
Alternatives to the RCX

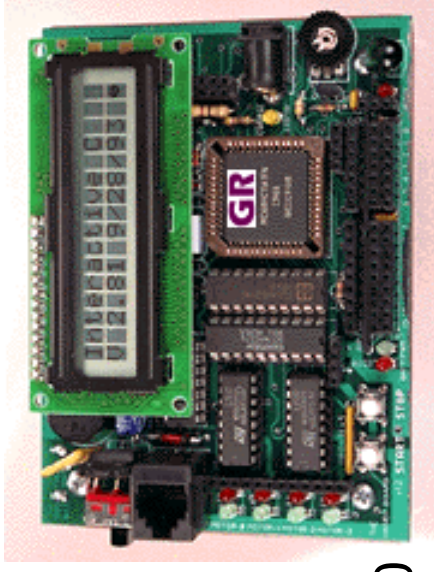
Properties of the RCX

- A LEGO product
- Hitachi H8 micro controller
- 32K external RAM
- 3 motors and 3 sensors
- Inexpensive (\$220)
- Pros:
 - COTS
 - everything-included
 - easy to program
- Cons:
 - no way to extend the brick
 - only (unreliable and slow) infrared-communication

The Handy Board

(www.handyboard.com)

- Developed at the MIT (no charge)
- Motorola 68HC11 microcontroller
- 32K external RAM
- 4 motors and direct inputs for 16 sensors
- The raw board, but already assembled: \$296.00
- Pros:
 - easily extensible
 - extensions available
- Cons:
 - only Infrared-Communication
 - Only programmable with (interpreted) interactive C



Palm Robot Kit (<http://www->

[2.cs.cmu.edu/~pprck](http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/~pprck))

- Carnegie Mellon Robotics Institute
- Can be assembled with any handheld supporting serial communication
- preassembled \$250.00 (without handheld!)
- Pros:
 - easily extensible
 - Full-sized handheld is integrated!
- Cons:
 - expensive?!

