



# Fundamental Objects

FO HANDHELD NEWS  
Volume 5, Issue 3  
July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Contents

Welcome  
User Tips  
Development Tips  
Reviews  
FO News  
Reader Tips  
Subscribe, Unsubscribe, Comments

## Welcome

... to the July edition of our user and developer PDA tips newsletter.

We add something new this time, covering reviews of several Palm and Pocket PC accessories. We also introduce two Symbian Series 60 phone-based items -- a Brochure application and our Symbeam toolset for beaming between phones!



As always, please feel free to submit requests or ideas through the links at the [bottom](#) of this page. This is also where you will find subscription and removal information.

Palm related items in our newsletters are marked with this  icon. The Pocket PC/WinCE items are marked with this  one and Phone-related PDA tips show a  icon.

Please note: This newsletter contains tips and tools that can alter your PDA. These items are offered here "as is" and without any warranty or support from FO. Please consider them carefully before using or trying them (and as always ... backup, backup, **backup!** first before making any changes).

Thank you,

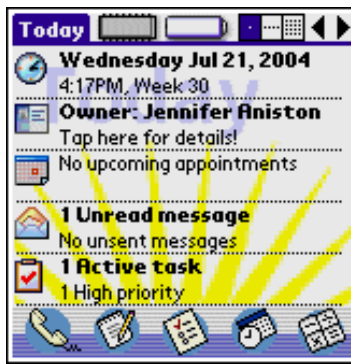
Bill Shadish, Principal

## User Tips and Tools

**Today v2.1** (freeware) 

<http://www.palmgear.com/software/showsoftware.cfm?prodID=38922>

One of the nice things about the Pocket PC is the today | start screen, where you sort of start off with everything in one place. If you'd like to have the same functionality on your Palm, try Today. You can select from several different items to show on the Today screen; such as Calendar, Inbox, Tasks, Owner Info, Date, System Info and more. And you can choose the order that these items are shown in. Today includes (optional to use) skin databases named DefaultSkinWithBackground.pdb and Today-PPC2002.pdb for the background graphics; or you can create your own.



Today (with PPC background)

### Mike Rohde's Excellent Palm writing tools article

<http://www.palmsource.com/interests/writing/>

Mike, the former editor of the PalmTipSheet, has produced a definitive online reference for PalmOS writing tools.

- Word Processors
- Text Editors
- Spell Checkers
- English Dictionaries
- English Thesauri
- Word Completion Tools
- Data Input Alternatives
- Other Palm OS Writing Utilities
- Document Converters (Windows)
- Document Converters (Mac OS)
- Document Converters (Linux)
- Hardware
- eBooks
- User Stories
- Online Resources

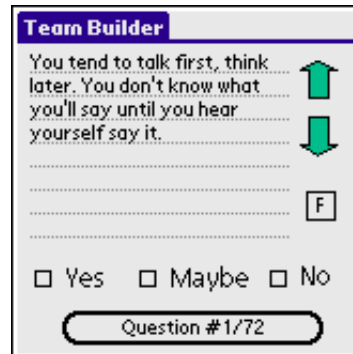
Mike's page is simply a Very Good reference point, and a must if you use a keyboard more than a stylus with the Palm.

### Team Builder v1.0 (freeware)

<http://www.avaricum.net>

If you have worked in the corporate world, you have likely been exposed to Myers-Briggs personality testing. Team builder provides a M-B like test for the Palm.

You are 72 short questions away from knowing your personality type -- and what portion of the population shares that type with you.



### Pocket PC User Interface Ten Commandments

<http://www.fo.com/articles/ppmag-01.htm>

We now have a Pocket PC version of the PalmOS user interface article in the same theme. Geared towards helping managers who are overseeing new PPC development (or software purchases) -- these are more like guidelines of things for you to think about. Please submit your own guidelines for inclusion at the end of this article.

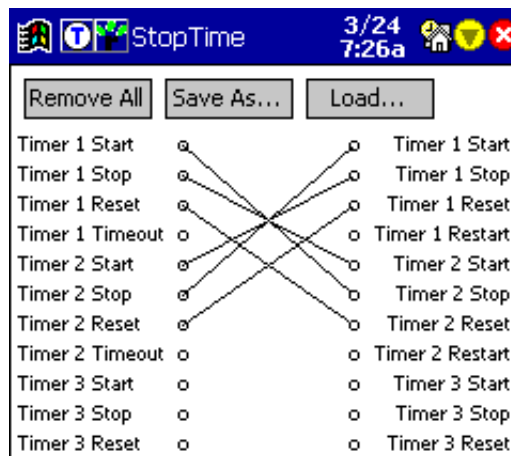
### Need a timer? (freeware)

Here are a group of PalmOS-based ones.

<http://www.palmspot.com/software/Utility/Timers/>

This is a long list of PalmOS timer applications, from stop watches (some of them fairly sophisticated) through applications that log and save the times to the Palm.

Here is a Very complete stopwatch application for the Pocket PC. StopTime 2.0 includes things like Linked Timers, so that when one is started, stopped, etc another is started (example use would be a chess game). If StopTime 2.0 doesn't do it for you, then here is a list of other PPC stopwatches (<http://www.freewareppc.com/clock/clock.shtml>).



Timer 3 Timeout	o	o	Timer 3 Restart
Timer 4 Start	o	o	Timer 4 Start
Timer 4 Stop	o	o	Timer 4 Stop
Timer 4 Reset	o	o	Timer 4 Reset
Timer 4 Timeout	o	o	Timer 4 Restart

StopTime 2.0

### Want to Check your Connection Speed? 🌐 🌐 🌐

The following sites provide online ways to find out what your dial-up (or broadband-based) connection speeds to the Internet are. Most of these tools work by downloading a set-sized file to your device; measuring the amount of time it takes to download along the way. It is probably not that surprising that the time usually reported for dial-up connections tends to be a good bit less than the modem's stated speed -- particularly during the heavy traffic times of day.

Band Width Speed Test

<http://www.bandwidthconnection.com/speedtest/>

Tests cable, dial-up and ADSL connections.

Test My Speed

<http://www.testmyspeed.com/speedtests/index.html>

Same kind of thing -- but a little more commercial (read that: Ads & Pop-ups)

Tech Depot

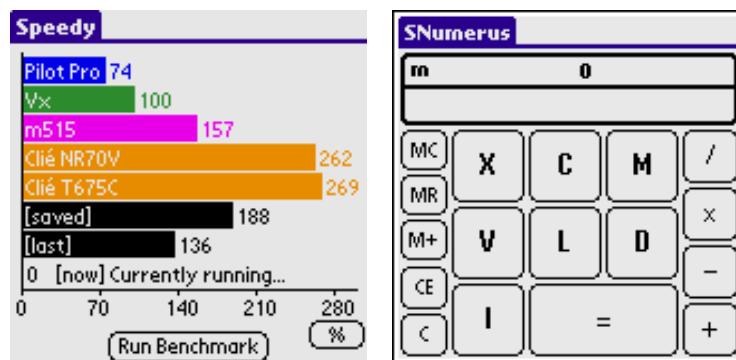
<http://www.techdepot.com/pro/speed.asp?rd=1&>

These are all similar -- and all pretty good.

### Speedy v3.5 (donationware) 🌐

<http://www.freewarepalm.com/utilities/speedy.shtml>

In keeping with the "timing theme" of the last several tools -- Speedy is used to show benchmark times on PalmOS devices. Speedy reports both a CPU frequency and a relative index (100% is for the Palm Vx at 20 MHz) and includes the ability to save your benchmarks. There are a couple of utilities in the package, and it's worth the download. **Developer note: The Pascal source of the timing calcs is included.**



Speedy

### Palm PDA Mailing list 🌐

The largest and one of the first PalmOS user mailing lists has gone through a move and reset-up phase. This is the place to discuss Palm device user topics. To subscribe or unsubscribe via the web, visit <http://copilotconsulting.com/mailman/listinfo/palm> or send an email with a subject or body containing 'help' to [palm-request@copilotconsulting.com](mailto:palm-request@copilotconsulting.com). The archives of the list are available on this page as well.

### Development Tips and Tools

(Sites with content most valuable to developers)

#### Palm Database ODBC Driver v0.01 (freeware **But Beta**) 🌐

<http://www.freewarepalm.com/utilities/freepalmdatabaseodbcdriver.shtml>

A PDB ODBC driver (sans converters, activex, DLLs and other tools) which can be used to use native database access methods.

#### Tauschke MobileCreator v1.74 (freeware and professional versions) 🌐 🌐

<http://www.tauschke.com/>

MobileCreator is cross-platform SuperWaba IDE.

Just as a reminder, here is SuperWaba v4.21b (a Java Virtual machine that runs on PalmOS -- with a site for PPC, WinCE and even AppletViewer versions). <http://www.freewarepalm.com/utilities/superwaba.shtml>

### Rafe Blandford's All About Symbian Site

<http://www.allaboutsymbian.com>

Community Site for Series 60 (Nokia 7650, 3650, N-Gage), UIQ (Sony Ericsson P800) and Symbian Users, with heavy coverage of Symbian phone news. Many links, many downloads and a lot of info.

### OPL language source code

<http://opl-dev.sourceforge.net/>

Symbian's OPL is an interpreted language for phones. OPL v6.0 and v6.1 are available as open source. OPL includes the runtime environment for the phone, the translator, tools to run on a PC, comprehensive OPL example and OPX extensions written in C++.

### Wiki

<http://www.allaboutopl.com/wiki/OPLWikiHome>

The place to find [and share] information on all things "OPL". FAQs, development tips, white papers, manuals, etc.

### Symbian's own site

<http://www.symbian.com>

### Perl for Symbian phones

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/01/16/nokia\\_to\\_release\\_perl/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/01/16/nokia_to_release_perl/)

## FO News

FO has added Symbian consulting to our list of "doables" in the PDA realm. This includes both Series 60 and UIQ low level software development and tools.

As a way of describing our Symbian capabilities, we've created a free downloadable brochure that you can try. This brochure; our service to create the same thing for you; and our development toolset to handle the beaming of the brochure are described below.



foBrochure

foBrochure/Series 60 is a version of our [PalmOS brochure application](#), released on the Symbian platform.

To get an idea of how this works, you can download our free Symbian FO brochure by browsing to the following page from your phone

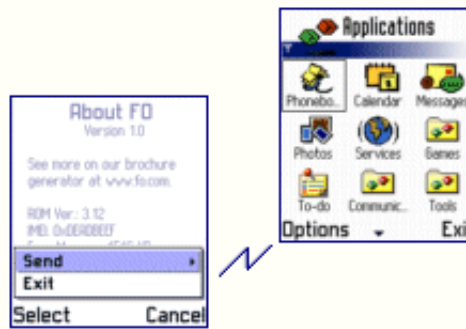
<http://www.fo.com/files/fobrochure.sis>

Our brochure contains 256 graphics, "keyable" menus, pick-lists; and [optionally] uses the entire Symbian screen. Of course, foBrochure can be beamed to other Symbian Series 60 phones via IrDA and Bluetooth.

You can choose to include the Navi Tab, CBA buttons and Status pane lines in the brochure applications that you create, if you wish.

---

**Sybeam™** is a new toolset to provide beaming components to higher level Symbian applications. Sybeam is what foBrochure uses to beam itself between phones.



Sybeam™

on the phone itself, as part of the beaming process.

**Requirements:** a Symbian Series 60 phone to send and receive.

**Development platform:** Any Symbian C++ development environment

(Microsoft Visual C++, Metrowerks CW, Borland Builder).

**Languages supported:** C++

Future Symbian platform support will include UIQ.

Contact us for additional Sybeam information and pricing.  
<http://www.fo.com/pda/fosybeam.htm>

## Product Reviews

### Pegasus III IrDA Wireless Modem

#### Facts about the Pegasus III

The Pegasus III infrared modem is a v.90 modem.

Dimensions: 2.5" x 3.75" x 0.83".

Weight: 7.35 oz.

100V-240V travel charger.

Dual operating modes: Infrared or serial RS-232.

Works with Palm Pilot, Macs, PCs, Notebooks.

Compliant with IrDA 1.0 standard for serial infrared (SIR) data comm.

Link Distance 1 cm to 1.0 m (about 4-5 feet).

Company: [3jTech](#) US Distributor: [enrtech](#)

Complete specs:

[http://www.3jtech.com.tw/infrared\\_modems.htm](http://www.3jtech.com.tw/infrared_modems.htm)

List Price: Varies: \$99USD



#### Things We Love

- We love the way the plug comes apart. Finding a place to pack a plug is one of the most annoying things -- and becomes even more annoying as devices themselves become smaller and smaller. A small plug (and cool ideas like the removable prongs) are a good thing.

#### Things we Like

- We like the fact that it does IR *and* direct Serial. If it did Bluetooth -- then we would Love this device.
- We like the fact that all required cords/cables were included in the package.
- We like that it worked without having to install anything to the PDA.

#### Things we Don't Like

- It did not fully connect with a Zire 72, hanging after the initial modem connect sequence. But it Did work with a Palm Vllx! (*editor's note*: 3jtech has provided an update for the Zire/Tungsten line, to correct the problems that we found with those devices).
- The phone cord provided (which is nice to do) is a standard short cord. A double length or triple length cord would be inexpensive; fit within the current packaging and be very useful in places like hotel rooms, where the table/bed may not be a short cord away from the phone jack.
- This is insignificant -- but the color/texture of the case. It looks like a 1950's robot.

#### Things we Hate

- Our test modem had to be turned on with a small flat switch -- and it turned itself off automatically after a period of inactivity, even when powered via A/C. We (can almost) see the value of it turning itself off

automatically when powered by batteries, but when using A/C and doing a lot of connecting/disconnecting via the PDA -- then this got annoying.

(*editor's note*: This can be controlled by an AT command.

To Disable power-down mode, using Terminal:

1. Issue: "ATS63.1=1".
2. Issue: "AT&W".
3. Issue: "ATZ".
4. Reset Modem)

## Summary

If you'd like a handy, relatively inexpensive, IrDA modem that fits well within a small carry case, take a look at the Pegasus III. If you'd prefer a Bluetooth version -- they will have one in the December 2004 timeframe.

---

## FX100 Roll-up Keyboard

### Facts about the FX100

The FX100 is a roll-up keyboard, available for many versions of the PPC and PalmOS. This is a rugged, silicone keyboard, that withstands moisture and dirt.

Size: 5/32" x 3 5/16" x 9 13/16"

Weight: 2.4 ounces.

Power consumption: 1mA (max)

Operating temperature: -10 to 50 degrees C

Company: [Flexis Corp](#) US Distributor: [man-machine.com](#)

Complete specs: <http://www.man-machine.com/FX100.htm>

List Price: Varies: Around \$60USD



### Things We Love

- Again, another accessory with size and packing space in mind. PDAs are meant to be portable -- and, having highly-portable accessories to tote around with them is a very good thing. This rolling keyboard fits into those corners of a small case and is fun to have.
- The keys have a nice tactile feel to them -- not what you'd expect from a a silicone keyboard.
- Highly useful in construction or manufacturing applications.

### Things we Like

- The fact that it fits in a pretty small space.
- That there are PalmOS, Rim, Kyocera Smartphones, Pocket PC and even a Sharp Zaurus version.
- The black version -- which just looks cool.

### Things we Don't Like

- There is no PDA stand -- the PDA will lay flat or you need to prop it up, which is difficult because the keyboard connects to the bottom of the PDA.
- One could imagine letting it drape across your legs on a plane or seat to work -- but it has to lay flat to use it. This isn't that big of an issue though.

### Things we Hate

- Nothing really.

## Summary

A neat, relatively inexpensive accessory, for limited keyboarding on the road. See also, the FXCube (Bluetooth roll-up Keyboard) <http://www.flexis.co.kr/web/fxcubebt.htm>

## Reader Tips

After each issue, we receive a number of reader comments, questions and tips regarding handhelds. We would like to share these tips with all of our readers as well.

If you would like to submit a tip for inclusion in our newsletter, please fill out the information below. Your name and email will be shown along with the tip, if it is used in our newsletter.

Enter your first and last name:

\*

Enter your email address:  \*

Company:

Reader Tip:

\* = required.

**Submit**

### Subscribe, Unsubscribe & Comments

The FO newsletter site itself is found at <http://www.fo.com/newsletters/>.

To **subscribe** to this newsletter, simply [click here](#).

To **unsubscribe** from this newsletter, [click here](#).

If you would like to suggest topics for us to focus on, we will strive to add content in the direction of the most interest. Choose from the following categories, or add your own, and include this in [your email](#):

Palm Development  
Palm User Interface topics (look & feel issues),  
Palm User-oriented topics (tips!),  
Palm vs. Pocket PC issues  
<other>

If you have other comments or suggestions, please send us an email with your thoughts by [clicking here](#).



Copyright © 1995-2004 Fundamental Objects, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

