♥MoHPC♠　　*The Museum of HP Calculators*

HP Forum Archive 13

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HP & SHARP [LONG, IMG=230 Kb]

Message #1 Posted by Valentin Albillo on 23 Nov 2003, 3:22 a.m.

Two of the very best machines from my collection **:** same size, similar weight, vastly different capabilities, yet same outstanding quality.

They don't make jewels like these no more ... **:-(**

Best regards from V.

HP-15C [3.0" x 5.0" x 0.5 ", 4 oz., 0.5 Kb RAM, 12 Kb ROM, RPN]

SHARP PC-1260 [3.0" x 5.5" x 0.5 ", 6 oz., 4 Kb RAM, 40 Kb ROM, BASIC]

Re: HP & SHARP [LONG, IMG=230 Kb]

Message #2 Posted by Juan J on 23 Nov 2003, 11:19 a.m.,
in response to message #1 by Valentin Albillo

Hello Valentin,

Excellent photos. Could you please help me with a question?

I just got a 15C in a flea market for $40. Put in new batterires and it is running fine. It passed the self-tests and the PCB (I took it apart just to see how it was on the inside) was in good condition but it smells like it has been stored in a moist place for a while. You have voiced concerns about HPs' durability recently, particularly Voyagers.

My question: can a Voyager stand long term high-humidity storage without any damage? Is there anything to do about it? Thanks in advance for your advice.

Regarding the Sharp, a friend's father had one of these, to complement his HP-67. Later he bought an HP-85 and no longer needed them. Sadly, we never saw the Sharp again.

Juan J

Re: HP & SHARP [LONG, IMG=230 Kb]

Message #3 Posted by Gordon on 23 Nov 2003, 4:06 p.m.,
in response to message #2 by Juan J

Wipe out any mould or deposits with a damp cloth and allow the unit to dry slowly at 35 deg C. i.e. very warm but not hot, for about 1 week. It does take that long for moisture to migrate out of the epoxy plasic used for integrated circuits.
Enjoy the calc!

Re: HP & SHARP [LONG, IMG=230 Kb]

Message #4 Posted by Valentin Albillo on 23 Nov 2003, 6:56 p.m.,
in response to message #2 by Juan J

Hola, Juan:

Juan posted:

"You have voiced concerns about HPs' durability recently, particularly Voyagers."

Yes, but only in the long term, say 40-50 years. Most existing Voyagers are now 20+ years old, so they've still 20-30 additional working years left in them, IMHO.

"can a Voyager stand long term high-humidity storage without any damage? Is there anything to do about it?"

I've never seen or heard of a Voyager ruined by humidity, but I guess that's a possibility. I'd suggest you open up the machine, and place it on a very mildly warm surface (the external top of a refrigerator is ideal, it's always very comfortably warm, but never hot) for a week or so. Humidity will dissapear that way. After that, keep the calculator for a while in a box surrounded by Silica Gel dessicant mini-bags, they will take care of any remaining humidity.

I always keep my calculators stored with dessicant mini-bags like those, it keeps them dry whatever the external circumstances.

Best regards from V.

Re: HP & SHARP [LONG, IMG=230 Kb]

Message #5 Posted by Juan J on 23 Nov 2003, 10:53 p.m.,
in response to message #4 by Valentin Albillo

Hola Valentin, como estas?

What I did was to take the calc apart and use a hot air blower to "dry" whatever moiture there was inside the calculator, for about 30 minutes. Then I allowed the pieces to cool down and once they were cold I put the calculator together again. Put in baterries, ran the self-tests and the machine is working fine. I even tried ione of mi favorite intergrate stress tests, so to speak, the sine integral, and the 15C passed it.

Noww the 15C is in one of those HP leather cases (the original slip case is still too moist and looks worn) designed for clamshells, which has a small package of silica gel.

Thanks for your advice and, if your time allows, I will continue asking about the 15C. So far I've been unable to use some of its features without the manual nearby. I got a bit too much used to both the Advantage Pac user interface and the 48's Matrix Writer.

A little bit off-topic, about your proverb (or it was Angel?) about the nature of truth, there is a latin one, Simplex Sigillus Veritas, Which translates to Simplicity is the sign of truth or, in Spanish, "La sencillez es el signo de la verdad."

Juan

Re: HP & SHARP [LONG, IMG=230 Kb]

Message #6 Posted by Valentin Albillo on 24 Nov 2003, 5:17 a.m.,
in response to message #5 by Juan J

Hola, Juan J:

Juan J posted:

"Hola Valentin, como estas?"

Muy bien, gracias, ¿ y tu ? [Fine, thanks, what about you ?]

"What I did was to take the calc apart and use a hot air blower to "dry" whatever moiture there was inside the calculator, for about 30 minutes."

While obviously having to wait just 30 minutes seems preferable to 1 week, I still stick to my original advice, of applying very 'soft' heat (top of a refrigerator being the ideal) for a long time, instead of stronger heat for a relatively short time. Humidity will evaporate without the slightest chance of damaging any component, as the recommended temperature limits are never exceeded or even approached. I'm not so sure a hot air blower will not dangerously approach the upper limits at times.

Bear in mind that even if the 'instant' temperature is within limits, the fact that you're applying heat continuosly in a small zone means that the 'average' temperature will rise well above the 'instant' one. You can easily test this by letting your finger stay in contact with a sheet of paper as it comes out of a laserjet printer: even if the sheet isn't hot enough to burn you by a quick contact, if will burn you if you let your finger remain in touch with the outgoing sheet for more than a couple seconds, as the heat just keeps building up.

"Thanks for your advice and, if your time allows, I will continue asking about the 15C."

You're welcome.

"So far I've been unable to use some of its features without the manual nearby."

Try and get one, then. They're sold on Ebay all the time at very affordable prices. I got a brand new, spiral one (the best for easy reference) a few months ago for less than US $20.

"A little bit off-topic, about your proverb (or it was Angel?)"

None of us, it was mentioned by Andy Agui.

Best regards from V.

Re: HP & SHARP [LONG, IMG=230 Kb]
Message #7 Posted by Juan J on 24 Nov 2003, 9:01 a.m.,
in response to message #6 by Valentin Albillo

Hola Valentin,

Estoy bien, gracias. Espero que tú también.

I will follow your advice. For one week. I will keep you posted. Muchas gracias.

Thanks for your suggestion on the manual. My problem is, apparently I am not paying much attentions to the instructions, hemce the need to keep a manual near when I use the matrix functions. I will have to apply myself a little about this.

A question: is the 15C one of your personal favorites?

Re: HP & SHARP

Message #8 Posted by Valentin Albillo on 24 Nov 2003, 9:29 a.m.,
in response to message #7 by Juan J

Juan J posted:

"A question: is the 15C one of your personal favorites? "

A resounding YES !! Matter of fact, it's widely known that I consider it the best pure calculator in the world, bar none.

Best regards from V.

Re: HP & SHARP

Message #9 Posted by Pierre Brial on 23 Nov 2003, 10:14 p.m.,
in response to message #1 by Valentin Albillo

Hello Valentin

Great pictures. The light is perfect. Can we have technical details on how they were made ?

For me the two calcs you show are the best ever produced for the ratio power/wheight.

Nowaydays, calculator manufacturer are no longer concerned about this ratio, and programmable calculators are no longer "pocketable"

All the best

Pierre

Re: HP & SHARP

Message #10 Posted by Juan J on 23 Nov 2003, 10:58 p.m.,
in response to message #9 by Pierre Brial

Back then there was limited memory and you had to be efficiente when writing code. As I often say, no Intel round the corner churning out faster microprocessors continously so your code nees not to be efficient.

Valentin's photos are similar to Dave's three-quarter images. Maybe a similar procedure with that free commodity, Spain'sam I wrong, Valentin?) sun and a good camera?

Juan

Re: HP & SHARP

Message #11 Posted by Valentin Albillo on 24 Nov 2003, 5:49 a.m.,
in response to message #10 by Juan J

Hi again, Juan J:

Juan J posted:

"Valentin's photos are similar to Dave's three-quarter images. Maybe a similar procedure with that free commodity, Spain's (am I wrong, Valentin?) sun and a good camera?"

Yes, completely wrong ! :-)

Best regards from V.

Re: HP & SHARP

Message #12 Posted by Juan J on 24 Nov 2003, 9:06 a.m.,
in response to message #11 by Valentin Albillo

Hola valentin,

Whatever the technique you used, you've got two fine photographs of good calculators. And wherever you are, good luck.

Juan

Re: HP & SHARP

Message #13 Posted by Valentin Albillo on 24 Nov 2003, 5:34 a.m.,
in response to message #9 by Pierre Brial

Hi, Pierre:

Pierre posted:

"Great pictures. The light is perfect. Can we have technical details on how they were made ?"

Thanks for your appreciation, but though I am quite an accomplished amateur photographer, have some great hardware and many thousands of excellent pictures in my portfolio, these 'great' calculator pictures were made making *no* use at all of either the great hardware or the great experience ! Matter of fact, I'd rather have you thinking they're 'great' instead of ruining your appreciation of them by telling exactly how they were made. :-)

"For me the two calcs you show are the best ever produced for the ratio power/wheight."

Well, I pictured the SHARP PC-1260, but the PC-1262 is actually better and boasts 10 Kb RAM instead of 4 Kb in the exact same packaging.

"Nowaydays, calculator manufacturer are no longer concerned about this ratio, and programmable calculators are no longer "pocketable"

Indeed. People may like HP48/49 calculators a lot, but they're certainly massive: large, weighty. They can't compete with the Voyagers or SHARP PC-12xx models at all. You can easily fit not one but even two such at a time in your shirt pocket. Try that with an HP48/49 ! :-)

Best regards from V.

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