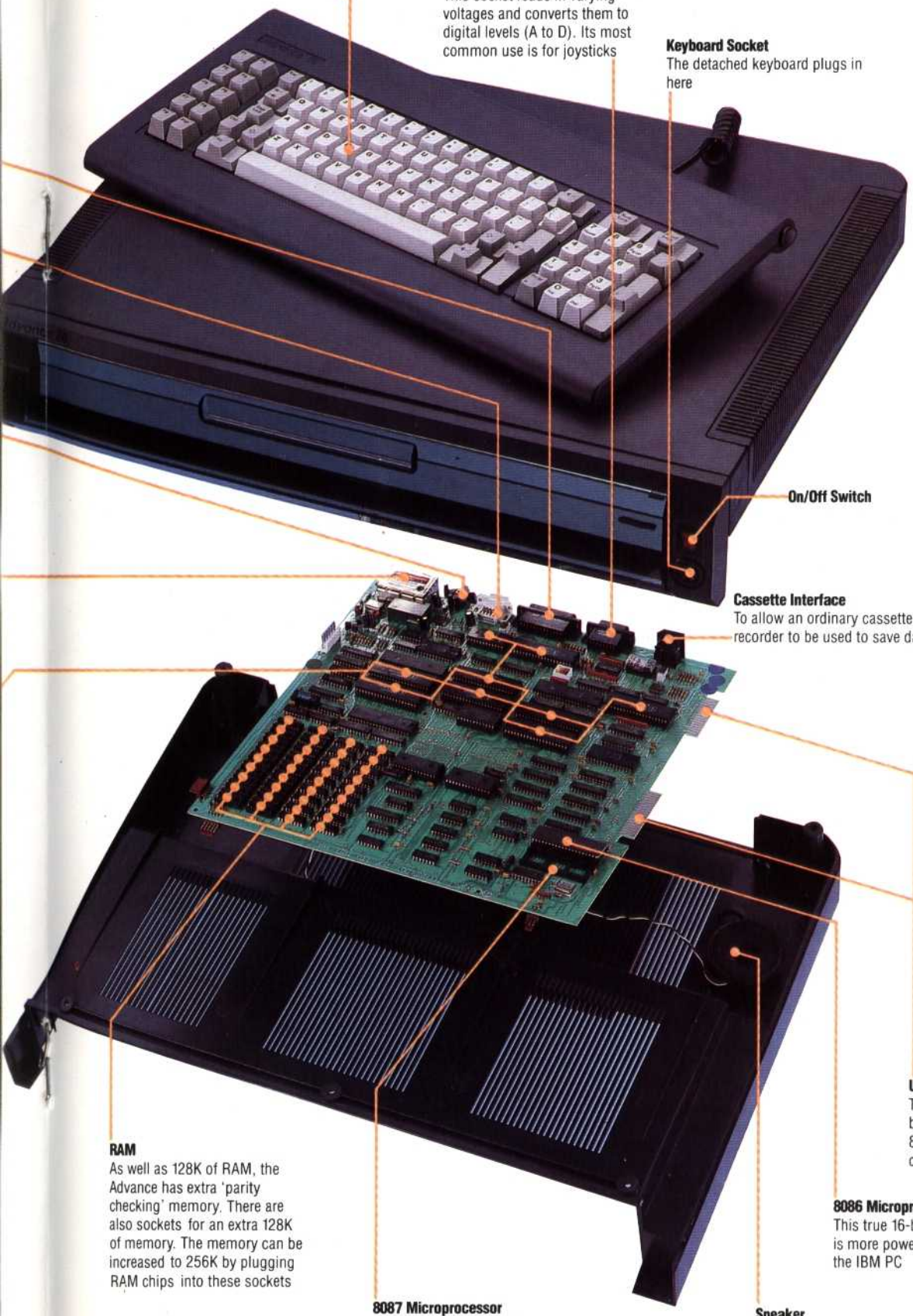

IBM-Style Keyboard

Joystick And A To D Convertor
This socket reads in varying voltages and converts them to digital levels (A to D). Its most common use is for joysticks

Keyboard Socket
The detached keyboard plugs in here

On/Off Switch

Cassette Interface
To allow an ordinary cassette recorder to be used to save data

RAM
As well as 128K of RAM, the Advance has extra 'parity checking' memory. There are also sockets for an extra 128K of memory. The memory can be increased to 256K by plugging RAM chips into these sockets

8087 Microprocessor
The high speed maths processor can be added here

Speaker

8086 Microprocessor
This true 16-bit microprocessor is more powerful than that of the IBM PC

Upgrade Connectors
The Advance 86a upgrades to become the IBM-compatible 86b by attaching a unit to these connectors

ADVANCE 86A

PRICE

Advance 86a £399
Advance 86b £1,499

DIMENSIONS

95 × 400 × 520mm

CPU

Intel 8086, 4.77 MHz

MEMORY

128K RAM (expandable to 256K), 64K ROM

SCREEN

25 rows of 40 columns or 25 rows of 80 columns of text, graphics 320 × 200 (4 colours) or 640 × 200 (black and white). 16 colours in text mode

INTERFACES

RGB and composite video monitors, joysticks (2), Centronics parallel printer interface, cassette port, 'mains out' socket. RS232 port (86b only)

LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

BASIC in ROM (86a), Disk BASIC (86b)

KEYBOARD

Typewriter-style, 84 keys, including 10 function keys and numeric keypad

DOCUMENTATION

User guide supplied, BASIC manual also available. Adequate but lacking in detail

STRENGTHS

Excellent keyboard and screen editor. Disk BASIC very comprehensive, and larger memory than any home machine. IBM compatibility means considerable amount of software available

WEAKNESSES

ROM BASIC lacking in commands to make best use of sound and graphics. Limitations in colours available in graphics modes

CHRIS STEVENS