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A POSTSCRIPT Cookbook

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PREFACE

As with all computer hardware, the development of printing technology has come on apace in the last couple of years. Doubtless it will continue to do so. The most recent and most impressive developments in this field have been in the area of laser and LED page printers.

Now that the price of these printers is within the range of more and more people, there are more and more people who want to make the most of this affordable new technology. That's what this book is all about.

Computer technology develops at an increasingly dramatic rate, daring us to find new ways to put it to use. But as a result of the sheer speed at which the new developments become widely available, the number of people who are able to wring the last ounce of usefulness out of them is smaller and smaller.

This book is intended to help you realise more of the potential of your POSTSCRIPT printer. The power of POSTSCRIPT is limited only by your imagination. Just about any image that can be printed on paper can be produced by POSTSCRIPT.

Many people shy away from the 'awesome' task of actually programming – whatever the language. This book is not intended as a full tutorial in programming in general or POSTSCRIPT programming in particular, but it IS intended to show that even very short and simple POSTSCRIPT programs can make your printer really earn its keep.

This book contains programs which produce many different styles of text and just as many styles of graphics. It even contains programs which will expand the number of typefaces your printer can produce.

This book was originated on a POSTSCRIPT laser printer; all of the graphics are taken directly from POSTSCRIPT output and this is still only a fraction of what POSTSCRIPT can do. Now it's over to you.

My thanks must go to Max and Carl Phillips of Strange Software Limited, London, EC1, for their Grabit software which produced the POSTSCRIPT program for the

image of the Psion Chess program on page 33. Thanks go also to Iain Janes and Philip Mattimoe of Lotus Reprographic Services Limited, London, W6, who provided plentiful advice and information on POSTSCRIPT typesetting.

This book is for my Marvel of Peru, Fiona Maclean.