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A review of the IBM Personal Computer Family. Vol. 1, No. 2

HARDWARE NEWS

Progress. Even for a youngster with unusual potential, the IBM PC*jr* has made a lot of progress in its first year.

Consider memory for example. The IBM PC*jr* comes with up to 128KB of internal user memory. You can also add external memory expansion units of 128KB each, up to a total of 512KB. That's far more potential memory than other computers of its price range and weight class (10 pounds).*

Increased memory allows you to take full advantage of the IBM PC*jr*'s powerful 16-bit processor. With up to 512KB of available memory and PC*jr*'s double-sided diskette drive, you can run thousands of best-selling programs that have been developed for the IBM PC. If you're a programmer, the PC*jr* joins the other members of the IBM PC Family as a full-fledged application development tool.

There is also a variety of plug-in cartridge programs, which work faster than diskettes and don't take up any user memory. Three popular examples are Lotus 1-2-3™, PC*jr* Color-Paint, and Managing Your Money™ by financial expert Andrew Tobias. And every PC*jr* comes with cassette BASIC built into the system board.

PC*jr* makes it easy and affordable to start small and grow at your own pace. The $599 PC*jr* Entry Model, for example, comes with 64KB of memory, runs cartridge programs, and can easily be expanded into a diskette model. The PC*jr* Enhanced Model at $999** offers 128KB of memory — enough to run many programs from the IBM PC software library — and a 360KB diskette drive.
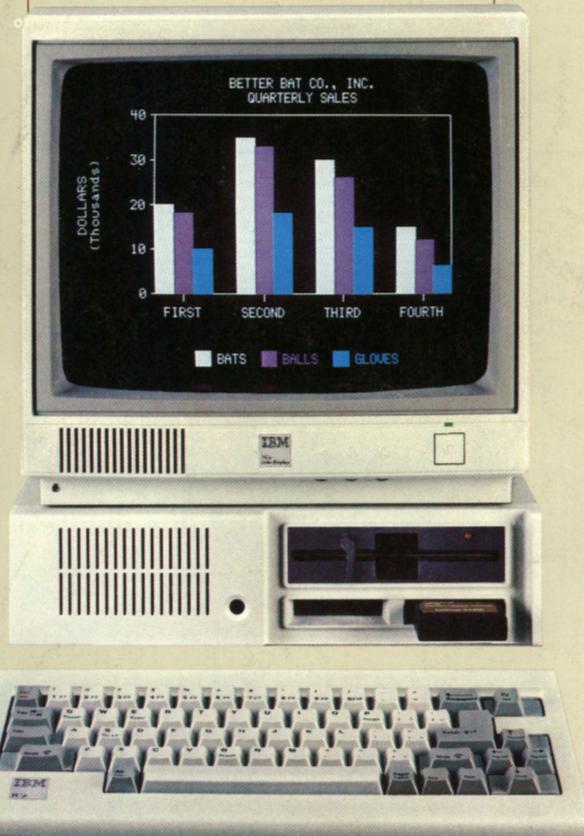
*Cartridge-based programs for PC*jr* include Lotus 1-2-3™.*

No matter which model you choose, the IBM PC*jr*'s 13 ports for plug-in options make it easy to add to your system, from more memory, to a modem, joysticks (PC*jr* can accommodate two), color monitor, or other peripherals.

Keys and colors. The IBM PC*jr* now comes with a new typewriter-style cordless keyboard that frees you to work up close or across the room from the system unit.

While PC*jr* can be connected to just about any display, including your TV set, the IBM PC*jr* Color Display offers some real advantages at a very reasonable price.

It has a built-in speaker and an earphone jack for educational and entertainment programs that feature music and sound effects. The non-glare RGB screen gives you better character definition and clarity than a color composite monitor. And since the PC*jr* Color Display is designed to be placed on top of the system unit, it's a space-saving addition to your PC*jr* system.

Whatever monitor you decide to add to your PC*jr* system, there's no extra expense for an additional interface card. Ports for both monitors and serial printers are built in.

*Weight does not include power pack and monitor.
**Prices shown apply at IBM Product Centers.
Lotus 1-2-3 is a trademark of Lotus Development Corporation.
Managing Your Money is a trademark of MECA.

Lest that sound too intimidating, remember that the learning is a by-product of games in which you build various simulated machines on your display screen. Early sections of Rocky's Boots guide you through basic instructions about building and activating simple electronic devices.

You're also introduced to the various "spare parts" and "tools"—such as clackers, boppers, alligators, and alligator detectors—that may come in handy. Later in the program there are more challenging games to play using the machines you've built.

All in all, Rocky's Boots is as thoroughly engrossing as King's Quest. And on one point, at least, it's easier. Sir Grahame has to make do without an alligator detector.

Christmas cheer. Rocky's Boots and King's Quest are part of a special Christmas collection of entertainment and educational software from IBM.

Some others in the Christmas collection come from the same series of IBM learning games as Rocky's Boots. They include Bumble Games™, Bumble Plot™, Gertrude's Puzzles™, Gertrude's Secrets™, and Juggles' Butterfly™. See your authorized IBM Personal Computer dealer, IBM Software dealer, or IBM Product Center for complete details.

HARDCOPY

Full Disclosure. If business applications or entertainment programs aren't what you're after, there's a new software listing available from IBM, one with a long title but a specific purpose: the directory of *Engineering and Scientific Programs for IBM Personal Computers Available from Non-IBM Sources.**

It lists programs in a wide variety of engineering/scientific categories, from Computer Graphics to Lab Auto-

mation and Statistical Techniques. The *Engineering and Scientific* directory includes program descriptions, minimum configuration requirements, initial availability dates, and vendor information.

If your department or laboratory is suffering a backlog in application development
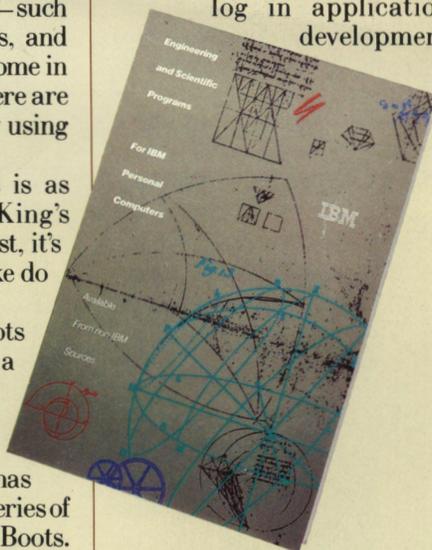
Directory of engineering and scientific programs for IBM Personal Computers.

work, one of these programs—in original form or with a little modification—may be the answer.

For information about where to get the IBM *Engineering and Scientific* directory, see the box at the end of this issue of *Read Only.*

*IBM has not evaluated these programs and makes no comment, warranty, or guarantee as to their functions, quality, or performance.

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TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

Living Dangerously. Diskettes lead dangerous lives. When they're not being folded, stapled, or otherwise rendered unfit for service, you might think they could at least spend a quiet evening in front of the TV set.

But no. Danger lurks there, too. All color TV sets and many color monitors have a degaussing coil around the face of the tube that demagnetizes the shadow mask inside the tube when the set is turned on.

If you keep your diskettes anywhere near (within a foot or so) the front of your color monitor or TV set, they may be exposed to a large shot of AC magnetic field every time you turn on the power. This could have a fatal and irreversible effect upon the data stored on the diskettes.

Don't degauss your diskettes.

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IBM CREDIT CARD

The new IBM Credit Card gives you a convenient way to get started in personal computing or to add hardware and software to your IBM Personal Computer system. It's available with any purchase of $300 or more. You can apply for the card and make a purchase with it on the same day. See your IBM Product Center or participating authorized IBM Personal Computer dealer for details.