Support Group Application Note
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Information on BBC Model B+ 128K

Applicable Hardware : BBC B+

Related Application Notes: BBC B+ Additional User Information

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Key Features

BBC Model B+ with 128k RAM

Full 64k BASIC programs with special BBC BASIC

Four 16k PAGES RAMs capable of running Languages and Filing Systems

Increased printer buffers and variable storage possible.

The 128k B+ will be compatible with all existing hardware and software designed for the 64k B+. This reinforces Acorn's prime commitment toward existing owners of upward compatibility and stability in the rapidly changing and confusing world of microcomputers. The advantages offered with the extra memory in the 128k B+ are as follows:

Increased BASIC Program Size:
The 128k RAM provides the BBC Model B+ with a full 64k of BASIC programming area. The extra 64k RAM is supplied as 4 x 16k paged RAMs. Providing 64k of RAM for BASIC programs is quite unique for an 8-bit micro and is a feature may of the 128k competitive products cannot offer.

The extra 64k RAM area may also be used for storage of variables and for machine code programs.

Data Processing:
The 128k RAM offers greater potential and speed for processing data. the additional memory can be used for storing data variables. With this data in RAM, processing techniques such as sorting and searching become extremely fast.

Business Software:
The 128k B+ will greatly enhance the capabilities of the machine for business use. When using word processors, spreadsheets and databases the size of the data storage areas can be dramatically increased while the prospects for integrated packages are greatly improved.

Paged RAM:
The extra memory will appear as 4 x 16k Byte pages in the PAGED RAM space (&8000 to &BFFF). Each page of the new RAM will be capable of running a language or filing system eg Pascal, BASIC, ADFS and 1770 DFS. Some programs including the View family are protected and will not run in Paged RAM.

The implications of Paged RAM may be greatest using 128k B+ machines on the network. Each network machine could load a version of normal ROM based software, eg Pascal, from the fileserver into the Paged RAM and proceed as if the ROM chip were then in that machine.

Printer Buffer:
With suitable additional software (not supplied) the extra RAM may be used as a printer buffer ie to store characters while printing thus releasing the machine for other work.

Existing 64K B+ may be upgraded to the 128k B+ by authorised Acorn dealers.