

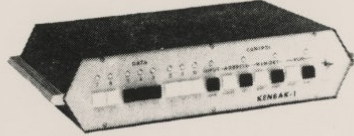
# Calcolatori personali: sulle tracce dell'invenzione del PC

Storia dell'Informatica  
a.a. 2020/21

- Gli ultimi precursori
- I primi personali, calcolatori davvero
- Il primo PC? Tanti candidati
- Finalmente uno standard
- Calcolatori per distinguersi

John V. Blakenbaker

**DIGITAL  
COMPUTER**



**KENBAK-1**

FUN                      EDUCATIONAL

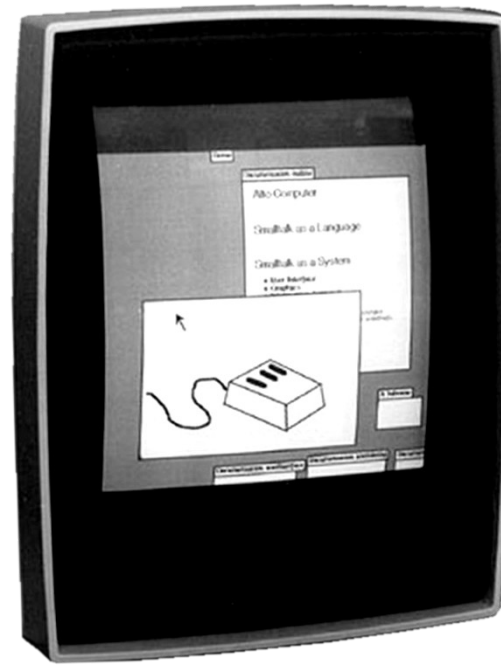
Modern electronic technology created the Kenbak-1 with a price that even private individuals and small schools can afford. The easy-to-understand manuals assume the reader is approaching a computer for the first time. Step-by-step, you can learn to use the computer with its three programming registers, five addressing modes, and 256 bytes of memory. Very quickly you, or your family or students, can write programs of fun and interest.

PRICE    \$750.00

KENBAK CORP.  
P. O. Box 49324  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Charles P. "Chuck" Thacker  
Butler W. Lampson

Alan Kay  
Douglas Carl Engelbart  
Ivan Edward Sutherland

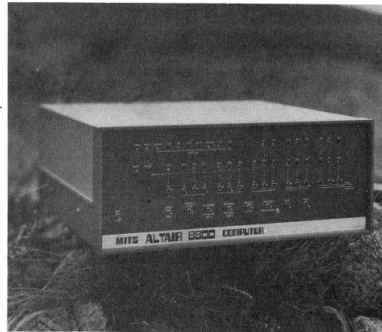




# 1974, Altair 8800

## Henry "Ed" Roberts Forest Mims

## MITTS



**A COMPUTER CONCEPT  
BECOMES AN EXCITING  
REALITY.**

Not too long ago, the thought of an honest, full-blown computer that sells for less than \$500 would have been considered a mere pipe dream.

Everyone knows that computers are monstrous, box-shaped machines that sell for 10's and 100's of thousands of dollars.

Pipe dream or not, MITTS, the quality engineering oriented company that pioneered the calculator market, has made the Altair 8800 a reality. It is the realization of that day when computers are accessible to almost anyone who wants one.

The heart (and the secret) of the MITTS Altair 8800 is the Intel 8080 processor chip. Thanks to rapid advances in integrated circuit technology, this one IC chip can now do what once took thousands of electronic components (including 100's of IC's) and miles of wire.

Make no mistake about it. The MITTS Altair 8800 is a lot of brain power. Its parallel, 8-bit processor uses a 16-bit address. It has 78 basic machine instructions with variances up to 200 instructions. That's more than enough to program all the street lights in a major city.

And the MITTS Altair 8800 Computer is fast. Very fast. It's basic instruction cycle time is 2 microseconds.

Combine this speed and power with the Altair's flexibility (it can directly address 256 input and 256 output devices) and you have a computer that's competitive with most mini's on the market today. And sells for a fraction of their cost.

The Altair 8800 has been designed to fulfill a wide variety of computer needs. It is ideal for the hobbyist who wants to get involved with computers. Yet, it has the power and versatility for the most advanced data processing requirements.

It's basic memory of 256 words of static RAM memory can be expanded to 65,000 words of directly addressable memory. Static OR dynamic memory. OR PROM or ROM memory. OR a floppy disc system. All supplied by MITTS.

Using standard MITTS interface cards, the Altair 8800 can be connected to MITTS peripherals (computer terminals, line printers, audio-cassette interface) to form

the core of a sophisticated time-share system.

The Altair 8800 can be a process controller. It can be an educational device. Or it can be expanded to be an advanced, custom intrusion system. A programmable scientific calculator. Automatic IC tester. Automated automobile test analyzer. Complete accounting system. "Smart" computer terminal. Sound and light system controller.

OR it can be all of these things at the same time. It could be the beginning of new business opportunities. The list of applications is literally endless.

MITTS wants to service your individual computer needs. You can buy an assembled Altair 8800. Or you can start by building the computer yourself. The MITTS Altair 8800 is the ultimate kit. Its assembly isn't much more difficult than assembling a desktop calculator.

OR you can start with an Altair 8800 complete data processing system. Altair Systems come in 4 basic configurations.



Warranty: 90 days on parts and labor for assembled units. 90 days on parts for kits.

Prices, specifications and delivery subject to change without notice.

CIRCLE NO. 23 ON READER SERVICE CARD

For those users who are not familiar with computers, MITTS offers free consultation service. Just describe your requirements to our engineering staff and we will specify the additional cards and the system configuration you need to do the job.

The MITTS Altair 8800 is backed by complete peripheral and software development programs. There is even a high-level language available.

Order your Altair 8800 Computer today. As a special introductory offer, MITTS is offering the Altair 8800 at a discount of \$100. This offer is good on all orders postmarked prior to March 1, 1975.

PRICES:  
Altair 8800 Computer (assembled with complete operation instructions) \$750.00  
Altair 8800 Computer (kit form) \$495.00  
Subtract \$100.00 from above prices on all orders postmarked prior to March 1, 1975.

Order form with checkboxes for shipping options (check, bank, master charge, credit card), assembly status, and fields for name, address, city, state, zip, and phone number.

POPULAR ELECTRONICS

LEN SHUSTER

NEWSLETTER

Issue number one Fred Moore, editor, 2100 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, Ca. 94025 March 15, 1975

### AMATEUR COMPUTER USERS GROUP HOMEBREW COMPUTER CLUB . . . you name it.

Are you building your own computer? Terminal? T V Typewriter? I/O device? or some other digital black-magic box?

Or are you buying time on a time-sharing service?

If so, you might like to come to a gathering of people with likeminded interests. Exchange information, swap ideas, talk shop, help work on a project, whatever . . .

This simple announcement brought 32 enthusiastic people together March 5th at Gordon's garage. We arrived from all over the Bay Area--Berkeley to Los Gatos. After a quick round of introductions, the questions, comments, reports, info on supply sources, etc., poured forth in a spontaneous spirit of sharing. Six in the group already had homebrew systems up and running. Some were designing theirs around the 8008 microprocessor chip; several had sent for the Altair 8800 kit. The group contained a good cross section of both hardware experts and software programmers.

We got into a short dispute over HEX or Octal until someone mentioned that if you are setting the switches by hand it doesn't make any difference. Talked about other standards: re-start locations? input ports? better operating code for the 8080? paper tape or cassettes or paper & pencil listings? Even ASCII should not be assumed the standard: many 5 channel Model 15 TT's are about and in use by RTTY folks. Home computing is a hobby for the experimenter and explorer of what can be done cheaply. I doubt that standards will ever be completely agreed on because of the trade-offs in design and because what's available for one amateur may not be obtainable for another.

Talked about what we want to do as a club: quantity buying, cooperation on software, need to develop a cross assembler, share experience in hardware design, classes possibly, tips on what's currently available where, etc. Marty passed out M.I.'s Application Manual on the MF8008 and let it be known that he could get anything we want. Steve gave a report on his recent visit to MITTS. About 1500 Altairs have been shipped out so far. MITTS expects to send out 1100 more this month. No interfaces or peripherals are available until they catch up with the mainframe back orders. Bob passed out the latest PCC and showed the Altair 8800 which had arrived that week (the red LEDs blink and flash nicely). Ken unboxed and demonstrated the impressive Phi-Deck tape transport.

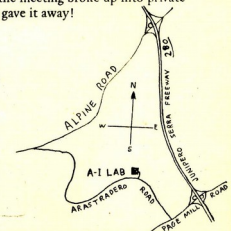
What will people do with a computer in their home? Well, we asked that question and the variety of responses show that the imagination of people has been underestimated. Uses ranged from the private secretary functions: text editing, mass storage, memory, etc., to control of house utilities: heating, alarms, sprinkler system, auto tune-up, cooking, etc., to GAMES: all kinds, TV graphics, x - y plotting, making music, small robots and turtles, and other educational uses, to small business applications and neighborhood memory networks. I expect home computers will be used in unconventional ways--most of which no one has thought of yet.

We decided to start a newsletter and meet again in two weeks. As the meeting broke up into private conversations, Marty held up an 8008 chip, asked who could use it, and gave it away!

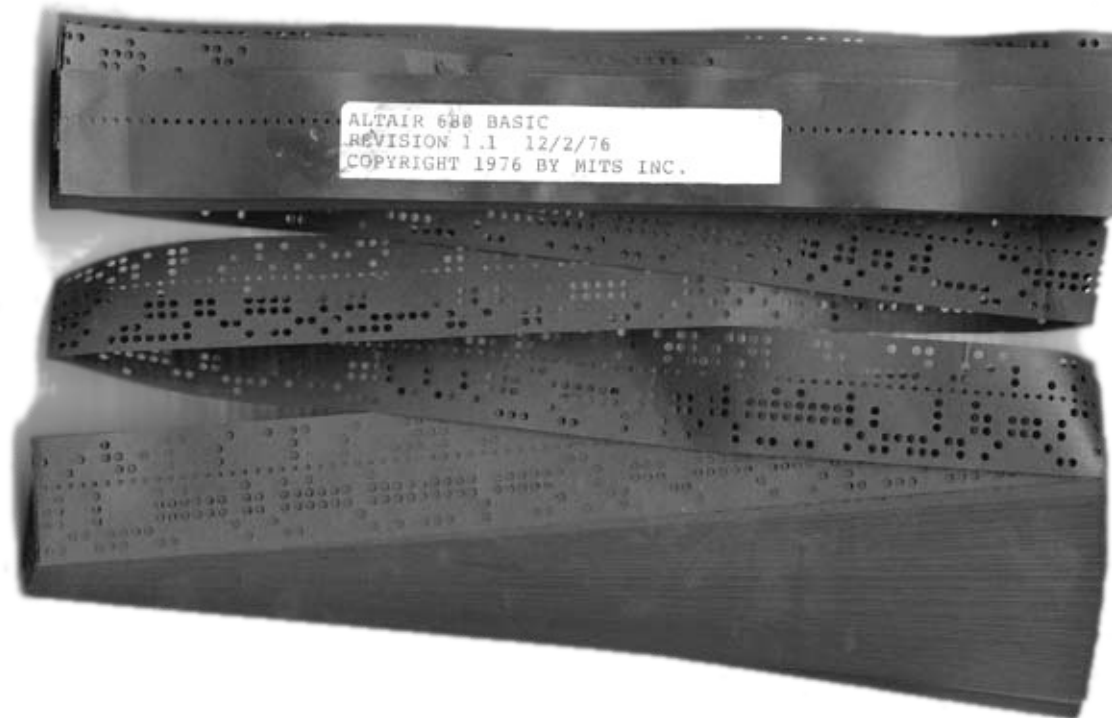
**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19th, 7 PM at  
Stanford's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Conference room,  
Arastradero Road in Portola Valley. Look for this road sign:  
D C Power Lab**

#### Announcement:

Texas Instruments Learning Center is presenting an early morning home television series, April 15 - 18, on "Introduction to Microprocessors." In the San Jose - Bay Area this program will be on channel 11 at 6:00 AM.



William H. "Bill" Gates  
Paul Gardner Allen





## IBM announces the new 5100 Portable Computer

A compact problem-solving aid for engineers,  
statisticians, scientists and financial and business analysts.

Now you can have a computer right on your desk. Exactly where you need it. When you need it.

The new IBM 5100 Portable Computer incorporates the latest in semi-conductor technology. It features a typewriter-like keyboard and numeric key-pad for simplified data entry, a 1024 character display screen, an integrated magnetic tape drive, and 16K characters of memory.

Options available with the 5100 include a bi-directional 80-characters per second printer, a second magnetic tape drive, and additional memory up to a maximum of 64K characters. Also available is a communications feature which allows the 5100 to be used as a terminal.

The IBM 5100 comes with either APL or BASIC language or both.

Over 100 often-used analytical routines in mathematical, statistical and financial calculations are available for such functions as forecasting, modeling, matrix arithmetic, engineering and design calculations, regression and correlation analysis, return on investment and cash flow analysis.

In addition, the 5100 features a self-study training package that makes it easy to learn and easy to use without taking any classes or relying on specially trained experts.

If you'd like to find out more about IBM's new 5100 Portable Computer and arrange for a demonstration right at your desk, call your IBM General Systems Division office or fill out this coupon.

<b>IBM</b>	IBM General Systems Division	SA
	P.O. Box 2068, Atlanta, Georgia 30301	
<input type="checkbox"/>	would like more information about IBM's new 5100.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	would like a demonstration of IBM's new 5100.	
My major area of interest is:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering/Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Business/Financial Analysis	
Name _____		
Title _____		
Company _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		
Phone _____		

- 1973 R2E Micral
  - Francese, usato come controllore
  - Primo (Computer Mus. Boston)
- 1974 Radio Electronics Mk8
  - Progetto su rivista, su 8008
- 1975 Sphere 1, anche in kit
- 1976 Sol-20, ex terminali
- 1976 MOS Tech. KIM, sul 6502
- 1977 ISC Compucolor 8001

## Go Computer Now! Why not?

**FROM \$860 TO \$11,300 SPHERE CAN'T BE BEAT!**

SPHERE starts with a CPU using a Motorola 6800 microprocessor, a Real-Time Clock, 4K of dynamic memory, 1K of PROM software. The CRT Board generates 16 lines by 32 characters of ASCII on a television or video monitor. Keyboard is complete with numeric and cursor editing keypads. From here, hardware can be expanded to your hearts desire with extra memory boards (up to 64K), serial communications interface, cassette interface, Modem, digital I/O (as many as you need), Floppy Disk memory (up to 4 disks), 8 computer terminals, line printer etc...all from one M6800 chip.

With a SPHERE Computer, stand-alone development is just the beginning, you can configure your system to handle your problem solving/record keeping needs. All SPHERE Computer Systems come complete with useable software languages. Available are "PDS" 1K Basic, or extended Basic Compiler. When computer is turned on, it immediately goes into a command mode, so that you can instantly start programming. "PDS" contains a mini-assembler, editor, debugger, and utility commands and set in 1K of PROM. Also available is a 1K subset of Basic. Our extended Basic compiler is complete with string, matrix, and file functions, and requires 12K of memory. With this software you can perform your applications whether it be accounting, home management, education, security monitoring, research, business, etc. Why not invent your own application? For play or for work your biggest problem is no problem at all. \$860 is the start for an operating Computer System Kit. Your computer is ready and comes complete with operator manuals sufficient for first-time computer users. Contact us today for more information.

<b>KIT ASM</b> 5150 \$520	<b>ONE-CARD COMPUTER:</b> Motorola 6800 microprocessor, 4K RAM, 512 bytes EPROM (containing a Program Development System), a REAL-TIME CLOCK, 16 LINES OF DIGITAL I/O, hard wired ROM Monitor, and a serial type interface. This is the 100-quadrant price extended to the hobby user for a limited time on a single unit.	<b>KIT ASM</b> 5999 \$1499*	<b>SPHERE 2:</b> Includes all features of SPHERE 1, plus serial communications and audio cassette or MODEM interface.
522 622	<b>CPU BOARD:</b> Motorola 6800 microprocessor, 4K RAM, 1K EPROM (containing an EDITOR, ASSEMBLER, DEBUGGER, COMMAND LANGUAGE, CASSETTE LOADER, DUMPER, UTILITIES), and a REAL-TIME CLOCK.	1765 2250*	<b>SPHERE 3:</b> Includes all the features of SPHERE 2, plus memory totaling 20K which is sufficient to run full extended BASIC Language.
880 1400*	<b>SPHERE 1:</b> Includes the CPU BOARD described above, plus 512 character video with full ASCII keyboard and numeric/cursor keypad, power supply, chassis, manuals and associated parts.	6100 7995*	<b>SPHERE 4:</b> Includes all of the features of SPHERE 3, except the cassette has been replaced by an IBM-compatible Dual Floppy Disk System. This system includes a Disk-operating System and BASIC Language and a 4.5 LPI line printer.
		(various)	<b>OTHER SPHERE PRODUCTS:</b> Light pen option; full color and BW video graphics system; low cost Dual Floppy Disk System; and full line of low cost peripherals.

\*This ASSEMBLED SPHERE System includes the complete chassis, and video monitor as pictured below.



**SPHERE CORPORATION**  
791 South 500 West Dept. 129 (801) 292-8466  
Bountiful, Utah 84010

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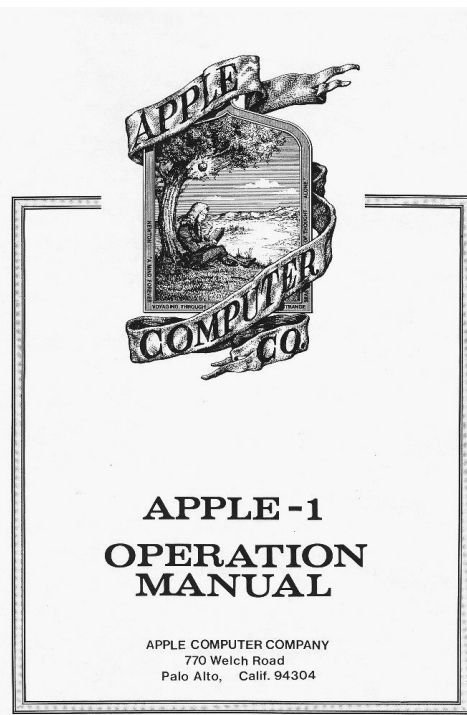


Stephen G. "Woz" Wozniak

Steven P. Jobs

Ronald G. Wayne

MOS 6502



## Apple Introduces the First Low Cost Microcomputer System with a Video Terminal and 8K Bytes of RAM on a Single PC Card.

The Apple Computer. A truly complete microcomputer system on a single PC board. Based on the MOS Technology 6502 microprocessor, the Apple also has a built-in video terminal and sockets for 8K bytes of on-board RAM memory. With the addition of a keyboard and video monitor, you'll have an extremely powerful computer system that can be used for anything from developing programs to playing games or running BASIC.

Combining the computer, video terminal and dynamic memory on a single board has resulted in a large reduction in chip count, which means more reliability and lowered cost. Since the Apple comes fully assembled, tested & burned-in and has a complete power supply on-board, initial set-up is essentially "hassle free" and you can be running within minutes. At \$666.66 (including 4K bytes RAM) it opens many new possibilities for users and systems manufacturers.

### You Don't Need an Expensive Teletype.

Using the built-in video terminal and keyboard interface, you avoid all the expense, noise and maintenance associated with a teletype. And the Apple video terminal is six times faster than a teletype, which means more throughput and less waiting. The Apple connects directly to a video monitor (or home TV with an inexpensive RF modulator) and displays 960 easy to read characters in 24 rows of 40 characters per line with automatic scrolling. The video display section contains its own 1K bytes of memory, so all the RAM memory is available for user programs. And the

Keyboard Interface lets you use almost any ASCII-encoded keyboard.

The Apple Computer makes it possible for many people with limited budgets to step up to a video terminal as an I/O device for their computer.

### No More Switches, No More Lights.

Compared to switches and LED's, a video terminal can display vast amounts of information simultaneously. The Apple video terminal can display the contents of 192 memory locations at once on the screen. And the firmware in PROMS enables you to enter, display and debug programs (all in hex) from the keyboard, rendering a front panel unnecessary. The firmware also allows your programs to print characters on the display, and since you'll be looking at letters and numbers instead of just LED's, the door is open to all kinds of alphanumeric software (i.e., Games and BASIC).

### 8K Bytes RAM in 16 Chips!

The Apple Computer uses the new 16-pin 4K dynamic memory chips. They are faster and take 1/4 the space and power of even the low power 2102's (the memory chip that everyone else uses). That means 8K bytes in sixteen chips. It also means no more 28 amp power supplies.

The system is fully expandable to 65K via an edge connector which carries both the address and data busses, power supplies and all timing signals. All dynamic memory refreshing for both on and off-board memory is done automatically. Also, the Apple Computer can be upgraded to use the 16K chips when they become available.

That's 32K bytes on-board RAM in 16 IC's—the equivalent of 256 2102's!

### A Little Cassette Board That Works!

Unlike many other cassette boards on the marketplace, ours works every time. It plugs directly into the upright connector on the main board and stands only 2" tall. And since it is very fast (1500 bits per second), you can read or write 4K bytes in about 20 seconds. All timing is done in software, which results in crystal-controlled accuracy and uniformity from unit to unit.

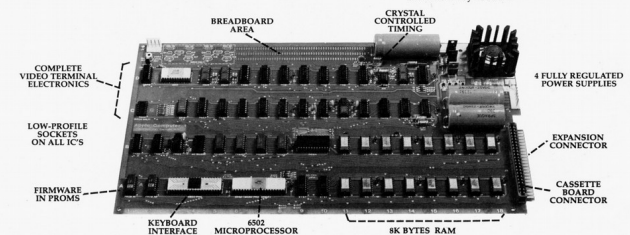
Unlike some other cassette interfaces which require an expensive tape recorder, the Apple Cassette Interface works reliably with almost any audio-grade cassette recorder.

### Software:

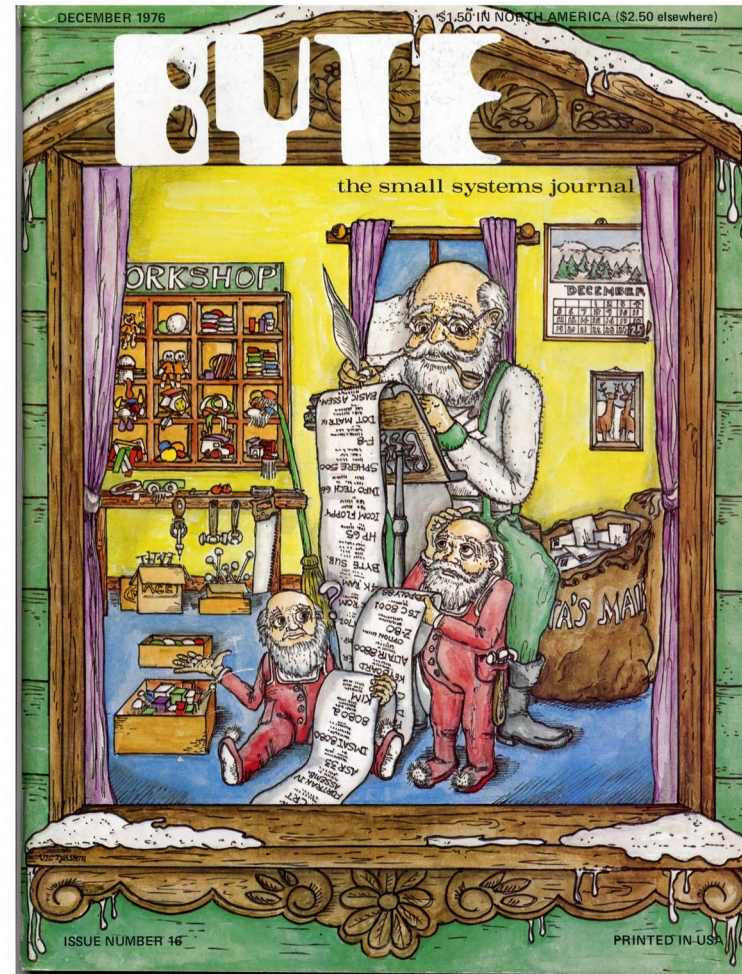
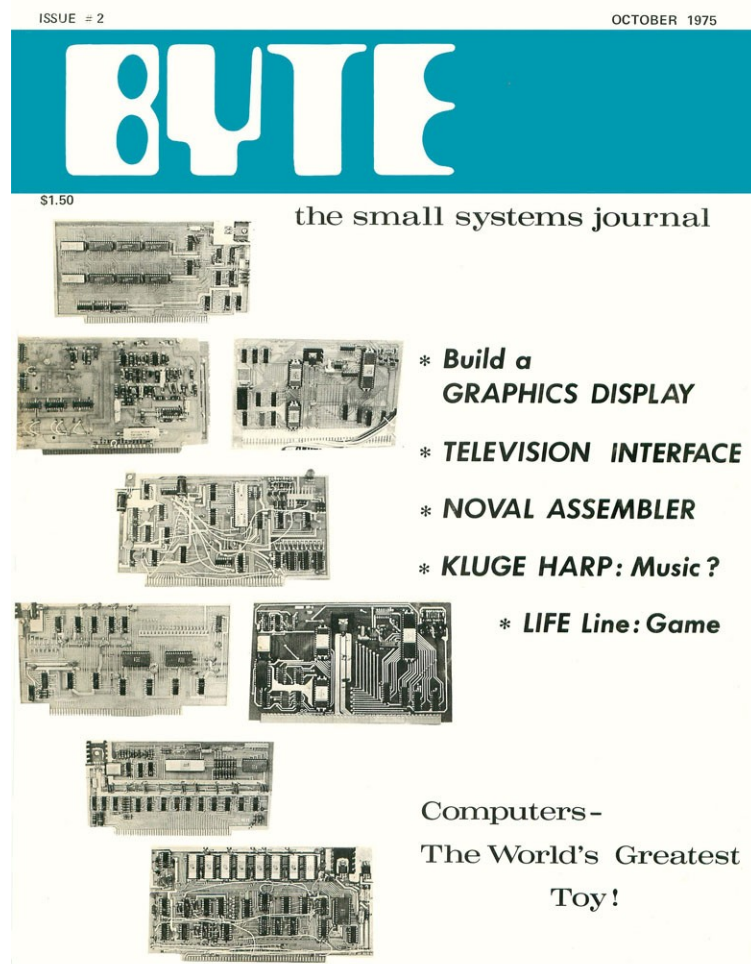
A tape of APPLE BASIC is included free with the Cassette Interface. Apple Basic features immediate error messages and fast execution, and lets you program in a higher level language immediately and without added cost. Also available now are a dis-assembler and many games, with many software packages, (including a macro assembler) in the works. And since our philosophy is to provide software for our machines free or at minimal cost, you won't be continually paying for access to this growing software library.

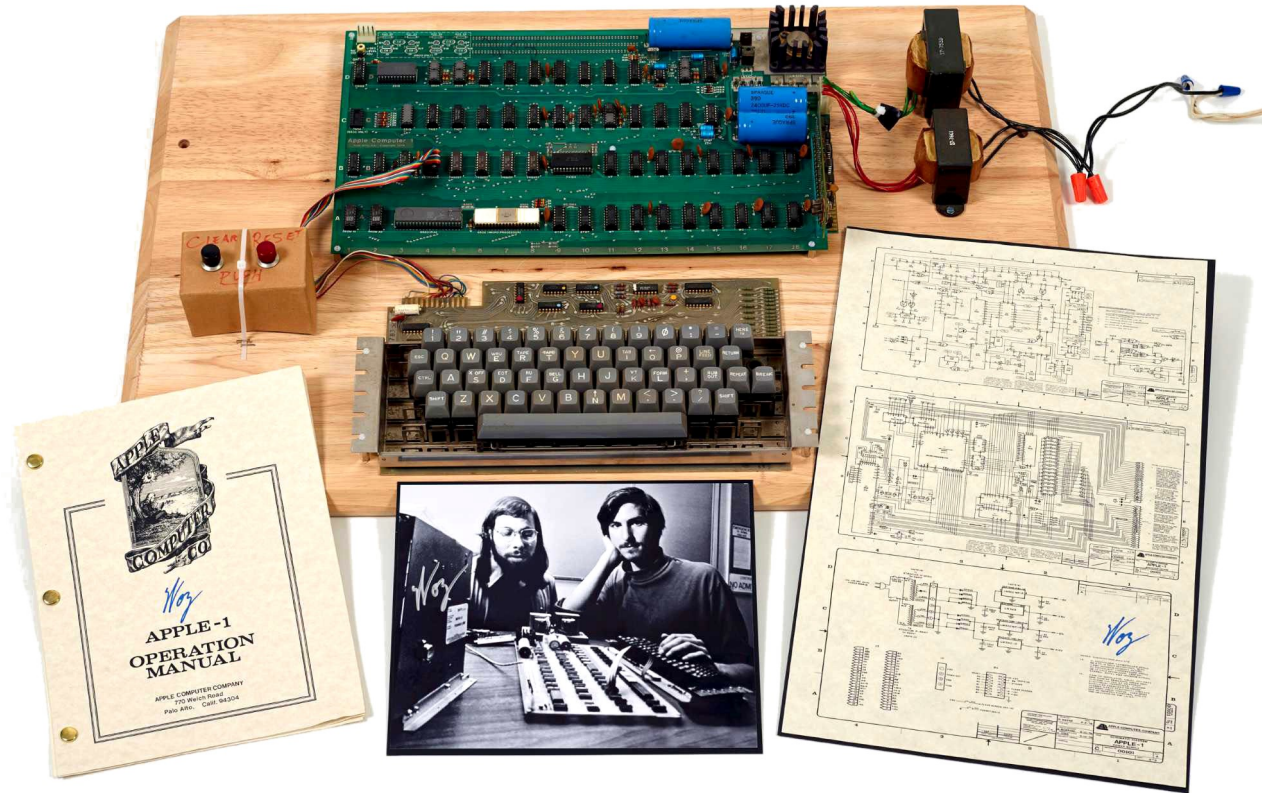
The Apple Computer is in stock at almost all major computer stores. (If your local computer store doesn't carry our products, encourage them or write us direct). Dealer inquiries invited.

Byte into an Apple ..... \$666.66\*  
\*includes 4K bytes RAM



APPLE Computer Company • 770 Welch Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94304 • (415) 326-4248  
CIRCLE NO. 7 ON INQUIRY CARD INTERFACE AGE 11





Bolaffi, luglio 2013, 390000\$, da Christie's



# 1977, Commodore PET

Chuck Pebble  
Bill Seiler  
John Feagans  
(Jack Tramiel)

MOS 6502

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**Northern Ireland**  
Medical & Scientific  
Liners 08462-77333



Armas Clifford "Mike" Markkula  
Stephen G. "Woz" Wozniak  
Steven P. Jobs

MOS 6502



Don French  
Steve Leininger

Zilog Z80

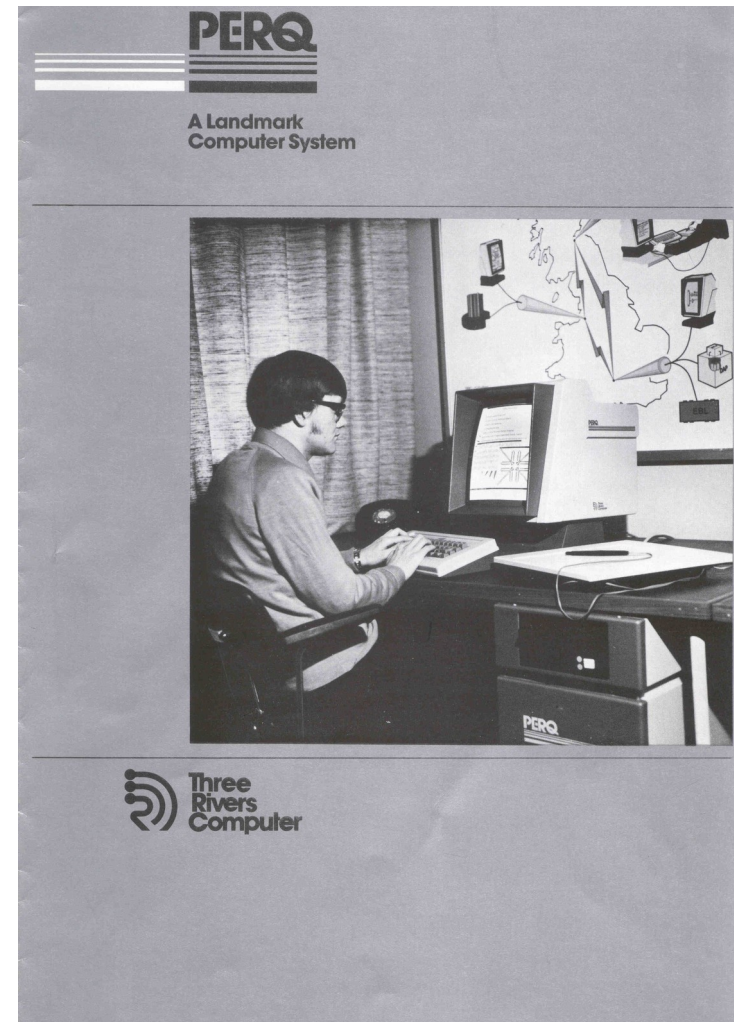


Carnegie Mellon  
Three Rivers Computer Corp.  
UK Science Research Council  
International Computers Ltd.

Pascal Engine that Runs Quicker

20 bit CPU

256 Kib → 2 MiB



Adam Osborne  
Lee Felsenstein

Zilog Z80

Alan Kay (Note Taker 1978)





David Liddle

AMD Am2900 (bitslice)

Charles Simonyi (fra gli altri)



Philip Donald Estridge

Intel 8088

Tim Paterson (QDOS)



# 1982, GRiD Compass

John Ellenby (Xerox Parc)

Glenn Edens

Dave Paulsen

W.G. "Bill" Moggridge (design)



## THIS IS NOT THE MOST AMAZING PART OF MOBILE COMPUTING.

The requirements of mobile computing demand nothing less than a complete 16-bit computer with the largest possible display screen, full-sized keyboard, large and expandable memory, removable storage, and a correspondence-quality 8 1/2" x 11" or legal page printer.

But the criteria of necessity was only our starting point in designing the mobile computer's

hardware. The end result takes the idea much farther as a solid combination of some of the most highly evolved microcomputer technologies ever to appear in the same package.

### THIS 9 POUND COMPUTER IS NO LIGHTWEIGHT.

The decision to incorporate the power of a full 16-bit processor over the 8-bit approach wasn't a tough decision. From the outset, we saw that for the Gavilan mobile computer to offer the highest degree of software capability and flexibility, it would have to use a 16-bit processor. Eight bits just can't run the software and interface required. Additionally, most of the software innovations of the '80s will be in 16-bit packages.

The LCD screen is a bit-mapped 80 character per line display with plenty of room to zoom in and out for

viewing entire documents and scroll through letters, tables and spreadsheets easily. Horizontal and vertical scroll is standard. We also equipped the Gavilan with an adapter for a 24 line x 80 character video monitor.

The keyboard is a full-sized typewriter layout with an integrated 10-key numeric pad – the best ergonomic arrangement possible for serious word processing and number entry.

### THE PRINTER FOR THE COMPLETE PORTABLE OFFICE.

Putting your work on paper in the field means having a good lightweight printer. So the mobile computer comes with a true technological advancement: a 5 pound printer that produces correspondence-quality 8 1/2" x 11" and legal (or continuous) documents at the rate of 50 characters per second. Its self-con-

tained battery pack will print up to 60,000 characters between charges. It attaches compactly and securely onto the back of the portable main unit and was designed as an integrated part of the computer for regular daily use, rather than as a dangling cable-attached accessory. With printer attached, the entire computer weighs only 14 pounds.

**A 3 1/2" FILE CABINET HOLDS IT ALL.**

The Gavilan mobile computer is made possible in part by two of the newest miniaturizations in memory devices. The 3 1/2" floppy disk drive and plug-in memory expansion capsules. Both memory components are contained within the portable

main unit of the computer behind the display screen, adding no additional volume to the computer.

The 3 1/2" microfloppy disk drive provides 360,000 characters of formatted memory. Adding a second disk provides an additional 360,000 characters of formatted storage. That's more than 100 pages of text per disk.

The plug-in memory capsules contain both expansion memory capability and software programs. The standard 80 Kbytes of system memory can be expanded by additional capsules. Further, external memory options can boost it to 336 Kbytes.

For field communications between computers, the

Gavilan incorporates an integrated modem offering direct connection, auto-dialing and auto-answering.

An RS-232 port allows direct link data transfer at 9600 baud rate.

### WHAT COULD BE EASIER THAN A KEYBOARD? A TOUCH PAD.

But the one piece of hardware that orchestrates all of the rest – the fully integrated solid state mouse – is the single most significant advancement in easy-to-use computer hardware available today.

It's a touch-sensitive panel located below the display screen at the top of the keyboard. The touch panel, as it's called, is the means by which the user directs practically all of the

computer's selection capabilities. With it, we've eliminated keyboard operation for all but number entry and word typing. The rest of the operation is "menu driven", meaning that selection menus containing commands for the computer are displayed on the screen, and you run the computer by simply using the touch panel to select the capabilities you want from the menus.

All of this, including 8-hour continuous-use rechargeable batteries, weighs in at 14 pounds. The portable main unit itself – including display keyboard, central processing unit, memory plug-in capsules and batteries – is only 9 pounds.

But, the hardware, as state-of-the-art as it is, is not the most amazing part of mobile computing.



CAPSULEWARE AND MEMORY EXPANSION CAPSULES

CORRESPONDENCE-QUALITY 50 CHARACTER PER SECOND PRINTER WITH BATTERY PACK WEIGHS FIVE POUNDS

3 1/2" FLOPPY DISK DRIVE, 360 KBYTES FORMATTED

FULL-SIZE TYPEWRITER KEYBOARD

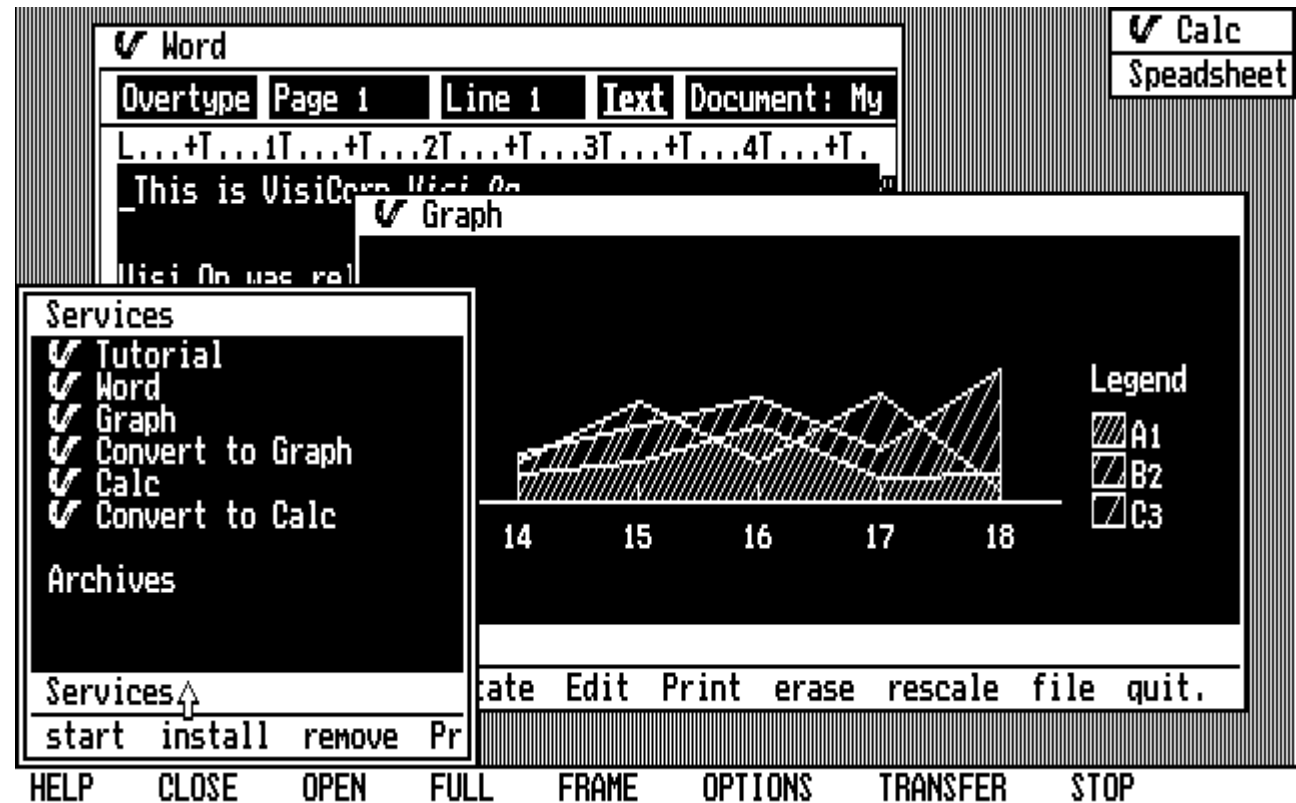
10-KEY NUMERIC PAD

TOUCH PANEL WITH COMMAND FUNCTIONS ALLOWS PRESSURE-SENSITIVE POINTER CONTROL OF ON-SCREEN MENUS, DOCUMENTS, NUMBERS AND TEXT

80 CHARACTER PER LINE LCD SCREEN WITH ABILITY TO DRIVE A 24 LINE X 80 CHARACTER VIDEO MONITOR

Visi Corp (VisiCalc)

Dallo Xerox Star al  
COMDEX '82



Jef Raskin  
Bill Atkinson  
Burrell Carver Smith



Ridley Scott



Little Dandy character licensed by Robbins Inc., etc.

## How to move with modern times and take your PC with you.

**Introducing the IBM *Portable* Personal Computer.**

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9" monitor with easy-to-read amber characters. Text and graphics capability. And an 83-key keyboard.

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Which means it is part of the same dependable family as the IBM Personal Computer, the IBM PC/XT and the new IBM PCjr. And that means you can use many IBM Personal Computer Software

programs to help you reach your goals.

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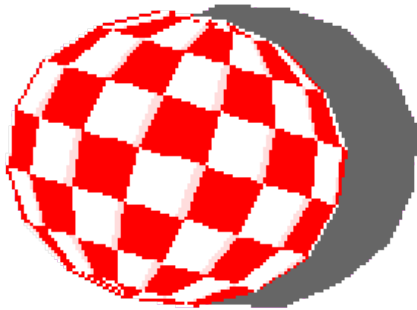
**Pick one up at a store near you.** You can see the new IBM *Portable* Personal Computer at any authorized IBM PC dealer or IBM Product Center.

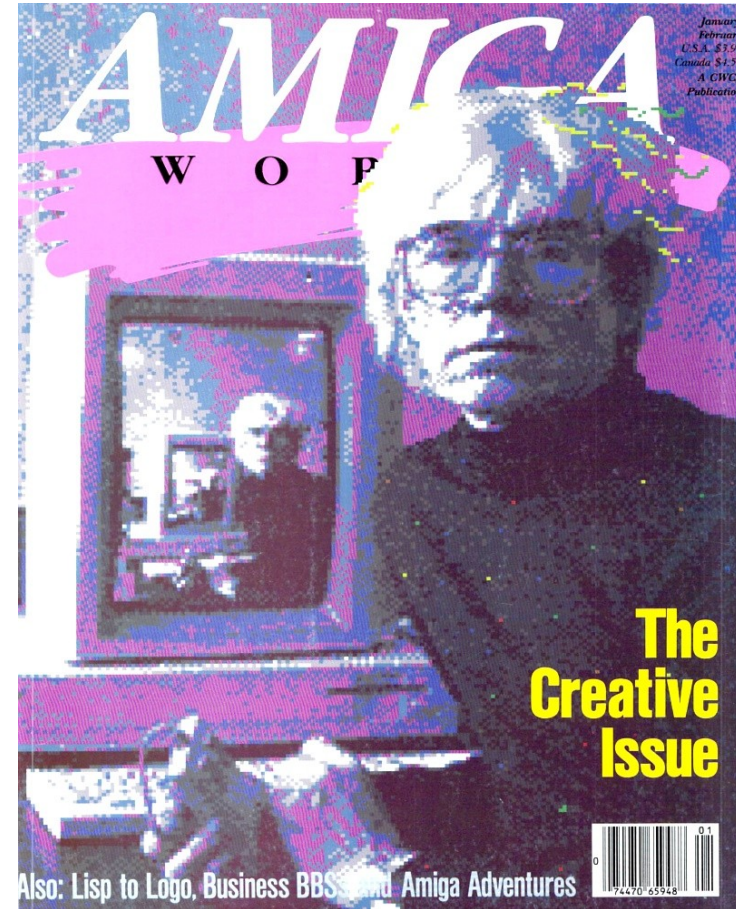
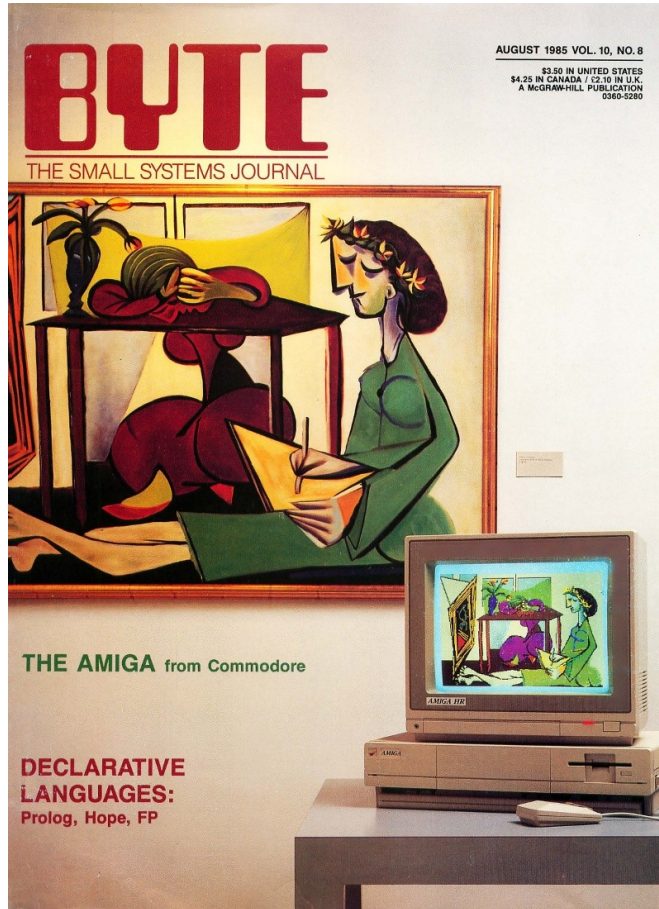
To find the store nearest you, call 1-800-447-4700. In Alaska or Hawaii, call 1-800-447-0890.





Jay Miner (Amiga Corp.)  
Larry Kaplan (Hi-Toro)  
Thomas Rattigan (Commodore)





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