

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.010

Accession Date: 30-Aug-2017

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Object name: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000

Vintage: c.1997

Synopsis: Apple personal digital assistant (PDA) with handwriting recognition, plus keyboard and power supply, Model: H0149, S/N: ????

Description:

The Apple Newton was introduced in Aug-1993 after a 6-year gestation that also involved gestation of the company Advanced RISC Machines (ARM). It began with ambitious goals but eventually was re-imagined as a *personal digital assistant* (PDA). Similar devices had existed for a decade, for example the *Psion Organiser* was introduced in 1984, but they were not called PDAs. Not only did the Newton introduce the term PDA, but it also became the first such device to feature handwriting recognition. The Newton was championed by John Sculley, and then discontinued by his rival Steve Jobs in 1998 after the latter rejoined Apple. It is very likely that the concept led directly to the iPad and iPhone.

An operating system, *NewtonOS*, and a language, *NewtonScript*, were invented for it, with garbage collection, *soup* storage and user-interface toolkit, specifically tuned for designs with large ROM and small RAM capacities.

The original Newton MessagePad (Model H1000 or *Junior*) had a 20MHz ARM 610 CPU, 4MB of ROM, 640kB of RAM, a 336 x 240 monochrome display, RS422 serial and LocalTalk interfaces, and SHARP ASK infrared communications. It also had one PCMCIA-II slot (5V or 12V). It ran NewtonOS versions 1.0-1.11, and it could be powered either from four internal AAA or NiCd rechargeable batteries or an external power supply. Overall it weighed 0.41kg and measured 18.42cm x 11.43cm x 1.91cm. It was manufactured from Aug-1993 to Mar-1994.

This item, which is fully operational and was used by Hans-Jürgen Kugler right up to when it was donated, is a later version, the Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 (Model H0149), with greatly improved hardware resources and performance, and also with improved handwriting recognition. It has a 162MHz StrongARM SA-110 CPU, 8MB of ROM, 1MB of RAM, 4MB of Flash memory, and a 480 x 320 display with backlight that is able to show 16 shades of grey. It has a LocalTalk interface as well as dual-mode IrDA & SHARP ASK infrared communications, audio I/O, Autodock and phone I/O. It also has two PCMCIA-II slots (5V or 12V). It runs NewtonOS version 2.1, and can be powered either from four internal AAA or NiCd rechargeable batteries or an external power supply. Overall it weighs 0.64kg and measures 21.1cm x 11.94cm x 2.79cm, so is larger and heavier than the original. It was manufactured from Nov-1997 to Feb-1998. It was the last Newton model manufactured.

Many thanks to Hans-Jürgen Kugler for donating this item.

Trivia1: 50,000 Apple Newtons were sold in the first three months after its introduction

Trivia2: In 2009 CNET compared a MessagePad 2000 to an iPhone; the MessagePad won!

The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>
Click '*Accession Index*' (1st column listed) for related folder, or '*About*' for further guidance.
Some of the items below may be more properly part of the other categories of this catalog, but listed here for convenience.

| Accession Index | Object with Identification |
|----------------------------|---|
| TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.010.01 | Apple Newton MessagePad 2000, Apple personal digital assistant (PDA) with handwriting recognition. Model: H0149, S/N: ???? |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.010.02 | Apple Newton Keyboard. Model: X0044, S/N: PK7341VD6L5A |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.010.03 | Apple Newton Keyboard Carrying Case. P/N: ??? |
| TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.010.04 | Apple Newton 9W Power Supply. Model: 91-55834, S/N: H4807007183 |
| | |

References:

1. Wikipedia, *Apple Newton*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_Newton
Last browsed to on 30-Aug-2017.
2. Wikipedia, *MessagePad*, see:
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MessagePad>
Last browsed to on 30-Aug-2017.



Figure 1: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 top three-quarter view, cover closed



Figure 2: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 top three-quarter view, cover open



Figure 3: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 right side view



Figure 3: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 left side view1



Figure 5: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 rear view



Figure 6: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 bottom view



*Figure 7: Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 manufacturing label
Model: H0149*



Figure 8: Apple Newton Keyboard and Keyboard Carrying Case



Figure 9: Apple Newton Keyboard



*Figure 10: Apple Newton Keyboard manufacturing label
Model: X0044, S/N: PK7341VD6L5A*



*Figure 11: Apple Newton 9W Power Supply
Model: 91-55834, S/N: H4807007183*