



THE INDEPENDENT GUIDE TO IBM PERSONAL COMPUTERS

EXCLUSIVE!



Volume 4 Number 25
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December 10, 1985

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- Written in Basic for easy modification
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Bill Machrone and Paul Somerson/ Borland International's new Turbo Lightning is the first application package of the new age that will be ushered in by gigabyte disk storage. Better, it has features you can use today, on your existing system. Lightning's most visible capability is instant spelling checking and thesaurus—for virtually every program in your library—but its capabilities are far greater. It will be able to extract information from a wide range of reference works and indexed, unchanging information.

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*Christina Dyar/*Christmas gift ideas for the consummate PC user from Rainbow diskettes to the Apple LaserWriter.

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*Alfred Poor, Jon Pepper, Stephanie Stallings, and Paul M. Stafford/*Lightweight portables have evolved from limited novelty items into powerful productivity tools for the business traveler. Whether you're commuting to work by train or flying to Bangkok for a meeting, laptops can be indispensable companions. Reviewed here are the Tandy 200, Visual Commuter, Heath ZP-150, Morrow Pivot II, Panasonic Executive Partner, Ericsson Portable PC, Hewlett-Packard Portable PLUS, Data General/One, and Quadram Datavue 25.



The Hardcard: A 10-Meg Marvel 160

*Winn L. Rosch/*Plus Development's Hardcard is a complete hard-disk-based mass storage subsystem on a single expansion card. Easy to install and faster than a traditional XT fixed disk, the Hardcard is a miracle of miniaturization.

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Just as 2,400 bps is becoming a widespread standard, DCA's FASTLINK leapfrogs over 2,400 and 9,600 with an impressive new modem technology that may be ideal for heavy-duty data transfer.

FASTLINK COMMUNICATING AT 10,000 BPS AND UP



As the old saw has it, time is money. That's especially true when you're dealing with on-line communications, where the cost of a phone call depends in no small part on how long it lasts. With all other things being equal, if time is money, then faster must be better, and anything that promises to speed your communications up by more than 400 percent certainly deserves your attention.

"Anything" in this case is IRMA's FASTLINK modem from Digital Com-

that zips along at a claimed rate of 10,000 bits per second. That translates to 1,000 characters per second and up—fast enough to send a 3,000-word text file (the approximate length of this article) from modem to modem in under 20 seconds. And with its innovative approach to communications technology, FASTLINK can still talk at slower speeds with standard 300-bps and 1,200-bps modems.

If you've had much experience in transferring files by phone, these numbers

by Steve

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