

10-1983 [O-1001] Fidelity - Chess Challenger Sensory 9 (B)

Fidelity model SC9. Vanaf oktober 1983 is de Chess Challenger Sensory 9 (B) in de USA te koop. Duitsland moet tot februari 1984 wachten om deze nieuwe versie te kunnen kopen. De B-versie is uitgevoerd met het nieuwe Boedapest programma. Standaard wordt deze schaakcomputer door Fidelity uitgeleverd op 2 MHz. Een speciale firma in Duitsland (HGI) kon deze gloednieuwe Chess Challenger Sensory 9 (B) destijds opvoeren naar 3 MHz. Deze opgevoerde versie kreeg de bijnaam: 'Chess Challenger 9 (B) Speed'.



Chess Challenger Sensory 9 (B)
(Bild: Heinz-Gerd Lehmann)

Hans-Peter Ketterling (Rochade, Dezember 1983): Aber auch der Chess Challenger Sensory 9 ist nicht aus dem Geschäft. Allerdings wurde das Programm etwas überarbeitet und die Taktfrequenz auf 2 MHz erhöht. Ab November ist die Auslieferung vorgesehen, wobei der Preis eventuell geringfügig angehoben wird. In Budapest hat dieses Gerät sein Debut gegeben, es hat aber wie auch Constellation etwas Pech gehabt und unter Wert abgeschnitten. HGI liefert das neue Programm mit 3 MHz laufend für einen Aufpreis von DM 245,00.

N.B. Wegens een vertraagde uitlevering was de Sensory 9 (B) pas in februari 1984 in Duitsland te koop.

Computer Chess Digest Annual (1984) Sensory 9-B

During October 1983, Fidelity Electronics introduced this updated version of their one year old Sensory 9. Faster (2 as opposed to 1.5 Mhz) and with an improved program, the 9-B is about 80 points stronger, twice as fast tactically, more active and a better positional player. And I thought the 9 was a value difficult to improve upon! Being so good, it projects a large shadow over Fidelity's own Super 9, almost reaching Elite A/S. In comparative terms, it is just as good positionally as either of them, while being slightly faster than Super 9. Compared with Prestige-B, it is twice as slow tactically and not quite as dynamic and human-like. But the price is not the same either. Elsewhere I compared Constellation and Sensory 9-B. Both represent incredibly good values and without any doubt in my mind they are the best buys in the market.

A small conversation...

Hello Larry,

I have never heard about SC9 version B. What is the difference with the classic version?

Best regards,
Gaëtan

Hi Gaëtan,

Fidelity had a habit of making changes on the fly in the middle of a production run without seeing a need to tell anyone. In this case, they started putting a different program into the same case, a slightly stronger one running on a higher clock frequency. 2 mhz versus the 1.5 or 1.6 mhz of the earlier 'A' version. It seemingly went unnoticed for some years by most of the owners. I've got both 'A' and 'B' versions, and you can tell when you switch both of them on the higher pitched 'beep' of the 'B'. From what I can tell, the serial number on the base of the comp will indicate which version it is.



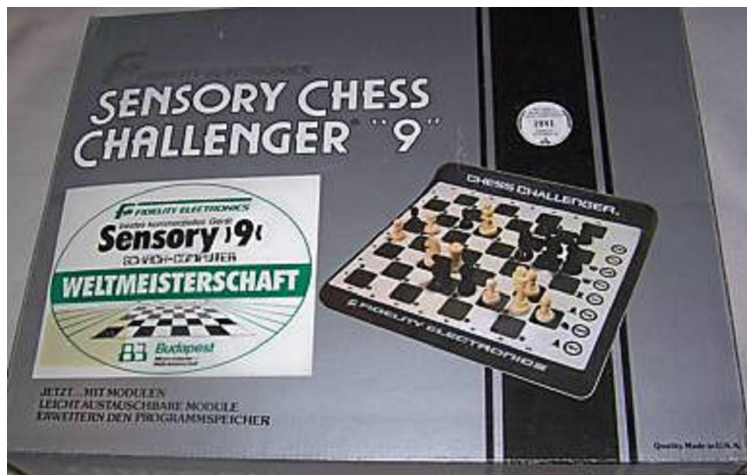
If it starts with '32' you can be fairly sure it's a 'B'. With my 'B', even the box is slightly different from the 'A'. On the black stripe down the right hand side of the 'A' there is the text "Officially rated 1771 by the US Chess Federation" or similar. This text is missing on the 'B' box, at least on mine. And there is a glossier finish to the box overall. I thought about this and came to the following conclusion.

Towards the end of the production run they were running out of components unevenly, ie, they still had plenty of cases, playing surfaces, styrofoam shapes, owners' manuals, to get rid of, but had run out of circuit boards and boxes. No problem, just get a short run of boxes made up, and, as for the circuit board problem, put in the later model "Plymate" circuit boards, which would fit, and nobody would notice or even care. This saves advertising a 'new' model and cleans up the factory floor nicely. Just my thoughts.... 😊 But you will find the 'B' harder to beat than the 'A', I think it's rated perhaps 60 elo points stronger. Sadly, the comp in question comes with no box.

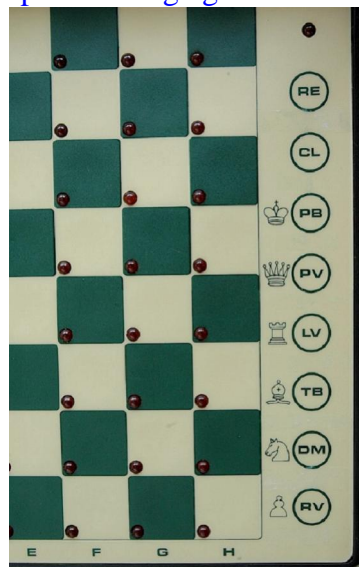
all the best
Larry

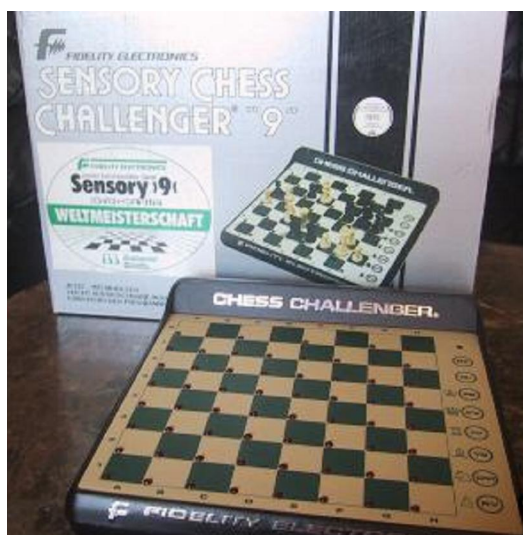
Internet

<http://users.boardnation.com/~chesscomputers/index.php?board=1;action=display;threadid=1396>
[International message board.]



Tussen een Sensory Chess Challenger 9 A- of B-versie is optisch aan de schaakcomputer geen enkel verschil waar te nemen. Ook de verpakking was vaak identiek, maar bij een kleine oplage van de B-versie was een sticker op de doos aangebracht waarbij men dus wel duidelijk kon zien dat het hier om de Boedapest versie ging.





Die "B-Version" des CC Sensory 9 ist wesentlich seltener zu finden als die herkömmliche Variante. Fidelity hat hier Verbesserungen im Schachprogramm vorgenommen und die Taktgeschwindigkeit angehoben. Bei Stellungstest schneidet die B-Version besser ab.

Programmierer / Programmer

- Dan & Kathe Spracklen

Baujahr / Release

- Erste Einführung: Oktober 1983 (USA) und Februar 1984 in Deutschland

Technische Daten / Technical specification

- Mikroprozessor: 6502
- Taktfrequenz: 2 MHz
- Programmspeicher: 16 KB ROM (Fidelity brochure: 128K bits of ROM)
- Arbeitsspeicher: 2 KB RAM (Fidelity brochure: 16K bits of RAM)

Spielstärke / Playing strenght

- Spielstärke (Elo/DWZ): ca. 1550

Verwandt / Family

- Fidelity Chess Challenger 9 (A) 1,6 MHz (Erste Einführung: Juli 1982)
- Fidelity Playmatic S (Erste Einführung: Mai (?) 1983)
- Fidelity Chess Challenger 9 (A) 2,0 MHz (Erste Einführung: Juli (?) 1983)
- Fidelity Sensory Chess Challenger Super 9 (Erste Einführung: Oktober 1983)

Internet

http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/12-1983,%20Rochade,%20H.-P.%20Ketterling,%20Die%20Challenger-Brothers%20und%20ihre%20Konkurrenten.pdf

[Meer info over onder andere de Chess Challenger 9.]