

At a Glance

RISC Reaches Mainstream with Power Macs	1
Apple's new PowerPC Macintoshes cut the price of RISC systems to a low \$2,200, giving them consumer appeal. Shipments of these systems alone will vault PowerPC to the top position among RISCs. The new boxes will appeal to performance-starved Mac users, but it will be more difficult for Apple to take share from Windows.	
Editorial: Workstation Market May Implode	3
With respectable FP performance, Intel's new Pentium chips could give RISC vendors stiff competition in the workstation market, reducing their profits from this lucrative business.	
Most Significant Bits	4
MicroSparc-2 moves to 100 MHz; Canon taps PowerPC via PowerHouse; Orion matches R4400 performance; Intel matches AMD's 486SX2...and reveals low-power 486 plans; Apple improves Newton, drops price; More system makers reveal PDA plans; Winbond samples low-cost MPEG decoder; Intel unveils second-generation PCI chip sets.	
AMD Wins Key Microcode Court Case	10
A jury awarded AMD the right to use Intel's microcode in its own products, validating AMD's shipments of 386 and 486 processors and reducing the possibility of large damage payments to Intel.	
NexGen Enters Market with 66-MHz 586	12
Less than a year after Intel's Pentium launch, NexGen has begun sampling an x86-compatible processor with similar performance. The Nx586 converts x86 instructions into an internal RISC-like form and executes them in a superscalar core. The startup company has no foundry agreement for its new chip, however, and it will be some time before it has a significant impact on the market.	
Motorola Unveils First Magic Cap Device	18
General Magic's software will begin shipping this summer in Motorola's Envoy, a \$1,500 PDA with built-in wireless communication. Envoy combines a 68349 CPU with the new "Astro" ASIC.	
TI Introduces Four-Processor DSP Chip	22
Texas Instruments has announced its 320C80 "multimedia video processor," which combines four typical DSPs, a RISC processor for control, and 50K of SRAM on a single enormous chip capable of impressive video and graphics performance.	
Low-Power Design, Pentium Dominate ISSCC	26
The 41st International Solid-State Circuits Conference loosened its rules to include more papers on commercial microprocessors and other chips of interest, including 256M DRAMs and Intel's P54C.	
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