

THE LEADING UK CONSUMER ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE

# TELEVISION

SERVICING • VIDEO • SATELLITE • DEVELOPMENTS

JULY 1999 £2.70

## Digital terrestrial TV explored

Servicing the NEI E5 chassis

PC Fault-finding procedures

Auto power-off switch circuit

Multiple-outlet wallplates

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Fault reports TVs, VCRs, PC Monitors and Satellite

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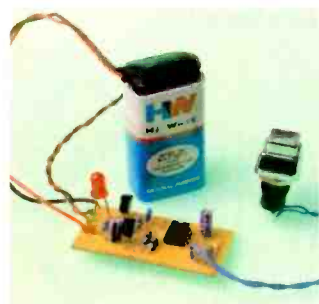
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# Hard Times

Speaking at this year's RETRA conference John Binks, of market analysts GfK, commented on the overall decline in the value of the electrical market in the UK last year. With consumer electronics there was a 1-2 per cent sales decline in value, not because of reduced volume but because of lower prices. VCRs were a particularly significant example. In quantity, sales rose to a record three million, but prices fell by almost 20 per cent. The outcome: a 10 per cent volume rise and a 10 per cent decline in turnover. As John Binks put it, "a crazy situation – and an amazing bargain for the consumer". What it means for our trade is negligible profitability – and with such low prices who is going to get anything repaired?

To some extent the problem has been caused by the high value of the pound, making imports cheap, but rather more important have been market conditions in the Far East. What has happened is that excess stock has been shifted at ridiculously low prices – one suspects much of it below cost.

The situation in China illustrates just how bad things are. China is important because it has become probably the largest manufacturer of TV sets in the world. To try to halt what the *Financial Times* refers to as "the relentless slide in TV prices in a chronically oversupplied sector of the Chinese market", leading Chinese colour tube manufacturers recently agreed to suspend production for one month, from May 30th to June

30th. The eight companies concerned account for 80 per cent of the domestic market.

As a result of excessive capacity, China's leading TV manufacturer Changhong recently reported a 23 per cent decline in profits last year compared to 1997. According to official figures, a price war cut the profits of Chinese TV manufacturers by some £390m last year. To try to halt self-defeating price cuts, the Chinese government recently imposed what amount to anti-dumping penalties on Chinese manufacturers found selling sets below cost in the home market. It doesn't take much imagination to appreciate the consequences of all this for exports, some of which end up in the UK.

A string of recent announcements from Japanese electronics manufacturers tell a similar story of a weak domestic market for consumer products and loss of profitability. Much the same situation exists throughout SE Asia.

It's hard to see any chance of improvement in the immediate future. The Chinese figures mentioned above relate to 1998. The situation is unlikely to have improved since. There is excess capacity worldwide, and a reluctance to close plants. So low prices are likely to be with us for some time.

The UK now has its own self-inflicted problem, with the digital broadcasters clobbering the trade in their efforts to gain subscribers and secure their future. SkyDigital is "investing" some £315m,

ONdigital some £200m, in subsidising digital TV receiving equipment. This should mean that a substantial amount of hardware is distributed, but there will be minimal benefit to the TV trade.

It's quite extraordinary. Whenever there has been a technological breakthrough in the past it has been good news for business. Think of it: Band III, colour TV, the advent of domestic video equipment, stereo sound and so on. One would have hoped that the coming of multi-channel digital TV would bring similar benefits. As probably the most significant development to date, it should have meant a bonanza for the industry. But Messrs Murdoch and Grabiner have put an end to any prospect of that. It is hard to see if and when it will be possible to rescue anything from the mess these gentlemen have landed us in.

The problem doesn't stop with free STBs and subsidised IDTVs. When a significant technological change such as this occurs, people are not in a hurry to buy new equipment. Many want to wait and see how things develop. Public confusion over the alternative ways of getting multi-channel digital TV is exacerbating the problem. People certainly won't feel inclined to buy conventional analogue sets at the present time, or to have existing ones repaired. Perhaps Sir Stanley Kalms did the right thing in turning his attention to the internet! The hard times are likely to be with us for some while.

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1N5408	2SC3973B	BA4006	BC875	BU508AFI	DCREG	RG2	TA81033A	TDA8175
1N5822	2SC4231	BA5412	BCY59	BU508APH	DTA114E5	RG10G	TA81013B	TDA8178FS
1N914	2SC4517A	BA6209	BCV71	BU508D	DTA124E5	RG15G	TA81015	TDA8179S
2N2222A	2SC5129	BA6209N	BD131	BU508DF	DTA14E	RG15J	TA81044	TDA8180
2N3055	2SC5149	BA6219B	BD132	BU508V	DTA144E5	RG15K	TA81060	TDA8218
2N3055H	2SC5235	BA6247	BD136	BU509	F6605	RG20A	TA10985C	TDA8218
2N3440	2SC5945	BA6247	BD139	BU509	FK749	S2000Q4	TA81170	TDA83500
2N3773	2SD1138	BA743	BD140	BU908	H1000L	S2000AF	TA81170N	TDA8380
2N3904	2SD1207	BA785	BD234	BU405A	HA13119	S2000N	TA81170S	TDA8391
2N4401	2SD1292	BAV20	BD241A	BUH515	HA13150	S2055AF	TA81175	TDA8503
2SA1012	2SD1330	BAV21	BD242	BUH515D	HA13151	SAB3005	TA8159A	TE41039
2SA1013	2SD1398	BAV14	BD243C	BUH517	HM6251	S2284A	TA81521A	TEA2018A
2SA1015	2SD1426	BC107B	BD244C	BUL44A400B	IRFBC40	SGS1F44	TA81524A	TEA2029C
2SA1016	2SD1439	BC108	BD317	BUL544R	JCS01	SK1431	TA81554Q	TEA2029CV
2SA1016	2SD1441	BC108C	BD433	BU11	KAZ206	SR2K	TA81557Q	TEA2031A
2SA1020	2SD1453	BC109B	BD434	BU11A	KAZ206S	ST444C	TA81558Q	TEA2164
2SA1020Y	2SD1497	BC141	BD435	BU11AF	KL802	STK4132H	TA81675A	TEA2164G
2SA1145	2SD1541	BC182	BD436	BU112A	KIAG2104H	STK4141I	TA81904	TEA2165G
2SA1302	2SD1545	BC182L	BD437	BU112AF	KSR1004	STK4142H	TA82005	TEA2266
2SA562	2SD1546	BC184L	BD438	BU118AF	LA4282	STK4152H	TA82006	TEA2261
2SA673	2SD1548	BC212	BD839	BU156A	LA4705	STK4192H	TA82030H	TEA2281A
2SA683	2SD1554	BC212L	BD901	BUW11A	LA6324	STK532	TA82030V	TEA5101A
2SA684	2SD1555	BC237	BD911	BUW12A	LA7118	STK5342	TA82050	TEA5101B
2SA733	2SD1556	BC237B	BD912	BUX8A	LA830	STK5372H	TA82451	TEA5170
2SA933	2SD1650	BC238	BDW94C	BUZ71A	LA832	STK5481	TA82577A	TC1060
2SA940	2SD1651	BC238B	BF199	BUZ77B	LA833	STK7253	TA82578A	TC2460
2SA950	2SD1761	BC239	BF240	BUZ80	LA7335	STK730-060	TA82579A	TC2460D
2SA952	2SD1815	BC242	BF245A	BUZ85A	LA7337	STK7340H	TA82581Q	TC2460E
2SA966	2SD1858	BC307	BF258	BUZ90AF	LA7838	STK7348	TA82593	TC2460F
2SA970	2SD1877	BC307B	BF324	BY127	LC7132	STK3907	TA82611A	TC2460G
2SA984	2SD1878	BC308	BF420	BY133	LD03G	STR10006	TA82653A	TC2460H
2SB1010	2SD1879	BC309B	BF421	BY184	LN1203N	STR11006	TA82622M	TC2460I
2SB1143	2SD1964	BC320	BF422	BY227	LM317T	STR5020	TA83001B	TC2460J
2SB1243	2SD1887	BC328	BF423	BY228	LM324N	STR50103	TA83056	TC2460K
2SB560	2SD1889	BC337	BF458	BY229	LM339N	STR50103A	TA83660	TC2460L
2SB649A	2SD2012	BC338	BF459	BY255	LM358N	STR5142M	TA83661A	TC2460M
2SB688	2SD400	BC368	BF469	BY298	LM361	STR4041	TA83662A	TC2460N
2SB774	2SD400F	BC369	BF467	BY299	LM360N	STR5412	TA83665	TC2460O
2SB793	2SD467	BC372	BF494	BY399	M2381	STR58041	TA8376B	TC2460P
2SB8922	2SD669A	BC372	BF494	BY399	M2381	STR58041	TA8376B	TC2460P
SC1383	2SD718	BC546A	BF758	BY448	M49481	STR59041	TA8392A	TC2460Q
2SC11740	2SD837B	BC547	BF759	BY476	M51182L	STR6020	TA83603P	TC2460R
2SC1740S	2SD856	BC547A	BF788	BYD14J	M54544L	STR61001	TA83650	TC2460S
2SC1815	2SD965	BC547B	BF869	BYD33D	M58555P	STRD4429	TA83653B	TC2460T
2SC1815Y	2SD965F	BC548	BF871	BYD33J	MC1302P	STRD608X	TA83653C	TC2460U
2SC1846	2SK1118	BC548B	BF960	BYD33M	MC1302P	STRD6202	TA83653D	TC2460V
2SC2023	2SK135	BC548C	BF970	BYV10-40	MC34063APl	STV57305T	TA83654	TC2460W
2SC2120	2SK1507	BC550B	BF981	BYV2700	MCRI00-8	STV9379	TA83654Q	TC2460X
2SC2225	2SK241	BC550C	BF990	BYV55B	MJ15003	T6071V	TA84500	TC2460Y
2SC2230	2SK30A	BC550A	BF990A	BYV95C	MJ2395	T9053V	TA84503	TC2460Z
2SC2235	2SK526	BC556B	BF991A	BYV96B	MJ13005	T9054E	TA84505E	UCP344
2SC2236	7407	BC557A	BR100	BYV96E	MJE18004	TA7140P	TA84505M	UCP1396C
2SC2240	7805	BC557B	BRX49	BYW56	MJE3055T	TA7280P	TA84510	UCP1398A
2SC2274	7806	BC558B	BSX20	BYW76	MJE340	TA7281P	TA84510	UCP1484C
2SC2314	7809	BC558C	BT13960D	BYW95C	MJF18004	TA7698AP	TA84600/23	UCP1498H
2SC2314	7812	BC559	BT15500R	BYW96E	MJF18006	TA805AH	TA84601D	UCP374H
2SC2335	78L05	BC636	BT40400S	BYX10	MJF18204	TA8027	TA84601D	ZTK330
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## SATELLITE FAULT FINDING GUIDE

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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", the 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 LNBs 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.

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# What

# a Life!

**Everything from a troublesome microwave oven to an ancient radio and a bucket aerial. Donald Bullock's commentary**

I was musing the other day about couples. Married ones, friends and those who go into business together. Sometimes they are both pleasant or both nasty, or both pushy or both considerate. More often however they compensate for one another. One may be dominant for example and the other easygoing, prepared to take the back seat. This became very clear to us when we began our lives in the TV trade. Figuring out which of a pair to concentrate on when selling a set or discussing a repair can be half the battle.

Take Mr and Mrs Hudson. He had recently retired and was slight, mild, well-mannered and, I suppose, a bit dodderly. She was big, loud and blunt, as insensitive and self-centred as they come. They were an interesting though unnerving pair.

He'd brought in a little bathroom extractor fan for repair. Because I liked him, we had accepted it – expecting the cause of the trouble to be a dicky switch. We should have known better. Its motor had burnt out, as they very often do. So when they called in I handed it back to him.

"We'll pay you for your trouble" he said, reaching for his wallet.

"Don't be an old silly" she cut in. "Mr Bullock wouldn't charge you for a job he can't do. Just pick the fan up. We'll take it somewhere else to get it done. Snoddies are better for some jobs. And don't keep holding your belly – it isn't going to run away."

She carried only her bulky handbag. He was festooned with shopping. While he struggled to pick up the fan she made her way out.

"How about that?!" I said to Steven. We were to have further dealings with the Hudsons, but

more about that another time.

### **Funny Noise**

Mr Shawster then came in with a 14in. Philips portable, one fitted with the CP90 chassis. Like Mr Shawster, it was well past its prime.

"E's been a good set" Mr Block. "But lately it's been 'm m m m m'. That's all. 'Just m m m m m'. Then last night, about ten past eight, just as I was putting the cat out, he burst out like thunder. It was 'M M M M M'. Yea! 'M M M M M'. Me missus nearly had a yuppillectric fit. That can't be right, can it?"

I looked his missus over. "I dunno" I said, "but leave it with me. The set, I mean. Steven will have a look at it. He's very clever with these sets."

"That makes about six of them in recent weeks" Steven said as they departed. "Philips advise replacing the 6MHz ceramic filter, circuit reference 1103. I did that with the first one and it certainly worked. When the second one came in I didn't have a filter and decided to try adjusting the slug of the detector coil 5108. That worked too, and I've done the same with the others. I've not had any bounces!"

### **A Sharp Microwave**

Paul had been working on a Sharp combination microwave oven.

"Don't get it" he said. "They're usually easy to fix, but this one is tricky." A while later he was still at it, and looking glum.

"Can't work it out" he said. "The fault is in the convection section of the oven. When convection cooking, it stops after exactly three minutes. When you restart it, there's another stop after precisely three minutes. And so it continues."

"Timer?" I suggested.

"No, I've tried that."

"Er . . . I'll go and make the tea."

Steven went over and had a look at it. He was equally baffled.

"We could e-mail Jim Bryant" he suggested, "he lets the trade e-mail him for microwave oven advice. I bet he'll have the answer."

He did too. The reply was in Steven's computer next morning.

"To diagnose this fault" he wrote, "set the convection temperature to 250°C and press start without entering a time. The oven will then go to 'pre-heat' to raise its temperature to 250°C. After a few minutes, press and hold the convection button. Read off the oven's temperature at this point. It might be say 78°C. If it isn't, the chances are that you have a faulty thermistor. To get to it, remove the rear cover. You will then see it close to the back of the machine, at the bottom right, embedded in insulation material. It will probably be cracked through the middle."

It was all just so! We ordered a new one from Willow Vale, and it arrived next day. Once it had been fitted the oven worked perfectly. The part no. is 31868T – the cost £3.75 plus VAT.

Our thanks to Jim and, while at it, to *Television* for bringing so many of the trade's top brains together (don't ask me how we managed to creep in!).

### **A Wireless set!**

Meanwhile Steven had picked up an ancient Philips wireless set. "Oh look, valves!" he said.

"What's the trouble?" I asked.

"Belongs to Syd Tubb over at the garage. It's been on all day, every day, for the past thirty years. Now it produces bursts of thunder-



storm noises in sympathy with the music."

"Can you blame it, after thirty years?" I said. "Clean all the valve bases with switch cleaner. That should do it. With any other make I'd advise checking the yellow waxed-paper capacitors around the audio output stage. But this set will be full of black-pitch encapsulated ones that last for ever."

He soon had it working right.

### Reminiscence

The set reminded me of an experience I had about forty years ago, in a seedy backstreet. It was an identical set, with the same fault. I found that I was out of switch cleaner – the Radiospares stuff in a red and yellow spout tin – and asked the lady of the house whether she had any cleaning spirit. Petrol? I suggested as she lit a Woodbine with her lighter.

Then her young daughter came down from upstairs. She had varnished nails. Perhaps nail-varnish remover would help?

"Do you have any nail-varnish remover?" I asked. A small bottle of clear liquid was promptly produced. I poured some into the output valve's base, then lifted it and pushed it home a few times. When I plugged the set in and switched it on it spluttered and sent up a column of blue smoke. I'd been given nail varnish! The only thing to do was to take the set back for bench attention.

When I returned to the workshop next day I found Joe, the inside engineer, livid. He'd had a few difficult faults that day and had then picked up the set I'd brought in.

"You won't believe this" he ranted, "but someone has glued the output valve into this set with Durafix!"

I said not a word.

### The Baby Ten

The Baby Ten portable TV has probably appeared under more guises than any other set. The one Mr Bradshaw brought in was a Goodmans Compact 10. It's a 10in. mains/battery set of course. The trouble is that Mr Bradshaw mumbles.

"Mm yib yob banged an smoke an mmmmm. Frightmmmd us to death" he said.

When he'd departed, Paul opened it up and found the contents of an electrolytic capacitor plastered all over the place. It took ages to clean up the mess. Paul then dis-

covered that it had been the non-polarised 4.7µF, 50V capacitor that couples the line scan coils to the output stage. He tried to find the cause of its failure before fitting a replacement, then spent some further time checking its operating conditions. Everything seemed to be OK, and the replacement ran cool. It produced a perfect picture. After a good soak test the set was pronounced fit to travel.

### Interlude

Greeneyes clip-clopped in looking as gorgeous as ever.

"Thanks a million" she said, planting a kiss on my forehead.

"For what?" I asked as I reached for my handkerchief.

"For buying me that beige skirt to match the trouser suit" she breathed.

"Beige skirt?" I said. "What trouser suit?"

"The one you're going to get me from Marks for Steven's wedding. To go with the oatmeal shoes I'm getting from Debenhams."

"And when do we go and win you all these treasures? I asked.

"As soon as you've finished your silly article. By the way, why does it take you so long to write a ten-minute article?"

### Sky News

I dropped in on Sky News the other night, and dropped out just as quickly once I'd sampled it. The newsreader occupied only a square cutout in the centre of the screen. While he was recounting the day's tragedies, the space around him was a swirling mess of globes or something. In addition, an intrusive musical thumping accompanied his comments, and phantom flames played over various news pictures. Not for me.

### John Berryman's Aerial

John Berryman the undertaker lives in the deep and leafy countryside. I was happy to call on him – he'd complained about his picture. It had been raining, and I had to pick my way to his front door via masses of tall grasses and overhanging lilac. By the time I got there I was sweet-smelling but wet. He greeted me through the window.

"You can't get in this way, Don. We never use the front door. Go back down the lane, cross over the brook's stepping stones, through the paddock, past my hearse and up to the back door. Take no notice of Banger the bull.

When I reached him he threw



He gave me a leg up . . .

me a towel. "How are you keeping?" he asked.

"Never mind the business enquiries. What's the trouble? How's trade?"

"Awful" he replied, "it's all this good weather."

"You'll have to sneak out with your twelve-bore" I said, "hurry them up a bit."

"If I did, I'd start with the clergy" he laughed.

I looked at his TV picture. It was a mass of hazy ghosts.

"The aerial's down the garden, Don. Just follow the cable."

I did. It led to the privy, where the cable was taped to the handle of a bucket on the roof. He gave me a leg up and I saw that the bucket contained various bits of metal – some horseshoes, a few old spanners, some coathangers and an old egg-whisk. Also a lot of water. Warm water.

I was astonished, and decided to pour the water away. John's wife then came running from the house.

"Picture's good now" she called.

"I should think so" John said, "the aerial was full of water. Don twigged it. Clever chap, always was."

"Good 'ealth Don. It ain't many I says that to you know. But I don't mind how long you keeps me waiting. Straight I don't."

# TELETOPICS

## Digital Update

ONdigital has matched SkyDigital's free set-top box offer and has in addition dropped the £20 connection charge. Alternatively, ONdigital has arranged with Bush for integrated analogue/digital TV sets to be sold at subsidised prices starting at £299 for a 21in. 4:3-format tube model with remote control, stereo sound, a smart-card slot and a built-in modem – provided a year's subscription is taken out. There is also a 40 per cent reduction in BT standard-rate phone-call charges. Subscription rates have been increased by £2 a month for the initial packages, to £9.99 and £11.99, but a new basic-level package at £6.99 has been introduced. Those who had taken out subscriptions prior to the latest offer have the charges frozen at the previous rate until the end of 2001. What if you get your free STB then decide to stop paying the monthly subscription? It's not on, as ONdigital can switch the box off remotely. ONdigital is investing £200m in its receiver subsidy initiative. The company's aim is for at least two million subscribers, the break-even

point, within three years.

The prices of other TV sets that incorporate an ONdigital decoder are expected to fall. There are five models in all in the Bush range, with 21, 28 or 33in. 4:3 tubes or 28 or 32in. 16:9 tubes. Many companies planning to launch digital decoders and IDTV sets are revising their plans.

Cable & Wireless Communications' digital cable service is now becoming available in various areas. The monthly £17.95 subscription includes a digital TV decoder, the line rental and access to up to 100 interactive sites, also an expanded near video-on-demand service. The decoders, made by Pace, include a high-speed cable modem and internet-based operating software, DTV Navigator, developed by NCI. CWC is investing £60m in the new service and hopes to gain 70,000 new subscribers and convert 150,000 existing ones during the first year of operation.

The first "sidecar" module, to give users of DTT STBs access to the SkyDigital services, was on display at Cable and Satellite Mediacast '99 (report next month). It has been developed by SCM Microsystems for BSkyB – the project started in May 1998, when the ITC called for interoperability between digital terrestrial and satellite TV services. A sidecar to give

access to DTT via a SkyDigital box will probably be developed later this year. It's unlikely that these sidecars will become available until next year however, as BSkyB and ONdigital have yet to reach a simulcrypt agreement. Because the two broadcasters use different conditional access systems, additional code would have to be transmitted.

Microsoft is to buy the 29.9 per cent stake in Telewest held by US cable operator MediaOne. Microsoft already owns a 5 per cent stake in NTL, and is expected to take a 30 per cent stake in CWC. These moves could lead to consolidation of UK cable TV and telephony operations, with Microsoft's CE software used in the decoders.

Philips says it has already delivered over 2,000 IDTV sets (Model 28DW6734). Panasonic plans to launch an IDTV set with a built-in SkyDigital decoder and a free-to-air DTT tuner early next year. A similar product is expected from Sharp towards the end of the year.

LSI Logic has announced a chip, type SC2000, that carries out all the baseband signal processing required in a digital STB. The chip has a MIPS microprocessor core and carries out MPEG-2 decoding, PAL/NTSC encoding and 2D graphics generation. Data from a DVD can be fed in, so the STB can provide DVD playback when fitted with a disc drive.



**The new Kenwood PDS120-6 universal bench DC power supply provides maximum outputs of 120V DC and 6A. It uses a combination of switch-mode and linear technology to provide a compact, lightweight unit with excellent performance – voltage line and load regulation is better than 0.005 per cent, current line and load regulation 1mA. For further details contact Kenwood on 01923 655 291 or fax 01923 655 297.**

## Eutelsat News

Eutelsat, which was set up as an intergovernmental organisation in 1977, is to become a private company under French law on July 2nd 2001. The privatisation could be sooner if two thirds of the member states ratify the legal texts by the end of year 2000. Eutelsat S.A., the new company, will be based in Paris. The change will enable Eutelsat to develop international activities and alliances beyond its basic European coverage.

Eutelsat W3 is now in service at 7°E. As a result, Eutelsat II F4 has been transferred to 10°E while II F2 is now at the 12.5°W Atlantic Gate position.

Eutelsat currently has a fleet of 14 satellites which transmit more than 450 digital and analogue TV channels to over 70m satellite and cable households, and provide corporate networks, newsgathering, telephone and mobile voice, data and positioning services.

## Broadcasting Developments

The ITC has commissioned a study from NTL and The Smith Group on how best to provide digital terrestrial TV coverage in the UK following the switch-off of all analogue transmitters at some time in the future. The overriding aim will be to establish how to maximise DTT coverage. Other issues to be considered include public-service coverage obligations, the optimum use of spectrum space for TV broadcasting and the impact various proposals would have for viewers and their receiving installations.

Previous research on DTT coverage, carried out by Castle Transmission International, suggested that an extra 400,000 households in South Wales could be provided with DTT services via a single-frequency network of relays – the mountainous terrain in S. Wales would, in conjunction with the use of COFDM, make this possible. It also suggested coverage increases in the Midlands and East Anglia.

A start has been made to the use of one and a half extra lines in the vertical blanking interval to provide extra teletext capacity with Channel 3 (ITV) and Channel 4 transmissions. There will be an extra 40 non-regional and two new regional pages of sport, six new travel pages providing flight arrivals information at domestic airports, and three new non-regional and one regional news page. Some of the increased capacity will be used to reduce teletext access times.

## Servicing Information

Welcome news from U-View Technical Publishers. *Television Servicing Book Five*, with over 400 pages of circuit diagrams, is now available at £99. Over 380 models are covered. For further details contact U-View on 01302 719 997 or fax 01302 719 995.

Savoy Hill Publications, 50 Meddon Street, Bideford, North Devon EX39 2EQ has acquired a substantial collection of service manuals for test equipment produced from the Thirties to the Seventies. Well-known brands include Advance, Avo, EMI, Heathkit, Grundig, Hameg, Marconi, Philips, Scopex, Taylor, Tektronix, Telequipment and many, many others. A new, updated catalogue is being prepared, but this will take some time. Meanwhile you can check on 01237 424 280 (phone/fax).

## Technology

Philips Semiconductors has developed what it calls the Ultimate One Chip Television. The chip uses analogue (BiMOS) and digital (CMOS) circuitry to provide TV signal processing, a closed-caption decoder and a microcontroller core with an extended 80C51 instruction set. Sample chips and evaluation boards are currently being made available: quantity production is due to start this autumn.

Dolby Laboratories and NDS have demonstrated the first DVB-compliant broadcasting system that uses Dolby Digital audio coding. Although the European DVB standard uses MPEG-2 audio, other countries that are planning to use the DVB standard, Australia for example, will use Dolby Digital audio.

A team of scientists from Hitachi and Cambridge University have developed a new type of semiconductor memory that

could store the entire contents of a feature film in a single chip. The device is called PLEDM (Phase-state Low Electron-number Drive Memory). Each bit is stored in a two-transistor cell which has the advantage of being non-volatile and much smaller than a conventional DRAM cell. It's fast and, unlike flash, individual bits can be erased. While a current DRAM requires about half a million electrons per stored bit, the PLEDM uses 1,000 – and this could decrease as the PLEDM technology shrinks.

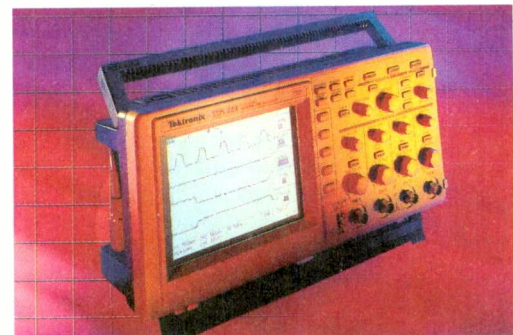
A chip and keyboard developed by World CallNet could be used to provide TV sets with low-cost e-mail operation and internet access, using CallNet's own subscription-free internet service. This is based on InterText information pages, which are similar to Web pages but formatted for TV viewing. The system is called M@il.TV.



**Sharp's new TV Model 76EF20H is fitted with a 76cm pure-flat, super-clear 16:9 format CRT whose "ultra-transmissive" glass gives improved brightness and contrast. The set has been designed to take advantage of the quality provided by DVDs and digital broadcasting. It has 100Hz flicker-free scanning, a digital comb filter, and digital gamma correction for improved contrast in darker areas of the picture. Other video features include digital picture still, picture-in-text, and on-screen now-and-next programme information. The sound system matches the impressive video specification, with full Dolby Pro-Logic processing and a multispeaker system that provides 90W MPO of Surround sound.**

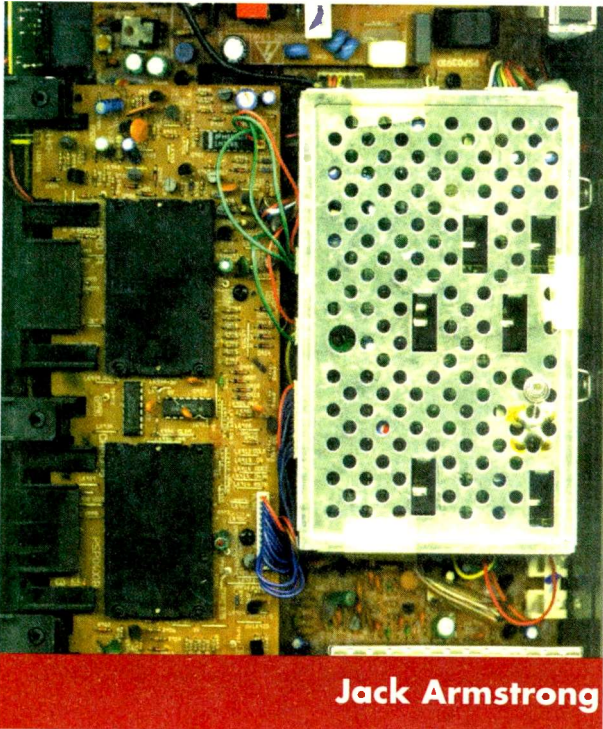
## Super Audio CD

Sony and Philips have launched a new audio format, Super Audio CD, which uses a recording system called Direct Stream Digital to provide improved audio quality in comparison with standard audio CDs. The first player, Model SCD1, has been launched by Sony in Japan at the UK equivalent of about £2,600. At present only thirteen titles are available, from Sony Music. DVD-Audio, a rival format, is due for release later this year.



**Tektronix has added the TDS224 four-channel, real-time 100MHz digital storage oscilloscope to its TDS200 range. The scope has an impressive specification for its suggested price of about £1,560. For further details apply to Tektronix UK Ltd on 01628 403 300, fax 01628 403 301.**

# Satellite WORKSHOP



Jack Armstrong

## Pace PRD800

When I called at the greengrocer's Alice gave me a nice smile. "Glad to see you" she beamed.

I wondered whether it was my lucky day, but my hopes were quickly dashed.

"I've got lines all over."

"Sounds nasty. Seen the doctor?"

"No, silly, on the Sky."

I looked out of the window, but couldn't see anything unusual.

"On my Sky at home" she added.

I gave her a puzzled look and backed towards the door.

"She means the satellite" her husband explained.

I offered to take a look.

When I checked the receiver back at the workshop I found that there was indeed a whole mass of lines across the picture. So my first move was to fit all the low-ESR capacitors from Relkit 1. I also checked all the 10 $\mu$ F capacitors around the Nicky chip U9 with my Genie ESR meter. As they all produced high-impedance readings, I

changed the lot. This usually cures such symptoms. The picture was now much better, but there were still soft, white horizontal lines that moved up then down.

I found that the TV's picture was perfect and that the lines were present with the RF output only – and then only with channels that have horizontal polarisation, when the LNB is supplied at 17V. This threw me off-track for a time as I checked the 17V supply for noise (there was less than 10mV) and measured the ESR of all the capacitors around the power supply.

I eventually discovered that the LNB took more current from the 17V supply than from the 13V supply (for vertical polarisation), and that the effect was to change the chopper power supply's frequency and increase the ripple on the RF modulator's 5V feed, which is smoothed by C26. Goodness knows why it did this, but the problem was fixed by changing C26 from 10 $\mu$ F to 1,000 $\mu$ F (16V).

Since then I've noticed that the fault can be even worse with later models, where the warm-running 12V regulator REG1 sits next to C26. So this capacitor is now included in Relkit 1 from SatCure (01270 753 311).

It is also worth replacing C337 (4.7 $\mu$ F) in the RF modulator's frequency-synthesis PLL.

## Pace MSS300

A local installer phoned to ask for advice. The screen of his customer's MSS300 had turned blue, with the "no signal" message emblazoned across it. As he had no way of measuring the LNB voltage, I suggested that he connect the LNB's output to input 2 of the receiver and use the on-screen menu to select this input. When he did this he had pictures, but he nevertheless whined at me.

"I don't have to reprogram every channel to input 2, do I?" he complained.

"Looks like it" I replied, encouragingly. He continued to moan, so I told him to bring the troublesome

receiver to the workshop.

I suspected failure of Q25, and was surprised to find that the LNB voltage was present. Q25 was obviously OK. I pressed F, then store, to turn off the blue screen generator. After that the TV set displayed snow on every channel.

A replacement tuner made no difference, and voltage measurements in this area proved that everything was working correctly. So why no pictures? It occurred to me that power supply interference might be switching my universal LNB to high band. To check, I put the receiver into the frequency-scan mode. Sure enough, pictures were available at the top end of the tuning range. But a quick probe with my oscilloscope showed that there was no ripple on the LNB supply, so that idea was wrong.

I decided to check the installation menu, and found that input 1 had 10.750GHz selected for the LNB's local oscillator. Once I'd changed this to 9.750GHz normal operation was restored. I'm not sure who won the 'idiot's prize' for this one: the installer for not checking it; me for not realising sooner; or the customer who must have altered the setting!

## Pace PRD800+

This receiver arrived with a label that said "Sky News scrambles after thirty seconds". It did, and the other encrypted channels also did so. I'd not seen this symptom before, but I had my suspicions that the cause was a decoder switching problem rather than a decoding one. The problem was solved by replacing the PTV2 chip – with one obtained from a scrap receiver.

Decoder problems can be very difficult to diagnose without the correct equipment. I was probably lucky this time, but experience plus a basic knowledge of how the signals are routed is always a help.

## Nokia ACU8152 Positioner

I love decorators! Mr Winstanton is a typical satellite enthusiast. He has

an enormous motorised dish, a Nokia receiver and an Antenna Control Unit (what we call a positioner). Nokia equipment is generally very reliable, but Mr Winstanton had had the decorators in while he was at work. He hadn't thought about labelling his cable connections so, when he returned, he found that the decorators had disconnected everything and left him to sort it all out.

Apparently he stuck wires into connectors in a random fashion, and the result was a non-working positioner. It would send the dish east or west with a few jerks, then stop. I normally turn away anything associated with motorised systems, because the customer will want me to spend four hours reinstalling the system for no wages. On this occasion however a local installer had been brought along, so I knew that I wouldn't be lumbered.

The ACU8152 positioner had a screw missing, and Mr Winstanton saw my worried look.

"Oh, Wosname up Church Street had a quick look. He couldn't find anything."

I agreed. He clearly couldn't find all the screws either!

Fortunately the PCB didn't appear to have been touched.

I inspected the pulse input protection circuit, which consists of two 6.8V zener diodes, DA27 and DA28, and two 10 $\mu$ H inductors, LA04 and LA05. Of these, LA05 was clearly burnt and DA28 discoloured. My ESR meter indicated that they were both short-circuit. After removing both components I confirmed this with a multimeter. It seemed that someone (I glanced at my customer) had connected the wires incorrectly!

Replacement of the two damaged parts seemed to be all that was required. When we met in the Lion and Swan later that evening the installer confirmed that the repair had been successful. I charged him two pints and a tenner. That must have been cheap, because he grinned.

#### **Pace MSS200**

This receiver arrived in a local installer's van. His customer had complained that the screen flashed "LNB Short", but when I connected the receiver up it wouldn't come out of standby. The fault report was useful however, since it prompted

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:

**[jacksat@netcentral.co.uk](mailto:jacksat@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.

me to check the LNB current-sensing resistors. In this model there are two 1.8 $\Omega$  surface-mounted resistors which are connected in parallel, just below the front edge of the board. They were open-circuit.

The installer was in a hurry, so I confess to a bodge. When I soldered a 1 $\Omega$  fusible resistor across the burnt out current-sensing resistors the receiver worked perfectly. The installer payed up with good grace, and I warned him to find the short-circuit in the cable or the LNB before reconnecting the receiver.

## Test Case 439

As VCR decks become more flimsy and 'plastic' with each new design, one cannot help but wonder how long they are going to last. Certainly not the ten, twelve or more years of their sturdy predecessors from a decade or more ago – whose prices in real terms were much higher.

A typical example of sturdy build and longevity came into the workshop recently and arrived on TechnoCrat's bench. It was a Mitsubishi Model HSM37, born in 1992 and set to go well into the new millennium – at least once it had been properly repaired. A cassette was stuck inside, with the tape fully laced around the head and the loading mechanics apparently stuck fast in this position. TechnoCrat's first test – an excellent opening move in cases like this – was to hook a DC-coupled oscilloscope across the loading motor. It revealed that 12V was being applied to the motor, which remained still, when the VCR was connected to the mains supply. This suggested a mechanical fault, which was confirmed when the worm on the motor shaft was found to be difficult to turn by hand.

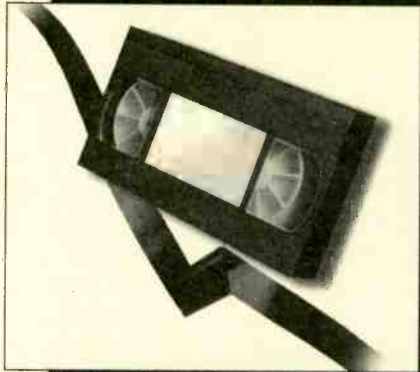
Once released however the mechanics – indeed the whole machine – worked perfectly, and it took much cycling of the deck to get it to jam again. When it did, there was a sort of 'graunchy squeak' from the region of the motor and its driving worm, after which it was again bound up solid, as if it had overrun – perhaps because of failure of the mode switch to signal 'fully loaded' to the control system at the crucial moment. That was TechnoCrat's conclusion anyway. So he fitted a new mode switch, and called it a rotary encoder to impress the customer. As a precaution, he also removed the

pinch-roller assembly and its drive cam and cleaned their bearing surfaces and the two shafts: seize-ups here commonly cause breakage of the guide lugs on the pinch-roller assembly. Lots of hardened grease was cleaned off and replaced with a better lubricant. The customer happily paid the bill and took his Mitsubishi home.

It came as something of a surprise when, two days later, the recalcitrant machine was back in the workshop, having once more jammed with the tape fully loaded. Its owner, waving his invoice and receipt, expressed his opinion about the situation very freely to TechnoCrat, who took the machine straight back to his bench. He found that, as before, the loading worm and pinion were tight – too tight for the motor to release them even when, again as before, the control system applied 12V to it as soon as the machine was plugged in. When the worm was forced around by hand it soon released, then the machine worked all right – until the next time!

It was unlikely that the new mode switch was defective. It was also unlikely, in view of the recurrence of the fault, that the previous one had been faulty. Nor, TC thought, was it likely that the control system was responsible for the fault. The loading-motor drive chip may perhaps have been doing funny things, but the drive electronics tried to restore order at switch on.

The cause of the trouble was subsequently tracked down, and was repaired at no further charge. The machine has now been running happily for many weeks. What had ailed it? For the solution, turn to page 656.



**Reports from**  
**Philip Blundell, AMI/Eelec**  
**Eugene Trundle**  
**Chris Watton**  
**Gerald Smith**  
**Colin J. Guy**  
**Pete Gurney, LCGI**  
**Terry Lamoon**  
**Denis Foley and**  
**Ronnie Boag**

### **Panasonic NVFS100B**

For the first half hour or so the playback picture was ragged with low contrast. This suggested a dried-up electrolytic capacitor, but the hairdryer seemed to have no effect. My thanks to Steve at Merrivale who suggested checking for faulty electrolytics in the two metal screening cans on the small PCBs in the base of the machine. C1 (1 $\mu$ F) on the small piggyback board VJB03680 was the main culprit, though C9, C10 and C16 produced faulty readings when checked with a capacitor bridge. Fit 110°C replacements. **P.B.**

### **Grundig VS540**

A locked-up machine with AO showing in the display usually means that the security lock is set. If you clear the lock by connecting together for a moment the two test pins on the front PCB, then find that the timer and station tables are filled with gibberish, the back-up battery is probably flat – but not always.

Sometimes the battery is fine but the RAM has somehow lost its contents. Check the soldering around IC190, IC120 and IC119 on the sequence-control (lower) PCB. If there are no dry-joints here, replacing the PCF8583 clock/RAM IC and the back-up battery as a

# VCR Clinic

pair should cure the problem.

To avoid having to change the Nicad battery every few years, the manufacturer suggests removing the charging diode MD612 and fitting a lithium battery (27400-220-97) instead. **P.B.**

### **Hitachi VTF550E**

If you have problems with cassette lift operation or tape threading, remove the deck and see what falls out! You could well find that the clutch assembly has come apart (manual reference number 229 231 239). The Hitachi part number is KX17581. **P.B.**

### **Ferguson FV82LV**

The E-E picture was snowy though aerial loophthrough and playback of a known good tape were fine. Continuity checks on the main PCB revealed that the track from the tuner's output to the IF module's input was open-circuit. **P.B.**

### **Philips VR6557**

If one of these machines comes in dead, check whether the N20 Wickman circuit protector CP801 is open-circuit. **P.B.**

### **Tatung TVR912/914**

These machines were made by Sharp. This one would jump between SP and LP during playback of its own LP recordings. The cause of the fault was within IC801, which combines the functions of system and servo control and the CTL amplifier. It's quite an expensive chip. **E.T.**

### **Matsui VX1100**

This model's Orion deck is also used in the Tatung DVR634/832, TVR734/932 etc., the Orion VLBF and no doubt other machines. It's becoming common for them to suffer from intermittent front-loading problems, in which case the machine may shut down at some

point during the cassette-loading cycle or eject as soon as front-loading is complete.

The cause is usually the mode switch, which is available as part of a small, cheap PCB assembly. Alternatively the centre-cassette LED can be responsible. **E.T.**

### **Amstrad TVR3**

This combi unit's VCR section didn't produce colour. The cause was the AN3331K chip IC1 in the head amplifier module. You may not spot this item in the service manual, as the IC reference doesn't appear. To check it, play back a test tape while monitoring the video waveform at test point 9. No waveform or only noise usually means that the IC has failed.

An alternative symptom is sometimes seen: the picture is in monochrome for a second when the tape starts to play, then takes on a greenish hue. **C.W.**

### **Aiwa HVF125**

The card said that this machine rewound all the time. Prior to removing the cover I suspected an end sensor fault. I then discovered that the tape didn't lace up fully and that the pinch roller was stuck at the top of its shaft. It had seized up because the grease had turned into glue. A clean up and relubrication restored normal operation. **C.W.**

### **Daewoo V225**

The cause of a dead machine can be failure of the chopper transistor's base drive coupling capacitor C53 (1 $\mu$ F, 100V). It's inside the power supply can. **C.W.**

### **Sharp VCMH60HM**

This machine wouldn't record video – the old picture was still present. Checks showed that there was no drive at the full erase head: the bias oscillator wasn't in opera-

tion, because the 8V bias line voltage was missing. The cure was to replace Q950. **G.S.**

### Grundig GV6401

There was no E-E sound output from this VCR. Playback was normal, and the machine's recordings were OK when played back via another VCR. Audio from the tuner arrived at the sound processing PCB, but there was no RF or scart output from it. IC7100 had audio signals through to the noise-reduction section at pins 44-48, but there was no output at pins 17-22. A replacement chip restored normal operation. **G.S.**

### Panasonic NVG40

The E-E and looped-through signals were very weak. The cause was not a faulty aerial amplifier this time. Because Q1004 in the power supply was open-circuit there was no 12V supply to the aerial amplifier. **C.J.G.**

### Sanyo VHR287E

It took me a long time to be convinced that this machine had a fault. The customer insisted that it would stop after half an hour, but it wouldn't stop for me – with my tape, the customer's tape or even when wrapped up in a blanket. When it came back for the third time, the customer mentioned that the fault occurred in the record mode only, never during playback. Some time would have been saved if I had been told this in the first place. Sure enough it did stop.

While discussing the fault in the pub with a friend who works for a national rental company I discovered that the fault is a common one in this range of machines. The cure is to replace fusible resistor PR512. It's a safety component – the correct type is available from CHS. **C.J.G.**

### Matsui VP9301

There were no E-E signals, just snow. I found that R6035 (33k $\Omega$ ) in the tuning voltage filter was open-circuit. **C.J.G.**

### Panasonic NVHD100

This machine would shut down a few seconds after powering up. Its capstan motor couldn't rotate because the brake pad was stuck solid to the flywheel. A clean up and a new brake unit, part no. VXA5138, cured the fault. **C.J.G.**

### Sharp VCA140HM

The complaints with this old

machine were that it chewed tapes intermittently, that lines sometimes appeared on the picture, and that the sound sometimes disappeared. After a long soak test I discovered that the fault symptoms put in an appearance only after a function change or when a new tape was inserted. The cause was the half-loading arm, which would intermittently stick because the grease had become quite viscous. When the arm jammed, the tape was lifted from the AC head to a varying extent.

The cure was to remove, clean and realign the arm. The pinch roller was replaced as a matter of course. **P.G.**

### Sony SLV270UB/Grundig VS600

This machine had failed when it was disconnected from the mains supply to be moved from one room to another. When it was reconnected the clock display remained out and an audible squealing came from the drum as it tried to rotate to initialise. Suspecting a power supply fault, I checked the various supply lines with an oscilloscope. There were large amounts of ripple on most of them. The main causes were C1736 and C1737, which are both 220 $\mu$ F, 25V. When checked with an ESR meter they were found to be virtually open-circuit. For reliability I replaced all the electrolytic capacitors on the secondary side of the power supply, using low-ESR types. **P.G.**

### Hitachi VTF860E

This VCR was dead with no clock display and no output from the power supply. Quick checks on the primary side of the power supply confirmed that there was 320V across the mains bridge rectifier's reservoir capacitor, and that all the fuses and safety resistors were intact. As I didn't have a circuit diagram, I then set about finding out how the start-up supply is obtained. It appeared to be derived from three series-connected resistors across the 320V DC supply, with a kick-start capacitor (C6) connected two-thirds of the way down this network. When I checked C6 I found that it was open-circuit. A replacement (1 $\mu$ F, 250V, 105 $^{\circ}$ C) restored normal operation. **P.G.**

### Toshiba V218

The customer complained that this machine wouldn't start up from switch on at the mains – he didn't

leave it plugged in overnight. I found that the start up voltage at TW020 was very low. Tracing back through the circuit I came to RP024 which should read 47k $\Omega$  but read very much higher. A replacement cleared the fault. **T.L.**

### JVC HR255

There was no drum rotation. Voltage checks showed that there was no LT supply to the drum. The N15 circuit protector CP4001 was open-circuit. Once this had been replaced there was normal operation. **T.L.**

### Sanyo VHR798

This machine chewed tapes. When I inspected the deck I found that the tension band had come away from its metal band and got stuck in the gears. A new band and a new mode switch were fitted, then the machine was given a good clean. After that it worked well. **T.L.**

### Toshiba V856

Intermittent failure to record in colour was the complaint with this machine. It can be a tricky fault to trace, so I decided to consult Toshiba Technical. Their suggestion was to replace CV30, which tends to develop leakage. A new 0.047 $\mu$ F capacitor, part no. 70041704, did the trick. **T.L.**

### Ferguson FV62LV

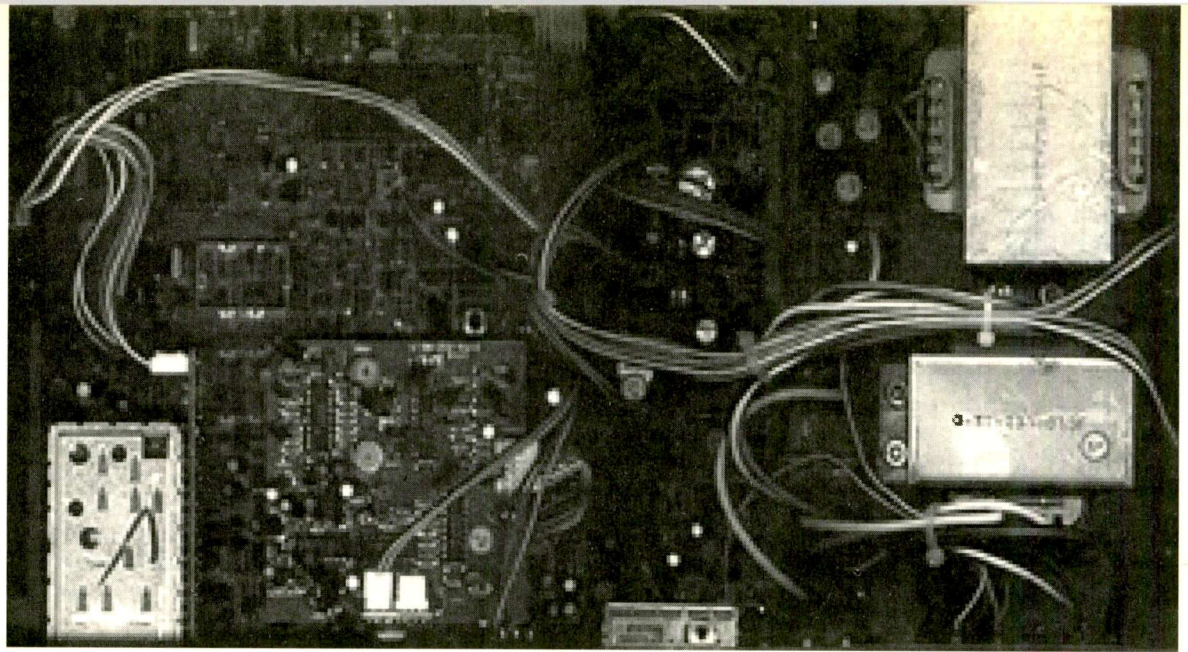
The playback picture flickered from side to side with loss of line sync and no colour. When I placed a finger gently on the top edge of the drum to slow it down there was a near normal picture. It appeared that the servo control was defective, but there was nothing technical about the cure. Inspection of the head motor and the photosensor on the motor panel showed that an extraordinary amount of dust was present. Use of a soft brush to remove it was all that was required to restore normal pictures. **D.F.**

### Sanyo VHR775

This machine sometimes failed to accept a cassette. There was also noisy loading and unloading. Replacement of the mode switch and the loading motor cured the faults. **R.B.**

### Ferguson FV95V

This VCR wouldn't accept cassettes: the loading motor ran all the time. The cam lever was broken. I replaced the mode switch as well as a precaution. **R.B.**



# Satellite Notebook

Reports from  
**Christopher Holland**  
**Hugh Cocks**  
**Pete Haylor and**  
**Pete Gurney, LCGI**

## Digibox use with a motorised dish

Very occasionally you come across a satellite enthusiast customer who wants to connect a digibox to an existing motorised dish controlled by an analogue receiver-positioner such as the Pace MSS500 series. If not already installed, a prime-focus universal LNB must be fitted. The dish motor limits may then need to be adjusted so that the motor can drive the dish to the 28.2°E Astra 2A position. If the customer has a particular interest in the French Telecom satellites, which have a non-standard polarisation skew compared with Astra/Eutelsat, he should be encouraged to go for a fixed SkyDigital dish.

A universal LNB's optimum low-band and high-band skew settings can be fractionally different – because the signal rotation in the feed alters at the different wavelengths, from 10.7 to 12.7GHz. A good method of adjustment is to start by optimising the skew with

Moroccan TV from Eutelsat at 16°E. The signal is at 10.97GHz, with vertical polarisation (there is almost nothing with the opposite polarisation, and any cross-polarisation is easily seen). Mark the position on the feed, then reoptimise the skew at 28.2°E. Make another mark, then finally set the feed midway between the two marks.

Dish position is fairly easy to set with a receiver such as the MSS500. If you've just fitted a universal LNB, remember to set the LNB type as universal in the installation menu. Then go to high band and enter 11.727GHz, horizontal polarisation. As the dish is driven east from the Astra 1 position at 19.2°E, there should be a large signal-strength readout deflection on the front panel when it reaches the new position, though no picture is seen. Unfortunately the analogue PAL test pattern that was transmitted by Astra 2A at 11.991GHz horizontal is no longer there! The new satellite position can be stored in the receiver as a convenient channel number for the customer. I often use 111 or 222: the receiver has 500 channels, so why not make use of a convenient, high number?

The mechanical reset accuracy of some older dishes leaves something to be desired. It's best to show the customer how to fine tune the dish position E-W, using the analogue receiver, though he probably knows about this already if he's an enthusiast!

Next comes the problem of connecting the two receivers to one LNB feed. Unfortunately the digibox produces a continuous 22kHz

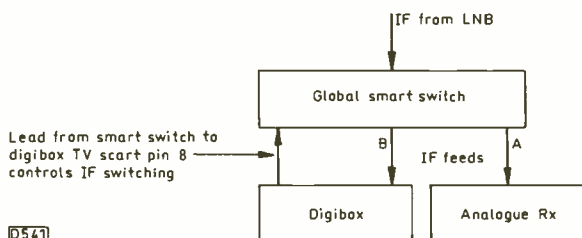
tone at its IF input. Thus if the digibox is powered and connected via a two-way IF splitter, the universal LNB will remain at high band – 11.7GHz upwards – leaving the analogue receiver with not much to see!

A new switching device that takes this into account has recently been introduced by Global Communications. Port B is connected to the digibox and port A to the analogue receiver, see Fig. 1. A flying lead goes to pin 8 of the digibox's TV scart socket. This is a high-impedance lead, and can be fitted in parallel with the existing TV scart socket to allow automatic TV/AV switching to continue. When the digibox is switched from standby to normal use, the voltage at pin 8 of its TV scart socket goes to 12V: the Global Communications smart switch then routes the IF away from port A, the analogue output, to port B for the digibox.

Some care is required when a digibox is used with a movable dish. It can 'crash' from time to time. The customer must be made aware of this and shown how to restore normal operation by unplugging at the mains supply then reconnecting it.

Extra channels from another satellite can be added to the digibox provided the symbol rate is 22,500 or 27,500. If the customer wants to pick up a lot of digital free-to-air channels however he should be persuaded to buy a receiver designed for the job.

If the customer has agreed to a telephone line connection in his contract, remind him to park the dish at 28.2°E when it's not in use



**Fig. 1: Connection of a digibox to a motorised-dish system via a Global Communications smart switch. The LNB must be a universal, prime-focus type. The dish is controlled by the analogue receiver – the connection is not shown here. The digibox controls the operation of the smart switch via pin 8 of its TV scart socket.**



and to leave the receiver on, not in standby. Otherwise it won't have a live signal feed from the dish – this could be a problem if a software upgrade is sent over the air or the box is asked to "phone home" over the air. **C.H.**

**Dutch Digital Problem**

The owner of a two-year old Pace DVR500 digital receiver said it stopped producing pictures at about 10 p.m. each night. At about 10 a.m. next morning the pictures would return as quickly as they had disappeared. The dish was correctly aligned, and I didn't fancy waiting around until 10 p.m. to see a blank screen! The receiver indicated that it had found its default frequency but couldn't load up or produce any channels.

We'd been having some relatively cold nights, and the LNB in use was an early Cambridge universal type. When I removed its outer cover I found that the inner cover's securing screws were far from being as tight as they should have been. If the inner cover isn't tight,

all sorts of strange microwave feedback effects can occur within the LNB. I suspected that the cold night-time temperatures made the LNB go unstable. So I tightened the inner cover down and arranged to call back in a few days, during which time the owner could monitor his system's behaviour.

He phoned that night to tell me reception was perfect. When I called a couple of days later to check, everything was OK. **H.C.**

**Fault Round-up**

**Pace D150:** This receiver was dead because its 100kΩ, 2W, 2% start-up resistor R212 was open-circuit.

**Echostar SR90:** This receiver was brought back to life by replacing C805, C810 and C625.

**Pace MSS1000:** When this receiver had warmed up, the picture slipped sideways. The cure was to replace U29 (PTV111) on the VideoCrypt panel.

**Pace Prima:** This receiver was dead because the TOP201 chopper chip U1 had failed.

**Pace MSS1000IP:** Distorted sound

was cured by replacing C11, C12 and C216.

**Pace PRD800/900:** Several of these receivers have come in dead with capacitor trouble: replacing C5, C7 and C8 restored normal operation. **P.H.**

**Amstrad SRD550**

This receiver suffered from the usual leaking capacitor problems on both the primary and secondary side of the power supply and was tripping. I replaced all the capacitors, using the correct types, cleaned the board, then powered the receiver. Unusually, the supply still refused to start and continued to trip, accompanied by a rather evil hiss. Fitting a known good power supply panel proved that the cause of the problem was definitely on the original one, but the culprit was difficult to isolate.

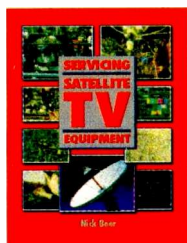
It was purely by chance that I saw a small wisp of smoke appear from the chopper transformer. Although the transformer seemed to be sound electrically, a replacement cured the fault. **P.G.**

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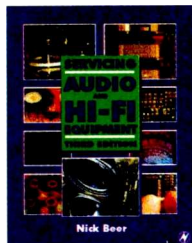
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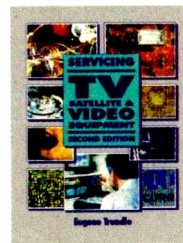
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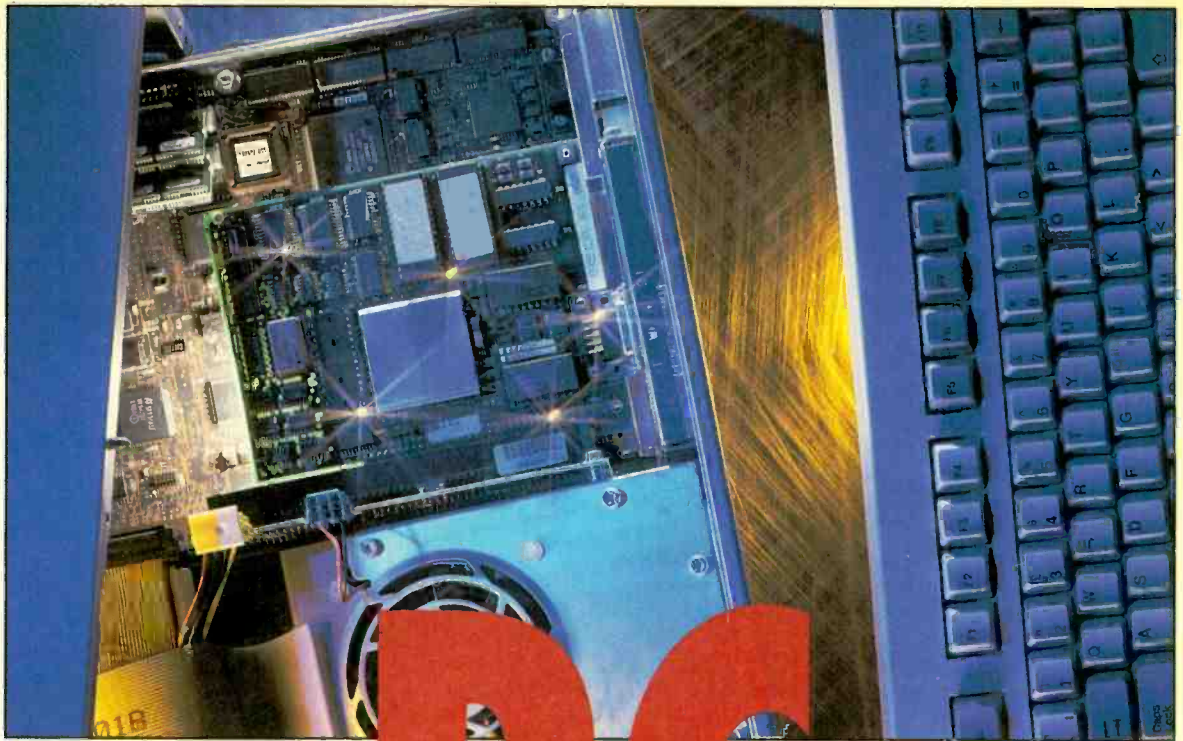
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This concluding instalment of K.F. Ibrahim's series deals with logical PC fault-finding procedures

# Operation & Repair

K.F. Ibrahim is a Senior Lecturer at the College of North West London. This series of articles is based on Mr Ibrahim's book *PC Operation and Repair* which was published in April last year by AWL under the Longman imprint.

**F**ault finding must follow a logical sequence, whose purpose is to identify the cause of the fault then rectify it. The number of tests carried out should be kept to a minimum: unnecessary or pointless tests must be avoided. Ensure that the fault-finding process does not itself cause damage, introduce further faults or create conditions for potential component failure in the future. For this reason, strict precautions must be taken at all times.

The fault-finding process begins with turning on the computer and observing what happens. A 'dead' PC points to a power supply, a system clock or a reset failure. Otherwise a boot-up process will commence. Amongst other things, this carries out a number of checks that test the integrity of the system. These checks include a series of self tests in addition to an examination of the PC's setup and configuration. Being an intelligent device, the PC displays basic information on the system's configuration while carrying out these checks, and where necessary generates error messages and beeps. A vast amount of information on the PC system's working condition can be gained from these initial checks. This information is indispensable for fault finding.

A number of diagnostic aids are available and are useful to varying degrees. The best aid however is a good knowledge of the workings of the system coupled with a logical approach to fault diagnosis.

## Precautions

Precautions of two types must be taken before any attempt is made to check a PC for faults. These are software/anti-virus and hardware/antistatic.

A virus is an unwanted fragment of computer instruction code or a program that can replicate itself in other areas and cause loss of data or degradation of a program. Apart from program failures or loss of data, a virus may

introduce malfunction symptoms that are similar to those produced by actual software or hardware faults. For this reason, viruses must be isolated and removed before any attempt is made at fault finding.

Microsoft and other software providers supply anti-virus routines that must be used to create a virus-free working condition. This involves checking for viruses in the PC, scanning all its components including memory and the hard disk, and also checking all floppy discs before they are used.

Movement of the human body generates energy in the form of an electrostatic charge. When electric contact is then established with a device, be it a PC, TV set or other piece of equipment, an electrostatic discharge (ESD) takes place. It consists of a very brief flow of current. Although the discharge current is very small, the voltage can be in the region of a few thousand volts. A discharge of this type can damage MOS-based ICs such as CMOS and NMOS support and memory chips. The result of the ESD may be instant failure, but it is more likely that chip(s) will be weakened and their life span shortened.

Antistatic precautions are as follows:

- (1) Use an earthed wrist strap designed to provide static discharge or, alternatively, touch earthed metal when handling PCBs and components.
- (2) Handle PCBs by their edges only. Avoid touching the components on the PCB.
- (3) When handling components, avoid touching the pins.
- (4) Use an earthed antistatic work surface or mat to ensure that all parts of the surface are kept at the same potential (earth).

(5) Keep all system and other PCBs, as well as peripheral devices, in antistatic bags when not in use.

(6) Touch an earthed metal object or wear an earthed antistatic wrist strap when removing a board, component or device from its antistatic bag.

(7) Make sure that the system's chassis provides good earth contact between the power supply unit, the case, the mounting fasteners and the motherboard.

**Boot-up Failure**

Table 1 lists, stage by stage, the sequence of events in the boot-up process following a system power-on. If the process comes to a halt, this will provide a very good indication of the cause of the trouble. The point at which failure occurs can be deduced by careful observation of the symptoms, including any displayed messages and listening to any sounds and beep codes.

**Stage 1 failure (a 'dead' PC):** A check on the mains power cable and the mains fuse is an obvious first step. If the PC is dead with the cooling fan in operation, there could be a power supply fault, a system clock or reset failure, or a short-circuit on the motherboard, an expansion card or a peripheral. There is no particular order in which tests should be carried out: it's a matter of preference and intuition. The following is intended as a guide.

The power supply outputs could be tested first. The best place to do this is as the power supply connection on the motherboard. Correct voltage readings, including the Power Good line, indicate that the power supply is OK. Alternatively, replace the power supply with a known good one of the same specification. The system clock can be checked at B30 of one of the ISA slots, using a logic probe. Where a reset button is provided, its operation can be quickly tested by disconnecting it from the motherboard. Otherwise, use a voltmeter to check the voltage as the computer is reset or rebooted.

If a short-circuit is suspected, disconnect the power

**Table 1: The boot-up process.**

Stage	Action
1	The cooling fan rotates and the DC outputs from the power supply build up to their working level. The hard disk begins to rotate – it makes a slight whirring sound.
2	The BIOS performs POST (Power On Self Test) routines as follows:  (1) Motherboard test, including processor and other support chips. Coded beeps indicate errors. (2) Video adaptor test. A successful test is indicated by the appearance of a cursor or some sort of display on the screen. Errors are indicated by coded beeps. (3) Memory test. The total size of the system memory is usually indicated when the test is completed. (4) Peripheral tests. These include the hard and floppy disk and CD-ROM drives, serial and parallel ports, the keyboard and mouse. Flashing LEDs may indicate a device test. Errors may be reported as coded beeps or on-screen messages. (5) A single beep indicates a successful series of tests.
3	System configuration is displayed on the screen. The information provided depends on the ROM BIOS manufacturer, its version and date. Two different configuration displays, AMI and Award, are shown in Fig. 1.
4	The operating system is loaded. The usual boot-up sequence is A;C;. Flashing indicator LEDs may indicate the sequence.
5	CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT file information is executed, in that order.
6	The MS-DOS prompt appears on the screen.

AMIBIOS System Configuration (C) 1985-1994, American Megatrends Inc.,									
Main Processor	:	80486DX2				Base Memory Size	:	640KB	
Numeric Processor	:	Built-In				Ext. Memory Size	:	3072KB	
Floppy Drive A:	:	1.44 MB 3-5"				Display Type	:	VGA/EGA	
Floppy Drive B:	:	None				Serial Port(s)	:	3F8, 2F8	
AMIBIOS Date	:	10/10/94				Parallel Port(s)	:	378	
Hard Disk(s)			Cyl	Hd	Sec	Size	LBA	32Bit	Block
							Mode	Mode	Mode
Primary Master	:	C:	1024	12	34	204MB	Off	Off	16Sec
									3
Award Software, Inc. System Configurations									
CPU Type	:	80486DX2-S				Base Memory	:	640K	
Co-Processor	:	Installed				Extended Memory	:	7168K	
CPU Clock	:	66MHz				Cache Memory	:	256K	
Diskette Drive A	:	1.44M, 3.5in.				Display Type	:	EGA/VGA	
Diskette Drive B	:	None				Serial Ports	:	3F8, 2F8	
Pri. Master Disk	:	Mode 1,	272MB			Parallel Port(s)	:	278	
Pri. Slave Disk	:	None							
Sec. Master Disk	:	None							
Sec. Slave Disk	:	None							

**Fig. 1: Two practical system-configuration displays.**

**Table 2: AMIBIOS beep codes.**

Beeps	Message/meaning
1	POST test successful.
2	Parity error. Parity error in the first 54KB of memory.
3	Base 64KB memory failure.
4	Timer not operational. Memory failure in the first 64KB, or Timer 1 on the motherboard is not functioning.
5	Processor error. The CPU generated an error.
6	8042 – Gate A20 failure. The keyboard controller may be defective. The BIOS cannot switch to the protected mode.
7	Processor exception interrupt error. The CPU generated an exception interrupt.
8	Display memory read/write error. The video adaptor is missing or its memory is faulty. This is not a fatal error.
9	ROM checksum error. The ROM checksum value does not match the value encoded in the BIOS.
10	CMOS shutdown register read/write error. The shutdown register for CMOS RAM has failed.
11	Cache error/external cache bad. The external cache is faulty.

**Table 3: Interrupts.**

IRQ	Function
0	Reserved for interval timer.
1	Reserved, keyboard buffer full.
2	Reserved, cascade interrupt for slave PIC.
3	COM2*
4	COM1*
5	LPT2. Plug and play option/audio/user available.
6	Floppy disk drive.
7	LPT1*
8	Real time clock.
9	User available.
10	User available.
11	Windows sound system*/user available.
12	On-board mouse port (if present, otherwise user available).
13	Reserved, math coprocessor.
14	Primary IDE (if present, otherwise user available).
15	Secondary IDE (if present, otherwise user available).

\*Default, but can be changed to another IRQ.

cables that supply the motherboard, the hard-disk drive (HDD), the floppy-disk drive (FDD) and other peripherals one by one. After each disconnection, turn on the power supply and check its DC outputs. When you do this, at least one set of power cables must remain connected – to either the motherboard or a peripheral. If necessary repeat this process, this time by removing the expansion cards one at a time. This process of elimination will enable the faulty item to be located.

**Cooling fan failure:** If the cooling fan doesn't rotate there will be absence of the turning noise and air flow at the back of the PC. When the cooling fan fails, the power supply overheats and the result is a thermal cut-out: the power supply shuts down and the computer remains 'dead'.

The fan can be checked by connecting a 12V supply to its terminals. If it works, check its connections.

**Stage 2 failure (POST error codes):** Faults that are detected during the Power On Self Test (POST) are generally indicated by one or more types of error message. These come in three possible forms: audible beeps, I/O POST codes, and displayed messages. To benefit from the latter, a video card and monitor in good working order are required.

Error beeps generated by the computer are coded in accordance with the BIOS manufacturer. Table 2 lists the beep codes produced by AMIBIOS. Other manufacturers, such as Phoenix, use more elaborate codes, with a combination of beeps to indicate a variety of errors encountered by the POST.

The I/O POST codes provide a more reliable and detailed error indication. As each POST test starts, a two-digit HEX code is entered into I/O port 0080H. It can be displayed by slotting a POST adaptor card into an ISA expansion bus. If the PC fails at any point during the start up process, the POST code present at port 0080H indicates the failed test. If you know the full sequence of POST codes generated by the BIOS in use, the displayed code will identify the fault area.

A more straightforward fault indication is provided by error messages on the screen, such as C: DRIVE ERROR or KEYBOARD ERROR.

The motherboard can be the source of a wide variety of faults, such as defective processor or support chips or a faulty expansion slot. There may be a faulty adaptor card. Before you replace the motherboard, try to isolate the defective device so that the fault can be cleared by replacing just the defective component or card. You may have to remove adaptor cards one at a time and replace the CPU and other pluggable components such as the keyboard controller chip, using known good units.

On-board options provided by the motherboard, such as serial/parallel ports and IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) connectors, can be checked by first disabling the option (change the relevant part of the CMOS setup) then installing the peripheral (adaptor card such as an I/O or IDE controller).

**Stage 3 failure – system configuration errors:** Configuration errors invariably cause start-up failure. Some configuration errors, such as FDD or HDD types and parameters, may be recognised by careful observation of the displayed system configuration. Correct errors by carrying out the appropriate changes to the CMOS setup.

**Stage 4 failure – no operating system:** After a successful POST, indicated by a single beep, several factors can cause failure to boot up by loading the operating system. For example, a non-system floppy disc may be inserted in drive A:. In this case, remove the disc and attempt a reboot. Alternatively there may be absent system files in drive C:, a wrong configuration, or wrong cabling to drive C:.

First try to boot the system up from drive A:, using a known good system disk. If the start up is successful, check drive C: for hidden system files (IO.SYS and MSDOS.SYS) and the not-hidden file

COMMAND.COM. The MS-DOS command DIR C:/A will display all files, with their attributes. Any missing system files can then be transferred from the system floppy disk (with Windows 95 this means a Windows 95 startup disk) by command SYS C:. This command usually transfers COMMAND.COM as well. If not, a simple copy command will suffice.

If the system fails to recognise drive C:, an unformatted or unpartitioned hard disk may be the cause of boot-up failure. Check by entering the partitioning procedure, using command FDISK. At least one partition must be created on the hard disk: it must be set ACTIVE for the operating system to be loaded from drive C:. Each partition must be formatted separately. Formatting erases stored data and should therefore not be attempted unless absolutely necessary.

Boot-up failure can also be caused by incorrect parameter entry of drive C: (master drive) in the CMOS setup, wrong cabling, or loose connections for the power and data/control lines. Check these before you consider replacing the hard disk.

**Stage 5 failure: errors in CONFIG.SYS AND AUTOEXEC.BAT:** Faults in these files do not usually prevent PC boot-up. Errors are normally indicated on the display. Such errors can be avoided by pressing F8 to bypass or single-step both files at the point when Windows 95 begins to be loaded. This can be followed by booting up in the safe mode. For MS-DOS, press F5 to single-step both files or F8 to bypass them.

When rectifying faulty entries, pay attention to the loading of device drivers and other TSRs for most efficient use of the available memory space.

### Responding to Error Messages

Follow up error messages and codes by first checking relevant cable and adaptor card connections, such as the mains and video cables when confronted by a blank monitor screen. In this particular case, check the operation of the monitor's brightness control and examine the video card to ensure that it is properly inserted in the expansion slot.

When there is a memory error, ensure that the SIMM and/or DIMM modules are properly seated in the slots. Before you replace SIMMs, empty the memory banks one by one, with the higher-numbered banks first, and reboot the system. The faulty module(s) can thus be isolated and replaced with known good ones. To ensure compatibility with the CPU's clock frequency, check the speed of any replacement memory chips.

### Faulty Peripherals

Either a software or a hardware fault can be the cause of malfunction of a peripheral device. The majority of faults, such as wrong cabling or configuration, may be picked up during the POST routine. A fault in the adaptor/controller card however, or in the device's electromechanical and control units, such as a disk's read/write head or a CD-ROM's speed control circuitry, can be confirmed only by replacing the card or the peripheral device with a known good one.

### Conflict Faults

A PC provides fifteen hardware interrupts (IRQs) for use by hardware devices and their adaptor cards. Some, such as IRQ0 (system timer) and IRQ1 (keyboard), are assigned for specific purposes and are therefore not available for other use. Table 3 lists the IRQs and their allocations. A number of port addresses, such as 330H and 240H (H for Hexadecimal), are also available.


When it is necessary to allocate IRQs and port addresses to peripherals, it is important to ensure that the same IRQ and/or port address is not allocated to more than one peripheral device. Should this happen, it's known as a conflict and neither peripheral will operate correctly. IRQs and port addresses can be assigned manually or, more likely, automatically with plug-and-play (pnp).

Conflict faults (IRQ and port address) occur only when new peripherals are installed or CMOS setup or adaptor card configurations are changed. Diagnostic routines, including MS-DOS MSD, that purport to list the allocation of IRQs and base addresses are not very reliable. With Windows 95 the allocation of IRQs and port addresses can be observed by selecting 'control panel' then 'system' then 'device manager'. Their allocation can be checked by clicking on each hardware peripheral and selecting 'resources'.

When a new adaptor is installed, Windows 95 will ascertain its requirement and assign an appropriate IRQ and port address. This can be carried out by selecting 'add/remove hardware' from the control-panel window and following the menu-driven routine. Windows 95 will then examine all the installed peripherals and their requirements and assign appropriate IRQs and port addresses. This takes a relatively long time. It is also the way in which conflicts can be resolved.

Alternatively, and more reliably, conflicts can be resolved by removing or disabling the peripherals and their controllers one at a time. Each time a peripheral is removed, the system should be tested to check whether the conflict has been resolved. This enables the offending peripheral to be identified.


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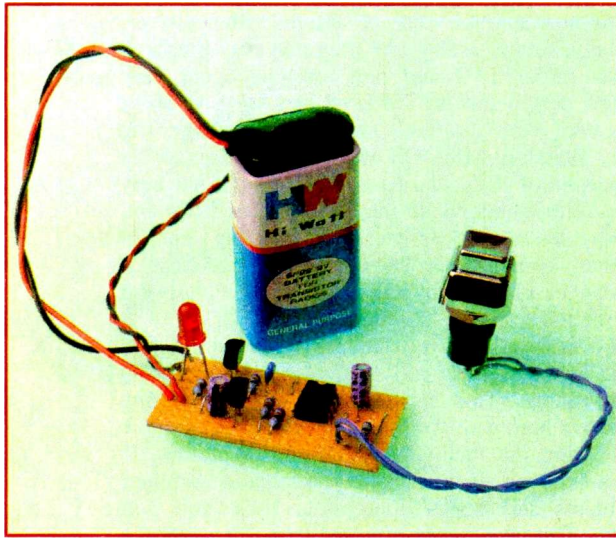

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# An Auto Power-off Switch



**Alan Willcox** has designed this auto power-off switch to save on current consumption with low-power, battery-operated equipment. It's suitable in particular for use with the ESR meter project

**T**his switch-off circuit was designed as an addition to the recently published ESR meter project (see March and April 1999 issues of *Television*). It's quite a handy little circuit however, one that can be used with other low-power, battery-operated (6-18V) equipment. The circuit uses a 555 timer IC which, in this application, is connected in the monostable mode. Fig. 1 shows a simplified block diagram of the 555.

## The 555 as a Monostable Multivibrator

Operation of the 555 chip has been explained in detail many times, so only a few relevant points will be men-

tioned here. The active (timed) period is initiated when the voltage at pin 2 falls below one third of the supply voltage. The output (pin 3) remains high during the timed period, which is determined by the RC time-constant components connected to threshold pin 6. At the end of this period the capacitor is discharged via pin 7 and the chip reverts to the stable state.

## Circuit Description

Fig. 2 shows the complete circuit. In its quiescent condition both transistors are non-conductive, so no current is drawn from the battery. An initial supply to the timer chip IC1 is provided by closing the push-to-make switch SW1. At this stage the trigger input 2 is held low, because C2 is in the discharged state, so the timing sequence begins. The output at pin 3 remains high for the duration of the period determined by the time-constant set by the values of R1 and C1. Thus Tr2 switches on, providing a return path for the supply to the load, in this case the ESR meter circuit. Tr1 is also switched on, taking over from SW1, as forward bias is applied to it via R5.

The voltage across C1 rises slowly as it charges via R1. When the voltage across it reaches two thirds of the supply voltage, pin 7 goes low and C1 is discharged via a transistor within the chip. Pin 3 also goes low, so Tr2 switches off. The supply to the load is thus disconnected, and as Tr1 switches off as well IC1 ceases to be powered. The system has reverted to its initial state.

Because of the regenerative nature of the circuit as a whole, C3 is included to slow the response and avoid false triggering by transients.

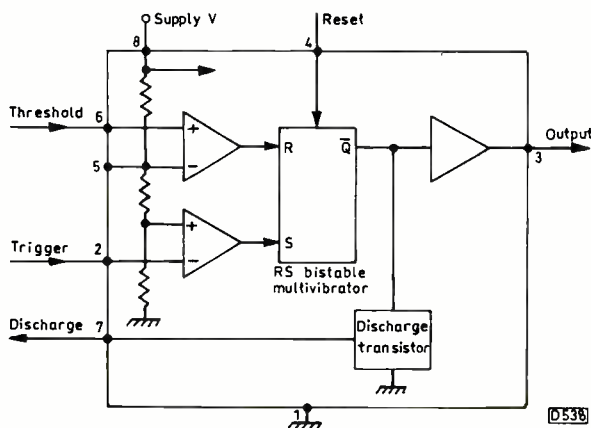
SW2, which is connected to pin 4 (reset), is an option to end the timing period: it serves as a manual power-off switch. If this option is not required, omit R2 and connect pin 4 directly to the supply line.

## Components

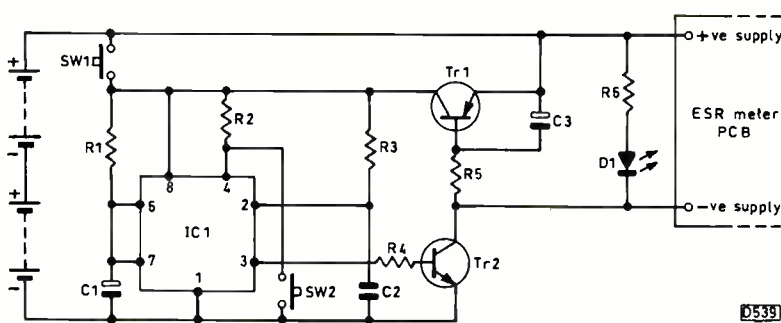
There is nothing critical about any of the components, which are readily available. For convenience, Maplins order codes are given in the parts list. The CMOS version of the timer chip is used because of its higher supply voltage rating (18V).

The power-on time in seconds is a little higher ( $\times 1.1$ )

Fig. 1: Simplified block diagram of the 555 timer chip.



D538



D539

Fig. 2: Circuit of the auto power-off switch for use with low-power, battery-operated (6-18V) equipment.

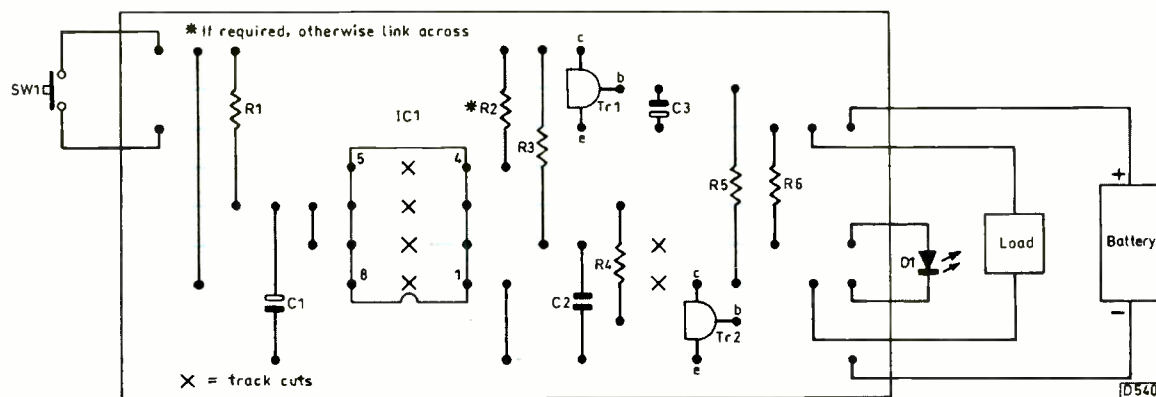


Fig. 3: Layout of the auto power-off switch on 0.1in. pitch strip-board.

than the value of C1 (in  $\mu\text{F}$ ) multiplied by the value of R1 (in  $\text{M}\Omega$ ). In this circuit it works out at

$$1.1 \times 47 \times 2.2 = 114 \text{ seconds.}$$

The upper CR limits for the device are usually quoted as  $470\mu\text{F}$  and  $10\text{M}\Omega$ .

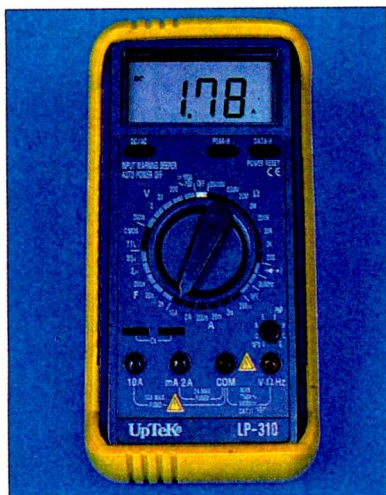
### Construction

The board is small enough to be attached to the side of the ESR meter's case, near the existing switch, with a sticky fixer. A simple toggle switch was originally specified for the ESR meter (or should have been – my mistake – see correction on page 499 of the May issue) so that the hole could easily be enlarged to accommodate a light-action push switch. The original flashing LED can be retained, or an ordinary low-current LED as specified in the parts list could be used instead.

### PARTS LIST

Item	Value/type	Maplin code
R1	2.2M $\Omega$	M2M
R2-R5	47k $\Omega$	M47K
R6	6.8k $\Omega$	M6K8
C1	47 $\mu\text{F}$ , 16V	VH11
C2	0.1 $\mu\text{F}$	RA49
C3	1 $\mu\text{F}$ , 63V	VH03
IC1	7555	YH63
Tr1	BC558	QQ17
Tr2	BC548	QB73
D1	2mA 5mm LED	AFA3, UK48 or CZ31
SW1	Push-to-make Stripboard	FG45 JP54

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# Nokia 9600 Series Receivers: the blue service menus

The blue service menus available with these receivers can be used to enter new signals in the EPG and carry out certain adjustments. Hugh Cocks on how to go about it

The 'red' menus used with Nokia 9600 series satellite receivers (9600, 9602, 9610) are fairly well known by satellite enthusiasts. Less well known are the 'blue' service menus (not to be confused with the standard blue menus). They enable new satellite signals to be entered directly into the EPG (Electronic Programme Guide) and adjustments to be made to receiver settings in more ways than by using the standard installation menu.

The service menus are similar to those used with Nokia 9200 series receivers, but are not exactly the same (I don't have much experience of that range however).

Later versions of the 9600 series have a UHF modulator fitted. The frequency is adjusted via a screwdriver slot in the rear panel, not via the software control we are becoming used to nowadays.

## Entering the Blue Service Menu System

Go to the normal installation menu by pressing the remote control unit's menu button. Highlight, but don't call up, the System Settings menu (see Photo 1). Then press the remote control unit's 1, 2, 3 and 4 buttons in quick succession. The blue service menu will then be seen (Photo 2).

It's best to gain some experience of the blue menus. Service pages 8, 7 and 6 (Photos 3, 4 and 5) are ideal as, unlike the others, accidental adjustments cannot be carried out via these pages.

## Pages 6-8

To enter service page 8, hardware versions (Photo 3), use the main up/down buttons on the remote control unit to highlight it in white, then press the middle round (OK) button. This menu provides details of the receiver's hardware and QPSK software. Highlight return at the top of the screen and press the OK button to return to the blue service menu.

It is useful that you can at any time exit a blue service menu by pressing the remote control unit's TV button twice. Pressing it once takes you back to the normal installation menu (Photo 1). Press it again and you are back to the programme the receiver was tuned to prior to calling up the service menus. Highlight return on any blue service page and press OK to go back to the blue service menu (Photo 2).

Service page 7 (Photo 4) shows the receiver system version. When a smart card is used, details appear in the bottom two rows. Information on the CAM (Conditional Access Module) that the smart card slots into would probably be available as well.

Service page 6 (Photo 5) shows the IRD settings, including the current volume control level set by the remote control unit. Note that in the service mode the volume control doesn't work, as the keys are used for other tasks. The mute button is available to mute the programme sound however. Otherwise it continues as before if a signal was being received prior to calling up the service menus.

## The Test Functions Menu

Service page 5 (Photo 6), the test functions menu, and all the other service pages can be used to make adjustments to the receiver. I recommend that all the original receiver settings in these pages are written down, in case incorrect operation is subsequently experienced. This will enable you to check them. If in doubt, leave the setting alone.

When Test picture is highlighted and is switched to on via the left/right remote control buttons a colour-bar pattern appears on the screen. It can be removed in the same way. If you have an urgent need for a colour-bar generator, either PAL or RGB, this is the quick solution!

It's safe to switch the Signal Quality indication on: the front display will then provide a numerical value, usually in excess of 50, that indicates the relative quality of the incoming signal. This can also be done via the red menu. It's very useful when you are seeking new signals. The value remains in the front display after leaving the service menu. It's updated every second or so until the receiver is switched to standby then back on again: the display then returns to normal channel identification. Load factory channels, which is highlighted in Photo 6, loads a lot of out-of-date channel listings in the EPG and is best left alone. It may also delete your current EPG list. So beware of this adjustment!

The Control signal options are for LNB 13/18V (V/H polarisation) selection, for 22kHz tone on/off and for 0/12V selection via the rear-panel socket. It's best not to touch these when the LNB is working correctly.

I haven't gone into the DiSEqC option at the bottom of



this menu. LNB DiSeqC switching is well catered for by going into the Antenna configuration option in the installation menu (Photo 1) when initially setting up the receiver.

As there was no PC connection to the RS232 serial data port at the rear of the receiver when this photo was taken, the channel memory upload/download options aren't highlighted.

### Service Settings

Photo 7 shows the Service Settings menu (page 4). This enables two important adjustments that can't be done elsewhere to be carried out.

First, Head End mode. If this is highlighted and is then toggled to on via the remote control unit's left-right buttons the remote control unit won't operate the receiver when the service mode is left. This is indicated by a star to the right of the programme name in the front panel display. The front panel buttons still work however, and once the receiver has been switched to standby and back via these buttons operation via the remote control unit is again possible, maybe for only a brief period, the receiver still being in the Head End mode until you go back to this menu and switch to off.

We have several Nokia receivers at SMATV headends and have never used this facility. After a power cut the receiver, under normal circumstances, returns to the last channel selected. The remote control unit is normally well hidden from fiddling fingers!

The RGB shift adjustment is used to centre scart-derived RGB pictures on the screen – they are often shifted slightly to the left in comparison with PAL pictures. A Philips PM5544 test pattern can normally be found via Hot Bird at 13°E: shifting the RGB picture to screen centre is then easy to do.

Some adjustments have to be done using the volume control +/- buttons rather than the remote control left/right ones. TS\_clock is best left well alone, also the tuner frequency adjustments. LNB Power in standby can be useful in climatic extremes, when the LNB can drift a little in frequency if it's not powered all the time. Sometimes when the receiver is switched on you can find that the LNB's local oscillator has drifted and the receiver can't find the digital signal package. Remember that the receiver will run a little warmer in standby when the LNB is powered all the time.

### The Advanced Tuning Menu

If you know the frequency and symbol rate (SR), channels can be entered in the Advanced tuning menu (Photo 8). This is an alternative to doing a standard channel scan in the normal tuning menu. Enter the frequency and SR – in the example shown, it's Egyptian TV at 4,178GHz (C band) from the Intelsat craft at 1°W – then highlight add channel and press the remote control unit's OK button. After a few seconds the Add channel menu will appear (Photo 9). The signal's Network ID, Transport Stream ID and Service ID can be found here. If you wish to add the channel to the EPG list, highlight "Save channel as xxx DEMO" and press OK on the remote control unit. Photos 9 and 10 show an example that will be saved as "115 DEMO": the receiver automatically enters the new channel at the end of the EPG list. Note that the signal characteristics shown in these photographs have no connection with the Egyptian channel shown in Photo 8.

If you know the frequency but not the SR, the latter can be entered as 0000. Then try pressing add channel: a picture may appear! When the SR is set at 0000, the receiver enters a search mode – the FEC/Viterbi value

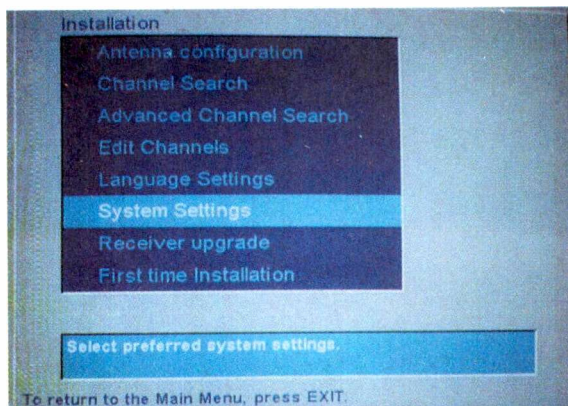


Photo 1: The normal installation menu.

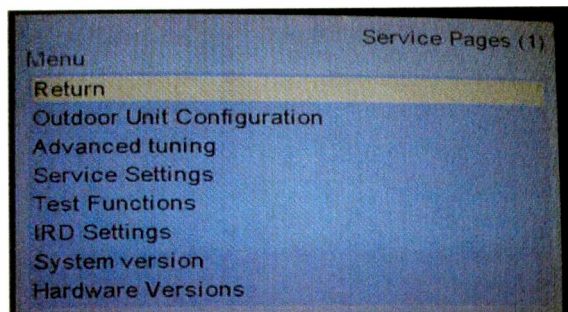


Photo 2: The blue service menu.

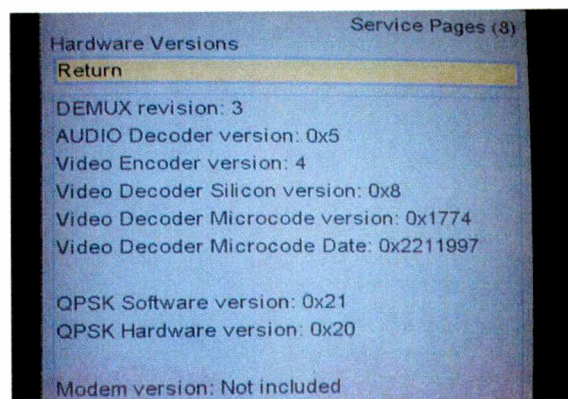


Photo 3: Service page 8, hardware versions.

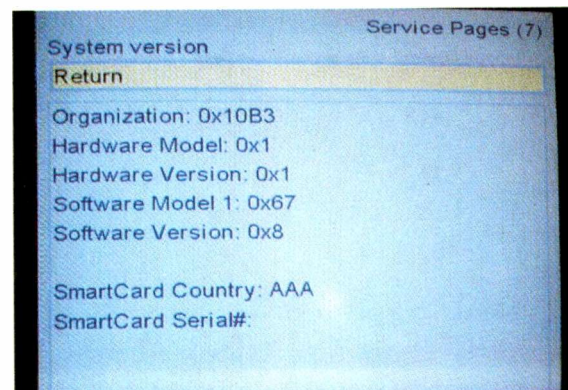


Photo 4: Service page 7, system version.

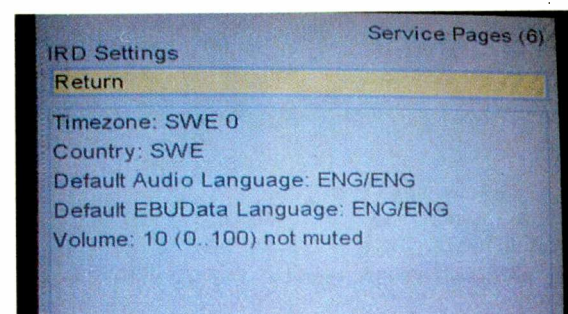


Photo 5: Service page 6, IRD settings.

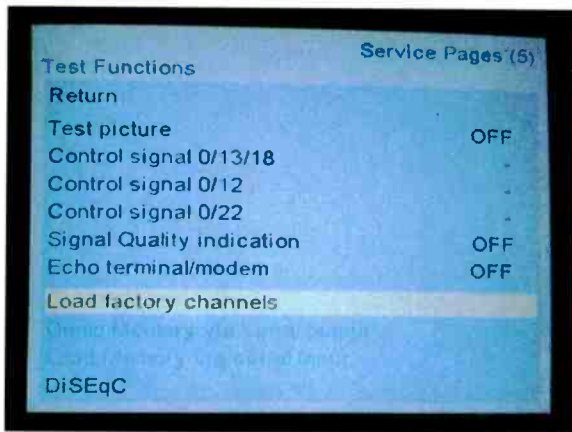


Photo 6: Service page 5, test functions.

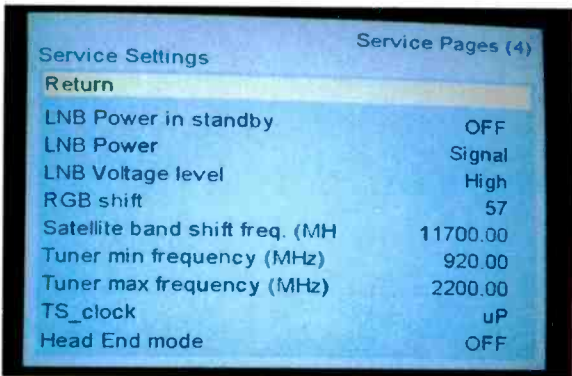


Photo 7: Service page 4, service settings.

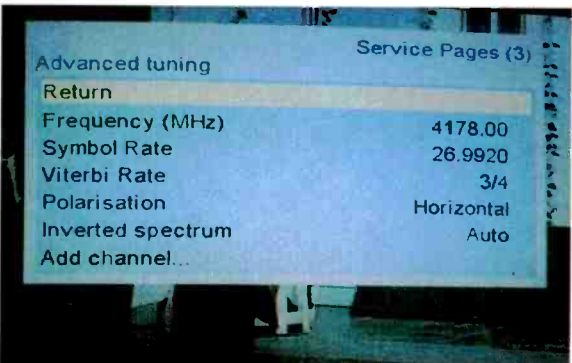


Photo 8: The advanced tuning menu, service page 3.

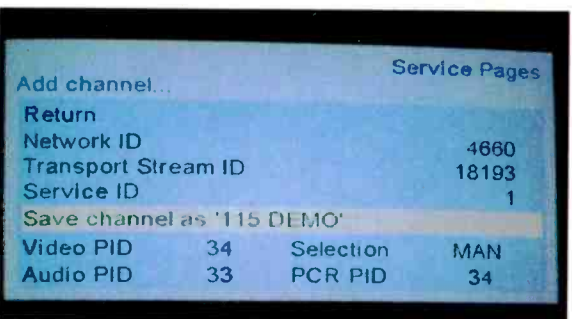


Photo 9: The add channel menu.

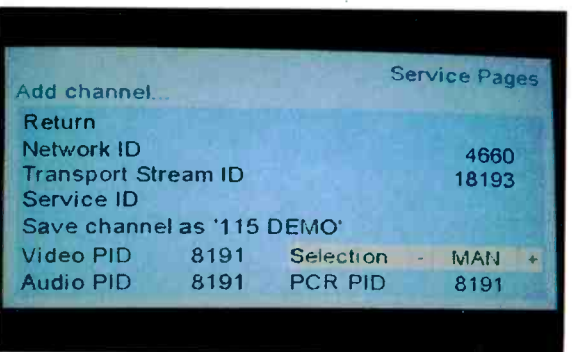


Photo 10: Packet identifiers (PIDs) at 8191.

entered in the menu doesn't matter. In Photo 9 the PIDs (packet identifiers) were manually entered: in Photo 10 they started as 8191. In this example no signal was found after entering the signal characteristics in the add channel menu. Normally at this stage PID selection would be on auto: in the Photos I'd moved it to manual.

If the receiver cannot find a channel though the correct SR and FEC (referred to as Viterbi Rate in the advanced tuning menu) have been entered, it will show the video, audio and PCR PIDs as 8191. If the PID values are known, they can be entered manually by moving selection from auto to manual then highlighting each PID and entering the number.

At this stage a picture should appear. It can help to have the Signal Quality activated, via service page 5, to see if any value is displayed on the front panel. QPSK demodulator lock is achieved at about 40, though a picture will not be seen properly until a value of about 50 is reached – though signals with a lower FEC ratio of 1/2 quite often give a good picture at below 40.

Signals such as news feeds are sometimes intermittent. At the time of writing many varied ones can be found at the Eutelsat 36°E slot. If you know the characteristics, for example 11,684GHz, horizontal polarisation, SR 5,632, FEC 3/4, V PID 308, A PID 256, PCR PID 308, these can be entered manually and the channel saved as "xxx DEMO" in the main EPG list. When a signal is present it should then appear on screen!

The Add channel facility can also be used to rescan a multiplex package such as the Egyptian one shown in Photo 8. If you go to this menu while receiving a channel in the multiplex (the RAI one via Hot Bird at 11,766GHz, vertical polarisation is a good example) and highlight Add channel, should a new channel have been added to the package it will appear as a picture along with its PID characteristics. You can save it as "xxx DEMO".

This can also be done via the main channel search menu in the "normal" mode however. In this case go to the main channel search menu from the programme package being received and select "advanced channel search". Start the search procedure (the frequency and digital signal characteristics don't need to be entered – they are there automatically, as the menu has been entered from the relevant multiplex). The receiver should add to the EPG list any new channels found in that package.

You can use the channel search or advanced channel search menu. When using the channel search menu, set the network search to no unless you want to search other multiplexes – the EPG may become cluttered with some channel duplications however.

**Miscellaneous Points**

Option 1 in the service page menu is "outdoor unit configuration" (no photo). Some LNB adjustments can be carried out via this menu, but I find that they are best done via the normal installation menu using the Antenna configuration option.

Don't add more than about 300-350 channels to the TV channel EPG list and 50 channels to the radio EPG list. If many more are added the receiver can crash and, when booting up again, a block of 50-100 channels may be lost. Some warning of this can sometimes be had, with slow or strange receiver operation. If you experience this and have a lot of channels in the EPG, it's time to start editing some of them out quickly.

I've found that some channels in the EPG can be lost following a receiver reboot after a power cut when in the red menu option.



# the NEI E5 Chassis

**T**he E5 chassis was used in a number of models released by NEI, including the E14C1R, E14C1X, E20C1R, E20C1X, E25G1TFXN, E28G1TFXN and the ART701. As these numbers suggest, the chassis will drive tubes with sizes from 14 to 28in., only minor circuit modifications being required.

Models with 110° tubes (25 and 28in.) have an EW modulator panel and usually incorporate Nicam stereo (Zweiton stereo in Continental sets). The 90° models have mono sound. Teletext is an option, with a one-page memory for 14 and 20in. models and an eight-page memory for 28in. sets.

The main PCB used in 14in. models is physically smaller than the one used in larger sets, but electronically the two versions are virtually identical. Transformer types change, but their operating conditions are the same.

## The Power Supply

The power supply is based on a TDA4605-2 control chip (IC651) and a BUZ90AF chopper FET (T651). Fig. 1 shows the circuit. Here are the faults we've encountered:

**No output:** Check whether R654 (820k $\Omega$ ) is open-circuit. Check the voltage across the mains bridge rectifier's reservoir capacitor C665 (100 $\mu$ F in 90° sets, 220 $\mu$ F in 100° sets). If low at about 260V, C665 is open-circuit. IC651 could be faulty.

**IC651 and T651 short-circuit:** Check whether snubber diode D653 (BA159) is short-circuit. Change it to type BYT52M. Check the print between pin 5 of IC651 and T651's gate, also the earth track to pin 4 of IC651, to ensure there is no damage.

**Low output, power supply appears to be tripping with bursts of energy at 0.3sec intervals:** Check whether D652 (BA157), C657 (47 $\mu$ F) or R664 (10 $\Omega$ ) is open-circuit. T651 (BUZ90AF) could be low-gain. If the voltage across C665 is 260-270V, replace it.

**Low output, 140V maximum:** The HT preset P651 (2.5k $\Omega$ ) has fallen in value.

**Tripping:** The line output transformer TR702 could have shorted turns. Check for shorts on any supply line. IC681 (LM317) could be faulty if the 12V supply is

low. The CRT could have an internal short-circuit. IC751 (TDA4950) can go short-circuit in 110° sets, pulling down the 27V field output stage supply.

**Squealing chopper transformer, with outputs normal but T651 hot:** D653 short-circuit but T651 still OK. Use a BYT52M as a replacement.

**Transformer chirps at low brightness/line jitter (14in. sets):** Check that the values of R655 (330k $\Omega$ ) and the 1M $\Omega$  resistor in parallel with it are correct. These components can go high-resistance.

**The microcontroller's 5V supply is low:** C692 (1,000 $\mu$ F) is probably open-circuit.

**Excessive width, reduced height:** The value of the HT preset P651 (2.5k $\Omega$ ) is varying intermittently.

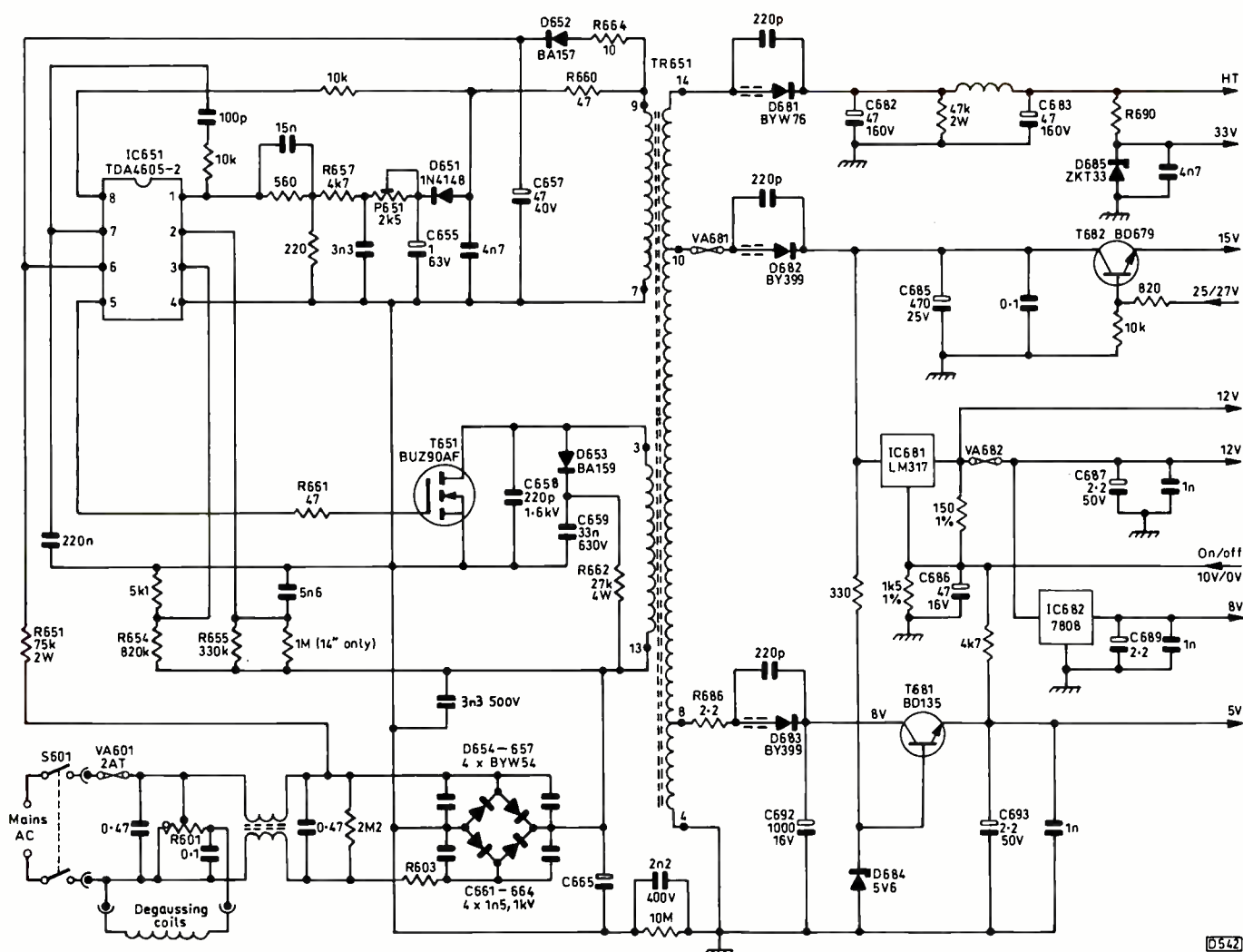
## Line Timebase Faults

The line output stage is conventional, with certain component value changes depending on size and type of CRT. When the tube is a 110° type an EW modulator subpanel, with a TDA4950 chip (IC751), is added and the line output transistor T702 is type BU508A – it's type BU508D (with integrated diode) in 90° models. IC101 (TDA8361) generates the line drive. Fault experiences are as follows (see also preceding power supply section):

**The line output transistor T702 goes short-circuit at power up:** Check whether the BA157 25/27V supply (90°/110° tubes) rectifier D705 is short-circuit. The CRT could have an internal short-circuit at its final anode. Disconnect the 25/27V supply to the field timebase. If T702 is then OK, disconnect pin 38 (sandcastle pulse input) of the jungle chip IC101 (TDA8361) and reconnect the supply to the field output stage. If T702 is still OK, C124 (2.2nF) is open-circuit – it's connected to pin 39 of IC101.

**No raster, pulse voltage at the collector of T702 is 400V instead of 1kV peak-to-peak:** Check whether the S-correction capacitor C709 (470nF or 330nF depending on CRT) is open-circuit. If so C710 (2.2 $\mu$ F, 350V) and R709 (10k $\Omega$  fusible) may have failed.

**No raster (no line drive):** If the drive at the base of the



**Fig. 1:** Circuit diagram of the chopper power supply used in the NEI E5 chassis. In 110° models the HT is 150V, C665 is 220µF and R603 is 5.6Ω, 11W; in 90° models the HT is 118V, C665 is 100µF and R603 is an NTC thermistor. The 1MΩ resistor in parallel with R655 is present in 14in. models only. VA681 is 2AT in 110° models, 1.25AT in 90° models. VA682 is a link in 90° mono sets; in 110° stereo sets it's a 500mAT Wickman fuse.

BC639 line driver transistor T701 is mostly negative-going, the 1N4148 clamp diode here (D701) is open-circuit.

**No raster (low line drive):** If the waveform at the collector of T701 is 10V instead of 30V peak-to-peak, check whether the BA157 25/27V supply rectifier D705 is leaky. The resistance of the driver transformer's primary winding may be high – it should be 4.3Ω. If the ratio of the drive is not 50:50, IC101 (TDA8361 jungle chip) is faulty.

**Line jitter at low brightness (14in. sets):** See power supply section (R655).

**Narrow raster (low EHT, reduced height):** The line-drive frequency is too high, probably 40µsec. The colour reference oscillator crystal Q101 (4.43MHz) also acts for the line generator circuit: C127 (18pF), which is in series with it, can go open-circuit. If IC101 is replaced, R121 may have to be changed to 8.2kΩ if 47kΩ or to 8.2kΩ if 47kΩ – it depends on the chip's mask version.

**Visible picture breathing – particularly noticeable when going from text to picture:** Change the value of C711 in the beam limiter circuit from 47µF to 4.7µF (16V).

**Line frequency incorrect (just off, but colour OK when locked):** C122 (4.7nF) leaky. It's connected to pin 40 of IC101.

**Varying brightness:** Potentiometer assembly on the LOPT faulty (especially if the first anode voltage is varying). See also CRT base panel section and the following section on EW modulator faults.

#### EW Modulator (110° Sets)

**IC751 short-circuit, L751 gets hot:** Check whether D751 (BY299) is open-circuit or dry-jointed.

**L751 burning (gets hot):** The line scan coils could be open-circuit or K703A's pins dry-jointed.

**Incorrect width control (works at maximum and minimum only, other controls have no effect):** Width

control P752 (1k $\Omega$ ) open-circuit. Could have happened if IC751 has failed.

**No controls operative (line pulse output at pin 5 of IC751 unmodulated):** IC751 could be faulty, R753 (0.22 $\Omega$ ) open-circuit or L751 could have shorted turns (approximate DC resistance should be 8 $\Omega$ ).

**R753 open-circuit:** IC751 (TDA4950) faulty.

**Controls operative but will not reduce width to correct setting:** R753 (0.22 $\Omega$ ) open-circuit.

**Full width, no EW control:** D751 (BY299) short-circuit.

**D751/2 have failed, R707 (2.7 $\Omega$ , 2W) open-circuit:** Pin 4 of K701 is open-circuit or dry-jointed.

**Lack of width (25mm each side):** Replace C704 (2.2nF, 1.6kV) if white-cased Iskra type.

**Tapered kink (not adjustable) in all four corners:** L751 is faulty (resistance measures OK).

**Intermittent width variation:** IC751 (TDA4950) is probably faulty.

**Bowed, half-width picture:** C753 (680nF, 400V) is dry-jointed or open-circuit.

### Field Timebase Faults

The field output chip IC301 is type TDA3653B/C with 90° tubes, type TDA3654 with 110° tubes. The field drive is provided by IC101. Fault conditions we've experienced are as follows:

**Field collapse:** Check the PCB for cracks around IC301's pins: the cracks can be repaired but IC301 will have failed. Check the supply via R301 (2.2 $\Omega$  fusible with 90° tubes, 0.22 $\Omega$  fusible with 110° tubes). The supply voltage is 25V with 90° tubes, 27V with 110° tubes. C308/9 (4.7nF) could be leaky (below 2k $\Omega$ ). R115 (100k $\Omega$ ), R116 (1M $\Omega$ ) or C120 (100nF) could be open-circuit (no ramp at pin 42 of IC101). C306 (2.2 $\mu$ F) could be leaky or short-circuit. D301 (1N4003) or R307 (1.5 $\Omega$  with 90° tubes, 0.82 $\Omega$  with 110° tubes) could be open-circuit. Check for dry-joints at the heatsink/PCB connection, or copper broken. C307 (470pF) could be leaky, in which case the voltage at pin 5 of IC301 will drop to approximately 5V.

**Nearly complete field collapse (approximately one inch of severely distorted scan if the first anode voltage is increased):** C303 (100 $\mu$ F, 40V) is open-circuit. This may kill IC301.

**Varying height (Model ART701 mainly):** Height control P302 has faulty pin to carbon track connection. Heatsink earth tab/PCB connection cracked or dry-jointed.

**Top foldover:** Check whether D301 (1N4003) is leaky or R302 (470 $\Omega$  90°/1k $\Omega$  110° sets) is open-circuit.

**Top foldover and bottom cramped:** C304 (220nF) is leaky.

**Line pairing, top linearity stretched:** R304 (270 $\Omega$ ) is high in value or open-circuit.

**Severely cramped field scan (bright foldover in centre, also curving in from horizontal edges):** One scan yoke segment is open-circuit. Check resistance (13.5 $\Omega$  with 90° tubes, 5.5 $\Omega$  with 110° tubes).

**Bottom cramped (lower linearity varying):** C308/9 (4.7nF) could be leaky, or ramp capacitor C120 (100nF) could be open-circuit or intermittent (it's connected to pin 42 of IC101).

**Bottom severely cramped – linearity control has no effect:** C306 (2.2 $\mu$ F) is open-circuit.

**Picture shifted upwards (no real change of linearity):** C305 (1,500 $\mu$ F with 90° tubes, 3,300 $\mu$ F with 110° tubes) is leaky.

**Horizontal lines visible on still pictures:** A scope check will show that there are line pulses on the output waveform. C304 (220nF) is open-circuit.

**Picture blanks out after several hours:** C303 (100 $\mu$ F) is leaky or fitted incorrectly (the positive side should go to pin 6 of IC301, the negative side to pin 8).

### Signal Section Faults

The IF circuitry is contained in the TDA8361 (PAL only models) jungle chip IC101, along with the timebase generators and the colour decoder. Note that the TDA8361 cannot be interchanged with the TDA8361A.

**Vertical lines on noisy raster (ringing on pictures):** There's an open-circuit in the SAWF F101 or the track to pin 45 or 46 of IC101 is open-circuit.

**No video, on-screen displays OK. No AV video. May be intermittent:** Check at pin 21 of IC101. This pin must be low for normal video. It goes high for teletext or OSDs. Check the sandcastle pulse input at pin 38 of IC101. If the pulses are missing or distorted, check the track from R710 (220k $\Omega$ , 1kV) to C714 (100nF) – it may be open-circuit adjacent to the heatsink tab.

**No video, no OSDs:** Check the sandcastle pulses at pin 38 of IC101 and the line-frequency pulse input at pin 26 of IC901. If either is missing, check R705 (4.7k $\Omega$ ), R710 (220k $\Omega$ , 1kV) and C714 (100nF).

**No video, no OSDs. Blanked screen for three seconds then snow. Delay also if any function is selected:** Check the field-frequency pulse at pin 27 of the micro-controller chip IC901. If missing check C301 (4.7 $\mu$ F, 63V), R941 (4.7k $\Omega$ ) and D914 (4.7V zener diode).

**Slight floating pattern or noise in background:** This can be produced by noise on the tuning line. Change C105 from 220nF to 1 $\mu$ F, 50V.

**Picture very noisy and ringing. Alignment voltage at TP5 OK but alignment seems to be incorrect:** SAWF F101 wrong type or faulty.

**Raster blanks out after several hours:** See field timebase section.

### Colour Faults

**No colour or colour drops out occasionally:** Crystal Q101 could be slightly off frequency. Check C127 (18pF), R122 (100k $\Omega$ ), C129 (4.7nF) and C130 (100nF) as necessary.



**No sound, no audible hiss:** Check supply to output chip via R506. If missing, check T682 (BD679) and the associated components. Also check the supply track, as it runs around the perimeter of the PCB. Check the decoupling capacitors C532, C534 and C535 before replacing the IC.

**Sound buzz (90° mono only):** This is usually associated with remodulated signals on cable feeds. Fit a 10µH inductor and 68pF capacitor in parallel from the junction of C148 and F102 to chassis earth. Can be fitted in the F103 position if this item is not present.

**Distorted sound, probably one channel, sometimes both:** The cores of DU573-DU578 on the loudspeaker/headphone panel become saturated. Remove the coils, take two turns off each, then replace.

### Nicam Section

Nicam sound is processed by IC1511 (SAA7283ZP) with IC1501 (TDA2545A) for signal conditioning.

**Sound buzz when mono is selected:** Occurs with early chassis (serial nos. 601XXXX to 605XXXX). Carry out the following modification. Remove C150 (33pF) from the main chassis and fit it in position C1591 on the Nicam panel. Add a 100mm length of wire from the open end of C1591 to the right-hand hole of the removed C150 on the main panel.

**No Nicam, 5V supply missing:** Check whether C1592 (10nF) is leaky or R1594 (1kΩ) has gone high in value.

**No Nicam, OSD shows yellow bar when Nicam is selected:** IC1511 (SAA7283ZP) or Q1511 (8.192MHz crystal) could be faulty.

**No Nicam or mono, loop voltage at pin 39 of IC1511 very noisy or high (4V):** Q1511 (8.192MHz crystal) faulty.

### Microcontroller Section

**No remote operation (no OSD, may operate from handset once then no more function control):** R686 (2.2Ω fusible) open-circuit or high in value.

**Drifts off tune when OSD goes off, also no text functions:** R686 (2.2Ω fusible) open-circuit or high-resistance.

**Drifts off tune (33V supply noisy or low):** Check D685 (ZTK33), C695 (4.7nF) and C907 (4.7µF).

**No tuning bars or store function (yellow bar only when tuning or store is selected):** D904 (1N4148) leaky or resistor fitted in this position by mistake.

**Wrong OSDs flash up when either the handset or control panel is used:** This applies with early sets, serial nos. 601XXXX-605XXXX, E28G series only. Inspect the front control buttons for concaving/dishing – they must be convex. If concave they will be on continuously. On later sets a different switch with a white actuator is used. They are not interchangeable unless the plastic button assembly is also changed. It is also wise to check the straightness of the PCB: if it's bent, warm it up and straighten it.

**No OSD or control when powered up by handset (screen lights up):** Inspect the function and clear but-

tons on the front control panel for dishing (concave). Check that line sync pulses are present at pin 26 of IC901. If missing, check the print track opposite the line output transistor T702.

**CRT lights but no OSD or control when the set is powered up:** Check the I<sup>2</sup>C lines at pins 39/40 of IC901. One or both may be low – they should be high. There may be a crack in the PCB near IC901.

**Blank raster, no OSD. Snowy raster after three seconds. Also delay in unblanking after any function change:** Check the field sync pulses at pin 27 of IC901. If missing, check R941, C301, D914 and the print track from C301.

**Set goes to standby after a short period, no other function controls. Must power off to reset. Other obscure symptoms, e.g. OSD colours change, odd OSD symbols, tuning drift):** Internal arcing in the LOPT.

**Set comes out of standby but LED goes off instead of to half brightness. No other functions:** Crack in tracks under D703. No line drive etc. Internal CRT short-circuit, EHT rises momentarily then stops. Applies mainly with 14/20in. sets.

**Set comes out of standby then immediately goes back:** Most likely cause is shorted turns in the LOPT (TR702), as a result of which the power supply trips. IC751 (TDA4950) in 110° models could be short-circuit, pulling down the 27V supply to the field output stage. D705 (BA157) could be leaky.

**Sweep tuning does not stop:** Ident doesn't change state because pin 4 of IC101 (TDA8361) is open-circuit. If the AFC voltage at pin 9 of IC901 is correct (approximately 2.5V DC) when the picture is tuned manually, check the supply at pin 42. If at 5.5V, check whether the 5.6V zener diode D684 is touching T681 (BD135). If the supply is at 6.5V, T681 (BD135) is short-circuit.

**Tuning bar travels very fast then locks up all functions (other functions may be OK):** IC901 is faulty.

**All buttons at front and on handset produce "store" display (may be OK sometimes):** IC902 (24C02) faulty.

### Teletext Faults

**No text operation or other faults:** Check whether R686 (2.2Ω fusible) is high-resistance or open-circuit.

**Fasttext page select incorrect, text OK:** IC403 (P83C654) faulty.

**Page number floats from left to right and back:** Check C407 and C411 (both 100nF) which can go open-circuit. Alternatively IC401 (SAA5281P/E) may be faulty.

**Text symbols and letters break up:** IC401 (SAA5281P/E) faulty.

### Spares

Spares for these sets should be available from Maplin Electronics (NEI Spares Division), Unit 11, Valley Court, Station Road, Wombwell, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire S73 0BS. Phone 0113 277 4310, fax 0113 277 4312.







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LINEAR ICs

Table with 8 columns: Part, Price, Part, Price, Part, Price, Part, Price. Lists various linear IC components and their prices.

Please add £1 P&P and VAT at 17.5% to all orders

All brand name components

We accept payment by Access, Switch, Visa, Cheque and Postal Order. (Government, College etc orders accepted)

Prices quoted are subject to availability and may be changed without prior notice









# PINCH ROLLERS

Model	Price	Model	Price	Model	Price	Model	Price
<b>AKAI</b>		<b>AKAI</b>		<b>AKAI</b>		<b>AKAI</b>	
VS10, VS9300, VS9500, VS9700, VS9800, VP7100, VP77	140p	FVHP615, 618, 620, 622, 710, 711, 715, 716, 720, 721, 722, 725, 730	140p	BR5600, 605, 747, 777, 920, 925	140p	NS7000	140p
VS12, VS13, VS4, VS5, VS6, VS8, VS9, VS15, VS15	140p	FVHP810, 820, 840	140p	HR510	140p	<b>ORION</b>	
VS105, 112, 115, 116, 120, 125, 126, 155, 165, 205, 220, 240, 244, 245, VS247, 248, 250, 512, VS515, 516, VSX9	140p	FVHP905, 906, 907, 908, 910, 911, 915, 916, 918, 970, 975, 980, 990, FVHP 5000, 5005, 5050, 5075, 5100	140p	BP5000, HRD110, 111, 120, 220, 225, 455	1100p	VC11, Vh2	140p
VS201, 301, 303, 304, 603, 606, 607, VSP8, VSP82, VPS8, VP82	140p	VBR300, VBS3500, 7000, 7100, 5000, 7600, 9000, 9900	140p	PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY		VH40, Vh3, 33, 200, 201, 205, 212, 250, 254, 288, 300, 303, 312	140p
VS125, VS155, VS165, VS220, VS240, VS250, VS512	140p	FVHD300, 250, 270, 370, 2000D, FVHP3, 210, 250, 300, 310, 1100, FVHP1200, 1250, 130, 132, 1340, 1340, 1400, 1410, 1440, 1500, 200, FVHP32040, 420, 430, 440, 445, 470, 475, FVSP2905, 495, 2905	140p	HRD140, 141, 142, 143, 150, 152, 157, 158, 160, 565, 566, 725, 755, HRP50	1350p	VH500, 555, 700, 714, 772, 770, 780, 844, 900, 1000, 2948, 3030, 3312	140p
VS22, 23, 25, 35, 37, 38, 53, 56, 75, 422, 425, 426, 427, 462, 465, 467, VSA475, VSA650	140p	FVHD140, 40, 55, FVHP1, 10, 25, 30, 40, 4000, FVHS10, 30	1350p	PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY		VHF2A, VP2948	140p
VSF10, 11, 12, 15, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 221, 222, 230, 240, 30, 33	140p	<b>GOLDSTAR</b>		HRD1520, 510, 520, 521, 522, 525, 527, 560, 600, 610, 620, 637, 641, HRD650, 720, 830, 840, 910, HRJ205, HRS5800	350p	NCM 15000, 16000, HV03, LVH50, NEVH, NEVHM, NEVHML	140p
VSF260, 261, 262, 265, 270, 274, 275, 280, 290, 340, 350, 410, 420, 430, VSF441, 440, 450, 455, 480, 490, 497, 510, 560, 580, 590, 599, 600, VSG20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 30, 33, 34, 35, 51, 54, 55, 60, 64, 65, 70, 73, 74, 75, VSP110, VXS360, VXS580	140p	GHW151, 1221, 1232, 1233, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 140p		BR7030, BR5600, HRD160, 170, 171, 180, 190, 210, 211, 217, 227, HRD230, 271, 300, 310, 320, 321, 330, 337, 350, 400, 430, 440, 441, HRD470, 500, 530, 700, 750, 950, HRS5000, 5500, 9000	875p	VH3060, 4000, 4008, 4010, 4012, 4015, 4015, 4020, 4300, 5020, VP10, 200, 220, 225, 245, VR821, 925, 1032, 2949, 2959, 2957, 2966, 2979, 2980, VTV300, VXL20, 25, 29	140p
VS17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35, 37, 53, 55, VSA77	775p	GHW1891, 1900, 2145, 3000, 3010, 4000, 4410, 51, 8000, 8200, GHV8210, 8215, 8430, GHVP1240, 1241, 1242, 1248, 1290, 1291, GHVP1295, 1296, VCP4000, 4100, 4130, 4200, 4300, 4301, 4305, VCP4306, 4310, 4311, 4315, 4316, 4320, 4321, 4325, 4326, 4350, GSE1290, 1291, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1891, 1910, 20005, 2000	140p	PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY		PHILIPS	
<b>HITACHI</b>		VT7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 33, 34, 35, 350, 38, 39, 88, 330, 860, 4200, VTS000, 5030, 5500, 6500, 6800, 7000, 8000, 8300, 8500, 8700, 930, VT9500, 9700, 9900, VM600	140p	<b>MATSUI</b>		VR6480 VR6920	140p
VT8, 52, 57, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 85, 86, 88, 100, 110, 111, 113, 115, 118, VT120, 122, 125, 128, 130, 135, 138, 145, 150, 168, 170, 175, 220, 225, VT250, 255, 258, 260, 400, 405, 410, 413, 414, 415, 416, 418, 420, 425	140p	VT426, 428, 430, 431, 435, 438, 450, 498, 510, 515, 517, 518, 520, 525, VT526, 530, 535, 536, 540, 545, 546, 548, 570, 575, 576, 580, 585, 589	140p	VX6000, 730, 735, 750, 755, 765, 800, 850, VS888	140p	VR2020, VR2021, VR2022, VR2023, VR2024	140p
VT640, 830, VTF660, 665, 70, 770, 774, 775, 780, 785, 860, 861, 865, VTL30, 1000, 2000, VTLCS0, VTM598, 620, 622, 625, 626, 630, 635, VTM636, 640, 645, 646, 720, 722, 725, 726, 727, 728, 730, 731, 735, VTM736, 740, 745, 746, 748, 753, 754, 820, 821, 822, 825, 830, 831, VTM835, 838, 840, 841, 845, 920, 921, 922, 925, 930, 931, 935, VTS80, 85, 890, 895VM200, 2300, 2380, 3200, 3280, 500, VMS7200	140p	VT3000	140p	VX1000, VX2000, VX2500, VX3000, VX6000A	140p	VR6540	140p
VT3000	140p	VT410, 420, 428, 430, 450, 498, 518, 520, 522, 530, VTF770, 780, VTM598, 622, 720, 740, 748, 753	650p	<b>MITSUBISHI</b>		DV856, 586, VR702, 703, 6485, 6585, 6589, 6785, 6880, 6948	140p
<b>HINARI</b>		VTF150, 155, 180, 185, 250, 255, 260, 265, 280, 285, 300, 351, 355, VTF360, 365, VTM140, 141, 145, 145, 210, 211, 212, 215, 220, 221, VTM230, 231, 235, 284, VTS390	140p	HS12, 5300, 5424, 5600, HSB11, 12, 16, 21, 27, 31, 32, 41, 51, 52, 82, HSE12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 31, 32, 41, 51, 52, 82, HSM1000, 110, 120, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 210, 235, 250, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 370, 380, 45, 450, 5, 45, 555, 57, 58, 59, 68, HSM2, 9, HSS11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, 5600, HVF125, HVF150, 303, 85, SV890, 8930	140p	VR6660, 6860, 6861, 6862, 6863	140p
V20H, VXL5, VXL6, VXL7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 90, H13V, VTV1000	140p	VX130, VXL10, VXL11, VXL9, VXL10, VXL10, VXL11, VXL9	700p	PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY PART NO:		N-1700, VR2870	140p
VXL2, VXL3	140p	<b>J.V.C.</b>		948D020010		VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
VXL4, VXL5, VXL6, VXL7, VXL8, VXL9, VXL10, VXL11, VXL9	140p	HR2200, 3300, 3330, 3360, 3660, 4100, 770	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
VXL10, VXL10, VXL11, VXL9	700p	HRD520, 7200, 7300, 7350, 7600, 7610, 7650, 7655	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
<b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b>		HRD110, 111, 120, 121, 140, 141, 142, 143, 150, 152, 156, 157, 158, HRD160, 220, 225, 250, 257, 445, 455, 565, 566, 725, 755, HRP50, BP5000, BR7000, BR5611, 811	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
<b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b>		HRD520, 540, 550, 560, 580, 600, 610, 620, 637, 640, 641, 650, 660, HRD670, 720, 730, 740, 770, 820, 830, 840, 860, 870, 880, 910, 960, HRD980, HRD20, 22, 25, HRJ200, 205, 210, 215, 300, 315, 316, 318	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
<b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b>		HRJ400, 405, 407, 410, 411, 415, 416, 507, 600, 605, 610, 615, 715, 815	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
<b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b>		HRJ97, HRS4700, 5800, 5900, 6800, 6900, SR3200, 330, 368	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
<b>PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY</b>		HRD170, 171, 180, 210, 211, 217, 230, 300, 320, 321, 330, 337, 350, HRD370, 400, 430, 440, 441, 470, 500, 530, 700, 750, 950, HRS5000, 5500, 8000, 9000, BR7030, 7040, 9060,	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p
<b>FISHER</b>		HR55000, 5500, 8000, 9000, BR7030, 7040, 9060,	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p	VR2025, VR6580, VR6581	140p

# VIDEO LAMPS

Models & Description	Order Code	Price	Models & Description	Order Code	Price	Models & Description	Order Code	Price	Models & Description	Order Code	Price
UNIVERSAL VIDEO LAMP 9V 80mV (310mm WIRES)	VL01	25p	AIWA, AKAI, ALBA, AMSTRAD, BLAUPUNKT, FERGUSON, FIDELITY, FISHER, FUJITSU, FUNAI, G.E.C., GOLDSTAR, GRANADA, GRUNDIG, HINARI, HITACHI, I.T.T., JVC (HRD SERIES), MATSUI, MITSUBISHI, NEC, ORION, NATIONAL, PHILIPS, SAISHO, SALORA, SAMSUNG, SANYO, SHARP, SIEMEN, SONY, TELEFUNKEN, THOMSON, TOSHIBA	VL05	100p	AKAI, GRANADA (VHSTJ2), AKAI (VHST3000), I.T.T. (VR3912, VRP3833), JVC (HR2200, 3300, 3330, 3660), MITSUBISHI (HS200), TELEFUNKEN (VR510, 519, 610), THOMSON (VK300, 305, 306, 3301), FERGUSON (3V00, 16, 22, 24, 3292, 8900, 8901, 8902, 8903, 8909, 5912, 8922, 8923, 8924, 8925, 8926, 8927, 8928)	VL01	25p	AUTHENTIC (IN850), DECCA (VR8300), GRANADA (VHSTJ3, WJ1, WJ3), I.T.T. (VR3913, 3914, 3963) JVC (HT7200, 7300, 7350, 7700) TELEFUNKEN (VR450, 520, 529, 540, 549, 620, 640, 920, 1920), THOMSON (V4100, VK308, 309, 312, 410), FERGUSON (3V23, 29, 30, 8923, 8924, 8929, 8930, 8931, 8940)	VL07	40p
PANASONIC VIDEO LAMPS	VL02	30p	GRANADA (VHSAY3), SHARP (VC200, 381, 384, 385, 386, 388, 390, 393, 9300, 9500, 9700)	VL08	45p	BLAUPUNKT, ORION (VH1, 2A), NATIONAL (NV200, 2010, 3000, 7000, 8150, 8200, 8400, 8600, 8610, 8620), SHARP (VC2300, 6000, 6200, 6300, 7300, 7700, 8300)	VL02	30p			
SHARP VIDEO LAMPS	VL02	30p									
HITACHI 5381682 (VT63, VT64) VIDEO LAMPS	VL04	135p									
AKAI (VS10), GRANADA (VHSXJ3), TT (VR3993, 3994), JVC (HR2650, 7600, 7610, 7650, 7655), TELEFUNKEN (VR530, 535, 539, 550, 630, 650), THOMSON (V309, 316, 357, VK309, 411, TX8000), FERGUSON (3V31, 8941, 8942)	VL06	40p									

# VIDEO SERVICE KITS

<p><b>AMSTRAD</b> VCR709 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, REEL IDLER, VIDEO LAMP Order Code: SK41 <span style="float: right;">£5.50</span></p> <p><b>FERGUSON &amp; JVC</b> 3V42/43 HRD455/HRD725 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, CLUTCH MECHANISM, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK37 <span style="float: right;">£16.00</span> Order Code: SK38 <span style="float: right;">£9.00</span></p> <p>3V58/59/64/65 HRD170/180/210/230/300/320/370/400/430/530/700/750 HR55000 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER ARM, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK44 <span style="float: right;">£7.00</span></p> <p>3V29/3V30 HR7200/7300/7350 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, TENSION BAND, IDLER TYRES Order Code: SK05 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>3V35/36, 38/39/49 HRD110/111/120/225 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, TENSION BAND, IDLER TYRES Order Code: SK04 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>3V31/3V42 HR7600/7610/7650/7655 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, T/U REEL TABLE TYRE, PINCH ROLLER, REEL IDLER, T/U CLUTCH, T/U IDLER, TENSION BAND, VIDEO LAMP Order Code: SK33 <span style="float: right;">£11.00</span> Order Code: SK34 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>3V35/36/38/39/49 HRD110/111/120/121/225 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, T/U REEL TABLE TYRE, SUPPLY REEL TABLE TYRE, PINCH ROLLER, T/U CLUTCH, T/U IDLER, REEL IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK35 <span style="float: right;">£10.00</span> Order Code: SK36 <span style="float: right;">£5.50</span></p> <p>3V29/3V30 HRD7200/7300/7350 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, T/U REEL TABLE TYRE, SUPPLY REEL TABLE TYRE, PINCH ROLLER, REEL IDLER, T/U CLUTCH, T/U IDLER, TENSION BAND, VIDEO LAMP Order Code: SK31 <span style="float: right;">£10.00</span> Order Code: SK32 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>3V44/45/48/53/54/55/57 HRP50/HRD140/150/158/160 HRD250/257/565/566/755 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, CLUTCH MECHANISM, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK39 <span style="float: right;">£15.00</span> Order Code: SK40 <span style="float: right;">£9.50</span></p> <p><b>FISHER</b> FVHP905/906/907/908/910/911/916/918 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER, GEAR IDLER UNIT, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK57 <span style="float: right;">£13.00</span> Order Code: SK58 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>FVHP615/618/620/622/7110/7111/715/716/720/721/722/725/ 730/830/840 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER, GEAR IDLER UNIT, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK68 <span style="float: right;">£11.00</span> Order Code: SK69 <span style="float: right;">£30.00</span></p>	<p><b>HITACHI</b> VT11/VT33 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, TENSION BAND, IDLER TYRES Order Code: SK08 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>VT11/VT33 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, T/U REEL TABLE TYRE, SUPPLY REEL TABLE TYRE, PINCH ROLLER, FF/REW IDLER, CLUTCH PLATE, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK45 <span style="float: right;">£13.00</span> Order Code: SK46 <span style="float: right;">£3.75</span></p> <p>VT52/61/62/63/64/65/85/86/640 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, FF/REW ARM, CLUTCH PLATE, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK49 <span style="float: right;">£14.00</span> Order Code: SK50 <span style="float: right;">£3.00</span></p> <p>VT400/405/410/13/14/15/18/420/25/26/28/430/31/35/48/450/498/ 510/520/25/26/530/35/36/540/545/46/48/570/75/576/580/85/88 <i>Contents</i> TIMING BELT, PINCH ROLLER, FF/REW ARM, CLUTCH BASE, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK52 <span style="float: right;">£9.75</span></p> <p>VT100/110/111/113/115/118/120/125/128/130/135/138/145/150/ 175/220/225/250/255/258/260/VTL30 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, FF/REW ARM, CLUTCH PLATE, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK51 <span style="float: right;">£14.00</span></p> <p><b>PANASONIC</b> NV2000/NV2010/NV7000/NV7200/NV7800 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, TENSION BAND, IDLER TYRES Order Code: SK03 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span> Order Code: SK02 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>NV300/NV330/NV333/NV340/NV366 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, TENSION BAND, IDLER TYRE Order Code: SK01 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>NV2000/NV2010 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, FF IDLER, PLAY IDLER, TENSION BAND, VIDEO LAMP Order Code: SK13 <span style="float: right;">£6.00</span> Order Code: SK14 <span style="float: right;">£3.50</span></p> <p>NV7000/NV7200/NV7800 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER UNIT, PLAY IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK11 <span style="float: right;">£8.50</span> Order Code: SK12 <span style="float: right;">£3.25</span></p> <p>NV300/NV330/NV333/NV340/NV366 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER UNIT, PLAY IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK15 <span style="float: right;">£7.00</span> Order Code: SK16 <span style="float: right;">£3.25</span></p> <p>NVG7/NVG9/NVG10/NVG11/NVG12/NVG14/NVG15/NVG16/ NVG18/NVG30/NVG120/NVG130/NVG400/NVH65 (PX/AC)/ AG1810 (P/K) <i>Contents</i> LOADING BELT, CAPSTAN BELT, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK27 <span style="float: right;">£6.00</span> Order Code: SK28 <span style="float: right;">£3.00</span></p> <p>NV332 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, PLAY IDLER, FF/REW IDLER, TENSION BAND, FF/REW TYRE Order Code: SK29 <span style="float: right;">£12.00</span> Order Code: SK30 <span style="float: right;">£5.10</span></p> <p>NV230/250/260/280/430/450/460/470/650/810/890/ AG1200PK/AG1500PK <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK23 <span style="float: right;">£6.00</span> Order Code: SK24 <span style="float: right;">£3.25</span></p>	<p>NV600/NV688 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, PLAY IDLER, FF/REW IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK25 <span style="float: right;">£12.00</span> Order Code: SK26 <span style="float: right;">£6.00</span></p> <p>NV730/NV770 <i>Contents</i> SLOT IN BELT, LOADING BELT, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER UNIT, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK19 <span style="float: right;">£5.50</span> Order Code: SK20 <span style="float: right;">£3.00</span></p> <p>NV370/NV380/480/630/780/830/850/AG2100PK/AG2200PK <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK21 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span> Order Code: SK22 <span style="float: right;">£2.75</span></p> <p>NV777/NV788 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, IDLER UNIT, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK17 <span style="float: right;">£6.00</span> Order Code: SK18 <span style="float: right;">£4.00</span></p> <p><b>SHARP</b> VC381 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, REEL IDLER, TENSION BAND, VIDEO LAMP Order Code: SK47 <span style="float: right;">£8.00</span> Order Code: SK48 <span style="float: right;">£3.25</span></p> <p>VC500/VC571/VC581/VC582/VC583/VC584/VC5F3 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, REEL IDLER, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK60 <span style="float: right;">£9.50</span> Order Code: SK61 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p> <p>VC781/VC7810/VC7822/VC785/VC786/VC793/VC800/ VCA100/VCA102/VCA104/VCA202 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, REEL DRIVE UNIT, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK64 <span style="float: right;">£13.50</span> Order Code: SK65 <span style="float: right;">£3.75</span></p> <p>VC681/VC682/VC684/VC685/VC693/VC699/VC6F3/VC700 <i>Contents</i> BELT SET, PINCH ROLLER, REEL DRIVE UNIT, TENSION BAND Order Code: SK62 <span style="float: right;">£13.50</span> Order Code: SK63 <span style="float: right;">£5.00</span></p>
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## SERVICE KIT & UPGRADE FOR ONWA TV CHASSIS

FAILURE OF ZD401 (ZD401 ON THE 20/21 CHASSIS) IS NOT UNCOMMON.

THIS KIT HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED AS A REPAIR KIT FOR COMPONENT FAILURES AND AS AN UPGRADE FOR THE POWER SUPPLY.

THE KIT CONSISTS OF ALL THE REQUIRED COMPONENTS AND COMES COMPLETE WITH FULL INSTRUCTIONS AND CIRCUIT DIAGRAM.

THE KIT IS DESIGNED TO FIT THE FOLLOWING MAKES AND MODELS.

- |               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| * ALBA / BUSH | * AKAI   |
| * GOODMANS    | * HINARI |
| * JVC         | * MATSUI |

**ORDER CODE : ONWAKIT      PRICE: 1200p**  
\* SOME MANUFACTURERS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO UPGRADE THE POWER SUPPLY

# REPLACEMENT VIDEO CASSETTE HOUSINGS

Name	Models	Code	Price	Name	Models	Code	Price	Name	Models	Code	Price
AKAI	VS35, VS53, VS55,			FERGUSON	FV31R	CH19	4300p	TELEFUNKEN	VCA103, 103GV, 106, 106GVM,		
	VS56, VS75	CH18	3200p		HRD515, 520, 527, 540, 550, 580,					254GVM	CH23
GRANADA	VHS0P1	CH05	1100p	600, 610, 620, 660, 670, HRD030,				VCS211, 244, 5055, 605, VCB230,			
	VHSYJ2	CH01	2800p	840, 850, 860, 4050, 6800, FV37H	CH20	2200p		VCD8066, 810G, VCT212, 310,			
GOLDSTAR	GHV1290P, 1291P, 1295P, 9400,			HRD540, 580, 830, 860, 910, 960,				410G, 610	CH24	2500p	
	73401, GSE1295P, GSE1891P,			HR0970, HR0X20,				VR2970	CH02	2800p	
	20001Q, 20051Q, VCP4200, 4300,							V320, 321, 323, 326, 4200, 4300	CH01	2800p	
	4301, 4305, VCP4306, 4311, 4315,	CH25	2000p					V342, 343, 352, 353, 360, 364, 368,			
4316, 4320, 4321, 4325							4210, 4230, 4260, 4400, V5500,	CH02	2800p		
GHV51, 1221, 1232, 1240, 1241,	CH26	2900p					6000, 8540	CH01	2800p		
1242, 1244, 1246, 1248, GHV8000,								V65, V67	CH01	2800p	
8200								V65, V66	CH02	2800p	
FERGUSON & J.V.C.	3V38, 3V39, 8943, 8944, 8951,			NATIONAL PANASONIC	NV730	CH06	4300p	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <b>AMSTRAD MOD KIT</b> ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ FITS : VCR 4500, 4600, 4700, 5200, TVR 1,2,3 PRICE : £2.25 + VAT each ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆			
	3V35, 3V36, 3V48, HRD 110, 111,	CH01	2800p	N.E.C	NB30E G, NB31EG, NB31EG, NB32,						
	120, 121, 225			NB33EG	CH01	2800p					
	3V42, 3V43, 3V44, 3V45, 3V48,			NB95	CH02	2800p					
	3V53, 3V54, 3V55, 3V57, 8945,			PHILIPS	CASSETTE LIFT ASSEMBLY (69120366)						
	8947, 8948, HRD 140,			DV186, 190, 286, 471, 562, 761,							
	141, 150, 157, 158, 160, 250,	CH02	2800p	VR6180, 6182, 6185, 6285, VR6290,							
	HRD257, 455, 565, 566, 725, 755			6291, 6293, 6362, 6367, 6393, 6467,							
	8948, 8950, FV10B, 12L, 13H, 14T,			6468, 6470, VR6561, 6670, 6760,	CH05	1100p					
	20B, 21R, 22L, 26, 395, HRD230,	CH03	2800p	6761, 6870, 6970	CH22	2900p					
430, 530			VR6443	CH23	2500p						
3V58, 3V59, 3V64, 3V65, FV11R,			VR6448	CH24	2500p						
8950, 8951, HRD 170, HRD 180,	CH04	2800p	49SB6	CH22	2900p						
HRD370			SHARP	VCA100, VCH851, VCH852	CH22	2900p					



## 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>
NV300, 333, 340, 366, 688, 777, 778 (VSS0060)	<b>£2.10</b>
NVG21, 25, NVH65, NVD80 (VSS0175A)	<b>£3.75</b>
	<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, 5600, 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
VBR 0091	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

#### SET OF 8 ALLEN KEYS

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

**3 REVERSIBLE SCREWDRIVERS**  
**SPRING HOOK**

**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 (Surensen)	SATPSU15	700p
AMSTRAD SRD700, SR950, SRX100, 301, 501, 502, 1002, 2001, SRD2000 SAT250	SATPSU16	1250p

### 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

CURRENT RATING	TIME LAG (20mm)		PRICE	QUICK BLOW (20mm)	
	ORDER CODE			ORDER CODE	PRICE
100mA	FUSE36		75p	FUSE37	60p
160mA	FUSE01		75p	FUSE17	60p
250mA	FUSE02		75p	FUSE18	60p
315mA	FUSE03		75p	FUSE19	60p
400mA	FUSE04		75p	FUSE20	60p
500mA	FUSE05		75p	FUSE21	60p
630mA	FUSE06		75p	FUSE22	60p
800mA	FUSE07		60p	FUSE23	60p
1A	FUSE08		60p	FUSE24	60p
1.25A	FUSE09		60p	FUSE25	60p
1.6A	FUSE10		60p	FUSE26	60p
2A	FUSE11		50p	FUSE27	60p
2.5A	FUSE12		50p	FUSE28	60p
3.15A	FUSE13		55p	FUSE29	50p
4A	FUSE14		55p	FUSE30	50p
5A	FUSE15		60p	FUSE31	50p
6.3A	FUSE16		60p	FUSE32	50p

## CERAMIC PLUG TOP

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

## 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

## 32 mm CERAMIC SLOW BLOW

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

## 38mm CERAMIC TIME LAG

CURRENT RATING	ORDER CODE	PRICE
10A	FUSE48	825p

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

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

## VOLTAGE TESTER

A terminal screwdriver incorporating continuity & voltage with Euroslot  
**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 to approx. 474 pages in size.  
 Price: 1650p only - no VAT (+ £2 Postage)  
 Order Code: BOOK02

**SEMICONDUCTOR COMPARISONS 1999**  
 With over 650 pages listing more than 34,200 Semiconductors with suitable alternatives complete with descriptions and base information.  
 Price: 1900p only - No VAT (+ £2 Postage).  
 Order Code: BOOK04

### Video Recorders Edition 5 1997

Over 300 pages packed with more than 5500 faults for different brands  
**Price £15.00 - No VAT. Order Code: BOOK01**

### Satellite Repair Manual Edition 5

346 pages of receiver faults plus notes and general information such as many useful button sequences for resetting parental lock codes, resetting installation choice to factory defaults.  
 Price £16.00 - No VAT plus Postage £1  
 Order Code: BOOK03

**SEMICONDUCTOR COMPARISONS 1999**  
 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**

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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 4000p**

## 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: 300p



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

To replace the TDA8178S fitted to the following MITSUBISHI 29" & 33" TV's:  
CT29AS1, CT29B4, CT29A4, CT29A6, CT29B2, CT29B3, CT33B3

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

ORDER CODE: MITSKIT2  
PRICE: 1500p

## 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: 1600p**

## GENUINE PHOENIX KITS SUPPLIED



See Page 636 for more new arrivals

## NEW ARRIVAL !!!

### JVC Field Output Repair Kit

For the following models:  
AV-295X1EK, AV-29SX1EN, AV29X1EN1,  
AV-295SX1PF, AV-29TS1EN

ORDER CODE:  
**JVCKIT1**  
PRICE: **£11**  
+ VAT

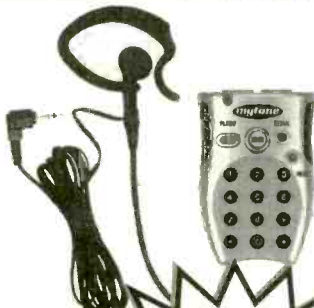
GENUINE PHOENIX KITS  
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### MyFone – Hands Free telephone

- Stylish and Compact
- Plugs directly into normal BT socket
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- Free your hands
- No batteries required
- Ideal for office, workshop or home use



Order Code  
**MYFONE**  
Price: **£22**  
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## UNIVERSAL REPLACEMENT REMOTE CONTROL

PREPROGRAMMED TO COVER ALL  
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REPLACES UPTO 8 DIFFERENT REMOTE  
CONTROLS.

WITH TELETEXT & FASTTEXT FUNCTIONS.

Order Code  
**RC9**



Price  
**£10 + vat**

### 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  
20000\*F
- MEASURING FROM 1pF-20000\*F
- SINGLE MANUAL ROTARY SWITCH FOR  
FUNCTION AND RANGE OPERATION
- ZERO ADJUST KNOB

ORDER CODE: **CM3230**  
PRICE: 3950p

### CM3920 DIGITALMETER 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
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### Digital Servicing

With reference to Jack Armstrong's letter (June) concerning digital equipment repair, I agree that the current digibox offers will distort people's perception of the equipment's worth. Economic servicing of digiboxes thus appears to be hardly viable.

The difficulties exist from the manufacturer onwards. After leaving the TV trade I spent twenty years in industry and worked through the transition from analogue to digital in communications recording. Board faults were initially easy to diagnose to component level. Dedicated test gear was used to check these analogue boards, which were assembled using conventional components. The boards were easy to work on and had plenty of useful test points.

By the time I retired, things had changed dramatically. Digital chips, often with over 100 connections, were surface-mounted on multi-layer boards which were assembled using automated processes. Clever young chaps designed them. But, ironically, they would still ask me for advice on TV repairs or how to fix a fluorescent light!

Manufacturing economics now dictated an entirely different approach to testing. Bare boards were bought in already checked by their manufacturers for track conti-

# Letters

nity and freedom from short-circuits. Extensive antistatic precautions were observed during manufacture and handling. Dedicated test gear still checked that the boards worked, but was not suitable for sophisticated fault diagnosis. Most faults were the result of dry-joints or solder splashes: vigilance during manufacture minimised such problems. A 'drop-dead' time was imposed, which meant that any difficult board had to be scrapped rather than all day being spent on troubleshooting. Expensive devices such as ASICs and EPROMs could be removed and transferred to another board – on a once-only basis (further transfer could prejudice a chip's long-term reliability). The philosophy was to build the product correctly so that it always worked straight away.

This principle worked well until the day someone loaded the wrong components into the pick-and-place machine! There was panic in the production area, but once the incorrect components had been identified it was a simple though tedious matter to replace them. A concentrated effort was required to solve the problem within an acceptable time scale. To speed the process, we conscripted the help of one of our circuit designers. You can't do that in a TV workshop!

It seems that field or even bench repair of fast digital boards is hardly viable. I support Jack in his view that defective digiboxes will almost certainly be replaced. On the brighter side, industrial experience shows that once a digital board works correctly it tends to go on doing so for a long time.

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

### Video Resolution

I cannot agree with J. Alan McKeown (letters March) that expressing horizontal resolution as lines per picture height is "bizarre and highly misleading". On the contrary, it provides a more meaningful comparison between displays

with different aspect ratios.

When comparing a 4:3 display with a 16:9 display it is usual to think of the latter as having increased width rather than reduced height – it is, after all, 'widescreen' not 'squatscreen'. So, for the same subjective horizontal resolution, one needs more 'cycles' across the width of the 16:9 display than across the 4:3 display. This is exactly what is implied by quoting the resolution in lines per picture height. It has been the standard way of specifying horizontal resolution for a long time. To change it now would increase rather than reduce confusion.

*R.T. Russell, M.A., C.Eng., M.I.E.E.,  
Orsett, Essex.*

### CD Player Lenses

In his article on CD player servicing (June) John Coombes suggests the use of isopropyl alcohol to clean a laser unit's lens. On a previous occasion when this subject came up in the magazine Sony protested and said that only their proprietary lens cleaner (part no. J-250-100-0A) and cleaning swabs (part no. J-250-102-3A) should be used with Sony models. On the few occasions when I now clean a lens, I prefer to use the Sony cleaner (detergent based?) whatever the make of player.

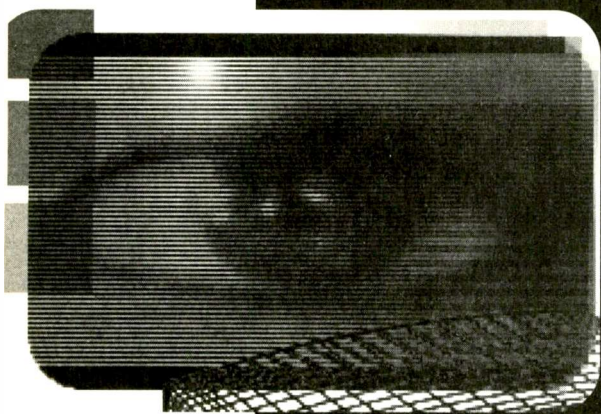
*L.K. Austin,  
Kirk Michael, Isle of Man.*

### Faulty BUT11A Transistors

Here's a serious warning. Another batch of faulty BUT11A transistors has entered the supply chain. They are marked "932" at the lower, right corner of the plastic section. The problem is that they can explode when used in a chopper power supply.

Any BUT11As held in stock, including transistors supplied in Satkits, should be checked. This precaution should be continued for several months, as the devices are likely to be around for some time.

*Martin T. Pickering, B.Eng.,  
SatCure, Sandbach, Cheshire.*



Reports from  
**Philip Blundell, AMIIEelec**  
**J. LeJeune**  
**Pete Gurney, LCGI**  
**Kevin J. Green, TMIE**  
**Michael Dranfield**  
**Alan J. Roberts**  
**Colin J. Guy and**  
**David Smith**

### **Philips 32PW9763/25 (MD2.25 chassis)**

There was no sound output. This chassis has a separate power supply for the audio section. Checks here revealed that the BU508AF transistor 7302 was short-circuit and resistor 3300 (6.8 $\Omega$ , part no. 4822 117 12681) was open-circuit. Ohmic checks on the  $\pm 16V$  lines showed that there was a low resistance across them. One of the audio output ICs (7740) was short-circuit. **P.B.**

### **Grundig CUC6310 Chassis**

"Set dead, LED flashes" the label said. Initial tests showed that the line output transistor T568 was leaky. As there were no dry-joints in the line driver or output stages, and the line drive signal and the supply voltages were OK, I fitted a replacement and switched on. The new transistor lasted about a second.

The next step was a check the line output transformer, using my trusty Konig tester. It got a green light. I then noticed three blue 'box' type Philips capacitors. The 9nF one, C969, was almost open-circuit. Its part no. is 8515 911 114. **P.B.**

### **Daewoo T594 (CP760 chassis)**

The cause of the picture being displaced to the left is normally a

# TV Fault Finding

crack at pin 10 of the line output transformer. As a result there's no feedback pulse for the line generator's AFC loop. **J.LeJ.**

### **Salora 21L57**

There was no picture though the sound was OK. A check on the voltage at pin 26 (fast blanking) of the luminance/chrominance processor chip produced a reading of 2.5V. The voltage here should be 0V for TV reception. This pin is DC connected to the TPU2732 chip IC13 on the STG110E digital module. A new digital chip cured the problem. **J.LeJ.**

### **Mitsubishi CT25M1**

This set would run for days then die. In the dead condition, the standby light would pulse between half and full brightness, as in the trip condition. The power supply used in this chassis is quite happy to run when removed from the set with a lamp as a dummy load at plug PZ, where there should be 112V/120V depending on tube size. I tried this and found that the fault was still present, confirming that it was in the power supply.

The usual causes are C905 (470 $\mu F$ ) and C906 (47 $\mu F$ ) on the primary side of the circuit or any of the reservoir capacitors on the secondary side. They were all blameless however. Regulation is via an optocoupler, with a potential-divider network on the secondary side for voltage monitoring. R960 (160k $\Omega$ ) in this network often goes high but was OK. The voltage at the excess-current sensor pin of IC901 was correct, so excess current wasn't the cause of the problem.

To break the loop to determine on which side of the power supply the fault lies, you can remove the optocoupler (PC951) and connect a 10k $\Omega$  resistor across pins 4 and 3.

When this was done everything was OK, proving that the cause of the fault was on the secondary side of the circuit. But extensive component checks failed to bring any faulty ones to light. I then received a tip that the optocoupler's driver transistor Q953 can occasionally refuse to work though it checks out all right. The BC547 is a suitable replacement. I finally solved the problem by fitting one. **P.G.**

### **Sony KV2215**

The complaint with this set was sound but no picture. The line time-base was working, but none of the supplies derived from the output stage were correct. When I checked the outputs from the chopper power supply I found that the main HT line was at about 80V, with considerable ripple, instead of 135V. The other outputs were correct. The cause of the trouble was C652 (33 $\mu F$ , 250V), which was open-circuit. To ensure future reliability, I decided to replace all the electrolytic capacitors on the secondary side of the power supply. **P.G.**

### **Ferguson ICC8 Chassis**

When this set was switched on there was a very dark, greenish picture with streaking. It gave the impression that the tube was faulty (low emission). A check on the CRT voltages was fairly inconclusive: most were approximately as specified in the manual. I felt that there was probably a drive problem, and disconnected the CRT's base PCB to check the resistors around the RGB output chip. The three 39k $\Omega$ , 1W feedback resistors RT24, RT44 and RT64 were all open-circuit. **P.G.**

### **GoldStar CIT2190F**

This set was brought in because it was 'dead'. In fact the power supply was working. All outputs were



present apart from the HT. Simple: the HT rectifier diode D803 had gone open-circuit. **P.G.**

#### **Philips GR1-AX chassis**

There was a very intermittent fault – it usually occurred when the set had been on for several hours. Sometimes the picture would shift to the left slightly, with reduced width. At other times the lower half of the picture would exhibit line tearing. The cause was eventually traced to C2523 (6.8 $\mu$ F, 50V) which smooths the supply to the line driver stage. It would go open-circuit intermittently. **P.G.**

#### **Nokia SP71D1**

This set was dead with the S2000AF line output transistor short-circuit. After checking that the HT was correct, and various relevant components, a replacement was fitted. It failed at switch on. When a more detailed check on the line output stage was carried out I found that capacitor CK51 (8.7nF, 1.6kV) was faulty. It appeared to read correctly in circuit, but one leg remained behind when it was removed from the board. Its appearance was very discoloured where the lead entered, but otherwise it appeared to be OK. **P.G.**

#### **Mitsubishi CT21A5STX 14FS chassis)**

The picture's brightness would sometimes change. The cause of the trouble was eventually traced to C593 (22 $\mu$ F, 350V) in the first anode supply. **K.J.G.**

#### **Sony KVM2171U**

There was a picture and sound but no text or on-screen display. I found that R081 had gone open-circuit because, in turn, C810 was open-circuit. As a result of C810's failure, the flyback pulse was much larger than normal. Hence the failure of R081. **K.J.G.**

#### **Crown CRV37 (11AK08 chassis)**

This 14in. portable was dead. Checks in the power supply showed that R809 (0.47 $\Omega$ ) was open-circuit. I suspected the chopper FET, but it read OK when checked with a meter. I then found that R809 would go open-circuit with the FET removed. After many component checks I came to the conclusion that the chopper transformer TR802 was faulty. This was proved by replacement. Since then we've had another of these sets with the same fault. **K.J.G.**

#### **Mitsubishi CT25A5STX (14FS chassis)**

According to the job card this set should have been dead. But when it was switched on a picture covered with bad herringbone patterning appeared. A check on the LT rails showed that there was heavy ripple on the 16V line. The reservoir capacitor C955 (2,200 $\mu$ F, 25V) was faulty. Once this had been replaced all that remained to be done was to attend to the dry-joints to cure the dead-set fault. **K.J.G.**

#### **JVC 14ET1EK**

It seemed that this set was in the hotel mode, as channels couldn't be stored with the memory button and a green H was present in the top right-hand corner of the screen. JVC told us that the set doesn't have a hotel mode. This one did, but it was off! The cause of the trouble was eventually traced to the pull-up resistor R605 (47k $\Omega$ ) for the chip-select pin – it was open-circuit. **K.J.G.**

#### **Sharp DV5940H (4BSC chassis)**

The HT supply came up, then the set went dead. The trip in this chassis has a time delay: you have to wait thirty seconds before the set can be switched on again. Operational amplifier IC600 forms part of the trip circuit – its other half is the EW modulator driver. One of the inputs to IC600 monitors the supply to the field output chip. The cause of the problem was here: R645 (1 $\Omega$ , 1W safety) was open-circuit. **M.Dr.**

#### **Nokia SP71D1**

If the BC337 line driver transistor VK22 blows a few minutes after switch-on, replace capacitor CK22 (2.2 $\mu$ F, 100V). **M.Dr.**

#### **Bush 1427T**

When there's a bright screen with flyback lines, check the CRT cathode voltages first. If they are low at about 100V, replace R435 (0.68 $\Omega$ , safety). Don't twiddle the first anode potentiometer, as a near-perfect picture can be obtained when R435 is open-circuit and the potentiometer is carefully adjusted. **M.Dr.**

#### **Sharp C3710H (8PSR chassis)**

The line oscillator chirped at switch-on and the standby light lit up. The set then died. In this chassis the trip shorts the line drive to chassis via D614, but the set still

refused to come on with D614 disconnected. I then found that the line oscillator's supply at pin 8 of IC801 was low – only 3V. The cause of the trouble was R679 (100k $\Omega$ ), which was open-circuit. It's connected to the base of Q610. When the set is in full operation, Q610 is switched off and the 12V supply is derived from the line output stage via Q606. **M.Dr.**

#### **Naiko N1096**

This 10in. mains-battery set is a revised version of the Baby 10 made by Onwa. The first time I came across one I was surprised to find that it's fitted with the switching regulator I designed (see *Television* May 1996), but the circuit wasn't copied to the book. Possibly for cost reasons, a radial instead of a toroidal choke is used. As a result, the field scan coils pick up radiation from the choke. This gives rise to very fine horizontal lines across the screen.

A while back we bought seven of these sets at auction. We think they were customer returns, unloaded by Makro. Four of them required a new DC socket as the original one had melted. The other three were dead. The cause was traced to a dry-joint at C308 (3.3nF), which is connected to pin 34 of the TA7698AP chip. This is part of the line oscillator circuit. The problem arises because of C308's position on the PCB. When the chassis is pushed in, C308 is forced against the side of the cabinet. As a result it's pulled out of the PCB. **M.Dr.**

#### **Hitachi CPT2158**

There was a blank raster and no sound. A few scope checks soon revealed that there was no video output from the TDA4505 IF/time-base generator chip. Another problem then arose: apparently the TDA4505 is no longer available. I thought I had one somewhere however, and after turning the workshop upside down I found a new TDA4505E. Would it work? Some of these chips are specially selected – different suffix types are listed for different manufacturers. As I had nothing to lose, I fitted the E one. The set then worked perfectly. The TDA4505E is still in the lists, so this information may help with other sets. **A.J.R.**

#### **Philips G90AE Chassis**

Roy Rodger's Repairs had had a go at this one. They'd tried to fit some standard transistors in the power

supply in place of surface-mounted types. Fortunately the print was still in good condition, so I started with a new repair kit. After fitting this there was some activity when the set was tried with a variac and a dummy load in place of the feed to the line output stage, but a fault was present on the secondary side of the power supply.

I then discovered that T7652 was missing and that one of the series-connected zener diodes, D6659, was short-circuit. When these items had been replaced the HT rose to 70V, but no higher. I disabled the protection circuit and reduced the mains input voltage. This made no difference. Rather than try to isolate the faulty component, which can be quite difficult where surface-mounted components are used, I decided to replace the remaining BAS32 surface-mounted diodes. This took about fifteen minutes: the result was a working power supply.

The set still didn't work however – it screamed when the line output stage was reconnected. The BUT11AF line output transistor was faulty, though it measured OK. Once a replacement had been fitted there was a good picture.

I wish that certain types of dealer would leave these sets alone if they can't cope with surface-mounted components. **A.J.R.**

### **Philips G110 Chassis**

Not all problems with these sets relate to the power supply! The complaint with this one was poor width regulation at high brightness levels. It was most noticeable with pictures that went from light to dark very quickly: the picture width would vary considerably. When the brightness was turned up towards maximum, the width came in by an inch or so. As the HT remained rock steady at 148V, the cause of the fault was almost certainly somewhere in the EW correction circuit.

It took a long time to find the culprit. Various chip resistors and diodes were checked, then finally chip capacitor C2526 (8.2nF) was found to have a leak of about 50k $\Omega$ . A replacement restored normal operation and stable width. I've since had another set with the same fault. **A.J.R.**

### **Hitachi G6P Chassis**

The complaints were "white screen and sometimes dead". I ran the set for several hours before the screen went bright white. A tap on the

main panel then brought the picture back. This fault was cured by resoldering numerous dry-joints.

The "sometimes dead" problem was more of a challenge. After two days on soak test the set died, with no HT output from the power supply. Not being familiar with this chassis, I spent some time before I discovered the cause. The crowbar thyristor across the HT supply was being triggered because the EHT sensing diode ZD752 had a very slight reverse leak. A new 24V zener diode put that right. **A.J.R.**

### **Mitsubishi CT29AT5**

The sound was slow to come on from cold, often taking up to an hour to appear. The cause was C9F4 (1,000 $\mu$ F) on the power supply panel. It had leaked goo over adjacent components. Cleaning this off and fitting a new capacitor cured the fault. **C.J.G.**

### **Toshiba 2927DB**

The picture was displaced about half an inch to the left. After much searching I noticed a hairline crack in the PCB near the line output transformer: the track connected to R404 was open-circuit. Bridging the crack cured the fault. Failure of the resistor would presumably produce the same symptom. **C.J.G.**

### **Thorn P1470R (Philips GRI-AX chassis)**

There was no sound or picture, with a low hum from the speaker. Investigation showed that the TDA8305 chip's line drive output was missing, because C2058 (22 $\mu$ F) was open-circuit. It's connected to pin 11 of the chip (IC7020). This is the volume control input, which is also used for the line oscillator start up. **C.J.G.**

### **Beko 16328NX etc**

If the front panel controls with this and related models are ineffective, remote control operation being normal, the child lock is on. To release it, hold down the + and - buttons while switching on the mains supply. **C.J.G.**

### **Hitachi C2524T (G7PS chassis)**

This set had been repaired elsewhere because of a power supply blow up but had striations on the left-hand side of the screen. They were not visible when a signal fed in via the scart socket was being displayed. Careful checks on the video waveform at various points showed that the spurious signal was

present at the output from the video detector. It took some time to find the cause, which was L101, a little choke in the 12V supply to the tuner. It had a burn mark on it, but wasn't open-circuit. A replacement cured the fault. It think it must have been damaged by excess current when the original fault occurred. **C.J.G.**

### **Ferguson D14R (TX805 chassis)**

This set produced a loud squeal then went dead. I found that CP17 (100 $\mu$ F, 160V) was short-circuit. It's the reservoir capacitor for the 103V supply. **C.J.G.**

### **Sharp 66CS03H (CS chassis)**

This set has several expensive-looking digital surface-mounted chips on the main PCB. It was slow to start from cold. The cause was C714 (1,000 $\mu$ F, 16V), which is the reservoir capacitor for the 5V standby supply. I hope I don't meet one of these sets after an EHT flashover! **C.J.G.**

### **Hitachi CPT2658 (Salora L chassis)**

The complaint with this set was distorted sound. A tweak of L102 cleared the distortion, but the setting was very critical. R121 (3.9k $\Omega$ ), which is connected in parallel with the coil, was open-circuit. **C.J.G.**

### **Sanyo CBP2866**

This set would sometimes trip or produce anything from a plain raster to unlocked field sync. The cause was the 12V regulator IC780, type 3122V, which according to Sanyo is no longer available. A 12V, 1W type was tried but it ran too hot for comfort. A TIP41 transistor with a 13V zener diode and a 27 $\Omega$  dropper resistor ran much cooler and continuously without any problems. It was either this or scrap a set that produced an excellent picture. **D.S.**

### **Samsung CI5937AN**

This set was dead because its TDA2616A audio output chip had gone short-circuit. It was OK once the chip had been replaced. The duff one had been loading the power supply, preventing operation. **D.S.**

### **Sony KVM531**

When this set had been working for some time its picture would drift to monochrome. A new 8.8MHz crystal cured the fault. **D.S.**



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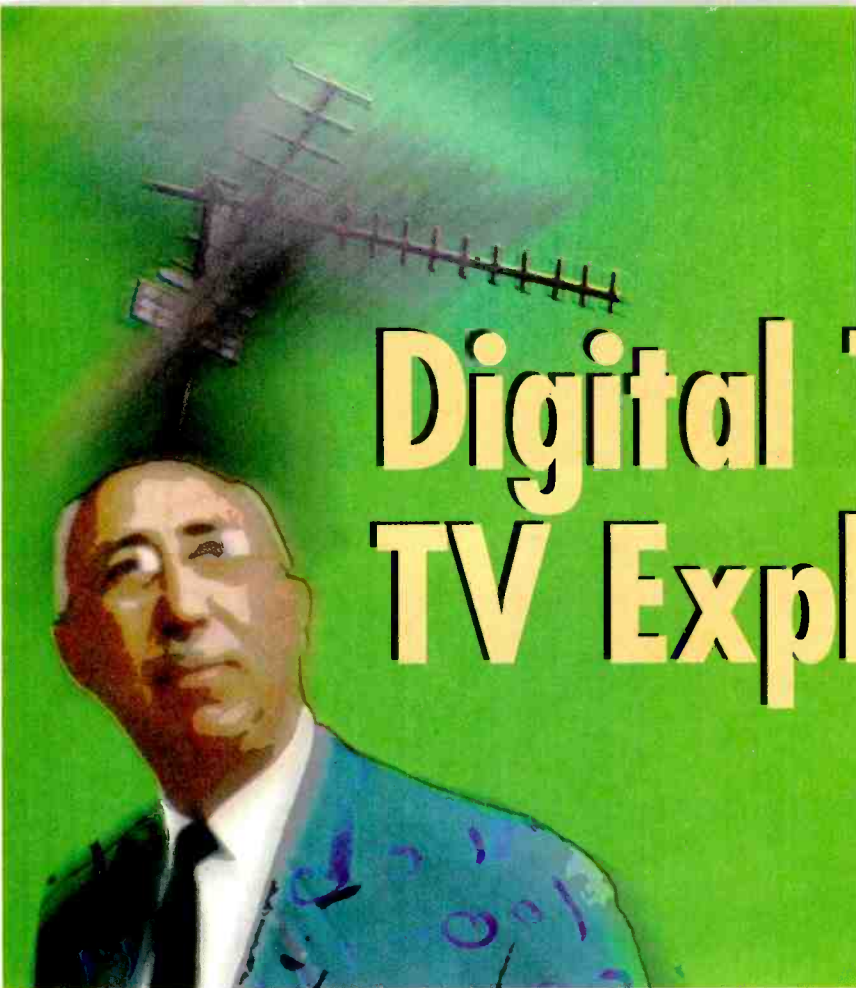
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# Digital Terrestrial TV Explored

**When it comes to DTT reception, the number of channels you can get depends very much on where you are, as Ian Martin found out. But the quality of the pictures is generally excellent**

**M**uch has been written about the 'digital TV revolution', but little has appeared about the practicalities of reception. There seem to be SkyDigital dishes everywhere: without the need for a dish, ONdigital systems are more difficult to spot. As one of ONdigital's selling points is that you just take a set-top box home and plug it in, I thought I'd do just that. The box selected was of Pace manufacture.

## Signals

Each DTT channel consists of a digital multiplex of several programme channels, typically six. More or fewer programme channels can be fitted into each multiplex, with a change of bit rate for each one. To an ordinary analogue TV set, the DTT signals appear as an empty, noise-filled channel.

Depending on where you live, you should be able to receive up to six digital multiplexes. They are transmitted from the same sites as the analogue channels, but at much lower power. This should not, in theory, be a problem, as the digital transmissions are affected by poor signal-to-noise ratio and multipath distortion less than analogue ones.

Where possible the digital channels are included within the existing analogue channel group, but in many cases some of them are outside the group. In this case a new wideband aerial will be required. This should not be a problem: ONdigital says it will adjust or upgrade aerial installations, sometimes free of charge. Table 1 shows the present DTT multiplex arrangement.

## Set-top Boxes

Philips was the first manufacturer to supply DTT set-top boxes, followed quickly by Pace. Nokia, Toshiba, Sony and others followed. LG and Hitachi produced the first integrated digital TV receivers with built-in DTT decoder boxes.

Being first to the marketplace is not always an advantage, as Philips found out. The original STBs suffered

from several software problems. Over-the-air updates to ensure correct operation followed. Having heard that the Philips box still suffered from one or two bugs, I decided to obtain a Pace one – only to find that the same bugs were present. It seems that the cause is a poorly defined specification rather than any shortcomings in the STBs. The problems are only minor however, and will presumably be corrected by future over-the-air software upgrades.

The most obvious remaining bug is a meaningless PAL I/S-video option in the set-up menu. This is worrying, since it suggests that whoever checked the menu system didn't understand the meaning of these terms. Needless to say, selecting this option has no effect. Even the operating manual refers to this option, with the advice "do not change this setting". Some magazines have suggested that an S-video output will be added to ONdigital boxes by means of a future software update. This seems unlikely. The TV scart output is in RGB form and, as far as I am aware, software cannot spontaneously create hardware!

All ONdigital receivers have the same physical specification, with aerial loophrough, two scart sockets, RCA audio jack sockets, a Smartcard slot and simple front-panel controls. The back of the box sports an RJ45-style telephone socket for the internal modem and a nine-way D connector for an optional external modem. A PCMCIA (or PC card) slot is also fitted for a possible future Conditional Access Module. Neither the modem nor the CAM feature is currently in operation, but internet shopping, banking and other interactive services that use the modem are promised for later in the year.

The carton also included a scart cable, an RF cable, a remote control unit, batteries, a very long telephone-line cord cable, a customer reply card, a manual and a quick reference folder that contains the Smartcard.

## Setting up

Setting up the STB is easy. You plug the aerial cable

into the STB and connect the loopthrough from the box to the TV set (or VCR). The RF modulator's default setting, channel 21, can easily be changed via an on-screen menu to any channel in the range 21-69. Alternatively the scart cable can be used. The box doesn't have to be connected to a telephone line and there is no cost penalty, as with SkyDigital, for not doing so.

The Smartcard is then inserted, and search tuning is initiated using the on-screen menu system. All available channels will be automatically stored by the receiver. According to the manual this can take up to twenty minutes, but I found that the box completed the task in less than five minutes. All available channels are listed, but you need to telephone ONdigital to authorise reception of premium channels.

While I was talking to the ONdigital operator I was asked to go to the receiver's settings menu and read out the software version number. I was then told that an over-the-air software update was required. This took about a quarter of an hour, with the STB set to the Cartoon Network channel. Top marks to the ONdigital operator for providing clear and concise instructions, but consumers may be troubled by the need for an update with a new product straight out of the box.

I was now set up. What could I receive?

### Location is Everything

My location is about twenty miles from the Mendip transmitter, slightly farther from Wenvoe. The signals arrive at right angles. Analogue reception from the two transmitters, using two aerials and a diplexer, is excellent – though the diplexer removes Ch5 from Mendip. Because of this I currently use only a group C/D Mendip aerial, which is installed in the loft. This is not ideal – engineers always sort out their own systems last – but provides excellent analogue pictures. Anyway, a digital search using this arrangement revealed 25 channels from Mendip plus another six from Wenvoe. This surprised me: the analogue channels from Wenvoe are, without a diplexer, unwatchable because of multipath distortion.

As a further test I popped a mile down the road and tried the 'add channels' feature with a dual-aerial installation. This brought in another five channels from Wenvoe. The problem with using a diplexer is that some of the digital channels are filtered out because they are outside the band originally agreed for the local transmissions. Customers who receive signals for two ITV regions may thus have to trade off one of the regions for the DTT channels.

Table 2 lists the main broadcast channels available at my location. It illustrates the problem. Most of the digital multiplexes from Mendip are close to analogue channels, so a group C/D aerial should cover them. With

**Table 2: Main channels available at the test location.**

<i>Channel</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Transmitter</i>	<i>ERP</i>
30	Mux 1	Wenvoe	10kW
34	Mux 2	Wenvoe	4kW
37	Ch5	Mendip	127kW
41	HTV Wales	Wenvoe	500kW
44	BBC1 Wales	Wenvoe	500kW
47	S4C	Wenvoe	500kW
48	Mux D	Mendip	0.25kW
51	BBC2 Wales	Wenvoe	500kW
52	Mux C	Mendip	0.25kW
54	Ch4	Mendip	500kW
55	Mux 2	Mendip	3kW
56	Mux A	Wenvoe	6kW
58	BBC1 West	Mendip	500kW
59	Mux 1	Mendip	3kW
61	HTV West	Mendip	500kW
62	Mux A	Mendip	3kW
64	BBC2 West	Mendip	500kW
65	Mux B	Mendip	3kW
67	Mux B	Wenvoe	10kW

Wenvoe reception, the four available digital multiplexes are scattered across the UHF band, so a group W instead of a group B aerial is required.

The set-up menu includes a signal-strength meter to aid tuning. It provides an indication of signal 'quality' by means of a coloured bar-graph display, with a signal-strength indicator of 0 to 4. In practice I found that all signals produced a 'good' indication. This may not be as pointless as it sounds: with digital TV you either have a signal or you don't. The meter proved to be useful when it came to optimising the aerial direction for reception of the weaker multiplexes. The maximum reading corresponded with the correct direction, confirmed with an analogue signal meter. But I never obtained a reading of better than 2.5 from a possible 4, even with the most 'powerful' multiplexes.

For one more test I set up the receiver in Corley, near Coventry. There are good analogue signals available here from Sutton Coldfield and a few weaker ones from places such as Sandy Heath. At last I could receive the full 36 digital channels, all from Sutton Coldfield.

This highlights a major problem: not all channels are available at all locations apparently served by DTT. In the case of Mendip, there are six digital multiplexes. But while four are transmitted at 3kW, the other two are transmitted at only 250W. Thus 'fringe' area locations may not receive all the multiplexes. At first I thought

**Table 1: Digital terrestrial TV multiplexes.**

<i>Multiplex</i>	<i>Operator</i>	<i>Programme channels</i>
1	BBC	BBC1, BBC2, BBC Choice, BBC News 24, BBC Text, BBC Parliament (audio only)
2	Ch3/4	ITV, ITV2, Ch4, FilmFour, Teletext
A	SDN	Ch5, S4C, regional Welsh/Gaelic channels*, SDN test signals
B	ONdigital	Sky One, Sky Premiere, Sky Sports 1, Cartoon Network, Carlton Cinema, British Eurosport
C	ONdigital	Granada+, Shop!, UK Gold, MTV*, First ONdigital, Sky Sports 3, Sky MovieMax
D	ONdigital	UK Play, UK Style/Horizons, Carlton Kids/World, Carlton Food Network/Select, Granada Breeze/Men and Motors, Games channel

\* Not yet on air.



**The Pace ONdigital set-top box.**

that the lower-powered multiplexes from Mendip were not in operation (ONdigital couldn't confirm), but playing about with a large aerial at an upstairs window proved that they were there.

In the case of Wenvoe, because of the multitude of local relay stations in the Welsh valleys there are insufficient free channels available to accommodate all six digital multiplexes.

To be fair, ONdigital says that it does not recommend that dealers sell receiving equipment in such areas at present. Yet most dealers in South Wales display equipment, and many use a promotional ONdigital DVD to 'simulate' reception! It's hard to believe that more channels will become available in the near future.

### Channel Allocations

The set-top box's search mode automatically stores TV channels at preset programme numbers, though you have the option to change them. For example BBC1 is always programme 1, ITV2 programme 6, etc. Programme numbers up to 20 seem to be reserved for BBC/ITV/SDN channels in the local and a second region. Sky/Granada channels start at programme number 21, FilmFour is programme 41 and so on. There are some exceptions to this, and you can use the add-channels feature. But as the numbers are basically fixed, you find that there are some gaps in the table of programme numbers. As the channel up/down function skips empty channels, there's no need to alter the default channel allocations.

Programme 45 is reserved for the Games channel. When this is selected, the message "Your games are loading, please wait . . ." appears. Press the yellow key and the current game choices are displayed. At present two simple games are available, a memory game and a 'tic tac toe' type game.

Programmes 800-804 currently carry test transmissions for SDN (S4C Digital Networks). These sometimes appear to be at a lower data rate than other channels. It's then very easy to see digital processing anomalies. ONdigital says that this service will in future carry regional-language programmes.

### User Interface

The receiver has an on/off button and seven other function keys. But it will almost always be operated using the remote control handset and the on-screen menu system. Unlike SkyDigital, different ONdigital receiver brands have different remote control handsets, the quality of which may influence the customer's choice of receiver. The handset that comes with the Pace receiver is well sized and balanced.

In standby the receiver's LED display shows the time in the 24-hour clock mode. When the standby/on button

is pressed, the receiver powers up with the last channel viewed, the display changing to this number. This is as one would expect. But switching on by pressing any number button also selects the last channel, not the number pressed. Is this a bug or a feature?

To change channel you can either press the relevant channel number or press the remote control unit's *select* button, which produces an on-screen menu that shows the six nearest channels numerically. Press the cursor up/down buttons and the cursor focus moves up or down the programme menu. When the cursor arrives at the required programme, a quick press on select produces that programme.

One inconsistency is that the menu lists the programme numbers in descending order. You therefore have to press the down cursor to move up in programme number. If you use the programme up/down buttons instead, up really means up. This could be confusing. It is not possible to use the channel up/down buttons to change channels while any on-screen menu is being displayed. The menus must first be cleared, using the *exit* key. I would have preferred the menus to self-clear and the channel to change on command.

When the *info* button is pressed, details of the current and the next feature on the selected channel appear, overlaid as text in the bottom quarter of the screen. In this mode, pressing the up/down cursor keys displays the programmes on other channels: pressing select takes you to the selected channel. I found this feature useful, as it is easy to check what's on other channels without actually changing channel.

The *wide* button changes the display between the standard and widescreen modes, if available, and depends on the TV type selected in the viewing-preferences menu. This is a useful feature for standard-screen owners who want to see uncropped pictures, though the display always reverts to standard when the channel is changed. I noticed that some broadcasters occasionally transmit a standard-mode programme with the widescreen flag set. The result is a picture with a border all round when you select widescreen with a standard-screen TV set!

The *text* and *guide* buttons don't function at present, and the two text channels are blank. High-resolution graphics and a picture-in-picture style dual display that will integrate the text with the appropriate TV channel are promised.

The *menu* button gives you the set-up menu, which has seven sub-menus. These enable you to preset up to eight VCR event timers; select favourite channels; set the parental lock code and locked channels list; adjust the decoder box, TV set and internal modem settings; tune in channels; check for messages, check signal strength and display software versions. You can also select English, Welsh or Gaelic subtitles (when available), or enhanced subtitles (including sound-effect descriptions) for those with impaired hearing. I found it a little inconvenient to have to go back to the menu system to select subtitles: having three children, I am used to going to terrestrial teletext's favourite-page function to get me instantly to page 888 whenever the kids' volume exceeds that of the TV set!

It's also possible to choose to update the box's software over the air, though I wouldn't recommend this unless you are instructed to do so during installation. The reason is as follows: without an ONdigital operator to 'hit' (their term) your receiver with the update, a self-initiated search will render the box inoperable for about an hour. Pulling out the mains plug does not end the search.

## Interference

Interference is often mentioned in connection with DTT reception. I saw no evidence of interference to any off-air channel, though I've recently experienced some interference – even before I obtained my ONdigital box – with the RF outputs from VCRs and satellite receivers. This is probably because the RF modulators are tuned to channels that now carry DTT multiplexes.

The problem is that a DTT channel appears to be blank to an analogue tuner but, when a VCR's output occupies the same or an adjacent channel, the DTT signal causes interference to the generally higher-level analogue signal. As I feed the outputs from two satellite receivers around the house, I had to sit down with a chart of all the frequencies and cross off all the unavailable channels. When you add up all the analogue TV, DTT, local relay and out-of-region channels you will be surprised how little of the spectrum is left.

## Conclusions

I was pleasantly surprised with the features of the box and the quality of reception. The few remaining operational bugs can theoretically be fixed by over-the-air software updates. It does however seem that in many cases an improved aerial installation will be required.

The current choice of channels is somewhat limited at 36, compared to SkyDigital's 140 or even Astra 1's 64. For many viewers however more choice doesn't necessarily mean better quality.

Prior to viewing ONdigital I had a rather biased view of digital TV, based in part on the poor picture quality

produced by early examples of TV chassis that used digital signal processing, and not helped by the likes of CDi and Video CDs that used MPEG-1. In general however I am impressed by ONdigital: the pictures are sharp and are free from chroma noise and multipath-related problems. The bandwidth of the video signal is slightly less than that of a good analogue signal – confirmed by switching from one to the other – but this is acceptable, particularly as the result is a cleaner, lower-noise picture. When I compared an ONdigital channel with the same channel via analogue satellite transmission, the latter's grain and line-tilt because of the VideoCrypt process were immediately apparent.

Less impressive is the quality of programmes when the source material is poor. Some of the live European football on British Eurosport is appalling, with ragged contouring and blocking. Because of noise, 'macro cells' appear on large areas of grass. These are blocks of pixels that occur when the picture's bit-rate requirement exceeds the channel capacity. With a very noisy picture, the digital compression views the noise as high-frequency picture information. Hence the HF roll-off normally applied.

A few digital 'effects' occasionally appear – particularly on cross-fades and stop/start motion. But in my opinion these are insignificant compared to those you regularly see with normal, digitally-processed 'analogue' TV signals. MPEG-type compression effects are beginning to be seen with news feeds, commercials etc. even on ordinary terrestrial TV. This makes a true comparison between analogue and digital TV increasingly difficult.

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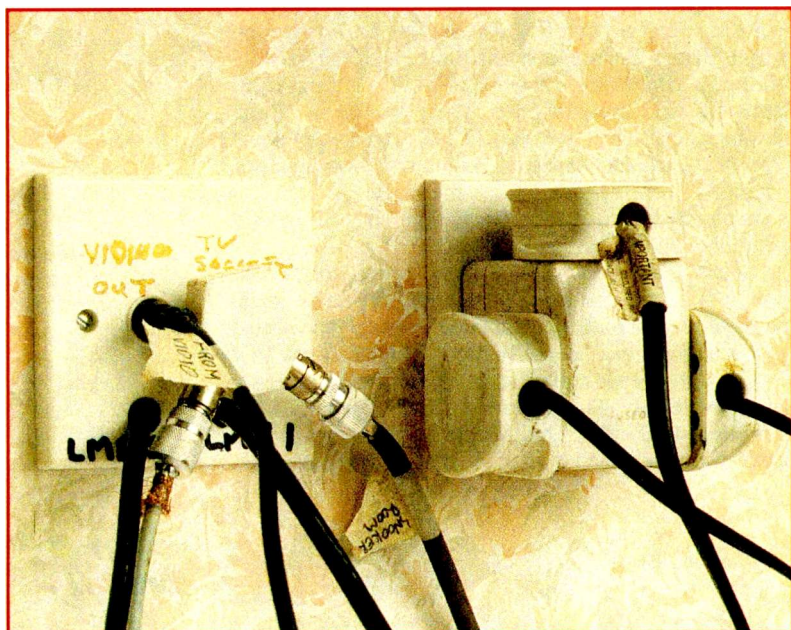
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# Multiple Outlet Wallplates



**Photo 1 (top of page): An example of the untidy and inefficient coaxial cable connections found behind many TV sets.**

**M**ost houses built during the past twenty-five years have an aerial cable built into the wall. The length of coax usually runs from an outlet plate in one corner of the living room up to the loft. But what seemed like a fine, futuristic innovation in 1974 is woefully inadequate in 1999.

You often find an unholy mess behind a TV set, with the builder's original wallplate in use and various other cables coming through the wall, along the floor or even through the corner of the nearest window frame. There may be in-line splitters, games switches and suchlike. Photo 1 shows an example. Customers quite often ask whether anything can be done to tidy things up. That's their way of looking at the problem: you appreciate that a jumble of cheap flyleads and loose-fitting, unscreened outlets could seriously affect reception quality.

Let's assume that you rip out all this rubbish and bring new cables in, nice and neat, through the rear of the original backbox. You need a tidy means of terminating this unruly hank of cables, otherwise the result will still be a rat's nest. What's needed is a five- or six-way coaxial socket built on to a standard domestic wallplate. Full screening is essential, to prevent crosstalk between the different coaxial feeds and leakage to and from the outside world. We'll go into this in greater detail in Part 2 next month: it's becoming more and more important.

But as far as I know there's no suitable outlet plate on the market. As the problem came up so often, I had to find a DIY solution. Before I get on to that, let's consider the size of the problem, both now and in the future. Just how many coaxial cables could be required?

**With the increasing complexity of many domestic TV installations, there is need for a neat, tidy multipole coaxial wallplate with good electrical performance. Finding nothing suitable on the market, Bill Wright came up with this DIY solution**

## Cable count

Take a very common type of domestic set-up. A TV set, VCR and satellite receiver sit in the corner of the living room. The VCR and satellite receiver outputs are fed to the main TV set and to various other rooms. If the satellite and VCR outputs are added to the off-air UHF signals in the correct way, using channel-pass filters rather than simply being daisy-chained, the cable tally is likely to be as follows:

- (1) Aerial for the TV set.
- (2) Aerial for the VCR (carries all UHF signals except the VCR's output).
- (3) Satellite dish cable.
- (4) VCR output to the distribution system.
- (5) Satellite receiver output to the distribution system.

Other possible cables, required now or before long, are:

- (1) A second dish cable, usually for Eutelsat at 13°E.
- (2) A third dish cable, usually for a specific group of ethnic channels.
- (3) An unfiltered feed from a wideband aerial to an ONdigital box.
- (4) Output from the ONdigital box to the distribution system.
- (5) A SkyDigital dish cable, which may be an addition as many people may retain their old analogue satellite TV equipment despite Sky's efforts to persuade them otherwise.



- (6) A VHF-FM radio aerial download.
- (7) A DAB (digital audio broadcasting) aerial download.
- (8) A surveillance camera cable.

**Practicalities**

For years I simply drilled holes in a blank plate, one for each cable. This was OK technically, but there were obvious visual and other disadvantages. So I started to fit up to eight F-type line couplers to each plate. The result: a nice, tidy, multiway outlet, with no possibility for crosstalk, impedance mismatching or excessive through loss. Rear connections are via ordinary F plugs.

At first I made these plates up as they were needed, usually at the last minute. This was a bit of a chore, so I was pleased when my son Paul turned to mass production! Marking out was the worst part of the job: he now has a simple device that makes this unnecessary and allows four plates to be drilled at the same time, with great accuracy – see Photo 2. We keep a stock of two-, four- and six-way plates, see Photo 3. It's a good idea to reuse the original packaging, as the plates can easily mark each other in transit.

Blank plates are available at 25p each. But they shatter when drilled. We've settled on the Contactum 1017 one-gang moulded plate. It's not cheap, but it's very strong and good looking.

If you want to make outlets in this way you can use a normal HSS drill. But don't apply too much pressure. Each hole should take about 15 seconds to drill at 900 RPM. Any quicker and you might splinter the face. A 3/8in. drill is slightly to big but will serve. A 9.3mm drill (RS 513-483) or a 23/64in. drill (RS 202-8432) is perfect. A drill stand makes the job a lot easier.

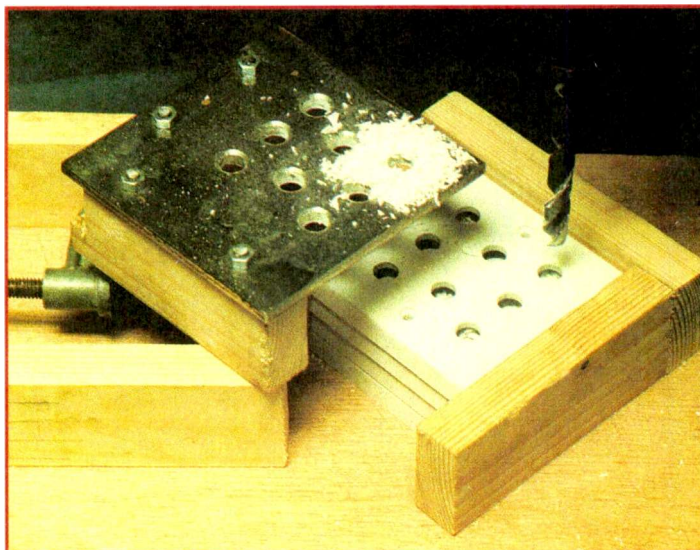
When the connectors are fitted the nuts should be a really tight fit: don't worry, the plate will not crack. A nut-spinner and a ring spanner used in opposition seem to work best. I don't know the precisely-correct size, but 7/16in. AF or 11mm both fit.

Once installed a plate looks quite impressive, see Photo 4, and I have no difficulty in itemising it on the invoice at a price that well rewards our time and trouble! Now that we've got our act together and can make the plates without too much trouble they've become an absolute boon. I use about five a week, and wonder how I ever managed without them.

Posh people with brass mains fittings will naturally require a matching brass TV outlet. Suitable blanks are available. Find out the make and pattern by looking at the back of a mains socket or light switch. The same applies with brushed, stainless fittings. These two types both scratch very easily, so use masking tape to protect the surface when drilling. These are one-off items of course, so the posh customer will appreciate that they are very, very expensive!

**F-type Connectors**

The choice of connector was dictated by the need for full screening and by space constraints. Our old friend the Belling-Lee is of course the UK standard for aerial connections. But try to fit six fully-screened Belling sockets on to a single blank plate and you'll see why we settled on the F type, which also has the great advantage that the plug screws firmly on to the socket instead of just pushing into it. The F type originated in the USA as a CCTV connector. I recall how sceptical we were when we first saw it: the use of the cable inner conductor as the centre pin caused raised eyebrows, but the expected



*Photo 2: Steel template used to drill the plates. Part of an old G clamp is used to hold four plates and the template firmly in position.*

problems don't seem to have materialised. Flyleads with moulded F plugs are readily available, though I usually make up my own using CT100 cable.

When buying F-type line couplers, which are also called line connectors, through connectors, plug-to-plug connectors, female-to-female adaptors etc., make sure that they are supplied with the nut and washer. Some are but some aren't. The CPC item SECON2 is suitable, and also cheap at 19p.

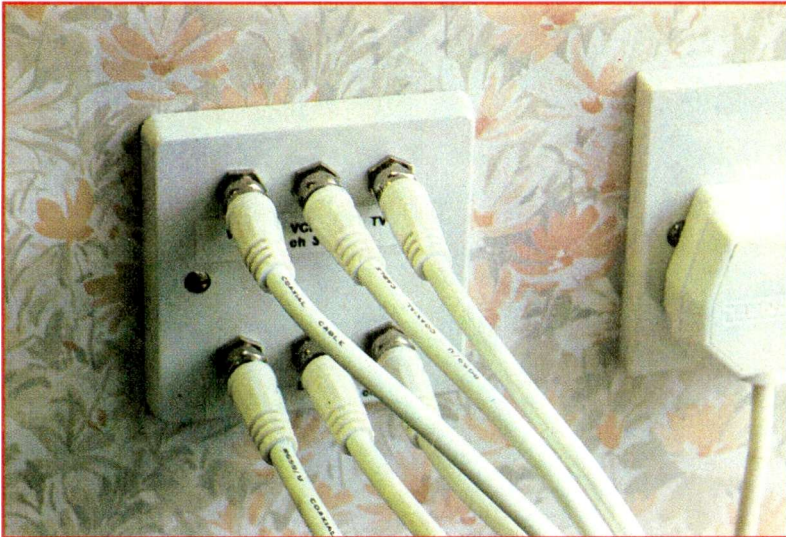
**Cable Routes**

It's usually easy enough to get the cables into the room from their various sources. The 'TV corner' of most living rooms has at least one external wall, so it's no problem to remove the existing single outlet from the wall, bash out one of the knock-outs from the rear of the back-box (the steel box set into the wall) and drill straight through the wall to the outside. Be careful not to shell off the face of a brick at the front of a house, and use plenty of silicone sealant to weatherproof the hole once the cables have been fitted.

If possible, find a reasonably camouflaged cable route up to the loft. It's often convenient to hide the cables behind a fallpipe. By the way, the use of individual cable clips on an outside wall for several parallel cables looks awful: use push-in cable-tie holders and secure everything in one neat bunch. Even when the 'TV corner' is not on an outside wall, a bit of scabbling about

*Photo 3: The finished product.*





**Photo 4: An installed six-way plate. The fly-leads have moulded plugs.**

under the floor will usually get the cables through.

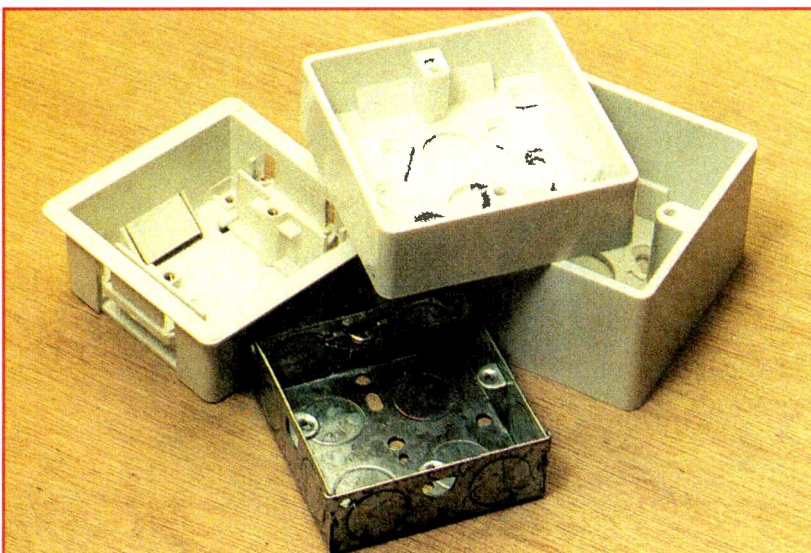
### Behind the Wallplate

Each coupler has an F plug screwed to its rear, so a reasonable amount of clearance is necessary. A standard backbox provides about 30mm of depth, which is just enough for a four-way plate. The cables should be just long enough to allow plug fitting, or they won't push back easily into the box. Try not to kink them. When a shallow backbox has been fitted, it might be possible to use right-angle crimp-type F plugs, but often the only answer is to replace the box with a standard one. With care this can be done without disturbing the plaster or wall finish. Use a drill, then a cold chisel, to deepen the hole.

If the wall is faced with plasterboard, with a space behind it, the backbox will be of the 'dry liner' type. These fix into the plasterboard using side lugs, and can have part of their rear wall removed, if necessary, to accommodate cables and plugs.

It will be necessary to fit a patress if there is no suitable backbox. This white, plastic box screws on to the wall surface: the outlet plate fits on to the patress. This is undoubtedly the easiest way to fit a multiple TV wallplate. The only disadvantage is that it's not as neat as a flush fitting, but the finished job will still usually be a great deal better than what went before. The very deep patresses made for cooker switches (Contactum 1055) are ideal. I wouldn't advocate fitting one of these in the

**Photo 5: A dry liner box, two patresses of different depths and a standard steel backbox.**



centre of the living room wall, but it is usually acceptable in the corner behind the TV set. Photo 5 shows various mounting boxes.

The local electrical wholesaler is the place to buy blank plates, patresses, backboxes and so on. Don't go to the DIY megastore for these items – unless you want to pay three times the proper price.

### Labels

The electronic labelling machines now available make this part of the job a doddle. Nice, neat plastic labels at the press of a button! When I first got mine I was so pleased I used it to write to our Carolyn at university: the letter was eleven feet long!

When the lady of the house decides to rearrange the living room furniture, probably on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m., she will blithely unplug all the cables behind the TV set. This will lead to annoying phone calls. If every socket has been labelled there is some chance that the problem can be dealt with over the phone. If not, and you have to make a visit, you can put things right very easily. Because all the sockets are labelled and any child could have reconnected everything correctly, the customer will be too embarrassed to balk at the cost of the call-out. You might even get a mince pie, but I doubt it.

It's worth including on the labels the output channel of the VCR, satellite receiver and any other set-top box that feeds the distribution system. These signals should be fed via channel-pass filters before being added to the off-air signals, so when the customer attempts to install a new VCR or whatever it is unlikely that he will succeed. The result will be a call-out, when the channel number on the label in the living room will save a trip to the loft to look at the label on the filter.

### Installation Standards

The aerial and satellite installation trade now needs to work to higher standards than ever before. In the world of large-scale contract rigging however this is often outside the control of the actual installer. Technical standards are often the last consideration here, and those readers who install aerials and satellite dishes on a contract basis will no doubt be reading this article with a wry smile. When you are obliged to complete ten to fifteen installations a day, there isn't even time to drink the infrequently proffered cup of tea, never mind fit fancy outlet plates! Don't worry, I know all about it.

I spent twenty years working like that. As well as earning a lot of money, I developed knee, elbow and back problems that have proved to be much longer-lasting than the cash. For those of you trapped on this particular treadmill, I have the greatest sympathy and can understand how irrelevant this article must seem.

I am now able to work at my own pace, and it's very gratifying to find that a significant number of customers appreciate the finer points of the job and are prepared to pay accordingly. As the volume of domestic aerial work decreases year by year, it seems to me that a survival scheme for the competent, self-employed contractor is to cultivate the top end of the market. Go for the big jobs. If someone else has made an almighty mess, so much the better. Keep to the highest possible installation standards, explain exactly what you are doing and why, don't smoke in the house – and look forward to the recommendations.

In Part 2 next month we'll consider the importance of screening, including various satellite TV interference problems.

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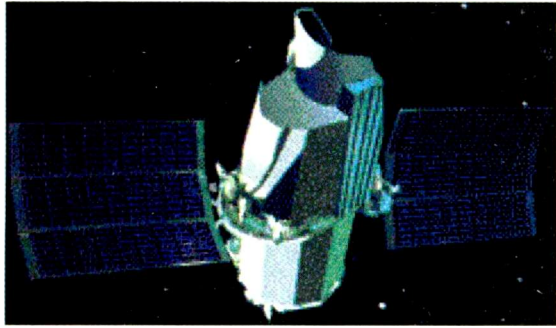
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# DX and

# Satellite Reception

**Terrestrial DX and satellite TV reception. News from abroad and about satellite developments. A note on DAB. How to go about digital satellite DXing. Roger Bunney reports**

**T**here were several shortish-duration Sporadic E openings during April – on the 5th (chs. E3 and 4), and on the 11th, 19th and 25th (ch. E3 in each case). As I write this during the late afternoon of May 2nd there is slight SpE activity on ch. E4. This has all been programme reception, and thus unidentified. By the time you read this, let's hope there will be excellent SpE reception throughout Band I!

The tropospherics also show signs of activity. At the time of writing, conditions are ideal for tropospheric reception, with a high-pressure system settling over Europe and the UK, relatively high temperatures, clear skies, nominal winds – and co-channel patterning on the local UHF channels!

I have made some alterations to my aerial arrangements. Crossed dipoles, phased together and mounted at 35ft, are now used for Band I. The rotating mast now car-

ries a Triax Unix 100W wideband UHF aerial plus CM7271 preamplifier, with CT100 cable for the download. The system works well, though I feel that the quality of commercial domestic aerials is not what it was. Earlier Fuba and Triax aerials were relatively substantial: in comparison, the present Unix 100 feels fragile and lightweight.

A letter from Garry Smith (Derby) comments on unlisted relay stations. Apparently a temporary relay was in operation at Middleton, north of Manchester, in early March. Channels 22, 28, 31 and 35 were used for BBC1, BBC2, Granada and Channel 4 respectively, with the ERP about 20W. He mentions that LTV (Lithuania) is using a new corner logo – a golden pyramid with a blue square to the right-hand side.

## Satellite Sightings

April was a productive and varied month for satellite reception. The Balkans conflict dominated many logs: as mentioned last month, all reception is digital. The majority of the news feeds are carried by Eutelsat II F3 at 36°E, but there have also been feeds via Kopernikus-2 at 28.5°E and Eutelsat W2 at 16°E. The Serb version of events can be monitored via the RTS-SAT TV channel, which comes from Belgrade via Eutelsat II F2 at 10°E: the frequency is 11.596GHz, with horizontal polarisation. Sislink has at least four trucks in the area, UK127, UK130, UK1303 and UK1418. The SIS/ITN uplink is thought to be a transportable terminal. It operates at

11.080GHz with horizontal polarisation, using the common 5,632 SR and 3/4 FEC parameters. This frequency is shared with the UK-based SIS-05 UK130, which has been covering refugee arrival at Yeadon (Leeds-Bradford) airport. I've noticed that the SIS-28 link (UK1303, 11.064GHz H), which carries the Reuters Albania service, is flagged up as "Encoder Event name not applicable" whatever that means.

Remember the American Forces medical programme *Counter Terrorism* that was aired in clear analogue form via Intelsat K over several evenings late last year? A further *Counter Terrorism* was aired over two nights on April 21st/22nd, via Eutelsat 36°E at 11.010GHz H, using the same format: discussions and demonstrations of medical problems, mainly involving gas and germ warfare. During the programme there was an admission that large stocks of mustard and nerve gas agents are held in various US stores.

The GMTV live Breakfast TV inserts via 36°E have all but disappeared in recent weeks, though SIS-4 produced a live analogue insert from Leeds town centre on April 26th at 0730 – frequency 11.632GHz, H. The Malaysian Grand Prix (motorcycles) was carried as a clear analogue transmission from 36°E on the 18th, via the Belgacom transponder, interspersed with the ident 'Dorna' inlaid on colour bars.

PAS-3R/6 at 43°W has been providing numerous Spanish OBs and feeds in recent months: the

*Analogue reception of Kurdish TV via Eutelsat W2 at 16°E.*



questionable 'sport' of bullfighting is a common spectacle at 12.728GHz V from around 1800 hours. The EBU New York feed is often present at 12.698GHz H.

It will be interesting to see if the EBU moves to the Eutelsat 'Atlantic Gate' at 12.5°W once this new orbital position has become established. Cyril Willis comments that the EBU still uses the Eutelsat position at 7°E (II F4/W3), with MPEG-4:2:2 which cannot be resolved by MPEG-2 DVB receivers. There are still analogue OB transmissions from this position: try 11.139 and 11.174GHz H.

An ITN uplink truck covered the Soho nail bomb explosion on April 30th, with live reports from outside University College Hospital from 2130. This digital link was via SIS using the 11.080GHz transponder at 36°E. This satellite has become a news feed hotspot.

PAS-3R/6 carried considerable analogue traffic on the 25th. There was a Spanish news feed at 12.540GHz H, while at the same frequency but with V polarisation there was TVE programming. An NTSC test card was present at 12.728GHz. At 12.756GHz H there was another test card which cut to a news package "EBU NATO 50 FIBER WASHINGTON DC" that was also captioned as "EBU News Special Events". The news related to the 50th anniversary of NATO. It was presumably carried to the uplink site via fibre-optic cable.

John Locker (Wirral) reports that Arabsat 3A is now on test: a pattern has already been seen at 11.900GHz. While checking Arabsat 2B at 30.5°E I noticed a lengthy religious feed at 4.078GHz RHC from 2030 BST. The only ident was a short Arab script with 'TV' beneath at the bottom left-hand side. Can anyone help identify the signal source?

### Terrestrial News

**UK:** The second RSL-TV station, Lanarkshire Television, opened on April 25th with transmissions from the Clock Tower at Hartwood Hospital, not the main Black Hill transmitting site as earlier thought. The channel is E67, with 10kW ERP and horizontal polarisation. The 24-hour a day service includes local news, sports and programmes of general local and national interest, including a text service. Base is the Lanarkshire Media Centre at Hartwood. My thanks to the British DX Club for this information.

The ITC has so far not offered

RSL licences that last for more than two years. LITN (the Local Independent Television Network), which represents the RSL movement, is pressing for longer-duration licences.

**Balkans:** NATO is transmitting radio and TV programming from a Lockheed EC130E aircraft flying at 6,000m. The plane carries two MW transmitters that operate at 1,003kHz and two FM transmitters that operate at 87.7MHz (South Slavic service of RFE) and 106.6MHz (The Allied Voice in Serbian). TV transmissions are on ch. E21. The 10kW MW signal, monitored at 1,000km from Belgrade, is good with no fading – the 2MW land-based 684kHz Belgrade transmissions suffer from deep fading at the same location. The NATO transmissions are heard over 1000-1400 hours GMT.

**France:** The government is expected to pass a media bill shortly that will allow the start of at least 48 digital terrestrial channels. They will be shared around the existing national TV networks. The new TF2 channel, run by TF1, will open initially via satellite/cable, then adopt DTT.

**Germany:** Two DTT multiplexes from twenty transmitters plus relays started testing in mid March in the Niedersachsen area, which includes Hanover, Bremen and Hamburg. One multiplex is operated by NDR-Hanover, with programming that includes ARD and ZDF offerings; the other, operated by Deutsche Telekom, Hanover, includes material from independent broadcasters. **Australia:** NTL has acquired over 560 transmission sites across the country for a network that includes TV, radio and mobile telecom services. Programming is to be provided by SBS, ABC and others. NTL is to play a major role in the expansion of DTT across the country.

**Ireland:** The RTE-1 ch. IB transmitter at Maghera (Gort) is apparently still on air – despite claims that it was closed down nearly two years ago!

**Digital TV:** Thailand is to launch an interactive DTT service by the end of the year – a joint venture between Broadcasting Network Thailand and the UK-based Yes Television. Japan's first DTT service is to start some time between 2000-2003. Korea has announced that DTT services will be expanded from 2001 onwards: tests start next year. Singapore is expected to announce its decision on a digital TV standard shortly.



### DAB

Only very few people are at present receiving DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting – terrestrial) transmissions. Dave Wiltshire (Hants) currently receives Band III DAB from Hannington. He hopes to expand his digital horizon, with reception from more distant sources such as Crystal Palace, by using a cut-down five-element Band III array to cover 217-230MHz. Once

**An APTN digital news feed from Skopje via Eutelsat II F3 at 36°E.**

## Aerial Techniques

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**The first BBC SNG feed from Skopje – an initial test via Eutelsat at 36°E. Frequency 11.684GHz, polarisation horizontal, SR 5,632, FEC 3/4. Photo from Hugh Cocks in Portugal.**

it becomes established, Band III DAB is likely to provide a lucrative extra for specialist Hi-Fi dealers. I hope to report more on Dave's digital experiences shortly.

### Digital DX

With digital transmissions, both satellite and terrestrial, on the increase DX enthusiasts will also have to go digital. At present, digital terrestrial TV is a rather uncertain field, because of the limited and inflexible equipment available. But digital satellite TV offers considerable scope. Many free-to-air (FTA) signals, both broadcast and news/OB feeds, can be received with a 'small' dish, i.e. less than 1.5m.

The Balkans conflict illustrates the way things are going. Almost all news feeds from the area are digital, because less bandwidth is required and lower uplink power. The latter means that a smaller dish can be used, giving greater mobility.

For the DX enthusiast it means buying a digital receiver, either an FTA type or one equipped with a CAM (Conditional Access Module) for use with encrypted signals. The existing dish and LNB will generally cope with digital signals, provided the LNB is stable. My own six-year old LNB works well. So for most of us only a new receiver will be required.

Many receivers are now available, both FTA and CAM. Unless you are interested in particular encrypted channels, which require a smart card, an FTA receiver will do. But there doesn't seem to be an ideal receiver for sat-DXing. What's required is a receiver that is quick and easy to use, able to retune to other signals with minimal complication. Unfortunately with MPEG signals you have to be able to select several parameters: in addition to the frequency and polarisation, you have to know the SR

(Symbol Rate) and FEC (Forward Error Correction) ratio. The former is typically between 3,000 and 36,000, the later is a fraction – from 1/3 to 7/8. PIDs (Programme IDentifications) are often quoted – separate numbers for audio and video – but I've never found it necessary to tap these in.

The Nokia receiver is a firm favourite, especially as those with computer skills can get software upgrades via the internet. The Humax (NI) receiver is another popular choice. I've used an RSD ODM-300 receiver over the past six months with reasonable success. With the RSD you can tune to a suspected frequency, set the SR and FEC to auto, and tap in search via the remote control unit. The receiver then hunts for signals, sorts out the SRs and FECs, and stores any channels discovered in memory. Other receivers are not so easy. But experience has shown that the RSD refuses to lock up with some signals which the Nokia receiver accepts. The Nokia receiver is more difficult to tune however. Hence no ideal receiver. You'll have to part with at least £250 or so for a receiver, up to £400 for a Nokia one.

I use an analogue receiver to find the digital signals. Many models are available. My Manhattan LT-6300 Mk II cost under £70 and is ideal – there's a similar BT-badged model. Tune to the bottom of the Ku band, select horizontal polarisation, then fast scan up, ideally while feeding an analogue TV set. When the receiver finds a signal, the scan will stop. With an analogue signal there will be a picture, with a digital signal just shash or a screen darkening. Note the frequency, then continue the upwards scan. In this way you can make a list of frequencies where something other than an analogue signal is present. Enter the frequencies into the digital receiver, set the signal parameters to auto, then search. Hopefully things will be seen.

More upmarket analogue receivers provide a Ku output (IF) for a daisy-chained slave satellite receiver: the former receiver acts as a master for polarisation, dish positioning etc. Over the past few years I've acquired several receivers – a fifteen-year old Echostar SR1000 is still in use! I feed the signal from the LNB via a Global DA (one input, eight outputs) to several receivers, with polarisation control via an outboard circuit using a modified CB power supply that

also provides the 13/18V required for the LNB.

When selecting a digital satellite receiver, ensure that it has a variable SR capability of say 2,000-40,000, FEC adjustable from 1/2 to 7/8, PID setting, numerous LNB oscillator settings, ease of tuning and ability to auto operate to seek unknown SRs and FECs. More important perhaps, ask fellow DXers for their views.

If any reader wants to send in questions about this I'll try to help. It's best to ask before parting with hard-earned cash! I'll return to the subject in later issues. Meanwhile, comments from anyone with experience of digital equipment and operation would be welcome.

### Satellite News

Eutelsat W3 is now in orbit at 7°E, the traditional EBU news distribution slot. It has 24 Ku-band transponders with a very flexible configuration. The wide beam provides coverage of Europe, the Atlantic Islands, North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia: a steerable spot beam is centred on the Aegean region, with coverage extending from central Europe to the Middle East. Transponders can be switched between beams individually. Once W3 is fully operational, Eutelsat II F4 will be moved to the 12.5° Atlantic Gate position. Eutelsat attaches great importance to this slot: a new Atlantic Bird 1 is planned for it, with twenty Ku-band transponders and beam coverage from North and South America to Europe, North Africa and parts of the Middle East.

The ITC has revoked MED-TV's licence because of "incitement to violence": it was a Kurdish TV channel based in London but uplinked from Belgium. KTV transmissions continue from 16°E.

Teleport London International has been bought out by Kingston Communications, an expanding satellite media group with interests in satellite communications, video/TV facilities and broadcast systems.

It seems that PanAmSat may adopt a different digital standard with an FEC ratio of 7/8 instead of the usual 3/4. This calls for a higher threshold point and a larger dish to provide sufficient signal. A high FEC ratio means more data and less protection.

The Irish sports channel Setanta is now being transmitted via the Intelsat/New Skies 603/K satellite (21.5°W) at 11.609GHz V – digital of course!

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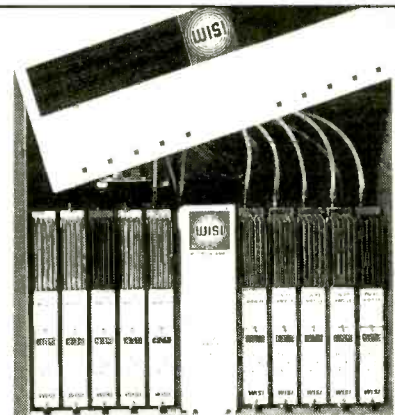
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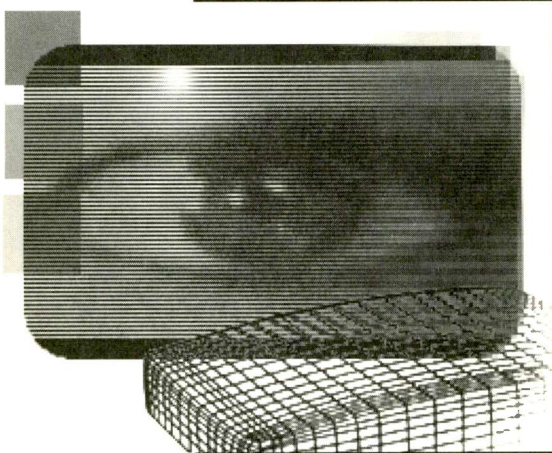
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**Reports from  
Ian Field and  
Philip Blundell, AMIIElec**

#### **Acer JD144F**

There was no fault information other than 'dead'. So an inspection was carried out before power was applied. The solder was a bit thin all round: it was worst in the mains input and bridge rectifier area! The posistor in this particular version had a different brand mark to the usual one. The mains fuse was intact, and a general resolder restored normal operation. After a full-spec soak test it was returned to the customer – and hasn't bounced! **I.F.**

#### **IBM6314-002**

"Smoke then phut" it said on the fault ticket. Q804/5/6 (2SK1350) on the subpanel next to the scan plug were short-circuit, and two of the pins that connect the subpanel to the main PCB were dry-jointed and had arced and burnt away the copper track. The 2SK1350 has an impressive specification for an insulated TO220 encapsulated MOSFET: 15A, 200V, 45W. The only device I had to hand with an equal or better specification was the metal-tab TO220 IRF640 (note that the IRF640 has only half the current capability and a third of the wattage rating of the IRF640). Great care is required when using a conventional TO220 device plus insulating kit, as the heatsink has die-stamped locating spigots that can damage a separate insulator.

As the arcing hadn't caused any other damage, the heat-damaged subpanel connector was bypassed – a pair of soldered-in wires were

# Monitors

used to replace the two burnt pins. The manufacturer had very thoughtfully provided a hole in the PCB next to the subpanel. The flying leads can be passed through this. **I.F.**

#### **AST Vision 7N (KD1711)**

This budget 17in. monitor is easy to work on. The ticket said "bang with flash inside when switched on, now dead". An easy one: the fuse had blown because of failure of the 14ML degaussing posistor.

On inspection the soldering was found to be fine, but I was astonished to see that no heatsink compound whatsoever had been applied to the chopper MOSFET in the power supply. It has an ISO-TO220 plastic case which is bolted directly to an unmachined (rough as extruded) heatsink, with no silicone rubber insulator to improve the contact. Although there was no evidence that the MOSFET had suffered from heat stress, I decided to add some heatsink compound to ensure that it stayed this way. **I.F.**

#### **ICL 15502-002**

There was an EW fault with this basic VGA monitor. EW correction is carried out using a transductor rather than the more common EW diode bridge arrangement. I started by looking for signs of trouble, such as distressed components. The horizontal shift control R415 (500Ω WW preset) was badly heat damaged, and the plastic sleeve on C313 (3.3μF, 160V) had shrivelled up. So work began with replacement of these items.

As this didn't cure the fault attention was turned to preset R327, which varies the amplitude of the vertical parabola fed to Q302 (2SC1815), and Q303 (2SA966) whose collector drives the transductor (T402). Adjustment of R327 had no effect whatsoever, but the amplifier circuit checked out OK. A replacement transductor made no difference either. So I decided to check the various tuning and cou-

pling capacitors in the line output stage.

C412 (0.022μF, 250V p-p) had been cooked by R415: replacement produced a very slight improvement in the effect when R327 was varied. C419 (7.2nF, 800V) looked as if it had a boil. This capacitor and the one in series with it, C418 (0.01μF, 800V), were replaced along with C420 (another 7.2nF, 800V capacitor). None of this made any difference. But when C425 (0.22μF, 250V) and C426 (0.16μF, 250) were checked C425 was found to be open-circuit. Once this capacitor had been replaced there was full control of the EW correction.

The problem with another of these monitors was vertical ripple at the left-hand side of the screen. Easy, this one: C993 (10μF, 250V) on the CRT base panel was no longer smoothing the 115V supply to the RGB output stages. **I.F.**

#### **Gateway 2000 Crystalscan CS1572FS**

The label said "intermittent dull or blank screen". As movement of the CRT base assembly brought the picture back, a dry-jointed heater pin was suspected. But they were OK. I then noticed that the CRT's pins had a heavy blue-oxide scale. When this had been cleaned off there was a much improved picture, but signs of glazed cathodes were present. To ensure that the heater supply smoothing was up to par, C332 (1,000μF, 10V) and C734 (47μF, 16V) were both replaced. The heater supply is negative with respect to chassis, so the positive side of these capacitors goes to the main chassis line. Heavy flux deposits had to be removed before the soldering on the main PCB could be examined – it did need attention! **I.F.**

#### **IBM 6322-002**

"Flashes green" was the complaint with this monitor. The CRT base pins were almost detached from the PCB, and the three output transis-



tors also needed fresh solder. The unbalanced CRT drive had left its mark on the grey scale.

When I moved the monitor to get at the presets, the screen began to flash, flicker and generally misbehave. As the poor soldering on the CRT base panel had been dealt with, the main PCB was lifted out of the chassis. It would be quicker to list the parts that didn't need resoldering! Most of the DIL chips and the passive components were OK. Everything else had to be resoldered – some components could have been pulled off the PCB with little effort.

When this job had been completed the screen was much too bright. The A1/G2 preset had to be adjusted (the factory default button on the front panel had been checked to make sure that the excessive setting had not been caused by user interference). **I.F.**

### Samsung CVM4967T

The mains fuse had blown. After thorough check on everything on the primary side of the power supply, including the rectifier and the mains filter components, I decided that the degaussing posistor must have been the cause. It looked all right, but a replacement cured the fault. **I.F.**

### Dell 1428HS

The display was narrow with vertical bands. I found that the two series-connected diodes D301/2,

which form the efficiency diode, were dry-jointed. When they had been checked and resoldered there were no vertical bands but the display was still narrow. Further tests revealed that R368, which is in series with the emitter of Q355, was open-circuit. It was sufficiently heat discoloured for there to be some doubt about the original band colours. The first was almost certainly brown, and the third one definitely gold. Was the middle one originally black? Q355 was undamaged, but the smaller driver transistor Q354 (2SB647) was short-circuit all ways. Since the main effect of R368's value is to alter the width adjustment range, which was about right with a 1Ω resistor fitted, I assume that the middle band was originally black. **I.F.**

### Radius PCD/20V

There were purity errors with one of these Apple monitors. The cause was obvious and simple: the main degaussing posistor (there are two) had failed. Once a replacement of the same type had been fitted, there was a perfect picture on the third start-up from cold.

Neither I nor the trader who passed this repair on has an Apple test machine. You can run this monitor from a PC by using a switchable 15-to-15 pin subminiature adaptor set to 1,152 x 870. The adaptor is actually designed to work the other way round, so that a VGA monitor can be used with an Apple

computer. This trick worked because the monitor can accept separate line and frame sync inputs. Some Apple video modes provide only a composite sync output, and some Apple compatible monitors will work only with composite sync.

The monitor concerned had a note on the fault label about a problem with saving front-panel settings. I found that the following method worked. Use the up/down buttons to adjust, with the mode LED off, then press the mode button (mode LED lights). Finally press save.

Suitable 15-to-15 pin subminiature adaptors include the Mitsubishi AD-A-205 and the Unimac Fly. **I.F.**

### Dell 1528LS

The LED glowed yellow, indicating a fault condition, and there was a fast ticking. After a quick look at my notes on this model I went straight to C826 (1,000μF, 16V). This time I was wrong: the cause of the trouble was the BU2520AF line output transistor Q424, which was short-circuit.

When this happens it's wise to check the IRFS630 HT PWM controller Q802 as well. Only Q424 had failed on this occasion. **I.F.**

### IBM 6322-002

If the monitor is dead with the power supply ticking, check CR205 (BY229-600) which could well be short-circuit. **P.B.**

## Help Wanted

**Wanted:** Orega LOPT type DST88N243/478052.00 for the Toshiba 219T9B, or whole scrap set considered. Also teletext panel, working or not, for any Beko TV. Call Julian Salt on 01476 861 107.

**Wanted:** Information on the Panasonic car radio type G1/VZ505 fitted in a Daihatsu 4-track. Does anyone know how to increase its 77-89MHz FM band? Chris Plaice, 58 Lan Coed, Winch Wen, Swansea SA1 7LL. 01792 310 575.

**Wanted:** SN76730N IC for the Panasonic Model TC2031. H. Mode, 24 Steven Court, Egerton Road South, Manchester M21 0XH. 0161 862 9628.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagrams for the Cathay two-band stereo twin cassette Model SRC728Q and the Philips stereo amplifier type 70FA141/05. Loan or purchase. John Anderton, 24 Trafford Street, Preston, Lancs PR1 7XY.

**Wanted:** User manual for the Sinclair digital multimeter Model PDM35 and any information on calibrating it. P.M. Rae, 158 Blackberry Lane, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 4JJ.

**Wanted:** Good working VHF/UHF plug-in tuner for the Grundig CUC120 chassis series S820. Ron White, 29 Nunnery Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3ND.

**Wanted:** Video heads for an Amstrad VMC8 camcorder or complete unit for spares. Exchange for Sony CCD-TR8E camcorder with DC fault, including service manual, battery and charger.

Peter Mann, 22 Cresswell Drive, Cottesmore, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7DY. 0171 835 1063 evening/01572 812 354 weekend.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram (photocopy OK) for the Compaq 470 monitor. J. Dove, 9 Bernard Street, Ely, Cambs. 01353 662 298.

**Wanted:** Service manual or circuit diagram for the Telequipment S22 AC/DC portable scope. Exploded deck diagram or full service manual (must have part numbers) for the Akai VX150 VCR. Can copy and return the above. Also a LOPT (TLF70034) for the Alba Model CTV16. Contact Marcus or Matt at Marcus Jones Servicing, tel. 01978 312 784 or e-mail [marcus\\_jones@lineone.net](mailto:marcus_jones@lineone.net)

**Wanted:** Working remote control units for the Hitachi VT420E and Panasonic NVL28 VCRs, or name and address of a second-hand RC unit supplier. K. Crossley, 641 Bradford Road, Oakenshaw, Bradford BD12 7EJ. 01274 607 440.

**Wanted:** Service manual (copy OK) for the Philips VR2020 VCR. LOPT for the Huanyu Model 37C-2. LF0115 Ipsalo hybrid chip for the Salora 28M9C. C.A. Jackson, Thornbury, Sutton-on-Forest, York YO61 1EQ. 01347 810 354.

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## Answer to Test Case 439

- see page 603 -

Once the mode switch had been replaced and the presence of drive voltage at the loading motor had been confirmed, the cause of the intermittent deck fault with the Mitsubishi HSM37 VCR just had to be mechanical. And so it was.

Mitsubishi originally used a nasty black type of grease on these decks. It stains your hands and cloths, and after a few years it sets very hard. In fact with the passage of time it becomes a binder rather than a lubricant. This was the cause of the trouble: the bearing and shaft of the loading-arm gear (C-065 in the deck-2 parts diagram) were very tight, especially at the end of their travel. The same applied to loading-arm pinions C-060 and C-061. Cam plates C-064 and C-067 were also laden with hardened grease, and there was a lot more of the stuff in and around the loading-guide slots.

TechnoCrat dismantled the mechanism as necessary, thoroughly cleaned the parts, then anointed them with something supplied or approved by Mitsubishi - a clean, buttery-yellow lubricant. After that the mechanism ran very freely and sweetly.

Since this experience we've made a point of checking on the lubrication with these decks. Some of them have been near to seizure.

## NEXT MONTH IN TELEVISION

### A VCR Soak Tester

A VCR should of course be thoroughly checked before it's returned to the customer. But this takes time, and you can't keep going through the functions. Inevitably some machines will bounce. What can be done to avoid this? Ian Rees decided that the solution was automatic active soak testing. This can be arranged by using an a remote control handset which is cycled through the appropriate commands. Full details of the circuitry involved and the method of use.

### Tesco's Tellys

Hopefully you can make more from a repair than Tesco made selling them! Chris Watton describes the circuitry commonly used in these sets and the faults you are likely to encounter.

### Cable & Satellite Mediacast '99

George Cole reports on this year's cable and satellite exhibition, at which much new technology was in evidence.

### RSL Reception

Reception from an RSL TV transmitter can be rather more of a problem than normal TV reception, as Keith Cummins discovered.

### Wallplate Problems

TV wallplate outlets with poor RF characteristics are a common cause of reception difficulties. Bill Wright describes the problem and what can be done about it.

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Version 7 of the computerised Index to TELEVISION magazine covers Volumes 38 to 48 (1988-1998). It has thousands of references to TV, VCR, CD, satellite and monitor 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 quick and easy to use, and runs on any PC with Microsoft Windows or MS-DOS. Price is £35 (supplied on a 3.5" HD disc). Those with previous versions can obtain an upgraded version for £15. Please quote the serial number of the original disc. See the CD-ROM offer below.

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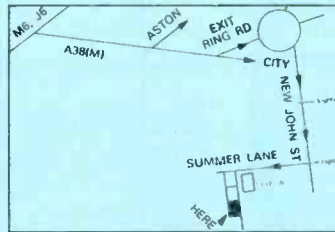
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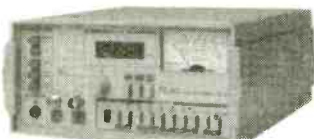
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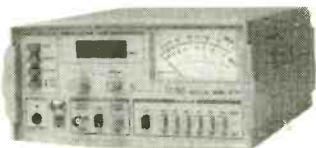
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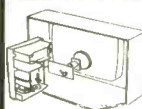
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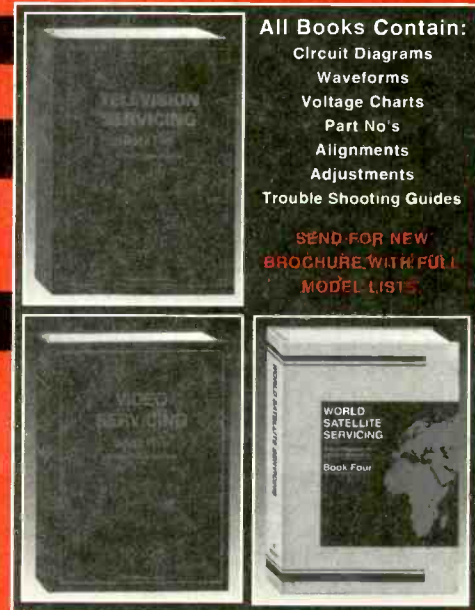
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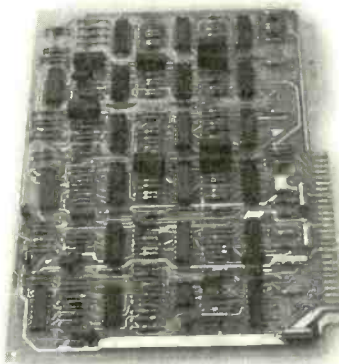
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If you're looking to play a key role in this vital area of our operations, please send your CV and salary details to: Ed Hildebrandt, Personnel Manager, Panasonic UK Ltd, Panasonic House, Willoughby Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8FP.

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# RECRUITMENT

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## TEMPO

### Bench Engineers Required

Opportunities are now available at our Tottenham Hale Service Division for, a:

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Due to continued expansion we are looking for experienced engineers to service our wide range of leading brand products.

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## Test & Service Engineers

Amongst others!

### Technical Support Technician

An Industrial measurements device manufacturer, based in Herts requires a Tech Support Technician. Applicants will be involved in build, test and test and fault find to component level. Knowledge of digital/analogue electronics is essential. Candidates must have an electronics background and be educated to HNC level. There will be opportunities to travel throughout the world.

Ref: PFEHTD/TV

### If the Phone don't work, Fix it!

A major GSM design/manufacturer based in Wiltshire requires experienced Test Technicians to join their ever expanding workforce. Applicants will be involved in all aspects of Test, Repair and modification of the latest GSM technologies. Fault finding to component and board level, test and debug of components, reconfiguration and setup of test equipment. HNC/HND or formal Electronics qualification. 3 years plus experience, any forces training or experience would aid your application.

Ref: PFIWSOM/TV

### Field Sales

An RF Telecommunications organisation based in Bucks requires an experienced Sales Executive. Responsible for selling the full range of products and services throughout the UK. Supported by the Customer Service Team. Identifying and developing new business opportunities, client liaison, provide customer feedback and services and build/maintain close customer relationships. Knowledge of the testing, regulatory and quality systems within the IT and Telecomms Sectors. You must be motivated and have the ability to negotiate at all levels. Previous sales experience is a MUST!

Ref: PFIHCF/TV

### Test/Service Engineers

An Avionic Electronic service organisation, based in Berks requires Service Technicians. Roles relate to the repair, modification to component level of Avionics equipment. Operation of a variety of test machinery for alignment and testing and rectification. Perform electrical/mechanical repair and assist in training new personnel. ONC/HNC in Electronics. Soldering and skills on SMD and multilayer boards, familiarity with test equipment and the recording of results. Knowledge of Solid State, RF/Analogue/Digital circuitry, and the ability to fault find and repair to component level. Other Locations include Chessington and other areas. URGENT.

Ref: PFERCR/TV

Contact:  
Paul Fraser



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You will need technical skills in electronic repairs with strong diagnostic techniques, with an awareness of new technology developments to provide quality repairs and keep repeat business to a minimum. Relevant experience of electronic/product repair is essential to enable you to diagnose to component level when fault finding on a wide range of products.

Ideally qualified to City & Guilds 224 or equivalent, good communication ability is important, as you will liaise with the Callcentre, Field Engineers and stores, ensuring a maximum response to the customer.

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E-mail: mark.perrier@scottishpower.plc.uk Tel: 01977 605295.

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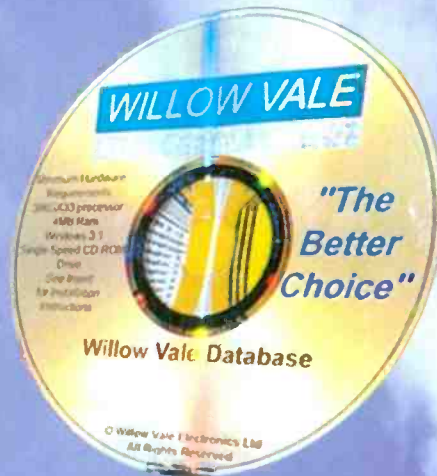


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