



commodore

commodore business machines limited



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C128 -- THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP UP FROM THE C64

Demand for the new C128 has been so great that waiting lists are developing at many dealers across Canada. Despite this fact, there are still many users of the 300,000 C64s in Canada who are wondering if an upgrade to the C128 makes sense for them.

Howard Rotenberg, Product Support Manager, Commodore Business Machines Limited, has outlined a series of reasons why C64 owners may want to upgrade their present model to a C128:

Memory: In 128 mode, the C128 has over three times the amount of user memory free to BASIC, allowing not only for longer programs, but also for vastly increased internal data storage and faster execution times.

BASIC 7.0: BASIC 7.0 allows for more commands, improved disk I/O commands, and compatibility with other CBM BASIC dialects.

Sprite Editor/Music Editor: Interactive sprite editor is included with machine, external sprite design programs are no longer required. This is coupled with the BLOAD and BSAVE commands of BASIC 7.0.

The built-in music editor allows the user to chose three voices and 10 instruments. The PLAY function allows user to generate standard musical notes, SOUND and ENVELOPE allow user to generate custom-made sound effects.

2 MHz. Operation: "Fast" mode allows use of increased clock speed to perform internal operations (eg. re-formatting word processing documents, re-calculating spreadsheets much faster).

RGB 80 Column Mode: Allows 80 column text displays without resorting to external hardware. Superior display on monitor such as 1902 with RGB capability compared to composite monitor.

1200 Baud Modem: In 128 mode, a 1200 baud modem will be available allowing more efficient communication possibilities.

1571 Disk Drive: While the C128 allows the Commodore 64 owner to retain the use of his 1541 drive, the 1571 allows faster transfer rates in 128 and CP/M modes. This drive also has double the byte storage capacity of the 1541. It has two switches to allow for easy hardware changing of the device number, without voiding the warranty.

Peripheral compatibility: The C128 is compatible with all serial bus peripherals that Commodore 64 owner already has. In 64 mode, it is also compatible with expansion cartridges and user port interfaces such as VIC 1600 Modem.

Software: In 64 mode, the C128 can retain a consumer's present investment in software by running most of the 6000+ programs now available for the C64. There is a growing library of products for the native 128 mode, and the capability of entering the CP/M world as well.

Function Keys: Pre-programmed function keys which may be re-assigned, eight dedicated function keys, and four cursor keys, all in an area above the main alpha-numeric section of the keyboard. There is also a separate block of numeric keys. More comprehensive keyboard layout.

Keyboard: Physical design allows for easier use; height is easier to type on and is less tiring than C64's. "Home" keys have raised dot to indicate position.

Reset Button: Cold start reset on side of unit.

Auto Boot: C128 looks for a boot file on the disk drive when cold starting, allowing applications programs to load and run themselves. This frees user from having to go through loading procedure himself.

512K RAM Option: Addition of 512K Ram through expansion port as a RAM Disk type device increases further available user memory and speed with which data may be accessed.

Numeric Key Pad: Allows easy numeric data entry for applications such as spreadsheets or accounting packages.

Separate Cursor Key Pad: Allows easy movement over screen for full screen editing.

Machine Language Monitor: Allows de-bugging of BASIC programs as well as machine language programming without having to load a machine language monitor.

The C128 has been in over 1,000 retail outlets across Canada since October of this year. Its three operating modes -- C128, C64 and CP/M -- facilitate many user requirements and its ample ready-to-run software and hardware technology makes the C128 a leader in personal computers.

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For further information:

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