

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20190917.004

Accession Date: 17-Sep-2019

Accession By: Pat O'Byrne

Object name: Lear Siegler LSI-310 printer

Vintage: c.1980

Synopsis: Tractor-feed dot-matrix printer used by Roads Design Office, Co.Cork.

Description:

This item is a Lear Siegler LSI-310 printer used by the road design engineers in Cork County Council. This items was part of the first iteration of road design computing, see "*Comart Communicator Computer and peripherals*" elsewhere in this catalog.

The Lear Siegler company arose as an acquisitions vehicle from the 1961 merger between Siegler Corp and Lear Avionics. They subsequently developed the ADM range of video display units (VDUs, see the ADM-3A elsewhere in this catalog) and printers, including line printers like the LSI-310. Line printers commonly consumed continuous fan-folded 14" x 11" perforated paper (often printed with an alternating white and green background) fed by means of tractors (sprockets or sprocket belts) on either side of the printer. Dot-matrix printers have a long history back to the 1920s, but it was the Centronics 101 (1970) that had a lasting legacy, with its parallel interface continuing to be used on printers for decades. The LSI-310 is a typical tractor-feed dot-matrix printer of the era, with 9 impact wires that printed 66 lines by 132 of 9 x 7 characters at 180 characters per second (180cps). The LSI-310 has both a parallel interface and a serial 20mA current-loop RS232C communications interface. Another popular example of this type of printer is the DEC LA36, see elsewhere in this catalog.

Trivia: Lear Avionics was owned by William Powell Lear, founder of LearJet

Many thanks to Pat O'Byrne for donating this item, and to Pat and his wife for transporting this item from Cork to this collection.

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 are more properly part of the other categories of this catalog, but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20190917.004	Lear Siegler LSI-310 printer. Tractor-feed dot-matrix printer used by Roads Design Office, Co.Cork. c.1980.
TCD-SCSS-T.20190917.001	Comart Communicator Computer. Computer used with Lear Siegler ADM-3A terminal and acoustic coupler to interact with design software in TCD. c.1979.
TCD-SCSS-T.20190917.002	SORD M343SX Multi-user Computer. Computer used with Lear Siegler ADM-3A terminal and acoustic coupler to interact with design software in TCD. c.1984.
TCD-SCSS-T.20190917.003	Tulip AT 386/25 PC. Desktop i386-based PC used with powerline printer/plotter sharing adapters and multi-port printer/plotter switches by Roads Design Office, Co.Cork. c.1985.
TCD-SCSS-T.20190917.005	Brother HR-15 printer. Daisy-wheel printer used by Roads Design Office, Co.Cork. c.198x.
TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.005	History of the Computer Laboratory, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of Trinity College Dublin computing services as reflected in the long line of machines used by the Computer Lab since its inception. c.1968.
TCD-SCSS-T.20160323.001	Networking and the Internet. Networking hardware and the arrival of the Internet in Ireland. 1991.

References:

1. Wikipedia, *Lear Siegler*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lear_Siegler
 Last browsed to on 1-Nov-2019.
2. Wikipedia, *Line printer*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Line_printer
 Last browsed to on 1-Nov-2019.
3. Wikipedia, *Dot matrix printing*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot_matrix_printing
 Last browsed to on 1-Nov-2019.



*Figure 1: LSI-300 printer, front view
Photograph courtesy Pat O'Byrne*



Figure 2: LSI-300 printer control panel



Figure 3: LSI-300 printer tractor-feed carriage, lid closed



Figure 4: LSI-300 printer tractor-feed carriage, lid open

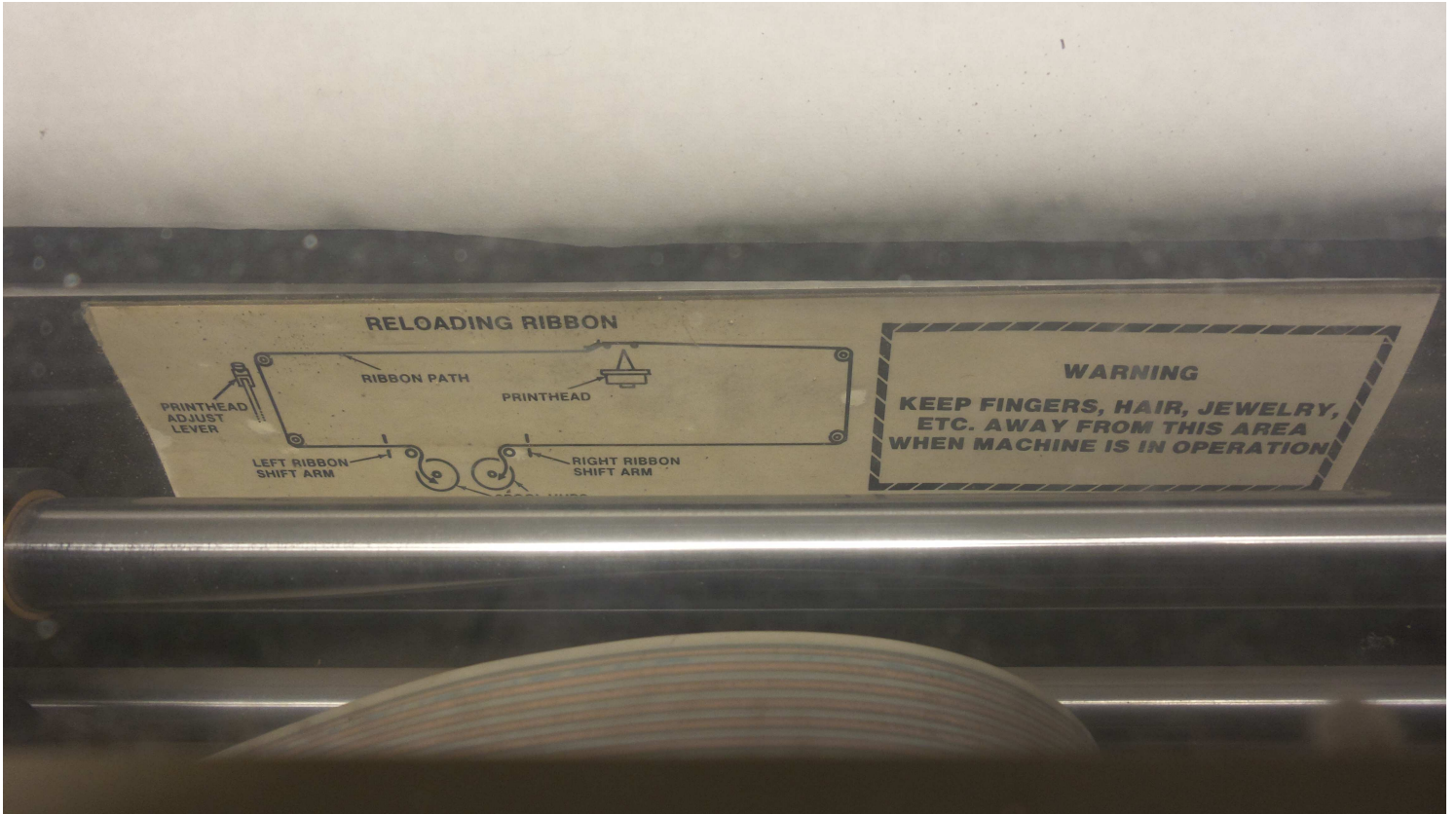


Figure 5: LSI-300 printer, ribbon re-load instructions

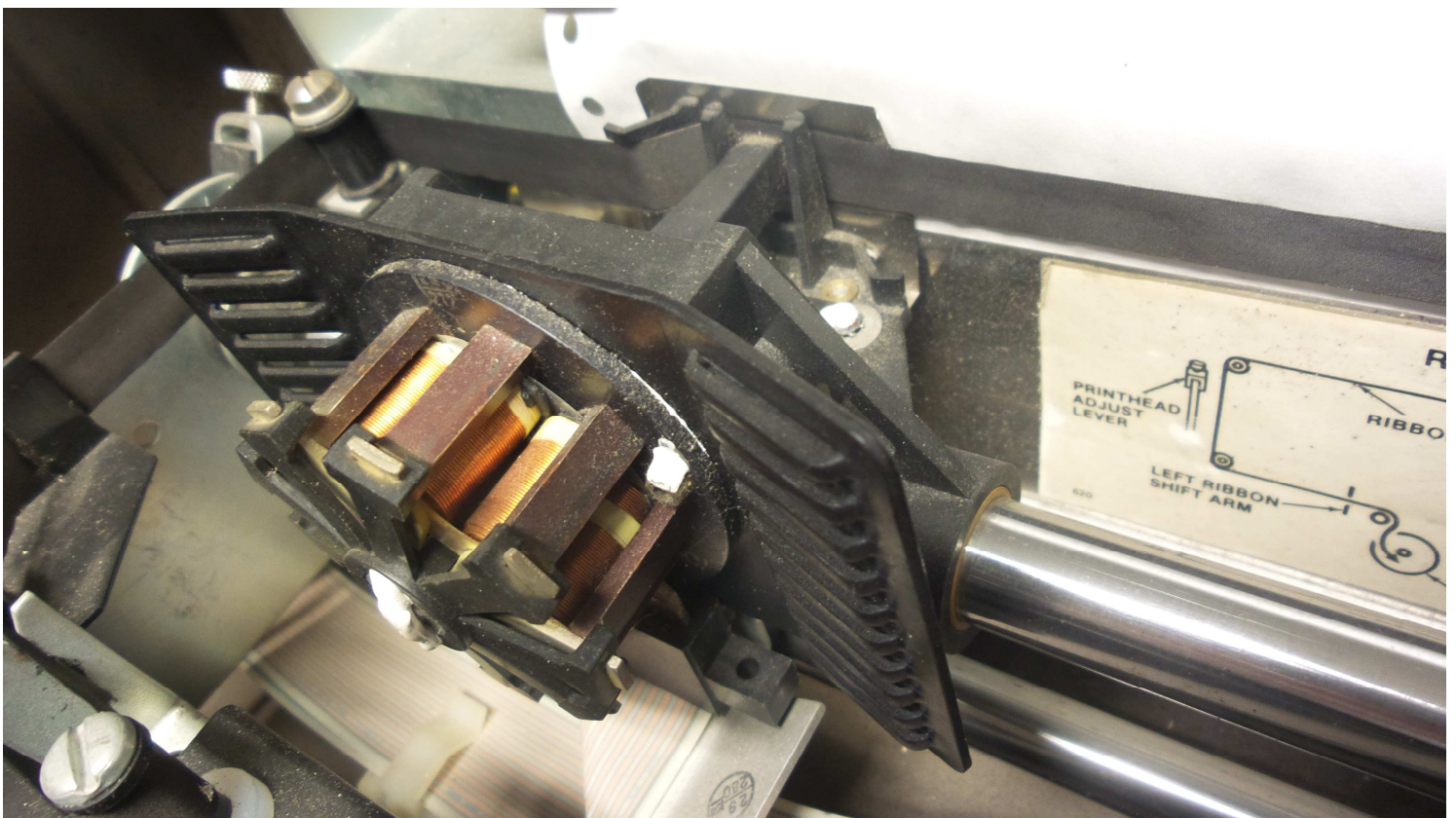


Figure 6: LSI-300 printer, dot matrix mechanism



Figure 7: LSI-300 printer, dot matrix head



Figure 8: LSI-300 printer manufacturing label



Things are bigger in Texas.

But bigger doesn't necessarily mean better. Take printers, for instance. The 310 Ballistic™ Printer from Lear Siegler doesn't have a price tag nearly as big as the Texas Instruments 820. And though we're not the big guys in the printer field, we can offer you big enough reasons to buy our 310 Ballistic Printer. And that's a matter of no small importance.

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You also get a nine-wire head with a 9 high by 7 wide dot matrix. Which gives you true lower case descenders plus underlining.

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THE 310 BALLISTIC PRINTER FITS RIGHT IN.

Our printer is totally compatible with all Lear Siegler terminals or with any RS-232C

interface. It fits anywhere you have a CRT terminal or small business minicomputer system.

Feature	LST 310	TI 820R0
Speed	180 cps	180 cps
Dot Matrix	9-wire head (9 hi x 7 wide)	7-wire head (7 hi x 9 wide)
Lower Case	Standard, with descenders and underlining	Standard, but no descenders or underlining
Buffer	512 expands to 2048	Fixed 1280
Space/Blank Compression	Yes	No
Interfaces	Serial and parallel	Serial only (parallel not available)
Current Loop	Standard	Optional
Forms/Control	14 settings standard	Optional
Elongated character sets	Standard	Optional
Price	Base Price \$2048 Expanded buffer 100 Price as shown \$2148	Base Price \$1995 Options 310 Price as shown \$2305

The 310 Ballistic Printer is capable of satisfying low-speed day-to-day requirements and is economical enough to handle those high-speed tab runs, too. With the patented Ballistic printhead and 100% duty cycle, no job is too difficult.

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With the 310 Ballistic Printer, Lear Siegler brings to computer printers the same high standards that made our Dumb Terminal® video display the standard for an entire product category.

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