

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.041

Accession Date: 8-Dec-2012

Accession By: Tom Kearney

Object name: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit

Vintage: c.1978

Synopsis: Classic 1970s-vintage video terminal. S/N: ABW7209.

Description:

Classic 1970s-vintage video terminal. introduced in August 1978 by Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC) to follow its predecessor, the VT52.

The VT100 communicated with its host system over serial lines using the ASCII character set and ANSI control sequences. It was also the first DEC mass-market terminal to incorporate "graphic renditions" (blinking, bolding, reverse video, and underlining) as well as an additional character set that allowed the drawing of on-screen forms, and a selectable 80 or 132 column display. All setup of the VT100 was accomplished using interactive displays presented on the screen. The setup data was stored in non-volatile memory.

The control sequences used by the VT100 family were based on the ANSI X3.64 standard, also known as ECMA-48 and ISO/IEC 6429, sometimes referred to as ANSI escape codes. The VT100 also provided backwards compatibility for VT52 users, with support for the VT52 control sequences.

The VT100 was also the first DEC terminal to be based upon an industry-standard (Intel 8080) microprocessor. Optional extras could support an external printer, additional graphic renditions, and more memory (the "AVO" 'advanced' video option; without this option, the VT100 could not display a full 24 lines of text when in 132 column mode).

See the [VT100 Technical Manual](#) in this folder.

The VT100 name is now most recognised as the defacto standard for terminal emulation.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.041	DEC VT100-AB Visual Display Unit. Manufactured in September 1983 by DEC in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. S/N: ABW7209



Figure 1: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit three-quarter view



Figure 2: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit front view



Figure 3: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit label



Figure 4: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit rear view

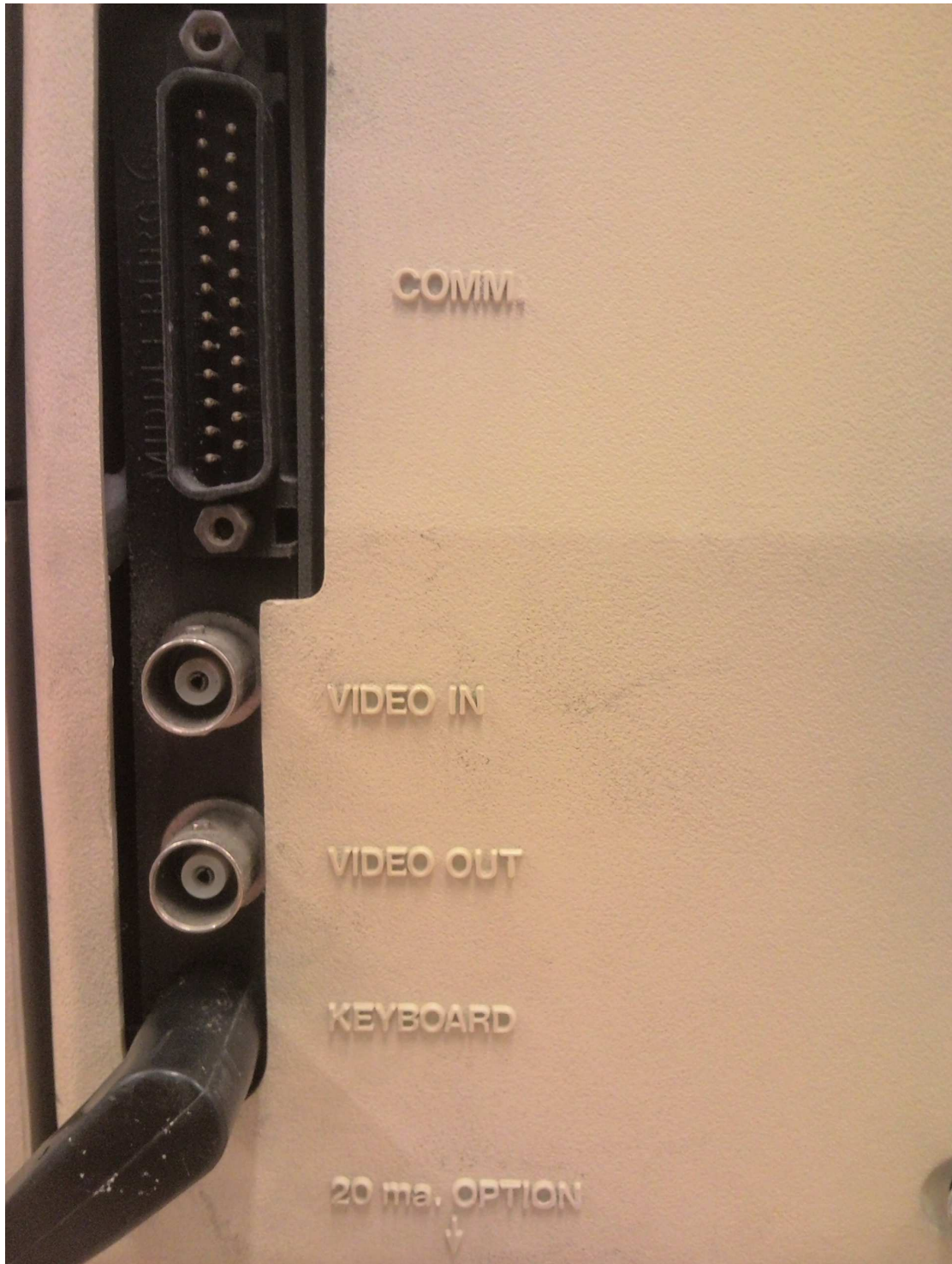
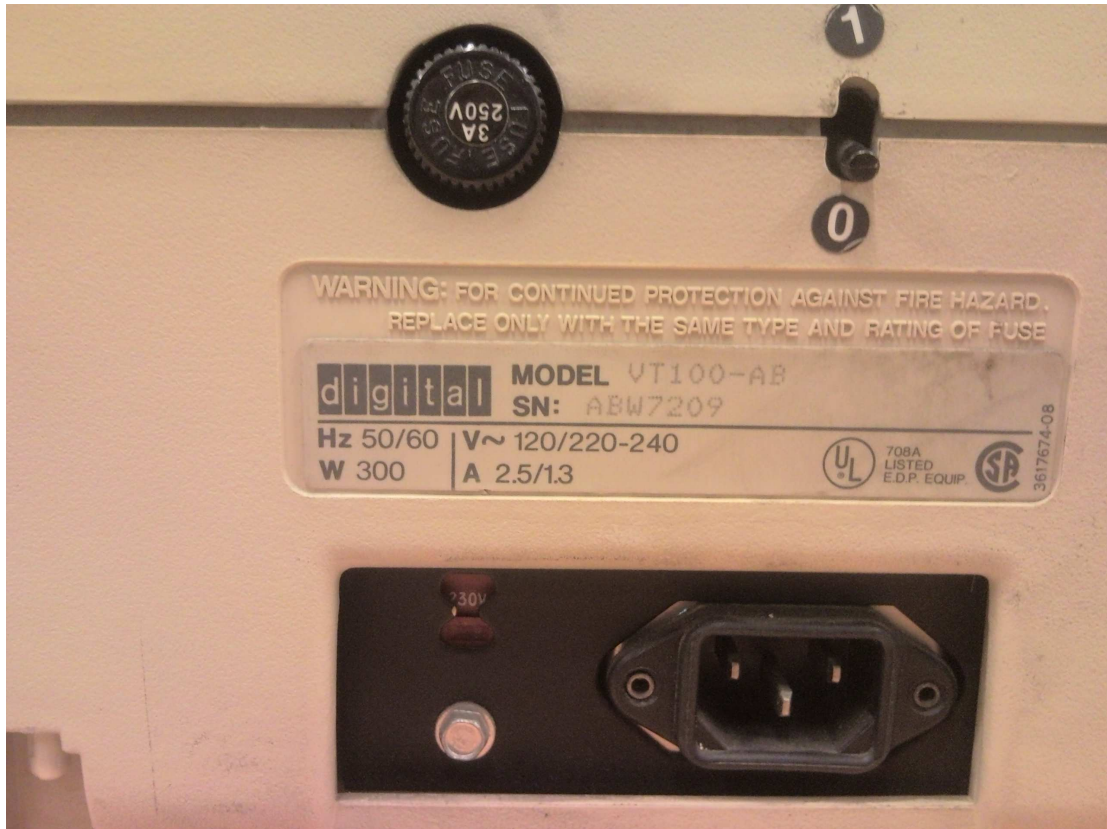
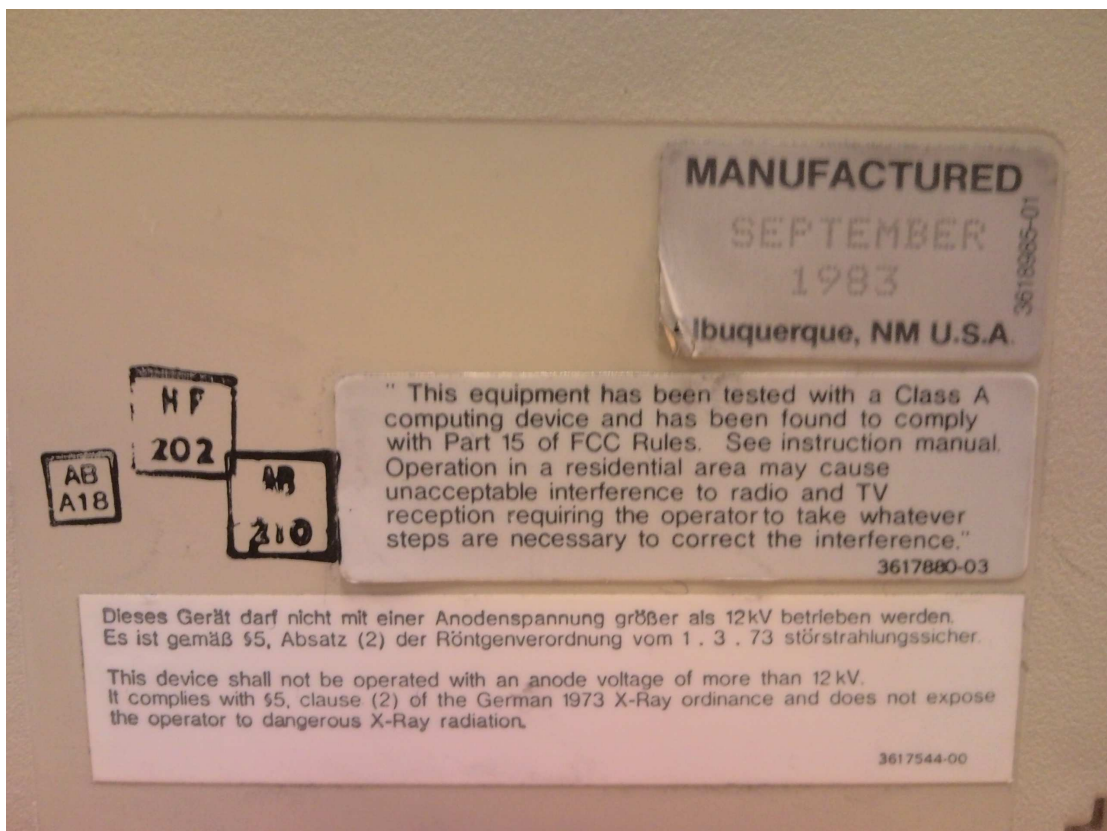


Figure 5: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit connector view



*Figure 6: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit rear manufacturing label
Model: VT100-AB S/N: ABW7209*



*Figure 7: DEC VT100 Visual Display Unit bottom manufacturing label
Manufactured September 1983, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA*

