5 Minutes or 5 Hours?

sorting techniques compared

N	Ripple	Modified	Bubble	S-M					
50	61	43	33	9					
100	245	173	130	21					
150	552	390	290	36					
300			1224	85					
Number of Swaps of Entries									
Ν	Ripple	Modified	Bubble	S-M					
50	1225	1225	1225	105					
100	4950	4950	4950	260					
150	11175	11175	11175	425					

Time Required to Sort N Items (seconds)

Number of Entry Comparisons

44850

1000

300

Ν	Ripple	Modified	Bubble	S-M
50	2450	1225	1225	263
100	9900	4950	4950	668
150	22350	11175	11175	1187
300			44850	2812

Table 1.

In an attempt to help justify the purchase of a floppy-disk system, I decided to put the computer to some practical use. It seems that not everyone considers piloting the Enterprise and destroying Klingons as a useful function worthy of another kilobuck investment. Using the system to keep track of household expenses seemed to be a good place to start. The Do-All program by Randy Miller (Kilobaud, August 1977) provided an ideal program.

After the program was loaded, a list of about a hundred items was entered for my demonstration of the practical advantages of a home computer. Everyone gathered for the show, and the program was run. A command was given to sort the list of data alphabetically. Everyone stared at the printer waiting for the output

from this electronic marvel. Nothing happened.

Taking advantage of the pause and the presence of a captive audience, I discussed the advantages of adding a disk to the wonderful computer. At the end of my rather lengthy discussion there was still nothing on the printer. As time wore on, I began to consider the possibilities: hardware problems, software problems or simply another example of Murphy's Law. I felt there must be something wrong. After all, the Enterprise could move across the entire galaxy in only seconds, so alphabetizing this list could not take that long. Trying to remain cool, I suggested that we leave the computer and come back when it was done.

Much to my suprise, thirty minutes later the sorting was

```
5 REM --- RIPPLE SORT ---
6 REM --- SET UP ARRAY ---
10 N=150
20 DIM D(N)
30 J=N
40 FOR I = 1 TO N
50 D(I)=J
60 J=J-1
70 NEXT
80 PRINT "*"
90 REM --- START OF SORT ---
100 M=N
105 C=0
110 FOR I = 1 TO M-1
120 CM=CM+1
130 IF D(I) <= D(I+1) THEN 160
135 SW=SW+1
140 T=D(I): D(I) = D(I+1): D(I+1) = T
15Ø C=1
160 NEXT I
170 IF C=1 THEN 105
300 REM --- PRINT RESULTS ---
310 PRINT "SWITCHES =" :SW
320 PRINT "COMPARISONS =" ; C M
330 PRINT "SIZE -":N
OK
```

Program A.

complete. The printout revealed that the list had been sorted exactly as requested. What could have caused the delay? Perhaps my 8080 was slow. The benchmark programs in the basic timing comparisons article (*Kilobaud*, June 1977) were run and revealed that my computer ran a little faster than the one used for the article.

Since the program ran properly and the computer was up to speed, the solution to the problem must be in the sorting technique used in the program. An article on sorting routines by Andrew J. Rerko (*Kilobaud*, April 1977) was consulted and some test programs (Programs A, B and C) were run using the Ripple, Modified Ripple and Bubble routines described in the article.

The test programs consisted of setting up an array of N numbers in reverse order and using each of the sorting routines to sort them. The program execution times as well as number of comparisons and the number of element switches were recorded. The results

are shown in Table 1. The results of this test revealed two things: The bubble sort was a little faster than the others, and sorting takes a lot of time. Sorting a simple table of 100 numbers took almost three minutes. No wonder the Do-All program took so long.

None of the common sorting methods described in Mr. Rerko's article would speed up a sorting program significantly. The solution to the problem, if any, would lie in an uncommon sorting routine. An article by John P. Grillo (Creative Computing, November 1976) discusses a technique called the Shell-Metzner Sort. This method offered significant speed advantages when sorting large amounts of data. A flowchart of the Shell-Metzner Sort is shown in Fig. 1. The article stated that a projected sort of 10,000,000 items would take 93 years using a bubble sort. Using the S-M technique, sorting the same data would require only 2.5 days. But would it help when sorting small amounts of data?

The benchmark sorting pro-

```
5 REM --- MODIFIED RIPPLE SORT ---
6 REM --- SET UP ARRAY ---
10 N=150
20 DIM D(N)
30 J=N
40 FOR I=1 TO N
50 D(I)=J
60 J=J-1
70 NEXT
80 PRINT "*"
90 REM --- START OF SORT ---
100 M=N
110 C=0
112 M=M-1
115 IF M=0 THEN 300
120 FOR I = 1 TO M
125 CM=CM+1
130 IF D(I) <= D(I+1) THEN 160
135 SW=SW+1
140 T=D(I):D(I)=D(I+1):D(I+1)=T
150 C=1
160 NEXT I
170 IF C=1 THEN 110
300 REM --- PRINT RESULTS ---
310 PRINT "SWITCHES =" ;SW
320 PRINT "COMPARISONS =" :C M
330 PRINT "SIZE -"; N
```

Program B.

```
5 REM --- BUBBLE SORT ---
6 REM --- SET UP ARRAY ---
10 N=150
20 DIM D(N)
30 J=N
40 FOR I = 1 TO N
50 D(I)=J
60 J=J-1
70 NEXT
80 PRINT "*"
90 REM --- START OF SORT ---
100 M=N
110 FOR I=1 TO M-1
120 FOR J=I+1 TO M
125 CM=CM+1
130 IF D(I) <= D(J) THEN 170
135 SW=SW+1
140 T=D(I):D(I)=D(J):D(J)=T
170 NEXT J
180 NEXT I
300 REM --- PRINT RESULTS ---
310 PRINT "SWITCHES =" ;SW
320 PRINT "COMPARISONS =" ;CM
330 PRINT "SIZE -":N
O K
```

Program C.

gram was run using the S-M method and is shown in Program D. When sorting 150 items, the S-M sort was over eight times faster than the bubble sort and over 15 times faster than a ripple sort. The bubble sort required over 20 minutes to

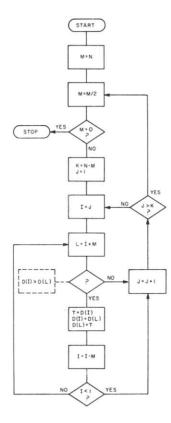


Fig. 1. Shell-Metzner Sort.

sort 300 items. The S-M method required only 85 seconds to sort the same list. The speed advantage of the S-M sort increases dramatically with the size of the list, but it seemed to speed sorts of even small lists.

The next step was to incorporate the S-M sort technique into the Do-All program and try it out. A random list of 100 entries was prepared and sorted by the standard program. Almost 45 minutes were required to sort this list. The Do-All program was then modified to use the S-M sort. Sorting the same list of 100 entries now required less than nine minutes. To modify the Do-All program, remove lines 4050-4115, 4150-4280, 9220-9340 and replace with the new lines shown in Progam E.

The only disadvantage I have found with the S-M technique so far is that it does require slightly more code, and it uses five index variables rather than

```
5 REM --- SHELL METZNER SORT ---
 6 REM --- SET UP ARRAY ---
 10 N=300
20 DIM D(N)
 30 J=N
 40 FOR I = 1 TO N
 50 D(I)=J
 60 J=J-1
 70 NEXT
 80 PRINT "*"
 90 REM --- START OF SORT ---
 100 M=N
•110 M=INT(M/2)
 120 IF M=0 THEN 300
 130 J=1 : K=N-M
1 40 I = J
*150 L=I+M
 155 CM=CM+1
 160 IF D(I) < D(L) THEN 210
 17Ø T=D(I): D(I) =D(L): D(L) = T
 175 SW=SW+1
 180 I=I-M
 190 IF I<1 THEN 210
 200 GOTO 150
· 210 J=J+1
 220 IF J>K THEN 110
 230 GOTO 140
.300 REM --- PRINT RESULTS ---
 310 PRINT "SWITCHES =" :SW
 320 PRINT "COMPARISONS =" ;CM
 330 PRINT "SIZE -" ; N
              Program D.
```

only one or two as other sorting methods. Following the example benchmark program, it should be possible to use the S-M technique in other sorting programs.

Notes on Programs

All programs were run on an

8080 system with a 2 MHz clock and zero wait states. Mits 8K BASIC (Version 3.2) was used. Variable CM was used to total the number of comparisons between table entries. The variable SW was used to total the number of switches between table entries.

```
LIST 4050
4050 M=P
4055 M=INT(M/2)
4060 IF M=0 THEN 1140
4065 J=1 : K=(P-1)-M
4070 I=J
4075 L=I+M
4080 IF N(T,I) <= N(T,L) THEN 4105
4085 GOSUB 9210
4090 I=I-M
4095 IF I < 1 THEN 4105
4100 GOTO 4075
4105 J=J+1
4110 IF J>K THEN 4055
4115 GOTO 4070
BR EAK
LIST 4150
41 50 M=P
41 60 M=INT(M/2)
4170 IF M=0 THEN 1140
4180 J=1 : K=(P-1)-M
4190 I=J
4200 L=I+M
4210 IF A$(T,I) <= A$(T,L) THEN 4260
4220 GOSUB 9210
4230 I=I-M
42 40 IF I < 1 THEN 42 60
42 50 GO TO 42 00
42 60 J=J+1
4270 IF J>K THEN 4160
4280 GOTO 4190
BR EAK
OK
LIST 9220
9220 XI = N(I,L)
9230 X2 = N(2,L)
92 40 B1$=A$(1,L)
92 50 B2 $= A$(2,L)
92 60 FOR Z =1 TO 2
9270 N(Z,L) = N(Z,I)
9280 A$(Z,L) =A$(Z,I)
9290 NEXT
9300 N(1,I)=X1
9310 N(2,1)=X2
9320 A$(1,I)=B1$
9330 A$(2,I)=B2$
9340 RETURN
BR EAK
OK
               Program E.
```

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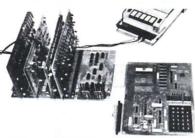
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F8

Do-It-Yourself Time-sharing

it's easier than you think

Mike Kop 3060 Marshall Ave. Cincinnati OH 45220

When I first learned to program I was taught how to sign on to a computer system using a teletypewriter, type in a program and obtain the results at the terminal almost immediately. Other users around me, each working on his own program, were using similar type terminals. It appeared that each user had the entire computer to himself! This amazed and perplexed me. How could a computer run all the terminals and keep track of everybody-all at the same time? I conceded that the system was too complex to analyze (or perhaps it was sheer magic). Eventually I began to understand what went on by fighting my way through books on operating systems. I hope that future computer users will be spared a similar experience.

Last year, I purchased an M6800 system from SWTP. After programming on it for a while, I decided to investigate the possibility of implementing time-sharing on my system. It turns out to be simpler than you might think.

In this article, I will attempt to explain exactly why one would want to set up time-sharing and how it is done (for an M6800 system). I'll also try to explain some other programming considerations.

What is Time-sharing?

Time-sharing is accomplished by switching rapidly between many users. That means each user is allowed, in turn, a short duration of central processing unit (CPU) or microprocessing unit (MPU) time. This is called a time slice. For example, if the time slice were 50 milliseconds, then each user would use the processor for 50 milliseconds. If the switching is fast enough, the computer operation from each user's point of view will appear continuous.

Why Time-sharing?

The computer in a large system may cost several million dollars. Obviously, buying one computer for each user is extremely impractical. Sharing the computer among many users is a more effective way to utilize the system.

Another reason for time-

sharing is because a computer's input/output (I/O) devices are much slower than the processor. If a terminal is outputting characters at 30 cps, there is sufficient time between characters for other work. Thus, with time-sharing, literally two, three or more times as much work can be accomplished than by a single user.

Most of the reasons given for using time-sharing would also apply to a microcomputer system (perhaps on a smaller scale). One possible argument against its use in microprocessors would be that they're too slow. However, for programs that do a lot of input and output and use little processor time (most games and businesstype programs fall into this category), I see no reason why time-sharing cannot be implemented.

Using Interrupts

Proper use of interrupts comes first in implementing time-sharing. The ideas presented here are essentially the same, whether you have a small or large system.

An interrupt is basically a hardware mechanism that makes the microprocessor stop what it is doing and jump to another program (often known as a service routine). Sometimes it is possible to mask off an interrupt. If this happens, then the interrupt is ignored (or held pending until some later time).

Let's look briefly at the interrupt mechanisms on the SWTP system (which uses MIKBUG). There is a line marked IRQ (for interrupt request). If this line is temporarily gounded and the mask bit is a zero, an interrupt will occur. The system will then jump to the address contained in storage locations \$A000 and \$A001. One nice thing about the M6800 microprocessor is that when interrupted it stores everything (i.e., the condition code, B, A, X and program counter registers) on the stack. This means that little effort is required to remember where each program is when it was stopped. With other processors, you would typically have to store all registers away, which may take many instructions. One danger of this is that if another interrupt occurs before all registers are stored away, some register contents may be lost. The M6800 processor saves everything in one swoop.

Incidentally, you may, if desired, use the nonmaskable interrupt NMI instead of IRQ. The interrupt address would then be stored at locations \$A006 and \$A007. I prefer, however, to use an interrupt that is maskable.

Software

Program A actually implements time-sharing. The comments should aid you in understanding how the program works. It starts at address BEGIN. Also, some hardware must be set up so that an IRQ interrupt is generated at regular intervals (this is explained later). Each time an interrupt is generated, one program is stopped and the next one in line is started. For example, if program 1 is currently executing and we are timesharing three programs, then four interrupts will result in program 2 being executed (1 then 2 then 3 then 1 then 2). With Program A, you may time-share up to 15 different programs.

The part of the program that actually does the time-sharing (the service routine) is statements 69 to 83. Statements 1 to 64 merely initialize various parameters. The initialization routine basically works thus-initially each program is assigned a stack pointer. The stack-pointer addresses differ by 16 bytes. That is, program 1 has a stack-pointer value of END + 16, program 2 has a value of END + 32, etc. These values are stored at addresses STACK1, STACK2, etc.

The initialization routine also clears the condition-code register and stores the starting address of each program at the appropriate position in each stack. When the RTI instruction is executed, the processor fetches all registers (program counter included in the fetch) from the stack and starts (or resumes) a program at the ap-

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propriate address.

The purpose of clearing the condition code in the stack for each program is that when the RTI instruction is executed, the interrupt mask bit will not become set (which would lock up the system). For example, if the stack pointer were at \$0F00. we would clear address \$0F01 and store the starting address at address \$0F06. An RTI instruction would then load the condition-code register with \$00 and the program counter with the number at address \$0F06. Initially, we don't care what the other register contents are.

The service routine performs a very simple function. It stops the current program from executing and runs the next program in line; it accomplishes this by storing away the current stack pointer and loading the next one. When the RTI instruction is executed, we do not return exactly where we left off

(that is, resume execution of the same program) as is normally done. Instead, we go to the next program. This occurs because the stack pointer has been changed.

You will also observe that in the service routine, I purposely store data where instructions are. This is a trick I use to make the service routine execute quickly, although in general this is not good practice. I do have another version of the service routine that does not do this; however, it is slightly longer.

For a simple demonstration of time-sharing, Program B may be used. This program assumes that you have a serial interface port (which uses an ACIA) at the correct baud rate at address \$8008. You will also have to have a terminal plugged in at this address. We will call this terminal 2. Terminal 1 will be at the control interface. If you run the Program B starting

Program A. Time-share program.

STMT	ADDR	CODE		STATEME	ENT			
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	0E00 0E00 0E00 0E00 0E00 0E00 0E00 0E0	CE FF CE BD BD B7 16	0E92 A000 0E61 E07E E0AA 0EB2	STRING IN2HEX INHEX CR LF EOT BEGIN	ORG EQU EQU EQU EQU LDX STX LDX JSR JSR TAB	A	\$0E00 \$E07E \$E055 \$E0AA \$0D \$0A \$04 #SERVCE \$A000 #MES1 STRING INHEX NUMBER	INITIALIZE INTERRUPT REQUEST POINTER PRINT '#PROGRAMS = ' GET NUMBER OF PROGRAMS TO BE TIME SHARED
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	0E13 0E16 0E19 0E1C 0E1F 0E22 0E25 0E26 0E27	CE FF CE FF FE FF 08 08 FF	0EB3 0E5D 0EE1 0E5F 0E5D 0E2E	Al	LDX STX LDX STX LDX STX INX INX STX LDX		#STACK1 TEMP0 #END+16 TEMP TEMP0 ST0+1	X-REG NOW POINTS TO THE BEGINNING OF THE STACK AREA LOAD ADDRESS OF STACK I STORE ADDRESS OF STACK I+1
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38	0E2A 0E2D 0E30 0E32 0E34 0E36 0E39 0E3B 0E3D 0E40 0E43 0E46 0E49 0E4C	FE FF 6F 86 8D FF 86 8D FF CE BD BD FF 5A 26	0E5F FFFF 01 06 – 22 0E4A 0A 1B 0E5F 0E7S E07E 0E7C FFFF	ST0	STX CLR LDA BSR STX LDA BSR STX LDX JSR JSR STX DEC BNE	A A B	SFFFF 1,X #6 ADD ST+1 #10 ADD TEMP #MES2 STRING INPUTX \$FFFF	INITIALIZE STACK I CLEAR CONDITION CODE REGISTER I THE X-REG NOW POINTS TO THE ADDRESS WHERE THE STARTING ADDRESS OF PROGRAM I STARTS THE ADDRESS OF THE NEXT STACK WILL BE 16 BYTES AWAY FROM THE CURRENT STACK PRING 'START=' INPUT STARTING ADDRESS INITIALIZE PROGRAM COUNTER I

39 40 41	0E4F 0E51 0E54	86 B7 BE	01 0EB1 0EB3		LDA STA LDS	A A	#1 STATUS STACK1	BEGIN RUNNING PROGRAM#1
42 43 44 45	0E57 0E58 0E59 0E5A	3B 08 4A 26	FC	ADD	RTI INX DEC BNE	Α	ADD	THIS SUBROUTINE INCREASES THE X-REG BY THE VALUE IN THE A-REG
46 47 48 49 50	0E5C 0E5D 0E5F 0E61 0E63	39 0D0A 2350 524F 4752 414D 5328 312D		TEMP0 TEMP MES1	RTS RMB RMB FCB FCC	×	2 2 CR,LF /#PROGRA	MS(1-F)?/
51 52 53	0E72 0E73 0E75	4629 3F 04 0D0A 5354 4152		MES2	FCB FCB FCC		EOT CR,LF /START=/	
54 55 56 57 58 59	0E7B 0E7C 0E7D 0E7E 0E81 0E84	543D 04 36 37 BD B7 BD	E055 0E90 E055	INPUTX	FCB PSH PSH JSR STA JSR	A B	EOT IN2HEX DATA IN2HEX	SUBROUTINE TO INPUT THE X-REG
60 61 62 63 64 65	0E87 0E8A 0E8D 0E8E 0E8F 0E90	B7 FE 33 32 39	0E91 0E90	DATA	STA LDX PUL PUL RTS RMB	A B A	DATA+1 DATA	
66 67	0270					THE		
68				*STOP PRO	GRAM I	AND E	BEGIN RUNN	UTINE IS TO IING PROGRAM I + 1
69 70	0E92 0E95	CE B6	0EB1 0EB1	SERVICE	LDX LDA	Α	#STACK1-2 STATUS	DETERMINE THE PROGRAM CURRENTLY EXECUTING
71	0E98	48			ASL	Α		DETERMINE THE PROGRAM CORRENTED EXECUTING
72 73	0E99 0E9C	B7 AF	0E9D 00	ST1	STA STS	Α	ST1 + 1 X	SAVE THE STACK POINTER AT THE APPROPRIATE
74	0E9E	47		0.,	ASR	Α	*	ADDRESS(STACK1,STACK2,,STACKF)
75 76	0E9F 0EA0	4C B1	0EB2		INC CMP	A A	NUMBER	BEGIN TO EXECUTE THE NEXT PROGRAM CHECK FOR WRAP AROUND
77	0EA3	2F	02		BLE	Λ	L3	CHECK FOR WRAF AROUND
78 79	0EA5 0EA7	86 B7	01 0EB1	L3	LDA STA	A A	#1 STATUS	IF WRAP AROUND EXISTS EXECUTE PROGRAM#1 INDICATE THAT THE NEXT PROGRAM IS EXECUTING
80 81	0EAA 0EAB	48 B7	OFAE		ASL	Α		
82	0EAE	AE	0EAF 00	ST2	STA LDS	A	ST2+1 X	LOAD THE APPROPRIATE STACK POINTER
83 84	0EB0 0EB1	3B		STATUS	RTI RMB		1	BEGIN ACTUAL EXECUTION CURRENT PROGRAM IN EXECUTION(1 TO F)
85 86	0EB2 0EB3			NUMBER STACK1	RMB RMB		1 2	TOTAL NUMBER OR PROGRAMS TO BE TIME SHARED STACK POINTER FOR PROGRAM#1
87 88	0EB5 0EB7			STACK2	RMB		2	STACK POINTER FOR PROGRAM#2
89	0EB9			STACK3 STACK4	RMB RMB		2 2	ETC
90 91	0EBB 0EBD			STACK5 STACK6	RMB RMB		2 2	
92	0EBF			STACK7	RMB		2	
93 94	0EC1 0EC3			STACK8 STACK9	RMB RMB		2 2	
95 96	0EC5 0EC7			STACKA STACKB	RMB RMB		2 2	
97	0EC9			STACKC	RMB		2	
98 99	0ECB 0ECD			STACKD STACKE	RMB RMB		2 2	
100 101	0ECF			STACKF	RMB		2	
102 103	0ED1			END *	EQU		•	
104 105	A048 A048	0E00			ORG FDB		\$A048 BEGIN	
SYM	ROI	VALUE	DEFN	REFERENC	TEC			
STRI		E07E	2	11 34				

at address \$0000, a series of zeros should be printed out on terminal 2. Starting at address \$0008 will result in a printout of all ones.

We will now time-share both parts of this program. For this part, first press the reset button. This will set the mask bit to a one. Now set the interrupt rate to a very slow value, say once every ten seconds if possible. (We'll discuss the hardware to accomplish this in a moment.) Now run Program A, starting at address BEGIN (\$0E00). You will then be required to type in the number of programs you want (this is a single hex number from 1 to F) to time-share, followed by their respective starting addresses. The data is entered as follows:

> #PROGRAMS(1-F)?2 START = 0000 START = 0008

After having done the above, you should see the printout at terminal 2 alternate between strings of ones. If you slowly increase the interrupt rate you will notice that the respective strings become shorter and shorter.

If you do not have a second terminal, you may unplug the terminal from the control interface in each of the above steps and plug it into the other port after having typed a G. Be very careful when doing this; you should avoid the practice in general.

Perhaps you have wondered why I used another I/O port and not MIKBUG directly. MIKBUG outputs a character by software, bit by bit. If you were to interrupt the output routine, the output bits would not appear at the proper time. That is, you cannot output part of a character now and the other part later. This problem does not occur with an ACIA because a character is output by a single store instruction.

Hardware

As stated previously, interrupts must be generated at regular intervals. An interrupt should be generated by a pulse that grounds the IRQ line for a very short duration before returning to a high state. This is because the IRQ line must return to its high state before the service routine has completed its job. If this is not done, then another interrupt will occur immediately after the service is completed, causing some programs to be skipped in execution. A pulse duration of 50 microseconds works quite well. An interrupt will not occur inside the service routine because the mask bit will be set at that time. If, however, you decide to use NMI instead, your pulse must be much narrower (e.g., 10 microseconds). Otherwise, the service routine may keep interrupting itself, which can lead to difficulties!

If you have a signal generator that can generate a pulse, so much the better. I also understand that SWTP now has available an interrupt timer board. In place of these alternatives, you may use the circuit shown in Fig. 1. There are no doubt other circuits that will work as well. Resistors R1 and

IN2HEX	E055	3	57	59	
INHEX	E0AA	4	12		
CR	000D	5	49	52	
LF	000A	6	49	52	
EOT	0004	7	51	54	
BEGIN	0E00	8	105		
A1	0E1F	19	38		
ST0	0E2D	25	20		
ST	0E49	36	29		
ADD	0E58	43	28	31	45
TEMP0	0E5D	47	16	19	23
TEMP	0E5F	48	18	24	32
MES1	0E61	49	10		
MES2	0E73	52	33		
INPUTX	0E7C	55	35		
DATA	0E90	65	58	60	61
SERVCE	0E92	69	8		
ST1	0E9C	73	72		
L3	0EA7	79	77		
ST2	0EAE	82	81		
STATUS	0EB1	84	40	70	79
NUMBER	0EB2	85	13	76	
STACK1	0EB3	86	15	41	69
STACK2	0EB5	87			
STACK3	0EB7	88			
STACK4	0EB9	89			
STACK5	0EBB	90			
STACK6	0EBD	91			
STACK7	0EBF	92			
STACK8	0EC1	93			
STACK9	0EC3	94			
STACKA	0EC5	95			
STACKB	0EC7	96			
STACKC	0EC9	97			
STACKD	0ECB	98			
STACKE	0ECD	99			
STACKF	0ECF	100			
END	0ED1	102	17		

STMT	ADI	OR	CO	DE	ST	ATEM	ENT		
1	0000		8D	0E	PR	GRM1	BSR		SETUP
2	0002		86	30	LO	OP1	LDA	Α	# ' O
3	0004		8D	18			BSR		OUTPUT
4	0006		20	FA			BRA		LOOP1
5	0008		8D	06	PR	GRM2	BSR		SETUP
6	000A		86	31	LO	OP2	LDA	A	#'1
7	000C		8D	10			BSR		OUTPUT
8	000E		20	FA			BRA		LOOP2
9	0010		FE	001C	SET	ΓUP	LDX		ACIA
10	0013		86	13			LDA	A	#\$13
11	0015		A7	00			STA	A	0,X
12	0017		86	11			LDA	A	#\$11
13	0019		A7	00			STA	Α	0,X
14	001B		39				RTS		
15	001C		8008		AC	IA	FDB		\$8008
16	001E		DE	1C	OU	TPUT	LDX		ACIA
17	0020		C6	02	T1		LDA	В	#\$02
18	0022		E4	00			AND	В	0,X
19	0024		27	FA			BEQ		T1
20	0026		A7	01			STA	A	1,X
21	0028		39				RTS		
			_						
SYMBO)L	VALU	E	DEFN	REFER	RENCE	8		
PRGM	1	0000		1					
LOOP1		0002		2 5	4				
PRGRN	M2	8000		5					
LOOP2	2	000A		6	8				
SETUP		0010		9	1	5			
ACIA		001C		15	9	16			
OUTPU	JT	001E		16	3	7			
T1		0020		17	19				

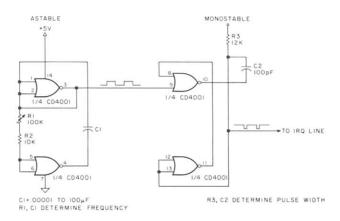


Fig. 1. Interrupt-oscillator circuit.

C1 may be changed to vary the interrupt rate.

The question of how often we generate an interrupt now arises. Suppose we were to generate an interrupt once every ten seconds. If each user were printing out data, the printing would be done in spurts. Another problem would be that a user might type in data while another program was being run, resulting in input being lost. If we increased the interrupt rate fast enough, the output would appear smooth and continuous. Also it would be impossible for a person to type so fast that some data might be lost. So, it would seem that the faster we generate interrupts, the better.

The problem, however, is that the service routine takes a fixed amount of time to perform its duties. As we increase the rate of interrupting, the percentage of time the microprocessor is in the service routine increases. It is possible to generate interrupts so fast that 99 percent of the time is spent in the service routine, meaning that only one

percent of the processing time actually performs useful work. Therefore, we should try to choose an optimal interrupt rate. I find that 100 interrupts per second works well. You should experiment to determine what works best for you. You could also determine the optimal rate mathematically; this would require that you examine matters in more detail.

Programming Considerations

Suppose you are time-sharing two or more programs at the same time. If these programs are in different segments of memory, there are no problems. Often, however, it is desirable that programs be able to share the same subroutines; this is necessary for large programs.

For example, BASIC might take up approximately 8K bytes. If each of four users had his own copy of BASIC, we would need at least 32K! If all four users could use one copy of BASIC at the same time we would need only 8K, resulting in a tremendous saving in memory (of course, each user still

needs his own area to store his program).

But wait a minute! You cannot take any subroutine and expect it to work on a time-shared basis. As a matter of fact, most subroutines would not work at all. A subroutine that is reentrant is needed. A reentrant subroutine is defined as one that may be employed by many users at the same time (i.e., on a time-shared BASIC). Let's go over some examples of reentrant and non-reentrant subroutines.

Let's say we wanted to write a subroutine that would add the contents of the A register to that of the B register and store the result in the B register. It is also desired that the A register not be modified when we return from this subroutine. The subroutine in Program C will accomplish this for a single user and will prove to be non-reentrant.

Suppose two users call this routine at about the same time, and the values of the A register for both users are \$01 and \$02, respectively, upon entry into the subroutine. User 1 enters the subroutine and executes the first three instructions before an interrupt occurs. Location TEMP will then contain a value of \$01.

Let us now assume that after the interrupt, program 2 enters the subroutine and is interrupted after three instructions have been executed. Location TEMP now has a value of \$02. After the interrupt, user 1 will resume execution and execute statement 4, a load instruction. The A register will now contain a value of \$02. We will then

return from the subroutine.

You will immediately notice that from user 1's point of view, the value of the A register has been changed from \$01 to \$02 upon leaving the subroutine. This was not intended. So, we have here an example of a subroutine that works for one user, but falls apart for two.

Now, let us write the same subroutine in a different way, as shown in Program D. This subroutine turns out to be reentrant. We'll assume the same sequence of events as in the previous example. User 1 will save \$01 by pushing it onto its own stack. When user 2 enters the subroutine, it saves \$02 on its own stack. The crucial point here is that each program has its own stack. Consequently, \$01 and \$02 are stored in different locations. When each program executes the PUL A instruction, it does so with respect to its own stack. This means that the proper values are restored. Two or more users can therefore use this subroutine at the same time!

Another example of reentrant programming can be found in the Motorola M6800 Programming Manual. For example, on pages 10-12 a reentrant 16-bit multiplication subroutine is depicted. The key technique here is that everything is first pushed onto the stack. The TSX (Transfer Stack Pointer to Index) is then executed. All instructions that follow are executed in the indexed mode. This is equivalent to the work area being in the stack. Nowhere in the program is there a label designating a storage location.

STMT	A.	DDR	C	ODE	STA	TEME	NT			
1	000	00	B7	0009	ADD		STA	Α	TEMP	SAVE A-REGISTER
2	000	13	1B				ABA			
3	000)4	16				TAB			
4	000	15	B6	0009			LDA	A	TEMP	RESTORE A-REGISTER
5	000	8	39				RTS			
6	000	19			TEM	P	RMB		1	
YMB	OL	VAL	UE	DEFN	REFER	ENCES	i			
ADD		0000		1						
EMF	•	0009		6	1	4				

STMT	ADI	DR C	ODE	STATEMEN	T		
1	0000	36		ADD	PSH	A	SAVE A-REGISTER
2	0001	1B			ABA		
3	0002	16			TAB		
4	0003	32			PUL	A	RESTORE A-REGISTER
5	0004	39			RTS		
SYMBO	OL	VALUE	DEFN	REFERENCES			
ADD		0000	1				
				Program D. A roo	ntrant	subroutine	

Program D. A reentrant subroutine.

In general, writing reentrant subroutines may be easy or difficult, depending on the type of instruction set available. For example, if the M6800 microprocessor had a PSH X instruction, the task of reentrant programming would be greatly simplified. Other processors have defects of their own. Perhaps in the future someone will design a stack-oriented microprocessor. Reentrant programming may then become a trivial task. Incidentally, stack processors have other advantages than the one given.

You must be careful, though, that the stack pointer does not change too much from its initial value. At the start of execution, the stack pointers of all programs initially differ by 16. This will change slightly throughout the course of execution. For example, if we were in program 1, an interrupt might occur after we had jumped to a subroutine. This would cause the stack pointer to differ by 2 from its initial value. If we nested subroutines too deeply, say 8 or 9, we could change the stack pointer so much that we'd wipe out the stack of another program! This problem can be solved, however, by initially separating the stack pointers by more than 16.

Since the time-sharing routine uses the stack pointer for its own bookkeeping, you must be careful what you do with the stack pointer. A common technique is to use the stack pointer to point to a list of numbers. This will not work if the stack pointer is pointing to, say, the middle of a list of numbers. It won't work because on interrupt, the regis-

ters that are stored in the stack will destroy some numbers in the list. Jumping to a subroutine or doing PSHES and PULLS modify the stack pointer but are not harmful because the stack pointer is changed in a way that won't change valid data in the stack.

Remarks

In this article, I have tried to point out some of the essential points that must be understood in order to implement timesharing. I hope I've taken some of the mystery out of it.

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Cassette Recorder Disaster: Ground Loops

the problem, and a solution



Photo 1. Cable adapter made from standard parts.



Photo 2. The ungrounding adapter is inserted between the computer and the recorder in the EAR or AUX lines.

Dave Waterman 834 Oak Lee Ln. Alpine CA 92001

Dave Lien 8662 Dent Dr. San Diego CA 92119

he ordinary household cassette recorder was not designed with anything as exotic as digital data recording in mind. Computer experimenters pressed the recorder into this role. All things considered, the device works well. However, two problems immediately arise-low-level ground loops, which can badly degrade the system's reliability, and the lack of a convenient means of overriding the computer's control of the drive motor. We'll address the problems separately.

Why the Ho Hum

The standard cassette

recorder was not designed to input audio (data or otherwise) via its AUX or MIC jack, and an instant later feed audio out through the EAR jack-with all jacks tied to a common external ground. Many recorders do not even have a common internal ground for these jacks and the REM motor control jack. Those that do usually have a relatively high-resistance ground. When this shaky ground system is tied to the computer's common ground by way of three separate shielded cables (DATA-in, DATA-out and REMOTE motor control), the ground loops created can completely destroy the reliability of the recording system.

A Way Around this Hummer

The standard way out of this ground-loop problem is to unplug either the DATA-in or DATA-out plug from the recorder, whichever is not in use. It usually works but is inconvenient, particularly for the halfway serious computer user who values his time. Fortunately, there are a couple of simple and inexpensive solutions (until more suitable recorders hit the market at the right price).

Photo 1 shows a simple cable adapter made from standard parts. It consists of a miniplug, minijack and a short (the shorter the better) piece of *unshielded* wire. This wire is soldered *only* to the "hot" (center) connectors of both plug and jack.

This ungrounding adapter is inserted between the computer and the recorder in the EAR line or the AUX line, as shown in Photo 2. Given the choice, it is better to use an unbroken shield to the AUX jack to assure a good-quality recording. A properly recorded tape can always be reloaded, but a bad tape cannot. Keep power supplies and other possible sources of interference away from this unshielded adapter. It works well.

The second ground-looping solution is a variation on the same theme, but it also solves the annoying problem of lack of convenient motor control. Two jacks, one miniature (to match

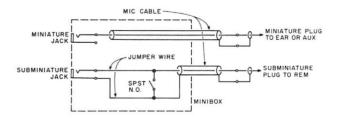


Fig. 1.

the EAR plug) and one subminiature (to match the REM motor plug), are mounted in a small plastic case. The one shown in Photo 3 was used to hold a burglar-alarm panic switch. A shielded cable is run from the EAR jack in the box to the EAR plug for the recorder. Note in Fig. 1 that the shielded part of the cable is not attached to break the ground loop. Another shielded cable is run from the REM jack to the REM plug for the recorder, but its ground integrity is maintained.

Similar switch boxes are equipped with an SPST normally closed switch. If this is the case with the one you select, replace the switch with a similar SPST switch with normally open contacts, as shown in Fig. 1. Unshielded jumper wires are then connected from the switch to the subminiature REM Jack-in-the-box (sorry about that!). Paralleling the REM line with the push-button switch allows us to turn on the motor.

We can always turn the recorder off with its normal STOP button. This arrangement allows us to turn the motor on for purposes of rewinding tape, advancing a cassette past the leader or going fast forward to find a certain spot on the tape.

Photo 4 shows this handy auxiliary control box installed with a Radio Shack TRS-80

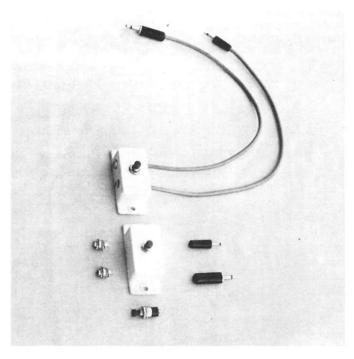


Photo 3. Small case with mounted jacks.

computer system. It should work as well with any other.

Success

Both of these solutions to

nuisance problems work well, are inexpensive and require no special tools or skill. Give them a try, and see how much more you enjoy your computer.



111

A Different Search Technique

don't just try it-benchmark it

Good things can come in small packages. This programming trick is so simple it can easily retrofit to existing programs; yet, it can substantially reduce the time needed to search a table.

The traditional method of searching a table is shown in Fig. 1. First, a loop index is initialized. Then a loop is executed, comparing the table element with the search argument and incrementing the loop index until either a match is found or the table is exhausted. When the loop is exited, the loop index points either to the location of the matching table element or, if no match was found, to the last table element plus one.

The new method dimensions one extra place at the end of the table for a "dummy" value. To search the table, first move the search value into this dummy location at the end of the

table; then initialize the loop index and begin looping through

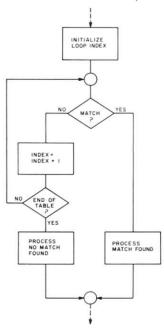


Fig. 1. Traditional table-searching method.

the table. This time, however, only search for a match and increment the loop index within the loop. You don't need to test for the end of the table...if you haven't found a match by then, you will on the last table entry because you've already moved the search argument into this last entry. Thus, you save one comparison for each table entry searched (see Fig. 2).

Depending on the language and the way the computer implements subscripts, this trick can save as much as half the the time needed for the search. That's pretty good for such a small change!

I learned this programming trick from the advertising brochure of Software Consulting Services of Allentown PA. Further details may be found in *The Art of Computer Programming*, Vol. 3, "Sorting and Searching," by Donald E. Knuth.

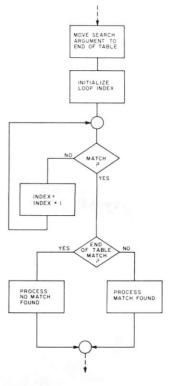


Fig. 2. A different search technique.

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Use Kilobaud Classified



(from page 15)

by, and the votes have been counted. The article winner for the wintry month of February is Dr. Mark Boyd, author of "Interfacing Tips" on page 72.

Choice-of-a-book-from-the-Book Nook winner is Larry Nelson of Marion IN.

To both Mark and Larry, we offer congratulations and best wishes

And to all of our readers who are responding enthusiastically with their votes, we also offer congratulations, best wishes and good reading.

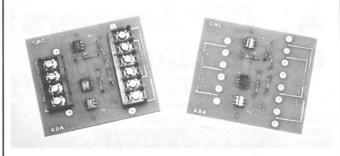
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passage. Kinged pieces are identified on the display and messages appear at the right of the board relating to each move.

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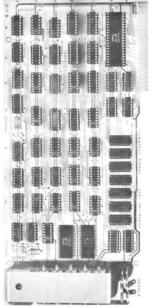
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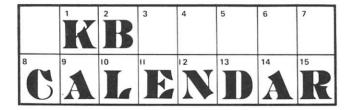
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Santa Barbara CA

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Atlanta GA

The 16th Annual Convention of the Association for Educational Data Systems will be held in Atlanta GA, May 15-19, 1978. For further information, contact: Dr. James E. Eisele, Office of Computing Activities, University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602.

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Amateur Computing 78 microcomputer festival will be held July 22-23 at the Sheraton National Motor Hotel, Arlington VA.

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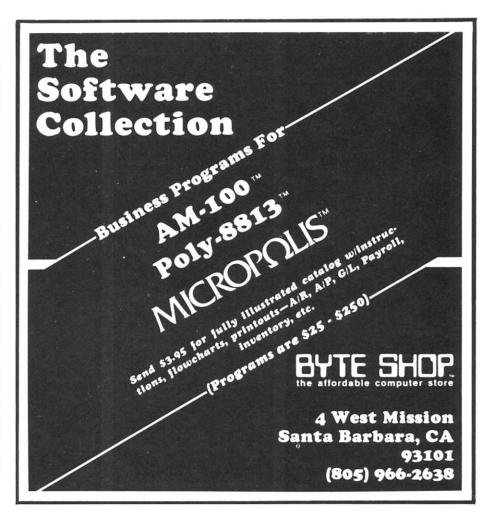
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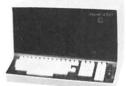
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Two Heathkit User Organizations??

You may have noticed that there are two entirely You may have noticed that there are two entirely separate organizations for Heathkit computer users. HUG is the official Heath sponsored organization. The second organization publishes a periodic news letter called BUSS. This second organization is not affiliated with Heath Company in any way. Neither is it approved, sanctioned, or recommended. Heath Company bears no responsibility for the material it publishes or the advice it gives. The official, inside word will always come through HUG. If you want the latest word on new products, software updates, and other juicy news, keep reading REMark.

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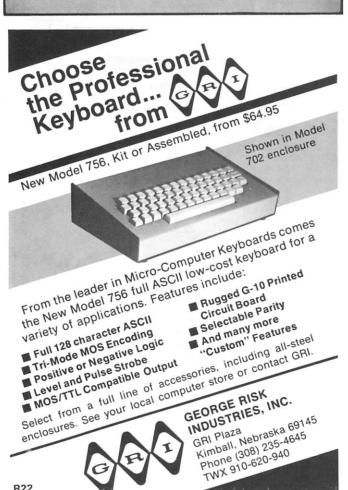
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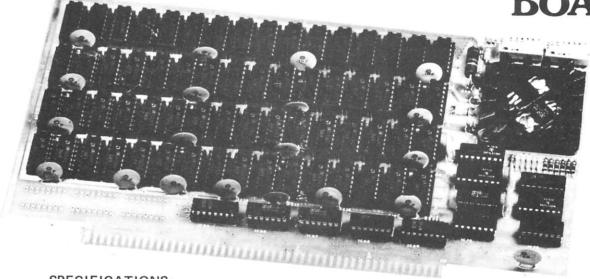
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NEW VOLKSMETERS!

With LCD Display-Excellent Readability in Direct Sunlight!



O.5% LM-350 31/2 digits \$125.00*

MS-15

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WS-15

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289

FEATURES

- Automatic polarity, decimal and overload indication
- No zero adjustment and no full scale ohms adjust.
- Large LCD display for easy
- Size: 1.9" H x 2.7" W x 4.0" D
- Parts and labor guaranteed for

MOE	RANGE	ACCURACY LN-300	ACCURACY 1.N-200	RESOLUTION	NINT RESETANCE	CUMBERT
VOLTS DC *	1 10 100 1000	off Reading!	ot. 17 Reading!	1 mV 10 mV 100 mV 1 V	11 16	
WOLTH AC*	1 30 300 1000	425 Reading! 30-410 No	el. 75 Reading 7 52-430 Hy	1 mV 10 mV 100 mV 1 V	10 901, 20 pp	
K.T.L. (COM)**	1 10 100 1000 1000	of Seeing?	of, 18 Seeing?	1 0 10 0 100 0 1 Mil 10 Mil		1 ma 100 pt 10 pt 1 pt 1 pt
CURRENT	1 mA 10 mA 100 mA 1 A	+25 Resting!	e79 Needing?	1 at 10 at 100 at 1 ma	1 kg 190 2 19-2 1-0	

SPECIFICATIONS

1.36-207 has 1076 over-range - full scale readings are 5,309, 15,39, et Tilt Stand Option, add

Leather Case 3AA NiCad-Batts. & Charger \$3.50 \$16.00 \$12.00

Standard AA-size batteries provide up to 20 hours of operation. Rechargeable NiCad batteries and charger unit available as optional equipment. Batteries not included.

WIS-13 WIINISCOPE

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SON IN

Not includes by tradaption control for \$5 + 5 + 12. To be set and insurated mounting spacers will be specified mounting spacers. Since the spacers spacer side mounting spacers side spacers side spacers spacers side spacers spacers

8803 Vector



Universal Microcomputer/processor plugboard, use with S-100 bus. Complete with heat sink & hardware 5.3" x

5-9 \$17.95 \$19.95 \$15.96 8801-1

Same as 8800V except plain: less power buses & heat sink

\$13.46 \$11.96





3682 9.6" x 4.5 \$10.97 3682-2 6.5" x 4.5" \$9.81

Hi-Density Dual-In-Line Plugboard for Wire Wrap with Power & Grd. Bus Epoxy Glass 1/16" 44 pin con. spaced .156

P180



3677 9 6" x 4 5 \$10.90 3677-2 6.5" x 4.5" \$9.74

Purpose DIP Gen Boards with Bus Pattern for Solder or Wire Wrap. Epoxy Glass 1/16" 44 pin con. spaced .156



3662 6.5" x 4.5" \$7.65 3662-2 9.6" x 4.5" \$11.45 P pattern plugboards f

P pattern plugboards for IC's Epoxy Glass 1/16" 44 pin con. spaced .156



eyelets tana \$3.45 gold \$3.45 **R644-3** P.C. recepticle 22/44 cont. 156 ctrs. Wire Wrap tails gold \$4.49

S-100 Bus P.C. Edge Connectors

Bus P.C. Edge Connectors

R681 DIP solder tails on 140 spaced
rows for ALTAIR mother boards Fits
042 dia holes, gold \$7.35 042" dia holes, gold **R681-1** 025" sq., 3 wrap le posts (62 long) on 250 spaced

posts (-62 lang) or gold \$5.00 R681-2 025" sq. 1 wrap length posts (-22 long) on -250 spaced rows for wrapping or 01P solder for IMSAI mother boards, gold \$5.85 R681-3 pierced solder eyelet tails, gold \$7.35

1/16 Vector BOARD

.042 dia holes on 0.1 spacing for IC's

Price:

\$29.50

Phenolic		
PART NO.	SIZE	PRICE
64P44-062XXP	4.5 x 6.5"	\$ 1.49
169P44-062XXP	4.5 x 17"	\$ 3.51
Epoxy Glass		
PART NO.	SIZE	PRICE
64P44-062	4.5 x 6.5"	\$ 1.70
84P44-062	4.5 x 8.5"	\$ 2.10
169P44-062	4.5 x 17"	\$ 4.30
169P84-062	8.5 x 17"	\$ 6.39

elit-nowarat FOUR TIMES FASTER



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WIRE NO. 28 GAGE INSULATED WIRE, 100' SPOOLS W28 2 A Pkg 3 Green W28 2 C Pkg 3 Dear W28 2 8 Pkg 3 Red W28 2 D Pkg 3 Blue 2708 450 ns

EPROM **FACTORY PRIME**

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25 + Call for Price



14 & 16 PIN 3 LEVEL WIRE WRAP SOCKETS

14-T3 100 for \$30.00 16-T3 100 for

\$30.00 50 of ea. for \$32.00

ACE . All- for fast, solderless, Circuit plug-in circuit building

Model No.	Posts	Capacity	fin.	A	Beard Size (inches)	Each	
200-K (kit)	728	8 (16's)	2	w	4-9/16 x 5-9/16	\$18.95	
208 (assem.)	872	8 (16's)	8	2	4-9/16 x 5-9/16	28.95	
201-K (kit)	1032	12 (14's)	2	2	16 x 7	24.95	
212 (assem.)	1224	12 (14's)	- 8	2	4-9/16×7	34.95	
218 (assem.)	1760	18 (14's)	10	2	6-1/2 x 7-1/8	45.95	
227 (assem.)	2712	27 (14's)	28	4	8 x 9-1/4	59.95	
236 (assem.)	3648	36 (14's)	36	4	10-1/4 x 9-1/4	79.95	



Model

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For Auto, Home, Office
Small in size (2x2 ½x½)
Push button for seconds release for date.
Clocks mount anywhere with either 3M double-sided tape or VELCRO, included.
2 MODELS AVAILABLE:
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lighted. LCD-101 or LCD-102 your choice. \$34.95 ..

\$2.00



200	GOLD WIRE WRAP SOCKETS					
1111111	1-24	25-49	50-99			
8 pin	.47	.42	.37			
10 pin	.45	.41	.37			
14 pin	.39	.38	.37			
16 pin	.43	.42	.40			
18 pin	.75	.68	.62			
22 pin	1.00	.97	.95			
24 pin	1.00	.94	.75			
28 pin	1.09	.98	.84			
36 pin	1.59	1.45	1.30			
40 min	1.40	1.00	1.00			

Vector

MICRO-KLIP (all boards on this page) T42-1 pkg. 100 \$ 1.50 T42-1 pkg. 1000 ... \$11.00 P-149 hand insta \$ 2.03

> **WRAP POST** for .042 dia. holes (all boards on this page) T-44 pkg. 100 . \$ 2.28 T-44 pkg. 1000 . \$14.00



.8" LED ALARM CLOCK

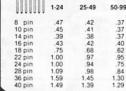
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Bright Green Fluorescent Display Crys-Time Base Assembled, just add switches and 12 VDC



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These low cost DIP sockets will accept both standard width plugs and chips. For use with chips, the sockets offer a low profile height of only .125" above the board These sockets are end stackable. 24 PIN DIP PLUGS WITH COVERS 3 / \$1.00

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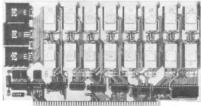
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Uses 2708's!

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- All sockets included.
- On card regulators.
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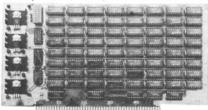
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15 8 1 11 11A 5 9900JL 1600	29 95 14 95 21 95 29 95 89 95 39 95 19 96 29 95	91L02APC 21L111 21111 21121 21121 21L011 21011 2114/650 m 1	1 25 4 25 4 10 3 00 2 95 2 95 12 95	1 65 4 10 3 95 2 80 2 85 2 85 17 25	1 50 3 95 3 85 3 69 2 25 2 25 11 45	7489 8599 745189 745200 745201 1101A 3107	2 25 1 88 4 50 4 50 4 50 1 49 3 95	1 99 1 75 4 30 4 30 4 30 1 29 3 70	160 425 425 425 110 125
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AY38500 1 Color TV Game
AY38615 1 Color Converter

AY38700 1 Tank Chip
RF Modulator

ORGAN CHIPS MM5554 MM5555 (1 each) MM5556

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14 Pin ww	37	14 Pin S/T
16 Pin ww	38	16 Pin S/T
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51	75	CT\$209	9	51	9
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51	75				
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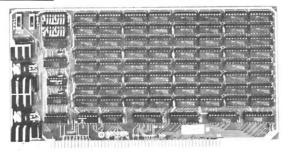
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Beautiful Boards



OUR BEST SELLER: ECONORAM IITM

S-100 Compatible 8K × 8 in a cost-effective package. Buffering on all lines, 0 wait states with the 8080, low power consumption, configured as two separate 4K blocks for addressing flexibility, handles DMA, memory protect with vector interrupt provision if you try to write into protected memory, fully socketed, gold-flashed edge fingers, solder masked and legended board . . . this is the board that doesn't cut any corners, but cuts the price instead.

(See the 1/77 issue of **Kilobaud** magazine for a product profile that tells just about everything you'd ever want to know about Econoram II . . . or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Kilobaud Article" c/o our address and we'll send you a reprint. But if you **really** want to be convinced . . . talk to somebody who owns one!)

Kit form: \$135.00 3 kits: \$375.00 Assembled, tested: \$155.00

ANNOUNCING ... THE 16K ECONORAM IV™

We'll be ready to ship these soon, so we thought you'd like a sneak preview. The price? (Inder \$400. The performance? All that you've come to expect from the Econoram line, along with impressively low power consumption and a couple of other tricks we have up our sleeve. If you've been waiting for a 16K board, you'll be happy you waited for us.

SOME WORDS ABOUT STATIC MEMORIES

When it comes to memory, we're pretty partial to static technology. Although more costly than dynamic devices, static memories are free of critical refresh and timing needs — which is one reason why DMA works so well with our memory boards. When we send an Econoram out into the world, we not only want it to work right with whatever system you have (Altair, IMSAL Cromemco, Parasitic, Polymorphic, etc.), we want it to keep working for you. Static memories are proven, time tested, and reliable . . . that's why we like them so much.

ACTIVE TERMINATOR BOARD

The active termination circuitry in our motherboard kits minimizes the ringing, crosstalk, overshoot, scrambled data, and noise problems that can occur with unterminated lines. But even if you don't have a Godbout motherboard, you can trick your computer into thinking you do by adding this useful peripheral. Simply plug into any S-100 machine, and gain the benefits of active circuitry. ****CK-017, \$29.50.** Kit form only.

CPU POWER SUPPLY

Here is an economical supply for small computer systems or digital bench work. Delivers 5V @ 4A with crowbar overvoltage protection (accidents can happen . . . and you shouldn't have to replace all your TTL if one does!). Also gives +12V @ $\frac{1}{2}A$ and -12V @ $\frac{1}{2}A$, along with an adjustable negative bias supply (-5 to -10V @ 10 mA). All in all, you can't beat the price or the performance. #CK-014, \$50.00. Kit form only.

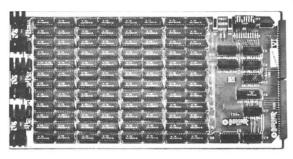
DB-25 RS-232 SUBMINI-D CONNECTORS

Male plug. ****CK-1004, \$3.95;** female jack. ****CK-1005, \$3.95;** plastic hood for male connector. ****CK-1006, \$0.90.**

PLUG FROM BILL: There's more to life than computers . . . like music. Craig Anderton, noted author and designer of our Musikit products, has produced a cassette tape of original music that is distributed by our friends at PAIA Electronics (1020 W. Wilshire, Oklahoma City, OK 73116; \$6.45 ppd). In addition to hearing our Musikits in action, you get to hear some really good modern music. We like it . . . you probably will too.

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FREE FLYER: These are just a few of the items we carry for the computer enthusiast. We also stock a broad line of semiconductors, passive components, and hobbyine items. We will gladly send you a flyer describing our products upon receipt of your name and address.



SUPER MEMORY FOR A SUPER MACHINE: H8 COMPATIBLE ECONORAM VI™

Users of the S-100 buss have found out why our memories are their best value . . . now H8 owners can find out too. This $12\mathrm{K}\times8$ kit offers the same basic features as our ECONORAM series . . . static design, configuration as two blocks (one 8K and one 4K), switch selected protect, sockets for all ICs, full buffering on address and data lines . . . plus the required hardware and edge connector to mate mechanically with the H8. As a bonus, all sockets and bypass capacitors are pre-soldered to the circuit board so you can start right in on the fun part of building this high-quality memory. Kit form: \$235.00

WE ALSO SPEAK DYNAMIC: ECONORAM III™

If you want a dynamic memory, might as well get one that works right. Econoram III is inexpensive, completely assembled and tested, and ready to plug into your S-100 machine. Low power, 0 wait states with 8080 CPCI, configured as two 4K blocks, fully socketed.

\$149.00, assembled and tested only

EDGE CONNECTORS

There are edge connectors, and there are **Edge Connectors**. These are the kind where the pins don't fall out, thanks to the bifurcated contacts. (We use the same connectors with our motherboards.)

"CK-1001: 100 pin edge connector with gold plated 3 level wrap posts. Mates with Altair/IMSAI peripherals. \$5 each or 5/\$22.

"CK-1002: Same as above, but with soldertail pins on 0.25" centers. (Mates with IMSAI motherboard). \$5 each or 5/\$22.

"CK-1003: Same as above, but with soldertail pins on 0.14" centers. (Mates with Altair motherboard). \$6 each or 5/\$27.50.

10 SLOT MOTHERBOARD

Whether implemented as an add-on to existing systems that need more room, or as the nucleus of a stand-alone system, this S-100 compatible motherboard fits the needs of the budget-minded enthusiast. Our price in-cludes all edge connectors, along with active termination circuitry that promotes accurate and reliable data transfer. Lots of bypass caps and extra heavy power line traces contribute to efficient operation. Heavy duty epoxy glass board, with a solder mask for easy soldering.

#CK-015, \$90.00. Kit form only.

18 SLOT MOTHERBOARD

All the same features and advantages of the 10 slot version, including our active termination circuitry. Complete with 18 edge connectors. **#CK-016**, \$124.00. Kit form only.

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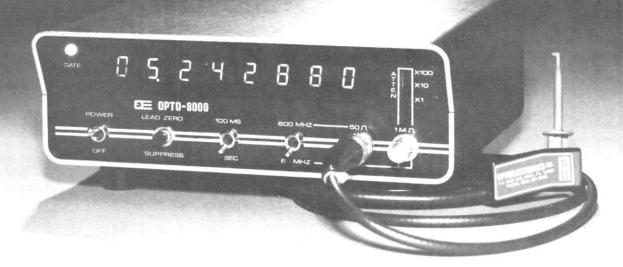
We'd like to thank the ever-growing number of dealers who are spreading the Econoram word to their customers... you will be happy to know that we have doubled the capacity of our Compukit'* division in order to continue handling the massive response. We're glad you like what we're doing... and we're going to keep on doing it!



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600 MHZ. FREQUENCY COUNTER ±0.1 PPM TCXO

OPTO-8000.1



This new instrument has taken a giant step in front of the multitude of counters now available. The Opto-8000.1 boasts a combination of features and specifications not found in units costing several times its price. Accuracy of ± 0.1 PPM or better — Guaranteed — with a factory-adjusted, sealed TCXO (Temperature Compensated Xtal Oscillator). Even kits require no adjustment for guaranteed accuracy! Built-in, selectable-step attenuator, rugged and attractive, black anodized aluminum case (.090" thick aluminum) with tilt bail. 50 Ohm and 1 Megohm inputs, both with amplifier circuits for super sensitivity and both diode/overload protected. Front panel includes "Lead Zero Blanking Control" and a gate period indicator LED. AC and DC



Time Base—TCXO ±0.1 PPM GUARANTEED!

Frequency Range-10 Hz to 600 MHz

Resolution-1 Hz to 60 MHz: 10 Hz to 600 MHz

Decimal Point-Automatic

All IC's socketed (kits and factory-wired)

Display-8 digit LED

Gate Times-1 second and 1/10 second

Selectable Input Attenuation—X1, X10, X100

Input Connectors Type -BNC

Approximate Size-3"h x 71/2"w x 61/2"d

Approximate Weight—21/2 pounds

Cabinet—black anodized aluminum (.090" thickness)

Input Power-9-15 VDC, 115 VAC 50/60 Hz

or internal batteries

OPTO-8000.1 Factory Wired

OPTO-8000.1K Kit

\$299.95 \$249.95

ACCESSORIES:

Battery-Pack Option-Internal Ni-Cad Batteries and charging unit

\$19.95

\$13.95 Probes: P-100—DC Probe, may also be used with scope

P-101-LO-Pass Probe, very useful at audio frequencies

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usage

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FC-50 — Opto-8000 Conversion Kits:

Owners of FC-50 counters with #PSL-650 Prescaler can use this kit to convert their units to the Opto-8000 style case, including most of the features.

Kit \$59.95 FC-50 - Opto-8000 *FC-50 - Opto-8000F Factory Update \$99.95

FC-50 — Opto-8000.1 (w/TCXO) Kit \$109.95

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sembled and operational



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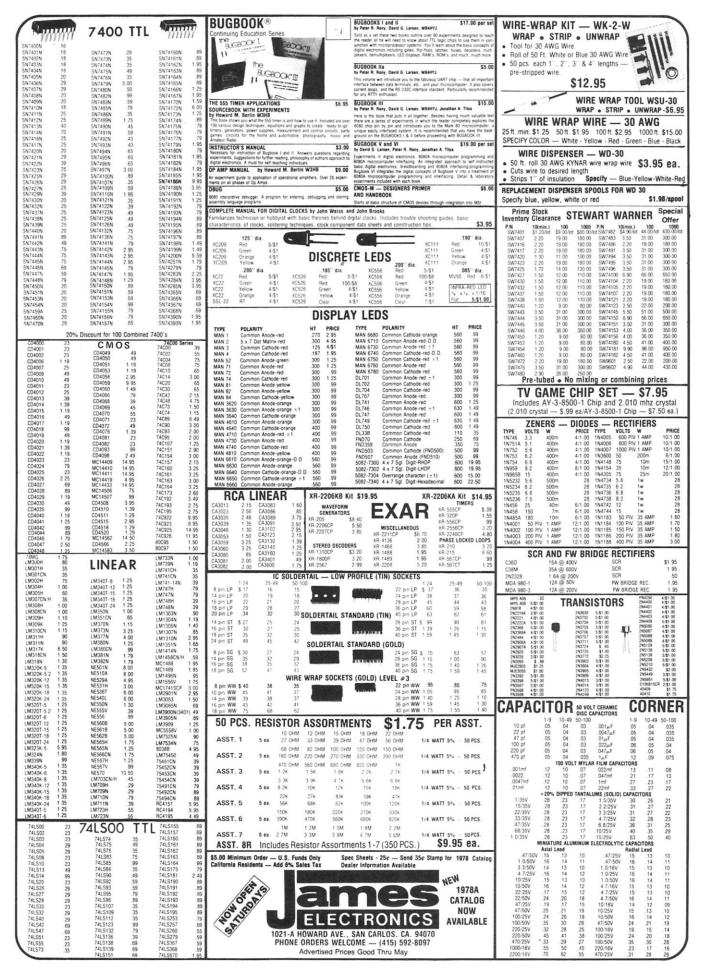
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SOCKET Mates with two rows of .025" sq. or dia. posts on patterns of .100" centers and shielded receptacles. Probe access holes in back. Choice of 6" or 18" length.

Part No.	No. of Contacts	Length	Price
924003-18R	26	18"	\$ 5.38 ea.
924003-06R	26	6"	4.78 ea.
924005-18R	40	18"	8.27 ea.
924005-06R	40	6"	7.33 ea.
924006-18R	50	18"	10.31 ea.
924006-06R	50	6"	9.15 ea.

924006-06B JUMPER Solder to PC boards for instant plug-in access via socket-connector jumpers. .025" sq. posts. Choice of straight or right angle.

Part No.	No. of Posts	Angle	Price
923863-R	26	straight	\$1.28 ea.
923873-R	26	right angle	1.52 ea.
923865-R	40	straight	1.94 ea.
923875-R	40	right angle	2.30 ea.
923866-R	50	straight	2.36 ea.
923876-R	50	right angle	2.82 ea.

INTRA-CONNECTOR

Provides both straight and right angle functions. Mates with standard .10" x .10" dual row connectors (i.e. 3m, Ainsley, etc.) Permits quick testing of inaccessible lines.

Part No.: 922576-26 No. of contacts: 26 Price \$6.90 ea.

INTRA-SWITCH

Permits instant line-by-line switching for diagnostic or QA testing. Switches actuated with pencil or probe tip. Mates with standard 10"x 10" dual-row connectors. Low profile design. Switch buttons recessed to eliminate accidental switching. No. of contacts; 26 Price \$13.80 ea

	CRYST		1 -
Part #	Frequency	Case/Style	Price
CY1A	1 000 MHz	HC33 U	\$5 95
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CY3A	4 000 MHz	HC18 U	\$4.95
CY7A	5.000 MHz	HC18/U	\$4.95
CY12A	10 000 MHz	HC18 U	\$4.95
CY14A	14 31818 MHz	HC18U	54.95
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Bifurcated Contacts	- Fits .054 to .070 P.C.	Cards
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(Values	subject to substitution with	hin each	group.)

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	TOGGLE (sub-minature)	JMT121 JMT123 JMT221 JMT223		on-off-on on-none-on on-off-on on-none-on	\$1.95 1.65 2.55 2.15	\$1 43 1 21 1 87 1 58
Ť	TOGGLE (Printed Circuit)	MPC121 MPC123 MPC221 MPC223	SPDT SPDT DPDT DPDT	on-off-on on-none-on on-off-on on-none-on	2.65	\$1.53 1.31 1.97 1.68
作	PUSH BUTTON	PB123 PB126	SPDT SPDT	maintained momentary	1 95 1 95	1 47
K Ti	PUSH BUTTON Minature	MS102 MS103	DPST SPST	momentary momentary		30 30
	DIPSWITCH SPST	206-4 206-7 206-8		4 switch 7 switch 8 switch	1 75 1 95 2 25	1.65 1.85 2.15

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******	0.1" Hole Spacing	P-Pattern		Price		
	Part No		w	1-9	10 up	
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	169P44 062XXXP	4.50	17.00	3.69	3.32	
EPOXY	64P44 062WE	4.50	6.50	2.07	1.86	
GLASS	84P44 062WE	4.50	8.50	2.56	2.31	
	169P44 062WE	4.50	17.00	5.04	4.53	
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Complete with red bezel 415" x 4" x 1-9/16 \$3.49



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2529 2532 2533	Dual 250 Bit Static Dual 512 BiT Quad 80 BiT 1024 Static	4 00 4 00 2 95 2 95	93421 MK4116 (UPD4 MK4027 (UPD4	256 x 1 Static 16) 4K Dynamic 16 Pin	2 95 5 96 29 95
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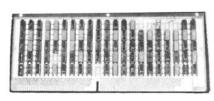
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In recent issues there have been articles on computerized satellite tracking (with software). RTTY using a up in recent issues there have been articles on computerized satellite tracking levith software), RTTV using a UP, using old (inexpensive) Teletypes, building a Polymorphic video board, making instant PC boards using the color-key technique, the TTL one-shot, what computers can and can't do, a hamshack file handler (software), the bit explosion — 812-16f) backward branch the easy way with the 6800, the hexadecimal. — Lev. Any one of these articles could easily be worth the cost of a full year of 73. One good program could save you days of work. One good interface project could make an enormous difference. In general, 73 tries to present not too complicated construction projects . . . things you can make in a day or two.

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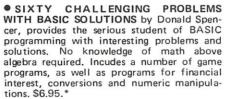
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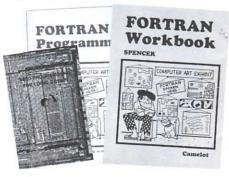
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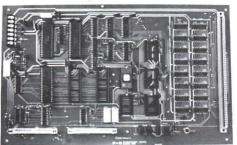
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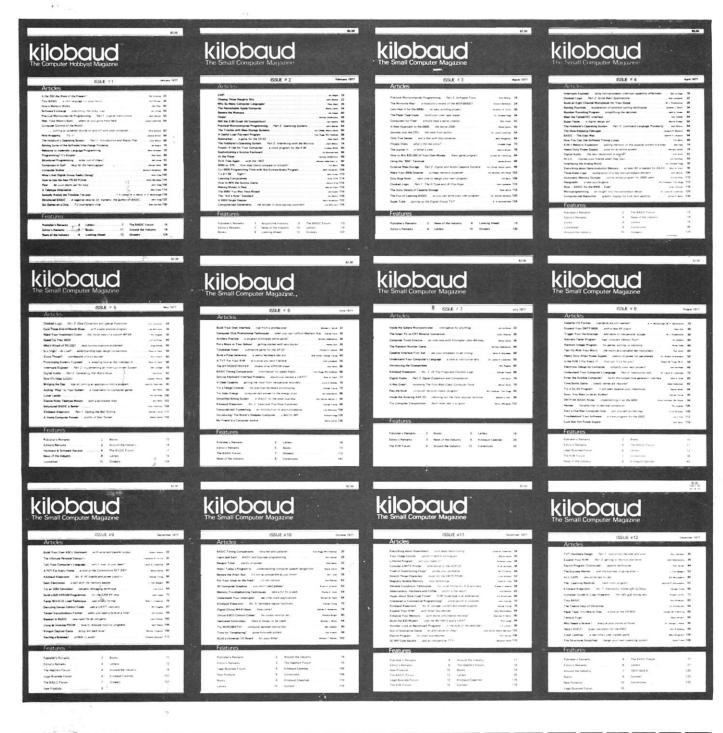
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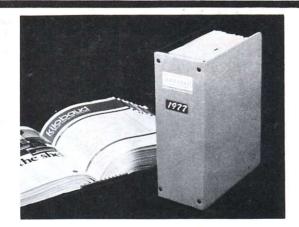
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This 8-bit machine, by itself, is as versatile as a lot of systems that include peripherals



Skeptical? For starters, because of its

the H8 is the in its price class that offers full system integration, yet, memory and using only its "intelligent"

Memory Display Register Display I/O Port Display

front panel for I/O, may be operated completely without peripherals!

its built-in Pam-8 ROM panel control program, the H8 actually allows you to dig in and examine machine level circuitry.

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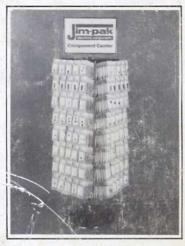
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