What's New?

Itty Bitty Computers Tiny BASIC for the 6800

Tom Pittman is a professional software person who has developed a debugged and running version of Tiny BASIC for the 6800. Paper tape and documentation are available for $5. The object of Mr Pittman's enterprise, Itty Bitty Computers, is to perform "an experiment in favor of the hobbyist." In a letter to BYTE, Mr Pittman points out that his regular customers are commercial custom software purchasers, who pay the usual high costs of custom software; at $5 for a high level language, users will get quite a bargain since you will receive a fairly thick paper tape and a 24 page computer printed instruction manual. To order Tiny BASIC for the 6800, send $5 to Tom Pittman, PO Box 23189, San Jose CA 95153.■
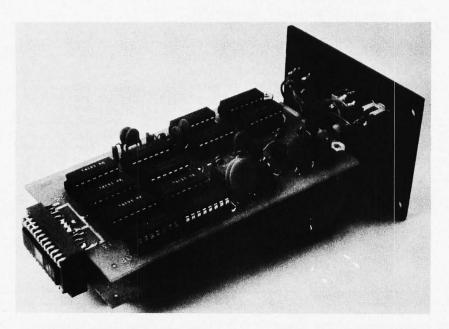

Photo 1: The Solid State Sales Video Camera Kit, as assembled. The kit includes the two printed circuit boards and all electronic parts, but does not include the packaging into a neat box with lenses, etc. The charge coupled device sensor is shown mounted between the two boards in this photograph.

Will You Look at That?

Solid State Sales, PO Box 74B, Somerville MA, has introduced a video camera kit which uses a 100 x 100 resolution charge coupled device to produce an EIA video signal which can be used to drive a standard video monitor. The product comes in the form of a kit of parts including the imaging array, printed circuitry and electronic parts. Since the solid state imaging array does not require any high voltages, the camera is an ideal product for experimentation with video and as a source of video signals to be converted to digital form in the context of pattern recognition experiments. The spectral range of the charge coupled device sensor array starts in the infrared region and includes the visible wavelengths of light, so in security applications it could be used with an invisible infrared light source. The price of the kit is $225 including the circuit boards and sensor array as shown in photo 1. For pattern recognition applications a simple converter circuit is needed to convert the video into a binary (black and white) TTL signal with an adjustable threshold. Also, depending upon the application, the user must supply a case and the optics needed to form an image plane at the surface of the sensor array. An example of a digitized signal displayed with the help of an oscilloscope and some external timing circuitry is illustrated in photo 2.■
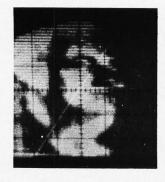

Photo 2: The video signal out of the Solid State Sales Video Camera Kit is shown here on an oscilloscope. This sort of camera could be used as an inexpensive starting point for software experimentation in pattern recognition using personal systems.