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The following note describes what is needed to interface a Winchester Disk unit to a BBC computer system, the hardware and software required, and some ideas on where to go to find the parts you'll need. If you shop around for parts (ie. you do the leg work) it is possible to build a Winchester system for around £150, this compared with the official Acorn price of £999 (for a 10 Mb system) represents a large saving.

This is the second edition of the notes and, as such, has got even more complicated. This is mainly for technical completeness rather than necessity - you don't really have to understand what's going on to put a system together...

There are a number of other projects that we are working on (still under development), that you may be interested in:

o   Additional paged RAM for the BBC micro/master. This project will allow connection of 64K of DRAM to the 1MHz bus which will be accessable in 256 byte pages (Page JIM &FD00 is allocated for this purpose by Acorn). We have plans for high speed disk cache and RAMdisk for use with Acorn ADFS using this RAM. The board will support 64K initially, but we hope to be able to bring out a version for 256K, 512K, 1024K etc. later.

o   Tape streamer for the BBC micro/master. If you've built (or bought) a Winchester for your Beeb then you may already had problems (mainly time...) trying to make backups of it. We hope to interface a tape streamer to alleviate this problem.

o   ABBS: the Advanced Bulletin Board System. If you have a Beeb system and want to run a bulletin board then currently you have a choice of FBBS, OBBS, NBBS etc. which are really a bit 'noddy & bleers'. ABBS will be released soon, this system is similar to an minicomputer operating system, command driven, full electronic mail, file transfer, privileges, inter ABBS node mail transfer system etc.

o   For packet radio (AX.25 amateur radio) we are working on a TNC 2A clone. Our clone of a TNC2A will have 32K CMOS battery backed RAM, 32K ROM, Z80SIO for hardware HDLC, AMD7910 modem chip for superior performance, "proper" RS232 serial port, and all the usual software features etc.