
Subject: Digital pregnancy tests are almost as powerful as the original IBM PC
Posted by vetus@vetusware.com on Mon, 07 Sep 2020 07:00:43 GMT

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Digital pregnancy tests are almost as powerful as the original IBM PC

Each test, which costs less than \$5, includes a processor, RAM, a button cell battery, and a tiny LCD screen to display the result. The processor is an 8-bit Holtek microcontroller with 64 bytes of RAM, capable of running at either 4Mhz or 8Mhz depending on the battery configuration. That might sound very basic, but the chip is surprisingly complicated.

“You might think it’s very limited because it’s only got 64 bytes of RAM, but it’s actually using a pipelined architecture to operate at 1 instruction per cycle, giving it quite good performance for a 4Mhz CPU”...

<https://www.theverge.com/tldr/2020/9/4/21422628/digital-pregnancy-test-teardown-processor-ram-ibm-pc>
