AppleLogic

The AppleLogic website - devoted to preserving the brilliant hardware designs of retired Apple systems.

System Projects

- Home
- Apple //e
- Apple ///+
- Apple IIgs
- Carte Blanche
- PB10 Slots Bd
- Pseudo Disk][

Design Research

- Apples & Clones
- Peripheral Cards
- Apple's ASIC's
- ASIC Adaptor
- Processors

Developer Resources

- Getting Started
- User Manuals
- Technical Data
- Downloads
- Links

Architects

- Contributors
- About the site

Site Map

Trackstar

The Apple II Clone inside an IBM PC

By 1985 the Apple II had continued to gain greater popularity in the personal computing m Apple IIe, the 8 bit system moved from strength to strength. However the 16 bit IBM PC wit had grown over the past four years to become a popular system, which may have enjoyed an the recent entry into the market of a large number of South East Asian companies produ competitive pricing. As a result, several companies entered into a niche market of developing compatibility on a PC. One of the first and maybe more popular cards was the Diamond Syst built on an ISA or MCA based IBM PC expansion card and brought to the PC full Apple I which model of card you bought, would depend on which Apple system you would be co eventually produced four models of the Trackstar card.

Model	Emulates	Interface	RAM	I
TrackStar	Apple II+	8-bit ISA	64K	N
TrackStar 128	Apple II+	8-bit ISA	128K	N
TrackStar Plus	Apple II+	8-bit ISA and MCA	128K	N
Trackstar E	Apple IIe	8-bit ISA	128K	Y

The primary reason we look at the Trackstar board in relation to the soft Apple FPGA is pure the system. The Trackstar card is in essence an Apple Clone with some extra fancy logic to p and to pass Apple II data in a format both the PC and its peripherals can understand. One of design is the fact that it has two 65C02 processors, which may have broken Apple compatibi its functionality through emulation. The designers put in a solid effort to not only create a enable full compatibility up to an Apple IIe using just standard PAL's and GAL's. For most o and IOU as they were was the preferred approach. It is these characteristics of the design th The photos below were provided by a work colleague who once owned one of these cards grateful he took some quality pictures of the board for his ebay auction, as they give a comprises of. Hopefully over time, we may be able to get our hands on some schematics and the meantime, it makes a great example of how far the Apple clones made their way into othe

Trackstar is an example of a technology that was applicable to the era it was conceived in. B and IBM camps, the design was susceptible to going out of date very quickly. As both IB directions, the usefulness of the card diminished. IBM left ISA and DOS and Apple went Trackstar is a very interesting design, it is not the sort of thing that would have any benefit i

locate an historic PC that had all the right characteristics to enable it. As an example of two sy primarily because it is expected that future FPGA based designs will be configured as "many old 8 bit systems to prove the concept. However this time, the concept will be structured ar One that allows truly independent upgradable faithful copies to co-exist within a single devi the FPGA to provide bridging and exchange services between each of the complete systems ar