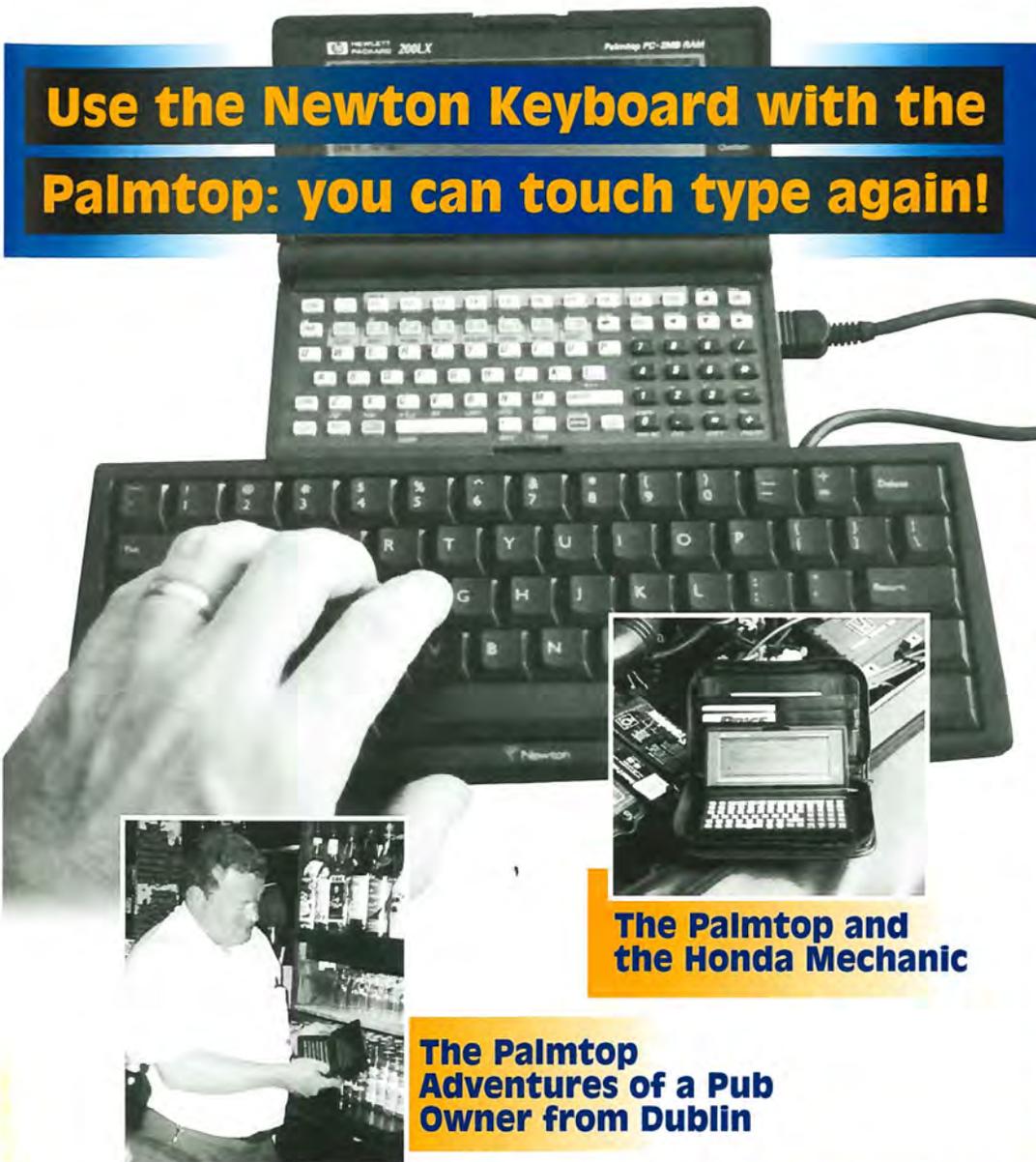


Volume 6, Number 6, 1997

# THE HP Palmtop Paper

U.S. \$7.95

**Use the Newton Keyboard with the Palmtop: you can touch type again!**



**The Palmtop and the Honda Mechanic**

**The Palmtop Adventures of a Pub Owner from Dublin**

**HP announces 620LX: Palmtop PC with COLOR DISPLAY!**

**Publisher's Message** ..... 1

**Letters to the Editor** ..... 2

**New Third Party Products and Services**..... 3

**HP Palmtop User Groups**..... 4

**HP Announces 360LX & 620LX** ..... 5  
 Hewlett-Packard releases the 360LX running Windows CE 2.0. The new color 620LX will be released next year.

**User To User** ..... 9  
 HP's Windows version of palmtop PIMs; connecting the Newton keyboard; 8Mg double-speed palmtops; Thaddeus Computing's purchase of used palmtops.

**REVIEWS**

**The Windows CE 2.0 Operating System** .. 6  
 A quick look at Microsoft's improved operating system for handheld PC's.

**Using the Newton Keyboard** ..... 16  
 At last, a keyboard you can touch type on.

**Through The Looking Glass** ..... 20  
 Ed Keefe picks the best free software from *The HP Palmtop Paper's* 1997-98 Subscriber Disk.

**Using the HP LX and DBLearn** ..... 24  
 A program that asks for words chosen at random from the contents of any HP 100/200LX database, such as a vocabulary or foreign language database.

**HOW TO USE**

**Interview: Mack Baggette** ..... 13  
 Doubling the palmtop's speed and increasing its memory to 8Megs; palmtop repairs and more.

**Mechanic Uses HP 100LX in Business**... 26  
 Southern California-based "Honda Bob" has tailored his palmtop's applications to his unique business.

**Get Me To The Church, Train or Plane On Time** ..... 29  
 A Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet that can help you get there (or anywhere) on time.

**The Palmtop Adventures of a Publican from Dublin** ..... 32  
 Pub owner recounts the best of his computer adventures.

**How It All Began** ..... 35  
 How a number of HP LX users got started using their palmtops.

**Basic Tips** ..... 39

**Quick Tips**..... 41

**Advertiser's Index** ..... 44

**Files on November/December 97 ON DISK** . 44



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## **Software**

**NEW!**

**WWW/LX and Post/LX:** The graphical web browser and Internet e-mail client specifically designed for the 100/200LX

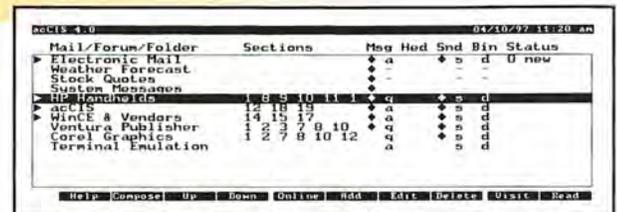
**Quick/LX:** The typing aid for the HP Palmtop

**Magnify:** Magnifies any area of the palmtop screen, making viewing much easier.

**ABC/LX:** adds intelligence to battery charging and monitors battery usage.

**NEW!**

**acCIS4.0:** CompuServe automation program - all new look and ease of use! Supports CompuServe's "new mail", forums, weather, stock quotes and more.  
Much, much more...



acCIS4.0 Screen

## **Corporate Solutions & Development**

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WWW/LX Screen

Contact our Corporate Solutions Office in Irvine California at 714-559-1142 or e-mail [Carl@Shier.com](mailto:Carl@Shier.com) for details on how we can help your company or organization.



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E-mail: [support@rundel-d.com](mailto:support@rundel-d.com) Web site: <http://www.rundel-d.com>

# From The Editor



Ralph C. Turner

*Found My Piece of Inexpensive Rural Land... Plus My Adventures With a \$300 Junk/Antique Tractor."*

When Hal suggested I come to work at Thaddeus Computing, I had misgivings about switching my attention from the Macintosh-like Atari ST (and my DOS computers) to the HP palmtop. "There's no way," I said to myself, "that I'll get excited about this dinky little toy." It turned out I was wrong: I *did* get excited about the palmtop. In fact, I now rely on my 200LX in ways that I never imagined I would, and I'm continuing to find exciting new uses for it.

The big news this month is HP's announcement of the new 620LX Windows CE palmtop. The release of this palmtop, with its color display and built-in voice recorder, is bound to attract attention. Also noteworthy are the releases of the new 360LX Palmtop PC and version 2.0 of the Windows CE operating system. However, as you can see from the letters to the editor, a lot of us still prefer our 100LXs and 200LXs.

Hal's discussion of how to run HP palmtop PIM software on a desktop computer should be of interest to anyone who has both a palmtop and a PC. In the Reviews section, Carl Merkle describes what it's like to use the Newton keyboard with the palmtop. This keyboard, which allows you to easily touch type, can dramatically increase the usefulness of your palmtop.

Let me close by inviting any of you to contact me if you'd like to write an article or submit a tip. And, of course, your letters are always welcome. (I can be reached by e-mail at [ralph\\_turner@thaddeus.com](mailto:ralph_turner@thaddeus.com). For mailing and telephone information, see page 46.)

It has been enjoyable getting to know those of you who have already communicated with me. HP palmtop users constitute sort of a club, and I'm glad to be a member.

## The HP Palmtop Paper

INCREASING YOUR  
PERSONAL POWER  
BY EXPANDING YOUR  
PALMTOP'S POTENTIAL

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# Letters

## **Tried HP 320, returned to HP 200LX**

I read with interest Hal Goldstein's User to User in the Sept/Oct issue (where he gave his candid opinion of Windows CE). The company I work for bought a few HP 320s for trial, and as a long-time HP palmtop user I took one and gave it a try.

I put my HP 200LX away and spent 30 days with the HP 320 and Window CE. In the end my impression is, "What a silly machine." It is slow, the screen is not "crisp," and it is not a productivity aid in any sense.

Its two positive points - having a wide screen and being backlit - do not compensate for the poor functionality of the Contacts, Calendar and Excel programs (slow to bring up, cumbersome to enter data on multiple "forms," and slow to find an entry). I also missed the functionality of the HP calculator and the 10-key numeric keypad. I put the Windows CE "calculator" on the HP 320's desktop, but once again, found the application to be "silly" in comparison to the HP 200's functionality.

Last week I went back to my HP 200LX and it was a relief, like finding a long-lost friend. The HP 200 is a serious machine, whereas the Windows CE machines are still toys - waiting to mature.

It would be nice if HP could take the wide screen

and backlighting and incorporate them in a new HP 200-like model - but Windows CE has a long way to go to be a productive and responsive user interface. For now, life is too short to switch.

Enclosed is my subscription renewal. I look forward to another year of reading The HP Palmtop Paper.

*Linda Leng  
Townsend, MA*

## **HP 320LX's bigger keys**

Pro and con arguments will certainly be made for built-in versus external numeric pads. My decision to get the HP 320LX rather than the HP 200LX was SOLELY because the 320LX had the built-in numeric pad, and therefore bigger letter keys. Because of unsteady hands, a bigger keyboard is important to me.

*Herb Klassen  
Mississauga, Ontario  
Canada*

## **He likes the Newton keyboard**

The Newton keyboard is an absolute must for most serious HP LX users. My first impression was one of sheer astonishment. Imagine having the LX's potential weakest link taken out IN SPADES. The machine performs like a desktop PC with this VERY nice little keyboard.

I don't know if it was Avi Meshar (one of the founders of D&A Software) who said, "This is no wimpy little chicklet key apparatus; this device really kicks serious

butt." In any event, I totally agree. This is a very important contribution by Mr. Adachi (creator of the driver) to the HP's already staggering arsenal of tools.

*Edward Gomez  
74100.2463@compuserve.com*

## **Software Carousel and the Newton keyboard**

Here's some feedback on the Newton keyboard I just bought from Shier Systems. It works fine for ordinary typing, and I really like it. Well worth the price. Absolutely perfect size for touch typing and toting in an overnight bag.

However, under Software Carousel, many of the palmtop-specific keys don't work. They lock up the machine, requiring a reset. But since the palmtop's keyboard is still active while using the Newton, this is no problem whatsoever.

*Ralph Alvy  
71333.2075@compuserve.com*

## **Anxiety about HP 200LX demise**

Just got your Sept/Oct issue. First, thanks many times over for the info and tips in your magazine. It would be really tough to go it alone. But even though I've read every issue, I still don't understand why HP is choosing to let the HP 200LX die on the vine.

I also read with much interest the two letters favoring the HP 320 (James Kendrick) and the HP 200LX (Jeff Cragg). Each side has valid points. But why risk some giant food fight over

platforms? HP is obviously not going to integrate them. It thus remains for someone else to do so.

I am therefore seriously proposing that HP should either spin off their palmtop division (or sell a license, whatever...) to a small group of entrepreneurs who have the intelligence, motivation and market savvy to take the HP 320 and the HP 200LX and integrate them.

I refuse to believe and nobody can tell me otherwise, that the best of both platforms can't easily be integrated and even enhanced. Neither one would have to compromise the other. And it still could be sold for less than \$700. Memory is just too cheap today and so are processors. You at Thaddeus Computing are halfway there already with your memory upgrades.

Of course, palmtops are a niche product. The profit that HP makes off all the palmtops they ever sold probably wouldn't equal the money they make from just one of their high-end workstations! Yet, for a small and flexible company, the rewards could be substantial, and the risks could be minimized if HP could be persuaded to remain as a partner in some capacity.

They'll have to pry my cold, dead fingers from around my three trusty HP 200LXs before I give them up.

*David T. Dixon  
Indianapolis, IN*

*(Continued on page 38)*

# New Products!

This section lists new products of interest to users of the HP palmtop PCs. New Products includes descriptions of hardware, software, books, videos, training and service offerings. Prices listed in this section are suggested retail. You may be able to get the products for less if you shop around.

HP Palmtop Paper Staff

## EVENTS

World Market Strategies Ltd./PDA Inc. announces "The Second Annual Mobile & PDA Expo" to be held February 18, 1998 at the Clarion Hotel at San Francisco Int Airport. They expect more than 2,000 people to attend the Expo which is focused exclusively on mobile, portable, compact PC, wireless, PDA, H/PC, smart phone, and hand-held computing technology.

The Expo features exhibits by 75+ hardware, software, component, and peripheral equipment manufacturers, 30+ educational seminars, workshops, and developer conferences, and keynote addresses from leading high-tech executives.

**CONTACT:** World Market Strategies/-PDA Inc; Phone: 415-252-8008; Fax: 415-252-8055; e-mail: drew@wms ltd.com Web: www.pda-expo.com

**Handheld Systems '98: The Science, Art, and Business of Personal Systems Development**, entering its fourth year, focuses exclusively on development-related topics for handheld computer hardware and software. The conference includes in-depth discussions of key platforms and APIs, hardware design, business

issues, the Internet, wireless communications, electronic software distribution, and more. April 6-10 San Francisco. Sponsored by Palm Computing, Psion Software and GeoWorks.

**CONTACT:** Creative Digital Publishing; Phone: 415-621-4252; Fax: 415-621-4922; E-mail: info@cdpubs.com Web: www.cdpubs.com

## HARDWARE

### Upgrades

#### Worldwide Distributors For Times2 Tech

Times2 Tech TechRAM memory upgrades increase the internal memory of the HP 200LX to up to 8 Mb, resulting in a C: \ drive with up to 7.3 Mb. The upgrades are built into the palmtop (leaving the PCMCIA card slot empty) and are therefore ideal for everybody who wants to use PCMCIA cards other than memory cards, such as modems, parallel port cards, etc.

Also available is the Times2 Tech TechSpeed clock upgrade which almost doubles the performance of the HP 100LX, 200LX and OmniGo 700LX.

**CONTACT:** Thaddeus Computing, 110 North Court St., Fairfield, IA 52556, USA; Phone: 515-472-6330; or 800-373-6114; Fax: 515-472-1879; E-mail: orders@thaddeus.com; Web: www.thaddeus.com

**CONTACT:** Your One-Stop Palmtop Shop, 170 South Jackson St., Janesville, WI 53545, USA; Phone: 608-752-1537 or 800-709-9494; Fax: 608-752-9548.

**EUROPEAN CONTACT:** Rundel Datentechnik, Rappenstr. 20, 73033 Goepingen, Germany; Phone: +49-7161-14707; Fax: +49-7161-24473; E-Mail: info@rundel-d.com; Web: www.rundel-d.com

**ASIA CONTACT:** Times2 AsiaPac Technologies; Phone: +65-289-9338; Fax: +65-234-2954; E-mail: times2@asianconnect.com

### PCMCIA Cards

#### Japanese Modem/Fax/Flash card

The PCMF-144/20 Modem/Fax/Flash card, manufactured by I-O Data Device, Inc., is now available in Japan (but not elsewhere). The card, which reportedly works in the HP 200LX (but not the 100LX), retails for 78,000 yen. Specifications include:

#### MODEM:

300 - 14,400 bps  
MNP class 2 - 4,10,ITU-T V42 (LAPM)  
MNP class 5, ITU-T V42bis

#### FAX:

300 - 14,400 bps  
EIA class 1, 2 compatible

#### FLASH ATA:

PC card Rel. 1.02 compatible  
20 Mb, Sector length: 512 K byte. Error correction: ECC

#### WEIGHT:

35 g (not including a cable)

#### POWER:

+ 5 V single  
ATA only; 50 mA (Max)  
Combined use of Modem and ATA: 170 mA(Max)

**CONTACT:** I-O DATA DEVICE, INC., Sales Dept, I-O DATA 2nd Bldg., 15-7 Sakurada-cho, Kanazawa-shi, Ishikawa, Japan 920; Tel: +81-762-60-1024 or +81-762-60-3351; Web: www.iodata.co.jp

*Note: An HP Palmtop Paper subscriber informs us that a computer shop in Kanazawa, Japan, is willing to deal with foreigners. Contact the shop owner, Mr. Nobuyuki Yamase, at us@ns.karat.su.or.jp*

## SOFTWARE

#### IntelliSync and the HP 200LX

A number of palmtop users have wondered whether Puma's IntelliSync connectivity/synchronization software supports synchronization between Microsoft Outlook 97 and the HP 200LX. A Puma representative has provided the following answer:

IntelliSync for HP 200LX has been engineered as a 16-bit application, and as a result, can only support 16-bit applications such as Schedule+, Lotus Organizer, 2.1 Sidekick, etc. As a 16-bit application, IntelliSync for HP 200LX cannot support any 32-bit applications, such as Microsoft Outlook 97, Lotus Organizer 97, ACT! 3.X, etc.

However, Puma has a product called IntelliMigrate for Windows CE, which can simply and automatically transfer data from an existing device, such as the HP 200LX, directly into a Windows CE device such as the HP 300LX or HP 320LX.

**CONTACT:** Puma Technology, 2550 North First St., Suite 500, San Jose, CA 95131, USA; Phone: 408-321-3836; Fax: 408-433-2212; E-mail: sreed@pumatech.com Web: www.pumatech.com

## SHAREWARE/FREWARE

### Upgrades

#### Family practice medical files

Steve Carder, M.D., a family practitioner, has collected and made available a number of files (Notebook,

## NEW PRODUCTS

spreadsheet, Solver equations) for the HP 100/200LXs that may be useful for those in the medical professions. Subjects include internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics. The file (MEDSTUFF.EXE) ■, which is self-extracting, can be run from Filer or the DOS prompt.

Type: Freeware

Available: CompuServe's HPHAND, Library 11, or contact Steve Carder at 73561.1006@compuserve.com

## FLEXPAD.ZIP ■

### text editor

FLEXPAD is an organizer/text editor. Type in notes and add labels to delineate appointments, todos, categories, bookmarks and sections. View the labels in daily, weekly or monthly increments or by matching a search phrase. Settings allow optimization for HP palmtops (95LX or 100/200LX) or standard PC compatibles. File size is limited only by available memory. Version 2.2 adds an undelete buffer, case changing, other improvements.

Type: Shareware (\$35 registration fee).

Available: CompuServe's HPHAND, Library 11, or contact Paul Kramer at 72276.3602@compuserve.com

## Trans PC Card Universal Parallel Port



### PC Card with Parallel Port and Instant File Transfer

Trans PC Card adds the Parallel Port making your Palmtop 100% real PC, so now you can connect parallel devices like 100 MB Zip, etc. and fast print to standard parallel printers.

Programs for Instant (no installation or setup) transfer - synchronization and management of files between PCs are on the Card flash to save system memory. The Card (Type I, with very low power draw) upon insertion becomes drive A:

Programs on Card run under DOS 5.0 and Windows using familiar XCOPY syntax or point and shoot interface. Included cable (used also for connection to peripherals) allows for transfer between the Card in Palmtop and PC standard parallel port at 30 KB/sec - 60X faster than Puma's IntelliSync.

*Trans PC Card with Trans Flex Cable, Manual, Quick Reference and backup disk is \$179.00*

For more information and dealer nearest you please call:

### Trans Digital Corporation

3517 Marconi Ave, Suite 203  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Tel: (916) 482-5599 • Fax: (916) 482-5598  
Email: 110033.3152@CompuServe.com

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Screen cleaner

Brain Wash is a two-step cleaning system designed to prolong the screen life of handhelds and other electronic equipment. The cloths are designed to

remove dust and debris while providing a clear, anti-static coating.

Price: \$14.95 for a box of 12, plus \$2.24 for shipping and handling.

**CONTACT:** Concept Kitchen, 326 Fell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, USA; Phone: 415-252-3333; Fax: 415-252-3323; E-mail: info@conceptkitchen.com  
Web: www.conceptkitchen.com

## HP Palmtop User Groups

*Those interested in participating in an HP Palmtop users group should contact the following individuals. Send us contact information formatted as below if you wish to be added as a contact for a users group in your area. Some of the individuals listed offer Palmtop advice but may not be organizing an official users group.*

**HP Palmtop Worldwide User Group News** -- Send material about User Group activities to Conrad Cox; E-mail: 76164.467@compuserve.com; Website: www.ccnat.com/~cdcocx

**ARGENTINA** -- Buenos Aires: Miguel Angel Misseri; E-mail: 73070.3665@compuserve.com. Cordoba: Paul Nani; Tel: 54-51-715649; E-mail: pnani@si.cordoba.com.ar

**AUSTRALIA** -- Dr. Barry Collins; c/o Forensic Science Center; Tel: 08-8226-7700; E-mail: collib@atom.forensic.sa.gov.au

**AUSTRIA** -- Ulrich Hoesch; Hoesch@hp-club.or.at

**BRAZIL** -- Marcos L. Pedroza; Tel: 55 84 211 6162; E-mail: mpedroza@summer.com.br

**DENMARK** -- Jesper E. Siig; Tel: 45 49 15 60 42; Fax: 45 49 16 10 01; E-mail: 100660.3503@compuserve.com; Web: http://our-world.compuserve.com/homepages/Siig/hpug.htm

**EGYPT** -- Mohamed Farag Ahmed; Tel: 20-2-344-9680; Fax: 20-2-344-9680; E-mail: mfahmed@asme.org

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**GERMANY** -- Eckart Prinz; Phone/Fax: +49 6151 376065.

**GERMANY / LUXEMBOURG** -- Gilles Kohl; E-mail: 100114.3146@compuserve.com; Tel: +49 721 69 36 55 (after 6 p.m. Central European time).

**GREECE** -- Athens: Stavros D. Zacharakos; Tel: (+3 01) 8050041; Mobile Tel: (+3) 093 254 717 24hrs.; Fax: (+3 01) 8050041...Galatsi: John Tatsiramos, c/o TAFARM; Tel: (01) 29.17.401; Fax: (01) 29.28.174.

**HOLLAND/BELGIUM** -- Mister G. Dongs; Tel: +31 75 6 704205; E-mail: 74064.173@compuserve.com

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**CA—San Diego** -- Don Williams; Tel: 619-452-6267 or 619-546-8166; E-mail: donw@cts.com

**CA—San Francisco** -- Conrad Cox; E-mail 76164.467@compuserve.com

**CO—Denver** -- Bill Hoeltgen; Tel: 303-933-0023; Fax: 303-971-0347.

**GA—Atlanta** -- AK. Avasthi; Tel: 770-471-1389.

**KS—Manhattan** -- Marietha Wilson; Tel: 913-532-9775.

**MA—Boston** -- Bryan Krauthamer; Tel: 617-374-9600 x 197 (work); Fax: 617-374-9620; CompuServe ID: [70444,41].

**MI—Detroit** -- Jeff Zorn; Tel: 313-489-1855

**ME—Orono** -- University Palmtop User's Group; E-mail: palmtop@tree.net; Website: www.tree.net/palmtop

**MN—Minneapolis** -- Beth Silverwater; Tel: 612-541-5631; Fax: 612-541-5636; E-mail: 73502.3645@compuserve.com

**NJ/NY—New York** -- Stanley Dobrowski; Tel: 201-807-5857 (work); E-mail: 76711.2302@compuserve.com

**OH—Cleveland** -- Craig de Fasselle, c/o MEM, Inc., 4702 East 355th St., Willoughby, OH 44094.

**OK—Oklahoma City** -- Richard B. Meek; Tel: 405-842-1267.

**PA—Hershey** -- Gayle J. Leininger; E-mail: gleining@cathlab.cadio.hmc.psu.edu; Gary L. Wizar; E-mail: gwizar@cathlab.cadio.hmc.psu.edu

**SC—Charleston** -- Ron Rivers, P.O. Box 31284, Charleston, SC 29417-1284; Tel: 800-864-8444; E-mail: 75023.44@compuserve.com

**TX—Houston** -- Houston Area Palmtop Users Group; Tel: 713-777-0868; E-mail: horacek@iapc.net

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**WA—Bellevue** -- Suzanne Ow; E-mail: suzanne\_ow@hp.com

**WEST INDIES** -- Ian Melville c/o FrontLine Marketing Agencies; Tel: 868-642-5492 Fax: 868-642-2021; E-mail: ianmel@opus.co.tt

# HP announces 360LX and 620LX Palmtop PC

*Hewlett-Packard has announced the release of its new 360LX Palmtop PC running Windows CE 2.0. An upgrade program is available for HP 320LX users. The new 620LX, to be released next year, will sport a high-resolution color display and built-in voice recorder.*



*By Rich Hall*

**P**rior to the November COMDEX this year, Microsoft announced the release of its new Windows CE 2.0 operating system. All H/PC manufacturers, including Hewlett-Packard, responded with the release of new handheld PCs.

Hewlett-Packard's new 360LX and 620LX come with the Windows CE 2.0 operating system, all of its improvements and suite of Pocket applications (see "HP 360LX & 620LX" sidebar, page 6). Both H/PCs feature direct-print capability, a well-spaced QWERTY keyboard, easy-to-read TrueType fonts, serial port, infrared ports, and a CompactFlash Card slot. Both are powered by rechargeable batteries.

**The HP 360LX** — comes with a 60 MHz CPU, 8 Mb RAM. The 360LX features a large 640x240 monochrome screen with "natural-white" backlighting. The 360LX is powered by two AA rechargeable NiMH batteries. Accessories included with the 360LX package: User Guides; Two AA NiMH batteries; One CR-2032 coin cell backup battery; CD ROM with free software.

**The HP 620LX** — comes with a 640x240-pixel 256 color screen with natural white backlight. The 620LX has a 75 MHz CPU and 16 Mb of RAM. In addition to the ports mentioned above, the 620LX has a built-in microphone and audio speaker which supports its Voice Recorder.

The 620LX comes standard with a Lithium-Ion rechargeable battery pack and an AC adapter. Accessories included with 620LX package: Lithium-Ion battery pack; one CR-2032 coin cell backup battery; two CD ROMs with free software; Synch cable; Docking Cradle; AC Adapter.

#### **Software built into 360LX/620LX**

Both units come with Windows CE 2.0, its accessories and "Pocket" applications (see Windows CE 2.0 review, page 6). In addition, the new HP palmtop PCs have the following software built into ROM: bFAX Pro lets you send and receive faxes; bFIND is a global search utility; Financial applications software (full versions available when you register your Palmtop PC); Remote Networking; (to PPP access servers); Terminal Application (TTY, VT-100).

#### **Additional software on CD ROM**

H/PC Explorer version 2.0: desktop PC software for connecting HP palmtop PC to PC); Translation software: for converting HP 100/200LX & OmniGo 100/120 appointment/ phone books to H/PC formats; Trial software from independent software vendors, including: Mail on the Run!; Pocket On-Schedule; Ardis wireless solutions bundle; Wyndmail/CE and more.

#### **Windows CE 2.0 Upgrades**

Hewlett-Packard Company will provide a ROM upgrade program for the latest Microsoft Windows CE 2.0 for the handheld PC operating system for the HP 320LX palmtop PC. (The upgrade is not available for the HP 300LX) The new upgrade is available free to customers who purchase the HP 320LX beginning Sept. 2, 1997. The HP 320LX ROM upgrade can be installed easily by the user, and unlike other Windows CE handheld devices, does not require the sacrifice of a memory slot or the use of special tools or outside support.

# HP 360LX & 620LX

HP 620LX — \$ (to be announced).  
16 Mb RAM, color display  
HP 360LX — \$699  
8 Mb RAM, monochrome screen  
HP 320LX — \$599  
4 Mb RAM, monochrome screen  
HP 300LX — \$499  
2 Mb RAM, monochrome screen

## Accessories and Other Available Options (prices suggested retail)

### HP CompactFlash Memory plus PC Card slot adapter

2 Mb (# HP F1229A) — \$99  
4 Mb (# F1231A) — \$149  
10 Mb (F1233A) — \$ 299  
15 Mb (F1245A) — \$ N.A.

### AC Adapter

300-360LX (HP F1218A) — \$29.99  
620LX (HP F1241A) — \$ N.A.

### HP Docking Cradle/AC Adapter

300-360LX (HP F1224A) — \$29.99  
620LX (HP F1241A) — \$ N.A.

### Sync. Cable (HP F1223A) — \$14.99

### HP Leather Case (HP F1227A) — \$69

### Stylus 3-Pack

300-360 (HP F1225A) — \$9.99  
620LX (HP F1247A) — \$ N.A.

### 620LX battery packs

Standard (HP F1253A) — \$ N.A.  
Extended (HP F1254A) — \$ N.A.

### 620LX VGA PC Card adapter

(HPF1252A) — \$ N.A.

### 620LX External Charger

(HP F1246A0) — \$ N.A.

For more information on the HP palmtop PC or the HP 320 Upgrade program, contact your local HP dealer or Hewlett-Packard Company. Phone: 800-443-1254; Web: [www.hp.com/handheld](http://www.hp.com/handheld)

### ROM Upgrade Kit: \$129 (u.s.)

(Free to 320LX purchases after Sep. 2, 1997) Available: Dec., 1997 through Feb. 28, 1998

# The Windows CE 2.0 Operating System

By Rich Hall

It seems that Microsoft has taken a step forward with its release of the Windows CE 2.0 operating system. Microsoft officially released it as we went to press so we haven't had time to test it. But here are some of the things we do know from initial Microsoft press releases and other sources.

Although adding functionality to HP's and other manufacturers' handhelds, Microsoft is looking beyond the H/PCs with Windows CE 2.0. They see it as the operating system that will enable the development of a new range of computing appliances, including portable computing devices such as the H/PCs, game devices, smart phones, TV set controllers, and home appliances.

## What Windows CE 2.0 means for H/PC users

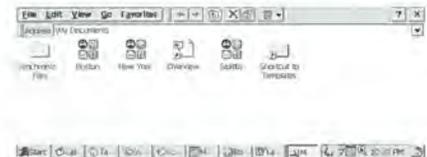
Hewlett-Packard and most of the other manufacturers of H/PCs (except Hitachi) are offering upgrade paths for users of their handhelds. In some cases, however, only certain models from a particular manufacturer can be upgraded. In the case of the HP, only the 320LX can be upgraded to Windows CE 2.0.

## Features new to Windows CE 2.0

The new version of Windows CE supports TrueType fonts, which means that H/PC screens will be more readable. Microsoft has incorporated one of the features from its PowerToys freeware and given Windows CE the ability to cascade menus (see this page for example of



Windows CE 2.0 cascades the Start button menus, making it easier to locate and access programs and documents on the H/PC.



Windows CE 2.0 brings users a Pocket version of PowerPoint. Users can connect to a VGA monitor and display color slides, even if their H/PC has a gray scale screen. HP will offer a VGA adapter card for their new Handheld PCs.



Windows CE 2.0 comes with a new Pocket version of Windows Explorer, now accessed in a submenu of the programs menu. It incorporates many new web-like features including Forward and Back buttons and a Favorites menu.

cascading menus). Windows CE 2.0 also supports Autohide, which removes the taskbar from the screen when not in use, giving more screen space to an application.

Windows CE 2.0 adds one new application, comes out with a new version of an old one, and integrates three others. The new application is Pocket PowerPoint. This is a Pocket version of the popular desktop application PowerPoint. It lets H/PC users read and edit PowerPoint slides and import slides from the desk-

top. Windows CE 2.0 supports 32-bit color, which means that manufacturers can create devices to connect the H/PC to an external color VGA monitor (such devices already exist). This means that the user can make slide presentations from the H/PC.

Windows CE 2.0 also comes with a new version of Pocket Internet Explorer. You can use this to not only browse the Internet, but browse the files on your H/PC. Pocket Internet Explorer is improved in other ways, making it closer to the desktop version in look and features.

Windows CE 2.0 has merged Contacts, Calendar and Tasks into one application that closely resembles the desktop version of Microsoft Outlook, and easily synchronizes with it.

Pocket Word and Excel are also improved. Pocket Word now lets you spell check a document and use TrueType fonts without conversion. It does a better job of formatting your document with tabs, indentation, and numbered lists. Pocket Excel adds database functions along with the ability to zoom in and out, and split or freeze sections of the worksheet.

Windows CE 2.0 has improved its synchronization capabilities. You can now partner with multiple PCs, instead of just one. CE 2.0 also lets H/PCs with two memory slots access both at the same time. Finally, CE 2.0 improves the speed and reliability of wireless networking.

### What Windows CE 2.0 means for developers

There are a lot of improvements in Windows CE 2.0 that are technical in nature and of more interest to developers. Perhaps the most important change is that Windows CE 2.0 makes it easier to develop software programs for the H/PC. This should make more applications available for the end user. Microsoft has released development tools including:

**Windows® CE Toolkit for Visual C++® 5.0** -- lets developers create Windows CE applications, building on existing expertise with the Win32 API and the Microsoft Visual C++ Development System.

**Windows® CE Toolkit for Visual Basic® 5.0** -- provides Visual Basic programmers with the tools needed to build solutions for Windows CE-based devices.

**Windows® CE Toolkit for Visual J++™ 1.1** -- enables developers to create embeddable Java applications for Windows CE devices using Visual J++ 1.1.

**Windows® CE Embedded Toolkit for Visual C++® 5.0** -- combines an integrated development environment with a comprehensive set of Win32-based embedded development technology.

**Visual C++ for Windows CE** -- lets a developer develop Windows CE applications, building on exist-

ing expertise with the Win32 API and the Microsoft Visual C++ Development System.

For more information on these Microsoft Windows CE Development Tools, check out the Microsoft developers Web site: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/developer/prodinfo/default.htm>.

These added tools mean that developers with Windows programming experience will have the tools necessary to port existing applications to, or develop new ones for, the Windows CE operating system. This added support should insure the acceptance and growth of the operating system. In addition, it should encourage the development of a wide variety of software and hardware solutions for end users.

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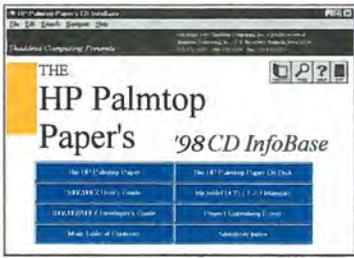
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The HP Palmtop Paper's CD InfoBase

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- 2) Disk containing HP-created source code and utilities for developers
- 3) Complete set of kits for marketing your Palmtop product
- 4) CompuServe starter kit (CompuServe is where Palmtop programmers hang out)
- 5) PAL: a C source code library for developing software with the look and feel of the HP Palmtop built-in applications

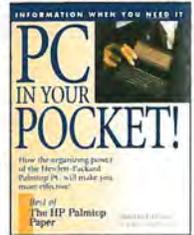


HP 100/200LX Developer's Guide

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PC In Your Pocket

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# User to User:

## Special Software and Hardware News

*Hal discusses HP's Windows versions of palmtop PIMs; connecting the Newton keyboard to the palmtop; 8Mg double-speed palmtops; and Thaddeus Computing's purchase of used palmtops.*

By Hal Goldstein

### Running HP palmtop PIM software on a desktop

For several years HP has quietly shipped Windows versions of HP palmtop PhoneBook, ApptBook, and HP Calc with HP OmniBook laptops and HP desktop Vectras and Pavilions. Using this software on a desktop lets you access your HP palmtop phone, appointment book, and solver files in the Windows environment on your desktop.

### Bad news and good news

The bad news is that this software has not generally been available. Also, it was intended for use by HP on the target machines on which it came. However, we have recently discovered several sources of this software, the general usage of which is not supported by HP.

One source is a CD from Yellow Software in Germany. (The CD, which is called The HP Palmtop Software Kit, not only includes the PIM software, but also an enhanced version of Transfile Win 200, the Windows-to-Palmtop file transfer software available at HP's web site [[http://hpcc923.external.hp.com/handheld/getting\\_help/software/palmtops/transfile.html](http://hpcc923.external.hp.com/handheld/getting_help/software/palmtops/transfile.html)], plus lots of palmtop freeware and shareware.)

The other source for the software is on CompuServe's HPPC

forum (in the OmniBook 500 and OmniBook 600 sections, files OB5DSK.ZIP and OB6DSK.ZIP, respectively). Most of the files are not relevant and apply only to the OmniBook. There is a warning in the readme file that the files in each of the ZIP archives are intended for the respective OmniBook. Therefore, if you experiment, you are on your own and you should take appropriate precautions.

### Running PIM software in Windows

The OB6DSK.ZIP ■ file contains slightly newer versions of Phone and ApptBook software. I found I needed the following files out of the rather larger archive: HP CALC.EXE ■, HPCALC.HLP ■, PHONE.EXE ■, PHONE.HLP ■, APPTS.EXE ■, APPTS.HLP ■, DB.DLL ■. I put all the files in one subdirectory on my desktop.

Using Windows95's Start Run command I was able to execute HPCalc, PhoneBook and ApptBook. (See Screens 1, 2 and 3.)

HPCalc did not require DB.DLL in the same directory, but PhoneBook and ApptBook would not run without DB.DLL. The software also runs under Windows 3.11. You can create a Windows 3.11 icon or a Windows 95 shortcut to launch the software from your desktop.

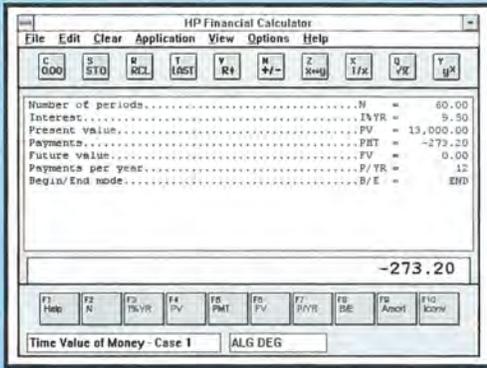
The programs worked nicely in the Windows/mouse environment.

A few features were missing and some were added. For example, the List Stats, Cash Flows, and Date Calcs applications are missing from HPCalc. On the other hand, there is a "delete categories" option in the PhoneBook Edit pull-down menu which is not available on the palmtop version.

Also, there are many Windows enhancements that make the applications easier to use. Examples include icons for mouse-clickable weekly, monthly, and six-month views; easy mouse selection of multiple phone items; and mouse-resizable columns for the phone list view (no data card view).

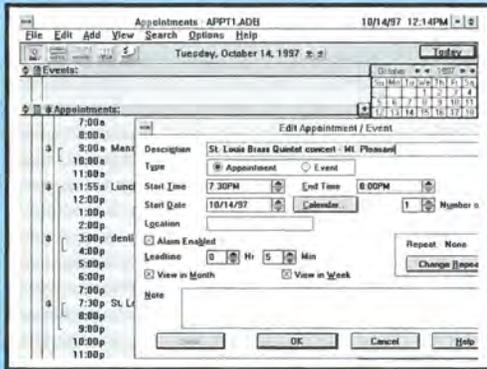
The Windows software read in my 200LX Appointment Book, a 66k PhoneBook, and some equations. However, I got an error message when I tried to read in a large (200Kb) PhoneBook file. (Note that my phone file is not modified. It is unlikely that this Windows Phone program will read in a phone file in which the fields are modified). Also, the alarms did not beep on my desktop.

We plan to include these files on our 1998 CD InfoBase and this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*. But use them at your own risk and remember they are unsupported by HP.



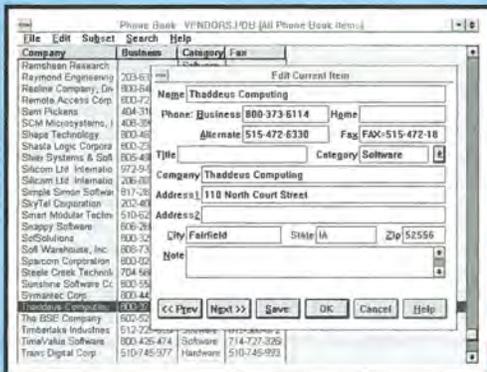
SCREEN 1

When HPCalc is run from Windows, the mouse can be used to make selections.



SCREEN 2

When the Appointment Book is run from Windows, you can use the mouse to position the Edit Appointment/Event box where you want it.



SCREEN 3

PhoneBook running from Windows.

### A palmtop keyboard, at last!

If you've followed this column, you may recall that several times I have suggested that a portable keyboard would be a great application for the palmtop. The adapted Newton keyboard available from Shier Systems, reviewed in this issue, does a great job filling the bill. Once again, thanks goes to a Japanese palmtop user, Mr. K. Adachi, for writing the software driver that enables the palmtop to use the Newton keyboard. Thanks to David Shier for substituting a custom cable for the palmtop for the Newton cable.

The Newton keyboard is portable, light weight, and draws very little palmtop battery power. The footprint is the minimum size to still be touch-typeable. Now I have no reason to take a laptop when I travel. I can do all my e-mail and word processing on the palmtop using this keyboard. Further, I can use the keyboard for entering the stack of business card data I accumulate at trade shows into my palmtop.

The only problem I have discovered is that I have to switch applications (e.g., from Phone to Memo) on the palmtop rather than on the Newton keyboard with Software Carousel running. Mack Baggette, manufacturer of speed and 8Mg memory upgrades, has told me that he will see if he can update the Newton driver to fix the problem.

### 8Mg double-speed palmtop

Speaking of Mack and Japanese users, I want to respond to a few questions I have been asked about the 8Mg Double Speed palmtop we are offering.

Both double speed and memory upgrades were originally developed in Japan. Mack Baggette at Times2 Tech, who has rewritten the drivers, has contracted with a manufacturing company to produce the speed and memory upgrade chips in the U.S. Mack has selected our company, Thaddeus Computing, and A One-Stop Palmtop Shop to do double-speed and 8Mg upgrades in the U.S. Tom Rundel (acCIS author) handles the upgrades in Europe, and Chaikin Koon performs them in Asia. (See p. 3 for contact information.) In addition, Notebook Supply Warehouse sells its own versions of 5-Mg memory upgrades (see contact box, next page).

In the past I have published warnings, especially about the double-speed upgrade. HP does not approve of the upgrades, and upgrading voids HP's warranty. In practice (especially as the chips, the software, and the techniques for performing the upgrades have become refined) these upgrades are quite safe. That is why we are willing to sell one- and two-year warranties on units that have these upgrades. All software that runs on a normal palmtop runs on double-speed and memory-upgraded palmtops.

I've had a beta version of Mack's 8Mg Double-speed palmtop since June, and I really love it. With Mack's expanded memory manager and 2-Megabytes of C:\ drive memory, I am able to switch from System Manager applications to various DOS sessions in about a second, using Software Carousel. When I use my EXP Flash/modem with 8Mg Flash card, I have nearly 16Megabytes of storage space.

If Mack's expanded memory manager is used with MaxDOS (freeware from Japan), it is possible to run a DOS program of any

size while at the same time keeping the built-in applications open.

### Used HP palmtops

As you might guess, controlling inventory for used palmtops is tricky. We sell used HP 95LXs, HP 100LXs, HP 1000CXs, and HP 200LXs, but aren't yet advertising them aggressively, so as to build inventory. If you are interested, give us a call for availability and pricing.

Similarly, please have patience with us if we run out of 200LXs for our 8Mg double-speed 200LXs. We have just sent out 60,000 post cards to LX users in the U.S. asking if they'd like to sell their palmtops. We have been pleasantly surprised, as most of the 200LXs we have gotten are in excellent shape, and were hardly used. The HP 100LXs and 95LXs tend to be more used.

## Commercial products mentioned in this article

### Software Carousel

**CONTACT:** Group 32 Corporation (formerly SunShine Software Co.); 6950 Cypress Rd., Plantation, FL 33317 USA; Phone: 800-553-0400 or 954-581-2200; Fax: 954-581-5902; Web: [www.group32.com](http://www.group32.com).

**The HP Palmtop Software Kit** A CD containing connectivity software, HP PIM software, electronic books, HP manuals, videos, and HP palmtop shareware. Pricing: 129,000 DM (CD-ROM with cable.), 69,000 DM (CD-ROM only).

**CONTACT:** Yellow Computing, Computersystem GmgH, Postfach 1136, D-74177 Bad Friedrichshall, Germany. Phone: +49 (0)7136/ 951143; Fax: +49 (0)7136/951111; E-Mail: [info&yellow.de](mailto:info&yellow.de) Web: [www.yellow.de](http://www.yellow.de)

### 5-Mg memory upgrade

**CONTACT:** Notebook Supply Warehouse, 655 N. Berry St., Brea, CA 92821 USA; Phone: 800-566-6832 or 714-257-1680; E-mail: [nsupply@nsupply.com](mailto:nsupply@nsupply.com); Web: [www.nsupply.com](http://www.nsupply.com)

## Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

**MaxDOS** ■ - Utility that allows you to launch from System Manager a program requiring a large amount of conventional memory. Freeware: Available at website: [www.vector.co.jp/common/dos/machine/hp/](http://www.vector.co.jp/common/dos/machine/hp/) and on *The HP Palmtop Paper's* 1997 CD InfoBase.

**OB6DSK.ZIP** ■ (relevant files of)- Windows versions of the HP palmtop PhoneBook, ApptBook, and HP Calc applications. Freeware. Available in CompuServe's HPPC forum in the OmniBook 600 section, and on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper* ON DISK.

**Transfile Win 200** - Windows-to-palmtop file transfer software. Freeware. Available at HP's Web site: [www.hp.com:80/handheld/getting\\_help/software/palmtops/200.html](http://www.hp.com:80/handheld/getting_help/software/palmtops/200.html)



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brain for your brain? The **Personal Food Analyst** allows you to custom-tailor your desired nutritional profile and helps you monitor 27 aspects of over 4,100 foods. Meeting and maintaining your exact dietary criteria is fun and easy with this powerful PC card.

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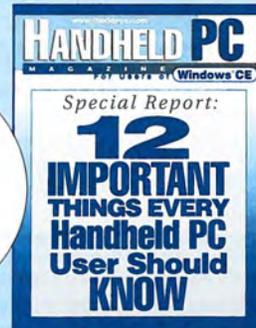
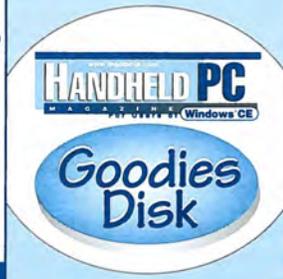
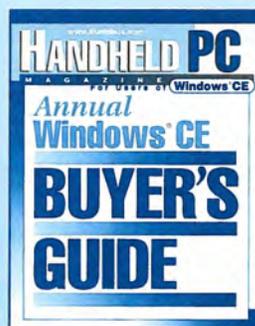
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

2 From the Publisher	16, 72	31
<b>INSIDE WINDOWS CE</b>	64	61
4 Interview with Microsoft's Robert O'Hara	56	4
12 Quick Tips and Tricks	12	41
<b>PRODUCTS FOR YOUR H.P.C</b>	70	
16 The First Wave of Windows CE Software Hits the Market		
18 New Products		
31 Shareware/Freeware for Windows CE		
33 Control Your Desktop PC with Your H.P.C and <b>POW!HERE</b>		
37 Batteries — What's Available and What Should I Use?		
<b>PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS</b>		
41 Handheld Wisdom		
43 Physician's Prescription For Tracking Vital Information		
50 My Handheld PC Window into My Desktop PC		
<b>CONNECTING TO THE WORLD</b>		
56 Using Pocket Internet Explorer		
59 How to Connect to the Internet and Configure the Handheld PC for E-mail		
61 What's Online — Hot Websites for the Handheld PC		
<b>VIEWPOINT</b>		
64 Wireless Computing — Andrew Seybold		
67 Mobile Pen-based Computing — John Jerney		
68 Corporate Solutions — Carl Merkle		
<b>YOUR HANDHELD PC</b>		
72 Lucky Seven — A Brief Look at Handheld PCs and Accessories		
79 Interviews: View of the Future of Handheld PCs		
<b>FAST LOOK</b>		
86 Fast Look		
87 Advertiser's Index: How to Contact Us		

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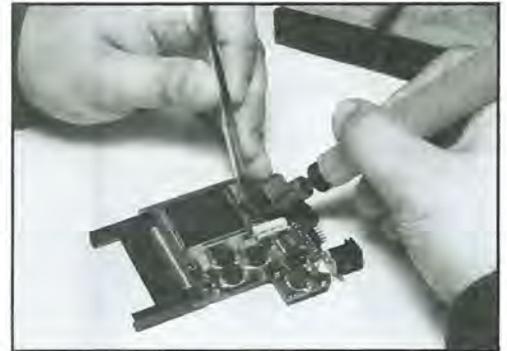
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# Mack Baggette: Designer of Speed & Memory Upgrades for HP Palmtops

*The president of Times2 Tech is interviewed about doubling the palmtop's speed and increasing its memory to 8Megs; palmtop repairs; and more.*



**Q: How did you start using an HP Palmtop?**

**A:** Years ago I saw an HP 95LX for sale on the Web, and I got interested in a program called RemCOM which allows you to use the palmtop's IR port to remotely control your TV, VCR, etc. The system really didn't work out for me, since I didn't like having to turn the palmtop on every time I wanted to change channels. So I gave the 95LX to my wife.

**Q: What did she think of it?**

**A:** She loved it! The ApptBook application helped her organize everything. One day when I looked at her ToDo list I thought, "I need something like that." So I bought an HP 100LX and used it for scheduling and notes.

**Q: What was your first experience with a clockspeed upgrade?**

**A:** I installed in my 100LX a speed upgrade kit that I bought from Japan, but the Japanese software driver wasn't compatible with some of the programs I was running on the LX. Also, the ApptBook alarms ran twice as fast as they were supposed to. Because I'm a programmer and I know assembler, I thought, "I can figure

out what needs to be done, and I can create my own driver." That's what I did.

**Q: How did you get in the business of selling upgrades?**

**A:** Although there was the Japanese upgrade, nobody was offering a kit for the U.S. market. I found a manufacturer who would make a crystal for me to my specifications, and I started selling the kit.

**Q: What does the clockspeed upgrade do?**

**A:** It doubles the speed of your 100LX, 200LX, or OmniGo700. That means that PhoneBook, ApptBook, and Database access/loading times (and Lotus 1-2-3 calculations) are twice as fast. It also means that DOS programs run twice as fast.

**Q: What's involved in doing a clock-speed upgrade?**

**A:** The old crystal has to be removed. But since its leads, as well as its case, are soldered in,

they need to be heated so they can be pulled up. Then the new crystal needs to be soldered in.

**Q: How difficult an operation is it?**

**A:** It's pretty tricky. You use soldering wick to remove the old solder from the holes, and if you're not careful, the traces on the board can be burned up, or ripped, or moved. And putting the new crystal in involves "through-hole" soldering. Holding the soldering iron too long in one spot can destroy other components. It's not recommended for the faint of heart.

**Q: How easy is it to open up the palmtop and get to the motherboard?**

**A:** Actually, that's probably one of the more complex parts of either a clockspeed or memory upgrade. If you're not careful, and if you don't know what you're doing, you can easily destroy things, such as the display cable, or parts of the case.



**ABOUT THE INTERVIEWEE**

Mack Baggette is a staff analyst at Bell South, as well as the designer of the Times2 Tech speed and memory upgrades for HP LX palmtops. He lives with his wife and daughter in Maylene, Alabama. Mack can be reached via e-mail at [mack@times2tech.com](mailto:mack@times2tech.com).

**Q: What about static electricity?**

**A:** Anytime you open up the palmtop you need to have a static-free station, and the palmtop case needs to be grounded. You need a wrist strap, a mat on the floor, and a mat on your bench. And all your tools, such as soldering irons, need to be grounded. You're working with sensitive memory chips (as well as the processor itself) and these can easily be destroyed by static electricity.

**Q: What's involved in the memory upgrade of a HP 200LX?**

**A:** You have to remove all the existing memory from the motherboard. That means removing surface mount chips that are soldered in. You have to desolder and remove two chips from each unit.

**Q: Is that the same process that's involved in desoldering the crystal?**

**A:** No. For memory chips, you need a special soldering iron that can heat up all the leads on one side of the chip at the same time. You can't use a regular soldering iron. You need one that can do surface mount work.

**Q: What do you do once the chips are out?**

**A:** You need to remove the solder from the pads with solder wick, making sure you don't lift up any of the pads. (Solder wick can easily stick to a pad if you don't do it right.) If you lift up a pad, you then need to solder in replacement wires, which is not a nice thing to have to do.

**Q: Are the new memory chips soldered to the motherboard?**

**A:** No. We solder a connector to the motherboard, and our memory upgrade board gets plugged into that connector. Soldering of the connector is tricky because you're working near other surface mount components (capacitors and resistors and transistors) and you've got

to be careful not to short over to those. Also, if you use too much solder, it will bleed over to some of the other components that are sensitive to heat. You also have to solder in a couple of new wires to tiny pins.

**Q: What can you do with eight megs of memory that you can't do with a standard palmtop?**

**A:** You'll have enough memory for large programs such as Word Perfect and Agenda and other programs. And you'll be able to really take advantage of Software Carousel.

**Q: Are there any programs that have had problems running under the speed upgrade?**

**A:** No, all software works fine with the upgrade. The only thing that hasn't worked is the PC Ethernet adapter card from Silicom Ltd., and we're trying to work with them to get their driver corrected.

**Q: Given what you've said about how difficult it is to work on the palmtops, should people be wary about sending in their units for upgrades?**

**A:** Not at all. The folks who do the upgrades at Thaddeus Computing have been trained by me and have me at their disposal if any questions arise. We have done literally hundreds of these upgrades, and we know how to do them so well that the palmtops don't even look opened.

**Q. Why did you choose to have Thaddeus Computing start doing upgrades for you?**

**A:** We wish to become more of a distributor of the upgrades so that they can reach a much wider audience. It also frees up time for us to pursue other upgrade options.

**Q: Here's a more general question. Are there any maintenance procedures that a palmtop owner can perform that won't void the warranty?**

**A:** About the only thing you can

do is change the batteries and clean the screen. I recommend canned air for the screen. Don't ever touch the screen with your fingers. That will put grease and oil on the screen, and that will just attract more dust.

**Q: Can an individual owner buy any parts for the palmtop?**

**A:** HP sells a kit (part # F 1216-60998) that contains screws for the case, rubber feet, an IR cover, a battery cover, and a backup battery cover.

**Q: What about opening the case?**

**A:** The minute you do that you've voided the warranty.

**Q: Here in Iowa the temperature sometimes goes down to 20 degrees F below zero. If I've left my palmtop in the car overnight, the screen is real dark. Does it hurt the palmtop to turn it on when it's that cold?**

**A:** No. The screen is dark only because LCD panels are temperature sensitive. It isn't due to the computer not being functional. However, if the palmtop is actually that cold, the main batteries, if they're alkaline, may not work. The backup battery should still be ok, as it is lithium. Using lithiums for the main batteries would be a big plus, since they might still work and not allow the palmtop to go into backup mode.

**Q: If you drop the palmtop in the bath tub, what should you do?**

**A:** Immediately remove the batteries. You want to eliminate the possibility of shorts while it's still wet. If it's still in warranty, call HP and see if they'll accept it for repairs. If it's out of warranty, open the case and dry it out.

**Q: Since opening the case is so difficult and dangerous, could you just tilt it and let the water drain out?**

**A:** Some of the parts inside the palmtop might corrode. But if you're not going to open the case,

at least tilt it so the PCMCIA port is pointing down. That way the water will drain away from the motherboard, which is near the serial port.

**Q: What's the most common repair job?**

**A:** Hinges coming loose. Second most common is latch problems.

**Q: Are there any measures that end users can employ to deal with loose hinges and non-latching latches (measure that don't involve opening the case)?**

**A:** A few drops of alcohol from a Q-Tip on the right hand hinge usually helps. All you need do is pull off the right hinge cap, turn the palmtop on its left hand side and drip a few drops down into the right hinge. Then work the hinge back and forth until it starts to grab a little better. We go a step further by opening up the palmtop, disassembling part of the hinge and giving it a thorough chemical cleaning.

As for the latches, the only things you can do from the outside are the "rubberband trick," or possibly adding a small amount of hot glue or silicon rubber under the latch to hold it in place to give it just enough flexibility to still close.

**Q: What's the strangest repair or upgrade experience you've ever had?**

**A:** Well, someone once shipped us an ammunition case. It was one of those metal boxes that the Army uses, and it felt like it weighed 25 pounds. Since there was no explanation on the outside of the case explaining what was inside, I at first wondered if somebody was sending me a bomb. When I finally opened it up I was still concerned because all I could see were towels, and I was afraid I was going to trip something. It turned out to be a single palmtop inside the towels, and the owner had just wanted to make sure it didn't get damaged in transit!

**Q: If you could give one piece of advice to palmtop users, what would that be?**

**A:** Make frequent backups. This is especially true if you're a speed upgrade user. Make sure you have your drivers on a Flash card so you can easily transfer them to your C:\ drive if your C:\ drive gets wiped out.

**Q: Any other advice?**

**A:** Yes. Don't use your palmtop while you're in the bathtub.

**Products and Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article**

**REMCOM.ZIP** ■ - Utility that allows your palmtop's IR port to remotely control your TV, VCR, etc. Shareware. Available on 1994 *The HP Palmtop Paper Best Tips ON DISK*, and on 1997 *The HP Palmtop Paper's CD InfoBase*.

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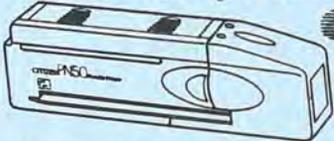
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# Using the Newton Keyboard with the HP 100/200LX palmtop

*At last, a keyboard you can touch type on.*

*By Carl Merkle*

I have a confession to make. When I originally considered buying my first palmtop, I didn't think I'd do much typing on it. After all, appointments, to-do lists and phone numbers don't require much typing, and it's easy to keep up those entries as you go. Besides, I thought, the palmtop's keyboard is way too small to do any serious work on it.

However, as it turns out, the palmtop turned out to be so useful that I do far more writing and information creation on it than I ever imagined I would. In fact, I accomplish more serious work on the palmtop than I do on a laptop or desktop, just because it's with me and available for use all the time, whereas the other computers are not. For instance, all of the articles I've written for *The HP Palmtop Paper* and *Handheld PC Magazine* were initially drafted on my palmtop — with my thumbs. Until now.

This time I've written much of this article using a nearly full-size keyboard that plugs into the palmtop's serial port. (See Photo above.)

Touch typing on this new palmtop compatible keyboard is as comfortable as typing on a laptop keyboard.

The combined weight of the keyboard and the palmtop (with batteries) is only 21 ounces.



Together that's still much lighter than any laptop or subnotebook. It's 30% lighter than the Libretto, the lightest subnotebook on the market. Battery life and instant-on are also significantly better with the palmtop than any laptop or subnotebook.

### **Keyboard fulfills a wish**

In my experience, the "anytime, anywhere" convenience of using the palmtop always outweighed the need for a larger keyboard when I just needed to get some thoughts written down.

Even with my thumbs I could type a note on the palmtop at least as fast as I could hand write a note on paper. Once written, editing and information sharing is so much easier on the palmtop than paper and pencil could ever be. Speed typing, especially for serious, thoughtful work has just not been that important to me.

However, the palmtop and a "touch type" keyboard combination fulfills a long-standing personal wish and the stated needs of many potential corporate users I've talked to.



### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Carl Merkle is the Director of Corporate Projects for Shier Systems & Software, Inc. and is responsible for managing delivery of ultra-mobile computing and communications business solutions to corporate accounts. A CPA by background, previously he was a senior manager with Ernst & Young, LLP. Carl lives in Irvine, California with his wife and three children, where the use of handheld PCs is woven into the fabric of their daily activities. He can be reached by e-mail at: Carl@Shier.com or by voice-mail at 714-559-1142.

Since touch typing on the palmtop is now feasible, it should help make the HP 100/200LX more marketable to those who occasionally want to use a larger keyboard with their pocket computer. Of course, when they use the keyboard, they'll need to work with their palmtop on a flat surface such as a table in the press room, at a library, in a classroom, in a hotel, or other temporary work space.

**You can still work the way you want**

Some of my writing makes use of brief moments of time in places where the time might otherwise be lost. For example, a portion of this article was edited at the beach with my family while I enjoyed the atmosphere and surroundings. And another portion was edited while waiting at my daughter's soccer practice.

I like the convenience of being able to plug in the keyboard and

use it when it's convenient. There's always the option of either using the keyboard, or not, by leaving it behind or keeping it in your briefcase. Just use whatever is the most productive and convenient for you at the time.

**Faster access than a laptop**

I demonstrated the difference in data access on a palmtop versus a laptop to my 16-year-old son who has objected to using the palmtop on the basis of the size of the palmtop's keys.

I took my Dell Latitude laptop and turned it on. Then I opened the palmtop, inserted the keyboard cable into the serial port, turned it on, switched to Memo and typed a paragraph, all before the Dell even turned on to the point where I could load programs.

My son liked the keyboard-plus-palmtop combination better than the laptop. Also, the weight and price difference between the HP

100/200LX and the laptop is still much better — even with two parts.

**Potential for new markets**

In this article I've described my own personal keyboard experience. But I believe a number of vertical market applications exist that this new keyboard has the potential of opening up. This should allow the palmtop to appeal to a broader market.

When the keyboard is considered in conjunction to other palmtop developments that have occurred over the last year (i.e., Internet E-mail, improved cellular-ready 33.6K modems with 8 Mg of flash, more RAM memory and more affordable pricing) the HP 100/200LX is a much more appealing corporate productivity tool today than it was just a year ago.

Anyone who is mobile (meaning not desk bound) and who must create documentation and reports could benefit from this technology.

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## Using the Newton Keyboard with the HP 200LX

By Avi Meshar

75561.633@compuserve.com

I have spent a few hours with the Newton keyboard plugged into my palmtop and have the following report.

The keyboard has five rows of keys. The feel of the keys is slightly on the light side, but I got used to it fairly quickly. The letter keys are all the same size, and from center to center the distance between keys is a hair over 11/16". The space bar is long, and the shift keys are wide and easy to find. The J and F keys have a small bar on the key to facilitate homing for touch typists.

The keyboard is very light and easy to install; just plug it in. You need to include the device driver in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

Both keyboards work when enabled, so if you find some key-combination you cannot make work, use the palmtop keyboard. The shift keys are not "sticky" as on the palmtop, which is a minor inconvenience.

The HP palmtop and Newton keyboard make an excellent combination. I am quite impressed.

### Products mentioned in this article

**Customized Newton Keyboard for the HP 100/200LX** - Price: \$129.00, plus \$5.00 S/H for U.S. orders.

**CONTACT:** Shier Systems & Software, 920 Hampshire Rd., Westlake, CA 91361 USA; Phone: 888-371-9391 or 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: info@shier.com; Web: www.shier.com

This includes many skilled workers such as: reporters and the press, home health care technicians like nurses and doctors, bankers and loan officers, police, fire, field investigators, sales professionals, and many others.

Mobile professionals can take brief notes in the field while sitting, standing or walking and clean up or expand notes when seated at a desk. Functionally, the palmtop can meet the information needs of most professionals.

All enterprise systems will accept reports produced by professionals in ASCII format. Some enterprise systems even require ASCII format. The Memo application on the palmtop is perfect for this.

When I've demonstrated the palmtop to people responsible for deciding on the mobile computing needs of a work force, the most frequent negative reaction I've encountered to use of the palmtop

is the size of the keyboard, along with worry that employees wouldn't use them to complete their reports because of that. The possibility of using the palmtop now with a laptop-size keyboard eliminates the most frequent objection to using a handheld PC.

### What makes this possible?

What made this touch-type keyboard technology possible? Special thanks and acknowledgment must go to two parties: Apple and Mr. K. Adachi.

Ironically, the first thanks go to Apple for creating the Newton keyboard. This keyboard is uniquely suited to work well with the HP palmtop because it's engineered to work with a low power serial connection and is built for portability. Typical of Apple products, it's a nice looking product.

The Newton keyboard doesn't require any additional external



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power source beyond the two AA batteries in the palmtop. By modifying its native cable to plug into the palmtop's serial port and with the appropriate software to recognize it, it's ready to run on the palmtop. By contrast, standard keyboards would require some form of external power. That automatically makes using them less portable.

Secondly, we owe Mr. K. Adachi a special debt of gratitude for writing a special driver that allows the Newton keyboard to work with the palmtop. It's clear that Mr. Adachi is an HP palmtop user because the special keys on the palmtop are accessible on the Newton keyboard using a logical two-key sequence (see sidebar containing special palmtop keystroke equivalents). Mr. Adachi released the software to the palmtop community as freeware with non-support. Users of the driver take it on an "as is" basis, with no obligation for user support.

### Trade-offs

Since the Newton keyboard was obviously not designed for the HP palmtop, there are some trade-offs. These include:

- ◆ The keyboard is designed for Newton, not the HP palmtop, so the keys aren't labeled right. This takes some getting used to.
- ◆ No escape key. The keyboard uses the [~`] key as an escape key.
- ◆ No hot keys to access programs. (You can still use the HP 100/200LX keypad for program switching, or use the keyboard-combination equivalents.)
- ◆ No function keys (but pressing the apple key and a number key gives the equivalent of function keys).
- ◆ No backspace key. (The delete key works like the backspace key.)
- ◆ Placement of the arrow keys is

unusual. (This can be changed using a switch when running the freeware software driver.)

- ◆ Expensive, relative to the cost of the HP 100/200LX and other IBM-style keyboards.
- ◆ Needs to be used at a table or on a flat surface.

For me, the negatives are minor compared to the positives. The positives include: real touch typing, plugs right into the HP 100/200LX serial port, doesn't need extra batteries, very light, does all of the palmtop's critical keyboard functions, and it's available now. You'll have to decide what's best for you. But at least you have an option now.

### How do you get them?

Currently there are two ways to get a Newton keyboard that'll work with the HP 100/200LX.

First is the do-it-yourself route. This takes some work. You need to buy a keyboard from retailers of Newton products (i.e. Frys, or Newton dealers such as Macwarehouse). Then you'll need to connect an HP serial cable to the keyboard following the instructions that accompany the software driver. You can get instructions to convert the Newton to a keyboard useable by the palmtop by downloading NTKEY2LX.ZIP ■ from <http://www.palmtop.net>. You need the driver named NTKEY2LX.COM ■ to be loaded and "turned on" before the keyboard can talk to the HP palmtop.

A driver is a software program that tells the computer how to talk to the keyboard. You'll generally start this program by putting a reference to it in your autoexec.bat file. The driver, NTKEY2LX.COM, takes up 4,354 bytes of space.

Few palmtop users, however, will have the skill required to modify or replace the Newton's cable so it can be plugged into a 100/200LX. That's where Shier Systems & Software (with whom I'm affiliated) comes in.

As a service to those users who would prefer to purchase a keyboard that can be plugged in immediately (without any alteration), Shier is selling a modified Newton-plus-cable combination. The modified keyboard comes with a floppy disk containing the required freeware software.

Whichever way you go, you should definitely check this out to see if it's right for you or your organization's needs. More information and pictures can be obtained from the palmtop.net web site at the following addresses:

- [www.palmtop.net/img/newton1.jpg](http://www.palmtop.net/img/newton1.jpg)
- [www.palmtop.net/img/newton2.jpg](http://www.palmtop.net/img/newton2.jpg)
- [www.palmtop.net/img/newton3.jpg](http://www.palmtop.net/img/newton3.jpg)
- [www.palmtop.net/img/newton4.jpg](http://www.palmtop.net/img/newton4.jpg)
- [www.palmtop.net/img/newton5.jpg](http://www.palmtop.net/img/newton5.jpg)
- [www.palmtop.net/img/newton6.jpg](http://www.palmtop.net/img/newton6.jpg)

### Table of Special Palmtop Keyboard Equivalents

200LX	Newton Keyboard
F1 to F10	Apple+1 to Apple+0
[Filer] to [&...]	Apple+Q to Apple+I
Del	Apple+Del
Ins	Apple+Shift R
Home	Apple+Left Arrow
End	Apple+Right Arrow
PgUp	Apple+Up Arrow
PgDn	Apple+Down Arrow
Menu	Option or Apple+/ (slash)
Zoom	Apple+space
Date	Apple+, (comma)
Time	Apple+, (period)
Cut	Apple+X
Copy	Apple+C
Paste	Apple+V
Fn	Apple+CapsLock (sticky)

*Note that the Apple key and Option key are two keys unique to the Newton keyboard. They are just left of the spacebar.*

### Newton Keyboard Statistics

- ◆ Physical Dimensions: 10.25 inches wide, 4 inches deep, 1.25 inches high.
- ◆ Weight: 9.1 ounces
- ◆ Number of Keys: 61
- ◆ Color: Dark green (a little darker than the HP200LX case.)

# Through the Looking Glass: The 1997-98 Subscriber PowerDisk

*Ed picks the "best of the best" free software from The HP Palmtop Paper 1997-98 Subscriber PowerDisk.*

by Ed Keefe

For the past eleven years, I and the staff at Thaddeus Computing, Inc., have set aside a month or two each summer to select and test the best free software for the HP Portables and palmtops. The result has been five Subscribers Disks for the HP Portable and six PowerDisks for the HP palmtop. The task has been rewarding, challenging and time-consuming.

The rewarding part of the task has been finding the great number of HP palmtop users who like to give away their computing creations. Every year we'd start out thinking that there would not be enough material to fill a disk. Then we'd start the search process and wind up with enough software to fill two or three disks.

The challenging part of the task has been deciding which programs to put on the disks. We've had to set aside some really great programs merely because they took up too much disk space, or even though they were well written, the programs were more of a "vertical market" application than something having mass appeal.

The most time-consuming aspect of the job has been testing more than a hundred programs every year. We've crashed our palmtops countless times so you

wouldn't have to crash yours. But what has taken even more time is finding a real gem of a program and spending several weeks exploring all it could do. That happened this year with the LXBatch program. We'll tell you more about that in the next issue of The HP Palmtop Paper.

#### The end of an era

The 1997-98 Subscriber PowerDisk will be the last such disk produced by Thaddeus Computing, Inc. Many of our subscribers have pointed out that, by the time they receive the disk, new versions of the software have appeared on the World Wide Web or one of the commercial databases. We're also aware that the MS-DOS era is winding down. There are fewer and fewer DOS programs being written. This makes the task of searching for free programs even more time-consuming.

#### The best of the best freeware

As a final offering we decided to collect the best-of-the-best freeware for the HP 100/200LX and put it on this year's PowerDisk. The collection shows the wide variety of free software. It presents a virtual "hall-of-fame" for some of the folks who have contributed their time and energy to make our palmtop computing more productive and more pleasurable.

There are over 50 files on the 1997-98 PowerDisk. Some of the files contain games. Others include "utility" programs, while yet others contain databases or Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets. All the files have been tested to make sure they work as indicated and are free of any known viruses. They are offered "as is."

Due to limited resources, Thaddeus will not be able to offer support for any of the files on the PowerDisk. If you need additional



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A long time contributor to Hewlett-Packard Handheld support publications, Ed Keefe is an author, editor, programmer, computer science instructor, and part-time consultant in the computer industry. Ed's articles appear in *The HP Palmtop Paper*. He is also the editor of the book *PC In Your Pocket: Information When You Need It*.

help or you find that a program does not work on your machine, please contact the author of the file. Each archive contains a documentation file with the name of the author. Do NOT contact Hewlett-Packard with questions about the 1997-98 PowerDisk or its contents.

### Where's the install program?

To squeeze a couple more programs on the PowerDisk, we omitted any installation program. Instead, we compressed the files with the popular PKZip program and included a small UNZIP program to expand them. Just copy one or more of the .ZIP files, along with the UNZIP.EXE file, to another disk and use the command UNZIP filename , where filename stands for the name of a ZIPped file. The documentation file on the PowerDisk tells how many bytes you'll need to expand each file.

### Ed's favorite files on the 1997-98 Subscriber PowerDisk.

Most of the files on the 1997-98 PowerDisk will be familiar to seasoned users of the HP palmtop, but if you're new to the HP palmtop, the chore of wading through 50 or more programs may be overwhelming. To help get you started, Hal Goldstein asked me to come up with a list of my favorite programs on the disk. Here is what I came up with.

### Addkeys

Several years ago I wrote a program, Multi-Macro Manager, for the HP 95LX. It enhanced the System Manager macros for that machine. I never did get around to updating "MMM" for the HP 100/200LX. I'm glad I didn't. Addkeys, by Dave Vickers, does much of what MMM did and in a leaner, meaner package. There's no fancy input screen, but Addkeys will let you record keystrokes and save them in executable .COM files. Instead of running a macro,

you can run a COM file that will automate loading and starting System Manager or DOS programs. Pretty slick!

### DBView

DBV220 has become a real workhorse on my palmtop. I use it rather than the built-in database engine to view my database files. Why? The System Manager database engine changes the archive bit and the date/time stamp of any file that it opens. DBV does not. This means that if I look up MSCDEX in my 408Kb DOSHELP.GDB file, I can get to the information quickly, AND the next time I perform a back-up routine (using ZIP.COM) I won't have to wait while DOSHELP.GDB is transferred to the hard drive on my desktop. DBV also contains an option that will let you find the total, average, minimum or maximum of a field that is equal to, greater than, less than, some criteria: something the

built-in database engine should be able to do but doesn't. DBV is the fine work of Harry Konstas.

### Global Search

Hiroyuki Sekiya is one of the many Japanese contributors to the HP palmtop. His GS program will search an entire collection of database, NoteTaker, PhoneBook, Appointment book and Memo files for a single word or phrase. It works fairly quickly and accurately. The only downside to the program is that, when it launches a database file, it uses the built-in database engine. I wish it could launch DBView instead.

### Freecell and HP Sokoban

I keep only one game on my desktop machine: Freecell. Now I can have this same game on my palmtop along with HP Sokoban (for which there is no desktop equivalent). Why are games like Freecell, Sokoban and Solitaire so darned

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addicting? They're like potato chips: once you start playing, you can't stop with just one. If you don't understand Freecell and can't get beyond the fourth level of Sokoban, try a game of Klondike solitaire. It's on the PowerDisk as well.

### HTML

Hypertext Viewer HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) files are all over the World Wide Web. Even Microsoft is using this type of file for its help files in such products as Visual C++. It's another way to access information quickly and almost effortlessly. If HTML would have been a more mature "language" when the palmtop first came to market, I'm sure that HP would have considered it in place of their database engine. However, thanks to the work of Andreas Garzotto, we can now capture documents from the WWW and elsewhere (perhaps using WWW/LX, the commercial Web browser for

the HP palmtop) and read the documents off-line using HV on the palmtop.

### LXPIC

HTML documents are usually full of graphics images in the form of GIF or JPG files. Although the HV program has the ability to show GIF images, there are times when you might like to scan through a collection of such images without having to load HV. The LXPIC file will let you do this either on the HP palmtop or on an MS-DOS desktop. Stefan Piechl, the author of LXPIC, has done a marvelous job of creating a very small viewer that will let you examine GIF, JPG, BMP, and PCX graphics files and shrink or expand them, invert the colors, flip them upside down and gather technical information about the files.

### LXBatch

Rob Koenis's LXBatch program is

my personal pick for software product of the year. It's a programming tool that adds several HP palmtop specific commands to the MS-DOS batch file language. With this tool, anyone who has ever written a batch file can create a palmtop application that has much of the look and feel of a built-in program, and you won't have to learn the "C" programming language to do it.

### Pal Edit

If you're looking for a text editor that's more capable than the palmtop's Memo, yet has the same look and feel of Memo, then by all means give Pal Edit from D&A Software a try. Those of you who have read my columns over the past eleven years know that I favor the Video Display Editor for most MS-DOS editing tasks. I still use VDE on my desktop machine, but PalEdit is quickly becoming the preferred editor for most of my palmtop writing tasks. It's fast, can handle files greater than 64K bytes, and has a clever way to help you find words in any document. Definitely give this program a trial run.

### Remkey

And speaking of writing tasks on the palmtop, I still like the Remkey program from Craig Payne. For the past couple of years, I've been using Remkey to type on a standard PC keyboard and watch what happens on the screen of the palmtop. About the only time that I don't use Remkey is when I'm away from a desktop computer and want to look up something in the palmtop. Without Remkey, I probably would have abandoned the use of the palmtop altogether. I still don't like typing on a tiny keyboard.

### Toddy 6.12

Yet another way to avoid a lot of typing on a tiny keyboard is to use keyboard shortcuts or macros. Palmtop users have been exploiting the power of the built-in System Macros ever since the days of the

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HP 95LX. However, for creating macros for the MS-DOS side of the palmtop, I prefer Toddy. It isn't exactly the easiest program to learn how to use. It has almost too many features. Yet with a little persistence and experimentation, you can create macros that can be run either by typing a command at the DOS prompt or by pressing a hot key.

### Math on the Palmtop

The HP Calc program built into the HP palmtops is the equivalent of the HP 19B-II financial calculator. If there's a financial problem that can't be solved with the built-in functions, you can add your own functions with HP Solve. There's a database file on the PowerDisk that contains over 80 Solver equations. You can copy them from the database and paste them into Solve's editing screen and try them out, or use them as templates to create your own Solver equations. For those people who favor a good, old

RPN scientific calculator in the style of the HP 15C, we've included TNCALC. I wish the author of TNCALC would have continued to upgrade this program, and perhaps, integrate it more closely with HP Calc.

### Most honorable mentions

There were many applications that didn't "make-the-cut" for one reason or another. For example, PAL (Palmtop Application Interface) remains the best software for palmtop "C" programmers, but it was too big for this disk. BUDDY still retains its title of best-of-the-best shareware, followed closely by Vertical Reader (VR100) and the Video Display Editor (VDE). But since they're shareware, we chose to omit them from the PowerDisk.

The list of "honorable mentions" could go on and on. And it does. If you're looking for more and more software for the HP palmtop, you can save a lot of time

by getting a copy of the 1998 CD Infobase from Thaddeus Computing, Inc. It contains everything you'd ever want to know about, or do with, the HP palmtop: everything but the commercial software offerings, of which there are several hundred mentioned in articles and ads on the CD (end of commercial). Of course, you can power up your modem and visit us at [www.thaddeus.com](http://www.thaddeus.com). From there you'll find links to other popular sites devoted to the HP palmtop.

Even though there will no longer be an annual Subscribers PowerDisk, we firmly hope that the enthusiasm for the one and only true handheld computer will continue to grow, and that you'll continue to enjoy the best-of-the-best software ever written.



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# Using the HP LX and DBLearn as a Learning Tool

*This program asks for words chosen at random from the contents of any HP 100/200LX database, such as a vocabulary or foreign language database.*

by Matt Haigh

Volume 6 Number 3 of *The HP Palmtop Paper* carried an interesting article by Hal Goldstein describing how the HP palmtop can be used to learn any new language or discipline.

Some months earlier, picking up on a thread in the HPHAND forum, I discovered the DBLearn program on the homepage of the program's author, Gergo Viczian (DBLearn is postcardware). I downloaded version 1.4, registered it, and have been using it ever since to practice German vocabulary in spare moments, between meetings, when traveling, etc.

Like most programs, the best way to review DBLearn is to download it and try it for yourself. Downloading it costs very little, and takes very little time. I'll summarize the use and capabilities of DBLearn in just a few sentences:

DBLearn is a small program (39.5Kb) developed using PAL for the HP100/200LX, but it is quite sophisticated in operation. The program works by posing to the user a random selection of questions based on data in an HP palmtop database (.GDB) file (see Screen 1 and Screen 2). The program also analyses user responses and records success in a knowledge (.KNW) file.

Downloading and installing DBLearn is a breeze! The associated documentation (.DOC) file takes

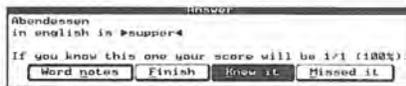
care of any queries that may arise in installing and using DBLearn. The icon provided represents (I believe) an HP LX connected by serial cable to a human brain!



SCREEN 1

DBLearn is asking what the English equivalent of a German word is.

When I downloaded the file it expanded to include a sample Hungarian-French database and a knowledge file. A quick inspection of the database (.GDB) file gave me all the clues I needed to modify the database for English-German



SCREEN 2

In this dialog box the program supplies the correct answer.

vocabulary. I added to the database a few words of translation and began to evaluate whether it was

what I needed or not.

The screen background, which consists of two columns of previously answered questions which scroll as newer questions are appended at the bottom right, can be confusing initially. But this concern disappears as one gets used to



SCREEN 3

The central menu of DBLearn.

the way DBLearn works.

A comprehensive range of functions and options can be selected from a central menu (see Screen 3), unlike the usual System Manager compliant programs. As I have DBLearn configured to learn German, my menu options are:



## About the author

Matt Haigh works for Ford Motor Company, Research & Engineering Centre, Dunton, England, in Powertrain Systems Engineering as an Engineering Supervisor. Among his interests are sailing (particularly windsurfing), computing in general, and his two small children (Barnaby, 4; and Daisy, 3 years old). He welcomes questions from fellow palmtoppers at MHaigh@compuserve.com or mhaigh.ford@e-mail.com

- ◆ German-English: Offers the user a German word and asks for the English equivalent.
- ◆ English-German: Offers the user an English word and asks for the German equivalent
- ◆ Articles of Nouns: Offers the user a German noun and asks for the German definite article.
- ◆ Mixed: A mixture of the above.
- ◆ Selection Settings: Allows user to select any subset of the database, and to adjust the 'random' selection of words, biasing it toward 'new' words as required.
- ◆ Field Settings: Allows selection of preferences for individual data fields including setting which is the 'foreign' language.
- ◆ Progress: An impressive graphic display of one's success in answering the questions posed by the program.
- ◆ About: The usual.
- ◆ Exit Program: The obvious.

My German-English database (GERMAN.GDB ■), which contains 1340 database entries (transla-

### Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

**DBLearn** ■ - A learning program for the 100/200LX that poses questions based on data in any HP palmtop database file. Postcardware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*; or in library 11 of HPHAND on CompuServe; or from the author at: [www.evt.bme.hu/~gergo](http://www.evt.bme.hu/~gergo)

**GERMAN.GDB** ■ - An HP palmtop database file containing 1,340 German words and their English equivalents. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

**GERMAN.KNW** ■ - The knowledge file associated with the GERMAN.GDB file. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

tions), is 74.2Kb in size, and takes approx. 8 seconds to scan as DBLearn loads. The associated knowledge file (GERMAN.KNW ■) is 15.5Kb in size.

The fact that I actually use the program is impressive, since I normally delete most of the software I download because I just don't use it. I find DBLearn really useful.

I have the following observations and criticisms of DBLearn:

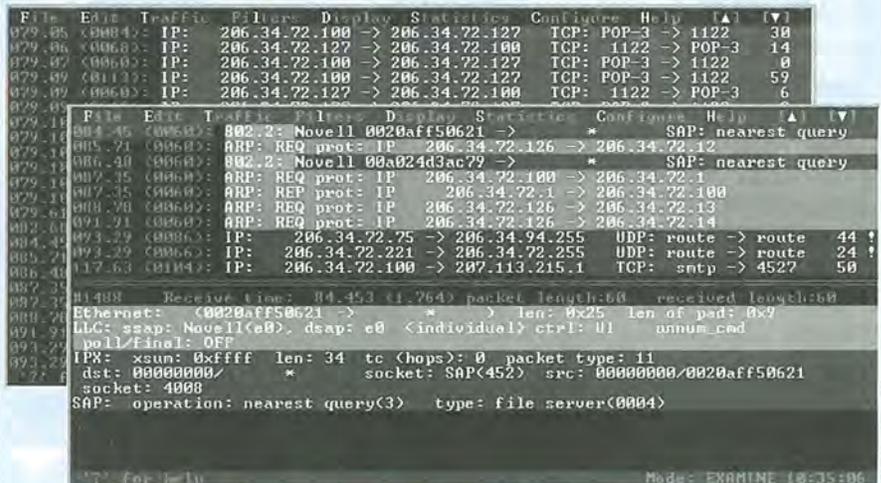
- ◆ Version 1.4 isn't sensitive to the capitalization of German nouns, which is important in written German.

- ◆ A word can sometimes have multiple meanings. Although one's response to a question about a meaning may be correct, the program may think it's incorrect because the answer was evaluated against an alternative meaning.

Other people are using it to learn French, English, Spanish, Russian, Japanese, Italian and German, and the author suggests that you could use it to learn anything from languages to dates in history.

If you think DBLearn could be of use to you, why not give it a try?

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# Automobile Mechanic Uses HP 100LX in His Business

*Southern California-based "Honda Bob" has tailored his palmtop's applications to his unique business.*

*By Robert Hebert*

I own and operate a mobile service company that repairs automobiles in Southern California. When I went into business over 17 years ago, I was keeping records of the work I had done on my customers' cars in a card file box. Pretty soon, the box got too small.

I purchased one of the first "portable computers," an Osborne. It came with two 5.25" 360Kb floppy drives. I typed in all the records from my card files onto 26 disks, one disk for every letter of the alphabet. Pretty soon I had several disks for every letter, and the Osborne was getting hard to lug around.

I then found out about the Psion handheld computer. I was able to put all my customer records onto four 256Kb Psion datapacks, but I had to abbreviate a lot of words to make them fit.

## Why I liked the HP 95LX

When the Hewlett-Packard 95LX came out, I got one with a 2Mg flash card. All the information from all the datapacks fit nicely on that flash card, without abbreviations!

I used the HP 95LX for about two years before I moved up to my current HP 100LX with a 10Mg flash card. My palmtop with 2Mb RAM, loaded with 100Buddy ■, is my primary computer on the road. I use almost every application on it



The author is entering data into his palmtop on location at a customer's apartment building. His van is in the background.

several times a day.

Many automobile dealerships seem to operate on the premise that another customer will always come in, so repeat business is not an

issue. Repeat business is very important to me, so I keep detailed records of every car I work on. By doing this, I can identify problems early on by cross referencing the



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Hebert, who is originally from Eunice, Louisiana, has worked as an aircraft electrician in the Air Force, a motorcycle mechanic at a Yamaha shop, and a mechanic at various Honda dealerships for many years. He now operates HDABOB'S Mobile Service, an independent automobile service facility that is devoted entirely to servicing Honda-powered automobiles. He lives in Paramount, California, and can be reached by phone at 562-531-2321, or via e-mail at HDABOB@aol.com

Database: SAMPLE	Data Item	14-JUL-97 12:00:58 PM
Name WATERS, C. R.	Location	LA 706 D6
Address 55863 SACRAMENTO	City DOWNEY	Zip 90241
Home 555-3671	Work	Opt
Car 88 CIVIC WAGON	Trans	5 SPEED
Tag 9KNE281	Vin No JHMEE2757JS002258	Eng No D15B2-1019360
Dist Cap 30102-PMS-305	Color	NH-512Z-4 POLAR WHITE
Bus Addr		
Note *		
<input type="button" value="Help"/> <input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Note"/> <input type="button" value="Find"/> <input type="button" value="Clip"/> <input type="button" value="Prev"/> <input type="button" value="Next"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Done"/>		

Screen 1: The author created this customized database to store his customers' information.

VIN number or the engine number with any service bulletins. I also give the customer a computer-generated copy of all previous services performed on the vehicle.

In the morning I use ApptBook to check my daily appointments, and also to remind me to call my parts suppliers to have the parts I need ready when I get there.

The ToDo list keeps track of all my messages from my answering machine. I just type in the name and phone number of the person calling, leaving the "carry forward" box checked. When I return their call, I remove the check and the message is permanently stored on the date it came in.

If a new customer calls, I put an asterisk (\*) in front of the name so that I know to start a new file on this customer before I return their call to schedule an appointment. I also schedule repeating events, like birthdays and anniversaries.

### What my database contains

The Database I created contains all the information I need to identify about 1,200 customers and their cars. (See Screen 1.) When I first see a car that I am going to work on, I enter all the information about the car into the database that I developed.

I have their name, address, Thomas guide location coordinates, all known phone numbers, car model, VIN number, engine number, license number, color and any other items peculiar to their particular model. (The Thomas Guide is

a popular map system for Southern California.)

After I enter all the data, I use the following smart clip:

I use this clip to copy all the data into a memo file that contains that customer's information. I then use the following smart clip:

▶Name◀ ▶Work, ?◀ ▶Opt, ?◀

I use this to copy the phone numbers to the PhoneBook.

I created another database of used cars that are available from my customers. In this database I keep all the car information, as well as any other options on each car, and how much the customer wants to get for each car. I update this database weekly as cars are sold and bought.

The PhoneBook is, I think, the most frequently used function on my HP 100LX. I keep all my customers' phone numbers, as well as all vendors that I use. All business cards that I get are immediately entered into the PhoneBook.

To keep the vendors separate, I was initially using separate subsets, but I found that if I put an asterisk in front of every vendor name, the PhoneBook stores these after the customer names.

▶VENEVO, LUCAS
▶WATERS, C. R.
▶*3M CORPORATION
▶*AACON AUTO PARTS
▶*ACE AUTO
▶*ADVANCE AUTO SPECIALI

Since then, I have included all phone numbers for my family members as well. I just put a dash (-) in front of their names; this stores them after the vendors. So far, I haven't had any problems accessing any phone numbers, even though I have over 2,000 entries in the Phone Book.

### PhoneBook complements pager

Since customers, vendors and family members are all contained in one database file, I can look up a number rapidly. This is important, because I try to always remain



Although the palmtop makes record keeping easier, the author still has some jobs that require pen and paper.



The palmtop's lightness and small size sure beats lugging around the author's old Osborne computer.

available by pager to answer my customers' questions. (I feel that the only dumb question is the one you don't ask.)

When I get paged, I open the PhoneBook, press (F4) (Find), enter the telephone number from the pager (or part of the number), and the PhoneBook looks up that number.

When the phone record containing that number comes up on the screen, I know who is paging me, and I can pull up their database record before I return their call. This allows me to know who I am talking to and what kind of car they are talking about. All this takes about two or three minutes.

The PhoneBook also has other functions. I modified another PhoneBook file to keep track of all the paint codes of every Honda-powered car ever made. That's when I realized that Honda has 33 different shades of RED! I modified another PhoneBook file to keep track of all special order parts from my vendors.

The MACRO application is one of my favorites. I wrote several macros to make it easier to update a customer's record. Ten function keys weren't enough to handle all my tasks, so I made a macro to switch back and forth between two different sets of macros.

#### A very useful macro

Whenever I finish working on a

customer's car, I use Calc to total the customer's bill. Then I run a macro that I've created which automatically does a number of things:

First, it adds the amount of today's bill to the total cost of all bills in the past (it gets this figure from the MEMO file for that customer). Then the macro takes this new sum and replaces the old "Total

cost of Maintenance" in the MEMO file with the new figure. The macro then saves the MEMO file, returns to ApptBook and clears the time from the appointment, saves the appointment, then backs up the file to the flash card. Finally, the macro closes the appointment and moves down to the next appointment for the day. When I open the ApptBook again, it is already highlighted on the next appointment.

#### Using Note Taker while driving

The Note Taker is handy for quickly jotting down messages to myself. Sometimes it's hard to type and drive at the same time, so I keep the messages short.

Part of my daily morning routine is printing out (on my home PC) the customer records of the jobs I have for that day. Each customer's record lists all work that I've done on that car, as well as a total cost of the work done. Often a customer's file is quite extensive because of all the work I have done on that car, sometimes spanning over 15 years.

#### Backing up

The FILER is used for backing up the files from the palmtop to the 10Mg flash card. I have a macro that is set to run at 2 a.m. every day. It closes all the applications, opens FILER, then copies my files to the flash card. When I open up

the palmtop in the morning and the screen shows the top card, I know that my files were backed up properly.

My home PC is a Pentium that has a flash card drive installed. Whenever I boot up the PC, I insert the flash card from the palmtop, then press any key, and the instructions in the PC's AUTOEXEC.BAT file copy all the files on the flash card to several different directories on the PC.

Then I open WinWord and print out the customer's record, which usually contains the owner's photograph. (I try to take a photograph of each customer when I first work on his or her car. Then I scan the picture and save the graphics file on the PC.) The copy of the maintenance record that I give to the customer, with its color photograph of the owner, is attractive, personalized, and unique.

Whenever I have some free time, I play the SOKOBAN ■ game. So far, I'm up to level 50. Some of the levels are really challenging.

As you can see, my HP 100LX is my constant companion. I don't go anywhere without it. As a matter of fact, my vacation is coming up and I have my entire itinerary loaded.

#### Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

**HP-SOK ■** — In SOKOBAN, a maze game optimized for use on the HP 100/200LX, pieces are motionless and the player tries to push them out of the way without getting them stuck against walls or each other. Because time is not a factor, this game doesn't require frantic keyboard movements. Available on *The HP Palmtop Paper's 1997 CD InfoBase*, or on CompuServe library 11 in HPHAND.

**100BUDDY ■** — Palmtop program containing many useful utilities. Available on *The HP Palmtop Paper's 1997 CD InfoBase*.

# Get Me To The Church, Train or Plane on Time

*This Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet can help you avoid last minute rushing to make a plane flight (or help you get anywhere else you need to be). It easily accommodates various chores and tasks that need to be accomplished prior to showing up at the ticket counter.*

*By Larry Nielsen*

Everyone knows how long it takes to drive or take public transportation to the airport, so why do we need a computer to get us there on time?

Well, in my case, things change each time. There are variations to each departure, and it is easy for me to become distracted and find myself behind schedule, or worse yet, arriving at the gate way too early. So I developed a spreadsheet, FLYWK.1 ■, using Lotus 1-2-3 on my HP 200LX palmtop computer.

Flights change at the last minute, and other circumstances enter in that affect what time to set the alarm clock for a morning departure (or to return home to begin the process of an afternoon or evening departure) so I left plenty of room for modification in the spreadsheet. Lotus and Hewlett-Packard's palmtop do the calculating and keep me fully informed about whether I have time to dawdle with coffee and talk on the phone, or whether I should pick up the pace a bit.

## **My airport spreadsheet is similar to a monetary budget**

The idea behind the spreadsheet is quite simple. There are tasks to accomplish, such as shower and dress, have coffee or breakfast, fin-

ish packing, shovel snow, stop at the bank, navigate the airport terminal, check in luggage, etc. As with a monetary budget, the amount of time for each task is entered into the spreadsheet, along with the task's description. Tasks can be easily added for different trips, or "zeroed out" if they don't apply. The travel time between each stop is also entered in and the best estimate is used, depending on time of day, etc.

Consider my example spreadsheet (see Screen 1). The process starts with the morning alarm clock (cell B43) and reads from bottom up, ending with the aircraft departure (cell A2). You can see that I have 31 minutes for the public train ride to the airport (cell C18). That is the time it takes from my train stop to O'Hare Airport. I also allocated eight minutes for a missed train. This is in case I arrive at the station just as a train goes through, as the trains are eight minutes apart.

These amounts can be adjusted for different times of day.

The 10 minutes to check in luggage (cell C14) can be zeroed out if the trip only requires carry-on luggage. Leaving your automobile at the service station can be adjusted or zeroed out as appropriate, and the same is also true for bank or other stops. You can be as conservative or risky as you choose on these time estimates.

As you perform each task you can see whether you are ahead or behind schedule, and react accordingly. The "instant on and off" feature of the HP 200LX is perfect for a quick check.

## **Changes in departure time aren't a problem**

At the top of the spreadsheet I enter the flight number and the scheduled flight departure time. All the tasks are keyed to this departure time. If the flight changes, all the



## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Larry Nielsen lives in Chicago, where he sells and installs communication equipment and wiring. He uses the HP 200LX regularly in his business and personal pursuits, using acCIS and the built-in programs. He is an active scuba diver and likes to fly to warm weather vacation spots. His e-mail address is [larrynielsen@compuserve.com](mailto:larrynielsen@compuserve.com)

other times just fall into place automatically. That (along with any tasks added, deleted, or modified) results in the correct time to wake up (cell A3) and begin the whole thing.

I generally start entering some of the data, such as flight time, days before the actual flight. I plan the pre-flight errands, adjust for rush hour differences, etc., and make adjustments right up to the night before. Then I set the morning alarm and move along calmly, confident that I am "organized," thanks to the convenience of the palmtop computer.

**Building the spreadsheet**

Here's how to build the spreadsheet. Set the column widths so everything is visible on the palmtop without scrolling. Columns A & E are set to 18 for the text, B is left at the default 9, C reduced to 6, and D reduced to 4. (To set the width for column A, go to cell A1, then type MENU, W, C, S, 18, ENTER.)

Cells A2 & A3 are formatted as "D7" type, using Lotus designation. (Go to cell A2, type MENU, R, F, D, T, 2, DownArrow, ENTER). (By using the range function to apply this to cells A2 and A3, you won't have to change the settings in each cell.) Do the same for column B, from row 7 on down.

Column C from row 7 or 8 on down is formatted as "D9". (Type MENU, R, F, D, T, 4, ENTER.) Cell B7 has the entry +A2 (this merely copies the flight departure time that's in cell A2 to cell B7). Cell A3 has the entry +B43 (so the final result can be seen at the top of the spreadsheet). Text in rows 1 through 5 is entered as shown, and row 6 is filled in.

**The Lotus @TIME function**

Let's enter a theoretical flight departure of 9:15 AM in cell A2. [Our time entries are put in using

D1: [W4]					READY
A	B	C	D	E	
1	TRIP TO MIAMI	FLIGHT #	481		
2		DEPART		TRAVEL	EL TRAIN TO OHARE
3		09:15 AM			
4		05:38 AM	SET ALARM	CLOCK	
5	CHECKPOINT	TIME		ACTIVITY	
6	DEPARTURE	09:15 AM			
7	ARRIVE AT GATE	09:05 AM	00:10 MIN	GATE CHECK & BOARD	
8	FINISH COFFEE	08:55 AM	00:10 MIN	WALK TO GATE	
9	FINISH CHECK IN	08:40 AM	00:15 MIN	COFFEE, READ acCIS	
10					
11					
12					
13					
14	ARRIVE TERMINAL	08:30 AM	00:10 MIN	LUGGAGE CHECK IN	
15	EL ARRIVE O'HARE	08:20 AM	00:10 MIN	WALK INTO TERMINAL	
16	EL DEPART DAMEN	07:49 AM	00:31 MIN	EL TRAVEL TIME	
17	ARRIVE EL STATION	07:41 AM	00:08 MIN	MISSED EL TRAIN	
18	LEAVE DEALER	07:29 AM	00:12 MIN	RIDE TO STATION	
19	ARRIVE AT DEALER	07:14 AM	00:15 MIN	ARRANGE FOR SERVICE	
20			00:06 MIN	DRIVE TO DEALER	
21	LEAVE OFFICE	07:08 AM			
22	ARRIVE AT OFFICE	06:53 AM	00:15 MIN	LAST MINUTE PREP	
23	LEAVE HOME	06:38 AM	00:15 MIN	DRIVE TO OFFICE	
24	READY!!	06:28 AM	00:10 MIN	EMPTY CAR OUT	
25	DRESSED	06:08 AM	00:20 MIN	BREAKFAST RUN acCIS	
26		05:38 AM	00:30 MIN	SHOWER & DRESS	
27		05:38 AM	00:00 MIN		
28					
29					
30					
31					
32					
33					
34					
35					
36					
37					
38					
39					
40			00:00 MIN		
41		05:38 AM			
42			00:00 MIN		
43	OUT OF BED!!	05:38 AM			

SCREEN 1: The author's spreadsheet warns him that, in order to perform all the tasks listed, he has to wake up at 5:38 a.m. to make his 9:15 flight departure.

the Lotus function @TIME(0,0,0). To do this, we will replace the first zero with hour 01 through 24; the second zero is replaced with minute 01 through 60, and the third zero, representing seconds, is

top, even when we scroll down. Go to row 7 and type MENU, W, T, H.

Go to cell B9 and enter +B7-C8 ("09:15 AM" will appear in cell B9). Copy this entry to cell B11 and do the same for all the odd rows on

*I generally start entering some of the data, such as flight time, days before the actual flight and make adjustments right up to the night before. Then I set the morning alarm and move along calmly, confident that I am "organized," thanks to the convenience of the palmtop computer.*

left at zero.] Go to A2 and type @TIME(09,15,00) ENTER. "09:15 AM" will appear in cell A2 (and also in cell B7).

Now we can lock titles to keep the important information at the

down in column B. Later, as you enter in amounts of time for different activities, Lotus will adjust (each time, automatically) the times in column B. But for now, the time will be displayed as the flight time

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17. Signed, Hal Goldstein, Publisher. Date, October 1, 1997.

of 9:15, since we haven't entered any activities yet.

Go to cell D8 and enter MIN and then copy it to each even row down in column D. Go to cell A7 and type DEPARTURE. Go to cell E8 and type CHECK & BOARD.

Now go to cell C8 and enter the amount of time you want to allow at the gate. If you want to designate ten minutes, type @TIME (0,10,0). Right away you'll see that cell B9 now displays 9:05 AM, since the ten minutes is subtracted from the flight time of 9:15 AM in cell B7. (If you are using the new ticketless procedure and your reservation is all in order, the amount of time you allow at the gate can be minimal. If you are flying standby and want to get on the list early [or need to make special requests, get your seat assigned, etc.] adjust accordingly.)

Go to cell A9 and type ARRIVE GATE. Continue describing the "activity" in the even rows of column E, the amount of time each takes in column C, and the milestone where you should be in column A. As you make adjustments to the time for tasks in column C, the milestones in column B will all change accordingly. You can zero out an entry by typing @TIME (0,0,0) if the entry is just a reminder to lock the door or deposit a letter in a mailbox, or something else that doesn't require any time.

Make one "typical" spreadsheet containing the most likely entries, then save it. Now to do a real trip: open the typical spreadsheet, make your entries, and save it with the name of the trip. Keep the typical spreadsheet as a template to use over and over.

Happy flying and palmtopping.

## Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

**FLY.WKI** ■ - A Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet that helps you schedule your pre-flight activities so you'll get to the airport on time. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

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# The Palmtop Adventures of a Publican from Dublin

*From CP/M to the HP 95LX to the OmniGo700, this pub owner from Ireland recounts the best of his computer adventures.*

*By John McGowan*

I visited a Radio Shack in 1983 and enquired about learning a computer language to write my own programs; simple stuff like accounting programs, databases, and stock control.

The attendant asked me if I drove a car. "Yes." Did I service it myself? "No." Would I consider building a car for myself? "No." So why would I want to write my own programs when they're already written?

Not much the wiser, the next outfit I got in touch with sold me the last CP/M business computer for sale in Dublin, complete with twin floppies and suites of Peachtree Software. It still works, and when I came across HTML ten years later I got a weird feeling of *deja vu*. It looks and feels just like my old Peachtext word processing software.

## **When I switched to Windows, Bill Gates threw a party**

Over a feverish Easter weekend in 1993 I eventually upgraded to Windows, and Bill Gates threw a party in Seattle. "Hey fellas," he said. "We got it made. That guy in Dublin has shifted over to us!"

For a hassled few days I had to transfer a load of spreadsheets to the new 486 and get used to an unfamiliar operating system with

the sometime help of a techie who claimed to have seen it all. He thought!

His reaction to an enquiry as to how to remove a cigarette butt that somehow got stuck up the mouse was an astonished, "Yeah John, that's a first."

## **An HP 95LX as part of the deal**

The only reason I moved to Windows was to accommodate a new on-line stock control program for my business. Part of the deal included a handheld for entering the information about the stock and uploading it to my PC.

My first meeting with the new handheld was timid. The box was too big and too heavy, but when I opened it and took out the manual, things got better. I slid out the HP 95LX, inserted the batteries, and we talked all night and the following day until it got tired and said,

"Main Battery Low." HERE was my kind of computer.

And some relationship we had. In the four years I had it, I never bought it a thing except new batteries. I ran the business with it, and it came everywhere with me.

People didn't understand; they'd ask me a question and I'd open the black box, ask the oracle by tapping a few keys, and give them an answer.

## **My palmtop startled the jewelry assistant**

After a year the "Backup battery low" sign came on. I went to the jewelers to get a replacement, ever so carefully removed the backup battery, handed it to the assistant behind the counter and asked her for "one of those."

As she turned to get a battery, the 95LX beeped, "Main battery Low," and I said, "Oh dearie me."



## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

John McGowan runs a family business started by his grandfather in 1949. McGowans of Phibsboro is one of Dublin Ireland's biggest and most successful pubs. His assistant manager, an Hewlett-Packard OG700, helps smooth the payroll, financial control, stocktaking and direct marketing end of the business. John, who can be contacted at [mcgowans@indigo.ie](mailto:mcgowans@indigo.ie), offers a Celtic hang-over to anyone who unfolds a HP palmtop on his bar counter!



The author with his "assistant manager" (his HP OmniGo700) behind the bar in stocktaking mode.

The Canary Islands in February of this year, thinking the builders would be gone by then.

I had threatened never to get a mobile phone, but could see the need to stay in touch if I was going to be away from the business at a critical time. This is the mode I was in when I opened the newspaper and saw a picture of a Nokia phone piggybacked on a familiar looking black box.

### The OmniGo 700

The OmniGo 700 is one amazing piece of kit. The design is knock-out, the lines superb. It draws as many glances as the E-type Jaguar did in the sixties. Most people's first guess is that it is some sort of new-fangled charger for the phone. But when you open it to show them...

The casing on the OG700 is bigger than the 100\200LX, but it's not as robust. I already managed to spring the hinge wide open with a drop (phone attached and phone side first) of three feet onto a carpet. An amount of praying, pressing and heaving managed to click everything back into place.

It's not as neat as the 100\200LX, and would play havoc with the line of an Armani suit. The first company to supply a belt or shoulder holster in light leather, with the phone still easily detachable, has the sale.

### FAXing at 60 mph

The phone has three different ringing tones and three different telephone numbers, one for voice, another for FAX, and the third for data communication. And, listen up folks. If you think answering a mobile call when you're driving is dangerous, just try answering a FAX, or DATA call. Opening the OG700 to press the open "fax-app" key and F8 (to receive) at 60 mph is not recommended. But if, like me, you prefer not to look at the rear-view mirror after attempting

It must have come out as something else, because her glasses came loose and dropped off her nose and she nearly knocked over a case full of Waterford Glass in the rush to get me the battery.

By this time the screen had gone blank and I didn't discover until I was out on the street that she'd put the battery in upside down. When I pressed "ON," and an unfamiliar screen said "System time? Date?" I must have said, "Oh dearie me" again, only louder this time, because when I became aware of my surroundings women were dragging children to the other side of the street and everyone was looking at me fairly wide-eyed.

Another "Oh dearie me" occasion happened when I turned suddenly and my open 95LX slipped out of my hand at the top of two flights of stairs. I remember the occasion in slow motion.

The palmtop flew upwards for a couple of feet, slowly turning in the air, managing to close itself in flight, somersaulting down 12 feet to a tiled landing and passing out of my line of sight as it continued after the first smash down the next flight of stairs. Half of a second

later I picked it up and heard an unfamiliar tinkle as I opened it.

There was no outward appearance of damage, and I switched it on and everything still worked! The tinkle of a loose part can still be heard from it to this day, and my brother (to whom I gave it) keeps saying he's going to get it fixed, but can't part with it for long enough.

### Why I liked the HP 95LX

The best feature of the 95LX? In my opinion, the layout of the keyboard in general, and the position of the arrow keys and number pad in particular. I'm right handed, and the ability to scroll down a spreadsheet and enter data while holding the palmtop in one hand makes taking stock a doddle.

I looked at the HP 200LX about a year ago. The Applications Manager screen looked too much like Windows to me, and I put off upgrading.

My 25th wedding anniversary came around and I couldn't get away due to a major expansion and refurbishment of our Pub, but I committed myself to a holiday in

it, you won't see the carnage you leave behind. And anyway, the fax will be stored for you for later retrieval.

The GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) network covers most of Europe now. All the communications companies have "roaming" agreements with each other, so when someone in Dublin dials my number, I get the call no matter where I am.

As you travel in a car or train with your phone on, the network for the area you're in shows the telecom company that serves that area. Thus, in the northern part of Grand Canaria, "Movistar-GSM" appears on screen, and thirty miles south, "Airtel-GSM" is the legend.

So there I was in The Canary Islands, 2,000 miles from home, sitting by the pool, floating a few beers and firing off FAXes to keep the job going - the only way to work!

### The sign writer thought he was making a local call

While exploring the inner mountainous region of Grand Canaria a voice call came in from someone

who assumed that I was in Dublin, and I undocked the phone to hear coins dropping. The conversation proceeded:

"Hi, John here."

"Hello, is that Mr. McGowan?"

"Yes, John here, who's this?"

"Vinny. Oh #@%&#!, this phone is eating my money."

"Is that Vinny the sign writer?"

"Yes." (sound of more coins dropping.)

"Vinny, just tell me how much the job will cost. Fast."

"850 pounds."

"O.K., do the job. I'll see you when I get back."

"Thanks be to #@%&#!"

At home, an enquiry to Vinny as to how much the call had cost elicited the following: "I don't know. I was in a pub at the time, but I remember telling the barman, 'Put on a balaclava, you thieving #@%&#!, and get the phone fixed.'"

Home from holidays, curiosity got the better of me and I sent off for The HP Palmtop Paper. It

arrived a week later. I read it cover to cover and an hour later sent off for The HP Palmtop Paper's CD InfoBase with all the trimmings. The package arrived last week.

Since then a 6Mg Flash disk with scanner, and a heap of software has been added, and I'm on a guilt trip regarding my neglect of my old 95LX.

The only applications I don't use are CCmail., cc:MADE (no servers in this neck of the woods) and the games, though I've recently noticed that my eight-year-old son has decimated enough squid to supply the Tokyo market over a holiday weekend.

### A cure for insomnia

With the receipt of the CD InfoBase and its attendant software, I've discovered a KILLER APP for any readers who may suffer from insomnia.

Just follow these easy instructions: Click a big Flash disk into your A: drive, plug in to a power source, download Vertical Reader to your palmtop, followed by part 1 of Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire from The Gutenberg Texts. Now open the file and start reading. Within five minutes you'll be away with the fairies for a good six-hour crash!

*[If any techies reading this know how to embed a black and white .pcx scanned signature in the body of the text in the built in fax application on the OG700, I'd appreciate an e-mail. HP support UK tell me that in theory it can be done, but they haven't managed to do it themselves yet. John McGowan.]*

## New! Link-A-Printer II

### Smaller size & Attached cable



Link-A-Printer II is a serial to parallel converter that allows direct printing from your OmniGo 100 to any parallel printer. It also works with the HP 100/200LX

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# How It All Began

*If you ask a number of HP LX users how they got started using their palmtops, you'll get some interesting answers.*

*By Linda Worthington*

Scratch a palmtopper and you will find a story, often a personal history of his or her introduction to the HP LX family of computers.

Somehow we all seem to remember, with amazing clarity, how it all began for us!

The following examples are excerpted from some memories submitted by some of the palmtoppers in the Fireside Forum of HPHand on Compu-Serve.

Stan Dobrowski, certainly one of the most advanced and enthusiastic users of the LX and a member of Team HP, loved the Hewlett-Packard line of calculators in college and moved on to the 95LX from there. He has owned every model and did one of the early crystal speed upgrades in this area, in 1995, using Japanese instructions (fortunately, as he says, the instructions had good pictures!).

## **Several medical professionals are palmtoppers**

"Saw an article in some laptop magazine that Hewlett-Packard was going to come out with a small pocket-sized computer. With a busy anesthesiology practice, I needed something to solve equations and to keep databases and spreadsheets in, while on the go (i.e., in my pocket). So I ordered the 95LX from EduCALC two months before it was announced (got one of the first ones, I think) and have been moving up since. I now have a 2Mg 200 LX." Michael Melvin

"A physician I worked with read about the 95LX and got a 512K model. I saw it and played with it. I particularly like the spreadsheet and Solver function of HP Calc. When my friend got a copy of a pharmaceutical reference program, I dashed out and got a 1Mg 95LX. I have since moved to a 1Mg 100LX, then had it upgraded to 2Mg. Now I have a 5Mg double speed 200LX. (EduCALC has made a lot of money off of my propensity to upgrade palmtops!)" Steve Carder, MD (Family Practice)

Fortunately for all of us, some of those who love LXs have gone on to develop marvelous software that has made the basic unit even more useful.

## **Programming for the palmtop**

Avi Meshar, one of the founders of D&A Software, developers of such remarkable applications for the LX as the Web browser WWW.LX, recalls that he followed the evolution of the LX from the 95LX onward, primarily due to its ability to run Lotus 1-2-3, until, "...in 1992 or 1993 I saw an ad for CompUSA and they had the HP 100LX. Hmmmm.... I was there in five minutes. Sure enough, it was an 80-character PC-DOS unit, with my

beloved Lotus 1-2-3, release 2.4. Needless to say, my work was different, but I was still a captive of the charm of having a PC in your palm. So that's how it began in August 1993 for me."

His friend, "lexu" (Alexander Gutfeldt), remembers: "In 1994, when I got my first job at the University of Berne, I managed to sleep in (too) late very often, leading to some embarrassing situations. So I started looking around for an electronic agenda. At the Orbit computer fair in Basel I saw a couple of HP 200LXs on display... when I realized how useful the agenda applet was for me and that I could run other stuff I needed for the evening classes I still attend, I quickly bought one."

Also in Europe, Daniel Legendre says that he started with other HP products and "... subscribed to *The HP Palmtop Paper* one year before I bought a previously-owned HP100LX from EduCalc," by which time he knew that it was just what he needed.

## **Using the telephone to find a lost palmtop**

In Germany, Martin Breidenbacht, another member of TeamHP on



### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Linda Worthington is a native New Englander, living in Maryland. She is a fly fisherman and loves hiking, photography and computing. Linda's company, LOW-TECH, is designed to help people choose and use portable computers. She also uses computers to do extensive volunteer conservation-related work for several organizations. She can be reached at 54452.105@compuserve.com

## HOW TO USE: How It All Began

CompuServe, says that although he has long collected HP products, some of the small ones can get lost on a "busy" desk, but "...that can't happen with the 700LX because, if it disappears in that room, I can call its Cel phone and hear where it is!"

Arturo Riera has a very long list of wonderful computers that he has owned over the years, between 1984 and today, including a particular old favorite of mine, the Toshiba 1000. He sums it all up with these somehow familiar words: "I keep telling my wife the equipment is good for my career! (Don't let on!)"

Ole Latham, in the Mid-West, tells a fine tale of using an OmniBook but reading about the LX, and lurking in the HPHand Forums, amazed by the activity and the atmosphere there. Finally, in 1994, he bought a previously-owned 100LX and upgraded to a 200LX and now works happily on a RAM- and speed-upgraded 200LX, and



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**When you send in your palmtop, if you mention you saw this box you'll receive a free one-year subscription (or renewal) to *Handheld PC Magazine*.**

*Offer good through February 28, 1998.*

has upgraded that OmniBook, too.

#### From curiosity to love

I backed into the family of palmtoppers by way of *The HP Palmtop Paper*. I bought an issue in a local Barnes & Noble in the summer of 1994, curious about a publication dedicated exclusively to tiny computers. The transition from the HP 95LX to the 100LX had already taken place, and I went straight to the Office Depot next door and

bought a 1Mg 100LX. I took it home, installed batteries, began to explore the features, and fell in love immediately. I returned it and bought the 2Mg model from ACE and upgraded to the 2Mg 200LX when it arrived on the market the following year.

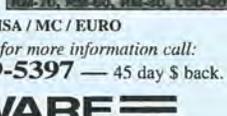
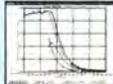
I have loved and lived with this little wonder without a break since then! When I found the HPHand Forums I discovered an endless source of information, instruction and friendships. And I have subscribed to *The HP Palmtop Paper* since 1994 as well. I use an Hewlett-Packard OmniBook 800CT as my primary computer, with an HP OB530 as a backup, and I am totally pleased with my small family of small computers.

Ole was right: the HPHand Forums are lively and fun, and endlessly informative, too. And even as the LXs evolve to utilize the newer format of WinCE, some of us remain faithful and satisfied users of the original DOS computers we fell in love with some years ago.

To second Avi's sentiments, I am still a captive of the charm of having a PC in my palm.

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Upgrading memory and/or clockspeed voids HP warranties.

### SHIPPING & HANDLING

All shipping as shown in table below. U.S. customers will receive Upgraded Palmtops within five business days after we receive them. Upgrades currently not available outside U.S.

Please use a trackable method of shipping when sending Palmtops to Thaddeus for upgrade or Trade-In.

Description	Item No.	Price
<b>Purchase a DoubleSpeed 8 Meg HP 200LX (refurbished, like new)</b>		
DoubleSpeed 8 Meg HP 200LX	2008	\$575.00
Shipping: Add \$9.50 U.S.; \$35.00 Non-U.S.		
<b>Upgrade your HP Palmtop to</b>		
DoubleSpeed 8 Megabytes* (200LX only)	UP8	\$299.00
DoubleSpeed Only (100LX or 200LX)	UPCD	\$75.00
Shipping: \$9.50 U.S.; Upgrades currently not available outside U.S.		
<b>Accessories</b>		
New Megahertz 14.4 Fax/Modem Card	MFMC	\$69.95
200LX Manuals**	LXM2	\$15.00
Shipping: \$5.00 U.S.; \$12.00 Non-U.S. Free with 8 Meg200LX purchase.		
<b>Warranties</b>		
1 Year Extension (from 90 days to 1 year)	1YRW	\$25.00
2 Year Extension (from 90 days to 2 years)	2YRW	\$75.00
*Deduct \$25 if you do not want your clockspeed doubled. Deduct \$50 for Upgrades from 5MB to 8MB.		
**Not included with 8 Meg 200LX.		

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## Letters: *continued from p. 2*

### Made his own cable for the Newton keyboard

I saw the posting about the Newton keyboard on the SUPER page and gave it a try. Instead of splicing an 8-pin mini din on an HP serial cable, I made a 4-inch patch cable with an 8-pin mini din on one end and a 9-pin serial on the other.

Now I carry the HP in my coat pocket during the day, and when I get to my hotel room at night I connect the Newton keyboard and touch type lengthy documents to my heart's content.

I really find that it has made it completely unnecessary to carry a notebook computer any longer. The keyboard fits neatly in a pocket in the top of my briefcase. For those of you who travel a lot, this is a lifesaver.

Ron Tatham

### Wants altered ToDo list

In the ToDo list function, each time a task is completed, one presses the space bar and a check mark appears at the left hand side of the task. How do I program the computer so that I can place an "X" mark at the left hand side of the task? I would like to assign a key to activate this X mark, similar to the space key for the check mark. I would like to use the X mark as my note that the task has been canceled. This way, that task remains on the ToDo list database, instead of being deleted from it.

Jim To  
jto@fci.com

*One way to accomplish what you want is by creating your*

*own ToDo database. (Look in the index of your palmtop's User's Guide under "database, defining new"). Create a field that's reserved for the "X" mark. Then record a macro that opens whatever record is highlighted, enters an "X" in the proper field, then closes the record.*

### The HP 100LX is almost perfect

I really don't understand Hewlett-Packard. Neither do I understand the debate between the HP 200LX vs the HP 320LX.

I have been working with a 100LX and can say that this machine is almost perfect. The only problem I have is the limited DOS 640 Kb RAM memory, which forces me to quit some PIM applications when using large Lotus files.

All that was needed to enhance the 100LX was a larger RAM memory and a faster microprocessor.

I have been waiting for the 320 LX, but when I saw the low contrast screen, my decision was clear. For me, the debate is closed. If the information is not clearly visible on the screen, I don't want to go farther because I have no interest in such a computer.

Guy Martin  
gmartin@videotron.ca

### Likes The HP Palmtop Paper and advertisers

Please accept my sincere thanks for *The HP Palmtop Paper*. I use it every month as my own private "tutor."

It helps me decipher the "value added" that my palmtop can provide to my business and personal life.

Your software and hardware reviews let me make wise choices (I do buy from advertisers!) and your real life User Profiles always show me a new twist that I can really use.

Without *The HP Palmtop Paper*, I would be using a handy, dandy calculator. With your support, education, and inspiration, I instead have a "portable assistant."

This e-mail is via "wireless communications" and I find new ways every day using this marvelous tool to "manufacture" time and greater productivity. Thanks for your partnership!

Chuck Sutherland  
Wichita, KS  
ChuckSutherland@wynd.net

### File Transfer Speeds

An article on a parallel-port card in the September/October issue of *The Palmtop Paper's* PC Card Review supplement ("The Trans PC Card" by Ralph Turner, p.24) stated:

"Because the file transfer is over a parallel cable, it is very fast: 30Kb per second, which is about 60 times faster than other connectivity methods which use a serial cable."

This is simply untrue. "60 times" slower than 30 Kilobytes/sec would be just 0.5 K/sec, but that is not the best performance of file transfer using the serial port on the LX. Not every such program performs optimally; HP's Connectivity Pack, for example, is rather slow. But serial file transfer on any such XT-class PC can reach speeds of as much as 8 K/sec, as anyone can easily confirm by using a program that is properly optimized

for speed, such as Laplink (in serial mode) or my own ZIP File Transfer (ZIP.COM).

Of course, the Trans PC Card has other functionality as well. But simply comparing file transfer or backup performance, their card's 30 K/sec is only about 4 times faster than the best performing serial utilities on the LX — not 60 times

Eric Meyer  
74415.1305@compuserve.com

### Complains of Palmtops' fragility

I have been working with HP palmtops since I bought the HP 95LX in 1992. Since then I have been a real fan of the 95LX, the 100LX, and the 200LX because of their extraordinary usefulness and practicality.

However, I've had to exercise my warranty to repair the rupture of the right hinge that joins the screen and the keyboard, and to repair broken cover latches on both my 95 and 100.

I wondered whether I was the only guy with "bad luck," or whether I was doing something wrong. Then I noticed on page 28 of "Best Palmtop Tips 1996" a method for repairing broken latches. It seems I'm not the only one!

Believe me, I'm very careful with my palmtops, and I've never dropped or banged them. I'm disappointed that these mechanical parts are so fragile.

Emilio Ramirez-Gamiz Casillas  
Mexico City, Mexico  
103503.3474@compuserve.com



Database: SHORT      Data Item      10/15/97      4:25:28 pm

Date 10/15/1997      Time 4:23pm      Phone # 515-555-1212

To Hal      At The PTP

From home      CC/Bus./Pers. Business; Calling Card

Re: Long distance call database and macro

Note will send further info.

Help   Add   Note   Find   Clip   Prev   Next   Cancel   Done

SCREEN 4: This user's custom database helps him track his long distance calls.

Edit Subset Definition

Name

Phone: Business      Home

Alternate      Fax

Title      Category temporary

Company

Address1

Address2

City      State      Zip

Note

Help   General   Cancel   OK

SCREEN 5: Creating a subset for only those records that have "temporary" as the category will help you prune out unwanted records.

in order by date. This makes it easy to match up to my phone bill. (See Scr.4.)

Along with a field for the phone number, I've included fields for the name of the person I talked to, where they're located and where I'm calling from. In the category field I add whether the call was for business or personal and if I used my calling card. Another field is used to indicate the subject of the conversation. The Note section is used for any follow up information, further instructions and miscellaneous stuff.

I created a macro (Fn)(F5) to automate some of the data entry: {Copy}{More}b{F2}{Date}{Enter}{Time}{Enter}{Paste}{Enter}

When I'm making a long distance call from a number in my PhoneBook file, I just highlight the number and press (Fn)(F5). The number is copied to the clipboard, the database is opened and the date and time are stamped in the appropriate fields. Then the number is pasted into its field. Now I can fill in the rest of the fields as I wish, or close the database.

I have a nice list of the calls I made as "evidence" when the phone bill arrives, as well as more detailed contact information for future reference.

Jeffrey Short, M.D.  
South Weymouth, MA  
105264.1036@compuserve.com

## HP Calc

### Calculating discounts

Sometimes a store will advertise a sale where everything is 25% off (or they will offer a 15% discount to all senior citizens). If you're like most of us, you don't find it easy to do such computations quickly in your head.

No problem. Just take out your palmtop and open the HP Calc application. If you want to find out the discounted amount of an item marked at, say, \$68.99, press (MENU), Applications, Arithmetic, then type in 68.99-25. Now press (F6) (%) and (ENTER). The sale price (\$51.74) will be displayed.

Because all items in the store are 25% off, here's something else you can do to save time if you want to calculate the sale price of a number of items. Instead of typing in 68.99-25, type in 68.99—25. In other words, enter the minus sign twice. This makes the 25% a constant. From now on, all you'll have to do is enter in the marked price of an item, then hit (ENTER) and the sale price will instantly be displayed. (In other words, you won't have to type in the "-25" and press (F6) for each calculation.)

## Phone

### When in doubt, enter the number (with "temporary" as Category)

How many times have you phoned someone, then decided not to enter their name and number into PhoneBook, only to find out, days or weeks later, that you wished you had saved their number?

In order to avoid the annoyance of having to track down a number for the second time, some palmtop users have adopted the policy, "When in doubt, enter the number into the palmtop."

There's a disadvantage, though, in adding entries, willy-nilly, to your PhoneBook: the more entries your PhoneBook has, the larger the program's file. And a large file means slower load and search times.

To prevent your PhoneBook file from getting too large, try entering the word "temporary" in the Category field whenever you add a record for a contact you're not sure you'll ever use again. Here's how this can be helpful.

Whenever you think your PhoneBook file has gotten too large, use the Subset function to list only those records with the word "temporary" in the Category field. (To create such a subset, press (F6) (Subset), (ALT)+(D), (ALT)+(G), then choose "temporary" as the category. (See Screen 5.) Now press (F10) and name the subset.)

When the "View Subset" box appears, highlight the "temporary" subset, then press (F10) (OK). Only the records with "temporary" as the category will be listed. You can now easily prune out those contacts who really were temporary, and who you're convinced you'll never call again.

## Lotus

### Password protecting 1-2-3 files

If you have a Lotus file that contains sensitive information, it's easy to prevent others from opening the file.

When you're asked to "Enter the name of the file to save," type in the file name, then press the (SPACEBAR) followed by the letter P. Then press (ENTER).

You'll be prompted to enter a password, and from then on you (or anyone else) won't be able to retrieve the worksheet without typing in the password.

# ... QUICK TIPS ...

All tips are by HP Palmtop Paper and Handheld PC Magazine Technical Editor Tom Gibson, unless otherwise noted. You can reach Tom at tom\_gibson@thad-deus.com

## MEMO

### Make MEMO files into HTML documents

HTML is the language of the Internet, and your palmtop can be a big player in the game. Today there are many WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) HTML editors available for the big and powerful desktop systems, like Windows 95 and Windows NT.

These programs are like word processors or page layout programs, except that they create documents in HTML format to be displayed on the Internet.

However, there has been no such powerful program for our palmtops. Now there is a program called DOCHTML ■ by Vivek Venugopalan (e-mail: vivek.venugopalan@u.s.a.net) that converts an HP 200LX's MEMO file to a HTML file that can be directly published on the Web.

DOCHTML version 1.0 is a simple command line DOS application that was designed to run on the HP 100/200LX. You can use the formatting functions available in MEMO. DOCHTML will then translate them to their HTML equivalent.

Additionally, HTML tags can be embedded in the DOC file (they are also embedded into the HTML file). There is no validation

performed on any embedded HTML tags.

DOCHTML reads a MEMO .DOC file and generates a new HTML file from it. To use DOCHTML, go to the DOS prompt and type dohtml (memofile) (htmlfile). For example, if you wanted to convert a MEMO file named WEBPAGE.DOC to an HTML document you would type:

```
dohtml webpage.doc  
web page.htm
```

and then press return. You would now have an HTML document that can be read by any browser.

## PRINTING

### Print to an Infrared printer from your palmtop

Many of the printers available today have an option for using Infrared printing, but the HP 100/200LX does not have a standard IR port.

This problem can be solved by using the latest IR drivers contained in IRDA097.ZIP ■, which will enable you to print using the IR port on the HP Palmtop. These are the latest IRDA drivers for the 200LX and 100LX. By using them you will be able to print from all of the built-in applications except Lotus 1-2-3.

To use the new drivers:

1. Copy ld.bat and uld.bat to your c:\ root directory.
2. Add "Call ld.bat" to your autoexec.bat before loading system manager.
3. Copy the IRDA.TSR file into your C:\\_DAT directo-

ry before loading system-manager.

4. Copy comtsr.com and lamptsr.com into c:\.
5. Then reboot your palmtop (CTRL)+(ALT)+(DEL) and you will be able to print to an IRDA printer.

## PHONEBOOK

*EDITOR'S NOTE: You may sometime want to export or import data from or to one of your palmtop's database applications (PhoneBook, Database, NoteTaker, etc.).*

*For example, let's say you'd like to take all the*

*in a more robust database.*

*The following three tips discuss a number of different ways of moving data into and out of your palmtop.*

### Exporting and importing the Note field

For a while now I have been trying to export Database and PhoneBook files from my HP 200LX in a comma-delimited form that I can import into my desktop computer with all the fields intact. (A comma-delimited file is a generic type of data file where the fields of each record are enclosed in double quotes and separated by

```
">Name<", ">Business<", ">Home<",  
">Alternate<", ">Fax<", ">Title<",  
">Category<", ">Company<",  
">Address1<", ">Address2<", ">City<",  
">State<", ">Zip<", ">Note<" |||
```

Screen 1. This smart clip exports the PhoneBook fields to a comma-delimited file. (Note: on your palmtop screen, all the fields should be placed on a single line.)

*names and telephone numbers from your PhoneBook file and get them into a dBASE database file on your laptop.*

*Or maybe you've got a Microsoft Word file on your desktop PC that contains 1,000 names and addresses that you'd like to move to a database file on your palmtop.*

*Or possibly you've received a list of 500 companies via e-mail or off the Net that you'd like to bring into a NoteTaker or database file.*

*Since PhoneBook and Database, NoteTaker, etc. doesn't have the capability of easily exporting or importing data in any of the standard data formats, accomplishing the task will not be as straightforward as it would be from with-*

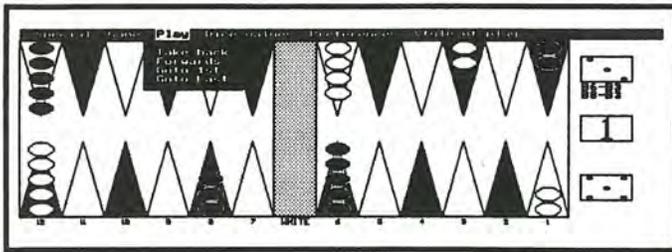
a comma, and each record ends with a Carriage Return/Line Feed combination.)

The big bugaboo is with the Notes field in any database. When you enter data into a Notes field it automatically wraps the text so you can see it. When you export a NoteTaker, PhoneBook, or Database file, carriage return/line feed symbols are placed in the Notes Field wherever the text wraps.

Any program trying to import a record containing a Note with a word-wrapped line gets tripped up by the Carriage Return/Line Feed combination in the Note field and thinks another record is starting.

I now have a workaround. I export my 774-record PhoneBook file to a comma-delimit-





Screen 4. BGRoyal is a Backgammon game that works nicely on the palmtop.

3. The program can handle "special characters" (character codes 128-254) directly to the output.
4. The program handles the following types of fields: text, category, note, number, date, time, option buttons, and check boxes. All other types of fields are omitted.
5. The program doesn't handle ApptBook or World Time files.

GDBLOAD loads ASCII formatted data into an HP 100/200LX database. This program is used when you want to import data from another database program into one of the built-in database applications on the palmtop.

The data that you want to import needs to be in a specific format: the same format as exported by GDBDUMB (see above) and many other database programs.

### Use GDBIO ■ to import/export palmtop databases

Another way of transferring data to and from 100/200LX databases is to use Craig Payne's excellent freeware program, GDBIO.

GDBIO can export databases from the 100/200LX, including notes, into an ASCII Comma-Delimited file, and can import ASCII Comma-Delimited information into an existing 100/200LX database. It can't, however, import data into the notes field.

The program can import

data only into the palmtop's database (GDB) files and Phone (PDB) files. (It can't be used for WorldTime or ApptBook files.)

GDBIO can not create a new 100/200LX database from scratch; it can only add to an existing database file.

Although GDBIO handles notes fields, multi-line notes retain their carriage-return-line-feed combinations.

To import data into a GDB-format database you must know its structure, and have a comma-delimited file which matches that structure.

In other words, you either have to match your input to an existing database (e.g., a

PhoneBook database) or create a GDB database which matches your comma-delimited data.

One advantage of this program is that it can work not only on the "standard" database structures, but also on a PhoneBook or ApptBook database on which you've altered the structure (i.e., custom databases).

## FREWARE/ SHAREWARE

### Three great programs

**BGRoyal ■** is a nicely designed freeware Backgammon game (see Screen 4.) The program, which was written by Chris Emsen, allows you to choose to have the menus displayed in English, French, or Dutch.

**Blitz Draughts ■** is a shareware DOS-based checkers game that works well on the

palmtop. If you thought checkers was a simple game for children, think again. The documentation file says that, "You will need to be a very good player to beat BLITZ, even on a very low level of play."

**Riziko ■** is a shareware version of Risk, the popular board game of world conquest. Written for the palmtop, this program has some amazing graphics.

### Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

All of the following programs are available at the S.U.P.E.R Web site: [www.palmtop.net/super.html](http://www.palmtop.net/super.html) and on this issue's HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK.

**BGRoyal ■** - A Backgammon game for the palmtop. Freeware.

**Blitz Draughts ■** - A DOS-based checkers game that plays well on the 100/200LX. Shareware.

**DOCHTML ■** - A DOS application that converts HP 100/200LX MEMO files to HTML files. Copyrighted freeware.

**GDBIO ■** - Utility program for importing and exporting comma-delimited ASCII files to and from the palmtop's GDB and PDB format files. Freeware.

**GDBDUMP ■** - Utility program that allows exporting data from the palmtop's database applications. Freeware.

**GDBLOAD ■** - Utility program that allows importing data into the palmtop's database applications. Freeware

**IRDA097.ZIP ■** - Utility. A collection of printer drivers and TSR that allow wider use of the palmtop's infrared port. Freeware.

**RIZIKO ■** - A palmtop version of the classic board game of Risk. Shareware.

## HP Product Index

HP Products contact information: Authorized HP computer dealers worldwide (i.e. the same place you can purchase an HP LaserJet). To locate an authorized dealer in the USA, call 800-443-1254. You can also purchase the 95LX & 100/200LX and its accessories from: EduCALC at 800-677-7001, Fax: 714-582-1445; Your One-Stop Palmtop Shop at 800-709-9494 or 608-752-1537, Fax: 608-752-9548; Notebook Supply Warehouse at 800-566-6832 or 714-753-8810, Fax: 714-753-8812; PDA Direct at 800-279-4732 ext 130; Shier Systems at 805-371-9391, Fax: 805-371-9454.

HP 300LX (F1220A)—\$499 (est.)

HP 320LX (F1221A)—\$699 (est.)

HP 200LX 4 MB (HP F1216A)—\$599

(versions available include: US English, UK English, German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese and Korean)

HP 200LX 2MB (HP F1061A) — \$499

HP 1000CX 2 MB Palmtop PC (HP F1222A) — \$449

(versions available include: US English, UK English, German, Spanish, and French)

HP OmniGo 700LX — \$NA (Combination HP 200LX, fax software and Nokia GSM cellular phone.)

1.8 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1024A, with Stacker) — \$199

6 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1215C, with Stacker).— \$425

10 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1013C, with Stacker) — \$600

20 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1014C, with Stacker) — \$999

AC/DC Adapter (HP F1011A)—\$39.95

USA/Canada (Opt. ABA); Europe (Opt. ABB); Australia (Opt. ABG); South Africa (Opt. ABQ); United Kingdom (Opt. ABU).

PC Connectivity Cable (HP F1015A) — \$24.95

MAC Connectivity Cable (HP F1016A) — \$24.95

100/200LX Connectivity Pack — \$119.95

U.S. (HP F1021B); International (HP F1021C)

Connect/Adapter Kit — \$24.95

(HP F1023A) 4 adapters for connecting the 100/200LX to modems, printers, and PCs.

Palmtop Maintenance Kit (replacement parts) (F1216-60998) (US only) — \$20

Service Agreements (2-year extension) — \$85. For U.S. HP Palmtop users. Units must be under warranty to extend.

Contact: HP, Corvallis Service Center, USA; Phone: 503-757-2002. NOTE: Prices listed are suggested retail price. Dealer prices may vary.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

(Please note: The HP Palmtop Paper does not and cannot provide technical support.)

There are a number of ways to get in touch with *The HP Palmtop Paper* staff. You can write, mail us a disk with your comments, send CompuServe or Internet e-mail, fax, or call. Our mailing address and contact information is:

**Thaddeus Computing, Inc.,**  
**110 N. Court St.,**  
**Fairfield, IA 52556, U.S.A.**  
**Phone: 515-472-6330**  
**or 800-373-6114**  
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## Technical Support

**HP Technical Support** — HP offers technical support from 8:00am. - 5:00pm. P.S.T. Phone: 970-392-1001.

**On-Line Support**—offered by these bulletin board services.

- COMPUSERVE: GO HPHAND FORUM — Call 800-848-8990 or 614-457-8650.
- AMERICA ON LINE: Keyword PALMTOP — Call 888-265-8001 for membership information.
- INTERNET NEWS GROUPS: news:comp.sys.palmtops.hp; or news:comp.sys.handhelds

## How to Submit an Article

The richness of *The HP Palmtop Paper* comes from the contributions of Palmtop PC users. We and your fellow users welcome your submissions. (We do not offer payment for articles, your reward is knowing that you've helped others.)

If you have a good idea and want to "go for it," send it in via CompuServe e-mail [75300,2443], Internet: hal\_goldstein@thaddeus.com, or send disk or hard copy to Hal Goldstein or Ralph C. Turner at the above address. Alternatively you can send an outline of your idea. We will try to guide you as to when and whether we would use the article and contact you if we need clarification or have any suggestions — please include your phone number. We may want to use an article but for a variety of reasons you may not see it for many months. Please understand that we cannot promise to run any particular article at any particular time.

If you can, especially if you write a Palmtop Profile, send us a photo of yourself — black and white is preferred, but color is acceptable.

## Products Advertised in This Issue of The HP Palmtop Paper

COMPANY	(PRODUCT)	[PHONE/FAX NUMBERS]	PAGE NUMBER
Accurite	(Floppy Drives for 100/200LX/Double Slot)	[510-668-4900; Fax:510-668-4905]	21
Aware	(Micro Roentgen Radiation Monitor)	[302-655-3800; Fax: 302-655-3800]	36
DTS Wireless Messaging	(Wireless Messaging Service)	[888-243-8387 or 908-602-1144; Fax: 908-602-0990]	22
EduCALC	(Accessories)	[800-713-6526 or 714-582-2637; Fax: 714-582-1445]	15
Entente	(Two-Way Conversational Translator)	[800-409-1701]	31
EXP Computer	(ThinFax Modem)	[800-EXP-6922 ext. 641 or 714-453-1020; Fax: 714-453-1319]	back cover
Greenwich	(Palm Link)	[800-476-4070 or 704-875-8490; Fax: 704-875-2801]	34
Greystone Peripherals	(PC Cards/Drivers/Adapters)	[800-600-5710 or 408-866-4739; Fax: 408-866-8328]	18
Inmax	(CGA VGA Graphics Pack Vision)	[604-980-9991; Fax: 604-985-5597]	31
Kingmax	(Peripherals)	[909-468-0958; Fax: 909-468-0769]	17
MagicRAM	(Flash Cards)	[800-272-6242 or 213-413-9999; Fax: 213-413-0828]	7
Mirical Corp.	(Personal Food Analyst)	[800-732-7707 or 719-598-5276; Fax: 719-598-5790]	11
Precision Guesswork	(POCKETWatch Pocket Protocol Analyzer)	[508-887-6570; Fax: 508-887-6552]	25
Pretec	(PCMCIA Memory Cards)	[510-440-0535; Fax: 510-440-0534]	23
Shier Systems	(Cables, software, accessories, Web Browser)	[805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454]	inside front cover
Steele Creek Technologies	(CardLink Drives)	[Phone/Fax: 704-588-1780]	36
Taylor Electric Company	(HP palmtops and accessories)	[800-558-6970 or 414-241-4321; Fax: 414-241-5264]	23
Thaddeus Computing		[800-373-6114 or 515-472-6330; Fax: 515-472-1879]	
	(Thaddeus Palmtops: Double-Speed 8 Meg Palmtop, 14.4 Modem, Palmtop Upgrade)		37
	(New 1998 CD InfoBase		inside back cover
	(Knowledge products: Subscriptions, HP Palmtop Tech Ref. Manual, Reference Books, CD InfoBase)		8
	(Handheld PC Magazine)		12
Trans Digital	(Trans PC Card-Universal Parallel Port)	[Phone: 916-482-5599; Fax: 916-482-5598]	4

## Shareware and Freeware Index

(November/December 1997)

### Software on The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK

PRODUCT	FUNCTION	CIS FORUM / LIBRARY	TYPE	PAGE
BGROYALE.ZIP	Game: Backgammon for the palmtop.	NA	Freeware	35
BLITZ54.ZIP	Game: DOS-based checkers.	NA	Shareware	35
DBLEARN.ZIP	Application: learning program for the palmtop.	HPHand, 11	Postcardware	25
DOCHTM10.ZIP	Application: Converts LX MEMO files to HTML files	NA	Freeware	35
FLEXPAD.ZIP	Application: Organizer/text editor.	HPHand, 11	Shareware	4
FLY.ZIP	Spreadsheet: Helps you get places on time.	NA	Freeware	31
GDBIO.ZIP	Utility: Import and export files.	NA	Freeware	35
GDB102.ZIP	Utility: Import and export files.	NA	Freeware	35
GERMAN.ZIP	Database: palmtop GDB file of German words.	NA	Freeware	25
GERMAN.ZIP	Database: knowledge file associated with GERMAN.ZIP.	NA	Freeware	25
IRDA097.ZIP	Drivers and TSR forIR port printing.	NA	Shareware	35
MEDSTUFF.ZIP	Notebook, 1-2-3, and solver medical files.	HPPC, OmniBook 600	Freeware	3
OB6DSK.ZIP	Application: Run .ADB and .PDB files on your PC.	NA	Freeware	11
PTP35.ZIP	Text: The HP Palmtop Paper, Sept/Oct 1997	NA	NA	NA
PTP36.ZIP	Text: The HP Palmtop Paper, Nov/Dec 1997	NA	NA	NA
README.ZIP	Text: cover letter to the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK.	NA	NA	NA
RIZ10012.ZIP	Game: Palmtop version of the game of Risk.	NA	Shareware	35

### Software mentioned and available elsewhere

BUDDY	contains many useful utilities	HP Palmtop Paper's 1997 CD Infobase	Shareware	28
HP-SOK	Maze game for HP 100/200LX	HP Palmtop Paper's 1997 CD Infobase	Freeware	28
MaxDOS	Utility: launch from Prog.Manager	HP Palmtop Paper's 1997 CD Infobase	Freeware	11
Transfile Win 200	File transfer software	www.hp.com:80/handheld/getting_help/software/palmtops/200.html	Freeware	11
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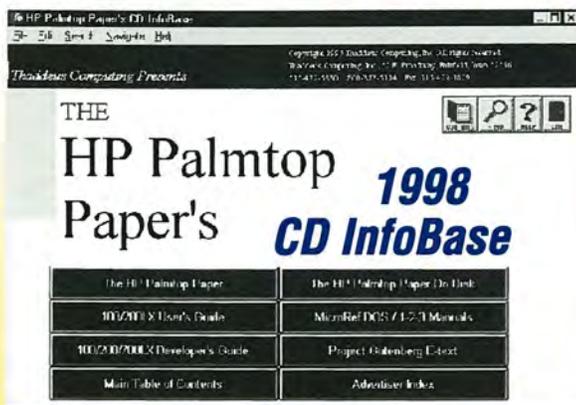
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