

QUICK LOOKS

Portfolio Makes Clip Art Affordable



HANDS ON

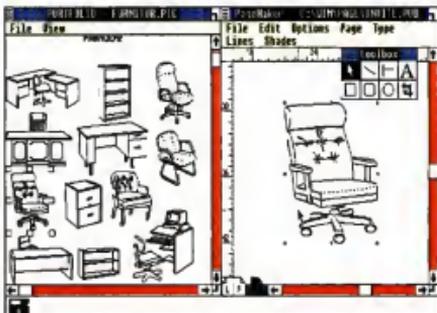
BY GUS VENDITTO

Stop the presses. *PageMaker* publishers. Don't let your newsletters get weighed down by amateurish, home-drawn *Paintbrush* images or stunted by limited access to a scanner. Primp your pages with *Windows Portfolio* clip art.

Portfolio provides you with low-cost access to a series of libraries from Micrografs, which sells most of these pictures as part of *Windows Draw*, a \$495 paint program. *Portfolio* is really little more than a viewer for these libraries, but once you have got the images on the screen, it's quite simple to

point-and-click them into the *Windows* clipboard, then quit *Portfolio* and call them up in

PageMaker or any other *Windows* application that can utilize bit-mapped or object-based pic-



Micrografs's Furniture Clip Art file enhances a *PageMaker* document.

ture files. The *Portfolio* clipboard will select the best format based on the target program automatically.

The \$99.95 package includes the viewer, clipboard, and a general library of over a hundred symbols—some ordinary, some offbeat, clocks, geometric shapes, a weather vane, clouds. You also get a coupon for another of the ten libraries in the series, which include mechanical, architectural, chemical, and military symbols.

List Price: *Windows Portfolio*, \$99.95, additional libraries, \$49.95. Requires: *Microsoft Windows*. Not copy protected. Micrografs Inc., 1820 N. Greenville Ave., Richardson, TX 75081; (800) 272-3729.

CIRCLE 429 ON READER SERVICE CARD

The 3-D FastTRAP Points with Precision



HANDS ON

BY GERARD KUNKEL

The FastTRAP, from MicroSpeed, is the latest in pointing devices. Essentially a trackball with three programmable function buttons, the FastTRAP can send x, y, and z coordinates to applications—one plane more than a mouse or digitizing tab-

let. Three-dimensional CAD users should welcome the addition. Immediate response for x, y, and z can cut the time necessary to view an object at various rotations.

Installation of the FastTRAP is quite simple if you've installed a *Microsoft Mouse*. Simply plug in the device to the serial port and use the *Microsoft* driver. If the third dimension is

needed, complete the installation of the FastTRAP and load its KeyMAP software, a memory-resident program/driver. Since the function keys, trackball, and trackwheel can be programmed with KeyMAP, any application that accepts DOS commands can be customized.

Drivers for *AutoCAD* let you call modifiers with the middle button and select menu options



with the trackwheel. The left button is Pick, the right is Enter, and the trackball controls the pointer position.

The FastTRAP works best in a 3-D CAD application. Another benefit is clear, though. Since the trackball device is stationary, precision placement of the cursor in graphics mode is easier than putting a mouse into position, only to have it move when the button is pressed.

List Price: FastTRAP, \$149. Requires: Serial port. MicroSpeed, Inc., 5307 Randall Pl., Fremont, CA 94538; (415) 490-1403.

CIRCLE 430 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Boston Doc: An Additional Level of Help



HANDS ON

BY PEGGY GAVAN

You're about to finish a spreadsheet, with one last @INDEX function, when suddenly your mind goes blank. What are the parameters? You're stumped, but the thought of pulling the dusty 1-2-3 manual off the shelf and searching for the solution makes you cringe. There's got to be a better way.

Boston Doc, a complete online reference guide to 1-2-3,

offers an excellent substitute for Lotus's bulky documentation and shallow help files. With *Boston Doc*, comprehensive and neat help is only one keystroke away.

Boston Doc has "chapters" identical to those found in the manual, plus a 1-2-3 tutorial, a section on creating databases, and an optional index. Unlike 1-2-3's help screens, *Boston Doc* offers complete instructions, suggestions, and examples of every command, function, and macro.

The drawback is that you lose 98K bytes to have all this information at your fingertips. If you're a 1-2-3 master, that's a lot of RAM to lose. But if you're training someone, Christmas is coming soon.

List Price: *Boston Doc*, \$34.95. Requires: 256K RAM, two disk drives or hard disk, DOS 2.0 or later. Not copy protected. Boston Documentation Design, 125 Adams St., #301, Newton, MA 02158; (617) 965-5300.

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