Epson’s Equity I: Inexpensive Clone

By John Lombardi

Epson, one of the most successful of the personal computer businesses, has introduced a variety of microcomputers into the market. This new product, the Equity I, is an EPSON 8K who has an easy-to-use interface and a special keyboard. Unfortunately, the unit lacks a tape drive, a diskette drive, and a printer; but it is still a success, mainly thanks to Epson’s Equity II, a microcomputer with much less memory. The Equity I is a small computer that is used as a terminal for an IBM PC or as a stand-alone terminal, and it has an VDU/ASCII display.

FEATURES: The Equity I has exactly what you would expect of an IBM PC clone, and no more. The machine test runs with 256K of random-access memory that can be expanded to 256K without using an expansion slot, a parallel printer port, two serial ports, one 360K floppy disk drive with room for another or a half-height hard disk drive, an IBM PC-compatible mouse, a standard IBM keyboard, and three GPIB expansion slots.

The system has a smaller footprint than the IBM PC and is more graceful. However, differences in features between this clone and the original IBM PC are minimal. The Equity I comes with a lower cost than the standard IBM PC model, but the software runs on IBM DOS and can be used with many IBM programs. However, the Equity I does not have an expansion slot for adding extra memory or additional hardware, such as a hard disk or a printer. This limits its usefulness for larger projects or for those who need additional memory or hardware.

Epson’s first entry in the IBM PC-compatible line is a good clone to that of the IBM standard. Epson’s Equity I is a small computer that is used as a terminal for an IBM PC or as a stand-alone terminal, and it has a VDU/ASCII display.

Epson’s Equity I includes a microcomputer called Zlient, which is a terminal machine that is connected to an IBM PC. The Equity I is designed to be a low-cost alternative to the IBM PC, with features that are comparable to those of the IBM PC.

The Equity I comes with a built-in keyboard, a mouse, and a printer. It also includes a monitor and a standard IBM keyboard. The Equity I comes with a built-in software package called Zlient, which includes a terminal emulator for the IBM PC and a terminal program for the Equity I. The Equity I also comes with a built-in software package called Zlient, which includes a terminal emulator for the IBM PC and a terminal program for the Equity I.

The Equity I is a small computer that is used as a terminal for an IBM PC or as a stand-alone terminal, and it has a VDU/ASCII display.

In summary, the Equity I is a small computer that is used as a terminal for an IBM PC or as a stand-alone terminal, and it has a VDU/ASCII display.
Poor Support, Compatibility
Mar-Ace 2200 Performance

By Cynthia E. Field
Review Board

In its up-and-down history, Franklin Computer has long been an underdog, one of the only surviving vendors of Apple-compatible computers. The first Franklin was a sinuous, half-bridge-driven, floppy-disk drive that performed admirably. The second generation of Franklin computers was a line of microcomputers that ran the Apple II operating system.

The Franklin Ace 2200 is a family of three personal computers poised to draw some of the market share from the Apple II computers that have proven popular in schools and small businesses.

Franklin's sales literature claims its computers are built more sturdily than Apple's, and better suited for professional use. However, our experience with the Ace Ace 2200 suggests that this is not the case.

The Ace 2200's keyboard is cramped, and the keys are hard to reach. The machine is slow and the memory is limited. The Franklin Ace 2200 is an Apple II-compatible computer that looks like an Apple II but performs much better.

The Franklin Ace 2200 is an excellent choice for those looking for a reliable, affordable computer.