**Top Gun Blazes Video CD-I Trail**

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Top Gun, the first film to be released on compact disc, will touch down in the UK next week.

Its arrival marks the long-awaited debut of a format hailed by many as the successor to the ageing VHS standard.

At present the film can only be watched through a Philips CD-i player equipped with a Digital Video cartridge total cost |pounds~550.

The films and Digital Video cartridges will initially be distributed through electrical retailers such as Dixons, and will be backed with a |pounds~3m ad campaign from Philips which begins on October 14.

Other CD-i films in the pipeline include Indecent Proposal, Patriot Games and Fatal Attraction. An interactive version of bestseller The Joy of Sex, complete with "explicit but tasteful" video footage will also be released this month.

In addition, Philips claims the next generation of interactive movies in which the viewer has a say in the plot are already in production.

Simon Turner, CD-i's director, says the impact of films on CD and the state-of-the art graphics that Digital Video brings to games will give a major boost to the Philips-backed format.

"The implications of this development are far reaching -- it will have the same impact as the launch of the video recorder," he claims. …

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