

Vintage Calculators Web Museum

Vintage British Calculators

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Sinclair



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Clive Sinclair was very innovative in the field of consumer electronics and, for many years in Britain, was widely known as "the man who invented the pocket calculator".

This is not true since there were earlier calculators that would fit in a small pocket (for example the [Busicom LE-120A "handy"](#)). However, the [Sinclair Executive](#), shown on the left, was the first slimline calculator and when launched in July 1972 it caused a sensation because it was the world's thinnest calculator by a long way.

The later *Cambridge* models were also very small and generally crammed many functions into their small size. However, the smart design of some of these was destroyed in the "pregnant" models which required a large bulge in the back of the case to take a bulky 9v PP3 battery instead of the earlier slim AAA pen-light cells.

The Sinclair name is associated with several companies. Nearly all of the calculators were produced by Sinclair Radionics Ltd., though the Wristwatch calculator was produced by Sinclair Instruments Ltd. There is a brief history of Clive Sinclair, his companies, his calculators, and other products in the article [Clive Sinclair and the pocket calculator](#) in the Collecting Calculators section of the associated Vintage Calculators site.

Sinclair calculators are known for their innovative and often elegant designs. The dates of introduction of some of the notable models are listed below. All are from Sinclair Radionics Ltd., except where noted:

- June 1972 - Sinclair *Executive* - there are two versions of the *Executive*.
- August 1973 - the first *Cambridge* model. There are nearly a dozen *Cambridge* models, ranging from simple 4-function machines to the *Cambridge Programmable*.
- November 1973 - Sinclair *Executive Memory*.
- April 1974 - Sinclair *Scientific*. This used the casing of the *Cambridge* models.
- March 1975 - Sinclair *Oxford* models. Initially there were 3 models, the *100*, *200*, and *300* with LED displays. Later versions had VFD displays, and other *Oxford* models followed.
- August 1975 - Sinclair *Scientific Programmable*.
- Late-1976 - Sinclair *Sovereign* model.
- February 1977 - Sinclair *Cambridge Scientific*.
- February 1977 - Sinclair *Wristwatch Calculator* (from Sinclair Instruments Ltd.).
- October 1977 - Sinclair *Enterprise*.
- February 1978 - Sinclair *President*.
- July 1978 - Sinclair *Enterprise Programmable*.

Source "Sinclair and the 'Sunrise' Technology"^[1]

Known Sinclair models :-

- [Cambridge type 1 \(has keys \[C\] and \[K\]\)](#)
- [Cambridge type 2 \(has keys \[C\] and \[CE\]\)](#)
- [Cambridge type 3 \(has keys \[C/CE\] and \[K\]\)](#)

- [Cambridge type 4 and Cambridge % \(has keys \[C\],\[CE\], and \[%\]\).](#)
- [Cambridge Memory type 1 \(has keys \[C/CE\] and \[RM/CM\]\).](#)
- [Cambridge Memory type 2 \(has keys \[C/CE\],\[RM/CM\] and \[%\]\).](#)
- [Cambridge Memory type 3 \(has keys \[M\],\[C/CE\] and \[%\]\).](#)
- [Cambridge Programmable](#)
- [Cambridge Scientific](#)
- [Cambridge Universal](#)
- [Enterprise](#)
- [Enterprise Programmable](#)
- [Executive](#) (two versions)
- [Executive Memory](#)
- [Oxford 100 \(LED\).](#)
- [Oxford 150 \(LED\).](#)
- [Oxford 200 \(LED & Fluorescent\).](#)
- [Oxford 300 \(LED & Fluorescent\).](#)
- [Oxford Scientific](#)
- [Oxford Universal.](#)
- [President](#)
- [President Scientific](#)
- [Radionic](#)
- [Scientific and Giant Scientific](#)
- [Scientific Programmable](#)
- [Sovereign](#)
- [The Sporting Life SETTLER](#)
- [Wrist Calculator](#) (two versions)

Sinclair models under other names :-

- [Gillette GPA](#)
- [Radio Shack EC-4001](#)

Thumbnail pictures are grouped here by case style.

Click on an image to go to a page with larger pictures and technical details -

Cambridge (type 1)



Has keys [C]
and [K].

Cambridge (type 2)



Has keys [C]
and [CE].

Cambridge (type 3)



Has keys [C/CE]
and [K].

Cambridge (type 4), Cambridge %



Has keys [C],
[CE] and [%].

Cambridge Memory (type 1)

Cambridge Memory (type 2)



Cambridge Memory (type 3)



BMW Memory



Cambridge Programmable



Cambridge Scientific



Cambridge Universal



Enterprise

Enterprise Programmable



Executive



Executive Memory



Oxford 100



Oxford 150



Oxford 200



Oxford 300



Oxford Scientific



Oxford Universal



President



President Scientific



Scientific



Giant Scientific



Scientific Programmable**Sovereign****Wrist Calculator****Models by Sinclair under other names:****Gillette GPA****Radio Shack EC-4001****Radionic****The Sporting Life SETTLER****Sinclair digital multimeter in a calculator case:****PDM35 Multimeter**

A digital multimeter in an Oxford calculator case.

Reference:

1. Adamson, Ian & Kennedy Richard, *"Sinclair and the 'Sunrise' Technology"*, 1986, Penguin, ISBN 10: 0140087745.

Home
Abatron
Addo
Advance Electronics
Ajax
aml
Bell Punch / Sumlock / Anita
Binatone
Boots
Busicom - Broughtons
Calate & Taktile
Caltec
Commodore
Co-op
Data Devices
Decimo
Exactus
Fi-Cord
Geller
Gemini
Gross
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Hanimex
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Imperial & Royal
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