

Hardware



Straight Facts Buying a computer or upgrading your existing machine can be an expensive business — especially if you make a mistake. We show you what to look for **226**

Commodore Vic-20 The cheapest machine in Commodore's range is a versatile and surprisingly powerful microcomputer **230**

Computing By Analogy Most computers are digital, but analogue computers have been developed for the particular needs of engineers and scientists **238**

Software



Man Against Machine We trace the development of the arcade game, from the simple Pong to the magnificent Astron Belt **221**

Insights



Small Is Beautiful Stringy-floppies combine the characteristics of cassette tapes and floppy disks, offering fast access at a reasonable price **224**

Basic Programming



Directory Enquiry In our Basic Programming course we start work on a project that uses text handling techniques to create a computerised address book **232**

Passwords To Computing



Waiting Room We look at the way computers cope with the slower speeds at which peripherals handle information **236**

Pioneers In Computing



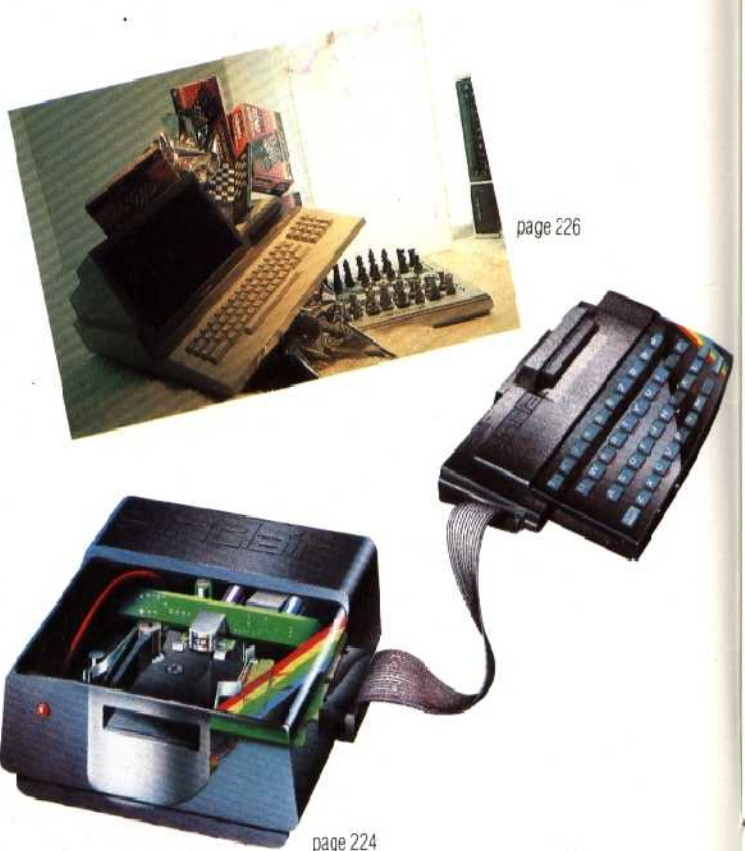
Herman Hollerith He started out in the US Patents Office, but changed the face of information processing **240**

Next Week

● We look at the Sord M5, the first serious contender for a place in the home computer market to come from Japan

● Cruise missiles are the first generation of weapons that 'think' for themselves. We look at the hardware and software techniques that drive them

● We start a new series that will compare the graphic and sound generating abilities of a wide range of home computers



page 226

page 224

Editor Richard Pawson; Consultant Editor Gareth Jefferson; Art Director David Whelan; Production Editor Catherine Cardwell; Staff Writer Roger Ford; Picture Editor Claudia Zeff; Designer Hazel Bennington; Art Assistants Liz Dixon, Safu Maria Gilbert; Sub Editor Tracy Ebbetts; Researcher Melanie Davis; Contributors Tim Heath, Henry Budgett, Brian Morris; Group Art Director Perry Neville; Managing Director Stephen England; Consultant David Tebbutt; Published by Orbis Publishing Ltd; Editorial Director Brian Innes; Project Development Peter Brookesmith; Executive Editor Chris Cooper; Production Co-ordinator Ian Paton; Circulation Director David Breed; Marketing Director Michael Joyce; Designed and produced by Bunch Partworks Ltd; Editorial Office 39 Goudge Street, London W1; © 1983 by Orbis Publishing Ltd; Typeset by Universe; Reproduction by Mullis Morgan Ltd; Printed in Great Britain by Artisan Press Ltd, Leicester

HOME COMPUTER COURSE - Price UK 80p IR £1.00 AUS \$1.95 NZ \$2.25 SA R1.95 SINGAPORE S4.50 USA AND CANADA \$1.95

How to obtain your copies of HOME COMPUTER COURSE - Copies are obtainable by placing a regular order at your newsagent.

Back Numbers UK and Eire - Back numbers are obtainable from your newsagent or from HOME COMPUTER COURSE. Back numbers, Orbis Publishing Limited, 20/22 Bedfordbury, LONDON WC2N 4BT at cover price. AUSTRALIA: Back numbers are obtainable from HOME COMPUTER COURSE. Back numbers, Gordon & Gotch (Aus) Ltd, 114 William Street, PO Box 7676 Melbourne, Vic.3001. SOUTH AFRICA, NEW ZEALAND, EUROPE & MALTA: Back numbers are available at cover price from your newsagent. In case of difficulty write to the address in your country given for binders. South African readers should add sales tax.

How to obtain binders for HOME COMPUTER COURSE - UK and Eire: Please send £3.95 per binder if you do not wish to take advantage of our special offer detailed in Issues 4, 5 and 6. EUROPE: Write with remittance of £5.00 per binder (incl. p&p) payable to Orbis Publishing Limited, 20/22 Bedfordbury, LONDON WC2N 4BT. MALTA: Binders are obtainable through your local newsagent price £3.95. In case of difficulty write to HOME COMPUTER COURSE BINDERS, Miller (Malta) Ltd, M. A. Yassalli Street, Valletta, Malta. AUSTRALIA: For details of how to obtain your binders see inserts in early issues or write to HOME COMPUTER COURSE BINDERS, First Post Pty Ltd, 23 Chancos Street, St. Leonards, NSW 2055. The binders supplied are those illustrated in the magazine. NEW ZEALAND: Binders are available through your local newsagent or from HOME COMPUTER COURSE BINDERS, Miller (Malta) Ltd, PO Box 1595, Wellington. SOUTH AFRICA: Binders are available through any branch of Central Newsagency. In case of difficulty write to HOME COMPUTER COURSE BINDERS, Intermag, PO Box 57394, Springfield 2137.

Note - Binders and back numbers are obtainable subject to availability of stocks. Whilst every attempt is made to keep the price of the issues and binders constant, the publishers reserve the right to increase the stated prices at any time when circumstances dictate. Binders depicted in this publication are those produced for the UK market only and may not necessarily be identical to binders produced for sale outside the UK. Binders and issues may be subject to import duty and/or local taxes, which are not included in the above prices unless stated.