

AUGUST 1988

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\$3.25

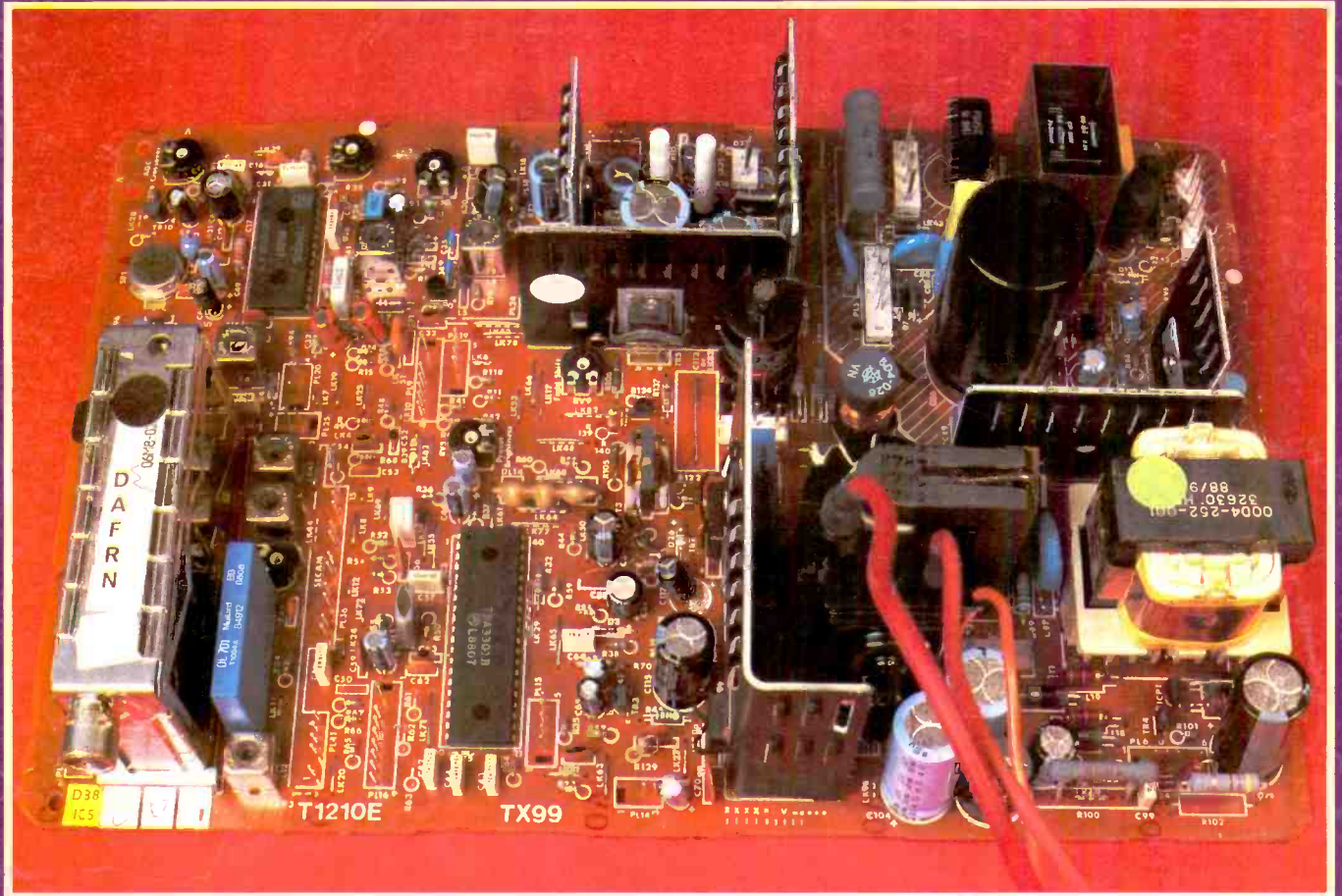
\$4.40 (inc. GST), Malaysia \$6.10
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£1.40

GE R.R.P.

TELEVISION

SERVICING·PROJECTS·VIDEO·DEVELOPMENTS



Ferguson's New TX99 Chassis
A Tifax-VM6101 Conversion
Video Tape Characteristics
VCR Back Tension • DX-TV
Picture-in-picture Displays
VCR Clinic • TV Fault Finding

MANOR SUPPLIES

**MKV PAL COLOUR TEST GENERATOR
FOR DOMESTIC TV & VCR.**

TEST
DEMONSTRATIONS
AT 172
WEST END LANE



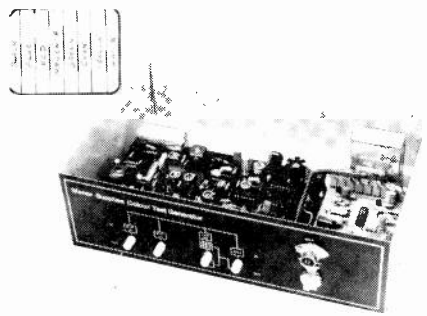
- ★ 40 different patterns and variations.
- ★ Fully interlaced sync pulses with correct picture blanking.
- ★ EBU colour bars, BBC colour bars, whole rasters & split bars (specially useful for VCR service), white, yellow, cyan, green, magenta, red, blue and black.
- ★ Chequerboard.
- ★ Mono outputs with border castellations, cross hatch, grey scale, vertical lines, horizontal lines and dots.
- ★ UHF modulator output plugs straight into receiver aerial socket.
- ★ Additional video output for CCTV & VCR.
- ★ Facilities for sound output.
- ★ Easy to build kit, standard parts. Only 2 adjustments. No special test equipment required.
- ★ Mains operated with stabilised power supply.
- ★ All kits fully guaranteed with back-up service.
- ★ Also available with VHF Modulator.

Price of Kit **£70.00**
 Case (10"×6"×2¼") app. **£8.60**
 Optional Sound Module (6MHz or 5.5MHz) **£3.90**
 Built & Tested in Case including Sound Module **£108.00**

SPECIAL TEST
REPORT
'TELEVISION'
DEC. 1982

Post/Packing £2.80
 Add VAT 15% TO ALL PRICES

PAL COLOUR BAR GENERATOR (Mk4)



- ★ Output at UHF, applied to receiver aerial socket.
- ★ In addition to colour bars R-Y, B-Y etc.
- ★ Cross-hatch, grey scale, peak white and black level.
- ★ Push button controls, battery or mains operated.
- ★ Simple design, only five i.c.s on colour bar P.C.B.
- ★ Backup service available.

**PRICE OF MK 4 COLOUR BAR GENERATOR KIT
£30.00. CASE £8.60. BATT HOLDERS £4.20. MAINS
SUPPLY KIT £4.20 (Combined P&P £2.80).**

MK 4 (BATTERY) BUILT & TESTED £58.00 + £2.80 P & P.
 MK 4 (MAINS) BUILT & TESTED £68.00 + £2.80 P & P.
 VHF MODULATOR (CH 1 to 4) FOR OVERSEAS £5.75.
 EASILY ADAPTED FOR VIDEO OUTPUT & C.C.T.V.

ADD
VAT
15%

TELETEXT DECODER PANELS (TESTED)
 Mullard VM6101 £30.00, Philips KT3, K30 £30.00, p.p. £2.30

PHILIPS G11 PRESTEL TELETEXT UNIT includes Mullard VM6230 Teletext Decoder, 6330 panel, plus Line Coupler and Interface **£30.00**, p.p. £2.80

TV SERVICE SPARES

BACKED BY TWENTY YEARS EXPERIENCE & STAFF OF
TECHNICAL EXPERTS

- LOPTS, TRIPLERS, PANELS, TUNERS, SELECTORS ETC.
- PHILIPS KT3, K30 PANELS**, tested, exchange, sound power, frame, RGB £7.50 each. Decoder (Non-text) **£10.00** p.p. £1.50.
- THORN TX9 PANELS** Complete & tested **£28.00** Exchange. (Shop only).
- THORN 8000 TO 8500** Panels tested exchange. Power **£7.80**, 8800, 9800 power **£8.80** p.p. £1.50. Frame **£10.00** p.p. £2.30.
- THORN TX9, TX10** Facia Control Panel Incl Infra Red Remote Receiver **£8.50** p.p. £2.00.
- BUSH T2022** Touch Tune Facia Unit **£7.50** p.p. £2.00.
- THORN 8800, 9800** Touch Tune Facia Unit **£3.50** p.p. £1.50.
- PHILIPS G11 PANELS** (tested).
 Frame, IF, decoder **£12.50** each p.p. £2.00. Scan **£20.00** p.p. £2.80.
PHILIPS G11 PANELS ex rental (untested).
 Scan Frame, Decoder **£5.00** p.p. £2.00.
- PHILIPS G11 IF PANEL** (New) Less Tuner **£2.50** p.p. £1.30
- PHILIPS HANDSETS** (New Replacements) p.p. £1.50.
- G11** Ultrasonic Non-text **£19.50**, Infra red Text **£19.50**. Others available.
 KT3 Non text (RC401) **£22.50**, KT3, K30 etc. Text **£22.50**.
- PHILIPS HANDSETS** Ex rental, text, Untested, KT Text/Video Type, **£3.50** p.p. £1.00.
- PHILIPS COLOUR MANUALS** p.p. 80p.
- G11, K30, K35, 2A** **£3.50**, **KT3** **£4.50**, **CTX-E, CTX-S, CF1** **£1.50** each.
- THORN REMOTE CONTROL HANDSETS**
TX9, TX10 Infra red (Non-Text) **£18.00**; **TX9, TX10** Infra red Teletext **£19.50**, p.p. £1.20. Large selection others available: Sony, Grundig, etc.
- TX9** Ultrasonic remote handset transducer **£2.00**, switches 3 for **£1.50** p.p. 50p.
- TX** Remote panel 1564 (incl. SAA5012) **£5.00** p.p. £1.80.
- THORN TX9, TX10** Saw Filter IF Panel. **£5.00** p.p. 80p.
- TX9, TX10** Remote & tuning control panel (1515) **£10.50** p.p. £1.80.
- PAL DECODER KIT** (Video to RGB) for Monitors **£27.00** p.p. £1.00.
- PAL ENCODER KIT** (RGB to Video) **£18.50** p.p. £1.30.
- CROSS HATCH UNIT KIT**, Aerial Input type, incl. T.V. sync, and UHF Modulator, Battery Operated, also gives Peak White & Black Levels, can be used for any set, **£13.50** p.p. 80p. (Alum. Case **£2.90** p.p. £1.40.) **ADDITIONAL GREY SCALE Kit** **£2.90** p.p. 45p.
- UHF SIGNAL STRENGTH METER KIT** **£22.00** Alum. Case **£2.90**. De Luxe Case **£8.60** (Built & Tested **£48.00**) p.p. £2.30.
- CRT TESTER & REACTIVATOR KIT** For Colour & Mono complete with Case, Panel Meter Indicator - can be adapted for latest CRTs **£29.50** p.p. £2.80.
- BUSH A823**, Time Base Panels **£5.00** each p.p. £1.80.
- GEC 20AX** Line Time Base **£18.00** p.p. £2.00.
- ITT CVC30 SERIES**, Convergence & Purify Panels, **£2.50** p.p. £1.50.
- ITT CVC30 SERIES PANELS SURPLUS** (untested) **£2.50** each. CMP31, CME31, CMA30, CM532, p.p. 80p; CMD33, p.p. £1.80.
- ITT CVC20, 30** Series chassis for spares (shop only) **£2.50**.
- THORN TX9** Panels ex factory for small spares. Includes I.C.s & Semiconductors etc. **£3.00** p.p. £2.00.
- THORN TX9** Panels salvaged ex factory for spares incl. Electrolytic & Mains Transformers. **£8.50** p.p. £3.00.
- THORN 8000/8500** IF/Decoder Panels salvaged **£3.20** p.p. £1.80.
- THORN 9000 SERIES** IF Decoder **£10.00** p.p. £2.30.
- THORN 9000** IF/Decoder Panels Salvaged. For spares **£2.50** p.p. £1.80.
- PHILIPS G8/G9** IF/Decoder Panels for small spares incl I.C.s **£2.50** p.p. £1.60.
- GRUNDIG 8630** Series Varicap Tuners **£5.00** p.p. £1.00.
- VARICAP TUNERS** U321, U322/204, ELC1043 (equiv.) **£7.80** p.p. £1.00.
- VHF Philips, NSI** **£6.80** p.p. £1.00.
- VARICAP UHF-VHF ELC 2000S** **£9.80** p.p. £1.00.
- UHF/625 TUNERS**, many different types in stock. DECCA Bradford 5 position, MULLARD 4 position **£2.50**, JAP Rotary **£4.80** p.p. £1.80.
- LOPTS New and guar. P/P **£1.50**, Bobbins 80p.

OTHERS AVAILABLE, PRICES ON REQUEST.
 TRIPLERS Full range available. Mono & Colour.
SPECIAL OFFER TRIPLERS

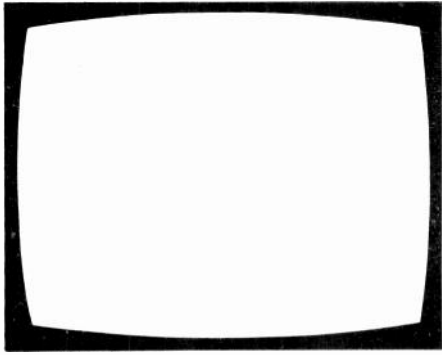
- THORN 3000/3500** **£2.50**, **PHILIPS G8** (short focus lead) **£2.50** p.p. £1.20.
THORN 1500 5 Stück **£1.50**, 1500 3 Stück **£1.50** p.p. 80p.
 6-3V CRT Boost Transformers for Colour & Mono **£5.90** p.p. £1.40.
THORN TX10 focus control **£10.00** p.p. £1.00.
PHILIPS G8 6 position selector units (sloping buttons) **£2.50** p.p. £1.00.
455 CRYSTALS for Remote Control Handsets, 4 for **£1.00** p.p. 50p.
VHF to UHF Converters **£26.50** p.p. £2.50.

CALLERS WELCOME AT SHOP PREMISES
 THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS, ENQUIRIES INVITED
 LARGE SELECTION TESTED COLOUR PANELS POPULAR MODELS
 Goods available if in stock immediately over shop counter (Mail order between 3 days and 1 week from receipt of order). ADD VAT 15%

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MANOR SUPPLIES

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TELEVISION

August
1988

Vol. 38, No. 10
Issue 454

On sale July 20th

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

An annual subscription costs £18 in the UK, £21 overseas (by surface mail). Send orders with payment to Quadrant Subscription Services Ltd., Oakfield House, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH16 3DH.

BACK NUMBERS

Some copies of issues published during the last six months are available from the Editorial Office at £1.50 inclusive of postage and packing. Address requests to Television, Editorial Office, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

INDEXES

Indexes to Vols. 35 and 36 are available at 80p each from the Editorial Office (address above).

QUERIES

We regret that we cannot answer technical queries over the telephone nor supply service sheets. We will endeavour to assist readers who have queries relating to articles published in *Television*, but we cannot offer advice on modifications to our published designs nor comment on alternative ways of using them. Correspondents should enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Requests for advice on dealing with servicing problems should be directed to our Queries Service. For details see our regular feature "Service Bureau". Send to the address given above (see "correspondence").

this month

- 733 Leader**
- 734 Long-distance Television** *Roger Bunney*
Reports on DX conditions and reception and news from abroad. Plus a historical note on airborne TV transmissions.
- 739 Video Tape Types and Characteristics** *George Cole*
A wide variety of types of domestic video tape is on the market, though most people use standard-grade ferric oxide tape. Developments such as hi-fi sound, 8mm video and S-VHS have called for improved types of tape. A summary of what's available and basic tape characteristics.
- 742 Teletopics**
News, comment and developments.
- 744 TV Fault Finding**
Reports from Dave Dulson, W. H. Clarke, Hugh MacMullen, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., Roger Burchett, Nick Beer, Jim Rainey and J. Oljnyk.
- 746 The Importance of VCR Back Tension** *Nick Beer*
Incorrect tape back tension can cause various troubles in VCRs. It's worth checking and adjusting this.
- 747 The Blaze** *Les Lawry-Johns*
Outside the shop, not inside! This and other matters arising ...
- 748 Letters**
- 751 Next Month in Television**
- 752 Satellite TV Filter Unit** *Roger Bunney*
This versatile unit provides bandwidth limiting plus amplification or straightforward amplification. The gain is adjustable.
- 753 Practical Computer Programming, Part 6** *Mike Phelan*
Design of the various sorts of display that might be required.
- 755 Servicing Notes on the Luxor SX9 Chassis** *J. R. Trimmer*
- 756 A Tifax/VM6101 Conversion** *John de Rivaz, B.Sc. (Eng.)*
Use of the Mullard VM6101 teletext decoder module in the Manor Supplies teletext adaptor. A simple TTL interfacing circuit is used.
- 758 VCR Clinic**
Reports from Eugene Trundle, Ian Bowden, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., Dave Dulson, Alfred Damp and Nick Beer.
- 762 Storing TV Pictures in Chips, Part 3** *Eugene Trundle*
This instalment describes the way in which picture-in-picture displays are produced.
- 764 The Ferguson TX99 Chassis** *J. LeJeune*
Circuit features of Ferguson's new CTV chassis for 90° scanning.
- 769 Service Bureau**
- 770 Test Case 308**

OUR NEXT ISSUE DATED SEPTEMBER WILL
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Flee Each	0.06	ULAGC001E	6.50
Power Supply Lead	0.95	ULAGC001E	6.50
Screen 9.5mm (Qty 4)	0.15	ULAGC001E	6.50
Spectrum Upgrade Kit	23.65	ULAGC001E	6.50
without resets	22.95	ULAGC001E	6.50

SPECTRUM PLUS SPARES			
Sys. Test Cartridge	4.93	Sys. Test Cartridge	4.93
74LS04	0.58	74LS04	0.58
ZXB401 = PCF 1306	4.50	ZXB401 = PCF 1306	4.50
Lower Case	3.00	Lower Case	3.00
Upper Case	9.17	Upper Case	9.17
Membrane (5 Layer)	4.50	Membrane (5 Layer)	4.50
Bubble Mat	1.50	Bubble Mat	1.50

GENERAL EQUIPMENT			
Degaussing Coil Stick	19.00	Degaussing Coil Stick	19.00
Electric Circuit Tester	1.50	Electric Circuit Tester	1.50
Probes (x10) or (x1)	10.90	Probes (x10) or (x1)	10.90
Philips Switchable Probes	13.25	Philips Switchable Probes	13.25
Automatic Wire Strippers	6.95	Automatic Wire Strippers	6.95
I.C. Inserters	1.18	I.C. Inserters	1.18
Micro Pliers	4.20	Micro Pliers	4.20
Micro Cutters	5.00	Micro Cutters	5.00
Trim Tools Metal Ended	6.60	Trim Tools Metal Ended	6.60
Side Cutters sm	1.20	Side Cutters sm	1.20
Long Nose Pliers	1.20	Long Nose Pliers	1.20
Sm Neon Screwdriver	1.20	Sm Neon Screwdriver	1.20
Sm 40 Lg. 65		Sm 40 Lg. 65	
Quick Set Adhesive (Superglue)	75	Quick Set Adhesive (Superglue)	75
Avo Meters Factory reop	119.00	Avo Meters Factory reop	119.00
Avo Battery	2.09	Avo Battery	2.09
Solder Sucker Antistat min	4.50	Solder Sucker Antistat min	4.50
Solder Sucker Antistat std.	5.40	Solder Sucker Antistat std.	5.40
Solder Sucker Antistat lge.	6.20	Solder Sucker Antistat lge.	6.20
Solder 500g	45	Solder 500g	45
D.I.Y. Solder Small Pack	81	D.I.Y. Solder Small Pack	81
Solder Sucker Nozzles	77	Solder Sucker Nozzles	77
Solda Mop Std.	77	Solda Mop Std.	77
For sold, irons see Antex/Weller Under		For sold, irons see Antex/Weller Under	
Specific Spares	20	Specific Spares	20
Choc Bloc 5A	05	Choc Bloc 5A	05
Fuse Wire 5A, 15A, 30A	05	Fuse Wire 5A, 15A, 30A	05
Fluorescent Starter (4-80W)	45	Fluorescent Starter (4-80W)	45
Battery Press Studs min.	11	Battery Press Studs min.	11
Battery Press Studs std.	15	Battery Press Studs std.	15
Verob Board	Lg 29	Verob Board	Lg 29
Double Sided Adhesive Tape	5.75	Double Sided Adhesive Tape	5.75
Turned Copper Wire		Turned Copper Wire	
18SWG 45 Amp	1.86	18SWG 45 Amp	1.86
14SWG 100 Amp	1.86	14SWG 100 Amp	1.86
17SWG 60 Amp	1.86	17SWG 60 Amp	1.86
19SWG 45 Amp	1.86	19SWG 45 Amp	1.86
20SWG	2.75	20SWG	2.75
22SWG	1.86	22SWG	1.86
Insulated Copper Wire	9.11	Insulated Copper Wire	9.11
Cable Ties AL11 per 100 (small)	84	Cable Ties AL11 per 100 (small)	84
Cable Ties AL12 per 100 (large)	1.69	Cable Ties AL12 per 100 (large)	1.69
Power Adaptor (12v)	5.95	Power Adaptor (12v)	5.95
Reg. 88 Power Adap.	5.50	Reg. 88 Power Adap.	5.50
Reg. 650 Power Adap.	2.50	Reg. 650 Power Adap.	2.50
Philips Screwdriver	Sm. 1.95 Lg. 2.35	Philips Screwdriver	Sm. 1.95 Lg. 2.35

COMPUTER ICs			
74LS260	55	74LS260	55
2732	3.30	2732	3.30
2764	3.20	2764	3.20
27128	4.95	27128	4.95
27256	5.90	27256	5.90
6264	2.75	6264	2.75
6522	4.00	6522	4.00
TMS1000	8.95	TMS1000	8.95
8271	60.00	8271	60.00

COMMODORE ICs			
6510 CPU	5.66	6510 CPU	5.66
6526 CIA Keyboard	2.72	6526 CIA Keyboard	2.72
Int.	5.11	Int.	5.11
6561	7.74	6561	7.74
6569 Col. Vid.	6.90	6569 Col. Vid.	6.90
Cont.	20.77	Cont.	20.77
65120B	Sound	65120B	Sound
Gen.	7.79	Gen.	7.79
901225	Char.	901225	Char.
ROM	3.37	ROM	3.37
901226	Basic	901226	Basic
ROM	6.45	ROM	6.45
901227	Kernel	901227	Kernel
ROM	3.52	ROM	3.52
906114 PLA	4.51	906114 PLA</	

VIDEO BELT KITS

★ PRICES DOWN ★

VKIT 1	AKAI	9300 9500/9800	2.40
	JVC	HR3300 3320 3360	
	TCE	8903/3V00/16/22	
VKIT 2	PANASONIC	NV7000/7200	1.45
VKIT 3	SONY	SLC57	2.25
VKIT 4	SONY	SL8000/8500/8600	3.60
VKIT 5	SONY	SL3000UB	2.10
VKIT 6	PANASONIC	NV3000B	1.99
VKIT 7	SONY	9300P	2.75
VKIT 8	PANASONIC	NV2000B	1.45
VKIT 9	PANASONIC	NV8600/8610/V01115	1.45
VKIT 10	TOSHIBA	V8600	1.45
VKIT 11	SHARP	VC7300	1.50
VKIT 13	SONY	VT5000	0.95
VKIT 14	SANYO	VT5300	1.85
VKIT 15	JVC	HR7650-3V31	2.00
VKIT 16	HITACHI	5000	1.90
VKIT 17	SHARP	9300	1.76
VKIT 18	SHARP	9300	1.47
VKIT 19	HITACHI	VT8000	1.05
VKIT 20	HITACHI	VT1133	1.50
VKIT 21	HITACHI	9500	1.12
VKIT 22	SONY	SLC6	1.90
VKIT 23	SANYO	5500	1.05
VKIT 24	PANASONIC	NV300/333	1.55
VKIT 25	TOSHIBA	V7540	1.90
VKIT 26	JVC	HR7000	0.96
VKIT 27	THORN	3V29/HR7200	1.75
VKIT 28	AMSTRAD	7000	1.45
VKIT 29	PANASONIC	NV777	1.80
VKIT 30	SONY	19	2.20
VKIT 31	TOSHIBA	9600	1.20

★ PRICES DOWN ★

VIDEO PINCH ROLLERS

PANASONIC	NV7000	3.75
SANYO	VC7300/VBS7000	3.75
JVC	TC7J/SL17	3.75
SONY	TCE3V00/01/06/16/23/24	3.75
JVC	HR2200 3320 3330	3.75
AKAI	3660 1100 7700	3.75
HITACHI	VS9700	3.75
SHARP	VC6300 6500	3.75
SONY	TC6 GEN	3.75

★ PRICES DOWN ★

VIDEO IDLER TYRES

	O. Dia	I. Dia	Width	
SONY	23.7	17.4	4.9	50p
SONY	24.2	18	5.1	50p
HITACHI	31.8	25	4.9	50p
PANASONIC	37	29	3.9	50p
AKAI	26	20	3.9	50p
JVC	39.3	32.8	3.9	56p
JVC	33	23.9	4	56p
NATPAN	31.2	25	3.1	56p

ANTEX

C15 Iron 240v	6.20
C240 Element	2.75
Bits 102 106 820 821	1.10
CS 17W Iron 240v	6.40
CS240 Element	2.75
Bits 1100, 1101, 1106	1.10
X525W Iron 240v	2.75
X240 Element	2.75
Bits 50 51	1.10
Temperature Control 30W Iron CSTC	16.95
40W Iron X5TC	16.95
Unit TCSV1	68.95
Antex Stand	1.80
MUXS Auto Rep Kit	8.40
Colours Gas Iron	15.99
Tips for Gas Iron	5.00
Turbo Rech Iron Kit	16.99
Philips 25 Watt Iron	4.50

SERVISOL

Freeze It	1.34
Super Servisol	1.18
Foam Cleanser	1.18
Plastic Seal	1.26
Silicone Grease	1.46
Silicone Grease (Tubes)	1.82
Aero Klene	1.04
Excel Polish	1.08
Video Head Cleaner	0.96
Super 40	1.80
Fire Extinguisher	3.80
Heat Sink Compound	0.78
Solida Mop Std	0.78
Hylosil Silicone Rubber	2.98
Aero Duster	1.40
Coldkrene 110 Degreasing Solvent	1.78
Antistatic Spray	1.18

TURBO RECHARGEABLES

Omni Kit	25.99
Solid Iron Kit	16.99
Rep Taps	2.20
Rep Bulbs	60

BELLS/BOXES

GG1 CHALLENGER PANEL BRN	27.95
A75 SHORROCK ACCORD 75 PANEL	32.50
B1 EURO BELL (No S A B)	21.00
B2 EURO BELL (with S A B)	26.95
6V BATTERY FOR EURO BELL	3.75
*Price includes Multi Adaptor to use with C type bell boxes	
T1 12V BELL (Tan)	12.95
B5 C TYPE Powrpack Boxes (comp)	4.95
B6 C TYPE Powrpack Boxes (comp)	7.80
B12 C TYPE DUMMY COVER (no back)	3.25
B13 C TYPE Translucent	7.80

SOUNDERS/SIRENS

S2 712 EXTERNAL SIREN (116db)	5.75
S4 1010/2010 EXTERNAL SIREN (116db)	9.95
S22 DYNABLAST (127db)	18.14
S13 SOUND BOMB 1 (104db)	3.37
S14 SOUND BOMB 2 (111db)	5.17
S15 SOUND BOMB 3 MULTITONE	1.20
S16 PZ28 (105db)	4.61
S17 MHRD (110db)	5.28
S18 362 PIEZO (110db)	8.80
M801 722 BUZZER	1.56
802 PMB27 BUZZER	0.60

VIDEO SPARES

WE HAVE A LARGER RANGE LISTED UNDER SPECIFIC MANUFACTURERS IN CATALOGUE FOR THORN, SONY, HITACHI, FIDELITY, NATIONAL PANASONIC, PHILIPS.

REPLACEMENT VIDEO HEADS

AKAI	VS1	3HSSV	18.00
	VS2	3HSSV	18.00
	VS3	3HSSV	18.00
	VS4	3HSSV	18.00
	VS5	3HSSV	18.00
	VS10	3HSSV	18.00
	VS77	3HSSV	18.00
	VS88	3HSSV	18.00
	VS7100	3HSSV	18.00
	VS7200	3HSSV	18.00
	VS9300	3HSSV	18.00
	VS9500	3HSSV	18.00
	VS9800	3HSSV	18.00

FERGUSON

3V00	3HSSV	18.00
3V01	3HSSV	18.00
3V06	3HSSV	18.00
3V16	3HSSV	18.00
3V22	3HSSV	18.00
3V23	3HSSV	18.00
3V24	3HSSV	18.00
3V76	3HSSV	18.00
3V77	3HSSV	18.00
3V30	3HSSV	18.00
3V31	3HSSV	18.00
3V35	3HSSV	18.00
3V36	3HSSV	18.00
8903	3HSSV	18.00

HITACHI

VT6500	3HSSHA	25.50
VT7000	3HSSHA	25.50
VT8000	3HSSHA	25.50
VT8040	3HSSHA	25.50
VT8100	3HSSHA	25.50
VT8500	3HSSHA	25.50
VT8700	3HSSHA	25.50
VT9000	3HSSHA	25.50
VT9500	3HSSHA	25.50
VT9500S	3HSSHA	25.50
VT9700	3HSSHA	25.50
VT9900	3HSSHA	25.50
VT4000	3HSSH	25.50
VT4200	3HSSH	25.50
VT5000	3HSSH	25.50
VT5500	3HSSH	25.50
VT11E	3HSSB	25.50

ORION

VH1	3HSSN	21.95
VH2	3HSSN	21.95

JVC

HR0110	3HSSV	18.00
HR0111	3HSSV	18.00
HR0120	3HSSV	18.00
HR0121	3HSSV	18.00
HR0220	3HSSV	18.00
HR0225	3HSSV	18.00
HR2200	3HSSV	18.00
HR3300	3HSSV	18.00
HR3330	3HSSV	18.00
HR3350	3HSSV	18.00
HR3360	3HSSV	18.00
HR3660	3HSSV	18.00
HR4000	3HSSV	18.00
HR4100	3HSSV	18.00
HR7200	3HSSV	18.00
HR7600	3HSSV	18.00
HR7610	3HSSV	18.00
HR7650	3HSSV	18.00
HR7700	3HSSV	18.00

NEC

PV760	PS3BS	19.00
PV764	PS3BS	19.00
PV774	PS3BS	19.00
N830	3HSSV	18.00
N831	3HSSV	18.00
N832	3HSSV	18.00
N833	3HSSV	18.00
PV2300	PS3BS	19.00
PV2400	PS3BS	19.00

SONY

SLF1	PS4B2S	29.95
SLC5	PS3BS	19.00
SLC6	PS3BS	19.00
SLC7	PS3BS	19.00
SLC8	PS5B3S	39.95
SLC9	PS5B3S	39.95
SLC20	PS4B2S	29.95
SLC21	PS4B2S	29.95
SLC30	PS4B2S	29.95
SLC33	PS4B2S	29.95
SLC40	PS4B2S	29.95
SL50	PS5B3S	39.95
SLF60	PS5B3S	39.95
SLK95	PS5B3S	39.95
SL200	PS5B3S	39.95
SL3000	PS3BS2	25.00
SL8000	PS3BS2	25.00
SL8080	PS3BS2	25.00

NATIONAL PANASONIC

NV100	3HSSUIN	25.99
NV230	3HSSU2N	36.37
NV250	3HSSU2N	36.37
NV270	3HSSU2N	36.37
NV280	3HSSU2N	36.37
NV300	3HSSN	18.00
NV322	3HSSN	18.00
NV330	3HSS3N	35.99
NV333	3HSSN	18.00
NV340	3HSSN	18.00
NV370	3HSSUIN	25.99
NV380	3HSSUIN	25.99
NV390	3HSSN	18.00
NV430	3HSSU2N	36.37
NV470	3HSSU2N	36.37
NV480	3HSSU2N	36.37
NV600	3HSS3N	35.99
NV777	3HSS3N	35.99
NV861	3HSSN	14.00
NV2000	3HSSN	13.00
NV3000	3HSSN	13.00
NV7000	3HSSN	13.00
NV7200	3HSSN	13.00
NV7500	3HSSN	13.00
NV7800	3HSSN	13.00
NV7850	3HSSN	13.00
NV8170	3HSSN	13.00
NV8200	3HSSN	13.00
NV8400	3HSSN	13.00
NV8600	3HSSN	13.00
NV8620	3HSSN	13.00

SHARP

110	3HSSSP	26.95
381	3HSSSP	26.95
383	3HSSSP	26.95
384	3HSSSP	26.95
385	3HSSSP	26.95
386	3HSSSP	26.95
387	3HSSSP	26.95
388	3HSSSP	26.95
381	3HSSSP	26.95
402	3HSSSP	26.95
3300	3HSSSP	26.95
9100	3HSSSP	26.95
9300	3HSSSP	26.95
9400	3HSSSP	26.95
9500	3HSSSP	26.95
9600	3HSSSP	26.95
9700	3HSSSP	26.95

GEN PURPOSE VHS LAMP ONLY 50p
WE HAVE A FULL RANGE OF VIDEO LAMPS AVAILABLE UNDER SPECIFIC SPARES
NAT. PAN/SHARP VIDEO LAMP 1.30

REFURBISHED HEADS (Exchange)

Equivalents Chart in Catalogue
THORN NEW LIFE (Most VHS types) 19.00
THORN NEW LIFE (National Panasonic) 21.00

ORDERS WELCOME FROM SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, GOVERNMENT ESTABL.

TOSHIBA

V31	PS3BT	30.00
V33	PS3BT	30.00
V55	3HSSV	18.00
V57	3HSSV	18.00
V5470	PS3BS2	25.00
V9600	PS3BT	30.00

SANYO/FISHER

FVHP615	3HSSSF	35.00
FVHP910	3HSSSF	35.00

PHILIPS

0V462	3HSSUIN	25.99
6460	3HSSUIN	25.99
6520	3HSSUIN	25.99

GENUINE HEADS

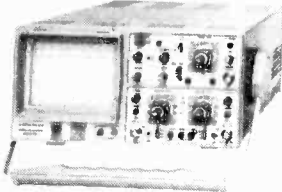
SONY 8000UB	49.
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HOW TO INCREASE YOUR PROFITS, IMPROVE YOUR SERVICE, WITH COST EFFECTIVE TEST EQUIPMENT.

HAMEG OSCILLOSCOPES

HAMEG are Europe's top selling **DUAL TRACE OSCILLOSCOPES**. Select from four superb models. All incorporate a useful **COMPONENT TESTER**. Size - all models - 285mm x 145mm x 380mm. Clear display 8 x 10cms. Mains supply 110/125/220/240V AC 50/60Hz. **2 YEAR WARRANTY**

HM203-6 20MHz Standard FREE Securicor Delivery



- SPECIFICATION**
- Bandwidth DC-20MHz
 - Sens. Ch1, Ch2 2mV/cm
 - Time Base 0.25s/cm - 20ns/cm
 - Trigger DC-40MHz AC, DC, HF, LF, (TV Frame)
 - Active TV Sinc. Sep.
 - Invert both channels
 - Variable hold-off 10:1
 - Calibrator
 - Plus many more features

Price £314.00 + £47.10 V.A.T.
Including two probes

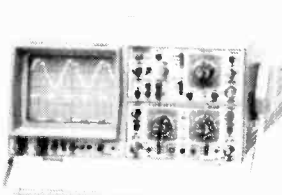
FREE Securicor Delivery HM204-2 20MHz Multi-function



- SPECIFICATION**
- Bandwidth DC-20MHz
 - Sens. Ch1, Ch2 1mV/cm
 - Delay Line
 - Time Base 1.25s/cm - 10ns/cm
 - Delayed Sweep 100ns - 0.1s
 - Trigger DC-50MHz AC, DC, HF, LF, (TV Frame)
 - Variable hold-off 10:1
 - Overscan LED indicators
 - Calibrator
 - Plus many more features

Price £418.00 + £62.70 V.A.T.

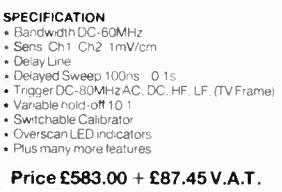
HM205 20MHz Digital Storage FREE Securicor Delivery



- SPECIFICATION**
- Digital Storage
 - Analogue Real Time (Same as 203-6)
 - Bandwidth DC-20MHz
 - Sens. Ch1, Ch2 2mV/cm
 - Trigger DC-40MHz AC, DC, HF, LF, (TV Frame)
 - Active TV Sinc. Sep.
 - 100KHz Sample Rate
 - 2 x 1K Storage
 - Storage Range 1ms-5s/cm
 - Variable hold-off 10:1
 - Calibrator
 - Plus many more features

Price £498.00 + £74.70 V.A.T.
Including two probes

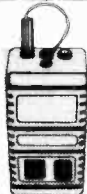
FREE Securicor Delivery HM605 60MHz Multi-function



- SPECIFICATION**
- Bandwidth DC-60MHz
 - Sens. Ch1, Ch2 1mV/cm
 - Delay Line
 - Delayed Sweep 100ns - 0.1s
 - Trigger DC-80MHz AC, DC, HF, LF, (TV Frame)
 - Variable hold-off 10:1
 - Switchable Calibrator
 - Overscan LED indicators
 - Plus many more features

Price £583.00 + £87.45 V.A.T.

B.K.'s CRT TESTER-REJUVENATOR



Tests and rejuvenates blue, green & red guns separately. Fitted with delta and P.I.L. sockets. Compact size 120x65x60 mm. Supply 240V AC

Price £32.00 + £4.80 V.A.T.

B.K.'s REVOLUTIONARY DYNAMIC 'LOPT' TESTER

Revolutionary L.O.P.T. tester. Operates in dynamic mode which actually tests the L.O.P.T. under high voltage conditions without de-soldering or removal. Size 75x100x40 mm. Supply 240V AC

Price £25.99 + £3.90 V.A.T.



THANDAR SC110A PORTABLE OSCILLOSCOPE



- Full trig. fac. inc TV frame etc.
- Only 2 1/4" thick
- Battery or mains adaptor
- Fits in a brief case
- Size 255mm x 148mm x 50mm
- Sens. 10mV
- Bandwidth 10MHz

Price £195.00 + £29.25 V.A.T.

ACCESSORIES

- Carry Case £6.25 + £0.93 V.A.T
- Probe £7.50 + £1.30 V.A.T
- Mains Adaptor £7.30 + £1.09 V.A.T

DIGITAL LCR METER

- LCD Display
- 18 Ranges
- Inductance 1µH - 2H
- Capacitance 1pf - 200µf
- Resistance 1 ohm - 20Mohm
- High accuracy

Price £95.00 + £14.25 V.A.T.



INSULATION TESTER 500V



- Electronic battery operated
- Measuring Voltage 500V DC
- Measuring Range 0-100Mohm
- Centre scale 2Mohm

Price £65.00 + £9.75 V.A.T.

B & K PRECISION CRT ANALYSER-RESTORER

The number one CRT Test Instrument. Over 5000 U.K. Television engineers wouldn't be without it.

* All CRT's checked identically including all in-line and one gun types * Tests all three guns of colour CRT's simultaneously under actual operating conditions (model 467) * Exclusive multiplex technique (model 467) * Measures true dynamic beam current that actually passes through G1 aperture to screen * Measures all shorts and leaks - preserving more CRT's * Tests focus electrodes lead continuity finding faults that other Testers miss * Uses most powerful restoration method known with minimum danger to CRT * Rejuvenated CRT's guaranteed as new for two years * Obsolescence proof: Perpetual set up chart up-dated and new adaptors development * Tests and rejuvenates VDU's and Oscilloscope tubes * A range of over 40 CRT base adaptors available * Increases profit * Pays for itself in months.

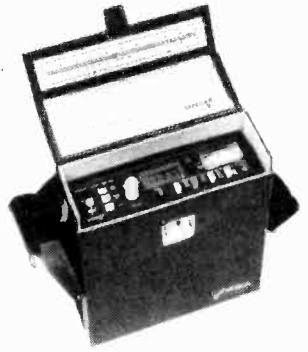
PRICES
Model 467 Tri-dynamic three meter instrument Inc. 6 common adaptors £395.00 + £59.25 V.A.T.
Without adaptors £344.00 + £51.60 V.A.T.
Model 470 Single meter instrument Inc. 6 common adaptors £294.00 + £44.10 V.A.T.
Without adaptors £244.00 + £36.60 V.A.T.
Technical leaflets available GET INTO PROFIT NOW!

SADELTA FIELD STRENGTH METER TC-402

THE SADELTA FIELD STRENGTH METER TC-402 has been designed to measure the signal levels delivered by the antenna to a TV or FM receiver, in order to test the performance of the antenna and evaluate the best conditions during installation etc. To facilitate measurements, the tuning frequency readout is shown on a digital display.

FEATURES

- Covering FM and all TV bands (UHF/VHF) including CATV freq.
- Digital tuning display (3 digits) for direct frequency readout.
- Accurate 10 turn tuning potentiometer.
- Built-in loudspeaker enables monitoring of sound in AM/FM.
- Meter measurement in voltage and dB from 20µV (26dB/µV).
- Continuity tester 0-500 ohms.
- Fully portable (battery).
- Sturdy carry case.



Price £249.00 + £37.35 V.A.T.

SADELTA COLOUR PATTERN GENERATORS

THE SADELTA RANGE OF HAND HELD COLOUR PATTERN GENERATORS is intended for use in production, installation and service of both colour and monochrome TV sets, video and computer monitors. In order to control and adjust the various parameters eight switchable patterns are provided. The technician has ready access to Laboratory, workshop and field use as the Generator has been designed using the latest micro-technology to achieve truly pocket size instruments. Internal re-chargeable Ni-Cd's. Supplied with 9V power supply charger. Size 131mm x 81mm x 23mm

T.V. PATTERN GENERATOR PAL MC11B UK

- Band IV (21-34)
- Band III (5-12)
- PAL I
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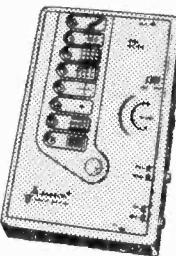
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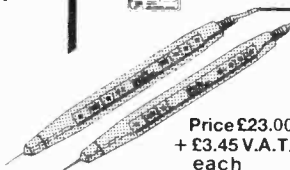
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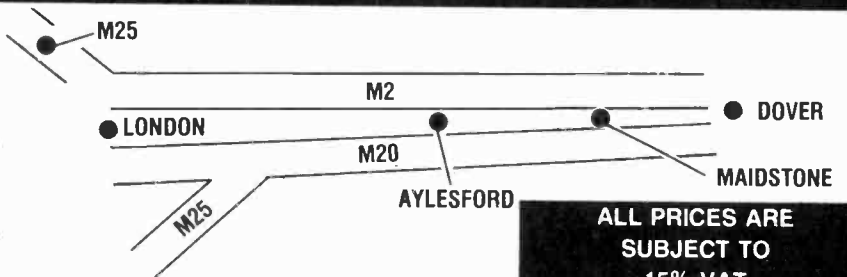
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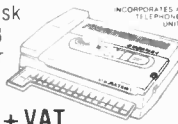
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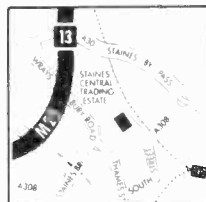
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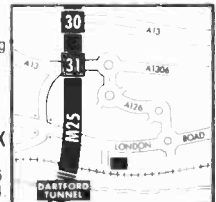
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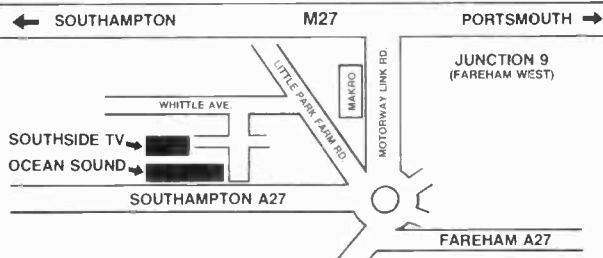
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VC7300, VC7700, VC7750.....	£69.90
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VC9300, VC9500, VC9700.....	£62.00
VC381, VC383, VC386.....	£62.00
VC482.....	£62.00
All others available P.O.A.	
Sanyo	
VTC5000, VTC5150.....	£39.90
VTC5300, VTC5400.....	£39.90
VTC9300.....	£39.90
Sony	
SLC5, SLC6, SLC7.....	£49.50
SL8000, SL8080.....	£49.50
SLC20, SLC30.....	£54.50
SLC9.....	£54.50
Toshiba	
V9600.....	£59.90
V8600.....	£69.90
V31, V33.....	£59.90
V55, V56.....	£59.90
Hitachi	
VT5000, VT5500.....	£49.50
VT6500, VT8000, VT8300.....	£49.50
VT8500, VT8700.....	£49.50
VT9300, VT9500, VT9700.....	£49.50
VT11E, VT14E.....	£45.50
VT17E, VT19E.....	£54.60
VT33E.....	£49.50
Philips	
VR6460.....	£44.00
VR6462.....	£44.50

Please call if your model is not listed.

GENUINE

Panasonic	
NV2000, NV2010.....	£6.50
NV7000, NV7200.....	£6.50
NV333, NV366.....	£6.50
NV370, NV830, NV850.....	£2.80
NV688.....	£6.50
NV777, NV788.....	£4.70
NV8600, NV8610.....	£6.50
NV730.....	£1.90
NV230, NV430, NV870.....	£2.80
NV870, NV810.....	£2.80
Ferguson	
3V00, 3V16, 3V22.....	£6.50
3V23.....	£3.90
3V29, 3V30.....	£4.90
3V35, 3V36, 3V38, 3V39.....	£2.90
Sanyo	
VTC5000, VTC5150.....	£1.99
VTC5300, VTC5400.....	£4.50
VTC9300.....	£6.50
Sony	
SLC5, SLC7.....	£6.50
SLC6.....	£7.50
SL8000, SL8080.....	£6.50
Sharp	
VC7300, VC7700, VC7750.....	£6.50
VC8300.....	£6.50
VC9100, VC9300, VC9500.....	£6.50
VC381, VC383, VC386.....	£6.50
Hitachi	
VT5000, VT5500.....	£6.50
VT8000, VT8300, VT8500.....	£2.90
VT9300, VT9500, VT9700.....	£3.30
VT11E, VT14E, VT17E, VT19.....	£6.50
VT33E.....	£6.50
Akai	
VS9700.....	£6.50
VS2, VS3, VS4, VS5.....	£2.90
VS9300, VS9500, VS9700.....	£6.50

Many others available

BELT KITS

REPLACEMENTS

Panasonic	
NV2000, NV2010.....	£3.50
NV7000, NV7200.....	£3.00
NV333, NV366.....	£3.00
NV8600, NV8610.....	£3.95
Ferguson	
3V00, 3V16, 3V22.....	£3.50
3V23.....	£2.90
3V29, 3V30.....	£3.50
3V35, 3V36, 3V38, 3V39.....	£2.90
Sanyo	
VTC5000, VTC5150.....	£1.00
VTC5300, VTC5400.....	£2.50
VTC9300.....	£4.25
Sony	
SLC5, SLC7.....	£3.60
SLC6.....	£4.95
SL8000, SL8080.....	£4.25
Sharp	
VC7300, VC7700, VC7780.....	£3.50
VC8300.....	£3.90
VC9100, VC9300, VC9500.....	£3.90
VC381, VC383, VC386.....	£3.90
Hitachi	
VT5000, VT5500.....	£4.50
VT8000, VT8300, VT8500.....	£1.50
VT9300, VT9500, VT9700.....	£1.50
VT11E, VT14E, VT17E, VT19.....	£3.90
VT33E.....	£3.90
Akai	
VS9700.....	£3.90
VS2, VS3, VS4, VS5.....	£3.95
VS9300, VS9500, VS9800.....	£3.50

SENSOR LAMPS

All Panasonic.....	£1.80
All Ferguson/JVC.....	£0.65
Sharp VC9300 etc.....	£2.90
Sharp VC7300 etc.....	£1.80
Amstrad 7000.....	£2.30
All Hitachi.....	£1.80

SENSOR L.E.D.'s

All Panasonic.....	£2.90
All Ferguson/JVC.....	£2.90
All Hitachi.....	£5.75

END SENSORS

Hitachi VT64E.....	£1.20 each
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REEL MOTORS

Sharp VC9300, VC381 etc.....	£18.20
Amstrad/Saisho etc.....	£18.20
Panasonic NV333, NV366.....	£16.80
Sanyo VTC5000, 5300, 5400.....	£9.90
Panasonic NV7000, 7200.....	£19.80

DRUM MOTORS

Ferguson/JVC 3V00, 3V22, etc.....	£29.90
Sharp VC7300, VC7700.....	£26.40
Sharp VC8300.....	£26.40
Hitachi VT5000.....	£24.75

CAPSTAN MOTORS

Sharp VC8300.....	£39.90
Sharp VC7300, VC7700.....	£29.30
Ferguson/JVC 3V00, 3V16, 3V22.....	£29.90
Ferguson/JVC 3V29, 3V30.....	£34.50
Ferguson/JVC 3V35, 3V36, etc.....	£25.77
Hitachi VT5000.....	£24.75
Hitachi VT8000, 8500, etc.....	£34.50
Hitachi VT9300, 9500, etc.....	£34.50
Hitachi VT11, VT14, VT17.....	£26.75
Sony C5, C7.....	£29.90
Akai VS1-VS5.....	£29.90

Many, many more!

IDLER WHEELS

Panasonic	
NV2000, NV2010.....	(Replacement) £0.95
NV7000, NV7200.....	(Genuine) £2.90
NV333, NV366.....	(Genuine) £2.90
NV370, NV230, NV430.....	(Genuine) £2.90
NV777, NV788.....	(Genuine) £4.50
NV730.....	(Genuine) £3.45
Ferguson/JVC	
3V00, 3V16, 3V22 (Large clutch).....	£5.95
3V00, 3V16, 3V22 (Small clutch).....	£6.95
3V29, 3V30, HR7200, HR7300.....	£3.90
3V35, 3V36, 3V38, 3V39, HRD120.....	£3.90
Sanyo	
VTC9100, VTC9300.....	£1.90
VTC5000 Reel drive pulley.....	£6.50
VTM10 Reel drive pulley.....	£9.90
Sony	
SLC5, SLC7.....	Reel kit £4.95
SLC6.....	Reel kit £4.95
Sharp	
VC9100, VC9300, VC9500 (Genuine).....	£3.90
VC381, VC383, VC386 (Genuine).....	£3.90
VC482, VC483, VC581 (also Saisho) (Genuine).....	£3.90
VC482 etc. (Equivalent).....	£2.98
VC9300, 381 etc. (Equivalent).....	£2.98
Hitachi	
VT8000, VT8300, VT8500.....	£4.72
VT9300, VT9500, VT9700.....	£4.75
VT11E, VT14E, VT17E, VT19.....	£3.96
VT33, VT63, VT64, VT65.....	£3.96
Akai	
VS2, VS3, VS4, VS5.....	£4.50

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PINCH ROLLERS

Panasonic	
NV2000, NV2010, NV7000, NV7200.....	£4.95
NV333, NV366, NV370, NV430.....	£4.95
NV730.....	£7.95
Ferguson/JVC	
3V00, 3V16, 3V22, 3V23, 3V24.....	£4.95
HR3300, HR3360, HR3660, HR2200.....	£4.95
3V29, 3V30, HR7200, HR7300.....	£4.95
3V35, 3V36, 3V38, 3V39, HRD120.....	£4.95
Sanyo	
VTC9100, VTC9300.....	£4.95
VTC5000, VTC5150, VTC5300.....	£4.95
VTC5400.....	£4.95
Sony	
SLC5, SLC7.....	£5.95
SLC6.....	£5.95
SL8000, SL8080.....	£5.95
Sharp	
VC7300, VC7700, VC7750.....	£4.95
VC8300.....	£4.95
VC9100, VC9300, VC9500.....	£4.95
VC381, VC383, VC386.....	£4.95
VC651 etc.....	£4.95
Hitachi	
VT5000, VT5500.....	£5.95
VT8000, VT8300, VT8500.....	£4.95
VT9300, VT9500, VT9700.....	£4.95
VT11E, VT14E, VT17E, VT19.....	£4.95
VT33E.....	£5.95
Akai	
VS9700.....	£6.95
VS2, VS3, VS4, VS5.....	£6.95
VS9300, VS9500, VS9700.....	£4.95

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFERS!

3HSS(V) (FERGUSON/JVC)

£19.95 or
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420 ERB	£50		
470 KUB	£50		
510 UFB	£67		
510 VSB	£67		
AXT51-001	£67		
560 DYB-560 DTB	£67		
560 EGB	£67		
560 CGB	£67		
560 DMB	£67		

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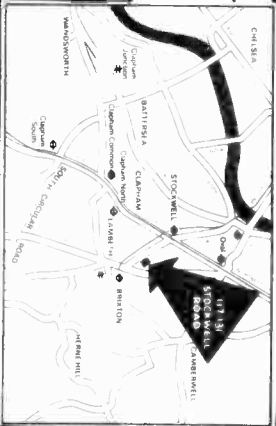
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POPULAR BAKERS DOZEN PACKS (Still available)

All packs are £1 each, if you order 12 then you are entitled to another free. Please state which one you want. Note the figure on the extreme left of the pack number and the next figure is the quantity of items in the pack, finally a short description.

- BD2 5 13A spurs provide a fused outlet to a ring main where device such as a clock must not be switched off
- BD7 4 in flex switches with neon on/off lights, saves leaving things switched on
- BD9 2 6v. 1A mains transformers upright mounting with fixed clamps
- BD11 1 6 1/2" speaker cabinet ideal for extensions, takes your speaker. Ref BD137
- BD13 12 30 watt reed switches, it's surprising what you can make with these — burglar alarms, secret switches, relay etc.
- BD22 2 25 watt loud speaker two unit cross-overs
- BD29 1 B.O.A.C. stereo unit is wonderful value
- BD30 2 nicad constant current chargers adapt to charge almost any nicad battery
- BD32 2 humidity switches, as the air becomes damper the membrane stretches and operates a microswitch
- BD34 48 2 meter length of connecting wire all colour coded
- BD42 5 13A rocker switch three tags on/off, or change over with centre off
- BD45 1 24hr time switch, ex-Electricity Board, automatically adjust for lengthening and shortening day. Original cost £40 each
- BD49 10 neon valves, with series resistors, these make good night lights
- BD56 1 mini uniselector, one use is for an electric jigsaw puzzle, we give circuit diagram for this. One pulse into motor, moves switch through one pole
- BD59 2 flat solenoids — you could make your multi-tester read AC amps with this
- BD67 1 suck or blow operated pressure switch, or it can be operated by any low pressure variation such as water level in water tanks
- BD91 2 mains operated motors with gearbox. Final speed 16rpm. 2 watt rated
- BD103A 1 6.750MA power supply, nicely cased with input and output leads
- BD120 2 stripper boards each contains a 400v 2A bridge rectifier and 14 other diodes and rectifiers as well as dozens of condensers etc
- BD122 10m twin screened flex with white pvc cover
- BD128 10 very fine drills for p.c.b. boards etc. Normal cost about 80p each
- BD132 2 plastic boxes approx. 3" cube with square hole through top so ideal for interrupted beam switch
- BD134 10 motors for model aeroplanes, spin to start so needs no switch
- BD139 6 microphone inserts — magnetic 400 ohm also act as speakers
- BD148 4 reed relay kits you get 16 reed switches and 4 coil sets with notes on making c/o relays and other gadgets
- BD149 6 safety cover for 13A sockets — prevent those inquisitive little fingers getting nasty shocks
- BD180 6 neon indicators in panel mounting holders with lens
- BD193 6 5 amp 3 pin flush mounting sockets make a low cost disco panel
- BD196 1 in flex simmerstat — keeps your soldering iron etc always at the ready
- BD199 1 mains solenoid very powerful has 1" pull or could push if modified
- BD200 8 keyboard switches — made for computers but have many other applications
- BD210 4 transistors type 2N3055 probably the most useful power transistor
- BD211 1 electric clock mains operated put this in a box and you need never be late
- BD221 5 12v alarms make a noise about as loud as a car horn. Slightly soiled but OK
- BD242 2 6" x 4" speakers 4 ohm made from Radiomobile so very good quality
- BD246 2 tach generators, generates one volt per 100revs
- BD252 1 panostat, controls output of boiling ring from simmer up boil
- BD259 50 leads with push on 1/4" tags — a must for hook ups — mains connections etc
- BD263 2 oblong push switches for bell or chimes, these can mains up to 5 amps so could be foot switch if fitted into pattress
- BD268 1 mini 1 watt amp for record player. Will also change speed of record player motor
- BD275 1 Guitar mic — clip on type suits most amps
- BD283 3 mild steel boxes approx. 3" x 3" x 1" deep — standard electrical
- BD293 50 mixed silicon diodes
- BD296 3 car plugs with lead, fits into lighter socket
- BD305 1 tubular dynamic mic with optional table rest

5A BATTERY CHARGER KIT

All parts including case. Only £5 plus £1 postage.

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There is a total of over 400 packs in our Baker's dozen range and you become entitled to a free gift with each dozen packs. Our latest "News Letter" will be enclosed with your goods, and you will automatically receive our next news letter. If you want our 1988 classified list please request this.



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3 1/2 floppy Disk Drive, made by the Chicon Company of Japan. Beautifully made and probably the most compact device of its kind as it weighs only 600g and measures only 104mm wide, 162mm deep and has a height of only 32mm, other features are high precision head positioning — single push loading and eject — direct drive brushless motor — Shugart compatible interface — standard connections — interchangeable with most other 3 1/2 and 5 1/4 drives. Brand new with copy of makers manual. Offered this month at £28.50 post and VAT included.

CASE — adaptable for 3" or 3 1/2" FDD, has room for power supply components price only £4 includes circuit of PSU. Our Ref 4P7

POWER SUPPLY FOR FDD — 5V and 12V voltage regulated outputs, complete kit of parts will fit into case 4P7 price £8 or with case £11. Our ref. 11P2

9" MONITOR

Ideal to work with computer or video camera uses Philips black and white tube ref M24306W. Which tube is implosion and X-Ray radiation protected. VDU is brand new and has a time base and EHT circuitry. Requires only a 16V dc supply to set it going. It's made up in a lacquered metal framework but has open sides so should be cased. The VDU comes complete with circuit diagram and has been line tested and has our six months guarantee. Offered at a lot less than some firms are asking for the tube alone, only £16 plus £5 post.

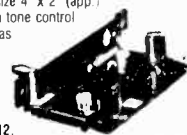
CASE FOR 9" MONITOR
We have arranged with a metal worker to make cases for the 9" Monitor. Delivery promised for the end of May and the price £12 plus £2 post. The case will be made from coated sheet steel, overall size approx 10in x 7in high which will give ample space for the Power Supply and external controls if you fit them

PROBLEM SOLVED
We have obtained from the manufacturers of the 9" Monitor, the TTL converter which makes it composite input suitable to work with any computer. We have had the printed circuit board made and have all the components and can supply this converter in kit form price £6. Our ref. 6P4

3" FDD HITACHI 3055XA
This has standard Shugart connections and will work with most computers but is particularly suitable for Amstrads, in fact it was recommended in a recent "Computing with Amstrad" Price £30 + £3 post

MINI MONO AMP

on p.c.b. size 4" x 2" (app.)
Fitted volume control and a hole for a tone control should you require it. The amplifier has three transistors and we estimate the output to be 3W rms. More technical data will be included with the amp. Brand new, perfect condition, offered at the very low price of £1.15 each, or £13 for 12.




THIS MONTH'S SNIP

ACORN COMPUTER DATA RECORDER (CASSETTE). This is a Morse data recorder with switchable motor control intended to use with the Acorn Electron or BBC computers but also functions with almost any other computer and can be used for normal record and play-back of music and speech. Six key controls give "PAUSE", "STOP" and "EJECT" "CUE/FAST FORWARD", "REVUE/REWIND" and "RECORD", fast forward and rewind (100 seconds for C60). Also tape counter with reset button. Input signal range 5mV. Impedance 40k ohm. Can be battery operated but is supplied with a mains adaptor. Brand new still in manufacturer's wrapping £8. Order Ref. 8P18 add £2 postage.

VENNER TIME SWITCH

Mains operated with 20 amp switch, one on and one off per 24 hrs. repeats daily automatically correcting for the lengthening or shortening day. An expensive time switch but you can have it for only £2.95 without case, metal case — £2.95, adaptor kit to convert this into a normal 24hr time switch but with the added advantage of up to 12 on/off's per 24hrs. This makes an ideal controller for the immersion heater. Price of adaptor kit is £2.30.



Ex-Electricity Board. Guaranteed 12 months.

GPO TEST METER 12/C1
20 000 opv. 19 AC/DC ranges including all the usual ones and a very useful low ohms range, also shunt provision for reading up to 10a DC. It is in a real leather carrying case and comes complete with leads, prods and croc clips. Price £7 Ref. 7P5

8" GREEN SCREEN MONITOR
Complete and in a case with optional tilt stand for improved viewing angle. A very compact unit measuring only 10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 7 1/2" high operates from a 15V DC supply — composite input so ideal for use with Electron or similar computers. Used but we test before despatch and guarantee 6 months. Price £17.50 — Our Ref. 17P1 — please add £3 post.

25A ELECTRICAL PROGRAMMER
Learn in your sleep. Have radio playing and kettle boiling as you wake — switch on lights to warn off intruders — have a warm house to come home to. You can do all these and more. By a famous maker with 25 amp on/off switch. A beautiful unit at £2.50.

POWERFUL IONISER
Generates approx. 10 times more IONS than the ET1 and similar circuits. Will refresh your home, office, shop, workshop etc. Makes you feel better and work harder — a complete mains operated kit, case included £11.50 + £3 P&P

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NEW ITEMS

Some of the many described in our current list which you will receive with your parcel.

RECHARGEABLE NICADS 'D' SIZE these are tagged for easy joining together but tags can easily be removed, unused, tested and grid. £2.00 each ref 2P141, 6 for £14 ref 10P47

BRIGHT LIGHT SWITCH will control mains circuits up to 10 amps, gets its switch pulses from car headlights, bright daylight etc. so it does not use batteries and its sensor is completely isolated from the mains, with full instruction supplied. Price £10 ref 10P46

POWERFUL 12V MOTOR was intended for Sinclair Electric Car, rating approx 1/3 HP. Price £15 plus £2 post.

3 INCH FDD HITACHI ref. HFD 2053XA Ideal replacement or second drive in most computers, especially Amstrad 6128 etc. Price £30 plus £3 post.

SOLAR POWERED NI-CAD CHARGER 4 NI-CAD batteries AA (HP7) charged in eight hours or two in only 4 hours. It is complete, boxed ready to use. Price £5. Our ref. 6P3

50V 20A TRANSFORMER C Core construction so quite easy to adapt for other outputs — tapped mains input, only £25, but very heavy so please add £5 if not collecting. order Ref. 25P4

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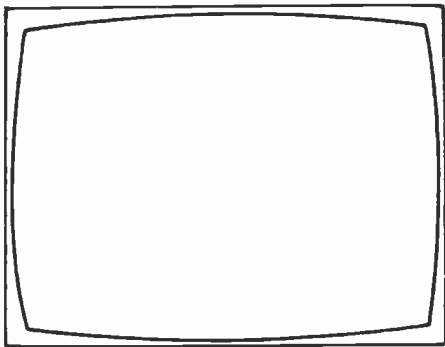
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TELEVISION

The Broadcasting Debate

The last few weeks have been notable for the number of statements and reports that have appeared on the future of TV broadcasting in the UK. We have had the suggestion that BBC-2 and Ch. 4 might be made into satellite TV only services so that their terrestrial transmitter networks could be freed for additional advertisement-funded national and regional channels, the Home Secretary Douglas Hurd has been openly questioning the funding of the BBC via the licence fee and the role of the IBA, the Commons all-party Home Affairs select committee's report on the future of broadcasting has been published, and plans for considerable expansion of satellite TV services have been announced. All this comes as the government's White Paper on the subject is awaited in the autumn.

The government has called for discussion and debate on the future of broadcasting arrangements in the UK. How much notice it will take of views put forward remains to be seen. The Home Affairs committee's 195-page report *The Future of Broadcasting* presents a cogent case for leaving things much as they are at present. In welcoming the report, Mr. Hurd commented that "I can understand the uncertainty that's unsettling the broadcasting institutions as fresh ideas are put forward and examined". Well he would say that - after all it's the government that has all along been pressing for change.

Two factors suggest a possible need for change. First, developments in technology are bringing about change anyway. Secondly, the fact that the BBC and IBA have been around for a considerable time in their present form may mean that they have outlived their usefulness.

The technology argument means cable and satellite TV of course. These are already giving viewers greater choice. Cable TV in its new form, as opposed to the old relay networks, has been around for some time now but has hardly led to a revolution in TV. Things might change when Murdoch and Maxwell get going with their satellite TV services - British Satellite Broadcasting's services are also due to start late next year. So the public is going to be given a considerably wider choice quite soon regardless of the amount of debating that goes on. In which case, why all the fuss?

If the BBC and the IBA could be shown to be providing inferior services, there would certainly be a case for change. The only yardstick for such an assessment is by way of international comparisons. These always highlight the superiority of the established UK broadcasting services. Some members of the government may feel that the idea of a publicly funded service such as that provided by the BBC does not fit in with current thinking about a market led economy. The case has been forcefully argued in some quarters that the BBC should seek its money through subscriptions, pay-to-view or whatever rather than taking its money and providing what it thinks fit. But this could jeopardise a perfectly good system - as viewing figures attest - for the sake of ideology. Hardly a wise course.

The Home Affairs committee came to the conclusion that the BBC, funded by its licence revenue, was "remarkable value" and should continue much as it is. Its main TV recommendations are as follows: that there should be no change in the basic role of the BBC; that Ch. 4 should remain substantially as it is; that a fifth terrestrial TV channel based on a network of local stations should be established as soon as possible; that the IBA should be replaced by a new Commercial Television Authority that would regulate the ITV, cable and satellite TV services; that a system of regulated tendering should be used when the current ITV franchises come up for renewal in 1992; that British Satellite Broadcasting's DBS services should be given a fair trial; that separate night-time TV franchises, from midnight until 0600, should be introduced in 1993; that franchises for the two remaining DBS channels should be awarded as soon as possible after 1993; and that the newly set up Broadcasting Standards Council should base its findings on proper research rather than the representations of pressure groups. The Committee spent six months on its deliberations and members visited the USA and Italy to sample the offerings of overseas TV broadcasters. It might seem that the IBA has come out of all this badly, but the committee's chairman John Wheeler pointed out that the proposal for a new Commercial Television Authority had not been made because of any shortcomings but because "a new body is required for a wider and more flexible task". The IBA has proved itself to be flexible in the past however, and there is no reason to think that it couldn't cope with any added responsibilities given to it. Finally, Mr. Wheeler suggested that public service broadcasting should remain at the centre of a recast UK TV service, with the interests of viewers rather than advertisers at the forefront. "In the medium term" he continued, "we think that the majority of viewers will still watch the same four channels as they do now. We don't want the success of new services to be at the expense of the present much-valued ones." A rather more down-to-earth view than that of the Peacock Committee, and non the worse for that.

EDITOR

John A. Reddihough

Please note that the telephone numbers below are for contact with the advertisement departments only. Editorial enquiries should be sent to the editor at the address given on page 721.

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COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photograph shows the new Ferguson TX99 CTV chassis, a compact single-panel (plus c.r.t. base board) concept designed to drive a range of 90° tubes. See article on pages 764-8.

Thanks!

There was an incredible response to our questionnaire in the June issue - we received several thousand completed forms. Our thanks to all who assisted in this way. A computer analysis of the results is under way and will help us in determining future policy.

Long-distance Television

Roger Bunney

At first there seemed to be a poor start to the 1988 Sporadic E season. During the latter half of May however there was a considerable improvement, with a number of exotic signals being logged and several intense openings. The log is as follows:

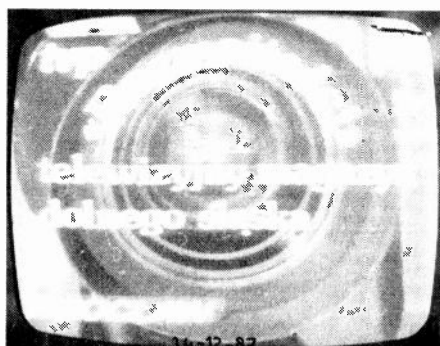
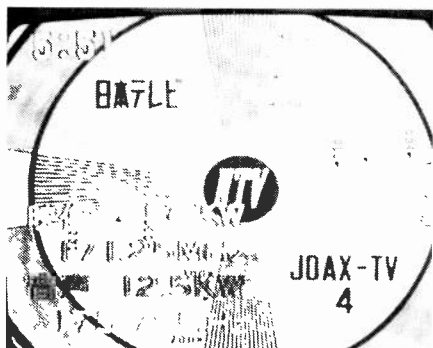
- 6/5/88 An aurora on the 5th extended into the 6th, giving auroral TV reception that included RAI (Italy) ch. IA and unidentified signals on chs. E3 and 4. It gradually developed into an SpE opening, with signals in the UK noted from RAI chs. IA, B; TVE (Spain) E2, 3, 4; RTP (Portugal) E2, 3; JRT (Yugoslavia) E3, 4; TVR (Rumania) R2; TVP (Poland) R1; ARD (West Germany) E2, 3, 4; DFF (East Germany) E4; TSS (USSR) R1, 2; CST (Czechoslovakia) R2; RUV (Iceland) E3; TDF (Canal Plus) L3; RTT (Tunisia) E4.
- 7/5/88 TVE E3, 4; RAI IA, B; JRT E3; ARD E2; ORF (Austria) E2a; +PTT (Switzerland) E3, 4; TDF (France) L2, 3, 4.
- 8/5/88 TVE E3, 4.
- 9/5/88 SVT (Sweden) E2.
- 10/5/88 SVT E2; NRK (Norway) E2.
- 11/5/88 ARD E2, 3, 4; RTB-F (Belgium) E3; +PTT E2, 3; RAI IA; DR (Denmark) E3, 4; ORF E2a, 4; TVE E2; RTP E3; CST R1; TSS R1; TVP R1; NRK E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 3, 4.
- 12/5/88 EPT (Greece) E3.
- 13/5/88 RUV E4.
- 14/5/88 SVT E2.
- 15/5/88 TVE E2, 3, 4; TVE-2 E2; RAI IA, B; ORF E2a; JRT E3, 4; EPT E3; RTP E2, 3; TDF L2, 3, 4; +PTT E2, 3; TVP R1, 2, 3; NRK E3; SVT E2; MTV (Hungary) R1, 2; Tele-Uno IA (Italian free station).
- 16/5/88 TVE E2, 4.
- 17/5/88 CST R2; TSS R1; TVE E2.
- 18/5/88 RAI IA, B; TVR R2; CST R2; NRK E2, 3; Tele-Grano E2 (Italian free station).
- 19/5/88 RAI IA, B; NRK E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 3; RUV E4; TSS R1, 2; TVR R1, 2; CST R2; +PTT E3; JRT E3, 4; TWM IA (Italian free station).
- 20/5/88 TVP R1, 2; TSS R1, 2; TDF L2; +PTT E2; CST R2.
- 21/5/88 TVE E2.
- 22/5/88 RAI IA, B; TSS R1, 2, 3; TVP R1, 2; NRK E2; SVT E2, 3, 4; TDF L2, 4; TVA IA (Italian free station).
- 23/5/88 RAI IA, B; TVA IA; MTV R1; TVP R2; TSS R1, 2, 3; JRT E3, 4; SVT E2, 3, 4; NRK E2, 3, 4; CST R1; DR E3, 4; RUV E4; RTS (Albania) IC; YLE (Fin-

- land) E3, 4. A coloured announcer was seen on ch. E3 at 1800, the signal (NTV?) being from the south.
- 24/5/88 TSS R1, 2; SVT E2, 3, 4; NRK E2, 3, 4; YLE E3, 4; CST R1; JRT E3, 4; TVE E3, 4; Syria E3 from 1505-1815 with long, fading weak signals in southern UK.
- 25/5/88 EPT E3; CST R1, 2; TVP R2, 3; JRT E3, 4; TSS R1, 2; NRK E2, 3; SVT E2; RAI IA.
- 26/5/88 RAI IA, B; EPT E3; RTS IC; CST R1, 2; ARD E2, 3, 4; DR E3, 4; NRK E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 3, 4; YLE E3, 4; TSS R1, 2, 3; TVP R1, 2; JRT E3, 4; TVE E2, 3, 4.
- 27/5/88 RAI IA; RTP E2, 3; TVE E2, 3, 4; TDF L2; +PTT E4; ORF E2a, E4; ARD E2, 3, 4; MTV R1, 2; TVR R1, 2; JRT E3, 4; CST R1, 2, 4; TSS R1, 2, 3, 4; TVP R1, 2, 3; RUV E3, 4; DR E3, 4; YLE E3; NRK E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 3; JTV (Jordan) E3 from 0720-0845.
- 28/5/88 TSS R1, 2; JRT E4; RAI IA; SVT E2; TDF L2; TVP R1; ZTV (Zimbabwe-Gwelo) E2 at 1910.
- 29/5/88 RAI IA; Syria E3.
- 30/5/88 RAI IA, B; TVE E2, 3, 4; TDF L2, 4; JRT E3, 4; Syria E3 at 1900; ZTV Gwelo E2 at 1820.
- 31/5/88 RTP E2, 3; TVE E2, 3, 4.
- 1/6/88 RAI IA.
- 3/6/88 TSS R1.

There was a remarkable all-day SpE opening on June 6th. At about 2300 system M signals from the USA/Canada were noted on chs. A2, 3, 4 and vision only on ch. A5 (77.25MHz!). More details next month.

There was a minor tropospheric opening on the 7th and a major one that lasted from the 14th to the 17th. Quite remarkable Band III reception from the Low Countries, France, West Germany, Denmark and the nearer Scandinavian stations was experienced. The first two days were best in northern parts of the UK, but conditions later improved in the south, giving DR chs. E5, 8, 10, NRK E9, 11, SVT E8 and RTL E7. Simon Hamer did extremely well in north Wales, logging every ITV region including the Channel Islands. Interesting that he received Radio Jersey and Radio Guernsey on the 17th.

The Syrian ch. E3 SpE signals on the 24th/29th were logged by Tim Anderson in Hastings, Dave Shirley in St. Leonards and, on the 30th, by Cyril Willis at Kings Lynn – a corner-screen logo made identification possible. Cyril logged Gwelo, Zimbabwe (ZTV) ch. E2 on two occasions, on the 28th from 1910-1930 with a dark skinned lady announcer and on the 30th with English language sound, followed by Syria ch. E3! The Jordanian ch. E3 reception on the 27th consisted of a weak PM5544 test pattern followed by an English-language police-type programme from 0800-0845 – an Arabic caption was seen floating over the Jordanian signal at 0845! The ch. E3 Greek (EPT) reception on the 26th also produced a PM5544 type pattern, with the white background grid intermittently flashing, from 0745-0800 after which the display stabilised. On several occasions the FUBK pattern



Left: JOAX-TV 4 (Japan) test card photographed by Fred Robins during a recent visit. Centre and left: TVP Wroclaw ch. 38 and an amateur TV test pattern received by Ryn Muntjewerff (Holland) during a tropospheric opening last December.

was seen on ch. E4 carrying the identification NEI I: it's thought that this is NDR Flensburg carrying a test transmission sourced from Niebuell. Back-scatter SpE was noted on several occasions, producing very short-skip signals such as Copenhagen ch. E4 noted in Essex.

French radio amateurs have been heard via SpE at 50MHz, though they don't at the time of writing have authorisation to be on air. The 50.032MHz Ascension Is. beacon ZD8VHF was heard at high levels in the southern UK on May 15th, and again next day in central UK. On both days the signals were present at 1700 onwards. Obviously this is the time to look for African Band I signals from Nigeria, Ghana and Zimbabwe. Finnish amateurs will have access to the 50MHz band from the end of June. During April a Johannesburg amateur (ZS6WB) reported reception of European ch. E2 TV signals at around 1910 GMT.

Personally I'm finding that Band I is becoming cluttered up - in the more built-up areas it's becoming an r.f. dustbin! Apart from computers that radiate spurious signals throughout the v.h.f. spectrum, over quite some distance, (it seems that the UK is well behind the FCC standards) the 49MHz segment is becoming choked with baby alarms, toy walkie-talkies, pagers and cordless phones. I've even seen a 49MHz f.m. radio three-channel intercom system for domestic use. A local baby alarm radiates over a half mile radius, producing a noise-free raster here. Despite all this the DTI seems to be quite happy.

My thanks to the following for sending in reception reports to add to my own meagre loggings: Dave Shirley (Hastings), Tim Anderson (St. Leonards), Roger Fussell (Torpoint), David Oliver (Birmingham), Simon Hamer (Powys), Ryn Muntjewerff (Holland), Tim Healey (Plymouth), Dr. Eric Duncan (Fife), Peter Schubert (Rainham), Bill Cotterill (Tipton), Iain Menzies (Aberdeen), Mark Baldwin (Rushden), Mel James (Anglesey) and Cyril Willis (Kings Lynn).

News Items

UK: The late-night British Medical TV service test transmissions continue, with Canal Plus type scrambling. Apparently the BBC is working on a different scrambling format which will be used when the service starts in the autumn. It's understood that the programmes will be transmitted during the very early morning period, before the BBC-2 Open University programmes.

Denmark: Test transmissions from the new Hove (Copenhagen West) ch. E31 and E53 outlets started on May



Above: Test pattern being used during an EBU news transmission via the ECS satellite at 7°E. Off-air photograph from Ian Waller (Lincoln).

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9th. Programmes in ch. E31 are due to start on June 1st - the PM5534 test pattern carries the identification DR at the top and KBH VEST at the bottom. The E53 outlet is due to start transmitting DR-2 on October 1st.

Austria: There has been an expansion of regional TV programming and in some areas two regional services can be received.

India: Band III rather than Band I is likely to be used for future extension of the networks. The Delhi based second channel, which at present covers seventy per cent of the country, is to have more regional opt-outs. Major network linking across the country will not be complete until the Insat II series is in operation from 1990 onwards.

Satellite TV: Launch of the Scandinavian TELE-X project has been postponed until late 1989 at the earliest. With Denmark unlikely to participate it seems that only two

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programmes will be carried. NRK (Norway) can now be seen via the Intelsat satellite at 1°W: tune to 11.45GHz, horizontal. The DTI is making available to multipoint satellite telecommunications services six uplink points: applications have been invited for twelve-year licences and services could include sound/TV entertainment.

Satellite Dishes

I've received several queries on the use of dishes for home satellite reception, in particular as to whether planning permission is required. The regulations are laid down by the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1985 – Amendment No. 2. This permits the installation of a receiving dish not exceeding 90cm in diameter on or about a domestic/residential/industrial property, or at chimney/eaves height providing the system is attached no higher than the highest part of the roof. If the location is designated as one of outstanding beauty however, or is a conservation area, planning permission must be sought before a dish is mounted on a building or fixed to a stable/permanent foundation. Since the main requirement is a clear view of the sky, reasonable reception should in many cases be possible with the aerial at ground level, in a discreet location such as a rear garden. The system is unlikely to be more than 4-5ft high and thus unseen, so my own reaction would be to go ahead and instal. The patio mount system I described in recent issues is less than 42in. high above ground level in its wheeled rotating frame. Interesting to note that several satellite TV suppliers now offer wall, balcony and chimney mounting dish systems.

From our Correspondents . . .

Two letters in particular heartened me this month. J. Walley wrote from the Birmingham area: he's eighty years young, completely deaf and has read this magazine from issue no. 1! He recently bought a basic 90cm TVRO satellite system from Alston-Barry (Cambridge) who pretuned the receiver and described where to tune and look. Mr. Walley is now receiving numerous satellite signals. His basic patio mount is similar to mine but he moves his dish with the aid of lawn markers and a cheap gun sight for location. Sky, Super and RAI-UNO all carry teletext, which helps with his deafness – RAI even has English news. Tim Healey, a veteran DX-TXer, has been ill with a heart condition: a recent aortic valve replacement has made him feel a new man and he's now back DXing and keeping busy in Plymouth. Our best wishes to these two active gentlemen!

VHF TV – the UK decision

As mentioned briefly last month, the government has decided against reintroducing Band I/III TV transmissions in the UK. Consideration had been given to this possibility as a means of adding extra TV services, sharing the bands with the newly established PMR and other services that now use these frequencies. The feasibility study that had been undertaken came to the conclusion that Band III couldn't accommodate a new broadcast channel while living in harmony with its mobile radio neighbours. Band I could perhaps have provided a service for the major population centres (but not all of them), but the coverage would have had to be at the expense of moving the newly arrived mobile and other services, at a high compensatory cost. Ironic perhaps is the comment that re-establishing high-power TV transmissions in Band I could have upset

our European neighbours who've made their r.f. management plans on the assumption that the UK has opted out of v.h.f. TV. The SpE phenomenon was given as a further reason for not returning to Band I, because of the high-level interference problems that prevail during the summer months. Finally the Civil Aviation Authority suggested that harmonic interference could be a problem.

The 405-line v.h.f. TV system officially closed down on January 6th, 1985, though several relays continued for a few days. Bands I and III are still allocated to TV broadcasting in the European broadcasting region, and are extensively used by countries in both west and east Europe. Will the newly established Band I mobile radio services be subjected to severe disruption during the summer months as a result of SpE propagation?

Airborne TV

We have previously described the activities of the Blue Eagle flight, which during the Vietnam war provided wide TV coverage from transmitters aboard high-flying aircraft. Recently (April 1988) the US magazine *Popular Electronics* described a series of tests that were carried out much earlier, in the mid-1940s, with a view to achieving wide TV coverage from airborne transmitters.

Staff of Westinghouse Radio designed a prototype system in July 1945. The "Stratovision" project would use aircraft equipped with f.m. radio and TV transmitters, flying at 25-30,000ft. Narrow beamwidth signals would be received on a particular channel and retransmitted on another channel with coverage over a vast area. Details were shown to the Glen L. Martin Aircraft Company, which by spring 1946 had equipped a World War Two surplus bomber with Band II (107.5MHz) and ch. A21 (515MHz) transmitters. Initial test flights proved that successful reception was possible over an area of about 250 miles. Areas flown over during these tests included Philadelphia, Wilmington, New York, Washington, North Carolina, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Detroit. It seemed that eight Stratovision aircraft would give coast-to-coast coverage while fourteen would cover three-quarters of the US landmass. The transmitting aerials were mounted on a 10ft mast that hinged down from the bomb bay.

The encouraging results led to the conversion of a much larger B29 aeroplane. In a 1948 test at Pittsburgh it relayed signals uplinked from Baltimore over an area that extended from south Virginia to New York state. At about this time the US airforce also experimented with airborne TV transmissions. The Stratovision project was considered to be a success, but was overtaken by progress with land-based communications technology, in the shape of a nationwide microwave network. The experience gained was however put to use in the very successful Blue Eagle service of the late 1960s.

This same magazine mentions that the first terrestrial u.h.f. TV transmitter, KC2XAK at Bridgeport, Connecticut, was tried out in December 1949. The vision carrier frequency was 530.25MHz (approximately ch. A24). Ch. A4 programmes from WNBT-TV in New York were relayed over a distance of 45 miles via a 2GHz link between the 85th floor of the Empire State building and a 9ft dish mounted at 180ft up the 250ft transmitting mast at Success Hill. Transmitter power was 1kW peak vision with 500W sound, the omnidirectional aerial providing a gain of 20dB. The results were found to be equal to or better than existing v.h.f. services, and following this experiment the FCC opened up u.h.f. for TV broadcasting, with channel allocations made in 1951/2.

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Video Tape Types and Characteristics

George Cole

The video tape market has come a long way since the time when all that was on offer to the consumer was standard-grade, ferric oxide tape. These days tape manufacturers offer a bewildering variety of tapes, using various materials including cobalt doped ferric oxide, chromium dioxide and pure metal particles. Furthermore there are numerous grades of tape within the ferric oxide group. Metal evaporated tape may yet appear on the domestic video tape market, and perhaps even 4mm tape.

Ferric Oxide Tape

A high-coercivity tape is required for video signal recording. Most video tape is made from gamma ferric oxide, which has a natural coercivity of around 400 Oersteds. This isn't a high enough value for successful video recording, so the coercivity is raised by doping the oxide particles with cobalt and reducing the particle size. The particles are acicular (needle shaped) and, in VHS standard-grade tape, are around 0.4 microns in size.

Most ferric oxide tape is made up of several layers – seven-layer tape is not unknown. The first layer (see Fig. 1) is the back coating, which is made from carbon and is about 1 micron in thickness. Its job is to reduce the static build up that attracts dust and degrades performance. Next comes the tape's "backbone", the polyester base film that supports the magnetic coating. This layer is around 13 microns thick and needs to be flexible, strong and non-elastic. The magnetic layer is an emulsion around 5 microns thick. It consists of a complex mix of ingredients comprising magnetic powder, binder, colouring pigment, anti-static agents, abrasive material (for head cleaning and good tape-to-head contact) and solvents. Every manufacturer has his own secret recipe, and you won't find many ingredients listed on the tape package!

Video recording makes heavy demands on the tape. In the VHS system for example the magnetic particles must be able to record wavelengths as short as 1.3 microns. The emulsion must be highly resistant to flaking, otherwise dropouts will occur. Head-to-tape contact must be good, but at the same time sticking must be avoided. And so it goes on. The performance of video tape depends on a large number of factors, including temperature, humidity and the condition of the deck's mechanics.

Using tape specifications to compare one manufacturer's tape with another's is not an accurate way of assessing performance. For one thing all tape manufacturers use their own reference tape as a yardstick for tape standards. There's no standard reference tape, and what's more the

reference tapes are regularly upgraded. That's why you sometimes find that a new set of tapes appears to have a worse specification than the older ones they've replaced!

Tape Manufacture

Video tape manufacture is a demanding business. Most makers will tell you that production is part chemistry, part technology, part cookery – and part luck.

The various ingredients of the magnetic layer are mixed to form an emulsion which is spread on to a jumbo sized polyester base that runs along a conveyor belt system. The coated base next passes through an orientation magnet which aligns the metal particles in the same direction. This is followed by drying, after which the coating is polished to produce a smooth top surface. This smooth surface improves the tape-to-head contact and reduces the degrading effect known as modulation noise. With VHS tape the surface irregularities are limited to around 0.05 microns. The tape is finally slit into half-inch wide strips, tested and spooled into cassettes.

VHS Tape

Ferric oxide and chromium dioxide tapes are used with the VHS format. The ferric oxide tapes are available in a number of different grades.

The standard VHS grade is also sometimes called regular or normal grade tape (but never low grade!) and is by far the largest seller (see Table 1). Quality brand E180 tapes are now available for as little as £2.50. One welcome result of this is the virtual disappearance of dodgy brands which could produce poor picture quality, clogged VCR mechanics and head damage.

The VHS tape specification (see Table 2) was set over ten years ago. Since then, tape and head performance have far outstripped the original specification. The performance of JVC's current standard-grade tape is included for comparison – but remember the point made earlier about performance comparisons.

High-grade Tape

Although today's standard-grade tapes perform much better than older ones, various developments of the VHS system have led to a demand for higher specification tapes. VHS long-play operation increases the recording time by halving the video tracks to 24.5 microns. The system is very intolerant of tape dropouts. Depth multiplex recording is used for VHS hi-fi. This calls for a thick, even coating with improved audio response. Since the audio tracks are 40 per cent narrower than the video tracks, accurate tape tracking is essential. With the VHS HQ system the white clip level is

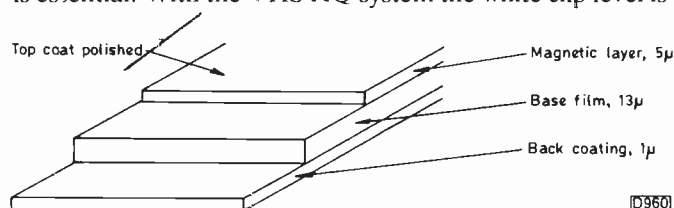


Fig. 1: The layers of a typical ferric oxide video tape.

Table 1: UK video tape market shares

Type of tape	Market share
Standard VHS tape	87%
High-grade VHS tape	3%
VHS-C tape	1%
Standard Beta tape	8%
High-grade Beta tape	<0.5%
8mm tape	1%

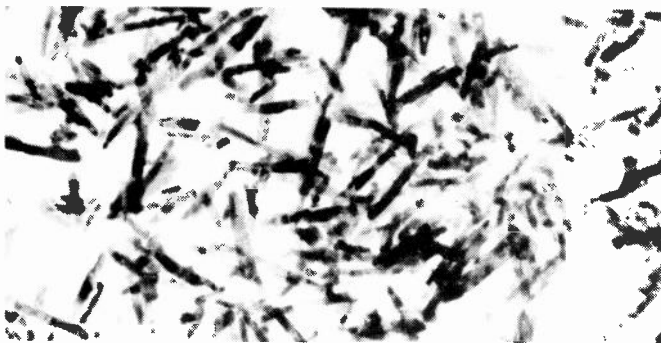
Source: 3M/trade estimates

raised from 160 to 200 per cent, so a better frequency response is required. As a result of these developments tape manufacturers have introduced all manner of tape grades including high grade, extra high grade, super high grade, ultra high grade, master grade, hi-fi grade, library grade and pro-grade.

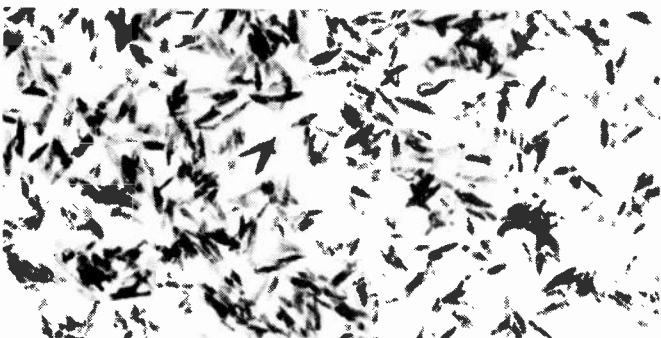
Audio tapes conform to an IEC standard classification, but this does not apply to video tape. The International Tape Association (ITA) tried to set such a standard a couple of years ago but met with little success. Part of the problem is that while audio tapes are grouped according to the materials used for the coating, e.g. chrome, metal, etc., all these different video tape grades use ferric oxide. The problem is further compounded by the fact that when you test the tapes you can on some occasions find that there's no difference between a high-grade tape and its standard counterpart. Also, it's not unknown for standard-grade tape to out perform the high-grade type!

Early high-grade tapes were simply standard-grade tapes with a better than average dropout performance. Today's high-grade tapes incorporate a number of real improvements however. First, particle size is reduced to around 0.24 microns, which greatly improves the information packing density. The BET value is defined as the surface area covered by one gram of tape particles. With standard-grade VHS tape the BET value is around 30m²/g, which means that one gram of particles occupies 30m² of space. High-grade tape has a BET value of between 40-50m²/g. This increases the coercivity to over 700 Oersteds, greatly improving the frequency response.

Many high-grade tapes have additional coatings and new formulations. For example, to achieve improved high-frequency response JVC's new pro-grade uses barium ferrite in addition to ferric oxide. The coating process is also more tightly controlled, so that whereas with standard-grade tapes the average number of dropouts is around 15-20 per minute with some high-grade tapes the dropout rate is as low as three per minute.



Standard-grade cobalt-modified gamma ferric oxide tape, with magnification of 30,000.



S-VHS cobalt-modified gamma ferric oxide tape, with magnification of 30,000.

Overall, high-grade tapes have a higher f.m. output, better signal-to-noise ratio and lower modulation noise than standard-grade types (see Table 2). The cassette shells are also made to finer tolerances and the boxes are often more robust. They incorporate features such as anti-static treatment and magnetic protection.

Tape manufacturers recommend the use of high-grade tape for long-play operation, hi-fi recording, archiving and recordings that are to be edited on to another tape. But, as Table 1 shows, the general public appears to be more interested in economy than performance.

S-VHS Tape

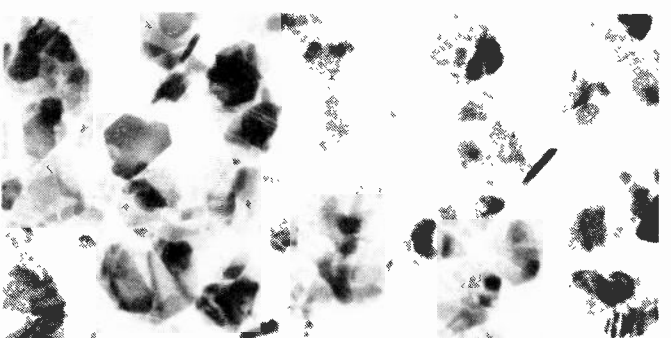
With the S-VHS system picture detail is greatly increased by shifting the f.m. carrier to 5.4-7MHz (deviation) as opposed to 3.8-4.8MHz. With the wider bandwidth that this makes possible, some of the higher frequencies have wavelengths as short as 0.8 microns. At these dimensions there's a danger of self-erasure, and to reduce this risk tape with a higher coercivity than that of high-grade tape is required.

The use of high-coercivity metal tape was proposed when JVC first began research on S-VHS. Eventually JVC settled on a special grade of ferric oxide tape. The coercivity is raised to 900 Oersteds by reducing the particle size to just 0.18 microns, enabling the tape to record the higher frequencies.

To ensure that only S-VHS tape is used for S-VHS recording, the cassettes have an identification (ID) hole on the underside. If a VHS cassette is inserted the machine's S-VHS recording mode is rendered inoperative. VHS recordings can be made on S-VHS tape, and there has been some controversy as to whether ordinary VHS machines will be able to record and erase S-VHS tapes. JVC, 3M (Scotch), TDK and others have carried out extensive tests using blank S-VHS tape in old-style piano-key VHS machines, camcorders and hi-fi machines, using both the



SHG cobalt-modified gamma ferric oxide tape, with magnification of 30,000.



Tape using hexagonal barium ferrite particles for vertical recording. Magnification 100,000.

Table 2: VHS tape specifications

Characteristic	Basic specification	Current JVC standard grade	JVC Pro-grade tape	Chromium dioxide tape
F.M. output	-2dB	0.5dB	3.5dB	4dB
Chroma output	-2dB	0.5dB	2dB	—
Video s/n ratio	-2dB	1.1dB	3.2dB	0dB
Chroma s/n ratio	-2dB	1.7dB	3.9dB	0dB
Audio frequency response	±2dB	0.5dB	2dB	2dB
Coercivity	600 Oersteds	680 Oersteds	approx. 1,450 Oersteds	600 Oersteds

The remanence for chromium dioxide tape is quoted as 1,450 Gauss. There is no specification for the remanence of ferric oxide tape but the figure for most standard-grade tape is between 1,200 and 1,400 Gauss.

standard- and long-play modes where applicable. No erasure problems were encountered. 3M has gone as far as suggesting that S-VHS tape improves VHS picture quality subjectively. As S-VHS tape will cost between three and four times standard-grade tape however it's unlikely that many VHS users will be tempted into using it for day-to-day recordings.

Chromium Dioxide Tape

Chromium dioxide was first used in audio tapes. It initially found its way into video tape as an abrasive additive in the tape emulsion. BASF however markets a range of "chromdioxid" tapes in a variety of grades. To start with there was some controversy as to whether their use would accelerate head wear, but BASF claims that its chromium tapes actually increase head life. A tape life of over 500 passes (most ferric oxide tapes have a life of 100-300 passes) is quoted. Table 2 includes the specifications of a typical chromium dioxide tape, but for the reasons previously given comparisons with ferric oxide tapes are again difficult.

Metal Tape

Ferric oxide tape development has probably reached the end of the road with S-VHS. To record even shorter wavelengths than with S-VHS requires the use of tape with a higher coercivity, and that means metal tape.

Metal tape is widely used in professional formats such as the M11 and Betacam SP camcorder ones and for the D1 and D2 digital video recording systems. Domestic systems that use metal tape include the 8mm and Extended Definition (ED) Beta formats. It's also used with the Digital Audio Tape (DAT) system. Several VHS manufacturers, notably Matsushita (Panasonic) and Hitachi, have developed digital VHS recorders which make use of the high-density feature of metal tape, but such machines are unlikely to appear on the market for some time.

Metal tape has a far higher coercivity (typically 1,500

Oersteds) than ferric oxide tape and a much greater remanence value (some 2,500 Gauss), which means a far higher signal-to-noise ratio (around 10dB higher). The tape can record wavelengths as short as 0.3 microns. For a given area, metal tape offers four times as much storage capacity as ferric oxide tape.

There are two types of metal tape, metal particle (MP) and metal evaporated (ME). In both cases the metal consists of an alloy of iron, nickel and cobalt.

MP tape is made in much the same way as ferric oxide tape, the base film being coated with the metal particles. The resulting tape has an overall thickness of around 13 microns - a 1 micron back coating, 9 micron base film and 3 micron metal coating. For increased playing time MP tape that's just 10 microns thick is also available.

One of the problems with MP tape is that the high coercivity and relative thickness of the metal coating mean that a high recording current is required. As a result there's a danger of the ferrite video heads saturating. To overcome this the ferrite heads are sputtered with an alloy of iron, aluminium and silicon called sendust (see Fig. 2). This greatly improves the recording characteristics.

ME tape is made by passing the base film through a vacuum chamber and heating the metal alloy with an electron beam until it boils. The metal vapour condenses on to the film, forming a very thin layer just 0.15 microns thick. Coercivity is much the same as with MP tape, but the thinness of ME tape gives much longer playing times. ME tape is expensive to produce however: all current formats that require metal tape use the MP type.

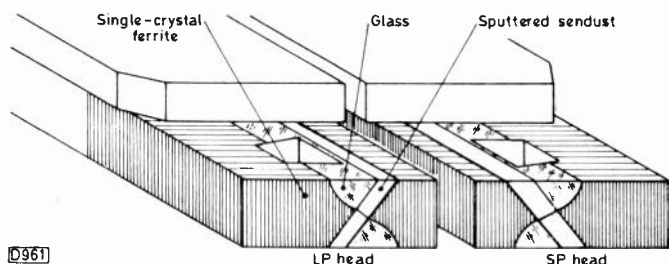
Video-8 Tape

The 8mm format has a low writing speed (just 3.12m/sec) and uses an audio-sized cassette. The system would not be possible without the use of high-density, high-coercivity metal tape. With the 8mm system wavelengths around 0.6 microns are recorded. Tapes that provide playing times of 15, 30 and 60 minutes are 13 microns thick while 90 minute tape is 10 microns thick. Technical problems have so far thwarted the introduction of 120 minute tape in the PAL markets.

The recently announced high-band 8mm format will use a special type of tape, but no details of this have been announced so far.

Developments

The ED Beta format has a carrier deviation of 6.8-9.3MHz and uses half-inch MP tape. Tape thickness is 19 microns - a 1 micron back coat, 15 micron base film and a 3 micron magnetic layer. Coercivity is 1,450 Oersteds and



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Fig. 2: Sputtered sendust heads for use with metal tape.

remance 2,500 Gauss. ED Beta tape cannot be used with standard Beta recorders.

Samsung has developed a video recording format that uses 4mm DAT tape. This is an MP type with similar remance, coercivity and tape thickness to 8mm MP tape. The DAT cassette is about half the size of a conventional audio cassette. It offers great portability and a recording time of 80 minutes, nearly three times that of a VHS-C cassette. The system is unlikely to be launched without widespread industry support.

The next stage of development is likely to be a move away from tape with longitudinally orientated particles to

vertical recording with the particles standing upright. This would greatly increase the recording density. JVC's work on vertical recording has resulted in the development of hexagonal barium ferrite particles – the accompanying photo gives an idea of the kind of particle shape this work is producing.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank BASF, JVC, Maxell, Scotch, Sony and TDK for their help in providing information that has been used in this article.

Teletopics

SKY TELEVISION

Rupert Murdoch's News International has announced a major extension of its subsidiary Sky Television plc's satellite broadcasting interests. The company plans to start a four-channel satellite TV broadcasting service via the Astra satellite, which is due to be launched this November. A ten-year lease has been signed for three of Astra's transponders, which will be used for a general entertainment and arts channel, a news channel and a feature film channel. An option has been taken on a fourth transponder for a sports channel which would be a joint venture with a consortium of EBU members. The services will be uplinked by British Telecom and will be regulated by the Cable Authority. Transmissions are due to begin next February, following tests in December. The services will be free, supported by advertising, so there will be no question of scrambling. A 24-hour radio service will also be offered, with stereo sound quality, presenting non-stop music from compact discs. Sky Television will be operated from a new facilities centre in the UK: it will include news studios, transmission suites, post-production facilities and offices. The services will be known as Sky Channel, Sky News, Sky Movies and Sky Radio.

To coincide with the start of the new services Amstrad will be entering the satellite TV market with an Amstrad Fidelity branded 60cm dish and receiver package aimed at the mass market, with a £199 VAT inclusive price tag. This low price is helped by the fact that the transmissions will be to the PAL standard, with no scrambling or access control. The company is tooling up for production of up to 100,000 units a month, with deliveries scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 1989. Assembly is planned in the UK though certain key components will be sourced in the Far East. It's understood that an agreement has been reached with GEC-Marconi for the supply of one million LNBs. The basic model will be known as the SRX100, but there will be a series of models with extra features including a £259 unit with remote control. Distribution will be via the company's traditional High Street and independent outlets. Aerial contractors are expected to charge £40 or so for an installation.

SES, the Luxembourg company that owns the Astra satellite, has decided to order a second satellite which will be launched in 1990. This will provide a back-up for Astra and will increase the total channel capacity to 32.

Maxwell Communications, W.H. Smith and British Telecom have jointly announced their intention to start a satellite TV service with probably six channels. Either the

Astra satellite or a second-generation, medium-power Eutelsat satellite will be used and the transmission standard will be D-MAC. The companies control or are major shareholders in the Premiere film channel, the Home Video Channel, Screensport, Lifestyle, MTV and Children's Channel. Direct-to-home transmissions are expected to begin early next year.

BROADCASTING CHANGES SUGGESTED

Several suggestions for major changes to the present UK broadcasting arrangements have been made recently. The Home Office is studying the idea of making BBC-2 and Ch. 4 available via satellite only in order to increase the number of national and regional channels, the aim being to give the viewer a wider choice and advertisers a better deal through increased competition between broadcasters. The government has stressed that the scheme is still at an exploratory stage, and that terrestrial BBC-2 and Ch. 4 transmissions would continue for a number of years. One suggestion would be to use the two spare transponders on the BSB satellite.

In a recent speech the Home Secretary Douglas Hurd called into question the traditional licence fee. He is reported to have commented that "as the viewer has more and more channels to choose from it will become less and less defensible that he should have to pay a compulsory licence fee to the BBC regardless of the extent to which he watches its programmes". It seems that the alternative would be a subscription scheme. The Home Secretary also questioned whether the role of the IBA in setting detailed schedules would in future be necessary, and put forward the suggestion that transmission and the provision of programmes should be separated.

MICROWAVE TV

GEC-Marconi has been advocating the use of microwave TV services in the UK. The firm estimates that 80-90 per cent of the population could be provided with up to 30 channels at a relatively modest cost – transmitters could cost as little as £30,000 and receivers less than £100. The 2.5GHz band would be used for such MMVD (multi-channel microwave video distribution) services, with low-power transmitters each covering an area with a radius of 30km. A demonstration of the technique was given recently at the Chelmsford headquarters of Marconi Communications Systems. The firm points out that distribution of TV services via a microwave network would be a much cheaper solution than either cable or satellite systems.

TELEVOX

A new teletext-based service for advertising holidays, houses, jobs etc. has been introduced by McCallum Televox. Subscribers phone the Televox Centre at Cam-

bridge, where voice recognition equipment is used for identification. Pages of teletext can then be requested – there are at present 400 pages of advertising and the target is 4,500 pages by the end of the first year. The pages are transmitted by the IBA, using part of the Oracle space reserved for subscription services. There's an average delay of four seconds between page selection and the page appearing on the screen. A legal dispute between Televox and Oracle, which is at present being forced to transmit the pages, could bring the service to an end.

HIGH STREET CHANGES

Thorn EMI subsidiary MultiBroadcast is starting a retail chain which will trade under the name Value Vision. One of its main activities will be the sale of reconditioned ex-rental equipment. The first two shops are in Nottingham and Wolverhampton. Ten or so more outlets will be opened during the coming year, in the midlands and south. Servicing will be looked after by MultiBroadcast's service organisation, which is being expanded to take on contract work.

Woolworth's electrical subsidiary Comet has bought from Granada fifteen Connect outlets in Northern Ireland.

JOB LOSSES IN MANUFACTURING

Both Philips and Thomson have announced substantial staff cutbacks. Philips will be shedding 900 jobs at its Eindhoven consumer electronics division, the largest single reduction to be announced by the company in fifty years. Most of the cuts will be made next year. The move is part of an overall plan to cut 20,000 jobs and close at least 70 factories world-wide. Philips' aim is drastic cuts in production costs and more rapid product development from initial idea to market launch. The company has already shed over 4,000 jobs this year, mainly in the consumer electronics division. More redundancies could follow.

Thomson's newly formed Thomson Consumer Electronics subsidiary is expected to announce shortly plans for large-scale job reductions world-wide. The division has 40 plants in 17 countries and a workforce of over 50,000, including the GE-RCA operation in America.

1988 HAM EXAM

A Radio Amateurs' Examination course is to be held at Paddington College commencing at 6.30 p.m. on September 13th. Enrolments take place during the week commencing September 5th, between 1-4p.m. in the afternoon and 6-8p.m. in the evening, on the third floor of the college at Paddington Green, London W2 1NB. Because of ILEA economies this is likely to be the only ILEA sponsored RAE course to be held in the ILEA area during the academic year 1988-9. The Paddington course covers the City and Guilds RAE exam syllabus and also makes use of the College's facilities to enable students to carry out practical experiments in the electronic theory covered, the aim being to provide a grounding in electronics as well as an Amateur Radio licence. The course tutors are David Peace (G4KKM) and David Hunt (G6MFR). Further information can be obtained from the college on 01-402 6221 or David Peace on 01-892 7585.

END OF RTS

This year will be the first since the early fifties that does not see the publication of an annual volume of *Radio and Television Servicing*. In the early days the books were published by Newnes; for the last decade or so they have appeared under the Macdonald imprint. At one time your

editor used to compile the TV section. There's good news however for those who still want a book of circuits etc. U-View TV Tubes of 29 Warmsworth Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN4 0RP, which has been acting as a main distributor of these books, will this year be publishing its own *Television Circuit Book* – a quality hard-bound book in A4 size. No clock radios or record players, but more TV circuits. A *Video Circuit Book* is to follow. We understand that both books should be available by the end of the summer.

SPARES NOTES

Following the recent changes at Fidelity Radio, reported in this column last month, SEME Ltd. point out that these will not affect the spares situation. SEME will continue to fulfill Fidelity's obligations for the supply of spare parts, in particular the policy of maintaining supplies for major products for five years. The company will also continue to provide technical advice on spare parts. SEME Ltd. is located at Unit 2E, Saxby Road Industrial Estate, Melton Mowbray, Leicester LE13 1BS, telephone 0664 65392 or 66881.

HRS Electronics Ltd. has moved to Garretts Green Lane, Garretts Green, Birmingham B33 0UE. The new premises give the firm a five-fold increase in space, to 109,000 sq. ft. The new telephone numbers are: sales 021 789 7575; accounts 021 789 7676; general 021 789 7171. Note that this firm operates a trade only policy.

NEW CATALOGUE

The summer 1988 edition of the Cirkit constructors' catalogue is now available, featuring many new products in its 184 pages. Items featured for the first time amongst the 3,000 lines include a low-cost 10MHz oscilloscope, the Easiwire fast circuit prototyping system, an automatic nicad charger-cycler and two new hand-held scanning receivers. There are also additions to the components range, including scart and mains connectors, r.f.i. filters, ABS and 19in. rack cases and cyno adhesive. The catalogue costs £1.30 and is available from Cirkit Distribution Ltd., Park Lane, Broxbourne, Herts. EN10 7NQ, telephone 0992 444111 (sales desk) or 0992 441306 (other departments).

IN BRIEF

Sony has launched in Japan a video version of its Walkman. The combined display unit and tape deck is housed in a casing the size of a fat paperback and sells for around £550 . . . Agreement has been reached between European consumer electronics manufacturers and the EBU on the specification for the Eurocrypt satellite TV scrambling and conditional access system . . . Under proposals that have been added to the Copyright, Designs and Patent's Bill, users of VCRs will have to wipe out their recordings within 28 days. The aim is to stop viewers building up home video libraries. It's not certain how such a regulation could be enforced . . . The IBA's engineering division has completed the installation of replacement high-power u.h.f. transmitting equipment at Mendip, Somerset. It's the first station to be re-equipped in a major modernisation programme. All the original u.h.f. colour transmitters will be replaced over the next ten years. The new transmitters at Mendip use pulsed klystrons for high electrical efficiency and low maintenance, and will be capable of providing high-quality NICAM digital stereo sound. Stereo sound will be available in London and parts of the Yorkshire region from autumn 1989: the full ITV and Ch. 4 service will begin in 1990.

TV Fault Finding

Reports from Dave Dulson, W.H. Clarke, Hugh MacMullen, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., Roger Burchett, Nick Beer, Jim Rainey and J. Olijnyk

Amstrad CTV2200

There have been various comments on this set in recent issues. I've found that the main reason why it self-destructs at switch on or soon after, blowing Q501 (2SC3156), Q802 (2SD139B) and sometimes Q503 (2SA916), is dry-joints on the line driver transformer T801. They can also be responsible for reduced width at one side, sometimes intermittently. Also check the h.t. smoothing capacitor C520 (100 μ F) which works very close to its tolerance of 160V. If you don't have a 2SC3156 to hand a BU208A will work quite happily as a replacement. **D.D.**

Ferguson TX9 Chassis

The customer complained that faces were green, which is not acceptable even here in Ireland. On checking the grey scale everything seemed to be normal, so it was a case of straight into the colour decoder to look for the cause of the phase reversal. The chip (IC52) was changed first, with no luck. Balance control RV67 which has been known to cause this trouble, also the chroma delay line and the components in the ident circuit, were then tried. Still no luck. The voltages and waveforms all looked fine. With despair setting in I rang friend Snow, who is never stuck with Ferguson sets. "Have you checked the degaussing circuit?" he asked, "if not try it now." I'd spent a whole day trying to find the fault in the decoder, but three seconds with a degaussing coil cleared the green faces. The culprit was the posistor. **W.H.C.**

Some Quickies

Waltham W350: This set had reduced width when warm and sometimes failed to start when cold. Without being in any way intermittent, the line oscillator transformer could be removed by hand without the use of a soldering iron.

Philips K30 chassis: A noiseless raster was cured by changing the i.f. module, but this turned out to be a red herring. R1412 (12 Ω) which smooths the 12.5V supply for the tuner and the i.f. module was intermittently open-circuit. When disturbed by changing the i.f. module it was o.k. for a while.

NordMende 4230: This 16in. colour set uses the same chassis as the **Ferguson Model 3878**. When the mains supply was applied via our variac we found that it wouldn't operate with an input of more than 150V. It took us a considerable time to discover that CA13 (0.47 μ F) which couples the drive to the line flyback thyristor was slightly leaky. **H.MacM.**

GEC C2000

This and other Tatung models that use the TDA4503 signal processing chip seem to give a crackling noise on sound during video search. The only cure found so far is to alter the value of R106 to give 3.7-4.2V at pin 28 of I101 when the AV position is selected. This usually calls for a resistor value in the range 150k Ω to 180k Ω . **P.B.**

Grundig CUC2401 Chassis

If you find that the sound mutes on playback of a prerecorded tape, check which type of ABL module is fitted. If it's type 29504-107-31, change it for a 29504-007-28

or disconnect the link from the TDA8185 chip to pin 9 of the ABL module. Removing the link disconnects the mute, so the self-seeek tuning won't stop when a station is found etc. **P.B.**

Finlux 9000 Series

You sometimes get failure to start from cold with these sets, especially in cold weather. We've come across two causes of this trouble. Either Ru17 (270k Ω) has been intermittent or Cu6 has dried up. **P.B.**

Grundig CUC2600 Chassis

I've had this fault on two occasions now. From cold the set gives either a blank raster or snow on the screen, with no sound. The slightest movement of the chassis will cure the fault for days. On both occasions tuner replacement has provided a permanent cure. **P.B.**

Amstrad CTV1400

These sets are very prone to developing dry-joints on one or all of the line driver transformer's pins (T701). If the owner doesn't bother to do anything about the resultant intermittent faults (they very seldom do) the first thing the service engineer knows about it is when he's presented with a set with a dead line output transistor (Q705). The original is a 2SD904 but Amstrad now supply a 2SD822. Incidentally, take circuit details on the panel and in the service manual with a pinch of salt. The LA7800 sync/timebase generator chip IC701 has pin 8 marked correctly on the underside of the panel but pin 16 is marked pin 1. In the manual the voltage at pin 12 of this chip is shown as 1.2V instead of 12.2V.

Q705's collector connection to the print is via a stud that's soldered in. This is not very reliable. An extra lead from the connecting nut through one of the convenient holes in the board to the print land is a good idea.

In my experience these sets benefit from having the board cleaned up and coated with circuit varnish. **R.B.**

Rank T20/22 etc Series

This one should appeal to those who, like me, delight in minimal cost repairs. The ultrasonic remote control handset used with these sets has a phosphor-bronze leaf spring that not only returns the switch to the off position but gives an audible click when doing so. After a number of years the spring fractures. There are several ways to restore operation without the click, but if you wish to retain this feature

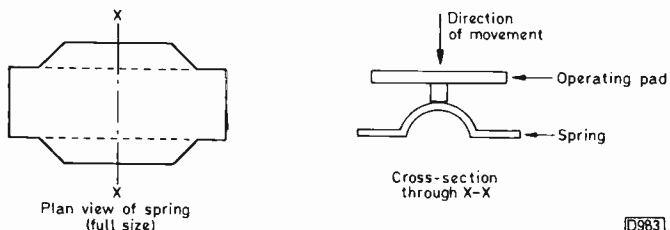


Fig. 1: Making a replacement leaf spring for the remote control handset used with the Rank T20/22 series chassis. **D983**

you either need a new spring (if you can obtain one) or you must improvise. If you don't have phosphor-bronze of the right flexibility, here's a free source of substitute material: cut up a drinks can! These are made of spun aluminium which is already work hardened. Cut out the required shape (see Fig. 1) and hammer it over a suitable rod or tube to get the spring to rest in the off position. The spring doesn't have any electrical function – this is taken care of by separate fingers. Only time will tell how long this repair lasts, but it takes just a few minutes to do and must be a cost-effective solution. **R.B.**

Ferguson TX90 Chassis

The fuseholder for FS102, the secondary fuse on top of the mains transformer, tends to overheat and cause intermittent operation. It's of the type with a Paxolin base, and you'll find this scorched. As this is the fuse that blows when the mains rectifier diodes short — often intermittently — the problem could be due to regular fuse changing before the fault is tackled properly, i.e. change all four diodes to type BYD33G. The fuse has been uprated from T1A to T1.6A. **R.B.**

Decca/Tatung 145 Series Chassis

For chopper transistor failure in this chassis check R808 (100k Ω) and R810 (82k Ω). **R.B.**

Ferguson TX9 Chassis (PC1001 Panel)

If the BZX79C4V7 zener diode W54 goes open-circuit the result is flyback lines at the bottom of the screen, increasing in size over the bottom third. The lines are always green — perhaps someone can explain why? W54 is the blanking input clamp diode at pin 2 of the μ PC1365C colour decoder chip IC52. **R.B.**

Thorn 3500 Chassis

One of these elderly sets began to eat chopper transistors, always when no one was watching it. The only fault I could find in the power supply was a suspect joint at one end of the 30V line fuseholder. Flexing the board quite hard in a darkened room enabled me to see a spark. I'd previously seen the picture fluttering, and tapping the panel had caused line collapse, but the joints all looked reasonable. Going over all possible bad joints in the area seems to have put matters right. **R.B.**

Salora 1F3

In the June issue John L. Howard mentioned condensation as a cause of field slip from cold in these sets. What often happens is that condensation on the tripler causes tracking which in turn upsets the field sync. **N.B.**

Bang and Olufsen 4402 (35XX Series)

The width varied intermittently, accompanied by a nasty crack of e.h.t. followed by line collapse. A dirty connection on the scan coil plug, at the coil end, was responsible. It had started to arc and burn the plastic plug casing. **N.B.**

Panasonic TC2061 (U5 Chassis)

This set was reluctant to change channels. When it did there was bad picture distortion (lines) for five-ten seconds, and when tuning the set wouldn't lock to the optimum

point. The fault was not affected by temperature changes or time. A check on IC171 (SAB3035) and the connections to the associated crystal X171 seemed appropriate steps. We've had several cases where poor joints on X171 have caused misoperation of IC171. In this case replacing the chip restored correct operation. **N.B.**

Panasonic TC2205 (U2 Chassis)

Stuck on standby is a fairly common fault with these sets. I dived for the chopper power supply rectifier diodes D852/3 etc., the usual cause, but they were all intact. After much time spent checking around I decided to replace the line driver transistor Q501. This restored a bit of life but the trouble was by no means cured. In the end I came to the conclusion that the line output transformer was probably faulty, something that's virtually unknown in Panasonic sets. Fitting a replacement cured the trouble. **N.B.**

Panasonic TC381G

After thirty seconds the picture would flare up bright green and the set would then trip. The cause of the trouble was traced to a grid-cathode short in the 320BTB22 tube. This is an expensive item to replace, so I played around with my newly acquired B and K 467 tube restorer and cleared out the short, thereby saving an otherwise first class set. **N.B.**

More Quickies

Sanyo CTP7130/1/2: If the line output transistor fails at switch on or some time later check for a dry-joint on the heatsink support tag. Resoldering provides a cure.

Thorn 1615 chassis: For reduced field scan check whether the HT2 rectifier diode W34, type BY210-600, is open-circuit.

Grundig CUC70 chassis (Model C7400): We've had a couple of faults recently with these sets. Field collapse was due to D353 being short-circuit — the 26V +D supply was missing. A white raster with high first anode voltage occurs when R723 goes high-resistance or open-circuit.

Grundig CUC41 chassis (Model C2112): For intermittent mains fuse failure replace D657 (MZD160). **J.R.**

Triumph CTV8520

The fault report said "crackles" and it turned out that the tripler was duff. I hadn't got one so, after moving a few components to the copper side of the board, a universal tripler was fitted. These sets have an unusual focus arrangement, built into the tripler, so I left the focus lead off. When I switched on there was e.h.t., closely followed by an out-of-focus picture. So far so good! Numerous focus units were then tried. The one that eventually worked was for the Thorn 9000 chassis. I fixed it on to the plastic chassis and gave the set a long soak test. It's since gone back to the customer and there have been no complaints to date. **J.O.**

Hitachi CPT2064

This set came in dead, with fuse F901 blown. We found that IC901 (STR440) and Q781 (2SD898B) were both short-circuit. Everything seemed to be all right when these items were replaced but the set was back with us next day, the complaint this time being that the set couldn't be operated by remote control. The handset was working so we replaced the M58485P chip IC3003. This restored normal operation. **J.O.**

The Importance of VCR Back Tension

Nick Beer

Back tension in a VCR is the reverse force encountered by the tape when threaded up. My reason for writing this short article on the subject is to help engineers who may be nagged by odd intermittent deck faults in playback/record or encounter machines with a tendency to premature head wear. The importance of correct back tension seems to be either unknown or ignored. It's amazing how many workshops that have a fairly large throughput of VCRs don't possess any method of back tension measurement.

Back tension is provided by braking (the soft brake band) on the supply reel and the back-tension lever, see Fig. 1. Usually one or other of these can be adjusted to obtain correct back tension.

Without back tension there would be no control over the tape as it passes the entry guide to go round the head drum, i.e. the tape would be slack, not taut as it should be. The tape would therefore loop into the mechanism and the picture would be severely impaired – in fact the machine would be unusable.

Incorrect Back Tension

Very low back tension is not a common problem except in the Mitsubishi Model HS303 where the back-tension lever has a tendency to stick in its rest position, usually giving the impression that one of the heads has failed (back tension is still partially present due to the effect of the soft brake).

Slightly low back tension usually means that the tape snatches or loops as it passes the back-tension lever, particularly in the forward search mode and just after completion of threading.

Excessive back tension is by far the most common condition. Unfortunately it often goes unnoticed because the machine has come in for some other reason, for example a worn head, though excessive back tension is very often the underlying cause of the trouble. The reason for excessive head wear is that the back tension opposes the take-up torque. It therefore directly affects the pressure exerted by the tape on the head drum, by determining how tightly the tape is wrapped round the drum. Thus constant operation with too much back tension will lead to premature head failure.

Some Panasonic machines provide good examples of this

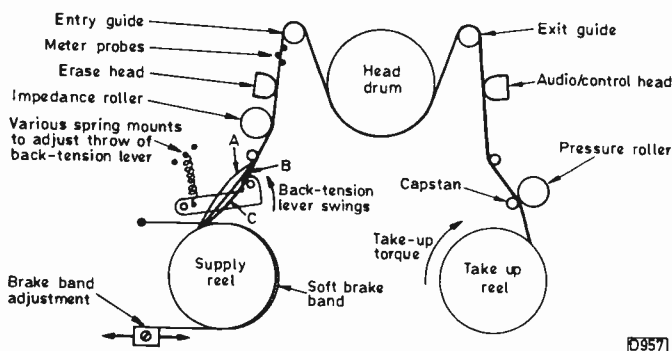


Fig. 1: Typical VHS VCR deck layout, showing the main mechanical components and the point at which to check the back tension when using a Tentelometer. A shows correct back tension, B low back tension and C very low back tension (the tape would unravel round the drum). The usual problem is excessive back tension.

sort of thing. When head wear is mentioned the NV730 springs to mind. This is a two-speed machine with super still, so the heads are pricey – about £75 retail plus VAT for a new drum, though MCEs now do excellent rebuilds. A high proportion of these machines have had to have new heads after eighteen months to two years' use. Some are coming in for head replacement yet again. In most cases a check on the back tension would have showed the basic cause. I'm not saying that incorrect back tension is in every case the cause, but the machines I've adjusted haven't been back.

In older Panasonic VCRs back tension is generally 25-30g, but with most of the NV730s I've had in it has been between 50g and 60g! Only the other day one came in with duff heads. The customer said he knew it was the heads because he had had the same trouble 12-18 months previously. Someone else had fitted a new drum and when I measured the back tension I found that it was 56g.

Staying with the Panasonic range, I've had head failure with a number of NV-G21s and NV-G25s – under guarantee of course. In all but two cases the back tension was over 45g. With these machines it should be 20-25g!

I must apologise to Panasonic for keeping on about their machines, but they do provide good, well-known examples of the problem – other manufacturers are guilty of inaccurate setting up at the factory.

Measuring Back Tension

Having made the case for checking the back tension, how do you measure it? We use the Panasonic Tentelometer (see Fig. 2). It's a hand-held meter with three probes through which the tape runs, as shown in the accompanying diagrams. It comes with a calibration weight and instructions and is a superb device for the purpose. Place the three probes around the tape, as shown, at a point between the erase head and the entry guide. Take measurements with an E120 cassette, approximately half way through, ensuring that the meter's probes are kept vertical with respect to the tape. The device works by calculating the tension as the amount of force the tape applies to the middle probe and this probe's movement with respect to the other two probes.

There are cassette type meters like the type you use for fast forward/rewind and take-up torque measurement. An example that's as good as any is available from Willow Vale under part no. 20-998A – it's a Thorn unit. Use is by playing the tape as usual and reading off the scale.

Adjustment

Back tension adjustment is carried out by one or other of the following methods – the service manual will tell you what to do:

- (1) Adjustment of the supply reel soft brake tension.
- (2) Adjustment of the landing position of the back-tension lever, by increasing or decreasing the actuating spring pressure for correct tension.
- (3) As (2) but using a jig with marked graduations and ensuring that the lever falls within a specified area – there is no need for a tension measuring device in this case, which applies for example with some Sanyo models.

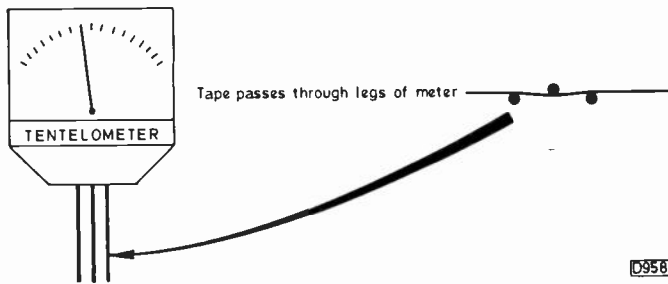


Fig. 2: The Panasonic Tentelometer and its use.

I hope I've said enough to stress the importance of back tension, and that you'll accordingly check this point. The price of a meter or a cassette meter will soon be recouped, especially if you care for a number of rental machines.

The Blaze

Les Lawry-Johns

A red Consul drew up outside. Its driver came in to collect his set which, on investigation, had turned out to be not worth repairing. He carried the set out, put it in the car, closed the boot and got in behind the driving wheel. His wife and two children were with him. I heard him trying to start the car, but it didn't want to know. Next thing I knew they were all coming into the shop. "Call the fire brigade, my car's on fire!"

So I dialled 999. When I got through to the fire people I told them there was a car on fire outside my shop and they promised to be there in a moment. As I turned from the phone I saw Phil, who comes in on Saturdays, struggling with the shop fire extinguisher. I took it from him, whipped out the wire and went out to the car. Flames were coming from under the bonnet. So I bashed the top of the extinguisher and directed the spout up near a front wheel. The extinguisher gushed out a white cloud, and at that moment the car's starter started up. After a few more moments the white cloud stopped gushing and the flames were out – there was still a lot of smoke, but the fire was dying down. H.B. shouted at me to get away from the car – she was leaning out of an upstairs window and thought it was about to blow up. It wasn't.

Just then the fire brigade arrived, along with a police car. The firemen lifted the car's bonnet and looked at the mess inside. It was a mess. I recognised the policeman as he got out of his car. It was Bill Bevan, whose wife is expecting. He took the car driver's name and address, and the number of the car. He suggested that when I got the bill for refuelling the extinguisher I should send it to the car's owner who would present it to his insurance company. When I got the estimate it was for eighty pounds plus VAT. I wrote to the address Bill gave me, but haven't had a reply. Oh well! And what did the local rag say next week? "Fire brigade puts out car fire." Thanks a million!

The Fidelity ZX2000 Chassis

I've serviced hundreds of Fidelity TV sets. In the earlier ZX2000 chassis failure of the line output transformer is the usual cause of R901 in the supply to the line output stage being burnt out. Normally you replace the transformer with the later type from the ZX3000 chassis, fitting the adaptor base, remove the focus and first anode controls as these are built into the new transformer, replace the resistor and

everything works fine.

The last one I did this to came back a few days later. This time I found that the chopper transistor and the chopper circuit efficiency diode D24 (RGP15J) had failed. I must confess that the diagnosis and repair were not as straightforward as this account suggests – my muddled head is going to get me into some trouble soon.

How's This for Service?

Phil dropped in during the week to see if I had an SN76532N for an ITT VC300 monochrome portable he was repairing. I looked here, there and everywhere but couldn't find one. He left and enquired around the town but didn't have any luck. Someone told him that Gosling Electronics would have one, but they are in south London, some twenty miles away.

Not to be deterred, Phil jumped into his car and sped off there – after checking by phone to ensure that they had one. He found the shop, but the chip was in the outside engineer's van. Gosling drew a diagram to show where his calls were and Phil once more set off on the chase. First here, then there and eventually, would you believe it, Phil caught up with him. The engineer had the chip and let Phil have it (too cheaply I thought). When Phil got back and fitted the SN76532N sync was restored. You think you go to a lot of trouble to please your customers!

Two Old Dears

These old dears brought their white Ferguson 3848 (1690 chassis) along in a black dustbin bag. As I got it out they told me there was no sound or vision. While they nattered away I whipped the back off, releasing the aerial etc. panel for easier access. When I switched the set on there was slight sound and the tube's heater was dim. On removing the e.h.t. cap the set showed more life.

I switched the set off and clipped the e.h.t. lead. The right sort of e.h.t. diode wasn't in stock – the only one I could find was the little white Thorn 8000 chassis type. I screwed this on to the line output transformer's screen, then connected the line output transformer to it – after removing the new unit's stud and carefully insulating the connection. When the e.h.t. cap was connected to the tube the set sprang to life, with a good picture and full sound. I know I should have replaced the complete overwinding, but it wasn't necessary. Meanwhile the ladies were still nattering away as I replaced the cabinet etc. I heard one of them say "makes you wonder what it's all for".

"Don't you know?" I asked.

"No I don't" one of them replied.

So I explained to them what life is all about.

"When you're young you get a partner, then a child whom you bring up as best you can. When it has repeated the process it's time for you to go to make room for the newcomer. That's all there is to it, whether you like it or not. No point in belly aching about it."

They looked at me as though I was mad.

"I don't think much of that view of life – when will the set be ready?"

"It's ready right now and the charge is ten quid."

They paid up and departed, still thinking they were important, as we tend to do. When will we learn? From the red salmon for example, which dies after spawning. But why do some spirits survive – like the soldiers under the local fort. They keep on appearing, though their boss General Gordon never does. . .

Letters

SELLING PARTS TO THE PUBLIC

How interesting to read the letter (Sharp Spares, June) from a spares wholesaler on selling parts to the general public. Our firm is situated near a large electronics design and development facility, consequently we know what we speak about. Judging by some of the clear-ups we've had to perform, most qualified electronics engineers are incapable of carrying out simple TV and video repairs. I'm a qualified electronics engineer myself, but I chose to leave the industrial side because I found consumer electronics more challenging. From my experience in industry, I can say that many of my contemporaries there readily recognise that their skills are different from those required in the servicing profession. Not superior skills, but different ones.

More importantly, the wholesaler has not considered the practicalities of dealing with a customer of this type. He comes into service reception and says he wants say car audio spares. Has he got the part numbers? No. Has he got the manual? No. Call an engineer to discuss his requirements and add the cost of his time to that of the receptionist. Wade through the spares list and try to identify the spares by name alone. Remember that if you order the wrong ones the wholesaler won't give you a refund. Total the order. Find it incurs a small-order charge as well as a hefty post and packing charge.

Phone customer (more receptionist time) to tell him that the cost of processing his order on time and a 30 per cent mark up is more than £30 and see what he says. Charge him trade price for parts plus 30 per cent. Big deal, less than £5 profit which won't even cover the surcharge and postage, let alone staff time. What a cheek this wholesaler has! We're in business to earn a living as service engineers, not to act as wholesalers' middle men. If he wants this sort of trade he's welcome to it. Just a minute, the qualified electronics engineer has just come in again. He says one of the parts we supplied doesn't fit . . .

*Jon D. Woodward, Proprietor, Technovision,
Wokey, Wells, Somerset.*

THE FULLY QUALIFIED ENGINEER PROBLEM

I have often come across letters complaining about the much-maligned retailer. The one from Willow Vale (Sharp Spares, June) is no exception. I'm not one of those Stevenage dealers, but if the "fully qualified engineer" had called at my shop he may have found me as equally unhelpful with regard to the sale of spare parts. You see, the problem of selling spares to an unknown visitor is fraught with problems. First I have to assess the reliability, ability, knowledge and common sense of the individual. We harassed, self-employed service engineers are at the sharp (no pun intended) end of life in general. We are squeezed between the massive general public, whom we try to please and who in turn patronise us, and its backing from such entities as the local consumer services, television and radio consumer programmes and various other organisations set up to help Joe Public, and on the other hand the suppliers of stock, parts and equipment, some of whom are helpful and some decidedly unhelpful, also the various government organisations that have been set up to remove our profits and the sometimes arbitrary controls, regulations etc. they see fit to impose. It amazes me how many

truly independent shops remain in business, whether they deal with electronics or other goods.

Back to that stranger who wants us to order spares for him. Does he know what he's talking about? I'm not certain that I could myself name each and every item, component, assembly etc. in every piece of equipment that comes across the counter of my shop! I'm not so sure that the manufacturers of the equipment could do so either. The same item is often given a different name by different manufacturers, hence the plethora of computerised part numbers. If the wrong part is ordered I have to repack and return it.

Next, is the customer going to fit the part correctly? If he doesn't and the item is damaged the customer is likely to bring it back and say that it was faulty, demanding a replacement or his money back. This can be a particularly difficult problem as in many cases the item concerned may well have been faulty, a fact that's not always obvious on physical inspection, for example a defective i.c. Then what if the customer's diagnosis was wrong, something that happens to the best of us at times? He may well find that he doesn't need the part, bring it back and demand a refund – especially if it's an obscure item that one is never likely to need to use, and is now of suspect quality! Finally, and possibly with far-reaching consequences, what would my position be if in the process of fitting his spare part the customer injured himself? Could I be held liable for encouraging him to dabble with something dangerous, say an e.h.t. tripler?

As you can see, selling spare parts is often not worth the candle, especially as one sometimes makes only a few coppers out of the deal!

One of the many things I've learnt in this trade is to beware of the so-called expert. I've discovered that the more qualified and the more a customer proclaims to know the less he seems to be able to actually do the job! The local hobbyist on the other hand is usually far more practical, enjoys what he does and is generally all the more interesting to deal with.

A final point. It may take quite a time to establish what's wanted, then one has to look up the catalogues (even Willow Vale don't stock everything!) and ring up to find whether it's in stock, if so how much and not to forget to add the processing charge, the packing charge, the postage charge and of course VAT. Say I double the final sum and charge the customer accordingly, I'm not exactly going to be able to buy the baby a new pair of shoes! But if I were to take on the complete job and fit the item myself, then of course I would be much more interested: I would earn considerably more money in as much time as it has taken me just to order the required part! If Willow Vale feel piqued at producing such a costly catalogue, why don't they advertise in the press and deal direct with the public? I somehow feel that the reason is the points made above.

Adrian Irwin,

Waltham Forest, London E17.

A SHARP DEALER REPLIES

In reply to Brian Tuckfield's letter (Sharp Spares, June) we, being in the service trade, have had several instances of so-called fully qualified electronics design engineers asking us to order parts. Invariably they ask for the wrong parts and we get lumbered with them. If we send them back to Willow Vale we are charged a 50 per cent restocking charge! If we complete the repair ourselves however we know that the work will be carried out to our mutual satisfaction.

In conclusion I'd like to ask three questions, bearing in mind that Willow Vale is "dealer bashing". (1) Is it policy to supply direct to the public? (2) Had they proof that the customer did approach a Sharp stockist? (3) Did the customer show his diploma?

Sharp Dealer, North Devon.

SERVICE COSTING

Brian Tuckfield of Willow Vale has written two letters recently attacking the service trade. In the first he criticised engineers for not being aware of what is available from his company. Have you tried to get a WVE catalogue?! We've been trying for at least eighteen months and have been told it's still being printed. On our last attempt the young lady, embarrassed at having to use the same excuse, suggested that it was being done by Mr. Caxton himself. It's also worth saying that parts lists are infuriating things to have to plod through: a well indexed catalogue giving say a section on reel motors with the total list of makes and models available would be much more helpful.

The second letter concerned Sharp spare parts. A recent costing of ours might indicate the type of problems faced by retailers and service departments. Initial customer enquiry (five minutes) followed by seven abortive attempts to phone WVE (six minutes), cost so far £2.74. Placement of order and stock availability check (3½ minutes), labour 87p, phone 51p plus VAT. Cost of part £3.50 plus VAT. Small-order surcharge £2.25 plus VAT. Total cost to ourselves £10.80.

Even if we added a mark up of 100 per cent on the cost of the part we wouldn't cover our costs let alone make a profit. The only way Brian Tuckfield's firm makes a profit on these small orders is to charge a small-order handling charge. Now according to the latest price information received from WVE (July 1986) we should have charged the customer £3.96 including VAT, which produces a nice loss on the transaction of £6.84. No wonder the Stevenage dealers didn't want to know. Like WVE, they would like to stay in business. We in the trade are used to these unfortunate small-order charges, but I would like to know what reaction Brian Tuckfield would expect from a member of the public who was told that his part should cost £3.96 but that a 250 per cent handling charge was necessary to give the retailer a very small profit.

We find WVE to be generally a useful supplier, though a better catalogue would help us both and I suspect many others. Also less knocking would be mutually beneficial.

L. J. Pitts,

Buckfastleigh, Devon.

COST OF REPAIRS

Two recent letters prompt me to write to you. First Bryan Magrath of Mastercare (May) seems to be happy charging £10 for a TV service manual. I also paid £10 for a Triumph colour TV service manual which consisted of eight pages of photocopies and a double page with the circuit. Photocopies normally cost 10p retail, so I assume that the manual would cost say 50p at trade prices. Adding about £2 for handling and 50p postage still leaves a handsome profit!

This brings me to Brian Tuckfield's letter in the June issue. He seems to imply that service departments have a moral duty to repair any equipment. Although I don't know the cost of the belts and wheels he mentions, the charge for handling them would be £2.50. The cost of a long-distance telephone call has to be added, and if we add

a further £1 or £2 profit for the dealer the customer would end up with a bill of say £7 or £8. There's no guarantee that he would pay that amount for a few rubber belts and wheels. In many cases they don't consider it worthwhile and there is then no way in which the dealer can get his money back. He's stuck with the spare parts, all for the sake of £1-£2 profit.

If Mastercare doesn't find it viable to supply a photocopied service manual for less than £10, and Willow Vale charge £2.50 whether they supply a belt or £100 worth of spares, most dealers won't find it worthwhile selling small parts for a petty profit, let alone repairing that particular cassette player. The cost of repair in this case might be £20, which the customer might consider scandalous. Perhaps if suppliers reduced their handling charges for small orders it would be viable for the dealer and customer alike to have such equipment repaired. It would be very helpful if suppliers undertook field research, got to know their dealers better and found out why they don't bother about small repairs.

It seems that, with the cost of manuals and spares today, more and more dealers are turning away small, unprofitable jobs. I hear lots of customers complaining about not being able to find anyone willing to repair some brands of equipment sold by the large chain stores. The more shops that do so and stick with brands that provide good backing at sensible prices, the sooner the public will be educated into spending a few pounds more for good equipment. It's been said many times before in these pages!

C. Deus,

King's Lynn, Norfolk.

LACK OF HELP

I must agree with Mr. Barnes-Wallis's remarks (July). We all need help at some time or other, but in many cases the manufacturer/importer is most reluctant to give the information required. Blank refusals of help have come from both Sony and Grundig because I'm not an account holder, though I've bought replacement parts for their models over the years from wholesalers.

One fault that comes to mind concerned a Sony SLF1UB VCR. The problem was tape snatching, and it cost me dear. Not being familiar with the Betamax lace-up I misread the symptoms and deduced that the trouble was in the reel motor/servo control loop. Waveform checks seemed to confirm this deduction, but chip changing made no difference. At this point I suspected the reel motors, so a phone call was made to Sony to confirm the diagnosis and price the unit. Advice was refused, leaving me with a problem. I bought the reel motor PCB (expensive) but it didn't help. Your service bureau supplied the cure - shiny heads, creating a vacuum so that the tape sticks to them, now a common problem. Easy when you know, but I've ended up with a surplus reel motor PCB.

Only companies with a large throughput of equipment for repair seem to be able to acquire such information. A single engineer on his own, however good and well equipped with test gear, can never obtain it.

I've recently written to two companies asking for information on intermittent loss of colour when using a BBC or Amstrad/Sinclair Plus Two computer with Triumph CTV8209 series TV sets and their badge engineered counterparts, but have had no help. Can anyone assist?

Giving credit where it's due, a call to GEC Glasgow some years ago provided the answer to a problem I'd not have solved without completely rebuilding the power

supply. That help was welcome indeed.

Service manuals are another problem. Granted they cost money to produce, but without them service engineers cannot maintain equipment in a way that reflects manufacturers' standards and reputation.

Ray Crockett, Eng. Tech., Television and Video Services, Anglezarke, Thrumster, Wick, Caithness KW1 5TX. Telephone 095 585 214.

ORACLE PUZZLE

Could any reader tell me what's going on with HTV teletext? For some months HTV page 777 has consisted of a continuously-changing display of jumbled numbers and figures, but now there's an intermittent flash of a text page. I've recorded this with a camera and on playing it back with pause I find that the page heading has "Televox" or "Myrzad". It appears to be a computer service of some sort. Any ideas would be welcome.

*Chris Plaice,
DER, Swansea.*

FS TUBE SETS

I feel I must reply to the reader who complained about a Toshiba FST model. I've been a retailer/service engineer dealing with Toshiba sets since 1973, and have taken delivery of FST models since 1984. The quality of the convergence, grey scale, purity and focus has been excellent with all models. I demonstrate the conventional tube 222T series alongside the FST 212T series and customers all comment on the superb results with these models. I would be interested to know which model your reader has, and would be only too pleased to sort out the problems. Toshiba offer a two year parts and labour guarantee, and to date I've had only very minor problems such as the odd tuner etc. despite having sold a large number of sets. All customers – and they are the best judge – are delighted with the product.

*John Wakely,
Colliers Wood, London SW19.*

With reference to Colin McCormick's complaint (June) about the convergence/focus/purity/grey scale with sets that have FS tubes, we've had a Sony set with convergence errors and an Hitachi set with convergence/purity/focus errors, but these have been the only two sets out of thousands. A check in the showrooms under the right conditions suggests that FS tubes are very good. Some of us, I suppose, are just unlucky.

*Paul C. Rowe,
Camborne, Cornwall.*

LOW PRICES

I can only assume that whoever wrote your July leader is either a major shareholder in Amstrad or has never had to try to earn a living in the TV service industry. Manufacturers seem to have a kamikaze obsession with cutting each other's throats, and expect the dealers and service engineers to join them.

In the coronation year, 1953, a 9in. monochrome set that received a single channel cost approximately £100. Today, in spite of years of inflation and technological advances that have added many features, a colour TV set which can receive at least four channels can cost as little as £140 - a little extra secures remote control, a larger screen size, teletext, etc. Not content with this, the manufacturers now

supply household goods, free licence stamps and five-year guarantees with their give-away sets. To be fair, they do pay the dealer the princely sum of £8 for a major repair under guarantee. These prices have created a "throw it away" age, and it's little wonder that the service industry is suffering in the way it is.

As you say, Amstrad assemble some equipment in this country, from imported parts. I suggest that this is in effect dumping from the UK instead of the Far East. Alan Sugar has made for himself and his shareholders a great deal of money, but he's not doing the TV trade or the service industry any good at all, and neither he nor your editorial can expect any applause from me.

*R. A. Holmes,
Enfield, Middlesex.*

Editor's note: The editor does not hold shares in Amstrad or any other consumer electronics company, and has never done so.

WYLEX MAINS PLUGS

I read Brian Renforth's letter (June) on Wylex mains plugs with interest. These plugs and sockets, and variants, are still widely used in the Manchester area. In fact the Wylex company is only a few miles away from here, at Wythen-shawe, South Manchester.

In addition to the normal 5A and 13A types there was a variation with offset live and neutral pins, also a 13A plug that allowed a 5A one to be plugged in piggy-back style. There must be thousands still in use, judging from the number of homes in which I've encountered them. Every so often a bag of plugs and adaptors appears for sale in the under £50 domestic sales adverts in the *Manchester Evening News*. I understand they are rapidly disposed of!

*Roderick Ballardie,
Timperley, Cheshire.*

NOISY HITACHI VT63/64

Keith Pemberton (July) mentioned the use of Hita-sol grease to cure a noisy Hitachi VT64 VCR. A permanent cure for this problem is to fit the flywheel holder used in the earlier VT33. This has a nylon bearing that requires no lubrication. GEC also issued a technical bulletin for Model V4005H (March 1986) explaining in detail how to overcome this problem. The GEC part number for the flywheel holder is V7386832.

*Don McDonald,
Bargoed, Mid-Glamorgan.*

MISCELLANY

A couple of points relating to my article on the Decca 80/100 series chassis (June) should perhaps be clarified. First the section on power supply faults rather suggests that R801, the 6.8Ω section of the dropper, is on the power supply PCB. It isn't, of course. Replace it for intermittent fuse blowing or bridge rectifier faults if all else fails. Secondly, in nine times out of ten you'll find that the field output transistors in the 100 chassis are BD707s rather than BD278As. Common spares such as tuners, button units, volume controls, triplers, LOPTs and smoothing capacitors are available from Willow Vale, HRS etc.

In connection with my report on the Panasonic NV-G25B in the same issue (page 605), Panasonic do provide details on setting up the mechanics, including the mode switch, in a separate G Mechanism manual which we'd not received at the time of writing. The manual has some errors

however, so my notes may still be helpful – but note that the pip is about 100° clockwise from the slots in the mode switch, not 180° as shown in Fig. 2.

I'd like to applaud Brian Tuckfield's concern (letters, same issue) and interest in the matter of the customer from Stevenage. If I was one of those "dealers" I would be thoroughly ashamed of myself. Here we are trying to uphold and improve the image of the trade and these dealers let us down badly. We are trying to root out the cowboys and the "couldn't care less" brigade and need all the help we can get. My WVE representative tells me that though non-technical he always reads *Television* to pick up any problems or grievances he may be able to sort out and put right. He's certainly helped us in the past. I hope the retail trade, particularly it seems in Stevenage, will take notice.

Also a quick note on Philip Blundell's reference in VCR Clinic to non-genuine belt kits for the Sharp VC6300. We've had identical troubles with the Hitachi VT5000 and Sony SL8000 series machines. The moral is – fit genuine belts!

Nick Beer,
Bideford, N. Devon.

JAPANESE SYMBOLS PREFERRED

The Japanese practice of using the same symbols in layout diagrams as in circuit diagrams is to be commended. It's so easy to locate components – zigzag resistors, parallel-plate capacitors and spirals for coils. The UK system is much harder to follow, with all components shown as rectangular boxes. German diagrams are even worse, with thick straight lines for wound components. The weakness of Japanese service manuals is their lack of description of how circuits work.

Although conductance is rarely used, I think the mho was a far more practical unit. It was simplicity itself, which is surely what standards should be.

K. J. Treeby,
St. Judes, Plymouth.

HELP WANTED

I've a Rigonda VL100M (one of the Russian 5in. TV sets) which I have been using for DX-TV reception – it has good sensitivity and rock-steady sync that seems to be able to cope with the dirtiest signals. Unfortunately the LOPT has developed shorted turns in the heater winding, rendering the set useless. The importers tell me the part is no longer available, and the only other source of supplies (Star Radio) I know of seems to have gone out of business. I would be grateful if anyone who has a transformer or knows of a source would get in touch.

J. C. Chandler, 1 Bramhall Moor Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 4AJ.
Telephone 061 428 0811 Ext. 297 day, 061 483 9659 evenings.

Editorial note: We receive other letters from time to time asking about spares for these sets. If there are any sources, we'd like to know too.

FOR DISPOSAL

I have for disposal a home-constructed, 405-line single-channel (London) TV receiver in a cabinet. It was working when put in the loft some years ago. Would anyone like it?
A. Newton, 9 Millais, Horsham,
West Sussex RH13 6BS. Telephone 0403 66 018.

next month in

TELEVISION

FREE NEXT MONTH

Our September issue comes with a cover-mounted gift – this time a pack of two 1N4007 power diodes. These devices are rated at 1A, 1kV.

● SERVICING THE SONY KV2752

This is a high-performance receiver with a 27in. tube and two loudspeakers that together provide over 10W of audio power. Its main failing is a tendency to go dead suddenly after working well for a long time. One or more expensive power transistors will be found to have failed. This is simple enough to diagnose, but unless you know what steps to take a repeat performance will not be long in coming. David Botto describes the set, the action required in dealing with a dead one, and provides servicing notes on the various panels. Much of the information also applies to Models KV2252 and KV2253.

● INTERNATIONAL TV STANDARDS

One of the most common queries we receive is for information on the TV standards used in overseas countries. It's some years since we last published a guide. Next month's list has been considerably expanded and, of course, updated. In addition to basic standards, information on mains supplies and channel allocations is included.

● THE PANASONIC G DECK

The latest Panasonic VCR mechanism is an innovative design. It's light and compact and nice to work on once you know its habits. There have been one or two teething troubles which can take a time to sort out if you are not familiar with the deck. Nick Beer summarises experience to date.

● MULTI-FUNCTION MEMORIES

In the concluding instalment of his series on the use of field stores in TV/video equipment Eugene Trundle describes the multi-function memory used in the Sanyo VHFD500/700 series VCRs.

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Satellite TV Filter Unit

Roger Bunney

In the April 1988 issue I described a very simple bandwidth limiting filter that can be used to reduce noise/sparklies with very weak/marginal signals. The filter is inserted in the 70MHz i.f. in/out loop that's present at the rear of many imported satellite TV receivers and is intended for descrambler use. Since then I've built a more versatile filter unit with three switched positions, see Fig. 1. This gives either straight through operation, amplification without

bandwidth limiting, or bandwidth limiting with amplification. On its own the filter introduces a loss of 3dB which is more than compensated for by the amplifier.

The system is simple and requires little explanation. Fig. 2 shows the power supply which provides a regulated 12V output. In my case I also use it to power an outboard System I sound/vision modulator. This is a compact, steel-cased unit made by Technicolor for its now obsolete video format. It's currently available from Star Satellite Systems Ltd., 27 Galgate, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham (tel. 0833 38385) at £13 plus £1.50 post and packing. The output is variable over chs. 30-39.

The filter circuit itself is shown in Fig. 3, while Fig. 4 shows the amplifier circuit. The latter uses a low-cost BFX88 transistor and has minimal filtering. Gain is controlled by means of a BA479 pin diode (D1) which gives a variable attenuation of up to 28dB. The amplifier's gain is 12-15dB.

Construction is generally non-critical, though as with all v.h.f. circuitry a compact layout should be adopted. As shown in Fig. 1, the main connections use thin coaxial leads with the screens earthed: it's not necessary to use coaxial leads for the switch pin cross connections. The BA479 is available from Cirkit by mail order while the Toko moulded r.f. coils can be obtained from Maplin.

The two coils in the amplifier circuit provide a degree of selectivity - you'll find that they give a vague peak. The main selectivity is provided by the filter unit of course. This has five coils which are tuned to the spot frequencies listed in Table 1, giving a bandwidth of 16-18MHz. Having made

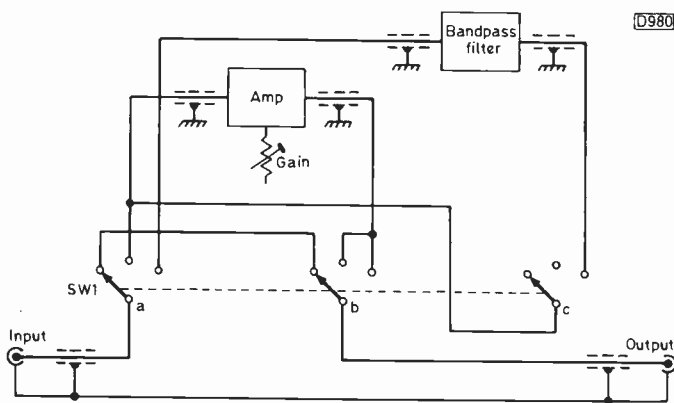


Fig. 1: Block diagram of the filter/amplifier unit.

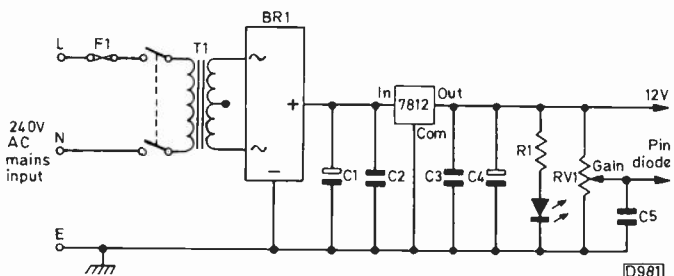


Fig. 2: The power supply circuit.

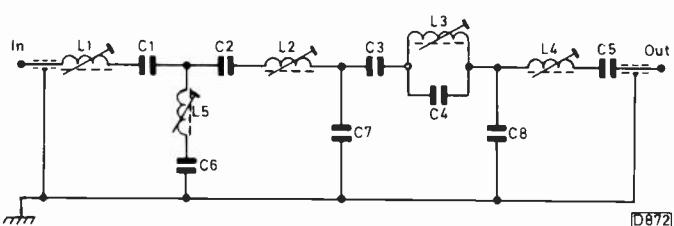


Fig. 3: The bandpass filter circuit. L1 6.5 turns (Toko blue r.f. moulded coil), L2/4/5 8.5 turns (Toko white), L3 5.5 turns (Toko green).

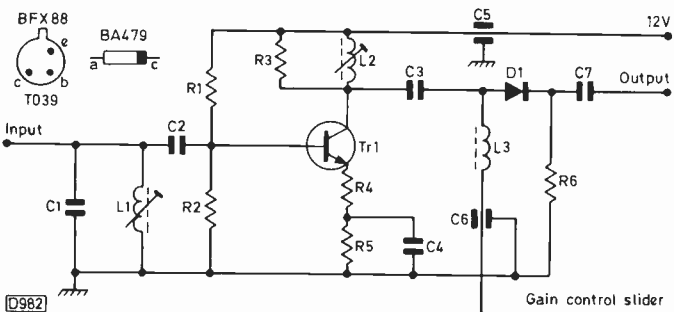


Fig. 4: The amplifier circuit, with BA479 pin diode signal attenuator.

Components list

Filter unit:

L1	UF67X	C1, 4, 7, 8	22pF
L2, 4, 5	UF69A	C2	18pF
L3	UF66W	C3, 5, 6	33pF
Maplin UF series		100V ceramic	

Amplifier:

C1	5.6pF silver mica	R1	12k
C2, 3, 4, 7	0.1µF 100V ceramic	R2	2.2k
C5, 6	1kF feedthrough	R3	10k
L1, 2	UF69A	R4	150Ω
L3	V.H.F. choke	R5	270Ω
Tr1	BFX88	R6	1.5k
D1	BA479	All 0.25W, 10%	

Power supply:

BR1	1A, 100V p.i.v. bridge
T1	9-0-9V sec., 200mA
C1	1,000µF, 63V
C2, 3, 5	1kF, 100V
C4	470µF, 40V
R1	1.5k, 0.5W
RV1	5k linear
F1	250mA
LED, DPDT switch and 7812 regulator	

Table 1: Alignment frequencies

<i>Adjust for maximum output</i>		<i>Adjust for minimum output</i>	
L1	76MHz	L3	85.5MHz
L2	70MHz	L5	54.5MHz
L4	64MHz		

these adjustments you may well find that a further peak-up is beneficial: slightly retune while watching the picture.

In the absence of upmarket test equipment alignment can be carried out in either of two ways. Use a signal generator to inject the appropriate frequencies, with a field strength meter to observe the output. Alternatively, use a signal generator and feed the unit's output to a receiver such as an Eddystone 770R, a scanner, etc., preferably with the a.g.c. off. Use the S meter for peaking, reducing the sensitivity as levels rise.

The unit was built into a diecast box which, with adhesive feet, sits atop the satellite receiver. It's a simple but very effective arrangement.

Practical Computer Programming

Part 6

Mike Phelan

Next on the list of topics comes the user interface. By this we simply mean the bits of the software the user actually sees, that is the screen displays and the printed material produced. Most of the inner workings of the software need not be known or understood by the person who enters data via the keyboard or interprets the output on the screen or on paper.

As most of us who design systems do it for our own use, you might think that the general rules would differ from those of commercial software. This is not really the case. Bad habits and sloppy design are as much an inconvenience when it's your own fault that the program crashes or the screen display is hard to read! Then again, could you guarantee that no one else will ever use your system? You may pass it on to a colleague or, if it turns out to be very useful, place it in the public domain or even market it! So a code of practice of some sort is advisable. This should cover all aspects of the design, not only the user interface.

In previous articles we have considered the basic problems and suggested ways of deciding whether the use of a computer is an appropriate solution. We followed this by outlining a suitable data structure or dictionary, which lays down the data items we need to store, their types and sizes. The next stage is design of the screen displays or prints.

There are four basic types of display: (1) pure text, e.g. help screens, instructions, etc.; (2) menus to enable the user to select a choice from several options; (3) data entry screens; (4) reports. In this context a report means any output from the system, whether on the screen or a hard copy print-out. Types (3) and (4) can sometimes overlap: for example the data entry to a database system can allow the user to see previous inputs. We'll deal with these types of display in turn.

User friendliness is a good thing to aim for, within reason – a system that explains every move on the screen, and asks for confirmation of every entry, is rather tiresome to use.

The next step is to make a list of the screens and print required and to draw them all on paper. Layout grids are available to make this job easier, but are not essential. At this point you will need to decide what menus, if any, you require, and whether any help screens should be included. The rest of the process consists of establishing the design rules. Some of the latter are the writer's own personal preferences, but others are established practice.

We'll split the guidelines into those for menus, data entry and report design, though some of the points to be made apply to all three. One common requirement is consistency. If for example you call something a "service docket number" in one place, don't call it a "job number" somewhere else. Make a note of such conventions on

paper. Indeed keep all the notes you make during the design, and convert your rough notes into more readable form as the design progresses. Otherwise if you need to extend or change the system in say twelve months' time you will have forgotten most of how it was designed! In the design of a small to medium piece of software, as in my current role, I usually get through a few A4 ruled pads and a few dozen screen layout grids.

General Rules

I'm going to lay down some general rules, also some specific to our requirements. No excuses will be given for the fact that some of the guidelines may appear to be too exacting for "own use": when we come to the design stage I shall be advocating simplicity. This may sound like a contradiction in terms, but the two principles can and do go together.

The first rather obvious point about screen displays is that they should be readable. As most microcomputers can have a colour monitor with a capability of sixteen colours or more there's a great temptation to use them all. Don't! A maximum of four colours should be sufficient for most purposes. If you must have frames round things on the screen, use the 8-bit frame characters (if your computer supports them). Alternatively, home computers without these characters in their sets usually allow some sort of line drawings in BASIC. Frames made from asterisks look amateurish, as do those made from the bar and minus sign characters. A wide frame can be made by changing colour and printing a series of spaces. A few examples are shown in Fig. 1. If frames are not needed or are impractical, horizontal lines can be drawn using the minus (—) or underline (___) characters.

Don't clutter the screen with rubbish. Does the user

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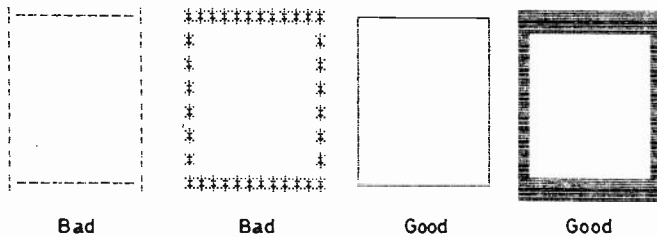


Fig. 1: Bad and good ways of making frames.

really need to know that NURDLE.BAS is currently running, or that there is 17K of memory free? Do not display everything in upper case (capitals): this makes reading difficult, though you can use upper case for headings etc.

When using colour, choose ones that are easy on the eye. Personal taste probably plays a part here, but good combinations are white, cyan, light green or light blue with black, either colour being used for the foreground.

Printed Reports

The most important factor with printed reports is the layout. Don't have too much spacing between rows, and take care to justify numeric and character data correctly. This means lining up the right- or left-most digit. Generally, character fields should be left justified, numeric fields right justified. Underline the column headings to the width of the heading, not the data. The remarks about the use of lower case apply equally to printed reports. Here are some examples:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Materials</u>
Bloggs	12 High St	Toshiba	22.50	58.00
Smith	3 The Avenue	ITT	100.25	0.50

Here's how not to do it:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MAKE</u>	<u>LABOUR</u>	<u>MATE- RIALS</u>
Bloggs	12 High St	Toshiba	22.50	58.00
Smith	3 The Avenue	ITT	100.25	0.50

The second example is untidy and if there were more than a few lines it would be difficult to read.

Don't use fancy printer tricks, i.e. different fonts etc. These are more suited to desktop publishing than business reports.

Putting a date on the report is useful. And give it a title, especially if more than one type of print is used.

Always give the user an option to confirm that the printer is on and the paper lined up before printing. If printing the report changes any of the data or clears it out, allow for printing the report as many times as required before updating anything. This takes care of the paper running out or jamming in mid-print.

Menus

Menus allow the user to choose an option, which can be a further menu, but try to avoid too complicated a menu hierarchy. If the number of options is three or less a menu might not be necessary: a simple prompt with three possible replies would do just as well.

There are basically two types of menu, the lightbar type and the older format where the choices are displayed with a

letter or number against each item. There is always a quit or exit option to return to the previous menu or out of the program. It's best to use letters with the letter or number choice type of menu – this will give you 26 possibilities for a single key press. To trap invalid choices, make the program ignore them rather than bothering with an error message. The key used for exit should be consistent if there are several menus. In such cases it's a good idea to make the choice default to the exit character, say "X", so that it's only necessary to hit return to go to the previous menu, but for the first menu to default to a space so that a definite effort has to be made by the user to type in a letter. This avoids problems caused by typing ahead or holding the return key down.

It's a good idea for all the menus in a system to look alike, and for the name or title of the menu to appear at the top. The items should be centred and left justified, with the choice letter prominent. Here's an example:

SERVICE HISTORY SYSTEM MAIN MENU

- (A) . . . Enter data from service docket
- (B) . . . Clear completed jobs
- (C) . . . Reports menu
- (D) . . . Back-up data

Please enter choice from above or Q to quit.

A very readable screen with only the required information present.

The lightbar menu is a slightly different animal – the choices are selected by using the cursor keys to highlight choices with inverse video, then using the return key or space bar to confirm. Further enhancements are to print an on-screen explanation of each choice – known as expansion – and to allow selection by the initial letter of the choice. The latter assumes of course that the initials are unique. Unless the language you intend to use supports lightbar menus they take quite a lot of programming, though it can be fairly simply done with BASIC or C and dBase III plus has its own function to make them easy to produce. Enhancements can be added after the system has been tested and the bugs have been ironed out.

We cannot leave the subject of lightbar menus without mentioning pull-down menus, though these are really outside the scope of the article. A typical pull-down menu has an initial row of choices across the top of the screen. On selection by initial or cursor plus return a small lightbar menu appears giving further options from the initial choice. Moving right or left changes the pull-down menu to a different one relevant to the choice that appears below. All very sophisticated.

Data Entry Screens

With a screen-based system a data entry screen looks like a form to be filled in, rather than prompting for items one at a time. The ideal is also to have "full-screen editing", where the user can move around the screen using the cursor keys, possibly correcting previously entered items. dBase II etc. allows for this without need for any extra programming, but it can be done in other high-level languages.

Give the screen a name or title.

Prompt the user to fill in the items in a logical order, and always start at the top left corner. Proceed either by row or column.

Try to arrange the items so that they are left justified. The prompts should also be left justified. If the prompts are

of different length, so that a prompt is far from the item box, use a row of dots to connect them. As follows:

Name of customer [_____]
Date [___/___/___]

There should be no need for more than three pairs of foreground/background colours, one for the normal text, one for the data windows and one for any error messages, in ascending order of visibility. Flashing error messages are acceptable. Where a limited number of choices is available, display them. For example:

Colour, mono or video? (C/M/V) [__]

Note that [__] means a data entry window in which a cursor will be visible.

Again, if there's more than one data entry screen, give each one a title. Don't get carried away with drawing boxes etc., and if you must do so make them consistent throughout the system. For example, a double line box for the title, single lines elsewhere, or simply a row of minus signs above and below the title.

Make the data entry screens of similar appearance to your menus, and preferably of the same colour.

The matter of validating inputs, i.e. checking for user errors, really comes in at the program design stage and will be left until then.

Screen Reports

Screen reports can be used as an alternative to printed reports, and are in some cases preferable. For example, suppose that you have a database of suppliers and part numbers by model. It would be a waste of time printing these every time you want to order a part! In other cases you might want the choice between screen or hard copy:

this may take the form of first providing a screen report then asking the user if he wants a print. The two versions might appear like this:

Screen or print? (S/P) [__]

before printing, or

Print this screen? (Y/N) [__]

after the screen display.

Don't lose sight of the fact that there are fundamental differences between screen reports and hard copy. You must bear this in mind when using the same chunk of program to perform both. Screen reports must stop when the screen is full, awaiting a key to be pressed (preferably any key), but printed ones must perform a form-feed or "page throw" after the appropriate number of lines have been printed. If the report is of any length page numbering (pagination) needs to be done, with the title and column headings repeated on each page.

Most screens are limited to 80 characters per line (CPL), as is A4 paper, but wider paper with 132 CPL is in common use – provided your printer can handle it. The normal size of print is ten characters per inch and six lines per inch. The latter very seldom needs to be changed, but printing a fairly wide report on A4 sometimes calls for condensed print, usually 17 CPI. With most matrix printers this can be selected by a switch, or the software can send a control code – normally ASCII 15 – to do the job.

Design Progress

If you are designing a system you should by now have a large collection of bits of paper, among them a rough draft of the system requirements, a data dictionary or structure, and the screen and print layouts. In the next instalment we should be able to sort them out in order to start on the program design and the choice of language to use.

Servicing Notes on the Luxor SX9 Chassis

J.R. Trimmer

The Luxor SX9 chassis was introduced in late 1983 and is used in various models including the 5634, 5639, 6734, 6739 etc.

The most common problem is caused by the two copper heatsinks in the power supply. Unfortunately in early production sets they were used to bridge parts of the circuit. They quickly became dry-jointed, giving rise to a number of different symptoms – intermittent loss of picture, faint bars running across the screen, failure of the line driver (more on this below), failure of the line output transistor, and any fault that cannot easily be explained. They must be resoldered using a large iron, after which they normally give no further trouble.

The mains on/off switch can go short- or open-circuit: replacements are of a better quality. Tuning and memory faults are caused by the back-up battery going down and the earthing points inside the tuner. If the set changes channel on its own, or for that matter performs any other function on its own, the cause is likely to be air trapped in the touch membrane. This can be proved by wiping across it, when the fault will be temporarily cured. Replacements come with the plastic framing and have a green connecting strip.

As mentioned above the BD419 line driver transistor TH01 can fail, going short-circuit. This will in turn burn up RH03 (6.8Ω) and RN19 (1Ω). If these resistors, which are

safety types, start to cook again the most likely cause is LH01 shorted: be warned – it may read o.k.!

Power supply faults are rare, but a strange fluttering noise followed by the set going into standby is caused by lack of heatsink compound on the TDA4600 chopper control chip IN01. The trip circuit puts the set in standby through TN02 removing the 12V supply.

Recently we've had several cases of line output transformer failure. If you find that the h.t. is only 30-40V, disconnect RH07. This should restore sound and full h.t. (121V or 142V depending on version). Failure of the line output transformer usually takes the line output transistor as well. Note that there are 90° and 110° versions of the chassis.

Whenever a set is serviced it's worth checking for dry-joints around the line linearity coil, the line driver transformer, RH07 and the chopper transformer. Dry-joints are by far the most common problem with these sets, often causing the microcomputer control chip to lock up.

Poor operation of the remote control can be cured by washing the rubber pressure pad and handset board: they tend to become sticky due to a reaction between the pad and board. At the same time it's best to disconnect the store button on the handset by sticking tape under the pad: this saves a lot of service calls for sets tuned to the same channel.

A Tifax/VM6101 Conversion

John de Rivaz, B.Sc. (Eng.)

Although there are now many teletext-equipped TV receivers on the market, some being available at relatively low cost secondhand, a teletext adaptor is invaluable to the aurally handicapped who wish to record subtitled programmes. For some years Manor Supplies sold an adaptor which used the Tifax XM11 decoder module. As has been pointed out in previous letters and articles in *Television*, the XM11 was designed before the UK teletext specification had been finalised. For this reason it now gives trouble. I decided to have a go at removing the Tifax module from my Manor Supplies adaptor and fitting in its place a Mullard VM6101 decoder module. Previous articles (December 1986/January 1987 and September 1987) have described ways of using the VM6101 with an 8748 programmable microcomputer chip to provide keypad/decoder module interfacing.

My Manor Supplies adaptor was still in use despite the missed lines. It had developed a further fault: with multiple pages, such as page 502 C4, it would skip to a following page when the subpage changed. Rather than using the microcomputer chip solution to the problem of providing control signals for the VM6101 decoder module I decided to make a simple unit from TTL chips and some diodes. This has the advantage that the user can select what codes are chosen and what codes go to what key, enabling the Manor Supplies unit's key configuration to be retained. If the constructor already has some diodes and some of the chips, this will probably be the cheapest solution.

Modifications to the VM6101 Module

As noted in the previous articles, some minor modifications to the VM6101 unit have to be carried out (see Fig. 1). These consist of reversing the polarity of the 1 μ F video input coupling capacitor, adding a 4.7k Ω resistor to pull up the superimpose line to 5V, and adding a link between pins 4 and 5 of PL3. The VM6101 unit I obtained from Sendz Components had plugs with it and a small board with transistors was plugged into PL5. This small board was removed and jumpers were connected to bring out the

RGB and blanking signals from spare pins on PL4. I found that the link on PL3, for the sync supply, was already in place.

Modifications to the Manor Supplies Unit

The wiring harness in the Manor Supplies unit was modified as follows: everything to plug A on the video/pulse board was disconnected, as were the RGB wires from plug B on this board to the encoder. The RGB wires were also removed at the encoder end.

An additional couple of transistors (see Fig.2) were added in order to make use of the sound mute on text feature. This arrangement sets the d.c. volume control connection to the TBA120SQ chip (pin 5) low when text is selected. One of these transistors was fitted to the VM6101 panel, using the panel's 5V supply, the other transistor being fitted on the receiver module's sound subpanel. The input to the first transistor was taken from pin 1 of PL1.

Power for the VM6101 module and the interfacing circuit was taken from the regulators already present in the Manor Supplies unit – the 5V supply was taken from regulator no.

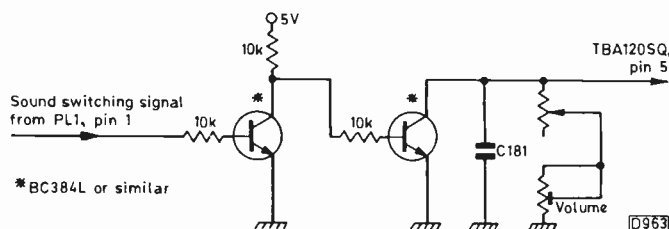


Fig. 2: The sound mute circuit.

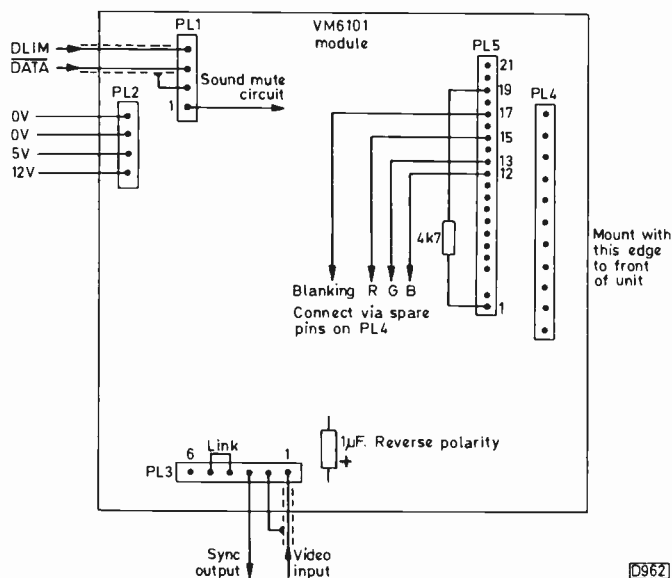


Fig. 1: VM6101 decoder panel connections and modifications.

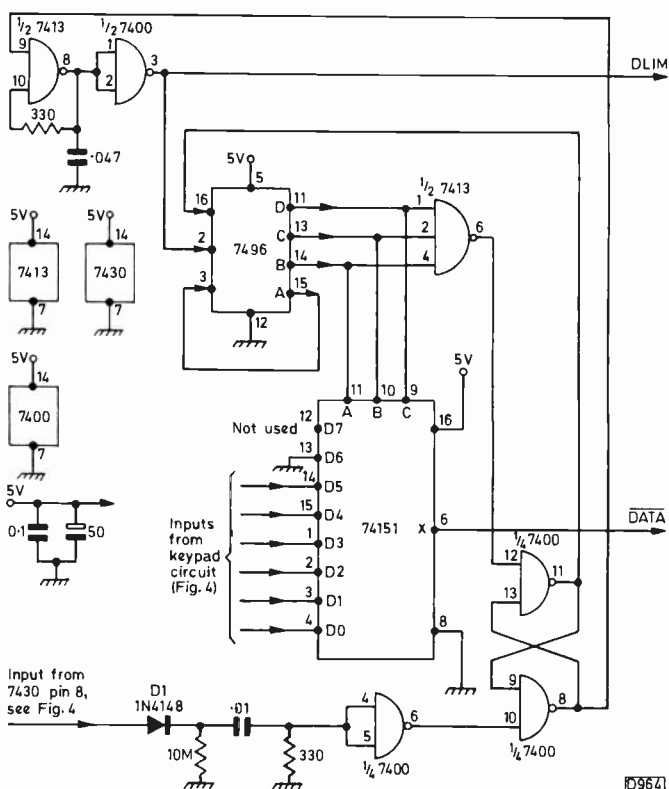


Fig. 3: The TTL keypad-decoder interfacing circuit.

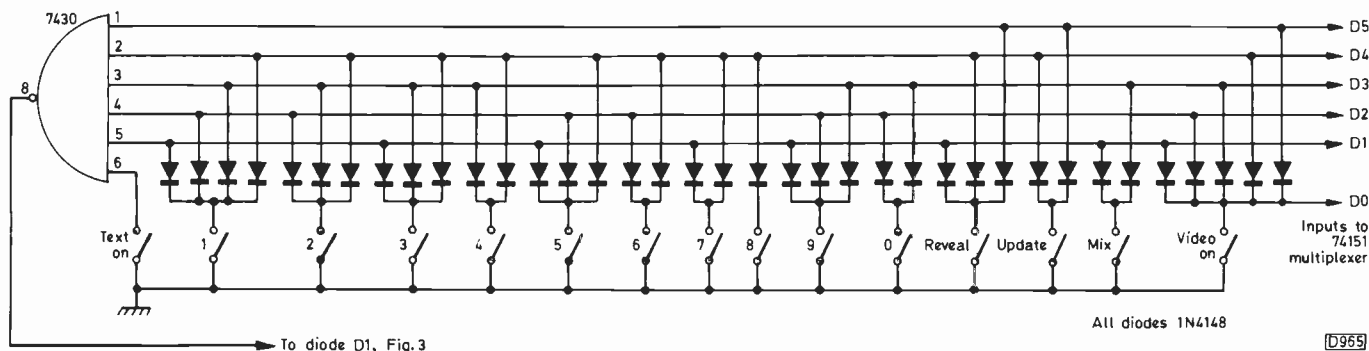


Fig. 4: The keypad switching circuit.

2. The VM6101's video input was taken from pin 7 of PLA on the video/pulse board. The RGB outputs from the VM6101 module were connected to the encoder's RGB inputs, the inverters previously required being left out of circuit. The blanking output from the VM6101 module goes to the video/pulse board, which also receives a sync input from pin 3 of PL3 on the VM6101 module - disconnect the end of R7 previously connected to R5 and connect it to the VM6101's sync output. This latter modification overcomes the annoying fault of teletext judder when a bright, nearly white picture is transmitted.

Keypad and Interfacing Circuitry

The interfacing arrangement I used (see Fig. 3) has the advantage that the circuit can be built in stages, each section being tested before proceeding. The start is the oscillator, which uses half a 7413. Its output is fed to a 7400 NAND gate used as a buffer. The output from this is the

Table 1: Keypad connections

Key	Multiplexer bit connections:				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	D	D	D	D	x
2	x	D	D	D	x
3	D	x	D	D	x
4	x	x	D	D	x
5	D	D	x	D	x
6	x	D	x	D	x
7	D	x	x	D	x
8	x	x	x	D	x
9	D	D	D	x	x
0	x	D	D	x	x
Reveal	D	x	x	D	D
Update	x	x	x	D	D
Mix (= set small)	D	x	D	x	x
Video on	D	D	D	D	D
Text on	x	x	x	x	x
P	Not used.				

The mix key is used to set to small characters. This is done in case any glitches would make the large character set appear. Connect the video on key to bit 0 as well. Connect the text on key to pin 6 of the 7430 i.c. See Fig. 4.

Additional keys that could be used are:

Time on	x	x	x	x	D
Time off	D	x	x	x	D
Top	x	x	D	x	x
Bottom	D	D	x	x	x
Hold	x	D	x	D	D

D = diode present, x = no connection, see Fig. 4. Press any key for the same effect as originally.

DLIM input required by the VM6101 module and is also fed to the 7496 counter chip. For testing, earth the reset pin 16 so that the counter free runs. The 7496's A output is connected to the B input while the B, C and D outputs go to the 74151 multiplexer's A, B and C inputs. At this point it should be possible to earth one or more of the multiplexer's inputs and observe the output, thus checking the circuit so far.

Further gating is required to make the unit operate in a one-shot mode. An 8-input NAND gate (see Fig. 4) with five of its inputs connected to the 74151's bit 1-5 inputs generates a pulse whenever a key is pressed. We also require a 00000 signal, so a further input is connected to the text-on key. The output from this gate was initially fed direct to an inverter driving a latch which is reset by a 3-input gate connected to detect number 8 going into the multiplexer. This however would cause each key to repeat if held down. A differentiating network (0.01µF plus 330Ω) was therefore added to give a "one-shot" effect. With this the keys were found to suffer from bounce, so a diode and 10MΩ resistor were added. When the 0.01µF capacitor charges, a current pulse is sent to the latch. If another key press follows quickly, the capacitor is still charged and the second pulse is ignored. Only when the capacitor has discharged will a further pulse be passed. The latch switches off the oscillator and resets the counter, except when a key is pressed. The circuit is thus dormant when no key is being pressed, minimising possible interference to the rest of the unit.

The keyboard was connected via a ribbon cable. One end of each key is connected to chassis (see Fig. 4), the other end going to various numbers of diodes. As previously mentioned the text-on key is connected to one input of the 7430 NAND gate to generate a 00000 signal. The video-on key is connected via diodes to the multiplexer's bit 1-5 inputs and directly to the bit 0 input. Table 1 shows the connections to each key.

The modified adaptor has been in use now for several months, giving excellent results. VM6101 modules can be obtained from Sendz Components and Manor Supplies.

Book Note

Video Handbook, second edition, by Ru van Wezel. Published by Heinemann Professional Publishing Ltd. at £30.

The second edition of this book has been virtually rewritten, such is the rate of progress in the video field. It contains a great deal of information on almost everything that could be roughly classified as video, including television standards etc. The book does not seem to have a very clearly focused readership, dealing as it does with subjects as diverse as professional video equipment, community TV services and TV production techniques.

VCR Clinic

Reports from Eugene Trundle, Ian Bowden, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., Dave Dulson, Alfred Damp and Nick Beer

Sharp VC386

This is a nasty fault which we've had twice so far. It appears only when channel change is attempted, and then only intermittently, the symptom being no signals with the tuner's varicap control voltage awry. The cause is a dry-joint at socket TA on PWB (printed wiring board!) T. This removes the pulses on the control-1 or control-2 line, whereupon IC1401 throws a wobbly.

E.T.

Mitsubishi HS338

If the proffered cassette goes in at an angle and is then almost immediately ejected, the cause is probably that the cassette drive cog on the left-hand side of the front-load housing has jumped a tooth or two – check that the housing is parallel with the front of the machine in the ejected position. Like many such troubles this is probably brought about by the owner using excessive force.

E.T.

Blaupunkt RTV321

There was weak sound on E-E and record. Replacing the i.f./tuner board brought the level back up, so attention was turned to the circuitry around IC751 (AN5215). Transformer T752 wouldn't peak up as C755 (39pF) was open-circuit. When T752 is off adjustment the voltage at pin 7 of IC751 changes from the 3.5V usually present.

P.B.

Ferguson 3V57

The part of the display that shows fast forward, play etc. didn't work though the clock part did. IC301 (MN1250) drives the faulty part of the display. Its serial data lines (pins 14 and 17) had the same signals on them, which seemed odd until we found that they were shorted together by a solder bridge across pins 7 and 8 of CN304.

P.B.

Grundig VS180

There appeared to be a tape path fault. The off-tape f.m. at the start of the rotation of the heads was very low, though the last half was o.k. The paint seals on the guides were unbroken, the tape tension was normal and a replacement tension arm had no effect. A new head drum was finally tried and this restored normal operation.

P.B.

Samsung V1-621

"Whirring noise, horrid smell of burning and won't load the tape" was the way the customer put it. The noise was the loading motor running while the smell came from the plastic pulley on the motor shaft – it had almost slipped off the end and had become stuck against a plastic moulding. The pulley's centre hole was sealed with plastic which had melted. We had to order the pulley by description as Samsung have left out the part number list for the main mechanism exploded view.

I.B.

Panasonic NV730

When the on/off button was pressed all this machine did was beep and light the on LED. The fluorescent display was out due to loss of the -45V supply and hence the -30V supply to the display. There was also no power-on

signal at the main regulator chip IC5001. This was because the 45V supply was missing. Both these supplies are derived from a common winding on the mains transformer via a 4.7Ω safety resistor (R1002) which had gone open-circuit.

I.B.

Panasonic NV-G7

This machine was dead apart from the clock display. The digital counter display appeared when the on/off button was pressed, but there was no channel number, no on LED display and no mechanical functions worked. A faulty STK5331 main regulator chip (IC1001) was responsible.

I.B.

Amstrad VCR4700 and Hinari VXL5

These VCRs have very similar cassette decks and seem to suffer from the same fault. When play or record is selected they may operate for about twenty seconds then shut down. In all cases to date the cause has been the take-up reel sensor. The clue to the fault is to select tape counter on the front panel then press play: the numbers displayed will be very erratic and irregular.

D.D.

Ferguson 3V35,36/JVC HRD120,225

A number of these machines are coming in with loading belt faults, the complaint being intermittent failure to play or record. The belt is the same as the one in the 3V29/3V30 and is just as difficult to replace. The Ferguson part no. is 01X1-040-006.

D.D.

Akai VS4

The fault report on this machine was "rewinds then dead". On the bench we found that it was totally dead, with no functions whatsoever and no channel display number. Our first check was on the power supply. The 12V and 14V outputs from the STK5325 regulator IC1 were missing because the control line (pin 9) was at 4.5V instead of 0V. I've had this before when the cassette deck lamp has been open-circuit. A quick check confirmed that it was, but a replacement left things as before. We decided to short-circuit pin 9 of IC1, and when this was done we had 2V and 3V respectively on the 12V and 14V lines. As there didn't seem to be excessive current a new STK5325 was fitted. This produced the 12V and 14V supplies – but only with pin 9 held at 0V. Also the reel motor went into continuous rewind. With the short-circuit removed from pin 9 of IC1 the machine stayed dead.

There was no response when the function-on button was pressed, so a check around the key scanning chip IC3 seemed to be a logical course of action. A scope showed that there were no key scanning pulses on pins 12-15. Replacing the MB88401 microcomputer chip restored the scanning pulses, but I still had no 12V and 14V rails. Back to system control chip IC5, another MB88401, that provides the turn on control signal for the regulator. Scope and meter checks here were inconclusive, so the chip was replaced. When the function button was pressed the function LED and the channel display lit, but the reel

motor still went into rewind for a few seconds after which the machine shut down again.

Time was wasted on a fruitless search through the motor and system control circuitry before we found that the cause of the final fault was a slipping loading belt. Somehow it managed to get the system control confused. Once it was replaced everything worked correctly. I assume that this was the original fault and that a second fault, the defective regulator, had killed the lamp and the two microcomputer chips. Just my luck! **D.D.**

Philips VKR6800 Camcorder

This camcorder displayed and recorded only in blue. While filming a colour bar chart (actually a TV set displaying colour bars) we were able to trace the blue and red signals through the various processing circuits to IC401. All the inputs to this chip, i.e. B - Y, R - Y, the burst and 4.43MHz carrier, were correct. Replacing the chip (AN2431) put matters right and when the circuitry around it was aligned the camera produced excellent results. **A.D.**

Mitsubishi HS349

We've had two of these machines that were faulty from new. The first had an intercarrier buzz on all channels in the E-E mode, with the difference that the buzz was being recorded. Component checks in the sound i.f. circuit revealed that C307 was open-circuit. It's one of those capacitors that look like a resistor.

The fault with the second machine was no picture, only lines. When a test tape was tried it was obvious that the drum speed was wrong. We found that D4A4 in the drum servo circuit was broken, a new 1N4148 putting matters right. **A.D.**

Sanyo VHR3300

This brand new machine would intermittently go into standby. You could tap the case anywhere and it would turn off, but the fault could be provoked more easily on the servo/syscon board. On removing the bottom cover the cause of the problem was obvious - the board had jumped out of its retaining clips during transit, and was shorting to chassis via the bottom case. **A.D.**

Ferguson 3V29/JVC HR7200

The capstan motor wouldn't start: the VCR would load the tape, then after five seconds it would unload. We found that the "motor stop control" input from the mechacon board was high, as though the machine was in pause. Pin 22 of IC4 on the mechacon board should be at 0V during play and at 10V in pause. It was actually at 5-6V, which was high enough to change the state of the following gate. Replacing IC4 restored normal operation. **A.D.**

Samsung V1-626

Rapid drifting off tune was traced to a number of dry-joints on the tuner - it seemed as if it might have had a fair knock from above. We've traced a number of faults in these machines to dry-joints. **N.B.**

Panasonic NV-G25

Having cleaned the heads, a field engineer brought this one in for the following faults: the noise bars on cue and review were wider than normal (they are usually almost invisible); at 1/25th speed every other frame was obliterated by noise;

odd frames were noisy with the 1/5th and 1/10th speeds; and the still frame was very poor. On examination we found that the heads were faulty. When I used the special Panasonic tool - wonderful machine - to replace the heads I noticed that all the relevant adjustments (tracking fix, head frequency response etc.) had been set at one end of their tracks. Presumably the original head had been a borderline one. **N.B.**

Salora SV8500

This Mitsubishi clone would erase and play 'sound but wouldn't record any. The trouble was traced to Q302 and Q304 which were both leaky. It's a major job to dismantle this machine for service! **N.B.**

Sony CCDV8AF

New heads had been fitted but within a week this camcorder was back because the zoom motor ran all the time, keeping the lens fully out. We found that there was a break in the print around the zoom motor circuitry. **N.B.**

Ferguson 3V35/JVC HRD120

The customer's complaint was that the machine would occasionally stop as soon as play had started. After many hours of soak testing we found that the cause of the trouble was a lazy drum motor. With no drum rotation, the machine stopped. **N.B.**

Panasonic NV333

Until recently the cause of the tape riding up and spooling into the machine in the review mode has always been a worn upper drum. Recently however we've had some machines where the same end result has been caused by the lower drum becoming too smooth. Sometimes a good rub with Brasso will provide a temporary cure, staving off replacement for a while. This is worthwhile as the cost of a new direct drive unit is considerable. **N.B.**

Sony CCDV100E

Field buzz on sound when recordings are made with the built-in microphone is usually caused by the microphone harness being too close to the deflection yoke leads. **N.B.**

Sharp VC8300

No display was fairly quickly traced to an open-circuit digitron heater. A simple fault, but one that in practice is not as common as you might expect. **N.B.**

Panasonic NV-G12

Tuning problems due to IC7551, D7555 and Q7551/2 going short-circuit have been a problem with these machines. Some guidance has now come from Panasonic. It seems that all machines with the serial number prefix E7 can be affected. Resistor legs around the i.c. were bent over during assembly, before soldering, and they can intermittently touch lands on the PCB. The cure is to straighten suspect legs. Some machines have already been done by Panasonic themselves. **N.B.**

Sony CCDV8AF, EVA300 etc

If replacement of the tension regulator arm is required because the shaft slips out of place be sure you fit the modified type, part No. X-368-652-84. **N.B.**

Storing TV Pictures in Chips

Part 3: Picture-in-picture displays

Eugene Trundle

The systems described in Parts 1 and 2 of this series present the picture stored in memory as a full-screen display. This enables the video signal to be stored in composite form. To inlay a small picture in the main picture display calls for more complex digital and analogue circuitry. The inlay picture (PIP) is not presented in real time – its width is a fraction of the $52\mu\text{sec}$ active line period while its height is a fraction of the 18.4msec active field period. To achieve a PIP display a “time warp” in the readout from the memory is required. It’s done by using different writing and reading rates. In addition the composite video signal for the PIP display must be decoded to YUV form (separate luminance plus U and V chrominance signals) before storage in digital form in the memory, then recoded to PAL (or whatever system is in use) form after readout from the memory and DA conversion. One advantage however is that the memory capacity required is not so great as with a full-screen display, since the information processed and stored occupies only a small area of the screen, typically one ninth.

The need for colour decoding/encoding becomes obvious when it’s appreciated that for correct colour the processed PIP signal must be governed by the same subcarrier as that used for the main picture on the screen. The U and V components of the reconstituted PIP signal are PAL encoded, then added to the PIP luminance signal and finally the composite PIP signal is switched into the main-screen video signal in synchronism with the latter’s line and field scanning. The timing of the PIP readout, in relation to the main-screen scanning, determines the position of the inserted PIP – it’s usually placed in one of the four corners of the screen.

The Hitachi VT250

The description which follows is based on the PIP processing section of the Hitachi VT250 VCR. That used in the Sanyo Model CBP2146 colour TV receiver (see the photograph on the cover of the July 1987 issue) is similar in many respects.

Video Sampling

The first step in producing a PIP display is to sample the video waveform of the picture to be used for the purpose. Fig. 17 shows this process. The outer rectangle is 20msec high and $64\mu\text{sec}$ wide, embracing the entire field period. The longer dashed line shows the active (display) picture area, consisting of 288 lines each containing $52\mu\text{sec}$ of video information. The shorter dashed rectangle shows the part that’s sampled for PIP use. It consists of 264 lines each of which contains part of the line blanking period (for clamping purposes) and all the picture information. Sampling is done at a frequency of about 10.74MHz (intervals of 93.122nsec). Thus each line is divided into 687 samples. The first 32 samples of each line are discarded, leaving 655 samples. Two out of every three of these are discarded, the remaining 218 evenly-spaced samples being retained. Similarly, two out of every three scanning lines are discarded, leaving 88 lines.

We now have a rather coarse picture consisting of 88 lines each with 218 samples. This is what’s committed to

memory. When it’s reproduced, the lack of detail (with a test card, the lack of some of the horizontal *and* vertical features!) will be consistent with its size in relation to the main picture. We can’t anyway reproduce detail that’s smaller than one standard scanning line. The original picture to be used as the PIP display has thus been compressed to about one ninth (one third by one third) of its original area.

Memory Capacity

After sampling, quantisation to give 64 possible levels of signal amplitude takes place, the result being an AD converted signal consisting of six-bit words. We can therefore calculate the memory capacity required for the PIP display. One field of 88 lines with 218 six-bit samples gives us a total of 115,104 bits. For reasons that will become clear shortly, it’s necessary to store two such fields, so the memory must be able to store 230,208 bits. Two memory chips are used, each arranged in $64\text{K} \times 4\text{-bit}$ form; this total of 512K is very sparingly used, in order to simplify the addressing and memory management. Writing into the memory takes place in real time, whereas the readout is three times faster in order to print the PIP in a small area of the screen.

Signal Processing

The PIP signal processing carried out in the Hitachi VT250 VCR is outlined in Fig. 18. The incoming signal is first fed to a PAL decoder which splits the composite signal into baseband Y, U and V outputs. It also produces an alternating V subcarrier for ident purposes. The YUV outputs are then bandwidth limited by filters, the Y signal to 1.3MHz and the U and V signals to 200kHz each. The alternating V characteristic (the PAL R – Y signal switching) is removed by a switched inverter that works at 7.8kHz . The three separate video signals are next applied to the “contacts” of an electronic multiplexing “rotary switch” that revolves at 3.58MHz (fs), which is one third of the effective sampling frequency of 10.74MHz . Thus this is the point at which two in three of the signal samples are discarded.

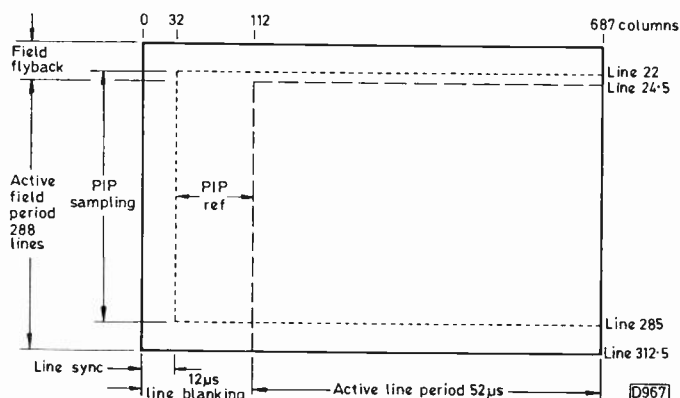


Fig. 17: PIP sampling area of the incoming picture. The area within the broken lines is processed in digital form. Sampling takes place during lines 22 to 285 inclusive, embracing vertical columns 32 to 687.

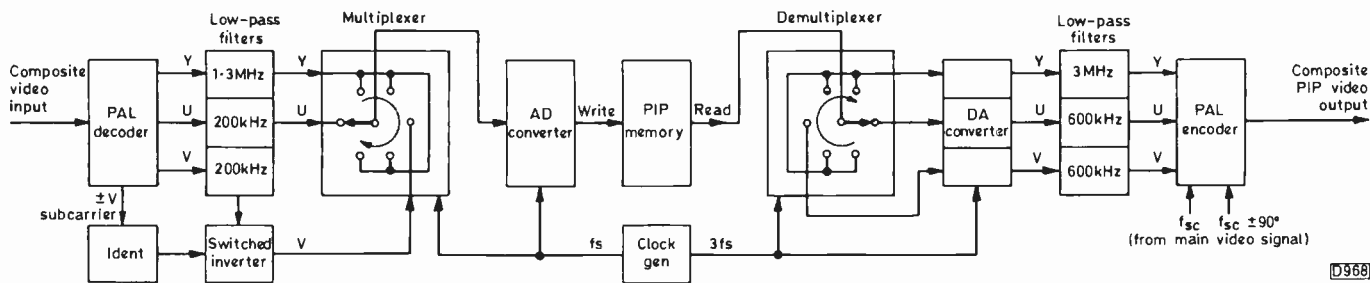


Fig. 18: Simplified block diagram of the PIP processing system in the Hitachi VT250 VCR.

The output from the “wiper” of the rotary switch consists of a time-division multiplexed sequence as follows: U,Y,Y,V,Y,Y. So the Y signal is sampled four times for each sample of U and V, giving a sampling frequency for the Y signal of about 2.4MHz and a sampling frequency for each of the U and V colour-difference signals of about 600kHz. Hence the need for the low-pass signal filtering: the sampling rate in AD conversion must be at least twice the highest likely frequency of the signal being sampled. Next comes a 6-bit AD converter, which again operates under the control of the 3.58MHz clock signal. Its output is passed into the memory.

PIP Readout

The sequential YUV digital data read from the memory passes to a demultiplexing rotary switch which this time works faster – at $3 \times fs$, i.e. 10.74MHz. Since the switch

operates in synchronism with the memory readout, the YUV data is separated on a strobe basis. It's then passed to separate DA converters, which are controlled by the same 3fs clock signal. After passing through individual low-pass filters/integrators the analogue Y, U and V signals are ready for recoding into composite PAL form. Two subcarrier feeds from the main-screen video signal are used to govern this process, so that the colour of the PIP display is correct – the main-screen swinging burst signal acts as the reference for both.

Finally a white box (PIP outline) is generated, to emphasise the border between the inlay picture and the main picture, and added to the composite PIP signal. Gating then inserts the PIP signal into the video output while the main-screen display is blanked for the duration of the PIP.

The PIP Memory

Fig. 19 shows the way in which the storage DRAMs are arranged. We have to store six bits at a time, for which all four pages of DRAM one plus two pages of DRAM two are used. Each page consists of 256×256 cells, and is divided into two halves. The upper halves form one field store, the lower halves forming the second – as previously mentioned, two fields are stored. This need to store two fields arises from the fact that we must be able to write and read data simultaneously. As the upper store is being written into, the lower store is being read and vice versa.

Consider a field of incoming video being written into the upper half of the memory. It comes in on a unidirectional bus, with the first bits being stored at the top left-hand corner of each of the six pages in use. The first TV line to be stored is no. 22 (see Fig. 17). It starts at memory cell 0, with a V (R – Y) sample – a memory map is shown in Fig. 20. Next come two Y samples, then one of U (B – Y), two of Y and so on until the end of the PIP TV line is reached at memory column 218. The second PIP TV line (“real” line 25) is next stored in row two of the memory and so on until all 88 lines of the PIP field have been written in. We have now reached column 218 in row 87 of the memory page.

Memory rows 88-127 are not used. PIP field two is stored in the lower half of the memory page, on rows 128-215 inclusive. As PIP field two is being written in – in synchronism with its own line and field sync pulses – PIP field one is being read out of the memory. Each row of 218 bits passes into a 256-bit buffer memory within the storage chip. At the beginning of each main-screen line scan, one line (218 bits \times 6) of PIP data is transferred from the main memory to the line buffers. It's then read out at 3fs to shorten the time-axis to one third. This ability to write and read at different rates is the key to TV standards conversion as well as PIP effects.

The memory system does not require a refresh operation since there's no PIP freeze frame facility with this design.

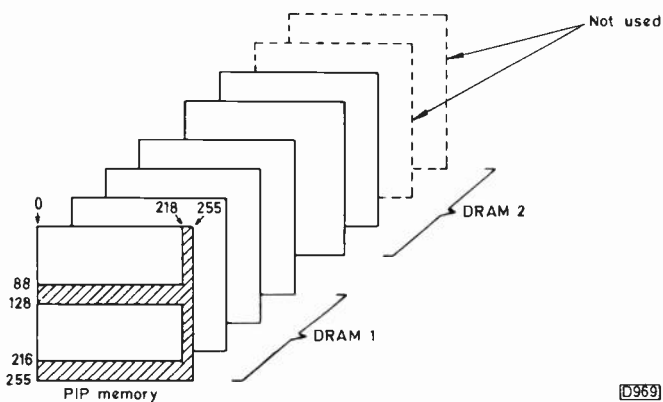


Fig. 19: Way in which the memory is arranged and used.

Col	TV line	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...	218	255
0	22	V	Y	Y	U	Y	Y	V			
1	25	V	Y	Y	U	Y	Y	V			
86	280										
87	283										
128	22	V	Y	Y	U	Y	Y	V			
129	25										
214	280										
215	283										
255											

Fig. 20: Memory map for the storage DRAMs. All six memory pages (arrays) are laid out similarly.

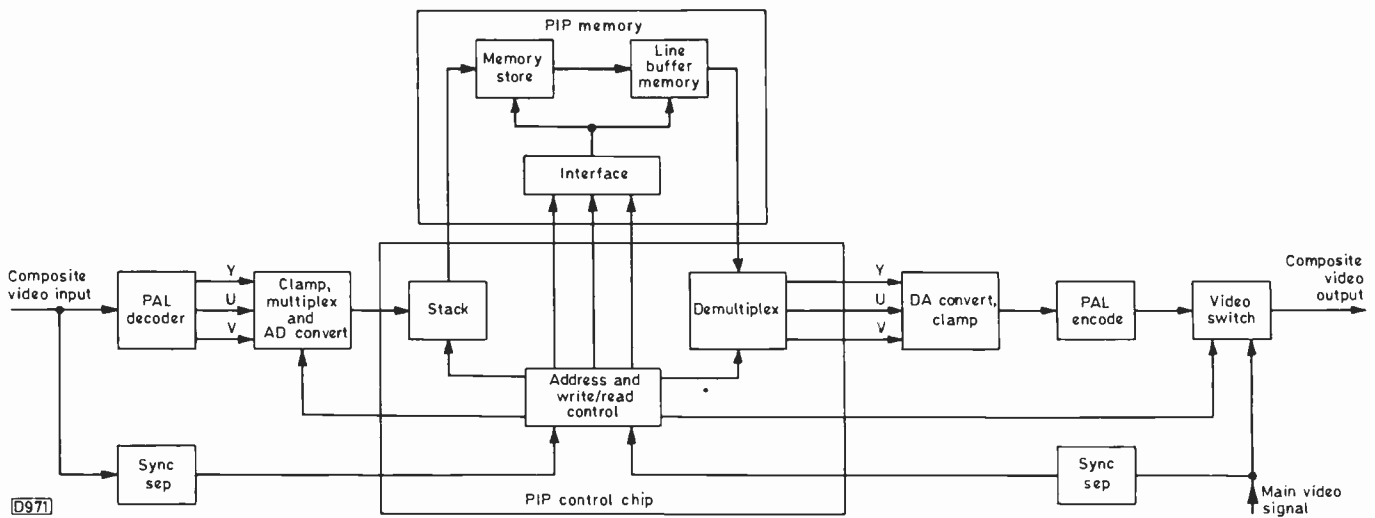


Fig. 21: Block diagram showing the PIP control chip and the associated PIP processing arrangements.

Thus the write/read cycle is continuous in 20msec periods, during which the data can be sustained in the DRAM cells.

PIP Control Chip

As with the previous systems we've looked at, the memory control chip is a complex gate array. It governs the write/read operation and provides clock pulses for the AD and DA converters, the multiplexer, the internal demultiplexer and the PIP-insert switching. A block diagram showing its main functions is provided in Fig. 21. The stack at its input data port is required because reading from memory is given priority over writing into memory. This calls for a temporary "queuing area" for the data to be written in. It takes the form of six pairs of memory cell

arrays, in which the data to be written into the memory is held for a 1/fs period then released in the following cycle. The stack process is triggered by the main-screen display line sync pulses. Further functions carried out by the memory control chip are mode control, the provision of blanking and clamping pulses for the PIP analogue processes, generation of the pulses that provide the edge (white border) and PIP position control.

Next Month

In the concluding instalment next month we'll look at the multi-function memory that provides a comprehensive range of digital functions in the Sanyo VHRD500/700 series of VCRs.

The Ferguson TX99 Chassis

J. LeJeune

The TX99 is the latest development from Ferguson in the evolution of its TV chassis designs. It's partly a replacement for the popular TX90 chassis, which was originally introduced for small-screen colour portables and went on to drive tube sizes up to 20in. The TX85 (see *Television*,

October 1987) has already been introduced to cater for small-screen colour portable use. The new TX99, which is very much updated in comparison with the TX90, is to be used as a basic 90° chassis capable of driving a wide variety of tubes, though most models will probably be fitted with 15, 17, 19 and 21in. FS tubes.

Major improvements on the TX90 chassis are automatic grey-scale correction, non-interlaced teletext and improved line sync – there's a dual-loop oscillator in the TDA4505 chip. The customer controls are no longer fixed to the main PCB, giving greater freedom over cabinet presentation. The new chassis is SECAM/NTSC adaptable and has automatic 50/60Hz field rate switching. A free-running switch-mode power supply provides mains isolation and operation over a mains input voltage range of 175-265V a.c. r.m.s.

The c.r.t. base panel varies to suit the tube type. The following circuit description covers the basic PC1210 PCB. A block diagram of the receiver is shown in Fig. 1.

The Power Supply

The switch-mode power supply (see Fig. 2) is based on the well-known Siemens TDA4600 control chip, the circuit being very similar to that used in the TX100 chassis. A bridge rectifier produces a rough d.c. supply of around

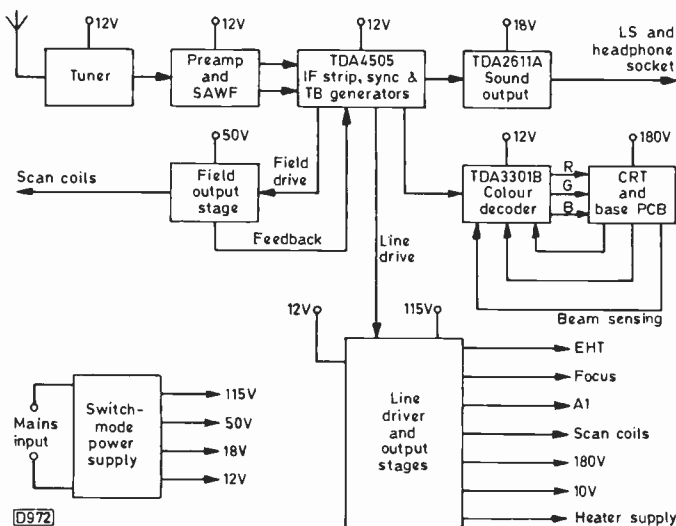


Fig. 1: Block diagram of the TX99 chassis.

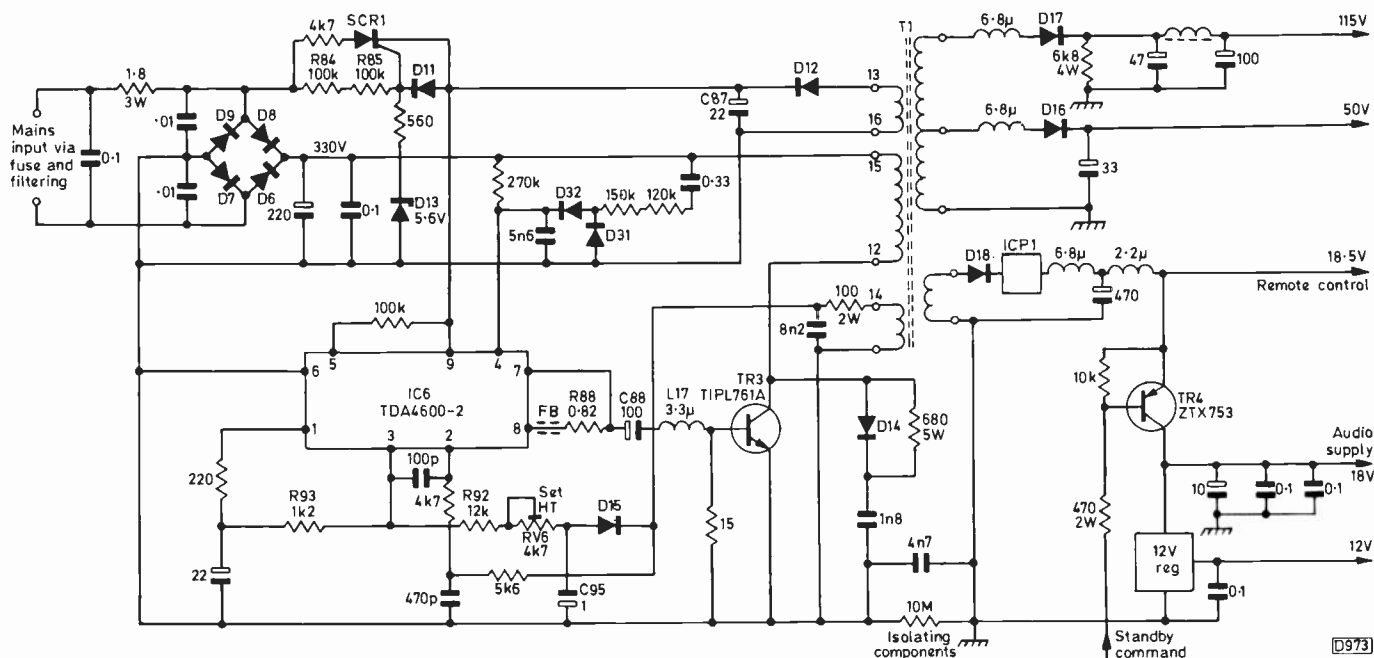


Fig. 2: The switch-mode power supply circuit.

350V from the mains input. The degaussing and mains filtering is conventional, the degaussing coils being double-insulated.

The chopper transistor TR3 is driven from pins 7 and 8 of the control chip. Forward drive to turn TR3 on is from pin 8 via R88 which is used to adjust the level of drive. The pull-down pin 7 ensures that TR3 turns off rapidly, preventing unwanted power dissipation.

A start-up voltage for the power supply is provided by thyristor SCR1. A.C. from one side of the bridge is fed to the anode of this device, whose gate is connected to the same source via R84/5. At switch on C87 will be discharged and the cathode of SCR1 will be at 0V. SCR1 charges C87, and when the voltage at its cathode is approximately 6.5V R84/5 can no longer turn the thyristor on because the voltage at its cathode exceeds the peak voltage at its gate. The voltage thus developed across C87 is applied to pin 9 of the chip. It's sufficient to bring IC6 to life, delivering short drive pulses to start up the chopper circuit. The pulses appearing at pin 13 of the chopper transformer T1 are rectified by D12: once the chopper circuit is running normally D12 and C87 provide a stable 12V supply for the chip. Pin 5 of the chip detects under-voltage conditions, shutting down the i.c. if necessary to prevent incorrect operation. Pin 4 senses changes in the mains supply and ripple on the unregulated input, the internal circuit cancelling these variations.

A 4V reference supply produced within the i.c. is available at pin 1. This reference voltage is coupled to pin 3 via R93. The output of a small winding on the transformer is rectified by D15 to produce a negative voltage which is also coupled to pin 3, via the set-h.t. control RV6 and R92. The effect of this is to offset the 4V reference voltage by about 1.5V so that the voltage at pin 3 is about 2.5V. It can be varied by RV6, which sets the outputs obtained from the power supply – the on/off times of TR3 determine the output voltages.

Pin 2 of IC6 is the input to a zero-crossing detector which senses, during TR3's off period, the point at which the voltages across the transformer's secondary windings fall to zero. When the a.c. at pin 14 of the transformer crosses zero and attempts to reverse, IC6 switches TR3 on to produce the next cycle of operation.

Three rails are derived from the chopper transformer, 115V for the line output stage, 50V for the field output stage and 18V for the audio circuit. This last rail also feeds a 7812 12V regulator which supplies the small-signal sections of the receiver.

Standby operation is obtained by turning TR4 off from the remote control unit. When its base goes high TR4 switches off, disabling the audio circuit, all the signal circuitry and the line and field oscillators. The switch-mode power supply keeps working in the standby mode, maintaining the supplies to the field and line output stages. Although there is a slight temperature rise within TR3 due to the high operating frequency in the standby mode, this is of no consequence.

Tuner and Signals Processor

The UK version of the TX99 comes equipped with a Ferguson SC4 tuner, the export versions having a combined v.h.f./u.h.f. tuner. The tuner's output is amplified by approximately 26dB in a single transistor (BF959) i.f. preamplifier stage which drives the i.f. bandpass shaping SAW filter. This is followed by a TDA4505-N4Y chip which contains most of the signal circuitry, apart from the colour decoder, and also the sync and timebase generator circuits. A pnp transistor (TR1) in the a.f.c. circuit clamps the a.f.c. line at 6V during setting up and channel changing.

A block diagram of the TDA4505-N4Y chip (IC2) is shown in Fig. 3. It contains the vision and sound i.f. amplifiers and detectors, the a.f.c. and a.g.c. systems, the sync circuitry and the line and field generators. The field output stage is driven directly from pin 3 but the line drive output at pin 26 goes to a conventional transformer-coupled driver stage.

The i.f. input is at pins 8 and 9. Synchronous detection is employed for low harmonic distortion and there's no a.f.c. coil, the 90° phase shift required by the a.f.c. detector being achieved within the chip. The detector tank coil L6 is set for a 6V a.f.c. output with a 39.5MHz carrier input; the sound detector coil L9 should be adjusted for best sound reception of an off-air transmission. A d.c. volume control sets the voltage at pin 11 of the chip and the audio output appears at pin 12 for feeding to a separate TDA2611A

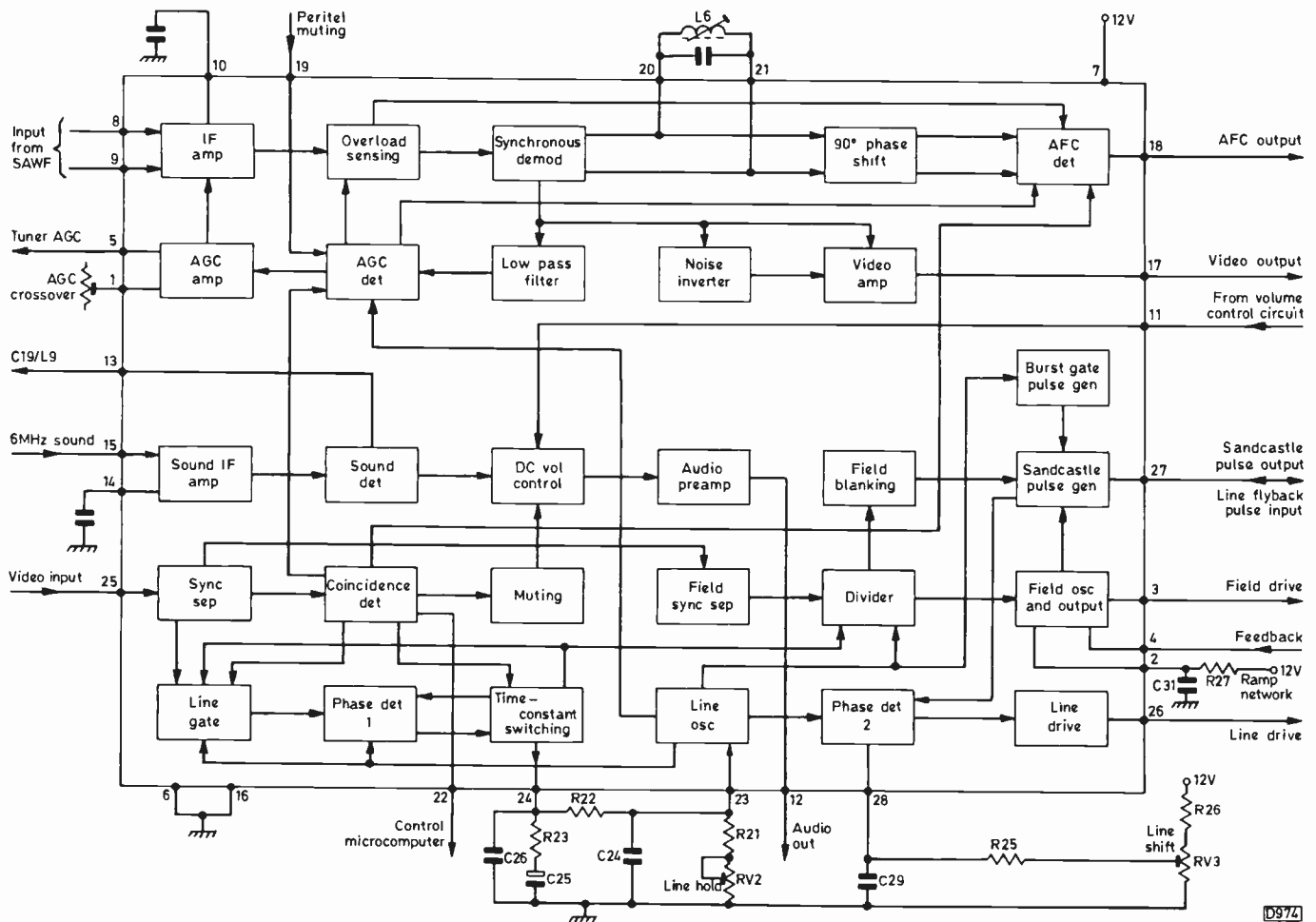


Fig. 3: Block diagram of the TDA4505 signals processor chip.

power amplifier (IC4). A.G.C. for the tuner appears at pin 5, an inverting stage (TR10, BC307B) being required with the SC4 tuner (but not with the UV411 v.h.f./u.h.f. tuner). The video output at pin 17 is fed to the colour decoder chip via an emitter-follower transistor (TR11, BC237B) and returns to the intercarrier sound section of the chip via a 6MHz ceramic resonator. A bridged-T filter in TR11's emitter circuit removes the 6MHz sound from the feed to the colour decoder chip and the return feed to the sync separator in IC2. TR11 is included to provide a low-impedance video source: this results in greater tolerance to stray capacitance effects, which can seriously degrade picture definition, in the PCB layout.

A flywheel sync circuit with two control loops maintains the line drive output at pin 26 in phase and frequency lock with the incoming line sync pulses. To set the line oscillator's free running frequency, the chip's sync input pin 25 should be linked to the 12V rail. The first control loop's error voltage appears at pin 24, where R23, C25 and C26 form a time-constant network. R22 couples this point to the line hold control network R21/RV2/C24 which sets the free-running frequency. The second control loop's error voltage output appears at pin 28 where the time-constant is set by C29 and R25. The earthy end of R25 is connected to the slider of RV3, which provides a means of varying the line phase for horizontal shift purposes.

The field oscillator makes use of a conventional RC network which is connected to pin 2 - C31 and R27 set the free-running field frequency, no field hold control being required. Field sync is achieved internally. A divide-by-312 circuit determines the window for the field sync pulse. Direct sync is used, the divider controlling the period

during which the oscillator can be reset by a sync pulse.

A signal derived from the field divider is used to generate the appropriate amount of field blanking for the standard in use, 50 or 60Hz. The amplitude and duration of the field blanking signal are determined by the vertical blanking generator, whose output is mixed with the line blanking and burst gate pulses in the sandcastle pulse generator circuit.

Line blanking is most easily derived from the line flyback pulses, which are clipped and mixed in at pin 27. Correctly timed burst gate pulses are obtained from the rising edge of the line sync pulses, their duration being determined by accurate timing circuits within the chip.

Colour Decoder Chip

The TDA3301 is a newcomer to the range of colour decoder chips available. A block diagram is shown in Fig. 4. It incorporates automatic grey-scale correction which is now a standard feature, easing colour balance adjustment during manufacture and providing compensation as the tube ages. Three coils and one potentiometer comprise the only variable components for setting up. L13 forms part of a high-pass filter at the chroma input while L11, L12 and RV4 are associated with the chroma delay line. L11 is tuned to 4.43MHz. L12 and RV4 are adjusted for minimum Hanover bars. There's no subcarrier rejector adjustment: this is now incorporated in the luminance delay line.

Composite video is fed in at pin 37 while filtered chroma is fed in at pin 1. The luminance signal is first amplified by 10dB within the i.c., emerging at pin 35 to pass through the

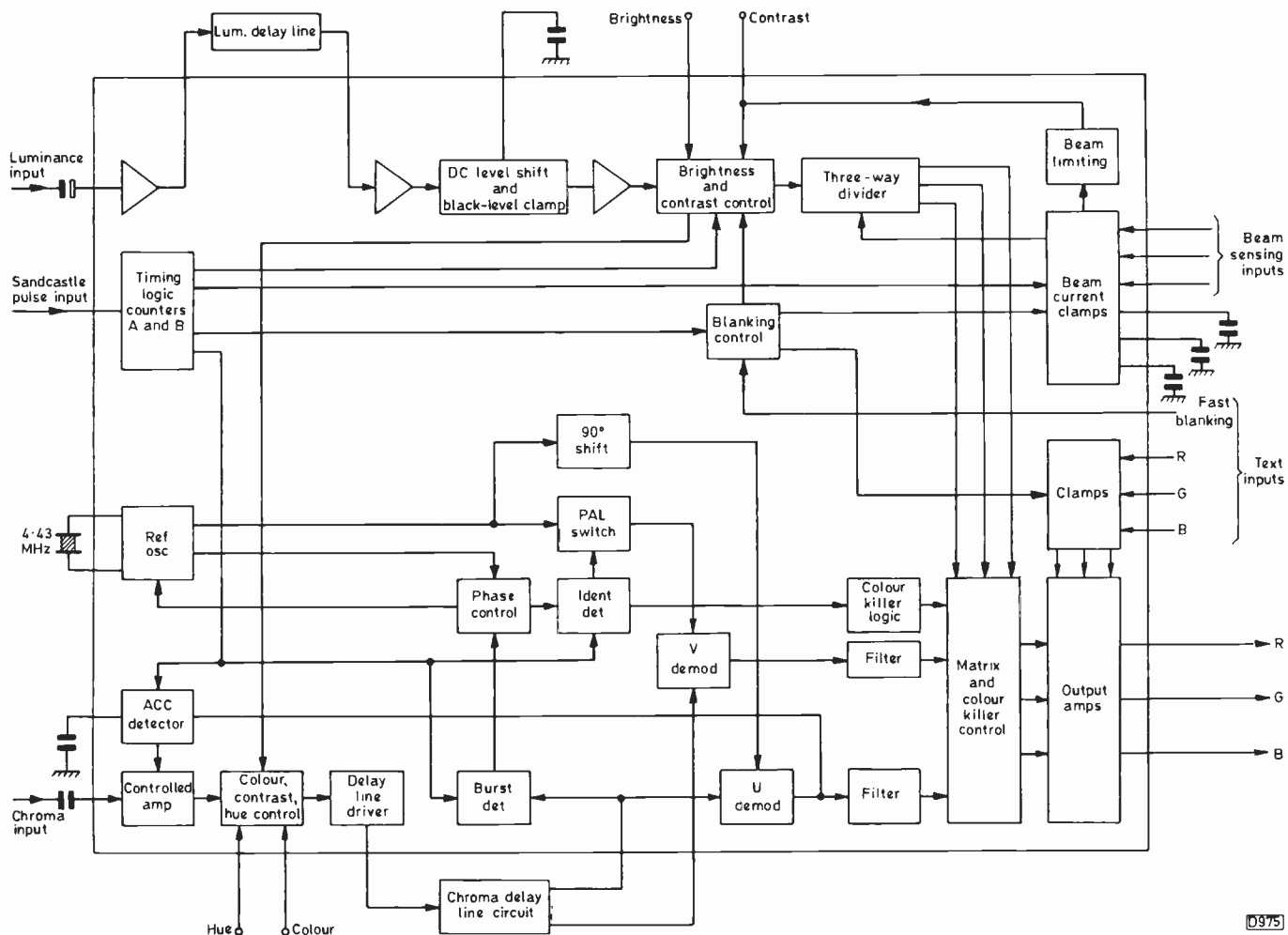


Fig. 4: Simplified block diagram of the TDA3301 colour decoder chip.

luminance delay line (and subcarrier trap). It re-enters the chip at pin 36. Internal systems operating on the luminance channel perform black-level clamping, contrast control and blanking. The contrast and saturation controls are inter-linked. The effect of the brightness input at pin 30 is to shift the d.c. level on which the luminance signal sits. A preset brightness control is provided.

Beam limiting is carried out via the brightness and contrast systems. Fig. 5 shows the sensing circuit. Diode D27 is connected between the earthy end of the e.h.t. system and chassis and is forward biased from the 115V rail via R127 and R128, passing a forward current of approximately 600µA. The c.r.t. beam current flows via D27 in the opposite direction: when it reaches 600µA D27 switches off and the junction of D27/R128 goes negative. TR2 then provides beam limiting via emitter-follower action. For larger tubes the onset of beam current limiting can be raised to 1mA by closing link 56.

The chroma circuitry follows conventional practice. The reference oscillator operates at 4.43MHz, and the 90° phase shift required for U demodulation is achieved within the

i.c. After filtering, the demodulated colour-difference signals are matrixed with the luminance signal and blanking signals are inserted. Blanking, burst gating and clamping are carried out by pulses produced by timing logic counters A and B.

Changeover to RGB teletext inputs (or from a peritel socket if fitted) is controlled by the "fast blanking" pin 23 which requires a steady d.c. input in excess of 700mV.

Automatic grey-scale correction is carried out by three clamps, one each for R, G and B. These are gated on to coincide with test signals which are added to the RGB outputs during the line blanking periods – this is done within IC3. Feedback is from resistors in the collector circuits of the emitter-followers TR22/24/26 incorporated between the RGB output transistors TR21/23/25 and the c.r.t.'s cathodes. The dark level beam current is set at 16µA by resistors R65/6/7. There is also dynamic beam limiting which is set by R57 and limits the peak current of any one gun to 3mA.

RGB Output Stages

Fig. 6 shows one of the RGB output circuits (green). TR23 is a class A amplifier whose output is buffered by the emitter-follower TR24. The resultant low-impedance c.r.t. drive allows fast charge and discharge of the c.r.t.'s cathode input capacitance, giving good bandwidth. The output circuits follow convention in being mounted on the c.r.t. base panel, removing the bandwidth limitations associated with long leads. The video gain is set by RV22 which allows peak-white colour adjustment during grey-scale alignment.

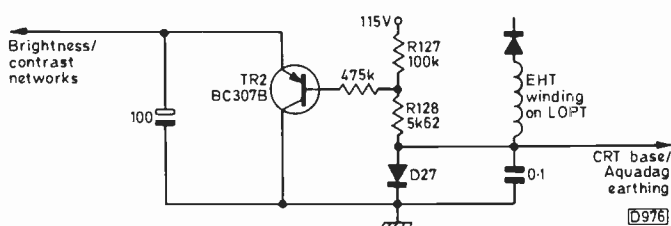


Fig. 5: The beam limiter circuit.

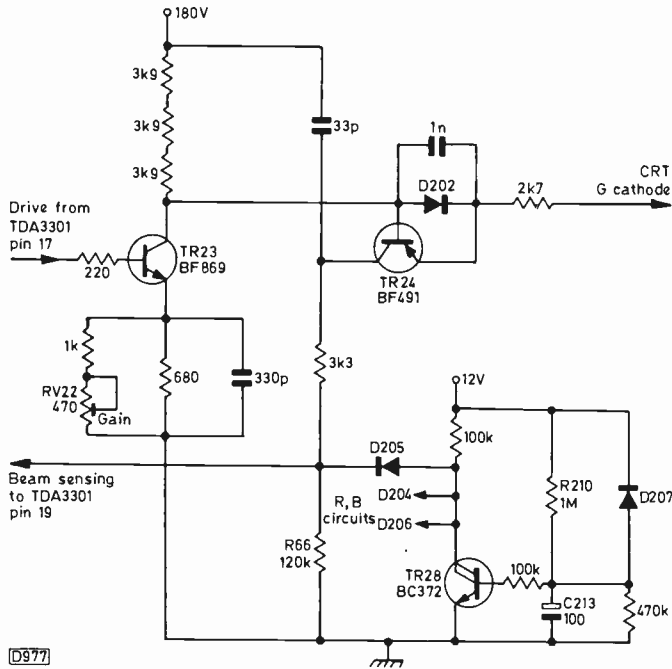


Fig. 6: The green output stage and the circuit for overriding the auto-grey-scale system at switch on.

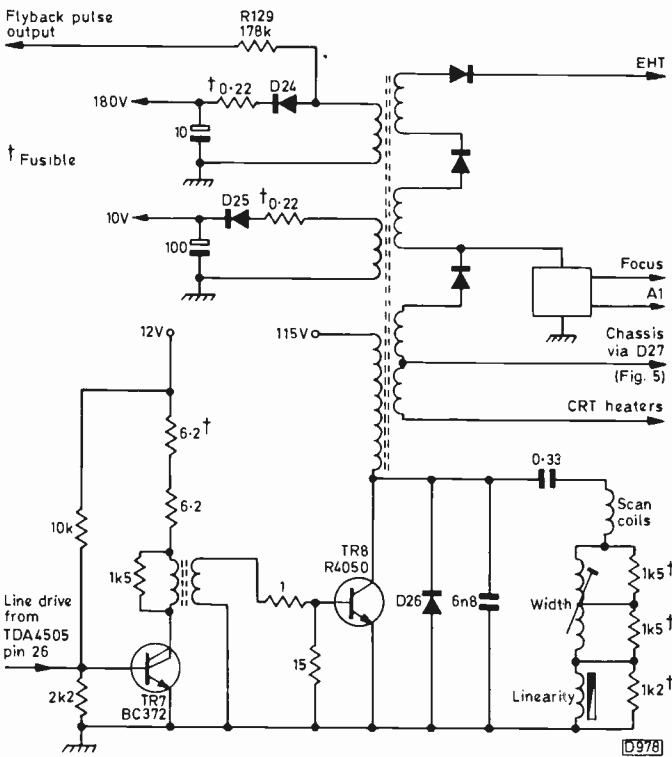


Fig. 7: The line driver and output stage circuits.

The circuitry associated with TR28 overrides the automatic grey-scale correction system at switch on to avoid a peak white raster. The operation of this circuit is controlled by the time-constant network R210/C213.

Line Driver and Output Stages

The line driver and output stages (see Fig. 7) are conventional. Because of the tube/yoke systems to be used with the chassis, no EW correction circuit is necessary. A low-voltage, transformer-coupled driver stage switches the

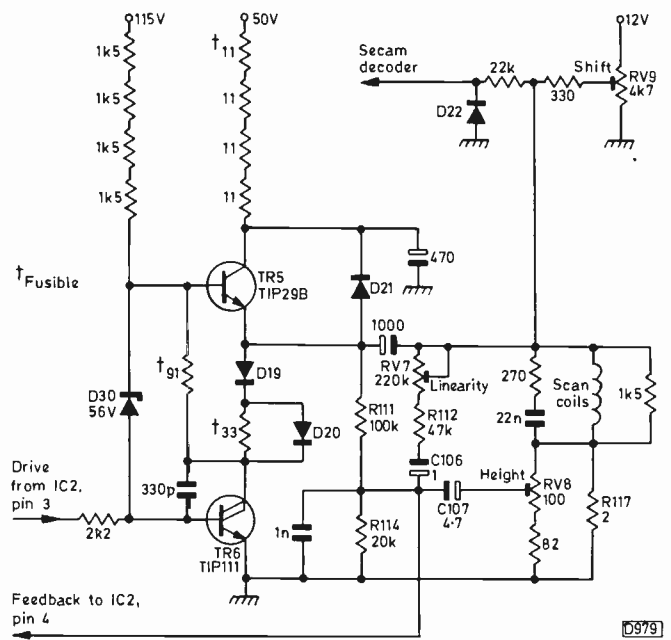


Fig. 8: the field output stage circuit. The resistors in TR5's collector circuit contribute to the fast flyback.

R4050 line output transistor. This is a Texas Instruments device with a quoted maximum operating collector voltage rating of 1,300V. The peak flyback voltage measured at the collector was 900V, so there appears to be a good safety margin.

The diode-split line output transformer provides various supplies – 180V for the RGB output stages and as a source for the tuning voltage, 10V for the TACS remote control system, 23kV e.h.t., adjustable focus and first anode voltages and the heater supply.

Because of the intention to use various different types of c.r.t. with the chassis, Ferguson has included what it refers to as a "c.r.t. personality" panel (PC1690). This carries the scan-correction capacitor and allows for different connections to the width control.

Field Output Stage

Fig. 8 shows the discrete component field output stage. The lower transistor of the output pair, TR6, is a Darlington device. This reduces the drive current requirement, enabling the output stage to be driven by the TDA4505 chip directly. A feature of the circuit is the four 11Ω resistors in the feed to TR5's collector. These reduce the collector voltage and the dissipation in the transistors during the first half of the scan, restoring the voltage to 50V during the second half of the scan in preparation for the flyback, giving a short flyback time. A.C. feedback from RV8 via C107 controls the height while RV7/R112/C106 provide linearity correction. D.C. feedback from the junction of R111/R114 stabilises the operating conditions in the output stage.

In Conclusion

The chassis does not incorporate stereo sound capability, either base band or off-air, presumably because it's not intended for use in up-market receivers. Teletext capability is built in however, reflecting the rising popularity of the broadcast text services. A plug on the chassis appears to cater for low-voltage operation via a d.c.-to-d.c. converter, a feature that will be welcome in many applications.

Service Bureau

Requests for advice in dealing with servicing problems must be accompanied by a £1-50 cheque or postal order (made out to IPC Magazines Ltd.), the query coupon and a stamped addressed envelope. We can deal with only one query at a time. We regret that we cannot supply service sheets nor answer queries over the telephone.

FERGUSON 3V38

The head drum runs fast until the machine has been in operation for about half an hour, after which the drum slows and the servo locks. When the drum runs fast the voltage at pin 13 of IC404 is excessive. The supplies to the i.c.s are normal.

First confirm that the drum FG signal is present during the fault – check at TP421. If not, check the FG winding on the motor, IC404 etc. If the FG signal is present check the condition and setting of R463 before suspecting IC404 and IC403 in that order. Use of freezer and gentle heat from a hairdryer may help in tracing the source of this fault.

PHILIPS K35 CHASSIS WITH TELETEXT

A teletext fault has recently developed: occasionally single characters are missing from the text and on other occasions horizontal bands of several lines are missing – very often these are part of the page header. The problem started with BBC-2 and has now spread to BBC-1. ITV is all right.

While it's possible that the fault could be in the receiver circuitry, in which case very slight adjustment of the vision detector tank coil and/or the a.f.c. coil will probably clear it, much more likely is deterioration of the aerial system. Check the aerial, its downlead and the associated connections. A decoder fault is most unlikely.

HITACHI CBP260 (NP9A CHASSIS)

The problem is slight pulling on vertical bars. It's not affected by any of the controls.

If the disturbance travels slowly up or down the screen, check for ripple on the 18V remote control receiver power line and the main power line. IC980 and C983 are suspect in the former case, C907 in the latter. If the line distortion is stationary, check the earthing of the tube's outer conductive coating.

PHILIPS CTX-E CHASSIS

The picture is good but there's a low-intensity background warble on the sound. It appears to alter slightly in frequency and level depending on the picture content. The programme sound very often masks the warble, but it's plainly audible on quiet passages.

This may be difficult to track down. The most likely cause of the buzzing is radiation from the c.r.t. getting back to an unscreened audio lead. You will have to trace through the circuit and eliminate stages progressively.

JVC HR2200

The LED indicators on the front panel of this portable unit flash from left to right and the machine will not operate. This is the alarm mode of course and I've been told that a

faulty cassette lamp is often the cause, but a check has shown that the lamp is working.

While failure of the cassette lamp is the most common cause of entry into the alarm mode another common cause is defective, i.e. metal fatigued, sensor switches under the deck. There are four of them. If they prove to be o.k. the solenoid switching transistors are suspect. These are on the audio/mechacon panel, X25-28 for the pinch solenoid and X21-24 for the brake solenoid. Replace all four in each group at one go.

ITT CVC32 CHASSIS

ITV, BBC-1 and BBC-2 are all right but on Channel 4 there's sometimes field rolling that cannot be stopped by field hold control adjustment. The fault is random: sometimes the picture is rock steady, sometimes the picture will flick then roll for a few minutes before settling down and at other times it just keeps rolling.

The fault is not unknown in this chassis and can often be cleared by replacing the electrolytic capacitors in the i.f. module – C303/7/9/12. If this doesn't provide a cure, try slight adjustment of the r.f. a.g.c. control R309. If necessary try the effect of adding an attenuator (say 6 or 10dB) at the aerial input.

HITACHI VT19

There's no clock or channel display and when play is selected the machine laces up, plays for about three seconds, then unlaces and stops. The same sequence applies with the other functions. The fault appears to be in the 10V supply to the clock/channel display board – the 2.5A fuse blows for no apparent reason.

The primary source of the 10V supply you mention is Q1795, which could well have failed with internal leakage. This would account for the fuse blowing. Use a BC171B if this transistor has to be replaced. If, due to tolerances in the mains transformer, the voltage at TP1792 exceeds 21V, increase R1768 to 150Ω. Check also diode D1769 (V06C) and zener diode ZD1769 (HZ-11C). Note that there's an error in the back-up circuit in the manual – Q1795's emitter voltage should be shown as 10V.

SONY KV2200

There's an intermittent whistle, but only with a picture present. With no signal input there's no whistle. When it's present the whistle is accompanied by Hanover bars. I've tried disturbance checks on all the chokes and the transformers but have been unable to pinpoint the source of the whistle.

This effect generally stems from instability in the power supply circuit, the cause being dried up electrolytic capacitors. We suggest you check C612 (3.3μF-4.7μF will do) and C622 (33μF).

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ITT CVC1215 CHASSIS

The EW modulator driver transistor T563 and a couple of components (C511 and R503) in the line scan circuit had to be replaced, but now the set powers up at a reduced rate, all outputs from the line output stage being down to 25V. With the power supply isolated and a dummy load connected the maximum output that can be obtained is 125V instead of the correct 145V. The line output stage does not seem to be loading the power supply and the set doesn't show any signs of stress.

The 145V supply reservoir capacitor C733 (10 μ F) could be low in value and should be replaced. Also try C728 (22 μ F) which provides the 13V supply in the chopper circuit. We've known C614 (100 μ F) which decouples the supply to the TDA1940F sync/line oscillator chip cause problems of this sort.



308

Each month we provide an interesting case of TV/video servicing to exercise your ingenuity. These are not trick questions but are based on actual practical faults.

We've still got some Decca series 80 and 100 TV sets about. They've served us well on rental, and still produce the odd surprise for our engineers despite our many years' acquaintance with them. Take the one we had in the other day . . .

The job card said "funny colours". What does that mean? What in fact it meant was that the picture was fine at switch on, but within five or so minutes the colours changed to give a bizarre display – similar to what you'd get by swapping the tube drives around. Exactly what the unusual colours were is not really relevant to the diagnosis. A squirt of freezer here and there on the decoder panel established that the MC1327 colour demodulator/matrixing chip seemed to be responsible for the trouble, so it was replaced.

The set was then left to run while waiting collection. Within a few minutes the colours were once again wrong, and a squirt of freezer on the new MC1327 chip brought them back to normal. It seemed unlikely that the original and the new chips had identical faults. In fact we found that after a few minutes in operation the i.c. was finger-sizzingly hot. This was an unusual one indeed!

Study of the circuit diagram (see Fig. 1) suggested a very obvious cause for all this. The chip receives its 25V supply at pin 14, the supply being stabilised by zener diode D202 which is fed from the 37V rail via R246. It seemed likely that D202 had gone open-circuit and that the chip's supply voltage had risen. But no, this wasn't so! In fact there was only 21V at pin 14, and zener diode D202 was cold. The series resistor R246 was very warm indeed, and so by now

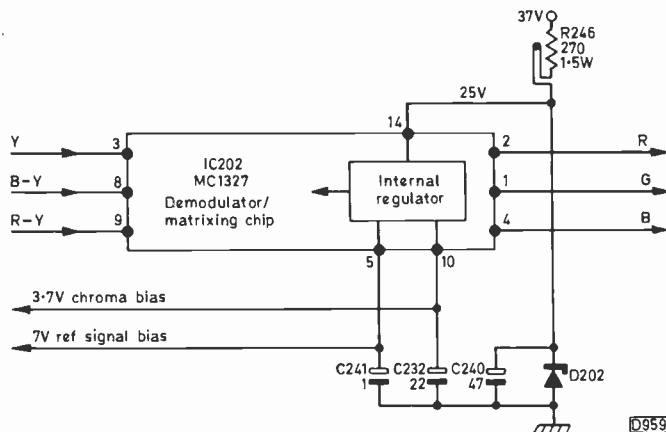


Fig. 1: Power supply arrangements associated with the MC1327 colour demodulator/matrixing chip in the Decca 80 and 100 series chassis.

was the chip. Disconnecting D202 made no difference to the voltage reading at pin 14.

A check was made on the other voltages around the chip. All were found to be low, but not so low as to upset the operation of the RGB output stages – until the chip overheated – or the overall functioning of the device. The voltages at pins 5, 12 and 13 were markedly low at around 2V. What do you think was the cause of the trouble? When the faulty component was replaced the MC1327's dissipation returned to normal – as did the voltage at pin 14. For the answer, see next month.

ANSWER TO TEST CASE 307 — page 686 last month —

A hot and sultry workshop was the setting for last month's puzzle, in which a GEC Model C2026 (PIL tube chassis) would pump half a dozen times at switch on then lapse into rest. The technician dealing with it was also rather languid if his random, shot-in-the-dark approach to diagnosis was anything to go by – maybe it had something to do with the ventilation system, or lack of one, in the workshop. His more alert colleague soon got to the bottom of the trouble.

Their first joint action, removal of the line shift choke, could well have cured the fault. Chokes of this type often develop short-circuit turns in sets of this vintage, triggering the excess-current trip. In fact the excess-current trip in the set was operating, though not because of excessive current. What had happened was that the current sampling resistor R530 (1 Ω) had gone high in value. The reading obtained on the ohmmeter varied around the 3 Ω mark. The equivalent resistor in the ITT CVC20 chassis is R89; in the CVC30/32 it's R86.

A quick way of proving the point would have been to short out the sampling resistor, which is connected in series with the chopper transistor. If there had been a real overload fault present however this would have invited disaster! Better to connect the scope across C513 (4.7nF), which decouples the TDA2640 chip's current sampling input pin, to see whether the excess-current pulses are well in excess of the normal 50mV level.

Published on approximately the 22nd of each month by IPC Magazines Limited, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Filmsetting by Trutape Setting Systems, 220-228 Northdown Road, Margate, Kent. Printed in England by the The Riverside Press Ltd., Thanet Way Whitstable, Kent. Sole Agents for Australia and New Zealand – Gordon and Gotch (A/sia) Ltd.; South Africa – Central News Agency Ltd. Subscriptions: Inland £18, overseas (surface mail) £21 per annum, payable to Quadrant Subscription Services Ltd., Oakfield House, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 3DH. "Television" is sold subject to the following conditions, namely that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first having been given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of Trade at more than the recommended selling price shown on the cover, excluding Eire where the selling price is subject to currency exchange fluctuations and VAT, and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever. ISSN 0032-647X.

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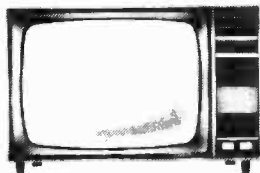
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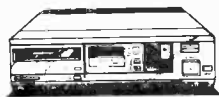
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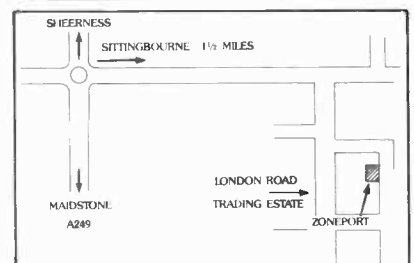
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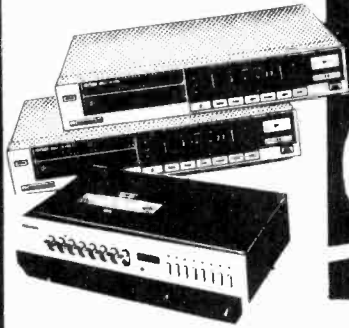
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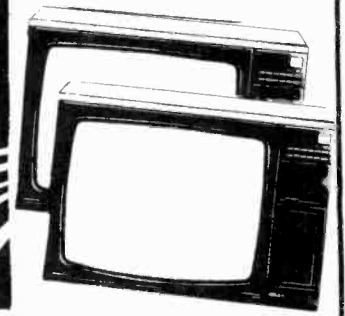
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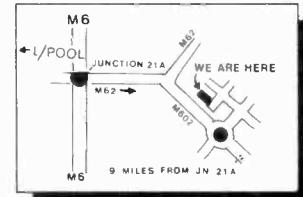
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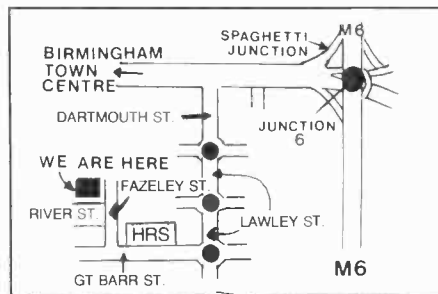
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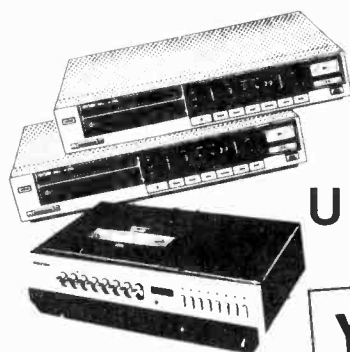
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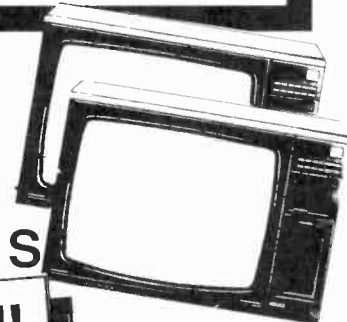


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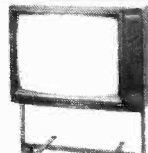
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*Slim front loaders
Superb and working
Many other models/makes
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Mr Poole or Mr Ricketts
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1 to 24 volts up to 1/2 amp. 1 to 20 volts up to 1 amp. 1 to 16 volts up to 1 1/2 amps A.C. Fully stabilised. Twin panel meters for instant voltage and current readings. Overload protection.

Fully variable
Operates from
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Compact Unit:
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8800	£14.00	£12.00
9K	£20.00	£16.00
9200 Basic Monitor - Two function Remote	£40.00	£30.00
9200 Full Infra Red Remote	£25.00	£18.00
9900 Two function Remote	£30.00	£20.00
9900 Full Infra Red Remote	£60.00	£50.00
TX9-10 Basic Remote	£60.00	£50.00
TX90-100	£50.00	£45.00
Text TV's with new Remote G11 Philips-Pye	£55.00	£45.00
Portable Colour Basics	£85.00	£70.00
TX9-10 Text	£100.00	£85.00
Text Portable	£85.00	£65.00
TX100 Text	£110.00	£90.00
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ITT FST Text		
And all Japanese TV's in stock from £15.00		

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T.V.s £100

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3V30.....	£75
3V35.....	£90
3V32.....	£100

NV333.....	£75
NV366.....	£75
NV2010.....	£75
NV7200.....	£75

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Pye G11	£25
Pye KT3	£35
Pye K30	£40
Ferguson TX 9/10	£30
Grundig	£20
Hitachi	£20
Thorn 9000	£20

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Sharps electronic 7300	£65
Ferguson 3V29	£75
Sharps 8300	£80
National Panasonic	£75
Ferguson 3V30	£90
Sharps 9300	£95

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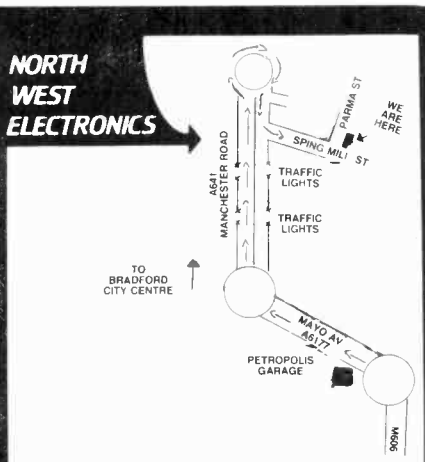
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T26	X	5	16	20	17	X
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Philips						
G11	14.50	5	12	20	20	11.50

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Pye K30	£35
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Grundig	£10
Hitachi	£10
Thorn 9000	£10

Plus many more; GEC, ITT, etc from £5

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Sharps 8300	£50
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Ferguson 3V30	£55
Sharps 9300	£55
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Thorn 9600	
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G.E.C.	
I.T.T. R/C	
Philips G11 & Pye G11	
Philips G11 & Pye G11 Text with Handset	
KT3	
KT3 Text with Handset	
KT35	
KT35 Text with Handset	
TX9 & TX10 Text with Handset	
Grundig	
Grundig Text with Handset	
I.T.T. – Ferguson Stereo Text	

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£25.00
£25.00
£50.00
£20.00
£20.00
£30.00
£28.00
£55.00
£50.00
£70.00
£55.00
£90.00
£70.00
£55.00
£90.00
£130.00

UNTESTED

£15.00
£18.00
£18.00
£40.00
£15.00
£10.00
£20.00
£18.00
£45.00
£40.00
£45.00
£45.00
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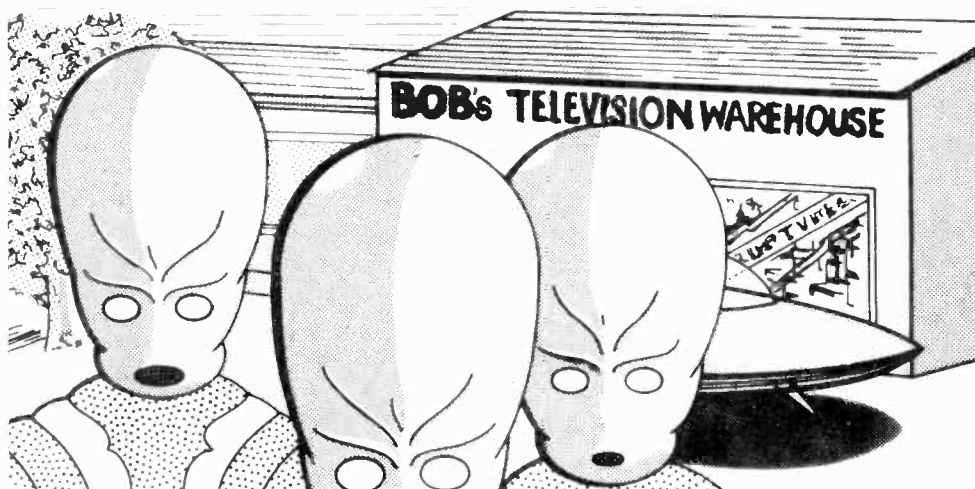
THE **Stun**

★ **WORLD EXCLUSIVE** ★

ALIENS SEEN IN BASILDON

A space ship was seen today outside a local television warehouse in Basildon.

Passers by were held spell bound by the sight of three space aliens appearing from within the store, carrying what appeared to be Television sets and video recorders.



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9600 Basic 2 function remote	£15
9900 2 function remote	£25
9900 Full infra red remote	£30
Text TV's	£50
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● PANASONIC ● SONY ● TOSHIBA ● FERGUSON ● PHILIPS ● GEC

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3V23 Full infra red remote	£60
3V29/30	£60
JVC, SHARP, AKAI, HITACHI	£65

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for 10.

S O F }	3V22 Videos @ £59.00 working
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Plus MANY MANY MORE basic
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controls. **Phone for
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TOP QUALITY — HIGH PROFITS

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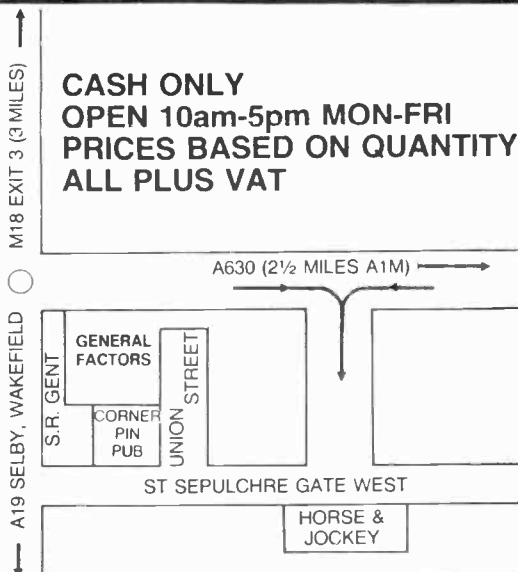
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9600 £25	£20			SHARP	CAPACITORS	560 EGB22 £46	
9000 £15	£10			HITACHI	I.C.s	560 DZB22 £48	WORKS
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£2.50 each. Min order 24

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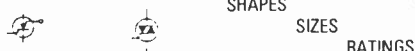
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Admin Televisions	786	Express TV Supplies	783	P.V.S.	793
Aerial Techniques	735	General Factors	793	P.V. Tubes	722, 723
Alston-Barry International	782	G.G.L. Components	725	Radio & Television Components (Acton) Ltd.	795
Apollo	798	Grandata Ltd.	772, 773	Radio Component Specialists	786
Avon Meters	797	Griftronic Emission Ltd.	799	Relay Omagh Ltd.	782
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Bob's Television Warehouse	791	I.T.V.C.	790	Sonic TV Distributors	787
Bridge Electrics	782	Jomill Enterprises	787	Southside TV	727
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Campion Wholesale Ltd.	799	Kent Trade Supplies	726	Starlite Electronics	786
Carter, John (Electrical) Ltd.	775	Kesh Electrics Ltd.	795	Stewart of Reading	782
Celtel	727	LRC (Spares)	780	Suffolk TV & Videos	794
Central TV & Video Wholesalers Ltd.	785	Manor Supplies	Cover II	Supertel	737
Centrevision	776	Marshall Limited	779	Supervision	792
Chromavac Ltd.	729	Mastercare	798	Taylor Bros (Oldham) Ltd.	774
Chromavision	780	Mauriton Technical Services	796	Technical Information Services	796
Coles Harding & Co.	787	Midland TV's	794	Televideo Services	728
Cooker (UK) Ltd.	792	Newark Video Services	797	Televue	787
Cowell TV & Video Wholesale	795	NGK	774	Tidman Mail Order Ltd.	771
Crewe Wholesale TV Ltd.	778	North West Electronics	788, 789	Tree, W., Trade TV's	783
C.T.V.	795	Omega Electronics	771	TVS International Ltd.	778
Data-Go	796	OTV	730	TV Trade Sales	735
Dataman, The	796	Papworth Transformers	798	Universal Semiconductor Devices Ltd.	798
Dhouper Vision	786	Post a Part Electronics	783	U-View Tubes	793, 796
Display Electronics Limited	775			Well View	783
Donberg Electronics	796			Willow Vale Electronics Ltd.	797
East Cornwall Components	732			Wiltsgrove Ltd.	784
East London Components	794			Wing Electronics	787
				Wizard Distributors	787
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BRC116	25p	2SD820	£1.00
BRC43	15p	2SD868	75p
BRY48X	30p	2SD870	£1.00
BRX56	10p	2SD880	30p
BSS68	10p	2SD1266	£1.00
BSY79	10p	2SD1415	£1.00
BSY95a	10p	2SD1432	£1.00
BTY90	10p	2SD1576	£1.00
BXS19	17p	2SK30A	10p
BXS20	17p	BC107	10p
FT3055	30p	BC108	10p
FCER2	30p	BC109	5p
FCES20	30p	BC113	10p
2N930	5p	BC114	10p
2N2221	5p	BC115	10p
2N2222	10p	BC116	10p
2N2906	10p	BC117	20p
2N3055	40p	BC119	20p
2N3566	10p	BC125	20p
2N3702	10p	BC126	20p
2N3711	10p	BC139	20p
2N3583	50p	BC140	20p
2N3904	15p	BC141	20p
2N4355	10p	BC143	25p
2N4442	£1.00	BC147	10p
2N4444	£1.00	BC148	10p
2N5278	20p	BC149	10p
2N5296	20p	BC153	10p
2N5983	30p	BC154	10p
2N6099	40p	BC157a	10p
2N6109	40p	BC158	10p
2N6130	50p	BC159	10p
2N6133	30p	BC160/16	25p
2N6348	20p	BC171	5p
2N6399	20p	BC172	5p
2X 2N6099 om	50p	BC173	5p
heat sink	20p	BC174	5p
2SA437	10p	BC183	5p
2SA673P	10p	BC184	10p
2SA844P	10p	BC204	10p
2SC643A	£1.00	BC207	5p
2SA992	10p	BC212	5p
2SB407 Sanyo TO3	10p	BC213	5p
2SB474	10p	BC214	5p
2SB566	30p	BC237	5p
2SB686	75p	BC238	5p
2SC772	20p	BC239	20p
2SC781	10p	BC250	20p
2SC458	50p	BC251	5p
2SC491	50p	BC252	20p
2SC732	10p	BC262	10p
2SC733	10p	BC263b	20p
2NC940	£1.00	BC294	30p
2SC1030	£1.00	BC298	10p
2SC1061	30p	BC341	30p
2SC1162 C718	30p	BC301	30p
2SC1520	25p	BC303	30p
2SC1546	20p	BC307	7p
2SC1617	£1.00	BC308	7p
2SC1725	20p	BC309	10p
2SC1740	20p	BC328	10p
2SC1956	50p	BC328/338 pair	15p
2SC1742	£1.00	BC337	10p
2SC2027	£1.00	BC338	10p
2SC2068	20p	BC347	10p
2SC2073	3p	BC349b	10p

BD646	50p
BD676A	30p
BD807	20p
BD826	50p
BD933	30p
BD939	30p
BD948	30p
BD131A	50p
BDX75	20p
BDX75	20p
BDX75	20p
BDX64H	50p
BD1065	50p
BF761	30p
BF769	30p
BF788	30p
BF819A	30p
BF858	30p
BF874	30p
BF871	30p
BF852	7p
BF851	15p
BF860	10p
BF842	20p
BF857	20p
BF841	15p
BF855 100V Lamp	50p
BSD215	30p
MRI366	20p
AN6350	£2.00
BRCM 200	50p
BRCM 300	50p
BRM 1693	£1.00
BRM 3064	£1.00
BT1822	£1.00
BT1701H	£1.20
BT1701M	£1.50
BT1822A	£1.50
BT1822B	£1.50
BT1822C	£1.50
BT1822D	£1.50
BT1822E	£1.50
BT1822F	£1.50
BT1822G	£1.50
BT1822H	£1.50
BT1822I	£1.50
BT1822J	£1.50
BT1822K	£1.50
BT1822L	£1.50
BT1822M	£1.50
BT1	