Bundled with *PC Paintbrush* (by Z-Soft Corp.), it costs $150. With a full version of *Microsoft Windows* 3.0, you'll see a list price of $225. (Microsoft no longer sells it with a runtime version of *Windows 286*.) The mouse is available in serial, PS/2, In-Port, and bus versions.

The mouse comes with two versions of Microsoft's mouse driver, Version 7.0: MOUSE.SYS for installation through CONFIG.SYS, and MOUSE.COM for installation from the command line. There is also support for OS/2.

CPANEL.EXE provides configuration support for both linear and ballistic tracking, covering the range from very fast to very slow. (Ballistic control can be turned off.) CPANEL is invoked from the command line by simply pressing Ctrl-Shift and the left mouse button. Rounding out the software is a copy of *Microsoft Paint-*

The undisputed King of Mice, Microsoft manufactures and sells nearly half the mice bought every year, and for good reason.

Brush or *Microsoft Windows,* and a little game called BOA, which sends a snake after the mouse pointer.

The ball is slightly forward from the mouse's center, and provides good traction on the desk. With ballistic control turned on, it is possible to cover the entire screen by using about 1 square inch of disk space. Ballistic control takes a good bit of getting used to, and with both linear and ballistic settings set very high, the cursor is almost impossible to control.

For absolute compatability, comfortable design, and top-notch quality, you'll find the Miscrosoft Mouse, no matter what package you purchase it in, is worth every penny.

Microsoft Mouse

Microsoft Corp., 1 Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052; (206) 882-8080.
List Price: $125, with *Microsoft Paintbrush,* $150; with *Microsoft Windows* 3.0, $225.

PC MAGAZINE
MICROSPEED INC.
EDITORS CHOICE

•FastTRAP
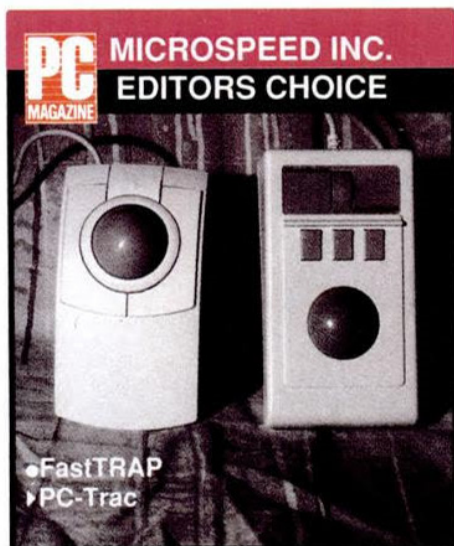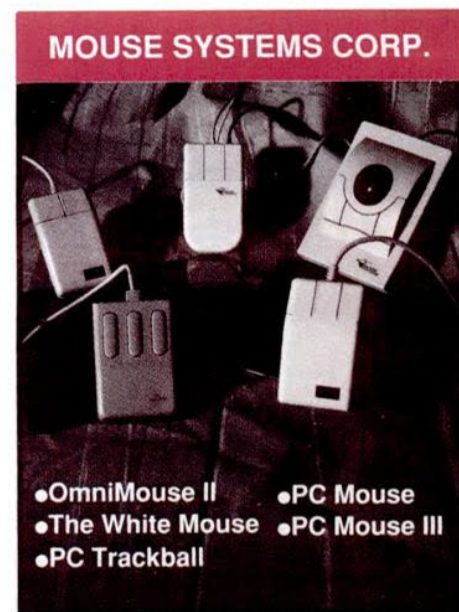▶PC-Trac

by Mary Kathleen Flynn
While trackball technology may not seem exciting to you, the folks at MicroSpeed would rather build a better trackball than figure out who killed Twin Peaks' Laura Palmer. As a result of this diligence, MicroSpeed unveiled a truly improved trackball design this January. The new PC-Trac and Logitech's TrackMan are the best designed trackballs in this roundup. The only bad news is that MicroSpeed's FastTRAP trackball, which provides support for 3-D applications, is still stuck with the old design.

To create the PC-Trac's new look and feel, MicroSpeed turned to some of the original Microsoft Mouse designers from ID Two in San Francisco. Like the "Dove bar," the new case slopes down, letting your wrist relax rather than forcing it to tilt up as with most other trackballs. And in the new design, two large crescent-moon buttons surround the ball, allowing hands of all shapes and sizes to feel comfortable using the device. A third button, placed in the center above the ball, lets you lock on the cursor while you drag a selection. The PC-Trac comes in serial, PS/2, and InPort versions for $119 and in a bus model for $139.

Unfortunately, MicroSpeed's Fast-TRAP is trapped in the older, clunkier design. Introduced in 1987, the FastTRAP is identical to the old PC-Trac except that it adds a wheel for the Z-axis—important in high-end 3-D CAD applications. The serial FastTRAP is $149, and the bus version is $169.

Both products support ballistic gain, which means the faster you roll the ball, the faster the cursor will fly across your

display. Both have Drag/Lock buttons. Each comes with a self test that doubles as a setup, letting you adjust the cursor rate and other features. Both come with emulations for Microsoft and Mouse Systems, and both support the Microsoft Mouse driver in *Microsoft Windows*.

Also included with each product are MicroSpeed drivers, a CONFIG.SYS file, and a .COM file. (Unfortunately, the latter can't be uninstalled from DOS.) The redesigned PC-Trac comes with newer driver software, which includes pop-up menus for *Lotus 1-2-3*, *WordPerfect*, and *dBASE*.

In the last year, the market has been flooded with trackballs. Almost everyone but Microsoft has jumped in. But, with its new design, MicroSpeed has an excellent chance of floating on top. Now all the company has to do is re-rig the FastTRAP.
▶ **PC-Trac**
FastTRAP
MicroSpeed Inc., 44000 Old Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538; (800) 232-7888.
List Price: PC-Trac bus model, $139; serial, InPort, PS/2 versions, $119; FastTRAP bus model, $169, serial model, $149.

MOUSE SYSTEMS CORP.

•OmniMouse II   •PC Mouse
•The White Mouse   •PC Mouse III
•PC Trackball

by Tony Rizzo
Mouse Systems, the company that made the very first mouse for the PC in 1982, now sells more mice than you can shake a stick at. Recently purchased by Genuis Mouse maker KYE, Mouse Systems has captured a sizeable portion of the alternate input market with its three mouse lines: PC Mouse (its flagship optical line), the two-button optomechanical OmniMouse, and The White Mouse (a three-button mechan-