



Vintage Computer Value Evaluation Report

Date: April 9, 2025 | Evaluator: David Greelish

Subject: Comparisons with comparable items for estimate of a vintage computer value

I. Identification of Computer:

- **Make:** MITS
- **Model:** Altair 8800
- **Serial Number (if applicable):** 221236K
 - This has been authenticated, as Altair 8800 serial numbers started at 220000. An “A” was added for factory assembled and “K” for a kit. However, it was reported that it wasn’t 100% followed.
 - There is video commentary by Ed Roberts during the 20th anniversary of the Altair confirming this.
 - MITS received over 1,000 orders for the Altair 8800 by February 1975. The company claimed to have delivered 2,500 Altair 8800s by the end of May. The number was reported as over 5,000 by August. Ultimately, about 10,000 were sold.
- **Approximate Year of Manufacture:** This unit was packaged as a kit as the 1,236th Altair 8800 by around April 1975 (now exactly 50 years ago).

II. Physical Condition:

- **Case:**
 - **Overall Condition:** Excellent
 - **Scratches/Scuffs:** Extremely minimal, if any
 - **Cracks/Breaks:** Extremely minimal, if any

- **Discoloration/Yellowing:** None noted
- **Missing Parts:** None noted
- **Rust/Corrosion:** None noted
- **Cleanliness (Internal/External):** Very clean overall
- **Internal Components:**
 - **Dust Accumulation:** Very clean overall
 - **Power Supply:** Some age wear, but very good
 - **Motherboard:** Very good, clean
 - **S-100 Boards:** All very good, clean
 - MITS 8080 CPU
 - MITS 4K Static RAM
 - Cromemco Dazzler (2 qty.) with full installation to rear chassis, including a “home-brewed” coaxial adapter
 - MITS 1K Static RAM (loose)

III. Operational Status:

- A full inspection/testing/repair report will be furnished by:
 - David Nowak, Retro Tech Restoration, retrotechrestoration.com

IV. Documentation and Software:

- **Manuals:**
 - Full original binder for “Altair Computer System”
 - With Cromemco brochure
 - Full original binder for “Altair 8800 Theory of Operation, Manual & Schematics”
 - Set of “Packing Slip” documents
 - Other misc. documents

V. Overall Assessment and Values:

- This is a very nice, all original, 50-year-old Altair 8800, complete as far as the primary computer goes, along with a rare Cromemco Dazzler (set of boards). It includes the provenance of its ownership, with documentation, verified by the surviving family members.
- As the owners did power it on at least once, and it did indeed power-on, light-up, not begin smoking or shut-down, etc., it is expected to function. These values will assume the machine is in fully tested and operational condition, when returned by the expert vintage computer technician.
- How much is a collectible worth? As much as someone else is willing to pay for it! Values of “antiques” and collectibles rise and fall, but no doubt that the value of

this excellent example of the first commercially available and successful personal microcomputer has steadily risen.

- Reference the three separate reports:
 - Altair 8800 auction prices
 - Altair 8800 eBay prices
 - Dazzler eBay prices
- There are always “outliers” in these kinds of evaluations, so one eBay sale and one auction house sale will NOT be considered:
 - \$600.00 on eBay, April 7, 2025
 - “MITS ALTAIR 8800 Computer - Rare”
 - \$56,700.00 at Christie’s, September 10, 2024
 - “A MITS ALTAIR 8800 MICROCOMPUTER”
 - From the Paul G. Allen Collection (Cofounder of Microsoft)
 - There is also an eBay sale from Germany for \$7,900.00. This is only partially considered in the average, as it is not clear if it was sold/shipped to the US.
 - I have averaged it in for 60% of that sale.
- A well-run, professional auction house should bring the highest sale amounts, and the results prove this out. However, they have the highest fees, from around 25%-30%. There is also a considerable delay in order to apply, auction start, auction run and then when sold/payment.
- eBay is overall easier and quicker in regard to listing, selling and time to selling/payment, but there are also fees of 18% for the auction & payment services. eBay sales for this item are about 16% less than auctions on average.
- There are currently no active auction house sales for this item.
- There is one original Altair 8800 on eBay, asking \$5,000.00.
 - There are also two other later Altair 8800B computers listed in the same price range.
 - All have the “Make Offer” option, with the original Altair 8800 last updated on Jul 02, 2024. **Analysis: All listed too high.**

- **Auction Houses:**
 - Altair 8800 & Accompanying Items
 - **Average: \$4,268.00**
- **eBay:**
 - Altair 8800 & Accompanying Items
 - **Average: \$3587.00**
 - Cromemco Dazzler separately
 - **Average: \$724.00**

- **Recommendation:**

- Though it might be possible to sell the Dazzler separately and net more money, I recommend including it in the system. This will go far to guarantee a higher price for the system, a quick sale and keep it all together, as your brother originally had it (Mrs. Prosser).
- The Dazzler is rare, but the actual value is hard to gauge with only two records almost four years apart. I recommend giving it a value of about \$500.
- **I recommend selling the entire system on eBay for a “Buy It Now” price of \$4,200.**
 - Do not allow offers and first get an estimate from a UPS Store for professional packing to pass along to buyer.

Note: This evaluation report provides a general value estimate, based on detailed research of past confirmed sales through reputable auction houses and eBay. It is only the evaluator’s expert opinion, and no guarantees are expressed.