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Roma 68020 ^[1]

Mephisto Roma,

a set of [dedicated chess computer modules](#) by [Hegener & Glaser](#) released in 1987 for their [Mephisto module systems](#), like its predecessor [Mephisto Dallas](#) as [68000](#) and [68020](#) versions @ 12 and 14 MHz with 16 and 64 KiB of [RAM](#) respectively. Thus, the program was the further development of [Richard Lang's](#) Mephisto series, winning the third consecutive title at the [WMCCC 1987](#) in [Rome](#) ([Roma](#) in Italian), again the site eponym of the computer modules. The [Manufacturers Championship](#) was a duel between [Hegener & Glaser](#) and [Newcrest Technology](#), where three Mephisto Roma on 68020 @ 25 or 28 MHz ^[1] outclassed three [CXG Sphinx](#) with a [Intelligent Software](#) program by [David Levy](#) and [Mark Taylor](#), running on a 68020 as well, with a stunning 9:0 result - while the games were more closely than the results suggested ^[2]. The cheaper Roma II [68000](#) module was released two years later.

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Features

[Kaare Danielsen](#) praised [Lang's](#) programs in general in his [ICCA Journal](#) report of the [Rome WMCCC](#), where [Psion](#), still Lang's development base for his Mephisto programs, also won the Software group ^[4]: Clearly, Richard Lang has produced the strongest microcomputer program in the world. It searches 4-5 [plies brute force](#) plus up to 6-7 plies [selective search](#). The program contains a lot of [chess knowledge](#), which is used both in the [tree](#) and to create [piece-value-tables](#). The chess knowledge was obtained from chess masters, who analyzed games played by the program. The program has an [asymmetric evaluation](#) function, which emphasis safety (has rules like 'do not start a wild attack, but worry a lot if the opponent does so'). The program searches about 4000 [nodes per second](#) on a 28 MHz [68020](#), but this includes a thorough analysis at every node, including a [swap-off evaluation](#) (static analysis of captures instead of a [capture search](#)).

Improvements

Monsieur Plastique recalled the original [Mephisto Dallas](#) to Roma evolution was considered to be an extremely small one ^[5]. Improvements of [middlegame](#) and [endgame](#) and Blitzchess mentioned in the introduction of the Roma manual ^[6] look like a plain translation from the German Dallas manual ^[7].

UCI Engine

Courtesy of [Ed Schröder](#) and [Richard Lang](#), Mephisto Roma is available as [emulated UCI engine](#) ^[8] ^[9].

See also

- [Demonology](#)
- [Mephisto Almeria](#)
- [Mephisto Dallas](#)
- [Psion](#)

Manuals

- *Mephisto Roma 68000, Roma 68020 - User's Manual*. [pdf](#) hosted by [Alain Zanchetta](#)
- *Mephisto Moldul Roma II - Bedienungsanleitung*. (German) [pdf](#) hosted by [Alain Zanchetta](#)

Publications

- [Kaare Danielsen](#) (1987). *The 7th World Microcomputer Chess Championship, Rome, Italy, September 14-20, 1987*. [ICCA Journal, Vol. 10, No. 3](#)
- [Göran Grotting](#) (1987). *Mr. Lang, wo bleibt die Tiefe? Ein Interview mit Richard Lang*. [Modul](#) 4/87, [pdf](#) hosted by [Hein Veldhuis](#) (German, translation from Swedish [PLY magazine](#))

Forum Posts

- [Mephisto Roma 68020 elo](#) by chesspcmac, [Hiarcs Forum](#), July 06, 2012
- [Mephisto Roma 68000](#) by dedicate computers, [Hiarcs Forum](#), June 19, 2014
- [Roma 32 32 Bit vs Dallas 32 Bit](#) by Ricardo Rodulfo, [Hiarcs Forum](#), August 31, 2015 » [Mephisto Dallas](#)

External Links

- [Mephisto's ICGA Tournaments](#) (including Roma)
- [Module Roma II](#) from [The Spacious Mind](#)
- [Mephisto Roma 68000](#) from [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#) (German)
- [Mephisto Roma 68020](#) from [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#) (German)
- [Mephisto Roma II](#) from [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#) (German)
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- [Mephisto Roma 32](#) from [Museo Español de Computadoras de Ajedrez](#) (Spanish)
- [Back to the 80's with UCI](#) by [Ed Schröder](#)

References

1. [^](#) [Mephisto Turniermaschine Roma 68020 25Mhz | elpeon.com](#) (German)
2. [^](#) [Kaare Danielsen](#) (1987). *The 7th World Microcomputer Chess Championship, Rome, Italy*,

- September 14-20, 1987. [ICCA Journal, Vol. 10, No. 3](#)
3. [^ Roma 68020 modules and manual](#) from [Mephisto I Photo collection](#) by [Chewbanta](#)
 4. [^ Kaare Danielsen \(1987\). The 7th World Microcomputer Chess Championship, Rome, Italy, September 14-20, 1987. ICCA Journal, Vol. 10, No. 3](#)
 5. [^ Re. Roma 32 32 Bit vs Dallas 32 Bit](#) by Monsieur Plastique, [Hiarcs Forum](#), August 31, 2015
 6. [^ Mephisto Roma 68000, Roma 68020 - User's Manual. pdf](#) hosted by [Alain Zanchetta](#)
 7. [^ Mephisto Dallas - Bedienungsanleitung. \(German\) pdf](#) hosted by [Alain Zanchetta](#)
 8. [^ Back to the 80's with UCI](#) by [Ed Schröder](#)
 9. [^ Back to the 80's](#) by [Ed Schröder](#), [Hiarcs Forum](#), December 13, 2007

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