Modified light pen interfaces with personal computers

Symtec’s high-resolution light pen, originally designed for Apple computers, has been modified to interface with IBM’s Personal Computer and the Atari 400 and 800 home computers.

The pen has a ½-inch-diameter stainless steel barrel, a telephone-type cord, touch ring or optional touch tip, and a plug-in connector. It plugs into the IBM color graphics adapter or the Atari game port number four and generates x and y coordinates and pen switch function.

The $150 retail price for either the IBM or the Atari version of the light pen includes programming instructions; packaged software programs are also available.

Reader Service Number 16

Vector processor drives laser or electrostatic plotters

The KMW Systems VP30 vector processor accepts random vectors, symbols, and other graphic information from a host mainframe, reduces this data to raster form, and drives an electrostatic or laser plotter. With a vector storage capacity starting at 1,000,000 vectors, the unit is capable, the company says, of driving the largest electrostatic plotter at full speed.

Host input configurations include IBM, CDC, and Univac channel interfaces, magnetic tape, high-speed communications including IBM bisync and SNA/SCLC, and a data-products-compatible front end for attachment to minisystems. The standard unit features switch-selectable support for the full range of Benson, Calcomp, and Versatec electrostatic plotters.

The vector processor also features erase mode, variable area pattern fill, and programmable grid lines. It accepts trace sequential (seismic) data input and can overlay data to create composite plots.

The single-quantity price of the VP30 is $19,500.

Reader Service Number 17

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