

Rebuilding the Smaller Machine



The first step in any research that is concerned with the technologies of early computers has to investigate the surviving design documentation.

As for HMR, this process brought to light two different versions of the MR. The first one dates back to July 1956 and it remained at design stage. The other one was fully operational one year later.



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For both MRs the HMR project has implemented a simulator.

A replica of the first hw component (a 6 bits adder tested in early 1956) has been rebuilt in cooperation with the Computer Museum of Novara and the Pisa Labs of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics.

Teaching Computer Science at the Museum





- In order to let people understand the early technologies and live the feelings of the computer pioneers, a musem has to exhibit working machines that can be experienced by modern users.
- Both the hardware replica and the MR simulators are now used at the Museum of Computing Instruments in Pisa to offer students, as well as all-age visitors, a travel into the mid-Fifties computer science.
- 1. The 6 bits adder. A practical exercise in binary arithmetics.
- 2. The MR57 simulator. A working session for college students.







