# TELEUISIOn 

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\begin{aligned}
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$\star 40$ different patterns and variations.
$\star$ Fully interlaced sync pulses with correct picture blanking.
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An annual subscription costs $£ 18$ in the UK, £21 overseas (by surface mail). Send orders with payment to Quadrant Subscription Services Ltd., Oakfield House, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH16 3DH.

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## INDEXES

Indexes to Vols. 35 and 36 are available at 80 peach from the Editorial Office (address above).

## QUERIES

We regret that we cannot answer technical queries over the telephone nor supply service sheets. We will endeavour to assist readers who have queries relating to articles published in Television, but we cannot offer advice on modifications to our published designs nor comment on alternative ways of using them. Correspondents should enclose a stamped addressed envelope.
Requests for advice on dealing with servicing problems should be directed to our Queries Service. For details see our regular feature "Service Bureau". Send to the address given above (see "correspondence").

## this month

## 813 Leader

## 814 Servicing Notes on the Panasonic G Deck

Nick Beer
The G deck used in current Panasonic VCRs is a compact unit of innovative design. It can be difficult to work on if you are not familiar with it and some faults can be confusing. Notes on the design and what to do about the usual fault conditions.

## 815 Next month in Television

816 Haunted
Les Lawry-Johns
Some sets have very predictable faults. Here are some that keep appearing on the bench.

## 818 Teletoptics

News, comment and developments.
819 Long-distance Television
Roger Bunney
Reports on DX conditions and reception and news from abroad. There was a notable SpE opening in early June with several "firsts".

## 822 Letters

824 VCR Clinic
Reports from Eugene Trundle, Dave Dulson, Jim Rainey, J. Olijnyk, Joe Cieszynski, Philip Blundell, Eng Tech. and Nick Beer.
826 Servicing the Sony Model KV2752
David Botto
This set can cause problems if you are not familiar with it. In particular the dead set syrnptom requires careful handling. How to go about it - the notes also apply in general to Models KV2762, KV2252 and KV2256.
831 A Simple Anti-theft Device
Jim Littler
Thieves, particularly young ones, can all too easily get away with your showroom stock. An inexpensive audible alarm initiated by breaking a wire loop.
832 Practical Computer Programming, Part 7
Mike Phelan
Use of pseudo-code to establish the structure of a proposed program.
834 The Room at the Back
J. LeJeune

Sid Bias and his team solve various servicing conundrums.
835 International TV Standards
Eugene Trundle
Characteristics of the standards in use world-wide with a detailed country-by-country listing.
838 TV Fault Finding
Reports from Eugene Trundle, Alfred Damp, Philip
Blundell, Eng. Tech., G. Hewins, J. R. Armagh, Roger
Burchett, Nick Beer and lan Bowden.
842 Storing TV Pictures in Chips, Part 4 Eugene Trundle
This concluding instalment deals with the multi-
function memory system used in Sanyo VCRs and a purpose-designed Hitachi field store chip.
847 Service Bureau
848 Test Case 309

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## COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photograph shows the Sony Model KV2752UB - rear view with the back removed. See servicing article on pages 826-831. The photograph was taken by Nigel Hunt of JNB Television.

TELEOREDOR

## Industrial Strategies

A trio of reports published by the National Economic Development Office has once more highlighted the shortcomings of the UK's electronics industry. It's as well that this should be done from time to time. and an Action Group has been set up to try to force the pace of remedial action. But cne can't help feeling, with deep regret, that not a lot will come of it. After all, the problems are not new and many in the industry have been struggling to do something about them for a long time.

The main report, Strengthening the Competitiveness of UK Electronics, was prepared for the NEDC by management consultants McKinsey. It compares the performance of eight of the largest UK electronics groups with twenty two of their competitors in Europe, the USA, Japan and Korea. This report is supplemented by Government IT Policies in Competitive Countries, prepared by the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, and Comparative Education and Training Strategies, prepared by NEDC staff. The McKinsey report criticises the outdated management style of UK electronics companies and their failure to develop markets because of lack of investment. It highlights a need for less dependence on the domestic UK market, in particular on defence electronics and telecommunications, and proposes a five-point strategy for survival in the increasingly competitive but still expanding world electronics market. The industry is urged to (1) focus on fewer, core electronics businesses and invest to achieve critical mass, i.e. production levels suited to a global market, (2) develop management structures and leadership styles that will support long-term strategies, (3) communicate these strategies to the financial market to correct the view that the industry concentrates solely on short-term profitability, (4) work with suppliers to create an improved components sector, and (5) create world-class skills and make better use of individual talent, in particular to compensate for the deficiencies in British education.

The report points out that while the UK electronacs market grew by 9.4 per cent a year in real terms between 1976 and 1987, a growth rate as rapid as in any major world market except Japan, the sales of UK electronics companies rose by only 2.6 per cent during the period. It comments that major UK electronics companies were amongst the slowest growing of the thirty evaluated worldwide. During the period UK electronics companies reduced employment by 1.5 per cent a year while employment by their US and Japanese counterparts expanded by about 4.5 per cent a year. A sorry but by now familiar story. Nothing wrong with the "strategy for survival" - the report poses the question of whether much of an electronics industry will remain in the UK in a decade's time - except that it is really too vague a statement of good intentions to be capable of having much practical effect.

It's sad to note that the UK was once a world leader in electronics but has been unable to build on the technical achievements of earlier generations. It's decidedly worrying to reflect on the fact that electronics is a key factor in a modern, developed economy. Is it too late for the UK industry to re-establish a major presence in the international electronics market? Problems that have always been with us have included the relatively small domestic market and unfortunate timing - all too often times when major initiatives should have been taken have coincided with periods when the government of the day has imposed a regime of austerity to correct one or other sort of economic imbalance. It takes an iron will to press on with investment in the middle of a recession, combined with a grasp of market opportunities all too rare amongst the leaders of UK industry.

It should not be thought that the UK is alone in failing to take the right decisions at the right time and implement them. Philips for example has just announced appalling second quarter results, with earnings reduced by 44 per cent to the lowest quarterly level for five years. This despite the fact that the company has for some time been striving to get its act right. It has always invested heavily in research, but has often failed to make the most of the resultant know-how. It has been striving to impose a more effective management system on its world-wide activities, i.e. do the sorts of things suggested by the McKinsey "five-point strategy". One can but wish Philips well. One of Philips' problems of course is its heavy dependence on the highly competitive consumer electronics market. It's extraordinarily difficult to cope with the cut-throat competition from new firms in South East Asia's developing economies, operating as they do in a lost-cost environment. Difficult but not impossible, as Japanese industry has shown. The sort of thing required is highlighted by the investment made for example by Hitachi in VCR production. Between 1983-87 output per worker at Hitachi's Tokai VCR plant in Japan increased nine-fold, assembly time per machine being halved to just over one and a half minutes. But how many companies could hope to match that sort of performance?

The situation seems to be terminal as far as the UK's indigenous consumer electronics industry is concerned. Amstrad has shown that it's possible to become a major supplier of consumer electronics goods on an international basis despite the fierce competition, but to do so has had to rely on ingenious off-shore manufacturing operations. Its Hong Kong Asia base switches production between plants in a number of South East Asian countries, with quality control initially achieved by supervising and paying for the installation of tooling for its products and by having its own engineers working full-time in subcontractors, plants while new products are being introduced. A team of inspectors monitors quality control afterwards. Maybe this is how things will have to go. It is after all a development of a well-established practice - as far back as the early sixties US semiconductor manufacturers were having their device encapsulation done in off-shore plants.

# Servicing Notes on the Panasonic G Deck 

The Panasonic G tape deck mechanism has been with us now for some eighteen months. It's fitted to VCRs with model numbers NV-G21/25/40/45, NV-H65, NV-D48 and NV-D80. Rather illogically perhaps, it was not used in Models NV-G7/10/12. These had the D1 mechanism. Matters are further confused by the fact that the NV-D48 and NV-D80 D series machines (D for digital) have the G rather than the D mechanism. Ah well!

The $G$ deck is a rather innovative design. Apart from the direct-drive drum unit there's only one motor which is used as the direct-drive capstan and also provides the drive for the reels, loading, mode selection and front loading! The latter is achieved by the use of a clever rack and lever system. The direct-drive drum unit is of considerably reduced height. In combination with the overall compactness of the new design, this enables a very small VCR to be built, typically only 82 mm high. There's only one belt in the mechanism, a toothed timing belt (VDV0159) that transfers drive from the capstan motor to the reel and loading mechanisms. Instead of being engaged in the normal "swing in" fashion, the pinch roller descends from above on a worm shaft - again driven by the loading system. A rotary mode switch provides the syscon with mode detection, the first time that Panasonic has used such a device (a linear device was previously used), also the first time that it has been mounted on the top of the mechanism. It can be seen at the rear, righthand side of the mechanism - a white, toothed wheel.

One novel feature of these machines is the real-time counter. This is done by reading the off-tape control pulses, so the tape has to be in contact with the control head at all times. The half-lace feature helps here: as soon as the tape is inserted it laces to the half-way position, in contact with the audio/control head. So the head is decidedly offset from its usual position in a VHS deck.

All these features go to produce what is probably the best range of VCRs currently on the market. But there have been a few teething troubles with the deck - this has been the experience of dealers here in North Devon anyway. This short article aims to help by providing a roundup of stock faults to date and what to do about them. It seems that Panasonic has stopped distributing technical bulletins, so you get to know about modifications only when you phone them. As a result you could spend several hours on a deck only to find that the job could have been done in ten minutes had the appropriate information been available.

These decks can be difficult to work on if you don't know them, but when you do know their habits there are none nicer. They are very light and fairly accessible. Once you've had a few to regear you get to know them intimately. The only problem is that some of the faults have unlikely causes. So you can easily be caught if you don't know them.

## Creased or Chewed Tapes

The most common complaint we've had has been of creased or chewed tapes. This usually starts off with a rolling picture or a varying sound level. The cause is that the pinch roller becomes barrel shaped. As a result the tape rides up over the adjacent post P 4 , and this can be reflected back to the audio/control head. The remedy is to
fit the modified pinch roller, part no. VXL1473. To tell the difference between the old and the new type, look at the colour of the roller's metal insert bearing. If it's brass it's the old type and should be changed regardless - if it hasn't caused trouble it soon will. The new type has an aluminium coloured insert. I've had one or two of these fail, giving the same trouble, but they are a great deal more reliable.

Pinch roller replacement is fairly straightforward simply release the plastic cap above the assembly and slide the roller up. On earlier machines this cap tends to foul the front of the cassette carriage as you pull it up, so you should gently lever it forwards and up. Panasonic recommend that the cap (part no. VMX1078) is replaced at the same time as the roller.

## Head Failure

The next common problem we've had has been failure of the VEH0343 video head used in Models NV-G21/25. Symptoms range from excessive noise bars in the trick modes to grainy recordings or no picture at all in any mode. Cleaning improves matters but the heads will still not give perfect results. In the vast majority of cases I've found that the back tension has been excessive - typically twice the specified level of $20-25 \mathrm{~g}$ ! I would suggest that this is checked whenever you work on one of these decks, and certainly every time a head is cleaned or replaced.

To remove the head drum, first take off the discharge angle (back on top again with the $G$ deck) then withdraw the two large screws that hold the head to the lower drum. Next thoroughly remove all the solder from the eight arrowed connections to the head and ensure that each of the pins is free. If the head is stiff on its shaft, even after using a hairdryer to apply heat, use the Panasonic head puller (part no. VFK0341) for which these heads have the appropriate threaded holes. Never touch the three gold screws in the centre spindle of the direct-drive unit.

This problem is rather alarming as the trade price of the heads is over $\mathbf{E 5 0}$, which is a hefty charge for the customer or renter to bear now that these machines are approaching the end of their guarantee period. Panasonic tell me that the problem is under investigation. Even more alarming is the fact that we have had failure of five or more of the direct-drive units themselves. These cost over $£ 220$ trade, plus VAT of course. Until now they have been under guarantee. The problem has been that the leads from the rotary transformer to the bottom of the pins that come up to connect to the head tend to break, giving rise to faults that look as if the heads are clogging and cleaning themselves as the machine plays or records, but of course the places where they do so aren't constant.

## Timing Problems

We've had a number of odd faults that have caused timing problems. On a few occasions the timing belt has slipped, upsetting things. The symptoms are things like failure to accept a cassette, or ejection of the tape as soon as it goes in, or going into fast forward then switching off. The general rule to follow is that all the gears should line up hole to hole as per the manual for the deck - note that the manuals for the individual VCRs don't carry this
information. Unfortunately the instructions are not very accurate. Alignment should be done in the stop mode. But after this you are told how to reinstall the cassette carriage in the eject mode (page 14). So if you follow the list of instructions you'll find that things won't work - not only will they not work but the timing will go haywire again. You have to turn the page and fit the carriage as in the stop mode (page 16) - the mode to which you aligned the rest of the mechanism - though you aren't told that. Even here there's an error: in Fig. A20, page 16, second tooth of rack gear A should read first tooth. If you align the mechanism as per the manual (stop mode) and then want to run it without the carriage in you should connect a $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor across pins 4 and 3 of the flexible connector (P1503) that plugs into the carriage to trick the syscon into thinking that the insert switch has been operated. This isn't explained in the manual but is fairly obvious if you look at the circuit.

## Audio/control Head Setting

Another fairly common fault was the subject of a recent Test Case, though that one related to another machine. The symptom is a line of noise at the bottom of the picture with the machine's own recordings, the line disappearing in the last two or so seconds. The cause of the trouble is that the audio/control head is set too high, the control head erasing the bottom part of the video track. The customer will usually complain about low sound as well.

## Play Arm Sticking

The play arm sticking is something we've not encountered very often ourselves, though I know of other dealers who have. It means that the tape will be left looped out when the cassette is ejected, so you get crunched tape. Other cases have resulted in no take-up in play. Replace the arm (part no. VXLI490) and oil its pivot.

## Noisy Machine

A final selection of faults can be grouped under one heading, "machine noisy". The usual area where noise is generated is the capstan flywheel/rotor. At the bottom of this unit, where the timing belt engages, there's a plastic pulley that's very weak and tends to run eccentrically, causing a cyclic knocking. A similar rubbing noise can be the result of a worn capstan brake pad. Replacement of these two parts is very easy. Excessive back tension can cause a louder than normal "thrumm" from the drum. Bear in mind that as these machines have no screening can or PCB over the mechanism, while the lid is very thin, the drum tick is more noticeable. We've had the odd complaint about this, but only from someone who's being pretty fussy.

## In Conclusion

When servicing one of these decks it's always wise to check the tension of the timing belt. If it appears to be too slack and the machine has been in use for any length of time, don't be tempted to adjust the position of the jockey pulley - fit a new belt. There's at all times a certain amount of slack. Experience will show what's correct.

The electrical faults we've had with these machines will be included in VCR Clinic. We hope that things will soon settle down on the mechanical front. We've not yet had a fault on the latest series.

## next month in



## FREE NEXT MONTH

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- SERVICING THE DECCA $120 / 130$ SERIES CHASSIS
These popular chassis, the 120 for $90^{\circ}$ deflection and the 130 for $110^{\circ}$ deflection, were used in Decca, Tatung and other brand receivers. Nick Beer reports on the stock faults and some no-so-common faults encountere $\geq$ over the seven years since the sets first appeared in 1981.
- VCR SERVO SYSTEMS

Many VCR troubles are caused by faults in the servos and much time can be wasted if you are uncertain how these work. Joe Cieszynski's article breaks servos down into their various loops, describing their purpose and operation and concluding with practical advice on rapid identificat on of the defective part of a servo. The aim is to help the busy service engineer seeking easy-tofollow guidance on servo operation and fault finding.

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## Haunted

## Les Lawry-Johns

I seem to be haunted by Fidelity colour portables of late. If not of the ZX2000 series, then the later ZX3000 version. One that stopped me in my tracks for a while came in the other day. It was a CTV14S, fitted with the ZX3000 chassis. Its trouble was no green. Checks on the tube base panel revealed that the voltages in the green output stage were way out. It took some time to find that the $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ bias resistor R214 was open-circuit. Fitting a replacement restored the green and my flagging spirits. The equivalent resistors in the red and blue channels are R224 and R204 respectively. So the moral is, if one colour goes check the relevant bias resistor on the tube base panel before you consider changing the TDA3562A colour decoder chip with its 28 pins.

The Philips KT3 chassis is also getting to be all too predictable. Quite apart from the $4.7 \Omega$ surge limiting resistor on the power supply panel and the tripler, which sometimes kills the line output transistor, it's now common to find that the tube is faulty. Sometimes you find that for some while only one colour appears, the other two finally coming on after a struggle. In this event I usually short out one of the heater chokes on the tube base to liven up the heaters so that the lazy colours are not so long in coming through. This seems to satisfy most people. But not Mrs. Grouser.
"I want the proper picture when I switch on. I don't see why you can't do it."
"I can for about eighty pounds Mrs. Grouser."
"What? I'm not paying that sort of money on this old set."
"Well you'll have to get a new one then."
"I will too. Snippers down the road have some nice ones. Quite cheap too."
"O.K. Mrs. Grouser. Just see if they're prepared to repair it if anything goes wrong."

So out she went, hoping to get something for nothing as they all do. Or nearly all.

## Pete's 9600

Shortly afterwards this chap struggled in with an Ultra set fitted with the Thorn 9600 chassis. I vaguely recognised him but couldn't put a name to him. H.B. came into the shop from the kitchen. "Hullo Pete" she said. "Hullo love" said Pete.

I whipped the back off. The $2 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~A}$ mains fuse on the left-hand side had blown and a meter check showed that the chopper transistor on the right-hand side was shortcircuit. I also noticed that the brown lead to plug 511 on the chopper power supply panel had been disconnected from the plug and soldered directly to the panel. "Some rough work has been done on this set" I commented.

Pete looked at me but didn't say anything.
"Pick it up later on?" I asked.
So he left, saying he'd be back before we closed.
When he'd gone H.B. asked me why I didn't recognise him as we'd sold him the set some years ago and had always looked after it. This meant that I'd done the rough work. Oh dear.

Still in a muddle, I prepared to replace the chopper transistor, stupidly unsoldering the base and emitter contacts, one of which broke off. When I removed the two
screws that hold the transistor I was able to pull it out of its holder. So in fact I'd messed up the holder. This took some time to repair, but at last it was done and a new chopper transistor was fitted. I checked the circuit carefully but couldn't find anything else amiss. So I plugged the thing in and switched on. There was a flash from the right-hand side panel and the new transistor was dead. What had killed it? Closer examination showed that plug 511 had a poor neutral lead connection in addition to the previously attended to live lead connection. So the plug came out altogether and the neutral lead was soldered to the panel as the live one had been. If I'd done this years ago when the live lead gave trouble I wouldn't have had to fit another chopper transistor. Very rough work indeed, and all my own fault. Sorry, very sorry.

## Another Blunder

A few years ago I sold a Philips CTX-E colour portable to a lady who phoned the other day to say that it had gone wrong. I nipped over and picked it up, not having time to do it on the spot. Back in the shop I plugged the set in and switched it on. Nothing happened. So I slid the chassis out and found that there was a full 300 V at the chopper transistor's collector and nothing at its emitter. I searched everywhere and after an hour or so I gave up.

Later on I had another go and this time I looked at the front. The standby light was on. When I pressed the selector button I heard the set start up. All that mucking about over nothing. How stupid can I get? With an aerial connected the sound boomed out but there was nothing on the screen. A bell rang in the back of my mind. When I turned up the first anode control there was.a white line across the screen. So I checked the voltages around the TDA3651 field output chip. The supply was present but there were no other voltages. I unsoldered the pins and removed it on its heatsink. It was marked TDA3653. Oh well. As I couldn't find one of these I ended up fitting a TDA3652, which worked just as well. I now had a very bright picture, so had to turn the first anode control down again. Ten minutes later the set's owner turned up to collect it. She'd got her boss to run her up. What next?

## The Next Disaster

The next disaster was a Thorn 9000 I'd sold some years ago. Its owner had mucked about with the fuses. Having got these right I checked the diode (W702) in series with the syclops transistor - on the transistor's surround and found that it was short-circuit. So I replaced it and checked the syclops transistor itself and the $47 \Omega$ resistor connected between its base and emitter. This was well down in value, so I removed it - the test was made with one end disconnected - and fitted another. I then switched the set on. All I could hear was a soft tripping noise. I disconnected this, that and the other (the tripler etc.) but the tripping continued. So I put the set on one side and got on with some less mysterious jobs.

Having polished these off I returned to the 9000 , this time on its side, and found that there was a short across one of the rectifiers (W706) supplied by the syclops transformer. It wasn't a dead short, so I made another check on the other side of the $5 \Omega$ surge limiting resistor R712 and this time found a dead short due to the reservoir capacitor $\mathrm{C} 715(22 \mu \mathrm{~F})$. This was removed and the set was tried again. It started up nicely, so I switched off and fitted a replacement electrolytic. The set behaved itself and sat there as good as gold, waiting to be collected.


Contact:

ALF PERROW<br>618 GREAT HORTON RD BRADFORD BD7 3ER Tel: 0274502881

GEORGE PERRY 478/486 OLD KENT RD
LONDON SE1 5AG
Tel: 01-232 0547


# Teletopics 

## SATELLITE TV

Amstrad has produced and tested a prototype of the $£ 199$ satellite TV receiving equipment it plans to start selling early next year for reception of Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television services from the Astra satellite. In a progress report Alan Sugar commented that he was "delighted with the quality of the picture" - reception was from one of the current satellites - and that he was confident the equipment would be available in quantity next year.

Meanwhile Sky Television has signed an agreement to lease a fourth transponder on the Astra satellite. This will be used for the multilingual Eurosports channel which is to be a joint venture between News International and a consortium of EBU members including the BBC. In a recent statement Rupert Murdoch commented that he expects the Sky Television services, including the existing Sky Channel, to loose $£ 100-£ 150 \mathrm{~m}$ before breaking even. Running the Sky Television services will initially cost some $£ 100 \mathrm{~m}$ a year, which suggests that breakeven is envisaged quite soon after the start of the new services.

The Maxwell Communications-W.H. Smith satellite TV broadcasting consortium is still deciding whether to use the Astra satellite or one of the 16 -channel Eutelsat birds that will be launched in 1990.

Ariane Flight 24 successfully launched Eutelsat I-F5 in orbit on July 21 st. It's located at $13^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ where Eutelsat I-F1 is at present positioned and will take over F1's TV and radio channels when the latter satellite is moved to $16^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$.

Eutelsat has completed technical and economic studies for a DBS service it plans to start in the mid-1990s. The project is known as Europesat and would provide a multinational service using DBS frequencies. Further talks between Eutelsat signatories on implementing the project are planned for the autumn. The present proposal is to use two co-located satellites each with 14 channels. Each satellite would have a number of overlapping downlink beams to cater for regional and linguistic requirements. An e.i.r.p. of 55 dBW would be available at the edge of each beam's coverage, corresponding to a TWT amplifier output of $100-150 \mathrm{~W}$. The orbital location proposed is $29^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$, though $19^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ would be possible provided Eutelsat member countries with allocations at this slot would be prepared to modify them for Europesat use.

Telstar's satellite stereo sound processor has been launched on the UK market at $£ 139$ plus post and packing and VAT. This stand-alone unit is capable of handling all the stereo systems at present in use. Seven presets enable stations to be preselected and the unit incorporates a noise reduction system. For further details contact Telstar Satellite TV Ltd., Unit 9 Longspring, Porterswood, St. Albans, Herts AL3 6EN (telephone 072734 596).

## BROADCASTING NEWS

The government has dropped the idea of restricting BBC2 and Ch. 4 to satellite transmission. At the same time the government has confirmed its intention to launch a fifth national terrestrial TV channel as soon as this is technically possible - the present aim is in early 1992. A further proposal is to change the way in which the ITV companies are taxed from the present levy on profits to a levy on turnover, starting in 1990. The ITV companies have warned that this suggestion would remove any incentive to
produce high-quality programmes.
The IBA has placed a contract for the supply of dualchannel sound distribution equipment with Re Instruments Ltd. of Crowthorne. The new system will be used for the ITV and Ch. 4 networks and will employ the sound-in-syncs technique. The equipment consists of NICAM encoders for coding two audio channels into the NICAM 728kbit format; DSIS encoders and decoders for distributing the 728 kbit digital signal; transmitter input equipment to supply a QPSK (quadrature phase shift keyed) signal for modulating the transmitters with the 728 kbit signal; and NICAM 728 decoders for studio use and for deriving a compatible mono signal. The IBA plans to introduce dual-channel/stereo sound via transmitters covering more than 70 per cent of the population by the end of 1990.

According to a report in the US publication RadioElectronics NBC is conducting a test on the transmission of TV surround-sound along with the MTS stereo-sound signal. The surround-sound information can be matrixed into two channels. The aim of the tests is to check on the retrievability of surround-sound under a variety of conditions and the amount of degradation that occurs. Reception calls for a surround-sound decoder - apparently these are already being built into some higher priced sets - and one or two rear-facing speakers.

## CABLE TV

Recent JICCAR figures show that the take up of subscriptions by those within reach of the new broadband cable systems increased from 11.4 per cent in April 1986 to 14.7 per cent in January 1988. This is still barely half of what most cable operators consider to be necessary to provide an economically viable service. According to the Cable Authority's annual report the average monthly subscription fell from $£ 18.50$ to $£ 17.86$ last year.

The third Cable and Satellite exhibition and conference will be held on March 16-19th 1989 at the National Hall, Olympia, London.

## TRADE NEWS

The European Commission plans to impose duties of up to 30 per cent on VCRs from South Korea. This follows a substantial increase in VCR exports to Europe - during the first six months of the year the total was almost one million.

The French government has received European Commission approval to place a restriction on the import of colour TV receivers produced by Japanese companies in other European countries. Imports will be limited to 30,000 until the end of February 1989. The French government had complained about screwdriver operations that failed to achieve a 45 per cent value added in Europe, the EC criterion for classifying sets as European.

SEME Ltd., Unit 2E Saxby Road Industrial Estate, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 1BS (0664 65392/ 66881 ) has just published a new 160-page trade catalogue listing over 11,500 items. The catalogue was produced inhouse on the company's new desk-top publishing system. The copy we've received is extremely well laid out and easy to use.

Ex-rental VCR and TV wholesaler Bi-Tech (UK) Ltd. has opened a 7.500 sq . ft. depot in Glasgow. The depot will be managed by Jack Swan, formerly with Supertel Glasgow, and is located off the M8 on the Hillington Industrial Estate - Unit 9, Colquhoun Avenue, Glasgow (telephone 0418832610 ). Further expansion of the Lon-
don depot will soon take place. Refurbishment of sets for the export market will be concentrated in Glasgow.

Despite a 51 per cent increase in sales in the year to April 30th Dixons group profits were virtually unchanged at $£ 103 \cdot 1$ million. Sales reached $£ 1.68$ billion. Profits declined during the second half by slightly more than the increase achieved in the first half.

## RED FACES!

A Reuter report states that the local Communist Party chief and the head of a TV station in NE China have been dismissed after broadcasting by mistake twelve minutes of a pornographic film that was being viewed by employees

## VIDEO NEWS

Ferguson has introduced its first digital VCR, Model FV26D, at the competitive suggested retail price of around $£ 479.99$. Features include picture-in-picture, multi-picture-in-picture, digital freeze frame, digital slow, plus special effects including solarisation, mosaic and strobe.

Hi-fi sound is to be added to some VHS-C machines on sale in the USA later this year. The small head drum will
have four video and four audio heads. A flying erase head will be used
George Cole writes: JVC has announced that it is to market professional Super-VHS and MII equipment in the UK. The Pro S-VHS specification will be identical to the domestic version, with an f.m. deviation of $5 \cdot 4-7 \mathrm{MHz}$ giving a horizontal resolution of over 400 lines. There will be three Pro S-VHS recorders, Model BR-S610E, the portable BR-S410E and the full-function editing Model BR-S810E. A series of cameras and high-resolution monitors suitable for S-VHS will also be introduced. Pro SVHS equipment is aimed at the industrial, business and educational markets.
For broadcasting purposes JVC is backing the MII system developed by Matsushita and the Japanese broadcasting corporation NHK. The format uses half-inch metal particle tape and separate tracks for the luminance and chroma signals. Three J¥C MII VCRs have been announced, the KR-M800E and KR-M860E editing machines and the KR-M260E portable.
No prices or release dates have been announced for this equipment.
JVC has set up three new companies in the UK, West Germany and Italy to serve the professional market.

17/6/88 TVE E2, 3, 4; TVE-2 E2; RTP E3; + PTT E2, 3; TDF L2, 4; RAI IA, B; TSS R1, 2.
18/6/88 RAI IA; TSS R1, 2; MTV R1, 2; DR E3; SVT E2, 3, 4.

19/6/88 TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2, 3; RAI IA; Arabic football match on ch. E4, origin not known.
20/6/88 TVE E2, 3.
21/6/88 YLE E3; SVT E2, 3, 4; MTV R1, 2; TSS R1; ARD E2; TVE E2; RTP E2; EPT E3; RAI IA, B; TVA IA; ORF E2a, 4.
22/6/88 RAI IA, B; JRT E3, 4; TVE E3; CST R2; NRK E2; SVT E3; TSS R1,2.
23/6/88 TVE E2, 3; RAI IA; DR E3; RUV E3, 4; TVP R1; CST R1, 2; TSS R1; MTV R2.
24/6/88 TSS R1, 2; YLE E3, 4; NRK E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 4; TVP R1, 2; CST R1; RUV E4;TDF L3; RTP E2, 3.
25/6/88 RA1 IA; JRT E3; TVE E2; RTP E3; MTV R1; ARD E2; CST R2; TSS R1, 2, 3; NRK E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 3; TVP R1, 2; RUV E4.
26/6/88 TSS R1, 2; TVP R1, 2: YLE E3: ORF E2a; RAI IA, B: TDF L3. 4; TVE E2; RUV E4.
27/6/88 NRK E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 3, 4; YLE E4; TSS R1, 2, 3; MTV R1, 2; CST R1, 2; ARD E2; +PTT E3; TVP R1; RAI IA, B; TDF L4; TVE E2, 3, 4.
28/6/88 TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E3; RA1 IA, B; TDF L2, 3, 4; ORF E2a, 4; ARD E2; CST R1, 2; JRT E3, 4; MTV R1, 2; TSS R1, 2, 3; TVP R2; SVT E2; NRK E2; RTB-F (Belgium) E3.
29/6/88 TVE E2, 3. 4; RTP E3; RAI IA, B; JRT E3; TDF L4; TSS R1; TVP R1, 2, 5; NRK E2, 3.
30/6/88 TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2, 3; SVT E3; NRK E3.
2/7/88 TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E3.
3/7/88 MTV R1; TVE E2, 3; JRT E3.
Blanketing SpE conditions were present on the 25th. June 1988 will certainly go into the record books!
On the 5th Simon Hamer in Powys logged Band III signals (chs. E6 and 7) from RUV (Iceland) at 1220 BST. RUV signals on chs. E2, 3 and 4 were also present. This represents quite remarkable conditions - the PM5544 test pattern clearly identified the source. Band III RUV is a UK first! At about the same time ch. A4 signals were received from N . America, identified by the reduced height and rolling frame

The following day produced increased excitment for many enthusiasts including myself. At about 23(0) BST, as

RUV chs. E3 and 4 were fading towards the end of a European SpE opening, System M (N. American) signals started to appear (first identified by rolling frame etc.). For the next two hours or more intense US/Canadian signals were present on chs. A2, 3, 4 and 5. Here in Romsey, Hants ch. A2 was unusable due to the many signals present. It was in effect jammed, but by tuning to the offset sound carriers at least three individual signals could be heard, all on programme. The main carrier was just distorted buzz and hum! Chs. A3 and 4 produced good quality signals at times. At 2400 ch . A3 produced a "News 3" caption while "LA Law" appeared on ch. A4. Here at Romsey ch. A5 just made it with a locked though very weak picture. Garry Smith in Derby confirmed reception of the NTV network with advertisements etc., the signal being from Grand Falls, Newfoundland (CJCNTV) on ch. A4. Nearby Keith Hamer heard the CBS identification on ch. A3 - it could have been WCAX Vermont. I heard mention of North Carolina and Washington - probably news. Cyril Willis at King's Lynn received a clear identification from WEMY, Greensboro, N . Carolina, also a CBS identification. It was remarkable that despite such a long opening from an English-speaking area so little could be identified. The signal quality was at times excellent, with mainly US type programming and commercials. Chs. A3 and 4 fizzled out by 0150 BST but ch. A2 remained in action - reports suggest that it finally faded out at around 0500 on the 7th!

The following day brought fresh excitment when, at lunchtime, intense SpE conditions produced N. African/ Arabic signals in Band III - from Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco! Again a UK first. DXers who have reported this reception include Keith Hamer, Garry Smith, Kevin Jackson, Dave Shirley and Philip Odell. The signals were strong, with co-channel interference at times. Algeria ch. E5, Tunisia ch. E6, Libya ch. E6 and possibly Morocco ch. M6 were logged. Philip Odell at Northolt, Middx. received very strong ch. E5 colour signals from Algeria using a hand-held indoor 8-element Jaybeam Band III aerial.

By way of an anticlimax June 8th produced Syria ch. E3 for Simon Hamer, with the usual PM5544 "ORTAS DAMAS" identification.

June 25th proved eventful towards midnight, with unidentified System M signals on chs. A2, 3 and 4. According to the BDXC a Dutch amateur logged 50 MHz signals from Georgia, Texas, Puerto Rico and Greenland. A new Italian free station with the identification "E2 - Canale 31 5 Tele Ercalano" was seen.

Mid-June was rather quiet on the SpE front. Instead we had improved tropospheric conditions that in their way produced more excitment. The period of enhanced tropo-
spheric propagation over June 9-19th coincided with some remarkably warm and sunny weather in the UK, associated with a high-pressure system. During this period the usual signals were received, i.e. from West and East Germany, France, and the Benelux countries in Band III and at u.h.f. Band III signals from Denmark were also present over much of the UK. Swedish u.h.f. signals were apparent and on the 14th Ryn Muntjewerff in Holland logged 23 SVT-2 u.h.f. outlets and nine SVT-1 v.h.f./ u.h.f. outlets! RTL was seen using its new identification "RTL PLUS KOLN" on ch. E7, and even SSVC ch. E45 was noted. The 17th onwards tended to favour propagation from the French regions. A2, FR3, Canal Plus, La Cinq and M6 reception was widespread.

This intense tropospheric spell covered the whole UK, producing both the usual and some unusual signals - even AFRTS ch. A80 made it to North Wales! lain Menzies reports perhaps the most unusual reception - from the Ekofisk North Sea oilfield. On two days lain logged "EKOFISK TV CH. 1" and "EKOFISK CH. 2" on chs. E50 and E49 respectively. The ch. 1 service consists of mainly NRK (Norway) material while ch. 2 carries various offerings from Filmnet, Royal Club, Night Club and anything else that's selected from the available satellite services. The oilfield is run by Phillips Petroleum and is some 270 miles from Newcastle. Up to 1,000 men work there. This reception by Iain occurred on the 12th and 26th. Iain is seeking technical information on the transmitters.

On the 5th Simon Hamer logged AFRTS Spain, BFBS and GBC Gibraltar on his f.m. radio. The "Brud Med Studio" caption seen on the 7th originates from NRK. On the 14th SVTI/2 were noted with tests of scrambled TV. A report from Holland mentions reception of new AFRTS outlets on chs. E32/5/7 and RTL on chs. 35/6/45.

Certainly a throbbing month! My thanks to David Oliver (Birmirgham), Peter Schubert (Rainham), Dave Shirley (Hastings), Tim Anderson (St. Leonards), Brian Renforth (Newcastle), Garry Smith (Derby), Keith Hamer (Derby), Keith Watkins (Redruth), Roger Fussell (Torpoint), Keith Chaplin (Leicester), Bill Cotterill (Tipton), Simon Hamer (Powys), Cyril Willis (King's Lynn), Dr. Duncan (Fife), Mark Baldwin (Rushden), Iain Menzies (Aberdeen) and Ryn Muntjewerff (Holland) for sending in details of their reception.

## News Items

West Germany: RTL+/Tele 5 Hamburg ch. E46 is now running at full power ( 15 kW e.r.p.) - RTL provides a regional programme (Schlag 6) from 1800)-1845 (local


Photos of reception by Garry Smith, Derby, during the SpE opening on July 7th. Left, the NTV logo from Grand Falls, Newfoundland on ch. A4 - CJCN-TV relaying CJON-TV ch. A6. Centre, test pattern from the 20kW Libyan transmitter at Tripoli, ch. E6. Right, presumed Algeria ch. E7, possibly from the Constantine transmitter.
time) weekdays. The Hamburg ch. E48 SAT-1 transmitter is now running at 2 kW e.r.p. Helgoland ch. E34 is on test with 30W and Aachen ch. E26 has a local service programme on test with directional transmission towards $220^{\circ}$ - the caption shows Aachen cathedral and carries the identification "Lokaler TV Sender Aachen K26, Storungsannahme tel 1174". Dusseldorf/Burscheid ch. E36 local TV is on air with 20 kW and a similar caption though relating to Dusseldorf. A new UK Services SSVC transmitter is in operation at Goch, on ch. E23.
Sweden: A high power, thought to be $1,000 \mathrm{~kW}$ e.r.p., transmitter covering central Sweden is now providing the TV2 service from Vasteraas, on ch. E44.
USSR: A limited number of commercials provided by the Italian TV magnate Silvio Berlusconi are to be shown over a three-year period on all three networks. The thirty second to six minute slots will not break into the programmes themselves.
Yugoslavia: A local third programme service has started in Zagreb, for two-three hours daily.
China: Though not TV, it's of interest that the first f.m./ v.h.f. radio service in English has started on 107.7 MHz in the Shanghai region.

## Satellite TV

Latinvision, a satellite news exchange service for the Caribbean/Central American region, is expected to be in operation shortly.

The first transmissions from the Astra satellite will use PAL with a main 6.5 MHz audio carrier and four additional audio carriers at $7 \cdot(12,7 \cdot 2,7.38$ and 7.56 MHz , the latter being for stereo (Wegener/Panda 1 system) or multilanguage sound. About ten channels, six English and four German, will probably use PAL with the others using MAC.

It seems that Intelsat VA F11 at $27.5^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ has a fault that prevents the West spot beám being pointed any further north than Biscay. Hence a reduction in the downlink signal level to the UK - the beam should be centred on Birmingham.

## Publications

Scanners 2, the international v.h.f./u.h.f. communications guide for enthusiasts operating scanning equipment, has been published by Argus books at $£ 9.95$. Although intended for enthusiasts operating scanning equipment the book contains some very interesting preamplifier circuits for aerial/indoor use, including several v.h.f. circuits covering $50-250 \mathrm{MHz}$. These use BF199 or BF981 transistors

## AERIAL TECHNIQUES



FULIY AUTOMATIC AERIAL ROTATOA RAOM AERIAL TECHMIOUES. Th AR $300 \times \mathrm{XL}$ is a now mproved model which we have added to aus range. The Rotor head unit has been redesigned, with a more strammed casting and sturdier mitermal bearings for longer life The smantiy desipned Control Consol looks equally at home in ether 'shack' or domestic surroundings. The noving pointer on the consol, givas an mstent rescout of the weridimeam heading, int ting you know the serial's position at all accommodates ALL typas of VHF. TV and FM aerids both large 6 small, with 192 los in $(220 \mathrm{~kg}(\mathrm{~cm})$ of motor teraue The system compises two men components; the fully zutomatic control box (consol) and the rotator head unit which has a vertical laad carrying capabilty of 45 kg (99 los). The head unit may be mounted on a mast with a size of up ta $2^{\prime \prime}(52 \mathrm{~cm})$ in diameter - the stubhotation mast is up to $11^{\prime \prime}$ " 140 mm$)$ in diameter. If required, larger 'U' bolts can be supplied to allow a 2 " stub mast to be fitted (flease ask for detais). For hasvier load applications, an Alpmment/Support bearing may be fitted above the rotation lup to three seriad arays may be employed, depanding on size)
AR300xL Automatic Antema Rotator and Control Consol lusas 3 core cablel. SUPPORT BEARIMG for heavier load applivations YOKO Multsystem VFFIUFF $5^{n}$ screen Tebvision System, BIG/l operation ( $5 \cdot 5 / 6 \mathrm{MHz}$ sound) AND System L FREWCH standard 16.5 MHz sound). Ideal for TVIDXingl and Spoadic $€$ monitorng, covers Band 1, 3 \& UMF: 3-way power, 12v DC (lesd suppliedi. Dry batteries © Mains operation.
(SAE bafiot) TOP mess (Carriage \& Insurance on abeve TV (E5.50)
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11, KENT ROAD, PARKSTONE, POOLE, DORSET BH12 2EH Tel; 0202738232
and have various gain figures between 12 dB and 20 dB . The book is written by Peter Rouse and is recommended, particularly if you are into general v.h.f./u.h.f. monitoring.
Acrial Techniques report that the second edition of the test card book TV-Bild Katalog is now available from them at $£ 6.95$ including postage within the UK. It was published in April and is essential reading for those seeking a definitive guide to test card/pattern/logo use within the European broadcasting area (excluding North Africa and the Middle East).

## From our Correspondents . . .

Congratulations to George Gaskin whose 33 years with the Gibraltar fire service was marked by the award of a


Ekofisk TV Ch. 1 received by lain Menzies in Aberdeen on ch. 50, The Ekofisk North Sea oilfield is operated by Phillips Petroleum.

## IRISH T.V. DEALERS

VIDEOS UHF-VHF Ferguson, Sharp, ITT, Panasonic, Nord, etc fully serviced. Top Loaders, from $£ 150$ each. Front Loaders from $£ 175$ each.
TV's UHF-VHF Most makes in stock 8,16, and multi Channel remotes. Fully serviced from $£ 75$ each, untested off the pile £30 each.

## EXPORT SPECIALISTS

"Sets modified for African transmission' T.V. TRADE SALES E.D.I. HOUSE, KYLEMORE PARK WEST, DUBLIN 10. TEL. 0001264139 or 263517

BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.
Robert Copeman reports from Perth, Western Australia, that a new commercial TV station "NEW 10 PERTH" came into operation in May. It's the first new station for some years in that region and uses the standard FUBK test pattern.

A West Country DXer comments that in rocky sea locations you could well monitor the RNLI 49 MHz helmet radios used for cliff rescues. Despite the small helical helmet aerials these US sourced devices have been received at distances of up to five miles!

Jean-Louis Dubler is now associated with the Urbatel cable system in Lausanne, Switzerland. This network has a 40 channel capability and at present carries three Swiss, three French, two German and one Austrian service plus

Telecine (pay-TV), RAI Uno, TV5 and Sky. He reports that the La Dole transmitter now has a second audio carrier for stereo/bilingual use and that a fourth national network is planned, mainly for sports and EBU programme exchanges.

## Help Wanted

R. Hastie of 41 Elm Grove Drive, Dawlish, Devon EX7 0EY is seeking valve type Denco coils for the 3050 MHz range (range 6 or 7 if I remember correctly). He hopes to be able to use them in a low-band v.h.f. converter during the forthcoming solar cycle. It seems that Denco has closed down and the coils are no longer available.

## Letters

## REMOTE HANDSET REPAIR

A meek and gentle old lady brought her Sony remote control handset into our workshop recently. We were given the usual reminder about the desperate financial state of the country's pensioners, followed by "if it costs more than a few pounds I'll have to do without". Normally we have to harden our hearts, but on this occasion she got through our armour.

Her complaint was that some of the buttons wouldn't work. Sure enough we found that the conductive coating on the business end of the rubber push buttons concerned had worn away. A few minutes' deliberation was followed by a flash of inspiration from one of our young men - a very carefully placed smear of adhesive covered with the scrapings from a salvaged carbon brush. A last resort maybe, but it worked. A feather in our young man's cap, our good deed for the day and a bit of good P.R. Exit one happy senior citizen.
Tom Robbins, Service Manager,
TV and Video Repairs, Newcastle upon Tyne.

## BRYAN TUCKFIELD DEFENDED

Bryan Tuckfield received rather a battering in the Letters pages last month. I feel I must come to his defence. To my mind the arrogant, greedy and self-centred views expressed my some of your correspondents indicate that they shouldn't be in business. Their attitudes are all too common however and do very little for the reputation of our trade.

We're all in this business to earn a living. I see nothing wrong in supplying spares to the public, provided they are prepared to pay for them (after adding our mark-up of course). If they don't like the price, that's tough! They can try elsewhere. It seems that your contributors haven't the initiative to demand payment before ordering parts for Joe Public, nor to apply legitimate disclaimers such as "goods not exchanged or refunds given unless faulty". If the customer gives you the wrong part number or description that's his problem. We can't be held responsible for their ignorance in such matters. I've found that some of the disadvantages mentioned are actually advantages, in that the customer may come back with his equipment for repair.
I wholly agree with Bryan Tuckfield when he says that many dealers are interested in only meaty jobs with nice big profits. This applies to other trades as well. The term
for this attitude is greed. Talking of which Mastercare supply the reell idler for the Saisho VR605 at $£ 9$ plus VAT plus post and packing while Willow Vale supply the same item under their Sharp order code 27361 C at $£ 3$ plus VAT (post and packing is free on orders over $£ 30$ ).

Not all of us share the bigoted opinions expressed last month. We're genuinely interested in offering our services to Joe Public - without losing money of course. Remember that the public has a right to have its goods repaired. What is one dealer's loss will often be a worthy repairer's gain. The most important person in any business is the customer, who provides our bread and butter. It doesn't do to overlook this fact and it's nonsensical to refuse the old $£ . s . d$.
I agree that our trade is soul destroying, as many people have pointed out in these pages. But I think that this is partly due to those who share the "Bodge and Bodge Co." school of thought and advertise free this, free that and free everything else. How can we earn a decent crust when this mentality is so prevalent? Who can blame Joe Public for refusing an estimate of $£ 80.90$ to replace video heads when one of the less reputable local emporiums advertises in our local rag that it can do the job for $£ 40$ ? Joe Public gets what he deserves in this case, and I've no sympathy for him. So remember fellow sufferers, chin up, keep smiling and never let them get you down (during business hours anyway!).
Martin's TV Services, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

## DECCA 70/90 SERIES CHASSIS

In the April TV Fault Finding feature Nick Beer suggested using a BU426A to replace the BUW81A chopper resistor in the Decca 70/90) series chassis. We've tried this but find that the BU426A always fails. Its rating is less and it's not a Darlington device.

We find that even when a new BUW81A is fitted in one of these sets and the correct drive waveform is present the device sometimes blows (D608 and D610 having been replaced as well). Has anyone any ideas on this?

## K. Booth, <br> Audiovision, Coventry.

Editorial note: This chassis employs a rather unusual complementary-symmetry chopper driver stage. Possibly slight leakage in one of the devices here could affect the operation of the circuit. Anyone wish to comment?

## AVAILABILITY OF SPARES

I would like to see more independent rather than trade views expressed in your letters pages. On the subject of
selling parts to the public it would be nice to see them available in blister packs at supermarket style outlets. A lot of us have the knowledge and skill to do our own repairs. The parts would have the make, model number and location shown and there would be a shelf full of manuals and circuits - just as they do for cars! There are no plans to stop DIY car servicing even though the result can be a misadjusted brake.

Difficulty in obtaining parts and manuals makes it hard for young people to take an interest in the subject. In the past many of us got started by buying ex-government bits and pieces with circuits. There are endless complaints about youngsters being simply out for kicks, yet they are told they can't do this and can't do that. Finally, on the subject of safety, how many of us have opened the back of a TV set to find a sticky mess on the flying leads and a dried up piece of tape on the circuit board?! Not to mention cookers with controls behind a steaming pan and the main switch even higher on the wall over that same pan. What Safety?!

## Ex-valve set dabbler.

Editorial comment: But cars have to pass an MOT test, which at least cuts down on some of the dangers. We can't see that the public would take kindly to paying for its TV sets etc. to be examined for safety every so often, or how this could be enforced. Much has been done in recent year to improve safety through BEAB testing.

## USE OF BULBS - AND A CORRECTION

A point in connection with the use of a bulb (Servicing with a Variac and Bulbs, July) as a dummy load in place of the line output stage is that a bulb can sometimes cause confusion by providing an excessive load on the power supply being checked. On several occasions when I was repairing TV sets rather than VCRs I loaded a power supply with a bulb only to find that it tripped due to the excessive load - trying the power supply out in a known good set proved its innocence. This was particularly noted with Sony and Hitachi sets, more so the earlier ones. To overcome the problem I made up a dummy load of $250 \Omega$ at 100 W , using four RS $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega 25 \mathrm{~W}$ resistors in parallel mounted in a case with sockets to connect a meter to monitor the rail. The d.c. resistance figures Eugene gives lead me to wonder whether the sets in question had some strange anomalies with switch-on surges, or that maybe


Fig. 1: Safe method of obtaining up to 25-0-25V from a variac - by using it in conjunction with a mains transformer from the Pye hybrid CTV chassis.

(a)

Fig. 2: Use of an LED or IR diode in place of a VCR lamp. (a) Original circuit. (b) Modified circuit.

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the manufacture of some types of bulb is suspect? I've always been a great user of variacs and bulbs in TV servicing and have more recently adopted this approach in dealing with the ever more complex power supplies used in VCRs. I know that some engineers don't do this but I've never had a straight answer as to why not.
There was an editorial error in one of my notes in TV Fault Finding in the July issue. The heading Panasonic Alpha-2 chassis should have read Alpha-1 chassis. It should also be noted that the first batch of modification kits were not suitable for use with Model TX-C78.
Nick Beer.
Bideford, Devon.

## SAFE VARIAC USE

In his article on servicing with a variac (July) Eugene Trundle mentioned the use of a variac to replace a lowvoltage secondary winding. A safer method, which also provides a centre tap, is to use the mains transformer from an old Pye hybrid colour chassis, supplying this from the variac as shown in Fig. 1. The original $25-()-25 \mathrm{~V}$ output can then be varied to suit the equipment being supplied.
Peter Westbury, G8PDI.
Bournemouth, Dorset.

## VCR BULB MODIFICATION

In connection with the recent letter regarding the high cost and failure rate of the lamps used in older VCRs I'd like to suggest the modification shown in Fig. 2. Replace the lamp with a LED or an infra-red emitting diode and change the series resistor to $470 \Omega, 1 / 2 \mathrm{~W}$.
A. R. Lloyd,

Plymouth, Devon.

# VCR Clinic 

## Tatung VRH8400/JVC HRD120/Ferguson 3V35

The problem with this one was that it would go to stop for a few seconds after embarking on any mode. It was quickly established that the cause lay with the reelrotation sensor system - the machine would happily remain in the pause mode. The infra-red sensors used consist of a sender and a receiver, either of which can cause trouble. In this case the fault lay with the supply spool's optocoupler, whose receiver (phototransistor) was leaky.
E.T.

## JVC HRD180

We've had several cases of failure of the large STK5481 power supply chip used in this and allied models. The switched 5 V output fails while circuit protector CP3 remains intact. You'll find that the symptoms are no onLED indication, no drum rotation when playback or record is selected, and shutdown after a few seconds in the fast forward or rewind modes. None of the replacement chips has failed to date, so maybe it was batch problems or perhaps the design of the chip has improved.
E.T.

## Panasonic NV180

These portable VCRs have had a longer production run than most, having been kept going to support Panasonic's excellent range of semi-professional cameras. This one came to us with the complaint that it wouldn't play. On investigation the capstan appeared to be seized solid. When the machine had been dismantled we found that the rotor of the direct-drive capstan motor was rubbing against the stator coils. Normally such contact is prevented by means of a springy clip in the bearing assembly - it clips into a waist in the motor shaft. What had happened was that the upper bearing (deck topside) had become dislodged, maybe due to an impact. Pushing this bearing home and relocating its protective cap did the trick.
E.T.

## JVC GRC1/Ferguson 3V41

"Going on holiday tomorrow, camcorder no go" said the job ticket. Clearly a priority job... The machine wouldn't switch on, and after dismantling it we found that circuit protector CP5 had gone open-circuit. After replacing it we discovered what had happened. The cassette front flap opener had stuck in the "high" position, preventing the flap from opening. The loading motor, now thwarted in its attempts to load the tape, stalled. As a result a high current passed through CP5 until it opened. Worth remembering, especially if it should happen on an intermittent basis.

## Hitachi VT11 and Clones

Don't be fooled by what we thought was an intermittent fault in this and similar machines. If you touch or move C602, which is the control-track head coupler on the regulator/servo panel, the tape speed slows and the sound becomes slurred. The effect is due to 50 Hz hum pick-up from your finger. This is at twice the normal control pulse rate, so the machine thinks it's got an LP tape and attempts to restore normality by switching to the LP

## Reports from Eugene Trundle, Dave Dulson, Jim Rainey, J. Olijnyk, Joe Cieszynski, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech. and Nick Beer

mode. Perhaps this is obvious, especially with hindsight! In TV sets we used to prod and poke with a pen or a screwdriver handle, for fear of shock. No such nonsense could then arise.
E.T.

## Hitachi VT410

This machine would load a tape then shut down. If the operate switch was pressed the machine would come on for another thirty seconds and then switch off. No deck functions worked. The power supply was working correctly and checks around the syscon microcomputer chip failed to reveal anything amiss. A clue was given by pins 8 and 9 of IC901, the outputs that control the loading motor: pin 9 was high at 4.7 V while pin 8 was at 0 V . The system control was trying to unload but the loading motor wasn't doing anything. A quick check on the loading motor drive chip IC902 (BA6209U2) showed that its inputs were correct but there was no output. Replacing the i.c. cured the fault.
D.D.

## Hitachi VT11

This machine would select one mode no matter which button was pressed. We found that D453 was leaky. J.R.

## Hinari VHL3/VHX3

If you require a play idler for this machine you can use a Sharp type, part number NIDL-00)6GEZZ. They are the same unit.
J.R.

## Panasonic NV333

The fault was no playback picture. When I read the job card I thought it would be a simple head cleaning job, but I was wrong. No picture in fact meant a blank raster. After a lot of mucking about I found that D3012 (MA165) was short-circuit, damping the output from IC3003. J.O.

## JVC GRC7 Camcorder

This machine would go off after three seconds. When I'd found the right page in the service manual and got the machine apart (please God, what are the chances of getting the thing back together?!) I soon found that R218 had come off print. Resoldering this put matters right. I did get it back together (just!), after several hours and several cups of coffee (black).
J.O.

## Saisho VR705

The reported faults were no picture and poor rewind. Many thanks for a simple job this time. Replacement heads and a new reel idler were all that were required.
J.O.

## Grundig $2 \times 4$ Super

This machine wouldn't accept a cassette or carry out any function. We found that the relay didn't stay in when power-on was selected. The cause of the trouble was that C446 (470 $\mu \mathrm{F})$ had lost capacitance.

Another of these machines stopped playing after a few seconds as the head drum was rotating very slowly. A quick check on the supply lines revealed a 5 V ripple on the 15 VR rail. C451 was low in value. It should be replaced with a Grundig part - if a standard capacitor is used there is still some ripple and the servos take a long time to lock in.
P.B.

## Philips VR6843-05

The problem with this machine was intermittent failure to select record. When this happened the cassette would eject. The cause of the problem was an intermittent short across the record inhibit switch. It was on the end sensor PCB, where the leads to pins 26 and 27 had been left too long.
P.B.

## Hitachi VT8300

The complaint was that at switch on smoke poured from the machine and it went dead. Initial inspection revealed that the drum motor drive amplifier was the source of the smoke - both i.c.s were cracked open. Having a scrap machine in the workshop was an immense help. Within no time a replacement panel was fitted, but it was difficult to know whether the drum motor had been damaged. So, with the drive panel disconnected, I checked that the power supply was correct and proceeded to switch on fully. There was no smoke, but neither was there any drum rotation. The 9 V and 15 V rails were reaching the drive panel via connector CN502, but there was no Hall bias at pin 4. Now having no Hall bias is the same as having a brush-type motor with no brushes! The 2.4 V bias comes from Q513 on the main servo panel, and resistance checks showed that this was open-circuit base-to-emitter. Fitting a new transistor restored full operation - thankfully the drum motor was o.k.
J.C.

## Hitachi VT33

This one belonged to a girl who lived in Zambia. She brought it back on a visit after a local service engineer had said he couldn't repair it due to lack of information and spares. The player was dead, though the clock functioned. Checks around the power supply chip IC 151 revealed that the always 12 V line was present but the switched $9.5,12$ and 16 V outputs were missing. The power-on signal from the microcomputer should bring in the 16 V regulator via pin 13 of the chip, which in turn switches on the 9.5 and 12 V lines via R153 and R151/2. Replacing the 16 V output with an external supply restored all the power rails. Normal operation was obtained when IC151 had been replaced. but before returning the machine to Zambia I decided that a new idler and set of belts would be prudent. J.C.

## Ferguson 3V35/JVC HRD120

This machine was brought in with the complaints "grainy picture and intermittent failure to lace up". As I'd just fitted a sensor lamp in a chargeable 3V30 I thought I'd stay with the easy ones. Things started well enough. The loading fault was due to a stretched belt. A new one was carefully fitted without removing the whole motor assembly, but there was no take-up - the belt was so slack that if it hadn't been for the flywheel bracket it would have dropped off its pulleys! This attended to I put the machine in play and noticed that the exit guide was very sluggish and didn't reach the end of its travel. The baseplate on the
loading ring had become disengaged: its pip was worn with the result that it didn't remain in its slot, consequently the spring had become undone.

Rather than struggling with what was going to be a long job anyway I decided to remove the entire mechanism from the machine, a matter of unplugging and then removing eight screws including those for the carriage. To gain access to the loading rings I then had to take out six or so screws to release the top plate with the head drum and motor, the guide poles and audio/control head etc. A further three screws held the rings in place. I tried to refit everything but the exit guide baseplate was too worn. A new assembly had to be ordered and fitted after which reassembly went remarkably well.
N.B.

## Panasonic NV7200

This loan machine produced a recorded picture with high chrominance and low luminance - playback was fine. On removing the bottom cover I noticed a very small amount of spillage on the board just below the white clip control. This was cleaned off with 1-1-1 trichloroethane (RS Solvent Cleaner). The waveforms were wrong not far into the circuit, but were not drastically out. So I decided to see if the circuit could be set up as per the manual. After carrying out the dark and white clip and the luminance and chroma record current adjustments the machine performed well. One thing to note is on the white/dark clip adjustment: you should adjust the lower peak of the waveform for 175 per cent not 150 per cent as on the oscillogram.
N.B.

## Sony CCD-V30

This was a brand new stock machine - the autofocus version of the Handycam. When switched on in the camera mode the picture, in both the electronic viewfinder and via the external monitor, would be o.k. for twenty-thirty seconds after which vertical bars at regular intervals appeatred across the screen, very faint at first then becoming darker, though you could see the picture through them. After a further thirty-six seconds the picture and bars disappeared, giving way to a white raster, with a pink tinge, that appeared to have no line sync (bars across it). We'd not yet received a manual, but the shop wanted the camcorder sorted out quickly. So it was dismantled, which is no mean feat. Inside the case we found a very basic block diagram, showing the PCB locations. I located the camera d.c.-d.c. converter, which seemed to be the most likely cause of the trouble, and sure enough application of heat and freezer proved that it was thermally sensitive.

Replacing the converter is a long job, as is reassembly. The camera section is enclosed in a can, and there are all sorts of small supports. A modicum of force is required because as well as all the screws that hold it together there are some snap-fit clips. Luckily we found that when the converter had been removed the part number was written on it (1-464-727-11), saving several days' delay.
N.B.

## B and O VHS63

The customer said that this machine chewed tapes. Why they continued to feed tapes in after one had been chewed is not clear, but you know customers! What had happened was that the customer had been over enthusiastic with the furniture polish. It had covered the drum and eaten into the metal - the cassette had been inserted while the drum was still wet. A new drum had to be fitted.
N.B.

## Servicing the Sony Model KV2752

David Botto

The Sony Model KV2752 is a 27in. receiver that provides a first-rate picture. It has two loudspeakers which together produce over loW of high-quality audio output. The teletext version is Model KV2762 - a teletext panel can however be added to the KV2752. Full remote control is by means of the "Remote Commander" infra-red unit. The same basic chassis are used in the 22 in. Models KV2252 and KV2256, so much of the information in this article applies to these sets as well. The circuitry is arranged on a number of printed boards that are identified by means of letters: we'll use the same board identification letters that Sony use.

Earlier versions are fitted with the PE3 chassis, latter versions being fitted with the RX chassis. It's quite easy to see which chassis you've got on the bench. In the RX chassis the complete power supply is mounted on board F . In the earlier PE3 chassis most of the power supply is on
the main board D , the small F board containing a rectifier/ regulator circuit that provides a 12 V output. The main D panel also contains the CX523-017P system control chip, the memory, the timebase circuitry, the colour decoder and the audio circuits.

## The Usual Symptom

These sets have a tendency to go dead suddenly after working well for a time. This is especially so with the PE3 chassis. You'll probably find that the mains fuse F1601 ( $3 \cdot 15 \mathrm{~A}$ time-lag) has blown and that the chopper transistor Q603 is short-circuit. More often than not you'll find that the line output transistor Q802 has also failed. These two transistors have to be obtained from Sony (or a Sony agent) and are very expensive. It's vital that Q603 is replaced with type 2 SD 1497-02, Sony part no. 8-729-301-


Fig. 1: The power supply circuitry used in the PE3 chassis.

00 , and that Q802 is type 2SD1497-06, part no. 8-729-30090 . These two transistors are not interchangeable.

The logical way of going about things would be to check for shorts and then, if all's well, to replace the fuse and the two transistors. Unless further action is taken however the result is likely to be further failure of these items either at switch on, after an hour or two or after several days. This will remind many of you of the Sony Model KV1810.

## PE3 Chassis Power Supply Circuit

Before tackling these sets it's best to take a little time to find out how the power supply section works. We'll consider the circuitry in the PE3 chassis - see Fig. 1.

While the power supply circuitry is quite complex, things are not as bad as they might seem since the circuit breaks down into a number of easy to understand sections.

The a.c. mains input goes first to fuse F1601 on board F , then to the filter coil T 1601 . The $0 \cdot 22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ filter capacitor C 1601 has proved to be reliable, though it can fail, blowing F1601. There follows the surge limiter resistor R1601 ( $2 \cdot 7 \Omega$, 7W special nonflammable) after which the supply is taken via connectors and the on/off power switch S 901 to transformer T1603 on board F and choke T602 on board D. Note that S 901 has a third pole which applies 5 V d.c. to pin 17 (power on) of the control chip IC001. The mains a.c. input is also applied to the degaussing circuit of course.

T1603 drives two diodes which are encapsulated in one block, D1658 (MC921). These develop about 18V across the reservoir capacitor C 1668 to feed the 12 V regulator IC1652 ( $\mu$ PC78L12).

The supply to the chopper circuit passes via filter choke T 602 to the bridge rectifier D 601 ( S 3 WB 60 Z ) which produces about $270-280 \mathrm{~V}$ across the reservoir capacitor C610 to feed the primary winding of the chopper transformer T606 at pin 14.

The 12 V regulated output from panel F goes to the remote control circuitry, provides a start-up supply for the timebase generator chip and, via R660) which drops the voltage to 6.6 V , provides the supply for the chopper control chip IC651 ( $\mu \mathrm{PC} 1394$ ). This chip contains quite a lot of complex circuitry. Its output at pin 7 is coupled via C664/T604/C615/R609 to the base of the chopper driver transistor Q6012. This transistor receives a start-up supply via $\mathrm{R} 604(30 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, 7W cemented). Its supply is provided by D602/C613 when the circuit has got going. The output from Q602 is transformer coupled (T6015) to the base of the chopper transistor Q603. Notice that Sony use a transformer (T607) as the sensing device for the excess current limiting circuit in IC651. The primary winding of T607 is in series with the emitter of the chopper transistor while the secondary is connected via R616 to pin 5 of IC651. The oscillator in IC651 is locked to the line frequency by pulses from pin 10 of the line output transformer. These are coupled to pin 10 of the chip via the voltage divider network R669/670 and C666. Q654, connected to pin 4 of the chip, switches the set to standby. Its base receives the standby signal from pin 10 of the control chip IC001. In this mode there is no output from the chopper power supply. Feedback for voltage regulation is applied to pin 1 of IC651 via the voltage divider network R655/6 from the 135 V h.t. line.

Secondary windings on the chopper transformer feed five more rectifier circuits. To save you the time and stress involved in tracing the destinations of these various sup-
plies we'll list them here.
D651 produces 135 V across its reservoir capacitor C652. This supply is used by the line output stage. As already mentioned any variation in this supply is sensed by IC651 which then adjusts the drive at its output pin. Preset RV651 is used to set up the 135 V output.

D652 produces 39 V across its reservoir capacitor C653. This supply is used by the line driver transistor Q801, by the tuning circuit, by Q 556 in the 12 V regulator circuit, and is also fed to the CY coils on the scan yoke via pin 3 of connector DY-3

D654 produces 41 V across its reservoir capacitor C654. This supply is used by the STK4362 audio output chip IC252.

Diodes D653 and D655 produce 14.6 V across reservoir capacitor C656. This supply is used by the transistors that drive the CY coils - they are mounted on board D1 - and is fed to a second 12 V regulator consisting of Q655/6 and zener diode D 661 . The 12 V regulator works hard. It supplies the sync/timebase generator chip IC551, the pincushion correction chip IC553 and most of the signal circuitry. A 9 V regulator that supplies the i.f. chip on panel $\dot{A}$ is fed from the 12 V line.

Diode D656 develops 7.8 V across its reservoir capacitor C657. The main use of this supply is to feed the 5 V regulator in the system control circuit.

## RX Chassis Power Supply Circuit

The RX chassis used in later models has a redesigned chopper power supply - see Fig. 2. The whole circuit is mounted on board F . You will notice that the excess current sensing transformer is no longer present and that feedback for regulation is fed via a $\mu \mathrm{PC} 4558 \mathrm{C}$ voltage comparator (IC651) and the TLP581 optocoupler IC602 to pin 12 of the $\mu \mathrm{PCl} 394 \mathrm{C}$ power supply chip IC601. In our experience this power supply arrangement has proved to be more reliable than that used in the PE3 chassis. One of the rectifiers provides a -30 V supply which, in the PE3 chassis: is derived from a line output transformer fed rectifier. This negative supply is used by the memory chip in the control system.

## PE3 Chassis Layout

We will concentrate on the PE3 chassis in this article, as it's the one we usually find in the sets we encounter.

The back cover comes away after removing six screws. The two loudspeakers are mounted at the rear - they look rather like two wings. When the back cover is off you'll get no sound. Inside, the boards are positioned as follows (see Fig. 3). The Hl board that contains the sevensegment LED indicator and the customer controls is at the front left (viewed from the rear), mounted upright. Next to it is the H 2 board which contains three LED indicators. Also at the front, just above the H 1 board, is the remote control preamplifier board N . At the bottom left, mounted horizontally, you'll find the tuner/i.f. panel A. At the front of this are panel S which contains a relay for switching between aerial and HIT inputs and panel S2 which contains the relay driver - these two panels may not be present in some sets.

The large panel D across the bottom is mounted in a plastic frame. It contains most of the circuitry, as previously mentioned. and can be slid out of the cabinet after removing four screws. To work on the underside the board must be balanced on one end. A number of plastic strips make access to the print rather difficult. The print is


Fig. 2: The power supply circuit in the RX chassis.
very fine and is easily damaged, so be careful or you may end up with a few new faults.

There are four subpanels on the right, D1, D2, D3 and J2. Board DI houses circuitry concerned with raster correction etc. Board D2 houses a few components concerned with dynamic focus correction. Board D3 houses a single transistor amplifier concerned with pulling correction. Board J2 provides connections to the loudspeakers. The small J1 panel at the front houses the external audio jack sockets. Tube base panel C houses the RGB output stages, a video muting transistor (Q713) and the velocity modulation amplifier and output stages (Q751-4). The latter circuit drives a coil on the tube neck. The $F$ power supply panel is mounted on the c.r.t.'s degaussing shield.

## Servicing the PE3 Power Supply

Servicing the power supply is not particularly easy. You must have a means of varying the mains input from about 60 V to 240 V - either a variac or a tapped mains transformer can be used. Since the print is easily damaged it's vital to use a temperature-controlled soldering iron when removing and replacing compoments.

If the set is completely dead, examine fuse F1601. If it has blown and is not blackened it may have failed from old age, but this is not very likely with these models. You'll most likely find that it's a nice black colour, indicating that Q603 has almost certainly failed and probably Q802 as well. Use only the correct Sony replacements and make sure that you also replace the insulating washers.
After replacing Q603, and possibly Q802 as well, proceed as follows before connecting to the mains supply. First carefully examine - best done with a high-power magnifying glass - all the printed circuitry in the power supply, line driver and line output stage areas of board D.

Then inspect all the small electrolytic capacitors in the power supply and line timebase for signs of drying out or corrosion. Be sure to take your time over these two jobs it could save you a lot of problems.
If you can't find a dry-joint or a leaky capacitor, start by disconnecting the collectors of Q603 and Q802. Next check Cl 655 on board F. Then, with the mains supply still disconnected, push the power switch S 901 to the on position and connect the set to your variac (set the a.c. output to zero first). Connect your digital voltmeter across connector F5. It should give you a reading of 12 V d.c. as the variac is slowly turned up to give 240 V . R 660 ( $620 \Omega$, $1 / 6 \mathrm{~W}, 5$ per cent metal) on board D sometimes goes opencircuit or high-resistance, cutting off the 12 V supply to IC65I. If this has happened you may be fortunate and find that the set works when R660 has been replaced provided Q603 has not gone short-circuit.

Measure the voltage at pin 12 of the chopper transformer T606. With no load connected you should read about 270 V d.c. here. Connect your oscilloscope ( $10: 1$ probe) to pin 7 of IC651 then to the base of Q603. The waveforms should look something like those shown in Fig. 4 (a) and (b) respectively. These waveforms are with the oscillator in IC651 running free: they can vary. Don't assume that all is well if you get these waveforms. It's best not to try to display these waveforms on a working set that's displaying a raster - it's easy to disturb the operation of the chopper power supply and blow up Q603.

Turn the variac to the off position and disconnect it from the mains supply. The fast way to make the following tests is to use your component tester (see Television June 1984). With this you won't need to remove the following parts as many of them - but not all - can be checked in circuit.

Start by checking C1655 ( $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}$ ) on panel F and


C610 ( $250 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 400 \mathrm{~V}$ ) on panel D. Next check the following capacitors on board D: C663 (22 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}$ ), C615/617/ $659 / 664$ (all $3 \cdot 3 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 50 \mathrm{~V})$, C $660(1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 50 \mathrm{~V})$, C613 $(2 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, $100 \mathrm{~V}), \mathrm{C} 652(100 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 160 \mathrm{~V}), \mathrm{C} 653(33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 50 \mathrm{~V}), \mathrm{C} 654$ $(1,000) \mu \mathrm{F}, 50 \mathrm{~V}), \quad \mathrm{C} 656(1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V})$ and C 657 $(1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 10 \mathrm{~V})$. Then check D 657 (RD5.1E-N2 zener), D602 (RGP10G), D603 (1S119), D651 (ERD28-06S), D654 (CTU12S), D653/5 (both V19C) and D656 (EB81$0(4)$. Finally check $\mathrm{R} 604(30 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, 7 W cemented), R 608 ( $680 \Omega, 2 \mathrm{~W}$ fusible), R605 ( $47 \Omega$, 7 W cemented), R606 ( $2 \cdot 2 \Omega, 1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ ) and R 617 ( $0 \cdot 22 \Omega$, $1 / 2 \mathrm{~W}$ wirewound).

If these tests fail to reveal any faulty component and Q8022 remained intact when the set failed you can now connect the set to the variac, with the on/off switch S901 at on and the collectors of Q603 and Q802 reconnected, and gradually turn up the mains input to the receiver.


Fig. 3: Board positions in the PE3 chassis.


Fig. 4: Chopper drive waveforms, (a) at pin 7 of IC651, (b) at the base of the chopper transistor, measured as shown at (c). These waveforms are with the collectors of Q603 and Q802 disconnected. Since the chopper circuit oscillator is free-running the waveforms may vary a little.


Fig. 5: Line drive waveforms, (a) at pin 11 of IC551, (b) at the junction of L808 and R803, with the collector of the line output transistor 0802 disconnected.

Monitor the 135 V h.t. line while doing this. If a picture is obtained, leave the TV set running for at least a day before returning it to the customer.

All this sounds a lot of work, which it certainly is, especially as many of the components are difficult to get at. As colleague Pete is fond of telling me however, the longest way is often the quickest. There are no short cuts when repairing one of these receivers. Miss out one of the checks listed and you could end up with a pile of useless 2SD1497s.

If the components tested so far are all o.k. the next step is to unsolder one end of diodes D652, D654, D653/5 and D656 and isolate the collector of Q802. It pays to have a few spares handy when repairing these sets because the next thing to do is to replace IC651 (when faulty this i.c. tends to suddenly give excess output), T605, T604 and T606. Slowly turn up the input voltage from the variac. If the 135 V h.t. supply appears, leave in the new chip and transformers. Turn the variac to zero output and check Q655. Q656 and D661. Reconnect D652, D654, D653/5 and D656, and check that there are no shorts across any of the d.c. supply lines. Slowly turn up the output from the variac and all should be well, with no voltage lines missing. If one or more voltages are absent, check the fusible resistors R651, R652, R653 and R654.

With the power supply now running and all the output voltages present, connect the oscilloscope ( $10: 1$ probe) to pin 11 of IC551 then to the junction of resistor R803 and choke L 808 in the line output transistor's base circuit. Fig. 5 shows the waveforms that should be seen. Assuming that everything is in order, turn off the variac and make the following tests. First check Q802 again, to be on the safe side. Then check R824 ( $0 \cdot 47 \Omega$, 2W fusible), R825 $(1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 1 \mathrm{~W}$ fusible), $\mathrm{C} 803(330 \mathrm{pF}, 1 \cdot 5 \mathrm{kV}), \mathrm{C} 8(4)(0 \cdot 01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 3 kV ), D805/6 (both ERC26-15S), D801 (ERD29-(08J) and the gate controlled switch Q803 (2SG264A). Always change these three diodes if Q803 has failed. You can now reconnect the collector of Q802. Gradually turn up the variac's output while monitoring the 135 V line.

When the set has run for about an hour, readjust RV651 if necessary for a meter reading of 135 V .
Sometimes you'll find that the power supply is dead and transistor Q603 is o.k. In this case check the 2SC2230A driver transistor Q602. If it's faulty, replace it with a $2 \mathrm{SC} 2230 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{GR}$ and replace R 610 with a $12 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor. Note that Q602 can sometimes cause distortion on the vertical lines in a picture: if you get this problem replace Q602 and R610 using the type and value just mentioned.

Another cause of a dead power supply when the components so far mentioned all seem to be o.k. is failure of the JC501 standby switch transistor Q654.

Sometimes these sets switch to standby for no apparent reason. The cure is to fit a $100 \mathrm{pF}, 50 \mathrm{~V}$ capacitor between pin 1 of IC651 and the chassis end of R656.

## Servicing the RX Power Supply

You'll find that the power supply in the RX chassis is far more engineer-friendly. It's all on board $F$ which can be removed from the receiver so that you can rapidly check through the circuitry with your component tester. First check all the transistors - the chopper transistor Q602 (2SD1497-02), the driver transistor Q601 (2SC2958), the two transistors Q603 (JC501TP) and Q604 (JA101TP) in the over-voltage protection circuit, the 12 V regulator transistor Q651 (2SD795A) and the standby switching transistor Q652 (JC501TP). Also check the zener diodes D604 ( $\mu$ PC574J), D602 and D664 (both RD12E-B2TN) and D663 (RD6.2E-N2TN). As with the PE3 chassis, by disconnecting the collector of the chopper transistor Q602 you can check the drive waveform at the collector of Q601 with your scope.

Again as with the PE3, never omit a careful check of the power supply for dry soldered joints and examine all the small electrolytics for any signs of corrosion or leakage. As yet we've experienced no failures of IC602 and IC651.

## Line Timebase Faults

Faults that can cause the line output transistor Q802 to fail (and sometimes the diode modulator driver Q803 as well) are failure of or shorted-turns in the driver transformer T801. If you suspect this, replace it. Check the line driver transistor Q801 (2SD1138) at the same time. Hard to spot dry-joints in this area can also cause failure of Q802 or cut off its drive signal.

Failure of Q803 can kill the line output stage. The associated diodes D801/5/6 can go open-circuit under load. As previously mentioned, the diodes should be replaced if it's necessary to change Q803.

The small electrolytics in the line timebase circuitry can also be the cause of Q 802 going short-circuit. Begin by checking C811 ( $0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 50 \mathrm{~V})$, then the small electrolytics associated with IC551 (TDA2578A), i.e. C531 ( $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, $16 \mathrm{~V}), \mathrm{C} 507(220 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}), \mathrm{C} 509(10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V})$ and C 523 ( $4.7 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V}$ ).

Sometimes the receiver will sit on your bench with one number (usually zero) showing in its seven-segment LED indicator while it makes a sort of "mee mee" noise as if it's trying to start up but can't. The cause of this is failure of the line output transformer T802. Fortunately there's usually no other damage when this happens.

When you find that Q802 has failed, leave the collector of its replacement disconnected to start with. Then make sure that 12 V is present at the emitter of Q655 and that this voltage is arriving at pin 10 of IC551. With the RX chassis the voltage at pin 10 of IC551 should be $11 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$ : if it's missing, suspect diode D501 (1SS119) on board D and check C510 ( $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}$ ) for loss of capacitance. Next connect your scope (10:1 probe) to pin 11 of IC551 and then to the base of Q802. The waveforms should be roughly as shown in Fig. 5. Provided you've made a thorough check on the line timebase circuitry you can now connect the collector of Q802 - disconnect the mains supply first of course. Gingerly increase the input from the
variac until you obtain a picture.
A nasty line jitter effect, which may be intermittent, can be caused by the line frequency control RV501 ( $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ preset). Don't try to clean it - fit a replacement. At the same time check C531 ( $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}$ ).

Amongst the supplies provided by the line output transformer are 200 V for the RGB output stages and 26 V which is used by the field timebase and the velocity modulation circuit. The 26 V rectifier diode D804 is protected by surge limiter R811 ( $1 \cdot 2 \Omega, 1 / 2 \mathrm{~W}$ fusible). When this resistor goes high in value the result is field distortion - a line across the picture about a quarter to one third of the way down from the top of the raster.

Line linearity problems, the symptom being a thin black line at the left of the picture, occur when R825 $(1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, 1W fusible) goes high in value. At the same time check C803 ( $330 \mathrm{pF}, 1.5 \mathrm{kV}$ ceramic), C804 $(0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 3 \mathrm{kV}$ ceramic) and C805 ( $0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 400 \mathrm{~V}$ mylar). These components, also R824 ( $0 \cdot 47 \Omega$, 2W wirewound fusible), should always be checked when Q802 has to be replaced.

## PE3 Chassis Field Timebase

The field generator is contained in IC551 which in the PE3 chassis is a TDA2578A. To date we've had no trouble with this chip. The field output at pin 1 is fed via R518 to pins 1 and 3 of the TDA3652 field output chip IC552. Complete or partial field collapse is usually caused by failure of this i.c. When replacing it, always fit a mica washer (Sony part no. 436973 201) between the chip and chassis. Field collapse can also be caused by failure of zener diode D502 (EQA01-22R2) or D503 (EQA0124R2). When this happens both diodes should be replaced.

## RX Chassis Field Timebase

In the RX chassis IC551 is a TDA2579 and a discrete component field driver/output circuit is used. Pin 1 of IC551 drives Q508 (2SC2958) which in turn drives the output transistors Q506 (2SC2690A) and Q507 (2SC1220A). On rare occasions these transistors fail. When they do, check R556/548 (both $1 \cdot 2 \Omega$, 1W) and R527 ( $10 \Omega, 1 / 8 \mathrm{~W}$ ) before fitting replacements.

## Miscellaneous Faults

The D1 board has given us few troubles. It contains the pincushion correction circuitry and the horizontal centring and amplitude circuitry. Horizontal centring can be upset when R1551/2 (4.7 , $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ fusible) go high in value or open-circuit. The convergence will suffer if zener diode D1557 (EQB01-13) leaks or goes open-circuit. If D1552 (1SSI19) suffers from the same problems the horizontal amplitude control RV1555 will not operate correctly.

Board A contains the tuner and the i.f. and a.f.c. circuitry. The tuner is very reliable. On the rare occasions when trouble is experienced it's best to fit a replacement. If the 9 V supply at pins 19 and 21 of the i.f. chip IC101 (CX20015A) is missing or incorrect, check Q106 (2SD773). At the same time ensure that $\mathrm{C} 138(10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 16 V ) has not lost capacitance.

Tube base panel C has seventeen transistors mounted on it. Intermittent loss of picture, often after changing channels, can be due to failure of Q704, Q705 or Q706 (all 2SC2278). Use your component tester to check them it will show up the slightest fault in a transistor. Check diodes D701/2/3 (1SS119) at the same time.

The usual problem with the teletext board is failure of the SAA5050 ROM IC4. When replacing it solder a $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V}$ electrolytic capacitor between pins 1 and 18 , positive side to pin 18.

In the control circuitry on board D resistor R060 (330 $\Omega$, $1 / 6 \mathrm{~W}$ metal) can fail, interfering with standby operation. Be sure to test zener diode D061 (RD5.6E-B2) when you replace it.

R237 ( $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 1 / 6 \mathrm{~W}$ metal) and R238 ( $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 1 / 6 \mathrm{~W}$ metal) on board $D$, at the base of transistor Q206 (JA101), can cause some puzzling symptoms. If R237 goes high in value the picture search doesn't stop. If both R237 and R238 vary in value the result can be no picture at all. Q206 acts as a sync separator feeding pulses to pin 16 of the control chip ICOO1.

Most of the chroma circuitry is contained in IC30] (TDA3562A). We've had few problems with the colour decoder. Before replacing a suspect IC301, examine the surrounding print carefully for dry-joints. Key waveforms for a colour-bar input are shown in Fig. 6. The crystal ( X 361 ) frequency is 8.867 MHz .

## In Conclusion

Only the panels on which we've experienced faults have been mentioned in this article. The others, in the sets we've handled, have as yet been trouble free. All component reference numbers have been for the PE3 chassis unless the RX version has been specifically mentioned.

There were quite a few modifications to the models in this series. The following notes refer to modifications of use to the service engineer.

To prevent mechanical buzz that varies in note as the picture changes, solder a $1,0000 \mathrm{pF}, 50 \mathrm{~V}$ capacitor in parallel with R655 ( $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) and replace R610 with a $12 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, $1 / 6$ W resistor. Be very careful when carrying out this modification or you could end up with transistor Q603 shorted.

Model KV2252 sets after serial number 508 , 101 had a


Fig. 6: Key colour decoder waveforms: (a) 8.867 MHz at pin 26 of IC301; (b) the cotton-reel at pin 4; (c), (d) and (e) the blue, green and red output waveforms at pins 17, 15 and 13 respectively.
modified D panel with boards D3 and D4 omitted.
With KV2252 sets before serial number 504,001 and KV2256 sets before serial number 501,001 , to prevent failure of transistors Q603 and Q802 after a short period of use replace R616 with a $330 \Omega, 1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ metal type, solder an extra $2 \cdot 7 \Omega, 1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor in parallel with R612 and add a $6.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor between pins 5 and 8 of IC 651. Don't carry out this modification to a set that's working satisfactorily.

These are quite complex sets with a fair amount of unusual circuitry. We've referred to the dynamic focus and velocity modulation circuits. There's an interesting sharpness circuit and the audio circuit has left- and righthand channels. Several stages are associated with the SCART socket. You'll probably never have to worry about such niceties however.

It's essential to use only official Sony parts - if you don't you'll make lots of extra work for yourself. A thin coat of circuit varnish sprayed on any panels you've soldered makes a professional job and helps to prevent future problems. Run the set for at least a day before returning it to the customer.

## A Simple Anti-theft Circuit

## Jim Littler

It was Saturday and the shop was busy, so not much notice was taken of the three small girls who came in. The eldest was about fourteen. Then one went in front of the window display, two behind it. In five seconds they were outside with two Walkmans. The scene may be familiar to some of you, but it was new to me. I decided to do something about it. On enquiry I discovered that the price of commercially available wire-loop alarm systems seemed to be a bit high for what they are, so I designed the circuit shown in Fig. 1 to serve the purpose.

The device is powered by a PP9 battery. When thyristor Th1 is fired, power is applied to $\operatorname{Tr} 2-4$. $\operatorname{Tr} 2-3$ comprise a


Fig. 1: Circuit of the anti-theft device.
straightforward astable multivibrator, the output transistor Tr4 driving a telephone earpiece type loudspeaker. Tr 1 is used to fire the thyristor. Its base is normally shorted to the earth side of the circuit by the wire trip link, which prevents it conducting. When the link is broken, base bias via R1 turns Tr I on. This applies gate current to the thyristor which in turn switches on, starting the oscillator to sound the alarm. I found that the use of the switching transistor resulted in better battery economy than just switching the thyristor's gate - the quiescent current is $300 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ compared to several milliamps with the trip connected directy to the gate. R2 draws sufficient current to maintain Th1 in conduction: the current is then about 180 mA . A 1 W carbon film resistor is used in this position.

The large capacitor C 1 , comprising two $4,700 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytics in parallel, is included simply to enable the device to work in the event of someone accidentally switching it off. Larger value capacitors could be used if available or, if a key switch is used, C 1 could probably be dispensed with.

While this is not strictly speaking a TV/video circuit, I'm sure it will be of interest to anyone who runs a shop, especially if you've had the sort of experience related above.

## Practical Computer Programming

## Part 7

Mike Phelan

By now you should have an assortment of pieces of paper with screen layouts, report layouts and file structures, also some notes on what the system should do. The latter need expanding into something that can be converted into a computer program in a high-level language.

## Pseudo-code

One of the best tools for this job is something known as "pseudo-code". It's a restricted subset of English that reflects the structure of a program, i.e. loops and conditions are indented to make the operation clear. In case this is difficult to follow, an example should make things easier. Consider the following pseudo-code fragment that deals with amending a name and address file. The file could be part of a service database or anything else - in fact the code could be applied to the maintenance of any file since the things we need to do are usually the same, namely to add to, change or delete a record and possibly supply a list of its contents on the screen:

```
open files
repeat
    repeat
        get entry to amend
        check entry is a valid record
        if not valid
            print message
        else
            go to record
        end if
    until valid entry found
    display record
    get amendments
    ask is this OK to save
    if OK
        save record
    end if
    ask if more amendments
until no more amendments
close files
```

At first this example of pseudo-code looks like a programming language, with IF and REPEAT, but it's actually a way of describing the operation of a program. It can be converted to a high-level language after testing. But wait a minute! How can you test a piece of writing? Here's how!

## Modules

When you start to design a system, as opposed to designing a program (that will come later), you start with a generalised description of the whole thing and then gradually break it down into detail, with individual modules written in pseudo-code. How do we decide what constitutes a module? A typical application will be some sort of database interrogation system that will be menu driven. The pseudo-code for the menus need be only a list of choices and explanations, and the lowest level will call a piece of program that may be a subroutine, function or
procedure depending on the language chosen. Each of these is a "module" which does one job or a number of jobs that are conveniently grouped together.

Such a module can be expressed in pseudo-code and tested. To do this, imagine that you are the compiler or interpreter reading the program and carrying out each process literally. This will show up any serious inherent faults in the logic. In addition, ask yourself what will happen if the user does something wrong. This technique is known as a "walk-through". It may seem to be rather pointless, but it's a very useful method of curing faults at the design stage and decreasing the number of bugs in the final program.

## Preventing Crashes

The one thing that must not happen is that the program "crashes" or returns the user to the command level. This would mean that the program has stopped its execution. The program error that caused this must be found and preventive action taken.

For example, say we have a program that accepts a code letter for something, e.g. a repair category. This code would nomally be a capital (upper case) letter. Suppose that a lower case letter is entered by mistake. The program then crashes. There's little excuse for this sort of thing, even if the program was written by the user. Taking this example, there are at least four solutions:
(1) Put a message on the screen that either the CAPS LOCK key must be on or the entry made in upper case.
(2) Make the software force the CAPS LOCK key on.
(3) Make the software reject lower case entries.
(4) Allow either type of entry.

These solutions to the problem vary from bad to good. Clearly (1) is a lazy way out and is not really acceptable. (2) is better, but what happens if someone uses the key again and leaves it switched off? (3) would work but would waste user time by rejecting entries which then have to be re-entered. Clearly the only really acceptable

[^1]solution is (4), which is bullet-proof and ensures that an incorrect entry is not made.

The same approach can be applied to other areas of a program, for example a menu where you have to choose a letter between say $A$ to $F$. To print an error message if a lower case letter or say $G$ is entered instead is just a waste of time - and very soon becomes tiresome. Lower case should be accepted, and nothing at all should happen if a letter outside the range is chosen.

For the upper case conversion, most languages have a case conversion function. Or we can subtract 32 from the ASCII code or AND it with 223 which will give the same effect: 223 is 11011111 in binary, so the AND will clear the 32 bit which is clear in 223. All the lower case characters are the upper case codes with this bit set, i.e. +32 .

## Module Re-use

When designing a module it's sometimes better if we can "re-use" it. Some things have to happen several times at various places in a system, maybe with slight variations. To give a few examples:

Print a message on the screen and ask for a Y or N response.

Print a message on the screen saying that the computer is doing something, please wait.

Print a message and prompt the user to press a key.
I find myself using these three umpteen times in everything that I design. The only thing that varies is the printed message - or part of it. Other modules can supply the missing bit, i.e. the variable part of the message. Here are some examples, in pseudo-code:
(1) Y or N response module
message $=$ variable part of message
message $=$ message + '? Y/N'
print message on screen
repeat
get response
convert to U.C.
until response is Y or N
clear message and response from screen
return true if Y
(2) Please wait module
message $=$ variable part of message
message $=$ 'Please wait - ' + message
print message on screen
return nothing
(3) Press a key module
message $=$ variable part of message
message $=$ message $+^{`}$ - press any key’
print message on screen
wait for keypress
clear message
return nothing

## Conventions

We'll see what these actually look like in real code next month. For now, on with the design. It will be necessary to adopt a convention in our pseudo-code for passing control to a module. CALL (module name) is as good as
anything. We can adopt upper case for our key words, i.e. those that are part of the pseudo-code language, and lower case for everything else, and precede each module with a short description of what it does. We'll stick to the term "module" until a choice of language has been made, as there are different types of modules in different langauges, sometimes several. Another convention is to use for each module a name that will be valid in real code and may describe what it does.

## File Maintenance Menu

An example of a file maintenance menu would be something like this, together with one of the modules that can be called up:

MODULE \&menu

* Provides maintenance of customer file *
* by calling further modules *

CLEAR SCREEN
PRINT title
PRINT rest of menu
(A) Add a new customer
(B) Change customer details
(C) Delete a customer
(D) List customers on screen

Press ESC to return to main menu
GET keypress and convert to UC
CASE A CALL custadd
CASE B CALL custamnd
CASE C CALL custdel
CASE D CALL cusilist
CASE ESC RETURN
MODULE custadel

* Deletes customer from file *

OPEN customer file
REPEAT
ASK for customer to delete
SEARCH file
IF not found
CALL press_key with 'Not on file’
ELSE
DISPLAY details
CALL y_or_n with 'Are you sure’
IF yes
DELETE record
ELSE
CALL press_key with 'Deletion aborted'
END IF
END IF
CALL y_or_n with 'Any more deletions'
UNTIL no
CLOSE file
RETURN
We can improve upon this. For example, what happens if the user selects the delete option my mistake? They would have to go through the motions of searching and replying ' $N$ ' to the 'Are you sure? Y/N' prompt. It would be better if the program could test say for ESC being pressed in response to the prompt for the name or number of the customer, thus returning the user to the previous menu.

## Next Month

Next month a look at program design.

## The Room at the Back

## J. LeJeune

Sid Bias, service manager at Topcuts of Millthorpe, was not in the best of moods. He felt that vulgar changes at the front of the store were transforming what was an old family run business into a facsimile of any High Street electrical chain store. It even had what Sid called "a salesman with a lean and hungry look", in the person of Terry Green, Ralph Topcut's latest recruit. "The whole thing's going to pot" he said as he sat down heavily on the stool beside his bench. This brought him face-to-face with his current dislike, a Pye 2615. He'd been trying to eliminate striations for two days and was close to giving up, but still had his pride. He knew that Norman was itching to have a go at it, but as it was still unsold stock there was no one anxiously awaiting its return. The otherwise excellent picture had some striations that were about an eighth of an inch wide.

Norman and Andy were poring over a Toshiba turntable with linear tracking, attempting to discover its inner secrets without the aid of a service sheet. It had come in for "no left-hand channel".

Sid once more turned his attention to the Pye while his assistants were thus preoccupied. He was busily checking some plugs and sockets, steadying the circuit board with his left hand, when he glanced at the mirror and discovered that the striations were no longer present. Surprised, he took hold of the mirror and angled it to get a better view. The striations had returned. He steadied the chassis, preparatory to wriggling the plugs and sockets once more, and noticed that the close proximity of his fingers to the area of the main PCB near the teletext decoder diminished or even removed the striations! This seemed to be the only cure that would work. As Sid was pondering on the possibility of being able to sell Gareth along with the set, thus killing two birds with one stone, Nigel from Grandview came in through the back door, looking for a cup of tea. Grandview is a family-run business about twenty miles away: Nigel is the only son, and the only service engineer.
"Good morning Sid" beamed Nigel, "got a brew going yet?"
"You've got to earn it this time" replied Sid, "Ive a lovely Pye for you to repair!"
"Doesn't look too bad from here" said Nigel. Then, coming closer, "oh, you've got those striations. We've had them as well - but we've got rid of them now."
"Well tell us what you did" said Sid, "don't keep us in suspense."
"We spoke to Philips Service about it. They told us to change plug and socket 9 . We did, and it worked."
"Thank you" said Sid, smiling weakly, "how on earth can changing a plug and socket get rid of striations?"
"Same way as garlic wards off evil spirits I suppose! Now, have I carned that cuppa?"

Attention in the workshop shifted to the Toshiba. Norman and Gareth surfaced from contemplating its innermost secrets and became sociable again. But not for long.
"Righto then" said Sid, "have our resident genius and his assistant got to the bottom of the problem, or are we on too high a level at present to consider the possibility of a faulty pickup cartridge?"
"The problem," Norman commented, "is that the cartridge is glued into the tracking arm during manufacture. I understand we'll have to replace the whole assembly."

## The Ferguson TX90

Terry came through the door from the shop with a little Ferguson TX90, one of the white colour portables. "Lady brought this back just now, says it's got a rustling noise on sound" he informed them. Norman took the set and placed it on an empty bench, then connected it to an aerial and the mains supply. When he switched on a good picture quickly appeared. As the sound was turned up the colour disappeared. Turning down the volume restored the colour again.
"She forgot to mention the second problem" moaned Sid. Nigel said nothing as he sipped at some tea. Gareth looked slightly odd, as though he was about to utter a profound wisdom. "I've something at the back of my mind that says we've had this one before" he said, "a dry-joint or something - I'll look in my notebook."

Gareth had taken to keeping a big book in which he wrote down all the faults they encountered on particular chassis. The book was divided into manufacturers and chassis, but his writing was so bad that it took him a time to find what he wanted.
"Here it is!" he exclaimed. "A dry-joint in the sound circuit, on C166. Makes the audio amplifier go into oscillation, causing noise on sound and interfering with the colour decoder."

Sid beamed with pleasure. "An hour ago I was contemplating selling you off with a faulty set, as resident engineer, but maybe I should change my mind. Here, let's have a look at that book."

Norman removed the back and started to look for Cl66. "Got you" he said, wriggling the component to show that it was indeed the culprit. "I wish they were all as easy as that, but Gareth's big black book has certainly earned its keep today."

Nigel stood up to leave. "Must be getting back to my side of the mountain."

Norman now had a Thorens TDl05 turntable on his bench - and a baffled look.
"Got you stumped has it?" said Sid.
"Think I'll take an early lunch and come back to it" replied Norman, picking up the small service manual.

## More Problems

Sid retired to his desk to shuffle papers, while Gareth turned his attention to an Hitachi set, NP81 chassis, with cramping at the bottom of the picture. The field output stage module was the first suspect, but changing it made no difference. The h.t. was correct at 111 V , but there was insufficient peak current to scan the lower half of the c.r.t. fully. The set was o.k. in every other respect. Sid sauntered across and peered into the back. "Got a sticky one?" he said.
"Everything looks normal but the bottom is cramped" explained Gareth, "I've change the field output module and the h.t. supply is correct."
"Have you thought about the supply decoupling at pin 1 of the module?" asked Sid, "C608 to be precise." He gave Gareth a thoughtful look as he went to the component drawer for a replacement $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 160 V electrolytic.

Silence reigned while Gareth removed the suspect, which did look a little careworn, and fitted the replacement. When he'd done this the picture filled the screen.
"Never forget decoupling" said Sid, "it can save you a tot of time."

Norman returned and went straight to his bench.
"Are we to be enlightened about the fault on the simple gramophone turntable?" asked Sid. Norman admitted to being stumped, but said he'd had an idea he wanted to try. "Works properly at 33 r.p.m." he added, "but won't run at 45 r.p.m."

Checks with the meter showed that the speed selection process was working, but no motor voltage was applied. The operational-amplifier driving the emitter-follower that fed the voltage to the motor was cut off.
"It's either T109 or D210" suggested Gareth. "I'd go for D210 as it's an LED and they do go open-circuit, whereas transistors normally go short-circuit when they fail."

Norman was astounded. "Fifty pence in my pocket says
you're wrong!"
"Well we'll have to try it then" said Gareth.
Norman went to the LED, which serves to indicate the speed selected and is in the d.c. feed to T109. With no collector supply, the input current requirements of the motor drive operational-amplifier couldn't be satisfied. Fitting a new LED restored correct operation, and Gareth was duly congratulated. Sid reflected on how quickly the young learn.

Terry put his head through the cioor frame. "Can we fix 8 mm projectors?" he asked.
"No" said Sid.
Terry came all the way in with a cardboard box containing a Eumig Model M. "Good" he said, "now's the time to learn."

For once Sid was speechless.

## International TV Standards

## Eugene Trundle

There's a steadily increasing interest in world-wide TV standards. Amongst the reasons for this are: the popularity of DX-TV; the increasing number of satellites whose footprints overlap national boundaries; the greater mobility of people, who hope to be able to take hardware and software around with them; the trend amongst manufacturers to design TV and video equipment for world-wide markets, tailoring the final product to suit its destination; the growing availability of transcoding modules which are now, for example, incorporated as a standard feature of Video-8 format machines sold in SECAM areas; the requirement to exchange video tapes between people in different countries; and the wide availability of multistandard VCRs, TV sets and monitors.

With multistandard equipment it's important to bear in mind that while each item will operate with all the standards specified for it, it cannot change the standard. Thus a PAL/SECAM/NTSC VCR cannot replay a US tape via a UK receiver unless the latter is also equipped for multistandard operation. Similarly a three-system TV set or monitor will make no sense of a US tape played via a standard UK VCR. Many multistandard designs use a hybrid system called NTSC 4.43 when dealing with system M signals in PAL or SECAM areas. Here the signal is to the NTSC specification in all respects apart from the colour subcarrier frequency which is 4.433619 MHz instead
of 3.579545 MHz . This simplifies the design and reduces the cost of the equipment: with this arrangement the NTSC signal recorded on the tape remains in standard form.

The original French colour system (SECAM V) used only field-rate ident signals. More recent versions include line-rate ident signals.

Table 1 shows the main characteristics of all the TV systems in current use, with a general indication of the areas where they are used. For satellite transmissions the basic scanning standards and encoding systems in general hold good, though f.m. is used for the vision signal and scrambling systems are widely employed. The MAC type transmissions are quite different of course.

Table 2 provides a comprehensive listing of countries of the world with details of their TV systems. As much information as we can obtain has been included on Bands, channels and mains supply characteristics. A few countries still don't have a colour TV service, and some islands tend to use whatever equipment and transmissions they chance upon! Any additions, corrections or updates would be weicome for future use.

An article in the January 1988 issue of Television dealt in a general way with the conversion of video and TV equipment from abroad for use in the UK - the principles operate both ways of course.

Table 1: TV Systems.

| System | Lines | Channel bandwidth | Vision bandwidth | Sound spacing | Vision modulation sense | Sound modulation | Geographical areas |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B | 625 | 7 MHz | 5 MHz | $+5.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Negative | f.m. | Western Europe, India, Australasia, parts of Africa, Middle East and Far East. V.H.F. |
| D | 625 | 8 MHz | 6 MHz | $+6.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Negative | f.m. | Eastern Europe, USSR, China. |
| G, $\mathrm{H}^{*}$ | 625 | 8 MHz | 5 MHz | $+5.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Negative | f.m. | Western Europe. U.H.F. |
| ।* | 625 | 8 MHz | 5.5 MHz | $+6 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Negative | f.m. | UK., Ireland, Hong Kong. |
| K, ${ }^{1 *}$ | 625 | 8 MHz | 6 MHz | $+6.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Negative | f.m. | French overseas territories. |
| L* | 625 | 8 MHz | 6 MHz | $+6.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Positive | a.m. | France (U.H.F.), Luxembourg. |
| M | 525 | 6 MHz | $4 \cdot 2 \mathrm{MHz}$ | $+4.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Negative | f.m. | North and South America, Japan, Caribbean, parts of Pacific and Far East, US Forces Broadcasting (AFRTS) |
| N | 625 | 6 MHz | $4 \cdot 2 \mathrm{MHz}$ | $+4.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ | Negative | f.m. | Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay. |











| Table 2: International TV Standards. |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Country | System | Colour | Sound carrier (MHz) | Channels |
| Abu Dhabi | B, G | PAL | +5.5 | E5-11, 35-48 |
| Afghanistan | D | PAL | +6.5 | E5 |
| Albania | B | SECAM | +6.5 | - |
| Algeria | B | PAL | +5.5 | E5-11 |
| Andorra | B | PAL | +5.5 | - |
| Angola | 1 | PAL | +6 | E9 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A7-10 |
| Antiles | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A3-13 |
| Argentina | N | PAL | +4.5 | A2-13 |
| Ascension Is. | N | PAL | +6 | - |
| Australia | B | PAL | +5.5 | 0-11, 28-69 |
| Austria | B, G | PAL | +5.5 | 1-12, 21-68 |
| Azores | B | PAL | +5.5 | E7-9 |
| (US Forces) | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A5 |
| Bahamas | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A13 |
| Bahrain | B | PAL | +5.5 | E4 |
| Bangladesh | B | PAL | +5.5 | E5-11 |
| Barbados | N | NTSC | +4.5 | A3 |
| Belgium | B, G | PAL | +5.5 | 1-12, 21-68 |
| Belize | M | NTSC | +4.5 | - |
| Benin | K | SECAM | +6.5 | - |
| Bermuda | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A8-10 |
| Bhutan | B | PAL | +5.5 | E2 |
| Bolivia | N | NTSC | +4.5 | A7, 10 |
| Botswana |  | PAL | +6 | 21-68 |
| Brazil | M | PAL | +4.5 | A2-13 |
| Brunei | B | PAL | +5.5 | E5-8 |
| Bulgaria | D | SECAM | +6.5 | R7-12 |
| Burma | M | NTSC | +4.5 | - |
| Burundi | K | SECAM | $+6.5$ | - |
| Cameroon | K | SECAM | +6.5 | - |
| Canada | M | NTSC | $+4.5$ | A2-13, A15-30 |
| Canary Is. | B | PAL | +5.5 | E3-10 |
| Central African Rep. | K | SECAM | +6.5 | - |
| Chad | K | SECAM | +6.5 | - |
| Chile | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A2-13 |
| China | D | PAL | +6.5 | R1-5 |
| Colombia | M | SECAM | +4.5 | A2-13 |
| Congo | D | SECAM | +6.5 | R7 |
| Costa Rica | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A2-12 |
| Cuba | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A2-13 |
| Curacao | M | NTSC | +4.5 | A8-13, A19 |
| Cyprus | B, G | SECAM | +5.5 | E6-11, 35-38 |
| Cyprus (Turkish) | B, G | PAL | +5.5 | E5-11, 24-33 |
| Czechoslovakia | D, K | SECAM | +6.5 | R1-12, 21-39 |








\section*{| Puerto Rico |
| :--- |
| Qatar |
| Reunion |
| Rumania |
| Rwanda |
| Sabah and Sarawak |
| Samoa Eastern |
| Samoa Western |
| San Marino |
| Saudi Arabia |
| Senegal |
| Seychelles |
| Sierra Leone |
| Singapore |
| Society Is. |
| Somalia |
| South Africa |
| Spain |
| Sri Lanka |
| Sudan |
| Surinam |
| Swaziland |
| Sweden |
| Switzerland |
| Syria |
| Tahiti |
| Taiwan |
| Tanzania |
| Thailand |
| Tibet |
| Togo |
| Trinidad \& Tobago |
| Tunisia |
| Turkey |
| United Arab Emirates |
| Uganda |
| United Kingdom |
| Upper Volta |
| Uruguay |
| USA |
| USSR |
| Vatican |
| Venezuela |
| Vietnam |
| Virgin Is. |
| Yemen Rep. |
| Yugoslavia |
| Zaire |
| Zambia |
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| Dahomey |
| :--- |
| Denmark |
| Diego Garcia |
| Djibouti |
| Dominica |
| Dominican Rep. |
| Dubai |
| Ecuador |
| Egypt |
| El Salvador |
| Equatorial Guinea |
| Ethiopia |
| Falkland Is. |
| Fernando Po |
| Fiji |
| Finland |
| France |
| French Polynesia |
| Gabon |
| Gambia |
| Germany (East) |
| Germany (West) |
| (US Forces) |
| Ghana |
| Gibralter |
| Greece |
| Greenland |
| Guadeloupe |
| Guam |
| Guatemala |
| Guinea (Bissau) |
| Guinea (Rep.) |
| Guyana (French) |
| Guyana (Rep.) |
| Haiti |
| Hawaii |
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| Hungary |
| Iceland |
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| Indonesia |
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| Iraq |
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| Ivory Coast |
| Jamaica |
| Japan |
| Jordan |
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# TV Fault Finding 

## Mitsubishi CT2224B etc

Several Mitsubishi sets have chassis that are similar to the one in this model and the following tip seems worth passing on - we've encountered the same fault several times. The symptom is a very elusive intermittent loss of sound and picture and the cause is dry-joints at the legs of the line driver transformer T751. The bad joints are not always obvious on inspection. Flux and solder all four pins.
E.T.

## Panasonic TC2110

This set was dead with the chopper transistor Q803 shortcircuit. With many of today's switch-mode power supplies the demise of a power transistor can be due to an opencircuit resistor (usually of high value), a short-circuit diode, etc. This was no exception: R803 ( $330 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) was open-circuit.
A.D.

## Ferguson 20E1 (TX90 Chassis)

This one had field collapse and the customer had left the set running while listening to the snooker commentary. The field output transistors TR104 and TR105 and zener diode D137 were all short-circuit. Replacing these components still left us with field collapse and further checks revealed that the collector of TR 104 was at 40 V instead of 100 V . Zener diode D106 was suspected but in fact the feed resistor R268 was open-circuit. Note that some of these items are present only in the 20in. version of the chassis.

## GEC 20AX Mk II Chassis

This fault could apply to any of these sets with the combined decoder with i.f. module and tuner. The symptom was an intermittently blue picture. Remove the back and the fault cleared of course. As a first step the TDA2530 chip was replaced since this is the only component common to the missing green and red outputs, but the fault persisted and couldn't be provoked by heating. freezing or prodding around. Eventually it stayed on long enough for measurements to be made around the chip. We found that the blue output pin was at 7.5 V while the red and green output pins were at 11 V . At these voltage levels the red and green output stages should have been fully on, not off. Further checks revealed that the blue output transistor's emitter voltage was correct at 6.8 V but the voltage at the emitters of the red and green output transistors was 11 V . The cause of the fault was a feedthrough solder rivet in the print - it disconnected the green and red output stages from the 6.8 V reference line.
A.D.

## Ferguson TX10 Chassis

For low width check the resistance value of the width control RV851. In one case recently it had fallen from $220 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $70 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.
P.B.

## Grundig P1223 Portable

I've had a spate of Grundig monochrome portables recently with low gain. They have a combined tuner/i.f.

Reports from Eugene Trundle, Alfred Damp, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., G. Hewins, J. R. Armagh, Roger Burchett, Nick Beer and lan Bowden.
unit that's expensive, even on an exchange basis. A rough test for the r.f. f.e.t. is to measure across R2007 (the $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor between its gate and source) with a digital meter. If the f.e.t. is faulty you'll get a reading of about $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. If the set is being used in an area with a reasonable signal you can fit the BF961 transistor from the v.h.f. r.f. amplifier stage in the u.h.f. position.
P.B.

## Pye K30 Chassis

The versions of the K30 chassis that use a slide-out tuning draw have a tendency to suffer from tuning drift. If caught in the early stages, resoldering the crimped plug connections on the drawer and switchbank usually does the trick, but if the drawer has been slid out a lot of times the solid cored wires can break.
P.B.

## Some Quickies

Here are some quickies with a common theme. In each case an i.c. was wrongly suspected!
Ferguson 38000 ( 1696 chassis): The fault was loss of sync and field collapse after running for a few minutes. The TDA 1044 field timebase chip was suspected but the cause was the series regulator transistor. A TIP42A seems to work quite happily in this position.
Grundig $\mathbf{4 0 0}$ etc.: The fault was buzz on sound after about two hours. The TDA 120U chip was changed but the culprit was the $3 \cdot 3 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ tantalum capacitor C2216 (C216 in some chassis) which was leaky.
Ferguson 3878: The brightness increased over a period of about half an hour until the picture "swamped". The TDA2560 chip in the decoder was suspected but the cause of the trouble was the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ tantalum capacitor CG05 connected to pin 12. This is the 14 in . colour portable manufactured by NordMende.
Grundig CUC120 chassis: There was field collapse and R2761 ( $6 \cdot 8 \Omega$ ) was burnt. Naturally the TDA1 170 chip was suspected but C2762 ( $1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 35 \mathrm{~V}$ ) was short-circuit.
Ferguson TX90 chassis: The symptom was patterning but no picture. The TDA4500 chip was changed but the trouble was due to $\mathrm{Cl} 21(0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ being leaky.
G.H.

## Hitachi CPT1455

After repairing a dead power supply we got a picture with a few vertical striations on the left-hand side. A scope check at the tube's first anode produced a tell-tale pulse and ring display. Adding extra capacitance did nothing to help so the earth print had to be open-circuit. It was there was an almost invisible crack on the c.r.t. base panel. It had been caused by the drag of the leads to chassis while I had the chassis out. I've been bothered by this sort of thing several times recently, on new sets of various makes, especially on very large panels.
J.R.A.

## Fidelity F14

In the June issue I mentioned a problem with teletext lines over the top third of the raster, the picture being otherwise o.k. (Hitachi NP81CQ chassis), and asked whether such a display is usual in other sets when the blanking fails. Then this Fidelity F14 came in with identical symp-
toms. So straight to the blanking circuit where C63 was found to be open-circuit. Just to help, it's carefully disguised on the chassis layout as a wire link, near the back of the set. These are the only two blanking faults I've had in years!
J.R.A.

## Hinari CT4/5/6/7

We've had several of these sets where the tuning has been critical to keep the colour on. The solution is to turn the a.f.c. on when tuned as near as you can then adjust L131 slightly - we find that one quarter or one eighth of a turn is enough. As always in such cases, mark the position before you start. It's best to carry out this adjustment in the field as the problem may show up in the customer's home when the set worked all right in the workshop.
J.R.A.

## Hitachi CNP190/192 etc

There was colour in the central area but monochrome only on the left- and right-hand sides. Now the modern whiz kid doesn't need to know about the 7.8 kHz ripple from the burst detector being rectified, smoothed and used to operate the colour killer, but being an old hand I did. I went straight to $\mathrm{C} 561(22 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ and for once got it right first time.
J.R.A.

## Thorn 3000 with Spectrum 128 K

The computer worked well with an elderly GEC C2110 series set but with this even older model the sound was very low with considerable background noise. Off-air sound was acceptable. Careful readjustment of the $33 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz}$ rejector coil L101 improved matters no end. Spectrum modulators are not all that good, and this one was particularly bad. Both these old sets accepted the Spectrum's sync pulses with no problems - no bouncing or line twitching at all.
R.B.

## More Quickies

Philips CTX-S chassis: A common complaint now is "picture just fades away, sound remains o.k." The cure is to resolder all the line output transformer pins - they'll usually need it. The ones that cause this particular fault are 2 and 8 which provide the tube's heater supply.
Rank T26 chassis: For intermittent lack of sound resolder the pins of the audio chip (top left of the i.f./decoder panel, with the large heatsink).
R.B.

## Amstrad CTV2000

This set would intermittently trip. By looking in at the back under dim lighting conditions we could see that the case of the line output transformer was breaking down and arcing to chassis.
N.B.

## Ferguson 20C3 (TX100 Chassis)

This set came from the shop with the complaint "dead" and it sure was! The 2.5A mains fuse was open-circuit well blackened - so attention was centred on the chopper transistor TR6. A check revealed that it was short-circuit all ways round. We also found that D13 in its base circuit had shorted. After replacing these two items everything seemed to be o.k. so we switched on. Bang! There was a flash that made the three fluorescent lights look dim and

FS1 and TR6 had again bitten the dust. This time D13 had survived but the h.t. rectifier D15 was short-circuit, which it hadn't been two minutes previously.

A new BY299 h.t. rectifier was fitted and the other items were replaced, along with D13 for good measure, and bless my soul the set ran - for about two and a half minutes. The whole lot had gone again! Now the 119 V h.t. supply is used by the tuning circuit as well as the line output stage, and although the aerial had been plugged in there had been no tuning. Interesting! The ZTK33ADPD tuning voltage regulator IC 2006 was suspect but the culprit turned out to be the nearby transistor TR2016 (BF460) which was short-circuit collector to emitter. It's associated with the memory in IC2007. When this was put right the set continued to run.
N.B.

## B and O 77XX Series

This set wouldn't switch on from standby. There had been a complaint about intermittent trouble a week earlier and a field engineer had resoldered some suspect joints in the deflection circuit. Now the fault was permanent and the set was in the workshop. When this fault arises I usually dive for the $5 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~V}$ supply on the tuning/control panel (PCB55). This voltage is critical and any intermittent trouble of this sort can usually be cured by careful adjustment. In this case the rail, which can be conveniently measured across C7, was low at about 3.7 V , so I knew I was on the right lines. It didn't take long to find that TR9 (BC547) was very high resistance between its base and emitter.
N.B.

## Panasonic TC2207 (U2 Chassis)

The complaint was of a generally low picture. A colleague had checked the ever-suspect A56-540X tube, but it was tracking well. He'd also discovered that the ABL potentiometer R555 had no effect. When we traced the line back to the TDA2560 chip on the signals panel we discovered that R305 $(820 \mathrm{k} \Omega)$ was open-circuit. It's situated right underneath plug CO-2AP.
N.B.

## Decca Series 10 Chassis

The complaint was no sync. Switching the set on confirmed this, but the fault cleared after about ten minutes. It was affected as soon as the back was removed or replaced. The cause was located by prodding and poking: there were dry joints on the i.f. pancl's multi-pin plug.
N.B.

## B and 0 39XX (Beovision 5000, 6000)

When this set was first switched on the protection circuit would operate once then the set would be all right. The fault was narrowed down to the 25 V supply. If this is low, due to excessive current, the protection circuit detects this and closes down the power supply. The cause of the trouble turned out to be a faulty reservoir capacitor, 0 C 2 $(3,30) \mu \mathrm{F}, 35 \mathrm{~V})$.
I.B.

## Salora 1H4 (Ipsalo 2)

This set was dead. Both the primary switching transistors TB7(0) and TB701 in the power supply were short-circuit and the $22 \Omega$ filter resistor RB713 was open-circuit. The cause of the fault was traced to the scan coil coupling capacitor CB532 ( $0 \cdot 33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 250 \mathrm{~V}$ ) which had a dry-joint at the left-hand side. This made it heat up and expand. I.B.

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| HIGH QUALITY VIDEO SPARES * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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## Storing TV Pictures in Chips

## Part 4

Eugene Trundle

In previous instalments we've dealt with memory arrangements for freeze frame, graphics effects and other applications where a complete TV field has to be stored, and for picture-in-picture displays where the memory capacity required is much less. This month we'll take a look at the multi-function memory system used in current Sanyo digital VCRs.

## Sanyo System

The Sanyo VHRD500/700 series of VCRs offers a comprehensive range of digital functions. Picture information is quantised in six-bit form and is stored in three memory chips, two for the luminance (Y) data and one for chrominance ( $\mathrm{U}, \mathrm{V}$ ) data. The total memory capacity available is just under 1.5 Mbits , of which 1.232 Mbits are used. Because the PIP feature is included, the video signal to be stored is first decoded to YUV form - as described last month - before AD conversion and is subsequently recoded to PAL form for display.

## Outline

An outline of the system, in block diagram form, is shown in Fig. 22. In the freeze frame and mono-strobe modes the stored picture occupies the full screen area, so considerable detail must be committed to memory. Hence the separate Y and chroma AD conversion and memory sections. $10 \mathrm{MHz} / 100$ nsec sampling with 6 -bit quantisation is used for the Y signal, giving an overall frequency response of about 4 MHz , which is comparable with the resolution capabilities of an ordinary tube. The decoded V and $U$ signals are alternately selected by a time-divisionmultiplex switch before being sampled at a rate of $2 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz}$ and then stored in 6 -bit form.

## AD Conversion

AD conversion details for the YUV signals are shown in Fig. 23. A.G.C. is used to maintain the luminance component within IV (from black level to white), then the black level is clamped at 2.75 V . The sync pulses are not sampled or AD converted: in the full-screen memory modes sync pulses are generated and inserted between memory read-out lines. The chrominance components can
be positive- or negative-going: the zero crossover point is clamped at 3.25 V and the maximum signal excursion is limited to 1 V peak-to-peak by a.g.c. action. Alternate sampling of the U and V signals is controlled by a control multiplex (CMPX) signal that's generated by the memorycontrol chip.

## Memory Arrangement

The arrangement of one of the RAM chips is shown in Fig. 24. The incoming data first enters a $256 \times 6$ bit register, shown at the top, and is then transferred to individual memory cells. The main RAM section, shown at the centre, is arranged in 256 rows and 320 columns, giving a storage capacity of 491,520 bits. An output data register completes the system. This is similar to the line buffer memory previously mentioned, and enables reading and writing to be done at different rates.

The use of two memory chips for the Y data is interesting. The 6 -bit data is fed to both chips in parallel, each chip being alternately enabled by SIC (serial in clock) and /SIC pulses - see Fig. 25. This allows slow memories to be used. During the readout each chip is enabled in turn by the Y1A and Y1B pulses: the outputs are selected by the Y multiplex switch which is driven by an identical squarewave to Y1A. Waveforms 1-11 in Fig. 25 clarify the process and show how the data is shared between the two memories and then reassembled for DA conversion.

## Chroma Memory

The lower part of Fig. 25 illustrates the operation of the chroma memory. As previously mentioned, the U and V signals are time multiplexed. The data entering the memory, slower than in the case of the luminance data, corresponds to waveform 12 in Fig. 25. Storage in the memory is controlled by the 5 MHz SIC signal, which is divided by two within the chip. Readout is controlled by the SOC (serial out clock) signal, the interleaved U and V data being passed to two DA converters. Each latches only its own data, under control of the DACK and / DACK signals respectively. Waveforms 15-18 show the readout and DA processes and the derivation of continuous U and V signals.


Fig. 22: Signal/data routing and memory arrangement used in the Sanyo VHRD500 VCR.


Fig. 23: Clamping, $A D$ conversion and the chroma multiplex system used in the Sanyo VHRD500. (a) Luminance waveform, (b) chroma waveform, (c) simplified block diagram for chroma AD conversion.

An area of $248 \times 276 \times 6$ is used in each of the three memory chips, making a total of $1,232,(064$ stored bits.

## PIP Memory Map

Fig. 25 showed the use of the memory in the still mode, in which the stored data provides a whole-screen display. In the PIP mode the memory area is divided, rather like the screen itself. Fig. 26 shows the Y data for a single PIP display stored in one corner of the memory array, occupying about one ninth of its area. Waveform 1 represents the incoming $Y$ signal. Two out of every three lines and two


Fig. 24: Three-dimensional representation of the RAM chips used in the Sanyo VCR. The machine uses three such RAMs, two for luminance and one for chroma data.
out of every three pixels in the stored lines are discarded so that the input for the PIP display is effectively compressed to one ninth of its original area. The SIC trains, waveforms 2 and 3 , also run at a third of the normal 5 MHz rate, i.e. $1 \cdot 67 \mathrm{MHz}$. As before the Y data is


Fig. 25: Memory maps for the full-screen still mode. The time-related chart shows data-transfer timing.
alternately fed into the two storage chips, so memory one stores Y1, Y7, Y13 etc. while memory two stores Y4, Y10, Y16 etc., as shown in waveforms 4 and 5 . The memories thus become loaded to the extent of 82 rows and 92 columns during a full field period. Clearly there's room for another eight PIPs if required.

Waveforms 6-11 illustrate PIP readout. Signals Y1A and Y1B interrogate the memory chips alternately, reading Y1, Y7, Y13 etc. from memory one interleaved with Y4, Y10, Y16 ete. from memory two. The Y multiplexing switch is again driven by squarewave YIA to produce continuous $Y$ data, now in time-compressed form - see waveform 11. A PIP line readout takes one third of a normal line period, and all the lines will have been read out by the time the field scan is one third of the way down the screen.

The chroma read and write processes in memory three are very similar, following the same time-warp rules in synchronism with the memory one and memory two read and write sequences. Thus the top left-hand corner of memory three is used for chroma storage, employing the same 82 row by 92 column block.

All memory write/read processes, the AD and DA clocks etc. are controlled by a complex memory control chip.

## Features of the Sanyo VHRD500

The memory arrangement just described can, in conjunction with the versatile control chip, provide an impressive repertoire of trick displays. We'll describe each in turn briefly, giving a short account of the processing involved. Each mode is called up by the remote control handset. Instructions enter the control microcomputer in the form of an 8 -bit word - this is referred to as mode control data. Not all the 256 possible combinations are used! The four most significant bits indicate the mode (frecze frame, strobe, PIP etc.) while the four least significant bits give information like strobe speed, zoom ratio etc.

In the still mode writing into the memory is inhibited while readout continues, giving a full-screen freeze frame image from tape or off-air.

The mono strobe mode operates as above but a write cycle is performed at regular intervals to give a frameadvance effect, updating the still each time. The strobe rate can be selected by the user.

In the basic PIP mode the PIP display can be positioned in any of the four corners of the screen by starting the memory readout at the appropriate time during the main display's line and field scans. The main and PIP pictures can be interchanged.

In the multi-PIP mode the screen is divided into nine sections, each fed by one block of memory in the manner shown in Fig. 26. This is used for the cycle strobe feature, where the screen centre shows a normal moving picture surrounded by cight stills, each representing a frameadvance sequence cycling around the central picture, with adjustable strobe speed. Each "outer" block of memory is read continuously and written intermittently in this mode. If required the centre block of memory can also be frozen, by inhibiting its write cycle.

The multi-PIP mode is also used for the multi-TV programme scan feature, in which the u.h.f. tuner tunes to available TV channels in turn, the VCR loading the signal from each into a different section of its memory. With the multi-index scan feature the start of each recording or scene on tape, indexed by the user during
record, is loaded into different memory sections and frozen in turn as the tape is quickly wound forwards or backwards. The tape transport system slows down to give five seconds of normal playback at each index point.

In the zoom mode the memory writing rate remains normal but the readout rate is decreased to give the picture a magnification effect. By this means the central area of the picture can be enlarged by $\times 4, \times 9$ or $\times 16$. The central area of the memory is used for this variable speed readout. By slow readout from the memories' outer areas any individual quarter of the screen can be enlarged by $\times 4$ and made to occupy the full screen area.

The solarisation mode is similar to the graphic effect described earlier in connection with the Panasonic system (see Fig. 16, July). Three degrees of solarisation can be selected by the user. These knock out two, three or four of the least significant bits from the 6-bit video data. Selection is achieved by disabling the appropriate DA converter input lines.

For the mosaic effect the pixel count in the displayed picture is reduced in three stages selected by the user. This is done by reducing the rate at which the DA converters are clocked during memory readout. The data is latched at progressively longer intervals to give the picture a "coloured squares" effect. For weak, medium and strong mosaic effects the DA converter clock rates, which are normally 10 MHz for Y and 2.5 MHz for the chroma signals, become $2.5,1.25$ and 0.625 MHz respectively for both the Y and the chroma DA converters.

## Advanced Field Store Chip

To round off our first excursion into TV field storage we'll take a look at a newly developed memory chip. Many of the memory chips currently used were not specifically designed for TV field store applications. As a result, some of their capacity and capabilities are lost when they are pressed into service for TV/video use. With a purpose-designed chip advantage can be taken of the sequential nature of a TV signal and the fact that data is stored and retrieved in a series of blocks representing pixels and complete TV lines.

Fig. 27 shows in simplified block diagram form the internal arrangements used in the Hitachi HM514256 CMOS TV memory chip. This chip has a capacity of 1 Mbits which are arranged as four pages consisting of 1,024 columns by 256 rows. Each row is divided into eight blocks of 32 bits. These blocks have their own addresses, giving access for sequential TV data transfer. Any one of the 8,192 block addresses can be selected at random. To define 8 K different addresses calls for 13 bits, and since both read and write addresses are required the total number of address bits is theoretically 26 . In fact the total is 29 , with three for random access control. A serial addressing system (SAD) is used, within 32 clock pulses.

Thus independent access is available to each $32 \times 4$ bit block for both reading and writing. For random access the memory array is serially addressed, starting at the point specified by the input address data, after which internally generated addresses are used until new data appears on the SAD line. Only three pins are required for addressing: SAD, SAS (serial address strobe) and TAS (transfer address strobe). The latter two are used for random access applications. This greatly simpilfies the wiring and mem-ory-control arrangements.

Two such memory chips are required for a TV field store. Each stores four bits of the 8 -bit video data words. Separate input and output ports are provided. The write


Fig. 26: Luminance memory map for PIP operation. At all times the total memory area corresponds to the full display screen area. Thus the single PIP shown here occupies one ninth of the screen area. The timing chart shows the time-warp effect of different writing and reading rates.


Fig. 27: Simplified block diagram of the purpose-designed Hitachi 1Mbit TV field memory chip.
and read shift registers are latched by the CGW (clock gate write) and CGR (clock gate read) inputs.

A typical way of using these inputs is shown in Fig. 28 for PIP sampling. Here the clock and horizontal drive pulses of an incoming signal are each divided by three and fed to the inputs of a nand gate. The /CGW pulse thus produced loads data into the memory on only every third TV line, and then only on every third clock pulse. This, like the latched DA converters etc. described in the previous examples, reduces both the vertical and horizontal picture size by a factor of three to give a one ninth area PIP display - and, if required, multi-PIP with data for nine small images distributed around the memory in similar fashion to the map in Fig. 26.


Fig. 28: The simple external divider system shown here provides selective latching pulses for PIP sampling within the memory.

This chip, which is intended for frame comb filtering and digital noise reduction as well as freeze frame and effect applications, has several outstanding features. It's very fast, with an access time of 35 nsec , and can hold data for 8 msec between refresh cycles. Internal refreshing is carried out at intervals of 32 CLK pulses, permitting operation over a wide range of clock frequencies - from 4 MHz to over 20 MHz . The memory also has a wordmasking function, carried out by a 32 -bit WE data register and a 32 -bit WE shift register: this is primarily intended for dropout compensation in VCRs.

Sophisticated though this memory system is. it will undoubtedly be replaced by more advanced types as time marches on. Digital picture processing is at present the fastest developing technology in consumer electronics equipment. The next step is the elimination of flicker. cross-colour and the visible line structure in domestic TV sets. Watch this space! The development in recent times of techniques like these is beginning to make the existing picture transmission and display systems decidely old hat.

## Acknowledgement

Information on the systems used for digital signal processing in consumer electronic products is somewhat sparse at present. I'm indebted to the technical departments of Hitachi, Panasonic and Sanyo for the considerable trouble they went to in seeking and providing information on their equipment.

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## GRUNDIG $2 \times 4$

The top half of the picture is streaky while the bottom half is only half as clear as it should be, with the colour flickering on and off. The sound is normal but becomes distorted when loud music starts suddenly. Sometimes there's wow, as if the capstan is not operating properly. Checks on the servo show that all the waveforms seem to be o.k. though the waveforms at pin 5 of the mixer chip IC1640 and for the head changeover adjustment are incorrect.

Tracking on this machine operates via the heads in a DTF system. We've experienced this combination of symptoms on more than one occasion and have each time found that the cause was failure of the video drum assembly.

## SONY KV2704UB

In the standby mode the h.t. from the power supply oscillates between normal (135V) and approximately 80 V at about 1 Hz . With the power supply completely unloaded (all outputs disconnected) the h.t. drops to 80 V and stays there. In both cases the 40 V and 12 V outputs are relatively unaffected. Regulation is poor, the picture breathing slightly with the sound, especially at high volume levels.

The most common culprits for this condition are C623 $(33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 250 \mathrm{~V})$. C $621(1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 35 \mathrm{~V})$ and $\mathrm{R} 612(0 \cdot 82 \Omega, 2 \mathrm{~W})$. Check these along with zener diode D612 and if necessary potentiometer R614.

## SHARP VC381

This machine won't play Scotch pre-recorded tapes from switch on when cold - the top of the picture tears and pulls to the left. Playback is normal when the machine has warmed up for about 45 minutes. Only Scotch brand cassettes have this effect.

We suggest you check the back-tension setting which may have to be set at one end of the specified $50-57 \mathrm{~g}$ range to accommodate Scotch tapes.

## REDIFFUSION Mk 4 CHASSIS

The trouble with this set is a regular matrix pattern of white dots covering the entire screen area. It's present on all channels and also with a VCR input. In all other respects the set operates normally.

The most likely cause of the dots is radiation from the power supply, which contains an oscillator - within 4IC1 running at about 25 kHz . First check that the dressing of the wires and cable looms in the set has not been disturbed, then suspect 4C27,4C15, 4D16 and 4L2 in the power supply. If these are all in order it would be simplest
to check by fitting a complete substitute power supply module.

## SONY SLC7

There's a problem on playback of either its own or prerecorded tapes. Wherever there's a vertical white-toblack transition a thick black outline appears. There are no smudges or streaking, the picture definition being very good. The tracking control has no effect on the fault. New heads, correctly set up, DOC adjustment, YC6 board alignment and preamp adjustment have all been tried without success. The playback envelope looks perfect and no voltage discrepancies have been found.

A judicious tweak of the noise canceller preset RV1 on the NC1 board is worth trying. Return it to its original position if this doesn't improve the overshoot effect. The other possibility is excessive edge enhancement (aperture correction). This is based on the $0.6 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ delay line DL3 which may be mismatched. Check whether C264 is open-circuit, DL3's earth connection, and the matching resistors R330, R331 and R96.

## DECCA 100 CHASSIS

Colour lock has become rather weak and is critical to tune in with the channel tuning controls. A monochrome picture may be shown from cold, very slight adjustment of the tuning control being required to bring in the colour - but still a little touchy. Everything else is excellent.

We have often found that this problem is due to a faulty TDA3950 chrominance chip or a 4.43 MHz crystal (Z200) that's drifted - replacement will provide a cure. First however ensure that the gating pulse waveform at test point TL201 us correct. If not, check the operation of the pulse shaper stage - Tr201 and associated components.

## HITACHI VT8500

This machine will not work using the remote control handset - all other controls work satisfactorily. The remote control board has been removed and powered from the bench supply. With the remote control handset in position and operated a good signal is present at pin 21 of IC01A but there is no output at pins 2-8. All voltages are correct and h.f. oscillations are present at pins 1 and 28. A new chip has made no difference. I can't understand why the chip appears to be dead when there's a good input and all the voltages etc. are correct, but am uncertain what the transistor circuit associated with pin 26 does.

The two-transistor circuit connected to pin 26 of IC01A provides a reset pulse at switch on. As C17A charges, Q13A's collector should momentarily pulse high. Check this, because most other possibilities appear to have been covered. We've sometimes had puzzling faults on this board due to physical factors, i.e. hairline cracks in the print.

## SONY KV2000 Mk. II

When the set is switched on the sound is present but the picture takes almost half an hour to appear. It then appears slowly, from the bottom of the screen, stopping two thirds of the way up with the top third missing. The fault is not lack of height or foldover.

There is little doubt that the problem is in the blanking circuit. Check C818, D811, Q801 and Q802 in that order. Use of freezer and gentle heat from a hairdryer may assist in pinpointing the trouble-spot.


309 TV/video servicing to exercise your ingenuity. These are not trick questions but are based on actual practical faults.
This summer seems to be the season of the oldies! Last month we had a Decca 100 chassis, this time it's an ITT CVC20 chassis. It's a fact of course that older designs are more prone to failure in warm weather - sets using valves were particularly vulnerable to a hot August. Surprisingly few of those in the TV service business today are familiar with the sets of a decade or more ago, or so it seems here - they've either forgotten about them or are relative newcomers.

The job with the CVC20) started with a check on the tube's emission, even though the specific complaint was of low width. Not much point in getting too involved if the tube is on the way out. Its emission was reasonable however, so the diagnosis - if you can call it that - began.

The width was certainly low: there was a black margin about 2.5 cm wide on either side of the screen. What causes low width? A common cause is a reduced h.t. supply to the line output stage. It should have been 125 V in this case. It wasn't, exactly, and setting up the preset control in the power supply had little effect. What causes low width when the supply voltage is about right? The line output transformer's tuning capacitors could be responsible. In this chassis the line output transformer has a split primary winding, so there are two tuning capacitors, C57/ 8. The Oracle was next asked whether 16 nF capacitors were in stock. He finally came and had a look at the set. Finding that it was a CVC20, he gave the following advice. Pull out the EW modulator control board (panel CMH10): if the width then jumps out the cause of the problem is on the panel; if it doesn't, check around the EW driver transistor T17 on the main board.

A check revealed that the presets (width, trapezium and pincushion) on the $\mathrm{CMH10}$ panel had no effect whatsoever on the picture, so the little panel was removed. When the set was switched on again the picture was still narrow. So the fault had to be on the main board. Two of T17's legs were freed from the board for testing.

Checks with the ohmmeter proved that it was o.k. With the Avo 8's black probe connected to its base, the readings, on the $\Omega \times 100$ range, to the emitter and collector were each about $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. So the transistor was soldered in again and attention was turned to the associated components. R101 and C72 were both of the correct value and the driver transformer L33/4 looked o.k. - the continuity of the windings was checked and found to be correct. There seemed to be little point in checking the EW modulator diodes because they also provide the 24 V supply and, indirectly, the 12 V supply. These were obviously present in view of the good picture and sound. Measurement confirmed this. What next?

The Oracle was again consulted. "Transistor is o.k., so are the diodes and other bits." After a quick look at the circuit, Oracle suggested a check on the capacitors associated with the EW modulator diodes and, if they were o.k., to leave the set on one side for him to look at later. The capacitors were removed and tested but were all right.

So it came about that a little while later Oracle found himself inside the offending TV set with his prods and probes and methodical air. Expecting a nasty, obscure fault he was surprised to find that the cause of the trouble was quite simple - indeed it had cropped up many times before. The ensuing inquest revealed a major flaw in the reasoning and the methods of the previous man on the job. Where had he gone wrong and what was the cause of the fault? See next month.

## ANSWER TO TEST CASE 308 - page 770 last month -

Our problem last month was an unusual one - a grossly overheating chip in the colour decoder section of a Decca 80/100 series chassis. The MC1327 device concerned provides chroma demodulation, RGB matrixing and PAL switching, and the amazing thing was that with an internal dissipation of what felt like several watts and with some of its pin voltages wildly incorrect it nevertheless provided the correct signal processing until it got really hot. It was also surprising that, as we subsequently discovered, neither of the MC1327 chips involved suffered permanent damage - indeed the original i.c. is now back in the set and working well.

As Fig. 1 last month showed, the MC1327 has an internal power supply regulator which provides several outputs for use within the chip - some of the feeds are taken via external components. One of these outputs appears at pin 5, where it's decoupled and used as a bias for the reference signal inputs at pins 12 and 13 . Decoupling is carried out by the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ tantalum capacitor C241 which, on removal for test with the ohmmeter, was found to be very leaky - it was ready to pass d.c. in either direction.

By thus pulling the potential at pin 5 towards earth the fault grossly increased the dissipation in the chip's internal regulator circuit, but the signal-handling functions were not affected until the substrate became very hot. Fusible resistor R246 didn't open - it's there mainly to guard against the effect of zener diode D202 going short-circuit.

[^2]


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