

1984 – Mindset Joystick

Mindset Joystick shown on the figure 1 was developed as an additional accessory for the Mindset personal computer. The Mindset computer was released in 1984 by Mindset Corporation, and was on sale for only a year. In technical terms, it was partially compatible with the IBM PC, based on the Intel 80186 processor and a non-standard graphics subsystem that had enhanced capabilities, including hardware acceleration of some typical graphics operations [2]. Both the joystick and mouse were meant to be connected to one of two ports located on the sides of the keyboard. The real manufacturer of the joystick, as well as the mouse, was the Japanese company Alps – the manufacturer of the first Japanese mouse, MZ-1X10, introduced to the Japanese market one year earlier.



Figure 1: Mindset Joystick

The joystick has a milky-white body with black and red accents, similar to other parts of the Mindset computer. The computer's name can be seen on the top of the casing (fig. 1). The buttons are round, red, and almost completely recessed into the casing. The metal stick of the joystick has a plastic tip that matches the color of the body. It is as small as everything else, and judging by its size,

it's designed to be held with two fingers.



Figure 2: Mindset Joystick, top and bottom views

The joystick is a miniature device (fig. 3), so its creators most likely did not rely on one hand usage too much.



Figure 3: Mindset Joystick on a graduated pad with a grid step of 1 cm

The buttons are located on the sides of the body, which isn't the best ergonomic solution for one-handed operation, as shown in the fig. 4, as the miniature body will shift at the stick or buttons presses. The user was likely intended to hold the joystick in the palm of one hand and control the joystick with the fingers of the other.

The internal structure of the joystick can be seen in fig. 5. As you can see, it is a typical analog joystick design based on two crossed beams, only the mechanical parts are smaller than usual.



Figure 4: Mindset Joystick with a human hand model

References

- [1] Mindset (computer) - Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mindset_\(computer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mindset_(computer))
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- [3] Mindset Personal Computer System https://archive.org/details/bitsavers_mindsetBrore_3744143/page/n1/mode/2up
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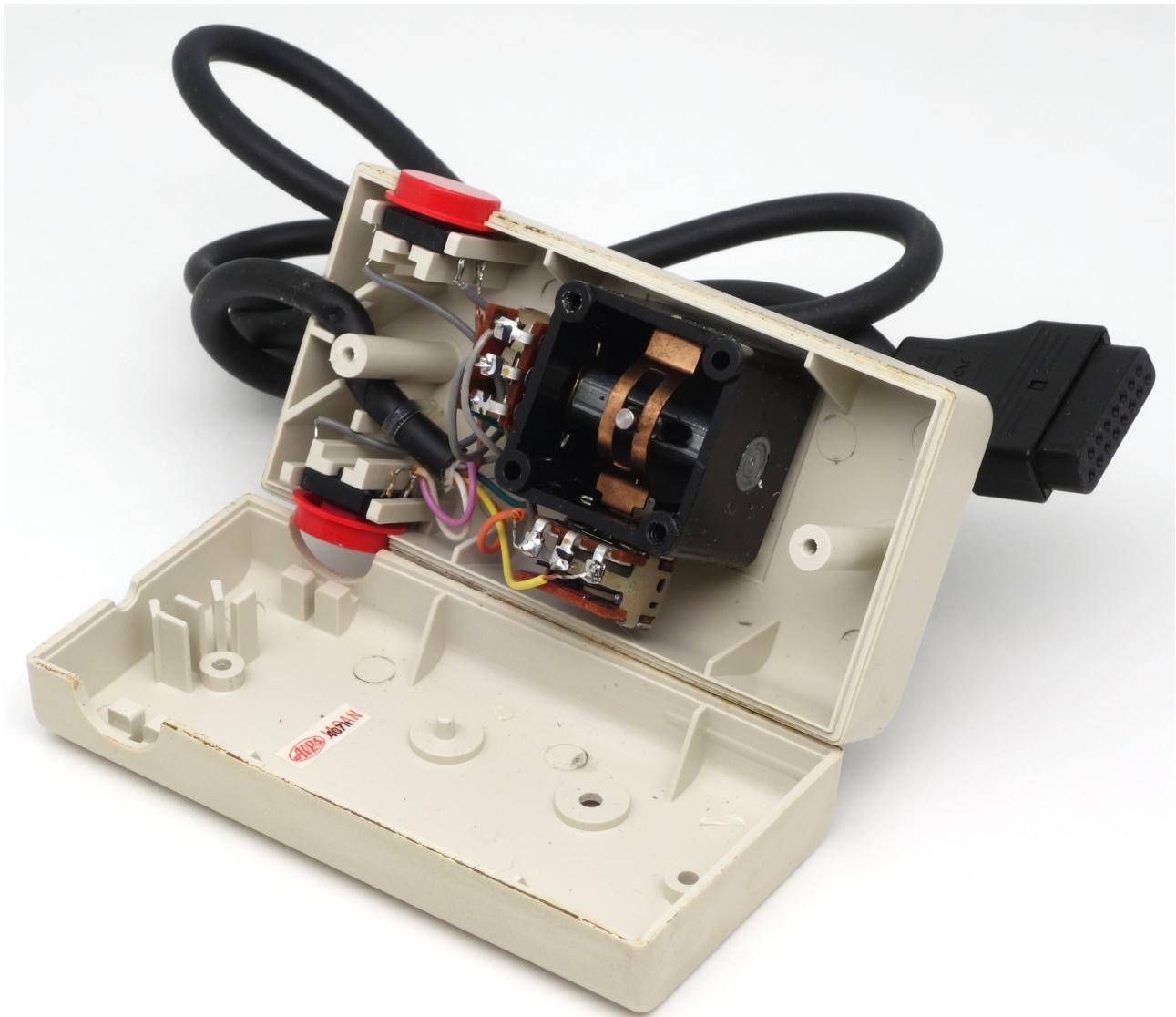


Figure 5: Mindset Joystick disassembled