Back to home page   Listed in category: Computers & Networking > Vintage Computing Products > Vintage PCs

Vintage Mark-8 Minicomputer - one of a kind!
Only a handful exist; a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Item number: 8799174918

Bidder or seller of this item? Sign in for your status

Email to a friend

Bidding has ended for this item

Sign In
Buyer or seller of this item? Sign in for your status.

Additional options:

- Sell an item like this one.

View larger picture

Winning bid:	**US $5,101.00**
Ended:	**Apr-26-06 20:25:34 PDT**
Shipping costs:	Check item description and payment instructions or contact seller for details
Ships to:	United States
Item location:	Reading, Massachusetts, United States
History:	10 bids
Winning bidder:	randomz3 (664 ⭐)

You can also: Email to a friend | Sell one like this

Meet the seller

Seller: groovemanyahoo (193 ⭐)
Feedback: **100% Positive**
Member: since Apr-14-98 in United States

- Read feedback comments
- Ask seller a question
- Add to Favorite Sellers
- **View seller's other items**

Buy safely

1. **Check the seller's reputation**
   Score: 193 | 100% Positive
   Read feedback comments

2. **Learn how you are protected**
   Read our safe buying tips

Listing and payment details:

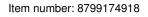|			
Starting time:	Apr-19-06 20:25:34 PDT	Payment methods:	Money order/Cashiers check
Starting bid:	US $100.00		
	This is a Featured Plus! listing		See details

Description (revised)

Hello and welcome!

Today, one of the rarest of computer holy grails, a vintage Mark-8 minicomputer is up for sale. I bought it on ebay years ago, planning to refurbish it, but have never gotten around to it. It's gotten to the point where I don't feel I could appreciate the Mark-8 as much as somebody else, especially considering how few of the vintage ones are known to still be around. (Probably not a whole lot more than a dozen, with one in the Smithsonian.)

The Mark-8 does need some TLC. I'm not sure how the original owner interfaced with it, but it looks like there might've been a (long gone) control panel used with the front ports.

According to some experts I've talked to (thank you!), they said the system has original Mark-8 boards with custom

daughter boards and a custom expansion bus. According to them, there are 7 additional input ports and 3 additional output ports. They weren't sure whether the boards were from the original batch sent out or were handmade from the construction article (which would probably be a bit rarer). (I can't guarantee that info, but it seems accurate.) At one point, somebody scrounged a crystal from the CPU board, so that would need to be added back on. Some of the pots on the address board have some grunge / surface rust. The computer is also missing a transformer / power supply, but that should be very easy to come by. The original power cord has been cut, so the computer would need a new one installed. In addition, when taking out the power supply, they disconnected the original fan. A few of the pins on some expansion connectors only might have some corrosion and may need to be cleaned. A bit of the wire wrap on *one* of the cards looks a bit tired, but may still be OK. Some of the wire wrap insulation may be iffy on that one; the wires are supposed to be black but not all are. One of the expansion bus connectors on one of the cards is a bit tilted, so one of the cards appears to tilt slightly. That shouldn't be a major thing to fix. None of the cards are warped to any major degree, however there are variances between them. One of the other expansion cards had a support that had been pushed forward, but I have put back into its original configuration.

The Mark-8 includes a CPU board (Intel 8008 CPU, Markings C8008, H3951), two 1101 Memory boards, one multiplex board (input), one output board, and one address latch board. It does not have an LED register board. I believe the functions of that board were taken over by a possibly long gone external control panel.

Also included is an original copy of the July, 1974 Radio Electronics magazine that the Mark-8 first appeared in. The magazine is in fair condition.

The computer does need some TLC, but should be able to be put back into show ready condition fairly quickly. Since it is a vintage electronic device, I can't offer any warranty - it's sold as is, but is guaranteed to be exactly how the pictures and description appear. It was initially shipped to me in peanuts (aipes!), but I don't think many, if any made it into the case. One IC (I believe one the 74xxs) was in the bottom of the shipping bin, and was returned to its place on one of the boards.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send them this way and I'll respond quickly. I have many more pictures, but wasn't able to show them all. Please send a note this way, and I can send all additional pictures. Also, if you'd like any closeups, please send a note this way!

For this particular auction, I'm afraid I'm only able to accept Cashier's checks or money orders.

I'll ship it for the exact cost. I can ship via whichever method the buyer prefers, with insurance and delivery confirmation.

I think this machine has the potential to be one of the nicest Mark-8s around, given the modifications and expansions that were originally made to it.

Please don't look at the reserve! If you're close, we'll definitely be able to work something out. I wasn't quite sure what to put in, since I've never seen a vintage Mark-8 actually appear at auction billed as a vintage Mark-8.

Thanks very much for stopping by! :)

On Apr-22-06 at 07:34:51 PDT, seller added the following information:

Bryan, one of the most knowledgable people about the Mark-8 in the world (and owner of the best Mark-8 site, www.bytecollector.com/mark_8.htm - if you'd like more info about Mark-8s, that's the place to be!), has been kind enough to send some additional info from what he has been able to see in the pictures:

"Hi There,

From what I can see, the boards you have are the originals made by Techniques, sold through the RE article. The little loop-X-G insignia is the trademark symbol.

Also, the board with the 'rusty pots' is a cassette interface made by the digital group, circa 1974, described in the dg 'Packet #1'. "

He's also been amazingly kind and, in exchange for a scan of the back of the casette interface board, has offered to donate the following to the winner of the auction: