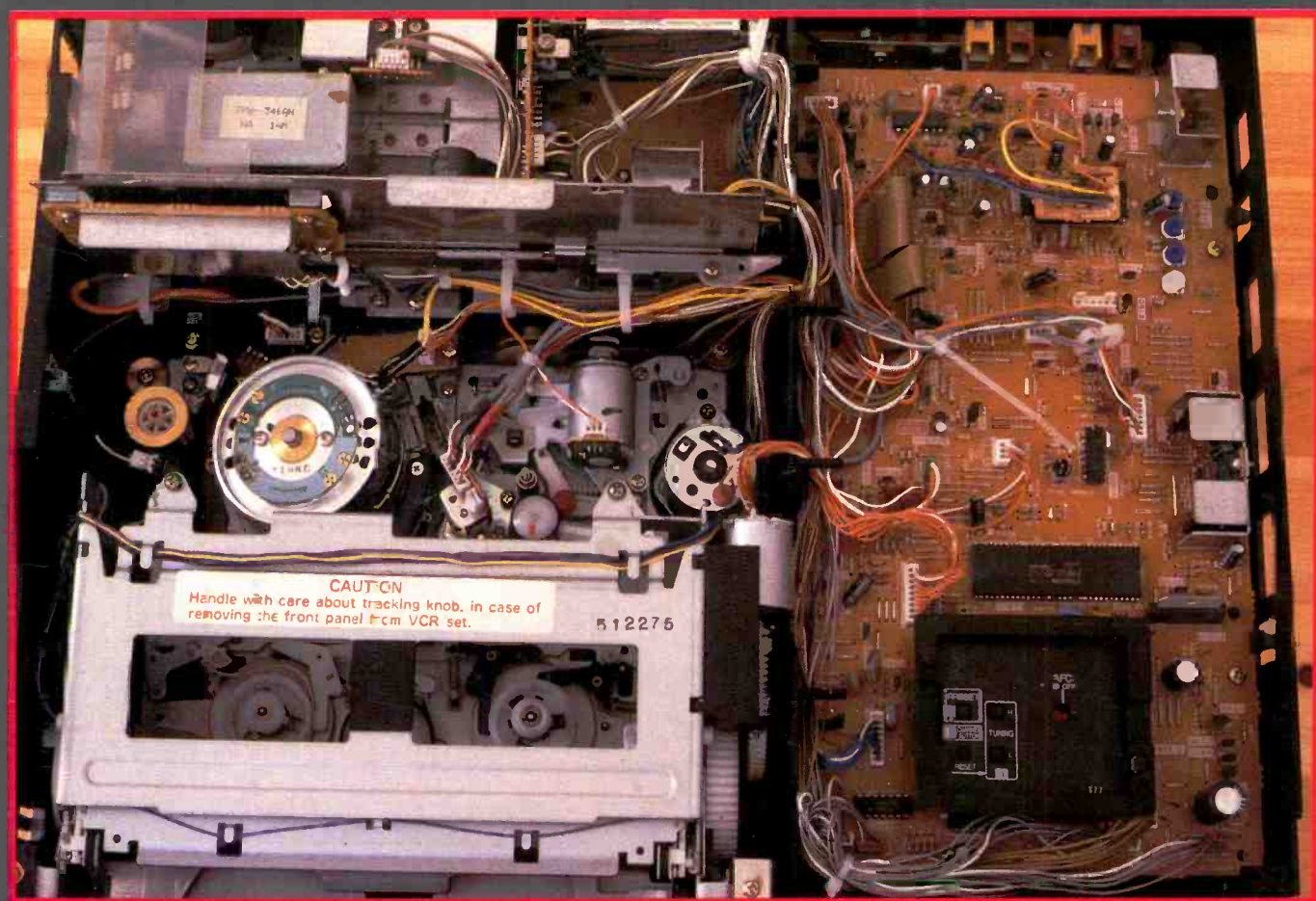


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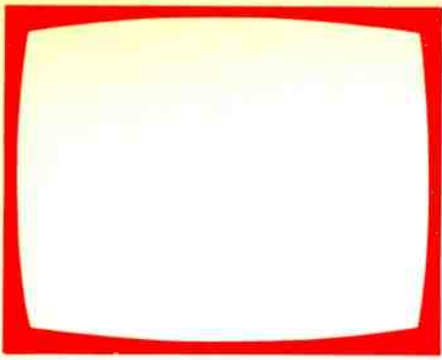
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TELEVISION

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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.

this month

- 253 Leader**
- 254 Fifty Years in Radio and TV, Part 2** *Harold Peters*
Wartime experiences then the immediate post-war years, when TV spread to the Midlands and North and receiving equipment and broadcasting techniques came of age.
- 258 Test Report: Tandy's Talking DMM** *David Botto*
Adding a voice feature to give an audible read-out is not a gimmick but in many circumstances a very helpful facility. The ranges are good and there's a 3 $\frac{2}{3}$ digit liquid-crystal display.
- 260 Fault Notes on Toshiba's VHS VCRs** *John Coombes*
A summary of faults experienced with models from the V55B to the V83B.
- 261 Next Month in Television**
- 262 Teletopics**
News, comment and developments.
- 264 TV Fault Finding**
Reports from Philip Blundell, AMIEIE, Ed Rowland, J.R. Trimmer, Nick Beer, Stephen Leatherbarrow and Hugh MacMullen.
- 266 DAT System Technical Details** *George Cole*
Digital analogue tape recorders, offering CD quality audio on tape, came on to the market in the UK late last year. This new system is a combination of signal encoding along CD lines and helical-scan VCR technology. It could become a major consumer electronics product. Technical specifications and a look at the technology used in the hardware.
- 274 Servicing Notes on the Hitachi G8Q Chassis** *John Coombes*
This chassis uses a novel chopper arrangement with two series-connected power transistors, one a MOSFET. A look at the operation of the power supply and notes on fault finding.
- 275 Test Case 338**
- 276 Problems with Compact Discs** *Nick Beer*
Is it the player or is it the disc? How do you tell whether a disc is faulty and is there anything you can do about it?
- 280 VCR Clinic**
Reports from Eugene Trundle, Steve Cannon, Nick Beer, Hafidh Mahmood, Andy Worrall, Ray Crockett and Mick Dutton.
- 282 Long-distance Television** *Roger Bunney*
DX conditions and reception and news from abroad. The NordMende Galaxy 25 multistandard receiver reviewed.
- 284 CD Player Casebook**
Reports from Philip Blundell, AMIEIE, Mike Leach and Joe Cieszynski.
- 285 Letters**
- 287 Remote Control Handset Checker** *Colin Birch*
This simple device for telling whether an RC handset is transmitting was made from a handful of odd spare components.
- 288 What a Life** *Donald Bullock*
Problems with sets and the people who want them repaired.

OUR NEXT ISSUE DATED MARCH WILL
BE PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 20

AA119	9p	BD244	50p	BFW92	35p	R210B	100p	2N5320	90p	78GUC1	190p	AN-7178	270p	LA-1130	240p	M-51514	160p	STK-4201	425p	TA-7207	150p	TD-1524	350p
AA32	9p	BD245	50p	BFX29	20p	S2800	52p	2N5321	60p	79GUC1	215p	AY3-1015	290p	LA-1150	150p	M-51515BL	220p	STK-4025	600p	TA-7208	145p	TD-1541	160p
AC107	40p	BD26A	50p	BFX84	20p	S2800M	72p	2N5366	25p	79HGC1	800p	AY3-1250	800p	LA-1185	150p	M-51516	200p	STK-4026	600p	TA-7210	200p	TD-1670A	1600p
AC126	25p	BD26B	45p	BFX85	15p	T2800	52p	2N4448	12p	VALVES		AY3-1350	450p	LA-1210	140p	M-51517	200p	STK-4027	600p	TA-7212	200p	TD-1701	320p
AC127	21p	BD267	45p	BFX88	15p	T2800M	72p	2N5496	80p	DA56	60p	AY3-8910	60p	LA-1222	130p	MB-3515	240p	STK-4038	800p	TA-7220	220p	TD-1770A	300p
AC128	26p	BD278	50p	BFX89	60p	TIP29	15p	2N6107	40p	DL92	50p	BA-301	35p	LA-1230	130p	MB-3712	140p	STK-4044	1000p	TA-7222	120p	TD-1870A	300p
AC128K	30p	BD311	100p	BFY18	30p	TIP25A	22p	2N6109	40p	DY86	60p	BA-311	80p	LA-1231	210p	MB-3713	130p	STK-4046	1100p	TA-7223	210p	TD-1872A	450p
AC141K	30p	BD312	100p	BFY20	40p	TIP30	25p	2N6110	40p	DY87	60p	BA-313	80p	LA-1232	130p	MB-3714	200p	STK-4048	500p	TA-7225	300p	TD-1904	120p
AC142K	30p	BD313	100p	BFY24	40p	TIP30	25p	2N6384	120p	EACB90	60p	BA-333	100p	LA-1368	220p	MB-3722	250p	STK-4101	650p	TA-7227	190p	TD-1908A	90p
AC176K	22p	BD315	150p	BFY26	14p	TIP31A	24p	2N6385	120p	EB91	44p	BA-401	60p	LA-1369	150p	MB-3730	200p	STK-4111	650p	TA-7229	300p	TD-1940	280p
AC187	21p	BD316	150p	BFY56	50p	TIP403	30p	2N6403	100p	EBF80	45p	BA-402	60p	LA-2000	150p	MB-3731	200p	STK-4121	650p	TA-7230	170p	TD-1941	90p
AC187K	28p	BD317	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p	3N-143	65p	EBF89	50p	BA-511	160p	LA-2101	270p	MB-3756	230p	STK-4122	560p	TA-7233	250p	TD-1950	280p
AC188	21p	BD318	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32A	24p			ECC82	80p	BA-511	160p	LA-2200	190p	MB-3759	230p	STK-4131	650p	TA-7237	400p	TD-2002	70p
AC188K	28p	BD319	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3101	160p	MC-1130P	130p	STK-4141	650p	TA-7238	400p	TD-2003	60p
AC188K	28p	BD320	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3201	80p	MC-1458	33p	STK-4151	950p	TA-7242	260p	TD-2005	90p
AC188K	28p	BD321	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3220	100p	MC-1459	290p	STK-4162	820p	TA-7245	450p	TD-2008	175p
AC188K	28p	BD322	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3300	140p	MC-1488	65p	STK-4171	890p	TA-7269	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD323	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD324	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD325	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD326	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD327	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD328	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD329	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD330	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD331	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD332	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD333	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD334	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
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AC188K	28p	BD339	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
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AC188K	28p	BD345	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD346	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
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AC188K	28p	BD348	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD349	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD350	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD351	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD352	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD353	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD354	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
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AC188K	28p	BD359	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD360	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-4181	820p	TA-7270	850p	TD-2010	140p
AC188K	28p	BD361	150p	BFY94	25p	TIP32	24p			ECC84	100p	BA-511	160p	LA-3350	110p	MC-1496	55p	STK-					

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40174	48p
40175	60p
40176	55p
40177	70p
40182	48p
40192	48p
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40194	58p
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7405	10p
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7407	36p
7408	25p
7409	20p
7410	30p
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7431	25p
7432	25p
7433	25p
7434	25p
7435	25p
7436	25p
7437	25p
7438	25p
7439	25p
7440	25p
7441	25p
7442	25p
7443	25p
7444	25p
7445	25p
7446	25p
7447	25p
7448	25p
7449	25p
7450	25p
7451	25p
7452	25p
7453	25p
7454	25p
7455	25p
7456	25p
7457	25p
7458	25p
7459	25p
7460	25p
7461	25p
7462	25p
7463	25p
7464	25p
7465	25p
7466	25p
7467	25p
7468	25p
7469	25p
7470	25p
7471	25p
7472	25p
7473	25p
7474	25p
7475	25p
7476	25p
7477	25p
7478	25p
7479	25p
7480	25p
7481	25p
7482	25p
7483	25p
7484	25p
7485	25p
7486	25p
7487	25p
7488	25p
7489	25p
7490	25p
7491	25p
7492	25p
7493	25p
7494	25p
7495	25p
7496	25p
7497	25p
7498	25p
7499	25p
7500	25p

74HC SERIES HIGH SPEED CMOS

74HC00	14p
74HC01	14p
74HC02	14p
74HC03	14p
74HC04	15p
74HC08	18p
74HC10	20p
74HC11	14p
74HC14	26p
74HC20	19p
74HC21	20p
74HC22	20p
74HC30	20p
74HC32	20p
74HC42	30p
74HC51	20p
74HC73	24p
74HC74	24p
74HC75	28p
74HC76	28p
74HC77	35p
74HC85	33p
74HC86	29p
74HC93	50p
74HC107	28p
74HC109	28p
74HC112	28p
74HC113	28p
74HC123	32p
74HC125	32p
74HC126	33p
74HC131	33p
74HC132	33p
74HC133	33p
74HC137	52p
74HC138	33p
74HC139	22p
74HC147	42p
74HC148	38p
74HC151	32p
74HC153	32p
74HC154	90p
74HC155	48p
74HC157	34p
74HC158	34p
74HC160	44p
74HC161	44p
74HC162	44p
74HC163	44p
74HC164	44p
74HC165	50p
74HC166	60p
74HC173	52p
74HC174	38p
74HC175	38p
74HC181	180p
74HC182	60p
74HC190	48p
74HC191	55p
74HC192	55p
74HC193	41p
74HC194	46p
74HC195	46p
74HC221	80p
74HC237	50p
74HC238	55p
74HC240	48p
74HC241	47p
74HC242	55p
74HC243	60p
74HC244	44p
74HC245	48p

74HC251	25p
74HC253	30p
74HC257	40p
74HC258	50p
74HC259	52p
74HC273	42p
74HC279	35p
74HC280	61p
74HC283	61p
74HC298	50p
74HC299	105p
74HC354	35p
74HC356	48p
74HC365	34p
74HC366	36p
74HC367	36p
74HC368	36p
74HC373	46p
74HC374	48p
74HC375	52p
74HC377	52p
74HC386	20p
74HC390	50p
74HC393	65p
74HC403	60p
74HC534	22p
74HC540	10p
74HC541	25p
74HC563	30p
74HC564	25p
74HC574	35p
74HC583	25p
74HC595	80p
74HC620	28p
74HC623	28p
74HC640	90p
74HC643	40p
74HC646	120p
74HC648	120p
74HC651	100p
74HC652	100p
74HC670	75p
74HC688	80p
74HC690	110p
74HC691	32p
74HC700	25p
74HC702	85p
74HC705	85p
74HC726	50p
74HC727	40p
74HC728	34p
74HC729	40p
74HC730	40p
74HC731	40p
74HC732	40p
74HC733	40p
74HC734	40p
74HC735	40p
74HC736	40p
74HC737	40p
74HC738	40p
74HC739	40p
74HC740	40p
74HC741	40p
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74HC743	40p
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74HC745	40p
74HC746	40p
74HC747	40p
74HC748	40p
74HC749	40p
74HC750	40p
74HC751	40p
74HC752	40p
74HC753	40p
74HC754	40p
74HC755	40p
74HC756	40p
74HC757	40p
74HC758	40p
74HC759	40p
74HC760	40p
74HC761	40p
74HC762	40p
74HC763	40p
74HC764	40p
74HC765	40p
74HC766	40p
74HC767	40p
74HC768	40p
74HC769	40p
74HC770	40p
74HC771	40p
74HC772	40p
74HC773	40p
74HC774	40p
74HC775	40p
74HC776	40p
74HC777	40p
74HC778	40p
74HC779	40p
74HC780	40p
74HC781	40p
74HC782	40p
74HC783	40p
74HC784	40p
74HC785	40p
74HC786	40p
74HC787	40p
74HC788	40p
74HC789	40p
74HC790	40p
74HC791	40p
74HC792	40p
74HC793	40p
74HC794	40p
74HC795	40p
74HC796	40p
74HC797	40p
74HC798	40p
74HC799	40p
74HC800	40p

74LS SERIES LOW POWER SCHOTTKY T.T.L.

74LS00	12p
74LS01	12p
74LS02	12p
74LS03	12p
74LS04	12p
74LS05	12p
74LS08	12p
74LS09	14p
74LS10	12p
74LS11	12p
74LS12	12p
74LS13	20p
74LS14	14p
74LS15	14p
74LS20	14p
74LS21	14p
74LS22	14p
74LS24	35p
74LS26	14p
74LS27	14p
74LS28	14p
74LS3	



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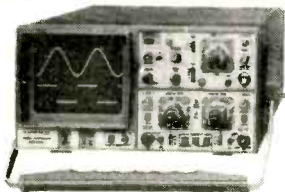
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HM203-7 20MHz STANDARD



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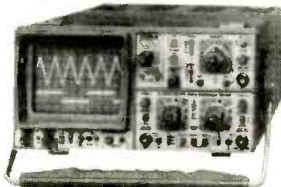
- * 2 Channels
- * Bandwidth: DC - 20MHz
- * Sens: Ch.1, Ch.2, 1mV/cm
- * Timebase: 0.1s - 20ns/cm
- * Triggering: DC - 40MHz
- * Active TV - Sync - Separator
- * Variable hold-off
- * Trigger LED indicator
- * Calibrator: 1KHz Square wave
- * Component tester
- * Plus many features

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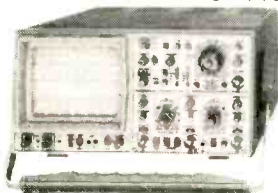
- * 2 Channels
- * Bandwidth: DC - 60 MHz
- * Sens: Ch.1, Ch.2, 1mV/cm
- * Timebase: 2.5s - 5ns/cm
- * Triggering: DC - 80MHz
- * Active TV - Sync - Separator
- * After delay trigger
- * Sweep delay
- * Delay line
- * Trigger LED indicator
- * Calibrator: 1KHz & 1MHz Sq. Wave
- * Component tester

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HM1005 100MHz UNIVERSAL 3 CHANNELS - UP TO 6 TRACES



SPECIFICATION

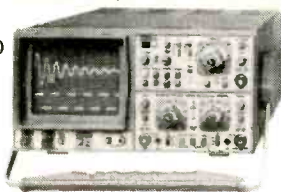
- * 3 Channels
- * Bandwidth: DC - 100MHz
- * Sens: Ch.1, Ch.2, Ch.3, 1mV/cm
- * Timebase A: 2.5s - 5ns/cm
- * Timebase B: 0.2s - 5ns/cm
- * Triggering DC - 130MHz
- * After delay trigger
- * Delay line
- * Trigger LED indicator
- * Overscan LED indicator
- * Active TV - Sync - Separator
- * Calibrator: 1KHz & 1MHz Sq. Wave

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SPECIFICATION

- * Digital Storage
- * Analogue real time (Same as 203-7)
- * Bandwidth: DC - 20MHz
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* 8 ranges.
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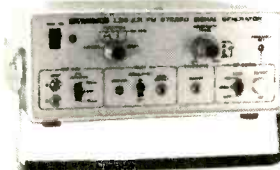
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FEATURES

- * Carrier frequency 100 +/- 1MHz (adjustable).
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- * L & R separation over 50dB.
- * External Modulation 50Hz - 15KHz.
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- * Mains powered.
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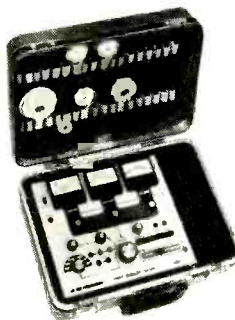


Light weight, easy-to-grip high-impact plastic handle with arc-over protection and no need of extra equipment. An indispensable item in your TV service kit. Measures up to 40kV DC with safety and the greatest of ease. Entirely self-contained. Connect the lead clip to chassis and probe tip to the check point, read the meter for voltage.

A must for the Health and Safety at Work Acts.
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Model 490 Tri-dynamic three meter instrument inc. 6 common adaptors..... £446.00 + £66.90 V.A.T.
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TC402-C VHF & UHF

FEATURES

- * Three bands:
Low VHF: 45-110MHz
High VHF: 110-300MHz
UHF : 470-862MHz.
- * Digital display for direct frequency readout.
- * Built-in monitor loudspeaker AM/FM.
- * Signal measurement from 20µV to 3V.
- * Powered by eight 1.5V AA batteries.
- * Fully portable with sturdy carrying case.



Price £259.00 + £38.85 V.A.T.

TC90 VHF-UHF- SAT.

FEATURES

- * Five bands:
Low VHF : 45-110MHz
High VHF : 110-300MHz
Hyper VHF : 300-470MHz
VHF : 470-862MHz
Satellite : 950-1750MHz.
- * Digital display for direct frequency readout.
- * Signal measurement VHF/UHF 20µV to 3V.
- * Signal measurement satellite -70dBm to -10dBm.
- * Audible indication of satellite signal level.
- * Built-in monitor loudspeaker AM/FM (not satellite).
- * Powered by rechargeable battery (complete with charger 220/240V AC).
- * Fully portable with sturdy carry case.



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PAL VHF/UHF - PAL VIDEO COMPOSITE - R.G.B.

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Just some of the features making the Orion Pattern Generator an indispensable tool in the manufacture, test, and servicing of televisions, and computer and video monitors.

FEATURES

- * Colour bars, purity, greyscale, crosshatch, dots, focus, etc.
- * VHF/UHF Channels.
- * 5.5MHz, 6.0MHz, 6.5MHz Sound Carriers.
- * Internal/External Sound.
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- * Trigger Output.
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SAISHO, HINARI	£19.99	VC-9300	£1.00
SHARP			

VIDEO IDLERS

3V29 TAKE UP IDLER	£1.45	PANASONIC	£1.35
VT 9300 PLAY IDLER	£2.99	NV-330	£1.50
VT 11/41/17	£1.99	NV-370	£1.50
VC 0005EZZ	£1.95	NV-730	£1.50
VC 0006EZZ	£1.95	NV-777	£1.50
VC 651 IDLER ASSEMBLY	£6.99	NV-2000	£1.50
NV 370 IDLER	£2.95	NV-7000	£1.00
FISHER 615/625 IDLER	£3.50	NV-110	£1.10
FISHER 615/625	£3.50		
FISHER GEAR ASSEMBLY	£5.00	FISHER	85p
VT 11 CLUTCH ASSEMBLY	£7.99	FVH-905/910	£1.10
IDLER TYRES FOR MOST MODELS	£1.00	FVH-710/725	£1.10
CASSETTE HOUSING 3V35/45	£24.99		
PINCH ROLLERS FOR MOST MODELS	£2.95	AKAI	200p
AMSTRAD MOD KIT	£8.99	VS 2EG/5EG	£1.00
UNIVERSAL CASSETTE LAMP	30p	VS-10	£1.00
SHARP CASSETTE LAMP	30p	AMSTRAD	£1.75
SHARP REEL MOTOR	£14.99	VCR-4600	£1.00
HITACHI MODULE HM6251	£5.00	VCR-7000	£1.00
3V29 TENSION BAND	£1.99	SAISHO	£1.00
UNIVERSAL TRIPPLERS	£3.00	TRIUMPH	£1.00
CIRCUIT PROTECTORS ICP	80p		
TX 10 FOCUS UNIT	£7.99	SONY	£1.40
PHILIPS BACKUP BATTERY	£2.50	SANYO	65p
ALBA BATTERY 1F 5.5v	£2.99	VT-5000	£1.00
		PHILIPS	£1.50
		VR-640	£1.50

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63 PLASHET GROVE, EAST HAM,
LONDON E6 1AD. TEL: 081-472 4871
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two minutes walk from Upton Park Tube Station

PLEASE PHONE US IF WHAT YOU NEED
IS NOT LISTED AS WE HOLD THOUSANDS
OF ITEMS IN STOCK

ADD 70p P/P ADD 15% VAT

ALL GOODS DESPATCHED SAME DAY

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VISA ACCESS ACCEPTED. MIN ORDER £5.00

UM 321 TUNER	£7.99	TA7270	250p	2SA-726	25p	2SB-548	40p	2SC-1345	30p	2SC-2238	60p	2SD-523	150p
TX100 GREEN SPOT LOPT	£19.99	TA7271	275p	2SA-733	20p	2SB-554	170p	2SC-1359	20p	2SC-2240	25p	2SD-525	70p
HINARI CTA45 LOPT	£19.99	TA7272	260p	2SA-748	90p	2SB-557	150p	2SC-1368	40p	2SC-2274	30p	2SD-526	70p
VT9000 TRIPLER	£7.99	TA7273	350p	2SA-765	300p	2SB-558	150p	2SC-1382	40p	2SC-2275	50p	2SD-527	50p
TH11 CAPSTAN MOTOR	£25.00	TA7274	250p	2SA-769	130p	2SB-560	35p	2SC-1383	15p	2SC-2278	15p	2SD-570	40p
VT11 CASSETTE HOUSING	£25.00	TA7275	250p	2SA-771	130p	2SB-561	70p	2SC-1384	35p	2SC-2320	25p	2SD-571	30p
		TA7280	330p	2SA-777	50p	2SB-562	35p	2SC-1393	30p	2SC-2335	120p	2SD-592	20p
		TA7281	270p	2SA-794	60p	2SB-564	70p	2SC-1398	70p	2SC-2371	45p	2SD-600	80p
		TA7282	260p	2SA-798	55p	2SB-566	110p	2SC-1399	60p	2SC-2427	80p	2SD-612	40p
		TA7299	400p	2SA-817	25p	2SB-568	40p	2SC-1403	250p	2SC-2440	70p	2SD-613	70p
		TA7680	480p	2SA-841	40p	2SB-585	80p	2SC-1413A	240p	2SC-2458	30p	2SD-621L	450p
		TA7682DM	50p	2SA-861	15p	2SB-586	75p	2SC-1417	20p	2SC-2482	40p	2SD-636	25p
		TA8500	120p	2SA-872	20p	2SB-611	40p	2SC-1446	60p	2SC-2501	85p	2SD-639	25p
		TA91515	250p	2SA-893	15p	2SB-632	40p	2SC-1447	75p	2SC-2502	90p	2SD-641	310p
		TA91670	300p	2SA-896	35p	2SB-633	50p	2SC-1454	320p	2SC-2537	450p	2SD-642	25p
		TOA1908A	100p	2SA-899	60p	2SB-640	80p	2SC-1473	250p	2SC-2546	70p	2SD-667	25p
		TA900	35p	2SA-900	35p	2SB-643	30p	2SC-1474	45p	2SC-2550	70p	2SD-669	25p
		TA92005	130p	2SA-905	20p	2SB-644	15p	2SC-1475	45p	2SC-2555	150p	2SD-687	60p
		TA92575	200p	2SA-915	30p	2SB-647	40p	2SC-1507	50p	2SC-2564	230p	2SD-716	120p
		TA92577	250p	2SA-916	30p	2SB-648	55p	2SC-1509	45p	2SC-2565	250p	2SD-718	130p
		TA92581	200p	2SA-917	35p	2SB-649	40p	2SC-1514	40p	2SC-2570	50p	2SD-721	150p
		TA92583	150p	2SA-921	10p	2SB-673	80p	2SC-1520	85p	2SC-2575	250p	2SD-725	350p
		TA92583A	150p	2SA-940	50p	2SB-681	250p	2SC-1550	60p	2SC-2577	125p	2SD-745	250p
		TA93560	220p	2SA-950	25p	2SB-686	120p	2SC-1567	60p	2SC-2579	130p	2SD-748	150p
		TA93561	300p	2SA-958	70p	2SB-688	130p	2SC-1568	60p	2SC-2580	175p	2SD-761	50p
		TA93562	260p	2SA-962	60p	2SB-695	325p	2SC-1573	40p	2SC-2581	200p	2SD-773	30p
		TA93565	300p	2SA-964	65p	2SB-705	200p	2SC-1577	80p	2SC-2582	275p	2SD-789	100p
		TA93571	250p	2SA-969	20p	2SB-712	30p	2SC-1622	60p	2SC-2603	70p	2SD-788	30p
		TA9362	700p	2SA-966	25p	2SB-717	70p	2SC-1627	70p	2SC-2611	40p	2SD-789	25p
		TA94500	360p	2SA-968	60p	2SB-718	70p	2SC-1667	150p	2SC-2631	40p	2SD-792	340p
		TA94503	920p	2SA-970	15p	2SB-738	25p	2SC-1669	85p	2SC-2634	40p	2SD-794	80p
		TA94505	600p	2SA-985	65p	2SB-744	25p	2SC-1670	85p	2SC-2660	85p	2SD-822	400p
		TA94600	300p	2SA-992	30p	2SB-756	30p	2SC-1671	30p	2SC-2686	50p	2SD-836	85p
		TA94740	300p	2SA-999	20p	2SB-757	350p	2SC-1677	80p	2SC-2753	60p	2SD-837	80p
		TA98180	540p	2SA-1015	20p	2SB-764	25p	2SC-1702	20p	2SC-2781	50p	2SD-838L	475p
		TA98503	240p	2SA-1016	20p	2SB-772	45p	2SC-1728	60p	2SC-2785	50p	2SD-845	250p
		UPC1031	180p	2SA-1020	30p	2SB-792	35p	2SC-1756	40p	2SC-2791	325p	2SD-850	260p
		UPC1181	110p	2SA-1048	20p	2SB-793	45p	2SC-1814	200p	2SC-2792	275p	2SD-859	100p
		UPC1182	110p	2SA-1060	90p	2SB-817	200p	2SC-1760	85p	2SC-2944	175p	2SD-863	70p
		UPC1183	230p	2SA-1062	125p	2SB-837	60p	2SC-1775	20p	2SC-3078	40p	2SD-869	320p
		UPC1188	275p	2SA-1094	190p	2SB-856	60p	2SC-1815	15p	2SC-3156	325p	2SD-870	300p
		UPC1225P	200p	2SA-1102	180p	2SB-857	60p	2SC-1819	50p	2SC-3179	200p	2SD-871	320p
		UPC1230	210p	2SA-1104	200p	2SB-861	60p	2SC-1845	20p	2SC-3182	250p	2SD-880	40p
		UPC1263	230p	2SA-1106	200p	2SB-886	85p	2SC-1846	45p	2SC-3284	175p	2SD-882	70p
		UPC1277	240p	2SA-1110	60p	2SB-899	50p	2SC-1848	45p	2SC-3298	120p	2SD-888L	260p
		UPC1278	240p	2SA-1112	40p	2SB-920	80p	2SC-1875	260p	2SC-3506	250p	2SD-917	180p
		UPC1288	400p	2SA-1141	200p	2SB-915	20p	2SC-1878	25p	2SC-3519	150p	2SD-951	175p
		UPC1318	400p	2SA-1142	65p	2SB-928	25p	2SC-1906	30p	2SC-3198	180p	2SD-982	80p
		UPC1363	700p	2SA-1146	190p	2SB-829							



EAST CORNWALL COMPONENTS



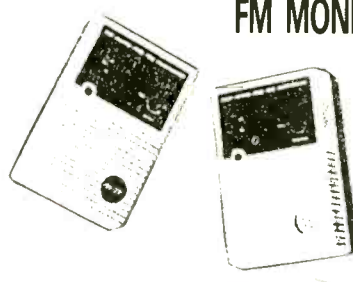
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FM MONITOR INTERCOM

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A PAIR AVAILABLE WHILE STOCKS LAST
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★ All prices include 15% VAT and our p&p is now £1.75

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- Includes:
 - Optima Alarm Control Panel
 - External Bell Box
 - 2 x 1 Internal Passive IR
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 - 100 mtrs cable and clips
 - Full fitting instructions
- ONLY £127.50**
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★ FM wireless monitoring intercom. Transmitter and receiver are connected by domestic mains supply (no additional wiring). Ideal for monitoring nursery, telephone, door, etc. Transmitter has voice-activated microphone, sensitivity control and on/off switch. Receiver has good quality loudspeaker, volume control and on/off switch. Power: 240Vac 50Hz. Dims: 115 x 77 x 40mm. P161 (GEE468)

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AIWA - HS-P12
 Features: Auto-Stop, Metal Selector. Our Price £8.99
AIWA - HS-G35 Mk II
 Features: Auto-Reverse, 3-Band Graphic Equaliser, CrO.
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BRS TURNTABLE

These need no introduction, brand new, complete with cartridge and stylus. Also, complete with turntable belt, 12V 0.66A motor fitted. Simply construct your own plinth. Absolute bargain. ORDER CODE: S0358R
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★ ★ LATEST 1991 CATALOGUE ★ ★

1991 Catalogue — over 128 pages incl. Special Offer sheets, Prepaid Envelope & Order Form. £1.50, or free on application with orders of £15 and over. Prices in Catalogue may vary as material for advert is prepared 6/8 weeks before issue.

VIDEO HEAD TESTER

A VHS video head tester for determining whether a video head is in good condition by detecting the wear state and displaying it on a meter. Complete with carrying case and leads.
SPECIAL PRICE £39.50
 ★ ★ NEW LINE ★ ★

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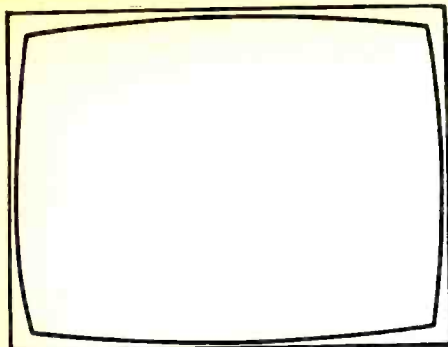
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0Y86/87	0.00		PD500	4.35
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EB041	2.45		PL519 509	8.85
EB081	1.65		PL802	11.25
EBF80	1.38		PY81/800	2.00
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EC031	1.58		UY80	1.05
EC082	1.05		UY80A	1.30
EC083	1.30		UY81	4.15
EC084	0.65		UY81	2.05
EC085	1.30		UY82	2.85
EC086	3.25		UY84	3.45
EC088	1.34		UY84	1.84
EC089	1.50		UY85	6.65
ECF80	1.55		UY85	2.05
ECF82	1.60		UY85	3.05
ECF83	2.25		UY86	1.50
ECF85	4.35		UY86	1.45
ECF85	1.58		UY86	2.85
ECF81	1.30		UY86	2.40
ECL80	0.80		UY86	3.05
ECL82	1.85		UY86	1.80
ECL83	3.80		UY86	3.20
ECL84	1.25		UY86	2.85
ECL85	1.15		UY86	2.85
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EF85	0.55			
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VIDEO HEADS

AKAI	NATIONAL (Cont)	PUNCH ROLLERS
VP77	NV7850	AKAI LEG202/04E/056/RE/056/SC/15EG
VP78	NV8100	V9700
VP7100	NV8200	FERGUSON 3V00/3V24
VS 1	NV8400	MS9
VS 2	NV8600	HITACHI ALL
VS 3	NV8810	JVC HR200/300/3000/3690/4100/7700
VS 5	ORION	NEC N830/N833
VS 10	VH 1	ORION VH 1/2
VS 77	VH 2	PANASONIC NV100/180/322/333/365/600/771/778
VS 5000	PHILIPS	2000/220/3000/370/430/450/465/7000/7200/7300
VS 6000	PH4650	380/500/550/550/550/5500/5600/5600/5900/9000/9000/110/20/21/30/31/MS9
VS 9700	VR 6520	SHARP 200/382/384/385/386/388/390/3000/3000/6200/6300/7000/7000/7750/9000/9000/9000/9500/9700
VS 9800	SANYO	SONY SL C5/67
FERGUSON	VTC 5000	TOSHIBA V5
3V00	VTC 5500	JVC/FERG
3V01	VTC 5500	JVC/THORN
3V16	SHARP	JVC
3V22	VC200/300/482/3300/4100/5000/5400/9500/9700	7200
3V23	9100/9300/9400/9500/9600/9700	7200
3V24	VC381/384/385/386/387/388/389	7200
3V29	SONY	7200
3V30	SL C5	7200
3V31	SL C6	7200
3V35	SL C7	7200
3V36	SL C7	7200
3V38	SL C20	7200
3V39	SL C27	7200
8903	SL C33	7200
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TELEVISION

Lean Production

It has long been the conventional view in the West that marketing is as important as production, maybe more so. After all, if you can't sell what's produced there's no point in making it. One odd feature of the trade imbalance between the West and Japan in consumer goods is that while Western countries are rather good at marketing this doesn't seem to be a strong point with the Japanese. In effect, Western salesmanship is being put at the service of Japanese manufacturers. What the Japanese are good at, as we all know by now, is production. The workforce, as we have been told again and again by Japanese manufacturers – remember all those banners exhorting higher production and efficiency – is where wealth is created.

Why Japanese marketing should be relatively indifferent is an interesting question. It probably has much to do with the cultural factors. The language and general approach to communication don't lend themselves to hype. And Japanese society remains highly male dominant. It would seem that a society where men and women have considerable social and preferably economic equality as well provides optimum marketing opportunities. Oh, and maybe when the kids get an appreciable say too – advertisers call it pestering power! Not only is Japanese marketing indifferent, but the distribution system is notoriously inefficient. All this doesn't imply that the Japanese domestic market is in any way less than competitively healthy. It seems that the Japanese need no great encouragement to go out and buy consumer electronic goods despite a far greater tendency than in English-speaking countries to save (another helpful feature of the Japanese economic equation). It's a strange fact too that the Japanese don't go in for test marketing and that sort of thing. Products of all sorts are simply put on the market to see whether or not they sell. It seems that a large number don't – like maybe that tape rewinder in the shape of an automobile whose headlights come on when the rewind is complete! This apparently chaotic approach to product innovation goes hand-in-hand with a lot of research into the house of the future and so on to try to identify products that will contribute to an evolving pattern of living. Just another of those strange contrasts that make Japan watching such an intriguing business.

If the Japanese are somewhat wanting in marketing expertise, that cannot be said of their production know-how. But we've long lived in the age of mass-produced goods. You might reasonably suppose that assembly lines tend to be much of a muchness wherever they are. Just what's so different about Japanese production methods? Extra efficiency with innovative technology appears to be a large part of the answer. In particular something that's come to be known as "lean production", which seems to have developed first in the Japanese automobile industry. If you want to look into it a recently published book, *The Machine that Changed the World*, by James P. Womack, Daniel T. Jones and Daniel Roos (Maxwell Macmillan, £19.95) tells the story. Why "lean"? Because "it uses less of everything compared to conventional mass production – half the human effort in the factory, half the manufacturing space, half the investment in tools and half the engineering hours to develop a new product in half the time". How did it all start? It seems that during the Forties Taiichi Ohno, Toyota's production chief (though there couldn't have been much production at that time) visited and studied American plants and methods closely. He came to the conclusion that there was enormous waste of effort, material and time. In particular he felt that the traditional division between the assembly line workers and the specialists who designed the products and decided how they were to be produced meant that neither were able to maximise their contribution to the quality of the product coming out of the plant. This brings us to the famous quality control circles and what they are really all about. Taiichi Ohno decided that it would be better to group the production line workers in teams each with a team leader and give them responsibility for deciding on the best way of organising the various sections of the assembly process, their responsibilities to include quality control of the product and minor equipment maintenance.

A good and possibly obvious idea. To gauge its significance however one has to appreciate how bad mass production can be. Whole plants can come to a halt because of a minor fault or the delivery of out-of-tolerance components. A badly organised line with indifferent control can lead to the need for a massive amount of expensive reworking – those PCBs with odd items added on the print side. Plants can fill up with TV sets or automobiles awaiting remedial attention (too much manufacturing space, as Mr. Taiichi observed).

As important as organising the work to get maximum use of the available human resources is the use of more flexible manufacturing equipment. With traditional mass production, machines are designed to undertake large quantity production of specific items. This is not much good when you want to make subtle product changes. It's certainly no help when a plant is producing for many export markets with different requirements – say manufacturing a TV chassis that can be easily adapted for NTSC or PAL colour or for 110V or 240V mains operation. Lean production basically involves getting everyone very much involved in the production process and ensuring that it's adaptable. This aids model changes and the quick introduction of new technology. Often wondered how the Japanese can introduce three generations of VCRs in a year? Now we know some of the answers.

The authors of *The Machine that Changed the World* point out that there is nothing specifically Japanese about the concept of lean production. Anyone could do it given the necessary resources. A trained workforce is a major factor here. If the UK fails to follow this path, lack of skilled people and poor technical education will be a major reason.

EDITOR

John A. Reddihough

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HELD OVER

Our February issue is produced under the difficult conditions of the Christmas/New Year holidays. Due to time constraints one or two items that we had planned to include have had to be held over.

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photograph shows an interior view of the Toshiba V71B VHS VCR. See article on pages 260-1.

Fifty Years in Radio and TV

Part 2: The War Years and After

Harold Peters

My opening piece last month brought us to the start of the 1939-45 war. The next logical time segment is the war years themselves. Younger readers might be forgiven for wondering what they had to do with television, since everyone knows that the BBC's service stopped abruptly at ten past twelve on the day before the war started and that transmissions didn't recommence until well after the end of hostilities. Several things relevant to television happened during this interim period however, some good and some not so good. There was radar for example, which provided the commanding advantage that you could spot enemy planes before they spotted you. Production of radar equipment as required was possible because the TV production lines could be swung over to radar at the drop of a hat. There are indeed some who maintain that pre-war television was simply an offshoot of radar and was encouraged as a smokescreen to conceal what was really going on.

The EMI Team

Certainly Isaac Shoenberg's brilliant team at EMI, who gave us the 405-line system, were involved with radar. It's interesting that members of the team are reputed to have worked out the parameters of the interlaced-field system of scanning, which all present TV systems continue to use, over a weekend. One member of the team in particular comes to mind, Alan Blumlein. Well before the war he'd brought out patents for such things as tuned line output transformers, and I cherish a photocopy of Patent number 394, 325 in which he described methods of broadcasting and recording stereophonic sound, just like we have today. This patent was applied for on December 15th, 1931!

During the war Blumlein was concerned with the development of a type of airborne radar that's in common use today – it displays a plan of the ground below on a c.r.t. screen. They called it H2S because “them upstairs”, when presented with the idea, said “it stinks”. If you don't get the connection, ask a chemist. Blumlein set out from Orford Ness to test the prototype over enemy territory. His aircraft never returned. We shall never know how different television might have been today had he survived. In the event the USA, which entered the war rather later, robbed us of our lead in TV engineering – the 525-line system featured negative-going vision modulation and f.m. sound.

War-time Experiences

The war gave lots of us the chance to add professionalism to our technical skill and enthusiasm. They didn't let you touch service equipment without the appropriate training. At call-up we were broken into service life by a rigorous six-week period of primary training. It was mostly drill, weapons handling and sheer physical endurance. One day, direct from a morning spent shooting the topsails of passing Thames barges at the Purfleet rifle range, we were given an aptitude test. This began with a written paper consisting of puzzles etc. and culminated with the reassembly of a bayonet lampholder that had been stripped right down to the springs. This was

a piece of cake for a “Saturday boy”. Well within the allocated time I'd done mine and those of both my mates. But someone must have been watching. While I was posted to REME (the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) my mates weren't.

The army training was so thorough that the theoretical knowledge I acquired lasted me right up to the microprocessor era, when we began to forget about coils, capacitors and resistors etc. and concentrated on little black lozenges instead. There was plenty of opportunity to continue my interest in entertainment equipment. Anyone who could operate a cine projector or set up a public address system that didn't howl had no difficulty in filling his spare time. Production of civilian radio sets had ceased – it wasn't until later that the famous “wartime utility receiver” came along. This meant that if you could get hold of electrolytic capacitors and could wield a soldering iron (a big lump of copper on a stick, heated over the gas) your pocket money was assured. For those of you who don't remember valves, they got really hot and so did the chassis. The electrolyte used in smoothing capacitors was a borax paste that dried out with time and use. So constant replacement was necessary. When you did so hum, low gain and instability disappeared at a stroke, the improvement being so spectacular that your charge was paid without a murmur.

Developments

Wartime necessity was the mother of invention. Mullard produced the famous EF50 valve, a pinchless r.f. pentode with nine pins that came straight out of the glass. Meanwhile the Americans came up with a range of miniature, all-glass battery valves and with them the well-known, hand-held “Walkie Talkie” transceivers. Equipment portability changed the role of the infantryman, but not many wireless sets survived their accompanying paratroopers when dropped. Maybe this was due to the technique of throwing the equipment out first on a long cord then jumping after it. The idea of this was to speed the descent time till the gear touched down, giving the jumper a gentler landing.

The Polish group of one airborne division tried desperately to reduce the failure rate. I became involved in this by having to test and fix the equipment after each test drop. Thankfully the drops were carried out by a tireless Polish corporal who would take the refurbished item up in a Lysander, throw it out on its umbilical then follow it down. On landing he would try to set the equipment up then cheerfully bring it back saying “no blooming transmit” or whatever. In the end judicious packaging fixed the problem.

The Ten Set

As D day approached, radar technology was applied to army use in the shape of the Ten Set, which was the father of all modern pulse technology. The magnetron used in radar transmitters had expanded the usable spectrum into the u.h.f. bands and beyond. But a magnetron is either on or off, so it can't be amplitude or frequency modulated. Thus the Ten Set transmitted a train of squarewaves, one

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of which was a sync pulse while the others were individually modulated in width, providing up to eight separate voice communication channels.

Home Front

At home the BBC kept up morale with lively shows like *Stand Easy* and *Much Binding in the Marsh*. These were a far cry from the straight Reithian variety entertainment of the pre-war era. Incidentally Reith left the BBC just before the war to manage Imperial Airways, a bad move as far as he was concerned. Recordings and repeats became the rule out of necessity. The material had to be censored, studios got bombed, and if so much as five seconds of unmodulated carrier was left between programmes Lord HawHaw would be in there with some German propaganda.

The recordings were mainly made on Marconi Stille magnetic recorders – this was a development of the Blattnerphone, which recorded on steel band at three feet per second. Thus half an hour's programme was stored on a two-mile long razor blade coiled into a lethal spring. This gear couldn't be taken into the field, so action reporters used modified wax disc equipment that managed to get nine minutes of sound on to a twelve inch disc. It wasn't until the war ended and the lads brought back captured German Magnetophone gear that magnetic recording as we know it today began.

Early Post-war Years

When the European war ended the celebrations were spectacular. London went mad; street lighting, church bells and road signposts were soon restored; and the radio resumed weather forecasting and mention of place names. We were demobilised into civvy street a few at a time. Even so there were more of us looking for radio repair work than there were sets to mend. So for a little while I became a telephone engineer. Not my cherished ambition, but it was great to sleep in a real bed and to get meat and sweet dishes on separate plates.

When BBC TV resumed in 1946, in time to televise the Victory Parade, Leslie Mitchell began his opening introduction with the words "As I was saying when I was interrupted . . ." Jasmine Bligh said "Remember me?" but my pre-war pin-up Elizabeth Cowell was missing. Sylvia Peters (no relation) had taken her place.

Rightly or wrongly, the decision was taken to keep faith with the few thousand pre-war set owners and resume with the same 405-line system as before. One advantage was that the old Ally Pally gear, which was still intact, could be refurbished to provide the fastest way of getting back on air. But not for long. A fuel crisis in early 1947 closed the service down for another month.

Despite all the wartime advances TV, resuming where it had left off, stayed very much the same for the next three years or so. The only way to describe it is "intimate", with small screens and the old Emitron cameras that required a gentle ten-second crossfade to mix from one to the other, giving the "rack operators" time to adjust the tilt and bend. Despite getting back into its stride TV was still the poor relation of radio – the war years had put into radio production a slickness that took some beating. This slickness was necessary to prevent the enemy jamming quiet passages with propaganda. On top of this programmes like *ITMA* and *The Goons* relied on listeners' imagination and wouldn't translate to TV.

Alexandra Palace was on its own and started to produce

its own favourites and stars. Terry-Thomas had his *How do you view* variety series, Norman Wisdom became a favourite and announcer MacDonald Hobley presented a magazine programme *Kaleidoscope* that was based on radio's *Monday Night at Eight*.

Led by the Pye B16T, post-war TV sets began to appear. The B16T was a 9in. table model full of bright red EF50s. It was a t.r.f. (tuned radio frequency) design, which means that the input signal was simply amplified and then detected. With such an arrangement there's a limit to the gain that can be achieved before instability occurs. This wasn't the B16T's main problem however. It had a bank of preset sliders in a panel below the speaker: they were all wirewound, frequently chafed and thus became open-circuit.

All this was out of reach to me in my new home in Yorkshire. It was not until just before Christmas 1949 that the coaxial link between London and Birmingham brought pictures to the Midlands via Sutton Coldfield. We were still well outside the theoretical range of TV reception, but with huge masts and mammoth three-element Yagis we had a go – and succeeded. Our workshop premises were a few doors away from the celebrated Harry Ramsden fish-and-chip restaurant, and our first customer was old Harry himself.

Post-war Sets

By the time that TV came to the Midlands receiver production, with two years' of London experience, was well under way. Mains transformers had given way to the transformerless set, capable of a.c./d.c. mains operation. Instead of wasting the line flyback energy in a huge wirewound line linearity control the energy was used to derive the e.h.t. instead, using the technique proposed by Alan Blumlein in the early thirties. Fig. 1 compares early and later line output stage arrangements. Many models continued to use t.r.f. front-ends, where we painstakingly removed turns from the coils to tune from London Ch. 1 to Birmingham Ch. 4. With the change to superhet designs most r.f. sections could be tuned right through Band I using their four iron-dust cores.

Radio manufacturers who wanted to keep abreast of developments without committing themselves to TV set production used a chassis designed and manufactured by Plessey. This was something of a relief to us: its general-purpose nature made servicing easier. With the exception of Murphy, who kept up the tradition rather longer than the rest, the days of the truly quirky, almost hand-crafted early designs were fast giving way to more straightforward arrangements, increasingly using valves specifically designed for various TV applications.

Of all the post-war innovations, the transformerless TV set was the hardest to get used to. Up till then all chassis had been at earth potential, the h.t. was around 350V and, even though it was only 5-12kV, the mains-derived e.h.t. was lethal. The transformerless TV set brought with it the live chassis and the neon testing screwdriver, to be part of every serviceman's dress for decades to come. Thirteen amp fused plugs had yet to be invented, so most power sockets were of a simple reversible two-pin type. To add to our discomfort plenty of areas still had 200V d.c. mains supplies. These were polarised in order to keep the size of the supply conductor down. Half the street was 200V positive to earth while the other half was 200V negative to earth. This was the half we dreaded. Getting a shock from an a.c. mains supply usually throws you off the equipment. D.C. tends to make you hold on, until somebody pulls you

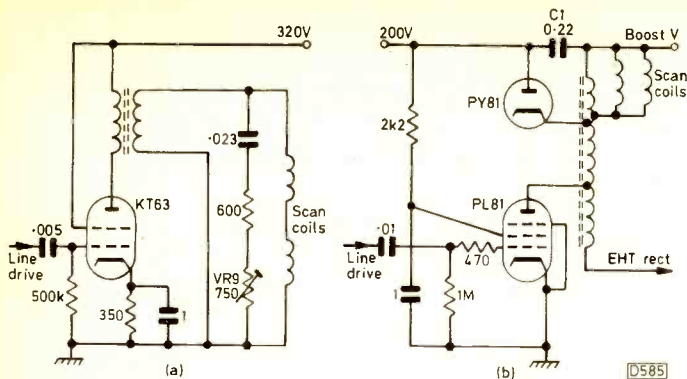


Fig. 1: Contrasts in line output stage design. (a) Early design by EMI, using a KT63 as a linear sawtooth amplifier transformer-coupled to the scan coils. The flyback energy was dissipated in the linearity control (VR9) network. (b) Classic early fifties design using a PL81 as a switch that produces a linear sawtooth scan current through the line output transformer's primary winding when it's switched on half-way through the scan (spot deflection from the centre to the right-hand side of the screen). An overwinding on the transformer feeds flyback pulses to the e.h.t. rectifier. After the flyback the PY81 efficiency diode switches on to damp the circuit, its conduction producing the first half of the forward scan (left-hand side of screen to centre) as the energy stored in the transformer decays. During this time the boost capacitor C1 is charged to produce a voltage of 1kV or so for the c.r.t.'s first anode. The transformer is tuned by its self-capacitance to produce a precisely controlled flyback pulse. The basic idea was proposed by A.D. Blumlein in the early thirties. In practice third harmonic tuning was added to optimise efficiency and reduce ringing, and linearity and width coils were generally connected in series with the scan coils.

off by the coat-tails. Some apprentices were teased that if you dismantled a test screwdriver and turned the neon round it would light up on a dead chassis instead of a live one . . .

Fortunately line-flyback derived e.h.t. was not lethal like the old mains derived type. This led to a simple, portable e.h.t. tester known as the Kilovolt. It was a simple probe with two polished metal balls inside, the earthed one being on a calibrated thread. By cranking up the thread until a spark jumped between the two balls you could read off the e.h.t. voltage on a scale.

Test Transmissions

Test transmissions from the new Sutton Coldfield station consisted of a black cross on a white background (the "Art Bars") with a 400Hz tone. We did get the odd demonstration film down the link when it wasn't being used for rehearsals. Opening ceremonies have a habit of coming unstuck. The Director General "dried" when the service opened in London. Sutton Coldfield kept up the tradition when an output stage blew during the opening ceremony. The staff blamed it on the long hours of test transmissions to help the trade prepare. Two years later, when Charles Buckle was given charge of Holm Moss, he wisely tested on reduced power right up to opening night. On the opening night he let the station rip with full power. This ruined the evening for most viewers since, without a.g.c., we'd turned up the sensitivity controls to suit the low-power transmissions. Full power produced pictures that were uncontrollably negative on most of our sets!

The DIY Era

As TV spread across the country a receiver shortage

arose and magazines were crammed with advertisements offering old radar gear suitable for conversion to TV use. Most of these radar units contained a 5in. green-screen, electrostatically-scanned c.r.t., the VCR97. I bought mine for thirty shillings (£1.50) and got it going just in time to see the Boat Race in which Oxford sank. The hand-Roneoed instructions included with the gear made getting the picture easy enough, but the accompanying sound was something else. Until I got organised with a second unit we could follow only programmes that were carried on sound radio as well.

Those of you who recall the 405-line system know that amplitude modulation was used for both the vision and sound signals, making intercarrier sound i.f. strips out of the question. A constant bugbear was sound-on-vision – bars across the picture in unison with the sound. It's something that's almost unheard of today. Everything used valves – there were no transistors – in both transmitters and receivers. Valves have wire grids that can vibrate, so sound-on-vision could as equally well be produced by someone singing close to the camera as by banging on the TV set. It added up to a special "house point" if your i.f. strip was free from sound-on-vision.

With the spread of TV and the growing surplus market *Practical Wireless* began to bulge at the seams. So in 1950 *Practical Television* (this magazine's original title) was reintroduced – it had had a brief fifteen-month spell of life back in 1934-5. The 1950 version had a two-colour cover, was printed on what looked like newsprint, and cost around 5p.

Tube Troubles

Those VCR97s kept on going, which is more than could be said for the proper TV tubes of the period. They soon developed a reputation for short life, and as they were guaranteed for only six months we had to be very quick to spot the first signs of failure. There were two main types of fault: low emission, which produced the familiar dim picture with glistening foreheads, and ion burn, which showed up as a dark patch about the size of an orange in the centre of the screen. It was caused by impurities left within the tube. Ion burn was eventually cured by using an ion-trap magnet. This small magnet, clamped around the tube's neck, was generally used in conjunction with an offset gun. It deflected the offset electron beam back towards the screen while the heavier ions continued straight on, hitting the tube's neck. The ion trap quickly gave rise to a major stock fault. Use of the set created heat which loosened the magnet: as it swung from its preset position it produced exactly the same effect as a dud tube – i.e. much panic coupled with bad public relations.

Broadcasting Progress

Progress was being made on the broadcasting side in the early fifties with improved cameras. The Super Emitron had replaced the basic Emitron and was in turn replaced by the image orthicon. The improved tubes had better sensitivity. Studio lighting levels could thus be reduced, and it was now possible to cut directly from one camera to another. This gave rise to complaints that producers were indulging in "restless editing". The image orthicon was initially used for outside broadcasts: it was so sensitive that it became possible for reporters to continue even in foggy conditions. By now TV had built up a set of favourites: *What's my Line?* with Gilbert Harding in particular and spine-chilling serials like the *Quatermass Experiment*.

Scotland and Wales by now had their own high-power stations, the opening of the latter marred by the torrential rain that washed away the Devon villages of Lynton and Lynmouth on the other side of the Bristol Channel. As a

country we'd lost a King and gained a Queen. To quote Wallace Greenslade, the long-suffering Goon Show announcer, "This, dear listeners, is where our story *really* begins".

Test Report: Tandy's Talking DMM

David Botto

"A talking multimeter could be made in much the same way as a standard digital meter but with the signals that activate the display applied, via an interfacing i.c. to produce the required binary signals, to a speech synthesiser chip with a suitable set of speech ROMs." That comment was made in my article on electronic speech for TVs and VCRs in the March 1985 issue of *Television*. Now it's one thing to theorise about how a talking multimeter might be built, a different matter entirely to actually produce a working model for sale commercially at a reasonable price. But this is what Tandy has just done with the Model 22-164 Micronta Voice Meter digital multimeter.

Description

The Voice Meter DMM is a hand-held, autoranging instrument with a 3,000 count ($3\frac{2}{3}$) LCD readout. If you normally use a DMM with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ digit readout (1,999 counts) you'll find the 3,000 count readout a big help, particularly when low voltages must be accurately measured. The meter is housed in a grey plastic case measuring approximately $7 \times 3 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ in., and is powered by four AA type 1.5V batteries. A six-position rotary switch selects the various functions, which include a diode check. The three-position power switch has on/off and continuity test positions.

At first sight the Voice Meter appears to be an ordinary hand-held DMM. The measured values are displayed on an easy-to-read, high-contrast 10mm LC display. The difference is that at the touch of a button that's built into the meter's positive test probe the meter speaks both the measured reading and the parameter. For example, when a 15Ω , 5 per cent tolerance resistor was measured the voice said "fifteen point one three ohms". A d.c. voltage measurement produced the spoken message "two point six seven three volts d.c." The voice is clear with good volume. A message on the LC display alerts the user when the batteries are low. If you then try to use the voice function you are told "replace batteries".

The Voice Feature

The voice feature is not a gimmick. It's an extremely useful thing to have in many circumstances. For example when you've a TV set, VCR or camera to repair on the bench it's often difficult to keep the test probes in firm contact with test points that are hard to get at while at the same time looking at the meter's readout. This is where the Voice Meter scores: there's no need to look at the readout since the electronic voice tells you the measured value in clear, authoritative tones. The same thing applies whenever you need to make measurements amongst the hard to approach places that seem to be more and more common in modern pieces of electronic equipment. In such cases you'll find that the Voice Meter enables you to make several measurements easily in the time that it would normally take you to make just one. A DMM with a

display freeze will of course hold measured values, but you still have to keep turning your head to see the readings. This means extra effort plus neck and shoulder strain that you can well do without.

The Micronta Voice Meter DMM is ideal for the field TV/Video engineer. When crawling around on the floor, as you all too often have to, it's not too easy to see a DMM readout. Here the voice is a real boon.

What happens if three of four TV/Video engineers in the same workshop all use a Voice Meter DMM? Could this cause confusion as to which DMM is speaking? Probably not because the meter can be used as an ordinary one without the speech facility. Should the voice be needed you simply push the probe button in the positive test lead.

Ranges

The meter's voltage measurement coverage is excellent – up to 3kV a.c. or d.c. rather than the usual 1kV. For d.c. voltage measurement there are five fast auto-selected ranges: 300mV, 3V, 30V, 300V and 3kV. The lowest d.c. resolution is 0.1mV, with a d.c. accuracy of 0.8 per cent. The a.c. voltage ranges are 3V, 30V, 300V and 3kV. Lowest a.c. resolution is 0.001V.

Six resistance ranges cover measurements from 300 Ω to 30M Ω . Lowest resolution is 0.1 Ω . For current measurement there's a 300mA range for a.c. and d.c. Lowest current resolution is 0.1mA.

Summary

Personally I would have preferred to have had the voice on/off switch on the meter's body rather than within the positive test prod. Having it within the probe means that if this is damaged or an internal break occurs you would have to obtain an exact replacement from Tandy. But the probe switch does make for easier voice on/off switching.

I'm enthusiastic about the Micronta Voice Meter DMM and believe that it's a big step forward in multimeter development. There will no doubt be some initial resistance to the idea of a talking multimeter. By and large it seems that TV/Video engineers prefer the familiar to the new – some still refuse to part with their faithful old analogue multimeters. But the time may soon come when a voice function is a standard feature of DMMs.

The Micronta Voice Meter DMM is due for release early this year. The intended price of £79.95 including VAT will make it excellent value for money. It's a piece of technology that only few years ago would have cost thousands of pounds to produce and would probably have been housed in a large box on wheels! The Voice Meter is going to make life easier for the long-suffering TV/Video engineer. And should you find yourself talking back to it you'll know that it's definitely time to take that holiday you keep promising yourself!

My thanks to Ahmed Patel of InterTan UK LTD. for supplying a prototype to try out.

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Fault Notes on Toshiba's VHS VCRs

John Coombes

The following notes summarise our experience with the V55B/V57B, the V65B/V66B and the V71B/V73B/V81B/V83B series.

MODELS V55B/V57B

We'll start with common faults experienced with the V55B/V57B.

No play/record: The most likely culprit is the loading belt. The loading motor is another possibility.

No rewind/fast forward: Check the reel idler assembly by replacement.

Snowy vision with own recordings: Suspect a faulty video head. Check by replacing the drum.

Original sound left on tape: Probably due to a faulty plug/socket on the full erase head. For a complete cure remove the plug/socket and make soldered connections directly to the head.

Ejects tape: Probably a cassette housing fault. Check the switches for incorrect operation and if necessary check for broken cogs. The cassette loading motor could be defective.

Miscellaneous Faults

The following notes detail less common faults.

Unit inoperative/no clock or function lights: Check that the 9V supply from the regulator panel is present. If missing at pin 2 of plug/socket CN2 check transistors Q5 (2SD1128) and Q6 (2SD637). If the 9V supply is present at pin 2 of CN2 check whether protector CP2 or coil L201 is open-circuit.

Intermittent loss of sound with own recordings: There are three likely causes of this fault. The first is faulty connections to the audio/control head. It's best to remove the plug and socket and make soldered connections to the head and PCB directly. The second possibility is failure of the oscillator to start. If this is the case and you get colour patterns on the screen increase the value of C27 to 0.0082 μ F. The third thing to check is for an open-circuit in the leads to the full erase head.

Snowy playback: The obvious possibility is faulty heads. If the heads are o.k., ensure that the head amplifier chip is receiving about 2.5V on playback. For incorrect voltage here check Q504 (2SB641S) which can become leaky.

Intermittent stopping in the record and/or playback modes: Check the take-up reel sensor optocoupler by replacement.

Intermittent stopping and going into the rewind mode: The first suspect is the M50790SA expander chip IC202. Check it by replacement or check the d.c. conditions at its pins.

The other strong possibility is that C1 (0.001 μ F) across the end sensor is short-circuit.

Intermittent stopping in the review mode: The main possibilities are again IC202 and C1, see previous fault.

Distorted verticals: This symptom is often associated with poor picture sync, the symptoms varying with picture content. Suspect that C7 (0.047 μ F) in the i.f. a.g.c. circuit is open-circuit.

Playback speed slow: Check the voltage at pin 6 of the BA6302A chip IC401. If the voltage is low D206 (1SS133) could well be leaky.

MODELS V65B/V66B

The following notes apply to the V65B/V66B.

No results, channels lit: There are two things to check for this one. First check for 5V at pin 6 of plug/socket CN3. Its absence will probably mean that CP4 (ICP-N10) is open-circuit. The other likelihood is that the 5V and 12V outputs from the power supply are low because zener diode D3 (RD3-9EB) is faulty. Check it by replacement. If the diode is simply leaky the VCR will work but the counter will continue to be operational in the stop mode.

No clock display: Check whether the -30V supply is present at pin 3 of plug/socket CN2. If this voltage is absent fusible resistor R2 (560 Ω) could be open-circuit or regulator transistor Q1 (2SB644) faulty. The cause could be in the timer section however. In this case check the clock display FDP (PU57345-2), IC301 (MN1250BJA) and IC401 (HD614042SB27) as necessary.

No video/luminance: Check whether the switched 5V supply is present at pin 1 of CN3. If not CP2 (ICP-F10) is probably open-circuit.

Machine plays for a short time then goes to stop: If the counter doesn't work, suspect a faulty take-up reel sensor.

No manual record, o.k. with timed recordings and remote control: Check the d.c. conditions around IC101 (HA11839NT) on the main PCB. If you find incorrect voltages check IC101 by replacement.

Ejects tape and shuts down: A faulty loading mode sensor is the usual cause of this.

Machine half loads then unloads: Watch the drum. If it runs backwards, or simply moves back and forwards slightly, zener diode D408 (RD5-1) is probably leaky. Check it by replacement.

Intermittent drum rotation: Dry-joints on Q1 (2SB1052) are the usual cause. Resoldering will usually put matters right. If the transistor's leads are discoloured however it's best to fit a replacement to prevent further trouble.

Incorrect loading/no play: The first thing to check is the loading belt, which may be badly stretched. Check by comparison with a new one or by replacement. If the loading belt is o.k. it may be necessary to check the loading gear and cam gear assembly. Dismantle the assembly then clean off the old grease, which causes friction when it becomes hard. When reassembled the assembly must be in the correct position as indicated in the service manual.

Previous sound recording left on tape: As with the V55B/V57B the usual cause is the plug/socket connections to the erase head. Solder the leads to the head directly. Be sure not to apply excessive heat to the head, i.e. don't apply the iron for too long.

V71B/V73B/V81B/V83B SERIES

There are some common fault patterns with the V71B/V73B/V81B/V83B. You very often get intermittent faults like going into the search mode with fast sound, or stops in pause when review is pressed in the play mode, or stops loading when only half loaded. These problems can all be caused by a faulty cam switch. When this is replaced it's important to ensure that there's an earthing screw to the reel motor bracket. This screw also prevents static discharge from the reel assembly. Such discharges can ruin the servo/logic chips.

Faulty Chips

If the TD6360N servo chip IC501 has been damaged by static discharge you may find that the problem in the record mode is no servo lock. The unlocked head switching produces picture disturbance, jitter or roll. On playback the problem is usually loss of servo control, i.e. varying speed and poor tracking.

If the static has ruined the TMP4746N5759 logic chip IC601 the usual problem is no reel rotation due to wrong voltage levels at pins 19 and 20. If there's no motor drive, or the power disappears after ten seconds due to the TA7288P chip IC602 drawing excessive current, this i.c. will have to be replaced.

If there's no reel rotation in any mode, suspect the TA6267P chip IC603. It may have been getting hot because the 2SB101SY drive transistor Q625 is defective. If necessary check it by replacement.

If the tape counter is inoperative and the machine goes into the stop mode when play is selected, replace the TA75393P reel sensor chip IC604.

Incorrect Speed

A faulty cam switch often results in the machine running fast in the play mode, with fast sound, the pinch roller not being engaged. If the machine is used to record with this fault it may run fast, giving slow replay.

Blown Fuse

Fuse F803 (1-25AT) will blow if there's a short of course, but you may find that D801/3 are open-circuit or that there's a dry-joint at the connection of D801/2.

MODEL V93B

A problem we've had on several occasions with the V93B is no clock display due to circuit protector 2L62 (ICP-N10) on the Timer-2 board being open-circuit.

next month in

TELEVISION

● SERVICING THE PANASONIC U5 CHASSIS

Our series of articles on Panasonic chassis brings us to the U5 which was used in models such as the TX5500, TX2450, TC2641, TC2110, TX2112, TC2253, TX-C22, TC2051, TC2061, TC1651 and TX2656. Its main features will be described with notes on general servicing and a list of faults experienced.

● HALL-EFFECT MOTORS

Brushless d.c. motors using the Hall-effect principle are used in many different types of electronic equipment, in particular the domestic VCR where their first application was as a direct-drive head drum motor. As VCR production increased in the early Eighties the cost of these motors fell and they began to be used for capstan drive as well. Subsequent uses include audio cassette machines, CD players and computer disc drives. While Hall-effect motors are reliable, like anything else they or their control circuitry can fail. Joe Cieszynski explains the theory and the ways in which the Hall effect has been applied, and provides practical fault-finding guidance.

● MICROWAVE OVEN TECHNOLOGY

The latest microwave ovens incorporate various innovations aimed at making them more adaptable. It's worth keeping abreast of the changing technology used. John Coombes takes a look at the electronic weight and humidity sensing used in recent Panasonic models and provides information on checks and fault finding.

● FIFTY YEARS IN RADIO/TV

Harold Peters comes to what could be called the classic period, when TV coverage spread to all parts of the country, followed by the setting up of the ITV network, and the television set became an accepted feature in nearly every home. Many modern ideas such as flywheel sync were first tried out in this era. It was a busy time for radio/TV engineers and there's much to recall.

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SATELLITE TV

The IBA/ITC has decided on the terms under which BSKyB will be allowed to continue to use the UK DBS frequencies. The BSB programme contract with the IBA will be terminated on December 30th 1992, with the proviso that the ITC as successor to the IBA may, with three months' notice, withdraw all or any or part of any of the five DBS channels at any time after June 30th 1991 in favour of any licensee appointed by the ITC under the terms of the Broadcasting Act 1990. The aim of the IBA/ITC decision is to ensure that viewers with BSB receiving equipment will continue to have five channels of programme service available for at least the next two years.

To ensure that BSKyB honours its obligations during the remainder of its programme contract it has been agreed that two independent directors, both subject to ITC approval, will be appointed to the BSKyB board not later than March 31st 1991. These directors will form a majority of a special Compliance Committee of the board, each having the right to veto actions that would involve a major breach of the programme contract or any non-domestic satellite licence or other ITC licence requirements.

In seeking other uses for the DBS frequencies, the ITC will invite expressions of interest from those who might wish to apply for licences, which the ITC intends to advertise in 1991. Some suggestions have already been received. BSKyB, which owns the Marco Polo satellites, has agreed to make satellite capacity available to new licensees. BSKyB has also given an undertaking to support research and development of the D-MAC technology through a contract with NTL.

To meet the needs of present BSB viewers, BSKyB has offered all those with BSB installations at December 20th 1990 free Astra reception equipment plus free installation at or before the time when broadcasting of the BSKyB services from the Marco Polo satellite ceases. According to BSKyB those with BSB equipment will be able to retain or return it as they wish.

In the light of this agreement having been reached the ITC has granted a non-domestic satellite licence to Sky, a subsidiary of BSKyB, legalising its Astra services under the terms of the Broadcasting Act 1990.

It's understood that the number of satellite TV receiving dishes that have been installed in the UK reached some 1.2m by the end of November. Over the year the number of installations had trebled. Now that the satellite TV situation has been simplified with the BSB/Sky merger it's expected that there will be a surge of satellite TV business.

Eutelsat has been given the go-ahead to proceed with the next stage of Eurospat, the European DBS system, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding by nine countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia). Between them the nine countries have requested a minimum of 39 transponders. The DBS services will be provided by three satellites plus one in-orbit spare co-located at 19°W. The satellites will have TWT amplifiers with an output power of 125W and will be equipped with aerials providing a number of steerable circular and elliptical spot beams. Launch of the first satellite is

expected in 1996, though the possibility of launching a preliminary DBS satellite with the same specification in the second half of 1993 is being considered. Eutelsat II F2, the second in the series of medium-power Eutelsat craft, is due for launch via an Ariane-4 rocket this January into orbit at 10°E.

TRANSMISSION NEWS

Concomitantly with the replacement of the IBA with the ITC on January 1st, IBA Engineering's responsibilities have been taken over by National Transcommunications Ltd. (NTL) which is to be privatised during 1991. NTL intends to maintain the high engineering standards set by the IBA and will also be building up new business in other areas of broadcasting and telecommunications, e.g. services to telecoms operators, satellite engineering, network linking, maintenance, consultancy and R and D work.

Nicam services have now started from the NTL Bilsdale transmitter and its dependent relay stations, completing the first phase of the ITV Nicam programme. The second phase will increase Nicam services via NTL transmitters from 79 per cent to 90 per cent of the population. The programme for the main transmitters is as follows: 1991 Hannington and Oxford; 1992 Waltham, Stockland Hill, Tacolneston, Craigkelly, Heathfield and Sudbury; 1993 Redruth and Selkirk.

A change in Japanese radio law has made broadcast fax transmission legal, enabling printed matter to be made available instantly to the public. Prototype equipment for a pay fax broadcast service has been developed, including receivers by Matsushita, NEC, Sanyo and Sharp. The intention is to incorporate a fax signal on a TV channel subcarrier at a frequency just above that of the sound signal. The signal would be scrambled and would use 4DPSK modulation. Display could be via a conventional fax printer, using an adaptor, or on-screen.

In our October 1990 issue Geoff Lewis reported on the US HD-TV scene. Since then American Telephone and Telegraph and Zenith Electronics have announced a new all-digital system that as a result of a series of technological breakthroughs enables it to provide significantly better performance than their earlier partially digital system. The new system eliminates transmission noise, making it possible to broadcast signals as clear as those available from cable, satellite or fibre-optic sources.

LATEST BREMA FIGURES

The latest BREMA figures relate to the third quarter of 1990. Overall TV deliveries to the trade declined by 71,000 to 820,000 compared with the equivalent quarter in 1989. Deliveries of large-screen sets declined by seven per cent while deliveries of small-screen sets declined by nine per cent (consumer sales were down twelve per cent). VCR deliveries were down just one per cent at 575,000. Camcorder deliveries increased very slightly to 89,000. Of all TV sets delivered, 22 per cent incorporated Nicam sound decoders: with VCRs the figure was twelve per cent. CD player product deliveries increased by 15 per cent to 481,000 while deliveries of music centres fell by 35 per cent to 303,000. The previous quarter had seen better increases in camcorder and CD product deliveries.

MAGNETISER/DEMAGNETISER

Here's a helpful device if ever there was one. A magnetised screwdriver can be a boon or a menace. The Magic Square from Wera Tools (UK) Ltd., Bar Lane

Industrial Park, Bar Lane, Basford, Notts NG6 0JA (0602 790 090) is a palm-sized device that's claimed to be able to magnetise or demagnetise a screwdriver instantly when the blade is pushed in and out of the appropriate hole. Its one-off trade price is £7.50 plus VAT. No batteries are required.

LOEWE OPTA

Due to increased demand in the eastern part of Germany and the weak UK market Loewe Opta has decided to withdraw for the present from UK distribution of its products. Supply of spares and service back-up has been taken over by Colin Andrew Ltd. from addresses in London and Manchester. The London address is 358 Uxbridge Road, Southall, Middx UB8 3EJ (081 843 0010/0019), the Manchester address being Units 2 and 10, Piccadilly Trading Estate, Great Ancoats Street, Manchester M12 XNP (061 274 3460 or 061 273 8007).

AKAI'S HQ ENHANCEMENTS

Akai's recently introduced VS865 VCR at £450 features "Super Digital HQ". The system is designed to reduce picture noise caused by poor broadcast reception or poor quality video tapes. Several processes are used to improve picture quality. One uses digital noise reduction with field instead of line correlation. Field correlation works by adding successive fields to boost the video signal above the noise level. A split-screen display enables the user to compare the picture with and without this noise reduction, which is also claimed to offer minimal loss of vertical resolution.

The Akai VSA650 at £600 features "Intelligent HQ". This optimises the recording circuitry for the type of tape.

Akai says that when standard VHS decks leave the factory they are designed to give optimum results with standard-grade tape. You thus get a poorer picture when using a high-grade tape. Intelligent HQ decks analyse the tape and then optimise the recording current and noise-cancelling circuitry to match the grade. A subsequent article will provide more details of these systems.

SHOWS

The Video Show 1991 is to be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1 on February 28th to March 3rd – the first day is reserved for trade/press visitors. This home video exhibition is hosted by *What Video*, *What Satellite* and *Camcorder User* magazines.

The CD-ROM Europe 91 Exhibition and Conference is being held at the Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6 on May 21-23rd. For further information phone 0733 60535.

The next Cable and Satellite Exhibition is to be held at Olympia, London on April 8-10th. This is a trade only event. For further information phone 081 948 9831.

GUARANTEE UNDERWRITING

The rates paid by manufacturers for in-guarantee repairs have always been a sore point in the trade. With a view to overcoming this problem Domestic and General, the UK's leading provider of breakdown insurance for domestic appliances, has announced an agreement with Pioneer. In-warranty breakdown of Pioneer's CTV, VCR and laserdisc products is being underwritten by Domestic and General: dealers participating in the scheme will receive a full commercial rate for both labour and parts when carrying out in-warranty repairs (two years for TV sets and one year for VCRs and laserdisc players).

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TV Fault Finding

Reports from Philip Blundell, AMIEIE,
Ed Rowland, J.R. Trimmer, Nick Beer,
Stephen Leatherbarrow and Hugh MacMullen

Philips NC3 Chassis

If the chopper transistor Q401 fails, check for dry-joints at the connections to the chopper transformer T402 before fitting another BUT11AF.

You often find that the rotary channel switch gets dirty. If you are careful it can be dismantled for cleaning. **P.B.**

Philips 22CS5240 (K40 Chassis)

This set was dead. There was no line drive as R3192 was open-circuit. A picture was obtained when this had been replaced but there were striations on the left-hand side. These disappeared when the scope was connected to the collector of transistor 7190. R3191 was open-circuit. **P.B.**

Philips 14CN2201 (NC3-CR Chassis)

Here's a trap for the unwary! Late production versions of the remote control NC3-CR chassis use a Preh on/off switch that looks similar to ones used in other makes (the bracket is different, but the old one can be re-used). Check the low-voltage contacts however! Most switches have a momentary contact that makes only when the button is pressed right in and breaks when you release your finger. This is not the case with this switch. The NC3-CR type switch's low-voltage contacts remain connected as long as the mains contacts do. If you fit the wrong type of switch the power supply will not come out of standby – even though the standby LED is off. **P.B.**

Philips G90 Chassis

The problem with this set was no blue. Our first step was to check the voltages around the blue output transistor. As expected the collector voltage was high, but I was surprised to find that the emitter voltage was higher than the base voltage. Diode D6416 (BAS32) was leaky. **P.B.**

Philips K30 Chassis

If you find that there's a black band at the bottom of the picture, check for ripple on the 32V LT2 supply. You'll probably find that C1588 (680 μ F) is open-circuit. **P.B.**

ITT CT2612/2

This set suffered from intermittent loss of signals when it was first switched on. After about ten minutes it would settle down and be fine for the rest of the evening. The obvious suspect was the combined tuner/i.f. module. We unplugged it from the mother board and as no obvious dry-joints could be seen gave it a "blanket solder" job. There was no further trouble after we'd done this. **E.R.**

Amstrad TVR2

The customer complained that it took up to an hour from switch on before sound and vision appeared. We didn't bother to check this but went straight for C1507 (0.47 μ F). After fitting a 1 μ F capacitor in this position the equipment fired up straight away.

Removing the TV chassis is fairly easy provided you first remove the VCR unit in order to gain access to the small screw located beneath the front of the main PCB. Before returning one of these sets to the customer a point worth

checking is that the 'repeat' switch at the rear of the receiver is in the 'off' position. Otherwise a call-back is a certainty – with the switch in the 'on' position the machine will carry out only the play function. Another thing to catch out the unwary is the separate mains on/off switch at the back. **E.R.**

Sony KV2705

This set had an uncontrollably bright raster with flyback lines. The problem was caused by R718 (330k Ω) which had increased in value to over 2M Ω . **E.R.**

Philips 21GR2752/RC5903 etc

A common problem I've had with this and similar models is failure of the remote control handset due to dry-joints on the infra-red diode. It's simply a matter of resoldering the diode – until you try to open the handset! In their wisdom Philips glued the two halves together. Any attempt to part them will mark the case. Here's a solution to the problem, with no visible damage.

With your thumb nail only, peel back one corner of the name-plate strip. Then, with a flat blade, peel it back just past the second row of buttons. Care is required: don't bend the strip back too far or you'll crease it. Now to the clever bit. Drill a 6mm hole in the centre of the handset, 1cm in from the top edge of the recess for the strip. The LED can now be resoldered through the hole, and the strip will restick to form an invisible repair. **J.R.T.**

Nikkai Baby 10/Samsung CI210R

These little sets have sold well. The main problem we've had with them has been failure of the potted regulator. This particular one was a bit different however. Our field engineer found that the 5A h.t. fuse was open-circuit. As he couldn't measure any shorts and the fuse had simply died (not blown) he replaced it and switched on. At this a piece of print from the bridge rectifier to the h.t. line burnt up pretty spectacularly. So the set was brought into the workshop. We found that there was a short-circuit across the h.t. line. The reverse polarity protection diode was hot favourite but blameless, as was the main reservoir capacitor. The cause of the problem was a short-circuit in the d.c. jack, which had melted. Spares for these sets are available from Willow Vale. **N.B.**

Salora J Chassis

Repeated blowing of the chopper transistors is becoming a problem with these sets. A number of things help to prevent this. First, ensure that good-quality replacements of the correct type (BUW41B) are used. Next ensure that heatsink compound is used on both. Replace the 4.7 μ F drive coupling capacitors CB712/726. I've had those of a certain manufacture go short-circuit when used as replacements: the most reliable ones seem to be the purple type from RS Components. Replace the 3.3 Ω series resistors in each transistor's base circuit (RB703/705) – RB705 in particular tends to go high in value. If DB712 (1N4148) goes short-circuit, as it can, this resistor will go open-circuit. It's wise to check the print and soldering

around the bottom of the chassis in the vicinity of the chopper transistors, particularly at the start and snubber resistors (RB715 and RB706 respectively). Check for print cracks on the heatsink connections. As with any power transistors, check the drive waveforms before completing the repair and investigate any irregularities.

We sometimes find that the Ipsalo transformer MB500 has a short-circuit or low-impedance primary winding. Physical checks here may show signs of burning or corrosion. The d.c. resistance should be about 2.8-5 Ω depending on the transformer – the two most likely to fail are the FM0500 (diode split) and FM0245.

The LF0041 Ipsalo control chip can also cause this problem. All you can do in this case by way of fault finding is to eliminate other possibilities. The chip seldom fails however. **N.B.**

Amstrad CTV1400

The line sync would disappear during a channel change. After an unsuccessful prod around with blunt instruments (freezer and hairdryer) we checked with the circuit diagram and noted a couple of likely culprits, the two zener diodes D715 and D704. Replacing them cured the fault.

Intermittent lowering of the sound level and/or buzzing is caused by the adjustable capacitor on the sound i.f. subpanel. **S.L.**

Triumph CTV8211

The customer's description of the problem with this set was very dark, poor pictures. On checking we found that the c.r.t.'s first anode supply was absent. The voltage is obtained in the usual manner for a set of this age – by diode rectification of a pulse voltage. Series resistor R937 (3.3k Ω , 1W) was open-circuit. This was in turn due to print breakdown where the cathode of the rectifier (D914) passes close – too close in my opinion – to some earthed print. Careful scraping to improve the clearance cured the problem. **S.L.**

Philips K40 Chassis

After fitting a new focus unit to this set, something that's often necessary, we found that there were EW problems. R3177 was open-circuit. The manual gives the value as 4.7 Ω but a 12 Ω resistor was fitted. **S.L.**

Hitachi CPT1476R

The problem with this set was field roll when warm. The hold control circuit is very simple, consisting of three components connected to pin 1 of the TDA4503 chip IC201. A puff of freezer on each in turn proved that C609 (0.22 μ F) was responsible. **S.L.**

Fidelity CTV14R (ZX2000 Chassis)

This set had an intermittent fault – loss of signals and randomly unhappy about Ch. 3 selection. The ML923 tuning chip was faulty. After replacing it however the signals would still sometimes fail to appear, though Ch. 3 selection was o.k. As the supplies were correct a new tuner unit was fitted. This finally put matters right. **S.L.**

Ferguson TX100 (110°) Chassis

This 110° set suffered from insufficient width. We found that certain components which should have been deleted,

being intended for the 90° version, were in fact fitted – width coil L19, line linearity coil L18 and parallel damping resistor R136. Our problems were over when the circuit had been put right. While the "fault" was present all the controls worked normally but the width/EW correction circuit was unable to cope with the magnitude of the error. The h.t. was correct at 119V throughout. **S.L.**

Aiba CTV12

No sound or picture with normal h.t. was the fault here. We found that the 12V regulator transistor Q208 was open-circuit base-to-emitter. A TIP41 proved to be a suitable equivalent. These sets are the same as the Lloytron portables. **S.L.**

ITT Pico S Chassis

This set was dead. A relay switches the mains supply but there were no l.t. voltages on the remote-control board as the l.t. transformer was open-circuit. Its failure is quite common. **S.L.**

Hitachi NP83CQ Mk 2 Chassis

The sound was o.k. but there was no raster. We found that there was no luminance output from the colour decoder chip IC501 which appeared to be switched off. Its pin voltages were correct but the sandcastle pulse waveform at pin 8 was of rather low amplitude – insufficient to get IC501 working properly. I decided to increase the tube's first anode voltage in order to see something on the screen – a TV set with a display will talk to you! I then shorted out R558 (2.2k Ω) to increase the amplitude of the line section of the sandcastle pulse and was pleasantly surprised to see a colour picture with little or no line sync and incorrect colour over half the screen. Feedback pulses from the line output transformer are fed back to the line generator circuit in IC701 via two 3.9k Ω resistors, R720 and R721. One of them had risen in value to over 1M Ω , though it was perfect in appearance. Replacing it put everything right. **H.MacM.**

Bush 2321T

The problem with this set was no colour. After much soul searching the cause turned out to be an open-circuit connection at plug 10. Just to annoy me the sound became uncontrollable when I'd put the first fault right. The culprit this time was the SAA1293 chip. **H.MacM.**

National Panasonic TC361

This set would start to trip a few times a week, but only when cold. It worked all right when we got it on the bench but at last gave up the ghost. These sets use a thyristor line output stage and one of the diodes, D552, was found to be open-circuit. It's in parallel with the scan thyristor. **H.MacM.**

Philips K30 Chassis Edition II

After five hours with the back on the colour would go. Take the back off and the colour returned. It took me a considerable time to realise that the fault had nothing to do with temperature. When the colour was absent there was no pulse input at pin 8 of the TDA3560 colour decoder chip. The reason for this was a bad connection at tag 4 of the sync module. **H.MacM.**

DAT System Technical Details

George Cole

Digital audio systems are playing an increasing role in consumer electronics. The Video-8, Hi-8 and Laserdisc (formerly CDV – compact disc video) systems have pulse-code modulated (PCM) digital sound, while earlier last year JVC announced a digital audio specification for the Super-VHS format. Nicam sound is now available in most ITV regions and will be broadcast from most BBC transmitters by the end of the year.

The digital audio tape (DAT) system is based on the rotary-head technology developed for VCRs. Although it's primarily an audio format it does have video applications. Here are some examples: DAT has been designed to store high-quality still-video images with sound; Fuji and Toshiba have developed a digital still-video format that uses DAT tape to store over 1,000 images; Aiwa plans to market an analogue-to-digital converter to enable its HD-S1 DAT recorder to store still images from VCRs, camcorders, still-video cameras and TV broadcasts. Samsung developed a DAT video system that recorded around eighty minutes of moving analogue video on DAT tape, though the system was never launched commercially. Future DAT systems may be able to store digitally-compressed moving video material.

Recording Principles

The principles of analogue audio recording are straightforward and well known. Sound waves consist of air pressure variations. These are converted into an analogue electrical signal by a microphone. The electrical signal's amplitude in volts represents the sound wave's amplitude while the frequency of the electrical and sound signals remains the same. When recorded on tape the signal's amplitude is represented by the number of lines of magnetic flux while its frequency is related to the wavelength of the recorded signal.

With digital recording the analogue signal has to be sampled then converted to digital form before application to the recording circuit – see Fig. 1. The principle of sampling is illustrated in Fig. 2. It's simply a matter of checking the signal's amplitude at regular intervals. These samples are then converted to binary form. The accuracy of this system depends on the sampling frequency and the number of levels used (quantisation) to measure the signal samples. In our simple example three-bit quantisation (000-111) has been used, giving eight possible signal levels. This would be totally inadequate of course. The DAT system uses a sampling frequency of 48kHz with 16-bit quantisation. This means that the amplitude of the analogue signal is measured 48,000 times a second using a measuring scale that has 65,536 levels. The samples are encoded as a stream of ones and zeros. During playback this process is reversed.

Advantages of Digital Recording

Digital recording seems to be a roundabout way of going about it. Why not stick to the simpler analogue method? In practice analogue recording is a rather more complex business than it might at first seem to be if acceptable results are to be obtained. The first problem is that using an analogue signal to alter the tape's magnetic

characteristics is an inherently non-linear process. This affects the frequency response. To improve the linearity a high-frequency (around 90kHz) bias signal is added to the audio signal during the record process. The snag with this is that h.f. sound signals can produce their own bias, which distorts the sound. For this reason some cassette recorders use circuitry that varies the amount of bias applied during the record process.

Another problem is noise, which shows up mainly as hiss. Most analogue tape recorders incorporate a noise-reduction system that gives a signal-to-noise ratio of around 68dB.

With analogue recording it's also important to set the correct recording level for the type of tape. Otherwise the tape may saturate, producing distortion.

If you add to all this the need to keep the deck well maintained with clean heads, to have correct bias and equalisation settings for the type of tape used and a stable transport system to minimise tape speed fluctuations that cause wow and flutter, you begin to see the problems of analogue recording. What's more, these problems are made worse whenever an analogue recording is copied.

Digital recording involves storing numbers. There's no need to worry about bias, tape hiss or wow and flutter. And there's no loss of quality when a digital tape is copied – this is why some people call digital copying "cloning". There are problems with digital recording, for example the huge amount of data that has to be processed each second and the need for powerful error correction systems. But as we shall see they have been overcome with the DAT system.

Background

Professional audio studios have for some time used digital PCM sound processors connected to domestic VCRs. DAT is in effect a fusion of the two technologies. It

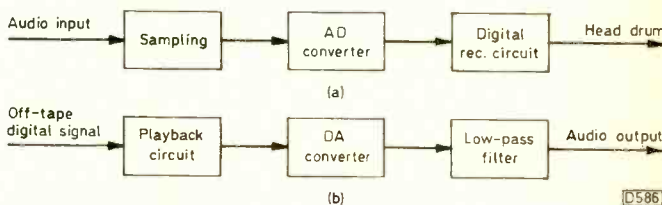


Fig. 1: Block diagram showing the basic processes involved in (a) digital audio recording and (b) playback.

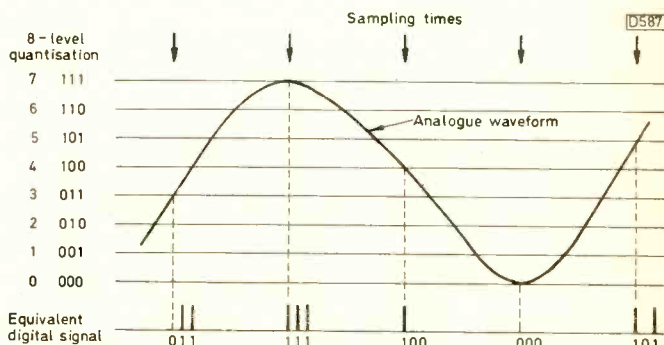


Fig. 2: Simple example of sampling and quantisation (with eight levels) of an analogue signal.

was regarded as a logical development from the compact disc (which was originally called the digital audio disc), and a number of companies produced prototype domestic digital audio tape systems. JVC for example tried recording digital sound on a conventional audio cassette. Eventually the consumer electronics companies decided to develop a standard format, and in June 1983 an inaugural meeting was held, attended by 54 companies. During the following four years the group grew to 87 and over 800 meetings were held.

The initial conference decided that the new tape system should offer a number of advantages over the standard compact cassette. These included (1) high-quality digital sound; (2) a longer record/playback time; (3) new or improved convenience features such as faster search systems, track programming, etc; and (4) the ability to be used for other purposes such as video and data storage. The DAT committee formed two working groups to consider two possible DAT formats, S-DAT (with a stationary head) and R-DAT (with rotating heads).

As its name suggests in the S-DAT system the tape ran past a static recording head. The data rate was increased by recording 22 parallel tracks across the tape. These consisted of 20 data plus subcode tracks and two auxiliary tracks. The transfer rate was 2.4Mbits/sec. An S-DAT cassette measured $86 \times 53.5 \times 9.5$ mm. Tape speed was 4.75cm/sec, the same as with a compact cassette, giving a recording time of 90 minutes. There was also an optional half-speed mode.

Unfortunately the production of S-DAT recorders proved to be too complex, involving the use of thin-film technology for the multi-track heads. S-DAT was abandoned in favour of R-DAT, the technology used by all DAT machines.

R-DAT

R-DAT is firmly based on VCR technology and it's interesting that at one stage the DAT committee considered making it compatible with the Video-8 format. The rotary-head system was chosen because it used well-

established technology and was suitable for recording large amounts of data in a limited tape area. The combination of a fast writing speed and a slow linear tape speed made it possible to achieve a long recording time with a small cassette.

The data rate is equal to the sampling frequency multiplied by the quantisation number multiplied by the number of channels. With the DAT system this works out at $48,000 \times 16 \times 2 = 1.536$ Mbits/sec. When subcode and error correction bits are added this rises to 2.77Mbits/sec. In practice the processing speed during record and playback is around 7.5Mbits/sec, because the data is time-compressed. DAT's recording density is around 114Mbits per square inch, which means that a two-hour tape can store 1.3Gbytes of data – equivalent to over 1,000 floppy discs. Table 1 compares the DAT, Video-8, compact cassette and CD systems.

The DAT Format

The standard DAT drum has a diameter of 30mm. Its two heads are 180° apart, the heads having azimuth angles of $+20^\circ$ and -20° . The tape wrap is 90° . There are no fixed heads, the data being overwritten by the rotary heads. A series of pilot tones recorded on the tracks is used by the tracking system.

The drum is inclined at an angle of $6^\circ 22' 59.5''$. It spins at 2,000 r.p.m., giving a writing speed of 3.13m/sec. This is around 66 times faster than the compact cassette – a C90 tape running at this speed would give just 43 seconds' recording time. DAT's linear tape speed is 8.15mm/sec. Several companies have developed miniature DAT tape mechanisms that have a 15mm drum and a 180° wrap to record tracks that are compatible with standard DAT mechanisms.

Tracks

Fig. 3 shows the DAT track format in simplified form. The helical tracks are 23.501mm long and $13.59\mu\text{m}$ wide, each pair being called a frame. There are also two 0.5mm

Table 1: Comparison of DAT, Video-8, Compact Cassette and CD systems.

Item	DAT (Standard mode)	Video-8 (PCM mode)	Compact cassette	CD
Sampling	48kHz	31.25kHz	Not used	44.1kHz
Maximum audio frequency	22kHz	15kHz	18kHz (with metal tape)	20kHz
Quantisation	16-bit linear	8-bit non-linear	Not used	16-bit linear
Dynamic range	96dB	88dB	50-60dB	96dB
Transmission speed	2.46Mbits/sec	Approx. 5.79Mbits/sec	–	2.03Mbits/sec
Subcode capacity	273.1kbits/sec	Not used	Not used	58.8kbits/sec
Modulation	8-10	Bi-phase	Not used	EFM
Error correction	Dual Reed- Solomon	CRCC	Not used	CIRC
Cassette/ disc	$73 \times 54 \times$ 10.5mm	$95 \times 62.5 \times$ 15mm	$102 \times 64 \times$ 12mm	120mm diameter \times 1.2mm thick
Recording time	120 min	90 min (normal)	120 min (max.)	74 min 42 sec
Tape width	3.81mm	8mm	3.81mm	–
Tape speed	0.815cm/sec	2.01cm/sec	4.75cm/sec	–
Relative speed	3.133m/sec	3.12m/sec	0.0476m/sec	–
Track width	$13.591\mu\text{m}$	$34.4\mu\text{m}$	–	$0.5\mu\text{m}$
Track pitch	$13.591\mu\text{m}$	$34.4\mu\text{m}$	–	$1.6\mu\text{m}$
Frequency response	4Hz-22kHz	20Hz-15kHz	40Hz-18kHz (metal tape)	4Hz-20kHz
Distortion	0.0016%	0.5%	0.3% at -20 dB	0.0016%
Search time per 3 min. track	0.9sec	6sec	9sec	Less than 0.9sec

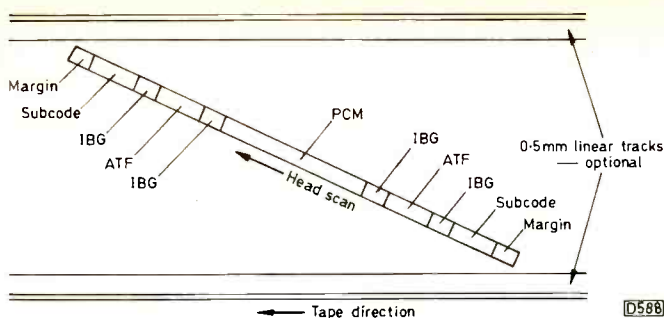


Fig. 3: Basic layout of the helical DAT track.

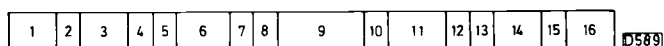


Fig. 4: Sections of the helical track – see Table 2.

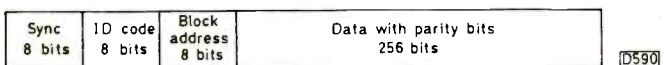


Fig. 5: Details of a PCM block. There are 128 of these blocks in the PCM area of the helical track.

wide analogue tracks at the top and bottom of the tape – these have been designated optional. DAT's slow linear tape speed would limit their use and the main reason for having them appears to be to provide protection against tape damage.

Table 2 gives a breakdown of a DAT track recorded with a 30mm drum, 90° wrap and a drum speed of 2,000 r.p.m. Each track consists of 196 "blocks", with each block containing 288 bits. The channel frequency is 9.408MHz. Fig. 4 shows the track sections. We'll take each in turn.

- (1) The margin blocks (11) contain no data. They act as a spacer between the digital track and the optional analogue track.
- (2) The PLL/sub blocks provide a phase lock for the subcode section.
- (3) Subcode-1 is the first subcode section.
- (4) The post-amble blocks contain synchronising information.
- (5) The IBG (inter-block gap) acts as a spacer between the various data areas – there are four altogether. They make it possible to rerecord sections of track independently.
- (6) The ATF (automatic track following) blocks contain the pilot tones for the tracking system.
- (7) Another IBG, as (5).
- (8) PLL/PCM, the phase lock section for the PCM area.
- (9) The PCM area, consisting of 128 blocks. The

Table 2: DAT track composition.

Section	Angle	Blocks	Time
1 Margin	5.051°	11	420.9µsec
2 PLL/sub	0.918°	2	76.5µsec
3 SUB-1	3.673°	8	306.1µsec
4 Post-amble	0.459°	1	38.3µsec
5 IBG	1.378°	3	114.8µsec
6 ATF	2.296°	5	191.3µsec
7 IBG	1.378°	3	114.8µsec
8 PLL/PCM	0.918°	2	76.5µsec
9 PCM	58.776°	128	4,898µsec
10 IBG	1.378°	3	114.8µsec
11 ATF	2.296°	5	191.3µsec
12 IBG	1.378°	3	114.8µsec
13 PLL/sub	0.918°	2	76.5µsec
14 SUB-2	3.673°	8	306.1µsec
15 Post-amble	0.459°	1	38.3µsec
16 Margin	5.051°	11	420.9µsec
Total	90°	196	7,500µsec

composition of each of these blocks is shown in Fig. 5. (10-16) These sections comprise a second ATF part, more subcode blocks, IBGs, post-amble etc.

Subcodes

The DAT subcode system is more elaborate than that used with compact discs. It can store the subcodes used for the CD-Graphics format, which puts still graphics on an audio CD (see *Television* April 1990, pages 450-5). Future applications include using DAT as a storage medium for high-resolution graphics. Each track has two subcode areas.

There are two types of DAT subcodes. First those used to provide recording information, such as the sampling rate, quantisation number, etc. Secondly those used to provide user information or playback functions such as time elapsed, track number, track search, etc. The first type, called PCM-ID, is recorded in the PCM area. The second type, subcode ID, is recorded in the subcode areas. Fig. 6 provides a breakdown of the two subcode groups.

Each PCM-ID code has two bits. ID-1 is the format classification, which defines the function of the DAT recorder. For audio recording the code is 00 – it changes if the recorder is used for other purposes, e.g. data storage. ID-2 tells the recorder whether pre-emphasis has been applied to the signal: 00 = no pre-emphasis; 01 = pre-emphasis-1 applied. ID-3 provides information on the sampling frequency (as we'll see later, the DAT format offers a number of different modes with different sampling frequencies). 00 = 48kHz; 01 = 44.1kHz; 10 = 32kHz. ID-4 tells the machine whether the recording has two or four channels: 00 = two; 01 = four. ID-5 gives the quantisation number: 00 = 16 bits linear; 01 = 12 bits non-linear. ID-6 indicates the track pitch – some prerecorded tapes have wide tracks. 00 = 13.6µm; 01 = 20.4µm. ID-7 is a copy prohibit code, which tells the machine whether it's permissible to make a digital copy of the input signal. 00 = digital copy permitted; 01 = digital copy inhibition. This forms the basis of the serial copy management system (SCMS) that stops users making multi-generation digital recordings – we'll return to this later. ID-8 is an extended section that's referred to as a "pack". It consists of 32 two-bit codes. The pack is at present unused, being reserved for future applications. You'll notice that quite a number of the PCM-ID two-bit code possibilities are at present unused.

There are two optional PCM-ID codes, SC (search code) and AC (auxillary code). SC contains the track selection number and time (in hours, minutes and seconds) from the start of the tape. It can also be used to find the start and end of the tape. The AC code is used primarily for prerecorded tapes. It provides a variety of information such as time from start of the tape, programme time, programme/index number, date recorded, programme table of contents, cassette catalogue number, etc. Most of the AC data, such as time from start of tape, programme and index number, can also be held in the subcode-ID area. It may seem wasteful to have two areas devoted to storing the same information. The reason for doing so is that PCM-ID codes cannot be rerecorded without also erasing the PCM signal while the subcode-IDs can be rewritten independently.

As we have seen each PCM area consists of 128 blocks and each block contains eight PCM-ID bits. There are thus 1,024 PCM-ID bits per track. ID-1-8 at two bits each take 16 bits. SC1-4 and AC1-4 consist of four bits each, i.e. 32 in all. There are in addition 16 frame address bits. This gives

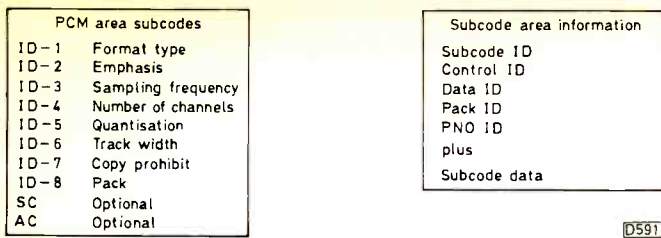


Fig. 6: Subcode groups.

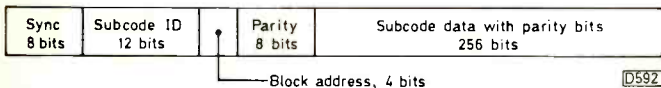


Fig. 7: Details of a subcode area block.

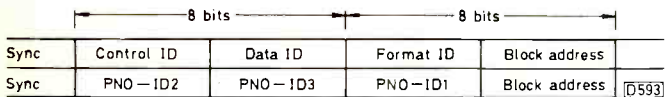


Fig. 8: Arrangement of the subcode ID sections of two adjacent subcode area blocks.

a total of 64 PCM-ID bits. Thus each bit is recorded on the track 16 times ($1,024 - 64 = 16$).

We'll deal next with the two separate subcode sections of the track. The DAT subcode signal capacity is 273kbits/sec, which is approximately 4.6 times greater than with the CD format. Most of the subcodes can be recorded automatically or manually or added to existing tape selections.

Fig. 7 shows the general composition of a subcode block, which is similar to a PCM block. The subcode ID section (12 bits) stores control-ID, data-ID etc. information as shown in Fig. 8. Control-ID consists of four bits which provide four items of information: TOC-ID indicates whether or not a TOC is recorded (only prerecorded tapes have TOCs); a Start-ID marks the beginning of a recorded section; a Shortening-ID (sometimes called Skip-ID) can be used for fast forward to the next Start-ID; and a Priority-ID which indicates whether the programme is rerecorded or not. The PNO-ID codes are used to mark programme numbers and are useful for tape editing or renumbering tape selections since they take priority over the PNO codes recorded elsewhere, for example the PCM-ID auxiliary code.

The Start-ID code is an important part of the DAT fast-search system. With compact cassette recorders the fast-forward and rewind speeds are twenty-thirty times faster than the normal playing speed. DAT's high-speed search system is two hundred times faster than the normal speed however. Thus while it takes a conventional cassette recorder around four and a half minutes to run through an entire C90 tape a DAT recorder takes just forty seconds to search through a two-hour tape. Put another way, during fast search a DAT recorder takes one second to go through a three-minute recording.

To carry out a fast-search operation a DAT recorder requires the programme number, time and Start-ID code. The Start-ID code is recorded during the first nine seconds of a recording to help the recorders locate it when at full speed. One problem with the fast-search mode is that the relative head-to-tape speed is altered, giving rise to tracking errors. These would make it difficult if not impossible to read the ID codes. This difficulty is overcome by speeding up or slowing down the head drum in the search mode. In addition, the data is read only periodically.

If the Format-ID code is set to a value other than 00 (audio record) the subcode areas can be used to store 64-bit data packs for time from start, running time, programme time etc. as well as graphics and text.

DAT Modes

There are six DAT modes. Mode I is the standard DAT recording and playback mode, with 48kHz sampling and 16-bit linear quantisation. This mode is mandatory for all DAT machines.

Mode II, which is optional, is designed to be compatible with satellite digital stereo broadcasting. It has a 32kHz sampling frequency. Other details are the same as Mode I.

Mode III is an optional half-speed mode which doubles the recording and playback times. The tape speed is 4.075mm/sec and the transmission speed 1.23Mbits/sec (subcode capacity 136.5kbits/sec). Sampling is at 32kHz, with 12-bit non-linear quantisation. As with LP VCRs the user selects the recording tape speed and the machine automatically selects the correct playback speed. With metal particle tape the playing time is four hours; when thinner, metal evaporated DAT tape becomes available the time will be increased by about thirty per cent. JVC has developed a version called "double scanning" in which the tape speed remains the same but the drum speed is reduced to 1,000 r.p.m. when recording; for playback the drum speed is normal but the tape runs at half speed.

Mode IV gives four-channel recording. Quantisation and sampling frequency are as in Mode III.

Mode V is used for playing prerecorded tapes. The sampling frequency of 44.1kHz, with quantisation as in Modes I and II, is the same as with the CD format. This makes it easier for music companies to transfer CD master tapes to DAT. Normal-track prerecorded DAT tapes are made in the same way as prerecorded video tapes, i.e. a master recorder is connected to a series of slave recorders. This mode is mandatory. In the original DAT specification the 44.1kHz sampling rate could be used only for playback, so that DAT recorders couldn't be used to make digital copies of compact discs. However an agreement between the hardware and music companies has resulted in an extension of the DAT format to include a 44.1kHz sampling rate in the record mode. We'll return to this later.

Mode VI is an alternative prerecorded tape format which uses a wide track (20.4µm) to give improved sound quality. The tape speed is increased to 12.25mm/sec, resulting in a maximum playback time of eighty minutes. Barium ferrite instead of metal tape is used. At 700 Oersted's the coercivity of BaFe tape is lower than that of metal tape (1,500 Oersted's). For wide-track duplication a contact process is used: a master metal tape which contains a mirror-image of the signal is brought into close contact with the BaFe slave tape. Heat from a laser reduces the coercivity of the BaFe tape to below the Currie point so that the master tape's signal is transferred to the slave tape. To restore its coercivity the slave tape is then wrapped around a drum that contains a coolant. This mode is also mandatory.

Tape

The shortest recordable wavelength with the DAT system is about 0.67µm. This calls for the use of high-density, high-coercivity tape. Standard DAT tape is made from metal powder, is 3.81mm wide (the same as compact cassette tape) and 13µm thick. It's more or less the same as Video-8 tape and it wouldn't be surprising if some tape

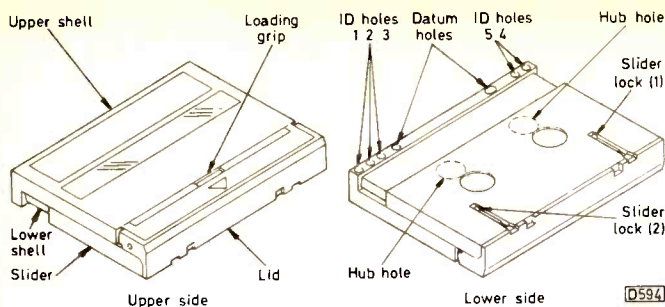


Fig. 9: Appearance of the DAT cassette.

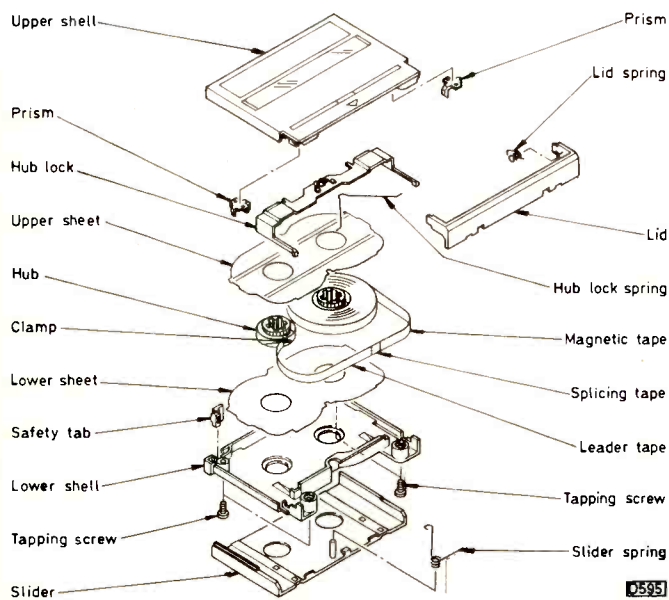


Fig. 10: Structure of a DAT cassette.

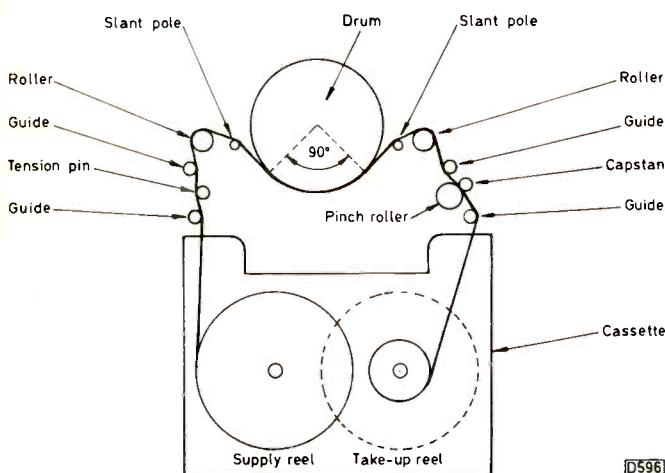


Fig. 11: The DAT tape path.

companies made their DAT tape simply by cutting 8mm tape down to size. The magnetic layer is $3\mu\text{m}$ thick, the base film is $9.5\mu\text{m}$ thick and there's an $0.5\mu\text{m}$ thick back coat. As previously mentioned, the coercivity is 1,500 Oersteds – for comparison, the coercivity of VHS tape is around 700 Oersteds. The DAT tape remanence is 2,500 Gauss. Future plans include the use of metal evaporated (ME) tape some $10.8\mu\text{m}$ thick.

The Cassette

The design of the $73 \times 54 \times 10.5\text{mm}$ DAT cassette is based on that of the video cassette. A two-hour cassette holds 60 metres of tape. As with video tape, only one side

is used for recording. Fig. 9 shows the exterior appearance of the cassette. Again as with a video cassette there's a protective lid to prevent dust, dirt and fingerprints contaminating the tape. There's also a slider which covers the tape hub holes. The hubs are flangeless and are fitted with brakes. There are no guides or rollers within the cassette. When a cassette is inserted into a DAT recorder the lid opens and the slider moves back to expose the hub holes into which mechanical reel shafts go.

Fig. 10 shows an exploded view of the cassette. The format uses an optical end-of-tape sensor. Light from two LEDs shines on to prisms at each end of the cassette. These prisms reflect the light on to the tape, which is opaque apart from the leaders. Thus at the beginning and end the light shines on to a phototransistor which activates the brake. Because of the high search system speed the leaders are approximately 60mm long. This provides a wide enough braking margin.

The cassette has five identification holes. The first three are used to identify the type of tape. If one is taken as open and zero as closed, the code is 000 = metal tape or equivalent $13\mu\text{m}$ thick, 010 = thin metal or equivalent tape, 001 = $13\mu\text{m}$ wide-track (BaFe) tape, 011 = thin BaFe tape. For hole four 1 = prerecorded music tape, 0 = regular tape for recording. For hole five 1 = recording not possible, 0 = recording possible. There's also an erasure prevention slider similar to that on Video-8 cassettes – the difference is that with a DAT cassette an open hole (slider pushed back) prohibits recording while a closed hole permits it.

Hardware

The DAT tape path is shown in Fig. 11. The important point is the 90° tape wrap, which reduces head and tape wear. As the heads are not in contact with the tape for fifty per cent of the time the DAT system has to use time compression for the signal during recording and playback.

Fig. 12 shows in simplified block diagram form the arrangements used in a DAT recorder while Fig. 13 shows in a little more detail the recording system. The record channels start with pre-emphasis of the analogue left and right audio signals which are then passed through low-pass filters to remove frequencies that are higher than half the sampling frequency. This is done to prevent aliasing during the sampling process. Sample-and-hold circuits do the sampling, after which an analogue switch selects left and right samples alternately. These are then converted to digital form, and error correction bits are added. Signal interleaving is then carried out in conjunction with a 128Kbit RAM.

Cross-interleaving is the next process, to give added error protection. The block is labelled CIRC, which stands for cross-interleaved Reed-Solomon code – much the same techniques are used in the CD system, and were outlined in the August 1989 issue of *Television*, pages 756-9.

The signal then undergoes 8-10 modulation to prevent long strings of zeros or ones which would give rise to d.c. components. The 8-10 modulation system works by splitting the 16-bit words into two 8-bit words then converting each to ten bits. The data is now ready for storing on tape. DAT recorders don't use erase heads, overwriting previous data instead. The problem with this system is that when a short wavelength signal overwrites a long wavelength signal the unerased portion produces noise. For this reason the ratio between the shortest and the longest wavelength must be no greater than 1:4. Interblock gaps (IBGs) are added between the various

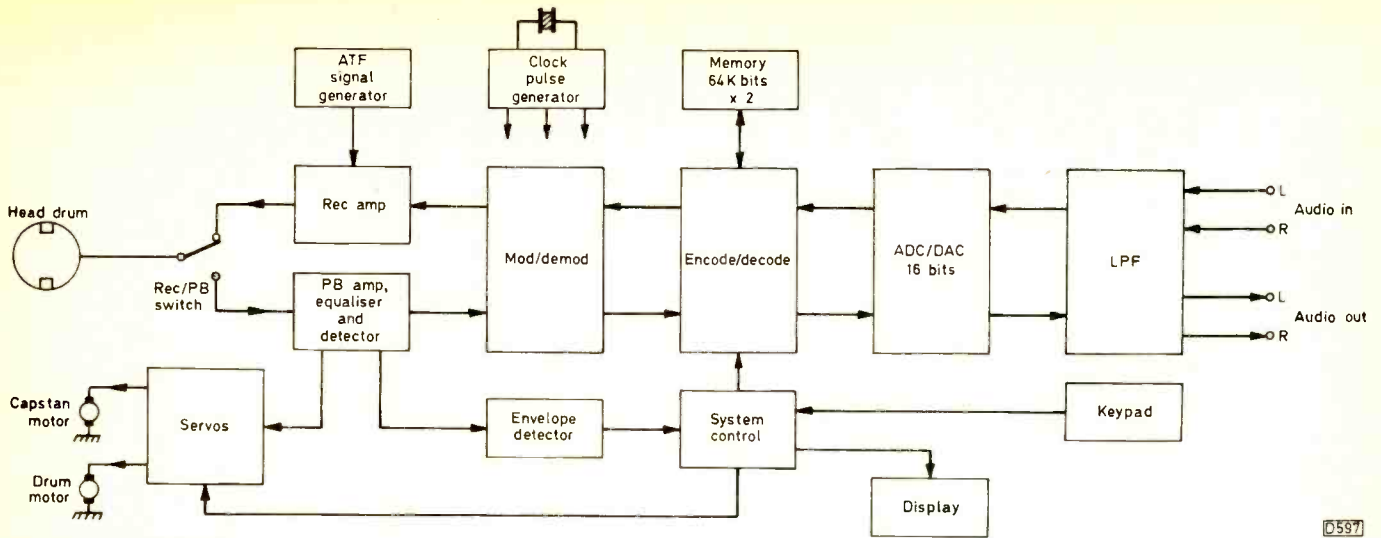


Fig. 12: Simplified block diagram showing the arrangements used in a DAT recorder.

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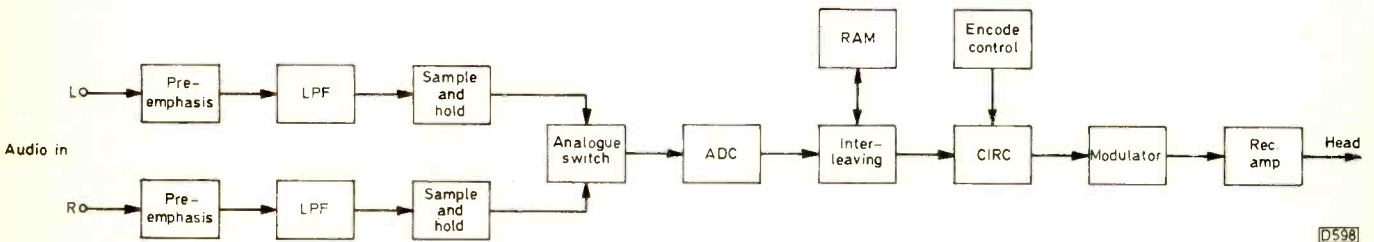


Fig. 13: Block diagram of the DAT recording system.

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track blocks. These have 1.568MHz erase signals, allowing separate parts of the track to be erased and also preventing adjacent blocks from being overwritten.

Encoding

We'll now take a closer look at the DAT error correction system, which as previously mentioned has features in common with those used in the CD system, described in the August 1989 issue.

There are basically two types of errors, random and burst ones. The former involve small amounts of data while the latter can result in relatively large amounts of data becoming damaged or corrupted. Causes of burst errors include tape dropouts, incorrect tracking and fingerprints or dirt on the tape.

The DAT system uses a powerful double-encoded cross-interleaved Reed-Solomon error correction code. The error correction codes are designated C1 and C2. The C1 code can detect and correct random errors up to two symbols (one symbol = 8 bits) long or burst errors up to four symbols (32 bits) long. The C2 code can correct random errors up to three symbols (24 bits) long, six symbols (48 bits) of erasure error (where data is inadvertently overwritten) or 792 symbols of burst error.

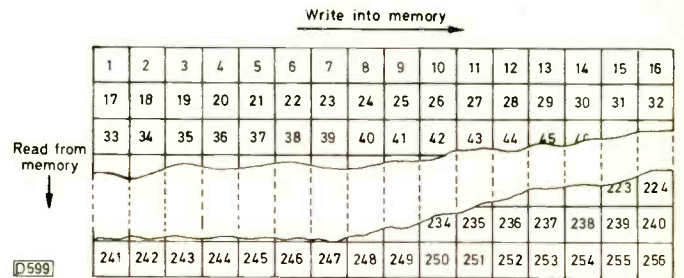
Fig. 14 shows the interleaving principle - in practice the DAT system interleaving is far more complex than this. The data is read into a memory in sequence then read out in a different sequence. After this the data passes to the CIRC encoder. If a burst error occurs, the missing data may be corrected or filled in by interpolation. The DAT error correction system can correct linear track damage up to 2.64mm in length - equivalent to 6,336 bits - or 0.3mm wide. Larger damage requires interpolation.

Interleaving is also done across two tracks. One track contains the odd samples from the left channel and the

even samples from the right channel, while the second track has the even left samples and the odd right samples (see Fig. 15). This enables the machine to carry out interpolation should one head become clogged. An engineer told me the DAT error correction system is so powerful that a recorder continued to work normally after he'd removed one of its heads!

Time Compression

Because the heads are in contact with the tape for only one half of the drum's period of rotation time compression is used. It's carried out by reading the data out of the



D599

Fig. 14: Principle of interleaving by writing into/reading from a memory in different sequences.

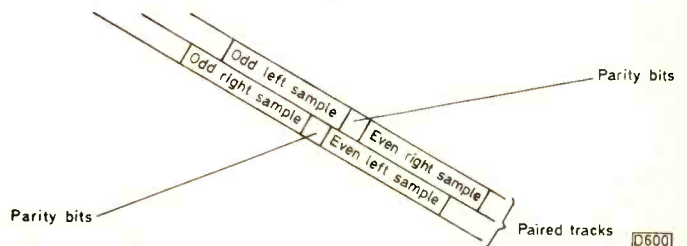


Fig. 15: Interleaving between adjacent tracks.

D600

memory at a faster rate than it was written in. The read-out rate depends on the sampling frequency. Because interleaving is carried out over two tracks (one frame) the RAM used must be able to store a complete frame. A DAT frame contains 64Kbits, but two 64Kbit memories are required because one frame is being sent to the recording heads while the next frame is being written into the RAM for interleaving. During playback, as one frame is being sent to the DA converter the next frame is being written into the second RAM for de-interleaving.

The ATF System

The DAT system's automatic track following (ATF) arrangement follows the principles used in the Video-8 system. In a DAT recorder however the recording head is 1.5 times wider than the track pitch, so that it straddles three tracks (see Fig. 16). Fig. 17 shows the ATF track pattern in more detail. Frequency f_1 is a 130.67kHz pilot tone, f_2 is a 522.67kHz sync signal, f_3 is a 784kHz sync signal and f_4 is a 1.568MHz erase signal.

Consider a head following the track identified as A— even frame address (second from left at the bottom). The head's path is from bottom right to top left. As it travels along the track it encounters an f_1 pilot tone, which is the track reference tone. Next it meets an f_4 signal which it ignores. It next encounters an f_2 sync signal which tells the machine to start sampling cross-talk information. As a result it reads the f_1 tones in the two adjacent tracks. The amplitude of the two samples is compared, any difference indicating that a tracking error is present. The electronics then send a signal to the capstan servo to alter the tape speed.

LSI Chips

It's fair to say that without modern LSI chip technology the CD and DAT systems would not have been a practical proposition. Fig. 18 shows a block diagram of the Sony DTC-1000ES professional DAT recorder, identifying the various LSI chips used. The CXA1045Q is a 48-pin bipolar chip that's responsible for recording/playback amplification and equalisation. The CXA1046M is a 28-pin bipolar chip that carries out ATF processing. The CXD1009Q is an 80-pin CMOS device whose functions include 8-10 modulation/demodulation, subcode processing, RAM control, the system clock and the servo reference. The CXD1008Q is a 64-pin CMOS chip that's responsible for error correction and interfacing with the AD and DA converters. It has a multiple clock for the three DAT sampling frequencies. The CXD1052Q is a 48-pin CMOS device that carries out the drum servo action. This chip set has been developed specifically for DAT use. There are additional LSI chips, e.g. the AD/DA converters and the microcomputer chip.

The DSS Format

The computer company Hewlett-Packard and Sony have developed the Digital Data Storage (DDS) system which stores 1.3Gbytes of computer data on a two-hour DAT cassette. The data is arranged in groups of 22 frames (around 128Kbytes). While the DAT error correction system, which enables large burst errors to be concealed by applying interpolation, is suitable for audio use it's not acceptable for computer data.

During the system's development Hewlett-Packard carried out research into the factors that can cause errors in the DAT system. There are five categories. (1) Inherent



Fig. 16: A DAT head straddles three adjacent tracks.

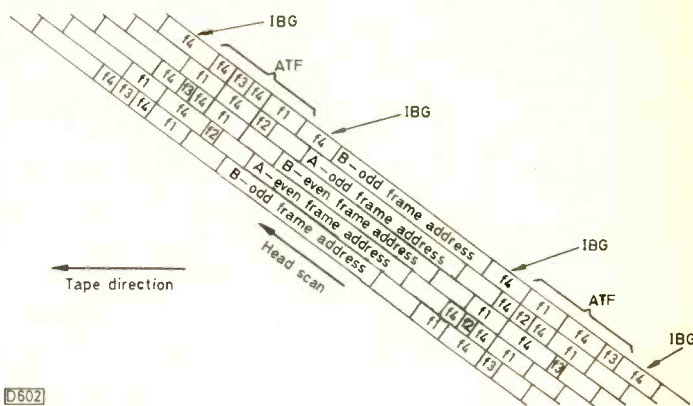
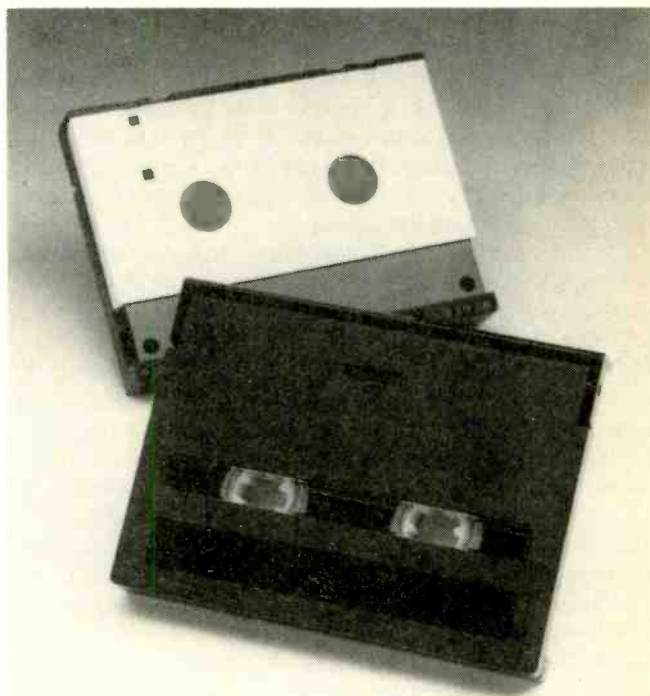
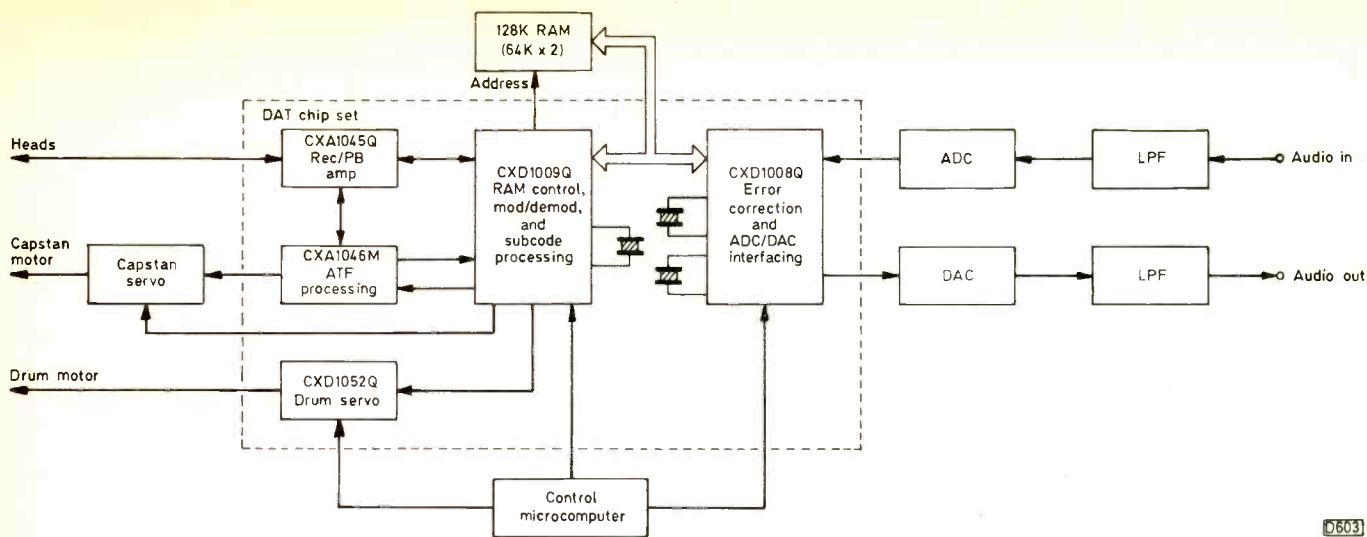


Fig. 17: Positions of the ATF signals on adjacent tracks.

media defects, including tape dropouts, particles and scratches on the tape and tape width fluctuations. (2) Tape damage after the data is written. Helical damage can be caused by debris on the tape guides; transverse damage can be caused by tape surface irregularities or faulty tape operation. Since damaged tape tends to flake off and contaminate the heads and tape guides even more errors can be introduced. (3) Head clogging, which results in misreading or non-reading of the data. (4) Head/tape design and production errors, which can cause tracking errors, r.f. level fluctuations, noise and jitter. Another factor, called inter-symbol interference, is caused by distortion between the read and write signals, resulting in misread data. (5) Tape degeneration. At present there's no official DAT tape durability figure. Hewlett-Packard, Sony and other companies are currently carrying out research



The DAT cassette. Note the slider cover over the hub holes. When the cassette is inserted in the machine the lid opens and the slider moves back to expose the hub holes.



D503

Fig. 18: Block diagram showing the DAT-specific chip set used in the Sony DTC-1000ES professional recorder.

into this. The companies believe that the archival life of DAT tape is equal or greater than that of tape used in other media.

For improved reliability the DDS format uses a four-head drum with two read and two write heads. These provide a "read-after-write" operation in which the written data is immediately read and checked for errors. If errors are found the relevant frame is rewritten. DDS also has an additional C3 error correction code that can correct errors within any two tracks within a group. The DDS error rate is 1 in 10^{15} , or one incorrect bit for every 1,000,000,000,000,000 bits read.

Professional DAT

DAT has been used in broadcasting and music studios for several years as a music source and as a low-cost digital tape mastering system. In 1989 however the German Institut für Rundfunktechnik (IRT) research laboratory conducted a series of tests which suggested that DAT was unsuitable as a digital tape mastering medium. Amongst the claims made were that DAT recordings deteriorate before ten generations and that there are compatibility problems between tapes recorded by different machines. Further research is being carried out: meanwhile many studios continue to use DAT.

Copy Control

The Aiwa HD-S1 DAT recorder, the first consumer DAT machine to go on sale in the UK, became available last October. The first DAT machines to go on sale in Japan were launched in March 1987. DAT's late arrival in Europe and the USA was due to music companies' objections that DAT would be used to make digital copies of compact discs. Even though the first DAT recorders were unable to copy CDs digitally because they didn't have the ability to sample at 44.1kHz the music industry continued to oppose DAT.

CBS records proposed an anti-copy system called Copycode. This doctored a CD sound signal with a series of notches. If the user tried to copy the CD's signal on to a DAT machine the recorder would detect the notches and refuse to record. But Copycode was found to be unworkable.

For over three years the music industry and the electronics hardware companies attempted to resolve the

problem. Agreement was eventually reached at a meeting in Athens in June 1989. The agreement states that a DAT recorder can incorporate 44.1kHz sampling when making recordings provided it incorporates Serial Copy Management System (SCMS) circuitry. SCMS was developed from a Philips system called Solocopy. The SCM system allows a single digital copy to be made on tape. When this is done an 01 digital copy inhibition subcode is laid down in the ID-7 PCM subcode area of the tape. As a result, if the user tries to make a second-generation digital copy the machine reads the code and refuses to record. It's possible to make multiple analogue copies however. Although the sound quality with analogue copies is acceptable to most people the process results in loss of the subcodes. Thus fast search etc. cannot be used. If the user makes a digital copy of the analogue recording this carries a 10 copy prohibit code, which means that only one digital copy can be made from an analogue recording.

The SCM system has enabled consumer DAT machines to be marketed in the West, though there are signs that the music industry is still not entirely happy with the system.

The Future

It's ironic that just as DAT has appeared in Europe several new developments have put a question mark over its future as a consumer system. The first is the development by Philips of its DCC (digital compact cassette) system. Brief details of this system were given in Teletopics, December (page 106). Secondly, Dolby Labs have developed Dolby S, a noise-reduction system that's claimed to dramatically improve the sound quality with analogue recordings. In addition several companies are developing recordable compact discs, while Sony has developed a digital memo recorder that records two hours of sound on a cassette measuring just $30 \times 21.5 \times 5$ mm.

At present most of these technologies require further development work or are too expensive for the domestic market. But it all points to an interesting period ahead.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the following for their help in the preparation of this article: David Bush, Senior Product Engineer at Sony Broadcast; Peter Wall of Peter Wall ElectroAcoustics; Celia Watts of Hewlett-Packard; and Martyn Williams, Technical Manager of TDK (UK).

provides a voltage that's proportional to Q902's base current. This voltage is applied to pin 1 of IC901, reducing the level so that Q902's collector current cannot exceed the available base current.

Note that the mains switch S901 has a third, momentary-make contact. When it makes at switch on C1500 is charged from the 5V supply, switching Q1507 on. The low voltage applied to pin 5 of the SAA1293H control chip IC1501 brings it out of the standby state and resets the nominal control values.

Fault Finding

If the complaint is no results check fuse FS901 which

TEST CASE

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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 find that shop staff are getting more and more sloppy when writing out service job cards. This one just said "whirrs". We drew our service manager's attention to it. "I'll have a word with them" he said, "the situation is getting whirrs and whirrs . . ." So much for serious and responsible management.

The whirring device was in fact a JVC VCR, Model HRD170, which went to Real Technician's bench for repair. It whirred at switch on. Removal of the top cover showed that the noise came from the reel-drive mechanism, which turned the take-up spool smartly clockwise even without a cassette. RT whipped off the bottom cover and tightened the earthing screws on the under deck PCBs, then confirmed that their printed lands were earthed. They probably were to start with, because the take-up reel still whirred at switch on.

The machine was switched off and a cassette was inserted. At switch on the cassette loaded without any problems, and from that point on all the functions RT tried worked perfectly – play, record, pause, fast forward and rewind. At the end of the rewind the machine stopped as it should and waited for further instructions, which it then carried out correctly. Only when eject was tried did a problem show up. The cassette motor continued to run when the cassette had been ejected, slipping its belt for several seconds before the machine switched to standby, extinguishing the red "on" LED at the operate button.

What was RT to make of all this? He decided to concentrate on the most obvious defect, the cassette motor's overrun at eject. In place of the usual eject detection limit switch this machine uses an optocoupler which looks through a slot in the cogwheel that drives the cassette cradle. The photosensor's output is applied to pin 37 of the syscon microcomputer chip IC601, so this point was monitored. When the cassette was fully ejected, and indeed when it was fully loaded into the deck, the voltage at this point dropped to virtually zero. As this was the correct condition RT condemned the expensive M50731-610SP microcomputer chip. He reasoned that since it was

may be o.k. or open-circuit. Check for broken print at pins 3 and 9 of T901. If necessary check Q902, ZD901, OC941, ZD941, Q941/2, ZD902 and D905.

Slow starting can be a tricky fault as the set starts before one has time to make a diagnosis. The usual cause of the trouble is TH902. It should normally read 4kΩ when cold. If unsure, check by replacement.

The power supply shutting down has on several occasions been traced to Q941 being at fault.

No results or intermittent no results has been traced to dry-joints on the chopper transformer T901, rectifier D933 or line output transformer T702

We've had several cases of tuning drift. The usual cause is IC1503 (ZTK33B).

getting the cassette-out message but failed to turn off the front-load drive motor it had to be responsible. No doubt when it was replaced the whirring business would also be cured. A telephone call to JVC got the wonder chip on its way, and our man turned his attention to a Sharp machine with a reel-idler problem.

When the new microcomputer chip arrived RT fitted it carefully, taking the correct precautions against static damage. At switch on the machine whirred. RT felt that his diagnostic powers were getting whirrs and whirrs as he put the maligned chip into the stores with a little label on it saying "believed o.k. – RT". Replacement of the syscon microcomputer chip had left the fault pattern exactly as before.

RT studied the circuit diagram, which showed that the cassette motor is driven by a TA8400P switching chip. This chip also drives the mode motor. Instructions for both come via a three-wire bus from pins 57/8/9 of the microcomputer chip. Could this motor-control chip be responsible for the problem? RT decided that it could, so he ordered one and turned to an IIT TV set with field collapse.

When the postman brought a little parcel with the new TA8400P chip RT fitted it and switched on. There was again no change in the symptoms. RT put the machine to one side while he attended to more pressing problems. Later that day he put the whirring JVC VCR back on his bench. After spending some time on it he arrived at a correct diagnosis and cure. What had he overlooked during his initial hasty investigations? Should he have taken greater notice of the original "whirring" complaint? See next month for the answer.

ANSWER TO TEST CASE 337 — page 191 last month —

Poor TechnoCrat! Shivering and grumbling, he had done all the right things in his attempts at diagnosing the cause of the trouble with the old Decca TV set with which he was doing battle. The problem was heavy overloading in the line output stage, and he'd found two very good reasons for this – a leaky line output transistor and a very sick line output transformer with short-circuited turns. Did the set want three diagnoses and three repairs for heaven's sake? It did. The third diagnosis was carried out by once again removing the tripler's input pulse feed from the transformer, whereupon the line output stage at last came to life. A new tripler was required to complete the repair, restoring pictures to the (slightly tired, as it turned out!) picture tube.

It was now fairly obvious what had happened. The syndrome is one that the old IIT CVC20 chassis commonly produced from its repertoire of tricks. Initially

the tripler had failed. This had led to overheating in and damage to the line output transformer. While the user had stared at the blank screen the BU500 line output transistor had succumbed. Only then had the fusible resistor R430 sprung into action to cut off the power. All four items had

to be replaced to get things going again.

Poor TechnoCrat. When he'd fitted the new tripler, dressed all the wires, set up the receiver and boosted its tube he heard that ace salesman Alec had rented the customer a nice new Tatung . . .

Problems with Compact Discs

Nick Beer

With video and audio systems one has to consider software as well as hardware faults. For example video tapes can shed oxide, cassette tapes can become tight, and records can have badly pressed lead-out areas. The compact disc system has its own selection of potential software problems. It's easy to overlook them or accuse the player of being the cause of difficulties. You can also get into disputes with customers who think that a player which is under guarantee is responsible when the problem is clearly caused by a disc. The aim of this article is to serve as an introduction to disc defect troubles.

Symptoms

The symptom most often caused by a faulty disc is the symptom that occupies most of a CD engineer's time anyway – poor playability, i.e. skipping, sticking and jumping. This presents a problem: the poor playability could well be, and in fact is more likely to be, caused by a machine fault.

Procedure

The classic case is when a machine is brought in with the complaint of skipping and suchlike but performs faultlessly on test. The engineer will follow the advice given by Joe Cieszynski in his series of articles in this magazine and use an error disc to assess the machine's performance when confronted with such problems as loss of data/data interruptions, fingerprints, and dirt on the surface of a disc. Before carrying out any adjustments/cleaning it's important to check the player's performance when first received so that any improvements following service work can be noted. One or two possibilities should be borne in mind once you've confirmed that the machine plays a good disc and assessed its ability to handle disc errors.

If a player's performance is to specification or better when playing an error disc there could be an intermittent fault. Try giving the player a prolonged test. The other possibility is that very poor quality discs are being used. If the player's performance with an error disc is slightly below par but good discs are played well repair/alignment will be needed but discs that are in poor condition could still be contributing to the user's problems. If a player fails the error-disc tests it will obviously require attention. Nevertheless bear in mind the possibility that poor discs are being used, especially when the symptoms seem to be less severe than those reported by the customer.

Experience

As with so many problems of this type there's no substitute for experience. It's as important as technical ability in deciding what's the cause of the difficulties. There can for example be a great disparity in the performance of the different models in a manufacturer's range, and also of

course across the complete market. Apparently identical machines can perform differently. A classic problem is where two friends or neighbours have the same model. One may buy a poor quality disc or scratch a disc and find that while it doesn't play satisfactorily in his own machine "it's perfect in my mate's".

It's important to know the capabilities of each model. This knowledge can be obtained only through experience, but this experience will be hard to gain if you handle very few of a particular model.

Most workshops are equipped with error discs. Ideally these should be professionally made and to the appropriate manufacturer's specification. Technics for example has produced discs that simulate data interruption, with variable diameter black dots, variable width wedges and simulated fingerprints on the surface, "wobbly discs" that represent a warped disc, and so on. Acceptable limits are laid down for the performance of the various players when playing these discs. Most players do better when working well, as you would expect with a quality product.

Failing this you can use a damaged disc – say one that's fallen foul of a faulty mechanism. Testing the disc, checking where the errors are by using the player's time-count, then establishing how each model reacts to the errors when working to specification is a good way of gaining experience. It's surprising how quickly you can gain experience in this way. Professional error discs do provide a better guide however.

Disc Defects

The most common disc problem, giving rise to the symptoms mentioned above, is dirt or scratches. Misuse is the cause – leaving the discs out of their cases, using them as coffee cup coasters, etc. Many customers have been misled by the massive publicity when the CD system was launched claiming that the discs are virtually indestructible. The manufacturers knew at the time that this wasn't true. We certainly know now that it isn't the case. So why were there all those demonstrations with jam being spread over the discs, discs being trampled into the ground, etc? It's a similar problem to the impression given by some tape manufacturers that their cassettes last for ever.

Another problem, one that's often overlooked, is damage to the label side of the disc. This can result in transparent holes. If these are large enough they'll cause all sorts of symptoms, depending on the player concerned. For example loss of focus can result in the disc being ejected!

Customer education is the key. A little note attached to each repaired machine helps. With problem owners you may have to discuss the situation in detail and provide a demonstration with a good disc.

There are some discs on the market with a very long playing time. Some older players find it difficult to play these to the end or at all if unable to read the TOC. Many

players take a surprisingly long time to read discs with a large number of tracks.

Failure to focus, especially intermittently, is a less common disc problem. If there's no obvious damage it can be caused by a faulty or poor-quality pressing or decay of the aluminium layer. The latter can be seen as a watermark type discoloration when the disc is viewed with a suitable amount of light. It tends to occur around the centre.

Discs sometimes get stuck in players because of a rough or too small centre hole as a result of which the disc sticks to the clamper/turntable. This defect can also result in a disc being damaged as it's loaded, especially in cartridge multiplayers.

When the centre hole becomes enlarged the disc will run eccentrically. This can cause playability problems. Visual inspection is the way to tell.

Clues

It's best to get the customer to include with the machine a disc that shows the symptoms complained about when played. This applies whenever disc problems could be the cause. It should speed up diagnosis and give you an idea of how well the discs are looked after. Another guide is the condition of the machine, both inside and out. Dirt in and around the disc tray is a bad sign. A dirty lens - dust or nicotine - would suggest that the average disc is in a similar condition.

Disc Repairs

It's often possible to remove small marks etc. on a disc by using a cloth and an abrasive liquid such as Brasso. This

should be attempted only where there's nothing to lose, as it's a bit hit and miss. Discs should normally be cleaned in the traditional way, using a soft, dry cloth in linear motions from the centre of the disc outwards in one direction only. Disc care kits are available from accessory suppliers. Care instructions are usually printed on disc inlay sheets.

In Conclusion

That discs can cause problems should be obvious. But, as with video tapes, there seem to be many people who don't recognise this. When playability problems are experienced, particularly with a machine that's still under guarantee, there's a tendency to replace the optical unit as a first step. This is done whether the playability problem is checked or not. It's often a waste of time and money, and can lead to a dissatisfied customer. It upsets the manufacturers too, many of whom have told me that considerable numbers of the optical units returned under guarantee are perfectly all right. It's always worth asking the customer whether the symptom occurs with all, some or just one disc.

Further Information

Philips test discs, type numbers SBC421 and SBC426, are available from HRS Electronics (trade only). The SBC426 is a two-disc set that includes simulated defects. Further information on CD etc. servicing will be found in my book *Servicing Audio and HiFi Equipment*, which is due to be published by Heinemann Professional Publishing later this year.

AN236	£2.30	STK2025	£7.00	STR2013	£4.60	DA3651	£2.10	BU467	£0.55	252535	£0.35	BELT KITS	£0.90	SL8003-8080	£1.09	LOEWE OC410/160	£20.40	ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS	£0.12
AN5010	£2.35	STK2028	£5.00	STR3125	£5.80	DA3651A	£2.40	BU4670	£0.88	252581	£0.32	V31V52/V55	£1.45	JVC-FER029	£1.30	LOEWE OC50/65m	£12.50	220UF-63V	£0.24
AN5526	£2.20	STK2029	£5.00	STR4990	£5.80	DA3652	£2.95	BU480	£0.88	252741	£0.30	VR6600	£2.00	JVC-FER345	£0.35	MATSUI VX720/755	£14.50	100UF-63V	£0.24
AN5510	£2.25	STK2038	£3.00	STR5412	£5.00	DA3654	£1.95	BU480	£0.88	252741	£0.30	VR6600	£2.00	HITACHI V111	£0.35	MAISUI VX765/850	£16.50	220UF-63V	£0.34
AN6135	£1.40	STK2145	£5.00	STR11006	£6.00	DA4400	£1.50	BU476	£0.70	252783	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	HITACHI V130	£0.38	NEC 9011/902A	£20.25	10UF-250V	£0.05
AN6248	£2.00	STK2155	£10.00	STR10060	£6.00	DA4410	£3.95	BU500	£1.05	252828	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	HITACHI V130	£0.38	ORION VC150/VH1800	£11.50	470UF-250V	£0.36
AN7120	£1.25	STK2233	£4.00	STR51010A	£4.00	DA5003	£3.25	BU500	£1.05	252940	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	PHILIP ROLLERS	£2.50	PANASONIC 3H5SN	£6.40	100UF-250V	£0.24
AN7143	£2.45	STK2240	£3.50	STR50113	£4.89	DA4510	£1.10	BU526	£0.78	252998	£0.35	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£28.00	47UF-250V	£0.65
AN7168	£2.50	STK2250	£7.60	STR50213	£5.50	DA4600	£1.30	BU536	£1.05	253030	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	220UF-63V	£0.28
BA3306	£1.30	STK3081	£4.71	STR4041	£5.00	DA4600.2	£1.75	BU580DF	£1.25	253106	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-250V	£0.24
BA5102	£2.30	STK3042	£4.90	STR5041	£4.80	DA4600.3	£1.75	BU580AF	£1.10	253115	£0.25	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.65
BA5402	£2.30	STK3044	£5.75	TR470	£1.15	DA4610	£1.15	BU511A	£0.70	253115	£0.25	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	220UF-63V	£0.28
BA6109	£1.75	STK4024.2	£9.50	TA7130	£0.70	DA4650	£3.25	BU112	£0.85	253185	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	1UF-400V	£0.22
HA1124	£1.10	STK4026	£6.00	TA7285	£0.89	DA4650	£4.10	TP381	£0.25	253185	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	4.7UF-400V	£0.70
HA1137	£1.50	STK4028.2	£6.00	TA7604	£2.35	DA47231	£4.15	TP31A	£0.20	253143	£0.30	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	1UF-400V	£0.22
HA1377	£1.80	STK4060	£5.00	TR4120S	£0.40	DA47240	£2.90	TP32	£0.50	253145	£0.35	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	22UF-400V	£0.69
HA11235	£1.55	STK4121	£5.50	TR4120P	£0.40	DA48145	£1.05	TP32	£0.50	253157	£0.35	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.39
HA11423	£2.00	STK4112	£7.00	TR4120U	£0.48	DA48153	£3.15	TP22A	£0.23	253157	£0.35	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
HA11714	£3.80	STK4141.2	£4.40	TR4800	£0.45	DA48170	£3.00	TP24	£0.20	2531678	£1.12	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
HA11715	£2.10	STK4151.2	£7.00	TR4820	£1.00	DA48185	£4.80	TP42	£0.20	2531682	£1.45	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
HA12017	£1.18	STK4152.2	£10.00	TR4840	£0.85	DA48190	£2.80	TP41C	£0.22	2531760	£1.45	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
HA13001	£1.85	STK4161.2	£3.50	TR4860	£2.85	DA48196	£1.50	TP42	£0.20	2531875	£2.50	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	22UF-400V	£0.70
HA13002	£2.80	STK4171.2	£9.10	TR4900	£0.70	DA49045	£3.20	TP23	£0.23	2531881	£1.85	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
LA1460	£2.05	STK4172.2	£10.50	TR4930	£1.00	DA49053	£2.11	TP110	£0.45	2531913	£1.85	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	22UF-400V	£0.70
LA4102	£1.12	STK4182.2	£8.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP254	£1.50	TP120	£0.42	2531970	£1.30	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
LA4445	£1.65	STK4182.2	£10.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1023	£0.58	TP120	£0.42	2532023	£1.45	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	22UF-400V	£0.70
LA4460	£1.75	STK4191.2	£11.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1032	£0.58	TP120	£0.42	2532141	£1.45	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
LA4905	£2.50	STK4191.5	£16.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1377	£1.80	TP22A	£0.23	2532298	£1.15	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
LA4510	£1.58	STK4231.2	£18.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1377	£1.80	TP22A	£0.23	2532466	£1.15	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
LA4555	£1.95	STK4311	£9.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1015	£1.05	UP1377	£1.80	2532591	£1.30	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
LM1011N	£1.80	STK4332	£4.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1028	£2.08	UP1188	£2.45	2532681	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
LM1111	£1.80	STK4362	£6.25	TR4940	£1.85	UP1029	£2.08	UP1031	£2.05	2532751	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
LM318	£1.15	STK4372	£5.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1032	£2.08	UP1032	£2.05	2532751	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
LB1405	£1.20	STK4392	£7.20	TR4940	£1.85	UP1037	£2.08	UP1037	£2.05	2532908	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
MS106P	£2.80	STK4432	£9.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1042	£2.08	UP1042	£2.05	2532909	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
MS152L	£1.50	STK4773	£9.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1047	£2.08	UP1047	£2.05	2532917	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
MS218L	£2.15	STK4833	£7.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1054M	£2.08	UP1054M	£2.05	2532922	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
MS501L	£2.50	STK4833	£8.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1059	£2.08	UP1059	£2.05	2532928	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
MS4543L	£2.85	STK4843	£7.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1060	£2.08	UP1060	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
TA4011	£3.00	STK4853	£9.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1072	£2.08	UP1072	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
STK041	£2.25	STK4943	£7.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1085	£2.08	UP1085	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
STK011	£3.70	STK4913	£12.20	TR4940	£1.85	UP1170	£2.08	UP1170	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
STK015	£1.90	STK5314	£5.80	TR4940	£1.85	UP1190	£2.08	UP1190	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
STK035	£8.75	STK5315	£5.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1190	£2.08	UP1190	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
STK043	£3.00	STK5321	£5.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1190	£2.08	UP1190	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
STK056	£4.20	STK5325	£5.80	TR4940	£1.85	UP1190	£2.08	UP1190	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
STK050	£19.00	STK5331	£5.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1190	£2.08	UP1190	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
STK077G	£6.50	STK5332	£2.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1190	£2.08	UP1190	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
STK078	£2.20	STK5332	£7.50	TR4940	£1.85	UP1190	£2.08	UP1190	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
STK080	£5.00	STK5338	£5.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1204	£2.08	UP1204	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	47UF-250V	£0.40
STK082	£5.80	STK5339	£7.00	TR4940	£1.85	UP1205	£2.08	UP1205	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£0.60	VR342/43	£27.83	100UF-63V	£0.90
STK084	£6.80	STK5361	£4.60	TR4940	£1.85	UP1209	£2.08	UP1209	£2.05	2532934	£2.60	VR7300	£1.40	VR342/43	£				

ECONOMIC DEVICES PO BOX 15, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV2 4AZ

1580H	3.72	25C1678	1.98	AN2140	2.40	BC207	0.19	BDX548	0.33	BU126	1.10	HAI196	7.43	MC1330P	1.98	SAS5601	5.42	STR1906	11.20	TBA970	3.60	TD4443	2.27		
15858F	3.72	25C1741	1.25	AN234	4.09	BC213	0.10	BDX63A	2.99	BU127	6.53	HAI3001	1.73	MC1330P	1.56	SAS5701	5.42	STR4909	6.20	TBA990	1.98	TD4443	1.96		
17052	4.58	25C1810	1.70	AN236	3.37	BC215	0.10	BDY20	1.21	BU205	1.15	HAI3006	2.26	MC1351P	1.25	SAS5705	1.95	STR440	5.78	TC2A705	2.15	TD4450	5.14		
17053	5.81	25C1810	1.70	AN240P	5.09	BC214	0.10	BOY20	1.21	BU206	1.27	HAI3402	7.06	MC1352P	1.40	SAS580	2.85	STR451	6.17	TC2A750S	1.05	TD4450	4.75		
17074	9.30	25C1826	0.67	AN241	1.71	BC225	0.40	BOY81	1.10	BU207	1.65	HAI3342	2.65	MC1357P	2.15	SAS5660	1.30	STR453	5.36	TC2A90	2.39	TD4460-2	7.75		
17089	3.45	25C1829	2.25	AN245	5.48	BC237	0.10	BF115	0.18	BU208	1.12	HAI3365	4.02	MC1358P	1.48	SAS5660	1.33	STR454	5.12	TC2A90	2.16	TD4460	1.90		
17127	1.50	25C1875	4.50	AN253	1.80	BC238	0.10	BF117	0.66	BU209	2.35	HAI366WR	2.98	MC1443SP	5.10	SAS5670	1.33	STR455	6.36	TC2A90	2.24	TD4500	14.20		
17376	2.58	25C1893	3.02	AN260	3.85	BC239	0.25	BF118	0.67	BU210	1.43	HAI368R	1.95	MC1447	7.10	SAS5670	1.33	STR456	7.98	TC2A90	2.24	TD4500	14.20		
1N4001	0.04	25C1903	0.30	AN272	7.17	BC251A	0.31	BF121	0.25	BU211	1.25	HAI370	2.15	MC14510B	0.88	SBA750	1.61	TB036	0.67	TC6A60	3.05	TD4570S	1.60		
1N4002	0.04	25C1906	0.30	AN275	7.83	BC252	0.31	BF122	0.13	BU212	0.25	HAI370	2.15	MC14510B	0.88	SBA750	1.61	TB036	0.67	TC6A60	3.05	TD4570S	1.60		
1N4003	0.04	25C1906	0.30	AN301	4.25	BC300	0.38	BF127	0.13	BU225	1.75	HAI370	2.15	MC14510B	0.88	SBA750	1.61	TB036	0.67	TC6A60	3.05	TD4570S	1.60		
1N4004	0.05	25C1929	2.25	AN302	3.09	BC301	0.34	BF137	0.29	BU26A	0.94	HAI374	1.80	MC15428PC	2.15	SC95A0P	1.95	TG644V	1.90	TC7A30	2.75	TD4940	3.70		
1N4005	0.05	25C1942	2.59	AN305	8.88	BC302	0.53	BF153	0.53	BU306	1.24	HAI377	3.88	MC1720P	1.50	SDA2006	17.10	TG645	1.20	TC7A50	2.25	TD4953	3.15		
1N4006	0.07	25C1959	0.20	AN315	2.46	BC303	0.48	BF154	0.28	BU406D	0.12	HAI377	3.88	MC1720P	1.50	SDA2006	17.10	TG645	1.20	TC7A50	2.25	TD4953	3.15		
1N4007	0.07	25C1959	0.20	AN316	4.95	BC307A	0.13	BF157	0.33	BU407	0.54	HAI388R	2.95	MC7724CP	3.49	SG264A	5.26	TG645	1.20	TC8A90	5.85	TD8103	2.68		
1N4148	0.05	25C1955	1.93	AN320	5.47	BC308	0.17	BF158	0.18	BU426A	0.67	HAI392	2.22	MC220-7	1.25	SG629	8.27	TG659	4.22	TC9A00	2.04	TEA1007	4.93		
1N4149	0.05	25C1962	1.93	AN321	2.25	BC327	0.09	BF160	0.18	BU500	1.53	HAI394	3.19	ME0411	0.75	SG633	9.00	TG659	4.22	TC9A10	1.65	TEA1009	1.65		
1N4501	0.11	25C1969	1.79	AN322	7.62	BC328	0.11	BF167	0.38	BU508A	0.17	HAI397	2.75	ME6002	0.26	SI125H	7.50	TG659V	2.38	TC9A90	0.82	TEA1014	3.00		
1N4502	0.13	25C1985	0.60	AN327	5.37	BC337	0.09	BF173	0.34	BU536	1.55	HAI398	3.06	ME6102	0.26	SI163HD	20.62	TG911V	1.40	TC9A90E	2.95	TEA1025P	1.93		
1N4504	0.10	25C2009	0.30	AN340P	1.53	BC350	0.15	BF177	0.55	BU506	0.95	HAI405	2.07	ME6101	0.34	SIK470	1.25	TG912V	4.95	TC9B00R	6.51	TC106C	0.62		
1N4540	0.16	25C2029	2.33	AN355	1.85	BC368	0.18	BF178	0.55	BU506	0.95	HAI405	2.07	ME6101	0.34	SIK470	1.25	TG912V	4.95	TC9B00R	6.51	TC106C	0.62		
1N611	0.05	25C228	2.11	AN362	1.50	BC440	0.69	BF179	0.36	BU806	0.96	HAI433	0.85	MCJ2501	3.30	SK41106	0.30	TG916	1.42	TD3F900P	6.37	TC106M	0.75		
15555	0.18	25C2063	0.99	AN371	3.95	BC441	0.46	BF180	0.36	BU807	1.36	BU807	1.36	MCJ2501	3.30	SK41106	0.30	TG916	1.42	TD3F900P	6.37	TC106M	0.75		
1544	0.10	25C2078	0.39	AN511	3.43	BC460	0.42	BF181	0.32	BU826A	1.95	HD3870A-2	7.95	MJ3001	1.43	SK41206	0.87	TG919V	1.94	TD1001B	2.42	TC14C4	0.52		
15921	0.10	25C2073	2.73	AN5120N	4.50	BC461	0.50	BF182	0.34	BU84A	0.66	HD38750A-7	7.95	MJ2955	1.13	SK41206	0.87	TG919V	1.94	TD1001B	2.42	TC14C4	0.52		
2N2219A	0.29	25C2085	1.65	AN512	4.42	BC462	0.51	BF183	0.39	BU84B	0.56	HD3880A50	14.29	MJ3055	1.05	SK41206	0.87	TG919V	1.94	TD1001B	2.42	TC14C4	0.52		
2N3053	0.35	25C2191	1.30	AN520	4.42	BC463	0.30	BF184	0.43	BU84C	0.43	BU84C	0.43	MCJ2501	3.30	SK41206	0.87	TG919V	1.94	TD1001B	2.42	TC14C4	0.52		
2N3054	0.39	25C2191	2.44	AN521	4.20	BC479	0.41	BF185	0.19	BF121	0.13	HSH1014	14.60	MJ2520	0.99	SK5110	2.15	TG925V	3.44	TD1010	1.10	TC110	0.95		
2N3055	0.35	25C2191	2.44	AN522	4.20	BC479	0.41	BF185	0.19	BF121	0.13	HSH1014	14.60	MJ2520	0.99	SK5110	2.15	TG925V	3.44	TD1010	1.10	TC110	0.95		
2N3442	1.16	25C2216	0.69	AN5613	4.20	BC532	0.28	BF195	0.14	BF133	0.15	HSH1002	9.50	ML232B	3.01	SL1430T	2.31	TG964	2.40	TD1028	2.42	TC126	0.38		
2N3702	0.15	25C2238	1.69	AN5701N	1.65	BC548	0.28	BF197	0.28	BF197	0.28	BF197	0.28	BF197	0.28	BF197	0.28	BF197	0.28	BF197	0.28	TC134B	2.42	TC134B	0.38
2N3705	0.18	25C2276	1.14	AN6250	1.75	BC549	0.18	BF198	0.17	BF198	0.17	BF198	0.17	BF198	0.17	BF198	0.17	BF198	0.17	BF198	0.17	TC134B	2.42	TC134B	0.38
2N3706	0.16	25C2314	0.87	AN6300	4.42	BC550	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	TC134B	2.42	TC134B	0.38
2N3707	0.14	25C2335+K1	0.87	AN6300	4.42	BC550	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	BF199	0.19	TC134B	2.42	TC134B	0.38
2N3711	0.05	25C2351	1.26	AN6340	5.62	BC557	0.08	BF218	0.36	BF181	0.05	HM4840	15.07	MJ430	1.45	SK5F370	1.36	TA005A	1.98	TD1011	1.14	TC110	0.95		
2N3712	0.05	25C2355	4.65	AN6341	2.22	BC558	0.10	BF224	0.17	BF198	0.16	HM4840	15.07	MJ430	1.45	SK5F370	1.36	TA005A	1.98	TD1011	1.14	TC110	0.95		
2N3717	1.55	25C2570	4.65	AN6363	16.00	BC559	0.10	BF227	0.15	BF207	0.17	HT4207	13.25	MC5389N	2.11	SL918A	9.07	TG707P	1.83	TD1059B	0.80	TC120	0.52		
2N3718	1.61	25C2577	1.34	AN6531	1.95	BC560C	0.34	BF240	0.34	BF240	0.34	BF240	0.34	BF240	0.34	BF240	0.34	BF240	0.34	BF240	0.34	TC120	0.52		
2N3819	0.40	25C2578	6.75	AN6550	0.50	BC636	0.20	BF241	0.16	BF241	0.16	BF241	0.16	BF241	0.16	BF241	0.16	BF241	0.16	BF241	0.16	TC120	0.52		
2N3823	1.17	25C2577	0.91	AN6552	1.68	BC637	0.24	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	TC120	0.52		
2N3824	0.91	25C2577	0.91	AN6552	1.68	BC637	0.24	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	BF242	0.49	TC120	0.52		
2N3908	0.62	25C1513	3.20	AN7111	0.58	BC745A	0.24	BF245A	0.49	BF245A	0.49	BF245A	0.49	BF245A	0.49	BF245A	0.49	BF245A	0.49	BF245A	0.49	TC120	0.52		
2N4101	1.38	25C372	1.16	AN7115	2.52	BCX34	0.55	BF255	0.20	BF224-600	2.63	LA1201	0.75	MP1192	4.07	SN29715N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N4240	2.66	25C373	1.16	AN7150	2.17	BD115	0.36	BF256	0.15	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N4444	1.66	25C383	1.33	AN7156	0.90	BD116	0.70	BF257	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N5930	0.50	25C388	0.29	AN7151	2.30	BD117	0.34	BF258	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N5934	0.50	25C388	0.29	AN7151	2.30	BD117	0.34	BF258	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N5936	0.50	25C388	0.29	AN7151	2.30	BD117	0.34	BF258	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N5937	0.50	25C388	0.29	AN7151	2.30	BD117	0.34	BF258	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N5938	0.50	25C388	0.29	AN7151	2.30	BD117	0.34	BF258	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N5939	0.50	25C388	0.29	AN7151	2.30	BD117	0.34	BF258	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29725N	6.04	TG703P	3.99	TD1190Z	2.48	TC130	0.38		
2N5940	0.50	25C388	0.29	AN7151	2.30	BD117	0.34	BF258	0.34	BF224-600	2.63	LA1210	1.56	MP2794	5.00	SN29									

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<p>AKAI Machine Nos.: VP77 VP88 VP7100 VP7200 VS1 VS2 VS3 VS5 VS10 VS9300 VS9500 VS9700 VS-P1 VS-P5</p> <p>AMSTRAD Machine Nos.: VCR4500 VCR5200 VCR9000 Machine Nos.: VCR7000 VCR4600</p> <p>FERGUSON/JVC Machine Nos.: 3292 8903 3V00 3V01 3V06 3V16 3V22 3V23 3V24 3V29 3V30 3V31 3V35 3V36 3V38 3V39 3V49</p> <p>FISHER Machine Nos.: FVH — D520 D530 D620 D720 P420 P510 P520 P530 P615 P620 P622 P710 P720 P721 P722</p> <p>GEN Head Part Nos.: 5458161 5458165 Machine Nos.: 4000H 4001H 4002H Head Part Nos.: 5458282 5458413 5458415 5458992 Machine Nos.: 4001H 4004H</p> <p>HITACHI Machine Nos.: VT3000 Head Part Nos.: 5458104 Machine Nos.: VT4000 VT4200 VT5000 VT5500 Head Part Nos.: 5458161 5458165 Machine Nos.: VT6500 VT7000 VT8000 VT8040 VT8100 VT8500 VT8700 VT9000 VT9300 VT9500 VT9700 VT9900</p> <p>Head Part Nos.: 5458282 5458413 5458415 5458992 Machine Nos.: VT11 V14 VT33 VT34 VT330 VT340 VT5030 VTP10 VTP30</p> <p>ITT Machine Nos.: VR3605 VR3033 VR3905 VR3913 VR3914 VR3935 VR3943 VR3963 VR3993 VR3975 VR3985 VR3986 VR3883</p> <p>JVC (see also Ferguson) Machine Nos.: HP4000 HR3300 HR3320 HR3330 HR3350 HR3360 HR3750 HR3860 HR4100 HR7200 HR7600</p> <p>MITSUBISHI Machine No.: HS200 HS700 HS303 HS304</p>	<p>NATIONAL PANASONIC Head Part Nos.: VEH0099 0103 0115 0121 0131 Machine Nos.: NV300 NV322 NV332 NV333 NV340 NV390 NV2000 NV3000 NV7000 NV7200 NV7500 NV7800 NV7850 NV8170 NV8200 NV8400 NV8600 NV8610 NV8620</p> <p>Head Part Nos.: VEH0171 VEH0218 Machine No.: NV370 NV3708 Head Part Nos.: VEH0171 Machine No.: NV330 NV777 Head Part Nos.: VEH0286 Machine No.: NV430 Head Part Nos.: VEH0174 Machine No.: NV366</p> <p>SHARP Head Part Nos.: DDRMU 0002 HE17/21/27 Machine No.: VC5812/3 651 681/2/3/5 659 699 Head Part Nos.: DDRMU 0001 HE00 0002 HE02 04 05 06 Machine No.: 2C9 VC110 VC200 VC220 VC300 VC381 VC384 VC386 VC387 VC388 VC477 VC481 VC482 VC930 VC970 VC3300 VC9100 VC9300 VC9400 VC9500 VC9600 VC9700</p> <p>Head Part Nos.: DDRMU 0001 HE09 Machine No.: VC7300 VC7700 VC7750 Head Part Nos.: DDRMU 0001 HE10 Machine No.: VC6300 Head Part Nos.: DDRMU 0001 HE12 Machine No.: VC8300 Head Part Nos.: DDRMU 0001 HE14 Machine No.: VC2300</p> <p>SANYO Head Part Nos.: 1430242 T01700 1430242 T23300 Machine No.: VTC5000 VTC5150 VTC5300 VTC5400 Head Part Nos.: 1430242 T02200 Machine No.: VTC5350 VTC5500 Head Part Nos.: 1430762 T03000 Machine No.: VTC9300 VTC9455 VTC9500 Head Part Nos.: 143072 T02100 Machine No.: VTC9300P5 VTC9350</p> <p>SONY Head Part Nos.: A6762 044A, 044B, 054A, 147A Machine No.: SL3000, 8000, 8080, SLT 6Me, 7, 7E, 7ME Head Part Nos.: A6762 012A, 038A, 055A, 129A Machine No.: SLSW, 5000 5100 SLC5, C6, C7 Head Part Nos.: A6762 072A, 122A, 136A, 139A, 213A Machine No.: SLC20, C30, C33, C40, C44 SLF1, F30, HF72, T20, T30</p> <p>Please see next col. for prices.</p>	<p>HEADS</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Head Part No.</td><td>Price</td></tr> <tr><td>BETA A</td><td>£1.50</td></tr> <tr><td>BETA B</td><td>£16.95</td></tr> <tr><td>BETA D</td><td>£23.75</td></tr> <tr><td>BETA 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VID24	4529V10800	Reel motor VTC5000/5150	9.50																																																																																																																																																		
VID25	1430668T01201	Reel drive pulley VTC 5000	5.49																																																																																																																																																		
VID26	PR2758	Pinch roller VTC5000/5150	2.95																																																																																																																																																		
VID27	1430490400900	Gear Idler Fisher FVH-P615	4.50																																																																																																																																																		
VID28	1430420400300	Heart idler Fisher FVH-P615	2.95																																																																																																																																																		
VID29	RMOTP1029	Capston motor 73/9300	29.95																																																																																																																																																		
VID30	RMOTV1008	Reel motor VC9700	16.14																																																																																																																																																		
VID31	NIDL0006	Idler VC387H etc	1.60																																																																																																																																																		
VID32	NIDL0005	Reel idler VC9300 etc	1.80																																																																																																																																																		
VID33	NIDL0004	Idler wheel VC2300	3.50																																																																																																																																																		
VID34	LA9295	Universal lamp without socket 290mm	0.35																																																																																																																																																		
VID35	LA9210S	Universal lamp with socket 310mm	0.50																																																																																																																																																		
VID36	NAT/PAN.	P.C. MTG. leadless lamp	0.20																																																																																																																																																		
VID37	SHARP 9300	Etc. lamp plus plastic shroud.	1.27																																																																																																																																																		

<p>AKAI</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>VP 77</td><td>DBK135</td><td>£0.86</td><td>HR 2200</td><td>DBK137</td><td>£0.68</td></tr> <tr><td>VP 68</td><td>DBK135</td><td>£0.86</td><td>HR 3300</td><td>DBK107</td><td>£5.25</td></tr> <tr><td>VP 7100</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td>HR 3330</td><td>DBK126</td><td>£1.65</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 1</td><td>DBK134</td><td>£1.76</td><td>HR 3360</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 2 EG</td><td>DBK101</td><td>£1.50</td><td>HR 3600</td><td>DBK107</td><td>£5.25</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 3</td><td>DBK134</td><td>£1.76</td><td>HR 3660</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 4</td><td>DBK101</td><td>£1.50</td><td>HR 4100</td><td>DBK127</td><td>£2.50</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 5 EG</td><td>DBK136</td><td>£0.68</td><td>HR 7200</td><td>DBK139</td><td>£1.22</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 9300</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td>HR 7600</td><td>DBK138</td><td>£0.86</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 9500</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td>HR 7650</td><td>DBK132</td><td>£0.86</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 9700</td><td>DBK102</td><td>£1.96</td><td>HR 7700</td><td>DBK108</td><td>£0.85</td></tr> <tr><td>VS 9800</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>FERGUSON</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>3292</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td>NV 300</td><td>DBK154</td><td>£2.20</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 01/16</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td>NV 330</td><td>DBK110</td><td>£2.20</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 22</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td>NV 332 333</td><td>VID7521</td><td>£2.10</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 23</td><td>DBK108</td><td>£0.85</td><td>NV 336</td><td>VID7521</td><td>£2.10</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 24</td><td>DBK137</td><td>£0.68</td><td>NV 450</td><td>DBK133</td><td>£1.50</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 31/32</td><td>VID7806</td><td>£1.40</td><td>NV 777</td><td>DBK131</td><td>£1.28</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 35/36</td><td>DBK150</td><td>£1.25</td><td>NV 2000</td><td>DBK109</td><td>£1.57</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 38/39</td><td>DBK150</td><td>£1.25</td><td>NV 3000</td><td>DBK113</td><td>£1.42</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 42/43/44</td><td>VID7540</td><td>£1.95</td><td>NV 7000</td><td>DBK111</td><td>£1.15</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 45/48/54</td><td>VID7540</td><td>£1.95</td><td>NV 7200</td><td>DBK140</td><td>£1.96</td></tr> <tr><td>3 V 55/57</td><td>VID7540</td><td>£1.95</td><td>NV 8600</td><td>DBK112</td><td>£1.76</td></tr> </table> <p>FISHER</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>VBS 7000</td><td>DBK146</td><td>£2.66</td><td>VC 381/383</td><td>DBK116</td><td>£2.15</td></tr> <tr><td>VBS 7600</td><td>DBK105</td><td>£1.15</td><td>VC 385/386</td><td>DBK116</td><td>£2.15</td></tr> <tr><td>VBS 7000</td><td>DBK105</td><td>£1.15</td><td>VC 2300</td><td>VID7545</td><td>£0.99</td></tr> <tr><td>VBS 9000</td><td>DBK10</td><td>£1.76</td><td>VC 6000/6300</td><td>DBK117</td><td>£1.40</td></tr> <tr><td>FVHP 420</td><td>VID7532</td><td>£1.99</td><td>VC 6500</td><td>DBK117</td><td>£1.40</td></tr> </table> <p>GEN</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>V 4000 H</td><td>DBK129</td><td>£1.10</td><td>VC 7300</td><td>DBK118</td><td>£1.50</td></tr> <tr><td>V 4001 H</td><td>DBK129</td><td>£1.10</td><td>VC 8300</td><td>DBK119</td><td>£2.10</td></tr> <tr><td>V 4002 H</td><td>DBK129</td><td>£1.10</td><td>VC 9300/9500</td><td>DBK120</td><td>£1.20</td></tr> <tr><td>V 4100 H</td><td>DBK128</td><td>£1.95</td><td>VC 9700</td><td>DBK121</td><td>£2.65</td></tr> </table> <p>HITACHI</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>VT 11-VT 88</td><td>DBK128</td><td>£1.95</td><td>SL 8000</td><td>DBK115</td><td>£2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 3000</td><td>DBK103</td><td>£1.42</td><td>SL 8080</td><td>DBK115</td><td>£2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 5000</td><td>DBK125</td><td>£1.46</td><td>SL 8500</td><td>DBK115</td><td>£2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 6500</td><td>DBK142</td><td>£0.77</td><td>SL 8600</td><td>DBK115</td><td>£2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 7000</td><td>DBK143</td><td>£0.68</td><td>SLC 5</td><td>DBK100</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 8000</td><td>DBK129</td><td>£1.10</td><td>SLC 6</td><td>VID7519</td><td>£1.65</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 8500</td><td>DBK144</td><td>£0.68</td><td>SLC 7</td><td>DBK100</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 9300</td><td>DBK129</td><td>£1.10</td><td>SLC 9</td><td>DBK130</td><td>£2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>VT 9500</td><td>DBK129</td><td>£1.10</td><td>SLJ 7</td><td>DBK100</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>SLT 7 ME</td><td>DBK100</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>SLT 7 MER</td><td>DBK100</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> </table> <p>SANYO</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>VTC 5000/5150</td><td>VID7807</td><td>£1.19</td><td>V 55/57</td><td>VID7543</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC 6000</td><td>VID7807</td><td>£1.19</td><td>V 66/67</td><td>VID7540</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC 5300</td><td>DBK105</td><td>£1.15</td><td>V 75/40</td><td>DBK123</td><td>£1.79</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC 5400</td><td>DBK105</td><td>£1.15</td><td>V 8600</td><td>DBK124</td><td>£1.24</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC 5500</td><td>DBK106</td><td>£1.15</td><td>V 9800</td><td>VID7810</td><td>£1.95</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC 6500</td><td>VID7533</td><td>£1.00</td><td>V 5250</td><td>DBK148</td><td>£2.66</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC 9300</td><td>DBK104</td><td>£3.12</td><td>V 5280</td><td>DBK148</td><td>£2.66</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC 9350</td><td>DBK145</td><td>£1.70</td><td>V 5475</td><td>DBK122</td><td>£1.50</td></tr> <tr><td>VTC M10/11/20</td><td>VID7809</td><td>£0.61</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>VTC M21/30/31</td><td>VID7809</td><td>£0.61</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>VTC M50</td><td>VID7809</td><td>£0.61</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	VP 77	DBK135	£0.86	HR 2200	DBK137	£0.68	VP 68	DBK135	£0.86	HR 3300	DBK107	£5.25	VP 7100	DBK103	£1.42	HR 3330	DBK126	£1.65	VS 1	DBK134	£1.76	HR 3360	DBK103	£1.42	VS 2 EG	DBK101	£1.50	HR 3600	DBK107	£5.25	VS 3	DBK134	£1.76	HR 3660	DBK103	£1.42	VS 4	DBK101	£1.50	HR 4100	DBK127	£2.50	VS 5 EG	DBK136	£0.68	HR 7200	DBK139	£1.22	VS 9300	DBK103	£1.42	HR 7600	DBK138	£0.86	VS 9500	DBK103	£1.42	HR 7650	DBK132	£0.86	VS 9700	DBK102	£1.96	HR 7700	DBK108	£0.85	VS 9800	DBK103	£1.42				3292	DBK103	£1.42	NV 300	DBK154	£2.20	3 V 01/16	DBK103	£1.42	NV 330	DBK110	£2.20	3 V 22	DBK103	£1.42	NV 332 333	VID7521	£2.10	3 V 23	DBK108	£0.85	NV 336	VID7521	£2.10	3 V 24	DBK137	£0.68	NV 450	DBK133	£1.50	3 V 31/32	VID7806	£1.40	NV 777	DBK131	£1.28	3 V 35/36	DBK150	£1.25	NV 2000	DBK109	£1.57	3 V 38/39	DBK150	£1.25	NV 3000	DBK113	£1.42	3 V 42/43/44	VID7540	£1.95	NV 7000	DBK111	£1.15	3 V 45/48/54	VID7540	£1.95	NV 7200	DBK140	£1.96	3 V 55/57	VID7540	£1.95	NV 8600	DBK112	£1.76	VBS 7000	DBK146	£2.66	VC 381/383	DBK116	£2.15	VBS 7600	DBK105	£1.15	VC 385/386	DBK116	£2.15	VBS 7000	DBK105	£1.15	VC 2300	VID7545	£0.99	VBS 9000	DBK10	£1.76	VC 6000/6300	DBK117	£1.40	FVHP 420	VID7532	£1.99	VC 6500	DBK117	£1.40	V 4000 H	DBK129	£1.10	VC 7300	DBK118	£1.50	V 4001 H	DBK129	£1.10	VC 8300	DBK119	£2.10	V 4002 H	DBK129	£1.10	VC 9300/9500	DBK120	£1.20	V 4100 H	DBK128	£1.95	VC 9700	DBK121	£2.65	VT 11-VT 88	DBK128	£1.95	SL 8000	DBK115	£2.00	VT 3000	DBK103	£1.42	SL 8080	DBK115	£2.00	VT 5000	DBK125	£1.46	SL 8500	DBK115	£2.00	VT 6500	DBK142	£0.77	SL 8600	DBK115	£2.00	VT 7000	DBK143	£0.68	SLC 5	DBK100	£1.95	VT 8000	DBK129	£1.10	SLC 6	VID7519	£1.65	VT 8500	DBK144	£0.68	SLC 7	DBK100	£1.95	VT 9300	DBK129	£1.10	SLC 9	DBK130	£2.00	VT 9500	DBK129	£1.10	SLJ 7	DBK100	£1.95				SLT 7 ME	DBK100	£1.95				SLT 7 MER	DBK100	£1.95	VTC 5000/5150	VID7807	£1.19	V 55/57	VID7543	£1.95	VTC 6000	VID7807	£1.19	V 66/67	VID7540	£1.95	VTC 5300	DBK105	£1.15	V 75/40	DBK123	£1.79	VTC 5400	DBK105	£1.15	V 8600	DBK124	£1.24	VTC 5500	DBK106	£1.15	V 9800	VID7810	£1.95	VTC 6500	VID7533	£1.00	V 5250	DBK148	£2.66	VTC 9300	DBK104	£3.12	V 5280	DBK148	£2.66	VTC 9350	DBK145	£1.70	V 5475	DBK122	£1.50	VTC M10/11/20	VID7809	£0.61				VTC M21/30/31	VID7809	£0.61				VTC M50	VID7809	£0.61				<p>DRIVE BELTS</p>
VP 77	DBK135	£0.86	HR 2200	DBK137	£0.68																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VP 68	DBK135	£0.86	HR 3300	DBK107	£5.25																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VP 7100	DBK103	£1.42	HR 3330	DBK126	£1.65																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VS 1	DBK134	£1.76	HR 3360	DBK103	£1.42																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VS 2 EG	DBK101	£1.50	HR 3600	DBK107	£5.25																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VS 3	DBK134	£1.76	HR 3660	DBK103	£1.42																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VS 4	DBK101	£1.50	HR 4100	DBK127	£2.50																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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3292	DBK103	£1.42	NV 300	DBK154	£2.20																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 01/16	DBK103	£1.42	NV 330	DBK110	£2.20																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 22	DBK103	£1.42	NV 332 333	VID7521	£2.10																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 23	DBK108	£0.85	NV 336	VID7521	£2.10																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 24	DBK137	£0.68	NV 450	DBK133	£1.50																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 31/32	VID7806	£1.40	NV 777	DBK131	£1.28																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 35/36	DBK150	£1.25	NV 2000	DBK109	£1.57																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 38/39	DBK150	£1.25	NV 3000	DBK113	£1.42																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 42/43/44	VID7540	£1.95	NV 7000	DBK111	£1.15																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 45/48/54	VID7540	£1.95	NV 7200	DBK140	£1.96																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
3 V 55/57	VID7540	£1.95	NV 8600	DBK112	£1.76																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VBS 7000	DBK146	£2.66	VC 381/383	DBK116	£2.15																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VBS 7600	DBK105	£1.15	VC 385/386	DBK116	£2.15																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VBS 7000	DBK105	£1.15	VC 2300	VID7545	£0.99																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VBS 9000	DBK10	£1.76	VC 6000/6300	DBK117	£1.40																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
FVHP 420	VID7532	£1.99	VC 6500	DBK117	£1.40																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
V 4000 H	DBK129	£1.10	VC 7300	DBK118	£1.50																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
V 4001 H	DBK129	£1.10	VC 8300	DBK119	£2.10																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
V 4002 H	DBK129	£1.10	VC 9300/9500	DBK120	£1.20																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
V 4100 H	DBK128	£1.95	VC 9700	DBK121	£2.65																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 11-VT 88	DBK128	£1.95	SL 8000	DBK115	£2.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 3000	DBK103	£1.42	SL 8080	DBK115	£2.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 5000	DBK125	£1.46	SL 8500	DBK115	£2.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 6500	DBK142	£0.77	SL 8600	DBK115	£2.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 7000	DBK143	£0.68	SLC 5	DBK100	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 8000	DBK129	£1.10	SLC 6	VID7519	£1.65																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 8500	DBK144	£0.68	SLC 7	DBK100	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 9300	DBK129	£1.10	SLC 9	DBK130	£2.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VT 9500	DBK129	£1.10	SLJ 7	DBK100	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
			SLT 7 ME	DBK100	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
			SLT 7 MER	DBK100	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VTC 5000/5150	VID7807	£1.19	V 55/57	VID7543	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VTC 6000	VID7807	£1.19	V 66/67	VID7540	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VTC 5300	DBK105	£1.15	V 75/40	DBK123	£1.79																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VTC 5400	DBK105	£1.15	V 8600	DBK124	£1.24																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
VTC 5500	DBK106	£1.15	V 9800	VID7810	£1.95																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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VTC 9350	DBK145	£1.70	V 5475	DBK122	£1.50																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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VCR Clinic

Reports from Eugene Trundle, Steve Cannon, Ed Rowland, Hafidh Mahmood, Andy Worrall, Ray Crockett, Nick Beer and Mick Dutton

Mitsubishi HS400

The job card said "keeps pausing". Sure enough a soak test showed that the tape stopped moving for a second or so at rare intervals. It would sometimes stop long enough for the system control to shut down the deck. With the top cover of the capstan motor removed it took us some time to establish that the motor itself stopped when the fault occurred. The culprit was the STK6962 motor drive chip IC5A4. It's similar in shape and size to the motor-drive chips that gave a lot of trouble in earlier models. E.T.

Hitachi VT9500

This is a veteran machine. The unusual symptom was complete failure – no clock display, no indication lights and no functions. Mains current was flowing into it however, and the several rectifiers were doing their stuff. The system control/regulator panel along the back of the machine is no fun to deal with physically. We found that the trouble was due to one of the 10V dropper diodes here – D904 was open-circuit. E.T.

Toshiba V93

This machine's owner, or rather her two small children of two and four, were very upset. It had chewed a couple of their tapes. The reason for this was obvious when the fault developed: the take-up reel stopped but the capstan continued to run, thus making a right mess of Noddy and Big Ears. As we've had problems with it on earlier models suspicion fell on the reel motor. Sure enough if it was given a sharp knock with the handle of a screwdriver it stopped. A replacement put matters right, but unfortunately Rod, Jane and Freddie were no more. S.C.

Hitachi VT35

No clock display with the machine otherwise working correctly is a fault we've had on a number of occasions with this model. The cause is a defective d.c.-to-d.c. converter chip, IC711, which burns out L701. Hitachi supply a new d.c.-to-d.c. converter and a modification kit that includes L701. Its part number is 7026181. S.C.

Hitachi VT130

The problem with this machine was no tape transport. Suspicion fell on the A5V supply to the syscon section of the circuitry. Sure enough it was missing. We traced the circuit back to the 9V circuit protector which was open-circuit. Before fitting a new one a resistance check was made between the 9V line and the deck. The reading was only a few ohms. Further checks showed that there was a short-circuit inside the A5V regulator IC802 on the VST board. Replacing this restored normal operation. S.C.

Hitachi VT520

This quite new machine had an unusual fault: the playback picture was very poor and was rolling while the sound was low and very muffled. With a fault like this the audio/control head is the first thing that springs to mind, but in fact the symptoms were caused by insufficient back tension. A check on the back-tension post showed that it

was about half an inch away from the tape. The reason for this was not at all obvious. Nothing was jamming it. The mechanism that controls the arm looked o.k., but it didn't move the arm far enough. Curiously, if the loading motor was given a few more turns the mechanism and back-tension post moved to their correct positions and normal operation was obtained. Of course when the machine was stopped and play was again selected the fault was back.

We made a note of the number at which the arrow on the mode switch pointed. In play or record it should normally be 6, but the arrow pointed to 5. This is the position for reverse play, in which no back tension is needed. A new mode switch from Hitachi, part no. 5610702, cured the problem. S.C.

Ferguson FV30

This machine went into the stop mode after a few seconds of play, record, rewind, etc. The fault was very nearly the same as the one with the GoldStar machine featured in Test Case 335. We followed the same test procedure, but rather than gunged up reflectors the fault in this machine was caused by the supply spool optosensor. S.C.

Hinari VXL6

There was no drum rotation though all the other functions were in order. Voltage checks in the power supply disclosed that the P-on 5V rail was low at 2.8V. The culprit turned out to be Q504, though the device read o.k. when checked on a transistor tester. As we didn't have a direct replacement we fitted a TIP42C. This restored normal operation. E.R.

Panasonic NV2000

This repair served as a reminder of the usefulness of the servicing articles in this magazine. The symptoms were no E-E signals with the channel LEDs out. As we hadn't had this problem before we referred to Nick Beer's article on the machine in the January 1990 issue. This enabled us to go straight to Q1006 which was open-circuit base-to-emitter. Thanks Nick. E.R.

Panasonic G Series

Intermittently going to stop during play and sometimes not winding the tape back into the cassette is due to dry-joints on the AN3821K DD capstan drive chip. Make a point of resoldering this i.c. whenever any VCR that uses it comes in for repair. It will save you a call-back. H.M.

Panasonic NV7000

The picture was intermittently smeary – as if it was out of focus. Flexing or patting the bottom PCB, one half of which carries the chrominance and luminance circuitry, would instigate the fault. Sometimes the machine would behave itself for a day or two, then we were back to square one. The problem was that there was no time to scope any signals when the fault appeared. So I went on tapping the board until I came to the luminance playback level preset which seemed to be the cause of the fault. After changing it

I gave the machine a soak test then returned it to its owner. Five days later it was back with the same fault. To cut a long story short I eventually found that filter FL3002 had a dry-joint at one end. H.M.

Panasonic NV7000

Sound was o.k. but there was no picture. In fact there was a blank white raster on playback. As the E-E picture and sound were o.k. we suspected either a blanking or recording fault. It turned out that the record-on switch transistor Q3013 was short-circuit, a replacement restoring the picture. H.M.

Panasonic NV340

Apart from the clock display nothing worked. The power supply rails were all as specified however. When the machine was plugged in the capstan motor rotated slowly and wouldn't stop until the machine was disconnected. Now when VTR is pressed pin 8 of the MN1405VKF syscon chip should go low. It didn't change state. Replacing this chip restored all functions. H.M.

Panasonic NV8600

Playback produced a blank white raster with normal sound. There was no E-E picture and we couldn't get the test signal. I suspected the r.f. converter but as we didn't have one to hand I decided to start fault finding. The first step was to check the supply to the r.f. converter. It was correct at 9V. Next the converter's video input was checked. The manual says there should be a 1V p-p signal here but there was a 10V d.c. reading. This 10V was traced to the buffer transistor Q313 which was short-circuit all ways. A replacement put matters right. H.M.

Panasonic NV7000

For snowy playback pictures, as if the heads are worn out, check the continuity of the rotary transformer's windings before changing the drum. I've had three machines with this fault and in each case one winding was found to be open-circuit. H.M.

Panasonic NV-G12/G21 Series

We've had several cases of a broken safety tab switch with these machines. The symptom is that the cassette is ejected when record is selected. H.M.

Panasonic NV250/NV450

In cases of intermittently going to stop during playback then rewinding, in fact with all sorts of confusing conditions, check for a leaky supply phototransistor. There should be 3.2V at pins 20 and 21 of the syscon chip IC6001. If not change both sensors. H.M.

Panasonic NV-M7

The complaint with this camcorder was that it wouldn't eject. It came from a teaching hospital and we were asked to carry out a "general service". So we replaced worn belts, the pinch roller and idler, and the main loading pulley. The latter had caused a lot of knocking while the threading operation was being carried out – like what you get with the NV730. But we never saw the eject fault! The

very dry grease was replaced with some nice new Moritone and we then powered the unit (still disassembled). There were no deck functions. I've had this before but it took me a few minutes to remember the cause. If the earthing lead from the top bolt hole of the battery compartment is undone you won't get anything. This lead earths the main PCB to the deck. Another reminder to stick above the bench! N.B.

Toshiba V55

E-E operation was o.k. but this machine wouldn't load a cassette. My first check was on the power supply outputs, which were all o.k. A scope check was then made on the inputs to the microcomputer chip. It was receiving instructions but was it carrying them out? I scoped the outputs but these didn't make much sense. Try a different approach: maybe no power is going to the motors? Three changeover switch chips feed 13V to the motors. Check and find that there's nothing at IC204/5 because circuit protector CP1 is open-circuit. As there were no shorts I replaced CP1. At switch on 13V appeared at the switches.

A cassette could now be inserted and the drum and capstan motors rotated, but there was no lace up. Feel each switch chip and find that one is too hot. Is it faulty? Switch off and remove the chip to check it. Checks not conclusive. Decide to try feeding each switch output with 10V from an external power supply – with the VCR switched off of course. Find that all the motors except the mode one run. Remove leads from mode motor and connect to power supply. Motor still doesn't run even with the drive belt removed. Replace motor and i.c. switches and find that all is now well. R.C.

Hitachi VT33

The complaint was that tapes remained looped in the machine on eject. Whilst removing the covers I noticed a label on the base plate saying that another company had repaired the machine some months earlier. Considering this fact I was amazed at the amount of dust inside it. On running the machine with an old "test" tape I found that there was no fast forward or rewind action because the rubber drive wheels and the clutch assembly had all been coated with a layer of oil, which appeared to be due to over-generous application to bearings during the previous service. This meant a complete mechanical strip down, clean and rebuild, something that could have been avoided if the previous "service engineer" had been more careful in cleaning the machine properly and had not been so generous with the oil. A.W.

Sony SLC6

This machine suffered from lack of capstan servo lock, the problem being worse in play than record. The cause was C7 (0.22 μ F). Sony say that this is a common problem and in addition recommend changing C8 which is also 0.22 μ F. M.D.

Sharp VC7300

The playback picture showed increasing interference as the machine warmed up – the effect was similar to that produced by an arcing tripler in a colour TV set. The E-E picture was normal and the sound was not affected. We found that the problem was caused by the HA11703 chip 1403 in which the playback f.m. signal is detected. M.D.

Long-distance Television

Roger Bunney

Reception during November was very varied. Perhaps the only thing we missed was a good Leonids meteor shower. Band I was fairly active, with both F2 and Sporadic E reception. There was a sprinkling of tropospheric signals, with a dramatic day on the 8th.

Tropospheric reception started to improve early in the month, the 6-7th providing West German, Benelux and French signals over much of the UK. The 8th was something quite different however. Really intense signals were seen on this day and, to a lesser extent, on the 9th. It looks as though records have been broken. A list of the countries received tells all: Sweden Band III/u.h.f.; Norway Band III/u.h.f.; Finland chs. E7 and 9 (Turku YLE-2); USSR chs. R7, 12, 29; Poland chs. R8, 35; Czechoslovakia chs. R10, 24, 36; countless French and Benelux stations; Denmark; and German broadcasters ARD/ZDF, RBI, NDR, HR, West 3, SFB, SWF, SAT 1, SSSVC and DFF1/2. Our congratulations in particular to Simon Hamer on his Russian Band III/u.h.f. and Finnish Band III reception – Russian Band III/u.h.f. stations had previously been seen in Norfolk but not as far west as North Wales. On the 9th reception widened to include Austria – both ORF outlets, chs. E8 and E34, were seen – plus Switzerland chs. E6, 7, 12, 31 and 34. The next tropospheric opening occurred on the 14th, when Roger Fussell in Cornwall received the following Spanish channels: E2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 31, 34, 35, 37, 39, 42, 45 and 49!

The general SpE log was as follows:

5/11/90 RAI (Italy) ch. 1A; TVE (Spain) chs. E2, 3.
6/11/90 TVE E2.
7/11/90 TVE E3.
9/11/90 +PTT (Switzerland) E2.
11/11/90 RAI 1A; TVE E2, 3; MTV (Hungary) R1.
12/11/90 TSS (USSR) R1; CST (Czechoslovakia) R1; RAI 1A, B; RUV (Iceland) E4.
16/11/90 TVE E2, 3, 4; +PTT E2; DR (Denmark) E3.
18/11/90 TVE E2, 3; DR E3.
19/11/90 TVE E2, 3, 4.
20/11/90 +PTT E2.
23/11/90 CST R1; TVE E3.
24/11/90 +PTT E2.
27/11/90 TVE E2, 3; +PTT E3.

With the high sunspot activity F2 signals were also present at times:

4/11/90 Weak R1/E2 vision received.
5/11/90 USSR R1; unidentified E2 signal.
9/11/90 Chinese programming on ch. C1; unidentified E2 programming at 0800.
11/11/90 Unidentified E2 colour bars at 0750; Arabic E2 programming; USSR/China ch. R1/C1; Australia ch. 0, very strong but with severe fading, at 09.30; unidentified A2 transmission (525 lines) at 1400. The m.u.f. reached 55MHz, with a weak ch. E3 signal being seen by Roger Fussell.
13-15th Unidentified signals received on chs. E2/R1/C1 during the morning. ZTV (Zimbabwe) ch. E2 seen at 1200 on the 14th.
19/11/90 Ch. E2/R1/C1 signals plus ZTV E2 at 1230 GMT.

Bill Cotterill (Tipton) tells us that he's built a specialised TV-DX receiver based on a Rediffusion translator. It has switched selectivity modules with different i.f. bandwidths, enabling very weak signals to be resolved. We hope that Bill will provide an article on this receiver, which cost little to build and has far better performance than the average DX-TV installation.

My thanks to the following for sending in reception reports: Peter Schubert (Rainham), Simon Hamer (Powys), David Glenday (Arbroath), David Oliver (Birmingham), Tim Anderson (St. Leonards) and Roger Fussell (Torpoint).

News Items

Germany: Unification is bringing with it many changes in the broadcasting field. The DFF-1/2 networks are being merged into a single service called OST 3, carried on all former DFF-2 transmitters. This will operate until the end of 1991 then cease. All transmitters that formerly carried DFF-1 now carry ARD programming with regional opt-outs. ZDF is expanding eastwards with new transmitters – Lobau E56, Cottbus E57 and Dresden E59 are already in operation, with PAL colour. Five regional centres for the ARD service are being established at Rostock, Berlin, Dresden, Halle and Gera. In the west ARD/ZDF now start on weekdays at 0600 local time with a programme made by RIAS-TV, Berlin – the RIAS logo is often seen during the early mornings with its network offerings. Incidentally the postal prefixes have changed – W instead of D in the west with O replacing DDR in the east. The SAT 1 group has moved to a new broadcasting centre at Mainz and now uses a FUBK pattern with identification SAT 1 MAINZ.

Yugoslavia: The Zagreb station OTV now broadcasts on chs. E31 (West Zagreb/central Slovenia) and E45 (East Zagreb/Sisak/central Croatia). Programme hours are 1700-0100 daily. The transmitter network is to be expanded to cover the rest of Croatia.

France: Now that pirate Discret-II decoders are commonly available Canal Plus has decided to change to the new Syster scrambling system from Eurodec. There have been delays with Operation Chadec (decoder change) due to manufacturing problems – a shortage of ITT chips. The new scrambling system was originally to have been introduced this January. It will apply initially to terrestrial transmissions.

Romania: The new independent AI-TV station in Bucharest is now testing on a 24-hour basis.

Spain: George Gaskin (Gibraltar) reports that most large Spanish towns now have a local, independent TV service. He's noted a new transmitter at Malaga and from his home can receive Spanish Canal Plus on ch. E39, Tele-5 on ch. E42 and Ant-3 on ch. E45 from the Mijas region.

Monte Carlo: TMC, which is now forty per cent owned by the Italian chemical/agricultural firm Ferruzzi, is to expand to provide three services aimed at Italy and other nearby countries.

Greece: The situation is becoming like that in Italy, with some towns having up to ten terrestrial and eight satellite TV channels available. The government has yet to decide who should be given official licences.

USSR: Several independent stations are now in operation. Locations include Vladivostok and Chita. The Union of Organisations of Cable and on-air TV of the USSR has been set up with the aim of increasing local independent broadcasting.

Thailand: A teletext service called Armtex has been

introduced in the Bangkok region. It's based on an Australian system.

Australia: Robert Copeman reports that a second estate agent in Melbourne is now using "talking house" transmissions (see page 196 last month), this time at 100MHz. It's likely that the system will spread to other cities. Incidentally the McDonalds drive-in at Burwood, Victoria transmits food orders at 35.02MHz. Now if conditions get that good . . .

Meteor Showers 1991

The main 1991 meteor shower dates are listed below. Our thanks to George Spalding, Meteor Section, the British Astronomical Association, for once again providing the details.

Lyrids April 19-25th peaking on the 22nd at 1400.

May Aquarids May 1-10th peaking on the 5th.

Delta Aquarids July 15th-August 20th peaking on July 19th.

Perseids July 15th-August 20th peaking on August 13th at 0400.

Orionids October 16-27th peaking on the 22nd.

Taurids October 20th-November 30th peaking on November 4th.

Leonids November 15-20th peaking on the 17th.

Geminids December 7-16th peaking on the 14th at 0900.

Ursids December 17-25th peaking on the 23rd.

Satellite TV News

The Japanese BS-3A DBS satellite is now fully operational, allowing three channels (two NHK plus a commercial one operated by Japan Satellite Broadcasting) to be received using 45cm dishes. A backup satellite is due to be launched later this year. There have been rumours of Japanese interest in the Marco Polo satellites.

Middle East Broadcasting is due to start programme transmissions in February via Eutelsat II F1 at 13°E, at 11.55GHz.

Israel intends to launch its Amos satellite, for TV and communications use, late next year. The satellite system has been developed by the Israelis. Launch will be via an Arianspace vehicle. If the satellite is successful it will be marketed internationally.

Germany is refusing to promote D2-MAC from TV-Sat 2 at 19°W. With this and the problem of the ailing TDF craft (faulty TWT amplifiers and no backups) it seems that D2-MAC will be hard pushed to survive. Most German services are moving to the Astra slot at 19°E, since this provides cheap and easy coverage of the area, and are opting for straight PAL.

BBC-TV Europe is to be relaunched in September with a new scrambling system, Eurocrypt D2-MAC, instead of the easy to pirate SAVE system at present used. The Bravo Channel via Intelsat 27.5°W has been carrying out SAVE tests, so maybe the system will survive.

Book Review

Bernard Babani has published a new book on amateur radio satellite reception. It covers the basic theory of satellites and orbiting, amateur radio activity in the satellite field such as the UOSAT series, plus weather satellite reception and how the domestic operator can construct and assemble an efficient receiving system, doing all this in a straightforward way with the absolute minimum of mathematics. In the case of the NOAA and METEOSAT weather craft it describes the display of received images of the Earth's surface on a domestic TV set using easily obtainable units and either a frame store or a home

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computer such as the BBC one. This very readable book costs just £3.95 and is thoroughly recommended. Most of the satellites covered in the book are in inclined rather than synchronous orbit, which requires different aerial arrangements. The 100-page book can be obtained from bookshops, Maplins or direct from Bernard Babani (Publishing) Ltd., The Grampians, Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NF – add 40p to cover postage. Its full title is *An Introduction to Amateur Communications Satellites* by A. Pickard, Babani catalogue number BP290.

The Galaxy 25 Colour Receiver

Aerial Techniques is at present marketing the Nordmende Galaxy 25, a 10in. multistandard set with full v.h.f./u.h.f. coverage. Features include full-function remote control and 39 programme storage tuning. It can be operated from a 220-230V a.c. or 10-30V d.c. supply. There are headphone and external loudspeaker sockets while baseband audio/video in/out facilities are provided by a scart connector.

I've had one of these sets on test recently and found that the picture and sound are excellent, with truly impressive weak signal performance. The tuner covers Band I then upwards to 300MHz without a break and after that the u.h.f. bands. Thus coverage includes the OIRT and Italian Band II channels and all the cable channels. PAL or SECAM can be selected by push-button, with sound at 5.5, 6 or 6.5MHz, i.e. systems B/G/I/L. Though the OIRT R channels can be received the 6.5MHz facility is for French a.m. sound only, so with these channels you get the picture but no sound. The North American system (525 lines NTSC) is not catered for. All of Western Europe, most of the Middle East, Australasia and many parts of

Africa are included in the coverage. Two large LED digit displays tell the user what's happening while tuning, setting up or viewing.

There are two aerials, an integral seven-section whip that extends from 6½in. when closed to 33in., and a bowtie u.h.f. aerial with a short connecting feeder to clip to the telescopic whip etc. There's a Belling-Lee type socket for other TV aerials.

I found that the remote control and tuning were very difficult to operate at first. You need a careful read through the instructions, then perhaps a second and third read. By then the basics of setting up the beast should become apparent. Once the setting up and memorising functions have been mastered the set is relatively easy to operate. You can set up the receiver for all the Band I/II SpE channels and simply skip along them during an opening. This direct channel access is a real boon.

In conclusion it's a well-built, quality receiver that covers most of the transmission standards you are likely to need in Western Europe, the Middle East, etc. It's attractive to look at but at over 20lb would be difficult to carry over

long distances. A leaflet on the set can be obtained from Aerial Techniques – for address see nearby advertisement.

Test Card Videos

Andrew Emmerson (71 Falcutt Way, Northampton NN2 8PH) is able to supply two VHS video tapes that cover various aspects of test cards/patterns. Highly recommended for those interested in the early days of 405 lines to the present day is *The Development of the TV Test Card* in which George Hersee discusses the evolution of test cards from the Alexandra Palace days to Test Card F. Lots of cards are shown. This E180 costs £5 in the UK.

TV Test Cards of Eastern Europe is a remarkable offering which will be compulsive viewing for all TV-DXers and satellite TV enthusiasts. In addition to Eastern European cards there are items from Mongolia, Libya etc. The tape runs for nearly fifty minutes and was recorded in an Eastern European TV studio using professional broadcasting equipment. At £10 (UK) this is a bargain.

These tapes can be ordered from Andrew Emmerson at the address above – no callers please.

CD Player Casebook

*Reports from Mike Leach,
Philip Blundell, AMIEE and
Joe Cieszynski*

NordMende CP3000

This player wouldn't read the TOC – our customer complained that it made a strange noise. On removing the top cover we saw that the disc didn't spin. Basically, as the tray didn't load fully the microcomputer chip wouldn't tell the player to go.

With a fault like this the usual procedure is to replace the loading belt and clean the tray loaded/unloaded switch – you usually find it on the mechanism somewhere under the tray. Not on this one however. In fact there's no switch. The microcomputer chip simply relies on the loading motor coming to a stop when the tray is fully loaded. It then tells the laser to come on and the disc motor to spin. It's possible to initiate this procedure by hand. When we did this we found that due to a faulty loading belt the loading motor continued to spin with the tray in. When the motor was stopped with a finger the machine switched the laser on and read and TOC. After replacing the loading belt and the motor I got the necessary jolt as the tray fully loaded. The machine then worked perfectly. **M.L.**

Philips CD373

The headphone output was o.k. but when the output was fed into an audio amplifier there was distorted sound. This was due to a burn up on the audio board. The culprits were R3126 (33Ω) and its associated smoothing capacitor C2106 (100μF). **M.L.**

Pioneer PDM500

This multi-play machine suffered from the now all too common Pioneer problems. First, it wouldn't read the TOC because of a faulty turntable motor. When this item had been replaced and the machine had been reassembled I found that it was very slow at finding tracks. It would also occasionally jump across large sections of the disc.

I put the machine in the test mode to start going through the setting-up procedure. When these machines are in the test mode it's possible to move the laser assembly across the disc quickly by pressing the manual search forward and reverse buttons. The action was very slow with this

machine however. This was because I hadn't cleaned and lubricated the worm gear when I'd fitted the new turntable motor. The problem has been mentioned before in these pages – Nick Beer wrote about difficulty with dirty worm gears in Technics machines. Always clean them: it could save you the price of a laser. **M.L.**

Mission PCM4000

The problem with this machine was crossover distortion in the right-hand channel sound. The output from the DAC is too small to see easily with a scope but as the manufacturer has brought the DAC outputs out to links it's a simple matter to swap them over in order to check whether the analogue section is o.k. It was. A new TDA1541 DAC chip put matters right. **P.B.**

Sanyo CP08

The complaint was of intermittent cutting out whilst playing. When I tried the player it seemed to be very sensitive to the slightest disturbance. Tapping the player would result in the servos going out of lock and the CPU would then initiate the stop mode. It seemed likely that there was a dry-joint somewhere. So I removed the main panel, using jump leads to maintain the earthing. The player now behaved impeccably. Suspecting that I'd disturbed something I resoldered any joint that looked dry.

After extensive board tapping and flexing I reassembled the player only to find that the fault was back again. This routine continued for some time until, by sheer good fortune, a jump lead fell off while I was flexing the board. The fault then showed up instantly. How could I have missed it? The main panel has a number of earth connections, one of which is made via the fixing screw at the rear, right-hand corner. Contact is made via a pad of solder which in this case had become tarnished. I should have been warned – I'd had a very similar tussle with a Toshiba colour TV set a few years ago. After remaking the solder pad I fitted a grip washer between the pad and the chassis to make sure that the fault didn't recur. **J.C.**

Letters

COST OF SPARES

The practice of badge engineering is widespread in our industry, especially with higher-technology video products. But I was surprised to find that a new range of Sony VHS VCRs uses the Panasonic G mechanism. Not only this, but the mechanism is obviously purchased from Grundig who also use it. I discovered this when a new SLV270, the basic machine, came back with the complaint of excessive noise. I tried it and thought to myself that if it was a G mechanism the noise level would be normal. On removing the lid I was somewhat taken aback to discover that it *was* a G mechanism!

The problem was the centre pulley unit of course. But as the machine was under guarantee we had to purchase the part from Sony in order to be able to claim its cost. This was unfortunate as we keep several Panasonic pulleys in stock. We ordered the part (G98726503) from Sony. It came a few days later packed in a Grundig "Genuine Spares" box. On undoing this we found the pulley and belt in a Panasonic box and bag complete with the Panasonic part numbers. The Grundig part no. 75987-265.03 and the Sony number have common elements as you can see. The same cannot be said of the prices. As Panaservice dealers we get preferential spares prices, say £5 in this case. Willow Vale will supply the Grundig part for £6. You will therefore appreciate our amazement at the price Sony charged us as one of their dealers – £18.03. We obtained the part from Sony only for guarantee reasons, and we shall be reimbursed, but this does highlight one or two worrying points. First, is Sony being charged ridiculous amounts by its suppliers? Secondly, dealers unaware of this situation could be ordering spares from Sony and in some cases doubling the cost of a repair.

Sony is not the only manufacturer cursed with high spares costs for badge engineered products. Another good example is NCS (Salora/Luxor). A capstan motor for a badge engineered Sanyo machine costs £70 to a Salora dealer. From Charles Hyde the same motor can be obtained for £38 under the Sanyo part number. NCS's explanation is that its UK arm cannot source spares from anywhere except its parent company in Finland. The Finnish company obtains the spares from Sanyo in Japan. It can be seen therefore that the massive transportation costs and successive handling mark-ups result in a very high price. The answer would appear to be to allow common sense to prevail and let UK spares departments obtain parts from UK sources.

There are ways of overcoming this problem. Bang and Olufsen, who use Philips and Hitachi products, had a number of astounding price differences. Their service manager Bob Clementson adopted a positive approach to dealers' complaints and findings. As a result of a combined effort, with dealers compiling information and B and O following it up, the anomalies no longer exist. In fact certain Philips VCR parts that previously cost almost twice the price of those supplied by Willow Vale are now marginally cheaper!

One problem is that when as a dealer you approach a manufacturer about this sort of problem you rarely get an admission that the products are badge engineered however obvious it is.

It would be interesting to know whether all Sony's Panasonic mechanism parts are as expensive, also whether

the situation is not as simple as I make it out to be. I must make it clear that I'm not singling out Sony, but the example quoted above does at best seem ridiculous.

*Nick Beer,
Bideford, Devon.*

FUSEHOLDER FAULTS

On a number of occasions over the past few years I've found that many of the infuriating intermittent faults now so common are caused by one simple item – the set's mains fuseholder. I was prompted to write about this by a friend's sorry experience with a Philips G11 chassis. The set concerned had a history of short-circuit BU208A line output transistors. My friend had attended to the usual causes – the reservoir capacitor in the power supply, the line output transformer, dry-joints, etc. In desperation he finally brought the set to me. On inspection I found that the left-hand mains fuseholder was very loose and charred – this should have been noticed during the many mains fuse replacements. After replacing the fuseholder and fitting another B208A the set has worked happily for over a year.

I've had the same problem with the GEC C2110 series, the Decca 80 and 100 chassis and the Ferguson TX9, TX10, 9000 and 9600 chassis. Often the only fault you get is soft blowing of the fuse. Incidentally, in sets with two mains fuses it's usually the one in the neutral line that blows. Remember the great plugtop debate? Perhaps other engineers would care to comment on this.

*K.W. Saxon,
St. Helens, Merseyside.*

LNB FREQUENCY RESPONSE

In his article on our LNB repair service last month Steve Beeching asked whether an LNB with a 5dB dip in its frequency response would be regarded as faulty. The answer is yes, it would.

*J.A. Glenton, Director,
MCES, Manchester.*

OH DEAR

As an avid *Television* reader I usually start by reading all the words, then the spaces between the words and then do it all over again to see if I've missed anything. After all it comes out only once a month.

So it was with some surprise that I read the item in Teletopics under the heading "Video News", or it should have been "The Blind Leading the Blind"? Have Akai really designed a VCR with help from the Royal Institute for the Blind? And is there any truth in the rumour that they are considering designing a Nicam adaptor for it with help from the RNID?

Sorry about that. But in these hard times it helps to have a sense of humour.

*John Hopkins, The TV Workshop,
Felixstow, Suffolk.*

Editorial note: Our apologies to all for this mistake.

MICROWAVE OVEN SERVICING

We would like to endorse the comments made by Brian Francis in his letter (January). It's vitally important that any engineer taking on microwave oven servicing and repair is adequately trained.

The lack of money that's been put into training in the UK over the past twenty or so years is one of the main reasons for the acute shortage of competent technical people. According to the latest figures available, only 25 per cent of young people in the UK enter further or higher education. This compares with about 75 per cent in Germany (the bit previously known as West Germany) while Korea is aiming for 85 per cent by the year 2000. Lack of trained staff contributes to factory closures and the consequent high level of unemployment.

Many employers maintain that if they spend money on training, their staff leave for better paid jobs as soon as they are trained. This raised two questions. First, are wage levels too low? Secondly, if everyone received training there would be people who could be taken on to replace those leaving for higher pay.

Microwave oven servicing and repair involve health and safety, so it's vital that correct training is provided. This should not however be a problem that deters TV engineers from entering this field. We know of an excellent series of training courses that are both inexpensive and effective. If any reader thinking of taking on microwave servicing likes to contact us we would be pleased to pass on details. It's a fact that more and more TV engineers are taking on microwave ovens. They have a head start because of their experience of electronics, and will find the information in the courses easy to assimilate. In addition our Technical Department is able to offer help and information for new entrants. In these difficult times many of us will have to diversify to survive. So think positively TV engineers: you can do it!

*Peter Vile, AMITD, Sales Manager,
Express Components Ltd., 2 Holyoake Street,
Wellington, Somerset.
Telephone 0823 667525.*

EXPLANATION WANTED

To return briefly to the subject of static shocks from TV sets, a really nasty shock can occur when a set has been switched off (perhaps at a wall socket) while the handler's chest (not necessarily naked!) is held against the c.r.t. glass. The discharge that will occur if a supply pin on the mains plug is then touched could certainly result in the set being dropped. Could someone explain the theory?

*Sandy Hewat,
Troom, Ayrshire.*

VIDEO AMPLIFIERS

I would like to make a few comments in connection with C.W. Murray's satellite TV video amplifier/filter article last month. First, it's perfectly true that video amplifiers can be difficult to lay out, and that an integrated approach is attractive. But the NE592 circuit suggested requires amendment. The NE592's input pins are 2 and 14 and both must be biased positively with respect to the substrate (pin 5). This can be achieved by using a bias network between ground and the positive supply, but since the total resistance to ground in the suggested circuit is only a few hundred ohms this would call for a similar value resistor to the supply. As a result, appreciable current would flow. An alternative approach is to use split supplies - in fact the manufacturer of the device recommends this. A $\pm 6V$ supply is suggested as the maximum rating is $\pm 8V$.

Although the NE592 or the similar $\mu A733$ is a convenient chip it has its own share of stability problems and good decoupling is essential. Since TV signals are

broadband the decoupling should be suitable for low and high frequencies. In this respect tantalum electrolytics are probably the best choice. The NE592 also suffers from the problem of limited output current capability, and it cannot drive 75Ω loads. If the latter is required, an output buffer stage will be necessary. Another problem is severe distortion at high signal levels. Some time ago I attempted to use the device as a video amplifier in a broadband modem I was designing, but I had to reject it because of poor transient response at high signal levels. This shows up in line-time non-linearity testing, and also as poor differential gain with high signal levels. For these reasons most high-quality commercial equipment still uses discrete component circuitry.

For anyone interested in experimenting with new devices the products of the American company Maxim are well worth investigating. There are video switches and multiplexers which can make excellent video distribution units, also a useful range of high-signal video amplifiers. For example the MAX450 can deliver at least 2V p-p into 75Ω with a useful gain up to 10MHz.

*M. Priestley,
Tranent, East Lothian.*

HELP WANTED

Could anyone provide or suggest a source for a service manual or circuit diagram for the Telequipment D43 oscilloscope? As this model was discontinued over twenty years ago Tektronix cannot help.

*P. Cogan, Leacht Cross,
Carrigaline, Co. Cork, Eire.*

Can anyone supply alignment details for a National NVS120A cartridge recorder and help with cartridges for it? All expenses would be met.

*Vincent O'Loan, 3-3, 158 Allison Street,
Glasgow G42 8RP.
Telephone 041 423 3896.*

Can anyone supply or tell me where I can obtain a high-voltage transformer for a Tektronix 453 oscilloscope?

*J.D. Electrical, 23 Elmdale Road,
Earl Shilton, Leicester.
Telephone 0455 845 186.*

Can anyone supply a circuit diagram and/or operating handbook for an AVE Pro convar slide dissolve unit used with slide projectors for audio-visual presentations? Mk 5 unit if possible, but any information welcome. All costs paid and information returned after photocopying.

*Ed Dinning, 55 Bryans Leap, Burnopfield,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE16 6BP.
Telephone 0207 70122.*

JOBS AND EXPERIENCE

With reference to Paul Byrne's letter (December), I fully agree with everything he says. Being 45 myself I've now reached the stage where I give up when I see an application form that asks one's age on the first page. You know you have no chance.

I was made redundant last August after spending 17 years teaching radio/TV servicing. All this publicity about training and what is being done about the unemployed puzzles me. I was a trainer and I'm on the dole. Most of this so-called training is so diluted that it's of no significant

use to anyone – except for the spivs and fast-buck people who are now on the training bandwagon.

*Jim Littler, 363 Atherton Road,
Hindley Green, Wigan, Lancs WN2 3XD.*

I've had similar experiences to Paul Byrne (letters, December) at the hands of prospective employers. For some five years I was self-employed, and as far as employers are concerned I might as well have been in jail during this period. It's definitely something they don't seem to like. On application forms I can echo Paul's comments. Often, after sending a detailed, carefully compiled c.v. and covering letter in response to an advertisement, back comes a two-page application form which inevitably, after name, address, qualifications and employment history sections, has a two-line deep space headed "any other attributes which you feel may make you especially suitable for this vacancy".

Interviews can also be an eye-opener. I once attended an interview for a job with a major oil company. The interview was scheduled for 9 a.m. at a five-star hotel not far from the company's H.Q. Imagine my surprise when, expecting to be shown into a suite with perhaps three interviewers present, I was ushered into a large function suite where, along with about a hundred others, I had to sit and do "Psychometric Tests" for three hours. The value of such tests is a controversial subject that's been widely debated elsewhere, but to anyone who has completed an approved course of training and studied long and hard to get a better qualification or grade they are a real slap in the face.

Details of qualifications and grades obtained are very seldom asked for at an interview, and although you may establish a good rapport with any engineering or technical staff who are present you can bet your bottom dollar that the decision on who to appoint will rest solely in the hands of the personnel department whose representative at the interview will, in my experience, be a 22 year old bimbo who wouldn't know a good engineer from a bottle of

Perrier water. As long as the personnel department is happy you'll get the job. It worries me. I bet they choose some real duffers. Perhaps Paul's letter should have been headed "too good at 38".

*Alastair J. Downes, 36 Danderhall Crescent,
Dalkeith, Lothian EH22 1LZ.*

FOR DISPOSAL

I have for disposal to anyone willing to collect the following VCRs: Philips 1500 with suspect head; Philips 1502; and two Philips 1700s. Also about thirty assorted tapes for these machines. Please contact me on 0494 33558 after 6.30 p.m. during the week, 11.00 a.m. at weekends.

*C. Carter, 4 Bushey Close,
High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3HL.*

TUNING TROUBLE

Remember the good old days when dealing with a TV tuning fault consisted of soldering the tuning bar back on? A bit of solder to do the job could always be found. But you try to get a MAB8441PT048 microcontroller chip for a Sanyo TV set! Sanyo say they have it in stock, but non-account holders have to get it from Charles Hyde who say they are waiting for Sanyo and can't give a delivery date. Philips say they can't supply direct as the ROM program is owned by Sanyo. So we have an otherwise perfect three-year old set that's useless!

I notice from letters that there's a lot of interest in the Bush DAC90A. I have one that's free to a good home. It's not working so will require some restoration. I also have free to someone interested in restoring it a small TV set dating from about 1950. Now for my request: does anyone have a circuit diagram for the Amerex ACD800 stereo cassette deck? Please phone 0642 581570 evenings, 0325 332805 daytime.

*W.G. Hall, 67 Selwyn Drive, Bishopsgarth,
Stockton, Cleveland TS19 8XF.*

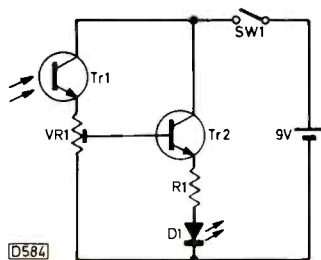
Remote Control Handset Checker

Colin Birch

A complaint that's common enough with TV sets and VCRs is "works o.k. with its own controls but no remote control operation". The problem is to know whether the set or the remote control unit is at fault. If you don't have a compatible unit you can waste time stripping down the customer's handset only to find that it's perfectly all right. Annoying, isn't it? I've had this happen to me on any number of occasions. So I decided that what was required was something cheap and simple to check whether a handset was producing an output. Into the odd bits box I delved, the outcome being the circuit shown in Fig. 1.

The infra-red sensor I used was a spare end-of-tape one

Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the remote control handset checker. Infra-red sensor Tr1 drives emitter-follower Tr2 which in turn drives the LED indicator D1.



from an Hitachi VT65E, though more or less any sensor could be used. The components were assembled on a piece of Veroboard. When soldering has been completed, check for any solder bridges across the tracks then connect the battery. To set up the circuit, switch the unit on and adjust VR1 until the LED goes out. Check the unit's action by aiming a good handset at it then pressing a key. The LED should light. If it doesn't, adjust VR1 slightly.

Although simple the unit has already saved me much valuable time. I only wish I'd built it years ago.

Component details

- Tr1 Infra-red sensor
- Tr2 BC108
- VR1 250kΩ preset
- R1 1kΩ, 1/4W
- D1 Red LED
- SW1 Single-pole, single-throw switch
- Veroboard – 7 holes × 9 strips
- PP3 battery and clip
- Small plastic box

What a Life

Donald Bullock

One of the good things about our old house is that it's roomy enough to have a bar. And a friendly place it becomes as the evening wears on. The other night I was getting comfortable when the phone trilled. Out rang the crisp, authoritative tones of one of my retired military customers. It was unmistakably Major Hagger.

"Hello Donald, old boy. Moving house don'tcha know. To one of those retirement homes where they wetnurse a chap whilst fleecing him! Wife's idea but there you are. Got a pair of youngsters moving in here. Teachers. Think they're intellectual and want the aerials taken down. Frightened of lightning or the programmes? Anyway, see to it will you?"

At that there was a click. So next morning I asked Mario the contractor to attend to the aerial job. He doesn't speak much English, nor does his brother. But they're as nimble as cats and make do with a minimum of ladders. Then I put the first set on the bench.

The Waltham TV600

It was a Waltham TV600 colour portable. The sound was o.k. and there was a rustle of e.h.t., but no raster. I seemed to recollect having had this problem before with a Waltham. So I flicked through my card index, where I keep a record of any noteworthy faults, and pulled out one labelled Waltham TV600. "No brightness, sound o.k." it said. Wow! With quickening pulse I read on. "Turn up A1 voltage (lower line output transformer potentiometer) to reveal field collapse." I did and it did. "Check R122, 3-3Ω, white ceramic case" it continued, "at back left near line output transformer for being open-circuit." Again spot on. In no time the set was off the bench.

An Akai VS240

The next job was an Akai VS240 VCR with remote control. Its symptoms were no results with a display that showed only the letter L. I took the covers off and checked for obvious things but got nowhere. An hour spent carrying out checks in the power supply produced no further progress. I didn't have the manual and was toying with the idea of sending off for one when Ernie called in. He's chief cook and bottle-washer at a nearby guest-house and drops in when he has a bit of spare time. Always takes an interest in what's going on.

He took a look and commented "same as ours. See you've 'locked him up'. We do that. Stops people using it without our say-so."

"I haven't locked it up" I said. "It's faulty and I have to fix it. Only I don't know how."

"Pick up that remote control" said Ernie. "Point it at the recorder and press it six or eight times."

I did as I was told and the L disappeared in favour of

other cyphers. I put in a tape and the machine worked beautifully. This did wonders for Ernie's ego but little for mine. But Ernie's wife knows where to find him. The phone rang and after a brief exchange he scuttled off.

Solavox NVCR5000

The next job had me flummoxed again. It was a Solavox NVCR5000 VCR that was devoid of life apart from a few bits of incomplete gibberish in the display area. Working on the basis that I had a brain while the recorder only thought it had one I settled down to crack the fault. A long time was spent, then I retired to the house worn out and defeated.

Greeneyes was having a fair old time playing one of her Spanish language cassettes on my audio system. Wearing some strange gear too. Just then the phone rang. It was my Solavox customer wondering how I was getting on with his video.

"I'm not" I said. "We've taken an acute dislike to each other. Where did you buy it?"

"Comet" he replied.

"I'll see if they can help" I said.

So I phoned the Bristol branch and was put through to their helpful technician Peter Ambrose. He was not only familiar with the fault but came up with the solution. "Add a 4.7kΩ resistor between the positive of the 5.5V back-up 'battery' C821 and the base of transistor Q809 next to it" he said. "It'll never come back with that fault. It's a Nikkai chassis. There's an Alba model that uses it, and a Questor one as well I think."

I did the modification and sure enough the machine burst into life. Curiously, the next job on the bench turned out to be the Alba version. It was as dead as could be – not even a segment of display. But the same modification fixed it.

Those Military Men

That evening I was safely settled in the bar when the phone rang. It was Major Hagger. Hopping mad too.

"What do you mean by having my practically new aerials hacked down by some foreigners? When I asked they said you'd sent them. You'll answer for this. If you know what's best you'll get my aerials replaced forthwith – then send me an apology."

Greeneyes had heard every word and wanted to know what was going on. "Probably asked me to do it without referring to his wife" I said. "You know how it is. Then wants to pass on the blame."

"Do you really think so?" she said.

"Of course I do. It's obvious. He'll probably call to apologise in due course."

The phone went again. Greeneyes took the call – it was Captain Hodder. When she'd put the receiver down she called over "wants to know what happened to the aerial riggers. Said he called you the other night and he's still waiting. He's off to the old folks home in the morning. Why can't you take proper notes when you get these calls? Especially when you've been in this bar for a while."

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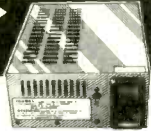
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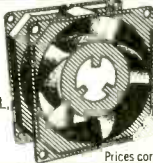
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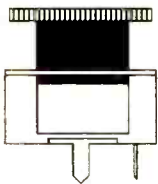
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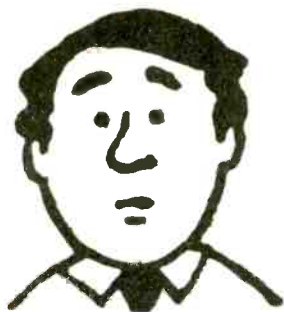
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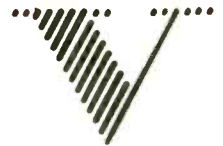
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BT116	£2.50	BY229	£1.15	RH1	£1.30
BT128P	£4.50	BY299	£0.50	RM11C	£0.60
BT129P	£4.50	BY96D	£0.30	SG264	£0.50
BT151/800R		BY96D	£0.55	SKB.02	£0.60
		BY96E	£0.50	SKB.08	£1.20
BY126	£0.20	BYW96E	£0.50	SKB2.02	£0.90
BY127	£0.08	BYX10	£0.50	SKB2.08	£1.10
BY133	£0.20	BYX5-600	£0.55	SK1.02	£0.60
BY164	£0.90	BZ506	£0.30	SK1M15	£0.65
BY164/SKB2.02		IN4001	£0.06	SKE2G2.02	£0.75
		IN4002	£0.06	SKE2G3.04	£1.30
BY179	£1.10	IN4004	£0.10	SKE4F1.04	£0.45
BY179/SK2.08		IN4005	£0.10	SKE4F1.06	£0.45
BY184	£2.00	IN4006	£0.10	SKE1.02	£0.60
BY189	£2.00	IN4148	£0.08	SKE3F3.10	£2.20
BY190	£2.00	IN5408	£0.25	SR2M	£0.75
BY223	£2.00	KBL08	£1.95		

ASK FOR SEMICONDUCTORS NOT LISTED

VIDEO HEADS

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3HSSR-VCR7000 (Saisho/Orion)	£18.00
PSF1-VCR4500, 5200, 9000	£15.00
PSF2-VCR4600, 4700	£15.00
PSF3-VCR6000	£21.50

FERGUSON

3HSSV-2 Head universal	£9.95
3HSSVA-3V42, 44, 45, 46 etc	£20.00
3HSS4VB-3V32 HR7655	£25.00
3HSS4VC-3V48 HRD565	£26.00
3V48, 58, 59, 65, FV10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 26	
And most other Fergusons	POA

HITACHI

3HSSHA-VT8000, 9000 series	£17.00
3HSSHB-VT11, 33 etc.	£17.00
10082-VT120, 220	£29.00
10081-VT130, 135	£30.50

PANASONIC

3HSSN-2 Head universal	£9.95
3HSSU1N-NV100, 370, 380/Philips VR6460	£11.00
3HSSU2N-NV230, 470, 480, 69, 10, 11, 15PX	£21.00
3HSSUN-NV430, 460	£16.00
3HSS3N-NV77, 330	£18.50
3HSS4NB-NV730	£26.00
3HSS4NA-NV366	£24.00
NV630, 33, 40, 45, 46, 130, & most other Panasonics	POA

SANYO

3HSSSY-VHR1100, 1110, 1300	£20.00
3HSS3SY-VHR1500	£34.00

SHARP

3HSSSP-VC9300, 9500, 9700, 381, 481, 482, 483, 486 etc.	£17.00
3HSSSPB-VC581, 583, 651, 670 etc.	£17.00
VC7000, 8000 series (Brass)	£42.00

OTHER MAKES

Alba 4000, Goldstar 8000, Sentra 8000, 1000	Solavox £22.50
Fisher FVHP510, 520, 530, 615, 710 etc.	£18.00
Fisher VBS7000, 9000 etc.	£25.00
Hinari VXL2, 4, 3, 20, 25	£18.00
Hinari VXL5, 6, 20H	£15.00
Mitsubishi HS306, 710	£30.00
Orion VC150, 180, VH1, 2, 3 etc.	£18.00
Saisho VR100, 605, 705, 805, 905	£18.00
Samsung Universal 2 Head	£24.25
Toshiba	
V71, 73, 74, 75, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87	£20.00
Toshiba V93	£21.00

ASK FOR VIDEO HEADS NOT LISTED

The above heads are new and replacements.

BELT KITS

AKAI

VS1, 2, 5	1.20
VS4, 6, 9, 15	1.10
VS9300, 9500, 9800	1.60

AMSTRAD

7000	1.00
VCR4600, 5200	1.90
VCR4500, 9000	2.00

FERGUSON/JVC

3V00/16/22 Mechanical Models	1.60
3V23	1.00
3V29/30	1.20
3V29/30 Loading Belt	0.35
3V31/32	1.00
3V35/36/38/39	1.10
3V42/43/44/45/48/54/55	1.00
3V58/59/64/65/8950/51/FV10/11/12/13/14	1.60

FISHER

FVHP520/530	1.70
FVHP615/710/715/716/722/725/830	1.00
FVHP905/906/907/908/910/911/915/916	1.20

HITACHI

VT11/14/17/19/33/34/35/38/39/88	1.30
VT52/61/62/63/64/65/85/86	2.10
VT100/110/111/113/115/118/120/125/130/135/145/150/175	2.50
VT8000/8500	1.70
VT9300/9500/9700	1.50

PANASONIC

NV230/250/280/370/380/430/450/460/465/485/630/810/830/850/870/890	1.90
NV300/333/340/366	1.60
NV600/777/788	1.50
NV2000/3000	1.50
NV7000/7200/7500/7800	1.40
NV8600	2.20
NV730	0.60

PHILIPS

VR63676467/6561/6751/6760/685B4	2.00
VR6460/6920/6520	2.40
VR6580/6581	2.50
VR6362/6367/6470/6467	2.25
VR6542/6843	2.00

SHARP

VCF3/VC402/500/571/581/582/583/584/585	1.10
VC6F3/6V3/VC600/651/681/682/683/684/685/693/700/7832, 10	2.10
VC200/381/384/385/386/390/9300/9500/9700	1.95
VC300/387/388/481/483/486/488/496	1.20
VC7300/7700/7750	1.95
VC8000/8300	1.95

TOSHIBA

V8600/8700/9600	1.05
V55/57	1.10
V66/67	2.80
V31/33	2.30
V73/81/83/85	2.30

Belt kits for Funai, GEC, Goldstar, Grundig, Hinari, ITT, Mitsubishi, NEC, Orion, Saisho, Samsung, Schneider, Sony and Tensai also available.

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Decca 100	9.50
ITT CVC20	12.50
ITT CVC25/30/32	9.50
ITT Compact 80 Series 110	16.75
ITT Compact 80 Series 90	19.75
ITT CVC45	18.00
ITT 1109F	14.00
ITT CVC1204	11.50
ITT VC8000/1/3	21.50
ITT CVC1100	16.50
ITT CVC1150/1175	20.00
ITT 6325	18.50
ITT 3546	18.50
ITT 1200 1	20.00

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Fidelity all models up to 20" ZX3000	10.50
Fidelity Panel for ZX2000	1.00
Fidelity 22" ZX3000	24.50
Hinari CT4/5 & TVA1	22.00
Philips KT3	12.95
Rank Bush T20A	11.50
Thorn 1615	8.00
Thorn TX100 Green Spot 110	17.25
Thorn TX90 Mains Trans	18.85
Ferguson TX90 LOPT	19.50
Ferguson 3V35/36 Mains Transformer	23.00
Ferguson 3V44/44.45 Mains Transformer	18.85
Sony - Please state model for price	
Universal Tripler	4.75
Universal Tripler with focus unit	9.50
Decca 120/130 series tripler	8.50
Thorn TX10 Focus Unit Kit	9.00

VIDEO MOTORS

REEL MOTORS

Ferguson 3V29/30	£20.00
Ferguson 3V58, 59, 65, FV10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22	£17.25
Ferguson FV26D	£14.50
Hitachi 8000, 8300, 8500	£8.50
Sanyo VTC5000, 5150, 5400, 5300, 6500	£7.50
Sharp VC9300, 9500 etc. Original	£15.90
Panasonic NV333, 366 Original	£13.20
All other Panasonics	POA

ORUM MOTORS

Ferguson/JVC (Mechanical models)	£23.00
Sharp 7000 series Original	£24.63
All Panasonic Original	POA

CAPSTAN MOTORS

Ferguson 3V35, 36 Original	£22.50
Ferguson/JVC (Mechanical models)	£20.00
Hitachi VT11 Original	£30.00
Hitachi VT33 Original	£32.00
Hitachi VT64 Original	£19.75
Hitachi VT8000 series Original	£34.50
Hitachi VT9000 series Original	£34.50
Sharp VC7000 series Original	£30.50

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Ferguson 3V42, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49, 52, 53	£6.00
Ferguson 3V58, 59, 65	£4.50
FV10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 26	£4.50

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3V29/30 Take up Idler	£2.00
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Clutch Assembly	
3V44, 45, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55	£14.00
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FVHP615, 905, 910, Idler Assembly Original	£5.00
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FVHP905, 910 Gear Idler Assembly	£5.00
FVHP520, 530 Idler	£3.00
FVHP520, 530 Pulley	£0.70

HITACHI

VT11, 33 etc. Original Idler Arm	£2.50
VT11, 33 etc. Idler Arm Replacement	£1.75
VT9300, 9500 etc. Play Idler	£3.65

VT9300, 9500 etc. FF Idler	£2.95
VT9300, 9500 etc. Idler	£2.95
VT8000, 8500 etc. FF/Reel Idler	£2.95
VT8000, 8500 etc. Play Idler Assembly	£3.00
VT8000, 8500 etc. FF/Reel Pulley	£0.70
VT11, 33 etc. Clutch Assembly	£8.00

PHILIPS

VR6460, 6920 Idler Arm (original)	£3.00
DV464, 6462, 6463, 650 etc. Idler Mod. Kit	£4.50
VR6542, 6843 Reel Idler	£6.50
VR6542 Reel Drive Pulley	£7.75
VR6843 Reel Drive Pulley	£8.50

PANASONIC (All Original)

NV370 Idler Arm Unit VXP0521 Gen	£3.00
NV8600, 8610 Play Idler VXP0243	£0.95
NV332, 777, 788 Idler Unit VXP0463	£3.00
NV600, 688 Idler VXP05 15	£3.00
NV333, 366 Idler Arm 2 Unit VXL 0997	£10.00
NV8400, 8600, 8610 etc. VXP0245	£0.95
NV333, 366 etc. Idler VXP0401-NV700, 7200, 7800	£0.90
Idler VXP0344	£0.90
NV2000, 3000 Play Idler VXP0331-NV2000, 3000	£1.10
Idler Unit VXP0329	£1.10
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Idler VHR1100, 1300, 1500	£5.50
Idler VHR2100, 2300, 2500, 2700	£5.50
Reel Drive Pulley Unit VTC5000, 5150, 6500	£5.00
Idler Roller Assembly VTC5000, 5150, 6500	£2.25

SHARP

Idler VC9300, 9500 etc.	£1.75
Idler VC481, 581 etc.	£1.95
Idler (original) VC9300, 481, 581 etc.	£3.50
Idler Assembly (original) VC651, 681, 685	£6.50
Idler Assembly	(original) £6.50
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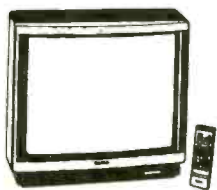
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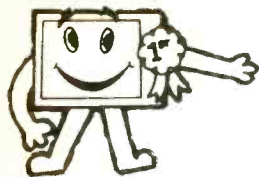
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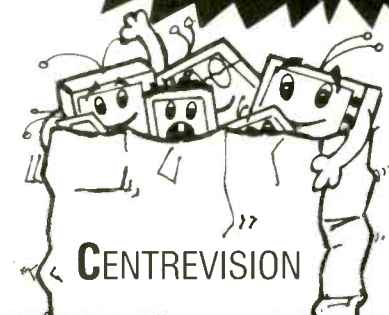
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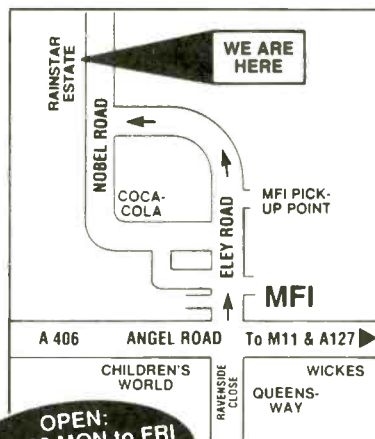
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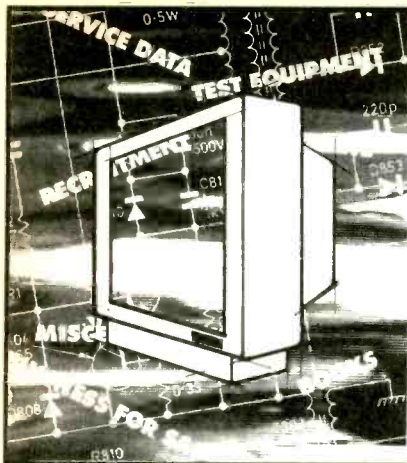
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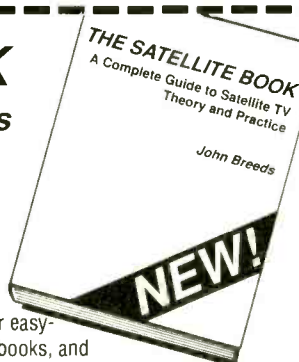
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