08/21/2018

Retro Orty Computers: Tatung Einstein Computer (Model TCO1) (1984) Read

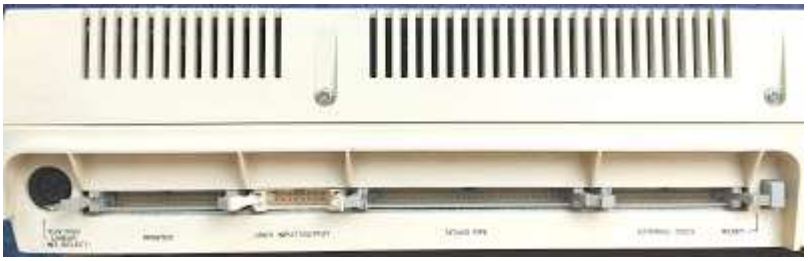
New in the collection: **Tatung Einstein Computer (Model TCO1) (1984).** Manufactured in the United Kingdom by the Tatung Company (Taiwan), it was released in 1984 for the business and professional field. The Tatung Einstein TCO1 computer had as an option a monitor, a printer and an external floppy drive and had professional applications of the company itself. Compatible CP / M was also used by professional programmers for the development of applications and games of other formats (mainly "home computer") with greater implementation in the home environment (such as the ZX Spectrum, Amstrad and Commodore) until they were replaced by IBM compatible ones. In addition, it could run the programs of the supported formats using a converter or an emulator so it had a wide library of games available. The Tatung Einstein incorporated a Mostek Z80 processor (MK 3880N Z80 CPU), two other Mostek Z80 processors (MK 3881 N Z80 PIO and MK 3882 N Z80 CTC), with 64K of RAM, 16K of VRAM, 8K of ROM that included Tatung's own boot system (MOS) while the operating system ("Xtal DOS" compatible with CP / M) and BASIC ("

Link to computer Tatung Einstein He

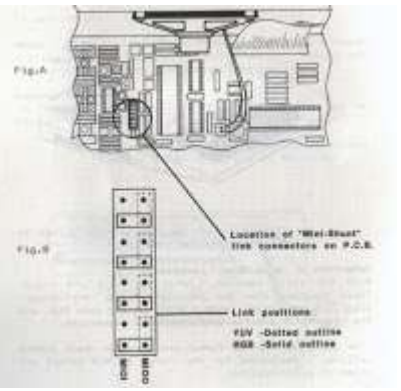
had a 3 "floppy drive in the upper case and a space reserved for a second floppy drive (located on the sides of the front step). His 3" floppy disks had a capacity of 188K.

On the back it had (from left to right); Internal switching selectable RGB video and component video DIN-6 connector (YUV-RGB LINEAR INT. SELECT), printer port (PRINTER), 8 Bit user connector (USER IMPUT / OUPUT), expansion connector (TATUNG PIPE), connector for an external floppy drive (EXTERNAL DISK) and a reset button (RESET). To the right were the technical specifications and, above them, the on / off switch and the power cord (the power supply was internal).

The DIN-6 video connector was used for both component color video signal and RGB video signal output. The selection of the video system to be used was made internally by means of a manual switch (switch) located on the motherboard. The expansion port (TATUNG PIPE) allowed direct access to the computer's processor (Z80)

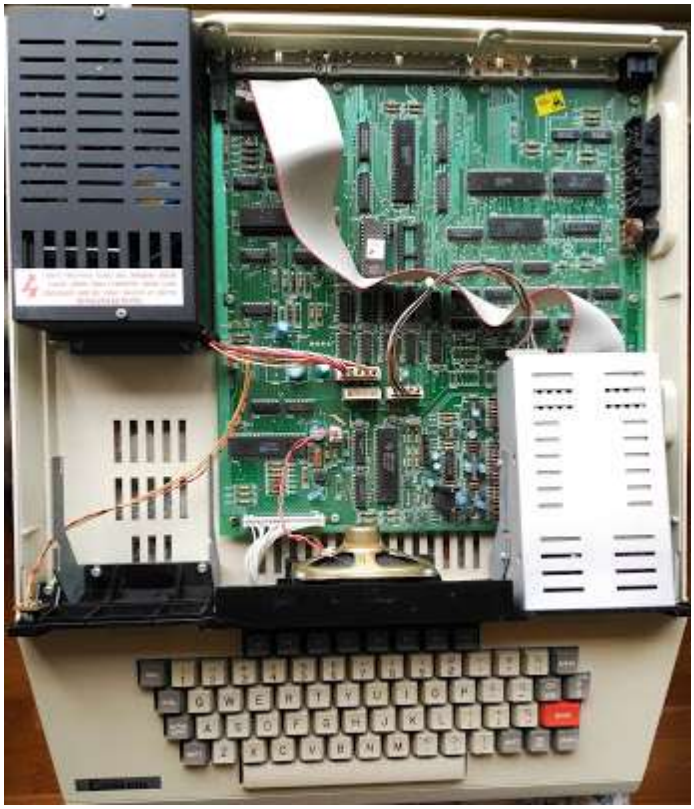


The switch is located near the video controller (TMS 9129 NL with 16K VRAM) and the sound chip (GI AY-3-8910A). Component video output is selected in the photo (contacts are aligned)



On the right side it had (from left to right): RF connector to TV (TV) with PAL modulation, an internal speaker volume control (VOL), two DIN-7 connectors for analog joystick (ANALOGUE 1/2) and a DIN-5 connector (360º) as serial port (RS 232)

To access the motherboard, two screws located on the back were removed and the upper case was lifted.

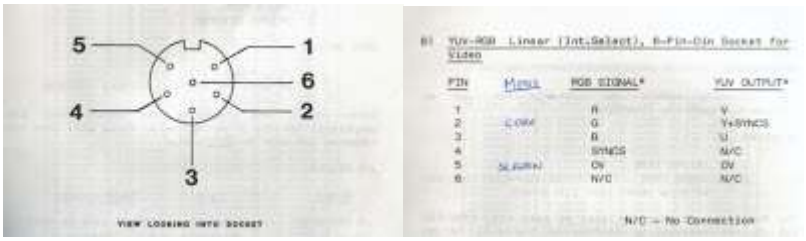


This computer has three MOSTEK Z80 processors: one as the main unit (MOSTEK 8245 MK 3880N Z80 CPU), the second that controls data input and output (MOSTEK 8431 MK 3881N Z80 PIO) and the third that controls read times and writing (MOSTEK 8425 MK 3882N Z80 CTC). Next to it are the communication interface (NEC D 8251AFC), the ROM (EPROM THS 2764 8K) and the socket available for a new ROM. To the right of the ROM you have eight small ICs, also from MOSTEK (MK 4564N-15), with 8K of RAM each (64K total).

A test run has been done using the RF cable and the computer is working properly:

It has been received with several floppy disks, including the "SCREEN PLUS" program from "MERLIN SOFWARE"

The DIN-6 connector was used to connect the computer to a monitor. According to the manual, the pin configuration was as follows:



Tatung computers

The multinational company Tatung (Taiwan, 1918) is dedicated (among other activities) to the design and development of digital players, business computing, household appliances and other various products for domestic and business consumption. Currently designs OEM computer components that are marketed by third-party companies (including Hewlett-Packard, Compaq, Acer, and Dell). In 1984 he commercialized the Tatung Einstein computer that had been designed and manufactured in the United Kingdom for the business market and used by programmers to develop their own programs (mainly games) that converted to other formats with more demand (Spectrum, Amstrad and Commodore) before its release on the market. It used 3 "floppy disks as support for the software and had a Z80 processor and a CP / M compatible operating system so it could play programs of other formats using an emulator. In 1986 it released an improved version (Tatung Einstein 256) which had little success.

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