

response has been terrific: I've used up my stamp budget through mid-1991 responding to every suggestion I received. Thanks to everyone that took the time to write.

*Ronald M. Berkey
Seattle, WA*

UPDATE YOUR PC OR XT UPDATE

I recently read the article "Update Your PC or XT" (**Popular Electronics**, November 1990), and wish to tell you that it is something of a disservice to your readers. The article states that you can upgrade an XT into an AT compatible by using the Bullet 286 motherboard. That is not precisely true. The Bullet 286 is not a true AT board. An AT machine processes 16 bits at a time throughout. While the Bullet 286 does use a 16-bit processor, it is set to process only 8 bits at a time, like an XT. That means that many of the AT-only programs cannot be run on this board. The AT cards and peripherals will not work with it either.

Basically, the Bullet 286 offers only two advantages. First, it is a relatively inexpensive way to obtain a faster XT compatible and, second, it allows the user to continue using the old XT controller cards and memory. In fact, this last point should have been emphasized more by the author. If a would-be upgrader uses anything other than the Bullet 286, he or she will also have to buy all new memory chips plus a few controller cards as well, which greatly increases the upgrade costs.

In reality, while the Bullet 286 does provide a faster response over any XT, it most definitely is not a true AT machine.

*P.E.Y.
Sellersburg, IN*

MISLABELED

Unfortunately, I made a labeling error on a piece of artwork appearing in "The Portmaster Home-Automation System"

(**Popular Electronics**, February 1991). In Fig. 4B on page 62, the pin labeled as pin 5 of U7 is really pin 4. I'm sorry for any inconvenience the mistake might have caused anyone.

John Yacono

FOREIGN POLICY

I am a foreign subscriber to **Popular Electronics** and I am becoming more-and-more annoyed about the increasing number of U.S. businesses that refuse to sell outside of the U.S. The following companies that advertised in the November issue refuse to trade outside the U.S.: Science Probe, Electronics Technology Today, Damark, and Radio-Electronics Video Offer. Further, EKI, Inc., the parts supplier for the "Digital Entry Lock" article that appears in that issue, will also not accept foreign orders.

I cannot understand the reason for this when all they have to do is accept the order, check that payment is correct by credit card or whatever, parcel it, stick on stamps, and mail it just as if it was going to North Dakota. The only inconvenience is that they might have to drag themselves to the post office to get a green customs sticker and a rate chart for overseas postage.

I run a company in New Zealand and I import educational training videos from the United States and re-export them to Malaysia, Singapore, and Australia. I have also been selling electronics kits, technical books, radio tubes, and components that are imported primarily from England, the U.S., and Australia. I just finished buying computer parts and electronic parts from Jamco, JDR, and Mouser Electronics, among others. Whether I do so as a company or an individual makes no difference as there are no controls on the vast majority of imports here or in Australia.

I am an American citizen living here, so I do know what I