

Trionyx Electronics, Inc.

Mass Memory for the H8 Computer

Our mass memory for the H8 computer is now shipping. We have spent nearly three years developing this product. This is a universal memory system for the H8 computer which can be implemented in a number of different ways.

The memory boards use either 16K or 64K memory chips. The 16K memory chips may be either 3-voltage or 5 volts only. As many as 72 memory chips may be installed on each board. Using 64K RAMs, a single memory board will contain one-half megabytes of data storage capacity. Parity memory chips are also provided. Each byte contains 9 bits.

The memory boards may be used with a variety of controller boards. Our disk emulator controller board (model MC-H8) is now available. This controller board is operated through a port on the computer buss and allows the memory to be used as another floppy disk drive. Up to eight (8) memory boards may be connected to a single controller. Parity checking circuitry is also provided on the controller. A status port is used with the parity circuitry. LEDs are used at the top of the controller board to indicate port accesses, parity errors and a low-voltage condition.

The mass memory is designed to plug directly into the H8 computer. In this configuration, a controller board is used with either one or two memory boards. The controller and memory boards are connected internally through a short buss board which plugs into the left side of the boards. Both the controller and memory boards have connectors at each end. With two memory boards, the mass memory provides up to one megabyte of peripheral data storage directly inside the H8 computer.

Mass memory pricing is as follows:

Memory Board	MM-H8	\$ 250.00, Kit	\$ 300.00, Assembled
Controller	MC-H8	250.00, Kit	300.00, Assembled
Buss Board	MM-BB	30.00, Kit	45.00, Assembled

Memory chips are NOT included in the above pricing. Memory chips are added to the memory boards in rows of 8 or 9 chips at a time.

Software utilities for both HDOS and CP/M will be supplied with the MC-H8 controller board. These include a fully bootable device driver for floppy disk emulation and a very comprehensive memory test program. The HDOS software was written exclusively for Trionyx by Al Dallas (Software Magic) and Dean Gibson (UltiMeth Corporation). The CP/M software is being written for us by J. J. Thompson. The software we are supplying with this product is very excellent.

This mass memory will prove very useful in every H8 computer. The entire contents of an H37 dual drive system can be dumped into the mass memory with room to spare. Execution will then proceed at extremely high speeds, silently, and with no wear on the floppy drives or, more importantly, the diskettes.

The mass memory can be used to greatly increase the capacity of systems with limited floppy disk drive storage. This may be a preferred alternative to the purchase of additional drives.

The mass memory is fully bootable and may actually be used in place of any floppy disk drives at all! Floppy disk programs can be loaded in and out of the mass memory using the H8-5 tape cassette board. We will offer software to do this and will also provide a diskette/tape copying service for this purpose.

An expansion chassis will later be offered for the H8 computer which will allow the mass memory to be expanded up to eight memory boards. This will provide 5 megabytes of data storage. Other H8 boards may also be used in this chassis. An interface board for the H89 computer will also be made available for the expansion chassis to allow operation of our new H8 boards (mass memory, disk controller, etc.) with the H89 computer.

A second controller board for the mass memory (MD-H8) will soon be made available to allow use of the memory boards as main CPU memory on the H8 buss. This will provide up to one megabyte of main memory for our new 16 bit CPU board, which is now under development for the H8 computer.