

# Upgrade Date Unchanged

by David Hughes

Washington DC . . . The FCC has rejected a request by the NAB to allow the FM facilities upgrade deadline to extend beyond 2 March 1987.

In 1984, in conjunction with the Docket 80-90 procedure, which created 689 FM allotments, the Commission said existing Class B and C FM stations that were not operating at maximum facilities by early 1987 would be downgraded to the classification corresponding to their

actual facilities.

However, in a petition for rule making and emergency relief filed in August 1986—less than seven months before the deadline—the NAB asked the FCC to “begin an expedited review of the matter” and issue “temporary waivers” to stations that had shown a “good faith effort” to upgrade, but had not actually done so before the end of the three-year grace period that was implemented in 1984.

The NAB argued that a plan to issue

temporary waivers would give the Commission time to further assess the need for the reclassification plan, or to extend the upgrade deadline.

### Pockets of interference

The association maintained that the FCC’s plan to reclassify FM stations would create “unprotected pockets of interference” that could “destroy service currently enjoyed by many listeners.”

Many stations face significant obstacles in their attempts to upgrade, such as

FAA regulations, local zoning restrictions, land shortages and cost, the NAB said.

According to a survey it conducted, the average Class C facility would have to spend \$567,339 to upgrade, while a Class B would have to spend an average of \$126,912.

The survey also indicated that 63% of the more than 400 responding Class C FM stations were not planning to upgrade, with 9 out of 10 of those indicating that there are obstacles preventing the upgrade, such as “expense.”

# FM Applications Backlogged

by Alex Zavistovich

Washington DC . . . Staff shortages at the FCC have compounded the number of radio filings that await processing, now a backlog of approximately 1,700 applications for new FM stations.

According to Larry Eads, chief of Audio Services for the FCC Mass Media Bureau, the slowdown in processing can be attributed in part to a recent hiring freeze at the FCC, in which 17 vacancies were not refilled.

Eads divided the application backlog into “complex cases” involving educational FMs which raise the issue of interference to TV6, with the majority of the remaining cases stemming from the July 1985 opening of a universal window and the Docket 80-90 windows.

A number of mutually exclusive applications have also been held up by the return of some applications rejected by the FCC’s so-called “hard look” processing, Eads said.

The “hard look” approach was recently adopted by the FCC to expedite the processing of FM applications, said Bob Greenberg, supervisory engineer in the FCC FM branch. The policy enumerates several critical points the FCC considers to be essential in determining whether an application is “substantially complete.”

Any application not deemed substantially complete is returned by the FCC.

Eads maintained, however, that despite the holdup of some applications, the hard look approach is aiding the processing of filings.

“There has already been a reduction in the number of applications returned,” he said.

### AM applications normal

“(AM) cases are moving along at a normal rate,” Eads said. At the end of November, 298 applications for new stations or major modifications were pending, which Eads claimed was “normal, or down a few” from past levels.

Eads stressed that there was no need to impose a freeze on further applications to alleviate the backlog.

“The FCC already has a mechanism to control the flow of applications; appli-

cants cannot file until a window is opened,” Eads said.

The FCC has a different view of “backlog” than does the public at large, Eads added.

Applications which have entered the processing system are said to be “in the pipeline,” he noted. A “normal” AM processing—an uncontested filing without mutually exclusive applications—may be acted on within five months of its receipt.

Any application which has been in the system for a year or more is considered backlog, Eads said.

### Engineers’ opinions

A number of consulting engineers who were contacted said they were concerned about the current status of radio station applications awaiting processing.

Serge Bergen, a consulting engineer from Fairfax, VA, suggested that applica-

tion backlogs were due to nonregistered engineers submitting applications. He felt that, in the future, the load could be eased by ensuring that applicants filed in good faith.

Bergen also said he was opposed to “hard look” processing. “The Commission, overwhelmed by spurious applications, went to the other extreme,” he said.

Bergen suggested that the FCC establish registration of engineers in the state in which they practice as a possible way to improve filings.

Ralph Dippell, of the Washington, DC firm Cohen and Dippell, also said that registration would ease the backlog resulting from improper filings. He suggested that requirements be set for engineers practicing before the Commission.

Charles Gallagher, an engineer based in Lanham, MD, disagreed with the idea

*(continued on page 7)*

### Argument “unconvincing”

However, in its 20 November ruling on the matter, the Commission maintained that the NAB’s argument for the delay was “unconvincing.” The FCC said it had considered all the issues that had been addressed by the NAB.

“The primary and overriding public interest goal remained allowing service in areas being encumbered by stations not built up to their full potential,” the FCC said.

While acknowledging that there were “obstacles” individual stations had to overcome, “many already have upgraded,” the Commission said, adding that many are still waiting for their upgrade applications to be processed.

“Those not upgraded continue to under-serve, or not serve, areas in which they are receiving protection from interference,” the FCC added.


The three-year upgrade period was sufficient, the Commission responded. Stations that fail to upgrade by the deadline “will continue to serve the primary audiences they had chosen to serve up to the point of the downgrade.”

The FCC’s action is detailed in Report MM-206. For more information, contact Mark Lipp at the FCC, 202-634-6530, or Margaret Davitt at the NAB, 202-429-5350.

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## Regulatory News

# Minor Xmtr Mod CP Eliminated

by David Hughes

Washington DC . . . In an order issued 29 October, the FCC approved a plan that will allow AM and FM stations to make certain "minor" electrical or mechanical modifications to their transmitters without filing for a construction permit.

According to the plan, unveiled last June, broadcasters will no longer have to file FCC Form 301 and wait for Commission approval in order to make minor modifications to their transmission equipment.

However, the plan only affects changes that do not create harmful interference.

The new rules require a broadcaster to prepare only a "brief statement or diagram" that must be retained at the transmitter site and retained for the life of the affected equipment.

Equipment performance measurements must be made before modifications, the Commission said.

Unlike the original FCC proposal of this rule change, which exempted modifications to AM stereo exciters and generators, the Commission said it will permit the changes to be made to AM stereo and monaural gear, as well as to FM and TV equipment.

The FCC, concerned about the frequency stability of AM stereo exciters and generators, originally stated that it would not extend the rule relaxation to permit modifications of AM transmitters to interconnect an AM stereo generator to a type-accepted AM transmitter.

However, in the final text, the FCC decided to extend the rule change provisions to cover AM stereo gear. After studying comments from Motorola, NBC and the NAB, the FCC said it saw "no reason to exclude from the scope of this proceeding the interconnection of type-accepted AM stereophonic exciters

to an AM transmitter."

The original plan to exclude AM stereo changes, the FCC said, would have made the new rules "more restrictive" than the old rules. The FCC added that "any electrical or mechanical modification to broadcast transmission equipment, including AM stereo exciters, will be permitted without prior Commission approval."

It said that modifications to any piece of transmission equipment, not just AM stereo generators, have the potential to create harmful interference. Therefore, the FCC said it would not be logical to prohibit AM stereo modifications that create no interference.

In related news, on 24 October the FCC said it will reinstate certain returned applications that failed to comply with requirements contained in an April 1985 public notice dealing with transmitter site maps filed with FM construction permit applications.

The Commission's 1985 public notice detailed map requirements that would "expedite the processing of FM applications" by allowing the FCC to independently verify geographic coordinates and topographic features of proposed sites.

FM broadcasters are required to submit a series of 7.5 minute US Geological Survey (USGS) topographical quadrangle maps specifying the proposed antenna and transmitter site.

The 1985 public notice required FM applicants to submit either the entire full-scale 7.5" map, or a legible photocopy, containing at least two USGS coordinate markings. The notice also said that an applicant, in place of the full-scale map, could submit a reduced topographic map "so long as it was accompanied by a full-scale copy of the section of the map containing the site."

In the notice, the FCC told applicants that failure to comply with the new requirements would "automatically result

in a return of their applications."

Although the order was published in the *Federal Register*, the specific requirements contained in the public notice were not included, the FCC said in its October update. The Commission also said that the new requirements in this "substantive change in policy" should have been included in the *Federal Register* "so that the public would have been adequately informed."

In deciding to allow the resubmission of some applications, the FCC indicated that it would only reaccept those applicants who have "preserved their rights at various levels of appeal." These will be permitted to amend their applications and to correct the transmitter site map deficiency only, the Commission maintained.

For more information on the transmitter site map issue, contact Roxanne McElvane at the FCC: 202-632-3954. For more information on the minor modifications rule for FM and AM stations, contained in docket MM 86-264, contact Michael Lewis at 202-632-9660.

## FCC Clips

### Haller Joins Private Radio

Ralph Haller, who had been deputy chief of the FCC's Policy and Rules Division, was named deputy chief of the Private Radio Bureau in early December.

Haller, who joined the Policy and Rules Division in February of 1985, previously was chief of the division's Technical and International Branch.

Before that, he was in charge of research at the FCC Office of Science and Technology laboratory in Columbia, MD, in addition to his many previous duties with the Commission.

According to the FCC, Haller has published more than 20 technical papers and reports, delivered presentations to many conventions, and represented the US in international CCIR forums during his career with the FCC.

For more information, contact the Commission's news media information office at 202-632-5050.

### "Reports" Becomes "Record"

The FCC said it has discontinued its "FCC Reports" service, replacing it with the "FCC Record."

"Whereas FCC Reports contained only unique and precedential items, the FCC Record will be a comprehensive, timely and inexpensive research tool," the FCC announced in November.

It will contain all texts that are released by the Commission's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, along with public notices, speeches and staff reports. It will also feature a table of contents and a biweekly and cumulative index.

The FCC Record will be available every two weeks through the Government Printing Office at a yearly cost of \$173.

For more information, contact Brent Weingardt at 202-632-3906.

### International Bulletin

The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) has released "OET Bulletin 66," which covers "treaties and other international agreements for telecommunication."

The document lists treaties, agreements and arrangements that relate to telecommunications, including frequency coordination and notification procedures, according to the Commission.

It also lists "agreements and arrangements relating to radio communications between amateur stations on behalf of third parties and agreements relating to reciprocal licensing of amateur stations and operators."

While supplies last, copies of the bulletin can be obtained by sending a self-addressed mailing label to Technical Information Officer, FCC, Office of Engineering and Technology, Washington DC 20554. For more information on the availability of the document, contact International Transcription Services at 202-857-3800.

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## Regulatory News

# Plan for Second FM Band Filed

by David Hughes

Hackettstown NJ . . . Radio New Jersey (RNJ), owner of an AM daytimer about 50 miles west of New York City, has asked the FCC to create a new FM broadcasting band between 225 and 230 MHz.

The new "FM2" band, as RNJ calls it, would be available primarily for "stand-alone" daytimers, according to Larry Tighe, president of RNJ, which owns WRNJ, Hackettstown, NJ, a 2.5 kW daytimer, with postsunset power levels ranging from 21 to 22.3 W.

He said the plan, which was filed with the Commission 18 November, would permit many daytimers to move to the FM2 band with fulltime operations, thereby reducing clutter on the existing AM band. That, Tighe added, would allow the remaining AM stations—other daytimers, fulltimers with poor nighttime signals and even 50 kW operations—to upgrade.

The proposal would permit AM daytimers to operate an FM2 facility, along with their current AM facility, for a five-year period, "during which the new FM service will have become viable."

After the initial period, one of the two—presumably the AM daytimer, in most cases—would go dark, according to the plan.

AM daytime channels that go dark could not be reapplied for, according to Tighe. That, RNJ contends, would result in a 30% to 50% reduction in the number of AM stations on the present band, thereby "permitting power increases and vastly improved audio quality for the remaining AM stations."

Fewer stations on the AM band would result in less skywave interference, splatter and adjacent channel interference, while increasing opportunities for power increases, antenna pattern changes and

improved audio quality, thereby making AM stations more competitive with FM, the petition indicated.

If there were not enough daytimers to fill the FM2 band in some areas, the plan calls for the new FM frequencies to be opened eventually to AM stations that share time, fulltimers with inferior night facilities (such as Class IVs with night power levels of 250 W or less) and to noncommercial applicants.

Yet, Tighe and his Washington DC-based attorney Larry Roberts indicate that the new band would probably not be enough to satisfy the needs of all daytimers in some areas.

Even if the new 5 MHz-wide band cannot accommodate all interested daytimers, those that remain on the less cluttered AM band would be able to change frequency and/or increase their power, Tighe said. He added that he would like to see the Commission classify an application for an AM frequency change as a "minor" action.

Apart from allowing more daytimers to operate at night, RNJ said its plan would also reverse the trend in which "urban centers" dominate the broadcasting band.

"The FM2 frequencies would be developed by operators of daytime and low-power AM stations that are generally located in expansive and often developing rural areas, but are operating with inferior technical facilities due to early assignments in urban areas," the petition said.

Stations operating on the FM2 band would be technically compatible with those on the standard 88-108 MHz FM band, and would use the same interference standards. The RNJ petition recommended that FM2 operations be limited to 20 kW ERP, which would provide a coverage area of about 30 miles from the transmitter.

The new band would allow 25 200-kHz-wide channels, beginning at 225.1 MHz (channel 301), and ending at 229.9 MHz (channel 325). RNJ said that propagation characteristics in the FM2 band would be similar to TV Channel 13, which operates between 210 and 216 MHz.

"The propagation characteristics of the proposed FM2 band give essentially equal coverage (at 20 kW power and 500' HAAT) as the existing FM band with a significant reduction in distance to co-channel and adjacent channel interfering contours," the petition stated.

It added that the shorter FM2 band wavelengths, as compared with the standard FM band, would allow better signal penetration into buildings, and allow transmission with "lighter, less-expensive and more-efficient transmitting antennas."

RNJ said the band could also accommodate secondary uses, such as for RPU's and STLs, on a non-interference basis.

The 225-230 MHz band is currently allocated to fixed and mobile services. RNJ maintained that there are fewer than one dozen nongovernmental users in the band.

Tighe, a helicopter pilot, said that the radios in various crafts he flies feature radios that cover the 225-230 MHz region. After checking FCC files, he said he learned that there are only seven licensed nongovernmental stations in the band—all with low powers and all in the Detroit area.

Both Tighe and Roberts, who say they have had informal discussions with representatives in the receiver manufacturing industry, maintain that the dual FM band would encourage consumers to purchase new receivers, thereby benefiting manufacturers.

Roberts said he has received numerous comments from broadcasters in support of the plan, including from owners of clear-channel AMs.

RNJ said it also plans to ask the Commission to allow it to construct a fulltime FM2 station in Hackettstown (227.5 MHz) on an experimental basis, and work with a receiver manufacturer to develop an experimental receiver.

At RW's press time, the FCC had taken no action on the RNJ proposal.

For more information, contact Larry Tighe at 201-850-1000 or Lawrence Roberts at 202-659-4700.



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# SBE, NARTE Hold Discussions

by David Hughes

Los Angeles CA ... The SBE and the National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE) are working to remedy a dispute over a NARTE ad that claimed the FCC "authorized" NARTE's engineer certification program.

At the same time, both organizations say they generally support an FCC plan to turn over additional engineering certification programs to the private sector.

Richard Rudman, president of the SBE, told RW in November that he had "extensive" talks with NARTE President Ray Thrower about the advertisement, which appeared in an SBE bulletin for its Baltimore chapter in mid-1986.

The ad, in part, states that "The Federal Communications Commission has authorized organizations such as NARTE to institute testing and certification programs."

During the summer, Rudman, joined by some NAB officials, criticized the ad, saying it inferred that the Commission specially authorized NARTE to perform engineering certifications. The SBE also offers a certification program.

The FCC, which decided in May 1984 to turn over a portion of its engineer certification program to industry organizations on a voluntary basis, has maintained that it does not endorse any specific industry-based certification program, including NARTE's.

While the Commission "endorses" the concept of industry-backed engineer certification programs, it does not "endorse" specific programs or "authorize" any of them, according to FCC Engineering Policy Branch Assistant Chief John Reiser.

Rudman said his discussions with Thrower were aimed at "bringing this (dispute) to a peaceful conclusion. We both agreed that it would be wasteful for both organizations to be antagonistic."

SBE informed NARTE of its problems with the ad in a letter, which Thrower said he received after articles on the problem appeared in the 15 August 1986

issue of RW.

Rudman said Thrower agreed to raise the wording issue during a November meeting of NARTE's board of directors.

After the board meeting, however, Thrower maintained that, despite talks with SBE, NARTE stood behind the wording in the ad. He pointed out that FCC staff members were not critical of the wording when they saw copies of the ad in 1984, when NARTE unveiled its current certification program.

He acknowledged that while the dispute with SBE over the ad has not been entirely settled, talks with Rudman did "a lot of good." Thrower said the two groups have a "commonality of interests."

In related news, both the SBE and NARTE filed comments with the FCC in November on a plan to ask Congress to permit the Commission to allow a pri-

vate organization to administer FCC Commercial Radio Operator Examinations.

According to NARTE, six types of commercial radio licenses and two types of endorsements are currently issued by the Commission. Congress previously allowed the FCC to delegate examinations in the amateur radio service to private organizations.

"While the private examiner will be responsible for the drafting, administering and grading of the examination, the Commission will continue to make the ultimate determination of an applicant's qualifications," NARTE said in the November/December edition of its *NARTE News* publication.

Both SBE and NARTE said they approved of the plan. However, both organizations said the FCC should allow multiple organizations to perform the

exams, not just one organization, as the Commission proposed.

The SBE said it has "strong reservations about the proposal ... to delegate examination responsibilities to only one organization or entity."

It added that "any one organization with the Commission's imprimatur which administers all commercial license examinations and which later decides to offer broadcast technical certification examinations would obviously enjoy an unfair advantage over existing voluntary technical certification programs such as that offered by SBE."

NARTE maintained that "the authorization of multiple organizations to administer these examinations will ensure the greatest access by the public to the examination/licensing marketplace."

The FCC docket number on the plan is GEN 86-367. For more information, contact Ray Thrower at NARTE, 503-581-3336, or SBE President Richard Rudman at KFWB radio in Los Angeles, 213-462-5392.

## Local RFR Preemption Unlikely

by Alex Zavistovich

Las Vegas NV ... Despite strong support from broadcasters indicating that they would favor an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendation of a radio frequency radiation (RFR) standard, EPA officials do not predict federal preemption of local RFR guidelines.

Richard Tell, chief of the Electromagnetics Branch of the EPA Office of Radiation Programs said "all but one comment" at a public hearing in Washington, DC in September urged the agency to select a standard. He added, however, that he saw "no chance of an EPA standard preempting local regulations."

Tell said that the NAB had also voiced its support of an EPA guideline at the hearing, saying that the cost of selecting any standard would pale in comparison to not selecting any at all. He said that the NAB endorsed an EPA standard because it might stop the proliferation of

regulatory laws on a local level.

The EPA has been receiving written comments on four alternatives for national RFR exposure standards, Tell said. The alternatives range from roughly 1/10th the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) exposure limit to having no standard at all.

The ANSI standard recommends a maximum power density exposure limit of 1 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> on a 6-minute time-averaged basis.

### Revising ANSI

During 1-2 December in Las Vegas, the chairmen of the working groups of ANSI standard C95.1 subcommittee 4 met. The subcommittee is responsible for the revision of current ANSI guidelines, Tell added.

"Active discussion" was held on the issue of a two-tiered ANSI standard, said Tell, who is also chairman of the ANSI dosimetry group. The revision would provide two different exposure values—

one for the general population, and a second for workers, he added.

The discussions were held in preparation for a June 1987 meeting in Portland, OR, at which a "strawman" draft of the proposed ANSI standards will be submitted for ratification, according to Dr. Kristian Storm, chairman of ANSI subcommittee 4.

The Portland event, scheduled prior to a meeting of the Bioelectromagnetic Society, was characterized by Tell as a "major meeting."

### Significant changes

Tell suggested that the new standard would have "significant changes," due largely to new concerns about RF burns and shocks, especially at low frequencies.

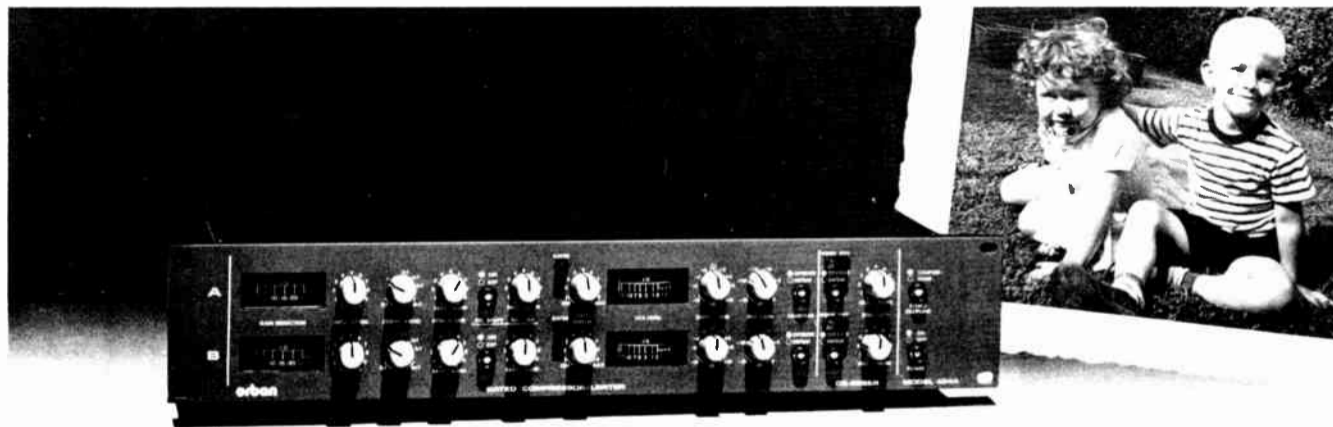
Previously, ANSI had focused its attention on specific absorption rates (SAR) for an entire body, Tell said. Current ANSI guidelines limit SARs to 0.4 W/kg for frequencies above 3 MHz.

The new guidelines, while maintaining the SAR criterion for frequencies above 30 MHz, would specify new limitations in current to avoid burns and shocks, Tell commented.

He indicated that field strength would not be a major consideration in the standard, because "if you limit field strength to avoid every possible occurrence of burns or shocks, it would mean dropping the strength value so low you would have to shut down every station in operation today." Body current limitations, Tell maintained, would be a more practical approach to the problem.

In other news, the EPA is not seeking comments on the exemption of AM from future RF radiation standards, as was reported in the 1 November issue of RW. Comments were sought for the selection of an RF exposure standard, Tell said, and AM frequencies are to be included in any such standard.

For more information, contact the EPA at 202-382-3324. Contact Richard Tell at 702-798-2440.



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# Readers' Forum

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articles? Call us at 800-336-3045 or send a letter to Readers' Forum (*Radio World*, Box 1214, Falls Church VA 22041 or MCI Mailbox #302-7776).

## More on heat problems

Dear RW:

I read Floyd Hall's article "Heat is Xmt's Worst Enemy" in the 15 October 1986 issue of RW, and found it quite informative and entertaining. My experience has born out the truth of several things he said.

There are a couple of things I could add in regard to cooling buildings and transmitters. First, I have one 25 kW FM transmitter that is known for being hard on finals. Tube life has been greatly increased by venting the transmitter air outlet straight up through the roof, and using a squirrel-cage-type blower with a ¼ horsepower motor to aid the air flow and help overcome restriction.

Secondly, I have a site with two fans, one blowing out and the second one blowing in, but at a higher CFM rate, to pressurize the building. I've found that in our area there is a concentration of bugs and airborne dust and dirt near the ground, so rather than have the air intake down low, I moved it up. This cut down on the dirt that found its way into the building and, as an added benefit, improved air circulation.

With the air inlet low and air outlet high, it seemed the cold air was going directly from inlet to outlet. There was a large amount of hot air that stayed trapped up near the ceiling. In the winter the cold air stayed on the floor, making feet uncomfortable. (That can be quite a factor in Minnesota when it's 30° below zero!)

When I reversed the blowers so the inlet was high and outlet low, the cold air mixed with the hot air near the ceiling, and was forced down before it left the building. This removed the chill from the

floor and reduced the floor-to-ceiling temperature gradient, resulting in better equipment stability from summer to winter and a much more comfortable building.

Al Martin  
Segue Services  
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RW replies: Columnist Floyd Hall responded, "Thanks for your comments on 'The Old Timer' column re: transmitter cooling.

But, you missed the bus in several ways, as you have described the changes you have made.

First, in hot weather, the air on the ground, in the shade on the north side of the building, is cooler.

Second, if you are getting bugs and dust into the building, you either didn't filter the air intake or the intake blower didn't have enough capacity. You want a couple of inches of air pressure inside the building to keep dust from filtering in through the cracks and to aid the flow of air out the exhaust blower.

If, as you say, hot air stayed up near the ceiling, then your exhaust blower is too small, or is restricted. (Don't tell me you used fans!)

If you want to warm the place up in the winter—it's simple. Put a thermostat on the exhaust blower!"

## Resounding themes

Dear RW:

I write this as I finish reading your 15 October 1986 issue of RW. I have enjoyed RW for several years now, having been directly involved with satellite-delivered radio for some time.

In this issue, two themes seem to have been struck, both of which are routinely ignored by small radio general management (as opposed to the big four networks: CBS, ABC, Mutual and NPR). In his letter, Charles Burke says, "... it is as if the industry runs on a hand-to-mouth basis with little reward for future planning."

Also, the resounding theme throughout your articles dealing with engineering is the seeming inability of radio management to make quality decisions regarding engineering needs. I have yet to pick up any copy of RW that wasn't critical of management's attitude toward engineering. Management needs to be criticized!

I spent nearly five years full time with one of the premium young companies in satellite-delivered radio equipment as both service manager and systems engineering manager. As soon as we became involved with radio, the problems compounded.

It was appalling to me, in trying to service the technical needs of radio clients utilizing our equipment, of the abject ignorance on the part of affiliates in their attempts to become familiar with the equipment or the technology involved to deliver top-quality sound via satellite.

It almost seemed that the only thing

Despite the NAB's efforts to convince the FCC to extend the deadline for Class B and C FMs to upgrade to their maximum facilities, the FCC declined to extend the upgrade period beyond the three-year deadline of 2 March 1987.

The FCC's rationale was to allow those Class Bs and Cs a chance to upgrade to the full capacity allowed under their license—and to gain a few years' financial benefit—before the Docket 80-90 stations come on the air in the early 1990s.

The FCC measure was, in a sense, protectionist, warning FMs involved to "use it or lose it." The three-year grace period was generous to begin with, and certainly offered those FMs interested in upgrading plenty of opportunity and support in which to do so.

## Policy On Upgrades Is Fair

Of stations responding to the NAB's survey of the 896 licensed Class Cs and 92 Class Bs operating below minimum power or height criteria at the beginning of the three-year upgrade program, about 39% indicated that they had

already upgraded. Of remaining stations, 75% of the Class Cs and 63% of the Class Bs indicated cost as the sole factor inhibiting an upgrade.

While the NAB's efforts were well placed, the FCC's decision to stick to its 2 March deadline has its merits. The Commission's primary duty is to ensure the proper allocation of channels within each band.

Of course the costs to upgrade may be high, but the public in those areas of a station's total service area (TSA) are not being served when that station chooses to operate below minimum power or height criteria.

Unused allocations shouldn't sit idle; the public should be served. If, in three years, a station is unable to commit to serving its TSA, then other stations should be given the opportunity to do so.

But now cost and time factors are not valid arguments, since it is not the FCC's role to protect indefinitely a station's right to upgrade when that station either doesn't have the funds or isn't interested in fully serving its community.

If a station feels upgrading will ensure future growth, and it wants to protect its investment in the future, it should act now. Three years has been enough time to make this decision.

—RW

the GM of any affiliate wanted was top-quality equipment for the lowest price, and to be totally irresponsible toward the maintenance of the equipment.

I can spend hours talking about different affiliates, and the total absence of any knowledge of technology, or their rejection of any of our attempts to teach them about the technology.

Part of the problem is that all the GM sees is dollar signs from selling commercial time, while at the same time refraining from any expenses that do not directly increase that particular revenue.

Those small satellite-delivered networks must be involved with the technical perfection of their affiliates, as well as just collecting affiliate fees. If the affiliate is going to go full time with the satellite, then he should not only be encouraged to buy spares, but be required to install redundancy. This not only covers his butt if something goes down, but enhances the reputation of the network in having taken care of his affiliate.

Costs? Well, how much are you going to spend on salaries, benefits and overhead for a fulltime talent staff, as opposed to a complete satellite system that is backed up with spares?

However, be that as it may, this engineer finally got frustrated with the never-ending battle and left the industry. When it becomes immediately obvious that you aren't going to be listened to, it comes time to make a change.

You GMs out there are going to have to face up to some tough (and immediately) expensive decisions which, over

the long haul, will pay off in better service, happier affiliates, and lots of advertising and listeners. Back up both your equipment and, most of all, your engineers.

Granted that you don't have the same big bucks as the Big Four, but with prudent attention you can still have high-quality, satellite-delivered sound without breaking your bank. Listen to your engineer or equipment manufacturer when they encourage excellence, even if it means a few more bucks for engineering.

And finally, an observance about AM stereo. You all can make it work; force a standard! Without a standard, your effort will go the same road as did quadraphonic sound. Whether it be C-QUAM or the Kahn system, make a decision.

If the problem is that some manufacturer will become upset or not isn't and shouldn't be the problem. Because, whichever system you choose to standardize on, that manufacturer would probably be more than happy to license it out.

Chuck Albert  
Smyrna, GA 30080

## Lip service

Dear RW:

I read with interest the many articles in your publication and others about the improvements in AM broadcasting. We talk about AM stereo, preemphasis, widebanding arrays and all the other new electronic black boxes that will rush in

(continued on page 6)

## Radio World

Vol 11 January 1, 1987 No 1



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# Best Approach to ATIS Debated

by Alex Zavistovich

Washington DC ... Although broadcasters and equipment manufacturers support the FCC's goal of establishing an automatic transmitter identification system (ATIS), opinions vary as to whether a single system will be effective and whether a system is necessary for audio transmitting devices.

In August, the Commission proposed an ATIS system for satellite video uplinks, and asked for comments on a similar system for all broadcast services and radio transmissions.

Interest in an identification system was rekindled in April, after the "Captain Midnight" incident, in which an uplink operator jammed an HBO satellite feed, according to Jim Beckham, of the FCC's enforcement division.

The ATIS plan would assign a unique number to every transmitter upon manufacture. The number, modulated onto the unit's transmission, would correlate to a licensee's database and act as a signature of the radiated signal.

The FCC proposal would have all radiated video satellite uplinks include ATIS on their signal after 31 December 1987.

Many groups expressed the opinion that the need for an audio identification system is less significant than a similar system for video.

National Public Radio (NPR) manages "a decentralized network of 19 transmit and more than 275 receive terminals." The Commission's notice, NPR said, should be addressed to the issue of interference from video carriers into lower

powered channels.

NPR maintained that audio identification is "far less imperative" than satellite video uplink identification because of "the absence of serious audio interference problems." NPR also pointed out that there are no adequate designs for audio identification.

"The Commission should continue to study audio interference and identification system design," NPR said, "but resolution of video interference problems should not be delayed pending the outcome of such study."

CBS indicated that some services may not require the identification system. The company cited AM, FM and TV as broadcast services in which identification of a signal "has rarely been a problem." Mobile stations, however, would benefit from ATIS as an aid in frequency coordination, the company said.

Rockwell International Corporation, a transmitter manufacturer, said that although radio frequency management is "highly desirable," the FCC's ATIS proposal "is unlikely to be viable."

The corporation noted that the cost of the equipment would amount to a 10% increase in transmitter cost.

Even a marginally beneficial ATIS system would take "many years ... at enormous costs" to put into effect, Rockwell said. The corporation suggested that alternatives to the ATIS system should be pursued.

The NAB supported the FCC's goal of "creating mechanisms to identify and solve interference problems."

However, the group held that "the expectation that a universal identification

system can be implemented in the time frame proposed ... is overly optimistic."

According to the NAB, informal telephone surveys with satellite users indicated that "additional study is needed, along with the cooperation of the industry, to solve the problem" of signal identification.

The survey reportedly generated a number of alternatives to the ATIS system proposed by the FCC, including using a "plain language" code on multiple lines, or a single coding technique "with

a robust binary or ASCII format signal."

An advisory committee of industry representatives should be established to discuss issues relevant to the ATIS system, Dow Jones suggested. The company added that the FCC ought to have the signal "incorporated within the transmitter at some reasonable time in the future."

A frequent concern voiced in the comments was that the system should include safeguards to ensure that the identification code would not be tampered with by operators purposely interfering with satellite operations.

Docket number is 86-337. For additional information, contact John Hudak at the FCC: 202-632-6977.

## 'Dear RW' Continued

(continued from page 5)

to save the day, but I feel we are all just paying lip service to the real problem in AM broadcasting.

What will the public listen to on a consistent basis? If the guy trying to shave at 6:30 AM in the morning has to turn his radio dial in a die-hard attempt to hear your station, he will push the button marked "FM" and the "marketplace approach" takes over. Chances are you will never get him back.

The same thing happens in the pre- (and post-) sunset hours. If this same listener is trying to hear you, and the class I, II, III dominant station on your channel has you protecting a skywave 750 miles from your hometown, the same thing happens.

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channels and the deregulation of channel spacing, this will make as many as 2,500 different channels and upgrades possible.

Let's not kid ourselves. Until we come up with a system of engineering that will give us equal, interference-free signals that will compete with the FM signals in each market, we will start to see a lot more AMs just going dark.

As one of my colleagues said in a recent reply comment before the Commission's AM committee, "Let's save the Whales." I say if we do not do something to save the AM band now, it will not be the whales that will be extinct, but all the other little fish in the AM sea. We have the engineering know-how to cure the problem. Now if we can just use it ...

W. Lee Simmons

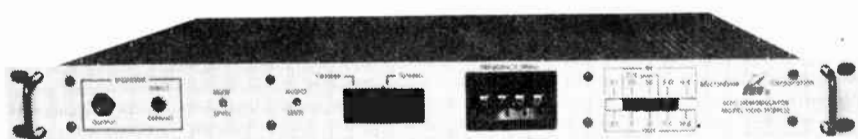
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# Japan Testing Five AM Stereo Systems

Tokyo Japan ... Japanese broadcasters and receiver manufacturers have started a two-year program to test all five of the AM stereo transmission systems originally proposed for use in the US, with plans to eventually recommend one as a national standard.

Tests of the five systems began in October 1986 at an experimental station north of Tokyo, according to M. Ebisawa, CE of radio station JOQR. An elaborate display describing the tests was featured at the International Broadcast Equipment Exhibition held in Tokyo 19-21 November.

The tests are being performed at the direction of the Broadcast Technology Association (BTA), a group consisting of 15 receiver manufacturers and 17 stations expressly formed for this purpose.

A 1 kW transmitter operating on 855 kHz, set up specifically for the testing period, is used.

The BTA test program could last

up to two years, according to Ebisawa.

The testing will result in a final report recommending a single system to be presented to the Japanese Post and Telecommunications Ministry (Japan's version of the FCC), Ebisawa explained.

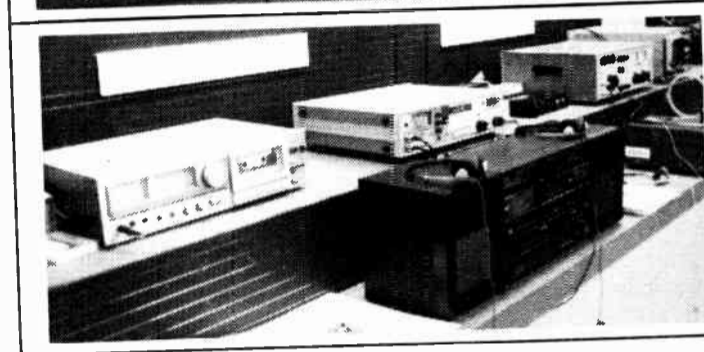
If adopted, the recommended system would become the only AM stereo system used in Japan.

The October tests utilized Kahn Communications Inc. and Motorola manufactured exciters.

Future tests of the Magnavox, Harris and Belar systems will be performed, Ebisawa said, using test exciters assembled in Japan.

Voice, tones and music were broadcast and 19 different types of receivers were used to generate tapes for subjective evaluation as well as to gather test data.

Ebisawa did not know if the results of the tests would be made public.



M. Ebisawa, CE of JOQR (top); Equipment to be used in Japan's AM stereo tests (left).

## Metric Curve Date Set

Washington DC ... The NAB has made available metric AM groundwave and field strength curves in time for the 1 January 1987 FCC metric curve deadline.

Both the curves and blank graph paper use original FCC material, the NAB said. Nineteen sets of frequency-dependent propagation curves encompassing frequencies from 540 to 1610 kHz are available. Curves for each frequency group are drawn on regular and expanded graphs.

A complete set of the 19 graphs, with graph paper and an instruction sheet, is available to NAB members for \$45, and to nonmembers for \$60. Twenty-five supplemental sheets of the regular and expanded versions of the graph paper are

available to NAB members for \$25, and to nonmembers for \$40.

A special introductory package containing a set of curves and one set of supplemental graph paper sheets is available through 28 February to NAB members for \$59.95, and to nonmembers for \$89.95.

To order the material, call NAB Station Services at 800-368-5644, 9 AM to 5 PM EST. For more information on the program, contact Bob Hallahan at 202-429-5350.

At RW's press time, the FCC extended the metric curves deadline to 1 February. See the 15 January issue for details.

## FM Filings Backlogged

(continued from page 1)

of registration of engineers, pointing out that "the existence of a license may not solve the problems" of improperly filed forms.

Gallagher also said he supported the hard look processing approach. "If (the FCC) hadn't imposed the hard look, they'd have many more backlogged applications than they have now."

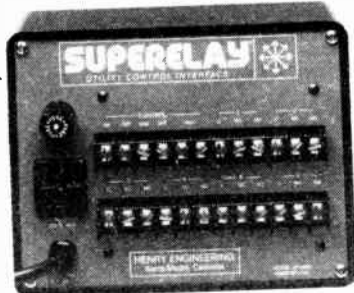
Robert Culver, of the Washington, DC-based firm Lohnes and Culver, maintained that another factor contributing to the backlog might be petitions for reconsideration submitted by applicants whose submissions were rejected by hard look processing.

For additional information, contact Larry Eads at the FCC's Mass Media Bureau: 202-632-6485.

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# Seattle SBE Battles RFI Sources

by Alex Zavistovich

Seattle WA . . . An industry committee is being assembled by the local Seattle chapter of the SBE to investigate faulty transformers in the city's lighting system which have caused RF interference to broadcast facilities in the area.

The group was invited to present a draft of its proposed activities to the NAB, said Marty Hadfield, director of engineering for SRO Broadcasting and chairman of the local SBE chapter.

Hadfield said he sees RF interference to radio broadcasting as an industry-wide problem, citing numerous examples in Seattle alone.

In one instance, Hadfield said, a radio station in the city was experiencing interference due to a number of faulty supply transformers on a utility pole outside its broadcast facility. The transformers produced a "60 Hz to 120 Hz AC buzz, which could be heard on any broadcast radio," Hadfield said.

In another instance, complaints of poor reception of AM radio and TV broadcasts were traced to a sewage treatment plant running at reduced capacity, Hadfield said. The plant's "SCR" controller, which because of poor ground conductivity was poorly grounded, was the root of the problem, he added.

Hadfield maintained that extensive interference to broadcast signals was

caused by the electrical systems of the trackless trolley mass transit system of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle.

The trolley system caused three distinct types of interference, Hadfield said. In one case, power substations of the system were rectifying, remixing and retransmitting radio noise; the other two types of interference came from trolley noise and from the system's overhead power distribution system.

The trolley system has 26 substations spaced approximately every 6000' to power the buses, Hadfield said. Noise from the substations was being generated by a diode in a 6-phase power supply which converted the city's electrical power to 600 VDC current for the trolley.

The system produced a 360 Hz buzz, audible on broadcast radios, Hadfield noted. He said the problem was corrected by using bypass capacitors.

## Trolley noise

The problems of trolley noise and the overhead distribution system were not as easy to correct, Hadfield said.

The Seattle trolley buses used "chopper-type control circuitry" that emitted a continuous whine which was modulated when bus electrical systems were in use, he said. As early as 1980, noise peaks could be heard in the standard broadcast band at 100 KHz, 450 kHz,

and 700 kHz, he said, becoming part of the background noise floor at 7 MHz.

In May 1982, in response to numerous interference complaints, a joint meeting was held in Seattle with the FCC and the Western Washington Cooperative Interference Committee, an independent public interest group. The meeting was attended by representatives from Seattle's transit company and local radio stations, Hadfield said.

The FCC concluded that the problem was "incidental interference from unauthorized broadcast equipment," Hadfield said, and as such was covered under part 15 of the FCC Rules and Regulations. The problem was determined to be the responsibility of the metro transit group to correct, he added.

## Correcting the problem

Trolley system officials were "very helpful" in correcting the problem, Hadfield said.

The group removed all but one bus

from service for testing, during which chart recording and spectrum analysis of background noise and contributed noise for an unmodified bus was conducted. These findings were compared to those of a bus modified to increase common-mode rejection.

The transit group proposed a correction program in December 1982, Hadfield said, which included a provision for retrofitting approximately 109 trolleys with new SCR-type controllers.

The buses were also outfitted with an RF capacitor for the top of the bus, where the voltage is introduced, and a choke arrangement inside the bus to increase common-mode rejection, he added.

AM radios are now being used to test buses at a checkpoint in the transit company's storage facility, Hadfield said. If the radio's broadcast signal is interfered with, he said, the noisy bus is "red-tagged" and the problem is then corrected.

Officials at the Seattle transit authority could not be reached for comment.

For additional information, contact Marty Hadfield at 206-281-5633.

# FM's License Revoked

by David Hughes

Washington DC . . . An administrative law judge has revoked the license of a Dallas noncommercial radio station that has broadcast only 4 of the 14 years it has held its license, paving the way for another noncommercial station to move onto the potentially vacant frequency and increase power.

Administrative Law Judge Walter Mil-

ler denied Agape Broadcasting Foundation a renewal of its license for KNON-FM, which operates with 10 kW on 90.9 MHz.

A 13 November FCC order explained that, despite having received its license in 1971, KNON did not go on the air until 1975 "because it lacked funds and technical expertise."

Interpreting Miller's decision, the

(continued on next page)

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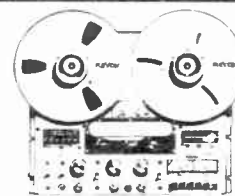
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# KNON 'Failed to Use Frequency'

*(continued from previous page)*

Commission said the station went off the air between 1977 and 1983 because "Agape had neither the money nor the inclination to serve the public."

Miller added that when KNON came back on the air in 1983, it operated with a "substandard transmitter" until May 1985.

"Since Agape used its frequency for only four years over a 14-year period," the FCC said, "Judge Miller concluded it was not qualified to remain a Commission licensee."

Apart from the failure to use its frequency for most of the period, Miller added that Agape also had another strike against it.

According to the FCC, Miller said that Agape misrepresented its ownership structure to the FCC by not listing the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) as the "real party in interest."

He maintained that in 1981 ACORN took de facto control of Agape by placing ACORN members on Agape's board of directors and in station management positions, along with moving KNON's operations to ACORN's building.

### KNON responds

KNON plans to "definitely appeal" the decision by mid-December, according to GM Jeff Murray. "The judge missed the mark in this case," he said. The process, he added, could take one to three years.

The station, which programs an eclectic mix of soul music, gospel, progressive rock, along with Hispanic and minority oriented programming on a daily basis, spent the time off the air because of a shortfall in funds, Murray said. "KNON depends on low- and moderate-income people for all its funds. We go door-to-door."

He added that part of the delay was because of FCC delays in awarding two construction permits the station had requested, one on 1979 and the other in 1982. "I think we showed good cause (for

the time off the air)," he said.

Murray said that while some of Agape's board are members of ACORN, ACORN does not have de facto control of Agape. "Just because someone belongs to an organization, that does not mean that organization (ACORN) has control (over another organization—Agape)," he said. "It would be like belonging to a church."

### License awarded

The judge awarded KNON's frequency to the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, owner of another noncommercial operation in Dallas, KCBI-FM, which now operates with 9.7 kW on 89.3

MHz.

With the move to 90.9 MHz, KCBI, with its religious format, could apply to increase its power to 100 kW, something it was not able to do on its original frequency, according to KCBI GM Carl Singer.

However, in late 1985, two weeks after the FCC started holding hearings in the case, KNON applied to increase its power to 100 kW. Murray said that the judge would not allow the two stations to swap frequencies, giving KNON a low-powered facility on 89.3 MHz and KCBI a 100 kW facility on 90.9 MHz.

Singer said that KCBI had made "several overtures" since 1979 to swap fre-

quencies; however, KNON showed no interest. Then, last spring, KNON reopened talks regarding a swap, he said.

In the most recent hearing, the FCC would not allow the swap because of KNON's alleged misrepresentation of its ownership, Singer maintained.

No timetable has been set for KCBI's move to 90.9 MHz. Singer said that KNON has "two or three" levels of the appeals process it can pursue.

The issue is contained in FCC docket MM 85-288. Contact Jeff Murray at KNON: 214-823-7490; Carl Singer at KCBI: 214-954-4444, or the FCC News Media Information office at 202-632-5050.

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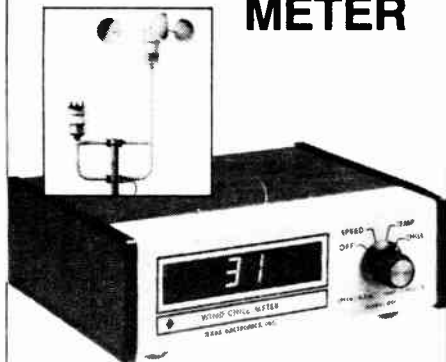
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Circle Reader Service 41 on Page 22

# How to Beat Procrastination

by John "Q" Shepler

Rockford IL ... My editor sends me notes of encouragement from time to time. Sometimes it's a kind word or two, sometimes it's fan mail from readers, and sometimes I get suggestions for future columns. The latest request was for ... well, let me explain something first.

I strive to get these columns submitted

*John Shepler is a broadcast consultant, teacher, writer and former CE. He can be reached after 8 PM at 815-654-0145.*

well ahead of schedule. With any luck, they're in the mail to RW at least two or three months in advance. That explains why I seem to drag my feet responding to some of your requests. What gets written in one season gets printed in another.

The reason for this lead time is partly to give RW a chance to edit and layout the material. Mostly it's because I don't want to be faced with pounding out a couple of thousand words in a last-minute Saturday afternoon panic when I could be soaking up rays at the beach. It pays to work ahead, as you'll see.

Anyway, the request was worded: "How about a column someday on how to beat procrastination?" Good idea. However, it would be a fraud to write anything on procrastination "someday," maybe in a year or so. Consequently, I'm slipping this into the schedule as the very next column. How's that for nonprocrastination?

Why not now?

What's stopping you from doing what you want to do right this minute?

"Gee, I'd like to build a cart timer, but this whole box of resistors needs to be

organized first, and I can't do that until I buy some plastic trays, which won't get done 'til I figure out my tray needs for the next 10 years and that has to wait for input from the management pow-wow in about three months."

Most of us are smarter than that, and can invent much more believable excuses for not getting things done. The usual generic excuse is: "I don't have time."

Why not? Everybody was supposed to get rationed 24 hours today. If you got gypped, go back and demand the rest. It's only fair.

Now that we all have the same time allotment, we should all get the same amount done, right? Strange thing is that it never seems to work out that way.

You probably have a full schedule. There are more things to do than time to do them. We all have that schedule. To get more done, you first have to accept the fact that not everything is going to get done. That means you have to consciously decide which projects will be stunning successes and which will die on the vine. That's a lot of responsibility.

## Q-Tips

Some people never do face up to those decisions. I knew a chief engineer who had a system for handling complaints from the air staff.

"Just nod your head and ignore them," he said. "After a while they'll forget about it and you won't have to do anything."

This man is no longer chief engineer. The angry mob finally chased him out of town with a noose. The irony is that if he had spent just half-days satisfying those complaints, he could have loafed all afternoon and no one would have cared.

I guess there are a number of morals in that story. The first is that some jobs are more important than others. What's more, your own pet projects may not be top priority.

Another point is that this engineer had plenty of time to be successful. It took months for the problems to turn into a crisis. In those months a lot of magazines got read during what should have been working hours.

It is no trick to fill up a day with things to do. The trick is to figure out what really has to get done and make sure those projects are completed before you start less critical work.

The secret to success

The big secret is to be in charge. Your success is determined primarily by your ability to decide what's really critical and then doing whatever it takes to handle those critical items.

But, what about the other hundred things that you don't have time for? Too bad.

They won't get done. Maybe some of them will get done at a later date when they become more critical. As for the rest, you'll just have to let them go.

Maybe you feel uneasy about this approach. Well, Babe Ruth and Hammerin' Hank never batted 1000%. What makes you think you can?

If you foolishly try to do everything, you'll not only make yourself ill, you'll probably screw up the important stuff, too. Besides, you don't have to bat 1000% to be a star. Just hit a grand slam homer once in a while.

Once you come to grips with the  
*(continued on page 12)*

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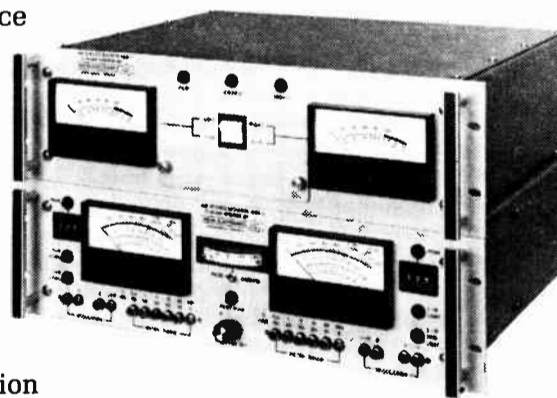
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DELTA ELECTRONICS



# New Angle on Phono Preamps

by James L. Dacey

Monterrey CA . . . There are better and better phono preamps available to the broadcaster today, thanks to work done in the audiophile high-end world. We seem to have a choice of two good passive EQ'd brands available to us today, plus other brands that retain the active, or feedback-derived, method of EQ.

In the '40s and '50s, we used low-impedance phono cartridges, like the GE VR units, that fed directly into a well-shielded can containing a passive network and transformer that coupled into a 50 ohm or 250 ohm console input, such as a low-level flat preamp.

This old method sounded quite good—noisy by today's expectations, but transient qualities were fine.

Somewhere in the '50s, higher impedance cartridges started being used with tube-type preamps that employed feedback derived equalization.

Then came transistor units, again employing feedback EQ, usually using selective feedback around one stage of amplification. Some preamps made today still use only one stage for deriving the post RIAA/NAB disc curve. Using a single stage for this purpose is where the problems start.

There are several problems resulting

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from attempting to use one stage for EQ and amplification simultaneously. There is a 100:1 gain ratio, or 40 dB between 20 Hz and 20 kHz in the passband. We must boost LF by 20 dB and attenuate HF by 20 dB using a two- or three-pole feedback network around the single stage.

Here are the resulting problems, one by one: reactances inside the feedback loop are partially reflected to the input terminals, causing alterations to the HF response of the phono cartridge, also a reactive device. This is why we have HF adjustment controls on some pro-type preamps.

Second, the low impedance values of the feedback components at high frequencies are a difficult load on the amplifier stage and lead to overload at frequencies above 5 kHz.

This problem is further enhanced by the large low-frequency gain of the stage, usually 60 dB, whereby the high frequency loading (reactive) causes LF motorboating at high frequencies.

This HF loading by the feedback elements is further aggravated by the usual noninverting stage employed in many preamps where the stage cannot be brought below unity gain. This causes the HF rolloff—intended to fall in gain by 6 dB per octave below the 2120 Hz breakpoint—to reach unity, then level off and rise again at some higher frequency, instead of continuing its dropout to the megahertz region.

This further problem can cause following-amplifier power demand at high frequencies and further upsets the HF loading problems of the EQ stage itself. This

HF reactive loading effect, which, as mentioned, causes low-frequency instabilities at high frequencies, is the reason that triangles and cymbals, for instance, can sound wooden and dull when trying to reproduce discs with some preamps.

These many problems may be eliminated by using a preamp with passive, or signal-throwaway type, of RIAA EQ. The signal throwaway obviously denotes the use of high gain to compensate for losses incurred after the passive elements, increasing the noise factor.

If an isolating amp (flat) is used between cartridge and EQ reactive elements, there is also a chance of HF overload occurring due to the nature of the pre-emphasized recording curve. However, passive-derived EQ enjoys some popularity largely for the reason of getting away from the problems discussed above, i.e., attempting to use a single, noninverting stage for EQ.

There is a whole new approach to phono EQ developed by the Toronto-based Bryston amplifier firm. Their new model BP-1, designed for broadcast use, uses the same circuit topology as their high-end audiophile preamplifiers, except that the BP-1 works into 600 ohm loads with a 27 dBm output rating.

Bryston has solved the problems of the "classic" feedback EQ described previously. They have done this by dividing the amplification and equalization into two stages.

This unique and fundamentally correct circuitry utilizes the first stage for the LF tailoring, operating noninverting for noise-reducing reasons.

The stage has high current output with 40 dB LF gain and 20 dB mid-band gain, as opposed to 60 dB of LF gain in older designs which use just one stage for both LF and HF amplification and equalization. Essentially, this stage acts as a flat buffer amplifier, so the phono cartridge works into a nonreactive, stable and linear input.

Bryston's second EQ stage operates inverting and with low impedance input, with 20 dB of mid-band gain, as in the first stage. The second stage, used for the HF gain characteristics, by operating inverting, carries the HF rolloff below unity and out to the MH region. Its low input impedance is made possible by the high current output of the LF first stage.

With both stages having 20 dB of mid-band gain, as opposed to the 40 dB mid-band gain of a single equivalent stage, we can realize over seven times lower distortion figures.

With separate stages for LF and HF amplification and equalization, there is precise predictability in choosing reactive components for each stage, with results of  $\pm 0.1$  dB from true RIAA. With two separate gain stages for LF and HF, respective reactive feedback components cannot interact as they do in the single stage design. Referred to an input of 5 mV with phono inputs shorted, rated noise is -80 dBA at 1 kHz frequency.

We seem to have a very fine product here, certainly well-thought-out and built with high-grade components throughout. Its performance in the field is certainly top-shelf, with exceedingly transparent operation for on-air and disc-to-cart transfers.

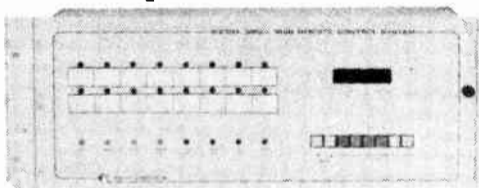
Bryston deserves much credit for the creation of this preamp. It is truly unique and certainly a welcome product to the broadcast and recording industry.

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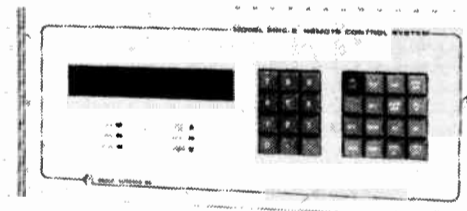
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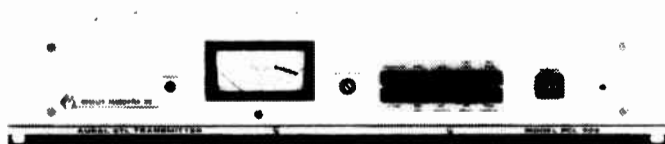


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Microprocessors mean that the MRC-2 can be tailored precisely to your needs. Up to 255 command lines, 255 status channels and 255 telemetry channels can be specified in groups of 16 for each at up to 99 sites. Multiple Control Terminals allow a flexible hierarchy of controls, with multiple data interconnection links over wire or radio.

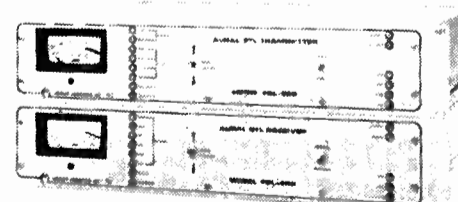


### PCL-505 STL

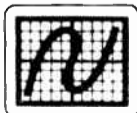


The Model PCL-505 and PCL-505/C Aural Studio-Transmitter Links offer superior program handling capabilities. State-of-the-art stripline techniques and direct FM provide dependable performance. Solid-state integrated circuitry and continuous duty design make for easy operation and maintenance.

### PCL-606 STL



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# How to Get Job Done On Time

(continued from page 10)

responsibility of figuring out what's important, the tool that gets the work done is called organization. You need a battle plan.

My own schemes tend to adapt and evolve as situations and employers change. What seems to work in general, though, is a one-day schedule.

This consists of a single page in a notebook or the next sheet on a yellow pad. At the top is the day and date. It is tomorrow's date because you make this up just before going home the night before. Down the page are listed the top six or so projects for the day. These are the must-do projects.

You can also include a few smaller projects in smaller print. They will get worked on only if you need a break or get all the key projects done.

I like to number the items in order of priority.

This schedule sits in the middle of my desk. It nags at me all day. The only way I get relief is to work on the projects. When a project is done, it gets checked off. If an item is started but not finished, it gets circled.

Sometimes you have to get the ball rolling and wait for somebody else to do their end before you can wrap up the task. Just circle it and go on to the next one while you are waiting.

At the end of the day, I make up tomorrow's list. The checked off items disappear. They are done. The circled items that were not later checked off are put at the top of the new schedule.

Other projects are added to the bottom. Any meeting or task to be done at

a particular time has the time underlined to make it stand out.

This system works as long as you feel like a hero when all of the day's projects are checked off and feel awful when you have to put all the same items on tomorrow's list. If you have picked the right projects, you will be a hero when you check them off. The right projects are the ones that most everyone thinks are very

“

*If you're not sure, sit down with the PD and news director and ask them what their biggest technical headaches are.*

”

important.

Now, some items will get transferred from day to day until they are dropped for lack of interest. That's the way it goes sometimes; you won't win them all. If you do a good job prioritizing the work, however, the items that fall off the list were not that important to begin with.

At the end of the week, staple the week's schedules together and file them. When the boss wants to know what you've accomplished, you have ready documentation to refer to.

How do you pick the projects? Ah, that's the secret. Some items will come from a calendar where you scheduled

them weeks ago. Other tasks will go on the list because someone pestered you today to get it done.

Some will be routine maintenance chores that get done every week or month at this time. The rest? You pick 'em.

If you're not sure, sit down with the PD and news director and ask them what their biggest technical headaches are. If

you're ever in doubt about what's important, pretend it's your job to make everybody happy and then simply ask them what it takes.

After a while, you'll know instinctively. It's hard to go wrong with that attitude.

#### Emergencies and interruptions

The wire on the news reporter's microphone just fell off. He's hanging over you and dangling it in your face. Do you say "Sorry, my priority list deems that you have to wait until tomorrow?" Not if you want to live.

No schedule should be so tight that you can't squeeze in a small crisis or two.

How many is a judgment call.

Some people are crybabies and will be after you every hour for some nonsense they could handle themselves. You have to find a polite way to give this type the cold shoulder.

Other problems, like severed mic cables, need and should get immediate attention. Don't brush off real emergencies even if it means interrupting a priority project.

Instant service on problems that need instant service will get you a top rating in a lot of departments. These people will then overlook the slow service they may be getting on less critical demands.

#### Some rules of thumb

Here's a few quick action ideas that will keep procrastination waiting forever:

- The best time to get something done is right now, while you're thinking about it. Get it out of your hair and out of your mind.

- Ask yourself what it would cost you to wait on an item. Perhaps the cost is lost opportunity. Perhaps it winds up costing you your job.

- Get ahead on projects in order to gain freedom for whatever you feel like doing.

- Reward yourself when you get something done. That makes you want to get more things done.

- Ask yourself what the best use of your time is right now. Then do it.

- Focus on the big picture—the end result. Work toward getting closer to that goal. Don't schedule every minor detail. Fill in the particulars as you go.

- Remember that you only go around once and the clock keeps ticking. Are you happy with the way your allotted time is being spent? Only you can make it happen.

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# Use Tech-Talk to Communicate

by Tim McCartney

Boise ID ... Explaining technical concepts in clear language to a nontechnical person, though not always easy, offers many advantages. One is that the engineer is given a chance to illustrate many of the inner workings of one's job. However, it's a skill that requires care and consideration.

Why would an engineer deliberately talk over a manager's head? Surely it's not that there has been an overestimation of the technical cunning of the GM (a former sales manager).

Could it be that the engineer is trying to intimidate the manager? If so, why?

The engineer may feel that the technical talk helps keep him "one up" on the boss, and that without this status he fears that some of the electronics "magic" will fade.

The use of technical jargon as a weapon is not only the vice of engineers. A fellow GM often resorted to industry-specific talk with his nonbroadcast oriented upper managers whenever he was in a jam.

ERP, coverage patterns, EBS and "The Commission" were his answers to questions about staff training policies. What a snow job! These policy makers were only temporarily sidetracked before relieving this GM of his job.

As a former GM myself (not the one above), I learned a lot about interested CE candidates by observing how they handled this issue.

I found that the insecure, unstable types talked over my head: pilot injection, SBE, phasing, notch filters, CIE, TFT, VSWR, IF, K1—and even RW! Meanwhile, the secure and stable types said things like "I'll take care of your transmitter and studio concerns and be on call."

This sort of thing even happens to en-

Tim McCartney is CE at KBSU, Boise State University, Boise, ID. He can be reached at 208-385-3663.

gineers. Recently a transmitter salesman punctuated his long and hard sell with a line that went something like, "... and I don't have to tell you how essential a double foldback, crystal-controlled, quadrature, CD-operated harmonic filter is!"

My reaction? This guy doesn't know beans about this thing or he'd tell me why I need it so darn badly! So, now neither of us knows why it's in there.

As an engineer, I'm bothered by the poor use of the English language in the manuals for our recently purchased European tape decks and cassette decks. After finally finding the sections written

in English, it's disappointing to see how poorly they are translated. However, since I assume this is merely a translation problem and not a deliberate attempt to baffle us, I guess they are excused (maybe).

Let's hope these stories are the exception and that engineers truly seek communication.

If simple, clear language is used to explain a technical matter to nontechnical people, success will result at several levels.

First of all, communication occurs. Because of this, intimidation doesn't. Your audience will be more relaxed, and perhaps even more receptive—because the

use of nontechnical language and your overall efforts to explain something so that it will be understandable show respect for your listener.

All of us need to select our language so that it effectively and efficiently communicates.

Remember that others can play the tech-talk game to our disadvantage. If the business manager starts a sentence with a word such as "encumbrances," I start to long for a trip to the transmitter.

So, in return for not hearing that word, I pledge to watch my use of High-Z, EQ, CRL and Dolby (both B and C), and just hope that the meaning of CE is clear.

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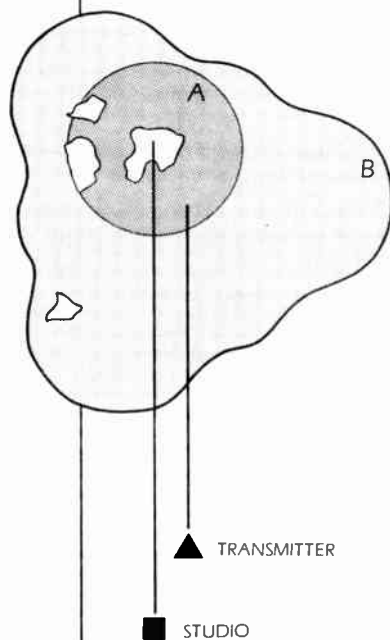
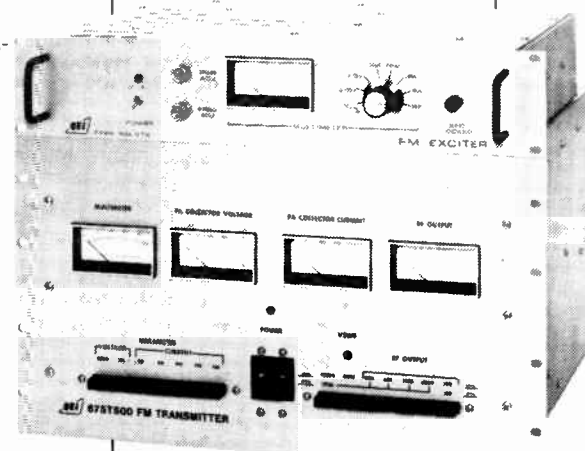
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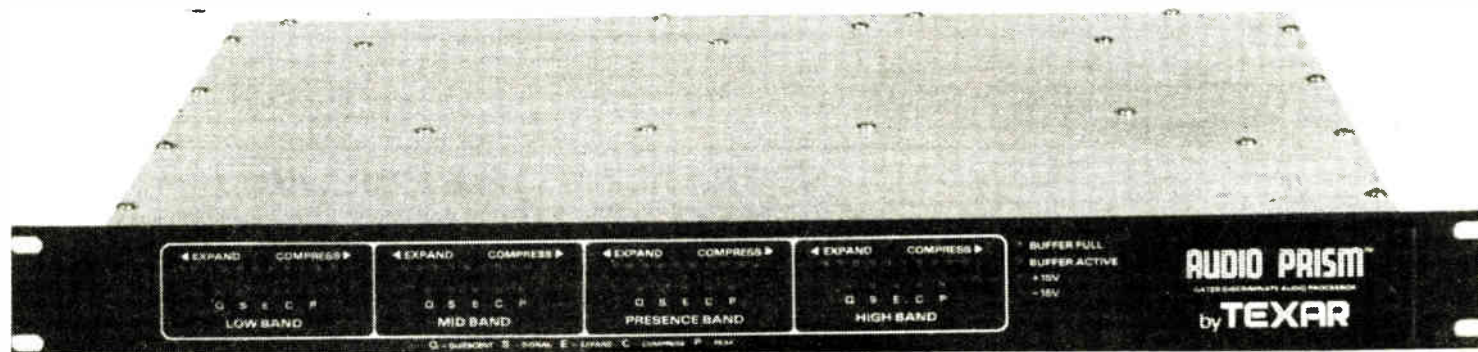
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Circle Reader Service 38 on Page 22

Circle Reader Service 4 on Page 22

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We designed the RCF-1 in response to many telephone calls from AUDIO PRISM users over the past 18 months. While each call was unique, two recurring questions emerged: 1) "Sometime ago, we bought AUDIO PRISM'S to stand out from the crowd, but the competition has caught on and caught up. Today, they have AUDIO PRISM'S too. What can we do to re-establish our lead?" And 2) "What can we do to get more low-end bass?"

Exploring ways to further increase the modulation power of the AUDIO PRISM/Optimod combination, TEXAR engineers determined that the limiting factor was in the attack and release times of the Optimod. This is not to criticize the Optimod, a well designed and respected unit, but it is to recognize that competitive market situations require many broadcasters to use it in ways other than for

which it was originally designed. Intended to operate on raw, unprocessed, console output, its operation included a generous safety margin to accommodate operator inattention. Face it: not everyone runs perfect levels.

The conservative design of the Optimod prevented these indiscretions from ever getting on the air. But today, many broadcasters precede their Optimod with the digitally controlled AUDIO PRISM. In these cases, the safety margin is no longer necessary. What if you could say to your Optimod, "I'll take care of the ups and downs in average level; you worry about making modulation?" That, in very simplified terms describes the operation of the RCF-1. (Not surprisingly, the RCF-1 should *not* be used in a barefoot Optimod, as there will be no safety margin for an overdriven board.)

Making more low-end bass available to users was a simple extension of the RCF-1. The original card 5 had a predetermined, fixed amount of bass which it would permit. Beyond that, it would reduce the gain of the low frequency stages. As you mixed in more lows on the AUDIO PRISM'S, the Optimod would simply take them right back out. Today, the RCF-1 has a "BASS BOOST" control which allows the user to dial in all the

low-end bass one could want.

Card 5 is a plug in board, so installation of the RCF-1 takes less than 3 minutes. Adjustment takes less than one. No readjustment of the AUDIO PRISM is required.

To install the RCF-1, simply open the front cover and access panels of the Optimod. Turn off the Optimod power switch and pull out the original card 5. Slide the RCF-1 in its place and turn the power back on. Replace the access panel with the new one provided and set the RCF-1 controls to the recommended settings. That's all there is to it. No complicated soldering. No complicated modifications to circuit boards. No readjustment of other controls in the system.

Best of all, this additional power doesn't require giving up quality! The RCF-1 is actually *cleaner* than the original card 5 adjusted for the same loudness, so you don't have to sacrifice quarter hour maintenance for more cumes.

See what the power of the RCF-1 can do for YOUR signal. Arrange for a demo of the TEXAR AUDIO PRISM and RCF-1 today! Already own AUDIO PRISM'S? You can upgrade to the RCF-1 for only \$425, but act fast, because the price goes up soon. Call your favorite distributor, or call Barry Honel at (412) 85-MICRO.

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# New Pole Deflection Spec Precise

by Thomas Silliman, PE

Newburgh IN ... For many years now people have been using the figure of 3/4" pole deflection per 10' of pole length to specify FM supporting structures for pole-mounted FM antenna arrays.

This figure is misleading. It was never meant to be a linear deflection figure. Rather, it was meant to be a definition of points on the surface of a circle.

The purpose of limiting the deflection of supporting poles for FM antennas is simply to avoid structural damage to the FM antenna feed harness.

Since the feed harness runs parallel to the static centerline of the support pole, pole movement alternately applies compression and tension to the coax harness. If pole movement is excessive, damage can occur to the coax, and in extreme cases the coax can actually be torn apart.

In order to define a realistic pole bending specification, I have used the 3/4" per 10' deflection to calculate a minimum pole-deflection bending radius. This can then be applied to any pole using three points along the pole centerline to determine if the pole deflection is excessive.

The formula for a circle in a plane can be written as follows:

Equation 1 (Brief Analytic Geometry by Mason & Hazard):

$$x^2 + y^2 + ax + by + c = 0$$

I have diagrammed a section of a bent pole with a constant bending radius,  $r_o$ , that has a pole deflection of 3/4" per 10' of length. This diagram is shown in Figure 1.

In Equation 1, the origin of the circle represented by this equation is a point  $(x_o, y_o)$  where:

Equation 2:

$$x_o = a/2$$

and

Equation 3:

$$y_o = b/2$$

and

Equation 4:

$$c = x_o^2 + y_o^2 - r_o^2$$

Since any three points in space determine a circle, I can determine the minimum pole bending radius allowable from the three points shown in Figure 1. The subsequent calculations are listed below.

Point #1:

$$\begin{aligned} (3/4)^2 + (120)^2 + a(3/4) + b(120) + c &= 0 \\ 14400.5625 + 0.75a + 120b + c &= 0 \\ a + 160b + 1.3333c &= -19200.75 \end{aligned}$$

Point #2:

$$\begin{aligned} (0)^2 + (0)^2 + a(0) + b(0) + c &= 0 \\ c &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thomas B. Silliman, PE, is president of both Electronics Research, Inc. and ERI Installations. He is also a partner in the consulting engineering firm Silliman & Silliman, Silver Spring, MD. He can be reached at 812-853-3318.

Point #3:

$$\begin{aligned} (3/4)^2 + (-120)^2 + a(3/4) + b(-120) + c &= 0 \\ 14400.5625 + 0.75a - 120b + c &= 0 \\ a - 160b + 1.3333c &= -19200.75 \end{aligned}$$

Knowing that  $c=0$  from point #2, these equations can be easily solved for  $a$  and  $b$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} a + 160b &= -19200.75 \\ a - 160b &= -19200.75 \\ 2a &= -38401.5 \end{aligned}$$

$$a = -19200.75$$

$$a + 160b = -19200.75$$

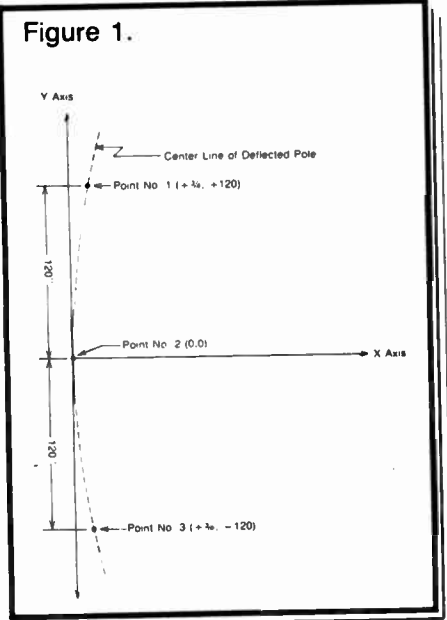
$$160b = -19200.75 + 19200.75$$

$$b = 0$$

The solution is, therefore, a radius of bending of:

$$r_o^2 = x_o^2 + y_o^2 - c$$

$$r_o^2 = \left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 - c$$



$$r_o^2 = \left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^2$$

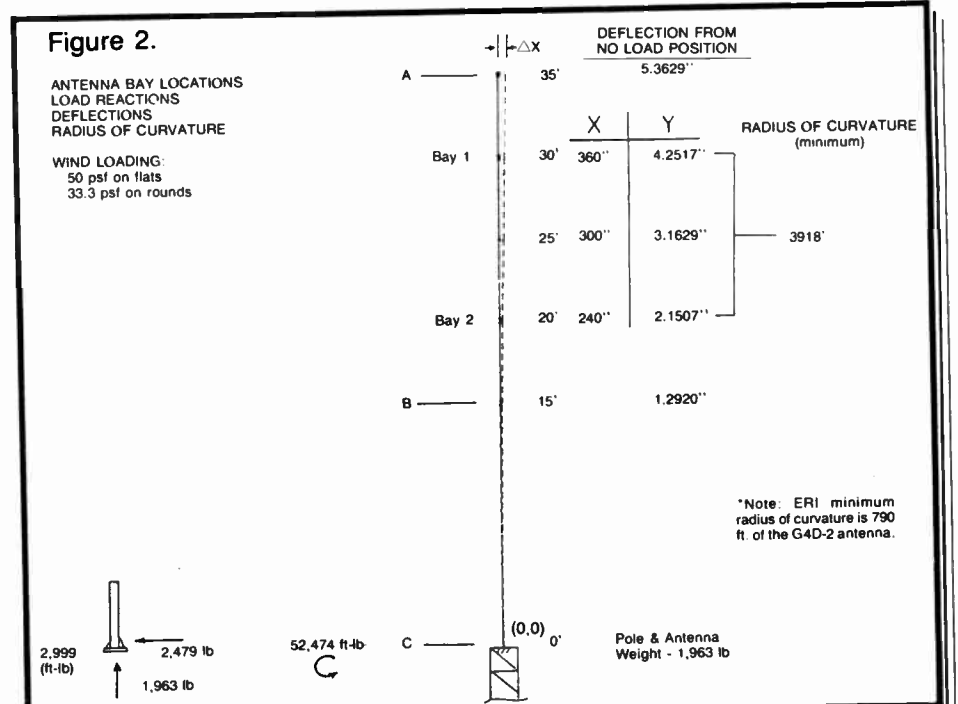
$$r_o^2 = \left(\frac{-19200.75}{2}\right)^2 = (-9600.375)^2 \text{ in}^2$$

$$r_o = 9600.375''$$

$$r_o = 800.0313'$$

From this, we can restate the pole-bending criterion for FM antenna support poles. The new specification for pole deflection is:

- At no point shall the pole deflection **(continued on page 16)**



Program 1. A sample run of program output (condensed).

```
THIS PROGRAM ANALYZES POLE FLEX IN THE XY PLANE (SEE FIGURE 2)
INPUT X COORDINATE OF POINT #1
? 240
INPUT Y COORDINATE OF POINT #1
? 2.1507
INPUT X COORDINATE OF POINT #2
? 300
INPUT Y COORDINATE OF POINT #2
? 3.1629
INPUT X COORDINATE OF POINT #3
? 360
INPUT Y COORDINATE OF POINT #3
? 4.2517
C1=4321014 C2=6481822 C3=-113.866 C4=-136.866 C5=60 C6=60
FLAGC=0 FLAGB=0 FLAGA=0
C=-106461.5
B=-94030.02
A=1046.197
RADIUS OF CURVATURE = 3918.254 FEET
O
```

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# New Pole-Bending Spec Accurate

(continued from page 15)

be such that the radius of curvature for the centerline of the pole is less than 800'.

- The radius of curvature of a given pole can easily be calculated using Equation 1 through Equation 4 listed above.

### Solution

This general form of the equations for a circle that was shown in Equation 1 can now be used to calculate the radius of a circle containing any three points on the centerline of a pole that is flexing under load. The three points are listed below, along with their x and y coordinates.

Point #	X Coordinate	Y Coordinate
#1	$x_1$	$y_1$
#2	$x_2$	$y_2$
#3	$x_3$	$y_3$

If these points are substituted into Equation 1, three equations with three unknowns will result. These three equations can then be easily solved to find a, b and c. The three equations are listed below:

Equation 5:

$$ax_1 + by_1 + c = -(x_1^2 + y_1^2)$$

Equation 6:

$$ax_2 + by_2 + c = -(x_2^2 + y_2^2)$$

Equation 7:

$$ax_3 + by_3 + c = -(x_3^2 + y_3^2)$$

These equations can easily be solved using a change of variables as shown below.

Define the following six variables as:

Equation 8:

$$c1 = x_1(x_2^2 + y_2^2) - x_2(x_1^2 + y_1^2)$$

Equation 9:

$$c2 = x_2(x_3^2 + y_3^2) - x_3(x_2^2 + y_2^2)$$

Equation 10:

$$c3 = y_1x_2 - y_2x_1$$

Equation 11:

$$c4 = y_2x_3 - y_3x_2$$

Equation 12:

$$c5 = x_2 - x_1$$

Equation 13:

$$c6 = x_3 - x_2$$

If these equations are substituted into the solution for Equations 5, 6 and 7, then the following solutions for a, b and c will result.

Equation 14:

$$c = \frac{(c1)(c4) - (c2)(c3)}{(c4)(c5) - (c6)(c3)}$$

Equation 15:

$$b = \frac{c1}{c3} - c \left( \frac{c5}{c3} \right)$$

Equation 16:

$$a = \frac{-1}{x_1} (x_1^2 + y_1^2 + by_1 + c)$$

This solution is very useful when analyzing pole deflections using a computer. There are several cases, however, that need to be considered prior to using this solution. In these cases, the solution appears to be indeterminate.

Case #1:

The bent pole has a point at the origin, 0,0.

In this special case, the value of c is zero. This can be seen from Equation 4, since the equation for the radius of any circle which passes through the origin is:

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2$$

Where  $(x_0, y_0)$  is the center of the circle.

Case #2:

If the circle has a center point  $(x_0, y_0)$  on the x axis, then the constant b must be zero since:

$$y_0 = -b/2$$

Case #3:

If the circle has a center point  $(x_0, y_0)$  on the y axis, then the constant a must be zero since:

$$x_0 = -a/2$$

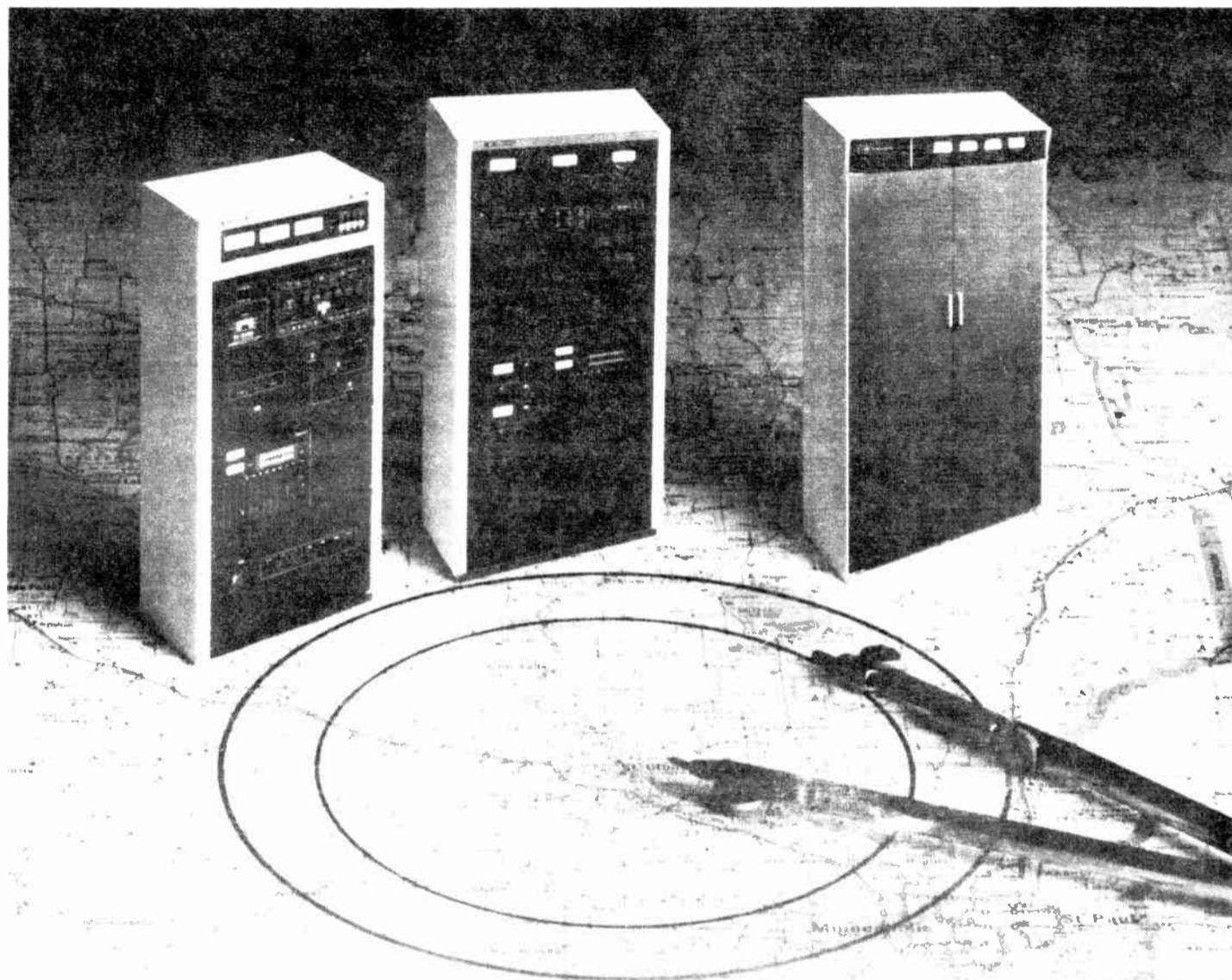
Case #4:

If the circle is tangent to both the x axis and the y axis, then the solution for c will be such that c is not equal to 0. If the points  $(0, y_0)$ ,  $(x_0, 0)$ , and any third point are used, the variable c will be indeterminate using Equation 14.

Of these four cases, only Case #1 becomes a problem in analyzing a free-standing pole using Equations 14, 15 and 16 provided here.

In Case #1, any program analyzing the pole need only flag the solution of the constant c so that if the point (0,0) is used then  $c=0$ .

Case #4 could only occur if the pole were bent completely over, and this case could not occur without system failure.



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# 'Parts Is Parts' Ain't Quite So

by Fred Baumgartner

Englewood CO . . . If I had to pick one factor that strangles engineering departments and engineers in general, it is the lack of having parts and tools.

The reason many of our projects and emergencies lie waiting for parts is varied.

One major reason is ourselves. It's hard to plan ahead for projects and emergencies. Any piece of gear these days seems to have a thousand parts. We wonder if we can keep all of them in stock.

Or we'll say things like "Look, I just tossed out a whole pile of 12AX7s" (15 years ago almost everything 'ate' these). "My predecessor screwed up and ordered more than he ever needed, and I don't want to make the same mistake."

After all, engineers know items that die in stock are a total waste of money . . . or are they?

We are all familiar with the station that spent 'X' numbers of hours off the air or seriously impaired while waiting for parts of insignificant value. We have all fixed something via a quick trip to Radio Shack. Some of us have gone back and made a re-repair (with the "right" parts) later.

We all have some idea of what we cost the station, and what a day off the air (or the like) costs.

With all this information, we know that we need to provide our stations with some means of rapid repair in emergencies . . . and that means people and materials at any vulnerable time.

Still the prospect of all the deep thinking, deep digging in supply catalogs and all the bookwork necessary to order, check in, organize and store a parts inventory may not be the limiting factor.

## Accounting barrier

In most organizations there is yet another barrier . . . the accountant. These folks are trained to be very myopic. That is, they understand debts and credits, and then apply pressure to decrease one and increase the other. In any business with inherent cash flow (broadcasting should be), the business decisions center on what we should spend and how much to maximize our profits.

At any given time there will be many "demands" on resources. Parts just have to be one of these. For that matter, so are tools.

Accountants and General Managers must keep engineering needs and wants in line with all of the other items that are necessary to stay in business and return a profit.

Most accountants and managers understand the *cost benefit analysis*. This is the key to any going business concern. It says, "I plan to spend so much, because these are the benefits I plan to gain and this is what they are worth." Obviously, if the resources are available and the gains are real, then the investment should be made. Yet I so often see CEs who freeze in their tracks every time the accountant asks things like "But do we need it now?"

Frederick Baumgartner, assistant CE at KWGN-TV and former CE of WIBA, Madison, WI, is a frequent contributor to RW. He can be reached at 303-740-2883.

In reality, engineering costs are fairly constant.

The owners seem to feel that if they are in a "it isn't making money any more" situation, they either spend with spigots wide open or with a "let's take our profits" approach. Engineering expense, however, appears to stay about even with depreciation costs . . . give or take year-to-year fluctuations based on major capital items.

In the 90-day world, and even moreso

“After all, engineers know items that die in stock are a total waste of money . . . or are they?”

in the 30-day world, parts and tools are "delayable expense." They are sometimes very delayable expense—one can wait years for tools and spares.

On the other hand, I have watched a major broadcasting group facility down for lack of spares for several days. Of course they fired the chief (who told them this would happen) and later went "on the block."

I have so often seen broadcasters that had not even a resistor run in house spend thousands on a new production "toy."

I have also seen major shops with the slickest of computerized test gear where an engineer routinely spends part of his day converting paper clips into test probes and filing nails off to make screwdrivers. These of course are easier to make than to go through the multiple steps ("Hello New York?") necessary to purchase one with a yellow handle.

A good accountant can easily control an engineering department's expense without feedback. In some cases, engineering departments with extravagant

tastes and esoteric projects were brought in line with the profit goals of the station. In others, departments that provided efficient service to the station suffered budget cuts.

The scenario has been repeated again and again. For the first year not much seems to change . . . so the cuts are extended. In the second year, the lack of maintenance and supplies becomes evident. Machines don't work as well; the work flow suffers, and other departments complain about the lack of professionalism in the engineering department.

At the end of year two, the best techs have gone to greener pastures (not money so often, or hours, but places where they are considered professionals and don't have the frustrations of working without resources).

By year three, the engineering department is still pulling salaries; emergency bills for parts and repairs have increased; much work has found its way around the engineering department, while other departments have compensated for the loss of engineering.

The accountant proudly points to the reduction in engineering costs. The engineering department runs at very reduced efficiency. The differences in efficiency between an engineering department with proper resources and those that are tool- or parts-poor is frequently on the order of 20:1. Allow me to demonstrate.

## Two fix-and-repair scenarios

At stations A and B, the same chip, an output amplifier, failed on a primary playback machine. Within an hour, both stations had diagnosed the problem.

At station A, the chip had been purchased and stocked. Cost of the chip from a generic parts supplier is \$2.49. Since only one in three parts in the parts storage will ever be used, the real cost of the chip is \$7.47. The machine is returned to service 90 minutes from beginning of project, at a combined labor cost of \$30 (\$15/hr and benefits × 1.5 hours). Total cost is 1½ hours down time, and

\$37.47.

Station B, of course, kept few spares. The first hour was spent calling for a local source—which did not exist. The second hour was spent pushing the paperwork through to authorize the expenditure ("Hello New York?"). The emergency phone call cost \$8 because it was long distance and the clerk needed to find the equipment part number. The manufacturer's price for the chip was \$38.95 but the minimum order is \$75. The rush charges came to \$32. The part arrived 36 hours later. Real cost is 37.5 hours downtime and \$185.

To make matters worse, the down machine was remotely involved in several commercial losses, which of course resulted in some loss of revenue and interpersonal problems.

In both stations the story repeated very much the same way case after case. Station B still sends a man down to Radio Shack three times to obtain three resistors, with three POs and three signatures. Contrary to what you might expect, station B is a major-market station, and A is a very-small-market operation.

## What goes in parts inventory?

So just what should a station have in parts inventory? Something between one of everything ever made and nothing at all. It depends on the nature of your station.

The first level is sub-subsistence. There are at least 1,000 of these stations. In this situation, being off the air is no big deal. The marginal profit is questionable, and frankly, being off the air is a great excuse to force income (or return) into "on air" hours. (Not something to get excited about . . . I still give \$5/hr time to stations which work like this).

In these stations, no support and few spare parts are warranted. These are frequently great stations in terms of public service and alternative programs, or stations where there is little economic reason to exist . . . save public need (they *(continued on page 18)*)

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# Parts Supply Critical Element

(continued from page 17)

used to speak of the public convenience and necessity . . . but I'm showing my age).

At the second level, stations stock all the high-risk and obvious supplies. Fuses, tubes, a complete resistor run and capacitors are the base. The inventory should include some generic amplifiers that can be used to feed a phone line, preamp a turntable or microphone or run a small monitor speaker (they are \$30 devices).

Parts likely to fail in the transmitters and mixers are also kept on hand, though not necessarily power transformers and other expensive, fairly reliable components.

Finally, at the third level, stations stock some of everything found in every piece of gear. At first that sounds like a whole bunch of parts, until you realize that once you have a complete resistor run, capacitor run, common TTL and analog chips, and a selection of generic transistors, there just isn't a whole lot left to stock.

Motors, special switches, relays, transformers, crystals, etc., make up the bulk of the remaining parts.

### Stocking for home-brewed devices

Do-it-yourself projects and interface components are a major section of the parts supply. It is almost impossible to have a working station without a num-

ber of home-brewed devices. In general, it is not cost effective to make home-brewed devices.

Three exceptions are: where devices can be built at less cost than marketed; where the device is so specific as to prevent any manufacturer from offering it, and where your application is advanced to the point where the manufacturers have not yet produced a product.

Other interface components important to have on hand at all times are connectors and, even more important, patch cords. I have seen major-market stations with no means to patch in a piece of gear on trial or a new reporter's recorder without a trip to Radio Shack. In station B mentioned above, I have watched techs spend over 10 hours per week, every week, looking for, making or circumventing appropriate patch cords.

### Necessity of shrinkage

The above-mentioned items should be free flowing and almost unrestrained. Accountants will talk about justification and shrinkage. Justification is difficult on an individual-item basis. Shrinkage is rather limited, but nonetheless exists.

I argue that shrinkage is unavoidable, often represents destructive tests, home brew needs and is ultimately good for the company. The guy that just lifted the 555 timer likely did not make a necklace of it, but rather learned more than you

could have paid him to—and that is good for a company.

Education and shrinkage are related. Not every "let's try this" results in a working item.

I am amazed at the number of stations that realize the expense of having to upgrade gear, but do not understand the cost of updating the understanding of the techs who have to maintain the new gear. I believe that for radio, one or two weeks of education are necessary per year; in TV, it is two to four.

In the case of station B above, after five years of no training, the highly inefficient techs, stumbling through slow and inadequate repairs, in ignorance, easily destroyed \$50,000 a year worth of gear. Of course the accountant was praised for having saved \$5,000 in unnecessary training expense.

Shrinkage should not be encouraged, but should be accepted within reason. Of course it is usually easier to justify a \$100,000 capital expense than it is to sell the education.

### Setting up your parts inventory

It is necessary and good to spend a large portion of your time selecting, ordering and organizing your parts inventory. It is a major part of an engineer's job, unless your station is big enough to justify a full-time ordering agent.

Waste and shrinkage are part of a reasonable inventory. If one in three parts are used in their lifetime, you are doing very well. The opposite is equally true; the \$1 chip that keeps the transmitter from modulating is worth much more than \$1 at 2 AM Saturday.

• There is nothing wrong with inexpensive, generic parts and surplus.

• It is a major and time-consuming task to keep your station supplied with the parts and materials needed to keep it running smoothly.

With this advice, start to monitor the number of times and the real damage done to your operation by not maintaining an adequate parts inventory. I think you will see that the cost of not having far exceeds the cost of having more than enough.

### Organization

Though it's easy to leave everything in little plastic bags in a case marked "stuff," unfortunately, if you don't know where it is, you really don't have it.

Second, you need a way to keep supplies at adequate levels. The easiest way is to keep a "want" list containing anything needed by the operation and anything getting in short supply. It is my experience that in a medium-sized radio station, the want list needs about four hours per week. In major-market TV stations, it is better than 20 hours per week. Avoiding this task always results in much more time and money expended.

Remember two things:

• Even the best can't do it without the tools and supplies.

• You were never made chief to spend hours repairing the disposable cassette machine. You were made chief to achieve the needs of your station, and that requires expense for the future and hours of paperwork.

• To put things into perspective, keep in mind that a typical radio station can have parts on hand for 90% or more of the repairs needed for between \$1,000 and \$5,000. That isn't much, considering . . .



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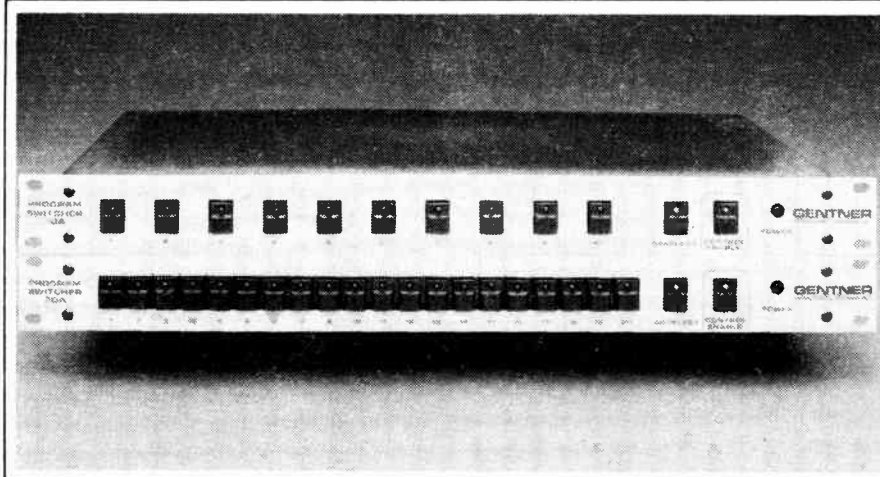
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Circle Reader Service 13 on Page 22

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Circle Reader Service 47 on Page 22



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## Broadcast Computing

# DA Tuning Easy with Programs

by Tom Osenkowski

Brookfield CT . . . The RF oscillator/receiver, impedance bridge and portable computer are essential tools for the engineer involved with MW antennas. But how can a computer save time and money? We'll explore some software which can be invaluable in tuning and broadbanding directional arrays.

Did you ever wonder how a consultant tunes up a newly constructed multi-tower array?

One way is to set up to the theoretical parameters, send a bunch of radio-equipped, FIM-equipped engineers into the field, crank and pray. This is costly in both time and equipment.

If you had a four tower in-line with sample lines of unequal lengths, things could be a little tougher. Tall towers with toroid samples at the base are even tougher. Enter TALKIN.

### TALKIN

TALKIN is a computer program which uses vector math (although the user doesn't even have to know what a vector is) to analyze array operation.

TALKIN works, first, by entering the

*Tom Osenkowski, a regular RW columnist, is a radio engineering consultant and president of MASTER Software. All referenced software is licensed for sale and available from MASTER Software: 203-775-3060.*

theoretical licensed parameters. TALKIN then cranks out a set of parameters which will produce zero (null) field on the azimuth (1) to be protected.

With only one man in the field, the phaser is adjusted to actually "TALK IN" the radial to zero. Those actual antenna monitor readings are then input to the program. Any "error vector" values are taken into account and figured into the final parameters which will produce the licensed pattern.

Error vectors are generated when N+1, 2, etc. (re)radiators appear in the system. These can cause asymmetry in the theoretical pattern. TALKIN takes these parasitics into account (only in moderate cases) and generates final parameters which will produce the licensed pattern. The licensed pattern will probably have minima as opposed to zero theoretical field.

Using the TALKIN procedure, only one field man, one FIM and a pair of walkie-talkies or cellular phone are necessary. As a matter of fact, one person need not be an engineer—just someone proficient in reading a dial and a preset meter.

TALKIN can be used with existing arrays where the operation is in question. If your array has never been "converted" to standard pattern, direct ratio bases for monitor point limits, you can be in for a pleasant surprise. You might be able to relax your MP limits to realistic values and, by "calibrating" your sample sys-

tem, ensure proper operation of your array.

In some arrays, unwanted nulls can appear in the pattern. TALKIN can help ensure these don't appear and cause you lost coverage.

### FIELDTAB, MASTER, DETUNE

Along the lines of array tune-up, did you ever wonder which phaser controls do what in the field and by how much? FIELDTAB answers those questions.

For years, RF engineers and consultants have used vector analysis to perform tedious calculations which answer the "which-one-how-much?" question. FIELDTAB requires absolutely no math background.

Just type in your present antenna monitor readings and FIELDTAB will show you the no-loss theoretical and standard fields. You may then manipulate any one or all parameters (ratio and phase) and see the new value of field.

The process of hemispherical integration is used to determine the fields during each run. Unlike similar attempts in the past, the RMS, RSS, K and Q are recomputed for each run. By using this method, an engineer can quickly and easily determine which controls on the phaser affect which monitor points and by what percentage, based on actual comparison.

This can be very useful in multitower arrays where one MP is slightly high and you want to walk it in without affecting

the other MPs. FIELDTAB will provide this information and, as long as you remain within the  $\pm 5\%$ ,  $\pm 3^\circ$  FCC window, you need not complete a partial proof of performance. The essential method of operation of FIELDTAB is to recalculate the field radials for each run with manipulated parameters.

If you have looked at a recent, well-prepared 301 application for a directional array, you will see a myriad of values generated by computer. The FCC uses a program called RADIAT to calculate fields, loop currents, losses and loop impedances.

MASTER is a program designed to perform the functions of RADIAT and then go beyond to predict base impedances for tall towers for the purpose of phaser design.

Base impedance calculation is a bit tricky. For sinusoidal current distribution, use the formula below.

$$R_L/\sin^2G \text{ and } X_L/\sin^2G$$

For the real-world case, this is not at all valid. It is certainly not valid for the  $180^\circ$  tower case. MASTER gives you the  $\sin^2G$  values for reference. It then goes on to three other translation methods from loop to base.

Most consultants agree on a 92% velocity of propagation for most towers. By this we mean there is a delay in the propagation of the wave along the tower; it takes longer to propagate on the tower than in free space.

A practical example of this effect is the fact that most towers resonate (zero base reactance) at about  $80^\circ$  instead of  $90^\circ$  ( $1/4$  **(continued on next page)**)

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1. Three "D" alkaline batteries (not included) will provide 7½ hours of continuous recording.
2. AC power supply is provided for longer time requirements.
3. NiCads, used in the optional RB430 rechargeable battery pack, yield 5½ hours of continuous use.
4. An optional 4.5VDC supply can be used with an automobile cigarette lighter.

To extend the recording time of standard cassettes without print through or risking tape breakage, the PMD201 offers half-speed recording (15/16 ips) in addition to normal speed. This slower speed effectively doubles the length of any cassette, and is most valuable when used during voice recording, when ultra high frequency performance isn't necessary.

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Broadcast Computing

# DA Tuning Program Saves Costs

(continued from previous page) wave). Simply stated, the tower appears 8% taller. Thus, MASTER allows the user an option to add 8% to the tower heights for impedance calculations.

RADIAT, along with some other in-house computer programs, uses an assumed zero-loop self reactance for the drive point impedance calculation. This provides the answer for coupled reactances only.

MASTER, while giving the user this option, also calculates self reactances by a proprietary spacing method. This then provides the actual loop drive point resistances and reactances, which may then be translated to the base values in the tall tower case. Mutual impedances are user selectable between the Cox and Schelkunoff methods of calculation.

When losses are calculated, the FCC requires that a 1 ohm loss be inserted at the current loop in each tower. MASTER allows insertion of any loss from 0 to 10 ohms.

The "Equivalent Power Radiated" is then calculated. This can be the ERP of the station. In other words, if this "ERP" were input to the program with a loss of 0 ohms, the fields would be identical.

The "Power Radiation Efficiency" is given in terms of percent and the  $G_0$ , or gain figure, is calculated. The reference for  $G_0$  is calculated by hemispherical integration on the reference tower and then compared to the no-loss horizontal RMS of the array.

$G_0$  is a valuable factor in that one can determine if an array is a gainer or loser in terms of comparison to its nondirectional counterpart.

Other features of MASTER include search for minima and maxima, graphic polar plot of the pattern (transferable to the line printer), individual tower fields and calculation of Schelkunoff's self-loop impedance for each tower. Any combination of spacing, height, top load and orientation may be used. Both theoretical and standard pattern values are given. Output may be directed to a line printer, if desired.

MASTER outputs data (in the user-selectable automatic mode) from 0° to 60° vertical for use in FCC 301 applications, in 5° increments. MASTER can be invaluable for analyzing an array from both the standpoint of fields as well as impedances.

Did you ever have to perform a non-directional proof on a directional array? This means detuning unused towers. Simply detuning for minimum base cur-

rent does not ensure proper detuning.

DETUNE was written for the purpose of determining the exact location on a tower where one would tune (a variable inductor at the base of the tower) for minimum current. The current indicator is usually a (temporarily modified) FIM, carried to the correct location by a tower

“

*The reader is well advised that a variety of software is available at reasonable cost for antenna analysis.*

”

man. By using DETUNE, the most accurate ND results can be obtained knowing that unused towers have been properly detuned.

#### TANALYZ, XMSNLINE

A number of "toolbox" programs are used in the analysis of ATUs. TANALYZ will analyze actual ATU operation regardless of the state of adjustment. This is especially helpful where the ATU is not properly adjusted. TANALYZ will find the actual network phase shift so that a mismatched network can be recomputed and adjusted for a proper termination, thus improving bandwidth.

XMSNLINE simulates a transmission line length so that, for a given load impedance, the input impedance may be found. If the load impedance is not equal to the characteristic impedance of the line, not only will the input impedance be different than the load impedance, but the actual current phase shift of the line will no longer be equal to the electrical length of the line. The SWR will be greater than 1:1, as well.

XMSNLINE will determine all of the above for a given line length and load impedance.

#### DAPROX, RXCP

Anyone who has dealt with directional antenna proofs knows that measurements performed within close range to the array may be distorted by "proximity effect." This is why the FCC recommends that measurements on a partial proof commence at a distance greater than 10 times the spacing of the farthest elements in the array.

For measurements close in to the array, DAPROX will calculate an appro-

priate correction factor to apply to each reading on each radial. DAPROX is also a nifty partial analysis program which stores data on disk for future reference.

Proximity correction is an overall option. Standard and log ratio analysis is shown for all readings. Input data may be the original proof or latest proof for

terms of their mode. That is, for in-line and parallelogram antenna arrays without complete nulls there are  $2^{N-1}$  number of parameter options that will produce the same pattern but widely different power distribution and operating impedances. In some cases, negative and zero-resistance towers can be converted to a positive value and vastly improve bandwidth.

#### MODE

MODE is a computer program written to determine the parameter option when you only know the theoretical parameters on the station license or CP. MODE utilizes a Newton-Raphson solution for complex polynomials to derive the original multiplication pairs. Those pairs are then moded and remultiplied in order to derive the new operating parameters.

MODE can provide the answer to a low RMS situation due to original poor design (ie., low drive point resistances) and improve bandwidth and efficiency by deriving a more desirable set of operating parameters.

The reader is well advised that a variety of software is available at reasonable cost for antenna analysis. All programs are written in user-friendly style so that a minimum of knowledge is necessary in order to obtain the data desired. An investment in software can easily pay off in dividends of saved time and minimized field work.

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# Moding of DA System Revealing

by Tom Osenkowsky

Brookfield CT ... In my last column, we had taken numerous readings throughout our DA system in order to track down sources of power lost.

Before we get involved in redesigning networks, let's reflect on the actual design criteria of our array. Is there any way to ensure the array itself is OK? Let's consider *moding of the system*.

Most antenna systems have several sets of parameters (i.e., field ratios and phases) which will produce the identical radiation pattern. For an in-line array of N elements, equally spaced and of equal

## RF Readings

height, there are  $2^{N-1}$  sets of parameters available. If all nulls are complete nulls (zero field), the array cannot be moded.

Let's look at two cases, both 5 kW (see Table 1). I have used two towers for the sake of simplicity and because two towers constitute the basic building block of most complex arrays.

Case #1 is a fictional array. Note that the power distribution is very poor in that one radiator carries the bulk of the power. Case #2 is an actual array in

*Tom Osenkowsky is a radio engineering consultant. He can be reached at 203-775-3060, or by writing to 5 Beechwood Grove, Brookfield CT 06804.*

Maryland. We "mode" the array by swapping the field ratios (see Table 2).

Table 2 shows a marked improvement. Case #2 had a similar power distribution problem. Let's see what happened when we "moded" this array (see Table 2a).

Case #2 was better off in its original form. A negative tower has developed in Tower 2, meaning that power is returned to the common point from the tower.

In-line arrays and parallelograms can be moded in this way, provided no complete null exists. In-line and parallelogram patterns are usually designed by multiplying two-tower pairs together. By knowing these original pairs, we can re-multiply each inverted pair and find out the new operating impedances, given the new parameters.

Where the original pairs are not known, we use a PC computer program called MODE© to break down the parameters, find the original pairs and then reconstruct the pattern. We use the MASTER© program to find out the new drive point impedances.

Note that while tower arrays with unequal heights may be moded by the above procedure, the vertical radiation patterns will be different. The nighttime pattern will no longer conform to FCC Rules and will cause skywave interference to other stations.

Dog-leg and offset arrays can sometimes be moded, but you would need to relocate the offset tower(s) to the opposite side of the array to utilize the second

option.

Another way of looking at the moding process is by moving the tower orientation 180° and reversing the phase angle.

There are two more important considerations on operating parameters.

First, how tight are your nulls? If they are tighter (pulled in) than necessary, you are not only losing coverage, but your drive point impedances may not be optimum as well. In fact, moding an array with ratios that are closer to unity than

not does not produce widely varying results ... it may not be worthwhile.

If you're serious about checking your pattern, I strongly suggest completing a non-DA-to-DA proof of performance. I say "non-DA-to-DA" due to seasonal variations. For older arrays, your monitor point limits may not be determined by the direct ratio basis. I will be addressing proofs, talk-down procedures, analysis, proximity effect, and reradiation in future columns, but suffice to say it is important to ensure that the pattern be right before going into the phaser.

The second point concerns the number  
*(continued on next page)*

Table 1.

Case #1

Tower	Field	Height	Spacing	Loop Z	Loop I	Power
1	1/0	90	0	41.8+j32.3	10.9	4954
2	.5/100	90	90	1.6-j14.2	5.4	46

Case #2

1	1/0	88.3	0	6.5+j58	6.21	250
2	2.25/157	88.3	90	24.3+j15	13.98	4750

Table 2.

Case #1

Tower	Field	Height	Spacing	Loop Z	Loop I	Power
1	5/0	90	0	57.4+j66	5.4	1702
2	1/100	90	90	27.8+j12.2	10.9	3298

Table 2a.

Case #2

Tower	Field	Height	Spacing	Loop Z	Loop I	Power
1	2.25/0	88.3	0	29.0+j21.5	13.98	5666
2	1/157	88.3	90	-17.3+j24	6.21	-666

Table 3.

$$X_1 \text{ Input Branch } \frac{R_L}{\tan \theta} - X_3 = \frac{50}{4.70} - (51.1) = j61.74$$

$$X_2 \text{ Output Branch } \frac{R_i}{\tan \theta} - X_3 = \frac{50}{4.70} - (51.1) = j61.74$$

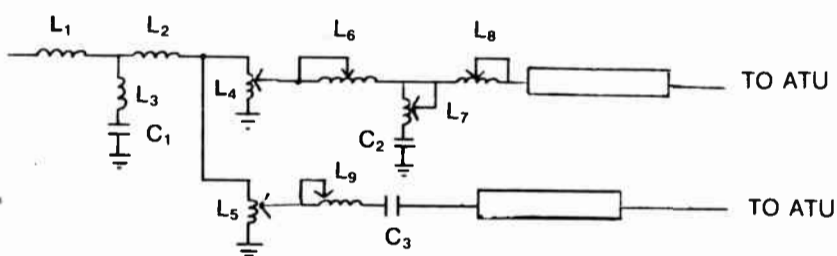
$$X_3 \text{ Shunt Branch } \frac{\sqrt{R_i \cdot R_L}}{\sin \theta} = \frac{50}{-.978} = -j51.1$$

WHERE  $\theta$  phase shift of network =  $-78^\circ$

$R_i$  input reactance = 50 ohms

$R_L$  load resistance = 50 ohms

Figure 1.



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January 1, 1987

# New Bulletin Board

by David Armstrong

Houston TX ... The Radio Engineer Bulletin Board is an electronic bulletin board designed primarily for broadcast engineers. It evolved from a computer program I wrote for my own use—that is, to consolidate engineering formulas I work with on a regular basis into an easy-access format.

The engineering formulas are reached

through the D)ooors system from the main menu of the bulletin board. I use the well-known RBBS (remote bulletin board system) to control communications. There are 25 engineering formulas on the bulletin board at present, many of them multifunction in nature. More will be added as time permits.

The Radio Engineer Bulletin Board also provides three separate C)onference areas for engineers to use as a vehicle to

communicate with other engineers.

ENGHELP CONFERENCE is an area where engineers may exchange ideas, and provide or get help with a technical problem they may be having with a piece of equipment or a directional array.

JOBOPEN CONFERENCE is an area where stations having an engineering position open can post a message for engineers using the system to read.

JOBLOOK CONFERENCE is an area where engineers wishing to relocate can post a message on where they would wish to relocate.

Use of The Radio Engineer Bulletin Board is free to anyone who wishes to take advantage of it. The only cost to the

user outside of the Houston, TX area is the price of the telephone call.

Anyone wishing to upload a computer program for other engineers to use, as long as it is a public domain program, are urged to do so. There are engineering programs on the system now that may be downloaded by those who wish to do so.

The main menu you will see after using the D)ooors system of the main bulletin board is shown in Table 1.

David Armstrong is the chief operator of KEYH, Houston, TX. He can be reached at 713-466-7687 (Voice) and 713-937-9097 (Data).

Table 1.

ENGINEERING FORMULAS

Page 1 of 2 Pages

A...Determine changes in Base (I) on Antenna Monitor.  
 B...Convert from Feet to Wavelength & Degrees.  
 C...Solve Tee-Network for proper match.  
 D...Solve for Tower Separation in Degrees & Feet.  
 E...Complete Ohms Law Formula.  
 F...Convert Wavelength from/to Frequency.  
 G...Admittance & Susceptance Formula.  
 H...VSWR formula.  
 I...Determine RF power in Lobes & Nulls.  
 J...Determine DA expected from N-DA measurements.  
 K...Calculate R & C of a Resonant Frequency.  
 L...Vertical Distribution of a 90 Degree Tower.  
 M...Inductive & Capacitive Reactance Formula.  
 N...Resonant Frequency Formula.  
 O...Solve for Length of Coax per 1 Degree change.  
 P...Line Input Impedance.  
 Q...Multi Parallel & Series formulas.  
 Enter the formula you wish to use ( A thru Q ), [NP] Next Page [END] To End.

ENGINEERING FORMULAS

Page 2 of 2 Pages

R...Capacitive & Inductive Reactance formula.  
 S...L Network formula.  
 T...Calculate RF reading for Bridge indications.  
 U...Find Transmitter Efficiency.  
 V...Calculate RF Power @ 1 Mile.  
 W...Calculate Z at Distance End of a Feed Line.  
 X...Find Distance between Two Geo. Co-ordinates.  
 Y...Lost Tower Emergency.  
 Enter formula you wish to use [ R thru Y ]. [PP] Previous Page [END] To End.

## Moding of DA System

(continued from previous page)  
 of nulls in the pattern. I'll deal with pattern theory in upcoming installments, but bear in mind that a pattern may analyze correctly at proof time and yet generate unwanted nulls or minima due to misadjustment. Here again is a good cause for poor driving point impedances.

I make these two points because it will save time and money prior to ATU and phaser redesign.

We made several measurements in the antenna system in the last column. Now, we'll move into the phaser. A typical phaser is shown in Figure 1.

Moving from the ATU back toward the phaser, we see the transmission line (we may model a tee network as a transmission line) and a phase shift network.

Let's look at the tee network consisting of L6, L7, L8 and C2. By design, the network calls for  $-78^\circ$  of phase lag. An easy way to remember if a network is leading or lagging is to look at the shunt

leg. It will have a reactive component opposite the input and output legs. A capacitive shunt branch will constitute a lagging network, and an inductive shunt branch will be a leading network.

The load impedance of the phase shifter should be  $50 \pm j0$ . The design formulae for the tee network are as shown in Table 3.

The network consisting of L9 and C3 is usually tuned to resonance where  $X_L = X_C$ . The network is a fine tuner panel control to compensate for minor variations. Its phase shift is determined by the following formula:

$$\arctan (X/R_L)$$

WHERE X = reactance of circuit  
 (either  $X_L$  or  $X_C$ )  
 $R_L$  = load resistance

Next month, we'll get into actual adjustments, starting right at the phase shifters.

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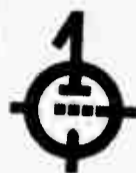


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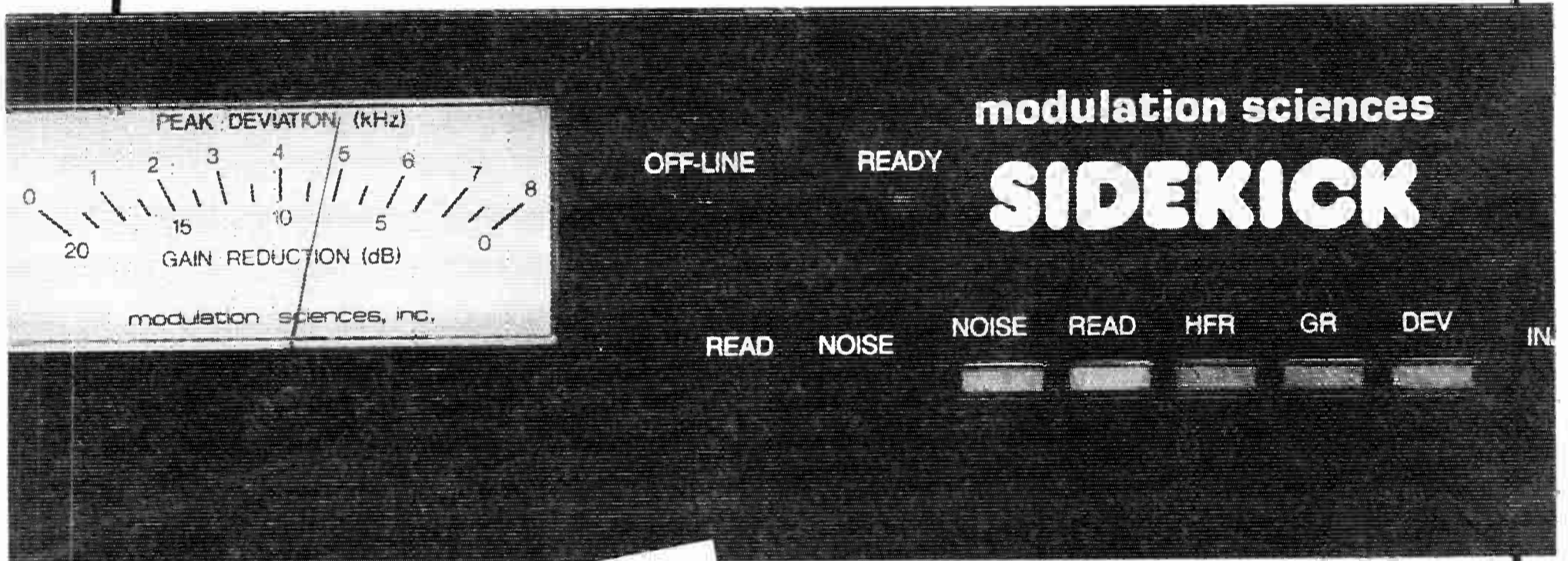








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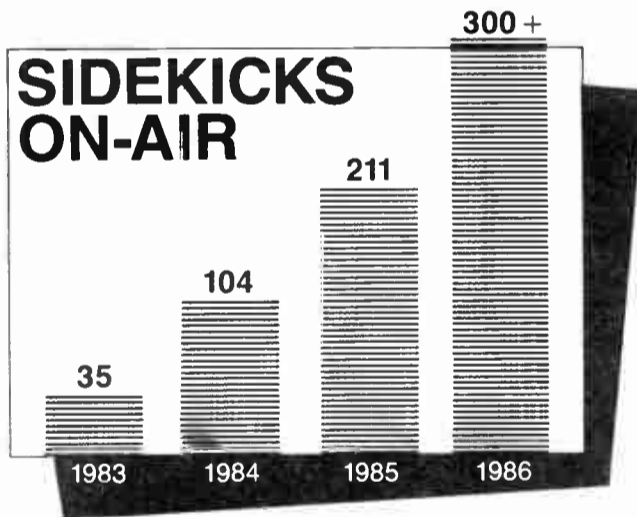
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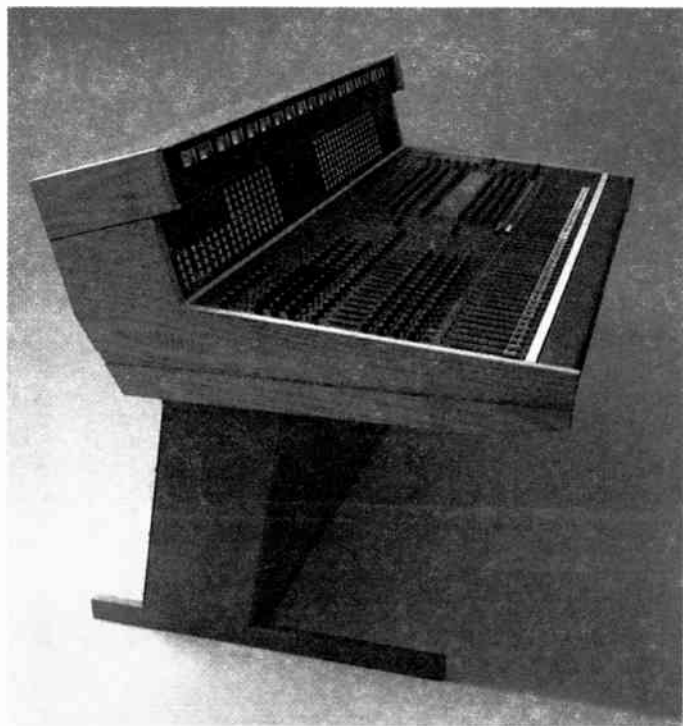
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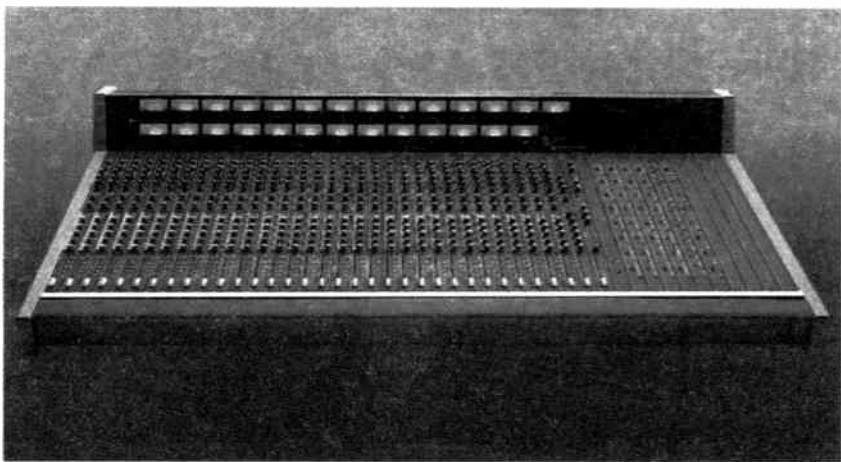
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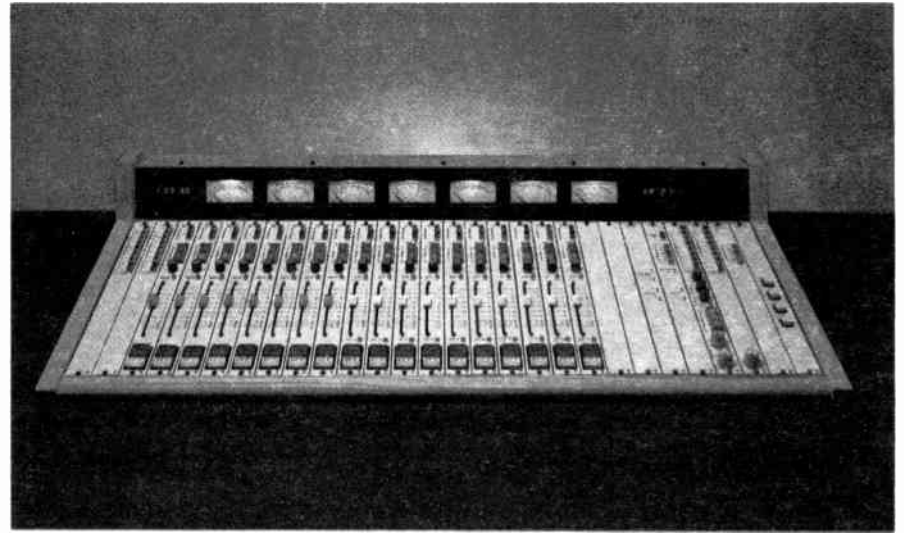


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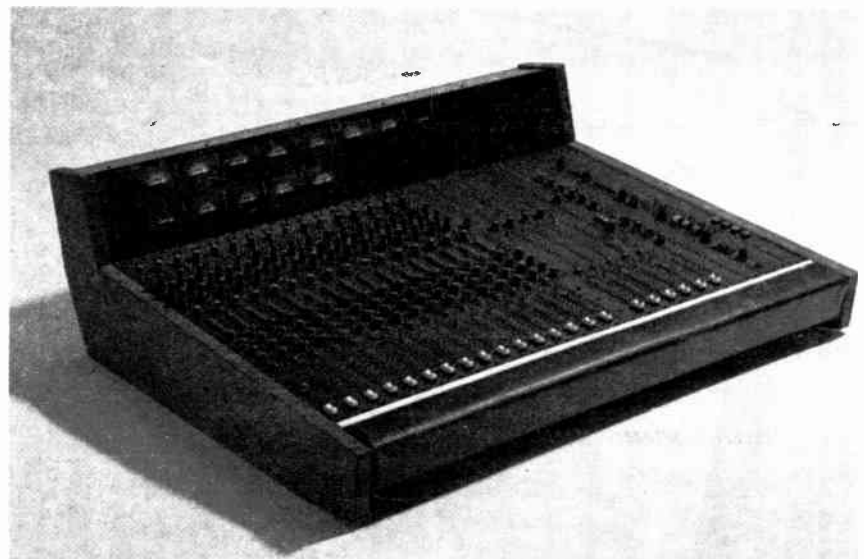


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