

HAVE YOU ALREADY GOT DISK DRIVE(S) FOR YOUR BBC COMPUTER?

SOLIDISK HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER.

— FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO HAVE ALREADY, A DUAL FDC DISK FILING SYSTEM (DFDC, using the old 8271 and adding the new WD1770 FDC), ADDS DOUBLE DENSITY AND KEEPS TOTAL COMPATIBILITY (See opposite page).

— FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T, A DUAL DENSITY DISK FILING SYSTEM (using the new WD 1770) WILL PROVE MUCH FASTER AND CHEAPER THAN THE 8271.

THE DISK DRIVE:

The disk drive (see pictures) comes from the new series VLSI ultra quiet, auto spin-up, 5.25" half height, solenoid head load, 40/80 track, single and double density MIT-SUBISHI M4853. It is fast, quiet and consumes far less power than any previous models. 2 new 64 pin surface mounted microcontrollers (from Motorola and Mitsubishi), largely reduce the area occupied by the drive electronics (see pictures), leaving so much more room for the diskette, with very low noise level and reduced friction of the media and the jacket.

SOLIDISK DUAL DENSITY DISK FILING SYSTEM.

Basic characteristics include very high operating speed, Acorn compatibility, automatic 40/80 track switching, auto-density, resident disk formatter and 100% compatibility with Solidisk Sideways RAM.

It is also the simplest ever Disk Upgrade for the BBC computer: with only 4 components: 1 ROM, 2 buffers and the FDC. (See picture 3).

Solidisk software engineers have built in to the 8192 bytes of the 1.40 ROM more facilities than any other DDFS manufacturer has managed before.

The result is a substantial cost reduction, which is passed on to you.

Solidisk engineers won't stop there.

But let's first answer some more immediate questions.

1 — SINGLE OR DOUBLE DENSITY?

You get 60% more storage in double density mode than in single density mode at no extra cost.

In single density — the usual Acorn disk format — you get 10 sectors or 2.5 k bytes of storage per track. That is what the Acorn DFS and many others can do.

In other words, you get 100k with a 40 track single sided disk drive (such as the TEAC 55A), 400k with a double sided 80 tracks disk drive (such as the one in this offer).

In double density, you get 16 sectors or 4k bytes per tracks, an increase of 60%.

With the same TEAC 55A disk drive, you get 160k instead of 100k or with the disk drive in this offer, you get 640k bytes instead of 400k.

The majority of software tested also runs FASTER in double density mode than in single density mode, especially Wordwise, View, Masterfile and Scribe and 95% + of games are also compatible with double density.

2 — INSTALLATION:

As the STL DFS consists of only 4 ICs, to be plugged into existing sockets on the BBC computer board, installation is quite simple and should not take more than a few minutes even if you are a novice. Simply instal the 4 ICs into their sockets and connect the disk drive (see picture 4).

3 — BASIC DISK SYSTEM COMMANDS AND UTILITIES:

- *ACCESS <afsp> (optional L)
- *BACKUP <source drive> <dest. drive>
- *COMPACT (optional <drive>)
- *COPY <source drive> <dest. drive> <afsp>
- *DELETE <fsp>
- *DIR (<dir>)
- *DRIVE (optional <drive>)
- *ENABLE
- *F40 (optional <drive>)
- *F80 (optional <drive>)
- *INFO <afsp>
- *LIB (optional <dir>)
- *LOAD <fsp> (optional <load address>)
- *RENAME <old name> <new name>
- *SAVE <fsp> <start> <end> <exec>
- *TITLE <title>
- *VERIFY (<optional <drive>)
- *WIPE <afsp>
- *BUILD <fsp>
- *DISC
- *DUMP <fsp>
- *LIST <fsp>
- *TYPE <fsp>
- *DDFS

THE SPECIAL PACKAGE DEAL:

A COMPLETE 640K DISK OUTFIT AT ONLY £209.95 INCLUSIVE:

- ONE 80 TRACK DOUBLE SIDED DISK DRIVE.
- ONE DOUBLE DENSITY DISK INTERFACE.
- ALL LEADS AND MANUAL.
- WORD PROCESSOR.
- ELECTRONIC SPREADSHEET.
- SPELLING CHECKER.
- DATABASE.
- STOCK CONTROL.
- MACRO BASIC.
- FULL ONE YEAR NO QUIBBLE WARRANTY.

Optional extra:

- DFDC instead of DDFS: £10.00.

Other OS commands include LOAD, SAVE, BPUT, BGET, OSFILE, BLOCK GET, BLOCK PUT, OSARGS, OSFIND, PTR, OSWORD 7F, 7D, 7E etc.

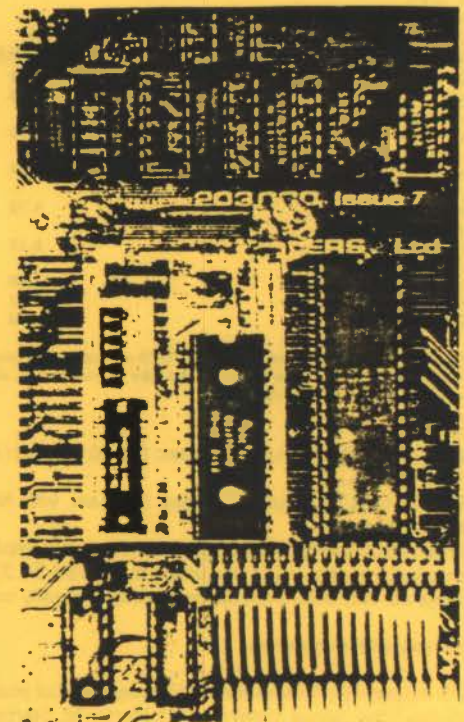
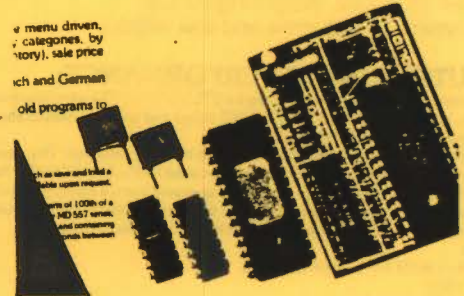
Care is taken in the disk directory presentation, showing the disk size and other useful information. Whenever a diskette is being spun, its number of tracks and density are identified. This information helps the DFS to skip alternate tracks if a 40 track disk is in use in an 80 track drive and also switch the FDC to single or double density.

The net result is exceptional response and user-friendliness.

Outstanding speed too.

As shown in the benchmark test on the opposite page.

menu driven,
categories, by
story, sale price
ich and German
old programs to



CUT THE COST OF RUNNING YOUR MACHINE

Solidisk DDFS comes with free bundled software: (see picture 5).

- Solidisk Database — a fast, efficient and flexible disk based random access database. Ideal for prescription records, club membership etc.
- Solidisk wordprocessor:
- Solicalc electronic spreadsheet.
- Stock Control — very useful for small commerce. Features include menu driven, easy to follow operating instructions, stock items can be grouped by categories, by suppliers, by frequency of movements etc. Stock valuation report (inventory), sale price list, reorder forms can be printed automatically as requested.
- Sillexicon — the most successful spelling checker with English, French and German dictionary. Self dictionary generating capability.
- Macro Basic — a BASIC program generator capable of using bits of old programs to create new programs. Simply ingenious!
- Benchmark for disk drive and disk utilities.

4 — OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE:

The table below shows the benchmark timing for STL DDFS 1.4. The benchmark consists of disk operations such as save and load a 16k program, open and close files, BPUT, BGET strings and numbers, format and verify a disk etc., and is available upon request, otherwise listed in Solidisk DDFS User Manual.

The benchmark tests B1 to B9 are the same as used by many reviewers. The time is expressed in seconds and parts of 100th of a second. The disk drives are twin 40/80 track double sided MITSUBISHI M4853, the diskettes are Verbatim Datalife MD 557 series, 96 TPI, double density, double sided, pre-verified to ensure that the media is free of all error and mechanical defects and containing solely the benchmark program. The test is loaded into memory, the drive motors are allowed to stop completely 2 seconds between tests, 10 timing samples are taken and the mean time is calculated automatically.

For example:

100 DEFFN1:REM Save a 16k program.

110 T% + TIME

120 *SAVE A 8000 +4000

130 + TIME -- T%

Full listings are included in the User Manual.

This FN is called 10 times with 3 sec. interval, the mean result is printed as 'B1'.

BENCHMARK DESCRIPTION	S/D TIME	D/D TIME	
B1 Save 16k	2.62	1.43	
B2 Load 16k	2.45	1.23	
B3 Openin and close 100 times	20.70	20.16	*See note 1
B4 Openout and print 1000 numbers (255)	5.84	4.66	
B5 Openin and input 1000 numbers (255)	4.72	4.14	
B6 Openout and print 100 80 bytes strings	6.18	4.91	
B7 Openin and input 100 80 bytes strings	4.90	4.31	
B8 BPUT 100 bytes (255)	3.01	2.06	
B9 BGET 1000 bytes (255)	1.88	1.52	

Note 1: Whenever a file is to be opened, STL DDFS automatically refreshes the disk directory, thus preventing erroneous disk change. Many other DFS's do not take the same care, although yielding a much shorter time, and this could accidentally stop the program.

With Wordwise:

Load 2000 words (17811 bytes) 16.80 sec. (41.40 sec. with AC.

With Scribe:

Count 2000 words (17811 bytes) 4.20 sec. (9.80 sec. with AC .90 DFS)

With Beebug's Masterfile:

Sort records 1 to 20 in PEOPLE sample database, the database is presorted on field 2 then the program is asked to sort on field 1, the time is then taken: 56.23 sec. (127.86 sec. with AC.90 DFS).

These timings are improved even further in double density mode.

The figures speak for themselves.

STL DDFS dramatically increases the operating speed of your software, including wordprocessors like Wordwise, View, Scribe, databases like Masterfile, Starbase etc.

Solidisk engineers won't stop there.

ONE ROM TO RULE THEM ALL

Already a super mini floppy (2.4 MB) and controller for under £400, a 10MB integrated Winchester hard disk for under £600 AND AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL 16K ROM (2.0 UPGRADE) with outlined specifications below are planned for Christmas.

- Unlimited number of entries into the disk directory.
- File size and disk size can be as big as 16MB.
- Immediate recovery of accidental file deletion.
- Built-in wordprocessor in place of the classical *BUILD.
- Disk sector editor, disk search and replace, tape to disk, disk to memory below PAGE, disk duplication.
- Instant data encryption and decryption using 256 byte single key (expandable).
- Quadruple FDC drivers (8271, 8272, WD 1770, WD 2793).
- RAM Disk facilities for Solidisk Sideways RAM.

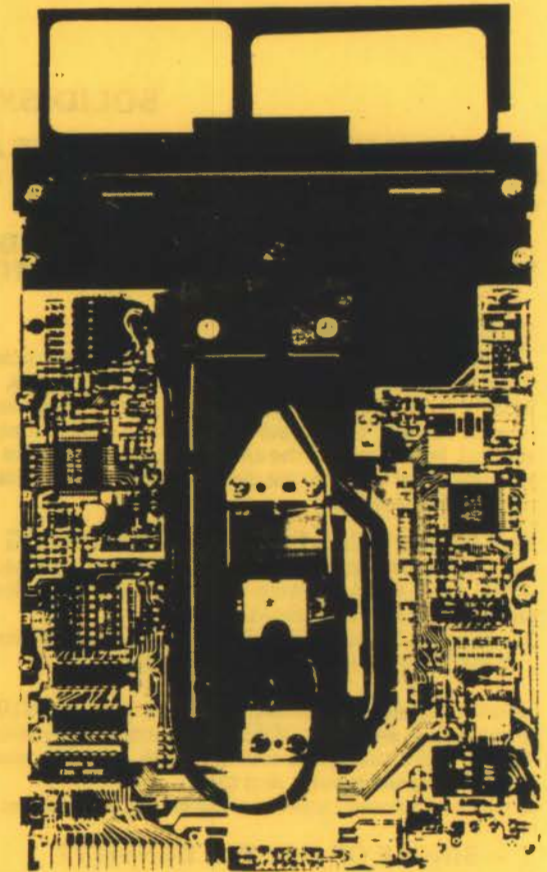
6 — SOLIDISK DFDC:

THE ONLY SYSTEM TO ADD DOUBLE DENSITY AND KEEP COMPATIBILITY.

If your BBC is already fitted with Acorn Single Density DFS, you can ADD double density to your system and KEEP the existing DFS with Solidisk DUAL FDC Filing System (DFDC).

Solidisk DFDC system overcomes the problems caused by around 5% of the games 'specially those produced by Acornsoft newest releases such as Elite'. These programs (directly) control the 8271 thus requiring its presence.

Solidisk DFDC ROM controls BOTH FDC at a flick of a switch, you can choose the new FDC for speed or the old 8271 for Acornsoft game disks.



OPERATIONS	S/D TIME	D/D TIME
FORMAT 40 TRACKS:	17.74	17.74
FORMAT 80 TRACKS:	33.22	33.22
VERIFY 40 TRACKS:	9.30	9.30
VERIFY 80 TRACKS:	17.84	17.84
BACKUP 01 80 TRACKS:	37.69	37.69
BACKUP 02 80 TRACKS:	39.46	39.46
COMPACT 100K-10 FILES	22.42	18.82

7 — PRICES (including P and P and VAT)

STL DDFS (disk chip upgrade for BBC B)	£39.95
STL DFDC for those who have Acorn DFS	£49.95
640k DISK OUTFIT (complete package)	£209.95
1.3MB DISK OUTFIT (with twin drives)	£359.95
2.0 ROM Upgrade (available soon)	£10.00

To order, you can use the coupon. Access and Barclaycard holders can ring direct:

HOW TO ORDER?

You can order any item using the coupon. Prices are inclusive of VAT, post and packing. Access and Barclay card holders can place their order by phone.

Educational authorities, Acorn dealers and OEMs can obtain quantity discounts.

Name:

Adress:

Credit Card Account:

Callers are requested to ring first for appointment.

Total:

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