The Rodney (re) prototype – Working log

*An opportunity to study the deepest aspects of the computer with a nostalgia-check on wire-wrapping. What more fun could be had? This is the worklog for the assembly of Heiserman’s robot.*

*3 July 2023*

1117: Although this project has been (more or less) around since 2019, only now am I bringing it into focus. I have assembled the work-area on the human-machine interface and the next step is to lightly glue the plastic LED bezels/mounts to this. Did a test with A0 and it seems well-enough.

*5 July 2023*

1408: The stress-test of the glue hold did not go so well. But this is still a place to solve this problem. I went ahead and glued the remaining bezels with a bit of a twist to set the glue more evenly around the radius. Will give it 24 hours to see how it sets.

*1 January 2024*

1613: After some slacktime, I resumed work the 22nd of December 2023 on the mounts for the two Vector boards (a decision not to use the smaller ones) and a hinge-based smaller board to hold the beginnings of the I/O components, pretty much just the 8226 bus transceivers. It took some time to get a design in-place and eight prototypes before four properly-sized mounts for the boards were correct. The hinge went well in a single go, as well as the bar support.

1617: Now I want to formally prepare the full BoM and align as I have a pending Mouser order that needs to be submitted tomorrow.

1630: Formalizing this document will take some time. Let me pull the parts, mostly the resistors and capacitors, and check that the list is complete.

1817: Just finished the BoM for the M6x09-I-SBC, as a template for how to do such in the future. I would really like to have each board fully assembled by machine. Now to pull the parts and see what Rodney maybe missing.

1852: Reorganized the repository. Now is a bit clearer and more pragmatic. Will use the tables and the parts list sheet to know if I have all the bits. The big question is where did I get the DIP24-600?

2110: Completed the BoM based on the tables from the book. Added a 32-pin PROM and the appropriate wirewrap socket for the additional storage via cartridge or tape. Let’s see what shakes. The list is ready and will cross-check tomorrow before sending the order.

*3 January 2024*

1603: As, essentially, this project is a historical revisitation – not unlike the intent of spiritualists of the 1890s – with an emphasis on embodiment (very much so) I have elected to include the oldest discovered version of 86-DOS (predecessor of MS-DOS) that was an outgrowth of the 8-bit CP/M but targeted the new 16-bit 8086 in this GitHub repository. The idea is that software is very much a part of this journey and although the i8085 is capable clearly of CP/M, given its unique UI, this will only be explored in terms of the *program monitor* that I have planned to be burned into the ROM, once I place it. I am contemplating a change in design to include it based on the design principles I have codified for the 6x09-II-SBC project.

*10 May 2024*

948: I have come to the realization that there is work to be done on my ideal-metal initiative here in 8-bit land.

*17 May 2025*

2005: This project is back to active status.