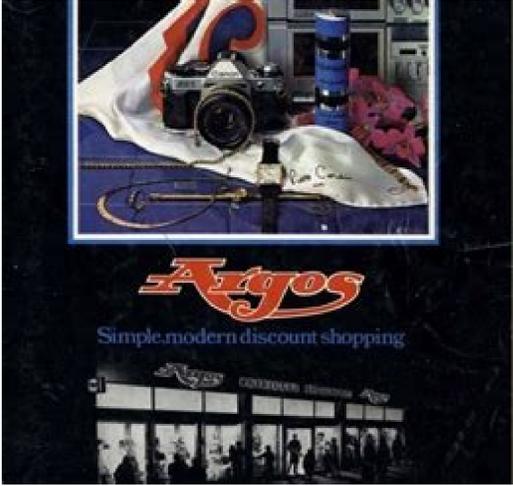


I'm not robot!





Argos catalogue 1985 toys. Argos catalogue winter 1985. Argos catalogue number.

Want more? Advanced embedding details, examples, and help! Mechanical Engineering Forum (Mechanical Design Forum) Home Forums > Mechanical design > Industrial design > Discussion in 'Industrial design' started by GarethW, Jan 9, 2011. (You must log in or sign up to reply here.) How did the world look back in 1985? While Marty McFly was trying to get Back to the Future, I was probably longing after the kinds of gadgets found in the Argos catalog, a UK store which sells pretty much everything - including gadgets. And now you, too, can take a look at the state of the consumer tech art from 26 years ago, thanks to an epic project by Anthony Voz. Voz took the 1985 edition of the Argos catalog, scanned every page and posted the results to Flickr. In amongst the lawn chairs and leather goods are the gizmos of yesteryear. Argos - still going today - is a weird kind of store. The small showroom uses paper catalogs. You browse, write down the number of the item you like and hand the slip to a cashier. You pay, and they give you a number. Then, somewhere in the bowels of the building, somebody grabs your item and sends it up to the showroom, whereupon it is delivered to you at an in-store counter. The magic of this setup is that a small, city-center store can carry a huge range of goods. And back in 1985, these goods were Commodore 64s, electric typewriters and cheap-o Sony Walkman knock-offs. If you were a kid during the 80s, you're going to waste an afternoon looking at the nostalgia-fest. And if you're younger, take a look at what we used to spend out money on before iPods and cellphones. Amazing. Vintage British Argos 1985 Catalogue [Anthony Voz / Flickr via Retro Thing] See Also: Share the publication Save the publication to a stack Like to get better recommendations The publisher does not have the license to enable download Want more? Advanced embedding details, examples, and help! Share the publication Save the publication to a stack Like to get better recommendations The publisher does not have the license to enable download Argos is a UK company that was formed in 1973. It is unique in the UK due to its 'order and wait' in-store shopping format, but for many UK residents it was its 6 monthly catalogue that really got us excited. In the run up to Christmas I would get the latest Argos catalogue and literally pour over it for hours and days just working out what toys and games I would like to get that year. Looking back, these magazines are an amazing snapshot back to a bygone era which show not only what was out there but what were the hot properties of the day. You can often see which ones were hot by how much 'real estate' each property got in the catalogue that year. What's also incredible to see is how many properties lasted for so long with literally the same photographs being used of a product for nearly a decade. It's like stepping into a time machine. It really is a window into the past. My favourite sections were the digital watches, action figures and electronic games but there is so much good stuff in them. Some of the photos that have real life models in them are pretty 'interesting' in terms of haircuts and fashion too of course! And it's great to see what the level of technology was in each year from the pages that have the media formats such as blank VHS tapes or floppy disks etc. It's like stepping into a time machine. It really is a window into the past. I also like looking at how the selection of a particular property changes over the years. I'm still looking for PDFs or physical copies of three catalogues from the 80s and once I have some of them I can start looking at properties such as Masters of the Universe and seeing how the selection changed each year and which properties came in to get more page real estate in the catalogue. I do often wonder what happened to the products that were used for the photo shoots. Who got to take them home after the shoot was over? For example I wonder if this kid in the photo on the right got to keep the Bigfoot toy. I'm thinking he probably didn't and that's why he doesn't look particularly happy. Some of the dioramas were pretty cool too for things like Masters of the Universe or M.A.S.K. where they would lay out all the toys into a kind of battle scene. I'd love to watch a 'Making Of' documentary of the photo shoots of these Argos catalogues. I love retro ephemera in general (posters, adverts, leaflets etc) and I've been collecting old Argos catalogues for a few years now. I initially wanted to just get all the ones from the 80s but then I thought I would extend that to 1975 - 1995. Given that Argos started in 1973 I'll probably try to get the earlier ones too. I've now got nearly all of them as PDF and I currently have 18 hard copies. See my table to the left for the full run down. Orange means I have a PDF copy of the catalogue and blue means that I own a physical copy of that particular catalogue. You can also see under the main list that I also have a few PDFs of some special edition Argos catalogues. The Christmas one is great for even more yuletide nostalgia and I think the Superstore ones were just slightly bigger with a few more versions of certain products (although sadly I don't think they had any more toys in those ones). I've uploaded all the PDFs that I have to the Issuu platform. Some were scanned in differently and so appear as double pages but most of them read as a normal catalogue. I do have some physical copies that I don't yet have as PDF and so I hope to be able to scan those ones in myself at some point. I'd love to be able to get every single issue up until 1995 in either PDF form or hard copy. My mission is to fill the columns with orange and blue! The hard copies are getting harder to find and some early 80s ones can go for over £50 on eBay! They're really becoming collectors items. Luckily I found a guy on eBay who used to work for Argos and he sold me some other of his Argos catalogues privately, so that's where I got several of my hard copies from. The PDFs are from various sources. Below I have chosen some of the best pages throughout the years to showcase here, but stay tuned for some regular blog posts with more stuff from the pages of the Argos catalogue! 1981 Some cool celebrities on the left hand page here. Lou Ferrigno, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Emlyn Hughes (big footballer in the UK) and some dude who looks like a weak Hoff. On the right hand page we have some incredible 'retro sports bag' that you can buy today. But these ones were the real deal back then! 1982 Check out these cutting edge electronic games for the time. Mini Munchman and Astro Wars are ones that I particular remember. They might not seem like much now but they were seriously cool back then. 1985 Two huge brands of the 80s. Masters of the Universe and Star Wars. And check out those car games at the bottom right. Knight Rider and Dukes of Hazzard. I never had either of them but they appeared in almost every Argos catalogue of the 80s and I just loved the box art. Hope to get my hands on one of them one day. 1985 And one of the other biggest toy line of the 80s, Transformers. Some classic G1 figures here. I love the 80s skyline in the background too. And check out the Zoids at the bottom left! I used to love Zoids and I don't think they get much attention these days. They were incredible feats of construction in motion. Very hard to get hold of these days too. 1986 Some classic handheld games on the left hand page here. You don't get much better than Nintendo Game & Watches and Tomytronic 3D games. Major Morgan and Grandstand Star Force are Argos ever-present toys too. And I can still hear the noises for Computer Battleship! And then on the right hand page you have the awesome M.A.S.K. Some incredibly cool vehicles and masks in that range. 1986 Dude with a quiff in a denim sleeveless jacket rocking some foam headphones. You don't get more 80s than that. I bet he's listening to Huey Lewis. Personal stereos and ghetto blasters are iconic gadgets of the 80s and quite rightly so. Just look at how cool they are. 1986 One of my personal favourite sections of the catalogues. I loved digital watches, particularly the ones with games or special features on them. I had no.5 here, the one with the analogue/digital face and I also remember the day vividly when I got no.8 the Casio Databank. Two of my friends also got it and we spent hours programming it with all of our phone numbers and writing 'Boobies' upside down (because that's what you do with calculators).



