

INTRODUCTION

For the last two weeks, I've been ruining my eyesight on keyboard ads -- I'm one of those who encircle all the little numbers on the reader's service cards in the backs of magazines. My files are overflowing. When in the States, I've looked at the Cherry, the Risk, the kits and the bargain bin good luck models. Luckily, before writing any checks, I looked in the mailbox. Rick Simpson had thoughtfully sent a prototype of RCA's new keyboard the final version of which is just now available. Back in my Mexican hideaway, among my friends the donkeys and my more distant acquaintances the iguanas and the occasional scorpion, I couldn't wait to plug it in and give it a try. Fantastic! And it only took a few minutes to get it running.

At the promised retail price of under \$50, the keyboard is a hands down bargain. There are disadvantages. A shift lock would have been nice. Also, the keys have the same action as the keys on the VIP hexpad. Unlike a more conventional style board, the keys do not travel down when pressed (as do the keys on an electric typewriter for instance). Touch typists will find the action slow. But if you are thinking of writing your next best seller on your VIP you may want to first consider reviving the art