■ Handbook of Handhelds on Hand

Creative Digital Publishing of San Francisco has released its 1997 edition of *The Handheld Computer Almanac,* a 130-page guide to products and services for portable computers. Hardware, software, consultants, system integrators, resellers, and publications are all listed and indexed.

Printed in a "convenient 8.5 × 11-inch format," the book sells for $25 from the publisher. To order, contact CDPI at 415.621.4252 or visit *www.cdpubs.com.*

■ Semiconductor Fabrication for Dummies

Well, not exactly. Scottsdale market-research firm Integrated Circuit Engineering (ICE) offers 2.5-day seminars on **Practical Integrated Circuit Fabrication**. The traveling show passes through several major U. S. cities and covers basic semiconductor junctions, crystal-growing techniques, dielectric formation, photolithography, process control, and an overview of CMOS, ECL, TTL, and linear bipolar processes.

Also from Integrated Circuit Engineering comes the 500-page *Advanced VLSI Fabrication,* a guide to semiconductor manufacturing. The book covers basic semiconductor theory, design aspects, equations for the diffusion process, metallization functions, metal-related reliability problems, and parameters associated with photoresist. It even comes with a cutaway diagram of a Czochralski silicon crystal grower.

Seminar days run from 8:30 to 4:30 (third day ends at noon); the $675 fee includes lunch and materials. The book is available directly from ICE for $1,800; additional copies are $940 apiece. For more information contact ICE (Scottsdale, Ariz.) at 602.368.8260 or via the Web at *www.ice-corp.com/ice.*

■ Signals Processed in San Diego

The eighth annual **International Conference on Signal Processing Applications and Technology (ICSPAT)** is coming to the scenic San Diego (Calif.) waterfront September 14–17. The program will feature presentations of more than 400 technical papers, four days of workshops and tutorials, and three days of exhibits. Topics will range from active noise cancellation to wavelets, algorithms to speech analysis, and native signal processing to neural networks.

Registration fees run from $195 for one workshop to $750 for the full program. To register, contact ICSPAT '97 (Carrollton, Texas) at 972.620.3007 or through *www.dspworld.com.*

■ SPEC Shows Industrial-Strength Benchmarks

The Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation (SPEC) has released its first set of results for **SPEChpc96**, a benchmark for industrial, high-performance applications. Specifically, it tests performance in seismic and computational chemistry fields. Results are available on the Web at *www.specbench.org/hpg.*