



Avatex 1200 modem

E+E DATA COMM
2115 Ringwood Avenue
San Jose, CA 95131
(408) 288-8880
\$99.00 to \$128.00

by Jason Leigh

Ava-who? I have to admit, Avatex is a name not many Atari modem users recognize. It's one I wouldn't have known, if it weren't for the persistent mentioning of it by my computer colleagues. What surprised me most was the price I got from E+E Data Comm—only \$99.00!

When the modem first arrived, I was skeptical. Would it be reliable, or even attractive (kind of like a blind date)? But as soon as I got the modem up and running, all doubts faded. The Avatex 1200-baud Hayes-compatible modem offers most of the features found on a standard Hayes modem, but for one-third the price. The Avatex comes with an external power supply, a manual and a CompuServe subscription package, including four hours of free connect time.

The modem circuitry is housed in an attractive white case, with a full complement of status lights. These LEDs indicate the current status of the communications link. The modem supports automatic tone or pulse dialing, automatic answering, disconnect and self test. The back panel reveals a set of dip switches which allow you to select the option you need to get the modem working with your particular terminal program.

In addition, there's an RS232c port, and an input and output phone connector. The RS232c port makes the Avatex compatible with any computer currently on the market; all that's needed is an appropriate interface. The Atari 520 and 1040STs already have a built-in RS232 port, so this modem can be connected directly to the computer, via a \$15.00 DB25P to DB25P cable.

The instruction manual is brief, but contains sufficient information to get you started. It includes short program listings in BASIC and notes on how to operate the modem for Atari, IBM PC, Apple II and Commodore 64 computers. The self-test operations are well documented, so you can easily troubleshoot any problems you may encounter. If problems persist, or if you have any questions you'd like answered before purchasing the modem, you can call E+E Data Comm for technical assistance at 1-800-4-AVATEX.

At the price, this modem is a breakthrough in the current, increasing need for low-cost, high-speed telecommunications. I recommend it. **A**

Jason Leigh is a junior in Computer Science at the University of Utah. In his spare time, he enjoys writing for ANALOG Computing, and is now a part-time software developer for Zobian Controls.

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