



Q+4 Instructions

IMPORTANT

Do not attempt to use the Q+4 without first reading these instructions fully.

Installation and Use

You should have the following items in the package:

- 1 Buffer board (small printed circuit board).
- 1 Expansion chassis (large metal box).
- 1 QL compatible power supply.

The large metal case with the sloping top is the main expansion unit. It should have 6 indentations on the sloping part into which the QL's feet will fit. At the left hand side of the unit is a short piece of ribbon cable. The small uncased circuit board is the buffer board which carries the signals from the QL to the main unit. For shipping the buffer board is stored in the left hand slot (slot one) of the main expansion unit.

Before attempting to connect the Q+4 to your QL ensure that the power is not connected.

Remove the blanking cover from the left hand end of the QL. On many QL's this is rather difficult and may require a good deal of force. Once removed you will see a socket about 5 cm from the end of the QL.

Take the small buffer board and look at the connectors on it; you will see that one is identical to that on the QL and the other is designed to fit the QL socket. Insert the buffer card with the components to the top of the QL and the connectors the right way round. Press the board home taking care not to bend the pins of the QL connector. On some QL's the metal shield for the keyboard is slightly too large and can result in difficulty when inserting expansion boards. If this is the case it may be necessary to loosen the screws which hold the case of the QL.

When the buffer board is inserted the QL type connector should be almost flush with the edge of the computer. It is now possible to test the buffer board by plugging any expansion unit into this connector and powering on as usual. The QL should function exactly the same as without the buffer board; if there is any problem check all of the connections; if it still fails to operate contact your supplier.

After checking the buffer board switch the QL off again. You are now ready to connect the QL to the main expansion unit. This is done by the short ribbon cable on the left hand edge of the console, which is inserted into the QL like socket on the buffer board. When this is inserted the QL will sit snugly in the small depressions on sloping side. On the right of the console there is a power socket into which a QL (or compatible) power supply may be plugged. For ease of use we recommend that the Q+4 and the QL be plugged into a common mains adaptor and switched on and off at the same time.

The console may be checked by switching on without any units plugged in. The QL should boot as normal but with an extra message on the initial screen. If this is not the case check all of the connections carefully; if you cannot find any faults contact your supplier.

Any correctly designed QL peripheral should now plug into the slots at the back of the console and function in a similar way to when plugged into the QL. **Remember to switch off power to the QL and Q+4 before inserting or removing any peripheral.** Because of the critical timings of some RAM cards we recommend that they always be plugged into the left hand slot nearest the ribbon cable.

If you have any problems with any peripheral try to identify the exacted circumstances in which the problem occurs (e.g. which slot, does the problem only happen if another unit is plugged in etc) then contact the manufacture of the peripheral and CST with the fault report. We will then identify the area of the problem and inform you what to do.



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Sinclair QL Preservation Project (SQPP)



On January 12th 1984 Sir Clive Sinclair presented the Sinclair QL Professional Computer in a Hollywood-style launch event at the Intercontinental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, London. This was exactly 12 days earlier than Steve Jobs presented the Apple Macintosh.

The QL still is a very good example of an innovative, stylish, powerful and underestimated product. On one hand it failed in the market in the long run but on the other it influenced many developments which ended in today's products.

2009 was the year of its 25th anniversary in which month by month new activities were launched.



Jan 12th – Congratulation to the QL's 25th birthday. Message spread to VIP, community and media.

http://www.qlvsjaguar.homepage.bluewin.ch/SinclairQL_25th_anniversary_1984_to_2009.html



Check out this 25th anniversary presentation...

<http://www.cowo.ch/downloads/SinclairQLis25-compressed.ppt>



Try QPC, a virtual QL running under Windows...

http://www.cowo.ch/downloads/QPC_a_virtual_QL.zip



Feb 19th – Massive coverage (11 pages) of the QL in the April Issue of Personal Computer World (PCW) magazine.

<http://www.pcw.co.uk>



Mar 12th – Sinclair QL Preservation Project (SQPP) launched, starting with Documents/Publications from Sinclair Research Ltd and various computer magazines of the years 1984 to 1986.

http://www.qlvsjaguar.homepage.bluewin.ch/SinclairQL_preservation_project.html

QL forever!

Urs König (aka cowo)

<http://www.qlvsjaguar.homepage.bluewin.ch>