

BARRY MISHKIN  
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# AM Stereo Update: WABC tests look good

New York NY... As reported in the March issue of BEE, WABC-AM, has been testing the Kahn/Hazeltine AM stereo system since 19 February. In a followup interview BEE has learned that the testing to date has gone very well. According to Bob Deitsch, Assistant CE and AM Stereo Project Manager at WABC, all the monaural testing has been completed and WABC is satisfied that there is no degradation of their signal, in any respect. As a mater of fact Deitsch said, "We could meet a monaural Proof of Performance with this exciter, in all respects."

## What's Been Done So Far

Since WABC had previously re-equipped their studios for stereo production, going on the air with stereo was no problem. The only transmitter modification required was the addition of one small high voltage transformer for isolation purposes. No antenna modifications were made either. Win Loyd, CE at WABC, did point out though, that they have been planning to broadband their antenna system in the future in any case. Loyd also commented that WABC has been lucky in having no



The Kahn/Hazeltine Exciter at WABC.

problem with their STL. As was discussed at great length during the AM Stereo session at the NAB/Dallas last March, getting the STL lined up ahead of time is very important for any station planning for AM stereo. In WABC's case, they ordered a 15KHz stereo pair of telco lines some months ago, and it was therefore ready when they needed it. Their only addition to the STL was a dbx noise reduction unit.

Testing to date has consisted of measurements to detect any monaural changes. Both tone and listening tests, using spectrum analysis and distortion analysis techniques have shown that there are no problems, even at 125% modulation. Stereo tests to date have been just listening and WABC plans on completing the stereo measurement within the next month. In fact they have applied to the FCC for an extension of their STA to continue testing as long as possible. Their confidence is demonstrated by the fact that they have been transmitting continually in stereo since 2 April without any problems. In next month's issue of BEE, we will report on the results of the final stereo testing.

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### Other Station Tests

According to Leonard Kahn, the following stations are now either on-the-air testing, or will be within the next few weeks: WFIL/Philadelphia, KDKA/Pittsburgh, K TSA/San Antonio, XETRA/Mexico, KHJ/Los Angeles, KFRC/San Francisco, KING/Seattle, KCMO/Kansas City, and WOW/Omaha.

### INDEX

WABC Tests	1
Harris/AM Modulators	2
New Dealer	2
LBA Interview	3
RCA TV Transmitters	4
3M Skew Error	5
Motor Replacement	5
FCC Developments	6
NRBA Comments	7
ATS	8
McMartin Subcontract	8
Clint Free on VTR's	9
TRC-15A Note	9
Australian BEE	9
Ampex Digital Standard	10-11
New Products	12
BEE Employment Service	12
Televisa Order	12
"The Exchange"	14, 16-22
Action-gram	15

# Harris: Troubleshooting AM modulators

by Karl D. Lahm/  
formerly with Harris Corp.

## Part Two of a Three Part Series

Quincy IL...All AM modulation systems employ some sort of feedback in the modulator stage. The effects of feedback...or the lack of it...will directly affect modulator performance. It is therefore wise to give particular attention to feedback effects when trouble shooting AM modulators. In the first part of this series, the basics of inverse feedback and feedback from the primary of a modulation transformer to the first audio amplifier stage were discussed.

### Determining the Nature of a Feedback Problem

Feedback problems generally manifest themselves as poor distortion, response, and stability of the modulator section. An initial determination of feedback level is necessary since it affects all performance parameters (see Part I for an expansion of this). The determination procedure is the same as that outlined in Part I. The audio gain change for operation with feedback disconnected and then connected should agree with the figure given in the transmitter instruction book. Be sure that you only disable *audio* feedback (through the use of a large shunt capacitor in the detector, for example). Some transmitters, PDM and PSM in particular, use DC feedback which would also be disabled, causing power stability problems. If the instruction book does not spell out the amount of feedback used, check

Reprinted from "Pride in Service,"  
a Harris Corp Publication.

the transmitter input sensitivity for 100% sine-wave modulation against the factory test data sheet or maintenance records. If the sensitivity has changed more than +1 dB, a feedback deficiency is indicated.

Two types of problems with feedback are actually possible. Amplitude errors are quickly found, as explained above.

Response problems can occur also, especially in a transmitter which employs response shaping in the feedback circuits. The PDM transmitters, for example, operate with less feedback at higher audio frequencies to avoid problems of improper antenna system loads interacting with the PDM filter characteristics to produce a net input-output phase relationship of nearly 0 or 360 degrees. A change in feedback amplitude will be, and has been, improperly diagnosed as a response problem. The feedback amplitude at midband should be checked first; if it is proper, a response problem due to a deficiency in the shaping networks is indicated.

Amplitude problems are invariably caused by bad or ailing rectifier diodes or improper voltage division prior to the input of the feedback rectifier. Voltage dividers may take the form of resistive, inductive, capacitive, or transformer networks. Improper turn spacing, pickup positioning, or a faulty shunt arm component should be investigated.

### DC Feedback— Its Purpose and Problems

The advent of the modern direct-coupled modulator (as used in Harris PDM and PSM transmitters) permits

the modulator system to act as a regulator controlling the final power amplifier output. Such systems adapt to overall DC feedback easily. DC feedback stabilizes the radio frequency power output with respect to power line voltage changes and component heating effects. Systems using combined DC and audio feedback exhibit superior transient response performance. The use of DC feedback sometimes makes audio feedback problems easier to trace, but many technicians are confused by it.

Any amplitude-related AC feedback problems will affect DC performance. If AC and DC feedback level is reduced (due to rectifier and input problems discussed above) the power output stability will go down. This manifests itself as very "touchy" power controls and negative carrier shift. A semiconductor characteristic change would introduce carrier shift of either polarity and overloads if control and/or corrective circuits are triggered by overshooting pulses.

Whenever a problem with a direct-coupled transmitter is encountered, it is first necessary to check the DC performance. The easiest methods of checking feedback levels are the audio methods described previously. Another way is to establish the "typical" DC voltage at the output of the feedback rectifier through several weekly measurements. With this information noted in schematics and instruction books, a quick VOM check of this voltage will reveal any feedback level deficiencies. "Tracking" of the system is checked by running the power adjustment controls from rated power to minimum back to rated, looking for any "glitches" on the power output or antenna current

meter. Such "glitches" would indicate either a semiconductor problem or a faulty capacitor "punching through" at some voltage level.

### Operation Without Overall Feedback

If a fault occurs which disables feedback and it cannot be immediately corrected due to lack of parts or other problems, a clever technician can return the transmitter to service. The easiest situation to correct is audio feedback failure. The only corrective action immediately needed is to reduce the audio input level to prevent overmodulation or avoid distortion. Should the transmitter employ response shaping, the solution is not so simple. The path from audio input terminals to modulator output must be checked for response determining networks. Significant networks must be modified to result in as nearly flat a response as possible at the transmitter output. This usually means that shunt capacitors over 1000 pf should be disconnected in low-level audio stages, but check your transmitter schematic carefully.

Transmitters using DC feedback present just a bit more of a problem. Although it is possible to operate the transmitter without feedback or modification, it is advisable that some method of reducing the power control system bias be provided. This is most easily done by creating an add-on circuit which simulates the feedback voltage, such as a bench power supply or a resistor-zenner arrangement connected to the transmitter low voltage supply. If nothing else is available, a low-value resistor between feedback summing point and ground may do the job.

### In Part Three

The "brute force" method of checking modulator performance at full audio power output without connection to the RF stages will be explained in Part Three.

## New Broadcast Dealer

Columbia MD... Gene Bidun, former District Sales Manager for Harris Corp, has formed his own company, Bidun & Associates, to sell and service broadcast equipment. The new firm will be responsible for sales of Cetec Broadcast Equipment in the states of Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and Washington DC. Technical services such as proof of performance, station equipment repair and engineering assistance will also be available.

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# An interview with Behr Associates

Greenville NC... Since many of the broadcast consultants are so hard to pin down in terms of writing about their opinions, BEE decided to go to the consultants by telephone interview. This month we will talk with Lawrence Behr Associates about antenna systems and AM stereo.

**BEE:** My first question is why is there concern over antenna efficiency and bandwidth regarding the shift to AM stereo systems?

**LBA:** Stations are concerned about whether they will be able to essentially "squirt" the stereo signals out through their existing antenna systems. We do know that the stereo systems proposed will require better bandwidth than many stations have now. Also, since the AM stereo systems may reduce effective coverage, the stations will have to maximize their antenna system's efficiency to maintain their competitive positions.

**BEE:** Will the advent of AM stereo make many stations change their antenna system?

**LBA:** Any station that now has inadequate audio response because of bandwidth considerations will not be able to perform satisfactorily with any of the proposed AM stereo systems. But remember, some are more critical than others. Any station that is going into stereo in a serious way is going to want to optimize their antenna systems from the point of view of bandwidth. Generally, most stations that have antenna systems in good repair and that are well designed won't have any problems. The stations (non-directionals specifically) that are going to have problems are those that are operating with very short antennas. I'm talking about antennas around 300 feet or less down around 550 and under 100 feet up at 1600. It is very difficult to achieve decent bandwidth out of these antennas, and there are a lot of them around the country. Here the station is going to have to consider increasing the antenna height, top-loading or unipoling or something of that nature.

**BEE:** What about the tuning units and the coax?

**LBA:** If everything is in good repair and well designed, no problem. If it's old equipment with stability problems, it needs to be cleaned up. Going stereo may be the incentive to clean up in this area, and a lot of stations could use it.

**BEE:** What are the directional antenna considerations?

**LBA:** It's really with the directionals that the problems are going to arise in changing to stereo. With about 30% of the stations directional, and since many of the systems are critically designed (with poor common point impedances), their whole system will have to be re-evaluated. Some arrays simply cannot be broadbanded. Even in mono they don't

have the sound they want. In the old days many of these arrays were designed using less sophisticated tools so the number and depth of the nulls was difficult to tailor. With the new computer assisted computations, the patterns can be redesigned so that even the response in nulls can be improved. Here again, stereo may provide the impetus for redesign, and then other market factors (such as population shifts, etc) can be taken into effect simultaneously. A preliminary engineering review may be made for as little as \$500, but depending upon the system, costs can go higher. In most cases the antenna shouldn't be the limiting factor in going stereo...but it certainly needs

to be looked at closely.

**BEE:** What about the "9 KHz Question?" Do you see relationships with the stereo question from the antenna point of view?

**LBA:** There is the problem of bandwidth between the 2 questions. But, since the "9 KHz Question" has many international aspects, it might not be settled for a few years. Stereo is going to come first. As before, whatever problems there are will show up most on critically designed directional antenna systems.

**BEE:** What might be the "9 KHz" conversion costs?

**LBA:** For 10% of the stations the costs could run between \$1-

*Continued on page 4*

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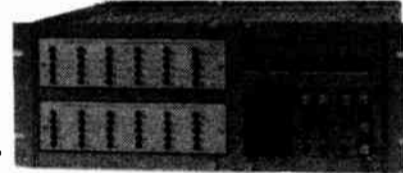
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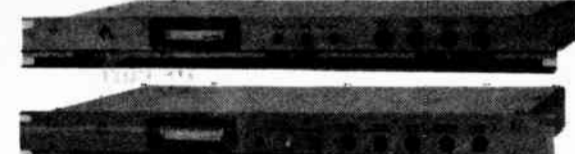
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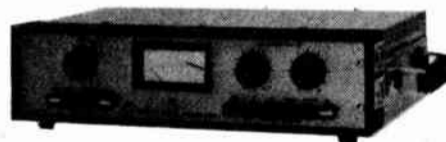
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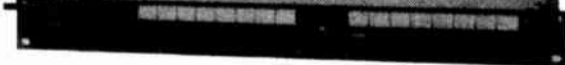


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# RCA introduces line of VHF TV transmitters

Camden NJ... RCA Broadcast Systems has introduced a new line of advanced-design VHF lowband and highband television transmitters for worldwide applications. Designated the "TTG" series, the new transmitters were highlighted in RCA's comprehensive exhibit of television and radio broadcast equipment at NAB-Dallas in March.

The "TTG" series of transmitters feature the latest in advanced solid-state design technology, to provide a superior picture and reliability of operation, according to J.W. Hill, Division Vice President and General Manager, RCA Broadcast Systems. "New developments in electronic design permit the use of only two tubes in the entire transmitter, one visual and one aural," Mr. Hill said. The elimination of tube amplifier stages, with all circuitry being solid-state up to the 1600-watt visual and 100-watt aural driver output power levels, minimizes the need for attention and maintenance, he added. In addition, broadband techniques used in the new transmitters eliminate all tuning requirements except for the final stage.

The new transmitters will be available for operation on worldwide color broadcast standards, including

NTSC, SECAM, PAL-B and PAL-M, meeting requirements for essentially all bandwidths and channel assignments. For all requirements, a universal crystal oscillator, combined with a unique frequency synthesizer circuit, accommodates any channel or frequency offset, Mr. Hill said. Both aural and visual frequency are controlled by the same crystal. A broad range of power classifications, system configurations and broadcast standards are available with the "TTG" Series, with a choice of 20 transmitter models, each specifically suited to individual requirements. The transmitters in the "TTG" Series are designed to operate conservatively at power levels 20% greater than previous designs. A single lowband or highband transmitter is rated up to 30-kilowatts of visual power and 6.6-kw aural power output. Parallel configurations are available to support circular polarization, to supply extra power headroom, or to provide an added measure of on-air reliability, Mr. Hill said. A dual transmitter, with two units in parallel, operates at up to 60-kilowatts visual and 13.2-kw aural power output.

#### Offers Many New Features

A single transmitter is made up of

three compact cabinets, the exciter/driver, the power amplifier, and the power supply, interconnected by factory tested, plug-terminated cables. For parallel configurations, a combining cabinet, housing the two exciter-modulators, joins the two single systems. The combining units also provides isolation between the transmitters, so each operates independently for more on-air reliability. Regardless of operating configurations, optimum linearity correction is maintained by circuits dedicated to each RF amplifier system.

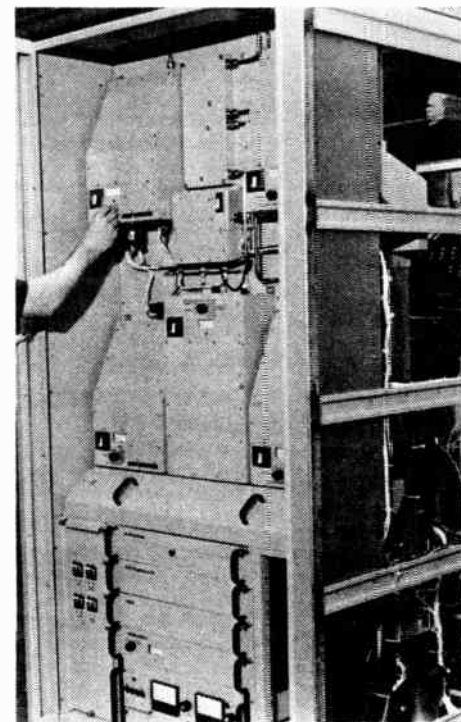
New and extensive personnel safety features have been designed into the new transmitter, Mr. Hill said. A key operated interlock system ensures that all high voltage has been eliminated before gaining access to tubes and cavities. Additional protection from high voltage is provided by electrical interlocks. No high voltage wiring is external to the cabinets, and no DC voltages in excess of 46 volts are present in the entire driver cabinet.

Many advances in electronic design are incorporated into the new line of transmitters, such as the use of broadband microstrip circuitry, Mr. Hill said. This technique results in precise control of the signal path and improved reliability through elimination of leads and connectors.

A solid-state power controller replaces mechanical high voltage contactors, and provides fast, controlled application of plate voltage to the power amplifier tubes, and increased overload protection due to a faster tripoff. This soft turn-on voltage eliminates high-voltage stress on tubes and other components, Mr. Hill noted.

A "heat pipe" cooling system, with proven reliability in military and space applications, transfers heat from the power amplifier transistors to a heat sink, and allows the high level of solid-state design used in the new transmitter line. This unique closed cooling system is built into each visual IPA amplifier module.

An automatic solid-state control system stabilizes both visual peak power and aural power output levels, and prevents power output variations due to line voltage fluctuation, power line and power supply regulation, and other factors.



RCA's new "TTG"

Another automatic system reduces power in the event of a deteriorating load VSWR such as antenna icing conditions. The transmitter power output is reduced at a controlled, monitored rate, allowing the station to stay on the air at a safe power level.

In the event of a power interruption of up to ten seconds, automatics in the transmitter are designed to get the unit back on the air within two seconds of power restoration. For interruptions of more than ten seconds, the transmitter can be back on-air within four seconds of power resumption, by manually by-passing the normal time delay of two minutes.

The new line of transmitters use RCA's unique Surface Acoustic Wave (SAW) filter, temperature controlled to assure optimum performance under all operating conditions.

## CORNER

... from page 3

10,000...again, only if they have critical directional antenna systems. For the others, the costs might be as low as \$100, if anything at all.

BEE: Thanks for your time, and if any of our readers have any questions for you, I know you will be happy to respond.

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# 3M: Causes and effects of skew error

(Extracted from "Retentivity.")

## How to Measure Error

New York NY...Skew error is any change in the length of track between the time it's recorded to the time it's played back. Dimensional errors caused by uncorrected playback of the video track are called skew errors.

Skew refers to what is seen on the monitor when the picture at the video head switching point is not matched up vertically, but is offset to the right or left. This is caused by the playback track length of the machine being different from the video track length previously recorded on the tape. Skew error may also be called tension error.

By their very nature, helical video recording systems depend upon the length of the video track for correct reproduction of the video system, so skew error problems and their solutions are important to the broadcaster.

With the advent of the 3/4 inch videocassette, increasing demands are being placed on the video tape media for better dimensional stability to assure proper video track length. The lower machine tensions have greatly decreased the amount of playback correction available, for example, the 3/4 inch format has a correction range of only +/- 2.5 microseconds.

Electronically, skew error produces a timing error or time displacement of the horizontal sync pulses at the video head switching point. Visually on a monitor, this offsets the picture image to the left or right at the same point. If the picture is displaced to the left, the video track on the tape is longer than the playback track length of the machine. If the picture is offset to the right, the video track on the tape is shorter than the playback length of the machine.

The degree of noticeable skew error depends upon the type of television receiver used. Older monitors and receivers have long time constants in their horizontal scanning circuits and this will cause the video to be displaced by as many as 100 lines. This amount of noticeable distortion is quite visible. Newer monitors or receivers, with shorter time constants, can correctly place the video with only a slight distortion.

Skew error can be measured by observing the video head switching point on a pulse cross monitor. First, measure the displaced video and then compare this with a measurement of some known time on the raster, such as the horizontal sync or horizontal blanking pulse. For example, if the displaced video measures 5.5 cm and the horizontal blanking pulse measures 7.0 cm, the error may be calculated by the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{Length of Displaced Video (5.5 cm)}}{\text{Length of Known Video (7.0 cm)}} \times \frac{\text{Time of Known Video (11.43 microseconds)}}{\text{Time of Known Video (11.43 microseconds)}} = 9 \text{ microseconds}$$

Skew error can be caused by tape or machine. Machine induced skew error can be caused by incorrect tensions. This will stretch or relax the tape around the drum. The tape will lengthen or shorten the video track. The type of tension that is critical depends upon the particular machine format: 3/4 inch videocassette format, 1/2 inch EIAJ type I, and home type video machines are some examples where the supply reel tension determines the track length. The one inch IVC format is an example where take-up reel tension determines track length. Tensions should be adjusted according to the service manuals so that skew error from one machine to another is minimal.

## Aging & Temperature a Problem

Thermal expansion/contraction may be considered as a source of skew error since the tape and machine do not have the same co-efficient of expansion. Machine tension control mechanisms can usually accommodate the differences that result in normal temperature change ranges.

Tape induced skew can be caused by the dimensions of the tape changing over a period of time. The reversible dimensional change is due to thermal and hygroscopic properties of the tape, mainly related to the polyester backing material.

When backing is manufactured it is processed under controlled temperatures and tensions to provide the desired strength properties. These properties are stable in a certain temperature, time and tension range. If any one of these variables exceeds the acceptable range, the backing takes on a new shape, usually longer if tension is exceeded and shorter if temperature is exceeded.

These dimensional changes are considered non-reversible because the tension conditions encountered in normal use do not reverse the change and bring the tape back to its original length. Experience has shown that the shrinkage type of skew error is most troublesome; second only to incorrect record/playback tensions of the machines.

Because of the increasing demands being placed on video tape with long

term library storage and new applications such as Electronic News Gathering, 3M Company anticipated the need to produce a highly stable tape that would experience minimal permanent physical dimensional changes.

By careful control of the manufacturing processes, from manufacture of backing through production of the finished tape, we are able to produce a stable product. "Scotch" Brand helical scan video tape will result in less than .03 percent base error due to shrink.

A stabilized tape will have a longer useful life while allowing the user to operate, ship and store his video tapes in a much wider tolerance of environments. A significant cost savings can be realized by the prevention of unnecessary re-recording of badly skewed tapes.

## Replacement for Japanese motors

North Haven CT... Audio cartridge tape machines require hysteresis synchronous tape drive motors to be unusually precise in performance, rugged in construction, and compact in size. But the Japanese-produced motors used by some cart machine manufacturers have not delivered the life and operating specifications needed for broadcast use. The unique "inside-out" design of the Beau motor, produced by the Broadcast Products Division of UMC Electronics Co. meets these requirements.

The inside-out design of the Beau motor differs from the conventional in that the stator core and windings are the internal members, while the rotor is the external member. This design diminishes the magnetizing current and results in approximately half the magnetizing losses in iron.

Small field density in air gaps and precision assembly make it possible for the motor to operate in a smooth and quiet manner. The inside-out motor, compared with similar sized and rated motors, out-performs its conventional counterparts.

In the Beau motor, the diameter of the stator is much larger than in standard motors and the circumferential distance for a corresponding number of poles is much larger, making it possible to go to lower speeds without cogging. The flywheel effect from the large rotor overcomes any slight magnetic changes that may be present and, therefore, no cogging occurs. Beau torque and hysteresis motors have been widely used for twenty years in precision turntables, video recording equipment, and data handling devices.



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## Report on April FCC developments

by B. Jay Baraff/

Baraff, Koerner & Olender, P.C.

### Guidelines For Programming Reduction.

The FCC, in renewing the license of a Rochester NY, station indicated that a 10% reduction in public affairs programming was not a substantial variation in its commitment. Substantial was defined as a decrease of 15% in any of the the three non-entertainment categories or a combined 20% in the three categories.

### FCC Reaction On First Distress Sale.

In its first distress sale ruling involving Station WAEO-TV, Rhinelander WI, the FCC stated that a distress price would be determined by the assessed fair market value of the station, with the contract price falling substantially below that value. In addition, the FCC now requires two appraisals from brokers who are unaffiliated with the applicant to verify the fair market value. The Broadcast Bureau has informally indicated that the maximum price for a distress sale can be no greater than 80% of the fair market price. However, the Rhinelander sale was 54%, which sets a low precedent. Thus, if anyone is considering such a distress sale at 80%, be prepared for some possible resistance from the Commission.

### Caution To Double-Billers

Although it appears the Commission, under Chairman Ferris, is going to be more lenient toward enforcing double-billing, there still will be instances of license revocations as is seen in the revocation of WJPD AM/FM, Ishpeming MI. The ALJ revoked these licenses for double-billing in which the licensee was an absentee owner and did not supervise the operation of the stations.

### Further FCC Ruling On Minority Ownership

The FCC has ruled that requests for expedition of an application which is mutually-exclusive with several others will be granted as long as one applicant in the group is a minority owner and proposes minority-programming. This is important since it can shorten the waiting period by several years.

### FCC Considers Proposal For Expanding FM.

NTIA has proposed creating new FM stations for minority ownership by reducing channel width from 200 kHz to 150 or 100 kHz. NTIA feels that this can be done by directionalizing and using improved receivers.

### Broadcast Rulings

- The FCC ruled that an application designated for hearing would not require a new file number if an existing stockholder with negative control (50%) acquires positive control. This application can be filed on a short form (316) rather than a long form (315).

- FCC ALJ renewed the license of Station WABZ-FM, Albemarle NC, on the basis of its meritorious record which was given a plus of major significance in comparison with the other applicant.

- The FCC remanded an ALJ's ruling and added a character question against an applicant for a new FM station in High Springs FL, on the basis that one of its stockholders had failed to pay Social Security taxes for a non-broadcast related business. This should thus be a reminder to all parties in a comparative hearing to have each of your principals disclose every business involvement, broadcasting or non-broadcasting, since it may affect an applicant's qualifications.

- The FCC has denied a settlement/merger year Pasadena AM case because one of the merged applicants had an absolute contractual obligation after three years to purchase the stock of the remaining applicants and they had an absolute obligation to sell. FCC will allow options to buy stock in a merged entity as long as the parties share risks and profits for the foreseeable future.

### Delaware TV Proposal Receives Expedited Consideration

The FCC has granted expedited consideration for a new commercial UHF television application on Channel 38, at Seaford DE, as a result of motions by Delaware citizens' committees indicating their concern about the lack of local television service. This application would be Delaware's first commercial television service.

### EEO Ruling

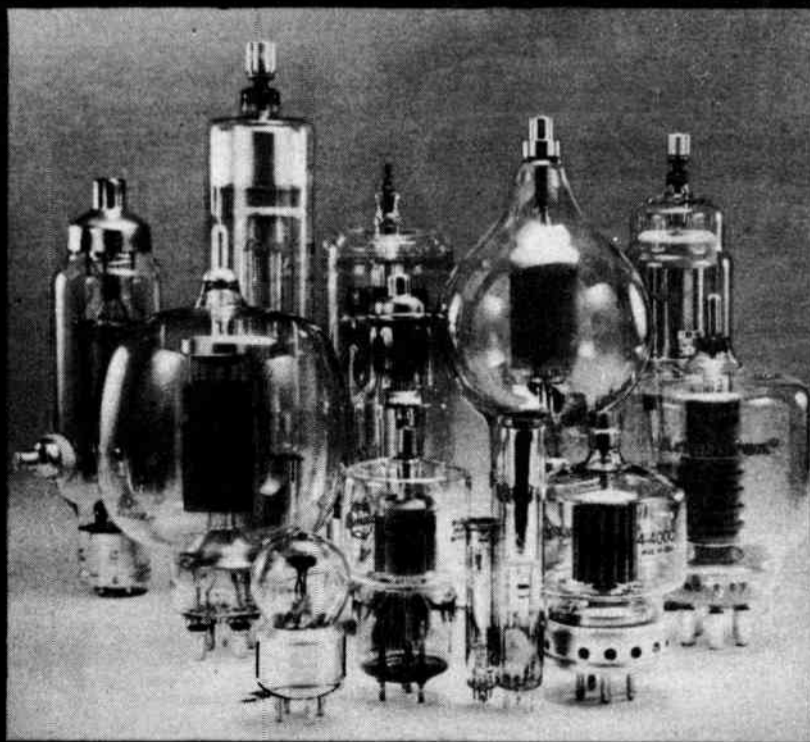
The FCC has denied reconsideration of Station WNMB (North Myrtle Beach SC) of its short-term renewal because of its employment and recruitment of minorities. The FCC ruled that even though the community of license has less than 1% black and was not in an SMSA, the licensee should have based its employment standards on the county which was 21% black, since the licensee's 1 mv/m contour covered a substantial portion of the county. This should be warning to licensee's that regardless of the minority composition in your community, you should analyze your entire county to determine hiring practices.

### Tax Certificates

The FCC refused to grant a tax certificate for the transfer of Station

*(Continued on page 7)*

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# NRBA comments on Rewrite II

Washington DC... The Executive and Legal Committees of the National Radio Broadcasters Association have authorized release of the following statement:

The National Radio Broadcasters Association is impressed and appreciates the extensive effort devoted to the preparation of the Communications Act of 1979 ("Rewrite II") by Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin, as well as the staff of the House Communications Subcommittee of the House of Representatives. The NRBA wholeheartedly supports the basic philosophy which gave rise to Rewrite II, which as stated in HR-3333, is that "the public interest is best served when marketplace forces, rather than government regulation,... control the operations of broadcast facilities. A radio station must serve the needs and interests of its community to be successful.

However, the NRBA reiterates its opposition to that portion of Rewrite II which requires broadcasters to pay a spectrum fee. The NRBA recognizes that the airwaves are a valuable public resource and our opposition is in no way predicated upon the belief that because a broadcaster has a license to operate on those airwaves, that broadcaster has somehow acquired an immutable, inviolate property right in the license. Furthermore, it is not the amount of the pro-

posed spectrum fee to which we object, it is the entire concept—it is the power which the Congress will have to increase the fee which troubles the NRBA and should cause concern to all members of the public. In the history of this country, new taxes, no matter how minimal they may be at the start, never disappear and have a habit of escalating—we need only trace the progress of the income tax over the years to appreciate that the fear of an escalating spectrum tax is wellfounded. While it is an aphorism and a truism which some people dismiss as trite, the fact is the power to tax is the power to destroy, and a spectrum fee is nothing more or less than a tax with a different name.

The NRBA is against any legislation which would create a mechanism which could be utilized by the government to further its efforts to intimidate a free broadcast press. Recently, we have seen examples of the efforts of government to control the media by the use of available pressures. The mere threat of a substantial increase in a spectrum tax would be intimidating to the broadcaster. While legislation increasing the amount of the tax would have to be passed by Congress, we need only look to the history of the last half-century for examples of how a strong and dominant President controlled Congress to the point where legislation was passed at the direction of the White House.

In sum, the NRBA believes strongly with Congressman Van Deerlin that deregulation can only be accomplished by an Act of Congress—that deregulatory efforts by the Federal Communications Commission can at best be ameliorative and would ultimately amount to nothing more than reregulation. However, we further believe that a spectrum tax places into the hands of the Congress and the President power which could be used to manipulate the broadcast press. All citizens as well as broadcasters should oppose any efforts to place such power into the hands of government, since a free broadcast press is essential to the effective functioning of our demo-

(Continued on page 8)

## FCC

...from page 6

KVVY-TV, Henderson NV, on the basis that the proposed applicant was only 30% minority. Although the FCC seems to be holding to a 51% controlling interest by minorities, Chairman Ferris indicated that, in the absence of outright control, a tax certificate might be granted with operational control as long as minority participation would not evaporate at the whim of the controlling stockholders.

### More AM Stereo Authorizations.

FCC has issued another authorization for AM stereo tests to KING, Seattle WA. Consistent with prior grants, this authority cannot be used for promotional purposes.

### Applicant Denied Channel Because Of Rulemaking.

In an unprecedented decision, the FCC has deleted a commercial channel for Newport VT, in which an application had been filed in order to assign the channel to Burlington VT, for non-commercial use. It was argued that this was the last opportunity for non-commercial educational radio in northern Vermont and that it would provide the first non-commercial educational service to approximately half the population in the entire state.

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- It's a Calculator: A 12 digit, five function, full floating decimal calculator is built right into the dialer and can even be used while you are on the phone.
- It's an Incoming Speaker: Everytime you use the dialer, you hear the dial, the ringing on the other end and the person answering the phone. You don't have to pick up your receiver until then. There's a volume control, of course.

NO MATTER WHAT FUNCTION YOU PERFORM ON THE COMPUTER DIALER (A) IT WILL BE VISUALLY DISPLAYED ON THE LED READOUT (B) A VERIFYING BEEP WILL BE SOUNDED ON THE SPEAKER.

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The Computer Dialer is wholly compatible with both Rotary and Touch-Tone phones, and if you have a rotary phone, you'll never have to spin its dial again. Use the keyboard on

the dialer and get TOUCH-TONE convenience at ROTARY rates. FCC registration number BD587Z-62989-MA-R.



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# ATS: Rehearsing for a comeback role

by David C. Burns  
Allied Broadcast

Richmond, IN...ATS is alive and well and performing amazing feats with ease daily. Several stations appreciate the precision with which routine duties are accomplished. Engineering personnel are free to be more creative, assured at the same time that "someone" is minding the store.

Automated, lock-up, walkaway operations have become a reality. If EBS, modulation monitoring, and transmitter remote control requirements are met, off-premises operation is possible. Remote operations of this type which will satisfy FCC requirements could be in such diverse locations as a staffmember's home, a police station or hotel front desk. The commission must be satisfied in each case that the off-premises operator will perform his/her duties in the public interest and be in actual charge of the facilities, but, is apparently amenable to almost any legitimate arrangement. Dual-location remote control which is now available has been highly beneficial to this cause. EBS tests *must* be possible from the remote point, and ingenious methods have been designed. Compliance with EBS situations which would require discontinuation of normal programming may be met by simply requesting designation that would allow the station to sign-off.

Indeed, recent government action has removed much of the attraction, especially for those who were constantly battling the endorsed/third class personnel problems. However,

not only are automatic transmission systems working seven days a week now, their greatest objective may already be on the horizon.

Discussions are underway in Washington which will ultimately result in the announcement of rules which will permit a more relaxed attitude for directional arrays of almost all types. Unlike other "relaxations" which we've experienced recently, this one involves equal FCC/user responsibility. High-placed sources indicate that while benefits will easily justify costs, the sophistication required will be capable of a tighter directional ship than is prevalent in many operations today.

This is of mutual benefit; owner-operators can be assured of compliance *all* their broadcast day since corrections will be made, probably, on a minute-to-minute basis. This will also result in less chance for citations. The FCC also stands to gain in this automatic approach. The spectrum control with which they are charged will be come more manageable as ATS-Controlled DA's are automatically kept within permissible limits.

A great deal of federal soul-searching will continue as the DA ATS rules are realized. Each system will be truly unique. Normally encountered system variations will have to be dealt with. These expected variations that are many times "understood" are very difficult to translate to legal rules. Sophistication will probably necessitate, if not mandate, equipment design beyond the scope of many individual stations' in-house capabilities.

As an example, Stevans Electronics is preparing now to meet this challenge by expanding the proficiency of their field-proven Model OP1 so that new rules may be provided with total and accurate compliance. OP1's microprocessor base enables it to conform to almost any eventuality as it is now configured and Stevans engineers stand ready to be responsive to the new rules and whatever new requirements they may present. Original engineering decisions, which dictated a "programmable" system, permit not only simple operations but also allow more exotic functions including (but not limited

to) continual attention to +1 db modulation levels, tower lighting auto checks, and "soft" non-interrupting ATS to manual/manual to ATS operation. The latter of these allows an operator to take manual control of an ailing transmitter which may otherwise inform the ATS that shutdown should occur.

Be prepared for stringent requirements, requirements which will effect the benefits for which ATS was originally intended. When the FCC approves ATS for directional arrays, Stevans for one will be ready.

## McMartin receives sub-contract

Omaha NE... McMartin Industries has been awarded a subcontract by the Collins Transmissions Systems Division of the Commercial Telecommunications Group of Rockwell International for the design and manufacture of coordination channel modulators and demodulators for satellite communications.

The system is being developed by Rockwell for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to provide a satellite interconnect system for National Public Radio (NPR). The system will not carry the NPR programs, but will provide a communications link between the network and member stations.

The Rockwell contract includes an order for a substantial number of units, the first group to be delivered by mid June, 1979. The units are also

being marketed to other users directly by McMartin Industries as the McMartin SMR-1, IF Modulator, and the McMartin SDR-1 IF Demodulator. Both units are intended for narrow band FM services utilizing a maximum 5,000 Hz audio bandwidth in the 52 MHz—88 MHz band. The products can be used to transmit both audio and digital information and are also suitable for terrestrial microwave applications.

The IF Demodulator is especially interesting because of its ability to acquire, track, and relock a very weak FM signal even when the transponder frequency error exceeds = 50 kHz. It also delivers at least 33 dB signal-to-noise ratio for a carrier-to-noise ratio of 14 dB in a 25 kHz pre-detection bandwidth (equal to a C/KT of 58 dB) and a = 10 kHz deviation.

In addition to the NPR system, the products should find other applications in broadcasting, CATV, and digital communications.

## NRBA \_\_\_\_\_ ...from page 7

cracy. To be vital, the press broadcast as well as print must be free to criticize the government, to search out and focus upon inequities and injustices, and to bring to the public's attention misuses and abuses of government power. A spectrum tax would place into the hands of the government a weapon which could be utilized to mute and even reverse efforts along any of those lines by the broadcast press.

NRBA's opposition to the spectrum tax should, in no way be interpreted as opposition to Rewrite II. NRBA believes HR-3333 is the appropriate vehicle for achieving the long overdue deregulation of radio, attainable only through legislation.

With appropriate modification, NRBA believes that the passage of HR-3333 will benefit the American public and reinforce the traditional American concept of a free marketplace.

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The way to begin is by reading *How to Become a Successful Consultant in Your Own Field*, by Hubert Bermont.

Clear, straightforward, packed with solid information and advice, this authoritative manual tells you everything you need to know to establish your own independent consulting practice. Here's a sampling of the contents:

- What does it take to be a successful consultant? (See Chapter 1.)
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- What to charge your clients — plus five helpful rules on fees. (See Chapter 6.)
- Why you should never work on a contingency (speculative) basis. (See Chapter 7.)
- Ingenious ways to promote yourself — and make people want your services. (See Chapter 9.)
- Contracts: why you should avoid them at all costs. (See Chapter 10.)
- Just what do consultants do all day? (See Chapter 11.)
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Perhaps no one is better qualified to have written this book than Hubert Bermont. He has served as consultant to more than 70 major corporations and trade associations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, McGraw-Hill, the Electronic Industries Association, Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics and the Smithsonian Institution. Yet he made the decision to become a consultant only after being fired from an executive position at the age of 43. You'll learn first-hand how he did it — and how you can do it, too!

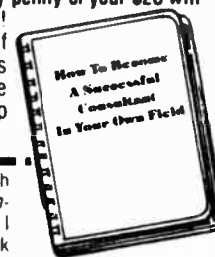
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## Headwheel control

Knoxville TN...I would like to thank those of you who have commented on my previous two articles. I need all the help I can get!!!

With this, I am beginning a series of articles which will explain how headwheels are brought to speed (2400 rps for domestic standards), to phase and then to jitter and drift rates of less than 140 nanoseconds. The ser-

ies will run for 8 to 10 issues and will describe the many ways used in machines to control the headwheel.

As a headwheel rotates it produces a tach or tonewheel pulse. Either a photocell or a magnetic pickup is used to indicate that the headwheel has movement. The motors are three phase synchronous, and will run at the frequency of the drive voltage, providing power is not removed from the drive to prevent overspeeding. If a 240 Hz frequency is used at a voltage of sufficient value (100 volts nominal), then the motor rotation will be 240 revolutions per second. Early machines use this drive frequency while later machines use 480 Hz amplitude reduced. Using 480 Hz permits fast acceleration and reducing the amplitude permits the headwheel to run at 240 rps. Still later machines use one drive frequency to accelerate the headwheel and another frequency to run it. Both frequencies are above 240 Hz, but they are constant voltage square waves obtaining power reduction by narrowing the drive pulse width. Next month I will describe 3 methods used to accelerate a headwheel from stop to 240 rps.

### Notes on Lock Logic

Introducing headwheel lock logic to the control track divider by four circuits in an RCA machine can give the capstan servo immunity from dropout, as follows:

- A. The headwheel lock bus is developed by coincidence of tape and house vertical. An extra pulse or so will not cause unlock in this circuit.
- B. Dropouts frequently cause sync separators to produce extra "vertical" pulses.
- C. Any pulse present in the capstan servo will reset the control track dividers and can cause enough disturbance to unlock the capstan servo.
- D. Shutting the capstan reset pulse off after headwheel lock is achieved will permit full capstan phasing and rephasing, and give the capstan good immunity from dropout.

In the next issue, documentation for this modification will be provided. Please do keep the questions and comments coming.

## Simplified operation of the TRC-15A

by Harold Hallikainan/  
Hallikainan & Friends

San Luis Obispo CA...The Moseley TRC-15A is a time-proven remote control in operation at many stations. A minor operating inconvenience can be easily eliminated by adding one part to the TRC-15A.

As supplied, the 'Calibrate' and 'Zero' controls interact. When performing the routine adjustments to compensate for system gain and offset drift, the operator must repeat the zero and calibrate adjustments several times, as adjustment of one affects the other.

The problem is that the calibrate control adjusts the pulse width on the monostable of the pulse counting FM discriminator. Adjusting the pulse width causes a variation in the gain of the discriminator (which is the desired effect) and causes a variation in the "center frequency" of the discriminator. The center frequency variation causes the interaction between the two controls.

The solution to the problem is to provide independent control over the gain and offset. The present zero set control does provide an independent control of offset. An independent gain control can be achieved by wiring the calibrate control across the meter. As the resistance of the calibrate control is decreased, the system gain is decreased, with no effect on offset.

(Continued on page 23)

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## BEE now 'down under'

Arlington, Va...

We are pleased to announce that Audio Telex Communications PTY Ltd has secured the Australasian rights to BEE. Audio Telex plans to mail copies to selected broadcast stations and studios throughout Australia and New Zealand on a monthly basis.

Audio Telex is well known throughout Australia in the broadcast, industrial and educational industries, where they market a wide range of Telex, Magnecord, Bogen, Techcraft and Atlas Sound products.

The General Manager of AudioTelex, Mr. Rod Craig, is delighted with the company's decision to handle the Australian rights to BEE. "As well as arranging the sale of products from the USA listings, for Australian

Broadcasters, which will appear in each issue of BEE," said Mr. Craig. Australian broadcasters are invited to send their listings to Audio Telex Communications:

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*Brisbane*

394 Montague Road,  
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### BEE expands internationally, again

*Editor's Note: As many of you know, BEE has been providing a service which would be of great value to broadcasters outside of the United States. The problem is the cost of foreign delivery (airmail) compounded by developing a mechanism whereby the foreign reader can access the listings easily and quickly. In an effort to overcome this, IMAS Inc, publisher of BEE, is in the process of negotiating the*

*international rights to BEE with established broadcast distributors and/or manufacturers in various countries. The concept is simple. The local distributor buys the rights to BEE and sponsors subscriptions for all the broadcasters in his country. He then acts as the import agent when one of his readers becomes interested in a given item, with IMAS Inc acting as the export agent when necessary.*

## ALLIED Eventide BD 955 BROADCAST DIGITAL AUDIO DELAY LINE

the next step



The EVENTIDE BD955 BROADCAST DIGITAL AUDIO DELAY LINE has a memory capacity large enough to delay signals up to 6.4 seconds. It also incorporates a unique catch-up feature, which eliminates the need for a taped jingle or announcement.

Designed specifically for the broadcast industry, this RAM digital delay line offers delay up to 6.4 seconds. It is primarily intended for the policing of live shows: a DUMP button cancels the objectionable program material and, if desired, cuts off the caller. Auxiliary relay contacts may be used to control the phone and/or a cartridge machine.

		FREQUENCY RESPONSE	
		7.5 kHz	15 kHz
DELAY	1.6 seconds	\$2300	\$2950
	3.2 seconds	\$2950	\$3900
	6.4 seconds	\$3900	\$6300

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Circle 136 on Action-gram

# Proposal for digital

by Edwin W. Engberg/  
Ampex Corp

## Data Rate

Redwood City... Engineers at Ampex Corporation are currently evaluating various digital audio recorder formats. The needs of the professional recording industry have guided this evaluation of formats to determine their reliability in typical operating environments, their capability for current and future operating requirements, and their potential for technological growth in the future. This has led us to the development of a digital audio recorder format that can serve as a basis for a standard throughout the industry.

Two approaches were initially considered: Rotary head techniques such as those used in home and broadcast television (video) recorders, and fixed head techniques similar to those used in conventional analog audio and instrumentation recording. The choice was made for a fixed head, longitudinal digital recorder format so as to provide multichannel (more than four channels) recording capability and high resolution manually directed editing within the recorder at no additional cost. To explain the advantages of this format, let's first describe the data rate requirements of a digital audio channel.

For professional recording usage the bandwidth of an audio channel should be at least 20 kHz. Sampling theory dictates that the sampling frequency must therefore be at least 40 kHz. To prevent unwanted signals (aliasing products) from "folding down" from the sampling frequency into the bandwidth of the audio channel, the input audio signal must be filtered to remove all frequencies above one-half of the sampling rate.

This is the job of an input (anti-aliasing) filter. Practical limitations in the implementation of input filters requires that the sampling frequency be slightly higher than that required by theory. Room must be given to allow the filter to roll-off the response from minimal attenuation at 20 kHz to at least 60 dB at one-half of the sampling frequency.

Consideration for synchronization of digital audio recorders with future digital video recorders led to the choice of 50 kHz as the sampling frequency. The value of each sample is represented by a binary number of 16 bits. This provides a maximum dynamic range of approximately 96 dB when using a linear encoding representation. Both the 50 kHz sam-

pling frequency and the 16 bit linear sample representation has been endorsed as a potential standard by the Digital Standards Committee of the Audio Engineering Society.

The product of 50 kHz and 16 bits results in a basic digital audio data rate of 800 Kb/sec. When this basic data rate is to be recorded, additional data called "overhead" must be added to allow format synchronization, data error detection and data error correction.

When this is added to the basic audio data rate in the Ampex format, the composite (formatted) data rate becomes 1.6 mb/sec. To provide economical usage of tape and allow conventional recording time per reel of tape, 30 in/sec was chosen as the maximum recording speed. With a data rate of 1.5 mb/sec and a tape speed of 30 in/sec, the recorded bit density becomes 50 Kb/in. This is a bit-to-bit spacing on tape of 20 micro-inches. By comparison, an analog recorder that records a 20 KHz sine-wave at 30 in/sec creates a wavelength on tape of 1,500 micro-inches., a difference of 75 to 1.

Experience at Ampex with digital instrumentation recorders has shown that for typical audio recording environments the recorded bit density should not exceed 25 Kb/in. Therefore we have chosen to divide the composite data rate of 1.5 mb/sec between two tape tracks to achieve a data rate per track of 750 Kb/sec and a recorded bit density per track of 25 Kb/in. The short wavelengths recorded in a digital audio recorder significantly influence practical editing techniques.

contact must be held less than 10 to 20 micro-inches. fingerprints can easily cause a spacing of 100 micro-inches, and smoke particles are typically 25 micro-inches in size. Because of the problem of preventing tape contamination, we believe mechanical splicing techniques will not be considered practical for professional recording applications. Instead, editing mechanisms such as those now used in the production of video tapes will become the accepted and desired procedure.

The new format is specifically configured to provide the capability of manually directed machine edits, such as punch-ins and edits directed by an automatic system. In this new format the recorded entrance and exit points of edits are executed without destroying or disturbing audio data before, during, or after the edits.

Our mechanism to provide these editing features is to format the recorded data into blocks on tape with defined gaps between them that are used to go into and out of record without destroying audio data. This is the same technique used in computer disk and tape drives.

## Block Requirements

Both physical and electrical considerations led to the final choice of block repetition rate. Data drop-outs which occur must be prevented from destroying the recorder's error correction mechanism. This requires that the block be physically long enough on tape so the data is adequately dispersed within the block. This is counterbalanced by the need to repeat the blocks often enough so that there are physically at least two blocks between the reproduce and record heads. This provides for processing of the audio data contained within a block, both within the recorder and within an auxiliary electronic processor, for subsequent re-recording into the same block space as it passes the record head. This feature is necessary to maintain absolute

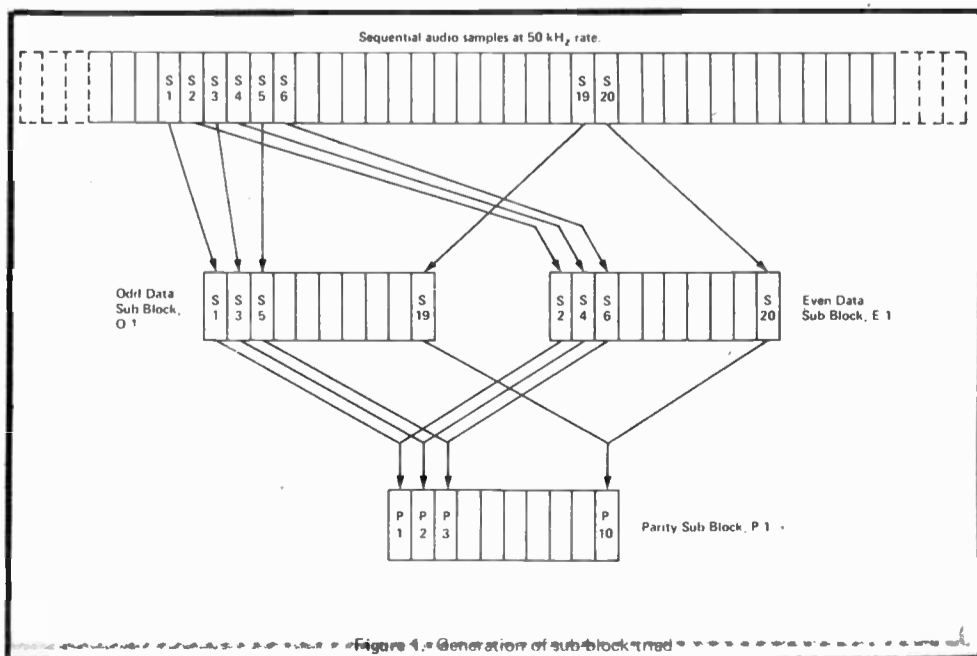
## Editing

During playback the recorded signal amplitude decreases at the rate of 55 dB per wavelength of separation between the tape surface and the reproduce head gap. A 25 Kb/in recorded density results in an effective wavelength of 80 micro-inches. To minimize spacing losses, the head-to-tape

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# audio standard

timing between channels of a multi-channel recording during editing procedures. The block repetition rate chosen is 250 Hz.

## Sub-Block Description

A pictorial representation of the electrical process used to format the basic audio data is shown in Figure 1. An analog to digital (A/D) converter, either within the recorder or without creates a 16 bit binary number every 20 micro-inches (50 kHz). The top of Figure 1 represents the continuous generation of these numbers. To aid this explanation, let's label one of these 16 bit numbers (one sample) S1. This will be the first in a series of 20 samples labelled S1 through S20. The first sample, S1, is placed in the odd sample sub-block, 0-1. The second sample, S2, is placed in the even data sub-block, E-1. Likewise S3 is placed in 0-1 and S4 in E-1. This continues until all 20 samples have been divided between 0-1 and E-1. Each data sample contains 16 bits and each sub-block contains 10 samples so therefore each sub-block contains 160 bits.

A third sub-block, called the parity sub-level, is created by sequentially comparing the bits in 0-1 with those in E-1. For example, the first bit in 0-1 is compared with the first bit in E-1. Remember that a binary bit can have only two values, a "one" or a "zero." If both bits are the same value, a "zero" is placed in the first bit position of the parity sub-block, P-1. If they are different, a "one" is placed in P-1. This continues on a bit-position basis until all 160 positions have been filled. The result is a sub-block triad consisting of 0-1, E-1 and P-1.

The next 20 samples will also be divided into a triad. Ten of these triads are then used to create the data block.

## Tape Format

The ten sub-block triads that make up the data block are divided between two tape tracks as shown in Figure 2. Tape track A is separated across the

tape from track B by at least one track width to insure that typical single event drop-outs can only effect one track of the two-track pair.

Tape track A contains the odd data sub-blocks and track B the even data sub-blocks. Note that the parity sub-blocks are shared between the tracks, with P-1, P-3, P-5, P-7 and P-9 on track A and P-2, P-4, P-6, P-8 and P-10 on track B. This is important for error correction reasons that will be explained later.

Also included in the data block is synchronization and error detection information. It is possible that when a major drop-out occurs, the recorder's electronics may lose synchronization with the format on tape. Synchronization must be regained as soon as possible to minimize any additional loss of data. To insure rapid recovery, a 12 bit pattern is inserted at the beginning of each sub-block. This pattern is unique and cannot naturally occur in the audio, parity, or error detection data. A synchronization pattern thus occurs approximately every 0.25 ms.

Just as it is necessary to re-synchronize after a dropout, it is also necessary to quickly and unambiguously detect the data errors resulting from drop-outs; it is only after detection that errors can be corrected or concealed. A 12 bit error detection character is added to the end of each sub-block and thus occurs at the same rate as the synchronization pattern. This character is in the form of a cyclic redundancy check character (CRCC). The CRCC is the result of arithmetically dividing the data in the sub-block by a binary polynomial.

Actually, this is a conventional error detection technique and much simpler to accomplish than to explain. But stated simply, error detection is accomplished by again dividing the data by the polynomial during playback. If the remainder from this division matches the remainder represented by the CRCC, there is an extremely high probability that no errors occurred during playback in either the data or the CRCC. If an

error burst occurred and that burst was less than 12 bits in length, the errors will be unconditionally detected. If the burst error is exactly 12 bits long, the probability of the error going undetected is one in 2048. For burst errors longer than 12 bits, the probability of undetected errors is one in 4096. This gives a potential to improve the recorder's basic bit error rate by 5000 to one if all detected errors are corrected.

Figure 3 shows the construction of the data and parity sub-blocks. The inter-block gap (IBG) that separates the data blocks and is used to go into and out of record without destroying audio data also contains a synchronization pattern and error detection character. The IBG can in the future contain non-critical and generally repetitive information such as time code, data block identification, or editing information.

The data is recorded on tape in the form of M<sup>2</sup> code, an Ampex-developed code that is self-clocking and DC free to match the recorder's fundamental lack of DC response. Each track has a recorded data rate of 750 Kb/sec. The distance from one IBG to another is 0.12 inches and each IBG is 9.6 mils long.

Consideration for providing a good signal-to-noise ratio operating mar-

gin for the basic digital channel, together with concern for tape guiding accuracy and intermachine compatibility, limits the minimum tape track width to 15 to 20 mils. This format provides 4 audio channels on 1/4-in tape, 8 channels on 1/2-in, 24 channels on 1-in, and 48 channels on 2-in. In addition, one track is provided in the 1/4-in configuration and two tracks are provided in the 1/2-in, 1-in, and 2-in configurations that can read data in all tape transport modes for time code or other utility purposes.

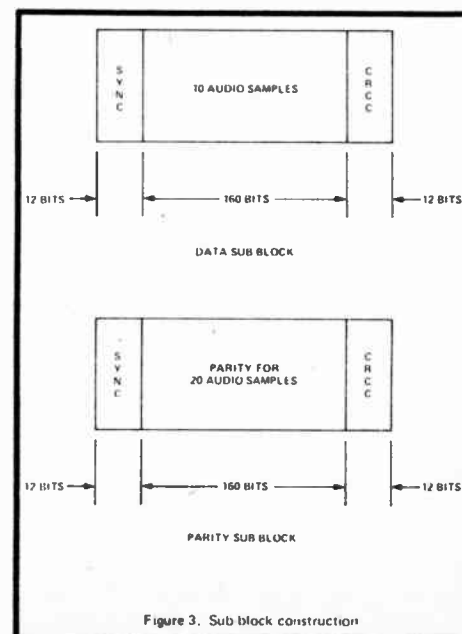


Figure 3. Sub block construction

(Continued on page 22)

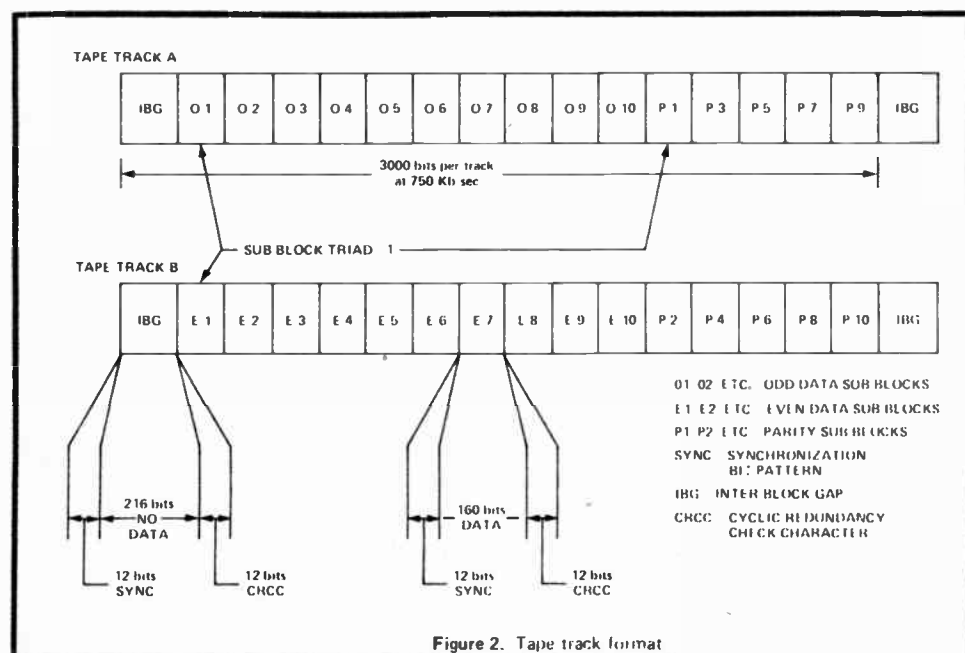
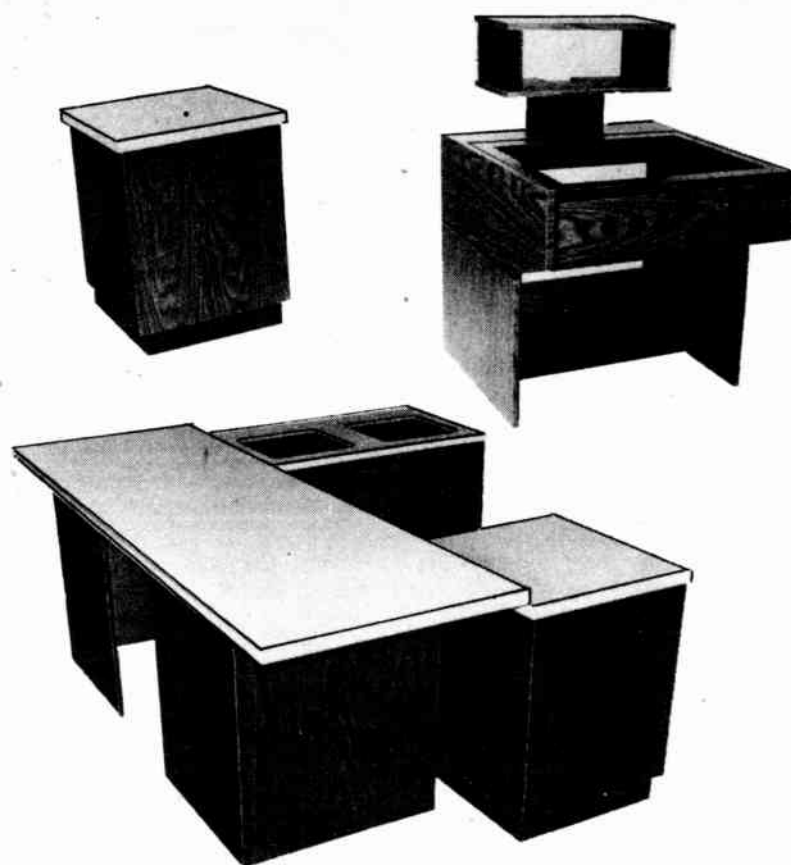


Figure 2. Tape track format

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## New product and literature releases

### Compression Driver

James B. Lansing Sound, Inc announces the 2441 professional series compression driver, offering extended bandwidth and improved power capacity. The suspension of the driver employs a new JBL-developed surround pattern (patent pending) consisting of three-dimensional diamonds. The diamonds reduce binding stress and provide predictable frequencies for the second and third Eigen tones, in addition to the basic suspension

resonance. As a result, frequency response of the 2441 is extended approximately one octave beyond that of its predecessor, the 2440.

Contact: James B. Lansing Sound Inc.  
8500 Balboa Blvd  
Northridge CA 91329  
213-893-8411

### Cable Guide

Bonded and laminated flat cable are described in a new guide published by

Belden Corp. Also covered in the 8 page illustrated booklet are bulk and prestripped flat jumper cable and custom cable assemblies. The publication, No. ED79-1, describes the space-, weight-, and cost-saving applications. Specifications and technical data are presented. For a free copy while supplies last, contact Belden.

Contact: Belden Corp  
2000 S Batavia Av  
Geneva IL 60134  
312-232-8900

### Inverter

Vanner Inc has developed a highly regulated 1000 watt DC to AC inverter for mobile vehicle operations. The unit is over 90% efficient and capable of driving all on-board equipment including such installations as a ¾ inch cassette recorder, sync and color bar generator, etc. Normal draw, with everything on, is between 6 and 7 amperes at 120 volts. The RMS voltage, amperage and frequency are so well regulated that no additional filtering is necessary. Special features of the Vanner-Verter Model 20-10 are small size, light weight and noiseless operation.

Contact: Vanner Inc.  
Box 5816  
Columbus OH 43221  
614-488-3331

## BEE offers new employment service

Arlington VA... Effective immediately, IMAS Inc, publishers of BEE announce a new employment service for broadcasters. Within the BEE classified section two new categories have been opened, one for "Help Wanted" and one for "Positions Wanted." These new categories are meant for technical positions ONLY (BEE will not accept sales management openings, etc) and can be used by individuals and companies alike. The service will operate in the following manner:

### For Help Wanted

Any company or station can run technical Help Wanted ads at the flat rate of \$12 per insert (up to fifty words maximum accepted), per month. Payment is required with the insertion. There will be no invoicing. Blind box numbers can be provided at an extra charge of \$10 per listing, and responses will be forwarded to the listee, unopened, upon receipt.

### For Positions Wanted

Any individual can run a Position Wanted ad, FREE of charge, at any time. Simply send in your listing (50 words maximum) and it will appear in the following 3 issues. Contact information will normally be provided, but if a box number is required, there is a \$10 fee which must be paid with the listing (there will be no invoicing). Responses will be forwarded to the listee, unopened, upon receipt.

### Why a New Service

According to Steve Dana, BEE Publisher, this employment service is a natural expansion of the type of service BEE has been providing to broadcasters, and he expects favorable response from BEE readers. The idea itself was brought up by a number of people in the industry who have complained about their inability to reach the technical audience effectively. John Delantoni of Orban put it bluntly when he said, "We have a hell of a time trying to find an advertising media with which to advertise our job openings." Well, John, no more.

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## TELEVISA places large Ampex order

Redwood City CA... Ampex has announced it has received an order from Televisa, S.A., of Mexico City for more than 40 VPR-2 and VPR-20 helical scan videotape recorders worth approximately \$3.0 million.

Ronald Ballantine, president of Ampex International, said Televisa also has an option to purchase an additional 10 VPR-20s and five VPR-2s. Televisa, Mexico's largest television network, will install the new equipment at its two major production facilities in Mexico City. The new systems will be used to expand

### Fresnel Lens Spots

A new line of fresnel lens fixtures has been introduced that is much smaller and lighter than any previous fixtures of this type. The new units, manufactured by Ianiro in Italy, are called "Bambinos" because of their small size. They are available in 2000-watt, 5000-watt and 10,000-watt configurations. The 2000-watt Bambino has a 6 inch fresnel lens, the 5000-watt has a 10 inch fresnel lens, and the 10,000-watt Bambino has a 14 inch fresnel lens. The new Bambino line will be available at leading rental houses everywhere.

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**Sony 1" EV 320, excellent condition. New heads. Used 3 hours. \$500. Key Code 3-68.**

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**Ampex 1002 VTR, solid state MPA, 05 inter-sync, monitor bridge, solid state elec. editor, Key Code 3-38.**

**Ampex Video Tape Spooler for ACR-25 carts. Type 1370650-01. Make an offer. Broadcast Export Association. 800-336-3045.**

**Sony PV-1200 Helical VTRs. All operate but need video heads, with 60 used 90 minute tapes. 3 available for \$600. Key Code 3-16.**

**Sony 2600 3/4" U-matic recorder players. \$975 each plus shipping. Key Code 3-28.**

**IVC 820C color video tape recorder with video monitor head. \$500. Key Code 3-49.**

**CLP 1-B. 2 color packs for EV-320 VTR; need alignment. \$250 each. Key Code 3-68.**

**Ampex Colortec 1011. Ampex Amtec 1060. Excellent condition. Key Code 3-97.**

**Sony 2850 3/4" U-matic recorder player. Key Code 3-28.**

**Sony EV320F with color pack CLP-1B, new. Both for \$950. Key Code 3-32.**

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New Listings are in *Italics*.

## DIGITAL PROPOSAL

...from page 11

### Error Correction And Concealment

For any professional recording format to be accepted, its error correction mechanism must survive the typical data drop-outs that will occur during playback. This format was designed so that the vast majority of drop-out occurrences do not harm more than one sub-block in a sub-block triad. Additionally, it is important that multi-drop-outs have a small probability of disturbing more than two sub-blocks.

Figure 4 shows a general representation

of the three sub-blocks of a triad dispersed on the magnetic tape. This dispersion is both longitudinally along the tape and transversely across the tape. If a drop-out causes errors in an even data sub-block, the odd sub-block and the parity sub-block of that triad are used to absolutely regenerate the data that was in the even data sub-block. This represents the vast majority of error occurrences and results in complete error correction.

But if two separate drop-out occurrences cause errors in both a data and parity sub-block of a triad, as shown in figure 5, the samples in the remaining data sub-block are used to interpolate the lost samples. This results in a very good approximation that is called error concealment.

If both data and sub-blocks have errors, the recorder holds the last

good sample until the next good one.

Ampex has conducted an evaluation of various concealment schemes using many types of program material specifically selected to expose concealment. Listening tests with concealment of errors representative of this format has shown that skilled

listeners find it extremely difficult to detect deliberately repetitive interpolative concealment even when they know precisely when it is occurring.

A significant advantage comes to this format through the use of two tape tracks per audio channel. If one

(Continued on page 23)

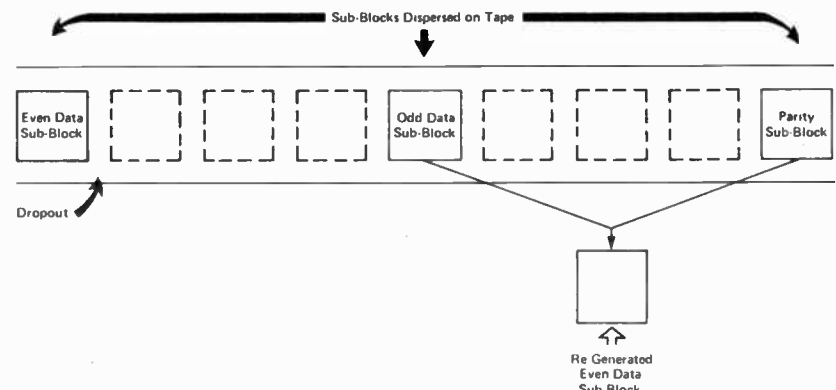


Figure 4. Error correction using data and parity sub-blocks

...from page 22

track of a channel fails during playback, catastrophe is averted! The remaining good track allows complete correction on half of the

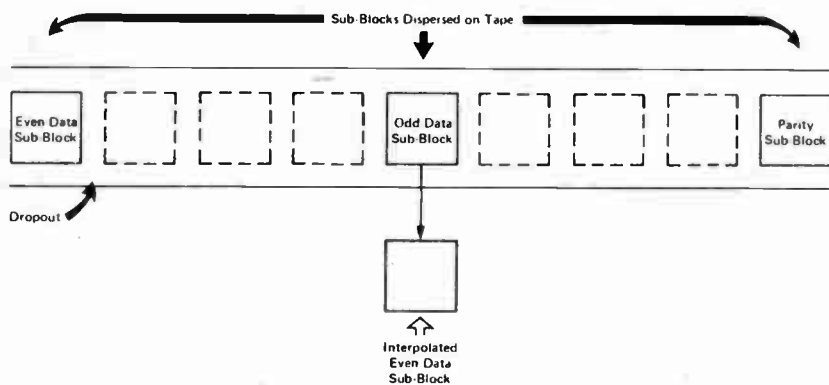


Figure 5. Error concealment by interpolating between samples in a data sub-block

remaining data sub-blocks and interpolative masking on the other half. This is because half of the parity sub-blocks are in the remaining good track and are used to regenerate half of the lost data sub-blocks. The other half of the data sub-blocks lost are interpolated from the data sub-blocks remaining in the good track. The result of the loss of one track of a channel pair is complete correction alternated with interpolative concealment every 0.2 ms, a more acceptable situation than the complete loss of a channel.

This format was designed to provide the performance and operational features needed for professional and semiprofessional recording applications both in the near future and for those which will be a part of digital recording studios of the future.

We chose two tracks per channel not only to initially provide reliable recorders but to always provide the avoidance of catastrophic failure if one tape track fails.

A significant feature of this format is the ability to do insert recordings without any disturbances to audio recorded before or after the insert.

**TRC-15A**

...from page 9

The modification becomes a matter of removing the calibrate pot wires from the metering demodulator board terminals 7 and 8. Connect these wires across the meter leads on terminals 9 and 10 of the metering demodulator. Install a fixed resistor (typically 5.1K) across terminals 7 and 8 of the metering demodulator board to set the monostable pulse width. The value of this resistor may vary. Too high a value will make it impossible to zero the meter. Too low a value will make it impossible to adjust the meter to mid-scale with "calibrate-raise."

With this modification, calibration becomes a simple two-step affair. Push calibrate and adjust the zero control for zero indication. Push raise and adjust the calibrate control for mid-scale. It is no longer necessary to re-adjust the zero control after making this modification.

This allows "punch-in" recording as is now done on analog recorders.

We believe this format to be the basis for the professional digital recording standards of today and tomorrow.

**VTR's**

...from page 12

Televisa's broadcast services and to provide additional production capability. The Ampex VPR-2 helical scan videotape recorder/reproducer has become the most popular product ever made by Ampex since its introduction April 1978.

**System Features**




The system features Ampex's exclusive automatic scan tracking (AST)\* system that provides broadcast quality slow motion and still frame playback. The VPR-2 also provides built-in frame accurate editing,

variable play and shuttle features. The teleproduction recorder is designed for professional broadcast, CCTV and post-production use, together with its companion digital time-base corrector, the Ampex TBC-2.

The Ampex VPR-20 is a portable high-band color unit with full record capability that fulfills the need for a high-quality field production recorder to complement the VPR-2, as well as for electronic news gathering (ENG) and other remote production situations. The unit has full playback electronics, allowing its use in the studio in conjunction with a time base corrector such as the TBC-2.

**DISTRIBUTOR DIRECTORY**

The following is a listing of distributors that serve the broadcast industry and who would be glad to help you with any of your equipment needs. Contact any of them directly, or circle the appropriate number(s) on the Reader Inquiry Card and send it to IMAS today. We will forward your request to the distributors, and they will send you their literature or line cards.

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IVC-100 camera  
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Hercules 6502 dolly  
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Sony AV-3200 camera kit w/ viewfinder  
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Limited quantity left.  
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McMartin TBM-3000 FM frequency monitor  
92.7

**For Sale**

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Ampex 7500, 7100, 5100 and 7000 video tape  
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Ikegami VR-624 camera with Silicon or  
Vidicon tube option, good cond.  
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WV-220, 1 switcher WV-600 audio  
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EIAJ color, good cond.  
Sanyo 2000 rec/playback video recorder,  
good cond.

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