

Microsoft Press

Computer Dictionary

Third Edition

Microsoft Press

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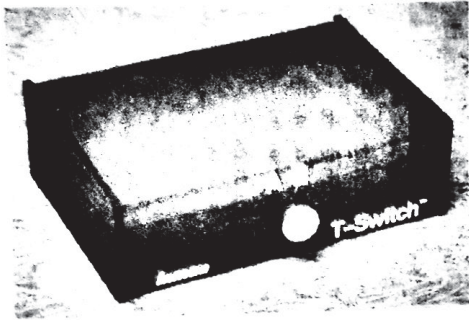
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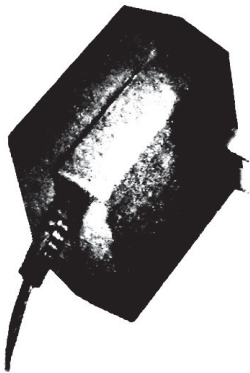
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A/B switch box.



AC adapter.

accelerator \ak-sel'ər-ā-tər\ *n.* **1.** In applications, a key or key combination used to perform a defined function. *Also called* shortcut key. **2.** In hardware, a device that speeds or enhances the operation of one or more subsystems, leading to improved program performance. *See also* accelerator card, Windows-based accelerator.

accelerator board \ak-sel'ər-ā-tər bōrd\ *n.* *See* accelerator card.

accelerator card \ak-sel'ər-ā-tər kărd\ *n.* A printed circuit board that replaces or augments the computer's main microprocessor, resulting in faster performance. *Also called* accelerator board. *See also* expansion board, graphics accelerator.

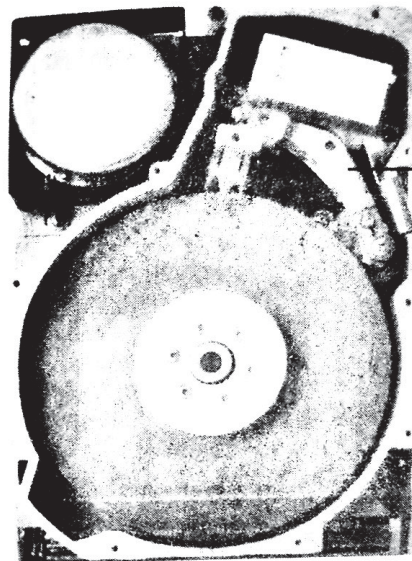
acceptable use policy \ak-sep'tə-bl yōōs' pol'ə-sē\ *n.* A statement issued by an Internet service provider or an online information service that indicates what activities users may or may not engage in while logged into the service. For example, some providers prohibit users from engaging in commercial activity on the network. *Acronym:* AUP (A`U-P'). *See also* ISP, online information service.

acceptance test \ak-sep'təns test\ *n.* A formal evaluation of a hardware product performed by the customer, usually at the factory, to verify that the product is performing according to specifications.

access¹ \ak'ses\ *n.* **1.** The act of reading data from or writing data to memory. **2.** Connection to the Internet or other network or system.

access² \ak'ses\ *vb.* To gain entry to memory in order to read or write data.

access arm \ak'ses ärm\ *n.* A mechanical arm that moves the read/write head(s) over the surface of a disk in a disk drive. *See the illustration. Also called* head arm.



Access arm.

ACCESS.bus \ak'ses-dot-bus\ *n.* A bidirectional bus for connecting peripherals to a PC. The ACCESS.bus can connect up to 125 low-speed peripherals, such as printers, modems, mice, and keyboards, to the system through a single, general-purpose port. Peripherals that support the ACCESS.bus provide a connector or port connection that is similar to a phone-jack connector and are daisy-chained together. However, the PC communicates directly with each peripheral and vice versa. Connecting an ACCESS.bus device (for example, a printer) to a system results in the system automatically identifying and configuring it for