## palcotronic







Toho l'alimentatore, tenuto da un aggencio a svatto, vi può ammitrare l'eleganza della piastra modre. Jilo è quello che college l'alioparlantino interno. Negli USA la piastra madre viene venduta da sola com guade tiel'Aspio II.e. plicemente inserendo I tre banchi da ti. La memoria espansa fino a 512 K le per Euso del OuickDraw II.

The Apple IIGS attempted to fill a hole in Apple's line-up between the aging 8-bit Apple II and the premium-priced Macintosh with a hybrid 8/16-bit CPU, enhanced graphics and sound, and 256K of RAM while remaining backwardcompatible with the existing library of Apple II software.

However, the machine was quite expensive compared to the Amiga and the Atari ST, and since developers had jumped on those platforms a year earlier, the IIGS struggled to attract third-parties to build software that took advantage of the IIGS's additional features. Odd conventions that stemmed from the 8-bit compatibility such as the lower 128K of memory being "slow RAM" also discouraged the development of advanced IIGS software and

the ecosystem suffered. In 1987 the best-selling title on the IIGS was AppleWorks, which capitalized on none of the IIGS's advanced features.

Apple's increasing focus on the Macintosh line would mean the IIGS would be the last computer in the Apple II line; Apple would end IIGS (and all Apple II production) in December of 1992.

So much for "Apple II Forever!"

The march of the IBM clones continued; after Com-

## The New Apple IIGS **Personal Computer**

autities mark the leading qualities provided by Apple nuter's new top-end leader of its Apple II family of sonal computers. Additionally, it features much mor nory capacity and faster processing speed than the At nd Apple IIc models.



CPC manufacturer Amstrad bought the Sinclair brand and ZX Spectrum range in 1986, releasing a new ZX computer that, like the CPC, had an integrated tape drive called the Datacorder. The new machine also dropped the ZX convention of printing the associated BASIC keywords on the keyboard; it had a new BASIC that required the user to type out the keywords in full. Amstrad would release 2 more models before discontinu-

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After suffering a head injury in 1981 plane crash, Apple II enginneer Steve Wozniak eturned to Apple in 1983 to find the company working on the IIx, a next-generation Apple II. Delays in obtaining prototype CPUs and arguments over project scope would lead the IIx to be cancelled briefly in 1984, but rekindled Apple II sales in the wake of the llc's introduction revived the project, which became the IIGS.

Portfolio Power: Microcomputers And Personal Finances

The MS-DOS Invasion

An in-depth look at the fast-growing IBM PC market—what's happening and why



The MS-DOS Invasion **IBM** Compatibles Are

Coming Home

Tom R. Halfhill, Staff Editor

paq successfully reverse-engineered the IBM PC (and fended off IBM's army of lawyers), the marketplace quickly opened up to competition from a number of competitors from Amstrad to Tandy. Even Atari would get into the action

and release a PC clone, but failed to get any traction in the market.

es have plunged so far that co

computerize at the prices in 1982.







Computer 8-bit computer line, the CoCo 3, with 128K of RAM and an enhanced graphical subsystem that provided composite and RGB video outputs, a paged memory management unit that would allow for memory upgrades up to 2MB, text colours, lowercase glyphs and new high resolution modes while keeping compatibility with earlier Color Computer models.

Commodore, meanwhile, released a new lowcost version of its popular 64, the Commodore 64C with a Commodore 128-style case. A smaller version of the 1541 with similar styling would also subsequently be released. The system was functionally identical to the 64 model B initially, but later revisions would replace several chips with lower-power versions, including the infamous SID chip.

Unfortunately, the new SID "fixed" a "bug" that had been employed for rudimentary sample playback in some

The "cost-reduced" 64C included GEOS, a graphical operating system intended to help it compete with newer 16-bit computers. While it was successful in terms of units shipped (because it was packed in with the 64C) its practicality was often disputed. A few dozen applications were produced for it including a version of BASIC, desktop publishing and office applications.

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DEAD ANGLE Blast wall-to-wall gangsters in this inner-city shootout. Step into the



Electronic Arts, Broderbund and Mindscape were Why Electronic Arts is Committed to the Amiga, Part II three prolific computer software developers of the THE CLASS OF '86 mid-1980s, publishing educational software, applic-ELECTRONIC ARTS ations such as desktop publishing software, and games. Of the three, only Electronic Arts is in operation There seems to be some today. Broderbund, famous disagreement as to which one for games such as Karateka, of our Commodore programs Choplifter and Lode Runner is the most fun. and printing program The Print Shop, was purchased by Kevin O'Leary's SoftKey in 1998. Mindscape, which developed early educational programs for the Apple II, and early applications for the Commodore Amiga. It moved into producing Nintendo games in the late 1980s, and was bought in 1990 by The Software Toolworks. GOT A NEW COMPUTER. YOU'LL SWEAR YOU Mindscape 2 Electronic Arts (now known Eleven new ways to do things like RAPHIC colloquially as EA) initially they've never been done before. rave it to Brøderbund to published a number of popular computer titles such ngs. ing how to type. Keeping the family book ar own toys and printing your own party as M.U.L.E. and Pinball Construction Set, but later moved into **The best selling Computer** sports titles and event-Game is now available for ually mobthe New Generation. ile games. Don't Get Mad – Get Even! nderbund EA is still going today. British software company Domark released a number of computer games in the 1980s based around the popular Trivial Pursuit boardgame, in which players advance by correctly answering knowledge based questions, split into six categories. Various editions of the boardgame have sold over 88 million copies. ICRO YOUNG PLAYERS<sup>11</sup> EDITION-OUT NOW

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Home computers didn't typically come with controllers, and in the cases they did, they were usually small, flimsy affairs, leading to a booming market in third-party joysticks. Some of the more popular models included the Quick-Shot by Spectravideo (who also made software and computers but is far more well known for their joysticks) and The Boss by Wico (a manufacturer of pinball machines and controllers for arcade cabinets.)

DA

A number of smaller players also developed joysticks of varying quality, including the celebrated Australian-made Star Cursor.

THE HIGINATER This is the game you've all b Gauntlet, the multi-planet **CLONES** ROLE PLAYING FARTASY GAMO R -2 CBM 64/128 Atari C " £14.99 CBM 64/128, Amstu Atari, £9.99 THE 01010/010/010/01 £8.99 PROGRAMMERS 1010101010101010

> Gold Ltd., Units 2/3 Holford Way, ord. Birmingham B6 7AX, Tel: 021 3563388 "Blockbuster" 1985 arcade game Gauntlet saw release on a number of computing platforms in 1986. The first arcade-style "dungeon-crawler" game, Atari Games (then owned by Namco) would sell close to 8000 arcade cabinets. The Spectrum version was that platforms highest selling game of 1986.

> > REVIEW

Xevious, 1942 and Ikari Warr-iors were some of the other arc-ade titles to come available on computing platforms in 1986. Many teenage home-computer users were also frequent visit-ors to their local arcade, and they provided a ready market for computer software devel-opers looking to cash in on the latest just not the same. Also the 3D-style graphics were ext-



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