

**Cassette Port**

A specially modified Commodore cassette deck must be used. When the PET was first introduced, the Commodore cassette deck gave a better performance than a domestic unit, but that situation has now been reversed

Second Cassette Port

The original PETs had a built-in cassette deck. Now this port can be used to add a second unit, and this allows data to be read from one tape, modified, and then written to another

Expansion Connector

The address, data and control signals from the microprocessor are all available here

ROM

The PET first put the complete BASIC and operating system in ROM, and started a trend that almost every home computer has followed

Piezo-Electric Speaker

Later models incorporated this device, which could, for example, be programmed to produce a 'warble' when the user makes an erroneous entry

Keyboard Connector**Character Generator**

In addition to 64 alphanumeric characters, the PET can generate 64 graphics symbols. Alternatively, text can be displayed in upper and lower case

RAM

PETs come with anything from 8 Kbytes to 32 Kbytes as standard. By means of a special modification this can be extended to 96 Kbytes

COMMODORE PET**PRICE**

£775

SIZE

480×440×300mm

CPU

6502

CLOCK SPEED

1 MHz

MEMORY

32 Kbytes RAM

20 Kbytes ROM

VIDEO DISPLAY

25 lines of 40 characters. Built-in 12" (30 cm) green phosphor monitor. 256 displayable characters and graphics symbols, or low resolution (50×80) graphics

INTERFACES

IEEE488, 8-bit parallel user port, cassette (2)

LANGUAGE SUPPLIED

BASIC, Machine Language Monitor

OTHER LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

PASCAL, COMAL, LISP

COMES WITH

Instruction manual

KEYBOARD

Typewriter-style keyboard, featuring 64 individual keys with graphics symbols inscribed on the front. A separate numeric keypad includes calculator function keys

DOCUMENTATION

Commodore have never been acclaimed for the quality of their documentation, although this has much improved since the early days

that will reproduce them in hard copy without the need for complex bit programming of the printer head. Of course, this means that a limited number of printers are suitable for use with the PET, and most, if not all, are Commodore products.

As a result of these various idiosyncrasies, and although there is a considerable amount of software available for the machine, little of this has been translated to other machines. Few programs have been converted from other machines to the PET as well, because they generally involve too much effort to convert, and it is easier simply to rewrite them. Consequently, the machine has become somewhat 'isolated' in its own little world, and is scarcely affected by changes in the industry as a whole. Though the PET's days of glory are now over, it still remains a popular machine in schools, and home computer manufacturers would do well not to forget the features of the PET that really triggered off the microcomputer revolution.