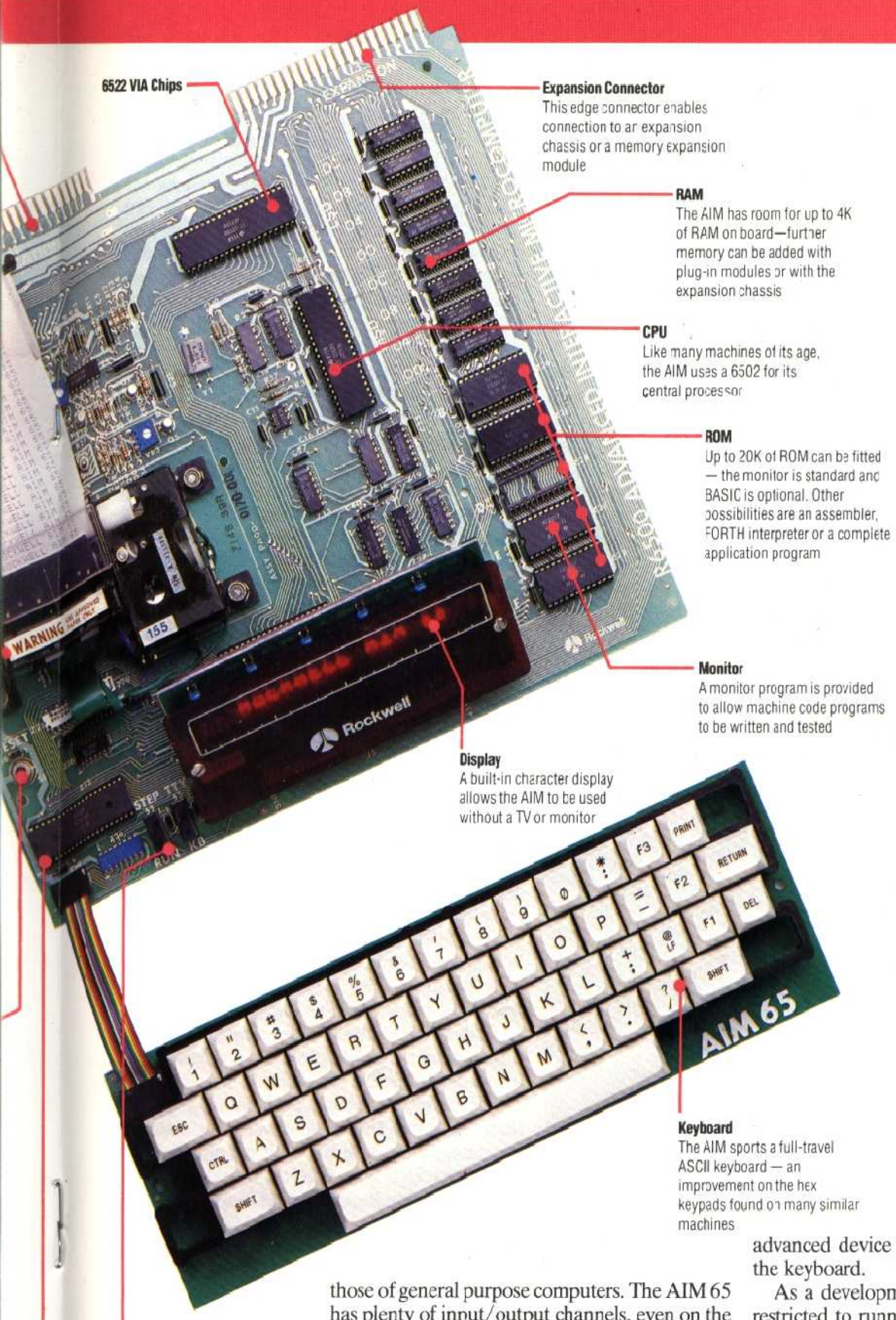

AIM 65

PRICE

£404.28 plus VAT

DIMENSIONS

292×267×60mm

CPU

6502

MEMORY

4K ROM, with sockets for up to 20K, and 4K RAM, expandable to 64K

SCREEN

No video display, but a 20-character, 16-segment LED display. A controller card is needed to establish a normal VDU output

INTERFACES

Two eight-bit bi-directional ports, each with two control lines, plus system bus

LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

A mini assembler and line editor are supplied, and a full assembler, BASIC, FORTH, PL/65 and INSTANT PASCAL are available

KEYBOARD

53 typewriter-style keys, including three function keys

DOCUMENTATION

Installation and hardware manuals that are a model of clarity and completeness, with every detail the user could require

STRENGTHS

Its most important advantage is the extreme flexibility of the machine, attributable to its expansion capabilities and access to a variety of languages. The documentation is superlative

WEAKNESSES

It has no serious weaknesses. There is a relative lack of high-level software, but then the AIM 65 is a developer's and designer's machine rather than an applications machine

those of general purpose computers. The AIM 65 has plenty of input/output channels, even on the basic unit.

Apart from the expansion connector, which carries all the main signals, including the data and address lines, clock signals and power lines, there are two 6522 Versatile Interface Adapter chips, one of which is used to control the printer, teletype interface and cassette interface. The other is uncommitted and appears on the J2 application connector as two eight-plus-two-line bi-directional ports. A 6532 RAM I/O Timer (RIOT) is also provided, but this complex and advanced device is dedicated solely to handling the keyboard.

As a development machine the AIM 65 isn't restricted to running in BASIC or any other high-level language. It is anticipated that users will program their own specialised ROMs, which can then be put into the ROM sockets, thus dedicating the machine to a specialised job.

Overall, the AIM 65 is a rugged, flexible, well-supported and well-designed single-board computer. It has sufficient facilities to make it attractive to anyone requiring a small but very useful machine without the features of a standard business computer, but with more flexibility than is usually found in a home computer.