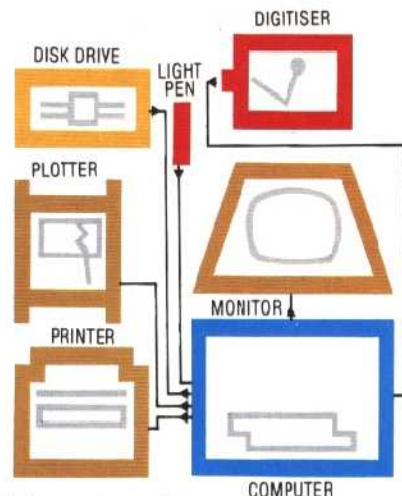
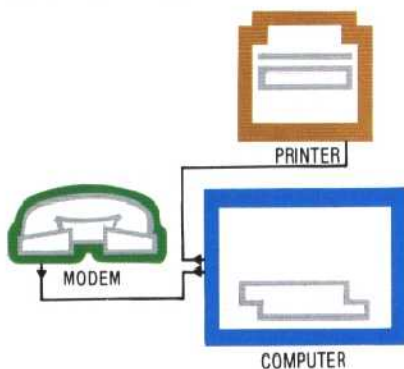


Business

Small microcomputer systems are helping — and replacing — office workers and businessmen the world over. Modems give access, via ordinary telephones, to mainframe computers and their vast data banks of vital information. Typing pools become a thing of the past as word processing takes over. Accounting and 'spreadsheet' software takes the cost out of cost accounting and makes financial decision-making a matter of minutes rather than days. Disk drives replace rooms full of filing cabinets and printers provide anything from perfectly printed letters to instant tabulations of the day's stock market quotes. Businessmen who can't type will not be left out; the 'mouse' has come to the rescue with a method of inputting commands to the computer that replaces the keyboard

Communication

The telephone network is worldwide and many computers are now small enough to be used on the lap or held in the hand. The busy executive can type reports in a Boeing 747 on his way to New York and send them home at the speed of the electron when he arrives. The modem couples home computers to the telephone and gives instant access to virtually all the other computers in the world — including giant industrial mainframe computers. The data banks are on tap 24 hours of the day and even the journalist, filing his story from Afghanistan or South America, can get his story through in the time it takes to locate a telephone



Research

Advanced computing power is no longer the preserve of the university laboratory and giant corporation. Sophisticated systems are finding their way into schools and homes the world over. Computer Aided Design (CAD) and exploring Artificial Intelligence (AI) research is possible even with a home system. Plotters to produce technical drawings and digitisers to input complex pictures such as maps or diagrams are already affordable. Computer studies are as much a part of the school curriculum today as Latin was a few years ago. The children of today are learning to cope with the computerised world of tomorrow

