

The resolution can be reduced by at least two methods. One method would be to begin with quite warm water so that the span is only a few degrees when the thermistor is set for about 100 degrees full scale. The second method would be to use a different thermistor so that full scale would be much greater than the temperature range of the experiment. If the signal range is small, it becomes easy to show that precision is lost.

*Instrument Design Laboratory
Chemistry Department
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 60045

AN INEXPENSIVE WORD PROCESSING SYSTEM

by James D. Beck*

If you would like to do word processing at home with letter-quality copy, but don't want to spend a lot of money, consider this system: a Radio Shack Color Computer, the Telewriter-64 word processing program, and the Brother Correctronic 50 electronic typewriter. The entire system can be obtained for about \$800. I have been using this combination for about six months and am very pleased with the results.

The Brother typewriter produces beautiful copy using interchangeable daisywheels which are available in several type styles. Although quite slow as a printer (12 cps), it has the advantage of doing double duty as an excellent electronic typewriter with features such as full line correction, variable pitch, and a repeat key. It can be purchased at discount stores for about \$300. Add \$150 for the computer interface. Brother will tell you how to make a cable to connect the interface to the Color Computer (parts are available at Radio Shack for a few dollars).

Telewriter-64, although inexpensive, is a good word processor for home use. Cost is \$50 on cassette or \$60 on disk from Cognitec, 704 N. Nob Avenue, Del Mar, CA 92104. Features include upper and lower case in several display modes, simple but effective editing capability, right justification, and the capability of using embedded format and control codes. It is menu-driven and simple to learn. The tape version operates surprisingly fast and has been very reliable. Used with the 64K Color Computer, you have about 40K left for text storage.

This system gives you a good small home computer with a good BASIC interpreter and color, sound, and graphics capability. It operates with any color or black-and-white TV (I use a \$50, 12-inch black-and-white for word processing). There is a fairly extensive collection of games, educational programs, and general purpose software available for the Color Computer. With this system you also have an electronic typewriter which can be used independently of the computer, without even disconnecting the interface. I especially like being able to correct mistakes in the final copy, using the typewriter mode. This is usually faster than going back to the word processor file, making the correction, then printing the document again.

*Department of Chemistry
Virginia State University
Petersburg, VA 28803

SERAPHIM/CCCE WORKSHOPS

The series of one day intensive workshops for high school chemistry teachers is off to a flying start with at least sixteen already scheduled and many more pending confirmation of dates. In order to improve flexibility there are now two sets of commercial software available and arrangements are being made for a third. Because of the increased number of workshops, responsibility for scheduling and distributing materials will now be split between the eastern and western halves of the country, using the Mississippi River as the dividing line. The regional coordinators are:

ACS-CCCE Teacher Workshop Coordinator EAST:

James H. Nelson
Harriton High School
Rosemont, PA 19010
(215) 525-1270

ACS-CCCE Teacher Workshop Conference WEST:

Ken Hartman
Ames High School
Ames, IA 50010
(515) 232-8440, ext. 228

Both Jim and Ken have had extensive experience in organizing and presenting workshops. Most recently, Jim was responsible for the sessions on teaching with computers given to the 1984 Presidential Award Teachers at the NSTA sponsored workshops last summer. Ken was very influential in the design of the workshop kits assembled last summer during the SERAPHIM Workshop Leader Training Program. For details concerning upcoming workshops see the Workshops, Meetings, Conferences and Courses section of this Newsletter. If you have questions about future workshops, contact Jim if you live in the East, and Ken if you live in the West.