BASIC ROMs
These three chips contain the computer's BASIC language

Cassette Port
A special port for connecting Commodore's standard cassette deck to the computer. It will not accept other makes of recorder without special modifications

Serial Port
This is a socket for serial communication with additional devices. In serial communication binary digits are sent one after the other

Audio/Video connector
The computer can be connected to a hi-fi system or a monitor via this socket

Power Socket
This is where the power supply unit is connected to the computer

Cartridge Slot
Cartridges containing languages or programs for games can be plugged in here

On/off switch

Video Chip
The 6566 Video Interface Chip generates the high resolution colour graphics and handles sprites. It is covered by a heat protection unit

Games Ports
These two ports allow light pens, joysticks and paddles to be plugged into the computer

COMMODORE 64

PRICE
£229

SIZE
404 x 216 x 75mm

WEIGHT
1820g

CLOCK SPEED
1 MHz

MEMORY
A total of 64 Kbytes. 20 Kbytes of ROM supply the operating system and BASIC. A maximum of 54 Kbytes of RAM is available to the user if the BASIC interpreter is not used

VIDEO DISPLAY
25 rows with 40 character positions. High resolution with 320 x 200 dots. 16 colours

INTERFACES
Cassette port, TV connector, cartridge slot, monitor connector, RS232 interface, user port

LANGUAGE SUPPLIED
BASIC

OTHER LANGUAGES AVAILABLE
FORTH, COMAL, PILOT, LOGO, UCSD, PASCAL, and other versions of BASIC

COMES WITH
Power supply unit, aerial lead, manual

KEYBOARD
Typewriter-style keys, QWERTY layout with 62 keys and four function keys

DOCUMENTATION:
The User's Guide is of the low standard associated with Commodore's manuals. The machine, its operation and language are described but not at a level that is entirely appropriate for beginners. It does not provide a comprehensive guide to the addresses of the special registers. This is particularly unfortunate since the sound and graphics of the 64 are programmed using these special registers.

For all but the complete beginner it might be better to ignore the User's Guide and acquire a copy of 'Commodore 64 Programmer's Reference Guide', published by Commodore Business Machines Inc. and Howard W Sams at £14.95