Cassette Volume Meter
Assists in getting the right volume level when loading from tape

50-Way Expansion Port
This allows for extra add-ons

Cassette Port

RS232 Printer Port

Light Pen Socket

Joystick Port
For the pair of Genie joysticks

Programmable Sound Generator Chip

Display Chip
The display is controlled by a 6845 chip

Z80 Microprocessor

has an index. In fact, the basic manual doesn't even have a contents page. For more advanced users, a technical manual is available at extra cost.

Despite its old-fashioned appearance, the Colour Genie appears to offer good value for money. It falls firmly into the 'home user' category, and has little to offer the scientific or business user. The robust construction, good sound capabilities, full range of peripherals and fairly standard BASIC should make this machine especially attractive to the beginner.

Martian Raider

IAN McKINNELL

Software Choice
The availability of software for the Colour Genie is fairly limited, but the quality of what can be obtained is generally very good. Most of the software is games, and these are often translated versions of games produced for the better known machines

COLOUR GENIE

PRICE
£168

DIMENSIONS
90 × 280 × 340 mm

CPU
Z80, 2.2MHz

MEMORY
32K RAM, 16K ROM

SCREEN
Up to 25 rows of 40 columns of text, graphics up to 160 × 102 pixels. 8 colours in text mode; 4 colours for graphics

INTERFACES
Joysticks (2), RS232 port, light pen port, expansion port

LANGUAGES AVAILABLE
BASIC included

KEYBOARD
Typewriter-style with 62 keys, including four function keys

DOCUMENTATION
The machine is supplied with a beginners guide and basic manual. Both are clearly written, but are too brief to be much use, and neither has an index. A technical manual is also available

STRENGTHS
The Colour Genie is a good 'family' machine. It is sturdily made, uses Microsoft BASIC, offers reasonable graphics and good sound, output via the television

WEAKNESSES
The Genie's design is old-fashioned — it has a slow processor and the screen is handled as two 'pages'. There is little software available

Colour Genie Joysticks
The Colour Genie's joysticks are very attractive, but expensive and difficult to use. A lot of pressure is needed to move the sticks and they do not centre themselves properly after being moved. The built-in number pads are unusual but not very useful

CHRIS STEVENS