

January 15, 1976

Altair 680 UPDATE INFORMATION

Due to delays in shipment of the first generation Altair 680, it has been decided to upgrade all Altair 680's to the second generation design. This means that the Altair 680 will include the following items at no additional cost:

- 1) PROM monitor. 1702A PROM chip programmed so that you can immediately load paper tape. Also contains interrupt vectors for software, reset, maskable, and non-maskable interrupts.
- 2) Asynchronous Communication Interface Adapter (ACIA). Allows machine to transmit and receive a character at a time rather than one bit. Minimizes software needed for I/O routines. Containes crystal clock for baud rate synchronization. User-selectable for RS232, TTL, 60 mA, or 20 mA current loop. Baud rates of 110, 150, 300, 1200, and 2400.
- 3) Compatible with all Motorola 6800 software. This software will be available from MITS, Inc.

While these changes will greatly enhance the Altair 680, this change will cause a 30-60 day delay in delivery schedule.

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#### MITS AUTAIR 8800

### Price List

January 1, 1976

Part Number	Description	Kit	Assem	Days Delivery
8800	Altair 8800 Computer	\$ 439.00	\$ 621.00	60
COMTER II	Terminal w/Audio Cassette I/C		920.00	60
CT-256	Comter 256 Terminal	745.00	885.00	45-60
CT257,8 or 9	Pages 2, 3, or 4 for CT-256	95.00	105.00	45-60
CT-8096	CRT Terminal	TBD	TBD	TBD
88-VLCT	Low Cost Terminal	129.00	169.00	45-60
88-80LP	Line Printer & Controller	1,750.00	1,975.00	60
88-TTY	Teletype ASR-33	1,500.00	1,500.00	60
., 0	reretype no. 1-30	1,500.00	1,300.00	60
B8-MM	Adds 256 words to 88-MCS	14.00	26.00	30
88-1MCS	1K Static Memory	97,00	139.00	30
88-4MCD	4K Dynamic Memory	195.00	275.00	60
88-DCDD	Disc Controller & 1 Drive	1.480.00	1,980.00	60
88-DISC	Disc Drive in Cabinet	1,180.00	1,600.00	60
88-DMAC	Direct Memory Access Cont.	98.00	149.00	TBD
88-DMAE	Direct Memory I/O Channel	126.00	186.00	TBD
88-DMAI	Direct Memory I/O Channel	123.00	183.00	TBD
88-4PIO	4 Port Parallel I/O	86.00	112.00	30
88-PF	Extra Port on 4PIO	30.00	39.00	
89-2510	2 Port Serial Board (State	30.00	39.00	3 <b>0</b>
00-2310	I/O)	115.00	tuu oo	20
88-SP	Extra Port for 2SIO Board	24.00	144.00	30
88-EC	Expander Mother Board only		35.00	30
88-MB		16.00	31.00	30
00-np	88-EC inc. connectors and card guides	65.00	100.00	••
88-EBC	<b>~</b>	65.00	138.00	30
88-EXC	Expander Cabinet	394.00	485.00	60
	Extender Card	57.00	83.00	30
88-ACR	Audio Cassette Record Interfa		174.00	30
B8-VI	Vectored Interrupt	126.00	179.00	90
88-RTC	Real Time Clock	53.00	84.00	90
88-PPCB	Prototype PC Board	57.00	84.00	30
88-FAN	Cooling Fan	16.00	20.00	30
88-FMC	PROM Memory Card (no PROM's)	65.00	128.00	60
88-PROM	PROM's (256 x 8 Bytes)	25.00	37.00	60
88-PPC	PROM Programmer Card		FACTORY	90
25DB	I/O Socket for Cabinet Case	11.00	25.00	30
MS-416	MITScope4 channel scope	127.00	189.00	30
680F	680 MPU Unit (Assem state I/0	345.00	420,00	60
680T	680 Less Front Panel	280.00	420.00	60
680 CPU Bd			076 00	
	CPU Board w/microprocessor ch:	•	275.00	60
680 PROM	256 x 8-Bit PROM	25.00	37.00	60
680FAN	Peewee Fan Option	16.00	20.00	60
680Socket	680 IC Socket Option	29.00	42.00	60

Prices, specifications, development and delivery all subject to change without notice.

NOTE

Suggestad	8800 System Prices	Kit	Assom	Days Dol <b>ivery</b>
Systom 1	ALTAIR Basic I	1,712.00	2,265.00	60
Systom U	ALTAIR Extended Basic []	1,893.00	2,566.00	60
System III	ALTAIR DUS/Hasic 11]	4,714.00	6,397.00	90
System 1V	ALTAIR Extended Engr/Accto IV	7,938.00	9,985.00	1 <b>2</b> Ü

(To substit⊔te teletype for COMTER II add \$720.00 to kit or \$580.00 to assembled price.)

Postage and Handling for systems will be subject to quotation.

#### Software for 8800 Systems

•		Prices for Purchasers of 8800 plus:	
4K Basic	\$150.00	4K memory, I/O \$ 60.00	30
8K Basic	\$200.00	ы/ 8K memory, 1/0 \$ 75.00	30
EXT Basic	\$350.00	w∕12K memory, I/O \$ 150.00	30
Package #1	\$175.00	⊔/ 8K memory, I/O \$ 30.00	30
005	\$500.00	u/12K memory, I/O \$ 150.00	60
DEBUG	\$100.00	4K memory, I/O \$ 25.00	60

\$15.00 copying charge for update copy or second copy of above software. Copying charge in addition to update charge will be imposed for those

updating their software.
PLEASE SPECIFY PAPER TAPE OR AUDIO TAPE WHEN ORDERING SOFTWARE except for DDS which is available only on DISC.

#### Manuals

CT-256	Operator's Assembly Theory of Operation	6.50 10.00 10.00	BASIC Language Documentation 10.0	0
9800	Operator's Assembly Theory of Operation	7.50 9.00 9.00	Special OfferAll Thre Manuals in a Binder	e <b>\$</b> 15.00
-680	Operator's Assembly Theory of Operation	7.50 7.50 10.00	Special OfferAll Thre Manuals in a Binder	

#### Postaga & Tarms

Terms: Cash with order, Mastercharge or Bankamericard Postage & Handling:

- 1. Add \$8.00 for each terminal, computer, line printer and disc
- 2. Add for Modular Boards
  - a. -0- if ordered with computerb. \$3.00 if ordered separately
- Postage included in price of manuals
- 4. Teletype orders will be sent truck freight charges collect.
- 5. Canada, Hawaii & Alaska postage charges subject to quotátion.

Above applies to domestic shipments in U.S.A. only. Overseas shipment, unless otherwise specified are usually made by airfreight via our shipping agents, Emery Airfreight, on airfreight collect basis.

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System	H	ALTAIR	Extended Basic II	1,893.00	2,566.00	60
System :	ΙΙΙ	ALTAIR	DOS/Basic III	4,714.00	6,397.00	90
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(To substitute teletype for COMTER II add \$720.00 to kit or \$590.00 to assembled price.)

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4K Basic	<b>\$</b> 150.00	4K memory, I/O \$ 60.00	30
8K Basic	\$200.00	⊎/ 8K memory, I/D <b>\$</b> 75.00	30
EXT ∃asic	\$350.00	u/l2K memory, I/O \$ 150.00	30
Package #1	\$175.00	w/ 8K memory, 1/0 \$ 30.00	30
DOS	\$500.00	w/12K memory, I/O \$ 150.00	60
DEBUG	\$100.00	4K memory. I/D \$ 25.00	60

\$15.00 copying charge for update copy or second copy of above software. Copying charge in addition to update charge will be imposed for those

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Produces a group of math addition problems and answers. Written to use PRINT USING, a feature of Extended Basic, to format its output.

#1020752 -- \$2.00 Author: Lee Eastburn Length: 290 locations Title: Print program Dumps a program with page headings. an address field and the octal contents of the address. Columns are provided to fill in labels, instruction mnemonics and comments.

#1021751 -- \$2.00 Author: Jack Coats Jr. Length: 46 bytes Title: A Dual-Tasker An interrupt level routine to switch between two tasks. Context is saved on the stack and the stack pointer

is saved in memory.

#1027751 -- \$2.00 Author: Jack Coats Jr. Length: 43 bytes Title: Time of Day routine

Using the real-time-clock interrupts this program keeps track of the hours, minutes, seconds and hundredths of seconds that elapse. The data is stored in binary coded decimal.

#1027752 -- \$2.00 Author: Roger J. Walker Length: 53 bytes

Title: TVTDR-I/O handler for TVT-II TVTDR is designed to overcome a deficiency in the TVT-II that prevents it from blanking to the end of the line when a carriage return is output. The appropriate number of spaces are output instead of a carriage return. Instructions for interfacing to Altair Basic are given.

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#1030751 -- \$2.00 Author: Lee Eastburn

Gength: LCAD section-71 bytes DUMP section-96 bytes ASCII Octal Loader and Dumper

The DUMP section outputs the contents of the block of memory in ASCII octal (3 characters ["Ø" - "7"] for each byte). Twenty bytes are printed on each line of output. The LOAD section loads a tape of the same format, ignoring all characters except "Ø" through "7." The start and end locations are specified by changing LXIs in the programs themselves.

#1030752 -- \$2.00 Author: John Trautschold Length: 16 bytes Title: VLCT load program

Allows entry of a load address and program data in octal from a VLCT keyboard. The entered data is displayed for verification. Documented with high 8-bits of start address as "XXX" so the program can easily be located at the start of any memory page (a block of 256 consecutive memory locations, the first location of which has an address divisible by 256 [decimal]).

#117751 -- \$5.00 Author: S. Armstrong

Length: 124 instruction bytes (not

including embedded NOPS)

342 data bytes

Title: Punch tape label Punches paper tape labels by using 5 tape frames to make a block letter. Can "print" any alphabetic, numeric, or common delimeter. Additional characters can easily be added. "Prints" an entire line at once with separating blanks.

#117752 -- no charge Author: Jerry Ford Length: 318 bytes

Title: JAMON - a teletype monitor This monitor allows examining (dumping) of memory blocks, depositing into memory blocks and jumping to a specified address. All inputs and outputs are in octal. Subroutines for character input, character output, octal input and octal output are included.

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#1117752 -- \$2.00
Author: George Rompot
Length: 25 bytes
Title: CHECK
A well-documented subroutine to calculate a 16-bit sum of an area of core specified in the calling parameters. Optionally checks the computed checksum with a checksum provided in the calling sequence. A testing program is included.

#1121751 -- \$2.00
Author: Gary Tack
Length: 152 bytes
Title: Random Magic Squares
Generates 3 numbers which are used
to make a magic square (a 3x3 grid
in which the sums of the numbers in
each row, column and diagonal are
equal). All "magic squares" can be
generated since 3 numbers characterize a magic square. Each group of 3
numbers generates a distinct magic
square. Stores magic square information in memory. Doesn't do any
input/output.

#1123751 -- \$15.00 Author: Jim Gerow Length: 33 pages

Title: A FORTRAN simulator for the

8080

A FORTRAN program to take as input the code generated by Mr. Gerow's Cross Assembler (#521751) and simulate the Altair's execution of the code. Extremely useful for debugging. A manual is included with the source listing. A list of changes to be made to cross assemblers received before December 1, 1975 to allow them to work with the simulator is given.

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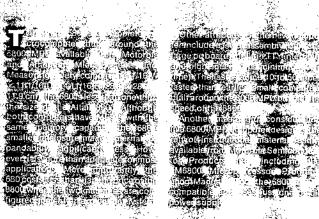
Popular Electronics

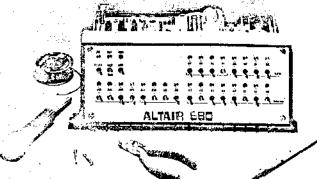
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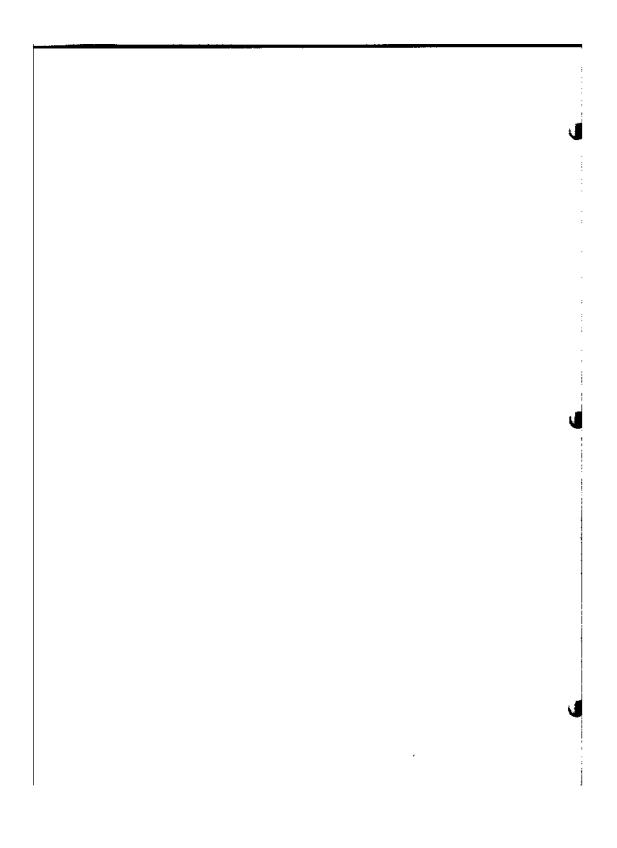
Dulletin 1999; anterface and low cost.

Chil Duran









ALTAIR COMPUTER COMPARISON CHART				
Features	Altair 680	Altair 8800		
Maximum word size	24 bits (byte oriented)	24 bits (byte oriented)		
Arithmetic unit	8-bit parallel	8-bit parallel		
Minimum cycle time	4 µs	2 μs		
Program instructions	72	78		
Maximum memory size	65k bytes	65k bytes		
internal expandability	5 interface cards	250 interface cards		
Interrupt	3 levels	B tevels		
MPU	6800 (Motorola, AMI)	8080 (intel, Ti)		
Approximate system cost (Ik memory, I/O, case, P/S)	\$300	\$600		
Miscellaneous	Fewer parts 2 printed circuit boards Smaller size Built-in TTY interface	Minimum of 4 pc boards		

#### MAIN BOARD PARTS LIST

Lawrence (Company)

BDI—Bridge rectifier (VI048)
CI=3300-µF, 50-V electrolytic capacitor
C2,C3=100-µF, 50-V electrolytic capacitor
C4 to C9=0.33-µF, 50-V disc capacitor
C10,C13=0.1-µF, 16-V disc capacitor
C11,C12=0.33-µF, 16-V disc capacitor
C11,C12=0.9-µF, 16-V disc capacitor
C13=1-µF, 50-V electrolytic capacitor
D1,D2,D7 to D12=1N4004 diode
D3 to D6=1N4739A, 9.1-V zener diode
FI=1-A, 250-V ac, 3-AG fuse
ICA=7403
ICC,ICUU=7408
ICD,ICE,ICS=4449
ICF,ICG=74LS0I
ICH,IC1,ICK,ICL,ICM,ICN,ICP,ICR=7102
ICT,ICU,ICGG,ICHH,ICPP,ICRE=74L30

ICV—74L00
ICW—74L74
ICX,ICY,ICTT—4050
ICZ,ICAA,ICBB,ICCC—1702
ICDD.ICFF—74L04
ICEE,ICMM—74L10
ICJJ—6800
ICK,ICLL,ICSS—74L905
ICNN—74L527
O1 03,Q4—71598
Q2—EN3997
Except where noted, following resistors are ½-watt, 5%:
R1,R2—33 chms, 2-watt, 5%
R3,R4,R5,R7—100 ohms
R6—130 ohms, 1-watt, 5%
R8,R1—800 ohms
R9—220 ohms, 1-watt, 5%
R1,R28 to R51—7500 ohms
R12,R15,R16,R17—1000 ohms
R14,R20,R21—390 ohms
R14,R20,R21—390 ohms
R14,R20,R21—390 ohms
R18,R19—330 ohms
R22—33,000 ohms
R22—33,000 ohms
R23—R24,R25,R60—10,000 ohms

R26, R27, R36, R37, R58, R39—not used R32 to R35—3000 chms SP1—Spdt toggle switch T1—5-volt, 1.2-A transformer VR1—7805 regulator XTAL—2-Mf12 crystal Miac.—Fuse holder (Buss HKP-CC, line cord, fan (IMC 334°), 1/O socket (DB-255), sockets (14-pin, 22: 16-pin, 20; 24-pin, 4; 40-pin, 1), case optional). Note—The following are available from M17's, 6328 Linn, N.E., Abuquerque, NM 87108; complete kit (all parts) #680F at \$293; complete kit except for front panel board #680° fa \$240; kit #680MPU, including pc board, 6800 MPU, its memory, and all main board components except power supply at \$180, front panel and MPU pc hoards #680°C at \$48, I/O socket kit at \$29; fan kit at \$16; 256 x 8-bit PROM kit at \$42; construction information package is free, with self-addressed stamped 9° x 12° envelope.

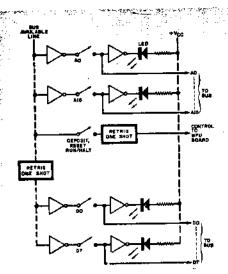


Fig. 8. Front panel contains address and data switches A0 through A15 and D0 through D7, reset switch, and LED indicators.

memory address location will then appear as lighted and unlighted LED's in the DATA display.

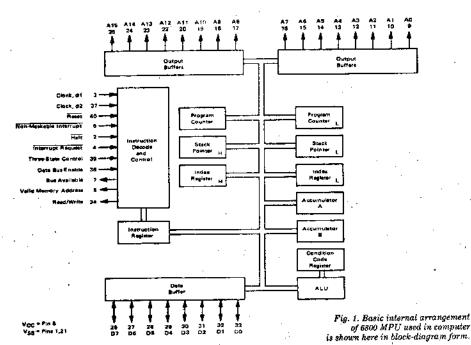
To change data in a location, the desired data is written via the DATA switches and entered by operating the DEPOSIT switch. This triggers a one-shot multivibrator, enabling the data information to the data bus and causing the R/W signal to go low. Since the address bus is already connected to the switches by being in the halt state, the write pulse causes the data to be written into the selected RAM address.

When the RESET switch is operated, the CPU resets. This, in turn, initiates a restart sequence. That is, the address bus is pulled to the high state and causes the hard-wired data in the board jumpers to be used as the restart address.

Access to the I/O port is gained by addressing location 17577 (in octal). A sequence of events then occurs that

POPULAR ELECTRONICS

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Basic System Philosophy. The basic MPU, memory, I/O (input/output), and power-supply circuits In the Altair 680 are located on a single printed circuit board. The addition of a compact power transformer makes this assembly a complete computer system. (Front-panel switch programming can be used, but in the absence of this assembly, PROM's or ROM's must be installed for programming.)

The front-panel assembly contains ail the logic needed to reset, halt, or start the processor. Also, any memory cell can be read or written into from the front panel via 16 ADDRESS and eight DATA switches. Mounted on the front-panel circuit board is a 100contact edge connector that permits the main MPU board to plug directty into the front panel, thus eliminating the need for a wiring harness. (In systems that do not use the frontpanel assembly, the MPU board automatically starts running at an address specified by either a PROM or a hard-wired patch.) The front panel contains 27 LED's that indicate the state of each switch. As a safety mea-

sure, the power switch is located on

the back of the cabinet to obviste the possibility of its being accidentally operated during programming.

The basic computer contains 1024 bytes of memory and has provisions for an additional 1024 bytes of PROM or ROM memory. An I/O channel and interface are also included in the basic system. The I/O channel can be configured to interface RS-232 or a 20-mA or 60-mA TTY loop. This means that anyone who can obtain an old fivelevel Baudot-type Teletype—such as the MOD-15. MOD-19, etc.—can use it as a computer terminal. (Many such Teletypes are available for less than \$100 and frequently for as little as \$25 nationwide.)

The Altair 680 can be built with either a full-programmability or a furn-key" front panel. The latter eliminates all controls except restarting the processor. There are a number of applications where this is desirable to eliminate the possibility of having an operator affect the contents of the memory or the computing cycle. An example might be in a sophisticated intruder-detection system where the only control provided for the operator is essentially on/off.

**Software.** The software associated with the 6800 MPU includes an editor, PROM monitor, and assembler, as contrasted to the editor, assembler, monitor and basic for the Altair 8800 computer.

System Details. The Altair 680 computer is composed of five sections: MPU and clock, memory, control and indication, I/O port, and power supply.

MPU and Clock. As mentioned earlier, the MPU and clock are the new 6800 LSI chip. Its basic internal arrangement is shown in Fig. 1. The main elements are instruction decode and control, instruction register, data and address registers and buffers, 16-bit index register, 16-bit program counter, 16-bit stack pointer, two 8-bit accumulators, condition code register, and ALU (arithmetic logic unit).

The timing and control inputs and outputs for the 6800 chip are:

Phase 1 and phase 2 clock  $(\phi 1, \phi 2)$ —a nonoverlapping 500-kHz clock at  $V_{cc}$ .

Address bus A0 through A15—16 high active outputs that determine address or I/O sections to use.

TOTULAR ELECTRONICS

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#### **DISPLAY PARTS LIST**

C1,C4-0.33-µF, 12-V disc ceramic capacitor C2,C3-0.47-μF, 12-V disc ceramic capacitor
DA00 to DA15, DD00 to DD07, and DS1
to DS3—RL21 light-emitting diode
ICA\_ICB\_ICC\_ICD\_ICI\_\_74LS05
ICE\_ICF\_ICG\_ICH\_\_4449
ICI\_\_74L00 [CI\_-741.00]
[CK, ICL\_-261.123]
Following resistors are \(\begin{align\*}{l} \cdot \) Pollowing resistors are \(\beta \)-watt, 5%:
R1 to R16, R20 to R27—1500 ohms
R17 to R19—20,000 ohms
R28 to R30, R33 to R37—4700 ohms
R31 to R38—1000 ohms
R39, R40—10,000 ohms
SC1 to SC12—0.1-μF, 12-V disc ceramic canacitor capacitor SA00 to SA15,SD00 to SD07,S24--Spdt toggle switch \$26,\$27—Spdt momentary toggle switch Misc.—100-contact edge connector

Data bus D0 through D7-eight high active bidirectional lines for transfer to and from memory and peripherals.

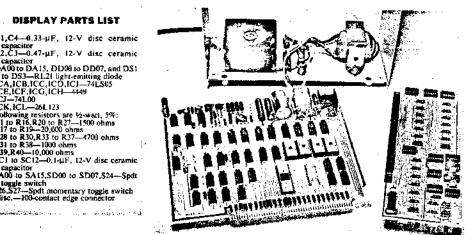
Halt signal (HLT)--low active input that ceases activity in the computer.

Read/write signal (R/W)-in the high state, signals the memory and peripherals that the MPU is in the read condition; in the low state, signals that the MPU is in the write condition.

Valid memory address (VMA) -signats external devices (memory and I/O) that the MPU has a valid address on the memory bus.

Data bus enable (DBE)-enables the bus drivers.

Bus available (BA)-indicates machine has stopped and address bus is available.



Almost entire computer is assembled on a single large pc board (left). Board at right is for front panel. Boards plug together.

Reset (RES)-resets and starts the MPU from a power-off condition. A positive-going edge on this input tells the MPU to begin the restart sequence.

Interrupt request (IRQ)-when low, tells the MPU to start an interrupt sequence (save the registers on the stack, set interrupt mask bit high so no other interrupts can occur, and vector to the interrupt address). This type of interrupt can only occur if the interrupt mask bit in the condition code register is low.

Nonmaskable interrupt (NMI)-

essentially the same as the IRQ, except it is not dependent on the condition code register.

The clock is a 2-MHz crystal-controlled oscillator that uses a pair of inverters that drive flip-flops to form a 500-kHz, two-phase clock that is distributed to the MPU, memory, and I/O sections in the computer via inverters and buffers.

Memory. The memory system con-

sists of 1024 words of 8-bit-wide RAM, using 2102-type 1024 × 1-bit devices, and up to 1024 words of PROM, using uttraviolet-erasable 1702 devices. The basic arrangement is shown in Fig. 2. The low-order address bits are fed to both the RAM's and PROM's.

Front Panel. The front panel assembly contains the RUNHALT switch, with a LED for each switch position; a reset switch with no LED indicator; and the ac power on LED indicator (Fig. 3). The 16 ADDRESS switches and eight DATA switches each have their own LED indicator.

The DEPOSIT, RESET, DATA, and ADDRESS switches are enabled only when the RUN/HALT switch is in the HALT position, at which time, a retriggerable one-shot multivibrator drives the halt input of the MPU low. This, in turn, drives the bus-available (BA) signal high and also conditions the other switches. To view the data in any memory location, the aux/HALT switch must be placed in the HALT position and the ADDRESS switches set to the required address. The data at that

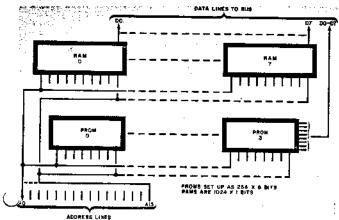


Fig. 2. There are eight RAM's (RAM 0 through RAM 7) and four PROM's (PROM 0 through PROM 3) in the computer's memory system.

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causes an output to the built-in TTY output jack and at the Teletype itself.

Power Supply. The main 5-volt line is generated within the computer by a conventional bridge rectifier, filter capacitor, and IC regulator circuit. A 32-volt winding on the transformer is used to generate the unregulated ±16 volts required for the TTY interface system, while a −16-volt line is fed to

four zener-diode-regulated outputs to provide four 9-volt lines for the PROM's.

Construction. The actual-size etching and drilling guides for the computer boards are larger than our page size. Bather than reducing or cutting them up to fit our pages, a free construction package is available. If you

wish to obtain a construction information package, simply send a self-addressed stamped  $9^{\prime\prime} \times 12^{\prime\prime}$  envelope to the address given at the end of the Parts List.

The construction package contains full-size schematics, full-size etching and drilling guides, component-placement diagrams, and front-panel layout.

#### CRAMER ELECTRONICS ENTERS OEM COMPUTER KIT MARKET

HE major reason for the tremendous success of the various computer kits on the market is that they save considerable time. One doesn't have to hunt down the MPU's, memories, etc., that must be accumulated before embarking on a home computer project. It appears that OEM engineers are also spending considerable time in hunting down computer parts. Cremer Electronics, one of the leading U.S. electronic parts distributors, has decided to enter the computer kit business, with emphasis on the OEM market.

Cramer is starting with three kits, separately based on the Intel 8080, Motorola 6800, and Texas Instruments TM\$8080 MPU's. Each of the kits

shares a common \$495 price tag.

You get a lot for \$495: complete color-coded schematic diagram: RAM with 1024 (8-bit) bytes, expandable to 65 k bytes; erasable PROM with 1024 (8-bit) bytes; support circuitry, including clock, complete buffering, control and synchronization logic, interrupts, DMA controls; etc. The PROM gives you a program to run at the outset. There are at least four 8-bit-wide input and output ports, with expandability to 512 ports, decoding for 16 of which is included.

The PROM contains a system monitor to permit the computer to be used as soon as it is assembled. Programs can be entered, modified, examined, and executed under switch

control or by typed-in commands. A cassette program, included with the kit, can be used to debug the computer. Finally, a complete user manual gives hints on programming and how to expand the computer.

All together, there are about 190 parts in each kit, adding up to a total catalog value of some \$700. Software is included in the kits to help in programming via front-panel switches and LED's, cassette tape, Teletypewriter, or any RS-232-compatible terminal. Not supplied are printed circuit boards, power supply, and cablnet.

For more information about the new computer kits, write to: Cramer Electronics, Inc., 65 Wells Ave., Newton, MA 02159.

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- With a Mark Ten, spark plugs stay clean and last longer . . . fouling is virtually eliminated.

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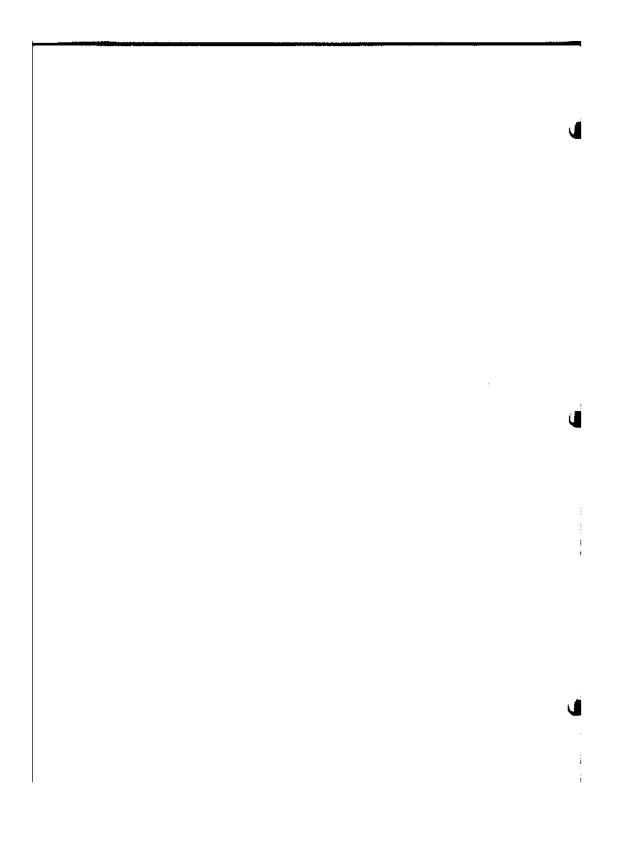
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88-KB 88-32DU 88-PPCB	ASCII Keyboard 32 char Alpha/Numeric Display Prototype P.C. Board	198.00 498.00 57.00	254.00 549.00 84.00	60 60 60
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