

The BBC Microcomputer 6502 and Z80 second processors

he BBC Microcomputer has a unique feature, the Tube[®] (a design registered by Acorn Computers), which provides a high speed data channel for the addition of a second processor.

The addition of a second processor doubles processing speed because it is no longer necessary to interrupt calculations every time one processor wants to output data. Data is passed across the Tube[®] into the second processor's memory and the BBC Microcomputer processor undertakes all operating system functions.

The Z80 second processor works at a clock rate of 6MHz and the 6502 at 3MHz, both providing an overall improvement in processing speed.

The 6502 second processor

This is the same as the processor in the BBC Microcomputer and provides an extra 64K of Random Access Memory (RAM), of which 60K is available for the user program and selected language.

The Z80 second processor

Also with 64K RAM, this processor allows operation of CP/M* with its vast range of applications programs.

Both the second processors come in cream coloured cases, which match the BBC Microcomputer in style and colour. They take their power from the microcomputer so only one ribbon cable connection is needed. Only one processor may be attached at a time.

The second processors can only be fitted to a Model B BBC Microcomputer, though Model A can be upgraded.

The Microcomputer must be fitted with a Series 1.0 Machine Operating System.

For further details ask your nearest dealer or write to PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

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