

References for the KDN2 (1962), KDF6 (1963) and KDF7 (1965) family of small computers

A general account of the UK's experimental and production computers, spanning the period from the late 1940s to the mid-1960s, is: ***Early British Computers*** (Simon Lavington). Published by Manchester University Press (in the UK) and Digital Press (in the USA) in 1980. 139 pages, many illustrations. ISBN: 0-7190-0803-4.

Available online at: <http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/EarlyBritish.html> At the time of writing this book, very little information was readily available about the English Electric KDN2, KDF6 and KDF7 computers.

1. Jonathan Ayles, *Megabytes for metals: development of computer applications in the iron and steel industry*, in *The Journal Ironmaking and Steelmaking*, vol. 31, no. 6, 2004, pages 465 – 478. This gives an account of the use of KDN2, KDF6 and KDF7 computers at various steel works.

2. BBC programme, summer 1962, *Machines like Men*. Introduced by Raymond Baxter. KDF2, costing £25K. At same time, Ferranti Sirius costs £35K and Ferranti Atlas £2.5 million (“equivalent to two Comet aircraft”). BR Western region had installed a KDF2.

<https://m.facebook.com/BBCArchive/videos/1352585114901837/?refsrc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bing.com%2F& rdr>

3. Andrew Herbert, *The English Electric KDF 6*. Resurrection, 89, Spring 2020 pages 14 – 21. See:

<https://www.computerconservationsociety.org/resurrection/res89.htm#d> This article focusses on the KDF 6 at Grindlays but also gives an overview of the KDF6's technical specification in comparison with the performance of other contemporary computers.

4. This site: <https://bozmuse.wordpress.com/2014/01/18/english-electric-leo-kdf6/> contains informal anecdotes from various operators and programmers who worked on KDF6 computers in London, Australia and New Zealand.

5. For the background to the four KDF7 computers installed at Fawley Power Station, Hampshire, see: <https://www.powerstations.uk/fawley-power-station-southampton/>