CPU
CMOS version of the familiar Z80 processor

Printer Port
Connects the computer to external serial printer

Communications Socket
Allows the PX-8 to communicate with other computers, either directly or via a modem and telephone network

Parallel Interface Port
Connects the optional 120K RAM 'disk'

Slave CPU
This allows the PX-8 to communicate with the computer's internal speaker and external peripherals such as a printer, disk drive or cassette deck

ROM Capsules
Plug-in capsules allow the use of ROM-based packages. Here Wordstar is fitted, but this may be replaced by another ROM capsule, such as Portable Calc

CP/M Utilities ROM
The PX-8 is able to make use of the large available range of CP/M software

CHRIS STEVENS

EPSON PX-8

PRICE
£798

DIMENSIONS
297 x 216 x 48mm

CPU
Z80-compatible CMOS CPU, 2.4 MHz

MEMORY
64K RAM, 32K ROM plus 6K video RAM

SCREEN
Text: 80 columns x 8 rows. Graphics: 480 x 64 pixels

INTERFACES
RS232C, serial, bar code reader, analogue input

LANGUAGES AVAILABLE
Enhanced Microsoft BASIC operating under CP/M

KEYBOARD
72 key typewriter-style, QWERTY format, including cursor control and five programmable function keys. 12 keys can be used to form a numeric keypad

DOCUMENTATION
Two large ring-bound volumes, an operations manual and BASIC reference guide. Both are very thorough, and well written

STRENGTHS
Wide LCD screen (80 characters) makes it easy to follow what is happening on the screen; ROM-based software simplifies loading programs into memory; easily expandable

WEAKNESSES
LCD screen shows only eight lines and is slow to manipulate. Even with excellent documentation, CP/M is not a very friendly operating system, especially for a first-time user