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Subject: Maximum RS232 speed from a CBM 128 in CP/M mode? Terminal software?

Posted by [sampsa](#) on Sun, 22 Sep 2013 13:12:38 GMT

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Guys,

I have a couple of CBM128's and would love to run one of the as a front-end / terminal to a VAX I have.

Some questions:

- What's the maximum bps rate I can get out of the (I assume userport - RS232 adapter)?
- Where can I acquire one of these adapters?
- Anyone know of terminal software that'll run on CP/M on a C128?

sampsa

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Subject: Re: Maximum RS232 speed from a CBM 128 in CP/M mode? Terminal software?

Posted by [Payton Byrd](#) on Sun, 22 Sep 2013 15:59:02 GMT

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On Sunday, September 22, 2013 8:12:38 AM UTC-5, sam...@gmail.com wrote:

> Guys,

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> I have a couple of CBM128's and would love to run one of the as a front-end / terminal to a VAX I have.

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> Some questions:

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> - What's the maximum bps rate I can get out of the (I assume userport - RS232 adapter)?

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> - Anyone know of terminal software that'll run on CP/M on a C128?

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> sampsa

Kermit for the C128's CPM is about the best term you're going to find.

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Subject: Re: Maximum RS232 speed from a CBM 128 in CP/M mode? Terminal software?

Posted by [Computer Nerd Kev](#) on Tue, 22 Oct 2013 06:08:10 GMT

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On 22 Sep 2013, wrote:

- > - What's the maximum bps rate I can get out of the (I
- > assume userport - RS232 adapter)?
- > - Where can I acquire one of these adapters?

The official Commodore adapter was the VIC-1011A with a DB-25 RS232 output:

<http://www.zimmers.net/cbmpics/xother.html>

I've got one but I couldn't tell you the max. speed.

I've seen them pop up from time to time on Ebay, but they seem to go for decent money. There were doubtless 3rd party ones in the day, but they don't seem to be any more common.

If you're good at electronics or are friendly with someone who is, there are some circuits about for DIY adapters:

[http://www.zimmers.net/anonftp/pub/cbm/documents/projects/rs 232/index.html](http://www.zimmers.net/anonftp/pub/cbm/documents/projects/rs%202/index.html)

-2nd design from the bottom claims 9600bps from the User Port.

<http://www.lemon64.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=34186&sid=f87fc7a41bb636d69b688040e4c66929>

-If you go down far enough, there's a design that uses the newer (though pricier) MAX232 chips.

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Subject: Re: Maximum RS232 speed from a CBM 128 in CP/M mode? Terminal software?

Posted by [rusure](#) on Tue, 22 Oct 2013 17:38:46 GMT

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On Tuesday, October 22, 2013 12:08:10 AM UTC-6, Computer Nerd Kev wrote:

> On 22 Sep 2013, wrote:

- > The official Commodore adapter was the VIC-1011A with a DB-25
- > RS232 output:

I wonder if the 1011A was completely mechanically compatible with a 128. In C128 RGB video mode, I could only use the adapter when its outer case was removed. When a complete 1011A was in use, I was unable to attach an RGB cable and the adapter at the same time. I wonder if running the 1011 without its case was harmful to the adapter.

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Subject: Re: Maximum RS232 speed from a CBM 128 in CP/M mode? Terminal software?

Posted by [Computer Nerd Kev](#) on Wed, 23 Oct 2013 09:20:24 GMT

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On 23 Oct 2013, rusure wrote:

- > I wonder if the 1011A was completely mechanically
- > compatible with a 128.

I don't have a C128, but I think the 1011A was a product of the Vic-20 or C64 era (the colour certainly was), so I guess it wouldn't be surprising that the design didn't work perfectly with a 128.

- > I wonder if
- > running the 1011 without its case was harmful to the
- > adapter.

As we're not talking about super high frequency electronics (MHz range, with all its shielding), I don't believe the case would make a bit of difference to the circuit. The only harm could be caused if you dropped a paperclip or something on the PCB and were unlucky enough to have it short positive to ground; though with old RS232 cables/adapters, you'd probably still be in more risk of doing that with a cabling mistake.

Of course you'd want to make sure there wasn't too much strain on the DB-25 connector, with it all being taken by the PCB.

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Subject: Re: Maximum RS232 speed from a CBM 128 in CP/M mode? Terminal software?

Posted by [rusure](#) on Thu, 24 Oct 2013 08:10:41 GMT

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On Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:20:24 AM UTC-6, Computer Nerd Kev wrote:

> On 23 Oct 2013, rusure wrote:

> I don't have a C128, but I think the 1011A was a product of

>

Poor thing!!!

Below is the WEB location of an image, taken by my cheap FUJI FINEPIX Z70 camera, of my C128D's user and RGB ports. Although not of the finest photographic quality, you can see how close the ports are. A VIC 1011A could not plug into a user port while a cable is plugged into an rgb port.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B80L9cEZ8Ynvc0dhb0dvYnFGQIE/edit?usp=sharing>

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