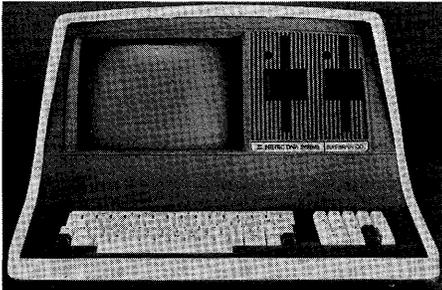


# SUPERLETTER

Serving SuperBrain® Owners and Users Around the World

Aug/Sept 1981  
Vol. No.4



**M**any thanks.

Not just to our expert consultants and contributors like Paul Kelley, Ph.D., and Andrew Billson, Ph.D., for their superb articles and technical advice, but also to you, our readers, and Intertec Data Systems, for the great support shown for our recent strong position regarding SuperBrain service and repair.

We began with a commitment to consumer advocacy for SuperBrain owners and users, and the backing we've received reconfirms this commitment.

Information overload. It affects everybody these days. Including Superletter. We had to push back our scheduled guest interview just to make room for this issue's news and articles.

If you are a subscriber, and if you haven't already done so, send us a large S.A.S.E. and we'll mail you two of Dr. Kelley's programs revealing exciting features that are possible with your SuperBrain.

We felt that Intertec's press releases were important enough to share in total with you, so my space had to be sacrificed as well. We're already beginning to feel a crunch in editorial space, but don't let that stop you from sending in articles and letters you'd like to share with other SuperBrain users. We'll find the room.

*Albert Abrams*

EDITOR

## Guest Article

### HARDWARE INFORMATION ON THE SUPERBRAIN

by Dr. P. L. Kelley

236 Varick Road, Waban, MA 02168

Information will first be given on the ports addressed by the CPU. Understanding the ports is important; they allow the CPU to control and interact with the display, the keyboard, the disk control system, and the communications ports. Further information on ICs which are not addressed as ports will be given later. It may be useful to get the data sheets on the ICs from the manufacturer of the IC or from other sources, such as, IC Master.

#### RS232C PORTS:

Auxiliary Data	40H
Auxiliary Status	41H
Main Data	58H
Main Status	59H
Main Ring (PPI Port B)	69H

The Data and Status Ports address USARTs (Intel 8251 or equivalent). The Auxiliary RS232C Port is intended to be used with a serial printer. The Main RS232C Port is for communications via modem or direct connection with a serial port on another computer. The main ring is input to the SuperBrain via PPI Port B, which is discussed in more detail below; bit 6 is reset when the ring indicator is on. The functions for the USART are:

Data Port	Output and Input of Data
Status Port	Output of Command and Mode instructions. Input of status information.

The output to the Status Port of mode and command instructions is detailed in the 8251 data sheets. A typical set for the SuperBrain is:

OUTPUT (STATUS), 42H	;reset USART, keep data ;terminal ready (DTR) on
OUTPUT (STATUS), 4EH	; 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, ;no parity, 16X baud rate
OUTPUT (STATUS), 17H	;receive and transmit enable, ;DTR on, reset error flag

These should probably be done with 5 or 6 intervening NOPs to give the USART time

to swallow the previous input. Input from the Status Port is, as follows:

BIT	INFORMATION
0	Set for transmit ready
1	Set for receive ready
2	Set for parity error
3	Set for transmitter empty
4	Set for overrun error
5	Set for framing error
6	Not important in asynchronous mode
7	Set for data set ready (DSR)

In the case of the Main Port, the data set ready information may be used with certain modems as the carrier detect. The auxiliary port has uses DSR for handshaking with the printer.

BAUD RATE PORT: 60H

The baud rate generator (Western Digital BR1941L) outputs frequency 16 times the baud rate. The upper four bits outputs a frequency 16 times the baud rate. The upper four bits output to the baud rate generator determine the main port baud rate while the lower four determine the auxiliary port rate. The values are:

UPPER OR LOWER FOUR BITS	BAUD RATE
0H	50
1H	75
2H	110
3H	134.5
4H	150
5H	300
6H	600
7H	1200
8H	1800
9H	2000
AH	2400
BH	3600
CH	4800
DH	7200
EH	9600

CHARACTER INTERRUPT PORT: 48H

Anything output to this port resets the interrupt generated to output characters to the display memory during vertical blanking.

#### KEYBOARD PORTS:

Character Port	50H
Test Port (PPI Port B)	69H
Set/Reset Port (PPI Port C)	6AH

The Test Port is used as follows:

*Continued on page 2*

BIT	INFORMATION
0	Set for new character
1	Set for any key down
4	Reset for caps lock

When bit 7 is set on PPI Port C keyboard new character tests may be done at PPI Port B bit 0. Resetting bit 7 on PPI Port C resets bit 0 on PPI Port B; this prevents multiple inputs of a character. The character is input from the keyboard encoder at Port 50H (Standard Microsystems KR3600-PRO).

**PROGRAMMABLE PERIPHERAL INTERFACE PORTS:**

PPI Port A	68H
PPI Port B	69H
PPI Port C	6AH
PPI Control Port	6BH

The Programmable Peripheral Interface is an Intel 8255 or equivalent. Ports A, B, and C control the operation of the disk control system, the display controllers, the keyboard input, the bell and the main port ring indicator. Port A is a bidirectional port. Port B is for input only. Port C is used for output only. Port C bits can be set or reset by writing a command to the Control Port.

Display function include:

FUNCTION	OPERATION
CRT VDAC Mode Select 0	Set or reset bit 0, Port A
CRT VDAC Mode Select 1	Set or reset bit 1, Port A
CRT VDAC UNDLN underline mode	Set bit 2, Port A
CRT VDAC STKRU strike thru mode	Set bit 5, Port A
Frequency to CRT C	Set bit 6, Port A for 60 Hz; Reset for 50 Hz
Reverse Video	Set Bit 7, Port A Reset for normal video
Enable CRT C	Set Bit 0, Port C Use bit set/reset feature via the PPI Command Port
CRT C Vertical Blanking	Test Bit 2, Port B Set if vertical blanking

The CRT VDAC is a video display controller/character generator (Standard Microsystems CRT 8002). The CRT C is a CRT controller (National Semiconductor DP8350). The CRT VDAC modes are:

MODE	BIT 0	BIT 1
Wide Graphics Mode	Reset	Reset
External Character Mode	Set	Reset
Thin Graphics Mode	Reset	Set
Internal Character Mode	Set	Set

Internal character mode is the normal operating mode. Care must be taken with the CRT C not to enable it from a routine in the first 16 K of memory as the CPU can no longer read this RAM. The CRT C addresses video memory at approximately F850H to FFFFH in RAM. Its functions are:

FUNCTION	DATA SENT TO CRT C
No Select	00H
Row Start	01H
Top Of Page	02H
Cursor	03H

The functions of the PPI ports for the keyboard are repeated here for completeness:

FUNCTION	OPERATION
New Character	Bit 0, Port B is set
Any Key Down	Bit 1, Port B is set
Caps Lock	Bit 4, Port B is reset
Set or Reset keyboard	Set or reset bit 7, Port C Use bit set/reset feature via the PPI Command Port

The first three operations are inputs, the fourth is an output.

The bell may be rung by setting and resetting Bit 6, Port C. Again, use the Port C bit set/reset feature by output to the PPI Command Port.

Bit 6, Port B is reset when the telephone is ringing, assuming the modem outputs ring indicator.

The remaining functions of the PPI ports concern the operation of the floppy disk control system. Further information will be provided in a subsequent article.

## Factory News

### INTERTEC SUPERBRAIN, COMPUSTAR DOS 3.1 NOW AVAILABLE

Intertec announced a significant upgrade in the Disk Operating System software for its SuperBrain and CompuStar microcomputer systems. The new Disk Operating System will run on any SuperBrain model (Revision 1.0 or higher) and the CompuStar Video Processing Units models 20 and 30.

Features of the upgrade are:

1. Audible Feedback with key depression.
2. Key Repeat, when a key remains depressed for more than 600 milliseconds.
3. Type-Ahead. The input on DOS version 3.1 is saved if the operator enters data faster than the computer can accept it.
4. Time. The operating system will keep the time of day, maintained in ASCII, and therefore is displayable at any time with no conversion necessary.
5. Date. As with the time feature, the operating system will now keep the date. This is maintained in a binary-coded decimal (BCD) format.
6. Synchronous Communication. The MAIN serial port on the rear of the computer can now be programmed for limited synchronous (Bi-Sync) communication.
7. Data Set Ready on MAIN Port.
8. Keypad Reprogramming. The 18 keys on the numeric keypad can now be reprogrammed to return different values other than those shown on the face of the keypad.

The entire DOS upgrade package is available for an end user cost of \$75.00 and can be obtained from any authorized Intertec dealer or the Customer Services Department.

*Editor's Note: A detailed story explaining the differences between Intertec's DOS 3.1 and SUPERBIOS packages offered by Information Engineering and others will be featured in our October issue.*



## Spelling Checker for Professionals.

SPELLGUARD eliminates spelling and typographical errors in documents prepared with CP/M<sup>1</sup> or CDOS<sup>2</sup> word processors.

SPELLGUARD is a unique program that leads the microcomputing industry in its efficiency, ease of use, and reliability.

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- Industry leading Softguard feature ensures diskette copy of program is undamaged.

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- Examples of all functions in 120 page manual.

### COST EFFECTIVE

- SPELLGUARD'S unique speed and accuracy easily recovers the suggested \$295 price.

\*Time estimates based on double density 8" diskettes and 4Mhz system.

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Continued from page 2

### TEN MEGABYTES OF STORAGE FOR SUPERBRAIN USERS

A special adaptor cable is now available from Intertec which will allow SuperBrain owners to use the CompuStar Ten Megabyte Disk Storage System.

This adaptor interconnects directly to the processor board of the SuperBrain micro-computer and the rear data port on the DSS. Once installed, extremely fast Winchester technology disk storage is provided to any SuperBrain or SuperBrain QD, (revision 1.0 or higher).

A diskette is supplied with the adaptor cable. This diskette will enable the user to reconfigure the storage allocations on the disk storage system if desired. The diskette also contains programs which generate new operating systems to permit the SuperBrain

and the SuperBrain QD to communicate with the Disk Storage System.

The adaptor cable is priced at \$45.00, quantity one, end user, and delivery is from stock. Simple installation instructions are included with the adaptor which is available from any authorized Intertec dealer or the Customer Service Department.

### INTERTEC APPOINTS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Ron L. Wells has been promoted to Executive Vice President of Intertec Data Systems. Formerly Director of Marketing, Wells has been with Intertec for six years, almost since the company's inception.

In his new position, he will become primarily responsible for corporate planning and administration. Additionally, he assumes responsibility for the company's Corporate

Communications Department and will coordinate an intensified investor and public relations program in light of the company's recent public stock offering.

### INTERTEC TRAINING PROGRAM OFF AND RUNNING

As reported in Superletter's June issue, Intertec has established a new Training Department, under Intertec's Training Manager, Shirley Peeler.

The program, primarily technically oriented, has been developed to allow field service technicians to become more familiar with the complete Intertec product line, and to aid in the servicing of Intertec equipment in the field.

Participants will be shown how to determine unit malfunctions, swap out modules, align CRTs and disk drives, and will receive

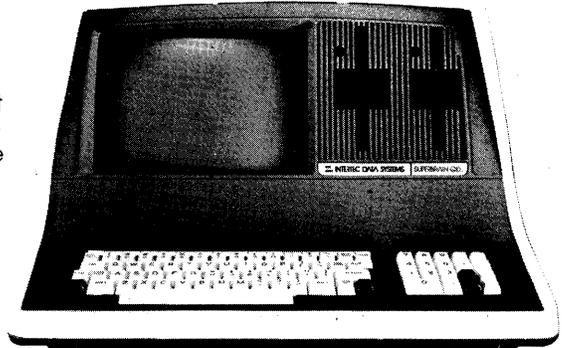
Continued on page 7

# SUPERBRAIN QD™

SuperBrain users get exceptional performance for just a fraction of what they'd expect to pay. Standard SuperBrain features include: two double density mini-floppies with 700K bytes of disk storage, 64K RAM to handle even the most sophisticated programs, a CP/M® Disk Operating System with a high powered text editor, assembler, debugger and a disk formator. Truly incredible performance. All in a single, smart looking, self contained desktop unit.

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CP/M is a registered trademark of Digital Research.



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NEC Spinwriter 5510 RO	\$2625.
· high speed letter quality	
· with tractor feed	
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· with complete option package	
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· program-selectable fonts	
· graphics—64 shapes	
· bi-directional with buffer card	
Hi-speed buffer card for Okidata	\$199.

## COASTAL SOFTWARE

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- CompuStar™ dealers in North and South Carolina
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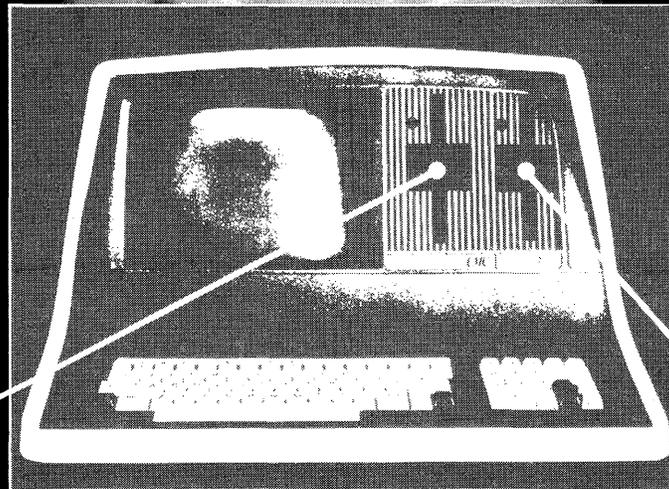


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## New Products

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Contact: Jim Estill, President

### HARDWARE: SUPERBRAIN CHARACTER GENERATOR

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**FAST PROM:** This prom allows 40 tracks/drive (400K or 800K). It is 25-35% faster on disk operations.

**NEW OPERATING SYSTEM FEATURES:** Definable numeric pad, automatic repeat, real clock, type ahead, APL support, 3K more user space, allows personalized sign-on messages.

### LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATES

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**SOFTWARE:** Combining word and numerical data processing in a single disk, T/MAKER II™, from Lifeboat Associates, is the new CP/M, SuperBrain compatible software for financial reporting.

T/MAKER II™ was designed especially for use in professional offices and small businesses. Unlike older programs, such as Visi-Calc™, T/MAKER II™ combines advanced numerical data processing features with word processing controls. In addition, T/MAKER II™ contains automatic functions, such as transcendentals and logarithms, for scientific applications.

The complete T/MAKER II™ software package includes the disk, an instructional manual (with tutorial) and a quick reference card for \$275.00.

## Letters to the Editor

I would like to make a suggestion. Most of the letters to the Editor, asking for help, deal with problems faced by most of SuperBrain users. Why don't you print the answer that you feel is the best? For example, the April issue of Superletter had a letter from someone interested in generating some special characters, since I have a similar problem with Spanish characters which are not shared by the English alphabet I was hoping to find the answer in this issue of Superletter, but no luck!

Carlos A. Duque, P.E.  
39 Biscayne Place  
Sterling, VA 22170

*Editor's Note: See our New Products section in this issue.*

I would like to know if any of your readers know which ports on the CPU control which devices. This would help me a great deal in setting up some specialized applications.

Sincerely,  
Richard Ross  
5741 Agnes Avenue  
N. Hollywood, CA 91607

*Editor's Note: You'll probably find the info you're looking for in Dr. Kelley's article in this issue.*

SUPERLETTER is a publication which fills a definite void in the information exchange process between SuperBrain owners.

I have a potential customer who operates a bookkeeping service for small businesses. In order to meet his needs, I have to locate software compatible with the SuperBrain 64K QD machine which is designed for multiple client use in the general ledger and accounts receivable areas. Would you please put my request in your "Letters to the Editor" section?

Thanks for your cooperation and keep up the good work.

Very truly yours,  
Albert A. Kaine, Jr.  
Cedar Micro Systems  
9818 Cedar Dr.  
Overland Park, KA 66207  
(913) 648-3899

## SUPERVID!

Now available from MicroMods, Ltd., New York. \$475 single unit, end-user price.

SUPERVID is a plug-in module that provides a variety of screen enhancements, controlled on a single character basis and mixed on the screen.

Enhancement modes are: Blink, Dim Video, Reverse, Underline (or Strike-Through) and up to 3 additional character sets including a block-graphics option.

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*SUPERBIOS also available!*

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

U.S. 1 yr. (bi-monthly) \$17.00  
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Back Issues \$3.00 — Feb/March—  
April/May — June/July 1981

Write To:

SUPERLETTER, Circulation Dept.  
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### SuperClassified rates are:

\$4.00 per line  
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Please note: Publication of all Super-Classifieds are dependent on dates of receipt of copy and payment and space availability.)

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## UCSD p-System\* for the INTERTEC SUPERBRAIN™

With UCSD Pascal\*, FORTRAN, and BASIC

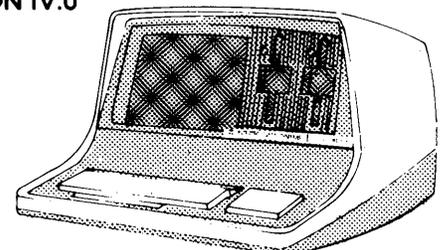
VERSION IV.0

UCSD p-System includes: operating system, editor, filer, library, Z80 assembler, and documentation.

With Pascal	\$ 600	Quantity Prices Available
Add-on FORTRAN	300	
Add-on BASIC	200	

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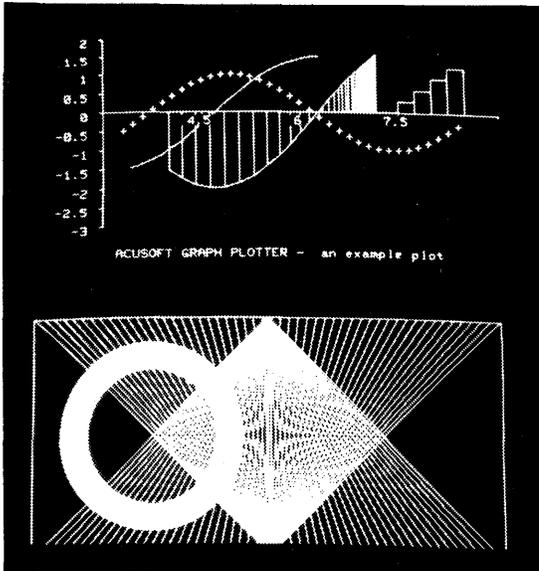


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- Statements
- Invoices
- Account Status
- End of Period Report

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- Vendor Account List
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Factory News continued from page 3

general troubleshooting instruction. The major emphasis of the program will be centered around Intertec's CompuStar multi-user microcomputer system.

### DIAGNOSTIC DISKETTE WILL ASSIST DEALERS IN SERVICING INTERTEC EQUIPMENT

Intertec announced recently that a diagnostic diskette is now available to aid in servicing of their complete line of products.

The diskette contains several programs to test various aspects of the computer's operation and can be used with the SuperBrain, SuperBrain QD and CompuStar Video Processing Unit Models 20 and 30. The diskette allows speedy diagnosis of module malfunctions.

Programs contained on the Diskette will test the following: Main Memory RAM; MAIN and AUXILIARY serial ports; both disk drives A and B; video alignment.

A technical bulletin giving full and capabilities of the diskette is available, free of charge, from Intertec's Customer Service Department.

The diskette and complete instructions is available from Intertec's Customer Service department at an end user cost of \$100. Discounts are available for dealers.

**INTERTEC REPS:**  
**DAVID L. HOOPER**  
3530 Spanish Quarter Circle  
Suite A-1  
Charlotte, NC 28205

**JAMES N. LOCKLEY**  
11994 Charter Oak Pkwy.  
St. Louis, MO 63141

## Calendar

### THINGS TO COME:

August 26-29 New York, NY. THE FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL SMALL COMPUTER SHOW, New York Coliseum, New York, NY. Daily lectures and a five-hour executive-only seminar will be featured. The executive seminar is designed for upper-level managers who need an introduction to the understanding, acquisition, and use of computers in business. Contact the National Small Computer Show, 110 Charlotte Pl., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 (201) 569-8542.

September 1-3 COMPUTERIZED OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPO (COEE), Civic Center, Atlanta GA. COEE provides a forum where the owners and executives of small and large businesses can learn about office automation. Contact Cahners Exposition Group, 222 W Adams St., Chicago IL 60606 (312) 263-4866.

*Continued on page 8*

## SUPERBRAIN OWNERS—

You've made a smart move buying Intertec's powerful SuperBrain™. Now activate all of its capabilities by installing SB/E\*, a Super Bios and EPROM software/firmware set. Here are just a few SB/E features:

- greater disk capacity
- faster disk access (75% faster on copy, 500% on seeks)
- 35 programmable keys
- auto repeat on all keys
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- automatic spindle motor shut off
- more reliable operation
- standard CP/M\*, not a "compatible" derivative

IE means "Information Engineering". We're the SuperBrain experts—for operating systems, communications, hard disk interfacing, and applications software.

Hundreds of our SB/E sets are in everyday use—at government agencies, leading universities, and Fortune 500 companies—in America, Canada, Europe, Africa, and Australia.

For the whole story, ask for our FREE, no obligation, 'Brain Booklet. For the whole set, order SB/E version 4, \$195. (Dealer inquiries invited)

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IE Systems Inc.

**Information Engineering**

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## SuperBrain™ Parallel Printer Port

Available only from VR Data!

Now, you can add a parallel printer port to your SuperBrain and use Centronics-compatible parallel printers.

- designed exclusively for the SuperBrain by VR Data
- easy, plug-in installation
- 90 day warranty, 100% parts & labor
- complete \$99.95

## Spindle Motor Control

Available only from VR Data!

- turns off spindle motor when not in use.
- Plug-in installation — no soldering
- Extends motor life 5X or more.
- no software changes

**\$149.00**

## Add-on™ SuperBrain Drives

AVAILABLE ONLY FROM VR DATA!

Increase the storage capacity of your SuperBrain™ to 700K with two extra 40 track drives, or over 1 Meg with QD drives.

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- Fully compatible with all SuperBrain drives
- Easy plug-in installation
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Complete two drive kit (incls. cable and patch) 789.  
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Epson MX100	\$800.00
NEC 5510 w/tractor	\$2995.00
Diablo 630	\$2495.00
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*Continued from page 7*

September 10-13 **MID-WEST COMPUTER SHOW**, McCormick Place, Chicago IL. This show features office systems, data-and word-processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, microcomputers, computer graphics, peripherals, and other related supplies. For information, contact the National Computer Shows, 824 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill MA 02167 (617) 739-2000.

September 15-17 **WESCON/81**, Brooks Hall, Municipal Auditorium, and Hilton Hotel, San Francisco CA. Sessions on communications, components and devices, computer and microprocessor hardware and software, office automation, and memory systems will be presented. Contact Electronic Conventions Inc., Suite 410, 999 N. Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245 (213) 772-2965.

September 24-25 **MICROPROCESSORS: HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND APPLICATIONS**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA. For more information, contact Ginny Bazarian, c/o Office of Continuing Education, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA 01609 (617) 753-1411, Ext. 517.

September 24-27 **MID-ATLANTIC COMPUTER SHOW**, Washington Armory, Washington DC.

**SUPER I/OS \$175.00  
MANUAL ONLY \$20.00**

Operating system makes your **SUPER-BRAIN "SOMETHING ELSE"**. Compatible with programs running on DOS 3.X. Features: Reverse Video, Spooling, 18 Programmable Keys, Full Use of Cursor Keys and more. Copies full mini-diskette in seconds! Batch Processor can automatically load Language and Program from Cold Boot!

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MANUAL \$45  
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Works with SUPER-I/OS to produce a word-processor second to none. Features Full Screen Interactive Editing with Dynamic Screen Imaging, Extensive Formatter Fully Integrated with Editor -- InfoSoft Software shipped UPS/COD -- **SUPERBRAINS!**  
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