Random Access Memory
The IBM PC is equipped with 64 Kbytes of RAM, expandable by a further half Megabyte via an expansion slot

Read Only Memory

Expansion Slots
There are five expansion slots, but three are occupied by essential boards, so expansion capability is limited

Microprocessor

63W
220 VAC

IBM PC

PRICE	£2,033
DIMENSIONS	140×500×400mm
CPU	Intel 8088
MEMORY CAPACITY AND SPEED	64K RAM, expandable to 576K. 40K ROM. 4.7MHz
SCREEN CHARACTERISTICS	25 lines of 80 characters
INTERFACES AND PORTS	Centronics parallel and five slots
AVAILABLE LANGUAGES	BASIC, plus a selection available under PC-DOS, including COBOL, FORTRAN etc.
KEYBOARD	79 typewriter-style keys
DOCUMENTATION	Up to the normal standard expected from IBM and its chosen software suppliers. Independent software documentation is varied in its quality
STRENGTHS	The basic IBM PC can be used quite successfully, and then expanded and upgraded into one of the most powerful microcomputers available. And it comes from the world's largest computer maker
WEAKNESS	It is certainly very expensive when compared to the many PC-lookalikes that followed its release. Because it is a complex piece of equipment, service and software are also more expensive than for simpler machines

The Peanut
IBM's PC Junior, codenamed 'Peanut' during development, is a severely downgraded version of the larger machine. Perhaps the most exciting innovation was its use of an infra-red link between keyboard and processor, instead of the usual cable. Staking a claim to be a home computer proper, the PC Jnr is equipped with two cartridge slots

Keyboard
As might be expected from one of the world's largest manufacturers of typewriters, computer terminals and other keyboard-driven devices, the keyboard of the IBM PC is virtually fault free. It is detached from the processor unit, so as to be positioned to suit the user, is extremely flat in profile and adjustable for rake, and uses sculptured keys arranged in five rows of keys that form a sector of the circumference of a large drum

CHRIS STEVENS