

**COMX-35 review by the New Zealand magazine Computer Input, in December 1983:**

With the marketplace in its current condition - a new home computer being launched every week, it seems - the Comx 35 has come at a time of stiff competition.

The Comx has some very attractive features - 32K user RAM, built-in joystick, tough construction, moving keyboard, built-in speaker & some very interesting BASIC commands, etc - but also a few darker features.

The Comx is of a sturdy design, it would take more of a beating than many other computers I've seen (especially with the inevitable seven-year-old).

We gather that the Comx will be either a black or cream case with gold front and black keys.

The keyboard is moving-key type, with a good positive feel to it. The keys give an audible click when pressed and have about 2-3mm travel.

The keyboard is basically QWERTY with RESET, ESCAPE, CONTROL and DELETE down the left hand side. Pressing reset & space bar causes a complete restore of the machine back to 'switch-on' status.

Everything needed to get the Comx up & running is provided (except the cassette unit), power supply, leads to & from cassette (ear & mic) and lead to TV. It's quite a relief to find an on-off switch on the rear of the Comx. There is an edge connector on the back too, presumably for expandable RAM, ROM cartridges, printer and disk, although no information yet on them.

The BASIC is average with a few surprises - fixed (allows you to fix the decimal places shown), format (allows you to tabulate figures neatly), fval (allows you to input expressions

as a string to be worked out by the Comx), exit (allowing you to escape from a loop or subroutine).

There are three commands for colour. Colour controls the colour of all printing on the screen (a choice of 12 colours). Screen, which gives you a choice of 8 colours for the back-ground and Ctone which sets the output colour to a lighter shade of the background colour.

The graphics of the Comx 35 although acceptable, are slightly less than average. The Comx allows you to program your own graphics as well as the standard graphics provided, does not have any form of high resolution graphics.

Sound is quite good on the Comx, without going into too much detail it allows you a lot of variation with the commands being music, noise, tone & volume.

The manual is quite good and gives you all the information you need to get you a long way down the Comx road.

In conclusion, the one thing that might detract from the popularity of the Comx 35 is its CPU. The 180R is, in the realms of modern home computing, a veritable dinosaur. This poses the problem of software, I doubt if there are many 180R programmers still around. However, if Comx can achieve a good amount of software backup (despite the 180R) this should prove to be a good little machine. Although a lot would depend on the price of the Comx. At the right price this machine should be popular.

