Image processor plugs into IBM PC expansion slot

Imaging Technology Incorporated has announced the PC Vision Frame Grabber, a real-time video image acquisition and display module for the IBM PC and PC-XT. The module converts a standard analog video signal (RS-170) from a camera to digital data at a 10-MHz rate and stores the resulting six-bit pixel data in an on-board 512 x 512 frame memory. The architecture of the module enables it to simultaneously acquire and display 30 frames per second, and programmable lookup tables on the output signal allow arbitrary transformation of pixel intensity prior to display on an external monitor.

Each location in the on-board frame memory is eight bits deep and stores six bits of digital data (one of 64 gray-scale intensities) with the remaining bits enabling two planes of graphic overlays. These graphic overlay planes can be used for generating and positioning text or graphics anywhere on the image without disturbing the stored video data. In addition, the frame memory is mapped into the IBM PC address space, enabling direct access to the stored image and facilitating image processing by the IBM PC.

The Frame Grabber includes a hardware module that plugs directly into a PC expansion slot, software driver routines, user documentation, and interconnecting cables. It is priced at $2995.

Reader Service Number 40

Kaypro 4 micro features telecommunications modem

Kaypro Corporation's Kaypro 4 microcomputer incorporates a built-in 300-baud modem for telecommunications and database accessing and features a display with 5 x 7-pixel type font, graphics capability, blinking cursor, dual intensity, and high-lighting.

The personal computer processes information at 4 MHz and incorporates on-screen graphics. For word processing applications, the Kaypro 4 features the industry-standard 80-column by 25-line display.

The Kaypro 4 is priced at $1995.

Reader Service Number 41

Business graphics system produces slides on IBM PCs

Image Resource Corporation has introduced a business presentation graphics system that produces 35mm color slides from an IBM Personal Computer. The Samurai system is designed to eliminate the aliasing commonly associated with the low resolution of slides produced with PC graphics. Samurai uses a proprietary, continuous-writing technology that does not use the discrete pixel format of ordinary video graphics screens. According to the manufacturer, slides from commercially available instant or regular slide film can be ready to develop at a typical exposure rate of 20 to 30 slides per hour, and slides can be corrected rapidly for last-minute changes.

The physical configuration of Samurai consists of a self-contained, IBM PC-styled, 35mm film recorder weighing 50 pounds; a single graphics processor board that plugs into an IBM PC expansion slot; and a single 10-foot multiconductor, shielded-cable interface. Samurai's film recorder is self-loading and self-threading with autoadvance and rewind capabilities, requiring no adjustments by users. All exposure operations fall under the automatic control of Samurai.

Samurai graphics utilities include a proprietary IBM PC-resident graphics protocol language called SIGHT and a group of peripheral device drivers. SIGHT provides graphics input format and enables Samurai to produce kerning and proportional spacing of type, both serif and sans-serif fonts. It can generate resolution-independent primitives, such as lines, polygons, rectangles, arcs, and characters. Samurai's device drivers, developed by Graphics Software Systems, translate SIGHT-coded images to the appropriate output formats that drive a variety of impact and nonimpact color and black-and-white printers.

The Samurai system also offers Image 1, an optional IBM PC-resident, menu-driven and prompted business graphics applications package. Image 1 creates SIGHT protocol descriptions of slides and provides a variety of pre-designed, parameterized graphics tools, including title, word, pie, column, and bar charts, and line graphs.

A complete Samurai presentation graphics system is priced at $9850. The optional Image 1 business graphics applications package costs $490.

Reader Service Number 42

The Samurai 35mm-slide, business presentation graphics system from Image Resource Corporation consists of a stand-alone film recorder, a circuit board for IBM PC plug-in, cable interface, and SIGHT utility software. The system features built-in antialiasing technology by Edsun Laboratories.