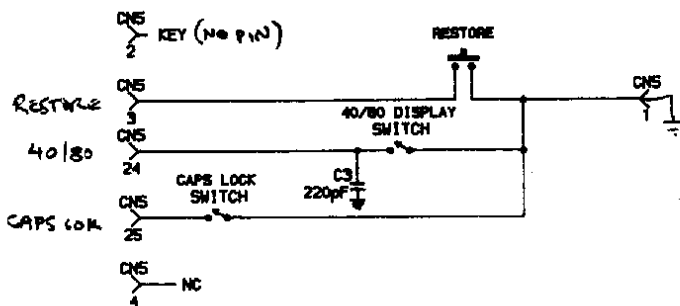
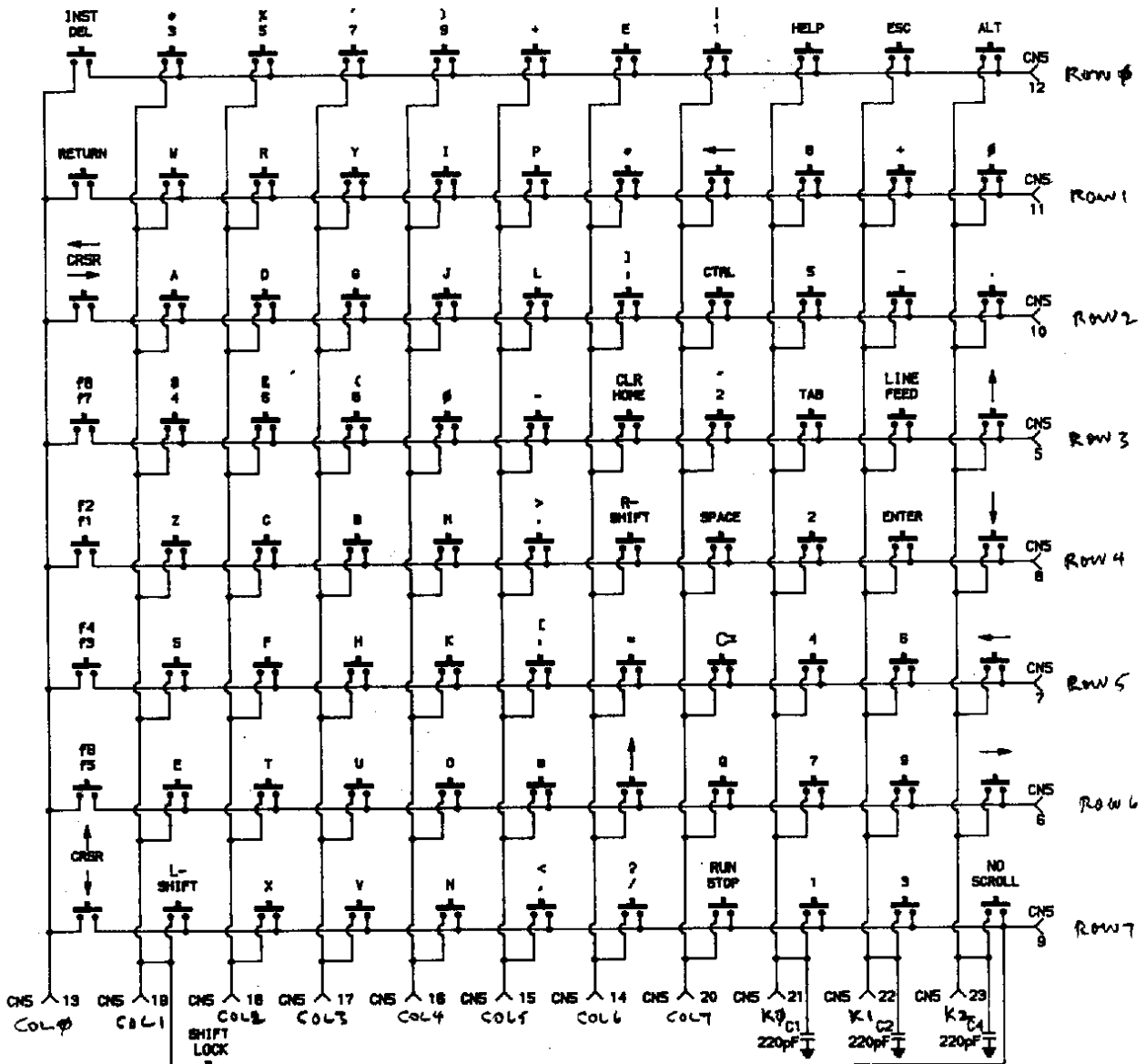


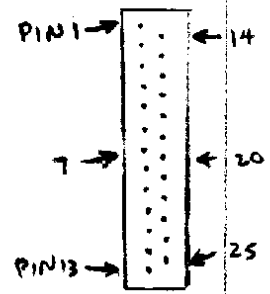
Schematics	Seite 2-8
C128VRAM Erweiterung	Seite 9-11
UPGRADING THE C128 FROM 16K TO 64K OF VIDEO RAM	Seite 12
C128 CHIPS AND COMMON SYMPTOMS	Seite 13

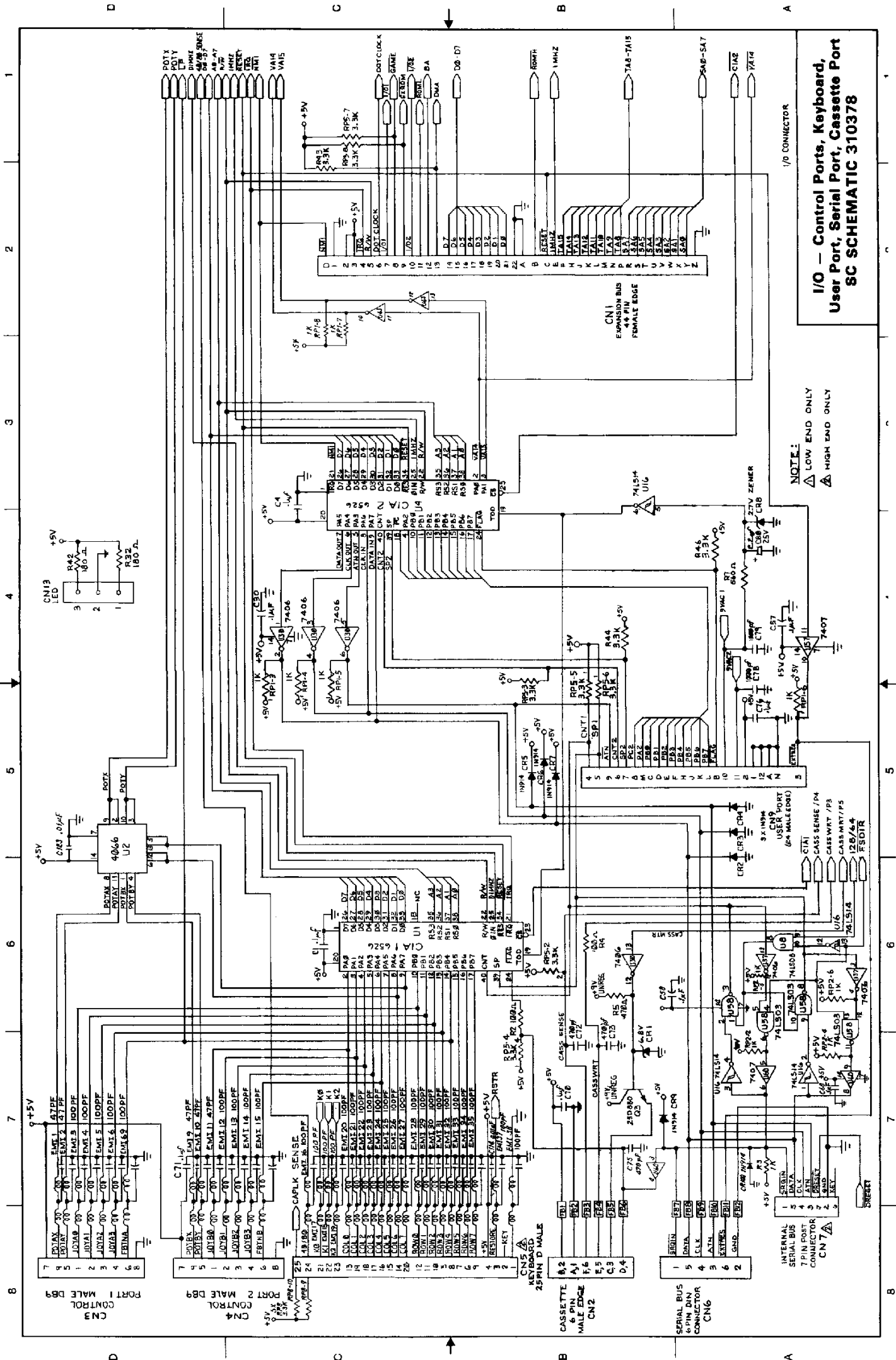
# 8 ROWS X 11 COLUMNS MATRIX

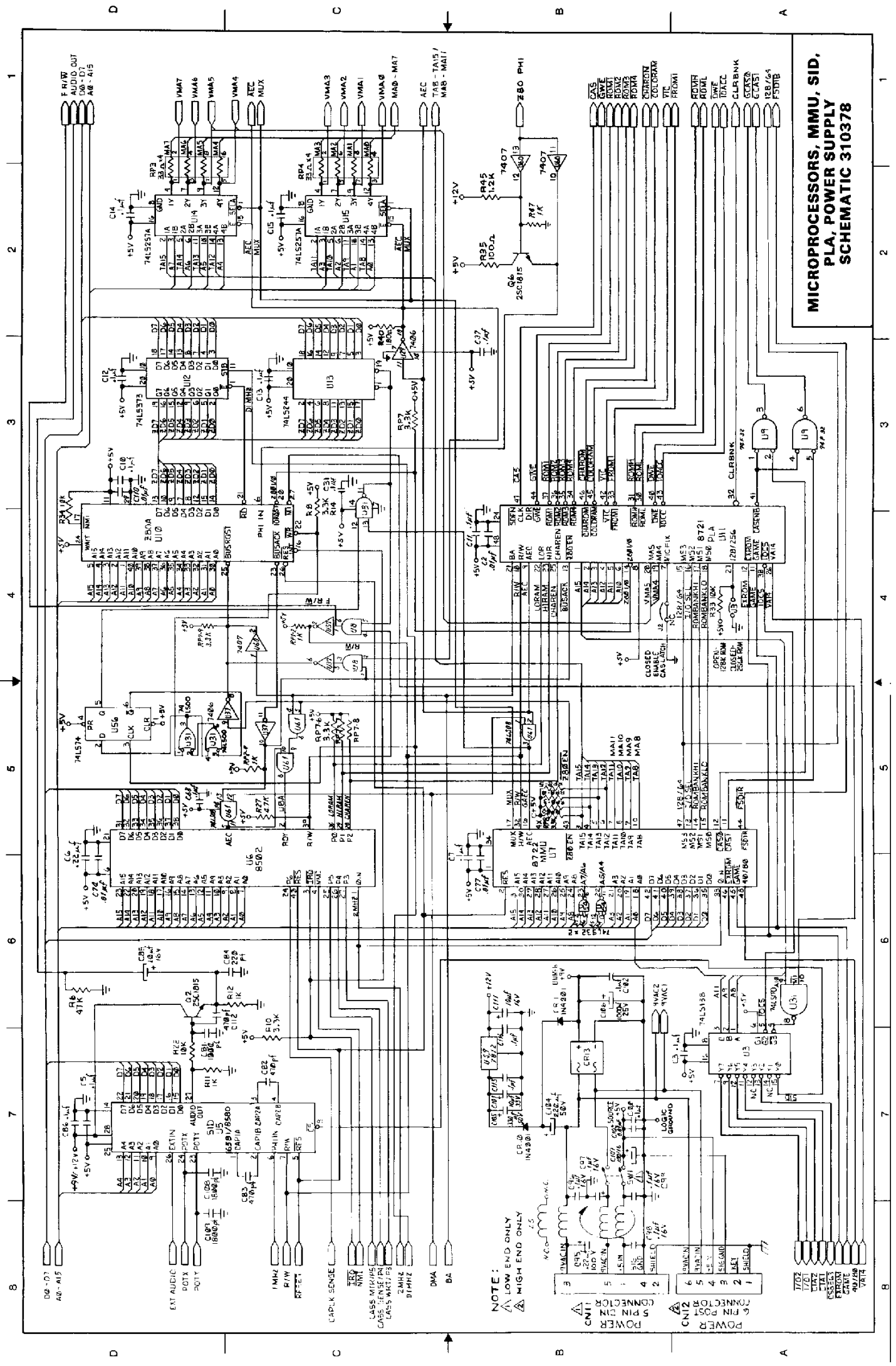


C=KEY: CNS-7 TO CNS-20

40/80 SW: CNS-1 TO CNS-24  
GND



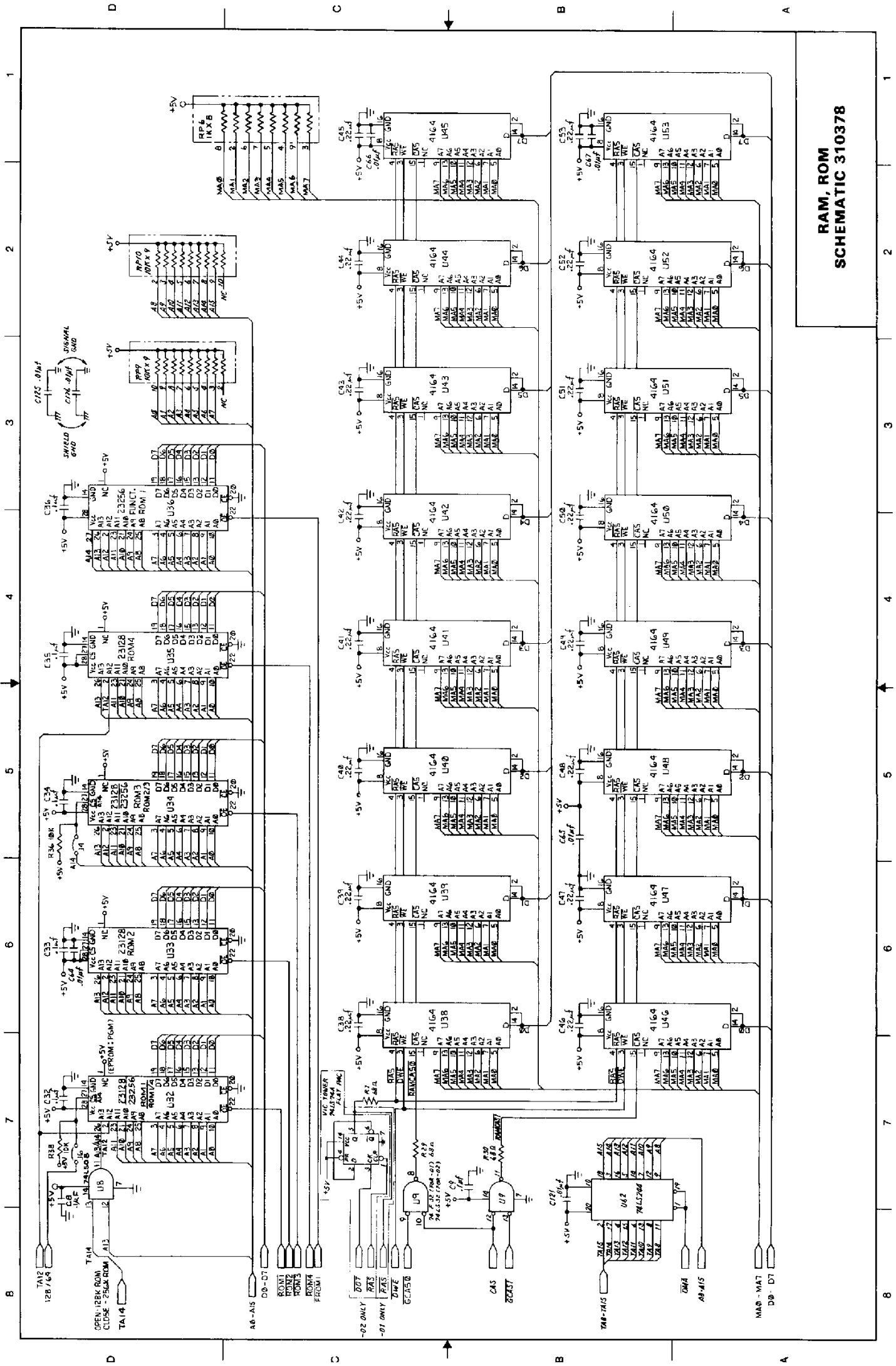




MICROPROCESSORS, MMU, SID,  
PLA, POWER SUPPLY  
SCHEMATIC 310378

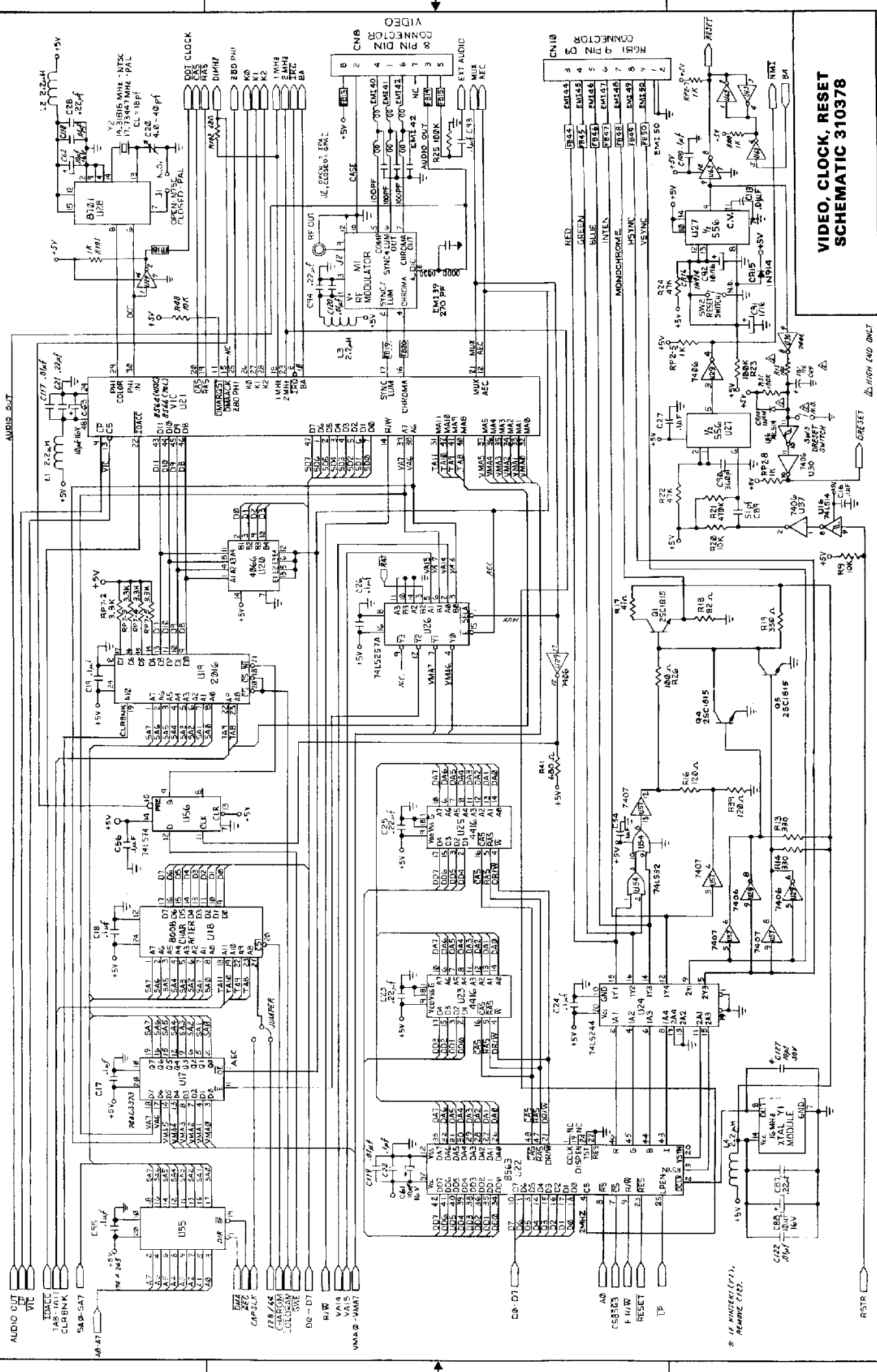
NOTE:  
A LOW END ONLY  
B HIGH END ONLY

POWER SUPPLY  
CONNECTOR  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100



RAM, ROM  
SCHEMATIC 310378

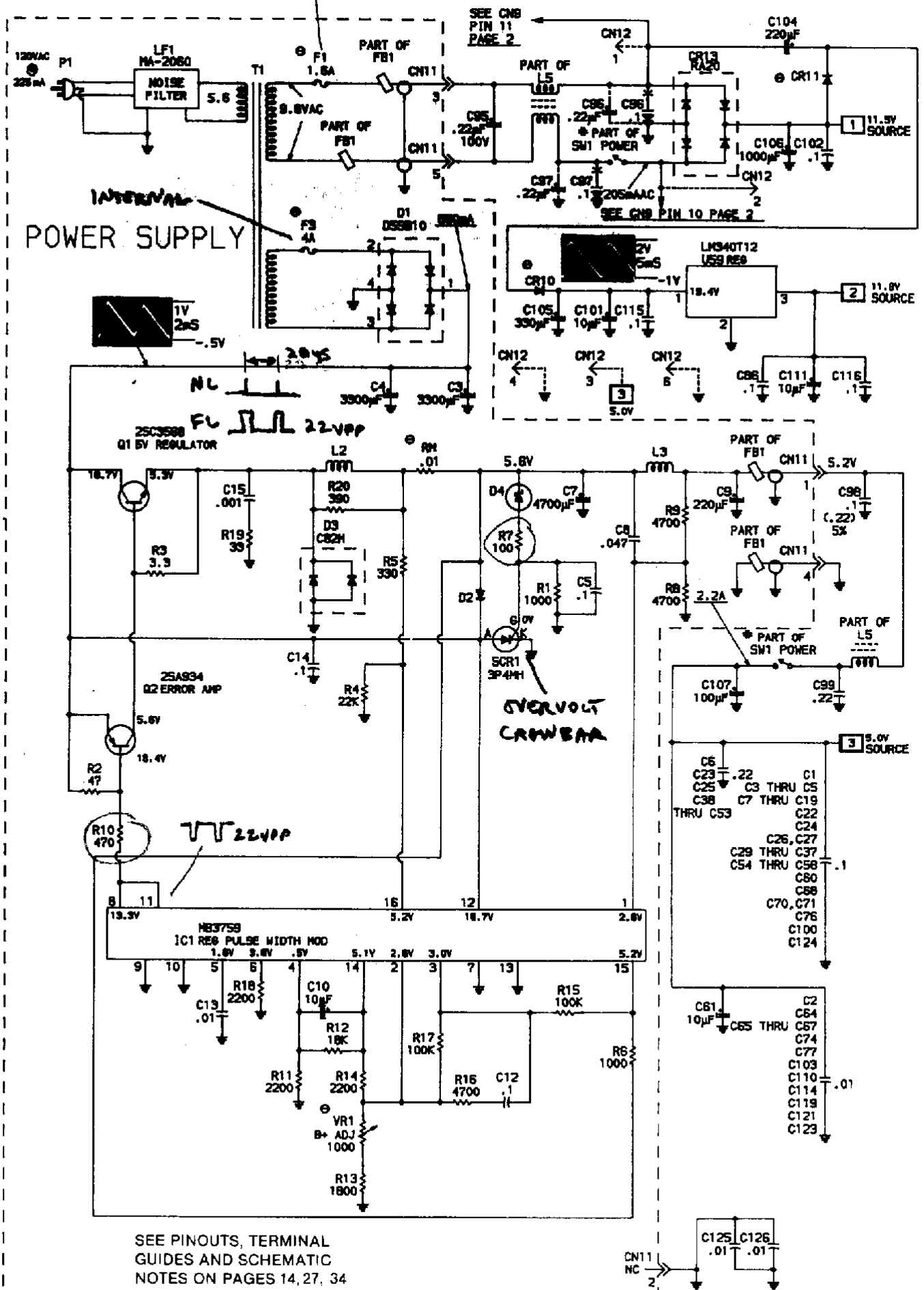
# VIDEO, CLOCK, RESET SCHEMATIC 310378



\* IF MODULE (171),  
REPLACE C12.

ACCESS OUTSIDE CASE

INSIDE C-118



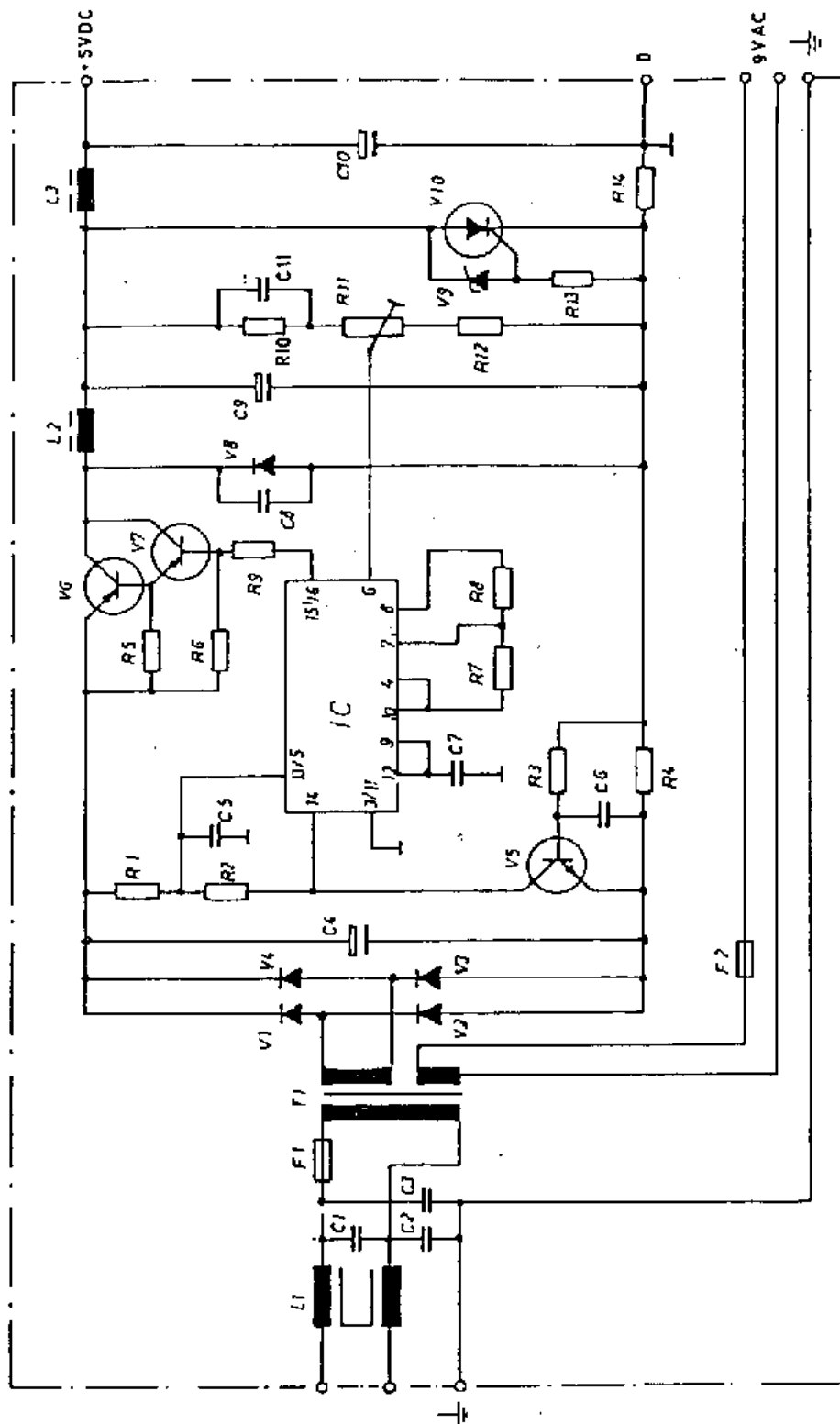
SHELL - GND

- 1 - RED - +5VDC @ 4.3A
- 2 - NC
- 3 - BRN - GND
- 4 - BLK - 1.6A 9VAC @ 1A
- 5 - WHI - 0.0 ONE

9VAC @ 1AMP

5VDC @ 3AMPS

POWER SUPPLY



				Freßmaßtoleranzen		Part 31 04 16 - 01, - 02, - 03	
				85	Tag	Name	Moßstab
				Beerb	8.5.	1.	
				Gepr		10	
				Norm			
				ISMET-WERKE Joh Schlenker-Maier Schwenningen a N			39
				00.400.001.110			
Alle teile	Änderung	Tag	Name				

# 16K to 64K VRAM UPGRADE "PIGGYBACK" BOARD

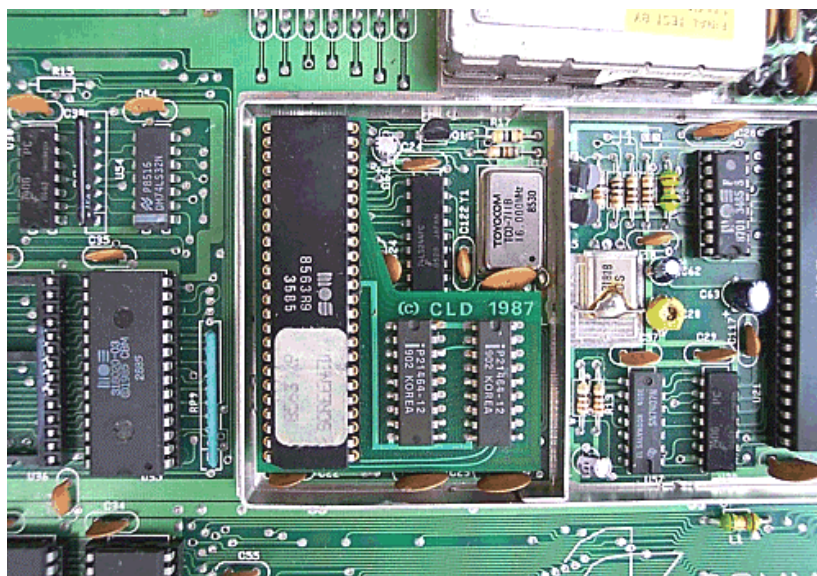
latest information 8-10-05

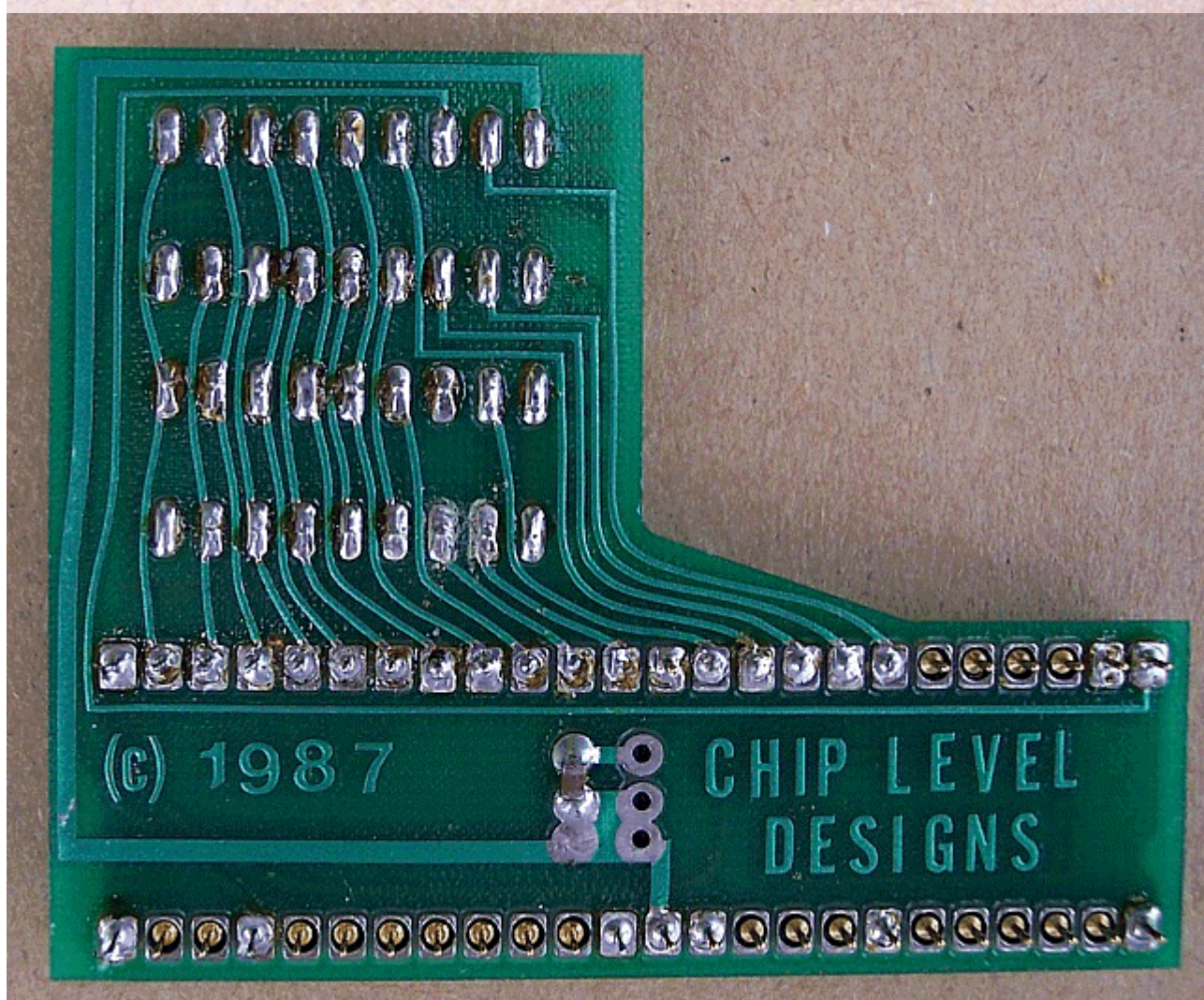
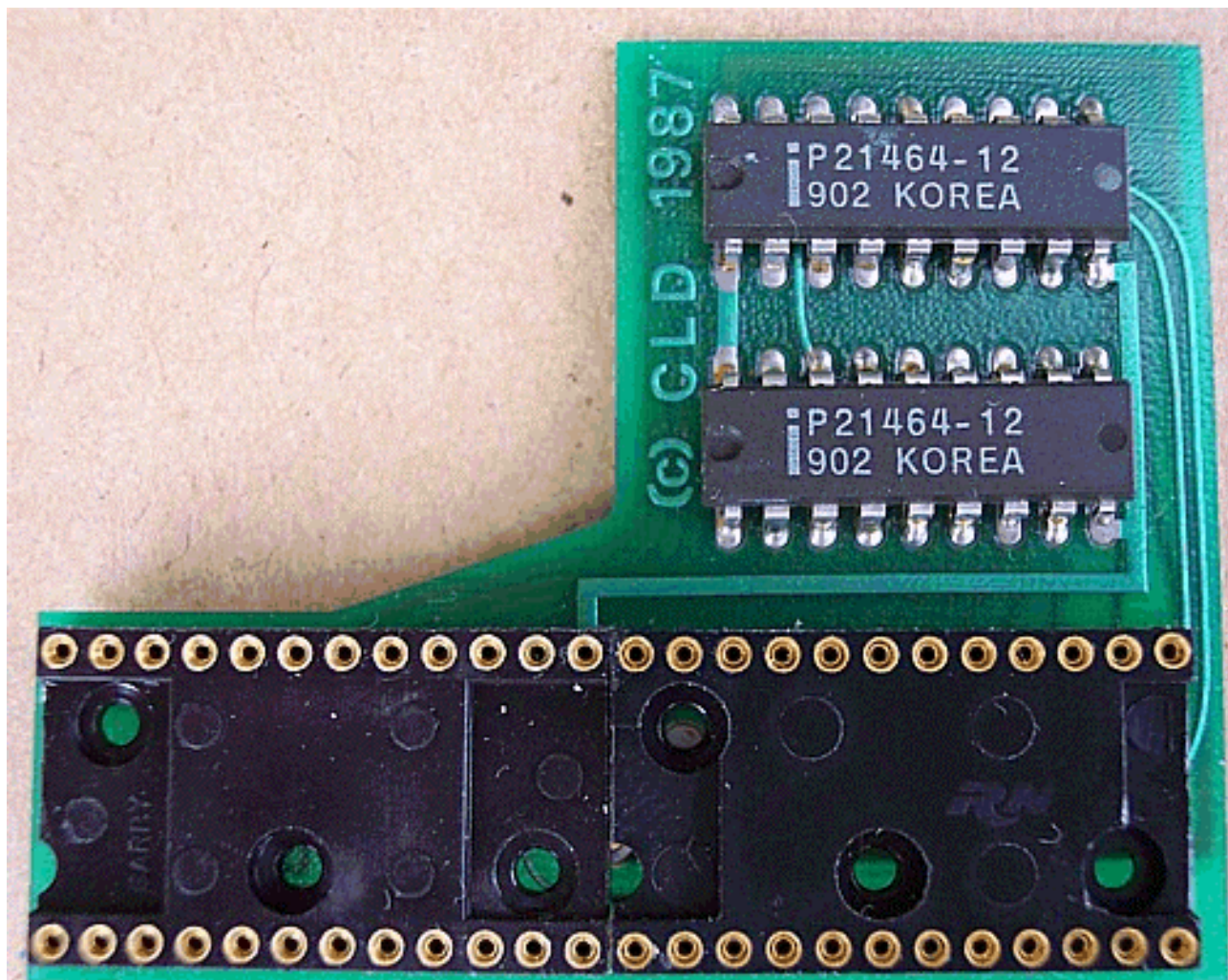
This board was built by Chip Level Designs back in the late 1980s and is no longer available. To install this upgrade board, the original RGB chip was removed, the piggyback board inserted into the RGB socket, and the RGB chip installed in the piggyback board. The original RAM chips in the computer are bypassed and do not need to be removed.

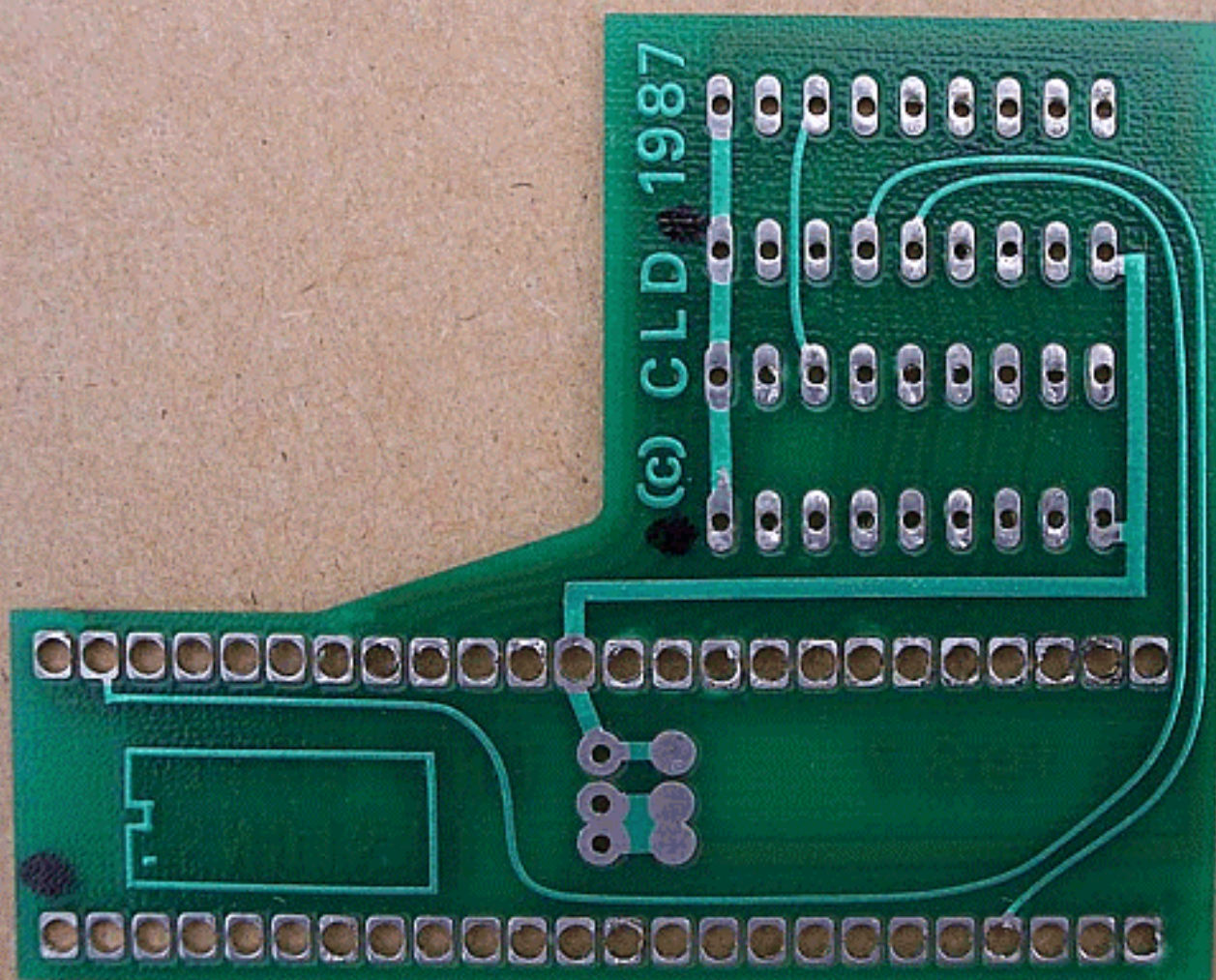
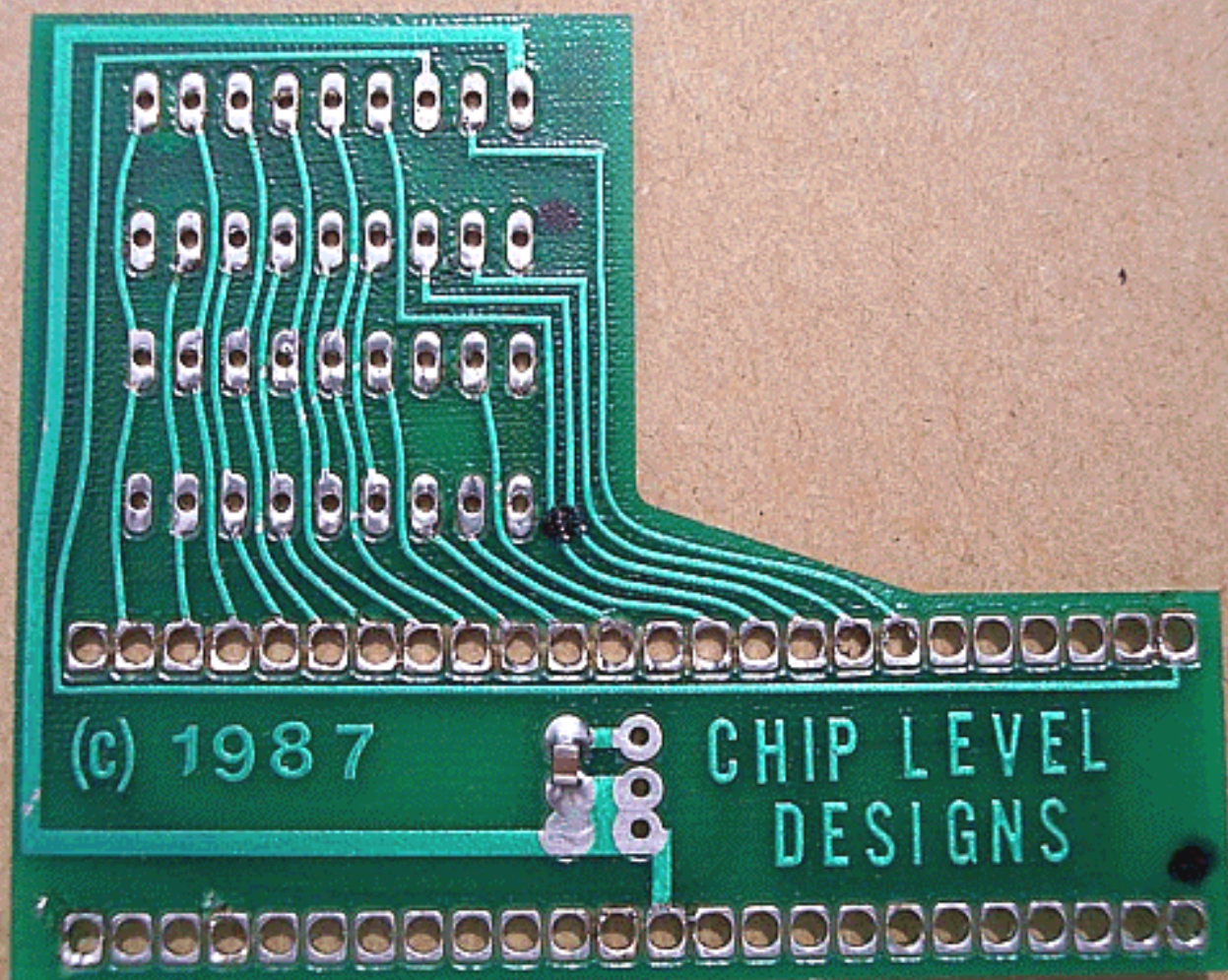
When this board is installed in a C128, the 4" X 6" metal cover that clamps over the RGB and VIC area will not fit back down all the way. The RGB chip sticks up higher because of the modification. As long as the metal "fingers" that touch the chips still do, the cover will work as intended as both a shield and a heat sink for those two chips. The metal shield that covers the motherboard will of course stick up a bit higher too. Just bend the fingers down a bit before installing it so all will be contacting their respective chips when the cover is reinstalled.

To those who might want to duplicate this board, I took some digital photos before and after I removed the components to show the board layout underneath them. There were two 4464 RAM chips and two 24 pin sockets (the 8563 RGB chip is a 48 pin IC). The low profile socket pins stick through the 1/32" thick piggyback board far enough for the pins to be used as a header plug. Note the size of the holes in the bare board. The sockets used have a large round metal surface that protrudes out of the bottom about 1/32". Those stubs are what is soldered to the PC board. The pins that protrude from those stubs are what is plugged into the computer socket, and they are fragile! If any pins are bent, they will break off, and the socket must be replaced. Note that some of them are cut off because the RAM chips on the piggyback board bypass the ones on the computer motherboard. Pins 1 through 33, 37, and 43 through 48 are left intact. The ones removed are pins 34 through 36 and 38 through 42. The board holes are plated-through ensuring a connection from board top to bottom. The tiny surface-mount component on the back side of the board is a capacitor, a 0.022uF bypass filter across the supply line. Note the black dots I put on the bare board. Those indicate IC pin 1 for each of the chips.

If I were going to build a board like this, I would change a few things to make fabricating the PC board easier. I would have the header pins offset from the IC socket so any low profile socket could be used. A single-sided board would require reconfiguring the layout and using jumpers, but it would eliminate the need to use plated-through holes. Header pins could be just bits of solid hookup wire soldered into the holes. Such wires would be flexible, and if accidentally bent, could be straightened without breaking. If one or more did break off, they could be replaced easily.







## UPGRADING THE C128 FROM 16K TO 64K OF VIDEO RAM 08-19-04

There used to be an easy-to-install piggyback board. You would pull the VDC chip, install the board and plug your chip into it. It had the upgraded video RAM chips on it. Unfortunately, that board has not been available for years.

Upgrading the VRAM on your own involves unsoldering the two original 4416 (16K X 4) RAM chips (probably marked something like: MB81416-12) inside the tin can in the middle of the motherboard. The two chips are at board locations U23 and U25 and are very likely soldered in. It's tight in there and desoldering chips is a pain anyway, not to mention risky if you accidentally break a foil trace and don't repair it before installing the new chips. You end up covering up your mistake rather well. As a tech, I always desolder the original and put in a socket. That way, I have the option of putting the old ones back if the upgrade doesn't work for some reason. You never want to solder on the board more than once if you can help it. Sockets are cheap. An alternative to desoldering the whole chip is to cut off all the pins close to the body of the IC, then desolder each one and clean out the holes with wick or a solder sucker so the new chip (or socket) will fit. That's much easier on the board, but obviously destroys the chips. Not a big deal... they usually end up in the garbage anyway.

So, you'll need two 4464 (64K X 4) RAM chips. Jameco Electronics @ 1-800-831-4242 has them, but you'll need to add \$5 for orders under \$25, then shipping on top of that. They have a WEBSITE: [www.jameco.com](http://www.jameco.com). The Jameco part number for the chip is 41582 or 41574 or 41611. Those three numbers represent the same chip, but at different speeds, 120ns, 100ns, and 80ns respectively. All will work and cost less than \$3 each. Jameco has the sockets too. Order # 38113 or 112230 socket (18 pin DIP single or double contact) for less than \$0.25 each.

For desoldering, you'll want an iron of about 25 watts. Don't be tempted to use your 30 year old soldering gun... it will eat that board. Make sure you mount the new chips exactly the way the old ones came out. There is a notch at one end so you shouldn't get them in backwards. Use a marking pen to indicate where the notch goes if necessary. After the new sockets/chips are installed, carefully inspect your work for solder splashes or bridges between traces, etc. If all is well, put it all back together.

Power up the computer and observe the opening screen. You might notice that just -before- it comes up, the screen looks different than it used to. When the opening screen appears, it should look the same as before. One way to tell if you have the upgraded VRAM is with a little BASIC program typed in 80 column mode:

```
POKE DEC("D600"),28:POKE DEC("D601"),63:SYS DEC("FF62"):SCNCLR <RETURN>
```

If the screen says: READY and looks normal, you have 64K of VRAM.

If you have only 16K, the screen will fill up with zeros.

Ray Carlsen CET  
Carlsen Electronics

# C128 CHIPS AND COMMON SYMPTOMS

latest updates or corrections 1-31-06

**U1** 906108-02 (6526) VIA (interchanges with 8521)  
# unknown (8521) VIA later version C128

C64 startup screen normal, but no cursor. May not start up in 128 mode. No keyboard, joyport, or cassette access. Partial failure: some keys or joystick positions don't work. Cartridge works. Swap U1 with U4 to check. See KEYBOARD.

**U4** 901108-02 (6526) VIA

Startup screens normal (64 & 128), but no serial or user port access. Drive resets on power up but "File not found" error when drive accessed. Cartridge works. Swap U4 with U1 to check. Check also buffer IC U30.

**U5** 906112-02 (6581) early 128 SID: 12 volt VDD  
318013-01 (8580) late 128 SID: 9 volt VDD

No sound (check also transistor Q2), weak or bad sound of one or more voices. Proportional mouse or graphics tablet doesn't work, or mouse pointer frozen or jitters. If chip is shorted, will produce blank screen. Remove chip to check.

**U6** 315020-01 (8502) MPU (Microprocessor)

No bootup in any mode. Blank screen with no border. Cartridge don't work. If intermittant, screen freezes after warmup or running programs lock up.

**U7** 310389-01 (8722) MMU (Memory Management Unit)

No bootup in any mode. Blank screen with no border. Partial failure: CP/M inoperative.

**U10** 906150-02 (Z80B) CPU (Microprocessor)

No bootup in any mode. Blank screen with no border. Partial failure: CP/M inoperative.

**U11** 315012-01 (8721) PLA (Programable Logic Array)

No bootup in any mode. In 40 columns: blank screen, white screen, light blue screen (no border), random checkerboard pattern or flashing "garbage" characters.

**U14 & U15** 74LS257 logic, RAM interface

Can cause blank screen. Partial failure can cause abnormal bytes free at startup.

**U18** 390059-01 CHARACTER ROM

No characters. Startup has border, but "garbage" where characters belong. Entire area inside border just lines or blocks.

**U19** generic SRAM (6116 - LC3517A) COLOR RAM 2K X 8

128 startup screen and colors normal. C64 screen characters & colors flash rapidly.

**U21** 315009-03 (8564) VIC (40 column screen)

Dead chip: Blank white screen in 40 columns and black screen in 80 columns. Partial failure: 80 column OK but weak or garbled 40 column video, no video or no color. Check also U28 and crystal Y2.

**U22** 315014-09 (8563) VDC for C128 80 column screen.

315092-01 (8568) VDC for C128D 80 column screen.

40 column screen OK. 80 column screen: Blank screen. Entire screen shifts horizontally. May not switch from 128 to 64 mode with reset switch. Check also crystal oscillator Y1. If one or more colors missing, check U24.

**U23 & U25** generic 4416 Video RAM (16K)

generic 4464 Video RAM (64K VRAM upgrade)

In 80 column mode only: blank screen or some characters garbled. Shorted chips may get hot.

**U24** generic 74LS244 Buffer

One color (such as red) missing from 80 column screen. Check also U22.

**U28** 251527-09 (8701) Clock gen. (Master oscillator)

Dead chip: no bootup in any mode. Partial failure: diagonal lines on monitor or TV (horizontal sync bad), no color in 40 column mode, or "barber pole" colors. Check also crystal Y2.

**U32** 251913-01 C64 Kernal/Basic ROM.

Blank screen at startup in C64 mode only. Cartridge works.

**U33** 318018-02 C128 BASIC LO ROM

No BASIC startup screen in 128 mode only. Computer goes into "monitor" mode.

**U34** 318019-02 C128 BASIC HI ROM

Blank screen with border at 128 mode startup. Lines or "garbage" inside border.

**U35** 318020-03 C128 Kernal ROM

Comes up in C64 mode, but cartridge doesn't work. Partial failure: blank screen in 128 mode only.

**U36** socket empty from factory... for "upgrades".

**U38 THRU U53** 16 RAM chips (4164)

4 RAM chips (4464) in later versions.

Blank screen, no border. Shorted chips may get hot. Will sometimes produce "garbage" screen, abnormal number of bytes free (check also U14 and U15) or "out of memory" error on startup screen, and program crashes when loading (depends on what part of memory is bad).

**Y1** 16 MHz Crystal Oscillator

Blank screen in 80 column only.

**Y2** 14.31818 MHz crystal (Master osc. reference)

See U21 VIC.

**M1** 251917-02 RF Modulator (tin can "module").

TV output only: no picture, no sound, snowy picture, no color, weak video or sound, interference, etc. Note: direct A/V outputs still work normally.

### **KEYBOARD:**

Stuck (shorted) keys will show up when another key is pressed... it either will not work, or both appear on screen. Character may repeat, depending on which key is bad. If keyboard is suspected, unplug it... the computer will start up normally without it. Check also U1 CIA chip.

### **POWER SUPPLY:**

Most common problem is "dead" computer, but can produce many symptoms like blank screen (power LED on or off), screen freeze-up, "garbage screen", hum bars moving up screen, intermittent operation, etc.

For intermittent operation or "glitches" on screen, random characters, etc. check solder of power supply connector and power switch on motherboard. Also, reseat socketed chips: lift up slightly at each end (but do not remove) and press back down. Reseat suspected chips first for any problem, especially intermittants.

For in-depth troubleshooting, Sams Photofact (schematic and parts list) has flow charts and step by step diagnostics. It requires an oscilloscope and the necessary skills to interpret the readings. The Sams book for the C128 is CC18 and C5CS25 for the 128DCR. They are available at electronic parts distributors. Copies may be viewed at the main branch of the Public Library.

Ray Carlsen CET  
CARLSEN ELECTRONICS

Your questions or comments are always welcome, especially if you spot any errors here. Thanks!