE III
- * Multimate Word Processor
- * Cashcare Business Cashbook



NOW ONLY **\$6500** INC TAX
* This price is not applicable to tax exempt organisations.

Phone **481 1274**

MICROCARE
COMPUTER SOLUTIONS



SPACESTATION 'TUBELINE'

A better way to work and play.

Attractive contemporary styling in a decor matched colour range. The ideal computer station in the office, at home. Loads of neat and tidy hardware and software storage. See our showroom display.

ERGONOMIC DESIGNS LTD
Living Made Easier

414 Stirling Hwy, Cotterell, W.A. 6011
Telephone 383 8499

Bruining Headlam Exclusive

Now in stock new model disc drives, monitors and family packs

\$200 CASH BACK OFFER

Complete computer and word processing system - ideal for home and small business!

Your system includes:

- * C-64 Computer
- * 1541 Disk Drive
- * Printer
- * Word Processing Programme
- * Exclusive Bruining Headlam Starter Pack.

(90 programmes - games, education, business)

* Exclusive Library Access, (2,000 programmes - free of charge).

* Club Membership - up to 20% Discount

ALL FOR JUST \$1247

* COMPUTER Only 20 available.

BRUINING HEADLAM computers

PERSONAL BUSINESS EDUCATION

116 Cambridge Street, Leederville, WA. PH. 09 381 2968

* 128 here this week

Multi-functional Commodore

THE COMMODORE 128 was released in Perth this week, but all initial shipments have been pre-sold, and there are huge waiting lists. In fact the supply-demand situation is so

critical that Commodore Australia has chartered a jumbo and will be flying in 9000 more Commodore 128

computers next week. If Commodore State manager Wayne Drake. But even this will not fill the demand.

Backgammon shops' managing director, Jeff Kramosdin, to celebrate the opening of the company's new computer store in Leederville, is offering a Sunday Times reader an opportunity to jump the queue and swap his Commodore 64 for one of these new much-sought-after dual 64/128 machines.

All you have to do is fill in the form below and drop it into any of the six Backgammon shops around the Perth metropolitan area.

Discount

And anyone taking a coupon into the shop and showing it to the assistant before dropping it into the barrel can buy Commodore 64 software at 25 per cent off.

A sort of consolation prize for Commodore 64 owners, even if they don't ultimately win the

Commodore 128.

The reason for the "swap your Commodore 64" theme in this competition is because Commodore expects the initial support for it will come from Commodore 64 owners wanting to upgrade to this more powerful and more versatile machine.

The unit runs as a Commodore 64 and so takes all the software available for that machine.

Swap

And so anyone with a Commodore can swap it for the 128 and still use all their Commodore 64 library — something that has not been possible in the past with new computers introduced by Commodore.

At the flick of a switch, the unit becomes a business system offering 80 column display and able to run all the business programs and also its own 128 program. There aren't many of these yet.

In fact Wayne says that for the launching



Commodore 128 personal computer suitable for home, school or office

of the 128 there are only three programs so far available.

They are Super Script (wordprocessing), Super Base (data base), and Micro Swift (financial spreadsheet).

They are the vital programs for a business executive, but there is little doubt there will be heaps of programs produced specifically for

this talented machine as the numbers increase.

Meanwhile the Commodore 128's main claim to fame is it will run CPM business programs and all Commodore 64 programs and there are thousands of these.

There is no doubt it is going to be a huge market success as the pre-

orders indicate. All major Commodore dealers around Perth have taken a lot of deposits for it, and all have been told they will only receive around 50 per cent of what they ordered.

So if you want to be one of the first in WA to win one of these new and unique machines fill in the coupon and drop it into any of the Backgammon shops.

AMSTRAD SHATTERS THE PRICE/PERFORMANCE BARRIER

- CPC 464 "Excellent Value"
- CPC 664 "Incredible Value"
- CPC 6128 What can we say?

128K HOME and BUSINESS COMPUTER

- includes
 - * Monitor
 - * Super Fast Disk Drive
 - * CP/M Plus
 - * Excellent Manual
 - * Logo
 - * 3 Disks of Software
 - * Basic
 - * Full Function Keyboard

GREEN \$799 COLOR \$1049

No other system comes close
Full Range of economical Home and Business Software available

SEE THE EXPERTS

VCWEST
DISCOUNT COMPUTER STORE
445 2152
INNALOO SHOPPING CENTRE

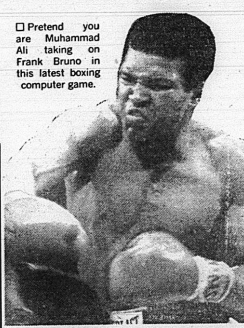
SPACESTATION 'PANELINE'

A better way to work and play.

The ideal computer station in the office at home. Finished in attractive woodgrain or plain colours to match your decor. Plenty of neat and tidy hardware and software storage. See our showroom display.

ERGONOMIC DESIGNS LTD
Living Made Easier
414 Spring Hwy, Cottesloe, WA 6011
Telephone: (09) 384 8499

Painless way to take on boxing champions



Game Review: Frank Bruno's Boxing.
Price \$29.95. Available for Commodore 64.

BOXING. The subject of films, documentaries, and controversy combines physical skills, stamina, strength, courage and endurance to produce an immensely intense sport.

But anyone wanting the glory without the time and pain can do so with a computer game called Frank Bruno's Boxing.

Frank Bruno's Boxing was originally an arcade game called Knock Out.

Transition

Very few games make the transition from arcade to computer successfully. This is an exception. It is identical to the arcade version.

Considering the limitations of the Commodore 64 it is very well done. The only place it falls short of the arcade version is in sound effects.

The graphics are identical to the arcade game. You are placed in the centre of the ring

very effectively, perhaps too well as on a monochrome screen it is difficult to tell what is happening, so you should use a color screen or TV.

There are eight opponents to fight against — ranging from hard to impossible. You can fight the Canadian Crusher, Fling Long Chop, Andra Puncher, Tribal Trouble, Frenchie, Ravioli Mafiosi, Antipodan Andy (from Australia) and Peter Perfect.

Personality

Each competitor must be loaded from the tape separately because each "personality" is so large in computer program terms that the Commodore 64 cannot hold them all at one time.

Your man is controlled by either two joysticks or one joystick and keyboard.

If you are able to beat all eight opponents, you can claim the Heavyweight Champion of the World belt.

The sound is the only disappointing feature in this game. No crowd roaring to spur you on only the occasional thud of a glove landing and the tell ringing. The game must be merited on its graphics which are superb.

Now in stock new model disc drives, monitors and family packs

\$200 CASH BACK OFFER

Complete computer and word processing system — Ideal for home and small business!

Your system includes:

- C-64 Computer
- 1541 Disk Drive
- Printer
- Word Processing Programme
- Exclusive Bruining Headlam Starter Pack.

ALL FOR JUST \$1247

Only 20 available.

BRUINING HEADLAM computers

PERSONAL BUSINESS EDUCATION
116, Cambridge Street, Leederville, WA. PH: 09 381 2988

G128 here this week

COMMODORE 64 FAMILY PACKS

Also AMSTRAD 64 and 128 COMMODORE 128s Now in stock

\$429

From

COMPUTER BASE

THE FAMILY COMPUTER PEOPLE

133 Canning Highway, South Perth
Telephone 367 4055.

Getting music out of your Commodore 64

NOW budding computer enthusiasts can be building musicians without having to move from their Commodore 64.

Commodore has released Popular Classics, the first in a series of Music Maker Playalong Album programs for the Commodore 64.

Music Maker is a piano keyboard which lays over the original Commodore 64 keyboard and allows you to play music on the 64 like a piano.

Popular Classics contains 15 computer recordings including such classics as the Hungarian Dance No 5 by Brahms, Sonata in C Major by Mozart, Concerto No 1 in B Minor by Tchaikovsky and the Emperor Waltz by Strauss.

The series with its multi-level programming is designed for beginners and experienced musicians alike, although an experienced musician would find it hard to play music on the Commodore 64.

In single-key mode, the user can tap out the timing. Each note of the melody will play, together with the accompaniment.

Prompting on screen and computer controlled timing are added in rehearsal mode. The chance to display talent comes with performance mode.

A few beats of the built-in metronome and the Commodore musician can play the entire melody along with the accompaniment. He can speed up

or slow down the tempo.

By connecting the Commodore 64 to a Midi-equipped keyboard further sophistication is possible.

The Playalong Albums have three musical parts to the melody which can be directed to different channels on the Midi interface. This allows the keyboard sound to be split into different instruments.

Concert mode plays the entire piece without any user input required.

If you prefer more modern music, there are some other Playalong Albums which feature some pop songs and a separate one dedicated to the Beatles. The Playalong Albums are available from Commodore dealers and cost \$35.



Commodore 64 owners can become instant musicians with this Commodore Music Maker Playalong kit.

Good computing for the talented IBM ix

IBM released a new computer recently without any of the usual flag waving.

It is the new IBM PCjr, called in this version, IBM PCjr.

The original IBM PCjr was not very successful. Only a few made it to Australia before it was withdrawn because of poor sales in the US.

It didn't stand a chance against the low priced Commodore and Atari.

The new PCjr is IBM's latest attempt to try to break into the Commodore and Apple dominated market. But the ix is hardly cheap. The base model retails at \$2115 and increases from there, according to the options you include.

The base model consists of the keyboard, color screen and CPU plus a wealth of ports and interfaces. The system provides 64K of RAM and no disk drives.

Disk drives

The first upgrade model, called the 128K, has increased memory to 128K, and one disk drive. To this the price is raised to \$2661.

The top-end model has two disk drives and 256K RAM onboard and retails for \$3565.

The ix runs the Intel 8088 PCjr operating at 4.77MHz, identical to big brother. Available ROM adds up to be 1 Megabit or 128K. RAM starts at 64K but can be upgraded to 512K.

Good entry into cheap computing

The disc drives that are available are 5 1/4 inch micro drives. The reasoning behind this choice seems strange as most of the IBM PC software is on 8 inch (5.25 inch). But as the ix is not completely compatible with the PC and many titles have been converted to 5 1/4 format to support the large amount of portable PCs this would not seem to be a problem.

Compatible

Unfortunately the ix microdrives can only hold 360K compared with the standard 720K held on most micro drives. Hopefully IBM will release a 720K micro drive for the ix so it will be able to run most of the software.

In the future a 16m disc drive will be available.

ble for the ix, allowing it to except normal IBM PC software.

Other forms of storage include cartridge. The cartridge port is completely compatible with the PCjr so the software written on cartridge on the jr will run on the ix.

Powerful Crunch available

A CALIFORNIAN spreadsheet called Crunch was described as the most powerful available on any personal computer at its recent release at the Pan Pacific Computer Conference.

The Crunch spreadsheet was developed by Padain Software, a Californian company which merged earlier this year with VisiCorp, one of the original micro-computer software companies. Crunch is available through the Software Corporation of Australia, and local Apple Macintosh retailers.

Display

'Crunch runs on the single drive Macintosh but requires 512K to run. The program can store more cells of data and recalculates large models faster than any other spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet uses a unique display of priority icons at the top of each screen. These are designed to provide the user with one key access to frequently used tasks, like plotting graphs based on figures the spreadsheet display.

DATA GENERAL
NOVA 4/C

Multi-User Computer with 2 M BYTTE floppy and 3 terabyte hard disk \$5000
Call 321 6277 (anytime)
321 6277 office hours.

Inside the machine, the expansion slots are not compatible with the PCs which means a new set of boards must be designed for expanding the computer. Even though the ix supports the 8088, it does not have room for the 8087 maths co-processor.

Keyboard

Beside these points, the IBM PCjr is a very well-made machine, and there are already a wealth of titles (over 100) available.

The ix is especially suitable for education and home use. It runs the PC DOS 2.1 which functions the same as any other PC DOS. Memory based

operations are exactly the same as on all the other PCs, and execution time is also identical.

The keyboard is not of the high IBM PC quality of keyboard, but it is much better than many of the keyboards around today.

A PC style keyboard will be available for the ix shortly.

The IBM PCjr offers an excellent entry point into reasonably cheap computing.

It is a computer which is powerful enough to be used by a small business, and versatile enough to be used at some in education. And most of all, it is an IBM.

COMMODORE 64 FAMILY PACKS

ALSO FROM \$429

AMSTRAD 64 and 128K COMMODORE 128K Now in stock

COMPUTER BASE

THE FAMILY COMPUTER PEOPLE

135 Canby Highway, South Perth
Telephone 367 4055.

SPACESTATION 'PANELINE'

A better way to work and play.

The ideal computer station in the office at home. Finished in attractive woodgrain or plain colours to match your decor. Plenty of neat and tidy hardware and software storage. See our showroom display.

ERGONOMIC DESIGNS LTD

Living Made Easier

414 Stirling Hwy., Cotterell, W.A. 6011.
Telephone (09) 354 9459

AMSTRAD SHATTERS THE PRICE/PERFORMANCE BARRIER

CPC 464 "Excellent Value"
CPC 664 "Incredible Value"
CPC 6128 What can we say?

128K HOME and BUSINESS COMPUTER

- includes
- * Monitor
- * CP/M Plus
- * Logo
- * Basic
- * Super Fast Disk Drive
- * Excellent Manual
- * 3 Disks of Software
- * Full Function Keyboard

GREEN \$799 COLOR \$1049

No other system comes close
Full Range of economical Home and Business Software available

SEE THE EXPERTS

ICWEST

DISCOUNT COMPUTER STORE

445 2152

INNALOO SHOPPING CENTRE

BRUINING HEADLAM Computers From \$199

GIVES YOU A CHOICE THIS CHRISTMAS

C128 Now Available

The Ultimate 3 Computers IN ONE for Home and Small Business

The Famous 64 Family Pack & Disk Packages

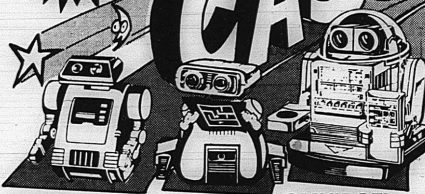
Compatible with 10 other brands

BRUINING HEADLAM computers \$100 Bonus

of ready to use software

Bargain CADE

FREE
The hilarious WHITE COMPIERS book with any computer bought from this week only. Cat B-6200 only.



FLIPBOT

An acrobatic robot! Watch him walk, rotate his arms and perform daredevil flips; lay him on his back and he gets up again. He'll even deliver messages in his mouth. Cat Y-2055

VALUE!
\$1995

DINGBOT

He's a real dingbat! A non-stop comedian that bumps into walls, then turns his head and dashes off in another direction while chattering in his own strange language. Cat Y-2060

ONLY
\$2495

OMNIBOT!

He walks... he talks... responds to your commands! More than just a gadget, he's a programmable robot which you can train to greet guests, deliver messages around the house and more. Cat Y-2050

WOW!
\$399

LIMITED STOCKS
Ideal gift for budding musical talents! Casio organs make music easier to learn, yet satisfy masters. Impressive features provide real scope to extend musical creativity...

CASIO MT11

Cat Y-7011

ONLY 31 SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS
WAS \$79.95 **\$44.95**



CASIO MT35

Cat Y-7035

WAS \$159 **\$99**



CASIO PT80

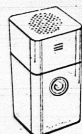
Cat Y-7015

\$149



GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC FROM CASIO AND

DICK SMITH ELECTRONICS



TAPE-A-MESSAGE

Great! Now busy families can stay in touch by recording messages. Even kids will enjoy telling parents where they are at any time of the day. With built-in continuous tape. Cat A-4045

DON'T LOSE THE KIDS **\$3995**

CHESS COMPUTER

Only **\$9995**

Make the move! Join the computer chess club. Challenge the computer on any skill level to improve your game. Then play a friend and show off your style. Cat Y-7065

COKE PHONE

Puts fizz into phone fashion! Adds sparkle to any conversation. It's not a toy but a fully functional phone with redial and mute buttons. Cat F-5196

IT'S THE REAL THING!
\$4995

SEE HALLEY'S FIRST WITH TASCO TELESCOPES AND BINOCULARS

The coming of Halley's is a once in a life time spectacle that the whole family can share. And the best way to view Halley's is with a quality Tasco telescope. These powerful star-gazers boast the best features... moon filters, photo tube adaptors and more! DSE have a selection of Tasco telescopes to suit any budget.

Tasco 577 Cat Y-1095 **\$109**
Tasco 497 Cat Y-1100 **\$249**
Tasco 1327 Cat Y-1105 **\$449**



HERE COMES HALLEY'S COMET



Another effective way of seeing Halley's is with a pair of Tasco binoculars. Superior viewing strength and advanced Tasco features provide crisp, clear images.

Tasco 7x50 Cat Y-1110 **\$84.95**
Tasco 10x50 Cat Y-1115 **\$129.95**

FREE WITH ANY TASCO TELESCOPE OR BINOCULARS

That's right! Buy a Tasco and receive a copy of HALLEY'S COMET OVER AUSTRALIA. Astronomy expert, Brian Greig, gives a history of Halley's, viewing and photography tips and more.

SAVE \$50 BARGAIN-PRICED CAT COMPUTERS



Spring into DSE and save on CAT — the pick of the computer litter! It's *purrr-fect* for both experienced programmers and beginners. Features 64K RAM, colour, sound and graphics. Cat X-7500

WAS \$699 **\$649**

LASER GUN



What a blast! Kids will have a ball playing Star Wars games with this fantastic laser gun. Shoots two space sounds and lights up. Cat Y-8100

\$1250

GET A KEYFINDER

Find misplaced keys in seconds. Just whistle and Keyfinder 'beeps' out a rescue call. Saves time, trouble and bad language! Cat Y-1070

WAS \$14.95

BUY ONE \$995 BUY TWO \$19



NATIONAL VIDEO TAPES

LIMITED STOCKS!

Beauty! 3-hr VHS tapes at this low price PLUS National quality. Cat C-3408

\$895 EACH
LIMIT 10 PER CUSTOMER



DICK SMITH ELECTRONICS

Head Office: PO Box 321 North, Sydney, 2113 NSW. Ph: (02) 888 3200



- Your nearest store is...
- CANNINGTON Wharf St & Albany Hwy 451 8666
 - FREMANTLE 66 Adelaide St 335 9733
 - NORTH PERTH William St & Robinson Ave 328 6944
 - PERTH CITY Centraway Acde, Hay St 321 4357

Or order through DSExpress with your Bankcard, Mastercard or Visa card. Just phone (toll free) (0800) 225610 for fast dispatch of your order. (Sydney calls or enquiries please call (02) 888 2105 or write to address at left)

ONLY 31 SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS

AAA

PRINTERS

PX 120 PRINTER	\$470
PAX 180 CPS 10"	\$550
PAX 1800	\$780
(180 CPS - 15")	

Y MICRO

443 1270 443 2955
107 Richmond St
Leederville

AAAA

FOR
APPLE PERIPHERALS
AND
APPLE REPAIRS

Call Y MICRO 443 1270

AAAAAA

FOR OLIVETTI
M24/M21

Y MICRO

443 1270 443 2955
107 RICHMOND STREET
LEEDERVILLE

AAAAAA

LAYBY
SUPER PC
\$1880

IBM COMPATIBLE

INCLUDES:

Japan Made Teac Drive
Power Supply for XT
256 Ram ex to 640K
2 x 360K Floppy

APPLE SERVICE

SPECIALISTS

We service originals and
compatibles

Guardian Electronics
328 3719

*Sunday Times (Perth) Classified
3rd & 10th November 1985*

IBM hitting back at critics with powerful answer

IBM has finally answered its critics who say the IBM PC is too slow and has not enough user or on-line memory.

IBM has announced its latest and most powerful personal computer as well as some new options which include the capability to link up to 12 IBM PCs for sharing information, programs and peripherals.

Called the IBM PC AT it uses an advanced high-speed Intel 80286 microprocessor, a high capacity disc drive and expanded fixed disc drive options. The new processor allows the IBM PC AT to run at two to three times faster than the normal IBM PC.

On board it offers three million characters of user memory and 412 million characters of on-line storage. Prices

start at \$7821 for the base model and \$11,266 for the enhanced version.

IBM has also announced a variety of options for the new machine.

The IBM PC Network for linking personal computers includes economical products the user can install himself. IBM also said it intends to connect the IBM PC Network to its future token ring local area network. Personal computers connected to the token ring network will be able to utilise the resource-sharing functions of the IBM PC Network programs.

A new IBM PC program, TopView, enables users quickly and easily to work with a variety of programs at the same time, using windows.

Barrel of good luck



WINNER of the Backgammon-Commodore 128 computer competition seen here receiving his prize from the company's managing director, Jeff Krasnoeint, is Rohan Wallace.

To celebrate the launch of the new 128 computer switchable between a Commodore 64 operation and the 128, 80-column busi-

ness format - the Backgammon stores invited Commodore 64 owners to drop their names in a barrel and the first one out could swap his Commodore 64 for a new 128.

Rowan's was the lucky entry pulled from the barrel last week.

The Commodore 128 is expected to be in short supply until after Christmas. The situation was made even worse last week when a shipment was dropped

by the air freight company bringing the products to Australia for Commodore.

So if you haven't ordered yours yet and want one for Christmas, you'd better get your order in.

While we are talking Backgammon Shop, they have a real stop press item they will announce next week.

Until then I have to keep mum on pain of deletion.

So stay tuned for next week's announcement.

Meet the First Nice Modem...

THE First Nice Modem is the first product from the Nice Computer Company of Australia, and is a home-bred modem the manufacturers claim challenges all existing modems on price and performance.

There are two models of The First Nice Modem.

One is an RS232 version which runs on the IBM PC, Apple Macintosh and other RS232C orientated modems. The other version operates on the Commodore 64 connecting to the user port.

The prices for these modems are \$279 for the RS232 model and \$299 for the Commodore version.

Both modems support Bell and CCITT standards. The Bell standard is particularly useful if you contact bulletin boards in America. The CCITT standard can be used in contacting local and overseas computer services.

A spokesman for The Nice Computer Company said: "The First Nice Modem is the best value-for-money hidden around offering more features at a lower price."

Considering the First Nice Modem is called The First Nice Modem, the question which must be asked is will there be a second?

The answer is "Yes". The development is top secret, but it will not replace The First Nice Modem. It will be an ultra sophisticated modem aimed at the professional user.

The First Nice Modem is an excellent peripheral, and is available through most retailers. For more information call 321-8636.

Graphics check the competition

Game Review: Cyrus II 3D Chess.
Available for the Amstrad Computers (from VicWest).
Price: \$24.95.

THE first impression from this intellectual strategy game is that it is visually more appealing than many arcade games.

It is called three dimensional chess, and it is that to the letter. The graphics are absolutely superb, definitely the best I have ever seen on any computer.

The pieces move around, behind and in front of each other as they literally slide across the board.

You select the piece to move by using the

cursor keys, and continue to use them to select where you will move to. This is the most complex operation you will need to know to control this game.

It is on a whole different level of skill and intellectual thinking than even the best arcade or strategy game. It is very refreshing to see such an effort go into a product which has not a broad appeal as, say, space invaders had.

Difficult

There are in all 13 levels of skill, ranging from the normal level 0 to level 9 plus some other special difficult levels. Problem level,

the 13th, is perhaps the most interesting of them all. It tries as hard as it can to try to get you in mate in five moves.

Other features include: taking back moves, hint, moving forward through old moves, changing places and a demo mode.

Standard

It is the best piece of software from Amstrad's Amsoft, we have seen.

This is a must for whether or not you are a fan of chess.

The graphics on this are of a standard by which other chess games will be judged.

So much effort and attention to detail have gone into it, from the shading of the pieces to the shadow they cast on the board.

It plays a good game of chess, too.

COMMODORE buy from the experts	C64	C128	DISK DRIVES	AND	PRINTERS
	FAMILY PACK	SOFTWARE GALLERY	1981 CRASH MONITOR	1101	PRINTER
AMSTRAD best value in town	CPC 464	C128	DISK DRIVES	AND	PRINTERS
	COLOR ON SCREEN	COLOR ON SCREEN	SOFTWARE GALLERY	DISK PACK HELP	
PC COMPATIBLE at the best price in town	256K RAM	256K RAM	EXPANDABLE TO 640K		
	PC 3.5 DISK	COLOR MONITORS	GREEN MONITORS		

BUY THE BEST FOR LESS!

VICWEST DISCOUNT COMPUTER STORE

Shop 6 Innaloo Shopping Centre.

445 2152

Bankcard, Visa, Mastercard Layby or Mail Order

BRUINING HEADLAM GIVES YOU A CHOICE THIS CHRISTMAS

COMMODORE 128

C-128 Now Available

SONY MSX

PLUS SOFTWARE

COMMODORE 64

64 Family Pack & Disk Packages

The Ultimate 3 Computers IN ONE for Home and Small Business

The Famous 64 Family Pack & Disk Packages

Compatible with 10 other brands

BRUINING HEADLAM computers
PERSONAL BUSINESS EDUCATION
116 Cambridge Street, Leederville, WA. PH: (09) 361 2968

\$100 Exclusive Bonus
of ready to use software

To Advertise in "TODAY'S WOMAN" and "TODAY'S BRIDE" Phone **SHIRLEY 326 8093**

COMMODORE 64 FAMILY PACKS

ALSO AMSTRAD 64 and 1288 COMMODORE 1288 New in stock

from \$449

COMPUTER BASE

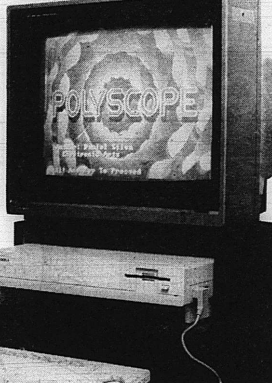
THE FAMILY COMPUTER PEOPLE

135 Canning Highway, South Perth Telephone 347 9255

COMPUTERS

with Mark Lingane

Clever Amiga computer



□ The Commodore Amiga computer is set to take on the Macintosh when it released next year

AMSTRAD SHATTERS THE PRICE/PERFORMANCE BARRIER

- CPC 464 "Excellent Value"
- CPC 654 "Incredible Value"
- CPC 6128 What can we say?

128K HOME and BUSINESS COMPUTER

- includes
- * Monitor
- * Super Fast Disk Drive
- * CP/M Plus
- * Excellent Manual
- * Logo
- * 3 Disks of Software
- * Basic
- * Full Function Keyboard

GREEN \$799 COLOR \$1049

No other system comes close
Full Range of economical Home and Business
Software available

SEE THE EXPERTS

VICWEST DISCOUNT COMPUTER STORE

INNALOO SHOPPING CENTRE
445 2152
BANKCARD, VISA, MASTERCARD,
LAYBY AND MAIL ORDER WELCOME

Everyone can play computer scrabble

Game Review: Scrabble
Price \$29.95
For the Commodore 64
From Bruining Headlam Computers

MONTY Plays
Scrabble
Crossword Games is its
full title, and is the
best simulation
scrabble I have seen
on computer.

This game points to a
resurgence of old
favourite board games,
such as monopoly and
chess, but converted to
computer.

These old board
games used to bring the
family together and get
them communicating
with each other. It was
a social event playing
scrabble or monopoly.

The introduction of
the computer or game
centre has seen a
decline in such family-
type games.

The kids play at
arcade-action games at
their end of the house,
usually one against the
computer, while dad is
at the other end of the
house using his
computer to balance
the cheque books.

Mum is left alone in
the middle - in the
kitchen.

Family games

The computer takes
the place of a game
score keeper, and only
plays when you don't
have enough players.

LAST weekend I
was one of the first
people in Australia
to have a hands-on
session with the
Commodore Amiga.

And for the next week
or so, other Perth
computer fans can get to
tinker with this amazing
machine.

The Amiga will be on
display in the West
Perth Backgammon
Shop from Monday for
a week and the general
public is invited to try
this new machine that
has been the talk of the
world's computer
industry for about a year.
Atari thought they
owned it because they
put in an offer to the
company that devel-

But at the last minute
Commodore moved in
and bought it from
under their noses. This
led to multiple law suits,
and delays in the
launch of the machine
which was only unveiled
recently in the US.

ICOM brought the
Amiga into Perth and is
lending it to the Back-
gammon shop so they
can create some soft-
ware for ICOM.

ICOM runs informa-
tion services in hotels
using a video disc based
system. Previously they
used IBM PCs to con-
trol the information
systems. But the IBM
graphics are too crude
and the company be-
lieves the Amiga is the
way to go.

Assigned

Roger Davis of the
Backgammon Shop has
been assigned to do
some of the software
development. I man-
aged to lever the
Amiga off him for the
weekend.

Friends from the WA
University Computer
Club got wind of it and
poured over the machine
the last Sunday to try
help me analyse the
hardware. They have
footproof spy network
that tells them when a
new machine arrives in
Perth.

The first impressions
of the machine were
good, even though there
was no software to ac-
tually run on it. There
were many pluses for
the machine and very
few criticisms from the
gathering as it was put
through its paces.

Most see it as a new
Apple Macintosh - in
other words, a ma-
chine that Apple would
produce if they set out
to create the Mac now.

Color

The biggest drawback
to this Amiga was the
when called ABC (Apple
Bought Color) came
with the machine.
Though powerful in
commands, it lacks the
Commodore's usual
friendly on-screen edit-
ing. The Amiga editing
reminded me of the
Tandy Model 2 which
came out in 1978.

To correct a line was
to be done with the
followed by a line num-
ber. You then cursor
along the line and de-
sert and delete character
using I and D keys.
It was only after re-
typing the line rather
than editing.

But this aside the
Basic is very powerful.
The Amiga is fast,
not as fast as it is made
out to be, but faster
than most computers
around today, including
the Macintosh.

The Amiga's real
power is illustrated
when you load up its
graphics and sound.

It has a command call
to define a series of
points from three to
Amiga will fill that area
with a predefined color

in milliseconds. It is the
fastest filling ever on a
personal computer, all
due to a special
graphics chip called the
Blitter.

A drawback is that
with filling in circles,
many points are de-
fined, and the calculation
of these points by the
computer takes about a
10th of a second, slow by
comparison because the
fill is still instantaneous.

The manual, which is
certainly hefty, is com-
prehensive and covers
from plugging the
Amiga into the wall to
all the Basic commands
and how to use the work-
bench.

The machine had a
few operating hiccups
occasionally producing
software errors.

At one stage the com-
mand Re-number was
typed and the machine
display disappeared
never to return.

The time I had the
machine for didn't
allow me to try out all
the sounds, but he says
the speech synthesis is
a good going over.

The Amiga has two
voice synthesis chips,
one for a male voice and
one for female. The
quality of the voice was
superb, the best non-di-
gitised voice synthesis
on a personal computer.

Voices

You can modify the
voice, you can make
making them higher,
faster, hoarser etc.

It is possible to have
both voices speaking to-
gether, or singing a
duet. The voices can be
synchronised with the
screen, or they can just
talk along to suit them-
selves.

It has a very interest-
ing processor which
translates what you
typed into something it
can understand.

If it finds three dots
in a row (....) it says "and
if it finds two dots ab-
breviations (Mr Mrs
etc) it speaks the full
version of them.

If you have ever used
the Apple Macintosh
you will have no trouble
using the Amiga opera-
ting system.

It runs in the same
way as most other
mouse-driven menu-
pull-down systems ex-
cept it is much faster
than any other. Win-
dowing isn't as specta-
cular as it is in the
Macintosh.

When selecting a file
on the Macintosh it en-
larges on the screen to
a readable size. In the
Amiga it just springs up
in front of you. Granted
the Amiga is more ef-
ficient and functional,
but it lacks the pizzazz
that the Macintosh has.

We had 12 windows
on the Amiga running
at once. Opening a
large number of win-
dows slows down the
speed of the machine
but not significantly.

The Amiga is a very
clever computer with a
lot of top features,

BRUINING HEADLAM

GIVES YOU A CHOICE
THIS CHRISTMAS



Computers
From
\$159

Drawback

A drawback is that it
is large and takes a
long time to load from
the disc. So set it up,
press the button and
then wander off, giving
it time to load the pro-
gram ready for the
evening's fun.

The game is played
identically with the
official scrabble rules.
The representation of
the board on the TV
screen is exact. It is the
scrabble format placed
directly on to
computer.

This is a must if you
are into games which
offer more than
mindless destruction
and avoidance. The
game offers the same
mind stretching
opportunities as
thousands and chess
and uses the computer
to its best abilities.

C6128 Now Available

The Ultimate
3 Computers
in ONE for
Home and
Small Business

The Famous
64 Family Pack &
Disk Packages

Compatible
with 10
other brands

BRUINING HEADLAM computers

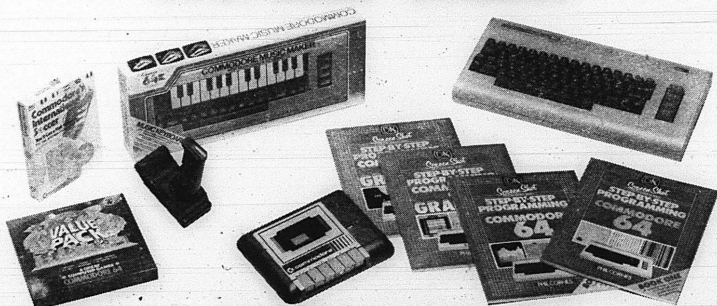
PERSONAL BUSINESS EDUCATION
116, Cambridge Street, Leederville, WA. PH: (09) 381 2968

Exclusive
Bonus
\$100
of ready to use software

A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



THE COMMODORE 64 FAMILY PACK



It's no accident that the Commodore 64 is the World's Best Selling computer. It has the kind of Graphics, the kind of Sound and the kind of 64K Memory you find in much more expensive computers. But not the kind of price. And it plugs straight into your home television.

And when you add a Datas cassette Recorder; Six Top Selling Games Plus International Soccer; Four Easy-To-Use Instruction Books; a Joystick and a Music Maker Keyboard

all for \$499 it's no accident that the NEW Commodore 64 Family Pack is Australia's best computer buy this Christmas. The Commodore 64 Family Pack — a great gift for the family who work together and play together.

**Under more Christmas trees than
any other computer.**

 **commodore**
COMPUTER