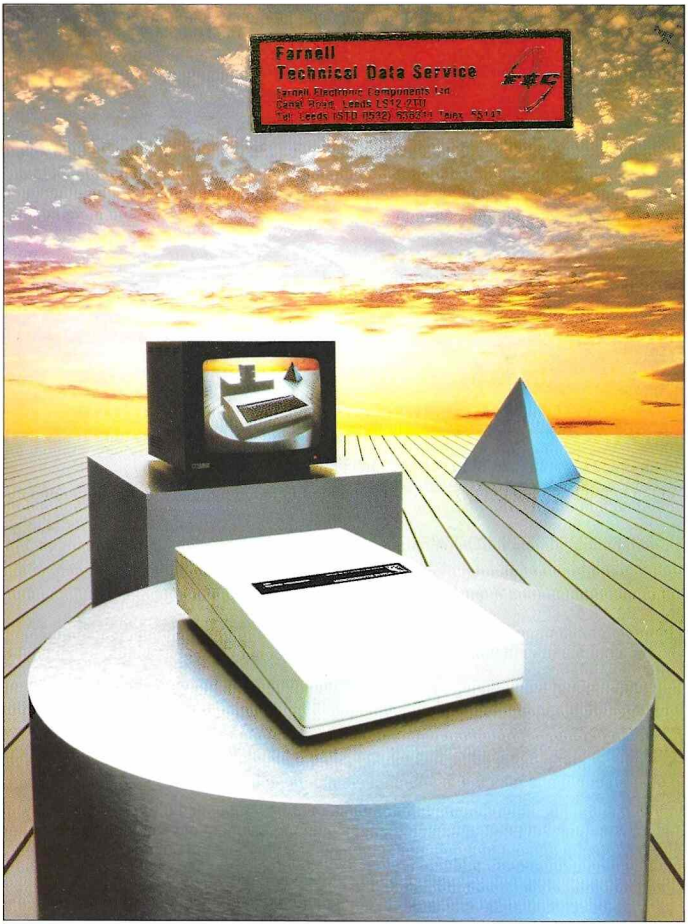


The British Broadcasting Corporation Microcomputer
Z80 Second Processor

The British Broadcasting Corporation Microcomputer Z80 Second Processor

The Z80® Second Processor is an extension unit which converts your British Broadcasting Corporation Microcomputer into a very powerful business tool. Supplied complete with a comprehensive package of business software, the Z80 Second Processor (when linked to your BBC* Microcomputer) offers computing power to rival that provided by machines costing twice as much.

The BBC Microcomputer was designed to allow for second processors by incorporating Acorn's unique Tube interface. This provides a high speed data channel for the addition of a second processor. So connecting the Z80 Second Processor is simplicity itself.

Complementary software

Each purchaser will receive a collection of complementary software in addition to the Z80 Second Processor itself. The programs have been specially selected to suit a wide range of applications and will appeal particularly to business users, business educationalists, 'professional' home users (for example secretaries of golf clubs, housing associations, etc) and students of business studies.

The software package includes:

- A powerful word processor – MemoPlan.®
- A personal database – FilePlan.® This can be combined with MemoPlan to provide automated mailing facilities.
- A spreadsheet modelling program with integrated graphics – GraphPlan.®
- An integrated accounting system – Accountant.
- A system generator which will help you to develop your own software – Nucleus, winner of the 1984 RITA Software Product of the Year Award.
- A selection of additional programming languages – BBC BASIC, a complete program development system; Professional BASIC, an interpretive BASIC to allow access to a wide range of existing CP/M® programs; and CIS COBOL,® the leading microcomputer version of COBOL. Our CIS COBOL comes complete with ANIMATOR® – a debugging tool, and FORMS2® – an aid to writing interactive programs in CIS COBOL.

Access to business software

Styled to be neatly positioned alongside the BBC Microcomputer, the Z80 Second Processor allows you to load a different operating system – CP/M 2.2. This is probably the most commonly used operating system for business micros in the world, so the library of software is vast. There are already something like 6,000 titles and the number is growing all the time.

All the usual CP/M utilities are included in the Z80 Second Processor package and virtually any CP/M software will run on the Z80 Second Processor. If you are interested in a specific CP/M software package, ask your dealer to check that it is suitable for use with the Z80 Second Processor.

Converting to CP/M will not in any way lead to a reduction in the facilities offered by your BBC Microcomputer.

Technical data

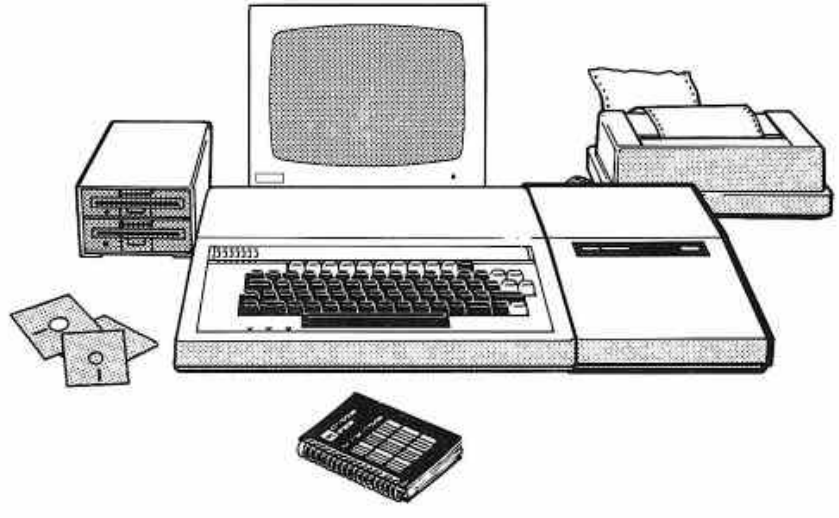
The Z80 Second Processor has a 64K Random Access Memory (RAM) which provides approximately 55K bytes of RAM available for user programs. This is often referred to as a 60K CP/M system. The Second Processor operates at a clock rate of 6MHz.

The Z80 Second Processor incorporates Acorn's custom-built integrated circuit known as the Tube. Using this chip concurrent tasks communicate asynchronously between the two processors.

The CP/M system, whilst being the industry standard, also allows full access to the BBC Microcomputer MOS.

CP/M programs can use any one of three ways to control the display facilities:

- Directly, by using the same codes as the BBC Microcomputer itself. All facilities are then available to the Z80 Second Processor, but programs will probably need to be specially written to use them.
- Indirectly, by using a simple terminal emulator built into the Z80 Second Processor. Only some facilities are available, but existing CP/M programs should easily accommodate this form of screen control.
- Machine independently, by using the GSX® graphics extension to CP/M. Based on the international standard, GKS, GSX offers direct compatibility with other CP/M computers. There are now many new graphics applications being produced to run with GSX, and many more are expected in the future.



A typical configuration

You will need a Model B BBC Microcomputer with disc interface, a version 1.2 machine operating system, a colour or monochrome monitor or television set, a dual, 80 track disc drive, a suitable printer and connecting lead. If necessary, the version 1.2 MOS will be fitted to the BBC Microcomputer, free of charge, when the Z80 Second Processor is purchased.

Each purchaser will receive a set of user guides, an additional ROM for the BBC Microcomputer, and instructions on how to fit it. This ROM will also update the existing disc filing system and Econet® filing system. Your local dealer will fit the ROM if required.

The unit measures approximately 205mm × 345mm and has its own mains power supply.

For further details ask your nearest dealer or write to:
Acorn Computers Limited
Fulbourn Road
Cherry Hinton
Cambridge CB1 4JN

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Optimus Graphic Design, Cambridge

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