

It's fun and practical, too

TekTouch device evokes lots of 'wows'

Imagine what you could do if you had an electronic display (CRT or flat panel) on which you could write or draw with your finger whatever you want, color it, and have that information stored in computer memory and/or printed out?

That's the kind of fun stuff you can actually do with TekTouch, a thin film device that is applied directly to a glass panel mounted in front of an electronic display. As a result, demonstrations of the product evoke lots of "wows," "gee whizzes," and "that's really neat."

TekTouch was introduced at the Wescon trade show in San Francisco in November by the Display Peripheral Products group of Display Devices Operation. Prototypes are now being shipped to customers for evaluation of how TekTouch might be applied to their products.

What customers are working on is deciding how TekTouch can add value to their products. At least that's what they are supposed to be working on. But it's so much fun to play with that design teams may get distracted. It's easy to imagine a team leader having to crack the whip: "OK, gang, that's

enough playing around. We've got to get serious."

On the practical side, TekTouch can be used for such things as an on-screen menu that you select from just by touching the appropriate box with a finger. Or you might use some on-screen boxes to replace the function of programmable keys. It could also be used for administering multiple choice tests in an individual learning program.

Practical though TekTouch may be, the fun part now will be seeing what "gee whiz" applications customers come up with. □



This team has produced a product that's fun to keep in touch with. Seated, from left, Todd Biddle, Dan Teichmer, Steve Annas. Kneeling, Don Kephart, Gary McGuire. Standing, Fred Entizne, Tom Imholt, Do Mellander, Larry Karnosh, Bonnie Ashenbrenner, Brian Lee, Bob Ricks, Daniel Chinn, Phil Krein, Tom August, Lisa Gates, Bruce Murdock. Not pictured: Dave Eulberg.