

DECEMBER 1994

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TELEVISION

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A REED BUSINESS PUBLICATION

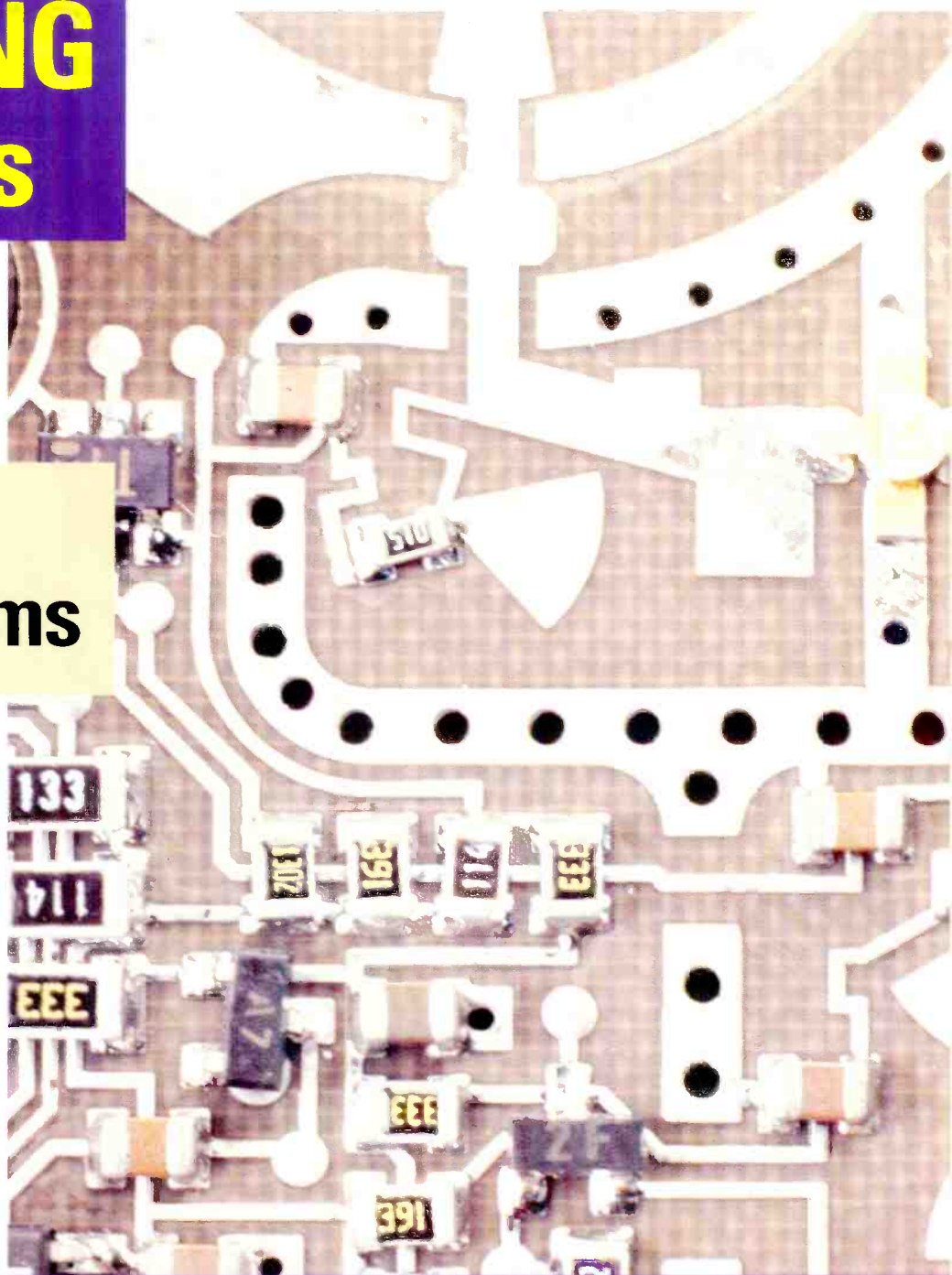
REPAIRING SAT LNBS

Camcorder
Fault Notes

PC Monitor Test Programs

Audetel and
Closed
Captions

The Organic
Semiconductor
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DIGITAL STORAGE SCOPES



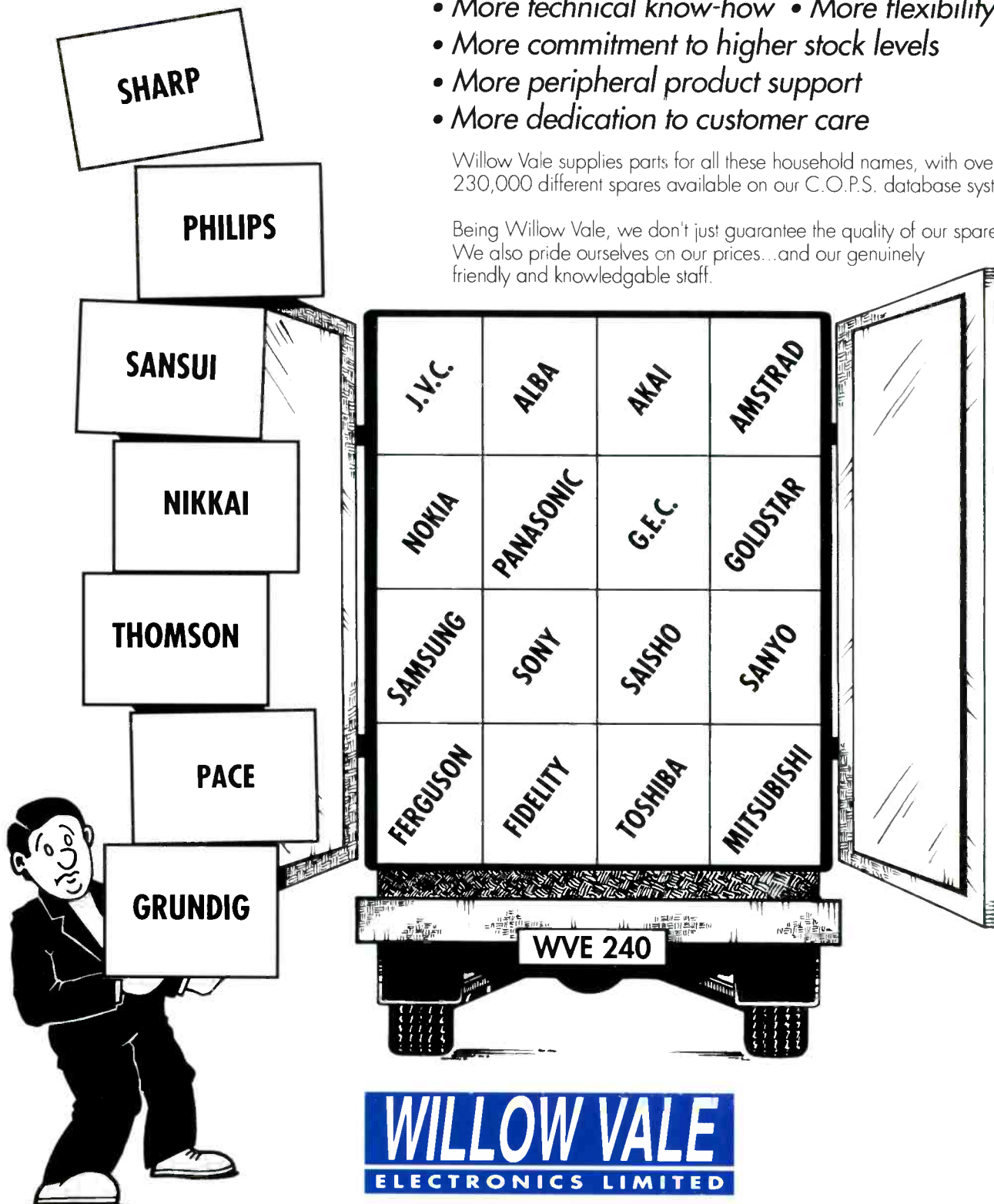
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TELEVISION

DECEMBER 1994

On Sale

November 16th

Vol. 45, No. 2

Issue 530

90 Repairing Satellite LNBs *Steve Rawlings*
With care a dead LNB can often be got to work again, little more than a digital voltmeter and a good power supply being required. How to tackle various common problems.

98 The Os-Con *Eugene Trundle*
A new type of electrolytic capacitor, developed by Sanyo, uses an organic semiconductor material as the electrolyte. It offers considerably improved performance.

107 Inside the Ferguson ICC6 Chassis, Part 3 *Mark Paul*

This concluding instalment deals with the timebase circuitry and the watchdog system. The latter assists with fast switch-off and monitors various circuit points, switching the set to the standby mode in the event of a fault condition being detected.

110 Video for the Disabled *George Cole*
A look at the Audetel system, which provides additional commentary to help those with impaired vision, and the Closed Captions system that puts captions on videotapes to help those with hearing problems.

112 Servicing PC Monitors *Ken Taylor*
Software that provides displays to assist with servicing and setting up monitors and some guidance on obtaining spares and technical advice.

118 A Serviceman's Guide to Oscilloscopes, Part 2 *David Botto*
A look at digital storage scopes and a brief survey of currently available models.

125 Health and Safety Legislation *Roy Baines*

127 Satellite Faults

128 Sony Camcorder Fault Notes *Keith T. Keeton*
Servicing notes on the TR50, TR105, TR705, F500, F550 and F355.

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The January issue will be published on December 21st.

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ISSN 0032-647X

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TP621	RC 621	850p	RC5901	RC 5901	850p
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TP661	RC 661	850p	T6772	RC 149	900p
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A518612	RC903	900p	SERIES L		
SCL002	RC904	850p	86173	RC 190	875p
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A511940	RC 906	800p	RC218, RC222, RC228, RC238	RC 140M	850p
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ITT			JXDE	RC 884	850p
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FS4	RC 148	850p	RC628	RC 865	900p
RG305	RC 305	825p	SHARP		
RG306	RC 306	825p	G0121CESA, 123CESA, 204, 251	RC 140M	850p
FS9/1-10/1	RC 307	850p	SIEMENS		
VS5 RUK	RC 308	825p	FC616	RC 130	850p
VS4-1	RC 310	850p	FC631	RC 132	850p
MULTICONTROL (17C20)	RC 311	800p	FC742	RC 164	900p
KÖRTING			SONY		
18279, 18396, 18460, 18521 SE	RC 108	850p	RM604, RM605, RM606	RC 140	850p
40540 VTS	RC 108	900p	32 CHANNEL	RC 140M	850p
LOEWE			RM613	RC 141	850p
DC11	RC 146	850p	RM632, RM636	RC 160	850p
MATSUI			TATUNG		
010270601	RC 889	850p	FXA	RC 877	850p
VX770	RC 892	850p	RC70	RC 883	750p
METZ			FX70 FASTTEXT	RC 894	850p
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COLOR (7156)	RC 183	850p	FB632	RC 632 ST	850p
JAVA (7180)	RC 184	850p	FB639	RC 639 ST	850p
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NOKIA			3V31-32	RC 344	850p
SATELLITE	RC 550	850p	3V57-58	RC 628	900p
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390C9500	RC 339	900p	TX100 FASTTEXT	RC 785	800p
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69117194	RC 180	875p			
RC5991-UNIV	RC 300	850p			

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* RCA TYPE BACK TENSION TOOL	* 1.27mm
* TENSION ADJUSTMENT TOOL FOR VARIOUS USES	* 1.50mm
* VCR ADJUSTMENT TOOL	* 1.60mm
	* 2.00mm
	* 2.40mm
	* 3.00mm

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315mA	FUSE03	75P	FUSE19	60P
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500mA	FUSE05	75P	FUSE21	60P
630mA	FUSE06	75P	FUSE22	60P
800mA	FUSE07	60P	FUSE23	60P
1A	FUSE08	60P	FUSE24	60P
1.25A	FUSE09	60P	FUSE25	60P
1.6A	FUSE10	60P	FUSE26	60P
2A	FUSE11	50P	FUSE27	60P
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Mixed Blessings and Missed Opportunities

Samsung's decision to invest £600m in an electronics manufacturing complex at Wynyard Park, Teeside, Cleveland is good news indeed. It will create 3,000 jobs in the five plants to be set up to produce microwave ovens, computer monitors, fax machines, colour C.R.T.s and personal computers. Apparently the success of Samsung's CTV manufacturing plant, in which the company has invested over £26m, at nearby Billingham contributed to Samsung's decision to increase its presence in the UK. All to the good: one success leading to another. And this is not an isolated case. On a smaller scale, Toshiba has recently decided to concentrate its European VCR assembly work at its Plymouth plant, while several other companies have recently increased their manufacturing investments in Scotland and South Wales. The UK has never before manufactured so many CTV sets, and the total output of electronics goods has never been greater.

What does all this say? If you wanted to put a dampener on it you could point out that the Department of Trade and Industry has been generous with regional selective assistance: it's understood to have contributed some £58m to Samsung's latest project. But this is a part of international trading life nowadays: most countries do something of the sort. Assistance of this nature helps, but is obviously only part of the story. Two other factors are much more significant. First that there seems to be no problem about recruiting suitable workforces at competitive rates in the UK,

which has the great advantage of speaking the international language of electronics, English. And secondly that as part of the EU the UK is in one of the largest technological markets in the world. So we can produce electronics goods in the UK and we can sell and distribute them. The obvious question is why are there so few indigenous UK electronics companies? This seems to indicate a lack of competence, initiative and foresightedness amongst senior management in the UK, and a curious attitude to investment. Billions were wasted on the property boom of the late Eighties, while industry was left short of the wherewithall. Inflation didn't help either. It's difficult to lock funds into long-term developments when the value of money is falling and interest rates are, as a result, high. The management of "UK Ltd." has blundered monumentally in securing our long-term prospects as a technological manufacturing centre. Others, fortunately, have come along and seized the opportunities.

A word of caution is nevertheless appropriate. It is today all too easy to strip out plant and move it elsewhere when the economics of the situation change. Who would have thought that Singapore, a major electronics manufacturing centre in recent times, would lose out? Yet Thomson Consumer Electronics has just announced that it is to close its CTV plant in Singapore and move the operation to Bangkok in Thailand and Batam in Indonesia. The move is understood to have been precipitated by rising costs in

Singapore: Didier Trutt of Thomson, Asia referred, in connection with the move, to the severe cost pressures associated with CTV manufacture worldwide. Japanese manufacturers have for decades been moving plant about in the far east. And following a degree of deregulation it seems that India could become an increasingly important electronics manufacturing base in the next few years.

So much for manufacturing. What about the R&D work that eventually leads to the installation of manufacturing lines? This is where the UK has signally failed in the past. So much work has been started – with LCDs, solid-state imaging devices and GaAs technology for example – but has seldom got off the ground. Yet there is today as much to go for as ever. One of the latest developments, which promises to revolutionise electronics in the future, is quantum-effect integrated circuits. We are talking about switching at atomic levels, five hundred times as fast as with current silicon technology; about components some ten atoms across in which the electrons behave as both particles and waves. A breakthrough has recently been announced in the practical development of such circuitry. As interesting as the technological advance is the fact that it has been achieved by a research team at Cambridge University. The team is funded by Toshiba. This seems to say it all: that the UK has the ability to innovate, develop technology and, eventually, carry out manufacture – but not to get its act together.

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COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photograph shows part of the microwave circuitry layout, including one of the signal probes, in a current LNB. See article on pages 90-92.

Repairing Satellite LNBs

Steve Rawlings

Most repair establishments seem to treat the humble LNB as a black box: if it doesn't work, throw it away and install a replacement or pay for costly repairs. It's true that to service such units fully expensive test gear is required. But if all you want to do is to get one working again, read on. There's no need for expensive test gear, just a digital voltmeter and a good power supply. In this article I'll explain how to recognise the different parts of the circuit and how to fault-find quickly.

What's Inside

So what's inside these little black boxes? The simplest thing is to think of the LNB as a kind of radio receiver, which of course it is. Fig. 1 shows a basic block diagram. Only we're concerned with microwave frequencies rather than r.f.

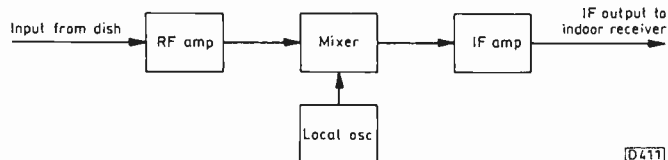


Fig. 1: Basic LNB block diagram.

The receiver circuitry within the LNB is mostly laid out in microstrip form, and all the components are surface mounted (see the cover photograph). Microstrip layout is used because of its efficiency at microwave frequencies. The width and length of the microstrip is directly related to the frequency in use.

The basic purpose of the LNB is to pick up the relatively weak signals reflected by the dish and pass them on to the receiver. The problem is that the dish and the receiver are usually some distance apart, and that at microwave frequencies losses are high. To overcome this difficulty the LNB converts the s.h.f. signals from the dish to a lower intermediate frequency (i.f.) band. Transfer of the signal energy to the receiver via the cable is then more efficient.

Polarisation

There are many different types of LNB, but they are similar in basic design. Perhaps the only major difference is the way in which selection between horizontally and vertically polarised signals is carried out.

The signals are picked up by a tiny probe. There are three different ways of selecting horizontally or vertically polarised transmissions. The simplest is to have two probes mounted at 90° with respect to each other and switch between the outputs they provide. This is the cheapest and most widely used method and is referred to as H/V switching. The feedhorn is connected to the LNB directly. This is the technique we will consider here, but for the sake of completeness we'll briefly mention the alternatives – the use of a mechanical or a magnetic polariser.

A polariser is mounted between the feedhorn and the LNB. The mechanical polariser has a single probe mounted in a piece of waveguide which is rotated so that the probe's

orientation matches the signal's polarisation. A servo motor controlled by the receiver moves the polariser as required. This was the earliest approach but suffered from reliability problems. The magnetic polariser was devised as a cheaper and more reliable alternative, having no moving parts. Basically the idea is to alter, as necessary, the polarisation of the incoming signal before it arrives at the single probe. It consists of a coil wrapped round a ferrite core: the coil is current driven, the amount of current supplied determining the degree of wave bending that occurs. Back to the H/V type.

Typical LNB Layout

Fig. 2 shows a typical LNB signals circuitry layout with H/V switching at the input. The part at the top left is directly over the rear of the feedhorn. The two probes, 90° apart, can be seen, the one on the right for horizontal polarisation and the one at the bottom for vertical polarisation. They pick up the energy from the feedhorn and transfer it to the LNB circuitry.

The transistors are all of the field effect type (f.e.t.s). Tr1 and Tr2 provide the initial r.f. amplification, Tr1 for the vertically polarised signals and Tr2 for the horizontally polarised ones. H/V switching is achieved simply by switching one or the other transistor on electronically. Tr3 is the second r.f. amplifier stage. Note that there is no d.c. connection in the signal path between it and the transistors in the first stage – in fact a.c. coupling is used between all the transistors in the r.f. amplifier stages, to avoid d.c. components interfering with adjacent stages. Tr4 is the third r.f. amplifier. There are usually three stages in the r.f. amplifier section, but some designs may have more.

The amplified output from the final r.f. amplifier is fed

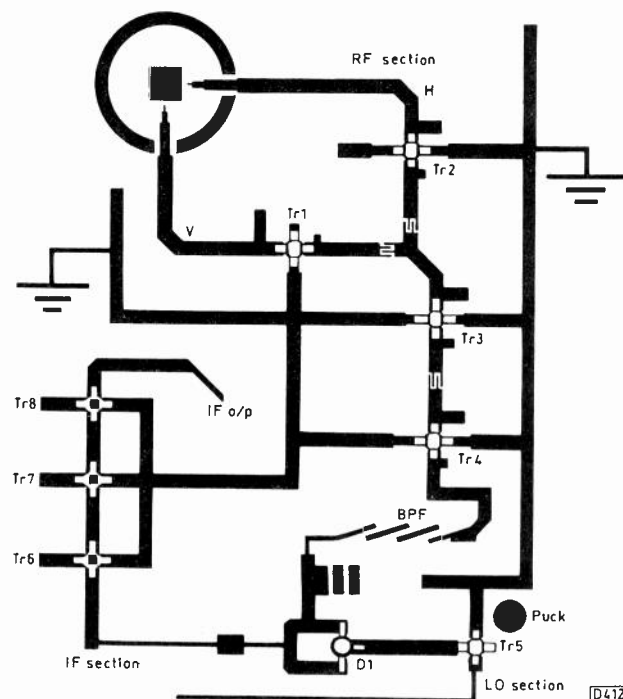


Fig. 2: A typical LNB signals circuitry layout.

via a microstrip bandpass filter to the diode mixer D1. In this stage the r.f. signal is mixed with the output from the local oscillator. This generally runs at 10GHz, though with the latest Astra 1D ready designs the frequency is 9.75GHz. Transistor Tr5 is part of the local oscillator circuit, which is of the DRO (dielectric resonant oscillator) type. The dielectric section is the small puck to the right of Tr5. Resonance is achieved when metal, in this case the lid, is placed over the top of the puck. There is also a local oscillator tuning screw over the puck: adjusting it enables the oscillator to be tuned 100MHz-200MHz either side of the basic 10GHz.

The i.f. signal thus produced (900-1,700MHz with a 10GHz oscillator) is passed to the i.f. section of the LNB. This usually consists of three amplifier stages and can easily be identified as the f.e.t.s are usually coloured black instead of white, the colour of the r.f. f.e.t.s.

Biasing circuitry (not shown in Fig. 2) is also required. In most modern units the bias for the f.e.t.s is set automatically. In older units such as the Marconi blue cap the r.f. stages are manually biased. A single 5V regulator, which is also easily identified, is bolted to the block. The only i.c. on the board is a Philips PC74HCT14T. This small, 14-pin device is used to switch between horizontal and vertical polarisation.

Fault Finding

Fault finding in such circuits is easier than it may at first seem. The first thing to do is to check whether the LNB works. This may sound silly, but it has not been uncommon to find that some amongst the hundreds of LNBs I've had in the workshop have been fault free. They are sometimes blamed when the cause of the fault lies elsewhere. So the first step is to note the on-screen symptoms. This will give a good indication of the sort of problem present. We'll consider possible faults, along with cures, in order of severity.

No Signal

This is the most difficult fault to diagnose by looking at a TV set's screen as there are several possible causes. If both sets of signals, horizontal and vertical, are missing and the dish alignment is correct, remove the LNB from the dish. Connect it to a 13V power supply and check the current drain. This should be about 200mA, though it's not uncommon to get a figure of 300mA with the Marconi blue cap type. No current probably means that the regulator has died or the input connector is dry-jointed. The latter is quite a common fault. A reading of less than 200mA could mean that a single device has failed. A higher current reading could mean the same. If the supply shows that there's a short-circuit it could be that water has got into the LNB. This is very common with Marconi blue caps, though later designs are much improved in this respect.

It's now time to open up the LNB. Be careful not to lose any screws – for correct local oscillator operation when the unit is reassembled they must all be refitted. Some LNBs have a separate enclosure for the oscillator section. This is a much better arrangement as the oscillator section shouldn't be disturbed unless absolutely necessary (a spectrum analyser is required to reset the local oscillator).

Once you've opened the LNB, take a few minutes to look over the circuit for any obvious faults or corrosion. Don't worry about the biasing section. In 99 per cent of cases there's nothing wrong with it. The fault may be in the r.f., i.f. or local oscillator section. Usually you'll find that the cause is failure of one of the f.e.t.s in the r.f. section. So

circuit checks are the next step.

This can be done with a digital voltmeter – accuracy is not important, two digits being sufficient. Connect the DVM's negative lead to the LNB's chassis and use the positive lead to carry out checks. Start with Tr1 and Tr2 (Fig. 2). Check the bias voltage directly at the f.e.t. leads. The gates should be somewhere between -1.0 and -0.2 V. Don't forget that one f.e.t. will be switched off. To switch each f.e.t. on-off, raise or lower the supply voltage. Any voltage outside the limits just mentioned will indicate that the f.e.t. is faulty – especially if the voltage reading is positive. The gate connection is at the signal pick-up probe side and can be identified by a small mark or the correct orientation of the LNB to read an identification letter, see Fig. 3. The drain connection is at the other side of the f.e.t. to the gate. The voltage here should be between 2.5V and 4V, ideally about 3V.

If one of the f.e.t.s seems to be faulty, it could be that the problem is with the H/V switching. So alternate the supply

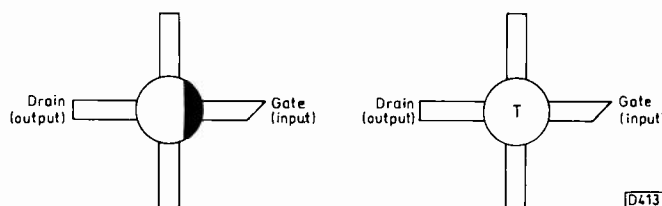


Fig. 3: F.E.T. pin connections. Correct orientation of the capital letter provides a guide.

voltage between 13V and 18V. Monitor the suspect f.e.t.'s gate voltage while doing this. The voltage should switch on and off. If it does, the f.e.t. is faulty. If it doesn't, check the switching circuit. In the majority of cases however the f.e.t. will be at fault.

Next check each of the other r.f. amplifier f.e.t.s in turn. The voltage conditions should be the same as with Tr1 and Tr2, but with no switching of course.

The local oscillator stage should be treated differently. It's very difficult to check whether this is working correctly. The best method is to reassemble the LNB and use a spectrum analyser to check the oscillator's radiation, whose amplitude should be approximately -60 dBm. This is too low to give a microwave counter reading. The frequency should be $10\text{GHz} \pm 10\text{MHz}$. If the frequency is higher than this the channels will be incorrect or, if the oscillator has drifted sufficiently, there will be no signal at all.

The only way to check the oscillator stage if a spectrum analyser is not available is to see if the f.e.t. is passing any current. There should be a resistor, usually with a low value of about 1Ω , next to the f.e.t.'s drain. If the f.e.t. is not working there will be no voltage drop across this resistor. With a Marconi blue cap LNB you should get voltage readings of about 3.4V and 3.2V at either side of the resistor. No voltage drop indicates a faulty f.e.t.

If the voltages checked so far all seem to be o.k. there could be a fault in the i.f. amplifier section. This is more reliable however, accounting in my experience for only about five per cent of failures. The voltages in this section are slightly different. The f.e.t.s are designed for lower frequency operation and are coloured black rather than white. You should get a reading of about 7.5V at the gate and 1.5V at the drain of the i.f. transistors. Any voltages that are a long way from these figures indicate a faulty f.e.t.

That concludes the circuit checks. You'll notice that I have concentrated on f.e.t. failure. The use of microstrip layout and surface-mounted devices means that the rest of

the circuitry is pretty reliable. It's unlikely that you will ever encounter a faulty non-active device such as a resistor. Almost always a defective f.e.t. is the cause of the fault, in most cases one of the r.f. f.e.t.s.

H/V Switching Faults

If the symptom is failure to receive signals of one polarisation it's likely that Tr1 or Tr2, depending on the signals that are missing, is faulty. Before you carry out transistor checks, ensure that the switching is o.k. – both in the receiver and the LNB. If Tr1 or Tr2 has gone soft it may still work after a fashion, but produce a very poor signal level. In such cases ensure that reception of signals of the opposite polarity is good before replacing anything.

Poor Signal

If the quality of both the H- and V-polarisation signals is poor either Tr3 or Tr4 is likely to be faulty. But don't rule out Tr1 and Tr2: they could both be defective.

Intermittent Faults

If there's an intermittent fault, note the symptoms carefully. It could be that the LNB's performance is poor in bad weather. In this case ensure that the dish is aligned correctly then suspect that the gain of one of the f.e.t.s is poor. Slightly incorrect voltages will provide clues.

Simple things such as a poor cable could be responsible. In such cases it's sometimes best to try an LNB substitution test.

Poor Signal, Channels out of Sync

The channels being out of sync suggests that the local oscillator's frequency has drifted. This can also result in poor signal strength. Note the frequency and channels at the TV set. This is a difficult fault to deal with as easy access to a TV set and the LNB at the same time is required. Open the LNB to gain access to the tuning screw. Turn it slowly while watching a TV screen. Tune until the correct channel is seen. Clockwise rotation increases the oscillator frequency, half a turn changing it by about 30MHz. The total adjustment range is 100MHz-200MHz. The signal will be lost at about 20MHz out however.

Before altering the tuning ensure that the frequency drift is not caused by poor fit of the inner casing around the oscillator circuit.

Replacing Transistors

Transistor replacement may not be so easy. The devices I've used have come from either another LNB or from a surplus dealer. R.F. f.e.t.s come with varying degrees of noisiness. I use mainly NEC type NEC371 f.e.t.s, which I refer to as 'T' f.e.t.s because of the letter T on top. They have a noise figure of 0.8dBf and are adequate for even the most demanding satellite reception. Others in the NEC range are denoted R and J. R f.e.t.s would be used in the Tr3 and Tr4 positions. The J f.e.t.s, being the most noisy, would be used in the oscillator section where noise is not a consideration.

These f.e.t.s may be supplied by the manufacturer. But be warned, they are expensive: a single device may cost up to £5. Hunt around the radio rallies and surplus suppliers if you cannot find them anywhere else.

Don't be tempted to replace all the transistors in an LNB

with good f.e.t.s in an attempt to improve the noise figure. Three 1dB f.e.t.s in series doesn't mean that the total noise figure is 3dB. The noise contributed by the first transistor has the greatest effect, being amplified by all the following transistors. So to improve the noise performance replace only the first f.e.t. Using this type of f.e.t. elsewhere will only waste its low noise performance.

Noise Figure

In my opinion too much emphasis is placed on LNB noise figures. I carried out an experiment and found that all the LNBs I tested had noise figures in excess of the manufacturer's specification, in some cases by as much as 0.5dBf. LNB manufacturers don't generally check the noise figure of every LNB they produce: the figures quoted are usually an average of the best noise-performance units.

It's better to achieve a good signal-to-noise ratio by increasing the dish size rather than lashing out on an expensive low-noise LNB. But having said that the reason, apart from better quality, why LNBs from the likes of Swedish Microwave are expensive is the fact that they are tuned for the best noise figure. Tuning a microwave device has to be done by hand by skilled personnel, using expensive test equipment. So the old saying is applicable, "you get what you pay for".

In Conclusion

The main thing is to do what I did, have a go. This article is based on information obtained from those who design LNBs and my own experience. After you've done a few LNBs you will wonder what all the fuss is about. They are a lot easier to repair than any TV. I hope you'll find that this article has been of some use – and that it removes the black-box mythology.

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Panasonic NVMS2

There were two problems with one of these full-size S-VHS machines. First it produced a 'glitch' between recording sequences, giving a noisy edit. Secondly when going from record to pause it would sometimes back-wind the tape far beyond the normal point, thus losing the end of the previous sequence. The first problem was cured by replacement of the pinch-roller assembly, the second by replacement of the mode encoder switch.

Since this repair we've had two similar machines that displayed the same fault symptoms and were put right in the same way. **D.C.W.**

Sony TR Range

Failure of the flexible membrane that connects the VTR function keys and the zoom and trigger buttons is becoming a problem with some of the earlier models in this range. Unfortunately the membrane cannot be repaired. It's part of the complete switch block control assembly, which costs around £55 trade - a high price to pay for the loss of maybe just one function.

The membrane can become intermittent. As it's part of the key-scan control matrix this can result in various unrelated fault symptoms.

Later TR models have a replaceable membrane. **D.C.W.**

Canon E230E

The repair ticket said that this camcorder showed a picture outdoors only when the 1/4,000th sec shutter was used. At this speed there are of course no indoor pictures! The cause of the problem was seen once the casing had been removed: the iris assembly had 'fallen out' of the lens unit and jammed open.

With these lens assemblies the iris unit is removeable from the rest of the lens in one section without need to dismantle the whole assembly. Very nice for us! This one hadn't been seated properly and had literally fallen out. It's normally held in position by a retaining clip on the main lens moulding. **D.C.W.**

Sharp VLC750H

This one gave us some headaches. The playback pictures would sometimes be o.k. On other occasions there would be a noise bar either at the bottom or through the centre of the picture. If the drum was slowed momentarily the noise bar would shift, locking randomly at either one of the previously mentioned positions.

The servo section circuit diagram gives little away about its operation or the waveforms to expect at key points. We found that the drum FG and PG signals seemed to vary little wherever the noise bar appeared. With symptoms of this type one would expect there to be some problem with the PG signal, but with no guidance on waveforms etc. it's difficult to be certain.

A Sharp service bulletin told us that a likely cause of the problem is failure of the main servo chip IC701, but a replacement didn't provide a cure. What did put matters

right was replacement of IC702. This chip's main job is to generate the four-phase head switching pulse train: it also combines the drum PG and FG signals into a form that's acceptable to the main servo chip IC701.

When we'd got the machine working properly we were unable to discern any difference between the waveforms obtained and those previously seen. **D.C.W.**

Sanyo VMD6P

Tape chewing and irregular mechanical functions were the rather obvious symptoms with this machine. The cause was a worn drive belt. The capstan motor drives two belts. Both are 'toothed' types and connect with the assembly bracket unit (part no. 636 023 8756). Several teeth were missing from the belt that's driven directly by the capstan. The belts are supplied as part of the assembly bracket. **D.C.W.**

Panasonic NVMS50B

There were some strange symptoms with this S-VHS, hi-fi sound, C-format machine. When, without operating the power switch, power was supplied via the d.c. lead the capstan motor would run for a short time then stop. No other signs of life were obvious, apart from the fact that the viewfinder would occasionally flicker into life for a few seconds.

The cause of these strange goings on was failure of Q1006 and Q1007 in the power supply. Both were leaky and even when 'off' they passed sufficient current to cause the symptoms described above. They are parallel-wired regulators that supply the main 5V rail. **D.C.W.**

Sony CCDTR305E

There were no mechanical functions with this young TR model. Inspection showed that a tooth was missing from the rotating part (mode control gear) of the mode switch. A pin had also broken off the Arm 1 assembly, a cam follower. We replaced these items and also cam TG1 as this is inclined to fail with the result that the back-tension pole assembly (arm assembly TG1) takes up the wrong position. This is easily seen in the eject mode as arm assembly TG1 then sits in the play position. After replacing these items we carried out the timing necessary to produce a working unit. **D.C.W.**

Sony CCDTR303E

I've had one or two of these camcorders with the complaint that the standby/lock switch is broken. In fact only one section of this multi-part knob fails, item 5. The part number is 394298501. **N.B.**

Panasonic NVMS50 - Correction

A transcription error occurred in my note on this model in the October issue (page 855). The excess friction was between the tape and the upper and lower drums, not between the two drums. **N.B.**

Teletopics

DISPLAY TECHNOLOGY

Sanyo has announced that it intends to start selling consumer products which use a newly-developed 3D liquid-crystal display by 1997. The display can produce 3D video and graphic images without the need for the viewer to use special glasses. Software splits a standard one-dimensional image to produce left- and right-hand views. Apart from that, little technical information has been released. According to Sanyo the display is small and cheap. The company plans to use it in TV sets, computer monitors and games machines and for applications such as simulators and medical systems.

While most of the investment that has gone into the development of flat-panel displays has been devoted to liquid-crystal systems a number of Japanese firms and organisations, including NHK, Fujitsu, NEC and Mitsubishi, have been working on plasma display panels (PDPs). These use gas (typically a neon/xenon mixture) discharge cells to produce the illumination. The gas mixture emits ultra-violet radiation when activated by accelerated electrons. This radiation in turn stimulates red, green and blue phosphors. The firms involved in this research consider that PDPs will offer the best solution for flat-panel HDTV displays. At present the main problems are insufficient light output, a relatively short life and of course cost.

Fujitsu has had a 21in., 1.26in. thick PDP in pilot production for over a year. Resolution is 640 x 480 pixels, with 8-bit colour per pixel. It costs around \$10,000, but a dramatic fall is expected once high-volume production starts. Fujitsu is at present aiming to scale up the technology to produce 40in. panels – prototypes are due before the end of the year. The panel can be driven by RGB or NTSC signals. The New York Stock Exchange recently ordered 1,000 of the panels as part of its trading floor information display revamp.

NEC recently announced the development of a prototype 40in. PDP with a resolution of 840 x 480 pixels and 8-bit colour. The company has been experimenting with new gas mixtures (adding helium) to improve the light output and new cell structures to produce a finer spacing.

Mitsubishi has started pilot production of a 20in., 2.5in. thick PDP with a 640 x 480 pixel resolution and the capability of producing 16.7m colours.

According to an NEC spokesman the first large-screen TV sets with PDPs will become available in 1996. But they will not be for domestic use, a 40in. set being likely to cost around £6,000. Ten years is suggested as a probable time scale for the arrival of low-price consumer sets using the technology. At present the maximum light output achieved with a PDP is around 250 candela/sq. m, which compares with 300 candela/sq. m for a c.r.t. According to an NHK spokesman the aims of current R&D work are to increase the operational life from 3,000-10,000 hours (depending on cell structure) to 50,000 hours, a higher light output, reduction of the cell pitch to about 1mm and an increase in screen size to in excess of 55in.

DIGITAL VIDEO

NTL's VCS4000 end-to-end MPEG-2 standard digital multi-channel TV system was briefly mentioned in this

column last month. It's a fully-integrated system capable of multiplexing together up to eighteen TV channels under the control of a single computer, with all components configurable individually. The system fully conforms with the standards agreed by the 144 signatories of the Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) Project, including the capability specified by the MPEG main profile/main level standard. It is the result of collaboration, initiated by News International, between NTL which contributed video compression expertise, News Datacom which contributed conditional access and subscriber management systems and Comstream which provided satellite and cable modulation technology.

Development of four extensions to the MPEG-2 standard are expected to be complete by the end of next year. These are 10-bit video coding for improved picture quality; a non-backward compatible mode to allow, for example, non-MPEG audio compression techniques such as Dolby Labs AC3 to be used; protocols for the control of remote storage media such as video-on-demand servers; and a real-time MPEG interface.

Several MPEG processing chips have been announced recently. IBM Microelectronics has a single-chip decoder that can handle either MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 digital video information. Mitsubishi has started pilot production of the M65770FP single-chip decoder whose features include a scan-conversion function that translates 24 frames/sec film material to 30 frames/sec video. Initial cost is £320 per chip: this should fall to below £60 once volume production begins. Toshiba has announced single-chip MPEG-2 encoders and decoders: sample decoder chips are priced at around £130.

VIDEO NEWS

Hitachi is developing a camcorder that will use 256Mbit flash memory chips to store the video signal. By using video compression Hitachi expects to be able to store half an hour of digital video in 400Mbytes of memory space. The camcorder, which could be the world's smallest and lightest, is expected to be launched in about five years' time at around \$1,000.

JVC's latest camcorder, Model SV3, has a flip-over colour LCD screen that can be used as a viewfinder, a play-back screen or, with an optional tuner, a TV set. There is also a video message recording facility: this works like a video answering machine – a green light on the front panel indicates that a message has been left. Quick record gives five-second shots, while re-take rewinds over the last scene for re-recording purposes. Price is £800.

Hitachi's VTM340E VCR includes a title-index system that automatically stores the date, time and channel number of over a hundred programmes.

JVC has launched a two-hour S-VHS-C tape in Japan. The recording time is 40 minutes in the standard-play mode, 120 minutes in the extended-play mode. It's expected to be available in the UK by the end of the year. The price in Japan is the equivalent of about £12. A VHS-C version is to follow.

Panasonic's S-VHS VCR Model NVSH1000, at around £1,000, incorporates a timebase corrector and an optional VITC adaptor (at £70). It is one-way compatible with the LANC command system used by Video 8 camcorders and can be used to control a Video 8 camcorder or VCR.

JVC has launched six Video CD products based on the 2.0 standard in Japan. This standard includes provision for simple interactive branching programs and a higher resolution still-picture display. The XLSV1 is a stand-alone deck, the MXM500V a hi-fi system plus Video CD player, the

KPPV1 an integrated karaoke system with three changers, the KXDV55 a home karaoke system that accepts up to a hundred discs, the XLMV55 an autochanger system and the XLCV55 a controller for three auto changers. No UK launch details have been announced. Panasonic, Hitachi, Sharp and Sony also showed Video CD equipment at the recent Japanese consumer electronics show.

CABLE AND SATELLITE FIGURES

According to market research company GfK the number of cable subscribers in the UK increased by 39.7 per cent, to 841,000, during the year to the end of last July. During the same period the number of homes with satellite TV increased by 19 per cent to 2.7m.

TRADE AND BUSINESS NEWS

JVC (UK) Ltd. has appointed Willow Vale Electronics Ltd. the Approved Distributor for the supply of spare parts to non-JVC account holders.

Wizard Distributors has been appointed an official spares stockist by Grundig Satellite Communications Ltd. Wizard's 1994-95 spares catalogue has just been published and is free of charge to trade customers. Apply to Wizard Distributors, Empress Street Works, Empress Street, Manchester M16 9EN (telephone 061 872 5438, fax 061 873 7365).

Philex Plc, Philex House, 110-124 The Broadway, West Hendon, London NW9 7BP (081 202 1717, fax 081 202 0014) has introduced a four-way preprogrammed universal remote control unit. Features include teletext with Fasttext, a four-digit set-up facility and a very clear large-key layout. It offers TV, video, cable and satellite receiver control for thousands of models, with auxiliary options, and can replace up to eight separate remote control units.

Toshiba is to move its European VCR production from Germany to Plymouth early next year. The Plymouth plant is likely to become Toshiba's sole brown goods factory in Europe. We may also see Indian manufactured Toshiba VCRs before long. The company has placed an order for 100,000 VCRs with Videocon, a leading Indian consumer electronics group. The machines, which use Toshiba technology, will be sold worldwide. Toshiba may increase its purchases to 300,000 VCRs a year, and is also considering the purchase of colour TV sets from Videocon.

Samsung is to invest £600m on five production plants at Wynyard Park, Teeside, Cleveland. The first two plants, due to come into operation next August, will produce microwave ovens and computer monitors. Later plants will produce fax machines, colour c.r.t.s and personal computers. Over 3,000 jobs are likely to be created. Samsung already has a CTV production plant nearby at Billingham.

STOLEN TOSHIBA CTVs

A quantity of 21in. FST Toshiba colour TV sets were stolen from Plymouth on October 3rd 1994. The 273 sets, Models 2140TS, 2140RS and 2132DT, are valued at £100,000. They were destined for overseas markets - Russia, Scandinavia and Italy - and are thus not compatible with the UK system. It's felt that attempts may be made to get TV engineers to modify them.

A substantial reward has been promised for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the theft and the recovery of the TV sets. Anyone with any information to offer should contact DC Harrison, Plymouth CID, Devon on 0752 701 188

Next Month in TELEVISION

SERVICING THE PHILIPS 10CX1120

This 10in. colour set dating from the mid-Eighties was of Loewe-Opta design and also appeared as the Pye 25KX1201. It was popular because of its small size, direct video and RGB facilities and the fact that it can be operated from a 12V battery. Many have been condemned because the sets tend to suffer from various intermittent faults that can be quite unusual. There are known causes however. Richard Newman on servicing and fault-finding procedures.

CONFESSIONS OF A TLO

The Technical Liaison Officer appears to be a dying breed as manufacturers cut back left, right and centre. His was a varied and interesting life, with all sorts of responsibilities. Mark Paul reveals the inside story.

SERVICING AUDIO POWER AMPLIFIERS

Although audio power amplifiers appear to be straightforward servicing them is not always as simple as you might expect. Problems frequently occur when incorrect procedures have been followed. Joe Cieszynski looks at the difficulties that can arise and ways of avoiding them.

SATELLITE TV

Brian Ewan on modifications to enable the Uniden UST8008 receiver to be used with the standard or bullet type Marconi LNB. Ian Martin reviews the recently introduced Grundig GRD250 IRD, which features ease of use and a low-threshold tuner.

BUYING SECOND-HAND STOCK

Renting out or selling second-hand TV sets and VCRs can be more profitable than dealing in new goods. But care is required in the selection of suitable stock. David Chaplin on the various pitfalls and how to go about it.

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The Os-Con

Eugene Trundle

Electrolytic capacitors combine high capacitance values with relatively small size and weight. They are widely used for this reason. Until recently two main types were available, aluminium and tantalum – these are the materials used for the positive electrode, in foil or solid form. The aluminium type was fully described in Ray Porter's article on page 194 of the January 1993 issue of *Television*. Much of what was said there is also true of the tantalum type, whose main advantages over the aluminium type are lower losses and better temperature ratings.

Recently Sanyo has developed, and is now actively marketing, a new type of electrolytic capacitor whose electrolyte is in solid form rather than the gel or solution of semiconducting manganese dioxide used in conventional types. Known as the os-con (Organic SemiCONductor), its electrolyte is based on the organic semiconductor TCNQ, a complex salt in a fine-powdered black crystalline form with a resistivity of about $3\Omega/\text{cu cm}$ – the full name is N-n-butyl isoquinolinium. In production this material is melted, inserted, immersed and cooled in carefully-controlled conditions.

Os-Con Construction

Fig. 1 shows the construction of an os-con. The metal used is aluminium, the dielectric being aluminium oxide. Instead of a porous or vented seal the os-con has an impervious resin seal – there's no electrolyte evaporation when it's in solid form. Os-cons are produced in conventional tubular and surface-mounting forms. For a given type (capacitance value and working voltage) they are roughly equivalent in size and price to solid tantalum electrolytics, i.e. slightly bigger and rather more expensive than aluminium types. Os-cons are available with capacitance values from $0.1\mu\text{F}$ to $220\mu\text{F}$ and voltage ratings from 6.3V to 25V. In appearance they differ little from conventional electrolytic capacitors, but in performance they are vastly superior in every respect, as we shall see.

Characteristics of the Os-Con

The greatest advantage of the os-con is its good high-frequency characteristic, which approaches that of a film capacitor – much better than that of a conventional electrolytic. This is shown in Fig. 2 which compares the h.f. characteristics of os-cons and the best types of aluminium and tantalum capacitors. At frequencies above 100kHz a $47\mu\text{F}$ os-con is superior to a special low-impedance

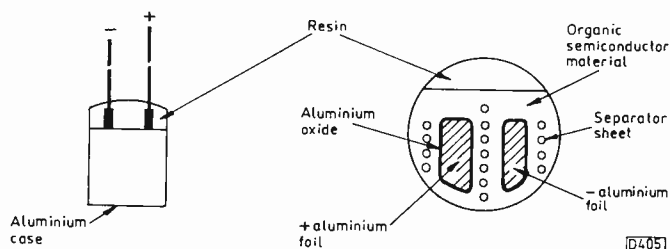


Fig. 1: Os-con construction.

$1,000\mu\text{F}$ aluminium capacitor whose physical size is twenty times greater.

Fig. 3 plots the impedances and ESRs (equivalent series resistances) of four widely different sizes and types of os-con. In the 1MHz range the increase in impedance is caused entirely by the inductance of the lead-out wires, which should be kept as short as possible in production and assembly.

As Fig. 4 shows, below 0°C the temperature coefficient is much better than that of an aluminium capacitor and virtually as good as that of a tantalum type. This graph is also interesting as it shows the very poor temperature characteristic of ceramic capacitors and the very good one of film types (Mylar in this case). The much better performance of tantalum and os-cons compared to aluminium electrolytic capacitors at sub-zero temperatures makes them particularly suited to outdoor equipment like cameras and radio communication units. The os-con is smaller and cheaper than an equivalent film capacitor.

Another way of considering the temperature characteristics of different types of capacitor – a more important one in some applications – is in terms of their effective series resistance. As Fig. 5 shows, there is nothing as good as the os-con in extreme cold. The ESR of ceramic capacitors is lower than that of os-cons at normal and high temperatures, though in both cases we're talking about fractions of an ohm and lead length and other physical characteristics are often more significant than the actual capacitor performance.

Ageing

While an aluminium electrolytic capacitor has a definite life span, governed by the rate at which its electrolyte evaporates (this is greatly accelerated by high operating temperature) and deterioration of the aluminium foil, the ageing characteristic of an os-con is different: there's a very gradual and relatively small capacitance loss over a very long time – it has no electrolyte solution to dry out. Thus after 6,000 hours' operation at 105°C a typical os-con will have lost about eight per cent of its original capacitance while its leakage current change will be imperceptible. With similarly rated capacitors working at 65°C the life span of an aluminium type comes out at 3,200 hours (3.6 years) compared with 200,000 hours (22 years) for the os-con: at 45°C the figures are 128,000 hours (14.6 years) and two million hours (220 years) respectively.

Ripple Current

With any electrolytic capacitor the permissible ripple current is determined by its power loss and varies in propor-

Table 1: Comparison of electrolytic capacitor ripple current ratings (A r.m.s.).

Case size (mm)	Os-con	Aluminium	Tantalum
4 x 7	0.31	0.08	0.03
5 x 7	0.50	0.12	0.05
6.3 x 7	0.92	0.2	–
6.3 x 10	1.3	0.25	0.12
8 x 10	1.8	0.51	–
10 x 10	2.3	0.63	0.19

Case size is diameter x length.

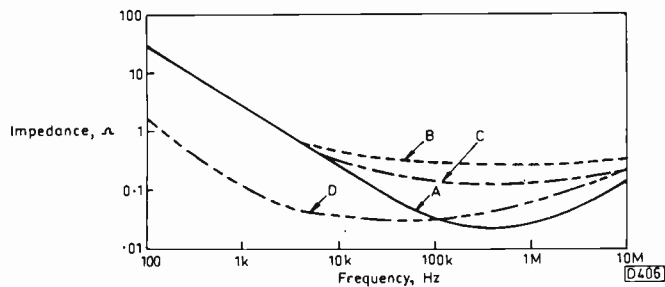


Fig. 2: Frequency characteristics of different types of electrolytic capacitors (at 25°C). A os-con (47µF, 16V, 6.3 x 9.8mm); B low-impedance aluminium electrolytic (47µF, 16V, 8 x 11.5mm); C tantalum electrolytic (47µF, 16V, 6 x 11mm); D low-impedance aluminium electrolytic (1,000µF, 16V, 16 x 25mm).

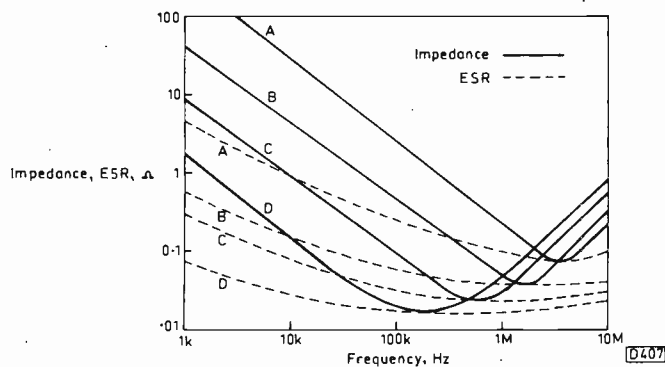


Fig. 3: Os-con impedance and ESR ratings over the frequency range 1kHz-10MHz (at 25°C). A 0.47µF, 25V; B 4.7µF, 25V; C 22µF, 6.3V; D 150µF, 16V.

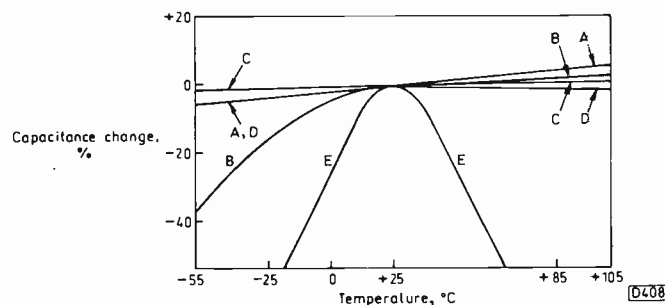


Fig. 4: Temperature/capacitance characteristics of different types of capacitor. A os-con; B aluminium electrolytic; C tantalum electrolytic; D Mylar film capacitor; E ceramic capacitor.

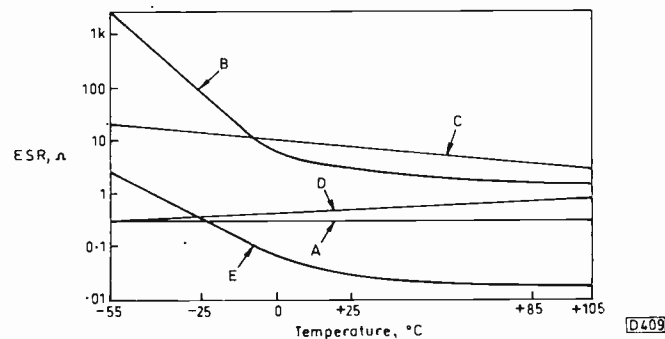


Fig. 5: ESR/temperature characteristics. A os-con; B aluminium electrolytic; C tantalum electrolytic; D Mylar film capacitor; E ceramic capacitor.

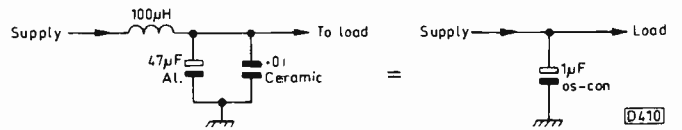


Fig. 6: The temperature and frequency characteristics of an os-con are such that it can replace three components in a noise/ripple filtering circuit. These two configurations both provide similar filtering over a wide temperature and frequency range.

tion to its physical volume or case size. Table 1 compares the ripple-current ratings of various types of capacitor in six different body sizes. At 100kHz and 85°C, which are fairly typical conditions in a switch-mode power supply for example, the permissible ripple current with an os-con is about four times that of an aluminium electrolytic and about ten times that of a solid tantalum type.

Applications

The high performance of os-cons makes them superior to other types of electrolytic capacitor in all circuit applications. In a filtering/decoupling role the noise performance of aluminium electrolytics is relatively poor: in a typical case of a 5V supply carrying a superimposed 1V peak-to-peak sine wave it was found that increasing the value of an aluminium electrolytic decoupler ten times (10µF to 100µF) reduced the ripple voltage just 1.3 times. So much better is the noise performance of an os-con that in certain applications, at high frequency and low temperature, the same ripple rejection was provided by a 680µF aluminium electrolytic capacitor, a 47µF tantalum capacitor and a 10µF os-con.

This brings us to Fig. 6, which shows that in a conventional supply line filter a single small os-con will do the job of a coil and two capacitors, one for l.f. and the other for h.f. decoupling.

This opens the way to smaller and much more efficient switch-mode power supplies for example. SMPSs are used in all sorts of equipment nowadays, not all mains operated: they bang away in battery-operated and portable equipment such as computers, lap-tops and personal electronic notebooks, to quote just a few examples at random, with efficiencies approaching 90 per cent. Around 90 per cent of current power supply designs are of the switch-mode type.

Other os-con applications include time-constant circuits (in TV timebases for example), audio and scan coupling and d.c. motor control circuits. There are many others.

Servicing

As os-cons start to appear in the equipment that lands on your bench make sure that you don't, unawares, replace them with ordinary aluminium or tantalum electrolytics, otherwise you could have trouble on your hands.

In Conclusion

Although research is being carried out on other uses for organic semiconductors in electronics, such as superconduction and active junctions, the os-con is their first commercial, mass-production application. The basic crystal formulation was first synthesised by DuPont as long ago as 1960, and was studied for capacitor use by Sprague in 1962. Production has been held up by difficulty with manufacture and processing. Sanyo's development of the melting immersion method has overcome this.

TV Fault Finding

Reports from Philip Blundell, AMIEEIE, Ian Bowden, Brian Storm, David Belmont, Nick Beer, Chris Watton, Terry Lamoon, Michael Dranfield and John Edwards

Philips Anubis B-AA Chassis

If you replace the ST24C02P EEPROM IC7685 you'll need to program the new device via the on-screen menus. The only snag is that with an empty EEPROM the language is set to Norwegian and the child lock will be active. When this is the situation the word 'Barnlas' is displayed. To clear the child lock using Norwegian select special functions option C on the main menu. The next menu will show Barnlas (child lock) as option A: set this to Fran (off). Once the child lock has been cleared you can change the language to English and set up the other parameters. **P.B.**

Philips GR1-AX Chassis

The sound was slow to come back when the channel was changed, and if search tuning was tried it continued when a channel was found. We discovered that the 'ident' signal to the microcontroller chip was permanently low because transistor Tr7046 (BC558) was short-circuit. **P.B.**

Grundig CUC3600 Chassis

If there's no picture, just a dim vertical band on the screen, check the line output transistor's base drive waveform. If the amplitude of the waveform is low and it occurs at twice the normal rate, check by replacement C507 (100 μ F) or IC550 (TDA8140) as necessary. **P.B.**

Philips 2A Chassis

This set was dead, though a ticking noise came from the power supply. With the line output stage disconnected and a dummy load connected in its place the power supply produced the correct 140V h.t. output. When the line output stage was reconnected the protection thyristor Thy6698 fired. The 6-8V zener diode D6700 was leaky. **P.B.**

Philips Anubis A-AC Chassis

This new set worked all right until it was put into the standby mode. The standby LED then pulsed and a thumping noise came from the loudspeaker. When standby is selected thyristor Thy6570 conducts and the +5B supply rises. This voltage increase is sensed by the 6-2V zener diode D6568, which switches transistor Tr7553 on. The cause of the fault was that D6568 was leaky: a new LLZ F6V2 diode was needed. **P.B.**

Ferguson A10R (TX80 Chassis)

A picture was present but it had a bright red cast with flyback lines on top of it. We looked at the R - Y drive signal at the base of the red output transistor TV101 on the c.r.t. base panel and found that it was very similar to the other colour-difference drive signals. A check at its collector showed that there was just a steady d.c. level however. RGB matrixing in carried out in the output stages

in this chassis, the luminance signal (-Y) being fed to the emitters of the output transistors via preset potentiometers. A check across the red preset PV104 showed that there was no voltage drop across it, as there was across the equivalent presets in the G and B stages. Close examination of the print revealed that there was a tiny fracture between the end of RV110, which is in series with PV104, and TV101's emitter. With this linked across normal operation was restored. **I.B.**

Finlux 3621

The picture had slipped to the right. It was perfectly locked but the line phasing was incorrect: there was a blank vertical area about three inches wide near the left-hand side of the screen, with the right-hand side of the picture to the left of it. We soon found that the line flyback reference pulses that are fed back to the TDA2579A sync/timebase generator chip were virtually non-existent - a scope check at pin 12 showed a pulse waveform of less than 100mV peak-to-peak. The pulses come from an emitter-follower transistor, Tz1, on the power supply/deflection PCB. This transistor's input is taken from the collector of the line output transistor via two series-connected resistors with values of 270k Ω and 27k Ω . The 27k Ω resistor was open-circuit. **I.B.**

Panasonic TX28W3 (Euro-1 Chassis)

Slight right-channel distortion when receiving a Nicam transmission led us a merry dance with this set. IC1401 was first accused, as it's the Nicam and normal sound processor chip. A replacement proved that it was innocent however. The culprit was eventually found to be C1423 as it had never been soldered in at one end. It's part of IC1401's oscillator circuit. **B.S.**

Panasonic TX25T2 (Alpha 2 Chassis)

This one must come top of my horrible field faults list: bad distortion, line doubling and horizontal striations were present all at once. Various chips and capacitors were accused in turn and found to be entirely blameless. After much travail a nice man at Panasonic, Ali Mirza, led us to R469. This small resistor in the field feedback circuit had increased in value from 470 Ω to many thousands of ohms. Thanks Ali. **B.S.**

Panasonic TX24A1 (Alpha 2W Chassis)

After about four hours' operation the safety resistor (R567) in the h.t. feed to the line output stage would blow. This would be accompanied by various shrieks and whistles, and at this point the line output transistor Q551 would be very hot indeed! Extensive checks were carried out in both the power supply and the line output stage, all to no avail. After

many hours of frustration and heartache we eventually found that C502 in the line oscillator circuit had been fitted incorrectly, with one leg loosely attached to the adjacent solder. **B.S.**

Panasonic TC1485 (Z3 Chassis)

This portable would cut out when the brightness was increased. Tests showed that the contrast didn't decrease as the picture became over bright, although the beam limiter operated to shut down the line drive. We found that R316 (47kΩ), which applies the beam limiting control voltage to the video section of the receiver, was open-circuit. **B.S.**

Sanyo CBP2572 (ED1 Chassis)

The 3.9Ω, 15W surge limiter resistor R301 was open-circuit and the 2SC4429 chopper transistor Q303 short-circuit. The cause of the chopper transistor's failure was the fact that the resistor in the snubber circuit (R315) was dry-jointed. After attending to these items the set still failed to come on. The TEA2260 chopper control chip IC301 had also failed, a replacement finally restoring normal operation. **D.B.**

Hitachi C2858N

When this set had warmed up it displayed horizontal lines. The tuner was thermally defective. **D.B.**

Panasonic TX21T1 (Alpha 2 Chassis)

After about an hour's use and whenever a different channel was selected the channel information derived from the text would flash unlocked across the screen. There was also loss of teletext synchronisation. The cause of all this was C3511, which of course is a 10nF ceramic capacitor. **D.B.**

Salora J Chassis

This set was dead. The chopper transistors TB700 and TB701 were short-circuit while the mains fuse and RB713 were open-circuit. We replaced these items along with the 4.7μF chopper drive coupling capacitors but the set was still dead. At least the mains fuse held, and there was 320V at the collector of TB700. There were no start-up pulses however because the BR100 diac DB725 was short-circuit. A replacement got things going again. **D.B.**

Matsui 2091

We've had several of these sets in recently. The first one remained dead when brought out of standby. D401 (1N4003) in the supply to the line driver stage was open-circuit.

Another set would go into standby when the mains switch was replaced. X901 (10MHz) was the cause of this fault.

For partial field collapse check D301 (1N4003). You will usually find that it's open-circuit. Replace it with a good-quality 1N4007 diode. **D.B.**

Grundig CUC2800 Chassis

Although this set was dead the power supply was working and the voltages on the unswitched side of relay RL652 were correct. There were no voltages on the switched side however, and further checks showed that the relay was being switched. Investigation showed that although the relay

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was apparently working the contacts didn't make. A replacement put matters right. **D.B.**

Ferguson TX90 Chassis

The picture looked like that produced by a poorly tuned set. Sound was o.k. but there was no sync. A check on the video waveform showed that it was highly distorted. The video demodulator coil L105 required adjustment. According to the customer the fault had got gradually worse. **D.B.**

JVC AV28F1EK

There was intermittent loss of the picture and sound. When the fault occurred there was just a blank raster. We eventually found that the a.g.c. preset control was dry-jointed. **D.B.**

Sony KVA2912U

The picture flickered from colour to black-and-white very frequently. The cause was loss of the 5V supply on board B because the circuit protector that feeds the 5V regulator was open-circuit. **D.B.**

Solavox 142TT

The text would become unusable when the set had been in operation for a few hours – there would be severe corruption initiated by the clock stopping. The text would then appear over the TV picture without any prompting, and various blanking problems would be experienced. The SAA5243PE text processor chip was thermally faulty. **N.B.**

ITT CVC20 Chassis

When this old set warmed up its picture would shrink vertically. Freezing D508 (BY126) restored full scan but the cause of the overheating was the fact that the field output transistors were leaky. New transistors (TIP31 and TIP33) plus two new diodes, D508 and D506 (BA316), put matters right. **N.B.**

Panasonic TX28W2 (Alpha 3 Chassis)

This monster had no colour. Checks around the decoder showed that the chroma signal was present and correct, so attention was turned to the TDA3505 video control chip IC303. The voltage at the d.c. colour control pin (16) was low at 0.035V instead of about 3V. What could be the cause? My first check was naturally on the 0.01 μ F ceramic decoupler C644, which was virtually short-circuit (80- Ω). With any other make the parallel zener diode would have been a far more likely suspect! **N.B.**

Samsung CI537V

Intermittently dead with a chattering relay was the complaint with this set. REL901 frequently suffers from burnt contacts, but the field engineer had cleared this possibility. When the fault occurred on the bench I found that the relay coil wasn't being earthed. Tracing back I discovered that there was a broken pin in connector PH01 (pin 3, the pink lead). **N.B.**

Granada C20AX5

The customer complained that this Hitachi-based set would go dead. It never did for me, but I found that there was a

superb dry-joint at pin 4 of T901. When this was open-circuited the set was stuck in standby. **N.B.**

GoldStar CIS4361

No picture was the complaint with this set, but the fault took three weeks to show up. Its cause was loss of the tube's heater supply – the four-pin connector by the line output transformer had a tarnished pin. The same chassis is used in Bush sets. **N.B.**

Philips GR1-AX Chassis

I've had lots of these 14in. sets in lately. Most of them have had dry-joint problems or a faulty 2SC3795 line output transistor.

In one of them however the 2A mains fuse had blown because the posistor in the degaussing system had gone short-circuit. When this had been attended to there was no picture. The e.h.t. and heater supplies were present, also the RGB drives. When the first anode and focus controls were advanced there was dull, soft vision that could barely be discerned – and the adjustments interacted. A close look at the tube base showed that there had been spillage over the socket, which was very difficult to remove from the c.r.t. A new socket and a clean up restored normal operation. **N.B.**

Grundig CUC220 Chassis

There was no vision, sound or channel display. Checks on the power supply outputs proved to be fruitful: the 15V supply was very low, even off load. It comes from a standard 7815 regulator, which is one of three mounted on the finned heatsink above the c.r.t. base opening in the main panel. The input to the regulator was o.k., but there was a leak between its output and chassis. **N.B.**

ITT CT3425 (Compact 80 110° Mk 2 Chassis)

This set was dead. As the electronic fuse was in action I tried operating the power supply with a dummy load in place of the line output stage. This proved that the power supply was o.k., but there was no measurable short across the h.t. line. I suspected the line output transformer, which proved to be the cause of the trouble. Check ITT sets of this era carefully before ordering spares, to establish exactly which chassis is used. **N.B.**

Akita CW1492

This set would only occasionally come on. Checks in the power supply revealed that R802 and R803 (both 15k Ω) had gone high in value. Replacing them restored correct operation. They provide the power control chip with a start-up feed. **C.W.**

GEC C2288H (Hitachi NP81CQ Mk 2 Chassis)

There was just a bright white screen. A check at the tube's base panel showed that the h.t. supply at pin K2 was far too low at only 90V. The reservoir capacitor for the 180V supply is C715 (4.7 μ F, 250V) which is mounted close to the line output transformer. It was open-circuit. **C.W.**

Ferguson TX90 Chassis

The h.t. voltage was a little high and couldn't be adjusted, giving the trip symptom with the appearance that the line

speed was incorrect. R229 (47k Ω) in the power supply had gone high in value. To be on the safe side I also replaced R225 (33k Ω) which is in parallel with it. C.W.

Grundig CUC2401 Chassis

This set was dead though two of the power supply outputs were present. There was no line output stage operation or +C supply. Checks showed that the drive waveform at the base of the line output transistor was present and correct, and a small spark could be drawn from the e.h.t. pulse output of the transformer. But there was no voltage at the collector of the line output transistor because, curiously, the transformer's primary winding was open-circuit. C.W.

Philips CP90 Chassis

The main power supply was working and the tube's heaters were aglow, but there was no picture or sound. A check showed that the microcontroller chip's 6V supply was missing. The cause of this was D6733 (BAV19) which was open-circuit. C.W.

Alba CTV14RS/CTV55

Apart from volume control everything was o.k.: when volume up or down was pressed the display would show only a row of dots, as if the sound was turned to minimum. Replacement of the MN6030 memory chip IC601 restored the sound and the correct display. C.W.

Sanyo CBP2145 (E2 B21 Chassis)

There was a good picture when this set was switched on, but when the brightness was increased there was line tearing across the screen. I went for the electrolytics, which is always a good bet with these sets. C364 (100 μ F, 16V) was open-circuit, a replacement restoring normal operation. T.L.

Matsui 2190

This set was a dead as the proverbial dodo. It's always worth checking the secondary supplies with this model. We found that the standby 5V supply was missing. The special 4A fuse F802 had gone open-circuit while diode D807 was short-circuit. Replacements restored normal operation: a nice easy fault for a change. T.L.

Sony K VX2132

By the time I got this set, which had no field scan, another engineer had replaced IC502 and its feed resistor R802. But the fault was still present. A checked showed that there was still no supply to IC502. Following this back I found that R530 was open-circuit. A look at the circuit diagram then showed that both R802 and R530 are in the feed to IC502. Both had failed. Full scan was present when replacements had been fitted. T.L.

Matsui 1436

There was no field scan. By using the highly technical tap fault-finding technique I narrowed the cause down to a dry-joint at R602. Resoldering it restored the scan. T.L.

Hitachi CPT2508 (G7P Mk II Chassis)

This set was dead. It didn't take us long to find that the little

blue capacitor (C919, 4.7nF 1kV) in the chopper transistor's snubber network had split open. In addition the 3.9 Ω , 7W surge limiter resistor R901 was open-circuit. Strangely neither the chopper transistor nor the mains fuse had been damaged. M.Dr.

Sony KV2096

Picture shimmer on verticals, getting worse as the set warms up, can be cured by resoldering the connections to the field output heatsink. They are used to make an earth path connection. M.Dr.

Fidelity CTM2000T

The power supply was tripping because of a burn up around one leg of the 10nF line output stage tuning capacitor. Also the BU508A line output transistor was leaky.

If you intend to continue to use the old capacitor always check its value. We have come across cases where its value has changed, presumably as a result of the heat caused by the burn up. M.Dr.

Sony KV2096

For field foldover at the bottom go straight to the 470 μ F, 25V scan coupling capacitor C527. It dries up with age.

If the print is damaged by dry-joints around the snubber resistors in the chopper circuit a first-class repair can be achieved by fitting the Sony power supply modification kit part no. X-4377-097-2. It contains replacements for all the parts that have been damaged and a new piece of circuit board which you bolt on to the top of the main PCB. M.Dr.

Matsui 1455

For field collapse check whether D306 is short-circuit and R310 (10 Ω) open-circuit. M.Dr.

Saba SB9221 (Thomson/Ferguson ICC7 Chassis)

The report said that the field scan collapsed then the set went off completely. On test we found that the power supply was tripping. Further investigation showed that there was a dead short between the field scan coils and chassis: the culprit was the TDA8178FS field output chip IF01. M.Dr.

Sony KV2201 (YE Chassis)

Line sync was lost whenever the channel was changed. Slight fine tuning would produce a locked picture until a different channel was selected, whereupon the procedure would have to be repeated. I didn't have the circuit diagram but noticed that D811, R825, D810 and R838 on board E were badly dry-jointed. It seemed sensible to make good the soldering to these components before concentrating on the fault. To my surprise and pleasure this cured the fault! A long test run with many channel changes proved that all was well. J.E.

Amstrad TVR1

The TV section of this unit was dead. Replacing the STR7348 regulator, C1509 (3,300pF, 1kV) and the 8.2 Ω , 5W surge limiter and 33 Ω , 10W resistors restored normal operation. J.E.

Long-distance Television

Roger Bunney

The arrival of autumn brought the effective end of Sporadic E activity for the year: it was a relatively short-lived season with poor results. Autumn often brings good tropospheric conditions, from late September through into October. There was a minimal trop harvest during September, but a well-placed high-pressure area over the UK and the nearby Continent is tending to provide a lift during the first few days of October. Hopefully this may develop into a good opening.

Random meteor scatter signal pings have provided the main reception. Such pings produce Band I signals that last for a few seconds upwards to a minute (particularly when additional coincident-path meteorites are burning up). With no worthwhile SpE reception having been noted during September, it's interesting to look at Roger Fussell's log (Plymouth). It shows repetitive MS reception, and also indicates an optimum skip-distance for Band I MS signals.

5/9/94	TVE (Spain) chs. E2, 3; DR (Denmark) E3; ARD (Germany) E2 (Grunten).
6/9/94	TVE E2, 3; DR E3.
9/9/94	TVE E2, 3, 4; NRK (Norway) E2; SVT (Sweden) E2.
11/9/94	DR E3.
14/9/94	TVE E2; DR E3; RAI (Italy) IA.
17/9/94	TVE E2; DR E3; Canal Plus L2.
19/9/94	TVE E2, 3.
21/9/94	TVE E3; DR E3.
22/9/94	TVE E2, 3, 4.
25/9/94	TVE E2, 3; DR E3; RAI IA.
26/9/94	TVE E2, 3.
29/9/94	TVE E2, 3; DR E3.
30/9/94	TVE E2, 3.

The distance between Plymouth and Madrid (TVE ch. E2) is approximately 660 miles. Roger can rely on reception of sorts from that transmitter on most days. Reception from Denmark is over a distance of some 700 miles. On this basis Iain Menzies near Aberdeen would most likely receive

signals from the Benelux countries and France. Roger reports no ch. E4 signals. As the frequency increases, the incident signal has to pass farther into the ionised MS trail before refraction and return to earth, so the skip distance will be longer.

Surplus Satellite Equipment

DRS Trading, Unit A, Sprint Industrial Estate, Chertsey Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7BD (0932 355 527) tells us that the company has a warehouse full of surplus and second-hand satellite equipment. Manually (rotary) tuned receivers, which are popular with TV-DXers, are available at prices from £10 upwards. DRS refurbishes much of the second-hand equipment it receives, but customers can visit the warehouse and select equipment on an as-seen basis. Dishes, actuators and all satellite receiving equipment is available. DRS is the UK agent for Jagger HH mounts and actuators.

Satellite Sightings

The fiftieth anniversary of the Arnhem battle on September 19th produced extensive coverage from various Eutelsat transponders. A BBC OB picture (no sound in syncs) via the Telecom satellite at 16°E carried a quiet audio subcarrier – very odd. At the end of the Eutelsat II F3 feed at 16°E the caption 'TF1, Moscow en direction du Paris, WTN Moscow' came up, but with the Reuters sound identification tape loop!

The BBC news feed to Orbit's Rome studio for redistribution via Arabsat is normally carried by Eutelsat I F4 at 25.5°. On two occasions in recent weeks however the feed has been via Telecom 1C at 3°E. Unfortunately trees make 25.5°E invisible here for most of the time: but with the leaves falling the signals are becoming progressively stronger.

The Haiti intervention produced extensive coverage. Many hours of shots taken in Port au Prince were relayed via Intelsat K at 21.5°W from a convenient hill-top site where the media had established several uplink facilities in advance. Cameras within the city were being microwave linked to the hill-top site. For east-bound material the main Intelsat K transponders to check are 11.499GHz H and 11.532GHz and 11.599GHz V. Bob French noticed that the Intelsat 601 IDB Atlantic Express lease (11.017GHz H) also carried many live news feeds to Europe, both NTSC/525 and PAL/625.

The sinking of the Estonia on the 28th brought coverage from Finland and Estonia via Eutelsat II F1 at 13°E and II F3 at 16°E: John Locker reports that the usually quiet



Left: Ryn Muntjewerff (The Netherlands) took this photograph of a German Band III PALplus test transmission. Such pictures have been seen in the UK via Astra transponder downlinks. Centre: No, this isn't enhanced SpE. The identification was seen via an Intelsat 21°W feed. Right: A United Nations conference held in Reykjavik, Iceland produced a flurry of satellite news feeds.

Kopernikus 2 (DFS-2) at 28.5°E carried many feeds.

Satellite zappers in the UK have been attempting, with little success, to receive signals from the new Turksat 1B at 42°E. Large dishes have produced signals in Scandinavia, and it seems that signals have been received in Norfolk using a 1.8m dish.

Readers may recall the problems Andrew Sykes had with a noisy, wall-mounted tracking dish system. He has now moved to King's Lynn where he has installed a fast-tracking 90cm Winegard dish on a wall-mount. This is virtually silent. More details on this next month.

News Items

Germany: SDR and SWF have announced plans for DAB (digital audio broadcasting) transmissions in Band III (ch. E12) and the microwave L band. In the first phase four low-power transmitters are to be brought into operation in ch. E12. Twenty ch. E12 TV relay stations will then be converted to DAB use, the TV transmissions being moved to u.h.f. Transmitter powers will subsequently be increased to 1kW e.r.p., and by the spring of 1996 several large areas will have DAB coverage. A main network will eventually be established, using existing ch. E12 stations with L band fill-ins.

Poland: Following a period during which illegal transmissions were common the National Radio and TV Committee has produced a plan for regional and national TV networks. There will be three regional networks as follows: Wielkopolska Telewiza Regional covering western Poland (Poznan), Wisla TV covering southern Poland (Cracow, Opole and Katowice), and NTP Plus covering northern/central/western Poland (Plock, Lodz, Warsaw, Gdansk and Szczecin). Canal Plus is to have a scrambled service with virtually national coverage.

France: France 3 is now using Ceefax text. Both France 1 (TF1) and France 2 will change from Antiope to Ceefax by Christmas. TF1 is also to use Nicam stereo sound – the TF1 Eiffel Tower transmitter has already been converted.

Belgium: A new BRTN TV2 transmitter is in operation on ch. E25, with 1,000kW e.r.p. The Brussels-RAC low-power ch. E25 10kW transmitter has closed down. RTBF is testing the 16:9 format: during September a test pattern with the identifications 'RTBF' and 'PP' was in use, PP standing for PALplus. The pattern has been seen on chs. E4, E8 and E57.

The Netherlands: Zuid-Holland TV (ZH-TV) has closed down. The 'Nozema' test pattern is no longer radiated and ch. E49 is empty.

Russia: The Ostankino TV tower in Moscow is being modified structurally. After completion of the work there will be additional TV transmissions: five main network services, six local commercial services and up to twenty satellite TV channels transmitted via MMDS.

Sudan: The BDXC reports that the Sudan Television Corporation is to open a 5kW e.r.p. transmitter at Port Sudan. A relay at Jabal Irba will complete coverage of the northern Red Sea area.

A Bit of History

Bill Higginson, an old friend, has recently moved to southern Spain. Before leaving he presented me with a large box of *Practical Wireless*, *Amateur Wireless* and *Practical Television* issues dating mainly from 1936/7 but some going back to the mechanical scanning days of the late Twenties and early Thirties.

Some years ago I included in this column an off-screen

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shot of Alexandra Palace received on the US east coast in about 1938. These magazines have produced evidence of even earlier real DX-TV. A magazine dated July 31st 1937 reports that the first Russian high-definition TV centre should be in operation by the end of that year. The equipment was supplied from the USA, despite mechanical scanners having been recently purchased from the UK. Russian 30-line low-definition transmissions could apparently be received in the UK by those who had one of the by then obsolete 30-line receivers. The article mentions a Birmingham resident who received Russian pictures, showing a dancer, at over 1,200 miles. BBC 30-line transmissions during 1932-5 could sometimes be received in Europe. The same issue records the death of His Excellency the Marchese Guglielmo Marconi, at the age of 63.

There is a report in a magazine dated March 27th 1937 of 90-line low-definition tests being carried out in Italy, using Fernseh AG equipment from Berlin. Apparently the pictures were "outstandingly good". But mechanical TV was being phased out in that country in favour of electronic scanning: 375 lines interlaced at 50 frames/sec with TV sets that used only fifteen valves.

An issue dated September 19th 1936 reports that Philips CD of Eindhoven had been making good progress with TV research. Though the company had previously been working with the German 180-line system it now opted to use the EMI 405-line system.

A remarkable story tells us that Marconi's original radio mast dating from about 1900, used for experiments in the Isle of Wight and of 160ft total height, was eventually cut down to 60ft and used as a flagpole. It was bought by Marconiphone in 1935 and moved to the company's head

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office, Radio House, in London. Still featuring a gaff mast with Union Jack, it also carried the very first TV aerial in London's West End – for experiments and public demonstrations.

The French, always different, were still testing four

alternative systems in January 1938: two versions of a 455-line 50-frame standard, a 450-line 50-frame standard and a 375-line 50-frame standard.

Some readers are active in restoring old 405-line equipment. If anyone would like a photocopy of a January 1936 c.r.t. listing that appeared on page 592 of the same magazine, just send me a 9 x 4 s.a.e. and a second-class stamp.

Satellite TV

Bindu Padaki (Bangalore) reports that transmissions at 754MHz from the Ekran satellite have now ceased. The Malayan-language channel Asianet has moved to the Russian Rimsat satellite at 130°E (in C band). The Star Movies film channel is now scrambled, using VideoCrypt 2. Star TV has added the EL Hindi-language channel via AsiaSat 1 at 105.5°E (southern footprint). There are also to be two Hindi-language channels available via the Russian Stat 7 craft at 140°E.

Dish bans have been introduced in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and Iran. Home dish ownership regulations have been tightened in mainland China: a permit is required for all receiving equipment.

CMT (Country Music Television) has increased its transmission hours via Astra and is extending its service to Asia via the PanAmSat PAS-2 craft and Latin America via PAS-3. The Asian footprint covers China, Australasia, Japan and parts of eastern Russia. PAS-2 is at 169°E.

RTL-TV has chosen Smartcrypt encryption for the service via Telecom 2B at 8°W. The decoder will cost £120 inclusive of three years' free viewing. It's likely that this encryption standard will be used by the French news channel LCI when it moves to Telecom 1C at 3°W.

Check the out-of-band frequencies 10.820GHz and 10.835GHz (circular polarisation) at 15°W for signals from the ZSSRD-2/MIR space station downlink. John Locker (Wirral) recently spotted video taken during a space walk on the former frequency – the latter frequency has been used previously. The data downlink at 11.385GHz is the easiest check as it provides strong signals via a 1.5m dish.

CD Player Casebook

Reports from Nick Beer and Mike Leach

Goodmans System 3500

The CD section didn't register discs because, we found, there was no laser light. The cause of the problem was tarnished connections on the plug-in looms at the laser assembly end. This player uses the Sony laser unit. N.B.

JVC UXT1

We were told that the CD section of this midi system had operated intermittently for some time. It usually worked all right from cold, but would then stop while playing a disc. After that it wouldn't work for some time – it had to cool down first.

I inserted a disc and, when the fault condition started, carried out a few d.c. and scope checks. The focus drive waveform was present at the laser plug (pins 12 and 15 of CN501), but it seemed that the laser wouldn't light up. The laser supply should be present at pin 9 of CN501. When I connected the meter probe to this point I found that the

supply was sometimes low and sometimes non-existent. This suggested the presence of a dry-joint or a print crack. A crack was found in the print around transistor Q501, which provides the laser supply. M.L.

Pioneer PDM601

This CD player caused us trouble over a period of time. It appeared in the workshop three or four times with different reported faults but on each occasion we couldn't find anything wrong.

Eventually we found a blown circuit protector in the power supply. When this had been replaced the machine worked all right for a while then stopped and refused to read a disc until cold again. A d.c. check showed that there was no laser supply. The cause of this was the ribbon cable that connects the main panel to the laser assembly: one of the strands was open-circuit. I soldered a flying lead between the two points and the machine then worked all right. We left it on soak test but after a week or so it again stopped. This time the focus drive waveform had disappeared, again because of a break in the ribbon cable.

When a replacement cable had been ordered from Pioneer and fitted the intermittent faults all disappeared. The cable is not listed in the service manual: its part no. is PNP1343. M.L.

Inside the Ferguson ICC6 Chassis

Part 3

Mark Paul

In this concluding instalment we'll take a brief look at the timebase circuitry and finally describe the watchdog circuit. The latter monitors various parameters in the chassis: in the event of a fault condition being detected it switches the set to the standby mode.

Synchronisation

The sync separator in IV01 (STV2110) feeds pulses to an internal field sync stage and flywheel line sync system. This chip provides the line drive output at pin 15 and a field pulse output at pin 14. The latter is used to trigger a ramp generator in the TDA1771 field generator/output chip. Both these outputs are derived from a voltage-controlled oscillator which is driven by the 503kHz resonator connected to pin 11.

Fig. 1 shows in block diagram form this part of the STV2110 chip. Following normal practice in modern receivers there are two phase detectors in the flywheel line sync system. The output from the first is used to lock the oscillator to the incoming sync pulses. The second phase detector receives the feedback signal from the line output stage, at pin 13. It controls the phase of the line drive output at pin 15. Feedback pulses of about 30V p-p amplitude from the line output transformer are fed to the emitter of transistor TV71 which acts as a pulse slicer. The slicing action is determined by the values of the resistors (RV73 and RV74) that set TV71's base voltage: on-screen distortion is reduced by selecting the most symmetrical portion of the feedback pulse. RV78 and CV77 integrate the pulse, producing the required sawtooth for the phase detector at pin 13.

There's a soft-start arrangement (not shown here) for the line drive output. This is based on transistor TV62 which provides a delay in the supply to pins 1 and 41 of the chip. At switch on the mark-space ratio of the output pulses is 20:80. It changes to the normal running 40:60 when TV62 switches on.

The field output pulse at pin 14 is derived from the 503kHz oscillator via counters and is of ten-line duration.

The mute output at pin 27, mentioned last month, is obtained from a coincidence detector that receives a sync pulse input and a pulse input from the divider circuit.

Line Deflection

There are two transistors in the line driver stage, TL30 and TL31. In the standby mode the stage is powered from the 24V UA supply via DL30 and DL31. Once the receiver comes into full operation the line output stage derived UL1 supply takes over.

The line output stage is conventional with no need for EW correction circuitry as the chassis is designed to drive 90° tubes. Various items change for different types of tube however. These are: the U_{sys} voltage (h.t.); the line output transformer; the line linearity coil; the flyback tuning capacitor; the S-correction capacitor; and the components in the impedance matching network (LL23, CL23, RL23) which is connected between the collector of the line output transistor TL19 and the line output transformer. The efficiency diode in parallel with TL19 may be external or within the same package.

A network consisting of CL26, CL27, DL26 and RL25 damps out any ringing that could be caused by the combined

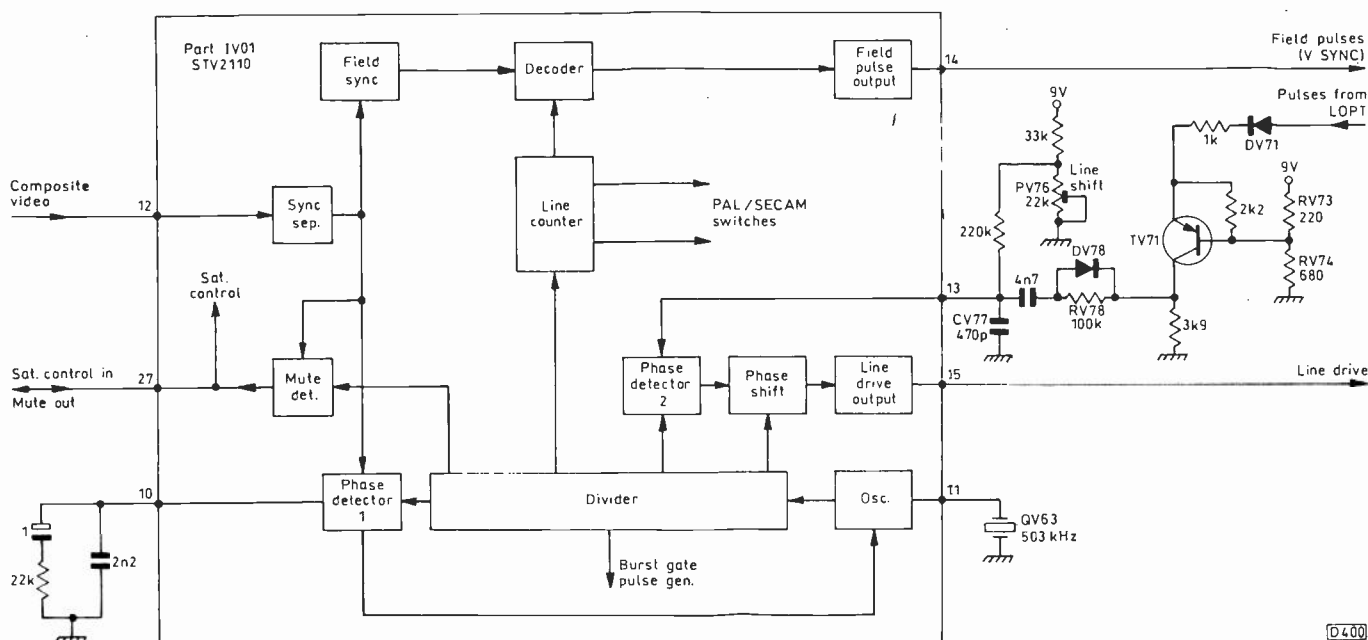


Fig. 1: The sync and line generator system in the STV2110 chip IV01.

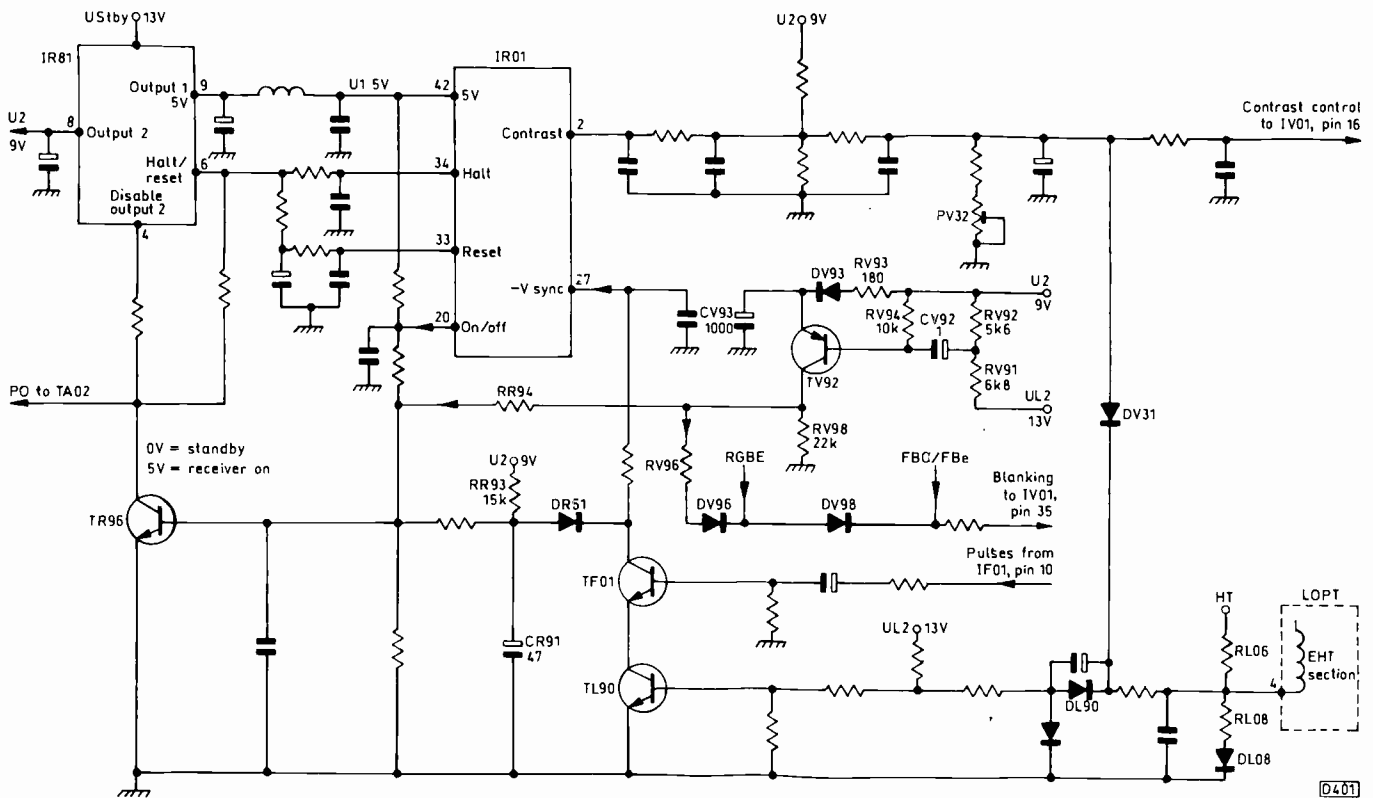


Fig. 2: The watchdog circuit, including the beam limiter system.

effect of the line output stage tuning capacitor and the circuit inductance. It's connected in parallel with the S-correction capacitor CL24, which is on the earthy side of the scan coil circuit.

The earthy end of the e.h.t. section of the line output transformer (pin 4) is connected to a conventional beam sensing network.

Field Deflection

The TDA1771 field timebase chip is a conventional device with a ramp generator (CF22 is the sawtooth charging capacitor), a power output stage, a flyback generator and thermal protection. There are only a couple of points worth particular mention here.

First there's breathing compensation to counter the effect of beam current change. This feature is provided by transistor TF31 whose base is connected to the beam sensing network. TF31's collector is linked to the ramp charging circuit via RF34 (3.3M Ω) and to the scan coil circuit via RF35 (150k Ω). The latter link compensates for any tendency to vertical shift with beam current variation.

Secondly a signal from pin 1 of the microcontroller chip IR01 is fed to the ramp generator circuit to provide height adjustment for 16:9 aspect ratio displays.

The Watchdog Circuit

The watchdog circuit is shown in Fig. 2. In the event of a fault being detected in one of the circuits it monitors it will switch the receiver to standby. The pivotal item is transistor TR96, which produces at its collector the PO (power on/off) signal. 5V at the collector of TR96 is power on, 0V power off (standby). When TR96 switches on for standby, pin 4 (disable) of IR81 is at 0V and the U2 (9V) supply is switched off. Since this supply powers the line generator in IV01 the line output stage and all the supplies obtained from

it shut down, i.e. the standby condition is entered. To select standby or on, pin 20 of the microcontroller chip IR01 switches between 5V and 0V respectively on receipt of the relevant command from the remote control unit.

Rapid Switch-off

The watchdog circuit is also used to ensure rapid receiver switch-off when the mains supply is disconnected. Transistor TV92 and its associated components provide this action.

The first effect when the mains supply is switched off is that the U_{sys} (h.t.) voltage collapses. As a result there's a proportional collapse of the voltages derived from the line output transformer. The 5V supply to the microcontroller chip maintains its value for a longer period because it's derived from the 13V U_{stby} supply.

During normal receiver operation CV93 is charged via DV93 from the 9V (U2) line. Because of the voltage drop across DV93 and RV93, CV93's charge doesn't reach 9V and TV92 is biased off (its base is connected to the 9V supply via RV94). There's a small charge across CV92. When the UL2 supply collapses at switch off a negative-going pulse will be applied via CV92 to the base of TV92 which will thus switch on, discharging C93. Thus a positive-going pulse appears at the collector of TV92, across RV98. This is communicated via RR94 to the base of TR96 which in turn switches on. This immediately disables the 9V output from IR81.

Watchdog Monitoring

The watchdog circuit monitors the field timebase for normal operation, the line output stage via the 13V (UL2) supply and the beam current. If a fault condition is discovered the 9V supply is switched off via TR96. We'll consider each of these monitoring actions in turn.

In normal operation the flyback generator in the TDA1771 field timebase chip IF01 produces positive-going pulses at pin 10. These are fed to the base of transistor TF01, which is thus periodically switched on. The negative pulses produced at its collector switch DR61 on with the result that the charge across CR91 is reduced to less than 1V. During the periods between these negative (referred to as -V) pulses RR93 charges CR91 to about 2.8V. In the event of field scan failure there are no pulses from IF01 so TF01 remains off and CR91 continues to charge. As a result TR96 conducts and the set is switched to standby. The line output transformer derived voltages then decay with the result that TV92 switches on, as previously described, keeping the 9V U2 supply disabled for a period of time. The receiver will then reset and try to start up, but with the continuing absence of pulses from the field output chip it will go through the cycle again.

The main purpose of this circuit is to blank the screen rapidly when the receiver is switched off. The voltage rise at TV92's collector is passed via RV96 and DV96 to pin 35 of IV01. This is the blanking input: when the voltage here reaches 2V the c.r.t. is driven to black level and is thus cut off.

Disabling the U2 (9V) supply in this way is of help only for fast switch off and to keep the receiver in standby until the voltage across CV93 has decayed and is no longer able to keep TV92 switched on.

Line Timebase Checks

The operation of the line timebase is checked via the 13V line, in two ways. First, if the 13V supply (UL2) falls for some reason this will be detected by TV92 and the 9V (U2)

supply will be disabled as described above. Secondly, if the 13V supply is missing when the receiver is switched on TL90 will have no base bias. It will therefore remain switched off and as TF01's emitter will be without a chassis return it will produce no pulses at its collector. So we have the same situation as with field scan failure: CR91 continues to charge and the 9V supply is cut off.

Beam Limiting

Finally the watchdog circuit provides protection against excessive beam current. The beam current limiter (BCL) works in the usual way. The earthy end of the e.h.t. section of the line output transformer (pin 4) is returned to chassis via RL08 and DL08, which is forward biased from the h.t. line via RL06. This resistor's value sets the beam current limiting level: it varies with tube type (82kΩ or 75kΩ). In the event of excessive beam current DL08 switches off and the voltage at pin 4 of the line output transformer swings negatively. As a result DV31 and/or DL90 switch on. DV31 pulls back the beam current via the contrast control circuit. DL90 switches off TL90 with the result, as previously described, that CR91 charges up, TR96 switches on and the 9V supply is shut down. There are some carefully worked out time-constants in the BCL circuit to set the precise control action under different conditions.

In Conclusion

So there we have the main features of the ICC6 chassis. Much of the circuitry is straightforward and conventional, but there are quite a few details that are a little unusual and could cause confusion.

AN5521	1.35	STR4090	11.15	25A1265	2.60
AN5732	1.40	STR20005	5.00	25A1673	4.15
AN6277	9.85	STR40090	4.00	25B422	1.85
AN6677	8.50	STR50103A	3.85	25B560	0.30
BA5114	1.55	STR54041	3.75	25B695	2.70
BA6218	1.85	STR58041	3.75	25B1243	0.80
BA6219	1.20	STR80001	6.00	25B1274	0.80
HA11423	1.65	STR1706	4.75	25C388	0.35
HA13119	2.50	STRD1806	4.50	25C940	3.15
KA6210	4.99	STRD06008	10.00	25C1040	0.80
LA3220	0.60	TA7227	1.85	25C1913	0.40
LA4183	1.35	TA7271	2.50	25C2320	0.10
LA4445	1.90	TA7280	2.25	25C2712	0.25
LA4495	1.40	TA7281	2.20	25C3199	0.50
LA4598	2.55	TA7698	5.00	25C3883	2.80
LA7835	2.35	TA8200	3.50	25C4429	4.10
LB1416	2.25	TA8210	3.00	25D401	0.50
LM301	0.25	TA8214	3.00	25D476	0.60
LM317T	1.50	TA8215	3.00	25D820	3.00
M4918B1	4.75	TA8205	3.95	25D1153	0.25
M4948B1	6.75	TA8659	13.00	25D1311	1.25
M51393	5.95	TA75339	0.75	25D1425	3.00
M58655	3.30	TDA1908A	2.00	25D1877	3.65
MB3730	1.70	TDA2170	3.00	25D1911	3.50
MB3756	8.00	TDA2270	2.50	BU426A	1.10
STK079	6.00	TDA3500	4.99	BU500	2.45
STK435	4.00	TDA3562A-TFK	3.25	BU506D	1.50
STK461	6.00	TDA3562A-PAILL	3.25	BU508A(PHIL)	0.80
STK2250	7.45	TDA3562A SG	3.00	BU508AF(PHI)	1.00
STK4121/2	7.00	TDA3645	8.00	BU508DF(PHI)	1.00
STK4141/2	5.50	TDA3650	8.99	BU806A	1.40
STK4142/2	6.50	TDA3850	18.99	BU807	0.85
STK4162/2	6.25	TDA4400	1.75	BU908	1.15
STK4171/2	8.10	TDA4500	3.50	BU932	1.50
STK4191/2	8.50	TDA4505A	4.10	BUK444/500	2.15
STK4352	6.20	TDA4505B	4.10	BUK454/600	1.95
STK4372	5.65	TDA4505E	4.00	BU111A	0.70
STK4803	7.05	TDA4505M	5.25	BU111AF(PHI)	1.20
STK4843	7.05	TDA4505K	6.15	BU111F	1.20
STK5315	5.85	TDA4660	4.50	BU112A	1.10
STK5332	1.80	TDA4950	1.40	BU112AF	1.10
STK5338	3.25	TDA5660P	2.50	BU156A	0.80
STK5361	4.15	TDA7072	3.99	BU176A	1.05
STK5372	2.85	TDA8370	14.00	BUV48C	3.10
STK5372H	4.15	TDA8405	8.00	BUW13	1.50
STK5412	3.75	TDA8732	5.95	BUW85	1.50
STK5471	3.85	TEA2018A	1.50	BUX40	2.75
STK5490	4.95	TEA2026C	4.25	BUX88	0.50
STK6732	14.00	TEA5170	1.40	BUX98	4.50
STK7225	7.50	TUA2000-4	4.25	BUZ45	5.00
STK7308	4.05	U8848	2.35	BUZ74	1.25
STK7348	4.05	UA606B	5.50	BUZ90	3.99
STK7356	4.75	UAA1008	3.00	MJ1001	1.65
STK7404	6.50	UPC1178	1.05	MJ15003	3.00
STK7410	5.15	UPC1182H	5.15	MJE3055	0.80
STK73410/2	5.95	UPC1278H	2.20	MJE13005	0.90
STK73605	4.50	UPC1420	4.50	MJE15030	2.10
STR441	14.75	UPD1937	3.00	MPSA92	0.20
STR451	25.00	25A814	0.71	MPSA93	0.20
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STR4211	5.50	25A1062	1.00	MPSU60	2.65

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Video for the Disabled

George Cole

People with sight and hearing disabilities make up a considerable proportion of the UK's population. Around 7.5 million people are deaf or have a hearing problem: 2.5 million of them watch television regularly. Around a million people are blind or visually impaired (this figure doesn't include those who have to wear glasses to correct their vision), and many of them use TV for entertainment or information.

Around twenty per cent of the TV programmes at present broadcast by the BBC and the ITV companies have accompanying teletext subtitles. These help deaf viewers to follow the programmes, and the aim is to increase the figure to around fifty per cent by the turn of the century. During the past couple of years two new systems designed to help blind and deaf people gain greater enjoyment from television have come into use: Audetel and Closed Captioning.

Audetel

Audetel (Audio Described Television) provides an additional commentary to help blind viewers understand what is happening on the screen. Close your eyes when viewing TV and you'll soon appreciate the full significance of the visual information, particularly when there's no dialogue: an actor may walk across a room for example, open a drawer then pick up and read a letter without a word being spoken.

Audetel grew out of a similar system developed for the theatre, and audio described programmes have been available on US public service TV for over three years. A UK Audetel consortium was formed in 1991: the group includes the BBC, ITC, ITV Association, Philips, Motorola and the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). It has developed a prototype Audetel decoder, and a four-month trial began in mid-July. A hundred and forty of the prototype decoders have been made, half of which have gone into the homes of blind people. Together the BBC and the ITV companies are transmitting around three hours of audio described programmes a week, including films, soaps, comedies and documentaries.

Although Audetel was primarily designed for blind viewers, the Audetel group sees a wider market for the system. It could be used to help the elderly to understand TV programmes better, or for educational programmes. It could also be used by those who have TV on in the back-

teletext all jostling for space.

The Audetel group originally considered using the Nicam system to transmit its signal. Nicam transmits 728kbits of data per second, with 11kbits of the data stream unused. The Nicam-based transmission system developed by the Audetel group used



Our cute picture shows a Closed Caption as displayed on screen. The video caption reader (decoder box) is sitting atop the TV set.

ground while doing other things such as cooking, ironing or repairs of one sort or another. An ITC survey has found that 39 per cent of viewers regularly watch TV in this way. Another potential use is for audio tape recordings of TV programmes, so that they could for example be listened to while travelling to work. Audio tapes of popular novels ('talking books') are very popular these days.

Technicalities

This all sounds very promising, but how does Audetel work? The Audetel signal is transmitted with the teletext service – the vertical blanking interval (VBI) is getting more and more congested these days, what with engineering test signals, programme source identification codes, PDC and

9.6kbits/sec for speech transmission and 1.5kbits/sec for control data. The system was tested in the London area in December 1992, but there were problems. Complaints of interference with some Nicam equipment were received, and it was subsequently found that the sets from one TV manufacturer were incorrectly set up for receiving extra Nicam data. Another consideration was that many countries don't use Nicam – this would limit the system's export potential.

Up to 7.6kbits/sec of data can be transmitted on a teletext line. Audetel uses a compression algorithm called CELP (Codebook-Excited Linear Predictive) that was originally designed for mobile telephones. Motorola assisted with the decoder chip set design, and new algorithms

have helped to improve the speech quality with teletext's lower data rate. Incidentally, if the transmission is momentarily lost an interpolation process is used to fill in the gaps in the speech.

An Audetel specification has been developed in conjunction with the EBU: the system has been allocated Data Channel 4 (Packet 4/30) which is not recognised by ordinary teletext decoders. The data capacity of a teletext line is 45 bytes. Audetel uses it as follows: clock run-in 2 bytes; framing 1 byte; header 4 bytes (this identifies Audetel speech); speech data 38 bytes.

The Audetel Decoder

The prototype Audetel set-top decoder was developed by Portset Systems, and the Italian company Seleco is developing TV sets with built-in decoders. The decoder is compact and can handle three types of audio: Nicam, f.m. mono and Audetel. There are u.h.f. (aerial) and video plus audio (scart) inputs. Outputs are remodulated u.h.f. with added Audetel, baseband scart with Audetel, stereo headphone jack with Audetel, and hi-fi stereo phonos with Audetel. Tuning is automatic with station-selected memory – there are TV channel selection and volume controls on the front panel, with tone and Audetel/programme sound mix controls on the rear panel. Basically the decoder has to tune in and demodulate the u.h.f. transmission, decode the teletext signal then decode the Audetel speech and add it to the programme sound output. Note that users don't need a teletext set as a teletext decoder is built into the Audetel decoder.

Each prototype decoder costs around £350, though the Audetel group says that commercial versions could cost around £250. Philips has developed a prototype VCR that can record Audetel commentary. As the 7.6kbits/sec data rate is too fast for a domestic VCR to record, the Philips machine feeds the Audetel data stream to a RAM which expands the data output by a factor of four. The result is a data rate of 2kbits/sec, which can be recorded. The process is reversed during playback.

Producing the Commentary

The extra commentary is being produced by workers called audio describers. The trial uses three describers who compose, edit and

record the commentary using special workstations that consist of a powerful 486 PC with video card and speakers, a video player, microphone, floppy disc reader or optical disc drive and a time-code recorder.

The audio describer controls the video player via the computer, watching the programme in a small video window that forms part of the computer monitor's display. Special software enables the describer to mark start/stop edit points. At each point a countdown marker tells the describer when to begin and end the commentary, which is sampled at 8kHz with 16-bit quantisation. With the ITV system the recording is made on a high-density floppy disc, one hour of speech filling a 1.4Mbyte disc. The BBC stores the digitised speech on a laser disc. The Audetel commentary is then linked to the teletext transmission system and broadcast.

Producing Audetel commentary is very labour intensive. It takes around a week to create ninety minutes of commentary – two and a half weeks were required to produce the commentary for the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The hardware costs involved in creating, editing and broadcasting Audetel are relatively low, around £30,000-£50,000, but producing the commentaries is very expensive.

The trial service is free, but future funding for Audetel is uncertain. The consortium hopes that a full service will be started within the next few years. This will depend on the interest shown by commercial organisations. The technology to help blind people to get more from TV is certainly here: let's hope that the money to support it will also come.

Closed Captions

Over 260 prerecorded video cassettes that contain hidden captions which work in a similar way to teletext subtitles are now available in the UK. Between five and ten new captioned tapes are being introduced each month. The system, called Closed Captions, was developed by the North American National Captioning Institute (NCI), which was set up in 1979. It's well established in the USA, where over 4,000 captioned video tape titles are available. Many live and recorded broadcast TV programmes are captioned in the USA, where legislation requires that any new set with a screen size of over 13in. must have a built-in Closed Caption decoder. The NCI opened a

UK branch in Peterborough in late 1992.

Closed Captions are designed for those with hearing disabilities and have the advantage that they can be seen only by those who have a special set-top decoder. This feature makes the system very appealing to the video software industry. Although ordinary subtitles can be recorded on video tapes they are 'burnt in', which means that the viewer doesn't have the option of removing them if they aren't needed. Video software companies are not keen to produce two versions of the same tape, one with and one without subtitles, and video retailers don't like stocking double-inventory products. Closed Captions enables all viewers to use the same tape.

Producing Captions

Closed Captions are produced as follows. A caption editor receives a time-coded copy of the master video tape and watches each scene, listening to the dialogue. Captions are typed on a PC, using a special keyboard that records words as phonetic codes. This enables an editor to type up to 260 words per minute. The computer converts these codes to words which are sent to the caption encoder and inserted, during the tape mastering process, on line 22 (PAL tapes), in the even field VBI.

Captioning is done in the USA and costs UK video companies around £1,000 an hour – though this falls to around £500 if the tape has already been captioned for the US market, since the main work then involves changing US spellings, e.g. color to colour. Live captioning is also possible. Around 400 hours of captioned programmes are broadcast in the USA each week. This system is not used in the UK, where the teletext service is used for the same purpose.

The Closed Caption Decoder

The Closed Caption decoder is a small box that plugs into any modern TV or VCR. It has r.f., composite video and stereo audio signal connections, measures 20 x 5.5 x 10.5cm and weighs just over 1kg. Cost is £100. Decoders can be bought from Blockbuster/Ritz Video shops, Radio Rentals and through Sound Advantage, a subsidiary of the RNIB. The text is displayed at the bottom of the picture. Closed Captioned tapes are identified by a talking TV logo.

Servicing PC Monitors

Ken Taylor

A previous article (August) described the various types of monitors, their differences and the basic servicing problems likely to be encountered. Here's the software we promised to assist with servicing, and some notes on the spares situation.

Software Programs

Before monitor servicing can be undertaken it's obviously necessary to be able to display something on the screen. The computer start-up display of Windows, or a listing of the directory, might be sufficient as a quick check. But more specific programs are needed. In addition to fault finding and repair it's necessary to be able to adjust a monitor's focusing, aspect ratio (height and width) and convergence.

Programs 1-3 should fulfil these requirements. They are written in BASIC, and are designed to operate in either of the three most common versions – QBASIC, QB Basic and GWBASIC. Those of you who can write in BASIC can combine, modify and improve on them. A low-cost disc that can be run as a normal PC program without the need for BASIC is also available – see later.

The programs have line numbers. Although these are regarded as old hat they are essential for GWBASIC and also make copying easier. The three programs are as follows:

Program 1 provides a screenful of Xs. This enables the focusing to be checked over the whole screen.

Program 2 provides red, green, blue or white screens. They can be used for purity and signal-tracing purposes.

Program 3 provides a circle and grid pattern for height and width setting, selectable for the CGA or EGA modes.

Loading the Programs

Most computers have a copy of one of the BASIC programs. This must be loaded first. Then each of programs 1-3 can be typed in. Save the program with a recognisable name before you try it, in case you have made a mistake which might cause a crash and lose the lot. Don't forget that BASIC has to be loaded, then one of these programs into it, each time before the program will run.

Using the Programs

Program 1 is self-explanatory: a screenful of characters for focus checks or general use. It can be displayed on any monitor.

In addition to its use for colour purity checks program 2 provides single selectable colour signals which can be useful for tracing through the signal paths. If a colour is missing and the circuit layout is difficult to follow, feeding the relevant colour signal to the monitor's input makes it easier to check through the circuit. A colour monitor is required with this program.

The grid pattern in program 3 can be used for conver-

gence. The pattern will be displayed in the CGA or EGA mode. An EGA monitor usually works in both these modes and often has separate controls for each. The problem is to know in which mode the monitor is operating, and which controls apply. The pairs of controls are often marked 1 and 2, 1 generally being CGA. But check to see which control has the greatest effect when the display is set to CGA. As a double check you can use a coil, as described in the previous article, to ascertain the line frequency – lay the coil on the monitor's case, above the tube, and connect it to a frequency counter. CGA should be about 15.7kHz, EGA 21.8kHz.

Once the controls have been sorted out the circle can be used to check the aspect ratio. Adjust the height and/or width as necessary in each mode. Most monitors, even mono ones, will display the circle to provide an aspect ratio check.

Spares

The problem most often encountered when a specific spare part is required is finding the maker of the monitor. Although most monitors have a label which apparently gives the manufacturer and the date made, don't be misled into thinking that you've cracked it. There can still be problems. The maker may be Taiwanese, or in some other far eastern country, and the label may not indicate the name of the importer or distributor. The named firm may have gone out of business. The name may be that of a computer assembler who has no interest in supplying spares for out-of-guarantee items.

Even if you successfully discover the manufacturer your problems aren't over. Some makers and distributors are reluctant to help with spares and would rather keep the business within their own organisation. Some charge exorbitant prices for monitor spares when you compare them with the cost of similar TV items. Line output transformer prices for example can often make a repair uneconomic, and c.r.t.s are often as expensive as the new monitors you see on special offer.

Some manufacturers are happy to supply spares however, and the following list – while not being exhaustive – should help in such cases. As with TV sets, some of the larger manufacturers may be prepared to supply only their account holders. Anyone else has to obtain spares through the major stockists (WVE, CPC, SEME, Chas Hyde etc.). But as the demand for these spares increases, we should find more suppliers opening up in this market.

Program 1

```
10 REM SCREEN OF Ks
20 CLS
30 FOR n = 1 TO 1920
40 PRINT "X";
50 NEXT n
60 END
```

Program 2

```
10 REM SCREENS OF RED, BLUE, GREEN OR WHITE.
20 CLS
30 COLOR 1, 7
40 INPUT "ENTER R B G or W for the Colours. Q to
  stop."; A$
50 IF A$ = "R" OR A$ = "r" THEN F% = 4
60 IF A$ = "B" OR A$ = "b" THEN F% = 1
70 IF A$ = "G" OR A$ = "g" THEN F% = 2
80 IF A$ = "W" OR A$ = "w" THEN F% = 7
90 IF A$ = "Q" OR A$ = "q" THEN 160
100 B% = F%
110 COLOR F%, B%
120 FOR N = 0 TO 45
130 PRINT "          ";
140 NEXT N
150 GOTO 20
160 CLS
170 END
```

Note: Line 130 must have forty spaces between the quotation marks.

Technical help is also a problem, with the increasing complexity of some equipment. As far as possible the following list indicates where such help is provided.

Manufacturers

This list gives details of what the various manufacturers will supply to a non-account trade repairer.

Amstrad: Account customers only. Others can obtain spares from CPC.

Compaq: The company says that it repairs all its monitors, of any age, itself. It doesn't offer any help.

Hitachi: Telephone no. 081 569 1975, fax 081 569 1441. Non-account customers can obtain spares but not technical advice via these non-account spares numbers. Fax is recommended as the telephone line is very busy.

Microvitec: The company has a training course for approved repairers and deals only with these agents. Spares and technical help from these sources is unlikely.

Olivetti: Spares for non-account customers are available from CPC.

Panasonic: Spares available from SEME (0280 823 523). Technical help from Panasonic on 0344 860 133.

Philips: Account holders only. See official spares stockists below.

Samsung: Telephone no. 0952 207 171 for spares and service manuals, 0952 292 262 for technical advice.

Tatung: Telephone no. 0952 290 111. Spares and technical support available.

Taxan: Telephone no. 0344 484 646. Spares and technical support available.

Official Stockists

This list gives details of official stockists with the names of the manufacturers' spares they can supply. Some stock only particular components. As spares suppliers are only just beginning to stock computer and monitor items it's worth checking around for any difficult makes.

CPC Ltd.: Telephone no. 0772 654 455. Stocks spares for many makes including Amstrad, Commodore, Olivetti, Olympia, Philips.

Chas Hyde and Son Ltd.: Telephone no. 0759 303 068. No specific manufacturers but can supply replacement line output transformers for some models.

SEME Ltd.: Telephone no. 0664 65 392 or, for Panasonic equipment, 0280 823 523. All Panasonic spares. Line output transformers for a range of other monitors.

Willow Vale Electronics: Telephone no. 061 682 1415. Company says it can handle monitor spares for more makes

Program 3

```
10 CLS : REM GRID & CIRCLE for CGA & EGA.
20 GOSUB 1000: CLS
30 IF a$ = "Q" OR a$ = "q" THEN END
40 SCREEN M: PSET {1, 1}
50 FOR a = 0 TO 639 STEP 40
60   FOR B = 0 TO Ht
70     PSET (a, B)
80   NEXT B
90 NEXT a
100 FOR B = 0 TO Ht
110   PSET (a - 1, B)
120 NEXT B
130 FOR B = 0 TO Ht STEP S
140   FOR a = 0 TO 639
150     PSET (a, B)
160   NEXT a
170 NEXT B
180 FOR a = 0 TO 639
190   PSET (a, Ht)
200 NEXT a
210 Pi# = 4 * ATN(1!)
220 CIRCLE (320, C), R
230 LOCATE 12, 35: PRINT "PRESS any KEY"
240 IF INKEY$ = "" THEN GOTO 240
250 SCREEN 2
260 GOTO 10
1000 REM select modes
1010 PRINT "Do you want CGA (15.5kHz) = C"
1015 PRINT "      or EGA (21.6kHz) = E": PRINT :
  PRINT " Q to QUIT"
1020 PRINT : PRINT "Enter the Letter.": PRINT
1030 a$ = INPUT$(1)
1040 IF a$ = "" GOTO 1030
1050 IF a$ = "C" or a$ = "c" THEN M = 2: Ht = 199: S =
  20: C = 100: R = 200: RETURN
1060 IF a$ = "E" or a$ = "e" THEN M = 9: Ht = 349: S =
  35: C = 175: R = 200: RETURN
1070 IF a$ = "Q" OR a$ = "q" THEN SCREEN 2:
  RETURN
1080 CLS : GOTO 1010
```

than it can list. Contact the Manchester branch (telephone no. above) for details.

Wizard Distributors: Telephone no. 061 872 5438: Line output transformers, tubes and a comprehensive list of computer i.c.s are stocked. If it's a tube enquiry, ask for Peter or Barry.

Monitor Program Disc

As an alternative to the BASIC programs listed in this article a 3.5in. disc with six programs is available from K.P. Taylor, 15 Lindsay Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9NP. Price

is £5.00 plus £1.00 post and packing (£2.00 outside the UK).

The disc loads from the DOS cursor and doesn't require BASIC. A menu is presented, and the programs can be selected and changed simply and quickly.

In addition to the previously described programs it has grey scale and colour bar programs and a helpline that provides instructions on the use of the programs. It's intended for use with colour monitors, and only one of the programs will operate a Hercules type monochrome monitor. As many mono monitors are mono CGA or VGA (MCGA or MVGA) some of the other programs may work with them.

Help Wanted

The Help Wanted column is intended to assist readers who require a part, circuit etc. that's not generally available. Requests are published at the discretion of the editor. Send them to the editorial department - do not write to or phone the advertisement department about this feature.

Wanted: Complete working YC PCB, part no. 928B15101, for the Mitsubishi HS700B VCR. Robert Pyatt, 3 Meadowcroft, Sutton, St. Helens, Merseyside WA9 3XQ. 0744 817 995.

Wanted: Rear case/battery compartment for the Binatone Mobile 5FM 5in. TV/radio, also the brightness preset. Tape switch (or supplier) for the Stereomatic cassette/radio Model 01/2777 - or machine for spares. I have service and technical manuals for the Grundig SVR4000 for sale. T. Peel, 11 Beadnell Way, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3HB. 091 284 5488.

Wanted: Standby mains transformer for the Sentra GX9000 CTV or source for spares. C. Guilliat, Ashby TV, 2a Alexandra Road, Ashby, Scunthorpe DN16 2SF. 0724 862 525.

Wanted: Service manual or circuit diagram or photocopy of these for the Philips D2MAC stand-alone decoder Model BBD900. Brian Webb, 42 Westways, Havant, Hants PO9 3LN. 0705 474 938.

Wanted: Circuit diagram for the RTL4/5 decoder. Lance Williams, Kemerton, Ribchester Road, Blackburn BB1 9EE. 0254 249 668.

Wanted: Miniature volume control (5kΩ log.) with switch for an HMV/Marconiphone transistor radio dating from 1965 (no model no.). Set covers LW/MW/SW/LUX and operates from PP7 battery. Shaft is 4mm. Also correct knob if possible. F.C. Bailey, 2 Elmridge, Leigh, Lancs WN7 1HN. 0942 675 299.

Wanted: Type TNP66035 tuning board for the Panasonic Model TX2024 (U3W chassis), or TMS3453N2L i.c. for this board. W.B. Marshall, 12 Chapel Street, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3DL. 0773 743 220.

Wanted: LOPT type MSH1FCB04 for the Sharp Model C1410. Justin Johns, 28 Woodland Road, Neath, West Glamorgan SA11 3AL. 0639 638 629.

Wanted: Complete working chassis for a Matsuo 2580 and a TA7650P i.c. P. Hackett, 20 Harold Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0LR. 0705 811 105.

Wanted: Circuit diagram (stat would do) for the Goodmans Model C141, J. Naughton, 40 Gala Crescent, Wishaw, Strathclyde ML2 7JR.

Wanted: Working remote control units for the Ferguson FV31 and FV32 VCRs. David Jordan, Central Electronics, 6

Queen Street, Stirling FK8 1HN. 0786 451 230.

Wanted: Front section of cabinet, new or secondhand, for the Amstrad TVA1 combined TV/VCR. Leon Electronics, 11 Woodend Close, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex. 0293 520 536.

Wanted: Complete front panel for an ITT Model 3943 VCR - one from a scrap machine o.k. K. Allen, 4 Northbrook Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA12 5RQ. 0935 22 782.

Wanted: HV block (with H stat control) for the Sony Model KV1820. Also circuit diagrams for the Gould Advance OS2007Y and OS2006X scope plug-in units and the Amstrad PC10 VGA colour monitor. J.A. Fraser, 23 Albany Road, London W13 8PQ. 081 991 5444.

Wanted: Circuit diagram or service manual for the Ferguson 3V23 VCR. M. Brown, 159 Suttons Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4LY.

Wanted: LOPT for the Panasonic Model TXC21. Part no. TLF14574F. Gary Burt, 3 Randall Close, Calmore, Southampton, Hants SO40 2SE.

Wanted: Remote control handset for the Dynatron Model CTV43 and a power supply for the Ferguson Model 3V56 VCR. Wayne Haverson, 139 Victoria Road, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7LX. 01243 377 746.

Wanted: Main PCB for the JVC Model HRD250 VCR or a scrap machine. P. Bolton, 47 Beech Avenue, Greenfield, Oldham, Lancs OL3 7AW. 0457 876 221.

Wanted: Line oscillator coil for the ITT Model CS610 (CVC9 chassis). Part no. is 32/405/05043. Silas Corley, 71 Ringway, Southall, Middx UB2 5SR. 081 574 4126.

Wanted: Service manuals, circuit diagrams or any information on the following VCRs: ITT VR580/05 (2000 format); ITT VR3984 (ref. 4225); Grundig 2 x 4 Super GB (2000 format), order no. 800. Philip Gay, Lee House, 13 Beaconsfield Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon BS23 1YE.

For disposal: January 1976-September 1990 issues of *Television*. Make an offer for the lot and collect! Alternatively single copies £1.50 each inc. post and packing as available. G. Beard, 26 Killarney Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 2DX.

Wanted: Complete chassis for the Pye Model 51KT2366/05T (Philips CTX-E chassis), working if possible. H. Turney, 135 North Road, Bellshill, Lanarkshire ML4 1QY.

Wanted: Teletext board (BS816.2.) and/or text circuit diagram for the Seleco Model Spa 25SS569UK TV receiver. Dave Quinnen, PO Box 22632, Windhoek, Namibia. Telephone/fax 010 264 61 42939.

Wanted: Service manual or circuit diagram (photocopy would do) for the Hewlett-Packard Model 175A oscilloscope, or advice on how to convert the line scan and e.h.t. section to solid-state circuitry. Also an audio/control head for the Grundig Model VS180GB. M. Henry, 42 Chapel Road, Dungiven, Co. Derry, N. Ireland BT47 4RT. 0504 741 558.

TELEVISION INDEX & DIRECTORY PLUS REPRINTS SERVICE

INDEX DISC

Version 2 of the computerised index to *TELEVISION* magazine, covering Volumes 38 to 43 (1988 – 1993), is now available. There are over 5000 references to TV/VCR fault reports and articles, with synopses. A TV/VCR spares guide, an advertisers list and a directory of trade and professional organisations are included. The software is easy to use and very quick. It runs on any IBM or compatible PC with 512K RAM and a hard disc. **Price: £30 (specify 5.25" or 3.5")**.

Those with version 1 discs can have them upgraded for £12 each: return the disc quoting its serial number.

FAULT REPORT DISC

This disc contains the full text for TV, VCR, camcorder, satellite TV and CD fault reports published in Volume 43 of *TELEVISION* (November 1992 to October 1993 issues), giving you easy access to this vital information. Note that the disc cannot be used on its own, only in conjunction with the Index disc: you load the contents of the Fault Report disc on to your computer's hard disc then access it via the Index disc. **The Fault Report disc is available at £15 (specify 5.25" or 3.5")**.

REPRINTS

Reprints of articles from *TELEVISION* back to 1986 are also available: ordering information is provided with the index, or can be obtained from the address below. Hard copy indexes of *TELEVISION* are available for Volumes 38 to 43 at £3.50 each.

All the above prices include UK postage and VAT where applicable. Add an extra £1 postage for overseas EC orders, or £5 for non-EC overseas orders. Cheques should be made payable to Video Interface Products.

Video Interface Products Ltd., 1 Vineries Close, Cheltenham GL53 0NU, UK.

Test Case 384

Switch-mode power supplies have been standard practice in TV sets for over two decades now, and we've got used to dealing with the very wide variety of circuits that come our way for repair – good ones, bad ones and diabolical ones. The adoption of chopper power supplies by other types of domestic AV equipment has been more gradual. But we are now seeing them in such things as satellite receivers, audio gear and VCRs, where the power consumption is generally lighter than in a TV set. Many technicians do not welcome the presence of these more complex power supplies in such equipment. Like it or not however, they have to be dealt with when they go wrong. And thereby hangs the tale of a dead Sony VCR, which involved us in a protracted fault diagnosis.

It was a Model SLV715, about two years old, whose power supply was in a totally screened box. Inside this box there's a chopper transformer which is driven by a seven-leg power chip, an optocoupler feedback system, seven secondary rectifier circuits and a bunch of three-, four- and five-legged stabiliser chips. Par for the course maybe, but you would need a manual or a circuit diagram to be able to sort it all out. We certainly did.

At switch-on the machine appeared to be utterly dead, with no clock display and no standby LED illumination. Into the module then. The mains fuse was intact, and we found out the hard way that the mains rectifier's reservoir capacitor C105 was fully charged. Measured accurately with a meter, rather than momentarily with the fingertips, the voltage across this capacitor was found to be 340V. It was also present at the chopper transformer's primary winding and pin 2 (collector of the chopper transistor) of the MA231 power chip HIC101. The two 430kΩ start-up resistors R103/4 looked likely suspects but measured o.k. – after carefully discharging C105! There were no visible dry-joints or burns anywhere, and the three circuit protectors and three fusible resistors were all found to be intact. Time to delve deeper.

Although we didn't have a description, it wasn't hard to work out how the circuit (most of it, anyway) worked. We started by checking the rectifier diodes on the secondary side of the circuit with an ohmmeter. None of them were either short- or open-circuit, and there were no discernible shorts or heavy loads on the d.c. side of the seven rectifiers. To be sure that no faults in the VCR itself were loading the power supply the interconnecting plugs were pulled out, leaving the power module completely

isolated. It still didn't perk up.

The scope was next brought into play. Intriguingly a burst of oscillation appeared for about half a second at each switch on – so long as C105 was fairly well discharged. This suggested that the start-up system was working but that oscillation couldn't be maintained. Why? Knowing the nasty habits of optocouplers, we replaced PC101. This had no effect whatsoever. Although the initial oscillation suggested that it was o.k., we replaced the power switching chip. Again this had no effect on the symptom or the behaviour of the circuit at switch on. All the resistors and capacitors associated with the chip, and those around the 'variable zener' device IC201, were checked cold and measured o.k.

We seemed to have reached an impasse! Stimulated by some workshop coffee however we hooked the scope to each d.c. output in turn, at the output ends of the rectifiers. With one exception they all (with the VCR feeds still disconnected) rose to some degree. There was only a very short-lived blip across the 38V reservoir capacitor C201 however. Was this a red herring? Certainly D201, D208, Thy201 and C201 were all perfectly all right. So what was wrong with the power supply? We couldn't turn to page 129 for the answer!

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BU508A	X5	£3.60	BU426A	X5	£3.75	3V35/36 etc. Belt kit	X5	£4.25
BU508AF	X5	£5.00	TDA4601	X2	£2.55	VT11E etc. Belt kit	X5	£5.50
BUT11A	X5	£2.25	TDA3654	X2	£2.50	Standard video sensor lamp	X10	£2.50
Philips type 1.2 volt Back up battery	X5	£4.50				Standard video sensor lamp + plug	X10	£4.00
Philips type 2.4 volt Back up battery	X5	£8.75				Thorn TX9/10 Remote control		each £7.49
Scart - Scart lead 1.5m Fully wired	X2	£2.90				Thorn TX10 Green spot LOPTX		each £14.95

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

(please add £1.00 handling all + VAT)

Satellite PSU Repair/Refurb kits

Experience in one of the largest repair centres has shown that all repairs to Power supply units require special treatment with not only the obviously faulty parts being replaced but a number of others also changed to ensure a satisfactory repair. Experience shows that up to 50% of all power supply repairs 'bounce' unless the correct procedure and the correct precautionary changes to certain components are made.

At last 4 repair kits are available to cover the majority of all Amstrad and Pace receivers each with a simple to understand instruction sheet to guide you through the correct way of repairing and refurbishing satellite receiver power supply units.

	MANUFACTURERS	MACHINE NO.		PRICE
SATKIT1	PACE	PRD800	PRD900	£6.95
SATKIT2	PACE	SS9000	SS9200	£6.95
		SS9010	SS9210	
		SS9020	SS9220	
SATKIT3	AMSTRAD	SRD510	SRD520	£6.95
SATKIT4	AMSTRAD	SRD500		£6.95

all + £1.00 handling and + VAT

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ALL SATELLITE RECEIVERS purchased before MAY 1994

It is almost certain that if you purchased your satellite receiver before May 1994 you will be unable to receive all the projected channels when they become available on ASTRA 1D neither will you be able to receive the lower two channels on ASTRA 1C. The lower two channels on ASTRA 1D are Filmnet Movies (H - 10.921) and RTL-5 (V - 10.934). These are broadcasting now. If you wish to receive these two channels now and the projected possible 16 channels on ASTRA 1D when it is launched later this year, you will need to purchase extra equipment. The SUPER 'D' CONVERTOR is a clever, low cost frequency converter which can be purchased now. Millions of satellite receivers will need converting in Europe so it is good advice to buy now while stocks are readily available.

Can I receive

ASTRA 1D

YES!

Method 1

- 1) Purchase an enhanced satellite receiver with tuning range of 950 - 2050 MHz
- 2) Purchase an LNB with a conversion frequency of 9.75 GHz
- 3) Book an engineer to install the equipment

TOTAL COST AROUND £200

Method 2

- 1) Purchase a SUPER 'D' convertor
- 2) Install the SUPER 'D' convertor - All by yourself.

TOTAL COST EXACTLY £29.95

What is a SUPER 'D' convertor ?

The super 'D' convertor is a small box (110mm x 60mm x 50mm) which is inserted into the down lead from the satellite dish at the rear of the receiver (no power supply is required). A suitable connecting lead is supplied together with end user simple instructions. At the flick of a switch or in most cases a touch on the remote control, channels on ASTRA 1D can be tuned in when available. The bottom 2 channels on ASTRA 1C which up to now you may not have been able to tune in, will be immediately available.

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A Serviceman's Guide to Oscilloscopes

Part 2

David Botto

In Part 1 we looked at the operation of analogue oscilloscopes and some of their features and advantages. The Digital Storage Oscilloscope (DSO) is now fast gaining in popularity: it's the ideal instrument with which to investigate today's increasingly complex digital video and computer circuitry.

Advantages of the DSO

An analogue oscilloscope cannot normally deal with a waveform that occurs just once. With a DSO however you can capture and examine fleeting single-pulse waveforms such as those from the one-shot oscillators found in VCRs.

The DSO is also good for spotting glitches. These are nasty, hard-to-see little noise spikes that appear momentarily on a signal, during perhaps just one occasional pass of the waveform. See Fig. 1. Such short-period glitches on a repetitive signal cannot be viewed when an analogue scope is used to display the complete waveform. It's easy with a DSO. The significance of glitches is that they can be responsible for intermittent faults.

Signals that occur before the trigger point can be viewed with a DSO. Many of them also show the position of the trigger point. You can thus see the complete waveform, not just a part of it.

A DSO enables you to make automatic measurements with an accuracy that's not possible with an analogue scope. An automatic peak-to-peak measurement will show the maximum and minimum waveform amplitudes.

Waveforms can be stored and, with some DSOs, printed out via a printer. These features can be extremely useful for locating the cause of intermittent faults of a momentary nature.

How a DSO Works

While an analogue oscilloscope amplifies the input signal and uses it to drive the Y plates directly a DSO converts the signal, after initial amplification, to digital form, stores it in a RAM, reads it out as required then converts it back to analogue form to drive the Y display section. The waveform can be retained in the memory and/or on the screen indefinitely without deterioration. Some DSOs enable it to be stored on a floppy disc. Since the input and tube drive

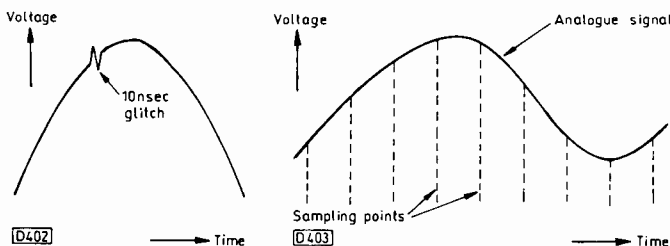


Fig. 1 (left): Waveform with 10nsec glitch.

Fig. 2 (right): Real-time signal sampling.

systems remain the same as in a wholly analogue scope, many DSOs operate in both modes.

Two developments have enabled DSOs to be produced at prices that put them within service department budgets. These are reasonably priced, fast and accurate analogue-to-digital (DA) and digital-to-analogue (DA) converters and secondly cheap memory chips that enable data in large quantities to be stored accurately at high speed.

Most DSOs use successive-approximation AD converters (ADCs). The advantage is that only a single voltage comparator is required. Conversion is a serial process however, so the operation is rather slow.

Single-shot measurements call for fast AD conversion. The parallel, or 'flash', ADC is best for this. It uses a number of parallel-connected op-amps to sample the signal waveform.

Vertical Resolution

The scope's vertical resolution determines the fineness of the detail that can be displayed. So don't forget to check on this when choosing an oscilloscope.

With a DSO the vertical resolution is largely determined by the number of bits in the digital samples produced by the ADC. An eight-bit data word gives 256 possible signal levels, which is acceptable for many applications. A ten-bit data word gives 1,024 possible levels.

Beyond a certain limit however the use of more bits per word will not necessarily result in a higher resolution. It depends on the overall design of the scope, including the tube's performance.

Signal Sampling

Before its conversion to digital form the signal has to be sampled. Fig. 2 shows a simple analogue waveform being sampled at the points shown. The higher the sampling rate, the better the definition will be. This is known as *real-time* or *one-shot* sampling. The sampling rate must be somewhat higher than the signal frequency.

There are other sampling modes. *Repetitive* or *equivalent-time* sampling has certain advantages where the waveform is repetitive and doesn't change. Signal samples are taken at a different point or points during each signal cycle. This enables an approximation of the waveform to be built up in the memory. The advantage is that the signal frequency can be substantially higher than the sampling frequency. Two methods of repetitive sampling are commonly used, *sequential* and *random*.

With sequential sampling the waveform is examined at a preset time after each trigger point. The process continues until enough samples have been stored in the memory to form an accurate representation of the signal.

When the sampling is done without waiting for a trigger pulse it's known as random sampling. Note that random does not refer to the signal or the method of sampling but to the order in which the screen display is arranged. This

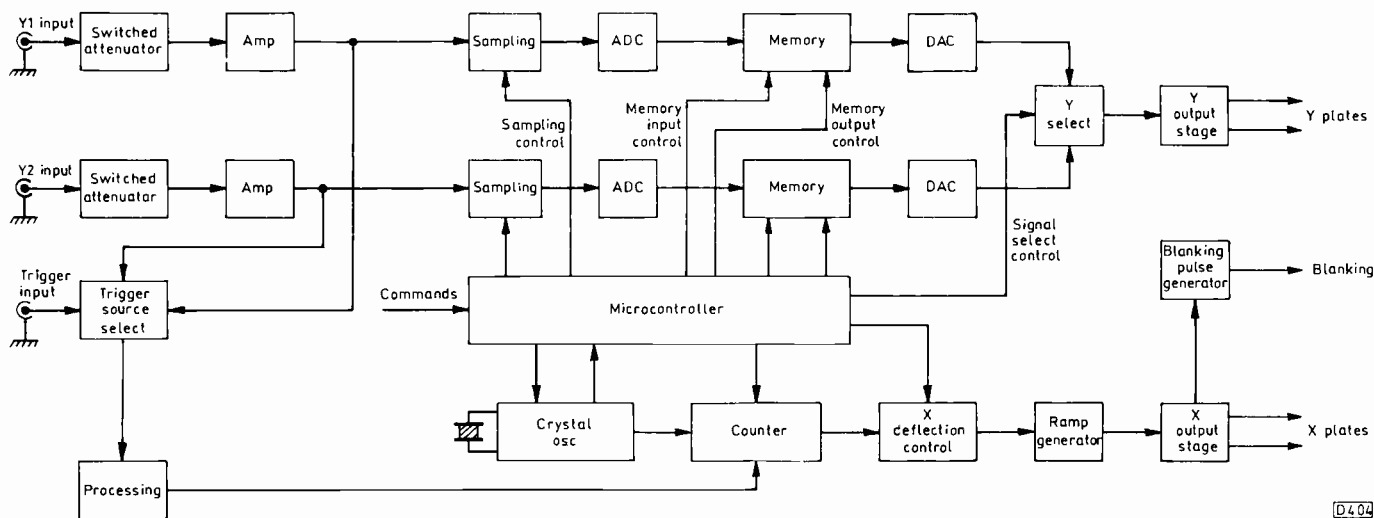


Fig. 3: Block diagram of a possible two-channel DSO arrangement.

method is fine for examining fast-rising waveform edges.

These sampling methods all have their advantages and disadvantages.

Storage Tube Scopes

Some older analogue storage scopes used a special tube to store the waveform. The technique involved bistable phosphors and mesh-storage levels. After a while the trace would fade and become fuzzy. With the modern DSO the waveform can be stored indefinitely and instantly retrieved. Other analogue storage scopes use sampling techniques.

Back to the DSO

A DSO can be used to examine many different types of signal: clock oscillator signals, pre-trigger parts of waveforms, l.f. signals that don't produce a good display with older analogue scopes and so on.

Fig. 3 shows in block diagram form a possible DSO arrangement with two Y channels – extra Y channels can be added in parallel. As there's a memory for each channel there is no need for the chop/alternate switching used with analogue scopes. The separate memories enable the DSO to store data simultaneously from all inputs. Operation of the system is self-evident.

Since the sampling rate might be 200MHz or higher the information has to be written into memory at a write cycle time of 5nsec or less. The write and read times can differ. Most DSOs use FIFO memories (fast in, slow out) to store the data. Once stored the data is held indefinitely without loss or deterioration – provided the memory circuits remain powered.

Microcomputer control enables time intervals, frequency, sampling rates etc. to be set. This information, with voltages and other waveform data, can be displayed on the screen in figures and diagrams. The scope can serve as a digital voltmeter and frequency counter/timer while simultaneously displaying waveforms.

X deflection is controlled by a crystal oscillator instead of a linear sweep oscillator. Accuracy can be as high as 0.01 per cent.

Connect a component tester to the DSO and you can record and compare several component test waveforms simultaneously.

For most servicing the scope doesn't need to have more than two Y channels. The exception to this can occur when

checking the logic lines in computers and other digital equipment. Many DSOs (and some analogue scopes) provide a choice of four or more Y input channels.

All new oscilloscopes, including analogue instruments, now contain a fair amount of digital circuitry.

The Roll Mode

A handy feature that most DSOs incorporate is a roll mode. Since the X deflection is crystal controlled, the frequency can be divided to capture l.f. signals, using a sweep as slow as one hour/div. This mode continuously moves (rolls) data across the screen from right to left. The advantage is that you can see dynamic changes with l.f. signals, for example when adjusting a preset control. The roll mode is particularly useful when testing power supply circuitry.

Select the Tektronix TDS320's peak detect feature and h.f. information buried within l.f. waveforms can be captured. In the peak detect mode glitches as narrow as 10nsec are exposed.

Other User Features

Many DSOs have screen cursors, a set of lines or markers that can be set to any place on the screen. These can be used for period and other special measurements of sections of the displayed waveform. The waveform section between the cursors can be expanded to fill the screen (zoom control).

Some DSOs have single-button set-ups, computer type on-screen menus, autoranging Y input amplifiers and autoset timebases. Auto set-ups sample the incoming Y signal and set the DSO to the correct range instantly.

What to Buy?

The first decision required is whether to choose an analogue scope or a DSO. For video/TV work the preferred type has long been an analogue instrument. It's considered to be best for reproducing complex video signals faithfully. Consequently many engineers feel more at home with an analogue oscilloscope. Many DSOs are now so good in this respect however that it's hard to spot the difference.

As more and more digital circuitry comes into use in TV sets and VCRs, and more computer repairs appear on your bench, you'll find the storage scope increasingly useful. It can handle pre-trigger viewing, fast sweeps, single-shot

pulses, low repetition-rate signals, store waveforms and do a whole lot more. In a short article like this it's possible to mention only some of the advantages of a DSO.

Some service engineers may decide that a combined analogue and digital storage scope is the best choice. One example is B&K Precision's moderately priced Model 2522A. With Philips' new CombiScope range, which combines top-quality analogue operation with powerful digital storage technology, you can change from one to the other at the touch of a button. In addition to waveform displays, number readouts and words provide the user with essential information.

The Hewlett-Packard HP54600 DSO combines the response of an analogue instrument with the measurement power of a DSO. While its upper response is 100MHz it can also detect and display waveforms with as low a frequency as 1Hz.

The Tektronix four-channel DSO Model TDS644A has a 500MHz bandwidth and a full-colour display. It doesn't use a shadowmask tube: the specially developed Tektronix NuColour display provides excellent contrast and convergence. Colour is especially useful when examining multiple, overlaying waveforms. This scope gives the user considerable insight into waveform behaviour and analyses and identifies logic functions – the relevant logic symbol is then displayed on the screen. Its price is £18,486 plus VAT however, putting it beyond normal service department use. We mention it for the sake of completeness and interest.

The Philips ScopeMeter Model 99 is a hand-held instrument that combines a 50MHz DSO with a full 3,000 count, wide-range true r.m.s. digital multimeter. It measures frequency and resistance and incorporates a component tester.

Tektronix's new TekMeter is a handy instrument for both bench and field servicing. It merges the power of a true r.m.s. multimeter with an autoranging scope in one compact, hand-held unit. Its large numerical display enables readings to be seen in most conditions. A linear bar graph is included. Weight is only 2.2lb. There are three models in the range: the top Model THM565 is the one to go for.

Before Buying

The specification details alongside provide a guide to scopes suitable for TV/video/computer servicing, over a wide price range. Only a small number of the excellent analogue and digital scopes available are listed: to include every scope would take up far more space than is available here. It's a good idea to check the advertisement pages in this magazine.

It is best to select an instrument with just a few more features and ranges than you think you'll ever need. You will then be ready for the developments in consumer electronics products on the way.

Before buying, try to get a copy of the manufacturer's brochure. Try to see the scope working and to get the feel of its controls and functions. You'll be using it every day for a long time.

Find out which accessories are included and the length of the warranty period. Check the stock and if necessary delivery situation. Remember that carriage charges can be expensive, so ask about them.

In Conclusion

To earn a decent income engineers must be able to locate faults quickly. Are you still struggling with an old scope of limited ability? If so the instrument, good as it may have

been when new, is now costing you a lot of money. Right now is a good time to make life easier and more profitable by investing in a new high-tech scope.

BRIEF SPECIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE OSCILLOSCOPES

Prices are correct at the time of writing and exclude VAT. The following list is only a selection from a few ranges to indicate the variety of models available. MS = megasamples.

B&K Precision

2522A: Two-channel digital storage/analogue 20MHz scope. Sampling rate 20MS/sec. Maximum sensitivity 5mV/div. Timebase expander. Sweep magnification x10. Roll mode. Price £1,125 (trade £844).

2160: Dual-trace 60MHz analogue scope. Delay and dual timebase. Max. sensitivity 1mV/div. X-Y mode. Three trigger modes. Incorporates component tester. Price £1,205 (trade £903).

2120: Dual-trace 20MHz analogue scope. Two trigger modes plus TV H and V for video work. Trace rotation. Max. sensitivity 5mV/div. Price £553 (trade £415).

B&K Precision scopes come complete with two 10:1 probes and an instruction book. UK agent is Canadian Instruments and Electronics Ltd. Telephone 0602 770 075.

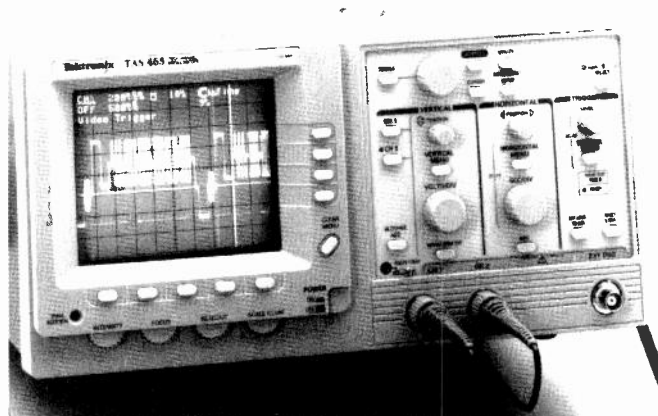
Hameg

HM1005: Three-channel, six-trace 100MHz analogue scope. Trigger and overscan LED indicators. Active TV sync separator. Sensitivity 1mV/cm. Price £847.

HM205-3: Two-channel 20MHz DSO. Max. sampling rate 2 x 20MHz. Two 2,048 x 8-bit memories. Dot joiner. Component tester. Printer/plotter output. Price £653.

HM303: Two-channel 30MHz analogue scope. Sensitivity 2mV/div. Trigger LED indicator. Squarewave calibrator. Component tester. Price £362.

Hameg scopes come complete with two probes and comprehensive manuals. There is free delivery and a two-year warranty. UK agent is BK Electronics. Telephone 0702 527 572.



The Tektronix TAS465 100MHz analogue scope.

Hewlett-Packard

HP54600B: Dual-trace 100MHz DSO with delayed sweep. Max. sensitivity 2mV/div. Menu-driven. Autoscale. Sampling rate 20MS/sec. 16 memories for storing front panel set-ups. Controlled by soft keys. Frequency, time and duty cycle measurements displayed in figures. Price £1,985. See test report in September issue.

HP54601B: Four-channel version of the HP54600B. Price £2,386.

HP54602B: Four-channel 150MHz DSO with delayed sweep. Channels 3 and 4 have a 250MHz bandwidth. Price £2,707.

UK agent Hewlett-Packard Ltd., Berkshire. Telephone 0344 360 000. Booklet HP part no. 9320-5776 available on complete range.

Philips/Fluke

PM3208-004: Two-channel 20MHz analogue scope. Sensitivity 5mV/div. TV H and V triggering. Two 10:1 switchable probes included. Price £498.

PM3050-004: Two-channel 60MHz analogue scope. Sensitivity 2mV/div. Autoset facility. Price £995.

PM3082-004: Two plus two channel 100MHz analogue scope. Sensitivity 2mV/div. Many features. Cursor modes. TV triggering. Price £1,725.

PM3394A CombiScope range: Combined analogue/DSOs. 200MHz bandwidth. Digital sampling at up to 200MS/sec. Four channels. Cursor measurements. Delayed timebase. X-Y mode. Numeric readout. Simultaneous display of the three CTV RGB signals. Designed for the service workshop. Prices range from £5,054 to £6,229.

ScopeMeter Model 99 Series II: Solid-state digital multimeter plus two-channel, 50MHz DSO. Pop-up menus, soft keys, roll mode. Batteries and charger included. Zoom. Signal generator and component tester. Price £1,450.

UK agent Fluke UK Ltd. Telephone 0923 240 511. Copies of oscilloscope basics/DSO booklets available on request.

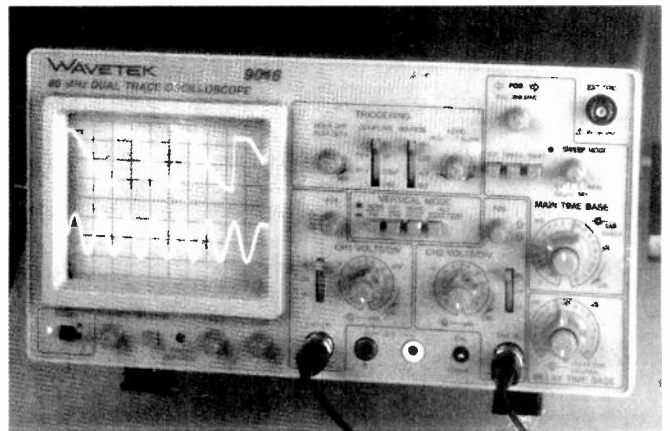
Tektronix

2205: Two-channel 20MHz analogue scope. Sensitivity 5mV/div. Front panel Z input. TV H and V triggering. X-Y operation. Includes two probes. Price £602.

2212: 60MHz analogue/DSO. Programmable. Sampling rate 20MS/sec. Parallel printer interface. Sensitivity 2mV/div. Price £2,422.

TAS465: Two-channel 100MHz analogue scope. Dual timebase. Autoset, cursor readouts, autoset button, save/recall set-ups. Sensitivity 2mV/div. New unit at no cost if scope fails within three-year warranty period. Price £1,728.

TDS320: 100MHz analogue/DSO. Sampling rate 500MS/sec. Two-channel real-time DS operation. 21 automatic measurements. 10nsec peak detect mode for high-



The Wavetek 9016 60MHz analogue scope.

speed glitch capture. Sensitivity 2mV/div. Price £2,596.

TekMeter: True r.m.s. multimeter with autoranging scope. Linear bar graph. Weight 1kg. Powered by six AA batteries. Three models, THM550 at £700, THM560 at £799 and THM565 at £1,095.

TDS644A: Four-channel colour-display DSO. Bandwidth 500MHz. Sampling rate 2GS/sec. 25 automatic measurements. Built-in disc drive for recording/transferring waveforms to a PC. Many specialised display modes. Price £18,486.

UK agent Tektronix UK Ltd. Telephone 0628 486 000.

Wavetek

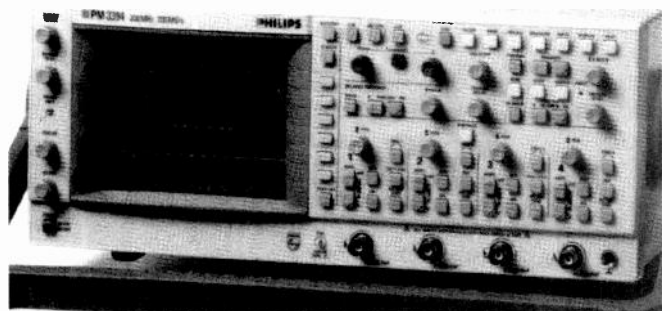
9302: Easy-to-operate dual-trace 20MHz analogue/DSO. Max. sensitivity 1mV/div. Max. sampling rate 10MS/sec. Stores events pre- and post-trigger time. Full-feature analogue operation at press of a button. Data output to external plotter. Includes probe set. Price £725.

9020: Dual-trace 20MHz analogue scope with delayed sweep. Max. sensitivity 1mV/div. Component tester. See review in December 1993 issue. Price £364.

9012: Dual-trace 20MHz analogue scope. Max. sensitivity 1mV/div. Component/signature tester. Independent dual-channel triggering. Price £345.

9016: Conservatively rated 60MHz analogue professional scope with dual timebase. Zoom-in feature. Variety of trigger coupling choices. Max. sensitivity 1mV/div. Delayed sweep facility. Component/signature tester. Price £839.

UK agent Wavetek. Telephone 0384 442 394.



The Philips PM3394 CombiScope.

VCR Clinic

Reports from Andrew J. Finn, Ronnie Boag, David Belmont, Gerald Smith, Ian Bowden, Simon Bodgett, Terry Lamoon, Nick Beer and Roger F. White

Akai VS23EK

If one of these machines has no display and a buzz comes from the power supply *unplug quickly* – the power supply is just about to self-destruct! Then replace C6 (220µF, 10V) under the metal can on the power supply. This will save you the cost of a replacement power supply. **A.J.F.**

Mitsubishi HSM57

A fault you can get with these machines is a half to three-quarter inch pattern at the bottom of the picture, worse with prerecorded tapes. Mitsubishi has come up with an answer. The cause of the fault is the fact that both video heads are in contact with the tape at the same time. As a result there's crosstalk between the heads, hence the patterning. Mitsubishi will, if requested, supply a new, specially-selected head drum (upper and lower). This doesn't cure the problem completely but does make a big improvement. **A.J.F.**

Finlux VR2040/05G

This Philips clone (DMP2 deck) came in to have its carriage refitted. Two days later it came back because there was no channel-change operation. The channel up and down buttons appeared to change the channels occasionally but there were no TV pictures. We then spotted that the infra-red sensor was visible. The dark blue infra-red plate that covers the receiver had slipped and dropped in front of the single channel number display, so that only above ten could be seen. **A.J.F.**

Amstrad VCR6200

If the cassette jams in the down position, with the belt screaming underneath, release the tape then clean the three switches on the side of the cassette housing. When the switch contact becomes poor the housing loads too far and jams. **A.J.F.**

Pioneer VR737

If there's no clock display check the 315mAT Wickman fuse in the power supply metal box. **A.J.F.**

Philips VR6180/DMP2 deck

The customer complained that there was no play at the beginning of a tape. On test an E240 cassette wound back to the beginning wouldn't play. The deck shuffled, then went back to the stop mode. The same thing happened in the fast forward mode.

It seemed that the brakes weren't operating correctly. We compared the operation with another machine. When play was selected this machine took up the tension briefly, by winding the supply reel slightly, then went into play. The faulty machine seemed to take up the tension too much, winding the tape back slightly so that the leader passed the end sensor and the machine shut down.

Brakes, reel table and belts were all swapped but this made no difference. After swapping further bits we consulted Philips, who told us to replace all the bits that

had been swapped plus some more. So the following items were ordered: one bracket part no. 4822 403 1025; one lever arm, part no. 4822 403 52488; two disc reels part no. 4822 528 10523; two rollers part no. 4822 528 70638. The machine worked properly when the new bits had been fitted. **A.J.F.**

JVC HRD830

For no or intermittent tuner signals check the 2SD1863 transistor Q13 on the tuner board. It's easy to find this transistor: the board around it becomes discoloured as the transistor overheats and becomes defective. A 2SD1207 seems to be a more manly transistor for the job. **A.J.F.**

JVC HRD580

The complaint with one of these machines was that it made a "knocking noise". We found that the drive belt bush at the back of the capstan motor had split. A replacement capstan motor had to be fitted – this is becoming quite a common fault. **D.B.**

Saisho VR1000/Matsui VX800/Hinari VXL3

The customer complained about intermittent squeaking noises in the play and record modes. Cleaning and lubricating the bottom flywheel bearing silenced the squeaks. **D.B.**

JVC HRD560

The cause of no drum or capstan operation was traced to CPI in the power supply being open-circuit. **D.B.**

Matsui VX1000Y

One of these machines couldn't be tuned in. We found that the tuner had no tuning voltage because R6045 was open-circuit. This resistor can also go high in value – the result is tuning drift. **D.B.**

JVC HRJ205

A rice-pattern effect on the playback picture can be caused by excess grease on the drum discharge brushes. The head drum motor and drive are on the top of the drum assembly in these machines.

To repair, remove the two screws that hold the drum drive board to the drum. Then loosen the grub screw that holds the bush to the shaft, noting its position carefully. Remove the upper drum and clean the grease off the brush assembly. Reverse this procedure to reassemble the unit. Remember to check/adjust the head switching point. **D.B.**

Toshiba V211

This Thomson based machine produced very noisy pictures. We found that the noise was on the 5V line and that it came from TT53. A replacement restored clear pictures. **D.B.**

Sony SLV225

This Sanyo based machine would intermittently stop in play, fast forward or rewind. The cause was a faulty reel sensor, part no. 1 808 723 11. **D.B.**

Matsui VX6600

There was no E-E or playback picture. We found that the cause was L01 in the on-screen display circuit. It had gone open-circuit. **D.B.**

Ferguson FV68

For very intermittent, poor or no Nicam, replace capacitors CM50 and CM51 using 5.6pF types (part no. 50876240). **D.B.**

Nokia VR3743VP

The playback sound and picture were faulty because the back-tension arm didn't come across fully. Replacing a broken lever, part no. 613-022-2015, cured the problem. **R.B.**

Sharp VCT310

The tape had jammed in the half-loaded position. On removing the tape manually and checking the alignment of the control cam and mode switch I found that the control cam was damaged. Replacing the control cam and mode switch and aligning them both cured the problem. **R.B.**

Nokia VR3722

There was a noisy squeak, mainly during rewind. The capstan motor, reels and gears were checked and found to be o.k. I then greased the reels, but this again made no difference. The squeak was found to be coming from the supply guide pole. Replacing this item cured the fault. **R.B.**

Samsung VIK320

The lift would shuffle back and forth with no cassette inserted. On inspection I found that the tape-start sensor was dry-jointed. Resoldering this cured the problem. We've since had the same symptom caused by dry-joints on the LED tower and tape-stop sensor. **G.S.**

Nokia VR3783VP

There was interference on the TV channels with the machine in the record mode. After much time had been spent checking around we found that the cause of the interference was chroma spray at r.f. from the head amplifier. Replacing IC181 in the head amplifier cleared the interference. **G.S.**

Samsung SI3240

There were various intermittent problems: no functions, tapes jamming, no or a flashing display and sticking in standby. We found that the all 5V rail was intermittently low or missing. It took some time to discover that the print track below the metal plate which covers the mode switch had been sparking across to the plate (earth). Some PCB sealant was applied and the machine was then given a good test run. After this it was declared to be o.k. **G.S.**

JVC HRS5800

The remote control system worked but there was no response from the on-board deck controls. There was also no function change when the audio-mix switch was operated. IC1 was the cause of the fault: one of its scanning outputs had failed. **S.B.**

JVC HRD4700

There was an intermittently noisy picture. It looked like head clogging, but this wasn't the cause of the fault. The lower drum assembly had to be replaced because of a problem with the ribbon cable that carries the r.f. signals to and from the heads. **S.B.**

GoldStar GHV1290

When this machine was tested we found that the drum and the capstan motor were running too fast. The thing to check in this event is the 4.43MHz signal that comes from the chroma circuit and is fed to the servo section. Follow it around, soldering and making good any bad connections. This should cure the fault – it certainly did with this one. **T.L.**

Samsung SI1260

This machine wouldn't load. So I got my meter and went to the loading drive i.c. to check the voltages, but it wasn't there! When the panel was lifted it was found at the bottom of the machine. Replacing it restored normal operation. Apparently a cassette had got jammed: it seems that the chip had so overheated while trying to load the cassette that the solder had melted. I fitted a new chip to be on the safe side. **T.L.**

Matsui VX1100

If you have any servo, sound erase etc. faults with these machines remove the mechanism and check the connections between it and the main panel. Resoldering the connections will clear many problems. **T.L.**

JVC HRD860

This machine worked perfectly except for fast forward and rewind. When these modes were selected they would start but fast operation, which should commence after about ten seconds, didn't take place. Fortunately I've had this problem many times before. So I changed the reel sensors. It's quite a common fault with these machines. **T.L.**

Matsui VP9301

This machine would load a cassette but then shut down. When I watched it I found that the drum sped up just before the fault occurred. By careful manipulation of leads I narrowed the fault area to the heads. So I removed the stator PCB that sits on the top of the video heads and found a nice little crack in part of the print. Careful repair got the machine working perfectly again. **T.L.**

B and O V6000

This machine makes extensive use of on-screen menus and displays. In the stop mode these displays were perfectly o.k., but in the playback mode the colours would gradually change phase, for example from the correct cyan lettering at

the left of a text line to orange at the right-hand side. A look at the circuit showed that there's a reference line, marked F H/2, that comes from the video/chroma area of the main board. A scope connected to this line showed that only noise was present. We traced back to transistors 7560 and 7513 and still found just noise. We then noticed that a surface-mounted capacitor in this area had a flattened blob of solder at one end. When this was heated with an iron to remove it the capacitor's end cap came away with the solder. The capacitor concerned is C2514 (10nF): it couples the signal to the transistor circuit mentioned above. A replacement capacitor restored normal operation. **I.B.**

Mitsubishi HS320

This machine laced up and played, with one head apparently clogged, then after about five seconds it stopped. The FG signal was not getting through because Q404, which is part of the FG pulse amplifier, had become very noisy. **R.F.W.**

Ferguson 3V35/JVC HRD120

The symptom gave the impression that one head was clogged, but the cause of the trouble was the fact that the SW25 signal was of very low amplitude. We found that the 9V supply was low at only 5V because the 9V adjustment potentiometer on the power supply board was faulty. **R.F.W.**

Ferguson FV11

The capstan motor was very slow and its drive chip was very hot. Unlike more modern DD motors, the chip is not part of the motor and doesn't cut out when it overheats. A new chip got the motor running but was getting hot. It's not an easy motor to dismantle, but once the bearings had been cleaned in alcohol and reassembled with fresh oil the motor ran at full speed without the chip overheating. **R.F.W.**

Akai VS485EK

The display didn't work because its heater supply was missing. The cause of this was capacitors C446 and C447 on the main board. **R.F.W.**

Panasonic NVL20/NVL28

After a mains supply fluctuation caused by a storm the machine's power supply wouldn't start. C1109 (1µF, 400V), which provides a start-up pulse, had gone low in value. The 12V supply was also missing because Q1102 was open-circuit. **R.F.W.**

JVC HRD230

There was no capstan rotation, so the machine would cut out in play or record as soon as it had finished lacing up. The M54644BL drive chip IC604 was found to be faulty, a new one restoring activity. But the wow and flutter were atrocious. No wonder since the motor was extremely tight. A new one prevented another drive chip biting the dust. **N.B.**

Ferguson FV44L

There was a buzz that couldn't be ignored on the playback sound. Checks around the audio circuit led me to conclude that the audio head's record side wasn't being earthed in the playback mode, confirmed by the fact that the relevant pin of IC1 was high, as it is in the record mode. Further checks

showed that the 'record start low' line was low at about 9V. Thus Q6, a digital transistor that's connected to pin 25 of IC1, produced a high output as in the record mode. The record start low line comes from pin 34 of the M37418M6-263SP microcontroller chip IC601, which proved to be faulty. Interestingly, none of IC601's other ports were incorrect. **N.B.**

Sharp VCA30HM

Rewind and fast forward sometimes failed to operate. The capstan motor would rotate, but the idler gearing wasn't being engaged. Play, cue and review were fine. A new mode switch cured the problem. **N.B.**

Samsung SI1240

Cutting out during rewind was the complaint with this machine. On test we found that when a three-hour cassette was rewound the tape would slow after the one-hour point, the capstan would start to labour and the machine would then cut out. When the belt was removed from the capstan motor there was still plenty of torque. This was confirmed by the fact that fast forward was fine. As it's a full-lace machine I removed the tape from around the guides manually and let it run straight across the front of the cassette, to eliminate excessive friction in the tape path. This helped, but by no means cured the symptom. The cause of the trouble was excessive friction in the spools. Removing them then cleaning and lubricating the shafts cured it.

All the diodes were changed as they were the original ones. The FL motor chip was also replaced: this had been done previously, but the earth link modification in the power supply hadn't been carried out. **N.B.**

Akai VS23EK

This machine cut off in play, fast forward and rewind after a few seconds. The reel pulse input to IC505 was o.k. but the output at pin 7 was faulty. Replacing IC505 restored normal operation. **R.B.**

Sanyo VHR4350

At switch on the machine went into the fast forward mode automatically. We first checked the mechanism's alignment, which was o.k. A replacement capstan motor cured the problem. **R.B.**

Finlux VR2040

This machine would cut out in play. Fast forward and rewind were o.k. The cause of the problem was no play take-up: replacing the clutch cured it. **R.B.**

Toshiba V55

Although the display segments all lit, the machine didn't switch on. On investigation we found that there was a dry-joint at pin 1 of connector CN1 on the regulator PCB. Resoldering the plug connection cured the fault. **R.B.**

Mitsubishi HSB12

This machine would cut out after a few seconds in play, because the arm guide and arm tension lever didn't take up the tape. The arm tension post lever has a felt pad that rests against the take-up reel: the pad was missing. A replacement lever, part no. 591B551010, cured the problem. **R.B.**

Health and Safety Legislation

Roy Baines

"Health and safety? That must be someone else's responsibility. I've certainly not the time at present to look into it." How many times have you said or heard that? In reality it's everyone's responsibility however, from the tea boy to the managing director. In this article we'll take a look at the history of health and safety legislation and the reasons for it. This will hopefully demonstrate the need for every one of us to be concerned about this important aspect of the workplace and thus promote healthier and safer working conditions.

History

Rapid industrial expansion followed the introduction of the steam engine and the water frame in 1769. By about 1800 reformers and legislators were beginning to take action over conditions in factories. Initial concern was for the environmental conditions in textile mills, safety not being the first consideration. Children as well as adults worked a fourteen hour day for six days a week: on sundays some would clean the machinery. Working conditions were cramped and awkward, and the lack of ventilation and cleanliness led to frequent epidemics and fever.

Sir Robert Peel introduced the Health and Morals of Apprentices Act in 1802 – it was the first legislation of its type anywhere in the world. But all it did was to restrict the hours of work and make some provision for cleanliness and ventilation. The practical results were negligible, because it applied only to pauper apprentices and there was no effective way of securing obedience. Unpaid factory visitors were appointed by local magistrates. They were supposed to inspect the mills, but had little knowledge about what should be done and not much enthusiasm for the task.

Three more acts passed during the next thirty years failed for the same reasons. The Factory Act of 1833 didn't contain a single safety requirement, but did empower the government to appoint paid factory inspectors. It was not until 1878 that

a Chief Inspector was appointed. The 1833 Act applied only to textile mills. At first there were only four inspectors and eight superintendents – to inspect some three-four thousand mills. The inspectors had the right of entry into factories at all times: they could take information under oath, and could even try and convict occupiers for breaches of the act.

The 1833 Act contained provision for children to receive twelve hours' schooling a week, the result being that the first compulsory education in this country was introduced. The first factory inspectors were also the first school inspectors.

A sharp rise in industrial accidents prompted the Home Office to ask the inspectors to look into the possibility of introducing safety legislation to protect children and others. This resulted in the Factories Act of 1844. It introduced a requirement for machinery guards, for safety measures when cleaning machinery, for an accident reporting system and for the provision of inspectors who would take legal proceedings on behalf of injured people, with damages awarded by the court to go to the victims of accidents. The drafting of the legal wording contained many loopholes however, and these hampered the inspectors in their efforts to get the law obeyed.

A meeting of manufacturers in 1854 led to the formation of the Factory Law Amendment Association, which a year later became the National Association of Factory Occupiers. Its main object was to oppose the factory inspectors. An Amending Act of 1856 made machinery guards and fencing compulsory only where women, children or young people were liable to come into contact with moving parts. "Safe by position" has been carried through successive legislation ever since.

In 1864 some non-textile factories were brought within the scope of the law. In 1867 iron foundries, printing works and several other industries were added. By 1878 virtually all manufacturing industries were covered. Safety regulations for docks, wharfs and quays came along in 1904, and for ship-

yards in 1914. Building site legislation was introduced in 1948, and civil engineering and construction in 1966. Offices became subject to health, safety and welfare requirements with the introduction of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act of 1963.

The Factory Act of 1961 was merely a consolidation of the Acts of 1937, 1948 and 1959, and was based on the thinking of the mid-Twenties. It also contained about 300 regulations and orders, many of which dated from the beginning of the century and were irrelevant to the late Twentieth century.

In 1967 the Department of Employment issued a consultative document that contained proposals for a new Bill. It was shelved because the view was taken that an Act based on the proposals would follow the old pattern. There were already nine separate groups of Health and Safety Statutes administered by five different government departments, using seven separate inspectorates and the local authorities. Despite all this legislation about four million workers were still unprotected. Instead of going ahead with a new bill Mrs. Barbara Castle, the then Secretary of State, appointed a Committee of Enquiry with Lord Robens as chairman. The Committee's report was published in 1972, after two years of searching enquiries. Parliament accepted the broad principles of the Robens' recommendations, and two years later the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 received the royal assent.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

The Robens Committee found that "even though nearly all the measures that could be taken to prevent accidents in the physical sense, e.g. guarding machinery, partitioning, protective clothing, eye protection etc., had been taken the reported accident figures continued to rise." The Committee recommended a change of emphasis from the physical to the personal aspect of safety. It said that new

legislation should encourage better supervision, better training and communication, and joint participation in creating a safe environment. Out of these and other recommendations the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 was born.

The Act puts general duties on employers, employees, manufacturers, suppliers, importers and the self-employed. It did not remove any prior legislation – in fact it extended the requirement to workplaces not previously defined as “offices” or “factories”.

The general aims and objectives of the Act are as follows:

- (1) To maintain or improve standards of health, safety and welfare at work.
- (2) To protect the general public against risks to health and safety arising out of work activities.
- (3) To control the storage and use of dangerous substances (recently extended by the COSHH Act).
- (4) To control certain noxious emissions into the air from certain premises.

Employers must, for the first time under the criminal law, eliminate risks to those who don't work for them: customers and the general public, contractors, workmen and drivers delivering to premises. So remember: the 1974 Health and Safety Act places a criminal responsibility on employers – to protect the general public as well employees from risk. To protect everyone affected by a company's business, the law now places seven major duties on employers. Three are concerned with people and four with things. Let's start with things. The four responsibilities are:

- (1) “To provide a safe place of work.” This means a building which is sound and without hazards. A storeroom with rotten floorboards and no easy way out in case of a fire would not be a safe place of work.
- (2) “To provide safe plant.” This is an obvious and long-standing requirement: that machinery should be safe to use. A bacon-slicing machine without a guard over the blade would count as “unsafe plant”.
- (3) “To provide safe systems of work.” This means that work has to

be organised to eliminate likely hazards. Working procedures that entail shinning up shelves to get boxes down would probably count as an “unsafe system”.

(4) “To provide a healthy and safe working environment for employees.” This covers many points not dealt with in detail. It clearly covers such things as adequate ventilation, hygiene and the suppression of noise.

These four duties of the employer are obligations which are much more demanding than the specific regulations that have existed in the past.

The three duties relating to people bring out the government's concern to involve everyone – both management and employees – in a new way. They are as follows:

- (1) Employers must provide information and training for all staff about their own safety, the safety of those who work with them and the safety of the general public. A man handling inflammable goods for example should be informed about the hazards involved and the correct procedures to follow. Warehousemen who have to hump packing cases and boxes should be given proper training in lifting in order to reduce the risk of backache and strains.
- (2) Employers must consult with staff representatives and provide all the information necessary to enable them to co-operate in promoting health and safety measures. If safety representatives require it, the company is obliged to set up a safety committee.
- (3) Employers must provide a written statement of the company's policy on health and safety. The statement must also set out company procedures for implementing that policy. This applies to every company with five or more employees.

It's clear that the Act places severe burdens, some of a very general nature, on employers. It is a good idea to appoint a safety officer as a member of the management staff. In a large company this may be a full-time job, in others a part-time responsibility for someone with other duties. The job entails investigating methods of work and the

condition of buildings and equipment. It also calls for accident reports so that hazards can in future be avoided.

Many companies own premises that they lease to other companies – warehouses, stores, shops, workshops, etc. The point here is that landlords face responsibilities as well. They have a duty to ensure that the premises are, as far as is reasonably practical, free from risks to safety or health. This involves eliminating dangerous features such as dark, steep staircases and providing adequate fire exits.

So much then for the role of management as employer or landlord. What about the employee, the individual for whose benefit much of this legislation was drafted?

Employees' Responsibilities

First the employee is called upon to take reasonable care of his own health and safety and that of anyone else who might be affected by his actions. So barging along a crowded shopping aisle with a loaded trolley could be an offense under the Act.

Secondly staff must co-operate with employers in their efforts, outlined earlier, to keep the workplace healthy and safe. An engineer who persistently broke the company's rules about overloading electrical sockets might be committing an offense.

Thirdly anyone who recklessly interferes with anything provided in the interests of health and safety will be in breach of the Act. Larking about with fire extinguishers could be an offense.

The three duties of employees – to take care, to co-operate and not to interfere – are backed by criminal sanctions. A breach can lead to prosecution.

Enforcement

These then are the main demands that the 1974 Act makes on employers and employees. The machinery for law enforcement is comprehensive and is backed by tough powers.

Safety legislation is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Commission, which is concerned with policy, and the Health and Safety Executive which puts decisions into practice and offers an

advisory service.

The 1974 Act is what's called enabling legislation. It gives powers for regulations to be made and for codes of practice to be approved. The Executive maintains a body of inspectors who have considerable powers. These inspectors include the factory inspectors with whom many managers are familiar. They have powers to conduct a full enquiry into an accident, can enter premises, take photos and seize samples, and can issue an improvement notice – used to put something right within a specified time. Or a prohibition notice can be used. This says that people must stop doing something at once if there is danger. Companies or individuals can be prosecuted: fines of up to £1,000 can be imposed – in certain cases fines are

unlimited. The Act provides for jail sentences of up to two years. Breaches of the Act are liable to prosecution through the criminal courts, but when a crime has been committed it may also be regarded as a tort (a civil law wrong). Thus action could be taken in both the criminal and civil courts.

In Conclusion

Managers need to make sure that they have provided a safe workplace, safe plant, safe systems and a safe environment. They need to publish a policy statement, to consult with and inform their staff. They must ensure that safety rules, safety equipment and safety training are good enough.

Employees must take care of

themselves and others, should cooperate with management and should not interfere with anything provided for safety.

More advice on health and safety and welfare regulations can be obtained from local authorities and from the Factory Inspectorate – you'll find the number in the phone book.

I hope that this outline has given you some idea of the work which has gone into the forming and enforcement of the HASAW Act, 1974. People have taken the time to protect us from everyday hazards: we should take the time to make it work. As I said at the start, it's all too easy to say "leave it to someone else". This won't do: you can no longer afford to leave things to chance.

Satellite Faults

Reports from Hugh Allison, Chris Watton and Nick Beer

Raynor 5000 Receiver

These dual-LNB input receivers with on-screen graphics and a positioner have been available on the surplus market at very low prices, 'sold as seen' but new. The following note may help you to get one going. You are entirely on your own if you do buy one of these receivers: I can't promise that the following cure will work in all cases, but it has worked with seven out of eight of the receivers that have passed through my hands. The receivers normally come with a handbook which, unusually, contains a circuit diagram.

If you connect the receiver to a TV set and tune it in with no LNB connected you see a satisfying increase in visible noise. Add an LNB which is not pointing at anything and there's a further increase in the noise. So far so good. Point the LNB at a satellite and the screen breaks up into two wide horizontal black and white bars. "Hum bars" I hear you say, "look at the power supplies." Well the first time I did and spent ages: I even tried running the whole receiver with external d.c. supplies, but there was no improvement.

While following the r.f. signal path I noticed that a scope probe connected to IC27's supply lines cured the fault. This MC10116 chip fits in a socket. Sometimes the simple act of removing then refitting the chip provides a cure. With others a capacitor connected between pins 1 and 16 does the trick. I am talking about soldering the capacitor directly to the pins, not beneath the board. Keep the leads as short as possible. Try various values: 1nF is a good value with which to start. Some receivers require an additional capacitor from one or both of the above mentioned pins to chassis to provide a cure. If all else fails, try connecting capacitors to pin 8 as well or, in desperation, remove the socket and solder the chip in directly. Although I've no experience of this cure myself, a colleague says that he removes the chip, plugs in one of

those thin, four-pin i.e. decoupling capacitors, then puts the chip back in.

These sets are sensitive and the reed pulsing positioner is reliable. There is neither a built-in decoder nor a scart socket, but there are sufficient phono sockets to be able to get round most problems. The bandwidth, sound tuning and system and decoder routing are electronically variable and storable. These features probably make the receivers a reasonable gamble as a second set for the satellite enthusiast.

H.A.

Amstrad SRD510

This receiver was dead. When the power unit's output plug was disconnected and a dummy load (a VCR lamp) was connected across the 5V rail we found that the supply was tripping. It seemed sensible to check the electrolytics: the culprit was found to be C611 (1µF, 50V) which couples the drive to the chopper transistor.

C.W.

Pace SS9000 and Clones

If one of these receivers appears to work but a whistle comes from the power supply and lots of radiation causes interference to TV sets for miles around, check whether C11 (1µF, 16V) is open-circuit. It's the reservoir capacitor for D9.

N.B.

Amstrad SRD510

The dead receiver symptom is becoming quite common with this model. The usual cause is the two 47kΩ start-up resistors R602 and R603 having gone high in value or open-circuit. You find a variety of arrangements – sometimes the resistors are on end, sometimes they are stood off the board, and some have sleeving on their legs.

N.B.

Sony Camcorder Fault Notes

Keith T. Keeton

The following is a short list of some faults we've had with various Sony Camcorders.

Model TR50

Camera focuses once at start then won't focus again: Q621 (XN650) on board VC81P faulty. Part no. 872940219.

No E-E (black screen), no zoom and no focusing: IC361 (MC68HC05N4SC406667) on board VC81P faulty. Part no. 875903760. There were no signals on the check pin array.

No E-E luminance: C305 on board VC81P open-circuit.

E-E picture half white and half solid black: IC141 (CXD1209Q) on board VC81P faulty. Part no. 875233585.

No viewfinder picture, direct output o.k.: Flyback transformer T901 on board VF14P faulty. Part no. 143943111.

No camera/VTR power: IC601 (CXP80116) on board VS69P faulty. Part no. 875281858. There were no output pulses at pin 43 of the chip.

No power to camcorder: IC601 (CXP80116) on board VS69P faulty. Part no. 875281858. There was no VTR DD on signal from IC601.

Mechanism loads up with no tape in: Replace encoder, part no. 157217311. Mechanism arms moved in and out erratically.

Noisy eject: Replaced slightly bent worm gear shaft. Part no. X37288681.

Tape riding up pinch roller: Adjust incorrectly set back tension.

Excessive playback dropouts. Flashing white lines sometimes present: IC203 (CX1200BQ) on board VS69 faulty. Part no. 875203440. Dropout pulses o.k. at pin 2 of chip but no correction.

No playback – mechanism loads up slowly without tape: Flexiconnector FP313 slightly away from PCB (CC52). Resolder or replace as necessary. Part no. 163649611.

Model TR105

Smear E-E picture: CN801 on board VC104 open-circuit, with possible board print damage. Lens may have been knocked. Resolder CN801 or replace board if tracks damaged.

No E-E colour, playback o.k.: L721 (68µH) on board VC104 open-circuit or dry-jointed. Resolder/replace L721 as necessary. Part no. 141039111. Signal is o.k. at Q704 but no signal at Q706.

No E-E colour, record and playback o.k.: IC707

(CXD2100Q) on board VC104 faulty. Part no. 875233732. No output signal at pin 30.

No zoom. Focus and E-E o.k.: Sponge on lens pushing against zoom motor. Reposition sponge.

Viewfinder picture shakes: Dry-joint at R521 on board VF42.

Lines on top part of viewfinder display, data display corrupted: Dry-joint at C516 on board VF42.

FF/REW/PB/REC for few seconds then flashes fault present: Sensor board faulty. Replace MD chassis, part no. A7010369A – sensor not separate item.

Loads a tape but no FF/REW/PB/REC. Will not eject a loaded tape: Capstan faulty (no rotation). Replace, part no. 883532912.

Failure to eject. FF/REW very fast: No capstan feedback. Pins 17 and 18 of flexi W203 dry-jointed (board VS83). Resolder flexi.

Failure to load/eject. Guides only partly loading, with intake guide jamming against railbase assembly: Replace railbase assembly, part no. A7040289A.

Model TR705

This camcorder is very similar to the TR105 and has similar faults. We've had the following additional faults.

Failure to load a tape. Loads o.k. without a tape. Drum doesn't rotate: Replace faulty drum assembly (machine will not load fully until drum rotates).

Unstable playback picture when using Hi-8 tapes: Replace faulty guide rails. Part no. A7040251F/X39410272.

Model F500

No E-E colour, playback o.k.: Crystal X621 faulty. No 4fsc to encoder chip IC701.

No E-E sound, playback o.k.: MC36P (small PCB) faulty. Replace.

Intermittent playback sound, E-E o.k.: Hybrid chip IC580 on board VA43 faulty. Sound comes and goes when pressure is applied to IC580.

No colour with playback of own recordings. E-E o.k. Plays back prerecorded tapes with colour: IC364 on board VA43 faulty. Signal low at input to IC364, no output from it.

No playback picture, E-E o.k.: Input to IC362 low because metal shielding can is shorting to track. Bend can out of way.

No playback picture (black screen), E-E o.k.: IC360 faulty (no output at pin 56).

Playback for only fifteen minutes with battery operation: Unit consuming excessive current because Q001 and IC005 faulty.

No playback/E-E pictures: IC001 on board SS100P faulty. Input to bus decoder IC362 was found to be high instead of low.

No camera/mechanism power: Replace F991.

Model F550

Manual white balance and focus switches not working. LCD doesn't change when buttons pressed: Macro/auto-focus button jammed on by case (board CK20P). Free button or replace case.

No E-E picture (black screen). Data scrolling: Q509 defective. Fault area FU100.

No E-E picture (black screen), playback o.k.: IC501 on board VC67P faulty.

Dropout on playback, E-E o.k.: C224 on board VA46P was leaky.

Noisy playback – looks like dirty heads. Picture may be o.k. in pause mode: Head amplifier RP17 faulty.

Jumping picture. Noise bars at top/bottom: Impedance roller set too high. Reset and carry out complete tape path retrack.

EVF shows just line. Picture o.k. via AV output: C919 on board VF26P faulty.

No playback or E-E colour: IC203 on board VA46P faulty.

No operation after replacing IC501: Wrong version used – requires updated version. Fault area SS100P.

No EVF picture (blank screen). Picture o.k. via AV output. TX whining: C918 on board VF26P faulty.

Thick vertical line on EVF. TV picture o.k.: L903 on board VF26P open-circuit.

No playback or E-E sound: Q409/Q410 on board VA46P both short-circuit collector-to-emitter. (Sound present at pin 7 of IC403).

Model F355

This camcorder is very similar to the F350 for which fault notes were published in the August 1994 issue (see page 735).

Lines on E-E picture to start with, then fading away: C704 on board CV9 faulty.

Intermittent E-E luminance, playback o.k.: Dry-joint at FL601 on board CV9 (signal input but no output).

No E-E luminance, playback o.k.: IC501 (UPD6145G601) on board CV9 faulty.

No E-E picture but reappears after a short time: Leakage from C704 (120µF) on board CV9. Can cause damage to PCB beneath it.

EVF picture too bright with lines: Poor contact at c.r.t. yoke (no signal here though video o.k. at pin 1 of W901). Refit pin correctly.

Failure to record sound. Playback and E-E o.k.: Q401 (2SC1623) on board CO2P faulty.

Record and playback pictures very bright: IC203 (CXA1200BQ) on board CV9 faulty (black level wrong at output pin 47).

Recordings noisy, like dropout. Fault intermittent: C704 on board CV9 faulty.

EVF display has symbols flashing all over: IC501 (UPD6145G601) on board CV9 faulty.

Drum doesn't rotate. Vibrates slightly: IC507 (CX20114) on board CO2P faulty. Drive pulses from pin 24 incorrect.

Playback suffers from interference, E-E o.k.: Replace 5.17MHz filter FL203 on board CV9. Signal o.k. at pin 3 of IC203 but noisy at pin 4.

Garbled symbols on screen when data pressed: IC501 on board CV9 faulty (peaks on output signals at pins 13 and 15).

Answer to Test Case 384

– see page 115 –

The sort of conundrum we've described is by no means uncommon with switch-mode power supplies, as any practising technician will testify. Sometimes the cause of the trouble lies in the chopper system itself, sometimes in an overload protection system and sometimes heaven knows

where. In this case a little more explanation is required to clarify the nature of the fault.

The 11.3V supply produced by D204 and C204 is monitored by zener diode D208. If the voltage is excessive, perhaps because of a break in the regulating feedback loop, D208 conducts, triggering the crowbar thyristor Thy201. This places a dead short across the cathode of the 38V supply rectifier D201, loading the transformer to the extent that the chopper circuit shuts down. It remains stalled until the mains power is removed for a suffi-

ciently long time for C105 to discharge substantially. At the next switch on the start circuit fires HIC101 again to sample the load conditions. If the overload is still present, the chopper will shut down again almost immediately.

So much for theory. The situation in practice was that zener diode D208 was slightly leaky. This leak was sufficient for Thy201 to lock on as soon as anything at all appeared on the 11.3V line. A new diode, charged at fifty odd pence, cured the problem. The labour charge bumped this figure up somewhat. . .

What a Life!

Donald Bullock

When I was at school I used to build crystal sets. I can still recall the day I managed to tune in a programme with the first successful one. It was the Light Programme from the BBC's 1,500m Droitwich transmitter. Subsequently I started to knock up the sets and flog them. They were housed in matchboxes and I sold them for half a crown a time. When I started work I was paid seven pence and a half penny an hour, so I'd done quite well with the crystal sets.

I sometimes think of those days when I pass the Droitwich transmitter on the way to the airport. I thought of them particularly the other day when I opened an English-language Spanish newspaper.

Lots of people receive Sky TV there. I don't know why anyone should want to, but they do. The particular newspaper I was reading used to carry advertisements from firms that offered to supply pirate cards. They claimed they could and would update the cards each time Rupert thought of a wheeze to stop them working.

Well, the last time that Rupert switched the switching the ads stopped. As the weeks went by it was generally assumed that Rupert had finally won. But in the issue of the paper I had before me pirate cards were again on offer. They were different however. It was claimed that these were immune from Rupert's destructive signals. And some of the ads offered to make reception possible using Rupert's expired cards. Your move, Rupert!

I was chatting to the owner of one of the larger spares firms recently. He's also an enthusiastic technician and told me that he had the secret of building anti-destruction circuitry into expired cards.

All this got me thinking about the immense strides since I made and flogged those early matchbox crystal sets. Even outside the electronics industry, nearly all progress has been on the back of electronics. No one can dispute that those of us who stumbled into electronics at the beginning were in on the biggest breakthrough since civilisation began.

There's only one question: why aren't we all loaded?

A month or two ago I mentioned that Steven had taken our moggie to the vet and come back poorer by over a hundred quid. He'd also had the pleasure of seeing one of our tightest customers happily shelling out handfuls of cabbage to the vet.

Maybe we should have been vets. Or opticians. The latter reflection arises from a need for some new glasses recently. I came back even worse off than Steven.

Distorted Sound

On my return Cecil Stammer was waiting with a 14in. Samsung colour set, Model CI338GA (P50 chassis).

"Ah Mr. Buh Buh Buh Buh" he started.

I came to his aid. "Bullock?"

"Yuh yuh yuh yes. My Sam Sam Sam"

"Samsung" I propted.

"The suh suh suh"

"Sound?" I asked.

"Dis dis dis"

"Leave it with me and call back later" I said.

The sound turned out to be very distorted indeed. Recalling the patient man who struggled to teach us to think

logically all those years ago I first tried another speaker. The results were the same.

So I moved back to the audio circuit and found that R614 was open-circuit while R601 (2.7k Ω) had risen in value to 6k Ω . Replacing them cured the trouble.

A Visit from the Milkman

Our milkman Clarence brought his Pace SS9000 satellite receiver in the other day, the complaint being of a liney, distorted picture on all channels – as though Rupert had got at his card. Steven soon found the cause of the trouble – that small 2.2 μ F, 50V electrolytic in the tuner unit (C416). It sat there looking as good as gold, near a little three-quarter inch chip.

Apparently the chip gets hot and dries out the electrolytic. Steve fitted a more manly one on the full length of its leads.

A few days later Clarence popped in for it.

"Hi Clarence" I greeted him. "The good news is that it's ready.

"And the bad news?"

"The milk's on you, for quite a while."

Accidents will Happen

As he departed Mrs. Whiner pushed Mr. Whiner through the door. He smelt like a brewery and was carrying a little monochrome 7in. set that bore a Boots badge. It was a pretty crimson colour, like Mr. Whiner, and was dead.

"I watches it in the kitchen" she said. "It can't be much as it was all right until I went out and left it with him."

Mr. Whiner smiled. "It was all right" he said.

We had no data on the set and opened it up on spec. It was soon apparent that the set had been dropped: there was a crack across the single panel, spreading from the line output transformer. Six or eight jumper leads later we had the set working again, but there was a nasty a.c. ripple on the picture, which pulled about and lost field sync. There was also no sound. The latter came up when another speaker was tried. We found that the 'spider' of the one in the set was detached and repaired it. We then noticed that there was a good deal of hum.

The set relies on an external 12V power supply, the sort that plugs straight into a 13A socket. We suspected this item and found that Mrs. Whiner had a spare one. She brought it in later and we tried it, but the ripple and hum were still present. Puzzled, we had another go at the set but got nowhere. We finally borrowed a power pack from one of the children's games and tried it. The ripple and hum disappeared.

So we had two dud power packs from Mrs. Whiner. We opened them both and found that in each case the main electrolytic had become detached from the tiny panel. When we studied the cases it was clear that the power supplies had also been dropped.

We'd originally felt a bit sorry for Mr. Whiner and hadn't intended to shop him. But this was too much! So when they came back for their set we let him have it.

"The set had been dropped, Mrs. Whiner" we said, "and so had both the power packs. Twenty pounds, please."

Mrs. Whiner turned to her spouse and elbowed him around his beer barrel. "You stupid clot" she grated, "you pay – you did it."

And he did. As he unbuttoned his overcoat he knocked the power packs on to the floor.

"So 'elp me Christ" said Mrs. Whiner, fetching him another jab.

Letters

ENTER THE TRADE? - DON'T!

I have a reply to the anonymous writer (letters August) who is thinking of becoming a self-employed TV/video service engineer: DON'T! You would have to be completely insane to want to go into this business these days - and if you're not you soon will be.

I set up on my own in 1981, in an area where there was a lack of servicing businesses, and did all right for a good while. I sold thoroughly refurbished TV sets at £130, with a good guarantee. But what happened? The nutters started to sell tube-boosted bangers at £39 and the public started to expect to get my sets for less than that (they couldn't be told of course). I've had a guy telling the customers that he was my "partner", and another whose advertising bills were sent to me.

At present, as a result of merger-related redundancies, this area is over-populated with self-employed engineers, some of dubious ability and/or scruples. So the cake is now being cut into much thinner slices. Then there's the equipment we're expected to work on nowadays. Regardless of what the make is it's all rubbish, the lot of it, from the plastic cabinets to the sent from hell innards. I would gleefully strangle the illegitimate individuals who came up with such delights as surface-mounted components, on-screen graphics and menus, digital gizmos, power supplies that contain a mountain of components and when one capacitor dries up it blows the lot of them, tuning and customer controls that no one can understand, VCRs with two-bit mechanisms that you need training from NASA to understand (no I don't want a VideoPlus, I want manufacturers with brains). Despite all the extras now built into TV sets what are we rewarded with? Manufacturers who refuse technical help and customer's whose favourite catch-phrase is "do you do free estimates mate?"

While we're on the subject of companies that refuse to assist us in our hour of need I'd say this: you are paying your man's wages regardless of whether he's advising someone who has or hasn't got an account. I don't have an account with any manufacturers but still buy my parts from them cheque with order, i.e. I don't present a credit risk. So why can't I have technical help? I have as much right to earn a living as an account holder, the owner of the equipment has every right to choose who they want to repair it while the manufacturer has no right to tell the customer where he must go to have a repair carried out. Manufacturers who won't assist with problems and/or make equipment that's incomprehensible to the user or uneconomic to repair after only a couple of years' use will not develop one of the things that's essential to their future - brand loyalty.

I went into this line of work because, I suspect like many of you, I was as a boy fascinated by valves glowing away in mono TV sets and record players. The job satisfaction was like a drug. I now feel, with all the junk that's flogged as TV sets and videos, like a kid who's had his favourite toy taken away.

So, Mr. Anonymous, I hope that if you do decide to try it works out well for you. But you've been warned. I believe this trade is doomed as more stuff is made to be thrown away. So don't expect it to see you through to old age. Mind you I'm only thirty five but feel as though it has already seen me there.

If this hasn't put you off, the customers almost certainly will.

Name and address supplied.

TRAINING TAPES AND SCRUTABILITY

In the October issue Eugene Trundle reviewed the Akai training video-tape produced by Visions Video Productions. I would like to point out that we at CHS stock and sell this training video (part code VSAK1) at £19.95 and that it is an edited and up-dated issue - we sold the original Akai version (part code AKVID) some two years ago at £27.95 and, as far as I am aware, were the only component distributor offering this product to the service industry.

We have recently added the Akai Camcorder Video Training tape (part code VSAK2) which is priced at £18.95, the Ferguson ICC5 tape (part code VSFG1) priced at £19.95 and the Philips G Deck tape (part code VSPH1) which is priced at £24.95.

CHS has been selling training video tapes for several years and supplements this service to our customers by supplying the U-View range of circuit diagram books, the Euras Service Tips in book and disc form, the TV/VCR/SAT Fault Guides and also the Ferguson and Hitachi Fault Guide bulletins.

In a letter in the same issue Ian Rees comments that he found firms like CHS, SEME and HRS "inscrutable". I cannot agree when it comes to CHS! We like to think that we are anything but inscrutable, instead being a friendly outfit with a very experienced and stable staff who have on average been with us over ten years, the company itself being in its thirty fifth year.

Yes we do charge for our catalogue, but only to people who don't have an active account with us. This is because we get enquiries from non-trade members of the public. Any new or non-account customer who spends more than £50 will have the catalogue charge of £3.50 credited to their account or next transaction.

We also offer the facility, for people who have no credit references to give, of a small order account that has a credit limit of £100. This is reviewed after a period of account history. The small order account can be paid by cheque or Visa/Access credit card.

As well as being the sole non-account spares distributor for Hitachi and Sanyo, CHS is an approved distributor for Ferguson and Philips and one of the three main distributors for the Konig pattern parts of which Ian speaks so well.

*Freddie Whipp, Sales Manager,
Charles Hyde and Son Ltd., Prospect House,
Barmby Road, Pocklington, York YO4 2DP.*

AKAI MODIFICATION KITS

Modification kits are available for the Akai VSF30 and VSF33 VCRs. Considering that they consist of two electrolytic capacitors, two diodes, two wire links and instructions they are rather expensive. My advice to engineers repairing these machines is simply to replace C446. It works every time.

J. Luniss, Swindon, Wilts.

NOISY LOPTS

A tendency for the line output transformer to resonate at line frequency is common with some sets. This can at best be described as irritating and at worst renders the set virtually unusable. The transformers concerned are of the 'open' type, not the later, fully-encapsulated diode-split type. One

could replace the transformer of course, but as the problem arises mainly with older sets (Decca 80/100 chassis, Philips KT2/KT3 chassis, Grundig 8632 etc.) this is hardly practical on cost and sometimes availability grounds.

Common 'cures' for loose windings are the application of PVA (wood glue), epoxy resin (Araldite) or cyanoacrylate (Superglue). I've used this solution, with success in virtually every case, on mains transformers, scan coils, linearity coils and so on. For LOPTs Superglue, with its low viscosity when applied and high rigidity when cured, would seem to be ideal: indeed I did see its use for this purpose mentioned in the magazine, but only once.

The thing that concerns me is the insulation properties of Superglue. By using it to cure one relatively minor fault could tracking and flashover between windings be introduced, with the result that an almost serviceable set would have to be written off? I would welcome the opinions of other readers.

*Nicholas P.B. Arnold,
Birmingham.*

CLEANING LASER LENSES

In his article on CD player repairs in the July issue Les Austin referred to the use of isopropyl alcohol when cleaning laser lenses, mentioning that Sony recommends its use. David Meyer of Sony Consumer Products Company UK wrote denying this in the September issue and suggested that its use is a "gross error".

It's true that Sony recommends a special cleaning fluid, part no. J-250-100-0A, and a special swab, part no. J-250-102-3A. We follow this procedure in our workshop. It's also a fact however that on page 6 of a publication entitled "CD optical block checking procedures (portable/home type) revised", part no. 9-960-027-12, Sony recommends "use the exclusive cleaning fluid (KK-91 or isopropyl alcohol) but do not apply anything else, otherwise."

A gross error with bad results would be the use of an ordinary spray cleaner or ethyl alcohol.

*Miguel Ricardo,
Portimao, Portugal.*

THE SELF-EMPLOYED SERVICEMAN

I would like to comment on some of the points made by Eric Edwards in his letter (November). I agree that our trade has changed over the years. While it may not be as satisfying now to us older engineers - I mean I'm all of 32 - it's still an interesting trade. Where I disagree with Eric is in the key to success.

I'm one of the self-employed, working from home out of choice in a purpose-built workshop. The business was started with next to no capital. My customers don't regard me as a part-timer: they pay less than shop prices because of my lower overheads, not because they expect to. I'm not out to make myself rich, and charge what I believe is a reasonable rate. Does this make me a cowboy? I hope not - I'm C&G qualified and have sixteen years' experience. If not having a shop or charging high rates makes me a cowboy, what are the minority of shops in this area that charge

ridiculous prices for slipshod work which I have to spend my time correcting? I repeat that it's only the minority of shops, but it proves my point that having a shop doesn't mean the person behind the counter is going to do a better job than an engineer working from home.

*Steve Taylor,
Leicester.*

COMEDY CORNER

We badly need something to help us look on the bright side in this trade. The following is a true story.

It was the first call of the day and the house looked quite normal from outside, as did the middle-aged lady who opened the door to me. Once inside, the large mound in the hall carpet should have served as a warning. The reported fault was no signals, and it didn't take long to establish that the cause of this was the absence of any aerial or even a lead. When I asked where the aerial was the lady's red face said it all. It was apparently her husband's practice to put the indoor aerial under the hall carpet whenever thunder was mentioned in a weather forecast. Only this time he'd neglected to tell his wife!

Perhaps others might like to share some of their lighter experiences.

*Robert Philpot,
St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.*

STOLEN

The following items of test equipment were stolen from my garage/workshop on September 15th: (1) HRS PG202 colour-bar generator (blue cased). (2) Meteor 600MHz frequency counter (digital). (3) Thurlby CM200 capacitance meter (digital). (4) HRS EA4003 0-30V variable power supply. (5) Leader LCT910 c.r.t. booster. (6) Altai SE6100 signal injector/tracer. (7) Weller soldering iron/station.

I would be grateful if anyone who might come across such equipment on offer would notify me. I can ill afford to replace these items.

*Kevin Blackburn, 19 Herriling Street,
Tickhill, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire DN11 9UE.
Telephone no. 0302 744 330.*

MEDICAL MATTERS

In a letter in the July issue Keith Cummins painted a gloomy picture for anyone wanting a polypropylene mesh patch hernia operation and not wishing to go private. My experience here was quite different. I had the operation recently at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, under the NHS, and there was no question of using any method other than the polypropylene mesh patch. Normally a patient spends two days in hospital and is advised to undertake only "light duties" and no driving for two weeks.

My advice to anyone needing this operation is to allow his (or her) GP to make the normal referral to a specialist and obtain all the details from that person.

*H.R. Still,
Market Harborough, Leics.*

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FREQUENCY COUNTER
Range: 1Hz - 100MHz
Display: 8 Digit LED

FUNCTION GENERATOR
Output Waveforms:
Square, Pulse, Triangle,
Skewed Pulse, Sine,
TTL Level Square
Frequency: 0.02Hz - 2MHz
Output: 0.1Vpp - 20Vpp

Please Note:- It is not possible to list all of this instrument's functions and specifications above. A detailed leaflet is available on request.

Price:
£353.00 + £61.78 V.A.T.

DIGITAL MULTIMETER
3 1/2 Digit LCD Display
Auto/Manual Ranging
Measurement:
DC V: 1000V Max
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DC A: 10A Max
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Resistance: 2MΩhm Max

POWER SUPPLY
3 1/2 Digit LCD Display
Triple Output:
0 - 50V Variable, 0.5A Max
15V, 1A (Fixed)
5V, 2A (Fixed)
Full Over Current Protection

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Price:
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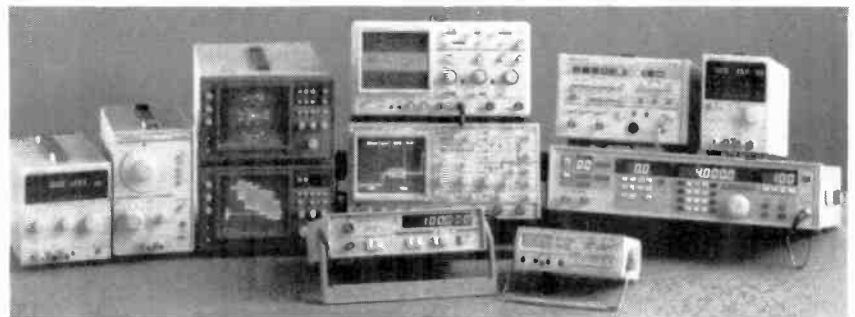
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VT 176 Dual AC Millivolt Meter, 0.3mV - 100V
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FG 273 Sweep Function Generator, 0.2Hz - 2MHz
FG 758 Frequency Counter 1.3GHz
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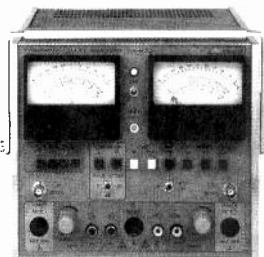
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ELECTRONIC TEST EQUIPMENT

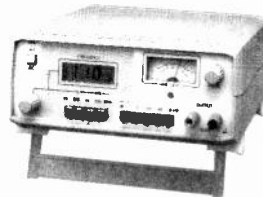
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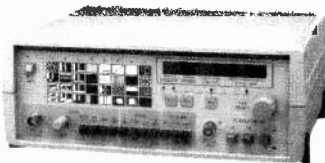
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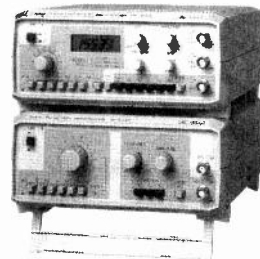
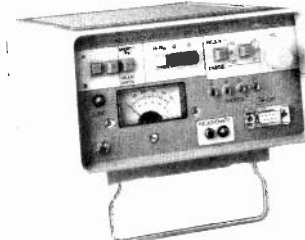
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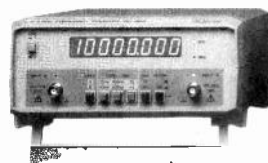
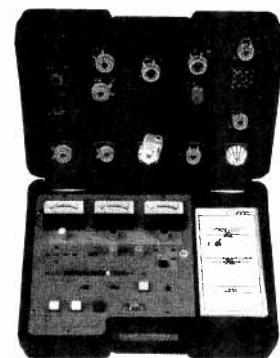
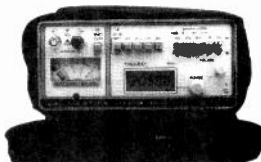


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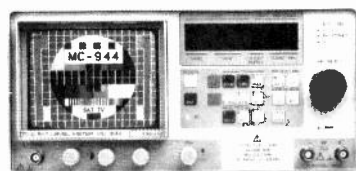
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FD-250 covers 20 Hz to 160 MHz and FD-252 covers same, plus 100 MHz to 2.4 GHz. Large L.E.D. display. Wide performance at low cost. £ 153 & £ 206



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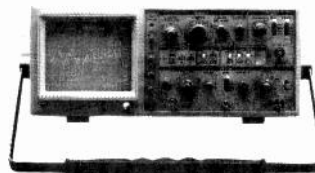
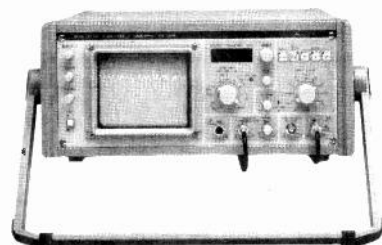


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- ✓ Describes B-MAC hacks on video and access control systems.
- ✓ Just how smart are Smart Cards? And how secure are phonecards?
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WARNING

The information contained in this book is for educational use only. Swift Television Publications, the publishers and the author do not assume any liability for the use or misuse of the information provided. In some countries, the unauthorised use of certain circuits and techniques may be prohibited by law.

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Sharp
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Not all models are shown for each make. A vast range of other makes & models i.e. Akai, Alba, Aiwa, Fidelity, Fisher, Funai, GEC, Goldstar, Granada, Grundig, Hinar, Orion, Philips, Sanyo, Sentra, Proline, Salora, Sony, Samsung, Toshiba & Mitsubishi are available

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Amstrad
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Samsung - Idler V1510, 520, 620, 626 £1.50
Idler Assemb VB710, 790 £9.75

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VT33, 34 £32.00
VT62, 63, 64, 640, 65 £22.75
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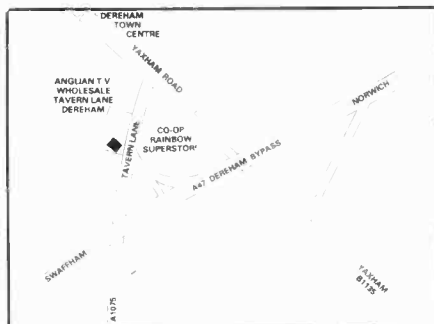
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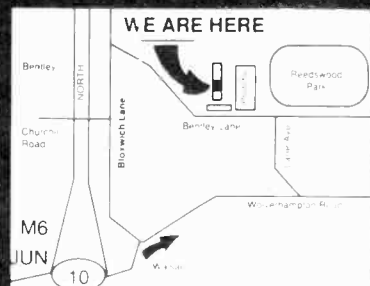
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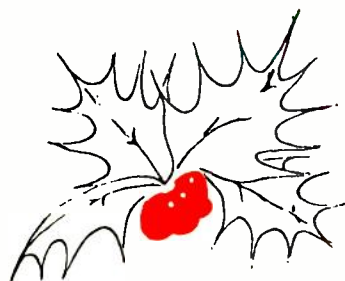
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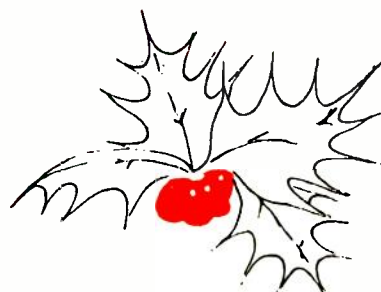
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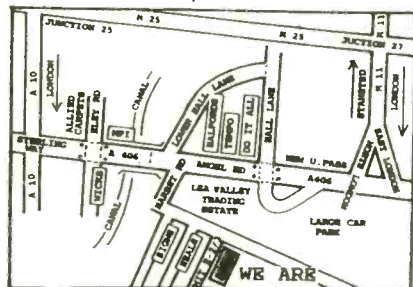
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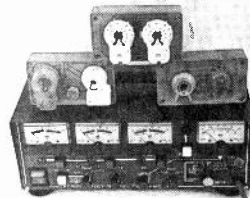
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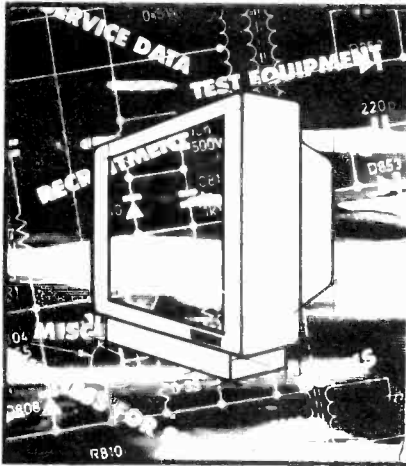
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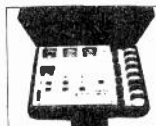
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SMALL SATELLITE TUNERS (950 to 1750 MHz), L.F. frequency 4000MHz.....£9.00 each VHF/UHF S.BAND TUNER.....£3.00 DAM MAINS CHASSIS AMSTRAD MONITOR C.....£10 UNIVERSAL TRIPLER, NEW TYPE.....£4.00 VIDEO LEADS.....80p AMSTRAD Line O.P. Transistors with Diode 2SD/453.....£1.00 VIDEO LAMP'S, Long Lead.....24p HITACHI & GEC FRAME, Thick Film.....£6.00 FIDELITY SPLIT DIODE.....FCC2215AE.....£20 FCC2015HE.....£10 FCC2215HE.....£10 K30 FRONT PANEL TEL. I/FX TYPE.....£5.00 NEW G11 LINE-OP PANEL.....£8.00 PHILIPS YEARS AHEAD THE CREDIT CARD CALCULATOR Solar Powered.....£3.75 NEW PHILIPS SBC 1833 Solar & Battery Powered Calculator.....£8.00 THORN PANEL, TX9 REC & REMOTE PANELS with Mains Trans.....£5.00 TX10 REC & REMOTE PANELS with Mains Trans.....£5.00 TX100 FRONT PANEL.....£5.00 TX10 TUBE BASE ON PANEL.....£3.00 TX91F.....£2.00 THORN PANEL No.515-353, 548,02, 565-01, 509/102, 515/173, 508/161.....£5.00 THORN TX STEREO SOUND O.P. PANEL (I.C. 1A7227P).....£1.00 THORN VIDEO AERIAL AMP 01 M4-597-001.....£6.00 ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER.....15p	CAMCORDER SANYO NP22 6v 1300mah Rechargeable Battery Pack £6.00	SATELLITE UNIT Video Out/Audio Out, L and R Polariser ± 35M/A and Decoder Socket £10	PB500 Panic and Button Transmitter 180MHz £1.00 G11 CAP 250V, 470M £1.35	Gas Soldering Irons New Type £10.00 Variety Nickel Cadmium Batteries from Telephone Type to Sub-C, 50p per cell. Mainly in packs of 6 to 8.
TX100 REMOTE PANEL No.56413IC M293B/and SAA5012 £10 etc TX100 REMOTE PANEL IC £10 NICAM UNIT — Ferguson made for ICC5 Chassis — home market and export — has circuit diagram and can be converted to most sets — £15. TOSHIBA Nicam panel & IF export only has the Toshiba chip set £7.00 LARGE Focus pots. Fits Pyc. GEC. ITT. Decca 75p	144MHz Changed Over Relay Aerial 50p 6251 FRAME O/P THICK FILM HITACHI GEC £9.00 THICK FILM HITACHI HM9205A £4.00 TX10 REMOTE PANEL £5 TX9-TX100 FRONT PANEL £5 WITH REMOTE £10 NON REMOTE 8 push button £10	PHILIPS UNIVERSAL BATTERY TESTER SHC 1695 £3.00 NEW DETECTOR £10.00 PHONE HOME TO CHECK WHETHER YOU HAVE AN INTRUDER SEND FOR DATA WITH TELEPHONE £20.00 REGULATED PWR. SUP. 500MA 1.5V-12V DC switched + & £5.00 MADE BY PLESSEY — MADE IN ENGLAND New public telephone exchange original price cost £299.00 Network exchange line (at home or in a small business) has two telephones and cables and NS5107 control unit SPECIAL PRICE £40 Send for data	HITACHI UHF-VHF SMALL TUNER E1598A £5.00 E1595A £5.00 GREYOR BLACK E1505 AMP MAINS LEAD WITH PIRG SOCKET FOR TEST EQUIPMENT ETC. 06D4-025-001 Mains input choke for TX9 £4 THORN M494B1 on Remote Panel £5	TELEPHONE BATTERY SANYO 3.6V 250/MA — £2 VARTA 3.5V 280 M/A £3.00 FEEDHORN FOR OFFSET ANTENNA £8.00 HITACHI UV HAND SET VIDEO £10 THORN FRAME IC TX100 etc IC TDA 3652 IS OBSOLETE REPLACEMENT TDA 3654 £2.00
BSB SAT/REC NEW. CHASSIS, TUNER AND MOD £5 + Post £3 G11 LOPT Panel £4.00 G11 Tip Switch £20.00 G11 IF Panel £3.00 G8 Push Button Unit £2.00 G8 Com/Panel New Back Type £4.00 Have you got Acid Rain in your garden? PH.METER £5.00 Post £5 Actuator Antennemotor £15.00	PHILIPS NEW TYPE U/V HANDSET £10 MIXED TOSHIBA HAND SETS FIVE FOR £12	TX100 FRONT PANEL £5 8 Button SALORA SAT RECEIVER CONVERSION KIT For models 24M60, 25M90, 28M90, SB1206E, SB1365 £15 TX90 TO TX100 8 BUTTON UNIT £4.00	PULSE CAPACITOR 20 for a £1 mixed (1500V to 2KV) 56420A 20A/600V THYRISTOR £1.75 ITT BG2032-642A TRIPLER £5.40 ITT/KOKIA HF IF MODULE 24K No 5828-04-10 £15.00 TERE 7-008A — 115-B-2010 ECC-2885PLE TEEF 1-036A UHF, VHF TUNER — SMALL TYPE £4 EACH BRIDGE RECTIFIERS — MIXED 10 FOR £1 TVK 186-5 TRIPLER TVK 76-5 £1.50 EACH	TX100 SWITCH MODE TRANS 515748 £5 AND 00D4252001 06D3082001 STEREO SOLAR RADIO VHF AND MW £10.00 G11 470 MFD 250V £1.35 3V33 HAND SET £10 12 Volt Relays 20p with D/P changeover PHONO I/O LEADS 3 Metre 30p LEAD SCART TO D PLUG 50p BRIDGES RECTIFIER Mixed BR-31 to 34 2 Amp to 5 Amp 8 for £1.00 1 METRE SCART LEAD £1.00 BURGLAR ALARM USE INFRA RED DETECTOR WIDE AND SHORT ANGLE WALL MOUNT £8 WITH RELAY TUNER U/V 616 £10 POWER SUPPLY KIT 0.28 volts 1 1/2 amps with 2 meters £12 Printed circuit board and components MODULATOR KIT £5 5v to 12v for all cameras etc
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