

A brief Introduction to the HP 9100A desktop programmable calculator

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HP9100A



Photo from Wikimedia, author Swtptc6800

HP series 90

- At the 2023 HPCC mini conference I talked about the series 90 desktop calculators and brought a few for people to look at and hold.
- Today I aim to talk a bit about the granddaddy of them all, the HP 9100A, and to let you touch one.

HP 9100A Quick History

- HP introduced the 9100A in 1968, a desktop programmable calculator, called a calculator, not a computer, so that companies could buy it without the trouble of buying a “computer” which was thought of as an IBM mainframe.
- This was not the first desktop programmable calculator, the Olivetti P101 (Programma 101) was introduced in 1964 and there were earlier ones.

HP 9100A Quick History

- For us it is important as the first HP electronic calculator, which led to the handheld calculators which are still the main interest of HPCC (I think).
- But before the handhelds it led to the improved HP9100B (Tony has one) and then to the whole range of HP desktops which Tony has wonderfully demonstrated to us in previous years.

HP 9100A Quick History

- It was followed by the HP-35 scientific handheld calculator because Bill Hewlett wanted a 9100A in his shirt pocket.
- But its true handheld successor was the HP-65 which was programmable and could store programs on cards, like the HP9100 models.

HP 9100A Features

- Built like a tank – very heavy outer casing.
- All discrete components.
- RPN but only an X,Y,Z stack.
- Programmable, programs can be stored on cards.
- CRT display.
- Massive manual – what's new.

HP 9100A transport

- It has a delicate and irreplaceable display!
- I am very grateful to Peter Scott who worked for HP in Scotland, who had it refurbished and sold it to me at an affordable price.
- I am also grateful to HPCC member John Struthers, who connected me with Peter and who helped arrange its transport from Scotland by Terry Martini-Yates and Jeremy Owen to Virginia Water where I picked it up.

HP 9100A Features

- OK, so let's demonstrate the one I have here.

HP9100A with Printer



Thank you all

The End