A COMPUTER Special New Products Survey

MICROFICHE READERS

Computer Output Microfilm (COM) is one of the more significant developments in the information systems business. The IEEE Computer Society issues several publications in microfiche form. However, the audience is largely made up of individuals who could not, until recently, justify the expense of a microfiche reader.

Recent announcements have demonstrated that several manufacturers are offering suitable microfiche readers below $100 and many now offer readers below $200. This special new products section is a compendium of microfiche readers which list below $200 in single-unit orders. The characteristics of the readers are derived from the manufacturers' data sheets and do not imply that the IEEE Computer Society has performed any tests or otherwise confirmed that the readers will work as advertised. Addendums and additions to the list should be addressed to the Publications Office. A supplemental section will be published in a future issue.

There are a great variety of microfiche readers. The general requirements for IEEE use include the present COSATI format (20:1, 60 frames) and the proposed use of the NMA format (24:1, 98 frames). The standard fiche size is 4" x 6" with vertically oriented pages. All the readers in this survey appear to be able to accommodate the dual formats. Some present full size for the 20:1 and 83% size for the 24:1 reduction. Other readers have interchangeable or adjustable lenses. Although the editors hope that this guide is of assistance, the testing for quality and suitability is still left up to the individual reader.

CECIL FROST
New Products, Editor

The Bell and Howell Mascot portable microfiche reader lists for $190.00. The standard magnifi-
cation is 21X and the screen size is 11” x 11”. It accepts all standard grid formats. Accessories include a battery pack, auto plug-in adapter and wall projection attachment. Contact the local Micro-Data Division representative or write to that division at 6800 McCormick Road, Chicago, Illinois 60645.

The Bruning Series 100A microfiche reader lists for $159.00. It is a table-top model which accepts all standard formats. Accessories include a screen hood extension, desk turntable, dust cover and table work station. Contact the local representative or write to the Charles Bruning Company, 1800 West Central Road, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056.

The DASA PMR/50 Fichette lists for $89.50. It weighs 7½ pounds and accepts all standard film formats. The reader was developed under contract to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Standard magnification is 20X. For details, write to the DASA Corporation, Information Systems Division, 15 Stevens Street, Andover, Massachusetts 01810.

The Du Kane Explorer 11 (Model 27A35) lists for $130.00. It is a table-top reader with a 11” x 11” screen and is designed for viewing fiche or aperture cards. Write to Du Kane, Special Products Division, St. Charles, Illinois 60174, for literature.

The GAF Model 7504 desk-model microfiche reader lists for $169.00. It features an 11” x 8½” horizontal viewing screen. It is designed to accommodate ¾ size viewing of 11” x 14” computer pages as well as 3” x 5” or 4” x 6” microfiche. For details, write to GAF Corporation, 140 West 51 Street, New York, N.Y. 10020.

The Kodak Ektalite Model 120 portable microfilm reader sells for $95.00. It features front-projection optics, 12-volt lamps without cooling fans and the Ektalite reflective screen designed for viewing slides and movies in normal room light. The 20X reader accepts standard 4 x 6 microfiche or Recordak Micro-thin jackets. The unit weighs five pounds and has an accessory to permit use from a 12-volt auto battery. Contact the local Business Systems Markets Division office or write to that division at Eastman Kodak Company, 343 State Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14650.

The Realist Vantage I vertical-screen table-top microfiche reader lists for $180.00. The price includes one of several variable magnification lenses. Lens D has magnifications from 18X to 25X. Several combinations of fiche carriers and other accessories are also available. For information, write to Realist Inc., Microform Products Division, N93 W16288 Megal Drive, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051.

The Micro Design Model 100A table-top microfiche reader lists for $159.00. It accommodates all standard microfiche and uses a quartz halogen light source for ease of reading in any ambient light conditions. The lamp is rated in excess of 500 hours. The unit has a high/low intensity switch. Write to Micro Design, Inc., 235 South Johnson Street, Hartford, Wisconsin 53027, for details.

SB: The Microdisplay Systems Model A-18 portable reader is priced at $150.00. The unit is 8½” x 10” x 3” and weighs 3½ pounds. The image is projected onto a 6½” x 9” screen. The unit reads 18X and 24X microfiche. Accessories include a 12-volt adapter, battery packs, and leather carrying case. For further information, write to Microdisplay Systems, Inc., 145 Loyal Street, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051.
The Micro-Scan Model K-100 lap/desktop reader is priced at $149.00. The reader is designed for both COSATI and NMA microfiche. The unit measures a little over 10” x 11” and weighs less than five pounds. Fiche handling is controlled by thumbwheels. Magnification is 20X and 24X and the image is displayed on a 7¾” x 10” screen. Normal power is 110 VAC but the 12-volt lamp can also be operated from an auto cigar lighter socket. Write to Micro-Scan Systems, 1100 West 10th Street, Garland, Texas 75040.

Ed Note: Micro-Scan Systems Incorporated also has three other microfiche readers, the P-50 low-cost desk or wall projection reader, the K-71 and K-71D fiche or roll desk/tabletop readers, and the new K-80 reader designed for standard or COM-generated microfiche which lists for $198.00 (see photo). Contact Micro-Scan Systems, Inc. for details about these other readers.

The 3M Company has introduced the Consultant model microfilm reader with a list price of $159.00. The reader is available with 20X, 24X, or 32X magnifications, measures 11” x 11” x 6”, and has a 7¾” by 10” viewing screen. It accepts 4” x 6” and tab-size microfiche and 35mm aperture cards. The power source is 110 VAC or 12 volts from an auto lighter socket. It weighs under five pounds. Contact the local 3M office or write to 3M Company, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

The Real Time Systems Model 100 microfiche reader lists for $89.50. It is designed for 4” x 6” and tab-size microfiche of COSATI and NMA specifications. Screen size is 5½” x 7¾”. It weighs just over two pounds. Standard magnification is 18X but other lenses are available. Write to Real Time Systems, P.O. Box 54141, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, California 90054.

The Remington Rand F-50 series of microfiche tabletop readers list from $140.00 to $175.00 depending on the lenses. The F-50 appears best for IEEE use as its 18X lens projects full size enlargements of the COSATI format and ¾ size of the NMA format. The reader uses a 150 watt quartz halogen lamp with an average life of 500 hours. Contact the local office or write to Remington Rand, Systems Division, P.O. Box 171, Marietta, Ohio 45750.

The SEACO 210 microfiche reader has a list price of $149.00 for the 18X model. This table-top reader uses a 150 watt quartz halogen lamp. The warranty on all parts but the lamp is six months. The unit is 16” high by 13” wide by 9” deep and weighs 12 pounds. For information, write to SEACO Computer-Display Incorporated, 2800 Kingsley Road, Garland, Texas 75040.

The Stromberg Datagraphix Model 1400 microfiche viewer has a standard lease of $18 per month, a one-year installment lease of $13 per month, or a sales price of $145. It is available with either an 18X lens or a 30X lens. The viewer has a power transformer with 120/240 volt, 50/60 cycles for easy conversion to foreign voltages. The screen is 9” x 11¾” and is designed for conventional or COM-generated fiche. The information address is P.O. Box 2449, San Diego, California 92112.

The Taylor-Merchant Model TMC 300XF Micro Projector is a combination fiche, and 35mm color slide and filmstrip projector. The basic unit lists for $69.50. An optional carrying case, which has a built-in screen and room for microfiche, is $24.50. There are many other options and accessories. Literature should be requested from the Taylor-Merchant Corporation, Microfilm Division, New York, N.Y. 10036.

The WSI Model FP-1113 frontal projection microfiche reader lists for $179.00. The images are projected onto an 11” x 13” matte white screen. Choices of lenses, 12-volt battery pack, auto adapter plug, overhead projector and other options are available. WSI also has several other models for different film formats. For information, write to Washington Scientific Industries, Inc., Microfilm Products Division, Long Lake, Minnesota 55356.