

THE LEADING UK CONSUMER ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE

# TELEVISION

SERVICING·VIDEO·SATELLITE·DEVELOPMENTS

JANUARY 1999 £2.70

A REED BUSINESS PUBLICATION

## Interactive TV: the Modem link

Servicing the  
Mitsubishi EE4 chassis

Test report:  
ESR Meters

PC monitor specifications

Korean Consumer  
Electronics



Fault Reports *TVs, VCRs, PC Monitors and Satellite*

# Wizard

*The Magical Universal Remote Control*

## Why you need the Wizard

The latest universal remote control from Philex is superbly styled and designed for the modern world. As you can see, it's a break from the norm, and will work wonders for your sales.

Available in metallic grey with backlit keys, this little piece of magic is waiting to open new sales channels as well as channels on the TV, VCR etc.

Eliminate that need for stocking too many remotes, the Wizard is a practical alternative to clutter and mess in any environment, be it the home or office.

The Wizard is simple to use and is backed up by our superb customer helpline.

### Full learning facility

This enables the Wizard to reproduce almost any key function found on infra red remote controls.

### Pre-programmed for easy set-up

3 modes of set-up... Learning, codeless and manufacturer ID search.

The Wizard is pre-programmed with one of the largest code libraries available covering TVs, VCRs, Satellite receivers, Cable boxes, CD players and HiFi systems.

### Replaces 8 infra-red remote controls

Replaces lost or broken remotes or just eliminates the need for remotes.

So, for the full monty on the Wizard, a short spell talking to our fully trained sales staff will help you on your way.

Let the Wizard put the magic back into Christmas!

The Wizard, its promotional and packaging material are all designed in-house at Philex.



sales

**HOTLINE 0181 202 1919**

PHILEX ELECTRONIC LTD . PHILEX HOUSE . 110-124 - THE BROADWAY . WEST HENDON . LONDON NW9 7PP  
Fax: 0181 202 0015 - Web site: <http://www.philex.com> . Email: [sales@philex.com](mailto:sales@philex.com)

# CONTENTS

January 1999

Vol. 49, No. 3

## Pay TV and the Licence 155

## What a Life! 158

Donald Bullock on the servicing scene – the customers and their complaints. All TV sets this time. Plus a couple of commendations.

## Teletopics 160

Successful start for digital TV. Video News. DTT reception survey. Digital round-up.

## Test report: ESR meters 162

Andy Barkley compares the two electrolytic capacitor ESR test meters currently available – the Aussie one and the Capacitor Wizard.

## Satellite Notebook 164

Solutions to problems with satellite TV equipment and installations.

## Monitors 166

Hints and tips on dealing with computer monitor faults.



## Launch of Hot Bird 5 168

Peter Brough reports on the launch of Hot Bird 5, which completes Eutelsat's complement of TV satellites at 13°E.

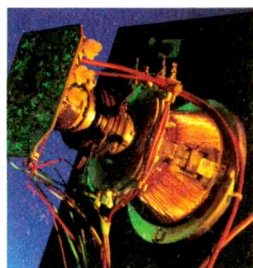
## LG and the Korean Electronics Show 170

George Cole has been in Korea recently to survey the consumer electronics scene there. He paid visits to leading manufacturer LG Electronics and to the KES, where recent developments were on display.

## Satellite Workshop 174

Jack Armstrong's column on satellite receiver servicing.

## Test Case 433 175



## A Look at Monitor Specifications 176

TV and PC monitor specifications differ considerably. Ray Porter, M.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.E.E provides some basic information on the latter.

## Servicing the Mitsubishi EE4 Chassis 178

The EE4 chassis is used in sets that have M5 in their Model number, e.g. CT21M5B. There are several pitfalls for those not familiar with the operation of the chassis. Russ Phillips provides a guide to its technical features and fault diagnosis.

## TV Fault Finding 182

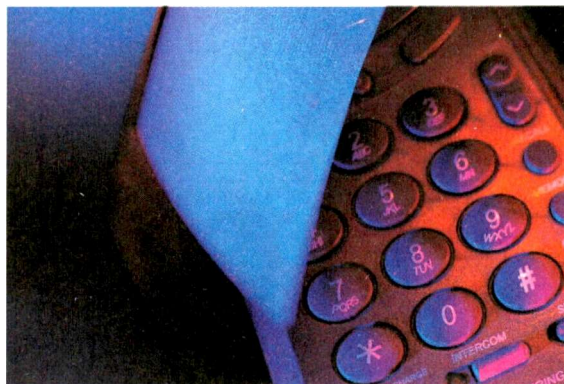
## Letters 200

Cost of digital TV. A design clanger. The first RSL station and other matters.

## Corrections 202

## VCR Clinic 204

## DTV: the Modem Interface 206



A return line with modem connection is required for interactive TV. K.F. Ibrahim explains the basic technology involved.

## That's our Business 208

Chris Avis and his wife Anne have run a successful TV/VCR business in Exeter for many years. How they have managed, how they see the future, and some useful tips for others in the trade.

## Camcorner 211

Fault reports and repair tips from David C. Woodnott

## DX and Satellite Reception 212

Terrestrial DX and satellite TV reception reports, news from abroad and from the satellite belt, the start of RSL-TV, DTT problems and new receivers. Roger Bunney reports.

## Help Wanted 216

## Next Month in Television 217

### Editor

John A. Reddihough

### Production Editor

Tessa Winford

### Consultant Editor

Martin Eccles

### Publisher

Mick Elliott

### Advertisement

### Sales Manager

Grant Allaway  
0181-652 3032

### Advertisement Sales Executive

Pat Bunce  
0181-652 8339  
Fax 0181-652 8931

### Editorial Office

0181-652 8120  
Fax 0181-652 8111

Note that we are unable to answer technical queries over the telephone and cannot provide information on spares other than that given in our Spares Guide.

January issue on sale  
December 16th.

Next issue,  
dated February,  
on sale January 20th.

Decode and recode car radios & CD players quickly with the Joule A-400 radio decoder.

Now sold worldwide to service departments and Police Forces.

C.E. Approved - meets all current regulations.

Prices start from £375.00 + VAT for the Starter Kit covering over 100 models of popular radios.

Call us now for a free information pack and demonstration disk on 01325 307442.

# The Joule A-400 Radio Decoder

If you already service car audio equipment, the A-400 could prove to be a very valuable additional source of income for your company.

**Electronic Sound Systems**  
**Hilton Road, Aycliffe Industrial Park**  
**Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6EN**  
**United Kingdom**  
**Tel: +44 (0)1325 310278**  
**Fax: +44 (0)1325 300189**  
**Email: [elecsys@elecsys.demon.co.uk](mailto:elecsys@elecsys.demon.co.uk)**

## For Your Radio Decoding Requirements

Please feel free to visit our Internet web site at [elecsys.com](http://elecsys.com) where you can download full details, pricing information and demonstration software. Or, visit us for an on-site demonstration.

# M.C.E.S.

*Specialists in the Service and Recalibration to original manufacturers specification of:-  
All types of:-*

**TUNER UNITS TO 20 GHZ**  
**BOOSTERS & RF MODULATORS**  
**VIDEO UPPER DRUM ASSEMBLY**  
**COMBINED TUNER AND IF UNITS**

**WE WISH ALL OUR CLIENTS  
AND READERS OF  
"TELEVISION"  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND PROSPEROUS NEWYEAR**

New LNB's can also be supplied to order.

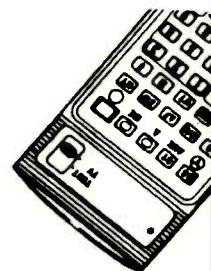
**New price list now available.**

**15 Lostock Road, Davyhulme**  
**Manchester M41 0ES**  
**Telephone: 0161 746 8037**  
**Fax: 0161 746 8136**



**Wallis.** Remote Controls  
for  
TVs • VCRs • Satellite • Hi-Fi

**Can't Find a  
Particular  
Remote?**



**YOU CAN HAVE IT.**



**World's Largest Range**  
(Over 60,000 References)



**Match or 'Make Free' Service**



**Competitive Prices From £6.50**

*For Further Information - Just Call Our Helplines*

**Tele: 0181-870 3388 • Fax: 0181-870 9988**

**Suddenly - You'll Love Selling Remote Controls**

# Pay TV and the Licence

Now that we have all these digital channels on subscription, the need for the TV licence fee has once again come into question. It does, on the surface, seem to be a bit of an anomaly. The licence dates back to the time when the frequencies available for broadcasting were far more limited than they are today. It was felt that this precious commodity should be used with discretion. In this situation it was natural for the idea of public-service broadcasting to arise.

The BBC became a public corporation in 1927, when there was very little broadcasting and, in the UK, little money with which to provide it. But almost everyone, in particular the nascent radio manufacturing industry, wanted it. So there was little opposition to the idea of establishing a licence "to install equipment for radio reception", the fee to be used to fund a broadcasting service. This is hardly the situation today, but a strong case can nevertheless be made in favour of maintaining a vigorous, independent public-service broadcaster. It has to be paid for, and to maintain its independence – a particularly important factor – a source of finance separate from government funds (taxes) and commercial funds (advertising, sponsorship etc.) is required. Hence the licence fee.

With each major step in the evolution of broadcasting, for example the introduction of extra channels as TV technology started to use higher frequencies, and then the introduction of cable networks and satellite transmission, it has been custom-

ary to look afresh at the licence and what it stands for, and question its need. The case for its continuation has, in the past, always been generally accepted. The case is no less strong today.

It would be decidedly less strong in the absence of a broadcaster able to provide high-quality public-service broadcasting. In this respect the responsibility that lies with the BBC and its governors is immense. Literally, public-service broadcasting and the BBC stand or fall together. It would be almost impossible today to build from scratch an independent broadcasting organisation with the standing and authority the BBC has achieved.

The question nevertheless persists: do we need it – especially with all those digital channels that seem to be capable of offering so much? Well actually they are a bit of a charade. All sorts of bits and pieces thrown together, the same films starting at half a dozen different times, and sports strewn across a number of channels. There's a hard centre of good broadcasting – there has to be otherwise people would simply switch off – accompanied by a load of dross. The BBC, with its public-service commitment, forms part of the hard centre. For cost reasons the dross now being added is unlikely to improve – the vast majority of viewing will remain with a handful of channels.

The case for maintaining the BBC's independence via the licence fee rests, above all else, on the need to preserve a source of information free from taint, corruption, spin doctoring, commercial dis-

tortion and other such factors. But an independent, unbiased source of information is not of itself sufficient for a complex medium such as television. Fortunately the BBC has had time to develop a cultural and technical depth that places it in the top rank in the broadcasting world. This is an important resource, worth every penny that's required to maintain it.

The problem that the BBC has today is how to continue to fulfil so many roles when its means are restricted. Should it lower its technical profile, pull back from general entertainment, concentrate on being an information centre? Some curtailment of its activities is probably inevitable, and has been a major concern of BBC management. There have been suggestions that the BBC should provide a sort of supplement to commercial TV, adding education, in-depth news and so on. But a scaled-down service of this nature would have little general impact. It is essential that the Corporation remains a full-blown broadcaster. In fact in this respect the BBC has been making life difficult for itself by establishing a number of new public-service and commercial channels despite its severe financial constraints. It's a difficult act that will present many problems for the present and future management.

You may not spend much time watching the BBC's output. But without it the general quality of broadcasting is likely to decline. We continue to need it, and the price is a small one to pay.

## COPYRIGHT

© Reed Business Information Ltd., 1999. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publishers.

All reasonable precautions are taken by *Television* to ensure that the advice and data published are reliable. We cannot however guarantee it and we cannot accept legal responsibility for it.

## CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence regarding advertisements should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, "Television", Reed Business Information, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. Editorial correspondence should be addressed to "Television", Editorial Department, Reed Business Information, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.

## INDEXES AND BINDERS

Indexes for Vols. 38 to 47 are available at £3.50 each from SoftCopy Ltd., who can also supply an eight-year consolidated index on computer disc. For further details see page 217.

Binders that hold twelve issues of *Television* are available for £6.50 each from Television Binders, 78 Whalley Road, Wilpshire, Blackburn BB1 9LF. Make cheques payable to "Television Binders".

## BACK NUMBERS

Some back issues are available at £3.00 each. For further details see box on page 210.

## SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES

<b>Telephone:</b>	01444 445 566
<b>Fax:</b>	01444 445 447
<b>Credit card orders:</b>	01622 778 000
<b>Address:</b>	Television, Subscriptions Dept, PO Box 302, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3YY, UK.
<b>Make cheques payable to:</b>	Television
<b>Subscription rates:</b>	
<b>UK</b>	£32.00 per year
<b>Airmail Eire</b>	£36.00 per year
<b>Airmail Europe</b>	£46.00 per year
<b>Airmail Rest of World</b>	£59.00 per year

## NEWSTRADE ENQUIRIES

Distributed by MarketForce  
**Telephone:** 0171 261 7704

## WEB SITE

For a full list of RBI magazines:  
<http://www.reedbusiness.com>

ISSN 0032-647X



REED  
BUSINESS  
INFORMATION

# YOU!!!



# NEED ECONOMIC

Thousands of semiconductors I.C's etc. of video parts, heads, belt kits etc. of remote controls. etc. etc. over 100,000 database records to help find the difficult video parts quickly. Stock availability & price in seconds

We compete on **QUALITY** - We compete on **SERVICE**...  
.....We will not compromise and yet our prices are often less.

**...and look at the special offers.....** (strictly while stocks last)

BUT11A @ ~~99p~~ each BUT11AF @ ~~38p~~ each  
BU508A @ ~~60p~~ each Fully wired scart lead ~~99p~~

**a slight inconvenience.... you must buy more than one.**

BU208A X 5	£3.75	TEA2018A X 5	£5.75
BU508A X 5	£3.00	UC3842 X 5	£2.95
BU508AF X 5	£3.00	CNX62A X 5	£3.00
BU508D X 5	£4.45	S2000AF X 5	£5.25
BUT11A X 5	£1.45	TDA3653B X 2	£1.80
BUT11AF X 5	£1.90	TDA3654 X 2	£1.80
Philips type 1.2 volt Back up battery	X 5	£3.40	
Philips type 2.4 volt Back up battery	X 5	£6.00	
Scart - Scart lead 1.5m Fully wired	X 2	£1.98	
Positor PT37, TH98009 (White)	X 5	£3.75	
Thorn TX100 Green spot LOPTX	each	£12.95	

**.....and now ask for a full price list.....**

(please add £1.00 handling all + VAT)

## MAJOR STOCKIST PHOENIX

### PSU repair - refurb kits

Look for the PHOENIX stamp of approval

Over 200,000 kits sold



- KIT1 £6.95 Pace - PRD800, PRD900, PSR800, PSR900 Ferguson
- ST700, Toshiba TU-SD200, SAT99
- KIT2 £6.95 Pace - SS900, 9200, 9210, MRD920, Ferguson SRV1, Grundig GIRD2000, 3000, Philips STU801, Network 900, 9200, Bush IRD150, Nokia SAT1600, Maspro SRE250S, 360S, 450S, Alba SAT6800, Finlux SR5700, Thompson SRS4
- KIT3 £6.95 Amstrad - SR510, 620, 540, SRDR45, SRD550
- KIT6 £6.95 Pace D100, 120
- KIT9 £9.45 Pace MSS200, 300, Apollo
- KIT12 £16.45 Echostar SR5500 (early PSU with adjuster)
- KIT15 £7.36 Mimtec (Sorenson PSU type only)
- KIT17 £8.95 BT SVS300
- KIT20 £5.95 Maspro ST 5 Grundig 150, 250, 280, 300 Matsui Rd600 Minerva
- KIT22 £9.95 Philips STU909

- SRD5, SRD16, Grundig STR1, Maspro SRE250S/1, 350S/1, Philips STU802/05M, Manhattan 850, 950 Goodmans

- KIT4 £6.95 Amstrad SRD 500
- KIT7 £6.95 Churchill D2MAC decoder
- KIT10 £13.11 Pace MSS500, 1000
- KIT13 £29.71 Echostar SR6500, 7700, 8700
- KIT16 £5.95 Amstrad SRD700, SR950, SRX100, 301, 501, 1002, 2001, SRD2000, SAT250
- KIT18 £10.52 Amstrad SRD2000
- KIT23 £7.95 Nokia SAT1700 (mainly surface mount)

- KIT5 £6.95 Amstrad SRX320, 340 etc (export models)
- KIT8 £5.95 Pace MSS100
- KIT11 £5.95 Ferguson SRD4
- KIT14 £23.95 Amstrad SRD600
- KIT19 £6.95 Bush IRD155
- KIT21 £6.95 Amstrad SRD650
- KIT25 £16.95 Maspro ST-8

## SATELLITE FAULT FINDING GUIDE

NEW EDITION No. 5

You could say that what Martin Pickering doesn't know about satellite receivers isn't worth knowing. What he does know has become legendary. Having been at it since the start of consumer satellite TV, he has built up a massive database of on satellite TV receivers. Not only on their faults, common and less common but also on modifications and upgrades. Martin brings in-depth expertise to the subject, having previously been involved with equipment reliability testing and component specification. Originally entitled 'Satellite Repair Manual', this book has become established as a bible for satellite TV repair.

But the subject doesn't stand still. New models, new faults - there is always something to add. So here we have the fifth edition, which has been completely updated and now has 300 pages and a more attractive cover. In addition to receiver fault notes and general information you'll find many useful button sequences for resetting parental lock codes, resetting installation choices to factory defaults and other less well known operations, practical information on LNB's with typical current drains, a list of manufacturers and suppliers addresses, other useful information and a beginners section. Digital receivers are now available so the manual includes a chapter to deal with these too.



No self respecting workshop...  
...should be without this guide.

at £19.95 your first repair will return the cost !!!

# Economic Devices

32 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN, UK Tele ++ 44 (0)1902 773122 Fax ++ 44 (0)1902 429052



# What

# a Life!

**Donald Bullock's column on the servicing scene – the sets, the customers and their complaints. All TVs this time. Also a couple of commendations**

**W**e managed to get through a good few electrolytics the other day. It all started with Mr Wu, who brought in a Bush 2114 colour portable. He put it on the counter and rubbed his finger tips together.

"This set has gone long" he smiled.

It seemed the normal shape to me, but I smiled back just as inscrutably. "Oh, er . . . light" I said.

"Can you please get the trouble lectified by the weekend?" he asked.

My smile faded a bit as I drew up a job card. "Pop in next Fliday" I said.

Paul put the set on the set on the bench. "Shall I make it light?" he lisped.

The set was tlipping, er, tripping. He soon found that the 220 $\mu$ F, 160V HT reservoir capacitor C810 was dead short while C808, the 1,000 $\mu$ F, 25V reservoir capacitor for the supply to the audio output and line driver stages, was low at 400 $\mu$ F. When they had been replaced the set came to life then died. There was now a smell of burning.

Paul scanned the chassis and noticed that IC5, a 5V regulator on the far left remote control subpanel, looked well burnt. He placed a finger on it and howled. C22 (470 $\mu$ F, 6.3V) also looked off-colour. When checked it was found to have fallen to 0.1 $\mu$ F. Both were replaced.

This time the set started up, but it was stuck on channel 1 and wouldn't carry out any functions. IC5's demise had damaged the SAA1293 microcontroller chip IC1. Once this had been replaced the set worked normally – except for the fact that there was no sound.

A check on the audio/line driver supply arrangement showed that the voltages were all wrong. C409 (220 $\mu$ F, 25V) which decouples the supply to the line driver stage was down at 90 $\mu$ F, while C606 (1,000 $\mu$ F, 25V) which decouples the supply to the TDA2006 audio chip IC601 was low at 200 $\mu$ F. In addition

IC601 was short-circuit between pins 3 and 4. Once replacements had been fitted the sound was back, but there was one other electrolytic to replace, C818 (1 $\mu$ F, 50) on the primary side of the TDA4601-type power supply – it gives trouble in these sets, going dly, er dry and open-circuit.

## Smoking

Our next caller, Mr Moggie, always has a cigarette in his mouth. He struggled in with a Bush 2857NTX, a huge 28in. stereo set.

"I don't like this trade any more" I muttered as he eased the set on to the counter. He was too exhausted to speak, so he made some puffing noises and kept jerking his hand into the air. Words finally came to him.

"This set smoked like the devil, then suddenly banged and exploded" he said.

"Let that be a lesson to you" I replied.

Steven had a go at this one. Three electrolytics in the power supply had blown up: C925 (1,000 $\mu$ F, 25V), C926 (220 $\mu$ F, 160V), and C923 (2,200 $\mu$ F, 35V) which lives at the far right-hand corner of the main panel. After replacing them Steven gingerly started the set up via the variac, while monitoring the HT voltage. When it suddenly shot up to 190V he quickly switched off.

Time for a more detailed power supply investigation. C910 (47 $\mu$ F, 25V) and C908 (10 $\mu$ F, 50V) read all right, but Steven decided to replace them with 105°C types and also upgraded C910 to 50V. As everything else seemed to be OK he decided to test the set again.

This time it worked normally, though the HT was slightly high at 146V. There was no difficulty in setting it at the correct 143V.

## It's Gone Again

Mr and Mrs Trew sidled in. "It's our set again, Mr Pullet" he whined to

Steven, "gone again. You mended it only the other day."

Steven tapped at his computer thing. "The other day was fifteen months ago" he announced.

"We're old-age pensioners" Mrs Trew piped, "and it's gone the same as before."

"No sound last time" said Steven, "has the sound gone again?"

They both nodded frantically. So Paul went out to their car to collect the set, an old Panasonic TC2113 (U3W chassis). He plugged it in and spun the volume control up. The booming sound made passers-by turn their heads. He spun it down again and looked at the Trews.

"It's not as good as it was" he said.

"And it's spoilt the picture, too" she said, "is it because you didn't fit the right part?"

We noticed that there was severe east-west cramping, then the power supply began to screech. The faults were not related. C809 (1 $\mu$ F, 250V), the small reservoir capacitor on the primary side of the power supply, had leaked and fallen in value to 0.0043 $\mu$ F. The cause of the cramping was the 2SD762 EW modulator driver transistor Q753, which was short-circuit base-to-emitter.

We charged the Trews a tenner and they looked as though they'd been stung.

"I hope it lasts longer this time" he said.

Mrs Trew wagged her finger at us. "We're only pensioners" she said, "we'll see how it settles down."

## A Mitsubishi Euro 4

Mrs Grunge came in followed by a panting Mitsubishi colour set with legs.

"This way, Oscar" she said. The set ran to the counter, then revealed her son behind it. "Move it along a bit for Mr Bullneck, Oscar." He moved it. "That's enough". She turned to me with a smile.



"It's gone again, Mr Bullring. I know it's not your fault, but it's not long since you mended it, is it? About eight weeks, maybe nine?"

Steven tapped away in the corner. "Last July twelve-month" he said.

"Doesn't time fly" she said. Then she and Oscar departed.

The set was a Mitsubishi CT2142BM. When Steven switched it on it slipped into standby instead of coming to life. When he pushed the standby button again it came to life but the picture settings were haywire. He reset them then switched the set off and on. The settings were again haywire.

Steven stared at the EEPROM chip IC702. "I've had this before" he commented, then checked for -31V at pin 2. The supply was low at -19V. A glance at the power supply revealed that C962 (10 $\mu$ F, 50V) had been leaking and was sitting in its dried-out electrolyte. Once it had been replaced the set was OK. C962 is used to smooth the -31V supply.

### A Sound Problem

Mrs Bowler came in followed by her husband, who was struggling with a 25in. Sony set.

"Come on come on, hurry up" she said. "anyone would think it's heavy."

He put the set down on the counter. "Wait in the car" she told him. The set was a KVX2552U.

"This 'un's all right" she said, smacking the the left speaker. "but this 'un ain't. Buzzes."

We plugged the set in and switched it on. Both speakers sounded fine. We looked at her.

"I didn't say it allus buzzes" she said.

Half an hour later the left speaker started to buzz loudly. "Dry-joints on one of the TDA2050 audio output chips" Steven said. He was right. IC251 was very badly dry-jointed indeed. After resoldering it he looked at IC261, which drives the left-side speaker. It was as bad and received the same treatment.

"Did it buzz like I said?" Mrs Bowler asked when she came back. "No" I said, "but we've fixed it."

She glowered at me. "You 'enta gettin' like 'im out there" she said, "I don't like Smart Aless."

### A Dead Samsung

Cassandra Grant wriggled in, pouting sadly. "It's blown up" she said, "can you get it from the car?"

Paul brought the set in. Though Thorn badged, it turned out to be a Samsung set fitted with the P68 chassis. And, as she'd said, it was dead.

The 2SD1651 line output transistor Q402 had failed and had blown the 1 $\Omega$  safety resistor R826 in the HT feed. Before we replaced these items we measured the HT voltage. It had risen from the correct 125V to 200V. We decided to check the electrolytics on the primary side of the chopper power supply. This brought us to C852 (470 $\mu$ F, 16V), which had fallen in value to about 150 $\mu$ F. A replacement restored the HT voltage to its correct level and, after checking that it was fully adjustable, we replaced the blown components. The set then worked a treat.

"How can I thank you?" Cassandra cooed when she came to collect the set.

I gave her a weak smile and studied the cloud formation.

### Another Giant

The next set to arrive came in the arms of Major Carruther's man Hodges. It was another giant, a 28in. NEI Model 2891FTXN (CE25 chassis).

"No picture Mr Ballcock" the major barked, "none at all. Nothing I say." He looked at his watch. "Back at five" he said, "come along Hodges."

We put the set on the bench and Steven advanced the setting of the first anode control. Up came a collapsed frame. The TDA3654 field output chip IC106 requires a 28V supply at pin 9. It was missing. The supply comes from rectifier D120, which is fed from a winding on the line output transformer. There are two resistors in series with the supply, R138 (0-22 $\Omega$  safety) and R140 (1 $\Omega$ , 0-25W). A simple one this time - R138 had gone open-circuit.

Steven replaced it and resoldered the joints at the pins of the TDA3654 chip. This is always a good idea with field output ICs. The set then produced a sparkling picture.

Major Carruther's face also sparkled when he returned at 5 o'clock precisely. "Take it away, Hodges old chap" he barked, then took some crisp notes from his mahogany-coloured wallet and placed them on the counter.

"Enough?" he asked.

"Too much . . ." I faltered.

He wagged his finger. "Always happy to reward good service" he said before marching out.

### Commendations

When in Spain I use a small FM transmitter that's plugged into the audio output sockets of my Pace PRD800 satellite receiver/decoder



*I gave her a weak smile and studied the cloud formation.*

to enable its reception of the BBC's Home Service (or Radio 4 as some newer fellows call it) to be picked up by an ordinary FM radio set anywhere around the house or in the garden.

The transmitter I had been using wasn't bad, but was a bit weak and tended to drift. Another one I tried suffered from inherent distortion. So I set about knocking up a crystal-controlled, 1W stereo model. There was difficulty with one component: I needed a 38kHz crystal, and such LF types are uncommon.

After various unsuccessful enquiries someone recommended a Surrey firm that was new to me. Vincent Jakomin of Q Electronic Design, Chessington, Surrey (0181 391 0545, fax 0181 391 5258) promised to look into the matter and found a factory that would cut one. I'm grateful to him for the excellent service he provided.

The transmitter turned out to be of very high quality and works a treat. I'm going to repeat the exercise for Radios 2 and 3, with two more receiver/decoders.

Incidentally whenever we need a service manual we phone Fryerns (01206 211 570) - Colin there moves heaven and earth to deliver the goods and has come up with everything we've asked for to date.

# TELETOPICS

## Digital TV Success

Digital TV seems to be going down well with the UK public. According to a Consumer Electronic Access Study conducted by MORI and Price Waterhouse Cooper, one in ten people expect to get a digital set-top box or an integrated digital TV set "at an early date" and one in five have decided to do so within six to twelve months. Two thirds expressed a preference for purchase rather than rental.

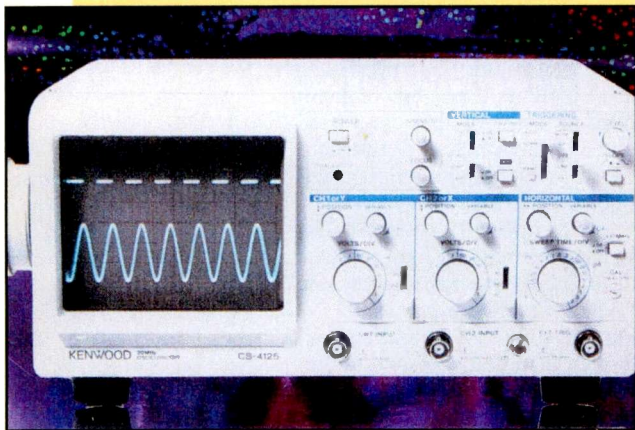
ONdigital's launch was marred by a shortage of STBs - while ONdigital's helpline received 75,000 enquiries during the first weekend, only some 5,000 STBs were under-

stood to have been delivered to the trade. Philips, first to go into full production, announced that it would supply 20,000 STBs during the first week. Pace is now understood to be delivering over 1,000 STBs a day. Toshiba and Nokia STBs were due by the end of December, with Sony and Grundig yet to go into production. Hitachi was first with an IDTV set, launched before Christmas.

These initial low supply figures naturally upset the trade, which was left with little to offer potential customers. The question is whether the launch should have been delayed

until adequate supplies of STBs were available. With the success of SkyDigital, the DTT operator obviously didn't want to be seen to be too far behind. Arguments over conditional-access systems delayed manufacturing plans.

According to Granada, which with Carlton Communications owns ONdigital, the latter expects to sign up 350,000 subscribers by the end of 1999 and to have a million subscribers by the end of the following year. Break-even will occur with two million subscribers, which is expected during 2001.



**Kenwood Electronics has introduced two low-priced, high-specification scopes, Models CS4125 and CS4135. For just £299 the dual-channel CS4125 pictured above provides a 20MHz bandwidth and has a vertical sensitivity of 1mV/div. Sweep modes include normal trigger or automatic free-running, with x10 magnification to view detailed signal information. There's a comprehensive triggering range. Model CS4135 at £450 has the added advantages of a 40MHz bandwidth and a PDA voltage of 12kV, providing a very bright trace at even the fastest timebase speeds.**

**For further details phone 01923 655 291 or fax 01923 655 297.**

## Video News

Pioneer says that its new DVD Rewritable player could be launched in Japan this summer and be available in Europe the following year. DVD-RW is compatible with the DVD Video format and is intended as a replacement for the VCR. More details in next month's *Television*.

Some new and interesting video products are now available in Japan, including a series of dual-format VCRs. Sony's line-up includes Model WVD10000, a Digital Video/S-VHS deck that plays full-size DV, Mini-DV, S-VHS and VHS tapes. The deck can be used to copy digital recordings to analogue and vice versa. It costs the Japanese equivalent of about £1,650. Other dual-decks from Sony include the Hi-8/VHS WVBW3 and the Hi-8/S-VHS WVST1. JVC's dual-deck Model HRDVS1 incorporates Mini-DV and S-VHS mechanisms, also JVC's new S-VHS-ET system that enables S-VHS recordings to be made using standard VHS tape. Other companies now offering S-VHS-ET machines include Sony,

Hitachi, Mitsubishi, Panasonic and Toshiba.

Sharp has launched two VCRs with built-in LCD screens to enable recordings to be viewed without the need for a TV set or monitor. The Sharp Models VLDC50, VLDC5 and VLDC5LTD use an electronic pen system that enables viewers to write captions on to an LCD screen: the image and caption appear on printed stickers.

Panasonic has launched two camcorders that can provide multiple picture-in-picture displays on their LCD screens: up to nine images can be displayed simultaneously.

Pioneer has launched two portable DVD players. One has a built-in 5.8in. screen while the other has to be connected to a TV set for viewing.

Toshiba is now marketing a number of TV sets with flat-screen plasma displays in Japan. Screen sizes range from 28 to 36in. A few of the sets are Hi-Vision HDTV models. Prices range from the Japanese equivalent of £700 to £2,650.

## DTT Reception

Research company TBS says that the UK's DTT service is exceeding the initial coverage predictions – around 70 per cent by the end of 1998 and over 90 per cent by the end of 1999. TBS conducted a series of tests that involved more than a hundred domestic locations in the service areas of the Crystal Palace and Oxford transmitters, using a Philips DTX6370 set-top box. These two transmitters were chosen because both transmit the full complement of six digital multiplexes, but whereas all six can be received from Crystal Palace using existing aerials in the case of Oxford a group W aerial would theoretically be required to receive all six multiplexes in addition to the analogue channels.

Various types of external aerial were in use at the chosen locations, from ultra-modern ones to aerials installed for colour TV in the Seventies. There were also some damaged aerials. TBS says that in the vast majority of cases (over 90 per cent) in the Crystal Palace area existing outdoor aerials provided reception of all six multiplexes: in the remaining cases the aerials were either severely damaged or had fallen down, with poor analogue pictures as well. In some cases reception of all six multiplexes was possible with aerials that were below par by using an inexpensive low-noise amplifier. This approach also worked well in Oxford, compensating for the fact that one of the mul-

tiplexes is outside the existing aerial group.

TBS found that it was possible to receive the DTT services from Crystal Palace just outside Oxford, where analogue signals from Crystal Palace were very noisy even with a high-gain aerial system for the London group and a mast-head amplifier. TBS says this demonstrates that long-range DTT reception is feasible.

The results obtained with indoor aerials also exceeded expectations. In many parts of London perfect DTT reception was found to be possible using a small indoor aerial. In some cases a small set-top amplifier was required. At one ground-floor room in a house at Fulham perfect DTT reception was possible without an amplifier or even a piece of cable attached to the STB's aerial input: analogue signals were unwatchable under these conditions.

The COFDM modulation technique used for DTT was able to cope with aircraft flutter and mast-rocking, either eliminating these problems or readjusting automatically within about a second.

It was found to be very easy to connect the STB to a receiver with a scart socket: RF connection took slightly longer, an additional tuning step being required.

TBS concludes that up to 95 per cent of homes should be able to receive DTT economically by the millennium.



**CPC has introduced a videoconferencing kit that includes everything required for the purpose and in addition provides high-quality data capture. Called the Grand Video Conferencing/Capture Kit, it gives low-cost access to the latest technology, with a video camera and capture card, a microphone and a software package.**

**The capture card has composite and S video inputs. Brightness, contrast, saturation, sharpness and true-display controls are provided, with full-motion video and still-image capture. As the card requires neither a VGA feature or video frame buffer, no extra costs are involved.**

**The video camera has a minimum horizontal resolution of 310 lines and a focus range of 100mm to infinity. Power is drawn from a PC keyboard connection and the output is composite video.**

**The kit is easy to install and use and comes complete with extensive manuals and utility diskettes.**

**For further details phone CPC on 01772 654 455 or fax 01772 654 466.**

## Digital Round-up

The BBC has been testing its Digital Text service. Phase 1, offering 15-20 pages that can be called up by pressing 10 on the remote-control handset, started on November 1st. Phase 2 will provide up to 700 pages. The tests are due to be completed in February, after which the service will be given a new name and further services will be added.

A number of new channels have been added to the Astra 2A line-up. S4C Digital, Travel, QVC and Shop! use multiplex 1. Other channels carried in this multiplex include CNN International, The Cartoon Network and TNT. S4C will be included in multiplex 2 from early 1999.

The UK company Video Networks has developed a video-on-demand (VOD) service that uses ADSI (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) technology to deliver digital TV pictures to homes via telephone lines. BT is testing the system in areas covered by the Hendon and West Hamstead exchanges.

The current generation of SkyDigital STBs

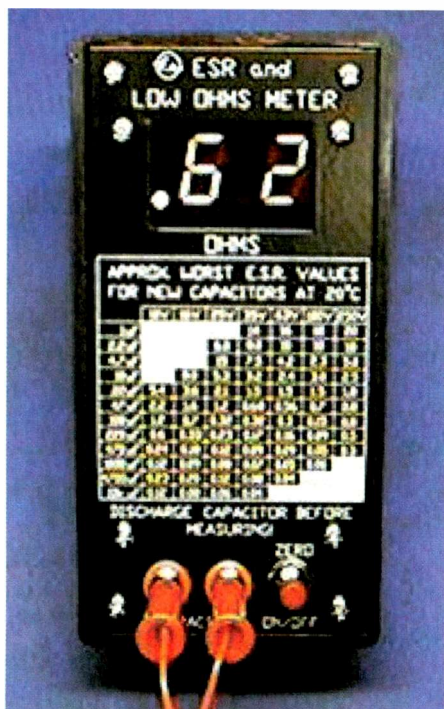
do not include a switch-channel timer. As a result, they cannot be used with a VCR to record more than one programme in the absence of the viewer. Thanks to Barry Fox of ERT for unearthing this fact. In addition, despite some information that has been released, the current generation of digital satellite and DTT STBs can provide baseband video outputs in only RGB and composite form, not S video. The latter option may be added at a later date – it would call for some chip redesign.

To help viewers, the BBC has been providing a lot of first-rate information on the new digital broadcasting services. Its initiatives include the creation of a website ([www.bbc.co.uk/digital](http://www.bbc.co.uk/digital)); screening a number of films that highlight the advantages of digital technology; establishing a hotline (0990 118 833) to handle requests for brochures and printed information and a Reception Advice Centre (0870 100 123) to deal with digital enquiries; and holding background briefings

for journalists.

Pace is to use the NEC  $\mu$ PD61030 "Emma" chip in a number of second-generation digital STBs. The  $\mu$ PD61030 includes all the core elements required, such as demultiplexing and MPEG-2 decoding. It needs only the addition of memory, an appropriate front-end and interfacing components to achieve a full digital TV receiver. Highlights of the design include a MIPS16 processor with 100mips performance and a high-specification graphics generator. According to Pace, use of the chip will significantly improve performance while providing cost advantages over first-generation STBs.

Three UK manufacturers have developed digital radio hi-fi tuners. With five manufacturers having introduced in-car digital radio receivers, the BBC has been working with manufacturers to encourage the production of domestic hi-fi units. Two of the tuners, from Arcam and Cymbol, have already been put into production. Meridian expects to start production in early 1999.



## The Aussie ESR Tester

Andy Barkley compares the two electrolytic capacitor ESR test meters currently available

In the June 1998 issue of *Television* Martin Pickering wrote an in-depth review of the Capacitor Wizard, a device that checks the ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) of electrolytic capacitors. We've used a Wizard in our workshop for over a year now. Without doubt it's earned its keep, not just for ESR measurement but as a general-purpose low-ohms meter. It beats an ohmmeter hands down when probing a PCB for short-circuits, since one can check the electrolytics at the same time.

The Wizard is not the only ESR meter on the market however. Shortly after buying our Wizard we discovered, via the internet, an instrument designed by Bob Parker. Frustrated by electrolytic capacitor problems, this Australian engineer had designed an instrument himself. Although it's very different from the Wizard in concept and appearance, the end result is the same, i.e. by using either meter it's easy to identify unserviceable, high-ESR electrolytic capacitors, both in-circuit and out.

### Building a Genie

Unlike the Wizard, Bob Parker's Australian meter does not have a catchy name. The box it comes in lists the contents as "K-7204 EA 1/96 ESR & Low Ohms Meter", which is quite a mouthful. We call it the Genie in the workshop, and that's the name I'll use in this review.

Once opened, the box reveals another big difference between the Wizard and Genie – the latter comes in kit form! With the exception of a 9V PP3 battery, the kit contains everything you require to build the meter. The construction notes are excellent. We built our Genie in under two hours using a soldering iron, side-cutters and screwdrivers. A variable DC supply is required to set the threshold point for the low-battery indicator accurately. In addition, if you are a stickler for accuracy you need a couple of resistors of known precision to calibrate the instrument, though 1 per cent devices are supplied with the kit.

Crocodile clips and 4mm plugs come with the kit. We use silicone rubber test leads fitted with needle-point probes however. In addition we've fitted four rubber feet to the box.

The Genie fits into a regular ABS hobby-type box that measures 130 x 68 x 40mm – it comes with the kit. The box's lid has been discarded in favour of a customised one. This is sprayed black and has accurately-punched holes for the screws, connectors and display. A table of typical ESRs for a wide range of electrolytic capacitors is silk-screened on the lid. There are two 0.5in. seven-segment displays, a multi-function push-switch and two 4mm sockets for the test probes.

The 'custom' parts – front panel, PCB and software – are all of a very high standard. We particularly liked the milled-edge on the red Perspex display window, so that its surface fits flush with the front panel. The whole thing looks very smart, with a Heathkit-type appearance.

### Use

The Genie can be powered by an internal 9V PP3 battery or an external 9V supply. There's no connector for the latter in the kit, nor is the box drilled for a DC connector, but the instructions include details of how to modify the circuit to disable the low-battery indicator when external power is used.

We opted for battery-only operation and, as part of the calibration procedure, used our bench power supply to produce 7V to set the instrument's low-battery indicator threshold.

A single press on the push-button switches the Genie on. 'EA' is displayed momentarily, then a '-' in the left-hand seven-segment display. Short the probes together then push the button again to calibrate the unit for the test leads in use.

ESR measurement is carried out by connecting the test leads to each leg of the capacitor being tested. Its ESR is shown as two digits in the display. Although the Genie and the Wizard use quite different test signals,

correlation between the two instruments is very good. We have never had a capacitor pass with one and fail with the other.

### The Works

The two meters use quite different approaches to ESR measurement. With both, an HF signal is applied to the capacitor being tested. So that no semiconductor junction is turned on, the signal amplitude is below 0.6V. The Wizard uses a sinusoidal 5mV RMS test signal, carrying out its ESR measurement by analogue techniques. The test signal used by the Genie appears to consist of bursts of very short-duration pulses. Each pulse has a duration of about 7µsec, the pulses within a burst being about 500µsec apart. Digital techniques are used to perform the measurement.

The heart of the Genie is a Z86E0408 microcontroller chip, which is supplied preprogrammed with the necessary firmware. Short-duration current pulses are applied to the capacitor being tested: the resultant voltage pulses are proportional to the capacitor's ESR. After a set time interval, the pulse amplitude is compared with the voltage developed across an internal capacitor that's charged by a set constant current. Counters and comparators within the microcontroller chip perform the timing and voltage measurement.

### Genie or Wizard?

After the test you leave the probes open-circuit: the Genie will switch off automatically after a few minutes. We'd love the Wizard to do this because, although its power consumption is meagre, it has no indication of being on and we've frequently discharged its batteries by forgetting to switch it off at the end of the day. Both units have a low-battery warning. The Wizard uses a single red LED for the low-battery warning. The Genie shows a 'b' in its display.

The Genie measures resistances up to 99Ω, while the Wizard goes up to only 30Ω or so (on a logarithmic moving-coil meter). The Genie's extended range is of little use for ESR testing, since most of the electrolytic capacitors used in TV sets, VCRs etc. should have an ESR below 25Ω, but the ability to measure up to 100Ω accurately is useful when checking PCB tracks for short-circuits, dry-joints and the like. The Wizard beeps when it measures ESR below about 1Ω – a useful feature when testing a number of capacitors on a PCB, as it means that the engineer can concentrate on the PCB without having to look at the instrument's display.

Although the Wizard has a more professional appearance than the Genie, we feel that in practice the Genie is more robust – mainly because it uses seven-segment LED displays rather than a fragile moving-coil meter. We've managed to drop both instruments. The Genie is unscathed, but the Wizard's meter cover is cracked. One comment Martin Pickering made was that he loves the Wizard's probes. We second this. They are slim, slightly flexible and never tangle – a dream to use.

Based purely on features, there's little to separate the instruments. Both will confidently indicate a high-ESR (i.e. dead) electrolytic capacitor. The Genie has one trump card however – so long as you don't mind self-assembly: while the Genie cost us a total of \$71 (Australian), which at the time of writing is equivalent to about £30, the Wizard costs £169 (fully built).

### Further Information

Martin Pickering's review of the Wizard appeared in the June 1998 issue of *Television*. It provides a recap on what ESR is. Two articles in the January and April 1993

issues of *Television*, All about Electrolytic Capacitors and A Simple ESR Meter for Electrolytics respectively, provide a detailed analysis of ESR and a simple ESR meter design.

The web site of ICHE, which markets the Capacitor Wizard in the UK, is <http://www.iche.com/equip.htm>

Bob Parker's web page is <http://www.nlc.net.au/~bobp/esrmeter.htm> It tells you all about him, the ESR meter, what ESR is, provides tips if you have difficulty building or using the meter, and has information on other useful items he has designed.

A newsgroup on the internet can be found at [sci.electronics.repair](mailto:sci.electronics.repair) Both ESR instruments receive frequent recommendations.

The Capacitor Wizard is available from ICHE, PO Box 142, Nottingham NG9 3RX. Telephone 0115 932 052, fax 0115 944 4004, e-mail [tony@iche.com](mailto:tony@iche.com)

The Genie ESR meter is available from Dick Smith Electronics. Fax +61 2 9805 0901. Send fax including credit card details, delivery address etc. Alternatively post to John Norris, National Sales Manager, Dick Smith Electronics Pty Ltd., PO Box 321, North Ryde, Sydney, NSW 2113 Australia.

Our company (ndB Electronic Services) bought a Capacitor Wizard by mail order from ICHE and faxed an order for the Aussie ESR meter to Dick Smith. It arrived nine days after the fax was sent.

The Genie is also available from SatCure, PO Box 12, Sandbach CW11 1XA at £49.95 + £2.50 P&P (UK) as a kit or £59.95 + £2.50 P&P (UK) ready built. Orders can be faxed to 01270 761 928. Allow 21 days for delivery.

## EARN EXTRA MONEY

**Repair PC Monitors, TVs & Videos:  
...Faster!  
...with Confidence!  
...with a **TELETEST****

60 day "no quibble" money back guarantee



**PC/TV Test Pattern, Audio & RF Signal Generators**




**Above:** The TELETEST PC for computer monitors.

**Right:** The TELETEST-2 for TVs and Videos.



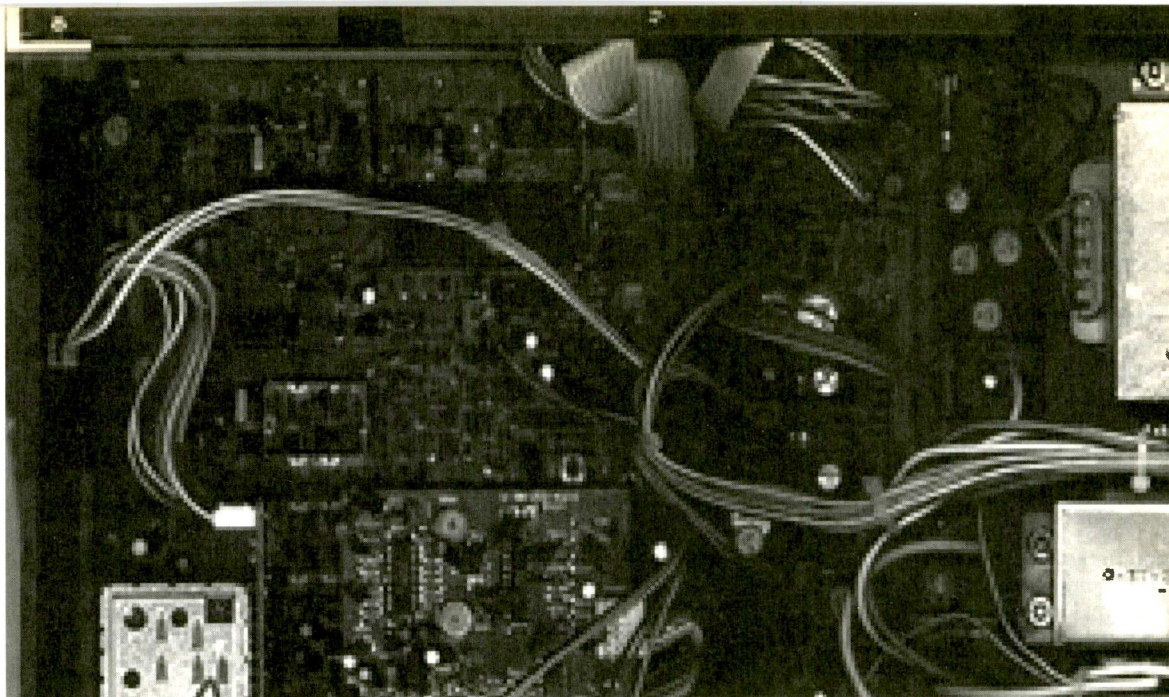
TELETEST-2 & TELETEST PC: £159.95 each  
Carry Case & PSU: £9.95 each.  
Free UK P&P, Overseas £15.95 Prices ex VAT

Fax: 01202 759922 (Overseas Tel: +44 1202 759911 Fax: +44 1202 759922)  
TELETEST Ltd: 29 Beaulieu Road, Bournemouth, BH4 8HY. UK  
[www.teletest.co.uk](http://www.teletest.co.uk)

**Call now for your FREE INFO PACK**

**Freecall: 0500 009070** 7am-10pm everyday

**FREE Info Pack Credit Card Sales Technical Help**



# Satellite Notebook

*Reports from  
Hugh Cocks  
Chris Watton  
Ian C. Beckett  
and  
Pete Gurney, LCGI*

## **A Confused Pace SS9200**

The owner of an elderly Pace SS9200 receiver phoned to say that no on-screen menus appeared following the remote control setup and 1 push-button sequence. As a result, retuning for new satellite channels was impossible. He had been away for a couple of months and had left the receiver plugged in during his absence. Not too long before his departure he'd done some tuning.

I suggested that he try setup and 1, 4, 7, the earlier SS9000 sequence, but this didn't produce anything either. Nor would trying to access the setup 2 (2, 5, 8 with the SS9000) installation menu. I ascertained that the front LED blinked when the setup button was pressed, so at least the remote control button wasn't to blame.

At this point I asked him to bring the receiver and the remote control unit to the workshop. When they arrived I found that the situation was exactly as the owner had described on the phone. I could however produce the parental channel lock on-screen indication by pressing the setup and status buttons, and the channel could be locked by entering the 1, 2, 3, 4 pin number. Apart from this however there was a complete absence of on-screen menus.

I tried the global reset procedure: press setup, P - -, 2, 3, store and channel up (up arrow) followed by channel down (down arrow) several times. There was no change. As a final try I did the reset-pin procedure - I held the reset-pin procedure - I held the front panel on/off button in and

applied mains power. After several tries the menus appeared in the usual way!

The receiver was kept in a fairly cool spot, and appeared to be in excellent condition for its age. To be on the safe side I replaced the electrolytic capacitors in the power supply, though they were fairly new - the receiver had had a power supply repair about a year previously. **H.C.**

## **Amstrad VS1140**

There was intermittent decoding, and "incorrect card" messages appeared at random. I also noticed that the picture was not quite what it should be, and that there were some odd white lines on the screen (satellite pictures only). A power supply fault was suspected, but the culprit turned out to be CA02 (470µF, 10V) on the decoder/signal board. **C.W.**

## **Digital Problem**

We had an interesting problem recently with a Maspro SA7 system that produced a snowy picture. The symptom cleared when the terrestrial TV aerial was disconnected. Thinking that the receiver was faulty, we took it back to the workshop. Before we could look at it there was a call from another frustrated customer who had the same problem. Later that day yet another customer phoned, to say that there was no playback from his VCR.

All three pieces of equipment had been tuned to provide an output on ch. 34, which is now used for the BBC digital multiplex from the Oxford transmitter. With an

ERP of 10kW, the signal is very strong in our area (Buckingham). Modulator retuning cured the problem.

This situation is likely to arise in other parts of the country as well. **I.C.B.**

## **Amstrad SRD2000**

The complaint with this Pro-Logic receiver was no signal. Nowadays I normally make a point of measuring the LNB supply before connecting up. In this case it was at just over 28V, because IC602 (AMS42577) had failed.

This is not an easy device to obtain. Further research established that it's an LM2574NADJ, which is a straightforward switching regulator. It can be obtained from various sources. The one I used came from CPC, the order code being SCLM2574NADJ. After fitting it, RV600 had to be set up for the 17V output level. **P.G.**

## **Twisted LNB**

The owner of a Pace satellite system said that on some channels his pictures were sparkly. On other channels they were fairly reasonable. When we called we found that this was a fair description.

The house had just been repainted and, looking at the LNB, the cause of the problem was obvious: the Continental Microwave LNB had been positioned dead vertical relative to the feed, the most 'natural' looking position to the untrained eye. During the course of the redecorating the painters must have knocked the LNB and reset it in this 'neat' position.

Unfortunately the LNB's skew angle was way out. Here in the Algarve we are quite far to the west of the satellite (the Astra 1 group). As a result there was a fair amount of crosstalk between the vertical and horizontal channels, which was causing sparklies with this analogue system. With a digital system there would almost certainly have been a total lack of pictures!

Some satellite installers still fail to appreciate the importance of setting the correct skew angle. With a wideband satellite meter approximately the same deflection is shown regardless, as the average amount of signal should be similar whatever the LNB's position. One installer here, who now installs digital systems, is very confused by the fact that incorrect LNB skew produces no pictures at all though his 'satellite meter' shows no difference in signal strength.  
H.C.

**Twisted Connections**

We received an urgent call from a house-management company to

attend to a satellite system that wasn't working – it was installed in a holiday apartment.

The receiver was connected to an IF distribution system, and a glance at the dish revealed that the system was an old single-polarisation Astra one. Some years ago we could pick up only the vertically-polarised Astra 1A signals here, and as a result a number of single-polarisation distribution systems were installed.

The receiver, which was of far eastern origin, produced a blue on-screen menu, but there were no pictures. When the IF cable was connected there was no increase in noise either. I connected an in-line satellite meter at the receiver end to check that the receiver was producing a supply for the LNB. In fact the receiver was working perfectly, but as soon as the cable to the roof was connected the meter produced a brief high-current reading then the receiver shut down the LNB supply. There was no on-screen warning to this effect – unlike the "LNB short-circuit" display you get with Pace models.

Up on the roof I found that the IF cable from the LNB disappeared into a plastic box from which several other cables emerged. There was no IF splitter inside. The IF feeder cables to two apartments were simply twisted together, along with the input feeder cable. The feeders to two other apartments were disconnected.

The source of the short-circuit was soon established. It was in the feed to the other apartment connected via the 'twisted-pair' arrangement. Thus the whole system was shorted. As the other apartment was unoccupied, I was unable to find the actual cause of the short.

I installed a two-way IF splitter with in-line power-passing diodes. The short in the unoccupied apartment then no longer loaded the system, and the cable could be connected to a receiver once the short-circuit had been fixed. I put a note through the letterbox to tell the owner about the problem – but haven't heard anything to date!  
H.C.

**TECHNICAL BOOKS & SOFTWARE**

- SATELLITE KNOW HOW!** John Breeds £22  
Install your own digital receiver. Install motor dish. V highly recommended.
- THE SATELLITE BOOK** John Breeds £34  
Worldwide acclaimed as best teaching manual. Very highly recommended.
- DIGITAL CABLE NETWORKS** KJ Bohlman £39  
Easily the best book on this subject. Very highly recommended.
- MPEG DIGITAL TELEVISION** Ed. John Breeds £19  
NTL authoritative guide. Highly recommended.
- EUROPEAN SCRAMBLING SYSTEMS** John McCormac £34  
Best book on hacking techniques. For educational use only.
- VIDEO SCRAMBLING & DESCRAMBLING** R Graf & W Sheets £25  
How to build encoders and decoders. Very clear explanations.
- COMPRESSION in VIDEO & AUDIO** John Watkinson £28  
Excellent explanations and illustrated throughout. Highly recommended.
- SATELLITE SERVICING 1995-1996** R Yaxley £59  
Circuits, scope readings, tables, troubleshooting etc. A 'quality' publication.
- THE GPS MANUAL** Steve Dye £30  
Accurately locate your position from satellites! Very interesting reading.
- DIGITAL VIDEO** John Watkinson £32  
Digital techniques explained understandable manner. A must buy book!
- SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS** G Maral £60  
Most authoritative book on satellite subject! Unreservedly recommended.
- 'SCREWDRIVER EXPERTS' GUIDE** Martin Pickering £19  
The bible for satellite receiver fault-finding. Unreservedly recommended.
- 1998/2000 WORLD SATELLITE YEARLY** Frank Baylin £59  
Mammoth reference. Footprints/loading reports. A 'must have' manual.
- SATMASTER Version Mk5.3LE** DJ Stephenson £49  
Brilliant PC software for installer and designers. Best software in this field.

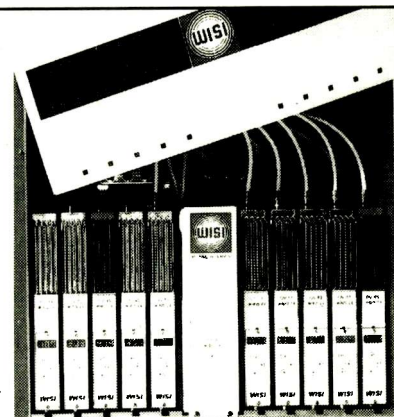
SAE for complete list, or Web site:- <http://www.swiftpub.u-net.com>

**SWIFT TELEVISION PUBLICATIONS**  
17 Pittsfield, Cricklade, Wilts, SN6 6AN, England  
Tel 44 (0)1793 750620 Fax 44 (0)1793 752399

EUROCARD  
MasterCard  
GIFTS  
SWITCH  
VISA  
DELTA

**The headend that says YES to**

- Quality
- Ease of use
- Agility
- Each module an almost total entity
- Superb value



WISI TOPLINE HEADEND

Never before has it been possible to offer – at competitive prices – a superior, easy-to-use headend range with high quality channel processing that allows the user to retain perfect vision and sound. WISI's breakthrough in headend modular design has processors for satellite TV, terrestrial TV and radio. Each individual module incorporates its own control system enabling quick and easy set up. These channel processors come together in an "all-in-one" base unit which contains all necessary accessories for ease of ordering – no additional items required!

**CHECK THESE FEATURES**

- Frequency agile freely selectable in the VHF or UHF range
- Adjacent channel capable
- B/G, D/K, I, L, M TV standards
- Modular system for headend stations in SMATV and CATV systems
- Modular for satellite TV, terrestrial TV, FM and satellite radio, SAT IF converters, TV modulators
- Individually programmable modules
- High output level
- Wall mounting or 19" rack mount with lockable cabinet door

U. K. STOCKIST

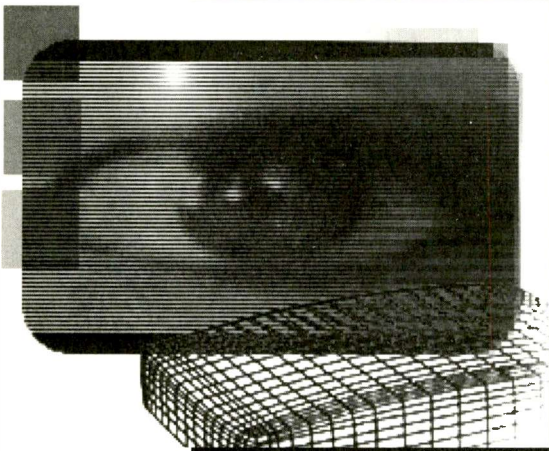
**J.W.HARDY**



**A Breakthrough in Headend Design**

May we send you full details?

J. W. HARDY COMMUNICATIONS, 231 Station Road, Birmingham B33 8BB Telephone 0121 784 8478 Fax: 0121 789 7931



**Reports from  
Chris Hawkins  
and  
Ian Field**

### **Quadram CM1401/Bull DMU1965**

At switch on this monitor produced a sound like a model aircraft engine – but it didn't manage to take off! Checks in the power supply showed that the HT voltage, which is normally 135V, had dropped to about 20V. When the line output transistor and the LOPT's primary winding were unsoldered the HT voltage returned to normal: with the transformer reconnected it took a dive. A replacement transformer put matters right. **C.H.**

### **Nech H566**

This monitor's display consisted of a fine horizontal line at the bottom of the screen. As I didn't have a circuit diagram, some time was spent scrutinising the PCB. Eventually R633, which is connected to guard function pin 3 of the TDA8351 frame output chip U602, was found to be open-circuit. Guessing its value from the

# Monitors

remaining halves, I popped a 68 $\Omega$ , 0.5W resistor in.

At switch on a normal display was produced, but to be on the safe side I replaced U602 and its supply filter capacitor C626 (100 $\mu$ F, 50V) as well. **C.H.**

### **Tatung TM3401**

Although its power supply was making efforts, this monitor kept stalling. A tap on the monitor seemed to instigate the fault. I eventually found that a small ferrite-beaded link in the line output transistor's base drive circuit was dry-jointed. A quick dab with the soldering iron cured the fault. **C.H.**

### **Elonex SV14LR**

Although the power supply was providing incorrect output voltages there would have been something on the screen if the heater voltage had been correct. It was very low at 1.3V, because C823 (470 $\mu$ F, 16V) had given up.

The other odd effects stemmed from the same cause. The optocoupler LED (I802) obtains its anode voltage from the rail smoothed by C823, via R819 (120 $\Omega$ ). All that ripple was confusing I803 (LM431).

If replacing C823 fails to raise the 84V supply close enough to its correct value, check all the other electrolytics on the secondary side of the chopper circuit for bulging or running warm/hot before tweak-

ing the set-HT preset R823. If the heater voltage is outside the range 6.3-6.8V with the 84V supply correct, there is probably still a 'soft' electrolytic somewhere in the power supply. **I.F.**

### **Digital VRC16HA**

The sides of the raster were jagged. It appeared to be an intermittent/dry-joint type of fault, as any movement of the timebase panel varied the severity of the symptom. The cause of the trouble was C220 (10 $\mu$ F, 250V) however. It's in the width modulator (not EHT PWM control) driver bias bootstrap/decoupling circuit. Despite the sensitive nature of the fault, stressing the capacitor mechanically had little effect. But a replacement cured the fault. It might be an idea to add this capacitor to the list of items to be replaced as a matter of routine.

You sometimes get a severe disruption to the line scanning, several times per frame, with these monitors – the horizontal scan can decay to a wiggly vertical line. The cause is usually C35 (100 $\mu$ F, 100V) on the power supply panel. Failure of this capacitor often leads to the following condition: the monitor does not start up initially but, if left, starts up with a severely disrupted scan which gradually clears to normal over the course of about fifteen minutes. If C35 is prodded with a plastic trimming tool the monitor may shut down. **I.F.**

### **Matters Arising**

Last time I mentioned the **Escom EM1448LR** (see page 546, June 1998 issue) I promised to report on the correct value of R448 when one of these monitors came along with this resistor undamaged. I can now do this: the value is 22 $\Omega$ . R448 is in series with L405 between the TDA4950 EW correction chip and the EW modulator diodes. It's usually destroyed beyond recognition when the 0.68 $\mu$ F, 250V MKT capacitor C417 self-destructs.

With this latest EM1448LR the yellow lead (vertical output) at the scan plug had come adrift from the plug moulding, the result being a blank screen. Before I completed this repair I upgraded the 0.68 $\mu$ F capacitor to 400V. I don't think the original capacitor is

being subjected to excessive voltage peaks: it's just that the 400V type is larger, with more surface area to dissipate heat, and thus runs less stressfully.

The **Acorn 4000** was referred to in the November issue (page 61) as a monitor – this was an editing fault. It's in fact the Acorn 32-bit RISC base unit, which is separate from the monitor. It may be helpful to note that if the original power supply is beyond repair a generic PC power supply module can be patched in, using the original Acorn motherboard power connector. Several ultra-slim (not 100 per cent compatible) PCs use power supply modules of a very similar size. There is no reason why such a unit shouldn't be adapted for the purpose. **I.F.**





# Launch of Hot Bird 5



**Eutelsat concentrates its TV services at the 13°E orbital slot. Hot Bird 5 completes the transponder complement at this location. Peter Brough reports on the launch**

**A**t 10.50 p.m. GMT on October 9th Eutelsat's Hot Bird 5 satellite was successfully launched from Cape Caboveral via an Atlas IIA rocket. It's the fifth and final satellite to be positioned at 13°E, and is equipped with an interesting new technology – Skyplex.

## **The 13°E Slot**

In 1992 Eutelsat decided to co-locate a series of satellites at the 13°E orbital position. The advantage of co-locating satellites is that a fixed receiving dish which points in the relevant direction will be able to pick up a wide range of TV and radio signals, providing a much increased choice of channels.

The first satellite to operate at 13°E was Eutelsat I F1, which was launched in 1983. In 1992 the decision was taken to modify the last satellite in the Eutelsat II series, increasing its EIRPs: renamed Hot Bird 1, it was sent to join II F1 which had replaced I F1 at 13°E. There followed Hot Bird 2 in November 1996, Hot Bird 3 in September 1997, Hot Bird 4 in February 1998 and now Hot Bird 5 which has replaced II F1. There are now 98 Eutelsat transponders available at 13°E, enabling over ninety analogue or up to 900 digital TV channels or any combination of these to be transmitted from this location. The frequency range covers the full spectrum from 10.7-12.75GHz.

At present about 320 TV channels are being transmitted at 13°E, 42 analogue and 273 digital. They include BBC World, Eurosport, Euronews and MTV2.

Although Astra is the dominant satellite TV system in the UK, Hot Bird transmissions have many viewers in France and, in particular, Italy. According to Eutelsat some 70.6 million homes are now receiving Hot Bird services.

### Hot Bird 5

Hot Bird 5 is the fourth high-power TV satellite to be built for Eutelsat by the Anglo-French company Matra Marconi Space. It had a launch mass of three tonnes and is equipped with 22 Ku-band transponders. Table 1 summarises Hot Bird 5's characteristics.

The Superbeam and Widebeam powers mentioned in the table refer to the two types of beams Hot Bird 5 can use to cover specific zones. Widebeams can cover the whole of Europe from the Azores in the west to Kazakhstan in the east while the Superbeam is focused on Europe and North Africa. A 50cm dish can be used to receive Hot Bird 5 signals in Central Europe. Moscow requires a 70cm dish, Dubai a 90cm dish and Kazakhstan a 1.2m dish.

### Skyplex

Hot Bird 5 is equipped with very interesting technology called Skyplex, which was developed by Eutelsat and the European Space Agency. It enables a series of TV and multimedia data streams to be sent from various locations to Hot Bird 5 which can bundle them to provide a single DVB-compliant (Digital Video Broadcasting) multiplex for downlinking to dishes that feed TV receivers, set-top boxes or PCs. Skyplex was first tested with Hot Bird 4, and was demonstrated at the International Broadcasting Convention at Amsterdam last autumn.

Hot Bird 5 carries three Skyplex units, two of which are for back-up. The units can receive up to eight uplink carriers with bit rates of 2 or 6Mbits/sec. These are demodulated then multiplexed into a single stream and format for DVB transmission. The downlink data rate is 27.5Mbits/sec for broadcasting use, though slightly higher rates can be used for other applications such as tele-medicine.

Eutelsat says that Skyplex can be used for a number of purposes including regional and local programming, outside broadcasts, business TV, satellite radio and as an internet gateway. It should be attractive to smaller broadcasting organisations whose channels are carried in the multiplex of a major broadcaster. Instead of using microwave or fibre-optic links to send programming to a ground-based multiplexer, signals can be uplinked directly to the satellite.

### The Launch

The remnants of Hurricane George, which swept through the Florida coast, delayed the launch of Hot Bird 5. A small technical problem added to the delay. The total delay was two days.

The launch was from Complex 36B at Cape Canaveral, using an Atlas IIA rocket which has a diameter of 3m and a length of almost 27m. Its Rocketdyne MA-5A boosters provided a thrust of 490,000lb. The plan was to take Hot Bird 5 to an altitude of 80 nautical miles then, after two engine burns separated by a fifteen-minute coast, place it in geosynchronous orbit. Separation from the rocket took place approximately 28 minutes after the launch, which was managed by International Launch Services.

**Table 1: Hot Bird 5 data.**

Orbital position	13°E
Dimensions	2.8m high, 1.7m long, 2.5m wide
Solar array span	27.9m
Design lifetime	14 years
DC power, end of life	5.5kW
Payload power	4.9kW
No. of transponders	22
Band coverage	10.95-11.22, 11.53-11.7 and 12.5-12.61GHz
Bandwidths	Eight 36MHz, twelve 33MHz and two 72MHz transponders
EIRPs	Superbeam 53dBW, Widebeam 50dBW, at beam centre

The launch timetable was as follows: T135 launch tower roll back; T105 30-minute hold; T91 cryogenic tanking begins; T14 final weather briefing; T5 another 15-minute hold; T5 resumption of countdown to lift-off.

A pre-flight briefing was held on the morning before the planned launch. While there appeared to be no problems with the satellite or the launch vehicle, the weather didn't look too good. In fact the lift-off chance was said to be 40 per cent. The forecast for the following day was even worse. During the day the weather went from hot, sunny skies to dark cloud with heavy showers.

The launch window when Hot Bird 5 could be lifted off was around 70 minutes. The storms were a particular concern, since launch regulations state that there must be a delay of at least 30 minutes should there be lightning – after a storm the atmosphere is highly charged, which can damage the on-board electronics.

The launch was full of tension, with the countdown stopped on two occasions. Eventually, with just seven minutes of the launch window left, the rocket blasted off.

### Operation

Hot Bird 5 was brought into operation after several weeks of testing. Eutelsat II F1 was then moved to 36°E, the transfer of channels from II F1 to Hot Bird 5 taking place on the night of November 9/10th. Several channels, including BBC World, Euronews, MBC and Viava, were affected by the change and now broadcast on different frequencies.

### The Future

Now that the Hot Bird slot is full, what next? Eutelsat plans to launch its Europsat craft next year (2000) but its intended location, 29°E, is controversial to say the least. SES is operating Astra 2A at 28.2°E and plans to position Astra 2B there. Eutelsat says it had booked 29°E for Europsat years ago, but SES argues that the booking lapsed because the position was not used in time. In early 1998 Eutelsat tested Hot Bird 4 at 29°E before moving it to 13°E.

An International Telecommunications Union radio regulatory board has ruled in favour of SES, but an appeal has been made. Eutelsat would like to share the 28/29°E slot with SES. At the moment however there seems little chance of an agreement between the two organisations being reached.



George Cole has been in Korea recently to survey the electronics scene there. Whilst in Korea he paid visits to leading manufacturer LG and to the KES

# LG and the Korean Electronics Show

**T**he Korean company LG has come a long way since its launch in 1958. In those days it had some 300 employees. Today over 33,800 people work for the company in Korea and its 56 overseas branches. Last year the company changed its brand name and logo from GoldStar to LG. The company has ambitious plans to become one of the world's leading multimedia companies by the year 2005. I recently had the opportunity to see some of the tech-

nologies it is investing in for the future.

The first thing you notice when you fly into Korea is the company's huge presence – there are LG petrol stations, lifts and cloths. LG's headquarters are at massive twin-tower buildings in what has come to be known as the "Manhattan of Seoul", a district where many major companies and banks are located.

LG's president and chief executive officer John Koo has announced a plan known as "Leap 2005". The aim

## The Korean Electronics Show

**T**he latest Korean Electronics Show (KES) was held at Seoul's Convention and Exhibition Centre (Conex) from last October 21st. The five-day show, for both trade and public, naturally featured major Korean companies. But overseas companies, including Philips and Sharp, were also present.

### Displays, TVs and Home Cinema

Projection TV sets and large, flat-screen displays were all the rage at KES. Philips showed a 54in. CRT projection set. The massive receiver had a 160° viewing angle and attracted a lot of attention. LG's large stand featured lots of flat-screen TV sets and monitors, including 17-29in. flat TVs and the 64W, a high-definition projection model.

Samsung showed a 30in. TFT LCD which is claimed to be the world's largest made from a single panel of glass – most large LCDs are made from two or more glass panels that are welded together. The company also showed

a 42in. VGA colour plasma display with 852 x 480 x RGB pixels, a pixel pitch of 1.08mm, contrast ratio of 40:1 and 350W power consumption. The display is just 3.5in. deep and weighs 35kg.

Daewoo showed many interesting

products on its massive stand, including a mighty 48in. digital rear projector and a 32in. plasma display panel. There were many CRT-based products.

Amongst these were a 32in. flat tube set and an HDTV receiver with a Dolby AC-3 decoder and a PC connection. An



Daewoo's multimedia TV set.

is to achieve annual sales of over £46 billion. This is quite a target, especially when you consider that LG's sales reached £6bn in 1997 and the Far East is suffering from a massive economic slump. The company's believes that it is on track to achieve its aims however, and has decided to focus on four major markets. These are: multimedia, including VCRs, camcorders, CD-ROM drives and video tape; displays, which takes in colour tubes, TV sets and monitors; LCDs; and what are referred to as "living systems" such as refrigerators and microwave ovens. The company spends about five per cent of its revenue on research and development.

### Displays

LG has passed the 100-million mark in CRT production. It believes that the TV sets and monitors of the future will use several display technologies. Sang-Han Yoon, director of LG's main TV plant at Kumi, thinks that LCD technology will be mainly used for displays less than 20in., with CRTs continuing to be used in the 21-37in. sector. Larger displays will use plasma technology. LG is not working on the Plasma Addressed LCD (PALC) technology advocated by Sharp, Sony and Philips.

During a visit to the TV division's production line I met Kwang-Cheol Joo, a research engineer who helped develop LG's integrated digital TVs. LG is working with Pace to produce integrated digital satellite and digital terrestrial sets. Mr Joo said that the DTT integrated set would have a slot at the rear of the chassis for a digital satellite converter module (dubbed a "side car").

LG's television demonstration room contains many items, from an old black-and-white set complete with valves made in 1966 to a prototype 120in. HDTV projector with 1,000-line scanning – and very nice it looked too.

LG is promoting its Digital Eye range of TV sets in Korea. They adjust the picture brightness to the current viewing conditions automatically. Some of the larger



*LG's plasma display.*

sets in this range have a motorised plinth that moves the set up to 15° in either direction, a feature that will no doubt be welcomed by couch potatoes. One set has a twin tuner and provides multiple picture-in-picture displays. Up to thirteen pictures can be displayed on the screen at the same time. Almost any combination of pictures seems to be possible – for example you can have a strip of seven pictures that run down the left-hand side and across the bottom of the screen with a larger picture filling the rest of it.

LG demonstrated a smart-looking touch-screen control system for adjusting the volume and picture settings – it reminded me of the control panels you find with some microwave ovens. A 24in. Wide Flatron flat-CRT set produced an excellent-quality picture. There were plenty of projection TV sets, with screen sizes ranging from 28 to 40in. LG plans to launch a 50in. model later in 1999. Widescreen TV is becoming popular in Korea, and now accounts for 55 per cent of the market.

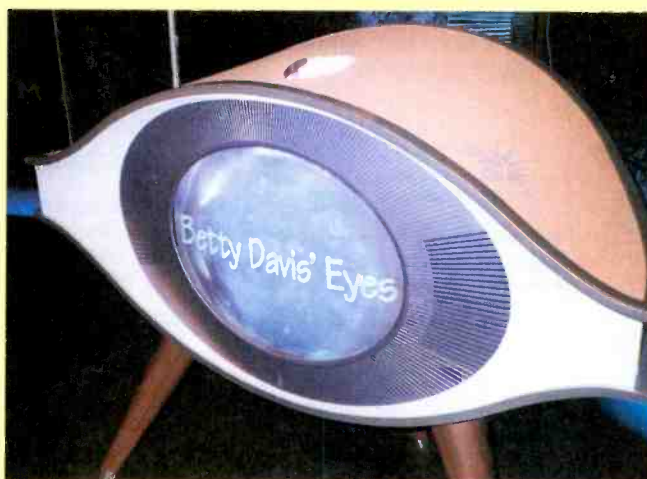
We were shown a 28in. internet TV set with a built-in web browser and modem, and a 32in. multimedia set

interactive multimedia TV model (see photo) offers viewers a shopping mall, games, e-mail and a video-on-demand facility.

An intriguing display at the Daewoo stand presented a number of unusual-looking sets. They were part of the Image 98 Proposed Design campaign. There were round and diamond-shaped screens. The one that got my vote was "Betty Davis's Eyes", with a screen the shape of a human eye.

3S Technology presented its Around Sound system, though the background noise at the show made it difficult to assess this properly. Around Sound is similar to technologies such as JVC's 3D Phonic, Virtual Dolby and systems from Hitachi, Sanyo, Panasonic and others that aim to provide multi-channel sound from a single pair of speakers.

Around Sound provides five-speaker sound by adding three phantom-sound sources – centre, rear left and rear right. The company says that its system is comparable with Dolby AC-3, THX and DTS, but I suspect that this is a bit of an exaggeration. It uses an AV-200CAP encoder that sits between the



*Novel TV designs were on display at the Daewoo stand. This one is called "Betty Davis's Eyes".*

AV source, such as a VCR, and the TV set, or between a stereo TV set and an AV amplifier. The technology is interesting: 3S says it's even possible to put text in the audio data stream for display at the bottom of a TV screen.

### VCRs and DVDs

Philips and Samsung both had DVD players on their stands. Philips also

showed the CDR870 CD-Recorder. Daewoo's VCRs included the Fiance range, which have VHS decks with orange and silver, and purple and silver panels. Daewoo plans to launch models DVT40 and DVT58 next year: these VCRs will include a colour noise reduction system and diamond head drums, which are claimed to last twice as long as standard drums.



A 32X CD-ROM drive developed by LG.

with a built-in 33.6K modem and a keyboard for sending e-mail messages.

Fifteen inch LCD displays mingled with 17in. plasma ones: LG promises a 21in. version later in 1991 and is developing a 29in. version.

LG has developed a 50in. plasma display panel designed for HDTV pictures. It uses a selective erase technique that's claimed to cut the number of drive ICs required by half and the manufacturing cost by about thirty per cent. LG says that the technique provides high-resolution performance without the polarised division of data. A multi-functional IC enables the panel to handle NTSC and computer images simultaneously. The panel can be connected to an audio or video source, such as a DVD player, directly. The contrast ratio is said to be 100:1, with 256 grey-scale definition and 16.7m colours. Size is 1,254mm wide, 755mm high and 85mm deep, the weight being 39kg. Mass-production is expected to start in 2001, with monthly output reaching 10,000 units.

**Video**

LG produces some four million VCRs annually. There are about 4,000 people in the VCR division, a quarter of them in R and D. Most of the VCRs are VHS models, but LG is looking at D-VHS.

LG says that sales of DVD players in Korea have been disappointing. Production of the players has now ceased.

The company is one of the largest CD-ROM drive manufacturers in the world, and is developing 32x and 40x high-speed drives. Drives that offer a 48x speed are seen as being the next step - NEC is rumoured to be making a 60x version. According to LG the biggest problem in developing higher-speed CD-ROM drives is noise-level reduction.

LG makes Divx (Digital Video Express) players for the US company Circuit City. Divx is a sub-format of DVD with special discs. A Divx disc costs a few dollars to buy and is designed to be used like a rental video tape: the disc can be played for about 48 hours, after which the data becomes scrambled and can be read again only after paying an additional fee. Divx has been available for some time in the USA: there is at present no sign of it reaching the UK. LG has been developing a second-generation Divx player.

**The Future**

LG has a number of products on the drawing board, including HDTV sets that should be ready by next year. These could be followed, in 2005, by 30in. LCDs, 55in. PDP (plasma) panels, 3DTV and video-on-demand provision for cable TV. There is plenty of new and better video technology to look forward to during the early part of the new millennium.

**Acknowledgement**

My thanks to the staff at LG Korea and LG UK for their help when researching this feature.

**HOW DOES YOUR EQUIPMENT MEASURE UP? AT STEWART OF READING THERE'S ALWAYS SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT!**

**PHILIPS PM3217** - Dual Trace 50MHz Delay  
This is really a very good oscilloscope including 2 probes, Pouch & Front cover Only **£300**

**Gould OS300** Dual Trace 20 MHz. Lightweight. Very good value. Only **£160**

**THIS IS THE BEST CHEAP SCOPE YOU WILL EVER BUY!!!**  
**Gould OS1100** Dual Trace 30 MHz. Delay. Very Bright. Supplied with manual and 2 probes. **£200**

**TEKTRONIX 2215** - Dual Trace 60MHz Sweep Delay. Includes 2 probes, Only **£350**

**TEKTRONIX 400 Series**

- 468 Digital Storage Dual trace 100MHz Delay ..... £550
- 466 Analogue Storage Dual Trace 100MHz Delay. £250
- 485 Dual Trace 350MHz Delay Sweep ..... £750
- 475 Dual Trace 200MHz Delay Sweep ..... £450
- 465 Dual Trace 100MHz Delay Sweep ..... £350

**HC 3502** 5mV-20V/Div; 0.2µ. secs- Dual Trace 20MHz 0.5. Sec/Div; X-Y; X5 Magnifier; TVSync etc. Unused **£180**

- PHILIPS PM3296A Dual Trace 400MHz Dual TB Delay Cursors IEEE £2250
- TEKTRONIX 2485A 4 Ch 350MHz Delay Sweep Cursors etc. £2500
- TEKTRONIX 2445/2445A/B 4 Ch 150MHz Delay Sweep Cursors etc. from £900
- TEKTRONIX TAS 465 Dual Trace 100MHz Delay Cursors. £900
- TEKTRONIX 2235 Dual Trace 100MHz Delay Cursors. £700
- IWATSU SS5711 4 Ch 100MHz Delay Sweep. £550
- PHILIPS 3055 2+1 Ch 50MHz Dual TB. £475

**NOW THIS IS RIDICULOUS!**  
**MARCONI 2019** Synthesised AM/FM Sig Gen 80kHz-1040MHz LCD display Keyboard entry. Only **£900**

- MARCONI 2017 Phase Lock AM/FM Sig Gen 10kHz-1024MHz..... £1200
- MARCONI 2022A/C Synthesised AM/FM Sig Gen 10kHz-1GHz from. £1500
- GOULD OS300 Dual Trace 20MHz. £160
- H.P. 8672A Synthesised Sig Gen 2-180GHz. £6000

**H.P. 8640A** AM/FM Sig Gen 500kHz-1024MHz 500kHz .512MHz version - £250 **£450**

- FARNELL PS61000 Syn AM/FM Sig Gen 10kHz-1GHz Portable..... £995
- FARNELL PS6520 Syn AM/FM Signal Gen 10kHz-520MHz Portable. £450
- RACAL 9081 Syn AM/FM Sig Gen 5-520MHz. £400
- MARCONI TF2015 AM/FM Sig Gen 5-520MHz. £175
- MARCONI 6311 Prog Sweep Gen 10MHz-20GHz. £4000
- H.P. 3325A Syn Function Gen 21MHz. £950
- PHILIPS PM5134 Sweep Func Gen 0.001Hz-20MHz. £300
- PHILIPS PM5132 Sweep Func Gen 0.1Hz-2MHz. £200
- MARCONI 2385 Modulation Meter 500kHz-2GHz. £1200
- FARNELL AMM2000 Automatic Mod Meter. 10Hz-2.4GHz Unused. £1250
- RACAL 9008 Automatic Mod Meter 1.5MHz-2GHz. £200

**SPECTRUM ANALYSERS**

H.P. 8562A Synthesised 1kHz-220GHz	£10,000
H.P. 8565A 0.01-220GHz	£3,500
H.P. 8559A 10kHz-1.8GHz (75 ohms)	£2,500
H.P. 8559A with Main Frame 0.01kHz-21GHz	£2,500
H.P. 8559B with Main Frame 100kHz-1500MHz	£1,500
ADVANTEST TR4131 10kHz-3.5GHz	£3,500
ADVANTEST TR4132 100kHz-1GHz	£1,200
MARCONI 2362 100Hz-400MHz High Resolution	£2,300
MARCONI 2370 30Hz-110MHz from	£500
HP141 Systems 8553 1kHz-110MHz from	£500
8554 500kHz-1250MHz from	£750
8555 10MHz-18GHz from	£1,000

**FARNELL LF1 SINE/SQ Oscillator** 10Hz - 1MHz **£75**

**LEVELL TG2000MPC Oscillator** 1Hz-1MHz Sine/Square. Meter. Battery Operated. (Batteries not supplied). **£50**

**Classic AVO Meter -** A Digital AVO DA 116 3.5 digit Complete with Batteries & Leads Only **£30**

**METROHMA 9A - 500V Battery** Megga (a useful back-up for fault finding) Complete with Batteries & Leads Only **£35**

**Solatron 7045 - 4.5 Dig. Bench** Multimeter with leads **£45**

**SOLARTRON 7150 DMM** 6.5 digit True RMS IEEE **£300**

**WAYNE KERR AMM255** Automatic Modulation Meter AM/FM 1.5MHz-2GHz 3.5 digit Unused **£500**

**GOODWILL GFC 8010G** FREQUENCY COUNTER Range 1Hz-120MHz 8 Digit Display 15mV RMS Sensitivity Unused **£125**

**ANALOGUE MULTIMETER Model HC260TR AC/DC** Volts DC Current 10 Amps; 17 Ranges; Continuity Buzzer; Transistor Tester Unused **£15**

**BRAND NEW OSCILLOSCOPES - NEVER USED - LIMITED STOCK**

**DMS 3850A Digital Storage/DMM**  
Handheld LCD display. 2 Channel 50MS/s. Auto range 4 Digit DMM/Capacity/frequency counter. Battery operation or external 7.5-9.5V DC ie. AC adaptor (not supplied). RS232 comes in black carrying pouch complete with 2 scope probes. DMM leads; Manual. For Only **£400**

**DTS 40 Digital Storage**  
Dual trace 40Hz 20 MS/s Storage. Cursors + On screen readout. Sweep Delay; interface etc. etc. Supplied unused in original box complete with 2 probes & Manual. Amazing Value **£400**

**DTA Dual Trace 20MHz**  
All Mag TV Trig etc unused & boxed with 2 probes & Manual **£225**

100kHz-100MHz; FM 0-100kHz; Output -19dB-99dB AM 0-60%; 32 Preset Memory; Digital Display Frequency & Output. Used **£450** Unused **£750**

**KENWOOD FL 180A WOW/FLUTTER METER** 0.003%-10%; Freq 3KHz/3.15KHz RMS/AVERAGE/PEAK. Weighted Filters; Digital Display of RPM; 4 digit Freq Counter 0.01KHz-9.999KHz/0.01KHz-55KHz. Used **£400** Unused **£500**

**POWER SUPPLY Model HSP3010** 0-30Volts; 0-10 Amps Current Limiting. 2 Meters. Used **£160**

**GOODWILL GV1427 DUAL CHANNEL AC MILLIVOLTMETER** 10µV 300V in 12 Ranges Frequency 10Hz-1MHz Used **£100** Unused **£125**

**STEWART of READING**

110 WYKEHAM ROAD, READING, BERKS. RG6 1PL  
Telephone: (0118) 9268041. Fax: (0118) 9351696  
Callers Welcome 9am-5.30pm Monday to Friday (other times by arrangement)



**Used Equipment - GUARANTEED. Manuals supplied.**  
This is a VERY SMALL SAMPLE OF STOCK. SAE or Telephone for lists. Please check availability before ordering. CARRIAGE all units £16. VAT to be added to Total of Goods and Carriage.

### top semi's

2SD1877	1.28
2SD1878	1.80
BU208A	0.92
BU2508A	1.05
BU2520DF	1.95
BU508A	0.76
BU508AF	1.08
BU508D	0.78
BU508DF	0.90
BU508DFL	1.65
BU508V	1.45
BUT11AF	0.42
BUT11A	0.40
BUT12A	0.85
BUT12AF	1.95
BUT18AF	0.70
BUT56A	0.74
BUZ71	0.80
BUZ77B	1.95
BUZ80	1.85
BUZ90AF	1.65
S2000AF	0.95
S2055AF	1.65
SGSIF344	3.25
TIPL761A	1.95
TIPL791A	1.95
TL431	0.95
TOP202YA1	6.95

AN5515	1.65
AN5521	1.95
LA7830	0.94
LA7835	3.75
STR11006	2.95
STK5481	4.95
STK7348	3.96
STR50103A	2.95
STR54041	3.15
STR54041M	
(PANASONIC)	9.95
STR58041	2.95
STR59041	2.95
TA8427K	2.25
TDA3565	2.15
TDA3653B	0.95
TDA3653C	0.86
TDA3654	0.98
TDA4600-2/3	1.50
TDA4601	1.44
TDA4605	1.95
TDA4950	1.06
TDA8138	1.25
TDA8170	1.25
TDA8171	2.45
TDA8178FS	6.50
TDA8350Q	2.75
TDA8380	1.95
TEA1039	1.64
TEA2018A	0.78
TEA2261	1.75
UC3842	0.60
UC3844	0.84
UPC1488H	1.30

**WE STOCK  
5,000  
COMPONENTS  
FOR OVER  
10,000  
MODELS**

### top PHILEX remotes

1020 MODELS AT.....£4.95

THE OTHER 3000 AT.....£5.95

### top pinch rollers

THE TOP 36 PINCH ROLLERS  
COVERING 1600 MODELS ARE....

**£1.45**

THE OTHER 30 COVER THE REST!

**WE STOCK 190 KITS COVERING 1677 MODELS**

### top satellite kits

AMSTRAD SRD510/20	MODK21... £4.45
PACE MRD920	MODK22... £4.95
PRD800/SS9000	MODK23... £5.25
APOLLO	MODK47... £5.95
MSS100	MODK43... £6.95
MSS500/1000	MODK38...£12.95

### top tv kits

<b>MITSUBISHI</b>	
CT21 A2STXCT21 A2STX	
CT21 A3STX CT25A2STX CT25A3STX CT25A3STX	
CT25A6STX CT25B2STX CT25B3STX	
FRAME KIT	MODK49...£2.95
<b>BUSH /GOODMANS/ETC. PORTABLES</b>	
PSU KIT	MODK30...£1.25
<b>PHILIPS</b>	
GR2 CHASSIS	
PSU KIT	MODK19...£6.75

### top video kits

<b>AMSTRAD VCR6000</b>	
ALSO AKURA ALBA BUSH CROWN OSAKI PROLINE	
SENTRA TASHIKO TATUNG	
REFURB KIT	117...£6.95
<b>FERGUSON/JVC</b>	
3V35/39	
REFURB KIT	A107...£3.95
(CHOICE OF 3 KITS)	
<b>MATSUI VX1000/2000</b>	
ALSO ALBA BUSH SAISHO	
REFURB KIT	113...£8.95
<b>MITSUBISHI</b>	
HS521V/541 V/551V/561V	
HSM18V/20V/34V/38V/48V	
HOUSING KIT	MODK47...£5.95
<b>SAMSUNG</b>	
VIK310/320/350	
PSU KIT	MODK36...£6.95

### top video heads

**WE STOCK 250  
HEADS COVERING  
2500 MODELS!**

AKAI VS22 VSF10	VH76	8.95
ALBA VCR2222 MATSUI VS866 VX850	VH15	12.95
AMSTRAD VCR6000 ALBA VCR8000	VH80	8.75
AMSTRAD VCR9500 FIDELITY VCR3000/ GOODMANS TX3650	VH110	15.95
AMSTRAD VCR7000 MATSUI VX500/ HINARI VXL4	VH14	8.95
AMSTRAD VCR4600 HINARI VXL6	VH73	9.95
FERGUSON FV44	VH102	12.95
FERGUSON FV42	VH107	19.95
FERGUSON FV22 JVC HRD790	VH115	12.65
FERGUSON 3V65 JVC HRD170	VH44	9.95
FERGUSON FV12 JVC HRD500	VH45	15.95
FERGUSON 3V29/30	VH63	5.95
FERGUSON FV14 JVC HRD530	VH68	18.95
FERGUSON FV37 JVC HRD830	VH82	19.95
FERGUSON 3V44 JVC HRD140	VH87	9.95
FERGUSON FV31 TOSHIBA V211	VH95	11.95
FISHER FVHP10 SANYO VHR3300	VH72	11.95
HITACHI VTM620	VH109	11.95
HITACHI VTM730	VH104	16.95
HITACHI VT100/400	VH60	8.95
HITACHI VT130/420	VH61	12.95
MATSUI VP9301	VH165	13.95
MITSUBISHI HSB12	VH101	15.10
MITSUBISHI HSB32	VH84	14.10
PANASONIC NVSD22/25	VH25	7.95
*PANASONIC NVSD40	VH74	9.95
	OR VH139	10.95

\*PLEASE QUOTE HEAD NO (VEH....) AS EITHER  
OF THESE TWO HEADS MAY BE FITTED\*

PANASONIC NV300	VH18	7.95
PANASONIC NV370 PHILIPS VR6420	VH22	7.95
PANASONIC NVG21	VH23	11.95
PANASONIC NV730	VH24	12.95
PANASONIC NVG12	VH51	11.95
PANASONIC NVG7 SONY SLV210	VH52	7.95
PANASONIC AG6010	VH65	18.95
PANASONIC NVG40 GRUNDIG VS920	VH75	11.95
PANASONIC NVG18	VH81	12.95
SANYO VHR2300	VH48	9.95
SHARP VC381 VC9300	VH29	9.95
SHARP VCA63	VH131	21.95
SHARP VCF53 PHILIPS VR6340	VH33	7.95
SHARP VCA501 VCA63	VH71	16.45
SONY SLV425	VH74	10.95
SONY SLV410	VH167	21.25
TOSHIBA V300	VH105	14.75
TOSHIBA V500	VH114	18.50
TOSHIBA V75 V83	VH53	8.95
TOSHIBA V109 V93 VV108	VH70	11.95

### TIME LAPSE HEADS FOR MITSUBISHI

MODELS: HS5300-HS5400-HS5424-HS5600

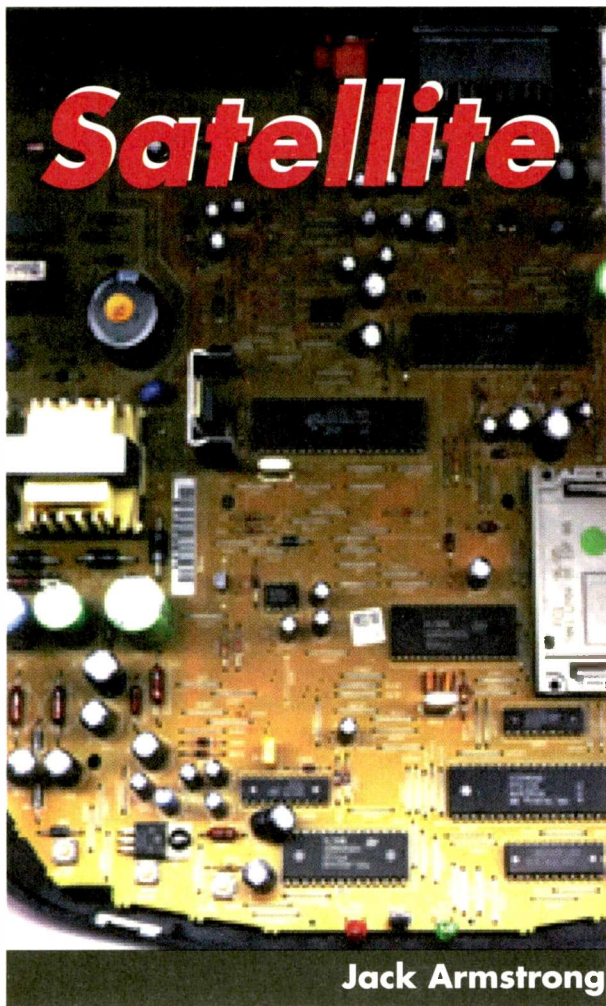
**VH252 24.95!**

**TOP SERVICE - ring us - quote model no. and part required - painless!**  
**ordering: PLEASE ADD £0.95 FOR ORDERS UNDER £15.00 AND THEN ADD 17.5% VAT**

**CHEQUES, CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS ONLY**

## irwin electronics

UNIT 200 ALBYN COMPLEX, BURTON ROAD, SHEFFIELD S3 8BX  
TELEPHONE 0114 273 9622 FACSIMILE 0114 275 9909



# Workshop

## Amstrad SRD510

Used analogue receivers have been selling well since digital satellite TV took off in the UK. This is partly because SkyDigital doesn't provide Eurosport, CNN, The Cartoon Channel and those naughty German channels, also because a lot of fairly modern, used analogue receivers have appeared on the market at rock-bottom prices. I took advantage of an offer and bought several ex-rental Amstrad SRD510 receivers. A couple of them had been butchered, but most were repairable.

One had a blank screen with good audio. I traced the cause of this fault to R5, a 12kΩ resistor in the voltage divider chain that produces a 2V reference supply for IC1 in the energy-dispersal clamp circuit. As usual, the resistor was covered with black, corrosive glue and had gone open-circuit. This type of fault is quite common. So, before even switching on the multimeter, I look for resistors covered with glue.

The same symptom can be caused by dead electrolytic capaci-

tors or a faulty C-band switch. This switch is provided to invert the video signal, but sits unused for the life of the receiver. Result? – one cheap switch with oxidised contacts.

## Pace Apollo

David Snell of Sky-View in Hereford sent me the following information on a faulty Pace Apollo receiver. The symptoms were small portions of the picture 'tearing' sideways and poor contrast unless it was set to 7 or 8 in the installation menu.

The remedy is to replace C216 (100µF), which is next to the graphics chip. David says that the severity of the symptoms decreased as the receiver warmed up.

This capacitor (and many others) is included in Relkit 9 from SatCure (01270 753 311). The same problem could arise with the Pace MSS200 and MSS300.

## Grundig GSRI Mk 2

This receiver is a cheaper version of the Grundig GRD150. It has a PCB that's different from the one in the Omni chassis used in the Minerva and Matsui variants. Last week the first one I've seen came along. I'm still puzzled by the fault.

Both red and green LEDs lit permanently, and the only response to button presses was a slight dimming of the LEDs. When I removed the cover I saw that all the large electrolytics were bulging. As this suggested that the power supply's output voltages had all gone high, I replaced every faulty capacitor then applied power while monitoring the 5V output. It was perfect, but the symptoms remained the same.

I put the lid back on quickly, in case I was tempted to spend more time on the receiver. The customer had set a £35 limit on the cost, so now was the time to give up!

It seems to me that some of the ICs had been damaged by the excess voltages. If anyone has come across this problem with a Grundig receiver, I'd be interested to know the cause. There was no obvious fault on the primary side of the circuit, so why had the output voltages risen so

high that the electrolytics had been damaged? I suspect foul play!

## BT SVS260

This one worried me because the hairdryer didn't bring back even a flicker of a "please insert card . . ." message. I spent nearly an hour fitting the Relkit 17 components, but there were still no messages. Everything was OK once I'd replaced the glue-encrusted 28MHz crystal.

After scraping away all traces of glue from the main board and screwing everything back together I found that the front panel didn't light up, though the LED on the decoder board did. On a hunch, I replaced the 4MHz crystal. This brought the box back to life, but the following day the long-suffering owner returned with the complaint that it was once more dead.

Sure enough the front panel display didn't light up. I checked the new crystal, which wasn't oscillating. Then I noticed still more glue between the pins of the microcontroller chip. A quick scrape with a pin got the receiver up and running again. The owner trudged away, muttering to himself – he didn't seem at all grateful.

## Notes on the Amstrad SRD510

The Amstrad SRD510 and later models such as the SRD540/545/550 suffer from a common problem: the plug that connects the outputs from the power supply to the main board is unreliable. As a result you get intermittent faults that can cause the LEDs to flash, or the remote control handset to be ignored, or a squealing noise from the power supply. There's a simple way of proving that the connector is at fault: watch the decoder messages move about on the screen when you tap the receiver.

A temporary fix is to spray the white power supply connector with WD40 (disconnect the mains supply first!) then move it up and down several times. The workshop cure is to solder a short wire between the little metal box on the power supply board and the test pin



labelled "0V" on the card reader board. After this it's essential to adjust the 5V supply by turning RV600 anticlockwise. Connect a voltmeter between the tuner's earth braid and the power supply connector, third pin from the front. Adjust RV600 for a reading of 4.95V. Take care – high voltages are present on the primary side of the power supply.

Another problem is that the audio disappears when the user selects MAC instead of PAL in the menu. This is a global setting that affects all channels. Simply reselect PAL and press exit. You might need to press standby twice before the sound will return.

If you need to connect a D2-MAC decoder to the SRD510, you will have to modify a standard scart-to-scart lead. Label one plug cover "receiver end" then remove it. Pull out connector number 12 and discard it. Pull out connector number 19 and push it back into position 12. The video output from the scart lead is now MAC de-emphasised, and can be used with most D2-MAC decoders – pin 10 provides a 'flat' baseband output. Select MAC in the D2-MAC decoder's set-up menu – do not

select MAC in the SRD510's menu.

An SRD510 can be modified to operate a Global ADX Plus automatically. Locate the big microcontroller chip inside the receiver, at the centre of the main PCB. Connect pins 4 and 20 together, counting anticlockwise from the notch – solder fine, insulated wire between them.

The menu will now include an option for "dish A/B", as in the SRD520. Plug the ADX Plus connector on to pin 14 of the SRD510's decoder scart socket. If the socket is being used by a decoder, you will have to remove pin 14 inside the scart plug and push the ADX connector into that position. You can then, by selecting and storing dish A or dish B in each channel menu, set the ADX to work as each channel is selected. An added bonus is that the SIS button also now works.

#### **Pace MSS100**

Last time this girl brought me her Pace MSS100 receiver the power supply was tripping. It didn't take long to trace the cause to one of the rectifier diodes on the secondary side of the chopper transformer.

Jack Armstrong is willing to try to sort out readers' satellite TV receiver problems via e-mail. You can reach him via the internet at:

**jack@netcentral.co.uk**

One model per message – state make/model and fault symptoms. If you have no e-mail facilities you can write to him c/o Television, Room L302, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. Please enclose two first-class stamps.

Once D11 (UF5402) had been replaced everything was OK. This time there were no decoder messages and no transparent menus (the ones without a blue background).

Suspecting a sync problem, I replaced the PTV111 chip. This was a lucky guess, curing the fault. It's interesting that I've never had failure of this chip with a BT SVS250 type receiver, despite the fact that a heatsink radiates heat down on to it!

I understand that a dud 503kHz resonator will produce identical symptoms.

## Test Case 433

Why is the workshop always so busy during the run-up to Christmas? TV and VCR reliability does not vary with the season, and people probably don't use their equipment more at this time of the year. It could be that customers put up with faults that don't actually prevent their equipment working, then bring it to us in fear that it might break down completely during the holiday. Or may be they dig out TV sets and VCRs which have been set aside unused and find that they don't work. Whatever the reason, we always get a lot of repairs to do in December. If only this volume would continue throughout the year!

At times like this it's more irritating than usual to find that the fault symptom written on the job card bears no relation to what the machine actually does. In this case it said "poor picture and sound, wow on sound" on the job card. When the machine, an Hitachi VTF250E VCR, was plugged into the mains supply it didn't show the slightest sign of life – even though the fuse in the mains plug and the 1-6A one inside the VCR were both intact. In fact this first fault was one that the customer would not have been aware of: it's not uncommon with certain sorts of switch-mode power supply, and Resident Workshop Sage soon sorted it out. What in fact was the problem, and how was it solved? That's your starter for ten, to borrow a television phrase!

Having managed to power the machine, Sage inserted a cassette and asked the machine to play it. The picture was marred by waves of noise and mistracking, which were accompanied by violent sound pitch changes. Clearly the

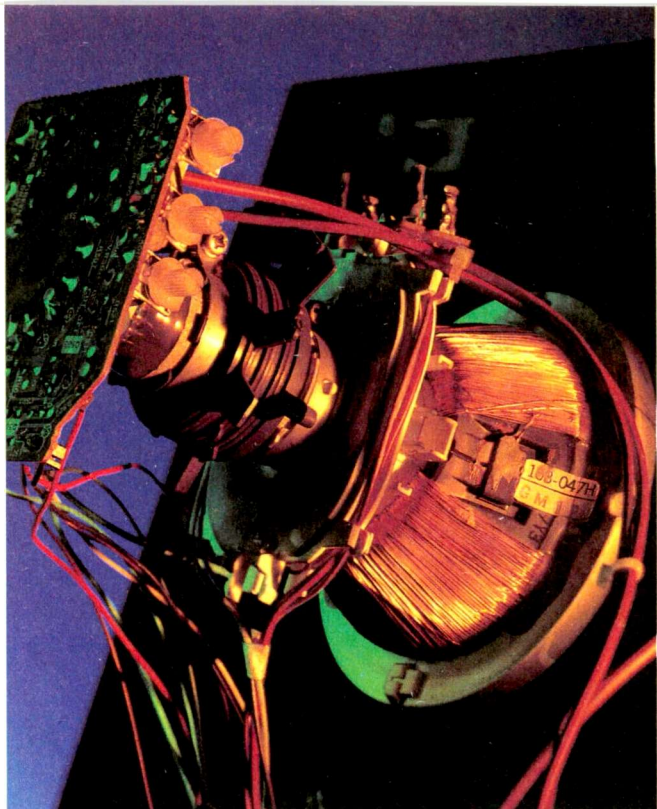
capstan speed was wildly wrong, and varying. At this point Sage was called to reception to advise yet another customer on how to use his new purchase: the questions could all have been resolved by simply reading the instruction book, but there you are! An advisory service is an important part of our sales operation, and gives us an edge over the box-shifters.

When Sage returned to the bench the Hitachi VCR was running normally, maybe because it had by now warmed up. But within a few minutes the capstan slowed, faltered and almost stopped. Then its speed returned to about normal. Isn't this the sort of problem you just love to get when you are busy and the customer wants his equipment back quickly?

Sage removed the machine's bottom cover and laid a fingertip on the capstan flywheel: only light pressure was required to stop the motor, after which it could be felt to 'flutter' somewhat. Well, capstan motor failure is not exactly unknown with Hitachi VCRs, so Sage ordered a replacement and thought no more about the matter – until the new one arrived. Fitting it presents no difficulties and, provided you don't forget to connect it up and refit the reel drive belt, the machine then generally works.

Not this time! Its performance was the same as before – with very weak capstan drive, speed variations and intermittent operation. Plainly the motor that now sat on the bench had not been the culprit, and the diagnosis had been too hasty. It didn't take long to find the real cause of the trouble however. What was it? For the solution, turn to page 217.

TV and PC monitor specifications differ considerably. We know all about the former: **Ray Porter, M.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.E.E.** provides some basic information on the latter



# A look at monitor specifications

The first personal computers used monitors to display text only. As their programs offered mathematical manipulation or word processing, it was not necessary to be able to resolve fine detail or colours.

## Display Standards

Greater sophistication in application programs soon followed. As a result, 'graphics' displays were required, enabling picture-like elements to be displayed. It was necessary to be able to program the coordinates and the colour of the displayed spot easily and show finer detail, i.e. more pixels were required.

These higher demands were met by enhancing the display memory and driver system in the computer, with corresponding enhancement of monitor performance. Earlier display system standards were based on the Colour Graphics Adaptor (CGA) and Enhanced Graphics Adaptor (EGA) specifications. To be usable, current PC software requires the use of a Video Graphics Adaptor (VGA) or Super VGA (SVGA) monitor drive system in the computer. The VGA format was introduced in 1986 as the first 'higher-resolution' specification.

Display systems have been continually improved.

Besides the well-known IBM standards mentioned above, the Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA) has devised others.

Table 1 shows the resolution, in terms of the number of horizontal x vertical pixels, of the most commonly used monitor display standards – and, for comparison, the very high-resolution Sun standard. Resolution is determined by four factors: the scanning system (number of lines, and whether interlaced or progressive), the video bandwidth, the screen dot pitch and the refresh rate of the display memory in the computer.

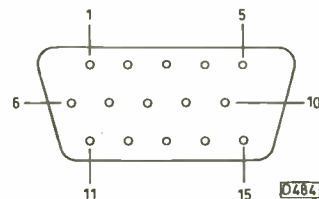
## Monitor Specifications

A typical multi-standard analogue colour monitor specification is shown in Table 2. An important feature is power saving, which is not found in TV receivers. Power saving is usually controlled by the associated computer, which may or may not have power-saving software installed. The idea is to stop EHT generation when the sync pulses cease to arrive.

**Table 1: Resolution of standard monitor displays.**

Standard	Pixels (horizontal x vertical)
CGA	640 x 200
EGA	640 x 350
VGA	640 x 350, 640 x 400, 640 x 480, 720 x 400
SVGA	800 x 600
VESA	640 x 350, 640 x 400, 640 x 480, 720 x 400, 800 x 600, 1,024 x 768
Mac II	840 x 480
8514A	1,024 x 768
Sun	1,600 x 1,280

**Fig. 1: Pin connections for the 15-pin mini D-type monitor plug.**



1	Red video signal	8	Blue earth
2	Green video signal	9	NC
3	Blue video signal	10	Digital earth
4	Jumper to pin 11	11	Jumper to pin 10
5	Self-test	12	NC
6	Red earth	13	Line sync
7	Green earth	14	Frame sync
		15	NC

Table 3 provides basic details of the Display Power Management System (DPMS) developed by VESA.

An alternative system monitors the presence of the blue video input.

Connection to the monitor is usually via a flying lead with good HF performance. The connections for the standard 15-pin mini D-type plug are shown in Fig. 1.

**Table 2: Typical multi-standard analogue colour monitor specification.**

**CRT:** 14in. semi-tint, non-glare screen; deflection angle 90°; dot pitch 0.28mm.

**Video input:** Analogue RGB direct drives, positive-going at 0-0.7V ±0.05V. Input impedance 75Ω.

**Sync input:** Separate line and frame at TTL level.

**Scanning:** Line 31.5, 35.5, 38 and 48kHz; frame 50-90Hz.

**Display area:** 245mm (H) x 183mm (V) recommended. Adjustable.

**Resolution:** 640 x 350, 640 x 480, 720 x 400, 800 x 600, 1,024 x 768 pixels (H x V).

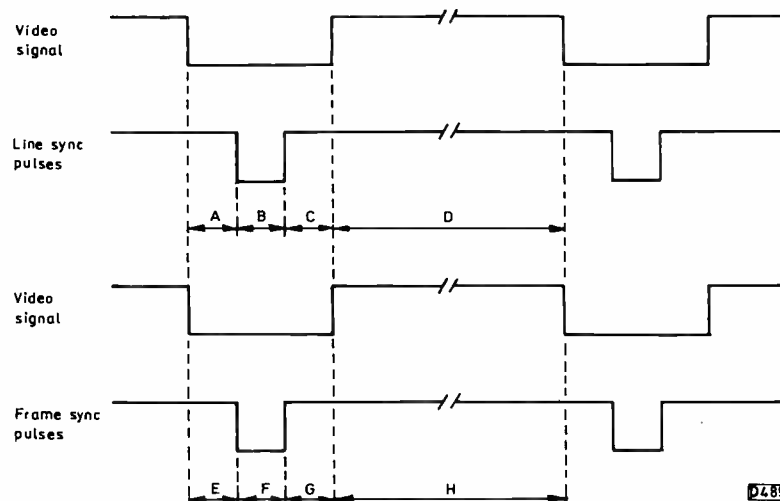
**Misconvergence:** 0.3mm at centre, 0.4mm at corners.

**Consumption:** 70W maximum with standard tube, 76W maximum with low-radiation tube.

**Common Formats**

Table 4, with Fig. 2, lists line and frame frequencies and sync pulse specifications for the more common display standards.

**Fig. 2: Line/frame sync pulse specifications - see Table 4.**



**Table 3: DPMS specification.**

Mode	Line sync	Frame sync	Consumption	Recovery time
On	Normal	Normal	Normal	-
Standby	No pulses	Normal	<15W	<3sec
Suspend	Normal	No pulses	<15W	<3sec
Off	No pulses	No pulses	<15W	<3sec

**Notes: (1)** When the sync is normal or the computer is switched on, the monitor automatically switches to the on mode.

**(2)** No line sync pulse is defined as <10Hz with <25% duty cycle. Normal pulse rate for line sync is defined as >10kHz with <25% duty cycle.

**(3)** No frame sync is defined as <10Hz with <25% duty cycle. Normal pulse rate for frame sync is defined as >20Hz with <25% duty cycle.

**(4)** The power saving function must work with PCs that have power saver software. The monitor automatically goes to off when the PC is turned off.

**Table 4: Sync and timing details for common display standards.**

Standard	VGA	VGA	VGA	SVGA I	SVGA II	VESA	VESA	VESA	VESA	8514A
No. of lines	350	400	480	600	600	350	400	480	600	768
Line frequency kHz	31.4	31.3	31.4	35.1	37.8	37.8	37.8	37.8	48	35.5
Line sync front porch, A μs	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	1	0.22	0.22	0.22	1.1	0.1
Line sync width, B μs	3.8	3.8	3.8	2	3.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.4	3.9
Line sync back porch C μs	1.9	1.9	1.9	3.5	2.2	4.6	4.5	4.6	1.2	1.2
Active line period D μs	25.4	25.4	25.4	22.2	20	20.3	20.3	20.3	16	22.8
Frame frequency Hz	70	70	59.9	56.2	60	84.1	84.1	72.8	71.9	86.9
Frame sync front porch, E ms	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.02	0.03	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.49	0.01
Frame sync width, F ms	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.1	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.12	0.11
Frame sync back porch, G ms	1.9	1.1	1	0.6	0.6	1.6	1	0.7	0.7	0.5
Active frame period, H ms	11.1	12.7	15.2	17	15.8	9.2	10.5	12.6	12.4	10.8
Sync polarity (L/F)	+/-	-/+	-/-	free	free	+/-	-/+	-/-	free	free
Dot frequency (MHz)	25.1	28.3	25.1	36	40	31.5	35.4	31.5	50	44.9

## Servicing

# The Mitsubishi EE4 chassis

**The EE4 chassis is used in sets that have 'M5' in their Model number, e.g. CT21M5B. There are several pitfalls for those not familiar with the operation of the chassis. Russ Phillips provides a guide to its technical features and fault diagnosis**

**T**he EE4 chassis is fitted in Mitsubishi M5 series TV sets, e.g. Models CT21M5B and CT21M5BT. It's very similar to the EE3 chassis used in AV1 series TV sets. An EEPROM is used to store various parameter values, including the tube drive and deflection adjustments. The service mode also has to be entered when you want to vary the tube's first anode voltage. This can make life interesting when the necessary information is not available.

### The Power Supply

The chopper power supply is based on the TEA2261 control chip IC901, see Fig. 1. When power is applied, the mains input is rectified by D901-4 which charge the reservoir capacitor C904. A DC supply of about 320V is thus generated for the S2000N chopper transistor Q901, fed via pins 8 and 5 of the transformer (T901). R922, R901 and R902 provide a start-up supply of 6-7V for pins 15 and 16 of IC901, via R915 and R923 respectively.

IC901's internal oscillator runs at about 12kHz initially, determined by C911 and R912. Pulses at the same frequency emerge at pin 14 to drive the base of Q901. The mark-space ratio of the waveform at pin 14 is very low to start with. It increases as C910 charges. As a result the power supply has a slow-start effect, since the output voltages are proportional to the mark-space ratio of the waveform at pin 14. Once the power supply is running, D905 rectifies the waveform at pin 1 of T901, charging C905 to 12V. This voltage takes over the supply to pins 15 and 16 of IC901.

The waveform at pin 17 of T901 is rectified by D951 which charges C952 to provide the HT supply (B+) for the line output stage, with smoothing by L951 and C953. The HT voltage is 122/145V depending on tube size. Pin 11 of the transformer feeds rectifier D953 which charges C960 to provide the 24V supply for the audio amplifier. D952, which takes its feed from pin 15 of T901, charges C955 to 11-12V. This is fed to pin 1 of the TDA8137 5V regulator IC951, which provides a constant output at pin 7 and, at pin 6, an output which is switched on/off by the voltage at pin 3 (from the microcontroller chip IC701) to give on/standby control.

The 11-12V supply is also fed to the error amplifier circuit which is based on transistor Q951, with feed-

back to IC901 via the optocoupler PC951. When the phototransistor in PC951 is switched on by the internal LED, it switches Q902 on via R914. R913 is then connected in parallel with R912 and the frequency of the oscillator in IC901 rises to about 30kHz. The power supply then reaches its full output.

R916/7/8 and L901 are incorporated to limit Q901's switch-on current. D907 and C914 enable Q901 to be switched on and off at the rapid rate required with a switch-mode power supply. Failure of C914 or D907 can destroy Q901 and may also kill the line output transistor Q552.

D906, L905, C917 and R921 form a snubber network to prevent damage to Q901 by the large back-EMF generated when it switches off.

Note that C905 can remain charged when the set is disconnected from the mains supply. It's charged to only a low voltage and doesn't constitute a safety hazard, but you may get misleading readings if C905 isn't discharged before meter tests are carried out on the primary side of the power supply.

### Regulation

The power supply's output voltages are determined by the voltage at pin 6 of IC901. This voltage is controlled by Q951 via PC951 and R906. If the voltage at pin 6 rises, the mark-space ratio of the waveform at pin 14 is reduced and the output voltages fall. The opposite happens when the voltage at pin 6 falls. Q951 monitors the HT supply via its base bias network, which consists of R954, VR951 (DC set) and R955. The emitter of Q951 is held at a constant 6.2V by zener diode D955. Should the HT voltage rise, Q951's conduction increases, the bias on the phototransistor in PC951 is increased, and the voltage across its emitter load resistor R904 and thus at pin 6 of IC901 rises. The HT output is then reduced as described above.

### Overvoltage Protection

If the HT voltage rises to an unacceptably high level – this can happen if, for example, the line oscillator stops – the voltage at pin 6 of IC901 will rise above the normal range. When this occurs, IC901 shuts off the output to Q901 until the voltage at pin 6 falls to an acceptable level. Because of the high values of the reservoir

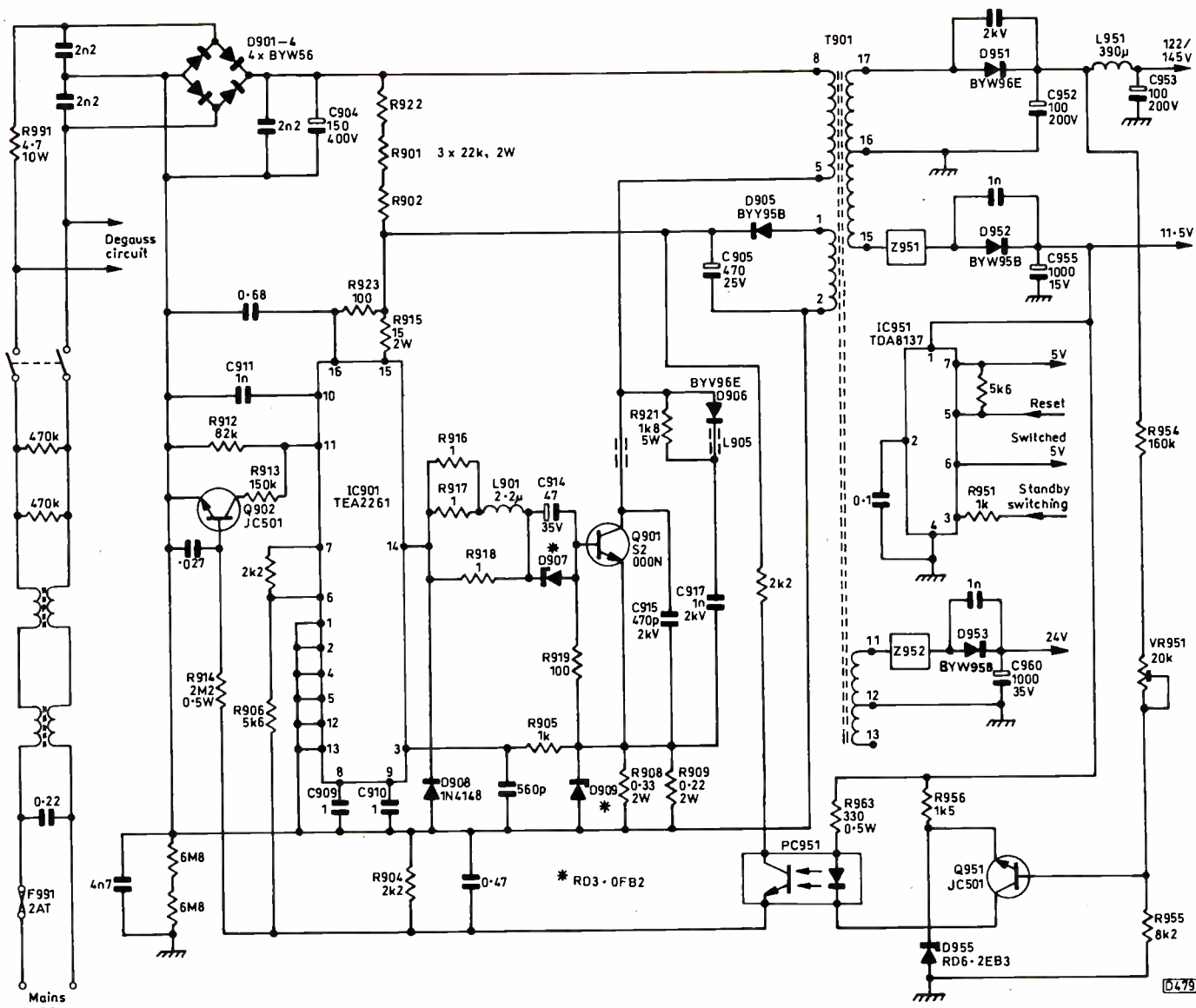


Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the chopper power supply used in the Mitsubishi EE4 chassis.

capacitors on the secondary side of the supply, the output voltages will decay gradually. If the fault condition is still present when IC901's output at pin 14 restarts, it will shut down again. This can go on indefinitely. When the power supply is operating in this stop-start fashion, DC voltages measured with a meter will appear to be normal but a check on the waveform at pin 14 of IC901 will show short bursts of pulses with gaps where the power supply shuts down.

IC901 has a secondary level of overvoltage protection which is based on the voltage at pin 16. In normal operation the voltage at this pin is about 12V. If the voltage across C905 rises to 15V, IC901 shuts down and C909 is charged to 2-3V. IC901 is then locked in its shut-down state and cannot run until C909 has been discharged. This can be done by disconnecting the set from the mains supply for at least one minute. If, to facilitate fault diagnosis, you want to stop C909 charging, connect a 100Ω resistor across it.

**Excess Current Protection**

R908/9 monitor the current demand at the secondary side of the power supply: the voltage developed across

these two resistors is proportional to Q901's collector current, which is in turn proportional to the secondary side current flow. The voltage across R908/9 is fed via R905 to IC901's current sensing pin 3.

IC901 has two excess-current protection levels. Normally the voltage at pin 3 is very low. When it rises to the first protection threshold level, IC901 reduces Q901's on time to reduce the output voltages while slowly charging C909. Should the voltage across C909 reach 2-3V, IC901 will lock in its shut-down state as described above. When the fault on the secondary side of the power supply is more serious, if the line output transistor is short-circuit for example, IC901's drive to Q901 will be cut off and C909 will charge to lock IC901 in its off state.

D909 is included to protect the power supply in the event of Q901 going short-circuit. If D909 wasn't present and Q901 went short-circuit, there would be a high voltage at pin 3 of IC901. The IC and possibly other components would be damaged. In normal operation D909 has no effect. Should Q901 go short-circuit, the idea is that D909 prevents the voltage at pin 3 of IC901 rising above 3V before the mains fuse F991 blows. In

practice the surge-limiting resistor R991 frequently fails before F991 when this fault occurs. Should Q901 fail, D909 must also be replaced.

### Standby Operation

In the standby mode pin 12 of the microcontroller chip IC701 is at 0V. As a result, there is no switched 5V output at pin 6 of IC951. This output supplies the set's signal circuitry, including the line oscillator. As the line oscillator is not in operation, the power supply's output voltages rise. The power supply then operates in the stop-start manner described earlier. The output voltages will measure correctly when checked with a meter, but only IC701 and its associated components will be working.

### Deflection Circuits

The field and line oscillators are both within the MC44031 chip IC201, which Mitsubishi called the "video chroma jungle" (VCJ) – it contains all the video processing circuitry, including the luminance and chrominance delay lines and the sync separator.

The line drive output, a squarewave with an amplitude of 0.62V peak-to-peak, appears at pin 12. It's fed via R501 and the inverter transistor Q501 to the base of the line driver transistor Q551 (2SC2482). The signal at the collector of this transistor has a peak-to-peak amplitude of some 146V. It drives the base of the BU2506 line output transistor Q552 via the step-down transformer T552. The line deflection circuitry is conventional. Q552 incorporates the efficiency diode.

The field drive signal appears at pin 7 of IC201. It's fed via R401 to pin 1 of the TDA8171 field output chip IC401. The output from this device appears at pin 5 and drives the field scan coils via L401. The earthy end of the scan coils is returned to chassis via C410/1 and R406/7. There's also a vertical-position circuit here, with drive from pin 34 of IC201. This output is fed to Q451 and Q450, which apply a DC voltage to the junction of the scan coils and C410/1 to control the vertical position of the picture.

### Tuning System

These sets have both manual and automatic tuning. I would strongly recommend that the manual system is always used, as there can be tuning-drift problems with automatic tuning. In both cases tuning is carried out using the remote control unit. The microcontroller chip IC701 controls the tuning voltage by producing, at pin 55, a squarewave output whose mark-space ratio is proportional to the required tuning voltage. These pulses are fed to an active integrator circuit consisting of Q701, R106/7/8 and C101/2/3. Its output, which varies from 0-32V, is applied to pin 2 of the tuner (TU101).

The tuner requires a 5V supply at pin 6 and receives an AGC input at pin 1 from pin 23 of the STV8224 IF chip IC101.

IC101 also produces an IF AGC voltage at pin 22 and an AFT voltage at pin 2. These voltages are fed to pins 56 and 53 respectively of IC701, which uses them for signal detection when tuning. With a good signal, IC701 will also receive a sync detect signal from IC201 and a station ID code from the text decoder via the I2C bus (pins 26 and 27). The AFT voltage at pin 53 of IC701 is also used to fine tune TU101 by adjusting the main tuning voltage. Thus the AFT circuit in TU101 is redundant.

### Audio Section

The audio section of the EE4 chassis is very straightforward. The audio output at pin 14 of IC101 is fed to pin 5 of the audio output chip IC351 via C356 (10µF, 25V) and R356 (10kΩ). Pin 8 of IC351 drives the speaker via C359 (1,000µF, 35V). When the voltage at pin 3 of IC351 is low, the audio output is muted. Pin 3 is controlled by pin 8 of IC701 via Q312. IC701's mute output pin is normally at 0V. The voltage at this pin rises, switching Q312 on, when for example the set is not tuned in correctly.

IC351 is normally type TDA7253. In some sets however it is type TDA7263, part no. 270P259010. The correct type must be used, as the two are not interchangeable.

### The Service Mode

The set must be switched on to enter the service mode. Press and release the service switch, S701, which is next to the aerial socket. You can use a small screwdriver to do this without having to remove the set's rear cover. Then, within five seconds, press button 9 on the remote control unit. It is then possible to switch between option adjustment (identifiable by the software display) and VCJ adjustment. In both cases buttons 2 and 8 select the adjustment code, buttons 4 and 6 adjust the data value, button 1 cancels all data adjusted since the last set of data was written into the EEPROM, and button 0 writes the data into the EEPROM.

The correct values for the option adjustments are shown in Table 1.

When the VCJ adjustment mode is selected, three sets of alphanumeric characters are displayed. The left-most pair should read 00. If not, adjust the first anode (screen) voltage control on the line output transformer until this reading is obtained. The middle pair of characters is the adjustment code, see Table 2. The right-most pair is the value to be set – some vary with tube size. Table 2 shows starting values. When the EEPROM (IC702, type ST24C04) has been replaced or initialised, start with the values shown in Table 2. These values give a viewable picture which can then be optimised.

When a new EEPROM is fitted, or the data in IC702 has become corrupted, it must be initialised. The procedure is as follows. Switch the set off. Leave it off for

**Table 1: Option adjustment values.**

Model	TUN	ATS	STD	SYS	AVI	AVD*	SPK*	TXT	EEP	FFT	HTL+
CT21M5B	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
CT21M5BT	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1
CT25M5BT	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1

\*Software version 1.40 only. +Software versions 2.XX.

**Table 2: Starting values for VCJ adjustments.**

Code	Adjustment	21"	25"
00	Height	-08	+08
01	Field correction	See note 1	
02	Parabola amplitude	00	-15
03	Parabola tilt	00	-20
04	Field linearity	+15	+16
05	Corner correction	-31	-26
06	Width	00	-22
07	Matrix	-07	-07
08	Vertical shift	-4	+2
09	Line phase	+10	+12
0A	Blue drive	+01	+01
0B	Green drive	+05	+05
0C	Red drive	+14	+14
0D	Contrast	+22	+22
0E	Brightness	-09	-09
0F	Saturation	-05	-05
10	Tint	00	00
11	Sharpness	See note 2	
12	Luma delay PAL	111	111
13	Luma delay Secam	111	111
14	Height, 60Hz	00	00
15	Parabola amp, 60Hz	00	00
16	Width, 60Hz	00	00
17	Field shift, 60Hz	00	00
18	Line phase, 60Hz	00	00
19	Line phase, text	00	00
1A	Line phase Secam	00	00
1B	Line phase forced RGB	00	00
1C	Parabola amp 16:9	00	00
1D	Luma delay NTSC358	111	111
1E	Luma delay NTSC443	111	111

**Note 1:** Always adjust the field correction to -31.

**Note 2:** The value of the sharpness adjustment 11 depends on the microcontroller chip's suffix (IC701). Set to 100 if the suffix is A10, to 001 if the suffix is B10.

at least one minute. Then turn the set on while holding the service switch (S701) in. Keep the service switch in for at least three-five seconds. Finally release the service switch and turn the set off.

The EEPROM will then be reset to its default values. Turn the set on, enter the service mode as previously described, then set the adjustments to the values shown in the tables. Note that all the adjustments stored in the EEPROM will need to be set correctly and all the stations will have to be tuned in.

### Fault History

There were some teething troubles with these sets, especially with the auto-tuning circuitry. For this reason I strongly advise that the auto-tune facility is ignored and that the sets are manually tuned instead. If you have a set that suffers from tuning drift, especially with channels above 39, add a 180k $\Omega$ , 0.25W resistor and a 1N4148 diode in series between pins 2 and 6 of the tuner unit, with the diode's cathode connected to pin 6 and the resistor connected to pin 2.

There are two modifications, depending on which version of IC701 is fitted, for sets that suffer from intermittent standby. If IC701 has the suffix A10, cut the print at pin 3 to enable a 1k $\Omega$  resistor to be added between pin 3 and the junction of D711/R710/C719 and add a 10nF capacitor between pin 3 and chassis. If IC701 has the suffix B10, remove the blue b-b link wire

that connects C719 to the 12V rail and add a 10nF capacitor between pin 3 and chassis.

If the green LED is lit but there's no picture, sound or line drive, check the line output transistor Q552. If it's short-circuit and the power supply works when Q552 is disconnected, change R213, R214 and R746 to 1k $\Omega$ , change C702 to 10 $\mu$ F and C955 to 3,300 $\mu$ F. Then replace Q552 and C914. After carrying out this modification it may be necessary to initialise the EEPROM and adjust all the settings stored in it.

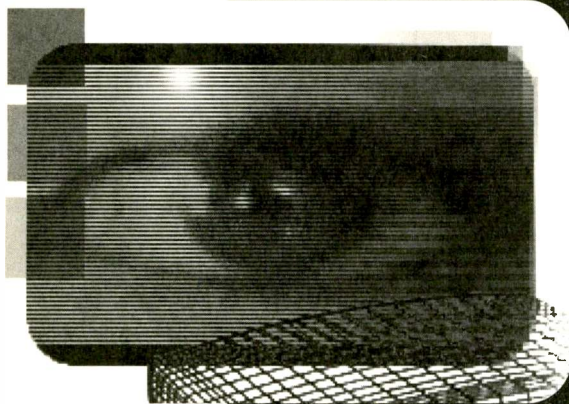
Power supply kit AVM5-KIT (Mitsubishi part no.) should be fitted in the event of failure of Q552. It has two new capacitors to be added, new-value resistors to fit in positions R713 (changed to 1k $\Omega$ ) and R758 (changed to 5-6k $\Omega$ ) and replacements for Q552, Q901, R991 and D909. Replace C914 and check D907 - they are in Q901's base drive circuit.

If Q6E3/4/5 are fitted on the CRT base PCB, remove them to increase the contrast at high brightness levels. But keep them - they are widely used in Mitsubishi TV sets.

If the fusible resistor R516 (connected to pin 3 of the LOPT) goes open-circuit with the 25in. model, it's worth replacing the EW correction chip IC551 (TEA2031A) as well since this is frequently the cause of R516 going open-circuit. Failure of IC551 may simply mean no EW correction.

Should Q901 fail, always check C914 and D907.

# TV Fault Finding



Reports from  
**Philip Blundell, AMIIE**  
**Kevin J. Green, TMIIE**  
**Brian Storm**  
**Graham Richards**  
**Pete Gurney, LCGI**  
**Colin J. Guy**  
**Martyn Davis**  
**Terry Lamoon**  
**Andy Barkley and**  
**Giles Pilbrow**

## Philips G90 Chassis

This 21in. set was dead with the standby LED flashing. So I checked the HT voltage, which was low and pulsing – it should be 95V. The feed to the line output stage was disconnected, a dummy load was connected in its place, and a variac was brought into operation to reduce the mains input voltage. Tests could now begin.

I soon established that the 95V supply was trying to rise but the protection circuit was coming into operation. Cold checks in the HT monitoring circuit led to the culprit: R3632 (15k $\Omega$ ) was open-circuit. Other possible causes of this fault are C2630 (47 $\mu$ F) or R3668 (150 $\Omega$ ) going open-circuit. **P.B.**

## Mitsubishi CT21A5STX (Euro 14SF chassis)

If you have tuner unit problems, such as no signals or intermittent loss of the signals, before ordering a new tuner look inside the existing one. Use a magnifying glass to examine the area around the PLL IC. You could well find that the insulated lead which runs beside this IC is dry-jointed. **P.B.**

## Philips CP90 Chassis

The customer provided a valuable clue to the cause of the fault when he mentioned that the set had previously gone dead (the LED had gone

out) when it had been switched to standby. The set was now permanently dead, with a whistling sound from the power supply.

There was no 95V HT voltage. The feed to the line output stage was disconnected, by removing the scan coil plug, and a dummy load was connected in its place. There was still no 95V supply. In view of the customer's comment about the standby problem, I decided to use a scope to monitor the voltage at pin 10 of the chopper transformer T5763. It pulsed high at switch on, triggering the protection thyristor Thy6696. C2703 (330 $\mu$ F), which is connected to pin 10 of the transformer, had dried up. **P.B.**

## Philips 28PT8413 (MD2.22AA chassis)

The complaint was of thick black lines on the picture – but they were extremely intermittent. I eventually traced the cause of the trouble to the system control/text module connections to the main PCB. The connector pins at S56/7 had oxidised under the solder joints. I cleaned them with a fibre brush then resoldered them. This cured the problem. **K.J.G.**

## Sony KVX2972

No channels could be stored and the geometry was all to pot. The LEDs at the front were flashing an error code that meant SDA line low. The cause of the trouble was the 5.6V zener diode D071, which was leaky. **K.J.G.**

## Panasonic Alpha 4 Chassis

A not uncommon fault symptom with these sets is intermittent lines across the picture, as if there is a line sync problem. The symptom is often seen at switch on when the set is cold. The cause is almost certain to be a faulty UHF tuner. **B.S.**

## Panasonic TX29AD1DP

There was an intermittent field output problem with this second-generation Dolby Pro-Logic set. One or two horizontal thin black lines would appear near the bottom of the screen. After spending several hours checking various components I cured the fault by replacing D507 and D508. They are type MA723TA5. **B.S.**

## Panasonic Z5 Chassis

The picture had no colour content and, despite extensive checks around the video processing IC, no cause of the fault was apparent. Many days later I discovered that the culprit was the EEPROM chip IC1205. It contains set-up data for initialising the IF/video/sound/time-base generator chip IC601, and can be the cause of a number of strange video faults.

This is not immediately obvious from the service manual, and illustrates the problems that the unsuspecting service engineer faces when trying to guess what data is stored inside such chips. Hopefully service manuals will one day provide test procedures for the 'hidden' digital data within these ICs. **B.S.**

## Hitachi C2118T (G7PS Mk 2 chassis)

The size of the picture fluctuated intermittently. When this occurred the 112V HT supply varied in sympathy. After various checks in the power supply I came to suspect C906 (4.7 $\mu$ F, 250V) in the error detector circuit. When it was checked the reading obtained was 0.93 $\mu$ F. A replacement cleared the fault. **G.R.**

## JVC C140EK

Intermittent loss of channels, going to standby and tuning drift were the reported symptoms. They came and went when the SBX station selector



thick-film module was heated and cooled. There are three surface-mounted electrolytics on the right-hand side of this module. The one that was the cause of the trouble was C015 (22 $\mu$ F, 6.3V). I decided to replace the other two as well – C014 (3.3 $\mu$ F, 50V) and C016 (0.47 $\mu$ F, 50V). **G.R.**

### Hitachi C2118T (G7PS Mk 2 chassis)

The fault report said no tuning. Checks showed that R044 (12k $\Omega$ , 0.5W) in the feed to the 30V tuning voltage stabilising zener diode ZD002 was open-circuit. I fitted a high-stability 1W replacement **G.R.** (See also letters – *editor*.)

### Bush 2920T

The sound was OK but there was no picture. Checks showed that the line drive was missing because the secondary winding on the line driver transformer was open-circuit. The transformer's pins had not been cleaned sufficiently prior to being soldered during manufacture. Cleaning and resoldering cured the fault. **P.G.**

### Alba CTV6682

This set had occasionally failed to switch on. Now it was dead all the time. I've not had much trouble with the power supply in these sets, and this fault proved to be more easy to cure than I expected. When the chassis was removed the cause of the trouble was obvious: the chopper transformer was dry-jointed at every pin. Resoldering cured the fault.

Beware – the smoothing block tends to remain charged in this fault condition. **P.G.**

### Ferguson T14R (TX805 chassis)

Several of these portables have appeared in the workshop recently because they refused to start up. The cause has been that one of the three start-up resistors RP44/42/41 has gone open-circuit. It's a well-known fault. Note however that while the circuit diagram in the manual shows the value of these resistors as 68k $\Omega$  I have come across some variations. So check the colour code before replacement. **P.G.**

### Sony KVM2531 (AE1C chassis)

This set had an intermittent colour problem. It would sometimes work all right for days, then revert to monochrome. I thought I'd traced the cause of the trouble to the

8.867MHz reference oscillator crystal, but a week later the fault was back. I replaced the colour decoder chip, but this did nothing other than prove that the original one was OK. The cause of the fault was eventually found to be the reference oscillator's trimmer capacitor CT302. It had developed an intermittent fault internally. **P.G.**

### Goodmans 1450T

This set seemed to be dead and, to make life more interesting, I'd no circuit diagram. In fact the power supply was running and, after a few checks, the cause of the fault was traced to loss of the line drive output from the AN5601 chip IC301, which had no voltages at all at its pins. This IC has a start-up supply, via R323, which was open-circuit. It's marked 8.2k $\Omega$  and a replacement of this value restored normal operation. **P.G.**

### Sony KV25F1U

This set was quite new when it started to produce a blue picture at times. The fault occurred on a more regular basis over a few weeks. Eventually the set switched itself off and arrived at my workshop.

At switch on a very bright blue raster appeared, and within two seconds the set tripped because of excessive beam current. A check at the tube's blue cathode produced a reading of 1.5V before the inevitable trip. The very low voltage reading made me a little suspicious about the cause, and disconnecting the cathode altogether proved the point: there was an internal short within the tube.

Clutching at straws, and working on the basis that the situation couldn't get any worse, I had a go at clearing the short, using a 200 $\mu$ F capacitor charged to 300V and a small current-limiting resistor with the CRT base removed. The short vanished at the first attempt, after a tiny flash inside the neck of the tube. That was some months ago and the set has not returned, though the happy customer was warned that it might. **P.G.**

### Grundig GT1402 (G1000 chassis)

The fault description with this set said no text. In fact the symptoms were a little more unusual. When the text mode was selected the effect was exactly like no luminance, a desaturated chroma display still being present. In the mix mode there was very slightly reduced contrast, the picture

remaining normal in every other way, while changing channels failed to bring up a text channel identification at the bottom of the picture. Measurements were rather inconclusive: the waveforms were largely as they should be, and no voltages are given in this part of the circuit. In fact everything seemed to be operating correctly.

Scope checks showed that data was present at the RGB output pins of the text processor chip IC650 with the set in the text mode. By carefully observing the waveform when selecting different pages via the remote-control unit, I saw that the data changed as the page updated. So I turned my attention to the MC44007 Y/C processor chip IC800.

The fast-blanking input at pin 21 seemed to alter, though no measurements are given for this signal. The fault lay in this area however. The blanking signal is generated by IC650, leaving at pin 19. Before reaching IC800 it's buffered by TR653, a surface-mounted BC847 transistor. Because this device had a very slight base-to-emitter leak, the switching voltage it produced was 3.8V instead of the correct 4.5V. Why this should have blanked the luminance and left the chroma signal remains a mystery. **P.G.**

### Toshiba 255T7B

There was no sound or picture. When the first anode control was turned up a blank raster appeared. Video was present at the output from the tuner and was traced to pin 6 of the scart switching chip QV01. It failed to emerge from the chip, whose supply was missing. The cause was CV08 (1,000 $\mu$ F) short-circuit and RV11 (180 $\Omega$ ) open-circuit. **C.J.G.**

### Grundig CUC3400 etc Chassis

I've recently had several of these sets in which the cause of tripping, sometimes intermittently, has been the set-HT preset R637. **C.J.G.**

### Hitachi CPT1471 (NP82C2 chassis)

This ageing portable had suddenly stopped working, after producing excellent pictures for years. The owner considered it to be worth repair. On test the set tripped a few seconds after switch on. As there was not anything obviously amiss, I decided to disable the trip. The set then ran, but with reduced width and height and a horrible squealing from the line output transformer.

The cause of the trouble was R772, the 10Ω safety resistor in the LOPT-derived 50V supply to the field output stage. It had gone high in value. **C.J.G.**

### **Mitsubishi CT25MITX**

This set appeared to be dead but when the HT supply was checked with a scope it was seen to jump to over 200V before the power supply shut down. The cause of the fault was the regulator error-sensing transistor Q953, which was open-circuit emitter-to-base. **C.J.G.**

### **Toshiba 2500BT**

The cause of poor field linearity was eventually traced to C317 (2.2μF), which is mounted next to the field output chip's heatsink. A 105°C type capacitor is called for in this position. **C.J.G.**

### **Ferguson A14R (Thomson TX80 chassis)**

No results and a loud buzzing noise was caused by the track between pin 6 of the chopper transformer LP03 and RP50 being open-circuit. No PCB damage was apparent and a link between the two points brought the set back to life. **C.J.G.**

### **Hitachi G8Q Chassis**

The excellent kit that Chas Hyde used to sell to repair these sets is no longer available, so if you get a blown up power supply replace all the following items (CHS order codes in brackets): D906 (1N4148), D907 (BYV10), IC901 (UC3844), Q901 (SGSP222), Q902 (SGSIF344), R910 (12001LS) 0.5Ω 7W, TH902 (12001GT), ZD902 (ZTE2S1) if fitted and ZD901 (BZX79C). In addition, check the mains bridge rectifier and the various small electrolytics. **C.J.G.**

### **Toshiba 2100BT**

The display consisted of just two inches of lines at the top of the screen. Replacing C313 (100μF, 35V) cured the fault. It's the fly-back boost capacitor in the field output stage, between pins 3 and 6 of the AN5515 chip Q303. **M.D.**

### **Philips 28PW6332 (MD1.2 chassis)**

There was EW bowing in the 4:3 picture mode. In the Super Zoom mode the top and bottom thirds of the picture were perfect but the centre section was folded over, producing a double-image effect with line tearing. The fault would come and go, with the line output transformer ringing loudly when it was

present. The cure was to replace the processing chip IC7119 on the small-signal panel.

Dry-joints at connector S11 can be the cause of various intermittent picture faults. **M.D.**

### **GoldStar CF25C28F (PC58A chassis)**

The basic fault was field collapse, which with this chassis usually means replacing the TDA8350Q field/EW output chip IC351. When I did this however there was severe EW distortion with no adjustment in the service mode. The clue was that C359 and L351 in the EW modulator drive circuit were extremely hot. The print by the buffer transistor Q351 had fractured. Bridging it cured this second fault.

It seems that after the initial fault had occurred the owner had left the set running for some considerable time, hoping that it would 'right itself'! This had probably caused excessive heat which had resulted in the print fracture. **M.D.**

### **Hitachi C1411T**

There was a multiple fault list with this portable, including no text, no remote control operation and channel skipping. On investigation I found that text could be called up but not displayed, which then made the normal remote control functions wrong. I concentrated on this aspect and carried out some checks around the text chip IT01. Its 5V supply was OK, but the crystal oscillator wasn't working. Once a new crystal (XT01) had been fitted everything worked correctly. **T.L.**

### **Sony KVX2172U**

The LED was flashing, with long intervals between each flash, but there was virtually no power. Now with these sets you can check which area may be faulty by counting the seconds between each LED flash. When I consulted the service manual it told me that the set had a field timebase fault. I homed in on this area and noticed that two of the pins of the field output chip IC1501 were dry-jointed. Once they'd been resoldered the set worked perfectly. Moral: always consult the manual first! **T.L.**

### **Grundig CUC7303**

This set had no power and there were some very odd voltages in the power supply area. I noticed that when the mains switch was pushed in it would arc at one connection.

This suggested a doggy switch, but when I removed it I found that one of the pins had bent over completely and had never been attached to the PCB print. How the set had managed to work for several months before a fault was reported escapes me. But all I had to do was to straighten the pin and reinsert the switch in its correct position. **T.L.**

### **Matsui 21V1N**

The mains fuse in this set had blown quite dramatically. A few cold checks soon revealed that D6001/1/12/13/14/23/24 were all short-circuit. So was the BUZ90 chopper transistor. For good measure I replaced the power supply chip (IC60030) as well. After that everything was OK. **T.L.**

### **Sony KVM16TU**

The picture was intermittent and the OSD showed occasionally. I did some gentle PCB tapping and got a reaction around the IF module. After removing it then cleaning and resoldering several bad joints the set worked correctly – proved by a soak test lasting several days. **T.L.**

### **Matsui 1402**

Intermittent picture flicker was the complaint with this small portable. When I watched it closely in the workshop I saw that the field scan was trying to collapse. Dodgy presets are a problem with this model. When relevant ones were touched the fault appeared. Once the sensitive presets had been replaced the set worked perfectly. **T.L.**

### **Akai CT2870N (Nokia Compact D-E chassis)**

The problem with this set was low-level, noisy, buzzing sound. I decided to check, with the invaluable aid of our Capacitor Wizard, the capacitors in the RF/IF module. The culprit turned out to be C242 (0.47μF, 63V) which is connected to pin 5 of the TDA2556 quasi-parallel sound IF chip IC202.

In addition to the Akai model this chassis is used in **ITT-Nokia** sets and the **Pioneer SD21/25/28AVI** range. **A.B.**

### **Goodmans 2880B (Ferguson TX92 chassis)**

There was perfect sound and vision with a scart socket input but the set wouldn't tune in any stations. I called up the tuning menu and selected the search mode. Pin 40 of the microcontroller chip had the correct signal, one with a mark-space ratio that increases as the on-



# Grandata Ltd

distributor of electronic components

K.P. HOUSE, UNIT 15, POP IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE,  
SOUTHWAY, WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX HA9 0HB, ENGLAND  
Telephone: 0181 900 2329 Fax: 0181 903 6126  
E Mail: GRANDATA.LTD@BTINTERNET.COM  
Web Site: <http://www.grandata.co.uk>

## FAST BLOW

RATING	ORDER CODE	PRICE
0.04A	FUSE53	60p
0.05A	FUSE54	35p
0.063A	FUSE55	35p
0.08A	FUSE56	35p
0.1A	FUSE57	30p
0.125A	FUSE58	30p
0.16A	FUSE59	30p
0.2A	FUSE60	30p
0.25A	FUSE61	30p
0.315A	FUSE62	30p
0.4A	FUSE63	30p
0.5A	FUSE64	30p
0.63A	FUSE65	30p
0.8A	FUSE66	30p
1A	FUSE67	30p
1.25A	FUSE68	30p
1.6A	FUSE69	30p
2A	FUSE70	30p
2.5A	FUSE71	30p
3.15A	FUSE72	30p
4A	FUSE73	30p



## ASSORTED WICKMAN FUSES

This Kit consists of Assorted Wickman Fuses  
both Slow & Fast Blow:  
17 Different Types  
10 of Each Type  
170 Fuses in Total  
Packed in a Plastic Storage Box  
Order Code: Wickmankit  
**PRICE £40.00**

## SLOW BLOW

RATING	ORDER CODE	PRICE
0.05A	FUSE74	65p
0.063A	FUSE75	65p
0.08A	FUSE76	65p
0.1A	FUSE77	35p
0.125A	FUSE78	35p
0.16A	FUSE79	35p
0.2A	FUSE80	30p
0.25A	FUSE81	30p
0.315A	FUSE82	30p
0.4A	FUSE83	30p
0.5A	FUSE84	30p
0.63A	FUSE85	30p
0.8A	FUSE86	30p
1A	FUSE87	30p
1.25A	FUSE88	30p
1.6A	FUSE89	30p
2A	FUSE90	30p
2.5A	FUSE91	30p
3.15A	FUSE92	30p
4A	FUSE93	30p
5A	FUSE94	30p

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL WICKMAN FUSE PRICES ARE FOR A QUANTITY OF 1 (ONE) - (EXCEPT FOR KIT) \*\*\*

## HIGH VOLTAGE CERAMIC CAPACITORS

VALUE	VOLTAGE	ORDER CODE	PRICE	VALUE	VOLTAGE	ORDER CODE	PRICE
220 pF	2000v	CAP01	90p	1200 pF	3000v	CAP08	225p
330 pF	2000v	CAP02	90p	1500 pF	2000v	CAP09	130p
470 pF	2000v	CAP03	90p	1500 pF	3000v	CAP10	225p
680 pF	2000v	CAP04	95p	2200 pF	2000v	CAP11	130p
820 pF	3000v	CAP05	150p	3300 pF	2000v	CAP12	145p
1000 pF	2000v	CAP06	110p	4700 pF	2000v	CAP13	180p
1000 pF	3000v	CAP07	225p				

## SMD ELECTROLYTIC 105° CAPACITORS

VALUE	VOLTAGE	ORDER CODE	PRICE	VALUE	VOLTAGE	ORDER CODE	PRICE
22 µF	6.3v	CAP14	110p	100 µF	25v	CAP22	300p
47 µF	6.3v	CAP15	110p	1 µF	50v	CAP23	110p
100 µF	6.3v	CAP16	130p	2.2 µF	50v	CAP24	110p
10 µF	16v	CAP17	110p	4.7 µF	50v	CAP25	110p
22 µF	16v	CAP18	110p	10 µF	50v	CAP26	130p
47 µF	16v	CAP19	130p	22 µF	50v	CAP27	180p
470 µF	16v	CAP20	320p	47 µF	50v	CAP28	300p
33 µF	25v	CAP21	130p				

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL THE ABOVE CAPACITOR PRICES ARE FOR A PACKET OF 5 (FIVE) \*\*\*

## SUITABLE FOR MITSUBISHI 21" & 25" TV'S

To replace the TDA8178S fitted to the following MITSUBISHI 21" & 25" TV's:  
CT21A2STX, CT213STX, CT25A2STX, CT25A3STX  
CT25A4STX, CT25A6TX, CT25B2STX, CT25B3STX

*It comes with clear and concise instruction on how to carry out the work.*

ORDER CODE: MITSKIT1  
PRICE: £3



## SUITABLE FOR MITSUBISHI 29" & 33" TV'S

To replace the TDA8178S fitted to the following MITSUBISHI 29" & 33" TV's:  
CT29A51, CT29B4, CT29A4, CT29A6, CT29B2, CT29B3, CT33B3

*It comes with clear and concise instruction on how to carry out the work.*

ORDER CODE: MITSKIT2  
PRICE: £15

## POWER SUPPLY & UPGRADE KIT FOR SAMSUNG Suitable for Samsung Winner 1 Chassis

(VIK310, VIK350, V1375, V1395)

This kit contains the components required to upgrade the power supply for all the above mentioned models.  
It comes with clear and concise instructions on how to carry out the work

ORDER CODE: SAMSUNGKIT PRICE: £16

## GENUINE PHOENIX KITS SUPPLIED



SEE PAGE 199 FOR MORE NEW ARRIVALS



















## MODE SWITCH

NV2000, 2010, 7000, 7200, 7800 (VS50048)	
NV230, 260, 430, 810, 870, 2300, 4300 (VSS0110)	<b>£3.50</b>
NV830 (VSS0091)	<b>£2.25</b>
NV830 (VSS0091)	<b>£2.10</b>
NV300, 333, 340, 366, 688, 777, 778 (VSS0060)	<b>£3.75</b>
NVG21, 25, NVH65, NVD80 (VSS0175A)	<b>£2.00</b>

## AUDIO CONTROL HEADS

AMSTRAD ORIGINAL NO: 150751  
 Used on: AMSTRAD TVR1, 2, 3, VCR4600, 4600MKII, 4700, FUNAI VS2, VCR4600, 4800, 5200, 5600, 6600, VIP3000, 5000  
 Also fits: FIDELITY, FUNAI, HINARI, PROLINE, SCHNEIDER, TOWADA, UNIVERSUM  
**ORDER CODE: AH01 PRICE: 1350p**

AMSTRAD ORIGINAL NO: 153134  
 Used on: AMSTRAD DD8900, 8904, VCR2000, 6000, 6100, 8600, 8602, 8603, VCR8604, 8700, 8704, 8714, 8800, 9005, 8244  
 Also fits: ANTECH, BONDSTEC, CASIO, CROWN, FIDELITY, GOLD-HAND, GRANADA, HINARI, MARQUANT, OMEGE, PROFEX, SCHNEIDER, SEG, SENTRA, SHINTOM, TASHIKO, TATUNG, TOWADA, UNIVERSUM  
**ORDER CODE: AH02 PRICE: 1450p**

### Replacement Audio Control Video Sound Head for National Panasonic

PART NUMBER	MODELS	PRICE
VBR0091	NVG7 etc	875p
VBR0050	NV300, NV340 etc	875p
VBR0061	NV777 etc	875p
VBR0103A	NV250, NV450 etc	625p
VBR0125		625p

## VIDEO TOOLS

### VIDEO CLEANING STICKS

Price 17p each 15p each pack of 10pcs  
 13p each pack of 25pcs  
**Order Code: SP14**

### VIDEO MAINTENANCE TOOLS

Set of 8 Allen keys packed in a plastic wallet  
**Order code: TOOL 9, Price 125p**  
 Specifically designed for video maintenance

### UNIVERSAL HEAD EXTRACTOR

Hand tool designed for extracting hard to remove heads without damage to either the head or the mounting assembly. Adjustable so as to suit various heads.  
**Order code: TOOL 8, Price 600p**

### VCR ALIGNMENT KIT

#### CONTAINS: SET OF 7 HEAD & TAPE PATH ALIGNERS

- RCA TYPE AUDIO & CONTROL HEAD POSITIONING TOOL
- RCA ADJUSTMENT TOOL FOR TAPE GUIDE POSTS
- RCA TYPE BACK TENSION TOOL
- TENSION ADJUSTMENT TOOL FOR VARIOUS USES
- VCR ADJUSTMENT TOOL

**3 REVERSIBLE SCREWDRIVERS  
 SPRING HOOK**

#### SET OF 8 ALLEN KEYS

0.77mm	0.90mm
1.27mm	1.50mm
1.60mm	2.00mm
2.40mm	3.00mm

**CIRCLIP PLIERS  
 MICRO SCREWDRIVER**  
**VCR HEAD EXTRACTOR**  
**Order code: TOOL 10, Price 2900p**

### TRANSPARENT REPAIR/ADJUSTMENT CASSETTE

This transparent videocassette replaces a normal videotape during measurements, adjustments and inspection. The mechanical parts come into sight and become accessible.  
**Order code: TOOL 23, Price 500p**

## BACK UP BATTERIES

### PHILIPS

Part Nos: 138 - 101138, 138 - 10313 1.2v 90mA  
 Order Code: BB01  
 Part Nos: 138 - 10229, 2.4v 100mA  
 Order Code: BB02

Price: 70p

Price: 135p

### FERGUSON

Part No: 00E6 - 067 - 001 1.2V 100mA  
 Order Code: BB03  
 Part Nos: 00E6 - 606 - 8001 2.4V 100mA  
 Order Code: BB04

Price: 90p

Price: 150p

## SATELLITE PSU REPAIR KITS

MAKE & MODEL	CODE	PRICE
PACE PRD800, PRD900	SATPSU1	600p
PACE SS9000, 9200, 9010, 9210, 9220	SATPSU2	550p
AMSTRAD SRD510, SRD520	SATPSU3	600p
AMSTRAD SRD500	SATPSU4	600p
AMSTRAD SRX340, SRX345, SRX350	SATPSU5	600p
PACE D100/150	SATPSU6	650p
CHURCHILL D2MAC	SATPSU7	650p
PACE MSS100	SATPSU8	1100p

MAKE & MODEL	CODE	PRICE
PACE MSS200/300 APPOLL	SATPSU9	900p
PACE MSS500/1000	SATPSU10	1230p
FERGUSON SRD4	SATPSU11	650p
ECHOSTAR SR5500	SATPSU12	1600p
ECHOSTAR 6500/7700/8700	SATPSU13	2750p
AMSTRAD SRD600	SATPSU14	2600p
MIMTEC (Surenson)	SATPSU15	700p
AMSTRAD SRD700, SR950, SRX100, 301, 501, 502, 1002, 2001, SRD2000 SAT250	SATPSU16	650p

### SATELLITE TUNERS

PACE PRD800/MSS200 2Ghz (221-2077062)  
**ORDER CODE: TUNER01 PRICE: 1400p + VAT**

PACE PRD900/MSS1000 2Ghz (221-21770112)  
**ORDER CODE: TUNER02 PRICE: 1400p + VAT**

### SWITCH MODE TRANSFORMERS

PACE 9000  
**ORDER CODE: PACE9000 PRICE: 800p**

PRD800/PRD900  
**ORDER CODE: PRD800 PRICE: 550p**

### SATMETER

The Satmeter is a professional portable satellite strength meter designed for the installation and maintenance of satellite TV systems. The Satmeter can be used as stand alone with powering the LNB as well as in loop.

Through operation with satellite RX powering the LNB.

\* Acoustical signal: On signal strength \*LED indicator: Vert/Hori

\* Frequency Range: 900 to 2050 Mhz \*Input impedance: 70 Ohm

\* Power amplifier: 18db \*Detection Range: -60 to -10 DBM

\* Max. input signal: -10 DBM

**ORDER CODE: TOOL22**

**PRICE: 8500p**

## REPLACEMENT TV SWITCHES

### GRUNDIG

PART No: 29703, 29102  
 USED ON:  
 C7500, C8500, C8502, C8712 . . . ETC  
 Order Code: SW1 Price: 100p

### PHILIPS

USED ON:  
 K30, K35, K40, KT3, KT4  
 Order Code: SW13 Price: 95p

### SONY

USED ON:  
 KV1612, KB1612, KV1614, KV2052, V2056  
 KV2062, KV2067, KV2212 . . . ETC  
 Order Code: SW5 Price: 130p

USED ON:  
 KV1400, KV1440, KV2040, KV2060  
 (POWER SWITCH 26mm)  
 Order Code: SW12 Price: 110p

### SONY

USED ON:  
 KV2020  
 (POWER SWITCH 21mm +Remote)  
 Order Code: SW6 Price: 130p

### SONY 2 PIN FUNCTION SWITCH

Order Code: SW9 Price: 35p

# FUSES

TIME LAG (20mm)		QUICK BLOW (20mm)	
CURRENT RATING	ORDER CODE	ORDER CODE	PRICE
100mA	FUSE36	FUSE37	60p
160mA	FUSE01	FUSE17	60p
250mA	FUSE02	FUSE18	60p
315mA	FUSE03	FUSE19	60p
400mA	FUSE04	FUSE20	60p
500mA	FUSE05	FUSE21	60p
630mA	FUSE06	FUSE22	60p
800mA	FUSE07	FUSE23	60p
1A	FUSE08	FUSE24	60p
1.25A	FUSE09	FUSE25	60p
1.6A	FUSE10	FUSE26	60p
2A	FUSE11	FUSE27	60p
2.5A	FUSE12	FUSE28	60p
3.15A	FUSE13	FUSE29	50p
4A	FUSE14	FUSE30	50p
5A	FUSE15	FUSE31	50p
6.3A	FUSE16	FUSE32	50p

## CERAMIC PLUG TOP

CURRENT RATING	ORDER CODE	PRICE
3A	FUSE33	100p
5A	FUSE34	100p
13A	FUSE35	100p

## 32 mm CERAMIC SLOW BLOW

CURRENT RATING	ORDER CODE	PRICE
8A	FUSE44	185p
10A	FUSE45	185p
15A	FUSE46	185p
20A	FUSE47	210p

NB. All fuses are made in the UK and fully meet BS4265 & BS1362 safety standards and should not be compared with cheap imported types

## 20mm CERAMIC TIME LAG

CURRENT RATING	ORDER CODE	PRICE
6.3A	FUSE38	100p
8A	FUSE39	100p
10A	FUSE40	100p
3 15A	FUSE41	85p
4A	FUSE42	85p
5A	FUSE43	85p

## 38mm CERAMIC TIME LAG

CURRENT RATING	ORDER CODE	PRICE
10A	FUSE48	825p

**\*\* ALL THE ABOVE PRICES ARE FOR PACKS OF 10 FUSES \*\***

## VOLTAGE TESTER

A terminal screwdriver incorporating continuity & voltage with Eurosolt

**ORDER CODE: TOOL11**

**PRICE: 220p**

## SPRING HOOK

Spring Hook, to unlock springs in audio tape recorders & VCRs

**ORDER CODE: TOOL20**

**PRICE: 265p**

## FAULT FINDING / COMPARISON BOOKS

Satellite Fault Finding Guide Issue 1.  
Listing about 1,000 faults for over a range of 24 different brands.

Order Code: BOOK05.

**Price £8.50 - No VAT.**

### TELEVISION Edition 7

This new A5 size guide lists more than 9600 faults and in approx. 480 pages in size.

Price: 1650p only - no VAT. Order Code: BOOK02

### Satellite Repair Manual Edition 4

A comprehensive guide to receiver reviewing, featuring stock faults and installation tips.

Price £15.00 Only No VAT Postage 100p  
Order Code: BOOK03

### SEMICONDUCTOR COMPARISONS 1998/99

With over 650 pages listing more than 34,200

Semiconductors with suitable alternatives complete with descriptions and base information.

Price: £19.00 only - No VAT. Order Code: BOOK04

### SEMICONDUCTOR COMPARISONS 1998/99

The new 1998 Jaeger Semiconductor comparison with 1100 pages packed with information on over 95,000 semiconductors in much greater detail plus marketing data on SMD devices and a separate generic table of all the type designations.

Price: £47.00 only - No VAT (+ £5 Postage).

Order Code: BOOK06

## SERVICE AIDS

DESCRIPTION	VOLUME	CODE	PRICE
VIDEO HEAD CLEANER	75ML	SP01	145p
SWITCH CLEANER	176ML	SP02	155p
SILICONE GREASE	200ML	SP03	180p
FREEZE IT	170ML	SP04	295p
FREEZE IT	400ML	SP16	580p
FOAM CLEANER	400ML	SP05	180p
ANTI-STATIC	200ML	SP06	180p
AEROKLEANE	200ML	SP07	200p
AERO DUSTER	200ML	SP08	340p
AERO DUSTER	400ML	SP17	580p
PLASTIC SEAL	200ML	SP09	250p
GLASS CLEANER	200ML	SP10	160p
COLDKLENE	200ML	SP13	220p
EXCEL POLISH 80	200ML	SP18	160p
ADHESIVE 120	500ML	SP19	250p
LABEL REMOVER 130	200ML	SP20	260p
REFURB 140	400ML	SP21	260p
TUBE SILICON GREASE	50 GRAMMES	SP11	225p
TUBE SILICON SEALANT WHITE	75ML	SP22	250p
TUBE SILICON SEALANT CLEAR	75ML	SP23	250p
TUBE HEAT SINK COMPOUND	25 GRAMMES	SP12	150p
DRIVE CLEANER	200ML	SP24	150p
SCREEN CLEANER	200ML	SP25	145p
COMPUTER CARE KIT	-	SP26	2100p

All the above items are manufactured by Servisol  
If you purchase more than one Servisol Product, postage & package will be charged as follows:

**300p** for 2-5 cans **500p** for more than 5 cans

## SOLDERING ACCESSORIES

DESCRIPTION	CODE	PRICE
<b>ANTEX SOLDERING IRONS</b>		
25 WATT 240 VAC (XS25W 240V)	S101	900p
15 WATT 240 VAC (XS15W 240V)	S102	900p
25 WATT SPARE ELEMENT	S103	450p
15 WATT SPARE ELEMENT	S104	450p
<b>SOLDERING STAND &amp; SPONGES</b>		
SOLDERING STAND (MADE BY ANTEX)	S108	350p
SPARE SPONGE	S109	55p
<b>SOLDER</b>		
18 SWG 500 GRAMMES	S110	500p
20 SWG 500 GRAMMES	S111	650p
22 SWG 500 GRAMMES	S112	700p
<b>DESOLDERING AIDS</b>		
SOLDER MOP STANDARD GAUGE 1.2MM X 1.5M	S107	100p
SOLDER MOP 1.2MM X 10M	S113	420p
DESOLDERING PUMP	S105	320p
SPARE NOZZLE	S106	60p

## I.C. PROTECTORS

ICPF10, ICPF15, ICPF20,  
ICPF25, ICPF38, ICPF50,  
ICPF75

ICPN5, ICPN10, ICPN15,  
ICPN20, ICPN25, ICPN 38,  
ICPN50, ICPN75

**PRICE: 30p EACH ONLY**



**CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR?**

**RING US...AS THIS IS ONLY  
A SELECTION OF THE  
ITEMS THAT WE STOCK**

**GRANDATA LTD**

**Tel: 0181 900 2329**

**Fax: 0181 903 6126**







# Grandata Ltd

distributor of electronic components

K.P. HOUSE, UNIT 15, POP IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE,  
SOUTHWAY, WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX HA9 0HB, ENGLAND  
Telephone: 0181 900 2329 Fax: 0181 903 6126  
E Mail: GRANDATA.LTD@BTINTERNET.COM  
Web Site: <http://www.grandata.co.uk>

## AUDIO & VIDEO CLEANING ACCESSORIES SCART CABLES

DESCRIPTION	CODE	PRICE
FULLY AUTOMATED CD CLEANER (battery operated)	SP32	1250p
CD CLEANING PADS	SP33	120p
CD CLEANING SYSTEM with tray and fluid	SP34	300p
CD CLEANING SYSTEM with fluid, boxed tray and brush	SP35	400p
CD LASER LENS CLEANER with music and voice	SP36	350p
CD LASER LENS CLEANER - WET with music and voice	SP37	350p
COMPACT DISC MAINTENANCE with cleaner fluid, pads, spray and brush	SP38	800p
CD ROM LASER LENS CLEANER with animation display	SP39	400p
VCR CASSETTE HEAD CLEANER - WET SYSTEM	SP40	150p
AUDIO CASSETTE HEAD CLEANER - WET SYSTEM	SP41	100p

DESCRIPTION	CODE	PRICE
STANDARD 9 PIN CONNECTED (1.5m)	PLG20	90p
FULLY SHIELDED 9 PIN CONNECTED (1.5m)	PLG21	220p
FLAT CABLE 9 PIN CONNECTED (1.5m)	PLG22	180p
STANDARD 21 PIN CONNECTED (1.5m)	PLG23	115p
STANDARD 21 PIN CONNECTED (0.5m)	PLG24	85p
STANDARD 21 PIN CONNECTED (5m)	PLG25	300p
FULLY SHIELDED 21 PIN CONNECTED (1.5m)	PLG26	370p
GOLD 21 PIN CONNECTED (1.5m)	PLG27	420p
FLAT 21 PIN CONNECTED (1.5m)	PLG28	350p

## PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLIES

<p><b>PRESSURE ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b> <b>PS403-40205</b> SUITABLE FOR: B &amp; O, DECCA, GEC, GRANADA, ITT, PHILIPS, PIONEER, PYE, TOSHIBA</p> <p>ORDER CODE: PR232 PRICE: 280p</p>	<p><b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b> <b>948D020010</b> SUITABLE FOR: AIWA MITSUBISHI</p> <p>ORDER CODE: PR205 PRICE: 750p</p>	<p><b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b> <b>X37277701</b> SUITABLE FOR: SONY SLV215, SLV216EE, SLV275, SLV282, SLV315, SLV325 etc</p> <p>ORDER CODE: PR207 PRICE: 550p</p>	<p><b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b> <b>VXL 1858</b> SUITABLE FOR: BLAUPUNKT, GRUNDIG, PANASONIC, PHILIPS, PIONEER, SIEMENS, SONY</p> <p>ORDER CODE: PR219 PRICE: 300p</p>
--	--	---	---

**CM3900A DIGITAL MULTIMETER**

**FEATURES:**

- \* LARGE LCD DISPLAY HEIGHT 18mm
- \* MAXIMUM READING 1999 + UNIT
- \* SINGLE MANUAL ROTARY SWITCH FOR FUNCTION AND RANGE OPERATION
- \* AUTO POWER OFF (APPROX 15 min)
- \* DIODE TEST FUNCTION
- \* ALL RANGES OVERLOAD PROTECTED
- \* SUPPLIED WITH TEST PROBES
- \* DC VOLTAGE: 200mV/2V/20V/200V/700V ACCURACY \* 0.5%
- \* AC VOLTAGE: 200mV/2V/20V/200V/700V
- \* DC CURRENT A: 200µA/20mA/200mA/2A/20A
- \* AC CURRENT A: 200µA/20mA/200mA/2A/20A
- \* RESISTANCE Ω: 200Ω/2kΩ/200kΩ/2MΩ/20MΩ

ORDER CODE: CM3900A  
PRICE: 2900p

**DIGITAL MULTIMETERS**

**CM3230 DIGITAL CAPACITANCE METER**

**FEATURES:**

- \* 3.5 LCD DISPLAY HEIGHT 18mm
- \* MAXIMUM READING 1999
- \* CAPACITANCE 9 RANGES FROM 200pF 200000\*F
- \* MEASURING FROM 1pF-200000\*F
- \* SINGLE MANUAL ROTARY SWITCH FOR FUNCTION AND RANGE OPERATION
- \* ZERO ADJUST KNOB

ORDER CODE: CM3230  
PRICE: 3950p

**CM3920 DIGITAL METER WITH TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENT**

**FEATURES:**

- \* TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENT
- \* DIODE & TRANSISTOR HFE TEST
- \* LARGE LCD DISPLAY HEIGHT 18mm
- \* MAXIMUM READING 1999 + UNIT
- \* SINGLE MANUAL ROTARY SWITCH FOR FUNCTION AND RANGE OPERATION
- \* AUTO POWER OFF (APPROX 15 min)
- \* DIODE TEST FUNCTION
- \* ALL RANGES OVERLOAD PROTECTED
- \* SUPPLIED WITH TEST PROBES
- \* DC VOLTAGE: 200mV/2V/20V/200V/1000V ACCURACY \* 0.5%
- \* AC VOLTAGE: 200mV/2V/20V/200V/700V
- \* DC CURRENT A: 2mA/20mA/200mA/20A
- \* AC CURRENT A: 200mA/20A
- \* RESISTANCE Ω: 200Ω/2kΩ/200kΩ/2MΩ/20MΩ/200MΩ
- \* CAPACITANCE: 2nF/20nF/200nF/2\*F/20\*F

ORDER CODE: CM3920  
PRICE: 4100p

★★★ PLEASE NOTE THAT POSTAGE ON ALL THE ABOVE METERS IS CHARGED AT £3 ★★★

*Thank You for your support in 1998  
A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year  
to all our Customers and readers of Television Magazine  
Best wishes from all at Grandata*





*We welcome letters from our readers and try to publish as many as we can. You can send them typed, handwritten, or on disc. Address them to the Letters Editor, Room L302, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.*

# Letters

## The Cost of Digital TV

Much has been said about the advantages of digital television. Little has been said against it. This letter may redress the balance a bit.

For many years now I have encouraged my customers to use their lounge or living room as the base for their TV entertainment. I have recommended the use of a good aerial of the correct group, pointing in the right direction, and the use of best-quality coaxial cable with no joints, feeding straight into a satellite receiver which in turn feeds a VCR and from there to a distribution amplifier. Thus all five terrestrial TV channels, the satellite channel selected in the lounge, and the video inserted in the player reach as many rooms as required in the house, giving everyone the choice

of seven channels at a time. This makes it almost worth paying nearly £100 a year for the TV licence.

With the new ONdigital system you have to buy a set-top box, at £200, which allows you to choose any one of fifteen channels. In addition you have to pay about £160 a year for the card to activate the channels. You can then point a remote-control unit at the box to select the channel you want to watch. If your wife or one of your children wants to watch a different channel elsewhere another £200 box will be required plus another £160 per year for a card. So for a three-child, two parent family to get what they already have will cost £1,000 for set-top boxes, £800 per year for cards and £100 for the licence.

I checked with the ONdigital helpline to confirm these figures, and can't really see many people paying that much money for so little. I give ONdigital full marks for cheek, but in the real world with Sky and cable both offering better value I don't rate ONdigital's chances too highly.

If ONdigital doesn't survive, will the existing system be retained? What will happen to all the digital decoders? Will it be another BSB debacle? Will early digital sets be dual-standard, and thus not complete right-offs?

Digital satellite systems have

started to appear in the shops for £199, on condition that you pay a £30 charge to BT for connection to an existing line you already pay for. This seems daft to me, as Sky is offering the same product for £159. Why pay £40 extra for something that's useless without the Sky channels?

How long will it be before Sky starts to give receivers to subscribers in order to compete with cable? Sky appears to be offering unwatchable rubbish simply to increase its number of channels. The general consensus seems to be in favour of a system in which you pick the channels you want and pay for these only. The channels that no one chooses are not worth transmitting and could be dropped. This would reduce costs. Apart from the £30 BT charge, SkyDigital doesn't seem to cost more than the analogue Sky package.

It is difficult to guess what the cost of digital cable TV will be. My feeling is that it will cost about the same as satellite TV, but with a much lower installation charge. Should ONdigital go, it will be the only alternative to satellite.

I'm wondering: could we all end up going out to the cinema or renting videos again to save money?

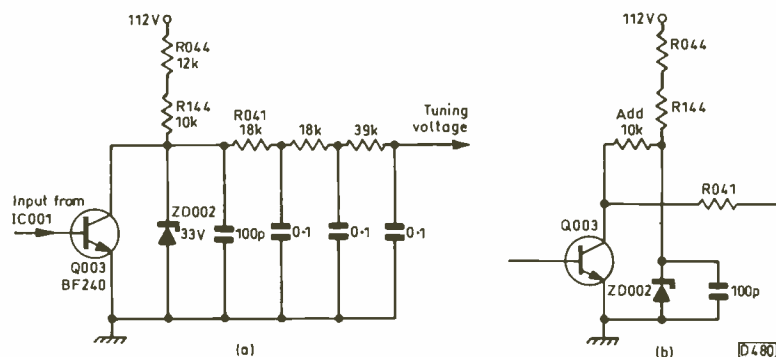
*John Hopkins,  
Felixstowe, Suffolk.*

## A Clanger

Intermittent tuning drift was the problem with a Hitachi Model C2118. A voltage check across the 33V stabilising zener diode ZD002 produced a reading of 1.4V. So I replaced ZD002, but the voltage across it remained the same. Suspecting the zener diode's feed resistors, I replaced R044 (12kΩ) and R144 (10kΩ). There was still no difference. Strange!

When I took a look at the circuit diagram, see Fig. 1(a), I realised what the problem was. The tuning voltage integrating transistor Q003 is connected

**Fig. 1: The tuning voltage generator circuit used in the C2118 and some other Hitachi models (a). Modification to ensure that the stabilisation works (b).**



directly across ZD002. As a result, the voltage across the zener diode can never reach 33V – unless Q003 is cut off. So the tuning voltage is unstabilised, the AFC action being relied upon to keep the set on tune.

This is obviously a design error – someone dropped a clanger! There's an easy solution however, see Fig. 1(b). Add a 10kΩ, 0.5W resistor between the collector of Q003 and the junction of R114 and ZD002. Cut the print between Q003 and ZD002 and fit the extra resistor on the print side. Disconnect (lift) the zener diode end of R041 and use a short length of insulated wire to connect it to Q003's collector. There's a small hole in the PCB, near Q003, through which the wire can be passed.

The error explains why these sets go off tune when the HT voltage rises because R909 (39kΩ) has gone high in value. You also get the problem with the 14in. version of the chassis.

*Michael Dranfield,  
Buxton, Derbyshire.*

### Akura CX25/26

Stephen Leatherbarrow's tip in TV Fault Finding, March 1997 led me to conclude that the cause of the sound fault I had with an Akura Model CX26 (the Nicam one) must be the EEPROM chip. But Akura had handed its spares business to CPC. I ordered the chip specified by Stephen (not listed in the service manual, and 20 digits long). Some time later it arrived, marked only with the first ten digits – as was the one it was to replace. It cured the fault and, going into the service mode, the settings of the faulty one were programmed in. Fine, except that the on-screen captions were half off the picture and refused to move on to the screen.

I then noticed from the invoice that I had received the CX25 version. CPC told me that this is the only one available. A very helpful CPC engineer investigated and told me that he could program a replacement EEPROM for CX26 operation. It arrived next day, and worked perfectly. I'm very impressed with this excellent ser-

vice. But I wonder whether this is a foretaste of the sort of problems that will come our way with digital TV?

*Laurie Watkinson,  
Holsworthy, Devon.*

### The Widescreen Con

It's about time someone exposed what must be the biggest con since the start of TV. I have been in the TV repair trade since 1958. Up to a few years ago, one of the most common complaints with a faulty TV set was "the picture's gone small" or something similar. Yet here we are with these infernal widescreen sets.

I bought my 26in. set to get a 26in. picture. If I'd wanted a smaller one I would have bought a smaller set. I have yet to see a widescreen set that shows any more picture than a standard set. So why spend probably twice as much for a widescreen set that shows exactly the same picture as a standard one, the only difference being that with the latter you have twenty per cent of the screen doing very little. Perhaps we could all



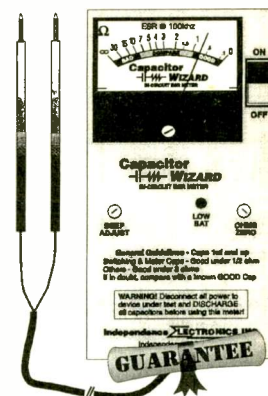
P.O. BOX 142, NOTTINGHAM, NG9 3RX, ENGLAND  
Tel: +44 (0)115 932 0152 Fax: +44 (0)115 944 4004  
E-Mail: tony@iche.com WEB SITE: <http://www.iche.com>



DID YOU FORGET TO ASK SANTA FOR A  
"CAPACITOR WIZARD"  
THIS CHRISTMAS???

DON'T WORRY!  
WE HAVE THEM IN STOCK!!

(ALONG WITH SCHEMATICS, WELTREND ICS, MONITOR WIZARDS, MONITOR μPROCESSORS, LOPTs.....)

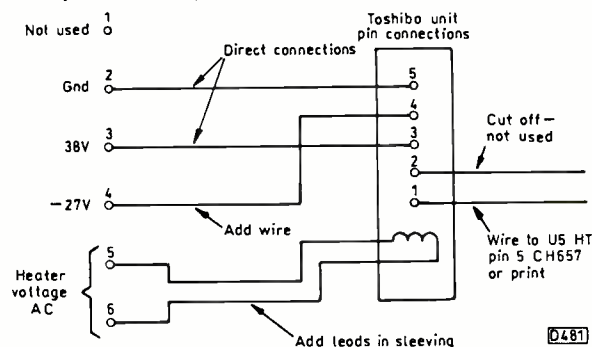


# I.C.H.E.

"ALWAYS THE FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE"



DC-DC unit connections  
on Sony C9 D board (top)



**Fig. 2: Connections to the Toshiba V209 DC-DC converter unit when used in the Sony Model SLC9.**

complain, and try to get a twenty per cent reduction in our licences, subscriptions etc.

Personally I've had enough of the irritating gaps at the top and bottom of the screen and have fitted a switch at the side of the set with a resistor to the height potentiometer. I can now fill the screen whenever I want to. Perhaps someone could come up with a way of doing it via the remote-control unit. They'd make a fortune!

*Chris Plaice,  
Winch Wen, Swansea.*

### Sony SLC9 DC-DC Unit

The Sony SLC9 VCR was way ahead of its time. I look after a number of them and have found

that it's common for the DC-DC converter which powers the display to fail. Drastic action was required when my own failed with short-circuited windings, since the converter is no longer available.

The original unit in the SLC9 is on board D in the regulator section. It's powered by the U12 supply and provides 38.5V and -27V outputs plus 3.8V AC for the filament. These voltages sounded familiar to me and, while scratching around in the workshop, I came across a Toshiba V209 DC-DC unit that requires a 6V supply and provides 37V and 30V outputs but no filament supply.

I stripped the screening can from the Toshiba unit - it had to be cut off as the board is glued into the can. Once it was open I saw that the transformer is an open-bobbin affair to which it's very easy to add windings. To get a filament supply I used eight turns of enamelled-copper wire from an old RF choke. I took the 5V required from the U5 supply in the SLC9 - it's readily available. The Toshiba unit then produced 35V and -27V outputs, restoring the display.

The loading on the SLC9's U5 supply increased by about 200mA but, since the U5 and U12 lines come from the same regulator, the overall loading remains the same. The additional filament current is well within the ratings of the Toshiba transistors, which run very cool. I've used the unit for several months now with no problems. When I first fitted the unit I added various decoupling capacitors, as in the original Sony unit, but subsequently discovered that leaving them out had no detrimental effect.

The unit is very easy to fit, as two of the Toshiba unit's pins go into the Sony board directly. This is sufficient to anchor the unit. The other connections have to be made with wire links, see Fig. 2. To complete the screening arrangements, fit the original Sony screening can over the Toshiba unit, which is available from CPC under order code TS23107550 at about £5 plus VAT.

*D. Plummer, FII(elec),  
Bexhill.*

### Mitsubishi HSB82

The fault that Pete Gurney mentioned in the November 1998 VCR Clinic (page 53) has become quite common with the Mitsubishi HSB82. I would just like to add

that the PCB should always be cleaned - it is not always obvious that the capacitor (C232) has leaked over the PCB, and the print in this area is very fine and concentrated. Leakage here will soon open-circuit the print, producing the same symptoms as before, but the next repair will be very difficult indeed.

*Mike Orr,  
Congresbury, Bristol.*

### The First RSL - TV 12

The first Restricted Service Licence local TV station, TV 12, recently started transmissions from Rowridge, Isle of Wight. I have managed to receive a weak signal, but the situation is fraught with problems.

TV 12 is like the local channel of small town cable networks in the USA. Outside prime time these run rolling page adverts and notice boards. But, unlike a cable channel, TV 12 isn't part of a package. It stands alone, and viewers have to spend up front to receive it. Unfortunately the channel used, 54, is outside the local group (A). So you need a group C/D aerial. In addition TV 12 is transmitted at 1kW, the other local transmissions being at 500kW each.

So to receive TV 12 at a realistic range a group C/D aerial is required. An amplifier may also be needed. Add to this the price of a diplexer and installation costs and it's easy to exceed £100. Will viewers pay this to receive just one channel whose prime time runs typically from 1700-2200 hours, the rest of the day being filled with small ads? TV 12 cannot compete with the major channels, terrestrial or satellite. Instead, it's a channel viewers will dip in and out of as their local interest dictates.

Potential viewers have to consider the cost in terms of what they will receive. According to my hairdresser, the word on the streets is that the only way you'll see a TV 12 broadcast properly is by going to the studio! My own reception seems to suggest that there can be polarisation problems.

I feel that in other parts of the country RSL stations could provide an important service in addressing the needs of ethnic minorities: in Vancouver two cable channels are dedicated to the Chinese community and are commercially viable. It remains to be seen how successful TV 12 will be.

*Keith Cummins,  
Chale Green, Isle of Wight.*

## Corrections

**Low-Ω add-on unit, pages 740-1 August 1998 issue:** IC1 should have been listed as type TL082, not type TL802.

**VCR clinic, page 52 November 1998 issue:** The part no. given for the reel-drive gear assembly in the Daewoo Models 5172 and 7372 was incorrect. The correct part no. is 97SB361400.

**UK DTT channel allocations chart, December 1998 issue:** Some sort of computer glitch affected the listing for the Pontop Pike transmitter. The first letter, W, should have appeared at the end of the line above - it's the aerial group for Plympton. As a result of this, every other figure in the line is in the wrong column, i.e. the BBC channel is 48 (10kW), the ITV/C4 channel is 55 (10kW), while multiplexes A, B, C and D are on channels 59, 62, 65 and 53 respectively. The aerial group is C/D.

Our apologies for these errors.

# Amstrad

Service Centre

Audio Television Video Telecommunication

Amstrad Answercall FIDELITY **Betacom** SINCLAIR INTEGRA

The 'Amstrad Service Centre' is the exclusive customers returns centre for all standard customer returns within the Amstrad plc group, brands being, Amstrad, Answercall, FIDELITY, **Betacom**, SINCLAIR and INTEGRA. We are offering for sale genuine 'virgin' Standard Customer Returns direct at market competitive prices, no third party means lower cost prices.

Currently we have approximately 90 models throughout the consumer electronics range consisting of CD Clock Radios, Portable Stereos, Portable CD Stereos, Personal CD Players, Micro Systems, CD Micro Systems, Mini Hi-Fi, Midi Hi-Fi, 14" TV, 20" TV, 28" TV, 33" TV, TV - VCR Combinations, Non Videoplus VCR, Videoplus VCR, Nicam 4 head VCR and of course new innovative products continually being released for the UK market.







If you would like to receive a product catalogue and up to date stock and price lists, fax your full company details through to the facsimile number listed below and these will be sent immediately.  
Export enquiries welcome.

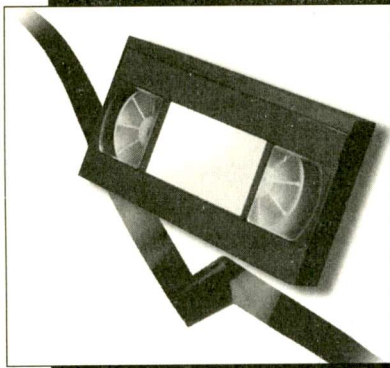
Please mark all references from this advertisement for the attention of Mr T James, Operations Manager.

Universal Consumer Products Ltd  
c/o The Amstrad Service Centre,  
Universal House, Tern Valley Business Park,  
Market Drayton, Shropshire, England, TF9 3SQ.

Switchboard 01630 655 797

Facsimile 01630 655 683

<p><b>ELC EAST LONDON COMPONENTS</b> AUDIO TELEVISION VIDEO COMPONENTS AT VERY KEEN PRICES TEL: 0181-472 4871 FAX: 0181-503 5926</p>	<p><b>LINE OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS</b> OVER 100 MODELS AT LOW PRICES</p>		<p><b>VIDEO HEADS FROM £6.99</b> OVER 200 MODELS</p>		<p><b>NIKKAI BABY 10</b> REGULATORS £11.00</p>	<p><b>DEGUSSING ROD</b> £29.99</p>
<p><b>4 WAY UNIVERSAL REMOTE</b> <i>Unique illuminated key (TV, VCR, SAT, CD/Hi-Fi) indicators</i> <i>macro function key</i> <i>24 bit processor</i> <i>Ergonomically designed keypad</i> <i>Replaces up to 4 remote controls</i> <i>Child security feature</i> <i>Fastext/teletext</i></p>  <p><b>£12.99</b></p>	<p><b>AKAI</b> CT2125 £16.99 CT2570 £16.99 CT2870 £16.99 CT2879 £16.99 <b>AKURA</b> CX10.18 £16.99 <b>AMSTRAD</b> TVR1.2,3,4 £16.99 <b>BEKO</b> 15225T £16.99 16228NX £16.99 <b>BUSH</b> 1427T £16.99 2059NTX £16.99 <b>DECCA</b> DN8652 £16.99 DT9476 £16.99 DV9499 £16.99 TN9422 £16.99 <b>FERGUSON</b> TX85/86 £16.99 TX90 £12.99 TX99 £16.99 TX100 £12.99 ICC5 £16.99 ICC7 £16.99 ICC8 £18.70 ICC9 £16.99 41H2 £16.99 59L7 £16.99 A59F £16.99 B59F £16.99 C51ND £16.99 D59F £16.99 D78N £16.99 <b>FINLUX</b> 1000 SERIES £16.99 <b>GRUNDIG</b> CUC3300 £14.99 <b>HINARI</b> CTV149C £16.99 TV209C £16.99 <b>HITACHI</b> C2114T £16.99 C2119T £16.99 C21P228 £16.99 C2509T £21.25 C2519T £21.27 C2558T £21.27 CPT1476 £14.99 CPT2178 £14.99 CPT2278 £14.99 CPT2478 £16.99 CPT2568 £16.99 CPT2598 £16.99 <b>ITT</b> DIGI 3 £16.99 ST3876 £16.99 TX3537 £16.99 <b>JVC</b> C14ET1 £16.99 AV25F1 £21.25 AV29F1 £21.25 <b>MATSUI</b> 2091T £16.99 2092T £16.99</p>	<p><b>mitsubishi</b> CT2145 £16.99 CT2528STX £16.99 <b>NEI</b> 1451R £16.99 <b>NIKKAI</b> NT14, 20 £16.99 <b>PANASONIC</b> TLF14567 £16.99 TLF14586 £16.99 TLF14592 £16.99 TLF15502 £21.27 TLF15506 £21.27 TLF15534 £25.00 TLF15542 £25.00 TLF15548 £29.99 TLF15606 £25.00 <b>PHILIPS</b> 2A, 3A £14.99 GPF2 £14.99 CP90 £14.99 CTXE, S £14.99 ANUBIS A £14.99 G90AE £14.99 <b>SAISHO</b> CX1541 £16.99 CX3312 £16.99 CX5012Z £16.99 <b>SANYO</b> CBP2145 £21.27 <b>SHARP</b> C3705N £16.99 C3720H £16.99 C2123H £16.99 DV3761 £16.99 DV5103H £16.99 DV5132 £16.99 <b>SONY</b> KV2066 £16.99 KV2096 £16.99 KV21XRTU £16.99 KV21XRTU £16.99 KVA2921 £16.99 LVDX21TU £16.99 KVE2911 £16.99 KVM2511 £16.99 KVX2131 £16.99 KVX2532 £16.99 KVX2552 £16.99 <b>TOSHIBA</b> 1400TBT £16.99 ST3876 £14.50 145E7B £15.50 150R6B £15.50 1510TBT £14.50 155T9B £16.99 175T9B £14.50 2100TBT £18.70 215T8B £14.45 2512DBT £16.70 2812DBT £18.70</p>	<p><b>IC'S TRANSISTORS AT LOW PRICES</b> AN5515 £1.50 BA3910 £7.99 BA3918 £7.99 BA3920 £3.00 BA5412 £2.50 CNX82A £1.50 CNX82A £1.50 H8NAR0F1 £4.00 HA13128 £4.00 HA13130 £4.50 HA13150 £11.00 HA13151 £8.00 HA13155 £8.50 HA13157 £8.50 LA4280 £2.50 LA4282 £3.50 LA4440 £2.00 LA4445 £2.50 LA4475 £2.25 LA4496 £2.50 LA4700 £3.50 LA4705 £4.00 LA7830 £1.50 LA7832 £2.50 LA7835 £1.50 LA7836 £2.50 PA32029B £8.50 PAL003A £9.99 STK463 £10.00 STK465 £11.00 STK4132II £7.00 STK4141V £8.00 STK4142II £7.00 STK4162II £8.00 STK4172II £9.00 STK4182II £10.00 STK4192II £10.00 STK730-060 £8.50 STK7348 £4.00 STR10006 £3.50 STR50020 £4.00 STR50103 £3.50 STR54041 £3.50 STR58041 £3.50 STR59041 £3.50 STRD1816 £3.50 STRD4420 £6.00 STRD5441 £5.00 STRM6545 £10.00 STRM6549 £11.00 STRS6307 £6.00 STRS6309 £6.00 STRS9379 £6.99 TA7268 £2.50 TA8205 £15.50 TA8215 £15.50 TA8217 £2.00 TA8218 £2.00 TA8220 £7.00 TA8221 £6.00 TA8223 £6.00 TA8227 £2.50 TA8229 £3.00</p>	<p><b>820 MIXED RESISTOR KIT</b> 10 OF EACH VALUE ¼ WATTS £9.99 ½ WATTS £10.99</p> <p><b>40 MIXED CAPACITOR KIT</b> 105C 1, 2.2, 4.7, 10, 22, 47, 100, 220, 5 OF EACH VALUE 63 VOLTS £3.99</p> <p><b>33 PIECE TAMPER PROOF SECURITY BITS</b> £5.99</p>  <p><b>CLAMP METER</b> 200 AMPS AC/DC DIGITAL £59.99</p>  <p><b>TRANSISTORS</b> BU2508AF £1.50 BU2508DF £1.50 BU2525AF £2.50 BUZ30A £1.75 BUZ91A £2.60 S2005AF £1.50 ZSA1302 £2.99 ZSC3281 £2.99 ZSD1555 £1.99 ZSD1878 £1.99 ZSD1887 £2.60</p>	<p><b>VHS ALIGNMENT TAPE</b> BAND TRACKING, TAPE TRANSPORT, FM PICTU CURVE, AUDIO SYNC HEAD AZIMUTH TRACKING PLAYBACK SWITCHING POINT <b>£29.99 only</b></p> <p><b>PATTERN GENERATOR</b> Colour bar, Cross hatch, Staircase. <b>COMPACT PORTABLE</b> <b>£84.99 only</b></p> <p><b>Capacitance Meters</b> Capacitance Meter PG015</p>  <p>An accurate, capacitance meter providing measurements over a very wide range. 0 TO 2000UF ACCURACY 0.5% <b>£29.99</b></p> <p><b>Transparent Service/Cassette</b> <b>£1.99</b></p>  <p><b>Special</b></p> <p><b>mitsubishi Capstan Motor Pulley</b> <b>ONLY £3.95</b></p> 	
<p><b>REPLACEMENT REMOTE CONTROLS FROM £5.99</b></p> <p><b>ELC EAST LONDON COMPONENTS</b> 63 PLASHET GROVE, EAST HAM, LONDON E6 1AD, TEL: 0181-472 4871 two minutes walk from Upton Park Tube Station</p> <p>VISIT OUR SHOP OPEN MON-SAT 9AM-6PM 100'S OF TOOLS, COMPONENTS INSTRUMENTS, REPAIR KITS, BOOKS &amp; CABLES TO CHOOSE FROM ADD £1.50 P/P + 17.5% VAT ALL GOODS DESPATCHED SAME DAY PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. VISA, ACCESS ACCEPTED. MIN ORDER £5.00</p>		<p><b>TDA8178S</b> REPLACEMENT £4.99</p>	<p>REMOTE TESTER £14.99 CD TEST DISC £9.99 FREQUENCY COUNTER £99 SATELLITE FINDER KIT £29.99 MICROWAVE LEAK DETECTOR £14.99 DIGITAL MULTIMETER FROM £99.99</p>		<p><b>£74.99 only</b></p> <p>Closed Circuit Black and White TV. Camera with Sound</p>	<p>SOLDERING STATION £50.00</p>



# VCR Clinic

**Reports from**  
**Philip Blundell, AMIEelec**  
**Eugene Trundle**  
**Graham Richards**  
**Russ Phillips**  
**Gerald Smith**  
**Colin J. Guy**  
**Alan J. Roberts and**  
**Ronnie Boag**

## **Philips VR657**

There was sound from the modulator in the E-E and play modes but no picture. Checks showed that the video signal was missing at pin 1 of the modulator. I traced the signal path back and came to a transistor that had a signal at its base but nothing at its emitter. Tr7406 (BC858B) was open-circuit. **P.B.**

## **Daewoo DVR7372P**

When a tape was inserted in this machine it would be played back in the LP mode, regardless of the speed at which it had been recorded. This didn't do much for the reproduction of rented movies! The cause of the trouble was a noisy operational amplifier within the CTL pulse amplifier chip IC502. A new chip restored normal operation. **E.T.**

## **Ferguson FV67/77**

There was no sound in any mode, just noise. The sound modulator coil LS54 read open-circuit – in fact it was the wrong way round. Someone must have refitted it incorrectly when looking for the cause of the original fault, which was playback sound OK but no E-E sound because the MSP2400-C48 (flatpack) Nicam decoder chip was defective. It turned out to be a very expensive repair. **G.R.**

## **Thorn VR172L**

We've had a number of cases of a

dead machine with no 6V or 5V supplies because IC101, a 7806 type regulator, has failed. It seems to fail because the plate that secures all three regulators doesn't ensure good contact with the heatsink.

Another problem is that the 7806 regulator is difficult to obtain. You can fit a 7805 with two 1N4148 diodes in place of W109 and reconnect the negative lead of the regulator's decoupling capacitor to a suitable chassis point.

This machine is of GoldStar origin. **G.R.**

## **Goodmans VN6000/6001 (Daewoo DVRG892)**

The complaint with this machine was that it sometimes tried to work while at others it didn't do anything at all. I tricked it into accepting a cassette shell and noticed that the loading mechanism was pulsing intermittently. In addition if you pressed a function button, e.g. play, the clock went out!

Various checks were carried out in the power supply. I found that the 5.8V supply was slightly low and seemed to have excessive ripple on it. Once C822 (330µF, 25V) had been replaced everything was OK. C823 (1,000µF, 10V) is another suspect but was OK in this machine. **G.R.**

## **Ferguson FV62LV**

This machine was dead, with TP91 (2SA1020) short-circuit collector-to-emitter. When it had been replaced the motors worked and the machine loaded a tape. But there was no display and no response to operation of the front keys. Once RP86 (27Ω fusible) had been replaced the display came up, asking for a code to be entered. **R.P.**

## **Tatung TVR744**

There was no E-E sound and when channels were changed the AFC would take a couple of seconds to

pull the picture in. Tests showed that the tuner was OK and that the sound was being muted by the microprocessor chip. Once this had been replaced and the EEPROM (IC1002) had been reprogrammed the machine worked normally. **G.S.**

## **Toshiba V110**

This machine was dead with no clock display and no functions. I found that TP03 (BD202) had gone short-circuit, blowing the overvoltage zener diode DP011 and fuse FP02. Normal operation was restored when these items had been replaced. **G.S.**

## **Tatung TVR933**

This machine had a tape stuck inside and wouldn't stay out of standby. When I finally persuaded it to eject the tape the capstan did not turn and the tape was damaged. The drum and loading motors both worked: the capstan seemed to have correct drive but didn't turn. A new capstan cured the fault. **G.S.**

## **Aiwa HVFX2500**

Intermittent failure to rewind was the complaint with this machine. When it did rewind it would sometimes switch off to standby. A new mode switch cured the problem. **G.S.**

## **Tatung TVR933X**

Intermittent eject during or after rewind was the complaint with this machine. While it was running on test I noticed that it would switch on or off by itself. The final clue was that the lift would sometimes shuffle backwards and forwards. LED D1001 had low emission, a replacement curing the symptoms. **G.S.**

## **Ferguson FV32L/Baird VC141**

There was no display though the machine worked otherwise. DP50

was found to be short-circuit. It's located near the front, right corner of the main PCB. **C.J.G.**

### Hitachi VTM822

Tape looping on eject is usually caused by the gear-clutch assembly. On this occasion however the bottom of the cassette holder was bent down, obstructing the reel gear. **C.J.G.**

### Panasonic NV7000

This venerable machine had had one owner from new, and the service history was known. During its 18-year life one new drum had been fitted, several electrolytic capacitors in the power supply had been replaced and umpteen belt kits had been fitted. This time the complaint was that it stopped after thirty-five minutes in the play or record mode. So I went off armed with a belt kit, idler and pinch roller and fitted them. Next day I received a call to say that the machine was "still the same". Back to the workshop it came, where I found that, sure enough, after exactly thirty-five minutes the sound became very wowy, the tape shuddered to a halt and the machine shut down.

Examination revealed that the capstan motor would slow then stop, though there was nothing wrong with it – it didn't seize up at all. Next time the fault occurred I pressed the pause button before shutdown took place. To my surprise, the tape then ran at the correct speed, displaying an immaculate picture, but the sound was muted. When pause was released the shuddering and slowing effect returned.

Quite by chance I noticed that an IC on the complex servo panel was getting hot. It was a 4049 CMOS chip, IC6403. CMOS ICs shouldn't get hot, so I replaced it. This cured the fault, and the machine is now set for another 18-years' service. IC6403 is in a bit of circuitry, called the "still pause" circuit, which looks as if it was tacked on to the original design as an afterthought. **C.J.G.**

### Philips VR412

This machine was dead with no activity from the power supply. I found that start-up resistor R103 was open-circuit. **C.J.G.**

### GoldStar P5001

There was no activity around this player's microcontroller chip. On investigation I found that a capaci-

tor soldered across the leads of the crystal, on the component side of the PCB, was touching the underside of the deck chassis. Normal operation was restored when it had been repositioned. **C.J.G.**

### Mitsubishi HSM37

This machine was in the fully laced-up position, with a tape in, and the motor tried to continue in the same direction. Once I'd unlaced the tape manually the machine worked normally for a while. It then locked up again after trying to stop from play. A new mode switch cured the fault. **C.J.G.**

### GoldStar GHV12961

This machine's mechanism appeared to be jammed. I removed the loading block from underneath the mechanism that holds the loading motor and master cam and found that the grease in the cam had dried out – it resembled lumps of candle wax! So I cleaned it all out and used some Molikote instead.

After reassembling the machine I found that, on test, it sort-of worked but the back tension was stuck. More solidified grease. Once this had been cleaned off and the lever had been lubricated everything was OK. **A.J.R.**

### Sony SLV715

The customer said that a tape had got caught in the machine. When he had eventually managed to extract it "something fell out"! This "something" was taped to the top of the machine, and turned out to be the inclined base for the left-hand (supply) side. The pin that should be attached to it was still in the loading arm. To get to this I had to remove the large sensor PCB underneath.

A new inclined base was ordered from Sony and fitted in no time. The adjustable guide was removed from the old base and fitted to the new one. Then the sensor board was replaced. Nice and simple – except that when I tried the machine there was no head rotation. As I didn't have the manual I had to play this by ear. After checking the plugs and sockets I found that there was very little by way of voltage around the head driver chip on the sensor board. When I removed the board again I found an open-circuit N20 circuit protector. Once this had been replaced and the board had been refitted, the

machine came to life. All that remained was to adjust the entry guide carefully and lock it in place. A really excellent picture was obtained. **A.J.R.**

### Philips 14TVCR240

This combi unit came from another dealer who said it was impossible to repair. Well any combi unit is a bit awkward to work on, but this one is better than some I could mention! The first problem was that it wouldn't accept a tape. Simply putting the machine into the service mode revealed the cause: a faulty end sensor. You replace the sensor system as a complete assembly (Turbo deck).

The machine would now accept a tape, but would record and play back only in black-and-white. Scope checks were not very conclusive. The reference oscillator was running, and the DC voltages were all very close to their stated values. So, with some doubts, I replaced the LA7191 video/chroma processor chip IC7051. As I expected, there was no difference. Very occasionally however there were flashes of unlocked colour. In view of this I replaced the crystal, which cured the fault. The original one must have been slightly off frequency. **A.J.R.**

### Sanyo VHR775

This machine damaged tapes when it played them: the tape was riding up past the audio/control head. A new audio/control head cured the problem. **R.B.**

### Samsung VI395

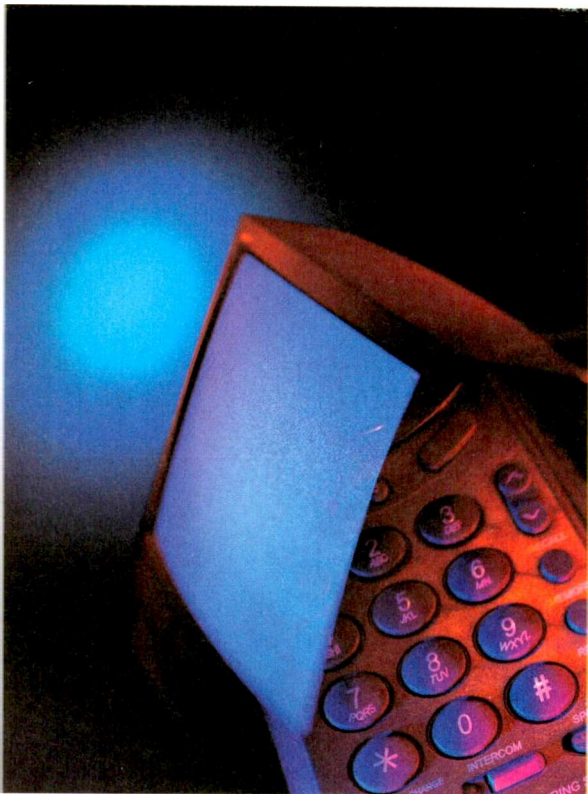
This machine was brought in because it was dead. When the power supply was checked out of circuit I found that there was only 14V across pins 1 and 3 of CN101 (a power supply kit had been fitted two years previously). The reading at pin 3 should be 16.5V DC. So I checked the reservoir capacitor C116 which read 330µF instead of 1,000µF. A replacement restored normal operation. **R.B.**

### Panasonic NVL20

This machine would intermittently unload and stop in the record mode. The cure was to replace the record inhibit switch. **R.B.**

### JVC HRD720

This machine would partially accept a tape then shut down to standby. The cure was to replace the mode-state switch, the control cam and the end sensors. **R.B.**



# DTV

For interactive TV a communication path is required between the receiver and the broadcaster. Telephone lines are used for the purpose, with modems to provide an interface at each end. **K.F. Ibrahim** describes the basic technology

## The Modem Interface

Interactive TV involves the use of a return line between the viewer's receiver-decoder and the broadcaster. The telephone system is used for this purpose. Since a telephone channel is designed to carry analogue audio (i.e. speech) signals, the digital data sent by the viewer to the broadcaster or from the broadcaster to the viewer must first be converted to a similar signal. This is done by using the digital data bits to modulate an AF carrier at one end and demodulating the car-

rier to retrieve the bits at the other end. Hence the use of a modulator/demodulator (modem) at either end of the telephone-line link, see Fig. 1.

Digital data created within the viewer's IRD (integrated receiver-decoder) modulates an AF carrier so that the signal can be sent along the telephone line in the same way as an ordinary speech signal. Conversely, modulated carriers from the broadcaster are received by the modem which converts them back to their original data form.

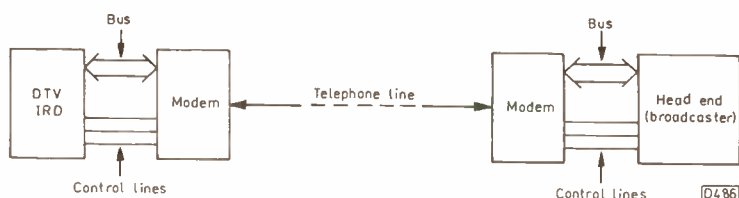


Fig. 1: Block diagram of a telephone line link for interactive TV.

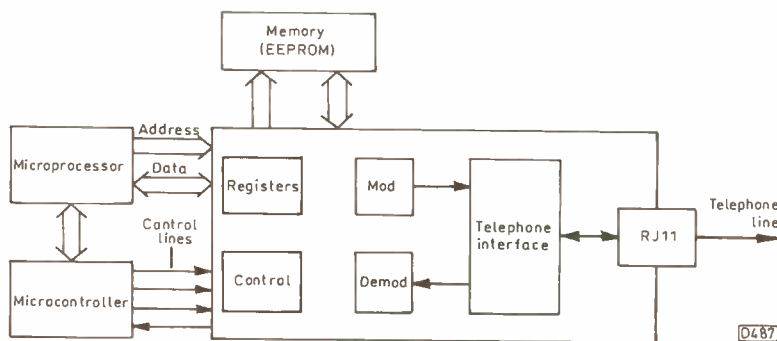


Fig. 2: Block diagram of a DTV modem interface.

### Modem Operation

Fig. 2 shows the basic elements of a modem interface unit. A non-volatile memory chip such as an EEPROM is used to store modem settings and some software routines. The modem is controlled by the IRD's microcontroller chip: data transfer to and from the modem is carried out by the IRD's microprocessor chip.

When the broadcaster sends a signal, the telephone interface detects the incoming ring and connects the line – as if it had been answered by lifting a telephone receiver. A signal is then sent to the microcontroller chip to get it to start negotiating a connection. A process known as modem handshaking then takes place to establish an agreed communication and data exchange protocol between the send and the receive modem. The protocol includes an agreed transmission speed, the size of the data packets, the number of signalling bits, and parity or other error correction/detection techniques.

Once a protocol has been agreed, the modem is set up by the microcontroller chip and data exchange can commence. Dialling may be initiated at the IRD or by the broadcaster. In the latter case an off-air signal may be used to prompt the viewer's IRD to dial the head-end (broadcaster). The procedures followed ensure that



dialling does not interfere unduly with normal use of the telephone.

**Modulation**

Modulation is the process of using an information signal, analogue or digital, to change one of the characteristics of a carrier waveform. With a modem system the carrier is then sent via a communication cable to a receiver which demodulates the carrier to retrieve the original signal information.

The carrier is a sinusoidal waveform of constant amplitude, frequency and phase. The modulating signal, e.g. speech or digital data, may be used to alter the carrier's amplitude (amplitude modulation – AM), frequency (frequency modulation – FM – or frequency-shift keying – FSK) or its phase (phase-shift keying – PSK).

A digital signal has only two states, 1 and 0. When it's used to modulate a carrier, the result is either of two different carrier amplitude, frequency or phase conditions.

With amplitude modulation the carrier's amplitude is varied by the modulating signal. Amplitude high represents logic one, amplitude low logic zero. Each change of carrier state (transition) represents a change from 1 to 0 or vice versa. At a transmission speed of say 300 bits/sec (bits per second) there will be up to 300 carrier transitions per second, which is known as the transmission's baud rate.

With frequency modulation the carrier's frequency is shifted by typically +150Hz for logic 1 and -150Hz for logic 0, hence the name frequency-shift keying. As with AM, each carrier transition represents a bit change and the baud rate is identical to the bits/sec rate.

The most economical form of modulation, in terms of bits per baud, is phase-shift keying (PSK). This is the type used for modem operation. With PSK the carrier's amplitude and frequency remain constant but its phase angle (e.g. 0°, 180°) varies in accordance with the modulation (data bits).

Binary PSK is a two-phase (0°, 180°) modulation technique. When the carrier is transmitted in the 0° phase condition it represents logic one; when it's phase condition is 180° this represents logic zero. There is thus one bit per baud.

The number of bits per baud can be increased by using smaller phase shifts, such as 90° for a 4-phase or 45° for an 8-phase PSK system.

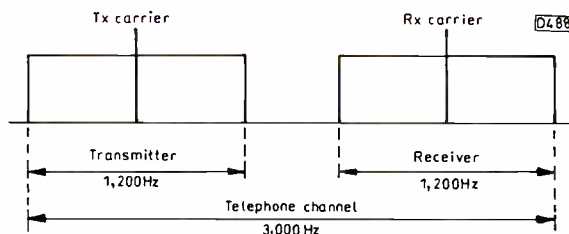
There are four phase conditions with 4-phase QPSK, 45°, 135°, 225° and 315°. Each of these is used to represent the instantaneous states of a pair of bits, i.e. 00, 01, 10 and 11. Table 1 lists these states. The advantage of this type of modulation is its ability to transmit twice as much information as binary PSK, i.e. two bits per baud.

A further increase in the bit per baud rate can be obtained by using quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM), in which the phase and the amplitude of the carrier are both varied to enable more than two bits per baud to be transmitted. Trellis coded quadrature amplitude modulation (TCQAM), which is also known as Trellis coded modulation (TCM), enables six bits per baud to be transmitted, giving a data transfer rate of 14,400 bits/sec or over.

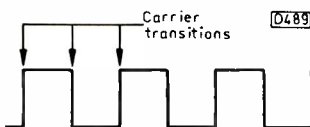
**Bandwidth and Speed**

The bandwidth allocated to a telephone channel is 3kHz (actually 300Hz-3,300Hz). The data communication channel must therefore fit within this bandwidth.

It is usually necessary for data signals to flow in both directions. This is called duplex operation. With full-duplex operation there is simultaneous communication in both directions; with half-duplex operation data can



**Fig. 3: Use of a frequency-division multiplex to provide full-duplex operation.**



**Fig. 4: Carrier transition points.**

flow in only one direction at a time.

With full-duplex operation the bandwidth of the telephone channel has to be shared between the two-way signals. This involves what's called a frequency-division multiplex (FDM), see Fig. 3. Two different carriers are used, one for the transmitter (Tx) channel and one for the receiver (Rx) channel. These frequencies are generated as required by the modems involved: the transmitter modem generates the Tx carrier while the receiver modem generates the Rx carrier. Each carrier is modulated by the digital data as necessary and sent along the telephone line.

To ensure the reliability of this two-way communication, a gap is inserted between the two modulated signals (Fig. 3). This reduces the total bandwidth available to 2,400Hz – 1,200Hz each for the Tx and Rx signals. Thus the maximum frequency that can be accommodated with full-duplex operation is 1,200Hz.

At maximum frequency the carrier transitions alternate between 1 and 0 as shown in Fig. 4. One cycle of the waveform then represents two transitions (or bits). It follows that the rate of carrier transitions, i.e. the baud rate, is twice the bandwidth. Thus with full-duplex operation the maximum baud rate is 2 x 1,200 = 2,400. As we have seen, the actual bit rate is determined by the number of bits each carrier transition represents. With one bit per baud operation the maximum bit rate is 2,400 bits/sec. By using QPSK the bit rate can be doubled to 4,800 bits/sec and so on. This is the reason why modem speeds are a multiple of 2,400 bits/sec.

**Modem Standards**

Before communication between two modems can take place, they have to establish a common communication protocol. There are several standard modem protocols. They fall into two categories: the Microcom Networking Protocol (MNP), such as MNP class 2 and MNP class 3; and the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCIT) types such as V.32 and V.42.

K.F. Ibrahim is a Senior Lecturer at the College of North West London. For course information on digital television servicing, see advertisement on page 226 of this issue.

**Table 1: 4-phase QPSK signalling.**

Bit 1	Bit 0	Carrier phase angle
0	0	45°
0	1	135°
1	0	225°
1	1	315°

# That's Our Business

**Chris Avis and his wife Anne have run a successful TV/VCR business in Exeter for many years. How do they manage it, and how do they see the future? Chris explains**

**W**hat do you call a collection of TV/VCR service folk? A Technotribe? The Short of the Earth? The Riled Bunch? The Dead(end) Set? Having for many years heard and read about other people's approaches and attitudes to running their own businesses in our trade, I've discovered a common factor: there isn't one! There are successful, independent brown goods retailer/service operators whose technical and entrepreneurial skills fill me with awe, admiration and, sometimes, a degree of intimidation. There are individuals who depend solely on their service skills and experience to earn a crust, with jam sometimes. And there are those who see a gloomy picture that no

AI diode can rectify, as their businesses go down the tube.

One-man bands, partnerships, family businesses: we're a mixed bunch, each with our own working methods – as has often been made clear in *Television*. In the February 1986 issue my wife Anne wrote an article, called "partnership", that chronicled our early days together running our RadioVision business. The intervening years have passed quickly, but we and the business are still here, with increased workshop space and now two engineers. We make a living, if not a fortune, from our corner shop in Exeter. Along the way we've acquired some useful business know-how that's supported and strengthened our ability to trade. Some of our

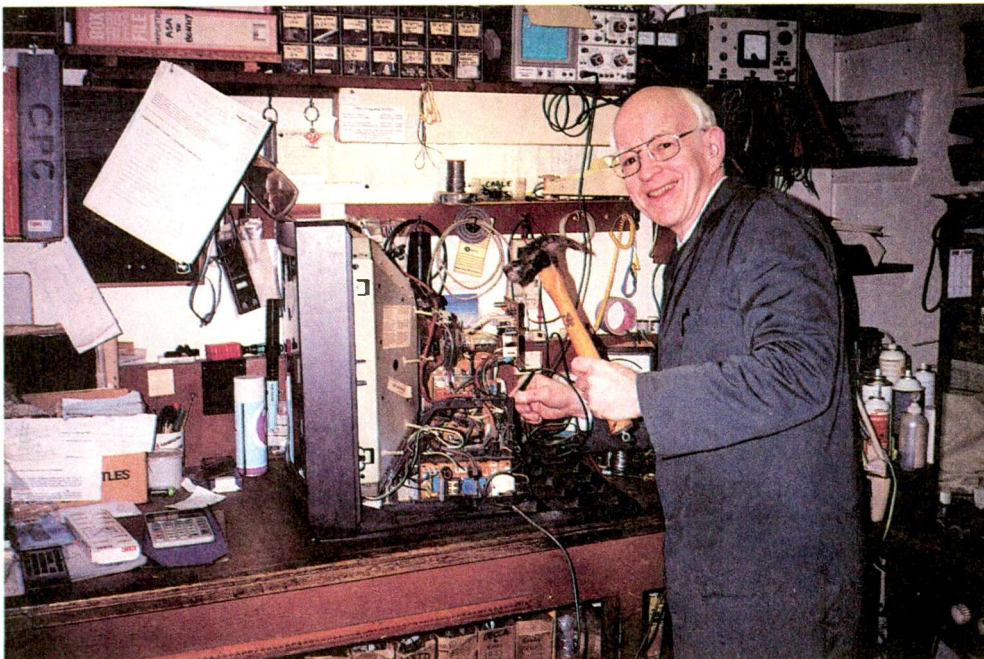
strategies may be useful to you in your own business.

## Tools of the Trade

Apart from the obvious gear necessary for reasonable service efficiency, such as a scope, pattern generator, variac, isolation transformer, digital/analogue multimeters etc., there's a growing number of other equally important aids that make servicing less stressful. Information is as vital as the humble screwdriver, and is just as able to screw you up when a repair remains incomplete for the want of a circuit diagram or the value of a burnt component.

The U-View servicing volumes that are advertised in these pages are an excellent though large investment: ours are in use every day. Alternatively or, as in our case, additionally an annual subscription to the Harvey Electronics Manuals Library (01291 623 086) enables you to borrow up to six manuals at a time for a fortnight, the only additional cost being the return postage. Many sources of fault guides are listed in the rear pages of *Television*, but the magazine has itself described thousands of faults over the years. We have found that the ECS fault indexes provide affordable, easy access to this information goldmine. We've also been using the Euras CR-ROM system for a while, but have yet to decide on its cost-effectiveness. As well as fault lists, the regularly-updated CD includes power supply circuits, makers' modifications and a useful IC cross-reference which lists all makes/models that use the same device, often enabling a chip

**Chris demonstrates expert SMD removal.**



in unfamiliar surroundings to be checked using a circuit diagram for a different model and/or brand. At £18 a month it's not cheap: the jury is still out.

Mention of CD-ROMs leads inevitably to the PC, another essential tool for the modern workshop. Add a modem and you have speedy access to the likes of SEME, CHS and Willow Vale, each with their CD catalogues plus on-line ordering for, usually, next-day delivery. As manufacturers prepare to release bewildering digital monsters to terrify us workshop inhabitants, the routine use of downloaded software to identify/correct problems will make the PC as important as the multimeter.

The cost of SMD desoldering equipment is falling. Recently we invested in a JBC JT6040 station from Willow Vale. This well-designed, cost-effective unit still represents big bucks, but is necessary when the future of soldering amounts to a lot of hot air. The HR LOPT tester and the Capacitor Wizard, previously reviewed in these pages, are other great time savers for a modest outlay.

### Customers

Many words of wisdom have been written about how to treat customers. The rules are familiar, if not always followed. To us, the most important customer is the one who complains: we do everything we can to ensure that he or she leaves the shop more than satisfied.

The occasional bouncing repair is unavoidable in this trade, so we guarantee all our work for twelve months. In the worst type of case the same symptom arises because of a quite different cause, leading to the claim "it's gone exactly like it did last time!" Even if a guarantee means replacing further unrelated parts, we usually make no charge. It can be quite amusing to see the effect of this on an irate customer, who may display a mixture of surprise, bewilderment and very limp sails! On rare occasions this approach can be costly, but it's our belief that one or two angry ex-customers can cost our business far more than a few uncharged components and time, whereas happy customers are the most cost-effective form of advertising, often bringing us much new business through recommendations.

### How Much?

The question you most often get asked is of course "how much?",



**Anne, daughter Ruth 14 and Chris in the shop.**

which assumes that we have supernatural powers to be able to provide an instant diagnosis. To deal with the contentious problem of estimating, we have evolved a system that's proved to be mutually satisfactory while minimising unproductive bench time.

When a repair is brought in, we state the maximum that the job would cost without having to check with the customer. The present limit for TV sets, satellite and audio (excluding CD) equipment is £45; for VCRs, CD players and monitors it's £65. "If it would cost more, we'll let you know, if it costs less we'll do it" we tell the customer. Should an estimate be demanded, we ask for £17.50 in advance, deductible from the repair cost when the estimate is accepted.

In practice we rarely make this charge, as it's usually possible to judge the viability of a repair at the shop counter stage and advise the customer accordingly. Most customers are reassured to know that there's a limit to repair costs without their acceptance, and appreciate our openness. Those who are shopping around for free estimates are invited to check elsewhere.

A problem can arise where, for example, a viable TV repair requires a LOPT that would lead to our basic maximum being exceeded. If a modest replacement transformer is available and the repair is worth carrying out we normally proceed, but phone the customer with an 'estimate' rather than saying that the repair is complete. This is more likely to result in confirmation of the repair charge, as the customer doesn't feel that he has been trapped into acceptance.

If an actual or contrived estimate is refused, the customer can choose to either leave the item with us free

of charge for scrap, spares or resale, or collect it in its unrepaired condition for £17.50 complete with a written estimate.

You may have different ideas about this, but in our opinion the system outlined above works.

### Strength in Numbers

It's best, we feel, not to be entirely on your own. With today's service technology, going it alone is likely to lead to frustration and an impatient bank manager. There is

*We make a living, if not a fortune. Along the way we've acquired some useful business know-how that's supported and strengthened our ability to trade*

strength in numbers – we consider that shared knowledge and togetherness has never been more important in our trade.

We've never regretted joining the Radio, Electrical and Television Retailers' Association, and gain much from its facilities and meetings. The savings we made on insurance costs alone more than covered our first year's subscription, and making contact with others in the trade can, for a small business, be invaluable. Local meetings are held regularly, and the Service Conference at Solihull each July is becoming an essential event.

Discounts are available via RETRA for some services, including the Manuals Library mentioned earlier and a Barclay Merchant Services PDQ terminal for electronic processing of card payments – another business boost.

**A Quick Fix**

Simple repairs are usually carried out immediately at the shop counter, where mains, aerial and monitor sockets are available for connection. A VCR head clean and check or a remote-control unit dry-joint problem can, for example, be quickly remedied for a standard inclusive charge of £10. Video customers are usually given a copy of our information sheet on the use of reputable tapes and the recommendation not to use head cleaners.

Our while-you-wait services are much appreciated. Aspiring DIY experts can purchase spares – on the clear understanding that no guarantee applies unless the components are fitted by us. Specially ordered parts have to be paid for in advance.

**Shock Tactics**

Uncollected repairs tie up space and money. We display the usual notice about collecting repairs promptly and their sale after three

months if left uncollected, but some customers have persistent amnesia. The law requires three months' written notice before an uncollected item can be sold. We post a card after a month, threatening to sell the item after a further seven days, and find that this usually results in speedy materialisation of the owner.

**Second Time Around**

Our business has always strongly featured the sale of reconditioned TV and VCR equipment. Although the tumbling cost of new equipment has had an effect on the second-hand market, there is still a demand for reliable used sets.

We find that ex-Granada Panasonic 21/24in. TX2/3 sets (Alpha 1 chassis) with Fastext are dependable and sell well. Even the old Rediffusion Mk 4/4A sets are still popular – and a lasting tribute to long-extinct British design and build quality.

Our small shop cannot display impressive arrays of TV/VCR stock, even if our bank was sufficiently impressed to finance it. We've held a Samsung agency for many years however and sell small but steady quantities of their VCRs and TV sets. Samsung has treated us well. The company can make mistakes, like everyone else, but is quick to act on problems and is more flexible than many of its competitors.

We deliver, install and give tuition with any TV sets or VCRs we sell, and our reconditioned goods have a six-months guarantee. By the time you read this, new laws will be enforcing a two-year guarantee with new goods and a one-year guarantee with second-hand goods. This won't worry us unduly. The Samsung TV sets we sell rarely return to the workshop in less than five years, and I would be very concerned if any of our reconditioned sets failed within a year. The effect on those who sell the mass of unreliable dross that proliferates today remains to be seen.

**Outside Jobs**

Apart from installations and occasional calls to the old folk in our area we do no field servicing or aerial installation work. Instead, money is invested in good facilities for our three workbenches, and reduced overheads mean lower charges for our customers.

Requests for house calls usually result in the item being brought

in. If this is not possible we give the telephone number of a reliable, well-established fellow engineer who is equipped for outside service calls. Similarly, an excellent local aerial man receives referrals as necessary.

**Work Sharing**

I spend as much time as possible at the bench. But this time is limited by the need to attend to customers, answer the phone, order spares (and return wrong items received), see reps, open the mail, file 80 per cent of it in the bin and attend to other delightful administrative duties.

Fortunately I'm spared the bafflement of bookkeeping, VAT and the Inland Revenue. These are efficiently managed by Anne.

Contrary to some opinions, there are still plenty of bread-and-butter stock-fault jobs around. But the proportion of nasties is increasing. Thus every workshop needs its Sage, to reduce the number of sets on the EFITT (Elusive Fault Impossible To Trace) rack. We are very fortunate to have two Sages, Tony and Mike, who between them have invaluable knowledge and accumulated experience, providing repair expertise on a wide range of brown-goods products. We cannot pay them their worth: they remain loyal for our excellent coffee!

**Fast Forward**

The development rate of future technology makes Marty Fly's Back to the Future car look like a Model T. The shortage of skilled personnel and lack of new entrants bodes ill for future digital problem shooting. The trade is not, generally, helped by the politicians – particularly those who get involved in ridiculous price-fixing claims, and the decision of the MMC (Must Manufacture Conclusions) enquiry that's likely to result in price-plummeting mayhem and the disappearance of even more service skills.

There are however those of us who can still view our future as a potentially rewarding challenge, especially as independents with a personal, caring attitude towards our customers. With the advent of ever more new technology, increasing numbers of them are seeking this rather than knock-down bargains, and are deserting the impersonal, unhelpful multiples.

As to the future of our shop in a corner of Exeter – that's our business!

**BACK ISSUES**

We have available a limited stock of the following back issues of *Television*:

- 1994** January, February, May, June, July, September, October, November and December
- 1995** January, April, May, June, July, August, September, November and December
- 1996** January to December inclusive
- 1997** January to December inclusive
- 1998** January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October November and December

**Copies are available at £3.00 each including postage. Send orders to:**

Reed Business Information Ltd.,  
Television Back Issues,  
Room L302, Quadrant House,  
The Quadrant,  
Sutton, Surrey  
SM2 5AS.

**Make cheques/postal orders payable to Reed Business Information Ltd.**



**Reports from  
David C. Woodnott**

### **Toshiba AI-420P**

The note that accompanied this elderly VHS-C machine simply said "dead". Our experience with these machines has generally been confined to mechanical or connector faults, sometimes when a unit has been dropped. This one had no such problems, but refused to power up.

The cause was simply failure of the primary fuse link, which is housed inside the grip case. It was a surprise to find that it's rated at 4A. No cause for the failure could be found: the unit worked well once a replacement had been fitted. Age-related fatigue was probably the cause – I know the feeling all too well!

### **Sony CCDTR705E**

This Hi-8 model is generally reliable. We had one recently that wouldn't power up in either mode however. It's not a common occurrence, though the power switch on the Switch Block Control assembly sometimes fails. It was OK on this occasion.

A check around the DC-DC converter circuits revealed that PS901 and PS902 (both 1-6A ceramic) had failed. As no short-circuits and no unusual loading of the supply lines could be found, replacements were fitted. The camcorder then started to operate, though not as it should do. White spots on the monitor's screen suggested possible failure of the converter drive chip IC101. I've reported this symptom before with other, similar Sony models. A new IC and set-up restored normal operation.

A service was then carried out. With the FL mechanism used in this and other models it's good practice to check tape guide TG9 for looseness. The guide quite often falls out. The

# Camcorner

result is tape damage, if you are lucky, or more severe mechanical damage if you are unlucky. If it's loose, refit and secure with Loctite 221, which is available from Sony as part no. 7-432-090-41.

### **Philips VKR6840**

This elderly model, which is based on the JVC GR45E, came in with a long list of fault symptoms from poor playback to no playback colour with its own recordings though the playback was OK(ish) with recordings known to be good. There were also several vertical striations on the E-E picture.

I try, usually successfully, to persuade customers not to proceed with repairs to this model because of the widespread capacitor failures that occur and the possible long-term consequences. But the owner decided that he liked his "old friend" and wanted it fixed, despite the fact that its replacement would have been to his long-term advantage. So off we went!

Our "best friend", the capacitor wizard, confirmed that all the electrolytic capacitors on the Y/C PCB were, as expected, faulty. They had not leaked but had dried out, most of them having little capacitance left. I removed all the surface-mounted capacitors from the PCB, then inspected and washed the board and left it to dry overnight. New components were then fitted.

Similar work was done on the camera head, SSG and video PCBs etc. The mechacon PCB was inspected, but no work was required as most of the capacitors here are of the wire-ended type and checked out OK. When all the replacements had been fitted the unit was reassembled for testing.

The monitor produced a good E-E picture, and the striations had gone. Playback of a test tape was also fine. So far so good.

But playback of its own recordings was not so good: a colour pattern danced around over the playback pic-

ture, which had distinct noise visible in the saturated parts.

Nothing had been adjusted during the course of the repair, so no setting up should have been needed. I had, after all, only replaced failed components with the correct value ones. A little thought was needed – replacing large numbers of surface-mounted electrolytics daily can sometimes muddle your thinking!

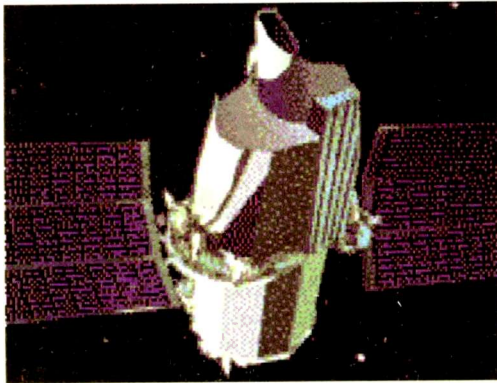
The cause of the trouble was obviously in the chroma record channel – but all the capacitors on the YC board were now new. The only remaining section of circuitry in this signal path is the head amplifier. The manufacturer regards this unit as non-serviceable – it's supposed to be replaced as a complete item. There's a circuit diagram in the manual however.

I opened the can and found several tightly-packed surface-mounted capacitors which were all faulty when checked. After the usual washing process I fitted replacements. This restored correct operation, and a service completed the repair. The customer was very happy to have his "old friend" successfully restored, and I was happy with the relatively large cheque.

The capacitors in the head amplifier can are extremely tightly packed and are best removed using dual heated tongs (OK Industries etc.). Fitting 3mm-type surface-mounted components as the replacements instead of the original 4mm types will give you more room.

### **Sony CCDTR750E**

This newish model failed to produce an E-E camera picture: all other functions were OK. Internal checks revealed that there was no CCD imager output signal though the iris worked correctly and the SSG drives were present (PCB FP89). The 15V supply to the CCD FET etc. was missing because L691 was open-circuit. A replacement cured the fault – no reason for the failure of the original coil could be established.



# DX and Satellite Reception

**Terrestrial DX and satellite TV reception. News from abroad and from the satellite belt. The start of RSL-TV in the UK. DTT problems. New receivers. Roger Bunney reports**

Terrestrial DX reception took an autumn holiday this year. I can report signals on only two days during October. On the 20th Cyril Willis logged RAI (Italy) ch. IA and TVR (Romania) ch. R2 from 1415 onwards. On the next day I too received RAI ch. IA, for about half an hour from 1300 hours local time.

## Start of RSL-TV

The main news this month is that the first RSL (Restricted Service Licence) TV station in the UK is now on air, being transmitted at 1kW ERP from Rowridge, Isle of Wight on ch. 54 with horizontal polarisation.

After five days of test transmissions the station, called TV 12,

finally opened at 8 p.m. on October 31st. It's real local TV: the programming is immediate, personal and intimate. During the first week we had a re-run of the Ryde 1998 Carnival, College Cuisine (students cooking meals), Island Farming, Video Club, Village Gardens, Gig Night Out plus weather forecasts on the hour and local news reports.

The programmes are produced entirely on the island, the station being based at Newport. At present the programme hours are 1600-2230, with repeats scattered through the day at weekends. There's Bloomberg News at 0600-0800 weekdays, then birthdays, weather and what's on. At 2300 QVC is transmitted. Local advertisements are transmitted as 'graphics' during the day: rates are £1 private (£2.50 with picture) and £5 upwards commercial. Unlike network TV, the programme timing tends to be refreshingly unpunctual.

TV 12 is quite different from TV as we have known it to date. It's based on the style of US community TV. The main broadcasters are watching closely to see how it develops. There's an advice line for prospective local viewers - 01983 524 745.

The station represents a real challenge for DXers, since the transmitter powers are low (permission is being sought from the ITC to open relays). At my

Romsey location, which is well outside the predicted coverage area of TV 12, reception is fair though there's co-channel interference from Mendip. I've even had watchable-quality reception using a Band I aerial! Anyway, check out TV 12 - you'll find it quite different from the TV you are used to. The accompanying photograph shows a station ident.

## Satellite Sightings

October was a busy time for analogue satellite TV - see News later. During the month there were a couple of major computer corporate presentations. The Apple Program on the 12th came via PAS-3R (43°W) at 12.7GHz vertical. It started with an extended report on the company's performance during the past year then moved to the introduction of the new MAC OS 8.5. Dramatic demonstrations of how the new machine works brought applause from the captive Apple staff, especially when the internet search engine Sherlock went to work seeking out data then classifying its findings in terms of relevance and importance. The main message was that Apple has turned the corner and that the business is on the up and up.

Some days later, on the 23rd, the Loral Skynet test card appeared from Intelsat K at 1430 UK time on 11.537GHz horizontal. At the same spot but with ver-

*One of the first TV 12 transmissions from Rowridge, Isle of Wight, on ch. 54.*



tical polarisation Tivoli Corporate was present. This was another computer company presentation. The first caption read "Network Associates - who's watching your network". There followed a staff presentation that was similar to the Apple one but decidedly more relaxed.

At the same time, on 11.621GHz vertical, there was yet another corporate feed to Europe. But the attention-grabbing material that afternoon was the follow-up to the Loral Skynet card. It consisted of a feed from Stanford Hospital, California, showing a complicated operation being carried out on a 40-year old woman. There were question and answer sessions both within the hospital and from remote locations. Extreme close-up camerawork was not for the squeamish. The surgeon displayed skills and confidence and was happy to pause to explain and discuss the unfolding action.

It was a good month for satellite launches. The Arianspace 503 rocket was launched from Kourou during the afternoon (UK time) of the 21st. This was seen live via Intelsat K at 11.625GHz vertical, also via Telecom 2 (5°W) in C band at 3.769GHz. There were dramatic shots: later re-runs of the action featured a camera that looked back from the rocket as the ground became rapidly more distant, showing the South American coastline.

The launch of Afristar, which is to provide Band L radio transmissions for Africa and the Middle East, was a success on the 28th, seen via Intelsat K at 11.624GHz vertical during the early evening in the UK.

There were, following the launch of Eutelsat W2, several reports of test transmission reception as the satellite was moved to its slot at 16°E. John Locker (Wirral) logged strong signals at 2°E in mid-October, and Cyril Willis (King's Lynn) reports reception of more tests from this position. By the end of the month there were strong signals from 16°E, confirming that W2 had arrived.

My favourite satellite, Intelsat K at 21.5°W, provided history in the making during the month, with reports on the Middle East peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians and the Cuban president Fidel Castro's visit to Portugal. The latter was seen at

11.537GHz horizontal as an NTSC signal.

Arabsat at 30.5°E provides some interesting viewing - the 4.085GHz transponder is a favourite for news feeds. Devious methods are used to avoid news-feed piracy. Most locally-generated and distributed news items are carried in the clear, but with material from the Asian Broadcasting Union and Reuters the picture is usually upside down and reversed, though the extreme upper and lower video strips remain the correct way up - the audio is clear. Uplink powers vary considerably - Jordan is usually very strong but Qatar is weak.

The EBU may have gone to MPEG 4:2:2, but analogue signals are still present in more distant parts!

There were naturally lots of sports feeds during the month. On November 1st we had the New York Marathon '98 live in the early evening via Intelsat K at 11.534GHz horizontal, with audio at 6.6 and 7.4MHz. On October 11th from 1800 hours there was exciting car action with the Winston Cup from the Talcageda, Alabama race track, an ESPN feed to Europe via Intelsat K. There were interesting shots from the air, using a Coptorcam eye-in-the-sky camera.

Finally Hugh Cocks (Portugal) suggests checking Intelsat 801 at 31.5°W. There's a video splurge at around 11.14-11.172GHz which is breakthrough of C-band ORTN Niger TV (3.918GHz) to the Ku-band downlink. It goes to test card, which can just be identified, at 2200 hours GMT.

### 1999 Meteor Showers

Our thanks once again to Neil Bone of the Meteor Section, British Astronomical Association, for details of the main meteor showers during the coming year - see box over the page.

Meteor shower/scatter (MS) reception calls for an accurately-tuned system that can react quickly, in respect to picture sync, when brief signal pings arrive from cosmic particles that burn up at around E-layer height (100-140km) above Earth. These burn-ups produce intense ionisation. Signal reflection occurs mainly at 45MHz up to Band II, but if the ionisation is sufficiently intense it can occur at up to Band III. Reception lasts for only a few seconds, and depends on the receiver



being accurately tuned to a specific channel and able to lock instantly.

Random MS propagation occurs throughout the year, providing brief VHF radio and TV signals with reflection distances typical of single-hop SpE. The reception technique is to use an

**The Apple Program on October 12th via PAS-3R, with John Lennon and Yoko on the wall.**

## Aerial Techniques

### UNIVERSAL DIGITAL VIDEO SYSTEMS CONVERTERS



CDM-820 broadcast-class converter

8M bit memory, two sets of S-VHS inputs & outputs, NTSC to PAL and PAL to NTSC, 500 lines dynamic & static resolution, full line & frame conversion, time base correction.....£649.00



CDM 800

4M bit memory, two inputs & outputs, NTSC to PAL and PAL to NTSC also SECAM, 500 lines static resolution, dynamic 300 lines, full line & frame conversion, time base correction, AC operation.....£449.00



CDM 600

2M bit memory, single input & output, NTSC to PAL and PAL to NTSC also SECAM, 420 lines static resolution, dynamic 250 lines, full line & frame conversion, time base correction, AC operation.....£299.00

### THOMSON MULTI-SYSTEM NICAM VCR



Multi-system compatibility. Covers VHF, UHF and cable channels. Records, receives and plays back: PAL system I (for UK); PAL system B/G (for Europe); SECAM system L (for France), SECAM system B/G (for Middle East), SECAM system D/K (Eastern Bloc); NTSC 3.58 (via scart).....£499.00

### THOMSON 14" MULTI-SYSTEM TV

Covers VHF/UHF PAL/SECAM L for use in UK France & Europe.

- 14" screen multi-standard
- PAL/SECAM (NTSC via scart)
- VHF-UHF hyperband tuner
- 59-channel memory
- Fasttext teletext
- S-VHS (via scart)
- 240V AC operation

£269.00

**FULL CATALOGUE** Features Satellite, Multi-system TV's + VCR's, Converters, Decoders, Amplifiers and Aerials for domestic and TV-Dxing. AVAILABLE BY RETURN OF POST FOR ONLY £1, or ring with your credit card.

11 Kent Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 2EH  
Tel: 01202-738232 Fax: 01202-716951 E-mail: atech@dircon.co.uk



(All prices are inclusive of VAT, delivery by courier £10.00)

Shower	Overall period	Peak
Quadrantids	Jan 1-6th	Jan 3-4th
Lyrids	April 19-25th	April 23rd
May Aquarids	April 24th-May 20th	May 3-5th
Cetids	May 7th-June 7th	May 14-25th
Delta Aquarids	July 15th-Aug 20th	July 29th and Aug 6th
Perseids	July 23rd-Aug 20th	Aug 12th
Orionids	Oct 16-27th	Oct 20-22nd
Taurids	Oct 20th-Nov 30th	Nov 1-7th
Leonids	Nov 15-20th	Nov 18th at 0400 UT
Geminids	Dec 7-15th	Dec 13-14th
Ursids	Dec 17-25th	Dec 23rd

The Giacobinids, a minor shower that occurs in early October, is unlikely to be active in 1999.

efficient aerial system, tune to a Band I TV channel – and wait! The chance of reception increases considerably at certain times of the year, when the number of meteor particles increases considerably – these are the meteor showers, such as the November Leonids. Reception can be of long duration and good strength at such times.

#### DTT

Digital terrestrial TV problems will probably be less in the UK than those in North America. Over a year ago Kerry Cozad, the engineering manager at Andrews Corporation, commented on problems with transmission masts and the aerials mounted on them. In North America masts usually carry numerous aerials used by broadcasters who operate at VHF and UHF. The aerials are often fed individually instead of, as with the UK channel-group transmission system, via a single feed from a diplexing network.

With the advent of DTT in the

States, many aerials will be unable to accept additional digital inputs. So additional aerials will be required on masts that are often already fully loaded. The problem is how to cater for this increased loading – both aerials and cables. One answer from Andrews is the use of slim-profile slot arrays – a form of coaxial transmission line. These provide fully-adjustable radiation patterns with minimal problems from systems mounted nearby, e.g. TV panel transmission arrays, PMR etc., and offer low wind-load stress. Other ideas are to use thinner cable with higher-gain aerials, or higher-specification cable that can carry greater powers within a smaller diameter. With careful design, existing lattice masts should be able to manage the additional task of DTT transmission, avoiding the need to erect adjacent masts.

Fortunately only UHF transmission is used in the UK for TV, but whether the aerials will be able to handle the additional DTT signals remains to be seen – obviously not where the signals are not in the same group. This point leads to the question of whether viewers will, in some areas, be prepared to replace their existing aerials with wideband ones or have them replaced. Or will they accept poor quality or no signals with an existing single-group UHF aerial – or just not bother?

#### Terrestrial News

**Germany:** The government has come down in favour of closing analogue TV services down in 2010, though industry suggested 2006. The situation will be reviewed in 2003, to assess technological developments.

**Canary Islands:** There's a battle for the new single commercial sta-

tion between media groups Televisa and Sogecable. The local authorities are not too happy with the situation and are seeking to delay the franchise process for further consultation. A Spanish broadcast privatisation bill to be passed shortly will allow many private local channels to open across the mainland. **Spain:** In the October issue I mentioned reception of a mystery Spanish ch. E29 station, which transmits a test signal with the message "Emision Experimental Prueba DTT", by George Gaskin in Gibraltar. The situation has now been clarified. The proposed GBC-2 service was to have used this channel and transmitted test signals earlier on. For political reasons however Spain has decided to jam the channel – even though the plan for GBC-2 has now been dropped.

#### New Receivers

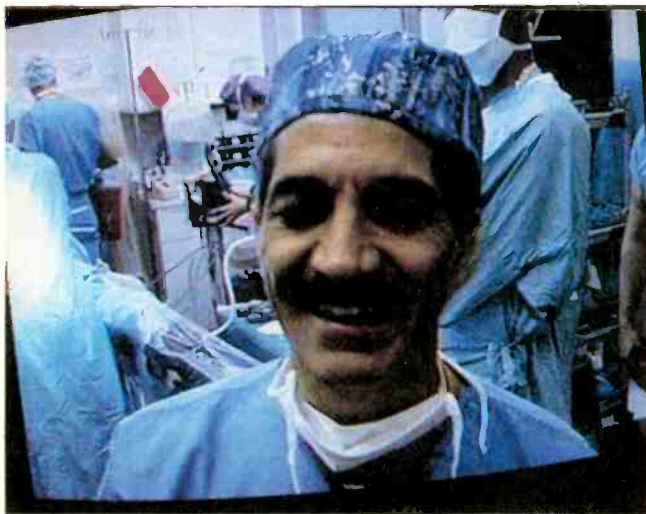
Last month I reviewed the Manhattan LT6300+ Mark 2, recommending it as a suitable analogue satellite TV receiver for DXing. Gareth Foster has since drawn my attention to another budget-price analogue receiver with good facilities. Satellite Solutions is selling to its trade account holders a Chinese manufactured, BT-badged receiver, Model SVS300, for just £49.95 plus VAT. It's a VideoCrypt IRD with a 200-channel memory, threshold extension, a tone switch and three scart sockets on the rear panel. Coverage at IF is 900-2,150MHz. The receiver is switchable for C- or Ku-band operation. Gareth has one and says it's really good value with excellent RF performance on weak signals.

Aerial Techniques has just introduced Model STV1020KIT, a 10in. PAL B/G/I VHF/UHF plus cable hyperband receiver that features auto-scan, a 99-channel memory and OSDs and incorporates a 950-2,050MHz satellite receiver with decoder input, a 35cm dish and an LNB with an 0.8dB noise figure. It runs on either 230V AC or 12/24V DC supplies and is intended for camper van, canal boat or lorry driver use. Further details can be obtained from Aerial Techniques – phone 01202 738 232.

#### Satellite News

True hand-held global communication is now available with the opening of the Motorola/Iridium LEO (Low Earth Orbiting) satellite system. Globalstar brought its 66 LEO craft on-line in early October,

**A senior surgeon at Stanford Hospital, California greets medical viewers in Europe and explains the operation to be performed. Reception via Intelsat K.**





so your Iridium phone switches from terrestrial to satellite should you be out-of-range of a cellular land-based station. The LEOs orbit at 400-700kms above the earth, and there is always at least one above the horizon. Iridium has tied up Orange, One-2-One and Cellnet in the UK, so GSM subscribers have "roaming" contact provided by access to terrestrial and satellite communication systems.

Teleport London International has been bought by Kingston Communications, making Kingston one of the top three satellite operators in the UK. Over two thirds of the globe is covered, in all modes, from the company's Bedford-based teleport. The London-based Molinaire facility is to provide transmission/presentation control with its new three-year contract for the Al Jazeera satellite channel.

The Chinese government has allowed Japanese broadcaster NHK to beam digital satellite services to mainland China. NHK is to form partnerships with Chinese companies to make receiving equipment. Programming from the NHK

World service and NHK Premium channels will be converted to digital in April.

Indian group Sterling has leased three Ku-band transponders aboard the Singapore/Taiwan ST-1 satellite to beam digital educational services to India through an intermediary, SivaSat TV Communications. The plan is for an eventual 60-channel package tied in with schools' curricula.

The cause of recent problems with three faulty Hughes HS601 satellites seems to be corrosion on a tin-plated latching relay that shorts to earth, taking down the satellites' main control processor. New satellites are being modified to avoid this potential fault condition.

The Galavision analogue service at 11.515GHz horizontal via PAS-1 (45°W) has closed down. It seems that when the current French Telecom birds come to the end of their life no more will be launched: France Telecom will instead lease capacity from Eutelsat.

It's now official that the EBU

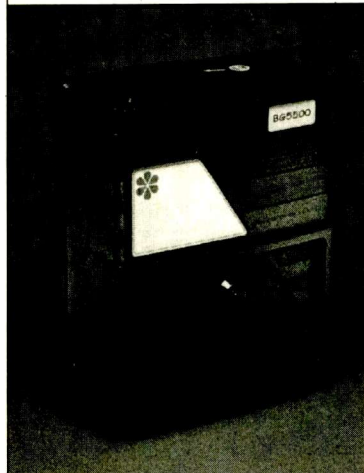
has dropped its analogue news distribution feeds via Eutelsat II F4 (7°E), moving to MPEG digital transmission. Up to twenty video circuits can now be provided, with much higher sound quality and instant access encryption for commercially sensitive material.

There were several satellite launches during the month – Eutelsat W2 (16°E) on the 5th, Hot Bird 5 (13°E) on the 9th and Afristar on the 28th. There was also a test/proving flight for the new Ariane 5 rocket on the 19th (see previous note).

CNNI and Euronews are going digital, CNNI via Astra 2A on December 16th and Euronews via Hot Bird 3 in early January. Canal+ Belgique is to launch Belgium's first digital service in mid-January, with both French and Flemish language programming. There are about 700,000 subscribers to the present analogue services.

AB Sat (France) has signed an agreement to provide five TV channels for the CanalSatellite digital service.

## BEAT RENTAL ARREARS WITH THE NEW ALBERICE BG5500 TV METER!



- Fully electronic operation
- Free standing or TV mounted
- TV plugs directly into meter
- Completely variable time range
- £1, £2 or Euro coin operated
- Auto current sense level detection
- Simple tool free installation & operation
- £150 average coin box capacity
- Radial pin lock for added security
- 15 minute audible pre-end warning

Suitable for: Home/Hotel TV Rental,  
Cable, Satellite & Video etc...

 **Alberice**

Alberice Ltd. Sterte Avenue West, Poole, Dorset BH15 2AW

Tel: +44 (0)1202 667044  
Fax: +44 (0)1202 682988  
e-mail: alberice@globalnet.co.uk

 **Alberice**

Yes, I would like increased income  
from TV rental - please send me  
details of Alberice's BG5500 TV meter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Post this coupon to:  
Alberice Ltd.  
**FREEPOST** (BH746)  
Sterte Avenue West, Poole, Dorset, BH15 2ZZ

# HELP WANTED

**The help wanted column is intended to assist readers who require a part, circuit etc. that's not generally available. Requests are published at the discretion of the editor. Send them to the editorial department - do not write to or phone the advertisement department about this feature.**

**Wanted:** Timebase panel for the Philips G8 chassis. G. Cox, 6 Cardinals Close, Bexhill, Sussex TN40 2QJ. 01424 214 579.

**Wanted:** Source of parts for the OK Industries Inc. DG24100-A desoldering gun. Reg Fullerton, 5 Shilgrove Place, Castledawson, Co. Londonderry BT45 8AL. 01648 468 477.

**Wanted:** Type ZC84328P processor chip for the Ferguson TX98 chassis. New IC or old board with chip. Roger Scales, 17 High Street, Bridlington, E. Yorks YO16 4PR. 01262 602 584.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram/servicing information for the Gateway 2000 Vivitron 17in. monitor (photocopy OK). Model no. is CVP GF200T. C. Radford, 16 Greenhill Lane, Kikby-in-Ashfield, Notts NG17 9GA. 01623 758 548 or e-mail cmrg7vjq@aol.co.uk

**Wanted:** Scan coils for the Grundig P1423GB UHF/VHF 14in. TV set. J. Austin, 5 Cranwell Road, Greasby, Wirral. 0151 677 9048.

**Wanted:** Complete control door unit for the Panasonic NVG21B VCR and if possible a genuine remote-control unit. Also a 240V/110V standby transformer (part no. 4511 31 18) and remote-control unit for the Solavox 14R19/1. Used items would be acceptable. Also require a service manual or circuit diagram, either of which must have oscillograms, for the Triumph CTV8210. This set has a weird blanking fault when cold: the picture is present at either side of a wide black vertical bar which disappears after about 15 minutes to leave a normal picture. Paul Hardy, 43 Sheridan Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 7QB. 01189 475 869.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram for the Boots 1417R colour portable and a LOPT for the Hinari Model CT15. Andie Wilkes, 34 Tideswell Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B42 2DT. 01926 404 935 (day), 0121 650 0720 (evenings).

**Wanted:** An owner's instruction book for the Ferguson Model 3V32 VCR. A. Squires, Fairview, High Bullen, Torrington, N. Devon EX38 7JA. 01805 623 349.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram for the electronic Avometer type EA113, also a circuit diagram for the vintage Ekco radio Model SH25 (photocopies OK). Leon Schyvaerts, Werkendam 43, B. 2360 Oud-Turnhout, Belgium.

**Wanted:** Thorn 2000 and any other early colour chassis; a Philips N1500 VCR; and information on the Thorn Model 8759. Steven Nicholson, 77 Deerlands Avenue, Parson Cross, Sheffield S55 7WS. 0114 257 7163.

**For disposal:** Various 14in. CRTs including an A34EAC01X06, A370HFB22, A3702B22, A37592X etc. Also several non-working VCRs, all good makes, some recent. F. West, 8 Llainwen, Tynyngogl, Anglesey LL74 8SD. 01248 852 950.

**Wanted:** Power supply panel and off/on/timer switch for the Ferguson 3V29 VCR or a scrap working machine. G. Chester, 6 St. Aidan's Close, Horninglow, Burton on Trent DE13 0LQ. 01283 563 948.

**Wanted:** CNC monitors. Cash paid for any circuit diagrams, spares or technical information on monitors used in CNC machine-tool control systems - Fanuc, Heidenhain, Sienumeric, Meldas, Yasnac and others. Please call John Holland on 0973 443 735 or fax 01203 715 055. ReVision, 165 Albany Road, Earlsdon, Coventry CV5 6NE.

**Wanted:** Lopt for the Protech Model Pro 10 colour portable, or any information on where to obtain spares. Ken Howe, 13 Howardian Close, Lambton, Washington NE38 0PX. Phone/fax 01914 178 101.

**Wanted:** KSS123A laser for the Toshiba XR30, and an LCD remote-control unit for the Sony SLV270. D.F. Rogers, 4 St. Cuthman's Road, Steyning, Sussex BN44 3RH. 01903 814 021.

**Wanted:** Can anyone help with the following problem with a Toshiba TV set. The channel numbers go on running. When the channel is locked the picture is normal - but not on all stations as the picture starts jumping and the sound disappears intermittently. Any ideas on what to look for, please write to B. Samson, 82-39, 134St., Aph IP,

Jamaica - NY11435, USA.

**Wanted:** Power supply circuit diagram (photocopy OK) for the Panasonic NVJ30B VCR - it's completely different from the one shown in the April 1998 issue of *Television* (IC1102 is type STK5392). Also need a power supply (switching unit) for the Ferguson FV33H VCR. Arthur Tomkinson, 10 Lodge Court, Station Grove, Wembley, Middx HA0 4AP. 0181 903 574.

**For disposal:** Lots of electronic scrap, complete TVs to PCBs, video bits etc. Free to anyone who will take it away. Also some complete, repairable units at a small charge. G. Hadley, 283 Old Wakefield Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. 01484 300 889.

**Wanted:** TDA5660P IC as used in the Black Star Orion test-card generator. Peter Antcliff, 63 Chester Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4JY. 01438 225 602.

**Wanted:** Old spares - valves, knobs, books, circuit diagrams, test gear - in fact anything to do with valve radio receivers. Particularly require a 6X5GT rectifier valve. Will travel anywhere to collect. Steve Taylor, 11 Chamborough Road, Coalville LE67 4SF. 01530 832 695.

**Wanted:** Service information/manuals for BT cordless phones, particularly the Freestyle range. Brian Barron, 55 Henderson Avenue, Cavehill Road, Belfast BT15 5FN. 01232 715 826.

**Wanted/for sale:** Require an AC adaptor, type EA-771v, for the Sharp PC-7700 laptop or a circuit diagram for the adaptor (photocopy OK). May consider dead PSU for parts - cheap please. Also require a circuit diagram (copy OK) and plastic keyboard surround for the Compaq Contura 400 laptop. We're breaking Amstrads PC2086/PCW8512: most parts available. John McClean, 66 Castle Park, Limavady, Co. Londonderry BT49 0SB. 01504 763 045.

**Wanted:** Text module or its ICs for the Hitachi Model C1709T, and a LOPT for the Matsui Model MB10 (part no. FCA017 422 105 1024. Gordon Howie, High Street, Harlech, Gwynedd. 01766 780 613.

## Answer to Test Case 433

- see page 175 -

Two faults for the price of one this month! In fact two faults and three diagnoses, the first and last of which were correct.

Why didn't the VCR work when it was first connected to the mains supply? Simple this one: the start-up capacitor C6 (1µF, 250V) had dried up and fallen in value. The owner would not have encountered this problem unless there had been a power cut or the machine had been disconnected from the mains supply for some reason.

Once it was clear that the tape-drive fault was not caused by the capstan motor, Sage used an oscilloscope to monitor the supply voltages at motor plug PG01 - he should have done that earlier in the proceedings of course. The A5V supply was OK. But the 'V CAPST' line, which should have been at about 11V, was low and varying: the greater the mechanical load on the motor, the lower and rougher (in terms of ripple) the V CAPST voltage became.

This led Sage back to the power supply section, where he found that regulator transistor Q5 was working with a rough, rippled collector supply of little more than 11V. This is in fact the A14V line, which comes from the chopper transformer via rectifier diode D8, with smoothing by the two 470µF capacitors C12 and C13 along with choke L4. The value of these two capacitors had fallen. Once they'd been replaced, operation was back to normal.

## NEXT MONTH IN TELEVISION

### Servicing the Philips Turbo VCR deck

The Philips Turbo mechanism has been around for a number of years and has proved to be efficient and reliable. Most repairs are straightforward and don't require much explanation, but some points can cause confusion. Alan J. Roberts provides detailed notes to help when a VCR fitted with this deck comes in for service.

### Low-power standby operation

Greenhouse gas emission from electricity generating stations could be considerably reduced by lowering the power consumption of TV sets - and other equipment - in the standby mode. Over the past year or two "green" chopper power supply controller chips have been developed to achieve a worthwhile reduction. Eric Carlton outlines the problem and the techniques devised to make more ecologically friendly operation possible.

### A visit to Pioneer

Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer Pioneer undertakes considerable R&D work. George Cole reports on its DVD-Rewritable deck, work on the DVD-Audio format and a flat-screen display technology known as Organic Electroluminescence.

## TELEVISION INDEX/DIRECTORY AND FAULTS DISCS PLUS HARD COPY INDEXES & REPRINTS SERVICE

### INDEX DISC

Version 6 of the computerised index to TELEVISION magazine covers Volumes 38 to 47 (1988 - 1997). It has thousands of references to TV/VCR fault reports and articles, with synopses. A TV/VCR spares guide, an advertisers list and a directory of trade and professional organisations are included. The software is easy to use and very quick. It runs on any IBM or compatible PC with 640K RAM and a hard disc. Price is £35 (3.5"HD, alternatively 3.5"DD). Those with previous versions can obtain an upgraded version for £15. Please quote the serial number of the original disc.

### FAULT REPORT DISCS

Each disc contains the full text for television VCR, monitor, camcorder, satellite TV and CD fault reports published in individual volumes of TELEVISION, giving you easy access to this vital information. Note that the discs cannot be used on their own, only in conjunction with the Index disc: you load the contents of the Fault Report disc on to your computer's hard disc, then access it via the Index disc. Fault Report discs are now available for:

- Volume 38 (November 1987 - October 1988);
- Volume 39 (November 1988 - October 1989);
- Volume 40 (November 1989 - October 1990);
- Volume 41 (November 1990 - October 1991);
- Volume 42 (November 1991 - October 1992);
- Volume 43 (November 1992 - October 1993);
- Volume 44 (November 1993 - October 1994);
- Volume 45 (November 1994 - October 1995);
- Volume 46 (November 1995 - October 1996);
- Volume 47 (November 1996 - October 1997).

Price £15 each (3.5"HD, alternatively 3.5"DD if required).

### NEW - FAULT FINDING GUIDE DISC

This disc is packed with the text of the TELEVISION Test Cases, What a Life!, Service Briefs and other vital fault finding information. It is accessed via the Index disc. Price £15 each (3.5"HD, alternatively 3.5"DD if required).

### REPRINTS & HARD COPY INDEXES

Reprints of articles from TELEVISION back to 1986 are also available: ordering information is provided with the index, or can be obtained from the address below. Hard copy indexes of TELEVISION are available for Volumes 38 to 47 at £3.50 each.

All the above prices include UK postage and VAT where applicable. Add an extra £1 postage for overseas EC orders, or £5 for non-EC overseas orders. Cheques should be made payable to SoftCopy Ltd. Access, Visa or MasterCard Credit Cards are accepted. Allow 28 days for delivery (UK).

**SoftCopy Limited, 1 Vineries Close, Cheltenham, GL53 0NU, UK.**

**Telephone 01242 241 455.**

**e-mail: sales@softcopy.co.uk**

**Web site: <http://www.softcopy.co.uk>**

Published on the third Wednesday of each month by Reed Business Information Ltd., Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. **Filmsetting** by JJ Typographics Limited, Unit 4, Baron Court, Chandlers Way, Temple Farm Industrial Estate, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5SE. **Printed** in England by Polestar (Carlisle) Ltd., Newtown Trading Estate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 7NR. **Distributed** by MarketForce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0AU (0171 261 7704). **Sole Agents** for Australia and New Zealand, Gordon and Gotch (Asia) Ltd.; South Africa, Central News Agency Ltd. **Television** is sold subject to the following conditions, namely that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first having been given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed by way of Trade at more than the recommended selling price shown on the cover, excluding Eire where the selling price is subject to currency exchange fluctuations and VAT, and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

## THE EURAS DATABASE ON THE INTERNET

- Authorised service workshops can now access the latest EURAS Service information online via the Internet

## THE EURAS MONITOR DATABASE ON THE INTERNET

- Thousands of monitor repair tips are available online with hundreds more added each month



## FAX BACK SERVICE

NO PC? NO PROBLEM.

- You can have access to the EURAS Database System, including circuit diagram extracts via your fax machine.

- covering all important service information
- for most manufacturers
- ...more than 510,859 repair tips for 624 manufacturers
- ...TecTra with more than 83,008 components
- ...30,087 IC diagrams
- ...35,175 compatible transistors on ECA
- ...More than 60,500 extracts of Circuit diagrams
- ...Diagram Archive Management
- ...Complete power supply circuit diagrams for 2,812 models

Save *YOUR* money and call us now on 0117 9860900 for trial details or visit us on the Internet@ <http://www.euras.com>

EURAS offers INFORMATION

# RADCOM UK

(EASI-SPARES)

## VIDEO PARTS

TESTED & GUARANTEED  
SECOND HAND PARTS

## WE HAVE MOVED

MORE STOCK  
BIGGER PREMISES  
BETTER SERVICE

Overseas customers welcome

When calling, please quote any numbers on the part itself, as this will help us locate the right part or any equivalents

### NEW TELEPHONE & FAX NUMBERS

TEL 01349 854422

FAX 01349 854400 (24hr)

Email on [user@wardrop.dial.netmedia.co.uk](mailto:user@wardrop.dial.netmedia.co.uk)

## WIZARD DISTRIBUTORS

*"HUNDREDS  
& THOUSANDS"*

**SPARES FOR:** TV, video, audio, satellite, monitors, microwave. Thousands of components for hundreds of models!

**REMOTE CONTROLS:** Hundreds of handsets for thousands of models! **From £6.90.**

**VIDEO HEADS:** Hundreds of heads for hundreds of models! **From £7.25.**

**COMPUTER ACCESSORIES:** Hundreds of bargains in our dedicated catalogue - **NOW AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.**

Thousands of supporting lines inc tools, test equipment, lighting, CRT's etc, etc.

## WIZARD DISTRIBUTORS

EMPRESS MILL, EMPRESS STREET  
MANCHESTER M16 9EN

TEL: 0161 872 5438, 0161 848 0060

FAX: 0161 873 7365

E-mail [sales@wizard-distributors.co.uk](mailto:sales@wizard-distributors.co.uk)

SEE WIZARD ON THE WEB AT  
[www.wizard-distributors.co.uk](http://www.wizard-distributors.co.uk)

**VISION - TECH** ELECTRONIC DOMESTIC WHOLESALES

TV - VIDEO - HI FI - CAM - MIC - ETC

CURRENT MODELS	EXAMPLES	STOCK
14" R/C	14" R/C.....60	TVS
14" F/T	21" NICAM.....95	VIDEO
21" F/T	28" NICAM.....165	HI FI
21" NICAM	33" DOLBY PRO.....595	CAM
25" F/T	CAMCORDER.....150	MIC
25" NIC	KETTLES.....4	R/CASS
28" NICA	CORDLESS PHONE.....10	PHONES
29" PRO	MICROWAVES.....45	FAXES
32" WIDE PRO	Many More...	KETTLES
33" PRO	<b>TOP BRANDS</b>	IRON
33" DPL		CD/PORT
41" WIDE DPL	<b>HI FI</b>	JUGS
55" TP DPL	AIWA - SONY - TECNICS - PIONEER - JVC - PAN	KETTLES ETC
	<b>TVS</b>	HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL CUSTOMERS
	SONY - TOSH - PAN - JVC - PHILIPS - MITS - FERG - SANYO - ETC	

GRADED STOCK BOXED/STAND Phone 0121 236 4335 Fax: 0121 236 1744  
184 Great Hampton Row, Hockley, Birmingham B19 3JP

**W. TREE TRADE WAREHOUSE**  
UNIT 9A/9B CARRMERE ROAD  
LEECHMERE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE  
SUNDERLAND SR2 NTE  
TELEPHONE: 0191 521 1500

**LARGE SELECTION OF HIFI**  
TECHNICS • KENWOOD • PIONEER • AIWA

**B Grade TV's - Boxed - Working**

14" R/C.....from £69	25" Fastext.....£165
14" Televideo Combinations.....£135	28" Nicam.....£225
20" Televideo Combinations.....£195	28" Wide Screen.....£350
20" R/C Television.....£89	32" Wide Screen.....£550
20" Fastext.....£99	

**Special Offer on B Grade Videos**  
L/P Video - £60 Videoplus - £65 Nicam - £99

**B Grade Camcorders**  
Working, boxed with instructions  
**£139**

**Ex-Rental Bargains (Working)**  
21" FST from £35 - 25" FST from £45  
or buy as they come - £25 each

**W. TREE TRADE WAREHOUSE**  
UNIT 1, SUNSHINE MILLS, WORTLEY ROAD,  
LEEDS LS12 3HT  
TELEPHONE: 0113 2638804

**NEW WAREHOUSE**

**NOW OPEN**

**MK4 R/C TXT U/T ONLY £10**

ONE & ONLY GRANADA DEALERS IN BIRMINGHAM

G90 21" PHILIPS R/C TXT	£30
CP90 21" PHILIPS R/C TXT	£25
CP110 PHILIPS 25" FST R/C TXT	£35
FINLANDIA 21" NICAM STEREO	£40
FINLANDIA 28" NICAM STEREO	£65
N-CHASSIS FINLANDIA 28" NICAM	£50

**NEW TOSHIBA TV'S**  
ALL SIZES 14" - 52"  
WE WILL BEAT ANY PRICE

**CHRISTMAS OFFER!!!!**  
NEW SAMSUNG VCR'S FROM ONLY £80-00  
PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW

SURROUND SOUND SPKRS 25 WATTS (SET OF 4) ONLY £10	FRONT LOADING VIDEOS U/T From Only.....£15
--	---

**221/2 BRIDGE ST WEST  
NEWTOWN  
BIRMINGHAM B19 2YU**

TEL: 0121 359 0800  
FAX: 0121 359 2300  
MOB: 07970 290121

**CENTRAL TV**  
WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION LTD

EST 1970

**SPECIAL CLEARANCE ON SATELLITES**

MAKE	QTY OF 5 AT	QTY OF 10 AT
GRUNDIG 2000	£25	£40
BT 200	£30	£50
FIDELITY SR950	£35	£60
VIDEO CRYPT DECODER	£25	£40
PACE 800	£40	£70
AMSTRAD SRX 400	-	£30
AMSTRAD SRX 200	-	£15

AMSTRAD SRD's 510, 540, 545  
MIX OF 10's @ £60

EX-RENTAL TV's & VIDEO's  
ALWAYS AVAILABLE  
PHONE NOW  
FOR BEST PRICES

PHILIPS,  
PANASONIC, SHARP,  
SANYO, FINLANDIA etc.

FOR ALL EXPORT ENQUIRIES CALL OUR BIRMINGHAM OFFICE NOW!!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS**

HEAD OFFICE: MICK 369 STRATFORD RD, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM, B11 4JY. TEL: 0121 772 1591 FAX: 0121 766 6383	LONDON DEPO: JOSHI ELEY ESTATE, NOBEL RD, EDMONTON, LONDON, N18. TEL: 0181 807 4090 FAX: 0181 884 1314
---	--

# DARTEL ELECTRONICS

8 Heather Park Drive, Alperton  
Wembley, Middlesex HA0 1SL

Tel: 0181-795-1735 Fax: 0181-795-1736

**High quality graded  
stock from  
manufacturers**

Camcorders, VCR's,  
Televisions, Hi-Fi's,  
Car Stereos, Microwaves etc

**All popular brands boxed  
with warranty**

*Tel/Fax for details  
Visit by appointment*

# ROCDAN LIMITED

UNIT 21, 6/F, GOLDFIELD IND. CENTER,  
1 SUI WO ROAD, FOTAN,  
NEW TERRITORIES, HONG KONG  
FAX: (852) 26027743

THE FOLLOWING ARE READY FOR  
EXPORT IN RELIABLE QUALITY  
& COMPETITIVE PRICE:

- A GRADE TV IN FULLY REMOTE.
- B GRADE TV IN FULLY REMOTE.
- TV W/QUALITY USED TUBE (IMPORTED FROM JAPAN) IN FULLY REMOTE.

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR USED ITEMS**

- ✓ TVs FROM SIZE RANGE 14"-37"  
SPECIALISTS IN CONVERSIONS TO PAL SYSTEM
- ✓ REFRIGERATOR 2-5 DOORS
- ✓ AIR CONDITION SPLIT TYPE
- ✓ ALL TYPES OF AUDIO APPLIANCE

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES  
PLEASE CONTACT US BY FAX OR  
E-MAIL: tobyu@netvigator.com

**CAMPION  
WHOLESALE LTD.**

**QUALITY USED  
TV & VIDEO  
COMPLETE RANGE OF TVs  
VIDEOS AND SATELLITES**

Most makes and models available  
TVs from £3.00 • Satellites from £8.00  
Videos from £15.00  
Prices Ex-VAT

Free Delivery Service to most areas of the UK

**U.K.s Largest Export Wholesaler**  
Specialists in conversions to most countries systems

**UNIT 75, BARRACKS ROAD,  
SANDY LANE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN,  
WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 9QB**  
Just 10 Mins from M5 Junct. 6 Worcs North

**01299-879642 (3 lines)  
FAX: 01299 827984**

# BESCO LTD

T/A NORTH WEST ELECTRONICS  
ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE TO THE TRADE

**Hi-Fi Hi-fi**

**End of Catalogue - Agents Returns etc.  
100s OF UNITS NOW IN STOCK**

Micro systems with CD, Tape, Radio only £30 boxed

Goodmans Midis CD, Tape, Radio, Record Deck £40 boxed  
IN STOCK NOW - Aiwa stack systems, Pro-Logic surround sound  
boxed. Catalogue Price £999 **OUR PRICE £290 inc VAT.**

Also Kenwood, Sony, Pioneer, JVC, Panasonic, Sanyo  
**1/3RD RETAIL PRICE - ALL BOXED AND TESTED**

Ghetto Blasters all makes from £25  
also Camcorders, Radio Cassettes, Irons, Kettles, Toasters etc.

**VIDEO SALE OVER 1,000 VIDEOS IN STOCK NOW**

**Boxed 'A' Grade and Agents Returns**

Bush LP/SP boxed	£50	Alba LP/SP	£50
Roadstar LP/SP, boxed	£50	Toshiba LP/SP V-Plus	£75
Panasonic LP/SP V-Plus	£75	Akia LP/SP V-Plus	£70
Sanyo LP/SP V-Plus	£70	JVC LP/SP V-Plus	£70

**EX RENTAL SLIMLINE VIDEOS, CLEAN, WORKING PERFECTLY**

Philips only **£35 complete/instructions/remote**

Grundig only **£40** Philips LP/SP centre deck only **£55**

Grundig LP/SP Nicam Video Plus only **£50**

300 FST all sizes, all makes, offers

**A Happy New Year to all our Customers**

**FREE** Breakfast until 10.30am **FREE** Lunch until 12.30pm,  
Sandwiches, Curries, Roast Chickens etc

**Besco Ltd, Walker House, 16 Bottomley Street,  
Manchester Road, Bradford BD5 7LJ**  
Tel: (01274) 308186 - Fax: (01274) 722229

# WILTSGROVE LTD

28-29 RIVER STREET, DIGBETH, BIRMINGHAM B5 5SA

TEL: 0121-772-2733

FAX: 0121-766-6100

## NEW YEAR SPECIALS

ON REPLACEMENT REMOTE CONTROLS / HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

PANASONIC		MITSUBISHI		AMSTRAD		TOSHIBA		SHARP	
TX21M1 5.95	TC2125 5.95	TC2178 5.95	TC2185 5.95	21M2TX 6.95	SRD400 5.95	2835DB 5.25	2885S 6.95	SV2189 6.95	
TX21M2 5.95	TC2168 5.95	TC2181 5.95	TC2185 5.95	CT14MS1 6.95	SRX200E 5.95	219T8B 5.25	AN216 6.95	SV2578 6.95	
TX21V1C 5.95	TC2174 5.95	TC22 5.95	TC22 5.95	CT15MS1 6.95	240387 5.95	1400 5.25	CT7085SN 6.95	SV2587 6.95	
TX25A1 5.95	TC2175 5.95	TC2255 5.95	TC2255 5.95	CT21AV1H 6.95	SRX200 5.95	1510 5.25	CT2510 6.95	SV2588 6.95	
TX25A2 5.95	TC2178 5.95	TC2268 5.95	TC2268 5.95	CT21M2 6.95	240093 5.95	175R9T 5.25	CV2185SN 6.95	SV2579S 6.95	
TX25A3 5.95	TC2185 5.95	TC2458 5.95	TC2458 5.95	CT21M3 6.95	240351 5.95	2100RBT 5.25	CV2585SN 6.95	SV3320S 6.95	
TX25AD1C 5.95	TC21R1 5.95	TC2465 5.95	TC2465 5.95	CT21M4 6.95	SAT16CH 5.95	2100TD 5.25	CV2885SN 6.95	SV2897S 6.95	
TX25G1 5.95	TC22 5.95	TC2466 5.95	TC2466 5.95	CT21M5BT 6.95	SAT48CH 5.95	2101TBT 5.25	DS2587S 6.95	SV2587S 6.95	
TX25W2 5.95	TC2255 5.95	TC26 5.95	TC26 5.95	CT25AV1 6.95	SRD400 5.95	2102 5.25	DV21081S 6.95	SV2578S 6.95	
TX25W3C 5.95	TC2268 5.95	TC2573 5.95	TC2573 5.95	CT25M2 6.95	SRX150 5.95	2103 5.25	DV2108S 6.95	SV2189S 6.95	
TX25X1C1 5.95	TC2458 5.95	TC2579 5.95	TC2579 5.95	CT25M3 6.95	SRX400 5.95	2121 5.25	DV25071 6.95	DV7036S 6.95	
TX28A2 5.95	TC2465 5.95	TC2655 6.95	TC2655 6.95	CT25M5BT 6.95	SRX200E 5.95	219T 5.25	DV25073 6.95	DV7013 6.95	
TX28G1 5.95	TC2466 5.95	TC28W1 5.95	TC28W1 5.95	CT29AV1 6.95		2500 5.25	DV25081 6.95	DV7024 6.95	
TX28LD1C 5.95	TC25 5.95	TC3370 5.95	TC3370 5.95	CT29BV18D 6.95		2545 5.25	DV25083 6.95	SV2188 6.95	
TX28W2 5.95	TC2573 5.95	TC431 5.95	TC431 5.95	CT288W2B 6.95		284T9D 5.25	DV28071 6.95		
TX28W3C 5.95	TC2579 5.95	TC22 5.95	TC22 5.95	CT21AV1B 6.95		2100TBT 5.25	DV28073 6.95		
TX28X1C1 5.95	TC2665 5.95	TC274 5.95	TC274 5.95	CT21T75 6.95		2500TBT 5.25	DV28081 6.95		
TX29A3 5.95	TC28W1 5.95	TX1767 5.95	TX1767 5.95	CT25T75 6.95		2101TB 5.25	DV28083 6.95		
TX29A3C 5.95	TC1457 5.95	TX1786 5.95	TX1786 5.95	C2857 6.95		156R9BW 5.25	DV5403 6.95		
TX33A2 5.95	TC1465 5.95	TX1985 5.95	TX1985 5.95	CT14MS1EM 6.95		1400TBT 5.25	DV5407 6.95		
TXC91 5.95	TC1475 5.95	TX1988 5.95	TX1988 5.95	CT21AV1Y 6.95		1400TBW 5.25	DV5431 6.95		
TXW28B1 5.95	TC1485 5.95	TX2111 5.95	TX2111 5.95	CT21M2TX 6.95		159R9T 5.25	DV5432 6.95		
TX15M1 5.95	TC1465 5.95	TX2112 5.95	TX2112 5.95	CT21M3GT 6.95		2103TBG 5.25	DV6301 6.95		
TX28MD3 5.95	TC1657 5.95	TX2188 5.95	TX2188 5.95	CT21M4GT 6.95		2500TB 5.25	DV6303 6.95		
TX25MD3 5.95	TC1865 5.95	TX2172 5.95	TX2172 5.95	CT25AV1D 6.95		2501TBZ 5.25	DV6311 6.95		
TC1457 5.95	TC1875 5.95	TX2178 5.95	TX2178 5.95	CT25AV1H 6.95			DV6313 6.95		
TC1465 5.95	TC1767 5.95	TX2181 6.95	TX2181 6.95	CT25M5 6.95			DV6324 6.95		
TC1475 5.95	TC2115 5.95	TX21T1 5.95	TX21T1 5.95	CT28AV1D 6.95			DV6332 6.95		
TC1485 5.95	TC2118 5.95	TX21V2C 5.95	TX21V2C 5.95	CT28AV1DS 6.95			DV6336 6.95		
TC1865 5.95	TC2125 5.95	TX2251 5.95	TX2251 5.95				DV6355 6.95		
TC1867 5.95	TC2126 5.95	TX2122 5.95	TX2122 5.95				DV7001 6.95		
TC1875 5.95	TC2168 5.95	TXC851R 5.95	TXC851R 5.95				DV7002 6.95		
TC1757 5.95	TC2174 5.95	TX90 5.95	TX90 5.95				DV7003 6.95		
TC2115 5.95	TC2175 5.95	TX25A 5.95	TX25A 5.95				DV7011 6.95		
TC2116 5.95	TC2178 5.95	TX21731 5.95	TX21731 5.95						



WE STOCK  
CD PICKUPS  
IDLERS  
VIDEO HEADS  
BELTS  
CLUTCH  
ASSEMBLIES  
PINCH ROLLERS  
LOPES  
CD-Rs  
MICROWAVE  
SPARES  
CAPACITORS  
SEMICONDUCTOR

WE HAVE  
OVER  
15,000  
LINES.  
GIVE US A  
CALL!

<b>BRAND NEW</b> <small>WITH 12 MONTHS GUARANTEE</small>	<b>32" NOKIA8297DPL</b> WIDESCREEN DOLBY PROLOGIC, PIP, FASTTEXT, SORROUND SPEAKER WITH CABINET	<b>32" THOMSON 32WS23U</b> WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO VIRTUAL DOLBY WITH CABINET	<b>33" TOSHIBA3377DB</b> DOLBY PROLOGIC WITH CABINET
	AKITA 14" TELETEXT PORTABLE <b>£699</b>	AKITA 14" TELETEXT PORTABLE <b>£649</b>	AKITA 14" TELETEXT PORTABLE <b>£699</b>

<b>GRADED STOCK</b>	JAPANESE STOCK		NOKIA - television range	
	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	R.R.P	OUR PRICE
 <small>PICTURE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSE ONLY</small>	21" TELETEXT			£125
	21" NICAM			£149
	25" NICAM			£185
	28" NICAM			£199
	SFN 7282	28" widescreen, Aips, Megatext, OSG, Zoom, UHF/VHF, Tunning & much more...	£799	£299
	SFN 7291	28" widescreen, PIP, Fasttext, OSG, Zoom, UHF/VHF, Tunning & much more...	£999	£325

<b>EX RENTAL</b>	<b>25 SETS FOR JUST...</b> 10 CTV TELETEXT + 10 CTV TX9/TX10 STEREOTEXT + 5 CTV 14" PORTABLES <b>£649</b>	<b>TV BARGAINS</b> ALL ITEMS GUARANTEED WORKING AND ARE TESTED STOCK CTV-BASIC FROM <b>£14.99</b> CTV-REMOTE CONTROL FROM <b>£19.99</b> CTV-TELETEXT FROM <b>£19.99</b>	<b>10 SETS FOR JUST...</b> 5 R/C + 5 TEXT (FST) NON-THORN BLACK PLASTIC CABINET WITH HANDSETS <b>£499</b>
	10 VCR FRONTLOADERS <b>FOR JUST... £249</b>	<b>ALL THIS AND MUCH MORE...</b> RING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION!	

**TRADE ONLY** PLEASE NOTE: ALL STOCK IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, POSTAGE & V.A.T.

# FREEFAX ORDERLINE : 0500 55 05 05



ESTABLISHED

1973-1998

**Xmas Greetings**



**Current Stock**

- 10" ac/dc
- 14" r/c
- 14" text
- 20" r/c
- 20" text
- 21" text
- 21" nicam
- 25" text
- 25" nicam
- 25" dpl
- 28" nicam
- 28" dpl
- 28" wide
- 33" nicam
- 33" dpl
- 33" wide
- 37" nicam
- 46" rp
- 52" rp
- 55" rp
- full ver range

Possibly the Largest and Oldest established graded establishment in the UK

**No shortage of stock at XMAS**

Guaranteed to beat anybody's price for a similar product

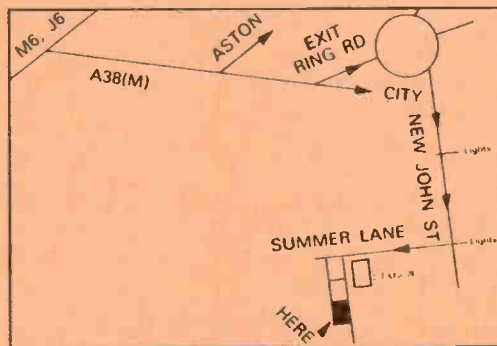
**SPECIALS**

16" R/C boxed 'A'.....	£65
20" R/C boxed 'A'.....	£85
25" DPL boxed 'A'.....	£250
28" DPL boxed 'A'.....	£300
VCR 2SP. vid plus UHF/VHF.....	£69
Remote Micro Systems.....	£35

**BRAND NEW**

Toshiba 33" DPL.....	£750
55" DPL Projector.....	£2,000

*All prices based on availability + VAT*



**Current Stock**

- Radio/
- Cassettes
- Car Audio
- CD Port
- Hi-Fi
- Phones
- Faxes
- Kettles
- Irons
- Mixers/
- Blenders
- Microwaves
- Vacs
- Printers
- Speakers
- BT Phones
- Fridge/
- Freezers
- Cookers
- Hobs
- Direct
- Loads

NATION-WIDE NEXT DAY DELIVERY SERVICE - VISITORS BY APPOINTMENT

**Phone 0121-359 7020**

**Fax 0121-359 6344**

PHOENIX HOUSE, 190 BRIDGE ST. WEST,  
BIRMINGHAM B19 2YT





# HST DISTRIBUTORS LTD LONDON

APPROVED  
TELEPRICE  
DISTRIBUTOR

Suppliers of High Quality

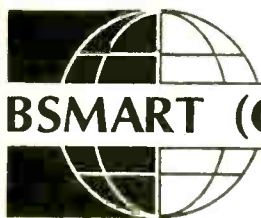
- EX-RENTAL & GRADED TV'S & VIDEO'S
- FRIDGE FREEZERS

**DIRECT FROM SOURCE**

PHONE FOR DELIVERY DAYS ON **0181-803 0505**

**EXPORT ENQUIRIES WELCOME**

**DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE**



## BSMART (CRAWLEY) LTD

Largest selection  
of

MAJOR MANUFACTURERS  
NEW "B"

GRADE PRODUCTS

T.V. VIDEO AUDIO  
MICROWAVE OVENS

Contact Fred Bean

BSMART (CRAWLEY) LTD.  
10/11 LLOYDS COURT, MANOR ROYAL,  
CRAWLEY, SUSSEX RH10 2QX

Tel (01293) 618000  
Fax (01293) 400133

# TUBE SALE

14" & 16" Narrow Neck  
Portable Tubes  
ALL IN PRICE

## £25

ie: Includes carriage & VAT

48 ECR  
48 EEV  
48 LPE

510 UFB  
51 EBV  
51 EFS

**ALL IN  
PRICE**

## £50

ie: includes  
Carriage & VAT

59ECF10X01.. NEW.. **£84**

66ECF10X01...NEW... **£89**

66ECF20X05...NEW... **£99**

Carriage & VAT extra

We stock a huge range of  
EX-EQUIPMENT TUBES



Ring Irene or Jane for  
price and availability



## EXPRESS TV

The Mill, Mill Lane,  
RUGELEY, Staffs WS15 2JW

Tel: 01889-577600

Fax: 01889-575600

# P.V. TUBES

108 ABBEY STREET, ACCRINGTON, LANCS BB5 1EE  
Tel: 01254 872500 / 390936 Fax: 01254 872166

TRADE COUNTER OPEN MON-FRI 9-5, SAT 9.30-12.30

Please add VAT to all prices. We accept payment by cheque, cash, Access, Visa. Add £2 pp for all orders up to 1k. Heavier parcels add £4. Next day delivery on Parceline. Consignments POA. Goods will be despatched on the day we receive your order. If we are out of stock we will inform you ASAP. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

The PV1 multi purpose degaussing wand is a compact and cost effective unit intended for use with a 240 volt mains supply. This unit will be of particular interest to TV Service Departments, TV Manufacturers, Rental Companies, TV Broadcasting Authorities, Universities and Colleges, The Armed Forces, Aviation and Computer Companies.

ORDER BY MAIL ORDER  
TODAY FOR ONLY £32.50.

## VALVES

ECC83	£3.80	EL34	£7.00
PL508	£2.50	PCF200	£2.00
ECL84	£0.99	ECC81	£2.95

## DISCOUNTED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Hewlett Packard 51629A	£18.64
Epson S020097	£13.61
Canon BC121 Black	£5.36

We have literally hundreds of products, here are just a few: Aerials, brackets, batteries, cable, connectors, CMOS capacitors, discs, diodes, fuses, IC's, loptx, leads, manuals, push button lights, phones, phone access, potentiometers, relays, remote controls, satellite systems, scanners, semiconductors, strip board, switches, tuners, tools and test equipment, valves and all you need for video repairs - heads, idlers, tyres, pinch rollers, cleaners, test cassettes, TV's, video tape.

**IF WHAT YOU NEED IS NOT LISTED - ASK!  
RING ANDY, MARK OR LINDA**

# IS YOUR RENTAL BUSINESS EXPANDING?

## Broughfame Ltd.

can help to expand your television/video rental business and increase your profitability.

Our rental Finance Plan offers you financial facilities from **£1,500** upwards.

Block Discounting finance also available.

For further details ring or write to:

## Broughfame Ltd.

**115A St John's Hill,  
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3PE**

**Tel: (01732) 743400**

**Fax: (01732) 743335**

**E-mail: R@Broughfame.TelMe.com**

Is looking for . . .

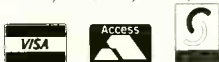
## ICs TRANSISTORS SEMIs an up hill struggle?

A phone call to us could get a result. We stock a very wide range . . . and with a World-wide database at our fingertips we are able to source even more. We specialise in devices with the following prefix (to name but a few):

2N 2SA 2SB 2SC 2SD 2P 2SJ 2SK 3N 3SK 4N 6N 17 40  
AD ADC AN AM AY BA BC BD BU BV BDV BDW BDX BF  
BFR BFS BFT BFW BFX BFY BLY BLX BSR BRX BRY BS  
BSS BSV BSW BTA BT BTA BTB BRW BU BUK BUT BUW  
BUW BUX BUY BUZ CA CD CX CXA DAC DG DM DS  
DTA DTC CL GM HA HCF HD HEF ICL ICM IRF J KA  
KIA L LA LB LC LD LF LM M MAM MA MAB MAX MB  
MC MDA J MJE MIF MM MN MPS MPSA MPSH MPSU  
MRF NJM NE OM OP PA PAL PIC PN RC S SAA SAB SAD  
SAJ SAS SDA SG SI SL SN SO STA STK STR STRD STRM  
STRS SVI T TA TAA TAG TBA TC TCA TDA TDB TEA TIC  
TIP TIPL TEA TL TLC TMP TMS TPU U UA UAA UC UDN  
ULN UM UP A UPC UPD VN X XR Z ZN ZTX + others.

We can also offer equivalents (at customers' risk). We also stock a full range of other electronic components.

Mail, Phone, Fax, Credit Card orders & callers welcome



Connect AMERICAN EXPRESS

## Cricklewood Electronics Ltd

40-42 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY LONDON NW2 3ET

TEL 0181 452 0161 & 450 0995

FAX 0181 208 1441

Sole UK Agents for



### TC-402D

Due to its weight and size, the TC-402D is the ideal instrument for the installation of FM and Terrestrial TV antenna, as well as CATV systems.

- Peak detection
- Built-in loudspeaker for AM and FM reception
- Frequency Indication with 4 digit LCD Display

- Multi-turn potentiometer to enable tuning
- Weight including batteries: 1.9 Kg

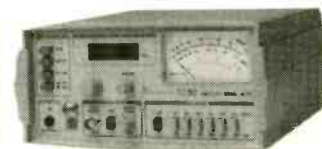
### TC-90

Portable equipment, with many applications, designed to carry out any type of Terrestrial TV, FM Radio, CATV and Satellite TV installations.

- Frequency Sweep on Satellite
- Peak Detection
- Measurement of terrestrial TV from 20u V to 3V without the need of external attenuators.



- Rechargeable 12V / 2.6 Ah Battery
- Weight including batteries: 3.5 Kg



### TC-80

The TC-80 has been designed for the reception of TV Satellite systems, the installation and testing of domestic and SMATV systems.

- Full Band Frequency Sweep
- Switchable 14V or 18V LNC Power Supply

- Rechargeable 12V / 2.6 Ah Battery
- Weight including batteries: 3.3 Kg

Available from most wholesale distributors across the UK or direct from

## COASTAL AERIAL SUPPLIES

Unit X2, Rudford Industrial Estate, Ford, Arundel BN18 0BD  
Telephone: 01903 723726 Fax: 01903 725322 Mobile: 0976 241505

No other consumer magazine in the country can reach so effectively those readers who are wholly engaged in the television and affiliated electronics industries. They have a need to know of your products and services.

# CLASSIFIED

PHONE 0181-652 8339

FAX 0181-652 8931

The prepaid rate for semi display setting is £15.00 per single column centimetre (minimum 4 cm). Classified advertisements £2.00 per word (minimum 20 words), box number £22.00 extra. All prices plus 17% VAT. All cheques, postal orders etc., to be made payable to Reed Business Information. Advertisements, together with remittance, should be sent to Television Classified, 11th Floor, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS

## SERVICE DATA

### Technical Information Services

Midlinbank Farm, Ryelands, Nr. Strathaven, ML10 6RD

N.B. There is a £2.50 Post/Handling Charge on all orders

Send an SAE For Your Free Quote & Catalogue

### NEW ADDRESS & TELEPHONE

We have the world's Largest Selection of

## SERVICE MANUALS

CTV - VCR - SATELLITE - AUDIO - CD - ETC  
VCR CIRCUITS £8.00 CTV CIRCUITS £6.00

 We Sell 

CIRCUITS/MANUALS • FAULT-FINDING  
TECHNICAL & SERVICING GUIDES



HACKER GUIDES



AMATEUR & PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

☎ 01357 440280 \*NEW TEL\* 01357 440280 ☎

### TOP SELLING BOOKS

PRACT VCR or TV REPAIRS  
£16.95 each (or £30 for Both)  
MICROWAVES: ENERGY & OVENS  
£12.95  
Data Reference Guide (Chassis/X-Ref)  
£9.95  
EURO SCRAMB SYS (New 5th Edn)  
£35.00  
Buy, Sell & Service Used CTV/VCR/CD  
£9.95 each

IC DATA BOOKS - Various Titles  
£12.95 each  
With 100's of Titles, send SAE for Full List  
.....000.....

### SERVICE MANUAL LIBRARY

BUY ANY MANUAL FOR £10.00  
or Swap at £5.00 Each (plus p+p)  
Initial Joining Fee £65.00  
(£20/annum, thereafter)

## SERVICE MANUALS AND CIRCUIT DIAGRAMS

Thousands of different models available  
For most U.K. European, Far East & USA makes

	Service Manual	Circuits
B/W TV	£ 6.00	£3.00
CTV/VCP	£10.00	£5.00
VCR	£14.00	£7.00

Audio/Satellite/Microwave also available - P.O.A.  
Cheque/PO with order only please.

Add £2.00 P/P etc. to order total. Do not add any VAT

### D-TEC

PO BOX 1171, FERNDOWN, DORSET BH22 9YG

Tel: 01202 870656

## Repair Information

**IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THOUSANDS OF ENGINEERS WORLDWIDE SAVING TIME AND MONEY DAILY - PLEASE READ ON.**

### Just released: Ed 21 Fault Indexes in book format

OUT NOW Edition 21 of the Television Magazine Index Covers over 14,000 Television, Video, Satellite, Camcorder & Monitor faults, Large easy to read A4 format The newest addition to a highly acclaimed & recommended series.

ISBN 1 898394 25 3

Edition 21: Complete set £14.75 Offer Price £9.75

### Brand New: Fault indexes on disk - Version 1.7

Latest faults together with ALL data from ALL previous versions. Covering a MASSIVE 20,500!! Television, Video, Camcorder, Satellite, CD & Monitor faults listed in 19 years of Television.

Indexes on Disk Version 1.7 £17.50

Low cost updates are available for all Disk fault indexes - Current price £5.50

### New: Kwik Tips on Disk Version 1.1

Already proving itself a valuable service resource in workshops large & small, Kwik Tips V1.1 is our LARGEST FAULTS & REMEDIES database EVER, Compiled from over 20,000 !! Entries & covering 1,435 Chassis & Models, This concisely Edited TV & Video repair database will easily pay for itself with just 1 repair.

Kwik Tips on disk Version 1.1 £27.95

### Latest release - Equivalent guides - 2nd Edition.

Equivalents & Models to chassis, TVs, Videos Camcorders & Satellites, 5 sections, Over 6,300 Entries, Need we say more !!

Edition 2: Equivalent guides book £5.95

All programs require a PC or compatible & are supplied with a user manual.

**E.C.S.**

Technical Publishing (Est 1985)

316, Upton Road,  
Noctorum, Wirral,  
Merseyside. L43 9RW.  
Tel/Fax 0151 522 0053

Please add £1.75 P & P to total (Europe £2.75, n.o.w. please enquire).

To Advertise in Television Classified  
Telephone Pat Bunce on 0181-652 8339  
or Fax on 0181-652 8931

### SERVICE MANUALS

Have you ever turned away work for want of a Service Manual?  
Have you ever bought a Service Manual and never used it more than once?

Then why not join . . .

### THE MANUALS LIBRARY

For details and membership application form write, phone or fax:

**HARVEY ELECTRONICS**  
43 Loop Road, Beachley, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7HE  
Tel: 01291 623086 Fax: 01291 628786  
Visa, Access accepted

### THE 'HOOKINGS' INDEX

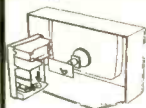
More than 14,000 entries including remedies where appropriate, from 'TELEVISION' magazine

Bang up to date: Jan '87 to Jan '99  
Only £10.00 inclusive for the set of three books covering TV, VCR, SAT, CD etc

Too good to be true?  
Ring 01766 522444 for free sample  
\*\*\*\*\*

CLASSIFIED TEL: 0181 652 8339

# Service Manuals



Available for most equipment.  
From Valve Wireless to Video Recorders  
and everything else in between.

Televisions, Computer Monitor, Test Equipment,  
Satellite, all Audio, Amateur Radio etc etc.

If you need a Service Manual give us a call.

Originals or Photostats as available.

Our entire index of Manuals is now being put on our  
web site for instant access.

Alternatively complete the coupon below for our Floppy Disc  
catalogue of Manuals and Technical Books available.

## MAURITRON TECHNICAL SERVICES

8 Cherry Tree Road, Chinnor, Oxon OX9 4QY

Tel: 01844-351694. Fax: 01844-352554.

Email: enquiries@mauritron.co.uk

Web site at: <http://www.mauritron.co.uk/mauritron/>

Please forward your Catalogue of Technical Books and Service  
Manuals Index on PC Disc for which I enclose 4 x 1st class stamps.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## Fryerns

Service Information **FES** Circuit Diagrams  
TVs, VCRs SATELLITE  
AUDIO & HI-FI

Most models/makes old & new  
covered

Also fault guidance service available

Prices are from £3.75 + £2.50 P/P

i.e. 1 item - total £6.25 inc

2 items - total £10.00 inc

3 items - total £13.75 inc

4 items - total £17.50 inc

Payment by credit card or postal  
order for next day delivery. Cheques  
to clear.

Tel/Fax 01206 211570

Answerphone outside office hours

P.O. Box 5830  
Basildon, Essex  
SS13 3RX



## COURSES

## Digital Television

New For 99

Two day courses for  
service engineers

Call 0181 208 5446

for further details

College of North West London

Willesden Centre

Dudden Hill Lane

London NW10 2XD

COLLEGE OF North  
West London

## WANTED

**BILLINGTON** Billingshurst, West  
EXPORT LIMITED Sussex RH14 9EZ

### VALVES WANTED FOR CASH

(KT88, PX4, PX25, DA100,  
EL34, EL37, CV4004, ECC83)

Valves must be Mullard/GEC/West European  
to achieve top prices

Ask for our free Wanted List.

### WE SUPPLY VALVES, C.R.T., VIDICONS ETC

Visitors, please phone for an appointment,  
we're a very busy export warehouse.

Tel: (01403) 784 961

Fax: (01403) 783 519

Email: [billingtonexportltd@btinternet.com](mailto:billingtonexportltd@btinternet.com)

## TEST EQUIPMENT

### MÜTER BMR 95



BMR 95 unique Regenerating-Computer and  
Analyser for CTRs, regenerates even better,  
also if all other machines do not succeed. With  
CRPU! BMR 95 removes shorts F-C, C-G1, G1-  
G2. FLASH-EX against remaining gas! 165  
adapters available! Book with 12,500 CTR-types!  
Pays itself within 4 weeks! Please, ask for more  
information.

SEME Tel: 01664 565392 (UK)  
Dönberg Tel: 075 48275 (IRL)  
Müter Fax: 0049 2368 57017

# TRANSFORMERS

## TV LINE OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS

PHONE: 0181-948 3702 FAX: 0181-332 0583

ALBA · AMSTRAD · BUSH · DECCA · DORIC · BLAUPUNKT ·  
FERGUSON · FIDELITY · GEC · GRUNDIG · GRANADA ·  
HITACHI · HINARI · INDESIT · ITT · KIMARA · NIKKAI ·  
MATSUI · MURPHY · OSAKI · NORDMENDE · LOEWE-OPTA ·  
PANASONIC · PYE · PHILIPS · SANYO · SAISHO · SHARP ·  
SONY · SOLOVOX · SUSUMU · TANDBERG · TELEFUNKEN ·  
THORN · TRIUMPH · THOMSON · GOLDSTAR · BINATONE ·

**FULL RANGE OF KONIG: VIDEO HEADS, BELT KITS,  
IDLERS, PINCH ROLLERS, TENSION BANDS.  
LARGE RANGE OF REMOTE CONTROLS IN STOCK**

TIDMAN MAIL ORDER LTD · 236 SANDYCOMBE ROAD ·  
RICHMOND · SURREY · TW9 2EQ

Mon-Fri 9 am to 12.30 pm &  
1.30-4.30 pm

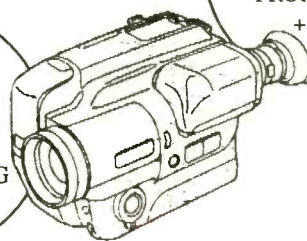
Approx. 1 mile from New Bridge.

## REPAIRS

## CAMCORDER REPAIR SPECIALISTS

SPECIAL OFFER  
SONY HEAD  
REPLACEMENTS  
FROM £96.14  
+ VAT

SERVICE  
AGENTS FOR  
SONY,  
PANASONIC,  
JVC, SAMSUNG  
ETC.



COLLECTION/DELIVERY  
ANYWHERE IN THE UK

PHONE FREE FOR DETAILS

0800 281009

accent

TECHNIC

UNIT 20 HAMPTON LOVETT IND EST DROITWICH

WORCS WR9 0NX

FAX 01905 796385



## FOR SALE

### Trade Only

Televisions from £5.00  
Teletext from £20.00  
Videos from £20.00  
Twin Speed Stereo from £25.00

Minimum quantity - 10 units

BOURNEMOUTH  
WHOLESALE  
01202 470443

T.V.'s, VCR'S, HI FI'S  
COMPUTERS & PRINTERS

Major Retailer  
Returns

Discount for  
Quantity

Tel 01384 411414

CLASSIFIED TEL: 0181 652 8339

# RECRUITMENT

## Switch over to Comet!

Nationwide Opportunities

### Field Engineers

Brown Goods (TV/Video)

### Field Engineers

Domestic Appliance

### Workshop Service Engineers

£Excellent + Benefits

Comet's objective of achieving "100% Customer Satisfaction" in After-Sales Service is a key element of the Company's future strategy. In order to meet this objective, Comet is currently looking to expand its dedicated team of After-Sales Service Engineers. Comet operates throughout England, Scotland and Wales and opportunities exist for both field engineers (brown goods and white goods) and workshop engineers.

Experience in the service and repair of brown goods or white goods electrical retail products will enable you to contribute as a valued member of our Customer Service Team. If your philosophy is to put the customer first, Comet will give you the technical training and management support needed to succeed. Due to the Company's progressive expansion programme, the potential for career development is unlimited.

In addition to an excellent basic salary, Comet provide a host of benefits including bonus, expensed Company Vehicle, pension scheme and, after a qualifying period, share save scheme and free medical insurance. Furthermore, you'll be entitled to staff discounts at other Kingfisher Group companies including - B&Q, Superdrug and Woolworths.

If you share our commitment to 100% Customer Satisfaction, write NOW! enclosing a brief career history, to:

Julie Bowling, HR Controller,  
Comet Group plc., Unit 5,  
City Park Industrial Estate,  
Gelderd Road, Leeds LS12 6DR

# COMET

Comet is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community

CLASSIFIED TEL: 0181 652 8339

# RECRUITMENT

## FIELD TEAM LEADERS BROWN GOODS APPLIANCE SERVICING

*Do you relish a challenge? Can you lead a team of field technicians ensuring top quality repairs are carried out to our customers satisfaction? Yes! Then we would like to hear from you.*

We're part of ScottishPower, one of the UK's largest and most profitable electrical retailers and we are continuing our expansion throughout England with our Electricity Plus Superstores. Customer service is top of our list of priorities and as a Team Leader you will ensure the availability of the field technicians to provide an efficient quality repair service.

You will be qualified to a minimum City and Guilds or equivalent with previous experience of practical technical electronic repair and diagnostic techniques. Hands on coaching of technicians and effective problem solving experience in a similar environment is crucial to this position. Good man management and communication skills are also essential. Based in the North West and Midlands the successful candidates will be required to work from home.

Aside from an excellent salary, we offer all the benefits you would expect from a major plc, including pension, excellent staff discount and a share save scheme.

To apply, please send a full CV with current salary details, to: Mark Perrier, Recruitment & Training Manager, Electricity Plus, California Drive, Whitwood Industrial Estate, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 5QX.

Email [mark.perrier@scottishpower.plc.uk](mailto:mark.perrier@scottishpower.plc.uk)



**ScottishPower**  
**ELECTRICITY PLUS**

# LINEAGE

**AVO MULTIMETER** Model 8, £45.00. 500 volt meggers £30.00. Prices plus VAT and p & p. Send SAE for lists of surplus instruments and scopes etc. A. C. Electronics, 17 Apleton Grove, Leeds LS9 9EN. Tel: 0113 249 6048.

**PRIVATE RETAILER** has excellent part exchange colour televisions and videos to clear. Tel 01494 814317.

**RCS VARIABLE VOLTAGE D.C. BENCH POWER SUPPLY**



**£45 INC VAT - POST & INS £4**  
Up to 20 volts DC at 1 amp continuous, 1.5 amp peak  
Fully variable from 1 to 20 volts.  
Twin voltage and current meters for easy read out.  
240 Volt AC input. Fully smoothed.

**RADIO COMPONENT SPECIALISTS**

337 WHITEHORSE ROAD, CROYDON, SURREY, UK

Tel: 0181 684 1665

Lot of transformers, high volt caps, valves, speakers, in stock. Phone or send your wants list for quote.

## FOR SALE

### TV & VIDEO WAREHOUSE

All working stock

R/C TVs £20.00  
Teletext TVs £25.00  
Videos R/C £35.00  
Fastext R/C from £40.00

Minimum quantity 10s

Delivery arranged

Manchester

0161-736 6333

CLASSIFIED TEL: 0181 652 8339

## RaceTECH

Do you have 10 years TV/Video repair experience?

Are you computer literate?

Would you like to see television from the other end?

If so, become an Outside Broadcast Engineer.

The position is based from Raynes Park in London and involves travelling to any of the 59 racecourses in the U.K. to transmit live television pictures of horse racing. You would be part of a team responsible for producing this coverage and as such would need to spend some time away from home each month.

If you are interested then please telephone Marie Randall or Joyce Lines on 0181 947 3333 for an application form.

Previous applicants need not re-apply.

**RaceTech**  
88 Bushey Road  
Raynes Park  
London SW20 0JH  
0181 947 3333

## SPARES & COMPONENTS

### CHEAPEST HEADS IN THE UK

Make id	Model No	Price	Hitachi	VTF70	£25.00	JVC	HRD750EK	£19.00
Ferguson	3V29	£5.50	Hitachi	VTM598	£21.00	Panasonic	NV370	£6.99
Ferguson	3V30	£5.50	Hitachi	VTM622	£14.00	Panasonic	NV430	£8.00
Ferguson	3V32	£18.00	Hitachi	VTM630	£15.00	Panasonic	NV730	£12.00
Ferguson	3V43	£18.00	Hitachi	VTM640	£21.00	Panasonic	NV850	£21.00
Ferguson	3V46	£9.50	Hitachi	VTM722	£14.00	Panasonic	NV870	£25.00
Ferguson	FV10B	£10.00	Hitachi	VTM822	£14.00	Panasonic	NV855	£30.00
Ferguson	FV12L	£16.00	Hitachi	VTM930	£21.00	Panasonic	NV990	£36.00
Ferguson	FV14T	£23.00	JVC	HRD200	£5.50	Panasonic	NVG10	£11.00
Ferguson	FV31R	£12.00	JVC	HRD110	£5.50	Panasonic	NVG17	£9.00
Ferguson	FV441	£17.00	JVC	HRD140	£9.50	Panasonic	NVG20	£13.00
Hitachi	VT100	£11.00	JVC	HRD150	£9.50	Panasonic	NVG21	£13.00
Hitachi	VT11E	£8.50	JVC	HRD170E	£10.00	Panasonic	NVG33	£11.00
Hitachi	VT130	£15.00	JVC	HRD180	£16.00	Panasonic	NVG9	£8.00
Hitachi	VT17E	£16.00	JVC	HRD230	£16.00	Panasonic	NVH70	£25.00
Hitachi	VT33	£9.50	JVC	HRD330	£17.00	Panasonic	NVH77	£26.00
Hitachi	VT330	£8.50	JVC	HRD370	£19.00	Panasonic	NVHD100	£23.00
Hitachi	VT425	£15.00	JVC	HRD401	£17.00	Panasonic	NVJ30	£11.00
Hitachi	VT522	£14.00	JVC	HRD440	£17.00	Panasonic	NVJ35	£13.00
Hitachi	VT535	£15.00	JVC	HRD530	£23.00	Panasonic	NVJ47	£11.00
Hitachi	VT540	£21.00	JVC	HRD620	£16.50	Panasonic	NVL25	£11.00
Hitachi	VT570	£25.00	JVC	HRD660	£17.00	Panasonic	NVSD40	£11.00

TOO MANY TO LIST. PLEASE RING FOR A FREE CATALOGUE. ALL HEADS ARE GUARANTEED FOR 12 MONTHS. ALL ORDERS RECEIVED BEFORE 5PM ARE DESPATCHED THE SAME DAY BY FIRST CLASS POST.

OPEN MON-FRI 9AM-5PM SAT 9AM-1PM FREE P&P

PLEASE ADD VAT AT 17.5%. WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD, SWITCH AND CHEQUES. ACCOUNTS WELCOME.

**N.A.V. SPARES** Tel: 01274 772249 Fax: 01274 772247  
WEST END BUSINESS CENTRE, 237 THORNTON ROAD, BRADFORD BD1 2JS

## TELEVISION

Would like to take the opportunity in wishing you all a **Merry Christmas** and a Prosperous 1999 and to thank you all for your continued support in 1998.



# 1st

# FOR SPARES

NOMINATED FIRST CHOICE SUPPLIER

Source - Marvyn Hamlyn survey 'Independent Retail & Service Engineers' June 1997



Willow Vale can now supply genuine spares and accessories for all these leading brands:

- Sharp
- Philips
- Pace
- Nokia
- JVC
- Matsui
- Grundig
- Ferguson
- Tatung
- Goldstar (LG Electronics)
- Panasonic
- Sony
- Toshiba
- Thomson
- Mitsubishi
- Akai
- Aiwa
- Pioneer
- Samsung
- Hitachi
- Amstrad
- Alba
- Bush
- Goodmans

TECHLINE is always available. Should you require any technical help or advice on 0891 615915.

(\*all calls charged at premium rate).

C.O.P.S. computer ordering parts system via our acclaimed 'viewdata' based order/enquiry system.

## QUALITY REPAIRS NEED GENUINE MANUFACTURERS SPARES!



SERVICE PROFESSIONALS CHOOSE  
TO BUY FROM

## WILLOW VALE

ELECTRONICS LIMITED

### 'The Better Choice'

**READING HEAD OFFICE**

Tel: 0118 987 6444 Fax: 0118 986 7188

**MANCHESTER BRANCH**

Tel: 0161 682 1415 Fax: 0161 682 9031