The IMSAI 8080

by Bruce E. Hall, W8BH

While browsing the Internet I found a kit for the IMSAI 8080, that amazing computer I could only *dream* about as a kid. The kit uses modern components to emulate the original IMSAI 8080. Its beautiful front panel is impossible to resist.

I have written about my experience:

ARTICLE: INTRODUCTION

Part A: What to do when you've finished building your kit and don't know what to! Covers: connecting via terminal via WiFi, the desktop interface, NVS configurations, using the RS-232 ports, the paper tape device, BASIC, and CP/M.

Part B: how to write assembly language programs for the IMSAI 8080, including 9 different ways to enter your programs into memory.

What is the IMSAI 8080 esp?

It is an emulation of the original IMSAI 8080 using an ESP32 for its microcontroller. The front panel display is nearly a perfect match to the original hardware.

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ARTICLE: FLOPPIES – how to create a system disk; disk anatomy; the disk image file, CP/M file storage.

ARTICLE: THE STACK – Stack info and 7 different ways to handle the stack in your program.

ARTICLE: BANK SWITCHING – ROM vs RAM banking, how to program, and CP/M conflicts.

ARTICLE: ROMs – how to change your ROM, the BASIC ROMs, MPU-A-ROM vs MPU-B-ROM, a full MPU-A-ROM description (including disassembly), and how make a custom ROM.

ARTICLE: RTC – how to access the Real-Time Clock and display time/date information.

ARTICLE: ALTAIR BASIC – how to run Altair BASIC 4K on your IMSAI 8080.

- Bruce.