

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20151118.001

Accession Date: 18-Nov-2015

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Object name: BBC Micro Model B

Vintage: c.1981

Synopsis: Popular 6502-based personal computer, designed for BBC Computer Literacy Project, with external floppy disk unit and compact cassette drive plus lots of software and documentation (also see lost BBC Micros elsewhere in this catalog).

S/N: 07-ANB03-5004370.

### **Description:**

The BBC Micro was a popular personal computer, designed and built by Acorn Computer Ltd for BBC Computer Literacy Project. After introduction in Dec-1981 it sold reasonably well for domestic usage, but more importantly was widely sold to UK schools and universities as a result of a 50% government subsidy. Despite the lack of subsidy it sold well in Ireland too. Over 1.5 million were eventually sold.

There were two original models, A and B, where the Model A had 16kB of usable memory and the Model B had 32kB. Like the Apple II the memory was transparently shared between the memory-mapped display refresh and the CPU by clocking the memory at 2X the CPU clock rate. The CPU was a 2MHz MOS Technology 6502, but a second 6502, Z80 or NS32016 coprocessor could be added via a proprietary *Tube* interface managed by a custom chip from Ferranti.

The input/output facilities were quite good for the era. It had serial and parallel printer ports, an 8-bit general-purpose digital I/O port, an analog port for up to 4 inputs, light pen and switch inputs, and a 1MHz expansion bus. Networking was usually via an optional *Econet* network interface. The unit in this collection, donated by Dr.Leszek Bojanowski, also had an external floppy disk unit and compact cassette drive.

The operating system, Acorn MOS, and some language processors like BASIC were built-in in ROM. The OS was in one 16kB ROM while the language processors were selectively paged into a further 16kB ROM address space. The unit in this collection includes a word processing package (Wordwise) in a paged ROM. It also includes a lot of additional software and documentation, which are properly part of the literature category of this catalog, but are listed here too for convenience <<*TODO*>>.

Dr.Brian Coghlan and Seamus Guiry of the Dept.Computer Science customised a number of BBC Micros by developing a custom Tek4014 graphics console emulation ROM to enable them to act as graphics displays for a Siggraph Core79 compliant 3-d graphics library, see the (lost) BBC Micros elsewhere in this catalog.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20151118.001.01	BBC Micro Model B. S/N: 07-ANB03-5004370
TCD-SCSS-T.20151118.001.02	BBC Micro Floppy Disk Unit. S/N: 5087
TCD-SCSS-T.20151118.001.03	BBC Micro Compact Cassette Drive. S/N: ???
TCD-SCSS-V.2015mmdd.xyz	(lots of) Software and Documentation. P/N: ???.

### References:

1. Wikipedia, BBC Micro,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC\\_Micro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Micro)



*Figure 1: BBC Micro three-quarter view*



*Figure 2: BBC Micro top view*



*Figure 3: BBC Micro keyboard*





*Figure 4: BBC Micro rear view*



*Figure 5: BBC Micro left rear view closeup*



*Figure 6: BBC Micro centre rear view closeup*



*Figure 7: BBC Micro right rear view closeup*



Figure 8: BBC Micro bottom view

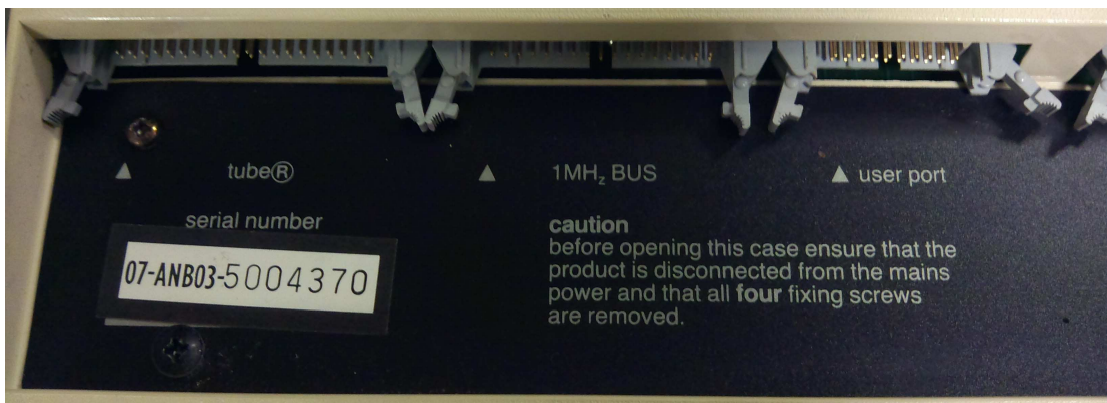
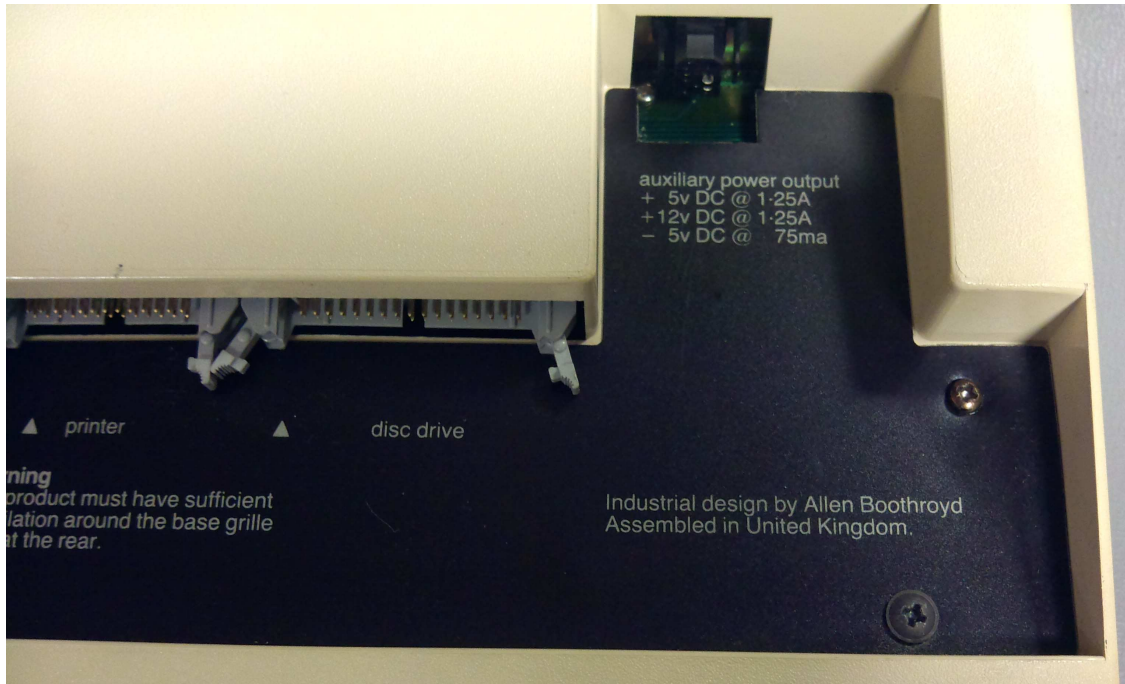


Figure 9: BBC Micro left bottom view closeup



Figure 10: BBC Micro centre bottom view closeup



*Figure 11: BBC Micro right bottom view closeup*