If you have been following me on social media, you know that lately I've let my ADHD lead me into a new hobby/obsession -- typewriters! My wonderful girlfriend got me an absolutely beautiful Royal Portable typewriter.

Turns out that's all it took to get me real excited about vintage word processing. I've always had a thing for old computer gear, turns out that soft spot also has room for pre-electronics word processing gear as well. I spent about an hour playing around with the typewriter the day I got it, and even more after I had put in a bit of elbow grease to clean it up.

Since then I've bought two more typewriters, both electric. I have my eye on a few more non-electric ones, as well as the IBM Selectric; if I have the chance to use the same kind of typewriter Isaac Asimov used of course I'm going to take it. I've also branched out a bit into other vintage computer gear, specifically old dumb terminals. I'm not being mean there, by the way. "Dumb" terminals were basically computers without a brain. They'd be hooked up to a mainframe where all the processing happened, the terminal was basically a monitor and a keyboard so users could interact with the mainframe.

Although now that I think about it calling them "dumb" terminals does seem a bit ableist, so I think maybe a better name is needed.

Anyways!

All of that was a really long lead-in to this: I wrote this post on the Brother EP-20!

This is something I think I'm going to do more of in the future. Partially because writing a post today on technology that came out before I was born is really cool. Yes, I have a case of terminal nerd-itus. But it's also an ADHD thing -- writing like this is about distraction free as I can get. No browser with an endless internet, no Emacs where I can get distracted by trying to modify things that don't really matter, nothing but me and the words in my head being put to paper.

There are still a few things to figure out before I can make the EP-20 my main writing machine. The first is building a little lap tray/paper holder. See, the EP-20 comes with two cartridges that it can use to print onto paper. Only problem is that they are unique to the EP-20 (and the EP-22, I think). Unique plus old means getting new ones is expensive; especially as they are no longer manufactured. However, the EP-20 has a neat trick up it's sleeve: it can print on thermal paper!

I bought a roll of fax thermal paper(and at about $8 a roll, for 164 feet) which is what I'm writing on right now. The roll is a bit unweildly, so I want to make a little holder for it so that I don't have to manually unroll the paper as I type.

The other thing I want to figure out is how to turn this (the physical copy of this post I'm writing) into THIS (text on a web page). I'm not re-typing this whole thing out just so I can put it online. One suggestion I've seen is to use the Rocketbook app to scan pages in using a printed template. I've used Rocketbook in the past, I actually backed their Kickstarter for their whiteboard sticker dealies. The app works pretty well, and the paper

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What's nice about the Rocketbook solution is that it will work equally well whether I write on the EP-20, the Royal Portable, or any other machine I get in the future. So that's handy.

Anyhoo, that's about all I wanted to say I think.

Actually, one last thing I wanted to mention is this: this is a lot more stream-of-conciousness than I'm used to. It does feel a bit weird, but also kind of freeing. It's a god feeling. Let's see if it means that I write more in 2022!