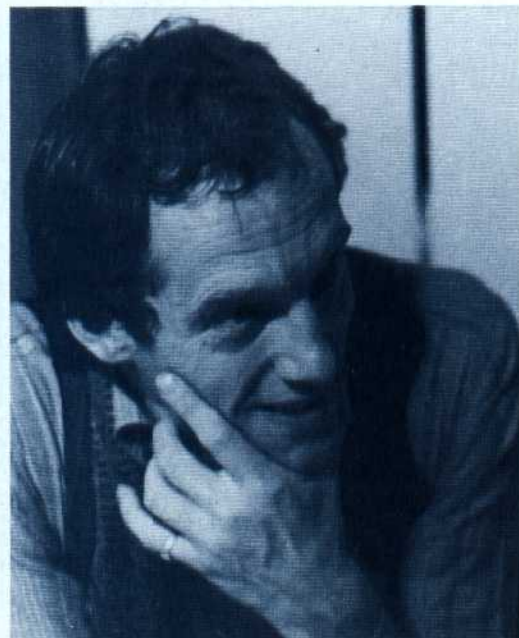# The Lynx

This elegantly styled micro has an exciting range of graphics and one of the best keyboards available

The Lynx is a British-designed computer manufactured in Cambridge by Camputers. It is larger and heavier than its two main British rivals, the Sinclair Spectrum and the Oric, but is slightly smaller than the American-made Commodore and Atari machines. The Lynx is one of the smartest-looking computers in its class and is finished in a business-like shade of grey.

It has 48 Kbytes of memory which can be expanded to a massive 192 Kbytes. If you take into account that a professional business computer has usually at least 64K of memory you will appreciate how versatile the Lynx can be. The Lynx has a full size typewriter-style keyboard that gives superb tactile feedback (you instinctively know whether you have pressed the right key).

The Lynx can display eight different colours and has 32 graphics characters stored in its memory, though not marked on the keyboard. It comes with its own version of BASIC, which includes several useful commands, including AUTO which automatically numbers program lines.

The central processing unit of the Lynx is the Z80 Microprocessor which has been used in some very sophisticated microcomputers.

Lynx Keyboard
The Lynx looks workmanlike in its hard plastic case. It has a professional keyboard with 57 keys and a space bar. The alphanumeric keys are arranged in the standard QWERTY fashion. The pairs of arrow keys at both ends of the third row from the top are cursor control keys for use with the screen editor only. The ESCAPE and CONTROL keys are at the top left and the BREAK and DELETE keys at the top right

Parallel Interface
This socket allows peripherals using parallel communications, such as a disk drive, to be connected to the Lynx

Power Socket
This DIN socket connects the DC voltages from the power supply unit to the computer

Loudspeaker
All the sounds that the Lynx can generate are produced by this loudspeaker

John Shirreff
The brains behind the Lynx range of computers belong to 35-year old John Shirreff. Not long after leaving Cambridge University in the late 60s, he designed and built inflatable portable structures, and played drums with a number of rock bands. He continued work as a sound recordist and as a session musician while developing his interest in electronics. The two interests came together when he met Dave Vorhaus who ran a recording studio. In 1981, he designed a new Z80-based 64 Kbyte expandable business computer. The design team's experience with the Z80 processor on this project provoked much of the thinking behind the Lynx range

Keyboard Socket
A ribbon cable connects the keyboard to the main computer circuit board here so that the computer can determine which keys are pressed

RAM
These chips provide the random access memory that is available to the user for storing programs and data

Microprocessor
The Lynx's central processing unit is a Zilog Z80A