

The TRS-80: Radio Shack's New Entry into the Personal Computer Market



Photo 1: The New Radio Shack TRS-80 home computer system. Shown are the keyboard, video display monitor, instruction manual and prototypes of the upcoming memory expansion module and disk drive.



Photo 2: The single board Z-80 processor which forms the heart of the TRS-80. Note the 40 pin IO connector at upper right.

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Photo 3: Rear view of the Radio Shack computer showing the 40 pin IO connector.

Announced in August, the new Radio Shack TRS-80 is a major entry into the personal computer market. The \$599 single board Z-80 based unit comes complete with a full ASCII character set keyboard, cassette recorder and video display monitor. Also included for the price is 4 K bytes of programmable memory and 4 K bytes of read only memory; the latter features a built-in BASIC package. An additional 12 K bytes of programmable memory can be added for \$289.

The computer is being marketed in selected Radio Shack stores across the country; peripherals planned for release in December include a disk drive, printer and memory expansion hardware. An interesting feature of the TRS-80 is the convenient hinged door on back for easy access to the 40 pin printed circuit card IO connector.

Software will be available in a variety of packages, including a blackjack program (which comes free with the computer); a payroll program for up to 15 people, priced at \$19.95; a kitchen menu program for \$4.95; and so on.

The unit is priced competitively with some other computers on the market, and it will be interesting to see what develops in this low priced appliance computer market. ■



Photo 4: A closeup of the forthcoming microcomputer expansion module and disk drive.