

03-1985 [D-7201] Fidelity - Sensory Chess Challenger 12 (5 MHz edition)

Model SX12, oftewel Chess Challenger Sensory 5.0. De laatste versie van de Challenger 12 reeks uit mijn databank. Nu dus op 5 MHz. In die tijd een behoorlijke rekensnelheid! Graag wil ik nog opmerken dat al deze versies, een Boedapest programma bezitten!

In het tijdschrift Computerschaak van februari 1985, bespreken de auteurs één van de oudere versies van de Challenger 12. Ik krijg de indruk dat de auteurs (Moerwijk Test Team) van dit artikel niet goed weten, dat ze in feite met twee verschillende schaakprogramma's te maken hebben. Althans men spreekt alleen over het 'geheugenverschil' ...

Tijdschrift Computerschaak (feb. 1985)

... De Elite A/S nieuw kwam in diverse partijen tegen mensen met een toernooiprestatierating van 1896 uit de bus. Tussen Elite A/S nieuw en Sensory 12 bestaan wat verschillen in geheugen en processor (3,6 Mhz - 3 Mhz), maar naar onze mening maakt dat geen verschil in speelsterkte. Wat wèl uitmaakt is dat de Sensory over een ander standaard openingenboek dan de overige op de markt zijnde Fidelity machines beschikt. Er zijn 3000 zetten aanwezig; op zich kan dat best voldoende zijn, maar dat openingenboek sluit naar onze mening te weinig aan bij de know-how van het programma ...

HV: Om nu een Elite A/S nieuw (Glasgow-programma) te vergelijken met een Sensory Challenger 12 (Boedapest-programma), gaat mij wat te ver. Andere bronnen spreken wel degelijk van een speelsterkteverschil tussen beide programma's.

A History of Chess Computers by The Players Staff

... Early 1985 ... The latest development in chess computers for 1985 is Fidelity's Chess Challenger 12 running at 5 Mhz. The older Chess Challenger 12 ran at 3.25 Mhz, but both machines use the same program, the Budapest. The increased speed of the Chess Challenger 12 does not make it stronger than the Elite 4.0 which has the Glasgow program, a one year further advanced program. In other words, the increased program strength of the Elite 4.0 outweighs the greater clock speed of the Challenger 12. The new Chess Challenger 12 increased \$100 in price over its predecessor, from a list of \$250 to the current list of \$350. The rating strength increased approximately 50 points.

Source: 11-1986, PCN (International Players Chess News), from November 1986.

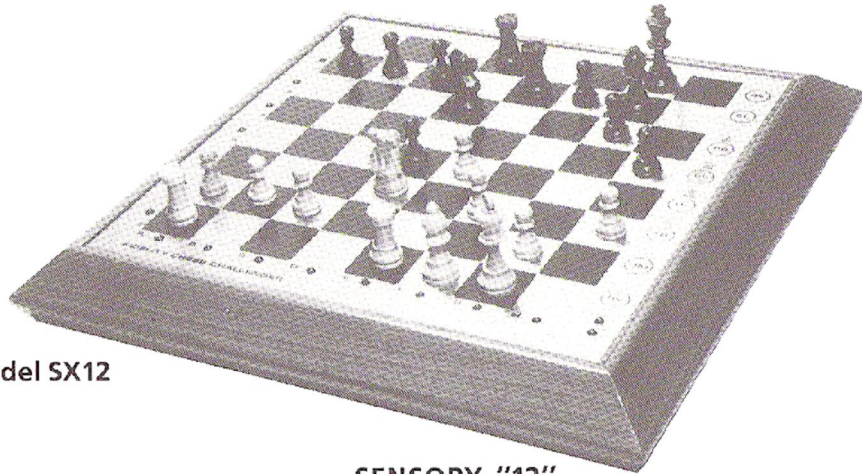
Computer Chess Digest Supplement 1985 Sensory Challenger SX-12 (5.0)

... As the 5th ranked machine on the market, the SC-12X (5.0) is fading rapidly due to its old program (1983 Budepest version), and poor value. Priced almost as high as the Mephisto Modular and Super Constellation, SC-12x is about 100 points weaker than both, and not nearly as versatile. The only attraction SC-12x has is a 5 MHz clock speed. So big deal. It is only going to waste, running an outdated program. But for those who are impressed by having the fastest operating computer, this is the one to get ...

Source: 11?-1985, Computer Chess Digest Supplement 1985 Vol. 3.



SENSORY 5.0 CHESS CHALLENGER[®]



Model SX12

WORLD'S FASTEST COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE CHESS COMPUTER

SOFTWARE FEATURES:

- Twelve different levels of play. Levels 1-8 automatically adjusts computer's thinking time for 5 minute games, to games lasting several hours. Level 9—infinite, user activated. Level 10—mate in two. Level 11—mate in three. Level 12—mate in four.
- Special Easy Mode weakens all skill levels (1-8) without changing time controls.
- Thinks on the opponent's time for faster response and stronger play.
- Book openings selectable—over 3,000 positions. Cycle through book opening choices for the player at the touch of a single button.
- Book Practice Mode—learn established book openings. Electronic practice teaches quickly, because game will signal a warning if move played is not in book.
- Take-Back Feature—allows you to take back moves right to the beginning of the game. Replay a move series, asking computer to indicate its suggested move during that move series, to see where you may have erred in judgement.
- Change skill level at anytime, on your move.
- Change sides at anytime, on your move. You can always be a winner.
- Draws and Stalemates—indicates draws in three separate categories and signals which type applies: Stalemate, 50-move rule, opponent's or computer's move or position repeated three times.
- Player Mode—for regular 2-player games, the computer referees legal moves, draws and can even recommend a move when asked.

SENSORY "12" CHESS CHALLENGER (Model SC12)

SAME GREAT FEATURES AS SENSORY 5.0 EXCEPT FOR MAGNETIC PLAYING SURFACE AND BUILT-IN CONDENSOR. USES 6502 PROCESSOR AT 3 MEGAHERTZ CLOCK SPEED.

SOFTWARE SPECIFICATIONS:

6502 Processor running at 5 megahertz clock speed. Memory capacity is 160,000 bits of Read Only Memory (ROM), 32,000 bits of Random Access Memory (RAM).

HARDWARE FEATURES:

- Large 10" x 10" sensory playing surface.
- 16 Light Emitting Diodes (LED) indicate moves.
- Built-in rechargeable condensor saves memory of game for up to one hour in the event of accidental power shutdown.
- Beep tone sounds automatically—to inform you that a move has been made.
- Printer Outlet—a permanent record of your most interesting games and special positions may be obtained by using optional Fidelity Printer.
- Cartridge capability—Fidelity has available a number of cartridges with special openings and middle game features. In the future, end game and other specialized cartridges may become available.

HARDWARE SPECIFICATIONS:

Hand-crafted nutwood housing with Fidelity's sensory top. 100% solid state circuitry. Hand-carved Staunton wood pieces. Playing surface and pieces are magnetic. Internal clock keeps track of time control (accuracy $\pm 5\%$) 14" x 14½" x 1¾". AC adaptor.

De volgende modulen zijn compatible met de Challenger Sensory 12...

CB 9 Eröffnungsmodul

Mit 8160 Eröffnungszügen.

Durchschnittliche Tiefe bis zu 30 Halbzügen bei 381 Varianten.

CB 16 Eröffnungsmodul

Mit 16.100 Positionen bei 1360 Varianten mit einer durchschnittlichen Tiefe von 20 Halbzügen. Damit enthält das Modul tatsächlich 26.900 Positionen und eignet sich ausgezeichnet für das Eröffnungs-Training.

TDE Tarrasch Verteidigungmodul

Gegen Damen-Gambit. Ein Modul mit hervorragenden Kenntnissen bis hin zum Mittelspiel. Eine Bereicherung für das Spiel und die Varianten des Könners.

CG64 64 Greatest Games

Dit moduul is mij eigenlijk altijd ontgaan. Bij nadere bestudering zag ik dit moduul staan in een van mijn fidelity brochures. Het '64 Greatest Games' moduul is o.a. compatible met de volgende schaakcomputers; Challenger 9, Elite A/S Challenger, Elegance & Sensory 12. Het werd destijds verkocht voor \$ 78,00. Evenveel dus als het bekende CB 9-moduul.

Programmierer / Programmer

- Dan & Kathe Spracklen (Weltmeisterprogramm Budapest aus 1983)

Baujahr / Release

- Erste Einführung: März (?) 1985

Technische Daten / Technical specifications

- Mikroprozessor: 6502
- Taktfrequenz: 5 MHz
- Programmspeicher: 20 KB ROM
- Arbeitsspeicher: 4 KB RAM

Spielstärke / Playing strength

- Spielstärke: ca. 1680

Literaturhinweise / References / Literatuuroverzicht

- ??-1985?, Fidelity brochure 'Quick Reference Chart'
[In deze brochure o.a. een opgave van 20K Rom/4K Ram/5 MHz.]
- 02-1985, Computerschaak nr.1, feb. 1985, p. 25, Han Terpstra: Moerwijk test.
[Een tweede, nogal gevarieerde, reportage van het Moerwijk Test Team, met o.a. de Sensory Chess Challenger 12]
- 11-1986, PCN (International Players Chess News).