

Phoebe 2100 - The New Acorn Workstation

The Challenge

There is a new Acorn workstation developed to supersede the phenomenally successful Risc PC.



During its design process, our challenge was to build on Risc PC's strengths and generate new features which would provide the performance and options we knew our users would want.

The resultant design objectives were clearly outlined at the start:

- Harness full potential of StrongARM
- Build an architecture which can support several StrongARMs
- PCI support
- Update I/O to modern standard
- Achieve the best possible graphics performance
- Run existing RISC OS applications
- Enhance RISC OS functionality

The new case

An exciting new case, building on the good points of the existing design and including much more:

- 3 standard Acorn expansion slots
- 4 built-in PCI sockets
- 230W PSU
- No screws required to access
- Peripherals separate from main system

System architecture

We attained all the design objectives including a completely redesigned IOMD2 ASIC to give:

- 64 MHz bus performance
- 0.35 μm process
- Semaphore for multiprocessing
- Multiple DMA controllers
- Multiple Master Arbitration System
- A high speed I/O world and multiple bus mastering
- An improved VIDC20 for bigger and better screen modes
- Better standard audio support
- A new high speed EIDE interface for up to 4 drives

- A PCI bridge to provide industry standard expansion, whilst retaining the "podule" world for backwards compatibility

We have also revised the main memory to 32 Mb of synchronous DRAM and improved the video memory to 4 Mb of EDO VRAM. We've added an extra serial port, joystick port, IrDA and MIDI interface to give a full high performance machine.

Updated RISC OS

The software task usually begins with identifying the modifications required to support the new hardware, but for our new workstation, we knew we had to do more. Problem areas like long file names, !Boot (which had become too complex), and significant improvement in system and application configurations have been dealt with.

We have also improved the look and feel without throwing away the many existing features.

Name it

We know that this is the best Acorn machine ever, designed with the user in mind. It seemed appropriate that enthusiastic Acorn owners should have the chance to choose the name that fits, which is why we asked the Acorn Clan members for their suggestions.

'Phoebe 2100' was chosen to take us into the 21st Century

Prices

The release price of Phoebe will be:

£1499 ex VAT (£1761.33 inc VAT) without monitor

£1649 ex VAT (£1937.58 inc VAT) with 15" Iiyama monitor

The projected release date is September 1998

To place an order for a Phoebe please contact your nearest Acorn Centre of Technology on:

0990 329070.

