Domestic Science

If you think that there are no computers in your home, you ought to take a second look . . .

How many microprocessor chips are there in your home? There will be one at the heart of your home computer, of course, but what about the washing machine, the hi-fi, or perhaps the video?

Everything from the oven to the car's ignition control and dashboard display can boast the presence of a chip.

Don't forget the calculator tucked away in the desk drawer, or your digital watch: the earliest examples of the mass-produced microprocessor!

Child's Play

Children often make fuller use of computers in the home than adults, accepting them as naturally as the television set. Knowing about the turtle and LOGO teaches children to explore and learn by themselves. Even a simple LOGO that only has turtle graphics can help the younger child at home

Good quality educational software is also available (see page 81). Games can stimulate and educate, but often the interests and talents of a child are best developed and encouraged by exposure to the problems encountered in actually programming a computer.

LOGO is now becoming widely and cheaply available for many home computers, and offers enormous potential for encouraging the best approach to problem solving in many fields other than computer programming

STEVE CROSS

The Chip That Cleans

Some washing machines use a microprocessor to select and monitor all the various wash and spin cycles needed to cater for every machine-washable fabric. The best combinations of washing actions and temperatures, water levels, rinsing and spin speeds can be displayed and selected at a touch. Because there are no moving parts, except for the drum of course, the life of the machine will also be much longer and servicing costs considerably reduced

Mobile Micro

Computers are being built in to cars to improve economy and provide novel functions. They can calculate fuel consumption, monitor speed, act as burglar alarms and even speak to the driver, warning of low oil pressure or battery power

The Sewing Chip

The traditional sewing machine can produce a beautifully even and secure stitch, but requires both skill and patience on the part of the user.
A microprocessor-controlled sewing machine can help to create a complicated embroidery pattern or an awkward stitch with little effort. Besides the selection of pre-set stitches, these sewing machines can be programmed to produce other stitches that the built-in memory will store, even when the machine is switched off