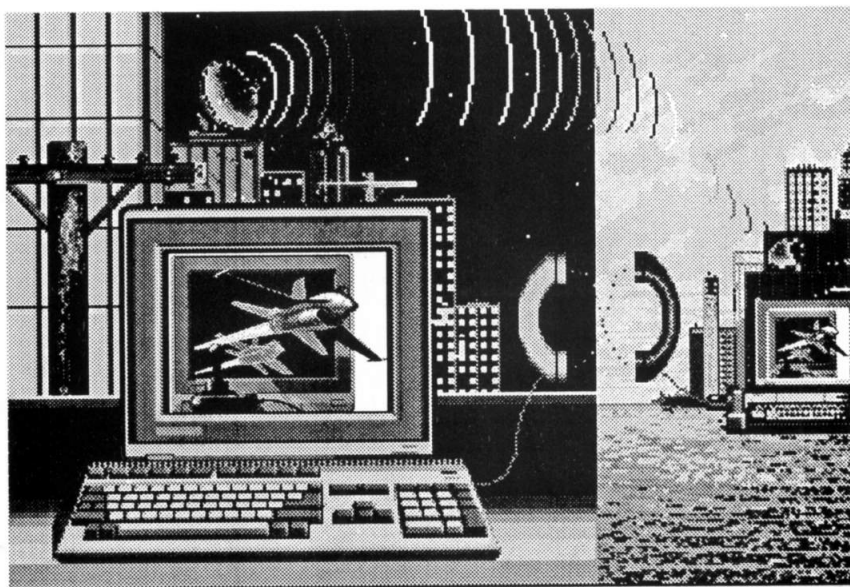




***Are you getting the most
out of your computer?***

SOFTTEL Members are!



**SOFTTEL's guide to a new world of
Online Information Services**

We don't have to boast. We let our members do the talking

"My SOFTEL membership has paid for itself a thousand times over in benefits."

"You are doing an excellent job, and providing an unparalleled service."

"SOFTEL is a first class act!"

"Really it should be me thanking you for the membership!"

"WOW! A great BBS system! - I am impressed."

"SOFTEL is the best value for money I could ask for in these times of depression - Thanks a lot!"

"I checked the rest, SOFTEL is the best"

"I am looking forward to many years of quality BBS'ing on your wonderful BBS!"

"I call systems all over the world - I think yours is the best I have ever called!"

**Start getting the most out of your computer.
Join SOFTEL Online Systems today.**

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**1st
Reader**

Phone us for more detail
about this GREAT
package!

The offline reader for the
BEST of us!

NOW with FILE REQUESTS
available
on

SOFTEL
Online
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Systems

3

Letter from the Sysop

Dear Reader

Thank you for requesting our mini catalogue. We hope you will find the following pages interesting and informative.

SOFTEL Online Systems was founded in 1984, and since then has built an unparalleled reputation for providing members with the latest in software, world-wide conferencing, E-Mail and many other online services. We like to feel we have the features and benefits of many of the large services, while retaining the feel and personal touch of the smaller bulletin board systems. We are set up to serve you, our customer, and we do so through free telephone support and easy to use software.

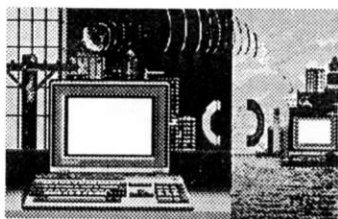
We are continually introducing new and exciting products and services to make your time online more enjoyable. We have the very latest files each week from overseas. Why worry about dialling out to an overseas system for new files, when you can grab 'em right here on **SOFTEL**?

We are justifiably very proud of our organisation, and you, its members. We are continually being told we are the best bulletin board and information system in the country. We have you to thank for that! Without your ongoing support we would not survive.

I hope you will find the contents of this catalogue useful, and that you'll give us a call, either to register, or for a demonstration. Remember you can call our voice number below at any time during business hours. We are waiting for your call.

Thanks for considering **SOFTEL Online Systems**.

What is an ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICE?



An online information service is essentially an extension of your computer. Using your computer, and a device called a modem, you can get hundreds of thousands of software programs, communicate with people all over the world, receive information on countless topics: TV guides, business directories, weather forecasts etc. You are also able to communicate with people who are experts in various fields, for help and advice with your computer.

A term you will hear a lot when you use a modem is "BBS" or "Bulletin Board System". A BBS is an information service that uses personal computers to allow people with computers to call and leave or read messages, and receive or

send software to other people via the telephone lines. With a network of over 7 computers and 10 telephone lines, SOFTEL is the largest Online Service in Southern Africa. Consider what a membership on SOFTEL would do for you:

*** Save 100's of Rands**

by downloading software from a collection of **over 50,000 programs and files.**

*** Send and receive mail around the world**

through our links with 5 international networks.

*** Get info on 100's of topics**

from over 100 online "forums" or "conferences"

*** Get the LATEST software *locally***

from our weekly MEGA tapes from the USA and the UK.

Did you know you can register for membership online?

Simply type **SUBS** at the Main Prompt to use your credit card.

A **SOFTEL Online Membership** would make a **GREAT GIFT** for yourself!

Our free-access modem line is at (031) 75-3554.

Give us a call for a **FREE Online Demonstration**, or to register.

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What 50,000 files can do for you

SOFTEL has built up a collection of over 50,000 files to date, and more than 50 megabytes are added to our collection each and every week. Each new file is carefully scanned for viruses, sorted according to subject and placed in a carefully designated area online for members to download.

When people hear we have over 50,000 up-to-date files online at SOFTEL they normally ask "But what files do you have that are useful to me?". The answer is that everyone who has a computer will find files on SOFTEL that they need. The list of subjects in the middle of this page covers only a tiny fraction of what is actually on offer at SOFTEL.

Files for ALL types

SOFTEL has files for both IBM and AMIGA computers at this time. There is a separate conference area specifically for the AMIGA computer if you should have one of these marvellous machines.

Many types of files

SOFTEL software generally falls into three categories: stand-alone programs, text files and enhancement programs for other software packages.

Stand-alone programs contain all the files you need to use the program. All

you have to do is download the file, uncompress it and you can use it right away.

Text files contain plain text and can be viewed or printed through your computer's operating system or a word processing program. Text files include

bulletins, magazines, fiction, TV listings, BBS listings or travel information.

The enhancement programs are designed to be used with other, usually commercially sold programs. For example, SOFTEL

has file areas devoted to programs such as dBASE, 1-2-3, Word Perfect, Clipper, Windows and many others. If you already own a commercial program like one of those

mentioned above, you will find hundreds of utilities designed with you in mind to help you use the package in new and better ways.

Continued on next Page

Word Processing
Spreadsheets * Databases
Telecommunications
Multi-Tasking * Fonts
DeskTop Publishing
Arcade Games * Genealogy
Graphics * Windows
Artificial Intelligence
AutoCAD * Finance * Cache
Statistics * Languages
Maths * Science * Sports
Astronomy * History * Golf
Board Games * Music
Programming * Utilities
Virus Management * Backup
Archives * Printers

Continued from previous page

Finding a File is Easy

All files on **SOFTEL** are sorted by subject area and category. For example, if you wanted to download a file from the **AMIGA** collection, you would first "join" conference number 2 (the **AMIGA** file and message area) and then browse the **AMIGA** files in that area. If you wanted the files on our **CD ROM** disks you would "join" area 43 (our **CD-ROM** area) and browse the files there. **IBM** files are in our **Main Board** area, which is area 0 (zero). If you don't have the time to sit and browse through our many listings, you may use our unique **LIST** utility to gather only those lists you want and download them to your computer. Once you have them your end you are able to browse through them at your leisure.

When you find the file you are after, you are able to download it to your computer.

The file listings include the file name, the size of the file, the date it was obtained by **SOFTEL Online Systems** and a short description of its function. If you are looking for a specific file or subject area you search in much the same way you search a database. You can search by filename, date, or use a keyword to search both name and description. You can even use multiple keywords to search for your file. For example, to find "Hewlet Packard printer fonts" you could search for "HP" and "font". Once you have found the file you are looking for you will be able to "flag" it for later download to your system.

Compression saves Time!

Most files online are compressed using one of the many compression methods. The **.ZIP** method is by far the most popular. After you have downloaded a compressed **.ZIP** file, you run an uncompression utility like **PKunZIP** to uncompress the file into its original form. At **SOFTEL** we have all the compression utilities you will ever need for this task.

Announcing!

The SOFTTEL Store

For the LOWEST Cash Prices in Town!

Members Only! (031) 75-4055

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CONFERENCES

Information and discussion on any Topic!

Christian	International	EuroChat	Buy & Sell
Science	OS/2	Technical	Pascal
Electronics	Amiga	Windows	Space
Gaming	Outdoors	HAM Radio	Unix
C Programs	HST Modem	BASIC	Dutch
DR DOS	Religion	DeskTop	Genealogy
Midi	DOS5	Travel	and 100's more!

Discussion Forums

Conferences on **SOFTEL** are basically discussion forums for people with similar interests. Since most messages "posted" to the conference are available for all to browse and read, you can find out a lot about a particular topic based on discussions in the conference. You can also send your own messages to the conference to comment on an existing discussion, or start your own by asking a question. Because of the wide coverage of the conferences, it may not be unusual to have an expert answer your query within a matter of days.

Vendor Supported

Conferences on **SOFTEL** may also be supported by the author of the particular package, or creator of the hardware or item you are using. This is known as *vendor support* and is a popular way of discovering how to get the most out of the item being supported. There are conferences

supporting **Qmodem** the terminal package, **MicroSoft Windows** and hundreds more. These are areas where there is usually high traffic and plenty of useful information.

Special Areas

Don't forget to check out some of the special conference areas, such as **MEGA** where subscribers may get the **latest files** before they are moved to the Main Board areas for general consumption. There is also the CD-ROM conference - Where files on the CD disks are available to you to download.

You may also want to have a look at the various **BUY** and **SELL** conferences on **SOFTEL**. Or have a look in the online shopping areas, where you may buy books, games, software and hardware, as well as household goodies not available anywhere else in South Africa or the world!

Shopping and conferencing is an exciting aspect of being online.

Send Mail Direct to Someone Anywhere in the World For FREE!

Using **SOFTEL** you are able to send private mail person to person anywhere in the world, **free of charge!** This is thanks to the connections **SOFTEL** has with up to 5 international networks around the globe. The major network is **USENET**. This network covers thousands of



sites, and reaches over **20 million people worldwide**. All you have to know is the other person's site address and user name. To find out the other person's user name and address you will have to call them or leave them mail in one of the many

conventional conference areas on **SOFTEL**. **FidoNET** mail is another very popular network with thousands of member systems worldwide. **SOFTEL** is the national hub for the exciting new **ILink** mail network. We are responsible for the "echo" of mail each day to hundreds of systems worldwide. Mail is one of the *many* benefits of joining **SOFTEL**.

8 Years Service to You

SOFTEL was founded in 1984 using a Commodore 64 and single floppy drive! The system has grown since then to its present size on DOS type equipment. **SOFTEL** was formed to service the Commodore computer, and gradually grew to cover machines such as the mighty AMIGA, IBM DOS and OS/2 type computers. **SOFTEL** has grown to its present size **only because of people like you**. We rely totally on your subscriptions to keep the wheels turning, with fresh files and information coming in regularly. Our Online System is known throughout South Africa and even in faraway places such as England, Europe and the USA. We have callers from as far away as The Isle of Man and Norway! With your help we will continue to grow and serve you!

Please take the time to read through this catalogue, then why not telephone us and register for membership on the best Online Service in South Africa? Our sales line is open during business hours only. After those hours please leave a message and someone will get back to you during the next business day.

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SOFTEL'S Features

From our single line roots in 1984, we have grown to our predominant position in the South African community.

Our system runs on a LANTASTIC network, with nine computers and 5 + gigabytes of online storage. A membership to **SOFTEL** gives you total access to all our many conferences, all file areas (containing many thousands of files) and also entitles you to "download by post" via The Highway Software Club at special member rates. (See page 14)

We have extensive vendor support available via our many conference areas and a really extensive messaging service via our three major networks.

SOME FEATURES:-

A full time System Operator

The system is supervised all day, to ensure that you are able to access **SOFTEL** on an ongoing basis, without interruption. The **SYSOP** is Chris Kenward, who is available most times for technical help and answers to your questions about the workings of the system.

Support for TWO computers

We support the IBM as well as the AMIGA computer. Most other systems support only one type. We think you'll like us!

Extensive File Areas

SOFTEL has over 200 file areas for you to browse through. Think of a topic, and we are bound to have a file for it! Our files are categorised in an easy to learn and use format, for your convenience.

Security

We only accept files from known sources when we gather files from abroad. All our locally uploaded files are checked extensively for the presence of viruses and trojans.

Activity

SOFTEL is the most active system on the African Continent. Because of our 150+ calls per day your messages are seen by more users, and you are ensured of fresh new items appearing online on an ongoing basis.

Conferences

Over 100 conference areas, with more being added all the time ensure you have adequate reading material to keep you busy!

MEGA Tapes Weekly

Our system receives over 50 megabytes **every week** of **brand new files**, some no more than a week old. We are the premier file base in the Southern Hemisphere. Files arrive **first** on **SOFTEL**.

How Much? ..and what do I get for my money?

Softel Subscriptions

Credits Subscriptions

BRONZE	12.00
(4 megabytes and 4 hours - Use it as you like)	
SILVER	24.00
(8 megabytes and 8 hours - Use it as you like)	
GOLD	48.00
(16 megabytes and 16 hours - Use it as you like)	
PLATINUM	96.00
(32 megabytes and 32 hours - Use it as you like)	

Monthly Subscriptions

SAPPHIRE	90.00
(6 months to expiry - 1 meg per day - 70 mins per day)	
EMERALD	175.00
(12 months to expiry - 1 meg per day - 80 mins per day)	
DIAMOND	220.00
(12 months to expiry - 2 meg per day - 120 mins per day)	

See next page for details of our unique WEEKLY subscriptions on SOFTEL Online Systems

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SOFTTEL WEEKLY Subscriptions

These subscriptions have been chosen specifically for those of you who want to be able to stay online for longer each call. The **TIME** level of 500 minutes and the **BYTE** level of 6 Megabytes is reset each week. There are no limits to the amount of time you may spend online, nor the number of files you may download to your computer, within your subscription.

2 weeks	20.00
4 weeks	36.00
5 weeks	45.00
6 weeks	55.00
7 weeks	65.00
8 weeks	72.00
9 weeks	85.00
12 weeks	100.00

This subscription level would be particularly good for the corporate type user or the user who may wish to spend time on the system chatting to other users without worrying about the time he/she has left.

Purchasers of this subscription level may elect to use their corporate name on the system as their account name if they should so desire. They are also able to use conference 99 (the advertising conference) for corporate adverts and messages.

The *weekly subscription* is rapidly becoming a hit on SOFTEL. If you need more information on our various subscription levels and rates, please telephone us at the number listed at the bottom of the page.

"I have heard that Bulletin Boards spread Viruses?"

We are asked this question over and over again. One reads this type of thing in the papers and computer magazines. Published usually by people who know little of the activities of Bulletin Boards and Online Services.

The truth of the matter is that there are very few systems that actively spread viruses, pirated software and pornography. The majority of BBS operators have spent far too much time and money on their systems to warrant taking the chance of having their equipment confiscated by the Police. These systems never last long and are an insignificant part of the huge majority.

At SOFTEL we check!

Every file that reaches our system, whether it be on tape, disk, uploaded to us or collected by our automated file gathering system, is thoroughly and extensively checked for viruses. In the years we have been operating we are proud to say we have never been affected by a virus, nor have we knowingly passed on a virus to another computer.

We also check to ensure that all files arriving on our system are "clean", that is to say they are not pornographic or sexually explicit, and are not "commercial" programs hiding under the guise of public domain. Should any files of this nature be found on our system we immediately take steps to

remove them. The person responsible for uploading the file to us is usually given a verbal warning not to try that type of stunt again. There is no second time!

The MEGA tapes arriving from the UK and USA are also checked extensively one file at a time by our staff before they find their way to our file areas. This way you can be absolutely sure you are not going to download a file you or your family don't want to see in your home!



NEW!

**If you're not sure,
call us and ask
about our 1 week
trial membership!**

**For new members
wanting to try us
out, just R10 gets
you going for a
FULL WEEK at 6
Megs and 500
minutes ONLINE!**

**Demo Line:
75-3554**

**You can't buy this
much fun at this price
ANYWHERE!**

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Presenting The Highway Software Club

A unique form of distribution?

For those of you out there who don't want the cost (telephone charges) of dialling **SOFTEL** each day but do want the brand new files we receive each week, we present The Highway Software Club. **Est. 1982.**

Shareware is normally distributed on a disk with only one program on it and a lot of wasted space. *Not so with The Highway Software Club!* We compress our files and allow you to choose what you want on your disk. As long as the files you choose fit on the disk you may choose as many files as you like for each disk.

Call it *downloading by post* if you like. It is the most convenient way to get your software without actually dialling into **SOFTEL**.

A number of our callers use the club for those files which they feel will take too long to transfer from our system to theirs. An ideal alternative!

How do I join?

Easy! When you become a **SOFTEL** subscriber you automatically become a Highway Software Club member as well! No extra fees - No extra hassle - Just let us know by telephone or online that you are interested in details of the club and we will post you our informative club brochure. This tells you how to order from us, as well as providing you with order forms and a special catalogue reader.

The club is hugely popular in South Africa and the UK (yes... we are truly an international organisation) with people "wising up" and joining daily. Why not give serious thought to joining **SOFTEL Online** today? We are truly **here for you** at your service. With **SOFTEL Online** your computer will spring to life as never before!

What does the Club cost?

That's an easy one? We have already told you that your subscription fee for **SOFTEL** will grant you membership of the club. The disk copy charges are as follows:

5.25" 360k	R 6.00
5.25" 1.2m	R12.00

3.5" 720k	R 8.00
3.5" 1.4m	R15.00

Postage

Each disk mailer will take 5 disks. For each order of up to five disks you will be charged **R3.00** for postage. This takes care of the cost of disk mailer and certified post to you.

If you need any more information on The Highway Software Club please telephone us. Our help line is available 24 hours a day. After hours there is an answering machine. Please leave a message there and we will get back to you the next day.

**Rodney Shaw,
Pinetown, SA
says:**

"That User Guide is brilliant. I have saved money online now that I know what commands to use at the right time. The best investment (other than my Softel Subscription) I've made"

**Rob Fisher, author
of ROBLIST says:**

"Thanks for your user guide. I didn't realise SOFTEL had so many hidden and powerful commands until I bought it!"



NOW only

Truly a SOFTEL User's Best Friend!

**The SOFTEL
User Guide -
FULL of useful
tips for getting
the MOST out
of SOFTEL!**

R20

exc. VAT & POSTAGE

**No caller should be without
it! It'll save you money!**

Please add VAT at 10% and Postage at R3.00

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Why our members win at

The SOFTEL Store

The SOFTEL Store is not a retail computer shop, nor is it a front for any of the wholesalers around the town. Our policy is simple:

If you are a **SOFTEL Online** member, or a **Highway Software Club** member, you are able to buy from this, your very own "buying club", at our cost plus 10% on every item we carry! This is our way of saying thank you for subscribing. We have been registered as a computer dealer for some 10 years and have built up a considerable number of contacts in the trade. We are prepared to pass this along to you, the person we are here to serve!

Remember - We have been around for 10 years! We are placing our cards on the table for you - You want a motherboard for your computer? Let **SOFTEL Online** buy it for you. You pay only *our wholesale cost plus 10% guaranteed!* (Plus VAT).

What's the catch? There *is* no catch! The one thing we ask for doing you this service is that you pay with cash or by cheque for the goods you buy from us. This saves us from the dreaded 5% the credit card companies take from us. This incredible "buying club" offer is strictly available to **SOFTEL Online members only**. There are no exceptions to this rule. Why not consider what we at **SOFTEL Online** are offering you?

For a small membership fee for the Highway Software Club, or for the price of your subscription to **SOFTEL Online Systems**, you will be able to buy computer equipment, accessories, books, CD's, household products and many other goodies **directly from the wholesaler or manufacturer, plus 10%**! Now is this an offer you can refuse?

For more information if you remain uncertain about any aspect of our service, please telephone us and chat to Chris or Cindy at the number listed below. We are genuinely going to move Heaven and Earth to help you get the goods you want at the **best possible price available**.

ROBLIST

South Africa's PREMIER list of
Bulletin Boards nation wide

**ALWAYS
AVAILABLE
FIRST ON
SOFTEL**



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ONLINE Games

SOFTEL has some of the most exciting and challenging online games for your enjoyment. Games such as **SCRABBLE** to test your word power, **BINGO** for a little flutter, **ACES** to see if you are any good at cards, **KING** to challenge you at world trivia, and many many more..

We have weekly and monthly competitions on **SOFTEL** with generous prizes and public acknowledgment of the winners!

All the games listed above are extremely popular, and people all over South Africa pop into **SOFTEL** every day to make sure they get their turn at one or more of them. Competition is tight, with many ribald messages in the main message base letting the opposition know if they have been bettered. Huge fun indeed! **SOFTEL**

also has a progressive *slot machine* for your enjoyment. With realistic play and feel, and fierce competition from many other callers, this game has to rate as one of most popular of all time. Have a look at the **SLOTS** game next time you are online on **SOFTEL** by typing **SLOTS** at the main menu.

Fancy a game of Poker? Blackjack? Want to play one of the classic adventures online? Enjoy galactic empire creation? Ten Pin Bowling? It's all here for you on **SOFTEL Online** - The BIG one in Africa.

"You can't have this much fun for this little money anywhere in the world!"

Rob Fisher - Author of ROBLIST

OFFLINE Mail

Offline mail reading is the new way to save money on **SOFTEL**. Download an offline reader and use our **QMAIL** or **MARKMAIL** doors to get your mail. Download the mail to your computer, get off **SOFTEL** and read the mail using your reader in the comfort of your home, without having to worry about online charges.

Once you have read and replied to the mail (in much the same way you would on **SOFTEL**) you simply dial **SOFTEL** and upload your replies to

our system. The **QMAIL** or **MARKMAIL** door will sort it and place it into the correct mail areas. Easy!

AND cost effective! No more spending hours on **SOFTEL** reading the new mail. Offline reading has taken the entire online world by storm. People are making friends all over the world via **SOFTEL**. Isn't it time you thought about becoming a **SOFTEL Online** member, so that you can enjoy all these benefits and more?

For more about offline reading give us a call at the number listed below, and register for membership. We are waiting for your call!

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Chatting on SOFTEL

For those of you who enjoy interaction between users, we have a first class CHAT facility on **SOFTEL**.

You are able to chat to other users online at the same time in real time. This normally ends in grand and animated discussions about loads of different subjects, and has even ended in a user "getting together" for a date with another user!

On **SOFTEL** we like to encourage this chat facility, and to that end we

will regularly arrange a "personality" to chat online to whoever chooses to join the discussion.

Chatting on **SOFTEL** is limited to those who subscribe. Once you have joined in a social chat session you will wonder where the time went! *Chatting* online is really a great experience, as you cannot see the person you are chatting to. This normally results in great chat sessions, and some laughs. Join as a subscribing member today!

How to contact us

International +27 31

Voice: (031) 75-4055

Fax : (031) 765-5588

Modem: (031) 75-3554

First 5 lines

(031) 765-5045

P.O.Box 10050

(031) 765-5508

ASHWOOD 3605

(031) 765-5513

South Africa

(031) 765-5514

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SPECIAL OFFER!

Buy a Platinum or Diamond
Subscription and we will give you
FREE!

1 x SOFTEL Manual worth R 20

1 x Terminator v4.0+ worth 12

latest version of the best terminal
package we have ever seen!

Your FREE Gift value R 32

ORDER

Platinum

Diamond

YES PLEASE!

R96.00

R220.00

I want (tick box)

☐☐

ORDERED BY:

If you are not paying by card please simply enclose a
cheque or postal order for the correct amount.

Send your order to P.O.Box 10050, ASHWOOD, 3605

CREDIT CARD ORDER FORM

Please Tick

Please debit my credit card as follows:



VISA CARD

☐

MASTER CARD

☐

NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

EXPIRY

--	--	--	--

SIGNATURE _____

Produced by:
SOFTTEL Online Systems
P.O.Box 10050, ASHWOOD, 3605, South Africa