



AQUARIUS

PRICE

£49.95

SIZE

345 × 150 × 55mm

CLOCK SPEED

3.5 MHz

MEMORY

10 Kbytes of ROM, plus 4 Kbytes of RAM, expandable to 64 Kbytes

VIDEO DISPLAY

24 lines of 40 characters, 16 colours with background and foreground independently settable; 256 pre-defined characters but no user-definable characters

INTERFACES

Cassette, printer, expansion bus

LANGUAGES SUPPLIED

Microsoft BASIC

OTHER LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

Microsoft Extended BASIC and Aquarius LOGO have been promised by Mattel. These will be in ROMpack form

COMES WITH

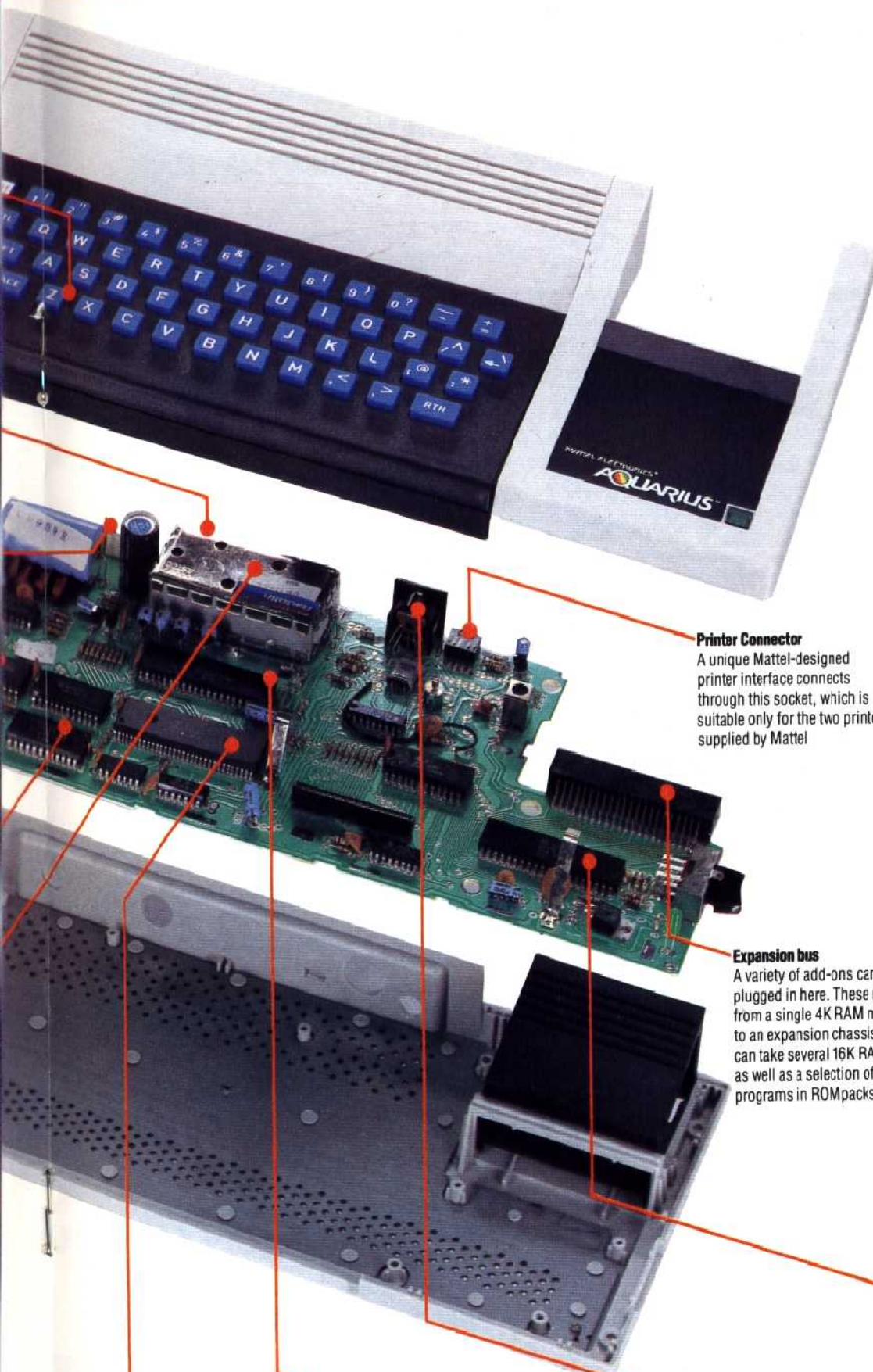
Installation manual and BASIC manual, TV lead

KEYBOARD

49 button-style keys. The reset button is physically shielded to prevent it from being accidentally pressed

DOCUMENTATION

The documentation is particularly good for beginners, with a useful set of flip-cards that describe each major function of the machine and the built-in BASIC. There is a shortage of technical detail, but for the market that the Aquarius is aimed at it sets a good example



CRT Controller

Designing the electronics that control the video display is now the most important aspect of computer design. This controller chip is larger than the microprocessor itself

Security Chip

This custom-designed chip is intended to make it very difficult for anyone other than the manufacturers to produce program cartridges that will run on the Aquarius

Printer Connector

A unique Mattel-designed printer interface connects through this socket, which is suitable only for the two printers supplied by Mattel

Expansion bus

A variety of add-ons can be plugged in here. These range from a single 4K RAM module to an expansion chassis, which can take several 16K RAMpacks as well as a selection of useful programs in ROMpacks

CPU

The processor is a Z80, which runs at a clock frequency of 3.5 MHz

Tape Connector

The tape interface is a DIN-type socket and has connections for controlling the tape-recorder motor