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on the internal workings of the computer for third-party software and hardware houses.

Prices start at £2,499 for the basic system. Increasing the RAM to 256K pushes the cost to £2,749, and the 1Mbyte version costs £3,999; all prices exclude VAT. U-Micro is on (0925) 54117.

British interference standard

UNLIKE AMERICA, the U.K. has had no standard laid down on how much radio interference may be caused by computers. This has been changed by BS 6527 which specifies acceptable limits. Copies may be obtained for £10.20 from the Sales Department, BSI, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes MK14 6LE.

Slow, Slow, Slomo

WHILE EVERYONE else is trying to speed up micros, Nidd Valley Micro Products has produced Slomo to slow everything down. As well as letting you get the hang of those tricky bits in shoot-'em-ups, it could also be useful for freezing frames.

The Slomo plugs into user ports or the equivalent, and is available for the Spectrum, BBC, Electron and Commodore 64. It is claimed to work with all Spectrum games and 95 percent of others. The cost is £14.95. Information can be obtained on (0223) 214451.

QL interfaces

MORE ADD-ONS for the QL —this time interfaces. Cambridge Systems Technology has produced an IEEE-488 port for use with scientific equipment. The Q-488 transmits data at up to 70 bytes per second, and works with SuperBasic, Pascal, C, Forth and assembler. The cost is £170 plus VAT. CST has also announced that its QL Centronics interface has been reduced from £75 to £50 plus



VAT. CST is on (0223) 323302.

A Centronics printer interface for the QL is also available from Downsway Electronics. It costs £31.95 including VAT. Details on (03727) 27222.

Wrist directory

WITH ITS Data Bank 500 Casio has produced yet another variant on the digital watch theme. This one allows you to store up to 50 sets of six letters and 12 figures. Typically these might be telephone numbers, timetable information or diary notes.

Entries are arranged in alphabetical order automatically, and can then be searched through using a Fast Forward and Reverse button.

The Data Bank 500 costs £41.95. Information from Casio on 01-450 9131.

Intel evaluation kits

INTEL has produced three Microsystem Designer Kits designed to allow evaluation of the 80186, 80188 and 80286 chips, along with their associated peripherals. Each kit includes a two-volume components handbook, the CPU and peripherals. For example the 186 kit includes the 80186 itself, a DRAM controller, a text co-processor, a video interface controller, a graphics controller, a LAN co-processor and a Winchester disc controller. The kits cost £117.10, except for the 286

which costs £207.50. Details from Rapid Recall on (0494) 26271.

Touchmaster

THE TOUCHMASTER is a pressure-sensitive surface, boasting a resolution of 256 by 256 across its A4 surface. It is



claimed to be robust enough to be used by children.

The first release works with BBC, Spectrum, Commodore 64 and Vic-20 machines. The cost is £149.95. More from Touchmaster on (0656) 744770.

CP/M for the QL

PCML's extension to the Sinclair QL includes a 4MHz Z-80 CPU and 64K of RAM to provide CP/M capability and thus, in theory, access to a huge supply of useful programs.

It should be possible to run



CP/M-80 and another operating system concurrently.

The expansion box also provides two programmable eight-bit ports, one of which is configured as a parallel printer port. Interface drivers can be written to connect other devices. It will be launched in January 1985 with a recommended price of £199.

For further details contact PCML Ltd, Royal Mills, Esher, Surrey KT10 8AS. Telephone: (0372) 67282.

Hardware shorts

- The Osborne 1 continues to sink in price. The 52-column version costs £499; the 80-column version £659. The same bundled software is offered. Details on (0908) 615274.

- Watford Electronics has produced a ZIF — zero insertion force — socket to allow ROMs to be changed quickly and easily on the BBC. It is fitted externally to the left of the keyboard. Price is £16. More on (0923) 40588.

- Tatung has released a second integral disc drive for its Einstein micro. The 500K 3in. drive costs £149; and slots into its allocated space in the micro housing. More information on (07462) 15721.

- The Kaypro 4 has been reduced in price by £100 to £1,485. The processor speed has also been doubled, slimline disc drives used and dBase II bundled in addition. Details on (06286) 67547.

- The grandly named Hayes Mach III joystick is claimed to be a superior model. It costs £46.95. More information from P&P on (0706) 217744.

- Tandy has cut the cost of its Color Computer 2. Entry price is now £99.95; top-of-the-range version with OS-9 costs £169.95.

- Graphics and colour facilities are available on the Future FX range with new boards. More on 01-686 2233.

- Up to 63 Macintoshes can be hooked together using the Corvus Omninet system. Details on (U.S. area code 408) 559-7000.

- The Sinclair Vision QL colour monitor is claimed by its maker MBS DE to have been developed in conjunction with Sinclair for the QL. The cost is £299. More information on (0442) 60155.

- Apple micros can be kept cool with the Apple Saver, which also includes a power-smoothing unit. It costs £106. More details can be obtained on (09285) 67551.