HP Forum Archive 07

Welcome!

This is an archive of older posts from the HP forum.

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schematics/tech info
*Message #1 Posted by **Luis** on 18 Mar 2002, 8:54 a.m.*

Somebody having or knowing where to find the schematics/circuit information for the HP-34C. I'm trouble with mine, which after the self test have an error#9 and 3 on display after pressing CLx.Don't seems to be some bad contact as usual (early model/non-PCB).

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hp48 ew "rules menu"
*Message #1 Posted by **marc** on 16 Mar 2002, 7:14 p.m.*

Does anybody know how to use the tools of the hp48g Equation Writer? What is +1-1 for? Most of times, T->, <-T and <--> seem to do the same thing (but the latter is the worse). And what about the other commands? Is there a better documentation about them? Or are the commands so useless that nobody wrote about it? Has this been asked before? The manual has too few examples...

Re: hp48 ew "rules menu"
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 17 Mar 2002, 7:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by marc

Hello;

I have an HP28S, and this calculator has these same features. Otherwise, its manual (HP28S Reference Manual) has a complete descritpion of each algebraic opperation available in the 28's ALGBRA [J key] FORM menu (I am not sure the 48G has new features on it's RULES menu). Anyway, I believe this is the fastest way to get acquanted to them.

Cheers.

Re: hp48 ew "rules menu"
*Message #3 Posted by **marc** on 18 Mar 2002, 2:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Thank you very much. I wonder if the manual is available online... (HP Museum CD has more than I need. Too much for me.)

Re: hp48 ew "rules menu"

*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brasil)** on 19 Mar 2002, 5:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by marc

Hi, Marc;

I'll scan the pages (not that much) and send you ASAP; does it help?

I will be able to do it on Saturday, but if you are in a hurry, let me know. I'll find a way to get them to you before that.

Cheers.

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Downloadable manuals
*Message #1 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 16 Mar 2002, 3:56 a.m.*

Hi Sorry, I forgot the URL of Hp, where you can download newer HP manuals. Can someone help me?

Re: Downloadable manuals
*Message #2 Posted by **Daniel Kekez** on 16 Mar 2002, 7:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

Here are links to the manuals I can find on HP's site:

HP 6S Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp6sscient30827_eng_man.html

HP 6S-solar Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp6ssolarc30831_eng_man.html

HP 10B Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp10bbusin20038_eng_man.html

HP 10BII Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp10biibus30834_eng_man.html

HP 12C Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp12cfinan20040_eng_man.html

HP 30S Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp30sscien30829_eng_man.html

HP 39G Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp39ggraph30819_eng_man.html

HP 40G Manual:
http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp40ggraph30822_eng_man.html

Re: Downloadable manuals
*Message #3 Posted by **Daniel Kekez** on 16 Mar 2002, 8:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

By the way, HP used to have page listing all the PDF manuals and part numbers for the rest of the manuals. This was located at http://www.hp.com/calculators/techsupport/bm_manuals.html

However, it seems they have redesigned the calculators area on the web site and this page is gone. You can still see the page in Goolgle's cache but the PDFs on HP's site have been moved. Use the links in my previous message.

Good luck!

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Non-calculator 82240B Printer Use
*Message #1 Posted by **katie** on 16 Mar 2002, 2:21 a.m.*

Someone posted a an Omnilock WP4000 printer for sale on ebay and sited this web page describing it:

http://www.omnilock.com/Products/WP4000/wp_4000.html

Apparently Omnilock in an OEM for HP's 82240B printer and they sell them for use with their programmable door locks.

Are there other manufactures that have built interfaces to this printer and if so, does (did) HP make an interface chip for them to use in their designs?

-Katie

Re: Non-calculator 82240B Printer Use
*Message #2 Posted by **Erwin** on 16 Mar 2002, 5:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by katie

This company in The Netherlands http://www.euro-index.nl/organisation.html uses the ir-printer to make prints of measurments results. They sell the printer under there own artikelnumber but the printer carries the HP name and loge

Re: Non-calculator 82240B Printer Use
*Message #3 Posted by **Karl Hafen** on 16 Mar 2002, 7:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by katie

I've seen the 82240b included with a machine used to test automobile charging systems.

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Club swapdisks
*Message #1 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 15 Mar 2002, 10:02 p.m.*

A couple of weeks ago I mentioned that I had 33 'swapdisks'. I have now uploaded this to the MoHPC, and David Hicks has put them in ftp://ftp.hpmuseum.org/hpswap/. Thanks David. A few points : 1) These are gzipped files that decompress into disk images (of 630784 bytes each). The file format is quite simple -- the first 256 bytes are block 0, the next 256 bytes are block 1, and so on. There's no header or anything like that. This format works with my lifutilities for linux distribution, but I think you'll have to wrtie software to use it on other OSes. 2) I will try to produce some better documentation on the file format in the next week or so. 3) I have no documentation on the disks or the files that are on them, other than any documentaion files _on_ the disks. So please don't ask... 4) I am not responsible for these programs. If they crash your machine, too bad. 5) These are all the swapdisks that exist in HPCC (as far as I know). I'd obviously be interested in receiving any other swapdisks, but please check with me before sending anything other than plain text.

Re: Club swapdisks
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 16 Mar 2002, 8:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thanks, Tony! I've been waiting years for these.

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HP test instruments advice?
*Message #1 Posted by **Andreas** on 15 Mar 2002, 2:16 p.m.*

Guten Tag,

any hints on repair, documentation etc. sources for HP test instruments (oscilloscopes and so on)? Thank you for advice. NB: Sorry for posting HP67 offer in message board, please see classified ads...

Andreas

Re: HP test instruments advice?
*Message #2 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 16 Mar 2002, 12:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Andreas

Guten Tag,

what kind of advice do you need ? Whats the problem ?

Best regards

Namensvetter

Re: HP test instruments advice?
*Message #3 Posted by **Ren** on 18 Mar 2002, 10:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

The newsgroup sci.electronics.equipment is a good place to ask questions. The next place would probably be sci.electronics.repair . If your ISP doesn't provide newsgroup access, you may be able to access them through google or yahoo.

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HP-32S: How do I open the casing without damaging the calculator?
*Message #1 Posted by **Eric Edwards** on 15 Mar 2002, 8:36 a.m.*

I have a HP-32s that has all the rightmost keys not working. Since I have never opened a calculator like this before I was hoping that somebody here had done it and knew how to do it without damaging the calculator. I see no screw holes like the Hp 12C etc. Does anybody know what could be wrong with the keys? Do you think it would be fixable when/if I can open the calculator. Eric :-)

Re: HP-32S: How do I open the casing without damaging the calculator?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 15 Mar 2002, 8:42 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Edwards

Read Paul Broggers articles on RAM upgrade for a 42s. (only need to read the part on opening the calc)

His instructions are flawless. (Same housing).

Good luck,

Re: HP-32S: How do I open the casing without damaging the calculator?
*Message #3 Posted by **Larry** on 15 Mar 2002, 10:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Edwards

You will find Paul Brogger's ram upgrade article at:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/articles.cgi?read=199

also see Paul's HP-42S repair article at:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/articles.cgi?read=5

Larry

Re: HP-32S: How do I open the casing without damaging the calculator?
*Message #4 Posted by **Eric Edwards** on 16 Mar 2002, 6:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Larry

Thank you all! I took it apart as described by Paul Brogger. (Couldn't have done it without his help, thanks Paul.) After a little bit of fiddling taking out the PCB I found the error. All keys are working again!!! Actually I had two HP-32S with excatly the same problem and they both were fixed the same way :) But how do I put the casing back together again? Preferably so it can be openened without too much difficulties in the future! Any ideas? Eric

Re: HP-32S: How do I close the casing again?
*Message #5 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 18 Mar 2002, 11:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Eric Edwards

Mr. Edwards:

I've taken apart just about every Pioneer model I own. They're easily made to stick back together, if you haven't drilled the upper heat stakes too deeply.

I just trim the mushroomed ends of the four lower heat stakes so they're just slightly larger than the posts themselves, and pop the sides back together again. (Don't cut the mushroomed ends off or shorten them -- just trim their widths so they squeeze back into the holes in the metal backing plate.)

The friction bond seems to stand up to most normal use. I dropped one once and one side separated slightly, but the halves didn't come completely apart.

If the top end doesn't stay together satisfactorily, you may use a soldering iron to melt the posts and holes together again.

The 32S is easily my favorite HP model for daily use. They're definitely worth the effort to keep 'em running.

I hope things work for you -- good luck!

Re: HP-32S: How do I open the casing without damaging the calculator?
*Message #6 Posted by **Eric Edwards** on 16 Mar 2002, 7:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Larry

One more thing. I have never used the HP-32s and have no manual. Doesit have a selftest like the HP 15C? Keyboard and CPU? I could not find anything on the HP-32S article itself, maybe it is somewhere else? Eric

Re: HP-32S: How do I open the casing without damaging the calculator?
*Message #7 Posted by **Eric Edwards** on 16 Mar 2002, 8:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Eric Edwards

My mistake. Found it under: http://www.hpmuseum.org/features/32sf.htm See: notes as I guess with all featured calculators at the HP-museum

"press and hold the yx key and press the ON/C key" etc...

One past without problems but the other still have some problems, needs a litle bi uo adjustment I guess. Eric

Re: HP-32S: How do I open the casing without damaging the calculator?
*Message #8 Posted by **David Smith** on 15 Mar 2002, 5:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Edwards

These machines were never meant to be opened or repaired. Once you open the machine, repairing the keyboard is just about impossible. It is heat staked down with a zillion melted plastic rivets. Even if you cut them all loose, getting the keyboard back with good feel is highly unlikely.

I have had some success by imersing the machine in an ultrasonic cleaner. Repeat three times with distilled water. Dry for 24 hours in an oven on low (< 140 F) heat. Since this is a risky operation, only recommended as a last resort... like a dead row of keys.

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derivatives and indefinate integrals
*Message #1 Posted by **Jeff_G** on 15 Mar 2002, 7:38 a.m.*

Are there any calulators for calculus that can solve indefinate integrals, or perform differentiation?

I'm looking to input a function and get the result as a function, not as a value.

Thanks,

Jeff

Re: derivatives and indefinate integrals
*Message #2 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 15 Mar 2002, 8:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jeff_G

four come to mind.

Hp49G Ti-89 Hp48G series (nearly = to 49g with free software) Casio FX 2.0

There might be others I have overlooked, perhaps Sharp also has a CAS type calc available.

Re: derivatives and indefinite integrals
*Message #3 Posted by **Ion Abraham (New Mexico USA)** on 15 Mar 2002, 9:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jeff_G

As Ron's response indicates (and I learned), there are calculators that return functions for derivatives and indefinite integrals, although IMHO if you're going to do this, give it up and use Mathematica. You'll be glad you did.

Best regards,

Ion Abraham Albuquerque, New Mexico

Re: derivatives and indefinate integrals
*Message #4 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 15 Mar 2002, 10:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jeff_G

I IMHO would definitely recommend the 49G, though the 48 series are very good for that but much slower.

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HP 34C serial number
*Message #1 Posted by **Luis Carlos Pereira** on 15 Mar 2002, 6:30 a.m.*

I have a HP34C which have the s/n as follow: *2115B00632 (made in Brazil); the point is: does that asteristic in front mean anything special?

Thanks

Luis

Re: HP 34C serial number
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 15 Mar 2002, 5:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Luis Carlos Pereira

I think this may indicate a warranty replacement machine. A lot of times these have no serial number or a hand scribed one, but I remember someone mentioning the '*' was a replacement machine. BTW, US currency that was damaged in printing and redone has a '*' in the serial number also.

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HP41 MLDL2000 Specifications
*Message #1 Posted by **Meindert Kuipers** on 14 Mar 2002, 4:37 p.m.*

The first version of the new HP41 MLDL2000 (EPROM/RAM emulator) are now downloadable at: http://www.kuipers.to/hp41.htm. It is a zipped Word document of about 230K. Those interested are invited to have a look at it. Please send me comments. My intention is to have the specs finished first before continuing (safe some experiments) with the hardware.

Happy programming,

Meindert Kuipers

Re: HP41 MLDL2000 Specifications
*Message #2 Posted by **Bill Duncan (CA)** on 14 Mar 2002, 7:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Meindert Kuipers

Would it be possible to make this available in a non-proprietary format, such as ASCII, HTML or others?

Thanks!

Re: HP41 MLDL2000 Specifications
*Message #3 Posted by **Meindert Kuipers** on 15 Mar 2002, 2:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Bill Duncan (CA)

I plan to convert it to PDF as well, should be online tomorrow. Other formats will likely influence the graphics.

Meindert

Re: HP41 MLDL2000 Specifications
*Message #4 Posted by **Bill Duncan (CA)** on 15 Mar 2002, 6:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Meindert Kuipers

Thanks. I haven't run MS software for many years. Linux deals with PDF's just fine.

Thanks again.

Re: HP41 MLDL2000 Specifications
*Message #5 Posted by **Meindert Kuipers** on 16 Mar 2002, 1:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Meindert Kuipers

To inform all of you: the spec is now available in RTF and PDF at www.kuipers.to/hp41

Happy Programming!

Meindert

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College Book store deals!?
*Message #1 Posted by **Aruid** on 14 Mar 2002, 3:33 p.m.*

If any of you are interested in the more modern HP calculators (HP-20S, HP-10B, HP-48 etc...) College bookstores can be great. Just today I saw a HP-20S at a Boston college bookstore (Wentworth) for $40 and was able to get them to sell it to me for $15! They also had HP-10B and 10BII calculators for about the same price.

On the other hand, another bookstore (Northeastern University) had a HP-49G for $230 way overpriced compared to its usual retail of $170. I think the pricing structure of the bookstores is based on if the paticular calculator is required for a certain math class or not. I noticed that many of the TI calculators had very high prices (the TI 86 in paticular) because the math department of the school requires it for Calculus.

If you look hard you can benefit from HPs choice to move away from the education market.

ARUID

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Ebay in the news
*Message #1 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 14 Mar 2002, 7:50 a.m.*

Go to:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/low/english/audiovideo/programmes/working_lunch/newsid_1861000/1861958.stm

For a story from the BBC about fraud on Ebay. The story is not very detailed but it does show some of the scams and that some criminal Ebay trades are being dealt with in the UK. Ebay (UK only?) may be trying to help in the future by requiring more personal details for each user.

Re: Ebay in the news
*Message #2 Posted by **doug** on 14 Mar 2002, 3:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tom (UK)

This is a selection on the page you provided about a boy getting taken with a playstation bid.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/low/english/audiovideo/programmes/working_lunch/newsid_1853000/1853798.stm

On this page they quote an ebay employee as if it is policy where they respond to a complaint in 24 hours. BUNK. It has been up to a week or two weeks for them to repond with nothing but standard form responses.

All of the claims on this page that state eBay has methods of ensuring they are safe is BUNK. Take a peek at this one also. I already explained some of this to a person that hasn't any experience on eBay yet. I hopt it helps anyone and everyone. The only way you can have a successful transaction on MoHPC or eBLA is as follows:

1. An Honest Seller 2. An Honest BuyerThe

eBLA has nothing to do with it if it is a success. eBLA will not get involved if it is a bad seller,

or fraud. Don't kid yourselves. Read my little book:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/forum.cgi?read=15859

doug

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HP Article
*Message #1 Posted by **Frank** on 13 Mar 2002, 7:47 a.m.*

More on HP/Compaq and possible future CEO transition: http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/business/2849634.htm

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Thibaut Cousin
*Message #1 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 13 Mar 2002, 1:00 a.m.*

Have any of you purchased items from Thibaut Cousin? I bought an HP41 timer module from him, sent him the money in Belgium. He emailed me that he forgot my shipping address. I sent that to him. He emailed me that he sent it out Feb 19, 2002. I still haven't received it. Sent him an email several days ago, no response. But he has managed to post a new add to HP Museum in classified section with other items he is offering. If you read this Thibaut, please reply to my email.

Thanks, Glenn

Re: Thibaut Cousin
*Message #2 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 13 Mar 2002, 1:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

Yes, I bought a 71B from him last year. The item was as described and he was a nice and courteous seller. The calc was delivered in a few days and properly packaged. Sometimes I have to wait more than two months for some items... shipping is really slow when your package get overwhelmed in a stack: it's a LIFO world out there.

Stay assured: Thibaut is easily trackable... he works in a well-known watch corporation, posts here regularly, has his own site...

This is just a hobby for him, not his way to make a living.

It just happens to have to wait sometimes.

Massimo

Re: Thibaut Cousin
*Message #3 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 13 Mar 2002, 2:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

Hi Glenn,

Don't worry, your item has been shipped by registered mail. I will track this for you.

As you can see, my item list does not include your module.

I received the mail you sent on Monday yesterday.

Please keep me informed, but I'm not sure this forum is the best place.

Thibaut

Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #4 Posted by **Todd Garabedian (CT, USA)** on 13 Mar 2002, 10:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

Just FYI,

I recently completed a transaction on a 29C with a seller in Germany. The delivery from Germany to Connecticut took over a month. The long shipping time was no fault of the seller... likely it was due to (a) the Christmas rush, (b) slowed mail from overseas (e.g., closer scrutiny by the US Customs Department) due to terrorist attacks here in the US.

I've experienced similar delays with work-related packages coming from Europe by regular mail. Overnight courier seems to be a lot faster (at least for documents).

Todd

Re: Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #5 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 13 Mar 2002, 11:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Todd Garabedian (CT, USA)

It looks like Thibaut reads this forum and responds to it faster than he does emails :-). Thanks for the reply Thibaut, I will keep you posted when it arrives. I was just a little bit frustrated that I received no reply via email.

Glenn

Re: Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #6 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 13 Mar 2002, 2:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Glenn McEnroe

I tried to send you 2 emails this morning Thibaut. I guess there is a problem with mail deliver. I received this response:

The original message was received at Wed, 13 Mar 2002 17:06:35 -0200 (GMT-0200) from localhost [[UNIX: localhost]]

----- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors ----- <Thibaut.Cousin@bel.swatchgroup.com>

----- Transcript of session follows ----- 554 <Thibaut.Cousin@bel.swatchgroup.com>... Cannot send 8-bit data to 7-bit destination 501 <Thibaut.Cousin@bel.swatchgroup.com>... Data format error

----- Original message follows -----

Received: by tschaikowsky.eta.ch; (8.8.8/1.3/10May95) id RAA14832; Wed, 13 Mar 2002 17:06:35 -0200 (GMT-0200) From: <gamcenroe@attbi.com> Received: from rwcrmhc51.attbi.com by tschaikowsky.eta.ch (smtpxd); id XA15902 Received: from rwcrwbc55 ([204.127.198.44]) by rwcrmhc51.attbi.com (InterMail vM.4.01.03.27 201-229-121-127-20010626) with SMTP id <20020313190801.MLGX2626.rwcrmhc51.attbi.com@rwcrwbc55> for <Thibaut.Cousin@bel.swatchgroup.com>; Wed, 13 Mar 2002 19:08:01 +0000 Received: from [199.89.163.190] by rwcrwbc55; Wed, 13 Mar 2002 19:08:00 +0000 To: <Thibaut.Cousin@bel.swatchgroup.com> Subject: RE: Time module Date: Wed, 13 Mar 2002 19:08:00 +0000 X-Mailer: AT&T Message Center Version 1 (Nov 29 2001) Message-Id: <20020313190801.MLGX2626.rwcrmhc51.attbi.com@rwcrwbc55>

Thanks for your reply Thibaut. I thought you might see my email if I posted on HP Museum, because you recently placed a classified ad there and I had not receive a reply from you. I will let you know when the timer module arrives and if you get some tracking info that would be good as well.

Glenn

Re: Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #7 Posted by **Andreas Müller (GER)** on 13 Mar 2002, 4:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Todd Garabedian (CT, USA)

Hi Todd, you are so right. Exactly the same happened to me exept in the opposite direction; The parcdel from Canada to Germany took over 5 weeks.

Regards, Andreas

Re: Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #8 Posted by **Bill Smith** on 13 Mar 2002, 11:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Todd Garabedian (CT, USA)

interesting to hear of shipping problems.

i recently sent small packages of hardware (PCMCIA cards) by 1st class USPS mail to both Canada and the Netherlands. they were received within 5 days. some of my intranational stuff doesn't go that fast.

Re: Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #9 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 14 Mar 2002, 2:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Bill Smith

Yes, I too had a package delivered from Canada in 4 days last month... as I said before: is a LIFO world. Sometimes (very rarely) you're lucky, sometimes you're not.

Greetings,

Massimo

Re: Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #10 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 14 Mar 2002, 12:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Todd Garabedian (CT, USA)

Hi.. I often buy items in the U.S. I allways takes longer than the USPS says...Airmail take approximatly 10 days, surface mail (for the bigger items you know) takes more than 2 month (instead of 4-6 weeks)!! I stopped getting frightned.. Best think as a seller is to take a picture of the parcel and send this to the buyer.. I'm glad when a seller sends me this..

Re: Deliveries from Overseas
*Message #11 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 14 Mar 2002, 8:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Matthias Wehrli

Hi,

yesterday (Wednesday) I received a parcel from the U.S. which was sent Wednesday or Thursday last week. That was not bad.

Raymond

Why are you posting this here?
*Message #12 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Mar 2002, 9:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

This is not an eBay customer service.

I have lots of transactions between the U.S. and Europe. I have seen items shipped that take as long as 2 months to show up.

I have seen this kind of post before. My feeling is that people that make these kind of posts are trying to punish someone. There is no need to post this kind of thing here.

There is no answer that you can get here that is going to change anything that will happen, one way or the other.

The only thing you hope to accomplish put pressure on someone. I can see by one of your other posts that you recognize that he is here and you hope to get a response from him.

It seems that you are worrying about nothing. What happens, happens!

I think this kind of post is uncalled for.

Re: Why are you posting this here?
*Message #13 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 17 Mar 2002, 6:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Mike

First of all you obviously didnt read the original post clearly. This was not an ebay purchase so has no business on an ebay message board. The purchase originated from advertisement which appeared here. Given that, I wanted to explore what other buyers experience with overseas shipment was and from this seller. I see nothing wrong with that. You obviously have taken this to an extreme not intended by my original post.

Glenn

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HP32SII
*Message #1 Posted by **Bill** on 12 Mar 2002, 9:02 p.m.*

Has the HP32SII been discontiued?

Thanks

Re: HP32SII
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank** on 13 Mar 2002, 10:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bill

That's the rumor, but I can't even get HP's Calculator Web Store to work this AM! Still plenty out there and they will be on ebay till the cows come home, but prices will gradually increase once new supplies dry up in the next couple of years.

Re: HP32SII
*Message #3 Posted by **David Simpson** on 13 Mar 2002, 10:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bill

HP's on-line store Web site lists the HP-32SII on their "closeout" page. That's a shame -- I think it's their best-designed calculator ever.

David

Re: HP32SII
*Message #4 Posted by **Fred Lusk (CA)** on 17 Mar 2002, 12:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by David Simpson

Due to this rumor, I decided to buy a 32SII to add to my small collection (35, 55, 34C, 41C, 41CX, 42S, 48G, and 48G+). Found one Thursday for $56 at the university bookstore. It's a nice machine, like my 34C on steroids. However, I still vote for the 42S as the best of its kind.

Re: HP32SII
*Message #5 Posted by **Ren** on 15 Mar 2002, 10:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bill

I see that buy.com has sold out (temporary?) of the 32SII, and that their "closeout price" of $45.95 has jumped up to $51.95. So, there you have it, it is now a collectors item and the price is rising! B^)

Yes, silently discontinued
*Message #6 Posted by **Gil Petri** on 16 Mar 2002, 1:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bill

see here: http://www.exrom.com/Main.htm

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"security cradle" for HP 67
*Message #1 Posted by **aruid** on 12 Mar 2002, 8:20 p.m.*

This is interesting, its a "security cradle" for your HP 67. Was this made by HP? Do these exist for other calculators?

(picture unavailable)

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1338169171

ARUID

Re: "security cradle" for HP 67
*Message #2 Posted by **Jim L** on 12 Mar 2002, 8:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by aruid

They were made for the classics and woodstocks at least. Back in the 70s even four-bangers were expensive enough to be nailed down.

Re: "security cradle" for HP 67
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 13 Mar 2002, 12:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by aruid

I got one on Ebay a couple of years ago, with an HP-45 locked in it. I was able to open the lock through perseverance. The calculator is in pretty good shape (although the battery compartment is somewhat corroded). Recently I bought a TI-58C locked in the TI Printer Cradle. I was able to unlock that with a file cabinet key.

Re: "security cradle" for HP 67
*Message #4 Posted by **Ion Abraham (New Mexico USA)** on 13 Mar 2002, 8:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by aruid

Just to make sure to answer your questions (see other responses), yes, this was made by HP, and it's made to fit the Woodstock series. I have one with a HP-65. The lock is quite substantial. You're not going to open it with a file cabinet key.

Best regards,

Ion Abraham Albuquerque, New Mexico

Re: "security cradle" for HP 67
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike McDonald** on 13 Mar 2002, 9:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by aruid

A good locksmith can open this and make a key for a "reasonable" fee.

Re: "security cradle" for HP 67
*Message #6 Posted by **George** on 13 Mar 2002, 10:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Mike McDonald

I have an HP-25 cradle that came with a cable, but no keys. I later obtained a second cradle with keys but no cable. (Needless to say the keys that came with the second cradle didn't fit the lock on the first cradle!!) The second acquisition motivated me to pick the lock on the cradle for which I had no keys. It was disconcertingly easy.

Re: "security cradle" for HP 67
*Message #7 Posted by **David Smith** on 14 Mar 2002, 6:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Mike McDonald

Security cradles are one of the few HP accessories that seem to sell for very low prices... almost always $5-$20. I doubt that any locksmith will make a custom key for that... particularly for the HP65/67 cradle. You are probably much better off to pass on any keyless cradles and buy one with a key.

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HP-41C Card Reader ROM

*Message #1 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 11 Mar 2002, 6:48 p.m.*

Anyone knows where I can find the hp41 card reader rom?

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM

*Message #2 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 11 Mar 2002, 9:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Roccati

Inside a card reader, of course!

/ji

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM

*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 12 Mar 2002, 8:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Roccati

Hi;

do you need a replacement, say, the component itself, or only it's contents? I have an old 82104A that is not working (after plugging it in and turning the 41 on, it shows CARD ERR and locks the calc, having the batteries to be removed to switch it off), let me know if there is anything you need.

Cheers.

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM
*Message #4 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 12 Mar 2002, 4:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I need only the content. Besides, I never had the card reader: I suppose it never arrived in italy...

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM
*Message #5 Posted by **Jim L** on 12 Mar 2002, 6:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Chris Roccati

Legally, I think you still need to get the reader and extract the bits for your own personal use.

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM
*Message #6 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 12 Mar 2002, 6:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Jim L

Apparently HP released the HP-41C/CV/CX roms to the public, as most of the roms can be found in all the emulators distributions. The only missing one is the Card Reader. I don't know if HP made an explicit exception for that part or simply nobody cared to dump it.

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM
*Message #7 Posted by **Jim L** on 12 Mar 2002, 7:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Chris Roccati

As far as I know these have not been released. In my experience, simulators that can be easily traced to a person (like Eric's) don't include ROMs.

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM
*Message #8 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 12 Mar 2002, 11:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Chris Roccati

The card reader never arrived to Italy???

I bought mine here in Milan in 1980. Quite expensive, sure, but I remember that all the accessories were available here too... Never bought the printer though: it cost an arm and a leg!

Massimo

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM
*Message #9 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 13 Mar 2002, 6:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

So it was actually sold in Italy...

I was unable to find it, at that time. I wanted it badly: when I started tinkering with synthetic programming "MEMORY LOST" became the most common thing on my 41 display...

Re: HP-41C Card Reader ROM
*Message #10 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 15 Mar 2002, 5:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I could extract the rom from the dead reader and dump it... This can be an option if I can't find a simpler way...

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how do you store your calculator collection?
*Message #1 Posted by **flipper** on 11 Mar 2002, 5:36 p.m.*

Every so often I take mine out of their boxes and fret, because it always looks like they're in worse condition than when I put them away. I mean, I don't have the batteries inside leaking all over the place, but it still seems to me that I see acidic moisture in the battery chamber and it's always got that smell. I don't know what to do about this. Suggestions? And, if your calcs aren't on display, how do you have them put away? In boxes? Wrapped how? In what average temp? What else? Thanks!

Re: how do you store your calculator collection?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 12 Mar 2002, 11:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by flipper

I just recently got some little wooden toolboxes in which most calculators fit nicely in the lift-out tray, but I've only been using them for a few months. Before that they were just sitting on various shelves gathering dust. Have you considered putting dessicant packs in the boxes? The silica gel ones that come with many items? I think these can be "recharged" by putting them in a very low oven for a while.

silica gel?
*Message #3 Posted by **flipper** on 12 Mar 2002, 1:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

That's a good idea. Do you know if you can buy those packs? Trouble is, I've got about 10 boxes filled with calcs, so I'd need a number of them. And even then I wonder if they'll do the job. One thing I've been wondering about are extremes of temperature and humidity. At the moment, all the calcs are in my office and, really, the ones not on display I'd like to put either in the basement or the attic, but I haven't do to cold, heat and humidity. Thoughts anyone?

Re: silica gel?
*Message #4 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 12 Mar 2002, 1:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by flipper

I'd guess the basement would be more stable in terms of temperature as it should stay close to ground temperature. However I don't know where you live so if its the desert or the arctic you might have problems. As long as it doesn't freeze or go above body temperature you should be fine.

As far as humidity goes try putting the calculators in an air tight box on a dry warm day and add a few dry silica packs at the same time. If the box stays air tight then damp should not effect the contents. Any small ammounts of water hanging around should be soaked up by the silica pack.

What is probably more important is that you store them WITHOUT the batteries as these contain all sorts of nasty chemicals that will attack your plastic and metal calculators. This is all the more important if they are stored out of sight for months on end.

Tom.

no batteries!
*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 12 Mar 2002, 3:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Tom (UK)

This is another good opportunity to point out Viktor Toth's excellent article on battery corrosion .

Re: silica gel?
*Message #6 Posted by **aruid** on 12 Mar 2002, 2:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by flipper

Various gun shops and military surplus shops have silica packs that come in a metal can (like a sardine can) and can be recharged every few decades by heating them in a oven.

ARUID

Re: silica gel?
*Message #7 Posted by **r.j. bied** on 12 Mar 2002, 3:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by flipper

You can buy silica gel from hunting / outfitter stores such as Cabelas www.cabelas.com or sometimes at army / navy surplus stores.

Re: silica gel?
*Message #8 Posted by **John K. (US)** on 13 Mar 2002, 12:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by flipper

In addition to the outdoor equipment, military surplus, and gun shops that others have mentioned, they can also be purchased from hearing aid supply/repair shops, though they tend to be of the smaller variety than those intended for larger storage boxes. Also, depending on where you live, they are sometimes carried by industrial supply/surplus centers -- and are usually much less expensive than at a specialty shop. Happy hunting!

Re: silica gel?
*Message #9 Posted by **Yani** on 13 Mar 2002, 6:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by John K. (US)

My son is the srtangest person...

He collects silica jells for a hobby! I may get strange looks for my calculator collection but he.

Anyway the point is if you go to many stores such as $2 shops tool stores, electronics goods stores and rummage arround the back you will find tons of the stuff in packets in the bottom of the cartons.

Re: silica gel?
*Message #10 Posted by **flipper** on 13 Mar 2002, 3:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Yani

Well, thanks to eBay, I now have 50 packets of silica gel on the way, for $10. I don't know if that's cheap or dear; but I will say this: thanks, guys, for the suggestion.

Re: how do you store your calculator collection?

*Message #11 Posted by **Achim** on 12 Mar 2002, 4:33 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

I think you propably have some more problems with some calculators. All calculators which have motoric moving parts, esp. card readers, printers etc. should at least every few months be powered and the motor should be operated. Otherwise the rubber rolls may become deformed from continous pressure on one and the same position. This happens for example with the HP97 printer. Also some plastic and rubber parts are not long-time stable - you know the common card reader "gummy" problem. I would be glad to know all environmental circumstances which reduce the aging of those parts. I know that *light* is a problem with several materials and high temperature (above 25 deg C) too. I store my calcs in a relative dry, moderate warm (18-22° C) living room, in a glass show-case outside of direct sun light. And I check the calcs every few months. I like to look at my collection and I'm really not willing to put it in a dark cellar only to enhance its lifetime.

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HP Museum copy cat
*Message #1 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 11 Mar 2002, 5:25 p.m.*

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1338162894

Re: HP Museum copy cat
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 12 Mar 2002, 7:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ty Rogers

Yes, pure plagiarism. He doesn't even credit or link to the HP museum site.

For those thinking of bidding look at the listing carefully. Nowhere does it say this calculator works, only that: "Since this is vintage electronics -- it's sold as is.". He then goes on to list all the original functions of the item. In the notes at the bottom he does tell the buyer the implications of bidding including: "* Unless otherwise noted, items are sold as-is no warranty expressed or implied. All items are sold as described, so be sure to read the item description carefully. I have sold many items on eBay and have an excellent satisfaction record!"

PS I don't know the seller and I'm not accusing him of trying to rip anyone off, but the listing as displayed does have some huge get outs if anything went wrong.

Sold "As Is"
*Message #3 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 12 Mar 2002, 9:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tom (UK)

My experience is that you should read "not working at all".

Not Necessarily but...
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 12 Mar 2002, 1:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Thibaut.be

"As Is" does not necessarily mean "not working" but you **should** bid as if it does. I have bought a lot of "non-working" calculators that turned out to work. I have bought a lot of "working" calculators that turned out "not" to work.

Actually, I find that "not-working" calculators turn out to be good deals a lot of the time. The problem with "as is" is that it likely means the seller knows something he is not wanting to disclose. **Ask questions.**

The most important thing in an auction is the description of the item being sold; **and not the specs.** Most bidders, hopefully, know what they are buying. A link to some page with specs is a better way to do this.

Too many words is just a way to mask a few words about the description.

Some Tips

I don't like the "as is" term. But there is good reason that a legit seller might want to use it. I sold a calculator once to a guy, who opened it up, removed a part, installed his bad part, then claimed it did not work. Problem, for him, was the calculator that I sold him had never been opened. It was very easy to spot the fact that he opened the calculator. The tampering was easy to spot in the photos that I took and I pointed it out to him. He got caught and did not put up any fuss.

Re: Not Necessarily but...
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike McDonald, Leavenworth KS** on 14 Mar 2002, 12:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

As a long-time ebay buyer/seller - I view the "As-Is" term as "No Whining", and am willing to accept less than what an item might bring simply to move it down the line to someone who cares/needs it more than I do.

Likewise - only under severe "internal" conflict can I pay a "working" price for an "As-IS" item. But . . . there are common failure modes in things I know how to fix (like reel to reel tape decks) that the description lets me know what my exposure is.

anyway -

I do try to decribe what works and what does not work so that buyers can make an informed choice

Re: HP Museum copy cat
*Message #6 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 12 Mar 2002, 11:25 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ty Rogers

That's about the biggest Ebay listing I've ever seen! Dave should stop paying for his website and just post it on Ebay every week! "Questions to the Seller" could be routed to the appropriate part of the page for Forum, Classifieds, etc. As long as he sold something every week, why should Ebay complain?

82106A?
*Message #7 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 12 Mar 2002, 12:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ty Rogers

After looking at this auction for a while, I noticed some discrepancies:

At the very top, it says: HP 41CV,Printer, Memory,Card Reader & Cards!

At the top of the "Description" section, it says: HP 41CV Calculator + HP 82143A Peripheral Printer + HP 82104A Card Reader + 29 Memory Cards + HP 82106A Memory Module + thermal paper roll

Just below that, it says this: CONTENTS OF AUCTION LOT 1 HP 41CV Calculator + 1 HP 41CV Owner's Manual + 1 Printer + 1 Printer Handbook + 1 Card Reader + 29 Memory Cards + 1 Memory Module + Thermal paper Roll

After all the stuff lifted from the Museum, it says: CONTENTS OF AUCTION ITEM: 1 HP 41CV Calculator + 1 HP 41CV Instruction Manual + 1 Printer

A little further down, the pictures show a calculator, printer manual, card reader manual, and card reader.

So I wonder: (1) what is actually for sale? (2) what does the buyer need a 82106A for since he's getting a 41CV??

(Doesn't that sound like the punchline of a stereotypical nerd joke?!)

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Solving complex, linear equations on the 28S
*Message #1 Posted by **craig karageorge** on 11 Mar 2002, 4:21 p.m.*

What is the format for entering data to solve complex, linear equations on the HP 28S? for example eq1: (1/40 +2/j5)A + B/j20 +C = 10 eq2: 20A/3j + 5B - (j50)C = -2

Re: Solving complex, linear equations on the 28S
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 12 Mar 2002, 8:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by craig karageorge

Hello;

try this:

```
eq1: '(1/40+2/(0,5))*A+B/(0,20)+C=10'
eq2: '20*A/(0,3)+5*B-(0,50)*C=-2'
```

Please, if it doesn't work, forgive-me. I know it works with the HP48G (e.g.: 1+j3 = (1,3)), but my HP28S is not available (at least till 5:00 PM, Brazilian time, and now we are at 10:25 AM). If you have success, let us know.

Cheers.

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Speaking of Ebay...
*Message #1 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 11 Mar 2002, 3:26 p.m.*

Has anyone ever tried to contact Ebay? I was enjoying myself, searching for one thing after another, when a search result went to a "page cannot be displayed" with the following URL: "http://ads.web.aol.com/html/93010867/aol?search=calculator&target=_top&height=60&width=468" Apparently an ad for AOL. Now, every search result does this. It will probably go away. But I decided to try to report the problem to Ebay (trying to be a good citizen). There is no mention that I can find of how one contacts the Ebay system administrator, or anyone else. Lots of opportunities to learn from other users in discussion groups, but no way to contact the company (except a street address).

Re: Speaking of Ebay...
*Message #2 Posted by **doug** on 11 Mar 2002, 8:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

To contact eBLA. Use ebay SafeHarbor. They route everything.....eventually.

But they will have a very rigid response even if they do.

Re: Speaking of Ebay...
*Message #3 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 11 Mar 2002, 9:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by doug

i got tired of trying to ask something and getting routed to the faq and other usless self help pages. i wrote to that street address and in about 15 days i got an email back with a very concise answer to my question. there ARE people there.

Re: Speaking of Ebay...

*Message #4 Posted by **doug** on 11 Mar 2002, 11:10 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by db(martinez,california)

They responded with email, not a letter sent through the U.S. Mail. If your question is a "how to" or "what does this mean", then you could have simply submitted it to safeharbor and they will route the question to the group that handles it. You would get the same response as having sent the letter. Try it in about a month or two and see if the response isn't just about exactly the same.

If you try to get a real problem resolved such as fraud, or a person placing a false advertisement, they will not give you a clear and concise answer, but will evade every question with the same standard response letter they send everyone. The person sending it might put a couple of unique lines that say about the same thing as the letter anyway, but, no matter what the actual situation is, such as failure to disclose the condition of an item someone sold, all the way to fraud. You will receive a standard form letter with a little bit of nothingness thrown in for free. I tried it on two different issues that were totally different and had absolute proof and even included the exact rules from their website and they responded exactly the same to two totally different issues. They send standard prepared response form letters.

They will not get involved in any problem resolution unless it involves money out of their pocket. And then they will only deal with individuals and never make you aware of what they do if anything.

eBLA has put together a business based upon a total illusion. They are only a listing service. They came up with pseudo auction terminology to give the illusion they are really something they aren't to make you feel safe buying on their website. The feedback is just a public bulletin board. They have no liability, and that is why they do it. But people post truths and lies. eBay does not stop a person from posting a lie even when they know it is. Here is an actual example. I bought a calculator and paid properly within the allotted time. It arrived defective. The person wouldn't make it right so I filed a complaint. When nothing was done, I put the truth in feedback. They put a lie in the feedback. They said I was bad and unreasonable. Why? Because I wanted my money back for a defective calculator. eBLA knew this. It had been going on for about 90 days. When they posted the out and out lie they did nothing. They said even though it was wrong they couldn't make them retract it and it couldn't be retracted anyway.

They will not help anyone if there is any false dealings. They will send you to Squaretrade. They will let you send emails from their website for free. But they do nothing either. You can opt to pay $15 to have a mediator help solve a problem and then if the other person doesn't want to participate which no dishonest person will, then they

will simply refund your money.

When people are talking about bidding and getting sniped it is a load of crap. All you are doing is making an offer to purchase no matter when you do it. The only thing involved you could refer to as an auctioneer is time itself. The Highest offer made in the allotted time frame no matter when, is simply an accepted offer. The main thing that eBay does is give some rules that make people think they are legally enforceable. They are not. They also are written so badly that people try to use them to overturn common law and consumer protection laws. Such as the using the term "asis" to excuse all liabilities. And it simply isn't possible under the law.

There is only two protection mechanisms that make a business transaction successful on eBay or MoHPC and it takes both.

1. An Honest Seller 2. An Honest Buyer

That is where a successful deal begins and ends.

Re: Speaking of Ebay...
*Message #5 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 12 Mar 2002, 11:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by doug

all i was trying to comunicate with them is that i was having trouble signing up, and therefore could not use the safeharbor thing or anything else. maybe i was lucky then. i am starting to wonder. i just "won" a bid and the seller sent me a letter raising the cost of shipping $4. maybe it was an oversight. the kind of oversight that always takes and never gives is more likely. i'll find out. it's a funny system. i'll keep your experience in mind and not buy any really expensive toys on this shakey system from strangers. is using paypal safer than money orders?

Re: Speaking of Ebay...
*Message #6 Posted by **doug** on 14 Mar 2002, 3:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by db(martinez,california)

Hi, Before you read this you should get an idea of the good, the bad, and eBLA. You may at first think this has nothing to do with your question, but it really does. Take it one step at a time. The best thing to do is get in a big hurry to not get in a big hurry. Most people wait until they have a problem and then try to find how it can be resolved thru the companies or sevices they use. What I have learned is it is proably best to see how a company or agency handles a problem before you use them.

Some people have made comments about you must be a lawyer to write some of this, when you challenge there blatant attempts to defraud you. Or you don't know what you are talking about etc... The people that try these ploys are trying to make you doubt you are in the right. Well I got news for them. You don't have to be a lawyer to protect yourself from criminal minds, or theft, or fraud. Just start filing charges when you have proof. Let the proper authorities handle it. You don't want to file charges on the slightest whim, but when someone has shown they have the intent to harass you, control you, or use scare tactics to withhold your money, or to stop you from pursuing a legal remedy, then you should file a complaint. That complaint could possibly lead to the disclosure of some other information such as emails that will allow you to file a comlaint with your local sherrifs department to pursue possible criminal charges against them also. Read the following quote from the Postal Inspectors and heed what they will really do.

"The material you submit may be seen by various people. We may enter the information you send into our electronic database, to share with our attorneys and investigators involved in law enforcement or public policy development. We may also share it with a wide variety of other government agencies enforcing consumer protection, competition, and other laws. You may be contacted by the Inspection Service or any of those agencies. In other limited circumstances, including requests from Congress or private individuals, we may be required by law to disclose information you submit."

I also offer the following as proof, and it is a direct quote from the Postal Inspectors that explains when an issue becomes mail fraud and why.

"Postal Inspectors investigate any crime in which the U.S. Mail is used to further a scheme, whether it originated in the mail, by telephone or on the Internet. The use of the U.S. Mail is what makes it a mail fraud issue."

If you believe you have been defrauded then here is another exact quote from their website as to where and when to file a complaint:

"The form below allows you to send a complaint to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service if you suspect you are a victim of mail fraud."

The keyword is "suspect". http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors/fraud/MailFraudComplaint.htm

To find the nearest postal inspector's office/address/phone number to you by using your City & State or Zip Code,to include their address and phone number

then use: http://www.usps.com/ncsc/locators/find-is.html

PAYPAL: www.paypal.com

Read each websites information. Paypal allows you to file against someone that doesn't ship, or if you return and they don't refund. I believe you can file even if they threaten to withhold a refund if you have returned the merchandise, so keep a copy of any email threats to withhold you money or control you for any reason. Many people try to control other people this way and while doing so violate the law. It is then you should file mail fraud charges because their email proves their real intent.

As far as PayPal verses the Money order. Well, as you can probably see if you pay with paypal and have the merchandise delivered by the U.S. mail, then you have the best chance at filing charges and recovery. The issue of the Money order will have to be explained by the institution that issued it. They can tell you what is available to protect you and the actions you can take if there is a problem. For example a money order could be from a bank, or it could be a postal money order. But, if you mail a bank money order through the post office then they can be involved. It is mail fraud if they don't send you what you paid for or refund your money. Find what works best for you. Then always incorporate as many of these to help protect yourself. Obviously you have to do the combination that is most cost effective as well as time effective for you.

For example you can't as far as I know send a U.S. Postal money order or Bank Money order from the U.S. overseas and expect them to honor it. Also many people tell me they have a service charge of $8 to $18 on the average to do the conversion and process any type of money order they do accept. PayPal is great if they accept it. They did however just raise the fees to you to sell to them overseas.

Some people on eBLA have been honest. Some haven't. Some prove their intent along the way. There is no one answer as to what is the best. Why? Because some people don't accept PayPal. Some people won't buy unless the seller accepts paypal. Money orders take a lot of time to get and fill out and mail. But if you buy one thing ever 6 months it probably won't make a big difference. If you plan on buying every month on the internet for convieince or savings then you probably will have to use both at any given time to buy something you want. If any of them had it all worked out, then only one method would be available. You may already know most of this or not. If you didn't or don't, now you have the url's to find the facts about what you can file and even where to file if you have a problem.

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Source for EPROMs?
*Message #1 Posted by **Dan M** on 11 Mar 2002, 1:30 p.m.*

Hi everybody,

Can anybody tell me a good source for 2716 and/or 2732 EPROMs?

I've got some old calculator-related equipment that could use these devices, but I'm not sure where to get them any more.

Many Thanks in Advance,

Dan M

Re: Source for EPROMs?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ren** on 11 Mar 2002, 4:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dan M

www.jameco.com 2716=$3.25 2732=$5.95 each

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Does 9V damage the HP37E?
*Message #1 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 11 Mar 2002, 1:04 p.m.*

Take a look at:

http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?MfcISAPICommand=ViewItem&item=2007198517

Did the buyer get a bargain? Or has the calculator been damaged?

I see wlodekmj bid on this calculator, one in the same :^) (I try not to bid against this guy)

A recent HP11C went for 142 pounds ($200), nice looking but no manual, case, box etc. Are UK buyers starved of decent HP calcs?

http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?MfcISAPICommand=ViewItem&item=2007121180

Re: Does 9V damage the HP37E?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 11 Mar 2002, 1:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tom (UK)

My guess is that between the condition of the particular battery and the heavy load of an LED calculator, the battery voltage is very low. I'm not sure what the spec is, but I think a 9V rectangular batttery is expected to provide about 20 ma for a reasonable time. I sure wouldn"t try it!

Re: Does 9V damage the HP37E?
*Message #3 Posted by **Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz** on 13 Mar 2002, 8:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tom (UK)

Thanks to Tom(UK) for some interesting comments. Agreed, a 9V battery does not do an HP_37E much good - I wonder if the seller intentionally used a high voltage to get the apparently very bright display shown in the photograph. That would be very unwise!

I'm honoured that you "try not to bid against" me, but don't deny yourself items you need for your collection :-) Since you are in the UK, maybe we could compare collections one day. That is one of the uses of user groups - to let enthusiasts meet other than here :-) HPCC (www.hpcc.org) welcomes newcomers!

UK prices on eBay reflect the fact that purchasing from the US requires extra payment for postage, plus customs duty, plus VAT, plus paying the Post Office fee for their work in collecting the taxes from us! All that combined means it is easily worth paying an extra 10-20% more to buy in the UK. See my book :-)

I hope the final buyers of the 11C and 37E are happy! Or buy at MoHPC!

Wlodek

Re: Does 9V damage the HP37E?
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 14 Mar 2002, 6:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

I have purchased numerous items from Europe (including a 9100A) and have never been charged a customs duty.

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Virtual display of my calculators - am I a Geek?
*Message #1 Posted by **Edwin Russell** on 11 Mar 2002, 8:12 a.m.*

Hi All,

I've owned several calculators over the years and have now, for my own amusement, created my very own "vitual calculator museum" here:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/one_computers/calc_mus.htm

Please have a look and post your comments. Edwin Russell - UK.

Re: Virtual display of my calculators - am I a Geek?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ren** on 11 Mar 2002, 9:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

Yep, You're a geek! Walk with pride!

Re: Virtual display of my calculators - am I a Geek?
*Message #3 Posted by **Johnny Bjoern Rasmussen** on 11 Mar 2002, 9:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

Well - aren't we all a bit geegy ;-) I like the idea, and have collected a couple of old calculators that I have had during the years. The idea is to make my own museum as you, but having the machines "in hand"... I will announce the museum on this forum when it will be available on my webpage...

Johnny

Re: Virtual display of my calculators - am I a Geek?
*Message #4 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 11 Mar 2002, 10:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

Yes, Edwin, you're a geek. But we love you anyway. 8^)

-Ernie

Response to Virtual display of my calculators.
*Message #5 Posted by **Edwin Russell** on 12 Mar 2002, 8:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

Hi All,

What a thriving forum this is! In just 24 hours I've had 102 hits to my museum web page and 5 replies. Thanks to you all.

Edwin Russell - UK.

Re: Virtual display of my calculators - am I a Geek?
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 12 Mar 2002, 12:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

Anyone with a calculator wrist watch is not just a geek... he is an uber-geek ;) HP-01 rules!

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new student hp calc user would like to ask about hp20s
*Message #1 Posted by **lokhin** on 11 Mar 2002, 6:48 a.m.*

hello! I am a form 5 HK student . here, in the secondary school sci. calc. market, casios takes 98% of the market, sharps takes 1.5% and the 0.5% ard others. i have been using casios since 98 until last month, when i got a new hp20s. I am impressed by this calc, it is solidly bulit, has good keypad, many functions . its quite different from casios, I have practise for 2 weeks to become 70% familarized with it.

i would like to ask about the stat function: suppose we have a set of data: class mark: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 frequency: 8, 5, 8 , 10, 12, 9 in casios we can enter like this 5*8, 10*5, etc.... how about in hps? I cant find it and I have to use casios for stats in my exam. :-(thanks in advance

lokhin

Re: new student hp calc user would like to ask about hp20s
*Message #2 Posted by **Glen Kilpatrick** on 11 Mar 2002, 12:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by lokhin

It's been a while since I owned one of these, so I referred to http://www.finseth.com/~fin/hpdata/hp20s.html for refresher. You enter the numbers as:

5 INPUT 8 \GS+ (the Sigma function, upper-left key)

10 INPUT 5 \GS+

15 INPUT 8 \GS+

...

and then "x-w compute weighted average" with a right-shifted square-root.

I don't think any other statistical functions can be computed for a weighted average problem.

Hope this helps.

gk :)

Re: new student hp calc user would like to ask about hp20s
*Message #3 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 11 Mar 2002, 1:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by lokhin

lokhin:

Since you already got an answer to your question, I will privide you with some free (albeit un-requested!) advice. ;-)

Do yourself a favor, and purchase an HP-32sII (before they disappear!). In my opinion, what you have is not really an HP. A "real" HP is much better. The HP-32sII uses an RPN (Reverse-Polish Notation) operating system (rather than algebraic). RPN will take you a few minutes to get used to, but it is _much_ easier to use, more efficient, and more robust! That calculator also has a large number of functions. It is also programmable, but with only enough program memory to hold one useful program.

And, if after that, you find yourself catching the HP bug---like the rest of us here---then you can look into some of the older HP calculators, which are true gems! But, as you are a student, I'm sure you don't have a lot of money to spend on calculators! Well, hopefully someday! ;-)

Bruce.

oh
*Message #4 Posted by **lokhin** on 13 Mar 2002, 11:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by lokhin

hello,

thank you for your reply.

what I want form the stats in standard deviation, mean, population stardard deviation. I do feel disappointed when I found that only weighted mean will work.

its a pity that only a few hps are approved to use in exam here, here's is a full list of exam approved hp calcs:

HEWLETT-PACKARD HP-6S HP-10 B HP-12 C HP-16 C HP-21 S HP-6S Solar HP-11 C HP-

15 C HP-20 S

full list of other approved calc can be seen here: http://www.hkea.edu.hk:8002/doc/ce01eng5.pdf

very unfortunaty, hp32sii is not approved in exam. it was my first choice..... then I changed my mind and got a hp20s. but I aggree that I must get a hp32sii fast, before they become extinct.

lokhin

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approved calcs
*Message #5 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 15 Mar 2002, 3:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by lokhin

Then, whithout any hesitation, try to get a 15C...

Re: approved calcs
*Message #6 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 15 Mar 2002, 8:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Thibaut.be

If we're going to mention tough calcs, consider the Hp21s, since it is a statistics calculator, the next step above an Hp20s.

Re: Get the 21S
*Message #7 Posted by **Frank** on 15 Mar 2002, 10:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by lokhin

I like the 15C well for general purpose science/engrg use, however for Prob & Stat speciality get the HP21S if you can find since it contains preprogrammed distributions (watch ebay or run HPMOC ad). Expect to pay $35 with manual to $175 without manual which is about the one year range on these.

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PPCCJ Editorial: HP-42 (1981)
*Message #1 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 11 Mar 2002, 1:13 a.m.*

I read the following Editorial in the PPCCJ (V8N1P4, Jan/Feb 1981). Comments?

-Ernie

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

EDITORIAL by Richard Nelson (1) From PPCCJ, V8N1P4 (Jan/Feb 1981)

The HP-41C was announced 19 months ago. Its power and capability caught TI without a competing product "on the shelf," and they are rushing a new TI-59 replacement to market as fast as they can. The introduction of a new top-of-the-line PPC from TI will cause users to focus on the future of PPCs. The HHC Sharp PC1211, soon to be available in the U.S., adds a new dimension to the PPC vs. HHC discussion. The PC 1211, even though it is slow and has too little memory to be a serious computer -- see box -- has the features of extended accuracy numerical functions that have been the mainstray of PPCs. If future machines follow this trend, the HHC will absorb the PPC. If this is indeed true, there will never be an HP-42. HP PPC history will be recorded as 65-67-41, two generations of products.

The question is, do we want, do we need, a product that continues along the design trends that the 65-67-41 have set? I, for one, believe that we need and want an HP-42. Here are a few thoughts on the 42 and its general features.

* The 42 should carry on the tradition of the PPC. It should have full alpha capability, but its design should emphasize the numerical processing of data. In computer terminology, it should be scientific rather than business.

* The 42 should retain a key-to-function keyboard operation. Prefix, shift, and fully assignable keys should be the guiding philosophy. A full keyboard is OK, typing for alpha is OK, but one- or two-key, machine functions, should be designed in. Typing SIN for sin is not acceptable. This convenience PPC users are accustomed to will require new keyboard designs. Keyboards have been

static for 5 years, yet this is the primary man/machine input interface.

* The 42 should provide increased numeric handling capability. Full logic compares; data packing; full functions like quotient/remainder instead of MOD; characteristic/mantissa operations; digit rotate, invert; and Register Block operations such as exchange, increment, move, rotate, extremes, sum, statistics, sort, etc.

* The 42 should be micro-programmable in that the user may allocate memory stacks and registers as he wishes. Subroutine levels, argument ranges, program/data, etc. could be restructured by the user under program control. The basic machine would be structured and disciplined like the 41, but a lower-level capability would exist for the skilled programmer.

* The 42 should be a _programmer's_ machine. It will be up to the _programmer_ to make the machine a user's machine. The 41C is _not_ a programmer's machine; it is a compromise to appeal to the layman. The 42 should not be a raw microprocessor where every bit must be managed by the programmer. It should have a higher-level user calculator language, but not a computer language that manages everything for you.

* The 42 should be functionally built upon the 65-67-41 "logic," but should break free from the obsolete architecture of the HP-35. The 42 should be a mainframe that is capable of communicating with other peripherals as a system just like the 41.

* The 42 microprogramming capability should provide for a programmable clock rate so the user can trade off power consumption for speed if he desires. It _must_ be crystal controlled so time becomes a dimension for the programmer to manage if this is the optimum solution.

* The 42 must be hardware alterable. EPROM capability must be designed in the machine, and it should be hand held and operated. Perhaps an extended keyboard could be a peripheral for "full" microprogrammability.

* The 42 should be a shirt pocket machine in the PPC tradition.

The HP-41C was probably designed as a 5-year product. Its life is 1/3 over. The 42 should be well into the product definition stage. If it is not, perhaps we, the users, should "design our own" here, in the pages of the Journal. I know Bill Kolb believes in the 42. Perhaps a design team could be assembled to oversee various aspects of the design. A "42" column could be run each issue with the various group leaders coordinating readership input. Members could take charge of such aspects as math functions, data handling functions, keyboard layout, instruction syntax, etc., etc.

If we are to get an RPN-like machine in the future, we will have to make the manufacturers aware of our desires, otherwise we will have to live with BASIC, a desktop machine, and the inconvenience of spelling out the function instead of pressing a key.

[R/S]

How sad HP never listened to the man who knows best
*Message #2 Posted by **Gene** on 11 Mar 2002, 7:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

Imagine the state of things today had HP hired Richard 20 years ago.

Makes me want to cry. Gene

Re: How sad HP never listened to the man who knows best
*Message #3 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 12 Mar 2002, 1:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Gene

It's not that simple. The HP of 20 years ago was not unsympathetic to Richard's vision. Just look at the 41. Where the lack of sympathy ultimately manifested was in the public mind - a huge potential market that didn't have the willingness to be open to a different but better way of doing things, and instead took refuge in a prideful scorn based on self-chosen ignorance. HP didn't have to hire Richard; he was already tirelessly working to promote the ideas embodied in HP's calculators. He probably did more for HP from the outside than he could have done from within.

Re: How sad HP never listened to the man who knows best
*Message #4 Posted by **John K. (US)** on 13 Mar 2002, 1:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Steve Borowsky

All too true. But, unfortunately, virtually irrelevant.

These types of high-end computing devices generally appealed to two types of users: those who needed to perform a well-defined set of relatively complex calculations of a predetermined nature on a regular basis, and those who were -- for lack of a better term -- hackers (in the non-pejorative sense). In both cases, the general purpose computer now fills that niche.

Your average personal computer, equiped with a decent spread-sheet app, is orders of magnitude more efficient than a programmable calculator at performing complex, multi-variable calculations on multiple sets of data -- the *raison detre* of programmables. For truly specialized fields, there are other equally specialized apps available.

Hackers, on the other hand, have always gravitated toward the most "powerful" and

"elegant" (quotes because each tends to define these differently) new toy available, so again that role is filled by the personal general purpose machine.

Even in the handheld and high-end calculator arena, the trend has been toward general purpose processors. With the exception of the HP line (and, arguably, to their detriment), all of the current graphing calculators I know of are built around general purpose chips. The TI line, for example, uses the same Motorola 68K architecture also used by current Palm OS devices and all pre-PowerPC (c. 1993 and earlier) Apple Macintosh systems.

Though sad, it is not entirely surprising that HP decided not to persue Richard's vision. It is said that the surest way to go out of business is to chase after a larger share of an ever-diminishing market. In their glory days, HP calculators were a premium product for which HP charged a premium price. The unfortunate truth is that the economics of the market changed with its demographics; there are no longer enough people willing to pay that premium.

Where does that leave us? Well, I guess we are simply the Last True Believers in a now-fading and somewhat tarnished icon of technology. Ours is the pursuit and preservation of what is, ultimately, a genetic dead-end of computerdom, eclipsed by the fitter and more agressive general-purpose microprocessor. Though a case can be made that portability and convenience have been sacrificed on the alter of progress, omens abound and things auger badly for the offspring of Corvallis.

[N.B. If anyone is so depressed by the above that they decided to abandon their HP collection, please contact me directly. I am more than willing to give a good home to technological dinosaurs. ;^)]

Re: How sad HP never listened to the man who knows best

*Message #5 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 13 Mar 2002, 7:33 a.m.,*

in response to message #4 by John K. (US)

Yup. Very well said, John. The one option for HP as the market shifted was to appeal to the growing education market, but HP's engineering-optimized interface didn't appeal so readily to the student-teacher crowd. The fact that TI Sharp and Casio all went with AOS also made RPN a particularly hard sell in a market that was looking for a universal standard and didn't have much time to find it. The higher selling price and the 'odd-man-out' user interface made HP calculators both intellectually and physically expensive for the budget-conscious education market.

Re: How sad HP never listened to the man who knows best
*Message #6 Posted by **John K. (US)** on 13 Mar 2002, 7:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Steve Borowsky

Thanks, Steve. Actually, I had intended that in reply to Gene's post. I guess that what I get for trusting my browser's "Back" button to do its thing unsupervised.

"Why, back in the good ol' days, when you pushed an honest-to-goodness physical button, the machine did *something, by gum..."*

Re: How sad HP never listened to the man who knows best
*Message #7 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 14 Mar 2002, 5:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by John K. (US)

Oh well, that's alright. I think you're right though that this is mainly an issue of technology changing the focus of problem solving from calculators to other platforms. Where esle do you find high-end calculators today except in classrooms?

Sure, it would be nice if HP's had a large part of that market but it didn't work out that way.

I find it interesting that 20 million Palm Pilots, including clones, have been sold since 1996. Shows there's a need for a handheld computing platform; it's just not exclusively focused on math/engineering as it once was, though that option is available.

Re: How sad HP never listened to the man who knows best
*Message #8 Posted by **Ren** on 14 Mar 2002, 10:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Steve Borowsky

Steve B. wrote: >I find it interesting that 20 million Palm Pilots, including clones, have been sold since 1996. Shows there's a need for a handheld computing platform; it's just not exclusively focused on math/ engineering as it once was, though that option is available. <

Ren writes: Ah! but the main function of a PDA versus a calculator (IMHO) is the calendar, alarm, address book capabilities. That is why my PDA came with only a 4-banger calc program and I downloaded a scientific calc program and a "metric" converter program to extend its

functionality. If those programs had not been available, I'd have to carry the PDA and a calc.

PDAs v. Calculators
*Message #9 Posted by **John K. (US)** on 15 Mar 2002, 1:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Ren

[T]he main function of a PDA versus a calculator (IMHO) is the calendar, alarm, address book capabilities. That is why my PDA came with only a 4-banger calc program and I downloaded a scientific calc program[...]

Well, it seems to me that a PDA really has no "main function" -- though they typically provide the functions you mention "out of the box". Rather, they are a generalized machine with a highly customizable interface. The fact that you were able to download a software calculator that met your needs argues strongly to my point. Though the size and power restrictions impose a number of limitations on what can be done with one, the user of a PDA has a much greater degree of control over how it is used than do the engineers who create them. Contrast that with, say, the HP 42S or 49G, or even a 41CX, and I think you'll see what I'm talking about.

PDSs v. Calculators
*Message #10 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 15 Mar 2002, 12:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Ren

The evolving PDA is indeed a general-purpose computer, as opposed to a calculator. But I don't know that customization, in the form of easily-utilized programmability, has been brought to the PDA to anywhere near the degree that HP brought it to their calculators.

I just found a version of EMU48 (an HP-48/49 emulator) that works (more or less) on my iPAQ. (If interested, look for Leo Bueno's download page, or "EMU48" anywhere -- the sources are available under the GPL.) It has some serious limitations, but may be the basis for an RPN, HP-based programmable calculator for my future.

It's interesting (if not actually ironic) that hardware speeds are such that we can more easily emulate an HP product than re-develop an application as complex and easily used. (A telling feature of this EMU48 PDA implementation is that, in the simulated graphical

display, one may touch the menu entries to activate them, and this behaves exactly as if one had pushed the corresponding top-row button.)

The mistake, I'm coming to believe, in most PDA calculator implementations is that the developer tries to simulate a calculator keyboard, and generally ignores the PDA's native input method (handwriting recognition and the point-to-click graphical screen). Without the original device's physical presence and tactile feedback, trying to cram four functions on a simulated button in an impaired graphical environment becomes an exercise in eyestrain.

Better, I think, to minimize the number of simulated buttons (maybe only "Enter", if even that) and maximize the use of screen real estate for display of, say, the entire stack and/or many lines of program code, with more indentation than might otherwise be displayed.

So, rather than a "SIN" button, simply enter "S", "I", "N" in the text recognizer (perhaps with a line feed to simulate keypress) and see more of the data being worked on, etc. A "catalog" function hanging off a menu somewhere can serve some of the function that the calculator keyboard has traditionally served -- that of a selection of most-used functions, readily presented.

I'm suspecting that, as an experiment, a "meta keyboard" layer can be inserted between the PDA and the HP-48G emulation, that the native text entry method may be used to simulate keystrokes, and that the graphical display might be but one window in a richer presentation. But I haven't thought it all through yet, and I'm going to have to re-learn C/C++ to try anything, so it's going to be a while. (But I can't imagine a more involving project!)

Anyway, the PDA is here for a while, and is an inherently more flexible and powerful machine than older calculators. As soon as its programmability is brought out to the average (non-programmer) user with an easy-to-use and -understand interface, I'll have more use for mine!

Re: PDSs v. Calculators

*Message #11 Posted by **John K. (US)** on 15 Mar 2002, 11:09 p. m.,*

in response to message #10 by Paul Brogger

Indeed. It's only fair to say, however, that several of the RPN calculator simulators for Palm OS (the platform I'm most familiar with) are just as easy -- if not easier -- to program than the HP calculators we all know and love. And it is *much* easier to add apps to (i.e. customize) both Palm OS and Windows CE machines than to any of the HP calculators I'm familiar with. Not only that, but if someone has the time and inclination, it is also possible to write software for both in high-level languages. Compared to the intricate fiddling required to safely create synthetic routines on a 41 or the maddening constraints of RPL on those small calculator screens, one has a very free hand to roll-your-own on a PDA. The learning curve is steeper, true, but much more rewarding.

While both of these are for Palm OS, you may want to take a (another?) quick peek at MathU Pro or Coconut. To a greater or lesser extent, both suffer from the screen-crowding problem you mentioned, but try to overcome them in interesting and, in the case of Coconut, novel ways.

One of the main limitations with PDAs in general, which your message touches on, is that they really are not suitable for non-trivial data input. Palm goes to great lengths to warn developers not to attempt to create apps that require the user to enter lots of info -- advise a surprising number of them seem to ignore. Considering Microsoft's "everything-including-the-kitchen-sink" approach to software design, I wouldn't be too surprised if the situation was actually worse on CE-based handhelds.

The meta-keyboard layer you mentioned is pretty much already there in Palm OS. The only thing required would be to trap the character entry events and assemble the command string in the application. I imagine that a similar technique would work for CE apps. Not trivial, but not rocket science either.

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H P 45
*Message #1 Posted by **Bruce Smith** on 10 Mar 2002, 1:23 p.m.*

I have a HP 45 I bought new in 1973 while in college and have used since. I have had other calculators since including two other newer HP's but find the RPL with the stacked registers ect. to be the best system for my use, I also prefer the LED display. Unfortunately my HP 45 is operateing irratically. It stoped charging the batteries several years ago, and now only self checks and works sporatically. I bought another HP 45 on E-bay, and it does the same thing. I now think the charger is bad. My question is who can check and repair the charger and calculators, I am trying to buy another charger on E-bay but would still like to have a backup. I am also confused about running the calculator without a battery pack from the charger. Bruce

Re: H P 45
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 10 Mar 2002, 2:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bruce Smith

To answer the last question first. You can run any 'classic series' HP calculator _without a card reader_ off the AC adapter without a battery pack installed. That means the 35, 45, 55, 70, 80. With these machines the battery is disconnected from the calculator when the adapter is plugged in. Don't run the card reader models (65, 67) off the adapter without a battery fitted, it may damage the card reader sense amplifier chip. Now back to the other questions. The only fault in the _calculator_ that would prevent a battery from charging would be a broken wire between the AC adapter plug and the battery pack. I've never seen this fault. So I think we can conclude the fault probably is the adapter. The AC adapter is quite simple inside, with few custom parts. My guess in this case is that the smoothing capacitor has failed -- it's a 400uF electrolytic. Replace it with a 470uF, 25V (or higher) capactior. Obviously there's live mains inside the adapter, but there's no stored high voltages. Provided it's not plugged in, it's quite safe to open it up. I can e-mail an ascii-art schematic of the 'classic' AC adapter to anyone that wants it, or I think it can be downloaded from somewhere on the CUCPS website.

Re: H P 45

*Message #3 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 13 Mar 2002, 7:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

I'm sorry but I disagree Tony. I have an HP-21 and thought it was damaged when I got it because it showed a "running" display when I first switched it on powered by the AC adapter with the old battery still inside. Because I wasn't willing to give up I replaced the battery (see below) and volia, it worked fine. I therefore would recommend to replace the battery first and test again. To replace it the black plastic cover has to be cut horizontally so that it can be opened. Make a note how the original batteries are interconnected and located inside the plastic. The replace them with new NC batteries 1.2 V which have to be interconnected in the same way. Careful - don't short circuit them which can be easily done with the long metallic connector plates. Reassemble the plastic cover and fix it with sticky tape. If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail. Good Luck

Re: H P 45

*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 13 Mar 2002, 7:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

From my experience Tony is proably right. The HP45 charger is DC and filtered internally. It has separate "charge" and "run" suppies. The machine runs on the DC output totally independently of the battery when the charger is plugged in.

The Woodstock is charger puts out AC and depends a great deal on the battery to make smooth DC. A dead or missing Woodstock battery usually produces the flickering display (and shortly after a burned out machine)

Re: H P 45

*Message #5 Posted by **Bruce Smith** on 15 Mar 2002, 12:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by David Smith

All, David, and Tony thanks for the information it sounds correct. Do you know where I could get my charger repaired, or obtain a new one? I would hate to buy another defective 82002A charger and then have two I can't use. Bruce

Re: H P 45

*Message #6 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 13 Mar 2002, 4:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

For a Woodstock (HP2x) or Spice (HP3xE/C) I'd agree with you. Those machines use an AC-output charger that's half-wave rectified inside the calculator. They depend on the battery pack both as a smoothing component and as a 'shunt regulator'. Those series will not work properly without a (good) battery in place, and in fact attempting to run them like that may canse damage (particularly on continuous memory models). But this is not a Woodstock or a Spice, it's a classic (HP45). Classics use a 3 pin charger which contains a fair amount of circuitry. One pin is a ground. Another is a constant voltage output to run the calcualtor. The last is a constant current output to charge the battery. When you connect a charger to a claassic, the connector pushes back a contact spring in the calculator that normally connected the battery to the logic. The battery is then connected to the constant current circuit, the logic to the constant voltage circuit. It is quite safe to run a 35,45,55,70,or 80 without a battery pack in place. The logic will receive the correct smoothed voltage from the charger. However, be warned that the 65 and 67 connect the card reader sense amplifier chip directly to the battery pack. Don't run one of those without a battery installed -- the constant current output of the charger can rise to around 17V, and the chip doesn't like that!

Re: H P 45

*Message #7 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 14 Mar 2002, 6:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tony Duell (UK)

thanks David, Tony for the additional info. I knew some of it but not all.

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question about ebay
*Message #1 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 10 Mar 2002, 12:54 a.m.*

a while back someone here who seemed to know a lot about ebay said that it is possible to somehow list up to 20 or so interests and they automaticly pop up when you access that page. how do i do that, or what date was that posting?

Re: question about ebay
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 10 Mar 2002, 8:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by db(martinez,california)

Hi,

do you mean the 'watch this item' feature?

Regards,

Raymond

Re: question about ebay
*Message #3 Posted by **bill smith** on 10 Mar 2002, 3:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by db(martinez,california)

if you are a member of ebay, you should be able to sign in to MyEbay. this is where your watch list is kept. if you are browsing items and want to add them to your watch list, it is near the top of the page in hypertext...just click it and add tour password if not already signed in.

Re: question about ebay
*Message #4 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 10 Mar 2002, 8:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by bill smith

maybe i misunderstood when i read it a while back, in my pre-ebay days. i thought it was "subjects" but it could have been individual "items". if i could remember which thread i saw this in or if i had thought i would ever need it and read it more carefully..... but i didn't so i didn't. thanks.

Re: question about ebay
*Message #5 Posted by **Doug** on 10 Mar 2002, 8:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by db(martinez,california)

If you aren't speaking of the "Items I'm Watching" which is up to 20, that you can put on your "My eBLA" page, then maybe your are looking for the "Favorites". If not find a better hobby, cause you are no good at eBLA.

http://cgi1.ebay.com/aw-cgi/ebayISAPI.dll?addsavedsearch&myfavlogin=1

Contains: 1. Favorite Categories 2. Favorite Searches 3. Favorite Sellers / Favorite Stores

And if you are no good at eBLA that is something to be proud of. (:o) doug

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Spice series - differences in quality
*Message #1 Posted by **John Callahan** on 9 Mar 2002, 10:40 p.m.*

Hello all, this is my first post to this forum. I started collecting HP calcs about 6 or 8 months ago. One of the first I got, off of Ebay, was a 33C, one that was made in Singapore. I love this calculator and it is still one of my favorites. I decided to try to obtain 1 or 2 more of the 'Spice' series. I recently obtained a 32E from Ebay. I immediately noticed several 'quality' differences between the two calculators. The 33C has a very solid feel and a very crisp, responsive keyboard. It also has the slightly textured, very durable plastic keypad overlay similar to my 41C. The newly purchased 32E has a painted metal keyboard overlay, very susceptable to scratching. Also, the keypad on the 32E is very sloppy and requires very deliberate presses to function. When you shake the calculator you can even hear the keys rattle. I was quite surprised at these differences seeing that the better quality unit was a later model made in Singapore, and the poorer quality unit was made earlier in the United States. I also found that these differences are present with the same model numbers. A person I work with has two 31Es that have the same differences. Now that I've bored everyone to sleep, my actual question is is there any definite correlation between these differences and the country of manufacture / date of manufacture? Thanks all.

Re: Spice series - differences in quality
*Message #2 Posted by **Jim L** on 9 Mar 2002, 11:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Callahan

Have you read this page?

I think this may explain much of what you're seeing.

Re: Spice series - differences in quality
*Message #3 Posted by **Reiner** on 11 Mar 2002, 3:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Callahan

Hello John, I have the same problem (?) with an 34c buildt in USA. I have put a sheet of plastic under the keyboard, so I stopped the rattle of the keys. I know it is not original but.... regards

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HP-41 moduls
*Message #1 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 9 Mar 2002, 3:17 p.m.*

Does anyone has a list of all moduls available for the -41 serie?

Re: HP-41 moduls
*Message #2 Posted by **Hello ....** on 13 Mar 2002, 9:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

Does anybody want to answer this question please ....

Re: HP-41 moduls
*Message #3 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 13 Mar 2002, 10:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

I know there are more than this, but this is a start.

Advantage module Auto Start/Duplication ROM Aviation Circuit Analysis Clinical Lab/ Nuclear Med. Financial Decisions Games Home Management HP-IL Development module Machine Design Mathematics Math/Stat Navigation Petroleum Fluids Real Estate Securities Standard Apps Statistics Stress Analysis Structural Analysis Surveying Thermal & Transport Sci.

There is also the:

USPS DEL. SERV 1 module

Re: HP-41 modules
*Message #4 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 13 Mar 2002, 6:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ty Rogers

OOPS, that did not come out right, less try it again.

Advantage module Auto Start/Duplication ROM Aviation Circuit Analysis Clinical Lab/ Nuclear Med. Extended Functions Extended Memory Extended I/O Financial Decisions Games Home Management HP-IL Development module Infrared Module Machine Design Mathematics Math/Stat Medical Securities Memory module Navigation Petroleum Fluids Plotter Module Quad Memory Module Real Estate Securities Standard Apps Statistics Stress Analysis Structural Analysis Surveying Thermal & Transport Sci. Time Module

The United States Postal Service's DEL. SERV. 1 3421 Control Module

There are still more..... There was one I saw for loading military transport planes, one for diagnostic (EDUCALC MODULE SERVICE ????), DevIL ROM ???, MONITOR 1A, CCD Module Quick Ref, HEPAX Module, PANAME ROM, I have also seen different surveying modules.

Re: HP-41 modules
*Message #5 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 14 Mar 2002, 6:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ty Rogers

You should also include in your list two of the very best ever produced, namely:

PPC ROM and ZenROM

they're invaluable, indeed.

Re: HP-41 modules
*Message #6 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 14 Mar 2002, 9:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ex-PPC member

Hi,

right, those are very nice ones. IMHO the CCD module is the very best module ever made for the HP-41, followed by the HEPAX;-)

Raymond

Re: HP-41 modules
*Message #7 Posted by **David Smith** on 14 Mar 2002, 6:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Raymond Hellstern

Cant forget the ever popular and highly useful Nuclear Weapons Air Burst Effects module. What's really scary was they apparently had enough need of them to run off at least the 5000 piece minimum order for HP.

There is also the GMAC auto finance module and the Sup-R-Rom surveying module and the racehorse handycapping module.

Re: HP-41 modules
*Message #8 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 14 Mar 2002, 8:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by David Smith

I knew there were some I had forgot.

Re: HP-41 modules
*Message #9 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 14 Mar 2002, 9:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Ty Rogers

there were also the "surveyors co op" roms from the company that (i think) became tds: the a)surveying module b)various instrument and road stake modules and c) plotter module. they also made a..... i dont know for sure but maybe 60k .....memory / rs232 interface / il pod. it was built like a tank - machined out of a solid block of aluminium. ok; lets make that a diet tank, but b u i l t.

Re: HP-41 modules

*Message #10 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 15 Mar 2002, 7:15 a.m.,*

in response to message #9 by db(martinez,california)

Hi;

If I am not wrong, there is also an original HP module for the HP41 (introduced at the same time as the Cassette Duplication) that dealt with electrical measurement and data acquisition. It was shown in one of the HP Key Notes, and I remember a photo with the HP41 and a data acquisition set, taken in the field. Sorry not being precise, but I did not see any refference of this module in here and I rmember it well.

Cheers.

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HP-41 option 001
*Message #1 Posted by **Colin** on 9 Mar 2002, 12:54 a.m.*

What was the insides used in the HP41 option 001. C, CV or CX.

Re: HP-41 option 001
*Message #2 Posted by **jayeye** on 9 Mar 2002, 2:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Colin

Option 001, so-called "blacknut", was just an ordinary C/CV/CX without key labels. It was mean to be used in heavily-customised environments. The idea was to just use it with keyboard overlays and not have the labels on the keys confuse the potential users.

Does anyone know how many of these HP actually sold?

/ji

Re: HP-41 option 001
*Message #3 Posted by **Andre Balogh** on 15 Mar 2002, 10:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by jayeye

I happen to have one of the HP-41 option 001 , very clean , I have been waiting to see what it value was before I put it for sale .anyone interested . contact me Andre http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/forum.cgi?read=15859

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HP-34C
*Message #1 Posted by **Fred** on 8 Mar 2002, 6:32 p.m.*

Need replacement battery pack, anyone know where I might find one? HP Part#1403-0313

Easy to make
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 8 Mar 2002, 7:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Fred

These are very easy to make.

Basically two NiCads or NiMH AA cells will work. You just need to put a piece of metal across the back to connect the non-contact sides of the batteries.

Re: Easy to make
*Message #3 Posted by **Fred** on 8 Mar 2002, 8:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

What about polarity?

Photo of 37E
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 8 Mar 2002, 9:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Fred

(picture unavailable)

Re: Photo of 37E
*Message #5 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 9 Mar 2002, 4:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

You better use "flat top" batteries.. They do not have the knob on the "+" and so they are 1mm smaller than normal NiCL. If you this parts, you will not break the selsible battery holders in your Spice ;)

> **Good point.**
> *Message #6 Posted by **Mike** on 9 Mar 2002, 9:56 p.m.,*
> *in response to message #5 by Matthias Wehrli*
>
> **Good point. They do go in rather tight.**
>
> I had to use a very thin piece of metalic contact on the right (in the photo) to give it a bit more room.
>
> If you don't mind using Radio Shack batteries, you can get them already connected on the right (as shown in the photo). These are the shorter ones that are recommended above.

Re: Photo of 37E
*Message #7 Posted by **David Smith** on 9 Mar 2002, 6:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

Before you install a Spice battery pack, place a ribbon or paper around the pack that you can use as an extraction device. I wrap mine with a piece of plastic tape, stuck together at the top to form a tab. Makes removing the pack very easy and no risk of damaging the contacts.

Re: Photo of 37E

*Message #8 Posted by **Bob Senzer** on 10 Mar 2002, 11:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by David Smith

Hi,

I've got an old HP-34C in which the battery compartment and/or battery is quite corroded with all of that powder from the decaying batteries. Is there any hope left for the calc?

If there is ... how do I go about removing the metal cover on top of the batteries, i.e. , the one that has the + and - markings on it. I am afraid of doing more damage. On the other hand, the calc is obviously dead at the moment. I notice in the picture of the 37E, the metal cover has been removed.

It should be noted that the powder may have congealed everything together already. The metal cover does not yield very well to the regular assortment of fine precision instruments that I have available such as tweezers, paper clips, butter knives, those flat plastic gizmos that keep plastic bags with bread loaves sealed, etc.

Thank you.

cleaning corrosion

*Message #9 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 11 Mar 2002, 1:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Bob Senzer

I've never owned a real spice battery even though I have several 34C's. But in general for cleaning battery corrosion I use distilled vinegar diluted 1:1 with water. Then after the corrosion is gone, I rinse with lots of water, then finally with two changes of distilled water. I disassemble things as much as possible and certain things, like transformers that aren't sealed, I don't soak at all. I've had no trouble with soaking Woodstock circuit boards without the LED and Keyboard PCBs, although I once salvaged a badly corroded Woodstock keyboard this way; even though I accidentally poked a hole in a keyboard spring dome while clearing corrosion out of a PCB via with a dental probe, the switch still works. If you don't want to disassemble the calculator, remove as much corrosion as you can with a brush and pick, then swab out with a Q-tip moistened with distilled water: plunge the Q-tip in the water and then "snap" as much water as you can out of it. You can also use a little diluted vinegar this way, but then swab several times with fresh Q-tips

and water. There is an excellent article on corrosion on Viktor Toth's Programmable Calculators website (rskey.org).

Re: Photo of 37E

*Message #10 Posted by **Fred** on 13 Mar 2002, 10:45 a.m.,*

in response to message #9 by Ellis Easley

Thanks Mike, I had some Ni-cad batteries from an old cordless phone after knowing the polarity; they took a charge will be geting the radio shack brand for a permanent pack.

Good tip David, Thanks

34C is working great now and holding a good charge.

Do you'll know where I can get a listing of the application books that are available for 34C calc.

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HP 71B and recent UK history
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 8 Mar 2002, 12:32 p.m.*

Hello everyone,

I was reading the 71B debacle below, when a memory arose: A few years ago in the UK, a trader tried to sell loads of 71B's via magazines, PCW and Micromart; the suprising thing was that nobody wanted them. As I remember the price dropped to arround 15 pounds. If only I'd known how the HP saga would pan out....

Thanks, David

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Jornada x25 on eBay...
*Message #1 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 7 Mar 2002, 5:23 p.m.*

http://cgi.ebay.de/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1337865697

Re: Jornada x25 on eBay...
*Message #2 Posted by **J.Manrique** on 8 Mar 2002, 11:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Hmm..

It's funny seeing how many test hardware units (same story with Xpander) has escaped from Carly's hands.. ;-))

Cheers, J.Manrique

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Need HP-15C Manual
*Message #1 Posted by **Jeff_G** on 7 Mar 2002, 12:25 p.m.*

I have the HP-15C but no documentation on it whatsoever. Is there any downloadable users manual available?

Thanks,

Jeff

Re: Need HP-15C Manual
*Message #2 Posted by **Ren** on 7 Mar 2002, 1:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jeff_G

The 15C manual is available on CD through the HPMuseum (CD1). I found the museum's pages on RPN and the stack as well as the description pages useful when I bought a 15C last month. The 11C manual was quite helpful, (I'd found that in the trash a few months back). Fortunately for me, the guy who sold me the 15C found its manual about a week later and I bought it. The 11C manual was about 40 pages less than the 15C. Now I'm looking for a cheap 11C to go with THAT manual B^)

Re: Need HP-15C Manual
*Message #3 Posted by **Ynai** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ren

When I bought my 15C (now sadly lost or stolen) I bought the 15C Advanced Functions Handbook. IMHO both manuals are excellent references in and off themselves. If you get a chance to procure the printed versions I would strongly encourage you to do so.

In my enthuisiasm I also bought the 11C Solutions Handbook. Some good material there too.

Buy the CD(s)
*Message #4 Posted by **Cameron** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ren

Jeff_G,

I bought the CD set for the 16C manual. I've since acquired a 16C manual but it's still in its shrink wrap. The CDs are a wealth of information. I don't collect HPs but I found the CDs easily worth the price of admission.

Cameron

Always the same chore !
*Message #5 Posted by **71B lover** on 8 Mar 2002, 4:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Cameron

I'm absolutely fed up of ALWAYS reading this same answer to the request for a manual on-line.

Why on earth should one person who just needs a SINGLE manual have to enter into the chore of buying a set of CDs which include tons of materials he isn't interested in at the moment ?

He just wants to DOWNLOAD the ONE manual from somewhere on line, which is the simplest, fastest way, but no, the only advice given is for him to make an order for the CDs, pay for them, then wait for the physical CDs to arrive.

This is obviously a much more expensive and of course far slower process than the logical approach, which is to simply download the one file he needs, if only it were available on line, which alas, it isn't.

Why does no one, ever, make available ON LINE said file or files, and then tell the URL to the interested person ? I know the files are large, but not unbearably so, and anyway it's orders of magnitude cheaper and faster to download one manual than to order, pay, and wait for delivery of the physical CDs.

Has it to do with copyright problems ? Or would Dave oppose such a possibility ? If not, then I feel it's due time someone puts those manuals and documents on line, or at least the ones asked for more frequently (such as HP-15C Owner's, HP-15C Advanced, HP-15C Owner's & Solution, etc). Perhaps Dave himself could set aside some space on his server for this kind of requests ?

Does everything have to be FREE for you?
*Message #6 Posted by **Mike** on 8 Mar 2002, 10:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by 71B lover

If you think it is so easy to compile all of these files (5 CDs worth), then **why don't you do it yourself** and spend the hundreds and thousands of hours over the years that are necessary **and provide them for FREE**.

Yes, others scan most of these and provide them for the museum. They do that knowing they will be put on a CD and sold. The go through the work to provide that service. **THEY** don't have any problem with them being sold.

These files are not large. They are gigantic. Most of the manuals are anywhere from 10 to 50 megabytes. Unless you have a cable modem, it will take you days to download one.

The simplest solution is to compile them into a CD and charge a reasonable fee. This is the best service for all. $35 is a bargain for all of this history and documentation. That's only $7 per CD (if you buy the set). Many would pay that for a single manual.

The museum is doing a great job of providing this service at a great price.

Re: Always the same chore !
*Message #7 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 8 Mar 2002, 12:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by 71B lover

Dave did a great job in scanning and compiling most of the manuals.

This is taken on his free time, and to be very honest the fe bucks he asks for the CD's are really worth and do not bring an additional income to Dave.

Thanks to him our legends lives on.

I know the internet is really thye place where you take and don't give, but this is not how thic community works. This is why this board is certainly the one where the people are the most friendly.

Cannot agree more.
*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 12 Mar 2002, 8:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Thibaut.be

Thibaut wrote: > I know the internet is really thye place where you take and don't give, but this is not how thic community works. This is why this board is certainly the one where the people are the most friendly.

What else to say?

Long live your words, Thibaut.

Cheers.

Re: Always the same chore !
*Message #9 Posted by **David Smith** on 8 Mar 2002, 4:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by 71B lover

If you are too cheap to buy the whole set of CD's, then Dave will sell you a single manual CD for much less. But the set of disks costs about what you can buy a single HP manual on Ebay for... plus you get all the extra info and software, etc.

Re: Always the same chore !
*Message #10 Posted by **doug** on 9 Mar 2002, 8:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by 71B lover

I haven't gotten around to getting the CD's as of yet but started to so I would have the reference material and support the online services provided at one time but something happened that precluded it. But I still plan on getting a set in the near future. I hate sitting down and reading a book on the PC. There is nothing more annoying than trying to read one of those Adobe PDF manuals. But I think it is much better to have a reference library on CD's or DVD's than to try to keep up with 20 shelf's of handbooks that get dusty, dirty, worn, and just plain deteriorate over time, if you only intend to reference information. But if you really like a certain calculator such as the voyager series 11c, 15c, 16c or even 12c enough to purchase it, why wouldn't you want the actual handbook? Yes they are expensive. So is my personal copy of anything I want or need. I purchase published text books for information and reference as well as for a school curriculum. They now average anywhere from $65 to $250 each. Even when a new edition comes out the prices don't drop on the old editions like they use to because they have a certain class life of usage (text for schools for example). And if the information is such that it never

really changes, such as how current flows, or how an RC circuit behaves then they hold their value now much more than the past because of the initial cost especially if the new editions only include new information or chapters for a new technology. But if all of you want these free, then I want all of them free as well. Why should they charge me for a book I really want for free? I can say the same as the rest of you that use this mentality. Since it is electronic and there is no paper or printing cost why should it be free. How long do you think people will work at learning, and learn at working, and work at writing to just give it away free? When does the information stop having value to the original authors? Never. They deserve a percentage of any revenue from their works forever. It is their intellectual property.

I wouldn't want a printed copy of every handbook for every HP calculator. Who would? Would you want to keep up with them and be concerned with the condition of them over the years if you don't actually use them? If you average the cost of upkeep and if forbid you ever have to move and pack and unpack one time, you can never sell them and recoup your moving cost at today's rates. Try it for a year and see if you change your minds.

I am not against free manuals and information within reason. But why do so many people expect it, demand it, or even believe it is their right? Why? It is never truly free? NO! Someone somewhere has to fit the bill for any information in any format. So when you think you want so many things on the internet for free, either a company is charging you much more for products or the federal or state government in the U.S. is taxing you for it. Do you really want so many things put on the internet because people want it for free? Do you know how much has been placed out there at tax payers expense that will never be used? Do you also know that the majority of internet information that is FREE is already obsolete? Most of it hasn't been updated for as long as 3 to 5 years. But it is sitting there and someone is paying for it to be on a computer system mostly because they don't know if it is valid or not. What is the point? Much of this information was placed there at the expense of taxpayers and without any planning or subsequent plans to maintain it. It is there in the way every time I look for real information. I actually get so tired of looking at outdated material or pages that you read with links and the linked data or system is gone and has been for years. How RUDE.

How about other countries. How much are you paying in the equivalence of taxes they charge you where you are for things that you will never use but you were told it is for your own good just like we were. We weren't given a choice, but we were told we would do this in this country, and in the schools no matter what we think it is for the best. The grades are down. The kids are lazier than ever. They aren't learning anything. They just look up the answers with a search and never know how or where it came from. Some of it is also wrong because anything can be posted and sound good but be totally wrong. The other point. How do you know those manuals are the

true originals? Only with some type of controls and accountability that doesn't exist on the internet and never will.

I run into things when looking for information all the time that is nothing but in the way. The next point. It causes extreme overhead on every system everywhere. One of the points obsolete (in some of your tiny minds) mainframe programmers warned people of. It wouldn't be managed. It is difficult enough to get users in any company to keep their own files cleaned up. Do you really think the planet will? I don't think so. I honestly have to go through so much garbage and obsolete junk when looking for something important that I just get so tired of reading and just logoff. Don't get me wrong. There are many old sites by internet time frame reference, that have good stable information. I especially find many sites with electronics information that is quiet nice in England, Germany, and even Italy, France, and some other countries that have translated it to English. I appreciate the effort of some of these people. But I don't go back and expect it of them.

When I first started using the internet I use to keep the urls in files that identified the type of information. Still have some around. I didn't want to waste my disk space on the files. Went back a few months latter because I remembered that one had a great explanation of some electronic component. It was gone!!!! How RUDE.

But expecting a vendors material to be free is somewhat ridiculous. You may think I didn't get your point. I did. It would be nice to be able to download any of the handbooks and put them directly on your computer. But would you really want to start doing that. Wouldn't you want the real source to be a CD or DVD. You better. The websites can go away tomorrow if everything is free and no one pays the bills. You can then send people to it and they no longer will be able to get the handbooks. Then are you going to serve everyone that you sent to the defunct websites, or that may find out you have them and ask for a free copy? It will only take you a few hours of your computers time each day to download 4 or 5 handbooks so they can have a free copy.

WILL YOU DO THAT FOR EVERYONE ELSE?

IF NOT

THEN DON'T EXPECT IT OF ANYONE ELSE!

doug

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HP-71Bs on eBay or Big Profit !!
*Message #1 Posted by **71B lover** on 7 Mar 2002, 5:03 a.m.*

It's easy to make a Big Profit on eBay, you just need to get it right. For instance, here's how a clever seller does it. First, he bids on some real jewel, like this allegedly brand new, unused, HP-71B, which includes a card reader and translator software as well:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1337280294

You'll notice Mike's bidding for $86 right now, and he's the high bidder so far. If he succeeds in finally getting this mint, new machine for a $100-$150 high bid, or less, you'll see he reselling it very soon for an outrageous $400, like this:

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1337038507

So you see, some poor soul swallowed the hook and paid Mike the modest, bargain $400 he asked for. As you see, he can make as much as $200-$250 in a single transaction !!. If he can, you can too !! Just be alert to any and all HP-71Bs in eBay, buy them all as cheaply as you can, then sell them for up to $400 or more, and there you are. Easy, isn't it ?

By the way, if you are interested in a brand new, absolutely mint HP-71B, you'd do well bidding for the first one mentioned here, before Mike wins it, lest you'll have to pay him three times the money you'd have paid the original seller.

Re: HP71B lover or Mike hater?
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 7 Mar 2002, 7:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by 71B lover

It's called a free market - I used to think that is what the US was built on.

There are many more under-hand ebay 'scams' than buying and selling openly.

If you are that upset, buy and sell them yourself with less mark-up.

Re: HP71B lover or Mike hater?
*Message #3 Posted by **71b lover** on 7 Mar 2002, 7:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tom (UK)

Who's upset ? I really meant it, it's a pretty good way to make a lot of money. Just a simple computation: n transactions per month at $200 profit each gives an awful lot of money. If he can do it, why not the rest ? Is this some closed club or something like that ? Has he got a special license to act so ? Was there anything offensive in my post ? I just discussed real facts, not my inventions, and extracted the logical conclusions ... Why would you be offended by them ? Are they wrong ? Which one is wrong and why ?

Re: HP71B lover or Mike hater?
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Mar 2002, 11:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by 71b lover

Buy - sell - or get out of the way.

Ciao.....Mike

Different Mike
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Mar 2002, 2:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

Just wanted to make this clear.

The above post was not by the "real" Mike :-)

Re: Different Mike
*Message #6 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 8 Mar 2002, 5:08 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Mike

Sorry - but I am not shure. My parents named me Michael, and evereybody uses his faforite short form of it to call me: Michel, Miki, Michi, Mizi, and Mike too.

I hoped everybody would see the difference to other Mikes on the list by the typical way I "sign" my appends.

Ciao.....Mike

Are you kidding?
*Message #7 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Mar 2002, 1:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by 71b lover

Are you for real? You say there is nothing offensive. Your whole tone was that people are getting ripped off. I see it and others see it. That is an offensive tone, especially since it is not true.

So you see, some poor soul swallowed the hook is an implication that someone is a sucker. In fact, they got a great 71B computer, fully loaded, with all documentation, in Mint condition. I say Mint because I mean Mint. It is not just extremely excellent condition. It was never been used before. I doubt that it had ever been handled.

Let me ask you a question. You say you are an HP-71B lover. Say you have that same package. How much would you have sold it for? I know, the cop-out answer is, "I wouldn't sell it."

Re: HP-71Bs on eBay or Big Profit !!
*Message #8 Posted by **John Kercheval** on 7 Mar 2002, 11:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by 71B lover

Hello:

I see nothing wrong with that transaction. I've always considered the HP 71 an divine gift to mankind from heaven.

Able to run 41 programs, basic programs, forth programs, full size keyboard, stunning gold looks, interfaceable with the interface loop, fast, exotic, etc.

If the 71 is a symbol of the divine, is this "Mark" guy not acting as one of the Holy Triumvirate by making more available to the masses? He should make a few $$.

I salute all 71 users and those who support them.

John

Some things you fail to realize.
*Message #9 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Mar 2002, 12:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by 71B lover

You say http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1337280294

You'll notice Mike's bidding for $86 right now, and he's the high bidder so far. If he succeeds in finally getting this mint, new machine for a $100-$150 high bid, or less, you'll see he reselling it very soon for an outrageous $400.

My comment This is **not** going to be bought for $100 to $150. This is where you are wrong. It will sell for over $400. I can give you a list of people that I know are waiting to bid that at the very end.

The one in the auction may or may not be unused. I'm bidding because of the translator module and the card reader and the Utilities manual.

The one below, however, is absolutely **MINT** condition. It is as if it was just plucked from the mold. There is no way to find a nicer HP-71B than the one below. Plus, the value is not in the 71B. It is in the 128K of RAM that is included. The 71B below was NOT bought on eBay.

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1337038507

You say So you see, some poor soul swallowed the hook and paid Mike the modest, bargain $400 he asked for. As you see, he can make as much as $200-$250 in a single transaction !!.

My comment You have no clue what I paid for these items. But let me tell you. The 71B cost me $75.00 for the calc itself. The Memory Modules cost $40 average (for these; that's $160). The HP-IL device cost me $50 for the IL and the Box. The manuals came part of another auction and cost approximately $50 for the set ($25 each).

So that comes out as $75 + $160 + $50 + $50. Then, when you figure that I had to pay shipping for each of these to get them AND I had to pay fees to list these. How much profit do you think was made on this auction?

You have no real clue what is going on here. You see me buy a $50 71B that may be junk then sell a Mint (different one) and think it is the same calculator. **You are wrong.**

You remember the 6 that I bought a while back. I gave half of them away at no charge. But I bet you think I sold them for high profit, right? None were (or will be) sold. I just sent one to the Netherlands so that a guy could replace his 71B logo. I did not even charge him postage for this. Totally free.

You say By the way, if you are interested in a brand new, absolutely mint HP-71B, you'd do well bidding for the first one mentioned here, before Mike wins it, lest you'll have to pay him three times the money you'd have paid the original seller.

My comment Don't fool yourself into thinking that this is going to be cheap. I know of many who are waiting to bid at the last minute for the same reason that I am. We want the translator module.

See... buying large packages to get one item is the only real way to get something at a reasonable price, on eBay.

Value of that package on eBay: 71B (with box) $150+, Card Reader $100+, 41 Translator $150 +, Utilities manual $30. I'm not the only one that knows this. What do you think it will sell for?

Re: Some things you fail to realize.
*Message #10 Posted by **Ty Rogers (Texas)** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Mike

Plus he posted without his name or email address. More power to you Mike.

apples and oranges
*Message #11 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by 71B lover

The unit he's selling has a bunch of RAM and an HPIL module. You're trying to compare apples and oranges.

I happen to believe that profit is the reason our society doesn't collapse every time something goes wrong. And things will always go wrong.

Re: HP-71Bs on eBay or Big Profit !!

*Message #12 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 7 Mar 2002, 11:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by 71B lover

> So you see, some poor soul swallowed the hook and paid Mike the modest, bargain $400 he asked for.

So? whats your point? I sometimes wonder where these people come from. Some time ago a guy spent more than $100 to buy the HP-IL manual for the HP 71B. I wouldn't spend $100 for smth like that, even if it were brand new, but that's not the point, is it? The issue is not with the seller, it is with the buyer. Maybe the buyer is very rich and can't be bothered to wait 3-4 weeks for a cheaper alternative. I waited and got my copy really cheap ($17.50 incl. shipping).

I have found Mike to be an excellent trader. Having carried out a number of transactions I trust him to deliver goods of the advertised quality (or sometimes even better). I know that if I send him money (even outside eBay) he will send me the items I have purchased. In the Internet this says a lot. I am sure that Mike has a lot of horror stories, but as an example I will just say that there was this guy that took my money and then claimed that the HP-41 card reader he sold me was lost in the post.

Many times I wish that these jockers that raise the prices would just go away, but as long as they persist, blame them, not Mike.

Remember only a COUPLE of years ago HP 71Bs were essentially given away because nobody wanted them. Where do you think all these mint HP 71Bs come from.

Its a free market, if you don't like it move to North Korea, because even China has joined the WTO and espoused free trade.

**vp

Re: HP-71Bs on eBay or Big Profit !!

*Message #13 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 8 Mar 2002, 1:56 a.m.,*

in response to message #12 by Vassilis Prevelakis

If you look at the 71B originally referred to as $87 purchase is it up to $187 now. Lots of items are simply put on watch list only to be bid up during last minutes/seconds. The only price which counts is the final price for completed auctions. I don't have any problems with Mike's ebay sales, he has great pictures and only sells quality items from what I have seen. Also as one person stated some people are willing to pay anything on ebay. Just look at the prices vgd99 payed for all the HP67s. I was lucky to get one from a private seller and the manuals on ebay for much less and no gummy wheels on card reader !!

Its up to the buyer to research the prices unless you don't care about the cost.

Glenn

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HP Forum Archive 07

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9100A: mag card reader drive wheel replacement
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave Brown (NZ)** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:04 a.m.*

Bringing one of these marvellous machines back from the semi-dead. Has anyone experience of replacing the rubber drive wheel in this card reader? It has an aluminium boss with a soft(now nearly totally droooped off!) rubber compound 'tire'. If this topic is covered by any of the docs on the CDs then sorry for the bandwidth - not bought 'em yet!

Re: 9100A: mag card reader drive wheel replacement
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 7 Mar 2002, 2:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Brown (NZ)

I've replaced the rollers in both my 9110Bs, which have a mechanically-similar reader. Be warned this is _by far_ the most difficult roller to replace. Forget HP documentation. The official HP repair is to replace the complete reader (with its associated PCB). Needless to say that's impossible now (even if you could afford it). The basicp pr: Remove the reader from the 9100. Take it totally to bits (remove the motor/roller assembly). Remove the old roller from the motor spindle. Don't try to prise it off, you'll bend the spindle. Remove it with a puller. A small 3-legged puller might fit, but I made a special tool from a block of metal. Then make a new roller. I found it best to make a new hub 7/8" in diameter with a 1/16" deep groove round it for an O-ring. Then fit a 1" OD, 3/4" ID O-ring. Yes, I know the original roller has a flat on one side, but this is not _essential_ for the reader to be useable. To fit the new roller, you need a pair of drifts in a bench vice. Don't trhy to tap it on, you'll damage the motor bearings. And you have to press it on by just the right distance After that, it' all becomes easy. Put the reader back together, put the reader back into the 9100. Needless to say you need a reasoanble workshop to do this. A small lathe is essential. A local model engineering club (The sort of place where people make small steam engines, etc) might be able to help.

Re: 9100A: mag card reader drive wheel replacement
*Message #3 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Mar 2002, 3:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

I deleted my other post because I was only speculating on the repair. Since you have done it, I defer to your post.

But let me ask a question. On the 9810, these wheels turn fairly slow when comparred to cassette tapes, etc.

Why can't one just break an o-ring and glue it in place. Since speed is not a real issue, wouldn't that work as well. I doubt that it would fly off after spinning.

If that would work, it would save a lot of disassembly.

Just curious.

Re: 9100A: mag card reader drive wheel replacement
*Message #4 Posted by **Dave Brown (NZ)** on 8 Mar 2002, 1:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thanks for the info Tony- I had considered a similar process but hoped there may have been a less drastic approach- I took the motor and drive wheel out some time back and was trying sliced off bits of hose etc to find one about the right diameter. But total replacement of the wheel assy is a better option as the right combination of rubber O ring and matching centre wheel can be made up. I suspect the neoprene material the O rings are made from these days is more squishy(now there's a good technical term!) than the stuff the original rubber ring was made from-- so the flat is not actually needed as the card should push past the O ring more easily than for the original stuff. Don't have a decent mechanical workshop here but ain't bro-in-laws wonderful!

Re: 9100A: mag card reader drive wheel replacement
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 8 Mar 2002, 5:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Brown (NZ)

A company called "Projector Recorder Belt Company" (or something similar) sells an extensive line of square rubber drive wheels. They have them that are almost identical in size to the 9100 drive wheel (I replaced the drive wheel in my 9100 mark-sense card reader with one). They only cost a couple of bucks each. You can slice off a tangential piece from the edge to get the flat spot for the 9100 card insertion area.

I will see if I still have the part number of the belt that I used.

They also have some small belts that work fairly well in the 82143A printer... they are square, but do seem to work in the printer. Most standard "O" rings are too thick to clear the projections on the printer mechanism near the motor drive capstan.

Re: 9100A: mag card reader drive wheel replacement
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Brown** on 8 Mar 2002, 8:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by David Smith

Can you pse email me direct Dave Smith? If you have a working 9100 I may get you to check a few things for me at some stage in the future as well as take one or two relevant pix if you can? Tks.

Re: 9100A: mag card reader drive wheel replacement
*Message #7 Posted by **David Smith** on 11 Mar 2002, 6:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Brown (NZ)

The replacement drive wheel that I have used is from the "Projector Recorder Belt Company". It is their part number ST1.014. They are 0.75 inch inside diameter, 1.014 inch outside diameter, .140 inches wide, square profile. They also have a ST1.016 that I suspect would work just as well if your supplier is out of stock on the ST1.014

The HP drive wheel has a 0.40 inch tangetial cut taken out of the bottom edge to provide clearance for the card to be inserted.

On my 9100A there was no need for any complicated pullers, etc. to access the drive wheel.

1) Just take out the one screw that holds the motor.

2) Take out the two screws than retain the drive shaft bushings. Remove the bushings.

3) Note the orientation of the switch cam. The drive shaft may or may not have a flat side for the cam set screw. Mine did. Remove the cam that operates the microswitches (it has a set screw).

4) Lift out the motor/shaft/roller assembly. If you can find it, mark where the flat side of the drive roller was so that you can install the new drive roller in the same place. I suspect that you may not need the flat cut to the edge of the drive wheel. It makes inserting the card easier. Scrape off the old roller.

5) Glue the new one roller in. I use IC2000 Tire Cement. It is a rubbery superglue used by radio control car people to glue their tires on. I suspect that RTV silicone adhesive would work very well also.

6) Reverse the steps to put it all back together again.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #1 Posted by **John Smith** on 6 Mar 2002, 7:52 p.m.*

What HP model is this !!?? Is it some kind of fake or bogus HP calc, or is it for real ??

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1710586343

I don't think it is
*Message #2 Posted by **Jim L** on 6 Mar 2002, 8:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

I think it's one of those generic "your logo here" products that you see advertised in in-flight magazines that just happens to have an HP logo on it. I've seen that calculator in many color schemes but never with "HP" on it.

Re: I don't think it is
*Message #3 Posted by **aruid** on 6 Mar 2002, 8:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Jim L

He is correct you can get those cheap calculators for $2 a piece with any logo you want on it! Ironic how someone at HP decided to buy these calculators rather than giving away "real" lower end HP calculators. I guess they were to cheap to give "real" HP manufactured calculators away.

PS: I got the same calc (all black) free when I bought a briefcase, also found a translucent blue version in a parking lot!

ARUID

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #4 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 6 Mar 2002, 11:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

The horror! The horror!

What kind of idiot HP middle-manager thought that, of all the stupid give-aways, a calculator was a good idea! Don't these people know what their own company used to be famous for?

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #5 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger Germany** on 7 Mar 2002, 3:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Ioannidis

Hi,

" Don't these people know what their own company used to be famous for? "

belive me, they do NOT know ...

Andreas

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #6 Posted by **Wayne Brown** on 7 Mar 2002, 7:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Ioannidis

Notice that it has the new "hp invent" logo, which was introduced by the same idiots who have turned HP into a company that no longer invents anything...

Put it another way...
*Message #7 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Mar 2002, 2:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Ioannidis

How much did the least expensive calculator cost, that HP made, when these were given away.

Do you think it was $1.00? Do you think HP was going to give away $80 calculators for FREE, when they could put their Logo on a $1.00 calculator and get just as much FREE advertizement.

Someone needs a lesson in economics.

Re: Put it another way...
*Message #8 Posted by **aruid** on 7 Mar 2002, 5:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Mike

Not all HP calcs are $80 the lower end ones are $10 or less. The HP 6S has Trig functions and Logs and its under $10. But that is probably still much more than they paid for these promotional calculators.

ARUID

http://products.hp-at-home.com/products/detail.php?id=F1632A&j=1

(picture unavailable)

HP 6S Solar

Re: Put it another way...
*Message #9 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 7 Mar 2002, 11:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by aruid

AK!!!! wtf is that ugly disco giltz blue thing with 6 colors of keys and an = sign? two fake hp photo's in one thread is too many.

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #10 Posted by **Fred** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

Heyyyyyyy .....

Just have a look ..... it is RPN !!!!!!

I cannot see the photo...
*Message #11 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 7 Mar 2002, 5:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Fred

Hi;

would you help me, please? I'm a lot curious about this fella and, for whatever reason, I cannot see the calcs' photo, and now that Fred mentioned it is RPN, I'm really curious.

Which calc is that? What is the model ID?

Thanks for any clue.

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #12 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 7 Mar 2002, 7:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Fred

The photo shows a silver LCD 4 banger with an '=' button. So not RPN.

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #13 Posted by **doug** on 7 Mar 2002, 9:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

The problem with this or any person there is always a chance he may be ignorant and was taken in by a scammer. Or, he could be the person that had the logo placed on some units and is the scammer. But either way as far as I understand he is committing fraud. He is responsible for the ad he runs and to verify if in doubt with the manufacturer if it is indeed a valid product. His response doesn't look good for him. Lack of concern doesn't change his liability to you if you buy one in good faith.

His RESPONSE

Hi, Its just a calculator made by HP.

J

MY original email question thru eBLA mail system follows:

On 7/3/02 12:15 pm, "alwaysup@att.net" <alwaysup@att.net> wrote:

> What model of HP is this suppose to be? > Thanks > ---------- > > > Question from: doug > Title of item: HEWLET PACKARD Calculator > Seller: jay.sachania > Starts: Mar-03-02 09:49:25 PST > Ends: Mar-13-02 09:49:25 PST > Price: Starts at GBP 4.99 > To view the item, go to: > http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1710586343

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #14 Posted by **Ren** on 7 Mar 2002, 10:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

(tongue in cheek) It may not be an HP calculator, but then again, IF it was a mis-guided promo for HP, then it IS an HP calculator! And should be added to your collection to make it complete! Though it does not qualify for HPMuseum status except as a footnote on some backwater webpage.

It could be considered RPN, if RPN stood for Rotating Panel Nonsense! (The LCD protector rotates to become its stand)

Re: The Rotating Protector is, in fact, a little bit Cool!
*Message #15 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 7 Mar 2002, 11:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Ren

I found one of these (all black, no HP logo) on a Staples clearance stand for a couple of bucks.

I bought it for my youngest precisely because of the rotating LCD protector. It actually has a nice, smooth action. (It doesn't SNAP open, it glides steadily and methodically around to the full-open position -- sort of like some cassette players' doors.)

It's a piece of junk Algebraic four-banger, but one with this nice little touch that sets it apart.

It was my son's favorite until he grew to need a scientific. I tried to interest him in a 32SII, but he accepted the new 30S (or whatever) -- the one with the interchangable face plates. Once again (for my pure-consumer pre-teen, at least) glitz triumphs over substance. But not to worry; he has the rest of his life to cure himself of such tastes!

I've got one of those (not the HP version!)
*Message #16 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

I bought a cute little calculator like that at Walmart last year. It came with a 10 foot steel tape measure that has a diameter scale on the other side (sometimes called an arborist's tape measure). The calculator and tape measure are color coordinated and the tape measure case has a place to put a photo. I found them in the clearance aisle and paid about $3. The neatest thing about the calculator is that when you trip a catch, the display cover flips up and back and becomes a stand.

That HP would use such a toy as a motivational item might mean they don't know that they make calculators, or that they think a gimmick is more impressive than advanced functions, or that this is what future HP calculators will be like, or that someone at HP thought it was a fun item, as I did.

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #17 Posted by **Philip Reagan** on 7 Mar 2002, 5:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

Yep. It's a "give away". I have one just like it with an IBM logo on it that I got at a trade show. Seems kind of ironic to say the least.

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #18 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 7 Mar 2002, 5:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Philip Reagan

Right. I have one of these giveaways, too. It's black and has the IBM and Thinkpad logos;-)

Raymond

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??
*Message #19 Posted by **Masao Kinoshita** on 7 Mar 2002, 8:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #18 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

I have one, too! Mine is translucent blue with the SAS logo on the rotating cover and www.sas.com/certification just above the LCD. :-)

Re: What HP model is THIS !!??

*Message #20 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 7 Mar 2002, 11:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Philip Reagan

Mine is silver painted with a Computer Associates logo on it.

Looks like you can find it all over the world...

Massimo

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HP Forum Archive 07

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used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #1 Posted by **Eric Mathers** on 6 Mar 2002, 7:50 p.m.*

I am looking to replace my worn out HP28s which I have used since college (12+ years). I'm thinking of either buying a good condition 28s (which I am very partial too) on ebay or buying a new 32sii. It's my understanding that the programming of the two calculators are very different. Does anyone have a recommendation as to what calculator is probably a better choice? Thank you.

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 6 Mar 2002, 10:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Mathers

You obviously take care of calculators, since an Hp28s is one of Hp's more fragile calc's. If you program or use lots of the functions, a 32s will seem cramped. Since you made a 28s last so long, I would recommend another or consider a 48g or 48g+. An Hp32s is more durable and will outlast an Hp28 under normal use, but only has about 1/2 K of RAM vs 32K for a 28s or 48G. (I have heard negative comments about the latest Hp calcs quality, consider New, Old stock).

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #3 Posted by **Ren** on 7 Mar 2002, 3:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ron Ross

Like the original poster, I turn to this discussion group to learn more about HP calculators and hope the advice given will teach me and not hinder my quest for this "geeky/gaga" knowledge. That written, I recall a couple months back someone asked which HP calc "was the best one to buy". (I believe the context inferred only those models currently available on store shelves.) And the 2 responses that person received endorsed the 32SII. Now 2-3 months later there are a couple of responders writing that the 48G(X) is better...

Who is to be believed?

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #4 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ren

I am.

That said and out of the way, these two calcs have different uses. The Hp48/49 lines are the powerhouse all purpose calculators that can do it all.

Now if you need a basic scientific that you may customize one or two functions and carry with you into the field, you will appreciate an Hp32s. It is a pocket calculator that is very durable and function rich. Can it compare to a 48? No, it cannot. But it is not a monster sized graphic and that is its appeal.

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #5 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 7 Mar 2002, 4:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ron Ross

I agree.

And I'm also reminded of a series of graffiti entries I saw on a wall near the local university. Apparently three different people had engaged in a bit of spray-paint dialectic:

"Question Authority!"

"Why?"

"Because they're supposed to know!"

Ron is clearly the authority!

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #6 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 6 Mar 2002, 10:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Mathers

When you say you're partial to the 28 do you mean with respect to the other RPL-based calculators like the 48S,SX,G,G+ or GX? If you like the 28S and have never tried the others I think you should. Any one of them is a worthwhile and seamless upgrade from the 28S, particularly the G series. In addition to the built-in improvements over the 28 you will have access to a huge amount of software written over the years for all of these models. The 28S and 32SII are so different I don't know why you would set your choice between these two. The 28S aims for top of the line performance in the most advanced user interface. The 32SII is a capable low-end RPN calculator in the tradition of HP quality but lacks dazzling sophistication except in comparison to most non-HP calculators. IMO the correct upgrade for a 28S would be a 48G+ or GX.

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #7 Posted by **Eric Mathers** on 7 Mar 2002, 9:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Steve Borowsky

I guess I'm partial to the 28s just because I'm very used to it. Went thru college, used it at work, and passed the PE Exam with it. From what you said it sounds like I could start using a 48G series which works close to the way the 28s does. Since I'm no longer in college the graphing features will be wasted on me but I kind of like the 4 line display. Thanks for your advice.

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #8 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 7 Mar 2002, 11:22 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Mathers

Check eBay for current going rates on the -28S. Searching "Completed Items", for "*28S calculat*" (without the quotes) should work. I just checked, and it looks like the -28S seems to be going for $60-$70. There are at least three up for bid as I respond.

I actually prefer the -28S to the -48G, but they are more fragile. If you go that way, you'll want to ask about the condition of the battery compartment door, and expect to have trouble with it in any case.

The -32SII has apparently been discontinued, so it will become a bit harder to find. I like it for base conversions at the office and trig calculations at the workbench, but its programming is severely limited.

Good luck!

Re: used HP28s or new HP32sii?
*Message #9 Posted by **Glen Kilpatrick** on 7 Mar 2002, 2:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Paul Brogger

I agree with everybody else's statements, the 28's successor is the 48 (or maybe a less desirable but more powerful 49 :). I just wanted to strongly emphasize what you already said, I rarely ever use graphing, but those four lines, and the "command line", they're _invaluable_. And you'll see added an "interactive stack" (I don't remember a 28 had this), you may scroll up and down the stack, do things with non-level-one entries.

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HP-35 Charger Cord
*Message #1 Posted by **Albert L. Johnson** on 6 Mar 2002, 2:42 p.m.*

The molded 3-prong plug and the end of my HP-35 charger has some broken wires just before the cable enters into the molded plug.

Does anyone know if the plug can be repaired or not?

Re: HP-35 Charger Cord
*Message #2 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 6 Mar 2002, 7:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Albert L. Johnson

One method of fixing this problem is to carefully slice the top of the plug (along ridge line, just on top of the wires) off with a razor blade (be careful!). Next, you have to cut away (bore out) the plastic material to where the wires attach to the sockets. I usually cut out a small square region. Next resolder the broken wires and epoxy or tape the plastic top back on. If you do a good job, you can't easily tell that it was repaired.

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HP41CV math and advantage module conflict?
*Message #1 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 5 Mar 2002, 10:21 p.m.*

I have an HP41CV with a math I module and advantage module. I noticed that the order of placement of the modules make a differance as to whether they work together or not. Is there a conflict in having both modules installed simultaneously? I noticed they have some similar capabilities but some individual as well. For instance I could not run the SOLVE function (from math I) when it is placed after the advantage module with an error, NONEXISTANT. Just curious if I have missed something here having not read all the manuals.

Thanks, Glenn

Re: HP41CV math and advantage module conflict?
*Message #2 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 5 Mar 2002, 10:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

I figured this out. Read the manual, looks like these pacs do conflict with each other, the advantage pac is more capable so I will probably put the math pac out to bid on ebay.

Glenn

Re: HP41CV math and advantage module conflict?
*Message #3 Posted by **Yani** on 6 Mar 2002, 5:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Glenn McEnroe

I quote from the HP-41 ADVANTAGE manual p16.

"Certain function names used by the HP-41 Advantage are also used by the HP-41 Math Pac and the HP-41 Real Estate Pac. When using these functions you should remove the module whose functions you do not want accessed."

For the Math Pac the functions listed are;

All complex number functions and all functions in DIFEQ.

Hope this helps.

BTW there is a conflict with the HP-IL Development module such that the manual recomends that the two modules must not be plugged in at the same time. They share the same id numbers.

Re: HP41CV math and advantage module conflict?
*Message #4 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 6 Mar 2002, 11:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Yani

Yes there are a number of other functions shared by the 2 pacs besides complex number functions and all functions in DIFEQ which are not mentioned in the manual.

Glenn

Re: HP41CV math and advantage module conflict?
*Message #5 Posted by **Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz** on 6 Mar 2002, 6:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Glenn McEnroe

If you _need_ to use functions from both modules in a program, and you reach a program step where you want to enter the name of a function which exists in _both_ modules, then:

Turn the HP-41 off. Take out one of the modules - keep only the one whose function you want plugged in. Turn the HP-41 back on, enter program mode, put the function you want into the program. Since only one module is plugged in, there is no conflict. Now you can carry on entering the program. When you need to, turn the HP-41 off and put in the other module.

Although the function _names_ are the same, the program steps actually contain an XROM command, which will be different, depending on which module was plugged in when the program step was entered. When you run the program, both modules can be plugged in and the program will still work.

Things are less clear-cut if you try to execute a function whose name is in both modules, from the keyboard - the function is picked from the module in the lower-numbered port. To override this, assign the function to a USER mode key, with only the module you want plugged in. The command will then work when you press that key even if both modules are later plugged in.

The worst-case scenarion is where different functions have the same XROM number! But that's a different topic.

Keep those HP-41s working!

Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

Re: HP41CV math and advantage module conflict?
Message #6 Posted by ***yani.nospam@youydsa.info*** *on 7 Mar 2002, 2:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

Of course you could use synthetic programming to enter the xrom code directly into your programme!

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hp 42s combining strings
*Message #1 Posted by **Shawn** on 5 Mar 2002, 11:46 a.m.*

Trying to combine 2 strings, apparently you can have up to 15 characters in the alpha register, i seem to be able to put more (not the storage reg., only 6 in there.) What I want to do is append the 2nd string to the 1st string. I know the append function is that sideways "T" but it doesn't work in this case.

Here's my program, 01 LBL "TEST" 02 "<=" 03 ARCL 10 04 "D=" 05 ARCL 11 06 AVIEW 07 END

I would like the end result in the alpha register to be... <=90.0000D=10.0000 Any help thanx Shawn,,,,MeisterEister@aol.com

Re: hp 42s combining strings
*Message #2 Posted by **Andres C. Rodriguez (Argentina)** on 5 Mar 2002, 12:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Shawn

If I recall correctly, an extra "enter" at the beginning of the string will enable the append mode.

Re: hp 42s combining strings
*Message #3 Posted by **shawn** on 5 Mar 2002, 2:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andres C. Rodriguez (Argentina)

right, i know the append symbol but it doesn't work either. thnx for the reply

Re: hp 42s combining strings
*Message #4 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 5 Mar 2002, 3:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by shawn

It works OK for me. Typed in your prog, but before each line with alpha code, I typed (Shift) ALPHA ENTER, then the text. This gave a line like this, for example:

04 |-"D="

The bar-hyphen was a single char; a T on its side as you described it. Replacing all alpha lines in this way gave exactly the output you wanted.

Re: hp 42s combining strings
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 5 Mar 2002, 3:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by shawn

Try this:

```
01 LBL "TEST"
02 "<="
03 ARCL 10
04 |-" D=" (the |- symbol is entered by pressing [ENTER] in ALPHA mode, as Andrés
mentioned)
```

```
05 ARCL 11
06 AVIEW
07 END
```

This should work. Unless you are trying to place D=value in the lower line; if so, you'll need the Line Feed (LF) character, available at ALPHA, PUNC, down-arrow, last-softkey. Your program would look like this:

```
01 LBL "TEST"
02 "<="
03 ARCL 10
04 |-"LF D=" (the LF symbol is one-character wide)
05 ARCL 11
06 AVIEW
07 END
```

Forgive-me if this is not what you want, but it may be helpfull one day.

Cheers.

Thnx so much, it works great
*Message #6 Posted by **shawn** on 5 Mar 2002, 5:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Shawn

thnx, 42 rulz

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Unknown ROM. Monitor 1A
*Message #1 Posted by **Philip Reagan (Houston, TX)** on 4 Mar 2002, 11:03 a.m.*

Hello. I have an unmarked HP41 ROM. There is a part number "etched" into the bottom that I don't recognize, "ET-14048". I'm not sure if this is a diagnostic type ROM. I received it with an unmarked Diagnostic ROM. The interesting thing is, a CAT2 shows "Monitor 1A". The label listing is a subset of the HP-IL Development ROM including SCOPE and MONITOR. The items that are mostly missing are the boolean, alpha and non-decimal math. There are 2 other functions included that aren't listed in the Devil ROM, IOFSX? and SETBUFX. If you are familiar with these functions let me know because I'm assuming the others that are common with the Devil ROM function the same.

Has anyone had experience with this ROM or heard of it. My guess is that it was a precursor to the Devil ROM used internally for some IL diagnostic. Or, I may be dreaming too much and it is simply an unlabeled standard ROM of some sort. Was there a "Control" ROM ever made?

Thanks for the help!

Re: Unknown ROM. Monitor 1A
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 4 Mar 2002, 12:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Philip Reagan (Houston, TX)

There is a ROM made to use with the 3421A data acquisition/control unit. Its part number is 44468A. It doesn't have any of the functions you named. Its Cat2 description is -INST 1A-.

Re: Unknown ROM. Monitor 1A

*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 4 Mar 2002, 2:14 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Philip Reagan (Houston, TX)

It is an 'early' version of the DevIL ROM, one that wasn't generally sold to customers. And yes, most of the functions are the same in the DevIL ROM. SETBUFX is the same as BSIZEX, and I think the other function you mention has an equivalent too. I believe that the diagnostic programs for HPIL devices were type-in programs for the HP41 using this module, and that if you translate a couple of functions (SETBUFX -> BSIZEX is the main one) then they'll run on a normal 41 with a standard DevIL ROM. I believe, also, that the MONITOR 1A rom was released to PPC and distributed by them as PPC EPROM 5A (that's just the name on the hip -- the title that shows up in CAT 2 was MONITOR 1A). Or at least that's what my synthetic quickref implies

Re: Unknown ROM. Monitor 1A

*Message #4 Posted by **Philip Reagan (Houston, TX)** on 5 Mar 2002, 10:58 a.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thank you for the information. I'm aware of the Data Acq ROM and hoping to obtain one someday.

Are the HP-IL Diag programs you mentioned Tony in the HP41 Service Manual are somewhere else.

Thanks again for the insight.

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HP 41 CX
*Message #1 Posted by **Sagovici Virgil** on 4 Mar 2002, 9:58 a.m.*

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren

Ich habe ein defecter HP 41.Ich benötige die neue Adresse von Herr Stefan Vorkoetter

Danke + Mfg

Sagovici. V. Fa.Profilsysteme Rebhuhnweg 23 90513 Bronnamberg

Re: HP 41 CX
*Message #2 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 4 Mar 2002, 12:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Sagovici Virgil

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/articles.cgi?read=2

Re: HP 41 CX
*Message #3 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 4 Mar 2002, 12:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Sagovici Virgil

oder versuchen Sie diese Site http://www.capable.ca/rcstuff.html

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HP-75 Math II
*Message #1 Posted by **Hans Pufal** on 4 Mar 2002, 2:12 a.m.*

Hi there,

I have a copy of the HP-75 Math II users' library solutions book and mag cards. Should I scan the book? Or has it already been done?

Note for David : I've sent a couple of emails to your museum email address and gotten no response. Did they arrive?

-- Hans B Pufal

Re: HP-75 Math II (and other HP75 solution books).
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 4 Mar 2002, 2:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Hans Pufal

Incidentally, I have just about all the HP75 Solution Book programs on disk. This includes all 3 Math books, 2 Games Books, Electronics, Graphics (!), Test Statistics, Statistics, Real Estate, Finance. If anyone is interested, I can provide HP75 BASIC files for any of those (but don't ask me how you get them onto the 75), or the complete disk image (compatible with my Lifutils for linux). I suppose I could TRANSFORM them all into text files and then provide human-readable listings if anyone is seriously interested. One other thing. Is there a _doucmented_ format for disk images for programs under other OSes? (note : Teledisk is in no sense documented). If so, I'd consider writing a translator between that and 'my' disk images to make them more easily useable by other people.

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HP-71B
*Message #1 Posted by **John Kercheval** on 3 Mar 2002, 8:37 p.m.*

Hello:

I ran a search on 71-B and got almost nothing.

Are there any other avid 71 users out there?

I would like to initiate a 71b discussion.

John Kercheval

Re: HP-71B
*Message #2 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 4 Mar 2002, 12:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Kercheval

Of course there are lots of HP 71B users around. Unlike a couple of years ago when HP 71Bs where thrown away, now thanks to eBay, they are selling like hot cakes.

Have you checked the ftp site at the hpmuseum? (ftp://ftp.hpmuseum.org/lif/swap)

It contains lots of programs and binary files for the HP 71B (and of course the HP 41 and 75).

Besides this forum is not moderated; ask questions and they will be answered.

**vp

Re: HP-71B

*Message #3 Posted by **John Kercheval** on 5 Mar 2002, 8:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vassilis Prevelakis

Hello:

Can you give me more instruction on how to use that site?

How do I get the files onto the 71c once they are downloaded?

What are your favorites?

How do you use your 71 these days?

John Kercheval

In Virginia.

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Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #1 Posted by **John Kercheval** on 3 Mar 2002, 12:12 p.m.*

Hello:

Anyone have any ideads for replacement batteries for Cass. Drive and IL Printer?

John Kercheval IN VA

Re: Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 3 Mar 2002, 5:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Kercheval

If you have the old battery pack, it can be rebuilt by Batteries Plus, Batteries, Etc. or other similar battery places for around 20-30 dollars depending upon the cells used. I prefer to use the highest capacity cells available (2000-2400 mAH). They are not as apt to be damaged by the rather high charge current that HP dumps into these packs if you leave it on the plug for extended periods.

If you don't have the old packs you can try to find them on the Classifeds here or Ebay.

A third alternative is to have a four cell (sub-C size cells) pack built up at the battery store with wire leads then either wrap the leads several times around or (gasp!) solder the leads to the terminals in the battery compartment.

Re: Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 3 Mar 2002, 6:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Kercheval

If you have the old battery packs, it's possible to rebuild them. You cut open the plastic housing along the joins, and take it apart. Inside are 4 sub-C size NiCd cells. Recover the terminal strips from the original cells and buy 4 new tagged (i.e. with solder tags) ones. Solder them together in series (to make a 4.8V or so battery), then solder the original terminal strips to the 'ends' of the cells, making sure you get the polarity correct (same as the original of course). Put the new cells into the housing and try it out. If it works, then glue the housing together again with something like 'plastic weld' or a similar solvent-type adhesive.

Re: Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #4 Posted by **John Kercheval** on 3 Mar 2002, 7:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thanks,

I was THINKING about trying that, building my own pack out of rechargeable "c" bats, but am glad you went first:)

I guess you guys in the UK are one step ahead of us again.

And, sorry , in arrears , for that "Revolutiuonary War " thing.

John Kercheval

Re: Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #5 Posted by **katie** on 3 Mar 2002, 10:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Kercheval

Take a look in the articles forum here. There's a recently updated article that I wrote about where to get the pre-built battery pack that you need to install in the plasitc housing. It's much easier to use that than to solder the batteries (w/tabs) together yourself.

Re: Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #6 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 4 Mar 2002, 8:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by katie

A source I like for sub-C's is battery packs for imported power tools that I buy at a store called "Harbor Freight Tools". Sooner or later almost everything there goes on sale for half price. I bought the 14.4 V ones that work in my drill, they contain 12 sub-C's with straps that I cut apart to suit the pack I'm rebuilding. There was a manager who said he would save dead returns for me, actually gave me one, but he moved away, unfortunately. The one he gave me, I cant't find anything wrong with! I think I paid something less than $20 for the new ones on sale (not half price!)They have a website, www.harborfreight.com, the regular price for the 14.4 V pack is $25, right now they have a 12V cordless drill with keyless chuck for $17 marked down from $46, they must have way too many - for the batteries alone, that would be $1.70 each!

Re: Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #7 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 4 Mar 2002, 8:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Ellis Easley

is it only on the internet or where is this place or is this place a chain? that wasn't a rant; it was a question.

Re: Batteries Cassette Drive/Printer
*Message #8 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 5 Mar 2002, 3:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by db(martinez,california)

They have had a store here in Fort Worth, TX for a number of years and also a mail order catalog and now they have a website (harborfreight.com). Their headquarters are in Camarillo, CA. The catalog doesn't list the store locations but a local flyer shows 30 stores in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. I don't know if that's it or if that's just this region. Yesterday was the first time I went to their website. I got the URL from the cover of the catalog which I noticed had limited time specials including a 12V drill with keyed chuck reduced from $39.99 to $16.99 and the same drill with a Jacobs keyless chuck reduced from $45.99 to $18.99. When I went to the website I saw that some of the specials from the catalog cover ("Winter 2002") were over, including the keyed chuck drill, but the keyless chuck drill was now reduced to $16.99. The stores don't honor the catalog specials but they always have a flyer or two or three going with specials, and there is always a bunch of stuff half off (not the same stuff

all the time).

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Great Board
*Message #1 Posted by **John Kercheval** on 2 Mar 2002, 4:08 p.m.*

You guys really know what you are talking about. This is a great board, serving an important niche. BTW, I bought the full CD the other day.Are there any users of it out there?

John Kercheval

(41CV/ 71B User)

Re: Great Board
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 2 Mar 2002, 7:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Kercheval

Welcome, John.

I too bought the full CD set a while back.

-Ernie (41CX, 28C, 32S).

Re: Great Board
*Message #3 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 3 Mar 2002, 1:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ernie Malaga

Hello John,

I also bought the full CD set last month, a great collection of info, brings back memories of HP in its hayday.

Glenn (45,42,11C,67,42,67,48G)

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SN list updated !
*Message #1 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 2 Mar 2002, 2:03 a.m.*

Ireceived several mails these last 2 days, which enables me to post an updated list.

Check http://hpcalc.multimania.com/hp_serial_number_database_page.htm for the results !

And please contribute ! the more datas we have, the more info we can deduct such as proposed in previous threads !

Thanks to all the contributors, and lookking forward to receiving new files !

Thibaut

With an hyperlink...
*Message #2 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 2 Mar 2002, 4:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

Ireceived several mails these last 2 days, which enables me to post an updated list.

Check here for the results !

And please contribute ! the more datas we have, the more info we can deduct such as proposed in previous threads !

Thanks to all the contributors, and lookking forward to receiving new files !

Thibaut

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Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #1 Posted by **Yani** on 1 Mar 2002, 11:39 p.m.*

My wife bought a new wall unit which has two sliding glass fronted shelves. We put this in the computer room. I brought some of my calculator collection out and put it into the shelves.

The reaction to this has been rather percular. People look at me with a funny look and make sympathetic comments to my wife as if they expect me to be commited any day.

Do other people get this reaction? It is not that I mind so much. People have thought me strange for as long as I can remember but I am a little perplexed. Has nobody outside of this list heard of hobbies?

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #2 Posted by **Unknown** on 2 Mar 2002, 1:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Yani

<Has nobody outside of this list heard of hobbies?>

They only one that I see my friends and people I have met is the media driven lemmings syndrom of sitting in there cars rapped around the block at mc d's waiting for a $.10 beanie baby (tm).

Or getting into debt upto there eyeballs buying big screen TV's home theater systems and cars and houses to impress there friends.

I guess to them that is a hobby.

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 2 Mar 2002, 8:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Yani

The other day I went into a pawn shop and asked if they had any old calculators and the lady just shook her head and said nobody wanted them. That's the problem with this hobby (and blessing, when you find a good deal): people think we're interested in something that nobody's interested in! Maybe the thing to do is to put nicely printed copies of Ebay auctions with final bids next to your calculators, regardless of whether you bought them that way. Maybe include impressive lists of bidders in auctions for the model on display. Heck, fake the numbers! That might impress some people - but they might have "worthless" calculators that they're going to give you someday, maybe it's better not to let them know!

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #4 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 3 Mar 2002, 7:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ellis Easley

the only non-math person that didn't look at my little glass covered shrine like it's a drug induced psychosis is a salvadoran house painter that i know. he was looking at it and probably getting ready to say that i'm "mas loco que una cabra" when i reached in and gave him a t.i. made in el salvador in 1977. i bet juan shows it to other people now and tells them that "back in the 70's my country exported technology to your country".

when the business agent for the labor union that the surveyors around here belong to (operating engineers) comes over he goes to the calculators before the beer fridge. but he's got his own museum; a 45, 41, a national semiconductor mathmatician and his wife has a 37. so he's as crazy as us.

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #5 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 4 Mar 2002, 3:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by db(martinez,california)

One of my neighbors once saw my wall display and burst out laughing. I couldn't understand, and still don't , how someone could fail to appreciate that people have diverse interests, and further, fail to respect those interests. All I can think is some people have a very limited conception of what a human being is. I genuinely feel sorry for them, and i'm immensely happy that I don't have to go through life like that. Way happy.

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 4 Mar 2002, 5:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Steve Borowsky

I know what you mean. I have rather eclectic interests. Most of my interests fail to excite any of my friends and family. However I long ago ceased to care and simply persue my pleasures regardless. I think that many people realise that a little effort can bring great reward.

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #7 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 4 Mar 2002, 1:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Yani

Here in the UK hobbies get a bad reception and press.

If it doesn't involve watching TV (especially the latest wide-screen, satellite, 3D sound, DVD version), drinking alcohol (especially ones in fancy bottles or that taste of fruit), being a couch potato buying from the shopping channel / watching sport (especially pay per view) or is whatever else is the latest fad is you tend to be seen as a bit unusual and are subjected to ridicule.

I don't know if it's the same in the non-english speaking parts of the world or perhaps they are not slaves to media and big business or are a bit more active (in both brain and body)?

Collecting calculators is seen as quite geeky as many people hated maths and could not wait to see the back of needing a calculator beyond adding up the weekly shopping (for which a 4 banger is all that's needed).

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #8 Posted by **Achim** on 4 Mar 2002, 5:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Tom (UK)

It's not much better here in germany. I'm collecting those parts now for over 25 years (yes, from that time they where produced) and was thought by most people I told about my hobby as being kind of gaga. I always couldn't see what difference is between collecting (ugly) antique clocks or stylish "swatch" watches and collecting calculators. But the MoHPC and Ebay gave my self-confidence back, as there must be more gagas out there ;-) And: these calculators are part of my personal life. The first programm I ever wrote was in 1973 on a HP9810A at our school. Without that I don't know if

my life wouldn't have developed in a complete different direction. By the way many of the gagas I know are studied physicists like me. I believe Einstein would have collected calculators ...

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #9 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 4 Mar 2002, 6:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Achim

<<I believe Einstein would have collected calculators ... >>

E m c 2 ^ * =

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #10 Posted by **David Smith** on 5 Mar 2002, 6:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

What does that strange symbol '=' do in that equation? I cannot find it on any of my calculators.

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #11 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 6 Mar 2002, 11:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

Brilliant!

As a nostalgic homage to the RPN past, and as a statement of solidarity with the proud, nerdy collector/hobbyists, I made your formula into a wall hanging with 72-point Arial in landscape mode.

I also took the opportunity to create my own "•ªENTER > =" poster as well.

(When I get the transfer paper, I can make my own T-shirts . . .)

I imagine folks could come up with many more slogans as well. ("RPN rules, Algebraic drools" comes to mind, but is readily dismissed . . .)

Re: Strange reaction to Calculator display
*Message #12 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 7 Mar 2002, 12:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Paul Brogger

Paul Brogger wrote:

I imagine folks could come up with many more slogans as well. ("RPN rules, Algebraic drools" comes to mind, but is readily dismissed . . .)

Paul:

When I read this, I laughed... It fits perfectly, since I just read your post about your son and his calculator choice! Sometimes it is easy to spot those of us who are fathers---we give ourselves away by saying something we heard from our kids! ;-)

Bruce.

Collecting old garbage, are you all crazy?
*Message #13 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 5 Mar 2002, 3:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ellis Easley

This is so simple. We, calculator collectors are just RIGHT and the rest of the world is just WRONG.

AFAIK, most of us have had our first encounters with HPcalc's when they were on the top of their implementation. We appreciated the way they were made and tested, as well as the RPN concept itself, as a normal natural way of thinking and crunching complicated expressions. It was completely natural and easy approach.

Several years ago, when I was working on my MSc and PhD theses I had the same mentor (a famous Croatian professor, who is now a member of academy of sciences and arts). We easily got along during the whole my work on both theses. A few weeks ago I visited him and finally found out the reason for our good agreement, which I have not known before. He took his HP45 from the drawer... Immediately, I found out that our way of thinking was that what was the same in the approach of both of us. So, this explained our whole good cooperation. When I told him that I collect them, I knew that he appreciated that (btw, he still uses his machine).

My wife supports my hobby, my son as well (they use their HP's 12C and 32SII almost everyday and are deeply satisfied with them). My friends here at this forum... there is not a need to add anything, except that it is always my pleasure to exchange information here and to know about new facts, approach, skills, etc. I DO NOT CARE ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD.

It is not E-bay prices that make my hobby appreciated for me. At least, I would never accept that a HP65 is more expensive out there than a HP67, or a HP25C than a HP33C, or a (famous) HP70 than e.g. HP37E, or anything than a HP41CV/CX-HP42S, or HP10 than anything else... Please, do not tell me about market economy, offer and demand laws either, etc, I just do not care. The better calc for me is the one with better functions and more elegant solutions implemented. I do not need an E-bay as a measure of value at all.

I admire the way they work and the extensive tests they have been subjected to. Remember, that the only known bugs in a HP67 are those in the instruction manual dealing with the small arguments of trigonometric functions. Could anybody tell me something about the known bugs in MS Excel functions (no matter what version)? About MS Windows bugs? The human kind would have never succeeded with a Space Shuttle project if they were using today's software those days (imagine only a message: "This program has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down" during landing, or a similar situation). If you can rely on your calculator I am sure you will land safe and sound...

The proofs for this are in famous article "Making -2 to 3 equals -8", by Dennis Harms, in HP Journal, or the famous key pressing devices for testing of Woodstocks, or many forgotten techniques hidden in engineering manuals of HP67 or HP41... Nowadays, this would have disappeared as a forgotten knowledge, if we did not have Dave Hicks and the rest of you guys and girls.

Once awhile ago I appreciated the excellence of HP products, nowadays I cannot say so for their today's products. Their products of ten or twenty years ago are still invaluable today and still deserve to be appreciated.

I AM PROUD OF MY HOBBY, no matter what others may say. They once will have to pay a ticket to see my collection of vintage HPcalc's, if I decide so. Nevertheless, I have met many people who supported my opinion, though they did not know about us around the moHP.

I cannot end this story without Muyo and Hasso (hope that db would like this one):

Muyo is driving his car along the highway (say E-1). He hears an announcement from his radio: "Dear drivers, the road conditions are fine, the weather is fine, everything is just fine, except that there is one fool driving along the E-1 in the wrong direction". Muyo says, "Ha-

ha, she says one fool and I see hundreds of them".

Everything depends on the point of view... I do think that Muyo is right...

Re: Collecting old garbage, are you all crazy?
*Message #14 Posted by **Yani** on 5 Mar 2002, 4:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

Nead, Very well argued.

> The better calc for me is the one with better functions and more elegant solutions implemented. I do not need an E-bay as a measure of value at all.

True. Our appreciation is the ease of use, the quality of manufacture, visual appeal, and overall design. Not to mention the fact that as number crunching machines they are brilliant.

> I admire the way they work and the extensive tests they have been subjected to. Remember, that the only known bugs in a HP67 are those in the instruction manual dealing with the small arguments of trigonometric functions. Could anybody tell me something about the known bugs in MS Excel functions (no matter what version)? About MS Windows bugs?

I read an editorial in a Windows 2000 magazine recently that said that the MS standard was 15 errors in every 1,000 lines of code. I find this extraordinary. .... Sorry. Have to go. My Windows is about to crassss ARRGGGGGGGGGGGGgggggggg.....

Re: Collecting old garbage, are you all crazy?
*Message #15 Posted by **Juan J** on 5 Mar 2002, 1:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Yani

Once I asked a colleague in the office, "Do you have any hobbies?" "Not one," he said, adding that his idea of a pastime was to sit down in front of the TV.

I've made the same question to other people since, and mostly found the same reply. A few collect watches or CDs, but that's all.

It's sad to notice that people basically do nothing with their leisure time, or have little if any interest in things other than TV or audio. Poor slaves, I think.

Like most of the participants of this forum, I met HP calculators at the peak of its

glory. In time I've become a nostalgic collector, and I am proud of it. And I am grateful that there are other people out there who share my interest.

Re: Collecting old garbage, are you all crazy?
*Message #16 Posted by **Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz** on 6 Mar 2002, 6:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

Nenad Vulic wrote: (imagine only a message: "This program has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down" during landing, or a similar situation).

Actually, that's just about what happened when Neil Armstrong was landing on the Moon. He had to choose between landing manually or aborting the whole mission. He landed manually as we now know. In other words, the calculator or computer is great, but the human brains behind it are the most important. Especially if they use RPN :-)

Cheers,

Wlodek

I liked that!
*Message #17 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 7 Mar 2002, 8:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

HI;

Mr. Wlodek wrote: "(...) but the human brains behind it are the most important. Especially if they use RPN :-)". An *RPN-based human brain*... Amazing thought!

Everytime I am writing a program to any RPN/RPL calc, I try "moving register's contents" without using pencil and paper. Sometimes, when a few steps are needed, it is possible; but there are moments when pencil and paper allow a better, improved solution. Maybe I already have a *RPN-based brain*, I don't know, but the idea teases me.

(Please, falks, allow me: Mr. Wlodek, I tried buying some of your former books about 13 years ago and I didn't get success, cause at the time I ordered them to EduCalc they were not available and I did not try later. Based on what you wrote here, they must be fantastic readings. One question: is there something that you wrote available to download? Thanks.)

Re: I liked that!
*Message #18 Posted by **Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz** on 7 Mar 2002, 6:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil) wrote: >An RPN-based human brain... Amazing thought!

Well, those of us who were taught to do arithmetic with pencil and paper do work, and think, in stack based notation, or RPN :-) These days, I try to explain RPN as immediate execution notation, to folks who never heard of RPN. Press the 7 key and you immediately get a 7 in the display, on any calculator. So why not press the SQRT key and immediately get a square root, as on some calculators? And press the + key to _immediately_ get an addition.

As for my stuff online, well: 1/ Most of my books are still on sale from a few outlets, or direct from me. 2/ My HP-41 book is available on one of the Museum's CD-ROMs (and I have a few of the printed ones left). 3/ A collection of my articles is available at several places on the web - try visiting our club site www.hpcc.org and following the Wlodek's articles link from there.

Best Wishes,

Wlodek

Re: I liked that!
*Message #19 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 9 Mar 2002, 9:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #18 by Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

I've had a similar idea in mind: when you use an "algebraic" calculator capable of chain calculations to get the sum of a series of numbers, after you key in the first number, you are essentially operating in "adding machine" mode, which you could say is a subset of RPN. Pressing "+" gives the current intermediate answer, incorporating the just-previously entered number in the sum. Maybe because I am accustomed to RPN, I always press "+" after entering a number in this situation, then look to see if there are any more numbers to add. When I get to the end, I have a moment of terror because I think I need to press "=" but I have already pressed "+". Then I remember that the total is already calculated. I'm trying to train myself to enter "0" as the last item, then press "=", to see if that reduces my anxiety.

Of course, this only applies when you are repeating one operation. Also, while "0" is the correct final number for addition or subtraction, "1" must be

used as the final number for multiplication or division to avoid discomfort.

invalid links
*Message #20 Posted by **Gil Petri** on 11 Mar 2002, 10:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #18 by Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

the link at hpcc points to: http://www.public.usit.net/rfurr/hp-jhi.htm and is redirected to Earthlink's home page...

Re: invalid links
*Message #21 Posted by **Wlodek Mier-jedrzejowicz** on 12 Mar 2002, 4:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by Gil Petri

Quite right - sorry, I had not noticed that this page is out of date. I'll get the HPCC link changed. A search engine will quickly show some other sites with my articles - for example see Rick Furr's site, with my articles at www.vcalc.net/hp-jhi.htm.

And it's high time I updated the collection - it's over 5 years old and I've written lots more since :-)

best Wishes from Wlodek

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HP-67 Diagnostic program
*Message #1 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 1 Mar 2002, 5:03 p.m.*

I am running the diagnostic program. Initially the display shows -7.777777770-77, not -888.9-90 etc as described in the Standard Pac manual, after a minute or so the calculator displays 10000000.00 and stops at what looks like line 203 of the program. This seems a bit odd, other programs seem to run without any problems. Any ideas what is going on?

Thanks, Glenn

Re: HP-67 Diagnostic program
*Message #2 Posted by **Victor** on 1 Mar 2002, 5:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

I think there is more than one version of the diagnostic program. According to the HP-67 Standard Pac Manual on the MOHPC Disc #4, the display is supposed to show -7.777777770 -77 initially, and then show the following values:

1. 07 10.000 06 1.0000 07 10000000.00

So I would assume this means you calculator is working OK.

However, my HP-97 Standard Pac Manual and the program itself display 57.0 initially and eventually display a series of numbers ending with -8.888888888 -88. Also, the program on the card itself matches the listing in my manual, not the one in the manual on the MOHPC CD.

Re: HP-67 Diagnostic program
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 1 Mar 2002, 5:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Victor

I think there are four different versions of the diagnostic. The earliest displays the 7's. Later versions end in 8's. Sometimes the cards did not match the manual they were shipped with. I think that HP included an addendum with most of the mismatched manuals (but some got through without the addendum).

Re: HP-67 Diagnostic program
*Message #4 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 1 Mar 2002, 5:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

I got my 97 and 67 the same week, each came with Standard Pac cards, only the 67 came with the Standard Pac book (the guy who sold me the 97 recently found the book and is sending it). After I got the 67 card reader working, I tried the diagnostic and didn't get the behavior the book said. Then I noticed that I had mixed up the 67 and 97 card holders (or the card holders that came to me with the calculators) and after a closer look, I noticed that the diagnostic cards in the two Pacs had different version numbers printed on them. If you are working from a Standard Pac book, compare the listing in the back of the book to what is on your card.

When I get the 97 Standard Pac book (assuming it really belongs with the cards I got), I will be curious to see if the diagnostic described there is different from the other book.

Three Chairs - No Waiting!
*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 1 Mar 2002, 5:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ellis Easley

What service this forum provides! What simultaneity of thought! I only hope we use our powers for good.

Re: HP-67 Diagnostic program
*Message #6 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 1 Mar 2002, 6:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ellis Easley

Thanks for the fast explanations. I also have another standard pac of program cards. I will test the diagnostic on these also. My calculator is a 1979 model and seems to give the results Victor described so all is well.

Glenn

Re: HP-67 Diagnostic program
*Message #7 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 1 Mar 2002, 9:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Glenn McEnroe

I checked my other diagnostic card from my second standard pac that is labeled 15C instead of 15A and it gives the result described in the manual, but takes longer to run. So there are 2 differant diagnostic programs.

Re: HP-67 Diagnostic program
*Message #8 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 2 Mar 2002, 6:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Glenn McEnroe

OK, to put an end to the discussion I have scanned the manual pages for versions B and C of the HP-67 diagnostic.

You can get them at http://www.prevelakis.net/HP67/HP-67-Diag.pdf

**vp

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HP 48 case?
*Message #1 Posted by **aruid** on 28 Feb 2002, 11:02 p.m.*

Does anyone know where I can find a replacement HP 48 case? The HP site requires a credit card to buy things.

ARUID

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Need Hp48gx owner manual
*Message #1 Posted by **michael** on 28 Feb 2002, 6:46 p.m.*

I need a hp48gx owner manual. Is there any place I can download it from? Thanks

Re: Need Hp48gx owner manual
*Message #2 Posted by **Yani** on 1 Mar 2002, 3:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by michael

Scanned PDF 16M - Hope you have a good connection! http://www.hpcalc.org/details.php?id=3937

Re: Need Hp48gx owner manual
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 1 Mar 2002, 8:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by michael

I have bought several HP 48 series calculators and accessories from Calcpro website www.calcpro.com. I have had good dealings with its manager, Paul Nelson.

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HP11c
*Message #1 Posted by **leo** on 28 Feb 2002, 2:49 a.m.*

Just wonder what kind of material is the HP11c body made from ? Thanks in advance to all you the HP Specialists.

Re: HP11c
*Message #2 Posted by **Erwin** on 3 Mar 2002, 4:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by leo

My guess is that it is a PolyCarbonate.

Re: HP11c
*Message #3 Posted by **Davis Smith** on 4 Mar 2002, 6:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by leo

I think all the HP calculators use ABS (acrylnitrile butyrate styrene) plastic and its cousins.

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What Glue is best to repair HP 41-CX case plastic ?
*Message #1 Posted by **Kurt Stauffert** on 27 Feb 2002, 4:33 p.m.*

I've just repaired my 19 year old 41-CX which has been dead for about 4 years, by using the Fantastic Instructions on this Museum Site. Thank you very much. My problems were twofold:

1) due to broken case screw seats (not screw posts) on the back cover at the top of the calculator which of course didn't allow the internal electrical "pressure" contacts to be made; and,

2) several disconnected (but originally soldered) "spring-clip like" wire connections between the main circuit board and the circuit board right behind the LCD screen which were visibly separated by about 1 to 2 mm and easy to spot. Under a 10X magnifying glass I saw atleast another 5 solder contacts on the LCD board side of the contacts that had cracks in them (common problem with "cold" solder joints) so I resoldered them to avoid a similar problem in the future.

I don't know how many pieces of electronics that I've repaired over the years just by resoldering cracked solder joints, usually due to "cold solders joints" made with just a fraction too little heat when originally soldered, which leaves them brittle and easily cracked with time and regular equipment use and vibration.

I used a 5 minute epoxy glue and let it set for 15 hours before reattaching the two halves of the calculator, however within a half hour of using the calculator, the glued case screw seats (that little recessed piece of plastic under the foot pads that allow the screw heads to pull the back case together) came apart. Also the epoxy glue peeled right off of the both pieces of plastic. It appears that epoxy glue doesn't work that great on HP-41CX case plastic, however I may have to wait 24 hours for it to really work. I have never had much success using cyanoacrylate glues (aka "crazy glue") to work on much more than my own fingers, so I didn't use it as was mentioned in the section of this web site tittled "Repairing an HP-41 CX" as listed in the "Main Hall"

My questions are 1) Does anyone know what exact type of plastic is used to build those robust HP-41CX cases; and more importantly ?

2) Does anyone know what glue works best to fix cracks in the plastic used in HP-41 CX cases ?

Thanks

Re: What Glue is best to repair HP 41-CX case plastic ?
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 27 Feb 2002, 5:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Kurt Stauffert

I fix the broken screw bosses on the case back as follows:

1) Grind off the old remains on the screw bosses using a dremel type tool. Grind it flush to the rest of the case back. If you have old epoxy traces, make sure to remove them.

2) Cut some 0.25 x 0.375 pieces of 0.10 inch thick styrene rod (available at hobby shops as packs of five 0.10 thick rods of 0.25 inch thick strips about 12 inches long).

The thickness is important... (3/32" / 0.096 will also work). You want the blocks to be thick enough to just fit flush to the bottoms of the recesses in the battery contact assembly plus just a little bit (a few thousanths). Sand around 0.02 inches off the sides of the blocks so that they fit in the contact assembly recesses with a little room around the edges.

One problem with the original screw bosses in the case is that they did not seat to the bottom of the contact assembly. When you tighten the screws, the bosses bow inwards and place great strain on themselves... hence the cracks.

3) Using styrene welding cement (dichloromethane / methylene chloride) also available at hobby shops, wet the back of the case where the old screw boss was and one side of the styrene block that you just cut out. I like to make sure the plastic is very thouroughly wet. The solvent works by melting the plastic and drys very fast so work quickly.

4) Press the block onto the case back and try to align it so that it will fit properly into the battery contact assembly recesses. Hold it for a few seconds then quickly check the alignment by snapping in the contact assembly.

5) Remove the contact assembly and the clamp the block in place at let it dry at least 48 hours. You want all traces of the solvent under the block to be gone before you put any strain on it.

6) Remove the clamp and drill a hole though the block for the mounting screw.

7) Voila... if all went well your repair will be much stonger and more reliable than the old screw bosses.

The styrene welding fluid also works very well for fixing cracks in the screw posts.

Re: What Glue is best to repair HP 41-CX case plastic ?
*Message #3 Posted by **Yani** on 28 Feb 2002, 12:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by David Smith

Very clear instructions. You should get this added to this site under HP 41-C repairs.

Re: What Glue is best to repair HP 41-CX case plastic ?
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 28 Feb 2002, 5:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Yani

Perhaps Dave can copy it to its proper place? I can't get it to cut and paste properly.

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HP SN : 1st results !
*Message #1 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 27 Feb 2002, 1:42 p.m.*

This is the 1st list of lowest s/n calcs. Sure you have calcs in your drawers that can beat these, so send your e-mails !

better layout at http://hpcalc.multimania.com/hp_serial_number_database_page.htm

LongName MinDeSN HP 10B 3519S00513 HP 10C - Voyager Series 2239A05283 HP 12C - Voyager Series 2629A08624 HP 15C - Voyager Series 2417A87427 HP 18C 2705A05407 HP 19BII 3410S00959 HP 21 (Woodstock series) 1506A77030 HP 25 (without continuous Memory) 1604S18806 HP 28C 2731A02207 HP 28S 2830A22164 HP 29C (Woodstock series) 1602A11713 HP 32SII 3246S16928 HP 33C 1945A21554 HP 33E 1851S33566 HP 34C 1950S31302 HP 41CV Fullnut 2208S42754 HP 41CV Halfnut 2548S21246 HP 41CX Fullnut 2507S43122 HP 42S 3024B81284 HP 48S 3120S01004 HP 48SX 3108S01939 HP 49G ID93300081 HP 65 1333A08105 HP 67 1709A01792 HP 95 LX Small Dos Palmtop with integrated 123 ABA3210A00347

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HP-41cx educalc module?
*Message #1 Posted by **Michel** on 27 Feb 2002, 12:21 p.m.*

I found a working hp-41cx and there is a strange mondule (for me...) install in it : on the back of the module a silver tape label "EDUCALC MODULE SERVICE" and on the normal place for module labeling another silver tape label "Double - A531D" What is that module and how to wake it up? Is it "homebrew" module? What is educalc?

ok, i stop...

Thanks for hints!

Re: HP-41cx educalc module?
*Message #2 Posted by **Steve** on 27 Feb 2002, 1:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

Educalc was THE mail order supplier of HP calculators and accessories for many years. They were located in California, USA. About 3 years ago, they went out of business (since HP started selling through large retailers).

As far as the module you have, I know that service modules were made by HP to diagnose 41s with problems. But I did not know Educalc apparently made some. Perhaps someone else may have seen/used one of these modules.

If you do a CAT 2 it should list the programs on the module.

Steve

No program on the module with CAT 2
*Message #3 Posted by **Michel** on 27 Feb 2002, 4:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Steve

I tried CAT 2 and no program for this module

Re: No program on the module with CAT 2
*Message #4 Posted by **bill duncan** on 27 Feb 2002, 7:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Michel

Try a different port. Turn the machine off, pull it out and try another port.. Sometimes oxidization forms and another port (or just the action of plugging it in and out) will help.

It might be an autoexecute type of module too, like the cassette duplication module...

are you doing this from a c/cv or a CX ?
*Message #5 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 27 Feb 2002, 7:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by bill duncan

Note that only a C or a CV will list the programs with f CAT 2; the CX will just list the modules and ROM's installed.

Hoever bill's remark is totally valid, should the module not being recognized try another port.

Re: are you doing this from a c/cv or a CX ?
*Message #6 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 27 Feb 2002, 8:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Thibaut.be

jim had some deal to double up x-mem (and other) modules in the same case to save ports. this may be one of thoes. check how much extended you have; if it's all 600 then you have one of thoes.

Re: are you doing this from a c/cv or a CX ?
*Message #7 Posted by **Chris Catotti** on 28 Feb 2002, 2:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by db(martinez,california)

I assume it added EXTENDED MEMORY also. Check it on a CX with CAT 4. Should show 124 in the X Register. With one EXTENDED MEMORY MODULE, 362, or two EXTENDED MEMORY MODULES 600. You can also check it on a C or CV with the EXTENDED FUNCTIONS MEMORY MODULE by executing EMDIR.

David White (now David Ebras-White) use to do a lot of the soldering foe EduCALC and authored the "Butcher's Block" articles in the PPC Journal, which included a description of module doubling and tripling. See:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=2005484928

for a little longer write-up

cat 4 = 600
*Message #8 Posted by **Michel** on 28 Feb 2002, 8:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Chris Catotti

I try cat 4 on my CX with the module and it gives me 600; without the module it is 124 so this is a memory module sold/built by educalc... Thanks all!

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hp86 format files
*Message #1 Posted by **Todd** on 26 Feb 2002, 9:39 p.m.*

I have a bunch of data files in HP 86 format, is there any way to translate those discs into standard pc format, or any software that can read that format???

Re: hp86 format files
*Message #2 Posted by **ronnie driggers** on 6 Mar 2002, 11:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Todd

is this data land survey data files or something else.

Re: hp86 format files
*Message #3 Posted by **jr(italy)** on 6 Mar 2002, 1:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Todd

NI has routine for porting IEEE488 formats in to a pc format, I never tried it, but have been told it works. If you try it let me know the results, I have several hundred programs on tape and 5.5 diskettes I would like to save.

Regards

JR

Re: hp86 format files
*Message #4 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 6 Mar 2002, 11:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by jr(italy)

I think this discussion is getting confused. Todd is asking how to access DATA within HP86 files, while JR is talking about getting stuff off the floppies.

While I can't help Todd, JR can download the LIFUTIL program from the hpmuseum ftp site and use a PC to recover the files.

Once this is done, if he wishes to actually recover data stored within HP-86 DATA files, he will have the same problem as Todd.

Re: hp86 format files
*Message #5 Posted by **JR(Italy)** on 10 Mar 2002, 12:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vassilis Prevelakis

Vassilis and Ronnie

I misunderstood what Todd was trying to do, thank-you both for the information to solving my problem.

JR

Re: hp86 format files
*Message #6 Posted by **ronnie driggers** on 8 Mar 2002, 8:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Todd

We used a serial port connection to transfer and translate land survey data files from a hp 86 or hp 85 to a pc using maptech software. This worked very well.

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What about the time module...
*Message #1 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 26 Feb 2002, 5:57 p.m.*

I rember an article in this forum regarding the low-level details of the timer module, but no matter what search phrase I try, I seem unable to find it...

I dreamed about it?

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Programs for 41CV
*Message #1 Posted by **Brian Haynes** on 26 Feb 2002, 10:32 a.m.*

I still use my 41CV to do some curve fit of engineering data. Many years ago I put the curve fit programs found in one of the manuals on my 41CV. They were the LOG, POW, EXP and LIN regression analysis programs. The other day I was in program mode and I deleted some of the steps in one of the programs, I was horrified! I have looked everywhere for the manual and have come up empty handed.

If anyone out there would be so kind as to send me the code for those four programs, I would be in your debt. I have searched the web with no luck.

I feel so old now that I have asked people at a museum web site for help solving a problem with my primary calculater.

Thanks,

Brian

Re: Programs for 41CV
*Message #2 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 26 Feb 2002, 12:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Brian Haynes

Perhaps this is exactly what you're looking for:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/software/41td/curvfit.htm

Hope that helps.

Re: Programs for 41CV

*Message #3 Posted by **Brian Haynes** on 26 Feb 2002, 2:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ex-PPC member

That looks like it, Thanks, and thanks to Tony. My world is whole again....

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hp12c
*Message #1 Posted by **JB TOYIP** on 26 Feb 2002, 10:02 a.m.*

Just bought a HP12c at auction and cannot get it to turn on, any idea about how and where I can get it repaired. Thanks. JB

Re: hp12c
*Message #2 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 26 Feb 2002, 11:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by JB TOYIP

Hi,

Did you checked the battery life? Or the seller sold you a broken one?

Cheers.

MP

Re: hp12c
*Message #3 Posted by **Jim L** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by JB TOYIP

Did you know that it was dead when you bought it?

Re: hp12c

*Message #4 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 27 Feb 2002, 9:58 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by JB TOYIP

Make sure you have good batteries. Try resetting by holding the "-" key while turning it on. If that give you a "pr error" then you're good to go. Otherwise, take the batteries out, and short the battery terminals together for a bit (2 seconds to...I've done it as long as 30 seconds). Insert batteries back and try the reset procedure again.

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HP-95LX config.sys & autoexec.bat
*Message #1 Posted by **Johnny** on 26 Feb 2002, 8:56 a.m.*

Aloha! Does somebody know how to make the HP-95LX use config.sys autoexec.bat files, that I created? At execution of command.com they have no effect...

Thanks! Johnny

Re: HP-95LX config.sys & autoexec.bat
*Message #2 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 27 Feb 2002, 1:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Johnny

I may be wrong, but i thought these files are rom files and cannot be modified. Otherwise if you corrupt these files the 95LX won't start... for ever !

Cheers,

Thibaut

Re: HP-95LX config.sys & autoexec.bat
*Message #3 Posted by **Johnny** on 27 Feb 2002, 3:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by thibaut.be

Well - I think you _are_ wrong. Theese files are not to be found anywhere in either ROM or RAM. If I make the files myselves, they are completely ignored...

Thanks, Johnny

Re: HP-95LX config.sys & autoexec.bat
*Message #4 Posted by **bill smith** on 27 Feb 2002, 6:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Johnny

this is so speculative, that i don't consider it advice ;-).

i have both a 100LX and 200LX. they have options on reboot (using ctrl-alt-del) that allow one to pick the boot device (A:, C:, D:, etc.) for using various configs. make sure you're not booting off a ROM only drive...point to the one with your files.

good luck.

Re: HP-95LX config.sys & autoexec.bat
*Message #5 Posted by **bill duncan** on 28 Feb 2002, 11:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Johnny

It's been awhile since I've done this, so this is just from memory. Do you have a manual? I believe there is some information there.

As I recall, it was best to create these on drive A: if you had it, as the 95 was pretty pernickity about these files. If the syntax wasn't just right (and they were a little unusual I think in the config.sys) you could end up not being able to boot. If they were on drive A:, you could just unplug it and try again.

Of course when you had these files in place, you had to give the machine the three finger salute to take effect. If you don't have a manual, i can try to look it up for you.

You also had to specify the "*.EXM" files in the startup files for them to be useable. I forget where they were kept, but again, they had a pernickity syntax.

There used to be an ftp site with all this information online, but they've since gone away. I think it was ftp://eddie.mit.edu/

Anyone else with more information?

Cheers.

Re: HP-95LX config.sys & autoexec.bat

*Message #6 Posted by **bill duncan** on 28 Feb 2002, 11:34 p.m.,*

in response to message #5 by bill duncan

I dug out my old 95 and manual (doesn't get alot of use these days).

There is a third file specific to HP used in booting, which is a list of hp-95 specific applications and key assignments called "apname.lst". I think it was this that I was really thinking about when I called it peculiar. It's a file of comma-delimited records with filename, hex code and application name. It was this file and something about the config. sys, which if not right would lock up the machine I think.

Anyway, you should be able to reboot it with Ctrl-Alt-Del and get it to read the autoexec.bat and config.sys. You might want to put a "pause" in the autoexec.bat in case of trouble.

Cheers

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blackened lcd display
*Message #1 Posted by **John Mills** on 26 Feb 2002, 6:57 a.m.*

hi, just a question for the forum gurus: i have a number of hp calculators with lcd displays, some segmented as the voyagers' or the 41, others dot-matrix type, as the 71b's for instance, and they never developed any stains or defects with age

however, i recently got an old sharp (not hp) basic pocket computer which has an lcd display much like the 71b's, only with yellow background, and though the machine seems completely new, no dents or other signs of physical abuse at all, the display has large blackened areas throughout, mostly by the upper and lower edges. they appear to cover every part of the display, save the dots themselves or the indicators (deg, rad, run, pro, ...)

despite those darkened areas, the lcd display is completely functional if hard to read. my question is: what could have caused such dark zones ? i think that any stress or condition serious enough to cause them should have also caused the display to fail completely or at least would have left physical marks.

also, can this condition be cured somehow, such that the dark zones dissappear ? i tried to let the machine on running some program continuously just in case this could do any good but to no avail. thanx.

Re: blackened lcd display
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 26 Feb 2002, 12:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Mills

I think the yellow filter was used because early LCD panels were damaged by (uv?) light. It could be that your Sharp calc has suffered from too much exposure to sunlight.

I don't now of a cure - I would suspect that it is not possible and is due to the age of the device {: ^(

I have seen some of the higher model early Sharp pocket 'PC' calcs and was impressed at the

time (at uni).

HP's LCD's seem to hold up much better and never needed a yellow filter - is this because HP held back from rushing out an LCD model until the technology was better??? (If so well done HP).

Tom.

Re: blackened lcd display
*Message #3 Posted by **doug** on 2 Mar 2002, 9:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Mills

Which SHARP basic pocket computer?

Re: blackened lcd display
*Message #4 Posted by **John Mills** on 3 Mar 2002, 1:55 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by doug

it's a sharp pc-1211 (aka radio shack's trs-80 pocket computer). it has an lcd display with a yellow background instead of the later grey background used in the pc-1212, 1500, 1500a, etc.

the funny thing is, the machine works, and the display works too, only the lcd display has very dark zones everywhere except in the dot matrix zone and the deg, rad, etc indicators so you can actually read the characters displayed but it's very annoying with all that black rubbish around them.

really, i can't understand what kind of fault or accident can damage all zones except the dots and indicators themselves. perhaps it's even easy to correct, if one knows how ...

Re: blackened lcd display
*Message #5 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 3 Mar 2002, 4:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Mills

I've got the exact same model. I've had it from new and it's still in my desk. Its display is flawless, but it's lived its life in the hard case inside a drawer, so perhaps there's some truth to the UV theory.

Re: blackened lcd display - more thoughts
*Message #6 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 4 Mar 2002, 1:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Mills

LCD's display (i.e. become dark) by having current flowing through the elements. This must be ac (alternating current) as a dc voltage damages the display.

The back plane of the LCD is normally connected to an alternating voltage and the elements to be made dark have the oposite polarity applied.

To make the elements clear the same alternating voltage as the back plane is applied (i.e. no voltage difference accross the element = clear)

I don't know the construction method of the early Sharp LCD's or how thay become damaged (if at all) by uv light.

Perhaps the display has been damaged by uv but the elements that have ac accross them have 'recovered' by electro - chemical action. The 'un-used' parts of the display never have current passing through them so may never 'recover'.

The above is and educated guess - I'm not an LCD expert.

Re: blackened lcd display - more thoughts
*Message #7 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 4 Mar 2002, 9:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tom (UK)

tom; i've seen two of these and they had a "bleeding black in from the edges" kind of look like possibly the screen was delaminating. when the black touches an active part of the display it seems to deactivate that segment. it's the same on or off. i believe that the black keeps creeping inward on all fronts till it joins the displays active area. btw: one was a ti 1750 yellow lcd display. the yellow is said to be a filter that was used until they could make a uv stable lcd. the other one was a 41 fullnut that got closed in a truck tailgate. they both still calculated but did not display very well. - d

Re: blackened lcd display - more thoughts

*Message #8 Posted by **GE (France)** on 5 Mar 2002, 5:17 a.m.,*

in response to message #7 by db(martinez,california)

I saw this on a semi-recent Casio machine (fx9900GC), which was carefully stored away from the sun. To my surprise, the darkened area was almost gone the next time I took a look at it. So the problem is not necessarily linked to UVs (but the old-tech LCD of the PC1211 may be more prone to UV damaging). Also, there might be some "healing" action from use. I saw also this phenomenon on a Psion 3 years ago, but the spot never disappeared. As a matter of fact, the dark area looked as if it was -below- the LCD elements, which were still active. Strange ?

With years passing we will be probably be running into such weird problems with the more recent machines which were not built to last like the expensive first generation LED beasties. This is frightening.

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No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market
*Message #1 Posted by **aruid** on 25 Feb 2002, 10:32 p.m.*

Why did HP stop designing new calculators? I have a theory,

I have heard that the main reason HP stoped creating new calculators is because they can't dominate the market. Interesting enough, It is very difficult to walk-in to a store and buy a HP 48 or HP 49 as well as many other models. In my quest to find a HP 49, I went to Office max, Staples, Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Circuit City and some other smaller electronic chains and could not find the HP 49. None of these stores could even "special order" it either. I think one reason why HP didn't dominate the market is because their calculators are to hard to find!

I am an engineering student at Northeastern University a fairly large school and NO ONE I know uses or owns a HP calculator! I have never seen a HP 48 or 49 in person. Most people don't even know HP makes Graphing calculators. The few (1-2) that do know this say "I don't want to learn RPN" (They don't know the HP 49's and others default mode is algebraic)

The only reason I want a HP calculator is because I have used the emulator/simulator on the PC. I think that TI calculators and (even worse) Casio calculators are more wide-spread because they are so easily available and people can try them out at stores like staples and actually purchase them at a store.

People won't buy what they can't find. ARUID

Re: No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market
*Message #2 Posted by **Holger Veit (DE)** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by aruid

I doubt this. We all know that HP handhelds are the Mercedes Benz' of calculators (at least were for long time); and they are rather expensive compared to the mass-market crap from Casio or Sharp. Most people, particularly those who buy at discounters (you mentioned Walmart or Staples) simply don't need such Swiss knives like a HP48GX - a HP32S-II is probably even too complicated for them (and the reason is not just primitively that it uses RPN). Typically, you don't need much more functionality than the one a TI30 (and all the other machines at a price below 10$) offers.

When I studied EE in the 80's HPs were rather popular at the university, but yet not easily available at Walmart (or rather, at their German equivalents). The difference to today was that there were almost no feasible alternatives to scientific, handheld computing (the TIs at that time, the SR52, TI57/58/59 were less comfortable by an order of magnitude). Nowadays, you have those BASIC "slide rules" (remember that HP was also involved in this segment), or you take a Palm, or a WinCE machine at a comparable price. HP has the Jornadas in this segment now.

Holger

Re: No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market
*Message #3 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 26 Feb 2002, 12:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Holger Veit (DE)

I think that nobody wants to think.

HP49 is fair the most powerful calculator ever made, it has even an algebraic mode. It takes just few minutes to understand the concept behind RPN, but most people prefer CASIOs and TIs for the simply reason that you can make some calculations at store and be satisfied with the result of 1 plus 1. ;)

If you want to use your brain go through HP If you want to use your finger use the others.

Cheers,

Marx Pio

Re: No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market

*Message #4 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 26 Feb 2002, 1:01 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Marx Pio

From my experience with the HP49G I can only say that the calculator is (was?) let down by the amount of support offered from HP.

Many people have complained about the keys / display cover / lack of IR etc. but all these would have been sort of acceptable IF the support from HP was there. You can only use the features if you know how to drive the thing. Many people went into the '49 after the '48 but there is a limited number of those - certainly not enough to justify the '49.

After buying mine, I struggled with the HP49G (my first with RPL). The user guide, quick guide and 'advanced' user guide were useless (yes USELESS as they contained many errors and spent most of the pages describing very simple operations). I wrote an email to HP complaining that the HP49G documentation was so poor and incomplete and that the '49 user guide promised that programming was covered in the up-coming 'advanced' user guide but was never in that document. The '49 promotional documentation also said that the '49 was programmable in RPL/Assembler but RPL is not covered in anything from HP for the '49. I also pointed out that I HAD (i.e. no option) to go out and buy the HP48G (to get the standard '48 manual) and HP48 advanced user guide to even begin to use 10% of the power of the '49. HP did reply (I'll try to dig it out if anyone is interested) but from memory they were not interested in supporting the '49 but did point me to the local distributor for the latest s/w.

I registered my HP49 with HP (by giving my serial number and email) but did I received information like when the operating system was updated?, documentation issued?, special offers? NO, nothing, ever.

In summary I wished I'd never bought the '49 and had bought the '48 in the first place (which is cheaper, better built and has far far better documentation). I can only assume someone at HP thought that once the '49 was sold they could forget about support. I think this is the reason people have not been buying HP's of late.

Many sales are made to the educational market, and kids tend to buy either what friends have or what the teacher is using. HP have never been in the educational market (I think they did have a half hearted try with the HP38 but TI blew them out of the water).

PS I have a brain and use it - thats why I went bought the older design HP48.

Re: No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market
*Message #5 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 27 Feb 2002, 2:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Tom (UK)

Hmm..where did you expect that support to come from?!?!? There's almost no "calc-aware" staff at HP left..and since the developing team was dismissed, whom did you expect to write those manuals???

As for 38G: I've had an accident once with it, when it fell from a height of about 4 meters directly onto a concrete floor.....the only thing that got damaged was it's cracked slide-cover (the calc was open and working at that time, of course, and btw stayed in the same state after falling).....now show me a TI which will work after falling from an "ultimate height" of a work-desk.....

P.S. I have a brain and also sometimes use it - that's why I calculate on my good old 48GX....but when I need to do it in an simpler/easier/faster way, I use any HP calc that first comes into my hands...

Re: No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market
*Message #6 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 28 Feb 2002, 8:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Evgen Fedorenko

Hmmm... ACO employed a number of HP calculator aware people (probably some of the most aware in the world) for about 2 years but it would apear that they were directed more to rewriting the software after the HP49G was launched. The 'team' has only recently been dismissed and could have spent some time (in association with a technical writer) to support the product with documentation. In terms of sending out emails to registered users this would have taken almost no effort at all - I can only assume HP were using customer registration to evaluate distributor and marketing effectiveness.

The HP38G calculator is far better made than anything TI have ever produced (after-all it is based on the HP48 hardware). The reason TI blew HP out of the water was in the long term and constant support they offer - did ACO have a customer support team?

I used to think HP was the only sensible choice, but can anyone realy say that HP's recent calculator offerings (including documentation and product support for the HP6/10bII/30) are clearly the best on the market?

While other calculator makers are trying to climb up the quality ladder HP seem

to be jumping off the top - I see this as a quick profit but long term disaster policy. I'm sure the Compaq deal has something to do with what HP appear to have been doing over the last year or so.

Re: No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market
*Message #7 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 1 Mar 2002, 3:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tom (UK)

Well, though HP-Compaq merger isn't a direct reason for calc abandonance... it rather shows that HP is too big for such a small business:(

I still think that it's better to have a good built calc and a huge community of users rather than having a filmsy piece of plastic, shiny manuals telling me how to add 2 and 2, and some service staff of doubtful value;

The future of cals lays in palmtops without doubt....but only when such devices will be able to recognize handwritten formulas...until then I'll stick with my HPs...

Re: No wonder HP can't "Dominate" the market
*Message #8 Posted by **Frank** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by aruid

The 48 & 49 was just discontinued in a number of the store you mentioned, and were marked down at HP's expense as a result. They used to be in many more than now, that was about the time of HP's action to stop development. I got a couple of marked down ones before gone.
Frank

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What happened to CCD?
*Message #1 Posted by **Holger Veit (DE)** on 25 Feb 2002, 4:19 a.m.*

Just curious, what happened to the German HP users club "CCD" (Computer Club Deutschland)? I have three binders of copies of their user magazine Prisma (last one about end of 1984 or 85), and consider to make them available to the community provided copyright owners will permit. The CCD has made the famous CCD ROM.

Holger

Re: What happened to CCD?
*Message #2 Posted by **Christoph Klug** on 25 Feb 2002, 11:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Holger Veit (DE)

Dear Holger,

unfortunately the German handheld computer club stopped any activities end of 80 years. Most of the former CCD members changed over to modern PC, only some work on in the field of handheld computers. Today some collectors or small user groupse exist in Germany, Austria and Switzerland but this specialised szene of people is working without any club formation. After CCD was closed I entered to HPCC (handheld portable computer club /London)this is the best solution for former CCD members. CCD creates the club journal PRISMA and some nice products for the HP-41 like the famously 8Kbyte CCD Module (programmen in mcode). This was produced from software company W&W which also created the powerfully 64 KByte RAM-BOX in card reader case, and the expanded HP-41CY with internal RAM-Box. Today W&W exist - but without any handheldcomputer activities. Best wishes from Hildesheim/ Germany - Christoph Klug (author of HP-41 hardware interfacing system I/O-Board and IL2000 System)

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volumes of HP calculators produced?
*Message #1 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 24 Feb 2002, 4:53 p.m.*

Are there data on how many of each model of calculator were produced? It would be interesting to incorporate this information with the proposed S/N database. It would also be nice to know how many calculators were built with each rom version.

/ji

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What is an HP9125 calculator/plotter?
*Message #1 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 24 Feb 2002, 4:51 p.m.*

I saw the service manuals for an hp9125 on ebay; there is no mention of it anywhere in the MoHPC, other than a solutions pack in the 4th CD. Does anyone have any pictures, information, introduction/ discontinuation dates?

/ji

Re: What is an HP9125 calculator/plotter?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 24 Feb 2002, 10:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Ioannidis

It's the plotter for the 9100A/B. Dave lists it by number in the 9100 page and also mentions it in a historical note on that page.

Here's a tip
*Message #3 Posted by **Jim L** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Ioannidis

On the front page of this site there's link to a search page. I typed hp9125 and it brought up the page that Ellis already mentioned. You can dig up all sorts of things this way.

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Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #1 Posted by **Gene** on 24 Feb 2002, 1:51 p.m.*

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=2005367412

Note the Buy-it-Now price!

Wow! Don't think so. Gene

Re: Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #2 Posted by **lowracer** on 24 Feb 2002, 3:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

I've always called the "buy-it-now" price the "bend-over-now" price, because if you pay it, you gonna get screwed. Although there are exceptions...

Re: Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #3 Posted by **lowracer** on 24 Feb 2002, 3:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

I've always called the "buy-it-now" price the "bend-over-now" price, because if you pay it, you gonna get screwed. Although there are exceptions...

Actually, the Buy-it-now is only slightly more than the opening bid!
*Message #4 Posted by **Gene** on 24 Feb 2002, 4:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

I don't know...$850 for a good lot of Commodore calculators? I just don't know if someone will drop that much $$ at one time. I have bought commodore calculators before, but not $800 worth!

Re: Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #5 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 24 Feb 2002, 6:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

gene; thanks for pointing out that auction/opium dream. not so i can wish i was smoking what he is smoking, or to laugh at $18 commodores, but because the picture answered a question. the second non-hp calcer i ever bought (the first, and first ever was a national semiconductor factory blemish for my dad in 1973) was a whitehall wh-1. it's just like the one in the middle of the middle row. whats in a name? btw: if i ever get my mm6x working i'm going to be very happy about that particular commodore.

Re: Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #6 Posted by **Mike McDonald** on 24 Feb 2002, 7:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

All things considered - Commodore Calculators tell a story much like HP does. I sold one a while back to a man in Japan who was VERY HAPPY to buy it at $20, and pleased to pay $35 (as I recall) for quick shipping.

To each his own

I have a closet full of Commodore 64 Stuff boutght before the bubble burst -

Live, Learn, Let Live, Forgive and Forget

Mike Leavenworth, KS

Re: Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #7 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 24 Feb 2002, 11:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

Since I paid that much (if dollars were pounds) for a lot of 21 HP and TI calculators at the beginning of my recent Ebay binge, I can't make any disparaging comments. I'm happy in the knowledge that I now have enough TI59's for a cat's lives. Especially since I found brand new keyboards in an Ebay store, 40 for $15. I've already fixed a 40 key calculator by cutting off the top row of one of these replacements. Clicks like new! Unfortunately, I lost the "enter" key in the process.

The HP's in the lot were very satisfactory including a 41CX that still has shiny feet. I was afraid I would have to open it because it was dead but luckily there were some discussions here at the time about how to discharge a 41 and it came right up after shorting the battery terminals for a

few minutes. Also 2 67's in OK shape but corroded, a 65 in very good shape with leather case, a 35 in less than great shape (a few dim segments, maybe corrosion can cause that?), two 71's in good shape except one has some iffy keys, and a 41CV in not bad shape. All working to some degree, most completely working. Also there were two 41 ROMS and various soft cases. The 65 had an accessory I hadn't heard of, a tiny coding form with a place to put a card, that fits in the pocket of the leather case. Of course I'll go through an inch or so of tubing - or a number of O-rings - before I'm done.

There were also some nice TI's like an SR52 which I was unaware of - a card reader model other than the 58 and 59 - and which is in quite good shape.

I'm in a mood to buy the Commodore lot because I just spent some time replacing the NiCads in my Dad's Commodore. I wonder what he would have thought of HP's. He was a slide rule guy. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and he ordered another calculator for work. I think they would have gotten him an HP but because of his vision he needed something with bigger digits. They got him a big boxy portable machine with either nixies or a plasma 7-segment multidigit display. It might have been a CompuCorp.

Re: Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #8 Posted by **Frank** on 25 Feb 2002, 6:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

Pretty high to be sure, since it does not include any of the several (letter) series of the mid-late 70's. That series I follow as I have an M-55 bought new in '77 with manual, case, charger and box. They have sold in the 300$ range on ebay.

Not trying to disparage Commodores as such, just the "lot" for >$800
*Message #9 Posted by **Gene** on 25 Feb 2002, 7:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Frank

As I said, I have quite a few commodores myself, I was just shocked to see a lot offered where the BEGINNING price was >$800. That just seems somewhat "high", Lol.

And, true, it does contain an N-60 and several scientifics, but also seems to have quite a few 4-banger types.

I'd have bid on a couple of these myself if they were offered separately, but it seems the seller just wants to dump them in 1 lot. That's harder to do because one must come up with the entire $800 at one time, rather than 20 sales of $40 each.

Re: Not trying to disparage Commodores as such, just the "lot" for >$800
*Message #10 Posted by **Frank** on 25 Feb 2002, 10:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Gene

Thanks, Gene, I missed seeing the N-60, though they have not been bring as much as the M-55 and the Science Model.

Re: Things no one will ever buy on ebay...
*Message #11 Posted by **doug** on 25 Feb 2002, 8:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

Probably no one wants to shell out $800 for a lot of calculators at once. But that is only $19.81 each for a lot of 47 calcualtors. Some of the value is, it is a collection and people selling them expect that. Try to go out and find all of the models especially with the adapter or even with a box, and see how many you can find at all. Then see what you have to pay if someone knows you are looking to really buy.

I remember in 1986 when the COMPAQ 386 - 40Meg HD, DOS, and it even included C and the assembler for the discounted price of only $18,999, each. The AT 286 in around 4 or 5 years latter without any monitor or software still at $4000. The commodore 64 at over $1200 to $1500 at introduction.

It is what people learned from them that made any of them worth anything. There is no calcualtor worth over $4. That is even with really good parts that are repairable.

Let me see how about one calcualtor at $1425.00 and it even had a leather case and manuals.

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1331462967 $1425.00

No price is stupid if it is what you want or need at the time. Or if it happens to be the infamous very first calculator you ever had and now someone has a new or close to new one for sale for a thousand dolloars. Big Deal!

Yeah but...
*Message #12 Posted by **Jim L** on 26 Feb 2002, 5:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by doug

"http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1331462967 $1425.00"

That's an HP!!! :-)

"No price is stupid if it is what you want or need at the time. "

I have to disagree with that. I've paid "want-based" prices several times and felt stupid about it in hindsight. As for "need", well I'm not even going to touch "need" as it relates to a bunch of old calculators. I think we need to stick with want on this one.

Re: Yeah but...
*Message #13 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 26 Feb 2002, 7:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Jim L

i just registered with ebay today and have done some looking around it in the past couple of months. i even bought two calculators through a friends account. funny how i keep seeing the same names bidding on stuf i click on; hollandflower, aknight, and of course our own eteemable katie for instance. it's good to know that at least three others have the same boreing taste that i do and very good to know that at least one of them will be writing "how to fix it" articles about what they outbid me on. i promised myself not to do what you call "want bidding". we will see about that. and you are right; need is not a concept here.

don't be sure that there is anything that no one will ever buy on ebay. i remember seeing an auction for some x-large guy who, if you won his auction and paid his expenses, would fly in at his convenience and kick your ass. he guaranteed no broken bones and offered to add additional services for members of your family. there were 4 bids when i saw it. i think the runner up on that one just bid $1425 on for an hp 67. - d

Re: Yeah but...
*Message #14 Posted by **Frank** on 27 Feb 2002, 10:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by db(martinez,california)

Wonder it that fellow also does bid snipers? ;+}

Re: Yeah but...
*Message #15 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 27 Feb 2002, 10:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Jim L

...I have a need to feed my wants...

Re: Yeah but...
*Message #16 Posted by **doug** on 6 Mar 2002, 7:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Jim L

Don't you know anything when it comes to old calculators?

READ THE EQUATION CAREFULLY:

WANT=NEED=WANT=NEED=~

That equation is based upon people that want them to play with no matter how much they tell their wives or friends they really need them.

What I was saying is very true. Want and need are really not the same. Some people still use some of these in production environments. Some have customers that use old calculators and software that has been around for a long long time, or specialized and customized software as well. When a customer contacts the person they depend on for customized software and to supply support hardware, they have to get the unit to them yesterday. It is their bread and butter. They usually keep one or two backups and if one is pulled and put into production they have to find a backup to the one backup left. If you have 20 customers the odds aren't to good if you don't pursue a replacement immediately.

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I/O of the 41CV
*Message #1 Posted by **Robin Heim** on 24 Feb 2002, 8:25 a.m.*

Hi, does anybody know, if its possible to read/write bits or Data directly on the I/O Ports of the 41CV? I want the 41CV to communicate with other devices/microcontrollers. cu Robin Heim

PS:Sorry for my bad English.

Re: I/O of the 41CV
*Message #2 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 24 Feb 2002, 4:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Robin Heim

Yes, but with a lot of effort.

First, you would have to build circuitry to interface the bit-serial i/o ports to whatever it is you are building. If you want to control things from a user-level program without also writing your own machine-code functions, you could build a circuit that looks like a memory module mapped into some of the unused address space. Of course, said module would actually have to behave the same way as memory would, and since this process normalizes numbers, you would basically be limited to 48-bit i/o instructions that look like alpha data. You would still need to use synthetics to move the curtain so you could access your memory-mapped devices.

Look at old issues of the PPC Journal, and some work that I have done interfacing to the PIC in http://www.tla.org/hp41/, in particular the mldl.html and pic.html pages in that directory.

What are you trying to do anyway?

Re: I/O of the 41CV

*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 24 Feb 2002, 7:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Robin Heim

The 4 'ports' on the top of an HP41 are basically the (Nut) CPU bus. This is bit-serial and consists of a 2 phase clock, sync line, ISA (Instruction address and data) line, DATA (data to/from user RAM memory), power lines, and not a lot else. It's possible to add your own circuitry to it, but it's not totally trivial. And once you've done it, you will probably have to write functions in HP41 m-code (machine code) to operate your interface. Which in turn means getting an MLDL or EPROM box (you can't run machine code programs from normal user memory. Period). There are easier ways to do it if you don't need very high speeds. The easiest is to use the HPIL interface and one of the RS232 (HP82164) or GPIO (HP82165, HP82166) interfaces. The latter is a 16 bit bidirectional parallel port at TTL levels which is fairly easy to link up to a homebrew project. If you don't have HPIL, then you can hack a wand for input and an HP82143 printer for output, I guess (I've done the former...)

Re: I/O of the 41CV

*Message #4 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 24 Feb 2002, 8:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

I also recall an article in the PPC journal describing how to hack a Time Module to do I/O.

Using the Wand for input is also described in a PPCJ. Don't ignore the advice to put a diffuser between your LED and the Wand, or you'll burn the phototransistor.

You may also want to use the IR module for output -- the IR stream it outputs is the same as with the other HP calculators (so they can drive the thermal IR printer), and the protocol has been extensively documented elsewhere (like in hpcalc.org).

/ji

Re: I/O of the 41CV

*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 24 Feb 2002, 9:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Ioannidis

Yes, you can use the test points on the timer chip for I/O (either the solder pads on the board in at time module, or the pins on the DIL package in a fullnut CX). You cna do things like start and stop the stopwatch automatically or trigger a device when the alarm goes off. But it's not that useful for general-purpose I/O. BTW, does anyone know if the testpoints in the halfnut CX are accessible, and if so, where they are on the 'enhancement assembly' module? As regards hacking the wand, I am not at all convinced that missing out the difuser will damage anything. A normal LED is not going to emit enough light to damage the photodiode, and the internal wand electronics is a pretty simple op-amp circuit that is going to be very hard to damage. But anyway, when I said 'hack the wand', I meant it. As in cracking open the interface module and soldering an opto-isolator chip inside. That avoids any risk of damaging the wand. The problems with the IR printer module are firstly that it's hard to find and secondly, I don't find the IR printer interface that reliable. I use an 82440B with my LogicDart and it generally takes a couple of attempts to get the units lined up well enough to print properly. And doing it when handholding either part (you've not seen my workbench...) is painful. I much prefer a wired interface.

Re: IR module protokoll (was: I/O of the 41CV)

*Message #6 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 25 Feb 2002, 11:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by John Ioannidis

For quite a long time I am looking for the protokoll of the IR module for a) transfer data to "my" HP200LX and b) to understand it's internals as it loops in my coconut-emulator. Even here in the HP-Museum there is somewhere a paper about the 'Red Eye' but it was no help - for me - to transfer any data to other devices than an IR printer.

TIA for any hint.

Ciao.....Mike

Re: IR module protokoll (was: I/O of the 41CV)
*Message #7 Posted by **Chris Catotti (Florida)** on 25 Feb 2002, 10:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Mike (Stgt)

See ebay:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1301630122

I have not had a chance to try it out, but it seems fairly simple (except that I need to put the 5.25 unch disk in my 3.5 inch drive).

Re: I/O of the 41C
*Message #8 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez** on 24 Feb 2002, 9:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Robin Heim

For simple output, if it is enough for you, it is simple to pick the pulse train to the piezo speaker and decode the TONEs by counting the pulses sent out for each case. See my article in the Memories Forum.

Re: I/O of the 41C
*Message #9 Posted by **Christoph Klug** on 25 Feb 2002, 11:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Andrés C. Rodríguez

Without any risc for the internal HP-41 hardware interfacing is possible by using the HP82166A IL-Converter. I developed the I/O-Board and now the IL2000 System for making possible advanced control and measurement applications with HP-41 handheld computer. Both interface solutions are dc powered, have modular designs and run with user code software plus some synthetic command lines. SDifferent hardware applications exist like 16 bit parallel digital I/O ports or multichannel analog I/O with 12 bit resolution. Two manuals describes this interface systems, the I/O-Board manual have over 300 pages and the IL2000 Manual have over 150 pages. May be, both publications are the nicest HP-41 books from newer time... Best wishes from Hildesheim / Germany - Christoph Klug

Bender Coupler??
*Message #10 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 25 Feb 2002, 1:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Andrés C. Rodríguez

I seem to remember (from the PPC ROM manual, etc) that there was a project called a 'Bender Coupler' which fitted on the back of the HP41, and extracted the signal from the beeper (either by capacitive or accoustic coupling?). Does anyone remember these, and even more importantly, does anyone still have a schematic?

Re: Bender Coupler??
*Message #11 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 26 Feb 2002, 3:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Tony Duell (UK)

I love it! Like in movies, when we hear computers communicating in "machine code"!

Re: Bender Coupler??
*Message #12 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 26 Feb 2002, 6:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Tony Duell (UK)

At least in my case, I choose to solder two wires to the beeper, and I fitted a small connector in the batteries "tunnel". A picture appears at the end of my article "Calculator Memories from Argentina" in the Memories forum (MoHPC). Then I counted the number of pulses using regular CMOS parts, and, later, a RCA 1802 COSMAC microcomputer prototype. As the TONEs are similar in duration, but different in frequency, the number of pulses sent was a reliable indication of which TONE have been executed. BEEP was an extra option, as the many synthetic-programmed TONEs were (for the synthetic tones, the duration wasn't constant).

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HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #1 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 24 Feb 2002, 2:36 a.m.*

Hello,

I had the idea of maintaining a database os S/N. It came up when I realized that I had 3 calculators with the same earliest S/N known by the museum site.

The database will be dynamic after treatment of enough datas.

I want to keep information about the owners private if desired.

The results will be shown on this forum and on my site and will be available as an Exxcel worksheet; but if David wants to include them on this site, just be welcome to do so, Dave !

Maybe this database could also be used to track stolen calcs or to improve reputation when sold in auction sites or here...

Please check http://hpcalc.multimania.com/hp_serial_number_database_page.htm for all details, and do not hesitate to contribute ! Many thanks in advance !

Re: HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #2 Posted by **Erwin** on 24 Feb 2002, 5:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

Hello Thibaut,

I would like to contribute to your project, but i cannot copy the table on your site, and the excel sheet that i have downloaded is not the table for the s/n project.

can you fix these problems or tell me what i'm doing wrong?

Greetings

Re: HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #3 Posted by **thibaut;be** on 24 Feb 2002, 2:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Erwin

Bug on link fixed. Thanks for reporting it !

Re: HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #4 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 25 Feb 2002, 7:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

How about adding some more info for each calculator like:

1) Country

2) If it works or not

3) If it is original or has been repaired (or opened) in any way (other than external cleaning for instance)

The above would help in understanding the distribution and originality. If you add a 'condition' field this would probably be open to abuse / confusion.

Tom.

All suggestions are welcome !
*Message #5 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 25 Feb 2002, 10:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Tom (UK)

... but the more detailed a databas eis, the more maintenance it needs and certainly arbitration for parameters such as "Opened ?", "Condition ?", ... and so on...

Up to now I've limited the scope to ancienity of calculators, but there's no objection to enhance it.

So I'm waiting for your excel files !

Thibaut

Re: HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #6 Posted by **mapet** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

There is no HP40G on your list...which I like very much

Re: HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #7 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 26 Feb 2002, 7:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by mapet

OK, I will add it, but the main idea is to concentrate on the pre 1986 calcs.

Anyway thanks for your remark !

Thibaut

Re: HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #8 Posted by **mapet** on 26 Feb 2002, 9:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Thibaut.be

BTW you forgot about HP 6S too..... ;-)))))))))))

Re: HP calcs Serial Numbers
*Message #9 Posted by **Bo Kristoffersen** on 26 Feb 2002, 8:00 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

Dear Thibaut,

I hope you will use the information you collect in the following way.

For every model: list every reported date/origin number; for every date/origin number: list the highest production number.

Add together all the highest production numbers - what do you then have? ... The hitherto unknown (to the public) aggregate production figures for each model!

Regards from Copenhagen, Bo Kristoffersen

Serial numbers
*Message #10 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 26 Feb 2002, 12:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Bo Kristoffersen

I know of some companies who deliberately put out non-continuous numbers to stop the competition knowing the production / sales figures. This was to hide poor or good sellers so the competing firms could not attack profitable or weak markets.

I'd doubt if HP started each run from 0, but I admit I'm only guessing - I'd also like to know rough production numbers if only to judge how rare some calcs really are.

If HP did start from 0 each 'week' then there should be a random spread of numbers up to several thousand for each production period. If there is not a random spread then one can only suspect the start number was higher or that the numbers were not continuous - given enough data one could calculate the spread of numbers and hence the number of calculators made in each 'week' period - so it is possible but just a bit more difficult than adding the highest numbers up! Anyone with a suitable HP65/67/41/28/48 program to work it out???

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HP42S Repair
*Message #1 Posted by **Michael Weinbrecht** on 24 Feb 2002, 1:37 a.m.*

My 42S makes a continuous beep when it switches on. It is possible to repair?

Re: HP42S Repair
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 25 Feb 2002, 11:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michael Weinbrecht

What about taking out the batteries? ;-)

Ciao.....Mike

Re: HP42S Repair
*Message #3 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 25 Feb 2002, 12:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michael Weinbrecht

Hi,

Mike is right ! Try to do a hard reset. Take out the batteries an shorten the terminals for some secounds.

Hey, its worth a try ...

Andreas

Re: HP42S Repair
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 27 Feb 2002, 10:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

My answer was first ment as joke. But afterwards I thoght too that it may help if you let the bats out over night.

Ciao.....Mike

Re: HP42S Repair
*Message #5 Posted by **Menno** on 8 Mar 2002, 9:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike (Stgt)

If the batteries of a 42 are allmost empty the 42 will cry...

Put in fresh batt. and the beep is gone.

I used my spare 42 too long with the batt symbol on, after which i didn't use it for over 4 weeks. Suddenly it began to beep ! As a sort of warning: put in fresh batt or I will lose my programs.....

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What languages would you prefer on future CDs?
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 23 Feb 2002, 7:35 p.m.*

Chris Catotti has many non-English HP manuals but he has limited time so he can only scan some of them. What languages (besides English) are you most interested in seeing on a future CD?

Re: What languages would you prefer on future CDs?
*Message #2 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 23 Feb 2002, 10:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

For me German would be very important... Also a better scan quality (perhaps coloured) is desired..

Greetings from Switzerland

Re: What languages would you prefer on future CDs?
*Message #3 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 25 Feb 2002, 11:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Matthias Wehrli

Hmm...Russian, Russian....though.....never heard of HP making Russian manuals.....but if you find any, please do include at least some.....

Re: What languages would you prefer on future CDs?
*Message #4 Posted by **Chris Catotti** on 26 Feb 2002, 1:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Evgen Fedorenko

No, Russian never made HP's list of languages. Aside from English, in decending order of quantities I have:

ENGLISH - Most GERMAN - 16 + 8 after-market books FRENCH - 16 DUTCH - 5 ? SPANISH - 8 ITALIAN - 4 JAPANESE - None SWEDISH - None PORTUGUESE - None ?

I am always interested in buying or trading for one I don't have.

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HPIL for HP9825
*Message #1 Posted by **J-F Garnier (France)** on 23 Feb 2002, 6:24 a.m.*

Seen on ebay a HPIL interface for the HP9825 http://cgi.ebay.fr/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=2003204150

I know that HPIL was available for some desktop computers: HP80 serie, Integral PC (I own one), HP150, ... Was HPIL available for other old HP machines?

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HP 25 Display error
*Message #1 Posted by **Reiner** on 22 Feb 2002, 1:03 p.m.*

Hello out there, my 25 shows -when switched on- only one or two zeros. The position manipulate herself when I switch it on a second time. Any with an idea ?

My 21 has a bad LED at position eight - I cleaned the contacts without an result. Couldt this be a chip failure?

Regards

Re: HP 25 Display error
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 22 Feb 2002, 5:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Reiner

Around 85 percent of similar failures seem to be caused by a defective ACT chip (the 22 pin, 0.4 inch wide chip). Most likely the bad digit in the LED is a bad LED display module (80%) or a bad cathode driver chip (20%).

Re: HP 25 Display error
*Message #3 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 23 Feb 2002, 2:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by David Smith

Are such chips available today, aside from scavenging from another calculator?

Re: HP 25 Display error
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 23 Feb 2002, 3:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Spice_Man

Nope, like 99% of all chips in HP calculators the only way to get them is to salvage another machine.

Re: HP 25 Display error
*Message #5 Posted by **reiner** on 1 Mar 2002, 4:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by David Smith

Thank you for information. I changed the LED - same result, the 8th digit dosn´t light up on my 21. best regards

Re: HP 25 Display error
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 1 Mar 2002, 5:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by reiner

If you want an HP25 that works and are willing to gamble your HP21, then you can remove the HP21 ACT chip and use it in the HP25... something not recommended unless you (or somebody you know) are quite skilled at desoldering and soldering.

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HP41 card reader repair 82104A
*Message #1 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 22 Feb 2002, 12:14 p.m.*

Does anyone do repairs on HP-41 card reader. Mine has the gummy wheel problem, not sure I want to attempt the repair as described here by myself.

If you repair these, let me know your price and where to ship unit.

Thanks, Glenn McEnroe gamcenroe@attbi.com

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PCL5 command to configure raster data
*Message #1 Posted by **augais** on 22 Feb 2002, 10:29 a.m.*

I am looking for the description of the PCL5 command: configure raster data: Escape * g # W. But I have only found the configure image data: Escape * V # W. Are they identical? It would greatly help me if I could get an answer! thanks

sandrine augais

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Proofreader for XIO Manual
*Message #1 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 22 Feb 2002, 1:39 a.m.*

I have just finished my latest mad project which is to produce a readable version of the manual for the HP82183A Extended I/O Module. Unlike the original manual, the new one is typeset with a format that closely resembles other typeset HP-IL manuals.

All the material has been copied (manually or OCRed) from the original 82183A manual. I tried to limit my editorial involvement to correcting obvious mistakes.

The manual is now complete (available in PDF) and will be submitted to the MoHPC archives soon,

BUT, before releasing it, I'd like to make sure that it is correct, so I am looking for a proof reader. I will reward this brave individual with a printed (color) version of the corrected manual.

The manual is not particularly long (71 pages including the barcodes which I have tested), I expect that the proof reading can be done over a weekend.

So, please, if you volunteer, I will expect the corrections to be back within 1 week so that I can finish the production, send it to Dave and start work on the manual for the HP-IL Development Module.

Thanks

**vp

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42 display
*Message #1 Posted by **JR(ITALY)** on 22 Feb 2002, 1:17 a.m.*

Can the 42s lcd display be replaced with one from a 17bii, any information is appreciated.

Thanks JR

Re: 42 display
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank** on 22 Feb 2002, 9:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by JR(ITALY)

Real Answer is in this sites archives, from memory I think that it can.

Re: 42 display
*Message #3 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 22 Feb 2002, 2:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by JR(ITALY)

Try the article at http://www.hpmuseum.org/guest/brogpion.htm.

Re: 42 display
*Message #4 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 22 Feb 2002, 2:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by JR(ITALY)

I've dismantled (and repaired) several HP42S and HP17B-II machines. The only differences between them are the keyboard markings and the ROM code in the `processor' chip (The big TAB one in the middle of the PCB). All other parts essentially interchange. The display swap should be fine. You may have 'fun' separating the display from the metal frame without breaking it, though.

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HP67 Charger problem
*Message #1 Posted by **John Robinson** on 21 Feb 2002, 10:57 p.m.*

Hi All,

I have a Classic charger (no voltage switch) that doesn't supply the higher charging voltage. With information I gleened from looking back through the archives here, I checked about the fuse, and mine has none, so I am going to replace the 400uF cap. Now, my local electronics shop can supply a 330uF or a 470uF cap, but not a 400uF. Can anyone tell me how critical the value is ?, and which value of the two mentioned I should use as a substitute. - Thanks, John Robinson

Re: HP67 Charger problem
*Message #2 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 21 Feb 2002, 11:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Robinson

have you checked the cable? sometimes the wires near the plug on the calculator end become diconnected from the metal connectors.

**vp

Re: HP67 Charger problem
*Message #3 Posted by **John Robinson** on 22 Feb 2002, 12:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vassilis Prevelakis

Yep, checked the cable, I have continuity all the way from the plug to the electronics inside the charger. - John

Re: HP67 Charger problem
*Message #4 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 22 Feb 2002, 12:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Robinson

Go for the 470ìF -- these things have a -20+50% tolerance anyway. Make sure you connect it with the proper polarity, and that you get a capacitor rated for the same or higher voltage.

/ji

Re: HP67 Charger problem
*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 22 Feb 2002, 2:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Robinson

To answer the last question first, either will work, but I'd use the 470uF. It's always best to go slightly higher on smoothing caps. However, I am not convinced this is the problem. The transformer, rectifier, and smoothing cap are common to both outputs, so a problem with any of those normally causes problems with both outputs. I'd look at the constant current source circuitry. If yo look at the PCB on the 'output' side (near the cable), then on one side there's a single transistor with a 'heatsink' (a piece of metal rod screwed to the transistor), on the other side there are 2 transistors. Check the latter 2 transsitors, and the resistors near them.

Re: HP67 Charger problem
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 22 Feb 2002, 5:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tony Duell (UK)

It could still be the filter cap... but probably not. The low current charge circuit noes not even need the filter. The high current operting supply does. I have seen a couple of chargers that charge just fine but to not operate the calculator. Both were bad filter caps. But usually a bad filter causes a highly erratic flashing in the display.

Re: HP67 Charger problem

*Message #7 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 22 Feb 2002, 8:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David Smith

The original fault was a problem with the high voltage charger output. Which is the constant current supply to charge the NiCds. I read that implying that the lower (constant) voltage logic supply was correct and that the constant current output was missing. Now, the constant voltage output comes from a zener+emitter follower circuit run off the smoothed DC from the 400uF capacitor. It is impossible for this output to be higher than the voltage across that cap. And thus, if the fault is the filter cap and we're seeing something on the constant voltage output, we'll also see something on the constant current output. My guess is the capacitor is fine, and the fault is in the constant current regulator (2 transistors and a few resistors).

Re: HP67 Charger problem

*Message #8 Posted by **John Robinson** on 24 Feb 2002, 11:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thanks for all the postings guys. Well, I tried a new filter cap (the 470uF), and it hasn't changed a thing. So does anyone have any suggestions on how to fix the constant current source electronics ?, anyone got a circuit diagram ?, are replacement/equivalent parts available ? Should I just perhaps just remove the lot and replace it with a modern day constant current source (chip ? if they exist). Any suggestions welcome. Thanks - John

Re: HP67 Charger problem

*Message #9 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 25 Feb 2002, 5:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by John Robinson

I have an ascii-art schematic, which I have (hopefully) privately e-mailed to you. I can't think of a sane way to include it in this post. The constant current circuit is 4 components. 2 resistors and 2 transistors. The idea is that when the load current increases, the voltage drop across the 13R (Ohm) resistor increases, thus turning the small-signal transistor on harder. This reduces the bias on the power transistor (normally applied by the 4k7 resistor to ground), thus reducing the load current again. It's not going to be hard to debug. Check the transistors (remove them, and at least check them as a pair of diodes with a multimeter). Most likely the power transistor is open-circuit on at least one junction. I don't think these transistors have exact modern equivalents, but they're not exactly critcal, and any PNP small power transistor would work. Similarly, for the small-signal transistor, anything will probably do. I'd try a 2N3906 first, as I've got

those by the dozen. But I haven't _actually_ tried it.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #1 Posted by **Griggsby Malone** on 21 Feb 2002, 8:36 p.m.*

Hello:

The long awaited announcement is due out of HP next month.

Hp will resume calculator production with a "Next Generation" HP41-based product.

Stay tuned, your prayers are answered.

Griggsby in Sydney

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank** on 21 Feb 2002, 9:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

Now that will be great news. Wonder if they can get the big box stores to stock hps again? I guess HP web store and Amazon would work just fine anyway.

HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #3 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 21 Feb 2002, 9:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

HP-43 ???
I wish I could buy one in the near future!

Massimo

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #4 Posted by **Griggsby Malone** on 21 Feb 2002, 10:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

I have no further details except that the machine will resemble the 41 (this time with a black magnesium case), have bays to accept the old plug ins, and drive the IL peripherals. It will also run, via an internal emulator, the old HP programs.

However! it will have a serial connector like the 48/49 & HP will be tailoring its applications & hardware to the serial port- NOT producing more IL stuff. So it is not totally Christmas for you guys.

The production run will be in response to a "ridiculously large outcry" for such a product and it will not be cheap. On an inflation- adjusted basis, expect it to be 30%-40% more expensive than the old 41CX. Hey, HP likes to make a buck too.

Griggsby in Sydney

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #5 Posted by **John** on 21 Feb 2002, 10:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Griggsby Malone

Will it be a RPN calculator or Algebraic entry??? I hope it'll be RPN (of course).

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #6 Posted by **Griggsby Malone** on 21 Feb 2002, 10:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by John

RPN of course. They have not lost their minds ;)

The keyboard will be very similar to the old 41

GM in AU

another bristshisim?
*Message #7 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 21 Feb 2002, 11:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Griggsby Malone

a)is this what the brits would call "taking the piss out of us"? (in american: goofing on us)

b)dave: whats your take on this? do we need to start saving our lunch money or is this from that lesser god or some other known prankster?

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #8 Posted by **Frank** on 22 Feb 2002, 7:25 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Griggsby Malone

Let's see, 30%-40% more than the 41CX on an inflation adjusted basis? I don't have an inflation table, someone that does can please do the exact math from the Release and Price of the CX. Would that put it around $1000-$1200 or the price of a decent laptop? More than I would want to invest considering Jornada and other consumer electronics prices. The 200-400 range would be nice.

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #9 Posted by **Griggsby Malone** on 22 Feb 2002, 9:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Frank

I do not remember the closing price on a CX in 1990 (does anyone?).

Assuming it was $200 and we use US inflatio rate of about 3% over twelve years, I get $285.15 for the PV of 200 at 3%.

Assume a 35% markup and I get $384.95.

G in AU

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #10 Posted by **Frank** on 22 Feb 2002, 9:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Griggsby Malone

The inflation rate in the early 80's was higher, seems like last I looked it was nearly double figures from 1980 to current. I used $395 MSRP (41 msrp)though the real figure for the 41cx msrp may be less. With the 30%-40% add you suggested, bingo, over a Grand!

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #11 Posted by **Griggsby Malone** on 22 Feb 2002, 9:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Frank

No way.

In the early 1980's it was much higher ()thank you, Jimmy Carter!) but the calculator was discontinued in 1990. The count starts from the discontinuation date not the date it was introduced. I can tell you that 1990 to present 3% is reasonable, 4% is too high.

I remember seeing list prices on the 41 in the range of $200. Maybe $225 at the time of discontinuation. "Street " prices were less (I used to sell them at my college bookstore for about $180).

HP will be selling it for not more than $400. At 1000 nobody would buy it.

GM in AU

Re: HP-43 ??? Was: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #12 Posted by **Frank** on 22 Feb 2002, 9:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Griggsby Malone

We can look up the real inflation figures. I was still getting 12-17% on CD's in the early-mid 80's. The $325 was the MSRP for the 41CX in 1983 according to HPMOC.

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #13 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 21 Feb 2002, 11:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

Ah yes, I guess the announcement will be made on 04-01? ;-)

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #14 Posted by **Les Bell (Sydney)** on 22 Feb 2002, 1:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

Huh? Announcment expected, oh, say around 1st April?

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

(But if it's true, I'll be right in the queue . . .)

Re: Will HP introduce a calculator compatible with the HP48GX?
*Message #15 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 22 Feb 2002, 8:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

I have ideas for a next generation calculator with the capability of accepting the bulk of the plug-in card and keyboard overlays of the HP48GX (and to some extent the HP 48SX). I have two working HP48GX calculators and one working HP48SX. I have been doing an entensive self-study of calculator features. Right now I have just general ideas. Would it worth pursuing a patent if I come up specific ideas? Any feedback or suggestions would be welcomed.

HP43 or hoax???
*Message #16 Posted by **Iqbal** on 22 Feb 2002, 1:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Frank Travis

I sent an email to Jean-Yves asking him about the recent posting above by Griggsby Malone, and here is his exact reply "With the latest information I got, this is all crap. There's nothing around and there's no calculator department anymore".

So I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #17 Posted by **Paul Davenport** on 25 Feb 2002, 12:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

Hello:

I used to work for HP in Financial Planning. We DID in fact budget for this activity for 2002. Whether or not they are actually going to do it, I do not know, but substantial resources were allocated.

Paul in MN

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #18 Posted by **Frank** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Paul Davenport

Is the design complete and was the bugget for molds/tooling/artwork? Frank

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #19 Posted by **William L. Drylie** on 28 Feb 2002, 6:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Paul Davenport

That is without a doubt the best thing that I have heard in a long time. I will buy 10 of those machines myself!! And that, hp , you can take to the bank.

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #20 Posted by **Håkan Thörngren** on 1 Mar 2002, 6:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #19 by William L. Drylie

I will believe this when I see it, not before.

I would base such design around an ARM core. It would be fast enough to emulate the rather slow HP41 processor at full speed (some instructions would probably be slower, but it can easily catch up elsewhere).

Software wise, such design would be pretty simple and straightforward. I doubt the hardware would be that complicated either, simulating the bus might make it a little bit worse, but not hard.

Some built in peripherals like the display would probably be different, but that can be

easily adapted in the emulator software.

From an economical viewpoint it would certainly cost a substansial amount of money to start producing a new HP41 or HP43 (or whatever they would choose to call it). The cheap part is the software, starting a production line is what costs.

This (as usual) sums up to the fact that HP would have to sell a rather large amount of these machines to break even. Something I would doubt myself if I were HP. A high price and good profit margins (sell only direct via the web) could help that somewhat.

When they are at it, why not make it of a very high build quality to motivate a very high price. That is what people want anyway...

A nice collectors box and leather pouch would also be nice. Then you can always produce variants of it for the collectors market.

Count me in for one for a start, and if I like it, a couple of spares...

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #21 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 1 Mar 2002, 4:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by Håkan Thörngren

> I would base such design around an ARM core. It would be fast > enough to emulate the rather slow HP41 processor at full speed (some > instructions would probably be slower, but it can easily catch up > elsewhere).

I'd like to point out that the opensource HP41 emulator "nsim" already outperforms a real HP41 by a factor of nearly a degree of magnitude on a 40MHz 68040...

Anyway I don't really see an HP41 emulator as a real solution -- it sounds quite likely these die-hard amiga aficionados running amiga emulators on their pc and pretending that it is the newborn amiga...

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production

*Message #22 Posted by **Tito Castro (from Chile)** on 1 Mar 2002, 2:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Paul Davenport

As far as i know HP closed the ACO (Australian Calculator Operation) long ago. Well, i think most of you knew that from comp.sys.hp48 or from http://www.hpcalc.org/goodbyeaco.php I just wanted to post this because i am a big hp calculators fan. And i´m very grateful to all the people who developed them, wrote every document available and all the people at comp.sys.hp48 I was very excited when i knew about the Expander, though i had some complaints and ideas on how to make it better. But well, as always some economic constraints limited the development of new amazing devices. I would really like to believe that there´s something else coming. Something new, with the good things from the past, and capabilities to be flexible enough to adapt to every user. But, as someone said here. I won´t beleive it until i see something concrete. Best regards from Chile.

Tito Castro. tito@vtr.net icq: 37398472 msn: titocas@hotmail.com

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production

*Message #23 Posted by **Les Bell (Sydney)** on 1 Mar 2002, 7:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Tito Castro (from Chile)

If - *if* - HP is planning to launch a new calculator in the mold of the venerable 41C family, then it strikes me that ACO might know nothing of it. I've been saying for years, including by email to HP directly, that their calculator line is now almost entirely composed of graphing calculators for use in schools, with only the 32SII to meet the calcualating - as opposed to computing - needs of technical professionals.

A few years ago, I bought a 48GX and tried to learn to love it, I really did. But frankly, it's too big and complicated to use as a calculator, and too clumsy and underpowered to use for more sophisticated work, for which my computers run rings around it. The 49, in particular, has always struck me as the Edsel of the calculator world.

I went back to using my 41CV/CX pair, with the 82143A for printing. And I think many people here feel the same way; the 48 series was 'a bridge too far' for HP, and the simpler RPN keystroke programmables seem to be 'just right' for hand-held use.

The staff at ACO were all tremendous 48 enthusiasts; they were heavily into the CAS and related stuff and if marketing was to tell them that what users wanted was something simpler, along the lines of the 41, I doubt very much that they could take that message on board and act upon it. In that case, it's likely that any new calculator was born somewhere else in HP, and ACO's services were no longer required.

Perhaps somebody at HP has finally realised that the best technology, the most appropriate technology, is not necessarily the most complex or function-rich technology.

Best,

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #24 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 2 Mar 2002, 12:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Les Bell (Sydney)

Perhaps HP decided that their Palmtop group can handle all the calculator development and support, and abandoned the ACO group to cut costs.

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #25 Posted by **Michael** on 2 Mar 2002, 12:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Les Bell (Sydney)

YES!!! You have hit the nail squarely on the head. I bought my 48G my freshman year of college and gave up my 42S (biggest mistake of my life), and I was never able to feel comfortable with the 48. The 42 on the other hand was like an extension of my brain. There is something to be profound to be said for purpose built utility over great flexibility in an instrument. I don't think the ACO ever got that concept - everything post 42S did just not embody what made HP calcs so superior.

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #26 Posted by **J.Manrique** on 1 Mar 2002, 10:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

It seems to be true..

At least our calculator provider here at Spain confirmed me that new models are expected for this year as European HP Manager told them..

Keep conected...

Cheers, J.Manrique

PS:They talked about new models, no which line of type ..

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #27 Posted by **Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz** on 2 Mar 2002, 6:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #26 by J.Manrique

Well, if the new model is to be based on the HP-41, let's hope they'll produce one based on the HP-15C too - and maybe even the HP-16C :-) I spent much time talking to ACO people about restarting the HP-15C, since the HP-12C is still made, but they had several good excuses for not doing this.

Will the "43" allow Synthetic Programming? Time to start updating my HP-41 book? ;-)

Best Wishes,

Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #28 Posted by **Karl Hafen -UT USA** on 2 Mar 2002, 11:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #27 by Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

OK Here is an idea.

How about a nice magnesium calculator 'base' with a flash rom a nice backlit display, a good solid keyboard with exchangeable keys. You would flash the rom and pop in the appropriate keys and you have whatever calculator you want

Re: HP To Resume calculator Production
*Message #29 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 3 Mar 2002, 2:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #27 by Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz

Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz wrote:

>>> "Well, if the new model is to be based on the HP-41, let's hope they'll produce one based on the HP-15C too - and maybe even the HP-16C :-)"

Frankly, a model based on the 42S would be the perfect choice, as the 42S was more or less a 41 with all the extended math functions and capabilities the 15C had (such as matrices and complex numbers, solve, integrate) plus assorted functions from the 16C as well. I for one would prefer such a 42SX instead of a 41C/15C/16CX, though come to think of it, adding some extra functions from the 41CX, such as timer, alarms, and text editing functions would make a sure winner.

>>> "Time to start updating my HP-41 book? ;-)"

Talking about updates, why don't you think about it a little and 'update' a new (4th) version of your wonderful HP Collector Guide ? With more details on every model ? With more photographs ? With updated prices (badly needed !) ? With lots of trivia ? I've read the 3rd edition so many times I could recite it from memory :-)

Best Wishes as well.

Now, it's up to us!

*Message #30 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 4 Mar 2002, 8:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Griggsby Malone

Hi;

I've been out for a while, but this needs attention.

We all have been discussing how RPN and Algebraics affected our own professional lives and daily activities. We (at least almost) all have also discussed if calculators will prevail or not (I myself feel fine using both calcs and computers, each at its time). We all know and understand our own needs for this and that computing tool, and calculators are THE tool sometimes, not PDA's, not Laptops, not desktops. Algebraics, RPN, no matter: they have their use.

In 1995 I wrote a book about both HP41 and HP48, and I intend doing whatever is needed to show anybody how do calculators work and to use them. I saw Wlodek's post and just the mentioning of his name brought me back to 1985, when HP41 was much more than the calculator's reference: it was a whole way of computing. Some used to tremble when listening to it.

I'll keep it in mind. And I am sure everyone in here that believes something can be done will do it. I'll buy the new model to learn how to use it and to teach (if needed) anyone who want to learn how to use it. Even if I am not going to effectively use it.

Comments?

Re: Now, it's up to us!
*Message #31 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 4 Mar 2002, 9:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #30 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Welcome back old friend, Luiz Claudio!

I would just like to fully support your opinion expressed in the above response. All the mentioned devices are really tools which find their implementation, one tool in one situation, the other one in another situation, etc.

I am also feeling impatient to see which new calculator (if any) would come out, after all those depressive news (closing of ACO, etc.).

Re: Now, it's up to us!
*Message #32 Posted by **Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz** on 6 Mar 2002, 6:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #31 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

Thanks to those who asked about my books - and to others who have written books! I'm planning a 4th edition of the HP calculator guide, but want to produce a CD-ROM with lots more pictures too, and that takes time :-)

If the new model _is_ anything like an HP-41, then there are lots of good books that could be dusted down and rewritten for it. Built-in CX functions like Time and Extended Functions, as well as 41 and 42 functions, would really make a superb calculator for those of us who want an RPN calculator with keys, not a PDA program.

Best wishes again,

Wlodek

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Another MoHPC picture rip?
*Message #1 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 21 Feb 2002, 8:26 p.m.*

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1334670163

But of course !
*Message #2 Posted by **John Smith** on 22 Feb 2002, 6:22 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Spice_Man

Of course it is ! Actually, you can read "MoHP" in tiny characters on the lower left corner of the image.

Perhaps Dave would consider doing something serious this time about it ? I feel that unless he gaves proper and exemplary punishment to the infractor, this kind or bad practice won't go away.

Also, I don't think that the seller asking for permission or adding a note to the description is sufficient or adequate, because most potential buyers will still be mislead into thinking the actual auctioned item is in such pristine, eidetic condition.

Thanks!
*Message #3 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 23 Feb 2002, 7:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Spice_Man

He has indicated the source of the picture now.

Re: Dave DVD Availability Projection?
*Message #4 Posted by **Frank** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Dave Hicks

Hi Dave, Can you project when the HPMOC DVD upgrade might be available?

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #1 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 21 Feb 2002, 4:24 p.m.*

I don't actually know if anyone else noticed this:

http://www.berndabel.de/

It is an hp41cx emulator for the PalmOS based pdas -- apparently it's an hardware-level emulator and not a simulation... Surely it can run syntetic code...

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #2 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 21 Feb 2002, 7:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Roccati

i hadn't seen it. what a great idea! a palm 41 with mass storage and printer capablity, can a 2 meg 42 be far behind?

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #3 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 22 Feb 2002, 4:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by db(martinez,california)

I tried it. I haven't used an hp-41 since a very long time, but it seems far slower than the real thing expecially to user input -- i'd say you can't really use it as your "main" calculator. But it works. Probably a similar software for the (far faster) pocket pc would be more usable. The idea is very cool anyway.

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...

*Message #4 Posted by **Bernd Abel** on 23 Feb 2002, 7:12 a.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Chris Roccati

You may take a look at http://www.berndabel.de/products/coconut/working.html#performance for a complete discussion of performance aspects in Coconut.

To summarize it here:

- The principal challenge/goal during developing the Coconut emulator was to get the optimum performance out of the (good old) Motorola CPU of a Palm device.

- Mathematical functions which use (machine level) addition/subtraction inside loops, e.g. SIN, COS, are considerably slower, thus, Mr. Bean - "I concentrated on trigonometry" - would be rather unhappy :-\,. On the other hand, LOG, LN, SQRT etc. don't show a visible performance penalty.

- Display characteristics and several system functions are slightly faster (Try the CATALOGs)

- the 'feeling' finally depends on the Palm generation used. Up to now, clock frequencies vary between 16 and 33 MHz. Owners of (33MHz) Palm M50X devices told me that they are quite pleased with the performance but sometimes it would be hard to follow the display, and the BEEP sounds like a short 'diddeldidue'.

Of course you are right - a Pocket PC provides you with a performance gain of at least one order of magnitude. I tested the Coconut kernel on a 200MHz embedded Linux platform and the goose (you remember - the '}') became a roadrunner. Working on that platform often produced NULL's on command input - I was just too slow with releasing the keys ;-)

However, the best way to get an impression of Coconut's performance is just to try it. Happy programming!

--Bernd--

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #5 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 23 Feb 2002, 7:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Bernd Abel

I am trying the free version right now on my m505: in fact is faster than the real thing in many operations: I found the issue is not the speed but the way it reacts to keypresses, for example you need to keep a key pressed for more than 10 seconds to produce "NULL"...

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #6 Posted by **Bernd Abel** on 23 Feb 2002, 10:22 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Chris Roccati

Chris,

you're right, that's rather long. I will check what I can do to reduce this time to the 3 to 4 seconds which it usually takes on PalmOS 3.X devices. Obviously, something has dramatically changed in the way PalmOS 4.0 handles user input. Expect this to be improved in the next version.

Thanks for your suggestions.

--Bernd--

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #7 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 23 Feb 2002, 6:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Bernd Abel

Just for your information:

I tried the benchmarks at [ulr=http://www.hpmuseum.org/speed.htm]

Math: 17 Trig: 27

So in math Coconut il 30% faster than the real HP41, whereas in trig it is 40% slower. This result is obtained on a m505

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #8 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 25 Feb 2002, 3:34 p.m., in response to message #7 by Chris Roccati*

Chris Roccati wrote:

Just for your information:
I tried the benchmarks at [ulr=http://www.hpmuseum.org/speed.htm]
Math: 17 Trig: 27
So in math Coconut il 30% faster than the real HP41, whereas in trig it is 40% slower. This result is obtained on a m505

I just tried it on my Visor Prism, which is a 33MHz processor "comservatively" overclocked to 40MHz (using "Afterburner"). My results were:

Math: 19 Trig: 42

I have read of people overclocking the Prism up to 54MHz, but 42MHz is an established extremely-safe level. So I use 40MHz! ;-)

These results are close to a real-world 41C. So, this program would be GREAT for running programs. Unfortunately, the key response is just too slow to be used as a regular calculator. In fact, I found myself having a hard time just entering the short bechmark programs, because the program missed so many of my keystrokes!

I know that this is a very low-level emulation, and I think that it is an incredible accomplishment. If there were ANY way to speed-up the keystroke detection loop---even at the expense of speed elsewhere---I would be all over this program "like stink on sh*t!" As is, I'll stick to my "MathU Pro".

Bruce.

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #9 Posted by **CJ** on 26 Feb 2002, 8:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I would have to agree on the keystroke detection loop.

I have to hit the keys 2-3 times or hold the stylus on the key before it is detected. This really slows down input and can be frustrating when you just want to enter something quickly.

otherwise it is a great product that I can use with my trip computer program that I wrote and my GPS for my travels.

BTW. This is on a Palm IIIxe.

Christopher

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #10 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 26 Feb 2002, 5:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by CJ

I've discovered that the keyboard is severely slowed down by certain combinations of hacks. Anyway you can still use Graffiti for every function, except the R/S key.

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #11 Posted by **John K. (USA)** on 7 Mar 2002, 9:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Roccati

> Surely it can run syntetic code...

I performed a little experiment, keying in the "Byte Grabber" (BG) program. The synthetic TONEs sound kind of funny, but other than that it worked like a champ. To make sure, I'm going to try using it to build the LB program from the PPC ROM. If that works, I'll do my happy dance and send in the shareware fee.

Now, if I can just figure out how to turn an image of the PPC ROM into a Palm OS database...

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #12 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 8 Mar 2002, 6:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by John K. (USA)

There's an utility written in java, that you can donwload form the coconut official site (http://www.berndabel.de/), which allows you to convert any rom to a database which the emulator will understand.

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #13 Posted by **John K. (USA)** on 9 Mar 2002, 12:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Chris Roccati

Ah, so there is. In fact, it looks like it comes with the PPC ROM image. Cool. Thanks for the info.

Still, it doesn't look like it has any facility for *creating* the image, just for converting the image to a .pdb file. Something else to look up, I guess...

Re: Everybody should have seen it by now...
*Message #14 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 9 Mar 2002, 5:00 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by John K. (USA)

A ROM image is not easy to extract from an HP41: you need a MLDL (and code a rom extractor yourself) or a ZenROM, then to transfer the image from the HP41 to the PC you need either an HP-IL serial interface, or an HP-IL floppy... As far as I can tell the majority of HP41 roms are already available...

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What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #1 Posted by **Michel** on 21 Feb 2002, 12:18 p.m.*

I found a HP-41CV program on the net and in a line i need to enter "R^", Which key should i press for that result?

Re: What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #2 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 21 Feb 2002, 12:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

RTFM is the usual advice in these situations. What you are asking is covered within the first couple of chapters.

Re: What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #3 Posted by **Michel** on 21 Feb 2002, 1:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by John Ioannidis

Sorry, i'm new to HP and i'm trying to learn it; i'm use to TI since 25 years and mu encounter with an HP is a week old... without a manual... :-)

RTFM ?
*Message #4 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 22 Feb 2002, 8:25 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by John Ioannidis

Well, even if present manuals are the last thing to refer to when a problem arises, I need to say that the prior 1986 HP manuals arere examples of their kind many manufacturers should refer to. There were a lot of examples and labs, and allways with the same touch of humor that I appreciate a lot. Everybody remembers lovesick sailor who by chance had a 41C in his bag, don't you ?

BTW, the R^function could also be accessed y... 3 times RDN :-)

Re: RTFM ?
*Message #5 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 23 Feb 2002, 12:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by thibaut.be

Lovesick sailor Oscar Odysseus first had an HP25!

/ji

Re: What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #6 Posted by **Steve** on 21 Feb 2002, 12:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

Probably is referring to "roll up". That is, roll the stack up. To access this function, you'll have to do a: XEQ ALPHA R shift N.

Re: What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #7 Posted by **Michel** on 21 Feb 2002, 1:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Steve

Thanks! That was it... My program run now!!!

Re: What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 21 Feb 2002, 2:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

The HP41 has many more functions than keys, so there's not always a key to press to enter a function. What you do in that case is press <XEQ> then <alpha>, then type in the name of the function, then press <alpha> again. This works both in 'run' mode (to execute a function not on the keyboard) and in program mode (to enter the function a a program line). So in your case, press <XEQ> <alpha> R ^ <alpha> (where ^ is typed as <shift> <enter> -- there's a label on the back giving the shifted alpha characters). Oh yes <xxx> means press the key with 'xxx' on it. I would recomend trying to get the user manual, though. It's got a lot of good information in it. Another good book is 'Extend your HP41' by Wlodek Mier-J. That's probably the most useful 3rd party book for general users -- it covers everything from turning the machine on to synthetic programming. I use my copy all the time.

Re: What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #9 Posted by **David Smith** on 21 Feb 2002, 4:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

If there is some function that you use a lot, you can assign that function to just about any key on the keyboard using the ASN key. This can save a lot of typing of those alpha function names.

Re: What key for "R^" in a program HP-41CV
*Message #10 Posted by **Todd G.** on 22 Feb 2002, 5:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by David Smith

All the standard functions are listed in one of the "Catalogs" that is available for viewing by pressing "f" ENTER, I think. Whenever I cannot remember the abbreviation for a function, I refer to the catalog first.

Todd

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HP-41 printer HP-IL
*Message #1 Posted by **Michel** on 21 Feb 2002, 12:16 p.m.*

Can someone tell me some models numbers of HP-IL printers to fit my HP-41CV?

Re: HP-41 printer HP-IL
*Message #2 Posted by **Bill Smith** on 21 Feb 2002, 1:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

the two i know of are:

HP 82162A thermal printer (specifically for the calculator) HP 2225B thinkjet printer (uses 80-column tractor sheet paper, also works with the computer interfaces)

Re: HP-41 printer HP-IL
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 21 Feb 2002, 1:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

I am assuming you hae the HP82160 HPIL module. If you don't, then you'll need one to link up an HPIL printer. Anyway, there are 2 common HPIL printers. The HP82162 is a thermal 'strip' printer. Narrow paper (24 columns), but it does allow you to plot functions, display special characters, and so on, using the commands in the 82160 module. Which other printers don't. The HP2225B is a version of the Thinkjet with and HPIL interface. It does 80 columns, and it's fast, but the HP41 plotting (etc) functions don't work with it. Also, it doesn't print some special characters (Sigma, etc) correctly. If you don't have the HP82160 HPIL module, then you could use an HP82143 (thermal strip printer, facilities very similar to those of the HP82162) which plugs straight into the HP41. Or the HP41 IR printer module and a HP82440 printer (which IIRC< will also handle plotting commands correctly).

Re: HP-41 printer HP-IL
*Message #4 Posted by **Philip Reagan** on 21 Feb 2002, 3:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

There are other means to get your HP41 to print. Using your 82160 HP-IL adapter, you can use an 82164 IL/RS232C converter to connect to any Serial device or printer, although this is a less direct approach. There is also an HP version of the old Epson MX-80 that has an HP-IL interface. I can't remember the model number off the top of my head but I think it may have been the 82905B or something close. It wasn't targeted for the HP41 but is usable because of HP-IL. The 82162 IL thermal, 82143 direct attach thermal, ThinkJet 2225B IL inkjet and 82440 IR with IR Module are your most direct paths.

Re: HP-41 printer HP-IL
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 21 Feb 2002, 4:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

If you don't already have the printer and HP-IL module then I would recommend the HP82143A printer. It attaches directly to the calculator and is by far the most cost effective way to add a printer to the machine. It does everything the HPIL printer does.

The IR module for the 82240 printers is very hard to find and grossly overpriced when you find it... also the 82240 printers are kind of slow and klunky. Also they eat those AA cells rather fast and we all know how much they cost.

The HPIL printer is fairly hard to find and a usually costs twice what you can get a 82143A for.

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HP82161A-Cassettes?
*Message #1 Posted by **Sass** on 21 Feb 2002, 8:54 a.m.*

Which tapes must I buy for the HP82161A Digital Cassette Drive??

Re: HP82161A-Cassettes?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 21 Feb 2002, 1:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Sass

Any you can find! They are one of the hardest things to find. The cassettes don't have any part number on them. The tape drive owner's manual says the box of ten tapes is P/N HP82176A. The cassettes say "Hewlette Packard Mini Data Cassette" and hold 24 meters of tape.

Re: HP82161A-Cassettes?
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 21 Feb 2002, 2:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Sass

IIRC, they were called HP82176 tapes. They are special, and very hard to find now. AFAIK, no more standard cassette will even fit into the 82161 --certainly the minicassettes and microcassettes sold in the UK don't fit. I believe Verbatim may have made/sold something similar at one point -- AFAIK the 82161 alignment tape (no, I don't have it) was a Verbatim product, for example. Another thing to be aware of is that old cassettes can deteriorate with time. Normally the pressure pad fails (and can be rebuilt), but I have had other problems. I wrote an article in Datafile (HPCC journal) last year about this -- I can supply the LaTeX source for it if anyone needs it.

Re: HP82161A-Cassettes?
*Message #4 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 21 Feb 2002, 4:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Yes, Verbatim made cassette tapes for usage with the 82161A. I have two of those cassettes, and some more of the original HP brand tapes, one or two still sealed. And no, I don't sell them, maybe trading for other interesting HP items could be considered;-)

Regards,

Raymond

Re: HP82161A-Cassettes?
*Message #5 Posted by **Dane** on 21 Feb 2002, 7:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

I bought a box of 10 original HP cassettes unopened on ebay last year. Not for sale but I might consider trades as well. By the way, the cellophane is still on 9 of them.

Cassettes
*Message #6 Posted by **Susan Smith** on 21 Feb 2002, 10:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Dane

I know a guy with a huge cache of those things- over 100 boxes. If you want to buy them, I'm sure he would be willing to scalp you to death.

Sue

Re: Cassettes
*Message #7 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 21 Feb 2002, 11:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Susan Smith

Why bother with tapes. They are slow and you can't get them anynore. Get a 9114A or 9114B floppy drive, they are not particularly expensive (even on eBay :-) and they take standard floppies (provided you mask the Quad density hole).

Also the battery may need rebuilding, there were a number of articles on the HP Forum 1-2 years ago.

**vp

9114s

*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 22 Feb 2002, 2:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Vassilis Prevelakis

While I'll agree that the 9114 is a much more useful unit than the 82161 (it uses easily-available media, it stores about 5 times as much data, the disks can be read/written in a PC), I do not agree that you can use HD disks in one. Covering the density detection hole won't do a darn thing -- there is no sensor for it in any 9114 (why should there be? The drives were designed long before there were HD disks). But contrary to popular believe the HD and DD disks are magnetically different, and the 9114 does not use the correct write current for the HD disks. If you value your data, you'll use DD ('720K') disks, which are not hard to find. The batteries are easy to rebuild. 3 2.5Ah Cyclon cells in series are a perfect fit in the housing.

Re: 9114s

*Message #9 Posted by **David Smith** on 22 Feb 2002, 5:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

On both of my 9114 drives, I must cover the hole for modern floppy disks to work... and they work just fine. If you don't cover the hole, the drive will not recognize the disk. I have disks over five years old that still read without error. I have look for regular 720K disks, and have never been able to find any in the last five years. I had a box of 50 that I use with my Toshiba T1000 lap top (you can read the screen in broad day light, and it is slo enough that it can work with some old data acquisition boxes that do not work with modern machines)

Re: 9114s

*Message #10 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 22 Feb 2002, 8:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by David Smith

You're absolutely right about covering the hole, at least on the 9114A (I can't be bothered to take by B apart tonight). I've just looked at a spare Sony disk drive for the 9114A, and the disk inserted sensor pin is in just the right place to end up in the HD hole. So the drive will think it has no disk at all if the hole is uncovered. However, I still won't use them. The coercivity is wrong, period. It may work on some units, it may not be reliable, it may not work at all on others. My data is worth a lot more than that. Over here, 720K disks are easy

to obtain (just as well, I have one machine that uses HD disks, and a dozen that use DD ones...)

Re: 9114s
*Message #11 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 24 Feb 2002, 11:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Tony Duell (UK)

I was going to recommend MEI-Micro Center as a source for 720K diskettes but I found a catalog from some time last year and they have them - only while supplies last.

Regarding the media itself, while I know there is a difference between 5-1/4 inch 360k and 1.2M media, I was under the impression that 3-1/2 inch media (at least 720K and 1.44M)(or 1M and 2M as the makers call them)was at least the same coercivity. My only evidence (other than apparent functionality) is that 360K media was light brown and 1.2M was black, while 720k and 1.44M are both black. I have noticed, however, that if you hold them up to the light, you cannot see through the 720k media, while you can see through the 1.44M.

Re: 9114s
*Message #12 Posted by **Yani** on 25 Feb 2002, 6:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Ellis Easley

8 inch, 5 1/4 inch and 720K 3 1/2 inch media are identical and all used either FM or MFM (GCR for some systems eg Commodore and apple I think) which required similar coercivity. FM was single density, and MFM and GCR were double density. Called so because (no surprises here) they could record data at double the linear density. They then doubled the number of tracks and doubled the number of sides. We started at 90k SSSD - 180k SSDD - 360K DSDD to 720K when the number of tracks per inch doubled.

1.44M used a higher coercivity to increase the linear density. That was why the 1.44M disks had an extra hole. I know that many people punched a hole into 720K disks to turn them into 1.44M disks. This was not supposed to work and I read many articles on how this was not supposed to work - but it did - go figure! The theory is that the record level on the 1.44M was too high and if 720K disks were recorded at 1.44M you could

not erase them. Although I never did this (I did not want to be arrested by the floppy police) I know a number of people who did.

Re: 9114s

*Message #13 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 26 Feb 2002, 4:25 a.m.,*

in response to message #12 by Yani

Quoting: "The theory is that the record level on the 1.44M was too high and if 720K disks were recorded at 1.44M you could not erase them."

You left out the 5-1/4 inch high density (1.2M) format native to the drive that came on the original IBM PC-AT, which I think is the source of the idea quoted above. The problem there was that the high density drive could read and write 360K (IBM PC) disks by using a data rate of 300 kb/s (because the disk spins at 360 RPM, like 8 inch drives) instead of 250 kb/s (for the 360K drive which spins the disk at 300 RPM) AND (importantly) double stepping the 96 tracks/inch head carriage (the 360K drive was 48 tracks/inch). What made this work was that track 0 on both high density and 360K drives was at the same radial distance so track 2 of the 1.2M drive was at the same distance as track 1 of the 360K drive etc. The problem arose when you started moving a diskette between the 1.2M drive and a 360K drive. Because the 1.2M drive only actually wrote on one 96 TPI track, previous 48 TPI data written by a 360K drive would not have been fully erased, so reading the data back on a 360K drive could fail (reading back on a 1.2M would be OK). To reliably move data from a 1.2M drive to a 360K drive, you had to start with a bulk-erased diskette formatted in the 1.2M drive (with a 360K format).

Re: 9114s
*Message #14 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)_** on 25 Feb 2002, 1:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Ellis Easley

There is a difference in coercivity between 720K and 1.44M disks. I can't remember the exact values, but they're fairly close, which is why it sometimes works if you use the 'wrong' disk. I still won't do it. One place you might find 720K disks ia professional music shop (or a place that sells professional audio and video tape). Apparently some synthesisers/samplers (I don't know the details) use them, and can't use 1.44M disks. So they're still sold for those instruments. Probably won't be cheap, but a single disk holds a lot of calculator programs.

Re: 9114s
*Message #15 Posted by **Yani** on 25 Feb 2002, 8:45 p.m.,*
*in response to message #14 by Tony Duell (UK)_*

If you know anybody in PC support they will probably have hundreds in the form of old software disks.

We have thrown out boxes of disks over the last few years. We keep the 1.44 floppies to reuse.

Re: HP82161A-Cassettes?
*Message #16 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 24 Feb 2002, 10:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Tony Duell (UK) wrote:

> I believe Verbatim may have made/sold something similar at one point

Yes, its the **VERBATIM MI 80 mini data cassette.**

There is one actually for sale on eBay:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=2005516668

**vp

Re: HP82161A-Cassettes?

*Message #17 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 24 Feb 2002, 10:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Tony Duell (UK) wrote:

> I believe Verbatim may have made/sold something similar at one point

Yes, its the **VERBATIM MI 80 mini data cassette.**

There is one actually for sale on eBay:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=2005516668

**vp

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP Journal imagines "handheld"
*Message #1 Posted by **Glen Kilpatrick** on 20 Feb 2002, 12:08 p.m.*

Does anyone remember (or have, for that matter) an early HP Journal (I think that was where I saw it) article that "imagines" what a handheld assistant of the future might be like? I was a lot younger in those days, more gadget-oriented (well, than I am now :), and remember parts of it vividly, wish I could read / enjoy it again.

Our intrepid portagonist is wandering around an airport, lost and uncertain where his HP device is, let alone his flight. So he whistles / speaks to it, it responds from inside his briefcase (I don't remember whether it has speech or not, but believe from the context that it understood its master), and when he's fished it out, it discusses the situation with communications circuitry built into the walls of the building, gives him a map to his flight, and tells him where the nearest drink might be found, as he has plenty of time....

It's not hard to see where this "dream" missed, nor where it was almost prescient. Computer generated speech is feasible, but most people don't want to listen, it's not like a friend's. And recognizing what we say, that's a lot harder, seems still a ways away on PCs, let alone handhelds. Anticipating our wants and needs? That seems to be the promise of software agents, but as they aren't a normal part of our lives, one can't be too sure yet.

The functionality of an organizer, yept, that was on target. And if we don't have one that will converse with the airport, we already have those who will listen to satellites, tell us right where we are; surely chatty public buildings aren't far away.

Re: HP Journal imagines "handheld"
*Message #2 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 20 Feb 2002, 10:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glen Kilpatrick

That's in the Hewlett Packard Personal Calculator Digest volume V 1979, which is on the HP Museum CD volume 4.

Re: HP Journal imagines "handheld"
*Message #3 Posted by **Glen Kilpatrick** on 21 Feb 2002, 11:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Steve Borowsky

Thank you, Steve. I can see I'll have to start saving my pennies, buy a CD or a set.

gk :)

Re: HP Journal imagines "handheld"
*Message #4 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 21 Feb 2002, 1:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Steve Borowsky

A trip down memory lane! I had read the article shortly after I had gotten my HP41C, one of the first available in Greece (Vassilis, another frequent contributor to this forum, had gotten another).

The article reads like a cross between a sales brochure and an in-flight magazine (which makes perfect sense, actually, but really means that its literary value is pretty low, but is more amusing to read today than it was 23 years ago.

We are less than halfway to the time described in "Thank you, Beep!", but the only thing described there that we do not already have (and despite NASA and Boeing, may not have by 2050) is rocketliners. Natural language processing of the kind shown in the article is still way off (we're getting there, though), but the "gigabyte of memory" sounds puny, the screen is too small and looks like a CRT, the device is way too large sitting on Walter's hand, and today's devices sure don't need to be "slotted" in to do their work (I did like the use of the term "pulsed" to describe satellite communications, though). And anyone who thinks that a busy business traveller would want their PDA to talk to them in the voice of their spouse simply does not fly enough!

On the other hand, a modern frequent traveller would just go to their airline's lounge and let the people there handle everything!

Unfortunately, planes are still rerouted in 2050, baggage is lost (at least it is found again), and face-to-face meetings are still necessary. It doesn't look like we're goign to lick that one with technology!

ObFlame: Plus, of course, HP is not likely to be the manufacturer of such a device :-(

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Demo calculators
*Message #1 Posted by **John (Norway)** on 20 Feb 2002, 7:49 a.m.*

I have just found that Aristo (the famous German slide rule manufacturer) made large functional class room demo models of some of their calculators. Now I'm wondering if HP or any other calc brands did the same(?) Thank you.

Re: Demo calculators
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 20 Feb 2002, 9:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John (Norway)

Somewhere I have seen a picture of a giant HP-34C taken in Australia.

Re: Demo calculators
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank** on 20 Feb 2002, 10:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John (Norway)

I remember some large clear display oriented ones that educalc carried years ago for use on an overhead projector I think, but no longer remember if they were ti or hp emulators.

Re: Demo calculators
*Message #4 Posted by **Y K Wong (Singapore)** on 20 Feb 2002, 9:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Frank

That's the HP-F1212A Overhead Display Unit for the HP 38g, 39g, 48g and 49g series calculator's. It is still available at the HP site see "http://www.hp.com/calculators/accessories/other.html"

Re: Demo calculators
*Message #5 Posted by **Luca Passaggio (Switzerland)** on 21 Feb 2002, 3:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John (Norway)

I have seen many (20 ?) years ago in Turin, Italy at a office automation exhibition a working, giant (as tall as an adult man) HP33E. And I was even able to play with it !!!

Best regards to everybody.

Luca

Re: Demo calculators
*Message #6 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 21 Feb 2002, 4:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John (Norway)

There existed at least a large 'demo' or teaching unit of the 32E or 33E. I've seen it and played with it about 20 years ago. It was funny to shift the huge 'ON/OFF' lever and press the very large keys with the whole hand:-)

Raymond

Re: Demo calculators
*Message #7 Posted by **Ren** on 21 Feb 2002, 6:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John (Norway)

I'm really surprised that no one has mentioned the HP-33E photo that is in the museum. (As I don't know how to make those cute hyperlinks, go to the HP-33E page and click on the photo of 'giant HP-33E')! Note: The museum does NOT have the giant HP-33E, just the photo.

semi transparent back: Demo calculators
*Message #8 Posted by **Greg Harris (Sydney Australia)** on 21 Feb 2002, 8:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John (Norway)

HP New Zealand had a normal size HP65 or 67 (sorry, can not remember which) that had a semi transparent back so you could see the workings of the machine.

This was a sales demo machine.

The back was made out of the same plastic shell as the production machines, but with no dye in the plastic.

It was hard to see inside because of the label and the battery pack. Also, the plastic had a light stippled effect on it, again making it hard to see inside.

I asked if they would supply the demo machine with the clear back, no, it was not for sale.

Greg

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HP-75C pod diagnostic
*Message #1 Posted by **Michel** on 19 Feb 2002, 4:04 p.m.*

Another question, there is a module plug in the center module block of the calculator (the 2 other are empty), its name is "pod diagnostic". Are every HP-75C comming bundle with this module. What is the purpose of that module?

Thanks again!

Michel

Contrast
*Message #2 Posted by **Michel** on 19 Feb 2002, 4:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

I tried a lot of key sequence but nothing : is it possible to ajust the LCD contrast on this machine?

Thanks again!

Re: Contrast
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 20 Feb 2002, 3:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Michel

I thought it was possible to adjust the contrast but I have searched the owner's manual and can't find it.

Re: HP-75C pod diagnostic

*Message #4 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 20 Feb 2002, 3:38 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Michel

The "pod" probably refers to the 82718A Expansion Pod, an accessory for the 75 which adds a RAM-disk and an intelligent 300 baud modem and some bar code drivers. You install the 75 in the pod semi-permanently (many screws to take it back out). Electrically, the pod plugs into the right ROM port (I think it is this one only because of the mechanical design). What you have is probably a service diagnostic for the pod.

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HP-75 "off" key...
*Message #1 Posted by **Michel** on 19 Feb 2002, 3:26 p.m.*

Don't laught to me but can someone tell me how to turn my calculator off??? I receive it today and i suspect that the "on" is the atn key but i cannot find the off key... For now, i just wait for the calculator to tur itsel off due to inactivity...

Another question, what is the purpose of the third battery contact in the batt compartment? the 2 others ar for the hp-35 pack but the third...

Where can i find online documentation about the HP-75C?

Thanks!

P.S. I collect calculators since 3 years and it's my first HP... all my other one are TI; perhaps that's why my questions looks a bit ...humm... easy for you!

Michel

Re: HP-75 "off" key...
*Message #2 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 19 Feb 2002, 4:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

push shift and hold it while pushing attn, then let them go in any order. that turns it off.

Re: HP-75 "off" key...
*Message #3 Posted by **Michel** on 19 Feb 2002, 4:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by db(martinez,california)

Wow, shame on me... I tried shift key and attn but not holding the shift key. Is that shift key always needs to be keep pushing for the other "shift key fonctions" of that calculator?

Is that other HP calculator that ou need to keep the shift key to get a shift foncton "result"?

Thanks a lot, IT WORKS! i can turn it off... my first HP lesson... what's next? ;-)

Michel

anybody remember the 75 surprise command?
*Message #4 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 20 Feb 2002, 3:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Michel

I've been searching my many accumulations of post-its for the command that gives a little surprise on the 75 - too little to give it away before somebody has a chance to post the command. It's a little suprise tucked in some extra space in the ROMS by the developers.

Re: HP-75 "off" key...
*Message #5 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel** on 20 Feb 2002, 9:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michel

You can also enter the command "OFF" interactively or use it during a program.

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HP 35 Repair
*Message #1 Posted by **John** on 19 Feb 2002, 1:48 p.m.*

I have a HP 35 red dot that is not working and would like to know where I could get this calculator repaired.

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HP9825A initialization problems
*Message #1 Posted by **David Harrison** on 19 Feb 2002, 12:49 p.m.*

Have a client that uses his HP9825A Calculator with 8"drives in his lab. His System Cartridge Tape 09885-90035 is damaged and as a result he has no way of initializing his 8" disks.

Looking for solutions such as: 1.) a replacement system tape, or 2.) a ROM Cartridge 98228A, or 3.) someone willing to initialize some 8" disks, or 4.) ....

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HP-97 Printer Replacement Gear

*Message #1 Posted by **Jim Goeldel** on 18 Feb 2002, 4:04 p.m.*

Hello. We have a HP-97 Calculator, everything is functional on it (as well as the two others we have laying around), except for the printer mechanism. It seems there is a small gear made out of rubber (or some sort of plastic), which gets chewed up over the years. We are down to our last working gear, and don't know how much longer it will last. It is also making a squealing noise when the printer is working. I can't figure out if this is because of the gear. I have tried using WD40 to lube it up, but it still is making the noise.

Does anyone know of a source to get a replacement? I have checked with a local machine shop about making one, but they want upwards of $800 to make a dozen of them.. (too much setup time and such..)

Thanks in advance,

Jim Goeldel jimgo@voyager.net

Re: HP-97 Printer Replacement Gear

*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 18 Feb 2002, 6:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jim Goeldel

Where exactly in the printer mechanism is this gear? I don't know of any rubber gears in the HP9x printers, but there's a train of plastic gears between the motor and the leadscrew. Is it one of those? WD40 may well be contributing to the problem. WD40 (no matter what is says on the can) is NOT a lubricant. I have had problems caused by it to last a lifetime. What typically tends to happen is a piece of fine machinery (clock, camera, etc) develops a fauly and the user sprays it with WD40. This has no effect on the fault and the unit then lands on my bench. I both have to cure the original fault and do a total strip-down and clean to remove the WD40 residue. And also, petroleum based oils (which WD40 is) will attack some plastics. I only ever use silicone lubricants on plastic gears. As to a replacement, have you tried a local model enginering club. If there's a member who makes clocks, then he may well be set up for gearcutting. It's not a simple job, but it is possible to do in a well-equipped home workshop.

Re: HP-97 Printer Replacement Gear
*Message #3 Posted by **katie** on 19 Feb 2002, 12:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

Take a look at the article that I wrote here. It describes how to fix your problem exactly and relatively cheaply.

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/articles.cgi?read=84

Re: Silicone lubricant
*Message #4 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 19 Feb 2002, 3:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

I've always heard silicone lubricants recommended but I've never heard any brand names. Can anybody name a brand that would be available in the U.S.?

Re: HP-97 Printer Replacement Gear
*Message #5 Posted by **Ren** on 19 Feb 2002, 9:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

Inre: WD-40

A locksmith told me years ago that the "WD" stands for Water Dispersant, developed by NASA to get water off of electrical circuits. I always used to carry a can behind the seat of my pickup to wash out the inside of the distributor cap during wet weather. To repeat what you said, it is NOT a lubricant. Though it will work on a rusty gate hinge, don't lube anything of value with it.

Re: HP-97 Printer Replacement Gear
*Message #6 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 19 Feb 2002, 2:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ren

Yes, WD40 is Water dispersant/displacement (I've seen both). I believe the '40' means it was the 40th formula tried :-) It's great for keeping the rain out of your car ignition system, or preventig garden tools (or the steel bars you keep in stock for mechanical projects) from rusting. I use it all the time for things like that. But what it is not is a lubricant, and certainly not a lubricant for precision machinery. It is advertised as that (at least in the UK), but it does a lot more harm than good. An example. I have a reasonable 35mm SLR camera here (old, mechanical thing) that I bought non-working,

second hand. The original fault was a sprint had come unhooked in the slow speed mechanism. Time to repair, about 5 minutes (remove tripod mount (3 screws), remove baseplate (4 screws), hook the spring hack). Unfortunately, the previous owner sprayed it at random with WD40. I am going to have to totally dismantle it (even things like the exposure meter movent are gummed up!), clean all the parts, put it together and do all the adjustments. A lot of work. No, round here, 'WD40' stands for 'Wanton Destruction' :-)

Silcone Lubricant
*Message #7 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 19 Feb 2002, 2:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tony Duell (UK)

What are some U.K. brands of good silicone lubricants (both grease and oil types)?

Re: Silcone Lubricant
*Message #8 Posted by **Scotty** on 21 Feb 2002, 4:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ellis Easley

I don't know anything about UK brands of silicone lubricants, there is a very good German products manufactured by WURTH PTY LTD. The ones I use are silicone spray grease any a silicone spray dry lube, some teflon sprays are also available. WURTH products are sold all around the World and in my experience are very high quality. Regards Scotty Brisbane Australia

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HP 97 Printer
*Message #1 Posted by **Hyde C. Perce** on 18 Feb 2002, 2:18 p.m.*

Just got my 97 working after many years but the printer will not feed the paper or print well. Any one know where it can be repaired?

Thanks

Re: HP 97 Printer
*Message #2 Posted by **Erwin** on 19 Feb 2002, 4:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Hyde C. Perce

I had the same problem with my 97. In my case it turned out to be the paper itself. The surface on the back of the paper was to smooth. So i replaced it with a more rugged paper, and problem was solved. Or you must replace the battery-pack!

I hope this is of any help.

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Mystery Calculator (semi RPN?)
*Message #1 Posted by **aruid** on 17 Feb 2002, 9:58 p.m.*

I recently found a interesting calculator. It is covered with sheet aluminum and has a green LED display it reads "Unisonic 890" on the housing. Upon putting in 4 AA batteries and turning this calculator on I noticed something unusual. I type [9] [X] [9] [=] and it reads "81", If i type [9] [/] [3] [=] it reads "3", thats normal. But typing [6] [-] [3] [=] it reads "-3"

If I type [6] [=] [3] [-] it reads "3" I only works correctly if I put in the multiplication and division algebraically and input the addition and subtraction using RPN.

What the heck? Was this calculator designed to do this? or is it broken? If it is "broken" I want to "brake" it more so the multiplication and division is RPN too!

ARUID

Re: Mystery Calculator (semi RPN?)
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 18 Feb 2002, 12:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by aruid

From what you tell us, it seems like this calculator uses "adding machine logic" like the HP-10A did many moons ago. In the HP-10A, the += key (the same key for both functions) was used to either complete a pending multiplication or division, or to keep accumulating numbers (adding them).

If the calculator you have follows that logic, then the = key must be accumulating, and that's why 6 - 3 = gives a -3: you're subtracting 6 (6 -) and then adding 3 (3 =), giving a net result of -6 + 3 = -3.

On the other hand, perhaps the calculator is just broken. 8^)

Re: Mystery Calculator (semi RPN?)

*Message #3 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 18 Feb 2002, 12:25 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Ernie Malaga

i think ernie is right. a lot of early to mid 70's calcers used exactly that type of logic. some had keys marked += and -= and most of these had no = key. a real weird one was the sears M8. you could switch the = key to be a % key. and they said rpn is strange.

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HP software archive
*Message #1 Posted by **HP-Paul** on 17 Feb 2002, 3:19 p.m.*

HP used to publish a catalog of user submitted programs for various calculator models. There were thousands of programs in every conceivable technical area. Has somebody archived all the programs and is the archive available? Specifically, I am looking for cubic spline curve smoothing software for an HP-41. Please help. Thanks!

Re: HP software archive
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 17 Feb 2002, 5:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by HP-Paul

That has been discussed here in the past, look in the archives. Basically, the HP user's library archive has been shuttled from one garage to another mini-warehouse because there has been nowhere to keep it properly and no single, reliable way to put it on the internet.

Have you looked in the Museum's HP-41C Software Library? Some user's library programs made their way into the application pacs.

Also, the CHHU Swap Disk files are on the Museum's FTP site. Maybe someone will remind us how to get them back on a 9114 diskette!

Club swapdisks
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 17 Feb 2002, 5:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

I have disk images of 33 club swapdisks, including those that are already on the ftp site as separate files. What I mean by disk images are 630K files containing the sector-by-sector image of the 9114 disk. I have a linux program to dump that back to a physical disk so I can use them in my 9114. (In fact, that's how the lif utilities for linux on the HPCC web site started...) Anyway, if anyone wants these images and can suggest a sutable place to upload them to (my internet connection is slow, so I am not going to mail them out to individual people), then e-mail me and I'll see what can be done.

Re: Club swapdisks
*Message #4 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 18 Feb 2002, 9:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

The Museum seems like the perfect place! I think I could finally manage to muddle through learning how to use Linux if I had a goal like this to work for.

Alternatively, I might be able to write a DOS program to put the sectors on a disk, either through the PC HPIL interface on to a 9114, or directly to the PC floppy drive. One limitation is that the PC BIOS only knows how to handle 512 byte sectors (at least in the old days) but I have written program fragments to control the FDC directly and I think I could expand on that to do the job, at least under DOS.

Re: Club swapdisks
*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 18 Feb 2002, 6:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ellis Easley

The linus programs I've written are open-source (GPLed), in fact they're _only_ distributed as C source. So there should be no problem in figuring out the file format. Feel free to write similar programs for other OSes (but don't expect me to do that :-)) Linux makes it easier to directly talk to the FDC chip, though -- I've written 'alien' disk read/write programs for MS-DOS and it was a lot more work than for linux. As regards the swapdisk images, I have no problem with uploading them to this museum -- remind me in a week or so and I'll start uploading the gzipped images

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HP 35 red dot
*Message #1 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 17 Feb 2002, 3:13 p.m.*

I have a "red dot" but it has not the early major ROM bug... It's Nr. 1143A03541, so I'm not sure, if it's a fake or not.. Can you send me different pictures of the "red dot"-area, as cloth as possible.. I just know the museum-picture..

Thanks

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 17 Feb 2002, 5:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

My understanding is that HP upgraded 35's with the ROM bug for anyone who asked. My type 2 has the bug, I guess the original owner didn't ask!

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #3 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 17 Feb 2002, 7:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

I finally checked my red-dot 35 (s/n 1143A032xx) for the bugs and found the results in the last column.

Function	Buggy	Correct	"my" bugs
e^ ln 2.02	2.	2.02	2.
ARC SIN 0.0002	5.729577893 x 10E-3	0.01145916	3.4906 x 10E-6
ARC COS 0.0002	89.99427042	89.98854	1.
ARC TAN 0.0002	5.729577893 x 10E-3	0.01145916	3.4906 x 10E-6
ARC TAN 1.00020002	45.	45.00573	0.174585569

The third and fifth results are the most disconcerting ones...

Are these known results from an early rom?

Massimo

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #4 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 17 Feb 2002, 9:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

massimo; i have your bugs except that i get a 0.017etc on the last one. it seems to be going around. my serial # is 1143A01669 but i don't have a red dot.

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #5 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 18 Feb 2002, 2:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by db(martinez,california)

So you have an earlier s/n than mine but no red dot? Sounds strange to me...

I will check my results this evening, maybe I simply overlooked a 0 somewhere. :)

Thanks,
Massimo

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #6 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 18 Feb 2002, 1:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by db(martinez,california)

You're right db: I missed a 0!

Last line from my previous post should read:

```
Function            Buggy                  Correct       "my" bugs
ARC TAN 1.00020002  45.                    45.00573      0.0174585569
```

Massimo

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #7 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 18 Feb 2002, 8:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

I asked the seller of my red dot, and he said that he was the firt owner, who paid $395 in 1972. He rememders that there was a recall for the ROM bug, and he thinks, he toke the chance...sniff..

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #8 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 18 Feb 2002, 8:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

a) i checked and my 35 is dirty but not so dirty as to hide the coveted red dot. dam. i love it anyway.

b) i'm not completly right; i thought that maybe i had another edition of bug. fortunatly for us these things only seem to crop up in angles much smaller than we ususlly use, or we can use the complimentary function. but anyway - as r. crumb used to say: what's it all mean, mr. natural?

c)what part of the old country are you in? my grandfather came from the po valley up towards france. close enough in fact so that there are french people who say their name like mine but spell it wrong.

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #9 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 18 Feb 2002, 9:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by db(martinez,california)

a) i checked and my 35 is dirty but not so dirty as to hide the coveted red dot. dam. i love it anyway.

Oh, those pores get dirty! You could try a little Clearasil... who knows? ;)

b) i'm not completly right; i thought that maybe i had another edition of bug. fortunatly for us these things only seem to crop up in angles much smaller than we ususlly use, or we can use the complimentary function. but anyway - as r. crumb used to say: what's it all mean, mr. natural?

Yes, I think I would never use those particular angles but they may pop up from intermediate results.
I can't get the meaning of the quote: Robert Crumb is a cartoonist and Mr. Natural is one of his characters, right?

c)what part of the old country are you in? my grandfather came from the po valley up towards france. close enough in fact so that there are french people who say their name like mine but spell it wrong.

I'm in Milan, near the top, Po valley. French people like to use accents in excess: as you cross the border you are given some free to add to the end of your name. :)

*Massim***ò**

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #10 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 19 Feb 2002, 12:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

massimo; re: b) yes, thats the same mr. natural (beard down to his shoes, holder of the keys of knowledge etc.) he had the short version of the answer for all life's questions. other cartoon characters used to ask him "whats it....." i guess the answer here is that by the time of the next release hp got it right. anyway, like i think you were getting at; thoes intermediate results would matter in a program but on a 35 we are in control.

re: c) they did worse than add an accent to my name. they took belillo and made belilEAU. can you believe it? and besides that, they make bad wine too.

Re: HP 35 red dot
*Message #11 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 17 Feb 2002, 7:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

Mathias,
if you need close up pictures of the "red-dot" have a look at my page: http://utenti.tripod.it/M_A_X/html/hp-35.html

Massimo

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Original boxes
*Message #1 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 16 Feb 2002, 2:16 p.m.*

I have a lot of original boxes of HP's, but I don't know if the HP97S has a different box from the 97A. Same problem with the HP25C and HP25A, do they have the same box?

Who has boxes to sale... I'm still interested..

Matthias

Re: Original boxes
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 17 Feb 2002, 5:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

Have you ever seen this box: Ebay item # 1333481226? It is labeled "HP-41 System II". It contains an HP41CV, a card reader, a peripheral printer, AC adapter, printer paper and all the books in a large box. I never saw that before.

Re: Original boxes
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank** on 18 Feb 2002, 3:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

25C has a different box than the 25A if I recall correctly, they wanted to market the "C" version.

Re: Original boxes
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 18 Feb 2002, 5:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

I have both boxed HP25 and 25C units. The HP25 box is red on black. The 25C box is green on black (and says HP25C).

Re: Original boxes

*Message #5 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 18 Feb 2002, 7:59 p.m.,*

in response to message #4 by David Smith

Let me guess. You don't want to sell your 25C-box? Does someone wants to?

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HP-32SII may be discontinued
*Message #1 Posted by **Daniel Kekez** on 16 Feb 2002, 9:24 a.m.*

Hi,

I tried ordering an HP-32SII from Oxycom.com. After waiting four weeks for it to arrive, I e-mailed them for an update, and I was told the following by Oxycom:

"Unfortunately, the product you ordered was discontinued and the manufacturer never advised us."

I was under the impression that although HP isn't developing new calcs, the existing models had not yet been discontinued. In any case, my search for a 32 resumes...

-Daniel

Re: HP-32SII may be discontinued
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Copley** on 16 Feb 2002, 10:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Daniel Kekez

Daniel,

Two weeks ago, I purchased two calculators from Buy.com for $45.95 each. They arrived in three day using standard shipping. The newer style is shipping, with the green and purple shift keys.

http://www.us.buy.com/retail/product.asp?sku=10304375&loc=

Tony

Re: HP-32SII may be discontinued
*Message #3 Posted by **Yani** on 16 Feb 2002, 4:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Copley

Our supplier has dropped the HP-32SII from their price list in the last few months. I believe that they are no longer available in Australia.

Re: HP-32SII may be discontinued
*Message #4 Posted by **doug** on 16 Feb 2002, 4:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Daniel Kekez

Currently they have all the calculators at 10% off.

HP-32SII - $53.99

http://www.shopping.hp.com/cgi-bin/hpdirect/shopping/scripts/home/store_access.jsp?template_type=storefronts&category=calculators&aoid=6786&script_name=site_entrance.cgi

Re: HP-32SII may be discontinued
*Message #5 Posted by **Yani** on 17 Feb 2002, 4:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by doug

Closing down sale?

Re: HP-32SII may be discontinued
*Message #6 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 19 Feb 2002, 10:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Daniel Kekez

Have a look at this:

http://www.exrom.com/news.htm

Re: HP-32SII may be discontinued

*Message #7 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 19 Feb 2002, 2:21 p.m.,*

in response to message #6 by Matthias Wehrli

A snip from the earlier story, about ACO closing:

"... HP has said that it is not exiting the calculator business all-together, and that they expect the calculator line to continue as good business for HP for some time."

This made me think of how Radio Shack used to carry a big range of parts, like a good portion of the 74 series TTL - at least a few dozen part numbers. Last time I looked they had narrowed it down to about 4-6 parts (I mean stocked in the store - they have a bunch in the new mail order catalog). Also they used to have the "FlavoRadios" - cheap AM radios in a variety of colors (BTW I thought they should have done that with the Color Computer, now Apple has done it with the IMac), a while back the Flavors had been pared down to "Blackberry" (black) and "Raspberry" (sort of a coral). Radio Shack puts great stock in statistics and I guess they are just trying to concentrate on the biggest sellers in a business that adds new product lines at an increasing rate.

When I worked for Tandy Corp. the buzz was about the need to change the name of Radio Shack because it connoted something cheap. Once in a speech to employees, John Roach (does anyone remember "the Chairman's thoughts" in the Radio Shack flyers? Am I the only one who thought of Chairman Mao?) explained for the benefit of newer employees the origin of the term "radio shack" - I knew ham operators used the term but I didn't know this - he explained that the first place where radio made a massive impact was on ships. And on a ship there is a place for everything and everything is in its place. So they had to build a shack on the deck for the radio. Therefore the term is indicative of an emerging technology. The new chairman of the company - who I swear used to act in Woody Allen movies - agreed, I guess, since he changed the name of the corporation to Radio Shack. In that speech, Roach made reference to the fact that Radio Shack carried some things that might be thought obsolete. He turned to the president of Radio Shack and asked, "How many tubes did we sell last year, Bernie?" At that time (mid 80's) they still had a small selection of TV and radio tubes in the catalog. Ten years before, when I was in high school, every store had a tube tester and a large number of types were stocked and they came with a lifetime guarantee. I think they still have a kit of five tubes that should let you get a lot of the old table radios working.

Speaking of which, there is a guy on Ebay selling lots of parts including tubes and at the top of his "boilerplate" text he says, "Don't hit the Back button when you see my location, Lithuania!" He's got a lot of Russian military surplus and he says he can ship things to the US for $3 - $5 airmail. I'm going to get some 100 kHz crystals mounted in an evacuated glass tube. I want to see if I can detect the motion of the surface when it is oscillating.

Re: HP-32SII may be discontinued
*Message #8 Posted by **Frank** on 19 Feb 2002, 3:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ellis Easley

Yes, Radio Shack has gone down hill quite a bit (and they stopped their own line of very interesting calculators bought from various suppliers prior to branding numerous mainstream versions while jacking up the price), along with other electronics supply houses from a hobbiest sense. Radio Shack is probably making alot more money leasing Cell Phones with seems to be the major focus at the counter following TV Sat systems being now free. Is there still a market there one wonders? I guess disposable products and quick technological change has brought it on. Is everyone a Best Buy/Circuit City/ Name your big box electronics product retailer instead of Radio Shack?

Radio Shack
*Message #9 Posted by **Ren** on 20 Feb 2002, 9:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Frank

Back in '88 I was looking for work. I am an electronic technician by profession. I applied at a Radio Shack to help with the Christmas rush. The manager said he would accept my application, but that he preferred someone who was a good salesman over someone who knew electronics. I guess that pretty much shows the "heart" of Radio Shack. They'd rather sell you something off the shelf than the solution to your problem. In this town of 100,000 there is only 1 Radio Shack and there are not any wholesalers who will sell to the public. As the Shack is on the opposite side of town, I only go there occasionally and disregard the salesdroids offering "advice".

Re: Radio Shack
*Message #10 Posted by **Frank** on 20 Feb 2002, 10:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Ren

As an EET student in 75-76 and an EE student from 76-79, I spent quite a bit of any spare time in Radio Shack and one other Hobbiest electronics and products chain that was in a local mall (name escapes me). I had similar feelings about Radio Shack sales personnel amongst the several stores I frequented at the time, and Radio Shack was much better for a hobbiest at that time, and great for interesting calculators, but still not up to the other chain that was at the mall for electronics parts components and assemblies. The Allied Catalog (Tandy?) had a much better assortment than what was in the Radio Shack stores.

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HP19BII self diagnostics
*Message #1 Posted by **Jacques** on 15 Feb 2002, 12:28 p.m.*

Can someone please explain how to do this? Thanks.

Re: HP19BII self diagnostics
*Message #2 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 15 Feb 2002, 1:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jacques

Paraphrasing manual, Appendix A, p.279 states:

1. Turn calc on

2. Turn printer on (if you have one) for more detailed diagnostics

3. If possible, return to main menu

4. Hold [ON] key while you press the fifth menu key from left. Once self-test started, do not press any keys until you're ready to halt the test. A series of patterns are displayed and one of two messages (briefly) before test repeats.

If OK, you'll see: OK- 19B II Otherwise: a number, followed by FAIL

5. To halt test, hold [ON] and press third menu key from left.

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The End of HP Calculators?
*Message #1 Posted by **Chris** on 15 Feb 2002, 4:46 a.m.*

I recently read that there is a good chance that HP is discontinuing production of calculators. I'm not sure how true this is, but the full story can be accessed at www.hpcalc.org. I thought you all might like to know. When I read about it, I almost cried.

Re: The End of HP Calculators?
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank** on 15 Feb 2002, 6:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris

See the numerous older threads here for thoughts on this

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82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #1 Posted by **Y. Samuel Arai** on 14 Feb 2002, 8:12 p.m.*

Anyone know what might cause the 82240A to stop printing? All mechanical functions appear to work, including the appearance of printing when IR print commands are sent, with paper advance and head movement...just no print on the paper.

Also, anyone know how to open this up? Do the feet come off to reveal more screws? I found two in the battery compartment and that was all.

Lastly, anyone know what the difference is between an 82240A and 82240B printers?

Thank you very much! :-) Sam

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 15 Feb 2002, 3:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Y. Samuel Arai

The difference between the A and B, AFAIK, is in the character set. I believe the B was developed to satisfy a new standard for international character codes.

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 15 Feb 2002, 4:55 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

Hi;

Ellis is right about the set, and also there is a small difference between both when printing characters. The bottonmost line of each printed line in the B series is a blank line, allowing better readings. Grafhics is the same.

Tell us: does the printer passes OK in the self-test? Say, switching it ON whille you keep ADVance key pressed results in the printing of all character set? If so, have you tried using another calculator?

Also, if the self-test is OK and you don't get printing, try to open it (yes, there are four screws under the rubber feet) and check for bad soldering in the IR receiver. I once had an 82240A, and I am not sure if it has a ON-indicating LED as in the 82240B; if so, open and close with care.

Hope it helps.

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #4 Posted by **Y. Samuel Arai** on 15 Feb 2002, 12:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Self test appears to run, but there is no print on the paper at all...just goes through the motions.

I'll have to try prying the feet off to have a look in the inside... maybe the fault it visible... or perhaps a matter of unplugging and replugging some connectors.. if not, I guess it may just be a "parts" item...

Thank you! Sam

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 15 Feb 2002, 1:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Y. Samuel Arai

I've never opened mine, but there is a good chance that the print head is connected to the PCB by a flex cable which might have come unplugged from its socket (good case) or flexed in two (bad case). There is an article in the museum repairs section that might help: HP-97 printer ribbon repair

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 15 Feb 2002, 4:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Y. Samuel Arai

One obvious thing to check is that you have a roll of thermal paper installed, with the proper side facing the print head. I bought two "dead" machines for real cheap. They had plain paper installed... worked fine with thermal paper.

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #7 Posted by **Y. Samuel Arai** on 17 Feb 2002, 5:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David Smith

Boy is my face red... the thermal paper was installed backwards!! :p

I could have sworn I tried it both ways...oh well, hey thank you very much David and Tony both for your dead-on diagnosis to the problem!!

Now my only complaint is that with the contrast slider set dead-center, the print is too faint. With it set all the way to the right, its better, but still not great. Print-outs from my 82143A printer for the 41C series is far better. I wonder if its the paper? I have NCR paper in the 82143A (which I'm told gives better output than the HP paper...). I'll have to try the NCR paper in this printer.

Thanks again!! :-) Sam

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 17 Feb 2002, 8:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Y. Samuel Arai

Well, for what it's worth, I don't consider the contrast from my 82440B (using HP paper) to be very good either. I have the intensity slider on 'max' all the time, it's readable, but I've seen better. I have considered fiddling with the RC network round the constrast pot, but I am worried about driving the printhead too hard and burning it out. So I put up with readable, but not great, printouts.

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #9 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 18 Feb 2002, 10:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

Do you guys have batteries in your printer, even when you are using it on AC? It makes a big difference. I am the original owner of my 'B' printer and it has had very little use, I'm only on the second roll of paper. With NCR paper, no batteries, and slider all the way to the left I get readable printing (individual dots clearly evident). With batteries, I get very dark printing (at least when I look at them side by side). With the slider all the way to the right I get pretty much the same results with or without batteries, both darker that with the slider to the left with batteries. But maybe the paper is "saturated" for want of a better term.

BTW, has anyone else noticed the family resemblance between the 82240A/B and the HP56 model in the "HP Design Studies" section? The overall shape as well as the buttons and sliders. (Please let me know if it is an imposition to link a pictue to the Forum. I picked the smaller of two

pictures.)

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #10 Posted by **David Smith** on 18 Feb 2002, 5:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Y. Samuel Arai

I have found the NCR paper to be very good at giving nice print quality in marginal machines. Most if the HP paper is well past its intended lifetime and gives very poor performance. BTW, I know one guy who has run well over 50 rolls of the NCR paper through an HP97 with no problems at all.

Re: 82240A Printer Problems/Questions
*Message #11 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 15 Feb 2002, 8:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Y. Samuel Arai

I've only ever openned up a 82240A once, years ago. I know rather more about the 'B'. I do remember there are electronic differences between the A and the B (particularly in the IR preamp circuit -- both use chips designed for TV remote control sensors, but different chips). So some/all of what I say below may not be applicable to the 'A' -- it all comes from notes I made on the insides of my 'B'. Yes, there are screws under the feet. And inside the battery compartment. With those out, the top comes off. Don't loose the switch actuators. The printer mechanism is held in by 2 small screws. It connectes to the logic board by 2 connectors. One carries the motor/tacho/home switch signals. The other is the tapewire from the printhead. On the logic board there's the IR input circuitry, some PSU stuff, a standard microcontroller (an 8050 in the 'B') and the printhead/motor driver chip. The printhead is essentially driven by one 8 bit port on the microcontroller, one bit per heater. The intenstity slider is a pot, read out using an RC network and a couple of port pins on the microcontroller. If you're getting no printing, first check you're using HP thermal paper and that it's in the right way round. If so, then take the cover off and unplug the tapewire from its connector. One end trace is common, the other 8 are the other end of each heater. Check the resistance from 'common' to each of the other pins (expect a few ohms). If they're open, then you've got printhead or tapewire problems. Then check the intensity pot and the surrounding components. I have no idea what happens if it goes open-circuit, but it might well result in no printing. Then check the printhead driver chip. Trace the PCB tracks back from the printhead connector to find it.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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service book+user manual
*Message #1 Posted by **Claude Fortin** on 14 Feb 2002, 4:35 p.m.*

It is opssible to have a service book and user manual for HP 34740A display,HP 34750A display,HP 34721A BCD module,HP 34702A multimeter,HP 34703A DCV/DCA/OHM meter.I am very happy to have a HP multimeter and scope. It's hard to find a book on net etc... Tank to you and have a good year.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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God of The HP41
*Message #1 Posted by **Robert Droste** on 13 Feb 2002, 12:40 p.m.*

Hello All:

I am the foremost user of the HP 41 & all IL Peripherals.

If you are into the 41, I am the only God you'll ever need.

Robert Droste

Re: God of The HP41
*Message #2 Posted by **Frédéric ALBERT (from France)** on 13 Feb 2002, 1:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Robert Droste

Who is that guy ?????

Re: God of The HP41
*Message #3 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Frédéric ALBERT (from France)

he is robert drost, a lesser god. i am db and i am an atheist.

Not necessarily...
*Message #4 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by db(martinez,california)

"he is robert drost..."

Several postings were made this morning with each one claiming to be a god or power user of a particular HP. Most were posted to the wrong forum and I was in the process of moving them here when I noticed that the same person posted them. (Though he used different names and email addresses.)

So I decided to keep just this one. Today "Robert" gets to claim godliness for just one model.

Re: Not necessarily...
*Message #5 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Dave Hicks

so he is really not a god but only a meglomaniac. since i am really not an atheist, but just an agnostic, and furthermore since this is a democracy; i nominate him as the god of the 6s.

God of HP 10
*Message #6 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 14 Feb 2002, 2:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by db(martinez,california)

I am God of HP10 (and just HP10, not HP10C, or HP10B, or HP10BII), though I do not have one...

You common mortals from our moHP community may ask your God any question about the use of all the HP10 functions, except about the printer (as I am not sure if I would be smart enough to find out how to use the printer).

Sorry, I just could not resist...

Re: God of HP 10
*Message #7 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 14 Feb 2002, 8:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

Great, then I'm The God of...let's see....ok, HP38G - the most RPN-ish calc of all calcs;) And, by the way, I proclaim myself as the lesser God of all soviet-made rpn-based calcs, and, of course, THE SOLE GOD of the current Universe and a few neighboring Universes (in the quantity not exceeding 5 (written five;))

Nisam mislio da pro RPN u Hrvatskoj zna netko osim mog profesora fizike i mene;) Bok iz Indije:)

Croatian RPN fans
*Message #8 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 14 Feb 2002, 8:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Evgen Fedorenko

Evgen Fedorenko wrote:

>>Nisam mislio da pro RPN u Hrvatskoj zna netko osim mog profesora fizike i mene;) Bok iz Indije:)

English translation:

>>I did not think that anybody in Croatia knows pro RPN, except my professor of physics and me;) Greetings form India:)

My response:

Hrast Programmer (who did really a great job with his HP41CV/CX Microcode Emulator) is also from Croatia. I discovered it a few months ago, just by chance.

Re: Croatian RPN fans

*Message #9 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 14 Feb 2002, 4:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

I should've guessed he was Croatian....:)

But, really, the situation with RPN in Croatia was even worse than here or there (here - India (the place I'm currently living in; there - Ukraine (the place where I was born):) Out of five mates I tried to teach RPN (I went to high-school in Croatia), just one could do something more complex than 2 2 2 * +;) And the physics teacher was so surprised when he found out I could calculate (a fairly simple) equation on his HP-12 (can't remember which model exactly), I got a 5 for the entire semester:) Nice to know he isn't the only Croat sanctified in RPN lore;)

Re: Croatian RPN fans

*Message #10 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 15 Feb 2002, 3:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Evgen Fedorenko

I have a somewhat different experience. When I went to high school here in Split, there were several classmates in my class who were using HP's (btw, among them my then-girlfriend, now-my wife). In fact, I was the one who brought the first HP33E to physics and statistics classes. Though several others were rather surprised with the new concept, they started to find out advantages of it very soon.

It was interesting that one of them (whose father was a lawyer) came one day to school with a signed contract with his father: "If my son passes the term with 5 (ie. A-grade) I promise to buy him a HP33E calculator". This was taking place in 1977-79.

After that, when I went to University in Split (I studied mechanical engineering) there were also several (about 10) of my colleagues using HPs. Several models were popular. Two of us had a HP67, two had HP31E, one HP41C-a bit later, there were several HP33E's and C's, as well as HP34C... The next generation of students in this faculty almost exclusively used HP calculators.

Nowadays, I am trying to locate all those falks and push them in order to search their attics and find their old HP's but my results have been rather modest...

My wife (she is a paediatrician, so not dealing with technics at all) still uses a HP (now it is her HP12C). She does even not know that there is another concept except RPN (f.i. TI AOS) out there. Just yesterday she told me that she is finds the nice calculator (HP12C) I have given her as a present a year ago extremely useful...

Re: Croatian RPN fans
*Message #11 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 15 Feb 2002, 3:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

People from Split are keener on such things than those from Zagreb, I see.....:)

Too bad that our kids will probably not even know what RPN is:((((((

Personally I'm not gonna buy a single piece of hardware from HP until they resume calculator development, if at least in the form of palmtops.....though RPN is going to die in that case too - palmtops will probably use optic formula recognition, and RPN is loosing to algebraic notation there:((((((((((

Re: Croatian RPN fans
*Message #12 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 15 Feb 2002, 10:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

nenad; muyo and hasso use ti's.

Muyo & Hasso (TI fans)
*Message #13 Posted by **Nenad VUlic (Croatia)** on 18 Feb 2002, 8:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by db(martinez,california)

Dennis, I agree with you completely, but we face another problem. Obviously, very soon there will unfortunately be no more new HP calculators and we shall have to follow Muyo's and Hasso's approach ...

Re: Muyo & Hasso (TI fans)
*Message #14 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 18 Feb 2002, 9:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Nenad VUlic (Croatia)

As I said some time earlier, I'll rather use my good old ten fingers than anything from TI;)

But let's have some hope...at least there's Casio with it's palmtops..and maybe someone willing to write RPN calc emulator for it....

Re: Muyo & Hasso (TI fans)
*Message #15 Posted by **Frank** on 18 Feb 2002, 3:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Evgen Fedorenko

I got some good old fashioned "A's" with TI's in EE school including the SR51A and SR56 before I could afford a nice HP29C, not to mention (OK I will) an APF Mark 51 in 1975 for $39.95 at Sears, along with a few Commodores with even more functions! Even more fun than the sliderule in HS. Good thing I was working alot of hours during school.

Re: Muyo & Hasso (TI fans)
*Message #16 Posted by **db(martinez, california)** on 18 Feb 2002, 8:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Frank

dude. you blew it. you shoulda got the apf mark 55 and commodore muniteman 6X instead. they were rpn. i know that you would have taken good care of them and now i would be trying to trade you something for them. ok, never mind, maybe you saved us both a lot of trouble.

Re: Muyo & Hasso (TI fans)
*Message #17 Posted by **Frank** on 19 Feb 2002, 7:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #16 by db(martinez, california)

I got one APF 55 when first availavble from Sears Catalog, circa Dec 76 or so. I think it did not last long, the on/off switches were rather flimsy for frequent use. Right now I have about 5 APF Mark 55's, several mint and complete in box with manual, case, etc. I have about 20+ Commodores, but my favorite is the M-55 Math Model also bought new in the summer of '77 and still working great on it's 4th set of nicads, found the box a few months ago, thought I had trashed it in a cleanup. Frank

Re: Muyo & Hasso (TI fans)
*Message #18 Posted by **db(martinez, california)** on 19 Feb 2002, 10:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Frank

now you went and did it. i'll have to mail you my trade list. if i was a dog i'd be a "fetch the stick" junkie.

Re: Muyo & Hasso (TI fans)
*Message #19 Posted by **Ren** on 20 Feb 2002, 9:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Evgen Fedorenko

Is the HP-48 RPL? Here is a link to the HP-48emulator for an older Casio PDA

http://www.pocketpccity.com/software/ppc/utilities-misc-datesort-1.html

Re: HP-48GX emulator for Casio PDA
*Message #20 Posted by **Ren** on 20 Feb 2002, 10:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #19 by Ren

Oops! Here is a more direct link

http://www.conduits.com/ce/apps/emu48ce.asp

Re: Not necessarily...
*Message #21 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 14 Feb 2002, 3:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by db(martinez,california)

LMAO

HP1630

*Message #22 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 14 Feb 2002, 7:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Robert Droste

Hey god, have you got an HP1630A/D/G logic analyzer? I just learned it has an HPIL interface.

Re: HP1630

*Message #23 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel** on 18 Feb 2002, 12:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Ellis Easley

I'm not god, but I own one. (Not a god, a 1630G) It has a IL interface and was designed to load it's reverse assemblers from a HP82161A digital cassette drive. Unfortunately I didn't ever get such a reverse assembler for any Microprocessor.

As far as I remember it could function as a controller and store and load settings to/from a cassette drive too.

The HP41 could be used as a controller.

I don't believe, that the IL interface was used too much. The 1630 series also had a HP-IB interface, which was a little more professional. I wouldn't also know, who needs an application for a logic analyzer as a portable storage device. Such devices are used in service (where you repair the DUT at once) or in a development lab (where you can use HPIB)

There was also a 1631A/D which was a 1630A/D with two low-Voltage oscilloscope channels, also with HP-IL and IB.

I'm not using it anymore, because I own a 16500 now, but I keep it as a part of my collection.

I also have the HP3421A Data Aquisition/Control unit (also IL/IB combination) and the 3468A Digital multimeter (unfortunately without the battery option).

I believe, there was also a HPIL option for a counter, but I don't know which model. I've never seen this one somewhere (even eBay, where you can find every obscure thing didn't have one til now)

Re: HP1630
*Message #24 Posted by **K.A.Mueller** on 23 Feb 2002, 4:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Reinhard Hawel

Hello Mr. Hawel,

the counter you are referring to, might be the HP 5384A or HP 5385A frequency counter. Both with option 003 (HP-IL) or option 005 (battery pack, which includes 003). The HP-IL interface replaces the standard HP-IB.

The german subset of the manual, about 40 pages in total, has two pages showing how to control the frequency counter via HP-IL and a HP 41C/CV/CX.

If Mr. Hicks likes to include the manual albeit not dealing with a calculator but with a rather sophisticated add-on and in german ...

And no, I do not own one of them, just saved the manual from the trash bin.

regards

K.A. Mueller

Re: HP1630
*Message #25 Posted by **Robert Droste** on 19 Feb 2002, 4:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Ellis Easley

Try using the Copernic Search engine for that. You may be surprised what you find. (www.copernic.com)

Re: HP1630
*Message #26 Posted by **Ren** on 25 Feb 2002, 10:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Ellis Easley

I just checked, our HP1631D Logic Analyzer has a couple of small D type 2 conductor connectors (one male, one female) on the back.

Re: God of The HP41

*Message #27 Posted by **Scotty** on 14 Feb 2002, 11:48 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Robert Droste

G'Day God You may be just the bloke we are looking for,the good ship HP calculator taking water fast need help urgently.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP28S battery stuck!
*Message #1 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 13 Feb 2002, 12:29 p.m.*

Help,

I recently got hold of a HP28S in good working condition for 6 pounds (about $9) but the 'inner' battery is stuck in the machine.

The single battery comes out easily, the first of the double batteries only comes out if I slap the calculator into my hand a few times, the last battery will not budge!

I can see a rubber strip that seems to be stopping the battery coming out because it is twisted. Can I cut this to try and remove the last battery? Does this rubber strip simply stop the batteries rattling?

The other thing I think might work is if I make a small tool by bending over a stiff wire, sliding it down the side of the battery and pulling - but I think the wire will bend.

A destructive method might be to drill a small hole in the hinge side of the calculator and push the battery out - but I don't want to do this.

Has anybody seen this problem on a clamshell HP, and if so how did they solve it?

Tom.

Re: HP28S battery stuck!

*Message #2 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 13 Feb 2002, 8:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tom (UK)

How about adding a drop of glue (e.g. epoxy) to small rod and attaching it to the visible part of the battery.

Leave it overnight for the glue to harden and then pull on the rod.

If this fails, try a very long-thin screw.

You may also want to add a bit of electrical contact lubricant to make the battery slide out more easily, but only after you try the other two methods, because once the lubricant is in there, nothing will ever stick on that battery.

**vp

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HP 12c serial number
*Message #1 Posted by **Michael Buchta** on 13 Feb 2002, 12:15 p.m.*

Hello I have a HP 12c with the serial number 2034A00517. The manual is dated May 1981. I red that the HP 12c was introduced in September 1981. The earlist serial number which is listed on museum site is 2140. Should I have a modell from 1980, could this be possible? Thanks Michael

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Looking for Jigekuma Ayebatari Ombu
*Message #1 Posted by **Dan M** on 13 Feb 2002, 11:13 a.m.*

Hi,

I'm trying to get in touch with Jigekuma Ayebatari Ombu, an old friend of Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz. I have a question for him relating to his (and Sophie Ngozi Azorbo's) French -> English translation of the PANAME Module Manual.

If you know Jigekuma Ombu, or his where-abouts, please let me know, or have him email me at danm@sover.net. Wlodek has unfortunately lost contact with him, and the last known location we have for him is in association with the Rivers State University in Port Harcourt Nigeria, approximately 1990.

Thanks very much!

Dan M.

Bellows Falls, Vermont

USA

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Some Awsome New HP Journal Articles For The Next CD
*Message #1 Posted by **Bruce Cohen** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:49 p.m.*

{This was sent as email to David Hicks - I thought I would share this with everyone}

I do not have a scanner but would be willing to send you these HP Journals for you to scan.

HP-21, 22, & 25: November 1975 (12 pages)

Personal Calculator Algorithms I: May 1977 (3 pages)

Personal Calculator Algorithms II: June 1977 (4 pages)

Personal Calculator Algorithms III: November 1977 (2 pages)

HP-41C: March 1980 (24 pages)

HP-86, 87XM, CP/M Module, HP-41C driving an HP-7470 Plotter: December 1982 (17 pages)

HP-41C D/A ROM & HP-3421A Data Acquisition Unit: February 1983 (19 pages)

Series 80 Speech Module: January 1984 (8 pages)

HP Calculator IR link, HP 82240A Printer, HP-18C & 28C Robotic Manufacturing: October 1987, (11 Pages)

HP-48SX: June 1991 (43 Pages)

HP-48GX: August 1994: (20 Pages)

I also have a 22 page HP Sales Booklet for the HP 48SX and the HP 28S

You've done a great job with the museum.

Regards,

Bruce Cohen

Thanks Bruce!
*Message #2 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 4:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bruce Cohen

I've responded to your email too.

Dave

Re: Some Awsome New HP Journal Articles For The Next CD
*Message #3 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 13 Feb 2002, 9:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bruce Cohen

Great! Is there any chance that at least some of these will be available online at this site?

Regards, Albert

Re: Some Awsome New HP Journal Articles For The Next CD
*Message #4 Posted by **Jake Schwartz** on 26 Feb 2002, 3:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bruce Cohen

All the aforementioned HP Journal articles have already been available on the PPC CDROM set for over three years now. Check out www.magpage.com/~jakes/ppccdrom.htm on the web.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 12 Feb 2002, 7:18 p.m.*

It's looking like the next set of manuals might require 7 CDs. The idea of a single DVD-ROM is starting to sound very appealing. If you are interested in the manual sets, could you please tell me which category best describes you:

1. Have a DVD-ROM drive today and would want a Museum DVD-ROM.
2. I don't have a DVD-ROM drive but would prefer 1 DVD so I would buy a drive (~$50 in the US.)
3. I don't have a DVD-ROM drive and wasn't really planning on getting one but if you stopped shipping CDs, I'd probably buy one.
4. I am only interested in CDs - please keep the CDs at least as an option.

I'm trying to figure out if there's a demand for DVDs and, if so, can I drop the CDs or do I need to keep an inventory of the 7 CDs *plus* the DVD,

Please reply with the number (from the list above) in the subject line and feel free to add any comments or concerns in the body of posting. Thanks!

1
*Message #2 Posted by **Mark** on 12 Feb 2002, 7:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

CD-R is dead. Long live DVD.

I'll do the DVD
*Message #3 Posted by **Todd G.** on 12 Feb 2002, 9:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Option 1, Dave.

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #4 Posted by **Karl Hafen -UT USA** on 12 Feb 2002, 9:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Option 1 sounds good to me.

door #2
*Message #5 Posted by **glynn** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Make them Dolby surround and widescreen format, too, please... with the Director's cut and extra footage and trailers, compatible with Region 1 players. ;-)

Or, anyway, will the dvd be cheaper to buy than a 7-cd set?

The DVD probably will be cheaper
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by glynn

One disk for me to bother with, less postage etc.

The media cost for DVD is still higher and I don't have a DVD writer yet but I think the "one disk" advantages will outweigh those costs.

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #7 Posted by **Juan J** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Option 1 sounds good to me too. Widescreen, Dolby surround and director cuts are also welcome.

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #8 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Juan J

i didn't catch it at the theaters. is it true that sly stalone plays dave hicks in the movie?

Door 1 - want a DVD
*Message #9 Posted by **Gene** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

No text. Lol.

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #10 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Option #1.

Question: How many HD floppies would it take? 8^)

-Ernie

4
*Message #11 Posted by **Mike Sebastian** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

If I buy a DVD-ROM drive, that's less money to spend on calculators.

1
*Message #12 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 13 Feb 2002, 1:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

1

1 / 4 for the next set
*Message #13 Posted by **Stephan Mettauer** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Personaly I have no problem with DVD I even prefer the idea of having only one single data carrier. To give everyone the time to adapt to the DVD keep the CD as an option for at least the next set. Sincerely yours Stephan.

4
*Message #14 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

3
*Message #15 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Whichever you choose I'll take it/them!

Massimo

4 (at least by now)
*Message #16 Posted by **Vieira, L:uiz C. (Brazil)** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:48 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Hi;

after some months trying to figure a way out to buy the CD set, I`ll finally have mine till next month, thanks to my brother that lives in USA. I intend updating the CD`s so far, but I do not believe a DVD-ROM would help much. I think if I have problems in one CD and loose it, it`s one in 5 (or 7). If I loose the DVD, I loose everything. I do not mean manufacturing problems, I mean scratches, dust, temperature variations, and so.

I do not deny the possibility, if the CD set is an option.

Cheers.

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #17 Posted by **L. Deruyck** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Option 1. and if You could find that (almost not to find) solution book about aneshtesia (HP 67), that would be perfect.

4
*Message #18 Posted by **Wayne Brown** on 13 Feb 2002, 7:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

4 is my first choice, though 3 is a (slim) possibility.

1+4
*Message #19 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 13 Feb 2002, 7:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Red Hat Linux is going to be 13 CDs with the next release...doesn't seem to bother them too much=)

Choice #1
*Message #20 Posted by **Ed** on 13 Feb 2002, 8:08 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Put me down for one! Especially if you can get some of the software library on it as well. Cheers.

1 + 4
*Message #21 Posted by **Luca Passaggio - Lugano - Switzerland** on 13 Feb 2002, 9:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

I agree with Stephan, Dave.

Regards,

Luca

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #22 Posted by **Frank** on 13 Feb 2002, 10:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

1. DVD Frank

1
*Message #23 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 13 Feb 2002, 10:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Can't wait! I've got a number of things I can contribute, too.

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #24 Posted by **Ren** on 13 Feb 2002, 11:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

The world may be ready for DVD, but I'm not.

1
*Message #25 Posted by **Steve** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

It would be nice if those of us who already have the museum on CD could get an upgrade to the DVD version when it came out.

There will be one or two upgrade options
*Message #26 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #25 by Steve

An upgrade to DVD option and probably an option to get two additional CDs.

Option 1, DVD
*Message #27 Posted by **Philip Reagan** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

1 DVD is a great idea!

4
*Message #28 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

This is a tough one, Dave.

I'm sure that the migration to DVD will march forward, and I would want to be the LAST person to deprive the other MoHPC fans (who want to actually USE their DVD readers), but I don't see myself getting a DVD reader.

I promise not to cry if you go to DVDs though... (I'll just pout!)

Bruce.

Four For Me!
*Message #29 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 13 Feb 2002, 6:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

HP manuals option 4

Marx Pio

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs? 1
*Message #30 Posted by **John L. Shelton** on 13 Feb 2002, 8:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

I have a DVD ROM drive and would prefer this mechanism.

Option 1
*Message #31 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 13 Feb 2002, 9:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

DVD, please!

3
*Message #32 Posted by **GE (France)** on 14 Feb 2002, 5:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

I have the 5-CD set (can you hear a loud GREAT !) from here ? A 2-CD set 'update' would be fine, but with shipping charges the advantage compared with the full set is meager.

Please make the DVD compatible with our good ol' trusty Macs, the way the CDs already are !

Thank you again for your work.

3
*Message #33 Posted by **Bill Smith** on 14 Feb 2002, 2:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

will a DVD unit even work in my P90? maybe a USB unit attached to my laptop.

It should
*Message #34 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 14 Feb 2002, 10:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #33 by Bill Smith

They are available with IDE or SCSI interfaces. Playing a DVD movie on your 90Mhz system might not be possible without a decoder card but I don't see why accessing data would be a problem.

1
*Message #35 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 14 Feb 2002, 3:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

1

1
*Message #36 Posted by **Andre' Wilhelmus** on 18 Feb 2002, 4:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #35 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

Option 1, all region, MAC compatible or two update CDs.

Re: Is the world ready for HP Calculator DVDs?
*Message #37 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 18 Feb 2002, 4:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

1, of course.

Even if you go for the multi-cd format again, can you please set it up in such a way that all CDs can be copied to a single directory structure on disk, and accessed that way (single index, etc.)? 5GB of storage is nothing these days, and I'd much rather have the stuff online all the time than have to mess with CDs or DVDs every time I need them.

tnx

/ji

Dave, can you predict when the DVDs will be available for upgrade?
*Message #38 Posted by **Frank** on 21 Feb 2002, 8:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Dave, can you predict when the HP MOC DVDs will be available for upgrade? Thanks, Frank

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Request for scans for future CDs
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 12 Feb 2002, 6:58 p.m.*

Just a reminder that I'm still looking for scans of any HP manuals that are not yet included on the current CDs or not yet promised for the next set.

If you have any HP calculator manuals that you could scan that are missing from both these lists, please let me know. Also, I hope to have a little spare time in the future for scanning myself, so if you have any manuals but can't scan them, I would be willing to scan them if you would loan them to me. Likewise, if you can scan, but have no manuals, perhaps you could post and someone with some manuals might be able to loan them to you.

An incentive:
As I mentioned before: HP found a stash of old HP-01 Pens. Also in the stash were a few other items like unsold HP-01 bracelets and leather straps, HP-01 replacement battery case/watch openers, HP-01 assembly tools, HP-41 ROMs and entire application pacs, a printer, a tape drive, battery doors and holders etc. I will be giving these items away (along with some spare items of my own) to people who scan manuals.

Please coordinate with me before scanning so two people don't scan the same manual.

Re: Request for scans for future CDs
*Message #2 Posted by **Michael Tjebben** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Dave-

I've made some progress scanning the manuals I've promised, but have two questions: 1: Do you have a mechanism to "assemble" individual .pdf's into one? (I've scanned and printed individual pages to .pdf's, but that's not particularly good for a complete manual.)

2: When do you "hope" that all of the promised manuals will be scanned so that you can compile the next CD? (That is, should I get on-the-stick and hurry and finish? :)

-Mike

PDF's
*Message #3 Posted by **Stephan Mettauer** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Michael Tjebben

Good morning Michael Please forward me you individual PDF's and I will assemble them to a whole document for you. After that let me know if you prefer to have them send back to you or you want me to forward them direct to Dave's ftp. best regards Stephan.

Re: PDF's
*Message #4 Posted by **Michael Tjebben** on 13 Feb 2002, 6:55 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Stephan Mettauer

Wow Stephan - That is very kind of you to offer this help! How should I "forward" the pages to you? It could be "difficult" to do by email, due to limitations in sizes of attachments, or number of emails, if sent by small "sets." Do you have an ftp location that I could send to? Any other suggestions?

Also, this first manual is small (about 100 pages). Some of the others I've offered to scan are on the order of 1000's (yes, thousands!) of pages! Is there a clever way that I could assemble the .pdf's myself for those, or is there a better way to do all of this?

I would not necessarily need the manual "returned" to me before you forwarded it to Dave, as I WILL buy the next DVD or CD set... I like Dave's idea of doing a DVD!

-Mike

Re: PDF's
*Message #5 Posted by **Stephan Mettauer** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Michael Tjebben

Hi Michael Your idea of a ftp server is great. unfortunally I do not have such a thing but stand by, I will have a short chat with my friends. Might be that one of them has a server and can give access to us. Then you can forward it to them and I'll catch the PDF's from there. I call you back let's say after the weekend if this is OK with you? So long Stephan

Re: PDF's
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Michael Tjebben

A one-page PDF is kind of a strange concept because PDF is a multi-page format. If you can only create one-page PDFs it might be easier to just scan to tiffs and import those into a PDF tool. For example, if you sent me 100 one-page PDFs I would have to use acrobat's document append function 100 times, but if you sent me 100 tiffs, I would just do an import, select them all, and let Acrobat to the work.

Perhaps Stephan has a more automated method however.

Re: PDF's
*Message #7 Posted by **Stephan** on 14 Feb 2002, 2:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Dave Hicks

Dave your absolutely right. But I think Micheal only got now PDF's. To rescan all the documents is much more time consuming than just use the acrobat add-page function. By the way, would it be possible to use your server for me and Michael in order to exchange the doc's? It would meen to give me a temporary copy access to your ftp? If yes, great! If no, I will look further. Thank you in advance, Stephan.

Re: PDF's
*Message #8 Posted by **Michael O. Tjebben** on 14 Feb 2002, 9:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Stephan

Hi!

Actually, I could even burn a CD and mail it to Stephan, if necessary. I scanned the documents page-by-page and printed them to .pdf's, because I didn't "trust" Microsoft Word 2000 to take that many .tiff's in ONE document and not crash! (We used Word at work with large ASIC design's with pictures and it could NOT handle documents that were 1000's of pages large!)

I'll be happy to do the other documents that I promised as a more "integrated" doc, if you guys can suggest a good way! I could even use some other program or Cygnus (UNIX-like) utilities to process the .tiff's or whatever...

For this particular manual (HP3468A/B), I think Stephan is correct - it IS

easier to keep what I've already got and just have Stephan do the "page add" command.

Let me know what to do on both accounts...

-Mike

Re: PDF's
*Message #9 Posted by **Stephan** on 14 Feb 2002, 9:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Michael O. Tjebben

Hey Mike, don't worry. Stand by with the CD (but a very good idea indeed) if I don't find a ftp until Monday we do it with the CD. But you have to send them to Switzerland - I do not know were you live, but I think shipping to Switzerland wouldn't be that expencive for one or two CD's. best regards Stephan.

Re: PDF's VERSUS .tiff's, jpeg's (READ THIS, DAVE!)
*Message #10 Posted by **Michael Tjebben** on 14 Feb 2002, 10:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Stephan

Stephan and Dave!

I found the original .jpegs that I made the .pdf's from! They were more compact than the .tiff's (which I didn't save).

Can your Acrobat program import the .jpg's, Dave? (Or I can actually try importing them all into Microsoft Word as I said I was afraid to do, but hadn't really tried for THIS application, and print them out as one .pdf...)

Perhaps next time I'll just scan .tiff's (like for the HP3421 Service manual, which is HUGE), and get those to Dave for assembling...

-Mike

Re: PDF's VERSUS .tiff's, jpeg's (READ THIS, DAVE!)
*Message #11 Posted by **Dave Shaffer** on 14 Feb 2002, 11:02 a.m., in response to message #10 by Michael Tjebben*

What kind of output to create depends of course on what Dave can use. Direct to PDF is probably best for actual distribution. However, for interim scans, I suggest PC Paintbrush (.pcx), GIF, or PNG format. These are usually as compact as all but the most compressed jpegs, and MUCH smaller than TIFFs. And, they preserve ALL the original information.

I just scanned 300 pages of lecture notes for my astronomy class, in pcx format, and each page is about 500 K. These are handwritten pages, so there is a lot of empty space, which these formats are good at compressing in a lossless fashion. Maybe for densely printed pages the advantage is not so great.

Acrobat can't read jpegs
*Message #12 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 14 Feb 2002, 10:36 p.m., in response to message #10 by Michael Tjebben*

It seems to dislike lossy formats. It will read gifs, bmps and tiffs. Compressed Tiffs are OK and much smaller than normal tiffs. (I think uncompressed tiffs will typically zip quite well though.)

jpeg is a tricky format for scanning in general since it doesn't accept 1 and 4 bit per pixel color spaces which are best for manual scans.

Somewhere above Microsoft Word was mentioned although I don't quite understand how it fits into all this. Is word somehow being used to scan? I had no idea it could do that.

Re: Acrobat can't read jpegs
*Message #13 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 15 Feb 2002, 5:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Dave Hicks

Hi;

I get very good results on generating PDF documents with almost all types of figures, including JPEG`s. I use a Word® for Windows` plug-in, so I build the document in Word then I convert it to PDF. There is one format that crashes the convertion, and I believe it is monochrome TIFF.

Resulting documents keep all the final look the original Word documents have.

Cheers.

FTP
*Message #14 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 14 Feb 2002, 10:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Stephan

Michael can place them in the incoming directory at ftp://ftp.hpmuseum.org and then send me an email. I'll then move it to the main directory where you can read it.

Re: FTP
*Message #15 Posted by **Stephan** on 15 Feb 2002, 4:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Dave Hicks

Dave, thank you very much in advance. Michael if you send the e-mail for positive transaction to the incomming at Dave's, please copy me in. I'll then get it from there. I'm looking forward to it. Stephan

Re: Request for scans for future CDs

*Message #16 Posted by **Jonathan Busby** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:02 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Speaking of things not yet promised for the next set, there is one oft requested 71B document that seems to have eluded being scanned (or found as it appears no one has ever responded to any of the requests AFAIK). Specifically, this is the "HP-71B Hardware Specification" as it is called in SASM.DOC (from the HP 48 Software Development Tools). The only other reference to this that I know of is from an old (1987) HP parts list where it is referred to as "00071-90071 Hardware Design Specifications - English" .

I know there must be many people who read this forum that own this and I am aware of certain people that I know for *sure* must have it. Please do those of us that don't have access to this document a favor and scan it for inclusion on the next CD set. If you don't have the time send it to me and I'll do it myself! :D (I'm serious)

Regards,

Jonathan

(Remove the random permutation of "NOSPAM" from my e-mail address before replying.)

Re: Request for scans for future CDs

*Message #17 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:54 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

Hi, Dave;

Is there a way to post a list of manuals you are sure that exist and are not available in the Museum? That would help much.

I have some in Brazilian Portuguese, but I am sure they are something as bonus, not regular material. I also have some Brazilian (Portuguese) comercial folders, like some I sent you. I have a scanner and I can scan them for you.

Let me know.

Lists
*Message #18 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I don't have a single integrated list, but when I asked about this in this thread. There were quite a few missing manuals listed. Even the combination of all these lists may not be complete.

Keep in mind that some of these may have since been scanned as listed here.

gosh !
*Message #19 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 14 Feb 2002, 4:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #18 by Dave Hicks

... I sold some months ago the naviation pac... Had I known...

I do like documents in languages besides English
*Message #20 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

We already have a small but growing collection of German manuals and one French manual promised for the next version. Portuguese would be good too.

Re: I do like documents in languages besides English
*Message #21 Posted by **Achim Buerger** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by Dave Hicks

I could scan the following manuals: HP9825A Operating (german) HP9825A Quick Reference (english) HP9825A System Test Booklet HP98035A Real Time Clock (english) HP98032A 16-Bit Interface (english) HP9830A Quick Reference (german)

Maybe for those interested in technical details or repair of old calcs the original US patents including schematics and ROM listings could be usefull.

I have the original scans (from USPTO) of HP9805A, HP9810A, HP9820A, HP9825A, HP9830A, and HP65.

Achim

Thanks!
*Message #22 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 4:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Achim Buerger

I've added you to the list for the HP9825 German operating manual and the German HP9830A Quick Reference Manual.

I believe the other manuals are on the list currently.

HP has chosen not to permit copying their ROMs (except for certain user/RPN code listings). I've never asked them about copying schematics. Do you have any available?

HP67 Quick Reference Guide
*Message #23 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 14 Feb 2002, 3:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Dave Hicks

Dave,

I have noticed that a HP67 QRG has not been available yet. I have a German version HP67 Kurzeinleitung, that I would scan if you want, but will also like to have a scan of an English version, which I do not possess.

I also have a HP25 and a HP34C Kurzeinleitung, that I am ready to scan, if you require.

Re: HP67 Quick Reference Guide
*Message #24 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 14 Feb 2002, 10:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

Nenad,

Yes, I would like scans of the three German Quick Reference guides that you have. Thanks!

Re: Thanks!
*Message #25 Posted by **Achim Buerger** on 14 Feb 2002, 8:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Dave Hicks

As far as I have inspected them, he original patents contain the complete schematics of the electronics. I used the schematics from the 9810A patent for a successfull repair of a heavily demaged 9810. So I believe they are really usefull. As the patents are 'public domain' I don't see any problem with HP.

Achim

Agreed
*Message #26 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 14 Feb 2002, 10:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #25 by Achim Buerger

Any schematics that have been made public domain via publishing in a patent would be great to have.

Re: Request for scans for future CDs
*Message #27 Posted by **JR(italy)** on 13 Feb 2002, 6:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

I have a copy of a HP85B Assembly-LeveL Service Manual, June 1983, that I would like to contribute.

JR

Great!
*Message #28 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #27 by JR(italy)

Can you scan it?

Re: Great!
*Message #29 Posted by **Chris Catotti (Florida)** on 14 Feb 2002, 5:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #28 by Dave Hicks

I have many (and need many more) manuals for the HP-41, HP-41 Peripherals and such in languages other than English. Also non-English copies of books by Wickes, Jarrett and others.

Dave, I will email you an Excel spreadsheet. I still have about 60 books, QRG or other HP-part-numbered documents.

I can scan some. Also I have a lot of EduCALC catalogs that may be of interest.

71B finance pack
*Message #30 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 13 Feb 2002, 10:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks

I have this manual. Unfortunately I´m not equipped good enough to do proper scan. Should I send the manual to you Dave ?

BTW I have several manuals in French and Dutch. Do you yish to include them on the future CD set ?

OK, I'll scan them
*Message #31 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #30 by thibaut.be

As I mentioned above, I'm interested in a variety of languages. Please email me to work out the details.

Thanks!

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Magnet Cards
*Message #1 Posted by **Thomas Falk** on 12 Feb 2002, 2:48 p.m.*

Hi everybody,

I have a small question:

Are there different formats (physical and locical) for the different HP calculators with strip reader, e. g. HP41, 67, 97 ... or are they all the same ?

Thanks,

Thomas

Re: Magnet Cards
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 12 Feb 2002, 5:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thomas Falk

HP-65 cards can only be read by another HP-65, so that alone would indicate that it uses a different format. Since the 65 used 6-bit words (while the 67, for instance, used 8-bit words), I'm not surprised they are incompatible.

HP-41 calculators (augmented with a plug-in card reader) can read cards written by a 67 or 97, although the reverse is not necessarily true. Finally, any HP-67 can read a 97 card, and vice-versa.

-Ernie

Re: Magnet Cards
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 12 Feb 2002, 6:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thomas Falk

The cards are all physically the same, the different machines write different formats of data on them. The HP41 reader can read and execute MOST HP67/HP97 formatted cards.

Re: Magnet Cards
*Message #4 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 12 Feb 2002, 8:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thomas Falk

The lowest level of the physical format is the same on all 3 classes of machine (65, 67/97 and 41). It's 2 physical tracks in each direction. A magnetic transition on one track is a 0 bit, a transition on the other track is a 1 bit. A simple self-clocking system. Apart from that, there are differences. The 65 is the real oddball, I think (it records fewer bits on the track than the others IIRC). The 67/97 and 41 schemes are similar (not too suprising), and 41 card readers can read (although not write, at least not with the standard software) 67/97 cards

Re: Magnetic Cards
*Message #5 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 18 Feb 2002, 3:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Tony Duell (UK)

Does anyone know where the format was documented? I thought it was in the PPC journal, but I went through the indeces and didn't find it. I'm fairly certain it was not in the HP Journal -- I do recall that the article involved the author having used their dentist's X-ray machine to take images of the magnetic domains!

I assume some magna-ease (or whatever it's called) and a low-powered microscope would be sufficient to analyze the format.

/ji

Re: Magnetic Cards
*Message #6 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 18 Feb 2002, 6:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by John Ioannidis

I remember reading an article in either PPC journal or CHHU Cronicle that described the format of the HP67 cards. It refered to an earlier article covering the HP65 format that I've never seen. I can try to find it again, but it'll take some time. IIRC, the HP67 article described the use of Magnasee to find the pulses on the card.

Re: Magnetic Cards
*Message #7 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 19 Feb 2002, 4:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tony Duell (UK)

The HP97 service manual (on the Museum CDs) says to use Magna-See to check the speed of the card reader motor. Then it has a long list of resistor values to substitute in one location depending on the measured results. I saw Magna-See in operation once, a long time ago. It might have been an HP salesman who was showing it to some people in the factory where I worked. One thing I've always wondered about it, and the 97 S/M doesn't address this at all: after putting the fluid on a piece of media, which leaves a modulated film of magnetic particles on the surface, is it safe to run the same media past the head? Also, does anybody know where to find Magna-See? If it hasn't been banned due to the solvent it used.

Re: Magnetic Cards
*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 19 Feb 2002, 1:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ellis Easley

As to whether you can re-use magnetic media coated with Magnasee, opinion seems to be divided on the matter. Some service manuals say 'On no account re-use the piece of tape which has been coated with Magnasee' or words to that effect. Others specifically suggest wiping off the Magnasee and running the tape through again for the next test. IIRC the HP97 service manual implies you can do the latter. It may depend on the type of head -- the HP card readers are not exactly high data density devices (even for the time), so you can probably get away with rather more damage to the heads than on a more precision device. Oh, and if anyone knows a source of Magnasee or equivalent in the UK, I am looking for a can of it.

Re: a Magnasee sort of thing, etc.
*Message #9 Posted by **glynn** on 20 Feb 2002, 3:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

I don't know the specific product Magnasee, but have used a similar product in the past for audio head alignment. It is made by The Geneva Group, and is called MagView.

As I was using it only for viewing the track and not individual domains, I am not sure whether it is the same type of product, or what you will see under a high-power microscope. I am fairly sure that you can see no-amplitude to full-amplitude transitions... IF they are strong, well-defined and spaced out

just a bit. It may also depend a little on your spraying technique. I only needed to "puff" my tapes, holding them vertically, to see the tracks themselves, and I had a graticule-slide to make measurements.

Since the iron particles are only magnetically stuck on the tape, careful wiping or washing of the card should remove it all with no ill effect. You don't want to run a card or tape past a magnetic playback head with anything magnetic and sheddable on it-- it is the tiny Gap in the head that can be corrupted with debris, and affect reading. But water and cotton balls will wash a tape or card off very well.

My can of Magview says: MAGVIEW PF-603, Geneva (c)1993, Minneapolis MN 55427-2848 USA, Toll-Free 1-800-358-5600. All it lists as ingredients are:

1,1, dichloro-1-flouroethane; iron powder; carbon dioxide.

I suspect you get your best viewing with a virgin card and a fresh recording.

Re: MagView

*Message #10 Posted by **David Smith** on 20 Feb 2002, 5:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by John Ioannidis

Try www.sprague-magnetics.com (818-364-1800) for their Sprague-Mag product. I think they took over the MagView product line. They have three or four types of the stuff with particle sizes down to 0.05 micron if you just gotta see them teeny tiny bits.

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BAT message
*Message #1 Posted by **trey** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:36 a.m.*

My BAT notice is on and stays on after I have replaced the batteries. Any suggestions?

Re: BAT message - Which calc...
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 12 Feb 2002, 11:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by trey

... is yours?

I have once experienced this with an HP41CV. One of the four batteries were placed in reversed position. In this particular case, the BAT annunciator remained "lit".

I suggest (you have probably done it) also check for batteries voltage (multimeter or voltmeter).

Cheers.

Re: BAT message - Which calc...
*Message #3 Posted by **trey** on 12 Feb 2002, 12:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

it was one battery in the wrong direction. Thanks a ton

Re: BAT message - Which calc...

*Message #4 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 12 Feb 2002, 8:34 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I had this fault recently on a halfnut HP41 (actually a CV, but that's not important). I knew it wasn't a battery problem as it remained even when I connected a bench PSU to the battery terminals. I thought it was probably a fault on the display hybrid, but when I took the machine apart I found a dry joint (bad soldered connection) on a diode. If you look at the halfnut PCB, there 2 diodes one on top of the other on the left side. The top one seems to be an afterthought -- the cathode lead is soldered to a piece of red wire that goes across the PCB. The anode lead is soldred to the anode lead of the other diode. It was that connection between the 2 anode leads that was faulty. Without that connection, the display hybrid didn't get to sense the battey voltage, I guess.

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HP-67 chipset
*Message #1 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 12 Feb 2002, 9:40 a.m.*

I am trying to repair an HP-67 that almost works. In PROG mode, everything works OK, I can enter a program and edit it. In RUN mode, things look strange. Programs appear to run OK, but the numbers on the display are all wrong: There are leading zeroes, and when you press numeric keys, they are displayed with lots of extra digits. Its not a DSP or format problem - this behavior is consistent from power on and is totally different from that of my HP-97.

The problem looks like it is localized in the RUN mode display, constants like Pi are recalled to the display, and (as far as I can tell from the weird displays) registers and numerical calculations work.

I suspect the problem is in one of the ROMs, but I can't tell which. I only have access to the HP-97 service manual but this is not much help, because the 97 has more chips.

I am including some notes I made while looking at the 67, if anybody can provide additional information, I'd really appreciate it.

```
**vp


8-pin chips (ROMS)


1818-0550 (also 0228)   common with HP-97
1818-0551 (also 0226)   common with HP-97 (this one contains constants like Pi)
1818-0231
1818-0232


Card Reader Chip
1820-1751 (largest chip) common with HP-97


Processor(??)
1820-2530 Mostek part


???
1818-0268
```

Re: HP-67 chipset

*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 12 Feb 2002, 8:39 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Vassilis Prevelakis

Actually, the 67 and 97 are pretty similar. In the 67, the 8 pin chips are combined ROM and RAM (16 7-byte registers). 2 of the RAMs (224 bytes) form the program memory, the other 2 form the user data registers (26 registers, stack/lastX (5 more registers) and one last register for angle mode, display format, flags. Or at least I think that's how it works. The Card Reader Chip (28 pins) is the same as the one in the 97. The CPU is the 22 pin chip, and is an ACT. The pinout is very similar to the one in the 97 except that 5 of the pins are used for the keyboard column lines. It's trivial to trace these from the keyboard, though. The other pins (power, bus, etc) are in the same places. The 18 pin chip is ROM0 and the display anode decoder. Again the pinout is the same as the one in the 97 (although the code in the ROM is different). My first suspect would be ROM0, actually. I've had it fail and cause odd faults. If it's not that, then it's probably the ACT (processor), but I'd have thought a fault there would have caused more problems.

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HP-41 accessory retail prices
*Message #1 Posted by **Bo Kristoffersen** on 12 Feb 2002, 6:06 a.m.*

I have searched this site to find information about the original, suggested retail prices for HP-41 accessories, but I haven't found anything – doesn't mean that it's not there!

Therefore, does anyone have such information or know where to find it? Also, EduCalc pricelists from, let's say, around 1980, 1985 and 1990 would be of great interest.

Regards, Bo

Re: HP-41 accessory retail prices
*Message #2 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 12 Feb 2002, 9:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bo Kristoffersen

Recommended Retail Prices for the United Kingdom (Feb. 1, 1983)

All prices were in UK Pounds and did not include VAT (15% at the time)

Pre-programmed Scientific Caclulators

HP-32E	50.59

Programmable Scientific Caclulators

HP-10C	54.48
HP-11C	70.05
HP-15C	93.40
HP-16C	93.40
HP-33C	85.61

HP-34C	116.75

Financial Calculators

HP-12C	93.40
HP-37E	70.05
HP-38C	116.75

Fully Programmable Calculators

HP-97A	551.10

Hand-Held Computers

HP-41C	143.29
HP-41CV	202.07

HP-41C/CV Modules

HP-82106A	Memory Module (HP-41C only)	19.30
HP-82170A	Quad Memory Module (HP-41C only)	57.91
HP-82180A	Extended Functions/Memory Module	57.91
HP-82181A	Extended Memory Module	57.91
HP-82182A	Time Module	57.91
HP-82183A	Extended I/O Module	57.91
HP-82184A	Plotter Module	57.91

HP-41C/CV Peripherals etc.

HP-82104A	Card Reader	143.29
HP-82143A	Printer	282.90
HP-82153A	"Wand" Optical Reader	96.51

HP-82180A Rechargeable Battery Pack	27.02
HP-82151A Module Holder	5.79
HP-82152A Keyboard Overlay Kit (4)	7.72
HP-82172A Blank Keyboard Overlays (50)	42.47
HP-41 Touchpad	15.44
HP-82160A HP-IL Module	96.51

HP-IL Peripherals etc.

HP-82161A Digital Tape Drive	336.24
HP-82162A Thermal Printer	336.24
HP-82163B Video Interface Unit	168.12
HP-82165A HP-IL/GPIO Converter	220.12
HP-82166A HP-IL Converter Kit (2 Converters)	295.14
HP-82166B HP-IL Converters (10 Converters)	934.00
HP-82905B Opt. 448 Column Impact Printer	630.88
HP-74707A HP-IL Intercace Opt.003	1145.00

HP-41C/CV Application Modules

Standard Applications Pac (Module Only)	00041-15001	23.16
Statistics Pac	00041-15002	23.16
Mathematics Pac	00041-15003	23.16
Financial Decisions Pac*	00041-15004	23.16
Surveying Pac*	00041-15005	23.16
Circuit Analysis	00041-15006	23.16
Real Estate Pac*	00041-15016	34.74
Navigation Pac	00041-15017	34.74
Aviation Pac*	00041-15018	23.16
Thermal and Transport Science Pac	00041-15019	23.16
Machine Design Pac	00041-15020	23.16
Structural Analysis Pac	00041-15021	34.74
Games Pac	00041-15022	23.16
Home Management Pac*	00041-15023	23.16
Clinical Lab and Nuclear Medicine Pac	00041-15024	23.16
Securities Pac*	00041-15026	23.16
Stress Analysis Pac*	00041-15027	23.16
Pertroleum Fluids Pac	00041-15039	57.91

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Autostart/Duplication ROM                00041-15042     23.16
HP-IL Development Module                 00041-15043     57.91


*Conforms to US Practice
```

Re: HP-41 accessory retail prices

*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 12 Feb 2002, 10:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bo Kristoffersen

There are some EduCalc catalogs on the MOHPC CDs.

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Latest Xpander on ebay...being sold from Australia!
*Message #1 Posted by **Gene** on 11 Feb 2002, 10:33 a.m.*

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1331696580

Wonder the the custodians at ACO took any out of the trash? (Just kidding).

Gene http://www.rskey.org/gene/hpgene (New location)

Re: Latest Xpander on ebay...being sold from Australia!
*Message #2 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 12 Feb 2002, 11:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

Gene,

It is the first time I see an expander screen shot and I think I have an Xpander... ;-)

I use the same math investigation tool in my Cassiopeia E-125.

Check out www.saltire.com

Cheers,

Marx Pio

Re: Latest Xpander on ebay...being sold from Australia!
*Message #3 Posted by **Karl Hafen -UT USA** on 12 Feb 2002, 9:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gene

WOW! also check out the linux pda. I've not seen that one before.

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1331698311

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Approximation mode
*Message #1 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 10 Feb 2002, 10:00 a.m.*

Hello,

I'm absolutely puzzled with the following. I wrote program TST as follows:

« -> SB Z M « SB DUP 30. * 100. / 360. Z / / » »

It gets 3 values from the stack, does the calculation and leaves the result on the stack and because I switched the approximation mode always on (the same is true vor the RPN mode), the result is e.g. 0.25. OK.

Then I wrote program Z as follows:

« "program Z" { { "S " "" 0. } { "Z " "" 0. } { "A " "" 0. } } { } DUP DUP INFORM DROP -> TAB

« 'TAB' 1. GET 'TAB' 2. GET 'TAB' 3. GET -> S Z M '0.' -> I '0.' -> K « K S + 30. * 100. / 360. Z / / » » »

Program Z is nearly identical to program TST except that it displays the result in the exact mode, e.g.:

S*30.000 -------- 100.000 360.000 ------- Z

I mean, the main difference of the 2 programs is only the way I'm providing the parameters: For TST I'm putting them on the stack and for Z I'm using an INFORM-statement. Does this statement has anything to do with that or what am I doing wrong ? Any hint will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Re: Approximation mode

*Message #2 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 10 Feb 2002, 10:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

I forgot to mention that these programs run on a HP-49G

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killer rom
*Message #1 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 9 Feb 2002, 8:00 p.m.*

i seem to have a finance rom that crashes 41's. has this happened to anyone else?

Alien Rom?
*Message #2 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 9 Feb 2002, 9:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by db(martinez,california)

DB,

I have 2 41CV (1 half and 1 fullnut) Have the financial decisions pac, stress analysis pac and Stat & Math pac and a card reader. I used them in both 41 with all sort of combinations and nothing abnormal happened. It sound strange you blaming the financial pac. I'm getting afraid of it, so I kept my financial rom away from my 41. Could be vintage viruses? ;)

Cheers,

Marx Pio

Re: Alien Rom?
*Message #3 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 9 Feb 2002, 11:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Marx Pio

this seems to be the cause of my 41's locking up and being in permanent (until drained of power) memory lost. maybe it is dirty. i think i'll give the rom a bath in carbon tet or something equally nasty then blow it out with compressed air. it dosn't cause a monster to pop out of my calculators chest but it is not good for my peace of mind to have them ignore all the keys. besides, i don't really need a finance rom. money comes in, it disapears. no need for a program there.

Re: Alien Rom?
*Message #4 Posted by **CJ** on 10 Feb 2002, 7:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by db(martinez,california)

I have had the same problem with all kinds of rams, roms and the IL module.

To me atleast it seems like dirty contacts.

I pull the battery out of the machine and then slide the ram, rom , IL module in and out about 10 times. This so far has fixed the problem.

I would have to go with your conclusion that they are dirty but I haven't figured out the best way to clean the contacts(solution) without damaging them. So I haven't I just use my previous example to fix the problem.

Does anybody know the best way to clean the machine contacts and module contacts?

Christopher

Re: Alien Rom?
*Message #5 Posted by **Stephan Hirse** on 10 Feb 2002, 5:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by CJ

In general for cleaning contacts I use a hard rubber (eraser), as it has been used on ink drawings before there were CAD systems and a soft brush to remove the resulting dust.

Re: killer rom
*Message #6 Posted by **glynn** on 9 Feb 2002, 11:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by db(martinez,california)

could that be the famous En-Rom? ;-)

Re: killer rom
*Message #7 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 10 Feb 2002, 6:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by glynn

Enron, huh well...

Dealing with problems and bad financial decisions I bet you are right ;-)

Re: killer rom (?????)
*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Feb 2002, 9:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by glynn

Hi;

I've been out for a few days (running, running, running...). Didi I lose something?

What is this En-Rom about? Sorry if this is as obvious as the question is to be disregarded...

Thanks.

Re: killer rom (?????)
*Message #9 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 10 Feb 2002, 4:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

En-ROM <-> Enron ;)

Re: killer rom (?????)
*Message #10 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Feb 2002, 8:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Evgen Fedorenko

HI, Evgen; thanks.

I'm still in doubt... Why the killer? Why the En- prefix?

Can you help clearing?

Thanks and sorry for the dumb questions...

Re: killer rom (?????)
*Message #11 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Feb 2002, 4:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Have a look at.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/enron/index.html

Re: killer rom (?????)
*Message #12 Posted by **Marx Pio(Brasil)** on 11 Feb 2002, 5:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz,

It was just a kidding with the name Enrom. There was a problem with a db's rom and glynn made joke with the words.

Luiz, É apenas uma brincadeira, db falou de uma rom com problemas e surgiu uma tal "en" rom(Enron), aquela megafalência nos USA Sacou?

Abraços

Marx Pio

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Square Root calculation
*Message #1 Posted by **Arnold Kiner** on 9 Feb 2002, 1:31 p.m.*

As an entry level engineer in 1963 and for a few years thereafter, I remember using Friden or Mnoroe/Marchant calculating machines to also find the square root. This was done by a succesive substraction using alternate odd numbers and every other row.

Does anyone know if there is a record or tip book of this square root calculation?

Re: Square Root calculation
*Message #2 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 10 Feb 2002, 6:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Arnold Kiner

Try this page from here:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/root.htm

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Help for my 11c
*Message #1 Posted by **Pat Lewis** on 9 Feb 2002, 10:41 a.m.*

I've lost the manuel to my 11c and I'm stuck in scientific notation mode. How do I get back into normal mode?? I've tried about every combination possible but evidently haven't hit the right one. Please help.

Re: Help for my 11c
*Message #2 Posted by **Erwin** on 9 Feb 2002, 6:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pat Lewis

Press 'f' 'fix' than enter significant number off digits.

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Please Help with Battery for HP 28C
*Message #1 Posted by **John Olsen** on 8 Feb 2002, 3:00 p.m.*

Is there anyone that can help me with information about the type of battery that can/should be used in a HP 28C, also where I can buy them. I lost my manual and I had stored the calculator without battery. Thank you John

N-cells 1.5V 4packs avail. Radio Shack
*Message #2 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 8 Feb 2002, 3:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Olsen

.

Re: N-cells 1.5V 4packs avail. Radio Shack
*Message #3 Posted by **Chan Tran** on 8 Feb 2002, 3:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ron Ross

They are available at Office Max, Office Depot, Walmart, KMart. Just have to look for them. They are N size batteries. Duracell Part No is MN9100

Re: N-cells 1.5V 4packs avail. Radio Shack
*Message #4 Posted by **Chris Catotti (Florida)** on 13 Feb 2002, 3:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Chan Tran

I prefer Eveready Energizer or Duracell brand batteries over Radio Shack for one simple reason. The Eveready Energizer and Duracell batteries are guaranteed by the battery manufacturer not to leak (even if you forget to use the calculator for yaers and leave the battery in it). I have used Radio Shack in a pinch.

In 1984, six weeks after installing newly purchased Eveready N-cells, the batteries dis=d leak and corrode my HP-41CV. I mailed it to Eveready, who sent it to HP to fix it. A month later I had it back, good as new. Today I am afraid Eveready or Duracell would have to pay you cash, as HP does not service the HP-41.

Eveready & Duracell warranty
*Message #5 Posted by **Matt Kernal (US)** on 13 Feb 2002, 5:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Chris Catotti (Florida)

My first HP was a 41CV that was given to me around 1986~87 by a mechanical engineer at the automation company where we both worked. It had been issued to him in the military, and when he completed service, he had left the 41 in a drawer (heaven forbid!) for what must have been a couple years. When I mentioned I was going to buy an HP, he said I could have his 41 because the batteries leaked and it didn't work anymore.

I sent the 41 to HP (with the batteries still in it) for repair. A couple days later I received a letter from HP stating the repair would cost $90 and that I needed to sign the authorization line and mail them $90 before work could begin. I waited a couple days debating whether I wanted to spend $90 and end up with a still used but repaired calculator (the letter didn't say an HP "repair" actually meant "replace with new".. remember, it was my first dealings with HP).

A day or two later, a box arrived at my house with a brand new 41CV and another letter from HP indicating that since I didn't cause the damage, but rather the leaking batteries did, they simply sent me the new calculator and sent the $90 repair bill to the battery manufacturer (Eveready or Duracell, can't remember which).

Needless to say, I was absolutely sold on HP quality and customer service. I now have 40+ HP's.

Oh yeah, I did give my mechanical engineer friend $50 as a peace offering, since I was often found proudly gloating over my new --free-- HP.

Matt

Re: Please Help with Battery for HP 28C
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 8 Feb 2002, 5:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Olsen

The cheapest (common) place that I have found "N" cells is, strangely enough, Home Depot.

Weird Batteries!
*Message #7 Posted by **Todd G.** on 8 Feb 2002, 9:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David Smith

Radio Shack is your best source for weird batteries. Especially N cells, and NiCds used for rebuilding packs.

I tell the guys there that I'm getting batteries for my calculator collection, and they look at me strangely. After I tell them I have about 50 HP calculators, they just shake their heads.

Anybody else get this type of response?

Todd

Re: Weird Batteries!
*Message #8 Posted by **bird** on 9 Feb 2002, 12:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Todd G.

Yes, but he was about 16 and clueless. He told be Radioshack offered plenty of great new calculators that could do anything I needed. lol.

Re: Weird Batteries!
*Message #9 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 9 Feb 2002, 12:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by bird

Yes, and it's always funny when you go into a store to see what HP calculators they might have and they try to ask what you want to do with it so they can try to sell you what they have. I give them an "A" for effort, though. It's refreshing to see people intersted in doing their jobs!

Re: Why Home Depot for N cells
*Message #10 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Feb 2002, 12:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David Smith

We have an Interstate Batteries store nearby that I've been to several times. Once I asked whether N cells were used in anything other than HP calculators. I was told they are used in some kind of security or tracking or something equipment in the trucking industry. Are they also used in the GameBoy?

Re: Why Home Depot for N cells
*Message #11 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 10 Feb 2002, 6:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Ellis Easley

Game Boy uses regular AA batteries. Could you imagine if parents had to find N size batteries for their kid's toys? They would be pulling their hair out!

Re: Why Home Depot for N cells
*Message #12 Posted by **Julián Miranda (Spain)** on 10 Feb 2002, 2:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Ellis Easley

I don't know if they are used for cameras or for accesories like flashes, but I usually get my N cells from photography shops.

Re: Why Home Depot for N cells
*Message #13 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 10 Feb 2002, 5:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Julián Miranda (Spain)

someone here said n cells were used in the first pokemon things (games or toys?). so i guess there are a lot of pelon parrents after all.

Re: Why Home Depot for N cells
*Message #14 Posted by **Bo Kristoffersen** on 11 Feb 2002, 9:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Ellis Easley

N-size cells are used in some LED-lamps for bicycles.

Regards, Bo

Albertsons
*Message #15 Posted by **Jerry Doctor** on 11 Feb 2002, 9:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Ellis Easley

N cells must be used for some fairly common items. My local Albertson's grocery store has them.

Re: Why Home Depot for N cells
*Message #16 Posted by **Ren** on 12 Feb 2002, 1:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Ellis Easley

My first encounter with an "N" cell was with an "N" scale model railroad! It was used in a boxcar to run a flashing LED on the back end of the boxcar to simulate the Freight Rear End Device (FRED-that little box that replaced the caboose on a freight train). Our local Batteries Plus has them in stock, but I believe they don't call them "N" cells, but by some stock #. And make sure they don't sell you the similar sized 12volt battery by mistake!

A good source for batteries!
*Message #17 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 11 Feb 2002, 2:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David Smith

Hello all:

I'm only dipping in here...I've been too busy with real-world junk lately to keep on the MoHPC Forum! :-(

BUT, I did want to let people know that a good (but a bit unusual) source for batteries is:

www.cheapbatteries.com

These guys stock lots of different types, and some of their prices are outstanding (check out the silver-oxide 357 batteries for the 10-series calculators). They carry N-cell, and many others. They _do_ charge an extra $5 fee if your order is under $50, though, so stock-up and use the freezer!

Oh, one more suggestion. They carry lithium 9-V batteries. These are GREAT for smoke detectors, as you can put them in and forget about them for about 5 years!

Bruce.

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Perceived demise of HP calculators
*Message #1 Posted by **Scotty** on 8 Feb 2002, 9:50 a.m.*

Maybe we should stop whingeing about the current situation and constructively lodge our dismay to hp on mass. Seems to me we have little to loose. Scotty Brisbane Australia

Re: Perceived demise of HP calculators
*Message #2 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 8 Feb 2002, 1:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Scotty

Scotty,

You could lodge your dismay, but I'd guess overall sales figures are "dismaying" enough to HP. I'd even expand that to say that's exactly why HP makes $6 & $15 alternatives to increasingly more powerful scientific. Rather than believing that HP tradition is ending, think of how it continues ... though quite different.

Joe

PS: Enron used TI's!!!!!!!!!!

Re: Perceived demise of HP calculators
*Message #3 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 8 Feb 2002, 3:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Joe Panico

<PS: Enron used TI's!!!!!!!!!!>

I now see the true cause of it's fall;-)

As to HP calcs: do you really think HP-C will waste money and good engineers on something as unprofitable, as scientific calcs? I believe they'll have much bigger problems than rioting calculator fans:(((((Too bad there's nothing like open-source for the hardware.....

Re: Perceived demise of HP calculators
*Message #4 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 8 Feb 2002, 5:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Evgen Fedorenko

Hello,

Evgen raises the question of open-source hardware. There is a movement along the lines of Richard Stallman's open-source software movement for hardware athough it's in its infancy.

Thanks, David.

Re: Perceived demise of Enron's calculators
*Message #5 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 8 Feb 2002, 7:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Evgen Fedorenko

I suspect that Enron's choice of technology is not so much to blame, as is it's mode of use. It sounds like what they were really implementing was a cloaking device. (As in, to hide debt.)

Re: Perceived demise of HP calculators
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 8 Feb 2002, 5:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Joe Panico

Actually, Enron used a lot of HP12C's!... You can find them offfered on Ebay right now for ridiculous prices.

Re: Perceived demise of HP calculators
*Message #7 Posted by **Scotty** on 9 Feb 2002, 8:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Joe Panico

I guess you hve a good point Joe if sales figures are the problem. I'm not in a position to debate that one. One poit that is glaringly obvious,if you want to sell a trusted and sophisticated product to a equally sophisticated customers. a).It must be noted that you customers are discerning. b).To have the product which challenges you discerning customers. I feel Bill and Dave understood these concepts very well. Countless companys have little trouble charging hefty amounts of money for quality products,and they get it. Car makers have been doing it for the better part of a century.Inevitability is a choice in this case,I just happen to believe HP calculator customers deserve a little more respect than is presently happing. One hell of a lot of money has been made from previous customer

loyalty. This may not be new news, HP here in Australia is respected on its past achievements, how it's seen in the future is what is taking place today. And that's not Inevitable.

Re: Perceived demise of HP calculators
*Message #8 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 12 Feb 2002, 1:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Scotty

Scotty,

The problem for just about every producer is that better does not equal sales. Of course, markets produce markets. Timex watches creates markets for Rolex. BMW creates a market for Ford, Vegi-mite creates a market for real food (sorry, couldn't resist). The question is whether or not a company elects to compete in the opposing market. HP's doing something but its difficult to read what their future is. Should comment, their crystal ball foresaw the scientific calculator, maybe the same vision sees it's end.

Joe

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GRAD indicator on financial calcs
*Message #1 Posted by **mapet** on 8 Feb 2002, 4:27 a.m.*

I have recently noticed that some of financial calcs that have no trig functions have GRAD indicator on the display. It could be seen during running self test. I wonder why? My guess is that the same LCD was used for other (sci) calcs...

Re: GRAD indicator on financial calcs
*Message #2 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 8 Feb 2002, 7:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

Just because it is cheaper to build up one all-round display than several displays for each model of calculator.

BTW, on the 12C, the BEGIN indicator is of no use for the other calcs, and the C indicator is common to the 12C and the 15C...

BTW2, the GRAD indicator is also used as RAD indicator (without the "G" of course)

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HP y^x Bug?
*Message #1 Posted by **Eric Evans** on 7 Feb 2002, 10:06 p.m.*

I have started collecting HP calcs recently, and just obtained a few erlier HP. I have noticed that when I enter y^x functions that it is not calculating them correctly. For instance, if I enter 7^8, it answers 5764800.985 rather than 5764801, 9^3 is 728.9999992 instead of 729. Is this common of the LED HPs? My HP-41C does not exhibit this.

Re: HP y^x Bug?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 7 Feb 2002, 11:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Evans

I tried your two examples on my calculators with the following results (calculators set to FIX 9 or DSP 9 except the 35):

model	(7^8)	(9^3)
35*	5764800.986	728.9999993
35	5764800.985	728.9999992
45	same	same
25	same	same
65	same	same
67	5764801.000	729.0000000
34C	same	same

*35 with ROM bug

It looks like HP changed the algorithm along the way and finally fixed it. I expect it is just a matter of checking for whole numbers first, to save embarrassment!

Re: HP y^x Bug?
*Message #3 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 8 Feb 2002, 6:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

It's not a bug at all, any numerical algorithm is bound to give only a limited precision, as both approximations to trascendental functions (log, sin, etc) and rounding errors caused by finite precision affect the overall accuracy attainable.

HP programmers were fully awara of the situation, and there were several articles in the "HP Journal" dealing with this topic. You may want to read these two:

"Algorithms and Accuracy in the HP-35" "Making 2^3 = 8"

The last one deals with exactly the situation you describe.

Re: HP y^x Bug?
*Message #4 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 8 Feb 2002, 11:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Evans

I think that HP went to internal accuracy greater than the display capability of their calculators to prevent things like this from happening. Such as an 11c having a 10 digit display but having 12 digit internal accuracy or something along those lines. Then, the rounding would make the display read the correct answer.

Re: HP y^x Bug?
*Message #5 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 8 Feb 2002, 3:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Eric Evans

When HP calculators first appeared, most science and engineering calculations where done on slide rules which yielded 3-4 digits if you were careful. The early calculators were mostly bought by people who were used to these limits. Besides most real-world measurements that they use in their calculations don't exceed 2 to 4 digits of precision anyway, and scientists understand the concept of significant digits.

I think the drive to more accuracy came mostly when calculators became cheap enough for students. Then calculators became less of an engineering tool and more of a pure math tool and many of the owners got calculators before learning about significant digits and also before learning that floating point numbers are approximations. This lead to improved accuracy and also to the "trick" of calculating more digits than you will allow the user to see. (If the user doesn't like or understand the approximate nature of floating point - hide it.)

By the way, back when "The Pentium Bug" was all the rage, someone reported finding "The Pentium Bug" in the HP-48. He did 1 divided by 3 times 3 and got (gasp!) .999999999999 instead of 1.

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This was fun
*Message #1 Posted by **John E. Morelock** on 7 Feb 2002, 8:28 p.m.*

Hello, I have used HPs since my first HP35 (1974ish) and on through the 19BII and 28S. I recently reverted to my 41C because of whatever.

I discovered this Web site by accident. I might go through the old 41 boxes (manuals, card reader, various modules) to see if there are any needed things.

It has been fun reading through some of the postings.

I still have my slide rules, too.

John M.

Re: This was fun
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 8 Feb 2002, 7:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John E. Morelock

I reverted to an HP-41CX myself, after trying a 48GX and a 49G. Even though the 41CX isn't half as fast as either of the newer ones, and it doesn't have a **tenth** of its capabilities, I still prefer the 41CX.

Oh, and I have my old slide rule too. I don't think I've used it since 1976 or thereabouts, when I bought my first HP calculator, an HP-25. If I tried to use the slide rule today, I'd probably never figure it out. All I can do is multiply and divide, and then I always get the decimal point misplaced.

-Ernie

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While HP sleeps, TI works
*Message #1 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 7 Feb 2002, 5:37 p.m.*

Check out this:

http://education.ti.com/global/promo/voyage200.html

Now TI has a whole world to sell calculators after the death of ACO

Cheers,

Marx Pio

Re: While HP sleeps, TI works
*Message #2 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 7 Feb 2002, 6:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

Thanks Marx,

A tool which encourages investigations in mathematics, and is available, and can be discussed as a living product - brilliant! Stick RPN in as well - game over?

While acknowledging that this is a museum site, it's refreshing to see new tools from Ti which encourage and educate. Life goes on, albeit sadly without HP.

David

Re: While HP sleeps, TI works
*Message #3 Posted by **doug** on 8 Feb 2002, 12:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

TI RULES!!!!!

WHY?

HP QUIT!!!

AOS RULES!!!

WHY?

LOOK UP!!!

HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #4 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 8 Feb 2002, 8:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

... and that's nothing new, it's been agonizing since long. Some calc-related symptoms ? Let's see:

- spiral manuals, in several colours, replaced with monocromatic or two-colour hardbounded ones

- big, informative manuals, filled with excellent, good-humored examples replaced with thin, terse, dry ones, filled up with big amounts of blank space and little information

- solidly built, last-for-always calc bodies replaced with feeble, readily worn out plastic ones

- easy to open calculators, which you could even alter or expand yourself (i.e. add more memory or a switch) replaced with unopenable ones, very difficult to modify at all

- molded, permanent keys replaced with painted ones, even several times painted over

- classic lines and colours, replaced with garish ones

- quality production in USA and Singapore replaced with Indonesia, Malaysia, and worst of all, China

- full functionality for engineers (i.e: infrarred communications) cut down to suit students and their restrictive environments (i.e: copying in exams)

- excellent designs badly crippled, i.e: 42S's IR input supressed, impossible to read in your 41C programs though the machine was internallty designed to accept them directly without translation. Synthetics disabled, CPU speed reduced and software remedies thwarted.

- useful publications, such as "HP Keynotes" or services, such as "HP User's Library" deleted

and I could go on, and on, and on ... enough.

Re: HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #5 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 8 Feb 2002, 9:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ex-PPC member

I wouldn't buy any calc from Ti, even if I'd have to calculate space flight trajectory with a slide rule;)

Re: HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #6 Posted by **Frank** on 11 Feb 2002, 8:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Evgen Fedorenko

Course you could use an outdated pc, note p4's are at or less than HP's finest calculators of the 70's, not adjusted for inflation!

Re: HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #7 Posted by **Vincent** on 8 Feb 2002, 11:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ex-PPC member

I thought that the 48G series were still made in Singapore. This is not the case? Chinese made one's are "the worst of all???"

Re: The Decent of HP Calculators or The State of the Arc

*Message #8 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 9 Feb 2002, 1:58 a.m.,*

in response to message #7 by Vincent

I may be stating the obvious but there's a few points I think bear consideration in the current state of HP calculators apart from the real (or imagined) inadaquacy of HP management. Let me make clear that i'm not defending HP's policy or actions of the relatively recent past and present. In fact I think HP has demonstrated a genuine cowardice which in effect is inimical to true market leadership and the spirit of innovation. That said, i'd like to focus on the technology itself as a contributing factor to 'the decent of HP calculators'. In percieving this decent we are apt to look back to the earlier models as consistent examples of quality and innovation that also benefitted from an ascending arc of technological advancement that has seen application in myriad other fields as well. This arc has been so steep that any device drawn from a point early enough on the arc has now the appearance of an 'antique', and indeed some devices are now treated as such. It is important to recognize the relationship between the ascending arc of technology and the devices that are its constituent points. Since the arc advances with the sum total of human knowledge, though in a limited number of fields, and is not limited a priori to a specific application, it is unlikely that any one device, no matter how completely it reflects the movement of the arc in changing from one form to another over a short period of time, can long embody the whole movement of the arc. In other words, new devices will emerge that are better able to reflect the 'state of the arc' and the device that was previously its leading ambassador will settle into a more modest office. This is precisely what happened in the movement from calculators to personal computers. Many people can remember when four function calculators were revolutionary. This is because they emodied the state of the arc. Needless to say, anything that embodies the state of the arc gets considerable attention from industry and the marketplace. All this is not to say that HP calculators were never more than a dumb embodiment of a mass intellingence that was after all inevitable; that would be to say that there is a forest but there are no trees. HP calculators were the state of the art as well as the state of the arc. No one implemented the technology more intellingently.

The State of the Arc - part II

*Message #9 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 9 Feb 2002, 3:14 a.m.,*

in response to message #8 by Steve Borowsky

...So while calculators embodied the state of the arc, HP implemented the technology more intelligently than anyone else; after all, the same technology was available to other companies at the same time. It should also be acknowledged that HP didn't have a monopoly on intelligent implementation or innovation. TI got it right with the 59, and later Casio got it right with the FX7000G, the first graphing calculator, and particularly the FX7500G which is still impressive after 15 years or so becuase of its size (a graphing calculator that is by memory 75% the size of a 15C when closed). It's when the arc moved beyond calculators that HP had trouble placing their calculators securely in the new niche markets that formed. Largely this was because they fit the first market, which was a market for state of the art handheld computing devices, so tightly that it was difficult to pry them loose to fill other, less technically savvy markets. Unfortunately, RPN was a square peg trying to fit in a round hole. You can blame either the peg or the hole, it's up to you...I choose to blame the hole.

You forget one important thing.

*Message #10 Posted by **Mike** on 10 Feb 2002, 1:45 p.m.,*

in response to message #4 by Ex-PPC member

All of these businesses are in the business for one reason.

[bold]To make money[/b]

They are not in the business to educate our children, to give us nice toys that last forever, to do anything but make a profit.

HP has always been known for quality, in what they offer. Even their cheapest piece of plastic was always far better than TI or Casio.

I, for one, congratulate HP for giving up on calculators rather than sacrafice quality to give us cheap pieces of junk that last a year or so and are thrown out.

Remember, HP is in the business of making money, not to lose money giving us high quality products that do not make money for them.

Anyone that thinks that HP could continue making the calculators of yesterday, and still make a profit, simply does not understand business.

Lots of emotion at play here.

You and I and everyone that ever read a post on this board would by HPs but that is not enough to make it profitable, even if we agreed to buy one every year.

The Business has changed...
*Message #11 Posted by **Todd G.** on 10 Feb 2002, 4:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Mike

I believe Mike is on the right track regarding profit motive. However, it is worth analyzing the historical factors of the calculator business to understand why things are the way they are today. I tell people that students of business can learn a lot about the the rise and fall of an industry by studing the evolution of the pocket calculator from a business perspective. Here's my take on it.

In the 1970s, there were something like 200 manufacturers of calculators in the US, and the calculators were expensive. This was due mainly to the high cost of memory chips. As time went on, the cost of chips came down (and their capability increased), so the cost of calculators came down as well. Add in the large number of manufacturers, and the situation was ripe for some stiff competition. HP tried cutting costs by moving operations overseas (cheaper labor, etc ... note the newest HP calcs are made in China!) and using more efficient manufacturing techniques, but it wasn't enough. Today, of course, most of the manufacturers have gotten out of the business, and only HP, TI, Casio, and Sharp remain as the significant players.

The plethora of HP35 and other Classic units that were sold in the 1970s made HP a tidy profit . However, I wouldn't be surprised HP made ANY profit on the calculators they sell now. Simply put, the cost of making calculators today exceeds profitability. If they have not done so already, HP will ultimately make a business decision to get out of the calculator business altogether.

Today, HP has moved on to handheld PCs as the logical extension of the pocket calculator. Like the $395 HP35 in 1972, the $600 Jornada Pocket PC 2002 likely makes HP a good marginal profit. You can see HP pouring resources into this lucrative sector of the market right now. At least they have a good built-in RPN calculator!

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #12 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 10 Feb 2002, 5:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Todd G.

todd - when that jordana comes with an emulator that gives me a 42 with i/o and a virtually unlimited memory; i'll buy it.

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #13 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 11 Feb 2002, 1:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by db(martinez,california)

Hi,

the Jornada 690 has an emulation of something like an 11C, switchable to a finanial mode.

And you can run Emu48 on the Jornada.

Raymond

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #14 Posted by **GE (France)** on 11 Feb 2002, 5:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

You should recall that TI is still making money on the calculator market (some say it's one of their only profitable divisions). Also, I think their late models like the TI89 for instance are mechanically very well build. So we're back to only bad management decisions and the overall lack of vision of these so-called "top" managers to explain the current state of affairs.

By the way, can't they lose money for a few years really ? Is it urgent to kill a departement with ideas which need some time to put products out the door ? Vision again...

My short-sighted analysis of the problem HP faces is that instead of sleeping on their laurels from 1995 to 2000 with the coming of the not-s-innovative 48GX, 5 years of wait for the nice but not revolutionary 49G, we should have seen something real and dramatic long ago. This was not the case.

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #15 Posted by **Scotty** on 11 Feb 2002, 6:53 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by GE (France)

Now your taking, I think you put your finger right on it Raymond. The perception that the business has changed hasn't stopped Texas Instruments from making a quid. Let's have a little optimism. Scotty

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #16 Posted by **Frank** on 11 Feb 2002, 8:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by GE (France)

TI seemed to forsee at least the near term market tied to education, and that move along with support it provided in that sector allowed them to be the strongest? Note prices for ti-89 increased in some big box stores as HP's were pulled.

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #17 Posted by **Jonathan Busby** on 11 Feb 2002, 5:25 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Todd G.

Todd G. wrote :

"However, I wouldn't be surprised HP made ANY profit on the calculators they sell now. Simply put, the cost of making calculators today exceeds profitability. If they have not done so already, HP will ultimately make a business decision to get out of the calculator business altogether."

Actually, I do not think this is correct. To quote Jean-Yves Avenard, one of the chief software developers of the 49 and former employee of the now defunct ACO : "ACO was profitable, and in fact, could finance itself just with the calculators sale (and it's not a small profit, ACO by itself would be a multi-million dollars company)" .

Also, on the subject of HP shutting down their *entire* calculator business, I have this quote from Ian Morris, President of the HP Embedded and Personal Systems Group : "HP will continue to deliver calculators and remains committed to the business. The business model, channel strategy and sales and marketing activities will remain the same. " . As to whether the above has any truth or is just corporate BS, well, that's another matter.

Regards,

Jonathan

(Remove the random permutation of "NOSPAM" before e-mailing me.)

Millions? With an M?

*Message #18 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 11 Feb 2002, 12:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Jonathan Busby

That could be a problem. HP is a tens of Billions with a B kind of company now. It's hard for a lot of big companies to pay attention to things that make around 0.1% of their revenues.

When I joined Intel in 1982 I worked in a division that made about $100 Million and was considered quite important to the company. By the mid-1990s that division had stabilized at about $50 Million and Intel was making tens of Billions. That division doesn't exist any more.

A lot of old employees like me wondered why they took so long to get rid of it. Apparently, they had a lot of long-term commitments that had to be met. (I left in 1988 thinking it would be dead within a year.) Many other employees had moved on and the ones who remained spent a lot of time complaining about management indifference. When you're 10% of the organization, the CEO talks about you all the time. At 0.2% he mostly ignores you.

Based on a quick look at a finance page, TI seems to get about 4% of its revenue from "graphing and educational calculators" (no other kind of calculator is mentioned.) TI's revenues last year were about one fifth of HPs though so even if HP's calculator sales were as great, it would still be in the dangerous sub 1 percent region on HP's financial statements.

Perhaps there's someone out there who'd like to buy a multi-million dollar business from HP?

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #19 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 12 Feb 2002, 3:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Jonathan Busby

Someone has to make calculators anyway, no?

I just hope it won't be TI...

Maybe Microsoft will;) Have you noticed RPN mode in WinXP's PowerToy Calculator?

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #20 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 13 Feb 2002, 2:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Todd G.

Getting off-topic here... but I think Compaq iPaq are today, what HP calculators were yesterday.

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #21 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 13 Feb 2002, 9:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by Spice_Man

Well, HP also seems to think that palmtops will be the future calcs. But right now they are wrong. At least with the current 3 knob/stylus/mini alphanumeric keyboard interfaces palmtops are pretty much useless as calculators. Second, they are much more expensive. Third, and most importantly, to this date no single PC math software has all the capabilities of the latest HP calcs.

If these flaws are fixed then, yes, the handheld PC might become the next scientific calculator, and I'll buy one immediately. But not before that.

Re: The Business has changed...
*Message #22 Posted by **Masao Kinoshita** on 14 Feb 2002, 12:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Albert Graef

This is just a thought.

Perhaps ACO was a victim of Carly trying (and succeeding) to make the numbers for Wall Street in preparation for the merger with Compaq.

BTW I am not going to take sides on this one (the merger, I mean).

Re: HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #23 Posted by **vassilis Prevelakis** on 11 Feb 2002, 2:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ex-PPC member

Producing lousy manuals (both visually and technically) is not a new thing for HP. Have a look at say the manual for the 82183A Extended I/O Module. Its monochrome (written on what looks like a typerwriter and is probably a Diablo daisywheel printer), totally uninformative, and with lots of errors (both language and factual).

It was written in 1982.

The reason for this is that they didn't expect to sell lots of XIO modules (which is the reason why they are so expensive nowadays) and so didn't feel it was worth to produce a quality manual.

That's life. If you can convince enough people to spend $300 for a calculator, you can be sure the manual will be excellent.

Re: HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #24 Posted by **Frank** on 11 Feb 2002, 8:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #23 by vassilis Prevelakis

Or, these days the manuals will be on a $.05 (guessed volume price maybe less) CD tossed in with the product, allowing you to use your $70 worth of HP Inkjet Carts to print them! ;+}

Re: HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #25 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 12 Feb 2002, 9:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #24 by Frank

> Or, these days the manuals will be on a $.05 (guessed volume price maybe less) CD [...]

You missed my point. The cost is not duplication, its production. You have to *write* the manual before you distribute it. The manuals produced in the 70s were done with superb attention to detail, with graphics, lots of examples, and clear explanations.

From the early 80s onwards (with one or two notable exceptions, like the manual for the 82182A Time module, or the 82210A HP41CV Emulator for the 48SX) quality steadily deteriorated.

Personally, I do not really care whether the manual is printed or not. When I read it the first time, I prefer a printed version, but when I need to refer to it later, I find an on-line version more convenient (and portable). If, however, the contents are trash, I'll just throw it away, regardless of its format.

**vp

Re: HP is not sleeping, it's dying ...
*Message #26 Posted by **Frank** on 13 Feb 2002, 11:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #25 by Vassilis Prevelakis

The manufacturers see major hard copy manuals as cost that can be reduced in products, which implies consumers (and major retailers) are seen in general as not valuing the manuals as an add on to the price of the product. I'm sure the actual results would vary by product type/user group. The actual development cost is rather inconsequental compared with the need to recover production cost with margin for the manuals.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP calculators today
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 7 Feb 2002, 4:10 p.m.*

Sorry, well off topic, but...

Isn't it depressing that an HP calculator can't be purchased these days without "inside" knowledge.

Where was it made? Does it have the better screen? Does it have a proper keyboard? Am I going to get a recent one, or one that is "new old stock?" Is it politically correct to buy from Indonesia?

Now I read on this forum that we might even be prevented from knowing the manufacturing origin of our machines.

Isn't it depressing that ghouls wander over the Web courtesy of Ebay in a desperate effort to profit on the back of the legendary efforts of HP?

Everything has its day, perhaps it's time to let HP calculators go, and realise that buying an HP might not be worth the hassle.

For me the HP logo will always invoke strong memories. HP's equipment was one of my first encounters with quality. As the day approaches for the vote on the HP-Compaq merger, many others must be sad also.

HP, here's to you - American manufacturing hero.

Thanks, David

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #2 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 7 Feb 2002, 4:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

But what alternative is there?

No one else produces calcs with any kind Polish Notation:((

And the only ones comparable in power are those from TI, but admit it - its more like comparing a Ferrari to a Ford=|

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #3 Posted by **Yani** on 8 Feb 2002, 8:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Evgen Fedorenko

Read on comp.sys.hp48 (I think) a while ago that a group in Europe (cannot remember the precise details) are going to manufacture a new RPN scientific calculator. If they pull this off and become profitable (no reason why they should not) then it could give rise to a whole new future.

Anybody remember the discussion?

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #4 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 8 Feb 2002, 9:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Yani

I don't think they will be proffitable enough to last for time, sufficient to design a really good calc (unless they get some key members of ACO team..which I personally doubt).

Bu the way, has anybody got any estimate on how many RPN calcs has HP sold since they started making them? Cause I think that ex-Soviets have beaten them there - they sold around 1.5 billion PN-based calcs (from 1975 to 1990)

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 8 Feb 2002, 5:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Evgen Fedorenko

There is NO way the soviets made ANYWHERE near 1.5 billion calculators... that would be around 5 for every man, woman, and child in the Soviet Union. Whenever any engineer or scientist from the ex Soviet Union visited us, he promptly went to the local calulator store and bought one here... they could not get one over there. If they could even find one they were 10 times the price and 1/100 the quality of ours.

Then just to totally break their minds we took them to a US supermarket. I think Safeway was responsible for more defections than all other causes combined.

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #6 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 9 Feb 2002, 3:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by David Smith

I never said that our engineers didn't want them. But the quality of Soviet calcs was so poor, that they had to be replaced almost every second year. They were also present in quantity equal to the quantity of students in every math class in every school and university. I've got around 20 of those myself (only 3 of them work) The price was around 15 bucks/piece, which was no problem at all(that explains the quality, I guess:) In fact they were even given out for free as a part of some governmental 'social enlightment' programme. Their capabilities were almost the same as HP's of the time, and were also programmable. And after all, those are official statistics, which can be very well proved.....

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #7 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 9 Feb 2002, 3:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Evgen Fedorenko

I forgot to mention that those calcs were also *extremely* slow:((They could take up to 2 seconds to calculate square root of 1000;-) That's the main reason they didn't go well with scientists.

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #8 Posted by **Vincent** on 7 Feb 2002, 5:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Not sure what you meant by "ghouls wander over the Web courtesy of Ebay in a desperate effort to profit on the back of the legendary efforts of HP?"

As for criticizing people for trying to find out where the calculator is manufactured, I think the fact that HP calculators will no longer be made are making people want to buy one that will last the longest. If there is a noticable difference between different country's why not buy the better (not that there is a difference)? In 5 years you might not be able to buy a new one. Better get one that lasts...

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #9 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 7 Feb 2002, 6:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Vincent

Vincent,

Please re-read thread more carefully: I'm not denegrating people wanting to know the origin of their HP. Ideally they shouldn't need to know, the HP logo should be enough to guarantee a quality product; unfortunately at present, this is not the case.

David

Re: HP calculators today
*Message #10 Posted by **Ren** on 8 Feb 2002, 10:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

David Thompson wrote: Is it politically correct to buy from Indonesia?

(Warning: forbidden off-topic political statement!) Or in my opinion, is it morally correct to buy from China?

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Does Chinese 48G+ have better screen?
*Message #1 Posted by **Norm B.** on 6 Feb 2002, 10:20 p.m.*

I have read that HP 48G+'s manufactured in China have better screens then the ones made in Indonesia. (green vs. gray). Is this true? Is the difference worth the effort to find/buy a Chinese made calc?

Re: Does Chinese 48G+ have better screen?
*Message #2 Posted by **Jonathan Busby** on 7 Feb 2002, 6:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Norm B.

To the best of my knowledge there have been four "versions" of the 48 G/GX with regard to the lcd display. The first version (back in 93) had the well known "blue on light green" display. The second was similar in color but had significantly higher contrast. I purchased a GX in 94 with this display so they must have been introduced around then. This is the display that was used in all 48's until recently. In 2001 I believe, HP began manufacturing 48's with a new "black on light tan display" . These calcs were made in Indonesia and seemed to have some quality problems. Particularly, after buying one I noticed what one might call a "defect" although I think a better term would be "design flaw" since this was characteristic of all the new 48's manufactured in Indonesia. Specifically the lcd had discolorations near the bottom left and right corners. (See this posting for more information :

http://groups.google.com/groups?selm=4go9utgj14ihr753sajnraepdo95efj9is%404ax.com)
Every model manufactured in Indonesia around the same time that I saw had this same problem. Also, the construction seemed to be of a lesser quality (ie. the calc weighed less than earlier models and had a less "solid" feel) and the keys were painted. Recently HP has performed a switcheroo again and started to produce all of its high end graphicals in China. I've heard that these use yet another display version that has corrected the problems of the previous ones. Specifically, it is a higher contrast "black on white" (or light gray) display. Indeed, I think it is the same as the newest lcd version used in the 49. (the model used in recently manufactured Chinese 49's)

All of the big consumer electronics chains I've been to (eg. Fry's Electronics) seem to only

carry 3 year old 1999 Indonesian calcs. If you want a better chance of getting a recently manufactured calc may I suggest Samson Cables (www.samsoncables.com). You might try e-mailing them about this since they've put an effort into stocking new Chinese 49's .

Hope this helps...

Jonathan

(Remove the random permutation of NOSPAM before replying)

Re: Does Chinese 48G+ have better screen?
*Message #3 Posted by **Norman B.** on 8 Feb 2002, 11:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Jonathan Busby

So, you would highly recommend that I try finding a new Chinese manufactured 48G+? Are these only made in Indonesia or China now (no Singapore?)?

Thanks for your in depth response. It was a big help.

Also, in your opinion the screen/quality of an Indonesian HP 48 manufactured in 1999 would be better then on made there in 2001?

Re: Does Chinese 48G+ have better screen?
*Message #4 Posted by **Jonathan Busby** on 8 Feb 2002, 12:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Norman B.

Norman B. wrote :

"So, you would highly recommend that I try finding a new Chinese manufactured 48G +? Are these only made in Indonesia or China now (no Singapore?)?"

All of HP's graphing calcs are now manufactured in China I believe.

"Also, in your opinion the screen/quality of an Indonesian HP 48 manufactured in 1999 would be better then on made there in 2001?"

Well, that depends on your definition of "quality" ;). The contrast of the 2001 Indonesian models is excellent, MUCH better than the older "blue on light green" screens. But, as I said in my previous post these screens suffer from a defect in the form of discolorations near the bottom corners. It's not that noticeable but it is visible. The

latest Chinese models have corrected this AFAIK.

Regards,

Jonathan

(Remove the random permutation of "NOSPAM" from my e-mail address before replying)

Re: Does Chinese 48G+ have better screen?
*Message #5 Posted by **Glen Kilpatrick** on 9 Feb 2002, 2:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Jonathan Busby

I just checked my ~stable. My GX is stamped on the back from Singapore, and the G + likewise from Indonesia. The displays are _identical_ in both off and on states, and (since I don't have that many in the stable to compare them to :) would appear to be "blue on green", easier to read than my old 48S (also a Singapore manufacture), but definitely not black on anything else. So possibly the manufacturing quality changes weren't associated with the move to Indonesia, but with process modifications after Indonesian manufacture was the norm.

Re: Does Chinese 48G+ have better screen?
*Message #6 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Feb 2002, 9:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Norm B.

Hi;

I have a 48G+ with the same 49G's LCD. It is a lot better for reading, and the calc is Made in Indonesia, Serial # ID13900770. I've posted something about it in here a few months ago.

Cheers.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP is still making calcs.
*Message #1 Posted by **Cory Sekine-Pettite** on 6 Feb 2002, 10:33 a.m.*

For all those still wondering, HP still plans to stay in the calculator business. Several rumors have been flying around, and as a magazine editor whose readers use HP's RPN calculators on a daily basis, I heard them as well. Upon contacting their press office and speaking with a very helpful lady, I have it on good authority that the company will still be making their calculators. The only move they have made is to close a manufacturing facility in Australia.

Re: HP is still making calcs.
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank** on 6 Feb 2002, 11:55 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Cory Sekine-Pettite

A number of us understood the position to be milking existing products with contract manufacturing until resellers refused to do so, and not including continuation of development. If you do find out development will continue, please advise. Big Box Retailers have really narrowed HP Offerings of late.

HP is not designing calcs.
*Message #3 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 6 Feb 2002, 1:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Frank

I agree with Frank.

QUOTE:

'Upon contacting their press office and speaking with a very helpful lady, I have it on good authority that the company will still be making their calculators. The only move they have made is to close a manufacturing facility in Australia.'

The Australian section of the calculator wing was not a manufacturing site, it was the design site (I don't think that ANY HP calcs were actually MADE in Oz). At the time HP decided to close the Australian section the information they gave out was misleading and I think

HP's 'press office' is repeating the error (either by design or ignorance)

TRY GOING BACK TO THE PRESS OFFICE AND ASK HOW MANY PRODUCTION CALCULATORS THE AUSTRALIAN SITE EVER MADE AND ALSO HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WORKING ON NEW CALCULATOR DESIGNS NOW.

Closing down the design site is the same as pulling out of the market (only it's death by 1000 cuts).

Cory Sekine-Pettite: Some advice
*Message #4 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 6 Feb 2002, 2:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tom (UK)

Hello,

Cory, I don't understand how you could have been so naive to post your message about HP's intentions for the calculator market.

At the very least your posting is missleading, at worst it's guaranteed to rile many on this forum.

Thanks, David

Re: Cory Sekine-Pettite: Some advice
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike Sebastian (Texas)** on 6 Feb 2002, 10:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by David H Thompson

Please, let's keep this forum friendly. Cory did the right thing by going directly to HP for information. Whether or not we choose to believe HP is an entirely separate issue.

Cory, I thank you for taking the time to do a little research and then sharing what you learned with us.

Re: Cory Sekine-Pettite: Some advice
*Message #6 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 7 Feb 2002, 3:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by David H Thompson

OK I was a bit riled by HP's press office (I was thinking of all those HP designers given the sack in Australia), but we don't know Cory's reason(s) for posting here. It could be anything from being an HP stooge to a careful investigation (looking at all available sources of info) before printing a story on the future of HP calculators - I hope it's the latter.

By the way a Google search on Cory's name gives a link to a Civil Engineering magazine so perhaps we might see a story on HP calcs?

Re: Cory Sekine-Pettite: Some advice
*Message #7 Posted by **Yani** on 7 Feb 2002, 8:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tom (UK)

Following a recent post to comp.sys.hp48 I checked with our supplier (the largest IT wholesaler in Australia) and they do not list the 32S II any more. I have also been trying to source the 48G AUG and am having some difficulty. It seems to have dissapeared from HP's sites.

I just bought the 6S and even with my specs I find the writing almost impossible to read. To use this toy I think I will have to memorise the key functions!

Re: can't read key labels
*Message #8 Posted by **Chan Tran** on 7 Feb 2002, 10:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Yani

Hi Yani, I can't read the label on my blank nut HP41cx either

RE: David

*Message #9 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 7 Feb 2002, 12:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by David H Thompson

David,

I did see both your post, so not a flame with this. The point is that Cory's understanding of HP's production may be widespread in the general marketplace. Many MAY believe that HP is no longer producing calcs which will further erode HP market, ... (I'm sure you can fill in the blanks!)

SIGH!!!! At least there made well and should last for many years.

Joe

Re: David

*Message #10 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 7 Feb 2002, 1:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Joe Panico

Joe Panico wrote:

"SIGH!!!! At least there made well and should last for many years."

You bet ! My HP-11C it's a 1981 model, has been used nearly *every day* since then (21+ years), yet still it's in mint condition, with perfect keyboard and display and works flawlessly. Still on its 3rd set of batteries.

Also, my HP-25 is 25 years old, was used heavily on its heyday, yet it's still in excellent condition, with perfect keyboard and LED display. The one and only thing I had to do was to replace its dead battery for new cells, and it runs absolutely fine on them.

Bottom line: if you take just a little care of your HP, specially classic USA models, it will last for many *decades*, if not more. Not so with most other brands.

hmm....

*Message #11 Posted by **Evgen Fedorenko** on 7 Feb 2002, 3:13 p.m.,*

in response to message #10 by Ex-PPC member

What I don't get is do they still manufacture calcs (and which models if so), or have they stopped making them as well as designing?

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HP Forum Archive 07

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How to correct "loose" keys
*Message #1 Posted by **Alex** on 6 Feb 2002, 1:56 a.m.*

I have a HP-45 which I intend to restore. One of the problems is that many of the keys are loose, so the whole thing rattles when the calculator is shaken (is this normal?) and some of them when pressed have kind of a soft feel. Does anybody have any suggestions? The anti-spill sheet of plastic is pretty worn out, but I'm not sure replacing it will help. TIA.

Alex

Re: How to correct "loose" keys
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 6 Feb 2002, 3:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Alex

Hi,

it's normal that the keys can 'rattle'. Other than the newer HP calcs, the classic series (incl. the 45) has separate keys.

The 'soft feeling' when pressing a key can be the result of a broken metal contact 'switch' under the key. The classic series doesn't have the round domes as switches, instead they have something like metal 'bridges' where you press the key upon. And these bridges seem to tend to break.

Sorry for my poor english, it's just too early to think straight;-)

Regards,

Raymond

Re: How to correct "loose" keys
*Message #3 Posted by **Alex** on 6 Feb 2002, 2:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Raymond Hellstern

Thanks for you input Raymond. I already checked the metal bridges on the keys that feel soft and they are not broken (yet) but some of them seem to be a little more worn out than the others. That is, they lost a bit on the curve and are flatter than normal.

Anybody out there have any suggestions as how to recover some of the spring curve? Thanks

Alex

Re: How to correct "loose" keys
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 6 Feb 2002, 5:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Alex

I have not found any way to restore clickiness to a classic series key once it starts to go mushy. About the only thing one can do is to cut it off and solder a key dome from a scarpped machine in its place. This has its own set of problems and it can be tough to get a good match to the feel of the other keys. Thus iy should only be done as a last resort (i.e. the old key dome has split up one side).

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HP41 Series Battery Contact Assembly on EBay
*Message #1 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 6 Feb 2002, 12:04 a.m.*

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1326640668

I've purchased complete, clean, working 41Cs for less than the price of this item!! Looks like the seller has a bunch, and is selling them off one at a time. Here's the next listing:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1330982118

Spice_Man

Re: HP41 Series Battery Contact Assembly on EBay
*Message #2 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 6 Feb 2002, 7:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Spice_Man

Yup. I contacted the seller about the picture of the bag of assemblies, and he ignored my question; he just repeated that he was only selling one.

Needless to say, I did not bid!

/ji

Re: HP41 Series Battery Contact Assembly on EBay
*Message #3 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 6 Feb 2002, 7:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by John Ioannidis

I just checked the new listing -- he learned his lesson and is not showing the picture of the whole bag!

/ji

But what if...
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 6 Feb 2002, 10:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Spice_Man

Say you **already** have a 41CV or CX that is nice except for the battery contact assembly.

Sure, you might be able to find a "clean working 41C" for less but what would you do? You already have the 41CV with bad contact. Would you rather buy a 41C and ruin it to get an assembly for the 41CV or spend a few dollars more for a replacement contact assembly?

The contact assembly is the hardest part to replace on an HP-41. About the only place you can get them are from 41s that are completely destroyed. Otherwise, you can restore the 41 itself.

Yes, all parts are equally hard to replace but the contact assembly is the one that is likely to be bad.

I think the prices are just about right for this part.

Re: But what if...
*Message #5 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 6 Feb 2002, 12:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

I agree. This part is hard to find new and can for some make the difference between a functional HP-41C and a throw away. I am sure alot of people in the days gone by pitched these calcs just because the gold contacts were worn or corroded. I don't think there is anything wrong in selling extras one by one to maximize gain. I think alot of people use money from ebay sales to buy other calcs at high ebay prices. It certainly is the most convenient way to enlarge your collection.

Re: HP41 Series Battery Contact Assembly on EBay
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 6 Feb 2002, 5:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Spice_Man

You can occasionally find a for-parts '41C for sale. They seem to be bringing around $30-$50 though. I have purchased several of them... but they all wound up being repairable. The three main faults of "dead" 41 units: dirty pressure contacts, corroded battery assembly, cracked screw posts/bosses. Of the well over fifty HP41 units that I have repaired these accounted for all but two or three of the faults.

I have seen well over a dozen corroded up battery assemblies... and all but one could also be repaired with a little brass channel stock and mayby a jumper wire or two.

Forty five dollars does seem a bit excessive for them, but it IS probably your only way to get a shiny looking new one. Unless you just HAVE to have a new one, try repairing your old one first.

Re: HP41 Series Battery Contact Assembly on EBay
*Message #7 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 6 Feb 2002, 7:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David Smith

>Forty five dollars does seem a bit excessive for them...

Try $63.22. I think I've purchased two or three "parts" 41Cs for that...

Re: HP41 Series Battery Contact Assembly on EBay
*Message #8 Posted by **Y K Wong (Singapore)** on 6 Feb 2002, 9:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Spice_Man

I have contacted the seller earlier (during his first posting on eBay) for some of the Battery Contact Assy to replace some of my dead 41CV's that in need of the transplant, he was willing to let me have them for $55.00/ea direct without going thru eBay, but limited to only two pieces.

I was not too keen because of the high price! Nevertheless, if any of you have noticed that there were two versions of the Battery Contact Assy, the earlier version with high density form as the backing for the flexible PCB, whereas, the later version comes with silicon which is harder in term of hardness. They were not quite interchangeable since the screw length used was different, and might damage the screw posts - just my opinion!

Thank you.

That's what I have found

*Message #9 Posted by **Mike** on 6 Feb 2002, 11:56 p.m.,*

in response to message #6 by David Smith

That is why I say the hardest part to find is the battery contact. Any parts 41 is likely to be repairable and hence is not a good source of parts.

I think the battery contact assembly is a good deal. Wish it was a little cheaper but what do you think HP would charge, if they still made them?

Anyone know? Now, the fact that they are not made any more shoud drive up the price, don't you think?

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new "old" hp 48gx
*Message #1 Posted by **Alan** on 5 Feb 2002, 7:40 p.m.*

I just received a new hp 48 gx and checked the serial number. It says that it was manufactured in 1999 (38th week of '99 in Indonesia). Doesn't that seem kind of old for a brand new calculator??

Re: new "old" hp 48gx
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 6 Feb 2002, 7:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Alan

Does it have the later grey HP49G screen or the earlier (less clear) HP48G screen?

Re: new "old" hp 48gx
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank** on 6 Feb 2002, 11:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Alan

Slow move stock?

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP 41 CPU speed
*Message #1 Posted by **Vic** on 5 Feb 2002, 3:15 p.m.*

Does anyone know what speed (Hertz) the original HP-41 CPU ran at?

vic

Re: HP 41 CPU speed
*Message #2 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 5 Feb 2002, 11:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vic

The buses ran at about 355KHz, but each machine cycle was 56 clock pulses long; the machine would execute about 6300 machine instructions per second. Needless to say, it would take several machine instructions to implement each of the various HP41 functions that you could write user programs in.

The calculator had just 12K of 10bit words worth of ROM (20K for the HP41CX, since it included the x-functions and the time modules).

Amazing, no?

/ji

Re: HP 41 CPU speed

*Message #3 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 6 Feb 2002, 4:32 a.m.,*

in response to message #2 by John Ioannidis

John wrote:

"The buses ran at about 355KHz, but each machine cycle was 56 clock pulses long; the machine would execute about 6300 machine instructions per second. [...] The calculator had just 12K of 10bit words worth of ROM Amazing, no?"

Yes. However, not being a hardware man, I find it curious that the HP-71B had just twice as fast a clock (about 600 Khz, if I'm not wrong), yet it was much more than twice as fast as the 41C, up to 14 times or more.

I guess the reason is that each 71B's machine cycle was much shorter than 56 clock pulses long ? Or was it because of an improved architecture, or a combination of other facts ?

Another fact I find curious is that the 41C could execute some 6300 machine instructions per second. But it could compute quite complicated trascendental functions such as e^x or tan(x) in well under a second, so I guess this means it had to execute significantly less than 6300 machine operations to compute them ? Hats off tehn to the algorithm designers and coders !

Re: HP 41 CPU speed

*Message #4 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 6 Feb 2002, 7:22 a.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Ex-PPC member

> Hats off to the algorithm designers and coders!

Absolutely my opinion too. I had a closer look to the firmware when I did an emulator of the HP-41. That is the reason for the leitmotiv of my homepage: "Wer einen anderen nachahmt, erkennt dessen Überlegenheit an." Ralph Boller (a swiss author) About: Who imitates someone else appreciates his superiority.

See: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nutem/

Ciao.....Mike

Re: HP 41 CPU speed

*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 7 Feb 2002, 7:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike (Stgt)

A related idea I've always heard put this way (in the USA):

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

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Thank you Warren...
*Message #1 Posted by **Vincent Hart** on 5 Feb 2002, 9:40 a.m.*

I'll try decoding the serial number to find the date.

You said your 48G was made in Indonesia. Is it your opinion that they're all made there? If not, how can you choose where they're made?

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP 12C -which country?
*Message #1 Posted by **mapet** on 5 Feb 2002, 5:17 a.m.*

Hi to all, I have just bought new HP 12C, made in Malaysia. Quality is rather poor. Which country makes the best HP 12C calcs nowadays?

Re: HP 12C -which country?
*Message #2 Posted by **Brian M. - NYC** on 5 Feb 2002, 6:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

Do we really have a choice as to where the calculator's are made? Is it a "take it or leave it" kind of deal?

Re: HP 12C -which country?
*Message #3 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 5 Feb 2002, 6:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

Hi,

Chinese 12C's seem to be the best nowadays. But only because they're not made somewhere else.

From my experience the U.S. made 12C's have the best quality, along with some from Brazil.

The point is: If the calc has molded keys, it's a good indicator for the overall quality, at least for the voyager series calcs.

Raymond

Re: HP 12C -which country?
*Message #4 Posted by **Sandra S.** on 5 Feb 2002, 7:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Raymond Hellstern

Where are the current rpn calculator's manufactured (32sii and 48g+)?? How can you find out where the calculator is made prior to buying one?

Re: HP 12C -which country?
*Message #5 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 6 Feb 2002, 4:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Sandra S.

AFAIK the only model still in production is the 12C.

But in general, the lastest production country for all models is China.

You can identify a calculator's origin by it's serial number, and sometimes by an imprint on the packaging. But be aware, that the packaging printing doesn't *guarantee* the origin of the calc itself.

Serial number schemes can be found here in the museum.

Raymond

Re: HP 12C -which country?
*Message #6 Posted by **doug** on 5 Feb 2002, 9:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

China. Why? They are he only ones! If not, Show Me The Label.

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HP-41C with no serial number

*Message #1 Posted by **Luca Passaggio - switzerland** on 5 Feb 2002, 3:31 a.m.*

Hi everibody,

Thank you for this beautiful forum !

I am not really a collector but I have some programmable HP RPN calculators which I use daily because I think they are still the best (I'm in marketing).

I have a HP-41C bought in 1980 (if I remember) that was sent about 8 years ago to an Italian HP dealer for repair (and I was told that it was sent to HP, I waited two months to have it back!). It came back with no serial number and no indication of where it was manufactured. There is a gold line around the keypad and the block of the overlay sheet is not on/off type like the original but there is a spring. It is in mint conditions and I wonder to know if it is a collectible item and the value, even if I won't never separe from it !

Thank you in advance and best regards,

Luca

Re: HP-41C with no serial number

*Message #2 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 5 Feb 2002, 11:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Luca Passaggio - switzerland

I have seen some HP-41-C' made in Singapore with no serial number stamped into case, but they had a silver decal/tag with the derial # located in the battery compartment. It could be that your calculator is missing this tag.

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #3 Posted by **Luca Passaggio** on 5 Feb 2002, 11:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Erik Wahlin

Thank you for the reply.

I don't have a tag in the battery compartment, I have seen only now that there is a small "made in USA" on the yellow tag on the back of the calculator with the explanation of the Alpha shifted keys. The fact is that when I sent the calculator for repair it had a stamped serial number, and therefore they have certainly changed the case.

anyway, the nice thing is that i use this calc almost everday and it works very well. I only had to clean the contacts and replace the batteries some days ago !

Best regards,

Luca

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #4 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 5 Feb 2002, 12:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Luca Passaggio - switzerland

Hi,

If the colour of the trim is yellow, then your calc might be a CV. BTW many S/N less calc have been reported lately (see previous forums)

I suggest you to check this site to estimate value, as many sources might give various and inconsistent quotes.

There are many 41 c's for sale, but as for most of us this is an item that bears more sentimental value and hence is difficult to quote.

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 5 Feb 2002, 1:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Luca Passaggio - switzerland

It was very common for HP to replace repaired machines with units that had no serial number. They usually hand-engraved the old number on the replacement unit, but were often a bit lazy. Also a lot of repaired 41C machines came back as 41CV units internally.

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #6 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 5 Feb 2002, 1:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by David Smith

You should be able to distinguish the HP-41C from the 41CV by the amount of memory it has available. My CV has serial number on upper back panel on the flat shiny surface.

Glenn

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #7 Posted by **Luca Passaggio** on 6 Feb 2002, 3:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Glenn McEnroe

(to all)

Thank you very much for the answers. The calculator is a C because of the memory available, unfortunately it came back from the repair without the CV memory!

Another question, please: I know that there where many threads about this subject, but I don't remember if there are in this century other manufacturers of RPN calculators than HP.

Best regards to all,

Luca

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #8 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 6 Feb 2002, 9:22 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Luca Passaggio

Hi,

AFAIK only 'HP' still produces an RPN calculator in this century.

Other (last centuries) RPN calcs from other brands include Commodore (~Privileg), the 'Novum 650 MathBox', and maybe the Curta's.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #9 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 6 Feb 2002, 9:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Raymond Hellstern

I forgot to mention the Russian brand Elektronika, which produced some RPN model, too.

Raymond

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #10 Posted by **Luca Passaggio** on 6 Feb 2002, 11:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Raymond Hellstern

Many thanks !

I have now finally understood that i have to start a collection !

Best regards,

Luca

Re: HP-41C with no serial number
*Message #11 Posted by **Les Bell** on 8 Feb 2002, 12:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Luca Passaggio

Re other RPN calculators: My first scientific calculator (1973) was a Sinclair Scientific, which I bought in kit form. The dreadful thing had no x<->y key, making it necessary to write down intermediate results, so during my Easter holidays from university, I got a job as a barman and saved enough to buy an HP-45. Bliss!

The earlier Sinclair four-bangers were powered by two AA batteries, and had quite a slim case. The Scientific required a 9V battery, and rather than redesign the case, they simply had a huge bulge in the battery compartment door at the back! Horrible design, but for GBP19.95 in kit form, it was great value.

I believe National Semiconductor also had some RPN models.

Best,

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

other RPN's
*Message #12 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 9 Feb 2002, 2:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Les Bell

this is a list of non-HP rpn calculators that i coppied from guy ball's website, with two additions:

Rechargeable or Disposable Battery Powered Models APF: Mark 55 Commodore (USA): MM6X (just the "X" version, not all) Corvus (USA): 500 Elektronika (Russia): b3-19, b3-21, b3-34, mk-54, mk-61 Magiclik: 306 Montgomery Ward (USA): P10 National Semiconductor (USA): 600, 900, Mathematician, 4615, 4640 Novus (later name for National Semiconductor brand): 650, 3500 Sliderule, 4510 Mathematician, 4515 Mathematician PR, 4520 Scientist, 4525 Scientist PR, 6035 Statistician PR. Omron (Japan): SR12 Prinztronic: Programmable Scientific Privileg: Beginner, SR-54NC Santron (Japan or Taiwan): 12S, 604 Sinclair (England): Scientific, Scientific Programmable Super Cal(??): 616 T.I.: there is an rpn emulator rom for the TI-58 and TI-59

AC / Line Powered Models Anita (Sumlock Comptometer of England): 1011 LSI Bell Anita: 1011 Friden: EC130, EC132, 1151, 1152, 1160, 1166. Garrett:

all Monroe: EPIC 3000

i have three. the comodore is a four banger. the novus mathmatician is a kind of cheaply made hp45 with inexact trig functions. that garrett is a tank and has wood sides and great keys. it's an instrument that could "sit with perfect aplomb on your chipendale end table".

an interesting aside; dave hicks once told me that unix ran a program called "dc". it was an rpn "desk calculator".

Re: other RPN's
*Message #13 Posted by **Masao Kinoshita** on 9 Feb 2002, 6:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by db(martinez,california)

I believe the Panasonic HHC had a scientific calculator module that was Reverse-Polish and it had more that a four register stack.

Re: other RPN's
*Message #14 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 9 Feb 2002, 7:48 p. m.,*
in response to message #13 by Masao Kinoshita

i think i've seen them. weren't they a 71 shaped calcer with a cradle for memory and printer? so was the module a chip you pluged into that semi exposed pcb?

Re: other RPN's
*Message #15 Posted by **Masao Kinoshita** on 9 Feb 2002, 8:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by db(martinez,california)

Yes, that sounds like the HHC. It used a 6502 with a power up, power down scheme to save battery power.

I considered getting an HHC, but the 41 won (of course). Also, the 41 with its card reader could read in my 67 programs and translate them into FOCAL. After the 41CV, I owned a 48SX with the 41CV emulator ROM card and it could run my 41 programs in a '41 environment.' Currently, I use a 48GX and a 32S II (and a 27S (oops, not RPN) :-)).

Re: other RPN's

*Message #16 Posted by **GE (France)** on 11 Feb 2002, 5:18 a.m., in response to message #15 by Masao Kinoshita*

The HHC may have an RPN module, but I guess it's *really* hard to find. There is a built-in calculator, but you would not like it. Also a BASIC module exists, rare again...

On the Novus 4510 Mathematician, note that the stack has only 3 levels, there is no Last X, the Z level is not duplicated on drop-down of the stack (it's zeroed), there is no roll up or down, and scientific functions (trig, log) clear the Z level !! All this plus the imprecise calculations make it a very funny and pleasant calc ! Wow, talk about vintage.

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Need a HP 10b owner's manual
*Message #1 Posted by **marcin** on 4 Feb 2002, 10:33 p.m.*

I'll pay with paypal, bought one without the manual & I could use it.

E-mail me at MPol99@hotmail.com

Re: Need a HP 10b owner's manual
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 4 Feb 2002, 10:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by marcin

Try here:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/adforum.cgi

Re: Need a HP 10b owner's manual
*Message #3 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 4 Feb 2002, 11:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by marcin

They're available direct from HP for like $6.00.

Re: Need a HP 10b owner's manual
*Message #4 Posted by **Glen Kilpatrick** on 23 Feb 2002, 6:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by marcin

You may download your own PDF at http://www.hp.com/cposupport/manindex/hp10bbusin20038_eng_man.html

gk :)

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More ebay madness
*Message #1 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 4 Feb 2002, 6:49 p.m.*

Look at item 1328733112 -- a non-working HP41C and manuals in "good" shape (and we know what that means). The current bid is for $102.50. What are these people thinking?

And there I was hoping to get a broken hp41 so I could vandalize the battery/IO contact thingy.

Sigh...

/ji

Could be pranks
*Message #2 Posted by **Gene** on 4 Feb 2002, 8:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Ioannidis

The two high bidders both have 0 feedback.

A while ago, there were people who got a kick out of creating ebay names to bid (anyone can do that with NO id check at all), bidding things really high, and then disappearing, never to be heard from again.

It's possible that's what this is.

Or an example of sheer ignorance! Gene

Re: More ebay madness

*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 4 Feb 2002, 10:51 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by John Ioannidis

Do you think their might be a connection between(among) this 41C, the recent Enron 12C, and the following item in the Museum Classified Ads?

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/adforum.cgi?read=6571

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Non-Programable RPN Calculators
*Message #1 Posted by **Matt** on 4 Feb 2002, 4:59 p.m.*

This may seam like an unusual request. I'm looking for a non-programable RPN calculator that uses a LCD display. As read through the list of older hp's they all seam to be either RPN and non-programable with a red LED display, or programable with an LCD display. In a pintch, the red LEDs would be ok, but I'd like to avoid that if I could.

Matt

Re: Non-Programable RPN Calculators
*Message #2 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 4 Feb 2002, 7:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt

All LCD RPN calculators are really programmable, no real exceptions. However, do to a small technicallity, the Hp17bii and Hp19bii are not considered programmable since they only provide a solver with no branching capability. Both are RPN and the 19bii also has trig functions.

Else as you said, Hp made LED calcs that were non programmable, Hp32e, Hp31e, Hp21, Hp45, Hp35, Hp27. Most will cost what an Hp19bii will cost and be harder to find.

Have I overlooked anything?

Re: Non-Programable RPN Calculators
*Message #3 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 5 Feb 2002, 11:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ron Ross

Also: hp-01, hp-10, hp-22, hp-37, hp-46, hp-70, hp-80, hp-81, hp-91, hp-92, hp-9805.

I doubt you want to lug around a 9805 even if you could find it, though :-)

Why do you care about non-programmability? You don't *have* to program a programmable calculator!

Re: Non-Programable RPN Calculators
*Message #4 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 6 Feb 2002, 5:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by John Ioannidis

John wrote:

"Why do you care about non-programmability? You don't *have* to program a programmable calculator!"

I concur with this observation, I thought the same when I read the original post. Any programmable RPN can be used as if it wasn't at all, so what's the point ? About the only reason I can fathom for the absolute need of a non-programmable RPN calculator is if programmables are forbidden at some exam.

Else, the minimal LCD programmable is possibly the HP-10C, which has only 8 bytes of program memory to begin with [they only expand to about 70 if you do key in some program]. Also, it's programmability is so minimal that most HP-25 worthwhile programs simply don't fit in.

However, getting an HP-10C is much easier said than done, so the next minimally-programmable, affordable LCD model must be the HP-12C. This model has also only 8 bytes of program memory initially.

If you want it for use as an everyday RPN, non-programmable calculator, I would honestly recommend using an inexpensive, easy to get HP-12C. It has lots of storage registers, it's classy and good looking, Singapore and USA models are solid and well built [unlike Chinese ones], and has all functions you would need, save trigonometrics. And if you do need trigonometrics, you can use its program memory to store a trigonometrics package permanently. It's exactly what I use, always at hand.

Re: Non-Programable RPN Calculators
*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 4 Feb 2002, 8:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt

I hadn't thought about it, but I guess you're right. Gives more perspective to the RPN vs. algebraic situation: are RPN users smarter? more demanding? are algebraic users not to be trusted?

One possibility to meet your requirement is the 17BII. You can set it to RPN, and it is not programmable in the usual sense. It has a Solver that lets you store functions that operate like the Time Value of Money program, but unless you know some undocumented things, you can't use any form of looping. Mr. Maguire could shed some light on this.

Re: Non-Programable RPN Calculators -- Disable Programming?
*Message #6 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 6 Feb 2002, 6:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt

I tried to disable programming on my HP-32S.

I filled every variable (A-Z and i) with a many-digit number (including large exponent) and I added a few values to the statistical sum. This seemed to bring memory down from 390 bytes down to 126.

Still programmable, I'm afraid. (That is, unless someone else can think of even more ways to eat up the little bit of memory offered with the 32S/SII models . . .)

Re: Non-Programable RPN Calculators -- Disable Programming?
*Message #7 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 7 Feb 2002, 4:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Paul Brogger

Hi,

you could even put some glue under the PRGM mode key;-) That would prevent you from 'accidently' programming the machine. But maybe this has some other drawbacks, too...

More seriously: I'd take a 17B or 17BII, since those models don't have a PRGM mode key.

Of course they are programmable, but in a somewhat different way...

So if someone looks at a 17B at first, it obviously seems to be non-programmable.

Raymond

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Where to buy a new HP 48G+?
*Message #1 Posted by **Vincent Hart** on 4 Feb 2002, 4:56 p.m.*

I am looking to buy a new hp 48g+ and read previous post about avoiding buying one manufactured in Indonesia. Are the 48G+ models all manufactured in Indonesia? A friend just purchased one and it was made in Indonesia and has a date of 1993 on the back (purchased thru buy.com). Do they all have 1993 as the date regardless of when they were made?

Thanks in advance of your help!

Re: Where to buy a new HP 48G+?
*Message #2 Posted by **Sandy Z.** on 4 Feb 2002, 7:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vincent Hart

I bought one from hp directly and the website said it came with a leather case. The case it actually came with was nylon. Did other 48G+ buyers receive the same nylon type case (or was I lied too)? Not sure about where manufactured or the date as I left the calculator at the office.

Re: Where to buy a new HP 48G+?
*Message #3 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 5 Feb 2002, 7:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Sandy Z.

The standard case for the 48 is nylon with an (imitation?) leather patch on the front-bottom. Maybe this patch justifies calling it leather in some peoples minds.

Re: Where to buy a new HP 48G+?
*Message #4 Posted by **Vincent Hart** on 5 Feb 2002, 8:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Steve Borowsky

Thanks Steve. Where was your HP48 manufactured?

Re: Where to buy a new HP 48G+?
*Message #5 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 5 Feb 2002, 7:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vincent Hart

Mine are old, bought between '93 and '96. 2 G's and 2 GX's. All made in Singapore.

Indonesia or Singapore??
*Message #6 Posted by **Eric** on 4 Feb 2002, 8:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vincent Hart

I'm not sure where the all calculator's are manufactured. My 48G+ was made in Indonesia. I'm guessing that they're all made in Indonesia now.

Re: Where to buy a new HP 48G+?
*Message #7 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 7 Feb 2002, 9:48 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vincent Hart

I bought my new HP48G+ from Calcpro website www.calcpro.com. I have made several purchases from Calcpro and have had good dealings with its manager, Paul Nelson.

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HP-80 lockup trick
*Message #1 Posted by **David Smith** on 4 Feb 2002, 3:56 p.m.*

While punching around on an HP80 the other day, I found a way to lock it up with a blank display.

Turn it on. Press DATE. Press DATE. Press X-bar. Nighty night.

Later machines that display 9.99999999E99 after the first DATE will not lock up.

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Want to buy HP-25C
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike Carretti** on 4 Feb 2002, 2:54 p.m.*

I would like to buy the HP-25C with manuals.

should be in the Classified Ads
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 4 Feb 2002, 4:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike Carretti

Use the Museum Classified Ads.

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HP-41C high keycaps
*Message #1 Posted by **Bo Kristoffersen** on 4 Feb 2002, 10:22 a.m.*

Hi all, In a number of recent eBay auctions early HP-41C with high keycaps have been described as "rare" - is this correct?

All the HP-41C I have seen had high keycaps. When did the design change for the HP-41C?

Regards from Copenhagen, Bo Kristoffersen

Re: HP-41C high keycaps
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 4 Feb 2002, 11:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bo Kristoffersen

I don't think the high keytops are rare at all. In my records of over 20 HP41 machines I have had or worked on about half were the high keytop versions.

Re: HP-41C high keycaps
*Message #3 Posted by **tomd** on 5 Feb 2002, 3:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by David Smith

I agree 100%, David. Half of my 41C machines were/are "high tops". My guess is that the term "rare" is used only to jack up the asking price.

Re: HP-41C high keycaps
*Message #4 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 4 Feb 2002, 1:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bo Kristoffersen

Hi,

AFAIK they changed the from the steep keys to the flat ones around 1980-81.

So obviously there are more HP-41's with 'flat' keys than with steep keys.

Three of my HP-41's have those steep keys.

For usage, I like the 'flat' keys much more, the alpha symbols are easier to read, and the 'knack' point and pressure force is optimal (IMHO).

Regards,

Raymond

Re: HP-41C high keycaps
*Message #5 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 4 Feb 2002, 6:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bo Kristoffersen

You have to understand ebay semantics. "rare" means "not all of them were made this way", just as "like new" means "it probably works" and "exceptional value" refers to the value to the seller, not to the buyer.

LOL
*Message #6 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 5 Feb 2002, 3:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by John Ioannidis

That is funny! I notice it too with postal cards. Common cards are called rare, antique, hard to find, etc. I find it quite humorous. Randy

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backlight?
*Message #1 Posted by **myndflaer** on 3 Feb 2002, 7:18 p.m.*

Im thinking of buying an HP graphing calculator, and I was wondering: are there any with backlights?

Re: backlight?
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 3 Feb 2002, 7:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by myndflaer

Hi;

No HP graphing CALCULATOR is available with LCD backlight (interesting, thought...). Palms are.

Cheers.

Re: backlight?
*Message #3 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 3 Feb 2002, 7:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Adding a comment to luiz's reply,

The only way we can get a HP graphing calculator with back light is using a HP49G emulator in Casio E-125.

Cheers

Pio

Re: backlight?
*Message #4 Posted by **myndflaer** on 3 Feb 2002, 8:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Thanks for your help!

Re: backlight? (USA)
*Message #5 Posted by **Chan Tran** on 4 Feb 2002, 3:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by myndflaer

Backlight may shorten battery life though.

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HP67 card reader

*Message #1 Posted by **Marcel Lerat** on 3 Feb 2002, 6:39 p.m.*

Is it possible to find micromarbles which actuate the switches of the card reader on the HP67 ?. She were lost during an "open heart" operation. This call is for a friend without Internet. Many thanks for your help. Marcel

Re: HP67 card reader

*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 3 Feb 2002, 6:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marcel Lerat

I don't know about replacements, but in the past, out of desperation, I have vacuumed the area with a new bag in the vacuum cleaner, then gone through the bag to try to find lost tiny items.

The balls look like tiny versions of the ones in roll-on deodorant. I wonder if ball bearings are ever made out of plastic - maybe for quiet operation under a light load.

Re: HP67 card reader

*Message #3 Posted by **doug** on 3 Feb 2002, 10:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

(:o) Sounds reasonable to me.

I am very careful, but recently I got distracted when trying to repair my one and only ever attempt so far of an HP15C. It had it's keys glued by a coke-a-cola having been dumped directly on the keyboard and it was soaked in very nicely.

Have you ever tried to find those two little springs on tightly woven multi-colored carpet (speckled colors of gray to dark brown only. No blues, greens, or reds)?

If it hadn't been for the recent purchase of a torx T-6 with an extremely powerful magnetic charge I would have never found them. Do you have any idea how many times you can move a T-6 across an average area of carpet, very slowly and very carefully?

Doug

Re: HP67 card reader
*Message #4 Posted by **Katie** on 3 Feb 2002, 10:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by doug

You can get exact replacement switch activation balls from www.smallparts.com. They are 1/8" Delrin balls (4 of them used in the card reader) part # BDLR-2 @ $2.00 for 10 of them. (They don't sell the little pin roller that is directly under the r/w head.) You can also use the .005" beryllium copper sheet that they sell (part # BCS-005) to make card contact springs if you lose them.

Re: HP67 card reader
*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 4 Feb 2002, 10:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Katie

That's great to know! I just got a 67 and a 97 and working on those card readers is one of the "funnest" calculator activities I've had. BTW I test ran the motor from one of them, out of the assembly, with a Classic battery and it only draws 13 mA. With a little finger pressure on the end of the shaft it rose to 50 mA. This is no more power than an LED, it's amazing to me that it uses so little current (although I have no experience of tiny motors, maybe this isn't so amazing.)

Re: HP67 card reader power
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 4 Feb 2002, 11:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ellis Easley

Once you get it in the mechanism the motor can draw 200mA (with an even larger startup pulse). The HP97 service manual mentions how to set the tension of the elliptic cam shaft to the roller by measuring the current with a card stalled in the reader.

Re: HP67 card reader
*Message #7 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 4 Feb 2002, 1:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marcel Lerat

I've had luck using steel ball bearings in the card readers. I was actually skeptical at first because I thought that the steel balls might be slightly magnetic and cause problems on the magnetic card strips. Has any body else tried using steel ball bearings which are easily obtainable in the USA?

Re: HP67 card reader
*Message #8 Posted by **David Smith** on 4 Feb 2002, 3:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Erik Wahlin

Most stainless steels are non-magnetic... so look for stainless balls. I would worry more about steel causing wear to the cards and the switch contacts. I would highly recommend plastic balls. They are cheap and readily available.

Re: HP67 card reader
*Message #9 Posted by **marcel LERAT** on 8 Feb 2002, 5:08 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marcel Lerat

Hi all: Ellis, david, Doug, Katie, Erik : Thanks for your help. I will not use steel but plastic balls. I use always digital macrophoto before repair because a connection wire is possibly quick broken. Best regards Marcel

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HP 22S - user manual (not 22), HP 45 still running
*Message #1 Posted by **Thomas Kiefer** on 3 Feb 2002, 4:28 p.m.*

I have a hp 22S and I cannot find the user manual. Can anybody help? By the way: I am still using an old HP45 (bought in 1979 for 500 Dollars (1000 DM)) - it is still working great. The polnic notation was perfect.

Kind regards Thomas

Re: HP 22S - user manual (not 22), HP 45 still running
*Message #2 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 3 Feb 2002, 8:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thomas Kiefer

I have an HP22S Owner's Manual. I do not want to part with it, but maybe I could help you out.

Re: HP 22S - user manual (not 22), HP 45 still running
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 4 Feb 2002, 12:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thomas Kiefer

A five CD set (which includes the HP22S User's Manual is available from Dave Hicks under documentation on this very website. Also you can get a supplemental manual An Easy Course in Using the HP22S from GrapeVine Publications website www.read-gpi.com. Their phone number is 1 (800) 338-4331. I have purchased books from them (as well as the now defunct EduCalc) and have had good dealings with one of its managers, Mr. Chris Coffin. Also, some calculator manuals are listed on Ebay website www.ebay.com.

Re: A closer look on CD set did not show HP 22S 45 still running
*Message #4 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 4 Feb 2002, 12:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Frank Travis

Two places I have dealt with for HP calculators and accessories are:

Calcpro website www.calcpro.com. Manager: Paul Nelson.

International Calculator website www.internationalcalculator.com. Manager Don O'Rourke.

These are two good places to check for the HP22S Owner's Manual.

Re: A closer look on CD set did not show HP 22S Owner's Manual.
*Message #5 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 4 Feb 2002, 12:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Frank Travis

I meant to put this heading for my last entry.

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Another MoHP image in eBay !
*Message #1 Posted by **John Smith** on 3 Feb 2002, 1:26 a.m.*

Another image taken directly from the Museum, this time an HP-11C:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1330156811

Whatever the seller's motivation, I still find it highly misleading to include the image of a *perfect* HP-11C taken from the MoHP as if it were the product being sold.

I hope David takes some measures ?

Thanks
*Message #2 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 5 Feb 2002, 3:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

It looks like he's updated his auction. This forum does seem to have some effect in keeping ebay safe.

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new way to lock up a 41
*Message #1 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 2 Feb 2002, 7:15 p.m.*

my 41c shows "memory lost" no matter what, if the batteries are in. i have tried (or am in the process of trying) everything from the 4.1 section of Jedrzejowicz's book, even though that stuf is not exactly for this application. nothing has any effect. any ideas before i drain it and let it set for a year?

Re: new way to lock up a 41
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 3 Feb 2002, 1:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by db(martinez,california)

I don't have the book you mention, so forgive me if this advice is a repeat: Have you tried unplugging all peripherals and modules? To unplug a peripheral or module, turn the calculator off, unplug it, then turn it back on.

-Ernie

Re: new way to lock up a 41
*Message #3 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 3 Feb 2002, 1:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ernie Malaga

thank you, but that is the problem; i can't turn it off. i did however take out the batteries and remove the rom's. one is very suspect. can a rom go bad and can it lead a 41 down the highway to degradation with it?

Re: new way to lock up a 41

*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 3 Feb 2002, 7:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by db(martinez,california)

Hi;

I read your posts and I would like to know:

-did you open the calc?
- if so, is it a full- or half-nut?

In any case, there is a capacitor inside the calc (in paralel with the p.s. lines) that can maintain the calc`s circtuits charged for more that a couple of hours IF ON KEYS ARE PRESSED; try short-cirCuiting this capacitor's terminals (DISCONNECT ANY EXTERNAL DC SUPPLIES AND GET RID OF YOUR OWN ELECTROSTATIC CHARGES BEFORE DOING SO); I have solved many MEMORY LOST problems this way

My own HP41C was about 12 months-old (it was young enough I could count its lifetime in months) when the full-amnesia occurred. I inspected the calcualtor later (mine is a fullnut) and the first RAM IC was substituted for a new one. Yes, the first RAM is the one that holds system data, including the **169** all-is-well control flag. As this very RAM was the lost one, nothing could work.

I know this is only info, but may help.

My US$0,02.

Success,

Re: new way to lock up a 41
*Message #5 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 3 Feb 2002, 8:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

thanks marx. it is an old tall keyed fullnut, and since it has never been opened i'm trying to avoid popping the footpads off unless i have to. i will be away from home till friday so i will leave it without rom's & batteries and with the battery terminals crossed with aluminum foil. i'll try it on friday night and if it's still a no go i'll try your method....carefully. i've had several open; just not this little jewell. if that doesn't work i'll just put it away without batteries for 6 months. that cured a cx that was very angry at me a few years ago. thanks again and i'll check this site friday before i do anything drastic.

Re: new way to lock up a 41
*Message #6 Posted by **Joachim Kirsch** on 14 Feb 2002, 4:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by db(martinez,california)

Hello ! I have the same problem like you whit my 41cv.All tries like opening, cleaning,soldering severel contacts,shorting the contacts have been whitout succes.Did you had in the meantime a succesful solution?would be very glad to get an answer.Thanks and greetings, Joe

Re: new way to lock up a 41
*Message #7 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 14 Feb 2002, 9:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Joachim Kirsch

joe; i did just what i said i would do and got lucky. luiz explained the next step quite clearly, which was to short out the capacitor. this scares me a bit because i am just a staticly charged up kind of guy and that is why i did the lazy and slow way first. i also did the slow way because i had a week till i had enough time to take it apart. did you mean that yours displays "memory lost" all the time- no matter what - as long as there are batteries in the calculator? that is what mine was doing. i've had a couple of different lock ups since '83 and if you explain it maybe we can figure something out. if not we-as-in-me, then we as in everybody here. theres some real bright people that read the forum.

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HP 12C prices
*Message #1 Posted by **Ed Clark** on 2 Feb 2002, 3:36 p.m.*

Over the years I've amassed a collection of early 12C's (USA models). Does anybody have a sense of the highest price paid for an early 12C? I'm still finding them rather cheaply on eBay ($20.00 - $40.00).

By the way, If anybody is selling, I'm looking for a couple of clean '81 and/or '82 models.

On a related note, check out eBay listing #1329506298. This is a late model 12C with the Enron logo on the facia and the Enron logo on the vinyl case. So far, thirty (30) bids and a price of $132.50. As big as Enron is/was, there has to be a lot of these things out there. Have these bidders gone 'round the bend?

Re: HP 12C prices
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 2 Feb 2002, 4:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ed Clark

Last week, I was on an Ebay calculator binge, and I noticed lots of Enron marked calculators but nothing as good as a 12C. Still, cheap little imports were bidding up over $20 when I was looking. I meant to follow up. I think this is like the Florida voting machines that I heard were being auctioned on Ebay. My local radio station gave one of them away in a promotion last week. I think the appeal is like owning something from the Titanic.

Re: HP 12C prices
*Message #3 Posted by **Todd G.** on 2 Feb 2002, 8:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ed Clark

Seems to me that people can make these very easily by attaching the crooked E logo to the faceplate, and paint the case. If this one Ed mentioned goes for a lot, it will be interesting to see how many more end up on eBay, and whether they are authentic or not.

Todd.

Re: HP 12C prices
*Message #4 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 2 Feb 2002, 8:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ed Clark

Maybe the Enron version 12C has some *custom* (cough, cough) algorithms...

Similar to early 35s with wrong answer
*Message #5 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 3 Feb 2002, 9:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Steve Borowsky

Maybe the Enron 12s are cousins to the early 35s that gave wrong answers. Perhaps the enron financial people didn't notice the answers were wrong at all. Just a thought.

Re: Similar to early 35s with wrong answer
*Message #6 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 3 Feb 2002, 5:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Randy Smith

My 35 is one of those. It is branded "AEC - LASL" Which I think must be "Atomic Energy Commission - Los Alamos Scientific Labratories". I assume (and hope) anyone doing science there would have had their calculator upgraded, and that mine was used in the warehouse!

Re: HP 12C prices
*Message #7 Posted by **Todd G.** on 3 Feb 2002, 8:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ed Clark

Well that one went for $197.

Here's another: eBay Item # 1070464087

I'll expect to see more in the coming days.

Todd

other Enron auctions
*Message #8 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 3 Feb 2002, 9:08 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ed Clark

I just did a search on ebay, found 3322 items matching "enron" in completed auctions. Highest bid on an item: domain name "enronbankruptcy.com", $30,000 (reserve not met). Highest winning bid: some Enron financial manuals for $520. In current auctions, another 1250 items, lots of domain names (no bidders - "enronbankruptcy.com" now going begging at $16,000), highest bid: $204.25 for a paperweight!

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scientific notation mode
*Message #1 Posted by **Pat lewis** on 2 Feb 2002, 1:51 p.m.*

How do I get my model 11c out of scientific notation mode and back into normal mode. I've lost the manuel and am having trouble getting out of sci mode. Thanks for any help you can give me.

Re: scientific notation mode
*Message #2 Posted by **Todd G** on 2 Feb 2002, 2:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pat lewis

Press the gold "f" key, followed by the FIX key (on the "7"), followed a number key, the number being the desired number of digits you want after the decimal point. For example, if you want 2 places after the decimal, press f, FIX, 2.

Hope that helps.

Todd

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Are HP Calculators a thing of the Past???
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave S** on 1 Feb 2002, 4:45 p.m.*

I heard recently that HP will no longer manufacture calculators. Is this true?? Will rpn calculators become a thing of the past? Please let me know if you have heard any rumors about this yourself.

Re: Are HP Calculators a thing of the Past???
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 2 Feb 2002, 4:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave S

Just browse the archives of this forum.

You'll find previous posts....
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 3 Feb 2002, 7:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave S

here, mostly here, here and here. This subject was a lot discussed in this forum, and many good info AND observations are in the archive.

Good readings!

Cheers.

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Look who bought the latest Xpander at Ebay? (Humor)
*Message #1 Posted by **Matt Kernal (US)** on 1 Feb 2002, 2:22 p.m.*

Pretty funny... http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1325544799

Re: Look who bought the latest Xpander at Ebay? (Humor)
*Message #2 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 1 Feb 2002, 8:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt Kernal (US)

Boy, she REALLY wants to keep this thing out of the market, eh?

Re: Look who bought the latest Xpander at Ebay? (Humor)
*Message #3 Posted by **glynn** on 2 Feb 2002, 3:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Steve Borowsky

Hey Ms. Fiorina!

Now that you have the hang of that eBay thing, may I suggest calculator collecting as a hobby?

If you try some of these old RPN ones, you may find they have an appeal, even if they do not access the internet. They DO have a use or two, and once you learn how to use them(not hard), it can even be fun.

I would start with the 15c. It is compact and looks good with most outfits, and for a "numbers-only" machine, is a lot of bang for the buck. Most of them were well-made, too, and that means you can rely on it when calculating various stock-swaps and counter-offers. You don't want the cheapy rubber-buttoned stuff that stutters or drops a coupla zeros, not in critical times like these... Go for quality.

Now I realize the lack of a browser interface may be disconcerting at first. In that case, you may want to try an "alphanumeric" calc, like the 42s. You can scroll through the menus, and

soon you won't even miss a mouse.

Don't be afraid of that "enter" key. Like Garage Rule #7 says, Radical ideas are not always Bad ideas. RPN *is* a radical thing, but becomes quite natural with use-- a paradigm shift that grows on you. And it doesn't hurt that your own company is famous for once having spread the word about that "different way of working".

And hey: Imagine the amusing puzzlement of a few in your staff when they want to run some numbers and you whip out one of these puppies. They'll probably never ask to borrow your calc again. Believe me, it's a kick!

Collecting and using calculators may sound old-fashioned and geeky, but it really IS rewarding and useful; I wish you as many happy hours in it as your company has provided me.

That XPander model you just bought is, from what I hear, quite nice and would truly start your collection out with a rare prize. Well, at least you might try it out for a day or two, before you turn it over to Legal, okay? ;-)

Ya never know, you might even *like* it....

Re: Look who bought the latest Xpander at Ebay? (Humor)
*Message #4 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 1 Feb 2002, 11:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt Kernal (US)

I think the real Carly is too busy trying to figure out how to keep her job than have time to buy old HP products. This is probably an imposter.

Re: Look who bought the latest Xpander at Ebay? (Humor)
*Message #5 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 2 Feb 2002, 1:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Glenn McEnroe

You're right, it's probably not the real Carly - most likely it's one of the Hewletts or the Packards... ;)

Re: Look who bought the latest Xpander at Ebay? (Humor)
*Message #6 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 2 Feb 2002, 2:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Steve Borowsky

Yes, One of the Hewletts or Packards would be interested in "quality" products of a former HP era not current management.

Re: Look who bought the latest Xpander at Ebay? (Humor)
*Message #7 Posted by **Todd G.** on 3 Feb 2002, 10:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Glenn McEnroe

Judging from the recent statements made by the Packard family, they don't appear to like Ms. Fiorina.

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HP42S repair
*Message #1 Posted by **Michael** on 1 Feb 2002, 11:14 a.m.*

Who can help? My hp42s mostly is not able to switch on. It produces a permanent beee ee ee eeep and than isn't to switch off. Sometimes it works correct, an passes the selftest?!?

Re: HP42S repair
*Message #2 Posted by **Iqbal** on 1 Feb 2002, 11:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michael

Have you tried changing the batteries? I have one that was failing the selftest and when I changed the batteries, viola it works fine.

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Overclocking the 41
*Message #1 Posted by **Stephan Burlot** on 31 Jan 2002, 1:14 p.m.*

When I bought my HP41CV, 20 years ago (1982), there was a french magazine (L'Ordinateur Individuel) who published a hardware hack to overclock the HP41CV. So I did, and my 41CV was running almost 2 times faster than a regular one. The only drawback was that it didnt work with the card reader anymore. As far as I recall, the modification was to replace a capacitor.

As a test, I did try the benchmark found on this site, and here are the results:

Math: RCL02 was 160, so normalized is 23. Value published is 13 Trig: RCL02 was 33, so normalized is 82. Value published is 45

Note: obviously, the BEEP runs also faster.

Anyone heard of this hack?

Re: Overclocking the 41
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 31 Jan 2002, 7:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Stephan Burlot

I know there were a number of speedup kits. I myself have one, still in the box, I got from a friend when he sold me his collection about 8 or 9 years ago. The one I have is a PCB with a chip with the markings scraped off. Something has to be cut to install it so the kit comes with a pair of fingernail clippers (you couldn't get on an airplane with that now!) To make the necessary connections, the kit contains a double packet of conductive epoxy. This kit includes a switch to take the speedup in and out. I'm not sure what the existing timebase in the 41C is , but if it is an LC tank like some of the other models, you could just change the cap. I thought the 41C had a crystal, though. Its possible to make a crystal oscillator run at three times the fundamental frequency of the crystal, but I don't know about twice. I'm sure a lot of people will know more about this.

Re: Overclocking the 41 - it is an LC tank

*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 31 Jan 2002, 8:37 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

I just looked at a 41C schematic I downloaded from somewhere (I can't remember where!) that has been mentioned here before - the chip labeled "CPU" "U10" has two pins labeled "OSC1" and "OSC2" and they have an LC tank (an inductor and a capacitor in parallel) connected to them. 82 microhenries and 150 picofarads which would have a resonant frequency of 1.44 MHz. If you reduce the capacitor to 1/4 of the original value, you double the frequency. Actually it would be a little less than double - the actual capacitance in the circuit would be 150 pf + the stray capacitance including the capacitance of the chip. This extra amount could be in the 10s of pf, so would be considerable compared to 39 pf (the closest standard value to 37.5). Rounding down to the next lower value, 33 pf, might offset the stray capacitance. The stray capactance would also affect the original frequency I calculated - I would need to add the stray capacitance to 150 pf. If it happened to be 15 pf, the resonant frequency would be 1.37 MHz. Changing the 150 pf to 37.5 (pretending you could find one) and including 15 pf stray capacitance would give 2.43 MHz. (f=1/(2*pi*sqrt (L*C)))

The schematic also shows two more capacitors connected to the "OSC2" pin. One goes to ground, the other goes to Vcc (the positive logic supply) and there is text saying "assemble either C10a or C10b for adjustment". I've learned today, looking at the HP97 service manual, that HP likes to use selected components to adjust things like the speeds of the printer and card reader motors.

The schematic doesn't say explicitly what version of the 41 it is and I'm not knowledgable enough to tell by looking at it. The label block has the pathname "d:\hp41\sch_pcb\nut\nut-main.sch". The reason I wonder about the version is that I think the CX ran faster than the C, although that might not be just because of a different CPU clock rate.

I stumbled on a website for gamers - they were overclocking Pentiums (and Athlons, I suppose) with Peltier device coolers on them, then cooling the Peltier with flowing water! I think just about any digital logic can be overclocked to some degree if you reduce the range of conditions in which it must operate - in this case, by controlling the temperature of the CPU. I seem to recall there was a 486 50 MHz that was not a DX - it came from Intel with a Peltier device without a fan, just a big heatsink, called "the Icecap", which kept the 486 die at 0 degrees C.

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HP-67/97 Words/Phrases Magnetic Cards found

*Message #1 Posted by **Gene** on 31 Jan 2002, 7:56 a.m.*

Hi. These were all the rage back in 1976-1978. Using NNNs, PPC members were able to synthesize many crazy words and phrases that would show up on the calculator. They are described in the PPC Journal. Problem has always been that to create them required things like "phase I interrupt switches" unless someone had already done that and recorded them to magnetic card. WARNING, however, never never print any of these if they are displayed on an HP-97, unless you never want to print again.

Well, I was going through my big stack of HP-67 cards I got from an estate sale and noticed I have about 8-10 cards with goodies like this on them.

I have: 6 cards of words and phrases, 1 card with an HP Poem about the retirement of the HP-35/45/55/65, 2 cards that are a running "commercial" for the HP-67/97 in the display, and 2 cards for keyboard generated words/phrases

I'd like to make these available to the community, but really don't want to be copying cards for months. :-)

I'd like to ask for 5 volunteers who would be willing to make copies (after I send them copies) when people request them. So, if you want to be a HP-67/97 card copier and want copies of these cards, email me. I will ask for 10 blank cards on which I will record these goodies and mail them back to you. Include enough postage to get them back (can't be more than a normal US stamp).

I'd also like to see if there's a way we can continue to let people here at the museum know about these...they are really cool.

And, finally, does anyone else here have a collection of some of these?

http://www.rskey.org/gene/hpgene

New location of my "HPGENE" webpage...

Re: HP-67/97 Words/Phrases Magnetic Cards found

*Message #2 Posted by **Gene** on 31 Jan 2002, 11:01 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Gene

I have 2 volunteers so far...thanks!

I'd like to ask if Dave would mind putting the email addresses of the volunteers who are willing to make copies of these cards up somewhere on his site (after confirming with them that this is not a problem, of course).

Looking for 3 more volunteers and then we can start spreading the cards around more. :-)

By the way...does anyone else have some of these things left lying around, or am I the only certified nut?

Gene

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Humour in eBay
*Message #1 Posted by **John Smith** on 31 Jan 2002, 6:06 a.m.*

Sometimes when looking at the descriptions of HP items on eBay, one finds real pearls of the humouristic genre, IMHO. For instance, here are some commented excerpts taken from the description of an HP-11C recently submitted for auction:

"The calculator is in very nice aesthetic condition."

Sounds interesting. Let's see what's the seller's concept of "very nice aesthetic condition":

"There are a few miscellaneous (very tiny) scratches"

What a pity ! Still, it can be very nice if they are very tiny. ¿ Is there anything else to worry ?

" ... and one miniscule dent on the top edge of the metal (you have to really look)."

Oh well, another blemish ! But "you have to really look". Let's do it, ¿ are there any pictures ? Indeed there are, but the seller bewares:

"The scanned image exaggerates the blemishes."

Regrettably, the scanned image is so small and dark that you really aren't sure at all whether it is exaggerating anything at all that you can discern. So let's forget about the picture. ¿ Any other blemishes in this "very nice aesthetic condition" HP-11C ?

"It is missing the foot pads on the back (easily replaceable)"

Oh me, oh my !! No foot pads ? Perhaps they were removed while opening up the machine ? How's the back ?

"the back is in very nice condition, not banged up, or dented, just a few tiny scratches."

More scratches ! Let's hope that at least the pretty silvery HP-11C logo is ok ?

"It is missing the HP emblem"

!?!?! Very NICE aesthetic condition !?!? How would it be if it were in bad condition !!?! But perhaps the calculator comes with some goodies, the manual for instance:

"The manual is complete and in excellent condition"

At long last some good news !! But ...

"It is bound, not the cheap spiral version."

The CHEAP spiral version ? The seller is (presumably) unaware that it's the bound version the one which is cheap. Spiral versions are easily worth twice as much if not more. Spiral versions will stay flat when reading and are thus much more valuable. Precisely HP changed to hardbound versions to reduce costs, at the expense of great inconvenience to the user. But the seller would have you believe the hardbound version is the one to get, instead of that "cheap spiral version" !

Are we done with the bad news ? Not yet, there's still a big one in reserve:

"The calculator functions intermittently, I suspect a faulty ground."

Incredible. In-credible. But all's not lost, the seller tells us that:

"When it functions, all keys work, and it passes the self diagnostic test"

Well, what a relief ! However, should we pass on this real bargain ? The seller advices us not to, because:

"There aren't many around still with the case and Problem Solving Guide."

He obviously hasn't had a look at eBay lately, because there's been a real wealth of HP-11Cs offered for auction, and most of them had both the slip case and the "Owner's Manual and Problem Solving Guide", and they did even work ! Notice how the seller describes the "Owner's Manual and ..." as just "Problem Solving Guide", as if it were a different, rarer book.

The seller ends:

"Thank you for looking."

You're welcome. And thanks to you, whoever you are, for a real funny time on eBay, I've laughed all the way while reading your description. At least you've been honest enough to tell (all ?) the faults, even if somewhat belittled. Other sellers would equally boast about the "very nice aesthetic condition" of their items without bothering to specify, like you did.

You can see the "funny" description mentioned in this post at this URL:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1329517441

Re: Humour in eBay
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 31 Jan 2002, 10:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

Gee, maybe I could be described as "in very nice aesthetic condition"!

Re: Humour in eBay
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank** on 31 Jan 2002, 5:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

Sounds like an average marketing pitch, not as bad as some of the infomercials at least, however I would not recommend!! Frank

Re: Humour in eBay
*Message #4 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 31 Jan 2002, 7:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Smith

Hi,

yes, this is really funny.

A few years ago I bought an 11C for US$100 which was described as in excellent condition by the seller, like 4x4bill describes the manual of his 11C...

When it arrived, it was a shock.

The aluminium bezel and display 'glass' were heavily scratched, you could hardly see the digits, the 11C Logo was deformed (abrased) and repainted (!) with silver color. The housing edges were rounded and shiny from heavy usage. And the manual looked even worse than that heavily abused one from the eBay auction link you gave.

Conclusions: 1. the general communication problem between the sender and the receiver.

'excellent' can obviously mean anything. It seems to depend on what you're used to;-)

2. a picture can often tell more than a thousand words, at least if the seller didn't steal the pic from the hpmuseum;-)

Regards,

Raymond

condition definition
*Message #5 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 2 Feb 2002, 7:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Yes, that's right... That's why I've explained what I understood by "Excellent", "Mint", "Good", "Poor" or "Fair" on my pages...

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Weight of carried gadgets...
*Message #1 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 30 Jan 2002, 12:35 p.m.*

Hi, folks

I know its a bit out of topic, but folks are folks right?

As a structural engineer, I deal with many types and source of data, that I have to carry with me when I go to work field for checking drawings and constructions.

I usually carry with me:

A digital camera (550 g), a HP 41CV(260 g), a swiss army knife(190 g),a PocketPC E-125 (325 g), a celular (200 g), pen wallet with scalers (80 g), keys (85 g), a GPS (300 g), a paper diary (450 g) and an eletronic measuring device(180 g)

All of this weights more than 2.50 kg and not to mention the clothes, glasses, wrist clock, safety hardhat and toe boots. My wife sometimes says that I look like a desert storm soldier when I go out for building inspections. But who isn't a soldier(some way) on these days? ;)

I know it weights less than my retired toshiba notebook that cannot take pictures, show me my global position, measure or let me talk at phone , but I would like to size down these weights.

Any suggestions? A friend told me for changing all these devices for a small block of notes and a pencil and go back to flinstones days. ;)

Is there anyone with this problem?

Thanks for your attention,

Marx Pio

Re: Weight of carried gadgets...
*Message #2 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 31 Jan 2002, 5:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

Some (most?) might laugh, but I've been looking at this: http://www.scottevest.com/

Re: Weight of carried gadgets...
*Message #3 Posted by **Robert** on 31 Jan 2002, 7:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

I'll bet that airport security will love you in this vest!

Re: Weight of carried gadgets...
*Message #4 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 1 Feb 2002, 8:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Robert

They make a good point in their blurb, that you can simply remove the vest and pass it through the scanner.

I do that with my <UK>bum bag</UK> <US>fanny pack</US>, and although it's packed with gadgets, the security folk never ask to look inside.

Re: Weight of carried gadgets...
*Message #5 Posted by **Ren** on 1 Feb 2002, 1:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

http://www.scottevest.com/

It may be a useful and good looking product, but they choose to have one of those irritating pop-up windows on their web page. A real "turn off" for me, in other words, it may be a great product but if they're going to use pop-ups, I'll take my business to someplace less annoying.

Re: Weight of carried gadgets...
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 1 Feb 2002, 9:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ren

And to think it all started with the humble pocket protector.

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Just an idea...
*Message #1 Posted by **Jean** on 30 Jan 2002, 6:27 a.m.*

I ‘m watching my old 38G. A very nice shell design, durable, keys with the real HP touch, keypad not overloaded, and a very nice and readable screen. But the software is very limited. It does not allow variable names longer than one character, does not offer thousands separator.....

Would it not be possible to develop an operating system or two, making this hardware to a true successor of the scientific and business series? One hardware, two or maybe even more different operating systems and software. You buy the "empty calc" or just a basic functionality and download the operating system and software from the net according to your needs and pay for the download. You could select UPN or algebraic implementation, it should give you some graphical capabilities and it should clearly be much simpler and more user-oriented, than the 48/49 series. Similar solutions are available for some PDA’s, however without the dedicated keyboard and design of a real calc they remain unsatisfactory for serious use.

Just an idea…

Jean (Switzerland)

Re: Just an idea...
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 30 Jan 2002, 1:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jean

I think this can be done with the HP48GX by using plug-in cards. I think this idea was only taken up for some 'industrial' applications (surveying?).

The HP48G(X) (like the HP41 and 42) can use keyboard overlays so the keys can be customised for the downloaded software (this good feature is sadly missing on the HP49G).

Re: Just an idea...
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 31 Jan 2002, 7:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tom (UK)

Hi;

I believe the worst of it is the prefixed keyboard. As you mention, Tom, the HP49 cannot be customized WITH THE AVAILABLE O.S., but if we can load it with another, they can become even case sensitive.

I wonder about the memory management. The HP49G has .5 MByte in RAM and 1 MByte in flash for the user, and 1 MByte for system. There is a barrier for this 1 MByte that may be also a SW barrier. What about a small (<=500 KBytes) O.S. with 2 MBytes mem for user OR system?

Just another idea...

(Where are the 49 S.W. builders, so we can try something?)

Re: Just an idea...
*Message #4 Posted by **Jean** on 31 Jan 2002, 11:48 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jean

My idea was rather to use the simple and "hp-quality" design of HP38G to implement something like a 19IIb, 27S or 28S calc, rather than the high-end and complex 48/49. Particularly with 49 I miss the hp feeling anyway. One hardware platform and several applications as needed.

Jean (Switzerland)

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HP-IL video interface
*Message #1 Posted by **Robert** on 29 Jan 2002, 2:22 p.m.*

I acquired (some time ago) an HP-IL device which can supply a video signal to an external monitor. It wasn't manufactured by HP but by some other company. Anyone know anything about this unit?

Re: HP-IL video interface
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 29 Jan 2002, 5:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Robert

Is it the Mountain Computers one? If so, then it's a lot better than the HP one (it does 80*24 text, for example). The power input is something like 9-12V AC. The HPIL connectors are obvious :-). And the RCA phono socket on the front is composite mono video, by default at US (NTSC) sync rates, but there's an escape sequence that gives UK (PAL) rates instead. Try hooking it up and just sending some text to it (as if it was a printer). It should display it. I have the user manual for The Mountain Computers video interface somewhere, and amazingly it includes the schematic ;-) IIRC HP actually sold this device at one point since it was so much better than their 82163.

Re: HP-IL video interface
*Message #3 Posted by **Robert** on 29 Jan 2002, 10:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

Yes, it was manufactured by Mountain Computer. I used it a few times with my HP-71. I acquired it in a trade for some HP-85 odds and ends (or should I say bits and pieces).

Re: HP-IL video interface
*Message #4 Posted by **CJ** on 30 Jan 2002, 11:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Robert

<Yes, it was manufactured by Mountain Computer.>

I have one of these. It is a Mountain Computer MC00701A HP-IL 80-Column Video Interface.

On the bottom there is a Hewlett Packard label. With Reorder No. 92198A on it.

Christopher

Re: HP-IL video interface
*Message #5 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 30 Jan 2002, 1:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by CJ

And...

I have one without a power supply or instruction manual that someone may wish to purchase.

Joe

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HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #1 Posted by **Patrice Hamelin** on 28 Jan 2002, 4:51 p.m.*

Hi,

I have an old HP-34C that has no more batteries, but it was working fine a couple of years ago with the transformer only. Now I'm trying to make it work and I have only random characters displayed on the screen. Any clues? I check for AC contacts, internal switchs contacts, and now what? Is that the logic that is broken? Or maybe too much humidity?

I would like to sell it to a collector. Is there people interested to buy it for hid/her own collection?

Thanks, and sorry for those too many questions. Please reply to email address too.

Re: HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #2 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 28 Jan 2002, 11:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Patrice Hamelin

Hi Patrice, When you say you have tested the internal switches' contacts what do you mean? I assume you have not disassembled it. My guess would be there are internal contacts that need to be cleaned which would make opening it up necessary. Before you go that far though you can try putting an external 3Vdc supply on the battery contacts and see if you get normal operation. It is possible to use standard AA batteries but there is a risk of breaking the battery contacts if they are too long and put too much pressure on the contacts. Also keep in mind that this model is rather difficult to open and some or all of the internal components, inlcluding the chips, may be held in contact with the rest of the circuit with pressure - no soldering - so I don't know how difficult it would be to re-assemble. I've never done it myself so I have no direct experience. I'm sure someone else here can give you more practical advice. As far as its value, IMO it is valuable. It's sophisticated and refined. It went about as far as that technology could go to provide a reliable, useful and transparent set of features. It was the last LED designed by HP and benefited from nearly a decade of momentum in LED calculator design. It gracefully bridges the decade of the 70's with the decade of the 80's in the quest for the perfect math tool. Good luck getting it working again.

Re: HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 29 Jan 2002, 4:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Steve Borowsky

I'm glad to see something nice said about a Spice model, especially the 34C. I think of it as a 15C without complex numbers. And couldn't we all live with a little less complexity?!!!

I hope running without the battery isn't the cause of the anomaly - especially a permanent cause.

Re: HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #4 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 29 Jan 2002, 2:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Patrice Hamelin

Hi,

using it without the bats installed may be the problem. AFAIK, the batteries are used as a 'buffer' to power peaks. Another possibility would be simply corroded or loose contacts.

Somewhere on this site are pages which tell you to open, clean, and repair a series 30 calc.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #5 Posted by **Hans Brueggemann [GER]** on 29 Jan 2002, 12:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Patrice Hamelin

patrice, the random display of characters, i.e. 'characters run across the display erratically' can be caused by a power supply with too much 'hum' or poor (no) filtering. this kind of power supply can cause the calculator to switch on and off with 120 or 100 instants per second (ac wall outlet frequency 60 or 50 Hz respectively). best countermeasure is to reinstall the accumulators, even if you want to use the calc with the power supply.

cheers, hans

Re: HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #6 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 29 Jan 2002, 5:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Patrice Hamelin

I don't want to worry you, but running a HP3xC or HP2xC calculator off the AC adapter with no (good) battery pack installed is th surest way I know to ruin the memory chips. Without the battery pack, the output of the adapter is around 12V, and when the calculator is turned off, the backup circuitry (to supply a little power to the RAM to maintain its contents) then supplies 12V or so to the RAM chip (designed to work at less than half that voltage). It tends to die, possibly killing other chips with it.

Re: HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #7 Posted by **David Smith** on 29 Jan 2002, 5:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Patrice Hamelin

All the Spice and Woodstock calculators need GOOD batteries installed to function properly. They are very easily damaged (especially the "C" type Woodstock machines) if they are run without GOOD batteries insatlled and making GOOD contact with the power terminals.

Re: HP 34C displays random chars
*Message #8 Posted by **R. W. Smith** on 1 Feb 2002, 7:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by David Smith

Patrice -- assuming that you still have the display problems after correcting your power supply, the problem may be similar to one I had with my 34C. This was corrected by opening the case and moving/cleaning the display assembly pins. Opening the case the first time is both simple but a bit daunting. After removing the two screws in the battery compartment, you must firmly hold the calc upside down on a table and pull up firmly. At a certain point the plastic snap clip at the bottom of the calc will yield and disconnect. At that point you can access the display assembly and pull it out or move it back and forth to reestablish good contact. I pulled mine out and cleaned the contacts with Radio Shack "tuner cleaner" on a "Q-tip." You can also use isopropyl alcohol. Reinstalling the display assembly and closing up the case I found everything working OK. By the way, the battery terminal closest to the center of the calc is +.

Good luck!

Re: HP 34C displays random chars

*Message #9 Posted by **Linda Abarbanell** on 12 Feb 2002, 2:52 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Patrice Hamelin

I had the same problem with my HP 34C. It is now working fine after replacing the battery pack. I used the Radio Shack Replacement Pack, catalog no. 23-191, cost $5.99. Any similar battery should do. Just make sure they're nickel-cadmium, AA size, total 2.4 volts, 700 mah. Good luck. Hope it's nothing more serious with yours. I know I love my 34C!

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manual for 48s
*Message #1 Posted by **eduardo** on 28 Jan 2002, 2:41 p.m.*

hi, i´m from spain and i´ve a hp calculator model 48s. a frien give this calculator when he finished his degree, but he has lost the manual, please, there are any probability to obtain a manual?? i´ll be very happy because it´s important to me learn how to use this calculator in a short period of tinme, thank´s

Re: manual for 48s
*Message #2 Posted by **D.chery** on 29 Jan 2002, 7:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by eduardo

Check out HPcalc.org. I forgot the exact link, but someone has posted an entire 48s scanned manual online. The file is in pdf format and is about 16 meg.

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Cheap ram cards for the GX?
*Message #1 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 27 Jan 2002, 10:31 p.m.*

Hi Everyone,

Does anyone know if these are still available? A Google search didn't turn anything useful up. If anyone wants to trade a card for a new 41 IL module let me know.

Thanks, Steve

Re: Cheap ram cards for the GX?
*Message #2 Posted by **Jonathan Busby** on 28 Jan 2002, 9:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Steve Borowsky

Yep. :) For a list go to http://www.hpcalc.org/buying.php . I've had a Cynox 2 MB card for a year and a half without any problems. If you end up buying one I highly recommend them. Their cards have covers and a one year warranty. Plus they have fast shipping. (at least for me) For more information go to http://www.cynox.de/index_e.htm .

Hope this helps...

Regards,

Jonathan

(Remove the random permutation of NOSPAM from my e-mail address before replying.)

Re: Cheap ram cards for the GX?

*Message #3 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 28 Jan 2002, 10:33 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Jonathan Busby

Thanks Jonathan, that's what I was looking for. Also thanks for your review, it was very helpful.

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HP 41 serial interface
*Message #1 Posted by **Pierre Brial** on 26 Jan 2002, 1:55 p.m.*

Hi, A friend gave me a broken HP-41CX. Fortunately, I succeed to repair it. I am very happy to have this calculator, because when I was young, it was the "dream machine", and I couldn't aford it... Now I would like to use it to communicate with other devices with serial communications, but I can't find the HP-IL/RS-232 interface. Is it possible to build one, or to connect directly the wires of a 9 pin serial connector to some contact of the HP-41 ports ? Thanks Pierre

Re: HP 41 serial interface
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 27 Jan 2002, 7:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pierre Brial

In order to (properly) use the HP82164 HPIL-RS232 interface with the HP41 you need both the HPIL module for the 41 (82160 I think) and either the Extended I/O ROM or the HPIL Development ROM (DevIL module). The latter ROMs are not trivial to find either. The 82164 is not that simple inside. IIRC there's a 1LB3 HPIL chip, a programmed microcontroller, a 6551 serial chip, RS232 buffers, a little glue logic and the power supply. It would be possible to make an equivalent, but 1LB3's are hard to find and you'd have to write the microcontroller code from scratch. Whatever you do, don't connect a serial port to the HP41 bus directly. The voltage levels and signals are totally different. You will damage the HP41, and you certainly won't get data communications. If you want to try I/O with an HP41 without the HPIL module then it's possible but not trivial. For input (data and programs), you can hack the 82153 wand, adding an optoisolator inside the module and feeding in data via that. There are details of one way to do that in my LIF Utilities for Linux distribution (available from, the HPCC web site). For output, you might be able to add something to the module from an HP82143 printer. I've got a dead 82143 somewhere (broken printhead) and I really must get round to investigating it. Another possibility is to add an interface circuit to the HP41 bus that responds to unused opcodes on the ISA line and sends/receives data via the DATA line. Rather like how the MLDL boxes respond to the 040 instruction. To do that you'd have to have a good understanding of the NUT CPU bus, and be able to write software in HP41 Mcode. Might be fun to try, though.

HP 41: best HW data sources are ????

*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Jan 2002, 9:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

Hey, Tony, and Guys (Pavel, where are you?)

I know this is an old issue, but would you point refresh my (our) memory, please? Can you indicate good sources (other than the LIF utilities mentioned here) of 41's HW info? I, as many others, would like understanting it better. At the Forum Archives lies one very good explanation you posted (from Pavel Korenky's request, if I am not wrong), but I did not get success finding it (I did not try that hard, too).

I believe a collection of these explanations would give us some sort of good reference material, do you agree?

Cheers.

Re: HP 41: best HW data sources are ????

*Message #4 Posted by **Hans Brueggemann [GER]** on 28 Jan 2002, 12:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

hi pierre, check out for the il- module on the german ebay site. they are not so often found but generally low- priced because most of them come without docs and, most bidders do not know the full potential of that device.

in combination with the HP82164A IL-RS232 you will indeed need either the X-IO or the HP-IL DEVEL module because of the OUTP function (ready made in the X-IO or, home brewed with the DEVEL),if you want to read program code from the RS232. if you don't (only printing and some data i/o), then both x-io and hp-il dev are imho not required.

hp-il devel roms came in sets of 3 (or was it 4??)with the 82166C HP-IL interface kit. maybe, someone has some spare modules (and, even HP-IL chips!!) to share?

Re: HP 41 serial interface
*Message #5 Posted by **Pierre Brial** on 28 Jan 2002, 3:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thank you Tony for these informations. Mmmh... seems a bit complicated for my limited knowledge. If I understand well, the signals which came from the HP had to be electronically translated to be used as RS-232... In some 80's calculator, like the Sharp PCs, the signals from the IO port have just to be voltage corrected (with a resistor)and then a software can translate them to ascii. I hoped it would be the same for HP-41. Well, let'go go for a long quest for an HPIL module ... Best regards Pierre

Re: HP 41 serial interface
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 28 Jan 2002, 4:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pierre Brial

I seem to remember that the basic HPIL signals were just a current loop interface to a standard RS-232 style asynchronus bus (much like the MIDI musical interface). If this is so one could possibly kludge RS-232 drivers onto an HPIL module and write some (probably non-trivial) software to emulate the HPIL driver chip.

Re: HP 41 serial interface
*Message #7 Posted by **Yani** on 29 Jan 2002, 4:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David Smith

I once wrote a ML implementation of an HP-IB interface. I never completed it since the project outlived its requirement. I think (but I am not quite sure) that the HP-IL may be a type of serial implementation of the HP-IB. The HP-IB went onto become IEEE 488 and a quite famous serial implementation of IEEE 488 was the commodore 64 serial interface used for the floppy drive and the printer. It packetised the bytes in a similar manner to RS 232-C for the serial implementation.

What I do know about the HP-IB is that the command set and the protocol is relatively simple and (from memory - I am going back over 10 years here) the commands are transmitted in ASCII. The difficulty was that HP-IB was the most flaky interface I have come across and could be quite unstable.

Re: HP 41 serial interface
*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 29 Jan 2002, 5:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Yani

HPIL is _logically_ a serial version of HPIB/IEEE-488. That is to say that most of the concepts (addressing, controllers/talkers/listeners, etc) are similar on both systems. That's why the HP82169 HPIL-HPIB interface works so way -- it has to translate the data format, but the higher level ideas are the same. The CBM serial bus is also similar to IEEE-488, but not _as similar_. It's more of a klduge as well. One thing is certain. The CBM serial bus and HPIL are not similar at the lower levels. Yes, both are serial, and both were derived from HPIB, but... The CBM interface is a bus (all devices connected in parallel) with a clock line, data line, ATN line (similar to the ATN line on HPIB) and so on. The HPIL is a loop (each device just passes the (11 bit) characters on to the next device in the loop. No extra lines for ATN or anything like that. And, FWIW, HPIB is not a flakey interface when set up correctly. I've never had any problems with it when running within the specs.

Re: HP 41 serial interface
*Message #9 Posted by **Yani** on 30 Jan 2002, 4:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

> I've never had any problems with it when running within the specs.

You are probably right. We used HP-IB to control test instruments from an HP portable computer. Once it was under way it was usually OK but the bus would quite often lock up and we would have to reset all of our instruments. We never found out why.

Re: HP 41 serial interface
*Message #10 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 31 Jan 2002, 11:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

I'm glad to hear you say HPIB works when hooked up correctly. I never used HPIB at work beyond connecting plotters to scopes and analyzers. Recently I've been collecting HPIB equipment to use with my 85 and 86. In fact, I first started looking for (barely) old (at the time) 85 equipment because my brother in law found a plotter at a sidewalk sale that had a dongle connected to it that turned out to be the HP85 HPIB interface. I'm looking forward to hours of fun with my "new" HPIB stuff.

One thing though - it's kind of funny that HPIB isn't any faster than it is considering it is parallel and the cabling is so expensive. I know part of reason is the vintage of

the technology (LSTTL, which HP names as one of the foundation technologies) and the requirement to work in noisy environments. But even HP didn't make computers with interfaces that could run the bus at its design speed (if I'm reading my old HP catalogs correctly). I understand why the 85 can't run it very fast.

Two things I have collected are a couple of Fluke HPIB controllers. It will be interesting to see how fast they can run the bus. One point of interest is that these Fluke machines are based on the TI 9900 microproccesor and peripherals. I didn't get a keyboard, but all I need to do is send it characters at 1200 baud RS-232 timing with TTL levels, the keyboard connector goes straight into the little 16 pin UART that goes with the 9900.

Re: HP 41 serial interface

*Message #11 Posted by **Yani** on 1 Feb 2002, 1:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Ellis Easley

The classic application we had was using HP Integral computers (the luggable with the orange plasma display) to control 140 Mbit data test sets to generate BER (bit error rate) tests on digital microwave radio bearers and automatically print the plots.

We would have two teams at ajacent sites with two complete sets of equipment and we would send in both directions and the receiver and RF attenuator would be connected to the computer to control the equipment and generate the plots.

The equipment list for each car was quite impresive. We had to strengthen the rear springs to handle the weight. The longest microwave radio relay route that we were resposible for was about 1,200 Km in two sections. Fun times.

Talking about computer peripherals - the most interesting HP-IB peripheral we had were the Eagle drives. They are 600M HDDs weighing - wait for it 60Kg. My baby was an HP 725 with 64M of RAM and three of these Eagle drives running Oracle. We still have it. It is in the junk pile to be sold off :-(

If I remember correctly the HP-IB was designed to be a variable speed bus depending on the conditions. I think that the maximum clocking speed was 1M.

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HP 15C REPAIR
*Message #1 Posted by **D E** on 25 Jan 2002, 2:10 p.m.*

IS IT PRACTICAL TO REPLACE THE BRUSHED METAL FRONT TRIM PIECE WITH A BETTER CONDITION ONE FROM A DONOR CALC. DOES ANYONE OFFER THIS PIECE NEW ?

Re: HP 15C REPAIR
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 25 Jan 2002, 4:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by D E

PLEASE DON'T SHOUT !

You'll have problems to find it. And if you find it, it's quite difficult to replace, for you have to beware not to fold it. Good luck !

Re: HP 15C REPAIR
*Message #3 Posted by **doug** on 27 Jan 2002, 8:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Thibaut.be

What about the screen also? The bezel is bent over the screen on three edges. Even if the design idea was to put something over only one end to hold it in place they still glued it on both ends to the bezel. So you have to find some chemical type genius that knows the kind of glue and plastic so you can remove it without damage. Then you have to know the kind of glue to use to properly place it in the new bezel. Some types of glue react to certain kinds of plastic.

Even if you find a new replacement screen you would probably want to save the old screen if it is in good condition.

These things are always more complicated that you would think. I would be interested in knowing how someone got the bezel loose from the case in the first place without damage to the case. They appear to be glued also. Or there is a trick to getting them loose. Doug

Re: HP 15C REPAIR

*Message #4 Posted by **Steve Borowsky** on 27 Jan 2002, 10:47 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by doug

I don't know if it would work on the 15C but one of the tricks I use to losen glued cover plates without bending them is a hair dryer. The heat is not likely to damage the electronics or melt the plastic but it seems to losen the glue pretty well. 5-10 minutes should do it then carefully pry it up and apply more heat as necessary. The remaining glue on the back of the cover plate can be removed with 'goo gone' or another citrus-derived solvent. keep the solvent away from the display bezel as a precaution. Don't worry if the LCD turns dark when exposed to heat, it's not damaged and will go back to normal when the heat is removed. I haven't found a reliable replacement for the original glue though.

Re: HP 15C REPAIR - to remove bezel and other experiences

*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 28 Jan 2002, 4:32 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by doug

I can't really recommend this, but I found my 12C in parts, lying in the street. First I saw the button cells, then the bezel, then the rest of the calculator except the battery cover, which I found several minutes later when a car drove by and flipped it into the air and I heard a little tinkle when it hit the pavement.

The calculator must have been run over and this caused the bezel to pop completely off. This calculator worked except for one segment of the LCD when I put the found batteries in. Later I re-seated the LCD and it has worked fine since election day, 1988. The bezel was a little scuffed and bent. I bent it back pretty close and stuck it on with two pieces of scotch tape until I clean it up better (or find a good one)and attach it permanently with transfer adhesive. To get to the LCD, I cut all the heat stake heads to free the keyboard/PCB and then built up a pad from layers of duct tape so when I screwed the case back together, the PCB stays in place, although the keys are somewhat mushy as a result. I also freed the PCB on my 15C which had serious corrosion that caused it to draw more current off than on. In that case I reattached the PCB permanently by putting a tiny drop of superglue on each heat stake post, one at a time, holding each till set. If I ever decide to do this to the 12C I will build a fixture first to press the PCB into place so I can glue all the posts at once.

Re: HP 15C REPAIR

*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 28 Jan 2002, 4:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Thibaut.be

I had a bezel come off of a machine once. It was originally held on by what looked like the double sided tape used to hold HP41 halfnut beepers in place... it had a slight blue-green tint.

It is almost impossible to get the bezels off without leaving some kind of damage but you might try a thin, strong thread soaked in UnDu (heptane) adhesive release. This compound causes all adhesives to temorarily loose their stickiness. It does not appear to damage cases but can leave "water spots" on the keyboard.

Use the thread like a saw. You will probably have to keep rewetting it.

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HP41cx problem
*Message #1 Posted by **Paul Franceschi** on 24 Jan 2002, 4:52 p.m.*

I have display problems as follows: when I turn it on, only the upper half of the screen shows and for me to get it to show properly I have to hold one corner of the calculator down, specifically the left bottom corner, or it has to be on a hard surface with all four feet firmly planted. It will not show unless I am sqeezing it or holding down a corner. I can wiggle the calculator and the display comes and goes. If I pick it up the display disappears completely or just the upper half. I can wave it around in my hand and the display will come and go. If I squeeze it slightly the display will stay, you get the idea. Is there something loose? I have played with the batteries, cleaned the contacts, etc, but have not taken it apart.

Any suggestions?

Re: HP41cx problem
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 24 Jan 2002, 6:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Paul Franceschi

It sounds like you have a broken (or stripped out) bottom screw post. The fullnut HP41 machines have a CPU card that connects to the keyboard via a "zebra" type connector that uses the compression of the case to make contact. Typically the machine gets dropped and one or more of the screw posts breaks causing bad contacts. Another problem is the screw posts can split vertically.

You can try to glue the post back using a plastic welding solvent (typically dichloromethane) available in small bottles at most hobby shops. Despite what the bottle says let the joint dry for at least 24 hours.

Re: HP41cx problem

*Message #3 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 26 Jan 2002, 11:26 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Paul Franceschi

another possibility is that one or more of the little tabs that connect the screen with the pcb have come un-soldered. they may not be making connection and still look tight so look real close. if this turns out to be the problem the good news is that it is an easy fix; they are relativly big and out in the open.

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HP-41 back label
*Message #1 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 24 Jan 2002, 1:53 p.m.*

Is there a differance between the back labels on HP-41,HP-41CV and HP-41CX? I have a CV in which the back label has mostly yellow on black background for key pattern with some white for a few shift functions.

Thanks, Glenn

Re: HP-41 back label
*Message #2 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 24 Jan 2002, 6:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

Hi I believe the HP-41C and HP-41CV are the same, but the the HP-41CX is different.

Re: HP-41 back label
*Message #3 Posted by **CJ** on 24 Jan 2002, 10:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Erik Wahlin

My 41C with high top keys that I got in 1980 just has "Made in USA" on the bottom. No FCC ID or the other markings.

CJ

Re: HP-41 back label

*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 25 Jan 2002, 5:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

Hi;

I am not sure if you are reffering to the black-label in the back-half. If it is correct, the HP41C/CV have the same label and it has the ALPHA keyboard, say, it shows all characters available in the keyboard when ALPHA mode is ON.

The CX label shows the ED (EDitor) keyboard, one of the CX-only features.

Hope this is the answer for your question.

Cheers.

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HP test equip
*Message #1 Posted by **miguel (denver)** on 24 Jan 2002, 12:08 p.m.*

I post knowing this outside the usual range of this forum but... I am thinking of buying an HP/ Agilent 54720D o-scope and was hoping for a link and/or discussion of this piece of gear. thnx Miguel

Re: HP test equip
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 24 Jan 2002, 3:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by miguel (denver)

There is a newsgroup, sci.electronics.equipment. I'm not a regular participant, but it looks like what you are talking about.

Re: HP test equip
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 24 Jan 2002, 6:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by miguel (denver)

I have used HP and Tektronix oscilloscopes for MANY years and I have always preferred the Tektronix units. HP has never seemed to master the art of sweep triggering as well as Tek. I do prefer HP logic analyzers though.

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New quiz
*Message #1 Posted by **mapet** on 24 Jan 2002, 8:20 a.m.*

LET x== calc keys / calc id number

for example: HP 17BII x=37/17=2.176

Find a HP calc with the lowest and the highest x.

calc quizz
*Message #2 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 24 Jan 2002, 9:48 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

too easy this one :

you need the highest id number, not taking into consideration the computer/calcs :

what about the 9815S ?

Re: calc quizz
*Message #3 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 24 Jan 2002, 11:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by thibaut.be

I think HP01 wins the highest keys/number prize.

Re: calc quizz
*Message #4 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 24 Jan 2002, 9:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Spice_Man

Which HP calculator needs less pressed keys to compute cubic root?

Pio

Re: calc quizz
*Message #5 Posted by **mapet** on 25 Jan 2002, 3:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Marx Pio

HP 6S - 2 ;-) ??

Re: calc quizz
*Message #6 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 25 Jan 2002, 7:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by mapet

Indeed...

Hey, Marx and mapet; you both found at least one thing that stuff can singularly do. What bothers me is calling that stuff an HP calculator.

Cheers.

You got it!
*Message #7 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 26 Jan 2002, 8:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz,

It is the only thing that I think 6S is useful ;)

Marx

Re: calc quizz

*Message #8 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 26 Jan 2002, 8:21 p.m.,*

in response to message #5 by mapet

You are right!

Pio

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Different solutions for Y^X
*Message #1 Posted by **Tal** on 24 Jan 2002, 6:06 a.m.*

Hi, All!

I wonder why there are different solutions for Y^X function for the following values: 0,0 0,1 1,0 1,1 in "HP48SX" and "HP12B".

Is there a difference in mathematics of businesss calculation and scientific!?

Best regards, Tal

Re: Different solutions for Y^X
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 24 Jan 2002, 7:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tal

There is no real solution and several complex solutions for this function.

if $i^2=-1$, 4^3 can also be 4^-3i^2, or 1/(4^3i^2), which gives sevral complex answers.

No real business/financial application, but lots of physical and engeneering applications, such as electrics and electronics.

Re: Different solutions for Y^X
*Message #3 Posted by **J-F Garnier (France)** on 24 Jan 2002, 7:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tal

I don't have my 12 and 48 on hand, but the only case where you could get different answers should be 0^0 because it's an indeterminate expression and result depends on the calculator implementation.

Re: Different solutions for Y^X

*Message #4 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 24 Jan 2002, 9:45 a.m.,*

in response to message #3 by J-F Garnier (France)

You could have several answers for (a+bi)^(c+di) where $i^2=-1$

Re: Different solutions for Y^X

*Message #5 Posted by **Tal** on 27 Jan 2002, 1:07 a.m.,*

in response to message #4 by thibaut.be

Thanks All for your answers, the question regard only for the real numbers (x=0,y=1, x=1,x=0 etc.)

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(HP48) " IFT " command problem . . .
*Message #1 Posted by **Tal** on 24 Jan 2002, 5:49 a.m.*

Hi, All!

I wonder what is the problem with this command:

IFT (k 18 == i 90 < AND,'i' 22 STO+)

Best regards, Tal

Re: (HP48) " IFT " command problem . . .
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 24 Jan 2002, 6:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tal

Hi;

it seems you mixed RPL with algebraics. IFTE can be used in an algebraic expression, but IFT cannot. I sugest this solution:

```
k 18 ==              @obtains a flag
i 90 <               @obtains the other flag
AND                  @returns final flag
<< 22 'i' STO+ >>    @program to be discarded (flag = 0) or executed
IFT                  @the command itself
```

Hope it helps.

Cheers.

Re: (Vieira) " IFT " command problem . . .
*Message #3 Posted by **Tal** on 24 Jan 2002, 7:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi, Vieira!

Thank you for your reply.

Do you think that this method:

k 16 == i 22 > j 32 < AND i 66 > j 46 == AND OR AND \<< 'i' 22 STO- \>> IFT

is faster then this one:

k 16 == i 22 > j 32 < AND i 66 > j 46 == AND OR AND THEN 'i' 22 STO- END

Best regards, Tal

Re: (Vieira) " IFT " command problem . . .
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 24 Jan 2002, 8:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tal

Hi, Tal;

Let´s consider that when the program is running, the IFT structure will always place the object to be evaluated (in this case the program, that can be small or big) in the stack (normaly, Level 1). Then, after testing the flag (in Level 2), this object will be evaluated or not. The IF..THEN...(ELSE...)END structure will execute (evaluate) each command inside the THEN clause at a time, needing no extra time (some nano-seconds?) to load them all in the stack prior to their evaluation (execution).

To be honest, I cannot ´guess´ which is the fastest. The sequence to generate the flag - k 16 == i 22 > j 32 < AND i 66 > j 46 == AND OR AND - will be time consuming, too. I am not sure, but for this case it will be the same.

If you need to be sure about it, create a 1000-count loop (say, << 1 1000 START *procedure* NEXT >>) and test for both procedures. I would do that, you bet.

Sorry not helping much more.

Cheers.

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Dave Hicks ?
*Message #1 Posted by **Stephan (Switzerland)** on 24 Jan 2002, 4:21 a.m.*

Good morning Dave. Lately I have tried to reach you via your e-mail address. Since I didn't have received an answer I am not sure if my account does still work or if you changed your address? If so please let me know your new one. It was concerning the manual scanning for the museum. In the case that you didn't have had the time to answer to my mails yet because of your workload disregard this message. I am looking forward to hear from you soon. Sincerely yours Stephan.

I just finished responding to my remaining December emails
*Message #2 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 24 Jan 2002, 5:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Stephan (Switzerland)

A pretty good pile has built up but I'm working on it. If it was sent before that then I probably lost it when my inbox self-destructed.

Dave

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HP 01 How to Set Time/Date
*Message #1 Posted by **John** on 23 Jan 2002, 2:09 p.m.*

I have a HP 01 with no instruction manual and would like to know the procedure for setting the time and date... thanks.

Re: HP 01 How to Set Time/Date
*Message #2 Posted by **Stephan (Switzerland)** on 24 Jan 2002, 4:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John

Morning John To set the time on a HP-01 it is easy as counting to three. Key in the time as hours:minutes:seconds, and press the triangle and the t-button. Immediately the time will be set. To set a PM-time (I think that is common in USA) press the P-buttem befor the triangel. The decimal point at the end of the time line inidicates the PM time format. If you prefere the 24hours format, Just press the triangle and the point. To set the date key in the date as MM/DD/YY. Use the / to separate the two digit entries. Then press the triangle and the D-button. Again to change the fromat from MM/DD/YY to DD/MM/YY use the triangle-point trick to change forth and back. Hope this helps for a start. Sincerely yours Stephan

Re: HP 01 How to Set Time/Date
*Message #3 Posted by **John** on 24 Jan 2002, 5:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Stephan (Switzerland)

Thanks Stephan.....appreciate you help.

HP01 Time/Date vs. y2k
*Message #4 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 24 Jan 2002, 9:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by John

Is the HP01 y2k compliant?

Re: HP01 Time/Date vs. y2k

*Message #5 Posted by **Stephan (Switzerland)** on 25 Jan 2002, 2:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Spice_Man

Absolutely. Up and including the year 2099. The philosophy was that every day had a unique number (internaly) starting at 0 for Jan 1, 1900 and ending with 73048 for December 31, 2099 so you even can go ahead and calculate dates between January 1,1900 to December 31, 2099.

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Your premier HP program?
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 23 Jan 2002, 1:54 p.m.*

Hello everyone,

To borrow the electronics company Fluke's motto: What HP program keeps your world up and running?

I would love to hear about group members' critical programs.

Best wishes (and abstaining from Ebay), David

Re: Your premier HP program?
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 23 Jan 2002, 6:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi,

the only programs which are always on my HP-48 are the

- CF.LIB - Stk6 lib - B2 (Chars lib) - SpeedBrowser - A1 (NSKey replacement) - A3 (RSKey replacement) - LIB.LIB - RPL48 - my Tools lib

Back when I used to program on the calc itself, I had the StringWriter (up to version 3.1?) as the only not_made_by_Detlef_or_me software;-)

Regards,

Raymond

My premier HP67 program

*Message #3 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 24 Jan 2002, 3:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

The most useful program for my HP67 is the program for evaluation of up to the 18th degree polynomial all (real and complex) roots using Bairstow's methods. The polynomial coefficients are real.

I have used this program many times and it never failed to find all the roots. It was very important to me in the calculations I have dealt with.

Regards.

Re: Your premier HP program?

*Message #4 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 24 Jan 2002, 11:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

My premier HP program is "Molliersches h,X-Diagramm für wasserfeuchte Luft", just to calculate the values of air conditions, dew point, minimum temperature if cooling with water ("Kühlgrenztemperatur"), state after mixing air at different states. No need for a h,X-diagram or steam pressure table. Nothing but an HP-41CV.

It is the only program in my life I was able to sell, but only once. My prof at FHT Mannheim gave me 50 deutsch Marks for it as he saw that I was allways the first to give an answer and the correct answer too.

Feel free to contact me for a copy of it with a description in german. When I find the time to translate it I'll send it to Dave to publish it here.

Ciao.....Mike

Re: Your premier HP program?

*Message #5 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 25 Jan 2002, 4:18 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Maybe not my first HP program, but this one was used in high school.

At that time accountancy was a big deal in our economics lessons. The exam lasted 4 hours and amongst difficult things was the need to list an error-free trial balance.

Besides I realized that sums of many numbers were always correct at the first time when using my 41CV.

What you needed there was as much as accountancy knowledge than organization skills. And that's where my 41CV helped me a lot : I wrote a sort routine (the non effecient bubble routine, but worked perfectly) to sort all my accounts and not to be messed up by lines that were a bit everywhere in my listing.

And, contributed by my 41, I was the only one in the classroom to have a total debit = total credit trial balance and total ledger = total journal...

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34C Keys rattle
*Message #1 Posted by **reiner** on 23 Jan 2002, 1:13 p.m.*

I have five calculator of the 3x series, three out Singapore and two out the USA. The two USA-models have the same character - the upper three keyboard rows rattles and when I operate a key the upper three rows (function keys) twists herself the whole row. Also smoulders leg execute arithmetic operation that minus -character. Is that normal ? This text was written with an translation program (PC) , I hope you can read it. Can I stop the rattle of the keys ?

Now I use me shool english - I have tryed to open one 3x but stopped, cause I was afraid to demage the back. How hard must I try ?? regards

Re: 34C Keys rattle
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 23 Jan 2002, 2:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by reiner

Reiner, ich verstehe ein bisschen Deutsch, bitte fragen Sie mir auf Deutsch. Auf Englisch sagt es das Beine(?? die teil uber die Fuss!) brannt! Ich muss mein Worterbuch finden...

Zu offnen das Machine: auf 17 Jan. in diesem Platz, "warren" und "David Smith" geben zwei guten Antworten zu "Luca". Die Frage, "Wie schwer?" wurde diskutiert.

Entschuldigen Sie mir bitte, ich weiss nicht wie mann die umlaut macht.

Meine Lehrerin 27 jahre vor, Frau Bungarz (eine Texas madchen mit ein Deutscher Mann verheiratet(? married)), wurde von mir stolz sein! (Ich hoffe!)

Re: 34C Keys rattle

*Message #3 Posted by **reiner** on 24 Jan 2002, 8:46 a.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

Hello Ellis, bestimmt wäre deine Deutschlehrerin auf Dich stolz, ich kann das was Du schreibst verstehen.

Mein Problem sind die drei oberen Reihen auf dem 34C. Diese Tasten klappern, wenn man den Rechner schnell bewegt. Das gleiche ist bei einem 38E. Wird eine der oberen Tasten gedrückt, dann geben alle Tasten der oberen Reihen nach. Vermutlich sind die oberen Tastenreihen auf einer andren Platine als die unteren, den die sind fest und stabil beim drücken. Die beiden Rechner sind aus US-Produktion. Serie 19xxA.. Bei Singapore-Modellen kommt das bisher nicht vor, diese sind aber ab 20xxS.. Außerdem glimmt die "Minus-Taste" wenn Funktionen ausgeführt werden. Dies deutet vermutlich auf einen "Kurzschluss" hin. Nun mach ich aber Schluss, den bis Du das alles übersetzt hast, ist es tiefe Nacht. mfg

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Help Quick
*Message #1 Posted by **Andrew Gee** on 23 Jan 2002, 12:34 p.m.*

How do I program my HP 48G calculator to factor equations.

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HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #1 Posted by **Ty Rogers** on 22 Jan 2002, 9:11 p.m.*

I have found another "NO-Nut". This time it is a 41CV. There is no PCB board. It is built into the key/display board. Are these units rare? I have seen the insides of many 41's, but only two like this. I have a 41C and a 41CV like this. Photo's of the 41C can be seen here: http://photos.yahoo.com/bc/ty__77705/lst?.dir=/My+Photo+Album&.src=ph&.order=&.view=t&.done=http%3a//photos.yahoo.com/bc/ty__77705/lst%3f.dir=/My%2bPhoto%2bAlbum%26.src=ph%26.view=t

Re: HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 22 Jan 2002, 9:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ty Rogers

Hi,

AFAIK the last C/CV's which were produced have this PCB layout. I had a fullnut CX when it was new (must have been around 1983-84), then swapped for the 'nonut' version of the CX half a year later because of the better display.

Regardless of the amount of 'nuts': Those were (and still are) very cool calcs!

Regards,

Raymond

Re: HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 23 Jan 2002, 4:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ty Rogers

Hi;

I have both CV and CX halfnut as this one in the photos, but I was not known about C's like this. I thought the memory was built inside the central PQPF (or is it in the display assy?), so there was no way other than using another IC to reduce/change maximum memory size. Have you tried a MEMORY LOST, SIZE 000 and PRGM sequence? What do you see in the display: 00 REG ??? (319 or 63)? I have one 41CV (cocnut/fullnut) with the contacts' keyboard detatched from the upper half box. It is not difficult (just time consumming) to remove it AND replace it, if you want. As we can see in the third photo, it IS a 41C's box (Silver stripe around the keypad instead of the CV/CX's golden stripe)

Maybe you are familiar with the the 41's operation and you have already done the memory test. If so, excuse-me asking to do that. It's just for checking if it is not a CV built into a C box.

Cheers.

Re: HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #4 Posted by **Ty Rogers (Texas)** on 23 Jan 2002, 7:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

MEMORY LOST, SIZE 000 and PRGM sequence results in 00 REG 127 on the 41C. On the 41CV it is 00 REG 319.

Re: HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 23 Jan 2002, 8:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ty Rogers (Texas)

Hi;

Original HP41C should result 00 REG 63. If you read 00 REG 127, it is like an HP41C with one 82106A Memory Module attached to it. Strange... I have never seen something like it. Does anybody know the reason? Is there such an HP41C?

Regards.

Re: HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #6 Posted by **Ty Rogers (Texas)** on 23 Jan 2002, 5:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

OOPS, I did have the memory module in. It does read 00 REG 63. Sorry For the mix up.

Re: HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #7 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 23 Jan 2002, 12:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ty Rogers

If you don't like it give it to me.

Ciao.....Mike

Re: HP41CV "No-Nut"
*Message #8 Posted by **David Smith** on 23 Jan 2002, 4:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ty Rogers

I think there may be a jumper or two that can be used to trim down the falfnut CV memory to 41C size. Somebody told me HP was going to use this so they could use halfnuts for service replacement machines but usually just sent out CV machines instead.

BTW, I have a 41CV machine with silver trim and silver front label. It is an early fullnut with the CPU card held down with the nuts.

Back to the jumpers, what if...
*Message #9 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Jan 2002, 9:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by David Smith

Just wondering...

Let's suppose Ty Rogers want to free the existing 256 blocked registers; would it be easy to find the jumpers and remove them? Say, I understood that no-nut (halfnut?) 41C's have the registers AND they may be blocked (unaccessible). Is it correct?

Just wondering...

Re: Back to the jumpers, what if...
*Message #10 Posted by **David Smith** on 28 Jan 2002, 4:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

If you can find them it should be possible to reverse their positions (I don't know if they were cut or installed to disable the memory). On some other HP machines the jumpers usually looked like two triangles with their tips touching. These could be cut apart at the join. Others looked like two semicircles with their diameters parallel. You could short them together with a solder blob. The person I heard about them from was told by an HP service tech during a casual conversation. I don't know if all machines have them or only some of the earlier ones.

Re: Back to the jumpers, what if...
*Message #11 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 29 Jan 2002, 5:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by David Smith

The information I have suggests that all memory (ROM and RAM) in the halfnut C and CV is on the display hybrid circuit (the CX has another hybrid mounted across the top of the CPU containing the extended memory, timer, and extended functions ROM). Moreover, the CV display hybrid contians a ROM chip, RAM chip and display driver. The C hybrid contains just the ROM and display driver. I don't know where the RAM is on a C -- maybe in the CPU or the display driver itself. I've never seen any links on a CV display driver hybrid to disable the RAM chip, though. They might exist. You'd have to take the top case apart (undo the heat staking on the keyboard) and desolder the display assembly to investigate, though.

So, there is a 41C halfnut...
*Message #12 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 29 Jan 2002, 6:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Tony Duell (UK)

Hi, Tony;

Your info is (as always) consistent, but I was taken by surprise. So, the HP41C had a halfnut version alright... Amazing!

That's complete new info for me.

Thanks.

Re: So, there is a 41C halfnut...
*Message #13 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 29 Jan 2002, 8:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Yes, halfnut 41Cs exist (I don't have one, though). AFAIK (and the info I have confirms this), they were never sold as such (the 41C was discontinued before the halfnuts were made). They were used as replacements for 41Cs sent back for repair if HP couldn't (economically) repair them. That's why they're very hard to find...

It makes the 41C halfnut. a collectible...
*Message #14 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 31 Jan 2002, 7:35 a. m.,*
in response to message #13 by Tony Duell (UK)

and rare piece, mostly cause it was not even sold.

Good info. I'll keep my eyes oppened...

Re: It makes the 41C halfnut. a collectible...
*Message #15 Posted by **Griggsby Malone** on 21 Feb 2002, 10:20 p. m.,*
in response to message #14 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Yep, I've heard of those halfnuts going for ludicrous prices here in Australia.

I've never seen one for myself.

Griggsby Malone

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Calculus Card
*Message #1 Posted by **Steven Graham** on 22 Jan 2002, 1:44 p.m.*

Any one have any info on where to get a guide book on a calculus card by odd brinsling ver 3.0. I can't find any info any place. please help!

Re: Calculus Card
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 23 Jan 2002, 8:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Steven Graham

Check Calcpro website www.calcpro.com. I have purchased application cards, books, and accessories for my two HP48GX calculators, from them. Their manager, Paul Nelson, was very helpful.

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Opening an HP21
*Message #1 Posted by **GE** on 22 Jan 2002, 4:55 a.m.*

Sorry to bother you again on how to open an HP21, this was probably answered 1.22e44 times already here. I got it from my hair cutter (seems everybody knows I'm a calculator nut).

The machine has dead batteries, + and - keys stuck, and the display flickers when on the charger alone. I'd like to clean up the keyboard and test operation with AA batteries.

Any help would be appreciated. Note that these questions could be answered once and for all in the Articles section...

Re: Opening an HP21
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 22 Jan 2002, 3:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by GE

It is very easy to clean the keys on most Woodstock series machines (and 41C series machines). Take three bristles from a wire brush and chuck them up in a pin vise or Xacto knife holder. Trim their ends even. Behind each key on the back of the keyboard is a hole. Place a drop of 91% alcohol on the hole, dip the ends of the wire brush in more alcohol, and "scritch" around in the hole. Don't break off a bristle in the hole... that can be bad news. I have seen one Woodstock keyboard that did not have the holes under the keys... more bad news.

Re: Opening an HP21
*Message #3 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 22 Jan 2002, 4:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by GE

Be careful not to use the calculator with AC adapter only because the voltage is not regulated.

Re: Opening an HP21

*Message #4 Posted by **GE** on 25 Jan 2002, 4:55 a.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Erik Wahlin

Thank you for a very helpful set of answers - and sorry for not figuring out the disassembly page myself ! Regards to all.

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I do and I do and I do for you kids and..
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave, the "lostrabbit"** on 22 Jan 2002, 2:23 a.m.*

this is the thanks I get. Didn't David Letterman say that? Just tonight, I received yet another email thnking me for the article that Ty rogers and I, along and foremost with the help of Dave Hicks put together on repairing the 82104A 41 series card reader. Since we put tht article together, I've received many postcards from all over the world, places I never knew existed. Even a BEAUTIFUL photo album of "Blue Sardinia" from Luigi, where he wrote on the inside cover "To Dave, my best American friend, with Gratitude, Luigi". Isn't this what we are all here for? to help each other out? Whether it be fixing a freakin old calculator or just lending a hand to those in need? I have to say, after being absent from this forum for quite a while, I am rather disconcerted with all the personal attacks that I hve seen tonight. Come on people, lets get down to what is really what we need in this world right now and do what we can to HELP each other. Dave Hicks, my hat is off to you. People, lets show him some respect and rethink our emotions before we use his space to vent our anger towards another. The Rabbit has left the soapbox.

Nothing to add to these wise and kind words
*Message #2 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 22 Jan 2002, 2:55 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave, the "lostrabbit"

Thanks Dave!
*Message #3 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 23 Jan 2002, 1:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave, the "lostrabbit"

Most of the time this is a great forum to "moderate" because there's nothing to do - it just runs itself with everyone providing great information.

When we do have one of these rare flare-ups, it's really nice to hear some words of encouragement.

While a couple of threads got a little nasty for awhile, I really like the way they've gotten back on track today. People still have some disagreements but they're being expressed in a civil way.

Re: Thanks Dave!
*Message #4 Posted by **b.tokarczyk** on 23 Jan 2002, 2:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Dave Hicks

Every once in a while I pop in to see how things are going, get some education ... seems like I stepped into the end of a storm - labels and Paypal. Of the topics discussed, I wouldn't guess these would deserve such time, emotion, and energy, - at least not here in this forum. Dave, I hope things get back to normal as you mentioned.

I have dealt with Mike in the past, and will likely in the future. Independent of the items he lists in his auctions, or the politics of such, his items are well represented and no-nonsense - ideals that should set the bar higher - I try to remember that. I often watch his auctions, and others, to gage prices paid for specific items. In my communications on a buyer/seller level, he has again set a high bar, on one occasion going out of his way to honor my request for a quick response and special delivery. Thanks Mike.

Thanks Dave for an even hand.

Re: Thanks Dave!
*Message #5 Posted by **Frank** on 23 Jan 2002, 1:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Dave Hicks

IMHO-With a completely informal structure it's certainly a reminder not to take the Hobby so seriously that it becomes a conflict or battle between sides rather than fun. If the issues, rather than the personalities are openly discussed, with others opinions respected, these discussions can remain in fun. We should expect that various collectors and resellers will act or behave in various ways. Diverse opinions and philosophy abound on ethics, even when linked to religion. The golden rule may be most applicable, but since it is self identifing results vary there as well.

Re: Thanks Dave!
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 23 Jan 2002, 7:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Frank

> The golden rule may be most applicable, but since it is self identifing results vary there as well.

Many years ago I was listening to an interview of a union official who was trying to justify his unions tactics and I quote.

"As the good book says 'Do others before they do you.'" He was serious! There are some truly scary people out there.

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HP-49G whats next?
*Message #1 Posted by **Aruid** on 21 Jan 2002, 8:32 p.m.*

Does anyone know what the newest HP calculator will be? I think the HP-49G would be perfect if it had a little bigger screen (higher resolution), an internal clock, and an IR port. What ever happened to IR ports on HP Calcs? Didn't the HP-48 series have IR ports? They should atleast sell an external IR transciever for the HP-49G. This would enable the user to communicate with almost ALL new laptops without a cable and transfer files to other calcs without a cable not to mention change TV stations! Hey with an internal clock you could program it to record your favorite show at a certain time! (yes I know thats not what calcs are for :p)

ARUID

Re: HP-49G whats next?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 21 Jan 2002, 11:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Aruid

Aruid:

Unless I've missed something, there will be no new HP calculator. From everything I've read, I gather that HP has left the calculator business for good. They just disbanded the Australian operation, where the calculators were being designed and produced.

Awful, ain't it?

-Ernie

Re: HP-49G whats next?
*Message #3 Posted by **mapet** on 22 Jan 2002, 2:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Aruid

HP 39G has IR port and internal clock.

Re: HP-49G whats next?
*Message #4 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 22 Jan 2002, 2:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Aruid

BTW, the 49G has an internal clock, of course.

The 49G has more features than an HP-48, lacking only the IR (not important for me), and a good keyboard;-)

If it had a better keyboard with the big ENTER key in the usual position, maybe I'd use a 49, too. So I stick with my 48;-)

Raymond

Re: HP-49G whats next?
*Message #5 Posted by **Johnny Bjoern Rasmussen** on 22 Jan 2002, 4:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

I agree on the strange keyboard, and the not-HP-at-all slimline design. My respond was "Aaargh - a new Texas calculator" when I say the 49G for the first time...

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strange ebay listing - paypal scam
*Message #1 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 21 Jan 2002, 10:14 a.m.*

1. Here is a strange ad. The description is "Lot: Calculator, Camera, Bag, Metal Chains " The calc looks like a 12c. The assortment looks like the proceeds of a robbery!

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1692144351

2. I never look at my junk e-mail, so this might have been around for a while, but today I got a chain letter which says to join PayPal and send your $5 gift to a person up the chain!

Re: strange ebay listing - paypal scam
*Message #2 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 21 Jan 2002, 12:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

Hi,

yes, it seems like someone has found this bag ...

Best regards

Andreas

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HP-49G Debugging
*Message #1 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 21 Jan 2002, 6:27 a.m.*

Hello,

I tried to single step through an easy program on the HP-49 but alas didn't succed. First I loaded the "run & debug" menu, then I typed in the name of the program and pressed F1 (debug). The program started with an INFORM and after entering the values and pressing OK the rest of the program was executed never giving me the chance to single step through it. What did I wrong and what is the difference between STEP, STEP down-arrow, and NEXT ? Any hint will be very much aprreciated - thank you in advance.

Re: HP-49G Debugging
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 21 Jan 2002, 7:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

Hi;

Instead of [OK], you should use [SST]. I am not sure right now, but I think INFORM would not force the running condition, unless the INFORM is in a 'subroutine'. That lead us to the difference between [SST] and [SSTv].

When stepping into a program, any user-defined call will be treated as an internal call, say, if you have a programm named AUX and you execute [SST] for having AUX as the next step, AUX will be evaluated completely. If you want to step through AUX, you first use [SSTv] and then you step through AUX with [SST]. If you are in doubt about which to use, both have the same action for internal commands/functions.

That also leads us to other question: If I am using [SST], how will I know when to use [SSTv]? You would have to know which is the [NEXT] command - see? - without executing it. So, you press [NEXT] (the softkey [NEXT] is different of the keyboard [NEXT]!!!) to see what is the next instruction. Most of the times, the two next instructions will appear, but you may have access to only one next instruction.

I believe this is all. I still cannot understand why is the program running free after INFORM, unless it is in another programm called by the one you are debbuging. Please, check it and post the results

OR the (even partial) listings.

Cheers.

Re: HP-49G Debugging
*Message #3 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 22 Jan 2002, 4:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi,

thank you very much for your answer. The explanations were very good. Alas, the problem, debugging my test program, didn't work, yet. So here's the listing: « "PLEASE ENTER" @Put INFORM paramters on stack {{"K" "" 0} {"T" "" 0}} DUP DUP INFORM @perform INFORM DROP @throw return code away -> TAB @store INFORM result « 'TAB' 1 GET @GET first value from list 'TAB' 2 GET @GET second value from list » »

When INFORM is processed, the debug menu is replaced by the INFORM menu (OK, CANCEL, etc.). Although I can load the debug menu, the HP-49 doesn't accept them and protests with a beep.

Re: HP-49G Debugging
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 22 Jan 2002, 7:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

Hi, Ludwig.

I loaded your program in the calc this way:

```
« "PLEASE ENTER"     @Put INFORM paramters on stack
  {{"K" "" 0} {"T" "" 0}}
  { }                @ I added this cause it seems it's missing
  DUP
  DUP
  INFORM             @ perform INFORM
  DROP               @throw return code away
  -> TAB             @store INFORM result
    « 'TAB' 1 GET    @GET first value from list
      'TAB' 2 GET    @GET second value from list
    »
 »
```

It worked fine. I stored as PG1, entered it's name in the stack ('PG1'), activated RUN/DEBUG menu and pressed [DEBUG] softkey. After a few [SST], I entered 45 [down-arrow] 12 [OK] [OK] (I had to press [OK] twice, I don't know why). The RUN/DEBUG softkeys

([DEBUG],[SST], etc) became available again and I could step through the program.

I did not place it in the 48 to see what happens, but it seems fine to me. If you need/want something more specific, feel free sending me an e-mail.

Regards.

Re: HP-49G Debugging
*Message #5 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 14 Feb 2002, 5:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi Luiz,

thank you very much for your response and sorry for the late answer. So my mistake was to leave out th " around the program name. I tried it out and it worked fine. Thanks again.

Regards

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HP48 program improvement. . .
*Message #1 Posted by **Tal** on 21 Jan 2002, 3:17 a.m.*

Hi, HP48 users!

I have a remote control program that includes a lot of questions in this type of form:

j 6 == i 1 == AND IF THEN 7 'k' STO END j 12 == i 23 == AND IF THEN 8 'k' STO END j 17 == i 45 == AND IF THEN 9 'k' STO END j 56 == i 67 == AND IF THEN 10 'k' STO END j 34 == i 89 == AND IF THEN 11 'k' STO END j 37 == i 111 == AND IF THEN 12 'k' STO END . . . .

I would appreciate it if you could convert these questions so they will operate faster.

Best regards, Tal

Re: HP48 program improvement. . .
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 21 Jan 2002, 4:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tal

Hello;

It seems, in a first look, a CASE...THEN... END structure would fit better. If you have problems implementing, send me an e-mail.

Cheers.

Re: HP48 program improvement. . .

*Message #3 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 23 Jan 2002, 12:37 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Tal

Tal,

Assuming the local variables i and j are set elsewhere, the following code works. The original code has no default value or action if an i & j pair is not found, or if neither value is not within the tested values.

```
{ 7 8 9 10 11 12 }
{ 6 12 17 56 34 37 } j POS
{ 1 23 45 67 89 111 } i POS
OVER == OVER 0 /= AND
IF
  THEN GET
  ELSE DROP@
END
```

This simplifies the code, I'm not sure about the speed. The =/ above is the HP48 not equal test.

Joe

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Scarce HP-27S - (NOT 27)
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 20 Jan 2002, 5:56 p.m.*

The HP Museum lists the 27S as moderately difficult to obtain; however, I've been unable to find one.

I'd be grateful if the group could advise on this.

Thanks, David

Re: Scarce HP-27S - (NOT 27)
*Message #2 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 20 Jan 2002, 7:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

This was the most powerful algebraic pocket calculator ever made by Hp or any one. Hence, anyone who has one knows it cannot be replaced by anything on the market today, so they won't sell.

You might consider an Hp19bii, since it has all the functions and capabilities as a 27s aside from Hex, Bool, Dec conversions.

Re: Scarce HP-27S - (NOT 27)
*Message #3 Posted by **Todd Garabedian** on 20 Jan 2002, 9:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

In terms of rarity, these models come up on eBay every so often.... probably about 6-8 per year. The classified ads on this site also list them from time to time.

I obtained mine a few years ago. I recall it wasn't too difficult to find.

Re: Scarce HP-27S - (NOT 27)
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 21 Jan 2002, 3:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

For several years I am looking for a HP-21S.

Ciao.....Mike

Re: Scarce HP-27S - (NOT 27)
*Message #5 Posted by **Jan** on 21 Jan 2002, 11:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

I have been trying for quite a while to find a 27S to replace a stolen calc. Here in this forum I had been advised to buy a 19BII instead. Many people get confused by the “business consultant” designation. This is not a problem at all. 19BII is as good as 27S in most of the functions, such as the brilliant solver, statistical functions and many others. It even offers UPN (can be switched to algebraic easily), which still is far better for manual calculations and not available with 27S and few other interesting functions. 27S is really hard to find and they tend to be quite expensive.

Jan (Switzerland)

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HP-IL 82973A interface card help needed
*Message #1 Posted by **katie** on 19 Jan 2002, 7:47 p.m.*

I have an 82973A interface card that I haven't been able to get to work in my PC (I'm using a 486 33MHZ for testing the card), the problem may be as simple as not having the right version of the software but I'm not sure. I have the CS80 program that comes with revision C of the 82973A board, but my board is revision A. I know that the address switch needs to be set differently on the revision A board, but I don't know if the software needs to be different. Does anyone know? Do you have the software that came with the revision A board?

Thanks,

Katie

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Re: Spice series battery terminals
*Message #1 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 19 Jan 2002, 7:20 p.m.*

Are any special precautions required when drilling beryllium copper? I think I've heard that beryllium metal becomes a hazardous dust when it is machined. I wonder if that applies to the alloy? I know beryllium copper is used for lots of springs and electrical contacts.

Re: Spice series battery terminals
*Message #2 Posted by **katie** on 19 Jan 2002, 7:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

I've got no idea, but the tiny hole needed in the end of the connector could easily be punched out instead of drilled if the dust is a hazard.

Re: Spice series battery terminals
*Message #3 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 20 Jan 2002, 3:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

ellis; i remember being told that machinists working in nuclear research faculties who got beryllium slivers contracted some type of cancer. that's the only industry i have ever heard of that uses it but now that you mention it, i bet it would make a dandy alloy with copper for conducting springs. pure beryllium is pretty special; light, hard, good heat handling properties, and way too expensive to use for toasters and beer cans. i have a scrap piece the size of a small coin and i do not file or sand it. as forrest gump says " thats all i know about that". - d

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Spice series battery terminals
*Message #1 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 19 Jan 2002, 3:38 p.m.*

Has anyone discovered a way to repair a broken spice series battery terminal?

Re: Spice series battery terminals
*Message #2 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 19 Jan 2002, 7:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Spice_Man

Katie's way is an actual re-manufacture, thanks for the dimensions and sources, I need to do this too. In the meantime, I found another way to get mine working. This discussion assumes the broken terminal was not very badly corroded - mine wasn't corroded too badly but broke at the bend. I soldered a short length of wire (I used #30 wire-wrap wire) from the back of the broken piece to the PCB trace under the negative terminal (which was the broken one on mine). There is not a similar trace under the positive terminal but you could solder to the remaining part of the old terminal or pass the wire through the rivet and solder it to a solder pad on the other side. After electrically joining the broken parts, I put a piece of double-sided dense foam tape under the terminal to hold it in place and provide some spring force.

Re: Spice series battery terminals
*Message #3 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 20 Jan 2002, 3:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ellis Easley

Ellis: Thank you very much for the easier alternative to Katie's method! I guess I will use one or the other depending on how "authentic" I want it to look, and how much damage there is to the terminals.

Spice_Man

Re: Spice series battery terminals
*Message #4 Posted by **katie** on 19 Jan 2002, 7:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Spice_Man

I've come up with a good way to replace the broken terminals that doesn't require too much work and looks and works as good as new.

You'll need to open up the case to the point of being able to get clear access to the battery terminal circuit board. Start by drilling out the rivet holding what's left of the broken contact in place (something around a #45 drill bit - a little bigger than 1/16" - works well). Then cut a piece of .01" thick beryllium copper (you can get a 6"x9" strip of this from www.smallparts.com) .2" x .5" and bend it to match the look of the original contact. Then drill a small hole in the end of it and attach it to the circuit board (where you drilled out the rivet) with a 0-80 x 1/4" screw and nut (also available from Small Parts).

-Katie

Re: Spice series battery terminals
*Message #5 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 20 Jan 2002, 3:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by katie

Thank you very much for the instructions Katie!!

Spice_Man

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ebay bidder tracking feature
*Message #1 Posted by **Erik Wahlin (USA)** on 18 Jan 2002, 9:46 p.m.*

Don't know if this has ever been brought up, but it seems kind of unfair if a guy that does his research on ebay and makes bids that someone else can simply shadow his bidding by using the ebay bidder id tracking feature. If I spend a lot of time for instance looking for a HP calculator (including mispelled words etc..) and bid, a guy that knows my ID (or many other HP collector ID's) can see where I/we bid. It makes those rare finds harder to keep a secret. I know that everyone will suggest that I bid late, but my time is very limited to do Ebay bidding, and I usually have to bid my maximum early on. I know that this feature is used a lot by people to track people like TOMD or other HP collectors that don't snipe.

Searching eBay
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 18 Jan 2002, 11:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Erik Wahlin (USA)

You use "tomd" as an example. That suggests that you use this feature yourself. Nothing wrong with that. I suspect that if everyone was honest, they would admit they do also.

Also, eBay will never change that policy. Why? It benefits them. It makes for higher prices.

However, I have a tip for all.

You are very correct that the key to finding treasures is to search for the usual items by HP Calculator, HP Calculators, HP-XX, HP XX, brand, type, model, etc. But you also have to search by commonly misspelled words.

You can do all of this in less than 15 minutes, without relying on someone else finding something for you. **How?**

Whenever you perform a search, set a bookmark for that search. You can put them all in an eBay folder, for eBay searches.

Each day, you can go down your list of items, including all the misspellings and make all of your searches in about 15 minutes.

Each time you find a new query that work, add it to the list. No need to "reinvent the wheel" each time you want to look for something.

Hewlett Packard 15c

15C Calculator

42S Calculator

So, set a bookmark for each and run them both. Sometimes, you find things in one that are not in the other and visa versa, so it's a good idea to over search.

See how easy and fast that is. If you really want to get trick, you can create a web page that has every link you use and don't have to bother with bookmarks. I have a link to a page that I use, that has quick searches to just about anything you need. I may post a link to it.

There are ways to keep track of auctions without having to put up a bid that lets everyone know what you have found or running into the 20 mark limit.

Re: Searching eBay
*Message #3 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 19 Jan 2002, 12:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

Thanks Mike for the tips. Actually, I have never tracked anyone before because I did not know about this feature until recently. I used Tomd as an example because he bids on a lot of HP auctions. He's a great guy by the way. I have had a lot of satisfactory deals with him. One common mispell that always gives me a laugh is Hewlitt for Hewlett. Packerd might be another one Right now there are 10 auctions going on with the Hewlitt name! One great way to get good deals on Ebay by the way is to watch for new buy it now auctions. Sometimes you can get lucky. I bought a mint HP-42S once with manual for $50.

Re: Searching eBay
*Message #4 Posted by **tomd** on 19 Jan 2002, 9:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Erik Wahlin

Don't forget "caculator" and "calulator". Amazing.

Tracking Tomd has been mentioned before
*Message #5 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 18 Jan 2002, 11:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Erik Wahlin (USA)

And Tom once told me that a dozen people have told him they do it and that it didn't bother him. If it bothers you and you're too busy to bid late yourself you might consider a bidding/ sniping bot.

You can find a recent discussion here

I've seen several versions - some on websites and some that you run on your own PC.

Some people dislike sniping but I believe some bots are sufficiently configurable so that you can set them up for polite-yet-still-late-ish bids if you prefer.

Re: Tracking Tomd has been mentioned before
*Message #6 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 19 Jan 2002, 2:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Dave Hicks

Yes, indeed tomd is a very nice guy, definitely an asset to our community. I purchased several calcs from him, amongst ather to mention my pride of being now the owner of a 27.

I hated sniping in the past but after having been sniped so many times I guess it is the only way to purchase adtmoderate prices (don't blame me with my recent $400 HP65 ;-)) Actually to bid to an acceptable limit and then you have no time to react emotionally...

Ebay search algorithm
*Message #7 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 19 Jan 2002, 8:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Thibaut.be

Shouldn't sites like Ebay make available a search algorithm similar to soundex?

David

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Solution Book: Anesthesia
*Message #1 Posted by **L. Deruyck** on 18 Jan 2002, 4:12 p.m.*

looking through the museum CD's I found in the HP Key Notes from oct '77 Vol 1 N°3 the following reference: HP USERS LIBRARY SOLUTION BOOK Anesthesia (00097 - 14019. Can I still find this somewhere? or eventually a copy? Many Many Thanks

---

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First calculator on Moon
*Message #1 Posted by **Thomas Hunt** on 18 Jan 2002, 10:50 a.m.*

Was there an HP calculator on the Apollo 11 flight (first landing on the moon)? If so, which one was it??

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #2 Posted by **Jerry Doctor** on 18 Jan 2002, 12:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thomas Hunt

HP advertised that their calculator was the back-up for the onboard computers on the Apollo-Soyuz mission. This, however, was after the last moon landing.

Off topic - Whenever someone gives me the old "If we can send a man to the moon..." I always interrupt and point out we CAN'T send a man to the moon. Our parents could, but not us.

Very well said (sad?), Doc...
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 18 Jan 2002, 1:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Jerry Doctor

Hi;

despite the fact I (as many) am not from the country that sent a group of men to the moon, I could not agree more with your words. After reading your post, some sort of sadness took my mind. I would like adding another question: do you believe it's only a trip to the moon we (you.S.A.) are not able to achieve? We (mankind) are loosing our breath... for the new, teasing challenges.

That includes, of course, new, challenging, revolutionary calculators, palms, etc...

Comments?

Re: Very well said (sad?), Doc...
*Message #4 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 18 Jan 2002, 5:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz said:

After reading your post, some sort of sadness took my mind. I would like adding another question: do you believe it's only a trip to the moon we (you.S.A.) are not able to achieve? We (mankind) are loosing our breath... for the new, teasing challenges.

Wise words Luiz!

The U.S. is in the worst shape, in my opinion. Engineering is but a shadow of what it once was. I---along with *all* my engineering colleagues---hold those Apollo-era engineers in the hightest regard! But engineers---and more important: engineering geniuses---are no longer valued. Today it is marketing, mergers, acquisitions, and *IMAGE* that matters most.

There *ARE* no more Apollo engineers. There *ARE* no more 1974 Hewlett-Packard engineers. They have been replaced with de-motivated (or worthless) engineers. The motivated ones are with marketing people who have mastered business/marketing speak. They are the group that is *NOW* valued in our country (Carly at HP is a good example).

And, unfortunately, the U.S. leads the world in these self-destructive practices. We are falling *quickly* from grace, and I don't see a way out in the near future.

Bruce.

Re: Very well said (sad?), Doc...
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike Meyer** on 18 Jan 2002, 10:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Sorry for the gripe/warning, but I have to chime in here. All week the local paper has talked about how there's no mental health care for kids available anymore, and in another section of the paper, they announced another 35 million dollar Medicaid cut. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been saying for years that mental health is our number 1 world-wide medical crisis, yet the people who hold the money keep cutting it back. There are never any open beds at the hospital. Nobody is bothering to go into debt to train for a dying profession.

Our country (USA) no longer values (rewards) intellect or training. Doctors are

replaced by nurses. Nurses are replaced by "medication assistants" with only two months training. (It costs less, I guess. But I think not, in the long run.)

Recently, I've had no time to collect HP's. I've been on the phone nearly continously trying to handle increasing psychiatric emergencies.

By the way: there were 50,000 physicians doing research in the U.S. ten years ago. Now there are only 15,000. And most are nearing retirement.

It should be interesting.

Michael

Re: First calculator on Moon

*Message #6 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 21 Jan 2002, 1:41 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Jerry Doctor

I think the moon missions were the last point at which man was capable of achieving what was technically possible (and what a fantastic acheivement it was).

All through history practical scientists have been sitting around waiting for technology to catch up with their ideas. As soon as it came along they did what was possible either self funded or with the help of a rich doner.

Now technology has outstripped national capabilities (even of the US / ex USSR) and the scientists no longer wait for the method but the funding and the will.

PS - What did the moon missions (or space race) give us?

NOT non-stick frying pans (I think those were invented before WWII).

It did give the micro-electronics industry a massive boost that then was applied to the millitary and then to industry and then the consumer in the form of cheap electronic goods. It probably jumped the U.S. about 10 - 15 years ahead and gave then the domination in micro-electronics for the last 20 - 30 years. So your US dollars did go to a good home.

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #7 Posted by **Steve** on 18 Jan 2002, 12:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thomas Hunt

The HP 41 series did enjoy an illustrious career aboard the space shuttle in the '80s. Check out:

http://www.nasm.si.edu/nasm/dsh/artifacts/GC-hewlett-.htm

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #8 Posted by **Mike McDonald** on 18 Jan 2002, 4:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Steve

Interesting Article - questions now are -

1. Where are the Rest of them? 2. What were the modification specifics as to parts removed? 3. Where are the NASA modules?

may be another good reason to keep searching the NASA surplus sale . . . .?

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #9 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 21 Jan 2002, 1:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Mike McDonald

Well I suppose the first pocket calculator was a slide rule:

"Apollo astronauts carried 5-inch slide rules with them on missions to the Moon"

I'd guess that NASA removed the batteries - NiCADs contain lots of nasties, especialy if you have a fixed ammount of air to breath!

Tantalum capacitors are also not very nice if they decide to go pop.

When encapsulating integrated chips (ic's) you have to make sure there are no air pockets in the package. This is because when entering a low preasure area the package might explode.

I can't think of any other nasty bits in the electronics.

Re: First calculator on Moon

*Message #10 Posted by **Wayne Brown** on 19 Jan 2002, 4:39 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Thomas Hunt

No, the only handheld calculating devices used on the first Apollo moon landings (other than pencil and paper :-) were Pickett 600-ES Dual Base Log/Log slide rules. They were carried on five Apollo missions, so possibly ten slide rules went to the Moon. I have one of these little beauties in front of me right now (well, one of the same *model*, not one of the actual rules that went to the Moon!). It's a five-inch rule, so it fits nicely in a shirt pocket, and has a very nice leather case with a pocket clip. I carry mine with me all the time.

If you want to see one of these (and other very nice slide rules, by Pickett and other manufacturers), Eric Marcotte has some excellent pictures and info on his Web site: http://www.sliderule.ca is the main page and http://www.sliderule.ca/pickett.htm has the Pickett pictures.

Re: First calculator on Moon

*Message #11 Posted by **Larry** on 21 Jan 2002, 11:01 a.m.,*

in response to message #10 by Wayne Brown

For the record, the first HP calculator to go into space was the HP-35. "For example, the HP-35, Hewlett-Packard's first scientific calculator, was standard equipment on three manned Skylab missions." (HP Digest Volume 8, Page 3)

Even though no HP calculator went to the moon, the story of the computer which actually did go to the moon is no less interesting. You can read about it at: http://www.abc.net.au/science/moon/computer.htm

Re: First calculator on Moon

*Message #12 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 23 Jan 2002, 10:53 a.m.,*

in response to message #10 by Wayne Brown

Wayne, I seem to remember a story that when Gemini 6 & 7 rendezvoused, Wally Schirra entered data into the onboard computer while at the same time using his slide rule to calculate the exact time of the event. He found the answer first. Joe

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #13 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 23 Jan 2002, 12:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Joe Panico

I understand there was a custom-built by IBM computer in the Lunar Module. I remember that a computer was controlling the descent on Apollo 11 until Armstrong took over and landed because there were boulders on the original landing site. I wonder if that computer had a calculator function?

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #14 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 23 Jan 2002, 12:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Ellis Easley

The article that Larry pointed to set me straight on the Apollo computer.

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #15 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 24 Jan 2002, 2:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Ellis Easley

I understand there was a custom-built by IBM computer in the Lunar Module. I remember that a computer was controlling the descent on Apollo 11 until Armstrong took over and landed because there were boulders on the original landing site. I wonder if that computer had a calculator function?

I was going to make a flippant reply (and I usually manage to resist that sort of urge) but the more I thought about it the more it became a serious comment. I intend this to be thought provoking...

If there is ever another manned landing on a celestial body, Mars for example, does anybody think that Microsoft will write any of the mission critical software?

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #16 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 24 Jan 2002, 3:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

No. I've see "2001" a number of times, both normal and widescreen, and I never saw the MicroSoft logo on anything.

Re: 2001: A Space Odyssey -- "HAL" came from "IBM"
*Message #17 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 25 Jan 2002, 1:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Ellis Easley

You're aware, of course that "HAL" in fact was derived by combining the alphabetically preceding letters in "IBM" -- "H"/"I", "A"/"B", "L"/"M".

Using that encoding algorithm, "L"/"M", "H"/"I", "B"/"C","Q"/"R", "N"/"O", "R"/"S", "N"/"O", "E"/"F", and "S"/"T", or "LHBQNRNES".

No, I don't think I saw the Microsoft logo anywhere in the movie . . .

But folks might want to suggest other encodings or acrostics of "Microsoft" (for which we should keep peeled a jaundiced eye!)

Re: 2001: A Space Odyssey -- "HAL" came from "IBM"
*Message #18 Posted by **Werner Huysegoms** on 28 Jan 2002, 2:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Paul Brogger

According to Arthur C. Clarke himself, that was merely a coincidence, not his intention.

Re: Microsoft's contributions to future space exploration . . .
*Message #19 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 25 Jan 2002, 1:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Ellis Easley

Another thought occurred to me:

Computer: "Where do you want to go today?"

Astronaut: "I wish you wouldn't keep asking that!"

Re: Microsoft's contributions to future space exploration . . .
*Message #20 Posted by **Bill Duncan** on 26 Jan 2002, 7:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #19 by Paul Brogger

Here's a thought experiment: You're in a hospital in critical condition. They're about to connect you to a life saving device, and you have two choices. One is programmed by that company in Redmond with all the code "secret". The other uses open source programs, reviewed and checked by many people in the field, with no motivation to keep any bugs "secret"...

Re: Life support...
*Message #21 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 27 Jan 2002, 4:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by Bill Duncan

In the first case you may pass in a friendly manner, in the second you may live a terse and boring life...

(not to be taken so seriously)

I would prefer HP medical support systems, which used to be (are still?) very good in the period when the HP41 was designed...

Re: Life support...
*Message #22 Posted by **Sam** on 28 Jan 2002, 1:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

HP's "medical support systems" has been spun off of HP as Agilent Technologies.

Sam

Re: Microsoft's contributions to future space exploration . . .
*Message #23 Posted by **frank** on 28 Jan 2002, 3:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by Bill Duncan

Not to mention the s/w might need upgraded during surgery, requiring a reboot plus non-existant device drivers that maybe 25% exist and must be downloaded from the still in business suppliers site, and the others....., well the patient probably did not make it through the reboot. Hope they do start doing avionics s/w one day

XEQ LANDME
*Message #24 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 27 Jan 2002, 4:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Ellis Easley

As a teenager, I dreamt about this program of the 41 after I saw the ad with the shuttle, that would save the life of the astronauts if the central computer was dead... Imagine... Computer is out ? No problem ! just take my 41, plug in the IL module connected to the dashboard, key in XEQ LANDME and we're safe home pals !

More seriously, my cousin was studying physics in Namur at that time. He was (and still is 15 years after) studying stuffs with laser in a vacuum environment. I often visited him in his lab. Taking measures over there was critical because it took several days to have the acceptable level of vacuum. It was just reached when the computer that piloted the laser beam went dead. It was quite a easy job, just sending 3 coordinates, but without a computer to do it... My cousin asked me if I had my 41, and the technician said ! Jeez ! we're saved ! he quickly connected a IL module to my 41 and plugged in the 2 IL wires in a home made interface... they could make their measures thanks to my calc... I was 17, ans was so proud of my litlle toy !

Re: First calculator on Moon
*Message #25 Posted by **Spice_Man** on 24 Jan 2002, 10:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

No...Microsoft products have too many "features."

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP 15C Handbook / Handbuch
*Message #1 Posted by **Martin Feinendegen** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:07 a.m.*

Accidentally I came into possession of an old HP 15C calculator. Unfortunately the (german) handbook is missing. Who can help?

Thanks!!!

Ich bin per Zufall in den Besitz eines alten HP 15C gelangt. Leider fehlt mir das (deutsche) Handbuch dazu? Wer kann helfen?

Danke!!!

Martin

Re: HP 15C Handbook / Handbuch
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Martin Feinendegen

From this site you can buy a CD containing manuals for many different calculators, including several that were printed in Deutsch. The manuals come in PDF format, so they're easy to view. Get the CD; you won't be sorry.

-Ernie

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HP Forum Archive 07

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***LONG* Mike, "feedback", and "attacks" (WAS: anonymous postings, etc.)**
*Message #1 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 17 Jan 2002, 4:36 p.m.*

Dave:

I think you have a legitimate concern about anonymous (no E-mail address) postings. I, too, have wondered about this practice (in particular a certain braggart who goes by the moniker "Ex-PPC Member"). You'll notice that not only do I always use my full name, but I have posted personal information in the Biographies section. When I complain about Mike's attitude, I'm doing it to his face. He knows my name. He knows *both* my home and work E-mail addresses. He even knows the town I live in! That probably isn't the smartest thing to do, but that's how I am. I don't feel the need to remain anonymous. On the other hand, I can certainly sympathize with "John Smith"---we don't know anything about "Mike Davis", or have any assurance that he *won't* try to retaliate outside of the MoHPC Forum!

As for Mike's feedback goes, Dave, you of all people should know that feedback for a seller means nothing more than the seller held up his part of the deal: goods were not misrepresented and delivered acceptably. Feedback in *no way* comments on the seller's attitude toward buyers, his prices (for goods or shipping), or anything else! I, for one, refused to pay exorbitant money-transfer fees and shipping fees (that is what drew Mike's wrath). I am not given the opportunity to express his attitude in his eBay feedback. Yes, he has had 700 satisfied customers. Maybe he has insulted 700 potential customers who then didn't deal with him?

One of the last (and probably one of the final) deals I did on eBay (not with Mike), involved product misrepresentation---it was bad (and I should have known better). Once the seller received my money, I asked him to leave me feedback (as my part of the deal was complete). He refused; he said that he never leaves feedback until *after* the buyer leaves *him* feedback! Well, you can guess why! He was intimidating buyers into leaving him positive feedback with the not-very-subtle threat of retaliatory feedback. Well, that's what happened. I told it like it was, and he left me negative feedback---even though he received my cash a few days after the auction ended!

Now, I'm sure Mike doesn't have the same feedback practices, but did you check before touting his feedback? Feedback says *nothing* about character. From the E-mail I have received, the number of people who have had negative experiences with Mike (to the point that they swear-off dealing with him) seem to outnumber his character-defenders in the Forum.

Anonymous character assassination is not acceptable, but I don't think that's what is going on here. If you look back at the many examples of legitimate arguments/debating-points that Mike has responded to as if they *were* character assassinations, you can begin to piece together an impression of Mike's personality.

But, most importantly, I'm tired of hearing a defense for Mike that is not based on anything---in fact, a defense based on the assertion that no wrongs have been *proven*. Well, I didn't like Mike's attitude toward me---a potential buyer---and I'm willing to share my record of it.

I'm going to include the whole E-mail exchange that I had with Mike, and you decide for yourself. Dave, I don't think you should even *appear* to be defending Mike unless you are really sure that is what you *want* to portray.

----------BIG email exchange below!----------

Below is the very first time I *ever* communicated with Mike. Note the date is October 31st, 2001.

```
------------------------------------------------------------------------
vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv
------------------------------------------------------------------------
From: "Mike Davis" <ipscone@halcyon.com>
To: "W. Bruce Maguire II" <maguire@ti.com>
Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2001 10:07:24 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Subject: Re: 97 Card Reader Repair
Message-ID: <3BDFCD5C.28780.2CFBE31@localhost>
Priority: normal
In-reply-to: <4.3.2.7.2.20011031102242.00b3af00@dlemail.itg.ti.com>
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12c)


> Mike:
>
> I just wanted to thank you for the outstanding article you have in the
> Museum of HP Calculators on repairing the card reader on the 97!  I,
> for one, am very glad that you took the time and effort to include so
> many clear pictures and descriptive test.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Bruce.


Thanks alot.  I'm surprised by the number of people that are sending
me thankyou notes.  I never would have expected that it would have
helped so many.


Mike


> --
> +---------------------+
> | W. Bruce Maguire II |
> |   maguire@ti.com    |
> +---------------------+
------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

^^

Now, I think most people would say that I was very nice to Mike, right? I'm sure lots of people have benefitted from his article and I wanted to thank him.

Now, a short *one week later* I was interested in purchasing something from Mike, and I asked him about accepting PayPal, since his auction only stated "Money Order or BidPay" (and presumably cashiers checks). Below is the beginning of the E-mail exchange:

---
vvvv

```
> >>Subject: Re: Question for seller -- Item #1293216191
> >>Priority: normal
> >>X-mailer: Pegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12c)
> >>X-Loop-Detect: 1
> >>
> >>No, sorry.  I do not accept PayPal.
> >>
> >>Mike
> >>
> >> > Hello:
> >> >
> >> > Do you accept PayPal for payment?
> >> >
> >> > Thanks,
> >> > Bruce.
> >> >
> >> > --------------------
> >> >
> >> >
> >> > Question from:          buytxn
> >> > Title of item:          HP-41C 67 97 Mag Cards for HP 41CX
> >> > Calculator Seller:                  mikesdavis Starts:
> >> >       Nov-03-01 19:55:10 PST Ends:                  Nov-10-01
> >> > 19:55:10 PST Price:
> >> >                Starts at $0.01 To view the item, go to:
> >> > http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1293216191
-------------------------------------------------------------------------
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
-------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

Nice and pleasant exchange, right? I then went on to press him as to why this was his policy. Sellers really are at very little risk, since they have cash-in-hand before they even think about mailing something. This is a lopsided arrangement from the beginning! Since his acceptable payment methods were going to prevent me from participating (in fact, winning) his auction, I wanted him to know that. If sellers *know* that they are losing business and still maintain a "Money-Order/Cashiers-Check" only policy, then fine. I just want them to know that they *are* sacrificing business. Below is Mike's response:

```
-------------------------------------------------------------------------
vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv
-------------------------------------------------------------------------
From: "Mike Davis" <ipscone@home.com>
To: "W. B. Maguire II" <Maguire@AnalyticInvestments.com>
Date: Fri, 9 Nov 2001 13:34:09 -0800
Subject: Re: Question for seller -- Item #1293216191
Priority: normal
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12c)
X-Loop-Detect: 1


> Mike:
```

>
> Yes, but the problem is, that BidPay costs _me_ more money (as the
> buyer) than PayPal costs _you_ (as the seller). I don't understand
> why sellers who have this objection---paying fees---don't just offer
> buyers the opportunity to use PayPal on the condition that the buyer
> will pay some or all of the PayPal fees.

It is very easy to explain. Sellers say this in their auction and bidders say the did not see it and whine about having to pay the fee. That is why I stopped using PayPal.

> I really wanted to bid on the 91 that you have up for auction, but I
> just calculated the BidPay fees if I were to win with a $200 bid. My
> BidPay fee would be $9.50! PayPal would charge less. Even if you use
> the most expensive PayPal rate---the standard rate (not the merchant
> rate)---the fee would be $6.10. Money orders and cashiers checks are
> completely out of the question, because they can easily eat up 30-60
> minutes of my time.

I guess that leave you out of a lot of auctions then. You are talking about a difference of $3. If that is too much for you, imagine how the $6.10 is to me.

Your fee is a percentage of the item you bid. The fee to me is a percentage of the profit I make.

So for you it is $9/200 or 4%. On the same item that I make $50 profit on it is 18%. Not counting the other 18% I have to pay eBay. Their fee is 18% of the profit I make.

But it really gets back to the fact that bidders whine when they have to pay these fees. That is why they are using PayPal in the first place; to avoid fees. But the reality is that bidders pay all the fees on 99% of the auctions and sellers don't absorbe the fees. I just choose not to get in an argument with bidders over these fees. I just don't accept any payment means where I have to pay a fee.

> Moreover, there is no rule that says the seller _shouldn't_ have to
> pay credit-card-associated fees. Regular retailers pay those CC fees.

I am not a "regular retailer" and you can bet your money that they

are passing them onto the buyers, through higher prices. But this is an auction and that cannot be factored into the cost, initially.

> That is part of the cost of doing business for retail merchants. On
> eBay, on the other hand, the seller has the advantage that the fees
> can instead be paid by the buyer (and in that case PayPal is a much
> better deal) or the buyer and seller could split the costs.
>
> Also, why is the shipping charge $15.00? I wouldn't think that
> Priority Mail for this calc. would run more than about $7.00.

The point is moot since you are not going to bid on it. But shipping is what I charge that covers Priority mail, insurance, tracking, boxes, packing material. I DO have a right to charge for the materials that I have to buy to pack a package. And no, you can't ship a 91 package for anywhere near $7.00, with insurance. It's over $10 just to go to LA and that's on the same side of the coast as my location. When it travels across the US it's more.

> Bruce.
>
> p.s. As to your statement that PayPal is the only service that
> charges the seller, doesn't Billpoint do the same thing?

I don't accept BillPoint either.

>
> >At 11:05 AM 11/8/01 -0700, you wrote:
> >
> >That is easy to understand. They don't "want" to use PayPal to
> >receive payments because there is a charge associated with it (or at
> >the very least a minimum from credit cards). They probably use
> >PayPal to pay for auctions.
> >
> >That is how I will use it when and if I join again.
> >
> >Again, it is an unrealistic belief that sellers should pay fees for
> >receiving payments. No other online ePay charges for receiving
> >payments. Only PayPal does that.
> >
> >Mike
---
^^

Notice his remarks: "But it really gets back to the fact that bidders whine when they have to pay these fees. That is why they are using PayPal in the first place; to avoid fees. But the reality is that bidders pay all the fees on 99% of the auctions and sellers don't absorbe the fees."

Was I "whining"? In Mike's eyes, everyone who hesitates to pay exorbitant payment or shipping fees is a "whiner!"

And the following is priceless: "The point is moot since you are not going to bid on it."

Here, Mike explains that since I'm not willing to pay his fees, he has no need to rationalize them! **And that is the *key*, Dave. The only people who deal with Mike are the people *willing* to deal with Mike, and they are the *only* ones who are allowed to leave feedback.**

---
vvvv

If you use PayPal, as a seller, you should be aware of these also.
PayPal protects the bidder but does not protect the seller.

Mike
---
^^

I lost my patience for Mike's warped logic, and this was the last thing I wrote to him. He responded that his feedback was his assurance against fraud, and that he had the burden of dealing with zero-feedback buyers. That was the end of it. Here was my final rant:

---
vvvv

NEVER risking ANYTHING by accepting only money orders and cashiers checks (you have CASH in hand before you do ANYTHING)!

If you are shocked that you---as the seller---may ever have to take a risk on an eBay auction, then I suggest that you NEVER, EVER BE A BUYER. Because you will suffer the same risks on EVERY transaction!

You know, back in the "old" days---before eBay---I used to buy video games from people on the USENET news groups. The standard practice was for the seller to mail the goods IMMEDIATELY, as the buyer sent cash/check/whatever immediately. That way, BOTH parties SHARED the risk. eBay stinks, because it is so blatantly biased toward the sellers (they know where their income comes from!). It has become standard operating procedure (on eBay) that the seller have cash-in-hand before even THINKING about sending the goods---thereby off-loading ALL THE RISK onto the buyer.

Nevertheless, after reading the eBay user agreement, I found two things of interest. First, there appears to be a "Seller Protection" program that appears to protect the seller from just the occurrence that you are worried about (you have to be a verified business- or premier-member or something...). Second, I found the following:

> NO SURCHARGES. Under Visa and MasterCard regulations and the laws of several states, including California, merchants may not charge a fee to the buyer for accepting credit card payments (often called a "surcharge"). You agree that you will not impose a surcharge or any other fee for accepting PayPal as payment. This restriction does not prevent you from imposing a handling fee in connection with the sale of goods or services, as long as the handling fee does not operate as a surcharge (in other words, the handling fee for transactions paid through PayPal may not be higher than the handling fee for transactions paid through other payment methods).

So, I guess I will stop suggesting to sellers that they offer buyers the opportunity to use PayPal, by having the buyer pay some (or all) the PayPal fees. And, likewise, it appears that you should cancel your plans to accept PayPal.

```
Bruce.


p.s.  As to your assertion:


"I guess that leave you out of a lot of auctions then."


No, actually, I'm pleasantly surprised at how many sellers of HP
calculators are accepting PayPal.  I would say that AT LEAST 75% of the
auctions I look at accept PayPal.  I just don't bother with the other
25%, unless the item is unique, then I send an E-mail.
------------------------------------------------------------------------
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

Mike doesn't really care about anyone but Mike, he makes it pretty clear that if there are any fees to be paid, *he's not going to pay them!*. He also makes it clear that he doesn't care what *I* think, he'll go about his business. I figured that that was fair enough---he'd just go about it without my patronage!

Dave, if you are still with me after all that, obviously you can make up your own mind about whether you would want to deal with Mike, and whether accusations against him of poor "attitude" are justified.

Bruce.

I have 3 Comments
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 17 Jan 2002, 6:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

One: You say Nice and pleasant exchange, right? I then went on to **press** him as to why this was his policy.

I say Why would you **go on to press**, when I have told you nicely two times that I don't accept PayPal? YOU begin to be part of the problem.

Two: You say that it is **easy** to compile 700+ without a single complaint and have it NOT represent the facts.

Let me ask you and everyone else reading this. How is it that YOU have had 12 transactions, and fully 30% are negative (or less than positive)?

How is it that **YOU** can't maintain a spotless, 100% positive record, if it is not your attitude, that is the problem? Could it be that it is not that easy, as you claim? Could it be that you are the problem and not I?

How is it that **YOU** even bid on one of your own auctions, so that you could further b1tch.

It is very easy for anyone who wishes to do a search on **your email address on eBay** and see **YOUR record**.

Anyone who knows anything about ebay and the feedback system can verify that people who are negative (as you) get negatives.

I have never had a problem with you. It is **YOU** that have had a problem with me. I get along with people. Many don't use PayPal and have stated so here. You just choose to fly off the handle because I wouldn't accept it.

Three I can't ask people to back me up. I'm quite sure that I have 500 to 1 support rather than complaints. But that is up to them, to decide, if they wish to post support for me.

But I have not resorted to using fake names, to support my own case, as you have done.

Mike: you're a liar.
*Message #3 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 17 Jan 2002, 6:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

Mike:

You said: *Two: You say that it is easy to compile 700+ without a single complaint and have it NOT represent the facts.*

Let me ask you and everyone else reading this. How is it that YOU have had 12 transactions, and fully 30% are negative (or less than positive)?

Mike:

Not only are you a jerk, you are a liar. My eBay ID is "buytxn", and this is my feedback:

---
118 positives. 97 are from unique users and count toward the final rating.

0 neutrals.

1 negatives. 1 are from unique users and count toward the final rating.

Go look it up, Mike. That *ONE* negative is the one I explained in my letter.

How's that shoe taste, Mike?

That's the last time I will respond to *any* of the bile that comes from you.

Bruce.

You must have MULTIPLE accounts then
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 17 Jan 2002, 8:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I have never done business with you. I had no idea what your eBay account was. I searched based on your email.

How many accounts do you have? Do you drop bad feedback accounts?

You are using maguire@ti.com here as your email adddress. It is quite easy to go to eBay, click Search, click "by bidder", enter the email address here, and press search.

What I stated is what comes up!

If you search on my email address, mikesdavis, comes up. I have only ONE account. How many do you have?

There is NOTHING that I have lied about. So, is this your account on eBay (a-made-guy)? If not, why is he using your email address?

Anyone is free to search and verify for themselves.

sounds like Mike needs to hire Clinton's PR guy
*Message #5 Posted by **union goon** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by W. Bruce Maguire II

..

Let's cut through some Crap
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 18 Jan 2002, 1:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by union goon

The following IDs belong to one person: "Ebay Reg", "67 owner", "a colllector, not a dealer", " hp15c owner", "god", "union goon", "amazed", "92 owner", "HP92 Owner" (I am omitting IDs from this list that could identify him even partially.)

The following IDs also belong to another person: "HP 67 User 2", " Ebay Watcher", "Collector", "Goody2shoes", UK calc enthusiast, "Observer", "UK calcman", "jr (Texas)". As with the first fake ID user, I have omitted the names which would identify him.

"John Smith" is also "John Mills" though he usually posts under a label rather than a name. Since that label represents his usual identity here I'm not going to specify it.

It should be noted that two of these users have occasionally added an email address (in a non-existent domain) to their posts. I assume this is an attempt to appear legitimate.

By contrast, the people who have posted in this thread supporting Mike, all appear to be separate

individuals. In addition, their IP addresses make sense. For example, the IP addresses map to the domains given in their email addresses and the guy who claims to be from Australia posted from an Australian IP.

In looking through all these posts I find 4 people who are mad at Mike. Bruce and one person who posts under an aliases including "John Smith" don't like the fact that Mike doesn't (or didn't) take paypal. Personally I find this one to be much ado about nothing but they are well within their rights to choose to only buy from people who take Paypal.

The other two people (let's call them Ebay Reg and Ebay Watcher). Do not wish to have their identities known for reasons that are not entirely clear to me. Both of them are substantial users of ebay and appear to have issues with the way Mike uses Ebay.

Part of the their anger appears to extend from the fact that Mike is allegedly able to buy an HP-71 for $47 one day on ebay and resell it on ebay for $470 the next. Is so, I have to say I'm impressed and amazed and more power to him. As I pointed out in another thread I've been warning people about ebay prices for a very long time. However, this was always meant to point out alternatives to buyers. It was never meant to condemn ebay or ebay sellers. In my opinion, Ebay was always meant to be a money machine not a social gathering of collectors. (And also in my opinion, that's OK.)

My local bookstore will buy a used book back, mark it up 100% and put it on the self the next day. Why only 100% and not 1000%? Is it because they're "nice"? No, I think it's because if they marked them up 1000% they'd have a huge supply/demand imbalance and other stores would appear and destroy them. Similarly the local used Honda dealer has prices on his late model Hondas that exceed the MSRP of equally equipped new cars. Why? Because he can. Thus, I'm amazed at the idea that Mike can mark up %1000 and not be undercut by the competition, but if he can, all I can say is wow! Maybe someone else should get into the business and mark em up only 900%?

I don't know Mike or the people posting under aliases. I've never had any business with any of these people that I can remember. I will say, however, that I feel that the people posting under these aliases are weakening whatever case they think they have.

Apologies for typos - this was posted in haste.

Dave

For the record:
*Message #7 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 17 Jan 2002, 6:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

For everyone on this Forum:

My eBay ID is "buytxn" (I work at Texas Instruments, get it ;-)

You can check my feedback. I have 118 positives, and the *ONE* negative from the retaliatory-feedback guy that I mentioned in my letter to Dave.

If you look closely in my post, you can see this in the second E-mail:

> >> > Question from: buytxn
> >> > Title of item: HP-41C 67 97 Mag Cards for HP 41CX
> >> > Calculator Seller: mikesdavis Starts:
> >> > Nov-03-01 19:55:10 PST Ends: Nov-10-01
> >> > 19:55:10 PST Price:
> >> > Starts at $0.01 To view the item, go to:
> >> > http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1293216191

Bruce.

For the REAL Record
*Message #8 Posted by **Mike** on 18 Jan 2002, 1:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I did some checking after he called me a liar, to see if I could have been mistaken. You will notice in this exchange that Bruce uses 3 (count them) 3 different email addresses. Yes, he uses w.b.maguire@ieee.org now and it returns (buytxn)

BUT he also uses maguire@ti.com in THIS email exchange and in the post on this forum.

Guess what that email returns? It returns a **2nd and possibly discarded account** (a-made-guy) that had 12 transactions, one of which he bid on his own auction. AND 30% less than positive.

And he has the unmitigated gall to call me a liar. He knew about the other account, when he made this accusation.

The telling thing is that the complaint, in the 2nd account, was that it used PayPal and the guy he bought from claimed, "Money Order only auction-**Demanded** to send check-NEVER DID!! a-made-what? "

Notice the **demanded**. Doesn't that sound familiar? Notice how he tried to dictate the terms in that auction, just as he did in mine.

Please check it out for yourselves. Go to eBay, click search, click advanced options, select search by "bidder", enter maguire@ti.com email address and see what it returned.

Somewhat misrepresented
*Message #9 Posted by **Gene** on 18 Jan 2002, 9:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

Bruce's ID that you reference has 8 positive feedback comments.

1 neutral from someone no longer registered...note that ANY comment left from someone who becomes no longer a registered user is converted to neutral. This one does not count.

There is 1 negative comment from a user. Apparently, this was one deal that went "bad".

There is then a neutral comment that Bruce posted FOR HIMSELF to explain about the negative comment.

The negative comment guy then left another neutral comment.

So, you are quite wrong, IMO, to represent the feedback for Bruce's ebay account in such strongly negative terms. He had one bad experience while using his work email address/ID. Negative experiences happen! My OWN ebay ID has two negatives. One was from an idiot who sent an email that bounced because a server was down and left a negative feedback "to get your attention". What a nut. The other negative feedback involves a buyer from Italy and was a bizarre situation where neither of our emails ever reached the other. Since I never heard from him, I left a negative feedback. His MO arrived the next day. I felt terrible. Mailed his package off. Unfortunately, all he saw was my negative feedback comment, so he left me one. Point is that negative feedbacks sometimes happen.

Note too, that he quit using this ID for feedback and/or completed buying back in April of 1999. Certainly not recent.

Just my thoughts, Gene

Not at all - Look again... plus
*Message #10 Posted by **Mike** on 18 Jan 2002, 11:00 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Gene

He called me a liar for referencing this dropped account, when all along he knew it existed. He has lied by omission.

You are misinformed about a neutral from a non-registered user as not counting. These are **NEGATIVES that were converted to neutral.** You will notice that the non-registered users are left in the listings. His last item is from a non-registered user. **THAT** was a negative.

I can prove that statement. Go to my account. Scroll to the 3rd page. You will find a non-registered user that left a positive. Positives are not neutralized when someone becomes unregistered. **ONLY negatives are converted to neutral**. Also, anyone that knows anything about eBay knows that neutrals are negative as well. Just not as bad negatives.

I have not misrepresented anything. I stated the 100% truth and told people to look for themselves and judge for themselves, as you have done. I respect that. But this person has lied to everyone by not admitting to his multiple eBay accounts that show other negatives. Plus, the complaints match his attitude here and the one that he displayed in his email exchange.

So, that in fact means he had 2 that were negative in 7 transactions (when you discount that one was his own bid). 2 negatives in 7 bids is 28.57% (hardly an exaggeration). Further, what I said was that it was less than positive. Absolutely true!

Further, the negative comments show that the problem was the same as what he listed in his email exchange. He is hard to deal with and tries to dictate the terms of the auction. He is consistent in that approach.

He is insinuating that my record does not reflect my customer relations. He attacks me and says that my

record is misleading. That coming from a man that 1) uses alias's to back up his story, on this forum; switches accounts on eBay to cover up less than positive feedback; cannot maintain a 100% record; attacks people that support me to dissuade others from backing me up. Hardly a man that is credible.

Sigh...quote from ebay's site
*Message #11 Posted by **Gene** on 18 Jan 2002, 11:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Mike

From ebay's site http://pages.ebay.com/help/myinfo/user-not-registered.html

"When a user's status is changed to Not a Registered User, all feedback left by this user remains unaltered. Prior to 1999 however, as noted in some profiles, feedback was converted to neutral when a user became no longer registered."

Which is exactly as I said. I did not and am not commenting on any other part of your conversations with others here.

My analysis of his "feedback" is accurate as I presented previously.

Gene

Re: *LONG* Mike, "feedback", and "attacks" (WAS: anonymous postings, etc.)
*Message #12 Posted by **Brian Ashbach** on 17 Jan 2002, 6:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I have purchased from Mike before, and found him to be courteous and helpful. Both the items I bought from him were exactly as described. Yes, Bidpay is expensive, but money orders at my bank are only $3.00. I don't know and don't care how much money people make off a purchase, I focus on the price of the item and whether I want it at that price. If someone doesn't take PayPal, I factor in the additional costs and potential for being taken advantage of.

A few comments
*Message #13 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 17 Jan 2002, 6:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

A few comments.

First, thank you for an honest and well-documented post.

Second, I can't really control someone else's perception of who I am "appearing to defend" so I'm not going to get overly concerned about it. Those people who have been around here for awhile should think back to the other times I've caught people posting under multiple IDs to enhance their story and consider whether I'm supporting one side over another or simply pointing out the use of fake personas.

On Feedback I stand by my original comment: "I realize that Ebay's feedback system is far from perfect but not ONE complaint in more than 700 transactions???" I will just add that people comment on communications all the time on feedback - feedback does not only cover receiving the product. Again, far from perfect, but then so is a thread with comments from one person pretending to be three. I was attempting to balance out the

imperfections at least a little with what little information I could find.

As for the moot point - well honestly Bruce that's what I was thinking too. You, me, and Mike can all see from a prior exchange that you wouldn't be bidding on his auction so I don't see the worry about the shipping charge. His charge probably includes packaging and maybe an allowance for time, gas etc. If you don't feel you should pay for those, there are plenty of other auctions on ebay to choose from. I think that some people get hung up about what they "should" pay but in a free market, sellers try to get as much as they can and buyers try to pay as little. It's not so much a matter of "should" as "can" on both sides.

Honestly, from reading the transcript provided, I don't understand why the conversation continued beyond the first exchange.

Buyers and sellers all have their conditions and ideas of a fair price. In a free market some will connect and others won't. You want Mike to do something that he doesn't want to. I don't understand why that wasn't the end of the discussion. This is, by the way, exactly what I was thinking when I read "John Smith's" claim that Mike "more or less" told "John" to "go to hell with his money". On the less side, perhaps all Mike really said was that he refused to accept Paypal.

By the way, as for Mike's "warped" logic I saw someone complaining about being charged back by Paypal on another forum just two days ago. Apparently he never read the terms of use before clicking the agree button. Among the responses were several along the lines of: "That's why I won't take Paypal".

I do agree with you that ebay is generally slanted in favor of the seller. As I said in another post that's why I prefer to sell there. I think you'll find that sellers not shipping until they have cash in hand is rather common however. I also feel that as a seller, taking higher risks can lead to greater rewards. However, just as some people prefer CDs to Stocks, some sellers don't want to take risks.

I am not saying that Mike is right or that you are right. You've simply made incompatible choices. You should chose a seller who is more compatible with you.

" I figured that that was fair enough---he'd just go about it without my patronage!"

Exactly. It took a long time and some admitted ranting to get there but this is totally fair and reasonable bottom line.

Sometime I'll have to tell you about the time my first question to an ebay seller got a response that started with "You know where you can shove it!" and went down hill from there. (Don't worry folks - it wasn't a calculator.)

Maybe over a beer sometime...

Thanks for the great service Mike
*Message #14 Posted by **Greg Harris (Sydney Australia)** on 17 Jan 2002, 7:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I have purchased from Mike three times, and found him to be VERY helpful.

The most important thing is that the items I bought from him were exactly as described.

Also, I purchased an item from some nerd (sorry over emotional comment), who would not ship outside the US (all this involves is writing a one line longer address on the package). Mike agreed that he would trans-ship the item for me along with the HP67 I had purchased from him at the same time.

This is really going out of the way for your customer, thank you again Mike; I look forward to being one of your customers again in the future.

Yes, I find his payment methods expensive, but so are the calculators, I went into the deal knowing what rules were.

All the best Greg Harris gharris@acslink.aone.net.au

this is the very first positive I ever read
*Message #15 Posted by **67 owner** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:42 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Greg Harris (Sydney Australia)

out of hundreds...

how about an example?
*Message #16 Posted by **a colllector, not a dealer** on 18 Jan 2002, 7:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Greg Harris (Sydney Australia)

An example? take a look at the bid history of Ebay Item # 1319962659

Re: how about an example?
*Message #17 Posted by **Giorgio Ungarelli** on 18 Jan 2002, 7:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #16 by a colllector, not a dealer

Your point being???

GREED
*Message #18 Posted by **amazed** on 18 Jan 2002, 8:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Giorgio Ungarelli

..

Re: GREED
*Message #19 Posted by **Giorgio Ungarelli** on 18 Jan 2002, 9:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #18 by amazed

Why greed? Anybody else could have bid as well! That's the whole point of Dutch auctions on eBay.

watch for them on Ebay
*Message #20 Posted by **hp67 owner** on 18 Jan 2002, 9:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #18 by amazed

in a few days. He will try to sell them back to the people he sniped. At 10X the price. PT Barnum was right. There'a a sucker born every minute. Every 30 seconds overseas.

Re: watch for them on Ebay
*Message #21 Posted by **Giorgio Ungarelli** on 18 Jan 2002, 11:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #20 by hp67 owner

What's wrong with making a profit? Isn't that what a market economy is all about? If you generalize, then we are all suckers, because for everything we buy, somebody is making a profit.

Re: watch for them on Ebay
*Message #22 Posted by **Todd G.** on 18 Jan 2002, 10:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Giorgio Ungarelli

That statement is beyond idiotic.

If you paid $20 for a MIB HP-70, and the seller made a profit, would you consider yourself a sucker? I don't think so.

Re: watch for them on Ebay
*Message #23 Posted by **Giorgio Ungarelli** on 19 Jan 2002, 4:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Todd G.

I don't think it's idiotic at all. What is, IMHO, is the tactfulness (or lack thereof) that you put in your terse posting. But, hey, I am not the repository of all knowledge.

First of all I challenge you to find a MIB HP-70 for $20 to "prove your point".

Secondly, and in all cases, if the seller made a profit, that means you could have bought it for less than what you paid for it.

Re: *LONG* Mike, "feedback", and "attacks" (WAS: anonymous postings, etc.)
*Message #24 Posted by **Dale Richmond** on 17 Jan 2002, 8:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Hello to all, I would like all on this forum to know that I have had several transactions with Mike and he has proved to be very honest and a man of his word. If you are looking for very good quality HP equipment that is accurately described then Mike is your man. Just to give you some idea of the help he provided, Mike repaired an HP67 card reader AND returned it to me Express Mail all for no charge. In exchange for information about battery packs for an HP disk drive, he gave me a great trade offer for a 128 Kb RAM card. It is my opinion that Mike is a great asset to the HP "community" and I am grateful for his contribution. Dale Richmond

Re: *LONG* Mike, "feedback", and "attacks" (WAS: anonymous postings, etc.)
*Message #25 Posted by **arie nobel** on 18 Jan 2002, 12:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Just a general note after reading the diatribe of "Bruce": I have just finished dealing with Mr. Davis and have found him to be both fair and also even somewhat accommodating. I am amazed that someone should think that he has the right to almost "force" someone to change his business practices in order to do business with him. Mr. Davis not only dealt quite fairly with me, but also answered a large number of questions which he surely did not have to do at all, for which I thank him publicly. arie nobel

Re: *LONG* Mike, "feedback", and "attacks" (WAS: anonymous postings, etc.)
*Message #26 Posted by **Giorgio Ungarelli** on 18 Jan 2002, 3:48 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I am also one of the eBay members that has purchased several times from Mike. Every time the items bought from him were exactly as described in his clear auction descriptions and the pictures he takes are always of the item for sale (which is much more than can be said about a lot of other sellers on eBay).

In addition I have found Mike to be very helpful. For example, he fixed the gummy wheel problem on an HP-67 that I did not buy from him, free of charge. I had the calculator sent to him, he fixed it and I (obviously) paid for the shipping back to me.

I also wanted to point out that Mike does (as of the last couple of months) accept PayPal, at least from me. I don’t know if this is the case with everybody or just people he has had previous dealings with.

As for the “additional fees”, as an eBay seller myself I also charge $0.30 + 3% of the winning bid if the buyer wants to pay me with PayPal.

Lastly, I could not agree more with Dale Richmond (previous post on this thread) that Mike is a great asset to the HP "community", and with Arie Nobel (also previous post on this thread) that Mike does not have to change his business practices in order to do business with a bidder that does not accept his payment methods and rules.

Regards,

Giorgio Ungarelli, Geneva, Switzerland.

Re: *LONG* Mike, "feedback", and "attacks" (WAS: anonymous postings, etc.)
*Message #27 Posted by **Frédéric ALBERT (from France)** on 18 Jan 2002, 4:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #26 by Giorgio Ungarelli

How to be sure that these four last posts haven't been posted by this dear Mister Mike ???? Isn'it Mister Bruce !!

Fred

> **Re: *LONG* Mike, "feedback", and "attacks" (WAS: anonymous postings, etc.)**
> *Message #28 Posted by **Giorgio Ungarelli** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:57 a.m.,*
> *in response to message #27 by Frédéric ALBERT (from France)*
>
> And, Fred, how do we know you're not Mister Bruce?

ASSET???? Shirley, you jest!!!!
*Message #29 Posted by **67 owner** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #26 by Giorgio Ungarelli

May I suggest that you in the 1%?

> **Re: ASSET???? Shirley, you jest!!!!**
> *Message #30 Posted by **Giorgio Ungarelli** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:59 a.m.,*
> *in response to message #29 by 67 owner*
>
> Somehow I don't think so. But even if I was, hey, I'm a happy customer of Mike's and I have the right (just like you do) to make my opinion known to the rest of the readers of this forum.
>
> > **I agree wholeheartedly**
> > *Message #31 Posted by **67 owner** on 18 Jan 2002, 7:09 a.m.,*
> > *in response to message #30 by Giorgio Ungarelli*
> >
> > And I'm glad you are happy. But it appears you are in the tiny minority.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Clean/Repair 42S?
*Message #1 Posted by **Wayne Dickerson** on 17 Jan 2002, 10:08 a.m.*

I have a significant amount of dust on the inside of the dispay. Is there a way to open up the calculator and clean it? Or do I just have to live with it?

Thanks, Wayne

Re: Clean/Repair 42S?
*Message #2 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 18 Jan 2002, 2:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Wayne Dickerson

Hi,

I have never tried it but it COULD be possible to use compressed air (for example in cans). The air could be blowed in the calculator through the infrared port ...

Perhaps its worth a try ?

Andreas

Re: Clean/Repair 42S?
*Message #3 Posted by **Iqbal** on 18 Jan 2002, 5:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

Hi Andreas, I really won't recommend the method you described. I tried it with an HP41CX, and I ended up with more dust particles than I had originally when using compressed air.

Re: Clean/Repair 42S?

*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 18 Jan 2002, 4:31 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Iqbal

I have used the canned air technique quite a bit with great success.

If you are REALLY desparate you can try imersing the display end of the calculator in an ultasonic cleaner. I would then recommend at least three rinses in distilled water. Use some Kodak PhotoFlo wetting agent in the last rinse to prevent streaking when it dries (dry overnight in an oven on LOW heat... say 125 deg F) I have used this technique on some machines that were flooded in mud. Worked really well for me but it does risk damaging the machine).

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP calcs with X^Y function
*Message #1 Posted by **mapet** on 17 Jan 2002, 2:59 a.m.*

Most of calcs have Y^X function. How many calcs can you find with X^Y function?

Re: HP calcs with X^Y function
*Message #2 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 17 Jan 2002, 3:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

As far as I know, only : - HP 9810A - HP 35

have the x^y function. Is that right ?

Re: HP calcs with X^Y function
*Message #3 Posted by **mapet** on 17 Jan 2002, 3:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by thibaut.be

I think there are more...

Re: HP calcs with X^Y function
*Message #4 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 17 Jan 2002, 7:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by mapet

Yes, there are more. The HP-38G is one of them. The HP-39G is another. There may be more.

What's funny is that neither has an X- or Y-register per se (as far as I know), so the label is meaningless anyway.

-Ernie

Re: HP calcs with X^Y function
*Message #5 Posted by **mapet** on 18 Jan 2002, 3:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ernie Malaga

Some of the newest algebraic calcs have X^Y function. Others have Y^X. Both seems to act in the same way. So why the labels are different?

PS Compare HP 39G/40G, HP 30S, HP 6S

There is a difference betwwen x^y function and x^y label
*Message #6 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 18 Jan 2002, 4:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by mapet

I mean that the calcs I mentioned really calculate x^y accoding to the position of the numbers in the stack; this is not the case for the later models you mentioned...

However keep on posting some more quizzes, I really enjoy it

Re: HP calcs with X^Y function
*Message #7 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 21 Jan 2002, 12:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by mapet

Hi;

This is something I did not notice so far. Yes, I agree with Thibaut: the HP35 was the first - and the only - pocket RPN with x^y. All others offered [y^x] function (and label) to agree with other non-commutative math operations, i.e.: /, -, %. (Please, if the term commutative is not used this way, forgive-me and help me placing the correct one.) Say, 4-7 is not equal to 7-4, while 4+7 is equal to 7 +4 (mathematical results). Raising to a power is non-commutative. Let's take this: at the moment we need 4-3, the sequence 4 ENTER 3 [-] will give the expected result; what about 4^3? We would place 4 ENTER 3 [y^x]; if there is a [x^y] function, the sequence should be 3 ENTER 4 [x^y] (remember, x and y reffer to stack-registers X and Y).

The algebraics differ for the math sequence: 4 [x^y] 3 [=] works fine, as 4 [y^x] 3 [=] is confusing for those already familiar with algebraic notation.

With RPN models, the input sequence will really dictate who will be raised to who, but [y^x] will always mean [y-contents ^ x-contents]. In the new ones, y- meaning level 2 argument, and x- meaning level 1 argument. With the 49G, the

[y^x} key adds a single [^] character, algebraic or RPN mode.

Cheers.

Re: HP calcs with X^Y function
*Message #8 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 23 Jan 2002, 4:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

If I recall correctly, the HP35 does not have an "antilog" key, so the reason to have x^y instead of y^x is to make it easy to do 10 x^y as an antilog shortcut.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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How to open a 34C? and battery?
*Message #1 Posted by **Luca** on 16 Jan 2002, 8:54 p.m.*

My wife and I found an old 34C that she used before buying a15C. I would like to clean it and restore it to use.

The battery pack leaked and caused corrosion in the battery compartment. I will replace the batteries; what kind should I use - are normal NiCads fine, provided I get a good mechanical fit? We still have the original adaptor.

Also, I would like to open the calculator to check for internal corrosion. How do I do it? I unscrewed the two screws located at the top, but the case did not simply pop open: something at the base (the short edge close to the user and to the 0 . etc keys) keeps the two halfs together. Do I just need to pry it apart? I did not see screws behind the rubber feet.

If I do find corrosion, how do I best clean it? There was a thread on this some time ago, and I will see if I can find it... any suggestions are appreciated, anyway.

I will report on how it goes... Thanks,

Luca

Re: How to open a 34C? and battery?

*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 17 Jan 2002, 4:13 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Luca

One think to watch out for on Spice machines that have corroded batteries (or even not) is the flat cable to the battery clips is VERY fragile. Battery leakage makes it MUCH more so. It is very easy to break a conductor or (even more likely) have it totally rip off. Then you have to trace the wiring and solder thin wires from the battery clips to the circuit board. Also those battery clips are also very prone to breaking. I would guess that at least 35 percent of existing Spice machines have a broken battery clip.

As far as opening the case goes, first try the squeeze technique. It works for me about 80 percent of the time. If not try placing the fron label end of the machine on a carpeted floor and pressing down with both thumbs in the battery compartment (the power squeeze technique). If all else fails it's time for the mighty yank technique.... CRAAAAK

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Problem 33C
*Message #1 Posted by **Reiner** on 16 Jan 2002, 4:29 p.m.*

Hello, I byed an US-Model 33C. The batteries are down, I connect one from an running 32E no result - just the little "bat low"-point. With an german charger (220 V) the display turned on with rrr- . Pressing a key the display shows parts of the LED. The keys of the first two rows rattle/clatter. Someone with an idea to repair this one ? Thank you and regards.

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Show me the logo?
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 16 Jan 2002, 3:50 p.m.*

Hello everyone,

I am not a collector of HP calculators in the true sense, but I enjoy learning about them on this great site.

As an HP user, I wonder if I'd have the guts to remove the labels from my calculators and still be able to use them happily without those great mens' names. I'm thinking of the UK author Will Self, who set about removing labels from his Volvo, going so far as to file off the name from the engine. I think he extended this to other possessions.

I hope this doesn't sound too daft, and I certainly don't wish to annoy the group. I've always had a kind of problem with labels, often being tempted to remove them from my bicycle frames which I love. In the end I don't think I'll be able. Show me the logo...

HP quality and honesty screams out of those early calculators, medical equipment, oscilloscopes etc. What a great company label intact or not.

Thanks, David

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HP 67 broken springs

*Message #1 Posted by **Pierre Voinot** on 16 Jan 2002, 9:11 a.m.*

I've bought an old HP 67 calculator (SN 1702) some weeks ago. After fixing the battery charger (thanks to Tony Duell to make me look at the fuse), I would like to make the keyboard work better : some keys have a bad feeling (0...9, +, .), some keys register multiple copies of the typed character (2,5), some keys don't even work(C,D,E).

After opening the case (without peeling the label : just with a little cross shaped cut along 2 diameters upon both holes, then carefully lifting the 4 angles of each cut, unscrewing ... and the same in reverse order to close back. The label looks about as before, but I'm not a purist... ;-)) it appears that the metal strip is broken under the 12 key : 10 numerics, "." and "+". The broken "2" spring is almost flat.

To fix the C,D,E problem (key springs mechanically like never used) I follow the way described by Steve Loboyko ("Bad keys and What to do About Them") only replacing the sandpaper by a paper strip soaked in alcohol : it works.

First question :

- is there a quicker way, with a voltmeter, to test the result of cleaning without having to close the calc and using normally the keyboard : for instance putting the first continuity probe on the ENTER metal strip, the second one on the golden hole immediately beneath the strip, and then pressing the key, we get sound. The same method can be applied to some couples of (key / hole), but I couldn't find the complete mapping : which hole (or which electric trail) for which spring ? Is there any plan available ?

Second question :

- is there any way to fix broken springs (for instance by putting a new spring under the broken one) ?

- can I avoid the double or triple typing with the "2" key ?

Thanks in advance for any help.

Re: HP 67 broken springs

*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 16 Jan 2002, 4:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pierre Voinot

I have succesfully repaird several broken key domes on classic calculators. It requires you to have a scrapped machine for parts.

I first find a good feeling key on the scrap machine. Then, using a square flat Xacto knife blade, I cut the key strip containing the donor key off of the donor machine by carefully sliding it under the spot welds.

Next I cut the key I want to use from the donor strip leaving about 1/16-3/32 inch tab of matal each side of the key dome.

Next cut the bad key dome off of the machine you are repairing. Just slice the key dome off where it begins to rise up from the rest of the key strip using the Xacto knife blade. The cause of totally mushy keys is almost always a split in the key dome here.

Apply a thin bead of solder to the tabs of the donor key and the machine you are going to repair.

Place the donor key onto the repair machine and heat the solder tabs. I use the Xacto knife blade to hold the key tabs down and in place while soldering.

I have also replaced whole rows of keys in a similar manner. Work from the inside of the key strip outward as you resolder it. I had an HP55 with four rows of totally split keys that was restored to like new feel this way.

Occasionally the donor key will be hyper clicky. It can be toned down by applying few (1-3) layers of Kapton tape over the key dome.

Re: HP 67 broken springs

*Message #3 Posted by **pierre Voinot** on 21 Jan 2002, 7:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by David Smith

hello David, thx for your details, it remains to find a "scrapped" machine and, when founded, to decide which is the donor and which is the receiver :-) If I can't find any, do you know some alternative stuff I could use to replace the metal strip ?

Re: HP 67 broken springs
*Message #4 Posted by **Larry** on 21 Jan 2002, 11:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by pierre Voinot

All of the HP classic calculators have similarly constructed keyboards, so you might be able to find an inexpensive HP-35 and scavenge it for parts. This is what I did. I strongly recommend replacing an entire strip at a time. It seems to work best.

Re: HP 67 broken springs
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 21 Jan 2002, 4:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by pierre Voinot

I have been using the key strips from an old HP45. The key strips in the '35 and '45 machines are gold plated and generally are not as crisp as the '65 and '67 machines, but work just fine. A lot of machines have one or more mushy keys that should be avoided (although I have found that they can lose their mush once transplanted). Always check for signs of cracks and splitting where the key dome starts to rise above the key strips.

I had to buy about six "bad" machines before I found one that was bad enough to scrap. They kept cleaning up nicely and working just fine. And the only problem with the "bad" ones was the cases were heavily engraved and smudged up.

I don't know of any easy way of making them from scratch. I have had good luck just replacing a single key. I have found it more difficult to replace a whole row and get a good consistent feel across them all. This may have to do with the fact that the donor machines were fairly junky to start with.

Re: HP 67 broken springs
*Message #6 Posted by **John Robinson** on 16 Jan 2002, 6:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pierre Voinot

Hi Pierre,

Just a suggestion about your bouncy "2" key, try cleaning it with sand paper and alcohol like the others. This work for me once, so it's worth a try.

Cheers, John

Re: HP 67 broken springs

*Message #7 Posted by **pierre Voinot** on 18 Jan 2002, 6:58 a.m.,*

in response to message #6 by John Robinson

You're right John : after cleaning ALL the contacts (very boring !) I don't get any bounce any more from any key (the "5" was sometimes bouncy too)

Thank you very much.

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challenge
*Message #1 Posted by **mapet** on 16 Jan 2002, 8:59 a.m.*

Find the HP calc which has the highest % of 1-function keys !

HP-70
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 16 Jan 2002, 9:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

There may be more than 1 answer but the HP-70 is 100% 1 function keys, isn't it?

Re: HP-70
*Message #3 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 16 Jan 2002, 12:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

So is the HP-35, although one might object that the [arc] key gives [sin], [cos] and [tan] two functions apiece.

-Ernie

Re: challenge
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 17 Jan 2002, 9:00 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

It depends on the point of view.

An IBM host is event driven where you may write several commands on a command line (or in a fullscreen application at several places) and only if you press ENTER (or a PF or PA key) the CPU starts working. Every calculator I know (HP-41) is a "key-per-function" machine where for every key hit the CPU clock starts. AFAIK this even holds true for a PC.

From the point of view for a normal user who interacts with a command line system like DOS (or a HP-71B) this looks like an event driven OS. But if you install on DOS some typing aids (like QuickLX from www.DAsoft.com) you will easily see that a HP200LX is a "key-per-funktion" from some point of view.

Ciao.....Mike

PS: was this the expected answer to your challenge?

1-Function key
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike** on 17 Jan 2002, 9:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike (Stgt)

Not really. The question was 1-Function per key.

"key-per-function" is not the same as "1-function per key" All calculators can be called "key-per-function but not all calculators can be called 1-function per key.

Context comes into play.

A key per function means that everytime you hit a key "some function is executed." That function does not have to be the same, to be called a "key-per-function." Context may be important. The function executed, may depend on what was pressed prior to the key being pressed.

Both the HP-67 and the HP-70 can be called "key-per-function." You press a key and something happens.

Ex: SIN executes the function to display a '4' on the HP-67 but if the 'f' is pressed first, a sine function is executed. Context may matter and still be a "key-per-function" machine.

In the question asked, only 1-functions per key was the topic. Context does not matter. No matter when you hit the key only 1-funcction is executed.

A 1-function per key means that everytime you hit the key, "the same function" is executed. Context is not important. It does not matter what occurred prior to touching the key.

Re: 1-Function key
*Message #6 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 17 Jan 2002, 1:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Mike

But if I hit SIN it depends on the contents of the X-register what happens. ;-)

Ciao.....Mike

Sorry.... function not answer
*Message #7 Posted by **Mike** on 17 Jan 2002, 5:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Mike (Stgt)

Sorry, but we are speaking of function, not answer:-) The same functions is executed.

However, I was prepared for a different response from you:-) I figured you'd come back with, "depends on whether you are in radians or degree mode."

I would have responded, "no trig functions on an HP-70"

It's been a fun discussion, though.

Mike

Re: Sorry.... function not answer
*Message #8 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 18 Jan 2002, 5:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Mike

Oh yes, I forgot RAD/GRAD/DEG. What I had in mind was, that depending on the contents of the X register SIN is calculated in a different manner. In other words if you hit the key a different branch in firmware is executed. This is easily seen on early HP-35 or HP-41 with a bug.

Of cause, for the end user it is allways SIN what is executed, but from my point of view: with a different function (started with the same key).

Ey! How you remarked that my appends are not to be taken too serious?

Ciao.....Mike

HP10

*Message #9 Posted by **Greg Harris (Sydney Australia)** on 17 Jan 2002, 7:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

I dont have one to check... How about the HP10 adding machine?

Greg

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Re: Buying Tips
*Message #1 Posted by **Warren Furlow** on 16 Jan 2002, 8:06 a.m.*

FYI, I did not post this message.

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You ask valid questions
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 15 Jan 2002, 2:38 p.m.*

First, my bashers will disagree, regardless of what I say. So, by replying, I open myself up for further attacks. However, my interest is in informing people and you ask valid questions.

You ask: In one of your responses below, I believe that you mentioned that you have a 67 in good condition with no label, and are waiting for a junk 67 with a good label that you can transplant. Therefore, you apparently feel it is OK to transfer an authentic HP label from one HP calculator to restore another. Does this feeling extend to swapping other parts among calculators?

My comment: There is nothing wrong (in my opinion) with using **original** HP calculator parts. I say that because HP does or did use that practice themselves. Many of HP calculators have been returned for repair and came back with original (can't tell from original) replacement parts and/or labels. So, I find nothing wrong with that practice.

However, in my case, I never use for parts any calculator that can be salvaged. Calculators that I use for parts are ones that are beyond repair. The ones that I won't use for parts and won't sell, I use for myself.

I'd like to also point out that I have occasionally sold original (unopened) calculators that were defective (i.e. bad card reader) and listed them as such. I feel that a mintish (non-working) calculator is worth more to collectors, than a repaired version of the same. So, I offer these unrepaired, with the option to repair them, if the buyer wants. Most don't want them repaired.

So, I draw a line on what I will repair and what I will not. I never advertize any calculator as "original" if I have worked on it. The only time I use "original" is in reference to manuals, boxes, batteries, etc or if it is untouched, in my opinion.

Also, I consider it unethincal to swap a part from one type of calculator to make another type. For instance, it is fraud to take a 2nd version HP-35 and make a red dot out of it.

You ask: Continuing with restoration practices, I have noticed (and admired) that the classic

calculators you sell at eBay seem to always have beautiful keyboards. There is always a nice, smooth matte finish around the keys. The calculators I have purchased always seem to have smudges, scratches, shining, dulling, etc., which does not change when merely cleaned.

My comment: As have I. I buy and sell a lot of calculators. I see what you see. Most are not what is expected. That is one of the reasons that mine go for more. I may have to buy 2 or 3 for every good one that I sell. This is especially true of HP-35 and HP-45. Some can be carefully cleaned. Others are given away. Some are scrapped for parts. My repeat customers know that they get a great calculator the first time. They buy 1 and get 1. I buy 3 and get 1.

You ask: I have always wondered if you have developed some technique to restore dull, scratched keyboards, or if the calculators you come across are always in such good shape. If you restore them, do you use any foreign substances (like clear matte spray paint as suggested in the Steve Loboyko repair article) to achieve the final results?

My comment: I do nothing but disassemble and clean the keys and contacts (if needed) and effect repair (if needed). I use only water and some mild hand soap. If they cannot be cleaned, I don't sell them. I don't use any sprays, abrassions (or even elbow-grease). I don't repaint or refinish anything. I only sell back those items that are premium condition either initially or after cleaning.

I have obtained some that look like they were burried in mud only to find that running a little water on the and using a little soap, cleans them right up. When I use the soap, I wash them by hand. I don't use any rags or cloth that can act as an abrasion.

Some feel that a calculator is better left uncleaned. I tend to agree with that. I don't wash and clean every calculator that I get. NOTE: I never wash with soap and water, without disassembly. It is too easy for water to get inside, if you don't

I once got an HP-35 that was so ugly. It was just covered with goop, to the point that the keys could not even be pushed down. I tossed it aside and was going to use it for parts. One day, I was looking for something to do and noticed the HP-35. I decided to take it apart and use it for parts. But first I thought I'd try washing it. Turned out that the gunk came right off and exposed a very nice keyboard. I then checked the serial number and found it was one of the oldest ever made and still had all the original bugs. That one turned out to be a jewel covered in mud.

You ask: If you use a foreign substance, could you explain your reasoning about this being an acceptable restoration practice relative to preserving the originality?

My comment: The only thing that I use that is not original, is the silicone tubing for repair of gummy wheel. I have once used a piece of wire to replace a botched repair job that someone did. They used solid copper wire and I replaced it with a piece of braided wire.

And, of course, I use non original batteries, when I repair a battery pack. But I do salvage the contacts and case from an original.

Everything else that I use is original HP parts from other scrapped (and hopeless) HP calculators.

My personal opinion is that HP Calculators should not be repainted or touched up. I find that a nice used calculator is nicer than a painted touched up calculator.

Of course, it is impossible to post everything about repairing or restoring HP calculators. But if you have any other questions, feel free to post here or send me an email. I use my real email address. And I do love helping other collectors.

Mike

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Defrauded !
*Message #1 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 15 Jan 2002, 10:58 a.m.*

Hi,

I read on previous threats people evocating having being defrauded on ebay.

I just have been too for the 2nd time.

Safeharbour is nothing but an electronic mailing system, and up to now I haven't been able to file a claim form on paypal, "painpal" I should say : their long linked page all go back to the same halp topic. So I'm ripped off by more than $100, which won't prevent me from eating, but just discoureage me to buy there... though it is about the only place to get things you're really looking for.. Pity, isn't it ?

I would suggest to post somewhere a "blacklist" of ebay members or people advertising here. This might avoid future problems...

Buying Tips
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 15 Jan 2002, 11:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

I agree about PayPal. It is almost impossible to contact them about a problem. It is almost impossible to file a claim with them. Many have been defrauded using PayPal.

However, I have a tip sheet that you probably don't need but other new buyers might find it useful.

Calculator Buying Tips

If you have bought much from ebay, you probably have seen examples like I show. Often times, there may be just differences of opinion but if you follow these suggestions, you'll know if it

was deliberate or a misunderstanding.

Re: Buying Tips
*Message #3 Posted by **Ren** on 15 Jan 2002, 6:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

Mike, I liked your webpage, but doesn't hazard have only one "z"?

Re: Defrauded !
*Message #4 Posted by **Frank** on 15 Jan 2002, 4:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

You can call Paypal customer service at the phone number on your charge card bill if you use, if not I can supply. Will be call to US however.

Re: Defrauded !
*Message #5 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 16 Jan 2002, 4:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Frank

Yes, I'd be delighted to, for no phone # appeared in my credit card statement...

Re: Defrauded !
*Message #6 Posted by **Frank** on 16 Jan 2002, 3:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by thibaut.be

OK, I will post the one from my statement. I did call and reach them the only time I tried. I will try to post tonight.

Re: Defrauded !-Phone Numbers for paypal & ebay
*Message #7 Posted by **Frank** on 16 Jan 2002, 11:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Frank

Customer Service Numbers on Charge Card Statement Paypal (888) 221-1161 EBAY (888) 749-3229 These US toll free numbers may not work on a standard direct dial international call, but may work if you can get US operator.

Re: Defrauded !-Phone Numbers for paypal & ebay
*Message #8 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 17 Jan 2002, 2:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Frank

Thanks ! I'll try !

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HP calc prices in Poland
*Message #1 Posted by **mapet** on 15 Jan 2002, 8:10 a.m.*

Hi to all, HP calcs in Poland are 2-3 times more expensive than in the rest of the world, why ?

Here's the price list:

HP 12C - 165 USD (!) HP 48g+ - 165 USD HP 19BII - 275 USD (!) HP 49 G - 275 USD

Re: HP calc prices in Poland
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 15 Jan 2002, 8:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

Is it just HP calcs or are casio and ti calcs expensive?

If they are all expensive then it's possibly some perverse supply and demand excuse for profiteering :^)

Re: (some) HP calc prices in Brazil
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 15 Jan 2002, 11:55 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

Hi;

I know your pain. Have a look at these prices in Brazil (consider US$ 1.00 = R$ 2.4). If you want to check for yourself, have a look here, and you will see what I mean.

HP12C: US$ 125,00 (seen at about US$ 150,00) HP48G+: US$ 158,00 (seen at about US$ 180,00) HP49G: US$ 283,00 (seen at about US$ 300,00)

This variation is not due to Real (Brazilian currency)floating, but also to commercial interests.

Best regards.

Re: (some) HP calc prices in Brazil
*Message #4 Posted by **Ren** on 15 Jan 2002, 6:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Some countries have budding industries they wish to protect, so they will levy heavy tariffs on imported goods that would compete with those industries. As stated in previous postings, Brasil has built HP calculators in the past, so it may be an attempt to keep people from investing REALs in foreign calculators.

Re: (some) HP calc prices in Brazil
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 15 Jan 2002, 8:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ren

Hi;

I agree with your analysis, Ren.

(What follows is a bit off topic; please, forgive-me)

In fact, we can go deeper by simply asking a disturbing question: *What such national industry is our country (government/financial interests) trying to protect?*
Technological? Brazil does not export top-tech.

Calculators and their components, as other top-tech goods, are, if not directly commercialized, just built and sold here. Some Brazilians will read this and blame me, but this also happens in many other countries, with more or less intensity.

Cheers.

Re: (some) HP calc prices in Brazil
*Message #6 Posted by **Ren** on 16 Jan 2002, 10:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Yes, this is getting Off Topic, and into the forbidden realm of politics (for this forum). Brasil may not export "high tech" as you say, but I feel it is in any country's best interest to develop higher technology. Countries that develop and manufacture higher technology stand to receive money exporting to the US and Western Europe which have all but forsaken their manufacturing for cheaper foreign goods. I believe the US currently buys $9 Billion of goods each month from China. If any country can develop its workforce and manufacturing base to compete with China, it stands to profit considerably. So, how does this lead to higher calculator prices in Brasil? IF these higher prices are because of high tariffs, it prevents Brasillian Reals from going to China for cheap calcs and keeps that money in Brasil to assist its manufacturing infrastructure.

Then again, the higher prices may be the result of profiteering by a few individuals who have been "assured" of closed markets by unscrupulous government officials.

Back in the 1980's I applauded the influx of cheap goods from China into the US, because I could buy more stuff with my money. Now, I see how my earlier purchases of foreign goods helped decimate America's manufacturing capability and that directly affects me as an Electronic Technician. There are now fewer factories for me to work at, and many electronic devices are too cheap to repair economically, both of which mean fewer jobs for me and my co-workers.

Re: (some) HP calc prices in Brazil
*Message #7 Posted by **Martin Blennerhassett** on 16 Jan 2002, 7:22 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi all

Maybe we are lucky in Australia. I've just checked the Harris Technology site at http://www.ht.com.au and the HP49G is available for A$289.00 which is about US$150.00. Given that this is an online site, maybe anyone interested should send them an email.

Martin.

Re: (some) HP calc prices in Brazil
*Message #8 Posted by **Yani** on 16 Jan 2002, 5:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Martin Blennerhassett

HP49G is available for A$289.00 which is about US$150.00

For reference in Australia the RRP for the 49G is AU$302.

Re: (some) HP calc prices in Brazil
*Message #9 Posted by **John (Norway)** on 17 Jan 2002, 8:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Martin Blennerhassett

I picked up a 'spare' 48GX at our U book store (Trondheim, Norway) for about US$150, incl. a CalcWare PC Link kit. We don't have high tariffs on calculators, because we don't make them, although we otherwise have a highly advanced (mostly specialized) electronics industry.

A bit off-topic (Again)
*Message #10 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Vieira)** on 17 Jan 2002, 11:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by John (Norway)

I am a big fan of Tandberg Radiofabrik. I still own a TCD-300, working perfectly, from the 70's. The Dolby circuitry is discrete, transistors and FET. Amazing! Norway's Electronics Industry and Technology is known and respected.

I'm a bit confused: is B&O (Bang & Ollufsen) also a Norway brand? If not, forgive-me.

I forgot to mention: there are some tech fields that Brazil has big research & tech enhancements but in Electronics and related matters.

Cheers.

Re: A bit off-topic (Again)

*Message #11 Posted by **John(Norway)** on 17 Jan 2002, 3:39 p.m.,*

in response to message #10 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Vieira)

Tandberg is very much alive. As a matter of fact, they have just recently reached their all time high on the stock market. They have a policy of paying their employees bonuses in the form of shares. Many of their 'floor' workers are now millionaires. B&O is a Danish firm.

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So what's with the aliases? (Re: Fake labels)
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave Hicks (USA)** on 15 Jan 2002, 1:17 a.m.*

A few people participating in the Fake Label Maker thread below are not using the names they usually use on this forum. I notice that one person usually posts under a label rather than a name, but when he criticizes Mike, ebay or other ebay dealers, then he posts under various plausible-sounding names. Another guy uses his name on some posts but then switches to vague labels when criticizing ebay or Mike. (At least three in that thread alone.)

Why is this? It makes me think that either you're embarrassed to say these things under your own name, or you want to punish Mike/ebay, but at the same time you want to reserve the option to do business with him/it in the future.

Is there another explanation?

This forum doesn't *require* you to use your real name but it seems only fair when you're criticizing someone.

Some people may have legitimate complaints against Mike (and/or other ebay dealers) but I'm having trouble sorting out which ones to take seriously in the mess below.

Re: So what's with the aliases? (Re: Fake labels)
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 15 Jan 2002, 8:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks (USA)

Dave,

It looks like your going to have to add 'fake labels' to your banned list of topics (like death penalty, gun law etc.)

False names do allow strongly held (unpopular, but perhaps correct) views to be expressed without being labelled for the rest of your days as an extremist.

Perhaps Dave you should allow/advise people to use 'ANON1/2/3' etc for those who may fall into this category.

The internet allows many benefits AND pitfalls. This site has provided me with much amusement, information and valued opinion as well as allowing me to pass on my knowledge and vent my frustrations. However, the internet also allows people to hide behind false names, distribute false or corrupting information and commit crimes with little chance of being traced.

From my perspective HP collecting has gone commercial and the worries about tarting up(UK slang) poor quality calcs and selling them fraudulently (i.e. passing them off as original when the buyer does not know the history or knows it not to be true) for a big profit is with us now and won't go away until prices go down a lot.

If one person can make fake labels then it's quite easy for 100's of others to do so. At least this person is minded to put a 'copy' indicator, what about the people who don't?

If people use EBAY to buy top dollar goods then don't be surprised if crooks sneak in and pass off some items as un-restored and perfect when they are not. I AM NOT SAYING ANYONE HERE HAS DONE THAT but it is naive to think that everyone using Ebay is totally honest when such large amounts of money are involved. In my mind this would include tactics like false bidding, being economical with the description etc. Ebay does put 'caveat emptor' (buyer beware) so they perhaps legally absolve themselves (but not the seller).

I do wonder when we will see the first court case involving an Ebay transaction (perhaps it already has happened?)

PS Because the term 'mint' is so over used on Ebay I've even seen one item described as 'better than mint'!

PPS Keep up the good work Dave - edit / move this as you see fit.

Well I hope it doesn't come to that

*Message #3 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 16 Jan 2002, 1:58 a.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Tom (UK)

Having to ban various subjects like "fake labels". It's actually an interesting discussion even if it gets a little heated. It also got me browsing around other collector sites and I found calls for more regulation in the area of replicas and labeling. I'm not sure I'm for or against yet-another-law but it's interesting to see people in different fields grappling with the same issues.

Thinking back, three "flare ups" come to mind and there have been people posting under aliases in each one. Admittedly people post under aliases on threads that stay perfectly civil so it's not a causal relationship. However, the combination of a personal attack (justified or not - who can tell) and an alias (or several) does seem to be a firecracker.

What would you think about a ban on personal attacks under an alias? Right now I'm having a hard time seeing any potential loss to the forum from such a ban but I'm open to other opinions.

Then again, this doesn't happen frequently and perhaps it's enough to just point out the use of aliases when another flare-up happens.

Re: Well I hope it doesn't come to that

*Message #4 Posted by **Yani** on 16 Jan 2002, 5:09 a.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Dave Hicks

Dave,

I think that you have chosen the wise path. The discussion is a little heated from time to time but we are all grown ups. Mind you; compared to the Australian parliment it is down right civil. :-)

I too have certainly learnt a lot through the free and frank exchange of views on this topic.

By and large this seems to be a far more civilised discussion forum than many I have seen. If this is the worst then I think we are doing quite well.

Re: Well I hope it doesn't come to that
*Message #5 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 16 Jan 2002, 1:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Dave Hicks

Well, there is 1 solution : ID management.... but this is additional work to you or deputees you would nominate...

Re: So what's with the aliases? (Re: Fake labels)
*Message #6 Posted by **John Smith** on 15 Jan 2002, 11:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dave Hicks (USA)

Dave wrote: "Why is this? It makes me think that either you're embarrassed to say these things under your own name, or you want to punish Mike/ebay, but at the same time you want to reserve the option to do business with him/it in the future."

I can only speak for myself, but in my case is not so much a matter of embarrassment as simply to avoid any possible attacks on retaliation. It's always been the case that telling publicly about something that's wrong brings the possibility of being attacked in return. That's why a number of years ago Internet sites such as anon.fi where so popular, you could vent out your feelings on something unjust without getting massacred for it.

Giving a real name and/or e-mail address can mean you're put on a number of "black lists" or subject to spam or other kind of abuse, just for telling the thruth about some wrongs. And given the way he treated me just for asking politely, I don't feel like risking getting harassed by this guy for telling my frank opinion about him. It may seem a bit paranoid but with certain kinds of people such as Mike it's best to play it safe.

As for your comment "but at the same time you want to reserve the option to do business with him/it in the future" I suspect you simply don't know how completely wrong you are on this as far as I'm concerned. I wouldn't do business with "Mikesdavis" even if he was the only old-HP seller in the world, and I fully suspect that I'm not the only person to feel that way.

When you say avoiding...
*Message #7 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 16 Jan 2002, 1:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by John Smith

possible attacks or retaliation do you mean doing to you what you did to him or did you have something more sinister in mind like him tracking you down somewhere in the real world? The latter seems unlikely since even your usual ID here doesn't reveal your name or location.

In the US a person has a right to face his accusers in a trial. This is not a court and this website extends well beyond the US but it still strikes me as unfair to attack someone while not even giving him the benefit of knowing who you are. He has no way of knowing if you've ever really contacted him.

This is not like a single powerless individual using anonymity to speak out against a government. This is a few people ganging up on one guy and using anonymity to make the gang appear larger. Another member of the gang accused Mike of having spotty customer relations. However, Mike's ebay feedback is more impressive than that anonymous poster's. The anonymous poster's feedback is excellent, but Mike's at: Praises: 704, neutrals: 0, complaints: 0, is pretty hard to beat. I realize that Ebay's feedback system is far from perfect but not ONE complaint in more than 700 transactions???

Frankly I'm amazed at how much you were able to learn about his motivations from what appears to be a single exchange regarding acceptable forms of payment. I can't tell whether he truly "despises" you as you say or if that is simply your interpretation of his unwillingness to take your preferred form of payment. Mike probably can't answer that either given that he doesn't know who you are. If he knew, he might be able to provide an explanation or an apology but your alias ensures that that won't happen.

Re: When you say avoiding...
*Message #8 Posted by **tom** on 16 Jan 2002, 7:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Dave Hicks

Regarding Ebay feedback. Generally, it is ONLY an indication that you received what you paid for, or had a sucessful transaction. Not that you were happy with the price you may have foolishly paid. In many cases, the buyers were people who paid 3-10X the going rate for an HP item that was sniped on Ebay just days earlier. Would you take advice from someone who paid $125 for a 82120A battery?

Over-paying on ebay is a time-honored tradition
*Message #9 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 16 Jan 2002, 2:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by tom

I wrote this page around 5 or 6 years ago when eBay was still fairly young. I've done my own complaining about ebay and I rarely use it for buying (2 items - not HPs - in the last year.) I do like it for selling though so I really can't blame other sellers for using it. :-)

Re: Over-paying on ebay is a time-honored tradition
*Message #10 Posted by **Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great** on 17 Jan 2002, 12:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Dave Hicks

EBay isn't the only place where buyers seem to over-pay... just check some of the asking prices in the classifieds here... or, if its for best offer, try making them a reasonable offer. I think the asking/going prices are comparable to EBay.

Re: When you say avoiding...
*Message #11 Posted by **John Smith** on 16 Jan 2002, 11:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Dave Hicks

Dave says: "do you mean doing to you what you did to him"

-- I did nothing to him, only asked a polite question before bidding in one of his auctions, but I got unfairly mistreated, period.

Dave goes on: " ... or did you have something more sinister in mind like him tracking you down somewhere in the real world? The latter seems unlikely since even your usual ID here doesn't reveal your name or location."

-- In Internet's Pandora's Box you'll never know, better play it safe.

Dave adds: "...unfair to attack someone while not even giving him the benefit of knowing who you are. He has no way of knowing if you've ever really contacted him."

-- He knows for sure he's done that to a number of people, my just being one of them, so my exact identity is not relevant. Anyway, labelling a opinion as an "attack" seems to me misleading. Else you couldn't ever tell in this forum about a bad experience with

something or someone, lest it would be considered 'an attack'. Complaining about any wrong is always bound to be considered an 'attack' by the perpetrator.

Dave further adds: "This is a few people ganging up on one guy and using anonymity to make the gang appear larger."

-- I don't know what 'gang' you're talking about. My words and my opinions are mine own and neither represent nor necessarily agree with the opinions of other people in this thread. Seeing 'gangs' where there are none is misleading, too. No 'conspirations' as far as I'm concerned.

Dave concludes: "I realize that Ebay's feedback system is far from perfect but not ONE complaint in more than 700 transactions???"

-- In my case and many others, the problems began BEFORE any transaction was possible, and eBay has no mechanism to leave feedback when you've been mistreated when trying to enter into one. So you'll agree that if there are a sizable number of people who've been verbally abused by this fellow when trying to enter one of his auctions, eBay's feedback would still show nothing of the sort. That's one of the useful possibilities of your forum, that you can leave some kind of 'feedback' here that wouldn't be possible elsewhere, so that fellow hp lovers can be warned.

And Dave ends: "Frankly I'm amazed at how much you were able to learn about his motivations from what appears to be a single exchange regarding acceptable forms of payment."

-- Well, I'm not used to people mistreating me, much less people who should in theory be specially kind to me, as a potential customer to their business. After the fact I commented it with my many collector friends, and some of them also had similar experiences with this guy, so mine was not an isolated case, but rather it seems yet another case of his 'terminally-ill ego' at work. After reading other opinions in this forum, among them Bruce's, I can clearly see that this is indeed usual in him, and I decided to tell about my experience too.

Perhaps this will prove useful if he sees that he's been misbehaving and amends his ways. I couldn't care less if he will accept PayPal or colour crystals, as I'll never ever buy anything from him, but perhaps others will get better treatment when dealing with this guy.

Re: When you say avoiding...
*Message #12 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 16 Jan 2002, 2:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by John Smith

John said: *"Else you couldn't ever tell in this forum about a bad experience with something or someone, lest it would be considered 'an attack'."*

In your original posting, only a portion appears to concern your experience with him. Even on that section we see only your version of the events. That section is one-sided but I wouldn't call it "an attack".

You also tell us that he "more or less" told you to go to hell leaving us to wonder exactly how much more or less. You also generalize to tell us how he feels about "each and everyone of his would-be customers" that he's "an extremely greedy guy" (because he wouldn't take your money?) and you also explain his motives for his "pathetic rant". Those are the parts that make me think of the word "attack".

John said: *After reading other opinions in this forum, among them Bruce's, I can clearly see that this is indeed usual in him, and I decided to tell about my experience too.*

Mike has acknowledged that the exchange between himself and Bruce took place and has explained his reasons for not taking Paypal. I don't take Paypal either by the way. I have been asked to twice and each time I've given up reading part way through the agreement. For me it was a time/endurance issue :-)

As for other opinions in this forum, please keep in mind that several of the opinions that appear to come from multiple people in reality come from one. Are you willing to accept something as truthful because it is repeated by multiple people even after realizing that several of those people are really just one person using multiple names?

Paypal
*Message #13 Posted by **Gene** on 16 Jan 2002, 6:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Dave Hicks

Dave, you might consider doing that search on yahoo for "paypal problem". It's quite revealing. Perhaps a new page with "paypal warnings"?

It's a tough world out there. Gene

Mike Davis comments

*Message #14 Posted by **Michael Meyer** on 21 Jan 2002, 11:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Dave Hicks

My contribution:

1. I've done business once with Mike Davis and found him to be honest and helpful. I gave him positive feedback, of course.

2. Mike Davis has made me "mad as hell" when he buys everything up, such is in the last "dutch" auction. He bought all six HP-71B's instead of just a couple, not allowing the rest to be bought by others. Just when I think I've found something at a decent price, I get sniped. Not JUST by Mike, but often by him.

3. The situation, as I see it, is simply this: There are a number of collectors who want to collect, share ideas, and not spend or make a lot of money in the process. The only reason I can think of that Mike Davis would buy every one of an item he can, would be to make a profit: to resell, unless he's personally hoarding hundreds of items for his own use. As mentioned before, he has this right!!! Still, as a collector only, and not being in the business to buy and resell, several people like Mike on e-bay make it very, very difficult for the vast majority of collectors to get items at a lower (fair?) price. When they are available, these "big dealers" buy them up, then resell at marked-up prices. Why not? He's clearly there to make a profit at this.

4. Since so many people SELLING these items aren't collectors, the solution of simply trading off e-bay won't work very well.

5. I wish some of the big dealers would simply share now and then. But, I UNDERSTAND. It's only wishful thinking in a free market place.

So, in summary, Mike Davis makes me angry that he purchases an item or multiple items to relist, not because he's adding to his own collection. If he were, I wouldn't mind as much. But, as Bruce has pointed out, "Mike cares about Mike". He has every right to. Here's an opportunity to make money, and this is his right. I think the anger I've seen here on the Forum is by trying to judge Mike as one would other collectors.

In an "ideal world", the pond would have basically the same kind of fish. In the real world, there are the little fish, the big fish, and the sharks.

My biggest hope is then in opposite directions of Mike's goals, and I wish only the best to him as a person. My hope is that people will let Mike buy lots and lots of calculators,

and when he cannot sell them for elevated prices, maybe he'll quit buying so many. But if he's the only one who has them, he'll probably be able to set the World's prices. It's been done in other markets....(silver?)

I'm guessing this is the source of so many peoples' anger towards Mike. I just wanted to explain how I see the situation. Comments?

Michael

Re: Mike Davis comments
*Message #15 Posted by **katie** on 22 Jan 2002, 12:53 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Michael Meyer

(I've resisted commenting on this thread for as long as possible, but it's really touched a nerve in me.)

I agree with Michael Meyers completely on this, and would like to add one other criticism of the way Mike Davis "collects". He has frequently used this forum to solicit repair advise so that he can fix calculators in order to sell them on ebay. He did this once about a year and a half ago (when he started with ebay sales) with me via private email and I was appalled! In fact, I "talked" him through his first card reader repair; no sooner was it completed than it hit ebay! I've since avoided giving him any further repair information on this forum or elsewhere.

He certainly has the right to do as he wishes with ebay and his "collecting" but his use of the many, many good people on this forum to help him profit is horrible.

-Katie

Katie's and Michael comments
*Message #16 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 22 Jan 2002, 2:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #15 by katie

I have also resisted commenting on this thread for as long as I could stand.

Now I would like just to ad that I fully support Michael Meyer's and Katie's comments.

Unreasonably high prices are the reason for which I do not visit E-bay so often as I did before. It is just the common sense that prevents me to give say 130 EUR for a HP-55 that is presently there in the auction. Is this machine really this

useful or not? There are people out there which drive the prices this high. I am personally not taking place in this (neither as a seller, nor as a buyer).

Instead of E-bay, I always prefer Classified Adds in moHP... and communicating with people in this forum, who are really nice and competent...

Some comments

*Message #17 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 22 Jan 2002, 3:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by katie

I really appreciate Michael and Katie posting detailed grievances under their own names. I think this is much preferable to innuendo posted under aliases.

To give an example of my concern over aliases consider that a post made under an alias alleged that Mike would be getting a 1000% markup on these HP-71s. However, the next day in an email that person, under his own name, estimated that Mike's potential markup was along the lines of 57%.

I think it's also fair to look at the dutch auction in question from the seller's view point. Prior to Mike's bid the seller would have made three separate transactions totaling $120. Mike's bid gave him a single transaction totaling $282. The seller has got to be pretty happy about that.

I've seen these collector vs. dealer debates on other forums in different collectible spaces. I don't think that they'll ever end. I think they've become more common in recent years because the Internet is giving markets a transparency that they never had before. In other words you never knew where your dealer was getting his stuff before and how much he was ripping you er ah marking up his stuff. :-)

I first experienced this in the early 1990s. I had this clever idea of grepping an entire news server (this predates dejanews) for HP calculators for sale in every existing newsgroup. I turned up many cheap calculators for sale in odd-ball news groups. Unexpectedly, I also turned up many wanted posts by one of the biggest HP dealers of the time (not Mike by the way.) So *that's* where he was getting his stuff! It was a pretty amazing business model. Buy "old junk" cheap in one newsgroup and sell it for more simply by advertising it in another just a few keystrokes away! Cool!

So my clever idea put me in direct competition with a dealer but I figured that the advantage was mine. After all, all I had to do was guess a number between

his offer price and his sales price and I'd get it, the seller would get more, and everyone would be happy except the dealer. (And it worked very well.)

The situation is similar on the auction mentioned but people took the risk of bidding too low. They were hoping that they could all walk away with $20 calculators, which typically sell for $75. Well, sometimes you can and sometimes you can't. One of the effects of a transparent market is that dealer spreads tend to decrease. Thinking a dealer wouldn't offer more than 25% of a typical selling price in such a market proved to be too optimistic in this case.

All that said, there could be a benefit to Mike to appear less competitive with his potential customers. I can think of at least one antique dealer who specifically claims that in the interest of good will, he does not bid against his customers. (Being cynical for a moment - it also helps him avoid the transparency problem - by not bidding on ebay no one knows what he pays for his stuff.) This approach is most practical if Mike's current supply is larger than his current demand. Otherwise, he could be loved out of business.

It's harder for me to comment on Katie's post because I'm not sure if her concern is that profit is bad, that she didn't get part of it, that Mike deceived her, or some combination of those.

Dave

Re: Some comments

*Message #18 Posted by **1000% poster** on 23 Jan 2002, 2:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Dave Hicks

Dave. Please tell me that you did know that my comments about a 1000% markup were a deliberate exaggeration. NO ONE would try to say that an HP71 would sell for $470!! The point intended is a valid one.

Why don't we try to have a serious discussion
*Message #19 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 23 Jan 2002, 2:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #18 by 1000% poster

without false names, innuendo, exaggeration, hyperbole etc.

"The point intended is a valid one."

Once the exageration is removed, it is not clear to me what point is intended.

For example, you could make a similar comment about ebay such as: Why buy and sell on ebay when the ebay service takes 50% of the final price for themselves? Well that sounds like an excellent question, however, once you check the facts and realize that ebay's cut is much smaller than that, then "the point" is not nearly so interesting or clear. Still, if just the idea of ebay or a dealer getting a cut offends you, then you are certainly free to shop and sell elsewhere.

Katie. You couldn't be more correct
*Message #20 Posted by **tom** on 23 Jan 2002, 1:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by katie

And I admire your courage to post your comments.

She needs a disclaimer
*Message #21 Posted by **Mike** on 23 Jan 2002, 3:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by tom

if it is really that offensive to her to help someone who eventually might make a profit.

What she said is mostly true. However, I did not mislead or deceive her. I had no idea that she only helps certain people and only under certain conditions. I cannot read her mind. I asked a couple of questions and she answered. Simple as that.

Others have given me help and advice, knowing full well that I will apply that to my calculators and don't have a problem with giving the advice.

If she gives out help conditionally she really should have a disclaimer that

lets people know that she only helps certain people. And she should let them know up front.

I give advice and help to people all the time and don't give a hoot if they use the info to sell something.

Re: She needs a disclaimer
*Message #22 Posted by **katie** on 23 Jan 2002, 10:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Mike

Mike,

You have interpreted my comments correctly. What bothered me is/was your use of free advise to help turn a profit with. I'm a computer consultant by trade and get paid to give advise that people profit from. But I also do "pro bono" work for people that do not intend to profit from my advise. My expectations of posting on this forum and helping collectors in private email is that this is "pro bono" work -- meaning "for the good" but implying for the good of all, not the good of one making a profit.

I agree that you did not mislead me during our email conversation (way back when), it was not my intent to imply that you were. Furthermore, I know that you help other collectors as do many of us here. But most of us do not look upon "collecting" as a money making activity -- in fact, I suspect most of us spend a high percentage of our discretionary income on it. It is a "hobby" and one does expect that it should cost something. I think that seeing you make a profit on an activity that most of us expect to spend quite a lot of money on is what's really created this heated debate.

-Katie

Re: Mike Davis comments - from Mike

*Message #23 Posted by **Mike** on 22 Jan 2002, 1:21 p.m.,*

in response to message #14 by Michael Meyer

You have given an honest appraisal of the situation, from your perspective. But it is only what you see. It's like listening to a phone conversation and not knowing what is going on on the other side.

I'd like to pose a simple question. Why should it be wrong for me to bid on **below market value** items, same as you or anyone else? It is irrelevant, what I wish to do with them. But I can tell you that I have in my personal collection, anything that I sell.

I would also like to point out that I am not bidding against anyone who bids $50 on something that is worth $200. Their bid is not serious. If you go back and look at every auction that I have ever won (larger auctions), you will find that all the descenters here were outbid by two, three or four other people; not just myself.

Sure, I buy items on eBay, when the prices are low or when they are part of a large package. I'm just like you in that respect. If people don't want to pay fair market price, then they have nothing to complain about when they lose. No desireable item can be won without sniping, unless it is "buy-it-now" and is spotted by someone early.

How do you you support your collection? You buy items that are low priced, right. Well that's only one way.

I support my collection by buying below market prices; repairing them (if broken); adding value to some items (by including extra items like RAM); fully testing and reselling some. By repairing them; by adding other items to package; I offer additional value to other collectors OR more likely someone who just wants a nice calculator.

My items are only high quality. New collectors or users don't have to buy 3 or 4 items to get a calculator that works. They are not deceived and can always elect not to purchase. All of my calculators work and are tested. That's why I still have no problem selling items on eBay. That is why I have over 200 repeat customers.

Further, if you were to sell one of yours, you would ask high price as well. You wouldn't sell it below the going market value, would you?

The six 71b in question cost $47.00. That is below market value. Almost any 71b will go for upwards of $75, in just average condition. Why should I not bid on the item?

I bid on all 6 items but did not expect to win all six. How was I to know that others would not bid anywhwere near market value. Gees... the cases alone are worth $20 each. The last two 71B cases I saw on eBay (in the past 2 weeks) went for more than that. I had no way of knowing that someone else would not bid higher. If anyone bid $48, I would not have gotten all 6, would I?

Also, had I bid on only 3 items, the 3rd and 4th bidders still would not have won. They only bid $20 on something clearly worth more. Who's to blame for that? Not I. The only one that has a right to complain is mlmeyermd. He was the only one that did not win, when he might have. If he wants a couple at $40, I'll be glad to give them to him at his price (not mine). All he has to do is ask.

I also purchased 17 32K RAM Modules for $28 each. That's a bargain. The 71bs were to go with the 32K RAM modules that I purchased. So, there was a need for the calculators. Some will be back on eBay with lots of RAM. Some will not.

There is nothing unethical about bidding on these two auctions. Nothing that warrants any personal attacks at all.

I'd also like to point out that often, when I outbid someone at the last second on multiple items, I often offer the other serious bidders the option to buy some at the bid price (with no markup). I recently did that on some 64K RAM modules. I made nothing on the offer to the 2nd high bidder. It was simply a courtesy. I could have easily made use of all of the RAM.

Another thing you don't know. I have outbid someone from time to time and when they complain, I send the item to them FREE. One of the complainers **in this very thread** received a MINT HP-27S manual FREE from me in just such a transaction. I asked for his address, sent him the manual, dnd I didn't even get a thank you from him.

Many people contact me to repair their calculators. I do it for free. I repaired 3 just this week and didn't charge a nickle.

Lots of people know what kind of things I bid on. Many contact me and say that they are planning to bid on the item. When this happens I tell them that I will not bid against them, so long as they are high bidder. I respect people who act with civility.

If I don't care about other collectors, why would I go to the bother to photograph and write articles on repairing the 67 and 97 and post it to the Museum site? I give free tubing and materials to people all the time, for free, to make these repairs.

I also find it interesting that some question my ethics for adding value and then marking something up to reflect that value (10X by the way, as some have suggested, is laughable; you couldn't possibly mark something up 10X and sell it) while at the same time they don't find an ethical problem with taking something from someone that is worth 10X what they have asked. If they are so ethically pure, why don't they inform the seller that a MIB HP-70 is worth more than $20?

I post this only because you responded in an honest and civil manner. I respect that but have no time for other people who only want to spew negativity. This is not meant to convince any of them. They have their agenda. They are in the minority anyway.

What they don't realize is with all their complaining, it has sparked the number of positive emails that I am getting and many are asking for advice and help with finding things they need or help with repairing their calculators. People **can** spot the negative ones from the ones that help.

I am always available to anyone who needs help or advice. All anyone needs to do is ask.

Re: Mike Davis comments - from Mike
*Message #24 Posted by **Michael Meyer** on 22 Jan 2002, 10:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Mike

Mike,

I appreciate your response very much, as well as Dave's comments. I'm impressed with your even tone. Thank you.

I guess I was trying to point out that there are two sides to this, but I cannot deny that my tone reflected some frustration, surely from my point of view only. The points you make are all valid, especially about your sales of re-assembled, clean, and functional equipment saving people time and being very reasonable. Certainly it does for those who want to collect without the risk of getting non-functional equipment in need of restoration or worse.

I, too, like to find bargains at "below market value" and repair them. And you're

right: if I ever were to sell parts of my collection, I'd want to make more than I spent. (I haven't, though, and instead have traded nicely with others, striving for equal deals.)

There's no doubt that I was expressing that frustration, but I'm glad you could see that I was trying to see your motives and point of view as well.

Thank you, again, for your level-headed and decent response to my post.

I will say again: I wouldn't hesitate to do business with you at any time; I think you have been fair, honest, and helpful. I'm only hoping I don't have to....and only in the sense that I hope I can get some "bargains" again from time-to-time. I still want to buy the "unknowns" and have the fun of learning and fixing.

I didn't start this thread, or the comments, but I hope I can help end it by having shown both sides of the issues discussed. Thanks to Dave, as well, for his (as usual) excellent mediation.

Your "competing" friend, Michael

John, I find your comments to be spot on
*Message #25 Posted by **Tom** on 16 Jan 2002, 6:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by John Smith

I concur with your HP buying habits 100%, and I know dozens of others who feel the same way.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Searching Net-Cable for HP 895CXI
*Message #1 Posted by **John** on 13 Jan 2002, 6:33 a.m.*

I am searching a Power Net Cable for a HP 895 CXI Printer.

Maybe everybody can help me.

Thx

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Fake Label Maker
*Message #1 Posted by **Mark Hoskins** on 12 Jan 2002, 7:07 p.m.*

Gentlemen:

Just so you know, I am the guy who has made the fake labels. Rest assured that no calculator has been sold or send or touched the fake labels. What is all this about anyway? I am being portayed like an arch villian... come on.

You say that they are polluting the HP-67 gene pool. Do you realize that people are throwing these calcs out because they do not work anymore? These are very common calculators, not works of art. This is a label...a label on the back of an old HP-67. You are responding like I have harmed a family member or have done some horrible thing.

Why do you repair the gummy wheel?? I put that to the test. Do you realize that you are polluting the the few remaining HP-67s that do still work?? Please respond only on this issue. If they were not fixable then the few remaining non-opened HP-67 that still work would be worth $1000 or $2000. So you see you have devalued those right? Why do you fix them? I'll tell you, because it's fun to fix them, a challenge and makes them back to the way they used to be.

My intention was not dupe the world of HP calculators. Give that much. I have worked hard to develope a reliable battery and have sold over 170 of them so far. Have any of you worked that hard to restore the use-ablilty of these calcs?

I imagine some of you have fixed hundreds of them and appreciated them very much so I suppose there are many good repairing individuals out there. But I too have paid my dues. By the way revisit the Ebay article, read the bottom. Maybe yet you can turn me from what you perceive as so evil.

I am glad Mike Davis has pointed out all the flaws of the fake labels, it was never my intention to dupe anyone. If I were do not you think I just would have not told anyone and silently stealthly slipped in the fake labels. You see there is still a thread of honestly, maybe a rope of honesty left in me?? This whole thing is nearly comical. What the dealers perceive as a polluting will actually increase the popularity of the HP-67s. People will show them off and use them more if they look

nice.

I still may yank them, but I have already received many emails of support. So this issue is not so cut and dry.

Mark Hoskins

My Comments
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 12 Jan 2002, 7:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

You say: "You say that they are polluting the HP-67 gene pool. Do you realize that people are throwing these calcs out because they do not work anymore?"

My comment: But having a fake label will not stop people from throwing out a non-working calculator, does it? So, your argument fails.

You say:: "Why do you repair the gummy wheel?? I put that to the test. Do you realize that you are polluting the the few remaining HP-67s that do still work??"

My comment: What a bunch of hogwash! One does not pull a working wheel out to replace it. So it is not polluting anything at all. Replacing a wheel does not require destroying something original and preferred. Only a collector would understand that. So your argument fails.

You say: "If they were not fixable then the few remaining non-opened HP-67 that still work would be worth $1000 or $2000."

My comment: Working models ARE worth much more than repaired models. One original untouched sold for $1300 with a 65 selling for $2000. They are worth more. You are telling people to replace their acceptable (but maybe not mint) with a FAKE and thereby lower it's value. So, your argument fails.

You say: "So you see you have devalued those right? Why do you fix them?

My comment: You only devalue it, if you take something working and preferred and replace it with something fake. If someone is not trying to pass it off as original, why make it look the same. So, your premise is wrong and your argument fails.

You say: "I have worked hard to develope a reliable battery and have sold over 170 of them so far. Have any of you worked that hard to restore the use-ablilty of these calcs?"

My comment: Absolutely, I have restored many more original battery packs that you have ever sold. Further, I have never claimed, as you do (incorrectly so) that these batteries are superior to the originals. So, your argument fails. Many of us have been collecting for decades.

Exactly how long have you been collecting HP calculators? I have been doing it for 30 years. Others have too.

Mike

What about rounded corners???

*Message #3 Posted by **Mark Hoskins** on 12 Jan 2002, 9:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

You say: "You say that they are polluting the HP-67 gene pool. Do you realize that people are throwing these calcs out because they do not work anymore?"

My comment: But having a fake label will not stop people from throwing out a non-working calculator, does it? So, your argument fails. >>Mike, you have twisted my reply in your favor. No but they may not try to repair it knowing that the label can be replaced. Mike your attitude fails. I am not personally attacking you. These comments are subjective, you take it like I am calling all collectors bad people.

You say:: "Why do you repair the gummy wheel?? I put that to the test. Do you realize that you are polluting the the few remaining HP-67s that do still work??"

My comment: What a bunch of hogwash! One does not pull a working wheel out to replace it. So it is not polluting anything at all. Replacing a wheel does not require destroying something original and preferred. Only a collector would understand that. So your argument fails.

Mike>> This reply is the most interesting your answer is that I can not understand. Understand what? I have 7 HP-67s, all the classics and several 41CVs and manuals and many other boxes etc. Your definition of a collector is not mine. You call me a reseller, but you resell too, and you demand top dollar for your efforts. This is the main arguement and your reply is that I can not understand. Yet is not all of engineering understanding and correcting our mistakes? By having so many that work now you are lowering the value of those that are mint. How would someone know if they are mint or not, as you fixed it. The original labels can be straightened.

You say: "If they were not fixable then the few remaining non-opened HP-67 that still work would be worth $1000 or $2000."

My comment: Working models ARE worth much more than repaired models. One original untouched sold for $1300 with a 65 selling for $2000. They are worth more. You are telling people to replace their acceptable (but maybe not mint) with a FAKE and thereby lower it's value. So, your argument fails. Mike>> I have not seen that on Ebay at all, but I am not saying your exaggerating. Mint ones sell on Ebay for around $300-$400 with the box from obvious lone owners. You must be quoting selling them somewhere else in the last 6 months or I missed them.

You say: "So you see you have devalued those right? Why do you fix them?

My comment: You only devalue it, if you take something working and preferred and replace it with something fake. If someone is not trying to pass it off as original, why make it look the same. So, your premise is wrong and your argument fails. Mike>> If you would step down for a minute from the soap box and listen I have to say? Instead of attacking me, why not look for reasonable compromises. Why not I round off the corners of my FAKE labels? In such a way then it would be obvious that they are fake duplicates. I could send you a picture.

You say: "I have worked hard to develope a reliable battery and have sold over 170 of them so far. Have any of you worked that hard to restore the use-ablilty of these calcs?"

My comment: Absolutely, I have restored many more original battery packs that you have ever sold. Further, I have never claimed, as you do (incorrectly so) that these batteries are superior to the originals. So, your argument fails. Many of us have been collecting for decades.

Mike>> They were superior in my tests compared to the text in the HP manuals. Therefore since I tested them such the statement was made. And I appreciate your dedication, please note mine somewhere low on your list. Have you fixed or built 170 in 6 months? I do not think so. Mike this forum is not a WWWF wrestling match. I have always treated you with respect even though I have received so few positive comments back. I will continue to treat you with respect because I believe that you are honest, hard working and dedicated to this hobby. Over time you will see that I am also. Good night my friend.

Exactly how long have you been collecting HP calculators? I have been doing it for 30 years. Others have too.

Mike

Can't follow your logic

*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 12 Jan 2002, 9:58 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Mark Hoskins

Sorry but I can't follow your logic.

But in case you are interested:

Recent HP-67

Recent HP-65

Bottom line: Round cornere my foot. If you were not trying to play on people using these as original, **Why don't you** simply print "Replica Label" on them?

We have a basic difference in philosophy about collecting. I am a purist. I restore vintage HP calculators and sell many from my collection. I also repair HP calculators for other collectors for FREE. I don't have time to repair as many as I would like but don't charge anyone for repairs.

I don't claim mine are better than original and certainly don't use counterfeit anything.

I don't intend to debate this with you. My intention is only to warn people that fakes are coming into the market. I have no part in that, do you?

You have chosen NIB HP-67s

*Message #5 Posted by **Mark Hoskins** on 12 Jan 2002, 11:09 p.m.,*

in response to message #4 by Mike

Sorry but I can't follow your logic.

But in case you are interested:

Recent HP-67 (Sale for 1350.00)

Recent HP-65 (Sale for $2000.00+)

The above are NIB sales not at all what I was talking about.

Mike the logic goes like this. If no one worked on HP-67s card readers. If no one repaired them at all, some high percentage of them would have broken card readers. ALL card reading HP-67s would sell for $1,000 to $2,000. All non reading ones for $100 or some much lower percentage. That is the simple truth. Why do you show me NIB sales?

I repeat. Fixing the card reader devalues the remaining ones that do still work. Why is that wrong in a hypothetical perspective? That perspective directly relates to any repair of the HP-67.

I have one right now a non opened functioning HP-67. In you anger and frustration you'll say I replaced the label. Hardly and as we remove it together you'd find otherwise.

Remember this is hypothetical, I love repairing them and so do you. I respect your desire for a pure label world and I am taking steps to reprint the labels. But my premise is quite accurate. My wife is going to kill me for staying up this late. I hope both of our wives forgive us for this bizzare battle.

Re: Can't follow your logic
*Message #6 Posted by **67 owner** on 14 Jan 2002, 9:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

Funny hearing Mike talk about ethics

Interesting...
*Message #7 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Jan 2002, 11:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by 67 owner

Interesting, to hear an innuendo from someone that does not have the **courage**, to use their real name.

But that is what usually happens when one does not have any argument to the real topic.

Re: Interesting...
*Message #8 Posted by **UK calcman** on 14 Jan 2002, 9:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Mike

Maybe. However, 67 owner is right. Based on your behavior on this board, ebay, and elsewhere, you don't care about anyone but yourself.

Re: Can't follow your logic
*Message #9 Posted by **Peter** on 14 Jan 2002, 11:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

Mike,

I think Your only problem with these replica labels is, that someone could use them to make higher profits on ebay than You try to do! First buying nearly everything in a special field (now You are in the HP-71 business), pushing the price level up, and then trying to sell with high reserve price on ebay again? I am not sure how many of us collectors like this "business model". I can speak for myself only, but if I have a calculator with damaged label in my collection, I would use one of these replicas to fix it, but only if it looks (to some degree of detail) like the original one. I must think of older restored cars with stickers all over the paint telling "replica paint", funny?

Bald Face Lie
*Message #10 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Jan 2002, 12:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Peter

You are losing focus

You sayI think Your only problem with these replica labels is, that someone could use them to make higher profits on ebay than You try to do!

I say: That is a bald face lie. There is no way that these labels have anything to do with what I or others get from selling items vintage restored calculators. What it **does do** is cause people to destroy original labels. **THAT** is the problem we are discussing.

FAKE labels will never sell for more than original labels. If anything, it makes my calculators worth more, since I don't resort to using FAKE labels. That is why I have hundreds of repeat customers.

But this is not about **me** or what you think about me. It is about counterfeit

labels, remember?

But you are free to do as you like.

Re: Bald Face Lie
*Message #11 Posted by **HP 67 User2** on 14 Jan 2002, 9:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Mike

I think it's a bit of a stretch to think that replica labels will cause people to destroy the original labels. How do you come to this conclusion? I don't see the motivating forces.

How else
*Message #12 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Jan 2002, 9:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by HP 67 User2

How else would you get one on, without taking one off?

Re: How else
*Message #13 Posted by **HP-67 User2** on 14 Jan 2002, 9:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Mike

One would use a replica label when the original label was thrashed from normal use. If the label is already thrashed, replace it with a replica. Fine. But to say that replica labels provide some motivation to destroy the original label is ridiculous. Why would anyone destroy the original label just to replace it with a replica?

See, Mike, you should want the replica labels out on the market because it boosts the values of your calculators with original labels. You say you're not in this hobby for the money, but your actions tell a different story.

Re: How else

*Message #14 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Jan 2002, 10:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by HP-67 User2

I probably should not continue with this discussion but since you are at least civil, I will answer you ....

You say: But to say that replica labels provide some motivation to destroy the original label is ridiculous. Why would anyone destroy the original label just to replace it with a replica?

I say: They wouldn't, **IF** they were marked Replica but if they were near identical, why not? I mean, I wouldn't, but I take great care in removing and restoring labels but others that aren't purists, would just rip it off and replace it with an new one. I'm a purist and take great care in not destroying the original.

That's what HP did. But they had real labels.

You say: See, Mike, you should want the replica labels out on the market because it boosts the values of your calculators with original labels.

I say: How so? I don't follow this logic at all. I am a purist and don't want to see originals destroyed. I'm not the only one saying this. Others don't like counterfeit labels either. It has absolutely nothing to do with selling or buying. It has to do with keeping HP calculators as original as possible.

You say: You say you're not in this hobby for the money, but your actions tell a different story.

I say: I never said any such thing. I have not said this at all, but I'm not in it **ONLY** for the money. And, I am not a dealer.

I spend a great deal of time and money restoring HP calculators. Nothing wrong with that. I sell back some of what I restore. My fun, comes from the "value added" by making something work that did not work before I got it.

I have a great HP-67 that I'm holding onto, just waiting for a

trashed 67 that has a good label. I would never put a counterfeit label on it just to make a buck. I know you don't believe that because you are a cynical. If I was as you suggest, I would have just bought the fakes and used them. The fact that I don't disproves what you are saying.

Believe it or not, I have a counterfeit label. A guy from Malasia sent me one, just to see if I would use them. I declined and just use it to compare against others. I posted a photo of it last year.

I also repair for other collectors and do it for free. The only thing I charge for is return shipping. All you ever see it the end of an auction. You don't know me or anything about what I really do or what I'm really like.

If I was in this for the money, I would charge other collectors. But I don't.

You are barking up the wrong tree, if you think I'm in this just for the money.

Inconsistent?

*Message #15 Posted by **Dave Shaffer** on 15 Jan 2002, 12:54 p.m.,*

in response to message #14 by Mike

Mike, you say:

"I have a great HP-67 that I'm holding onto, just waiting for a trashed 67 that has a good label. I would never put a counterfeit label on it just to make a buck. I know you don't believe that because you are a cynical. If I was as you suggest, I would have just bought the fakes and used them. The fact that I don't disproves what you are saying."

What kind of calculator does this create? It seems to me that you can no longer call it an "original" -- it is some form of hybrid, better, but to a purist only marginally so, than a calculator with a fake/duplicate/reproduction/etc. label.

Dave

Re: How else
*Message #16 Posted by **hp67 owner** on 16 Jan 2002, 7:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by HP-67 User2

I, and dozens of others from whom I received emails, agree completely with you, HP-67 User2

good points Peter
*Message #17 Posted by **tom** on 16 Jan 2002, 2:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Peter

and I agree 100%.

I'm sure that wasn't your intention
*Message #18 Posted by **Jim L** on 12 Jan 2002, 7:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

And it's the same thing everyone says when they sell fakes on ebay and most of the time I'm sure it's true. However in the past, items sold openly as reproductions have turned up on ebay again without any mention of their history. When sellers are caught they claim ignorance. Who knows, maybe they really didn't know.

I guess that's why ebay's list of prohibited items includes counterfeit items:

"Not allowing these items on the site protects you from liability and helps make eBay a safe place for trading. Selling or buying any of these items could put you at risk for civil or criminal liability. Your auction could be ended early and you may be suspended from eBay. ... Sellers routinely selling the same types of items should take steps to satisfy themselves that the items are authentic before listing them on eBay. Sellers are responsible for the items they sell and disclaimers (e.g., "I cannot guarantee the authenticity of this item, so please bid accordingly") usually have no legal effect and do not protect the seller from potential liability."

I'm sure it was unintentional but you're getting yourself into a messy area.

Re: Fake Label Maker

*Message #19 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 12 Jan 2002, 8:16 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

There are two sides to every coin... I feel that there is nothing wrong with repro labels, people make reproduction control panel overlays for arcade machines, and if you think about it, would you rather have a Pac Man machine with a worn to heck control panel and dinged up paint that was original, or have a Pac Man machine that has been restored with new paint and a new reproduction control panel overlay? Also, some people have been touching up the silver trim on old calculators with a little new paint, there is nothing wrong with that. I do, however, feel that reproduction labels should probably only be used when the calculator in question has a particularly bad, unsaveable label. As far as batteries go, I think the idea of new, from scratch battery packs is wonderful. Just think of how many batteries packs are no longer rebuildable due to leakage, corrosion, and other assorted damage. And yes, if Mr. Hoskins used higher capacity cells in his packs, and since he included a tab to help remove it from the calculator, then you could say that they would be superior to the original, function wise anyway. I am not saying that you _should_ use repro calculator labels, I am just saying that they could really help fix up the appearance of an otherwise crummy looking calculator. There are good and bad uses for repro labels, the good being that it allows people to clean up a worn calculator, and the bad being those who are dishonest enough to try and pass it off as an original. Just my two cents.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Then why not simply say REPRO

*Message #20 Posted by **Mike** on 12 Jan 2002, 8:29 p.m.,*

in response to message #19 by Ian Primus

Then, if it is a matter of just making a **crumby** calculator usable, why not simply state on the label that it is a Replica lable?

[AND] Why not put a warning that using the label may devalue the calculator?

I'll tell you why, because there is a deliberate attempt to pass it off as original.

Why not do it like this: (picture unavailable)

No, the intention is to sell these such that people buying them can pass them off as original. He is aiding the fraudlent use of these labels.

Clearly labeling it as a "Replica" would remove any doubt of it being original and would improve looks, **IF** that was all that he was after.

My intentions... not so fast
*Message #21 Posted by **Mark Hoskins** on 12 Jan 2002, 10:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #20 by Mike

No, the intention is to sell these such that people buying them can pass them off as original. He is aiding the fraudlent use of these labels.

Mike>> This is your interpretation and quite incorrect. If I was so devious, why did I sell them so openly with such a poor reproduction? Not a very good idea huh? I wanted the common calculator owner to see what his calculator looked like 25 years ago. How many times have you taken something apart and regretted it as such an effort damaged the original? I've done it severla times.

Fraud is duplicating US currency or a work of art or something that has a trademark on it. Nothing here falls in those categories. It is your opinion that these labels devalue the past. You also believe that you are protecting your investments. I'll respect that.

Although I am not convince about that, I am taking steps to reissue the labels with a "Replica Label" sticker.

Re: My intentions... not so fast
*Message #22 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 12 Jan 2002, 11:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Mark Hoskins

mr. hoskins; i think that having the labels say "replica label" is a good idea anyway; lawyers being what they are. that way no one down the road can get (or say they were) fooled. i don't see what the beef is though. my bsa would be a heap of oxides without pattern parts coppied from the originals and made in tiwan. the replacements are not looked down on for motorcycles, they are just not worth quite as much. i may be missing something here but i think you are providing a service.

Re: Recheck Ebay
*Message #23 Posted by **Mark Hoskins** on 13 Jan 2002, 10:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #22 by db(martinez,california)

The labels will be sold with the words REPLICA LABEL on them. I do not really agree, but I will honor the wishes of the longtime dedicated dealers

Re: My intentions... not so fast

*Message #24 Posted by **Jim L** on 12 Jan 2002, 11:46 p.m.,*

in response to message #21 by Mark Hoskins

I just looked up fraud and counterfeit just to make sure and neither is limited to "US currency or a work of art or something that has a trademark on it." For example:

Counterfeit: To make a copy of, usually with the intent to defraud. To make fraudulent copies of something valuable.

Fraud: A deception deliberately practiced in order to secure unfair or unlawful gain.

Perhaps legal definitions are different than dictionary definitions and we could argue about how important the "usually" is in the definition of counterfeit but for our use I think it is fair to call these counterfeits that could/might be used by someone (not you) for fraudulent purposes.

I'm glad you're going to change them to make their origin clear.

As for fixing card readers - I think the same goes there - it should be kept out in the open. On some valuable old items, repairers leave notes or marks inside an access cover to let people know what's been done.

This is a little different because a well fixed card reader in many people's minds is an improvement because you never know when an old card reader will turn to mush. Therefore it's likely that repaired card readers will be labeled honestly since they may bring more money. With repaired labels I think there is always going to be incentive to cover up the fact because the replacement will not be seen as better. Also these labels could have been used to cover up repairs that might not seem so desirable - like massive battery leaks. I would really prefer a calc that never had a leak to one that had been repaired because I would never feel sure that it was all cleaned up. Someone who had repaired a battery leak might want to cover it up with a label and sell it as like new.

In any case, the "repro" on the label should make everyone happy.

Thank you Mark.

More Fake Labels, Please

*Message #25 Posted by **guv'ner** on 12 Jan 2002, 11:49 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

Can we all just get along?

I would like to request MORE fake labels of different models. I would like to see these available for all HPs which have labels on the back. I have an HP-35 which needs a new fresh label, my corners are wrinkled. If the restoration labels have a discrepancy can you please correct it so they look identical to the originals? Don't clip the corners please.

Also, I need a new front label for the HP-80. The one I have is peeling off and has a crease in it. I like my calculator collection to look as good as new. This is historical restoration we are talking about here, not counterfeiting. Go visit any historical site and you'll find entire buildings that have been re-constructed, they're not completely original but you still get the idea of the history when you visit them.

Is there any source for counterfeit silver paint? I'd like to restore my HP-45 which has almost none left. I've used the testors silver paint pen in the past but it dries more greyish than chrome-colored.

-guv.

New market coming up

*Message #26 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 13 Jan 2002, 10:58 a.m.,*

in response to message #25 by guv'ner

Hiall,

I don't want to sell my HP or cheat nobody. I just want to use my calcs and keep them in good shape.

For this I need the front plate of 42S, 11C and 15C is it avaliable?

I think Mr. Hoskins is opening a new market for doyourself restoration.

What about spiral bound manuals and HP plastic logos?

I really think that many of us are waiting for an old HP calculator parts supplier.

Pio

Replica parts have been sold before

*Message #27 Posted by **Todd G.** on 13 Jan 2002, 9:30 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

After reading all the posts, I think Mike Davis et al. are overreacting about the sale of replica labels.

First, the manufacture of repair parts or replica parts by parties other than the OEM manufacturer has been going on for years. In my view, the situation here is analogous to fixing a classic automobile.

For example, Ford no longer makes water pumps or fenders for the classic 1965 Mustang. However, there are many Mustang enthusiasts and collectors that need those parts for their classic Mustang. As a result, several companies offer replica water pumps or fenders for the Mustang. Everybody knows that the parts came from a third party manufacturer, and that it's not original. Yet nobody has charged that 1965 Mustangs that use those parts "pollute" the population of Mustangs. On the contrary, Mustang collectors are grateful to have another specimen available.

The same logic applies to our calculators. HP no longer makes the classic calculator labels (much less the calculators!), so third parties have decided to produce them. I don't see anything wrong with making a replica part where an original is no longer made by the OEM manufacturer and is otherwise not available.

I see this as the natural evolution of the calculator collecting hobby. Since the calculator collecting hobby has become more popular in recent years, it's perfectly reasonable for people to begin offering replica parts that are no longer made, as has happened in the automobile collecting/restoration hobby. This takes the hobby to the next level: Like classic cars, one purchasing a classic calculator must be diligent to know exactly what they are getting.

One comment about the fraud issue. Fraud requires an intent to deceive. Mr. Hoskins has made it plain he is not intending to deceive anyone by selling his labels. However, there will likely be some unscrupulous sellers trying to pass off an HP-67 with a replica label as having an original label. But, since Mr. Davis has so graciously pointed out the differences between the orginal label and the replica, we all now know what to look for.

I think Mark is doing the hobby a great service by offering these replica labels.

Todd

Not at all the same...
*Message #28 Posted by **Mike** on 13 Jan 2002, 2:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #27 by Todd G.

One of the major reasons for a label is to cover access screws on the HP-67 and other calculators. This is a way to know if a calculator has been opened and possibly been repaired or damaged.

A perfect replica label can allow people to take a perfectly good label off repair, change or even botch a repair, then replace the label and claim it is mint. Labels must and should be easily identified as replica.

Even your OEM stuff is easily identifiable from original. But the attempt to make duplicate, counterfeit labels is wrong. No OEM tries to make an identical OEM part to fool someone as being original.

This is not an overreaction on my part. It is also the reason that posting links to such things has been removed in the past from the forum.

Second, the use of a label **requires the destruction** of the original. In other OEM parts that you talk about, the original is not destroyed for the most part. It is just removed and can be rebuilt or kept for restoration at a later date.

I don't follow....
*Message #29 Posted by **Todd G.** on 13 Jan 2002, 4:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #28 by Mike

Sounds like contrary and inconsistent statements to me. Or maybe I missed something...

You said that the replicas must and should be identified as replicas. You also said the replicas Hoskins wants to sell are easily identifiable over the orignal labels. You even showed us with pictures!

OK, if Mark's labels are already easily identifed as replicas, and we come across a calculator that has a replica label, we can ask the owner whether the unit has been opened, etc. THANKS TO YOU, WE KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR! Since you can tell the difference quite readily, I don't understand the problem with selling replica labels in the first place.

I also don't follow your comment about requiring destruction of the original label and

how it is different from water pumps and fenders because water pumps and fenders are removed, and possibly rebuilt or restored. That scenario doesn't seem to fit the facts. If that was the case in the automotive field, there would not be a market for third-party replica parts (because all the original parts would be rebuilt or restored), or manufacturers of such parts. But it's a huge industry with a big demand! There are plenty of people openly selling replica parts (including labels and stickers) for every conceivable piece of restorable equipment or machinery.

Replica parts production occurs in many other collecting hobbies, and is well accepted. What's the difference here? I can't see it.

Seems to me that you're reading into this some nefarious conspiracy that simply isn't there.

I agree, you don't understand
*Message #30 Posted by **Mike** on 13 Jan 2002, 5:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #29 by Todd G.

It is rather easy to rationalize by those wanting to use them or sell them. But I assure you most HP collectors understand the concept of "original" vs "counterfeit" and "restored" vs "destroyed and replaced."

You said: You said that the replicas must and should be identified as replicas. You also said the replicas Hoskins wants to sell are easily identifiable over the orignal labels. You even showed us with pictures!

I showed photos because they are **NOT** easily identified. Only a very careful comparrison can determine this. I doubt that most could tell the difference.

If they were easily identified, I would not have had to show photos. Let me say one other thing. If this was just to improve looks and not deceive, why is there a need for USA versions vs SINGAPORE versions. It is so you can fool someone.

No, you don't make a good argument...
*Message #31 Posted by **Todd** on 13 Jan 2002, 6:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #30 by Mike

Mike, I do not understand your position because you do not present any rational evidence to support it. Instead, you present bombastic "slippery slope" arguments that suggest conspiratorial "pollution" of the pool of classic calculators if replica labels are used. Made me laugh, BTW. Quick! Call Scully and Mulder!!

If "purist" collectors, such as yourself, do not want to use or collect calculators with replica labels, then don't. But why should you prevent a non-collector from simply freshening up his trusty HP-67 simply because you, Mr. Purist, think it's a bad idea? You forget that lots of these old units are still USED by people every day, and those people are NOT collectors. I say give the non-collector the opportunity to restore his old friend with a fresh label, albeit a replica. But purists can still insist on calculators with the original label. In other words, both can coexist.

You have offered not one shred of evidence that the labels will be used for deceitful purposes. Instead, you ASSUME they will be used for deceitful ends, even after being presented with analogous situations from other hobbies where the same replica labels are accepted. What makes calculator collecting so different to warrant a change in human behavior? Besides, you showed the world what to look for on the replicas. Now we are aware of the differences, and can make our own decisions about what to collect. End of story.

You are hopeless
*Message #32 Posted by **Mike** on 13 Jan 2002, 8:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #31 by Todd

I answered your direct question and you compare it to something you did not ask. No wonder you are not confused. Blowing smoke does not change anything.

I quoted exactly what you said and provided a direct answer. Not too difficult to understand.

Also you said: If "purist" collectors, such as yourself, do not want to use or collect calculators with replica labels, then don't.

I say: I won't but the problem is that people will sell these to others, without divulging that they are fakes. We get taken. They claim "I didn't know it was a fake."

I do understand your, though, since you are one of the ones that plans to use FAKE labels. I say that because you were one of the bidders.

Re: You are hopeless

*Message #33 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 14 Jan 2002, 2:10 p.m., in response to message #32 by Mike*

Mike's post titled: **You are hopeless** (a response to **Todd**) is below in *italics.*

I answered your direct question and you compare it to something you did not ask. No wonder you are not confused. Blowing smoke does not change anything.

"Blowing smoke..." ?? I read Todd's post, and he didn't seem to be blowing smoke to me. He presented a polite, reasonable post. You replied with a post full of bile---starting with a title that is insulting. I don't even *know* Todd, but he seems to be a reasonable guy. You come off as a jerk.

I quoted exactly what you said and provided a direct answer. Not too difficult to understand.

Also you said:If "purist" collectors, such as yourself, do not want to use or collect calculators with replica labels, then don't.

I say: I won't but the problem is that people will sell these to others, without divulging that they are fakes. We get taken. They claim "I didn't know it was a fake."

Wait a minute..."We get taken" ?? I thought you could tell the difference! Who is "we"? You seem *very* interested in protecting others! Unfortunately, I know from a previous E-mail exchange with you (regarding your non-PayPal acceptance policy) that Mike only looks out for *Mike*. Your disdain and distrust of *all* eBay bidders (apparently even those who have sent you laudatory E-mail regarding your post in the

MoHPC Articles) is on record.

I do understand your, though, since you are one of the ones that plans to use FAKE labels. I say that because you were one of the bidders.

Oooooh. *That* was a clever attack, Mike. **Oh my God...**Todd had the gall to bid on one of those!?! Clearly, Todd's "hopeless"ness is *proven* by the fact that he actaully *bid* on one of these labels. Sheeesh.

Mike, you are the one who is hopeless.

Bruce.

PayPal For the Record
*Message #34 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Jan 2002, 3:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #33 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I put this in a separate thread because I don't like to mix points.

eBay is always a bidder and buyer beware situation. You have to know who you are dealing with. Bidders can be selective, sellers cannot.

Sellers

PayPal, for those of you that don't know, allows bidders to make a purchase, pay, and then issue a charge-back, even if you don't ever get your item back.

You can lose both your item and your payment

PayPal is a very unsecure means of payment.

Most of you know that your Credit Cards have a protection policy that requires companies that accept it, to take back an item. Normally, when you deal with a store that is no big deal. You give the item back, they check it and issue you a refund.

But when you deal with the internet, you don't have that face to face meeting to exchange things.

A bidder can demand a charge-back and you may NEVER get your item back. PayPal has no way of verifying that you ever got your item back.

Here is how it works: Bidder bids on an item, pays with PayPal, gets the item, sends back an empty box with tracking, demands a charge-back and you have been defrauded.

I have asked this of PayPal and they acknowlege that this is possible. That is why they have a **WARNING** about credit card chargebacks.

If you doubt this, ask PayPal how they guarantee that you will get your item back. I mean proof that you actually get the real item back. They don't even know what was sent.

Bidders On the other hand, can choose who they buy from. The bidder can verify the seller from the feedback. Yes, the feedback is not 100% but when people have many hundreds of positive and ZIP negative, that is a very good sign that they can be trusted to send the actual item.

But it is amazing how some of these people are not sticking to the point of the thread and choosing instead to attack people. I wonder of their motives.

I also have quit taking paypal, for what it's worth...
*Message #35 Posted by **Gene Wright** on 14 Jan 2002, 3:55 p.m., in response to message #34 by Mike*

Because of what I have read on the net, I have recently quit taking paypal.

Do a search on yahoo for "paypal problem" and read the horror stories.

Regarding the label controversy, having it say "replicated label" is fine with me.

AFter all, I know of a disreputable collector who MADE a red-dot HP-35. He showed me a picture of it as he did it and you

could not tell the difference. He later stole several calculators from Wlodek and myself.

Live and learn. Gene

Re: PayPal For the Record
*Message #36 Posted by **doug** on 15 Jan 2002, 2:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #34 by Mike

"Here is how it works: Bidder bids on an item, pays with PayPal, gets the item, sends back an empty box with tracking, demands a charge-back and you have been defrauded."

At the moment a person sends an empty box with tracking and claims they are shipping a specific item, even if the clerk doesn't catch or care if the paper work is filled out or not becomes mail fraud. How. If there is a record of the shipping and they claim a calculator that weighs 5 oz, but the box weighs 7 oz and the shipment was 8 oz then it didn't contain anything but a little packing. Also, you have the right to turn a package over to the USPS if it arrives empty. It doesn't have to be insured. Then the USPS will start watching that person for mail fraud. Jail time for mail fraud is a lot worse than a fine for an illeagal chargeback.

Nonsense!
*Message #37 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Jan 2002, 3:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #33 by W. Bruce Maguire II

You said: Polite and reasonible

You call "Made me laugh, BTW. Quick! Call Scully and Mulder!!"

You call this innuendo as polite. It was completely uncalled for.

You also said: Your disdain and distrust of all eBay bidders...

Where on earth do you come up with this... because I would not let you use PayPal? Give me a break. Don't jump on me because I would not let you use PayPal. Lot's of people don't accept PayPal.

I have nothing but the best customers. Many hundreds of repeat

customers. I don't know where you come off for straying from the subject to make these false assertions.

Re: Nonsense!
*Message #38 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 14 Jan 2002, 5:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #37 by Mike

Your over active defense leads me to quote Shakespear. "Me thinks he doth protest to much."

I know Bruce and I don't know you. However from your exchange of words with everyone, that I don't care if I get to. I don't feel I want to deal with you either.

No, I don't care for the idea of counterfiet labels, but Mark has agreed to label them Replica's. As to having to do so, if Hp has not put a copyright tag or Hp logo on the labels, he could probably do so with no repercussions.

Your initial arguement had merit, but you are continuing to beat a dead horse and also have brought to light other issues that you would have probably been better off not raising.

Your motives are now in question, and that wasn't the reason for your initial response. You should have just made your point. Won. and let the issue speak for itself.

As it is, I won't be bidding on any of your auctions knowingly.

Re: You are hopeless
*Message #39 Posted by **John Smith** on 14 Jan 2002, 6:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #33 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Bruce, you're absolutely right and you're not the only one who has suffered this guy. The problem with him is twofold: on the one hand, he's making a big business out of taking everything on sight and selling it again at preposterous prices to HP collectors, and so he's fearful that someone could take some cents out of his profits. He couldn't care less if the person is offering a worthwhile and needed service because as you said, he can't see beyond himself and his own

personal profit, never mind poor hp collectors, so he's hardly an objective person to critizice anyone doing that. Being both a part and judge isn't fair, sir.

On the other hand, you're also right to say he treats each and everyone of his would-be customers as if they were some kind of servants, lower classes or so when compared to himsel. A year or so ago I tried to buy an HP-71 from him on ebay, but before bidding I asked if he would accept a perfectly viable and secure means of payment other than the ones he does accept. Of course he's perfectly entitled to chose not to, but at least he could say so in a POLITE, kind way. Instead of that he got into a nearly-paranoid rage and attacked me for not abiding to his rules and nearly insulted me. That was the last thing I would expect a would-be seller to do to a willing would-be customer. He despised me, told me that he didn't care at all about doing business with me as he had so many clients abiding to his rules, and more or less to go to hell with my money.

Frankly, after that, being an educated person, I decided I would NEVER ever buy ANYTHING from this guy no matter how much I could be interested in the item, and told all my many collector friends about him. I'm sure he wouldn't care less, being such an inflated ego, but he's certainly lost lots of easy money that could have gone his way, as neither myself nor my friends are shy of high prices at all and normally buy using 'Buy It Now', regardless of the price.

So, the attacks from this fellow to Mr. Hoskins are just that, a pathetic rant from an extremely greedy guy who's afraid to lose even a penny. As we say, "penny wise, pound fool": he has already LOST so much money with his attitude towards his would-be clients that the replica labels are but minuatiae in comparison.

PayPal is unsecure method of payment.
*Message #40 Posted by **Mike** on 14 Jan 2002, 9:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #39 by John Smith

Your assertions never happened and you know it. Furthermore, the fact that you have to use an alias does not lend to any sort of credibility.

I have only ever had but one lengthy conversation regarding PayPal (stated above), with one person. He and I disagree on the merits of PayPal. That is a fact. I make no alibi for that. It's just my policy. No one else has ever demanded that I use PayPal.

I stand by my record and you can ask anyone that ever purchased anything from me that uses their real name.

Re: PayPal is unsecure method of payment.
*Message #41 Posted by **jr (Texas)** on 14 Jan 2002, 10:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #40 by Mike

Your record is a bit spotty. Especially in the customer relations area. Just look at the venom you've posted recently. Respect for customers. Yeah, right. Gimme a break.

Re: You are hopeless
*Message #42 Posted by **tom** on 16 Jan 2002, 7:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #33 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Bruce. I, and others, agree 100%. Thanks.

Ease of identification
*Message #43 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Jan 2002, 9:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #29 by Todd G.

You said that the replicas must and should be identified as replicas. You also said the replicas Hoskins wants to sell are easily identifiable over the orignal labels. You even showed us with pictures!

Please understand that not every HP collector visits this site on a regular basis. (Or at all.)

Even now after 7 years of operation I still get emails from people saying things like: Great site! I thought I was the only one who collected these things!

Naturally I think all collectors should do their best to be informed but I'm also glad that Mark is helping to inform the ones who won't see Mike's pictures.

Re: Replica parts have been sold before
*Message #44 Posted by **Carlos Tolossa** on 14 Jan 2002, 11:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #27 by Todd G.

I've read this thread from the beginning, and I had mixed fellings about the situation. I am familiar with Mr.Mark Hoskins and with what he is doing, however Mr.Todd Garabedian hit the nail right on the head " One purchasing a classic calculator must be diligent to know exactly what they are getting." Isn't it the main part of the hobby?. My regards to Mr. Mark Hoskins for the way he has handled this ordeal.

About a year ago someone asked me if Replica labels were OK
*Message #45 Posted by **Dave Hicks (USA)** on 13 Jan 2002, 2:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

In fact, when Mark asked me via email to weigh in on this, I originally assumed he was the same person but I was wrong.

I forwarded the question to HP and the answer was that HP probably wouldn't object as long as "HP", "Hewlett Packard" and any HP logos were removed. It was also suggested that the person or company making the replicas mark them as such. (Either as Mark plans to do or like: "Label by Mark Hoskins".) These seem like simple and sensible requests.

Selling products with another company's name or trademark is illegal in most parts of the world. I can tell that Mark knows this from his auction description but I'm mentioning this for

the others who requested more and better fakes.

Non-trademarked replicas (with no "replica" warning) are more controversial. In some established markets they are strongly frowned upon and in some they appear to be accepted. I use the word "appear" only because I don't happen to be familiar with the markets where people have said it's OK and don't know all the details. Some companies in Taiwan for example will make anything you want and will label it with any trademark you like and "made in" any country you like, but many of these are illegal in the US and many other countries. That doesn't mean that you can't easily find them however.

Also I believe many of the laws (in the US at least) regarding replacement parts are different for vehicles than for most other goods. Someone else mentioned buildings but it's hard to "pull a fast one" with a building since you can drop by the city planning department and check its history. Also I don't think there's much in the way of intellectual property protection for buildings.

I can think of another collectable that is roughly as "young" as calculators and this subject is controversial there as well. I suppose it takes some time for each group of collectors to make up their collective mind on this.

In two collectable markets that I know of, people have taken a single original product and intermixed its parts with replica parts to make two or three units, which were then all sold as "real". When caught they claimed they must have been "repaired". These are markets where the originals are fairly low tech and a complete fake can be made for a fraction of the cost of an original. I believe nothing similar has happened in HP calculators but as technology and old HP prices rise, it could someday.

I think that clearly marking the reproductions is a sensible approach that should make most people happy. Those people who are concerned about collectible value will have some assurance that they are getting what they are paying for. Those people who just want to keep an old calculator going shouldn't find their usability impaired by the addition and/or subtraction of a few letters. If you feel that it does, I believe you can safely recreate a trademark at home. (But I'm not a lawyer and that's not legal advice!)

Re: Fake Label Maker
*Message #46 Posted by **David Smith** on 13 Jan 2002, 5:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

The US has a (little known) law called the "Hobby Protection Act". It requires reproductions of collectibles to be clearly identified as such. It was originally intended to be applied to thinks like fake antiquities (especially coins). The word REPLICA must be affixed to the item in a way that cannot be removed (i.e. by engraving or stamping). Items too small to contain the fully word can just use the letter "R".

Re: Fake Label Maker
*Message #47 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 13 Jan 2002, 11:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

My first Classic was a 45 with the label still firmly attached and perforated to give access to the screws. As a low-end collector (not interested in mint condition) who likes to open the machines from time to time, I would like a replacement (as opposed to a reproduction) label with holes and the graphics rearranged slightly if neccesary to avoid the holes. In the case of the 45, I would like the instructions for the stopwatch function added to the label, so I won't have to fire up the PC and look on the MOHPC CDs everytime I want to show it off! I have another 45 with no label, I've intended to scan the label on the first one and print a copy to stick on the second one. Maybe I'll be able to buy a label from Mark. Also, his Classic battery looks pretty good, although my first reaction was "Hey, I can do that!" And regarding the parachute launcher, I don't want to discourage a young engineer, but I've got to say - "You're going to put somebody's eye out!"

Fake Voyager labels please!
*Message #48 Posted by **Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great** on 14 Jan 2002, 2:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark Hoskins

This is Snaipah the Great here:

I'd like to make the backs of some of my Voyager series calculators look new again. Can you please make labels for the Voyager series?

Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great

Re: Fake Voyager labels please!
*Message #49 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 14 Jan 2002, 9:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #48 by Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great

While he's about it, perhaps he could make the rest of the calculator to go with it?

Re: Fake Voyager labels please!
*Message #50 Posted by **Label Maker Response** on 16 Jan 2002, 3:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #48 by Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great

We can do it for an initial investment of $50MM Plant and Equipment, piece price $10/ea, we need a minimum 100K piece order and a $5MM tooling plus a $500K set up charge for each production run. Due to HP's desire not to license the HP logo and original artwork the label will not be an exact reproduction. We may not be the cheapest but will be the best!! Labels-R-We.

Re: Fake Voyager labels please!
*Message #51 Posted by **Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great** on 17 Jan 2002, 12:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #50 by Label Maker Response

Good. When can you get the pre-production samples to me?

Re: Fake Voyager labels please!
*Message #52 Posted by **Label Maker Response** on 18 Jan 2002, 12:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #51 by Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great

18mo. following Funds Transfer.

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FAKE HP Labels being sold on eBay
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 12 Jan 2002, 11:09 a.m.*

WARNING

Just wanted to let others know that **FAKE labels** are being sold on eBay. These are for the HP-67. The seller also sells calculators so **beware** that you might get a fake label.

He is clearly labeling these as non-HP and may always disclose this when selling a calculator but all of these calculators might wind up in the system again and will or may have FAKE labels with no notice.

Anyone who has purchased a calculator from this seller should check their calculators to see if they have FAKE labels.

These are going to **pollute the supply of HP calculators**. It will encourage owners to remove pretty good labels and replace these with FAKE labels. BAD policy.

He is trying to encourage people to replace older labels with statements like this:

He says: "... improve the appearance of the calculators is really the same as fixing the Gummy Wheel"

It is NOT at all the same. This is from someone that is not a collector.

Spotting a FAKE label

*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 12 Jan 2002, 12:33 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Mike

The text is generally thicker than an original HP label.

You will notice the text "US Values Chosen" at the footnote at the bottom. The small cross to the left of US points to the between the two '4's, in the conversion above, on the fake label.

On an original label, it points just to the left side of the '8'.

Also, the 'U' in "Made in USA", is directly below the '=' sign on an original label. On the fake, the 'S' is below the '=' and slightly to the left.

On the original Singapore model the 'G' in SINGAPORE is very slightly to the left of the '=' key.

So, the label, fortunately is poorly made. (see photo)

If you do find that he has sold you a FAKE label on a calculator, post it here so others will be warned.

NOTE: I show a USA version label and a SINGAPORE label but the comparrisons were made against USA versions as well so the discrepancy is not because two different types of labels are shown. That was just to show the alignment of the Singapore version as well.

(picture unavailable)

Re: Spotting a FAKE label

*Message #3 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 12 Jan 2002, 4:05 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Mike

Thanks for showing the cheating.

So my thoughts were not mere suppositions.

Cheers,

Pio

FAKE Labels!!!
*Message #4 Posted by **Mark** on 12 Jan 2002, 6:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Marx Pio

May the calculator Gods condemn the phoney label maker to eternal d*mnation!!!

Re: FAKE Labels!!!
*Message #5 Posted by **Mark Edelman** on 12 Jan 2002, 6:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mark

I used to feel like HP collectors were kind of superior or at least more trustworthy than others because there didn't seem to be any fakes or scams around. My more cynical side always thought that they would appear once prices got high enough. It looks like my cynical side was right. In the past everyone I bought from was another collector but now there are quite a few dealers who have no personal interest in HPs. There's nothing wrong with that but I think it may be easier for them to basically do whatever it takes to make more money.

Maybe I'm being too cynical because no one has tried to sell one of these as real (I think) but I assume it's only a matter of time.

Be careful...

I suppose the next step is repainting keys and duplicating ROMs to make a rare model out of an easy one. I hope the prices are still too low to make that feasible.

My guess on the next step
*Message #6 Posted by **Jim L** on 12 Jan 2002, 7:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Mark Edelman

Would be fake boxes. You can make pretty decent ones on a color copier and heavy stock yet some of them add huge value to a calculator. They'll probably be sold for the legitimate (?) reason of making your personal collection look complete at a low price, but I guarantee that some people will scuff them up a bit and sell them as originals. You can already see this kind of stuff going on elsewhere.

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HP-67 battery
*Message #1 Posted by **Glenn McEnroe** on 12 Jan 2002, 1:10 a.m.*

I may be getting an HP-67 which is missing the batteries. Are these available anywhere? If so where do I get them. Can I use non-original Nicad batteries as replacements?

Re: HP-67 battery
*Message #2 Posted by **Arnold Steekelenburg** on 12 Jan 2002, 8:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

Hi Glenn,

Take a look here:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1321217825

They work great.

Arnold

Re: HP-67 battery
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 12 Jan 2002, 3:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

Firstly, don't be tempted to try to run an HP67 (or HP65) from the AC adapter without a battery pack in place. You can damage the (custom) card reader sense amplifier chip. Which is only obtainable from another old machine. The battery pack is just 3 AA NiCd cells in series. You could just wire up 3 cells and wire them to the contacts in the machine (the contact towards the display end of the machine is -ve). But if you don't want to modify your machine and want a drop-in battery pack, then it's a little harder to make one. The battery packe are not available new any more, but it's possible to cut open old ones and fit new cells. I believe there are a couple of people who sell rebuilt batteries.

Re: HP-67 battery

*Message #4 Posted by **Larry** on 12 Jan 2002, 7:48 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Glenn McEnroe

See the thread which begins at:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/archv002.cgi?read=3885

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HP820561A ?
*Message #1 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 11 Jan 2002, 4:20 p.m.*

I got to buy several packs of HP 820561A thermal paper.

The rolls seems less large than HP97 and other 41 printers.

Does anyone have an idea to what HP calc it was designed ?

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other HP items on Ebay
*Message #1 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 9:10 p.m.*

Has anyone else noticed the range of items that come up when you search Ebay with just "hp" as the search criteria? I haven't used Ebay for a while and I don't want to go back there right now (I'm still on my 12 step program) but I remember all kinds of things, especially "toothpick holders"! I got quite interested in toothpick holders for a while. Another match was collectible (-able?) knick-knacks which used HP as an adjective in their descriptions, I decided this meant either or both of "hand painted" or "hard plastic". Also it can mean "high performance" in regard to automotive accessories.

What got me thinking about this was Harry Potter. I imagine Ebay must be packed with Harry Potter merchandise. I'd like to have a set of the books as published in England, just to verify my suspicions about what words they changed for the American editions! Although I imagine I could buy them from Amazon UK.

Check out this HP item
*Message #2 Posted by **Iqbal** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1318175911

Re: Check out this HP item
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 11 Jan 2002, 7:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Iqbal

I wonder if that is the PDA with MP3 player etc. that one of the ACO guys was talking about, that was just about to ship.

Re: Check out this HP item

*Message #4 Posted by **Arnold** on 11 Jan 2002, 10:41 a.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Ellis Easley

Hi,

No, it's not a PDA. It is an example of the Xpander. The learning tool HP handed out for testing purposes.

One of the projects cancelled last year. It seems there a a few thousand of them around, and not accounted for by HP.

They ought to be handed in when the project stopped.

The first example of it on Ebay was banned by HP.

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3421A voltmeter drifts up when open circuit
*Message #1 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 7:29 p.m.*

Do other 3421A users see this behavior? (Or users of other high impedance voltmeters?)

If the unit is set to DC volts, autorange with the input open circuit, and the controller asks for readings over and over, the unit returns readings that slowly increase from 0 to .3V, then it switches to the 3V range where the readings continue to increase until the unit switches to the 30V range. At this point, because of the lower input resistance (10 Mohm), the voltage drops to near zero and so the unit switches back to the .3V range and starts over. It does this even with no mux installed and the internal harness unplugged. When I connect a 100Mohm resistor (the largest I have - I don't even know how close it is because I can't measure it!) to the front panel jacks, the unit reads zero all the time. BTW, if the unit is set to .3V or 3V (not autorange), the reading rises to overrange and stays there.

My theory is that this is caused by leakage from the coils of the relays that route the signals on the main board. The coils are all connected to +5V and the other ends are switched to ground to actuate them (they are the same latching relays that used are on the mux board). The specified input resistance of the voltmeter is 10 Gohm (10^10 ohms!) on the two low ranges and I imagine the input capacitance is being charged from +5V through the leakage resistance of the relays. I think this is the kind of leakage that is supposed to be avoided by the "guarding" techniques recommended in app notes for high input impedance amplifier ICs. The relays probably don't have any provision for guarding (would require an extra pin to be connected to the guarding potential).

If I ever get very brave I might try to isolate the relays from +5V to test my theory (since they are latching relays they don't need power to stay in their current state).

Re: 3421A voltmeter drifts up when open circuit
*Message #2 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

Yup.

I built a FET input multimeter using a very nice multimeter movement I salvaged from a home built VTVM. The problem was I used a phenolic PCB which was partially porus and as it absorbet moisture a stray voltage leaked into the the gates of the FETs. As I dried out the board the meter stabilised.

This was about twenty years ago when fibreglass was not as prolific as it is today. I replaced the PCB with a fibreglass board and no more problems.

It could be dust, a porous PCB, damaged transistors (I am not familiar whith this model - is it VT or FET?). There is probably some leaky voltage (current) somewhere.

Re: 3421A voltmeter drifts up when open circuit
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 11 Jan 2002, 7:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Yani

The active input circuitry is a hybrid, probably CMOS, but before it gets there the signal passes through some DIP relays that select the voltage range. This is a low cost (for HP) instrument from around 1982 that has the distinction of using HPIL to connect to a controller. It measures DC volts, AC volts, resistance (2 wire or 4 wire), frequency (to a very limited extent), and has firmware to read T-type thermocouples directly. It can hold option boards which provide a relay multiplexer or digital I/O. It has no display of its own. HP also made a multimeter with front panel controls and display (3468A/B) with similar measurement capability (plus internal current measuring shunts) and HPIL.

Re: 3421A voltmeter drifts up when open circuit
*Message #4 Posted by **Peter Petersson (Germany)** on 11 Jan 2002, 3:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ellis Easley

I have seen similar behavior on my HP 3468A Multimeter. It seems to use the same A/D converter as the 3421A. Should be no problem because You will never get anything to measure with a resistance near the input resistance of the 3421A.

Re: 3421A voltmeter drifts up when open circuit
*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

I've never taken enough readings to look for a trend, but my 3421 certainly drifts (or picks up noise, as I said I've not taken enough readings to say which) when the input is open-circuit. Most very high impedance voltmeters do. As soon as you connect a source with a sensible restance to the input, then the readings become stable. And since I only ever use it for measuring such sources, it doesn't worry me.

Re: 3421A voltmeter drifts up when open circuit
*Message #6 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 13 Jan 2002, 10:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

Thanks for the feedback. It makes me more confident in the instrument, which is the best meter I have. Since it generally agrees with my other meters, I'm considering it to be "in calibration", I even managed to replace the lithium backup battery without losing the calibration by hooking up a bench supply during the operation.

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HP charger with different cells?
*Message #1 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 10 Jan 2002, 7:14 p.m.*

I have a dead Woodstock style battery pack that I plan to rebuild, and I got it apart and removed the old cells, and bought some new ones at Radio Shack. I opted for the HI-Capacity Rechargeables, which are 1,000mAh as opposed to the 700mAh on the "Replace-a-cell" sets. Once I get the cells soldered together and re-inserted in the battery pack, how can I charge them? I have the HP AC adapter brick, as well as a separate little charger that just has a little light on it, and I have been using that for my other pack, but what happens if I use a pack rebuilt with these "High-Capacity" batteries? Will it just take longer to charge, or will it damage the pack/charger? Can I use this same charger if I were to replace the cells with NiMH ones instead of NiCad? Thanks.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: HP charger with different cells?
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Jan 2002, 10:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

Hi;

I am sure a technical explanation will come soon, but I would like to take the matter to clear one fact. All woodstocks I saw oppened had the big 1/2 Watt resistor and a diode built at the right side of the main board. Are those the only componentes dedicated to the battery charging procedure? I did not follow the copper trails, so I do not actualy know if the PSU acts when batteries are charging.

Anyway, in both cases, the NMH or the NiCad batts will be current-limited. The little bricks will not be so much in pain, I guess.

Cheers.

Re: HP charger with different cells?

*Message #3 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:54 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

If I understand your question correctly you are asking if the cell capacity makes a difference when charging.

The only difference is the time taken to charge. When replacing cells it is perfectly safe to go for higher capacity cells. The only possible gotcha is if the charger is a fast charger the cells must be able to take the charge current. However I think that most HP chargers are slow chargers.

Let me know if you want more detail. I could probably go on forever!

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Fake auction (HP-65 NIB) ?
*Message #1 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 10 Jan 2002, 6:11 p.m.*

at least it seems so, since the buyer doesn't have any feedback...

http://cgi.ebay.de/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?
ViewItem&item=1309694005&r=0&t=0&showTutorial=0&ed=1008825603&indexURL=0&rd=1

Re: Fake auction (HP-65 NIB) ?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 10 Jan 2002, 7:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Sure seems like there was something fishy going on in the bidding - look at the bid history, "papamotis" outbid himself like 4 times in a row at one point. Also, there are other instances where a person bid against himself.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: Fake auction (HP-65 NIB) ?
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 8:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ian Primus

If you look closely at the times of papamotis's series of bids, you will see that they are all later that tomd's higher bid. Papamotis was struggling with his soul as he tried to outbid tomd, only to be automatically outbid (remember the "proxy bidding" or whatever they call it). Papamotis thought he had it (for a little more that $400) when he bid $425. Then about 15 minutes later, tomd bid $625. Papamotis kept coming back over a period of several hours, only to stop $15 short of tomd. Of course, it was all moot since the bidding went through the roof later. Then tomd came back one more time for $999. I haven't been on Ebay for a couple of years, but I remember tomd, he seemed like someone who bid in every auction and usually stuck by his original bid. This must have been a really good item. Is this the same HP65 that caused so much excitement a couple of weeks ago?

I was about to post the same question!
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Jan 2002, 11:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ellis Easley

I felt the same. Wasn't this HP65 sold for a great amount of money?

Re: I was about to post the same question!
*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 11 Jan 2002, 4:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

The link in the first item in this thread (which I can't see right now due to scheduled maintenance at Ebay) was to an auction in a German version of Ebay that closed around the 18th of December and the winning bid was a little over $2000. My memory and I are still confused by the way the date and the price were displayed (yy/dd/mm? yy/mm/dd? $2.036,xx???) Sorry I'm so provincial! I remember the price was also posted in Euros and DM. As the auction ended before the New Year, I want to go back to a current auction there and see if they are still displaying DM (though I guess they will for two years - or is it months?)

Anyway, I just looked up the earlier thread and compared the Ebay item numbers in the links and they are the same. Also I learned something about Ebay: the previous link started "cgi.ebay.com" and this one starts "cgi.ebay.de", so I guess Ebay has one database and "nationalizes" it for different countries.

BTW, here's a little funny thing that happened over Christmas: someone was poking fun at my sister for having once asked an African person what the flag of Africa looked like. Speaking up in her defense, I suggested that she might have put a bug in his ear and he might go on to help found an African economic union. Then someone asked "Will their currency be the Afro?"

Do you think I can get $50 from Reader's Digest for that one?

Re: I was about to post the same question!
*Message #6 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 11 Jan 2002, 12:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ellis Easley

Yes, at least the photos are the same, right?

I am not aware of a Brazilian e-bay, though; does anybody know some about it? Marx?

About the African flag: would the 50 bux go to the founds, the guy, or to finally buy an African Flag? And, please, don't let you little sista talk to e-strangers...

Regards.

Re: I was about to post the same question!
*Message #7 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 11 Jan 2002, 1:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz & pals,

IMHO,

This kind of almost insane bidding are just ego match, I think nobody needs one thing that we have to pay much more than it worths (of course subjective).

Imagine Bill Gates and TomD match in ebay for a HP65, sounds funny?

Cheers,

MPio

Or on Australian ebay
*Message #8 Posted by **Greg Harris (Sydney Australia)** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ellis Easley

Check out ...

http://cgi.ebay.com.au/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1309694005

The price doubles...

Multiple bids mean nothing wrong
*Message #9 Posted by **Mike** on 10 Jan 2002, 10:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ian Primus

It is just an attempt to outbid the higher bidder. You can have any number of higher bids.

If fact, you can be the high bidder and still make higher bids.

I have bid a high value before, on an auction, then realized that I should have bid a higher max value. So, I go back and make a higher bid. Result, two high bids by myself.

This is perfectly explainable. Nothing fishy at all when you see this.

Re: Multiple bids mean nothing wrong
*Message #10 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 11 Jan 2002, 3:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Mike

Yes, that's right... I also do the same : bidding with samll increments, to be just above the highest bid. Otherwise, when there's plenty of time before the end of the auction, if you put a really high bid, you're sure to be outbid or at least attempted to, which means you'll pay an amount that is near your highest bid.

Seller Not Fake
*Message #11 Posted by **Mike** on 10 Jan 2002, 11:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Don't know the buyer but, I know this seller, not personally, but of them. They have been selling these prize items for almost a year now. Their father was a prolific HP fan and has stacked up many such calculators.

I think they are just now getting to the most prized stuff.

Mike

Re: Seller Not Fake
*Message #12 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 11 Jan 2002, 3:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Mike

No, the seller is not fake. In addition, booklung did buy many items to this very seller. I assume that the seller couldn't resist the temtpation to sell his nice NIB 65 4 or 5 times its value asking friends or even creating a fake ID...

And maybe he finally got to sell it to a lower price to booklung as there's no feedback left on the highest bidder...

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NiCad AAA rechargeable for the 49G

*Message #1 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Jan 2002, 12:36 p.m.*

Hi;

I'm test-driving a set of rechargeable AAA batteries, 250mAh, P-4SPA Panasonic, in my 48SX, but I intend using them with the 49G. Can I borough from any of you some previous experience on this? I am trying the rechargeable ones cause I needed to replaced the alkaline set for three times in less than one year. Of course, I upgraded the O.S. more than four times in the same period, among many data transfer operations between the calc and other calcs or computer. I did not take measurements to confirm, but I was told by two owners that data transfer is the most power-consumption operation. I thought O.S. upgrading was the most, cause of the 49`s flash-memory.

I have also seen some information at the Museum about power consumption in the 48G (posts or archive? I don't remember...), but I am not sure that the differences between alkalines AND NiCad`s were taken into account., say, 1.25V instead of 1.5V (each cell), different Volt X Current and Volt X Time curves, etc.

Anyway, the 48SX is running O.K. with a freshly charged set for about a week, normal operation (2~3 hours daily usage), what is no longer a reference. If there is something about it, I'd like to know.

Thanks and best regards.

Re: NiCad AAA rechargeable for the 49G

*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 10 Jan 2002, 1:05 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I can't answer your power consumption questions but have the following experiences with NiCads:

The voltage colapses very quicky when they run out - so you get hardly any warning when they are about to die. The low battery warning on the HP48/49 is set for 1.5V batteries so when it comes on there may be lots of life left in the NiCads - but the point at which they fail may not be indicated. It would probably be best to recharge them regularly (say once a week) to ensure you don't get caught out. Perhap you should carry round some alkalines as spares to use at a moments notice (and when the NiCads are recharging)

NiCad capacity is much lower than alkalines so expect to have to recharge them more often.

NiCads loose about 1% of charge per day so if the calculator is not used for some time don't be surprised if they are discharged.

It may be best to only start changing the FLASH memory when you have freshly charged NiCads just in case they fail while you are updating the memory.

Have you considered using NMH batteries as they have a higher capacity and may have a better discharge profile.

You can obtain alkaline battery chargers but these only work if the batteries to be recharged are NOT fully used, I think they work best if there is still 30% charge left - how you work this out for a calculator is anyone's guess...

I'd be interested to see how you get on with your battery solution, hope the above is of use.

Re: NiCad AAA rechargeable for the 49G
*Message #3 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 10 Jan 2002, 1:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I'm test-driving a set of rechargeable AAA batteries, 250mAh, P-4SPA Panasonic, in my 48SX

Just to add to what Tom wrote, if you are going to go the rechargeable route, I would suggest NiMH. Target carries Energizer-brand NiMH AAAs with a capacity of 700mAh. I have tested them, and indeed, they seem to *exceed* that capacity!

But, NiMH, like NiCd, batteries lose about 1% of their capacity per day! So, for applications that need (or you want) to last quite a while between battery changes, there is really no substitue for alkalines. Lithiums would be a good choice, but I have only been able to find lithiums in AAs and 9V (again, Energizer brand).

Bruce.

p.s. For all the battery/power enthusiasts out there: www.cheapbatteries.com carries the 9V lithiums. They are GREAT for smoke detectors! You can install the lithiums, and FORGET ABOUT THEM for *at least* 5 years!

Re: NiCad AAA rechargeable for the 49G
*Message #4 Posted by **Yani** on 10 Jan 2002, 6:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by W. Bruce Maguire II

In addition to the good advice from Tom and Bruce...

NiMH also have the additional benefit that they do not have as severe a memory effect as do NiCd batteries.

It works this way. When you recharge a partially discharged NiCd the terminal voltage more rapidly drops so that it appears to have less capacity and the low voltage opperation point of your device is more quickly reached.

There is a common misconception that partial discharge reduces the capacity of the cells. This is not the case. The capacity remains, it is only the voltage discharge curve that is effected.

This is why it is advisable to fully discharge NiCd cells every so often to eliminate this memory effect.

I always use NiMH now for this very reason. Also the price/capacity of NiMH are so close to that of NiCd that it is worth while now to use MiMH instead of NiCd.

For my 41Cs I keep one spare set of fully charged batteries on trickle charge. Mind you with copious use of the card reader it takes more like one month not four to six months between replacements.

Acknowledged! and other doubt...
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Jan 2002, 10:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

This is just to acknowledge your valuable posts, guys. Thanks a lot!

Anyway, to all those who want to add more info, I, and guess also all others taking advantage on these good posts, am inviting to go beyond. I believe many will use these precious info and others to come.

By the way, NMH or NiMH? I was told once which chemicals are used in these batteries, and I forgot. Please, what do NMH stand for?

Best regards.

(I'll keep the NiCad's for now in the 48SX to get to their performance, but I'll begin chasing the NiMH AAA's right in the morning!)

Re: Acknowledged! and other doubt...
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:22 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Nickel Metal Hydride hence NiMH.

Re: Plug-in power for hi-consumption operations?
*Message #7 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 11 Jan 2002, 11:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I wonder how hard it would be to rig a small normalizing jack to interrupt the battery power when a 4.5V DC power source was plugged in?

Maybe as a compromise, one could then power the calculator from the wall during desk-bound, power-consuming operations, and use the batteries the rest of the time?

Re: Plug-in power for hi-consumption operations?

*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 12 Jan 2002, 12:07 p.m.,*

in response to message #7 by Paul Brogger

I cannot feel as being more acquainted with the idea. In fact, for hi-consumption ops (nowadays, it's refered to as more than 150mA... Goodbye, Vaccum Tubes, goodbye bipolar transistors... See you in Hi-amps equipment), and for system upgrading (HP49), that would be more than desirable...

Why didn't HewPack offered that? Maybe God knows... (not the one that posts here; the other One)

That's something not just to wonder about, but to research about. Thanks for the valuable tip, Paul.

Best regards.

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HP-11C Springs
*Message #1 Posted by **Roy** on 10 Jan 2002, 10:18 a.m.*

I opened the back of an HP-11C to view the circuit board. I noticed two very small springs of unequal length in molded towers vertical to the circuit board. They must touch the back cover when it is closed. Does anyone know the purpose of these springs?

Re: HP-11C Springs
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 10 Jan 2002, 11:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Roy

Hi,

AFAIK they force the front and back metal plates to the same electrical potential.

Raymond

Re: HP-11C Springs
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 10 Jan 2002, 2:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Roy

Those springs electrically connect the metal plate on the back of the machine, the metal bezel round the display and the metal plate around the keys. These plates then form a sort of Faraday cage around the logic board, presumably for static protection and/or reducing RF emissions.

Re: HP-11C Springs
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 10 Jan 2002, 4:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Roy

On some of the HP machines springs are also used to make contact to the piezo beeper disk.

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Finnegan ROMs
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 9 Jan 2002, 10:42 p.m.*

I have two HP-41 ROMs that are marked:

Finnegan

Forcast1 (82500A-A16) Forcaster2 (85200A-27)

The naming is not consistent but they have 1 and 2. What I'd like to know is this a 2 ROM set OR two individual ROMs that are used independant of each other.

Any suggestion as to where documentation can be obtained?

Re: Finnegan ROMs
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 10 Jan 2002, 2:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Hi,

no I don't know anything about these modules, but the names indicate they could have been used in some statistical area, such as weather forecasting.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: Finnegan ROMs
*Message #3 Posted by **Gene** on 10 Jan 2002, 11:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

I believe these ROMS were for Stock Market forecasting using some formulas for technical analysis (which really does not work).

Gene

Re: Finnegan ROMs
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Jan 2002, 8:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Hi;

Do they list something new in CAT 2? If so, would you place a list in here with their contents? Maybe it would give us a clue for their use.

Best regards.

(AFAIK, only Memory Modules and X-Memory do not add labels/functions names to Catalog 2; is there any other device that doesn`t?)

Re: Finnegan ROMs
*Message #5 Posted by **John Ioannidis** on 16 Jan 2002, 11:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

The service module comes to mind -- it just takes over the calculator.

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Silk scarf made for Friden
*Message #1 Posted by **Alex** on 9 Jan 2002, 5:51 p.m.*

I have an old scarf that was made in France (I suspect by Hermes) for Friden. It shows an ancient print of Pascal with words (in French) "Pascal invents first calculator". Is this a desirable collectible and how I would attempt to sell it, if I decide to do so. Thanks....

Re: Silk scarf made for Friden
*Message #2 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 10 Jan 2002, 7:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Alex

If you fold it diagonally, you've got Pascal's triangle, eh?

Actually, it sounds like a nice item. Personally, I'd first try to search eBay's "Completeed Items" for a similar piece. (In fact, I just did -- no match on "friden scarf" or "calculator scarf" -- Plenty of "silk scarf" hits, with occasional sales price up to $90.00 & beyond, but most lower.)

If you try to sell on eBay, make sure you get a good digital image, and poke around a bit to see how things work. (Caveats, requirements, descriptions, payment, etc.) You might want to establish an account and sell a few lesser items first, to build a bit of a reputation and get the hang of things.

Finally, if you do offer it on eBay, it possibly has special value to potential buyers in the "tech/nerd/calculator" community, so advertise your eBay offer appropriately.

Other, more experienced eBay sellers may wish to add their comments. (There must be some "how to" articles and books regarding eBay selling available on the Web and at the library or Barnes & Noble, etc.)

Re: Silk scarf made for Friden

*Message #3 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:26 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Alex

Is it RPN? :-)

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chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #1 Posted by **nick** on 9 Jan 2002, 3:17 p.m.*

If I'll get an old HP calculator that has no working charger anymore, can I in that case use a new NON-HP charger that has the right voltage?

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 9 Jan 2002, 3:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by nick

I have dealt with a place called International Calculator website www.internationalcalculator.com. They sell no longer made HP calculators (including the HP41C/CV/CX) and accessories such as battery chargers. I have purchased a working HP48SX, cards for it, and soft calculator cases from its manager, Don O'Rourke. He was very helpful. Also try Ebay www.ebay.com. I joined Ebay about two months ago and bid on a calculator book and later on an HP calculator, both of which I now have. Good luck!

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 9 Jan 2002, 5:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by nick

Volts is volts... if you can get the proper voltage (mayby with a sutible current limiter) on the proper pins then it will work. This is easier said than done for some machines. Ebay or the HPMUSEUM classified ads are your best bets.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #4 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 9 Jan 2002, 5:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by nick

Not easily. The output voltage is not the whole story by any means, and HP chargers rarely give the specified voltage anyway. For machines other than 'classics' (35, 45, 55, 65, 67, 70, 80) ,the charger is a special transformer. AC output. The output voltage of this transformer is designed to fall under load, in a specified way. The 'classics' take a fairly complicated charger, which contians internal regulation circuitry... Oh, and don't get me started on the 'car' chargers. I've looked inside the one for the Woodstock series. 6 transsitors. And a complicated I-V output characteristic. What machine are you getting that doesn't have a charger? Most HP chargers are still fairly easy to find second-hand, so you can probably get the right unit. Using a substitute might damage the calculator.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #5 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 10 Jan 2002, 11:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Tony Duell (UK)

Hello everyone,

Just some thoughts prompted by Tony. I don't have access to any of these old calc's but I would imagine that it would be possible for anyone familiar with electronics to fathom the system used.

If the charger/power supply is doing the rectification and regulation, then a similar unit could be built. If a working system is available for 'probing' then that would be even better.

If the charger/power supply has no obvious rectification or regulation, then these must be on the calc's circuit board and again it would be possible to identify them. Also look for some form of cooling fin.

Regulators are usually ICs, but I suppose very old equipment might have a regulator built round an opamp or discrete transistors.

Go carefully with that multimeter...

David

Re: chargers for HP calculators...

*Message #6 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 10 Jan 2002, 2:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by David H Thompson

Many of the HP chargers have been 'fathomed out' as you put it. The circuitry is often very simple, but it does depend on the characteristics of things like the transformer. AFAIK, no HP handheld calculator series ever used 'traditional' voltage regulator chips. The earliest series (the 'classics') has a fairly complicated charger with internal regulation circuirty. Using discrete components. 4 diodes + an electrolytic cap to get about 16V DC from the transformer. Then a classic zener + emitter follower circuit to give a stabilised 4.2V (or so) for the logic. And 2 transistors (the base-emitter junction of one connected across a current sensing shunt resistor, the collector current of this trnansistor then controls the other one) as a constant current supply to charge the NiCds. That charger could be reproduced I think as all the components are 'known'. Some later series use the battery as a shunt regulator. The voltage across an NiCd under charge is not going to rise above 1.5V per cell. The 'charger' can be as simple a the transformer (in the AC adapter module) and a diode + resistor in series in the calculator. In fact the Woodstock and Spice series do just that. The problem is that if the battery goes open-circuit then the terminal voltage rises and this tends to blow up logic chips :-(. In the topcats HP protected against this by a little circuuit that loads the output of the AC adapter if the battery terminal voltage tries to rise above the Vss (+6.2V) line from the logic board power converter circuit. That's why a Topcat with power converter problems will draw around 1A from the battery pack, BTW. Anyway, these machines (Woodstocks, Spices, Topcats, HP41 printer, HPIL tape drive, etc (which use the Topcat battery, AC adapter and much the same charger circuit) depend on the characteristics of the transformer to work correctly. There's a linear falloff of AC output voltage with increasing load current (I've measured it). You can't use just any transformer and expect it to work (or indeed be safe for the calculator). HP did sell adapters to charge some of these calculators from a 12V DC input (a car battery, for example). They're quite complicated inside (half a dozen transistors + R's and C's) and have a somewhat strange output characteristic. The one for the Woodstock series (which I've had in bits on the bench) acts as a constant current source with an output current suitable for charging the NiCd pack until you load it more heavily. Then the output current jumps to a higher (but again constant on further increasing the load current). This second current is enough both to charge the battery and run the calculator. If you had to make a charger for the Woodstocks (or the Spice series which have essentially the same battery and internal charger circuit) you might have to make something like the 12V input charger and run it from a bench PSU.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #7 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 3:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tony Duell (UK)

Tony, regarding the simpler AC adapters, you have enlightened me in earlier threads about the current limiting function of the resistance of the transformer secondary winding. If one were trying to substitute another transformer with the same open-circuit output voltage, and added an additional resistance in series so that the total resistance was the same as the original transformer secondary, could similar performance and protection of the calculator be expected?

Also, I understand that a transformer must be considered to transform resistance (or impedance) as well as voltage and current. This suggests the resistance or impedance of the primary winding would also act to limit current. Would adding a resistance in series with the primary as well as the secondary allow a transformer with the same open-circuit output voltage behave like another transformer (assuming the substitute had less resistance in both windings than the original)? Can this be generalized so that, for instance, a table of transformer winding DC resistances could be published which could be used to calculate series resistances to add to the measured resistance of a substitute transformer's windings?

In any case, I think the biggest problem with rigging up a substitute AC adapter is the varied and non-standard connectors HP used.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 10 Jan 2002, 4:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ellis Easley

My guess is that you could use a normal transformer with a suitable resistor in series. I'd put it in series with the low-voltage secondary winding, but it should be possible to use one in series with the primary instead. I'd not start by measuring the DC resistances of the transformer windings, though, as they'd not tell you the full story by any means. What I'd do is take the results I'd measured from a real HP charger. Say it was 12V and 11 Ohms (those values are about right for a Topcat, btw). I'd take a 12V transformer and a 10 Ohm (say) resistor, link the resistor in series with the secondary and determine the intenral resistance of the combination by doing the well-known (high school?) experiment of loading it with various resistors and measuring ther terminal voltage. Then I'd adjust the resistor to give me the internal resistance I wanted. Would I trust that on a HP calculator? It should be OK, but... As regards the connectors. the pins from disk drive power sockets will fit the pins on a Topcat charger connector. You'd just have to make the housing. And I suspect a cut-apart edge connector

could be made to work in a Spice charger socket, but I've not tried it. I have made most types of male (as on the calculators) charger connector, which involved turning the pins from brass rod. Not trivial, but possible in a reasonable home workshop.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #9 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 6:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

I just read your earlier post re: HP67 charger. That's putting a 3421A to good use! I've got a 3421A with the 10 channel mux. I know I can use two of the channels as external switches. I've planned to do something similar to what you describe to experiment with rechargable batteries: charge them while monitoring voltage and current, then connect a load and monitor voltage and current over time to determine charge capacity. If you use the mux actuator channels to switch load currents, what precautions do you use to protect the relays on the mux board? I know they are rated 2A max but I think I want to use external relays so the mux will only have to switch the relay coil current. Recently I got a digital IO board for the 3421A (haven't tested it yet) which will probably be better to control the loads with external relays.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #10 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 10 Jan 2002, 6:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Ellis Easley

I didn't use the 'Actuator channels' to switch loads -- like you I was worried about damaging the relays. My 3421 has a 10 channel mux card and a digital I/O card in it. I used the 8 outputs from the digital I/O card to control 8 external relays. I even stuck a ULN2803 chip between the digital outputs and the relay coils -- yes the digital I/O card should have been able to handle the coil current, but the chip was cheap and it removed a possible worry. I used 7 of the relays to control a series chain of resistors (Each relay contact shorted out one resistor in the chain, resistors in an approximate doubling sequence, with a 10 Ohm in series with the whole lot so it couldn't totally short out the charger). The last relay connected the resistor chain to the output of the charger. I used 2 of the analogue input channels of the 3421, one connected to the output of the charger, the other to the resistor chain. The software does the following : With the 'last relay' open, it tries all 128 combiations of the other relays and measures the resistance of the chain. That way I can use chaep 5% wirewound resistors and only have to worry about calibrating the 3421, With the 'last relay' still open, measure the (AC) voltage at the

terminals of the charger. Then close the last relay and try all 128 combinations of the other relays again. Measure the voltage at the charger terminals, and calculate the current (V/R, where R is the known resistance of the chain for that relay setting). Then plot V against I for that device. Incidentally, the reactive component of the internal impedance of the HP chargers seems to be negiligable, so it's quite OK just to use resistive loads and treat the thing like a DC problem.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #11 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 8:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thanks for the tips! I like the idea of measuring the resistors instead of using precision ones, although I might use one low resistance precision resistor in series with the variable load to monitor the current with another voltmeter channel. I'm curious to know if you have anything to say about the 3421A voltmeter drifting up (I started another thread about this).

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #12 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:33 p. m.,*
in response to message #11 by Ellis Easley

If you know the value of a resistor (which we've just agreed you can measure) and the voltage across it (the terminal voltage of the AC adapter) then you can trivially work out the current. And for a DC circuit, or an AC one with negligable reactance (as here, amazingly) that's all you need to do.

Re: chargers for HP calculators...
*Message #13 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 13 Jan 2002, 10:53 p. m.,*
in response to message #12 by Tony Duell (UK)

I was going to say "because the resistance measurements are less accurate than the voltage measurements" but I thought I should check the specs and make sure. Now I wonder how the resistance measurement can be more accurate than the voltage considering the voltmeter function is involved in making the resistance measurement? The specs say the ohmmeter (on the lower ranges) is a little better than the voltmeter, except

between 90 days and one year after calibration. The voltmeter is better on the 3V range than the 0.3V range, but even then the ohmmeter is equal to the voltmeter in accuracy. This seems to suggest that the current source used for the resistance measurement is perfect!

Could this be like Microsoft giving the Office people better info on the Windows API than outside developers? Did HP give the ohmmeter function a better voltmeter that it gave to the user via the front panel?

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HP-49G Programming Tutorial

*Message #1 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 9 Jan 2002, 7:31 a.m.*

Hello,

I'm looking for a programming tutorial for the HP-49G. I mean the "normal" programming not assembler, systemRPL etc. Does anyone know an Internet or printed ressource ? Any hint is very much appreciated - thank you.

Re: HP-49G Programming Tutorial

*Message #2 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 9 Jan 2002, 8:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

A place that sells the HP49G and accessories, books, PC Connectivity kits, and more is Calcpro website www.calcpro.com. I have purchased from them several times and have had good dealings with its manager, Paul Nelson.

Re: HP-49G Programming Tutorial

*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 9 Jan 2002, 8:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

Hi;

I still believe the best programming material for the 49 (basic User RPL, neither algebraic, nor Sys RPL) is the existing 48`s related stuff, say, User`s guide, AUR, and so. If I was not known about the 48`s usage, I thing I`d never be able to use some more of wnat is writen in the 49`s docs.

I`d search for 48`s related stuff. The HP48G AUR is a good starting point. If you are interested also in Algebraic Procedures, there are some books mentioned by Albert Graef in previous posts. There, Albert wrote: *"I suggest taking a look at Urroz' books "Science and Engineering Mathematics with the HP 49G", available from http://www.greatunpublished.com/."*. I`m ordering them soon, and I believe the topics in the books will mention features that would be

better known before reading. That`s my feeling: knowing a bit about the 48 will help a lot using the 49.

Cheers.

Re: HP-49G Programming Tutorial
*Message #4 Posted by **Arnold Steekelenburg** on 9 Jan 2002, 4:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Karl-Ludwig Butte

Hi Karl-Ludwig,

A good start can be at the HP Knowledge Base site:

http://cgi-bin.spaceports.com/~hpkb/index.php

Some tutorials on UserRPL can be found there.

Also browse www.hpcalc.org. A lot of documentation there.

The books by Urroz are realy good. I learned a lot by reading them.

Arnold

Re: HP-49G Programming Tutorial
*Message #5 Posted by **Karl-Ludwig Butte** on 10 Jan 2002, 10:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Arnold Steekelenburg

Thanks to all of you. The contribution of Arnold Steekelenburg helped most. Hope one day I can return the favour

---

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HP49
*Message #1 Posted by **Christian Miller** on 8 Jan 2002, 7:50 p.m.*

The 49G lacks the equation library of the 48. I have a 49G but obviously no equation library, this is especially troubling for me. I have tried to acquire the library from a 48G but cannot by my means. Does anyone know how to transfer this library, if it's possible or where to find a proper equation library (espec. for physics)? Thanks for your input.

Re: HP49
*Message #2 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 8 Jan 2002, 8:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Christian Miller

Try this:

http://www.hpcalc.org/hp49/math/misc/

download the file called ECLIB 1.00 and BZ+49

Cheers,

Marx Pio

Re: HP49
*Message #3 Posted by **Christian Miller** on 8 Jan 2002, 10:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Marx Pio

Thanks so much Mr. Pio

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HP 9845 -- Language Processor Defect (?)
*Message #1 Posted by **Petr Horsky** on 8 Jan 2002, 1:52 p.m.*

I've been given a HP 9845B (the first computer I ever touched, 23 years ago). When powered on, it hangs up with the "MEMORY TEST IN PROGRESS" message (except that it responds properly to CONTROL-STOP). All supply voltages seem to be reasonable, both on the test points and on the left-hand set of boards.

I think I can recall dimly that the I/O Processor (which also controls the CRT) is responsible of performing the power-on tests, prior to resetting (and passing the control to) the Language Processor. Therefore, it appears the Language Processor may be bad, but I have no idea how to identify the defect closer. Obviously I don't wish to make more harm than anything else.

I would be grateful for any advice.

Petr

Re: HP 9845 -- Language Processor Defect (?)
*Message #2 Posted by **Olda Capinsky** on 14 Jan 2002, 3:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Petr Horsky

I have ingood fit HP9845B and moor options. Olda

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AARRRRG! Stupid !#$@*&! HP-17BII!

*Message #1 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 8 Jan 2002, 1:25 p.m.*

Hello all:

Last night I was going to write a program on my 17BII to keep it busy for a **LONG** time. (I was going to run some battery-consumption tests) I found a program for the 28S that computes digits of PI (four digits at a time---don't ask me *how or why* it works). Well, I thought to myself: "Wouldn't this be a cool way to keep a 17BII busy for a long time---and it would be a *productive* task too!"

I looked at the 28S code in detail. Nothing too fancy. Now, the ONLY apparently tough part would be implementing an analog to an array in the 28S (it needs to be ~3 times the size of the number of digits you want to generate). No problem, right? The 17BII has "SUM" lists! And, I can pick values out of the list for operations...WOW, this might be possible...

:-D

But, nooooooooo. The HP 17BII is so handicapped, that they don't allow **ANY** way to put values INTO a SUM list in a program---only get them OUT! **!#$@*&!**

>:-(

So, by any chance...Has anyone ever **HEARD** of any back doors? Anything like the SYSEVAL for the 28S? ANY WAY AT ALL to do what thay didn't want to allow for? I love my 17BIIs, and I enjoy the *challenge* of programming them, but sometimes it's frustrating when you SEE the potential, but you *just* can't get there!

Any experts out there? Anyone *know* anyone who might know?

Thanks, Bruce.

p.s. As it is, the machine is just counting to 10,000,000. How **boring and unproductive!**

;-)

Bueller...Bueller...Bueller...Bueller...
*Message #2 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 9 Jan 2002, 12:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Isn't there *ANY* 17BII guru out there? Am I the *only* engineer on this list who tries to do things on this calculator?

;-)

Thanks,
Bruce.

Re: You just might be!!!
*Message #3 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 9 Jan 2002, 3:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I will use a 19B on occasion, but only because it DOES have trig functions. I actually prefer the 27s even if it is only algebraic to the 17b (which is RPN selectable). However, I like the 42s best and suspect that you will too. The solver is nice on the 17, 19 and 27, but the 42's multitude of feature (and RAM 8o), make it MY CHOICE!).

Upgrade!!! 8o)

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They are there...
*Message #1 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 8 Jan 2002, 12:58 p.m.*

Pals,

I found where are the voyagers...

http://www.decodesystems.com/hpcalcs.html

He has 16 HP15C and 15 HP16C. I want to tell him that I accept gifts ;)

Pio

Re: They are there...
*Message #2 Posted by **Erwin** on 9 Jan 2002, 4:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

But he has no 42S HaHaHA! I have three of them. :-)

Re: They are there...
*Message #3 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 9 Jan 2002, 3:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Erwin

I have 3 too!

Re: They are there...
*Message #4 Posted by **Erwin** on 10 Jan 2002, 6:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Randy Smith

Doesn't that feel good, Randy? :-)

Re: They are there...
*Message #5 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 10 Jan 2002, 9:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Erwin

Yes it does! I got mine the old fashioned way, I scoured pawn shops. I do carry one around with me but don't use it too much. My 32e gets used the most actually. There is just something about a red LED display.

Re: They are there...
*Message #6 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 10 Jan 2002, 9:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Erwin

Sorry guys,

My favorite HP are from the voyagers series. You all lucky having 3 units of your favorites ones. I have only one 42S and I rarely use it.

Pio

Re: They are there...
*Message #7 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 10 Jan 2002, 2:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Marx Pio

Just to say I also have one 42S. I'd rather buy two, three of them at the time they were for sale. Should we all know they would be taken out of our life some months before they stop production...

Cheers.

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HP41`s display characters: True Type Fonts
*Message #1 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 8 Jan 2002, 12:37 a.m.*

Hi, folks;

I read Malaga`s post now, and what he wants (who else?) I have already created by using Corel Draw 3 a few years ago (1996). It's a True Type Font that allows ALL CHARACTERS available at the 41`s display to be shown in any Windows application (that uses true-type fonts, of course).

I was almost sure this was available elsewhere, so I did not give it (myself) so much credit. Let me know and I`ll gladly send it to those who want.

If it is a better solution, I can send it to the HP Museum's guest place and let anyone download it (Dave?!...)

Please, note that the font was created as an ordinary font, not a symbol font. I would like to know if there is an easy way to change this status, cause I have also a 10-Series font that I would like being a symbol font, not a character font.

Last thing: the font is not perfect at all; I draw the basic 14-segment with dots/periods/commas - a matrix - and save it as a CDR file. All I did was load the matrix back, delete unused segments (for each character) and export the new drawing as a TTF file. This way, all characters maintain the same, equivalent aspect. I am not good keeping measures and proportions, so the characters may appear a bit awkward on the screen, and when printed, they are a bit thin, mostly cause I draw the matrix based on the fullnut display. Nothing that a bold resolution (Word, Wordpad) cannot correct. (I must confess it took me no more than 6-7 hours working to create the font; in fact, it was easier than any of the three 48`s TTF)

Forgive-me not posting this before. I thought Malaga`s post was about any subject other than TTF.

Cheers.

No e-mails ...
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 9 Jan 2002, 6:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi;

as a destiny faith, my provider was updated yesterday, January 8th. Since then, all e-mails for me were lost (till now I cannot access my e-box). Please, if any of you asked me for the 41`s fonts, I`d like you e-mailing me again OR post your needs here in this thread (safer). I`m not yet able to read my e-mails, but I was ensured they won`t be lost.

Thanks and forgive-me.

Re: No e-mails ...
*Message #3 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 9 Jan 2002, 7:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz:

I sent you an email commenting on the font, and also sending you two graphic files with samples of the fonts I made. I hope you do receive that email; if not, let me know and I'll resend it as soon as you're able once more to get to it.

There's one small problem with your font, though: the characters look too tall. Please consider running it through your font editor and reduce their height to, say, 90%.

Once again, if anyone knows how to convert Mac TrueType fonts to Windows, **please** let me know! I'd like to make these fonts available to everyone here.

--Ernie

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keeping collection (not so much displaying)
*Message #1 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 7 Jan 2002, 4:10 p.m.*

There was a thread a couple weeks ago about storing/displaying our calculator collections. I found some nice small wooden tool boxes at Walmart that were marked down after Christmas. They have very nice wood and heavy hardware on the outside. Inside there is a lift-out tray (made of pressed board, lined with green felt-like stuff (faux felt?), with a wooden dowel handle) which is just the right size to fit many models. Below the tray there is room for AC adapters, cases, manuals etc.

The tray holds four Classics or Spices or 41's side by side. It looks like it would hold five Woodstocks. Voyagers fit four abreast and two high with their cases. You can do the same with Pioneers but you have to take them out of the case and can then stack the cases with the calculators. That gives a very good idea of the size of the tray.

All the AC adapters I have (US types) fit in the bottom with their prongs pointing up with plenty of clearance for the tray. Most of my manuals fit one way or the other. For instance, Pioneer manuals fit with the spine to the front, Voyager manuals with the spine to the side. Unfortunately, 41 manuals are a tight fit. But the 41 really needs another solution because of all the accessories.

The only thing is, seeing how popular tools are at pawn shops, if my house is robbed, they'll probably take the boxes and then throw away the calculators!

Re: keeping collection (not so much displaying)
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 7 Jan 2002, 8:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ellis Easley

Hi, Ellis.

Is there a way to show these boxes? Say, is there a site to holst the pictures (will you take some for us?), maybe Dave`s guest place, so we can see them?

I believe they are as you describe, I would like just to have a look (I`m somewhat far from Walmart...)

Thanks.

Re: keeping collection (not so much displaying)
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 8 Jan 2002, 1:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I thought that WalMart was EVERYWHERE... just like $tarBuck$

Re: keeping collection (not so much displaying)
*Message #4 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 3:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I don't have a website (although I think I am entitled to one through my ISP) but I will take a picture and email it to you. I need to look in to setting up my own site.

As Paul Harvey says, "you'll never have a better neighbor ... than WalMart"

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Life the universe and HP
*Message #1 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 7 Jan 2002, 8:27 a.m.*

Sorry if this is old ground but...

D Adams wrote a little book called 'The Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy' in which the answer to life the universe and everything was '42'. Which was more a problem with the meaning of the question than it's answer. (Although the numbers 6 and 9 came into it).

The answer was generated by a huge super computer and took many 1000's of years to compute so even those with a brain the size of a planet may need a few seconds to think about this one.

Many theories have been put forward, withdrawn, forgotten, put forward again etc etc about how he chose '42' (including the use of base 13 - which he denied)

All HP fans know the HP42 is THE calculating answer to life the universe and everything but was Mr Adams aware of the HP42 or was Mr Hewlett or Packard or some other underling a fan of the books???

Very sadly Douglas Adams died recently in middle age (whilst living in the USA) so the real answer may never be known but does anyone here know of a connection?

PS If you havent already read the books (ace) listened to the BBC radio series (faaaannnntastic) or seen the BBC's TV series (a bit naff) then do so - I'm sure you will enjoy them.

Re: Life the universe and HP
*Message #2 Posted by **Scotty** on 7 Jan 2002, 10:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tom (UK)

G'Day Tom Hope you haven't spent to long pondering this one! Doug was a pretty entertaining Man. Fortunately for you, before he hitched a ride out of this life,he did give a interveiw within the last two or three years. Don't quote me, but what I do remember from that interveiw was 42 was the most boring number he could think of, and nothing more in it than that. What you must understand he was writing a humorous yarn, a bloody good one at that. Hope this hasn't unravelled any cosmic theories but it was a nice idear Tom. Best Wishes Scotty.

Re: Life the universe and HP
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 7 Jan 2002, 4:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tom (UK)

I'm not sure but I think the Hitch Hiker's Guide predates the HP42s. But regardless of Douglas Adams' intentions, I think parallels can be drawn. Here is a quick attempt:

1. HP is the ultimate computer that Deep Thought built. 2. Market Pressures, interpreted by Marketing People, led things astray. The marketing people undoubtedly carpool to work in the B Ark. 3. We are the apes.

Love that UK lingo!
*Message #4 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 9 Jan 2002, 12:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tom (UK)

Tom:

...read the books (ace) listened to the BBC radio series (faaaannnntastic) or seen the BBC's TV series (a bit naff)...

"**ace**" and "**naff**"...I love that 'cross-the-pond' lingo!

"Naff"...I *have* to figure out a way to work *that* into a conversation soon!

;-)

Bruce (just another 'Yank').

Re: Love that UK lingo!
*Message #5 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 4:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by W. Bruce Maguire II

What does "naff" mean? I watch a lot of British shows on our public TV stations (we have two here in Dallas-Fort Worth) and I've heard this a lot but haven't "sussed" (?) the meaning. I understand it is not a complement.

Regarding the Hitch Hiker's Guide, I've watched the TV series and read the books including the ones that go beyond the series (I remember one is subtitled 'the fifth volume in the increasingly misnamed trilogy ...') and also a couple of "Dirk Gently" mystery stories by Douglas Adams that were very enjoyable. I never heard the radio series although my brother told me it was broadcast on our public radio station. From a preface in one of the books, I understand that the radio series was made without the copyright clearances that are required to publish a work as a recording, so that the recording of the radio series that is available commercially is yet another edition of the story. A couple of years ago I was corresponding with someone in the UK who needed an HP manual (this was before the MOHPC CDs) and he was going to send me copies of his off-the-air recording of the radio series but it never transpired. I won't go any further because I don't want to violate Dave's website policy.

Re: Love that UK lingo!
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 10 Jan 2002, 6:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ellis Easley

Naf - The closest equivalent in modern slang is uncool. Something that lacks style and sophistocation. For example a cheap watch calculator is naf. To coin a phrase; "Naf is in the eye of the beholder".

The HHG was first written as a radio play. It was then rewritten (I think the book came next) twice, once for the book and again for the TV series. Each media production produced a different version.

I was lucky enough recently to get a copy on audio CD of the radio play.

Re: Love that UK lingo!
*Message #7 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 10 Jan 2002, 8:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Yani

Is your CD of the radio show a commercial product or did someone burn you a CD from an off-the-air recording? It is my understanding that the commercial version of the radio show had to be changed a little because of copyright clearances. I learned this from a preface in a recent volume that combined all the books in one. You can play copyrighted material for broadcast without permission (to a limited degree) but a recording of the broadcast can't be pubished in its own right until you get permission from the copyright holders of the material you incorporated. The difference in the two versions of the radio show is probably minor, probably some music from a record that the copyright holders wanted an outrageous amount of money in exchange for the use of. Some years ago when the company I worked for was putting together a sampler CD for our first multimedia PC (ca. Windows 3.1) the software developers wanted to include a few seconds of music everyone would recognize. They wanted to use a bit of the theme to "I Love Lucy" but the copyright holders wanted $50,000. So instead, a co-worker who was a decent Irish tenor got together with a friend who had a MIDI synthesizer and they made a pretty good impression of an opera singer accompanied by an orchestra. For a video clip, they found a few seconds of "The Great Train Robbery" that had been used in a US Army training film and was therefore in the public domain.

Re: Love that UK lingo!
*Message #8 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Jan 2002, 6:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ellis Easley

Comercial recording. I do not know wether it differed from the origonal. I have only heard the origonal once and that was twenty years ago when it was first broadcast in Australia. I think the music is origonal - it seems to sound familiar. A friend has the CDs at the moment. I will check it out.

If anybody is interested I can post the details.

Re: Love that UK lingo!
*Message #9 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 13 Jan 2002, 11:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

If you've heard the original and like the commercial version, I'll take that as a good recommendation and start looking for the CDs.

Re: Love that UK lingo! - The Hitch-Hikers Guide to The Galaxy
*Message #10 Posted by **Yani** on 27 Jan 2002, 1:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

The Hitch-Hikers Guide To The Gallery.

Six CD set Cat # BBCCD 6001.

There is no indication that the recordings differ from the origonal broadcasts.

Re: Love that UK lingo! - The Hitch-Hikers Guide to The Galaxy
*Message #11 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 29 Jan 2002, 4:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Yani

Even better! Thanks for posting the info.

BTW, what do you think of my first comment in this thread, which I reproduce below:

I'm not sure but I think the Hitch Hiker's Guide predates the HP42s. But regardless of Douglas Adams' intentions, I think parallels can be drawn. Here is a quick attempt:

1. HP is the ultimate computer that Deep Thought built. 2. Market Pressures, interpreted by Marketing People, led things astray. The marketing people undoubtedly carpool to work in the B Ark. 3. We are the apes.

Re: Love that UK lingo! - The Hitch-Hikers Guide to The Galaxy
*Message #12 Posted by **Yani** on 29 Jan 2002, 4:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Ellis Easley

HHG certainly predated the 42S by more than five years.

1. Interesting proposition

2. If you recall, the demise of the people who launched the B ark there was a strange twist. We all need the lower forms of life - such as marketing people and telephone sanitisers. If only to make us look good. :-)

3. Yes that was the theory.

Re: Love that UK lingo! - The Hitch-Hikers Guide to The Galaxy
*Message #13 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 31 Jan 2002, 11:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Yani

Maybe I'm being to subtle. I mean we HP RPN users are the apes. We were working on the question, but someone took our calculators away!

Re: Love that UK lingo! - New game.
*Message #14 Posted by **Yani** on 1 Feb 2002, 1:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Ellis Easley

Ha ha!

We could invent a game that tries to work out the type of B ark ancestor a person has. Carly for instance! But according to your theory that game could not be applied to us.

BTW Do you think that HP RPN users automaticaly qualify for membership to DNRC? (This is a sly trick to try to get back on topic.)

Re: Love that UK lingo! - New game.
*Message #15 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 1 Feb 2002, 4:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Yani

Don't tell me what DNRC is, I'm going to work on it. But in an effort to stay off topic a little longer, and explain my idea a little more:

Carly is a first-generation B-Arker (Oh my God! might Bea Arthur be a B-Arker?) We are ape species. The time is now! Is it not in our time that the choice of the keyboard legend colors was changed from functional to aesthetic (or????)?

Re: Love that UK lingo -- How about "chuffed"?
*Message #16 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 12 Jan 2002, 11:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I heard (from an Australian, I think -- not *exactly* the UK) the word "chuffed" as in, "... actually I'm rather chuffed that you'd confide in me . . ."

I took it to be rather complimentary, as in "pleased" or "pleasantly surprised" (but I may have misinterpretad the sentiment!)

Re: Love that UK lingo -- How about "chuffed"?
*Message #17 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 12 Jan 2002, 11:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Paul Brogger

my favorite britishism is the verb "to wank". they conjugate it SO many ways. and it is very useful as a qualifer too, such as "toss faced wankpot". it's the bee's knees.

French to English can also make problems.
*Message #18 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 15 Jan 2002, 7:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #17 by db(martinez,california)

I remembered this one : I was in London with a friend and we decided to go to the restaurant.

French people usually like their meat rare. But in French, you say "saignant", which litterally meeans "bleeding".

So my friend asked... a bloody steak ! I was expecting the waiter, typically british, not to loose his temper and answer... "Certainly Sir ! and I'll bring you some fu**ing potatoes !" :-)

Another one, well broadcasted by a French actor who authentified the story, is the one of a Frenchmen in London doing some shopping for his kids in London. He saw a donkey teddy in the display and asked, with a very marked French accent to the saleswoman "Would you please show me your asne on the window"?

Re: French to English can also make problems.
*Message #19 Posted by **Ren** on 15 Jan 2002, 10:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #18 by Thibaut.be

Thibauld wrote: He saw a donkey teddy in the display and asked, with a very marked French accent to the saleswoman "Would you please show me your asne on the window"?

Donkey Teddy? I had to think about that one, as Teddy (US English) refers to a certain type of woman's apparel (a skimpy pajama). Just go to victoriassecret. com and do a lookup on teddy (though I've never actually been to there website!).

Then I realized you WERE talking about a stuffed animal toy, right?

Re: French to English can also make problems.
*Message #20 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 15 Jan 2002, 10:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #19 by Ren

Yes that's right, a stufed animal toy...

Many years ago when checking into a UK bed and breakfast
*Message #21 Posted by **Dave Hicks (USA)** on 13 Jan 2002, 7:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by W. Bruce Maguire II

The very proper lady of the house finished signing me in and asked "And what time shall I knock you up?"

And I just stared for awhile and finally managed to say "Excuse me?"

Re: Many years ago ... add "rubbers"!
*Message #22 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 14 Jan 2002, 4:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Dave Hicks (USA)

Right. I've an associate (female) who was surprised with the "knock you up" phrase while visiting Rolls-Royce. Add to that being taken aback when told where in the office to get "rubbers" (erasers), and you can imagine her introduction to UK lingo was a shocking one, indeed!

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How to turn HP 6S Solar off ?
*Message #1 Posted by **mapet** on 7 Jan 2002, 2:58 a.m.*

I've got it for several week s and I can not turn it off. It does not turn off automaticaly as other simmilar calculators.

Why?
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 7 Jan 2002, 8:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

Is there an advantage in turning it off?

Have you tried covering up the solar cell for 5 mins?

What about smashing it with a hammer - although turning it on again might be a problem - oh for the HP's of old.

The casio (yuk) FX451 solar could be turn off by pressing 3 keys at the same time (this feature was not in the manual). However you had to press them EXACTLY at the same time so it often took several goes. I think the keys were AC, =, Shift.

PS Can you get the TEXET Albert II in the US? Here in the UK it looks exactly like the HP6 (S). There is now a TEXET Albert III with a 2 line display and horrible user interface - any HP's in the pipeline like that?

Re: Why?
*Message #3 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 7 Jan 2002, 8:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tom (UK)

What about smashing it with a hammer - although turning it on again might be a problem

Why would anyone want to turn back on that abomination? It looks, feels, and works exactly like a cheap Japanese calculator.

So use your hammer... and then the wastebasket.

-Ernie

Re: Why (not)?
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 7 Jan 2002, 3:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tom (UK)

>What about smashing it with a hammer - although turning it on again might be a problem - oh for the HP's of old.

Is there anything I lost in here? What`s up? (...and I`m called `nutz` by my falks)

Laughing sometimes is a must... Thanks, Tony.

Cheers,

Re: How to turn HP 6S Solar off ?
*Message #5 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 7 Jan 2002, 8:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by mapet

Pal,

I think the solar type is joke from HP, well you have to take off the battery (battery?)and put some tape over solar cells ;)

If you want to keep it only solar powered just keep it without the battery but it wont work at half-light.

Marx Pio

Re: How to turn HP Albert off ?

*Message #6 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 7 Jan 2002, 2:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Marx Pio

Hi,

the joke was made by Texet. The 'HP6S Solar' *is* a relabelled Texet Albert.

Raymond

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Need a Card Reader Head for HP-97
*Message #1 Posted by **Paul Nelson** on 6 Jan 2002, 10:41 p.m.*

Hi all- I need a head assy for an HP-97 Card Reader. Think an HP-95 or 67 will work- don't need the motor or the gear wheel- just the head and carrier assembly.

Anyone have something I might be able to use?

Re: Need a Card Reader Head for HP-97
*Message #2 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 8 Jan 2002, 5:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Paul Nelson

I suppose (not sure) that the HP41 Card Reader head will fit your needs, and may be easier to obtain.

Re: Need a Card Reader Head for HP-97
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 8 Jan 2002, 5:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

The HP41 head will not fit easily. The heads are glues to the support plate, after being aligned at the factory. It's normal to have to replace the head and support plate (reader lower chassis, basically) as an assembly. The HP97 and HP67 (and I think the HP65) all use much the same support plate, so you can interchange the entire assembly. The one for the HP41 is totally different (although I think the head itself is electrically much the same -- certainly the same sense amplifier chip -- 1826-0322 is used in the 67, 97 amd 41.

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DAO ?
*Message #1 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 6 Jan 2002, 12:25 p.m.*

I often see the abreviation "DOA" in ebay listings. Could anyone tell me what it stands for ?

Thanks !

Re: DAO ?
*Message #2 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 6 Jan 2002, 12:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

One usual meaning (there may be others) is "Dead On Arrival", there was even a film with such title.

Re: DAO ?
*Message #3 Posted by **glynn** on 6 Jan 2002, 1:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Yes, in american pop culture, this term "DOA" came about because emergency hospitals and paramedics use this designation. A "DAS" (Dead At Scene) was a corpse prior to transport to the morgue section of a hospital. "DOA" is a patient who did not make it alive on the trip to the hospital emergency room.

While it doesn't make a lot of sense to classify material things like electronics in terms like this, the use of the term on television and in movies has led "DOA" to just be a general euphemism for something already dead (non-functional) before you got to it... especially something that may be beyond practical repair.

Of course, thibaut, those doing the classifying may not know "dead" from "needs work".

Re: DAO ?

*Message #4 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 6 Jan 2002, 3:33 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by glynn

Thanks for your explanations !

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hp 67 battery charger
*Message #1 Posted by **pierre Voinot** on 6 Jan 2002, 11:24 a.m.*

I recently bought an old HP 67 in very bad state. There is a lot of problems to solve before being able to use it again.

The first one concerns the battery charger, whose specs are : "82022B battery charger - AC adapter ... output 50 mA/4.2 V" When plugged in a 220 V socket, the measured DC voltage very slowly increases from about -1.6V to definitively reach the value of 0.42V instead of 4V.

Any idea ?

Re: hp 67 battery charger
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 6 Jan 2002, 12:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by pierre Voinot

Well, as these are quite frequently for sale on ebay, my advice would be to purchase a good one over there...

Re: hp 67 battery charger
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 6 Jan 2002, 4:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by pierre Voinot

The big filter cap in these things has a habit of going bad. It is a 400uF/16V capacitor (usually orange) that is standing on end. Try replacing it... they are cheap. Charges seem to go for $35 +/- $10 on Ebay... not cheap.

Re: hp 67 battery charger

*Message #4 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 6 Jan 2002, 7:15 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by pierre Voinot

How are you measuring the output voltage? The HP67 charger has a 3 pin connector. The middle pin is logic ground. One of the outside pins is a voltage-regulated 4V (or so) supply for the calculator's logic chips. The other outside pin is a 50mA (or so) constant current source to charge the NiCd. The open-circuit voltage of that is around 17V. You should check these 2 outputs sepatately, with the -ve lead of your voltmeter on the centre contact of the connector and the +ve lead on each outside one in turn. If it still seems bad, then you need to look inside. Unplug the charger from the mains. There is live mains on the PCB inside when it's plugged in, but there's no stored high voltage, so it's safe to take apart when unplugged. Take out the 4 little screws on the bottom and separate the case. If you have one of the dual-voltage (115V/230V) models, then the voltage selector switch will fall apart at this point. Don't lose the parts, and note how they go. In fact clean the contacts of the swtich now. The circuitry is not complicated. There's a mains transformer, bridge rectifier and smoothing cap (the tall electrolytic can) giving around 17V across the cap. In one corner of the PCB is a circuit consisting of a zener diode, resistor and transistor to give the +4.2V supply. In the other corner is a 2 transistor circuit to give the constant current supply. Some versions have a picofuse soldered to the PCB in series with the transformer secondary winding. Common failures are the fuse (if fitted), the output cable (check for continuity between the holes in the connector and the solder pads on the PCB -- bend/stretch the cable looking for problems). If those are OK, then solder a couple of wires onto the terminals of the electrolytic capacitor, put the case back together (it's essential to do this if you have the dual-voltage model since you need to have the voltage selector switch assembled, and it's a good idea on all models to avoid a possibly lethal mains shock). Connect your voltmeter to the 2 wires you connected to the cap and plug the charger into the mains. If you don't get around 17V DC there, then test the transformer, rectifier diodes, smoothing cap, mains wiring, etc. If you do, then check the components in the 2 regulator circuits.

Re: hp 67 battery charger

*Message #5 Posted by **Pierre Voinot** on 8 Jan 2002, 7:09 a.m.,*

in response to message #4 by Tony Duell (UK)

Hello Tony, The output on the secondary of the transformer is 13.2VAC. When I measure the 2 connector's output voltages, I get around 0.4 VDC on both side. The adapter is mono-voltage : 220V, no switch. After disassembling it, it appears that the fuse (Yes, there is a 3/8 A one) is broken. I replaced it by a strap (I know it's bad : I'll buy a new fuse this WE) and the new outputs are now : 15.4 VDC (is it enough ?) and 5.1VDC (is it too high ?). After one night, my new NiCad battery seems to work fine.

I will post soon some more questions about the keyboard, in very bad state. Thank you very much for your so quick & useful help.

Re: hp 67 battery charger
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 8 Jan 2002, 1:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Pierre Voinot

The voltages that you now measure seem right for a unit without any load. Even though the unit is regulated they do vary somewhat.

Re: hp 67 battery charger
*Message #7 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 8 Jan 2002, 2:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Pierre Voinot

The transformer secondary voltage sounds fine (I have no idea what your mains is, it may be a little lower than mine...). The voltage at the 'battery charger' output (in your case around 15V) is unregulated, so I think that's fine too. The 5.1V sounds a little high, but it's not high enough to do any damage to the 67 (it must _NOT_ exceed 6.2V, though, or you will have problems). You might want to check the zener diode/power transistor associated with that output. But again I think it's probably OK. As regards shorting out the fuse, HP did that in later production (I've got several 'classic' chargers with a wire link soldered to the PCB with the fuse rating etched into the copper alongside it). I don;t know, though, if they changed the spec of the transformer at this point to make it safe even if the output was shorted -- they may have done. So I'd probably want to fit a proper fuse soon. Waht's the problem with the keyboard? Mechanical, electrical?

Re: hp 67 battery charger
*Message #8 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 8 Jan 2002, 9:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Tony Duell (UK)

these things never seem to have the same voltage when tested as is printed on the case. maybe it is because of how we test them. for example; when neither me or the 82059D is loaded it gives 12.3 VAC but is rated at 8 (i haven't tried this with one or both of us loaded). if this was a problem we would all have burned out shells instead of working calculators so i'm not worried about it. btw; i tested a ti charger that gave almost twice it's supposed voltage and it does not seem to do any dammage, other than that it ruined the operating system and you have to enter your numbers backwards.

Re: hp 67 battery charger

*Message #9 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 9 Jan 2002, 5:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by db(martinez,california)

HP chargers are not simple as they appear!. For all but the 'classic' series, the charger is just a transformer. But it's a transformer with a carefully-controlled output characteristic. The voltage is designed to drop on-load, and to drop in a defined way. The official testing procedure for chargers (I believe) involves testing them open-circuit and then again with a specified load resistor across the output. These types will show a higher-than-expected output voltage off-load. Last year I built a charger tester. A box containing relays and resistors that plugs into an HP3421 data logger. Under program (HP71) control, it connects different loads to the charger and records the output voltage. And when some HPCC memebers find some other chargers for me to test, I'll hopefully be able to give the experimental specs for all of them. FWIW, for the AC input chargers it is possible to specify them just by the open-circuit voltage and internal resistance -- the V-I curve is _very_ linear. As I said, that applies to all chargers apart from the 'classic' one. And we're discussing a 'classic' one here. That charger contains a lot more than just a transformer. 3 trnasistors, 4 diodes, a zener, and a handful of R's and C's. This unit has an internal voltage regulator to run the machine and an internal current regulator to charge the NiCd battery. That's why the output voltage of the 'classic' charger should not be much higher off-load than when loaded.

Re: hp 67 keyboard

*Message #10 Posted by **pierre Voinot** on 9 Jan 2002, 7:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Tony Duell (UK)

I don't know what's wrong about the keyboard : the springs under numeric and the '+' keys seem like broken, and the C,D & E keys don't even respond (but their springs have a normal "feeling"). I'll try to open the case to understand and describe it more precisely (and perhaps clean the inside). The calc is old : 1977 according to his serial number and details found in HpMuseum.

Thanks again.

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HP15C manual PDF
*Message #1 Posted by **nick** on 6 Jan 2002, 8:06 a.m.*

is there a web-page where I can download a user manual for my HP15C in PDF?

Re: HP15C manual PDF
*Message #2 Posted by **J. Lopez (New York)** on 6 Jan 2002, 2:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by nick

You can get pdf copies of the User's Manual as well as the Advanced Functions manual for the 15C on the first CD of the set for sale here at the Museum. Order it and you'll be very happy with all the information contained in there.

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HP PC Connectivity Kit for HP-49 and Windows XP
*Message #1 Posted by **Jeff** on 5 Jan 2002, 10:11 p.m.*

Is there a functional problem with the HPComm program and the windows XP? Has anyone been through this yet? Is there a way to make it work? Please let me know. Jeff

Re: HP PC Connectivity Kit for HP-49 and Windows XP
*Message #2 Posted by **CJ** on 6 Jan 2002, 6:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jeff

I think there is something just functionaly wrong with the program, period.

I was using win98 at the time but don't think that would matter. I would try and backup and it would upload all the data and promptly crash. Leaving me without a backup file. I guess my data is in the null bucket.

I tried atleast a dozen times. I rebooted. I tried different settings. I made sure nothing else was running that might use the port. Finally I gave up in disgust.

I rebooted one last time, went into Linux this time and used C-kermit. Worked without a hitch and I now have a backup of my calc.

Whomever wrote that "software?" should have all there calcs taken away and stomped to dust in front of them. And they shouldn't be allowed to release anymore of there software to the general public. pure crapware.

Christopher

Re: HP PC Connectivity Kit for HP-49 and Windows XP
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 6 Jan 2002, 1:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jeff

Hi;

Which version (PC Connectivity Kit) is the one you`re using?

I connect both 48 and 49 with a PC running PC Connectility Kit, release 3.04 (if I am not wrong), undr Win 98. I am test-driving Windows XP and Windows ME. Now I`m curious about it.

I`m testing and posting something later.

Best regards.

Re: HP PC Connectivity Kit for HP-49 and Windows XP
*Message #4 Posted by **Arnold Steekelenburg** on 6 Jan 2002, 2:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jeff

Hi,

I never experienced any problems with the HP connectivity Kit r3.04b2.

I used it with win98/98SE/ME/2000 and now with XP. It never let me down.

Arnold

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Sting paper
*Message #1 Posted by **Todd Garabedian** on 5 Jan 2002, 3:33 p.m.*

Does anyone know of a replacement source for rolls of paper for the Sting series (HP-10A, HP-19C)?

I've been using NCR thermal calculator paper (2.25 in) from Staples in my Topcats, and it works great, but I need a source for my Stings.

Thanks, Todd

Re: Sting paper
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 5 Jan 2002, 5:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Todd Garabedian

I saw a guy that built a splitter for the wide 3 inch wide NCR rolls. He took a block of balsa wood (3x3x12 inches), glued some pieces of plywood to the sides to form a trough, mounted a vertical razor blade in the edge, used another piece of plywood to hold the paper down in the trough as he pulled it past the razor blade.

An off-the-shelf source is Sav-On office supply. They have boxes of 5 (?) rolls (not as long as HP's) in their catalog. Most of their stores don't stock it but can get in in within 24 hours.

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HP12C - format problem (periods and commas)
*Message #1 Posted by **WD Elliott** on 5 Jan 2002, 8:14 a.m.*

The periods and commas have switched on my 12C and I do not know how to convert them back. Suggestions.

E.g. 12.000,00 should be 12,000.00 Thanks.

Re: HP12C - format problem (periods and commas)
*Message #2 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 5 Jan 2002, 8:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by WD Elliott

The "USA Style" (1,000,000.00) and "european style" (1.000.000,00) are selected alternatively by turning the calculator off, and then turning it on while pressing the "." (sometimes referred as decimal point, radix, or virgule) key.

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HP-71B ROMs - ID ???
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 4 Jan 2002, 7:42 p.m.*

I have 4 HP-71B ROMS. They are marked with what appear to be military designations.

USA, Rev 0, M109A2A3, M198 1 of 2 USA, Rev 0, M109A2A3, M198 2 of 2 USA, Rev 0, M110A2, 1 of 2 USA, Rev 0, M110A2, 2 of 2

All are dated 1985.

I did a search just of the part numbers and come up with references to 109mm Howitzer, as you might expect.

I then contacted an Artillery group and asked if they ever used HP handhelds in conjunction with the use of these guns. The response I got back was yes, and was given dates that match the time that the HP-71B was released.

Anyone have any idea if that was the use of these ROMs? If not, anyone have any idea what these ROMs are use with?

Re: HP-71B ROMs - ID ???
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 5 Jan 2002, 7:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Hi,

I think they were used for ballistic calculations.

Raymond

Re: HP-71B ROMs - ID ???
*Message #3 Posted by **CJ** on 5 Jan 2002, 11:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Did you try CATaloging the ROMS to see what they hold?

CAT :PORT(1)

Maybe there is something of use hidden in one of them.

Christopher

Good Tip - Consistent with artillery
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 5 Jan 2002, 3:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by CJ

I did a Catalog of the ROMs and here is what was listed:

ROM-1 contained: VAL1, CKSUM0, WPNREL, WPNR1, BALDAT, CKSUM1, CMPT SHEAF, ZTOZ, DISORD, FMSN, CKSUM2, FMSN1, FMSN2 CORD, POLAR, SHIFT, CKSUM3, REGIST, RECPOL, GZ, REGCOR, BUCS

ROM-2 Contained: TARGET, CKSUM4, REGFIL, BTYDAT, BAMOUP, HICORD, INIT MVFILE, CKSUM5, CMTOBM, AFU, OK, METFIL METINI, OTFILE, SPPORT, TGTOBS

The other set of ROMs contain the same into.

Some of the catalog items seem to fit the use of these ROMs in targeting for Artillery.

Mike

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48sx to PC connectivity
*Message #1 Posted by **Chris Murphy** on 4 Jan 2002, 4:46 p.m.*

I was wondering if anyone knew if I purchase the PC connectivity pack for the hp-48gx would I have trouble using it on my old 48sx? Thanks.

Re: 48sx Connectivity Kit - No trouble, except...
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 5 Jan 2002, 8:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Murphy

... for the SW. I still use the same cable for connecting my new 48G+ to the PC, but I use the SW that comes with the new connectivity kit. This SW is available et the Hewlett-Packard site. If I am not wrong, it is

http://www.hp.com/calculators/graphing

If it is not this one, try the Hewlett-Packard site itself and search for it, please. At the graphing calculators section, you`ll se the 49G`s link. Go to the 49G`s page and find the Connectivity Kit. Download the SW and install it. This SW works fine for the 48S/G and 49G.

One of our regulart contributors, Mr. Iqbal Mohamed, uses the Windows Terminal. In fact, it is fast, general-purpose, and works fine.

The new cable is different of the oldest ones. It has a filter (like those found in the VGA sign cable) to suppress noise (computer clock? external EMI?), but the old 48SX cable that I use since 1991 works fine.

Hope it helps.

Cheers.

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HP27s - any fans?
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 4 Jan 2002, 1:08 p.m.*

Hello everyone,

I've been reading a little bit about the HP27s, and it seems to be one of HP's great oddities: Does it have mnay fans out in HP land?

Thanks very much, David

Re: HP27s - any fans?
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 4 Jan 2002, 3:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi;

I once tried to buy one, but at that time, I did not have the money. And yes, I think it`s a good machine, sort of an improved, new-fashion version of the classic HP27.

Re: HP27s - any fans?
*Message #3 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 4 Jan 2002, 6:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi,

the 27S is a very nice machine. It has an expression list management like the 17B/17BII. The only thing lacking on the 27S is RPN... It's an algebraic only calculator, but the way of entry is nice, too. AFAIK only made in the U.S. and Singapore, so mechanical quality should not be a problem;-) At least the units I have are fine.

Regards,

Raymond

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Re: Amazing Luck!!
*Message #1 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 4 Jan 2002, 12:17 a.m.*

Me, again.

Try, also, this thread, mostly cause it contains references to materials and suppliers. I believe Brian, Dave and Pavel will give some guidelines on how to get best results.

Cheers.

(PS: I sent you an e-mail a few minutes ago)

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Re: Amazing Luck!!
*Message #1 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 3 Jan 2002, 5:22 p.m.*

I read that, but my contacts are much more damaged than the one the other person had. Mine has the other set of contacts damaged as well, and they are too small to really be replaced with brass. That and the fact that I have been unable to find brass strips anywhere at all. This town has no sort of hobby store, and the only thing close, (Franks) doesn't carry it. I am thinking of trying to replace it with scraps of aluminum from a Mountain Dew can, seeming as though I have an abundance of those. I need to fix one post that is broken off, but I think I can do that with some wacky glue.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

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Amazing Luck!!
*Message #1 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 3 Jan 2002, 3:34 p.m.*

I was browsing through a loca thrift store today, digging in their "Small Appliances" section, hoping to find an interesting old calculator or radio, and then, under a cracked old clock radio, I saw the HP logo. I moved the radio, a toaster and a tangled mess of old cords, and there it was. A boxed HP-41C. It had all the manuals with it. I bought it for $2. Now that I have it at home, I have looked through all the stuff that was with it. I have the HP-41C, in excellent shape, except for some heavy corrosion on the battery terminals, the original "N" cell holder, also corroded, fortunately, there were no batteries in it when I got it. A quad memory module, a Memory Module, the manuals and the brown (leather?) zipper pouch, and a little vynil holder for the modules and overlays. All in all, I think it looks pretty complete, I am off to the store to buy some "N" cells for it, and I intend to clean up the corrosion before testing it. What is the best method for removing such corrosion? Thanks!

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: Amazing Luck!!
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 3 Jan 2002, 4:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

Hi;

I have been in this situation. What I did was focussing the cause: alkaline material. What`s the best neutralizer? Acid.

I used lemon juice diluted in warm/hot water (~ 70% water). I brushed the acid solution over the alkaline material with an old toothbrush. The corrosion is diluted fast.

Of course, you have to disassemble the calc (do you know how to do it?) and take the batt/IO assy out. You must be aware of the small foam that is built under the zebra contacts. Avoid moistening it. It must be carefully dried out before being placed back in the calculator.

I believe other, better ideas will come in. I have used this procedure many times. Oh, yes, a

little coat of micro-oil (WD40 or similar) over the contacts will help avoiding corrosion. Yes, I know the oil is an insulating material, but a thin coat will not avoid contact between the batt/IO assy and the batteries or the keyboard/LCD assy.

Success.

Re: Amazing Luck!!
*Message #3 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 3 Jan 2002, 4:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Well, I cleaned the corrosion up, and I got it all off, but I am going to need to do some serious work on the battery contact/module connector part. The batteries must have really exploded, there was blue gunk caked thick on the contacts, I was able to chip off the stuff on the middle two contacts, but the outer two, the ones that actually carry voltage, are almost completely eaten away - the battery acid ate right through the plastic conductor thing. Not only that, but the part of the connector that connects to the back of the keyboard is eaten really badly too. I was able to clean the actual PCB on the back of the keyboard, but the thin plastic conductor was eaten through in a couple places. Anyone ever repaired one of these before? Is there a place I can buy a new part? Thanks!

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: Amazing Luck!!
*Message #4 Posted by **Håkan Thörngren** on 4 Jan 2002, 2:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

> I believe other, better ideas will come in. I have used this procedure many times. Oh, yes, a little coat of micro-oil (WD40 or similar) over the contacts will help avoiding corrosion. Yes, I know the oil is an insulating material, but a thin coat will not avoid contact between the batt/IO assy and the batteries or the keyboard/LCD assy.

Isn't the contacts gold plated? Gold does not corrode, so I doubt that applying oil will do any good. Just keep leaking batteries out of it.

Re: Amazing Luck!!
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 4 Jan 2002, 11:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Håkan Thörngren

Hi, Håkan;

this is very well noted, but corrosion is sort of a ghost in the 41`s batt/IO assy. The leakage can happen anytime, even for a "new", fresh batteries` set. The leaking is transparent at first appearing, but it reacts with oxygen and the battery's metal itself. The gold does not suffer any pain, but the cooper under it is corroded by the alkaline leakage that, somehow, increases the reaction (is it correct? I`m not a chemist). With oxygen, things get worst.

I have been using the micro-oils to avoid, at least, the contact with oxygen. I was lucky enough using batteries that leak after some months and the contacts prevail.

I can tell you the contacts` life increased somewhat with the micro-oil coat. I still believe better solutions exist...

Thanks. And best regards.

Re: Amazing Luck!!
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 4 Jan 2002, 4:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I have found a product that works very well at cleaning and inhibiting future corrosion. It a called the "Gold Pen" from Caig corporation (www.caig.com). It is sold at electronics repair suppliers (and I think directly from them). It is like a felt tip pin that contains a (slightly oily) substance that fights corrosion. First clean up as much of the gunk as possible (I use 91% isopropyl alcohol) then apply the Caig pen as directed in their instructions.

It is important to remove all traces of corrosion (even microscopic ones) because remanants can act as "seeds" from which future corrosion can start growing.

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HP40 acts funny
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 3 Jan 2002, 4:57 a.m.*

Somebody here who knows a bit more than me about the HP-40G? Or is there an other list for those ACO calculators?

At last I found the time to play a bit with a HP-40G and it's CAS (poor and errorfull translated manual!). The calculator does not show the results printed in the manual. And - even worse - in 5 days I had to reset it 3 times, once with ON+F3, next day with ON+F1+F6 and some hours later wiht a needle in the back hole.

Retyping the examples of the CAS manual suddenly the beeper chirped (a sound close to "burp") and the CAS history had several lines of 'External'. Remembers me a bit the old days when exploring synthetic programming on the HP-41. But as a novice on the HP-40G I shurely did nothing special.

Seems I have to use intensively my HP200LX to backup all data from the HP-40G.

Ciao.....Mike

PS: Salut Emmanuel! Merci pour le manuel PANAME en anglays. M.

Re: HP40 acts funny
*Message #2 Posted by **Arnold Steekelenburg** on 3 Jan 2002, 8:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike (Stgt)

Hi Mike,

Maybe you could be a bit more specific. Which example were you trying to compute?

Subscribe to the usenet newsgroup comp.sys.hp48. The development team of the HP39/40/49 reads this newsgroup too. Bernard Parisse, the author of the CAS responds to questions too.

Colin Croft maintains a website dedicated to the HP38/39/40. It contains a FAQ.

The adress is: http://members.iinet.net.au/~ccroft/

Arnold

Re: HP40 acts funny
*Message #3 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 3 Jan 2002, 10:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Arnold Steekelenburg

Thank you for the URL and the hint to the newsgroup.

Ciao.....Mike

usenet acts funny (or me?)
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 15 Jan 2002, 5:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Arnold Steekelenburg

I am able to do my eMails on a HP200LX but with newsgroups I have no experience (well, I contributing to the Pipeing list, but that works via eMail). Just looked for comp.sys.hp48 at www.usenet.com and fount that they ask for money (99 USD a year). Ehm - sorry, I'll take that money to get me an other calculator.

Ciao.....Mike

Re: HP40 acts funny
*Message #5 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 3 Jan 2002, 8:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike (Stgt)

Hi,

maybe the programmer of the CAS, Bernard Parisse, could help you. Search the newsgroup comp.sys.hp48 to fetch articles from him.

But for the errors:

Did you exactly like the manual said?

Same flag settings, same key strokes?

Did you load any third party software into the machine?

Maybe there is more than one ROM revision, so checking this could be helpful.

Unfortunately, the 39G/40G can't be upgraded, just replaced... if the machine is still under warranty, and the errors don't go away, I think chances are good to get it replaced.

Raymond

Re: HP40 acts funny
*Message #6 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 3 Jan 2002, 10:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Raymond Hellstern

Hi Reymond,

I did load several aplets I found on hpcalc.org and JYA (using a HP200LX and data transfer via kermit). Then I went to serious work and tried to wade through the CAS manual and could not get PARTFRAC (chapter 4.10.8) to show the same answer as given in the manual.

What makes me upset is the poor translation to german of the CAS manual (the french version I found on the Internet is some classes better). Seems there is no editorial department at HP. And there are commands mentioned for the Tools menu that do not show on the calculator.

And a legal issus is the CE sign on the package. With this kind of documentation they are not allowed to show a CE sign. Sorry.

BTW, did you find the Squid Bar Code Module in your collection? More on this topic off-list, pls.

Ciao.....Mike

Re: HP40 acts funny
*Message #7 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 3 Jan 2002, 6:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Mike (Stgt)

Hi Mike,

SKWDINK: I know I had it on tape, but when I looked the last time, nearly all tapes were unreadable:-(So the only rom images that remained are the ones I was able to save to my HD...and the ones I got from you.

40G: Please remove all external software, and try again.

Then, you can reinstall one aplet after the other, checking functionality after each one loaded.

Does the CE logo include documentation quality?

Hmm. I just ordered a 40G (was cheap) for my collection, maybe I should leave it in it's blister pack to avoid any unwanted surprise?

Cheers,

Raymond

Re: HP40 acts funny
*Message #8 Posted by **GE (France)** on 4 Jan 2002, 3:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Did someone notice that answers sometimes look different on the 39G and the 40G ? In the manual, some screenshot show the two versions. I remember something like "X+-2" for the 39 and "X-2" for the 40 or the like. Aren't these machines expected to be similar, apart from the CAS ?

HP40 vs HP39
*Message #9 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 4 Jan 2002, 4:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by GE (France)

AFAIK, JYA somewhere stated, if you try to "augment" your HP40 with an IR device you will loos the CAS. But it may be possible that manuals are written with a beta of the calc. The command VERSION shows a different result on the calculator than on it's emulation where with F2 (in the HOME view) you may toggle HP39/HP40.

Ciao.....Mike

HP40 and CE sign
*Message #10 Posted by **Mike (Stgt)** on 4 Jan 2002, 4:42 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

In guideline 89/392/EWG of the European Council (published in the official gazette No. L 183/9) you find in Chapter II the prerequisites to show the EG-sign consisting of the letters "CE" and the last two digits of the year. In appendix I, top 1.7.4 the user manual is definded. If the product and it's documentation does not fulfil the guidelines the producer could be forced to withdraw it. Well, lots of f***ing legal stuff we pay for with our taxes.

In other words: with the letters "CE" in round shape it is declared the conformity with all guidelines of the European Council applicable for the product. And I regard the german version of the CAS manual not to be in accordance with anything.

First I purchased the HP-40G only for my calculator collection, but for curiosity reasons I had a closer look last week. A bit disapointed at the moment I would advice someone whe needs a graphing calculator to get a HP-48GX. Or get a HP200LX and use the whole bunch of DOS programs you still find on the Net.

BTW, not only for math teachers it is realy worth to look at http://members.iinet.net.au/~ccroft/

Ciao.....Mike

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HP-71B Lex/Assembler/Machine Code
*Message #1 Posted by **Johnny Bjoern Rasmussen** on 3 Jan 2002, 3:24 a.m.*

Hi all Is it possible to program the HP-71B in assembler without any special ROM module?

Johnny

Re: HP-71B Lex/Assembler/Machine Code
*Message #2 Posted by **CJ** on 3 Jan 2002, 4:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Johnny Bjoern Rasmussen

Yes it is, IF you have a way to transfer files from your PC to the 71 there are a few PC assemblers for the saturn.

ftp://ftp.hp.com/pub/calculators/

Christopher

Re: HP-71B Lex/Assembler/Machine Code
*Message #3 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 3 Jan 2002, 9:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Johnny Bjoern Rasmussen

Hi Johnny,

of course. In 1985, I made a disassembler for the HP-71 in BASIC (about 7K), with some supporting LEX files, like StringLex, and another guy made an assembler.

I think there were a couple assemblers around in the eighties.

But I for myself mostly used the Forth/Assembler ROM to create BIN or LEX files, because I didn't have an additional RAM module, and 16K is not too much room if you want to keep the sources, the target files, and the programs to transform one into the other-)

RAM for the 71 was *very* expensive those days.

Regards,

Raymond

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Lex files for HP-71
*Message #1 Posted by **Singer** on 2 Jan 2002, 5:12 p.m.*

Hello ! I am looking for lex files for HP-71. I am beginning to make program with the forth-assembler rom. I thing it's good... but ... I have no time to make all programms I thing. So I am looking for time management files (date calcul, alarms setting ...), data base management files. I founded some place who's describing files, but not download files available.

So : are there some body that can help me ?

Thanks Patrick Singer

Excuse me for the English but I am French. (It don't explain all but some of bug language).

Re: Lex files for HP-71
*Message #2 Posted by **CJ** on 2 Jan 2002, 5:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Singer

Right here:

ftp://ftp.hpmuseum.org/lif/swap/

Christopher

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9810 Getting Close - Parts Question (Photos)
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 2 Jan 2002, 3:22 p.m.*

Well, I'm getting close to having two fully functional 9810s, out of the 4 that I have.

I have one that works great and using board swapping, I have a 2nd one working (almost), except for a single board.

I'm going to try replacing the standard 74 series parts today and see if I can get lucky. But there are several parts that I suspect might be custom HP parts.

Anyone have any idea what the parts (M1, M2, X1, X2, X3), shown in the photo, are?

(picture unavailable)

(picture unavailable)

I will probably be getting rid of the other two units as "for parts" units.

Thanks,

Re: 9810 Getting Close - Parts Question (Photos)
*Message #2 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 3 Jan 2002, 2:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Hi,

perhaps it can be helpful to ask this guy: http://www.sphere.bc.ca/test/hp1.html

Best regards

Andreas

Thanks - Getting closer
*Message #3 Posted by **Mike** on 3 Jan 2002, 1:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

Your suggestion led me to:

http://www.sphere.bc.ca/test/hpparts.html#cross

I have crossed and verified all but the 1820-0367. On another board, it is marked 1820-1594. But neither part shows up in this cross reference.

My luck is running good so maybe that part will not be bad. There are also 3 parts of this type. I have 3 such bad boards. Surely, I can find 3 good ones out of 9 parts, as a last resort.

Thanks,

Mike

Followup: Got lucky
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 3 Jan 2002, 2:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Mike

I took a look at other board types and found the 1820-1594 part on a known good working board. It had 4 parts.

Then, I took a look at another identical board and found that it had the 1820-1594 in four places. On the board that I am trying to fix, only 3 such parts are shown. In the 4th position the part is marked SN7495. So, it looks like the M2 part may be a 7495 part.

Re: Thanks - Getting closer
*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 3 Jan 2002, 10:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Mike

I have a fairly long list of HP 1820- numbers :-) (No, it's not machine readable, so don't ask for it to be e-mailed). Anyway. 1820-0367 = SN7495AN and 1820-1594 = SN5495AN (which is just a 'better' version of the 7495A)

Thanks
*Message #6 Posted by **Mike** on 4 Jan 2002, 7:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tony Duell (UK)

As you see in the post right above yours, that is the part that I suspected it was.

I'm going to just buy all the parts and replace them one at a time. Only 20 parts. I should have a 2nd working unit this weekend.

Thanks

Re: 9810 Getting Close - Parts Question (Photos)
*Message #7 Posted by **Peter (Germany)** on 3 Jan 2002, 10:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Hello Mike,

I pulled this board from my 9810, and the parts You called M1 are SN7495N from TI, and the X1 is a 74121, as You wrote. All other parts are the same, only production date some weeks different. The 73xx numbers are the production week.

Descrepancy???
*Message #8 Posted by **Mike** on 3 Jan 2002, 1:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Peter (Germany)

I check this site and found all but the 1820-0367 part.

http://www.sphere.bc.ca/test/hpparts.html#cross

But it has 7400 for M1 and you had it as a 7495 (shift register)???

Turns out that not all my boards are marked with the same part numbers M1 is a 7400 on another board. It also cross-checs on this site. Maybe you were looking at the wrong part.

But unfortunately M2 is still not shown. On my other board it is a 1820-1594. So, it is showing up as a different HP part.

Maybe I'll get lucky and the M2 part will not be bad.

Thanks

Mike

Re: Descrepancy???

*Message #9 Posted by **Peter (Germany** on 4 Jan 2002, 4:11 p.m.,*

in response to message #8 by Mike

You are right, the M2 part is the 7495. Sorry for the confision.

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HP41: Power Consumption on Devices. A question.
*Message #1 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Jan 2002, 9:32 a.m.*

Hi;

I do not have a precise ampmeter to get the results and there is a possibility of these data already exist. So, the questions are: to have a comparison between both Card Reader and Optical Wand for the HP41, I would like to know
- how much current does the card reader need to read a card?
- what is the current increase when the wand`s LED is lit?

I know there is no direct comparison unless a barcoce sequence equivalent to the complete contents of a magnetic card is read. I just want to figure out if reading barcodes is less power consumption than reading cards. For low amounts of data there is no doubt about it, but concerning to batteries life, when one has to save long programs for later use, what is best: recording them on magnetic cards or printing barcode sequences?

Thanks for any info. Maybe there is some sort of e-doc about it, and poiting a link would be of help, too.

Cheers.

Re: HP41: Power Consumption on Devices. A question.
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 2 Jan 2002, 4:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

The card reader motor draws around 150-200 mA (for about a second). The wand LED around 20 mA. Unless you can read your bar codes in less than 10 seconds the card reader is probably best. However the small N cell batteries can better deliver 20mA when they start to run down. You can still use the wand long after the card reader stops running.

Re: HP41: Power Consumption on Devices. A question.
*Message #3 Posted by **Steve (Australia)** on 2 Jan 2002, 5:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by David Smith

The card reader draws surge currents of about 1A (yes 1 amp!) from the batteries when the motor starts.

Thank you, guys!
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Jan 2002, 9:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

The information you posted is valuable! Thanks a lot.

Cheers.

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HP-32SII KEYBOARD DIFFERENCE
*Message #1 Posted by **Roy** on 2 Jan 2002, 7:43 a.m.*

I have an older HP-32SII with a green and white keyboard. The manual shows the calculator with an orange/blue/white keyboard and was manufactured in Indonesia. Does anyone know why the color was changed, and when, and how many of these green/white models were made?

Re: HP-32SII KEYBOARD DIFFERENCE
*Message #2 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 2 Jan 2002, 1:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Roy

Roy:

If I understand you correctly, I have the answer. If not, then pardon my uninformed post.

The *original* 32SII was made with the **ORANGE and BLUE** shifted keys. Later, they changed the color of the screen's bezel and changed the shifted keys to pastel **GREEN and PURPLE**. I'm sure it was stretching the budget to print new manuals---which I think is both funny and sad at the same time...

My guess is that the marketing department just *had* to stick their collective noses in to make the colors more HIP (as opposed to functional?)! I'm sure that some "focus groups" were involved! ;-)

Bruce.

Re: HP-32SII KEYBOARD DIFFERENCE

*Message #3 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 2 Jan 2002, 1:57 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by W. Bruce Maguire II

You're right that the new colors are "hip" rather than functional. IMHO, HP should've stuck with the original gold/blue scheme because it makes easier to distinguish the colors for color-blind (daltonic) people. Most daltonic people cannot tell the difference between red and green.

How ironic that HP had the right idea to begin with, then dropped one of its nicest touches later in life.

-Ernie

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HP factories
*Message #1 Posted by **David** on 1 Jan 2002, 7:25 p.m.*

I was just wondering as I read the previous message if all HP calcultors are now made in China.

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HP12C new models?
*Message #1 Posted by **nick** on 1 Jan 2002, 12:43 p.m.*

It seems like the "new" HP12C calculators have a bad keyboard.....sometimes when you press a key two or three numbers appear on the display. Is it possible that the quality of the newer productionseries became so much lower??? I decided to look for a secondhand (old) model of HP11C or HP15C.....please contact me if you sell one!

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 1 Jan 2002, 2:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by nick

> It seems like the "new" HP12C calculators have a bad keyboard.....sometimes when you press a key two or three numbers appear on the display. Is it possible that the quality of the newer productionseries became so much lower???

Yes, it's possible. I bought a new, Made in China HP-12C from a large department store (New In Box, of course) and it doesn't even pass the built-in keyboard self-test. You need to do it very carefully, pressing each key with utmost precision, else it gives an instant Error message. Since it's quite difficult to be that precise for every and all keys, it usually takes you four to six tries before you succeed in passing the test once. Trying to perform a lengthy calculation with it or entering a program is an exercise in frustration: you've got to do it several times till you get the correct results or the correct keycodes stored in memory. Actually, it's pretty unusable.

Further, the keys rattle if you shake a bit the machine, and seem extremely cheap. The blue legends are almost impossible to read, the manual is crap, and the whole package seems a "Everything at $1" deal, but it was prized as if it were any good, which it isn't, at all.

The only reason I kept it is to have a NIB China 12C for my collection, else it would have been an instant give-my-money-back. Further, I compared it to a first generation, 1981 USA model, and believe me, it was a very, *very* depressing experience.

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #3 Posted by **nick** on 1 Jan 2002, 3:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ex-PPC member

"My" HP12C model was made in China as well and I gave it back to the store and I luckily got my money back. It had the same symptomes as you've been describing!!!.....well, the only solution seems to be a secondhandmodel..... Thanks for your feedback!

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #4 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 1 Jan 2002, 5:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by nick

Hi,

take care not to buy an Indonesian model.

I have a NIB 12C made in Indonesia, and the printing of the key labels disqualifies it, at least for the price I paid.

In my experience, models from U.S. , Singapore, Brazil, and Malaysia are worth their price.

I'd try to catch a U.S. model, or at least one from Singapore;-)

There are sellers on eBay which even offer 'new old stock' voyager calcs.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #5 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 2 Jan 2002, 3:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Is this the way HP are going to kill off the HP12C? i.e. make it such poor quality that sales drop and then the top bods have an excuse to stop making it?

It would seen very short sighted of HP to tarnish their name by making such a poor quality calculator that tends to get sold into the professional end of the market. Does anyone at HQ know about this problem? (and if they did would they care?)

Did't someone at ACO say that HP spent a shed load of money re-engineering the HP12C. This didn't seem to extent to the keyboard!

(PS it looks like the keyboard test is still in the embeded software but the manufacturer is not using it to check the keyboard!)

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #6 Posted by **Håkan Thörngren** on 3 Jan 2002, 2:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tom (UK)

> Is this the way HP are going to kill off the HP12C? i.e. make it such poor quality that sales drop and then the top bods have an excuse to stop making it?

Probably. They (HP) still have no clue how to market calculators. It probably goes as: "Hey, we have these nice quality calculators, let's re-engineer them and beat our competitors in their own market. Ditch RPN and lower the quality until they are as crappy or worse than the calculators made by our competitors."

> It would seen very short sighted of HP to tarnish their name by making such a poor quality calculator that tends to get sold into the professional end of the market. Does anyone at HQ know about this problem? (and if they did would they care?)

HP is not HP anymore. They make PCs and PC accessories. PCs are cheap crap. It is this way because most people want to buy cheap things. Most people do not care about quality, or do not understand that they get what they pay for.

Ever looked at a normal computer keyboard? They used to cost a lot more money and most were of good quality. Enter the PC market and you can hardly buy a good quality keyboard anymore...

> Did't someone at ACO say that HP spent a shed load of money re-engineering the HP12C. This didn't seem to extent to the keyboard!

Yes, it was said that ACO re-engineered the HP12C. Why do you mean it did not extent to the keyboard? It is different, right?

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #7 Posted by **doug** on 3 Jan 2002, 10:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by nick

I bought one of the new model HP12C's to try out. It has "made in China". I held it up and shook it and the keys don't rattle. I press [on] & [] and then did the keyboard test. [12]. No problem. Did it again. [12]. No problem. It looks good. I entered some calculations and it worked fine. Pressed [on] & [x]. [running]. Correct results. No problem.

This is a new model with the single lithium cell. I bought some additional units after executing the successful test listed above. Are the ones you guys bought out of the boxes or the plastic cartons? I didn't use it for a week or two. I just tested it straight out of the carton as some of you had said you did. Maybe some came from a bad production run, or before they squared things away?

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #8 Posted by **FastBeemer** on 3 Jan 2002, 11:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by doug

Actually, the Made in China HP 10BII's are built pretty well, unlike the HP 12C's. It doesn't have the "feel" of the voyager, but keys work and feel crisp, design is attractive, and the display is excellent.

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #9 Posted by **nick** on 6 Jan 2002, 7:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by doug

the one I've bought was in a box!....

Re: HP12C new models?

*Message #10 Posted by **doug** on 4 Jan 2002, 4:10 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by nick

The one thing I did forget to mention is the keys. They do not feel like solid plastic. They even have a certain sound when rubbed against gently like they are hollow, and the plastic feels as if you could press the keys hard and crush them. I haven't tried it, YET!

I am not trying to sound contradictory, to what any of you wrote. The HP12C isn't like the older voyager machines, and the same quality isn't there, no doubt. They aren't priced at $135 to $150 either. Of course that price was 1982 prices. It is 20 years latter. These should be priced at $400 or more if inflation was exacting. And if people were paying $400 for an HP12C today, I bet HP would have some of the most rock solid Voyager machines you have ever seen. There would be HP11C's, and HP15C's and HP16C's that would be beautiful and so full of features you couldn't believe it. Factories would be opened in 8 to 10 countries just to keep up with that countries demand. Sounded good didn't it. But you know good and well that isn't true. It would be the HP13C. Ever wonder why they skipped that number. If they made an HP13C and it sold for $500, and has interchangeable keys and modules pacs for the other voyager series calculators would you buy one? If so, so as much for what people think about 13 being unlucky.

But the one thing every calculator vendor has in common is this. A) Disposable calculators that last a year or two if lucky for a few dollars. B) Quality calculators for a very high price, that look and feel good, and can be repaired. But where are they?

The main reason HP and other companies are moving away from quality (as would be definied by Voyager series machines of the old)is because most people don't want quality. They won't pay for it. They just want a bargain. They don't understand the word "Quality" anymore. Please don't be one of these people that tries to sound smart and psycho analyze what I wrote and tell me what is right or wrong and which part you agree with and which part you don't agree with. I don't care. Companies build what you pay for, in the U.S. or any other country on this planet. The days of statistics are going out the door. If it sales at x dollars you can bet it will be manufactured somewhere and sold at x dollars while people will pay x dollars. Y? When the price drops to y dollars they stop production and or sell the rights to the product to clear inventory. Thats Y.

China imports fair to good quality machines at a very low price. They do produce some high end quality for a medium price. End of comments. I live here (U.S.). I know what happened to our tax dollars and American jobs, as well as those in other countries we were and are in alliance with. While some public leaders were handing our economy (technology we paid for as tax payers) and national defense information (we also paid for as tax payers and with American lives, as well as other NATO members lives) to those countries, the same idiots that wanted to keep them in office did. Now it is time to reap the wind of wrath. The U.S. is. What a lot of

people don't and didn't understand is this. When the U.S. is brought down, so are most of you no matter where you are. It might be more apparent today than 6 months ago and much more than 10 years ago. Most countries but especially NATO depend on each other more than people realize. Why am I saying this? How many HP companies have shut down in those nations in the last 10 years and at what cost in jobs? How many of those countries had companies in the U.S. that have been shut down at what cost in jobs also. HP is just one company that is modeled like all the rest.

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #11 Posted by **FastBeemer** on 5 Jan 2002, 12:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by doug

The truth is, the market for programmable calculators is getting smaller. Who needs it when computers can do a lot more, display more information, store more information, print beautiful color graphs, etc.? Calculators have become "convenience" items for mostly simple calculations, rather than necessities for professionals.

Re: HP12C new models?
*Message #12 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 5 Jan 2002, 2:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by FastBeemer

you may be right for most cases. i think that the rest of the time it depends on what you do, if it is amenable to (canned) programed solutions, or how close to a desk you do it. there is a market for high quality tools in all lines of work. lamentably ours may be software on a pda in the not too distant future. i try not to drop my 41 any more.

Re: HP12C new models? The PDA way
*Message #13 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 5 Jan 2002, 8:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by db(martinez,california)

Some time ago I used a Windows CE app called BizCalc (from OddyseySoftware, I think), it was a nice HP12C style calculator. I also tried some RPN calculator apps, but have not found one that pleases me enough for buying and adopting (I am a HP41/HP42S worshipping follower). MathUPro seems to be nice, but just for Palms, not WinCE (I know some people here will be glad it is not for a MS platform).

Apart for the physical keys and battery life, the PDA way is acceptable, given HP impotence to continue with its once brilliant calculator product line.

I would ask again to HP why they don't offer a calculator application like the one in

the HP LX100 / 200 as a software package for PDAs (even for HP PDAs)...

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11C w/ Serial # Misprint on case
*Message #1 Posted by **Marc Vigeant** on 1 Jan 2002, 11:11 a.m.*

After posting an auction on Ebay, an Honest viewer of this forum told me that the serial number stamped into the plastic case does not match the production years of 1981-1989. The serial # is: 2035A00207 Decoded is the 35th week of 1980, before production started? See my Ebay Auction at http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1316802486 Please let me know if this is a one of a kind or very early unit.

Re: 11C w/ Serial # Misprint on case
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike Sebastian** on 1 Jan 2002, 11:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marc Vigeant

Elsewhere on this site is a list of earliest know serial number date codes (see http://www.hpmuseum.org/collect.htm#earliest). The earliest date code shown in that list for an HP-11C is two weeks before yours.

Re: 11C w/ Serial # Misprint on case
*Message #3 Posted by **Marc Vigeant** on 1 Jan 2002, 4:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike Sebastian

Thanks Mike, You save me the research. Have a great new year.

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Bogus Benchmark Tests(BBT)(c)
*Message #1 Posted by **CJ** on 1 Jan 2002, 8:58 a.m.*

I ran these bits of code on my 41CX, 71B(41 Translator) and 48GX(hrastprogrammer 41 emulator). I packed the programs after entering the code and ran them to compile the GTOs. I then filled the stack with 1's and ran them again. This is what I got.

```
01 AVIEW
02 LBL 01
03 +
04 GTO 01
```

I put this in the alpha register.

```
** HP41CX **
```

Code run time: 15 Mins.

Results:

HP41CX - 15,588

HP48GX - 28,333

HP71B - 51,398

Here is the next bogus benchmark test.

```
01 LBL 01
02 +
03 GTO 01
```

Packed it, compiled GTO, filled stack with ones and ran it. This one makes the goose fly.

Code run time: 15 Mins.

HP41CX - 14,954

HP48GX - 23,064

HP71B - 51,171

And my last bogus benchmark test

```
01 LBL 01
02 +
03 VIEW X
04 GTO 01
```

Same as before packed, 1's ...etc.

Code run time: 15 Mins.

HP41CX - 4,936

HP48GX - 9,026

HP71B - 5,473

Happy New Year to All !!!

Christopher

Re: Bogus Benchmark Tests(BBT)(c)
*Message #2 Posted by **Pascal** on 2 Jan 2002, 7:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by CJ

Results of the first benchmark test on an HP42S: 48165

regards, Pascal

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Mint or cosmetically refurbished
*Message #1 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 30 Dec 2001, 4:54 p.m.*

I've seen many of the voyagers but no one of them are in mint conditions, and I wonder how the ebay sellers keep their voyagers in mint condition. Do they make new aluminium face plate in a in specialized industrial process and paste it on old hardly used HP11/15/16C?. They could buy many of used HP11C or a HP15 for a penny, refurbish them changing the face plate and sell them for a fortune... I have a friend that assured me that making a new face plate identical to the original ones are easy. Is it true?

Just wondering...

Pio

Re: Mint or cosmetically refurbished
*Message #2 Posted by **hp15c owner** on 1 Jan 2002, 4:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

Even if you made a new faceplate, the rest of the calc would show wear, so I doubt it would make any sense to do so. Also, the new faceplates, manufactured in small lots, would probably run more than the calcs were worth. Just take care of your mint 15C, and it will stay that way!

Re: Mint or cosmetically refurbished
*Message #3 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 1 Jan 2002, 6:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by hp15c owner

15C_onwner,

You are right, there's no sense in trying it. I was just wondering. I have one 11 and one 15. Humidity and high temperatures here in Amazon jungle are driving me crazy in trying to keep my babies in good conditions. I have one 42S that you won't believe what humidity and finger sweat did with it. You hardly see the function writed on face plate. I think I'll give up collecting hp's or move to another place;)

Cheers,

Marx Pio

Re: Mint or cosmetically refurbished
*Message #4 Posted by **John Mills** on 1 Jan 2002, 7:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

> and I wonder how the ebay sellers keep their voyagers in mint condition

pal, you'd do well to be very careful about some of those allegedly 'mint' voyagers out there. no names given, but i know about some guy who posts frequently to the adds section in this museum and announces mint items which are nothing but doctored calcs, and poorly done at that. he recently offered a completely 'new in the box' 15c for nearly $300 to some poor chap asking for one to complete his collection, and then, after many months, delivered one with a badly glued logo, the glue spilling over the display, ruining it, and acetone stains here and there from pathetically trying to remove surplus glue and scratches. the manual was abused and cracked and the box was crap. perhaps that was his very own concept of 'new' or else he thought the $300 sucker wouldn't notice. seeya

Re: Mint or cosmetically refurbished

*Message #5 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 2 Jan 2002, 10:02 a.m.,*

in response to message #4 by John Mills

JMills,

Thats a warning. I always wonder how, now I know.

Cheating seems to be the "real" bussiness in selling vintage items, and it happens not only on old calculators market.

:(

Thanks,

Marx Pio

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Whatever Happened HP41 MLDL/EPROM/Ram Box Project?
*Message #1 Posted by **Dan M** on 29 Dec 2001, 3:01 p.m.*

Hi everybody.

Is there an update on the effort to develop a "modern" HP-41 MLDL/EPROM/RAM box? There was a great flurry of discussion in this forum (around June 2001) with some neat-sounding ideas. Did these efforts die out or never get started? Please update, if possible.

I would be next to useless for design purposes for such a device, but could contribute towards the manufacturing side if such contributions are needed.

I have recently obtained an "HHP-16K EPROM Memory" box from 1981 and have found it to be both useful and fun. It would be nice to have modern versions of these types of boxes for all to enjoy.

Dan M.

Re: Whatever Happened HP41 MLDL/EPROM/Ram Box Project?
*Message #2 Posted by **Chris Roccati** on 30 Dec 2001, 7:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dan M

I've read the available documentation and the project of the "original" MDLD: it appears to be a very simple hardware, by today's standards -- counters and shift registers, stuff you can easily build even in the simplest PLD.

Re: Whatever Happened HP41 MLDL/EPROM/Ram Box Project?
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 30 Dec 2001, 8:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dan M

Hi;

I`d be glad taking that thread back to life. I`m much interested on that. Pavel Korensky had a big advantage among us all: he was about to build a sort of module for the HP41. I know some more, but I would not go through his own ideas, as I believe he would expose as much as he believes is usefull in here if we ask him for it.

As he reads this he will sure post something.

Cheers.

(Hey, Pavel, forgive-me posting these words before asking you about it; it takes some time this matter was touched... Regards)

Re: Whatever Happened HP41 MLDL/EPROM/Ram Box Project?
*Message #4 Posted by **Meindert Kuipers** on 30 Dec 2001, 3:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dan M

My project is still very much alive. I'm working on a PLD description in VHDL. Progress is slow unfortunately, as my job am family require bandwith as well. Right now I am writing specifications and I will post the info on my website at www.kuipers.to whenever is is in a state to be published. In the coming months I will spend plenty of time on airports and in planes, and hope to work on the project then.

Meindert

Good news!!

*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 30 Dec 2001, 6:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Meindert Kuipers

Hello, Meindert;

I have probably lost the thread you have mentioned your project. That`s exciting! Please, let us know about progress. I am a bit far in here, but if there`s anything I can help on, please, be my guest.

Cheers.

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sacrifice 12c question
*Message #1 Posted by **kynes** on 29 Dec 2001, 11:06 a.m.*

Is it possible to replace an 11c display (broken) with one from a new 12c? Are the connections and indicators identical with no changes over the time? Thanks for help.

Re: sacrifice 12c question
*Message #2 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 29 Dec 2001, 2:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by kynes

While some of us here thought it could be possible, someone actually tried and discovered the anwser is NO, at least when the 12C is not from the same period of time. If you can find a 12C made in the same "period" (year?) and country of manufacture (you will need to check the serial numbres), then there is a chance that the dispalys may be interchangeable. (Seems logical, but no warranties!) You may find information in the archived posts here at the MoHPC.

Re: sacrifice 12c question
*Message #3 Posted by **Todd G.** on 29 Dec 2001, 5:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Andres is right. To elaborate a little further, HP has made several circuitry changes and upgrades over the 20+ years the 12C has been in production. It is therefore very likely that the display circuitry used in the 12C units available today are not compatible with other Voyagers that were made 15 years ago.

Todd

Is there any visual difference?
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 29 Dec 2001, 9:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Todd G.

Hi;

as mentioned in some posts, the 12C now comes with a 3.3 Volts Li battery (is it correct?). As the voltage supply has changed AND internals too, the display may not be the same. Is there, anyway, any visual difference from older models to the new 12C? Say, after an [ON] [X] test, does it seem everything is the same? Shape, format, angle...

If you are not sure about the manufacturing date of both calcs, a try-to-see-what-happens may not succed.

Cheers.

Re: Is there any visual difference?
*Message #5 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 1 Jan 2002, 2:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

> Is there, anyway, any visual difference from older models to the new 12C? Say, after an [ON] [X] test, does it seem everything is the same? Shape, format, angle...

Well, there are lots of differences. To name a few of the most obvious, apart from the single large battery, the blue key legends are far too dark in new models, nearly unreadable, the keys rattle, are not shiny, look cheap and badly finished and re the display itself, the latest China made 12C I have has a golden background to the black LCD digits, instead of the usual grayish background of older models and other Voyagers.

Re: Is there any visual difference?
*Message #6 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 1 Jan 2002, 7:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ex-PPC member

Hi, Ex-PPC.

You are right pointing them all, and some I was not told about till now. Thanks.

Anyway, Mr. Kynes is concerned about replacing the LCD. Maybe you can also help: for the new models, is there any visual difference in the LCD (other than the goldish background color) that could identify if it is new one OR old-models? Say, if someone has a 10-series LCD out of the box, is it easy (if possible) to identify if it can be used in any other 10-series OR only in the new 12C`s? Some say the new LCD for the 12C is based in the new project, say, the new power source is only 3.3V instead of the 4.5V, and it cannot be used in other Voyagers.

Thanks.

Re: Is there any visual difference?
*Message #7 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 8 Jan 2002, 5:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz:

As far as I can recall, the display incompatibility issue between different-"years" HP12C/11C, etc. appeared much before the newer HP12C from China, with different battery, etc. was introduced.

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Great buy!
*Message #1 Posted by **Steve (Australia)** on 29 Dec 2001, 8:33 a.m.*

I haven't been around for some time, so a belated merry christmas to everyone.

For my late christmas present to myself I went to a hock shop and beat down the price on a very good condition HP15C to the equivalent of about $US20.

A set of new batteries and it works like a bought one.

Then I looked on eBay and realised I had a better bargain than I thought. Not that I'm going to sell it :-)

Re: Great buy!
*Message #2 Posted by **Yani** on 29 Dec 2001, 4:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Steve (Australia)

Not Crime Converters!?

Re: Great buy!
*Message #3 Posted by **Steve (Australia)** on 29 Dec 2001, 8:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Yani

> Not Crime Converters!?

Yep :-)

Re: Great buy!
*Message #4 Posted by **Yani** on 29 Dec 2001, 9:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Steve (Australia)

>> Not Crime Converters!?

>Yep :-)

Picked up a 48G there for AU$107 (about US$200) inc box and manuals. (Knocked them down from $125.)

Re: Great buy!
*Message #5 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 30 Dec 2001, 1:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Yani

Isn't 107 Aussie about $55 US?

Re: Great buy!
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 30 Dec 2001, 2:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Erik Wahlin

Sorry. I keep on getting it the wrong way arroud. You are right.

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Yet another HP museum
*Message #1 Posted by **Matthias Wehrli** on 28 Dec 2001, 3:58 p.m.*

Hi volks!

Here it is. I just finished my swiss HP museum...

http://home.balcab.ch/m.wehrli/hewlettpackard.htm (english)

http://home.balcab.ch/m.wehrli/hewlettpackard_e.htm (german)

Each calculator is presented with specifications and a picture (most from hpmuseum.org). As I collect calculators and PDAs you will also find a list of all my items and al list of all items I'm looking for... So if you want to sell...

Happy New Year from Switzerland

Matthias

Re: Yet another HP museum
*Message #2 Posted by **Kevin Grady** on 29 Dec 2001, 2:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matthias Wehrli

Looks Great! I can tell a lot of work went into that. Great to have another site devoted to us HP fans.

I did notice one model missing from your list: the HP-19C. Just like the 29C but with a printer in a small package like the 10. I noticed that because I'm fortunate enough to have one in my collection.

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HP-65 Carton Box Restoration
*Message #1 Posted by **Gianmaria (Italy)** on 28 Dec 2001, 4:30 a.m.*

Just a short message to say that even the carton box for classic calculators may be restored.
I bought on eBay a nice HP-65 with a very bad box (heavily taped, torn, with corner broken, etc.) but a friend of mine, specialized in restoring precious incunabula and sixteenth-century books, were able to do a wonderful job (with a tremendous patience...). You can see the results here: http://www.hpcalculators.net

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Re: HP-65 Carton Box Restoration
*Message #2 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel (Austria)** on 29 Dec 2001, 8:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gianmaria (Italy)

Great job - congretulations to your friend.

And how many thousands of Euros would it cost to restore such a box commercially ?

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Who needs Woodstock Battery Packs?
*Message #1 Posted by **Mark** on 27 Dec 2001, 2:57 p.m.*

I'm taking a marketing survey. No need to reply to this forum. Instead please email me with the following: Subject: WOODSTOCK. Body of message: A single integer, the number of Woodstock series (HP-21 through HP-29) battery packs you lack. This would be equal to the number of Woodstock calculators you own which have no battery pack or a badly botched repaired pack for which you would like to obtain a replacement. Thanks! -mark.

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Another stolen museum picture
*Message #1 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 26 Dec 2001, 4:15 p.m.*

Hi,

http://cgi.ebay.de/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1314152077

and I can't see a link to it's origin.

Regards,

Raymond

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Exchanging prices
*Message #1 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 26 Dec 2001, 12:29 p.m.*

Hi all,

I was thinking about how much an out of market HP calculator worths if we pay it with another(s) out of market HP We should consider that all of them are in mint conditions and have manuals. I think that many of HP collectors have more than one model machine and I'm trying to encourage exchanging machines market istead use USD, can it be done?

Example,

Can we pay a 41CX with one HP15C and one HP28S?

Here is my question list

HP11C HP15C HP41CV HP41CX HP34C HP42S HP67

Thanks

Marx Pio

Re: Exchanging prices
*Message #2 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 26 Dec 2001, 1:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

this is a subject that's ripe for discussion. trade is a great way to help subvert the mercenary nature of acquiring and disposing of extra hp's. booklung's $2000 ebay 65 and my $3 flea market 67 & 94E don't apply here so i'll just watch and take notes.

Re: Exchanging prices
*Message #3 Posted by **Ren Tescher** on 28 Dec 2001, 12:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by db(martinez,california)

This is also subjective comparison. As I traded an older HP "woodstock?" a number of years ago for a very good condition 16C. I didn't check with this forum before the trade, as the 16C was worth "more" to me. For all I know, the one I traded off was some ultra-rare woodstock, but for me, I got what I wanted out of the deal.

Re: Exchanging prices
*Message #4 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 28 Dec 2001, 10:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

>Here is my question list

>HP11C HP15C HP41CV HP41CX HP34C HP42S HP67

This is best answered by taking some model as a unit and then expressing the value of the rest in terms of that unit. For instance, if HP-34C is taken as 1, then for me:

HP-11C = 2.5, HP-15C = 3.5, HP-16C = 4, HP-10C = 6

HP-67 = 3.5, HP-41CV = 2, HP-41CX = 3, HP-42S = 3

Of course, we're talking about truly mint items with mint manuals. The monetary value of this 'unity' as seen in eBay would be something around USD 60-70.

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HP 41 Barcode Generation
*Message #1 Posted by **Efrain Vas Hochfarber** on 26 Dec 2001, 8:42 a.m.*

Does anyone know who can produce barcodes for HP41 programs on a letter size paper. I would like to know. Txs in advance for your comments...Efrain

Re: HP 41 Barcode Generation
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 26 Dec 2001, 11:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Efrain Vas Hochfarber

Hi, Efrain;

There is a program that can produce such barcodes. It is hp41uc.exe, and runs in DOS environment. There is also another code that eases its use under Windows. I've been using hp41uc.exe for some time, and it runs O.K. in the DOS PROMPT from Windows.

ONE IMPORTANT THING: I did not get success printing the generated files (PCL, if I am not wrong) under Windows. I had to restart the computer, press [F8] and select **Comand Prompt Only**. Then I could print the file with the barcode image.

I`m sending you an e-mail with hp41uc.zip right now, O.K.?

If there is anything else, let us know.

Regards.

Re: HP 41 Barcode Generation
*Message #3 Posted by **Chan Tran** on 26 Dec 2001, 8:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Dear Luiz, Can I have a copy of the hp41uc.exe too. Thanks in advance Chan Tran

Re: HP 41 Barcode Generation
*Message #4 Posted by **Yani** on 26 Dec 2001, 8:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Chan Tran

You can download it from this site here; http://www.hpmuseum.org/software/41uc.htm

HP 41 Barcode PCL format conversion
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Dec 2001, 6:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Efrain Vas Hochfarber

Hi;

taking a ride in this thread, I've been looking for a converter that would take the PCL-format file generated by hp41uc.exe to other vector-based format, say, DRW, DXF, EPS, WMF or another that can be handled by windows-based text processors (Word, PageMaker, StarOffice). I found a converter from PCL to GIF (TIFF?), but it 'eats' the rows' labels as they are vector-based digits that, when converted, are too small to be more than simple bitmap-type dots.

That's why I am trying to find a converter that can generate vector images, easier to handle.

Thanks and cheers.

Re: HP 41 Barcode PCL format conversion
*Message #6 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 5 Jan 2002, 6:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I've just (hopefully) added HP41 barcode generation to my 'lif utilities for linux' distribution. What I did was to split the process of printing barcode into 2 parts. The first program takes in an HP41 program file and outputs a 'barcode' file. The second program reads in the barcode file and turns it into postscript (as I have a Postscript printer). That way, if I want to produce barcode for a different printer (say PCL), all I have to re-write is the second program. I've written another program that turns SDATA files into data barcode, and of course it uses the same barcode file format (and thus the same Postscript printer program). Of course under linux (and other unices) it's trivial to link programs together using the pipe operator. Anyone is welcome to use this 'barcode' file format in their HP41 barcode programs, either as the only output format or as an option. The only disadvantage is that I've made no provision for labelling the rows of barcode, so my program barcode printouts don't have the program line numbers corresponding to each row printed on them. I've never found that feature useful, though. Oh yes, the file format. It's a series of variable length logical records, in binary. The low nybble of the first byte + 1 is the number of data bytes in the record (so 1 to 16 data bytes). The high nybble is ignored. The next n bytes are

the data for that row of barcode, leftmost byte first. Then you have another record, starting with a byte giving its length, and so on.

Re: HP 41 Barcode PCL format conversion
*Message #7 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 5 Jan 2002, 9:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thanks, Tony;

Falks; all that is discussed bellow is related basically to barcode formats used in the HP41. Please, I tried not to be off-topic; right?

I have Linux in my computer, but I did experience some trouble configuring the babe for Internet and Network (both MODEM and LAN card cannot be found). I`m about to update the distribution (any clues?) and the kernel (I must check it up for the actual I`m using), and I believe I`ll be able to got through your tips soon.

Anyway, I searched the Internet for a program that would do the conversion from PCL to some sort of vector-based drawing. The best (not vector-related) would generate a bitmap-based image for the .pcl files. The problem was the row numbers, that it replaced for a group of big dots (resolution, I believe). As I intended mixing the barcode images with text in a word-processor, I needed a graphics version of the barcodes. I thought about .eps, .drw, .cdr extensions, but could not find any.

At least I know which door I`ll knock later, when Linux is running alright... May I?

Cheers.

Re: HP 41 Barcode PCL format conversion
*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 6 Jan 2002, 7:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Firstly, just for clarification, my linux programs do not incldue a PCL->anything translator. In fact they don't produce PCL either. The barcode programs (turning HP41 programs and data files into barcode) output data in the format I mentioned in the last message. The only printer driver is a postscript one which _certainly_ doesn't meet the eps spec. Of course you're welcome to write your own translators from the barcode file into PCL or whatever word processor format you want. That's the whole point of having the 'barcode' files. Secondly, is PCL a vecotr format? I've nevertried to produce it, but the old HP printer manuals I have seem to imply it's a raster (bitmapped image) format with the ability to put text characters on the page as

well. In which case turning PCL into a vector format is not a totally trivial task. It should be possible to turn it into other bitmapped formats, like .gif, etc though, fairly easily. My guess as to why your row labels didn't turn out right after conversion is that the conversion program didn't know the font used, or didn't know how to scale it properly, or something like that. So it couldn't handle the text for the labels but could handle the bitmapped data for the barcode. But it would take a little investigation to prove that.

Re: HP 41 Barcode PCL format conversion
*Message #9 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 6 Jan 2002, 10:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Tony Duell (UK)

Hi, Tony;

thanks for clarifying. I have been using HP41UC.EXE for the last year and I found it very usefull cause I could create a paralell lib with some of my programs in barcode, hardcopy format. The fact is that the only format I got success printing was the PCL one. I don`t know why, I just tried printing the resulting file in Windows environment (98SE, printer HP 1100 laserjet, I believe PostScript Ready) and the system crashed. In DOS mode, everything is fine; a single DOS output command with a *>prn* at the end of the command line.

And I am completely sure your conclusions about the row labels are right. I agree with them. But I still intend doing what you have done, mostly cause you have used Linux. And the .pcl files are something like this: (just a little piece of one PCL file) [pre] &k0S &l8D *r640S (s1BHOURS_FMT (29.04.2001_LCVieira_XFunc) (s0B

Program Registers Needed: 10

ROW 1 (1 - 6) *rA *b0W *b0W (... and many other characters) [/pre]

They are not vector-format, but the text that is printed between the bars and in the headings appear unchanged, meaning they are not exactly bitmapped. I`ll continue my investigations and if I find something new, I`m posting here.

Thanks for your valuable informations.

Re: HP 41 Barcode PCL format conversion
*Message #10 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 7 Jan 2002, 7:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

From what I remmeber about PCL (gained by reading some ancient-ish HP printer manuals, which may not be fully PCL compatible), text can be printed as ASCII characters, and things like font changes, bitmapped graphics, underlining, etc are done by escape sequences. That would explain the ^[characters in your file -- they're <esc> characters (0x1b). I don't have the manual to hand, so I can't look up all the sequneces used there, but that's what the file looks like to me. I've never used the MS-DOS HP41 software -- what other printers can it handle for barcode? It may be that one of the others (if there are any) is going to be easier to translate into a word processor input file.

Re: HP 41 Barcode PCL format conversion
*Message #11 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 7 Jan 2002, 8:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Tony Duell (UK)

Tony, thanks again for your kindness and effort helping me in such an off-topic matter.

You have suggested that the barcodes should have a kind of bitmap format in such a way they could be managed in a text processor, maybe the way HP used in their own hardcopy material.

As I have told, there is a SW that already translates PCL to a bitmap-based image that can be handled by WinWord(!). In fact, I intend using it for final docs -.pdf- to share information about the HP41 in my almost-ready-to-go homepage. I just have to print the final docs and test if the wand can read them.

I`ll do it ASAP and I`ll post final results.

Thanks again. If there is another valuable suggestion, please, post it.

Best regards.

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Jornada X25
*Message #1 Posted by **J.Manrique** on 26 Dec 2001, 4:22 a.m.*

It would be a nice machine..

At least, here is a photo to see how it looks like:

http://www.theage.com.au/icon/0111/28/news2.html

Merry Christmas and Happy new year 2002 ;-)))

J.Manrique

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Self Test for HP41CV
*Message #1 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 25 Dec 2001, 6:17 p.m.*

Is there a self test for HP41CV?

Thanks

Pio

Re: Self Test for HP41CV
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 25 Dec 2001, 8:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

Yes there is, but unfortunately not built-in. You need a service module, OR an image of it and a RAM/EPROM box, which is capable of setting the ROM start address to 4000h.

Happy New Year,

Raymond

Re: Self Test for HP41CV
*Message #3 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 26 Dec 2001, 3:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

I have seen a display test on the PPC ROM if you have one. However, as the name says, it is only a display test. It is named "DT" on the ROM. It should work for any 41C series. Randy

Thanks!
*Message #4 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 26 Dec 2001, 9:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Randy Smith

Ok.

So, the 41 doesn't came with a self test in rom.I think here in Brazil will be almost impossible to get on of these testing roms.

Thanks.

Peace, prosperity and happy new year for all

Marx Pio

It's almost impossible....
*Message #5 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 27 Dec 2001, 2:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Marx Pio

to find a test ROM anyway! I have never seen one offered for sale. They certainly would be expensive too since they were never meant to be released outside HP repair centers.

Just wondering about...
*Message #6 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Dec 2001, 6:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Randy Smith

Hi, Randy (and falks)

I've seen some posts mentioning the test ROM and recently this one from Pavel called my attention. I was not known that a separate RAM was needed to perform the test. After reading the post I realized that that would depend on what sort of tests were performed so an additional RAM would be needed to store intermidiate results, maybe, to be compared (does the FLAG name come from this?) to references already built inside the test ROM itself. Just wondering.

I have never seen the test ROM itself, and I would like to know how deep the tests go into calc's both O.S. and H.W., say, would the results give significant information for us who will try to repair the calculator? Or it would be valuable just to confirm the calculator's O.K. status?

As Randy mentions, the test ROM is somewhat hard to find. Is it important having it? I believe e-bay dealers should have one, so the 41's walking around there would be tested before going to final buyer...

Just wondering.

Cheers.

Re: Just wondering about...
*Message #7 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 27 Dec 2001, 6:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi,

I don't know if any of these Test ROM's are available as modules, but I know that there were at least two different ROM images for testing purposes. AFAIK one for the C/CV (SERV1D), and one for the CX (SERVCX). They are hard coded to address 4xxxh and act as 'takeover' ROM's.

Many years ago I had these, and they worked.

Cheers,

Raymond

That's new info!
*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Dec 2001, 7:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Hi, Raymond;

thanks answering the post. Now I'm somewhat curious: as the ROM is not a module, what is it? One single IC that is placed/soldered inside the calculator?

I cannot visualize it. What is it physicaly?

Thanks.

Re: That's new info!

*Message #9 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 27 Dec 2001, 10:01 a.m.,*

in response to message #8 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi Luiz,

I don't know they have ever been produced as modules, but they are 'normal' 4K ROM images. Maybe the HP-41 service manual gives a hint.

I used the images many years ago in my MBK ProfiSet, a 32K RAM box from W&W.

I loaded them into the first RAM bank, then switched the base address to 4xxxh. After turning the calc off and on again the service ROM had total control of the system.

There were some tests, of which I only recall the keyboard test.

It was somewhat difficult to get rid of it again, since it's a takeover ROM;-) I had to deactivate the ON interrupt vector of the image to be able to delete it...

Regards,

Raymond

BTW: Obviously there existed another maybe interesting module for the HP-41: The Demo ROM. I only have the keyboard overlay of it. Black background, upper frame and letters in red, with the word DEMO on the frame, lower frame and letters in green, with the word CHRONO on the frame. Row labelling from top to bottom: [DISP KEYS TIMER CHRONO ALARM] [I/O CARD PRINT PLOT CASSETTE] [SHIFT HPILPR CUSTOM BST] [RCLnnn SST/EXIT] [SPLIT dSPLIT REG# CLEAR]

the remaining key labels are just the numbers and the R/S label.

I got this kbd overlay from an HP dealer in the early eighties, but unfortunately not the ROM;-)

Re: Just wondering about...
*Message #10 Posted by **hans brueggemann [GER]** on 28 Dec 2001, 2:55 a. m.,*
in response to message #7 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

raymond, the test rom for the hp-41 is a normal plug-in module. in germany it was called 'diagnose-modul'. i know of one CCD- member who got his hands on it. his favorite joke on computer fairs was showing the module to hp- representatives who consistently denied its existence and availability.

cheers, hans

Re: Just wondering about...
*Message #11 Posted by **David Smith** on 27 Dec 2001, 4:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

The HP41C servive manual (on the HPMUSEUM disks) mentions the "FLAG" module as being a modified RAM module used to test the flag inputs in the calculator I/O ports. I don't think it actually uses the RAM chip, but has a manual switch input that connects to the bus FLAG line.

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How do you display your collection?
*Message #1 Posted by **Mark** on 25 Dec 2001, 4:41 p.m.*

How does everyone display their HP collection? I've got mine in a big cardboard box right now. Wish I had some idea of how to display these so they could be protected from dust yet still be visible, and accessible to take out and operate when desired.

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #2 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 25 Dec 2001, 6:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark

I simply use each one of my 8 HP's when I have business meetings.

The engineers are more attentive than we think, and they will notice that you do math with new and old fashioned calculator machines ;)

Marx

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #3 Posted by **Iqbal** on 25 Dec 2001, 7:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Marx Pio

I use ferrero rocher plastic containers to display my smaller calculators. Protected from dust and can be seen from outside. And I keep a little bag of silica gel [what you get from those shoes boxes] to protect against moisture. Well that's how I display my calculators.

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #4 Posted by **cyclist** on 25 Dec 2001, 9:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark

I have a calculator hutch !

Actually, it is a 4 shelf bookshelf with glass front doors. No dust and displays real well. A bit pricey, but does the job.....

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #5 Posted by **katie** on 26 Dec 2001, 11:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark

I've got a couple of hundred displayed in 4 "curio" cabinets. They're wood framed 6 foot tall cabinets with glass on three sides and mirrored backs. Normally they come with 3 glass shelves installed, but I've added 6 more and adjusted the support pins so that they slant forward to display the calculators. Because of the slant, many of the calculators (but not the HP's) need to have rubber feet stuck on the bottom to keep them from sliding off.

There's a light inside the cabinets on the top and the overall effect is very museum-like. And since all of the calculators are functional and have new (or charged nicad) batteries in them, it's like a hands-on museum! Now I just need some visitors.

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #6 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 26 Dec 2001, 1:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by katie

does your museum serve beer? yes? we'll all be right over.

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #7 Posted by **katie** on 29 Dec 2001, 12:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by katie

Here are some pictures of the calculators in the cases that I described previously:

http://www.wass.net/overview.jpg

http://www.wass.net/small%20case.jpg

http://www.wass.net/hp%20case.jpg

http://www.wass.net/hp%20calc%20detail%201.jpg

http://www.wass.net/hp%20calc%20detail%202.jpg

http://www.wass.net/hp%20calc%20detail%203.jpg

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #8 Posted by **Mark** on 29 Dec 2001, 11:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by katie

Thanks katie. That is just what I had in mind. I would choose a craftsman style case, but your setup is just great. Looks like you have some rare units in there too. -mark.

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #9 Posted by **Andreas Stockurger (Germany)** on 27 Dec 2001, 4:15 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark

Hi,

please try this link:

http://www.angelfire.com/de/andi/index.html

and select

"HP Calculators 1", 2 & 3 and dont forget to click on "HP Monsters" ...

BTW: Has someone an idea how to present the "monsters" ???

Best regards and a happy new year

Andreas

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #10 Posted by **IchBinEinBerliner** on 27 Dec 2001, 6:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Andreas Stockurger (Germany)

What sort of display case is that?

Re: How do you display your collection?
*Message #11 Posted by **Andreas Stockurger (Germany)** on 28 Dec 2001, 11:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Andreas Stockurger (Germany)

Hi,

was a present from my wife. We bought it at "Mann Mobilia" in germany. Is not the nicest but they perfectly fit for hp calculators...

Best regard

Andreas

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Merry Christmas
*Message #1 Posted by **Pavel Korensky** on 24 Dec 2001, 4:59 a.m.*

Merry Christmas to all peoples on this list. I wish you a lot of Christmas gifts, especially rare HP calculators, manuals and similar interesting things to your collections.

Merry Christmas
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 24 Dec 2001, 6:53 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pavel Korensky

May every single wish of happiness be heard by those among us that can make it happen. Or by anyone, anywhere.

Best regards to you all.

Luiz Cláudio Vieira - Brazil

Re: Merry Christmas
*Message #3 Posted by **Marx Pio(Brasil)** on 24 Dec 2001, 11:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I just have an amen for Luiz's words

Shalom !

Marx Pio

Re: Merry Christmas
*Message #4 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 24 Dec 2001, 5:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Marx Pio(Brasil)

Just to wish a Merry Christmas to all the people here and those close to them, and also our sincere wishes for a peaceful and happy new year everywhere.

Merry Newtonsday
*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 24 Dec 2001, 7:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Merry Newtonsday to all HP calculator enthusiasts and their families and friends. May 2002 bring forth many more HP calcualtor hacks... (Isaac Newton was born 25th December 1642 according to the calendar in use in England at the time. As a physicist I feel his birthday is something to celebrate :-))

Re: Merry Christmas
*Message #6 Posted by **lowracer** on 24 Dec 2001, 7:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

and for those of us atheists and agnostics who do not celebrate any festive holidays at this time of year, have a great week! :-)

Re: Merry Christmas
*Message #7 Posted by **Iqbal (Trinidad, West Indies)** on 24 Dec 2001, 7:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by lowracer

Happy holidays to all. Let's hope the new year brings peace to all of mankind. And let's also hope that HP brings back the HP42S :)

Re: Merry Christmas
*Message #8 Posted by **Christopher** on 25 Dec 2001, 2:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Iqbal (Trinidad, West Indies)

Indeed, A merry merry to all!!

Re: Merry Christmas

*Message #9 Posted by **Joy S. Noel** on 25 Dec 2001, 2:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Christopher

Hark! The HP Angels sing
Collecting is the Greatest thing;
Peace on Earth, we wish success
And a replacement for the 42s.

Joyful, All ye nations rise
Yes, even if you've got T.I.'s
Rise, ye Angels and proclaim
Your calculator Hall of Fame
Hark! The HP Angels sing
Collecting is the Greatest thing.

Voyagers, Woodstocks, in full voice
Halfnuts or Fullnuts, all rejoice
We'll all know we've reached heav'n when
We see St. Peter, using RPN

Desktops, Handhelds, held on high
Constants from *ln* to *pi*
Hail the Mag Card, data in place
'Cause keying twice is such a waste
Hark! The HP Angels sing
Collecting is such a beautiful thing.

Give ye pause, and give ye thought
Did Rudolph have a 35 red-dot?
What did he key in to display
While other reindeer left to play?

Gather now, in this happy season
Formulae that uphold Reason
Programs that universally please
Stored in our Continuous Memories
Hark! The HP Angels cheer:
Bless this website,
and those who make Home here.

Joyeu Noël à tous - Prettige Kerstfeest voor iedereen
*Message #10 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 25 Dec 2001, 5:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Marx Pio(Brasil)

Everything's in the title

Re: Joyeu Noël à tous - Prettige Kerstfeest voor iedereen
*Message #11 Posted by **L. Deruyck** on 25 Dec 2001, 8:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Thibaut.be

Nice to read something in flemish here !!

Re: Joyeu Noël à tous - Prettige Kerstfeest voor iedereen
*Message #12 Posted by **John Mosand (Norway)** on 25 Dec 2001, 3:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by L. Deruyck

God Jul og Godt Nyttaar til alle vaare HP venner!

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hp28C LCD Contrast
*Message #1 Posted by **didiervo** on 23 Dec 2001, 3:49 p.m.*

I don't know how to adjust LCD contrast of an hp 28C

Re: hp28C LCD Contrast
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 23 Dec 2001, 4:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by didiervo

Hi,

press the 'ON' key and the '+' or '-' key simultanously to increase/decrease the contrast.

Raymond

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Another HP Calculators web page...
*Message #1 Posted by **Gianmaria (Italy)** on 23 Dec 2001, 9:27 a.m.*

Hello fellow HP collectors, I've just finished (however the work is in progress...) to place some photos on my new web-site http://www.hpcalculators.net (intresting domain, isn't it? :-) More unusual photos coming soon.
I wish you a very nice and peaceful Christmas and happy New Year!!!

Re: Another HP Calculators web page...
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 23 Dec 2001, 12:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Gianmaria (Italy)

Ciao Gianmaria,

Congratulations... at last we can see the 9100a you're so proud of!

Besides I as planning to use www.hpcal.net domain name... :-)

anyway I'll add the link on my site.

Please continue to post pictures of your collection, and i encoureage evrybody here to do so !

Re: Another HP Calculators web page...

*Message #3 Posted by **Y K Wong (Singapore)** on 23 Dec 2001, 8:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Thibaut.be

Hi Gian,

Congratulations of your new web page! Happy shooting :-)

I just wonder how many individual web page dedicated to HP calculators out there?

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all!

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Snipe Bots Expanded (see discssion below)
*Message #1 Posted by **Christopher** on 23 Dec 2001, 2:32 a.m.*

I have to say that I am impressed with the debate/dialogue as a result of my earlier comments on snipe bot use in auctions. I didn't expect it, but I am very glad of it! Debate can be very educational, enlightening and instructive!

Although I don't like Mike's condescending tone, I have to agree with him primarily: A bot allows you to bid while not needing to be present, and that is its best feature.

But it is not its only feature.

I think that there is an additional benefit, and I touched on it in my first post on this topic.

First, a couple of points:

I believe that it can be very tempting to some eBay newcomers (read: sh*t disturbers) to try to drive up the price of an auction for excitement or thrills.

More significantly, I also believe that it can be very tempting to marginally bid up the price of an auction, even if you're an experienced eBayer. You talk yourself into that next bid increment, over and over again until you see your name up there as the high bidder because you really think you must have that item. One may do this for a couple of irrational reasons, be it ego (i.e. you just have to beat the other guy, I've gotten myself caught up in this scenario), or be it an emotional desire for the object without the much needed accompaniment of rational thought in the purchase, or whatever... you can come up with a lot of reasons to want something. Remember the very human allocation of goods (and services) core problem of economics, "unlimited wants with limited resources...": we can be nonsensical at times in purchases and forget our "limited" resources in the heat of bidding for our "unlimited wants".

I don't want to get caught up with others in that situation, and I don't want to encourage it, if I can help it.

So what's the benefit of snipe bots?

I find that if I pick my price point ahead of time, and I am satisfied with what I am willing to pay, it becomes a question of whether or not I want to make a target for someone else to try and attain or beat. The answer is I don't! So usually, I consider the object of my desire, pick a bid price, then add a couple of bucks and a few pennies, and set the bot. This way I am doing what eBay and Mike suggest, but I am NOT tipping my hand in advance. I may or may not get my item, but I am invariably satisfied with my efforts. This all I can ask for from an auction: satisfaction, one way or the other.

As for a few of the other points brought up in the thread below:

I haven't yet seen someone say that they do not allow bot bids on their auctions, I am not saying it doesn't happen, I just haven't seen it. I would have to cross that bridge when I got to it. Just a thought though, how could they distinguish between a manual snipe and a bot snipe? In fact, I can't imagine why they wouldn't want to encourage snipers: if you get enough people doing it, in a sense, you stretch out the last 9 or 10 seconds with a bunch of extra "botted" bids, which one could argue would have a similar net effect to dynamically adding 5 minutes to the end of an auction. Your stretching out time with increased bids in those last few seconds.

By the way, I think that dynamically adding 5 minutes to the end of an auction is a very interesting consideration, with a lot of merit. However, I agree that it would add a lot of value to objects, marginally driving prices up, primarily due to the emotional reasons I talked of above. However, the ballooning of prices would ultimately be restrictive and therefore counter productive in the end, leading to flat markets (in my humble opinion).

I have been tempted to do the so called huge bid "bomb" snipe, both by bot or by manual snipe. It just doesn't make sense in the end because, as is obvious (i.e. booklung and his HP-65), you could get hung out to dry. In the end, I usually tack a few extra bucks and a some cents to create screwball number, like $67.14, just to give myself a marginal edge. Maybe we could name that "bomblet" sniping (I'm thinking of the little tiny bomblets in cluster bombs! Lends it a certain sort of cuteness, doesn't it?

Finally, I follow the auctions that I am interested in with a great deal of interest on a daily basis, and usually only set up a bot with a day or two to go in the auction. I haven't had any surprise changes yet, but it is a good thought, and I must say, one that I haven't given much consideration to. There I go again, seems I am closing right where I began, I am agreeing with Mike in spite of myself!! :-)

At any rate, despite my agreement with a lot of what Mike said, I do not believe that he has fully described the benefits to using a bot, and in fact, he sees them in a very limited light.

Of course, we are all entitled to our opinions and experience!

I love this web site! Happy holidays to all!

Re: Snipe Bots Expanded (see discssion below)
*Message #2 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 23 Dec 2001, 9:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Christopher

No one seems to mention the negative ramifications of sniping amongst fellow HP enthusiasts. I don't usually feel like trading, selling, purchasing or repairing any wares from someone who has sniped me in the last seconds of an auction. I understand all the logic that has been pointed out in this forum by sniping to get an item, it is just something that I choose not to do. It does not always need to be a dog eat dog world out there.

Re: Snipe Bots Expanded (see discssion below)
*Message #3 Posted by **Ebay Reg** on 23 Dec 2001, 10:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Erik Wahlin

Thanks Erik,

I agree whole heartedly. And 90%+ of the collectors I deal with feel the same way you do. I've long since given up hope for the other 10%.

Re: Snipe Bots Expanded (see discssion below)
*Message #4 Posted by **Ebay Watcher** on 23 Dec 2001, 1:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ebay Reg

One way to stop sniping is to price items so ridiculously high that no one will bid on them.

Case in point: There's a 15C Advanced User manual on auction for $115!! I believe this is a relist by the seller, when it didn't sell the first time for something like $150.

Does this seller really think any sane person will pay that price?

Re: Snipe Bots Expanded (see discssion below)
*Message #5 Posted by **Ebay Reg** on 25 Dec 2001, 6:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ebay Watcher

How about the guy who snipes other collectors for HP stuff, then takes different pictures of it and puts it right back up on Ebay at 2-3x the cost, to try to sell it to the unaware? Amazing

Re: Snipe Bots Expanded (see discssion below)
*Message #6 Posted by **EBay Sniper** on 23 Dec 2001, 6:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Erik Wahlin

Why does it make you feel "cheated" when someone "snipes" you? The only difference between last-second bid sniping and bidding days beforehand, is the timing of your bid entry. If you lose an auction to a sniper, then you just didn't bid high enough.

If the "sniper" had bid 24 hours before auction close, and you were outbid, would you have felt cheated? Why or why not?

Is it because the "sniper" didn't give you a chance to try and outbid his new bid?

Not the point!
*Message #7 Posted by **Collector** on 23 Dec 2001, 8:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by EBay Sniper

How you feel after being outbid (whether it occurs 24 hours or 5 seconds prior to auction end) plays into one's willingness to do business with the sniper in future transactions. However, as the end time nears, the stronger the emotion feels.

It's kinda like having someone sneak into a parking space you were waiting for after the occupant backs out. Same emotion I think.

You may want to review Erik's post above.

Re: Not the point!
*Message #8 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 24 Dec 2001, 12:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Collector

Collector wrote: It's kinda like having someone sneak into a parking space you were waiting for after the occupant backs out.

Regardless of pros-and-contras with respect to sniping, this is a best description of what I feel about E-bay sniping.

Re: Not the point!
*Message #9 Posted by **Snaipah** on 25 Dec 2001, 4:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

How do you feel about people who do not use bots, but watch the auction live and bid in the closing minutes (or seconds) of an auction?

Re: Not the point!
*Message #10 Posted by **Goody2shoes** on 25 Dec 2001, 8:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Snaipah

I get a warm and fuzzy feeling inside. How about you?

Re: Not the point!
*Message #11 Posted by **Snaipah** on 25 Dec 2001, 4:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Goody2shoes

My point is, it doesn't feel good to be out-bid, period. It doesn't matter if it is 5 seconds, or 5 minutes, or 5 hours or 5 DAYS before auction end.

Snaipah

Re: Not the point!
*Message #12 Posted by **UK calc enthusiast** on 25 Dec 2001, 5:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Snaipah

That's the most ridiculous thing I've heard yet. Yes, it most certainly DOES matter WHEN it happens!

There's a huge difference being outbid 2 days before the auction ends, and being outbid 2 seconds before the end. In the first case, you say, Oh Well, I was outbid, but I can bid again. In the latter case (and especially if you were the high bidder before being sniped) you feel very differently because you cannot bid again. The emotions border on feelings of being the victim of a crime. And you want revenge.

You are not fully accounting for the emotional factors in the sniping process. You view sniping, and auctions in general it appears, as a simple matter of pure economics, but it is much more complex than that. One foundation of economics is that people are NOT rational. Emotion always plays a part. Especially the ramifications after being sniped!

If someone broke into your house and stole your TV, at a later date would you sell your toaster to that person? Would you buy a vacuum from that person? I think not. I, for one, would do everything I could to make that person's life miserable.

Re: Not the point!
*Message #13 Posted by **Wayne Brown** on 25 Dec 2001, 9:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by UK calc enthusiast

"In the first case, you say, Oh Well, I was outbid, but I can bid again."

But you're not *supposed* to bid again. You're supposed to figure out the absolute maximum you'd pay for an item, and bid that amount the *first* time, and not bid again. The proxy bidding system takes care of bidding for you, in small increments up to your maximum. If everyone did that, there would be no need (or use) for sniping.

Sure, eBay *allows* you to bid multiple times if you want. It also allows sniping. Neither is forbidden either by the rules or by the way the system works. You may be irritated by someone who snipes you at the last moment. On the other hand, I'm very irritated when I make a $100 bid, and the price stays at $20 for most of the auction, then shoots up to $95 on the last day. And when I look at the bidding history, I see that one or two people each have made half a dozen bids or more, ratcheting the price up a few dollars at a time, until they gave up. I still win, but pay almost the full amount of my bid. If I had sniped I would have won with the price much closer to $20 than to $100. This exact scenario happened to me several times (in a variety of price ranges) before I decided that from then on I would rely exclusively on sniping.

If everyone else would use the system the way it's intended to work (proxy bidding with *one* maximum bid) then it would be easier for all of us. I certainly don't enjoy getting up at 3:00 am just so I can bid in the last 10 seconds of an auction. (I haven't used any bots up to now because I'm not sure I trust giving my eBay ID and password to third-party software or Web sites.) It would be much nicer to make one bid as soon as I find an auction, then forget about it until the end-of-auction notice arrives. But until everyone else does it that way, I'm going to keep sniping.

Re: Not the point!
*Message #14 Posted by **Observer** on 25 Dec 2001, 9:57 p.m., in response to message #13 by Wayne Brown*

Yes, all true. BTW, we were talking about feelings, not strategies.

Ebay is not perfect. I'm not sure exactly *what* the perfect system would look like. However, you've outlined the realities, so that's what we've got to deal with. Including your sniping, unfortunately.

Re: I see the pro's & cons

*Message #15 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 25 Dec 2001, 10:16 p.m., in response to message #13 by Wayne Brown*

I think your point is well made. I bid early, but low and don't bother to bid again until the last day (sort of a warning that I may bid later), not usually last minute, unless it is at a convienent hour. But usually with Hp calculators, that will be the only way to win.

The ebay system encourages and rewards this type of behavior. It is not fair to the bidder at all. But no one makes you bid. If ebay wanted to be fair, the price would not be shown, nor a history, until after the auction. Perhaps a list of bidding parties and allow multiple bids, but no high showing bid.

However sellers would then go to a site more favorable to them, and at the momemt (and forseeable future) ebay is that place. It is not a buyers market for Hp calculators. Ebay is only a convience, not a bargain store. If you don't forget that, it makes it easier to cope with some of the $$$ that these older calcs bring.

I see on our own clasified board prices that are now compariable to ebay. If you are going to collect Hp's easily, you will have to pay the prices. The alternative is to bargain hunt (I indulge in this often), but it takes time and effort. I could easily save myself the aggravation by just buying it at the going rate on ebay.

I try not to bid against certain individuals and shy away from driving the price up on many models. Presently I want a 16c and only want to pay $125. The going rate on ebay is $200 give or take $50 today. Tommorrow it may be $300 on ebay. I bid on an occasional 16c, but I realize that it is going to go for more than I want to pay. Will I get my 16c? Maybe some day, but probably through a trade or dumb luck, not by an ebay auction (even if I sniped).

Many people here do collect via ebay (and sell and do well I understand), but as I said before, do not think you will get a

great deal by auction. That is what ebay wants the buyer to think, and that is what brings you to ebay. But it is an illusion, not reality.

Reality is, snipers, bid shilling, even other bidders with afterthoughts (biggest problem, and we all give in ie its only worth $125 for me, two days later, I WANT IT, HELL, I'll go $160. etc). And those are the very reasons ebay shows top bidder and the current 2nd highest bid + $1 or whatever increment it happens to be.

No auction is ever really fair, since it gives 1 seller the opportunity to reach multiple buyers, hence the law of supply and demand is now present. 1 item and 20 people who want it.

You can cry about snipers, hold anamosity towards them if you wish, but the point is, the system rewards them and I cannot blame them for an effective bidding stratagy. And as such you are wasting emotional effort.

I used to bid often and on everything. But the escallation and the volume is such (and wife, my purse holder, put a stop on my overindulgence) that I no longer bother except on occasion. I wasn't winning that much anyway, THANKS TO YOU DAMN SNIPPERS (my vent, but as I said before, it is encouraged and it does keep the auction down, from those with second thoughts).

My point is, if you feel it is unfair, this is one game you don't have to play. Are you going to quit? I didn't think so.

Re: I see the pro's & cons
*Message #16 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 25 Dec 2001, 10:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Ron Ross

I'm not sure it's been mentioned, but I often put in a bid for a smaller amount than my top "willing to pay" price early in the auction so I can watch the auction! I often exceed my alotted 20 items "I'm Watching". (Though, thankfully, I've collected most of the models I couldn't live without...) I've been pleasantly surprised on several occasions when I won with an early bid. I've also beat myself for forgetting about an auction that goes for a low price... a bidding "bot" might be useful there. Can't sniping actually, sometimes, keep the prices LOWER than they'd otherwise be if the auction never "picks up steam"? I started buying on e-bay almost two years ago now, and have bought nothing for several months. I noticed at the start a "casino" mentality; people with money that don't want to lose... the winning may be more important than the item....

Then there's those hoarders... that's a whole other topic.

Double-edged. The prices have gone up, making my colletion more valuable. This is good. It does, however, make expanding the collection a lot harder. That's bad.

Oh well. Life on the global garage sale.

Re: I see the pro's & cons
*Message #17 Posted by **Question** on 26 Dec 2001, 1:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Michael Meyer, M.D.

Why do you put MD after your name? In general, the people on this board have fairly high degrees (Ph.Ds, etc), but we don't advertise it. Why must you? No one here really cares about your MD degree.

Title anger! Was: I see the pro's & cons
*Message #18 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 26 Dec 2001, 2:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Question

Why do you put MD after your name? In general, the people on this board have fairly high degrees (Ph.Ds, etc), but we don't advertise it. Why must you? No one here really cares about your MD degree.

I assumed it was because Mike didn't want us to think that he was the Michael Meyer of Halloween fame! ;-)

But seriously, I have an advanced degree in EE, and I once made the mistake of signing a letter to a (Handspring Visor) forum with my full name---including a title suffix. Boy, it didn't take long for a flamer to come out of the woodwork!

I really don't see the big deal. I think part of the problem is that deep-down, some people are insecure. What other explanation can be offered? If you are secure about yourself, your life, and who you are, then why would you be angry at someone else for using an educational title? That was my response to the slug who lit into me on that forum (which I have never visited since).

Sometimes I *want* to use my title. I feel that I've put in the long hours (and years); why shouldn't I be able to use my title ocasionally? Why do I need to *hide* it? If I use it even *once*, then people like you get mad!

You know, I just keep thinking that 100 years ago, people had more respect for each other. Back then, an advanced educational degree would bring respect or deference or admiration, not *resentment.* It *used* to bother me that medical doctors are almost always *expected* to use their title, but non-

medical doctors are seen as "wanna-bees" when they do the same. Luckily, I've grown much more secure, and I really don't care anymore. It probably has to do with the fact that I happen to think that my life is *much* better than it would be if I were a medical doctor! ;-)

Bruce.

Re: Title anger! Was: I see the pro's & cons

*Message #19 Posted by **Michael Meyer** on 26 Dec 2001, 9:16 p.m.,*

in response to message #18 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Bruce:

Thanks for your "defense" of my title. You're right: I usually DON'T use my title; a "Dr." is almost exclusively used as a title for chiropractors.

By the way: every single one of my friends that dropped or flunked out of medical school is now a millionaire. Meanwhile, I can't pay my bills working 6 or 7 days a week. Boy, was I stupid! At least my hobby (calculators) is cheaper than golf. Though I'd love to have time to learn some day....

Michael

Title anger! Grrrr me getting ranting mad....

*Message #20 Posted by **glynn** on 26 Dec 2001, 11:17 p.m.,*

in response to message #18 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Bruce, you are being too darn nice in your response here!!!

Please count me in as someone who CARES, LIKES and WANTS people to display their well-deserved titles and degrees. To say no one here really cares is just dead WRONG.

Dr. Meyer is part of a profession that rises above most in the art of giving. Take a look around you, sometime, Mr. Question. There's a reason for degrees-- and a reason for the titles that follow a few of them.

Medical doctors are not just well-trained. They dedicate their lives and bind their reputations upon their practice of a VOLUME of skills, each and every one of which require them to keep the highest standards, so that they don't let down the patients who Trust them, their colleagues and the profession itself, which must Have that trust. The degree system is the best way anyone came up with to show that standards have been met... but the honorific Doctor and the M.D. after his name now ARE his name, because he has permanently pledged himself to engage in Medicine, with or without adequate compensation, perks and vacations; he IS Dr. Michael Meyer, M.D., to the community at large and to you and to me.

If you, Mr. Question, are related to him, maybe you can call him "Uncle Mikey". WITH his permission, of course.

The fact that he signed with his title,

constitutes what permissions you DO have; learn it, live it, love it.

It irks me... courtesy, politeness, respect and honor are no big deal to some of you. You think in this forum or in this medium or in this age, we're all equals and therefore a title is some pretension we should all drop. On the contrary, Mr. Question.

We all need to have a certain respect shown to us based on what we offer others; our input, ideas and willingness to be involved-- that respect is an important glue that keeps discussion alive. We get a break for a little while: respect shown us in advance as a willingness to have us in as partners, not ignore and/or make fun of us. To be taken seriously and engaged in more than a flip answer or flame, we have to actually put out: ideas, commentary, reason that touches a chord or makes for more than what was, Builds.

So, think what a Medical Doctor offers others generally-- then think of the intellect honed through study and experience that, when applied here or in other forums, is always considered and reflective-- then understand that Doctors, by their nature, are always active and involved in Something, sometimes including our all-important endeavors. THIS is why Doctors automatically get INITIAL respect, where you or I might have to SHOW we deserve more than just the decency of a platform. Their own training and past actions make for an instant biography you or I may not share, but would be really good for us to know about. Beyond the Initial Respect accorded by the title, the doctor's contributions to this forum receive all the same scrutiny and are judged primarily for their content-- same as us all.

Primarily, I say-- but not Entirely. Every one of us (when not hiding behind a pseudonym) is also creating a bio for him or herself. If WE show our willingness to aid, to educate, to add to and not just waste the time of the others, our names get reputations and people choose to care or not care based on the track-record we lay down post by post. THAT's when we are equal: when those around us look at a name by a response, and they recognize the intellect and give it the respect of their time FOR THAT REASON, because it's by YOU.

And one reason I think titles get such a bad play on many forums is precisely because of envy: the "egalitarians" really, deep in their hearts, hate the idea that a reputation built on intellectual integrity follows some here via titles, but maybe will always be just outside THEIR own grasp, for whatever reason.

Mr. Question, you said, "In general, the people on this board have fairly high degrees (Ph.Ds, etc), but we don't advertise it." That may be, and if so, we are sorrier for it. Physicists, Teachers, Architects, Engineers, Lawyers, Chemists-- hey, I don't have the time to go through the WHOLE list; but their titles MEAN SOMETHING, to you, to me, and to us all, as a small introduction to the character of the person engaged in those crafts, and their area of expertise on the "outside". Why in the world should we wish not to know these things? While text-based communication is, at best, much less personal than most other forms of interaction? The actions of some here, prevailing upon the owner of this board to create a special Biographies section, is PRECISELY BECAUSE there is a THIRST to know more about who the heck we are talking to, interacting with.

Mr. Question, you asked a simple question,

and I have tried to answer. Yours was in an open forum, not a private email. That gives me the opportunity to state my opinions. I have no degree. I have no "title". I am not involved in anything professionally that DESERVES a nod or a more-attentive ear because I am in it.

But *I* DO care about degrees and titles and professional honorifics. Nobody with a degree scares me out of my thoughts and opinions, not even on his "home turf"; indeed, if the titled professional is not ready to sufficiently back up his arguments against mine, it won't be MY reputation suffering. For all these reasons, Mr. Question, I am vexed that anyone WITH a deserved title wouldn't wear it like his own skin, in and out of this Forum.

Now more than ever, the professions that keep society from dropping off the edge of this troubled earth should be lauded, their positions uplifted, their voices should be greeted with listening and respectful ears.

All you professionals, cut the modesty and be who you are: dedicated men and women who are 24 hours, 7 days a week, all your life, in the position of having CHOSEN to be, and then been chosen by others, to represent us all with your PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY: in the decision of how to support that bridge; in how to save that life; in how to uphold our liberties; in how to serve and protect and defend and build and edify.

If you choose to utilize your title, yeah, there will be some with inner animosities; but maybe as they interact more with you, they'll start dealing with real persons with dignity and not impersonally to a screen message, which is why courtesy and respect sometimes seem foreign to them.

Mr. Question, just be yourself, be real, and be honest. Think for yourself, not others. Title or not, we're not here either for ego boosts nor deconstructionist deflating. We're people and our reputations and honor are a part of US.

Re: I see the pro's & cons
*Message #21 Posted by **Michael Meyer** on 26 Dec 2001, 9:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Question

I never thought about it that way. It has been nice, however, to hear from other M.D.'s about how they use their calculators in their business. That part has been great; making new friends in the same profession. I also had the impression that I'm one of the few non-engineers on the Forum.

Additionally, I had read complaints from people that writers don't give their name, e-mail address, etc.

As it is offensive to you, I will cease to use the suffix. It came up automatically in my browser when I typed the first letters in the "Your Name" slot. I have changed it for you.

Sincerely, Michael

title envy
*Message #22 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 26 Dec 2001, 9:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Question

question; are you mad because he has a longer honorific than you? you're right that nobody here cares about his degree, except you. the only thing i ever thought about it was that i wondered (before he said that he's a shrink) if he ever used the nuclear medicine pac. you are not very nice, are you?

Re: title envy
*Message #23 Posted by **Dr. Mikey (as many friends call me)** on 26 Dec 2001, 9:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #22 by db(martinez,california)

I love it! I was taught that this was called some other kind of envy.... very Freudian.

Do you know what a Freudian Slip is? It's when you say one thing, but you mean your mother.

Mines bigger! (My mother, that is.)

Michael

Re: title envy
*Message #24 Posted by **glynn** on 27 Dec 2001, 12:01 a.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Dr. Mikey (as many friends call me)

LOL Dr. Mikey...

I should have a separate screen going to see whether or not to write that next paragraph...

... glad I ranted; glad you are as full of humor as you are; me not mad no more....

--g.

Re: title envy
*Message #25 Posted by **Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great** on 27 Dec 2001, 1:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #24 by glynn

Who cares about titles? I will from now on only answer to those who address me as:

Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, MCSE, CCIE, MCSD, MCDBA, the Great

Re: title envy
*Message #26 Posted by **god** on 1 Jan 2002, 4:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #25 by Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great

How about just plain, moron?

Re: title envy - Gee!
*Message #27 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Jan 2002, 11:00 a.m.,*
in response to message #25 by Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW, 24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, the Great

I could not help myself not posting...

I did not laugh in 2001 so much as now, thanks to *Snaipah, MD, JD, PhD, DVM, DPM, DVD, CD, RW,*

24x/10x/40x, LCD, LSI, TTL, CMOS, MCSE, CCIE, MCSD, MCDBA, the Great

Dr. Mickey, M.D. (with much, sincere respect), thanks a lot. That`s what I call therapy.

Cheers.

Problems with the e-address

Message #28 Posted by ***Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)*** *on 2 Jan 2002, 11:43 a.m.,*

in response to message #23 by Dr. Mikey (as many friends call me)

Hello, Dr. Mickey (if I may);

I have received this message after sending you an e-mail:

----- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors -----
<mlmeyer@pol.ne>

----- Transcript of session follows -----
550 <mlmeyer@pol.ne>... Host unknown (Name server: pol.ne: host not found)

I tried contacting you, Doc, to tell you my house is up and working, and I`m delivering that stuff this week.

Cheers.

Re: Problems with the e-address
*Message #29 Posted by **Andreas Müller** on 2 Jan 2002, 5:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #28 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi Luiz, Sorry for reading your personel post to Dr. Michael Meyer. But let's come to the point. The problem with the e-address sounds to me like an answer of a server when an email infected with the so called 'badtrans.b' virus tries to penetrate into the system. I had similar problems. Check your system.

Regards, Andreas

Thanks for the tip and...
*Message #30 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Jan 2002, 9:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #29 by Andreas Müller

... please, I am the one to be sorry using a common space for personal messages. At least for me, I`d never feel anything but thankfulness for this gesture of yours. Thanks trying to help.

Cheers.

(If you are curious enough, read Massimo`s post and you will see the reason for the error message. I`m ashamed...)

Re: Problems with the e-address
*Message #31 Posted by **Massimo (Italy)** on 2 Jan 2002, 6:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #28 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi Luiz!

I think that his right account is **mlmeyer@pol.net** (from his previous post) *note the last "t" you're missing*.

Massimo

Shame on me...
*Message #32 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Jan 2002, 9:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #31 by Massimo (Italy)

Hey, Massimo;

thanks showing me I need glasses...

Cheers

Re: Shame on me...
*Message #33 Posted by **Massimo (Italy)** on 2 Jan 2002, 10:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #32 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

[glasses] I always wear them Luiz... 8)

Happy New Year Massimo

Re: I see the pro's & cons
*Message #34 Posted by **Frank Knight (one of those Piled higher and Deeper's)** on 26 Dec 2001, 9:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Question

Actually, I did care about his title and found it interesting and discussed the first time we talked. So we know we have MD's and JD's to go with the Ph.D's and other froms of Dr. amongst a wide variety of others including those Michael mentioned who did not go.

I have a Ph.D. from MIT
*Message #35 Posted by **Matt Kernal (US)** on 27 Dec 2001, 10:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Question

I got my Post Hole Digger from Miguel's Implements and Tools ;-)

Dr. Meyer, I don't see any reason why you shouldn't continue to add MD to your name. I thinks it's nice to know one's "Object Type"

Matt, B.S. (double-meaning implied;-)

Re: I have a Ph.D. from MIT
*Message #36 Posted by **Todd G.** on 27 Dec 2001, 10:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #35 by Matt Kernal (US)

How about this solution:

Everybody put their degrees and educational achievements in their biographies on the Bio page for reference. On this discussion board, everyone can refer to each other by first names. We're all friends, after all.

Just to add to the mix, I have a Ph.D.

(biochemistry) and a J.D. (law degree).

Todd

Re: I have a Ph.D. from MIT
*Message #37 Posted by **Michael Meyer** on 27 Dec 2001, 1:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #36 by Todd G.

Todd,

Thank you, and I agree. I think I initially put the M.D. after my name because I felt OUT of my league, being a non-engineer, etc. Then it was what popped up in my browser and I didn't think about it.

I appreciate the tremendous support from the forum and I'm now thoroughly embarrassed about the whole issue brought up by my adding the suffix. Because of the support, I am somewhat in a "bind" if I drop it!!!

So, again, while I appreciate the support from so many here when someone "dissed" the title, all-in-all I agree that it's continued use is unecessary, and I agree with your conclusion. I would also feel better dropping it.

Let's move on to other topics, PLEASE. Back to the important thing... HP calcs!!! Thanks for your support, and sensible conclusions as well.

Michael

Re: Not the point!
*Message #38 Posted by **PM** on 26 Dec 2001, 1:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Wayne Brown

I both buy and sell on eBay. As a seller, I HATE snipers, and I LOVE early repeat bidders. The latter drive up the price, mostly driven by emotions. I just love watching the bidding wars as they happen, right before my eyes. I can see the dollar signs! The smart buyers, i.e. snipers, wait till the end, and avoid the war. Too bad for me.

BUT, when I'm a buyer, I snipe, PERIOD! In fact (and I hate to admit this, especially on Christmas - I know it's somewhat sick), I kind of get a kick out of snatching victory from someone who bid early and has been sitting on the lead for days. Actually, I hope I've done them a favor by teaching them the hard way that early bidding is bad for us buyers, as it drives up the price.

BUT then I put my seller's hat on and want them to bid early! What can I say?

Re: Not the point!
*Message #39 Posted by **UK calc enthusiast** on 27 Dec 2001, 10:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #38 by PM

Hmmmm. You don't seem to practice what you preach. Ebay shows you've bid very early on two items, and not sniped them at the end. Or are you using two identities?

Re: Not the point!
*Message #40 Posted by **Michael Meyer** on 27 Dec 2001, 10:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #39 by UK calc enthusiast

No. Just getting tired, complacent, and collected-out. I'd snipe if I had the serious motivation to buy something more. Now, as other collectors, I'm leaving it more to fate.... <grin>

Mikey

Re: Not the point!
*Message #41 Posted by **Mike Sebastian (Texas)** on 26 Dec 2001, 12:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by UK calc enthusiast

Now I understand - you view bid sniping as a form of theft. (Or, would you like to provide an alternative explaination for your stolen TV hypothetical.)

Theft requires the unlawful appropriation of property with the intent to deprive the owner of that property. Last time I checked, no bidder had any claim to the property being auctioned until the auction had closed. And, it is only the high bidder who has a claim of title in the property that was auctioned. Bid sniping is not theft - you never had any title interest in the property being auctioned to loose.

It is human nature to be unhappy when you are outbid any time during an auction. I don't like being outbid. Being outbid is a risk in any auction. But, it is not rational to blame the high bidder for your bidding timidity or other circumstances which prevent you from bidding more aggressively.

Re: Not the point!
*Message #42 Posted by **UK Calc Enthusiast** on 27 Dec 2001, 10:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #41 by Mike Sebastian (Texas)

No, I do not view bid sniping as a form of theft.

I said it FEELS like theft. There's a big difference.

Re: Not the point!
*Message #43 Posted by **Mr. T** on 26 Dec 2001, 10:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Snaipah

I pity the fool.....

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"FLAG" module for HP-41C ???
*Message #1 Posted by **Pavel Korensky** on 22 Dec 2001, 11:39 a.m.*

Hello,

anyone can help me with following thing ?

I bought couple of HP-41C modules (cheaply, because they are in unknown state, possibly non working). One of those modules is non-working and have the name "Flag Module".

Anyone knows what was the function of this module ? I never saw any description, manual etc. for this kind of module.

Re: "FLAG" module for HP-41C ???
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 22 Dec 2001, 6:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pavel Korensky

This is probably a modified HP 82106A memory module that has been modified to be used with the system test module. It allows the FLAG input on the module bus to be tested.

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HP41CX on HP48GX Rom Image
*Message #1 Posted by **CJ** on 21 Dec 2001, 11:54 p.m.*

Hello all,

I was able to get hrastprogrammer HP41 emulator running on my HP48GX. But only the HP41CV rom version.

I have all the raw rom images that I think are available and I have been trying to make a HP41CX they way the directions say but am having no luck with the 41CX roms.

I am using Greg Dunn's great perl utilty to try to turn the raw images into *.lst files but they are rejected by the setup program as incorrect files.

I used Greg's utility to make a *.lst file for the emu41 and it works great. PPC, Games and other roms work great.

But no joy with the HP48 emulator.

Actually all I really want is the time module for my programs. I don't need X-memory. It would be nice to have it all but right now I would just like to get the time working in the emulator.

Has anybody had success or know where I can get the proper *.lst files for the HP41CX that will work with the emulator?

Thanks for your time. Christopher

Re: HP41CX on HP48GX Rom Image

*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 22 Dec 2001, 5:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by CJ

Hi,

I have a CX version of the emulator, and maybe the ROM's as separate files, too.

Just drop me a note,

Raymond

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Does somebody know the correct syntax of ROMCOPY
*Message #1 Posted by **Christian Dehnke** on 21 Dec 2001, 4:13 p.m.*

Hello HP71b friends out there, does somebody know the correct syntax and description of the ROMCOPY lex including all options? Thanks

Re: Does somebody know the correct syntax of ROMCOPY
*Message #2 Posted by **CJ** on 21 Dec 2001, 11:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Christian Dehnke

Hi Christian,

I don't know the exact syntax but another LEX file might help.

LISTLEX

This LEX file will list all the command names in the LEX file you specify.

If one of the commands it lists is ROMCOPY I would think it would need the address range you want to copy and were to store it. File name, device etc.

Maybe something like.

ROMCOPY ("1000,A000,ROMIMAGE")

ROMCOPY ("1000,A000,ROMIMAGE:TAPE")

Just a guess.

HTH

Christopher

Re: Does somebody know the correct syntax of ROMCOPY

*Message #3 Posted by **CJ** on 22 Dec 2001, 6:42 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Christian Dehnke

I grabed the romcopy file and this is the syntax I seem to have come to.

With my ROM in port 1

>ROMCOPY :PORT(1) TO :TAPE

>ROMCOPY :PORT(1) TO :1

I haven't tried it with my tape drive but did with Tony Duell's lifutils the 82164A and the in71 program. I used the second command. It starts to transfer, then I get this.

Reading : ROMIMAGE E21C 16384/16384 bytes

After a bit I now have a 16384 byte file on my drive. When I look at the file I see HP copyrights and 41 commands. I transfered the only rom I have the 41 Translator rom. Seems to work.

HTH...Good luck.

Christopher

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my experience: successful eBay snipe bidding with a bot!
*Message #1 Posted by **Christopher** on 21 Dec 2001, 12:43 p.m.*

I already posted this message earlier below in response to the discussion on the $2000+ HP-65, but I fear it was hiding in the thread, so I post it again here to start the topic its own thread. I am interested in hearing what others think, if they've tried it, or after they've tried it.

When I bid on eBay, I use a sniping bot. This bot is automatically set to bid on an item within the last 9 seconds of an auction up to the max bid that I specify. This bot enters my bid on my behalf when I am not even on the computer. I have had a great deal of success with it. The website for the guy (or guys) running this is at www.vrane.com. You just create an id/password. Then, at some point when you've made your auction/bid decision, you go to vrane (a.k.a. Amherst Robots), login (as a sniper) and follow the directions! If you can program an HP, you can do this, and best of all it's free!! Check it out, you'll be amazed at your results!

I put all my bids through this process. It has the added benefit of preventing you from convincing yourself that you're willing to pay more (than you really are) through marginal increases over the duration of the auction. You name your price to yourself and trust the process. It also helps prevent you from losing auctions due to the same emotional reasons in the other bidder's camp, not to mention basically removing the effects of schill bidding on your pocket book! You name your price and you don't disclose until the last minute, all with out even having to be present at the auction's close!

Give it a whirl, I swear by it!

sniping bots offer only ONE thing

*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 21 Dec 2001, 2:45 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Christopher

and that is to bid without having to be in attendance. Sniping bots offer absolutely NO benefit in winning auctions.

There are also some disadvantages.

1) You might miss some last minute addition that makes the auction a bad deal. I have seen this often.

2) Cause you to outbid a friend that you may not want to

3) You may not consider this a disadvantage but I do. A bot does not allow you a last minute decision change. Maybe the seller offers a bonus near the end. Or maybe seller changes his mind and says he is ending the auction in 24 hours regardless of the ending time stated. This is legit also. Of course, if you check your auctions often, you will see this, but then you don't need the bot.

4) Cause you to be in violation of an auction rule. Some sellers have a condition that you may not use bots. That is a legit thing to ad. You must comply with sellers conditions, regardless if you like them or not. If you set the bot and never monitor it again, you might get stuck.

Basically, unless you absolutely cannot be present at the close, there is no need for bots.

Re: sniping bots offer only ONE thing

*Message #3 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 21 Dec 2001, 3:06 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Mike

Hello,

Maybe this sounds old fashioned, but anything I've bought second-hand has always been purchased from a real person. I mostly find that the item reminds me of the "deal" and I don't want 'bad-vibes' hanging over from that deal. I like to buy from enthusiasts and a good deal of information is usually exchanged.

There's a nice atmosphere on this site - long may it continue.

Thanks, David

Re: sniping bots offer only ONE thing
*Message #4 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 21 Dec 2001, 6:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by David H Thompson

david; i agree with you.

Re: sniping bots offer only ONE thing
*Message #5 Posted by **M Currie** on 21 Dec 2001, 6:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Mike

Although I'm generally in agreement with David Thompson below, and haven't done much bidding on anything, my stepson has, and his experience being sniped suggests one possible advantage of bots: if you live on the east coast you can go to bed at night and still snipe.

Well duh!
*Message #6 Posted by **Mike** on 21 Dec 2001, 7:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by M Currie

Isn't that what I said by "bid without having to be in attendance"

Re: Well duh!
*Message #7 Posted by **J. Lopez (New York)** on 21 Dec 2001, 10:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Mike

I'm wondering what will happen when the popularity of these bidding bots increases to the point that it will be possible to have two (or more) bidders, subscribed to bidding bots, bidding on the same item... I guess, with time, your advantage for using these services will decrease as more people start using them. Also, the thrill of winning an auction at the last second is being taken away. Hmmm...

I don't understand
*Message #8 Posted by **Mike** on 22 Dec 2001, 10:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by J. Lopez (New York)

These bots have been around for ever.

It will be no different than two or more snipers or any other bidder, bidding at the same time. The highest one will win.

There is no advantage to using a bot, other than you don't have to be present to bid.

Would prefer for eBay to be repaired...
*Message #9 Posted by **glynn** on 22 Dec 2001, 12:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Christopher

Sellers don't get the full value of the highest bidder. Realize that? (I just bid $120 on something and got it for $99. Sellers-- listen up).

Last minute gunfights appeal to some, but for the buyer who has searched for an item, only to see it slip away as someone else mines THEIR bids, it can be frustrating.

All buyers are thus driven to following the last five minutes of auctions they are interested in-- highly inconvenient.

The use of a bot alleviates that, yes; but you still are sniping... a high-powered-rifle sniper, hiding in the tree. Isn't it the least bit uncomfortable to know that you are wasting the time of all those others who are up bleary-eyed at 2am, trying to complete THEIR collections, usually at 56K baud? (77% of USA is still not on broadband...)

The seller is going through 3 or 5 or 7 DAYS of nail-biting while few show a most feeble interest. WHY? Because eBay's setup is skewed to favor buyers who wait till the last moments (someone said, "early bidders never win", and there is some truth to that, precisely because of the way eBay's auctions are structured.)

The basic idea of ANY transaction is that I as a buyer should give my value and the seller give his; that we are both satisfied when done. Of course, auctions are supposed to net the seller with the MOST he could have gotten for his item, the highest offer setting the market's value. This doesn't exactly happen on eBay though. Auctions are ALSO supposed to benefit the buyer by allowing him to EVENLY compete with others to exact a fair and considered market price from all who participate. But on eBay, the other buyers are only half the danger; the clock presents

another.

Someone (I really forget who, stand up and take credit) once suggested an auction structure I am enthusiastic over. It retains all that eBay is while eliminating the advantage of sniping as a strategy. It makes early SERIOUS bidding useful because you may choose to make your bid high enough that no one else considers it worth challenging, then or with ten seconds to go. Yet it still holds the excitement of an auction for both buyer and seller.

Basically, all that is required is that the eBay clock for an auction is dynamically reset to five minutes left, any time a higher bid is made WITH five minutes or left on the auction. So if Chris uses his bot at nine seconds to go, the auction ends five minutes later than that, unless WITHIN that five minutes, someone else (or even Chris or his bot) chooses to make a higher bid, in which case the clock is reset again, etc.

Now for the seller, potentially stretching the auction say, an hour (*that would be 12 or MORE new high bids*) would be worth any additional money netted.

For the buyer, he would get the item when his bid went unchallenged in the last last last five minutes. But he could spend the time considering whether it was worth more to him than it is worth to anyone else. Like ye old auctions, the call of "Going... GOING... Gone!"

Sniping would be less fruitful, and auction prices would tend to reflect more considered prices from the get-go.

Your bot would not be needed to time-shift unless you wanted to be one of the ones dragging the price up to seller's nirvana; putting the price at a value that no one else beats... that is the name of the game under this system, and it can be done earlier, even days earlier. Guys who don't live in DSL-land could still react to the "one dollar more" syndrome, if they chose to.

The secret weapon of sniping with "the bomb"-- entering a $10000 bid on a $350 item, knowing that, in the last seconds, nobody will match that, and you'll get it, at worst, one buck higher than other bidders... that will virtually end because there's a very REAL risk that a shill will make you EAT a considerable portion of your bomb. While it could happen today, the risk would be MUCH greater under a dynamically-timed system.

I would recommend this system to eBay; I would also hope they did better verification and pre-screening of registered "users"; getting eBay identities or changing them should be more tied to reality: an ID could be confirmed by tying it to a hard mailing address: you keep your "sunglasses" until you respond with a verification code MAILED to your residence. A Driver's License or Social Security number (in those areas where it is available) could ALSO enable eBay to cross check the residence to the person. A checkmark might appear instead of sunglasses to show that eBay has SOMEHOW successfully corroborated the identity of the

user...

You should be able to change your ID, but with the following change: your OLD ID always appears (with the dates you used it) on your feedback stats page.

Changes to eBay, I know, might be hard to accomplish. But sellers and buyers BOTH would benefit from a more even-handed structure.

In the meantime, maybe my bot will HAVE to battle your bot, and may the best bot win... ;-/

LOL... or maybe eBay will offer its OWN bots...

High Bidder Always Wins
*Message #10 Posted by **Mike** on 22 Dec 2001, 10:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by glynn

You said: "Sellers don't get the full value of the highest bidder. Realize that? (I just bid $120 on something and got it for $99. Sellers-- listen up)."

Sellers know this. It is no big mystery. But the reality is that sellers are quite happy at the $99 since they probably figured they would get $75.

Your bomb idea is a really horrible strategy. Often two will try the same thing. One will be stuck. It happens all the time. "booklung" had it happen last week. He paid $2000+ on something that he should have gotten for much less. But he can afford it. And your $120, I expect, is more that YOU thought the item was worth too.

You said: "Isn't it the least bit uncomfortable to know that you are wasting the time of all those others who are up bleary-eyed at 2am, trying to complete THEIR collections, usually at 56K baud? (77% of USA is still not on broadband...)"

I don't use bots but, that is irrelevant.

The higher bid wins. If you want an item at $120 and that is all you will pay, a bot that bids $125 or an early bidder that bids $125 or a last minute manual sniper bids $125, they will win the item over you, won't they. So, your time is wasted no more by a bot than a bider who stays up. Either way, you have bid less.

So, the fact is, just bid the maximum you will pay and you have done all you can do. Nothing; no strategy; no sniping; no bot; no nothing will beat you, if you have the high bid.

I hear a lot of people complaining about bots and sniping but these people don't win anyway, because they are looking for bargains (nothing wrong with that). But their complaint is not that someone is sniping or using a bot. Their real comlaint is that someone is willing to pay more.

Your idea about adding 5 minutes to the end of an auction is a good one. But if they ever institue that policy, you will hear a lot of real complaining because there will be "no more bargains, ever" on eBay. Prices will really skyrocket, then.

Re: Would prefer for eBay to be repaired...
*Message #11 Posted by **Jimmy P.** on 22 Dec 2001, 10:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by glynn

I can't believe the whining that is going on here. I always thought people who use HP calcs are a bit smarter than average.

The bottom line on eBay or any other auction is that the highest bidder gets the prize. Not the earliest, or the person who does the most nail-biting, or whatever. At the end of an auction, if you put in the highest bid, you will win, whether you entered it the first second of the auction or the last.

All those who complain about last-second sniping are really saying: since I put in an early bid, please don't outbid me, or if you do, please give me the opportunity to outbid you, because I didn't want to take the risk of putting in a higher bid earlier, but now that I see you are willing to pay more, I am.

Grow up!

BOT BENEFITS: discussed
*Message #12 Posted by **Christopher** on 22 Dec 2001, 3:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Jimmy P.

I have to say hat I am impressed with the debate/dialogue as a result of my comments on bot use in auctions. I didn't expect that, but I am very glad of it!

Although I don't like Mike's condescending tone, I have to agree with him primarily: A bot allows you to bid while not needing to be present, and that is its best feature.

But not its only feature.

I think that there is an additional benefit though, and I touched on it in my first post.

First, a couple of points:

I believe that it can be very tempting to some eBay newcomers (read: sh*t disturbers) to try to drive up the price of an auction.

I also believe that it can be very tempting to marginally bid up the price of an auction, even if you're an experienced eBayer. You talk yourself into that next bid increment, over and over again until you see your name up there as the high bidder. One may do this for a few irrational reasons, be it ego (i.e. you just have to beat the other guy, I've gotten myself caught up in this scenario), or be it emotional desire for the object without the much needed rational thought in a purchase, or whatever... you can come up with a lot of reasons to want something. Remember the very human allocation problem of economics, "unlimited wants with limited resources..." we can be nonsensical at times in purchases and forget our limited resources in the heat of bidding. I don't want to get caught up with others in that, and I don't want to encourage that if I can help it.

So the benefit?

Well, I find that if I pick my price point ahead of time, I am satisfied with what I am willing to pay. Now it becomes a question of whether or not I want to make a target for someone else to try and attain or beat. The answer is I don't! So usually, I consider the object of my desire, pick a price, ad a couple of bucks and a few pennies, and set the bot. This way I am doing what eBay and Mike suggest, but I am not tipping my hand. I may or may not get my item, but I am invariably satisfied with my efforts.

As for a few of the other points brought up in the thread:

I haven't yet seen someone say that they do not allow bot bids on their auctions, I am not saying it doesn't happen, I just haven't seen it. I would have to cross that bridge when I got to it. Just a thought though, how could they distinguish between a manual snipe and a bot snipe? In fact, why would you not want to encourage it? If you get enough people doing it, in a sense you stretch out the last 9 or 10 seconds with a bunch of extra "botted" bids, which one could argue would have a similar net effect to dynamically adding 5 minutes to the end of an auction.

By the way, I think that dynamically adding 5 minutes to the end of an auction is a very interesting consideration. However, I agree that it would add a lot of value to objects, marginally driving prices up, primarily due to the emotional reasons I talked of above.

I have been tempted to do the so called "bomb" snipe, both by bot or by manual snipe. It just doesn't make sense in the end because, as is obvious (i.e. booklung and his HP-65), you could get hung out to dry. I usually tack a few extra buck and a few cents to make

screwball number, like $67.14, just to give myself an marginal edge. Maybe we could that "bomblet" sniping (I'm thinking of the little tiny bombs in cluster bombs)!

Finally, I follow the auctions that I am interested in on a daily basis, and usually only set up a bot with a day or two to go. I haven't had any surprise changes yet, but it is a good thought, and I must say, one that I haven't given much consideration to. There I go again, seems I am closing right where I began, I am agreeing with Mike in spite of myself!! :-)

At any rate, despite my agreement with a lot of what Mike has said, I do not believe that he has fully described the benefits to using a bot, and in fact, sees them in a very limited light.

Of course, we are all entitled to our opinions and experience!

I love this web site! Happy holidays to all!

BOT Benefits: Agreed!
*Message #13 Posted by **Slambo** on 22 Dec 2001, 7:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Christopher

Christopher: I completely concur. I've been using iSnipeIt software and it has allowed me to prevent getting "outbid" by those who reconsider my high-bid and try to beat it.

This "last second" bidding also prevents others from "running up the price" without actually becoming the high-bidder. (yes, there are bidding techniques that allow you to force people to pay more for an item!)

Bid Sniping
*Message #14 Posted by **Mike Sebastian (Texas)** on 23 Dec 2001, 12:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Christopher

I bid snipe. I learned very quickly that bid sniping is how many eBay auctions are won. If I didn't bid snipe, I usually lost. If I did bid snipe, I usually won.

I am a motivated buyer. Acting ethically, and within the bounds of the eBay rules and the law, I will do what I can to increase the odds of winning the auction for the least amount of money. Among other things, this means I bid snipe. However, since I have limited financial resources, I have never used the "bomb" bidding strategy,

and I have occasionally decided not to bid because I believed the auction would close for more money than I was willing to pay.

I bid snipe because it works for me. If eBay changes the rules or other circumstances make bid sniping ineffective, I will change my bidding strategy.

(BTW, in this bid sniping debate, I believe we've only heard from bidders. What do eBay sellers think about bid sniping?)

You're okay!

*Message #15 Posted by **glynn** on 23 Dec 2001, 2:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Mike Sebastian (Texas)

Mike S;

That's what works because of eBay's structure. We know that, and unless and until eBay changes its auction structure, it will continue to work.

I've no problem with you whatever. It's eBay's peculiarity-- and also anyone who acts as if eBay DOESN'T have a built-in, stock, well-known, characteristic which virtually forces that strategy on you, if you can practice it.

It's NOT an equal playing field for all contestants; more power to you if you can employ the strategies available to you and find success.

The marketplace, and its venues, will always shape our collecting. Some avoid eBay because they see it as overpriced for their tastes. Some love eBay because of the ready availability of merchandise. Many other auction sites exist, like say Yahoo's, but none have the pull of eBay simply because the mass of sellers and buyers is there, and everywhere else is Mickey-Mouse in comparison.

So eBay is the Big Show. If I am selling, it's eBay I am going to; if I am buying, I am checking for the stuff on eBay first.

So the question of eBay's shortcomings is NOT a slam on YOU. It's a question of what and where and how are the most fruitful methods of overcoming those obstacles, some of which are universal, as in shill-bidding and "bomb"-sniping, both of which we know occur, though to what extent we cannot quantify except by noting some highly anomalous prices; some of which are only a problem to some of us, such as the importance of access-speed in auctions, and the feedback backlash problem, in which buyers don't dare report bad sale experiences, since the main feedback they will affect is their own.

To my mind, talking, venting, chronicling and discussing any and all aspects of a major venue like eBay is fair discussion. If the issue at hand is sniping, though, half the talk is stunted because most of those eBayers who regularly employ the strategy take a personal affront to the suggestion that they are winning by exploiting a quirk of the venue. It's not a crime, it's not against the rules; but these guys want us to know that no advantage is really gained by bidding in those last few seconds... "if you were a serious bidder, it wouldn't matter".

My hat is off to you, Mike S., for employing a winning strategy responsibly, and NOT throwing snow about it. In YOUR presence at least, I can talk sensibly about eBay as a venue, my own bidding, my successes, my frustrations and my solutions.

Re: Would prefer for eBay to be repaired...
*Message #16 Posted by **glynn** on 22 Dec 2001, 10:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Jimmy P.

Hi Jimmy;

Hmmm... so glad you cleared that up. "Highest bidder gets the prize", eh? Wow. Well, I've been doing it wrong, all this time... stupid me.

You see, I always looked at items on eBay and considered the item's price as a FLUID thing. I thought I would, should try to always MINIMIZE my Commitment to a particular item and still MAXIMIZE my potential for getting it. Not very grown-up, I guess.

I had thought that auctions involved psychology, timing, studying alternatives, being more informed than others on particular items, watching others bids, making quick decisions whether OR NOT to bid depending on external factors that mattered to me, as well as internal factors on eBay itself, sometimes letting other people know what I was doing and other times leaving them guessing.

But, I now see I should instead have stated my net worth as my bid in all cases. What a flawless strategy! Can't miss!

LOL... if it makes you snipers feel warm and fuzzy inside, keep chanting your "Highest bidder always wins" mantra. Don't even consider the reason you snipe-- because it simultaneously rides only one bid increment over other bids, and it LEAVES NO OPTION OPEN for anyone ELSE to be that "high bidder". If you snipers are so

confident in your mantra, why not do your sniping an hour early?

Maybe poker is only a matter of gathering certain cards. Maybe chess is just trapping the other guy's king. eBay, however, is a game like Tic-Tac-Toe... it has a certain EXPLOITABLE quality about it. Sniping IS that exploitation.

If that works for you, okay. Whether or not you "bot" to do it, fine-- the effect is the same.

But when you say others WHINE "please give me the opportunity to outbid you, because I didn't want to take the risk of putting in a higher bid earlier, but now that I see you are willing to pay more, I am", understand that YOU didn't take the risk, EITHER, in fact arranged NOT to take that risk, hid behind the clock to avoid the same risk.

eBay allows that. But let your motto read "The highest bidder sneaking under the wire wins". Because your words to the contrary, that the time factor is irrelevant, are eloquently betrayed by your actions. In fact, in a separate thread, what does Mike complain causes overly-high prices on eBay? Early bidders???? LOL...

Who exactly is whining and who is smugly self-justifying his actions is a matter of opinion, of course. But to over-simplify a complex subject, spout a maxim YOU don't rely solely upon, imply less intelligence than YOU are displaying, and tell ANY of us, individually or generally, to "grow up": sounds like an opinion developed primarily for your convenience.

So, if you don't mind, I'll just go over here and play with my blocks-- until I'm old enough to wake up to your sage advice.

Re: Would prefer for eBay to be repaired...
*Message #17 Posted by **Christopher** on 23 Dec 2001, 11:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by glynn

Glynn, I absolutely agree, in fact, see my assertions above on the topic. Thanks for being tough on Mike, he does have a bit of an attitude about this topic. I never stopped to think that it might be smoke screen... thanks for pointing that out too!

Re: Would prefer for eBay to be repaired...

*Message #18 Posted by **Luca** on 22 Dec 2001, 6:14 p.m.,*

in response to message #9 by glynn

These bidding phenomena are being actively studied in economics and computer science. For an interesting paper comparing auction methods for goods with difficult-to-evaluate subjective value, see "Optimal Auction Design for Agents with Hard Valuation Problems", by David C. Parkes, available from http://www.eecs.harvard.edu/~parkes/publist.html, and follow citations.

No relation to the author of the paper.

Luca

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Programming my hp 42s
*Message #1 Posted by **david zawilinski** on 20 Dec 2001, 4:03 p.m.*

It has been 10+ years since I last programmed my hp-42s, but I am ready to learn again. I was trying to input MVAR (menu variable) as part of a program. Actually, I was trying to input the program as defined on page 193 of the users' manual: "time value of money". I used the pgm.fcn key, tabbed to MVAR, but I assume the next step would be choosing the input variable (like the letter N). An input variable choice is not visible, the only thing showing is the number 4733 in the lower left hand corner. I am stuck with MVAR "_ _ _", waiting for my instructions. Am I inputting the MVAR function incorrectly? Help!

Re: Programming my hp 42s
*Message #2 Posted by **Fernando del Rey** on 21 Dec 2001, 7:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by david zawilinski

I don't have the manual or the calculator here with me to be sure of what I'm saying, but I think the calculator first gives you a choice of already created variables or, if your variable does not already exist, then you can type a new variable by entering the ALPHA menu.

So, once you are in MVAR "_ , go to ALPHA and type in your variable name.

I hope this works!

Re: Programming my hp 42s

*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 21 Dec 2001, 7:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by david zawilinski

Hi, David.

Fernando has already given the guidelines, so try this (if you have not yet succeded):

```
[pgm.fcn] [MVAR]
[ENTER] (same as ALPHA)
[NOPQ] [N]
[ENTER]
```

Repeat this procedure for I%YR, PV, PMT...

Hope it helps.

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So, is this a new high for HP-65?
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 20 Dec 2001, 10:29 a.m.*

HP-65 sells for $2000+

I wonder if we will see this relisted? It looks like booklung did not win but I wonder if the winner is real. If not, she will likely just sell it to booklung anyway.

Re: So, is this a new high for HP-65?
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 20 Dec 2001, 11:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Well, there is little doubt that this buyer was created to sell even more expensive to booklung...

By the way I'm amazed that this calc, only because it has the original box in addition, sold for more than 5 times more than what I paid...

Weird...

Interesting spin...
*Message #3 Posted by **Mike** on 20 Dec 2001, 12:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Thibaut.be

If it turns out that this high bidder was not real (listen up booklung), he should not agree to pay more than a few percent above the previous high of $1200.

That is what the bid would have been had the higher bidder not bid .

Re: Interesting spin...
*Message #4 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 20 Dec 2001, 12:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Mike

Well, that's not impossible...

I'm amazed...

Re: Interesting spin...
*Message #5 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 20 Dec 2001, 12:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Mike

As far as I can see the scope for fraud on Ebay is massive. That is why it is important to stick to your own limit and not get involved with any deal that looks at all fishy - however desirable the item is. This item should be re-listed or sold for the LOWEST 'other' bid if the top bidder pulls out otherwise the second highest bidder doesn't know if they have been taking part in a false bid process. I wonder if the person who pulled out will get negative feedback?

However if the guy in second place is happy to pay his top bid price then good luck to them.

Re: Interesting spin...
*Message #6 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 20 Dec 2001, 1:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tom (UK)

What if the High bidder is a fraud (0 feedback) but the seller gives a positive feedback anyway.

Then holds onto the item a month or so and relists. Can even clain the going price for such an item is $2,000-. Just drove up the value without ever a legitmate sale.

Ebay saves me time on my calc shopping, but I don't think it ever saved me money.

Several times when I've bid on something
*Message #7 Posted by **Jim L** on 20 Dec 2001, 1:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tom (UK)

I've received an email from the seller saying something like:

I found a second one just like the first one. To save me time and money listing it, I'm willing to sell it to you for ...

The price is sometimes the high bid, or a little less, sometimes even half.

This makes me assume that the high bidder or possibly even the high two or three bidders are the person running the auction.

I doubt it...
*Message #8 Posted by **Mike** on 20 Dec 2001, 3:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Jim L

I think you'd find that there is not as much shill bidding as you think. More likely he has more than one item, like he says.

However, I think it is quite misleading to suggest that you just "found another" when they probably had it all along.

By the way, you can do a little research and detect shill bidding. Look at past sales, check for same bidders on completely different items. While it may be easy to get 2nd and 3rd account, I think that it is rare to have hundreds of extra accounts.

So, if you look at past auctions and see a pattern of same bidders, regardless of auction items, you may have found a shill bidder.

ANOTHER TYPE OF BIDDER

There is another kind of bidder that is equally OFFENSIVE. I have noticed that OFTEN, if I have outbid certain other bidders, that almost immediately I am outbid by the same guy. For instance, if I outbid "xxx", then "yyy" will almost immediately outbid me. "yyy" is always a low feedback bidder. Doesn't matter what the item is, "xxx", followed by me, followed by "yyy".

There are a few people that have bogus accounts (I believe) just for the purpose

of running up the bid on someone that has outbid them. That is another reason that last second bidding is a good way to go.

I know of one guy who had over 80 ebay IDs
*Message #9 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 20 Dec 2001, 4:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Mike

I know because I reported that many and ebay terminated them. I eventually decided that he had more time for this than I did and stopped tracking him. He was amazingly easy to track. He could have avoided my methods with a little thought.

Try a sniping bot!
*Message #10 Posted by **Christopher** on 21 Dec 2001, 12:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Mike

I use a sniping bot. This bot is automatically set to bid on an item within the last 9 seconds of an auction up the max bid that I specify. This bot enters my bid on my behalf when I am not even on the computer. I have had a great deal of success with it. The website for the guy (or guys) running this is at www.vrane.com. You just create an id/password. Then, at some point when you've made your auction/bid decision, you go to vrane (a.k.a. Amherst Robots), login (as a sniper) and follow the directions! If you can program an HP, you can do this, and best of all it's free!! Check it out, you'll be amazed at your results!

I put all my bids through this process. It has the added benefit of preventing you from convincing yourself that you're willing to pay more (than you really are) through marginal increases over the duration of the auction. You name your price to yourself and trust the process. It also helps prevent you from losing auctions due to the same emotional reasons in the other bidder's camp, not to mention basically removing the effects of schill bidding on your pocket book! You name your price and you don't disclose until the last minute, all with out even having to be present at the auction's close!

Give it a whirl, I swear by it!

Re: Several times when I've bid on something
*Message #11 Posted by **David Smith** on 20 Dec 2001, 5:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Jim L

The proper thing to pay when the high bidder bows out and you are the second highest bidder is one bid increment over the third highest bidder (assuming he is not the same as the high bidder). This is what you would have paid if the high bidder never bid. If the seller won't agree to this amount then pass on the offer.

Ah but the claim
*Message #12 Posted by **Jim L** on 20 Dec 2001, 9:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by David Smith

was that the high bidder didn't bow out. Therefore the "market value" of this supposedly just discovered second copy is supposedly established by the top bid on the other one.

I always answer that my top bid is still my top bid.

Exactly correct and...
*Message #13 Posted by **Mike** on 21 Dec 2001, 11:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by David Smith

If the seller does not agree, then be suspicious. It may be a shill bid, to run the price up.

Re: A few more thoughts...
*Message #14 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 20 Dec 2001, 3:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Mike

False bidding and then selling to the highest real bidder could also have the following effects (not all at the same time):

Pushes up the 'going' price

Lots of possitive feedback

Hidden multiple sales

An apparent 'non-sale' so free re-list for the next identical item

Completely fictitious sales (when the seller buys there own non exsistant item) to keep the prices high or so a slightly worse item can then be sold at a high price because 'one only a bit better sold for $x'.

Ebay does state very clearly not to get involved in private (i.e. non top bidder) buying and selling but the temptation for both sides can be there.

What I'm saying here is only what COULD be done, I have no evidence what-so-ever of it actually happening with HP calculators or any other items. I'm sure most people using Ebay are honest (which is my experiance).

I suppose the problem us HP'ers have is that it's easy to get caught up in buying great calculators and forget some of the items are reasonably common. We only have ourselves to blame (including myself) for bidding up prices, if everyone stopped buying them on ebay for a month or so I'm sure the prices would come down. Rising prices feed on themselves until the bubble bursts. I have enough HP calcs for now so will only buy them when they appear in local junk shops for low money.

Never pay your 2nd High Price
*Message #15 Posted by **Mike** on 21 Dec 2001, 11:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Tom (UK)

If the High Bidder backs out (according to the seller) or he has a 2nd copy, NEVER pay more than a small percentage higher than the 3rd high person (not 3rd high bid).

Re: So, is this a new high for HP-65?
*Message #16 Posted by **Todd G.** on 21 Dec 2001, 11:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Thibaut.be

Think about this:

The original HP-65 sold new for $795. The one on eBay sold for over 2.5 times that!

And the HP-67 that sold originally for $450 sold for nearly 3 times that on eBay.

I'm convinced it's the box. :-)

Re: It would be interesting to know the orginal HP prices, in current dollars.
*Message #17 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 23 Dec 2001, 2:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Todd G.

Anyone have an idea what the original $795 asking price is in today's deflated dollars? I wonder if it's even selling for "more" than it originally cost?

Re: It would be interesting to know the orginal HP prices, in current dollars.
*Message #18 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 23 Dec 2001, 4:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Paul Brogger

Only to happy to oblige, Paul. At a 4% inflaition rate, it would sell for $2200 after 26 years. A higher rate interest rate would of course even push this rate higher. A simple TVM calculation on a 17B would tell you that.

Now that I subtly mentioned a 17B, I want to ask you a question about memory upgrades as I know you have performed a few. I plan on upgrading my 42s, but another individual loaned me a 17 to practice with. I have made the RAM chip swap, and have redid the jumpers, but I still see only 7K RAM. In fact, if I redo the jumpers to original, the calc fails to turn on. Is this calculators upper RAM amount fixed by some internal ROM setting as to not see a larger amount of RAM (Ie like the HP38G vs 48G, the 38 cannot be expanded past 32K vs a 48G can handle whatever you can squeeze onto the board)?

I can contact you later via e-mail, but that option won't be available to me for a few days. If you have any ideas, I am out here listening.

Thanks,

Ron Ross

Re: It would be interesting to know the orginal HP prices, in current dollars.
*Message #19 Posted by **Mike Sebastian (Texas)** on 23 Dec 2001, 5:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #18 by Ron Ross

For inflation figures in general, go to: http://www.bls.gov/cpi/home.htm

Try the BLS "Inflation Calculator" or look at "Annual Percent Changes From 1913 to Present" (ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpiai.txt) for monthy inflation data since 1913.

Re: So, is this a new high for HP-65?
*Message #20 Posted by **Johnny Bjoern Rasmussen** on 21 Dec 2001, 6:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

An experience from Denmark:

I saw an HP-34C in a danish markedplace homepage for about $10,- and phoned the seller at once. He claimed, that it was allready sold, but the buyer was to pick it up as he was driwing from Germany to Copenhagen, where the HP-34C was located. He also told me, that a great number of interested prospective buyers had phoned him, and he was very surprised about how popular this (to him, at least at this moment) worthless calculator was.

Well - hoping that the german buyer wouldn't spend a whole day in his car, I phoned the seller again some days later. Stille the same answer... Hmmm...

After a week or so, I phoned him once again, and he told me, that the calculator was sold.

Okay - I thought, to bad...

But some few days later I saw an auction for an HP-34C on the same homepage, and clicked to check the phonenumber, wich of cause turned out to be the same as the former sellers.

So: - either the seller had two (TWO/2) pcs. HP-34C in the exactly same condition, packed with the same accessories

Or: - he made a clone of the calculator that was picked up in Copenhagen by the German guy

Or: - the seller has the worlds only real 3D Xeror machine...

Very mysterious.....

Johnny Bjoern Rasmussen Have some nice hollidays

BTW: I did not win the auction, but made a bid thoug... ;-)

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Manual for HP-71B
*Message #1 Posted by **Bo Kristoffersen** on 20 Dec 2001, 10:21 a.m.*

Can anyone tell me where I can find a downloadable user manual (or the like) for the HP-71B?

Thanks, Bo

Re: Manual for HP-71B
*Message #2 Posted by **Jim L** on 20 Dec 2001, 12:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bo Kristoffersen

You can get manuals here.

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Manual for the HP41?
*Message #1 Posted by **Tomas Marklund** on 20 Dec 2001, 10:05 a.m.*

Can anyone tell me where I can find a downloadable users manual for the HP41? I have recently found a HP41CV and would like to know how to use it's more advanced features...

Thanks

/Tomas

Re: Manual for the HP41?
*Message #2 Posted by **Jim L** on 20 Dec 2001, 12:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Tomas Marklund

You can get manuals here

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41CV Need my decimals back
*Message #1 Posted by **Jen** on 20 Dec 2001, 12:16 a.m.*

I have lost my manuals to my 41CV, and my 2yo daughter has switched the display to comma format. So a 50.12 looks like: 50,12

Please help me get my decimals back!

Thanks, Jen

Re: 41CV Need my decimals back
*Message #2 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 20 Dec 2001, 1:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jen

Well, 50,12 looks fine to me... :)

If you want to come back from Europe to USA you simply need to set flag 28 (SF 28).

My compliments to your really ingenious daughter!

Greetings,
Massimo

Re: 41CV Need my decimals back
*Message #3 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 20 Dec 2001, 3:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

Quite smart this daughter of yours !

By the way, flag 29 is for having the thaousand separator or not... I like treating the beahaviour of my 41 and 42 with flags...

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USA Today HP Advert
*Message #1 Posted by **Dan M** on 19 Dec 2001, 10:00 p.m.*

Reference the "newspaper" USA Today of Wednesday December 19, 2001. Pages 10B-11B.

Let it be known that "our" message (don't stop making scientific pocket calculators) has been heard. Let it also be known that the response is loud and clear (too bad/so sad, we've got better things to make).

Here's some of the text of the ad for those without access to this publication. Perhaps somebody else, somebody with a better attitude than I have, can give it a better translation. ---- Page 10B <full-page photo of hp audio oscillator> hp audio oscillator 200A, our first product. At $54.40 each, several were sold.

Page 11B What if we had stopped here? We might have stopped at the audio oscillator. It was a nice business. We might have stopped at the scientific pocket calculator. After all, hp invented the category. Even now, some suggest we might stop at printers.

But hp's ambitions have always been much greater.

The coming together of hp and Compaq is a renewal of hp's traditional aims, adapted to new technological times.

<blah, blah, blah> ------

Pardon my attitude, but I'm not feeling too happy with corporate hp just now. Oh, while you're reading the USA Today, check out page 1B, left-hand column at the fold: "Will H-P execs step down if merger fails?"

I don't know how much 2 full pages in USA Today costs, but it's got to be plenty. I don't know whether making/developing pocket scientific calculators is a good business decision. I don't know a lot of other stuff, too, but it seems obvious to me that hp is in a big PR scramble for its future and the future of its top executives.

Anyway, I don't want to be too negative, but came across this advert by chance and thought it was interesting.

Good luck and happy calculating.

Dan M.

See the ad online
*Message #2 Posted by **Dan M** on 19 Dec 2001, 11:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Dan M

Wish I'd picked up the WSJ instead of USA Today in the hotel lobby.

Here's the info online:

http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/feature_stories/mergerad01.htm

Re: (Can't) See the ad online
*Message #3 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 20 Dec 2001, 7:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Dan M

If you try to follow the PDF link (as at 12:30 GMT 20th Dec) it doesn't work. So much for HP getting the technology right! :^) (OK so all web pages have the ocasional glitch but you have to see the ironic / funny side of this)

Re: (Can't) See the ad online
*Message #4 Posted by **Arnold** on 20 Dec 2001, 11:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tom (UK)

Hi Tom,

The linkworks now. 16.10 GMT.

Arnold

Another translation

*Message #5 Posted by **Jim L** on 20 Dec 2001, 1:14 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Dan M

Since you asked "Perhaps somebody else, somebody with a better attitude than I have, can give it a better translation."

I would say that it's a generic forward looking we're going to do great stuff someday ad like many companies do. I don't read into it that they've heard our message or replied. Oscillators, calculators, and printers are just a few things that HP is known for. They're telling us those aren't all they want to be known for.

"We're not going to stop at X" doesn't mean they're going to stop making X. (It doesn't mean they're going to continue either.)

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HP IR Printer 82240A/B What's the difference between them?
*Message #1 Posted by **Christopher** on 19 Dec 2001, 1:20 a.m.*

Hi all... I just purchased a 19BII off eBay ,and I want to get an IR printer, does anybody know what the difference is between the 82240A and the 82240B printers? Are they both compatible with the 19BII?

Thanks in advance, Christopher

Re: HP IR Printer 82240A/B What's the difference between them?
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 19 Dec 2001, 4:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Christopher

Hi;

The basic differences are the character set -slightly different, expanded in the B version- and a one-dot extra space line added to the printout (text only) of the B version. In fact, the extra space line results from shrinking the text by one line. If I am not wrong, there is also a LED -ON- in the B version that does not exist in the A version. If I am wrong, we'll soon know.

The B version replaced the A one shortly after it's been launched.

Cheers.

Re: HP IR Printer 82240A/B What's the difference between them?
*Message #3 Posted by **Iqbal** on 19 Dec 2001, 7:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

The B also have some power saving features. Purchase a B. Because they go for around the same price more or less [assuming you're buying on ebay]

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Re: 48/49: User interface redesign?
*Message #1 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 18 Dec 2001, 10:02 p.m.*

Well, I happen to think that both the 48 and 49 are textbook examples of Too Many Eggs in a Basket. HP packed so much stuff on the calculator that it became pretty much unmanageable.

Consider the case of the HP-67. It had too many features for the size and design of the keyboard, the result being 3 shift keys (f, g, and h) and a keyboard so cluttered as to be an eyesore. Then came the HP-41. Without adding a single key, it simplified the keyboard, relegating the less-used functions to be spelled out or assigned to keys.

Now, with the 48 and 49, all sorts of "menus", "modes", "applications", etc., are necessary to drive the beast, and the typical user is even more confused than he/she was with the 67. Hey, the 67 had a cluttered keyboard, but at least it showed everything.

For what it's worth, I believe that calculators have reached a plateau beyond which further enhancements will not mean further improvement. What's needed is a totally new concept -- something radical, some breakthrough -- the way the 41 did with spelled-out names.

But, of course, that's just my 2 cents.

-Ernie

Re: 48/49: User interface redesign?
*Message #2 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 19 Dec 2001, 7:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

Snip [For what it's worth, I believe that calculators have reached a plateau beyond which further enhancements will not mean further improvement. What's needed is a totally new concept -- something radical, some breakthrough -- the way the 41 did with spelled-out names.]

Yeh, perhaps something the size of the HP32SII with 8k memory, a 2 line display and proper I/O (e.g. RS232 like interface). The could call it the HP42SII or something like that...

In other words give us back what we want not force some way over the top calc on everyone in the name of 'progress'. (I'm not trying to insult those who value the HP48/49, just trying ot point out HP lost their way when they stopped high end scientific POCKET calculators).

Thoughts anyone???

HP42SII
*Message #3 Posted by **Joe Pasquale** on 19 Dec 2001, 7:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Tom (UK)

"Yeh, perhaps something the size of the HP32SII with 8k memory, a 2 line display and proper I/O (e.g. RS232 like interface). The could call it the HP42SII or something like that..."

What a great idea. I have both 42S and 32SII, and wish there were something in between. I really like the 32SII, and if only it had the features you mention, particularly the 2-line display, a little more memory, along with better integration of complex numbers (like the 42S), then it would be perfect in my opinion.

Re: 48/49: User interface redesign?
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 19 Dec 2001, 2:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

Hi, Ernie;

I'm mostly a 48/49 fan, cause they simply added almost everything I wanted my dearest 41 to have. I agree with the cluttered 67's kbd (the HP97 showed a better solution... in a somewhat more space) and the spelling feature in the 41, but I sometimes prefer pressing **[alpha]** twice and spell as many commands (+ [SPC]) as needed when I cannot remember which menu offers them. And this procedure is faster than pressing **[XEQ][ALPHA]** ***name*** **[ALPHA]** for each 41 function that was not available at the keyboard. **PROMPT, HMS+, D-R,** among many others, should be assigned to a key OR spelled out (and despite the differences, assignments are allowed in the 48/49 kbds). And in some applications/programs, they are often used, so often I was able to spell **PROMPT, HMS, HR** by heart, without looking at the keyboard. O.K., there are many, many more commands/functions available in the 48/49, and consequently, many more stuff to remember (?). Using menus was the solution HewPack found as the best... for us? For them?

The HP41 was really a breakthrough, a new concept.

Ernie wrote: *For what it's worth, I believe that calculators have reached a plateau beyond which further enhancements will not mean further improvement. What's needed is a totally new concept -- something radical, some breakthrough -- the way the 41 did with spelled-out names.*. That's great truth. Could not agree more. Maybe the (sob!) Xpander was the answer for this concept. Maybe HewPack will no longer answer to this question. Maybe...

Time will tell. I read one post (here?) mentioning that the TI83 has a software that emulates RPN operation. Anything more to say?

Cheers.

Re: 48/49: User interface redesign?
*Message #5 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 19 Dec 2001, 8:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

That's great truth. Could not agree more. Maybe the (sob!) Xpander was the answer for this concept. Maybe HewPack will no longer answer to this question. Maybe...

Actually, what I had in mind was a rather severe breakthrough. You see, it doesn't really matter how complex the machine is if the interface is intuitive, designed to work **with** humans (as opposed to **against** them).

My idea of the perfect calculator is one that has no keyboard at all -- merely a microphone so you can talk to it. So, rather than sweating over thick manuals and having to memorize hundreds of commands, functions, parameters, and what-not, you simply say, "Hewey, write a program to solve this-or-that and save it under the name 'ADAM'."

Let PRGM/RUN switches, PRGM buttons, and << >> signs be damned. Let Algebraic logic and RPN be damned. For once, it would be nice if the calculator worked the way humans communicate -- by talking.

Science fiction? Of course! But that doesn't necessarily make it impossible, or even impractical.

-Ernie

P.S.: Hewey, of course, would be my choice for the name to give a intelligent (or sentient) HP calculator...

Science Fiction? No!
*Message #6 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 20 Dec 2001, 5:12 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ernie Malaga

You know what? I'd like having one of these...

Maybe the idea sounds a bit weird in the first moment, but if we get back a few decades ago, a computer with a keyboard, graphics display and mouse was something more than science fiction.

Cheers.

Re: 48/49: User interface redesign?

*Message #7 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 21 Dec 2001, 1:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ernie Malaga

My idea of the perfect calculator is one that has no keyboard at all -- merely a microphone so you can talk to it. So, rather than sweating over thick manuals and having to memorize hundreds of commands, functions, parameters, and what-not, you simply say, "Hewey, write a program to solve this-or-that and save it under the name 'ADAM'."

Well, I'm going to weigh in against you on this one. I think the whole "speaking interface" idea is overblown. There are a few reasons why voice recognition is not the de-facto input method for PCs---it's too slow and it's too noisy.

I personally enjoy the clicking of keys. I'm sure many others do too, given all the discussions of "the best tactile feedback."

So...I vote for voiceless.

Now a contraption that was able to translate brain waves...Hmmmm. That might be too good to pass up!

Bruce.

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CAS for the 48-GX
*Message #1 Posted by **Matt Agajanian** on 18 Dec 2001, 9:14 p.m.*

Hello all,

please tell me how and where I can get a CAS (Computer-Algebra-System) to load into my 48-GX. I like the feature but don't want to buy an 49G just for the CAS. I'm looking for both- a downloadable system as well as a RAM Card version for my 48.

Thanks for your help.

Matt A.

Re: CAS for the 48-GX
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 19 Dec 2001, 1:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt Agajanian

Hello,

www.hpcalc.org

search for CAS48 or alike there.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: CAS for the 48-GX

*Message #3 Posted by **Arnold Steekelenburg** on 19 Dec 2001, 6:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt Agajanian

Hi Matt,

Take a look at www.hpcalc.org. There you can find the CAS for the HP48G(X). It's called erable and it's developed by Bernard Parisse, the creator of the HP49G CAS.

It's however a package of 85+ KB, so you need at least 128KB RAM.

A direct link to the search-result page is:

http://www.hpcalc.org/search.php?query=erable

Arnold

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Mourning...
*Message #1 Posted by **Marx Pio** on 17 Dec 2001, 6:27 p.m.*

I lost my HP41CV, I think it is dead...

It left me with the Financial Decisions and Stress Pac

Does anyone knows in Brazil where can I get one of them?

Luiz... Help me...

Thanks :(

Marx Pio

Re: Mourning...
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 17 Dec 2001, 8:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

Hi, Marx.

I sent you an e-mail. I know it`s hard, don`t panic.

Solutions exist...

Cheers.

Re: Where you can get an HP41CV
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 18 Dec 2001, 8:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marx Pio

There is a place in the United States where you can get the HP41CV and other no longer made calculators. It is called International Calculator (in Florida) website www. internationalcalculator.com. I recently bought a working HP48SX and accessories from them. I have had good dealing with their manager Don O'rourke. Good luck!

... but htey are expensive !
*Message #4 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 18 Dec 2001, 10:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Frank Travis

yes, this site is known, but the prices are quite high !

You can with a bit of luck and patience purchase these calcs for half of these prices on ebay...

Re: ... but htey are expensive !
*Message #5 Posted by **Iqbal** on 18 Dec 2001, 3:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Thibaut.be

I bought a mint HP41CX with Thermal pac and Advantage pac from an ad right here on the forum. The guy was very honest and sent scans etc. The only flaw was a slight crack in the battery holder which he had previously indicated. If you see this calc, even the rubber at the back, you'll figure it was one week old. the springs for the batteries appear to be brand new, not even the slighest bit of corrosion. The display doesn't have a speck of dust in it. And the HP case looks as though it never had a day out in the sun. Well how much did I pay? $90.50 delivered to NY. Well there isn't much of a moral here, except that there are sometimes very good deals on the forum right here.

Science fiction...?

*Message #6 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 18 Dec 2001, 7:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Iqbal

Hey, Iqbal!

I could not help myself... As you described, this beauty seems coming straight from the past! Lucky you! I once bought a Philips Tape Recorder (N2408, a remarkable equipment) built in 1973/74 by paying, say, less than US$80. The former owner claimed having used it for about three months. The rubber tires became goo, as the ones found in the card readers, everything works perfectly fine AND it looks as new... A 28 Y.O. tape recorder looking as new.

Why science fiction? How come these machines to look so fine after all this time? Some, even kept in safe places, degrade enough to look like junk. Others keep their looks for the life. Amazing!

(is it possible that HewPack is producing earlier calculators, small quantities, just to sale them for good money? Science fiction... or profitable business?)

Cheers. *(and still working on subdivision...)*

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New 48GX: Already display problem?
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 17 Dec 2001, 3:33 p.m.*

Hello everyone,

I've just unpacked a new HP48GX. I've noticed that in the immediate area above the menu keys, and from left to right, the display varies from a dark green to a golden yellow colour, whether the calculator is On or OFF. I would be grateful if the group could advise if this acceptable or should I consider having the machine replaced?

I've never used any device with such a small lcd, but I've noticed that the Nintendo GameBoys my children use have perfect displays.

Am I expecting too much?

Thanks, and a bit dissapointed, David H Thompson

Re: New 48GX: Already display problem?
*Message #2 Posted by **Iqbal** on 17 Dec 2001, 4:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

No it's not a problem. Well at least I don't think so. I had a few G's, one G+ and a couple GX's and they all had that yellow/goldish colour on the right bottom side of the LCD. So I don't feel it's a problem.

Re: New 48GX: Already display problem?

*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 17 Dec 2001, 8:22 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi;

My old 48G was traded by a new 48G+ that has a golden fading spot at the left-button side of the display. The 48G was perfect. Anyway, the new 48G+ I recently bought has the black-dots, 49`s LCD, with no spot of any kind.

This is being kept to be shown to my grandson...

Cheers.

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HP-41C: Reading ROM contents
*Message #1 Posted by **Bernd Abel** on 17 Dec 2001, 12:22 p.m.*

I own an HP-41C without any ZENROM, CCD-ROM etc. Just some application modules (Advantage, PPC ROM etc.)

Is it possible to read the contents (simply the bytes) of a selected ROM (using software) with this minimal configuration? Any synthetic programs which could help me here?

I know that in the last century (...well, in 1980/81) there were some folks from Australia working on reading the ROM contents, but I'm not sure whether this was the final solution to the problem.

Cheers, --Bernd-- <http://www.berndabel.de>

Re: HP-41C: Reading ROM contents
*Message #2 Posted by **Holger Veit** on 18 Dec 2001, 3:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bernd Abel

I don't know the answer to this concerning a "naked" HP41, but what about one with a CCD-ROM? This ROM contains a function to call an arbitrary procedure in ROM. So what's in principle is missing is some location in some public ROM which does a readrom (sp?) instruction (with IIRC the address in X); then everything else can be synthesized in user code.

I doubt there is such a suitable code snippet anywhere in the System ROMs, but maybe in some other ROM, maybe even in the CCD-ROM itself. Does anyone know an address?

Regards Holger

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calculator t-shirt competition
*Message #1 Posted by **rcobo@eng.morgan.edu** on 17 Dec 2001, 3:25 a.m.*

hi folks,

http://jewel.morgan.edu/~rcobo/tshirt/

any calculator addict from this side of town is more than welcome to participate.

regards

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Trying to find a new calc - which would be best for me?
*Message #1 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 16 Dec 2001, 6:40 p.m.*

I am deeply saddened by the unfortunate death of my HP-25C. I will continue to attempt to bring him back to life, however, but until that happens (or if I can't fix it), I need a new calculator. Previously, I had been using my trusty and well worn Casio fx-65 or my TI-83+. After my rather brief accquaintance with the wonderful world of RPN, I find these calculators clumsy, poorly designed, and slow. Also, after an experiance with the crystal clarity of the LED display on my 25C, I find myself straining to read the liquid crystal displays on my other calculators. I would like everyone's suggestions on the best calculator for me, based on what I like: 1. It MUST have RPN! 2. It MUST have an LED display (I don't care that it eats batteries) 3. I need all of the scientific functions provided by the 25 4. I like the form factor and the keypad of the 25C. 5. I have very little money - I need a calculator that I can afford on a high school student's income (roughly $0 a week minus gas money) 6. Squarish, 70's style casing and heavy are also a plus. I really love the sturdy, built to be able to run after a nuclear detonation feel of the 25, and I like a heavy calulator (don't ask why, it's hard to explain. I also like heavy phone recievers, I took mine apart and added weight. I think I just like the solid feel) 7. Programmability and a continuous memory are also important to me. I had a program (very simple, I know) that took the y register and took it to the x register root that I used daily. (i.e. y^(1/x)) 8. RPN and intimidating numbers of buttons are also a plus. I loved being asked "Can I borrow your calculator" then, after handing it to them, getting it back a minute later with "I can't figure out how to work it, I'll just do it on paper" I never had to worry about someone borrowing my calculator when I needed to use it. 9. It MUST have plastic buttons!!! I HATE rubber buttons. I used to have a cheapie TI scientific (I think I got it at a yard sale for a buck) that survived a whole week with me before getting hurled against the wall. I could never get anything to register! Surprisingly, it still worked, with only a small scratch on the corner. I think I gave it to the next person that asked "Can I borrow your calculator?" 10. Another calculator that uses woodstock battery packs would be a big plus, as I have found a battery pack and charger now, but I don't have a working calculator.

Any ideas/suggestions on what HP would be a good choice for my uses would greatly be appreciated. I don't want to spend a minto on a new calculator, but I hope to find one cheaply seeming as though physical condidtion is not that important. Missing labels/worn off logos don't matter to me. Actually, finding another HP-25C that works only with a bad case/keyboard/LED display would be fine, because those all should still work on mine, and I can combine parts. Any

help would be appreciated. Thanks!

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: Trying to find a new calc - which would be best for me?
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 16 Dec 2001, 7:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

Hi, Ian;

I guess I`m somewhat far from you (anyway, where are you?), so I cannot tell you HOW to get your calculator; instead, I`m gonna point some options: (the links point to the museum pages)

HP27
HP29
HP67 and HP97
HP33C
HP34C

I believe these are the ones that get closer to your needs. Others are older than the HP25 itself, others have LCD, and others will be hard to find. Among these ones, some are also difficult to find AND expensive. The one that`s closest to the HP25 is the HP29C, being the (beautifull) HP19C its buitl-in-priter version.

Well, now to the chase... Good luck.

Re: Trying to find a new calc - which would be best for me?
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 16 Dec 2001, 9:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

Well, if you want a machine with exactly the same features as the 25C, then you want to get another 25C :-). There's also the 29C, which is the same case design, but with more program steps, and IIRC the ability to use subroutines. Either of those would be ideal for you. Other machines to consider as they have most of the features you are looking for are : HP19C (if you can find one -- these tend to be rare) -- an HP29C with a built-in tiny printer. It uses a different battery pack and charger to the Woodstock family, though. HP33C or HP34C. These are a later series of machines (Spice) and IMHO they're not as well made as the Woodstocks. But the 33C has roughly the same feautres as the 25C, the 34C has rather more. Again the battery pack and charger are different. HP67 -- a 'classic style' case, but with woodstock like electronics inside.

Again, different battery and charger. This one doesn't have continuous memory, but it does have a built-in magnetic card reader. I find that more useful than continuous memory HP97 -- the printing version of the 67. A nice machine with a wonderfully clear display, but probably too large for you. All of those are RPN, all are programmable.

Re: Trying to find a new calc - which would be best for me?
*Message #4 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 16 Dec 2001, 9:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

ian; i know why you want another woodstock, i just love my 21 but all of the above suggestions are collectors items; rare and expensive unless you get lucky. before you go the ebay greed-is-good route you might look at the 32SII. if the 25 served you then the 32 will be even better. it's lcd screen is not all that bad and is adjustable, it's reliable as a brick, and it is a v a i l a b l e. and remember that it's christmas; parrents or grandparrents may spring for a high school students calculator, leaving your money to be spent on whats really important in life.

Re: Trying to find a new calc - which would be best for me?
*Message #5 Posted by **Tom Lianza** on 19 Dec 2001, 9:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by db(martinez,california)

HP32II HP32II HP32II If you want a reliable calculator with all the features that the 25C get the HP32II. It's easy to program, has more features than the 25 C and fits nicely in your pocket. It is a great example of what an engineering calculator should be: Full featured and intuitive. That's my story and I'm stickin' to it

Re: Trying to find a new calc - which would be best for me?
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 19 Dec 2001, 4:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tom Lianza

I could not agree more.

When we were looking for a calc for my wife when she returned to uni we could not afford tjhe 48 or 49 so we bought a 32SII which appeared to be the most suitable choice.

I am glad because as a straight RPN calculator the 32SII is brilliant. Far easier to use than the 48/49 as good as they are.

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HP-97 Decimal Point Display
*Message #1 Posted by **Paul Nelson** on 16 Dec 2001, 6:35 p.m.*

Just restored an HP-97- and can't figger out for the life of me how to change the default 2 digits after the decimal point into more! The website sez the 67 and 97 have the same functions- but the 67 has a "DSP" key that allows you to set the number of decimals displayed. HELP!!!

Re: HP-97 Decimal Point Display
*Message #2 Posted by **Dan M** on 16 Dec 2001, 9:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Paul Nelson

The HP-97 on my desk has a key labelled "DSP" between the "." and the "+" on the lower right of the keyboard. It works to change the decimal point display to the number you desire.

I think that's the one you're looking for.

Dan

Re: HP-97 Decimal Point Display
*Message #3 Posted by **paul nelson** on 16 Dec 2001, 10:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Dan M

Oh, man. How did I miss THAT? I looked for over an hour!!!

Before your battery runs out...
*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 16 Dec 2001, 11:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by paul nelson

The power switch is in the upper left of the keyboard:-)

Couldn't resist. Been there, done that.

Mike

Re: HP-97 Decimal Point Display
*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 16 Dec 2001, 9:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Paul Nelson

The HP97 should have a DSP key as well. It's on the right hand keyboard, on the bottom row (IIRC it's just to the right of the decimal point key). Press that, then a digit for the number of digits/decimals you want. You've also got the FIX/SCI/ENG keys on the top of the right hand keypad. IMHO that DSP key is wrongly placed. Or rather R/S, in the bottom left corner of the left hand keypad is wrongly placed and should probably have replaced DSP on the right hand keypad. R/S is used a lot more than DSP after all.

Re: HP-97 Decimal Point Display
*Message #6 Posted by **Shame on me ...** on 18 Dec 2001, 10:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tony Duell (UK)

I prefer to be anonymous but what means :

IIRC IMHO

Signed : a poor french who don't understand all subtilities of threads posted here !!!

Re: HP-97 Decimal Point Display
*Message #7 Posted by **I think I know** on 18 Dec 2001, 11:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Shame on me ...

I think I know what these are...

IIRC: "If I Recall Correctly"

IMHO: "In My Honest(Humble?) Opinion"

And there's probably a lot more, don't be afraid to ask.

Abreviations
*Message #8 Posted by **Matt Kernal (US)** on 18 Dec 2001, 11:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Shame on me ...

No reason to feel shame... you can speak two languages!

IIRC - "If I Remember Correctly"

IMHO - "In My Humble Opinion"

I have a friend from Germany that once saw a sign on a car that said "4 sale" (instead of "for sale"). He said our english words are already so short (compared to German words), and couldn't understand why we americans have this need to (improperly) shorten words further; he came to the conclusion that it must be simple laziness. What could I say, he was right. Same story with these abreviations.

Here is a link that lists a few more abreviations: http://kilby.sac.on.ca/fctutorial/abreviat.htm

Matt

Re: Abreviations
*Message #9 Posted by **Denis Field** on 7 Jan 2002, 5:42 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Matt Kernal (US)

Of couse now that we have mobile phones with us Text messaging needs abbreviations to make the message compact to save money and time.

I personally hope that these abbreviations do not get into our dictionaries, but I have my doubts.

HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #10 Posted by **Paul Nelson** on 5 Jan 2002, 2:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Paul Nelson

I just put an HP-97 back together.... everything works except for the card reader. Replaced the rubber wheel, cleaned everything.... Mechanically, it's fine. I adjusted the switches and checked 'em out- all OK. And it draws the cards smoothly through and then just reports 'error'. Cards work fine in my HP-67. No scratches on the head, used the head cleaner card AND tape head cleaner on a Q-tip- Any ideas about further troubleshooting?

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #11 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 5 Jan 2002, 3:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Paul Nelson

Does it fail for reading only (i.e. it won't read a card written on the 67), writing only (it'll not write a card that the 67 can read) or both? A common problem with the 97 card reader is bad connections on that tapewire ribbon cable between the card reader PCB and the logic PCB. I've replaced the cable in my 97 using 26 way IDC ribbon cable and connectors. A 13 pin SIL rightangle header soldered to the logic PCB (using the row of holes in the 26 way IDC socket nearest the top of the machine) and a 26 way header soldered to the card reader PCB (with the row of pins nearest the top of the machine soldered to the PCB pads and the other row of pins trimmed back). Works fine, even if it's not 'original'. Ohter than that,s check the cacpacitors on the card reader PCB and the supply decoupling electrolytics on the logic PCB.

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #12 Posted by **David Smith** on 5 Jan 2002, 5:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Paul Nelson

If you can write a card and not read it the problem is almost always the small tantalum electrolytic filter capacitor (usually blue) on the reader board.

If you cant read and write then the problem is almost always the HEAD switch in the reader. I have noticed that they often appear to work when a card is inserted manually but not when being pulled through bu the motor. More adjusting to the reader switches may be on order.

The other common failure mode is the ribbon cable connections.

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #13 Posted by **Paul Nelson** on 6 Jan 2002, 3:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by David Smith

Thanks, David and Tony. Still no joy. Can't either read or write. No error when I try to write, but the HP-67 won't read what I wrote. Caps check good in-circuit (Fluke 87), and the H switch goes from 6.3v with no card to 0v while the card goes through. I do get a signal on both heads when I write. Can't detect anything when I read. (DVM on the head terminals) but that's probably in the microvolt arena. Why do the two heads have different DC resistances, by the way? 47 ohms and 1.2Kohms... Looking at the business end of the head, it does look worn- with a stereo microscope, I can see the gap and it looks clean, but the head appears not to be straight- it seems to be polished or ground convex in the vertical dimension. Not what I'd expect.

Can anyone offer more advice?

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #14 Posted by **David Smith** on 6 Jan 2002, 4:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Paul Nelson

You have a bad head. Both windings should both measure the same. Also, the black wire should is the ground for the head casing.

Check the head wires. They are VERY fragile and tend to break where they connect to the circuit board. Also when working on a 67/97 always record the postions of the wires before doing anything. They vary between machines.

The filter tantalum cap often measures OK, but they have a problem with bad ESR values that are very difficult to measure. On the HP67 machines with the motor speed adjustment pot in particular you should always replace the cap.

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #15 Posted by **Paul Nelson** on 6 Jan 2002, 5:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by David Smith

David- You're rignt! Just confirmed it on my HP-67-

So- Does anyone know where I might find a good head and carrier assy? Or a "parts" reader with a good head?

Waiting with bated breath..... Paul

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #16 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 6 Jan 2002, 7:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Paul Nelson

I believe you can use an HP67 reader head assembly, and maybe even an HP65 one in the HP97. Which may help you find a replacement.

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #17 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 6 Jan 2002, 7:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Paul Nelson

Firstly a general point. The problem with old electrolytic capacitors is high ESR (Effective/Equivalent Series Resistance). This is not something that's tested by the capacitance range on a multimeter (not even a Fluke). You really need to desolder the caps and test them on an ESR meter. However, I don't think that's your problem -- I think the problem is the head. There should be 2 identical windings. Normally red/yellow is one winding, blue/orange is the other. And black is the screen (shield) ground. The 2 windings should measnure the same resistance. I think one of yours is open and you're just measuring the 'resistance' of the other components on the board (mostly the 1826-0322 chip). Do check the connections (and you might be able to repair a broken wire at the very back of the head -- there's nothing to lose by trying. Otherwise you need a new head/support plate assemhly, I think. Incidentally, if one winding is open then the reader won't work at all. The encoding scheme used on these calculators is to record a '1' by a transition on one track and a '0' by a transition on the other track. This is a simple self-clocking encoding, but if one track fails for any reason (such as an O/C head) then all you get is '0's (or '1's), so it can't possibly work.

Re: HP-97 card reader..doesn't!
*Message #18 Posted by **paul nelson** on 6 Jan 2002, 10:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Tony Duell (UK)

hi tony- pretty clear that the head's bad. 1.2K right at the entrance to the head, thru the insulation on the wire. Toast. Lookin' for another head assy! Thanks for your help- you and Dave guided me to the diagnosis.

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9810 Repair Situation

*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 16 Dec 2001, 4:49 p.m.*

I have four HP 9810 desktop calculators.

Status: 1) **One works** 2) One starts up; lights keyboard lights; then changes the lights. 3) Two just come up with a fixed static keyboard lights.

None of the 3 that are not functioning, ever turn on the LED display. All have all cards and good voltages.

Here is my plan and I'm wondering if any damage is likely to occur to my good boards. I'd like to hear from anyone who has ever repaired any of these. Ordinarily, I would not worry about swapping boards but since many of these have problem, I'm worried that there might be some real issue with the 9810 and board swapping.

Plan: I will remove 1 board at a time from all of the non-working machines and install them in the working 9810. That should identify which boards are bad.

Then, I will, if possible combine as many working sets as possible, to get at lease one other working 9810. I will likely offer the remaining non-working units as spare parts to anyone else who may need them. However no spares will given out until I have maximized the number of working units I can restore.

Also, these came from a 220V environment. It may be that these had 220 applied while the setting was at 120. Just a guess. Have no reason to believe this was the case, one way or the other. I did check the voltages at the top of the power supply and they are correct.

I also have about 75 magnetic cards for these. If anyone is completely without cards, I might make a few available, at no charge, just for the purpose of testing your reader.

Thanks,

Mike

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Not an HP but question about Nixie
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 15 Dec 2001, 12:45 a.m.*

I have a Monroe 650 Nixie calculator (actually a couple). They are very nice machines.

Anyway, there is one function that I have not been able to figure out.

There is a 3 position switch that has an up arrow on the left, a down arrow on the right and a 5/4 in the middle. No matter what position it is in, I don't see a difference.

Anyone have a suggestion what this switch is for. It's not a decimal point. There is another switch for that.

Thanks

Re: Not an HP but question about Nixie
*Message #2 Posted by **Ira** on 15 Dec 2001, 3:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Hi.

That's a rounding off switch. I think the 5/4 means it'll round down if the decimal is .4xxx and round up if the decimal is .5 or higher.

Ira

Yep, that's it...also

*Message #3 Posted by **Mike** on 15 Dec 2001, 11:32 a.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Ira

It is a 3 position switch.

When to the left (with the arrow pointing up), it always rounds up, regardless of number.

When to the right (with the arrow pointing down), it always rounds down, regardless of number.

When at 5/4, it rounds up if non-displayed part is 5xxx and down if 4xxx.

Thanks,

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My HP-25C Died!!! <snif>
*Message #1 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 14 Dec 2001, 6:02 p.m.*

I was using my beloved HP-25C during my math class, and as I reached for the multiplication key during some long equation crunching, the display died. My first instinct was to replace the batteries. (I had temporarily soldered a AAA battery clip in there until I get a rechargeable pack, I have one on it's way.) So when I got home, I removed my electrical tape from the back (holding in the batteries) and replaced the AAA's with two fresh ones from the battery charger (I was using NiMH, they last longer), and when I turned the calc back on, it didn't do anything. I got more investigative today and took the calc apart, and removed my battery clip mod, and hooked up some AA's via aligator clips to the correct terminals. Still nothing. I went through and checked a couple diodes and resistors that had crummy solder joints, to no avail. I don't know much about HP calculator repair, but I am determined to get this working again. Since this calc was most likely sitting unused for several years before I got it (about a week ago), is there any chance that something may have dried out in there that was startled by my sudden use of it, or something that could have jiggled loose (I carried it in my pocket to prevent it from getting damaged in my backpack) Any ideas as to what could prevent the calc from turning on would be appreciated. Also, while I know this is not the place, and I will place an ad in the classifieds when I find out what part I need to replace, I may be in need of another broken calculator for parts. Any help would be appreciated. BTW - when my HP died, I went into RPN withdrawl, having to go back to my TI-83+, and I found the most wonderful peice of TI-83+ software on the net - http://www.chem.com.au/cp/software/ti83/rpn/ Reverse Polish Notation for the TI-83+! I love it! This site even has a link here for more info on RPN. Long live the HP (I hope...)

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: My HP-25C Died!!! <snif>
*Message #2 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 15 Dec 2001, 1:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

Hi,

sorry, but it could be possible that the 3.x Volts of the two AA-Batteries was to high for the electronics. It happend to my first woodstock also :-(

sorry no better answer.

Andreas Stockburger

Re: My HP-25C Died!!! <snif>
*Message #3 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 15 Dec 2001, 8:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

I thought of that before I hooked up the batteries in the first place. I was using NiMH batteries, which are almost identical to the old Nicad cells in that the put out only 1.2 volts per cell. 1.2 + 1.2 = 2.4, and the calc was meant to run on 2.5 volts.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: My HP-25C Died!!! <snif>
*Message #4 Posted by **Frank** on 15 Dec 2001, 11:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ian Primus

I repaired a 29c with similar symptoms a year or so ago by replacing a visibly slightly browned/cooked to high value resistor with a new one somewhere on the board that prevented some display voltage from getting there. Frank

Re: My HP-25C Died!!! <snif>

*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 16 Dec 2001, 9:15 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

First of all, take the 25C apart. In case you've not done this yet, first remove the battery. Then take out the 2 feet at the display end of the machine and undo the screws under them. Press on the charger pins to free that end of the case, then slide the (white) bottom case away from the display end of the machine to free the hook at the front edge. Separate that end of the case and take the case off. First check all the contacts between the keyboard and the logic PCB. The Woodstocks feed Vss over those pins IIRC and bad connections will stop the machine working. Then you should check the power supply voltages. Find the ACT chip, which is a 22 pin DIL device, normally at the front (non-display) end of the board. Pin 12 is ground (as is the -ve side of the battery, pin 1 is Vss (+6.2V), pin 2 is Vgg (-12V). Check those voltages with a known-good battery connected. If you have a 'scope then check them for ripple as well. If the voltages are right, then post again here and I'll suggest some other signals to check.

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Dead 41CV
*Message #1 Posted by **Byron Caines** on 14 Dec 2001, 3:02 p.m.*

I hope someone can help.

I have a dead 41cv with the navgation software package.Does anyone know of a calculator on the market that has a nav package.

thanks

Re: Dead 41CV
*Message #2 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 14 Dec 2001, 3:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Byron Caines

Well, why buying another calc ?

Firstof all, it might not be as dead as it seems to be : there are many articles in tis forum and articles on this site that explain how to ressucite a comatic 41.

If unsuccessful, you could still purchase another C or CV (quite cheap compared to a CX or another calc) on which you could plug in your module !

Re: Dead 41CV
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 14 Dec 2001, 5:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by thibaut.be

As strange as it seems one can often find CX machines selling for less money than CV machines on Ebay. The CX makes a better navigation machine than the CV with time module (no chance of the clock module popping out and losing the calibration constants)

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Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #1 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 14 Dec 2001, 3:26 a.m.*

I just can't beleive this...

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1309694005 and

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #2 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 14 Dec 2001, 3:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

I have seen this ...

There are 3 calcs in my collection missing. One of them ist the HP65. Here I have the possibility to by a NIB one. In my opinion there is no second chance to by a NIB HP65. How much should I in your opinion pay ???

Andreas

BTW this means that I have to sell about 10 to 15 calculators of my stock ...

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #3 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 14 Dec 2001, 6:00 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

Well... I just don't know... I think that $300 is a pretty good price for such a calc...

do you really think that a box and some manuals are worth 2 or 3 times more than the calc itself ?

BTW there is a 67 also NIB that is reaching $500+... this is incredible...

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #4 Posted by **Frank B. (Germany)** on 14 Dec 2001, 7:53 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Thibaut.be

And this HP67 http://cgi.ebay.de/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1307247724 is almost as expensive as a Curta.

Frank.

Re: Curtas and HPs
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 14 Dec 2001, 2:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Frank B. (Germany)

I really cant figure out why Curtas sell for as much as they do. At any given time there are usually five or more listed on Ebay. Hardly rare at all. You may have so wait a couple of weeks to find an HP65 in any condition. Hoping to find just one Mint-in-box HP65 in a year is really pushing it.... I sold one several years ago for over $1000 (before Ebay). Mint-in-box HP67 machines show up MUCH more often... 1300 bucks does seem a bit excessive. I bagged one a few months back for less than $300.

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #6 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 14 Dec 2001, 7:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Thibaut.be

To have a calc in mint condition is certainly a good feeling. Unfortunately, every know-nothing clown with an old beat up Hp will now put a $200 reserve on non-working junk and feel justified in doing so. That is the pity of these auctions. Is the Hp65 NIB worth what Tom has already bid. To Tom and someone else who he had to outbid, it must be. Me?, I am happy with a working model, but that is what the market is.

Hp's not making any more of the classics. Actually if the auction did not go any higher, Tom is buying it somewhat discounted, since NEW, it was almost $800.

Funny reasoning, and it is a high price.

How about the HP-67 that went for $1,329?
*Message #7 Posted by **Gene** on 14 Dec 2001, 9:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Ron Ross

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1307247724

Wow.

Wow.

Wow.

Gene

Re: How about the HP-67 that went for $1,329?
*Message #8 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 14 Dec 2001, 10:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Gene

I just can't beleive that...

Seems our collections are getting more and more value, isn't it ?

Re: How about the HP-67 that went for $1,329?
*Message #9 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 14 Dec 2001, 10:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Gene

The buyer bought from the same seller on ebay : - 15C NIB : $355 - 32E NIB : $82.5 - 48 math pac : $52.5

these prices are above all expectations... (may not fot he 32E)

Or this guy want a better collection than Dave's, or they ntend to artificially raise prices on ebay...

Well, we always knew that when booklung
*Message #10 Posted by **Mike** on 15 Dec 2001, 1:08 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Gene

wants it, he gets it. I wonder what his bid actually was. All we see is the winning amount. I bet it was $1500+

Re: Well, we always knew that when booklung
*Message #11 Posted by **Todd G.** on 15 Dec 2001, 7:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Mike

I bet Mike D. will be right on this one. The winner of the $1329 HP-67 will get the NIB HP-65. It's just a question of the final price. We've seen this fellow operate on eBay: if he wants it, he usually gets it. Money does not appear to be an obstacle.

For comparision, in 1998 I bought a NIB HP-65 on eBay, never used, with all the accessories plus the Nav pac, Stat pac, and Financial pac (all NIB). The only piece missing was the cardboard box for the 65. I think I paid $390. And I bet others have paid less that I did for an HP-65.

Re: Well, we always knew that when booklung
*Message #12 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 15 Dec 2001, 1:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Todd G.

Hi,

>And I bet others have paid >less that I did for an HP-65 > Yes, maybe...

I got my new-in-plastic field case HP-65 last year from my boss for free;-) With additional Finance Pac...

Maybe because some more time ago, I repaired his HP-41 which had a bad pcb contact.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #13 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 15 Dec 2001, 1:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Thibaut.be

Hi,

I cannot get the point here. What is a "good" price for such a calc? The price of the parts inside (diodes, transitors etc) is about $20. On ebay you can get compareable calcs (with same functionality - no RPN of course) for this price ! So why you think its price should be $300 ?

Lets think about the value of this device - the value for MY collection (NOT yours !!!). Why do YOU think I should not pay $3000 for the last missing classic in my collection ?

To ALL: Is there someone who will sell me a HP65 for $300 ??? Please feel free to send me an email

Best regards

Andreas

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #14 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 15 Dec 2001, 2:58 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

Well, diodes and transistors is not all, you need to pay for the technology inside... otherise just take some of this very pure Rhinbe sand and you have potentially the not developed yet Pentium 9 !

Andreas, you pay what you want for anything you want, I was just making the point that $3000 even for the last missing peice of your collection is to my eyes quite exaggerated, but this is onmy my personal opinion and I'm the only one involved in that !

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #15 Posted by **Ellis Easley Jr.** on 15 Dec 2001, 5:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

I have read that the legal definition of "value" (I guess in the U.S.) is "what a thing will bring" I.E. whatever someone is willing to pay for it. The best working example I have seen is the way Texas establishes the value of real estate for taxation.

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #16 Posted by **Mark Renaud** on 15 Dec 2001, 2:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Ellis Easley Jr.

That's probably a good idea for real estate where each piece is unique and everyone has different opinions about the best "location location location" bit.

I think it gets a little strained when you're talking about mass produced items that may differ only in a serial number yet have prices that are 5 or 10 times different.

Is any one person's idea of value "right" in that case? Is it an average? Is the value the list of all prices paid? Do we just settle for personal values that are wildly different?

I mostly take the latter approach.
*Message #17 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 15 Dec 2001, 7:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Mark Renaud

(It's worth whatever you feel it's worth.) This tends to annoy people when they ask "what's it worth" but then telling them what I think it's worth annoys a lot of people too. Sometimes I would tell someone what I felt something was worth and they'd complain that all the ebay auctions for that model were already higher than that with days to go.

My HP collection may have cost me less than individual calculators on ebay but I've also probably put more work than average into obtaining them. I think it's more fun to track down cheapies than to pay more than the world's second biggest spender. Sometimes that means going weeks without finding anything though. It just depends on what motivates you.

Collecting HPs without going broke
*Message #18 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 15 Dec 2001, 11:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Dave Hicks

For me I enjoy trying to bring a dead unit back to life. If I can, and already have that particular model thAt I am working on, I usually sell it and use the money to buy something that I don't already have (It's kind of like monopoly money to me). For me it is the only way I can add to my collection. I'd go broke trying to collect HP calcs at ebay prices when I have a wife and two kids to support. I'd have a real hard time explaining to the wife why I/we need that HP-97S....

Reasonable value...
*Message #19 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 15 Dec 2001, 3:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Ellis Easley Jr.

While the "legal" value of these devices may be low, the subjective and even symbolic values are what drive these prices high.

In fact, for a large share of the Earth population, the calculators we talk about have very little value. But since there are very few NIB units, the collectors, while few, are enough to make such items appear scarce.

How do you define the "value" of an autographed baseball ball? It is the same for a baseball fan than for a person from a country where baseball is not even popular? Why a Picasso painting is worth much more than a piece of canvas and some ounces of paint? (I have no problem thinking about some models of HP calcs as art objects)

In plain economical terms, if someone is paying that much for an old calculator and if such person is not someone who enjoys completing a collection or appreciating the art or symbolic value of such an object; then the only rational explanation is that such person, while not interested in the object itself, have concluded that someday someone will pay more than he did to get it.

Just a quote from the spanish poet Antonio Machado:

Todo necio

confunde valor con precio.

(Every fool mistakes price for value)

Re: Reasonable value...
*Message #20 Posted by **Frank** on 15 Dec 2001, 11:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #19 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Yes, I too bought a near mint (oring repair) HP 65 two years ago from one collector and after having about 6mo sold to another for about the same as I gave, which was around $300 is seems like. Only had a 25 and 29c in the 70's and some ti's. I wonder what the HP's will be worth in the future, when all of us that used them or wanted them in college are gone. New yonger collectors are appearing, but seem to be in the minority, will this number grow. Will a unit like the HP 65 with it's special fame, or even the HP 35 and with fewer available with its fame become worth more or less? As you all know, most are not nearly to their original 70's value inflation adjusted, or how about stock market adjusted (was it '74 when the Dow crossed 1000?)

If you bid $1000
*Message #21 Posted by **Mike** on 15 Dec 2001, 12:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

You will not get that one. My guess is that it will go for between $1500 and $2000.

Not sure if it's worth it, but that's what it will sell for.

You know what makes prices so high...
*Message #22 Posted by **Mike** on 16 Dec 2001, 11:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

It's the people you see bidding on day **ONE** of a 7 day auction and bid, say $100, on an item they know darn well is going to sell for much, much more than that.

There are too many people that will say, "if it's worth $100 to them, it's worth $102 to me."

Fact is, it's these early bidders that run the price up. These early bidders **NEVER** win auctions for anything that is desireable.

Re: You know what makes prices so high...
*Message #23 Posted by **Dane** on 17 Dec 2001, 2:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Mike

I couldnt agree more! I also see people bid just so they are able to track the auction without ever intending on buying. Bid early and lose! I'm sure there are many no cost or low cost products out there to track auctions without bidding.

Re: You know what makes prices so high...
*Message #24 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 18 Dec 2001, 3:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Dane

I don't think there is anything wrong with an early bid. I have bid early and late and usually get beat most of the time. eBay allows you to watch up to 20 items without bidding, so there is a way to track without bidding. I stopped bidding on HP calc stuff a long time ago. Gone are the days when you can get a 41c, barcode reader and a printer all with instructions for $100 like I did about 3 years ago. Just my $.02 worth. Randy

Re: You know what makes prices so high...
*Message #25 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 18 Dec 2001, 1:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #24 by Randy Smith

Bidding early also lets others in the community know that you are interested in that particular item. Many times I won't bid against a fellow enthusiast that I have had dealings with unless I REALLY want that item. Sometimes, I have even emailed that person and tell him my intentions. In my opinion, it is not really the early bids that drive the prices sky high, it is the last minute or even last second sniping attempts by more than one bidder that really drive the prices high. These last second snipers probably leave extremely high bids because they want the item badly. This is just basic economics and has nothing to do with early bidding. Of course there is the argument that many early bids is an idicator of the popularity of and how many people are watching the item. This would make a last minute sniper increase his bid.

Couldn't disagree more...
*Message #26 Posted by **Mike** on 18 Dec 2001, 8:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #25 by Erik Wahlin

Yes, on some of the more collectible items, this happens. But on the routine HP items that sell on ebay, there is not much of a jump at the last second. Only on the more rare items. The early bidders on these are always the cause of higher prices.

However, the early bidders do do a service. Most HP collectors don't really have to search much.

There a few that must sit up at night and bid on every single HP item that comes along. All you have to do is look at what they have placed bids on that night. Easy work, thanks to them.

One last thing. Sniping never takes something away from someone that bid early. If these snipers (me too) did not bid at the last second, they would still beat the low-ball bidders.

If an item is desireable, it can never be won by early bidding.

Re: Couldn't disagree more...
*Message #27 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 19 Dec 2001, 3:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #26 by Mike

An early bidder is not necessrily a low-ball bidder.

You are correct...
*Message #28 Posted by **Mike** on 20 Dec 2001, 10:25 a.m.,*
in response to message #27 by Randy Smith

Some people just bid early to mark the auction as one to watch. But a lot will do this and then bid a couple of time s more, after they have been outbid.

I have a mile-long list of such people. But they always drop out early.

Mike

Re: You are correct...
*Message #29 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 21 Dec 2001, 4:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #28 by Mike

I know that I am guilty of making multiple bids. But, I am getting better at not making them. I am particularly fond of the Buy it now feature. Especially if I think the price is reasonable. BTW, I mostly buy stamp stuff. HPs are just way out of reach for what I am looking for. Nomely a 67 and a 97. Taking the "Find it cheap" route is a favorite of mine. This includes finding a 15c in a pawn shop for $20! It also had the manual. Randy

You are absolutely correct, Erik
*Message #30 Posted by **92 owner** on 22 Dec 2001, 1:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #25 by Erik Wahlin

Some of these snipers don't have a clue about collecting, or about being a valuable member of a small community. These dealers simply snipe, then try to resell the item a week later at 3X the price. Makes me sick. Thankfully, the other 99% of the collectors are great folks.

Re: Have you seen how much 65's are reaching on ebay ?
*Message #31 Posted by **Alex Binca** on 17 Dec 2001, 3:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Thibaut.be

Am I the only one to think the HP museum itself is the major responsible for the high price commanded by classic HP calculators?

Let me explain: this site has allowed me to have a real appreciation of HP calculators, that honestly I didn't have before, at least not to that extent. The descriptions of the different calculators are so excellent (like a connoisseur describing the very best wines) that after reading them, I often tell myself, and I am sure I'm not the only one: "Wow, this calculator is a true piece of art! I need one, I want one!".

I am not the worst offender,having acquired few HPs in Ebay and at relatively good prices. But whenever prices are too high for me (99% of the time), a little voice in my head blames the HP museum.

I guess what I am saying is that sometimes I wish I was the only one to have access to this site. Or at least the only one allowed to bid on Ebay!

-- Alex Binca

You are absolutely Right!!!
*Message #32 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 17 Dec 2001, 4:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #31 by Alex Binca

After reading this, I have to agree. Let's Tar & Feather DAVE. To damn good of site and its influence has made to damn many Hp collector enthusiests.

I'm starting on warming the Tar & someone else, get the feathers.

Re: You are (not quite) absolutely Wrong!!!
*Message #33 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 18 Dec 2001, 11:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #31 by Alex Binca

Theories about early bidding and "sniping" all seem to ignore the inalterable, undeniable (and from some naiive viewpoints, unfortunate) fact that there apparently *are* people more than willing to ultimately, actually *pay* the prices we are seeing.

eBay has created a new, global marketplace, and items of limited availability, high quality and excellent design (to say nothing of ongoing usefulness!) are naturally going to command high prices. Everyone who might be remotely interested is now easily aware of, and conveniently participating in, the sales.

The MoHPC has done its part in furthering awareness of this one collector's market segment, but I think that such awareness was inevitable, given the uniqueness and quality of the products that are its subject. You can long for the good old days of belonging to a small, select group of knowledgeable insiders, but they're gone. The genie is out of the bottle, and the Market will set the prices.

I'm reminded of the 60's, 70's & beyond, when the prices of used guitars started climbing steadily as collectors gobbled them up. Martins, Gibsons & etc. by the dozens in "rich" collectors' closets, not even being *used* -- it seemed a crime.

There must be a theory published somewhere about a predictable "collecting life cycle", with an "early adopter" period that is optimum for collection-building, and a later "fad" phase when it's maximally profitable to sell off duplicates and lower-quality items. (I think we're in the latter phase now, with respect to HP Calculators!) I wonder what the total cycle looks like, and what to expect next? (I imagine all such cycles have been accelerated and accentuated recently by the "market lubrication" effects of the Internet and eBay.) Any thoughts?

We might consider joining in a concerted, tongue-in-cheek "Calculator Collecting is Nerdy and Dead!" campaign to drive down demand . . .

Re: Manipulating the "Worth" Curve
*Message #34 Posted by **Dan M** on 18 Dec 2001, 12:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #33 by Paul Brogger

Yes, Collecting Calculators is Nerdy and Dead. Pass the word.

I've seen various publications from time to time setting themselves up as the definitive price guide to collecting "x". Unfortunately, I've also sat by and watched as once valuable items plunge downwards in value (to below zero, where you have to pay somebody to take them away) only to rise upwards on their collectible value, then appear in one of these books.

So... the thing to do is catch these things at the bottom of their "worth" curve, get paid to take them off of people's hands, then write a book (or website...) about how cool and collectible and valuable they are, then sell off on ebay to boost the prices higher and higher. Who needs the stock market!

Recent opportunities include: manual typewriters, dot-matrix printers, Macintoshes, 8-track tapes, reel-reel tapes, vaccuum tubes, analog audio equipment, whatever. The only ones I can think of now are like micro-fiche readers, 286/386 computers, computer monitors, 8- and 16-mm films and projectors, filmstrip projectors, stuff like that. Keep an eye on your local Goodwill or Thrift Store and see what doesn't move, then swoop in and make _your_ move. The future of collectibles awaits!

In the meantime, I'll take some of those old boring junky nerdy yesterday calculators off of your hands to help you make room for those micro-fiche readers you'll be needing!

Happy Holidays,

Dan

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9825b recording system tapes
*Message #1 Posted by **Leonard Oneill** on 13 Dec 2001, 11:39 p.m.*

I'd Like to meet someone who could teach me how make a duplicate a system tape on my 9825b. I currently use this machine for my business, and I'm unable to find someone able to offer me a system backup tape. I'm talking about the steel backed tape that is put into the tape transfer system to the left of the register tape. Thank you

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Documentation fonts
*Message #1 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 13 Dec 2001, 7:28 p.m.*

Hi there.

Some time ago I created some fonts for Macintosh, which I uploaded to the Museum. These fonts let you use a word processor to create documentation for HP calculator procedures or programs, mimicking the way displays and printers look. Since then, I have made several changes in the fonts and created a couple of new ones, but they are still for Macintosh only.

What I'd like to know is whether there is enough interest in this to warrant extensive research as to how to convert said fonts to Windows for (much wider) usage of our members.

One of the fonts, for example, looks exactly the way HP-41 displays work. Using MS Word, it's possible to print a line of text using this font on light gray background, giving the impression that you're looking at the HP-41 display. Another font contains symbols necessary to create "keyboard" keys. For instance, if you type ´STO¨ (acute-STO-umlaut) and use the font, it looks like a STO key on a standard HP calculator, complete with rounded corners and border.

Please let me know if you'd like to have these fonts! And if you know how to convert the fonts from Mac to Windows, let me know that too; it will save me countless hours of brain-wracking.

-Ernie

Re: Documentation fonts
*Message #2 Posted by **Yani** on 13 Dec 2001, 8:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

Yup I for one would like a set.

There is a programme called Font Creator that converts graphics formats into fonts. It is shareware and I am going to use it to create a font from a friends script. This may work - I don't know.

Re: Documentation fonts
*Message #3 Posted by **Frred Lusk (CA)** on 14 Dec 2001, 12:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Yani

I have wanted fonts for the HP-41 and HP42S for years(!). From time to time I have asked around (here and elsewhere in the digital universe), but never even got a response. If you are willing to make these fonts for the Windows environment, you will be providing a service of immense value to the HP community. I, for one, will vote to raise you to calculator saint-hood.

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What happend to the files of NOMAS?
*Message #1 Posted by **Christian Dehnke** on 13 Dec 2001, 2:53 p.m.*

Hi, Some years ago there was a library of file called NOMAS. What happend with those files. Where can I find them. I am especially interested in the files for the HP71b. Thanks, Chris

Re: What happend to the files of NOMAS?
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 13 Dec 2001, 4:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Christian Dehnke

Hi,

the files for the HP-71B were called IDS;-) They are on the museum's CD set on CD 5.

Raymond

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HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #1 Posted by **duane Bozarth** on 13 Dec 2001, 12:20 p.m.*

I just resurrected an HP97 that is well used but appears fully functional. I tested the printer with a few inches of paper left but haven't found a replacement source...where is there a suitable paper available?

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #2 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 13 Dec 2001, 12:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by duane Bozarth

Duane:

Well, I know this will sound incredibly wasteful and not eco-friendly...but here goes. Just go to OfficeMax (or Depot), and grap a pack of the THERMAL printing-calculator printer rolls. They print in black, whereas the old HP paper printed in blue. Now the wasteful part: take a new spool and put it on a pencil, hold in your hand, and give it a big spin to start reeling-off paper. The reason: these new-fangled rolls of paper are too large to fit in the 97 bay. If you roll-off about 1/4 (maybe 1/3) of the roll, they will fit in the holder.

Even though this wastes a lot of paper, it is much cheaper than buying "official HP replacement" rolls of paper. The same procedure goes for the newer infrared HP printer too. Now I can't *guarantee* them like HP would *theoretically* guarantee its paper, but I have never experienced any problems.

Bruce.

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brasil)** on 13 Dec 2001, 1:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Hi;

Just to know if it can be done or not. Original HP Thermal Paper used to get a hard tube in the inner part of the roll. As Bruce explained, would it be possible to use one of these disposed tubes so the reeling-off paper will be reused? If possible, it would not be wasted.

Just to know if it is possible... I do not know what kind of thermal paper we have here in Brazil, but I feel as having to do a research for this.

Cheers.

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #4 Posted by **CJ** on 13 Dec 2001, 1:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brasil)

In the event you still want "HP" paper try these folks.

http://www.samsoncables.com/catalog/prodDetail.cfm?Prod_ID=210&Sku=82175A

Or,

http://www.calcpro.com

Look under the "Hardware - Calculator" section.

Christopher

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #5 Posted by **Erik Wahhlin** on 13 Dec 2001, 2:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by duane Bozarth

I just saw some thermal paper at Target (store in the USA) yesterday that sells replacement paper. Look where they sell calculators. I have never had the problem that the paper does not fit in the holder.

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #6 Posted by **David Smith** on 13 Dec 2001, 5:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by duane Bozarth

Office Depot, Office Max, and Staples all sell NCR thermal paper. They have it in long and short rolls. The short rolls are around 80 feet long and fit the HP machines perfectly. They cost around 9 dollars for a 9 roll pack. They also have a three roll pack for around $4.50. I have found the NCR paper works much better than the regular HP paper. It prints cleaner and darker. It also seems much smoother and should not wear the print head as much.

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #7 Posted by **Ion Abraham (New Mexico USA)** on 14 Dec 2001, 9:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by duane Bozarth

Duane,

It sounds like you have multiple solutions from the other postings. I just thought I would add that I think CalcPro (www.calcpro.com) still sells the actual HP paper needed, which, I think, is the same paper used in the 41 series printer.

Good luck,

Ion Abraham Albuquerque, New Mexico

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #8 Posted by **Duane Bozarth** on 14 Dec 2001, 12:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by duane Bozarth

OK, thanks to all...I wasn't sure whether there was any difference in the thermal printheads of the older calculators versus the newer that one needed to be aware of. (And, of course, all the HP lit says is "use HP", not anything about useful specifications for matching <G>)

Re: HP 97 printer paper?
*Message #9 Posted by **Ellis Easley Jr.** on 15 Dec 2001, 5:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by duane Bozarth

I also found the NCR paper in the 80 (or 85?) ft roll for my 82240 IR printer. I haven't yet got to the end of a roll, but I remember reading somewhere that HP made this warning about third party paper for these printers: if the end of the paper is glued to the cardboard core (not the case with HP paper), there will be an excessive load on the motor when you get to the end of the roll.

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HP-86 MSUS error.
*Message #1 Posted by **Chris McBrien** on 13 Dec 2001, 9:41 a.m.*

I have an HP-86B. That's the one with the internal HPIB interface. When trying to access an HP9121 twin floppy disk unit I get the following error. Error 120 : No MS Device. The HP9121 works fine on an HP-85 system. I've also tried a plug-in HPIB interface using the rear slots and still get the same error. I think the internal 'dip' switches may have been changed in order to make the HP-86B a "Non-Controller" device. Has anyone any internal switch settings or other suggestions.

Thanks in advance.

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HP-71B time functions?
*Message #1 Posted by **Johnny Bjoern Ramussen** on 13 Dec 2001, 3:06 a.m.*

Just recieved an HP-71B af a trade for an HP-42S. I have no manual for it (so I might want to buy one). What is the syntax for the time functions? I know that there is eg. a SETTIME command, but executing "SETTIME 12.0000" dosen't seem to affect the result of "TIME" or "TIME$" executions... Is it possible to have the time running in the display on request, or does this require a Basic program?

Johnny

Re: HP-71B time functions?
*Message #2 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel (Austria)** on 13 Dec 2001, 6:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Johnny Bjoern Ramussen

You have to enter SET TIME "12:00:00" in 24-hour format to get the desired result.

As a general rule, ou can enter the SET TIME string or number in exactly the same format you get after executing TIME$ or TIME.

BTW: TIME returns the seconds after midnight.

You can use a BASIC Program, but there was a small LEX file (machine program), which fulfills that purpose as a background job. This program will also save space on the display. I have to research for the name.

I should have it somewhere on one of my disks.

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9100B
*Message #1 Posted by **bernie** on 12 Dec 2001, 5:11 p.m.*

Hi, I have the chance to buy a 9100B, which doesn't work. Can anyone tell me, whether it makes sense to buy a HP 9100B, that looks allright but can't be switched on? Is there a market to sell it again? Thanks

Bernie

Re: 9100B
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 12 Dec 2001, 6:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by bernie

Whether or not the machine is repairable depends on who you are... There are basically 3 parts of the 9100B you can't get any more -- the power transformer (which could be rewound if you have a lot of time/patience), the CRT (which, alas is often damaged in shipping) and the bare circuit boards. Remember that the main ROM is formed by coupling between the tracks on one of the boards, so at least that board is _very_ crictical. Juat about everythign else that's likely to fail is replaceable. It's all fairly stnadard transistors and diodes in there. The problem is that there is _no_ official service information for the processor chassis. Just a manual telling you to swap boards :-(. At least one madman (I am not saying who) has figured out quite a bit of it, though so it is possible to trace many faults given time and electronic experience (and good luck!). If you're not used to working on complex circuits with minimal documentation then you probably are not going to trace many of the faults that could occur in a 9100B. As regaards reselling it, I have no idea. I have never wanted to sell any HP product -- they're too much fun to want to pass them on :-)

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9825 Secured Programs
*Message #1 Posted by **Bryan Banfield** on 12 Dec 2001, 3:44 p.m.*

Help anyone! I have been using a 9825T for over 25 years. Many of the programs I have written for my own use have been stored using the hpl syntax 'rcf--,"SE"' which secured the programs from listing or displaying. I now have to alter some of these programs to accomodate alternative hardware. Does anyone know how to "unsecure" ?

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HP-71B Mem Configuration

*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 11 Dec 2001, 10:37 p.m.*

I have a couple of 71Bs that have 128K RAM module in the card reader slot and four 64K RAM in the front ports.

When I power it up, I get WRN: Configuration warning. I thought the 71B could take 512K RAM.

If I remove 1 64K RAM, I don't get the error and still have 336K RAM and no error. Seems like a strange boundary.

If I replace 1 of the 65K RAM with the FORTH ROM, I still get the WRN: Configuration.

Is this WRN: something that can cause a problem? I mean even after I get the warning, I still have 410,106 when I execute MEM.

What is the proper configuration setting to use all of this RAM together and not get the warning?

Thanks,

Affects operation: But what is proper config.

*Message #2 Posted by **Mike** on 11 Dec 2001, 11:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

I have found the answer to one of my questions. When I have 4 RAM Modules plus the 128K RAM, and I get the WRN: Configuration warning, the HP-IL stops working.

Tested this on two machines. Both the same.

Still need the answer to the configuration issue?

Related: What is the maximum, RAM configured as internal? External? What is the actual maximum RAM total and still have HP-IL and ROMs work correctly?

Re: HP-71B Mem Configuration (long)

*Message #3 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel** on 12 Dec 2001, 2:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

Hi Mike

Sorry, I didn't answer your email til now. I'll tray to answer this question (why can't I copy the FORTHROM) here too.

Your HP71 has an overall address Space of 512Kbytes (1Mnibble) RAM+ROM.

1st of all you have a 64kByte ROM Block, which is non-movable.

Seems, I should describe "movable memory" first.

The 71B supports so-called "Soft-configuration". This is a technique similar to "Plug and Play" on a PC with the exception, that "Soft-conf" works in any case :-)

There are some special memory locations in every memory chip of a 71B. These nibbles are read on Power-up using some so-called Bus-commands (I won't explain that here, it's too complicated for this post, but I could do that in another post). The contents of these nibbles are mainly the type and size of this memory chip.

On power up the OS builds a list of memory chips (or memory-mapped devices) and their size and assigns physical addresses to them. Yes, the memory chip doesn't have an address automatically, it's assigned by the OS similar to the PCs P&P system.

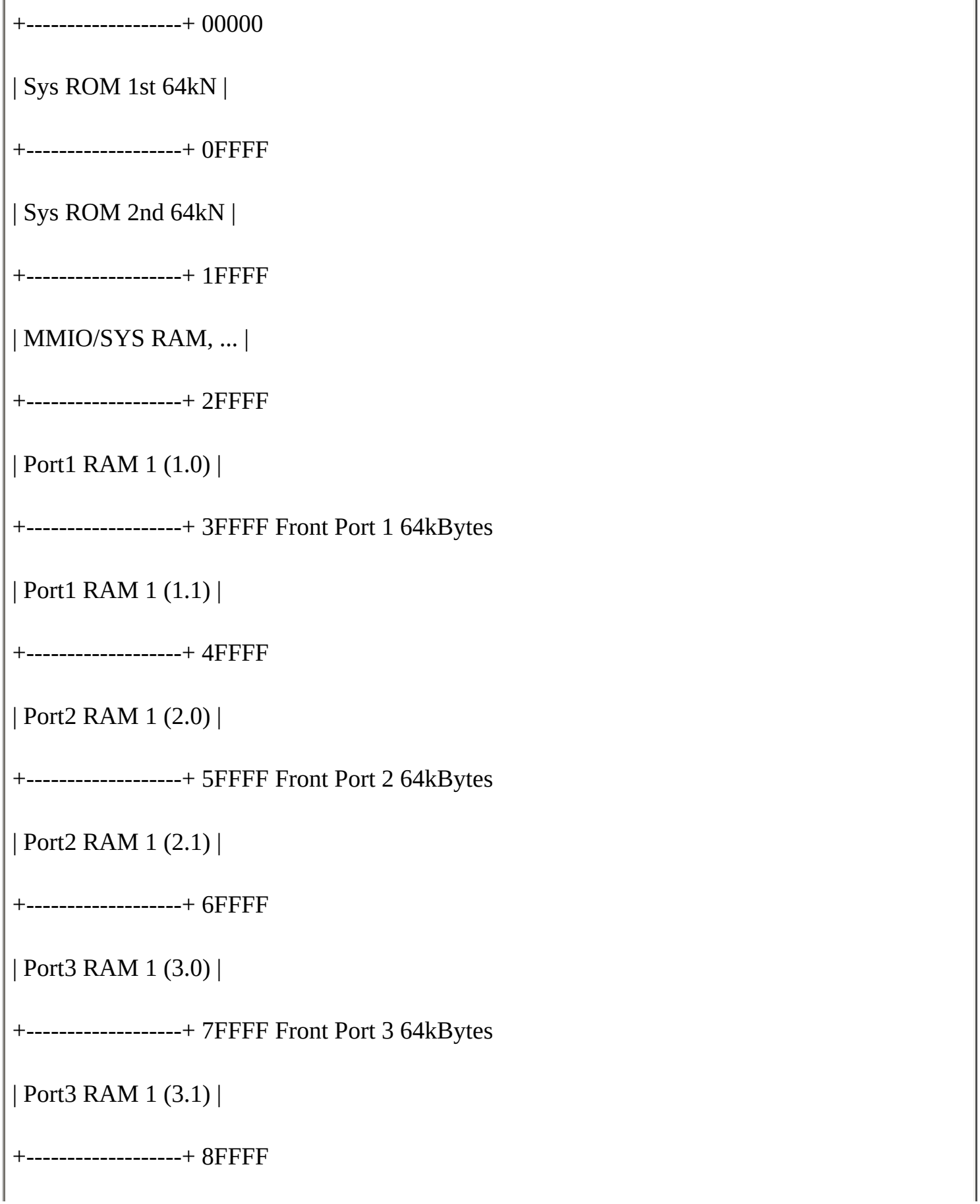
Some memory chips have fixed addresses, so they can't be moved around in Memory, these are "unmovable chips". The only unmovable memory locations are:

System ROM 64kBytes System ROM (1.5kBytes - display driver, scratchpad RAM, ...) The optional Forth/Assembler or the optional HP41 translator Module (32kBytes)

The 16KBytes internal RAM is movable in memory, only the 1.5k system memory is unmovable. There's also 32kBytes memory space reserved for Memory mapped I/O, some Bytes of the HPIL mailbox (the memory locations for communicating with the IL chip) are located in this space.

I'll try to draw a memory map (like it could be), but I'm doing this without any papers abt the subject here, so I could easily go wrong. Let's hope, I don't fail. I will use addresses in nibbles,

not Bytes, that's the natural way, the Saturn CPU counts memory locations. So a 32kBytes Module will occupy 64kNibbles (kN).



| Port4 RAM 1 (4.0) |

+------------------+ 9FFFF Front Port 4 64kBytes

| Port4 RAM 1 (4.1) |

+------------------+ AFFFF

| Port5 RAM 1 (5.0) |

+------------------+ BFFFF

| Port5 RAM 1 (5.1) |

+------------------+ CFFFF Card Reader 128kBytes

| Port5 RAM 1 (5.2) |

+------------------+ DFFFF

| Forth/Assembler | This ROM is fixed

+------------------+ EFFFF

| Reserved for Conf | Reserved for conf. (unusable)

+------------------+ FFFFF

The Forth Assembler ROM does always occupy E0000 - EFFFF (32kBytes)

What's not configured here

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port5 RAM 3 (5.3) | 32 k RAM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port0 RAM(0.0-0.3)| internal 16k RAM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port0.05 (ILROM)) | 16k HPILROM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port5 RAM 1 (5.2) | 16k FORTHROM (movable part)

+------------------+ xxxxx

This is just an example, but with 4*64k Front port, a ForthROM, and 128k Crd reader memory, you're far away from the design goals, even, when you remove Forth ROM OR 64k module, you have too much devices in your 71B.

The granularity is rather large, so the system can use all the usable address space, but the algorithm is complicated, so I can't predict the configuration in your computer.

Configuration takes place, when you turn on the 71B and if you pull a module during operation of the machine (ERR:module pulled).

Now you know the reason for the Forth ROM copy protection. You don't have a ROM with fixed address space to copy the hard-coded part into. I'm pretty sure, most 71B users believe, their FORTH ROMs (Assembler and Translator) need only 16k ROM. Here's also the Reason, that you can't use the 41 Translator and the Assembler in the same machine.

Need more details ? Just ask. I might produce a small website, which goes deeper into this case and has better formatting than here in the Forum.

I think I'm an expert in this field, because I built an Interface chip (Xilinx) between the 71B Bus and a normal static RAM together with two friends. This was a commercial project in 1988, but it was my project, so I can tell something about it in public.

A little confused...

*Message #4 Posted by **Mike** on 12 Dec 2001, 3:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Reinhard Hawel

You show all the Memory Map used up to FFFFF, with a few things that were not accounted for, as follows:

What's not configured here

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port5 RAM 3 (5.3) | 32 k RAM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port0 RAM(0.0-0.3)| internal 16k RAM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port0.05 (ILROM)) | 16k HPILROM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port5 RAM 1 (5.2) | 16k FORTHROM (movable part)

+------------------+ xxxxx

This amounts to 64K + 16K. Is this how short I am with space?

You also show: 4 RAM Spaces that take 64K each (ports 1-4) 1 Forth Space that takes 64K

But you can't use 4 64K RAM ports (1 to 4) and have a space for the FORTH ROM. So, even though the address space is fixed for the FORTH ROM, doesn't that free up 64K that is movable and can be used by some of the items above that was left out.

If so, does that mean I am only 16K short?

I mean you show Port 4 as: +------------------+ 8FFFF

| Port4 RAM 1 (4.0) |

+------------------+ 9FFFF Front Port 4 64kBytes

| Port4 RAM 1 (4.1) |

+------------------+ AFFFF

But if I plug the FORTH ROM into port 4, doesn't this free up 90000 to AFFFF for some of the RAM at the top that did not fit into the Memory Map?

It appears that I'm somewhere between 16K and 64K short. IF I pull the HP-IL (16K) I still get the WRN: but if I pull one of the 64K RAM, I don't. Anyway, I guess if I don't get the WRN:, I'm ok, right?

Re: A little confused...
*Message #5 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel (Austria)** on 12 Dec 2001, 7:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mike

Hi

5 beer and 2 Chivas Regal later, I try to answer..... :-) Additionally, English is not my mother tongue, so please excuse any typos or other problems with this text. If something isn't understandable, just ask over and over.

Hope, the following text doesn't add up to your confusion... It's 1:14 a.m. here in Austria.

You show all the Memory Map used up to FFFFF, with a few things that were not accounted for, as follows:

What's not configured here

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port5 RAM 3 (5.3) | 32 k RAM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port0 RAM(0.0-0.3)| internal 16k RAM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port0.05 (ILROM)) | 16k HPILROM

+------------------+ xxxxx

| Port5 RAM 1 (5.2) | 16k FORTHROM (movable part)

+------------------+ xxxxx

This amounts to 64K + 16K. Is this how short I am with space?

Yes, I've shown an address space occupied by 4 RAM modules in the front port and an (imaginary) Forth ROM (32kBytes unmovable + 16kBytes movable) + 128 kBytes Card reader. In theory, you could solder all the 64k modules into the machine and plug 4 additional modules into the front ports (this would be a real overkill).

You also show: 4 RAM Spaces that take 64K each (ports 1-4) 1 Forth Space that takes 64K

Yes, that was a small error in the model I used, but anyway, even in my nmodel, you would have to remove a ForthROM and a 64k module to free enough space. The CONFIG routine in the 71B ROM is some pages long and not easy to understand without all the theory. I try to explain the mechanism anyway.

But you can't use 4 64K RAM ports (1 to 4) and have a space for the FORTH ROM. So, even though the address space is fixed for the FORTH ROM, doesn't that free up 64K that is movable and can be used by some of the items above that was left out.

No, the uppermost 32kBytes (F0000-FFFFF) are always reserved, like the 32 k from 20000-2FFFF) and a ROM space of 64k (00000 - 1FFFF)

If so, does that mean I am only 16K short?

I mean you show Port 4 as:

+------------------+ 8FFFF

| Port4 RAM 1 (4.0) |

+------------------+ 9FFFF Front Port 4 64kBytes

| Port4 RAM 1 (4.1) |

+------------------+ AFFFF

But if I plug the FORTH ROM into port 4, doesn't this free up 90000 to AFFFF for some of the RAM at the top that did not fit into the Memory Map?

In my model you had a 64k module too much, which occupied a port too much. If you remove this and have

3 * 64k RAM (Ports 1-3)

+ 32 k ROM (Forth, Port 4 unmovable) + 16k ROM(Forth, movable)

+ 16 k (IL)

+ 128k (Crd reader) +

128 k system (ROM + reservedRAM)

+ 16 k internal RAM

you're only 16kBytes short. It depends on luck, if this is the 4 internal 4k RAMs (fortunate case) or the 16k HPILROM (unfortunate case). I'd believe, the smaller 4k parts are falling out of configuration, but I'd have to study the Internal Design Specifications to verify that. My feelings about such things are normally 99% right, so I would believe my opinion in first approximation.

It appears that I'm somewhere between 16K and 64K short. IF I pull the HP-IL (16K) I still get the WRN:

I'm not sure yet, what happens, when the available space is filled up exactly, but I am sure, that 128 kBytes of address space are reserved for system purposes.

Cited from the HP71B HP Journal: "1 Meganibble is easy to use up."

Look at the 48 series. There's a serious amount of Bank switching, though there's plenty of space (theoretically).

--

Oh, what would I give for the possibility of working on the Saturn's successor.... I'd do everything for the chance working on a new generation of HP calculator processors. I'd have some ideas, that would kick TI's 68000 clone in the ass...

---

but if I pull one of the 64K RAM, I don't. Anyway, I guess if I don't get the WRN:, I'm ok, right?

That's true. If you don't get the warning, you won't experience any troubles with failing modules, lost ROMs, ...

-- One additional problem in calculation of address space is, that this calculation is only valid, when you have no RAM ports assigned. RAM ports are moved into the upper region of the address space to guarantee a continously :MAIN address space (which begins at 30000).

Hope I didn't add too much confusion with this explainations. I'm glad to answer such a technical theme here in the forum.

I believe, there are other great guys too, who seem to have understanding of the 71s architecture.

In fact I mean Tony Duell, who has surely read and understood the articles about that stuff and our friends of PPC Paris, who were great 71B wizards.

Anyway, I'm always ready to help, when there's a 71B question. I'm not sure, if I have enough expertise for talking obout other machines, but if I'm good enough, I try...

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HP 48 question(s)....
*Message #1 Posted by **scottb** on 11 Dec 2001, 6:47 p.m.*

My trusty 42s has bit the dust and I need a replacement. Can anyone offer any insight into the differences between the 48g models (g, gplus, gx)? I checked it out on the HP site, but didn't find really good specs. Thanks for the help! Also - anyone have an idea where I could find a reputable seller that would have a 42s?

-SB

Re: HP 48 question(s)....
*Message #2 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Dec 2001, 7:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by scottb

Base model; 48G 32k of RAM 48G+ Same as 48G but 128K of ram 48GX Same as 48G+ but with two expansion slots

They are all the same unit but with different memory and with the expansion ports added on the GX.

Re: HP 48 question(s)....
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 12 Dec 2001, 5:00 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by scottb

Hi;

Yani correctly mentioned the major differences between models, but are you aware of the operating differences between the 48 and the 42? I mean:
multilevel stack X 4-level stack
RPL instead of RPN
structured programming
more than 30 object types

among others? If you are aware of these differences, fine. If not, let us know, so we can clear them up.

Cheers.

Re: HP 48 question(s)....
*Message #4 Posted by **warren** on 12 Dec 2001, 7:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by scottb

The 48G is no longer in production, so your choice is between the 48G+ and the GX. Their functionality is identical except the 48GX can accept expansion cards that give more memory or provide special applications. Buy the 48GX. Worth the small extra cost.
Regarding finding another 42S, well, good luck. The 42S went out of production in 1995, and its demise is much lamented in the HP community. It can no longer be purchased from any dealers, although you might luck out and find some old stock at a bookstore or office supply house. Basically, the only place to get a 42S these days is on eBay. Expect to pay $150 for used, decent condition, $200 and up for new or mint condition.
As an alternative to another 42S, there is a good HP-41 emulation program for the 48 series available at hpcalc.org. Programming for the 42S and 41 series is basically the same, and the 41 emulator acts like a good ol' 4-level RPN stack machine. The biggest thing missing from the 41 (and the 48 emulation) is the excellent complex number capabilities of the 42S. The 48 itself can handle complex numbers, but you can't get that "i" in the display. I'm hopeful that someday, somebody will develop an HP42S emulator for the 48 series.

Re: HP 48 question(s)....
*Message #5 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 12 Dec 2001, 11:17 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by scottb

Consider the HP-32SII, while it's still available. It's got the four-level stack and the same dimensions as the -42S. It is a very useful device if extensive programming is not one of your requirements.

Also, your -42s just may be repairable, though not by HP.

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HP 75D help
*Message #1 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 11 Dec 2001, 4:57 p.m.*

I have had a new-found interest in HP calculators, and I happened to remember that a friend had given me a funny little computer a year or so ago as opposed to throwing it in the trash. I couldn't figure out how to get it to work, or turn it on, so I stuck it in a drawer and kinda forgot about it. Today, I remembered that I thought it had an HP logo on it. I dug it out and inspected it more closely. I realised that it had the "classic" style battery pack, and it was a little white on the edges from leaking. I cleaned the battery pack up and the battery compartment, and took the battery pack apart and removed the ni-cad cells, and found that I could wedge some alkaline batteries in it, and i put it back in the calculator. I couldn't find an on/off switch anywhere, so I started pushing some buttons. The calculator came on, but I can't seem to figure out what exactly to do with it, or how to turn it off. I have a bunch of magnetic cards for it, and I have the wand and RS-232 interface somewhere. Does anyone know how to use this calculator, or know of some website that has the manual somewhere? How do I program it? What can it do? How do I load programs in from the cards? Any help would be appreciated.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: HP 75D help
*Message #2 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 11 Dec 2001, 8:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ian Primus

This is more of a BASIC computer than a calculator. Try entering a simple BASIC program.

The manual set is over an inch thick and is available on CD here if you like. You can also try for an original manual in the classifieds section, or see this site for an overview.

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17Bii - Bond Duration
*Message #1 Posted by **Brian H** on 11 Dec 2001, 4:56 p.m.*

I don't know if this has been discussed on this message board before, but I am trying to figure out how to calculate Macauly and Modified duration using "solve". Does anybody else know of or have a formula that they have developed on their own calculator that they would like to share?

Re: 17Bii - Bond Duration
*Message #2 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 13 Dec 2001, 12:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Brian H

Brian:

Sorry for the late reply, but I didn't want to contribute when all I could say is "no!"

Can you provide the relevant equations/methodology? If so, I'm sure *somebody* here could help you with your problem. I love programming the 17BII and 19BII, so I would take a whack at it for you if it is not too big a project.

If I misunderstood your post, in that you don't know the relevant equations, then unfortunately I can't be of any help there.

Bruce.

Re: 17Bii - Bond Duration

*Message #3 Posted by **paolo** on 13 Dec 2001, 2:12 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I guess you are considering a fixed rate bond, so I'll try to explain you how I solved this problem.

First what I suggest to you is to set-up a STAT list named, for example CF (cash flows, in which you'll put the single cash flows for each coupon period (annual, semi-annual, ...). The last cash flow should be the last coupon plus the face value of the bond.

You can then calculate the bond duration by solving the following related equations:

1. bond price

Calculates the bond price for a given yield to maturity or vice-versa.

2. duration

Calculates the bond duration for the ytm calculated in equation 1

3. price sensitivity

Calculates the price change for a given movement in rates

4. convexity

calculates the convexity of the bond specified above

5. exact price sensitivity

calculates the exact price change, using the convexity adjustment for the bond durtation calculated in equation 3.

If you want I can e-mail the program codes.

By

Bond Duration Example

*Message #4 Posted by **Gene** on 13 Dec 2001, 3:34 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Duration = [(1 + a) / a] - [(1 + a) + yrs * (i - a)] / [i * [(1 + a) ^yrs - 1] + i]

Where:

a = yield to maturity i = annual interest (coupon) yrs = the number of years to maturity

So, for a bond of 10 years to maturity with a 10% annual coupon presently yielding 8%, the duration is

[(1 + 0.1)/ 0.1] - [(1 + 0.1) + 10 x (0.1-0.08)] / [0.1 x [(1+0.1)^10 - 1] + 0.1]

or

[11 - [1.1 +0.2] / [0.1 x [1.593742] + 0.1]

or

[11 - 1.3/(0.2593742)]

or

5.9879 years

Gene P.S. I'll be in NY, Chicago, and SF the first 3 weeks of February giving time value of money talks for a CFA exam review course, if anyone here is taking it. :-)

Re: Bond Duration Example
*Message #5 Posted by **Kay** on 9 Jan 2002, 6:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Gene

I'm a CFP student so this equation is of interest to me. I beleive there is at least one, possibly multiple, errors in this post. When I do the calculation using my preprogrammed SOLVE formula on my HP17BII I get 6.9658 (this SOLVE formula gives correct results as per CFP course exams given by the College of Financial Planning). If I'm not mistaken, the substitutions of values into the equation in this post have not been done correctly. According to the substitutions, the variable "a" is .1 or .08 depending on where in the formula you look. Also, the formula should end in "+ a" not "+ i".

I'd like to hear back if I am mistaken about my observations since I'm studying this equation for a comprehensive certification exam.

Kay

Re: Bond Duration Example
*Message #6 Posted by **Gene** on 10 Jan 2002, 11:55 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Kay

http://www.finplan.com/invest/bondduration.asp

The link above is where I got the formula. I think I typed it in correctly. Of course, the formula may be wrong on the web page.

You are, however, quite right that I substituted the values into the formula incorrectly. My fault!

Here is another site with a specific duration calculation example:

http://invest-faq.com/articles/bonds-duration.html

Gene Wright
CFA Exam Test Reviewer
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1888840196/
http://members.aol.com/hpgene

Re: Bond Duration Example
*Message #7 Posted by **Kay** on 10 Jan 2002, 6:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Gene

You did type the formula into your post correctly. I checked out the web site you noted. The formula is wrong there too. I sent them an e-mail to notify them of the mistake. Hopefully they'll fix it. I've double and triple checked this against my CFP student materials and the only way my observation could be wrong is if the student materials are.

Thanks, Kay

Re: Bond Duration Example
*Message #8 Posted by **Michael** on 14 Jan 2002, 2:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Kay

Hi,

if anyone of you is still looking for a bond duration formula, I did spend some hours and programmed one myself on my 17bii -- doing it the "old-fashioned" way.

It might not be the shortest one, but I think it works. It also uses some built-in formulas.

O.K. here it is: (Note: SUM is the built-in sum-function (ALPHA-Menu -> WXYZ -> OTHER -> MORE -> SUM (second from the left)))

DURTN=(SUM(I:1:N*F:1:I/F*C%/100/F*SPPV(R%/F:I))+N*SPPV(R%/F:N*F))/(C%/100/F*USPV(R%/F:N*F)+SPPV(R%/F:N*F))

Where C% ... Coupon (e.g. 7) R% ... YTM (e.g. 6) F ... payment frequency (e.g. Semi-annually -> 2, annually -> 1) N ... Years

Example: A 3 (N=3) Year semi-annual (F=2) coupon bond with a coupon of 6% (C%=6) and YTM of 7% p.a. (R%=7) has a (macaulay) duration of 2.79 yrs.

Hope this it what you are looking for.

Michael

Re: 17Bii - Bond Duration
*Message #9 Posted by **Kay** on 8 Jan 2002, 8:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Brian H

Here is the formula I have programmed into my HP17BII to solve for modified Duration - I'm a CFP student.

DURTN: ((1+(Y x .01) / PYR) / ((Y x .01)/PYR) - (((1+(Y x .01) / PYR) + ((N x PYR) x ((C x .01)/PYR - (Y x .01) / PYR))) / ((C x .01) / PYR x ((1+(Y x .01) / PYR)^(N x PYR) -1) + (Y x .01) / PYR))) / PYR = DURTN

where Y is yield to maturity N is number of years to maturity C is coupon PYR is the number of compounding periods per year (1 or 2).

Note that all variable values are entered as whole numbers including Y and C.

This formula reduces calculating duration on the HP17BII to as few as 11 keystrokes. I don't claim that this is the shortest formula possible...but it works.

I also have a formula for bond price change calculations that will calculate either $ or %. let me know if you are interested in this. Kay

Re: 17Bii - Bond Duration
*Message #10 Posted by **Kay** on 9 Jan 2002, 6:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Kay

Correction - my SOLVE equation doesn't calculate modified duration, just plain old duration. My bond price change formula does the "modfied" part. Kay

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Decoding Serial Numbers
*Message #1 Posted by **J. Lopez (New York)** on 11 Dec 2001, 4:11 p.m.*

My HP-19BII has a serial number starting with "3602B" which, according to the Museum's article on decoding serial numbers, would indicate my calc was assembled in Brazil in early 1996. However, next to the serial number the calc clearly reads "Made in Indonesia."

Am I missing something?

Re: Decoding Serial Numbers
*Message #2 Posted by **Iqbal** on 11 Dec 2001, 4:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by J. Lopez (New York)

You got me there. I checked all my calculators and they always corresponded where a 'made in ***' was included with the serial number. Maybe the case was made in Indonesia and the calc. was assembled in Brazil.

Re: Decoding Serial Numbers
*Message #3 Posted by **J. Lopez** on 11 Dec 2001, 8:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Iqbal

Yeah, I've always thought that this 19BII had been assembled in Brazil from parts imported from Indonesia. This is the only inconsistency I've found in my collection of calcs in regards to the serial numbers.

Re: Decoding Serial Numbers

*Message #4 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 11 Dec 2001, 8:32 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by J. Lopez

I was told at one time that when a calculator was sent to HP for service, they would often replace it, and they had a bunch of calculators with blank serial number fields. They would then copy the serial number from the defective calculator onto the new one and ship out the new one. This could be the result of such a return.

Just a thought.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

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12C date of introduction
*Message #1 Posted by **William Pearce** on 11 Dec 2001, 2:48 p.m.*

The Museum's page shows the date of introduction for the 12C to be 1981. I thought I bought one in 1980. Does anyone know the actual date of introduction?

Re: 12C date of introduction
*Message #2 Posted by **Julián Miranda (Spain)** on 11 Dec 2001, 3:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by William Pearce

From Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz " A guide to HP handheld calculators and computers": "The HP-12C, also introduced on 1 September 1981, ..." p.71. The also refers to the HP-11C.

Re: 12C date of introduction - 16 Sept 1981
*Message #3 Posted by **Greg Harris (Sydney Australia)** on 11 Dec 2001, 8:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Julián Miranda (Spain)

From - HP Key Notes Sept-Dec 1981...

"On Sept 16, 1981, HP released two new ... 11C ... 12C"

Was it shipped by TARDIS express?
*Message #4 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 11 Dec 2001, 8:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by William Pearce

"TARDIS Express - When it absolutely, positively has to be there before it was sent."

But seriously, I get emails like this frequently but most people are going off memories. However, if you have some hard data I would be *very* interested.

My favorite email came from a person who said that I had missed HP's first calculator - coincidentally, the one he worked on. He described it as black with big keys and a square root

function and I said that it sounded like an SR-10. He said that that sounded right and I told him that it was made by Texas Instruments. He said no he worked for HP.

A few days later I got an email that said that he had gone through the papers in his attic to prove me wrong, but, um, well, OK, it was TI after all that he worked for.

I imagine it's a lot easier for a memory to be essentially correct but off by a year :-)

Re: Less-than-Continuous Memory
*Message #5 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 12 Dec 2001, 11:08 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Dave Hicks

I don't know about you folks, but I don't recall having any trouble with *my* memory . . .

Re: Less-than-Continuous Memory
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Shaffer** on 13 Dec 2001, 2:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Paul Brogger

You know there are three things that get worse as you get older: You can't see as well; you can't hear as well; and ..... I can't remember the other one.

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HP82143A internals
*Message #1 Posted by **Hans B. Abel** on 11 Dec 2001, 7:15 a.m.*

For the development of an HP-41 emulator, I'm searching informations about the internals of the HP-41's HP82143A thermal printer, particularly:

- Informations about the status registers. Currently, I'm able to emulate everything which works in character mode, e.g. LIST, PRREG etc., but PRPLOT which uses column mode, doesn't work properly (Missing linefeeds). I suspect that this is due to an incomplete description of the status registers' behaviour in my software.

- Articles in the PPC or CHHU journals. Does anyone know volumes/numbers in which informations about the 82143a appear? Until now, I've just found an article in PPC Journal, volume 7, no. 6, which explains the control characters and printer modes, but does not cover the status registers.

- The VASM listing of the Printer ROM. Anyone out there who wants to sell his/a copy of his listing?

I would appreciate any hints,

Cheers,

--Bernd-- <http://www.berndabel.de>

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Answers and Winner to Challenge
*Message #1 Posted by **Jordi Hidalgo** on 11 Dec 2001, 5:37 a.m.*

Answers & Winner

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Pause on HP 97/67
*Message #1 Posted by **Pierre Brial** on 11 Dec 2001, 2:14 a.m.*

Hello, It is possible to simulate a "Pause" fonction in an hp 97 program ? I mean display a result during a short time without stopping the program and without manual intervention ? Thanks Pierre

Re: Pause on HP 97/67
*Message #2 Posted by **Andre' Wilhelmus** on 11 Dec 2001, 5:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pierre Brial

How about 'f PAUSE'?

Re: Pause on HP 97/67
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 11 Dec 2001, 7:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pierre Brial

Hi;

André already gave the answer. Just to remind that this function - PAUSE - is the 2nd. function of the [R/S] key (left-botton key, primary keyboard). When it's part of a program, its code will be

```
16 51
```

.

Cheers.

Re: Pause on HP 97/67
*Message #4 Posted by **Pierre Brial** on 11 Dec 2001, 1:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pierre Brial

Sorry guy, My question was really stupid. My second (or third ?) hand hp 97 has some of its lettering wiped off, and the "pause" under the R/S key had disappeared. And as I didn't have the manual... Thank you for your answers, I found the function, and it works well ! Cheers Pierre

Have a look here...
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 11 Dec 2001, 3:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Pierre Brial

... and you can see all the functions for all keys available at the 97's keyboard.

Regards.

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Re: TDS structure analysis card manual
*Message #1 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 10 Dec 2001, 12:05 p.m.*

Your best bet for these kind of HP48GX accessories is Calcpro website www.calcpro.com. I have made several purchases from them including plug in cards for the HP48GX. I have had good experience with them and their manager, Paul Nelson.

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Fractions on the HP-32SII
*Message #1 Posted by **Joe Pasquale** on 10 Dec 2001, 1:43 a.m.*

Does anyone know how fractions are implemented on the HP-32SII (and related HP calculators)? More specifically, given a 0 < z < 1, how do they determine the ratio x/y that is closest to z with a denominator between 1 and 4095 (the max settable on the 32SII)? For example, for z = 0.1763, x/y = 61/346, and for 1/PI, x/y = 113/355. I assume there is something more efficient than an exhaustive search. More generally, is there any reference that describes the numerical algorithms used in HP calculators? Thanks.

Re: Fractions on the HP-32SII
*Message #2 Posted by **Rupert (Northern Italy, EU)** on 10 Dec 2001, 5:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Joe Pasquale

>Does anyone know how fractions are implemented on the HP->32SII (and related HP calculators)? More specifically, [...] >exhaustive search. More generally, is there any reference >that describes the numerical algorithms used in HP >calculators? Thanks.

I guess it is the Continued Fractions algorithm. For a quick reference you can check www.ulib.org\webRoot\Books\Numerical_Recipes\bookcpdf.html (Chapter 5 Evaluation of Functions, Paragraph 5.2 Evaluation of Continued Fractions 169). which explains the algorithm along whith many others...

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41C battery pack HP82120
*Message #1 Posted by **john robinson** on 9 Dec 2001, 9:42 p.m.*

I had one of these rebuilt within the past 12 months with the correct N75P cells. I haven't used it for three months, but when I went to charge it the other day, it wouldn't charge (only had a about 2V after charging). I check the charger voltage - seems OK. Does anyone have any thoughts on this ?. Or does any one have a circuit diagram for the battery pack ?. Thanks.

Re: 41C battery pack HP82120
*Message #2 Posted by **Yani** on 10 Dec 2001, 4:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by john robinson

Hmm... In other circumstances I would say it sounded like shorted cells. This is very common where fine hair like wires grow inside the cells between the electrodes and short out the negative and positive electrodes. It usually shows up as a decrease in 1.2V on the overall battery pack. In this instance it looks like two cells may have developed shorts.

Calculators are particularly susceptable to this since they are very low current devices. The high currents in childrens toys for instance do not allow the growth of these hairs. I have seen these hairs grow in thin air with no more than a low voltage between a steel plate and components seperated by about 1/2 and inch.

To test this check each individual cell. The good cells should be about 1.2V and the dead cells should be 0V.

If this is the case there are two alternatives. Replace the cells or "thump" thenm with a very high current to burn off the hairs.

If you replace the cells replace them all and use better quality cells. Any 1/2 N type should suffice. I would use NiMH. They are far better than NiCd. To thump the cells use a high current source (a car battery is good) to generate several amps for a second or so. It does not take long. Remember positive to positive and negative to negative. DO NOT I repeat DO NOT LEAVE THE CELL CONNECTED TO THE CURRENT SOURCE FOR MORE THAN A COUPLE

OF SECONDS otherwise the cell will EXPLODE!!!!!!!

Re: 41C battery pack HP82120
*Message #3 Posted by **Yani** on 10 Dec 2001, 4:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Yani

To thump the cells use a high current source (a car battery is good) to generate several amps for a second or so.

BTW do this to the individual faulty cells only - tot the whole pack.

Re: 41C battery pack HP82120
*Message #4 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 10 Dec 2001, 7:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Yani

No, DON'T use a car battery. The short-circuit current of a car battery is somewhere around 1000A (!) and the risk of the NiCd exploding is fairly high. I normally use my bench PSU (which has an adjustable current limiter), with the voltage control set to about 3V. Try it with a 2A limit first, if that does no good, try 5A, then 10A. If 10A won't clear the short then you need a new cell. And only connect the bench PSU briefly. I normally clip one lead onto the appropriate side of the cell and just 'flash' the other lead onto the other terminal. Do this to one cell at a time (i.e. take the pack apart), you can't do several cells in series. My experience suggests that cells that have once been internally shorted are damaged inside (probably the separators get damaged) and are likely to short again. I'll try to recover a cell to make sure the device it's used in works (and that it's worth buying some new cells for it), but if I intend to use said device then I replace all the cells.

Re: 41C battery pack HP82120
*Message #5 Posted by **Yani** on 10 Dec 2001, 11:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Tony Duell (UK)

You are probably right Tony. I have never used a car battery myself but I have a friend who uses this technique. I can see however that if the cell was internally damaged then there would be a high risk of explosion. Thanks for pointing this out ;-\

I do use a current limited supply of about 2 amps myself but not everybody has one of these.

The alternative is to use a car battery (or even better a car battery charger) with a series resistor of 5 ohms 10W. This is a little under rated but would do the job for

short bursts, and would limit the current to about 2 amps.

Re: 41C battery pack HP82120

*Message #6 Posted by **John Robinson** on 12 Dec 2001, 5:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Yani

Thanks for the suggestion guys, I'll take the pacl apart and give it a go. Cheers - John

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Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #1 Posted by **Ted Henricks** on 9 Dec 2001, 4:40 p.m.*

Does anyone have a link to where I can download the Advanced User's Guide (or ..Reference)for the 48G series?

If it is even available in that format. I have the 49G AUG in pdf.

Thanks!

Re: Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #2 Posted by **Rupert (Northern Italy, EU)** on 9 Dec 2001, 5:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ted Henricks

Sorry, as far as I know the HP48 AUG isn't available as a file. I ordered it from an HP vendor in my town and had to wait nearly two months to get it...

Re: Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #3 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel (Austria)** on 12 Dec 2001, 2:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Rupert (Northern Italy, EU)

Just went into the store and bought it. It's a HP vendor near the University of technology, Vienna.

I've seen it at another store 200 meters away too...

Re: Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #4 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 10 Dec 2001, 3:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ted Henricks

Hi,

as far as I remember there is a copy at "http://www.hpcalc.org/".

Best regards

Andreas

Re: Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #5 Posted by **Ted Henricks** on 10 Dec 2001, 9:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

I looked there, but couldn't find it. There is a pdf format 49G users manual, though.

Re: Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #6 Posted by **Yani** on 10 Dec 2001, 11:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ted Henricks

Been down this path myself. You have to buy it.

Re: Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #7 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 11 Dec 2001, 11:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ted Henricks

Hi,

is this what you looking for ?

"http://www.hpcalc.org/hp48/docs/misc/hp48gug.zip"

Best Regards

Andreas

Re: Link to pdf format 48G series Advanced Usere's Guide?
*Message #8 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Dec 2001, 8:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

Is this what you looking for ?

"http://www.hpcalc.org/hp48/docs/misc/hp48gug.zip"

Best Regards

Andreas

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

This is the users guide - not the advanced users guide.

Nope; thats the owner's manual. Thanks anyway. (nt)
*Message #9 Posted by **Ted Henricks** on 12 Dec 2001, 12:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

.

Link to 48G series User's Guide in electronic form
*Message #10 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 12 Dec 2001, 6:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

I bought a 48G+ with a poor spanish language manual. It may be better to use a english version, but it is not available here; so a pdf file may be a good option for non-english speaking countries...

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Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #1 Posted by **Larry** on 9 Dec 2001, 3:56 p.m.*

See:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1307751669

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #2 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 9 Dec 2001, 5:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Larry

Not only was the photo copied, but most of the text as well. They didn't even happen to mention that the photo wasn't the actual calculator for sale.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #3 Posted by **Iqbal** on 9 Dec 2001, 5:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ian Primus

And let's not overlook his auction for an 11C: http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1307749090

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #4 Posted by **Wayne Brown** on 10 Dec 2001, 6:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Iqbal

Both of these auctions are using URL pointers to pictures on the Museum site. Hey Dave, sounds like it's time for the ol' picture switcheroo again! (I loved the one you did with the cheap four-banger with the masking tape logo.)

So, not only did they steal the photo...
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike** on 10 Dec 2001, 11:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Wayne Brown

they are stealing bandwidth also.

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #6 Posted by **Tom UK** on 10 Dec 2001, 3:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Wayne Brown

Yep, I'd like to see that done again. Apart from the funny side the prices people get by duping the bidder with a photo of a mint calculator just pushes those prices up and up. It isn't even good for ebay - but he who pays the piper calls the tune.

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #7 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 10 Dec 2001, 5:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Wayne Brown

I for one would love to see this done. I mean, the least he could have done would be to ask permission to use the picture, or copy it to his own site, or even to mention in his description that the picture is, in fact, NOT the calculator for sale. Either a cheap little "ISTEP Wafer" calculator (That's what I call them, they are little Casio junk calculators that they gave us for ISTEP tests. They break if you look at them funny.) Or, if you happen to have a 12c that is disassembled/broken/missing things such as, for example, 5 keys and the screen, that would be interesting as well. Or, perhaps, write in big letters across the picture "STOLEN FROM HPMUSEUM.COM"

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #8 Posted by **Yani** on 11 Dec 2001, 12:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ian Primus

Reminds me of a funny story.

A friend asked to borrow a book so I wrote following tag in the front;

This book was stolen from J & L hancock... etc.

I then haded it to him. He left it behind when he left. Could not take a joke.

I am with you. If a small subtext was added to the picture such as you suggest it may make the sellers more honest.

***** READ THIS *****
*Message #9 Posted by **Joe** on 10 Dec 2001, 9:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Iqbal

I asked the seller, if this was the actual photo of his calculator.

His reply was "yes it was." If he lies about it being his photo, I wonder what you get for your bid.

Ask him yourself.

His email is LBurns69@aol.com

Re: * READ THIS *****
*Message #10 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 10 Dec 2001, 10:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Joe

Hmm. It would seem that there are those out there that go to great lengths to be dishonest. He should have replied with something to the effect of "No, I stole it from the good folks at hpmuseum.com without so much as a credit or thanks on my auction description."

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

Thanks everyone!
*Message #11 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 11 Dec 2001, 12:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Joe

I like to give everyone the benefit of the doubt so I emailed him and he promised that he would properly describe the pictures by tomorrow afternoon. (He said that his wife posted those auctions.)

I told him that would be fine but I hadn't seen Joe's follow-up. Interesting...

I did prepare a new picture just in case. Perhaps for a future auction :-)

Possible way out...
*Message #12 Posted by **Someone else** on 11 Dec 2001, 7:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Joe

Simple, put in a bid for $1000 or some other ammount. Then refuse to buy because the photo is fake. If he sends negative feedback simply return the 'complement' saying this is a fraud. Seller then looses face and the sale - just what he deserves.

Re: Possible way out...
*Message #13 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 11 Dec 2001, 10:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Someone else

Nobody wants a negative feedback - justified or not. I wouldn't risk that actually... I alrerady had one by a ***^$$$ç&@ who has been after several other complaints cancelled by ebay and another one by mistake, but still my profile shows up 2 undeserved neg feedbacks that are like a bad spot on my face and there's nothing on earth I can do to have them removed...

Re: Possible way out...
*Message #14 Posted by **Someone else** on 11 Dec 2001, 12:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by thibaut.be

Who said anything about using your normal account...

Re: Possible way out...
*Message #15 Posted by **Freakin' Whiner** on 11 Dec 2001, 2:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Someone else

I never do ...

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay
*Message #16 Posted by **Randy Smith** on 13 Dec 2001, 3:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Larry

Just looked again, still no credit to the Museum.

Re: Another Museum Photo on eBay---DO IT DAVE!
*Message #17 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 13 Dec 2001, 12:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Randy Smith

I just looked too, and no credit.

You *know* that he's not going to do anything. I'm sure he figures he can skate-by for a few days, and then it doesn't matter anymore! Some suckers will have purchased the machines!

Dave: PLEEEEEAAAASE do the photo-switch! I never got to see the incident mentioned by others... Haven't you given him long enough? **IT'S ENTERTAINMENT TIME!!**

Bruce.

I think I should give him the benefit of the doubt...
*Message #18 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 13 Dec 2001, 1:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by W. Bruce Maguire II

because he *has* updated one of the two auctions mentioned in this thread. I've sent him an email asking him to update the other one as well.

I try to keep things friendly even when people steal my pictures, but if he doesn't fix it by tomorrow, something amusing could still happen :-)

Re: I think I should give him the benefit of the doubt...

*Message #19 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 14 Dec 2001, 9:00 a.m.,*

in response to message #18 by Dave Hicks

Dave, it is a 12c that he hasn't bothered to update. That is no big deal. If your going to act, you should confuse the two and nail his 11c auction with the switch. Such an honest mistake for his honest oversight.

Just my humble opinion.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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fractions and HP calcs
*Message #1 Posted by **Joe Pasquale** on 8 Dec 2001, 5:17 p.m.*

Are there any HP calculators more advanced than the 32SII that support fractions (e.g., entering and displaying 1/3 rather than 0.3333)?

Re: fractions and HP calcs
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 8 Dec 2001, 6:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Joe Pasquale

Yes, most of hp calcs produced after the 32SII do show up numbers as fractions if requested so.

Re: fractions and HP calcs
*Message #3 Posted by **Rupert (Northern Italy, EU)** on 8 Dec 2001, 6:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Joe Pasquale

>Are there any HP calculators more advanced than the 32SII >that support fractions (e.g., entering and displaying 1/3 >rather than 0.3333)?

Actually the HP32SII does allow to enter fractions and also allows to convert a decimal number to a fractional format.

As an example, to enter 4 5/16 just type in 4[.]5[.]16 To enter, let's say 3/5, it's possible to type in either 0[.]3[.]5 or 3[.][.]5

In order to revert a decimal number to a fractional format use [green shift] [FDISP] to toggle between decimal and fractional display mode. As an example, with 4.3125 in the X register, [green shift] [FDISP] will displays it as 4 5/16. The manual explains this better. :-)

Other than that, with the HP48 a fraction can be entered as an algebraic object: as an example, 5/16 can be entered as '5/16'. To convert a decimal number into a fraction, there is the built-in funtion ->Q, whose accuracy depends upon the format of the display.

Re: fractions and HP calcs

*Message #4 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 9 Dec 2001, 2:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Joe Pasquale

The HP30S works with fractions, and is easy to convert from, say, 1.25 to 5/4 to 1 1/4, etc. with it. However, as the 30S is nonprogrammable and not RPN, I would not say it is more advanced than the 32Sii.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Re: HP 25C Battery help
*Message #1 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 8 Dec 2001, 2:48 p.m.*

Never use an AC adapter without good, working, NiCd batteries in place, alkalines seems to be a good choice in your case (no warranties, but it was OK for me many years ago). Alkalines will last for many hours, opposed to the 2 hours typical with rechargeables.

If you decide to use rechargeables, it is advisable to recharge them in an external charger, not to risk your valuable calculator, since these are very sensitive to overvoltage events that the AC adapter may cause. An external charger will also allow you to use NiMH AA batteries, which last longer (hold more charge) than NiCd.

Re: HP 25C Battery help
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 9 Dec 2001, 4:28 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Finding such a spare battery pack is quite difficult. Fortunately, there are plenty of 21's for sale on ebay with battery pack. I understood you wished to use your 25 quite frequently so the best thing is to replace the batteries in the pack by 2 new NiCd ones, they'll last far longer.

... and you'll get a spare calc that is a real pleasure to use !

Re: HP 25C Battery help

*Message #3 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 10 Dec 2001, 5:28 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Thibaut.be

Well, I managed to kludge something together involving two AAA nickel metal hydride batteries and some electrical tape. I did it in such a way as to not damage or modify the calculator, and I can take out the AAA's and recharge them in my Rayovac battery charger. (Something tells me that AAA's will not last long in it) And, if I ever do find a battery pack, I can rebuild it with NiMH AA cells and use it instead.

Ian Primus ian_primus@yahoo.com

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Throw away programming?
*Message #1 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 8 Dec 2001, 2:09 a.m.*

The old PPC Journal contained in V6N3P27 (May 1979) an article titled "Forth: RPN on Microcomputers" by John Hirsch (2552). I read it this afternoon (from the CD set) and found a paragraph that, IMHO, applies to today's graphical calculators as well:

The implementation of RPN logic in a computer language brings up a problem which is not apparent in the more limited calculator versions. Efficient programming usually requires intricate stack manipulation. RPN calculator programs are readable if a running picture of the stack is kept in mind. But when you are dealing with two stacks of arbitrary length and many stack-manipulating commands, the readability problem can range from serious to unreal. Forth, like APL, is best used as a throw-away language. When lengthy programs require revision, it is quicker to discard them and begin over. (Please note that the opinions in this article are the author's alone and do not necessarily represent the views of the management.)

I couldn't believe I was reading this in a 22-year-old article, for it describes my feelings exactly. I've done my share of programming on "extended" RPN calculators (e.g., the HP-28C, HP-48GX, etc.), and have found their programs virtually unmaintainable **because** of the large stack.

I just wanted to find out how others feel about this subject. Care to comment?

-Ernie

Re: Throw away programming?

*Message #2 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 8 Dec 2001, 3:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

I couldn't agree more. Though I know that what I'm going to say will probably bring some hot debate or even flames, it would do well to remind everyone that what follows it's just *my* opinion, humble or not, and I'm as entitled to it as you are to yours own.

And here's what I think about RPL versus RPN: All classic machines, such as the wonderful 41C and 42S, had a simple but powerful and elegant RPN keystroke programming language, with an efficient 4-level-plus-LAST-X stack, which was easy to understand and easy to visualize while programming. They also had some simple looping devices (decrement and increment), storage arithmetic and indirection, and a fairly useful, uncomplicated filesystem.

Now, they've been 'replaced' by these new machines, using RPL, which is kinda some FORTH-with-dressing, which only transforms the intuitive and simple RPN programming paradigm into something so arcane and complicated that matter of fact, a lot of people desist from writing programs in that 'language' not to mention trying to understand them. You need several yellow-pages-sized 'advanced' manuals just to try and grasp the basics and fundamentals of their programming, the thousands of whimsical functions and their complicated syntax and expected parameters, to the point where you can do almost nothing without such a manual or hefty guide always at hand.

Tha sad truth is that the extremely simple, useful and elegant RPN paradigm has been 'improved' to utterly preposterous extremes. The typical RPL program is a nearly unfathomable mess where you actually need paper (lots) and a pen plus the manuals, just to attempt to understand what it's going on. It's kinda some 'obfuscated C' contest, if you know what I mean.

Not to mention its efficiency, or lack of it. Where you could do wonders in RPN on a 41C in just 224 bytes, you'll find yourself using more and more kilobytes for the simplest programs. So what ? After all, those RPL machines do have hundreds of Kbytes, even a Mb or two, so who cares anymore for elegant, efficient programming ?

Doubt it ? Well, here's an example, and I won't use the powerful 41C/42S, but one of the humblest RPN programmables, and probably the worst suited for this particular task, namely the business model HP-12C:

"Write a program to compute a root of the general equation of degree N:

a(n)*x^n + a(n-1)*x^(n-1)+...+a2*x^2+a1*x+a0 = 0

The program must accept all the (n+1) coefficients, a0, a1, ... , a(n), then it must try to compute the root as fast as possible, without needing any other information, such as initial guesses, or iteration limits, etc"

Believe it or not, this program can be written in RPN for a *business model* (not scientific) venerable, 20+ years-old HP-12C in some *18 steps* (i.e.: eighteen bytes) or less. Try to accomplish the same in your RPL wonder, without using the built-in solver (or even using it), and see how many hundreds of bytes does it take you.

I, for once, can write that 18-step RPN program in my head, no need to use paper, the 4-level RPN stack doesn't force me to.

To summarize, RPL is RPN's "Peter's Principle" come true: It's RPN rised to its saddest level of incompetence. And like it or not, there it will remain forever, no turning back.

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 8 Dec 2001, 8:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ex-PPC member

Hi, Ex-PPC;

Just wondering. You proved having knowledge and capability I myself envy (please, no pun intended at all!). I would like to know what is the math procedure you use to compute these roots. You have shown us once a fast, clever, easy-to-compute way to get trig series for sine, cosine and tangent in a 12C. Would you share your version for the polynomial roots too? I`m a lot curious...

Thanks and regards.

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #4 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 9 Dec 2001, 7:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz C. (Brazil) wrote: "You have shown us once a fast, clever, easy-to-compute way to get trig series for sine, cosine and tangent in a 12C"

I think you've mistaken me for someone else. I've never published any code of mine to do such computations in this forum. Matter of fact, I *asked* if someone could point me to that kind of code, including specially the inverse functions, in order to see how someone else managed to overcome the problems I found, and to compare his/her

version to mine, and some person called Viktor Toth was kind enough to publish his own version, which you can find at this URL:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/articles.cgi?read=225

So, you see, Viktor Toth is most probably the person you're referring to, not myself. Credit where credit is due.

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 9 Dec 2001, 10:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Ex-PPC member

Hi, Ex-PPC;

I'm sorry not expressing myself precisely. In fact, at the time the trig programs were shown here, I remember well you showed a better, fast way to compute the sine series, from wich came cosine. If I am not wrong again, Cameron or Andrés asked for the precise description of the calculus involved, and you again showed how to simplify the series (some factorial sequencies). That`s what I was reffering to.

Anyway, I am always collecting procedures (more than calcs), cause math procedures are gold! And you shown some precious procedures at that time. Would you share the procedures you have for the polynomial roots? Ahn?

Thanks. And regards.

4-level RPN vs. RPL
*Message #6 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 8 Dec 2001, 2:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ex-PPC member

Mr. Ex-PPC: I am 100% in agrrement with your posting. What is easy and fun to do in a HP25, 41 or 42 is unnecesarily hard to do in a 48xx. The 48G+ (the one model of RPL I have)is non-intuitive for use, simple things like DROP are error prone, there is no hint for argument prompting, there is no NULL to avoid an error message...

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #7 Posted by **Rupert (Northern Italy, EU)** on 8 Dec 2001, 5:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ex-PPC member

>Doubt it ? Well, here's an example, and I won't use the powerful 41C/42S, >but one of the humblest RPN programmables, and probably the worst suited >for this particular task, namely the business model HP-12C: >"Write a program to compute a root of the general equation of degree N: >a(n)*x^n + a(n-1)*x^(n-1)+...+a2*x^2+a1*x+a0 = 0 >The program must accept all the (n+1) coefficients, a0, a1, ... , a(n), >then it must try to compute the root as fast as possible, without needing >any other information, such as initial guesses, or iteration limits, etc" >Believe it or not, this program can be written in RPN for >a *business model* (not scientific) venerable, 20+ years-old HP-12C in some >*18 steps* (i.e.: eighteen bytes) or less. Try to accomplish the same in >your RPL wonder, without using the built-in solver (or even using it), >and see how many hundreds of bytes does it take you.

Well, with the HP48 built-in function you can enter the coefficients as elements of a vector in the stack: [A(n) A(n-1) ... A(0)], and then issue the command PROOT (polynomial roots). That's all. :-)

I have had a look at the various polynomial roots finding algorithms in order to refresh my memory, and cannot believe that it's possible to fit any of those algorithms in just 18 steps, if the HP12C doesn't have related built-in functions (and I guess it doesn't). Even the polynomial roots finding program on the HP32SII manual is bigger than 18 steps, as well as the POLY program in the Math I rom module of my good ol' 41CX.

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #8 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 9 Dec 2001, 7:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Rupert (Northern Italy, EU)

Rupert (Northern Italy, EU) wrote:

" Well, with the HP48 built-in function you can enter the coefficients as elements of a vector in the stack: [A(n) A(n-1) ... A(0)], and then issue the command PROOT (polynomial roots). That's all. :-)"

Should I clap ? ;-) That kind of functionality isn't new to the HP48, but simply a straightforward copycat from the much older HP-71B, where you could do this:

MAT INPUT A @ MAT X=PROOT(A) @ MAT DISP X

to prompt the user for the coefficients, find all roots real and/or complex, then display the roots, without even writing a program.

Your 'solution' has nothing to do with my 'challenge' (let's say for lack of a better term), and even doing it that way still doesn't meet the requirements, since there are is no input or output methods. Just doing a simple loop to ask/input the coefficients from the user one at a time would take longer than 18 bytes.

Rupert continued:

"I have had a look at the various polynomial roots finding algorithms in order to refresh my memory, and cannot believe that it's possible to fit any of those algorithms in just 18 steps, if the HP12C doesn't have related built-in functions (and I guess it doesn't). Even the polynomial roots finding program on the HP32SII manual is bigger than 18 steps, as well as the POLY program in the Math I rom module of my good ol' 41CX."

If you can't believe it, that's your choice. Matter of fact, I eased the conditions. It can be done in as little as 17 steps, including the final, always present 17 GTO 00. Excluding it, it's just 16 steps, which can be reduced to just 14 if a constant is pre-stored just once initially. And those 14 steps include such finesses as auto-detecting end of input by simply pressing R/S without inputting any number.

Just to give a numerical example of how the solution program should work in the HP-12C:

Find a root of this classic italian, cubic equation:

x^3 + 2*x^2 + 10*x - 20 = 0

You should take your HP-12C, key in you 17-step (or less) solution program, and do the following:

f PRGM, 1, R/S, 2, R/S, 10, R/S, 20, CHS, R/S, R/S

and after only 10 seconds, it should show the root, accurate to 10 digits: 1.368808108

The last R/S without inputting any number signals the program that all coefficients have been entered and it should then proceed to compute the root, if any. Of course, the solution program should not be limited to cubics, but it must work for quartics, quintics, ..., as well.

If you feel like it, see if you can cope. Else, there's always an HP48 with PRL and

PROOT at hand.

Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!
*Message #9 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire** on 10 Dec 2001, 1:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Ex-PPC member

Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member" wrote:

If you can't believe it, that's your choice. Matter of fact, I eased the conditions. It can be done in as little as 17 steps, including the final, always present 17 GTO 00. Excluding it, it's just 16 steps, which can be reduced to just 14 if a constant is pre-stored just once initially. And those 14 steps include such finesses as auto-detecting end of input by simply pressing R/S without inputting any number.

Just to give a numerical example of how the solution program should work in the HP-12C:

Find a root of this classic italian, cubic equation:

*x^3 + 2*x^2 + 10*x - 20 = 0*

You should take your HP-12C, key in you 17-step (or less) solution program, and do the following:

f PRGM, 1, R/S, 2, R/S, 10, R/S, 20, CHS, R/S, R/S

and after only 10 seconds, it should show the root, accurate to 10 digits: 1.368808108

The last R/S without inputting any number signals the program that all coefficients have been entered and it should then proceed to compute the root, if any. Of course, the solution program should not be limited to cubics, but it must work for quartics, quintics, ..., as well.

If you feel like it, see if you can cope. Else, there's always an HP48 with PRL and PROOT at hand.

Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member":

Once again, I ask, why is it that most everyone here can share their E-mail addresses

(or at the very least their names), yet you continue to hide your identity? It is humorous to me that you hide your code as well! Many people--including myself--have asked you to post different programs for the 12C (code that you unabashedly bragged about), but you have *never* posted any of your code.

You are an enigma. Sometimes you seem to write intelligent posts. But when it comes to coding bravado, you repeatedly show your true colors. This community thrives on give-and-take. As I said before, you seem only interested in taking. You seem willing to give your opinion, but nothing of any value. You ask for code from others. You insult others' inferior coding capabilities. But when asked to post *your* code, you change the subject or go "radio silence."

Congratulations on your excellent display of **condescension** yet again. You know, it would have been nice if you had taken the *high* road to the comments by "Rupert (Northern Italy, EU)". Rather, you started-in with your arrogant claims of programming superiority. When I read Rupert's post, *I* took it that he was *amazed* that you could fit such a program in so little space. Rather than *thanking* him for his indirect compliment about your programming capabilities and sharing your code with him, you chose to insult.

"Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)" asked you to share your code for the polynomial roots. **Will you do that?** If you remember right, *I* asked you to share your "magnificent" code for finding the trigonometric functions (save one) for the 12C; you never did.

Your response to Luiz that he was mistaken--because you have never shared any of your code (on that subject)--was pretty funny to me. It almost sounded like you were *proud* of that fact!

I'm assuming that you really have accomplished the programming feats that you brag about. For the life of me, I just can't figure out your motivation to never share any of your code... I won't "triple-dog-dare" you to provide the code, by claiming that it doesn't exist--that would only provide you a *grand stage* for showcasing your "impossible" programming talents. So, I will say once again, I *believe* that you have done what you have said.

Please give something back to the community.

Bruce.

p.s. If you desire, you may reach me at the E-mail address I have provided above. I also have provided you--and everyone else--my full name. Would you do *us* that courtesy?

Re: Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!
*Message #10 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 12 Dec 2001, 9:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by W. Bruce Maguire

This kind of attitude (boasting about programming capabilities, but never sharing codes) reminds me my college years... we used TRS-80 model 1 level II and most of the puberians who used the computer at school were very keen on receiving programs but never provided a copy of what they had. In addition, they were challenging the programs you had saying they had something much smarter but they never let the chance to load it (remember, it was stored on a audio tape !) and run it...

I remember I wrote a program on my 41CV that calculated the roots of an equation (not a big deal, but the MATH ROM was quite expensive at that time for my student's budget) and that I let a friend (?) of mine copying it. After an hazardous MEMORY LOST message (I also could not afford the HPIL cassette drive nor the card reader) I asked him if I could copy it again, but he wouldn't accept ! In addition, he was claiming to be the author of the program that fascinated our maths teacher... :-)

Such an attitude is childish, and if someone is hiding interesting codes such as trig functions, polynomial roots on a 12C or whatever, I think he does not deserve to be a member of this community... Bruce is tatally right when h talks about the giving and taking principle. I am personnally delighted that my tiny knowledge has sometimes been useful to some people, I don't see what is the interest of hiding hints and tips to people who want to keep the legend alive (even more important when HP closes the calc business). In French, we call this "sawing the branch on which you are sitting on".

So unless codes are provided, I would suggest to just ignore and disregard such messages of people talking about their gold mine without showing any gold sample...

Re: Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!
*Message #11 Posted by **Fernando del Rey** on 14 Dec 2001, 8:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Thibaut.be

Hi, I'm a newcomer to this forum, but I'm quite sure that Mr. Ex-PPC does indeed have the 18-step polynomial solving program he describes. He's just challenging all of us with a nice little puzzle. Why not concentrate in the challenge rather that criticizing the guy for the way he poses it?

Here's how I figure you can solve the problem on the 12C. Perhaps someone else can contribute the program that behaves exactly as Mr. Ex-PPC describes.

The 12C has the IRR function, which can be used as a polynomial root finder.

IRR calculates "i" in the expression:

0 = CF0 + CF1/(1+i) + CF2/(1+i)^2 + … CFn/(1+i)^n

Where "i" is the interest rate that makes a series of equally spaced cash flows equal to zero.

Well, with the simple variable change x=1/(1+i) , you can use the IRR function to calculate the root of a polynomial. Just remember that the calculator gives the result of IRR expressed as a percentage, so you have to divide it by 100 (perhaps the constant that Mr. Ex-PPC mentions would save two program steps) before adding 1 and the doing 1/x.

Using his example, just enter as follows on the 12C

20 CHS g CFo 10 g CFi 2 g CFi 1 g CFi f IRR 100 / 1 + 1/x

And you get the root: 1.368808108

In this case the coefficients of the polynomial are entered in the opposite order as in the example of Mr. Ex-PPC, but I don't think that matters too much.

What I honestly don't know is the way to automatically sense inside the program that the input of coefficients is finished. Perhaps someone else can tell us that part.

However, if the user does not mind to enter the polynomial coefficients using the “g CFo” and “g CFi” keys instead of using R/S (in my opinion this is a very minor inconvenience), then your polynomial root finder is just an 8 step program:

01 IRR 02 EEX 03 2 04 / 05 1 06 + 07 1/x 08 GTO 00

Try it!: 20 CHS g CFo 10 g CFi 2 g CFi 1 g CFi f PRGM R/S

And you get the right result: 1,368808108

I don’t know if Mr. Ex-PPC is using the same IRR function, or any of the other financial functions available in the 12C, but I truly don’t think he has boasting about any fantastic code. Just teasing us all with a little challenge!

Re: Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!

*Message #12 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 15 Dec 2001, 3:48 a. m.,*
in response to message #11 by Fernando del Rey

Hi, Fernando;

You post is very clever. I`ve been thinking of some possibilities and I did not try the ones you are showing, but if you follow the thread since the very begining, Mr. Ex-PPC member mentioned using *the humblest HP12C calculator* as an example. The question is: Would he use a special feature that automatically computes the result at the same moment he blames someone else`s solution that does the same, say, uses a particular root finder? Strange, isn`t it?

About sensing the entry: the only functions that have this feature are the TVM set (PV, PMT, FV, i, n), again a set of special purpose functions. I do not know how to explore this input sensing in a program, but I believe they are the only ones that can do it in the 12C.

I hope you feel yourself at home in here and, please, do not take this particular thread as a reference. Sometimes focus is lost and the discussion takes other path than the proposed one. Criticising anyones` particular submition is not as often as it seems...

Cheers. (and I believe I speak for the others when I say Welcome!)

Re: Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!
*Message #13 Posted by **Fernando del Rey** on 15 Dec 2001, 10:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Thanks Luiz, I'll see if I can contribute here some more in the future.

Unfortunately, the only two HP calcs I have access to are my own 42S and my wife's 12C. Not much, but surely enough to still enjoy some old fashion RPN programming.

Thanks for the Welcome.

Re: Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!
*Message #14 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 15 Dec 2001, 4:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Fernando del Rey

Mr. Fernando del Rey wrote:

"Here's how I figure you can solve the problem on the 12C." [...] The 12C has the IRR function, which can be used as a polynomial root finder."

Congratulations ! :-) :-)

That's exactly the way to do it ! By using the built-in IRR function you get everything: a complex, refined algorithm to find a root which does not require initial guesses or given iteration limits, incredibly few steps to implement, and best of all, full microcode speed !

Also, this method will work for equations up to the 20th degree if there are no consecutive coefficients which are equal, and for equations up to 99*20 = 1980th degree or so, if there are groups of consecutive, identical coefficients.

As the IRR calculation will result in Error 3 (on the 12C) if the solution

is IRR < -100%, finding some roots would require a previous trivial transformation to bring them to the positive side of the X axis, but this is quite easy to achieve. Also, in case of multiple positive roots, the IRR calculation may need some help to converge on a root. This can be achieved in the HP-12C this way, once you get the Error 3 in the display: just key in a reasonable guess and press RCL g R/S. This will restart the IRR calculation using your provided guess and hopefully quickly converge to the desired root. This happens, for instance, for the equation: x^3 - 6*x^2 + 11*x - 6, which has roots 1,2, and 3.

Fernando continues:

"Well, with the simple variable change x=1/(1+i) , you can use the IRR function to calculate the root of a polynomial. "

Though this change of variable does works, there is a simpler way. If you enter the highest coefficient (1 in the example) as the first cash flow (CFo), the 1/x is not needed, just dividing the IRR result by 100 and adding 1. This avoids a division by zero in some cases and it's faster and simpler. Also, it allows you to introduce the coefficients in their natural order, as they appear on the equation (CFo = 1, CF1 = 2, CF2 = 10, CF3 = -20) amd further simplifies the programming.

Fernando goes on:

"What I honestly don’t know is the way to automatically sense inside the program that the input of coefficients is finished."

It can be done in a number of ways. As the 12C doesn't have any flags who can detect input, the easiest and less costly way is simply to leave some suitable constant in the display before stopping to ask the next coefficient. Once the user has pressed R/S, you recall said constant to the X register again, and test against Y for equality. If false, the user entered something. If true, the user simply pressed R/S. Of course this would fail if one of the coefficients happened to be exactly equal to the constant, but using a suitable choice (say LN(7) or EXP(9)), this can have a probability so low as to never occur in practice.

By the way, I'm sure that this IRR method will also work for most other business calculators which do have a built-in IRR function, so we have the paradoxical fact that a business calculator like the HP-12C can solve n-th degree equations simpler and faster than, say, the HP-11C or even

the HP-15C despite its SOLVE feature !

Thanks again to Fernando who, if I remember correctly, *is* also an Ex-PPC member, namely #6995 if I'm not wrong ! Aaahh, those were the days ... ! :-)

Re: Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!

*Message #15 Posted by **Fernando del Rey** on 15 Dec 2001, 10:44 a. m.,*
in response to message #14 by Ex-PPC member

With the clues you give, the program is now quite simple:

01 CFo
02 7
03 LN
04 ENTER
05 R/S
06 –
07 x=0
08 GTO 12
09 LSTx
10 CFi
11 GTO 02
12 IRR
13 1
14 %
15 1
16 +
17 GTO 00

17 steps counting the final GTO 00. And quite surely any experienced 12C programmer (which I'm not) can find a step or two to reduce. I would have never though the 12C capable of such feat!

You are right to say that I am a former member of PPC, and indeed those were fun times!! I bet many of the users of this forum are also former PPC members, right?

Re: Please "show us the code" Mr./Mrs./Ms. "Ex-PPC Member"!

*Message #16 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 15 Dec 2001, 11:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Fernando del Rey

Great, thanks for posting the listing.

Yes, indeed, I guess most of us did not consider the specific functions of the 12C. I'm a bit ashamed not having thought about it as finance maths are someho my cup of tea. This is what I've developed on my site (http://hpcalc.multimania.com).

The thing is that, UMHO, the way it was presented is that any calc without a solver (the 12C seems quite nude in maths) should be able to calculate the root of a polynomial. Again, it was well done to ask it to be programed on a 12C.

So, without the internal solver of the 12C, it seems not possible to get a solution in less than 18 steps. For example, try to sort this out on a 10C or a 11C...

Anyway thanks for providing an answer, Mr del Rey, and welcome to the community. Just a word on the criticisms towerd Mr Ex PPC member : though he did proposed challenges, he (up to now) *NEVER* gave the solution, which is a bit against the give/take principle of the forum.

Anyway again congratluations for your cristal clear demonstration.

Re: Polynomial challenge

*Message #17 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 15 Dec 2001, 3:50 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Fernando del Rey

Fernando:

Apart from saying "Hello, welcome!" and "Congratulations!" for an excellent description for your solution (theory and practice), I would like to suggest a little, cosmetic addition to the technique for detecting new values entered by the user. I understand the

challenge was about using very few bytes, so I accept criticism in advance, because what I would suggest may enlarge the program a little.

First, while Ln(7) is rare enough to be a user-entered coefficient, as Mr. Ex-PPC states, I think that a large number will be even rarer. I would prefer the use of 10^x (or e^x, if you think it is more appropriate) to obtain the value to compare with, and will have used "9" instead of "7". The cost is the same, except if someone cares about more active LCD segments as a lack of elegance :-)

If the value left on the display by the CFi function is appropriate, you may save a step / byte here, using that value as the argument for 10^x.

Second, and at the cost of an extra byte, I would have put a CLx before the R/S, to have a blank display as a prompt for the user, instead of the Ln(7), which may be confusing. Again, this has nothing to do with Mr. Ex-PPC challenge, because the challenge was about program lenght and memory usage, not about user friendliness. Since the stack would not lift after a CLx, it would work the same.

So the modified version would look like:

...

02 9

03 10^x

04 ENTER

05 CLx

06 R/S

07 –

08 x=0

09 GTO 13

...

BTW, as I have no HP12 at hand, I cannot verify by myself these suggestions; so please disregard any missing detail. And thank you again for sharing your technique.

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #18 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C (Brazil)** on 8 Dec 2001, 8:36 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

Hi, falks.

I read both posts briefly and I cannot agree with both Ex-PPC and John Hirsch IF WE CONSIDER other not directly stack-related features. I'd consider using, for example:

```
« -> n
  «
    commands
```

(if needed, `n` STO to update n, as for T-register auto duplication)

```
  »
»
```

Using local variables definitely reduces stack levels` need AND program size (less stack manipulations), eases program reading, among other advantages. It will use more memory and execution time will increase, but ones compensate the others. I like having to track stack contents (it`s kind of a puzzle, sometimes better than chess...) and I am always trying to reduce the number of commands I use to achieve the results from a particular manipulation. It`s teasing...

Ex-PPC Member mentioned using a 10-series calc for programming the solution. I really like using any 10C, 11C, 15C, 16C, even the 12C (I like the scientifcs more than the financials), they are easy to use and program, but sometimes the bigger brothers will be irreplaceable. Consider more space to store program commands and user data, more results to be shown/ printed and, mostly, transferring data to another system.

When I wrote my (first) book, I used an 80286, 2MB RAM, 200MB HD, running W3.1 and Windows Write. I would not use this again to write an e-mail... but if I have to, no matter.

Nowadays, PC`s are 256MB RAM, 30GB HD, 800M to 1.5G Hz clock, Penguin Linux / Billagotcha W ME. And the bigger HW justifies itself for the bigger SW, that needs a bigger HW that... Doug expressed his thoughts about system, mainframe programming in previous threads that I believe get closer to this kind of discussion, respecting both weights.

I know it is not the kind of comparison to be made: using an 11C and a 49G is almost a personal choice (unless you have to solve an R,S,T unbalanced AC system for currents; piece o`cake for the 15C). What I mean is that systems grow as needs for bigger systems arise. And using a new, highly featured system to achieve results easily obtained with previous, less-powered systems, may result in more manual operations IF ONE TRIES TO KEEP SAME PROCEDURES. Why not using the new features in a different manner?

My book is entitled `Da HP41 para a HP48` (From the HP41 to the HP48) and I invite the reader to dare translating existing programs from the old fella to the new one, both *using the new features* and *keeping former structure*.

I use an example that's somewhat easy to understand: create a program that takes A and B from the stack (X and Y registers) and returns the hypotenuse of the defined rectangular triangle. The first possible result would be like this:

```
X^2
X<>Y
X^2
+
SQRT
```

Well, everybody knows that a simple *R-P* does the job, and it`s applicable to each of them (and any others, I know). If we try to apply the set of known math operations WITHOUT EXPLORING THE SYSTEM FEATURES we cannot go further.

Maybe I did not get to the point, maybe something else should be posted, but let's face it: new features must be at least known; one day or another we`ll have a situation where using them will be the difference of getting to the result or not.

Cheers.

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #19 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 8 Dec 2001, 5:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

Hello everyone,

I totally agree with Ernie Malaga's view on stack based programming languages.

Viktor Toth provides a simple example of the power of TI and HP calc's on his site: www.rskey.com. The example demonstrates an arbitrary function being passed to a program which calculates the radius of curvature of the function at a point. I think this program satisfies Ernie's description of 'throwaway'. Compare the TI 89 solution to the HP 48 solution: the contrast is stark. The meaning of the TI's one-line solution is obvious: the HP's has to be read with care. The TI's doesn't even require familiarity with it's programming model: stunning.

I encountered the stack based model's unreadability in a recent project to provide myself with a graphics command language to enable the inclusion of Postscript diagrams in LATEX documents. At first I pursued the task by writing routines directly in Postscript which uses the stack model. The code was difficult to read, and I changed to writing Postscript generators in C++ and Perl.

Every programmer, casual or otherwise, is failiar with the stack paradigm; it's extension to the programming language itself would indeed seem to be frought with difficulty.

Thanks Ernie for raising this issue.

David

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #20 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 8 Dec 2001, 11:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #19 by David H Thompson

Hello,

>[..PS programming..] >The code was difficult to read, >and I changed to writing Postscript >generators in C++ and Perl. >

usually it's a matter of documentation;-)

Some programming environments, like the Navision Financials/Attain Object Designer, or

the Centura SQLWindows/32 Team Developer, only have poor support for standard documentation headers. Maybe because the developers of the mentioned systems thought that today's code explains itself... which is still a dream, of course.

Raymond

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #21 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 8 Dec 2001, 7:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

Hello,

I don't agree here. For me RPL/FORTH isn't a 'throw-away-language'. The 'unlimited' stack of the RPL machines is a feature, not an obstacle. You don't need to use hundreds of stack levels, because you can use variables to ease overview. You can even group arguments into lists or arrays on the stack and/or in variables.

Of course it seldom makes sense using many many stack levels and loose overview of what happens, but even on the classical 4-level stak machines you have to use registers fore more complex programs. And you have to make notes about the register contents, if you don't want to loose overview;-)

The one-line display of the classic RPN machines forces the user to make at least as much notes as on the newer RPL machines like the HP-48.

I did programming on the 41 series for more than ten years, on the 28 series for nearly four years, then on the 48 series for more than eleven years so far.

First it was a bit difficult to break out of the 4-level stack scheme thinking with T duplication and LASTX, but after a while, the advantages were visible.

I had to take more care for the arguments of programs. If I wrote a program which used 2 arguments and returned 1 result I had to provide (at least) two arguments on the stack, and I could see the one result, so in the end the stack contained one level less than before;-)

On the 41, I often used the LASTX feature to regain an argument for later use. This isn't an option on RPL machines, because you can't rely on an enabled LastStack, and it would even complicate things (IMHO)...

But, as on RPN machines, you can duplicate an argument just by hitting (or writing) DUP if it's one argument, or duplicate any number of arguments with the appriorate command, or save the

argument(s) in a variable, and recall it later, or whatever. So you have more than one option, and can use the one that suits most.

Consider saving four arguments for re-use after a function call on an RPN machine like the HP-41. You have to use registers for that. On the RPL machines, you *can* use variables, but you don't need to do so. You can simply group the args into a list and save the list into one variable, or roll out the list to the top of the stack, or just duplicate the 4 arguments on the stack.

After all, I think the unlimited stack has more advantages than drawbacks, and it's simply more practicable than the limited 4-level stack. Consider you have to control the output of some report lists, which consists of daily sums and averages per employee, followed by a monthly sum and average per employee, and at the bottom of the report, some overall sums and averages.

On a classic RPN machine, you have to sum up intermediate results, such as the sums and averages of some days for a person, because the stack has only 4 levels. Consider you have say 20 employees which have report entries on nearly every day.

Of course I don't want to hold all results for every person at the same time, but even if you want to compare the sums or averages of all persons, you have to hold at least the final values for each person. So you have to use registers, like the Sigma block, which is available on the RPL machines, too.

Ok, this example may be not the best possible, but I think it gives a clue what can be done relatively easy on RPL machines, compared to the classic 4-level stack machines.

Don't get me wrong, I *love* my classic RPN machines, and I carry an 11C or 15C nearly all the time, because most of the time, simple arithmetic on a few numbers is sufficient for me. But for checking a grater amount of data with intermediate results, I prefer Emu48.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #22 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 8 Dec 2001, 8:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #21 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Hello,

Raymond writes that RPL/Forth are not throwaway languages, but surely they are: they have been abandoned on every other programming platform!

David

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #23 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 8 Dec 2001, 11:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #22 by David H Thompson

Hello,

that's right, but I thought we're talking about languages used in HP calculators;-)

And these machines surely not tend to get thrown away, even if they might not be produced any more in the future.

Raymond

Purist or pragmatist?
*Message #24 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 10 Dec 2001, 3:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Group;

These are all interesting comments, but leading where? Any language has advantages and limitations. I've found use for all the programmable platforms I own (even the lowly video recorder) and seldom find the need to pit one against the other. Pragmatist.

Of course, purists are never happy, so they're thirst ultimately goes unfullfilled. They, however, push the development further, with some concessions that it was already moved far enough.

I can live with either.

Joe

Re: Throw away programming?
*Message #25 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 10 Dec 2001, 7:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ernie Malaga

I'll comment, since you asked.

I started my HP experience with a 48SX and enjoyed programming it. I never felt 100% comfortable with RPL having come from a key stroke programmable calculator (a Casio FX-602P). However, I was impressed by the power of the machine - more like a small computer than a calculator. I agree that the code was difficult to understand, especially a few weeks after you had written it.

12 years later, I bought a 42S because everybody was raving about them. I realised that this was the machine I should have bought all those years ago. Fantastic! Clean, yet powerful programming concepts.

Six months ago I bought a 28S. Having seen both sides of the coin, this became my favourite. I could see how cleverly the development team had kept most of the keystroke programmable ability for those that demanded it, and yet had "morphed" (for want of a better word) the programming side into RPL. I think the 28S had a purity of design the the 48 series had obscured by too much in-built functionality.

I've come to realise that few, if any, HP calculators stand alone. Only experience of the machines that came before and after can offer a true appreciation of any given model.

Isn't it odd that the 28S is my favorite and the 48SX my least favourite? Two machines so close chronologically.

I tried to make my comments generic, but couldn't leave without saying that RPL allows you to span a whole range of programming styles, from plain keystroke style to masochistic huge stack manipulation to local variable assignment followed by more modest stack manipulation and on to local variable assignment followed my an algebraic expressions. This is incredible power and flexibility.

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HP 25C Battery help
*Message #1 Posted by **Ian Primus** on 7 Dec 2001, 8:43 p.m.*

I recently purchased an HP 25C in almost perfect condition at a thrift store for 25 cents(how ironic). Anyway, I have the calculator, manual and "Reserve Power Pack" which to me looks like a battery charger. I have no AC adapter or battery, and the battery cover for the calculator is missing. I tested the calculator with two AA's and alligator clips (Thanks to hpmuseum.com for the polarity on it!) and it works fine, with a crystal clear display. I want to somehow be able to use this calculator in school, as I like it much better than my other one as far as looks go, as well as a better screen. The only thing is that I need a battery and cover. I am not worried about using rechargable batteries, seeming as though I don't have a charger. Is there a way of obtaining/creating a battery cover for the calculator? Also, is there a good way of using AA's without major modification to the calculator? I can see the obvious - cut off the two little contacts, solder wires in place and use a battery holder, but I don't want to damage the calculator. How long would AA's last in this calculator? AAA's? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

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Availability of HP21S in europe
*Message #1 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 7 Dec 2001, 6:59 p.m.*

Hi,

yesterday I checked my pioneer collection. There is one model missing: HP21S. I remember that this calcuator was available in the US only :-(?! Is this correct ? Was this calculator never sold in europe ?

Thanks for your answer

Andreas

Re: Availability of HP21S in europe
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 7 Dec 2001, 8:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

Hi,

not a direct answer to your questions, but I see new 21S's from time to time on eBay...

That's where I got mine from, too;-)

Cheers,

Raymond

Mein Tip: Versuch einen 21S ueber eBay zu kaufen, solange sie noch eingermassen guenstig sind...

Re: Availability of HP21S in europe

*Message #3 Posted by **Julián Miranda (Spain)** on 8 Dec 2001, 7:21 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Andreas Stockburger (Germany)

I bought a new one here in Spain with spanish manuals for my brother around 1991.

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Question really; Where would I put up for sale 2 calculators...
*Message #1 Posted by **Ted Henricks** on 7 Dec 2001, 5:09 p.m.*

That don't really seem to fit this forum

An HP 39G and a TI89. Both with computer cables and the TI with a couple of text books.

Don't laugh! I want to sell them in order to finance a 15C or 42S, but I don't know where to offer them up for sale where I would get a good response.

I have tried everything to dump these two dinosaurs. They are both brand new.

Thanks for any suggestions.

Re: Question really; Where would I put up for sale 2 calculators...
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 7 Dec 2001, 9:18 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ted Henricks

Hi, Ted;

have a look here. I believe your TI89 will not fit that well, cause people in here prefer HewPack calcs. But you are not in the wrong place at all; I believe I speak for the others when I say: feel free announcing them both. If it is ONLY the TI89, you`d probably not having the right audience, just that.

Cheers.

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Change from 0.0000 to 0,0000?
*Message #1 Posted by **françois** on 7 Dec 2001, 10:23 a.m.*

Hi,

I just had to replace the batteries of my good old HP15C and it came back with the 0.0000 notation.

How can I get it to use the "," as decimal separator (i.e. displaying gib numbers like this 12.435.567,34)?

I vaguely rememeber that there is a special key sequence to use but since it was something like 15 or even more years ago, I gave up trying to remember which one exactly...

Needless to say I lost the documentation...

Any help will be appreciated.

Thanks,

François

Re: Change from 0.0000 to 0,0000?
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank** on 7 Dec 2001, 10:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by françois

Francois,

This is taken from the manual:

"You can reverse this setting to conform to the numerical convention used in may countries.

To do so, turn off the calculator. Press and hold ON, press and hold ., release ON, then release .

(ON/.). Repeating this sequence will set the calculator to the previous dispplay convention.)

Hope this helps

Frank

Re: Change from 0.0000 to 0,0000?
*Message #3 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 7 Dec 2001, 10:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by françois

François, just try this sequence:

1) [calc off]
2) press the "." key and keep it down
3) press ON key
4) release "." key

It worked here.

Greetings,
Massimo

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PANAME ROM undocumented functions
*Message #1 Posted by **Mark Villarino** on 7 Dec 2001, 10:03 a.m.*

I recently came into possession of a PANAME ROM that came with the original French manual and an English translation. I noticed that some of the functions in the ROM were not covered in the manuals. I managed to figure out all of them except for two: RGORD and RGXTR. If anybody knows what these two functions do, please let me know. I'm in the process of writing a more comprehensive manual and would like to include the descriptions and discussions of these two functions in that manual. Once I'm finished, I'll make it available for free as a .pdf file to anyone that asks for it. If you're curious, I could send out what I have so far, just ask. I can be reached at markv@spectrumchemical.com.

Thanks, Mark V.

Re: PANAME ROM undocumented functions
*Message #2 Posted by **J-F Garnier** on 7 Dec 2001, 10:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark Villarino

RGORD performs some kind of sorting (ORD=order) on a block. RGXTR finds the maximum or minimum value of a block (XTR=extremum). I think that these functions were kept out of the manual because there had bugs inside. Regards.

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Direction of HP Calc Div - New Products
*Message #1 Posted by **Clem** on 6 Dec 2001, 11:18 p.m.*

What has happened to HP calculators. At one time, I was as proud of my 41 and 12 as any biker is of his Harley Davidson. Now HP is producing a cheap calculator (the 6) in China and the 49 with much less documentation and support than it provided for its prior top of the line calculators. Does anyone know of any new products? In what direction is the company moving?

Re: Direction of HP Calc Div - New Products
*Message #2 Posted by **Mr. Guaca Mole, (HP insider)** on 7 Dec 2001, 2:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Clem

*** INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY ***

Embedded and Personal Systems Product Introductions for 2002

Report from Calculator Team:

We appreciate the confidence you've shown as we reorganize the office. (The plants are really lifelike, but they are silk, so they don't need watering, but thanks to all those who wanted to help.)

We're working quickly to create a splash in 2002. Our R&D budget for this year was well-spent on that wild trip to Hong Kong. We are bringing out many new products we found, fortifying our reputation in the industry as innovators.

So here they are:

* Ravecalc: basically a 6s translucent calculator with a compartment to hold a Cyalume-type light-stick. The calculator then glows as if it were radioactive. This ought to be really popular amongst those in our target demographic, and in Idaho.

* Squeezecalc: an extension of technology developed for our keyboards, this new product

features a whole calculator body made completely of molded urethane. It's all squishy, and you could drive over it like a roadkill possum and it will return to its original shape without cracking. The perfect calculator for those overloaded book-bags.

* Hobbitulator: licensed product to ride the wave of the biggest movie sensation to hit since "Pearl Harbor". A learning tool, this machine hides the answers of calculations, and invites the user to input a guess. Digitized sound FX will praise or goad the user on to the correct result, my preciousssssss.

(We are still working on this one. Early market testing showed strong negative reactions in certain communities-- but the early prototype we acquired for test had been pre-programmed with the voice of "Jar-Jar Binks". Hobbitization is proceeding on schedule for next test.)

* 12c-II: not forgetting that still-lucrative business market, we are in negotiations to produce a limited-edition 12c-II by revamping the venerable 12c with the Onstar(tm) system. A button on the calculator will connect the user with a live operator via satellite, who can remind the executive where he has parked his car. The ultimate status-symbol, for this product we are looking to extend our distribution channel to Sharper Image and selected GM dealerships. Also investigating the addition of bright-gold trim "Escalade"-type accents.

Though some may criticize our decision to have outsourced all of this on short notice, we are merely inventing a new way of working. We are aware that a lot of this stuff even Casio has not yet dared to market. But radical ideas are not bad ideas. In the spirit of sharing these ideas, we can work together to change the world.

<< attention: the Calculator Team will not be in the office during the weeks of Dec. 18th-Jan.6th, as I've got a lot of late shopping to do and two orthodontic appointments to keep, and of course the holidays. See the rest of you all at the party! >>

P.S.-- This was a PARODY. Don't send this out to the newsgroups, they'll only wet themselves unnecessarily. Repeat: this was a PARODY.

-- G.Mole.

Re: Direction of HP Calc Div - New Products

*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 7 Dec 2001, 6:55 a.m.,*

in response to message #2 by Mr. Guaca Mole, (HP insider)

Hi;

sometimes (mostly!) laughing is important, so life flows easier. Mr. Guaca Mole, I'm sorry not inviting you and your 'crew' for a Brazilian coffee, but I'm much disappointed with the new directions. None of these freaks will be part of my HP family.

What worries me is that, at least as long as we can try to, it's somewhat hard to see a future. A couple of decades ago, many (maybe all) of us were sure the new HewPack products would be better the previous, existing ones. I have been sharing ideas with others in here, and I'm sure HewPack staff has something in mind. Why can't they share with us? *Let us know what you want to do*. HewPack does not BELONG to us, nor to them, but I would accept to go for another brand if they (HewPack staff) signalize they are getting off calc business. If RPN is not an option, let's try TI, Casio or others. I cannot understand leaving a place that's been conquered with substantial competence, professionalism, trust, commitment and consumer care. It's like building AND deserving an empire just to leave it to the 'enemy'. I sincerely cannot understand.

Mr. Guaca Mole, thanks letting us know you don't know.

Cheers. (no parody included)

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HP 32sii different versions?
*Message #1 Posted by **Joe Pasquale** on 6 Dec 2001, 9:25 p.m.*

Are there different versions of the HP 32sii in terms of functionality (e.g., ROM updates to fix possible bugs in earlier versions)? Also, were they all made in Indonesia (which is what I have), or were some also made in Singapore and/or USA?

Re: HP 32sii different versions?
*Message #2 Posted by **Frédéric ALBERT (from France)** on 7 Dec 2001, 3:32 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Joe Pasquale

Hi,

I don't know if there are different versions but mine seems to come from Singapore. The serial number is 3419S93181 so I think it as been build in may 1994 in Singapore.

When I run the autotest (pressing C and 1/x) the display shows

COPR.HP 87,90

Is there a ROM version ????

Frédéric

Re: HP 32sii different versions?
*Message #3 Posted by **Edwin Russell** on 7 Dec 2001, 8:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Frédéric ALBERT (from France)

I've just bought my HP32SII in England. It has the serial number ID12600833 and says it is made in Indonesia. How can I find out the date of manufacture from the serial number? It also shows COPR. HP 87,90.

Edwin Russell - UK.

Re: HP 32sii different versions?
*Message #4 Posted by **Larry** on 7 Dec 2001, 9:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Edwin Russell

You can learn how to decode the serial number by going to:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/collect.htm

Re: HP 32sii different versions?
*Message #5 Posted by **Yani** on 8 Dec 2001, 8:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Frédéric ALBERT (from France)

The

COPR.HP 87,90

Is a copyright notice. I assume the 87 and 90 refer to the years 1987 and 1990 for the relevent years that the technoligies were copyright.

Re: HP 32sii different versions?
*Message #6 Posted by **Julián Miranda (Spain)** on 8 Dec 2001, 10:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Joe Pasquale

There are some remarks about the subject in Craig A. Finseth HPDATABase. Look in the 32SII page at the end http://www.finseth.com/~fin/hpdata/hp32sii.html.

Re: HP 32sii different versions?

*Message #7 Posted by **Joe Pasquale** on 8 Dec 2001, 4:23 p.m.,*

in response to message #6 by Julián Miranda (Spain)

There are some remarks about the subject in Craig A. Finseth HPDATABase. Look in the 32SII page at the end http://www.finseth.com/~fin/hpdata/hp32sii.html.

Interesting, thanks for pointing this out. I just went through the examples of bugs for fractions, and they have all been fixed for my version of the HP-32SII (mine was made in 1995). I wonder when the fixes occurred?

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HP71b modules - what are they ?
*Message #1 Posted by **John Robinson** on 6 Dec 2001, 8:06 p.m.*

I have two HP71b ROM modules labelled "CMT71-64E". Can anyone tell me what these might be ?, and are they useful to anyone ?, and can ROM modules be converted in to RAM modules by replacing the chip inside ??? Thanks - John

Re: HP71b modules - what are they ?
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 7 Dec 2001, 3:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Robinson

Hi,

I don't think you can replace ROM by RAM there, because ROM is read-only, whereas RAM is read-and-write. So there may be an other circuit layout.

Nevertheless there were 64K RAM modules for the card reader port of the HP-71.

Regards,

Raymond

'E' for EPROM
*Message #3 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Dec 2001, 9:24 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Raymond Hellstern

This is an EPROM device.

They also made 64K RAMs for the front plug-in ports.

Re: HP71b modules - what are they ?
*Message #4 Posted by **Bill Wiese** on 7 Dec 2001, 3:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by John Robinson

I'd bet these are aftermarket modules made by Corvallis Micro Technology due to CMT prefix..

I'd guess "CMT71-64E" is a 64k*bit* (meaning 8k byte) RAM module just because I remember them making 71B stuff, and I don't recall them making any 71B ROMs.

-Bill Wiese -San Mateo, CA

Sure they made ROMS
*Message #5 Posted by **Mike** on 7 Dec 2001, 9:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Bill Wiese

I suspect that if you look at the ROM, you will see the UV window on the device.

The 64E is a UV erasable EPROM.

Re: Sure they made ROMS
*Message #6 Posted by **John Robinson** on 9 Dec 2001, 6:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Mike

You're right, there is a window on them. So I guess they're 64K UV EPROMS from Corvalis Micro Technologies. So the contents are presumable useless (to me at least). So, any ideas on how you program the little suckers ??. Can another ROM be copied into them etc ??? Thanks - John

---

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Re: HP 67 Can it be fixed?
*Message #1 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 6 Dec 2001, 6:18 p.m.*

Yes, most likely it can be fixed. I don't know what 'rubber film' you are refering to -- the HP67 keyboard does have a transparent polythene sheet under the keys but only to keep dust out -- it's not part of the contact mechanism. To do anything you'll have to take the calculator apart. First make a diagram of the key positions, if you don't already have one (e.g. in the user manual). The flip the calculator over and remove the battery cover and battery pack. Use a sharp tool to remove the 2 plastic plugs at the display end on the bottom. 6 screws hold the machine together. 2 are under the plugs, 2 are under the front feet (lift them up from the outside edge -- don't try to remove them totally) and 2 are under the label at the corners near the battery comparment. You need to peel up the label -- be careful if the appearance of the machine is important to you. Then lift off the bottom case. Remeber the circuitry is mostly MOS, so take anti-static precautions. Wear a wrist strap if you have one, or at least touch eathed metalwork (kitchen sink?) frequently, and don't move too much between touching the eathed metalwork and handling parts of the HP67. OK, lift up the front end of the card reader PCB (the long thin PCB down one side of the machine) to unplug it from the logic board. Move the reader PCB aside (no need to remove the wires at the back end) and then lift up the logic board to unplug it from the keyboard. Put the logic board in an antistatic bag until you reassemble the machine. The main chassis is held to the top case by 6 more screws, Remove them and lift out the chassis and keyboard PCB. At this point check to see where the slide switch contacts are. They often stick to the keyboard, in which case detach them and put them back in the sliders (flat side down). Put the top case with keys, sliders and contacts aside. Remove the plastic frame and polythene sheet if it's still with the keyboard PCB. Note that this part only fits one way round due to the offset pegs. Now look at the keyboard PCB. The switches are metal humps over the PCB tracks. Clean them by squirting propan-2-ol under the hump(s). You might try soaking a narrow strip of paper in propan-2-ol, sliding it under the defective hump, pressing the hump dowm, and pulling the paper out to really clean the contact. Occassionally the metal strip the forms a row of humps breaks at one side of a hump. You can improve matters by soldering the strip down to the PCB, but that key will never feel 'right' again. It should work, though. While the machine is apart you might want to take the sliders and keys out of the top case (don't lose any parts!) and clean the case parts and keys. And maybe replace the card reader roller unless it's been done before. Then put everything back together.

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Re: HP 67 Can it be fixed?
*Message #1 Posted by **DaveJ** on 6 Dec 2001, 4:30 p.m.*

Most likely it can be repaired or at least improved

The calculator is screwed together, two screws under the label which is difficult to remove without damaging, recommend heating with a hairdrier and very carefully raising the top corners until the two screws are revealed.

Once inside you need to unscrew the back plate that supports the circuitry and motor. There are six screws holding this assembly down. Be very careful with the circuit board with respect to static, but it removes easily.

The keyboard contacts are metal sheets that deflect to produce the contact and desired key feel. To correct your issue you need to clean underneath these contacts with either rubbing alcohol to remove any goo that may exist, and/or use a very fine (1000 grit) sandpaper under this key assembly. A little sanding goes a long way and it is easy to permanently damage you unit by being too aggressive.

This is an excellent time to thouroughly clean your keys and plastic parts (not electrical parts) Diluted 409 or other cleaner works fine but make sure you completely dry the parts! Residual water will corrode without mercy!

Reassemble your cal and hopefully it works better.

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Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #1 Posted by **Mark** on 6 Dec 2001, 11:39 a.m.*

Howdy,

I have some HP-41 magnetic cards which I last wrote to on December 12th 1986. I would like to read these cards on my 41 with a newly repaired card reader (gummy wheel). When I put the cards in the reader, they pull through just fine, but I almost always get CARD ERR or MALFUNCTION.

Question: Do I need to revisit the repair of the card reader, or is it likely that the magnetic info on the cards is degraded after 15 years?

Thanks, -mark.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #2 Posted by **Ed** on 6 Dec 2001, 12:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark

Hi, My HP67 Standard Pac mag cards (same cards as used on the 41) still read fine after 24 years. Cheers. EGW.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 6 Dec 2001, 1:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mark

I have 4 or 5 HP67 program pacs. These contain pre-recorded magnetic cards, and all of them are over 20 years old. With one exception, all the cards (about 100 total) are readable on my 67, 97 and 41s). The 'bad' card was damaged when a reader roller failed and coated the card with gunge. So that's explainable. Of course is it possible that an external magnetic field has damaged all your cards, but I think it's unlikely. First try cleaning the cards. Rub them _gently_ on your shirt :-). If that doesn't help, use a few drops of propan-2-ol on the back of the card and clean it with a suitable rag (or your shirt). If that doesn't help, check the card reader again. Can it write a card and read it back? Can it read a card produced on another machine? If it fails the

former test, check your work very carefully. The leaf contacts on top of the reader mechanism, the wires from the tape head to the vertical PCB at the back of the reader (these often fall off when working on the roller). If it can read its own cards but not ones from another machine, check that the wires are connected in the right order (swapping round the 2 tracks will cause this fault, of course), check the motor speed adjustment (preset on the main PCB) and the eccentric pin position.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 6 Dec 2001, 2:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Hi;

after Duell's sugestions, about nothing else can be told. Just a little hunch: as Duell wrote *>Can it write a card and read it back? Can it read a card produced on another machine? If it fails the former test, check your work very carefully*, try reading your cards in another 41's card reader. If it fails, their contents are more to be doomed. Anyway, you can always re-record them, as mentioned. Maybe just the contents are lost, not the cards.

Cheers.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #5 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 6 Dec 2001, 5:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I have had the occasional pre-recorded card that does not read. Most of the time you can re-write to them and they will work.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #6 Posted by **Mark** on 6 Dec 2001, 7:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Erik Wahlin

Thanks for all the help. I tried to write a card and then read it back. The write operation has no complaints, but It gives CARD ERR for the read. So I guess I need to re-check my repair. Thanks again. -mark.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #7 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 6 Dec 2001, 8:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Mark

I would check the connections between the head and the sense amplifier PCB first. There are 5 wires from the head the go into single-pin sockets on the PCB (the vertically mounted PCB at the back of the reader). Often at least one falls out when you take the reader apart for the roller replacement. If this happens, the card reader thinks it's writing on a card OK (it's not, of course), so write operations give no error, but it can't read cards, so you get an error from that. If that's OK, check the mechanics of the card reader. Did you get the card bias springs (the curved metal springs that push the card agains the front edge of the channel) in correctly? Does the roller pull the card through at about the right speed? (if it's slightly off, then generally the reader will be happy with at least its own cards, so an approximate check is enough at this point). It could be an electronic problem, and I can probably help you sort that out, but lets check the obvious first.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?
*Message #8 Posted by **xum valerio** on 11 Dec 2001, 12:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I am interested to buy a card reader for HP41.

Just to guide you...
*Message #9 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 11 Dec 2001, 3:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by xum valerio

Hi, Xum;

this forum is usually visited by people interested on discussions. You'll find offers for sale here. Please, forgive-me if you have alredy been there. As I have not seen your name here before, I thought this would help guiding you to the right place...

Cheers.

Re: Useful age of HP-41 Mag Cards?

*Message #10 Posted by **Mark** on 6 Dec 2001, 9:16 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Success! Thanks for all the help. The culprit was the copper leaf spring positioned directly above the heads. It had become somewhat flattened with age, and was not pressing the card firmly up against the heads during reading/writing. I put a bit of a bow back into it (took 2 tries to get it right), and now it reads and writes like new!

I just loaded up a WALL set labelled Dec 13, 1986, and when I did a CAT 1, I recognized almost every label it displayed. Excuse me now but I'll be spending the next few hours in a trip down geek-memory lane...

Happy Programming, -mark (PPC #11922)

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A derfinition of CAS/Computer Algebra System, please.
*Message #1 Posted by **Matt Agajanian** on 6 Dec 2001, 3:05 a.m.*

Hello all,

Could anyone please describe to me what HP-49G's CAS/Computer Algebra system is, what it does, how it works and what it is good for.

I considered adding a 49G to my collection but, alas, as am HP-48GX owner and devout user, it did not satisisfy my taste.

As for adding it to my collection for sake of/as a collector, is that a good idea?

I appreciate your thoughts, insights and CAS information as well.

Thank you,

Matt Agajanian

Re: A derfinition of CAS/Computer Algebra System, please.
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 6 Dec 2001, 5:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt Agajanian

Hi;

read this thread from here and try the book writen by Urroz. I will try having one, but it is going to be somewhat hard. Hope you find your answers there.

Cheers.

Re: A derfinition of CAS/Computer Algebra System, please.
*Message #3 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 6 Dec 2001, 9:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Matt Agajanian

Well, actually the acronym stands for Calculator Algebra System (IIRC). The 48/49 has a builtin data type for representing symbolic expressions/formulas (called "algebraics"). It also has an editor which allows you to enter algebraic expressions in a format close to textbook-style formatting. The CAS is a set of functions operating on such algebraics, to perform symbolic simplifications, compute symbolic derivatives/integrals and solve symbolic equations. It can even compute the eigenvalues of symbolic matrices. The kind of stuff you'd otherwise have to do on a sheet of paper. You can also apply most of these functions right away in the equation writer.

I still remember how I was puzzled the first time I turned on my brand-new 49G, entered the calculation PI 4 / SIN, and got the result 'SQRT(2)/2'. ;-) That happens because the calc, by default, is operating in "exact" (as opposed to "approximate", i.e., numeric) mode and therefore tries to compute the exact result using symbolic simplifications. If that doesn't work out (i.e., you typed an expression which cannot be simplified), you can still get the numeric result quickly with the ->NUM function. Or you switch over to approximate mode and get the usual numeric results right away.

A tutorial listing (almost) all commands the 49G CAS, with simple examples, is available here: http://www.hpcalc.org/details.php?id=4562. And of course there are Gilberto Urroz' books, I already gave the reference in another thread.

Albert

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On a very positive note about HP collecting:
*Message #1 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 5 Dec 2001, 4:20 p.m.*

To HP Forum:

As a psychiatrist, as well as an avid HP calculator fan, I may be a little more qualified to make this observation. Or not. But here it is:

I've been re-involved with this hobby for over 18 months, now. During this time, I have made contacts and friends through this forum, and by contacting my "competitors" on eBay. Everyone has been geniunely interested in helping me with this pursuit. Invaluable amounts of help and information have been shared with me on this forum.

Recently, when I expressed a need for some parts (an ACT chip), an offer was made by a forum member to send them to me. When I asked what he wanted for them and offered postage, his reply was. "Take what you need. Tell the world how it goes, and then pass them along to someone else. Let me know how it turns out!" (essentially)

I now believe that, for some reason, for the most part, the people who have traits that make them value and collect HP calculators are also people who seem to have many other very wonderful traits. I have met some of the most friendly, bright, caring, sharing, honest, giving, and patient people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing.

With all the bad or "negative" news about the changes in the calculator industry, etc., I felt it important and wanted to share this observation.

I can't imagine a group of people could have better qualities than those who spend time on this forum. (except maybe a forum involving something to do with naked co-eds playing volleyball... Just kidding. There's hundreds of those, and only one HP Forum!)

HP collectors ROCK!

Have a great day, and happy programming, Michael

Re: On a very positive note about HP collecting:
*Message #2 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 5 Dec 2001, 9:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michael Meyer, M.D.

i'm showing that last post to the wife. all that time soldering on and programing useless old antiques has to be ok if a shrink says its good. btw michael; do you have a web address for any of thoes other worthy forums?

> **Re: On a very positive note about HP collecting:**
> *Message #3 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 5 Dec 2001, 11:18 p.m.,*
> *in response to message #2 by db(martinez,california)*
>
> db,
>
> I'll look up those other forums! I felt a little strange when I started this hobby. It was actually a patient of mine that said, "gee, Doc, is that any different than people restoring old cars or old furniture?"
>
> Since then, I've decided that any hobby can be useful to help people stay sane and happy; an escape from the everyday stressful stuff. As my hobbies have come, gone, and changed, this has been my favorite.
>
> Michael

Re: On a very positive note about HP collecting:
*Message #4 Posted by **Bill Wiese** on 7 Dec 2001, 3:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michael Meyer, M.D.

I've noticed the cameraderie here - and it's quite similar to what I find in other well-focused interest groups in which I'm involved (ham radio, firearms). Not really unique - I think that when smart, focused, like-minded folks get together for serious hobby interests there's a lot of openness & generosity. Much different than prof organizations where folks are fighting for stature, fortune (survival?)...

-Bill

Re: On a very positive note about HP collecting:

*Message #5 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 7 Dec 2001, 9:14 p.m.,*

in response to message #4 by Bill Wiese

Bill,

Thanks for the "reality check." I'm glad to hear you've encountered the same positives in other forums. I didn't mean to sound too exclusive.... but I still think there's a connection between people who appreciate HP calcs and other positive qualities. But then, I might be a little bit biased.

Cheers, Michael

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HP-71B ROM Transfers - Possible? How?
*Message #1 Posted by **Mike** on 5 Dec 2001, 10:43 a.m.*

Say I have an application ROM. Can that data be transferred to a file, say on a Digital Data Drive or battery backed up RAM, such that:

1) if stored on the Digital Data Drive, it can be downloaded to a RAM Module and executed as if it were the original ROM

OR

2) if it is transferred to a battery backed up RAM be executed as if it were in the original ROM?

Is there such a transfer program or process? Where?

Thanks,

Re: HP-71B ROM Transfers - Possible? How?
*Message #2 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel** on 5 Dec 2001, 3:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Mike

PEEK$ prohibits peeking out of protected files. There were some special tools (for example a PEEK$ without this check) and some copy programs (I believe).

Normally you create a TEXT file in the same size, peek the data out of the protexted source file nibble for nibble and poke it into the text file. Then you change the file header of the text file to the type of the original file and you have a perfext copy. You can do this file for file.

Remember, that non-protected files can be copied simply with COPY. This method doesn't work with the FORTH/Assembler and the translator ROM.

I can check my collection of software and send you such a program.

Is it a special module or one of the common HP ROMs ?

Wasn't there a simple way
*Message #3 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 5 Dec 2001, 3:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Reinhard Hawel

Reinhard,

I copied the Text Formatter from ROM and made a listing. It wasn't using PEEK's, I'm just not that good (smart, experienced). So, what other simple command would do the same?

Joe

Re: Wasn't there a simple way
*Message #4 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel (Austria)** on 6 Dec 2001, 3:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Joe Panico

This ROM isn't protected, I believe. I'll check some of my ROMs later.

Then it's surely easiest to use COPY . Seems I'm thinking a little too complicated.

Re: Wasn't there a simple way
*Message #5 Posted by **J-F Garnier** on 7 Dec 2001, 6:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Reinhard Hawel (Austria)

The easiest way is to use the ROMCOPY function (ROMCOPY lex I believe) that was made by HP. You can save an entire ROM image on disk, then load it in a RAM module.

Re: Wasn't there a simple way
*Message #6 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel** on 11 Dec 2001, 5:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by J-F Garnier

Hey thanks, that was the name. Seems it's a lot easier now to find the file on my disks...

Re: Wasn't there a simple way

*Message #7 Posted by **Christian Dehnke** on 13 Dec 2001, 2:51 p.m.,*

in response to message #5 by J-F Garnier

Hi, I found the romcopy lex but I did not found the parameter description. Can somebody send them to me (us)? Thanks a lot, Chris

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48sx display problem
*Message #1 Posted by **Glenn** on 4 Dec 2001, 9:02 p.m.*

My 48sx has a blemish (bluish area) in the lower right hand corner of the display with the calc on or off. Unfortunately the blemish blocks the third and fourth digits of any numbers on the first and second lines. Any ideas on fixes or replacements of the display?

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Indonesian HP's
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 4 Dec 2001, 11:53 a.m.*

Hello everyone,

Firstly, thanks for all the recent help on choosing an HP.

Now that I have decided what to buy, I have found out that the supplier in UK only has HP's built in Indonesia.

Recently some of the group have warned of the poor quality of these machines - should I buy them?

Thanks very much, David

Re: Indonesian HP's
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 4 Dec 2001, 12:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi,

>Recently some of the group have warned >of the poor quality >of these machines > - should I buy them? > if the price is right;-) For me as a collector the Indonesian HP's aren't worth too much, even if new.

But seriously, better an Indonesian HP than no HP.

Regards,

Raymond

Better an Indonesian HP than no HP
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 4 Dec 2001, 12:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Wise words, Raymond; wise words...

Re: Indonesian HP's
*Message #4 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 4 Dec 2001, 4:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

I've got a newish 19BII made in Indonesia. Personally I find the quality, fit & finish to be... well...perfect. Perhaps I was lucky.

I also have a 13 year old, USA made 28S (same case style as the 19B) which creaks and groans. I haven't owned the 28 from new so I can't comment on how much of that is down to wear-and-tear. The acid test will be how the 19B feels in 13 years time. I guess you can't wait that long!

Bear in mind that most people here are very picky (in a good sense) and an Indonesian made HP is still a better product than one from other manufacturers.

Re: Indonesian HP's
*Message #5 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 4 Dec 2001, 6:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi,

I don't know about the 48GX models from Indonesia, but I have a ID93... 49G. All in all, it's a nice machine, with two minor quirks:

- the screencover scratches *very* easily
- some people complain about the keyboard (rubber keys!)

The 49Gs manufactured in China reportedly improve on this, at the expense of a color finish which makes the labels besides the keys more difficult to read. See http://groups.google.com/groups?q=chinese&hl=en&meta=group%3Dcomp.sys.hp48 for more info.

Just out of curiosity: What calc did you decide for? I would have voted for getting both a 49G (it's faster, much builtin RAM, improved ROM) *and* a 48GX (extensible, IR port, nice keyboard).

Albert

Re: Indonesian HP's
*Message #6 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 4 Dec 2001, 7:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Albert Graef

Hello,

In response to Albert's question: I chose an HP32SII for children's use in school, as graphical calc's are not allowed; and the HP48G+ for other work. I haven't ordered them yet, as I wanted to listen to the group's opinion on build quality.

I would have been very happy to buy the HP49 istead of the 48, but I think that I would be annoyed by the keyboard - although I've never actually seen either machine as I am no where near any suppliers.

I don't have a lot of experience with recent HP calc's. Ive owned an HP55 which always had keyboard problems; an HP29c which had really quite a short life, again through keyboard problems. The only HP I've got at the moment is an HP41CV which was made in Singapore in 1981. The HP41CV still works perfectly, but I have no other HP machine to act as a reserve.

I'm sad that HP are getting out of the calc business, just as I started to get interested in their more modern machines.

I always take far too long to reach buying decisions, and always expect problems with new items.

Thanks, David

Re: Indonesian HP's (+ random musings on high-end calcs)
*Message #7 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 5 Dec 2001, 3:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by David H Thompson

Personally I think that the keyboard of the 49G is not that bad, at least when compared to the competition. The keys, while rubber, are of good quality. Some ppl have reported problems with the keys being too hard to press, or with the labels peeling off, but I never experienced this. I do prefer the "feel" of the old style keys as well, but the keyboard *layout* of the 49G is actually more effective than that of the 48 series. (With the exception of the position and size of the ENTER key, I think that most die-hard HP fans will complain about this.)

Concerning the 32sii: I don't have one, but I've been using a 32s for some ten years now, it's a nice little machine and everything that's needed for basic number crunching. In fact, it *was* everything I needed in a calculator for quite some time.

However, the 48/49 calcs are an entirely different class, they're really little computers with the convenience of a calculator interface. It's hard to come up with a mathematical problem which can't be tackled with these machines. Except for the problem scale, of course -- after all they are still calculators, not workstations. ;-)

Another big plus is that the serial interface makes it easy to manage a big program library on your PC. There also is a large and avid user community out there, and you can take advantage of the huge collection of excellent free software on http://www.hpcalc.org. Programming these calcs in RPL (a kind of functional programming language, but with HP's RPN logic) is *lots* of fun. I didn't have so much fun in programming for quite some time.

Obviously, I also regret that HP has stopped calc development. :(But let's face it: many young ppl today grow up with PCs instead of calcs, and calcs simply do not play the same role in computing any more as some 20-30 years ago, when they were the *only* affordable personal computing device. In my youth, I was an avid fan of these handheld devices, and in fact the early programmables are one major reason that I got into math and computer science. I must admit that I'm also guilty of only recently rediscovering calcs as an alternative which prevents me from having to stare at PC screens all day. I just hope that HP will eventually release the 49G ROM to the public, so that someone can pick up where they left off, and create the next RPN super calc. And that my HP calcs last at least until the day this dream comes true. :)

Re: Indonesian HP's (+ random musings on high-end calcs)
*Message #8 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 5 Dec 2001, 9:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Albert Graef

do i understand you in saying that the 49's reprogramable operating system could turn it into a ... well, a mega 41 with a huge screen for instance? cool. wish i was that smart.

Re: Indonesian HP's (+ random musings on high-end calcs)
*Message #9 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 5 Dec 2001, 11:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by db(martinez,california)

Actually, there is a true microcode emulator for the 41C/CV/CX which runs on both the 48 and the 49G, see http://www.hpcalc.org/details.php?id=321. I haven't tried it yet, but reportedly it does everything including synthetic programming, and on a 49G it's about 90% faster than a real 41.

Albert

Re: Indonesian HP's
*Message #10 Posted by **Edwin Russell** on 5 Dec 2001, 11:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi David,

I've just bought a 32SII here in England. Apart from two minor criticisms described here:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/forum.cgi?read=12743

I'm very pleased with it. It is made in Indonesia but in the couple of weeks I've had it it seems perfect. It is my first HP calculator.

I too am very sad to learn that HP is pulling out of calculators just as I moved to one of theirs. I am an electronics design engineer, and the next time I meet an HP rep I will give him/her an earful.

All the best with your new aquisitions. Edwin Russell - UK.

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HP-33c rattles
*Message #1 Posted by **Bert Oberholz** on 4 Dec 2001, 9:28 a.m.*

Hi there,

I just bought a 33c at eBay (don't ask me how much I paid ;-) which is in very good condition. It almost looks brand new. After I replaced the batteries, which ran out a bit, it works fine. The only problem for me: It makes a ratteling sound similary to a match box when I shake it. The sound seems to come from the keys (not from loose parts). I have also a 32e (which looks almost identical) that doesn't make that sound.

Any idea what I can do? Please don't tell me not to shake it ;-) Is there a way to fix the keyboard? I don't want to open the case unless I'm shure that a can do something useful...

Kind regards Bert Oberholz

Re: HP-33c rattles
*Message #2 Posted by **Erik Wahlin** on 4 Dec 2001, 11:46 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bert Oberholz

There is a foam pad that lies under the keys. It may be missing for some reason on your machine.

Re: HP-33c rattles
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 4 Dec 2001, 5:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bert Oberholz

In my experience all the Spice series calculator keyboards rattle. Some more than others, but they all rattle.

Re: HP-33c rattles
*Message #4 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 4 Dec 2001, 6:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by David Smith

Do old-construction machines rattle more than the newer ones (with a real PCB)? Testing 3 machines here suggests that the 2 older ones (a 33C and 32E) rattle a bit more than the newer one (a 32E again, but with missing parts). That's nowhere near a representative sample. of course. As regards opening up the machine, the Spice series is one you can open without having to peal off labels, etc, so you can do it without damaging the appearance of the machine. If it rattles excessively then you might want to take off the bottom case to see if there's anything loose inside. Openning Spice machines has been covered here many times, but here you are again. Remove the battery cover and battery pack; Undo the 2 screws in the battery compartment; Place your thumbs in the battery compartment, your fingers on the front edge of the top case, and squeeze (the idea is to slide the bottom case towards the front (non-display end) of the machine); When you hear a click, the cases have separated, so carefully lift off the bottom case, ensuring it doesn't damage the battery contacts.

Re: HP-33c rattles
*Message #5 Posted by **Bert Oberholz** on 7 Dec 2001, 2:14 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Bert Oberholz

Hi Erik, David, Tony,

thanks for the information.

Bert

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9915a
*Message #1 Posted by **ronnie driggers** on 4 Dec 2001, 8:51 a.m.*

Does anyone know if a 9915a can be connected to a hp-85 so the keyboard and monitor of the 85 will work the tape drive of the 9915a.

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Wickes' Synthetic PRGM for the HP41
*Message #1 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 3 Dec 2001, 9:08 a.m.*

Hi;

that's a bit off-topic, but I would like asking for a favor from one good soul of yours.

I was once given a photocopy (I do not do that, but a gift is a gift...) of the famous Synthetic Programming for the HP41C (W.C.Wickes), that I keep in a place I thought as safe. After digging my old stuff, I found it and... where is the last page? That tricky Poe's version of The Crow for the HewPack World is lost.

Dave, if you allow to, would anyone post it here OR send (if scanned, no matter) this piece of art to my e-mail? I remember reading it and wondering how to write poems in English... They sound as deep and funny as the author wants to.

Thanks and forgive-me running a bit out of our first purpose.

Re: Wickes' Synthetic PRGM for the HP41
*Message #2 Posted by **Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)** on 3 Dec 2001, 1:13 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

KEYBOARDLOCKY

'Twas octal, and the synthetic codes
were scanned without a loss.
In and out of PRGM mode,
Byte-jumpers nybbled the CMOS.

"Beware 0 STO c, my son,
The MEMORY LOST, the keyboard lock.
Beware the NNN, and shun
The curious phase 1 clock."

He took his black box codes in hand,
Long time the backwards goose he sought;
The secret beast from Aitchpee land--
All searches came to nought.

In demented thought he stood, and then:
The goose, with LCD's alight,
A leap for every LBL 10,
Came honking left-to-right!

STO b! STO d!, and RCL P!
His keyboard went clickety-clack.
With the proper code in number mode
The goose came flapping back.

"And hast thou found the phantom fowl?
Come to my arms, my binary boy.
Let Corvallis hear us howl
As we chortle in our joy!"

'Twas octal, and the synthetic codes
Were scanned without a loss.
In and out of PRGM mode,
Byte-jumpers nybbled the CMOS.

--Apologies to Lewis Carroll

...and **my** apologies for any transcription error.

Luiz let me know if you want a scan of the page.

Greetings,
Massimo

Keyboardlocky - Thanks, Gnerucci!
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 3 Dec 2001, 2:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Massimo Gnerucci (Italy)

Hi, Massimo;

thank you very much. Mostly for the kind transcription.

I am trully thanked for the transcription; as I have lost the page itself, I´ll print it the way it's typed.

If you really can scan the page and send to my e-mail, I'll be very gratefull.

I am now confused; in which poem is this one based? And who wrote it?

Best regards.

Re: Keyboardlocky - Thanks, Gnerucci!
*Message #4 Posted by **Bill Wiese** on 3 Dec 2001, 3:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

"Keyboardlocky" is derived from Lewis Carroll's poem "Jabberwocky" (from "Through the Looking Glass" which, I believe, followed "Alice in Wonderland".

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Hp-19BII, S Function
*Message #1 Posted by **Jim Kimes** on 2 Dec 2001, 6:58 p.m.*

Can someone tell me if the S function, as described on page 236 of the manual, will take only two nests? I tried it using three decisions and the invalid message kept pointing to the third : (colon). I presumed then that my problem was the nesting limit. I wrote other equations with two nests and they worked fine. If this is the case, are there any suggestions how I might make an equation more complex, circumventing the nesting limit? Thanks. Jim Kimes

Re: Hp-19BII, S Function
*Message #2 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 3 Dec 2001, 12:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jim Kimes

Jim:

I have used more than two levels of nesting (look at the recent post I made to the "Articles" section regarding the FMRR program---at the end).

Can you write-out the program (or at least the offending section) and post it? My guess is that you have some other syntax problem (missing or extra paretheses), and the 19BII is choosing to error on the colon.

Hopefully I understand the problem, but if I'm incorrect, please post back!

Bruce.

Re: Hp-19BII, S Function

*Message #3 Posted by **Jim Kimes** on 5 Dec 2001, 9:51 a.m.,*

in response to message #2 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Bruce:

Below is the equation I'm trying to use. What's strange is that the equation works if I remove the middle leg and it works if I remove the third leg, but doesn't work if I use all three.

IF(S(OPPROF):OPPROF-SHx(((SPx(1-SC)+OPx(1-OC-(PPx(1+SC))))):RET-OPPROF/((SHxPP)x(1+SC)))=0

The above is the formula that works now. But if I try to add the number of days application, it balks. However, if I take out the middle leg and add the number of days function, it works; same syntax. Must be what you say, a parentheses problem or something of that nature.

IF(S(OPPROF):OPPROF-SHx(((SPx(1-SC)+OPx(1-OC-(PPx(1+SC))))):RET-OPPROF/((SHxPP)x(1+SC): ANRET-((365/DDAYS(D1:D2:1))xRET)))=0

A sample problem would be:

SH = number of shares; SP = strike price of stock; SC = stock commissions; OC = Options commissions; PP = purchase of stock; OPPROF = profit on an options transactions if stock is called. So, if SH = 1,000; SP = $25.00; SC = .015; OC = .05; OP = $1.05; PP = $23.65; D2 = 12/21/01 and D1 = 11/23/01, solving this problem OPPROF = $1,617.75; RET = 6.74%; and ANRET (annualized return)= 87.9%

It will be interesting to see what you get. Jim Kimes

Re: Hp-19BII, S Function
*Message #4 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 6 Dec 2001, 4:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Jim Kimes

Jim:

I think I see it, but I want to make sure! I'll have the answer for you tomorrow afternoon (just too busy today!).

Bruce.

Re: Hp-19BII, S Function
*Message #5 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 7 Dec 2001, 6:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Jim Kimes

Jim:

Here are the alterations to your equation that I made. You did, indeed, have a few parentheses errors, as well as confusion with the "S" function. I changed the names of some of the variables, just to give you some ideas of naming conventions I like for clarity. One thing I like is to always enter percent values in percent, rather than a fraction. This is what I did in your equation, but if you are trained to use fractional values, than you will want to take out the "%" symbols in the names, and take out all the "divide by 100" instances in the equation. I also show you a technique to re-order your variables. Finally, you do not need the "=0" at the end, the machine will assume that.

I also remember seeing a technique to produce multiple results at once, which is really what you want here. If I can find it, I will post it.

For clarity, I use "_mult_" for the multiplication symbol, and "_div_" for the division symbol in the listing.

The program starts with "SELLING~CALLS:" followed by two spaces (for name readability), then key in the rest of the program without the white-space.

```
SELLING~CALLS:


0_mult_
SP$_mult_
```

```
PP$_mult_
SC%_mult_
OP$_mult_
OC%_mult_
SH#_mult_
DAT1_mult_
DAT2+


IF(S(PRO$):
   PRO$-
   SH#_mult_(
      SP$_mult_(
         1-SC%_div_100
      )+
      OP$_mult_(
         1-OC%_div_100
      )-
      PP$_mult_(
         1+SC%_div_100
      )
   )
:
   IF(S(RTN%):
      RTN%_div_100-
      PRO$_div_(
         SH#_mult_
         PP$_mult_(
            1+SC%_div_100
         )
      )
   :
      ANN%_div_100-(
         365_div_
         DDAYS(D1:D2:1)_mult_
         RTN%_div_100
      )
   )
)
```

I checked the formula on my 19BII with the parameters you sent me, and I get the same

results:

----------Jim wrote:---------- A sample problem would be:

SH = number of shares; SP = strike price of stock; SC = stock commissions; OC = Options commissions; PP = purchase of stock; OPPROF = profit on an options transactions if stock is called. So, if SH = 1,000; SP = $25.00; SC = .015; OC = .05; OP = $1.05; PP = $23.65; D2 = 12/21/01 and D1 = 11/23/01, solving this problem OPPROF = $1,617.75; RET = 6.74%; and ANRET (annualized return)= 87.9%

It will be interesting to see what you get. Jim Kimes ----------

Let me know how it works out, Bruce.

Re: Hp-19BII, S Function

*Message #6 Posted by **Jim Kimes** on 8 Dec 2001, 8:54 a.m.,*

in response to message #5 by W. Bruce Maguire II

Bruce, I have not had a chance to analyze totally what you're saying in your Dec 7 posting; however, I revisited the problem while my wife watched QVC and when I finally realized what I was doing wrong, I felt abysmally stupid. I was leaving out the second IF(S) condition. What was so dumb is that I write conditional equations in Excel all the time and I know that with each nest I must have another IF. So I inserted that with a couple of other tweaks and here is what I came up with and it works beautifully. I appreciate the work you put in and will respond to your suggestions when I digest them.

IF(S(OPPROF):OPPROF-(SHx((SPx(1-SC)+(OPx(1-OC)-(PPx(1+SC))))))):IF(S(RET):RET-OPPROF/((SHxPP)x(1+SC)): ANRET-RETx(365/DDAYS(D1:D2:1))))=0

Now, when I fill in all variables I can obtain my option profit, my interim return and my annualized return. With further addendums I'm sure I could build in a method of obtaining IRR, also. Thanks, again. Jim Kimes

Re: Hp-19BII, S Function

*Message #7 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 8 Dec 2001, 11:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Jim Kimes

Jim:

You're very welcome. Please do take a look at the code I listed, as I think it makes a few significant improvements. If nothing else, I think you'll be interested in the technique for ordering the variable buttons (put them in the order you want (for entering data) up-front and multiply all of them by zero). Also, you may want to consider the other way of handling percentage variables and adding symbols tot he variable names to alleviate confusion.

Bruce.

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Purchase 48 or 49?
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 2 Dec 2001, 1:26 p.m.*

Hello,

I would be very grateful if the group could advise me on choosing an HP graphical calculator: 48 or 49 (before stocks are exhausted).

Uses: maths, electronics, physics: all at advanced level.

Thanks very much, David

Re: Purchase 48 or 49?
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Dec 2001, 2:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi;

If I`m the one to buy, I`d buy an HP48G+ or HP48GX.

If we are considering keyboard operation, daily use, documentation, display readability and easy-of-use, no contest: 48G series. (I bought a new, dark-dots LCD 48G+: the same fella - R_version ROM- with a better reading). The HP49 has a few handicaps that one can work out, but it's bigger memory and reloadable O.S. have their own effect. Despite the price, that is about the double (two 48`s at the price of a 49? Yes!) Some will say: HP 49G.

But you did not mention money, easy-of-use nor documentation, just the areas you want to use. In this case both are extremely good. You must consider the Computer Algebra System available at the 49G and the Equation Library, available at the 48G and loadable in the 49G. Consider both able to attend your needs. For me, the choice rests in usability. Have you ever used an HP RPN-based calculator before and liked it, the 48 is the choice. If it doesn't matter, the 49 may serve you as well.

Cheers.

Re: Purchase 48 or 49?
*Message #3 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 2 Dec 2001, 4:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hello,

Thanks Vieira, Luiz C. for advice. In reply to some of your questions: I've used HP55, HP29c and at present an HP41cv.

I'm buying for my childrens' and my own use. In exams my children will be restricted to non-graphical calculators - I think the HP32sii would be the correct choice for them. They have been using my HP41cv, and although it is working perfectly, I think some sort of backup would be wise.

By reading the postings, I realise that the 48 and 49 are incredibly sophisticated, and I should probably buy before they are unavailable.

At first I thought of getting a 15c of 42, but I don't think the prices they are being offered for are 'fair' - except maybe to a collector. I don't like the way the HPs are sold on Ebay.

One last thought, if it is to be a 48, would the group advise that the extendable one should be chosen?

Thanks very much, David

Re: Purchase 48 or 49?
*Message #4 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 2 Dec 2001, 5:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by David H Thompson

If it is for your children and they are still Junior or High school, it is tough choice and I will state a few probably obvious points.

1st: if they have used RPN and like it, consider two 48's, a lowly 48g for less than $50 and a better 48G+ or X.

The 128K Ram is nice in higher math and science courses, but only used for games at the Junior High level and the way calcs get treated by kids, well, if you get only a gx and break it, there just may not be a replacement at that time available.

If your kids haven't developed a deep appreciation for Hp's just yet, the 49 is selectable and more stylish. It has much more RAM and it has a CAS. It doesn't look or feel like the Hp's of old. However, the keyboard though rubber feels pretty good, it doesn't feel like an Hp either. Do not confuse an Hp39 with the Hp49, as it is algebraic only and its keyboard is not as good as a 49 rubber keyboard. I would also venture to say that the 49 might just be tougher than a 48 for general book bag use. 48's sometimes had LCD screen breakage and the 49 has an acrilic clear screen over the LCD.

If you can look at them side by side and keep in mind that the 48 has about 2000 functions and the 49 has maybe 10-20% more. You can load a CAS on the 48 if you need one (it is an earlier release of the 49's CAS actually, same author).

I own both and find that I use the 48 more, but I like where the enter key is, whereas the 49 put the enter key in bottom right corner. If you are just starting out ie your kid, this probably isn't a problem, but to an old dog, it's just one more hard trick to relearn.

As for your thoughts about a 15 or 42, well the hard reality is that a 48 is ten times more powerful for 1/2 the $$$. It is not a pocket calc, but that is the breaks. You can still buy Hp32s (I haven't really checked, I just haven't heard of them being pulled from stores).

Just my $0.02

Re: Purchase 48 or 49?

Message #5 Posted by ***Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)*** *on 2 Dec 2001, 8:25 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by David H Thompson

Hi;

after Ron`s more-than-profitable US$0.02, just a few words to say.

If you are about to buy one of each G+ or GX, I must tell you that expandability will be needed in some cases. As both G+ and GX can be connected to a PC/MAC WS, having the Connectivity Kit will allow the user to enhance indefinitely the calculator's memory limits. Otherwise, if you -or any of your children- intend using PCM-CIA cards with prerecorded applications, the G+ will never allow it: GX is the choice. And 128KB RAM is a lot of memory. I have a 48SX (32KB RAM) and for daily use, and the 32KB are more than enough. Just a matter of memory management, unless you intend to use it to collect data in the field without a mass-storage device (a lap/palmtop, for example...)

Hope it helps.

Cheers.

Re: Purchase 48 or 49?
*Message #6 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 4 Dec 2001, 4:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Dave,

I use my 48 daily and would recommend a GX because, who knows, your or the kids may get the bug to see how much you can program into these and extra memory is a plus. Now, for the grand finally .... ITS GOT A BIG ENTER KEY! At least it still seems an HP! Geeze, we're purists here!

Joe

Re: Purchase 48 or 49?
*Message #7 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 5 Dec 2001, 12:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Joe Panico

dave; i agree with joe (but that's not joe's fault). if you are going to have just one 48 then the ability to add memory and run a rom on it is important.

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Dim LED on 33E
*Message #1 Posted by **Rhahm** on 2 Dec 2001, 12:17 p.m.*

The second LED digit on my 33E is dim compared to the rest. I tried cleaning the back of the LED component with alcohol without success.

Is there a simple fix?

Thanks,

RH

Re: Dim LED on 33E
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 2 Dec 2001, 1:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Rhahm

If this machine used the older form of construction (ICs clamped to a flexible PCB, not soldered), then take it apart. Unclip the logic assembly from the top case (be careful not to scatter keys everywhere!), then take the metal clips off the sides of the assembly and, with the keyboard face upermost, lift off the PCB/chassis plate assembly from the plastic IC holder. The display will probably fall off at this point. Clean the pins of the display and all the pads on the flexible PCB with propan-2-ol (isopropyl alcohol). You can also carefully clean the pins on the processor chip (the 40 pin one). Reassamble the machine (the ICs all fit with the pin 1 end -- the notched end -- towards the display). Make sure the slide switch contacts are correctly fitted when clipping the logic assembly back into the top case. Try it again. If that doesn't help,, then the fault is either the display itself, or or less likely the processor chip.

Re: Dim LED on 33E

*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 2 Dec 2001, 4:42 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Rhahm

I have two spice series machines with the same type problem (one soldered, one compression). The problem seems to be in the CPU chip. The compression unit does the same thing with a different LED display. Contacts are all OK. I don't have another CPU chip to try though. I assume the soldered unit has the same fault. Let us know if you can get yours up and running again... I'd like to get mine working.

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Quality of HP calcs. made in different countries
*Message #1 Posted by **Iqbal** on 2 Dec 2001, 4:21 a.m.*

I just obtained a mint HP42S made in the USA in 1988. I have owned a lot of replacement HP42S made in Indonesia [1999 and 2000] and a couple made in Singapore [1991 and 1993]. To be honest, I find the one made in the US feels to be perfect in construction and the buttons are just so crisp and smooth. The calculators I have that were made in Indonesia, are new but still don't feel as perfect as the one made in the US. Even the screen looks a better quality, with a flat clear plastic over the LCD that improves, in my opinion, it's clarity. Should the quality of a calculator vary because of the country it was manufactured? Or am I just overwhelmed with my new US toy?

Re: Quality of HP calcs. made in different countries
*Message #2 Posted by **Mike Sebastian (Texas)** on 2 Dec 2001, 10:52 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Iqbal

IMHO, the US made HP calculators are the highest quality, with those made in Singapore being a very close second. The fit and finish is beautiful. The Indonesian HPs are inferior - the cases don't fit together as well, the key legends are only painted on, the bends on the metal bezel around the keyboard and display are not as sharp.

With regard to your new 42S, I have a 42S made in Singapore with the same older style display. Yes, it is a nicer looking display than that found on later 42S machines.

So, to answer both of your questions: Yes, the US made calculators are the highest quality. And, yes, you are infatuated with your new toy. Enjoy!

Re: Quality of HP calcs. made in different countries
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Dec 2001, 12:33 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Iqbal

Hi; *(hello, Iqbal. Good news comming soon...)*

You got the perfect comparison environment: the same calculator being produced in different countries. Brazil no longer produces HewPack`s, so I cannot say any about news. The fact USA has the highest quality, I believe it is mandatory (or not?). I have a 41CX and a 16C, both Made in USA (these models have not been produced/commercialized in Brasil) and a 15C, a 28S and a 41CV Made in Brazil. I cannot compare, but I had my 15C three times at the sales office to be replaced, and the 41CV, two times. Neither the CX nor the 16C needed repair... at least, till today.

Cosmetics: look and keyboard feeling are the same for them.

Cheers.

Re: Quality of HP calcs. made in different countries
*Message #4 Posted by **Juan J** on 2 Dec 2001, 11:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I agree. US-made calculators are simply the best, with Singapore-made ones as a very close second.

I have an Indonesian 48GX that looks cheap and feels like an ordinary calculator. Had to buy it to replace a Singapore-made I lost that was much better. And I don't mind if I lose it or it braks.

As of previous models, a US-made 41C I bought just needed a fresh set of batteries to light up. It was made in 1980 and worked just fine after 21 years. The best thing about it is the crispy feel of the keyboard. Just like new, I think.

Presumably calculators are now made in Indonesia and China because of lower cost, but quality has been sacrified. Cheap may sometimes imply poor quality.

Re: Quality of HP calcs. made in different countries
*Message #5 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 2 Dec 2001, 11:52 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Juan J

My HP-67 that's had all sorts of problems was made in Singapore. My others, have no problems, and were made in the USA. Coincidence?

Re: Quality of HP calcs. made in different countries
*Message #6 Posted by **John Kono (WA-US)** on 4 Dec 2001, 2:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Iqbal

Heh! Now you know why I bought *two* of them from you. :^)

It's also a good example of what happens when the bean-counters become the top-level decision makers in a company. The script looks something like this:

Bean-Counter 1: Our margins are slipping! We need to cut production costs. Ideas?

Bean-Counter 2: Well, reducing part count to streamline manufacturing and relaxing the tolerances on materials will also lower unit cost, driving up margins--

B-C 1: --And our bottom line! I love it!

Engineer: Won't that reduce quality? People buy our products because they last forever and--

B-C 2: You're right! It will also generate repeat business! And moving production overseas -- and away from the engineering staff -- will reduce the number of manufacturing changes we will need to make--

E: But, we need to issue engineering changes to fix problems and--

B-C 1: *(ignoring E. and completing B-C 2's thought)* --Further lowering costs! Double win!

B-C 1 and B-C 2 grin and high-five.

E: *(pounding head on desk)* Just . . . shoot . . . me . . .

LOL!! Right on target, John!!
*Message #7 Posted by **glynn** on 4 Dec 2001, 10:40 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by John Kono (WA-US)

I laugh, but it is too true.

John, you've opened the floodgates
*Message #8 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 4 Dec 2001, 12:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by glynn

Washington(AP): The Bush administration announced plans today to move the nations government off shore. "We looked at various options, cutting taxes, cutting programs, etc and concluded that the best choice was to move the Capitol to the Pacific Rim" the President announced today from the Rose Garden. Bush cited successes from the corporate world, companies such as IBM, GE, Levi, and HP. "These companies continue their strong traditionable of quailty products, for the consumer, and strong returns to investors, a benefit for the Market." Which departments or even which body of Congress is first to go were unclear. So fear a lessoning of the overall quality of service provided, but the recent success of Austrialian moves served as an example of what to expect for the future, administration sources commented. "I can promise a seamless transition" Bush predicted.

hah!
*Message #9 Posted by **Bill Wiese** on 4 Dec 2001, 2:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Joe Panico

"The Bush administration announced plans today to move the nations government off shore. "We looked at various options..."

Not a bad idea, actually. Barring needed cutbacks, at least half our gov't should be moved away from us as far as possible ;-) so their pervasive negative effects can be reduced. I and many others can do without the IRS, BATF, DEA, and the Rooseveltian legacy Depts. of Commerce, Agriculture, Energy, much of the EPA, along with their mini duplicates in state gov'ts...

-Bill Wiese -San Mateo, CA

Re: John, you've opened the floodgates

*Message #10 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 5 Dec 2001, 12:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Joe Panico

joe; i don't quite understand: does this mean they are going to bring back the u.s. government to somewhere on earth? i'm all for it. it's been a while.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP41 Battery
*Message #1 Posted by **Friedrich Schraft** on 30 Nov 2001, 2:39 p.m.*

I need a rechargeable battery pack, or a holder for the alkaline batteries for the HP 41. Any help would be very much appreciated. Fred

Re: HP41 Battery
*Message #2 Posted by **iqbal** on 1 Dec 2001, 3:49 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Friedrich Schraft

It might be a little expensive, but here is one:

http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=1302467161

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Calculator restrictions in schools
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 29 Nov 2001, 11:15 p.m.*

Hello group,

I am posting from Scotland where the use of calculators in science and maths in school exams is heavliy restricted.

Young adults in their final year before University are not allowed to use graphical calculators in exams. I can see that this is fair when a student has to use calculus to characterise stationary points in functions, but perhaps this says more about the Scottish outlook in science and maths. It is fair that better off students are unable to secure and advantage over poorer students, but perhaps the playing field should be levelled in a better way.

The fact that these calulators are barred has not lead to more time being spent on analysis, so there seems to be a double blow to students.

I am not thinking about reducing the emphasis on arithmetic and analytical skills, indeed without them a powerful calculator is meaningless; however, it's frightening to realise that students in Scotland in 2001 are restricted to calculators with the same funcionality as I used 20 years ago.

I write as a parent, and would be grateful to hear what other members of the group think.

Thanks very much, David

Re: Calculator restrictions in schools
*Message #2 Posted by **Ernie Malaga** on 30 Nov 2001, 2:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

David:

Your message reminded me of my troubles in college, back in 1974 in Lima, Peru. Back then, all calculators were forbidden (no exceptions). You were expected to use a SLIDE RULE, if you can imagine such a thing. A couple of years later the restriction was lifted and calculators started appearing here and there, much to everyone's relief.

Graphical calculators, of course, are an entirely different thing. For example, if college students are being tested for their knowledge of function maxima, a student with a graphical calculator has a device that allows him to cheat -- as if he were looking up the answers on someone else's test.

Then again, one wonders what's the use of learning to calculate function maxima (just to give an example) when a dumb calculator can do it in a small fraction of the time, and with much greater precision and dependability. It would be like expecting students to calculate cube roots by hand.

Cheers. -Ernie

Re: Calculator restrictions in schools
*Message #3 Posted by **Luca de Alfaro** on 30 Nov 2001, 4:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ernie Malaga

I actually have mixed feelings about the use of graphing calculators in schools. From what I see at the TI site, it seems much of calculus is reduced to learning recipes for having calculators do the job...

But there is also another reason why I am not sure I am in favor of graphing calculators in schools. Sure, if you give them a function, they draw it for you. By having to draw them myself, I quickly learned tricks to decompose functions, and especially, to analyze them mentally before drawing them. I can stare at one, and with a few calculations, graph it in my mind. This is not only fast, but is fundamental to the ability of _designing_ functions. Suppose you have to design a function that goes to zero here, has a "rounded" maximum there, and so forth. If you have always relied upon a calculator to draw functions for you, it's likely you don't know where to begin from - trial and error doesn't really work well. If you are used to decomposing and analyzing functions mentally, you can quickly assemble the proper ingredients. Moreover, how much does a small graph really tell you? It gives you

the outline of the function, but can you see from the graph which one is flatter at 0, x^2 or |x^3|?

On a related note, I wonder why people like and use so much these CAS systems. I can understand that people working out the equations of astronomical bodies need them, but this clearly does not explain all the use. What, then? I work with math every day. Usually, the difficulties I encounter are never related to pushing symbols around (gathering, factoring, whatever). The difficulties have to do with understanding whether a transformation is legal (can you exchange that limit with the summation?), or with how to decompose an expression in a fashion that opens the way to new manipulation (write a probability as the sum of probabilities conditioned by certain events, so that something turns out to be independent, and...). In other words, the symbol-pushing is really not the difficulty at all: understanding what to do with the expressions, or how to transform them, is. And I can't imagine that entering expressions in the slug-slow HP48 to do CAS is going to be faster than me doing it by hand with pencil and paper. I also like to have a record of the symbol-pushing, so I like to use pencil and paper anyway. Granted, I don't often have to do complicated integrals, but even for those, is HP48 CAS justified?

I do like graphing calculators, but I use the graphing part not to graph functions, but to plot data: statistical data, curve-fitting, experiment results, etc etc. To me, this is the real bonus of graphing calculators.

Luca

Re: Calculator restrictions in schools

*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 30 Nov 2001, 2:50 p.m.,*

in response to message #3 by Luca de Alfaro

Hi;

I'm a teacher (Computer Science, Math, Electronics, Telecomm) and I take a few classes for teaching how to use calculators. It's a tool. I tell the students that knowing the 'business' will lead to a correct reason; calculating correctly, will lead to a correct result. If reasoning depends on their knowledge - and it's expected it is up-to-date -, using the calculator will allow them to get results with enhanced precision.

Graphing calcs, anyway, allow text also, and there resides the problem: cheating, as mentioned by Ernie (Ola!). Cheating with a calculator that allows strings to be stored in variables is easy. This way, I allow any calculator in some tests, and I do not allow any in others (where reasoning is the focus). If a graphing calc IS to be used, then I allow students to form groups, so if at least one in a group has a graphing calc, the group will get to the final work. And I expect they will learn with each other.

I think this is fair.

Cheers.

Re: Calculator restrictions in schools
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 30 Nov 2001, 4:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

When I was taking a college calculus course taht covered limits, maxima, minima, etc I asked the professor if we could use a calculator on the exams. He looked a little puzzled and said "yes, but you will just be wasting your time".

I found it (HP25) a great tool to verify limits of functions. I would work the problem out and check the answer with the HP by substituting appropriate values (like 1E-20 or 1e20) in equations for x->0 or x->infinity. If the calculator gave a answer that matched mine all was well. If not I went back to check which was correct (almost always the HP).

After ace-ing the exams I showed the professor my use of the calculator and he was astounded. He did not think that numerical calculations would be of any use in such problems. He was most impressed with the abaility of the HP to produce meaningful results of functions as they approached extreme values (BTW, he had written several standard college texts and Schaums outlines on calculus and differential equations). He still allowed people to use calculators afterwards.

Re: Calculator restrictions in schools
*Message #6 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 30 Nov 2001, 10:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by David Smith

I remember an embarrassing moment due to using my calculator in college (1980). Taking statistics, I showed the professor that I'd programmed each distribution and formula into my calc, stored on magnetic cards. He'd announced that calculators were allowed in exams. I could make quick work of any statistical data.

In handing out the final, the professor announced to the entire class, "I wrote this exam with Mr. Meyer in mind." There was not a single problem to work on the final. Not one. Calculators, which sat on every desk, were of no help. Every question was based on theory.

Fortunately, I found that writing my own programs for math and physics also

taught me the the theories. I aced the exam. Since it was our last class, I never did find out how the other students fared. It was still VERY embarrassing. Someone from that class is probably still cursing me today...

I do believe that calculator use should be taught as part of math and physics courses. I remember the argument for not using them... "what if you don't have a calculator?" But the argument for using them is greater; it allows teaching of more advanced topics more quickly. (If people are allowed to use matches, they'll forget how to make fire....)

Michael

Re: Calculator restrictions in schools

*Message #7 Posted by **Luca de Alfaro** on 1 Dec 2001, 3:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Michael Meyer, M.D.

Perhaps I need to make more precise what I wrote. I was not questioning at all the use of calculators in general. I was simply wondering whether the graphing function was really desirable, or worth it. I also used calculators to check roots, limits, draw a quick graph by hand, or so. But just as it is useful to take a written exam in a foreign language without a dictionary, sometimes it may be useful to have to do calculus without graphing - having to imagine the functions. Sometimes mental gymnastics is useful. Some exams could allow graphing calculators, but just as it is still important that people know how to do division with pencil and paper, so it is important that they know how to see function graphs in their mind.

And on another note, I am wondering what people use those CAS systems on the HP48 for. Nobody around me is doing it... and given that the HP48 is so slow, do they really gain anything?

Luca

One interesting note, Luca.
*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 1 Dec 2001, 8:15 a.m., in response to message #7 by Luca de Alfaro*

Hi;

I have been thinking the same about CAS (you mentioned 48 meaning 49, right?). I read the User`s Guide and felt amazed with the new features. What in fact called my attention was: when using all of this? I think of CAS as the CISC version (Complex **Inserted** Set of **Curiosities**), whereas Equation Lib is RISC (**Reasonable Information Selected for Computation**}: focussed in the needs. As tht 49`s O.S. is reloadable, I used to believe future options would be available. That was before ACO got closed...

I beleive you expressed your thoughts precisely. As I have made, I believe others also expressed their own thoughts. Your words, for me, mean your thoughts are closed to mine: the calculator with all features is a tool. Using or not is up to the user.

Re: One interesting note, Luca.
*Message #9 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 1 Dec 2001, 10:31 p.m., in response to message #8 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)*

I have been thinking the same about CAS (you mentioned 48 meaning 49, right?).

First, an earlier version of the 49G CAS is available for the 48G (search for "erable"). Second, the slowness of some functions of the 48G is an issue of the built-in firmware; you can get user-written software which effectively turns your 48G into something very close to the 49G. Not quite the same performance level as the 49G, because the 49G has an improved memory management system as well. But it's usable, and the 48G, as has been pointed out elsewhere, has a much nicer keyboard, just as nice as the older keystroke programmables. ;-)

Third, and most importantly, I wouldn't classify the CAS as a mere "set of curiosities". It's there to help you carry out boring routine calculations more quickly and reliably, just like the numeric features.

Note that the HP CAS does not relieve you from the burden of planning your derivations, you still have to know what you are doing. (Even more so, because you have to be very precise when communicating with your calc.) The CAS certainly needs some time to learn before you can use it effectively, but it pays off, and IMHO it makes the calc even more fun to use.

Many students have noted that math classes involving the use of the full set of features of these sophisticated calculators are often more profound and difficult. That's because you concentrate on working with mathematical concepts in a creative and experimental manner, and on understanding the underlying mathematical theories. You have to work out how it's to be done, and the calc then does the tedious calculations for you, be they numeric or symbolic. I just wish I had something like the 48/49G when I was in school. :)

I agree that the 49G manual does not describe the CAS very well. To really explore all the possibilities of the 49G, it would have taken a 1000+ pages manual, and I think that HP thought that would be intimidating for new users. ;-) If you're really interested in some concrete examples on how to use the advanced functionality of the 49G, I suggest taking a look at Urroz' books "Science and Engineering Mathematics with the HP 49G", available from http://www.greatunpublished.com/. It's a good read.

I used to believe future options would be available. That was before ACO got closed...

The 49G CAS is already very capable. And Bernard Parisse, the author of erable and the 49G CAS, has announced on c.s.hp48 that he will continue to work on it, despite ACO's demise.

Albert

Reasoning with Albert`s alert...

Message #10 Posted by ***Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)*** *on 2 Dec 2001, 12:36 a.m.,*

in response to message #9 by Albert Graef

Hi, Albert;

first of all, thanks! Good explanations and necessary calls are always welcome ;-)

You`re right in one major point: 49`s owner manual. Even the downloadable complements fail to show how to use the new features. Previous owner manuals (I can check for the HP25 Owner`s Manual and HP67/97) explore cases, not examples. New manuals, after 48 series, use only examples, and knowing that (e. g. CAS Commands) we can apply FCOEF to a vector like [1,2,3,-1] and get a rational polynomial '((x-1)^2)/(x-3)' easies a lot, but having this info in a context would help us plan next step with more confidence. Right?

Anyway, we all should find our own reasons to go deeper, as the tool is available and we have no limits using it; this is of no excuse, I admit I`m guilty not doing this <:-(

I would like only having the chance to load my 49 with Equation Lib instead of CAS when I needed, and load back CAS when I need it back. One of our regular contributors have posted here a link to an Eq. Lib for the HP49 at HPCALC.ORG, and that would be a good solution. (I don`t remember who post it; forgive-me you, who gave the info)

I used the poor expressions just for finding a (sad pun intended) comparison with CAS and CISC, as CAS has a lot of functionality not used so often, and Eq. Lib being general RISC, as it has sets of equations grouped in less entries, more often used.

Thanks again :-)

Cheers.

Re: Reasoning with Albert`s alert...

*Message #11 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 2 Dec 2001, 2:21 a. m.,*

in response to message #10 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

You`re right in one major point: 49`s owner manual.

Yes, this tiny brochure distributed with the calc barely scratches the surface, and HP's advanced user guide available for download is mostly a command listing with short descriptions. Needless to say that any new user will be pretty much lost with this. (Me too. But fortunately there's hpcalc.org.)

We're all victims of the tradeoff between what these electronic gadgets cost and what they do, which directly translates into the effort involved in producing appropriate documentation. Just take a look at the sad excuses of manuals which nowadays accompany most bits of PC hard- and software. Obviously, it would be nice to have something like the 48 AUR, and an additional CAS tutorial. Even that wouldn't be exhaustive, but I don't think that this is practical any more -- just imagine a calc with docs of the size of the full UNIX manual. ;-)

Anyway, Urroz' books are a good start for the mathematical features of the calc. For other things (programming) you'll mostly have to rely on documentation for the HP 48, which fortunately is pretty good.

I would like only having the chance to load my 49 with Equation Lib instead of CAS when I needed ...

You can have both. :) Eql49 is right here: http://www.hpcalc.org/hp49/math/misc/eql49r27.zip

I haven't explored it in any depth yet, but it appears that it has most of the stuff in the 48 equation library, and it's user-customizable too.

Albert

Thanks; I had lost this link...
*Message #12 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Dec 2001, 11:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Albert Graef

... and would you, please, post the references for Urroz`s books? Titles, editor(s), etc. I'll try finding them, mostly cause they have been mentioned in this forum a couple of times.

Good writings, Albert. Many thanks. That`s the kind of sharing I most apreciate here. And, God bless, people practice it a lot at this forum.

Cheers.

Re: Thanks; I had lost this link...
*Message #13 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 2 Dec 2001, 2:01 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Here's the reference you asked for: Gilberto Urroz: Science and Engineering Mathematics with the HP 49 G, GreatUNpublished, 2000. (2 volumes.) More info (including table of contents and samples) can be found on the author's website, see http://www.engineering.usu.edu/cee/faculty/gurro/HP49Vol1BookInfo.htm. If you're interested in user feedback, try a Google groups search: http://groups.google.com/groups?q=Urroz+49G&hl=en

The books are $25 each (for the hardcopy version). You can order the books online (either as hardcopy or as a downloadable pdf file) from www.greatunpublished.com. See: http://www.greatunpublished.com/bookstore/author.php3?accountID=GRTU00214. (If that link does not work for you, just go to the main page http://www.greatunpublished.com and do a "Search bookstore" for Urroz.)

And yes, most ppl from the HP calc community I've had contact with are very knowledgeable, friendly and helpful. It's a great community, and I'm sure it will survive HP going astray, at least until our HP calcs all fall apart. ;-)

Cheers, Albert

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HP9825 & Hpl
*Message #1 Posted by **Manu** on 29 Nov 2001, 4:14 p.m.*

Hello,

Any pionner in the world who had the great chance to work with HP 'calculator' ?

I have worked with that marvellous 'computer' in the late 70': using a lot the ability of HP-IB's multiprocessing...

See you ..

Manu

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HP28s: clamshell & pixels?
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 29 Nov 2001, 3:51 p.m.*

Hello,

Can anyone advise me on how the "clamshell" design of the HP28s' has bourne up over the years?

Also, how many pixels are available on the screen? As a newcomer to the site, I was quite surprised to discover that this machine was capable of "worthwhile" graphics - or is it?

Thanks tgroup for recent advice, David

Re: HP28s: clamshell & pixels?
*Message #2 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 29 Nov 2001, 5:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

I think the clamshell (hinged) design worked fine, and I've not had any problem with that.

I think the pixel count is something like 127 x 32. (Someone will correct me if I'm wrong . . .) It does do something like graphics, but limited in height and resolution. Its major benefit is in providing a multi-line stack display.

I've mentioned before that my son's HP-28S has fallen apart because he carried it in an overstuffed backpack. Apparently, the constant flexing (caused by being pushed into curved shapes by tons of books and paper) broke most of the plastic heat stakes that held the keyboards to the covers. So, the 28s can't stand a lot of flex-abuse.

The worst aspect of the HP-28S design is the battery compartment door. I haven't had the opportunity to use an example of each & every HP model, but this is easily the worst HP battery door I've encountered!

Other than that, the HP-28S is a fine machine, and the unlimited stack RPL interface is, while a

bit different, actually very interesting. I loved mine while I was still programming calculators, but have since retreated to the more portable HP-32S for my occasional, everyday use.

Re: HP28s: clamshell & pixels?
*Message #3 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 29 Nov 2001, 6:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Paul Brogger

I think the display is 161 x 32, 161 columns seems to be a rather unusual value, used also in the HP42S (161 x 16).

Re: HP28s: clamshell & pixels?
*Message #4 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 30 Nov 2001, 4:22 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Paul Brogger

Hi,

sorry to correct you but the display has 137x32 pixels. You can check this by using the LCD-> command. The Stringsize you get there is exact 548 Bytes. Divided by 4 (4 Lines for Characters) you get 137. As this calculator was new, we created several grafical game programs. Unfortunately ALL are lost because of this rotten battery door :-(

Best regards

Andreas Stockburger

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New Challenge - with Prize! -
*Message #1 Posted by **Jordi Hidalgo** on 29 Nov 2001, 6:01 a.m.*

Would you like to know more about the HP-12C? Things such as programming scientific functions, reviewing emulators, watching its new Agilent chip, learning all about codenames and varieties, etc. Or maybe you would enjoy reading a thorough article on Compaq's merger, or what happened at the HHC-2001?

Well, all you've got to do is get the September/October issue of Datafile.
And guess who got a spare copy?
I just want to make sure that it will go to the right home, hence this:

CHALLENGE

Five questions. The prize will go to the first person that correctly answers the most number of questions. Please, email your answers to: **contest@sputnikmail.com**

Ten days to submit entries, until Sunday 9 December (according to Spanish time). Then I'll announce the winner and send the magazine to him or her.

[Note to current HPCC members: Of course you can participate, although you've already got the prize! ;-]

Ok, here are the questions:

1. Who suggested to Henry Horn (HP Key Notes Editor) a competition to name the HP-41C programming language?

2. Who wrote the HP-67 owner's handbook?

3. Who founded the HPCC (formerly PPC-UK)?

4. Which famous filmmaker wrote a letter of praise to HP after purchasing an HP-35?

5. Whose was the idea of hiding an Easter egg in the HP48G command RULES?

Pretty easy, eh? I hope my poor English won't have caused too much trouble.

Good luck!

Regards,
Bye.

Jordi Hidalgo
HPCC member #1046
johil@tv3mail.com

PS: Remember to send your entry to **contest@sputnikmail.com**

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Rubber-v-Solid keys
*Message #1 Posted by **David H Thompson** on 29 Nov 2001, 12:26 a.m.*

Hello,

Do the Hp49's have rubber keys? Do the Hp48's have solid keys? I don't think I would like to buy a high-end calculator with rubber keys.

Thanks very much, David

Re: Rubber-v-Solid keys
*Message #2 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 29 Nov 2001, 2:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi,

you should try both. I've tried both and must say no to rubber keys

Another point is the position of the ENTER key. As a long time HP calculator user, I'm used to some specific ergonomical details, such as a big ENTER key above the numeric keypad, and the '+' key on the left or right lower edge, and some more...

The 49G and it's derivations don't meet these criteria.

Raymond

Re: Rubber-v-Solid keys
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 29 Nov 2001, 7:06 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

Hi;

unfortunately, the HP49G is somewhat hard to get used to. Everything Raymond says is fairly true, mostly about the rubber keyboard (I cannot find a good reason for that kind of keyboard). I don't have any feelings, as a user, for the 39 and 40 models cause I don't know them, but if they follow the 49's footsteps, then it's bad.

IMHO, as a calc for daily use, I do not like thinking of the HP49 as a first option. I use the 48G (+) cause it's ABOUT intuitive (I'm blamed...), say, former HP users will feel home using it after a few harmless slips, but it does not usually happen with the 49. But I admit having it as a remarkable calculator... removed their rubber keys.

Re: Rubber-v-Solid keys
*Message #4 Posted by **Les Bell (Australia)** on 29 Nov 2001, 5:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David H Thompson

I bought a 6S for my son. It sucks: spongy rubber keys that force you to keep looking at the display to confirm entry, a poor manual (though some of the HP educational material available for download makes up for this), an inconsistent algebraic entry system and more. It's just nothing like the HP quality of old.

I've decided I'll have to give him the 41VC I've been hoarding against the day my 41CX dies.

Best,

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

Re: Rubber-v-Solid keys
*Message #5 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 29 Nov 2001, 6:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Les Bell (Australia)

Hello,

the 6S has not been designed by HP. It's a cheap OEM scientific calc from Texet (of Taiwan, I think), relabeled for HP... You're right with the keys. Although they have some kind of feedback, you can't trust them too much;-)

Regards,

Raymond

Re: Rubber-v-Solid keys
*Message #6 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 29 Nov 2001, 6:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Les Bell (Australia)

I found the 6S to be every bit as bad as everyone says, and worse.

I also bought a 30S. It's a halfway interesting machine -- if it had an RPN option, I'd find it usable. (My youngest -- 12 y.o. -- has it now, and thinks the interchangeable face plates are *cool!*)

The two older kids have HP-48G & G+, and they like 'em. (I'm not sure I'd part with a '41 . . .)

Comments (agree) to Paul posting
*Message #7 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 29 Nov 2001, 6:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Paul Brogger

My oldest daughter (17) got a 32Sii, my youngest daughter (12) has a 30S, just like yours. You are right saying the 30S is halfway interesting, if it had RPN (or at least something better that ANSwer for the last result, as in ANS+4). But the way it evaluates expressions has some merit...

The keyboard of the 30S is mediocre, tending to the bad side, and it is not programmable. The "manual" is a hard-to-read folded sheet...

I saw that having scientific calculators (32Sii or 30S) at reach made indeed a difference

in mathematics insight for both of my daughters, with respect to other, same age boys and girls.

The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #8 Posted by **Yani** on 29 Nov 2001, 10:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Bought the 32Sii for my Wife who was returning to Uny after a long absebce. She is new to science so a good calc was essential.

She fell in love with it. If I ever want to use it I have to pry it out of her hand. I have to admit it is a winner.

My favourite for layout however was my 15C (now lost or stolen (that makes two - I also had my origonal 41C pilfered)). However I prefer the traditional wedge key shape

What are peoples favourite HPs for 1. General keyboard calculation 1. Programming 3. Just plain fun to use and why?

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #9 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 30 Nov 2001, 2:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

Hi,

1. 42S, sometimes 32S 2. 48GX 3. 41CX for sentimental reasons And, the 41 series had the best keyboard (IMHO)

But for daily use I carry an 11C, 15C, or 16C, because they fit best in my shirt pocket. Sentimental reasons, too (I bought my first 11C and 41C when they were new;-) Too bad the ENTER key on the voyagers needs more force to press than the other keys.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #10 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 30 Nov 2001, 5:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

Hi;

My votes are:

1-any 1x Series (that 71/75 style is a charm, and everything you need is printed)
2-41/48 (Despite resources, I like mnemonics better than keycodes...)
3-15C and 42S (matrices and complex algebra in an easy way)

I still wonder how easy-ops RPN/RPL turn calculus to. I am buying an HP30S for daily use cause of both price and 'pocketability' (may I?). Also, my students sometimes ask for a calculator when doing math and, when I offer a 41, or a 15, they ask for 'a calculator with equals key instead of ENTER'. If you can't beat them, join them. And my 9 Y.O. daughter is asking for a calculator... without ENTER (sob).

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #11 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 30 Nov 2001, 11:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

9 years old may be a bit early, in general, to begin appreciating RPN, so all is not lost.

One approach: get her the chintziest mush-button single-memory calculating device that almost no money can buy. Also, keep a 32SII around.

Just the difference in look & feel will have her investigating it as an alternative, and when she finds out about 26 named registers, etc., the RPN won't be so off-putting. (I know it's devious, but you *gotta* train 'em up right . . .)

Guidelines noted...
*Message #12 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 30 Nov 2001, 1:00 p. m.,*
in response to message #11 by Paul Brogger

... and fully accepted.

Thanks for the kindness.

Regards.

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #13 Posted by **Les Bell (Australia)** on 30 Nov 2001, 8:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Paul Brogger

When my 11 year-old son came to me with a simple math puzzle the other day, my 41CX was the closest calculator to hand, so I grabbed it and quickly explained that the calculator worked the same way as you would with paper and pencil - you wrote (entered) the two numbers down, then multipled, added, whatever.

He grasped that at once, although I was just doing some calculations and getting him to think about them - I didn't check to see if he had grasped the full concept. He's gone away with a school-friend's family for the weekend, but when he returns, I might explain a little more of the stack and RPN concepts and see just how he does. The only concern is that this might cost me a 41CV!

Best,

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #14 Posted by **Les Bell (Australia)** on 1 Dec 2001, 3:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Les Bell (Australia)

Just out of curiosity, I sat my 7 year-old daughter down and taught her some basic RPN, with the aid of an HP-48GX so she could more easily see the stack operation. As yet, she hasn't been introduced to the concept of operator precedence at school, but she instantly grasped (with no explanation) the idea that things in parentheses are sub-expressions to be evaluated separately.

Within half an hour, she was easily evaluating expressions like SQRT ((7+5) x (13/7)) and SQRT(13 * 5) - SQRT(8-3). After half an hour, I asked her which she preferred: RPN or the algebraic calculator she has for school, and she expressed a preference for RPN.

Although I introduced the notion of a stack with the 48, she had no difficulty with the 41 - although she couldn't see the stack, she trusted it to be there.

It looks to me like there can be no real objection to the use of RPN in preference to algebraic, if even a seven year old can pick it up - and prefer it - so quickly.

Best,

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #15 Posted by **Richard Anderson** on 11 Dec 2001, 10:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Les Bell (Australia)

I couldn't resist adding a comment after the remarkable testimony in Les Bell's posting of 1 Dec.: "Although I introduced the notion of a stack with the 48, she had no difficulty with the 41 - although she couldn't see the stack, she trusted it to be there."

The two-line display of the 42s is the perfect "data-capture" mode for RPN. It doesn't require trust...and it's not scary (like the big

graphers). If a two-line display had come along earlier in the history of RPN calcs, I betcha it would be de rigueur today, maybe even for chintzy four-function jobs. Richard

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #16 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 12 Dec 2001, 6:36 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Richard Anderson

Prior examples of a visible stack are:

The HP 9100 (CRT display)

The Print Stack command on the HP 67, showing all levels in a round-robin fashion

The RPN Primer program (Std. Apps. Pac) for the HP 41.

Personally, I would like to have an option on the HP42, to show X&Y as usual, or to see X only with a larger font. The display of a remnant value in Y (perhaps because T duplication on stack drop) when you finish your calculations is a feature I don't like.

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #17 Posted by **Richard Anderson** on 13 Dec 2001, 7:47 a.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Hey, that's a wonderful idea! After entering, (and seeing) two values, say a dividend and a divisor, hit the divide key and presto: see a great big "answer". That would certainly have made a two-line display the only thing to have... especially for basic four-function calcs. For the 42s with all kinds of possibilities for alpha prompts & labelling + those incredibly user-friendly menues, it should only be an option...but one easily found in the DISP menu.

And, of course you're right, the 9100 showed everyone the way...but "everyone" was only well-monied, professionals who had previously used big (expensive and troublesome)

mechanical desktop calculators. Your accountant might have had one but most people would have still been doing their sums (and thier income tax) on paper. Richard

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
Message #18 Posted by ***Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)*** *on 14 Dec 2001, 6:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Richard Anderson

While a display collapsing from 2 lines to one sounds nice, on a RPN machine you never know if an operation is the "last" of a chain or just an intermediate one...

Just as an idea, the display may collapse to one value (large font) when stack lift is enabled, and when you start typing a new value in, the display revers to two lines (small font), showing the previous result value now lifted to "Y" and the line being entered in "X"... I am not sure if it would work in all cases or if such an arrangement would have caused more confussion to most users. Also the interaction with softkey labels would have been rather complicated.

In any case (sigh!), we are not going to see any new models with such features.

During normal operation, the value on "Y" may be meaningful or not; for my personal preference I would prefer to see only "X" all the time. In fact, sometimes I left a MENU activated just not to see "Y" there all the time.

I suppose there are lots of people with the opposite preference, but a flag or an option on the DISP menu (as you suggested) would have taken care of this.

Perhaps I would like to see all the values on a 4-level stack in a machine with 4 display lines; but then, the calculators with such a display use the infinite RPL stack, which I don't like either.

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #19 Posted by **Les Bell (Australia)** on 30 Nov 2001, 8:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

Favorites? :

1. 41CX with Advantage & Aviation Pacs, card reader & printer. CV as backup to that. Never had a 42S, and can't see what the fuss is about. . . <g>

2. 16C, for shirt-pocket portability, though I wish it had y^x

Those are what I actually have. I wouldn't mind having a 67 again - that was the pinnacle of the classic formfactor - and a 15C to augment the 16C.

Best,

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

Re: The good the Bad and the Ugly
*Message #20 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 30 Nov 2001, 8:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Yani

>What are peoples favourite HPs for 1. General keyboard calculation 1. Programming 3. Just plain fun to use and why?

Can't resist. Here are my favourites:

1. General keyboard calculation

Any Voyager, specially the ones with all usual math functions such as trigonometrics and y^x. So, the HP-11C and HP-15C are the very best to carry in one's pocket for normal keyboard calculations. They have also plenty of storage registers (21 and 67, respectively) to store intermediate results. Matter of fact, I always use an HP-11C to fill up my IRSs. Also, the keyboard is the best money can buy and the screen, not being of the dot-matrix type, is extremely clear. For general, everyday calculations, there's nothing best or better looking as well.

2. Programming

Several contenders:

a) an HP-41CV with an Advantage ROM, a PPC ROM, and an X-Functions ROM is incredibly powerful (nearly 448 registers, matrix, synthetics, anything) while still being very easy to program. You can do almost any normal programming task with it.

b) a 71B with a Math ROM and FORTH/Assembler ROM, also incredibly powerful, lots of memory, three languages from easy (BASIC) to very difficult (Assembler), it also has complex math, matrices, root finding, integration, the works. And very easy to program even large, complex tasks in BASIC.

c) an HP-42S, a super-set of the 41C, compatible, incredibly powerful, it has more memory than a 41CV + X-functions + 2*X-Memory, and can run programs 6 to 12 times faster than a 41C. Also, very user friendly, menus, named variables, complex math, matrices, solver, integrator. A must.

d) an HP-15C. The most pocketable and elegant of them all, and excellent programming, with matrix functions, solve, integrate, and complex. Its natural set of functions makes programming it a delight, and a surprising amount of programming can be done in very few bytes, frequently less than any other machine.

3. Fun to use

All mentioned above, for those reasons:

a) The 41CV+Adv+PPC+X-Func, because it's extremely fun to use the functions in those wonderful ROMs to achieve almost anything that can be done in a calculator. Just using the fast microcode matrix functions (M*M, MINV) which can work directly on matrices in Extended Memory, or being able to assign synthetics programmatically will make programming anything a real intellectual joy.

b) The 71B because of its excellent BASIC, which allows subprograms with parameter passing, recursion, a powerful filesystem in memory, local environments for each subprogram, multiline functions. With the Math ROM you can do things like MAT X=SYS(A,B) to solve m systems of nxn linear equations at once, even if complex, or MAT X=PROOT(A) to find at once all 100 roots real or complex of a 100th-degree equation. And with FORTH/ Assembler you can add your own machine-language keywords to the BASIC or FORTH

c) The 42S because it's incredibly fun to adapt your own old 41C programs and make them much more polished, with things like menus, RCL arithmetic, even graphics ! Its matrix and complex functions are so well integrated that almost all math operators work on any of then the same. Its solver is fantastic, and its integrator, too. And it's very fast and a pleasure to program.

d) The trusty old HP-15C, because its function set is so cleverly implemented. The fun is fitting quite complex programs in very few bytes, less than on any other machine. Its matrix functions are incredibly well implemented, with such things as loops that auto-increment and terminate automatically when reaching the end of the matrix, which saves lots of programming bytes, its unequaled RPN stack of 4 complex numbers plus LastX (not just 2, like in the 32S/32SII/42S), etc, etc. The ultimate challenge.

Well, any of them will give extreme pleasure to the dedicated HP fan. Trust me, get one of each before they get out of reach in availability and/or price.

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User-Community-Generated Documents
*Message #1 Posted by **Dan M (Vermont, USA)** on 28 Nov 2001, 9:53 p.m.*

Hello All:

This is kind of "old news," but I don't think some who read this forum are aware of these documents. They're interesting reading even if you looked at them when they were current.

1. Philadelphia Area HP Handheld Club's HP Award-Winning "Design the Calculator" Entry from 1998.

See it at:

http://www.magpage.com/~jakes/pahhc.htm

(Dave Hicks: Please note that Jake's page is now different from the URL you reference in your links page)

2. Richard Nelson's High-End HP Calculator Marketing Plan April 17, 2000. Available to view/ download at my page:

http://www.sover.net/~danm/HPMarketingPlan.html

Happy reading, and best wishes for good luck in the future of calculators.

Dan M. Bellows Falls, Vermont

Re: User-Community-Generated Documents

*Message #2 Posted by **glynn** on 30 Nov 2001, 2:38 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Dan M (Vermont, USA)

Thanks Dan.

I had never seen that novel "convertible" design before. Pretty cool!!! (That thing has more ports than the U.S. Navy... one could get rich just stocking and selling the spare doors for it... but I do WANT one!)

WAS already familiar with Richard Nelson's doc; good to look it over again though. I'd follow RJN anywhere; he's brilliant, as are many of the other contributors.

The document itself, though, reminds me a little of the old "Saturday Night Live" bit where Chevy would do the news headline and in an inset screen, Garrett Morris would scream it at the top of his lungs, slowly, "for the benefit of the hard of hearing":

"OUR... TOP... STORY... TONIGHT..."

If management is not tuned in to listen to the outside, no amount or quality of transmittal, at any volume, makes it to their ears.

Outside HP, I think, the document will always remain influential; it was a great attempt to do something CONSTRUCTIVE, and as such, its suggestions still have the power to live beyond the events of yesterday and maybe be reborn in some form of company strategy in a future time, maybe in a future company.

You could literally take the Marketing Plan as a blueprint for marketing many sophisticated products that need to wedge in and establish footholds on an extant status-quo.

Sometimes even a negative example in your past influences you to do things right; I never took to drinking much, primarily because of a tragically-fated uncle who had... Similarly, the advice that HP management never really heard may someday make the case, by example of HP's course, why such advice has wisdom and SHOULD be heard and followed.

TO ALL: and Dan, to you, too: the VERY EXISTENCE of user-generated documents like these is proof that invention and innovation are NOT the sole property of big behemoth corporations-- that, YOU, too can create and do for yourselves something purer and truer to the reality of a situation than what often emerges from well-paid but tightly-bound executives in THEIR thought exercises. NEVER think of these things as failures because they caused no ripples at HP. It wasn't for Them (though that's who it may have been MEANT for).

Good ideas often must await for some cork to loosen, then they bubble up as their time comes. If DaVinci were ever to be brought forward to this time, I'd be cheering him up-- with a helicopter ride...

Be + !

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HP41CV & HP9122 IB disk drive
*Message #1 Posted by **Henry Prellwitz** on 28 Nov 2001, 6:55 p.m.*

Is it possible to read and write to an HP IB 9122 diskette drive from a 41CV calculator using the 82160A IL module and a 82169A IL - IB interface? This drive unit seems to have identical floppy disk drives as the later HP IL model, complete with the gummed up eject mechanism, which was fixed using the procedure in the MoHPC Archives section. Any help would be greatly appreciated! Thanks, --- Henry Prellwitz

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Batteriepack 82120A
*Message #1 Posted by **Elmar Helbling** on 28 Nov 2001, 10:12 a.m.*

Ich suche ein Quelle wo ich ein wiederaufladbares Batteriepack für meinen HP 41CV erstehen kann.

Re: Batteriepack 82120A
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 28 Nov 2001, 11:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Elmar Helbling

Hello;

you should look for one of these packs at Classified Ads or announce your needs in there. That's the best place for it.

Hope it helps.

Cheers.

Re: Batteriepack 82120A
*Message #3 Posted by **Andreas Müller** on 29 Nov 2001, 10:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Elmar Helbling

Hi Elmar,

(deutsch)für den Fall, daß Du kein 82120A bekommst und noch im Besitz des Original Batteriehalters bist, folgender Tip: Kaufe Dir 8 Lady(auch als Größe N bezeichnet) NiCd-Akkus - die von Varta halten bei mir schon 20 Jahre - und ein Ladegerät das 4 Mignon/Micro Akkus gleichzeitig laden kann und 4 Lady-Ladeadapter. Das ist in Summe billiger und besser, da höhere Kapazität und niedrigerer Innenwiderstand.

(english):In case you can't get a 82120A and you still have your original battery cover get this hint: Buy 8 Lady(so called N-cells) NiCd rechargeable cells - the ones from Varta are working

for more than 20 years in my HP41 - and a charger that handles 4 Mignon/Micro cells at a time and 4 Lady charge adapters. In sum this is cheaper and better because of the higher capacity and lower internal resistance.

Regards, Andreas

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Re: Deutsches Museum Visit
*Message #1 Posted by **Stephan** on 28 Nov 2001, 8:02 a.m.*

Hello all, if you are interested in the German Museum you should have a look at this:

http://www.deutsches-museum.de/mum/e_index.htm

and if you are going to visit the Arithmeum in Bonn (http://www.arithmeum.uni-bonn.de/index2e.htm)

you can also visit the the branch of the German Museum in Bonn: http://www.deutsches-museum-bonn.de/museum/museum_01.html

Sorry some pages are only in German but there are many VR-Panoramas.

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Re: Thanks--found it (nt)
*Message #1 Posted by **Yani** on 28 Nov 2001, 12:58 a.m.*

I found the users manual but not the advasnced users guide. Is the advanced users guide available?

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Not wanting to sound like a wise guy ...
*Message #1 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 27 Nov 2001, 4:04 p.m.*

Fellow HP'ers

I've been reading the other posts. The best we could expect is that HP could produce some self-adhesive logos for posterity. Personally, the bubble burst (as it has for countless other fabrications of mankind) and HP will no longer manufacture icons. I'm not bothered, it happens.

So, someday my descendents will make it to Antique's Roadshow to hear about these curiosities from a bygone era.

Joe

PS: With any luck, they'll work!

PPS: Sometimes this seems like those lamenting the demise of the carburetor.

It sounds wise ...
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 5:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Joe Panico

... but we do not feel as doomed (yet).

Sometimes this seems like those lamenting the demise of the carburetor.

Well, the (big?) question is: will pocket calculators (any)survive PDA's, Palm's and the like? If NO is the answer, so we are history, too. I'm not sure you are in USA or not, but here in Brazil, the VW Sedan 1300 was brought back after being discontinued. All produced units were sold. But, as Dave mentioned, getting back off-line products means keeping not profitable production lines (as new ones are more profitable). And in USA, you still have hand-made, a lot expensive motorcycles, don't you? Business, as mentioned here. Business.

Yes, passion O.K.! And carburetors will sound much better than direct-injection, emission-controlled, less-polluting engines.

Your post IS wise, alright. But we still dare dreaming...

Cheers.

It was , only for effect
*Message #3 Posted by **Joe Panico** on 28 Nov 2001, 11:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz,

Well, I don't like the notion/corporate motion that the calculators I've used for many years are seemly doomed, but it looks that way. Many of this sites readers & respondents are aficionados and have dreams. So, while reading the comments of the others about their desire for HP to revitalize the calculator business by new products, I'm reminded of something I tell the children ... you can listen to something to complain, or you can listen to learn. The latter, if applied to recent developments, ain't pretty.

Joe

PS: USA. And I think Micheal owes Ruben a win in Sao Paulo, any comments Luiz.

Re: It was , only for effect
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 28 Nov 2001, 12:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Joe Panico

Hi, Joe;

you know, I've been reading and learning and reading and trying to figure out some solution and... I keep reading and learning and... §:-(

I wrote some e-mails to some wise guys in here (all guys in here are wise, I just picked ones...) and I expressed my thoughts in a private channel. Not as much different as the ones I expose in here, only with a bunch of personal touch. I accept the fact that some stuff have their moments, and when the moment is gone, it's gone. You see, there was a time when industry used to wait for twelve, eighteen, twenty four months to test a prototype after the blueprints were approved. Today, if a scratch of an idea does not get to final sales product in less then one year (maybe more, maybe less), forget it. This is time enough for concurrent new projects, new technology, less cost, more profits. We

know that. And we must consider this as a fact. As carburetors no longer are offered in brand new cars... §;-)

We are not doomed. But a new guideline must be shown! People have changed, market has changed, needs are not the same as in 25, 30 years ago. We don't have -and don't need- to change, just to adapt to a new reality. And despite that all, a good, valuable tool for a job is and will be a good, valuable tool for a job. It seems to me that the job itself is the one that changed...

Cheers.

(you think I forgot? **And I think Micheal owes Ruben a win in Sao Paulo**; time will tell, my friend, time will tell... §;-)

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hp12c leather case, Where do I find this?
*Message #1 Posted by **jim koval** on 27 Nov 2001, 3:55 p.m.*

I have lost my hp12c and its leather case. I have purchased a new 12c, however, I would love to find another really nice case. any ideas on where to find one?

Re: hp12c leather case, Where do I find this?
*Message #2 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 27 Nov 2001, 10:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by jim koval

the good news is that they are available from hp online (www.partsdirect.hp.com) for $6 and the shipping is free. the bad news is that there is a $25 minimum order

Re: hp12c leather case - HP parts minimum order, prices
*Message #3 Posted by **Ellis Easley Jr.** on 15 Dec 2001, 7:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by db(martinez,california)

Around July of this year, I bought an HP digital camera display model alone in a clearance at Walmart. I ordered some accessories from HP: a cable for $6, a user's guide for $1, a foldout instruction sheet for $0.50, and the wrist strap for $0.11. Each item arrived in its own big padded envelope! No extra charge at all except sales tax. I've noticed that in general, items in the HP parts direct website cost a minimum of $6 (even individual screws) which I assume is because they always include shipping, I don't know why these camaera accessories were so cheap.

Re: hp12c leather case, Where do I find this?
*Message #4 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 28 Nov 2001, 8:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by jim koval

Try CalcPro website www.calcpro.com. They are a mail order calculator and accessories company (succeding Educalc and Calculating Edge) in Oregon. I have bought from them several times, as well as having talked to its manager, Paul Nelson. Cases and holsters are on a menu on the website. Good luck!

Re: hp12c leather case, Where do I find this?
*Message #5 Posted by **Ed Clark** on 29 Nov 2001, 1:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by jim koval

Jim, I checked both websites (as referenced by db and Frank Travis). The HP site has only the vinyl cover as shipped with the calculator. The CalcPro site has a leather cover for the HP-19BII but this is the wrong size. Should I find these, I'll let you know and hope you'll do the same. Regards, Ed Clark edclrk@starpower.net

Re: hp12c leather case, Where do I find this?
*Message #6 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 29 Nov 2001, 5:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ed Clark

Ed and Jim:

The 19BII is about an inch longer and one-half an inch wider than the 12C (and about the same thickness). The case in question doesn't seem _that_ far off... There will be a little "wiggle room" in there.

I can't say that I've tried carrying a 12C in the 19BII leather case, but it probably still beats the chintzy vinyl one!

Bruce.

p.s. Good cases are getting _very_ hard to find!

Re: Another source for cases to fit various HP calculators
*Message #7 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 30 Nov 2001, 11:16 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ed Clark

After seeing your response on the cases from HP and Calcpro I would like to comment that Calcpro not only has the soft leather wallet type case (originally intented for the HP19BII) they also have a hard leather case to fit the HP20S, HP32SII, and HP17BII. The accompanying vinyl slipcase of these calculators may not be able to fit with the calculator in the hard case. I do not have an HP12C to know if the HP12C will fit in this hard leather case. Another place that has durable neoprene cases with good belt clips (originally designed for photographic equipment, but I have used for calculators) is:

Op/Tech USA 304 Andrea Drive Belgrade, MT 59714 Phone (888) 678-3244 website www.optechusa.com e-mail address: info@optechusa.com

The large soft pouch (4" by 7" by 1.5") fits an HP48 graphing calculator comfortably. On occasions when I want to fill my car up with gas I put my HP20S and HP32SII in it (each still in their separate vinyl slipcases). The HP32SII is then used to multiply cost per gallon (e.g., $1.199 per gallon) by gallons filled per the pump (e.g., 11.702 gallons) to compute the cost (HP32SII is set to six decimal places). The HP32SII answer is then rounded to two decimal places. I subtract this figure from the amount I gave to the gas station attendant (e.g., $20). I then shut off the calculator and go to the attendant (the number is still saved). I have the HP20S as a backup if the HP32SII loses power. Also, check Specialed Products (SP) website www.specializedproducts.com under multimeter cases. The Fluke C90 softcase is padded and fits my second HP48GX with room for extra plug in cards and pocket guides. These cases They come in a variety of sizes. You can even call SP for assistance.

Re: Another source for cases to fit various HP calculators
*Message #8 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 30 Nov 2001, 11:23 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Frank Travis

I found that my 15C soft leather case fits my iPAQ PDA just about perfectly. This suggests that one might look at PDA cases to find a calculator case substitute.

Re: Another source for cases to fit various HP calculators
*Message #9 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 1 Dec 2001, 6:53 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Paul Brogger

I hate to mention this, in case it bumps the prices up! Your idea of a PDA case for a Voyager works the other way round too. My new Jornada 568 fits so perfectly into the (vinyl) case of my 16C that it's as if they had been made for each other. I quite fancy getting a leather case for the Jornada and it seems to me that a calculator case won't attract the same premium price as a case made for a new PDA.

Re: Typos in my last message
*Message #10 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 30 Nov 2001, 11:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Frank Travis

The subject should have been "Other sources for cases to fit various HP calculators". I gave two sources, not just one. I put "Specialed Products" when it should have been "Specialized Products". The line "These cases they come in a variety of sizes." should have been "These cases come in a variety of sizes."

Re: Another source for cases to fit various HP calculators
*Message #11 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 30 Nov 2001, 4:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Frank Travis

Frank Travis wrote:

On occasions when I want to fill my car up with gas I put my HP20S and HP32SII in it (each still in their separate vinyl slipcases). The HP32SII is then used to multiply cost per gallon (e.g., $1.199 per gallon) by gallons filled per the pump (e.g., 11.702 gallons) to compute the cost (HP32SII is set to six decimal places). The HP32SII answer is then rounded to two decimal places. I subtract this figure from the amount I gave to the gas station attendant (e.g., $20). I then shut off the calculator and go to the attendant (the number is still saved). I have the HP20S as a backup if the HP32SII loses power.

Now THAT'S an ENGINEER! ;-)

Bruce.

Re: Another source for cases to fit various HP calculators
*Message #12 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 30 Nov 2001, 11:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by W. Bruce Maguire II

to bruce m; i take the same two calculators to the gas station and use the 32SII to calc the price too! but i just use the 20 to wipe off my hands before i get back in the truck. ok, i lied; i don't have a 20, but if i did i would. btw: now that i have chapter 5 of the book for my bargin 32SII, i like it even more. the regular old 32 has too much sentimental value to take to the gas station.

Re: Another source for cases to fit various HP calculators
*Message #13 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 1 Dec 2001, 6:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #12 by db(martinez,california)

At last, a use for the 6S. You could wipe your .... with it.

Re: hp12c leather case, Where do I find this?
*Message #14 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 30 Nov 2001, 6:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ed Clark

Hi,

the order number seems to be HP 92169A,92169B, or 92169C depending on your color preference. Also seems the D,E,F variants are for the clamshells, and therefore somewhat bigger. I have a brown one (not for sale;-) for the 12C, and it fits nicely.

Raymond

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Problem with HP41CV
*Message #1 Posted by **Ramon** on 27 Nov 2001, 8:48 a.m.*

Hello everybody!!

I must to repair my HP41CV and there is no support directly from HP (from many years!!). If somebody can help me where I can take this repair in SPAIN (if possible) will be apreciated

Thanks for all

Ramon

Re: Problem with HP41CV
*Message #2 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 27 Nov 2001, 10:08 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Ramon

Support is not granted for many years now.

Try the next tricks : - have you correctly checked you batteries ? - are your contacts clean ? - try several times the ON/arrow sequence - invert polarity, place the battery for a short while, then put the polarity correctly and try the ON/arrow sequence - open the calculator (4 screws under the rubber feet; beware when you tight them up not to tight them too much; check all contacts, blow up all dust, reassemble the calculator

Most of the presumed dead 41's, unless PCB corrupted, tend to come back to life.

Re: Problem with HP41CV
*Message #3 Posted by **Ramon (Spain)** on 28 Nov 2001, 3:35 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Thibaut.be

Thank's for your answers (Thibaut / Vieira). The problem, more explained, is on the thin panel that connects batery pack with the main board. I forgot bateries on machine for long time and this panel has been damaged. I have clean it (more or less) and I think that may be damaged inside too. Good think may be that a technic specialist change this panel and revise inside (?¿). But in Spain I am looking for this technics...!!!!....

Thanks for ideas

Ramon P.D.Sorry my english

Re: Problem with HP41CV
*Message #4 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 28 Nov 2001, 3:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ramon (Spain)

Then you're in trouble. If you can't clean the contacts and if they are damaged, well this can be hermfull enough to have the calc definitely damaged.

But there is still a solution. 41C's are quite cheap on ebay or on the classified's ads. You could buy one and easily replace the battery contacts/module contacts board. No soldering at all is needed, only good contacts with the PCB and this board.

And maybe you'lle get some modules with the calc and some manuals... always something good in a bad news !

Thibaut

Re: Problem with HP41CV
*Message #5 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 28 Nov 2001, 6:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Thibaut.be

Hi;

Complementing Thibaut's answer (maybe, there's still a chance...), I'm continuing the thread from here :-)

Try this and this links and read the posts. I believe they will give you an idea of what to do. If you believe a technician will still be needed, print the posts and show him.

And if you still need help, post again.

Cheers.

THANK'S FOR HELP
*Message #6 Posted by **Ramon (Spain)** on 29 Nov 2001, 4:54 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I will try this ways and ...!!

Thanks sincerely

Ramon

One more suggestion...
*Message #7 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 29 Nov 2001, 6:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Ramon (Spain)

The reverse polarity trick will not help you, the 41C (at least mine) has a series diode which prevents reversed batteries to feed the CPU board and the power supply chip there placed.

The reversed voltage will reach any modules or peripherals you have plugged into the back ports, possibly damaging them; so it is strongly perferrable to unplug any accessory before such testing.

Good luck!

Re: Problem with HP41CV

*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 10:43 a.m.,*

in response to message #1 by Ramon

Hi;

Thibaut's guidelines are essential at this point. In fact, describing briefly the problem(s) might help a lot. And another very important question: as you are looking for authorized support, would you be able to fix the calculator yourself? I mean, you did not mention your skills as technician; should we consider you know how to proceed?

Forgive-me if you are an expert, I just want to know if Thibaut's wisdom guidelines will be effective.

Cheers.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP17BII How do I program solver to find MIRR(Modified Internal Rate of Return)
*Message #1 Posted by **David Martin** on 27 Nov 2001, 3:58 a.m.*

How do I program the solver to find MIRR (Modified Internal Rate of Return) ? Currently it takes me seven stages, using the cashflow application.

Re: HP17BII How do I program solver to find MIRR(Modified Internal Rate of Return)
*Message #2 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 27 Nov 2001, 4:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David Martin

David:

I have the formula for the FMRR (Financial Management Rate-of-Return), which is published in the pocket guide for the 19BII from Grapevine Publications http://www.read-gpi.com. The formula works---without any modification---on the 17BII (showing just how similar these machines are!).

The financial books and pocket guides from this company are excellent. I recommend the Easy Course in Financial Calculations for anyone interested in this area. It has a very straightforward explanation of IRR/MIRR/FMRR.

I am disassembling the FMRR algorithm right now, but it is going to take me a bit longer to reverse-engineer it. Once I have that, it will be trivial to do a MIRR simplified-version.

E-mail me at the above link (daytime) or at my home E-mail address:

`Maguire@AnalyticInvestments.com`

if you have any other questions. Otherwise I will post back here when I'm done.

Bruce.

p.s. The programming power of these machines never ceases to amaze me!

***** Here they are: MIRR(Modified Internal Rate of Return) programs!! *****

Message #3 Posted by ***W. Bruce Maguire II*** *on 28 Nov 2001, 9:53 p.m.,*

in response to message #1 by David Martin

David (and anyone else who might be interested):

Here are two programs. The first one is a program to calculate Modified Internal Rate of Return (MIRR) and the second is a bigger program that calculates Financial Management Rate of Return (FMRR) as well as MIRR and IRR for comparison purposes. Both programs are my modifications to a program to calculate FMRR and IRR that is listed in the Pocket Guide for the HP-19BII. The HP-17BII has *all the same programming capability* as the 19BII, and therefore these programs work exactly the same on both machines.

For the MIRR program, you can enter the P/YR, the safe and risk interest rates (APR), and then press "$IN" to see the NPV of the negative cash flows (at the safe rate) and press "$OUT" to see the NFV of all the positive cash flows (at the risk rate). Pressing the "MIR%" button will return (after a short while) the MIRR.

For the FMRR program, the $IN and $OUT calculations are for the FMRR calculation, *not the MIRR values.* In this program, FMRR, MIRR, and IRR may be returned after hitting the "MORE" button to get to the next page of menu buttons. Note, that if you need to give the IRR calculation initial guesses, you can key in guess #1, hit the IRR key, key in guess #2, hit the IRR key, and then hit the IRR one last time to start the search for a solution (as explained in the manual in the solver section---I think).

In the following listings, there are three symbols that I use special notations to represent.
1) The multiplication symbol is "_mult_"
2) The division symbol is "_div_"
3) The summation symbol is "_sum_"

Note #1: The cash flow which is used for the calculations must be entered prior to "CALC"ing this formula, and it must be named "$". If you really prefer another name for some reason, you can always change it in the listing. Wherever "FLOW($:...)" or "#T($:...)" or "SIZEC($:...)" occurs (the cash flow operations), just change the "$" to your preferred name.

Note #2: There is a variable used for the number of periods per year---"P/YR"---the "/" symbol is found in the misc. menu; it is *not* the divide key! Also, the risk and safe interest rates are entered as percent per year (not per period), which is why the number of periods per year is needed.

Note #3: This listing is "exploded" (using my own technique for formatting) for ease of understanding and reading. Spaces should not be used when typing the formula in---except in one important case. For "OR" (and "AND") operations, you *must* have a space on either side of the operator, or the calculator will be very confused (and wrong!).

Oh, one last thing. The bigger (FMRR) program assumes that the first cash flow is negative for the MIRR calculation. In the smaller program, since I was making more modifications, I handle (I think) the case of the initial cash flow being positive (which would be a strange investment!).

```
------------------------------------------------------------------
MIRR%:
```

```
L(N:
   L(MP:
      L(MF:
         0
      )
   )
)_mult_


(
   IF(P/YR=0:
      L(P/YR:
         1
      )
   :
      0
   )+


   L(S:
      SAF%_div_P/YR
   )+


   L(R:
      RSK%_div_P/YR
   )+


   _sum_(
      G:
      SIZEC($):
      1:
      -1:
      L(C:
         FLOW($:G)
      )+
      L(T:
         #T($:G)
      )+
      L(MP:
         G(MP)_mult_SPPV(G(S):G(T))
      )+


      IF(G(C)<=0:
         L(MP:
            G(MP)+
```

```
            G(C)_mult_USPV(G(S):G(T))
         )
      :
         L(MF:
            G(MF)+
            SPFV(G(R):G(N))_mult_
            G(C)_mult_USFV(G(R):G(T))
         )
      )+
      L(N:
         G(N)+G(T)
      )
   )+


   L(C:
      FLOW($:0)
   )+
   IF(G(C)<0:
      L(MP:
         G(MP)+G(C)
      )
   :
      L(MF:
         G(MF)+
         SPFV(G(R):G(N))_mult_
         G(C)
      )
   )
)+


IF(S($IN):
   $IN-G(MP)
:
   IF(S($OUT) OR S(P/YR):
      $OUT-G(MF)
   :
      G(MP)_mult_
      SPFV(MIR%_div_P/YR:G(N))+
      G(MF)
   )
)


-----------------------------------------------------------------
FMRR%:


L(N:
```

```
   L(F:
      L(M:
         L(W:
            L(MP:
               L(MF:
                  0
               )
            )
         )
      )
   )
)_mult_


(
   IF(P/YR=0:
      L(P/YR:
         1
      )
   :
      0
   )+


   L(I:
      G(IRR%)_div_P/YR
   )+


   L(S:
      SAF%_div_P/YR
   )+


   L(R:
      RSK%_div_P/YR
   )+


   _sum_(
      G:
      SIZEC($):
      1:
      -1:
      L(C:
         FLOW($:G)
      )+
      L(T:
         #T($:G)
```

```
)+
L(X:
   G(M)_mult_SPPV(G(S):G(T))+
   G(C)_mult_USPV(G(S):G(T))
)+
L(MP:
   G(MP)_mult_SPPV(G(S):G(T))
)+


IF(G(C)<=0:
   L(MP:
      G(MP)+
      G(C)_mult_(G(S):G(T))
   )+
   L(M:
      G(X)
   )
:
   L(MF:
      G(MF)+
      SPFV(G(R):G(N))_mult_
      G(C)_mult_USFV(G(R):G(T))
   )+
   IF(G(M)+G(C)>0:
      L(W:
         G(W)+
         SPFV(G(R):G(N))_mult_
         (
            G(M)+
            G(C)_mult_USFV(G(R):G(T))
         )
      )+
      L(M:
         G(X)
      )
   :
      IF(G(X)<=0:
         L(M:
            G(X)
         )
      :
         L(P:
            IP(
               LN(
                  -G(M)_mult_G(S)_div_100_div_G(C)+1
               )_div_
               LN(
                  1+G(S)_div_100
               )
```

```
                  )
               )+
               L(W:
                  G(W)+
                  SPFV(G(R):G(N)+G(P))_mult_
                  (
                     G(C)_mult_USFV(G(R):G(T)-G(P))+
                     G(M)_mult_SPPV(G(S):G(P))+
                     G(C)_mult_USPV(G(S):G(P))
                  )
               )+
               L(M:
                  0
               )
            )
         )
      )+
      L(F:
         G(F)+
         G(C)_mult_
         USFV(G(I):G(T))_mult_
         SPFV(G(I):G(N))
      )+
      L(N:
         G(N)+G(T)
      )
   )
)+


IF(S($IN):
   $IN-G(M)-FLOW($:0)
:
   IF(S($OUT) OR S(P/YR):
      $OUT-G(W)
   :
      IF(S(FMR%) OR S(SAF%) OR S(RSK%):
         (G(M)+FLOW($:0))_mult_
         SPFV(FMR%_div_P/YR:G(N))+
         G(W)+
         0_mult_(SAF%+RSK%)
      :
         IF(S(MIR%):
            FLOW($:0)+
            G(MP)+
            G(MF)_mult_SPPV(MIR%_div_P/YR:G(N))
         :
            FLOW($:0)_mult_
            SPFV(IRR%_div_P/YR:G(N))+
            G(F)
```

```
          )
       )
    )
)
```

Let me know if there are any bugs in my listing, or if you have any problems.

Enjoy, Bruce.

***** TWO program typos *** Here they are: MIRR(Modified Internal Rate of Return) programs!! *****

*Message #4 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 29 Nov 2001, 4:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by W. Bruce Maguire II

I found TWO typos in my program listing for the FMRR program. The newest article in the article section contains the fixed listing. Here are the changes:

```
<SNIP><SNIP><SNIP>
-----------------
      IF(G(C)<=0:
         L(MP:
            G(MP)+
            G(C)_mult_(G(S):G(T))  --BECOMES--> G(C)_mult_USPV(G(S):G(T))
         )+
         L(M:
            G(X)
         )
      :
         L(MF:
            G(MF)+
            SPFV(G(R):G(N))_mult_
            G(C)_mult_USFV(G(R):G(T))
         )+
-----------------
<SNIP><SNIP><SNIP>
```

And:

```
<SNIP><SNIP><SNIP>
-----------------
         IF(G(M)+G(C)>0:
            L(W:
               G(W)+
               SPFV(G(R):G(N))_mult_
               (
                  G(M)+
                  G(C)_mult_USFV(G(R):G(T))
               )
            )+
```

```
            L(M:
               G(X)  --BECOMES--> 0
            )
         :
            IF(G(X)<=0:
               L(M:
                  G(X)
               )
            :
-----------------
<SNIP><SNIP><SNIP>
```

Sorry about that. There's just a lot of typing involved in listing these programs!

Bruce.

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ACO in aussie newspaper
*Message #1 Posted by **J.Manrique** on 27 Nov 2001, 3:10 a.m.*

I suppose you have read, but take a sight: http://it.mycareer.com.au/news/2001/11/27/FFX7I564HUC.html

Where is Ian to tell us a new "true" ?

Cheers, J.Manrique CdU de la ETSIG http://pagina.de/clubusu

Frightful...
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 10:03 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by J.Manrique

No comments...

Welcome to my life ;-)
*Message #3 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 27 Nov 2001, 6:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I can think of some coworkers at Intel who have been there a decade and never seen a project get out the door. In fact, in one meeting I was declared the odd-ball because I could claim a half a dozen shipped products in 15 years. ;-)

One project went on for 8 years (and $300,000,000) before being closed down. This stuff happens in high-tech all the time.

Re: Welcome to my life ;-)
*Message #4 Posted by **Bill Wiese** on 28 Nov 2001, 3:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Dave Hicks

Hmmm, Dave, was that the iAPX432 multichip Ada processor? ;-)

Intel does have the luxury of funding all sorts of gambles, experiments, etc. since they can sell a given 1mm silicon, on average, for 2.5X-4X what other semiconductor mfgrs can (i.e, Motorola, Philips, TI, etc.)

-Bill Wiese -San Mateo, CA

No that actually shipped
*Message #5 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 28 Nov 2001, 9:08 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Bill Wiese

They must have sold 500 of them at least! ;-) But that was a pretty good money looser too.

I was thinking of BiiN. A closely related later joint-project between Intel and Siemens.

Re: ACO in aussie newspaper
*Message #6 Posted by **Michael Tjebben** on 28 Nov 2001, 8:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by J.Manrique

Darn! I'd buy one! The ACO guys were doing some COOL things!

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Calculator Emulators
*Message #1 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 26 Nov 2001, 7:59 p.m.*

In this post, Luca de Alfaro wrote:

<<But aside from this: there's a wonderful RPN calculator called mathU for the Palm Pilot. I have it. They came out recently with a programmable version of it. I think this is what the future of RPN calculators will be like, and I actually like it. True, no keys any more, but total reconfigurability, low price ($30ish), huge memory (32000 steps!), and when you are done computing, it stores addresses, memos, appointments, plays chess, checks your email, and more!>>

I've just bought an HP Jornada 568 and I'm running emu48. It's amazingly good fun. Physically the same size as a 12C (the 12C slip case is a perfect fit) and the emulator is faster than the 48GX. Best of all was the price: $0.00 :-)

The quality of this Jornada seems, to me, so far, to be quite impressive. It's not a calc, and it has zero tactile feedback, but I'm really surprised how much I like it considering I was (am?) a die-hard 200LX fan.

Re: Calculator Emulators
*Message #2 Posted by **R.J. Bied** on 26 Nov 2001, 10:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

I also have MathU Pro and I love it. I have been using it for several months now. I rarely need to pull out my trusty HP11C. Programmable steps very similar to the HP41 and fits in my pocket. Perhaps HP should wake up and notice that all these Palm devices have a footprint similar to the HP10 series machines. Who want to carry a bulky calculator anymore? I too miss the tactile feedback, but am willing to make the sacrifice.

Re: Calculator Emulators
*Message #3 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 27 Nov 2001, 2:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

I agree that the right piece of software will go a long way toward salving the hurt of lost tactile feedback. Producing new, purpose-built devices just isn't as practical as running customizable software on a general-purpose device.

What if, from the immense library of HP-48/49 calculator functions, one could chose exactly those which are desired for one's particular area of interest. (Or, better yet, in the plural: "*areas*" of interest.) Once selected, how 'bout we could assign functions to buttons on the interface, and lay out the keyboard however we desire? Maybe we could choose between RPN and Algebraic operation . . .

We could have the best of HP usability and functional utility in a flexible, customizable, connectible (don't forget, ever more powerful, and expandable) and portable unit -- a calculator software engine with customizable "skins" for each use. (A programmer's calculator with hex conversions, a workshop calculator with fractions and trig, a symbolic math workhorse with SOLVE and differentiation, etc.)

Further, the implementation of a simpler "system within a system" (RPL within Windows) would bring a calculator-like programming environment to non-programmers, giving them greater use of their PCs and Pocket PCs.

As much as I like my HP-32S and -42S, I must confess that for my daily tasks, I'd gladly substitute equivalent, well-integrated, customizable software running on my Pocket PC.

Brogger's suggestion teases... a contest?
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 3:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Paul Brogger

Hi;

Why not? I began thinking of it at the right moment I read Brogger's post. As happened here before, why not trying this 48 Builder? (Urgh! Sorry; no better name came to my mind...) It would be a very interesting environment. As Brogger says: **"calculator-like programming environment to non-programmers"**. If I got the idea, the 49G already has part of it (File Manager).

I once wrote a single program that was later converted to SYS RPL (a LIB object) for the HP48SX. Time ago... But I think it's not difficult for the brainy guys in here. I'm gonna be

in vacancies soon, and if there is nothing till there, I'll try some scratches.

Good post, Brogger. (did you get the scans?)

Re: Calculator Emulators
*Message #5 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 27 Nov 2001, 7:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

I've just bought an HP Jornada 568 and I'm running emu48. It's amazingly good fun. Physically the same size as a 12C (the 12C slip case is a perfect fit) and the emulator is faster than the 48GX. Best of all was the price: $0.00 :-)

Well, I'd say it's a pretty expensive calculator for $649, and the thing doesn't even have a real keyboard. :)

IMHO, these devices are not ready for serious math work. Not until they can decypher handwriting with 99.9% accuracy and translate formulas and command words into calculator input quickly and reliably.

Re: Calculator Emulators
*Message #6 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 28 Nov 2001, 5:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Albert Graef

Yes, fair point. I had conveniently forgotten the purchase price of the PDA! Actually, I paid nearer $800. Only the Yanks get to pay a fair price for anything. The rest of the world just gets shafted. You know, it costs soooo much money to ship these things across the Atlantic. Anyway, it's my new toy and I like it.

On a serious note, I can't imagine how a PDA could ever be suitable for serious math work. Not without a proper calculator keyboard and then you end up with a calculator again. I've been using (=playing with) Derive on my HP200 for ages, but I bet most people on this list would rather have had a proper calc.

I think that some people will always need a traditional calculator, it's just that more and more of those people will be persuaded to put up with the limitations of newer devices in exchange for the convenience of all-in-oneness or even because you can't buy a decent calc any more.

Re: Calculator Emulators
*Message #7 Posted by **R.J. Bied** on 28 Nov 2001, 11:49 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

I'll agree that the price of a decent CE machine is steep, so that's why I opted for a Palm OS machine. For $200 it fits my needs and is smaller than a CE device. I carry my laptop anyway, so I don't miss the CE features. Perhaps these emulators will never replace a calculator for serious math work, as you say, but that presumes a quality calculator being available.

Re: Calculator Emulators -- PDA Prices
*Message #8 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 29 Nov 2001, 11:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)

I spent under $200 for my iPAQ 3150 -- half the RAM, most of the functionality, but monochrome. (Every time I see a color iPAQ screen I feel a surge of envious regret, but the $250 extra was/is simply out of the question.)

I've got a servicable unit, and have entered a product stream that appears to have a good future. The display has its drawbacks, and some color apps simply don't work or are illegible in monochrome mode. Overall, I think, a good price/usability compromise, but with some painfully apparent limitations.

Re: Calculator Emulators -- PDA Prices
*Message #9 Posted by **Chris Randle (Lincoln, UK)** on 29 Nov 2001, 5:38 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Paul Brogger

I've always been sceptical of colour. Mainly because it tended to be applied as a gimmick, rather than used to impart additional information.

But, there is one thing I find astounding about the 586's screen. Although it looks like a laptop screen, you can turn the backlight off and, in bright sunshine, the back of the screen reflects like the 200's. You can see the screen, in colour, really clearly. In the old days(!) you had to turn the backlight up to compete with the sun. Guess who'd lose.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Glynn, would you come up? Please?
*Message #1 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 26 Nov 2001, 7:39 a.m.*

Hello;

I tried finding Glynn's e-address, and as I did not find it, I'm posting mine. So, Glynn, as you mentioned you'd stick around for a while, I'll wait till the right moment for you. Anyway, I'd like you to feel free dropping me a mail. Anytime.

As anyone else in here, please.

Cheers.

Re: Glynn, would you come up? Please?
*Message #2 Posted by **glynn** on 26 Nov 2001, 10:14 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz;

Y'know, I sometimes have filled in that "e-mail address" field at the top of the <Post a New Response> form. But I have never ACTUALLY seen an address print out for me, and no clickable button, so far as I know. (But then, maybe I haven't been that attentive...)

I certainly would enjoy hearing from others here. I'm most often reachable at

grharris@worldlogon.com

and I don't mind writing whatever we need to, but I have to tell you that HP has indeed heard from Many of us before, and we have offered much advice; but, ahem, probably most of it helped the calc office reach their paper-recycling goals that quarter. ;-)

And believe me, the idea of restarting production on a favored calculator line isn't exactly new.

I am guessing the only approach that HASN'T been tried is to set up a real company that would have OUR brand and not HP's, offer support without HP, market by ourselves, have all the certifications and bear the expenses; just have HP as the manufacturer (HP has ALWAYS done this OEM work for other companies and products-- and most extensively was a contractor for the military-- so this is not an off-the-wall suggestion, though I don't know that they've EVER yet done a Calculator for someone else.) As far as the new brand being a hindrance in marketing it ourselves, uh... Yeah. But naming it Legacy or something, and focusing it specifically to markets HP is not incredibly passionate about, avoiding THEIR distribution channels, and pricing it deliberately at a point far above any existing HP niche-- these would have to be part of an overall presentation. A "gold-plated" 42 or slight variant? Might just work.

Note the above gambit would actually require capitalization. This happens to be one reason all other attempts fade quietly. Who puts their money where their mouse is? If you sell subscriptions or shares, you will be guaranteeing to your "subscribers" or Investors that a product WILL emerge from your efforts; in other words, prepare to negotiate with alternative suppliers (TI? Casio?) or if HP isn't interested, you'll be mailing back a lot of checks.

Perhaps before we proceed to talk about this again, Dave Hicks will chime in with his and others' past experiences in this area. Dave has had, as I recall, fairly cordial relations with HP and has talked either formally or through his connections there on just such an idea as bringing back the 42s. He would know certainly a great deal on how to proceed; and that would be helpful...

Anyway, Luiz; you've spoken of economics in a past post. As a Great American Philosopher has spoken: "Show me the Money!!!" is an economic principle big companies are quite addicted to-- and my guess is that a studious letter with 1000 names will still fall short, unless a Dollar figure appears in the final paragraph. Hewlett-Packard is IN business to DO business, and that's what they understand clearest. At least, that is my guess at this time. Feel free to convince me otherwise, please!!!

Would HP allow us to know their figures?

*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 26 Nov 2001, 3:10 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by glynn

Hi; (shorter than Hello...)

Yes, I have posted some of my view on economics, right. You see, they're not adequate. I have no arguments convincing you otherwise, today's business are today's business. We live in and for business, alright. If I'm dealing with business, I'd never write that, believe me.

About reintroducing off-production calcs. HP has its own reasons to close their lines, and they are well known FOR THEM. If we know at least a condensed reports of their figures, at least we would be able to set guidelines for ourselves. I mean, instead of claiming for the return of the 42S, why not bringing a calculator that goes for the market, make money AND add RPN in a single keypunch? Say, an [RPN/AOS] key and an [ENTER/=] key. Programming AND equation storage space, the way user wants. The HP14B has an INPUT key that works in a different way, used for intermediate results as the user goes for algebraic solutions. In some RPN operations I would like having a kind of INPUT key (or a PUSH/ POP) so intermediate results would be stacked in a parallel operating stack.

Lets take the example given by Cameron (Hello!). The PC1211's Manual mentioned that an algebraic sequence needed to be rewritten in RPN fashion, so the computer itself would be able to process data and math operations. Would the HP algebraics do the same?

Well, maybe it's time to ask HewPack 'What are your plans? Would you accept us to contribute?'. Not in a passive form, as posts in here, but directly writing then and asking AND suggesting. And if Dave Hicks has already been that close, why not try walking beside them? Even by calling Iain back, do you all believe he would accept? Asking him to post HP's plans THAT ACCEPT SUGGESTIONS for changing. Maybe it's time to order our custom machine BEFORE it's ready to launch.

I would write this first privately, and later as a post. I believe after all I read from you, guys, (Hi again, Cameron), I'm posting it as fresh material.

Regards.

Thoughts on the 42S and what we want vs. good business

*Message #4 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 26 Nov 2001, 4:01 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by glynn

I like the 42S myself. I don't really *need* a bunch of 42s though because I have so many 41s lying around. (I bought some very cheap New In Box 41CVs when EduCalc shut down a couple of years ago, for example. Assuming a good shelf life, I'm set for awhile.)

However, I did try to put together a limited run of HP-42S calculators. I offered to buy a small run and make myself the distributor/dealer. The idea was to take all the market uncertainties on myself and make it a simple production exercise for HP. I figured I could keep the price the same as the original retail but would give HP a *chance* to make it worthwhile by removing the normal distributor/dealer markups.

HP (ACO) wasn't even mildly interested. It was probably due to the size of the run. I don't recall the actual numbers but I think I was thinking of an investment in the low 6 figures (USD) - a lot of risk for my personal finances but peanuts for a large company. Indeed, it occurred to me later that they could probably spend most of that in meetings deciding whether this was really a good idea. (At least if HP was like my employer ;-))

In the meantime, I mentioned on the forum that such a thing might happen and got 3 "count me in" responses. Admittedly I did this without a lot of fanfare - as a response in another bring back the 42S thread but still... 3... That didn't leave me feeling very comfortable with my offer on the table ;-)

Further down, I noticed that Thibaut mentioned his polling data and if I'm reading it right we have 7ish people who want HP to reintroduce the 42S. (And a couple who want the 35 to be reintroduced!) This is from what looks like about 20 self-selected respondents to a poll offered to people who like old HP calculators. I mean no offense to Thibaut because it's a fine poll of what we like here but I have a feeling that Mr. Morris would get a chuckle out of it. HP probably has market studies, focus groups, sales records vs. sales projections, NRE & BOM vs. price etc. for every calculator they've sold and we're trying to change their minds with a poll of 20 old HP calculator fans.

I think we need either someone willing to run a real marketing study or an incredibly persuasive presentation that can convince HP to pay for it. Something that indicates that they've missed an entire market segment or that they've been marketing calculators the wrong way or a new calculator boom is about to begin or HP calculators drive sales of other HP products or ...

What I've read so far is messages from people who really want the 42S back. That's great and I agree, however, I'm still looking for the convincing argument that this is important to

HP. I've seen some good anecdotes but I think they need additional work to be persuasive.

Dave

Re: Thoughts on the 42S and what we want vs. good business
*Message #5 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 26 Nov 2001, 5:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Dave Hicks

I agree that a profit and a good business move on Hp's part are the driving force for them to re-establish an older Hp42s line. Since Hp already makes the Hp17, the tooling and nearly everthing else is already there (aside from the rom and Keys, but they are minor modifications in the overall scheme of things). I would like a few enhancements that wouldn't cost Hp hardly a cent, add units conversions and a clock. I would also like I/O and more memory but this would add cost.

I feel Hp did not ever market the 42s for fear of robbing from their 48g line of calculators. But that was a mistaken assumption made by market and bean counter types, not by engineers. Students bought the 48g (or Ti's)and then progressed into the engineering or whatever field with their graphics vs Hp41 users and people who wanted pocket calculators with some horsepower either buy a graphics (and not usually Hp, but some other by 2:1 or more) or do with a low end Hp32 or some other under power product. The Hp42 just was not readily availabe and when it was, was priced at nearly the same level as an Hp48 when it should have been priced at the same level as an Hp17. It never was until the very end as it was discontinued.

It is for that reason, it was never popular, not that it was not a great calculator. People who use it, know, people who compare specs, buy the Hp48 and never realize what Hp offered as a pocket calculator. The Hp32s could be modified by just adding 2-8 k and it too would be much better (still not a 42, but much better than it now is).

Hp even did a redesign of the Hp12 (they could have added more memory and/or a scientific mode). I would have bought two right off the bat at retail for that calculator (as long as it was below $100). Did they? No, Hp stuck with status quoe and targeted their business RPN customer (which by the way, isn't all that smart, knowing that the longitivity of this paticular model is usually 10 years, even with hard use).

Am I pi$$ed at Hp. You bet I am. Can I blame them? Whether I can rationally or not, I will.

Also, even though Ian Morris was nice enough to post here, I am afraid he was not sincere. And by this I mean, to me Hp is withdrawing from the market and just in damage control mode. Look around you. Do any major office chains or dept stores carry

any Hp calculators other than the Hp6s, Hp30s or Hp10Bii (and even the 6s and 30s aren't that plentiful). I posted this question on another board and only one response was positive (and it was misguided, since the individual mentioned a surverying store, which of course will carry Hp, probably to the end). Yes, there are WEB stores, but these are not a big market mover, as Educalc can probably attest to. I bought a couple of Hp's from Jim (an Hp48 and a few others). I wished I'd bought more. Therefore, when Ian stated that Hp would continue to produce and market calculators, I was/am skeptical. I don't see it. Also, try to buy an Hp48GX, it isn't available directly from Hp anymore. To me, this appears to be Hp in full retreat from the market and trying to quell any mass market fears that may affect their stock. (truthfully, most consumers don't even know Hp makes calculators, so this is just another Hp moron move by their marketers PR damage control group also).

Just me, Ranting and Raving, with foam on the mouth.

Re: Thoughts on the 42S and what we want vs. good business
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 26 Nov 2001, 5:56 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ron Ross

"The Hp42 just was not readily availabe and when it was, was priced at nearly the same level as an Hp48 when it should have been priced at the same level as an Hp17"

The list price for the 42S was $10 higher than the 17B and $45 less than the 48G. An old Educalc catalog that I have handy shows the street price of the 42S as $5 higher than the 17B. Street price for the 48G was around $30 higher. The same catalog shows that the comparatively ancient 12C with 1/70th as much memory and 1/15th the processor speed was only $10 less than the 42S. Yet the 12C is still available to this day.

"Do any major office chains or dept stores carry any Hp calculators other than the Hp6s, Hp30s or Hp10Bii (and even the 6s and 30s aren't that plentiful)."

Between the local Office Depot and Staples I can also find the 49G, 17BII, 12C and I think the 19BII. But they didn't carry HPs in HP's heyday. Indeed, other HP fans have blamed HP for allowing major office chains to market HP calculators, thereby undercutting knowledgeable sellers like EduCalc, etc. This is just one example of the inconsistencies in our complaints that will probably have to be worked out if we expect business people to listen to any plans we have. (Strangely enough, I was one of the very few people arguing that mass marketing and allowing consumers to choose support vs. price was NOT a bad idea but it seemed a VERY unpopular idea in that thread.)

"To me, this appears to be Hp in full retreat from the market and trying to quell any mass market fears that may affect their stock. (truthfully, most consumers don't even know Hp makes calculators, so this is just another Hp moron move by their marketers PR damage control group also)."

Well most people who buy HP stock don't know they make calculators either. I haven't seen a corporate profile of HP from any stock service in years that contained the word "calculator" so I find it hard to believe that Mr. Morris was trying to prop up the stock price.

Re: Look again Dave
*Message #7 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 26 Nov 2001, 9:35 p.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Dave Hicks

Look again Dave. Call anyone of your local supply stores and ask. One month ago, I would have said the same thing, I don't now.

Also, while educalc may have had a disparity of pricing, I assure you the local Service Merchandise or college bookstore did not.

OK I just drove over
*Message #8 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 26 Nov 2001, 11:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ron Ross

Add the 48GX to my previous list and the 19BII is no longer just a maybe. It is kind of amazing to see a a couple of >$100 calculators in a sea of $6-12 calculators but so far they're still there. Oh and you can get the 10B or the 10Bii depending on whether you go to Office Depot or Staples. The 12C is still available at both stores for $69.99. Office Depot's price on the 17BII is $89.99 - higher than EduCalc's price was. I forgot to check the price at Staples.

I grant that all this could change any day but regardless of the answer, I don't understand which answer is meant to encourage the reintroduction of the HP-42S. Like I've said I've seen people claiming that HPs should and should not be sold in these stores.

Also, while educalc may have had a disparity of pricing, I assure you the local Service Merchandise or college bookstore did not.

EduCalc's prices were pretty much a standardized discount off HP's MSRP.

(It looks like subtract ~23% and then round up to end in 2.95, 4.95 or 9.95.) If another store chooses a different discount model, I don't think that HP can control that.

This jogged my memory
*Message #9 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 27 Nov 2001, 1:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Dave Hicks

One of the things that people from EduCalc and Handicalc complained about was that the big chains were able to sell 48s at huge discounts due to the volume of sales. Perhaps they didn't discount the 42S as steeply because they weren't selling at a similar volume. The less time an item stays in your inventory, the lower the markup you need to make a profit.

You may have touched the bruise...
*Message #10 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 6:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Dave Hicks

Hi;

maybe this is the best shot we have. Sales for the HP42S were not as expected cause of internal affairs: another complete new, low priced calc. Despite of being new, Pioneer-style model, it was a mere 41's evolution (please, don't blame me. I don't think this way... Keep reading). Many former 41 users would by it ONLY IF compatible I/O was available. I remember a classmate of mine when he saw my new 42 (I proudly showed it to him and, guess what?):

"- Where can I connect my 41's printer? Isn't it compatible? If I cannot connect my printer, it's not compatible!
(me)- Well, there is a brand-new, IR printer that you can use; just aim and...
- I'm not talking about just the printer: the card-reader, the wand, application modules... You know what? Maybe this new 48 series will give us more. At least more memory. Besides, it is cheaper, has an RS232 compatible I/O..."

Well, this is a fact HewPack should consider: market approach. Do you agree?

Cheers.

An HP43? HP41.5?

*Message #11 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 27 Nov 2001, 3:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I've occasionally dreamed of a model halfway between a 41 and a 42 - essentially, a 42S with more memory, faster processor and two 41-compatible slots. There are some technical questions that I've never explored involving how you maintain full compatibility while making these changes but where I really think it falls down is in the marketing/business side.

Essentially, we'd be asking HP to make a calculator whose claim to fame is that it works with a bunch of old equipment that we can buy from the museum classifieds and Ebay. It tends to have a "Yeah we know the 41C line is dead but we made one anyway!" feel to it. Also they have to work out the compatibility details with all that old stuff but wouldn't be able to make that money back by selling all those peripherals today. The alternative is to also bring back a whole line of new peripherals. (Which in turn brings up new questions like is HP-IL ready for 2002 or does it need an upgrade etc...) That would be fun but it would be a **major** campaign so we'd really need some **serious** market data to get that started.

Re: An HP43? HP41.5?

*Message #12 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 1 Dec 2001, 8:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Dave Hicks

Hi,

did I tell you that W&W made an HP-IL interface for the HP-48SX? It consists of a special HP-IL to serial converter, and a control library on the 48SX.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: An HP43? HP41.5?
*Message #13 Posted by **Albert Graef** on 1 Dec 2001, 10:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #12 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

did I tell you that W&W made an HP-IL interface for the HP-48SX?

Hmm, can you still buy this somewhere, and does it work with the GX as well? Would be cool if you could get some of the IL devices to work with the 48.

Albert

Re: An HP43? HP41.5?
*Message #14 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 2 Dec 2001, 8:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Albert Graef

Unfortunately, W&W doesn't produce it any more. In fact, production of the interface stopped in 1992. AFAIK, only a small amount of these interfaces were sold. They were not cheap;-)

I made a port of the software part to the GX, and it works quite well, but it's not perfect. The main problem seems to be the hardware. Of course it uses the HP-IL chip, but the surrounding electronics, along with some custom firmware programming, makes it difficult to build another unit.

Hmm. Since IL chips seem to be relatively rare, what about using the hardware of the HP-71B IL module?

AFAIK this module connects directly to the Saturn bus, and on the other side there's HP-IL;-) Maybe the IL module's ROM routines could be used or adapted to work on the HP-48, since they were made for the same processor family.

Anyone who wants to give this idea a try?

Raymond

HPIL for the 48G

*Message #15 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 2 Dec 2001, 12:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #14 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Hi;

There are some docs running around the www that contain HPIL specs, internals and the like. January 1983`s issue of the HP Journal has lots of basic info about the HPIL. Did you have access to these docs? What worries me is the protocol. As the HP48 does not have the basic IL instruction set, I believe you wrote them as a 48`s lib, and I guess User RPL has been of no use. Right?

If I am not wrong, there is an HPIL/RS232 adapter (converter?), but I do not know anything else about it besides its existence. Let me guess: do you have the HP82166A, HPIL Converter, composed by the pulse transformer, I/O connectors` panel and the IL Interface IC? This would be the key for implementing, alright

There is a very important point to be considered: many, many new controllers are far more powerful than the IL controller, so it's not impossible programming one of these controllers so it can emulate the IL controller. I still on the protocol again.

Well, if we have access to the protocol (SW and electrical signaling), emulate IL IC with a controller (BTW, Pavel Korensky has been working with ATMel controllers, and the ATMega series seems to be perfect for the job; Pavel, forgive-me not asking for permission prior to mention it), have an easy way to build the pulse

transformer and connectors and (will you allow?) using your 48`s Lib with IL equivalent commands, chances are that it can be achieved.

I still would like to know how does the HPIL/ RS232 converter work. If it is dummy, would your already existing LIB be able to drive it?

Please, comments, complements, any.

Re: HPIL for the 48G
*Message #16 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern (Germany)** on 4 Dec 2001, 2:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi,

I don't know if it works with the std HP IL-RS232 converter, but I could send you a copy of the lib, and some info about it.

Regards,

Raymond

Re: HPIL for the 48G
*Message #17 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 4 Dec 2001, 5:18 a.m.,*
in response to message #16 by Raymond Hellstern (Germany)

Hi;

I do not have the HPIL/RS232 converter (I do not have any IL component, in fact), but I'd like knowing how does your lib work. I would not dare asking for the 'user RPL' list, but the basic explanations would be as fine. I believe that a technical doc with internal descriptions and IO protocol for

the IL/RS232 converter would be of major importance.

I read again -briefly- a few docs I have about the HPIL and the custom IL IC used in the 82160A (HP41 IL Module) is, for known reasons, different of the commercial version. It already has the 41's XROM 29, xx set of functions as built-in among the IL processing itself. As mentioned, the HP71B (I don't have one, too...) has a different IL structure (Saturn bus based) and I think its philosophy is somewhat like the HP41's: all IL functionality plus Saturn bus interface. Another thing: is the commands set for the 71B built in the IL module OR it is a part of the OS itself?

I believe the RS232/HPIL converter for the HP48/49 is much easy and cheaper to be built (HW) today than it would be a few years ago. Resources available now are far more powerful and choices exist. What worries me is the fact that IL components are no longer being developed and developing new ones would lead to the creation of IL compatible interfaces (would HP get ILB3 back to business?) and IL-protocol managers. Something to reason about...

Please, let's keep this subject growing. And I suggest a new thread for this matter.

Regards.

Re: OK I just drove over
*Message #18 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 5:37 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Dave Hicks

Hi;

Maybe my memories are far from being trustable, but I remember buying my 42 in the end of 1989, at the very moment it was offered here in Brazil (Serial # is 2945B20208). At that time, I also remember the HP48S as the one being offered as a low-priced SX for those who did not want expandability.

Then it comes my question to Dave: if I am not wrong, the 42 was more expensive than the 48S. I remember not buying the 48S just cause I already had an SX, but I thought a lot about it (couple of seconds, maybe) before buying the 42S. "Emulating the 41 with 8K RAM? No way! Gimme that 42!" All the rest is history...

Cheers.

Sorry but you're wrong and more pricing thoughts
*Message #19 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 27 Nov 2001, 3:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #18 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Neither the 48SX nor the 48S existed in 1989.

The 48S came out in 1991 at a list price of $250 - more than twice the 42S but less than the 48SX at $350.

The 48 series did not even get close in price to the 42S until the 48G was introduced for $45 more in 1993. By this time the 42S was in its fifth year of production.

Let's look at another bit of HP pricing. When the HP-22 came out, it replaced the HP-70 but also added some new features that made it better in some ways than the HP-80. Nonetheless, the HP-80 continued to sell during the life of the 22. The 22 was $165 and the 80 was $395. You could look at this as HP's (apparently failed) attempt to kill the HP-80 but I think what it really represents is 2 years of technological progress. Nonetheless "enough" people where

willing to pay that much extra for the HP-80.

Similarly, the 42S predates the earliest 48 by a couple of years. It's because the 48s have more features and hardware that they were priced higher rather than lower as was typical for newer models. Criticizing HP for not pricing the older model "lower enough" or not forcing stores to maintain the price difference in their discounts when older models are typically priced higher is really a stretch I think.

The HP-35 might sell very well today if it were priced below the HP-6s but it would probably cost at least 100 times as much as the 6s to manufacture.

Thanks! My memories are low...
*Message #20 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 3:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #19 by Dave Hicks

...in charge. (which calculator was that? Gee...)

Re: OK I just drove over
*Message #21 Posted by **Dan M (Vermont, USA)** on 27 Nov 2001, 6:38 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Dave Hicks

Hi Dave and all,

I was at the local Staples yesterday. We don't have Office Depot nearby. The Staples supply of modern HP mid-range calcs was pretty good (10bii, 30s, 12c, 17(?) or 19(?) - the folding one).

I found the 12c display model to be quite interesting, it was the first I've seen that was made in China. It's hard to describe, but it had a slightly different look to it. The key label fonts were maybe a little less-well defined, and the yellow key looked a little orange to my slightly color-blind eyes. The keys, while not as "snappy" as the old-time HP feel, were still way better than the things on my HP-49. RPN still worked on it, too.

The 12C has had a long life, too bad the 42S couldn't have enjoyed some of the same.

The last Office Depot I was at had mark-down/close-out prices on their HP-48's. I should have bought some more for my kids, but I still have dreams that they can get through school with a stack of 41C's and peripherals. That, and no tv -- ha ha.

Kind regards,

Dan

Re: Thoughts on the 42S and what we want vs. good business
*Message #22 Posted by **Ellis Easley** on 27 Nov 2001, 5:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Ron Ross

Ron wrote:

"(truthfully, most consumers don't even know Hp makes calculators ... "

I don't know whether to laugh or cry every time I hear a business reporter say HP wants to concentrate on their "traditional" products - PCs and printers!

(Does anybody remember the new name of the test equipment division?)

Agilent
*Message #23 Posted by **Michael** on 27 Nov 2001, 11:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #22 by Ellis Easley

I'm glad someone actually brought up the "other" division. This division is still turning out good quality products with good value (I say this having compared Agilent's benchtop DMM (34401A) with the Fluke 45. Both are at the same price point, but the HP is superior in function, construction, etc.). I would like to know how long-time HP test equipment users feel how the new equipment compares to the old - if someone strongly disagrees, I would like to hear your opinion of their performance after the split. I think that if the calculator development team had been given to Agilent, we would have an Agilent 43 handheld calculator with data logging functionality and other goodies (it might be horribly expensive and only sell 459 units a year, but they would stock it). Unfortunately, it was decided that HP would exist to market consumer goods (cr*p) and Agilent would continue doing what made HP a great company. I was happy to read the negative responses to Iain Morris's nonsense post, and we do have him, Carly, and their ilk to blame for the 6s, not the marketplace.

Re: Agilent

*Message #24 Posted by **glynn** on 28 Nov 2001, 6:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Michael

Agree with every doggone word you've said, up until the last line. I, too, wish Agilent had inherited ACO instead of HP (which I said at the time).

The 6s may have come out during Carly's watch, but I am certain it was only a continuation of long-established market-driven decision-making.

Her "ilk", indeed, has been at the helm for a decade or so.

That she was a proven market-driven decision-maker convinced the other ilk to make her Head Ilk, rare for any ilk with bachelor Stanford degrees in medieval history and philosophy, a master's degree in business administration and a master of science degree from MIT's Sloan School.

It was her planning of Lucent's spinoff from ATT that convinced those ilk to get her for a company with major research ties trying to learn how to mass-market instead of concentrating on narrow sector marketing, no doubt.

Yeh, but ilk are sneaky. They team up with other ilk of their ilk, like Iain, who spent over 20 years at Motorola being an ilk of the sort who tried to make pagers and personal communications devices into mass-market things. Wonder how that worked out? And of course, since Iain NOW has "companywide responsibility for product generation and new product introduction processes", his little ilk-prints are just gonna be ALL over anything HP does in the future...

I, too, don't blame the marketplace for the 6s. I blame a marketing philosophy I don't agree with, a corporate slant that is right for some things but won't produce what *I'm* looking for. And a certain set of ilk IS following that philosophy, and has developed that slant as strategy. I disagree totally with the "reinvention" as it has occurred, mostly over its results--which could have better handled the ACO by giving them to the narrow-market ilk at Agilent.

How many of the horribly-expensive 459 43's should they reserve in your name? ;-)

Re: Agilent
*Message #25 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 28 Nov 2001, 7:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #24 by glynn

You might want to wipe that foam off your mouth, before someone shoots you like a rabid dog. I liked the posts both here and the one just a bit further down and cannot refute a single word.

Re: Agilent
*Message #26 Posted by **Michael** on 28 Nov 2001, 10:20 a.m.,*
in response to message #24 by glynn

I appreciate your comments, but I would like to know how this dynamic market analysis and accommodation and product reinvention has paid off for HP. Granted, I don't hang out with a lot of "people" in middle school, but I can't imagine that their focused marketing effort or "let's make a half-assed attempt to break into the education market" (what color face plate do you use) has paid off too well.

As far as I can see, HP has managed to disenfranchise their long time customers AND not really do very well in their new foray.

Who is to be held accountable (let's assume that we sit on the HP board of directors)? It seems like "the executives" have decided to place the blame for the lagging calculator business, in some sense, on the ACO's "frivolity" and "the ever changing marketplace" - not on fundamentally bad decisions made by their "ilk" at whatever point in the past. (Don't get me wrong - I do grant that the marketplace has changed - and I think that the PC has done more to harm the specialty electronic device market than anything else, BUT people still buy specialty instruments (like a real 'scope as opposed to a PCI scope) and pay good money for them, recognizing their quality and utility over all-in-one economy. Ultimately, it is a matter of price, and yes sign me up for at least two Agilent 43's.

Therefore, I don't understand why any of us (the disenfranchised) have to gain by pandering to them, we certainly don't have anything to lose. And don't worry, Iain won't be offended by the negative posts, because he never read them nor will he. I guess one could wonder why seemingly otherwise reasonable adults are spending good time whining about calculators, but we were affected profoundly by the products that this company used to make. I would do anything to have that kind of

following in a business of my own - and there lies the fundamental problem with current HP management - they are unable to appreciate their former products to the same extent as we do.

Notice - my blood pressure is normal as I write this - I don't mean to sound ranty or rabid, and I do appreciate the quality and eloquence of Glynn's thoughts.

Re: Agilent
*Message #27 Posted by **glynn** on 28 Nov 2001, 11:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #26 by Michael

I'll go along with your judgment that Pandering, maybe, is a bit in my stance-- because I never saw that Panic was any better. What we "gain" or "lose" is only measured in terms of personal dignity and in terms of what we choose to align ourselves with by our associations.

For me, that's enough to conclude that if inflammatory or derogatory words, tantrums and insults grace this board, I DO need to speak up when no one has, lest those be the lasting shadows cast on the whole-- a false coloration of otherwise fine and respectable folk (including me). There IS a way to express our frustrations, our concerns, our passions and our disgust without losing respectability.

And we *must* try to do that: you might believe in your heart that only thirty or forty people ever look into this little forum, but that's simply not true-- this place along with all our expressions is open to the world, now and forever, thanks to the Archives. 24-7-365. Mr. Hicks probably has >100 daily visitors who look at our messages but never speak. And THIS website, more than any other on the web, is the embassy for all those who love, use and collect HP calculating glory. We who type in our messages are leaving them as representations of what this community is thinking, feeling, IS.

Yes, we are disenfranchised. It feels terrible, I admit. We need not isolate ourselves further, by acting as jilted lovers or impatient children. This is the source of my attitude, which you might not agree makes any sense. I can only shape the way things go on around here the same way you can... by sticking up for your beliefs and defending them with your best intellectual arguments. If I pander, it will never be incumbent on you to do so, nor to accept it numbly.

If others throw tantrums, it's not generally any skin off MY nose, until it begins to paint a picture of this collective which is ugly, not representative of us in general, distorted. I hope you understand a little more what motivates MY emotional rantings, because I will add my perspective anywhere I feel I must... sometimes politely, sometimes with sarcasm, but always with the intention of straightening up what I see as a slanted picture. As you've read, I mostly try not to get personal unless the grievance is equally personal... hard when you have strong feelings, I know well.

What a great and well-considered message Michael... and in your observations on both Agilent and HP, I think I have found much accord. There is so much to the success and failure of a business endeavor, and the evaluation of it. But you do see that one form of management works on our behalf as users, and another cannot. You see the blinders on those in management who cannot imagine that any other than their chosen direction has validity.

We in this forum are the perfect ones to explore this. The basic things we need to discuss, from our standpoint, include Strategies: good AND bad. Management which fails or succeeds. Products which make it or don't. (If ya haven't guessed, I'd take a Agilent 43 in a heartbeat). Service, quality, price, features; past AND future.

Because (I believe anyway) SOMEBODY is going to do what the current HP may not.

And our consideration may someday be needed-- because the way is going to be rocky, and we are the sage and sane trail scouts they will need.

And in the meantime, it's not hard to imagine our own explorations, from the many perspectives we own, having meaning to our own lives.

Re: Agilent
*Message #28 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 28 Nov 2001, 1:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #23 by Michael

It occurs to me that behind the apparent demise of the HP calculator is exactly the shift in target market alluded to above:

HP used to build calculators for *engineers*, while TI & etc. built them for everyone. Now HP is focusing on the mass market as well.

I suppose that saying this only restates what has probably been obvious to most of you; but when viewed as a conscious, strategic corporate decision, it seems to explain a lot of otherwise random weirdness.

After Brogger's words: getting closer...
*Message #29 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 28 Nov 2001, 3:49 p. m.,*
in response to message #28 by Paul Brogger

... and closer to facts. I'm looking for the reasons (as anyone in here) for this *lot of otherwise random weirdness*, and it seems they will arise soon...

Cheers.

Re: Agilent
*Message #30 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 29 Nov 2001, 8:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #28 by Paul Brogger

HP used to build calculators for engineers, while TI & etc. built them for everyone. Now HP is focusing on the mass market as well.

Yes, indeed, but they also made calculators for finance people, almost as soon as they did so for engineers (HP80)

And I'm sure many people who are not engineers but need number crushers also prefer HP calcs !

Thibaut is right

*Message #31 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 29 Nov 2001, 10:38 a.m.,*

in response to message #30 by Thibaut.be

Thibaut (hi!)

you touched another point: financial calculators (very well mentioned, indeed). No financial calc user is claiming for this or that feature OR model, at least not as emphatic as we, technicians, engineers, are.

Let's just consider: for how long is the 12C being produced? And they will be for as long as business people buy them. Beyond being THE calculator for business, it's a good Xmas gift, a good prize for a contest, or a prize for the best salesman of the month... A gift to be used as a good tool, of course. And HP keeps the HP12C being produced almost unchanged, cosmetically speaking. AND IT IS RPN-BASED!!!

Please, users of the other financial calculators: I did not mention the others cause I do not know them much to reason about. Please, comments.

Cheers.

Your e-mail address...

*Message #32 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 26 Nov 2001, 7:13 p.m.,*

in response to message #2 by glynn

Hi;

Glynn, you wrote: >"Y'know, I sometimes have filled in that "e-mail address" field at the top of the <Post a New Response> form. But I have never ACTUALLY seen an address print out for me, and no clickable button, so far as I know. (But then, maybe I haven't been that attentive...)

I'm not sure this is your doubt, but let me try...

When you post your e-address in the field and you open your own message, you see the heading:

*Posted by **glynn** on...*

If you do not post your e-address, you see:

*Posted by **glynn** on...*

Your name will become a link to your e-address in the first case; see? This way, your e-address becomes available.

Cheers.

Doh!
*Message #33 Posted by **glynn** on 26 Nov 2001, 9:30 p.m.,*
in response to message #32 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

...this is precisely why I never got past the first couple of moves in "Colossal Cave"... ;-)

That's an area I've though of too:
*Message #34 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 26 Nov 2001, 11:17 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by glynn

But naming it Legacy or something, and focusing it specifically to markets HP is not incredibly passionate about, avoiding THEIR distribution channels, and pricing it deliberately at a point far above any existing HP niche-- these would have to be part of an overall presentation. A "gold-plated" 42 or slight variant? Might just work.

I think of this as the 42SW (for Swiss Watch version :-)) Essentially something like a 42S in something like a titanium case with a scratch resistant synthetic (white) sapphire panel over the LCD and an extraordinarily high price. Many old Swiss watch makers who were nearly bankrupted by the Quartz watch are now doing quite well in the very high end. Can you pull this off with calculators too? I have no idea.

Re: That's an area I've though of too:

*Message #35 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 27 Nov 2001, 4:23 a.m.,*

in response to message #34 by Dave Hicks

Well, actually I'm working for that Swiss Watch company that bought the major nearly bankrupted watchmakers and built up a group out of it.

I'm not sure you can compare both markets, as, even if we guys do show some, the watch is far more an emotional item than a calculator.

Actually the main reversal of trends began in the early 80's when Swatch proposed a "consumer's watch", ie an item that could be changed, that was fashionnable, while it wwas traditionnally somethig you got at your engagement's paty for the rest of your life.

Well, of course, let's dreaming about a 42SW but I'm afraid that 75% of the sales will occur amongst our community... So one way to do so is to buy 42S on ebay and find someone who has the craftmanship to put a sapphire glass and cover it with titanium...

By the way, I certainly not felt offended by your remark on my poll. It was really pleasant to establish, I received something like 30 answers, which is absolutely not significant, and you get a point when you say HP guys could burst into laughter if they read the results... let's talk about figures : how many 42S could we sell here ? 50 ? 100 ? 500 ? no big deal at all... Who would like to store more than 5 42's ?

I am under the impression that we are wishing to alert HP that we don't agree with their actual politics and put a lot of pressure on them to restart a given up production line, but do we really think it's good business to do so ? I share Glynn's ideas when he say that they're IN business to DO busines.

So the only option we have is to ask them to put the functionnalities of our beloved calcs on their now ones. And I think they somewhat care : let's take the 19BII : they added not only RPN on the 19B, but also many scientific functions, which makes of it a very very wide ranged calculator ! no real programming, but the HP solver is really powerful and includes summations, conditions, ...

So I guess that our only chance is to ask them to propose the choice between alg and RPN/RPL on their models !

Re: That's an area I've though of too:
*Message #36 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 27 Nov 2001, 11:43 a.m.,*
in response to message #34 by Dave Hicks

The 35th anniversary of the introduction of the HP-35 will be something like 2007.

Now, it's looking ahead quite a bit, but a 35th anniversary version of the HP-35 (actually, something like an alphanumeric LED implementation of an HP-32S with more memory) would be really cool . . .

Re: That's an area I've though of too:
*Message #37 Posted by **george** on 27 Nov 2001, 6:47 p.m.,*
in response to message #34 by Dave Hicks

Why not? It works for E. Leitz and M6's.

Re: That's an area I've though of too:
*Message #38 Posted by **glynn** on 28 Nov 2001, 3:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #34 by Dave Hicks

Hmm...

"42SW"... I like it!!!

A watch (dang thing is JUST supposed to tell you the correct time) IS a very personal choice. I myself have three watches: one which I always wear to work, it's a Casio LCD digital so beat up it cannot possibly be hurt further; one I have for "dress", (a Citizen) whose major virtue is that it is fairly readable to my aging eyes while still looking dignified; and a Fossil retro I NEVER wear, that I just HAD to have when I saw it because it was a silly red-LED (press button to tell time) like my old (high-school) TI watch I remember so fondly. Unfortunately my old TI would display for about three seconds on one button-press; the Fossil stupidly forces you to hold its button down continuously-- making what was ordinarily a mere chore into a downright debilitation. Hate that watch, wish I'd never bought it.

By "gold-plated" (an admittedly clumsy word choice) I DO mean premium, cost-not-the-object, use of quality materials; but I do NOT mean "precious". I mean WORTHY.

Indeed I would LOVE a Uniax (DuPont Displays) polymer-LED screen (bright amber characters on black) on your 42"SW". A regular LCD with some expensive crystal doesn't rev me up at all. But a polarized filter to make glare less of a problem does make

sense to me. Expensive, but RIGHT.

I would love tall-felling keys as I have on my 33c with their crisp "snick" detent; Hp gave that up as way too expensive. Yes it is. But to someone who wants to be darn sure that what he is keying is entered correctly, that tactile feedback is WORTH it.

I would urge a modern "data-port" of some capability, probably not HPIL, but maybe "CAN" or a decent speed USB-derivative. The idea of a peripheral team that magnifies the calc's abilities with data-gathering intelligence is one that intrigues me. TI has created an ultrasonic ranging device and an analog data-sampling device as add-ons for use by schools in their "Explorer" series-- a MAJOR reason our area schools fell in love with the TI-92 (and made district-wide purchases). I can imagine a set of surveying tools, or a multiport-simultaneous DMM/scope for doing electrical analysis... plugged in to our calc through a port of sufficient speed to allow these and storage of the gathered data.

The mag-cards of the 41 and 67 and so on were not just an interim step towards the 42's non-volatile memory, in MY regard. If you lose your 42's memory, or lose the 42 itself, well, you lose programs. You lose WORK. But if the 42"SW" had a SmartCard memory of say 32 or 64M, which I see as a natural for a premium calc of today, archiving programs, switching directories-full of routines, etc. would be DARN USEFUL.

I've not mentioned anything YET that cannot NOW be engineered into a 42"SW" in its current form-factor and, while it would be QUITE AN EXPENSIVE device, each of these improvements would add to what we already know as a highly-useful and productive tool. That's all I REALLY want: a tool that makes sense in every aspect. Updating and revising a product for today in some ways might sound heretical. But it oughta happen...

Democracy, Circuses and Bread:

There is a certain philosophy Marketing types often hold, and one that we often accept blindly and persistently from them, which says: always make --whatever you make-- best for the greatest number.

This democratization of product means, eventually, cheap but "ubiquitous" products-- you get them at Wal-Mart. And Wal-Mart is incredibly successful. The strategy is a good one, and many benefits derive from this approach. Not least is that, in production, it has often been true in the past that unless you implement the economies of scale, you cannot even get back the costs of beginning production. So large-scale production almost always dictated a mass-marketing approach.

I remember my neighbor of many years back, who was building a "custom" car. He labored long, loving hours on his jalopy, creating a body out of fiberglass. He explained to me how fiberglass was PERFECT for creating a single-copy car-- because metalworking was a terrifically difficult option few craftsmen understood or practiced. But all cars I had ever been around were metal-- why? Because at the scale of production of Ford and GM and Chrysler, they could invest in production costs like creating diework and stamping for a particular model of car... and the metal was a superior material for the characteristics of the product they were trying (at the time) to achieve; one that sold in hundreds of thousands of units a year.

Times have changed. A friend has a Saturn, and was proudly showing me the impact-resistance of his all-plastic door-panels. Meanwhile, a shop down the street has some interesting fabrication tools: a couple of "water-piks" that can cut huge sheets of metal and one can even form them AS IF the metal were stamped on a huge press. They can do this by computer, MEANING the setup costs of a job are no longer in expensive custom dies and forms-- a computer draftsman makes a 3-D "warping" of a sheet on the screen (the computer knows the rules about what it can do), and the machines make it happen. My jalopy-making neighbor would be dying to get hold of this...

This KIND of innovation is set to turn the "economies of scale" arguments on their heads. A trip to Fujitsu made me salivate over the already-real prospect of a "custom" chip (made from standard libraries of incredible circuits)-- the kind of chip that only a IBM or a HP could have made for themselves a few years ago. But they'll make me one, or a hundred, or a million, to MY specification, because they are set up to do just that!!! Lessee, I need that ARM CPU core, and that Non-Volatile memory over there, and let's have some of this interface circuitry on the side... A cafeteria from which, I believe, small organizations and big ones BOTH gain the "economy of scale".

As these things happen, companies like HP have, ironically, overwhelmingly turned themselves over to the "mass-market" camp. They cannot indulge any longer in products meant for a few professionals. Many of HP's earlier products, including things like the 35, were initially "concept proving-grounds": meant to extend the company's prowess and develop markets for technologies HP already owned. Sating the curiosities of creative and innovative engineers is all very well; but nowadays revenue, stock value and market-share trump all. And those who grew up in the world of business and marketing are absolutely convinced: the secret to success lies ultimately in seeking the largest possible numbers of products sold, and maximizing the return, wherever that philosophy may take you.

So in this era, a few lawyers mining your "intellectual property" make more money for you than a few engineers doing intellectualizing in the first place. And products which have no PROVEN mass appeal are to be avoided like death, while hitching your star to a developed mass (Barbie printer, need I say more?) is a high corporate ideal.

A calculator with Mass-Appeal has been all HP have really been interested in developing over the last decade. It is my opinion that ACO was getting closer to that goal, but farther afield of its perceived "turf". <<Why develop a math-teaching tool, that is too obscure and limited a market; focus instead on something Kids will like; WHAT! not a youth-PDA that will outdo (and maybe undercut the sales of) our "proven market" Windows machines!!!>> And so ACO had to go.

But we are not a mass-market, we calc users. Which is why we react so strongly to mass-market driven decisions like AOS and koolaid color-schemes. We would love the cheap tool, IF it still held the same utility as those HP calcs we fell for many years ago; we are happy if HP makes things that are both useful and popular. But what we would find MOST useful would, at least for now, cost too much to have a broad audience. In current HP eyes, that doesn't make sense. So they won't make it. Given their needs, blaming them does not make much sense.

So, is there a place for a limited-market approach? We should not look to HP to have a go at it; they won't.

A 42-style RPN programmable calc that easily fits in your hand and offers the advantages of over a decade of technical advance-- it could be done. The question many WANT to ask at this point is: but would it even sell to the limited market it was intended for? But there is no "pat" answer. The questions of user cost are important; but if it was sufficiently useful and WORTH the cost, and that worth were provable to them, I feel it might be worth the gamble.

I have no laptop computer, because I am not "on the go" like the average laptop user. I can't afford a >$1000 toy. But many people with less expendable income than I, DO have laptops instead of or in addition to a desk computer. They have spent the grand or more because they can justify the expense on the basis of their mobile productivity. It has WORTH they personally quantify before they spring for the Pavilion or Thinkpad or Presario or Tecra or Vaio... and laptops, once a conspicuous luxury or a tool only for professional executive types, reach down to anyone who can see the worth of having their computer on the train or at the beach.

ANY product, to catch the market it is intended for, must justify its expense to the user. Could a merely fancy calc do it?

In some respects, I see limits... but a marketer might ask: what is the upper limit you would pay for a calc? And most folk today would answer: oh, about a hundred for a really GOOD calc. And the marketer ends at that. The user, who knows where he can get a selection of calcs for under $100, has echoed the current market back to the

marketer. But if what we are talking about is a significantly useful calc that makes other competition look lowly, then all bets are off.

It happened before, to me; twice. That's how, in years when money was even MORE dear, I came to buy HP products that were substantially higher priced than anything else at the college bookstore.

I don't own an Aston Martin; I don't have Rolexes stuffing my bedside-drawer; I like high-end audio but mostly listen to my clock-radio (a Magnavox). But I have some HP calculators, and if my priorities are out of step compared with the mass-market, it maybe explains why I still believe in that which was "HP magic".

That 42SW??? IF: it had a bright and readable multi-line display, a high-speed interface for a new generation of data-gathering peripherals, a SmartCard slot, and all the usual 42s functionality; with good keys, layout and durability of the kind we remember...

Yeah, I might squirm a bit, might look for faults to disqualify it, but ultimately I might pay $350 for it. That's a lot of bread. That's MORE than I'd pay for a PDA. And I'm not talking collector's item, but new tool. Not Precious, but Worthy. But that info would absolutely blow a few marketer's minds, now wouldn't it?

;-D

Well that might be a problem

*Message #39 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 28 Nov 2001, 8:59 p.m.,*
in response to message #38 by glynn

Yeah, I might squirm a bit, might look for faults to disqualify it, but ultimately I might pay $350 for it. That's a lot of bread.

I've never made any attempt to price this out but I don't generally think $350 when I think of high-end Swiss Watches. Probably the bread and butter of Swiss watches is Rolex which turns out around a million watches a year starting at around $3000. Patek is the acknowledged king making significantly fewer watches with prices starting at around $9K and rising into the 5 and 6 figures.

There are some cheaper Swiss watches but one of their primary cost saving measures is to use generic movements made by ETA. This sort of thing probably wouldn't be available for the 42SW.

One of my favorite companies was Minerva.

This was a tiny 12 person 150 year-old company that recently resumed its watch production. Due to complete lack of advertising and having only one US distributor and 5 US stores they were able to sell a basic watch for about $1200. After doing this for about four years however they were never able to expand their business and bring back their other old watch lines or significantly increase production. They just weren't making enough money. An Italian conglomerate bought them and immediately doubled the prices on their watches.

But maybe you can make a 42SW for $350. It seems unlikely but it really depends on how many you can sell and just how fancy you get I guess.

Re: Well that might be a problem

*Message #40 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 29 Nov 2001, 4:43 a.m.,*

in response to message #39 by Dave Hicks

Well, you're talking about my business, Dave !

Yes, there are a lot of small Swiss factories left, but most of them aree not profit makers and are bound to be bought by groups like Richemont, LVMH, Swatch Group or other smaller ones.

Just a word about the watches ranking : Patek is a gorgious brand, but is Rolex

so ? I guess Bréguet and Blancpain do have a far stronger image. Zenith makes superb movements as well as Piguet.

Yes, ETA makes a lot of movements, not only for their group companies bu also for Rolex, Breitling, ... these movement are reputated for their quality and I thik it's a good thing that many watchmakers use them - they can propose fantastic watches at lower prices...

But I guess this is drifting away our preferred topic, HP calcs !

Re: Well that might be a problem

*Message #41 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 29 Nov 2001, 12:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #40 by Thibaut.be

I mentioned Rolex for two reasons: 1) Because of it's heavy advertising and huge sales, for many people it is the only expensive watch they can name. 2) As a comparison of price and volume. Rolex sells about a million watches per year starting at about $3K. The average Rolex is perhaps $10K meaning annual sales of $10 Billion retail. (And many Rolex designs are decades old so development costs are low.)

Glynn suggested that he would pay $350 on a 42SW, and in another subthread, someone suggested that they might sell 459 of them providing $160K of total sales. It's hard to imagine any manufacturing company being interested in that, let alone one of HP's size.

I think ETA's movements are fine (as far as I know Rolex doesn't use them except in Tudors) but some high-end watch buyers will only accept an in-house movement. (It's very much like an Intel vs. a Custom CPU argument.)

However, my comment about ETA was that you could keep your watch price low by putting an off-the-shelf movement from ETA in it. There is no "ETA of calculators" making off-the-shelf HP-42SW circuit boards that HP could use to save money. This would have to have an in-house "movement" which could easily cost much more to develop than the total sales generated.

Re: Well that might be a problem
*Message #42 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 29 Nov 2001, 2:21 p.m.,*
in response to message #41 by Dave Hicks

You make a very good point.

Also, nearly everyone can read and use a Rolex. Even and especially the top CEO's and anyone else interested in fine quality and a status symbol. But many at the top can barely use a scientific. In fact, THAT may be why they still make the 12c and dumped that other $h*t. Clears up my view of the Hp management.

In the financial/business/marketing mind, they still make the best calculators for business. The scientific user should have migrated to a PDA with the capabilities to do the more advanced number crunching the engineer may have need for. Heaven knows with their insight, that they all moved over for scheduling and spreadsheet work. However, for that general quick knock out the numbers, we will still make a 12c for our line of work just may be the thinking of the business sector making the call at Hp. I am reaching here, but the 12c is so readily available, and scientifics are not.

I ramble, rant & rave, as usual.

I don't think the availability of the 12C is a mystery
*Message #43 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 29 Nov 2001, 4:05 p.m.,*
in response to message #42 by Ron Ross

It still exists because a lot of people still buy it.

It's been rumored many times that HP wished that the 12C would die because of its use of obsolete and expensive technology. It appears that HP's solution was to redesign the internals without changing the externals. I typically see more 12Cs in use than all scientific calculators. Several of my coworkers gave me their HPs (mostly 41Cs) when they found out that I collect them. Typical story: I love it and couldn't just throw it out but it's been in a drawer since college. While many of my coworkers had fond memories of HPs, I never met one (besides me) who had purchased one since school.

Connecting two ideas from this thread...

*Message #44 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 29 Nov 2001, 7:23 p.m.,*

in response to message #41 by Dave Hicks

a) Glynn says he will pay about 350$ for a 42SW. I agree.

b) Dave says that is not enough money for a company to work in such product. I agree.

c) Many examples of watches were discussed, some with hefty price tags. Let's concentrate in the Breitling range, just as an example.

d) HP-01 watches are still looked-for items, and prices always were high (even without RPN).

Then...

What price would we pay, if we could have some of the HP42 functionality (including RPN) in a HP-01 form factor? Catalogs, assignments and softkeys may reduce the need for many buttons; some MODES settings and programming should be done only via a linked PC. Some functionality could be left out, or even downloaded selectively by the user.

Would "someone" related to the watch industry :-) think about this idea?

I think prices could be sensibly higher than Glynn's figure, and perhaps there *are* some digital modules in the watch industry which could be custom-programmed, easing the burden of custom hardware design.

Then we will still need a HP12 to run a TVM model and calculate the installments for buying such $1000 watch, in monthly payments spread over a year or so... :-)

Re: Connecting two ideas from this thread...
*Message #45 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 30 Nov 2001, 3:28 a.m.,*
in response to message #44 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Hi,

Being in the watches industry, the point is not so the price it would be sold but the quantity you should produce.

Only Swatch watches can afford many designs modifications (with not a single modification in the movement) as they are produced at least i hundreds of thousands units.

Such a watch could be produced by several brands I know (Rado ? Endura ? Tissot ? though I'm sure this is more a Casio business) provided they are sure to sell at least 100.000 units... Then we have to talk about the R&D on the specs for such a calc that would be dreadful.

I'm sorry, but I think this really is a dream. The comparison with the HP-01 is not realistic as the reason why the prices are so high is that it is a very rare item, even more rare to be found in a decent condition.

Re: Connecting two ideas from this thread...
*Message #46 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 1 Dec 2001, 9:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #45 by Thibaut.be

It was just a dream.

Re: Well that might be a problem
*Message #47 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel** on 30 Nov 2001, 1:07 p.m.,*
in response to message #40 by Thibaut.be

Well, I think I would take a 42SW.

I remember thinking, "the top model is going to get too cheap" after HP canceled the 71B and the new top machine was the 48SX. The 71B had abt double the price of a 48SX.

The 71B even supported the Interface to test equipment (I own a 1630G HP-IL logic analyzer and the 3468A Digital Multimeter and the IL-IB interface).

BTW, I bought myself an IWC Fliegerchronograph some months ago and I really like it. Seems I'm a technology addict and mechanical watches are a sign for that, just like high-class calculators are.

Maybe I'd spend even more than Glynns $350 for a really great calculator with a good service organization behind it. Somehow I like owning a high quality product.

Re: Well that might be a problem
*Message #48 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 1 Dec 2001, 5:41 a.m.,*
in response to message #47 by Reinhard Hawel

nice IWC you bought ! maybe you'd enjoy a Coaxial next time !

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP-67 ills again.
*Message #1 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 25 Nov 2001, 11:08 p.m.*

Hi everyone!

Well, my HP-67 had, thanks to all of you, been running along quite happily, balancing my checkbook and teaching my daughter her multiplication tables.

Suddenly, it started acting flaky again. It acts as if the ACT chip is bad AGAIN, but not quite the same.

When first turned on, the calc shows the correct display, then quickly scrambles to 0's or off. On a whim, I applied 6 volts across the battery contacts, and it will run for a few seconds properly, then it starts to display strange things; then either blanking out completely or displaying all 0's.

Any ideas? Why would it work for a few seconds on power-up, then fail? Does the fact that it runs longer with a higher voltage give any clues? Did it burn out yet another ACT chip (remember-- it's one from an HP-25)? Bad power suddenly?

As always, I appreciate the support... it seems as if this HP-67 really belongs more to the world-wide HP community than to just me.

Unhappy programming today, Michael

Re: HP-67 ills again.
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 26 Nov 2001, 7:45 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michael Meyer, M.D.

Hello;

despite the fact the ACT IC is burned out or not, I have a few junk in here (mostly old HP2x series). I'd be glad sending you any IC's you need that I have. Just let me know.

Cheers.

Re: HP-67 ills again.
*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 26 Nov 2001, 5:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Michael Meyer, M.D.

Two thoughts : Firstly, check/replace all the eletrolytic capacitors (including tantalum bead ones) on the logic PCB. This might be power-supply related. You could also check that the internal power lines are correct (Vss is pin 1 of the ACT, Vgg is pin 2 of the ACT, measure wrt ground (-ve battery contact, pin 12 of the ACT). Vss should be around 6.2V, Vgg around -12V. Also get a can of freezer spray. Run the machine with the back cover off (use a rubber band to hold the battery in place :-)) and when it acts up, then squirt all the chips with freezer to see if you can get it to work again. Maybe something is thermally sensitive.

Re: HP-67 ills again.
*Message #4 Posted by **Michael Meyer, M.D.** on 27 Nov 2001, 11:11 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Tony Duell (UK)

Tony,

Well, I put in all new capacitors with no luck. I swapped another ACT chip from an HP-25, and the 67 works again. Oddly, so does the HP-25 it came from....

Maybe they're not completely compatible, or maybe the 67 is doing something to keep burning them out somehow?? Anyway, it's working again. As long as I can keep a supply of functioning ACT chips, it looks like I'll be O.K. <grin>

Michael

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HP Forum Archive 07

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HP-IL/RS-232 Interface 82164A - IDEAS? What it is & what it can be used for? Value?
*Message #1 Posted by **doug** on 25 Nov 2001, 9:01 p.m.*

Someone mentioned one of these to me. Anyone have one that have successfully connected to a PC. Over simplified. Can you type a program (HP71B) and send to HP71B then return program to PC to update? Connection to PC? Ah, You guys know. Is it a very expensive device normally? doug

Re: HP-IL/RS-232 Interface 82164A - IDEAS? What it is & what it can be used for? Value?
*Message #2 Posted by **the phantom** on 26 Nov 2001, 12:21 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by doug

As a way of pointing out what you can get by searching around the archives of this very forum, I'll show you the first few posts beginning May 30 of this year, regarding the unit (participants: Alex, Mike T, Tony D)

---------- I want to use the 82164A RS232C interface to connect my 41CX to my PC and up/download programs. The idea is to edit them on the PC and then Download into the 41.

I am interested if any one knows if there is software (both ends) and/or other useful instructions on how to do this.

Alex ---------- Yes, it's possible. I've done it, using an HP41CV, and I see no reason why a CX wouldn't work. You need an Extended I/O ROM in the 41 -- the necessary functions are not in the HPIL Development (DEVIL) or XIL ROMs as far as I know. The Extended I/O ROM has 2 functions OUTP and INP that will transfer a program in hexadecimal format (using printable ASCII characters) to any HPIL device, such as the 82164. I don't know what OS you're running on the PC, but the software I've written for the PC end runs under linux. You can get it (as C source) from the hpcc web site, it's part of the LIF utilities for linux distribution. It's released under the GPL, so you're welcome to try porting it to other operating systems (the 2 programs in question won't be that hard to port). These programs turn the HP41 hex transfer into a binary program file (essentially the bytes that would be stored in user memory for that

program), but there's also a program in the distribution to produce a printable listing of an HP41 binary program. I've not written the reverse of that program (a 'user code compiler') because I've never needed it, but I am told that my binary format is the same as the .raw format used by MS-DOS HP41 tools, so you might try that program. Alternatively, if you want to try writing your own software, then my C source contains a description of the HP41 hex format, something that's missed out of the user manuals

Tony Duell ---------- Hi Tony-

For your instructions on this site, did you make the "signal adapter" external to the 82164, or did you open it up, remove the jumper block, and make the connections there?

I use WindowsME (though I LIKE linux). Isn't it true that I ought to be able to use a terminal emulation program that has text capture to get the transfer if the inp and outp commands send PRINTABLE ASCII?

Have you ever tried transferring files with just a simple 3-wire cable and software handshake (XON,XOFF)?

I'll try finding a BASIC compiler (I wonder if there's a GNU one out there), and compile your inp41 and outp41 programs and try them on WindowsME.

Thanks for your help!

-Mike Tjebben ----------

To answer your questions in order : I made an external adapter for the 82164. I used one of those little boxes that take a DB connector at each end (the sort of thing that's used for null-modem adapters, etc). The jumper plug inside the 82164 is left in the DTE position. I find the only sane way to use the 82164 is to leave that jumper in the DTE position and make a cable up for each application I have for the interface. It's easier than having to open up the unit, set the jumper and find a cable with the right connectors. INP and OUTP do, indeed, just use printable ASCII characters. 0-9 and A-F only. They never send CR or LF, for example. And INP will complain (and abort the transfer) if you put spaces, or CRs or LFs or anything else in the data stream. This is one thing I don't like about these functions. I have never tried to use a terminal emulator to do the transfer, but it should work. I have also never tried to use a 3 wire cable and software handshaking. I use the same hardware to transfer files to/from the HP71, and that machine sends 'binary', not printable ascii, so I can't use software handshaking there. But for the HP41 it should work if the 82164 is configured for it. And I am not sure what you want a BASIC compiler for. I wrote the PC (linux) programs in C, and GNU C will, indeed, compile them. You will have to fiddle the I/O side for other OSes, of course.

Tony Duell ----------

See? Getting neat info is often just a matter of searching the archives... lots of cool stuff is here. I think the answers to your other questions are around too, if you'll dig in.

Re: HP-IL/RS-232 Interface 82164A - IDEAS? What it is & what it can be used for? Value?

*Message #3 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 26 Nov 2001, 5:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by doug

It's what it says it is. An interface between an HPIL loop and an RS232 port. You have to have a controller (like a calculator) on the HPIL side -- you can't use it to (say) link an HPIL printer to an RS232 port. But of course you can put the 82164, a calculator, and a printer on the same loop and program the calculator to read data from the RS232 interface and print it. Yes, I've linked it to a PC. I use hardware handshaking which involves a specially wired cable (the 82164's handshake is just plain _odd_). And I've used it to transfer HP71 programs, and text files, and ... between an HP71B and a PC. There are 2 basic ways to do this. The first is to use COPY on the HP71, which sends the file (any file) to/from the RS232 port in binary, and which supplies/expects a 32 byte LIF directory entry on the start of the data. This is what I normally do. The other is to use HP's 'Program Development Link' software (which I think came on a mini cassette tape or disk for the HP71) and which transferes text between the HP71 and the PC. You then use TRANSFORM on the HP71 to turn a text file into a BASIC program or whatever. If you're interested in my software and you don't mind C source code for linux, then it's available (GPLed) from http://www.hpcc.org/

Re: HP-IL/RS-232 Interface 82164A - IDEAS? What it is & what it can be used for? Value?

*Message #4 Posted by **Pavel Korensky** on 26 Nov 2001, 8:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by doug

For example, you can use it for connecting your HP-IL peripherals to Ethernet LAN. Just add a small box with one microcontroller and piece of software. Was there, did it.

Re: HP-IL/RS-232 Interface 82164A - IDEAS? What it is & what it can be used for? Value?

*Message #5 Posted by **Bill Smith** on 28 Nov 2001, 11:20 a.m.,*

in response to message #4 by Pavel Korensky

i have tried to follow the HP-IL/RS-232 threads since acquiring one about a year ago, but this is the first I've heard of the ethernet interface.

if the info has already been posted, please let me know. otherwise, would you consider posting the details such that a duffer like me could replicate one?

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HP Forum Archive 07

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Cleaning an HP 27S
*Message #1 Posted by **Jimmy P.** on 25 Nov 2001, 12:12 a.m.*

I have a friend who owns an HP 27s. She unfortunately spilled pineapple juice on it, and the calculator stopped working. Any recommendations on how to clean it? (While it is now dried, it remains sticky, and this got under the keys also). One idea was to remove the batteries and keep it immersed in water for a period of time, and then let it dry completely. I assume there is no way to open the calculator up to clean it. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Re: Cleaning an HP 27S
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 25 Nov 2001, 1:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Jimmy P.

Hello;

PLease, have a look here and here, where opening an HP42S is described in details. The HP42S and the HP27S share the same case (Pioneer series) and opening both means following the same procedure.

About immersing the calculator in water: I cannot find reasons against, cause I had to immerse many electronic equipment in water so durty would be easily removed. What worries me about immersing a Pioneer (and any calc) is the keyboard assy. I`d be concerned about integrity.

PLease, wait for other posts so other contributors will help you more precisely.

Cheers.

Re: Cleaning an HP 27S
*Message #3 Posted by **Jimmy P.** on 25 Nov 2001, 2:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Thanks for the advice. I have taken a look at the postings that describe how to take the calculator apart. I'd rather try a non-destructive approach before drilling into the plastic. That's why I'm thinking of the water immersion idea, unless there are parts that will be affected by (distilled) water.

Re: Cleaning an HP 27S
*Message #4 Posted by **Julián Miranda (Spain)** on 25 Nov 2001, 7:51 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

The HP 27S has a beeper, not all Pioneers have. I don't know if water will afect it but sure there are people in this forum who knows.

Re: Cleaning an HP 27S
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 25 Nov 2001, 4:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Julián Miranda (Spain)

The beeper disk is a brass disk with a ceramic coating... water should not hurt it at all. I have had occasion to use imersion in an ultrasonic cleaner on a few calculators. They all seem to have survived... although it did not fix all of them, it worked on many and none came out worse than they went in. I have never done a 42S (though I have one that I am thinking about).

If you do drown your machine, use three separate changes of distilled water. I have used Kodak PhotoFlo wetting agent in the last rinse to help prevent streaking of the display window. I have also dried them overnight in an oven on LOW (mine is less than 140 degrees).

These techniques are only recommended for machines that would otherwise wind up as scrap.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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42S discontinuation
*Message #1 Posted by **Merv** on 24 Nov 2001, 10:04 p.m.*

Does anyone out there know why production of the 42S was stopped? It is a calculator with just the right amount of functionality and memory for the uses that my profession (surveying) requires. The 32S memory is too small, and the 48 is has far more functionality than is needed.

Re: 42S discontinuation
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 25 Nov 2001, 1:07 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Merv

Hello;

A lot have been told about machines` production line and discontinuation. Some threads in here (past-due, mostly, that can be found here) will mention them. I remember some being the 48 as a replacement, not much units sold, no bidirectional IO facility so former 41`s users did not find it so compatible, among others.

Many, many of us in here will fully agree with you: the 42 is a great calculator, with functionality, memory and easy-of-use in the right measure. Last threads about HP internal policy will lead you through another view, tough. Try this and this links. They will give you some idea about production, final costs, support, etc.

I know it`s not much infor, but I believe it`s a starting point.

Cheers

Re: 42S discontinuation
*Message #3 Posted by **Steve** on 25 Nov 2001, 4:02 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

If we ALL ask IAIN MORRIS to restart the line, maybe we could convince him it was a bad idea to stop in the first place. He left his email down below, so I guess he won't mind people emailing him. In fact a friend of mine emailed him a couple times and he did reply on both occasions. His email is:

iain_morris@hp.com

What do you say guys/gals

Re: 42S discontinuation
*Message #4 Posted by **Mark** on 25 Nov 2001, 5:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Steve

Many people bemoan the loss of the 42S, including me. It was the last (IMHO) of the great HP keystroke programmables. I know there is the 32SII, but I prefer the 42S. 48GX and 49G afficianados will disagree perhaps, since those calculators offer great power, capacity and flexibility. But sometimes, a simple shirt pocket calculator is required, that has more than just a handful of arithmetic functions.

I don't know what TI, Sharp or Casio offer in this area, but if your're in this discussion, you probably aren't interested anyway ;-)

Re: 42S discontinuation
*Message #5 Posted by **Steve** on 25 Nov 2001, 6:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Mark

If you are a land surveyor, you'll miss it even more. Because when you have to hold a clipboard and hold a heavy calc like the 48 or 49 on the edge of a steep hill then you really notice the difference. the 42s offers me great flexibility with it's menu system. the 48gx has alarger screen and all the data could be displayed at once, but still i prefer the 42s for fieldwork. I have two hp42s, a 48gx , a hpg and three 41cx. but none could match the 42s for me.

maybe everyone sending an emial to Mr Morris from HP might be considered Spaming :-) but if someone who could write a very convincing letter and all who are interested in the return of the 42s were to attach their names and addresses, maybe

that could make a difference. I am sure we could muster at least 100 names in about two weeks time. Doesn't that make sense.

Re: 42S discontinuation

*Message #6 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 25 Nov 2001, 10:40 a.m.,*

in response to message #5 by Steve

I also am a loyal 42S user and advocate, but I am pessimistic about a reintroduction (I would be more than happy to accept my error if I am wrong!)

As almost all electronic products today, the issues are not only about design capability (the 42 is already designed) and production (all Pioneers should have the same manufacturing process), but of sourcing and support.

Reintroducing a model means that HP has to:

1) Obtain many components from third parties like the display, CMOS RAM, etc. It is very possible these components are no longer in production since the design is from almost 15 years back.

2) If some components are not available (sourceable), HP must find adequate replacements (similar functions, cost and mechanical features), and MAKE DESIGN CHANGES TO ADAPT FOR SUCH. The recent HP12C story, and the HP41 / HP42 display windows, are examples of this; as the HP41 FullNut/ HalfNut, etc also is. A new design must also be recertified by many agencies, a costly process.

3) Plan to have a certain number of replacement units for servicing warranties and replacement policies for many years, probably they need to purchase components and manufacture them in advance right now (up-front), since it will be even more difficult to repeat this process, say, in 2010.

4) Modify the firmware, at least to remove the known bugs such as the PERM and COMB bug. Otherwise, a clever lawyer may file a class action or something like that against HP (This was not usual in the golden 80s, but now...). On the other hand, a review of firmware will allow for new functions like bidirectional I/ O, directory structure... The current ACO story suggests this will not happen. Also, any new software needs extensive testing.

5) Print enough manuals and advanced programming books, to meet uncertain demand for them.

6) Replan a printer solution (optionally), perhaps supporting standard IrDA.

7) Decide to relaunch a product with "fratricide" effects, since the renewed availability of the HP42 will deter some prospective buyers from other models or PDAs

8) Retrain sales and support persons, and reestablish procedures for call-centers, to deal with HP42 questions. Prepare uncertain demand forecasts for the next years.

9) Do many of these things again, including logistics, in many countries.

10) Make, distribute the units, sell them, collect the money...

11) After all, let us allow for them to have some earnings (it is supposed HP is not a not-for-profit organization).

I suppose the still available models allow for a little-more optimistic view, but I would be satisfied if HP ports (or allows for someone willing) the software to a current PDA, simplifying many of the problems associated with specialized hardware.

Oh, those tall keys...

Re: 42S discontinuation
*Message #7 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 25 Nov 2001, 11:44 a.m.,*
in response to message #6 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Oh yes, I'm starting dreaming about a new 42 production line...

Remember the poll I did several months ago ? results available on my site http://hpcalc.multimania.com/hp_calc_poll.htm

This step I propose

1) to write a letter to Mr Morris, and post it on this site. 2) to let us vote for the best representative letter of our opinion 3) Ask Dave to mail it to Mr Morris on behalf fo the MoHPC museum

(And why not include my poll's results ?)

Thibaut

Re: 42S discontinuation

*Message #8 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 25 Nov 2001, 2:51 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Thibaut.be

Any manufacturing today (most noticeably things related to electronics and software) have a very large NRE component (non-recurring expenses). If this can be linearized with a equation y=mx+b, where "x" are the units sold and "y" the cost of goods produced, there is a very large "b" and a very small "m", so you need a large volume sales to compensate for the initial investment. Put timing and financial components in scene and things get worse. That is why is very difficult to relaunch a product.

I think (again) that sourcing for old components, new regulations to comply with (all those certification marks in the back of products) and re-starting support again for a model are big issues nobody will take the risk to deal with except a very large price or volume is somehow guaranteed. I think someone mentioned here that HP may accept an order for HP42 if the units volume is in the 100k/200k range (U$S 10M / 20M of sales at 100 U$S/unit).

Would the 2001 market (not just us, HP calc friends) accept a machine such as the 42S, or would it prefer a PDA (Palm, WinCE, Linux, etc.) with a customizable calculator software? While there are many emulators there, and some are rather good, a true HP "virtual" calculator would be wonderful... And HP already OWNS the software (see the calculator app in the LX 100/200), so it is within reach for HP to port it to non-Saturn platforms.

Customization options for such software may allow for different functionality, country localization, student (non cheating) versions, user preferences.

If HP is not confortable with the idea of selling calculator software without hardware associated with it, we could say they are doing it half-way with the successive releases for the HP49...

Re: 42S discontinuation

*Message #9 Posted by **Nenad Vulic (Croatia)** on 26 Nov 2001, 2:42 a.m.,*

in response to message #8 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

I apologize in advance if I have misunderstood something, but, as far as I know, the HP42s's were still produced in Indonesia during 2000 and they were discontinued in August 2000. Why it would be such a big issue for HP to start again this production if they stopped it a year ago (if they only want to)?

My (pragmatic) proposal would be that Mr. Glynn (if he supports this opinion) writes the letter and we others, who agree with it, add our signatures below it and send it to Mr. Morris (HP).

Re: 42S discontinuation

*Message #10 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 27 Nov 2001, 6:19 a.m.,*

in response to message #9 by Nenad Vulic (Croatia)

I am not sure, but I guess they were not using a "hamburger shop" production line, making one unit at a time when ordered. They should have stocked components many years ago, forecasting the number of units that will be needed for service exchange, making many units batches, and having them ready, waiting for the exchange events. My view is also compatible with the fact there were surplus offered here when service exchange ended. Only the serial number is "fresh".

I think (again) that component sourcing, agencies recertification, logistics for packaging, manuals, and future support are the issues; manufacturing is just a part of a far more complex process. And there should be a large volume forecast to justify all this. I would like it to be otherwise, but I am afraid it is not so.

Re: 42S - True emulator in the 48

*Message #11 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 25 Nov 2001, 4:06 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Merv

HELLO;

I believe a single, true emulator for the 42 that would run in the 48 would be better accepted from HP (not that it would satisfy us). I know they will not concern so much about it (business is business), but as we are trying to reactivate the production line (and Andrés, you are not being "pessimistic about a reintroduction", just accepting this decision is off our hands), why can`t we try having this emulator from them? I know ACO would be the birth place for this, but daring is not a crime, is it?

That`s my suggestion: if they cannot give us the 42 back, allow the 48 to emulate it. As closed to the 42 as possible.

Cheers.

Re: 42S - True emulator in the 48

*Message #12 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 25 Nov 2001, 5:20 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz:

My "pessimistic" notes again :-)

a) How long will the 48/49 will be around before being discontinued? (even more pessimistic, how long will *HP* be around? No, don't let me go that far with my pessimism!)

(By the way, HP also discontinued the Capshare 920 Pocket Scanner, a product which lies close to the 42 in my ranking of good design and functionality)

b) While I have had not enough time to get them, I have heard there are good 41 emulators for the 48. It may be enough for me; but the form factor and sheer elegance of the 42 will be lost (granted, the same will happen with a PDA version).

c) For you people who learned the HP48, including machine language, etc. (for me, it is the only HP I have which I cannot use without pain), why don't develop such emulator here?

Best regards

Andrés

Re: 42S - True emulator in the 48
*Message #13 Posted by **Raymond Hellstern** on 25 Nov 2001, 6:25 p.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Hi,

could you drop me your email address? Thanks in advance,

Raymond

42S - True emulator in the 48 / email request
*Message #14 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez** on 25 Nov 2001, 7:03 p.m.,*
in response to message #13 by Raymond Hellstern

My email address appears in the header of my messages, however I have no problem stating it here:

andres.rodriguez@computer.org

Naaa... This is ridiculous !
*Message #15 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 26 Nov 2001, 9:13 a.m.,*
in response to message #11 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Well, I really appreciate your wish of resurrect the 42S, but, very honestly, why would you develop an emulator than runs on a far more powerful calculator ?

One of the reasons why we love the 42S so much is its portability and discression. Would you really appreciate to have a big large 48 that has (only) the power of a 42S ?

I'm not sure the 42S production will run one day. HP has to compete with TI and nowadays calcs are maths teachers that give step by step answers. Maybe not what we want, but this is how it is. I guess HP has already taken into consideration our old programming and figure crunching styles as they seem to have extended the 32SII production. Even if this is not satisfactory to us, it's already a good step beyond.

Of course, if Mr Morris still read us (even after some comments that were fortunately temepered by Glynn), we won't be grateful enough if he let the 42S production run for a while... But don't expect to sell for than a few hundreds of units !

However, HP could "invent" another RPN machine with some mega's ram and all the applications found in the 41 modules... with IR serial connection... Ok, i'm just dreaming !

Re: No! I prefer using the 48 rather than the 42
*Message #16 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 26 Nov 2001, 3:31 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Thibaut.be

Hi!

Thibaut, you are completely right! Why underusing (urg!) the 48 as it has much, much power? I just suggested writing an emulator that would easy the use of the 48 for those wanting to use a 42. I mean: programming as if it has X, Y, Z, T and LASTx registers; adding a STO 00 as a step; entering complex numbers as two real and pressing a single key... stuffs like these, you know? My suggestion was based in this thread. Me? I still prefer using the 48, develop to the 48, storing programs in my computer based on the 48. The 42 is a nice, easy-to-use calculator, small to transport, I know. I own 41's, 42's, 15/16, 28, 48/49... and I use the 48 a lot! At their time, all of them were the best. They're still the best, but others came after them.

About a new, new calc. If you want to, read this post I wrote a few minutes ago.

Best regards.

Emulators for the 42s
*Message #17 Posted by **Luca de Alfaro** on 26 Nov 2001, 6:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #15 by Thibaut.be

Well, I much prefer the 42s to the 48 simply because the 48 is so incredibly SLOW. I really cannot stand the fact that even choice-menus on the 48 are slow to navigate because the 48 responds slowly to the up/down keystrokes. I find it ok to wait a bit on the 11C, because you have to wait while the calculator is _computing_, but to wait to enter multiple choices, it is as if the "f" and "g" key worked with delay. Using the 48 truly irks me.

But aside from this: there's a wonderful RPN calculator called mathU for the Palm Pilot. I have it. They came out recently with a programmable version of it. I think this is what the future of RPN calculators will be like, and I actually like it. True, no keys any more, but total reconfigurability, low price ($30ish), huge memory (32000 steps!), and when you are done computing, it stores addresses, memos, appointments, plays chess, checks

your email, and more!

A few nostalgics will look back, but overall we will be much better off.

Luca

Re: Emulators for the 42s
*Message #18 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 27 Nov 2001, 6:22 a. m.,*
in response to message #17 by Luca de Alfaro

I would like a MathUPro for WindowsCE (PocketPC)...

You broke my legs...
*Message #19 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 27 Nov 2001, 8:10 a.m.,*
in response to message #17 by Luca de Alfaro

(I wrote this yesterday right after Luca's post, but my system falled down...)

... or I'm a sitting duck, or... (I know no more US expressions for the feeling of being lost in the dark...)

Is there any version of this written to other platforms (PC, Linux, Win CE...)? Ahn? Share with us...

And... Yes, the 48 is slow for building the display, mostly to decompile long programs and rolling the screen. Building menus is also a bitmapping operation, I agree. But running programs... humm! I don´t know. I have seen them (48's) getting to the result too fast. No machine language, no Sys RPL; user RPL, no more than ordinary instructions. When you use DOSUBS or DOLIST, speed is amazing!

Well, as I got used to run programs in the 41, the 42 used to fly, and the 48 flies even faster. At least for me. But the 49... I cannot understand that girl. The only command it executes realy faster than the 48 is ORDER. Even when running programs, the 49 is slower than the 48. I tried to figure it out, but my best shots for the cause were: bigger O.S., a lot more of XLIB's room to search for...

Cheers.

Not so "ridiculous"

*Message #20 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 27 Nov 2001, 6:30 a.m., in response to message #15 by Thibaut.be*

I would prefer the HP41 /42 syntax to the 48, which keeps nagging to me all the time when I press any key. I am tired of "too few arguments" when I try to DROP with an already clear stack, I miss a NULL function which helps avoiding a mistake, I would like to have STO 00 syntax, and keystroke programability. I like x<>y instead of SWAP, and certainly prefer an X,Y,Z,T stack. I prefer TONE 5 syntax rather than 400 100 TONE, and prefer ISG that 1 10 FOR (at least, in a calculator). And I assume these are some of the issues, else there should be people asking for a pocketable version of the 48, and I haven't seen anyone with that position yet.

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HP-01 calculator watch
*Message #1 Posted by **earl** on 24 Nov 2001, 9:51 p.m.*

Hi, i was wondering if anyone knows what button battery goes into a HP-01 calculater watch. Any info would be appreciated. Tanks, Earl

Re: HP-01 calculator watch
*Message #2 Posted by **Massimo (Italy)** on 25 Nov 2001, 12:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by earl

My manual says: Eveready or UCAR 357 (or equivalent). Specifications: 1.5V, diam. 11.6 mm, depth 5.6 mm.

Hope it helps!

Re: HP-01 calculator watch
*Message #3 Posted by **Earl** on 25 Nov 2001, 6:26 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Massimo (Italy)

Sure does - thanks for the info.

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Info on D'Zign software
*Message #1 Posted by **Iqbal** on 24 Nov 2001, 5:23 p.m.*

Anyone could give me some info on D'Zign Software for HP calculators. I have been trying to access their website [http://www.softwarebydzign.com/] for a few weeks without success. Did they close down?

Re: Info on D'Zign software
*Message #2 Posted by **db(martinez,california)** on 25 Nov 2001, 2:48 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Iqbal

the last time i talked with ted and phyllis was months ago. they were still living at the same address: (first line)D'Zign software/the Kerber family (second line) P.O.Box 430 (third line) Tollhouse Ca. 93667 (fourth line) United States of America. the phone was/is 559-297-8025. ted's e-mail is tjkerber@email.msn.com . he's got good programs with even better documentation. i like using them.

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HP 42S Repair/Replacement
*Message #1 Posted by **Henry Fitts** on 24 Nov 2001, 4:34 p.m.*

Is it still possible to send in an old 42s to HP for replacement?

Re: HP 42S Repair/Replacement
*Message #2 Posted by **Larry** on 24 Nov 2001, 4:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Henry Fitts

No, the exchange program has ended. See the repair article at:

http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/articles.cgi?read=5

Larry

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My Email inbox self-destructed
*Message #1 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 24 Nov 2001, 1:35 p.m.*

My inbox was corrupted this morning. Since I've been travelling a lot lately, I've gotten quite behind on my emails and I believe many recent messages have been lost. (Other messages which haven't been lost had their status set to unread so I can't tell which messages I've responded to.)

I'll sort out what I can but If you don't get a response from me within the next few weeks, I've probably lost your email. Sorry.

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Re: Who has the LAST HP 42S ever made?
*Message #1 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 24 Nov 2001, 6:10 a.m.*

Damn... Mine is ID02206764 (xch. prg)

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HP-97 charger
*Message #1 Posted by **Achim Buerger** on 24 Nov 2001, 5:27 a.m.*

Recently I received a HP-97 without charger and with batteries completely empty. I would be able to build a charger if anyone could tell me which type of power (DC/AC) and which voltage the charger supplies to the calculator. If it supplies DC, I also need the polarity of the connector pins.

Achim

Re: HP-97 charger
*Message #2 Posted by **Todd G.** on 24 Nov 2001, 8:27 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Achim Buerger

Building one seems like an awful lot of work, in addition to taking a chance on using the incorrect voltage and frying your machine.

Why not just buy a charger for it? They're easy to find, and usually cost less than $10.

Todd

Re: HP-97 charger
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 25 Nov 2001, 3:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Todd G.

When rebuilding a HP97 pack I always use the highest capacity cells that I can find (usually 2200maH). The HP97 dumps a pretty good slug of current into the battery pack and it gets rather warm. I have found that the high capacity cells do not get nearly as warm as the original (1100-1400 maH cells) and last for a much longer time... particularly if you use the machine on a desktop and keep it plugged in all the time.

Re: HP-97 charger
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 24 Nov 2001, 4:15 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Achim Buerger

The 82059 series chargers put out 8 volts AC. Just a simple transformer will do. Building a suitible connector would be the biggest problem... but a couple of Molex style pins and some heat shrink will do in a pinch.

Re: HP-97 charger
*Message #5 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 24 Nov 2001, 8:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Achim Buerger

It's AC (there's a bridge rectifier inside the HP97). The external charger is just a transformer, but it's one with deliberately high internal resistance. The voltage is normally claimed to be 8V on load, but the open-circuit voltage is around 12V from a transformer with an internal resistance of about 11 Ohms (I've measured the I-V characteristics of this charger). And yes, the high internal resistance is critical -- it's partically controls the charging current. The official HP charger shouldn't be too hard to find though -- it's used with a lot of different machines and peripherals (HP91, 92, 95C (!), 97, 97S, 10A, 19C, 41 rechargeable pack, 71, 75C and D, 82143 printer, most HPIL interfaces and peripherals, and so on).

Re: HP-97 charger
*Message #6 Posted by **Achim Buerger** on 25 Nov 2001, 12:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Tony Duell (UK)

Thanks for the infos. Maybe I found an answer by myself: the HP-97 service manual states: "The ac adapter/charger is a transformer that drops the line voltage to 12.8 Vac at the input terminals of the calculator." I tried a simple 12V transformer and it charged the batteries without problems. Also the calculator itself can be operated by this source.

Achim

Re: HP-97 charger

*Message #7 Posted by **Ion Abraham (New Mexico USA)** on 25 Nov 2001, 12:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Achim Buerger

Hello,

You will need to get a battery for the 97, which is pretty easy to find, because the sub-C NiCd batteries are still being made. Also, it's easy to find a dead battery pack, because it is used on the 41 printers and peripherals as well, and then you can have it rebuilt easily.

I use a 82059D charger with the 97, that is the same charger used for the 41 series, and it fits fine.

Remember that you should not run the 97 on the charger WITHOUT the battery pack in place. The battery serves to regulate the voltage.

If you really can't find a battery pack or charger, contact me. I might have a spare.

Take care,

Ion Abraham Albuquerque, New Mexico

Re: HP-97 charger

*Message #8 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 25 Nov 2001, 2:22 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Ion Abraham (New Mexico USA)

Actually, the Topcats (HP9x series) are designed not to be damaged if the charger is connected without a battery pack in place. There's a circuit (a low value resistor, a power transistor, a small signal transistor, and a few other R's) that detects if the input voltage is too high (defined as more than the Vss line should be) and if so, it loads the power supply to reduce the voltage. The machine will just about run like this (although the printer and card reader don't work). For this to work correctly, though, the transformer must have a fairly high internal resistance, like the original HP adapter does. A random transformer might not be able to be pulled low enough by this circuit. And I don't like trusting this circuit to work -- I feel it's there for an emergency if the battery pack goes open-circuit, but I don't make a habit of connecting chargers to Topcats with no battery in place. I don't know about the 95C either. Maybe the standby supply to the RAM is not properly limited, so connecting a charger without a battery will damage the RAM, like on a 25C/29C, etc. I don't have a 95C, of course, and if I did, I _certainly_ wouldn't risk it. What is safe, though, is to run the machine off a 5V bench supply connected to the battery contacts (no battery in place) -- the one on the card reader side is -ve I think. That's how I normally run Topcats when I am

repairing them.

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HP-45 with personalized name on front
*Message #1 Posted by **Marian White** on 23 Nov 2001, 8:11 p.m.*

I have an HP-45 that has a person's name on the front where the HP-45 product number usually goes (the usual metal label that has the HP logo on the left, then the first and last name on the right, and no product number). On the back just above the tag that says "HEWLETT-PACKARD" 3.75V 500mw ET etc., the space is blank. On the inside where the serial number goes, there is nothing but a round white sticky dot with a first name and last initial.

Someone suggested to me that this might have been a pre-production presentation to the person whose name is on the label.

How can I find out if this is accurate?

Thank you!

HP-45 with dead display
*Message #2 Posted by **Paul Nelson** on 16 Dec 2001, 6:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Marian White

I have an HP-45 on which the display suddenly went dark- looking for a schematic. An O-scope shows that the oscillator is still working, so some IC pinouts might be very helpful.... anyone? Sure would like to keep this little guy working!

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HP82161 - really strange problem...
*Message #1 Posted by **Pavel Korensky** on 23 Nov 2001, 6:53 p.m.*

Hello,

couple of weeks ago, I mentioned my problem with the HP82161 tape drive which was not able to format the cassette. Two days ago, I received one formatted tape with couple of files on it. I tested the drive and the drive is able to read files without any problem. I also can write my own files on this formated tape without a problem. But still, the tape unit is unable to format a brand new tape.

Anyone have the idea what can be wrong ? Anyone saw this problem in the past ?

Thx for any help

Pavel Korensky

P.S. I received the preformated tape from one kind guy from Switzerland. Also, I received many ideas from Tony Duell. But yesterday, the harddisk in my machine crashed and I lost all my e-mail addresses. I would like to ask the above mentioned gentlemens (and also Luiz Vieira and all others who was in e-mail contact with me) for a short e-mail. I need to recover my e-mail directory. Thx a lot.

Re: HP82161 - really strange problem...
*Message #2 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 23 Nov 2001, 9:19 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pavel Korensky

This is a strange problem. I can think of a couple of unlikely causes and one that might be quite likely here. The unlikely ones first : The particular part of the internal program on the 82161's micrcontroller thant handles formatting has failed, but the rest of the code is OK. Pretty unlikely. Or that the motor speed is wrong, so it can still read/write a preformatted tape, but if you try to format a tape, it manages to write a block off the end of the tape or something. Again very unlikely. The most likely cause, I think, is that the track select circuitry has failed, and that the drive is always selecting track 0. That way it'll be able to read a tape with a few files on it (everything is on track 0 -- directory and the files), and it can write some more files to track 0 But when you try to format a tape, it writes the blocks for track 0, then overwrites them with the ones for track 1 (since the drive only ever selects track 0 due to the fault), and then can't find the track 0 blocks to write the directory to, as they've been overwritten. Debugging that could be interesting because there are 2 custom chips (CPU and read/write chip) involved, and not a lot else.

Re: HP82161 - really strange problem...
*Message #3 Posted by **Hans Brueggemann [GER]** on 24 Nov 2001, 3:50 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Pavel Korensky

pavel,

my cassette drives did show up with symptoms similar to those that you are describing. in all cases they were hooked up to an overclocked hp-41. obviously, the 41 waits only a specific amount of time (which is coded in the IL-module, i suppose) for the tape drive to respond. so, after the drive has finished formatting, and is on it's 'way home', time will run out on the 41 before the drive arrives at the beginning of the tape. if your hp-41 is not overclocked, then maybe, the drive motors are running slightly slower than normal. this can be due to increased bearing friction, or, a defunkt cell in the accu- pack.

hope, this helps

cheers, hans

Re: HP82161 - really strange problem...
*Message #4 Posted by **Andreas Müller (GER)** on 25 Nov 2001, 4:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Hans Brueggemann [GER]

Hi Pavel, in my job I had worked a lot with EXABYTE and DAT tape drives and tapes. Sometimes I got tapes from colleagues with a, as they called it, mystic behaviour. What we found is that all these tapes were in transport cases (of our company) together with and very close to extremely strong magnets. So the tapes were 'formatted' in a special kind. We demagnetized the tapes with a commercial tape demag and they worked well. My hint: Try to get a demagnetizer for audia tape heads and demag your 'brand new tape'. Sounds strange, I know. But: IT'S NOT A JOKE! Hope I could help. Regards, Andreas

Re: HP82161 - really strange problem...
*Message #5 Posted by **Pavel Korensky** on 26 Nov 2001, 5:04 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Andreas Müller (GER)

Hello,

thank you for the ideas. It seems that there is really something wrong with the drive unit, because I wrote couple of files on the preformatted tape which I got and some of the files are corrupted and the directory is also a bit corrupted (one short program file suddenly looks 16392 registers long and all files are listed twice after DIR command). It seems that there is really something wrong inside the drive. I will make a complete diagostic and we will see. I only hope that the custom chips inside are OK.

Re: HP82161 - really strange problem...
*Message #6 Posted by **Tony Duell (UK)** on 26 Nov 2001, 6:57 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by Pavel Korensky

Hang on, there's a 1K*4 bit RAM in there (the 18 pin chip on the main PCB). Now, I don't like 'lucky dip' diagnostics, but I've had more problems with such RAMs (including on HP equipment) than with anything else. Worth investigating anyway...

Re: HP82161 - really strange problem...

*Message #7 Posted by **bill duncan** on 28 Nov 2001, 2:07 a.m.,*

in response to message #6 by Tony Duell (UK)

Have you (very carefully) tried cleaning the tape heads? I've used q-tips with the purest isopropyl alcohol you can find, and it seems to work well.

When cleaning heads in this manner, you should try to clean them across the head (up and down, rather than left and right in our case). I forget what the exact reasoning is, but I was taught to do this by someone who used to build custom tape transports. He said that cleaning in the other direction could actually damage the tape head.

Hope this helps.

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HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #1 Posted by **David R. Conley** on 23 Nov 2001, 1:10 p.m.*

Hope someone out there can help. I changed batteries in my 27S Calculator and I cannot get rid of the "Machine Reset" message. I have numerous formulas programed in the 27S that I use on a regular bases. Hope you can help solve this. I have tried the procedure published in the 27S manual. Dosen't seem to be working. Any other ideas?

Thank you kindly Dave Conley

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 23 Nov 2001, 1:42 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David R. Conley

Hello;

This message, "Machine Reset", is intended to be harmless. In the 42S (also Saturn-based) it means nothing is lost (programs and variables). I do not know the 27S, but I don´t believe it would be different. At least in the 42S, simply pressing [ON] key restores operating condition.

Cheers.

(BTW, what procedure in the manual you're referring to?)

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #3 Posted by **David R. Conley** on 23 Nov 2001, 8:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz, Thank you also for your input. Tried that didn't work. I removed the batteries again but the same message "Machine Reset" pops up. Any other ideas?

Thank you kindly

Dave

"Machine Reset"
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 23 Nov 2001, 9:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by David R. Conley

Hello;

I got my HP42S in hands and forced a Machine Reset condition (in the 27S: [CLR] +[e^x} keys pressed together). It goes out of the condition after a single [ON]-key press ([CLR]-key, in the 27S). Have you tried to force this condition, say, [CLR]+[e^x] keys together?

If you want to try, tell us the results, please.

Regards.

Re: "Machine Reset"
*Message #5 Posted by **Dave Conley** on 24 Nov 2001, 12:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Nope No luck! The 27s has blue function "select" keys. I held down [CLR]+e^x. The calculator is capable of normal basic math. But each time I go to "function" [solve] to call up my equations the "machine reset" text pops up.

I also ran a self test according to the manual. The test is good everything is working.

Thank you kindly

Dave

Re: "Machine Reset"
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Conley** on 24 Nov 2001, 2:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Tough lesson. I removed the batteries long enough to erase everything. 27S is working fine. Next time I'll be smart enough to record critical info. prior to battery changes.

Thank you for you input

Dave Conley

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #7 Posted by **Katie** on 23 Nov 2001, 3:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by David R. Conley

If you don't have anything important in memory, you might try doing a memory clear - OFF & 1/X and SQR all three keys at the same time. If that doesn't work, you can try taking out the batteries and shorting the contacts in the battery compartment together with a paper clip for a few seconds while turning the calculator on.

-Katie

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #8 Posted by **Dave Conley** on 23 Nov 2001, 8:29 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Katie

Katie, Thank you for your input. I was hoping to keep my formulas as I use them for research. Any other ideas?

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #9 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 24 Nov 2001, 5:31 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Dave Conley

Just guessing, did you set the date and time (and also an alarm time) for the internal clock *after* changing the batteries? I suspect there may be some kind of alarm register or something similar, it may be corrupted and could be a cause of unusual behavior like the one you described. Again, it is only a guess, but you may try before clearing all memory... it seems there is nothing to lose.

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #10 Posted by **Dave Conley** on 24 Nov 2001, 10:57 a.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Good suggestion. I just tried that no luck. It wouldn't be a big deal to erase all and start over except I did not write the formulas down over the years.

Thank you so much for your suggestion

Dave

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #11 Posted by **Dave Conley** on 24 Nov 2001, 2:23 p.m.,*
in response to message #9 by Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)

Tough lesson. I just removed the batteries long enough to erase everything. Lost all formulas and data. I appreciate your help. Hopefully I'll learn from this to record critical information before battery changes.

Thank you for you input

Dave Conley

Re: HP27S "Machine Reset" Message
*Message #12 Posted by **Dave Conley** on 24 Nov 2001, 2:26 p.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Katie

Tough lesson. I removed the batteries long enough to erase all formulas and data. Next time I'll record critical info. prior to battery change.

Thank you for your input

sincerely

Dave Conley

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hp41 compatability today
*Message #1 Posted by **haga** on 23 Nov 2001, 8:26 a.m.*

Are there any hp calculater in production today, where i can run programs that presently run on an hp41cv?

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #2 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 23 Nov 2001, 12:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by haga

Hello;

In fact, there is no calculator still in production that directly runs 41's applications. Anyway, some possibilities are:

1-41's emulator that runs in any 48G or 49; there is also an available emulator that runs in a PCM card, but I believe this card is available only for the S-series (48S/SX)
2-using a 42S - off-production, but available at e-bay or at classified ads at this site
3-far from a solution, the 32SII will run a few applications if correctly converted. Some 41's programs can be reduced in some steps if specific 32S' features are invoked
4-if time is available, any program written to the 41 can be rewritten to the 48. Some will be shrunk, others will need a complete, new version, as programming structure for both is not completely equivalent.

If you need to run an HP41 program in another calculator, let us know. For sure someone will help.

Cheers

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #3 Posted by **David Smith** on 23 Nov 2001, 4:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by haga

Why not just run them on a 41CV? They are widely available on Ebay, etc for (usually) almost reasonable prices (unlike the 42S ;).

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #4 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 26 Nov 2001, 12:34 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by David Smith

Why not just run them on a 41CV? They are widely available on Ebay, etc for (usually) almost reasonable prices (unlike the 42S ;).

I don't know...The 41s seem to be fetching about as much as the 42s. Must be a "41-revival". :-)

Bruce.

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #5 Posted by **David Smith** on 26 Nov 2001, 4:32 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by W. Bruce Maguire II

It is not all that difficult to find nice working 41C/CV/CX machines for around $100... usually a little more for the high end machines, a little less for the low end ones (it is also not difficult to pay twice that for them). What is rather strange is that 41CXs can often be had for less than the CV on Ebay.

It seems one has to part with 200 bucks to get a 42S anymore. I have seen new-in-box units go for over $400. Even broken ones bring $100.

One would have to pry by 41CX from my cold dead fingers... or wave a mighy wad of greenbacks under my warm capitalist pig nose to get mine.

Re: Extremely well said.
*Message #6 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 26 Nov 2001, 5:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #5 by David Smith

I love your choice of words. How elequent.

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #7 Posted by **Yani** on 27 Nov 2001, 11:27 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by David Smith

I picked up a 41C with a number of modules (mem, math etc) from a Salvation Army OP Shop. It was AU$20 which is about US$10.

It happens.

You lucky guy...
*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 28 Nov 2001, 5:59 a.m.,*
in response to message #7 by Yani

... this is like finding a 100 bux (pack of ten) AND TELLING FRIENDS ABOUT! (humf!)

Hey, I'm happy for you. Sincerely. Use the lady with care...

Cheers.

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #9 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 24 Nov 2001, 5:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by haga

If no calc is fully compatible ith the 41C series, the 32SII can certainly run a program written for a 41 with some minor changes - all you need is to have reasonnable knowledge of programming on both calcs. Provided you don't invoke specific functions of ROM modules or direct memory addressing

A 32SII will run it faster and is quite reasonnable. In addition, this is the last "good old style calc" available on the market and is quite efficient.

Otherise proposed solutions such as purchasing C's and CV's are a good choice as they are widely available on ebay or on this site's ads corner at reasonnable price (<$100).

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #10 Posted by **Ex-PPC member** on 24 Nov 2001, 1:53 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by haga

There's still another possibility:

You can run 41C programs on an HP-71B fitted with the 41C Emulator/Forth ROM. This will not only run all 41C programs without any translation from the user, but will also give a complete FORTH system for further expandability, not to mention all 71B capabilities and BASIC language. Besides, 41C programs will execute from 6 to 12 times faster than on a 41C/CV/CX.

You can get a used 71B on eBay almost for peanuts, and you can leave a message on the Classified Ads section asking for the 41C Emulator module.

Re: hp41 compatability today
*Message #11 Posted by **Vassilis Prevelakis** on 27 Nov 2001, 2:19 a.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Ex-PPC member

Ex-PPC member wrote:

> You can get a used 71B on eBay almost for peanuts, and you

> can leave a message on the Classified Ads section asking

> for the 41C Emulator module.

I wish!

I have both an HP-71B and the HP41 emulation, but I do not have manual, so I can't use them :-(

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Re: Anyone has a working HP82161A tape drive ?
*Message #1 Posted by **Reinhard Hawel (Austria)** on 22 Nov 2001, 4:51 p.m.*

I own one and I live rather near you compared to the other members of this forum.

If you like to make a short visit in Vianna, AT, we can test it in some minutes.

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HP Forum Archive 07

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First reactions to buying a 32SII
*Message #1 Posted by **Edwin Russell** on 21 Nov 2001, 8:45 a.m.*

For many years I've promised myself that one day I'd buy a top-of-the-range Hewlett Packard calculator but the cost has put me off. I've got Mathcad so I don't need a graphing one, so I've just progressed from my trusty TI-66 (nothing wrong with it after 16 years) and have met that goal with a shiny new 32SII.

This is a wonderful device and I'm very pleased with it. It does everything I need & want and more. The TI can retire gracefully.

I have two negative comments to make:

1/ The photos on the box & in the manual and the text in the manual all indicate that the shift keys and legends are orange & blue and they appear to be easy to read. Mine has dull green & white ones and are hard to read. The legend backgrounds indicating those for a menu are almost impossible to see.

2/ There are four units conversions provided (and their inverses). However there is no warning that for 95.5% of us one of them is "wrong". Only in the USA (4.5% of the world's population) is the definition of the gallon 231 cubic inches exactly. The rest of the world, including here in the UK, uses the International definition which is 4.54609 l exactly. This is just over 20% different. The only small clue is in the manual where litres is spelt "liters" - this spelling is only used in the USA. Over five billion potential customers could use this conversion without being aware that their answer is "wrong". Out of all the possible units conversions they could have chosen for the four, why did HP choose one which is unique to the USA? If they had to use that one, why no warning in the manual?

Does HP, or anyone else, maintain a web site with useful programs for the 32SII? There must be thousands that people would be willing to share.

Edwin Russell.

Re: Website of material for HP 32SII
*Message #2 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 21 Nov 2001, 11:04 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

A website for programs for a variety of HP calculators (i.e., HP48 series and HP49G) is www. hpcalc.org. I did not see anything on it specifically for the HP32SII, but some of the programs listed might work on it after undergoing some modifications.

Re: Please clarify units problems with HP32SII
*Message #3 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 21 Nov 2001, 2:39 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

I did not understand what you meant by 4.546091 exactly. At first I thought you were referring to liters per gallon. On my HP48G (which has a huge amount of conversions) I got 3.785412 liters per gallon.

Re: Please clarify units problems with HP32SII
*Message #4 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 21 Nov 2001, 2:44 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Frank Travis

I think that's exactly the point he is making.

Try looking for UK gal on the HP48.

Re: Please clarify units problems with HP32SII
*Message #5 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 21 Nov 2001, 2:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Tom (UK)

I looked into the U.K. gallon conversion on my HP48G just before you mentioned it. My discovery is covered on another response entry.

Re: Please clarify units problems with HP32SII
*Message #6 Posted by **Les Bell (Australia)** on 21 Nov 2001, 4:55 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Frank Travis

The US gallon is somewhat smaller than the Imperial gallon (what's a "UK gallon"?). This can have surprising consequences, especially in the world of aviation, where confusion over the units can lead to an embarrassing silence from the donk when one is still a few miles short of the destination.

Of course, aviation's use of mixed units (e.g. metres for runway length but feet almost everywhere for altitude) provides lots of scope for confusion, as shown by the famous incident of the Gimli Glider - an Air Canada 767 which dead-stick landed into a WW II training airfield following a mix-up over refuelling (lbs vs l, if I recall correctly).

Real unprofessional of HP not to make clear which type of gal they were using, IMHO.

Best,

--- Les [http://www.lesbell.com.au]

Re: First reactions to buying a 32SII
*Message #7 Posted by **Tom (UK)** on 21 Nov 2001, 2:43 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

With my 32 I store 4.54609 in memory 'L'

There is no H.MS+ function (as there is on the '67) so the following prog is in 'U':

LBL U, >HR, x<>y, >HR, +, >HMS, RTN.

As I'm an electronics engineer the functions 10^x and LOG are used more than e^x and LN so I use the shift key more than I would like.

I have some other very simple progs if you would like (e.g. lin > dB, dB > lin) but these are trivial.

There is also the hidden (well OK not hidden but undocumented) functions in non base 10 mode!

Re: Further discovery on units problems with HP32SII
*Message #8 Posted by **Frank Travis** on 21 Nov 2001, 2:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

I further looked in the unit coversions for volume on my HP48G. It had a separate gallon (for U. K.) in units. Converting it to liters gave 4.546092. There was still another gallon (with a "C" to the right of it). Converting it to liters gave 4.546090. These two figure are nearly identical to the figure you mentioned. If you want the largest selection of conversions your best bet would be to get an HP48G+ (128K RAM, non-expandable) or an HP48GX (128K RAM, expandable). The HP48G is no longer made. The HP32SII appears to very limited in its conversion capabilities.

Re: Further discovery on units problems with HP32SII
*Message #9 Posted by **Edwin Russell** on 23 Nov 2001, 8:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Frank Travis

Frank - you say your HP48G gave 4.546092 l - this is in error as the correct exact figure is as in my first post i.e. 4.54609 l exactly (from "Standard derivation of Units in the SI system from ISO 1000 : 1992 (E)"). My research shows this International figure is exactly the same in Canada and the UK (someone please correct me if I'm wrong).

The factor used in my 32SII is the correct exact one for the USA - nothing wrong with that (from "http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/230/235/appxc/appxc.htm"). My gripe is that I bought the calculator in the UK and there is no warning that the US conversion factor is used instead of the one used in this country of sale. Perhaps a sticker should be placed in the manual of "foreign" (non USA) sales?

Thanks for all replies to my post - my first one here. I'm very impressed.

Re: First reactions to buying a 32SII
*Message #10 Posted by **Thibaut.be** on 24 Nov 2001, 6:05 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

I also saw the new style of the 32SII and... have to say I prefer it to the previous one !

I really like the metal trimming and the colours of the 1st and 2ns shift keys ! far better than this awful (but maybe ergonomic) orange and blue.

No the question is to know wether these coulours are as ergonomic... I guess so, but any reaction appreciated !

Re: First reactions to buying a 32SII
*Message #11 Posted by **Frank** on 25 Nov 2001, 11:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by Thibaut.be

The new colors, like the HP10B change just before it was discontinues, were more stylish, but less visable and hence functional in my opinion. Probably a marketeer's idea? Surely no industrial designer worth his/her salt would do this! Anyway enjoy it while it's here. I don't expect these to be 'round much longer. Has anyone seen a new version or colors to the HP20s?

HP's gallon selection
*Message #12 Posted by **Dan** on 27 Nov 2001, 4:48 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Edwin Russell

I can sympathize with your problem, I think, by imagining what it would be like were the function to convert between liters and imperial gallons on my calculator. The function would be useless to me.

You'll notice that all four unit conversion pairs on the HP32SII are English <-> metric conversions. US and Imperial units are the same (with very minor exceptions) except for the units of capacity, of which there are three basic catagories in current use: US liquid, US dry, and Imperial. (And, if I understand the HP48/49 conversions correctly, there are two slightly different versions of the Imperial gallon: UK and Canadian.)

Now, despite the USA representing only 4.5% of the world's population, I suspect that the most frequently used of those three English gallons is the US liquid gallon. After all, most of the world, as I understand it, does not use the gallon, any gallon, at all. And surely the USA accounts for far more than 4.5% of the English-speaking world. Furthermore, if I am to believe what I read in the news, gallons (or units based upon them--like pints) are falling out of commercial use in the UK and Australia. I thought they were only used for beer in the UK now (I'm ready to be enlightened). I don't believe Imperial units are used at all in India anymore (enlighten me again). That leaves Canada, which uses Imperial units on the sly despite an official conversion to metric. Here in the USA, we use gallon-based units for almost everything liquid that we buy.

Unlike the metric system, English units are not coherent. If they were, there would be no need for a special conversion function for units of capacity. You could just use the linear conversion and cube as necessary. And the fourth button could be used for some other useful conversion, like pound-force to Newtons.

I suspect HP selected the conversion most useful to the most people. Unfortunately, that doesn't

help you or the many millions like you. Of course, HP should spell out in the manual exactly which conversion is implemented.

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Re: Dave Packard Would Fire This Iain Morris If He Were Alive
*Message #1 Posted by **J.C. Randerson** on 20 Nov 2001, 10:20 p.m.*

Luis:

I must correct you regarding this point: Dave Packard was a big believer in R&D. He would never have sacrificed a project if it had merit to save or make a quick $dollar. He would have fought tooth and nail to prevent what Queen Fiorina and her lackey Morris are doing to HP Calculators.

Beyond that, I'm like you, I don't fully understand all the intricacies of economics. But I do know that good innovation brought to a marketable invention sells very well. The idiots who are running HP now are selling themselves short, but I don't think they know or care.

You silver-tongued persuaders you!
*Message #2 Posted by **Glynn** on 21 Nov 2001, 7:39 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by J.C. Randerson

It's been a week since we got something we had all secretly wished a bit for: a real-live Hewlett-Packard heavyweight, someone well-placed in the company, who would TALK to us, instead of pretending we don't exist.

It was nice and actually a solid thing to do, in the midst of a restructuring within the company, for a President of an established arm of a corporation, to go out where the arrows fly and tell us what he must: that the calculator, if not the Calculator division, lives on in his "Embedded and Personal Systems Group".

To reassure a customer base of a continuation of the status quo is not a crime, it's a good sign. It meant that he felt there was some goodwill to pursue, some sense of upheaval amongst us he could ameliorate with a personal touch-- and that our potential panic at the loss of ACO was of concern to him, his group, his superiors in the corporation.

Now let me tell you, I am not a lackey nor employed by HP, nor do I blunt my criticisms of

what I think of their current management, marketing strategy, product focus, distribution channel, etc.-- I believe I have many times made myself clear to you all on what I think HP's many missteps have been.

But it is probable that many of you have, at SOME moment in your lives, been exposed to large corporations and how the people within them MUST operate. I don't know WHAT you must think personally of them...

Instead, just Think please of what form a communication to the general public (*the OUTSIDE*) has to take; you just can't dish like a dumped Jean-Yves, you can't give stockholders nor competitors leverage to make your team's job harder. You cannot go woebegone or criticize Ms. Fiorini's management or blame a DOA merger and weak stock fortunes for internal belt-tightening. You choose your words carefully to balance the truth as you know it to be, with the need for diplomacy and confidentiality and positive attitude; to get across JUST the message you are trying to send, and NOTHING MORE. To do other than this is to juggle with porcupines; maybe fun... but risky, and not in your job description.

To those who actually read press-releases, public communiques and management responses in their daily occupations, translating and interpreting is "de rigeur"; you do it on the fly. But since a majority perhaps are NOT used to reading such things, it is possible that SOME of the interpretations made in this forum were that Mr. Morris either was trying to be deceptive, or that he "didn't get it".

I would not assume either, if I were you. I know that Mr. Morris did not get to be a president of a group at HP by sweepstakes. He worked hard, he thought through many strategies to benefit his company, he was loyal and-- most of all-- he SURVIVED, as I'm sure he'd tell you (over a beer, in a nice dark saloon far away from headquarters).

Now if you understand the way things are at a big company, and at least credit the guy with the intelligence to tie his shoes if given a diagram, you can break down his news into some very interesting slices of company-speak:

1. by citing his title, he is telling you of his authority on the matter, and indicating how high up in the corporation these matters are of importance enough to address publicly. HP Embedded and Personal Systems Group (EPS) is in charge of calculators and lots more, was above ACO and now folds in its responsibilities in toto. The reason this isn't a matter for Carly Fiorini is that, overall, the corporation is not going to live or die by the elimination of ACO and/or its contents. But the fact that the prez of the EPS group IS communicating, shows that "calculators" (or their purchasers) do play a part in his overall plans for operating his division successfully.

2. He's been getting public flak, heat, embarrassment-- it has been heard above the internal din

of the corporation (a rare event). No doubt our disgruntled buddy J-Y Avenard has a role in that; not just musings and murmurs from the masses, but a pronounced shout from outside the walls specifically over the closure of ACO.

3. HP is going to continue to market calculators, at least in the near-term. "Not exiting the business" says precisely nothing about the origin or manufacture of, nor port of entry, of the calcs; it says precisely nothing of the form those calcs will take, nor whom they will market them to. The words, please note, are deliberate: HP will have HP-branded calculators to sell now and for the immediate future, so don't consider them orphans just yet.

4. "painful cost reductions and consolidate efforts"-- the money was tight and management had to consider it would be more effectively utilized elsewhere within the company and not ACO. You can disagree with the decision, but it clearly says to me: ACO was spending to create things that, at best, would be a marketing cul-de-sac, and at worst, maybe compete with or interfere with products fitting the overall HP goals. Meshing in the story as told by J-Y Avenard, separate and costly development of an mp3-Java-PDA thingy might have been cause to question ACO's existence as a SEPARATE part of a group ALREADY into laptops and handheld PDAs and such.

5. HP remains committed to the business... ...will remain the same... -- In this "assurance", many of you will be most discomfited. It means: right now, sales of the existing lineup of calcs and how they get sold and whom we sell them to are "JUST FINE BY US". Hewlett-Packard will not be charting a course far different than what they have pursued over the past few years. Don't look for a new push into education; "we're selling what we have, and to those that like them as they are".

6. ...appreciate your feedback and loyalty to the HP brand... --and I daresay he does. But this also is a backward-looking statement, which he rectifies by adding: and look forward to your continued support. In the context of the split time-zones here, he already HAD your feedback, enough to write a letter. He knows that HP users often are brand-conscious and make decisions on computers, printers etc. based on the HP reputation and good past associations. In the present, HE LOOKS FORWARD (he is positive, assertive) to your continued support-- to be blunt: look at things in the best light, don't go racing away like rats off a sinking ship... your business is valuable enough that we try to consider it in our current thinking and strategy.

Now, deconstruction like this sometimes puts words in people's mouths that they either would not say, OR it puts words in people's mouths that they would rather NOT say in such a direct manner, in such a forum. I'm going to put in some words myself now that I think should be said to this forum specifically, because I feel that some of you "don't get it"...

Mr. Morris does NOT dictate corporate strategy. A board does. He is Duty-Bound to not just follow that strategy, but to make it HIS and give it the best he's got. The board may be dense or

totally wacko, but Mr. Morris does not advise THEM what to do, or how it ought to be done. So criticism directed at him personally is MISDIRECTED. If the management at HP thinks PDAs are the natural evolution and calc-style tools are vestigial remnants of technology now only used by business execs too stupid to learn PocketWindows, then Mr. Morris will sell those retarded execs all the calcs he can until the prices of PDAs and calcs begin to converge. And Mr. Morris may well KNOW that, out here, we are smart and can afford PDAs and still want calcs. He CAN, as a prez of a group, suggest ways of looking at developing our business, convince management that in addition to their analyses, a significant market yearns for specific and directed tools; But, absent managements' understanding, he will not buck management's direction and cultivate a sprig not in the decided-upon row... because his loyalty and his livelihood depend on how well he furthers HP plans.

So why I am a bit angry now with what has been said here in other posts, is that, instead of reaching him with helpful suggestions on what we would like HP to know would insure our future business, some have taken an opportunity to throw stones at the man, dredge up garbage about Ms. Fiorini's lifestyle as a CEO, and generally act like fools. You can talk about God's disappointment in HP's direction, and I don't mind at all, but in THIS thread, you've suggested firing a man who not only did you no harm, but maybe was a link to your future hopes. You talk about people you don't know and can't identify in a lineup-- so did any of the venting help us as a group, or did it just flow from stored-up frustrations?

Yes, this is maybe MY rant. I didn't think Mr. Brogger went far out on a limb to correct what I, too, saw as a bit of revisionism, but conspiracy theories are easily formulated in hindsight, and worrying about what has passed long ago can quickly devolve into a "tinkling" contest, as it seemed was becoming likely. Mr. Brogger, thank you for retrieving your discretion.

MY rant, I know, will make some of you mad. I happen to agree with many, many of the opinions expressed by the present company, including God... it's just that, maybe you didn't have to throw a gauntlet in anyone's face when they merely showed up here. Does offering a statement to a forum mean that he should expect, nay, has INVITED, flames? Cause that's about ALL we offered him. A real show of class... not.

I guess we won't be seeing a Christmas Card from him OR Carly THIS year, anyway. Sigh...

Re: Excellent post and very well said.
*Message #3 Posted by **Ron Ross** on 21 Nov 2001, 8:56 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Glynn

Your points are all valid.

He even responded to a personel vent of mine to his email directly.

Of course Hp is going through some tough times and now with the merger with Compaq, there will be some duplication of jobs. Compaq has a palmtop division also. Need I say more?

Hp and Compaq are preparing for a marriage and both are cutting back (in areas where we have no control or say). Hopefully, after the dust settles, Hp will again deliver a superior calculating device (but I won't be holding my breath).

Regards,

Ron Ross

About the merge with Compaq...
*Message #4 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 21 Nov 2001, 9:42 a.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Ron Ross

Hello;

is there any sign that points to the merging? The last info I had from here involved Packard's descendants inside HewPack.

Is there any recent news about it?

Thanks.

Re: About the merge with Compaq...
*Message #5 Posted by **Wayne Brown** on 21 Nov 2001, 11:09 a.m.,*
in response to message #4 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Both the Hewlett and Packard families are opposed to the merger, and Hewlett's son is mounting a proxy fight against the deal. Here's a quote from a current Infoworld article:

"A proxy fight, combined with the opposition of both the Hewlett family and David Packard, son of HP's other co-founder, casts serious doubt on the ability of the two companies to complete the merger, said several analysts. However, HP's largest shareholder is reserving judgment on the deal, and HP's relatively strong fourth-quarter performance helps bolster confidence in the management team, analysts said."

The complete article can be found here:

http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/01/11/19/011119hnproxyfight.xml?1120tuam

Personally, I'm hoping to see the merger fail. If that happens it could cause a serious shakeup in HP management and may well send Fiorina packing, which would be the best thing to happen to HP in a long time.

Thank you Glynn - and an apology to Iain Morris
*Message #6 Posted by **Dave Hicks** on 21 Nov 2001, 5:54 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Glynn

I really liked your message and the way you expressed yourself.

I was excited when Mr. Morris posted his message but I wasn't able to follow this discussion in anything approaching real-time.

I have to say that I'm disappointed in how it turned out. This thread is not at all typical for this forum and I hope this isn't a sign of things to come.

I'd like to apologize to Mr. Morris and I hope we can all try to be more constructive next time - if there is a next time.

Flattery will get you nowhere ;-)
*Message #7 Posted by **Cameron** on 21 Nov 2001, 7:12 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Glynn

Excellent reality check, Glynn. I'm as guilty as the next bloke of shooting messengers. I guess they make easy(er) targets.

One nit I will pick though (congenially). Mr Morris and Ms Fiorina put themselves forward and were chosen by the corporation that employs them (presumably) because they share a similar outlook and are committed to similar goals. While I concur that they are BOUND to implement the dictates of the board, they do so through choice and not because they were press-ganged into service.

I have NO knowledge of the inner workings of the HP management team nor the relationships between top executives and the board. However it would be an odd corporation indeed if the board did not seek the counsel of their most senior and highly remunerated executives.

That said, I endorse your call for us to THINK about our responses. We were privileged to receive a communique more-or-less from the horse's mouth and it would be good for consumers and suppliers in this little food chain if a dialogue could be developed.

If others feel similarly, and no one else with more "seniority" in this forum volunteers, I propose to invite Mr Morris to contribute further on this subject--even if through a less senior member of the HP team. Before I do that I'd like to invite Glynn to be our proxy since his command of the language and his deconstruction of the message have demonstrated that he is the most suitable candidate for the "job".

Cameron

The damage is irreversible, but...
*Message #8 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 21 Nov 2001, 11:09 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Glynn

Hello;

You all know my origin and, maybe, my difficulty on expressing myself in English and understanding some nuances of the language. As far as I can go this way, I try not causing any damage and, so far, I commit some mistakes without meaning it.

When reading Mr. Iain`s post I felt confused at the first moment, believing something

completely new has happening: the president of Hewlett-Packard, EPS, addressed to everyone in this forum to show that they were reading the posts and aware of (at least some) facts. For me, unusual.

I felt that that was not the moment to post anything, but simply waiting for the posts and read. Surprise: most were somewhat hard and accusative, dealing and mentioning facts I was not (and still am not) aware of. When I read a few posts I could understand and set an opinion I did it. No regrets. At that time, I did not realize how far would things go.

I read Mr. Glynn`s post in a glance (my time for these days is leaking through a hole...), but it is really understanding (despite some words I had to look for translation...) and I would just feel myself in a constrain situation: what to do?

Any actions taken now will lead to one thought: is this another wave? Well, I bet it is not. Supporting Mr. Glynn`s thoughts is stopping and reflecting a bit about his words of wisdom. I will not feel ashamed for that. If someone gives me a chance to see I'm not that right, there is no shame on supporting him.

Well, that's what I'm doing to show I agree with Mr. Glynn: I'm removing all my posts (just a few) in this thread, not cause I changed my mind, but cause I want to express I still believe this site is a respectable place with respecting contributors, and when polite people express their minds, someone will always tell us it's polite hearing in silence.

Thanks and forgive-me if there is anything spelled wrongly.

Re: The damage is irreversible, but...
*Message #9 Posted by **Cameron** on 22 Nov 2001, 8:33 a.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luiz, elide (remove, delete) nothing! The "fault", if there is any to be found, lies with those of us for whom English is our first language.

<misguided altuistic opinion follows>

The wonder, for me, of the web is niether the porn sites nor the proliferation of cheap copies of other people's intellectual property. It rests with something that is perfectly exemplified by this forum.

Consider: people of four (5?) continents interacting--osensibly about calculators--on subjects as diverse and nebulous as economics, quality and post-modern theory.

Romantic sentimentality aside, it's also a forum where protagonists and antagonists from both ends of the electronic gadget/engineering tool supply chain can air ideas, differences and grievances. This interaction is precious and should be allowed to run its natural course without intervention or revision.

Whatever any of us have written, however imperfectly expressed, reflects our apprehension of the topic at the point of expression. This is (or should be) understood by all who contribute. Whether we shoot from the hip or carefully consider our contributions is as much a statement of our personalities as it is an exposition of our thoughts.

Cameron

PS: you have my email address. Don't struggle with the dictionary--I'm happy to work through some of the more-complex English with you.

(Semi-) Personal response to Luis...
*Message #10 Posted by **glynn** on 22 Nov 2001, 3:46 p.m.,*
in response to message #8 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

Luis,

Your English may be occasionally halting and sometimes awkward, but it is like a new foal standing up and learning to walk, eventually to gallop alongside his mom. Gracefulness and fluency in any language is primarily a matter of time, of continuing to communicate.

Speaking for myself, if I had to communicate in Portuguese or Spanish (or anything but English), I'd be totally hobbled and lost, and just limp by (using, say, Altavista's electronic translator)-- and no doubt the results would be much less readable than yours, though perhaps my failures would provide much comedy... ;-D

But I've noticed something you probably haven't. Natives of latin languages such as yourself use turns of phrase, idioms or linkages in their thoughts which come out, in English, quite strikingly elegant. Your self-expression, therefore, is neither bland nor is it hard to read. Instead, it is quite dignified, emotive and precise in its communication, even when the syntax is weak.

No need, therefore, to apologize for language difficulties. You're good-- and, by the way, we're all better off that we have a forum with representation all over the world, and few if any grammar-police to slow us down.

There is nothing wrong with expressing your thoughts here either, and I've always felt it better for my own writing that I mostly just let what I have said stand, even if later I double-think and have a second round with "revisions".

Cameron is absolutely right about the beauty of the internet. Providing you sincerely believe what you say, as you've said it, it should remain-- ADD TO IT when you feel the need; one more post doesn't hurt.

Everybody, if their minds are capable of engaging thought rather than reacting purely defensively, will come to a moment when someone else's input causes them to reflect upon and re-examine what was committed to print.

Luis, I like being "right", but it is through forums like this that I have learned: I am hardly EVER 100% right on my own, and usually I am only partway there... but wherever I am wrong, there will be plenty of people ready to tell me! And getting to be "more" right is a process that one should not fear or be ashamed for others to see.

I too am always re-reading whatever it is I last wrote, and often wincing to see just how badly I bungled, just how limited I was by the act of trying to get across a particular point: I could not express the fullness of my thoughts as I focused on one or two of them.

And invariably, someone will come along and say, ahh... but you should have been looking at this... and quite often, they are right!! Which calls for MORE dialogue, not less...

In my last post, I was upset that an opportunity for dialogue with someone (important at HP) was lost, because we hadn't ever granted him what we ALL want, a welcome to our various input.

One of my motivations in this is that I believe, as a group, that we have an assemblage of some of the finest people: helpful, committed, engaged in an important activity (that of promoting and saving useful tools from the scrapheap), from many backgrounds but all very smart and well-rounded, and capable of humor and balance and graciousness. I do not want others, whether at HP or visitors or potential calc fans, to perceive us wrongly. We are NOT nutballs and misfits-- though we are passionate on a common set of subjects.

I wouldn't want us to mute that passion. Our feelings and thought on these things is important. The mistake that set me off on a rant is that we tend to use EVERY event, every missive on the forum, as a focal-point for the frustrations we have been feeling for a long time. There IS a place for it in the forum, and there are many reasons to be frustrated and to express it. I just don't want to see those strong feelings bleed over into

personal attacks if we ourselves have not been personally slighted.

You are not the cause of any "damage", Luis: what I read in your messages has always revealed a respect for others both in and out of the forum. Your enthusiasm is right in step with us all here.

This forum is Dave's (thank YOU Dave), and because we participate, it is also yours and mine. Iain Morris is also welcome, and any discussion any of us has is subject to critical analysis and judgment, impassioned speech, correction and scrutiny from all sides.

Hopefully, in the midst of it all, we do choose our words to reflect our true aims; the message less than the messengers, as Cameron has said. Without that respect, sort of a presumption of goodwill, new participants and growing common ground would be rare.

I really do like this place. Thinking I'll stick around a while. I'll join in any conversation where I have something in mind to say. You too? ;-)

I feel home here.

*Message #11 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 22 Nov 2001, 7:10 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by glynn

Hello;

and thanks; being respected by those we respect makes us feel home every time we're among them. I feel home here.

I would like you all to understand that when I removed my posts at this particular thread I intended to show my respect and agreement for Mr. Glynn`s wisdom expression, at the same moment I accepted the fact I was also wrong. Not cause I support some thoughts (fierce, evocative, but also shaking), but cause I didn't stop to reflect on Mr. Morris words, as Glynn made so well.

I really felt a bit constrained and ashamed for the fact I should only read all posts and stand, waiting for the final moment, but I am sure I did not cause potential damage with my own posts. At least I believe that. And as Dave expressed his apologies, removing my posts was the way I found being my own apologies.

What counts in here is that we are still trying to keep things working at Mr. Hicks` place, as guests we are. As a foreigner, I have to watch, and watch, and learn. I have never been in U.S.A. (my brother lives in Tucson for 2.5 years and he says I speak English better than him), but I live as if I'm ready to be there tomorrow. I respect you a lot. And you have no idea of how important for me, in my 40 years of age, is

reading these posts.

Well, I'm loosing focus again. We now have to deserve Mr. Morris confidence again. What should we do to show him we still deserve his X-mas cards? Please, count on me.

Thanks, falks.

I hope I deserve your concerns.

Re: (Semi-) Personal response to Luis...
*Message #12 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 23 Nov 2001, 2:02 p.m.,*
in response to message #10 by glynn

Me, again.

I almost replaced previous post to add these words, but it would remove date and time stamp. So, this is just a complement.

I am sorry to say I cannot help myself: I feel as if I'm compelled to answer every question I know (at least I think I know, or I can guide to) the answer! They tease me... It’s compulsive. You know, I'm a teacher. I don't resist answering a question.

I believe I'll not stick around for now. You see, I answered two posts in less than 6 minutes; less than two hours later and I'm there, again (I was in a classroom). I can't help myself...

Let me just check again...

Cheers.

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Re: Please try to keep this friendly
*Message #1 Posted by **Juan J** on 20 Nov 2001, 11:35 a.m.*

Semantics aside, Paul's comments also looked like a rant to me. The answer, however, was rather personal and even looked fundamentalistic. Not to mention the quotes and capitals.

Current software and user applications/environments are not exactly code efficient. Moore's law allows writing complicated code that will function more or less well just because there's Intel or AMD around the corner turning out faster processors. Today's applications are also designed with a bit too much emphasis on the user interface, and therefore it's possible to design starting by the user input form and leaving the core of the problem for later. It used to be different, and we all know it: state the problem, set the algorythm, write and the code and hone the user interface.

We might not be comfortable with this, but it is a way to solve problems in everyday's life. And as such, is one more tool available for the job.

There is little pride in regarding oneself as a "real programmer" just because one is accustomed to one type of procedure/environment/operating system and dislikes the rest. It is even fundamentalistic, like those religious people that have caused us so much grief recently. There are no absolute truth, and everything depends upon the reference frame.

We all had our semester in Special Relativity, and should be well aware of this.

Why not using the right tool for the right job, regardless of how much we like it?

Pragmatism is always better than ideology.

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Re: HP-92: How rare is it, really?
*Message #1 Posted by **Andreas Stockburger (Germany)** on 20 Nov 2001, 7:19 a.m.*

Hi,

you said:

"I've documented Ebay sales for about the last 3.5 years"

so I think that there should be a statistics with ebay-prices like:

Type; Low; Avg; High; For example HP01; $10; $20; $30; or given by you HP92 $128 $400 $810 ...

Do you have this information? Are you willing to share this to the community ?

Best regards

Andreas

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Dim 15C display
*Message #1 Posted by **Stretch** on 20 Nov 2001, 6:06 a.m.*

Hi all,

I have a 15C which has not been used for a few years. I put fresh batteries into it and all seems ok until the LCD has to display more than 6 digits. The display then starts to lose segments. Reducing the digits displayed (say, fix2) and everything is ok again. No calculating errors occur so it is only a display glitch BUT when doing a selftest (on & x) however, all the LCD sements working perfectly. Any ideas??

Stretch

Re: Dim 15C display
*Message #2 Posted by **David Smith** on 20 Nov 2001, 5:41 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Stretch

You might try letting it run for a few days (try a program that displays -8888888888-88, pauses, and loops forever so the machine does not time out). I have seen some LCD displays that seem to need some exercise before they work properly... but not on a 15C type of machine though.

Re: Dim 15C display
*Message #3 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 20 Nov 2001, 8:40 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by David Smith

Hello;

I think this is interesting. I read some stuff about LCD some time ago, and the fact they can stress with time and become less readable (say, no such contrast as before) made me think seriously about their performance. That`s the first actual case I`ve been told about.

Please, Dave, you mentioned you have seen some LCD`s that needed some exercise. I`m curious about it. Would it be due to some specific working condition? I mean scan

frequency, reference voltages, environment preassure, temperature and light condition, type of light when ON or OFF, and the like. Do you have more information about it? I`m not specifically concerned about my HewPack calcs, but also about LCD`s used in industry, field eqpt, measurement instruments, etc. I used to think that, as many semiconductors, LCD`s would rest as long as they were working. Of course, reading about them and knowing their crystal structure is far from the SI or GE semimetals cleared my mind (college golden times).

I'd be glad for any info you can share.

Thanks.

Re: Dim 15C display
*Message #4 Posted by **David Smith** on 21 Nov 2001, 4:58 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)

I'm not sure of the exact cause. I have personally seen it happen in some old LCD panel meters. Possible causes are the LCD material becomming "sticky" or its makeup becomming separated without use, buildup of residue in the material or on the indium tin oxide electrodes, etc. I think they just need some regular exercise... just like electrolytic capacitors.

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Re: Quite True, Ross
*Message #1 Posted by **Frank** on 19 Nov 2001, 11:22 p.m.*

Gene-Try the new version TI-BAII plus, much better keyboard, fortunate for your excellent book, same layout I think! This is actually the 3rd version, as the original which I still have was called "Business Scientific" on the calculator. Major flaws in this thought possibly causing the renaming (more likely a marketing ploy)was and is no direct entry exponent (use y to the x) and no base 10 logs though we learned the Nat log conversion in the mid 70's I'm sure. Meanwhile, back to HPs while they last, anyway, and the old ones will outlast us all, unless the EL caps dry up first.

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Re: Crazy HP 27
*Message #1 Posted by **Frank** on 19 Nov 2001, 11:02 p.m.*

Check the archives for several good threads primarily by Katie about potential fixes to try for similar conditions on the HP 27.

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Dave Packard Would Fire This Iain Morris If He Were Alive
*Message #1 Posted by **J.C. Randerson** on 19 Nov 2001, 10:24 p.m.*

My hometown is the same as Dave Packards'. (Pueblo, Colorado) Historically, economics around here have always been tough. It's bred and shaped a whole bunch of tough minded people who worked like hell (farmers, ranchers, steel mill workers) and made things work.

People like Queen Fiorina and her pet juggler Morris are here today, gone tomorrow carpetbaggers. They want nothing more than a quick profit and a few hollow cheers in some stockholders meeting.

If Dave Packard were alive today, he'd send the Queen and her juggler packing. I'm glad he's not alive to see the ruin of all his hard work.

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Re: Button batteries
*Message #1 Posted by **Frank** on 19 Nov 2001, 8:14 p.m.*

For personal use, the $1.96 at Walmart does not seem bad for the Energizer 357 SO cells so as not to have to order in qty, and they do last quite awhile in the calcs. That particular size along with the Litium CR2032 (many ti/RS calcs)are sometimes in short supply in Walmart so get 'em just before you need 'em

Re: Button batteries
*Message #2 Posted by **Y K Wong (Singapore)** on 20 Nov 2001, 7:16 p.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Frank

I am probably the lucky one! The source that I purchase the LR44 and CR2032 only cost me US $0.17 (S$0.30) and US$0.60 (S$1.00) each respectively. There is no minimum qty.

The vendor is the OEM supplier for Hitachi Maxell. Hence, the "cheap" battery is pack in their OEM package but the battery bear the original Maxell logo!

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Re: How to control the recieve bit in the HP48 as an input bit...
*Message #1 Posted by **Vieira, Luiz C. (Brazil)** on 19 Nov 2001, 5:37 p.m.*

Hello;

I read your post again and thought about cheating. Yes, cheating data. Say: you set your equipment to sent seven data bits + your receive bit. The HP48 will read eight bits, but you know one of them is your golden bit.

I do not have the 48's User Guide in hands, but I am almost sure you can set how many data bits as you can have in receiving/sending data.

Just a suggestion.

Cheers.

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Re: Purchasing US available-only models
*Message #1 Posted by **Arnold Steekelenburg** on 19 Nov 2001, 1:17 p.m.*

Hi GE,

Have a look at ebay:

http://listings.ebay.com/aw/plistings/list/category11711/index.html

I bought a HP39 a while ago (living in The Netherlands). Please watch the prices over a little time to get a feeling. Compare to the US prices at hpshopping and jump in.

Regards, Arnold

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Re: new HP CPU???
*Message #1 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 19 Nov 2001, 11:43 a.m.*

With CPU speeds generally so far beyond *single* application requirements, I wonder what would be the justification for a truly new CPU?

If HP has made a decision to switch to a new technology, it's already surrendered at least some of the value of its investment in the current code base. Why create *new* technology when there's so much already implemented, available and supported in the form of fast, low-power versions of the Pentium?

What's the justification? Is it because they're implementing single-chip solutions and (presumably) need their own design anyway? Are profit margins so slim that they justify implementation rather than licensing?

I'm not (strictly) in the business, so maybe I just don't get it. Anyone care to comment?

Re: new HP CPU???
*Message #2 Posted by **GE (France)** on 20 Nov 2001, 4:34 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Paul Brogger

The obvious upwards path to more power would be to create a faster Saturn chip. However, I faintly recall that it was mentioned someplace that for the HP48G, HP did push the Saturn to its limits, that is 4 Mhz. Can anyone shed some light on this issue ? Is it related to the nature of the chip, which might be an hybrid or something ?

Re: new HP CPU???

*Message #3 Posted by **Andrés C. Rodríguez (Argentina)** on 20 Nov 2001, 7:45 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by GE (France)

Just guessing, but some ideas and sub-ideas:

1) Only justification for a new processor is to have the same or very similar instruction set, so not have to rewrite the assembly code for the calculators.

2) If the firmware is coded in other than assembly (i.e.:RPL), then the software could be migrated to any processor in which a kernel capable of supporting RPL could be developed.

3) As new processors are much faster (my pocket PC has a 206 MHz StrongARM RISC Processor, just to talk about a portable product), there could be a software emulator that emulates the original instruction set running on such new chips, and attain acceptable performance.

4) The HP LX 100/200 are good examples of an excellent HP calculator application ported to a 8086 processor. So code is available (for HP, I mean, because of their intellectual property)

5) Good emulators could run in a Java Virtual Machine, attaining high portability. There are examples here at the Museum. So many processors could "host" a calculator.

6) It is very possible that the cost of manufacturing today a chip designed 15 years ago (approx.) may be higher than the cost of manufacture for a current design, compatible with today's batteries, displays, voltage levels, manufacturing techniques, current test equipment, etc...

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Re: Broggers Ignorance
*Message #1 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 19 Nov 2001, 11:25 a.m.*

I apologize for any offense I may have inadvertently engendered.

I only meant "rant" in its [italic]good[\italic] sense, as in restau[italic]rant[\italic].

Re: Broggers Ignorance
*Message #2 Posted by **Paul Brogger** on 19 Nov 2001, 11:30 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by Paul Brogger

(I'm certainly not much of an HTML programmer!)

[I'm dutifully practicing the password/Delete-Message features of this Forum, tail carefully tucked betwixt legs . . .)

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Button batteries
*Message #1 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 19 Nov 2001, 9:44 a.m.*

I don't know how it is in the US market, but here batteries are quite expensive.

I have the opportunity of purchasing Swiss button batteries that fit the voyager and further models such as 2XS series, 32S, 42S, ...

They should come up to something like 0.96 dollars per unit (to be confirmed). This is, compared to Belgian prices, 25% of the normal retail price (that includes a lot of recycling and various other taxes)

Of course this is interesting only if a certain quantity of these are purchased, so if you're interested, I could arrange a massive shipping.

Re: Button batteries
*Message #2 Posted by **Ren Tescher** on 19 Nov 2001, 11:11 a.m.,*
in response to message #1 by thibaut.be

Prices for button cells here in the U.S. are quite varied. About 10 years ago I bought a few "10 packs" of Vinnic (brand) button cells for $2.99. But the "usual" price I pay for a button cell is around twice the $0.96 you quoted in your letter. Our local grocery store sells button cells for less than the local battery store, though the battery store has a MUCH larger selection. Some of the electronic part catalogs will sell button cells for as little at $0.44, but they often require a $20 minimum order.

P.S. say "Hi" to my "ancestors" in Belgium! B^)

Re: Button batteries
*Message #3 Posted by **Katie** on 19 Nov 2001, 12:37 p.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ren Tescher

You can find amazingly low prices on ebay for button cells. But if you don't want to wait for those deals, write to Eddietee20@aol.com he's got Vinnic S1154S silver oxide cells for about $.75US. I've been using these in HP calculators for a while and they're very good.

Re: Button batteries
*Message #4 Posted by **W. Bruce Maguire II** on 19 Nov 2001, 1:00 p.m.,*
in response to message #3 by Katie

Another source is:

www.CheapBatteries.com

They have Eveready 357 Silver-Oxide batteries for $0.75/ea. for 10 or more pieces, and $0.55/ea. for 100 or more pieces. I have used this company before---they seem great. They offer GREAT deals on some batteries, and only average on others.

Bruce.

Re: Button batteries
*Message #5 Posted by **thibaut.be** on 20 Nov 2001, 3:29 a.m.,*
in response to message #2 by Ren Tescher

Thanks for the info !

I'll definitely say Hi to your ancestors. Where were they from ?

Re: Button batteries

*Message #6 Posted by **Richard C. Anderson** on 22 Nov 2001, 9:24 a.m.,*
in response to message #5 by thibaut.be

It's all very well looking for the cheapest batteries but make sure you're comparing like with like. Heaven knows what the difference between a "photo" and "electronic" silver oxide cell is (as sold by Varta). The alkaline ones, LR44's (as supplied by HP), seem to die suddenly and unpredictably, endangering all those brilliant, manually entered programs (for us 42s users). The "memory clear" message is not a happy sight. The cost of batteries is infinitesimal compared to what they enable us to do with our beloved handheld products. I think it's worthwhile buying good quality, fresh batteries and maybe changing them before the low-battery warning is displayed. A voltmeter can help reduce anxiety for truly thrifty calc. users! Richard

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