

RCI - New Computers for Summer 2023

4tissimo!

£379 inc

The 4té² computer, launched early 2022, has proven to be a fast, sturdy and reliable friend to many users. But what if your needs extend beyond a single SSD? The answer is here.... 4tissimo!

The 4té² continues to offer an affordable entry point, but 4tissimo builds and expands on it in many ways. At its heart are connections for *four* solid state discs (up to 2TB) - this is a larger system than its little brother - all housed within a beautiful, unique case.

The engineering is frankly stunning, with the smooth, sturdy metal frame acting as a huge heatsink for the CPU - temperatures are staggeringly low, even at high speeds. The chassis is topped by an optional fan and a small OLED screen (which doubles as the on/off button), both fully controllable under RISC OS. Whilst this display normally shows a status image, enthusiasts can also harness it for whatever purpose they fancy (graphical demos and games exist, but you could output debug info, or alarms/notifications etc).



Let's return to those four SSDs for a minute - there's a lot of flexibility there, and you can mix them between RISC OS, Linux or both. Why not have a Linux drive, a large backup disc and a RISC OS disk? Not a problem.

Like its 4té stablemates, the 4tissimo is powered by a Pi 4 "brain", at 2Ghz+ for super-quick RISC OS operation. As usual, that means graphics up to 4K resolution, multiple USB ports, gigabit ethernet and easy OS updates via ourselves or ROOL releases. The full range of 4té software is included, with a newly updated !4téTools providing easy control over your new system. The ultimate Pi4 machine? It very well could be!

Affordable upgrades to 4tissimo are available from 4té(2) or any competing/existing Pi4 computers or boards.

Features

- Stunning looks
- Up to 4 Solid State Disks
- RISC OS and/or Linux
- Built-in OLED display

- High performance
 - Great cooling
 - Attractive pricing
- Ultimate Pi4 computer?***

- Easy updates and upgrades
- Huge software bundle - see 4té2

Upgrade from any Pi4 machine

RockyRAID...

a trusty companion

£289 inc

You've heard of Rocky Road ice-cream? Well, RockyRAID (or 'Rocky' to his friends) is just as cool! He gets his name from two things - his Rockchip RK3399 CPU and his RAID-capable disc interface. The RK3399 is a top-flight 32bit-capable ARM® CPU, akin to that found in our Pinebok Pro laptops. RK3399 powers a family of devices and this is the debut of RK3399 on your desktop.



With room for two SSDs, eMMC (*and SD!*), there's no shortage of storage options here. Your SSDs can either be treated as individual drives, or as part of a RAID array (typically a RAID 1 mirror for data security - each drive is a copy of the other, so you're protected against a drive failure). The eMMC is also exciting - high speed, robust storage that will put those SD cards out to pasture. Demanding applications will load and run beautifully - you can boot and run your machine from eMMC, and have your data protected by RAID.



To try this out, we literally pulled out one of the SSDs mid-session, to simulate a failure. The computer continued running, browsing with Iris (which was running from the RAID drive), without issue. Reconnecting the drive saw the LEDs flicker indicating the drives were re-building/re-syncing, without a reboot or disruption. As you'd expect, the RK3399 provides high quality graphics up to 4K resolution and multiple USB ports. It's a top quality part with a lot of industry support (boards available 'til 2029). RISC OS software compatibility is just as you'd expect, and Aemulor provides access to legacy 26bit apps as usual. The RockTools software provides control over your system, including safe shutdown to park your RAID drives and power off.

With next generation ARM boards being 64bit-only on their fast cores, we feel the RK3399 represents one of the best platforms for 32bit ARM computing, and Rocky demonstrates this well. He certainly knocked our socks off!

Features

- RK3399 power on the desktop
- Room for 2 SSDs + RAID
- Reliable and long availability
- High performance
- Keen pricing
- ***Data Security***
- Easy updates and upgrades
- Huge software bundle
- Say goodbye to SD cards!***

Hydra... the multi-headed beast

In the closing years of Acorn, they showed a prototype of a board with five StrongArm processors. At the time, most of us weren't quite sure what to do with that, but it sure looked impressive! Sadly it never really materialised, but now its successor is here....

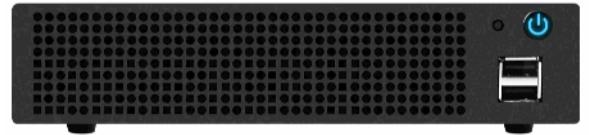


Spurred on by one customer's seemingly simple demand - "I'll buy if I can run RISC OS and Linux ***at the same time***", we present the Hydra, capable of not just running two operating systems at once, but **SIX** of them!

The Hydra is our first truly expandable computer system - you can literally add more heads to add functionality. Each head is a Compute Module - a small board containing the brains of a Raspberry Pi, possibly with eMMC storage and/or wifi, and backed up by its own high-speed NVME SSD slot for hundreds of MB/s data IO. Each head can talk to the others, and you can add heads as you see fit. Why not start with RISC OS and Linux heads, and maybe add a wifi-router head, a firewall/SSL appliance head, or a 26bit RISC OS head, or a head to run Windows apps....

Sounds amazing, right? That's up to 24 cores of ARM goodness, with (potentially) 40+ TB of storage, all in a tiny ITX case! Well, it is real, and it is here. You can access heads from your RISC OS desktop, share files and data between heads, and... well, the sky's the limit really.

Of course, this isn't as affordable as the other computers on this sheet, but it is still cheaper than the Iyonix at launch, and that's before taking inflation into account!



With multiple gigabit ethernet interfaces, up to 4k HDMI graphics, multiple USB ports (front and rear) and all the usual trimmings, Hydra might just be the RiscPC successor we've always imagined...

from £750

Features

- Up to six CPU "heads"
- Run RISC OS and Linux together
- eMMC and turbo NVME storage
- Very high performance
- Expand by adding "heads"
- 40+ TB storage potential
- Run apps from many platforms
- Say goodbye to SD cards!***