

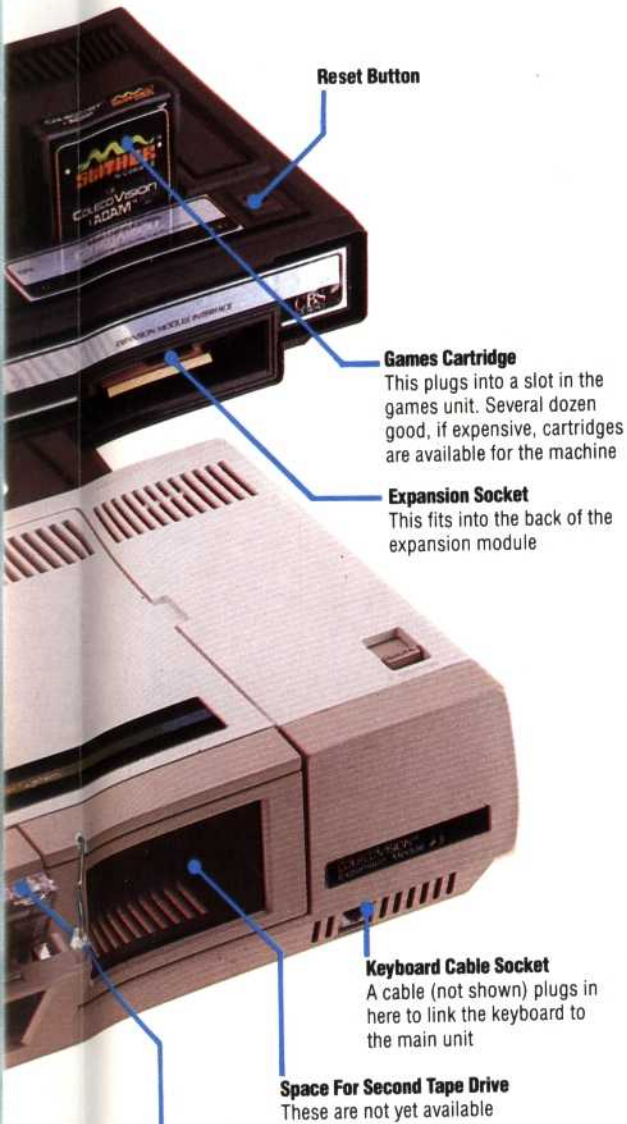
Joystick Fire Buttons

Joystick Number Pad

The pair of joysticks that come with the Adam are unusual in having number pads built-in

Joystick Holder

This clips onto the keyboard and provides a space to rest a joystick



Reset Button

Games Cartridge

This plugs into a slot in the games unit. Several dozen good, if expensive, cartridges are available for the machine

Expansion Socket

This fits into the back of the expansion module

Keyboard Cable Socket

A cable (not shown) plugs in here to link the keyboard to the main unit

Space For Second Tape Drive

These are not yet available

Digital Data Pack

Not to be confused with a blank tape cassette. The Adam has to use special pre-formatted tapes which cost nearly £5 each, and store 256 Kbytes per tape



Adam's Joysticks

Two joysticks are supplied as standard with the Adam. One of these doubles as a numeric keypad and slots into a special holder alongside the keyboard. Coleco also markets two 'deluxe' games control systems, at £50 each. The Super Action Controller set comprises a pair of easy-action joysticks with numeric pads and rifle-style triggers replacing the normal Fire buttons. These are fitted with standard Atari-type D-connectors, and so may be used with other systems. A free Baseball games cartridge is included.

The Roller Controller is an arcade-style games control panel. This has two standard Coleco joysticks and a 'trackball' controller for fast response and accurate control. Two sets of dual fire buttons allow two-player action, and a mode switch selects either joystick or trackball operation. Supplied with this unit is Slither, a Centipede-style arcade game.



include a spreadsheet, database, revision aid, and a version of the LOGO language. The addition of the promised 144 Kbytes memory expansion should give CP/M capability of a kind, and even disks are planned.

But there are drawbacks. The print quality is not as good as one might expect from a daisy wheel, the printer is woefully slow and noisy, there is a severe lack of user RAM, and the fact that BASIC must be loaded from tape soon proves annoying. With the recent drop in daisy wheel printer prices, it should be possible to put together a system that out-performs the Adam but costs approximately the same. That said, the Adam would appear to be well worth buying if the user already possesses the ColecoVision console. For those who wish to purchase a home computer system with word processing capabilities, the Adam is certainly worth considering — but there may well be other, better alternatives.

COLECO ADAM

PRICE

£525 (expansion module)
£625 (including ColecoVision games console)

DIMENSIONS

381×279×102mm (expansion memory unit)
381×355×152mm (printer)
381×152×51 (keyboard)

CPU

Z80A

MEMORY

80 Kbytes of RAM, of which 16K is used for video display. Expandable to 144K with optional RAM pack

SCREEN

36 columns × 20 rows (31 columns × 24 rows in BASIC)
256 × 159 pixels in high resolution with 16 colours

INTERFACES

SmartWriter printer connector, Adam Net modular phone plug, three expansion slots, ColecoVision expansion interface

LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

SmartBASIC supplied on cassette; CP/M operating system

KEYBOARD

75-key, QWERTY layout, sculptured typewriter-style keys. Includes 6 programmable function keys

DOCUMENTATION

Three manuals come with Adam: 64-page Set-Up manual, a guide to the SmartWriter word processing program, and a SmartBASIC programming manual. The documentation is generally easy to follow, but a bit wordy and insubstantial. The BASIC manual is incomprehensible

STRENGTHS

Wide availability and high quality of ColecoVision games cartridges make Adam ideal for games players. Word processing software is easy to use

WEAKNESSES

Slow, noisy printer. Data packs available only from Coleco. Limited software available on data packs