Microfloppy First
Apricot claims to be the first popular business micro to use the new generation of small floppy disks. ACT chose the Sony microfloppy, which uses a floppy disk only 3½" wide, enclosed inside a rigid case. This makes the disk more robust than the traditional 5¼" disks. A spring-loaded cover protects the microfloppy from dust

Apricot XI
The capacity of the microfloppies is limited, so ACT offers the black Apricot XI. This has a 10Mb hard disk built-in that replaces one of the two microfloppies

Display
A high resolution green phosphor monitor provides clear and crisp display

test Microsoft's MSBASIC are also relatively fast. Even so, the impression given is that the Apricot does not run as quickly as one might hope for a machine with an 8086 processor.
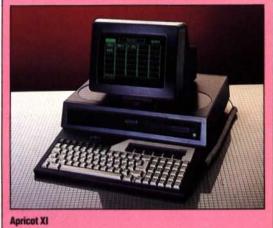
The Apricot's documentation includes an introduction for beginners, a comprehensive guide to the MS-DOS operating system, two useful guides to Supercalc and Superplanner, and extensive manuals for Wordstar and Multiplan. ACT provides little hardware information, although the supplied utilities leave little to be desired for setting up the computer. There are no details on memory mapping or system calls, as might be needed by a software house trying to produce independent software for the Apricot, but this information is readily available from the manufacturers.

The Apricot has been designed very much with business use in mind — it is not a system for the software engineer or the computer hobbyist. If the Apricot enjoys the success of ACT's Sirius, we can anticipate optional plug-in boards from independent manufacturers, as well as the extra memory boards and modem from ACT itself. Ignoring its merits as a highly versatile and inexpensive business computer, the availability of MS-DOS software on a computer at this price is enough to make the Apricot a very attractive proposition.

LCD Display
A two-line liquid display can be used for messages or as a clock or calculator

Sony Microfloppy
Twin 315K microfloppies are used for compact and convenient storage

Dedicated Function Keys
These keys provide standard functions such as HELP and REPEAT for different programs

Touch-Sensitive Function Keys
These six keys can be labelled by information displayed on the LCD to match a particular program

256K RAM
A healthy 256K of RAM provided as standard

Apricot Keyboard
As well as the high quality keys expected on any business micro, the Apricot has six touch-sensitive keys. These are reserved for special functions in various programs. Because these functions change from program to program, the Apricot allows a label to be displayed above each key, thanks to a 40-character by two-line LCD screen. The screen can also be used to display the time

Apricot Monitor
The monitor has a screen only nine inches across, yet has a text display of 132 characters wide by 50 deep, although it is normally used in 80 by 25 character mode. The quality is good and it has a built-in anti-glare screen.

The weight of the monitor reduces the Apricot's claim to be a 'portable', although some users have apparently opted to keep one monitor at home and another at work, simply carrying the main body of the micro to and fro

I/O Processor
A second micro used to handle functions