responding low-level screen. Each number optionally carries a full set of modem specs (speed, parity, etc.), or the number can be characterized as voice. One entry should be set up as local, and will cause you to connect out the serial port to your local machine.

To use it, select the Directory key, then one digit for each level of the index. Dialing is immediate and automatic.

Individual pages of the directory can be password protected. That's a good feature because there's no other protection for the directory data you store. Northern Telecom might consider a "session login" screen for overall security. It could reset itself automatically after a time period, or at the end of an eight-hour period.

There's another nifty feature: a calculator. You access it by pressing the Services key and selecting Option 1. It's a simple four-banger, but very accessible. You can flip back and forth between your active screen and the calculator.

After an hour or so, I found that the keyboard is only a minor problem. My advice is, try it. I have no doubt that this terminal would be perfect for an executive whose computer use is limited and whose desk space is at a premium.

Displayphone 220
Northern Telecom Inc.
200 Athens Way
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 734-4251

Price: $1,095 with modem; $895 without.

Enter 746 on reader card

FROM THE LAB-#2

Dave Mallery

The MXV50 Disk Controller

These days a MICROVAX II often grows up to be a real machine. The process usually starts with a big disk and its own controller, then, maybe a bigger terminal interface, a real tape drive, etc.

One day you ask yourself about the RDxx drive that's still sitting in the box. You haven't accessed it in months but you're still paying Field Service exorbitant rates to "maintain" it. Not only that, but you're also paying to maintain the RQDXn controller.

Out they come, but there's a problem: One week later, you're trying to read a floppy and . . .!

A Simple Solution

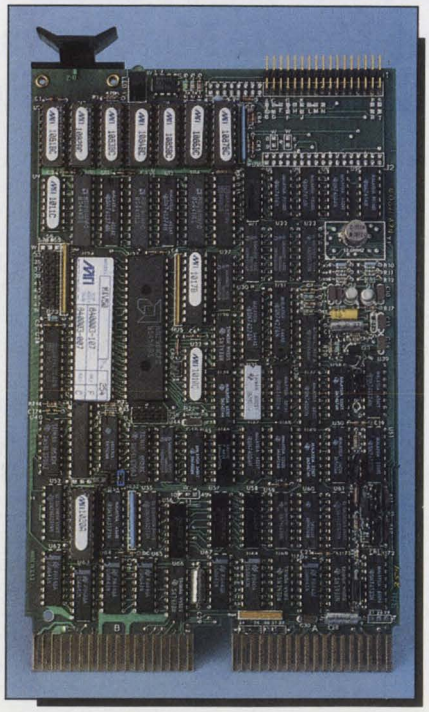
Remove both DEC pieces and send them down the hall to another MICROVAX that could use more storage. Pick up an MTI MXV50 dual floppy controller from Micro Technology Inc. of Placentia, California, and you're in business.

We installed one in our main MICROVAX. This machine has sprouted all of the obligitory big machine peripherals, but still needs the RX50 capacity to read articles sent into us in that format.

MXV50 Disk Controller
Micro Technology Inc.
1620 Miraloma Avenue
Placentia, California 92670
(714) 632-7580

Price: $965 each, $675 for quantities of 100 or more.

Enter 776 on reader card



Cabling for an RX50 is simpler than the standard lash-up for an RQDXn. The drive and the controller use a 34-pin cable connector. All you need is a cable about 18 inches long that can reach from the card cage back underneath the backplane and out to the drive. All the distribution panel nonsense can be skipped.

The controller, as shipped, is set up for Shugart drive compatibility. The cables we received were of the Shugart (34-pin edge connector) persuasion. To convert to true RX50, you must cut a jumper on the etch side of the board. This is located easily with the configuration card supplied with the manual.

I configured the controller to be the DUB (second) device.

Up it came.

Our floppies now are DUB0 and DUB1.

Simple.

Unassuming.

Neat!