

At a Glance

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|---|----|
| Cyrix 5x86 Targets Low-End Pentium | 1 |
| Providing a bridge to the long-awaited M1, Cyrix's 5x86 delivers low-end Pentium performance in a 486 pinout. By using a single pipeline instead of the two found in the M1, Cyrix reduced die size by 60%, allowing it to price the new chip at just \$147. | |
| Editorial: What Is a 586? | 3 |
| With the introduction of Cyrix's 5x86, the distinction between Pentium-class and 486 processors blurs. What features make a chip Pentium-compatible—performance, pinout, or pipeline? | |
| Most Significant Bits | 4 |
| Intel sues UMC to block 486; Data General drops 88000 for P6; Cirrus chip set targets "super" 486s; Avance delivers 64-bit graphics for \$15; S3 delivers multimedia chip set with MPEG; Trident stokes 3D fire. | |
| GEC Plessey Spins New ARM Chips | 10 |
| British semiconductor giant GEC Plessey has given its ARM processors wings, producing three new chips for PCMCIA modems, network adapters, and cellular telephones. | |
| 68328 to Power Handheld Organizer | 12 |
| Motorola's DragonBall CPU includes PCMCIA support and an LCD controller in a new 68300-family microprocessor for Samsung. | |
| Nvidia Launches Multimedia Accelerator | 13 |
| The company's debut product merges the hot-selling features of GUI acceleration, 3D graphics, and wave-table audio synthesis for an all-in-one PC-compatible multimedia chip. | |
| Microprocessors Lead the Way to 0.35 Microns | 16 |
| IBM and NEC were first with aggressive 0.35-micron processes, but Intel's tight metal pitch gives it a cost advantage over its competitors. TI's low defect rate and AMD's circuit density keep them in the running, while Digital's high performance bears high costs. | |
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