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PRODUCTS

PDP-8/e Computer for Sale

PDP-8/e Computer: Two racks, 24K words, DECTapes, RK05 disk, A/D, I/O, R-T clock, Schmitt triggers, point-plot display control, VT8e CRT, LA30 control, data break interface, extended arithmetic element, OS/8, RTS/8, FORTRAN and Lab Peripheral Routine software. DECTapes and disk cartridges also available. Asking price is in the neighborhood of \$7,000. Will consider any offer.

Marshall M. Haith
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TRS-80 Software Exchange

Anyone interested in a software exchange for the TRS-80 microcomputer should write to David E. Anderson, Department of Psychology, Alleghany College, Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335.

BRIEFS

Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences

A new Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences has been formed. The Federation is an association of scientific societies with interests in basic research on problems of behavior, psychology, language, education, knowledge systems, and their psychological, behavioral, and physiological bases.

The Federation will present the interests and points of view of its constituent societies to the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government. It will be available for expert consultation on issues relevant to training and research in the sciences it represents. The Federation may also provide administrative and scientific services for its members. The Federation looks toward close cooperation with those scientific societies in the fields of the social sciences, psychology, education and the neurosciences that are already represented in Washington. It will join with them in presenting the views of its member societies on issues of science policy, national support for research, and education and training

in the fields of science represented by the member societies.

The new Federation came into existence in Chicago on December 7, 1980, when representatives of eight societies established the organization. The following societies are Charter members: American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Conference on the Use of On-Line Computers in Psychology, Cognitive Science Society, Psychonomic Society, Society of Experimental Social Psychology, Society for Mathematical Psychology, and Society for Psychophysiological Research.

Several other societies, represented at the meeting in Chicago, expect to become charter members in 1981, following their annual meetings.

The Federation issued the following initial statement of its goals and principles: (1) To educate private and public agencies and the public on the need for basic research on behavior and cognition. (2) To encourage legislation and policy that enhances training and research in basic behavioral, psychological, psychobiological, and cognitive processes. (3) To foster effective interactions between public and private funding agencies and the community of scientists and scientific societies. (4) To represent the view of its membership in the implementation of administrative policies, including issues of accountability, the protection of human and animal subjects, and peer review. (5) To provide sources of expertise and knowledge in the basic behavioral, psychological, and cognitive sciences. (6) To provide a national platform for issues of common concern. (7) To facilitate exchanges among constituent societies, including announcements of meetings, names of officers, lists of available services, and other items of organizational information that may be mutually helpful. (8) To establish channels of communication with other scientific groups, with representatives of the communication media, with educational groups, and with the general public.

The Federation will be incorporated in 1981 and intends to establish an office in Washington, D.C., headed by an executive director, during 1982. Membership in the Federation will be available only to bona fide scientific societies; there will be no individual memberships. For further information, contact the President of the Federation: George Mandler, Center for Human Information Processing, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093. Telephone: (714) 452-3005.

An Inexpensive, Easily Constructed Skin Drill for Abraising the Skin Under Biopotential Electrodes

(Submitted by Steven D. Falkenberg, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky 40475, and Grant R. McMillan, Aerospace Medical Research Laboratories, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio 45433)

An inexpensive skin drill can be easily constructed using the flexible shaft drive unit from a toy airplane available in most toy and department stores ("Super Flash," Stock No. 440, Victor Stanzel Company, Schulenburg, Texas 78956), a 10-cc disposable syringe, a Size 0 one-hole stopper, the bushing salvaged from the airplane, and a small coil spring available from a local hardware store. (See Figure 1.)

The airplane and propeller should be removed from the flexible shaft, being careful to save the plastic propeller shaft bushing. The bushing should be drilled out using a 3/32-in. (2.4-mm) bit to accept the shaft of the dental burr. The end of the 10-cc syringe should be drilled out with a 1/4-in. (6.4-mm) bit, and the bushing should be press fit into the hole from the inside. Less binding of the burr will occur if the bushing is press fit rather than glued.

The brass coupler that is crimped onto the propeller shaft should not be removed from the flexible shaft, as it will be filed down to fit into the coil spring chuck to mate the shaft to the dental burr. The chuck is a small coil spring that slips over the shaft of the dental burr with light friction. The batteries are inserted in the drive unit so that the direction of rotation results in the spring's tightening around the shaft of the dental burr when pressure is put on the burr. The unit offers

advantages in economy, portability, and also safety, since the bit is easily stopped if too much pressure is applied.

Disposable Pen Conversion for the Scientific Prototype CR3F Cumulative Recorder

(Submitted by John C. Santelli, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666)

Intermittent use of the Scientific Prototype CR3F cumulative recorder often necessitates the time-consuming removal and cleaning of the capillary action pen system; if the system should run dry, it is usually impossible to clean the pen without impairing the capillary flow. However, recent availability of a small, self-contained, low-cost, disposable pen (see below) has made conversion of this recorder easy. The procedure is as follows: (1) Remove the pen holder from the reinforcement marker solenoid shaft and cut off one of the legs between which the pen is held; (2) epoxy (or solder) to the inside surface of the remaining leg a 1.6-cm-long x 1.4-cm-high thin (1- to 2-mm) but rigid plate of suitable stock; (3) affix the pen to the plate with double-sided adhesive foam-core mounting tape (e.g., Scotch 110); (4) replace the assembly on the solenoid shaft, tightening the set-screw when a light but reliable nib contact is made. Note that the low writing pressure required by the pen is derived from the resilience of the transport mechanism; excessive pressure impedes solenoid action. The best reinforcement marker resolution is obtained with the pen rotated .35-.52 radians to the right of the nib-front position.

The pen is manufactured by, and a list of distributors available from, the Marking Systems Division of Graphic Controls Corporation, 2 Springside Rd., Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003. Telephone: (609) 983-8005. Part No. 82-99-0021. The last two digits specify color: The number given is for black, 22 for red, 23 for green, 2M for color mix. Ten pens per package cost approximately \$2/pen, with a specified writing distance of 523 m.

An Inexpensive Calibrated Drinking Tube

(Submitted by Frank Etsorn, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, New Mexico 87801)¹

Various commercial drinking devices are available for measuring the amount of fluid consumed by small laboratory animals. A problem with most of these devices, however, has been unit cost. For example, the classic J-shaped calibrated Richter tube currently sells for nearly \$18.² Other devices range from \$8 to \$15, with holders costing up to \$30 each. Likewise, some devices are prone to breakage (glass) and cleaning problems.

Users of disposable syringes (Wright & Scheff, 1972) have opted for a "press fit" of the sipper tube inside the Luer lock. Often, the press fit becomes loose after several disassemblies for cleaning. We have epoxied the sipper tube into the Luer lock, but this hinders thorough cleaning.

Figure 1.

The device described here is simple and quick to construct and in most comparisons offers finer calibration. The unit is made of nontoxic and highly durable polypropylene, is easily cleaned and filled, and is quite inexpensive. The device for rats consists of a 10-cc disposable plastic syringe, a No. 3 solid rubber stopper, and a 2.5-in. stainless steel sipper tube. The cost is 70 cents. A variety of syringes can accommodate the consumption of numerous species (5 and 10 cc in .2-cc graduations; 20 and 30 cc in 1-cc graduations).³

Construction consists of drilling a hole 7 mm in diameter (No. 3 cork borer) through the solid rubber stopper and inserting the desired sipper tube. The syringe is prepared by sawing the end off, using a fine-toothed hacksaw blade (a simple jig for holding the syringe facilitates this task) and smoothing the edge with emery cloth.

The preferred filling method is to withdraw the plunger to its maximum without removing it from the syringe barrel and to place the entire device (stopper removed) in a holder, plunger down (our "holder" is a large test tube rack). After filling the barrel to the

top, we then replace the stopper and push the fluid out of the sipper tube until the desired capacity is reached. This filling technique also expels trapped air, eliminating any sloshing action that might contribute to dripping. We have found this device to be virtually drip free.

Construction time is minimal, and the completed devices have been both reliable and highly durable over the several years we have used them.

REFERENCE

WRIGHT, D. C., & SCHEFF, S. W. Inexpensive metabolism cages and drinking tubes. *Behavior Research Methods & Instrumentation*, 1972, 4, 279-280.

NOTES

1. Address for reprints: Department of Psychology, New Mexico Tech, Socorro, New Mexico 87801.
2. Quantity discounts apply in most all instances.
3. For 5-cc syringes, a No. 00 rubber stopper is used; for a 10-cc syringe, use a No. 0, and for a 20-cc syringe, use a No. 2.