The BBC Microcomputer
Disc Storage System

Data and program storage on a cassette recorder, even under computer control as with the BBC computer, soon becomes tiresomely laborious and the next stage is to add a disc storage facility to your system. The BBC disc system comprises two elements:

1 The disc interface and Disc Filing System (DFS)
This consists of various components including a disc controller LSI chip (8271) and a fixed memory device containing the firmware runs the filing system. These components should be fitted by a dealer with appropriate test equipment if not fitted at the time of purchase. The DFS is very fast and uses disc space efficiently allowing access to any part of the disc within a fraction of a second and loading the program typically 60 times faster than 1200 baud tape. The DFS contains many sophisticated commands including ACCESS, BACKUP, COMPACT, COPY, DELETE, DESTROY, DIR, INFO, LIB, RENAME and TITLE.

2 The disc drive
This is contained in a matching case and is powered from the BBC computer. The drive is of the Shugart standard interface and is available in two variations:
a Single drive providing 100 Kbytes of store.
b Twin double sided double track density drives providing 800 Kbytes of store.

The disc drive is provided with the BBC Microcomputer Disc Filing System manual and a floppy disc containing formatting and utilities routines.

The DFS manual is not supplied with the disc interface components as when used with other makes of disc drive correct operation cannot be guaranteed.

For further details ask your nearest dealer or write to PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

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