

**06-1988** [O-2001] Mephisto - **Mercedes-Benz prototype** (possibly Ulf Rathsman - **MM III**)  
Afgelopen zomer kreeg ik van verzamelaar Hans van Mierlo uit Dussen, een aantal afbeeldingen toegestuurd. Het blijkt hier te gaan om een "**Mercedes-Benz prototype**" in combinatie met een aangepast Münchenbord. Het **Mercedes-Benz prototype** is natuurlijk uniek en dat wij nu, na al die jaren deze foto's en informatie mogen aanschouwen is een godsgeschenk! De mysterieuze geschiedenis rondom dit ultieme **prototype** kunt u vernemen in dit item. Onze grote verzamelaar Hans van Mierlo had met de huidige eigenaar email- en Skype-sessies...



**Mercedes-Benz Prototype Unique Edition  
Here with a MM II module used for testing**

Hans van Mierlo  
november 2013

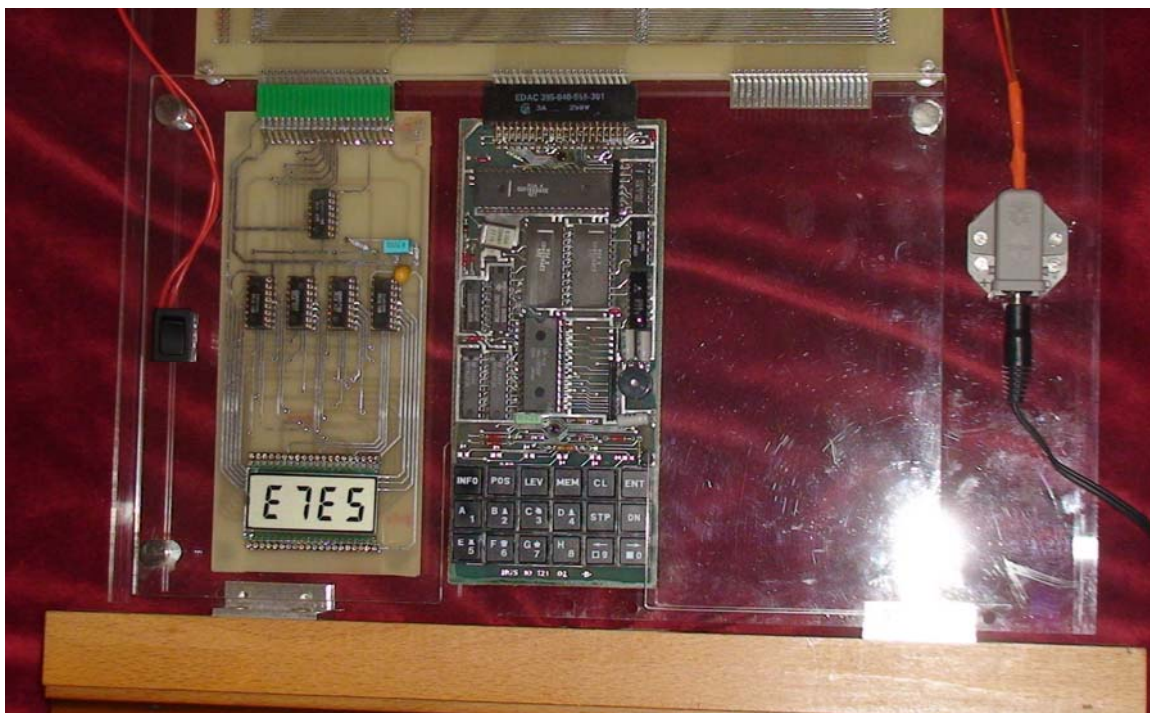
Hallo Hein,

De hoogtijdagen van de jaren '80 zijn allang voorbij, maar nog steeds worden we verrast met onbekende en unieke exemplaren uit het verleden. Als verzamelaar van schaakcomputers koop en verkoop je wel eens een model, en zodoende kwam ik afgelopen zomer in contact met een grote verzamelaar. Ik kan niet zeggen wie hij is, de eigenaar wil anoniem blijven maar hij is een erg grote verzamelaar. Meer dan 850 stuks heeft hij in zijn collectie, en niet bekend bij de meeste verzamelaars. Ben er toevallig mee in contact gekomen via eBay. In een van onze gesprekken stuurde hij een aantal foto's, met de vraag of ik het model (her)kende. Ik was eerst totaal 'flabbergasted', en dan denk je al snel aan zelfbouw. Echter dit is een origineel productiemodel van Hegener & Glaser! Na veel overleg zijn we tot de conclusie gekomen dat het bij dit model om een uitzonderlijk prototype gaat met (waarschijnlijk) een programma van (oud-Conchess programmeur) Ulf Rathsman!

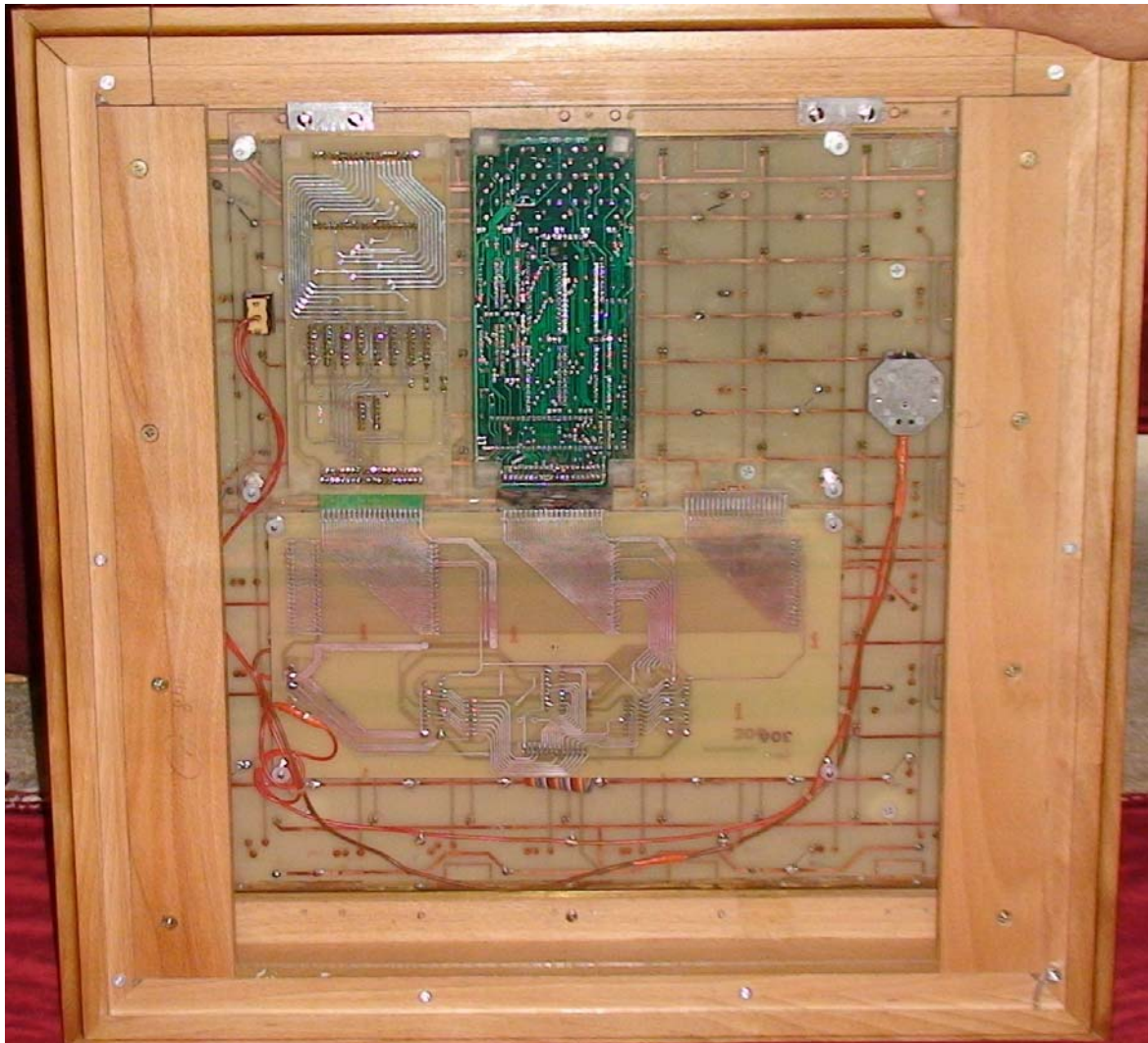
Groet,  
Hans van Mierlo



**Mercedes-Benz Prototype Unique Edition (here with a MM II used for testing)  
 TM size, 64 encapsulated leds, highly glossy surface  
 Frame in gold copper around the playable surface**



**Mercedes-Benz Prototype (here with a MM II module used for testing)  
 Details of the drawer:  
 Plexiglass structure Special power adapter  
 No plastic cache for the modules  
 3 slots for the modules, like in the München and Exclusive boards**



**Mercedes-Benz Prototype (here with a MM II module used for testing)**  
**Details of the bottom of the computer:**  
**The main Board PCB with all the columns and rows for the leds and reed switches**  
**The Interface circuit with its 3 slots for the modules signed Hegener & Glaser**

# About the Mercedes-Benz Prototype

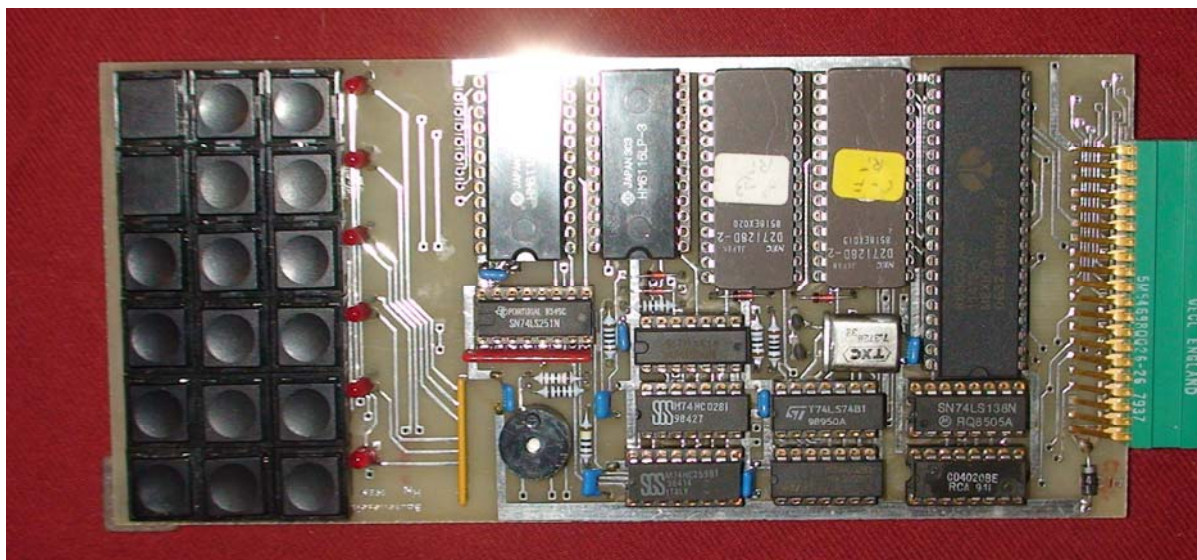
## Computer History

The son of the first owner was establishing how his father got the computer. His father was working for Mercedes-Benz in Munich. When his father retired, all the employees and colleagues gave money to offer him this beautiful chess computer that they got from Hegener and Glaser. Hegener and Glaser, at this time, were working with Mercedes-Benz to do some electronic parts. The computer was very expensive and presented by Hegener and Glaser as a unicate... a precious computer in one exemplar.

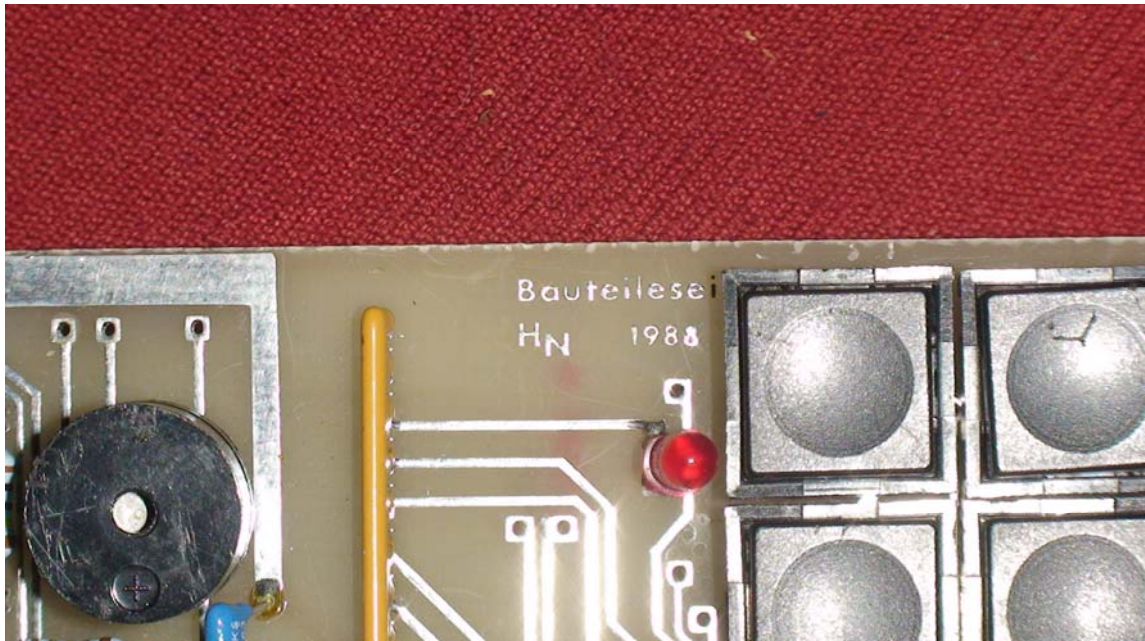
Hans van Mierlo asked the present owner, about the state in which he found the computer when he bought it.

The present owner: When I bought it, the computer was probably not used since many years. It was not functioning. I did the repairs. It was pretty easy. With the following photos, you see clearly that all the electronic is from Hegener and Glaser, similar to what we find in a München- or an Exclusive board. However, the board was enhanced from the classical München usually sold by Hegener and Glaser. This one is more carefully done, more precious for the wood. Its playable surface is highly glossy like a "laque". This is a very rich and spectacular board.

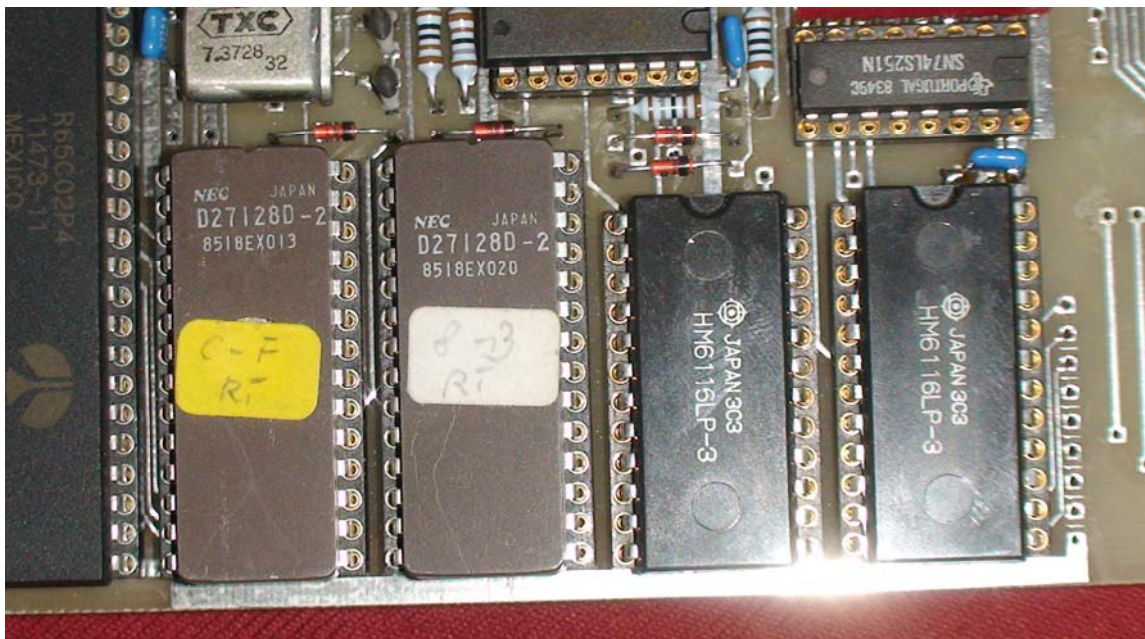
## The Original Mephisto Mercedes-Benz Prototype Module!



**The module has a structure similar to a MM II**  
**The keyboard is without legends**  
**Inscription "RT" - RT may mean RaThsman (Ulf Rathsman)**

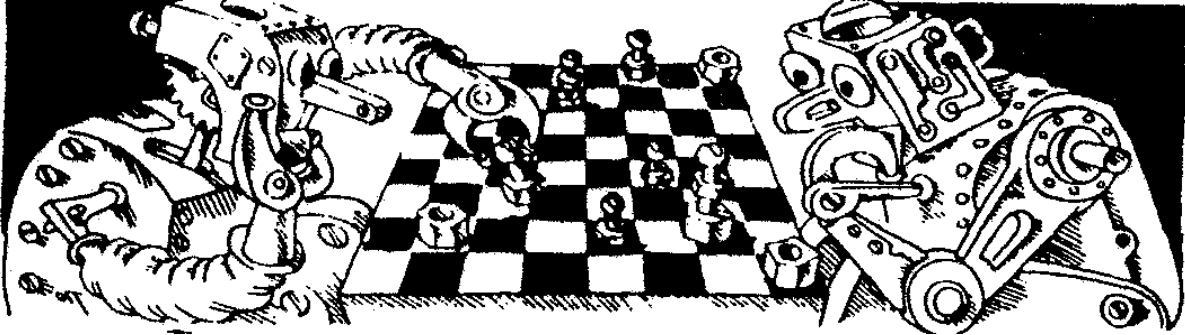


## Details of the Original Mephisto Mercedes-Benz Prototype Module



# An "Unique" Prototype

## The Original Sequence of Events



In the original e-mail from the son of the first owner, we have the sequence of events at the origin of this prototype. The son wrote to the actual owner about the computer:

>> About the technology, I got the information from those 2 guys, Mr. Hegener and Mr. Glaser, living near Munich. They produced it as a kind of prototype, but with full functionality. When my father retired from the Mercedes company in Stuttgart, his engineers and friends organized this kind of chess board for him from those 2 guys. I phoned 10 minutes a retired friend from my father and he told me that the price was enormous. All 23 people had to finance it for more than 45 euros / 90 German marks, approx. 60 USD - so you can calculate it on your own what the price was. In mid of the 1990 years, in that time Hegener and Glaser produced some electronic parts (logical chips) for older Mercedes cars, today old timers. So you have a "unicate", one of a kind! Be proud of it. <<

Because of the fact that this computer was offered to an executive of Mercedes-Benz, we call it "**Mercedes-Benz Prototype**".

## Description of the Mercedes-Benz Prototype

### The computer

- The board is a München beautifully enhanced by a precious varnish as a "laque de Chine".
- The drawer is in plexiglass and the bottom is also in plexiglass revealing all the electronics.
- The electronics cards are copyrighted Hegener and Glaser.
- The **Mercedes-Benz** module has a microprocessor 65C02 P4 at 7.4 MHz.
- This **Mercedes-Benz** module is signed "Bauteilesei" and copyrighted 1988.
- The EPROMS have an inscription "RT" - RT can say RaThsman (Ulf Rathsmann).

### Program History

It is needed:

- To compare the **MM II** and the **T8 program** with the **Mercedes-Benz prototype**.
- To examine the details of the module in the prototype (see the photos).

# A First Conclusion...

In 1988, the **MM II** was commercialized since 2 to 3 years. Hegener and Glaser were using the latest model of the **MM II** with a clock at 7.4 MHz to implement a two EPROMs. In the **MM II** at 7.4 MHz, usually we have only one EPROM. The PCB of the **Mercedes-Benz prototype module** is copyrighted 1988. The program of Ulf Rathsman was probably less compact or was bigger... Consequently, Hegener and Glaser needed 2 EPROMs and a big speed to justify a **MM III** module on the market. For Hans van Mierlo, it remains that the 2 EPROMs are one for the program and one for the book.

At one point, Hegener and Glaser decided to abandon the project of a **MM III** module and they sold the **Mercedes-Benz prototype module**. The present owner did a test between the **Mercedes-Benz prototype module** and the **T8 module** and the **MM II module** at 7.4 MHz.

A first conclusion: the **Mercedes-Benz prototype module** plays other moves than the 2 others programs. It could be that this program is the one of the **Princess program** or the **Glasgow program** running at the 7.3726 Mhz. For sure, this is not the **Plymate/Amsterdam program**!



# A Second Conclusion...

**We are not completely sure of the origin of the program present in the module...  
if this program is the one of Ulf Rathsman, which version it is?**

**Internet**

<http://www.schachcomputer.info/forum/f2/einzelstuck-ratsmann-4646.html>

[Forum - Schachcomputer.info]

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