audible tones, and vice versa.

Any modem compatible with Prestel may be used to access Micronet 800 — that is, it must transmit at 1,200 baud and receive at 75 baud. Such modems are available from a variety of sources, but Micronet recommends units supplied by Prism. These are of three main types. Modems 1000 and 2000, which are suitable for most of the home computers for which software is available from Micronet, offer two-way transmission (1,200 baud transmit and receive — useful for communication between microcomputer users as well as to Prestel), and the standard 75/1,200 baud rate. In the case of Modem 2000 the

changeover is controlled by software. The Acoustic Modem, also available for a range of machines, is restricted to 75/1,200 baud operation. Its advantage is that it does not require a special connection point and may be used on any telephone — even a public one if the pre-payment is sufficiently high.

The third type of modem available from Prism is custom-built for the Sinclair Spectum and is known as the VTX 5000. Like Modems 1000 and 2000, it offers both full-duplex (transmissions in both directions simultaneously) 75/1,200 baud and half-duplex (one direction at a time) 1,200/1,200 baud operation, but it also includes all the

1 Full Features Index
The full features menu gives a good overview of the information available and lets you choose which page to look at next

2 Letters
One of the most popular areas is a users' letters page — both the letters and Micronet's replies are often a little cryptic for newcomers

3 Free Games
You can read programs off Micronet into your own computer — this game was free, others have to be paid for

4 News
Micronet has news. It can update the pages every day so it's often ahead of weekly magazines

5 Charles and Diana
The Gallery is a series of Teletext masterpieces — there are also games, jokes and so on for your entertainment

6 Weather
Subscribing to Micronet gives you access to lots of other Prestel pages with information such as the weather page

LIZ HEANEY