







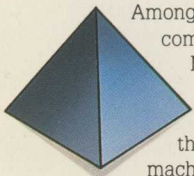
The shape of things to come

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# The BBC Microcomputer System

## What the BBC Microcomputer gives you



Amongst the shifting sands of computer technology the BBC Microcomputer is here to stay. 'Everything possible seems to have been done to ensure that this is not a "dead-end" machine which you will have to

throw away after a year or two when its basic technology is, inevitably, superseded,' comments Paul Beverley in the July 1982 edition of *Personal Computer World*.

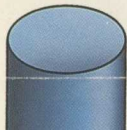
Teachers on the Department of Education and Science 'Microelectronics Education Programme' are being trained in its use. The Department of Industry has recommended it for both primary and secondary schools so children all over the country will find themselves using the BBC Microcomputer.

It has been chosen as the personal computer for the BBC's own Computer Literacy Project, which includes two series of television programmes on the use and application of computers. It has also been used as the basis for many educational courses, including one offered by the National Extension College.

It all adds up to a massive vote of confidence in a microcomputer designed to grow with the needs of the user and with the advances in technology occurring month by month.

The BBC Microcomputer is a fast, powerful system generating high resolution colour graphics and which can synthesise music and speech using its own internal speaker. The keyboard has a conventional layout and electric typewriter 'feel'. There are two versions - Model A at £299 offers 16K of Random Access Memory (RAM) and Model B at £399 has 32K of RAM.

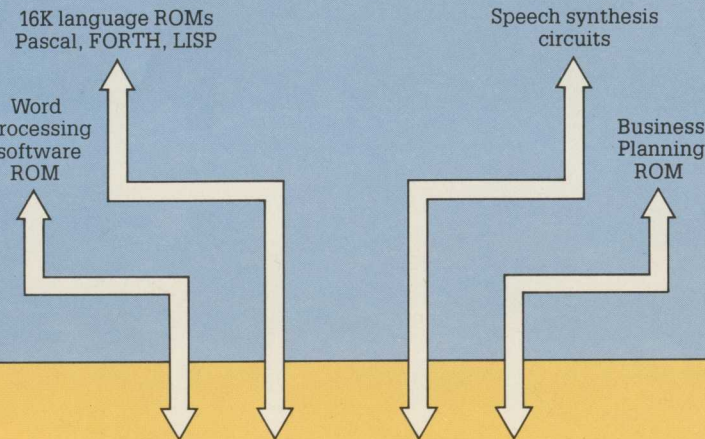
## Room for expansion



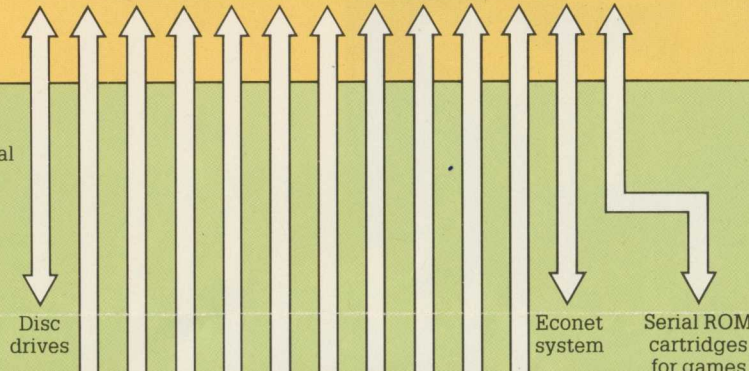
'The most attractive and exciting feature of the BBC Microcomputer is its enormous potential for expansion.' *Which Micro?* May/June 1982.

## The BBC Microcomputer System Plan

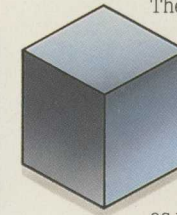
Available internally



Available externally requiring internal additions



## Software



The Machine Operating System, occupying 16Kbytes, has in-depth facilities for handling all normal requirements, for example keyboard and Visual Display Unit (VDU), which can be your own television, and in addition has many more advanced features such

as network handling (linking several computers together), teletext operating system and speech, disc and cassette filing (very similar to the filing which takes place in an office).

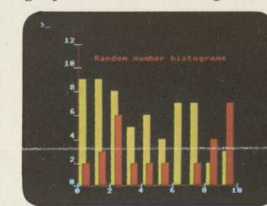
The ROM paging system makes it possible to change instantly between high-level languages. A sophisticated version of BASIC has been chosen for the BBC Microcomputer, which incorporates features normally found only in other high-level languages, but you can have up to four different 16Kbyte interpreters inside the machine, allowing access through a simple command to another language - for example, Pascal, FORTH and LISP.

Applications software for the BBC Microcomputer is being developed alongside the hardware, to stringent specifications with wide support from totally independent software houses. Already a number of packages covering games, educational and business applications are available on cassette.



Versions of many compulsive arcade type games exist; a simulation package called Flight Deck and one to help Rubik Cube addicts are around the corner.

On the educational side creative graphics, graphs and charts, algebraic manipulation and the



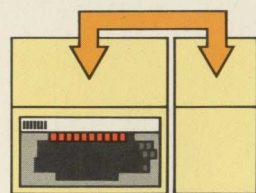
Peeko-computer pack, which explains the workings of a micro-processor, are available. Other Computer Aided Learning packages are being developed.



The diagram opposite shows the numerous options for expansion. Developments will undoubtedly bring more. Model B incorporates interface sockets (RS423, analog inputs, Centronics and User port) to allow you to connect directly to cassette recorder, your own television, video monitors, disc drives, printers (dot matrix and daisy wheel) and paddles for games or laboratory use.

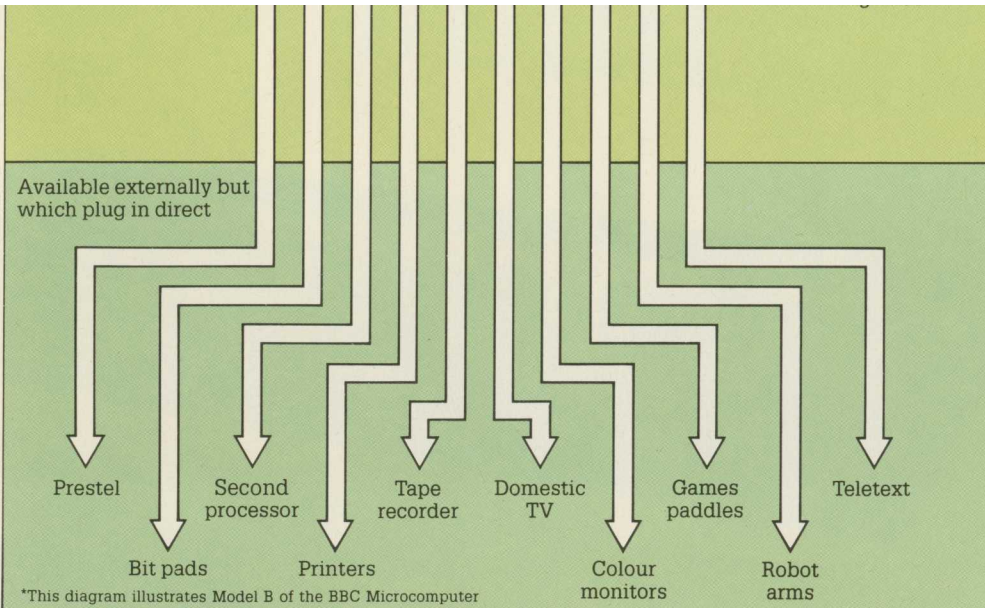
A special interface socket can also be fitted to take plug-in Read Only Memory (ROM) cartridges containing games or specialist application programs. Model A can be adapted to include these facilities.

A feature of the BBC Microcomputer which has attracted widespread interest is the Tube, a design registered by Acorn Computers. The Tube is unique to the BBC Microcomputer and greatly enhances



the expandability of the system by providing, via a high speed data channel, for the addition of a second processor.

The addition of a second 3MHz 6502 processor with 64K of RAM doubles processing speed. A Z80 second processor with 64K of RAM opens the door to a fully CP/M compatible operating system, with all the benefits for business applications. A 16-bit processor with 128K of RAM is now being developed which will give the machine a processing power similar to present day minicomputers.



Another first for the BBC Microcomputer is that it can take information direct from Prestel and Teletext services (telesoftware), using the necessary adaptors and store it for later use.



An expansion facility of immense use to schools, colleges and businesses is the Acorn Econet® - a simple to use yet highly sophisticated system, which by using ordinary 4 core telephone cable links together over 100 computers. A number

of machines can share the use of expensive disc drive and printer facilities.

'Whether your interests lie in business, educational, scientific, control or games applications, this system provides a possibility for expansion which is unparalleled in any other machine available at present', comments Paul Beverley in the July 1982 edition of *Personal Computer World*.

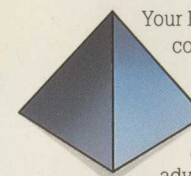


For business uses there is a desk diary cassette and nominal ledger, payroll and stock control packages will be available shortly on disc.

ROM based software (fitted inside the machine) includes powerful word processing, business planning and Computer Aided Design packages.

A wide range of software is already on sale at dealers throughout the country and new packages are becoming available almost daily.

## Technical support and after-sales service

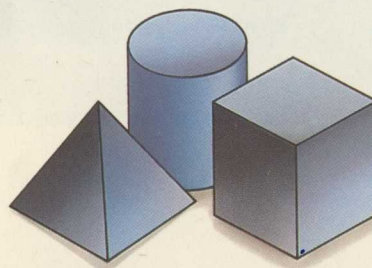


Your BBC Microcomputer comes complete with the backing of the BBC itself and one of the most extensive dealer and service networks available. Each approved dealer is able to offer advice and carry out expansion work

and repairs. In addition Acorn Computers offers maintenance contracts and has a specialist service centre which undertakes warranty work.

The Government's Microelectronics Education Programme has set up 14 regional information centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. These provide technical and educational support for teachers. The Scottish Microelectronics Development Programme offers a similar service as do many local education authorities throughout the United Kingdom.

You can subscribe to a special monthly magazine, *Acorn User*, which carries regular news and features to help you make the best possible use of your machine.



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