

# HPCC 2020

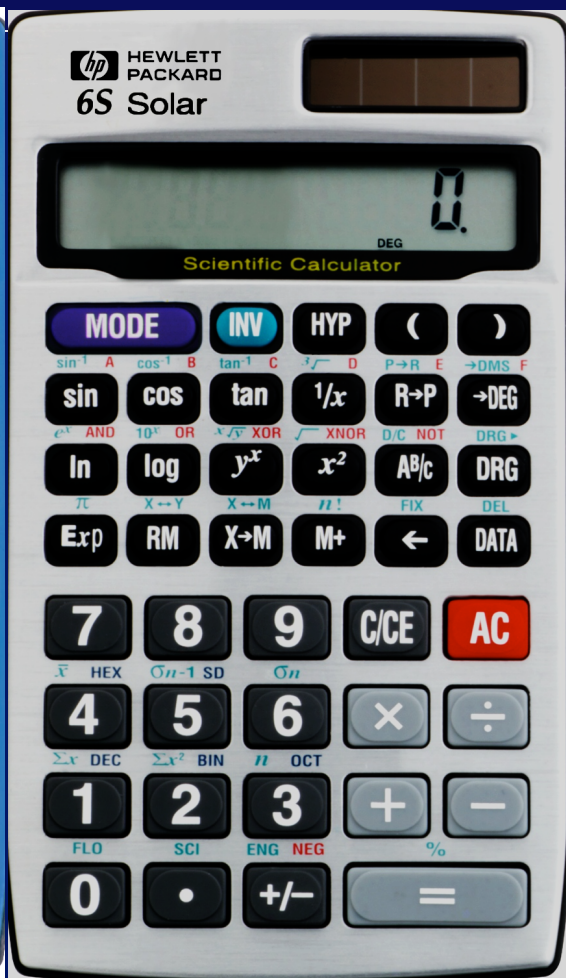
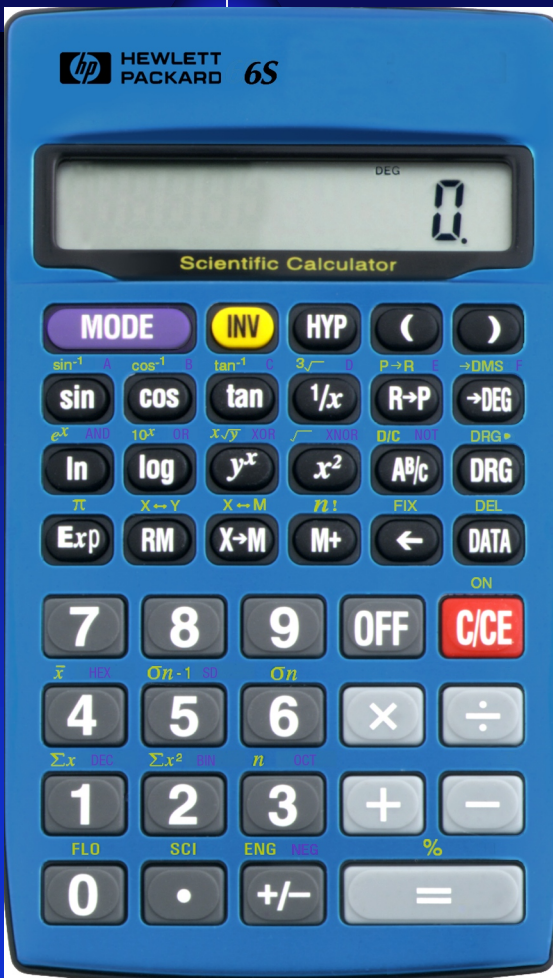
- **The top 10 Worst HP calculators ever made!**

- **By Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz**
- **and Gene Wright**

# HPCC 2020 – Top 10<sub>8</sub> Worst HPs

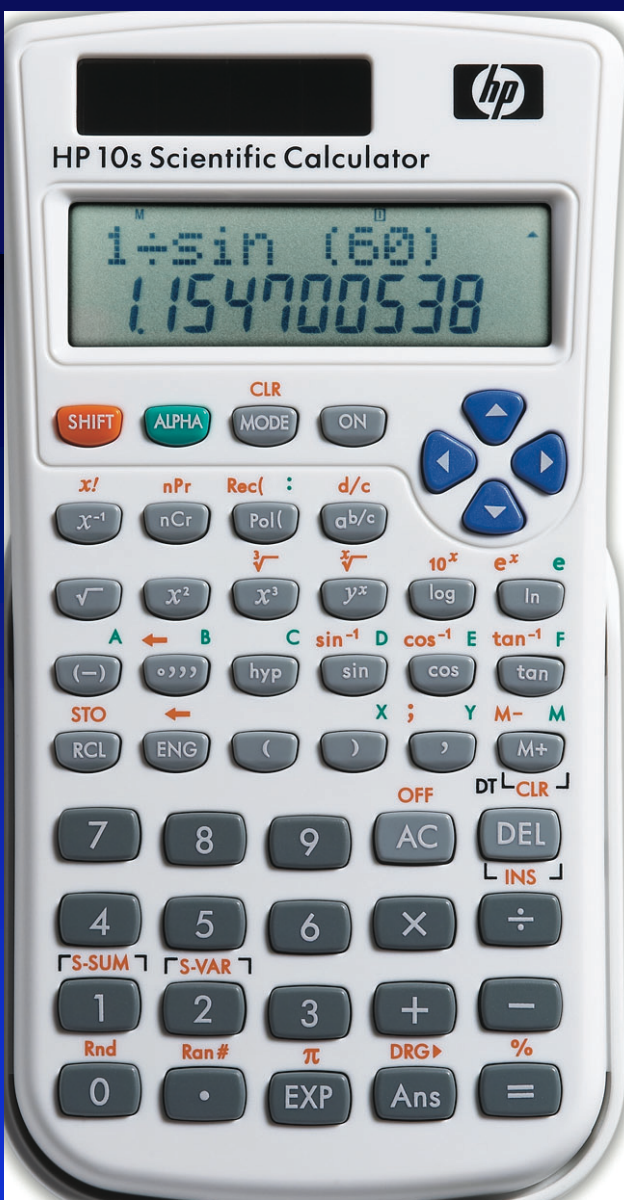
- In previous years: HHC good/bad non-HPs.
- Wlodek and I decided to present worst HPs.
- Were going to do top 10<sub>10</sub>, but in interest of time, we went octal, top 10<sub>8</sub>.
- We will alternate choices and when we get to the top 2<sub>8</sub>, we will ask you to vote for #1<sub>8</sub> and #2<sub>8</sub>. Get ready!
- These are our opinions of course.
- So here we go!

# #10<sub>8</sub> – The HP-6S / 6S Solar



- What do we mean by a “bad” HP calculator?
- It can be argued that HP have not made any bad calculators.
- But a perfectly good calculator can be a bad HP calculator.
- A prime example – HP6S.
- Nice features, good manual, but...





# #7<sub>8</sub> – HP8S and 10S

- I mean just look. Any explanation needed?
- Dedicated  $x^3$  key. Why not  $x^4$  too? I want  $x^7$ .
- Use it to level a table...  
...which is not :-)
- mentioned in awfully small owners manual.
- HP-8S is worse of two.
- HP-8S picture from internet. Owner asked for name to be kept private. :-)





## #6<sub>8</sub> – HP28C

- Sure RPL !! But...
- Bad battery cover (shared with HP-18C)
- Stiffer keys than previous models.
- Color scheme. Plum?
- Only 2K RAM with an infinite stack...
- ...of 20 objects ?
- Still, without this, no HP-28S, HP-48SX and beyond.

## #5 – HP-55



- Sure, wonderful timer!
- But... relatively small program memory  
Fairly high price – 7/1/1973 - \$395 USD.
- As an early programmable, uses some keycode conventions that are odd by later standards still being developed by HP.
- Example: Keycode 32 -30 is for  $g X=Y$   $GTO 30$  which is unlike all that followed.
- Apparently not very successful for HP, as it was still on sale as late as August 1978 for \$110, suggesting large unsold inventory.



# #4 – HP-15C LE



- The machine we begged for, but...
- Display blinking anomaly bug.
- Self-tests corrupt memory.
- Many unreliable - circuit board wash problem!
- So close...
- So expensive (even now).
- Stopped HP making more comebacks.



# #3 – HP-12C Platinum – first edition



- Several bad HP choices.  
Platinum calculator



it.  
ed  
?



- knows what?
- An owners manual with no examples in that algebraic mode.
- Poorer quality display than original 12c.



# Wlodek's Candidate for the Worst? The Quick Calc

- A fridge magnet calculator? How riveting!
- But from HP?
- Nice big display!
- But have you tried changing the batteries?
- Use it to clip a “To Do” note on your fridge:
- “To Do” – buy a real HP calculator.







# Gene's candidate for worst! HP-49g



- A disaster in many ways.
- Display cover scratched
- Rubber keys.
- Blue color scheme.
- Key symbols wore off !
- Original HP-39G/40G same style, keys, problems.
- True, I suspect no eventual 50g without it, but...
- This is terrible.



# HP Democracy in Action

- Vote for the worst !
  - QuickCalc ?
  - HP-49G

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- **P.S. (Dis)honorable mention models**
  - HP-49g+ HP-48GII – keys that clicked but did nothing
  - HP-10BII (rubber version – only HP I ever trashed)
  - HP-17BII (rubber version)
  - HP-33S
  - HP-35S
  - Non-HP-34C Spice series
  - HP-39GII – a bridge to nowhere!
  - HP-39g+ Green / Orange versions

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- There you go. Even HP has had a few stinkers.
- Collect them anyway?
- We now return you to your regularly scheduled programming... RPN of course!