Power Input
An external transformer allows mains power to be used

Main PCB
This circuit board shows evidence of the dense packing that is necessary to fit the 512 Kbytes of memory and other features into a small space

Disk Drives
Single or double disk drives may be fitted. The metal casing around the drives acts as a heat sink

Printer Port
The Centronics parallel port connects the Encore to a printer

RS232 Port
This connects the Encore to an external communications modem

CHRIS STEVENS

OSBORNE ENCORE

PRICE
128K single disk drive £1,895;
128K double disk drive £2,195;
256K double disk drive £2,495;
512K double disk drive £3,095

DIMENSIONS
241×325×141mm

CPU
8086 16-bit microprocessor

MEMORY
This Encore is supplied with 512K of RAM

SCREEN
An LCD display of 80×16 characters or 480×128 pixels. Osborne has promised an 80×25 screen when it becomes available. Owners have been promised a cheap upgrade to the larger screen

INTERFACES
RS232 serial interface, RJ11 telephone jack and Centronics parallel port

LANGUAGES
Microsoft BASIC supplied on disk

KEYBOARD
62 typewriter-style keys and a keypad containing 10 function keys and four icon keys

DOCUMENTATION
The two user guides are, like all Osborne manuals, extremely well written, giving a full explanation of how to use the machine and containing plenty of examples

STRENGTHS
The Encore is an extremely powerful and compact machine that can be run on batteries for four to five hours

WEAKNESS
The screen is not yet fully IBM-compatible and can be difficult to read

Time Check
The photo shows the 80×16 LCD screen. Note the grooves below the screen; these will allow the proposed 80×25 display to be fitted. Shown here is the calendar/diary display; this enables the operator to enter future appointments and set the time to any of the zones shown on the world map

Touch-Sensitive
Above the main keyboard is a touch pad — similar to the keyboard used on the Spectrum and ZX81 — that contains the 10 programmable function keys. Below the function keys are the icons that are used to call the Encore's ROM-based programs