

# Hewlett-Packard Queensferry Quiz Answers

The stories behind the stories of HP's innovations in Silicon Glen

A lighthearted journey through the facts and trivia from HP's history in Queensferry

**Q1:** What was the product number and Queensferry revenue of the largest grossing product manufactured in Queensferry, and the largest grossing product in HP/Agilent's history?

**Answer:** R&D codename, Momentum. Original product number, 8960. Marketing added Series 10 and Wireless Communication Test Set. Notwithstanding all this fluff, customers ordered product number E5515C. Vol.1 p436, Vol.3 p229. Whilst difficult to assess with multiple site shipments the Queensferry revenue is estimated between \$1.5B and \$2B.

**Q2:** What was the first product to bear the 37xx number?

**Answer:** Vol.3 p14. The 3734A / 3735A Frequency Counter, designed in Bedford.

**Q3:** What was the first microprocessor-controlled communication test equipment from HP? When was it developed and when did it hit the field service test-equipment folks?

**Answer:** Vol.2 p69 & p293. The Intel 8008 CPU (central processor unit) was in the 3745A/B SLMS. Developed in 1972 and in field service by 1975.

**Q4:** Reading Vol.2 p113 and Vol.3 xiii you find the 4934A Special Options J01 & J02 the CCITT version for countries outside North America. This was an "under the bench" development so was allocated a Special number, not a product number. Standard options were called 001, Specials were normally H01, so why was the 4934A called J01 & J02?

**Answer:** To avoid corporate involvement in this project, Manufacturing Engineer James Gentles, went to the Specials Department to get Special option numbers rather than a product number. Manager Pete Feechan said H01,2 etc. were all allocated already. "What about other letters I, J?" asked James. Pete shrugged his shoulders, there were no rules, just convention. "So it's J for James" Pete replied "why not!". No-one questioned the only time a new instrument was called Option J##. Once allocated, it stuck, and seemed to sell well!

**Q5:** What was the highest unit volume generating product, highest revenue generating product and longest lived in production product wholly designed in Queensferry?

**Answer:** Vol.2 p263ff. 37204A/B HP-IB Bus Extender, 26500 units.  
37718A PDH/SDH/ATM Tester up to 2.4G (Firefly), \$380M.  
3750A Push Button 75ohm Attenuator, 1970-1990, 20 years.

**Q6:** Who is the employee hired at Queensferry or Bedford with the longest service?  
Measured using the *Benefit Service Start Date* on the HP/Agilent/Keysight HR system.

**Answer:** Well, it is not that simple. The length of service is in the details. A lot more employees than you may think had career breaks to have a family, business breaks as FSEs (Foreign Service Employees), or periods back in education. Personnel policies about how these were treated varied over time, so everyone is different.

Each person had a *Hire date*, but they also had a *Benefit Service Start date*. The default for this was the *Hire date*, but the *Benefit Service Start date* could be backdated to credit an

employee with all or part of their previous employment or post-dated to part compensate for an absence for secondment, maternity, FSE etc.

So the *Leaving date* minus the *Benefit Service Start date* is the **length of service**.

These are personnel records and the rationale for these adjustments are rightly private.

Our initial thoughts are that the 1966 founding employees are the longest serving, but many moved from other jobs so were of retiring age and enticed by the first redundancies in 2001, that is around 35 years. Later starts in the 1980s would find it arithmetically difficult to get over 35 years. In the 1970s, there was a policy of hiring from school and supporting employees to gain qualifications, through part-time study whilst still working and on the payroll. Amongst these cohorts are the few who had the longest careers.

Rather than declare a winner we celebrate the three employees with 40+ years of service.



**Jim Barron, Aug 1980 - May 2021.**

**40.79 years**  
(retired May 2021)

Jim was part of a group of four Trainee Technicians hired in 1980, who were sponsored through a full-time HND at Napier College, while still an employee. On completion Jim moved into Engineering Services, then Production Engineering where he was further supported through day release at Glasgow Technical College, attaining his Bachelor Degree in 1988. Following this he spent most of his career in QTD R&D designing hardware, software, firmware and FPGAs.



**Bill McKinley. 1977 - 1979 & 1983 - .**

**41.83 years**  
(as of December 2021, and counting!)

Bill is still making a great contribution to Keysight, having survived both HP and Agilent in Queensferry. Bill started straight from school as a technician and then was sponsored through University. However his strongest memory of the 1970s was not the security

of employment but rather his access to the Beer Busts where he met his wife! His colleagues held a celebration for the 40<sup>th</sup> year early in 2020, which he said made him suddenly feel very old, and just, maybe, retire!



**Tim Masson, Mar 1978 - Mar 2022.**

**44.05 years**  
(retired March 2022)

Tim started his career in Queensferry, working for Peter Hockett in Marketing, before moving to Sales and Service in Winnersh in 1981.

Tim recently asked HR if he was the longest serving employee and was told he is not! It feels like there are some Winnersh (EMEA and/or FE) employees that are still working into their 60s, but they were not hired in Queensferry or Bedford – back to the original question.



Congratulations Tim, unless we hear otherwise you are the longest serving employee – who started in Queensferry and remained with HP, Agilent, or Keysight their whole career. However, watch your back, Bill will take your crown if he is still working in March 2024!

**Q7:** As an HP employee you were allocated an employee number, but some had two. Name the employee with two numbers, mentioned in the books?

**Answer:** Vol.3 ix. Magnus Hunter, ID 315 in Bedford became ID 66315 when corporate rationalised employee numbers across the world. Note: You can't assume all 66xxx numbers were originally xxx. When the 66 was added, any 3-digit numbers unallocated were re-used by new employees. So Bob Thomson 66288, was not 288. This number was allocated in September 1968, the original 288 probably didn't transfer from Bedford. So Bob Thomson, who joined 3 years after Magnus Hunter, has a lower number.

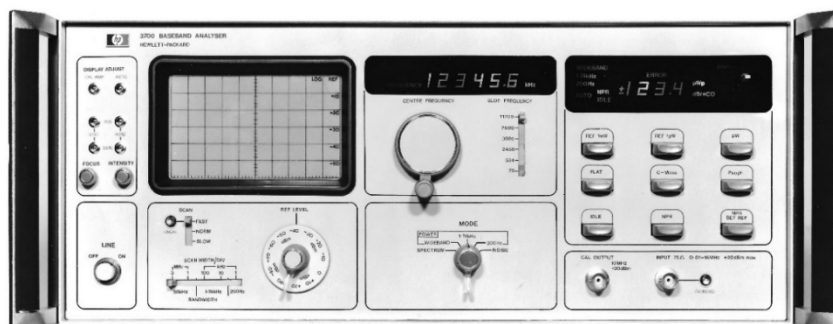
**Q8:** The Volume 3 editors avoided duplicating photographs, but one image deliberately appears on 2 separate pages. What are the page numbers?

**Answer:** Vol.3 p73 the Photographic Studio team also appears on page 316, where it counterpoises a copy-cat image taken of the Editorial Team by Barrie Spence.

**Q9:** Just like working on the development of a HP product, we allocated part-numbers for this 3-volume project. So, 6 new part-numbers were allocated to the 3 volumes. What is the number of the new product? What are the part numbers and where did you find them?

**Answer:** The fictitious product is HP3700, the Corporate allocated number. The 6 numbers we signed out were all in the 90000 series 'product manuals and documentation'. The actual books are 37000-90001/2/3, and the dust jackets are 37000-90011/12/13. We drew the line at allocating numbers for the Errata sheets and this Quiz.

John Struthers did design a mock-up 3700 Baseband Analyser (BBA) in 1975-6. Unlike the history books it didn't get past the concept stage. The production BBA was given product numbers HP3724, 25 and 26.



**Q10:** Some documents reproduced in the books were edited to hide sensitive detail and protect people's privacy. rather than unsightly redaction. Can you find any documents that have been modified?

**Answer:** There are 5 "altered" images, rather than redactions.

Vol.3 p48, Lew Platt was not the signature of Social Club Pass #57. Magnus Hunter kindly gave us permission to use his pass, but not his signature!

Vol.3 p240. The 10 share certificate, has 2 changes. Ivan's home address has been replaced with the factory address, and the share number has been changed.

Vol.3 p272, here cutting the corners off by bleeding was used.

Financial information on the Redundancy Notice is cut off at the bottom of the page.

Vol.3 p177. The tax disc shown is fabricated. But Hugh Walker does own a roadworthy Hillman Minx, manufactured, and first registered in 1966, the year the factory opened.

On the rear covers are shown the editors Business Cards, the objective was to show a selection of designs across time. They are all correct except Bob Thomson who has a rare 1970s style card, based on one found by Finlay Mackenzie. Bob wasn't Project Manager till the 1980s, even then it's unlikely a Project Manager would have had cards in the 1970s.

**Q11:** Some page numbers turned out to be uncannily sympathetic with the page contents. Looking at Volume 3, what is the sympathy with v and 63?

**Answer:** Vol.3 v, roman numeral 5, with High Five promotional whisky miniature. Vol.3 p63, the only page referencing the HP corporate QTD product line, PL63.

**Q12:** How many maps of Scotland can be found?

**Answer:** 12, although half of them you'll need a microscope to see. Every hybrid made in the Technology Centre had a tiny image of Scotland etched inside on the substrate.

The 6 hybrids can be seen, with difficulty, as follows:

Vol.1 p48, 86 & 221. Vol.2 p24 & 78. Vol.3 p105

Vol.1 p110 and Vol.3 p315. The front of READOUT in the 1970s had a UK map.

A map of the world was prominent on the HP stand at Telecom '79. Vol.1 p179.

How to get to the Queensferry site "hand-out" from the 1980s. Vol.3 xiv.

1980s Graduate Recruitment Brochure (2 maps). Vol.3 p xv.

**Q13:** How many times in the 3 Volumes is the HP logo explicitly used?

**Answer:** None. We are not endorsed by, represent or are authorised by the company. The logos that are included appear incidentally as part of an image of another object.

**Q14:** Connecting the three volumes, there is a homage to author Roger Hargreaves' "Mr Men and Little Miss" books. Where is it, and how was it covered?



**Answer:** A full collection of books by Roger Hargreaves, spell out Mr Men and Little Miss on the spines when stored in order on a bookshelf. With the HP History books, assemble your own MLA by placing the books face up in the order shown then look at the complete MLA on the spine, including RF Sweeper.

**Q15:** There were hundreds of employee pranks over the years, many are unprintable. What is the significance of the lonely carry-on suit-carrier on Vol.3 p191?

**Answer:** Ian Strathearn's April Fool luggage prank is remembered by Roddy Evans on V3 p190. Ian, working in accounts, made full use of the end of the tax year, being only 5 days after all fools day, to catch people off-guard.

**Q16:** What sports club played a team game and unusually dispensed with the goalkeepers?

**Answer:** Vol.3 p51. The light-hearted rules from the Wednesday Football Club.

**Q17:** This is one for owners of the full set of 3 volumes. In Vol.3 p299, By looking at the 3 volumes side by side, what attribute do you think Hugh selected for Volumes 1 and 2?

**Answer:** You will notice that the paper for Volume 1 & 2 is thinner and whiter than Volume 3. This was to help reduce the weight whilst maintaining opacity and reducing print-through. The requirement for the colour printing of Volume 3 was different, hence a different paper finish and thickness.

**Q18:** Three fonts are used in the books, what page are they identified on?  
Which font replaces an HP proprietary font?  
Which font was used by Hewlett-Packard?  
Which font was not used by HP and so is the odd one out?



**HEWLETT  
PACKARD  
HEWLETT  
PACKARD**

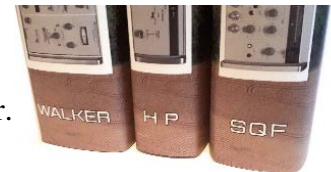
**Answer:** In all three volumes page ii lists the fonts as:  
Probert (Headings) replaces the proprietary font used in the 1980s and 1990s (see above).  
The books use the appropriately named alternative PROBER2, Vol.2 p187  
Times New Roman used for prose and in italics for the original 1940s to 1970s HP logos.  
Calibri (Captions) Was selected to complement the others, so is the odd-one-out.

**Q19:** The 1980s Recruitment brochure promoting engineering careers in Queensferry used on its cover an effect that looks like window panes, Vol.3 xv. What is the significance of placing this graphic immediately before the main sections in Volume 3?

**Answer:** The Recruitment brochure explicitly shows the Corporate 5x7 grid style which (normally in a more subtle form) was part of the 1980s corporate standards and used extensively. The rest of Volume 3 will use this grid structure for the next 300 pages, but in a more subtle way.

**Q20:** The author strap line at the bottom of the three spines says WALKER, HP and SQF respectively. What is HP an abbreviation for?

**Answer:** It is not a reference to Hewlett-Packard, it is the author, Hugh Pearson Walker's initials, named after his paternal grandmother.



**Q21:** The editors have built in an anti-theft mechanism into each Volume 1, 2 or 3. What page can it be seen on?

**Answer:** Each volume plays on your mind with a "do not remove" sticker on page iii.  
Volume 1: HP Library Stamp a small reminder to sign the book out.  
Volume 2: Barcode stamp from the 1990s. A more modern way to keep track...  
Volume 3: You should remember it well, the Reference Books all said DO NOT REMOVE

**Q22:** What and why is one of the editors' business cards on the back cover of Volume 3 inconsistent with the HP Style Guide?

**Answer:** The "Hewlett-Packard" has no hyphen in Bob Thomson's card.  
The style guide has always been very prescriptive that a dot or hyphen be used.  
Bob Thomson's card, as discussed earlier is based on a vintage card provided by Finlay Mackenzie. One can only suspect that in the 1970s the corporate style gurus were a little less picky! We did say at the start that there was some "Trivia"!

Thanks for entering into the spirit of our HPSQF Quiz, every bit of fun helps these days!  
There are no prizes, just bragging rights. We just hope you enjoyed a short trip down memory lane trying to remember a little of the last 50 years, and its twists and turns.  
We wish you and your family season's greetings and best wishes for 2022.