

08-1988 [K-0301] CXG - Sphinx Commander

For a long time it was unclear to collectors whether a "Chess 3018 Commander" had ever really appeared on the commercial market. I would like to tell you the complete story in this extensive item about this controversial computer. It is clear to me that the unknown CXG Commander deserves numerous historical attention because of his almost unbelievable rarity!



A very rare chess computer... CXG 3018 Sphinx Commander

The Commander is housed in the housing of its predecessors, the CXG Chess 3000 and 3008. The first model versions of the Chess 3000 and 3008 had chess programs by Richard Lang and Kaare Danielsen. The CXG Chess 3018 model version got the name 'Commander'. The chess program was written by the Dutchman Frans Morsch. As I personally heard from him, Frans only wrote programs for CXG with a 65C02 CPU. So all CXG models with a 68000 CPU are written by another programmer!

This item is divided into 6 chapters...

Page 2 - 10: The great Commander mystery!

Page 11 - 14: Hans van Mierlo comes into possession of a Commander!

Page 15 - 21: We go back to 1987 to reconstruct the historical story about the CXG Commander.

Page 22 - 61: The literature in chronological order + brochures.

Page 62 - 66: H. Peperkamp gives a description of the CXG Galaxy.

Page 67: Technical description of the Commander + web links.

The great Commander mystery!

With the above text I want to start this subject, because from the year 2005 a lot has been unclear about a CXG Sphinx Commander with model number 3018. Let me start with Steve Blincoe, a well-known and great collector from New York who made a call for more information on a forum.

Question To The Newcrest/CXG Experts...



Sphinx 40-LE (Limited Edition)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/10261668@N05/sets/72157600923816793/with/859078974/>

Geschrieben von Steve Blincoe am 11. Juni 2005 13:48:39:

Dear Fellow Collector's. In an old product brochure for the CXG computers there is listed a computer called the CXG Commander - model 3018. I have never seen this computer and i know of no collector that will admit to having one. The specs are almost identical to the Sphinx 40 (model 3038) but with a 65CO2 Processor not shown in the brochure is the Sphinx 40-LE (Limited Edition) my LE does not show a model number and the manual is the same one as for the Sphinx 40 on Kurt's page for the CXG computer he shows the 3018 but not the LE. **So the question's are... does any collector have a 3018 (?) or, has anyone actually seen a Sphinx 3018? Was it ever actually released? Is it possible that the 40 LE is in reality the 3018?**

Late Spring Regards
Steveb

Geschrieben von Robert Weck am 13. Juni 2005 11:00:27:

Als Antwort auf Question To The Newcrest/CXG Experts geschrieben von Steveb am 11. Juni 2005 13:48:39:

I am not absolutely sure about the nr. (i'm also not sure if there is one on mine), but I will look at it this evening. IIRC, when i got it, i identified it as "Sphinx Commander" (at this time there was a thread about it in Kurt's old forum) **It has the same board as the Sphinx 40, only the keyboard and displays (next to each other, not one below the other as in the Sphinx 40) are different. The program is from the Dominator 2.00 with some modifications. This was easy to see, as it has some typical "Dominator-bugs"!**

And so began the great search for the (original) CXG Commander! Because not only Steve Blincoe has a rare Sphinx in his collection, but also Tom Luif from Amsterdam! Tom passed away in May 2009, but I also received some correspondence from him. It concerns of course the chess computer below, which he describes as "Commander"!



← previous


next one →

intro page

the computers

home page

weblog

Dutch page 

other sites

sale & swap

e-mail @



COMMANDER



Computer name:	CXG Commander
Manufacturer:	Newcrest Technology
Dates from:	1988
Dimensions:	40 x 40 x 6.5 cm
Power supply:	Adapter
Processor:	6502C, 4 MHz
Memory:	32KB ROM, 8KB RAM
Programmer(s):	Frans Morsch
Rating:	average to strong club level (Elo 1880)
Other details:	Wooden board with reed contacts Control panel under board LEDs on all 64 squares

3 EXAMPLE GAMES:

White: Fritz 8 (1 ply)

Black: CXG Commander (\pm 10 seconds / move)

(Result: won by black)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 g5 5.h4 g4 6.Ng1 Bh6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Nd5 Bg7 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Ne2 f3 11.gxf3 gxf3 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Bg5 fxe2 14.Qxe2 Qb8 15.Ne3 Qxb2 16.Rd1 Bxd4 17.Qd2 Bc3 18.a4 h6 19.Bf4 Nf6 20.Nc4 Bxd2+ 21.Bxd2 Qxc2 22.Ne3 Qxe4 23.Kf2 Qxa4 24.Ra1 Ne4+ 25.Kg2 Qd4 26.Rhd1 Nxd2 27.Re1 Qxh4 28.Nf5+ Qe4+ 29.Rxe4+ Nxe4 30.Nd4 c5 31.Re1 f5 32.Nc2 a5 33.Ne3 a4 34.Ra1 a3 35.Kf3 Be6 36.Kf4 Ra4 37.Kf3 h5 38.Rh1 f4 39.Nc2 Bg4+ 40.Kg2 f3+ 41.Kg1 f2+ 42.Kg2 Rg8 43.Kh2 Bf3 44.Ra1 Rg2+ 45.Kh3 Ng5# An animation of the game can be seen if you have Java installed.

<https://luif.home.xs4all.nl/chescom/EngCXGCmd.html>

Hein Veldhuis – 14 March 2006:

Hello, Tom,

Those CXG computers are indeed difficult to date and describe! I'm going to make it work! I know Robert Weck personally. He'll get a message later too. I've been working on it for a couple of days now. You'll hear from me as soon as possible. One thing's for sure: You don't have a Sphinx Galaxy! Not so difficult because the Sphinx Galaxy has a plastic housing. There could be a Sphinx Galaxy program in your model. But which version? To get the right program version (at least with the Dominator), you hold down the pawn and knight key, while turning on the computer. In the display you can read the operational version. As you probably know the Commander, Galaxy and the Dominator have the same chess program from Frans Morsch. Could you send me some detailed pictures of your "Galaxy"? Especially the drawer with the cheat buttons are important. Can the modules get out? Then do that and photograph them! Is there a year on the manual? I would also like to receive some pictures from Robert. Would you like to send him a message?

Greetings, Hein Veldhuis



Tom Luif – 15 March 2006:

Hello, Hein,

Great that you're making such a job of it! I did what you asked. When I start the machine with the pawn and horse key pressed I see the word tEst on the left display and the code 2:04 on the right. As you can see on my site, I do have a plastic version of the Galaxy Mk 2, but that's a very weak machine, probably a program 4KB or so, I think when I see it playing. I took some pictures tonight, but with flash you don't make as nice pictures as with daylight. The pictures I hang on this message. The module you see on CXG_003/CXG_005 has a plastic unscrewable round lid on the back behind which is a large button cell (see CXG_004). Unfortunately the only Galaxy manual I have is one made by Wegam. And they usually have no dating. Well Hein, I got the impression that Robert Weck had already contacted you, but I will write to him.

Greetings and good luck,
Tom Luif

I also received an e-mail from Robert Weck, a German collector from Regensburg, asking if I could answer his mysterious Sphinx 40. The question was, what kind of CPU and what kind of program is in his Sphinx. The only thing I could indicate was that if there is a 68000 CPU in it, it could not be a Frans Morsch program!



Robert Weck – 15 March 2006:

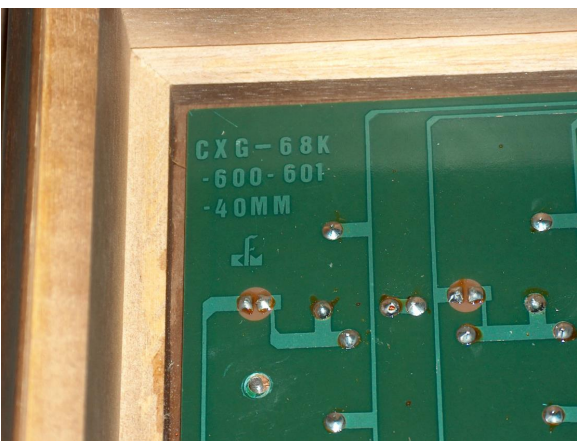
Hello Hein, I got the mail from Tom Luif! By pure chance Bernhard and I exchanged a reed switch at my Galaxy/Commander last Sunday and took some pictures on this occasion. I attached the most interesting ones! I would also have some pictures of the inner workings of the board (the board with the LED's and the reed contacts); if you still want them, let me know and I'll send them to you! **As you can see on the picture 'CXG-68K-Board', it seems that some of the hardware from the 68000-40 was used!** Unfortunately we only took pictures of the keyboard module, if you need some of the display module, I can take some more! I also tried to open the keypad module, but it wasn't enough to unscrew the screws; I guess something would have broken if I had opened the case by force, so I gave up on that. By the way: Tom wrote something about "pawn and bishop keys"; do you mean pawn and knight? With this, the Commander/Galaxy/Dominator does a self-test and shows the version number (2.00 in my case; you can also see the picture 'self-test'. I hope the pictures are useful for you!

Many greetings,
Robert

P.S.: I would like to write an article for the "Schachcomputer-Wiki", so it would be good to know the real name of the computer...



CXG-Selbsttest: Version 2.00...



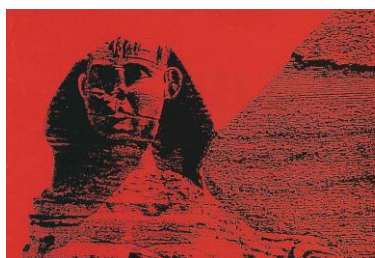
Robert Weck – 15 March 2006: CXG-68K-Platine?!

Robert Weck – 20 August 2007: When i opened my Commander board, there was even something about "68000" written inside, but it was definitely working with the 6502 module. CXG simply recycled the Sphinx 40 boards...

The technical difference between the 'Commander' of Luuk Hofman and Robert Weck...



The picture above shows the CXG Sphinx 'Commander' model, which is owned by Luuk Hofman from Duivendrecht. This model comes from the estate of Tom Luif. Exactly what kind of model it is, was unclear. Luuk already had a discussion about it with Tom Luif in 2006 and 2007, but then it remained a small mystery! As we know in 2014 it must be a Sphinx 40 Plus with a Dominator 2.04 program! The 2.04 program became available in the 4th quarter of 1989...



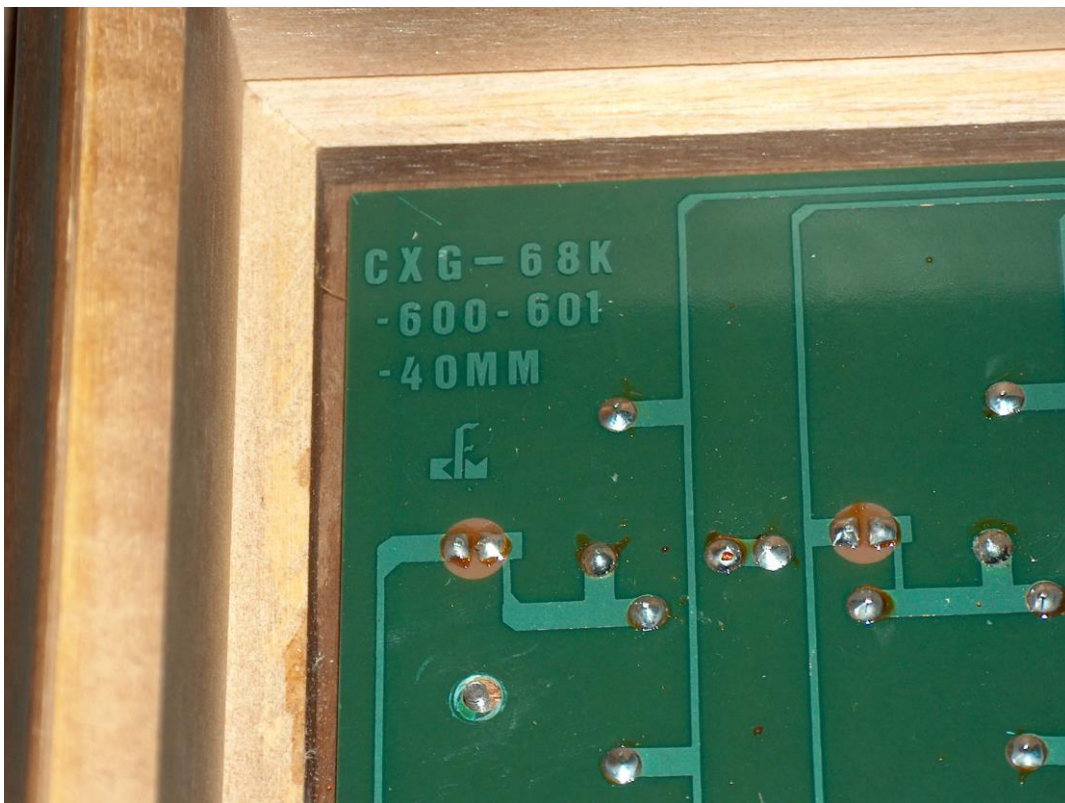
Robert Weck's 'Commander' must be a converted Sphinx 40 Plus with a Dominator 2.00 program. Version 2.00 dates from the 3rd quarter of 1988. This chess computer is really sphinx-like (!), because it still contained an old 68.000 circuit board, which had no function anymore. During the conversion by CXG it was too much trouble to neatly remove this 68K PCB! Unbelievable and too bizarre for words...

E-mail to Frans Morsch - 16 March 2006:

Hello Frans,

Some collectors have an unknown model of CXG. Since I dare to attempt to describe all produced models in a database, they asked me for a consultation. One of them received a "Galaxy" manual from CXG importer Wegam with his purchase. One collector has a model with version 2.00 and the other, version 2.04. Unfortunately I don't really get any further through my literature. Is this a Sphinx 40 prototype with 65C02 CPU? Whether there really is a 65C02 CPU in it is not sure! Standard a Sphinx 40 has a 68000 CPU. This is the image below of a German collector (Robert Weck).

Greetings,
Hein Veldhuis



As you can see on the picture 'CXG-68K board', they have apparently partly using the hardware from 68000-40!

E-mail Frans Morsch - 19 March 2006:

Hello Hein,

I don't think this is my program. I'm not quite sure, it's been a long time and I've worked on programs that never went into production. But at least I've never worked on a system with a 68000.

**Greetings,
Frans Morsch**

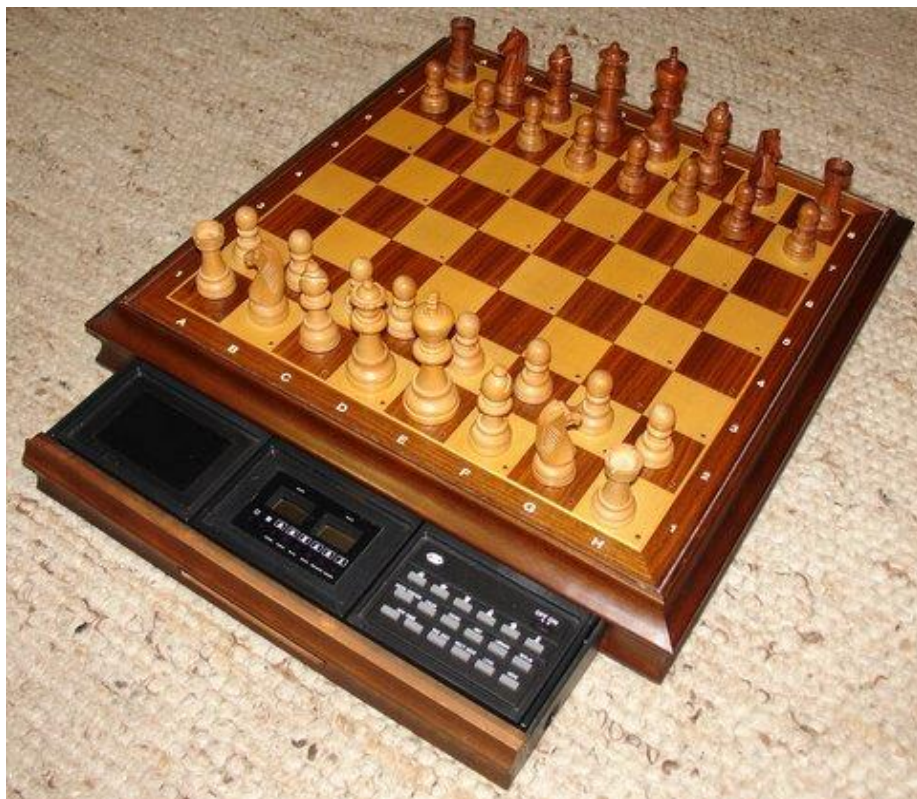


Luuk Hofman - 28 March 2011

Hi Hein,

As you know, I have the CXG Commander (no. 3018?), although there's no indication on the computer itself. Shall I ask Steffen Scholz if this computer qualifies for the tournament in Klingenberg, because the rating is not entirely clear to me. I saw that he himself participates in the CXG Sphinxs 40.

Greetings, Luuk



Achim Pietig – 21 july 2013

Hello Luuk,

in Klingenberg you started with a CXG Sphinx Commander (Dominator 2.04 program), the size of the housing was identical to a CXG Sphinx 40. Steffen started with a CXG Sphinx 50 Plus (Dominator 2.00 program), his housing was identical to a CXG Sphinx 50. Micha and me had a discussion how to identify the several versions of 40, 40 Plus or Commander, he just added them to our Wiki. There is little information on these items, we only found an article of Ketterling (PDF in Heins database). And there are photos of a Commander on Steve Blincoes website. And your model seems to be the one from Tom Luif. The photo on Steves site shows a Commander with one large keypad and two LCD displays, like the CXG 3008. Ketterling also stated in the article that the commander comes in a 3008-housing. The letters Sphinx Commander is printed on the right side of the keyboard. The 40/50 Plus are in the housing of the old 40/50, but the displays are in a different position, it is a module design. The 40/50 Plus design is identical to your Commander in Klingenberg, there are no letters with a model name. We know that all Commanders and 40/50 Plus have a Dominator program, the old Sphinx 40/50 has 16 bit CPU and a Taylor/Levy software. But if your item is a Commander, then there are two different versions of the Commander in the market (3008-housing and Sphinx 40-housing). Maybe all Commanders are in a 3008-housing, like on Steves photos – then your item is a Sphinx 40 Plus! Is there any hint on your computer that makes you shure it is a Commander? Like a label on the bottom with Commander or a manual with Commander? Can you please help us to solve this miracle? Best regards, Achim.

Achim Pietig – 22 (?) july 2013

Hi Luuk,

after checking the latest information and reading the Ketterling fair report carefully and with the knowledge that even the 3008-Commander has versions from 2.00 to 2.04, we are quite shure that you own a 40 Plus. Only the items in the 3008 housing with Commander letters on top and on the label on the bottom are real Commanders. Micha and me adjusted the Wiki in that direction. Reason: At that time CXG was going down and had several housings on stock (40/50, 3008 etc.). The inbuilt programs did not sell, so they took their best software (Dominator) and put it in every existing housing and tried to sell as much as possible... Regards, Achim.

Luuk Hofman – 30 july 2013

Hello Achim,

I just returned from my holidays, which explains my late answer. Recently Jose (from Elpeon) asked me the same question about my Commander. I copy the tekst:

Jose: "please can you tell me why you know that your Commander is really one Commander and not for example a Sphinx40+?"

Luuk: "I bought this one from Tom Luif his collection, after he died. He calls it a Commander but there is nothing on the subject or manual that refers to the Commander or 40+. The programm is Dominator 2.04."

Jose: "My looks exactly as yours with 2.00 version. Thanks and Best José"

Hans van Mierlo comes into possession of an original Commander!

Hans described his remarkable story about the purchase of a Commander as early as January 2014. See: <http://chesseval.com/ChessEvalJournal/Commander.htm>. With Hans permission I put his story here again in my database. I have freely translated his English text here and there.



In 2013 I was on holiday in Germany and searched on Dutch sites for chess computers. And suddenly a CXG Commander was offered there! I looked at the pictures and it was difficult to clearly see and describe what it really was. My first impression was something like: "Well, this is without doubt a CXG." I thought it was the CXG Chess 3008, which was programmed by Kaare Danielsen. So I thought the guy who uploaded this offer was wrong.

Despite my suspicion, I was of course interested in Kaare Danielsen's CXG 3008. I called the seller and made an appointment for a possible purchase. After my vacation I went to him. Then I saw the computer, a Chess 3008 casing with on the right side the official CXG emblem with the inscription "CXG Commander!" To be honest I was speechless and of course I bought this chess computer from him right away. A few days later I posted a message on schachcomputer.info. I was wondering if anyone had ever seen this computer before.

Based on the remarks of other collectors the conclusion was clear: VERY RARE! During all those years of experience with chess computers I had never seen or heard of this version. Of course I asked the previous owner about this chess computer and how he ever got hold of it. He told me that he had bought it in the Netherlands from importer and wholesaler Wegam Trading. Later he upgraded the EPROM from version 2.00 to 2.04. This could mean that version 2.05 was never released for the Commander.

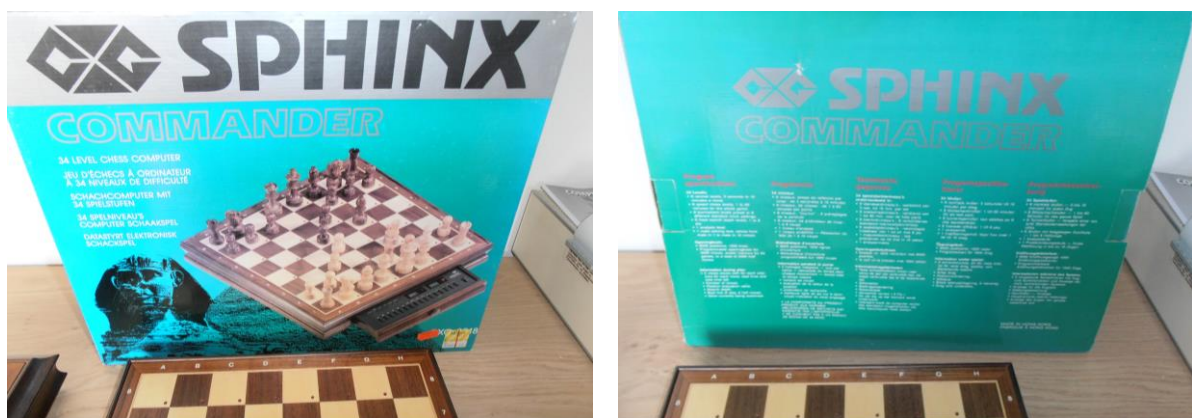
The Sphinx 40 Plus and 50 Plus are only released until version 2.04. At that time I thought that CXG might have kept a stock of far too many old CXG 3008 housings, and that they converted some of them into a Commander to be able to sell these old housings after all. But was my thinking right or wrong? Well, I can tell you, I was absolutely right!



The modular CXG Sphinx 40 Plus with the Commander program 2.00

How can I be so sure? A few weeks ago I met someone from Denmark and he proposed to me a Commander to buy or trade them for another model. I said I was interested and he sent me some photos. I was interested to be able to buy another Commander in a CXG 3008 case, and now with the original box!

At first sight the box shows the casing of the CXG Sphinx 3008 with CXG Sphinx Commander at the top! Conclusion: CXG originally released this computer with the electronic hardware and the Commander program of Frans Morsch!



De doos van de CXG Sphinx Commander

I wasn't lucky once, I was lucky twice. Now I wonder how much CXG Newcrest Technology has produced from these Commanders, so that at some point another collector will be lucky enough to get one, or will it be my turn again? I didn't trade this second Commander for myself, but suggested to the salesman to exchange his computer with my friend Maurice Ohayon.

A lot of information is available about the Commander chess program of Frans Morsch in general, but very little about the original CXG Commander. The CXG Sphinx Commander with model number 3018 is a very rare chess computer based on the wooden casing and design of its predecessors, the CXG Chess 3000 and CXG Chess 3008.

The Commander chess program

The Commander program was written by the Dutchman Frans Morsch. His first program was named Nona (from 1983) and was written in assembly for the 6502 microprocessor. He is also known for his Fritz-program.

The Commander-program can be found in many chess computers like...

- Sphinx Galaxy - model CXG-230 (first release date in the Netherlands: August 1988)
- Sphinx Commander - model CXG-3018 (first release date in the Netherlands: August 1988)
- Sphinx Dominator - model CXG-239 (first publication date in the Netherlands: September 1988)
- Sphinx 40 Plus - model CXG-3038 (first release date in the Netherlands: September 1988)
- Sphinx 50 Plus - model CXG-3048 (first release date in the Netherlands: September 1988)
- Mephisto Modena (first publication date in the Netherlands: December 1991)

Probably all these chess computers are technically capable of running versions 2.00 to 2.05 operational.



Links CXG Sphinx 40 Plus en rechts CXG Sphinx Commander

There were also chess computers announced with the Commander program that never appeared commercially like...

- Sphinx Advanced Star Chess Plus - model CXG-231
- Sphinx Super Enterprise Plus - model CXG-230 (= Sphinx Galaxy!)

Release dates of the program versions of Frans Morsch

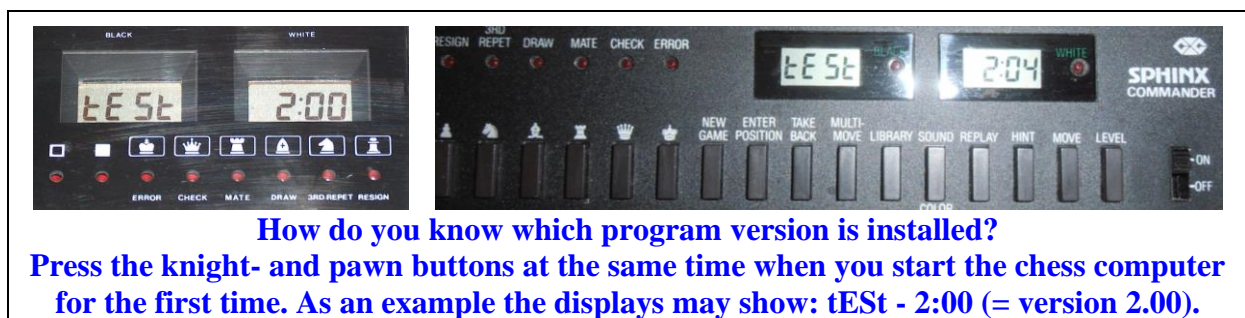
- Sphinx Galaxy (= Galaxy V1.03) was released in the 2nd quarter of 1988.
- Sphinx Commander (= Galaxy V1.03) was released in the 2nd quarter of 1988.
- Sphinx 40 Plus (= Dominator V2.00) was released in the 3rd quarter of 1988.
- Sphinx 50 Plus (= Dominator V2.00) was released in the 3rd quarter of 1988.
- Sphinx 40 Plus Limited Edition (in possession of collector Steve Blincoe - release ??)
- Sphinx Dominator V2.00 was released in the 3rd quarter of 1988.
- Sphinx Dominator V2.03 was released in the 4th quarter of 1988.
- Sphinx Dominator V2.04 was released in the 4th quarter of 1989.
- Sphinx Commander V2.04 was released in the 4th quarter of 1989.
- Sphinx Dominator V2.05 was released in the 2nd quarter of 1991.
- Mephisto Modena V2.05 was released in the 4th quarter of 1991.



CXG Sphinx Commander with program version 2.04 by Frans Morsch

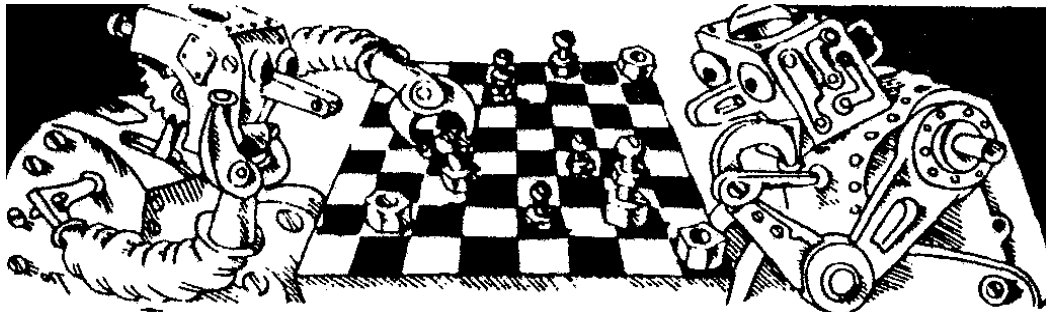
The chess program versions in brief

Versions 2.00 to 2.04 had to deal with bugs (program errors). Version 2.00 had several bugs, these became less and less up to and including 2.04. Version 2.05 should be bug free.



So much for the story of Hans van Mierlo from 2014. I have taken the liberty to change or add some information here and there. I only did that (now in 2020) to make the story as complete and truthful as possible.

Hein Veldhuis: We go back to 1987 to the historical story of the CXG Commander to reconstruct...



1987 was the year in which CXG Newcrest Technology (White & Allcock) sought connection with Hegener + Glaser (Mephisto) in order to gain a larger market share. The chess computer market was booming business and every manufacturer wanted to reap the benefits. Eric White was the big man behind CXG and he had big plans for the coming years. He unfolded these plans at the Nuremberg toy fair in February 1987 with a number of new wooden chess enclosures with a modular system as we know it from the Mephisto Exclusive and Munich boards. The largest board of this series was the Chess 7000, an operational prototype at this fair.

A little piece of history about Eric White

The company 'Cassia', headed by Eric White and Ken Cohen, started producing chess computers as early as the summer of 1979. Their first product was 'Chess Mate', which entered the commercial market in the autumn of 1979. Spicy detail is that 'Chess Mate' is a clone version of the Fidelity Chess Challenger 10 (A). Around 1981 Cassia was renamed to 'White and Allcock' and in 1984 the name 'Newcrest Technology' (CXG) was introduced, which became the brand name 'Sphinx' at the end of 1987. Below a small overview through the years...

1979-1980	Cassia	Eric White & Ken Cohen	(Chess Mate)
1981-1984	White & Allcock	Eric White & Ken Cohen	MultiTech
1984-1991	Newcrest Technology / CXG Systems	Eric White & Ken Cohen	Sphinx (1987)
1991-1993?	National Telecommunications System	Eric White	Sphinx
1994-1995?	Krypton	David Levy	Krypton
1995-1996?	Timorite	Eric White & David Levy	Krypton
1997-1998	Timorite	Eric White & David Levy	Krypton /Systema
1998-1999	Timorite / Tiger Toys	Eric White & David Levy	Krypton /Tiger
?????????			

World Cup in Rome

The top chess program for these boards had to come from the shaft of David Levy's company Intelligent Chess Software. Levy had a lot of confidence in Mark Taylor's 16 bit program, and White registered for the 7th micro world championship which was to be held in Rome in September 1987. Other manufacturers such as Fidelity, SciSys and Novag thought differently and stayed at home. Head of the company Eric Winkler: SciSys wants to build good affordable chess computers instead of participating with three super chess computers in Rome. Peter Auge (Novag): This world championship has developed like a farce in the past years! When a manufacturer has to invest around \$500.000 to possibly win the micro world championship, the point is reached where we drop out.

Fidelity: We lost the Dallas tournament in 1986 by half a point because our best program with multiprocessor and hash functions was not allowed to be part of it. They assured us at the time that we could use it at the next micro-World Championship. Now the organizing committee has again decided that our best program can't play along. We got it loud and clear; we are not invited to this tournament. Nevertheless, as soon as all restrictions and partitions have been lifted, we will immediately sign up again for the next WC.



Richard Lang is champion again in Rome!

(Foto: CSVN Computerschaak - oktober 1987)

So CXG was left only to compete against Hegener + Glaser in the commercial group. The duel with Mephisto was a heavy defeat. Not one match was able to win CXG or even play a draw! Especially in the endgame the Sphinx-program of Levy and Taylor turned out to be far too weak. For Eric White this World Championship was a financial catastrophe!

Cause and effect (a hypothesis)

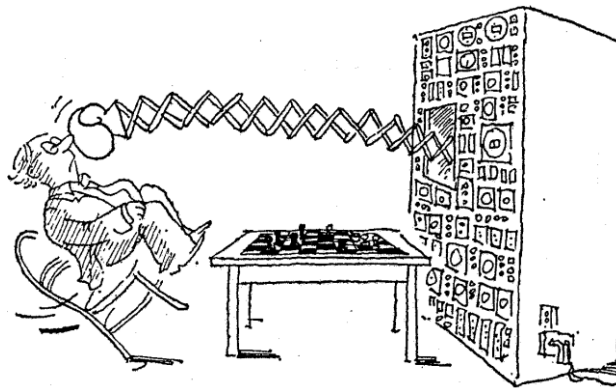
Eric White and his partner Ken Cohen had not taken this result into account at all in Rome. In fact, they even thought that there was really something to be gained there! With this in mind, they had already had many hundreds of wooden enclosures produced before the World Championships, and had quite a few of those already equipped with various 16 (and 32 bit?) program versions of Taylor. After the loss, CXG remained with hundreds of chess computers and boards. Some of them White was able to sell at dumped prices, but the vast majority remained virtually unsaleable. How was he supposed to get rid of his stock?

CXG immediately went looking for other programmers

White was all done with David Levy's software company. The names of Kaare Danielsen, Dan & Kathe Spracklen, Dave (David) Wilson "Advance" and Frans Morsch came up. In the beginning of 1988 CXG hijacked the 3rd programmer from Hegener!

CXG and Frans Morsch

At the beginning of 1988, Frans Morsch founded a free-lance software agency together with Henk Kuyer (Chesscity). Morsch considered his contract with Manfred Hegener to be terminated, but Manfred thought otherwise. Hegener blocked his license payments. Hegener found out that this new free-lance agency also developed "Super Mondial-like programs" for other manufacturers. An announced lawsuit for breach of contract was withdrawn and after that everything was back to the old and familiar way of doing business with each other. CXG gave Morsch a contract in the spring of 1988 to further develop its strongest chess program. Morsch's 8 bit program turned out to be 25% stronger than Taylor's 16 bit version from the start! White was in a hurry, and in the early summer of 1988 this program was implemented and produced in the CXG Sphinx Galaxy, 40- and 50 Plus and (to a much lesser extent) in the Commander. In August of 1988 the CXG Galaxy and Commander were for sale in the Netherlands. But precisely because of all the hurry of CXG, Morsch was not ready, and because of that his program still contained a lot of errors (bugs). That's why Morsch always came up with new program versions.



The introduction of the Commander in the Netherlands

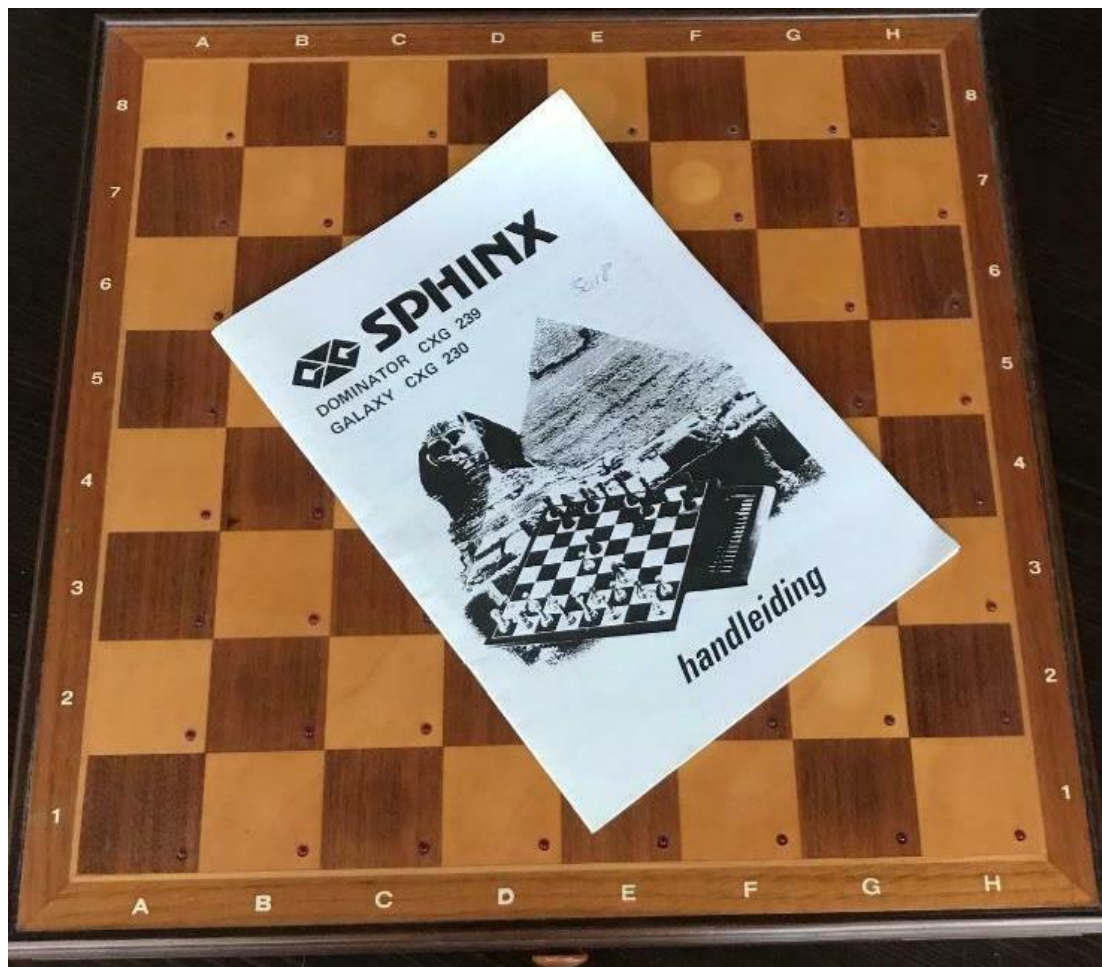
Importer of chess computers, the company Wegam Trading BV from Amstelveen had the exclusive rights to distribute this computer in the Netherlands! According to a brochure and price list of this wholesaler, this computer would be commercially available in August 1988. There is no reason to doubt this. Especially in view of the fact that Witteman, a specialty shop from Amsterdam, offered this computer in an advertisement from October 1988. This computer could also be ordered from the Royal Dutch Chess Federation (KNSB) at a reduced price from October onwards. The Netherlands had thus acquired a unique position, because at that time this computer was not yet available in Germany!

The Commander in Germany?

CXG played a subordinate role in Germany. Mephisto was the market leader, so CXG only sold in the lower and middle price range there. Moreover, the Commander was produced by CXG in very small quantities. Probably this had to do with an earlier overproduction of Sphinx 40 housings. So White preferred to produce the Commander program in a Sphinx 40 and Sphinx 50. In Germany the Commander remained a rarity. Hans-Peter Ketterling wrote about the 1989 toy fair in Nuremberg that the release date was still open for Germany. Shipping house Monika Weitkus from Hennef (near Bonn) was the first in Germany to offer the Commander in September 1989. At specialty store Peter and Inge Kisters from Mönkloh (near Hamburg) no Commander or even a Sphinx 40/50 Plus was included in the assortment in November 1989. Even at the largest supplier in Germany, the Hobby Computer Center of Ossi Weiner, the Commander was for sale only briefly in March 1990. So hardly any Commander has been sold in Germany!

The Commander and the big confusion with other CXG models

CXG sold the modular Sphinx 40 Plus and Sphinx 50 Plus as if it were an original Commander! So the buyers of the first hour knew no better than that they had bought a Commander. CXG didn't even bother to deliver a proper manual. CXG left that job to the Dutch importer Wegam Trading from Amstelveen. For those who for instance bought a Sphinx Galaxy or a Sphinx 40/50 Plus, got a manual with the image of an original Commander! A French brochure from 1990 went one step further and called a Sphinx 40 Plus just a Commander! CXG itself didn't take it too closely in its brochures either. In the brochure of the Sphinx 40 and 50 "Plus" his predecessor the Sphinx 40 "Adversary" is pictured (!) with the old 16 bit program of David Levy and Mark Taylor. Over the years, collectors often couldn't make a distinction, and put their collection on the internet with wrong descriptions! Yes, and then others will take over as the only truth.



**A Sphinx Commander with a manual from the Dominator and Galaxy?
This was the most normal thing in the world for CXG!**

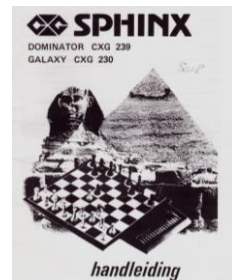
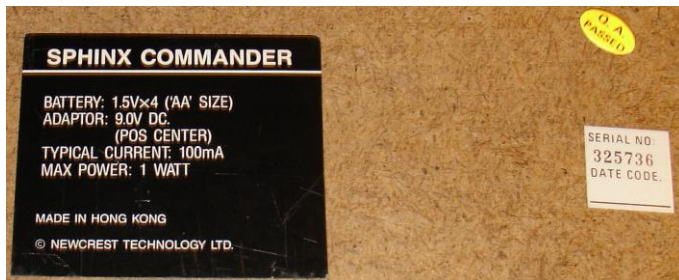
Finally - the collector's value of an original Commander

Even among the largest German collectors there is currently no Commander to be found, which says something about the rarity. Worldwide there are only 4 or 5 collectors who have a Commander in their collection. I estimate that there are only about 20 pieces left in a forgotten attic, and that whoever inherits one from an estate, for example, doesn't even know what the collector's value is. A Commander in a reasonably good condition, so without any light spots, complete and with the original packaging, could just be worth more than € 2000.00!

The great mystery has finally been solved!



On the left side of the picture is the one and only CXG Sphinx Commander and on the right side the CXG Sphinx 40 Plus, which comes from the estate of Tom Luif. This Sphinx 40 Plus has caused a stir with many collectors for years, because this model went through life as a Sphinx Commander while it wasn't! Both machines have program version 2.04 on board, which was programmed by Frans Morsch.



Only the real CXG Commander has 'Sphinx Commander' on the bottom!
 The right hand side picture shows the very confusing manual that came with it...



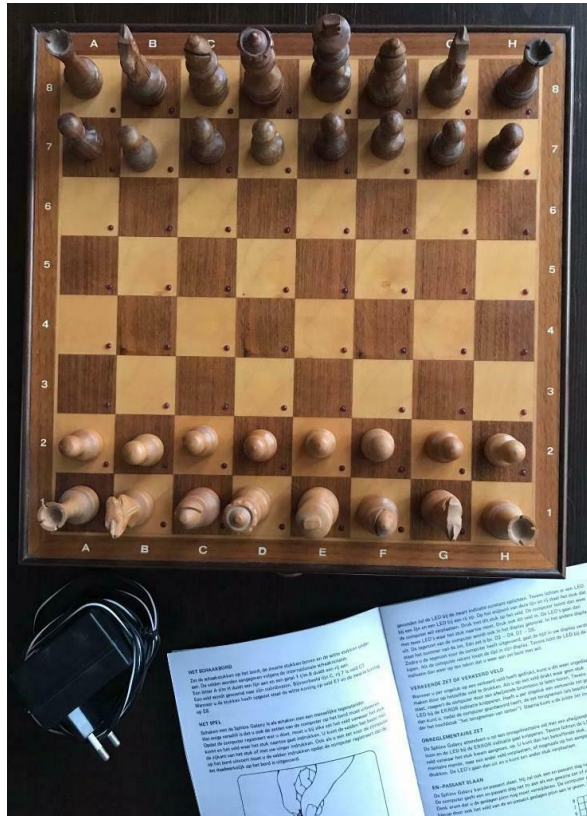
And only the real CXG Commander has 'Sphinx Commander' on the top right!



The wooden casing of the original CXG Commander - model 3018 - has a pure size of 33.5 x 33.5 cm, and the pure playing field measures 29 x 29 cm. This is exactly the same as its predecessors the CXG 3000 (with a program by Richard Lang) and the CXG 3008 (with a program by Kaare Danielsen). The drawer with the control panel is not very stable when you pull it out of the casing, and you can't open it completely. That in itself is not annoying, but CXG could have paid more attention to this during production. The brown chess pieces are quite light colored, and actually a bit too light compared to the white (light yellow) pieces.



Only at a second attempt the CXG Sphinx Commander showed program version 2.04!



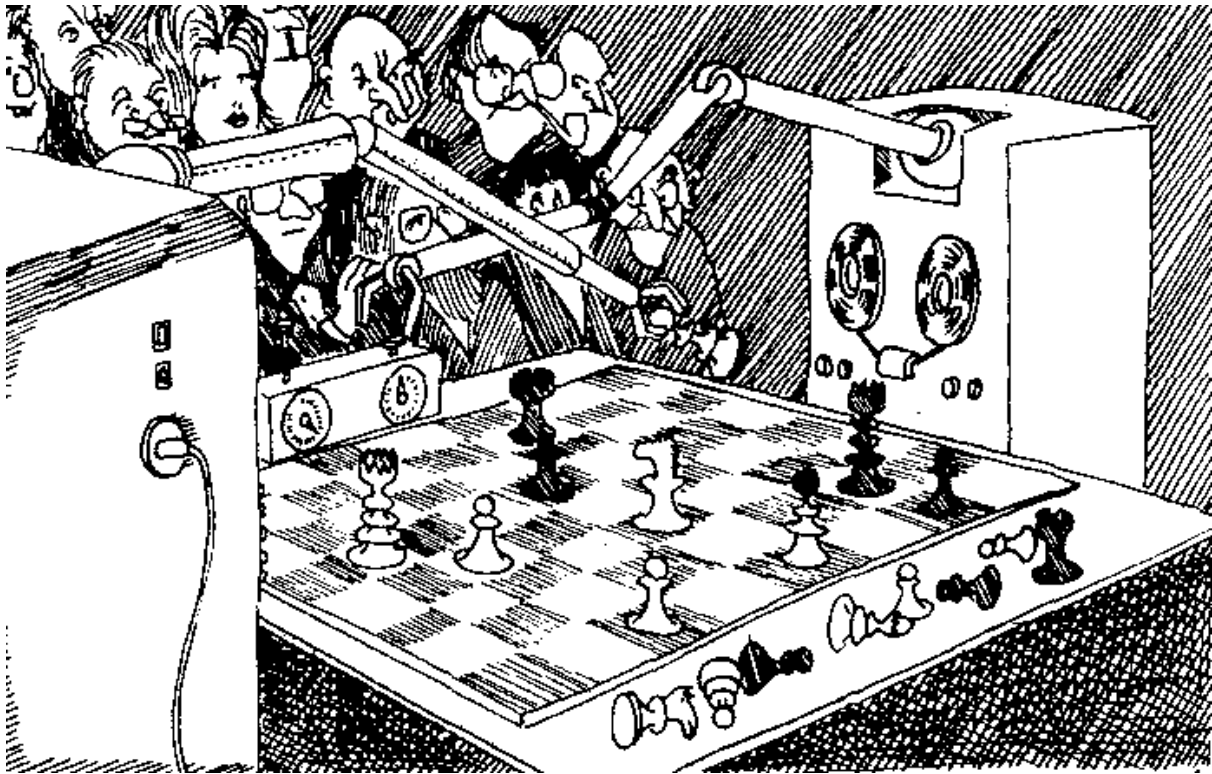
Worldwide there are only 4 or 5 collectors who have a Commander. I estimate there are only about 20 left in a forgotten attic. While making this item I happened to come across an offer from a Commander! Luuk and the undersigned then decided to buy this Commander together! 😊



So much for my reconstruction and hypothesis as a historian.

Europa-Rochade (1987) Hans-Peter Ketterling News from Nuremberg White & Allcock (CXG)

At White & Allcock, Eric White was personally available to provide details of the new equipment and the company's solid policy of steady but not overheated growth. Contrary to the company's policy of some time ago, they now want to produce top-of-the-range equipment. If this intention is successful, White & Allcock will have an important say in the future in the top class. During the discussion of the product range, Eric White first assured that the magnetic sensor unit **Chess 3000** (CXG 3000), which has recently become available for DM 698.00, contains the well-known **Chess 2001** (CXG 2001).



Chess 4000, another device of this series, which is externally modelled on another very well-known brand, contains an improved Super Enterprise program. The device has a 40 cm x 40 cm magnetic sensor board and has three module slots. The game levels include some with move time settings and some countdown levels for blitz and rapid chess. The device is available for DM 898.00, but there will be another version called **Chess 5000** with a 50 cm x 50 cm board and there will be a smaller version in the size of the **Chess 3000**.

Even if you only take a cursory look at the new devices, it is impossible to overlook who you are trying to capture market share from. A special feature of all three devices is the possibility of asking the question "What if? In this case you can replace the computer's answer train with another one and let it show you what kind of countermove it was fearing in this case.

The new top devices from White & Allcock are the **Chess 6000** and **Chess 7000**, which are similar in appearance to the other devices in the new Thousand Series and feature magnetic sensor boards with dimensions of 40 cm x 40 cm and 50 cm x 50 cm. They have space for three program and display slots and cost DM 1748.00 and DM 2498.00. In this price range you naturally expect something special. The units, which will go into production in May, contain the 16-bit processor 68.000, which will run at 8 to 12 MHz, and will have 64 kbyte ROM and 64 kbyte RAM, all in power-saving CMOS technology, so that both mains and battery operation is possible.

Two displays have been planned, which is especially useful for the chess clocks. Furthermore, there are 16 game levels with average computing times of 5 s to 3.75 min, countdown levels and levels with fixed computing times as well as levels whose computing times are automatically adjusted according to the opponent's time consumption.

In addition, you can program in the usual time conditions as used in normal tournaments, but also such specialities as 2 h for 40 moves and 15 min for the rest of the game, which are increasingly being used. Of course, there are also the usual special functions such as multi-move input and mat search levels for up to eight-mat problems with secondary solutions. Selbst wenn man die neuen Geräte nur flüchtig betrachtet, ist nicht zu übersehen, wem man hier Marktanteile abjagen möchte. Eine Besonderheit aller drei Geräte ist die Möglichkeit der Fragestellung "What if?" Hierbei kann man den Antwortzug des Computers durch einen anderen ersetzen und sich zeigen lassen, welchen Gegenzug er in diesem Fall befürchtet hat.



The position evaluation can also be called up, it is displayed in tenths of a pawn unit. Finally, you can retrieve Alternativ trains, because the precalculated variant is stored complete with further details. As this is a flexible modular system, other processors can be used later on, especially the types 68.020 and 68.030, and multi-processor systems are also possible.

The program development took three years and the author was Mark Taylor, who, like Richard Lang, comes from David Levy's circle of employees. It remains to be seen whether the strength of the program can actually keep up with **Mephisto Dallas**, as has been assured several times. In any case, the new top program is to be continually improved and additional modules are to be created ...

White & Allcock still offers a wide range of entry-level and mid-range equipment that has been on offer for some time. These include the tiny little keypad device **Pocket Chess** (CXG 219) for DM 75.00 with Levys **Mighty Mitget's program**, **Computachess III** (CXG 008), a battery-powered device with 16 game levels and pressure sensor board for DM 168.00, **Computachess IV** (CXG 227) for DM 138.00, a new device with 16 game levels whose program corresponds to that of the **Portachess** and does not allow position control. The pocket devices **Portachess** (CXG 202), with plug-in sensor board and 16 levels for DM 78.00, and **Advanced Portachess** (CXG 201) in a similar design with 8 levels for DM 108.00 are intended as travel companions.

The playing strength of all these beginner devices is not outstanding, more interesting is the middle class device **Crown** (CXG 228) with a relatively large pressure sensor board and the program of the **Enterprise** for DM 198.00, which first came out in black and is now delivered in brown. The two predecessors **Enterprise-S** (**Enterprise 'S'**) (CXG 208) for DM 268.00 and **Star Chess** (CXG 209) for DM 168.00 are also still available and cover the range between the entry-level units and the upper middle class.



Super Enterprise LCD (CXG 210C) with the strong program van Kaare Danielsen, which also participated in the 1986 Microcomputer World Cup in Cologne, is now supplied with two liquid crystal displays, has 44 game levels and with its price of DM 348.00 is currently one of the devices with the best price-performance ratio. The same program is available in the pocket unit **Advanced Star Chess** (CXG 211) for DM 248.00, which is equipped with a plug-in sensor board, and in the new tabletop unit **Super Crown** (CXG 218) for DM 268.00.

In addition, six LCD games are also available for the fabulous price of just under DM 20.00. These include **football**, **basketball**, **tennis**, **UFOs**, **lion hunting** and **sea battles**. In Nuremberg, no trees would be uprooted this year, but it became clear that the development is constantly being pushed forward, not least by SciSys and White & Allcock, two companies based in Hong Kong, who have competed in Germany against the market leader Hegener + Glaser.

Source - <https://rochadeeuropa.com/> March 1987 and April 1987,
Hans-Peter Ketterling: News from Nuremberg.

Computer-Schach & Spiele (1987) Nuremberg International Toy Fair offered interesting news about Newcrest Technology

Fantastic new revelations could not be expected at this year's Nuremberg Toy Fair, as the manufacturers seemed to have already shot their powder last autumn. But things turned out differently: many an exciting novelty was on display - and even more: many rumours were circulating, there is movement in the scene.

A perfect copy

Some Hegener+Glaser employees, who had made the rounds in the Nuremberg exhibition halls, came back smiling: "Have you already seen what Newcrest has to offer? Indeed, the manufacturer from Hong Kong, who (according to company boss Eric White) would like to challenge SciSys for the title of the world's largest manufacturer, amazes with an exact copy of the chess computers from Hegener and Glaser. Arriving in Germany just two days before the fair, the **prototypes (one of them ready to play)** were presented in two different sized wooden cases in almost Mephisto-"Exclusive" or "Munich" format.

They are made of wood, have an attractive exterior and contain three interchangeable black module slots in the drawer that can be pulled out at the front. There is one keyboard, one display and one empty drawer. The display slot has two displays, which can show the time spent on both sides at the same time. There is also a key with the ominous inscription "W.I.": "What if?" ("Woas is?" translated by Bavarian fair visitors) and it's a function which, as a kind of chess teacher, provides information about which game progresses according to a variant suggested by the player - if Newcrest doesn't revise the feature after all.

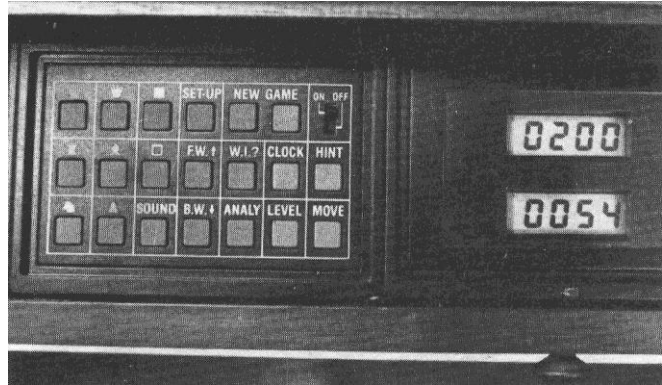
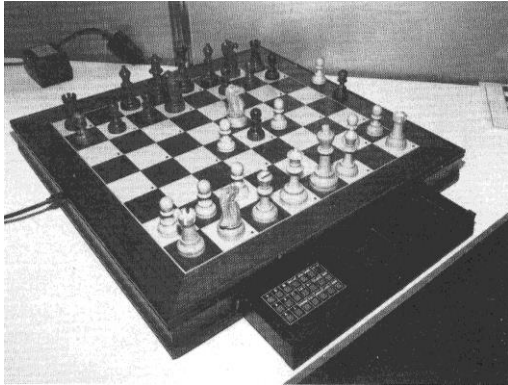
The devices will first be released under the name **Chess 4000** for DM 898,- and as **Chess 5000** for just under a thousand, later with a 16-bit processor as Chess 6000 and **Chess 7000** for DM 1748,- and DM 2498,- respectively. The program size is 64 kByte ROM and 64 kByte RAM. In addition, a low-priced plastic version without the possibility of exchanging programs is in sight. With the new devices, Eric White also plans to participate in the World Cup '87, which will possibly take place in Rome.

Drawers the only solution?

Asked about the obvious Hegener+Glaser copy, Eric White said that you can't design a chess computer in any other way than this if you don't want to spoil the board with keys and also accommodate modules. It is probably closer to the truth that Hegener+Glaser does not play an important role in the international concert and that they are will therefore limit the discredit that Newcrest may have to fear for its copies to the German market. Too bad for the active importer Lorenz Siwek! Siwek announced that Newcrest has decided to change the appearance of the new devices in such a way that the similarity to the Hegener+Glaser models is lower.

Siwek is also aware of the fact that the new equipment series only has a chance if the price is kept competitive. For this reason he has already considered a price reduction of the **Chess 3000** (see presentation in CSS 1/87). Furthermore it was to be learned that this device (originally not intended for the German market at all) will soon be equipped with the program by **Kaare Danielsen** that is currently in the **Super Enterprise**. Then **Chess 3000** should also get two small displays.

The pictures from CSS 2/87 show a Chess 7000 prototype, which was operational during the Nurnberg toy fair. Now in the year 2020 a unique specimen! Where has this model gone? Maybe it came into the possession of a collector?



Beide Fotos aus CSS April 1987 zeigen einen CXG Chess 7000-Prototyp (!), der während der Nürnberger Spielwarenmesse einsatzbereit war. Jetzt im Jahr 2020 ein Unikat! Wo ist dieses Modell geblieben? Ist es vielleicht in den Besitz eines Sammlers gekommen?

Apart from that, Newcrest (also "CXG" – a purely optical name without content – or "White & Allcock") offers a wide range of devices in the lower price range, e.g. the **Advanced Portachess**, a travel chess computer for DM 78,-, the **Super Crown** with the **Super Enterprise program**, but without display for DM 194,-, or the **Advanced Star Chess** for DM 166,-, which is meanwhile equipped with a black case.

One thing (with the exception of Novag) all manufacturers this year have unanimously taken up the flag: playing strength. It is accepted that participation in the world championship is effective for the public – a success all the more so – and that it is well advised to have a strong top model in the range. So we can expect that in the foreseeable future there will not only be more wooden devices, but also a world championship with the participation of CXG and SciSys: For the fans certainly a welcome prospect.

Source: Computer-Schach & Spiele (CSS 2/87), April 1987, Play strength is trumps
Nuremberg International Toy Fair offered interesting news
Newcrest Technology (Extract).

CXG wooden boards overview

Chess 3000: 33,5 x 33,5 cm - 8-Bit (1986 - DM 698,00 - Richard Lang)

Chess 3008: 33,5 x 33,5 cm - 8-Bit (1987 - DM 698,00 - Kaare Danielsen)

Chess 6000: 40 x 40 cm - 16-Bit = CXG Sphinx 40 (1987 - DM 998,00 - Levy & Taylor)

Chess 7000: 50 x 50 cm - 16-Bit = CXG Sphinx 50 (1987 - DM 1498,00 - Levy & Taylor)

Chess Commander: 33,5 x 33,5 cm - 8-Bit (1988 - DM 898,00 - Frans Morsch)

Chess 4000: 40 x 40 cm - 8-Bit = CXG Sphinx 40 Plus (1988 - DM 998,00 - Fr. Morsch)

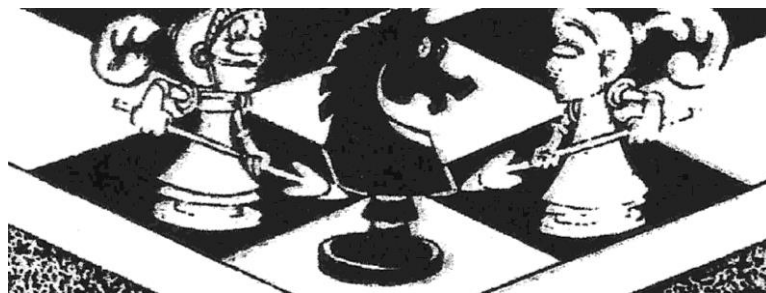
Chess 5000: 50 x 50 cm - 8-Bit = CXG Sphinx 50 Plus (1988 - DM 1498,00 - Fr. Morsch)

Schach Echo (May 1987)

Alexander Canetti

Chess computer on the Nuremberg International Toy Fair

This stood out above all because there were wooden planks with 'déjà vu' effect to be seen. You see: 40 x 40 and 50 x 50 cm respectively, pull-out drawer, three interchangeable modules... Mr. White and Mr. Siwek hurried to assure themselves that these were only preliminary samples and that the final products would of course look completely different. Let's wait and see.



In any case, CXG announces two new 68.000 programs, which allegedly are not from Levy but from the Englishman Wilson ("Advance"). The smaller program is supposed to be stronger than the Super Enterprise, the larger program is even supposed to venture into "Dallas regions". In any case, CXG wants to compete against the overpowering Mephisto's at the next Microcomputer World Championship.

The following new releases were announced for 1987:

CXG 3003: Wooden unit like CXG 3000, but with Super Enterprise program. Expected price between DM 500,- and 600,-.

Super Enterprise 68.000: Plastic unit with 16 bit processor. Expected price between DM 700,- and 800,-.

And in addition 4 different versions of wooden sensor boards with 16 bit processors:

CXG 4000 (68.000 / 40 x 40 cm) approx. DM 900,-

CXG 5000 (68.000 / 50 x 50 cm) approx. DM 1250,-

CXG 6000 (68.000 / 40 x 40 cm) approx. DM 1750,-

CXG 7000 (68.000 / 50 x 50 cm) approx. DM 2500

You can certainly look forward to these models, because CXG has always been a price breaker.

Source - Schach Echo, May 1987, Alexander Canetti:
Chess computer on the Nuremberg International Toy Fair (Extract)

NB: Mr Canetti's reporting is partly wrong!

Computer-Schach & Spiele (1987)

Bernd Schneider

Chess 3008 - Turn two into one

The company **CXG (Newcrest)** had already made quite a lasting impression two years ago with its powerful **Super Enterprise**. Last winter, the wooden **Chess 3000** followed, and this fall CXG will now make one out of the two: The wooden housing now comes with the 16-K program by **Kaare Danielsen** and the two small displays known from the **Super Enterprise**. The name "**Chess 3008**" is probably derived from the case name (3000) and the MHz number (8). Bernd Schneider examined the fusion and was delighted.



At the **Super Enterprise** (which still exists) I disliked the strangely shaped figures, which could not activate the sensor board very well, and the very small edge LEDs. Both shortcomings are solved in the best possible way by transferring the **Super Enterprise's** innards into the **Chess 3000's** case: Here you now have a really beautiful wooden device with magnetic sensors, 64 LEDs in the board and a very extensive list of features, which are known from the **Super Enterprise**, but can be realized much better and more clearly on the full sensor. For example, the main variant can be shown six moves away on the board, or you can check piece positions with the push of a button even while the computer is busy.

With the price of less than DM 700.00, as promised by importer Lorenz Siwek, the device would have to be in trouble if it didn't find its fans, even if the overall playing strength is a little behind that of some 16-K colleagues. Tactically however, the thing is fantastic. Also the operating instructions have received the "Teutonic improvement" I hoped for and the workmanship of the drawer in the front of the unit has improved (even if it still has no felt feet). Heart, what more do you want?

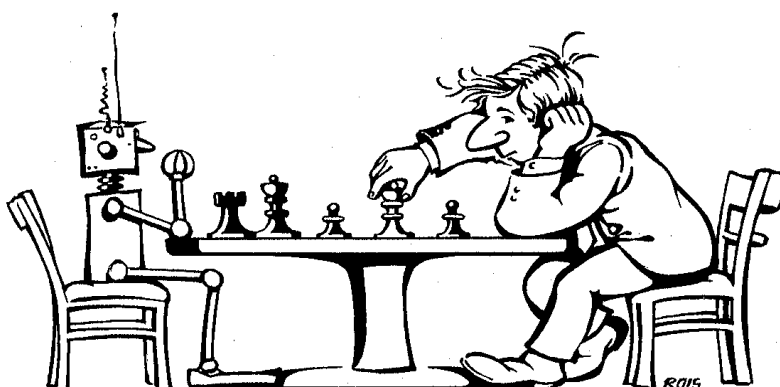
Source - Computer-Schach & Spiele (6/87) – December 1987
Bernd Schneider: Fathomlessly the Sphinx smiles.

Europa-Rochade (1988)

Hans-Peter Ketterling

Nuremberg fair novelties

White & Allcock has been represented in Germany for some time now by Lorenz Siwek, who has now also become the German Fidelity representative, and has also announced some new products. The two new top-of-the-range units **Sphinx 40** and **Sphinx 50** for DM 998.00 and DM 1498.00 were only introduced in the last days before Christmas 1987, but there are already some news to report.



A completely new program is planned for both devices, which will offer several surprises. First of all, it does not come from Levy's program forge, instead Kaare Danielsen, the likeable Danish programmer of **Advanced Star Chess**, has his hand in it together with another yet unnamed programmer.

Second, the program is not supposed to run on the 68.000 but on the good old 6502 and still be stronger than the current Sphinx program. If handled correctly, the 6502 is very powerful, apart from the fact that it is much cheaper.

Thirdly, the program will be available as an exchange module for **Sphinx 40** and **Sphinx 50**, and you will probably see it competing at this year's planned Microcomputer World Championship in Spain. From now on Sphinx will not only identify a special program family, but will also be used as a brand name, i.e. the name for the entire White & Allcock product range. Behind **Sphinx Junior** will be a keypad device for DM 129.00 with LC display and a small chess set included.

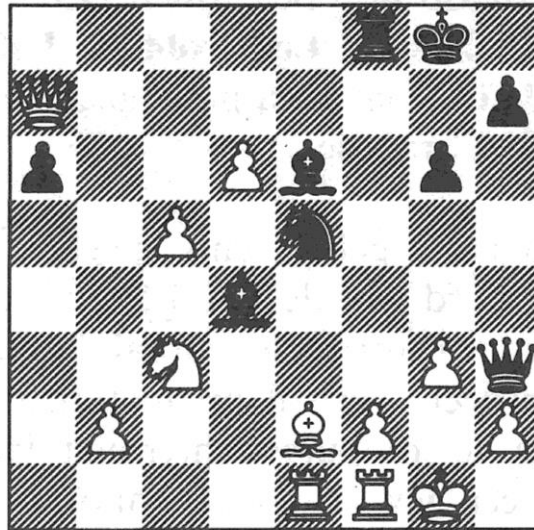
Advanced Starchess Plus (Advanced Star Chess Plus) or **Sphinx Supra** will be available with a new program for DM 298.00, which will also come out as **Sphinx Commander** in the case of the **Chess 3008** with magnetic sensor board for DM 898.00, while Chess 3008 will remain in the range unchanged for DM 698.00. In addition some smaller devices will still be available, but probably some of them will get a facelift. All new units should be on sale by September.

Source - <https://rochadeeuropa.com> April 1988, Hans-Peter Ketterling:
Nuremberg fair novelties (continued from the March issue).

CXG Sfinx-Voorn

Benoni

1. d4 Pf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Pc3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. Pf3 g6 7. e4 Lg7 8. Le2 a6 9. 0-0 b5 10. a3 0-0 11. Lg5 Dc7 12. e5! dxe5 13. d6 Dd8 14. Pxe5 Te8 15. Lxf6! Lxf6 16. Pxf7! Kxf7 17. Dd5+ Le6 18. Dxa8 Ld4 19. Db7+ Kg8 20. Dc7 Dh4 21. Tae1 Pbd7 22. Da7 b4 23. g3 Dh3 24. axb4 Pe5 25. bxc5 Tf8



Zwart heeft nu alles klaar staan om via f3 binnen te dringen. De arme Sfinx ziet het niet. 26. Ted1 Lg4 27. Dxa6 Op 6 Ply. Het mat ligt buiten de horizon. 27. ..., Lf3 28. Da2+ Kg7 29. Da7+ Kh6 30. Dg7+ en wit geeft het op.

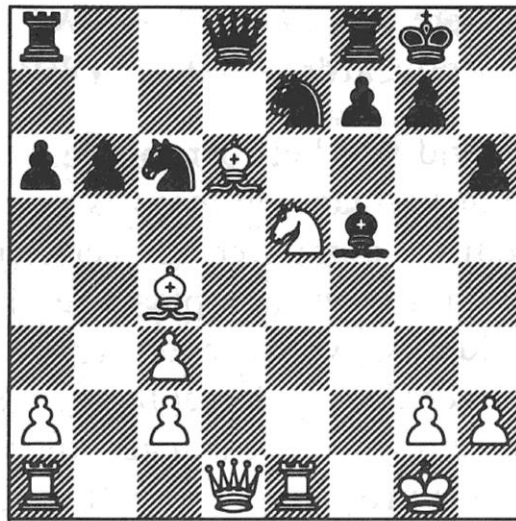
From the Aegon tournament which started on 9 May 1988 comes the oldest published chess game of a beta version of Frans Morsch, who was developing a chess program on behalf of CXG Newcrest Technology. It was appropriately named CXG Sphinx, which was to appear commercially in the CXG Galaxy and the Commander in August 1988. A tragic event took place on the board of the Sphinx, (probably a Sphinx 40 prototype). With an excellent centre breakthrough, white had the advantage. While collecting material, however, the computer doesn't see that black (Martin Voorn) is setting up a dangerous attack. When reality finally comes within its horizon it's too late, and matt can no longer be prevented.

(Source: CSVN Computerschaak nr. 3 – june 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

Jongsma-CXG Sfinx

Onregelmatig

1. Pc3 Pc6 2. d4 Pf6 3. e4 e5 4. dxe5 Pxe5
5. f4 Pc6 6. e5 Pg8 7. Lc4 Lb4 8. Pf3 h6 9.
0-0 Lxc3 10. bxc3 b6(?) 11. La3 Pe7 12. f5
d5 13. exd6 e.p. cxd6 14. Lxd6 Lxf5 15.
Te1 a6 16. Pe5 0-0



17. Lxe7 Pxe7 18. Dxd8 Taxd8 19. Pxf7
Tc8 20. Lb3 Tc7 21. Pxf6+ Kh7 22. Pxf5
Pxf5 23. Tf1 Tf6 24. Tf3 Kg6 25. Taf1 b5
26. Ld5 Pd6 27. Tg3+ Kh5 28. Te1 a5 29.
Te5+ Tf5 30. Txf5 Pxf5 31. Td3 Kg5 32.
Le6 Pe7 33. Td7 Txd7 34. Lxd7, zwart
geeft het op.

Here's a last game from the 1988 Aegon tournament. In the last (6th) round Lex Jongsma managed to maintain his one hundred percent score. He didn't have a hard time against the CXG Sfinx, even though organizer Cock de Gorter had specially adapted the opening book to Jongsma's bizarre opening choice. To no avail. Jongsma got a big lead in development and won quickly. CXG Sfinx finished with 3 points from 6 games in the middle spot. The strongest chess computer was Mephisto Mega IV, a commercial version connected to an 18 MHz turbo kit. The Mega IV ended with 4 points from 6 games.

(Source: CSVN Computerschaak nr. 3 – june 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

Jeroen Noomen: The battle against three computers in Dieren

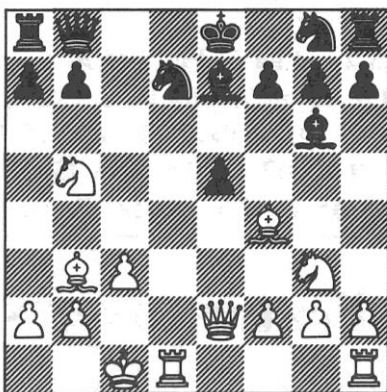
From 18 to 28 July 1988 the traditional Open Championship of the Netherlands took place again in Dieren. For the eighth consecutive time there was also the special computer group and just like last year I was allowed to participate again. Last year I had scored 7 out of 8 and I was curious if the computers would manage to get me more points this year. After all, I could assume that the factories would bring their newest devices into the battleground, with the latest gadgets and improvements. Disappointing news reached me a week before the start: Novag and Fidelity had pulled out. Apparently these factories were afraid to stick their necks out and they both missed the first computer rating tournament in Europe. Personally, I found that very unfortunate, because I would have liked to play against the endgame strong Fidelity Mach II and the combined Novag. In preparation was the just published magazine of the CSVN Computerschaak nr. 3, which came in handy. All games of the CXG Sphinx and the Mephisto Mega IV were played carefully. I decided to play each game a bit different to give the computers a fair chance, so for instance not always King-Indian and Sicilian with black (through my own Mephisto MM IV I know that computers with these openings have great difficulty). The first three laps I had to compete against Frans Morsch's CXG Sphinx. They were three fairly easy victories. In two games the program saw the dangers of my king's attack too late and in the first game happened as you can see below.

Wit: **J. Noomen** (Elo 2091)

Zwart: **Sphinx C**

Caro-Kann

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Pd2 de4 4. Pxe4 Lf5 5. Pg3 Lg6 6. Lc4 Einde boek. 6. ..., Pd7 7. P1e2 Pb6 8. Lb3 c5?! 9. c3 cd4 10. Pxd4 e5? Al de beslissende fout. Verwaarlozen van de ontwikkeling kan in zo'n open stelling niet goed gaan. 11. De2 Dc7 12. Lf4 Pd7 13. Pb5 Db8 14. 0-0-0 Le7



(Source: CSVN Computerschaak nr. 4 – august 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

15. Txd7! Niet al te moeilijk. Op ..., ef4 komt nu Txb7! 15. ..., Kxd7 16. Td1+ Kc6 Of ..., Ke8 17. Lxe5. 17. Dc4+ Lc5 18. Dd5+ Kxb5 19. La4+! Kb6 Op een andere zet komt Dxc5 en snel mat. Nu won Db3+ snel en eenvoudig, maar ik was gebiologeerd door een dameoffer: 20. Dxc5+!? Kxc5 21. Le3+ Kc4 22. b3+ Kxc3 23. Lc5! Ld3 24. Txd3 Kxd3 25. Lb5+ Kc3 26. Pe2 mat.

Grappig is de onderste rij van zwart, waar al zijn zware materiaal hulpeloos moet toezien hoe de eigen koning wordt matgezet.

NB: Against a strong computer chess player (Jeroen was under contract with Mephisto for a long time as opening expert) it is not easy to make a fist. In 1988 Frans Morsch also discovered this and wrote his programme for Newcrest Technology. Only one month later his new program would appear as **CXG Galaxy and **CXG Commander**!**



SPHINX

Pricelist CXG chess computers 1988 in the Netherlands

Type	Name	Transformer included	Playing levels	Advice sales
CXG-219	Pocketchess	no	8	Fl. 89,00
CXG-202	Portachess	no	8	Fl. 99,00
CXG-237	Sphinx Junior	no	64	Fl. 149,00
CXG-227	Computachess IV	no	16	Fl. 169,00
CXG-209	Starchess	no	16	Fl. 199,00
CXG-011	Galaxy Mark II	no	8	Fl. 199,00
CXG-008	Computachess III	no	8	Fl. 249,00
CXG-240	Sphinx Royal (**)	no	64	Fl. 279,00
CXG-228	Crown	no	16	Fl. 279,00
CXG-211	Advanced Starchess	no	44	Fl. 279,00
CXG-208	Enterprise S	no	8	Fl. 299,00
CXG-218	Super Crown	no	44	Fl. 349,00
CXG-210	Super Enterprise	no	44	Fl. 399,00
CXG-210C	Super Enterprise LCD	no	44	Fl. 469,00
CXG-230	Sphinx Galaxy (*)	yes	56	Fl. 569,00
CXG-239	Sphinx Dominator (**)	yes	56	Fl. 649,00
CXG-3008	Chess 3008	yes	44	Fl. 849,00
CXG-3018	Sphinx Commander (*)	yes	56	Fl. 979,00
CXG-3038	Sphinx 40 Plus (**)	yes	56	Fl. 1299,00
CXG-3048	Sphinx 50 Plus (**)	yes	56	Fl. 1599,00
WTA	Transformator (***)			Fl. 29,50

(*) Available from August 1988

(**) Available mid-September 1988

(***) WTA transformer is connectable for all CXG models except CXG-219 and CXG-202.

WEGAM TRADING BV

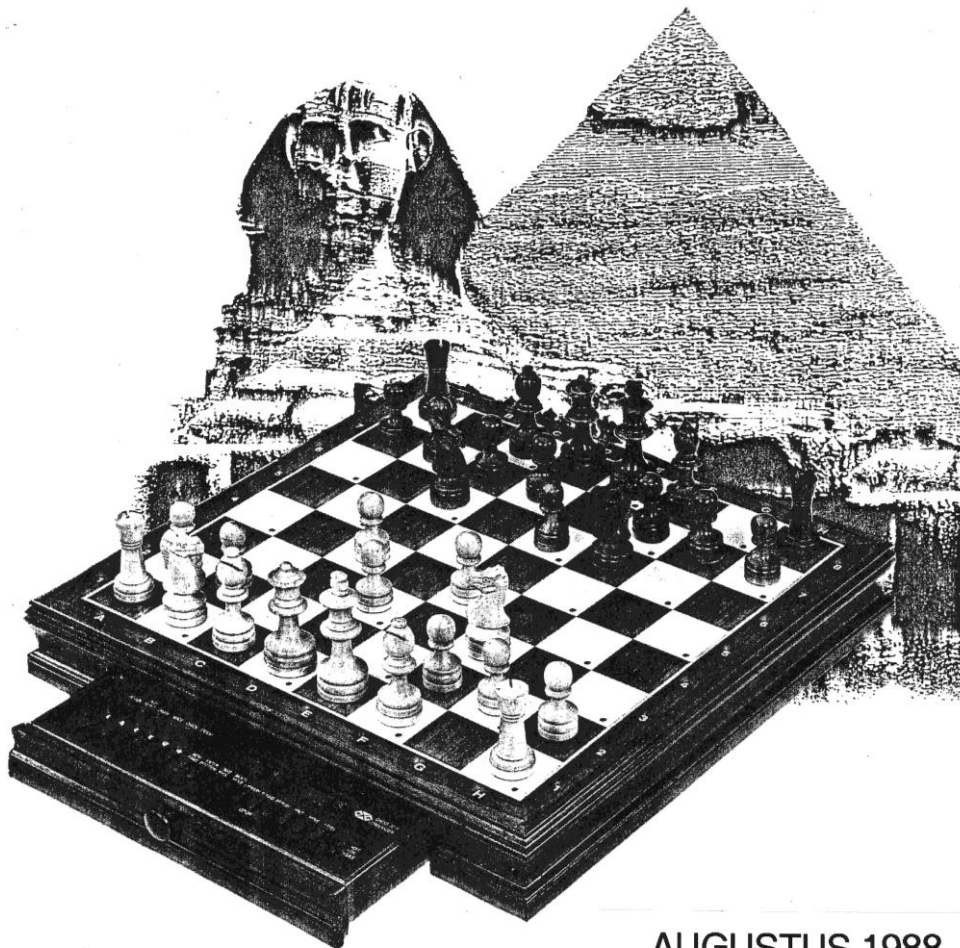
BOUWERIJ 1 - 1185 XW AMSTELVEEN
POSTBUS 311 - 1180 AH AMSTELVEEN
TEL.: 020 - 45 64 51 - TELEX 16099 BETON NL

(Source: Wegam Trading BV - 1988) (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)

NB: This Wegam price list is a reproduction of the original. The exact date of publication of this pricelist cannot be traced, but July 1988 seems most likely to me.



SPHINX COMMANDER



AUGUSTUS 1988

De Sphinx Commander beschikt over hetzelfde programma en dezelfde mogelijkheden als de aan de ommezijde beschreven Sphinx Galaxy. Het verschil zit in het fraaie houten bord met sensoren en de houten stukken met magneten. U hoeft het stuk slechts te verplaatsen op het bord en de computer "voelt" wat uw zet is. De tegenzet van de computer wordt met individuele LED's per veld aangegeven.

Het resultaat is een zeer fraai ogende en nog eenvoudiger en sneller te bedienen computer.

Afmetingen 34 x 34 cm.

Leverbaar vanaf augustus 1988.

Adviesverkoopprijs f 979,--.

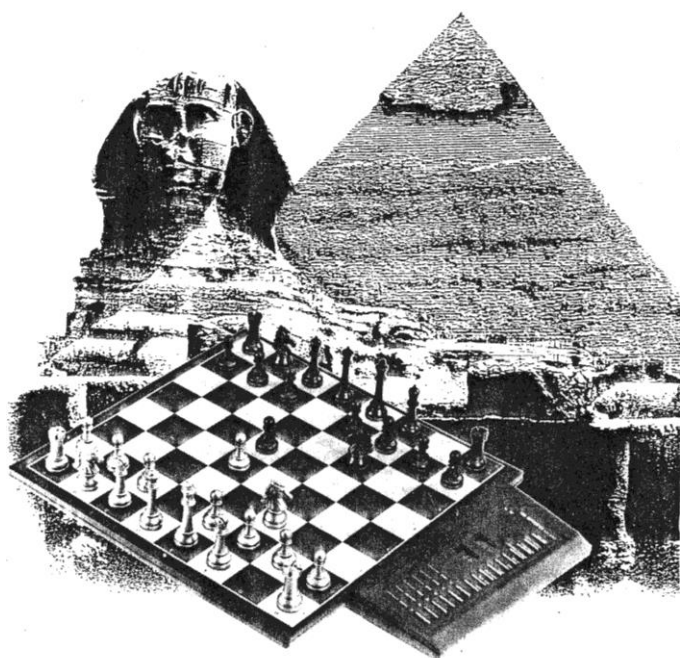
Importeur

WEGAM TRADING BV

BOUWERIJ 1 - 1185 XW AMSTELVEEN
POSTBUS 311 - 1180 AH AMSTELVEEN
TEL.: 020 - 456451 - TELEX 16099 BETON NL

CXG Sphinx Commander: available from August 1988
Release: August 1988 in the Netherlands!

(Source: Wegam Trading BV - 1988) (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)



CXG 230 SPHINX GALAXY

Moderne tafelmodel schaakcomputer met ingebouwde schaakklokken en sensorveldbediening. De zeer eenvoudig te bedienen Sphinx Galaxy beschikt over een zeer uitgebreid en zeer sterk programma van de Nederlandse topprogrammeur Frans Morsch en wordt inclusie lichtnetadapter geleverd. Geschikt voor gemiddelde spelers tot zeer ervaren clubschakers.

AUGUSTUS 1988

Technische gegevens:

Speelsterkte	: ca. 2050 Elo.
Microprocessor	: 65C02.
R.O.M. geheugen	: 32 Kbyte.
R.A.M. geheugen	: 8 Kbyte.
Kloksnelheid	: 4 MegaHerz.
Invoer van de zetten	: sensorvelden.
Weergave van het antwoord	: 16 LED's / L.C.D. display.
Aantal speelsterkteniveau's	: 56, onderverdeeld in o.a.: toernooiniveau's, snelschaakniveau's, rekendiepteniveau's en probleemniveau's.
Schaakklok	: 2 klokken die zowel count-downtijd, zettijd en totaaltijd kunnen tonen.
Zetten terugnemen	: onbeperkt (hele partij is naspeelbaar uit het geheugen).
Informatiemogelijkheden	: toont op verzoek rekendiepte, stellingswaardering, verwachte variant en zettenteller.
Aantal varianten in openingsbibliotheek	: 1200 (8000 zetten in transposities).
Openingsbibliotheek uitbreidbaar met	: 64 varianten (max. 3000 zetten).
Maximum rekendiepte	: 20 ply.
Lost problemen op tot	: mat in 10 zetten.
Eindspel	: voorgeprogrammeerde eindspelstrategieën.
Geschikt voor	: snelschaak, toernooischaak, briefschaak en probleemschaak.
Voeding	: lichtnet/batterijen (wordt inclusief lichtnet- adapter geleverd).
Afmetingen	: 42 cm x 32 cm.

Adviesverkoopprijs f 569,--

Importeur

WEGAM TRADING BV

BOUWERIJ 1 - 1185 XW AMSTELVEEN
POSTBUS 311 - 1180 AH AMSTELVEEN
TEL: 020 - 45 64 51 - TELEX 16099 BETON NL

CXG Sphinx Galaxy: available from August 1988
Release: August 1988 in the Netherlands!

(Source: Wegam Trading BV - 1988) (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)

Computer-Schach & Spiele (1988)

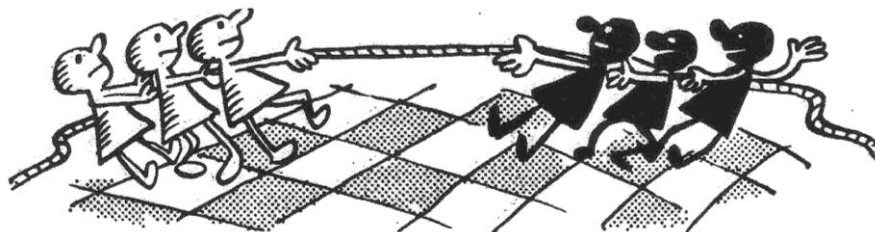
Günter Niggemann

From II Mach III

Computer novelties at the 20th Porz Open

The traditional Porz Open seems to develop into a test field for chess computers. More and more manufacturers are sending their latest machines to this tough tournament for testing. At the 20th event of this kind, which took place from 9 to 17 July, some machines made their debut. Günter Niggemann reports.

For the jubilee open of the Schachgemeinschaft Porz e.V., which the International Champion, multiple German Blitzmeister and former world record holder in simultaneous chess Karl-Heinz Podzielný (ELO 2515) won with the dream result of 9 points from 9 rounds, the computer manufacturers sent a crowd of illustrious guests - a last test before the World Championship in Spain?



The company CXG/Newcrest started with a new device: CXG Commander with the program by Frans Morsch, well known to the readers as author of the Mondial/Supermondial programs. The program ran on a 6502 processor in the case of the CXG 3008. In the CXG product range, this device will have the type designation CXG 3018; the CXG 3008 will remain in the program. In the guise of the Super Enterprise, the recommended retail price for this computer should be between DM 398,- and DM 448,-. Second unit from this manufacturer: a CXG Sphinx 40 with revised program, but still with 16-bit processor.

Fidelity had released a Mach II with Los Angeles program. And with a novelty: Fidelity Mach III. This is a 68020 machine with the latest program (Philadelphia) to be used at the World Cup in Spain. The case is identical to that of the Mach II. The machine went to the start sealed. According to the importer Lorenz Siwek the electronic brain was clocked with 20 MHz. When

Mach III with the 68000 it will be available from the end of September for about 1.500,- DM.

Saitek sent a Kasparov Galileo with Analyst Module 8 Mhz to the start. By using this module, identity with its predecessor Leonardo is given in the playing strength, of which it is separated in the basic version by the lightning board, a modified control bar for a better overview and the possibility to connect a printer directly.

Hegener+Glaser sent their flagship Mephisto Munich Roma 68020, and to speak about this device would be to carry owls to Athens. The same applies to the Novag Super Expert, which wanted to confirm its very good performance at the 19th Porz Open.

Runde	Command.	Sphinx 40	Mach II	Mach III	Galileo	Roma	S. Expert
1	133/ 0	130/ 0	135/ 0	—	135/ 1	134/ 1	134/ 1
2	158/ 1	155/ 1	173/ 1	—	138/ 0	135/ 0	120/ 0
3	138/ 0	129/ 0	136/ 0	—	125/ 1	130/0.5	126/ 0
4	154/ 1	153/ 0	152/ 1	300/ 1	118/ 0	131/ 1	145/ 1
5	137/0.5	172/ 1	137/ 0	158/ 1	136/ 1	117/ 0	300/ 1
6	128/0.5	166/ 1	164/ 1	120/ 1	117/ 0	147/ 1	143/ 0
7	132/ 0	142/ 0	175/ 1	111/ 0	300/ 0	166/ 1	300/0.5
8	151/ 0	170/ 1	105/0.5	108/ 0	158/ 1	120/0.5	140/ 1
9	162/0.5	179/ 0	105/ 0	100/ 1	155/ 1	131/ 0	153/ 0
Gesamt	3.5	4	4.5	4	5	5	4.5
INGO	151 (9)	146 (18)	139 (18)	106 (6)	133-5	113-5	124 (18)

The results

Unfortunately, like the other devices, it did not quite succeed. I wonder if they have already been to the World Cup with their thoughts? In the table you can see for each round and each computer the ingo number of the opponent and the result of the computer. If you want to convert the Ingo numbers into Elo numbers, you can use the following formula: $Elo = 2840 - 8 \times Ingo$.



By the way, the Mach III was only registered shortly before the tournament started, but did not arrive in time, so that it could only be used from the 4th round on. In order to ensure comparability with other machines - otherwise it would almost exclusively have received opponents well below its playing strength level - it was initially awarded 1.5 points without a fight for pairing purposes, which were deducted after its first victories. Because of the small number of only 6 games, the INGO first evaluation of the Mach III can only serve as a very rough guide.

The INGO figures listed are unofficial values. Although they have been determined according to the INGO rules, the INGO officials of the German Chess Federation incomprehensibly recently decided in a narrow majority decision not to allow chess computers to be used in the evaluation. Whether one has not scored an own goal here?

Taking advantage of weaknesses

When comparing the results with those of previous tournaments, it is striking that this time the results were consistently worse. A possible explanation for this is that the average score (INGO 110 to 160) was much higher at the 20th Open. Unlike the top players, these players are apparently more experienced in dealing with their electronic partners and therefore able to exploit or even provoke known weaknesses.

NB: The following 2 games were played during the Porzer Open in July 1988. Probably it is still possible to find out with which program version was played at that time. Was it version 1.03 (Dominator V1.03) or still a beta or preview version?

Reuter (INGO 158/ELO 1576)—CXG Commander: 1.d4 Sf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Lg2 dxc4 5.Da4+ Sbd7 6.Dxc4 a6 7.Sc3 c5 8.e3 cxd4 9.exd4 Sb6 10.Dd3 Sbd5 11.a3 Ld6 12.Sge2 Ld7 13.0-0 Lc6 14.Te1 Db6 15.Dc2 0-0 16.Lg5 Tfc8 17.Tad1 Sxc3 18.Sxc3 Lxg2 19.Kxg2 Dc6+ 20.f3 Sd5 21.De4?? (Verliert ersatzlos 2 Bauern) Sxc3 22.bxc3 Lxa3 23.d5 exd5 24.Txd5 Dxc3 25.Te3 Dc2+ 26.Kh3 Dxe4 27.fxe4 a5 28.Td7 f6 **0-1**

Lehmann—CXG Commander: 1.c4 e6 2.Sc3 d5 3.d4 c5 4.e3 Sf6 5.Sf3 Sc6 6.dxc5 Lxc5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Le2 0-0 9.0-0 Lg4 10.Sa4 Le7 11.b3 d4 (der Bauer geht ersatzlos verloren) 12.Sxd4 Sxd4 13.Lxg4 Sb5 14.Dxd8 Taxd8 15.Lf3 Sd6 16.Lb2 Tc8 17.Tac1 Tfe8 18.Tfd1 Txc1 19.Txc1 b6 20.Sc3 h6 21.Kf1 Tc8 22.Ke2 Sf5 23.Sd5 Txc1 24.Sxe7+ Kf8 25.Sg6+ fxg6 26.Lxc1 Kf7 27.Lb2 Sd6 28.Kd3 Sd7 29.Ld5+ Kf8 30.La3 Ke7 31.e4 h5 32.Kd4 Sc5 33.Lxc5 bxc5+ 34.Kxc5 g5 35.a4 Kd7 36.b4 Se8 37.Lc6+ Kd8 38.Lxe8 Kxe8 39.Kc6 h4 40.Kb7 **1-0**

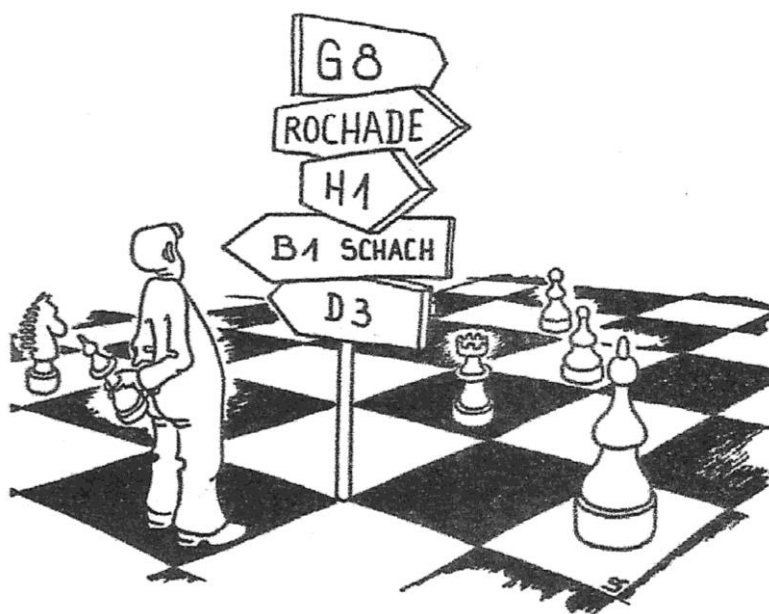
NB: Die obigen 2 Schachpartien wurden während der Porzer Open im Juli 1988 gespielt. Es ist wahrscheinlich immer noch möglich herauszufinden, welche Programmversion zu dieser Zeit gespielt wurde. War es Version 1.03 (Dominator V1.03) oder war es noch eine Beta oder Preview Version?

Schach-Magazine 64 (August 1988)

Günter Niggemann: Seven at one blow

Computers at the 20th Porz Open

On the occasion of the jubilee of the Schachgesellschaft Porz e.V., which is reported on elsewhere in this issue, the computer manufacturers sent a crowd of illustrious guests - a final test before the computer world championship in Seville, Spain. They were in detail:



CXG Commander (CXG 3018) from White & Allcock; a device with high operating comfort (magnetic sensors and field LEDs) in an attractive wooden housing. The game module is hidden in a drawer on the front of the computer, just like the Mephisto Exclusive. Whether this model will be able to assert itself against the numerous and strong competition in this price range with a planned sales price of 998 DM is doubtful. The program is also supposed to be offered in the guise of the Super Enterprise at an expected recommended retail price between DM 398 and DM 448 and is indeed an interesting alternative to the existing offer.

CXG Sphinx 40, the program of this 16-bit system, which already participated in the 1987 World Chess Computer Championship, was revised by van David Levy. With upscale equipment this chess computer is currently the cheapest 16-bit system. As a special feature it has the function key "What if". If you press this key, the computer will explain why it has made a special move. At the same time, it displays the alternatives to the move made and explains why they were discarded.

Source - Schach-Magazine 64, Nr. 16/88, August 1988, Günter Niggemann:
Seven at one blow. Computers at the 20th Porz Open (extract).

NB: In the text above I know that there is a CXG Sphinx 40 (Plus) prototype! Now it is immediately clear to me that there was no question of an original CXG Commander at this tournament!



On the picture above Hans van Mierlo shows his Sphinx 40 Plus with a Dominator 2.00 program version (photo: 17.05.2007)



The two pictures above are from the internet and give some details about the housing and the modules



**CXG Sphinx 50 Plus with the same program as the Commander's.
Sphinx 50 Plus is also extremely rare among collectors.**

European Rating Tests (October 1988) by Larry Kaufman

Commercial chess computers have been participating in a great number of human tournaments in many countries recently, but only in a few European countries (and the U.S.) have organized rating tests of 30 or more games been held. It is interesting to compare results in various countries, but there is a problem. American ratings are known to be nearly a hundred points above F.I.D.E. ratings, while the rating systems of most European nations are either at or below F.I.D.E. levels on average. Since this article is being written for an American audience, I have added a hundred points to all European ratings, plus an added 100 for Holland, France, and Sweden, and 150 for West Germany, based on my impression of the levels in those countries. If these numbers are in error, at least the relative ratings remain the same. All results listed were at 40/2 or slower, I believe.

In Holland, three 30 game tests were held in July of '88. The **Mephisto Mega IV** (5 MHz) finished first at 2176, the **CXG Commander** (5 MHz) next at 2058, and the **Saitek Turbo-King** (5 MHz) last at 2029. A 16 Mhz **MM4 Turbo** has performed at 2293 in 21 games in three tournaments, while **Mephisto Dallas 68020** performed at 2208 and **Forte B** at 2133 in these same events (21 games each). These results agree fairly well with results from computer, vs. computer, testing in Sweden and elsewhere, except for **Forte B**.

CXG decided to abandon plans to market David Levy's 68.000 program, as it became clear that it was simply not strong enough. David says that the selective search he uses has great potential, but sofar they have not been able to bring the frequency of oversights down to acceptable levels. So CXG has taken away Mephisto's number 3 programmer, Frans Morsch, and marketed his latest 8 bit program, at 4 MHz, as the "Sphinx Galaxy".

CXG Sphinx Galaxy / Commander

Its Swedish rating implies a USCF rating of 2078, in close agreement with its official 30 game Dutch rating of 1858 = 2058 USCF. If it becomes available in the U.S. for under \$200, it would be the strongest model in that price range, but as Fidelity has U.S. distribution rights for **CXG** we will probably not see it here, as it would only undercut the **Designer 2100**. Based on my tests of its predecessor program, the **Mephisto Super Mondial** (not to be confused with the much stronger **Mondial XL**), I expect it will be especially strong around the 1 min./move level. Why it runs at only 4 MHz vs. the 5 to 6 used by most other 6502 models is a mystery to me. The search used I believe is rather like the **Mephisto Europa**, by the same programmer. In Britain, it should replace the **Saitek Stratos** as the strongest model under 150 pounds, and with its many levels and features it looks like good value for money to Europeans.

Source: Computer Chess Reports Quarterly – Fall/Winter 1988-1989.



Photo Witteman: specialty store in chess computers

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPF0-wDJ-Qg7KcWAIaWiLe7-h8h1Ds2A0SE_wN6YxHPg-2QOW5ndnqmsiai9sKI9Q?key=ZwZnaVZYaWxMWXewVkJGc0ppbGtsY3NjdnpNX2x3

WITTEMAN speciaalzaak in **SCHAAKCOMPUTERS**

Gerrit van der Veenstraat 65/hoek Beethovenstraat - Amsterdam - Tel. 020-6628257
 Voor telefonische afspraken ook 's avonds.

Uit voorraad (of in dec.*) leverbaar tegen KNSB-Prijzen:

	MEPHISTO	EUROPA	.....	f	269,-
		MARCO POLO	.....	f	224,-
		MEGA	4	f	799,-
		MODULAR	MM4 (metalen A.R. bord).....	f	1029,-
		EXCLUSIVE	MM4 (houten A.R. bord).....	f	1249,-
		MUENCHEN	MM4.....	f	1699,-
		MODUUL	MM4.....	f	629,-
nieuw!		T + T SCHAAKACADEMIE*	.....	f	1249,-
		MODULAR	68000 16 bit Almeria	f	3249,-
		EXCLUSIVE	68000 16 bit Almeria	f	3449,-
		MUENCHEN	68000 16 bit Almeria	f	3799,-
		MODUULSET	68000 16 bit Almeria	f	2745,-
nieuw!		EXCLUSIVE	68000 32 bit Almeria	f	-,
		MUENCHEN	68020 32 bit Almeria	f	4789,-
	FIDELITY	DESIGNER DISPLAY 2100	.....	f	569,-
		EXCEL	68000 MACH 3 MASTER	f	1449,-
nieuw!		PHANTOM ROBOT 2100	.....	f	1699,-
	NOVAG	CONSTELLATION SUPER FORTE	.....	f	899,-
		CONSTELLATION SUPER EXPERT (houten A.R. bord)	.....	f	1349,-
	SAITEK	TEAMMATE.....		f	179,-
nieuw!		CAVALIER.....		f	199,-
		CONQUISTADOR		f	269,-
		SIMULTANO		f	539,-
		CORONA (houten A.R. bord).....		f	719,-
		GALILEO (groot houten A.R. bord)		f	719,-
		GALILEO ANALYST MODUUL 6MHz.....		f	325,-
		RENAISSANCE*		f	899,-
	CXG	SPHINX GALAXY		f	499,-
nieuw!		SPHINX DOMINATOR		f	565,-
		SPHINX COMMANDER (houten A.R. bord)		f	879,-

Ook OCCASIONS en SPECIALE AANBIEDINGEN in laaggeprijsde overjarige schaakcomputers.

INRUIL MOGELIJK

Deskundige voorlichting altijd aanwezig!

(Source: CSVN Computerschaak nr. 5 – oktober 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

Jan Louwman (1988)

Schaakcomputers uit het KNSB assortiment



This time we will be handling the new package of CXG chess computers from the KNSB store. These KNSB chess computers can be ordered from the KNSB at reduced prices.

CXG Super Enterprise LCD

The Super Enterprise LCD from CXG is a single-chip computer with a large playing field of 30 x 30 cm. The calculation speed is 2 MHz and there are 48 play levels. The version has two small displays on which a reasonable amount of information is available. For a single-chip computer the playing strength is very satisfactory. The sensor contacts work lightly and well. The retail price is fl 469.00 and the KNSB price fl 409.00 both prices excluding adapter, which is also not necessary for this single-chip computer, because such computers play for a long time on alkaline batteries. The playing strength is suitable for players of the second class Regional Association or playing weaker.

CXG Sphinx Galaxy, Dominator and Commander

The CXG computers Sphinx Galaxy, Dominator and Commander have an identical chess program from our compatriot Frans Morsch, but are different in execution. The program counts on 4 MHz computing speed and has memories of 8 Kb RAM and 32 Kb ROM. There are 56 levels of play and problems up to matte in eight can be solved. A lot of information can be called up on the two small displays. These three computers are suitable for players of the third class KNSB competition or playing weaker.

Overview CXG chess computers	Size playing field cm x cm	Type playing board	Sales price NLG	KNSB price NLG	With or without adapter
Super Enterprise LCD	30 x 30	sensor	469,00	409,00	no
Sphinx Galaxy	30 x 30	sensor	569,00	499,00	yes
Sphinx Dominator	21 x 21	sensor	629,00	565,00	yes
Sphinx Commander	29 x 29	A.R.B.	979,00	879,00	yes

The programs of these three chess computers are in principle not interchangeable. Especially the Sphinx Galaxy is, considering the good chess program, an extremely inexpensive offer, especially if one takes into account the wide playing field. The Sphinx Commander is in a nice wooden version with reed contacts and has 64 field LEDs. The style of play is lively and dull games these computers prefer not to play.

Source: Schakend Nederland, october and december 1988.

Spielwarenmesse Nürnberg 1988

Die wichtigsten Messeneuheiten der Schachcomputer-Hersteller

SAITEK (Hongkong)

Der Saitek Leonardo wird zukünftig in Galileo umbenannt; das Gerät soll 64 Feld-LEDs (statt wie bisher 16 Koordinaten-LEDs) und damit erheblich verbesserten Bedienungskomfort aufweisen.

Neue Spitzenprogramme sollen bereits in Arbeit sein, um den Anschluß an die besten 8-Bit-Geräte des Wettbewerbs herzustellen; bisher konnte sich leider kein Saitek-Programm in der Liste der 15 besten Schachcomputer platzieren. 16-Bit Programme sind für '88 nicht angekündigt worden.

Dafür sind mehrere Aktivitäten im unteren Preisbereich (Vorbild: Mephisto Schachschule) geplant.

NOVAG (Hongkong)

Seit kurzem sind die neuen NOVAG-Flaggschiffe Superforte und Superexpert am Markt. Gegenüber den Vorgängermodellen wurden sie weniger in der Spielstärke als vor allem in der Ausstattung (z.B. 16-stellige Punktmatrix-Anzeige, Speicher für 10 Partien) deutlich verbessert.

Der Novag Accord wird durch das Modell Alto (VK: DM 228,-) ersetzt, das Gerät wird nur ein 4 K-Single Chip-Programm aufweisen und dürfte daher wesentlich schwächer sein als der Mephisto Europa.

Besonders interessant wird der Novag Supremo (VK: DM 398,-); er soll ein 32 K-Single Chip-Programm, eine vierstellige LCD-Anzeige und einen Druckeranschluß besitzen. Vielleicht kommt das Programm auch als Reisegerät (ähnlich VIP) auf den Markt.

Der VK des Novag Primo wird von DM 325,- auf DM 298,- gesenkt.

Ferner wird ein Schachcomputer für Kinder (mit Comic-Figuren) auf den Markt kommen.

White & Alcock (Hongkong) und Fidelity (USA)

Ab 1.1.88 fungieren die Vertretungen beider Firmen, Eurotoy und Braun & Siwek, gemeinsam als Schach-Union.

Eurotoy ist Importeur für Fidelity und CXG und übernimmt den Service für beide Fabrikate; Braun & Siwek ist als Generalvertretung für den Vertrieb zuständig.

Die Produktion der Modelle CXG Spinx 40/50 (DM 998,-/1498,-) wird eingestellt; die Geräte sollen in Kürze ein neues Programm (angeblich von Danielsen oder den Spracklens) erhalten.

Für dieses Jahr ist ein Billigerät (VK rund DM 120,-) geplant, das ein Sensorbrett und Digitalanzeige besitzt.

Die Preise für CXG Super Enterprise und Advanced Starchess werden von DM 348,- auf DM 298,- bzw. von DM 298,- auf DM 198,- gesenkt.

Seit kurzem ist Fidelity Excel Mach II lieferbar; das sehr endspielstarke Gerät, das 128 K RAM (mit sogenannten Hash Tables) besitzt, sollte wegen des relativ hohen Preises von ca. DM 1200,- nur für "Insider" interessant sein.

Die bisherige Produktlinie wird durch die Designer-Serie abgelöst. Bei verändertem Aussehen (flacheres Gehäuse) werden die Geräte bekannte Programme enthalten:

- Designer 1500 (= Gambit) mit einem VK von ca. DM 298,-;
- Designer 2000 (= Excellence), VK ca. DM 398,-;
- Designer 2100 (= Par Excellence), VK ca. DM 450,-;
- Designer 2000 Display (= Excel Display), VK ca. DM 400,-;
- Designer 2100 Display, VK ca. DM 500,-.

Auch das neue Design dieser Geräte entspricht u.E. nicht ganz dem europäischen Geschmack.

Hinter Fidelity Phantom verbirgt sich der altbekannte Milton (Figuren werden selbsttätig bewegt), das Gerät hat jedoch ein Display und ein neues, starkes Programm. Der Preis soll ca. DM 1400,- betragen.

Im Avantgarde-Gehäuse wird das Los Angeles-Programm (32 Bit) auf den Markt kommen; bei einem VK von unter DM 3000,- ist das Gerät wohl als Konkurrenz zu den Mephisto-WM-Geräten konzipiert.

CHESS KING (England)

Der kleinste aller Hersteller stellt vor allem kleine preiswerte Geräte (z.B. Mighty Midget, Pocket Micro) her. Neu im Angebot sind die LCD-Spielcomputer Bridge Master und Backgammon Master sowie die elektronische Spielesammlungen Big Casino (Black Jack, Rommy, Poker) und Jet Set (Schach, Dame, Reversi).

CHESS MASTER (DDR)

Das formschöne Holzsensorgerät Chess Master ist in Deutschland seit 2 Jahren zu Preisen unter DM 350,- im Handel. Neu herausgekommen und bereits lieferbar ist jetzt der Chess Master Diamond, der für DM 498,- eine Digitalanzeige sowie zusätzliche Eröffnungs- und Endspielmodule besitzt.

HEGENER + GLASER AG (Deutschland)

Der Marktführer MEPHISTO setzte diesmal auf Kontinuität; schließlich sind ja erst kurz vor Weihnachten mehrere neue Modelle eingeführt worden.

Sofort lieferbar ist das Eröffnungsmodul HG 440 (VK DM 298,-), das eine sehr wertvolle Ergänzung zu allen MM IV-Geräten darstellt.

Ende 1988 wird die überaus erfolgreiche Mephisto Schachschule durch zwei Weiterentwicklungen für stärkere Spieler ergänzt: Mephisto College (VK DM 598,-) und Mephisto Schachakademie (DM 998,-). Diese beiden Computer werden besonders gut für Schachtraining geeignet sein.



Hobby Computer Centrale - 1988

(photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

Spielwarenmesse Nürnberg 1988: From 1 January 1988, the representative offices of both companies, Eurotoy and Braun & Siwek, acted together as a chess union. Eurotoy is the importer for Fidelity and CXG and takes over the service for both brands; Braun & Siwek is the general sales office. The production of the models CXG Spinx 40/50 (DM 998, - / 1498, -) is discontinued; the devices will soon receive a new program (so-called from Danielsen or the Spracklens).

Europa-Rochade (1989)

Hans-Peter Ketterling

Nuremberg International Toy Fair

Sphinx Commander (CXG 3018) is an external refined version of the Dominator with the wooden case Chess 3008, the playing field measures 29 x 29 cm and is equipped with magnetic sensors, the price will be DM 898.00, but the release date is still open.

Sphinx 40 Plus (CXG-3038) for DM 998.00 and **Sphinx 50 Plus** (CXG-3048) for DM 1498.00 have been around for a while, they have the same wooden housing with magnetic sensor board, but larger playing fields of 32 x 32 or 40 x 40 cm and are also equipped with the same program. In the meantime they have replaced the 16-bit devices with the same name but without the "plus".

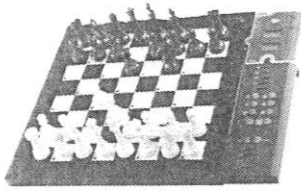
Announced is still **Sphinx Galaxy** a device, which will offer the program of the **Dominator** in the case of the **Super Enterprise LCD**, but probably won't even be on the market in Germany. All devices with the **Dominator program** have the same electronics and can last 15 hours with one battery set.

The 16 bit **Sphinx 40** and **Sphinx 50** (DM 998.00 and 1498.00) with the 16 bit processor 68,000 and the program from Levy did not have the expected success but are especially interesting for analysis purposes, while the playing strength does not quite reach the top class, but is still remarkable enough. The prices of these not long available computers are beginning to drop a bit, an opportunity to get another one of these beautiful wooden devices.

Source: <https://rochadeeuropa.com> August 1989, Hans-Peter Ketterling:
Nuremberg International Toy Fair 1989 (part IV).

Gerät/Device	OVP/Box	Anleitung	Netzteil	Optik	Typ/Type	Specials	Datum/Date
1 SCHACHCOMPUTER							
5 Acetronic Pocketchess	ja	ja	ja	1	Portable		
7 Applied Concepts ARB mit Grandmaster 4.0-50s	nein	ja	ja	1-	Holz		
8 Applied Concepts ARB mit Sargon 2.5	nein	ja	ja	1-	Holz		3-7-2003
9 Applied Concepts Boris	nein	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff	Erste Gehäuseform	
10 Applied Concepts Great Game Machine	ja	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff		
11 mit Odin, Borchbeck, Las Vegas, Gruen, Capa							
12 Applied Concepts MGS, Boris 2.5, Morphy 3	nein	ja	ja	1-	Kunststoff		
13 Applied Concepts MGS, Steinitz 4	nein	ja	ja	2+	Kunststoff		
14 Applied Concepts Prodigy Destiny	nein	ja	nein	2	Portable		
15 Applied Concepts Sandy Encore	ja	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff		
16 Applied Concepts Sargon 2.5 ARB Modul	nein	nein	nein	1	Kunststoff		
17							
18 Commodore Chess Mate	nein	-	ja	2	Kunststoff		
19 Commodore Chess Mate	ja	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff		28-6-2003
20							
21 Compuchess I	nein	ja	ja	2	Holz		
22 Compuchess II	Koffer	ja	ja	1-	Holz		
23							
24 Conchess Ambassador	ja	ja	ja	1-	Holz		
25 Conchess Monarch	ja	ja	ja	1	Holz		
26							
27 CXG Chess 2001	ja	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff		
28 CXG Chess 3000	ja	ja	ja	1	Holz		
29 CXG Chess 3008	nein	ja	ja	1	Holz		2-7-2003
30 CXG Advanced Star Chess	ja	ja	ja	1	Portable		26-7-2003
31 CXG Computachess gold/schwarz	ja	ja	ja	1	Portable		
32 CXG Computachess III	nein	ja	ja	1-	Kunststoff	Koffer	
33 CXG CGL Grandmaster Sensory 2	ja	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff		
34 CXG Portchess II	ja	ja	ja	1	Portable		17-6-2003
35 CXG Sphinx 40 limited edition	nein	ja	ja	2-	Holz		
36 CXG-202 Portchess	ja	ja	ja	1	Portable		
37 CXG-241 Sphinx ChessCard	ja	ja	ja	1	Portable		
38 CXG-247 Granada	ja	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff		
39 CXG-301 Legend	ja	ja	ja	1	Kunststoff		

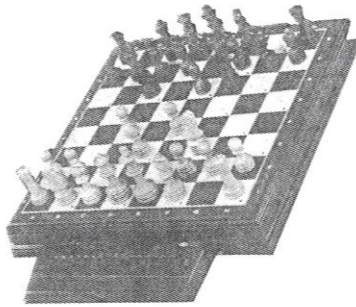
The above Excel file from a very large collector from Germany shows that he also has an rare **CXG Sphinx 40 Limited Edition**. This collector wants to remain unknown. He stopped his long-term hobby in 2016. So not only Steve Blincoe has such a rare chess computer...! 😊 😊



Art.-Nr. 610
— CXG Dominator —

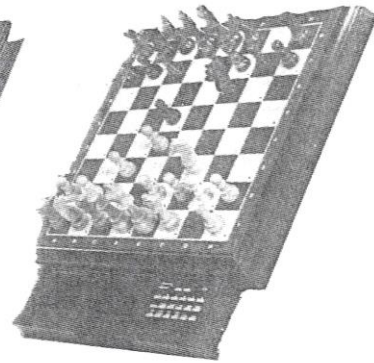
Drei Schachcomputer mit identischem Programm. Der Dominator aus Kunststoff mit Drucksensoren. Der Commander und der Sphinx Plus mit Echtholzschachbrett, Holzfiguren und Magnetsensoren. 54 Spielstufen beinhalten alle erforderlichen Zeiteinstellungen. Schach, Matt und Remis werden angezeigt. In den beiden LCD-Anzeigen erscheint die Hauptvariante, Rechentiefe, Zugzähler u.a. Info's. Mit der Replay-Taste können Sie die gesamte Partie nachspielen. Die programmierbare Eröffnungsbibliothek ermöglicht noch 1.000 Zugeingaben oder das Abspeichern von bis zu 64 Schachpartien.

Stromversorgung: Netz / Batterie
Schachbrettgröße: 22 x 22 cm



Art.-Nr. 615
— CXG Commander —

Stromversorgung: Netz / Batterie
Schachbrettgröße: 29 x 29 cm



Art.-Nr. 620
— CXG Sphinx 50 Plus —

Stromversorgung: Netz / Batterie
Schachbrettgröße: 40 x 40 cm



Art.-Nr. 315 — Fidelity Mach II —

Der 68.000 16-Bit-Microprozessor mit 12 MHz Taktfrequenz bewirkt eine extreme Schnelligkeit. Durch sogenannte Hash Tables wird eine Verdoppelung bis Vervierfachung der Microprozessor-Geschwindigkeit erreicht. Im Display können die Informationen angewählt werden, die Sie sehen möchten. Das Drucksensorspielfeld ist mit 64 Leuchtdioden ausgestattet. 12 Spielstufen stehen zur Verfügung.

Stromversorgung: Netz / Batterie
Schachbrettgröße: 20 x 20 cm

Sehr verehrter Kunde, lieber Schachfreund,

mit unserem umfangreichen Prospekt haben wir Sie mit allen wesentlichen Details der angebotenen Schachcomputer vertraut gemacht. Auf der Rückseite dieses Prospektes finden Sie noch eine tabellarische Zusammenstellung, die Ihnen eine übersichtlichere Vergleichsmöglichkeit der einzelnen Schachcomputer ermöglicht.

Sie werden sicher festgestellt haben, daß unsere Angebotspalette Geräte vom Einsteiger bis zum Spitzenspieler umfaßt, so daß auch für Sie der richtige Schachcomputer dabei ist. Wenn Sie noch Fragen zu einzelnen Schachcomputern oder Zubehör haben, stehen wir Ihnen für ein Beratungsgespräch gerne zur Verfügung. Sollte unser Büro nicht besetzt sein, sprechen Sie Ihren Wunsch, Namen und Tel.-Nr. auf das Tonband unseres automatischen Telefondienstes. Wir rufen Sie schnellstens zurück.

Für Bestellungen verwenden Sie bitte die beiliegende Bestellkarte oder rufen Sie uns einfach an.

Wir gewähren auf Kasparov-Schachcomputer 1 Jahr, auf alle übrigen Schachcomputer 1/2 Jahr Garantie.

Wir hoffen, daß unser Angebot Ihnen zusagt, und werden Sie durch schnellstmögliche Lieferung von einwandfreien Erzeugnissen zufrieden stellen.

Über Ihren geschätzten Auftrag würden wir uns freuen und verbleiben

mit freundlichen Grüßen

M. Weitkus
(Schachcomputerversand)

Schachcomputerversand Monika Weitkus – 22 September 1989

(Source: Spezialversand Monika Weitkus – Hennef – 22.09.1989) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

NB: This brochure from Monika Weitkus shows that the original CXG Commander was offered and sold in Germany in September 1989!

Preisliste

gültig ab 22.09.89

<u>Art. Nr.</u>	<u>Hegener und Glaser</u>	<u>Unser Preis</u>
105	Mephisto Schachschule (incl. Netzteil)	230,-
110	Mephisto Super Mondial -----	460,-
120	Mephisto College (incl. Netzteil) ----	558,-
121	Mephisto Modular Polgar -----	925,-
122	Mephisto Exclusive Polgar -----	1.125,-
123	Mephisto München Polgar -----	1.625,-
125	Mephisto Monte Carlo -----	598,- Sonderpreis
130	Mephisto Modular IV -----	748,-
135	Mephisto Exclusive IV -----	930,-
140	Mephisto Academy (incl. Netzteil) ----	930,-
145	Mephisto München IV -----	1.395,-
147	Mephisto Modular Roma II -----	1.395,-
148	Mephisto Exclusive Roma II -----	1.580,-
149	Mephisto München Roma II -----	2.098,-
150	Netzteil für Mephisto 8 Bit Computer -	35,-
155	Mephisto Mobil mit MM IV-Modul -----	588,-
160	Mephisto LCD-Aufsatz f.MM IV u. RomaII	190,-
165	Austauschmodul MM IV -----	398,- Sonderpreis
170	Eröffnungsmodul HG 440 für MM IV ----	275,-
173	Austauschmodul Roma II 16 Bit -----	929,-
174	Austauschmodulset Polgar -----	550,-
175	Bereitschaftskoffer für Modular -----	110,-
180	Bereitschaftskoffer für Exclusive ----	140,-
185	Mephisto Modular Porto Rose 16 Bit -	2.600,-
190	Mephisto Exclusive Porto Rose 16 Bit -	2.790,-
195	Mephisto München Porto Rose 16 Bit -	3.250,-
198	Mephisto Exclusive Porto Rose 32 Bit -	3.800,-
200	Mephisto München Porto Rose 32 Bit -	4.270,-
205	Modulset Porto Rose für Modular, Exclusive, München --16 Bit -	2.230,-
210	Modulset wie vor -----32 Bit -	3.250,-
215	Netzteil für Porto Rose Computer ----	95,-
<u>Fidelity Electronics</u>		
305	Designer 2100 Display -----	470,-
310	Master 2325 (Mach IV) -----	3.750,-
320	Mach III -----	1.180,- Sonderpreis
325	Designer Master 2265 (MachIII Progr.)-	930,-
330	Netzteil für Fidelity-----	18,-
335	Elite Avantgarde (Version 2) -----	2.298,-
340	Elite Avantgarde (Version 6) -----	5.140,-
345	Elite Avantgarde (Version 9) -----	12.070,-
350	Aufrüstsatz (Version 2) -----	1.290,-
355	Aufrüstsatz (Version 6) -----	4.080,-
<u>CXG Sphinx Schachcomputer</u>		
600	Star Chess Advanced -----	190,-
605	Super Enterprise -----	295,-
610	Dominator (incl. Netzteil) -----	430,-
615	Commander (incl. Netzteil) -----	740,-
620	Sphinx 40 (incl. Netzteil) -----	860,-
630	Chess Card -----	75,-
635	Netzteil für CXG Schachcomputer -----	18,-
<u>Verschiedenes</u>		
700	Steckbriefe (ausführl. Beschreibung von derzeit 24 Schachcomp. mit 77 Notationen (alle weiteren kostenlos)	10,-

Schachcomputer Spezialversand Monika Weitkus 1989(Source: Spezialversand Monika Weitkus - Hennef - 22.09.1989) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

NEU CHESS BASE

für Atari 520+, 1040 ST und MS DOS, bitte Unterlagen anfordern

<u>Art. Nr.</u>	<u>Saitek Kasparov Computer</u>	<u>Unser Preis</u>
420	Astral -----	278,-
425	Turbo King -----	465,-
430	Simultano -----	555,-
435	Corona -----	745,-
440	Netzteil für Saitek Schachcomputer --	35,-
445	Galileo (incl. Netzteil) -----	738,-
450	Renaissance (incl. Netzteil) -----	1.110,-
	Module für Galileo u. Renaissance	
455	Maestro D 6 Mhz -----	270,-
457	Maestro D 10 Mhz -----	560,-
460	Analyst D 6 Mhz -----	370,-
465	Analyst D 8 Mhz incl. Endspiel-Rom	560,-
466	Aufrüstsatz Analyst 6 (B/C auf D) -	170,-
467	Aufrüstsatz Analyst 8 (B/C auf D) -	190,-
470	Endspiel-Rom f. Maestro/Analyst 6Mhz	
	Turbo King/Corona/Simultano -----	90,-
	Novag Schachcomputer	
500	Solo -----	58,-
510	Super V.I.P. -----	298,-
515	Primo -----	278,-
525	Super Forte B 5-Mhz (incl. Netzteil)-	835,-
527	Super Forte B 6 Mhz (incl. Netzteil)-	910,-
532	Super Expert B 6 Mhz (incl. Netzteil)-	1.498,-
535	Netzteil für Novag Schachcomputer ----	29,-
540	Drucker für Super Forte/Super Expert -	265,-

Unsere Preise verstehen sich incl. Transportversicherung, Mwst und Lieferung frei Haus ab 500,-DM Auftragswert. Abholung nur nach Terminvereinbarung. Erfüllungsort ist Hennef. Die Preise sind freibleibend. Auf Saitek erhalten Sie 1 Jahr, auf alle übrigen Geräte 1/2-Jahr Garantie.

Gelegenheitsmarkt

Die Angebote sind unverbindlich. Eine feste Lieferzusage kann nicht gegeben werden. Da laufend neue Geräte hinzukommen, empfehlen wir vor einer Bestellung anzurufen. Alle Schachcomputer werden, soweit anschließbar, mit Netzteil geliefert.

**Sie erhalten auf alle Gebrauch- und Vorführgeräte
1/2 Jahr Garantie**

Saitek Leonardo -----	450,-
Mephisto Mirage -----	190,-
Mephisto Modul MM II -----	130,-
Eröffnungsmodul HG 440 -----	200,-
Mephisto Super Mondial -----	300,-
Mephisto Exclusive IV -----	700,-
Mephisto Exclusive II -----	580,-
Saitek Corona -----	600,-
Saitek Maestro-Modul A 4 Mhz -----	80,-
Saitek Maestro-Modul B 6 Mhz -----	200,-
Fidelity Elite Privat -----	580,-
Fidelity Mach II a -----	550,-
Fidelity Mach II c -----	598,-
Novag Super Forte B mit Drucker -----	750,-
Mephisto MM IV Modul -----	250,-
Mephisto I -----	120,-
Novag Super Expert 6 Mhz -----	850,-
Saitek Simultano -----	350,-

Schachcomputer Spezialverzand Monika Weitkus 1989

(Source: Spezialverzand Monika Weitkus - Hennef - 22.09.1989) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)



Dietmar Hartung, Postfach 411111, D-1000 Berlin 41

**Spielwarenvertrieb und
Entwicklung
Import/Export**

PREISLISTE SPHINX Schachcomputer

Ihre Nachricht
Your message

Ihr Zeichen
Your reference

Unser Zeichen
Our reference

Berlin, Januar 1990

Art.Nr.	Bezeichnung	EK-Preis
CX008	Computachess III	119,--
CX208	Enterprise S	156,--
CX210	Super Enterprise LCD	198,--
CX211	Advanced Star Chess	112,--
CX223	Portachess II	56,--
CX228	Crown (Holz-Design)	119,--
CX239	Sphinx Dominator	315,--
CX241	Chess Card	39,--
CX269	Sphinx Backgammon	79,--
CX3008	Super Enterprise (Holz)	395,--
CX268	Scholar (neu)	169,--
CX243	Professor	169,--

Handels
EK-Preis

Preisleistung

1 29,- DM

ca. 249,- Frachtsomme

Bis auf weiteres lieferbar:

CX022	Computachess I	77,--
CX201	Advanced Portachess	52,--
CX202	Portachess	45,--
CX209	Star Chess	66,--
CX3018	Sphinx Commander Holz	529,--
CX3038	Sphinx 40 Plus	595,--
CX5000	Sphinx 50 Modular	595,--

Zahlung: 10 Tage 2% Skonto
30 Tage netto

Lieferung: ab Lager Berlin
ab 1.500 DM Lieferwert frei Station
ab 3.000 DM Lieferwert frei Haus

Um die franco-Werte zu erreichen, können die Bestellungen mit anderen Hartung-Artikeln kombiniert werden.

Es gelten die umseitig abgedruckten Liefer- und Zahlungsbedingungen

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Suite No. 3, 21/F Tower 1
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Tsim Sha Tsui, Kwin, H.K.
Phone 008523-7361938
Fax 008523-7361780

Telefon:
Zentrale 030/850 06-0
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Lager 030/850 06-290
Telefax 030/850 06 22
Telex 185 794 dha d
Teletex (17) 30 83 37 * dha

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Bessemerstraße 76-80
D-1000 Berlin 42

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Charlottenburg HRA 21723

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Konto 710 8888 100

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BLZ 100 800 00
Konto 3 501 000 00

CXG price list Sphinx chess computer January 1990

(Source: Hartung-Spiele Berlin - Januar 1990) (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)

NB: The above price list refers to a CXG Sphinx 50 Modular with model number CXG 5000. Remarkable is that this model has exactly the same purchase price (Einkaufspreis) for traders as the Sphinx 40 Plus with model number CXG 3038. I haven't seen this model version with this description before. What would be the difference with a Sphinx 50 Plus with model number CXG 3048? Who knows!

	Artikelbezeichnung	Listenpreis	Exportpreis
	Schachcomputer von Fidelity Electronics (USA)		
	Fidelity Designer 2100 Display	398,00 DM	333,33 DM
	Fidelity Phantom (baugleich mit Mephisto Phantom)	1.498,00 DM	1.226,32 DM
	Fidelity Designer 2265 Master (16 Bit)	998,00 DM	831,58 DM
	Fidelity Mach IV (Master 2325; 32 Bit)	2.998,00 DM	2.498,25 DM
	Fidelity Avantgarde 68000 (Version #2, 16 Bit)	1.998,00 DM	1.664,91 DM
NEU:	Fidelity Avantgarde Multiprozessor (Version #5, 16 Bit)	2.998,00 DM	2.498,25 DM
	Fidelity Avantgarde 68020 (Version #6, 32 Bit)	4.598,00 DM	3.833,33 DM
NEU:	Fidelity Avantgarde 68030 (Version #9)	9.998,00 DM	8.331,58 DM
	Aufrüstsatz 68000 (Version #2, 16 Bit), incl. Einbau	1.398,00 DM	1.162,28 DM
NEU:	Aufrüstsatz 68000 (Version #5, 16 Bit), incl. Einbau	2.398,00 DM	1.995,61 DM
	Aufrüstsatz 68020 (Version #6, 32 Bit), incl. Einbau	3.998,00 DM	3.331,58 DM
	Fidelity Printer (Drucker für Avantgarde)	298,00 DM	250,00 DM
	Netzadapter 3200 (für Designer 2100 + 2265)	39,00 DM	30,70 DM
	Netzadapter 5012 (für Avantgarde, Phantom, Mach IV)	49,00 DM	39,47 DM
	Schachcomputer von Funkwerk Erfurt (DDR)		
ANGEBOT:	Chess Master (Holzausführung)	348,00 DM	261,40 DM
	Schachcomputer von Novag Industries (Hongkong)		
NEU:	Novag Solo de Luxe (mit Holzreiseschach)	129,00 DM	105,26 DM
NEU:	Novag Amigo (Reisegerät mit 2 Displays)	209,00 DM	173,68 DM
NEU:	Novag Super VIP (Taschengerät)	298,00 DM	250,00 DM
NEU:	Novag Beluga	298,00 DM	250,00 DM
NEU:	Novag Super Nova	448,00 DM	372,81 DM
ANGEBOT:	Novag Super Forte B (5 MHz)	895,00 DM	656,14 DM
NEU:	Novag Super Forte C (6 MHz)	948,00 DM	787,72 DM
NEU:	Novag Super Expert C (6 MHz)	1.595,00 DM	1.293,86 DM
NEU:	Novag Distributor (PC-Anschluß)	89,50 DM	74,56 DM
	Netzadapter für Novag-Schachcomputer	39,00 DM	30,70 DM
	Schachcomputer von CXG / White & Alcock (Hongkong)		
ANGEBOT:	Sphinx Chess Card	99,00 DM	65,79 DM
	Sphinx Dominator	498,00 DM	416,67 DM
ANGEBOT:	Super Enterprise LCD	349,00 DM	217,54 DM
ANGEBOT:	CXG Sphinx Commander (Holzsensorbrett)	698,00 DM	524,56 DM
ANGEBOT:	CXG Sphinx 40 Plus (Modulsystem; Holzsensorbrett)	998,00 DM	584,21 DM
	Schachcomputer von Saitek / Kasparow (Hongkong)		
ANGEBOT:	Simultano (mit LCD-Brett)	598,00 DM	480,70 DM
	Corona	798,00 DM	584,21 DM
	Galileo	798,00 DM	656,14 DM
	Renaissance	1.198,00 DM	986,84 DM
	Analyst D Modul 6 MHz	398,00 DM	324,56 DM
	Maestro D Modul 10 MHz	598,00 DM	491,23 DM
	Netzadapter	39,00 DM	30,70 DM
	Andere Spielcomputer		
ANGEBOT:	Double Six Backgammon-Computer	≈ 198,00 DM	166,67 DM
ANGEBOT:	Pro Golf Golf-Computer	198,00 DM	104,39 DM
ANGEBOT:	Chess King Bridge Master	248,00 DM	148,25 DM
	Bücher		
	Schachcomputer - was sie wirklich können (Yazgac)	34,00 DM	29,82 DM
<p>Spalte A = Listenpreise in Deutschland • Spalte B = Unsere Vorauszahlungspreise für Export Änderungen und Irrtum vorbehalten. Keinerlei Haftung für Inhalte von Hersteller-Aussagen bzw. Prospekte. Alle Aufträge werden von uns nur gemäß unseren umseitigen Verkaufs-, Lieferungs- und Zahlungsbedingungen angenommen und ausgeführt. Diese Preisliste ist gültig ab 01. März 1990</p>			

HCC price list 01.03.1990

(Source: Weiner Vertriebs - München: March 1990) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

NB: On this pricelist HCC offers for the first time a CXG Sphinx Commander.

SAVIE **GAMME 1990**
 LA FORCE DE L'IMAGINATION



Le Choix...








Les Performances ...

La Progression assurée ...

Les Ordinateurs
 d'Echecs 

CXG-3018
 Sphinx COMMANDER

CXG Distribué et Garanti par SAVIE S.A - Département Jeux
 Parc de Garlande - 1 A, rue de l'Egalité - 92220 Bagneux - Tél. : (1) 47.35.44.65 Télécopie : (1) 47.35.04.42

<p>Sphinx DOMINATOR</p>  <p>CXG-239</p>	<p>Sphinx GRANADA</p>  <p>CXG-247</p>	<p>Sphinx PROFESSOR</p>  <p>CXG-243</p>	<p>Sphinx TITAN</p>  <p>CXG-270</p>
<p>Sphinx GALAXY</p>  <p>CXG-230</p>	<p>SUPER CROWN</p>  <p>CXG-218W</p>	<p>Backgammon Computer</p>  <p>CXG-269</p>	

Parc de Garlande - 1 A, rue de l'Egalité - 92220 Bagneux
 SAVIE S.A - Département Jeux
 Veuillez me faire parvenir l'adresse du point de vente le plus proche. une documentation complète
 NOM & Prénoms: _____
 Adresse: _____

NB: This French brochure from 1990 talks about a Sphinx Commander, which in reality is a Sphinx 40 Plus with a Commander program! Such information in brochures contributed to the fact that for many years people could not distinguish between a real Commander and a Sphinx 40 Plus!

CXG – Review (April 1990)

by Larry Kaufman

CXG is primarily known for selling very cheap (and weak) models. However, they now have some decent mid range models, which although not presently sold in the U.S. may be imported at any time through **Fidelity**. The **Sphinx Dominator** is perhaps the most interesting; if it should go on sale for under \$200 (which is a likely price) it would be the strongest unit in that range once the discontinued **Fidelity 6097 LA version** is sold out. The programmer is **Frans Morsch**, formerly Mephisto's third man and author of the **Mephisto Europa/Marco Polo** program, which is amazingly strong for the hardware it uses. The **Dominator** is a 4 Mhz 6502 model, like the **Mephisto College**, and the programs are also very similar, since Morsch uses the same type and depth of selectivity (3 plies) as does Schröder they once collaborated. The **Dominator** seems to be a bit better tactically but a bit weaker positionally than the **College**.

I tested an old version which had some serious bugs, which have reportedly been mostly fixed in the current version. Despite the bugs, my unit performed around the 2075 level, and the Swedish ratings put the current version 45 points (adjusted) above the **Designer 2100** and just about 25 below the more expensive **Novag Super Forte B** and **Mephisto Mega IV**. If a fast (8-10 Mhz) version should come out for less than the **Mach III** it might be an excellent value. In a recent 9 round computer tournament in Europe an **8 Mhz Dominator** finished sixth out of 24, behind only 32 bit models and a **10 Mhz MM4**, but ahead of many very strong machines, including even an **Almeria 32 bit** and a **20 Mhz Mach III**. There is also an autosensory version, the **Commander** (also currently only at 4 Mhz). **Morsch** has recently written a new program on the 80386 processor used in high-end personal computers, but to what purpose is unknown. **CXG also plans soon to offer a new model based on the fast single chip (Hitachi) H8**.

It should be faster than the present 6502, and although it has limited RAM. **Morsch** has already proven that he is superb at living with that handicap in the **Mephisto Europa**. This machine may well make **CXG** the leader in the modest price category, but **Saitek** has similar plans so we'll have to wait and see who wins. Since **CXG** sells only through **Fidelity** in the U.S., it is not clear whether **Fidelity** will allow the new model to be sold at a price that would compete with the **Designer 2100**, assuming the **CXG** model to be clearly stronger, as I expect.

Source: Computer Chess Reports Quarterly – Vol. 1 No. 2 – Second Quarter 1990

CXG – Review (July 1990)

by Larry Kaufman

In the last issue I reported on the **CXG Sphinx program**, offered in various boards (**Dominator** and **Galaxy** are pressure boards, **Commander** is autosensory). I recently tested a new model, but I regret to say that it still has a bug (reported last year in "Modul" magazine) that causes it to blunder its queen in certain situations. Also, it is still being produced at the noncompetitive speed of 4 MHz. I feel that the program has good potential, and **CXG** prices tend to be more reasonable than others, so I urge **CXG** to fix the bug and offer the models at a decent speed, perhaps 8 Mhz. If a **Dominator** with these changes becomes available for under \$250, or a **Commander** for under \$400, they would be best buys and highly recommended. A bug-free **Dominator** at 8 MHz should be about as strong as the **Fidelity Mach III**. I have received no further word on the planned H8 program.

Source: Computer Chess Reports Quarterly – Vol. 1 No. 3 – Third Quarter 1990.

Europa-Rochade (1990)

Hans-Peter Ketterling

News from Nuremberg

Titan (CXG-270) is a pressure sensor device with edge LEDs, which is also equipped with a 21 x 21 cm playing surface and is similar to the **Dominator**, which is currently the best known device of this brand ohne. It contains an 8-bit single chip that is clocked at 2 MHz. The program has a size of 16 KByte and has an opening repertoire of 6,000 half moves and 44 game levels. A maximum of 250 half moves can be saved as games or as an extension of the opening repertoire. The device is supposed to bring 1750 Elo points (136 Ingo) and is identical in program and hardware to the **Super Enterprise** (CXG-210) programmed by **Kaare Danielsen**. Good programs prove to be quite tough and always come back in new packages. The price will be around DM 300,00 (€ 150,00).



The **Dominator** pressure sensor device (CXG-239), whose playing surface measures 21 x 21 cm and has single-field LEDs, contains the quite strong 32 kbyte program by **Frans Morsch**, which is estimated at 2000 Elo (105 Ingo), but to which the Swedes grant about 150 points less. It runs at 4 MHz on a 65C02 with 8 KByte RAM, has game, analysis and problem levels and an opening repertoire of 8,000 half moves in 1,200 variations. You can take back games completely and have up to ten moves of problems solved.

Two LCD displays allow you to see the calculation time, the position evaluation and six half moves of the main variant. The calculation process makes use of the opponent's time for consideration. The extensive memory holds not only the current game but up to 64 games with a total of 3,000 half moves, which can also be used to expand the opening repertoire. That much chess power eats up battery power, after 15 hours the oven is off. For the good piece you have to invest DM 498,00 (€ 249,00), but the mains adapter is included.

The same program and the same features are hidden in the **Galaxy** (CXG-230), but now in the case of the **Super Enterprise LCD**, whose pressure sensor play area measures almost 30 x 30 cm, but only has edge LEDs. The price should be just under DM 400.00 (€ 200.00), the mains adapter is included in the scope of delivery. The **White & Allcock** product range includes many more devices, but they hardly play a role in this country, mostly belong to the lower price and playing strength categories and have been on the market for quite some time.

Source - <https://rochadeeuropa.com> August 1990, Hans-Peter Ketterling: News from Nuremberg. Computer chess announcements at the International Toy Fair.



CXG 3000

CHESS 3000

CHAMPIONSHIP QUALITY 12 LEVEL CHESS COMPUTER

Auto Response Playing Board.

- 12 Levels of playing strength can be selected to match the skill of any player, novice or advanced.
 - 1 user adaptable level (speeds up when user plays quickly, slows down when user plays slowly).
- Championship program strength.
- Selectable book openings — approx. 3,000 positions.
- Change levels at any time.
- Position verification — computer memory recall.
- Take-back feature — allows up to 80 half-moves to be taken back.
- Step forward features — allows moves taken back to be stepped through.
- Hint — when asked, will give a hint for the opponent and show move currently assessed as best.
- 2 player mode — lets 2 players play while it checks legality of moves of both sides.
- Allows castling, en passant, pawn promotion.
- Rejects illegal moves.
- Set-up/Problem mode.
- Adapter Included.

ORDINATEUR JEU D'ECHECS DENIVEAU COMPETITION DEGRES DE DIFFICULTÉ

Echiquier A Response Automatique

- 12 niveaux de difficulté pouvant s'adapter aussi bien à un joueur débutant qu'à un joueur confirmé.
 - Le niveau s'adapte au joueur, en respectant son propre temps de réflexion.
- Force correspondant à un programme de championnat.
- Sélection des ouvertures: environ 3,000 positions.
- Changement de niveau aussi souvent que souhaité.
- Vérification de la position — rapel de la mémoire.
- Retour en arrière possible de revoir une partie jusqu'à 80 demi-coups en arrière.
- Arrêt de réflexion et touche conseil.
- Peut arbitrer le jeu de 2 adversaires.
- Pratique le roque, la prise en passant, la promotion et la sous-promotion.
- Rejet automatique des coups illégaux.
- Livré avec pièces, adaptateur de secteur, manuel d'instruction en français et bon de garantie.

MEISTERSCHAFTS-SCHACH- COMPUTER MIT 12 SCHWIERIGKEITSGRADEN

Spielprogramm mit automatischer Erwidernung.

- 12 Spielfähigkeitsstufen können ausgewählt werden, um zur Geschicklichkeit jedes Spielers zu passen, egal ob Anfänger oder Fortgeschrittener.
- — 1 anpassungsfähige Stufe (spielt schnell, wenn der Spieler schnell spielt, spielt langsam, wenn der Spieler langsam spielt).
- Weltmeisterschaftsfähigkeit.
- Auswählbare Eröffnungen — ungefähr 3,000 Positionen.
- Wechsel der Spielfähigkeitsstufe zu jeder Zeit.
- Überprüfung der Position — Computer-Gedächtnis.
- Rücknahme — bis zu 80 Halb-Züge können zurückgenommen werden.
- Vorwärtsspielen — zurückgenommene Züge können wieder gespielt werden.
- Hinweis — wenn gefragt, wird der Computer einen Hinweis für seinen Gegner geben und ihm zeigen, welcher Zug augenblicklich für den besten gehalten wird.
- 2 Spieler — Zwei Spieler können spielen, während der Computer die Richtigkeit der Züge auf beiden Seiten kontrolliert.
- Durchführung von Rochieren, En passant Entnahmen, Promotion des Bauern.
- Verweigert falsche Züge.
- Aufstellen/Problemstellungen.
- Einschließ Adapter.

KAMPIOENSCHAP KWALITEIT SCHAAK COMPUTER MET 12 NIVEAUS

Speelprogramm met automatische reactie.

- Keuze uit 12 verschillende speelsterktniveaus.
- Voorzien van speciale speelstand waarop de computer zich aanpast aan de speelsterktniveau van de speler.
- Met recht een toernooiwinnaar!
- Boekopeningsbibliotheek van ± 3000 zetten kunnen vooraf worden geselecteerd.
- Op elk gewenst moment kan van niveau worden gewisseld.
- Positieverificatie.
- Mogelijkheid tot het terugnemen van zetten (max. 80 halve zetten).
- Mogelijkheid tot het analyseren van stellingen en partijen, waarbij zowel vooruit als terug gespeeld kan worden.
- Geeft desgewenst advieszettingen toont welke zet hij overweegt te doen.
- Monitorstand voor 2 spelers waarbij de computer als scheidsrechter optreedt.
- Staat en passant, rocheert en promoveert.
- Weigert onregelmatige zetten.
- Lost schaakproblemen op.
- Inclusief transformator 220V.

newcrest TECHNOLOGY LTD.

Flat E, 17/F., Derrick Industrial Building, 49, Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong.
Tel: 5-8147468 Telex: 85726 NCRST HX Fax: 852-5-8730148



CXG Chess 3000 – CXG 3000 – Release: 1986
Programmed by: Richard Lang

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong – 1986) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

44 LEVELS!

Auto Response Playing Board
Echiquier A Reponse Automatique
Spielprogramm mit automatischer Erwidrerung
Speelprogramm met automatische reactie



2 LCD CHESS CLOCKS

CXG3008

CHESS 3008

44 LEVEL CHESS COMPUTER

- 44 Levels of playing capability
 - 16 Levels of increasing playing strength.
 - 16 Levels for fixed-time game — allows for blitz games and Speed Chess.
 - 8 Teaching Levels.
 - 2 Demonstration Levels.
 - 1 Infinite Level.
 - 1 Problem Solving Level.
- Selectable Opening with more than 6,000 moves.
- User Programmable Library of more than 240 moves.
- Very Strong Program
 - Estimated ELO rating of 2,100 points.
- Problem Mode
 - Solves mate in up to 12 moves.
 - Ability to find second selections and mates with knight and bishop.
- Chess Clock — 2 built-in chess clocks keep playing time of both sides (LCD Digital readout)
- 4 Different Playing Styles
 - Normal
 - Attacking
 - Very Aggressive
 - Positional
- Take-Back feature
 - Allows up to 120 half-moves to be taken back.
- Hint
 - When asked, gives hint of the currently assessed best move for the opponent.
- Verify Position
 - Allows verification of position of all pieces remaining in the game, even while the computer is making an analysis.
- Game Save
 - Save every move of current game, allowing player to replay the whole game later.
- Mate Announcement
 - The computer shows the number of moves necessary to mate its opponent.
- Draw Recognition
 - By stalemate, 3rd repetition, and the 50 move rule.
- Resign Announcement
 - The computer offers to resign if in a losing position.
- Multi-Move Mode
 - Allows players to play both sides while computer checks validity of moves.
- Battery Operated
 - Long battery life using 4 penrite batteries (not included).
- Replay Feature — Allows complete game to be replayed.

JEU D'ÉCHECS À ORDINATEUR À 44 NIVEAUX DE DIFFICULTÉ

- 44 Niveaux de jeu, de forces différentes, c.a.d.1
 - 16 niveaux améliorant la force de jeu à chaque niveau plus élevé.
 - 16 niveaux avec fixation des réponses dans le temps (Ex: BLITZ...)
 - 8 niveaux mode moniteur.
 - 2 niveaux de démonstration.
 - 1 niveau d'analyse.
- Bibliothèques d'ouvertures de plus de 6000 positions.
- 240 variantes d'ouvertures classiques programmables.
- Annonce jeu/au mate en 12 coups.
- Pendule inféris (Lecture Digital LCD)
- 4 Styles de jeux différents:
 - NORMAL — ATTAQUANT — AGRESSIF — POSITIONNEL.
- Possibilité de retour en arrière (max. 120 demi-coups).
- Donne conseil sur les coups à jouer.
- Donne la position en cours pendant l'analyse du computer.
- Position pour garder la mémoire.
- Annonce les mats.
- Connait la règle des 3 et 50 coups.
- Le computer annonce gracieusement son échec lorsqu'il se trouve dans une situation perilleuse.
- Un programme extrêmement performant.
- Elo-rating ca. 2100 P.
- Joue sur piles et transformateur.
- Position rejouer — permet de rejouer complètement la partie.

SCHACHCOMPUTER MIT 44 SPIELSTUFEN

- 44 Spielstufen
 - 16 Stufen mit wachsender Spielstärke
 - 16 Stufen mit festgelegter Zeit — für Blitz- und Zeitnachspiele
 - 8 Trainingsstufen
 - 2 Demonstrationsprogramme
 - 1 Stufe mit unbegrenzter Denkzeit
 - 1 Problemlösungsstufe
- Eröffnungen mit bis zu 6000 Eröffnungszielen
- Vom Benutzer programmierbare Spielabläufe mit bis zu 240 Zügen
- Sehr starkes Programm
 - geschätzte ELO-Kapazität von 2100 Punkten
- Problemlösungsmodus
 - löst Matt-in-12-Zügen
 - findet zweite Mattlösung und kann mit Springer und Läufer mattssetzen
- Schachuhr
 - 2 eingebaute Schachuhren überwachen die Spielzeiten (LCD Digital — Uhr)
- 4 verschiedene Spielstile
 - normal
 - offensiv
 - sehr aggressiv
 - Positionsspiel
- nimmt bis zu 120 Halbzüge zurück
- zeigt den momentan besten Zug für den Gegner an
- Positionsbegründung
 - zeigt die Positionen aller Figuren an (selbst wenn der Computer eine Stellung analysiert)
- Speicherfunktion
 - speichert jeden Zug des momentanen Spieles, so daß später das ganze Spiel nachgeholt und analysiert werden kann
- Mattanzeige
 - zeigt an, wieviele Züge noch bis zum Matt des Gegners benötigt werden
 - erkennt Remis
 - bei Patt, dritter Zugwiederholung und nach der 50-Zug-Regel
- Aufgabengebot
 - wenn der Computer in einer aussichtslosen Situation ist, bietet er dem Gegner die Aufgabe an
- Mehrzugenfunktion
 - ermöglicht es zwei Gegnern, gegeneinander zu spielen, während der Computer die Richtigkeit der Züge überwacht
- nimmt keine illegalen Züge an
- Batteriebetrieb
 - langes Batterieleben mit 4 Mignonzellen (nicht eingeschlossen)
- Adapteranschluß
 - Bibliothek speichert ein ganzes Spiel, jederzeit wieder abrufbar.

44 SPELNIVEAUS COMPUTER SCHAAKSPEL

- 44 Verschillende speelersterkeniveaus wachsender:
 - 16 niveaus met ooplopende speelersterke
 - 16 niveaus met een vooraf ingestelde antwoordtijd
 - 8 instructieniveaus
 - 2 demonstratieniveaus
 - 1 analyse-niveau
 - 1 probleemniveau
- Boekopengingsbibliotheek met méér dan 6000 zetten.
- 240 Programmeerbare openingsvarianten.
- Lost matproblemen op tot mat in 12.
- Ingebouwd schaakclock (LCD Digitale aflezing)
- 4 Verschillende speelstijlen: — normaal, aanvullend, zeer agressief en positioneel.
- Neemt desgewenst zetten terug (max. 120 halve zetten).
- Geeft desgewenst advieszeten.
- Geeft positieve verificatie terwyl de computer analyseert.
- Memory-stand.
- Kondigt mat aan
- Kent en herkent patt, de 3 en 50 zettenregel.
- Computer kondigt ruiterlijk zijn verlies aan als hij zich in een verliespositie bevindt.
- Monitorstand.
- Uitzonderlijk sterk programma.
- Speelt langdurig op batterijen (ca. 100 uur).
- ELO-rating ca. 2100 punten.
- Overspeelstand — Staat toe om het gehele spel opnieuw te spelen.

Datastyrt Elektronisk Schackspel.

- 44 nivåer på spelytkra
 - 16 nivåer med ökande spelytkra
 - 16 nivåer med fixerad spelytid — tillter blitzpartier och snabbschack.
 - 8 nivåer för inläring
 - 2 demonstrationsnivåer
 - 1 ändlig nivå
 - 1 problemlösingsnivå
- Utvalda öppningar med mer än 6,000 drag
- Programmerat bibliotek av mer än 240 drag.
- Mycket starkt program
 - uppskattad ELO gradering av mer än 2,000 poäng
- Problemlösning
 - löser matt i upp till 12 drag
 - kunskap att finna andra dragval och matt med springare och löpare.
- Schackklocka — 2 inbyggda schackklockor visar speltiden för båda sidor (LCD Digitalfönster)
- 4 olika spelstätt
 - normalt
 - attackerande
 - mycket aggressiv
 - positionspel
- Ta-tilbaka
 - tillåter upp till 120 halvdrag att tas tillbaka.
- Råd
 - när datorn frågas, ger den råd på det drag din annan bas för motståndaren.
- Verifikation av positioner
 - tillåter verifikation av positioner av alla pjäser som återstår i spelet, även medan datorn analyserar ett problem.
- Spelimne
 - bevarar varje drag i partiet, och tillåter spelaren att spela om hela partiet senare.
- Mattannonsering
 - datorn visar antalet drag den behöver för att göra motståndaren matt.
- Remisregler
 - genom "patt", 3:e repetition och 50 dragregeln.
- Annonsering av uppgett parti
 - datorn erbjuder att ge upp om den är i förlorande ställning.
- Tämlingsdrag
 - tillåter spelare att spela båda sidorna medan datorn kontrollerar att reglerna följs.
- Omspelandighet — Möjliggör att helt parti spelas om

Chess 3008 – CXG 3008 – Release: 1987

Programmed by: Kaare Danielsen

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong – 1987) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

SPHINX 40 SPHINX 50



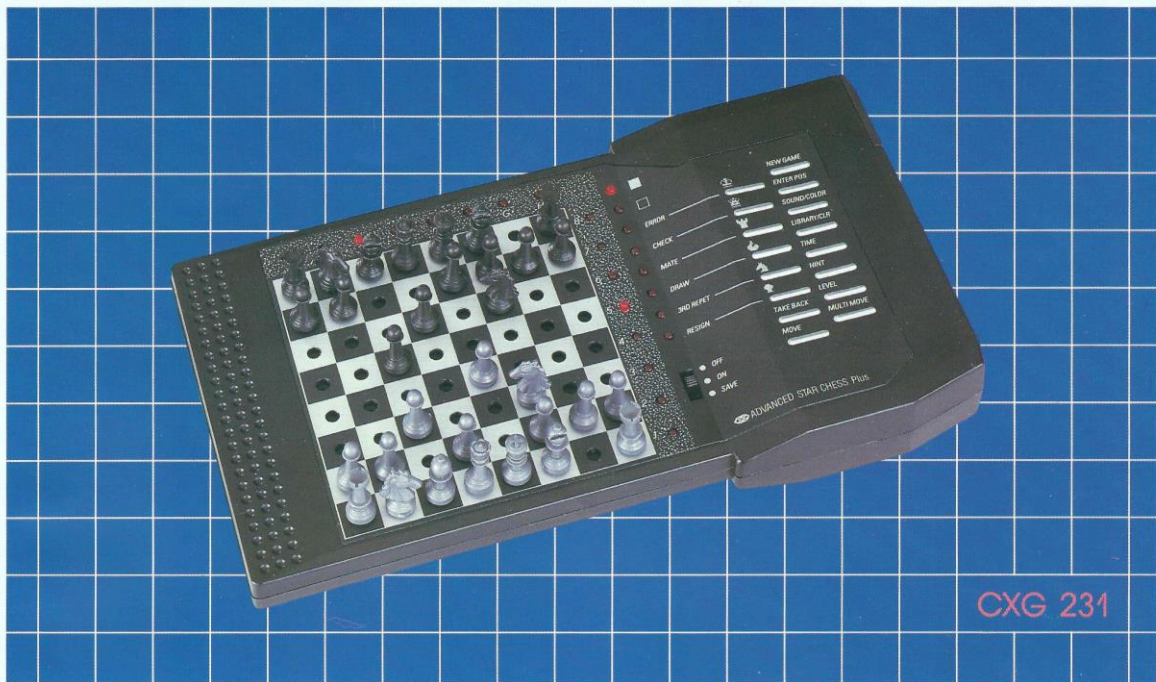
- 68.000-Prozessortechnik
- Praktisch unbegrenzt viele Spielstärken, da man die Zeit, die der Computer für einen Zug braucht, eingrenzen kann, Endspielzeiteingabe
- ca. 20.000 Züge in der Eröffnungsbibliothek
- Zurücknahme von Zügen praktisch unbegrenzt
- Positioneingabe über Multi-Move-Funktion oder direkt
- macht Zugvorschläge
- erkennt Patt nach der Fünzig-Zug-Regel und nach dreimaliger Zugwiederholung
- zwei LCD-Displays:
 - Schachuhr (Zug- und Summenzeiten)
 - Stellungsbewertung in Bauerneinheiten
 - Zugzähler
 - alphanumerische Zugangaben
- zurückgenommene Züge bleiben im Speicher und können wiederholt werden
- macht Vorschläge zur weiteren Entwicklung des Spieles
- löst Mattprobleme innerhalb von 21 Halbzügen und zeigt Alternativlösungen an
- der Computer sucht und findet Verteidigungen gegen drohendes Matt
- SPHINX 40 mit 40 × 40 mm Spielfeldern
- SPHINX 50 mit 50 × 50 mm Spielfeldern
- mit exklusiven Holzfiguren und Adapter

Sphinx 40 'Adversary' – CXG 3038 – Release: 1987

Sphinx 50 'Adversary' – CXG 3048 – Release: 1987

Programmed by: Mark Taylor

(Quelle: L. Siwek GmbH – Fürth/Bay 1987) (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)



ADVANCED STARCHES Plus

Program specifications

- 34 Levels:**
- 8 normal levels, 3 seconds to 10 minutes a move.
 - 8 speed chess levels, 1 to 60 minutes for the whole game.
 - 8 tournament levels preset to 8 different standard clock settings.
 - 8 fixed search depth levels, 1 to 8 ply.
 - 1 analysis level.
 - 1 mate solving level, solves from mate in 1 to mate in 10 moves.

- Openingbook:**
- 8000 positions, 1200 lines.
 - Programmable openingbook for 2000 moves, and/or memory for 64 games, to a total of 2000 half moves.

- Information during play:**
- 2 chess clocks with for each side: time for each move, total time and total time left.
 - Number of moves.
 - Position evaluation value.
 - Search depth.
 - Best line of play, 6 half moves.
 - Move currently being examined.

Programme

- 34 niveaux**
- 8 niveaux, temps de reflexion par coup : de 3 secondes à 10 minutes
 - 8 niveaux, de vitesse : de 1 à 60 minutes par partie
 - 8 niveaux, "tournoi" : 8 prééglages de la pendule
 - 8 niveaux, de profondeur de coup : 1 à 8 coups
 - 1 niveau d'analyse
 - 1 niveau problème — Résolution de Mat de 1 à 10 coups

- Bibliothèque d'ouverture**
- 8000 positions, 1200 lignes d'ouverture
 - Bibliothèque d'ouverture programmable sur 1000 coups

- Information pendant la partie**
- 2 horloges intégrées — une par camp — décompte du temps pour chaque mouvement — temps total et temps restant
 - nombre de coups
 - évaluation de la valeur de la position
 - profondeur de recherche
 - meilleure ligne de jeu sur 6 demi-coups indication du coup engagé.

Technische gegevens

- 34 speelsterkenniveaus onderverdeeld in:**
- 8 standaardniveau's ; variërend van 3 sec. tot 10 min. per zet
 - 8 snelschaakniveau's ; variërend van 1 tot 60 min. voor de hele partij
 - 8 toernooiniveau's ; 8 verschillende standaard toernooitijdcontroles
 - 8 zoekdiepteniveau's ; rekendiepte instelbaar van 1 tot en met 8 ply
 - 1 matprobleemniveau ; lost problemen op tot mat in 10 zetten
 - 1 analyseniveau

- Openingsbibliotheek**
- bestaat uit 1200 varianten met 8000 posities.
 - is zelf vit te breiden met 1000 zetten

- Informatiemogelijkheden**
- Twee schaakklokken tonen naar wens de per zet verbruikte tijd, de totaal verbruikte tijd of de resterende tijd.
 - Zettenteller
 - Stellingswaardering
 - Rekendiepte
 - Verwachte variant (6 Ply)
 - De zet die op dat moment wordt onderzocht
 - Uiteraard biedt de computer verder alle standaard mogelijkheden die elke topcomputer moet bieden

Programspecificaties

- 34 Nivôer:**
- 8 normale nivôer: 3 sekunder till 10 minuter per drag
 - 8 blitzschacknivôer: 1 till 60 minuter för ett helt parti.
 - 8 turneringsnivôer: kan stöbllas po 6 olika standardtider.
 - 8 fixerade sökdup: 1 till 8 pky.
 - 1 analysnivô.
 - 1 mattlösingsnivô: löser från matt 1 ett till 10 drag.

- Öppningsbok:**
- 8000 positioner, 1200 rader
 - Programmerbart för 1000 drag.

- Information under spelet:**
- 2 schackklockob, en för varje sida: tid för varje drag, totaltid, och österbende totaltid.
 - Antal drag.
 - Positionsvördering.
 - Sökdup.
 - Bôsta spelupplöggning, 6 halvdrag.
 - Drag som undersöks.

Programmabeskrivning

- 34 Spielstufen:**
- 8 normale stufen — 3 bis 10 minuten für jeden Zug
 - 8 Blitzschachstufen — 1 bis 60 Minuten für das ganze Spiel
 - 8 Turnierstufen — Vorgabe einer von acht Standardstellungen der Uhre
 - 8 Stufen mit festgelegter Suchtiefe — 1 bis 8 Halbzüge
 - 1 Analysstufe
 - 1 Problemlösungsstufe — findet Mattlösung in bis zu 10 Zügen

- Eröffnungsbibliothek:**
- 8000 Eröffnungszüge 1200 Eröffnungspositionen
 - Programmierbare Eröffnungsbibliothek für 1000 Züge

- Informationen während des Spieles:**
- 2 eingebaute Schachuhren mit Zug- und Summenzeiten und Anzeige der noch verbleibenden Spielzeit
 - Anzeige für die Zugzahl
 - Stellungsbewertung
 - Suchtiefen — Anzeige
 - Hauptvariante (sechs Halbzüge)
 - Anzeige des Zuges, der gerade berechnet wrd

CXG Sphinx Advanced Star Chess Plus Model No. CXG 231 (1988) – Never released!

It was intended that Frans Morsch would deliver the chess program.

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong – 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)



SUPER ENTERPRISE Plus

Program specifications

34 Levels:

- 8 normal levels, 3 seconds to 10 minutes a move.
- 8 speed chess levels, 1 to 60 minutes for the whole game.
- 8 tournament levels preset to 8 different standard clock settings.
- 8 fixed search depth levels, 1 to 8 ply.
- 1 analysis level.
- 1 mate solving level, solves from mate in 1 to mate in 10 moves.

Openingbook:

- 8000 positions, 1200 lines.
- Programmable openingbook for 2000 moves, and/or memory for 64 games, to a total of 2000 half moves.

Information during play:

- 2 chess clocks with for each side: time for each move, total time and total time left.
- Number of moves.
- Position evaluation value.
- Search depth.
- Best line of play, 6 half moves.
- Move currently being examined.

Programme

34 niveaux:

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- 8 niveaux, de profondeur de coup : 1 à 8 coups
- 1 niveau d'analyse
- 1 niveau problème — Résolution de Mat de 1 à 10 coups

Bibliothèque d'ouverture

- 8000 positions, 1200 lignes d'ouverture
- Bibliothèque d'ouverture programmable sur 1000 coups

Information pendant la partie

- 2 horloges intégrées — une par camp — décompte du temps pour chaque mouvement — temps total et temps restant
- nombre de coups
- évaluation de la valeur de la position
- profondeur de recherche
- meilleure ligne de jeu sur 6 demi-coups indication du coup engagé.

Technische gegevens

34 speelsterkenniveau's

- **onderverdeeld in:**
- 8 standaardniveau's ; variërend van 3 sec. tot 10 min. per zet
- 8 snelschaakniveau's ; variërend van 1 tot 60 min. voor de hele partij
- 8 toernooiniveau's ; 8 verschillende standaard toernooitijdcontroles
- 8 zoekdiepteniveau's ; rekendiepte instelbaar van 1 tot en met 8 ply
- 1 matprobleemniveau ; lost problemen op tot mat in 10 zetten
- 1 analyseniveau

Openingsbibliotheek

- bestaat uit 1200 varianten met 8000 posities.
- is zelf vit te breiden met 1000 zetten

Informatiemogelijkheden

- Twee schaakklokken tonen naar wens de per zet verbruikte tijd, de totaal verbruikte tijd of de resterende tijd.
- Zettelteller
- Stellingswaarderung
- Rekendiepte
- Verschaakte variant (6 Ply)
- De zet die op dat moment wordt onderzocht
- Uiteraard biedt de computer verder alle standaard mogelijkheden die elke topcomputer moet bieden

Programmspecificationer

34 Nivåer:

- 8 normale nivåer: 3 sekunder till 10 minuter per drag
- 8 blitzschacknivåer: 1 till 60 minuter för ett helt parti.
- 8 turneringsnivåer: kan stötläs på 8 olika standardtider.
- 8 fixerade sökdyb: 1 till 8 pky.
- 1 analysnivå.
- 1 mattlösningsnivå: löser från matt 1 ett till 10 drag.

Öppningsbok:

- 8000 positioner, 1200 rader
- Programmerbart för 1000 drag.

Information under spelet:

- 2 schackklockor, en för varje sida: tid för varje drag, totaltid, och återstående totaltid.
- Antal drag.
- Positionsvärdering.
- Sökdyb.
- Bosta spelupplösnig, 6 halvdrag.
- Drag som undersöks.

Programmbeschreibung

34 Spielstufen:

- 8 normale stufen — 3 bis 10 Minuten für jeden Zug
- 8 Blitzschackstufen — 1 bis 60 Minuten für das ganze Spiel
- 8 Turnierstufen — Vorgabe einer von acht Standardeinstellungen der Uhre
- 8 Stufen mit festgelegter Suchtiefe — 1 bis 8 Halbzüge
- 1 Analysestufe
- 1 Problemlösungsstufe — findet Mattlösung in bis zu 10 Zügen

Eröffnungsbibliothek:

- 8000 Eröffnungszüge 1200 Eröffnungspositionen
- Programmierbare Eröffnungsbibliothek für 1000 Züge

Informationen während des Spieles:

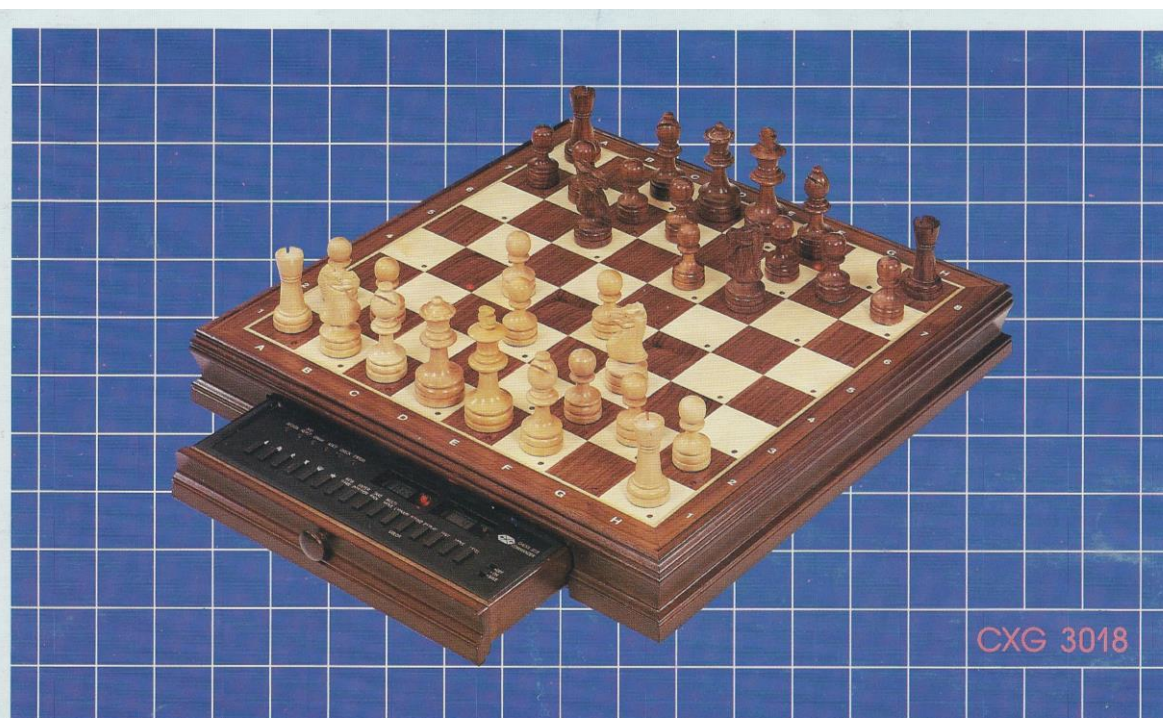
- 2 eingebaute Schachuhren mit Zug- und Summenzeiten und Anzeige der noch verbleibenden Spielzeit
- Anzeige für die Zugzahl
- Stellungsbewertung
- Suchtiefen — Anzeige
- Hauptvariante (sechs Halbzüge)
- Anzeige des Zuges, der gerade berechnet wrd

CXG Sphinx Super Enterprise Plus Model No. CXG 230 (1988)

Super Enterprise Plus was **never released**,
but later appeared as CXG Sphinx Galaxy!

It was intended that Frans Morsch would deliver the chess program.

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong – 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)



CHESS 3018 COMMANDER

Program specifications

- 34 Levels:**
- 8 normal levels, 3 seconds to 10 minutes a move.
 - 8 speed chess levels, 1 to 60 minutes for the whole game.
 - 8 tournament levels preset to 8 different standard clock settings.
 - 8 fixed search depth levels, 1 to 8 ply.
 - 1 analysis level.
 - 1 mate solving level, solves from mate in 1 to mate in 10 moves.

- Openingbook:**
- 8000 positions, 1200 lines.
 - Programmable openingbook for 2000 moves, and/or memory for 64 games, to a total of 2000 half moves.

- Information during play:**
- 2 chess clocks with for each side: time for each move, total time and total time left.
 - Number of moves.
 - Position evaluation value.
 - Search depth.
 - Best line of play, 6 half moves.
 - Move currently being examined.

Programme

- 34 niveaux**
- 8 niveaux, temps de réflexion par coup : de 3 secondes à 10 minutes
 - 8 niveaux, de vitesse : de 1 à 60 minutes par partie
 - 8 niveaux, "tournoi" : 8 pré-réglages de la pendule
 - 8 niveaux, de profondeur de coup : 1 à 8 coups
 - 1 niveau d'analyse
 - 1 niveau problème — Résolution de Mat de 1 à 10 coups

- Bibliothèque d'ouverture**
- 8000 positions, 1200 lignes d'ouverture
 - Bibliothèque d'ouverture programmable sur 1000 coups

- Information pendant la partie**
- 2 horloges intégrées — une par camp — décompte du temps pour chaque mouvement — temps total et temps restant
 - nombre de coups
 - évaluation de la valeur de la position
 - profondeur de recherche
 - meilleure ligne de jeu sur 6 demi-coups indication du coup engagé

Technische gegevens

- 34 speelsterkenniveau's onderverdeeld in:**
- 8 standaardniveau's ; variërend van 3 sec. tot 10 min. per zet
 - 8 snelschaakniveau's ; variërend van 1 tot 60 min. voor de hele partij
 - 8 toernooiniveau's ; 8 verschillende standaard toernooitijdcontroles
 - 8 zoekdiepteniveau's ; rekendiepte instelbaar van 1 tot en met 8 ply
 - 1 matprobleemniveau ; lost problemen op tot mat in 10 zetten
 - 1 analyseniveau

- Openingbibliotheek**
- bestaat uit 1200 varianten met 8000 posities.
 - is zelf uit te breiden met 1000 zetten

- Informatiemogelijkheden**
- Twee schaakklokken tonen naars wens de per zet verbruikte tijd, de totaal verbruikte tijd of de resterende tijd.
 - Zettenteller
 - Stellingswaardering
 - Rekendiepte
 - Verwachte variant (6 Ply)
 - De zet die op dat moment wordt onderzocht
 - Uiteraard biedt de computer verder alle standaard mogelijkheden die elke topcomputer moet bieden

Programspecificatier

- 34 Nivôer:**
- 8 normale nivôer: 3 sekunder till 10 minuter per drag
 - 8 blitzschacknivôer: 1 till 60 minuter for ett helt parti.
 - 8 turneringsnivôer: kan stöbllas po 8 olika standardtider.
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 - 1 analysnivô.
 - 1 mattlösingsnivô. löser från matt 1 ett till 10 drag.

- Öppningsbok:**
- 8000 positioner, 1200 rader
 - Programmerbart för 1000 drag

- Information under spelet:**
- 2 schackklockob, en för varje sida: tid för varje drag, totaltid, och österstående totaltid.
 - Antal drag.
 - Positionsvördering.
 - Sökdup.
 - Bôsta spelupplöggning, 6 halvdrag.
 - Drag som undersöks.

Programmbeschreibung

- 34 Spielstufen:**
- 8 normale stufen — 3 bis 10 minuten für jeden Zug
 - 8 Blitzschachstufen — 1 bis 60 Minuten für das ganze Spiel
 - 8 Turnierstufen — Vorgabe einer von acht Standardeinstellungen der Uhre
 - 8 Stufen mit festgelegter Suchtiefe — 1 bis 8 Halbzüge
 - 1 Analysestufe
 - 1 Problemlösungsstufe — findet Mattlösung in bis zu 10 Zügen

- Eröffnungsbibliothek:**
- 8000 Eröffnungszüge 1200 Eröffnungspositionen
 - Programmierbare Eröffnungsbibliothek für 1000 Züge

- Informationen während des Spieles:**
- 2 eingebaute Schachuhren mit Zug- und Summenzeiten und Anzeige der noch verbleibenden Spielzeit
 - Anzeige für die Zugzahl
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 - Suchtiefen — Anzeige
 - Hauptvariante (sechs Halbzüge)
 - Anzeige des Zuges, der gerade berechnet wrd

newcrest TECHNOLOGY LTD.

15/F & 16/F, Lea Hin Ind. Bldg., 41-43 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong.
Tel: 5-538194 Telex 85726 NCRST HX Fax No: 852-5-8730148



CXG Sphinx Commander – CXG 3018

Release: August 1988 – Programmed by: Frans Morsch

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong – 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)



Adversary

SPHINX 50 Plus/SPHINX 40 plus

Program specifications

34 Levels:

- 8 normal levels, 3 seconds to 10 minutes a move.
- 8 speed chess levels, 1 to 60 minutes for the whole game.
- 8 tournament levels preset to 8 different standard clock settings.
- 8 fixed search depth levels, 1 to 8 ply.
- 1 analysis level.
- 1 mate solving level, solves from mate in 1 to mate in 10 moves.

Openingbook:

- 8000 positions, 1200 lines.
- Programmable openingbook for 2000 moves, and/or memory for 64 games, to a total of 2000 half moves.

Information during play:

- 2 chess clocks with for each side: time for each move, total time and total time left.
- Number of moves.
- Position evaluation value.
- Search depth.
- Best line of play, 6 half moves.
- Move currently being examined.

Programme

34 niveaus

- 8 niveaus, temps de reflexion par coup : de 3 secondes à 10 minutes
- 8 niveaus, de vitesse : de 1 à 60 minutes par partie
- 8 niveaus, "tournoi" : 8 préregrages de la pendule
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Bibliothèque d'ouverture

- 8000 positions, 1200 lignes d'ouverture
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Information pendant la partie

- 2 horloges intégrées — une par camp — décompte du temps pour chaque mouvement — temps total et temps restant
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- évaluation de la valeur de la position
- profondeur de recherche
- meilleure ligne de jeu sur 6 demi-coups indication du coup engagé.

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34 speelsterktniveau's

- 8 standaardniveau's ; variërend van 3 sec. tot 10 min. per zet
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Openingsbibliotheek

- bestaat uit 1200 varianten met 8000 posities.
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Informatiemogelijkheden

- Twee schaaklokken tonen naar wens de per zet verbruikte tijd, de totaal verbruikte tijd of de resterende tijd.
- Zettenteller
- Stellingwaardering
- Rekendiepte
- Verwachte variant (6 Ply)
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34 Nivöer:

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- 2 schackklockob, en för varje sida: tid för varje drag, totaltid, och återstående totaltid.
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- Drag som undersöks.

Programmbeschreibung

34 Spielstufen:

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- Stellungsbewertung
- Suchtiefe — Anzeige
- Hauptvariante (sechs Halbzüge)
- Anzeige des Zuges, der gerade berechnet wird

SPHINX 40 — 40×40 cm Cabinet

SPHINX 50 — 50×50 cm Cabinet

CXG Sphinx 50 Plus & CXG Sphinx 40 Plus

Release: September 1988 – Programmed by: Frans Morsch

NB: On the above brochure, CXG has mistakenly placed an image of the Sphinx 40 'Adversary'! As we know, no Sphinx 40 Plus or Sphinx 50 Plus has the addition 'Adversary' on the wooden housing! Also the description below the image about the playing strength levels is not correct. A CXG Sphinx 40 Plus or CXG Sphinx 50 Plus has 56 adjustable game levels! Very sloppy and unprofessional from CXG Newcrest and it always gives us as collectors, a historical trap...

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong – 1988) (photo copyright © by <http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/>) (600 dpi)

CSVN Computerschaak (1989)

Henk Peperkamp

CXG Sphinx Galaxy (= Commander)

When comparing the recent price and rating lists, it is striking that the above mentioned machine seems to have a very favourable price/performance ratio. Since the manufacturer (CXG) also has a lot of "features" to build in, this was a good reason to take a look at this machine and compare it with its predecessor, the Super Enterprise.

SPHINX GALAXY 230

56 LEVEL CHESS COMPUTER

- 8 normal levels, 2 seconds to 6 minutes a move.
- 8 speed chess levels, 1 to 60 minutes for the whole game.
- 8 tournament levels preset to 8 different standard clock settings.
- 8 fixed search depth levels, 1 to 8 ply.
- 8 analysis levels.
- 8 mate solving levels solves from mate in 1 to mate in 8 moves.
- 8 Novice levels.

Openingbook;

- 8000 positions, 1200 lines.
- Programmable openingbook for 2000 moves, and/or memory for 64 games, to a total of 2000 half moves.

Information during play:

- 2 chess clocks with for each side: time for each move, total time and total time left.



- Number of moves.
- Position evaluation value.
- Search depth.
- Best line of play, 6 half moves.
- Move currently being examined.

SPHINX

CXG Sphinx Galaxy – CXG 230 – Release: 1988

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong) (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)

Packaging and documentation

These were definitely sphinx-like: on the box was "Sphinx Galaxy 34 levels", on the English instructions "Commander" was pasted over with "Galaxy" and was also spoken about 34 levels. The Dutch manual correctly speaks of "Galaxy" and 56 levels, but still contains some disturbing inaccuracies:

- position verification also possible during computer thinking phase (not true)
- computer never exceeds its cooling-off period (also not true)
- batches of up to 120 moves can be stored in the library (123 moves also succeeded)
- at the analysis level, a reflection period of 3 min. to 8 min. per move (is from 10 min. to infinite)
- at monitor level, the computer gives advice (also not true).

The standard features

I'll be brief about this, they're all in there: varied opening book (in transpositions), take back, minorpromotions, giving up, recognizing proposition repetition, 50-setting rule, monitor mode, simple game etc.

The two displays (2 x 4 positions)

The connection with the leds (2 x 8 pieces) was a bit surprising for me. You are not obliged to follow the instructions of the leds. An example: the computer indicates "its" turn on the display in the usual notation and on the board by indicating the start field. You can now perform that move on the board by pressing the sensor fields, but not necessarily. Position verification shows that he has already performed it internally, and if you press "move" right away, for example, he does not protest, but just starts thinking on behalf of the other side,



Another example: With a "take back" he indicates again the field that serves as a starting point. You can make the move on the board, but you can also press "take back" 5 times first. This restores internally the position of 6 ply ago and you can then put it back on the board at once by heart or with the help of position verification. That makes a difference of 12 times pressing a field sensor. Easy, but it takes some getting used to.

CHESS COMMANDER 3018

56 LEVEL CHESS COMPUTER

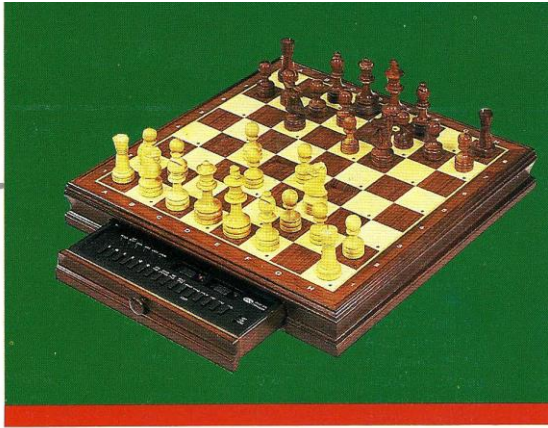
- 8 normal levels, 2 seconds to 6 minutes a move.
- 8 speed chess levels, 1 to 60 minutes for the whole game.
- 8 tournament levels preset to 8 different standard clock settings.
- 8 fixed search depth levels, 1 to 8 ply.
- 8 analysis levels.
- 8 mate solving levels solves from mate in 1 to mate in 8 moves.
- 8 Novice levels.

Openingbook;

- 8000 positions, 1200 lines.
- Programmable openingbook for 2000 moves, and/or memory for 64 games, to a total of 2000 half moves.

Information during play:

- 2 chess clocks with for each side: time for each move, total time and total time left.



- Number of moves.
- Position evaluation value.
- Search depth.
- Best line of play, 6 half moves.
- Move currently being examined.

 **SPHINX**

CXG Sphinx Commander – CXG 3018 – Release: 1988

(Source: CXG Newcrest Technology Ltd. Hong Kong) (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl/) (600 dpi)

Both displays are simultaneously operated by a hint button with the information displayed cyclically. The upper display screen shows successively, clock time of black and then respectively ply 1, ply 2 to ply 6 of the expected continuation. The lower display will show, respectively, the clock time of white, the position rating, the current move, the move under consideration, the number of moves made, the gross force depth and the selective depth.

Comparison with the CXG Super Enterprise with a program of Kaare Danielsen

On the outside the Sphinx Galaxy resembles its predecessor like two drops of water. However, there are huge differences.

Functions that have disappeared

- further indication in the event of an irregular move
- the 4 play style settings (generally also influenced the opening choice)
- mat announcement
- position verification during the thinking phase of the computer
- opening book disconnection
- Storage option while maintaining the clock positions
- reflection period equal to or half of your own
- resetting of the clocks after the first inspection

Functions that have changed

- 8 mat levels for as many moves instead of 1 level infinite (unless mat found) plus 1 level mat including ancillary solutions
- plydepth levels that do not exceed the specified plydepth levels even for percussion and chess moves ply depth
- information on the displays not (also) via the leds

Features that have been greatly improved

- the playing strength
- the sensor fields are lighter and therefore much more pleasant to work with
- the LEDs give much more light
- Replacement possibility (possible at any stage, without having to remember anything, including the clock positions will still be saved)
- the clocks are visible at the same time, depending on the way they are played, adding or subtracting
- position valuation display (numerical)
- storage possibility of lots and openings, 64 in total, properly 'administered'

Additional features

- a one-step counter
- automatic play (against itself without having to make any moves on the board)
- 8 novice levels (even beginners can win)
- easy mode (stronger than novice, but the Sphinx Galaxy no longer thinks in your time)

Analyze

You can analyze every entered statement at any level using "automatic game" followed by a replay. However, because the position verification does not work during automatic play, it is not possible to get an impression of the progression game during the analysis. However, stopping, watching and continuing is possible. Unfortunately, you cannot have the Sphinx Galaxy analyze a position from a game you have saved in the library. This is desirable, for example, if you have played a game against him in which you think you have missed opportunities. You would then like him, starting with your colour, to carry out the analysis of some positions. However, he will first - as usual - look for the position in his opening book, find it and immediately make the booklet (= your original move).

A very user-unfriendly way to deal with this is to turn the board inside out and use "enter position" to enter the theorem to be analyzed with changed colours.

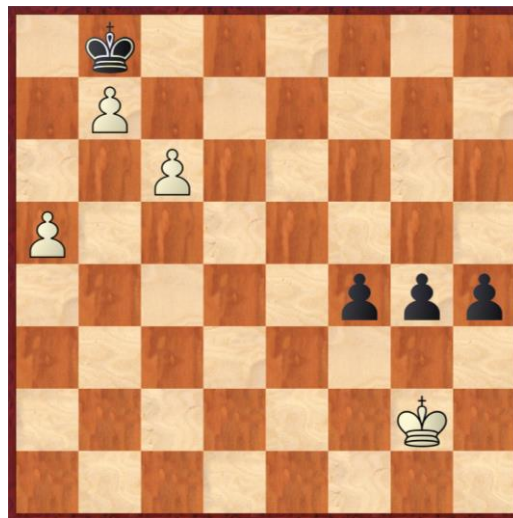
The programmable library

I talked about the disadvantage of not making an artificial distinction between openings and entire parties in the previous paragraph. Another unfavourable characteristic with which the possibly programmed openings are chosen. For example: on the normal (non-novice) levels, white opens as follows: 50% d4, 25% e4, 25% c4 or Pf3. I now introduced an extra very short opening, i.e. 1. a3. This now appeared to be chosen in 44% of the cases. When inserting two more openings (1. a4 and 1. b3) the extra trio was chosen in 71% of the cases. In other words, you are actually going to give your computer a very limited repertoire. More generally, I wonder what is the use of program-multiplier opening libraries since you can bring any opening you want to the board very quickly with the monitor mode.

The playing strength

As a mediocre house chess player I have to stand on my toes to win the occasional game. The good old Fidelity Chess Challenger 9 (Elo ca. 1500) was put away with 10-0. However, it is striking that in the endgame sometimes so peculiar shifts are made. That's why I did some endgame tests.

First of all the runner- and pawn endgame tests from the CSVN "Computer Chess" magazine of April 1987. Although the Sphinx Galaxy scores "poorly" and "very well" respectively, it appears from a study of the thesis scoring for the pawn problems that he often does not understand anything at all and accidentally makes and maintains the right move.



Behting – 1929

1. Kg1! en wit wint

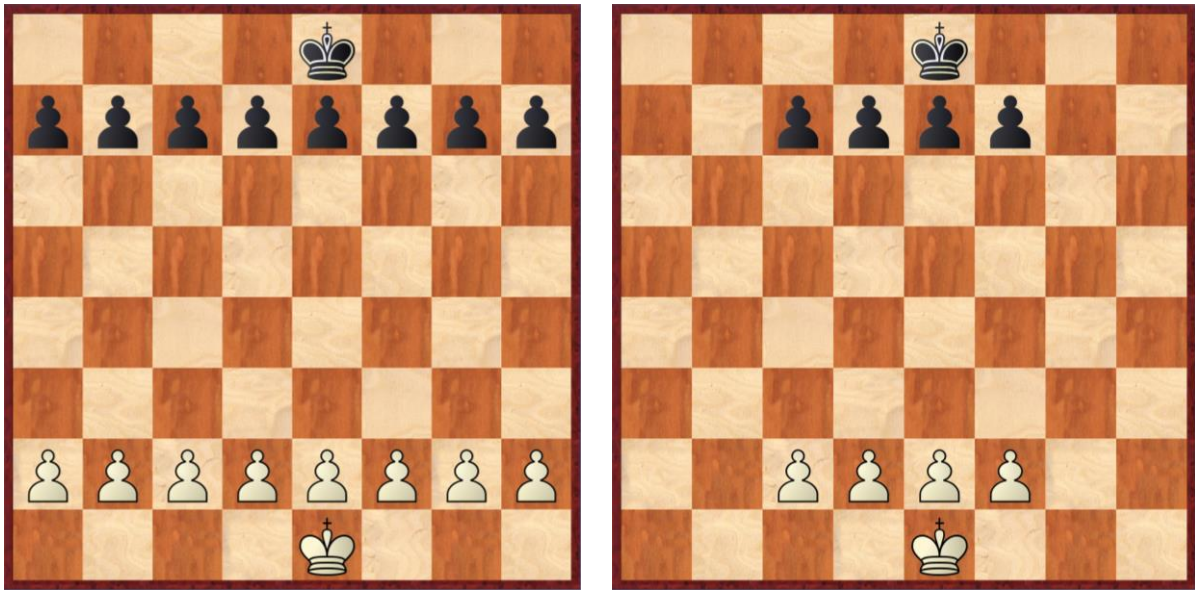
Very illustrative was for example problem no. 12 (Behting, 1929) that I let him play against the Chess Challenger 9. This position is won for white; the key move (Kg1) which the Sphinx Galaxy finds very smooth is necessary, but not enough on its own to win.

One sees

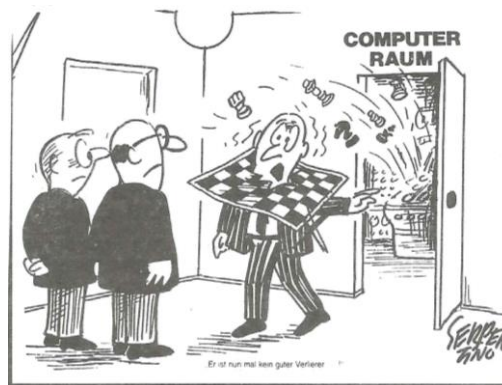
- Sphinx Galaxy (3 min./move) - Chess Challenger 9 (3 min./move) 0-1
- Chess Challenger 9 (3 min./move) - Sphinx Galaxy (3 min./move) 1-0
- Sphinx Galaxy (10 min./move) - Chess Challenger 9 (3 min./move) 0-1
- Sphinx Galaxy (20 min./move) - Chess Challenger 9 (3 min./move) 1-0 finally.

Secondly, I came up with two test stands that do not have a tactical point.

The starting position from which all pieces except the Kings were removed and the same position from which all a-, b-, g- and h- pawns were removed.



At 1-minute level Chess Challenger 9 again served as a sparring partner, handled both colours successively and won 3-1 to his surprise.



Recommendations

The Sphinx Galaxy would gain a lot of value for me if the following improvements could be made.

- hint function also active in opening phase and in such a way that you can answer all the questions one after the other that he remembers in a certain opening position;
- separation of opening storage and batch storage or the possibility to make the library switch off;
- simply play back a repossessed set of moves;
- option to disable the Sphinx Galaxy also during normal levels from the more unusual openings of the novice levels (25% f4, 25% g3 other 5% each).

Conclusion

After all the criticism, I do not hesitate to give a positive verdict. The Sphinx Galaxy is by its strong game, its many features and especially because of its low price an excellent buy.

Source - CSVN Computerschaak, nr. 3 – june 1989, Henk Peperkamp:
Some remarks about the CXG Sphinx Galaxy (= CXG Commander).

Programmierer / Programmer

- Frans Morsch

Baujahr / Release

- Erste Einführung: August (!) 1988 (!) in den Niederlanden (NLG 879,00 = EUR 398,87)

Technische Daten / Technical specifications

- Mikroprozessor: 65C02
- Taktfrequenz: 4 MHz
- Programmspeicher: 32 KB ROM
- Arbeitsspeicher: 8 KB RAM

Spielstärke / Playing strength

- Spielstärke auf Turnierniveau 3 Minuten pro Zug (DWZ/ELO): ca. 1880

Verwandt / Related

- Sphinx Galaxy – model CXG-230
- Sphinx Dominator – model CXG-239
- Sphinx 40 Limited Edition – (owned by collector Steve Blincoe)
- Sphinx 40 Plus – model CXG-3038
- Sphinx 50 Plus – model CXG-3048
- Mephisto Modena

Verwandte Weblinks / Related weblinks

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/11-1987,%20Schakend%20Nederland,%20Jaap%20van%20den%20Herik,%20Richard%20Lang%20aan%20top%20-%20micro-WK%20in%20Rome.pdf

Het zevende wereldkampioenschap voor microschaakcomputers te Rome

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/08-1988,%20Rochade,%20Gunter%20Niggemann,%20Porz-Open%20mit%20sieben%20teilnehmenden%20Rechnern.pdf

G. Niggemann: Porz Open mit dem CXG Commander

<http://chesseval.com/ChessEvalJournal/Commander.htm>

Hans van Mierlo tells his story about the Commander

<http://users.boardnation.com/~chesscomputers/index.php?board=1;action=display;threadid=1334>

CXG Commander discussion

https://www.schach-computer.info/wiki/index.php/CXG_Sphinx_Dominator#Die_morsche_Sphinx

Die morsche Sphinx – Rätselhafter CXG Sphinx Galaxy

<http://chess-computer.blogspot.com/search?q=Commander>

Peter Hauptert (Blog): Die Metamorphosen der morschen Sphinx

https://www.chessprogramming.org/Newcrest_Technology

CXG Newcrest Technology

<http://alain.zanchetta.free.fr/docs/Misc/SphinxGalaxyEN.pdf>

Manual CXG Dominator / Commander