



DATA COMPRESSOR



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Psion, the company that produced the introductory software for the Sinclair Spectrum and QL, has moved into the hardware market with a pocket computer called the 'Organiser'. The machine's ability to store and retrieve large amounts of data, its wide applicability and its ease of use make it a remarkable achievement.

The Psion Organiser, priced at around £100, is the size and weight of an electric razor, and at first sight it looks like one. A rigid casing envelops the calculator-style keyboard, which has 36 small buttons. These include the letters of the alphabet (the Organiser uses upper case characters only) and several Function keys. The digits 0 to 9, some

mathematical functions and punctuation symbols are all accessed using the Shift key. Above the keyboard is a 16-character liquid-crystal display, which has an adjustable contrast so that it can be read from any angle. Each character is composed of a five by eight matrix of dots.

In the back of the machine are two slots for inserting the 'datapaks' that provide the long-term storage. The Organiser comes fitted with one eight Kbyte datapak, although 16 Kbyte sizes are also available.

When the ON button at the top left of the keyboard is pressed, the display shows the time from a 24-hour clock and the date. The Organiser's four main functions are provided by the press of a single button. As the instruction manual clearly explains, there is no need to type in

Rapid File

The Psion Organiser, conceived as a pocket computer with a powerful database, provides a quick and ready filing system. With built-in calculator functions and the ability to store and retrieve vital information very quickly, the Organiser can handle some of the functions usually restricted to larger desktop or hand-held microcomputers