



WINCHESTER
DISC SYSTEM

The Acorn Winchester Disc System is the answer to the storage and rapid recall of large amounts of information with the BBC Microcomputer system, providing either 10 Megabytes or 30 Megabytes of storage with a data transfer rate of up to 1 Megabit per second. This, combined with an average seek time of 85 ms, gives the user access to very large amounts of data at speeds that no other media can match.

The system connects to a BBC Microcomputer via the 1 MHz bus, has its own power supply, and includes a ROM containing the Advanced Disc Filing System (ADFS). ADFS is a new filing system providing a hierarchical structure, entries in directories may be files or sub-directories. Each directory may contain up to 47 entries and 127 levels can be used. This provides the Acorn Winchester Disc System with excellent file management facilities. The controller provides multi-sector transfer allowing fast data transfer transparently to the user.

The large amounts of data and high transfer speeds mean that great care must be taken to minimise errors. The Acorn Winchester Disc System controller has automatic error detection and correction thanks to a 32 bit code able to correct up to 8 bit error bursts. Also all workspace and directory structures include checksum tests to detect the effects of disc or memory corruption. Defective sectors on the disc are automatically bypassed by the controller at format time, so no long delays are introduced in using alternative tracks.

The Acorn Winchester Disc System supports all BBC Microcomputer system peripherals, though the Z80 Second Processor CP/M system requires a special utilities disc. A utilities package is provided on the Winchester disc. This includes back-up, disc editor, verify and disc recovery utilities. A powerful machine code interface is also provided, including OSWORD calls to provide direct sector access.



For further details ask your nearest dealer or write to:
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British Broadcasting Corporation is abbreviated to BBC throughout the text.