

TORCH Z80 DISC PACK

INTRODUCTION

(Prelim)

Your TORCH Z80 DISC PACK allows you to run the many applications programs for the CP/M* operating system on your BBC Model B micro-computer. You can also start using some of the many languages available for the CP/M and CPN operating systems, such as Pascal, BCPL, C, FORTRAN, COBOL and FORTH, to write programs which take advantage of the powerful sound, graphics, and speech features of the BBC micro-computer.

The Z80 DISC PACK also provides two 400K disc drives which can be used by the BBC Disc Filing System (DFS) for storing BBC BASIC programs. Note however that in general, CPN files can not be read by the BBC DFS, and that a BBC DFS disc does not contain standard CPN files.

The Z80 DISC PACK uses some of the components of the TORCH 1 Communicating Business Computer, and runs the same operating system. (CPN - a CP/M compatible operating system.) This means that the software produced for TORCH computers will run with your Z80 DISC PACK, and any programs you produce will run on the TORCH at a later date.

You will also have the capability to expand your BBC micro-computer even further, by using the TORCH MC68000/Z80 dual processor card with 256K of RAM, or by adding a TORCH communications interface at a later date.

DOCUMENTATION

Since the Z80 DISC PACK shares the same operating system as the TORCH 1 computer, it is currently supplied with the TORCH User Guide and Programmers Guide.

The TORCH User Guide describes how to use the basic commands in the CPN operating system, and how to interpret any error messages that may result. The manual is however specific to the TORCH in the following areas:

Keyboard:

The TORCH has a number of extra keys which are mentioned in the User Guide. These are not available on the BBC keyboard. The cursor editing keys on the TORCH are replaced by the cursor editing keys on the BBC keyboard, with move past being the COPY key. The BREAK key on the BBC keyboard performs the function of the Master Reset button on the TORCH.

Illustrations:

The illustrations in the User Guide are of the TORCH computer, but these are only used to describe the installation of the computer and location of the disc drives.

The Programmers Guide describes how a programmer can access the CPN filing system, and use the features of the BBC micro-computer from a program running in the Z80. In addition, other commands available in the CPN operating system are described.

The guide duplicates some of the information provided in the BBC User Guide, particularly in the section dealing with OSBYTE and OSWORD calls.

A program called SUPERVDU is also described, which gives a program written in Microsoft BASIC the ability to plot graphs and perform complicated text manipulation by simply printing characters.

The Executive Aid package is described in the Executive Aid Manual. This package is in three sections, the Cardex card indexing system, the Typewriter word processor, and the Diary electronic desk diary. Diary requires the BBC light pen.