

At a Glance

Intel Boosts Pentium Pro to 200 MHz	1
By announcing its high-end processor at 200 MHz, far faster than expected, Intel leaps to the top of the performance chart, surpassing even Digital's 21164 on integer applications. This announcement will pressure RISC workstation and server vendors.	
Editorial: Multimedia API's Spur Hardware Innovation	3
Microsoft's DirectX interfaces allow a variety of hardware designs to execute multimedia software quickly and at low cost.	
Most Significant Bits	4
TI, SGS add 486DX4 to lineup; Cyrix, IBM announce new 5x86s; Intel bombs price of fast Pentiums; AMD turns 486 into Am5x86... and positions 486 for embedded; Opti adopts UMA for Viper chip set; LSI repacks high-end MIPS core; C-Cube acquires MicroSparc license; Errata: Supercomputers.	
AMD Buys NexGen to Boost x86 Position	10
A merger of two x86 vendors combines NexGen's high-performance Nx686 with AMD's strong fab capacity and marketing resources.	
Integrated PA-7300LC Powers HP Midrange	12
In 3Q96, HP's forthcoming processor should boost the company's competitiveness in midrange desktops and servers. The chip's highly integrated design, derived from the 7100LC, and large on-chip cache make it suitable for low-cost systems as well.	
StrongArm Punches Up ARM Performance	16
Digital has built the world's fastest embedded processor, rated at 240 MIPS at 215 MHz, using the ARM instruction set. Despite the high clock rate, power dissipation is kept to 500 mW using a 1.5-V supply and special design techniques.	
UltraSparc to Pick Up Speed in 1996	20
While rolling out the first UltraSparc systems, Sun disclosed its plans to release faster versions of the chip every quarter, culminating in a 300-MHz UltraSparc-2 processor by the end of 1996.	
First TriMedia Chip Boards PCI Bus	22
Philips plans to put its multimedia processor into both PCs, as an accelerator, and in set-top boxes, as the main processor. The VLIW architecture should deliver high performance on audio, video, and graphics applications.	
Viewpoint: RISC-like Design Fares Well for x86 CPUs	26
AMD's Mike Johnson responds to Cyrix's claim that its "native" design is best for high-performance x86 processors. Johnson finds Cyrix's claims exaggerated at best, specious at worst.	
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