

Learn Assembly Programming With ChibiAkumas!



6502 Assembly programming for the BBC Micro B

The BBC Micro was made by Acorn for the UK's public broadcasting system, it was presented as part of the TV show "BBC Micro Live"

The BBC had highly configurable hardware, with support for many external devices, and even non 6502 coprocessors... it's Basic even supported in-line assembly language!

the Model A was the cheaper model, however it's 16k limit will be rather restrictive, so we will be covering the more usable 32k system the Micro B



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	Model A	Model B	Master
Cpu	2mhz 6502	2mhz 6502	2mhz 6502
Ram	16k	32k	128k
Vram	Uses internal		

	memory		
Resolution	640x256	640x256	640x256
Colors	8	8	8
Sound chip	SN76489 (4 channel)	SN76489 (4 channel)	SN76489 (4 channel)



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- [Lesson P22 \(z80\) - Sound with the SN76489 on the BBC Micro](#)

Video Registers

Write the register you want to set to \$FE00

then write the new value to \$FE01

RegNum	register description	Mode 1 320x256 4 color		
\$FE20	Screen mode	\$D8		
0	Horizontal total	\$7F		
1	Horizontal displayed characters	\$50		
2	Horizontal sync position	\$62		
3	Horizontal sync width/Vertical sync time	\$28		
4	Vertical total	\$26		

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5	Vertical total adjust	\$00		
6	Vertical displayed characters	\$19		
7	Vertical sync position	\$22		
8	Interlace/Display delay/Cursor delay	\$01		
9	Scan lines per character	\$30		
10	Cursor start line and blink type	\$00		
11	Cursor end line	\$08		
12	Screen start address H (Address /8)	\$30		
13	Screen start address L (Address /8)			
14	Cursor position H			
15	Cursor position L			
16	Light pen position			
17	Light pen position			
18	Cursor width (BBFW)			

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Physical Colors

the way Screen Bytes map to visible colors is strangely configurable, they are defined by the "Video ULA palette"... which maps nibbles to colors... if we map colors wrong, the same byte may appear a different color depending if it's on odd or even vertical strips

Color Num	EOR	Color
0	7	Black
1	6	Red
2	5	Green
3	4	Yellow
4	3	Blue
5	2	Magenta
6	1	Cyan
7	0	White

Hardware Addresses

From	To	Purpose	Details

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\$FE00	\$FE07	6845 CRTC Video controller 18	Set these to change screen mode
\$FE08	\$FE0F	6850 ACIA Serial controller 20.3	
\$FE10	\$FE1F	Serial ULA Serial system chip 20.9	
\$FE20	\$FE2F	Video ULA Video system chip 19	Set these to change screen mode
\$FE30	\$FE3F	74LS161 Paged ROM selector 21	
\$FE40	\$FE5F	6522 VIA SYSTEM VIA 23	Sound & Keyboard
\$FE60	\$FE7F	6522 VIA USER VIA 24	
\$FE80	\$FE9F	8271 FDC Floppy disc controller 25.1	
\$FEA0	\$FEBF	68B54 ADLC ECONET controller 25.2	
\$FEC0	\$FEDF	uPD7002 Analogue to digital converter 26	
\$FEE0	\$FEFF	Tube ULA Tube system interface 27	

Sound Controller - SN76489

The Sound Chip shares a port with the keybord... Before we can send any data to the sound chip, we have to set the port to WRITE... we do this by writing 255 to address \$FE43 (we only do this once)

We've covered the sound chip in the [Z80 tutorials here](#)

Once we've done that, we can write our data to \$FE41 in the format below

Command	Bit Details	Bits							
		7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Format Template	L=Latch C=Channel T=Type XXXX=Data	L	C	C	T	D	D	D	D
Tone - Command 1/2	C=Channel L=tone Low data	1	C	C	0	L	L	L	L
Tone - Command 2/2	H= High tone data (Higher numbers = lower tone)	0	-	H	H	H	H	H	H
Volume	C=Channel (0-2) V=Volume (15=silent 0=max)	1	C	C	1	V	V	V	V
Noise Channel	(Channel 3) M=Noise mode (1=white) R=Rate (3=use tone 2)	1	1	1	0	-	M	R	R

Sheila ADC - Analog to Digital Converter (Joystick)

The Joystick is analog on the BBC... we need to read UD and LR, which will return a value from 0-255....

When it comes to reading the Fire, we use \$FE40 - part of the sound/keyboard controller!

Port	R/W	Purpose	Bits	Details
------	-----	---------	------	---------

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\$FEC0	W	Data Latch / Conversation Start	----MFCC	M=Mode (0=8 bit 1=10 bit)... F=Flag (usually 0)... CC=Channel (0/1 = joy1 2/3=joy2)
\$FEC0	R	Status	CBMMm-CC	C=Conversation complete (1=no)...B=busy... M=top two bits of conversation... m=mode (8/10 bit)... CC=Channel
\$FEC1	R	High Data byte	DDDDDDDD	8 Bit Data
\$FEC2	R	Low Data byte	DDDD----	extra 4 low bits of 10/12 bit data

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Key Reading

Key reading on the BBC is a little weird and rather poorly documented

Essentially you have to select a row (0-8) and Column (0-9), then read in the state of each key one bit at a time!.. these are both read and written to port **\$FE4F**

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
K	R	R	R	C	C	C	C

When Written Bits 0-3 (Marked C) select the Column (0-9) and bits 4-6 (Marked R) select the Row (0-8)... Bit 7 has no purpose

When Read Bit 7 returns the Keystate and bits 6-0 have no purpose

An example working piece of code is shown to the right, it's partially based on the disassemblies of the firmware.

You will need a PrintHex command to show the read byte to screen.

```
LDA #$7F ;set port A for
input on bit 7 others outputs
STA $FE43
LDA #$03 ;stop auto scan
STA $FE40
; This section may not be
needed
;LDA #$0F ;select non-
existent keyboard column F (0-9
only!)
;STA $FE4F ;
;LDA #$01 ;cancel keyboard
interrupt
;STA $FE4D ;
```

```
Idy #0
KeyNextLine:
Idx #8
tya
KeyNextBit:
pha
sta $FE4F
lda $FE4F
rol
pla
```

```
rol z_as  
clc  
adc #%00010000  
dex  
bne KeyNextBit
```

```
lda z_as  
iny  
sta (z_hl),y  
jsr PrintHex  
tya  
cmp #8  
bne KeyNextLine
```

```
LDA #$0B ;select auto scan  
of keyboard  
STA $FE40 ;tell VIA
```

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