Two More Low-Cost Computers from TI

Texas Instruments Inc. has announced a low-cost home computer, a portable computer, and a variety of peripherals.

The TI-99/2 learning computer (above) is priced under $100 and features a 48-key keyboard, a slot for plug-in software cartridges, and a standard interface for new peripherals from TI. The company expects the unit to to be used by hobbyists, engineers, students, and others wishing to experiment with computers.
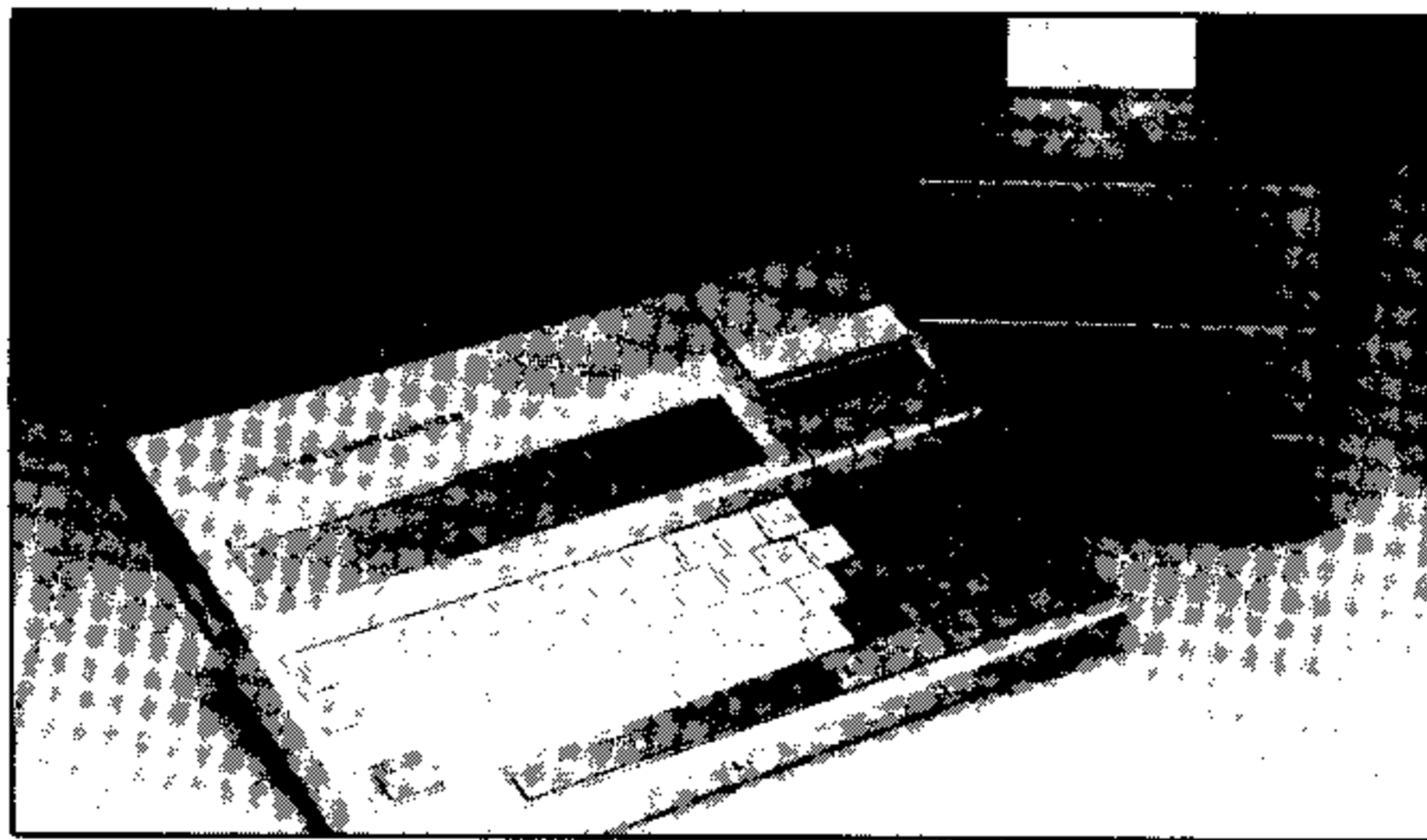
The TI-99/2 is based on the TMS-9995 16-bit microprocessor, similar to the chip used in the TI-99/4A. The new computer comes with 4.2K bytes of random-access memory (RAM) that is internally expandable to 36.2K bytes. The TI BASIC programming language is permanently stored in read-only memory (ROM).

The computer console connects via the provided switchbox to any television set and produces a monochrome picture. A cassette cable (also included) connects the computer to any standard audio-cassette recorder for storage of programs and data.

The 99/2 uses TI's new intelligent Hex-bus interface to connect to the HX-1000 four-color printer/plotter ($199.95), HX-2000 Wafertape digital tape drive unit ($139.95), HX-3000 RS-232C serial interface ($99.95), and other peripherals.

TI's other offering is the Compact Computer 40 (CC-40), a portable unit with a 65-key keyboard and built-in liquid-crystal display (LCD). The battery-powered computer is programmable in an enhanced form of BASIC and can run preprogrammed applications software loaded from either plug-in cartridges or minia-ture tape cassettes. With a suggested retail price of $249.95, the CC-40 is designed for use in professional, technical, and personal applications.

The computer is based on the 8-bit TMS-70C20 microprocessor and comes with 6K bytes of RAM (expandable to 16K bytes). The unit may be expanded with plug-in cartridges that allow the addition of up to 128K bytes of ROM or RAM. The built-in Hex-bus interface allows easy connection to the new TI peripherals mentioned previously.
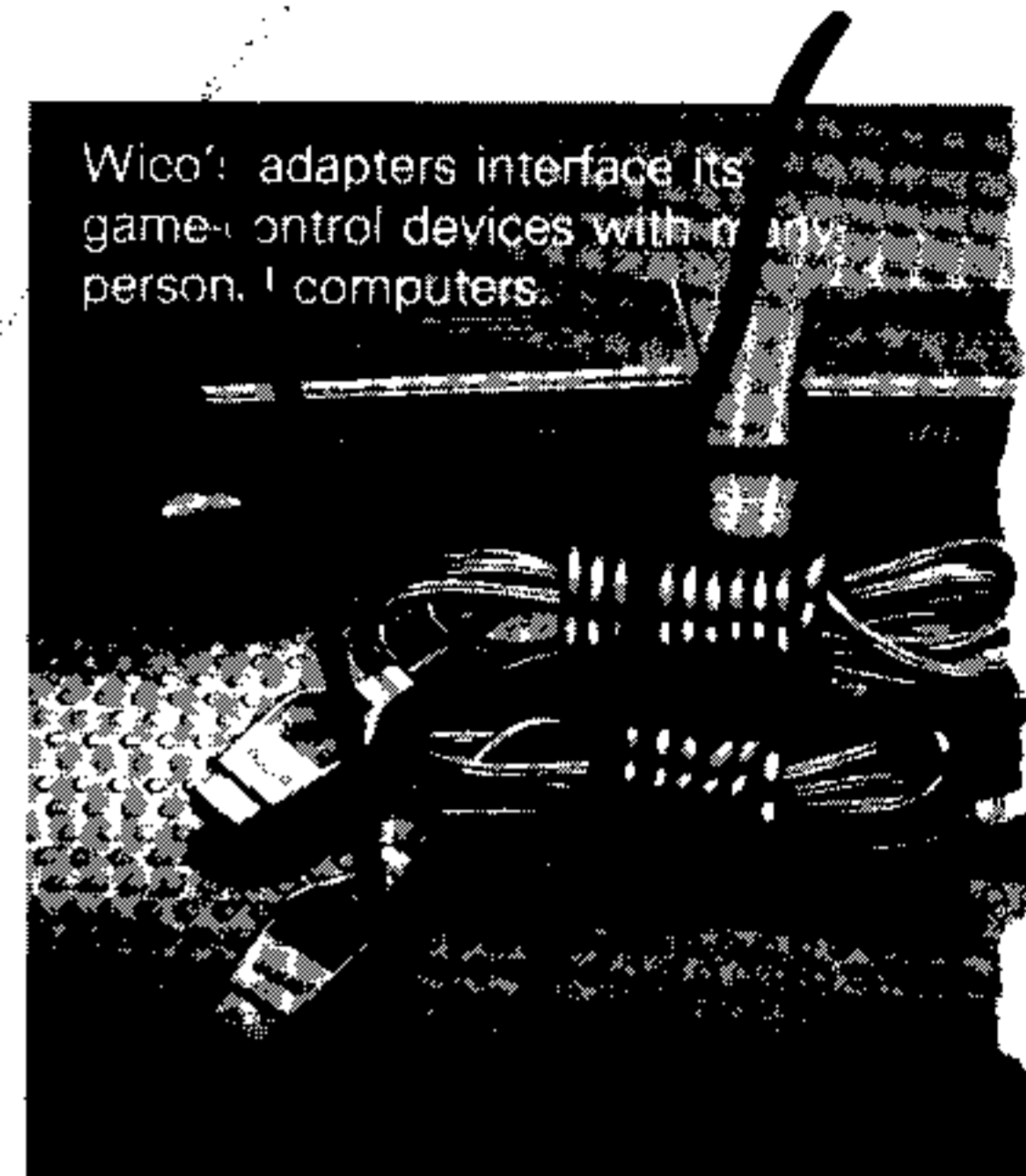
The CC-40 measures 9½ by 5¾ by 1 inch and weighs just 22 ounces. Its 31-column single-line LCD displays both uppercase and lowercase characters. It also includes 18 status indicators for items such as shift key, control key, function key,

TI's Compact Computer and three new peripherals.

degrees/radians/grads mode, input/output in progress, error, low battery, and horizontal-scroll mode.

Four AA alkaline batteries provide up to 200 hours of use. The unit may also be connected to a standard 115-volt AC power outlet via the optional AC adapter ($14.95).
Circle 200 on inquiry card.

It's a Jo

Wico Corporation has unveiled three new joysticks and a trackball aimed at the home computer market.

The Joystick ($29.95) game control features a bat-handle grip, two fire buttons, eight-position movement, and a six-leaf assembly. Compatible with all Atari and Commodore units, it comes with a one-year warranty.

The Redball Joystick ($34.95) includes all of the features found on the Joystick as well as the same red ball control handle found on many arcade machines. The Redball Joystick is compatible with all Atari and Commodore computers.

Joystick Deluxe ($39.95) is Wico's top-of-the-line joystick. Compatible with all Atari and Commodore computers, Joystick Deluxe boasts rugged, heavy-duty construction, a two-position slide switch for one- or two-hand response, and a bat-handle grip.

Trackball ($6?.95) employs the same 360-degree ball movement found on arcade games, giving the user complete game control and a degree of flexibility not possible with conventional joysticks. Trackball is available in versions for Ata