

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20151001.005
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Object name: Packard Bell PB-80CB Electronic Organizer
Vintage: c.200x
Synopsis: Pocket electronic organiser in a clam-shell case.

Description:

Electronic organizers competed for a time with personal digital assistants (PDAs), having a keyboard with arrow keys instead of a touch-sensitive screen with stylus, but the advent of Gorilla-glass digitizers and the evolution of PDAs into tablets gradually eroded their market.

The PB-80CB Electronic Organizer was made by Packard Bell in China c.200x. Like the older Sharp ZQ-5200 (c.1992) elsewhere in this catalog, it was a pocket electronic organiser in a clam-shell case, with a modified QWERTY keyboard and an LCD display. For the PB-80CB all the electronics, keyboard and display were in the lower shell, while the upper shell simply contained instructions, and the display was smaller, arranged as one line by 12 characters of 5 x 7 pixels, plus two lines by 12 seven-segment digits below, all surrounded by numerous tiny status indicators.

The older ZQ-5200 had seven basic functions, whereas the more modern PB-80CB had *Calendar, Scheduler, Phone Address Book, Memo Pad, Local and World Clock, Calculator, Daily and Scheduled Alarms, Euro and Metric Conversions, and Private Memory* functions. In the absence of a manual, and with no extant information on this organizer, perhaps it is useful to briefly describe some of these functions.

Pressing the **PHONE** key toggled between business and personal contact lists. Similarly, pressing the **SCHED/MEMO** key toggled between the *Schedule* and *Memo Pad* functions. Pressing **ALARM** displayed a simple alarm clock. Pressing **CALC** displayed a simple calculator with memory clear/store/recall/add/subtract as well as polarity-toggle, square-root and percentage.

The ▲ and ▼ keys were used to make sub-selections. For example, pressing the **CONV** key toggled between dollar conversions, euro conversions, and metric conversions. US dollar conversions included to/from euro, UK pounds sterling, Australian dollar, Canadian dollar and Japanese yen (selected using the ▲ and ▼ keys and to/from selected using the → and ← keys). Euro conversions included to/from Austrian schilling, Belgian franc, Finnish markka, French franc, German mark, Irish punt, Italian lire, Luxembourg franc, Dutch guilder, Portugese escudo, and Spanish peseta (also using the ▲, ▼, → and ← keys). Metric conversions included inch ↔ cm, yard ↔ metre, mile ↔ km, centigrade ↔ fahrenheit, feet ↔ metre, ounce ↔ gram, pound (lb) ↔ kilogram (kg), and gallon ↔ US or imperial gallon (again using the ▲, ▼, → and ← keys). Euro exchange rates were fixed, while dollar rates floated, but it is not known how dollar exchange rates were entered into the organizer.

A 'sticky' **SHIFT** key invoked the secondary function for the following key pressed. For example, pressing **SHIFT** followed by **LANGUAGE** allowed a language to be selected from English, Dutch, Portugese, Italian, German, French or Spanish (again selected using the ▲ and ▼ keys). Other secondary functions included toggling

between capitals and lowercase, 12 or 24 hour and AM or PM time, character insert or delete, memory capacity check, secret memory (private password-protected memory), and secondary calculator functions.

There was an **EMAIL** key that is as yet mysterious, but possibly was to associate email addresses with phone contact entries.

The PB-80CB used two 3V CR2025 batteries, and was toggled between active and standby states by pressing an on/off key, so the PB-80CB was never truly off. Despite not being used for 15 years or more the battery in the PB-80CB in this collection still works, as does the organiser, and its clock displays the correct date and is only 90 minutes ahead of correct time.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
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Figure 1: Packard Bell PB-80CB Electronic Organizer front three-quarter view, cover closed



Figure 2: Packard Bell PB-80CB Electronic Organizer front three-quarter view, cover open



Figure 3: Packard Bell PB-80CB Electronic Organizer front view

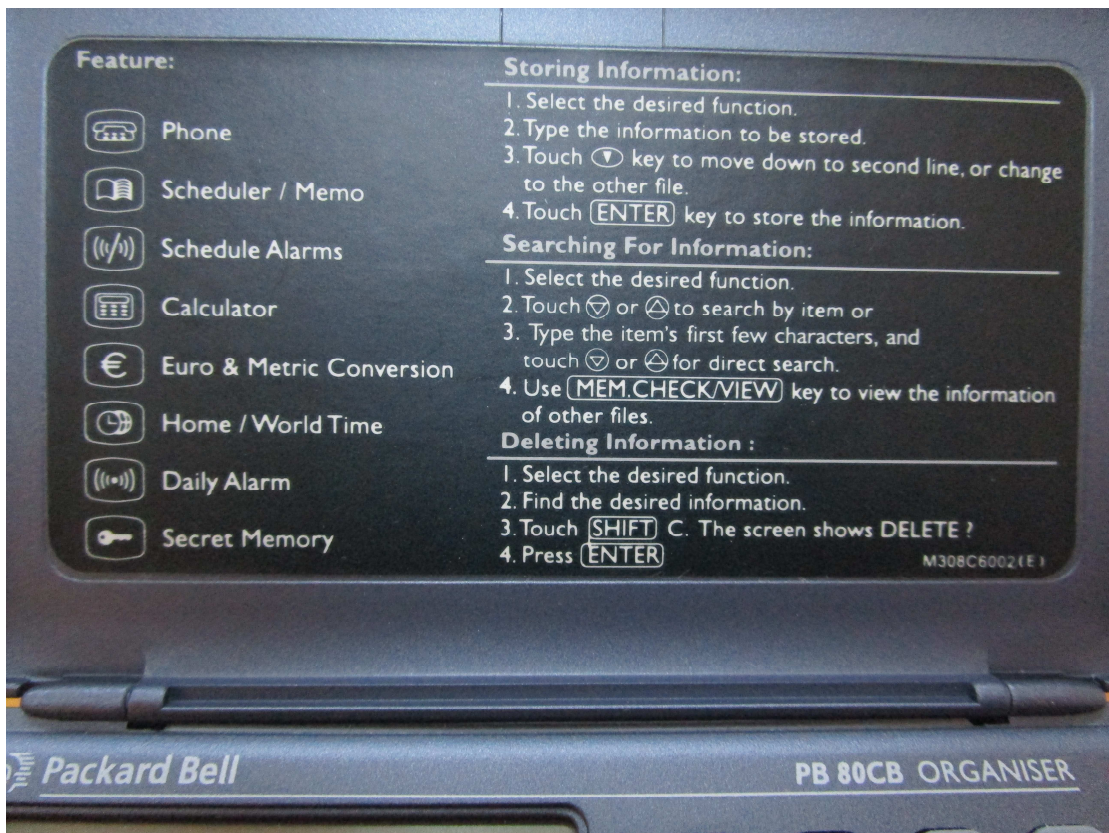


Figure 4: Packard Bell PB-80CB Electronic Organizer clamshell inside view



Figure 5: Packard Bell PB-80CB Electronic Organizer bottom view



Figure 6: Packard Bell PB-80CB Electronic Organizer manufacturing label