



commands. These main functions are:

- **SAVE:** Data records up to 200 characters long can be entered from the keyboard into the display, edited with the two cursor controls (left and right) and the Delete key, and then **SAVED** to either of the datapaks.

- **FIND:** This function retrieves data from either datapak. A search can be conducted for a string of up to 15 characters. The required string is entered into the display, and the machine matches this against the stored records. The **FIND** command is very fast: a typical time for searching through a database of 21 Kbytes is eight seconds. Records containing the required string are displayed in the order that they are located. A record can be scrolled in either direction using the cursor keys.

We used Psion's Restaurant Guide To London datapak, a 16 Kbyte database giving the names of 105 restaurants, each with an address, telephone number, nearest underground station, type of food, opening hours, price range indicator, and a general comment. A search for the string 'ARB' gives a match for a restaurant called 'BARBARELLAS' and also a restaurant near 'MARBLE ARCH' underground station. This function compares favourably for speed and convenience with many microcomputer database programs.

- **ERASE:** This deletes a retrieved record from its datapak. There is no **ERASE** function key on the Organiser's keyboard, and this command can be accessed only after the **FIND** command has been used. With the record on the display, the user presses the Mode key to obtain the **ERASE** facility. Pressing the Execute button will then erase the record from memory. However, this does not free any storage space for re-use, it merely renders the file unavailable to the CPU. We will discuss the nature of the datapak memory later in this article.

- **CALC:** The Organiser can be used as a four-function (add, subtract, multiply, divide) calculator using this command. The output can be given to seven significant figures, and scientific

Contrasting Systems

For the purposes of evaluation, we have compared the Psion Organiser with a sophisticated loose leaf address/diary/notebook system

	PSION	FILOFAX
PRICE	£100	£50 (depending on your choice of pages)
SIZE	142x78x29.3mm	180x124x30mm
WEIGHT	225g	200g
DISPLAY	16 character LCD	User's handwritten/typed entry
STORAGE	10,900 characters in 8 Kbyte rampak	Up to 200 pages
SEARCH FACILITIES	From any clue of up to 15 characters	Manual, alphabetical index
PACKAGES AVAILABLE	8 or 16 Kbyte rampak, scientific, engineering, maths, accounting and finance, restaurant listing	Diary, telephone/address pages, cost accounting, spreadsheet, maps, notepaper and music manuscript
OTHER FACILITIES	Tells the time and date. Can be used as a calculator	Comes in smart leather wallet that can store credit and business cards

Handheld Power

The Psion keyboard contains a full alphabet, laid out in alphabetical order. This arrangement is not intuitive and may signal difficulties for people accustomed to a QWERTY keyboard. The **SHIFT** key provides access to a full numeric keypad, calculator functions, cursor movement and built-in database commands



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