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Some back issues published during the last six months are available from the Editorial Office at $£ 1.40$ inclusive of postage and packing. Address as 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. All correspondents expecting a reply 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").

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ringing condenser etc）and takes Oual adaptors（2 2 tro $\qquad$ Korderming with B．T．plug 3 metres ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．E2． 9 complete with 4 core cable，cable clips and 2 BT extension

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$-1250 \mathrm{v} \rightarrow-250 \mathrm{~V} 60 \mathrm{~mA} \% 6.3 \mathrm{v} 5 \mathrm{~A}$ mains transtormer $+\Sigma 1$ post 1 E．M．Iape motor no speed and reversible 12 how timer，plugs into 13 A socke
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2P112－6 voll 2 DOM MA Vottage regulated PSU for 13 amp socket
2 P113 -9 voll 2 DDOMA Vollage regulated PSU for 13 amp socket $2 P_{1} 113-9$ voll 200MA Voltage regulated PSU for 13 amp socket
2 P114－12 volt ： 200 MA Voltage regulated PSU for 13 amp socke 2P146－FM from end with turing reguated capitor and F．M．circuitry
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## COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo shows Alan Willcox's c.r.t. tester-booster in action. See article on page 244. The Ampmace transformer specified in the article is available from Satellite TV and Video, 1 Albany Road, Roath, Cardiff at $£ 5$ plus VAT, including post and packing.

## The Coming of DBS

Our congratulations to British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) on being awarded the UK direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) franchise. Five groups put in applications for the fifteen-year franchise and the competition was strong. It was apparently not an easy decision for the IBA and one gathers that it was touch and go until the last. There was certainly an odd little charade about the way in which the decision was communicated to the applicants. Representatives of all five were called to the IBA's Brompton Road headquarters and were sat in separate rooms where they were personally handed individual letters by the IBA's chairman Lord Thomson. One wonders why a single phone call or an invitation to the winner would not have been a simpler way of going about it, but it seems that the IBA was intent on being seen to be scrupulously fair in its dealings with the applicants. When one thinks of the unpleasant possibilities of subsequent complaints this was perhaps a reasonable way of going about it. There has certainly so far been a total lack of any complaints from the losers.

In reaching its decision it seems that the IBA was impressed by the expertise offered by the various members of the BSB consortium (Granada and Anglia TV, the Pearson group, Virgin and Amstrad Consumer Electronics). Between them these groups already have considerable interests in broadcasting along with publishing, banking, music recording and retailing, video production and distribution, film distribution and consumer electronics manufacturing and distribution interests. In its application for the franchise BSB emphasised that DBS had to be "programme-led" rather than relying on the novelty of a new way of going about programme transmission. It has also stressed the need for the programming to be complementary to that offered by the existing terrestrial networks so that viewers will be offered a wider range of choice. Not only that, but BSB's three channels, carrying four services (one news based, one general entertainment, a family programme and a premium film service) are to be separately targeted rather than being in competition. These are praiseworthy intentions that are not going to be easy to implement - there is, after all, a limit to what can be screened and the present terrestrial services already offer a fairly wide choice (except when they all go sports mad at the same time . . .).

BSB also explicitly recognised that the financial commitment (the cost of getting the service started is put at over $£ 50 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) represents a considerable risk, but felt that "the chances are now good enough, and the prospective rewards great enough, to justify an adventure on the grand scale"' BSB will in particular be up against the ingrained habits of the viewing public - many a set is switched on early in the day and left on regardless of what comes up on the screen. BSB has not only the problem of getting its services known and persuading viewers to switch over, it also has the problem of persuading potential viewers to buy the necessary equipment. This is not simply a matter of shoving up an extra relatively inexpensive aerial, as when ITV started: a whole new receiving package is required. Not only that, but BSB have to provide the satellite - the ITV companies rely on the IBA to provide, for a fee, the means of transmission. BSB has certainly taken a lot upon itself and one admires its courage.

BSB has expressed the hope that some 400,000 homes will equip themselves for DBS reception in the first year of the service (1990, all being well) and that over half the houses in the UK will be so equipped after eight-ten years. That would be quite a rapid take-off in comparison to previous advances in domestic TV/video services (ITV, colour, the VCR). It hopes to break even in the third or fourth year of the franchise, with rapid profits growth (from advertising and subscription revenue for the film channel) thereafter. One recalls that ITV had a distinctly shaky start, but after the first couple of years or so came the famed "licence to print money". BSB will have a harder task than the original ITV companies not only because of the need to persaude the public to purchase the receiving equipment required but also because of the much greater competition it faces - from the BBC, the ITV companies, video and the cable services, also from other prospective DBS services.

This last point is one of the most intriguing aspects of the unfolding story of satellite broadcasting. By 1990 the German, French, Irish and Luxembourg satellites are likely to be in orbit, providing competition within the DBS field. It's likely that the French/ German satellites will carry at least some English language programming - French channels have already been offered to prospective UK broadcasters. The Irish satellite will carry mainly English-language programming and indeed some of the consortia that failed to gain the UK DBS franchise may take channels on this one - or the Luxembourg satellite Astra. While Astra will not be a full-power DBS satellite it will nevertheless be receivable on a modestly sized dish, and of course the technology of reception is advancing all the time (noise rather than signal strength is the problem). The footprints of all these - and possibly other, e.g. Scandinavian - satellites will cover much of the UK. We shall certainly not be starved of channels, and to be successful BSB will have to rely on its promised programming strength.

So the nineties will see far more competition in the field of TV broadcasting than we've been used to. One has to ask the awkward question: will it all be financially viable? In the USA, where competition in TV broadcasting has always been much greater than in Europe, TV stations have come and gone, only the big networks and a few strong locals getting a firm hold. The rewards for successful DBS broadcasting in the UK could be considerable, but the risks are also great.

# Long-distance Television 

Roger Bunney

For the most part reception of DX-TV signals in the UK during November matched the weather - dismal! Daily reception of sorts was possible via meteor-scatter propagation, though the Leonids meteor shower failed to produce the excitement it has done in previous years. Sporadic E reception was noted on several days as follows:
7/11/86 CST (Czechoslovakia) ch. R2.
8/11/86 RAI (Italy) chs. IA, IB.
11/11/86 CST R1.
12/11/86 TSS (USSR) R1; JRT (Yugoslavia) E3, 4.
15/11/86 RAI IA; +PTT (Switzerland) E2.
18/11/86 TVP (Poland) R2; SR (Sweden) E4.

Iain Menzies in Aberdeen logged several auroral events during the evenings: NRK (Norway) was received on the 11th, RUV (Iceland) on the 12th, while the 15 th produced signals from both NRK and RUV - all these signals were in Band I. He noted intense auroral activity on the $24-$ 25 th. During the first phase on the 24th, from 1600-1930, signals were received from NRK and there was "mush" type interference. Excellent RUV signals were received on the 25 th, with mush throughout Band I.

There was an extremely intense tropospheric opening on the $28-30$ th, during a period of heavy fog associated with high pressure. Signals from France and the Benelux countries were received on the 28th. Reception distances increased on the 29th, with signals from W. Germany in Band III and at u.h.f. The opening peaked on the 30th, when E. German signals in Band III and at u.h.f. were received as far west as the Welsh coast. Extensive reception from TDF (France) was noted along the south and east coasts and well inland, the farthest distance being reception of Band III signals from Denmark in west Wales. Simon Hamer in Powys even noted a Dutch ATV station, PE1DWL, with P5 (noise free) signals at mid-day on the 30th - together with ch. E11 and 12 signals from E. Germany. A rewarding end to an otherwise gloomy month.

Whilst we in Europe approach the winter reception low things are picking up in Australia. Their SpE season is now in full swing. Robert Copeman in Melbourne reports extensive reception of New Zealand and W. Australian Band I signals during November. For Anthony Mann in Perth the season opened with a bang: he received a ch. A2 signal from the Philippines (vision only) on October 11th at $1400-1600$ local time, a distance of 3,500 miles. There were also unidentified ch. E2, E3 and C1 signals.

Hugh Cocks writes from the Algarve, Portugal that during mid-November ZTV (Zimbabwe) ch. E2 was received almost daily at $1400-1630$ via F 2 propagation. The signals were very strong at times, though normally only the vision at 48.25 MHz was received. Tropospheric reception has given him signals from the Canary Islands on chs. E30, E32, E40 (TVE-1) and E35 (TVE-2), also RTP Madeira ch. E5. Late October SpE signals seen by Hugh included BRT Antwerp ch. E2 at 100W on October 29/30th.

## 1987 Meteor Shower Dates

Our thanks to the Meteor Section of the British Astronomical Association for providing the following information on meteor showers during 1987. Note that the Leonids shower can in some years be very intense and is thus especially worth DX-TV attention. The 1987 Taurids shower will be weak with a long, flat maximum period.

Lyrids
May Aquarids
Delta Aquarids July 15th-August 20th, peaking on July
$\begin{array}{ll} & \text { 29th. } \\ \text { Perseids } & \text { July } 25 \text { th-August } 20 \text { th, peaking over Au- }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll} & \text { gust 12-13th. } \\ \text { October 16-27th, peaking over the 20- } \\ \text { Ond } \\ \text { Taurids } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Ond. } \\ \text { October 20th-November 30th, peaking } \\ \text { over November 1-10th. } \\ \text { November 15-20th, peaking over the 17- } \\ \text { Leonids } \\ \text { 18th. } \\ \text { December 7-15th, peaking over the 13- }\end{array} \\ \text { Geminids } & \begin{array}{l}\text { 14th. }\end{array} \\ \text { Ursids } & \begin{array}{l}\text { December 17-25th, peaking on the } 23 \text { rd } .\end{array}\end{array}$
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April 19-25th, peaking on the 22 nd.
May 1-10th, peaking over the 5 -6th.

## Meteor-scatter Reception

Meteor-scatter propagation can give reception of distant Band I signals on most days of the year. The signals are for the most part of brief duration, ranging in strength from weak to very strong. Typical MS signals appear rapidly, with perhaps a longer decay to noise level - over several seconds for a normal ping though super pings can last for upwards of twenty seconds. Daily MS is random in


Fig. 1: Map showing proposed W. German local TV stations.
nature, though the early morning period produces more intense pings (unfortunately few Band I transmitters are in operation in W. Europe during the early morning period). The cause of MS propagation is signal reflection from space debris that pass through the ionospheric layers, usually burning up at E layer height (around 70-90 miles). Reflection is from the ionised trails produced when the debris burn up, and occurs at Band I frequencies upwards - really intense trails will produce reflection in Band III. The brief, fleeting nature of the signals means that the receiver must be accurately tuned and the hold controls set for instant synchronisation.

Random MS propagation should not be confused with that provided by the major and predictable meteor showers mentioned above. These showers often produce long periods of reception, with characteristic fluctuating signal strengths, if you are lucky enough to be tuned in at the peak period.

An aerial used for SpE reception in Band I will provide MS signals - a wideband type makes reception easier. MS reception distances are similar to those of summertime single-hop SpE reception, i.e. around $500-1,200$ miles.

## News Items

Norway: The first local TV stations are now in operation at Bergen (ch. E45, 50W), Smoras (E48, 10W) and Geitanuken (E51, 10W).
Holland: A third network is expected to be in operation by the end of the year, financed by advertising which will be included in blocks between programmes. The latter will be provided by the present broadcasting organisations. The Europa satellite TV channel has ceased operations.
Italy: The Benelux DX Club reports that two more private TV stations are in operation transmitting on ch. IA. These are Vigevano "Telelomellina" and Novara "Tekeaktautakua" (or "TAI"). The latter has been received in Holland.

## W. German Local TV

Technical specifications for W. German local TV services have now been agreed by the Deutches Bundespost. Although the powers to be used are much lower than with the main networks it's common for the low-power UK Forces TV network stations in W. Germany to be received in the UK during good tropospheric openings, so we can expect reception of the higher-powered "lokalen Fernseh" at such times. Table 1 lists proposed stations grouped in areas. See also the accompanying map. Our thanks to the Benelux D, X Club for providing this information.

## Interference produced by Computers

A major part of the BBC programme "Micro Live" on November 14th was devoted to radiation from microcomputers and the ways in which such radiation can be resolved using both sophisticated and simple TV receiving equipment. It was shown that signals from a supposedly secure microcomputer system could be received at 100 yards using a hand-held fan dipole assembly, with information clearly resolved on a TV receiver's screen at closer distances. The Yoko v.h.f./u.h.f. monochrome portable advertised in these pages recently by Aerial Techniques was used in these experiments, the only (though extensive) modification being to provide an external line timebase speed/sync control. This was added


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because many microcomputers run at speeds other than the usual 625 lines. The programme also showed that with mobile operation a 27 MHz CB whip aerial mounted on the roof of a van produced from banks/offices etc. signals that could be clearly resolved by the roadside.

Microcomputer manufacturers are not happy to discuss this situation. One unit showed in the programme incorporated a system to scramble the radiation so that it could not be picked up by unauthorised operators. The real answer however is to reduce the problem at source by use of screening, earthing and good design.

I've had plenty of experience of computer/VDU radiation problems that are extremely difficult to remove at the domestic receiving site. The Sinclair Spectrum is noted for its high-level output in Bands I and II, and several other domestic microcomputers are reported to be receivable at a distance. Stopping this nuisance is now very difficult since there is no backing from the DTI. It may be possible to reduce radiation from a domestic micro by repositioning it. With commercial installations however you can often find that the operators are unwilling to screen/reposition offending VDUs. The legal process of trying to prove a public nuisance is unlikely to be successful. A more effective approach is to be able to prove that you can resolve the signals, thus making the operator aware of the lack of security. Liaison with the equipment manufacturer may help, especially when the equipment is produced by one of the larger manufacturers - smaller manufacturers tend to show less concern, as I found when experiencing trouble from a nearby word processor.
We'd be interested in hearing from any enthusiasts who have experienced these problems and may have worked out solutions.

## Weston Developments' Aerials

Please note that Weston Developments, Romsey, has ceased to manufacture and sell wideband aerials for DX use. Requests for catalogues and orders for equipment will only result in disappointment.

## 405-line Corner

It's evident that there are many collections of 405 -line equipment up and down the country and it seems that interest has increased since system A transmissions ceased. If anyone is thinking of starting a collection or is in need of spares, valves or circuit information an approach to Jack Millar of 107 King Street, Ramsgate, Kent may well be worthwhile. He has some 100 TV sets for
disposal, none less than 25 years old, also a few radio receivers, tape recorders and v.h.f. booster amplifiers plus approximately 5,000 valves and 1,000 service manuals, service updates, etc. Jack can provide a photostat list for £1 including postage in the UK. Write to him directly, with a stamped s.a.e. for any specific requests - no random callers, please.

The dual-standard Bemex pattern generator mentioned in the December column went extremely quickly. At least one other enthusiast is seeking a 405 -line Bemex or similar source of patterns. Let us know if you have anything suitable lurking unwanted in the back of the workshop our correspondent (in Walsall) says he will pay a reasonable sum for such a beast. Please don't chuck away $405-$ line equipment: someone, somewhere is likely to want it!

Table 1: W. German local TV stations

| Station | Channel(s) | ERP | Station | Channel(s) | ERP |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| BAYERN |  |  |  |  |  |
| Augsburg | E38 | 330W | Landshut | E47 | 63W |
| Amberg | E50 | 40W | Munchen | E59 | 1 kW |
| Ansbach | E49 | 50W | Nurnberg | E40 | 760W |
| Aschaffenburg | E44 | 87W | Passau | E36/47 | 44 W |
| Bamberg | E45 | 105W | Regensburg | E36 | 130W |
| Bayreuth | E46 | 83W | Rosenheim | E45 | 100W |
| Coburg | E38/47 | 48W | Schweinfurt | E22 | 68W |
| Erlangen | E50 | 100W | Straubing | E35 | 50 W |
| Hof | E51 | 33W | Weiden | E48 | 45 W |
| Inglostadt | E57 | 100W | Wurzburg | E21/38 | 140W |
| Kaufbeuren | E51 | 70W |  |  |  |
| BADEN-WURTTEMBERG |  |  |  |  |  |
| Freiburg | E38 | 130W | Pforzheim | E23 | 105W |
| Ulm | E36 | 146W |  | E23 | , |
| BREMEN |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bremen | E29 | 680W | Bremerhaven | E5 | 140W |
| HAMBURG |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hamburg | E36 or 48 | 1.4 kW |  |  |  |
| HESSEN |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kassel | E35 | 200W | Wiesbaden | E38 | 100W |
| NIEDERSACHSEN |  |  |  |  |  |
| Braunschweig | E60 | 250W | Hildesheim | E38 |  |
| Cuxhaven | E21 | 50W | Oldenburg | E35 | 130W |
| Gottingen | E39 | 110W | Salzgitter | E30/51 | 100W |
| Hannover | E40 | 770W | Wolfsburg | E38 | 120W |
| NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aachen | E26 | 260W |  |  |  |
| Berg. Gladbach | E46 | 70W | Koln | E27/52 | 470w |
| Bielefeld | E38 | 430W | Krefeld | E33 | 520 W |
| Bochum | E33 | 360W | Leverkusen | E53 | 130W |
| Bonn Bottrop | E5/36 | 270w | Monchengladbach | E26/46 | 200W |
| Bottrop | E56 | 180W | Mulheim/Ruhr | E6 | 170W |
| Dortmund | E43/58 | 500W | Munster | E51 | 270w |
| Dusseldorf | E46 | 560W | Neuss | E44 | 140W |
| Essen | E12 | 600w | Paderborn Recklinghausen | E54 | 120W |
| Gelsenkirchen | E51 | 670W | Reckinghausen |  | 210W |
| RHEINLAND-PFALZ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kaiserslautern | E50 | 80W | Mainz | E36 | 270W |
| Koblenz | E57 | 240W |  |  |  |
| SAARLAND |  |  |  |  |  |
| Saarbrucken | E29/35/56 | 170W |  |  |  |
| SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN |  |  |  |  |  |
| Flensburg | E24 | $100 \mathrm{~W}$ | Lubek | E59 or 60 | 88W |
| Kiel | E24 | 320W |  | E59 or 60 | 88 W |

## ALAN PERRON

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# VCR Fault Analysis 

Steve Beeching, T.Eng.

## Fisher FVH615 Function Fault

Once put into play the machine wouldn't respond to stop. Eject gave pause. Forward picture search was o.k. but reverse search was ignored. Obviously brain failure, but where?

The starting point here is to eliminate the main microcomputer chip and check around the various input paths to it for errors. As play could be selected - the micro followed the play routine and playback was observed - it was a fair bet that the micro was all right, though we left open the possibility that it was defective (say a 90 per cent chance that it was o.k., a 10 per cent chance that it wasn't).

The input data comes via a comparator system and the basic operation is simple once explained. When a function key is pressed an input voltage from a resistive ladder network is applied to one input of an operational amplifier that acts as a comparator. See Fig. 1. The other input, applied to the non-inverting ( + ) input of the comparator, consists of a staircase waveform. This is obtained from the microcomputer chip's four-bit keyscan data output lines (D0-D3) via a digital-to-analogue converter - the latter simply adds the four-bit data pulses to provide the staircase waveform. When the staircase voltage waveform at one input of the comparator equals or exceeds the voltage at the other input the comparator's output changes state. The microcomputer notes this change and checks the state of its D0-D3 outputs at this point. It compares the D0-D3 conditions with a value stored in its memory and this tells it what function has been selected. The micro then takes the appropriate action.

In the case of play the ladder network applies 3.8 V to the comparator's inverting input ( - ) pin. The appropriate conditions on the D3-D0 (note order) lines are (0001. Table 1 shows the conditions for various functions. So play is selected when the ladder network produces 3.8 V


Fig. 1: Block diagram of the electronic function control system used in the Fisher FVH615. The arrangement is widely used in "electronic" VCRs.
and the D3-D0 lines are at 0001: for pause the conditions are 11 mV and 1110 and for eject about 300 mV and 1101. Thus if eject operates pause either the voltage value is wrong, the state of the D3-D0 lines is incorrect or the comparator chip is faulty. The voltages produced by the ladder network and the function keys checked out fine, which isolated the fault to the other side of the circuit.

One problem in practice is that the staircase waveform is not the linear affair one theoretically expects. So don't blame the microcomputer chip for nonlinearity. On the oscilloscope the microcomputer's outputs look like random pulse trains of various highs and lows.

A test routine is possible if a double-beam scope is available. Check the comparator output at pin 6 of the comparator/DA converter chip against one of the data inputs to locate a point in the data waveform of seemingly random marks and spaces where a change of output takes place. By locking the scope to that data line the other three can be checked against it and the digital conditions at the marked point where the comparator output alters can be established. In our case the comparator's output changed with different command inputs despite the data lines being in the same condition, i.e. the comparator was unable to differentiate between two different inputs.

Table 1: Function select conditions.

| Function | Key voltage | D3 | D2 | D1 | D0 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Playback | 3.8 V | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Record | 3.49 V | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Fast forward | 1.43 V | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Rewind | 1.15 V | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Stop | 863 mV | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Eject | 296 mV | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pause | 11 mV | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

## Book Review

"A First Class Job!" - the biography of Frank Murphy, by Joan Long. Available at $\mathbf{5 5 . 9 5}$ per copy including post and packing from Mrs. Joan Long, 5c Weybourne Road, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8HF.
Television readers who have long memories will be particularly interested in reading Joan Long's arresting memoir of her father, who founded Murphy Radio Ltd. in the early thirties. It will also appeal to those who take an interest in the history of radio generally, from the viewpoints of the customer, the dealer and those who work in the industry.

Frank Murphy was guided in business by the principle of giving value for money, and he used the firm he founded to practice what he preached. We learn with astonishment from Joan Long's book that his active involvement with the firm lasted for little more than six years, but in that short time he contrived to take the industry by the scruff of the neck and shake it from top to bottom. Not only were his radio sets of highly distinctive style, they were sold by dealers who had an unprecedented relationship with the factory and made by workers who in the mid-thirties had probably the best conditions in the industry. How Frank Murphy achieved all this makes fascinating reading, and Mrs. Long is to be congratulated on having produced a book that holds the reader's interest from start to finish - itself a first class job!
C.E.M.

# Versatile Tube Tester-Booster 

Alan Willcox

Although designed as a portable, battery-powered unit this tube tester-reactivator could as well be constructed as a workshop instrument operated from the bench power supply. It could also be built as a mains-powered unit, with the advantage that it requires only a low-voltage mains transformer instead of one with a high-voltage secondary winding and various heater tappings. A suitable transformer in this case would be one with a $9 \mathrm{~V}, 1 \mathrm{~A}$ secondary winding.

The heater supply provided by the unit is continuously variable between 0 V and 12 V . The boost voltage available is in the region of 450 V . Use of a rechargeable 12 V leadacid battery to power the unit gives a maximum heater supply of 12 V , which is useful for testing and boosting the tubes used in monochrome portables.

## Circuit Description

Fig. 1 shows the circuit of the unit. We'll consider first the heater supply part of the circuit. A switch-mode system is used so that no power is wasted and no heat is created: transistor Tr 1 is switched on and off by the variable pulse width input applied to its base. The 555 timer i.c. ( ICl ) is connected in the astable mode, the variable mark-space ratio of its output being set by VR1. Timing capacitor Cl is charged and discharged from output pin 3: charging is via D2 and discharge via D1, the ratio between the two being set by the position of VR1. When low, output pin 3 provides forward bias for Trl. So the transistor's duty cycle and hence the average output voltage is proportional to VR1's position.

The high-voltage supply for tube boosting uses a similar arrangement, with the 555 timer chip IC2 driving $\operatorname{Tr} 2$. IC2 is again used in the astable mode but this time the markspace ratio of the output is fixed at approximately $3: 1$. Tr 2 's collector current passes through the $0-12 \mathrm{~V}$ windings of a small mains transformer. The phasing is arranged so that when $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ is switched off the collapsing field induces a high-voltage positive pulse in the $0-120 \mathrm{~V}$ windings. This pulse is rectified by D3 with C 3 and C 4 as the reservoir
capacitors, making sufficient current available for the boost process. Neon N1 serves as an indicator that this part of the circuit is working normally.

The voltage induced in T1's secondary winding is not simply a function of the turns ratio. This would be so only with a sinusoidal input, which would produce an output of about 120 V . With a pulse input the output obtained is also a function of the duty cycle and frequency. Note that this circuit provides a high-impedance, low-current source. The current available for boosting is only that which has been stored rellatively slowly in C3/4. Any attempt to draw a continuous current will simply reduce the voltage.

Meter M2 provides an indication of emission by measuring the control grid current when a 12 V positive bias is applied. It's not claimed that this method is particularly accurate, but it does give a meaningful indication of emission and shows whether the boost process is providing any improvement. This method of estimating the emission was chosen because it requires only a threewire connection to the tube, resulting in a considerable simplification in the wiring. Diode D4 isolates M2 when the boost voltage is applied.

## Construction

The problem of different tube types and bases is an awkward one with home-constructed testers. It can mean the use of multicore cables and complicated switching. The approach adopted here is to use a three-wire cable with the beam switching appropriate to each tube type being carried out in a dedicated base box. Although a gun switch is required in each box this arrangement seems to be preferable in view of its simplicity and flexibility.

The minimum size case that will house the unit is about $200 \times 125 \times 75 \mathrm{~mm}$. A d.p.d.t. switch would enable a single meter movement to be used instead of two. If a more sensitive meter is used in the M2 position it's best to shunt it to read 5 mA f.s.d. and stick to the value shown for R6. The heater supply meter M1 also enables the battery voltage to be monitored - at the maximum setting


Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the tube tester-booster.


Fig. 2: Component layout.


Fig. 3: $P C B$ track pattern used in the prototype.

## Components list

## Resistors:

R1 $100 \Omega$, 1 W
R2 $18 \mathrm{k}, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$
R3 $6.8 \mathrm{k}, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$
R4 100 10 , 1 W
R5 $1 \mathrm{M}, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$
R6 $1.5 \mathrm{k}, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$
R7 1k, 5W W.W.
R8 820k, 0.5W
R9 $100 \Omega, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$
R10 See below
VR1 47k lin.*
*With switch

Capacitors:
C1,2 100n, min 63 V
C3,4 33 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 450 \mathrm{~V}$

## Semiconductor devices:

D1,2 1 N4148 or equivalent
D3 BY299
D4 BY298 or h.t. rectifier type
Tr1 BD204
Tr2 BD203
IC1,2 555

## Miscellaneous:

M1 1mA (R10 12k) or
$100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ (R10 120k)
M2 5mA
N1 Mains neon
F1 1A
T1 Ampmace Ltd. miniature
12V, 6VA transformer Battery Yuasa 12V 1.9Ah (Maplin XG74R)
of VR1 the heater voltage equals the battery voltage.
Since both transistors are cool in normal use neither requires a heatsink. The frequency and duty cycle of the boost drive were chosen to suit the transformer specified:


Photo shawing the internal construction.


Fig. 4: Common c.r.t. base connections. (a) Delta-gun tube. (b) 20AX tube. (c) PIL tube.
if an alternative is used it might be necessary to experiment with the values of R2 and R3. If the boost voltage obtained is very low, reverse the connections to one of the windings. Rectifier D3 must be a BY299 - a BY298 will break down and limit the boost voltage though it will not be destroyed. Two BY298s in series seem to work o.k. As
far as the boost switch is concerned, if like me you're lazy and don't bother to discharge the e.h.t. on a tube before testing I recommend a flick type switch with a long lever! Quarter inch jack plugs and sockets were used for the interconnections between the unit and the various bases.
C.R.T. base panels taken from scrapped sets were used to construct the bases. They were cut to size for use as the lid of a suitable box. For unusual tube types a lead with small spring clips to attach directly to the c.r.t. pins was made up. If you do this make sure you don't short the heater connections since Trl will overheat in this situation.

A faint whistle should be heard from Tl when the unit is first switched on. This whistle varies somewhat as C3/4 charge. It takes a few seconds for the boost supply to reach about 400 V - with a fully charged battery it should finally settle at around 450 V . As previously mentioned the heater voltage should be continuously variable over the range $0-12 \mathrm{~V}$, the upper limit being the battery voltage.

## Use

For tube boosting best results are obtained when the heater supply is increased by some fifty per cent before the application of boost. The value of R7, which sets the discharge time of C3/4 when boost is applied, was experimented with on tubes in different conditions. Quite a low value was used first but best results were obtained with R 7 about $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. The battery can be charged from a 13.8 V power supply or from a car battery: a car battery charger should not be used.

## The Computer as an Aid to Servicing

Vivian Capel's article on word processors (December 1986) gave a valuable insight into this extremely useful piece of equipment. If you have to do a lot of office work that involves letter writing the word processor offers enormous advantages - it could be said that its superiority over a conventional typewriter is on a par with that of the latter over a quill pen! Once you've used one for a time and have mastered the techniques involved you'll wonder how on earth you managed before. It really is that good.

As a matter of interest this article was composed using a word processing program that enabled me to select in advance the spacing of the lines on the finished document and to centre the titles simply by pressing the appropriate keys. After that, if I wish to make any changes, correct errors, etc. as I go along, or even after I've completed the first draft, I can do so simply by pressing other keys and typing in the new bits or moving other bits around.

Before you rush out and buy a word processor however it will pay you to consider whether you want to do more than that one type of job in your office. A dedicated processor will do only that, hence the adjective. A personal computer on the other hand can tackle word processing as just one of many tasks, some of which can be of equal if not greater use to the service engineer.

One of the chores that anyone concerned with repairs has to perform is to file wads of servicing information that usually takes up a great deal of shelf space and becomes ever increasingly difficult to sort through when a particular document is required. One can obviously make a rough and ready index by simply using a notebook with
alphabetical markings, and I'd be the first to agree that if you don't have to consult many different manuals this is sufficient and cheap. On the other hand when you have to refer to all sorts of information frequently and in depth the notebook system is tedious and time consuming. You can even end up with a number of notebooks that themselves need to be indexed! In this case a computer data system is of tremendous assistance. One microdisc will hold vast amounts of information that would require rows of notebooks: moreover any item required can be selected and displayed within seconds.

One of the best-known data recording programs is dBase II. It will enable you to file information on all your service sheets in an extremely useful form and is available from software specialists for a wide range of personal computers. As with any program, it's worth studying the operating system in detail if maximum benefit is to be obtained, but here's a general guide to how dBase II works.

When you enter the program you'll receive a prompt sign on the screen. This is simply a full stop, so watch out! If you want to create a file you now type in "create". The computer will then ask you for a file name, which must not exceed eight characters. You could decide on something like "TVDATA" or "TVSHEETS". If you have a dual-drive computer it's best to have the file on a separate disc in the B drive - so that the program disc doesn't get cluttered up with information. In this case the full file name would be "B:TVDATA". You are next asked to decide on the way in which the information is to be stored

- the program refers to this as its record structure. Each record is made up of a number of "fields": there may be up to 32 fields for any one record, but in practice you probably won't need to use anywhere near this number.

Each field has its own number and is made up from four pieces of information called NAME, TYPE, WIDTH and DECIMAL PLACES. NAME is easy enough to understand, but the others require some explanation. We are restricted to ten characters for all field names, but this will be ample for most purposes. An obvious choice for the first field would be the name of a receiver manufacturer. So NAME would be entered as MAKER. TYPE refers to whether the NAME is made up of just numbers or a mixture of numbers and letters. If the first (unlikely in this case) one enters " $n$ ", if the second " $c$ ".

WIDTH means how many characters will be required to list the information. For this we need to know the longest manufacturer's name. Mitsubishi for example has ten characters: to be on the safe side we might opt for a length of fifteen characters, which ought to be sufficient for any setmaker's name. DECIMAL PLACES is mainly required when prices are to be included in the record. Since they won’t exceed two (e.g. £155.95) this is the number to enter. If no decimal places are required you simply cancel them by making a carriage return or enter after WIDTH.

For the second field we would probably choose a receiver model number or chassis type number. So we would enter NAME as MODEL. If all model numbers consisted of numbers only we would use " $n$ " for TYPE, but since in a lot of cases there are numbers and letters (e.g. G8) we enter "c". Few model numbers are very long so we might restrict the width to perhaps eight or ten characters.

The third field would contain whatever is the next most important piece of information for the user. It might for example be the location of the service manual. In this case NAME would be LOCATION. Where do you keep your manuals? If you have several box files you might designate these $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}$ etc. The same could be applied to individual shelves of a book case. Thus TYPE would be " $c$ ". Had you decided to number the files or shelves TYPE would be " $n$ ". Unless you have an extraordinarily large private library WIDTH won't have to be more than three.

As already mentioned we can go on adding fields up to the maximum of 32 , but let's assume that the three just given are sufficient for our needs. The full procedure in commencing the file would, after receiving prompt, be as follows:

## .create

## ENTER FILENAME: b:TVDATA <br> ENTER RECORD STRUCTURE AS FOLLOWS: <br> FIELD NAME, TYPE, WIDTH, DECIMAL PLACES

| 001 | Maker,c,15 (CR) |
| :--- | :--- |
| 002 | Model,c,10(CR) |
| 003 | Location,c, (CR) |
| 004 | (CR) |

As a working example of a record let's assume that we are entering details of a good oldie, the Philips G8 chassis. kept in box file B:

| 001 | Philips (CR) |
| :--- | :--- |
| 002 | G8 (CR) |
| 003 | B (CR) |

And that's all there is to it! The data is recorded and the screen clears ready for the next entry. You can continue to file information for a long time since the individual records absorb only 29 characters (no not 28 : an extra one is used for storage purposes) and the disc might be capable of handling about 360,000 . Not all of these will be available for records, especially if you are going to include indexing facilities, but the potential is still huge.

How indexing is carried out will have to await a further article, but we can give a general idea. Briefly, indexes can be created for any or all the fields, that is in our example setmakers, models and locations. Thus in seeking the Philips G8 we could ask for Philips models to be displayed and could have them all shown on the screen, after which we could select the one we want and from the record ascertain where data for it is to be found. Generally however we can go straight to the model index.

So far we've gone to some length to achieve what might have been done using a notebook, but we have scratched only the surface of what can be achieved with dBase II. We could for example ask to be shown all the service manuals kept in file B , which is almost impossible with the notebook method. And a little thought will show that we can extend the range of the records to include a lot of useful information that will in many cases save us actually having to refer to the manual. For example we might want to make a note of line output transistor and tripler types, the value of the surge limiting/h.t. smoothing resistor and so on. We can have instant access to this information by creating fields called Loptrans,c,6, Tripler,c, 12 and Surgelim,c,20. These might be entered as follows:

| 004 | $2 \times 8 \mathrm{BU105}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 005 | 21827109 |
| 006 | $2 R 2+6 R$ |

Clearly the records could be expanded to include all we need to know without our having to look at the circuit diagram, thus saving a great deal of time.

If we set up another file to control stock-keeping it becomes possible to check instantly whether the required component is in stock. Since we can use the setmaker's actual part numbers in the records ordering spares is greatly simplified. The cost can be put on record too.

We've now come a long way from the notebook stage, but there's more to it yet. Because we can use any of the fields as the basis for an index we could for example ask for a display of all the models using a particular tripler or transistor. This sort of thing could be of great help if we need to rob another set for an obsolete part: anyone running an operation that to any extent calls for cannibalisation is clearly going to find this facility very useful. Another of the items that suggests itself for indexing is the c.r.t. type.

Anyone wishing to keep customer records will find dBase II ideal. Fields covering the customer's name, type of set, date bought/hired and servicing record can be set up with ease. (Ike Hodge would probably include such invaluable data as the customer's likely bank balance and daughter's vital statistics, but not a word to my wife about that!) Expiry dates for rental agreements and so on are other candidates for records. And we're still only scratching the surface!

In a following article we'll take a closer look at how indexing is accomplished. We'll also examine some other software that will make life easier for the TV service engineer.

# Teletopics 

## DBS FRANCHISE AWARDED

The IBA has awarded the UK satellite TV broadcasting franchise to British Satellite Broadcasting, a consortium consisting of the Granada and Anglia Television groups, Pearson plc (a holding company whose interests range from information and entertainment, including the Financial Times, Penguin Books, Goldcrest Films and Yorkshire Television, to oil, china and investment banking), Amstrad Consumer Electronics and the Virgin Group. BSB plans to provide four programme services, Now, Screen, Disney and Galaxy, on the three satellite channels available. Now will be an advertisement supported news channel, featuring extensive live coverage, transmitted for eight-ten hours a day. Screen is to be a subscription service devoted entirely to feature films: BSB plans to stimulate the production of at least twelve new feature films a year. Disney will have some advertising and will provide a family service for those at home during the day, while Galaxy will be an advertisement supported channel consisting of pure entertainment.

BSB intends to raise between $£ 500 \mathrm{~m}$ and $£ 600 \mathrm{~m}$ to get the services started and hopes to commence broadcasting in late 1990 - the franchise lasts for fifteen years. It expects to reach some 400,000 viewers during the first year of operation, eventually extending to half the homes in the UK, but does not expect to break even until threefour years into the service. If BSB succeeds in gaining an audience of this size in the time scale envisaged the takeoff will be much faster than with colour in the early seventies and VCRs in the late seventies. One key to achieving an audience of this magnitude will be the provision of receiving equipment at a moderate cost: Amstrad will play a key role here and expects to have equipment on sale at less than $£ 200$ including VAT.

The BSB group has so far committed $£ 80 \mathrm{~m}$ to the project and has underwritten a further $£ 120 \mathrm{~m}$. It hopes to attract other investors in raising the additional $£ 300$ or so required. $£ 100 \mathrm{~m}$ will be spent on programmes during the first year of operation. It's conceded that the risks are high, but rapid growth of profits is expected after the first three-four years of operation. The IBA estimates that the project could create up to 25,000 jobs over the next five years.

The charge for the subscription film service is expected to be about $£ 2.50$ a month. This service will share the same channel as the Disney family programme.

## OTHER DBS DEVELOPMENTS

The UK's largest independent television company, Thames Television, intends to take a five per cent equity stake, with an option for a further five per cent, in SES, the Luxembourg company which plans to launch a me-dium-power, sixteen channel TV satellite (Astra) whose service area will cover most of Western Europe. The five per cent stake will cost Thames $£ 3.7 \mathrm{~m}$. Astra is expected to be launched in 1988 and SES will be leasing out the channels, at least five of which are expected to carry English-language programming. Thames is considering taking one of the channels and it's understood that Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group has put forward a proposal to lease three channels. Reception of Astra should be possible using an 85 cm dish. SES is funded mainly by Luxem-
bourg, Belgian and W. German banks: $£ 65 \mathrm{~m}$ has so far been committed to the project, which is expected to cost around $£ 125$ m.
Thames Television has withdrawn from the $£ 40 \mathrm{~m}$ Super Channel project which is intended to provide a UK originated service for W. European cable TV operators via satellite transmission.
The legal aspects of satellite TV broadcasting in W. Europe were considered by ministers from the 21 nations of the Council of Europe at a recent meeting in Vienna. A convention covering trans-frontier broadcasting was approved and is to be put to individual governments for ratification. This process is likely to take a couple of years. The Council of Europe was set up in 1949: moves to use it to provide a framework for European satellite broadcasting are seen as an alternative to EEC efforts to control European broadcasting.

The Irish government has awarded a licence to Atlantic Satellite, which is eighty per cent owned by the US concern Hughes Communications, to provide an Irish satellite TV service. Launch of a satellite is expected to be in 1990 and the footprint would cover the UK.

The Europa satellite/cable TV channel, which provided a mixture of news, sport and general programmes as a public service, has been closed down. Facilities for broadcasting were provided by the Dutch broadcasting organisation NOS which claims it was owed some $£ 20 \mathrm{~m}$. Europa was run by a five country consortium (Ireland, W. Germany, Italy, Holland and Portugal) and had been in operation since October 1985.

## SATELLITE TV RECEIVING EQUIPMENT

A new range of satellite receiver units aimed at the domestic market has been introduced by Megasat Ltd. (5, St. Pancras Commercial Centre, Pratt Street, London NW1 0BY. The XX3R is described as a budget system which nevertheless uses a low-noise LNB and a lowthreshold receiver. It's unmotorised in its standard form but a motor package in matching case is available as an optional extra. The XX3RI is motorised and features remote control of all functions. The XX3G is the most sophisticated unit, offering extra features such as automatic de-emphasis selection, automatic skew adjustment, and narrow-band stereo sound selection with dynamic noise reduction.

NEC's latest satellite TV receiver unit, Model 2022, is understood to be able to handle MAC encoded signals. It's sold with a motorised 1.5 m dish for $£ 1,565$ including VAT but not installation. An alternative 1.8 m petal dish brings the price to $£ 1,653$. Further details can be obtained from NEC Home Electronics Division, Oval Road, London NW1 7EA.

## TV DEVELOPMENTS

Several receivers now on the market incorporate colour transient improvement (CTI). The technique makes use of the Mullard TDA4560 chip which was described in our May 1985 issue (page 390). Basically, differentiation and integration are used to sharpen the slope of the demodulated colour-difference signals. This introduces a signal delay, so the the luminance signal has to be delayed to a corresponding extent - the chip incorporates a gyrator delay line that's used for this purpose. The net result of this extra signal processing is to improve the fit of the luminance and chrominance signals. Six models in the current Grundig range incorporate this feature. Amongst
other sets using CTI are ITT's 20in. Model CT3327 and 14in. Model CP3126.

A project costing $£ 3.5 \mathrm{~m}$ has been started in the UK to develop a large-screen liquid-crystal display for TV use, initially in a monochrome version. It's expected to last three years and is being run by STC Technology in conjunction with Thorn-EMI, BDH Chemicals, Hull University and the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment. The display will make use of a faster-operating type of liquid crystal and is being partially funded by government money. A colour version is said to pose no great problems.

Seiko Epson in Japan is understood to be working on a projection TV system that uses three LCDs as light valves. The light source is a specially developed 300 W halogen bulb and a special optical system has been developed for the projector.

## CD SEMINAR

The Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians is to hold a one-day seminar on compact disc systems at the Royal Institution, London on March 18th. Details can be obtained from the Society at $57 / 61$ Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BL (01-403 2351).

## TV SPARES

Wizard Distributors of Empress Street Works, Empress Street, Manchester M16 9EW (061 872 5438), who have been an appointed Spares Distributor for Fidelity for two years, will continue to stock and distribute their parts following the recent reorganisation of Fidelity's Spares Department. The full range of parts is available along with components for a wide range of other UK and Japanese brands - catalogues showing the full range, plus many other items, are available on request. SEME Ltd. of Units 2 E and 2 F , Saxby Road Industrial Estate, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 1BS (066 465 392) have also been appointed official spares stockists for Fidelity.

An interesting article in a recent issue of Electrical and Radio Trader, describing work undertaken by Tech Semco, threw light on some current problems in the servicing industry - problems that seem likely to get worse. In the past Tech Semco has mainly provided a servicing back-up operation for importers. Tech Semco's chairman Lee Marks commented that this work is decreasing as importers are being cut out and more and more retail organisations are importing equipment directly. His firm is increasingly dealing with such retailers and with foreign manufacturers who have only a sales office in the UK. He warns that in many cases he's come across provision for spares and servicing is being cut back to unacceptable levels. It seems that we are going to encounter ever more of those obscure sets of uncertain origin for which spares sources don't seem to exist.
Mastercare has recently invested $£ 3 \mathrm{~m}$ on a modernisation programme and is to open several new branches around the country. The spares operation is being computerised and a new purpose-built head office is being built at Hemel Hempstead.

## THORN TX10 CHASSIS TIP

The latest issue of Ferguson Feedback contains a helpful piece of advice for those experiencing problems with the TX10 chassis. It seems that R813 ( $121 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) is inclined to change value. This resistor is in a crucial position, providing the feedback between the h.t. supply and the chopper
control circuit. Symptoms attributable to R813 include line tearing (may be intermittent), field roll, tripping, an arcing noise, high h.t., low h.t. (yes, both!) and destruction of the chopper transistor TR701. Feedback comments "when in doubt, check R813"!

## AIDS

The Department of Employment and the Health and Safety Executive have issued a booklet, entitled "AIDS and Employment", giving guidance on AIDS as it affects the normal work environment. Copies are available from AIDS and Employment, The Mailing House, Leeland Road, London W13 9HL. It's emphasized that all those responsible for employing others should be familiar with the facts.

## CORDLESS PHONES

DXers and others have long complained about the problems caused by cordless phones that operate over excessive distances. At last the Department of Trade and Industry is to take action. An order has been laid before the Commons making it a criminal offence to import, manufacture, sell or use cordless phones with a range of greater than 100 yards. Action has apparently been prompted by the fact that such phones have interfered with emergency services and marine telecommunications. The problem remains that large quantities of these phones have been sold (it has previously been an offence to use but not to sell such equipment), but at least it's a step in the right direction. Why did it take so long?

## VIDEO NEWS

Two additions have been made to the Ferguson Videostar range of VCRs. Both incorporate the HQ system of enhanced picture quality and have been designed to provide remote control of the VCR and TV receiver from the same handset (the TV section of these remote control units is designed for use with Ferguson TV sets to be released later this year). The 3V57 supersedes the 3V54 and has a suggested price of $£ 380$; the 3 V 58 at a suggested price of $£ 550$ incorporates extra features including hi-fi stereo sound and a "go-to" facility to locate any point on the tape quickly. Ferguson point out that all their VCRs now incorporate HQ circuitry.

Thorn has announced that its associated company J2T, a joint venture with JVC and Thomson of France, is to acquire the VCR deck making Thomson subsidiary Steli which is located at Tonnerre, France. This will for the first time give J2T the facility to manufacture decks as well as the other sections of their VCR products. J2T will now have plants at Newhaven, Berlin and Tonnerre.
Two new VCRs have been released by JVC, the HRD370 at $£ 600$ and the HRD755 at $£ 850$. The later is, as its price suggests, a full-feature machine and is said to have "improved HQ circuitry".
Models featuring HQ circuitry have recently been added to the Fisher, ITT and Sharp ranges.

## IN BRIEF

Channel 4 is planning to start a breakfast TV programme in October 1988. The two-hour programme will concentrate on business and international news . . . Philips has announced that the United States Philips Trust has been terminated, the assets reverting to N.V. Philips' ownership. The trust was originally established in 1939 to protect Philips' US assets from seizure. . . . The second

Broadcast trade fair is to be held at Frankfurt on October 14-17th. It's planned to hold the fair, which caters for professionals in the film/radio/TV/video fields, biennially in future . . . The South Korean videotape manufacturer Saehan Media is to establish production facilities in Sligo, Ireland. The plant will employ 800 people within two years and will supply markets in Europe, Africa and the middle east . . . Standard Elektrik Lorenz (SEL) of W.

Germany is to establish a joint venture with Skala-Co-op in Hungary to produce ITT colour TV sets and VCRs for the E. European market . . . Philips is to establish a jointventure operation in the People's Republic of China to produce colour tubes - production is expected to exceed half a million tubes a year. Further agreements covering the production of TV sets, VCRs and components are expected to follow.

## VCR Clinic

## Philips VHS Machines

We are at present handling large numbers of Philips VHS machines that appear under various guises, e.g. the Philips VR6462, Pye DV464, Finlux VR1010 and Tatung VR8490. These are all basically the same VCR with minor differences such as remote control as standard or optional, reverse play or slow motion, etc. Several common faults have come to light.

The first may be described as no rewind, or no fast forward, or tape tangling, or intermittent play or jams. The cause is the brake solenoid sticking. A spot of oil may provide a temporary cure but replacement is required. If you are uncertain as to whether the solenoid is the cause of the problem, select rewind then fast forward without a tape in the machine. Repeat several times. During the change from one direction to the other a distinct click should be heard as the brakes operate. If you don't hear it the solenoid is at fault.

Another fault that can give rise to similar complaints is the idler wheel slipping. In this case the clicking will be heard during direction change. Cleaning the idler wheel doesn't seem to be too successful and replacement is recommended.

We have had three cases of clock failure with the display showing such things as 80.00 hours. In each case the TMS3763-28 clock chip was responsible.

If you ever need to remove a head from one of these machines don't do so unless you have a new head in stock - the replacement heads come with a couple of mica spacers that are needed to set the air gap between the head and the lower drum assembly when refitting the head. Luckily these spacers can be reused.

I've previously mentioned the no eject fault where a lever falls apart (see page 382, April 1986). It has since become apparent that replacement of the lever is necessary for a reliable repair. Whilst considering this area, we've had a couple of cases where the other lever operated from this cam has come adrift. Nothing breaks, it just comes out of the groove in the cam. The symptom in this event is that the pinch roller doesn't operate correctly. Refitting and a spot of graphite grease cures the problem.

We've had several cases of the cassette flap breaking at the hinge or the lever that operates it breaking. The cause is as yet unknown but replacing the damaged part seems to provide a lasting cure.

Finally I had an interesting fault that led me a merry dance on one of these machines. The problem was that half the front controls wouldn't operate, including the number pad. As the job was urgent the front panel, which appeared to be responsible, was replaced with a stock one and put aside for later attention. A few days later I investigated the fault more thoroughly. The faulty buttons

Reports from Derek Snelling, Les Grogan, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., Eugene Trundle, Mick Dutton, Nick Beer, John Coombes and William G. Lockitt, Eng. Tech.
were all connected to the same two data lines, and a scope check showed that whenever a button connected to these lines was pressed the same waveform appeared on both lines. Easy - a short between the two lines. But a bench check on the panel revealed no measurable short. Much time was then spent checking every component on the board, to no avail. Other pressing matters then had to be seen to and a colleague took over. About half an hour later he had found the cause of the problem. My original diagnosis had been correct: there was a short between the two data lines. What I hadn't realised was that when I originally swapped the front panel over I'd unplugged one of the leads at the main board end, but when checking the panel on the bench I had unplugged it at the panel end, thus failing to check the lead from the faulty machine. The cause of the trouble turned out to be a short-circuit between two adjacent pins in one of the plugs. The strange thing was that the machine worked perfectly for two months before the fault showed up.
D.S.

## JVC HRD120/Ferguson 3V35

The complaint with this machine was no functions and inability to set the clock. The "all 9 V " supply was present at the input to the mechacon board: it feeds regulator circuit Q205/D205 which produces the 5 V supply for the microcomputer chip. The 9 V supply was not present at the regulator however - because fusible link CP2 was open-circuit. This link, which looks like a two-legged transistor, is not shown on the circuit diagram. L.G.

## Philips VR6460

Before replacing the aerial amplifier/r.f. modulator module when the complaint is snowy EE and off-air TV pictures check that the 12 V supply to the unit is present and correct. In one case we found that the 12 V regulator chip IC7002 was faulty.
L.G.

## Sharp VC9700

When changing the clock chip I5002 in this machine it's wise to remove the back-up supply capacitor C5007 as well as taking the usual static precautions to prevent damaging the new i.c. For a too bright clock display check whether D6603 is short-circuit.
P.B.

## Finlux VR1010/Philips VR6462

If you encounter one of these machines with the head drum spinning way too fast check the waveform at 3D14.

It will probably be missing. If so check the voltages at the spindle side of the head drum optocoupler - you should find 4 V and 2.5 V here. If the readings are 12 V and 0 V the LED is open-circuit. If there's 12 V on both pins the cassette LED is open-circuit - the two LEDs are connected in series.
P.B.

## Panasonic Aerial Amplifiers

Like many dealers we see quite a few of the earlier Panasonic machines with low-gain aerial amplifiers. As long as EE operation is o.k., replacing Q3 usually does the trick.
P.B.

## Sony SLC9

We've now had three of these machines with no off-air signals and no lights in the fluorescent display panels. In each case the cause of the trouble was failure of the d.c.d.c. convertor (type CD-09) on power supply unit board D. This supplies the filament and operating voltages for the display panel and a 38.5 V output which is the source of the varicap tuning voltage. Although the manual gives the circuit diagram the soldered sardine-can construction of this little module defied my efforts to get inside to repair it. The replacement (part no. 1-608-212-11) is expensive but the type supplied looks different - it has probably been modified to provide greater reliability.

We are now experiencing an epidemic of cracked loading gear pulleys on these machines. This causes very noisy lacing and unlacing.
E.T.

## Hitachi VT63/4/5

It seems that certain production runs of these machines incorporated a batch of contaminated tape-end sensor transistors. Because this VCR design features an unusual tie-up between the end-sensors and the loading mechanism, via the syscon, misleading symptoms arise when the phototransistors leak - as they commonly do. The symptoms vary from immediate ejection of the proffered tape to what appears to be a mechanical jamming effect of the front-loading mechanism. It's easily checked (once you know!) by measuring the voltages at pins 6 and 7 of PG904 with no tape in the machine. If the voltage at either pin reads less than 9.5 V replace both sensors. They have different part numbers: one 5381681 and one 5381682 make a pair.
E.T.

## Hitachi VT39EM

The problem with this machine was low recorded and E-E sound. Playback was o.k. It seemed likely that the fault was in the i.f. strip. We were lucky since this machine has a dual i.f. strip, for use with 5.5 MHz sound. Comparing the voltages in the two units revealed that output pin 5 of IC803 (AA313) in the faulty strip was low at 6 V instead of $10 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$. Replacing this chip put matters right.
M.D.

## Sharp VC387

Only the clock worked on this machine. We soon found that there was no 9 V supply to the microcomputer chip because the little black fuse in the supply line had gone open-circuit. Replacing this brought some life back to the machine but there was no drum rotation. This time the little fuse in the 14 V supply was found to be open-circuit. Much confusion was caused by the fact that these fuses
aren't shown in the circuit. We had to trace the printed tracks across several panels.
M.D.

## Ferguson 3V30

Every now and again this machine would die, leaving just snow on the screen. A gentle tap anywhere on the top would restore operation. The problem was caused by dryjoints on the regulator transistor Q101.
M.D.

## Sony SLC9

No clock display on this machine was caused by the d.c.d.c. converter module in the power supply - it provides -26 V and 3.5 V a.c. supplies for the filament in the display.
M.D.

## Ferguson 3V22

Inability to set the drum speed in one of these machines was traced to a break in the print to the wiper of the drum discriminator control. In another machine a varying capstan speed effect was caused by the plastic flywheel support rising up the capstan slightly.
N.B.

## Sanyo VTC5000

Tape looping with these machines can be caused by a faulty reel motor or belt, but this problem occurs on loading or unloading. When the looping occurs on cassette ejection check the back spacing. If there's over rotation, suspect the rubber brakes. Cleaning and resetting should cure the problem.
J.C.

## Sharp VC9300

This machine wouldn't. accept a cassette. It was a simple fault: the cassette-in switch was broken in half. This can be seen and removal of the cassette housing will soon put matters right.
J.C.

## Ferguson 3V45/JVC HRD140/Toshiba V65

In the event of no "on" or drum rotation, with the standby light on, check whether the switched 5 V line is missing due to safety component CP 4 being opencircuit.
J.C.

## Sanyo VTC5150

The problem with this machine was a faint vertical line down the screen. It was cured by repositioning the grey lead (JW18) between the two delay lines.
J.C.

## Sony SLC5/7

If the sound is o.k. with a prerecorded tape but there's no E-E or recorded sound check the voltages around the TDA120UB sound i.f. chip. If there's no voltage at pin 14 the chip is faulty - pin 14 gets its voltage via an internal resistor.
W.G.L.

## Sony SLC6

In the event of no capstan motor rotation check the drive from transistor Q022. If necessary check the capstan servo i.c. (CX143A) on the system control panel. If the 12 V supply is high check regulator IC001 (STK5314) on panel TP16.
W.G.L.

# Sony KV1810 GCS Conversion 

Colin Boggis

Our local sadist offered me a pair of Sony KV1810UB colour receivers. Not being a faint hearted fellow, and feeling in need of a challenge, I parted up with a few readies and took delivery of the twins. I couldn't help noticing how happy my benefactor looked as he drove smartly away.

The two sets were in pristine condition externally but when the cases were opened I was in both sets confronted by atomised 2.5 A mains fuses (F601). This suggested that my worst fears were about to be confirmed. A quick check with an Avo proved that as expected the chopper and line output gate-controlled switches were short-circuit. These sets really do live up to their reputation!

Now the cost of these devices is very high, and there's every likelihood that they will blow again at switch on or shortly afterwards - especially if there are other faults. A cheaper and more reliable solution is to modify the set to use transistors in both the chopper and line output stages. I claim no originality for this idea - in fact there was a detailed article on he subject in the December 1984 issue of this magazine, and it provided me with some ideas on the subject. I've made some improvements however: with the modifications to be described the chopper driver transformer doesn't have to be replaced and use is made of a low-cost, home-made driver transformer in the line timebase. Following these modifications the two sets have been in use for many months and have behaved impeccably.

It goes without saying that before undertaking any work the c.r.t. should be tested. It's also essential to have access to a variac, a 19 V d.c. power supply and an oscilloscope. It's wise to use an isolating transformer to supply the set being worked on: if one is not available be very, very careful.

## Getting Under Way

The first job is to remove the two faulty GCSs, the line driver transistor and transformer and the various small components not required (see Figs. 1, 3 and 4).

Remove the chopper heatsink from board PR and the large aluminium panel attached to board VH. Take the chopper driver transformer from the board and fit to it the copper heatsink attached to the line driver transformer: it will be necessary to bend down the tallest limb to avoid it fouling on the capacitors mounted below the high-voltage module on the main chassis.

The chopper heatsink should be redrilled, using a TO3 washer as a template, to accept a BU526A transistor. It's advisable to beef up the heatsink with an extra piece of aluminium. Drill holes in the PCB to provide clearance for the transistor connections. Drill the large panel from board VH to take another TO3 transistor (BU208A): the chosen site for this is directly adjacent to the legend "horiz. out", above the site of the original GCS.

## Modified Chopper Circuit

The modified chopper circuit is shown in Fig. 2. Diodes D1001-3 and resistor R1001 can be mounted on the board using holes vacated by unwanted components. Mount

R1000 between the existing resistors R607 and R610. There are two pins that are ideal for this on the print side of the board - note that it's necessary to cut the track that joins these pins. It's most important to disconnect C606's positive lead from R610 and reconnect it to the junction of $\mathrm{R} 607 / \mathrm{R} 1000$. If this is not done and the crowbar circuit suggested later is incorporated there's nothing to limit the instantaneous current that could flow through the crowbar thyristor. Disconnect R608 from the input side of R607 and reconnect it to the junction of R610/R1000. This ensures that the start-up circuit is protected in the event of R607 or R1000 going open-circuit.

## Modified Line Drive Circuit

The modified line drive circuit is shown in Fig. 5. Apart from the mechanical modifications the most difficult item in the line timebase is the new driver transformer. This is wound on a Mullard FX2242 pot core, though a readymade component can be used if preferred. For the homebrew transformer, first wind on 17 turns of 19 gauge enamelled copper wire, followed by a turn of insulation, then wind on 66 turns of 24 gauge wire and finish off with another turn of insulation. This transformer can be mounted on the large aluminium panel above the site of


Fig. 1: Original chopper drive circuit.


Fig. 2: Modified chopper circuit.


Fig. 3: Line output GCS drive circuit used in the Mk. I version of the Sony KV1810UB.


Fig. 4: Line output GCS drive circuit used in the Mk. II version of the Sony KV1810UB.


Fig. 5: Line output transistor drive circuit for the Sony KV1810UB. Leave L508 in circuit in the Mk. I version.


Fig. 6: (a) Chopper output waveform as the input from the variac is increased. (b) Chopper output waveform at full h.t.
the original driver transformer. The new components required in the line drive circuit are mounted in suitable holes from which original components have been removed on board VH. Note that the new line driver transistor (Q2509) must be fitted with a small heatsink of approximately 1.5 sq . in. area.

If you don't want to wind your own line driver trans-


Fig. 7 (left): Line output transistor base drive waveform.
Fig. 8 (right): Line output transistor collector waveform.
former the transformer from the Fidelity Model F14 can be used instead (part no. 73163), but in this case C2000 and C 2001 should both be $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$.

## Setting Up

It's vital to make a number of checks to ensure satisfactory performance before the set is switched on. This is where the variac, the 19 V supply and the scope are required.

First check the chopper circuit. Connect the set to the mains supply via the variac, first ensuring that this is set at zero. An isolation transformer should be used. If you don't have one, make sure that the scope and 19 V power supply are not earthed, and be very careful how you handle everything. Disconnect the leads from pins 19, 21 and 22 on board PR. Disconnect one end of D605. Connect the 19 V supply to pin 17 via a 1 N 4001 diode, with the negative power supply lead to pins 15/16. Connect the scope probe $(\times 10)$ to the emitter of Q1603. earthy lead again to pins $15 / 16$. Wire a 100 W bulb between pin 19 and pins 15/16. Connect an Avo across the bulb, set to the 250 V range.

Switch on the 19 V power supply. A very faint linefrequency whistle should be heard. Advance the variac slowly, observing the scope, bulb and Avo. The voltage indication should start to rise, causing the bulb to glow. A square waveform should tee visible on the scope - shape as shown in Fig. 6(a), rising in amplitude as the a.c. input is increased. At approximately 100 V a.c. input the d.c. output should be 70 V .

If all is well continue to increase the input from the variac until a point is reached where the output remains constant despite further increases in the input. When this point is reached the output should be about 130 V d.c. This steady state should be reached when the input is 200 V a.c. If the oulput is not 130 V , adjust VR601 until it is correct. Also check that the waveform frequency is correct: the leading edges of the waveform should be $64 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ apart. If this is wrong adjust VR504. VR601 will then have to be reset.

Once the correct power supply conditions have been obtained disconnect the lamp load, the Avo and the scope.

Now to the line output stage. Turn the variac to zero and reconnect the leads to pins 19, 21 and 22 of board PR. Leave the 19 V supply connected and apply the scope probe to the base of Q2510. The waveform seen should be similar to that shown in Fig. 7, though it will be identical only when the full h.t. is applied. The change in waveform shape will be seen when the h.t. is increased. With the variac still at zero, move the scope probe to the collector of Q2510. Just an indication of $64 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ line flyback pulses should be visible. Increase the variac setting slowly, watching the pulses increase in amplitude as the h.t. rises.

Check the 200 V rail (cathode of D516) when the input has been increased to 100 V : the reading should be about 150V. Study the line flyback waveform carefully, parti-


Fig. 9: Suggested crowbar over-voltage protection circuit.
cularly the knee of the curve, i.e. the "turn-on" area - see Fig. 8. Provided the amplitude rises to over 100 V in less than $4 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ all is well and the variac can be wound up to give an input of 200 V . At this point the 200 V rail should read 200 V , while with full input and the correct h.t. the amplitude of the line flyback pulses should be 1 kV - so be wary of handling the probe.

Switch off the TV set and all the equipment. Disconnect the test gear and reconnect D605 on board PR. Reconnect the set directly to the mains supply (use the
isolation transformer if you have one). Switch the set on and it should burst into life. If it doesn't, there's a fault in the kick-start circuit (C605, R602, D608) or in R608, Q602, D605 or the associated drive circuits.

Assuming that the set starts up, a thorough check of all functions can be carried out in the safe knowledge that the chopper and line output stage circuits are unlikely to commit hara-kiri at any moment. In general very few faults other than with the GCSs will be found in these sets.

## Crowbar Circuit

The protection circuit fitted in these sets is pretty useless. It's a good idea to fit a crowbar circuit to safeguard components in the event of an abnormally high h.t. voltage (now that you've converted the chopper to a transistor this is not very likely - but it can and does happen!). A suitable circuit is shown in Fig. 9. The components can be mounted on a small piece of Veroboard or something similar and mounted anywhere convenient, e.g. the edge of the PR board's metal frame. Remove the original protection circuit transistor Q610 as it's no longer required.

## Test Report: Orion Pattern Generator

## Eugene Trundle

Things have moved on in the consumer TV equipment field over the years: the video "general practitioner" nowadays has much more on his plate than ordinary TV receivers. VCRs are now part of the staple diet, and requests to service computers and monitors, and to convert sets to and from other world standards, are becoming common. When I heard of a relatively inexpensive pattern generator designed with these things in mind I welcomed the opportunity of testing and reporting on it.

## Description

The Orion TV/video pattern generator is designed and manufactured in the UK by Black Star Ltd. It operates from mains power and generates a range of colour and monochrome test patterns - the main ones are primary colour bars, blank rasters in white and primary/complementary colours, a crosshatch grating, a dot matrix, and finally vertical and horizontal line patterns. The video output is available in CVBS form at the front panel and in switchable (1V or TTL) RGB form from rear-mounted BNC and DIN sockets. The video signal can also be modulated in positive or negative form on to a v.h.f. carrier whose third harmonic provides a u.h.f. output for direct connection to a Band IV/V TV or VCR aerial socket. An external video input can also be applied to the r.f. modulator. The r.f. carrier can be simultaneously modulated by an internal 1 kHz tone or an external audio source: the sound modulator is very versatile, with carrier spacings of $5 \cdot 5,6$ or $6 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz}$ and a choice of $\mathrm{f} . \mathrm{m}$. or a.m. These switched facilities enable the instrument to provide outputs that correspond with the PAL system $\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{D}, \mathrm{G}$, $\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{I}, \mathrm{K}, \mathrm{K}^{\prime}$ and L specifications.

The internally generated patterns are available in PAL colour (i.e. with swinging burst), in NTSC/4-43 (killer switch activated) or in true monochrome form with no
subcarrier signal. In addition $R, G$ and $B$ can each be switched off. This gives a total of more than fifty pattern combinations. Other facilities include the provision of line and field frequency trigger pulses at a front panel socket, a mixed sync feed that's available on its own or superimposed on the 1V G output, and provision for operation from a 110 V mains supply. The instrument is housed in an attractive grey ABS moulded case with tilt stand/carrying handle. The main controls and connections are on the recessed front panel with the secondary ones rear mounted. For a fuller specification see Table 1.

## Test

Our test pattern generator spent most of its trial period on a TV/video servicing bench in the workshop. The u.h.f. output level (third harmonic, 570 MHz , ch. 33) was found to be about 3 mV (from about 12 mV at 190 MHz ). I was a little disappointed with the modulator which generated some spurious outputs and was microphonic - it moved several u.h.f. channels up band at a touch of the rear casing or switches. In spite of the manual's claim that a.g.c. systems can be tested, the r.f. output is not level adjustable. The wide range of frequency adjustment (rear panel trimmer) was appreciated however when we tried piping the signal around our u.h.f. distribution system.

The patterns provided are appropriate for setting-up and evaluating TV sets and monitors and there was a welcome absence of crosstalk between the sound and vision. The "focus" pattern consists of a screenful of vertical bars at 1 MHz rate: I found it easier and more accurate to set up the focus using the finer crosshatch or dot patterns. The raster settings give good strong colour fields ( 95 per cent saturation) in six colours and white. The colour phases for these and the colour bars were found to be well within tolerance when checked with the


The Orion pattern generator.
vectorscope. While the white raster was clear and free from spurious patterns I was unable, at any setting of the buttons, to get a clean screen at black level. The colour bar pattern is unusual in having a peak-white bar at the extreme right - as a reference. It makes an unusual sight on the TV screen and on the scope but I found no use for it - indeed I would have cheerfully traded both it and the 1 MHz focus pattern for a set of border castellations to enable a check of line sync phasing and picture centring to be made.

In selecting the patterns I was unlucky with the pushbuttons. The mono/colour one tended to jam in the in position and the killer button wouldn't latch, problems which I'm sure are confined to the particular unit sent for review. The layout of the recessed front panel is good and logical and offers physical protection for the controls. The video level control enables up to 2.3 V peak-peak of CVBS signal to be obtained from the adjacent socket.

When checking the level I noticed that while the video/ sync ratio is correct at $7: 3$ the burst amplitude is somewhat low - 70 per cent of sync height in fact. Later production models will I hope be more accurately set up internally. In such respects as the sync and blanking periods, burst positioning, line and subcarrier frequencies I found the instrument to be beyond reproach. The sync is not interlaced however and a single broad pulse serves for field sync - this is due to the "multi-chip" design of the pulse generator circuit. These limitations and the lack of a circle for linearity checks are what keeps the overall price down, which is fair enough.

On the credit side the versatile RGB facilities and system switching arrangements are very useful for servicing and checking all types of monitor. They open the way to a lucrative trade in TV and VCR system conversions for intending emigrants and jet-set itinerants. The instruction manual contains a useful list of TV systems by countries and specifies the switch settings for each. With this and its 110 V mains capability the Orion machine could accompany the roving engineer from New Zealand to the Netherlands or from Spain to the Seychelles (how I wish I was one) . . .

But back from such flights of fancy to the workbench, where I dismantled the machine for internal investigation. There are three double-sided fibreglass PCBs which house a mixed bag of i.c.s and discrete components. The internal construction is of good quality and should last well, especially since the mains transformer runs very cool even after many hours' use.

## Conclusions

There seem to be more pros and cons in this review than in most. The shortcomings noted were mainly due to
production sillies that are unlikely to affect later models, especially if quality control is tightened up a bit. Is it worth $£ 199$ plus VAT? If you need the extra facilities offered by this generator, in terms of inputs, outputs and operating modes, I'm sure it is. If not and your activities are confined to run-of-the-mill TV and video work I'm not so sure - simpler pattern generators, most with the same degree of signal integrity, are available at considerably lower prices (e.g. Labgear, Manor Supplies, Sadelta). Who could however be sure that he would never need any of the "specials" of which this instrument is capable?

The Orion pattern generator is marketed by SEME Ltd., Units 2E and 2F, Saxby Road Trading Estate, Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE13 1BS (telephone 066465 392).

## Table 1: Orion pattern generator specifications.

Systems: PAL B, C, D, G, H, I, K, K', L.

Test Signals: (1) Colour bars with white reference. (2) Purity patterns - RGB plus three complementary colours. (3) 100 per cent white raster. (4) Grey-scale with white reference (derived from colour bars). (5) Crosshatch. (6) Vertical lines. (7) Horizontal lines. (8) Dots. (9) Focus -1 MHz vertical lines. These can all have the burst signal switched on or off via a front-panel switch.
Vision carrier: V.H.F. (fundamental) 190 MHz with approximate tuning range $165-290 \mathrm{MHz}$. U.H.F. (third harmonic) 570 MHz with approximate tuning range $495-870 \mathrm{MHz}$.
R.F. output: Front panel socket at $75 \Omega$. Level $>10 \mathrm{mV}$ (fundamental). Modulation a.m., positive- or negative-going.
Video input: Front panel, BNC connector, 1V p-p, 75 , positive-going.
Video outputs: Front panel output at $75 \Omega$ via BNC connector, with level control. Rear panel outputs comprise 6-pin socket for RGB plus sync, individual BNC connectors for RGB, sync, red, blue (at $1 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{p}-\mathrm{p}$ or TTL) and green (at 1 V , TTL or 1 V plus 0.3 V syncs). All TTL and RGB outputs positive-going. Note: (1) 1 V non-composite outputs nominally 1 V p-p at $75 \Omega$; (2) $1 \mathrm{~V}+$ sync output nominally 1 V video plus 0.3 V sync pulses at $75 \Omega$.
Sound carrier: $5.5,6$ and 6.5 MHz selected by rear panel switch. Sound/vision carrier ratio nominally $12 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~dB}$.
Internal sound modulation: A.M. or f.m. switchable. Modulating signal 1 kHz sinewave. Output from rear panel via 5 pin DIN socket, 5 V p-p.
External sound modulation: Input via 5-pin DIN socket, 5V p-p maximum.
Chroma signal characteristics: PAL with crystal controlled 4.433 MHz carrier. Swinging burst blanked during field blanking period. Burst amplitude nominally 0.3 V p-p. Chroma amplitude nominally $75 \%$ or $95 \%$ bars selected by PCB link - factory set to $95 \%$.
Line frequency: 15.625 kHz crystal controlled.
Sync system: Non-interlaced.
Field rate: 50 Hz .
Frame sync: Single broad pulse for vertical synchronisation and blanking.
Front panel sync pulse outputs: Line or field, nominally 12 V at $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.
Rear panel sync output: 1 V at $75 \Omega$ or TTLTTL mixed sync.
Power requirements: $110 / 120 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. or $220 / 240 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. at 12VA.
Operating temperature: $0-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}(10-80 \%$ non-condensing).
Case: Custom-moulded, sturdy lightweight ABS with tilt stand.
Weight and size: $219 \times 240 \times 98 \mathrm{~mm}, 2 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~kg}$ product only; $321 \times 352 \times 174 \mathrm{~mm}, 3-2 \mathrm{~kg}$ packed.
Accessories supplied: Mains lead, instruction manual and spare fuse.
Optional accessories: BNC cable assemblies, service manual.

# The Problem of Tape Damage 

Christopher Holland

There's nothing quite so frustrating as a really intermittent fault. Not just the type that shows up only after a matter of minutes or hours but one that decides to rear its ugly head at intervals you can count in months. The example I have in mind concerns a JVC HR7700 video recorder that would very infrequently damage tapes. Now the average customer might be prepared to put up with say occasional momentary loss of colour or something like that but a damaged tape is a different matter. The problem was compounded by the fact that the machine in question was launched in 1981 as the most advanced home VCR of its time, a veritable "Rolls Royce of the video world" (to quote a salesman's patter that sticks in my mind). In those far off days when multi-head and HQ VCRs were no more than a twinkle in a Japanese engineer's eye the HR770() was a truly impressive machine, with its row of touch controls, a complement of trick facilities and a tape loading mechanism that silently sucked the cassette from the user's hand, all in an elegantly styled package that said "class". Oh yes, and with a price tag to match.

## Dealing with Owners

It's this last point that has led to HR7700 owners tending to be a rather disgruntled lot. To purchase such a unit they would tend to be "video buffs" (such people used to exist in those days) so you can imagine their chagrin when, before their h.p. payments were even half cleared, they were reading about new models with superior performance at a cheaper price. Such was the pace of development. Some owners traded in their machines, normally at some financial loss, but most appear to have remained loyal to their "Rolls Royces" and just stopped buying the video magazines. That's why in my experience you have to be very careful when dealing with the owners of HR7700s or the Ferguson equivalent 3V23: they always seem to welcome reassurance about the quality of their purchase. As you hand the machine back after a service, point out the weight of the machine and say "they don't make them like that any more". You'll make a friend for life.

## Damage Every 3-4 Months

What this is leading to is the double-edged problem we had with one of these machines. Over a two year period the owner had called in at maybe three or four monthly intervals and almost apologetically informed me that it had damaged another tape. I would ask to see the damaged tape in case it offered any clues as to the cause of the problem but no tape was ever forthcoming. Now this usually means that he's watching the sort of tapes he doesn't want you to know he watches, if you know what I mean, although I found this impossible to believe in the case of this particular gentleman and his good lady wife. Well, improbable anyway. So each time I would take in the machine, remove the top covers and put it on the test bench. There were never any signs of fragments of damaged tape in the machine, and it always performed perfectly on test. When the owner called to collect it I would report this to him, tell him what a great VCR it
was, and ask him to bring it in with the damaged tape if it misbehaved again and to tell me the exact circumstances in which the damage occurred, something about which he was never certain.

## Common Causes

Now I suppose I should mention the common ways in which VHS machines can destroy tapes. The big favourite in the days of the old-style mechanical videos was for the tape to stop playing after about an hour or so as the main solenoid fired. When the cassette was ejected a loop of tape with a distinctly crunched-up appearance would be left hanging from the cassette flap cover. This problem is caused by a lack of take-up torque, which means that while the pinch roller and capstan shaft are still drawing tape past the heads the tape is no longer being spooled into the cassette. By the time the reel detector reacts and tells the machine to close down there's a length of tape around the pinch solenoid. This inevitably catches on something when an attempt is made to eject the cassette. The cure is to replace the take-up clutch. If you haven't come across this one you don't fix videos for a living! Similar damage can be caused by lack of unloading torque: on selecting the stop mode the rewind spool doesn't draw the tape back from the heads and again tape damage occurs when the cassette is ejected. This tends to occur with models that use a reel motor to perform unloading, and is normally due to failure of a component in the circuit that drives the motor in the required direction.

Another favourite is a tendency for a machine to take a thin slice off the bottom edge of the tape. Often this has no effect other than to leave thin slivers of tape deposited around the capstan flywheel shaft and pinch roller, but in bad cases it can destroy the section of tape that contains the control pulses, rendering the tape useless. This problem is caused by the lower edge of the tape lapping over the bottom of the take-up guide pole and becoming sliced or serrated by the guide pole itself or, more commonly, the bottom edge of the cassette body. The fault normally shows up at the beginning of E180 tapes and is due to one of the following: the pinch roller coming down crooked on to the capstan flywheel shaft, which obviously makes the tape creep down; excessive take-up torque, where the take-up spool tries to pull the tape back into the cassette housing faster than the pinch roller can supply it; or a faulty roller within the body of the cassette - a roller that's not perpendicular to the path of tape travel. Any VCR will of course damage the tape if the cassette is faulty, while the problem of crooked pinch rollers is largely confined to early mechanical models. Excessive take-up torque occurs mainly with later electronic VCRs that use a reel motor, where a preset is often provided to adjust the torque. The JVC portable HR2200 (Ferguson 3V24) suffered from this to some extent when it first came out.

## Condensation

One last problem that manages to catch me out on the first cold day of every autumn occurs when a VCR comes
in for repair and I innocently load a test tape to see what's wrong only to hear a sickening crunching sound. Condensation of course. The VCR has travelled for a few miles in the boot of a car and has then been brought into the warm workshop environment (can I really describe our workshops like that?). Condensation then forms on the head drum and as soon as the tape is loaded it sticks to the drum body. Before you can react six to eight feet of tape have been wound round the heads, large pieces of magnetic oxide being firmly stuck to the drum. Every year the first cold spell of winter catches me out, whereupon I try to remember to warn every customer collecting a unit to leave it at room temperature for an hour or so before switching it on after their return home.

## Back to the HR7700

Back to our HR7700. I wasn't certain how the tapes were being damaged, but I could discount the condensation theory since there was never any tape stuck to the open drum and the heads themselves never required cleaning. Also this is a winter problem and the fault had been reported in June, though when you consider some of the summers we've had recently maybe I shouldn't have been so certain. I could also dismiss the fault of bottom edge tape slicing since the giveaway slivers of tape were absent. My own suspicion was that the tape was not unloading from the heads when the stop function was returned, though this never occurred on the bench: there was plenty of unloading torque and the brakes weren't fouling the rewind spool.

At this stage I should mention a problem that appears to be inherent in the design of this model. If a tape is fully rewound and then stopped the rewind spool can stop suddenly, before the supply spool has been braked, resulting in a small loop of tape not being rewound into the cassette. If the tape is then ejected a small portion of it can get caught in the cassette flap. The damage is normally very slight and doesn't affect the tape too badly, but I've yet to come across an effective cure or modification. All subsequent front-loading JVC models have overcome the problem by going into rewind for a second whenever the eject button is pressed. I'd been trying to break this gently to the machine's owner, but since Rolls Royce's don't have inherent faults I had to be careful how I did it.

## Clues at Last

When the machine arrived again some four months after its last visit it was accompanied by a faulty cassette. Since there was a loop consisting of about a foot of tape hanging from the cassette body I felt that my initial suspicions were correct. But I was wrong: the loop consisted of the first foot of tape. When the cassette was played we found that the introduction to "Dallas" had been ruined - what good taste JVC engineer into their machines - while interrogating the owner elicited the information that it happened when the machine was used for the first time in a couple of days. It had played for a few seconds and then stopped: when the cassette was ejected the result was this loop of tape.

We were now getting somewhere, so the top cover was removed and a tape was loaded. Perfect, as were the following half dozen attempts. The same procedure was tried frequently over the next few days before the fault put in an appearance for us. We pressed play and the tape
loaded to the heads but there was no take-up reel movement. Since there were no reel pulses the machine cut out a few seconds later, leaving a length of tape around the pinch roller. Had eject been pressed the result would have been tape damage, so rewind was selected and the tape wound harmlessly back into the cassette.

A bit of thought was now needed. The fault could have been either mechanical or electronic, so a voltmeter was connected across the reel motor, at pins 111 and 112 on the mechacon panel. The front was taken off to give access to the cassette housing and after this had been removed the cassette lamp was covered and the tape loading switch was disabled. A decent view of what was happening could then be obtained. Needless to say everything worked properly.

## Previous Attempts

I had tried a few things during previous unsuccessful attempts at repair. Preset R1 on the mechacon panel had been adjusted to increase the take-up torque towards the upper end of its $60-140 \mathrm{gm} / \mathrm{cm}$ tolerance, though I wouldn't recommend this since it could lead to the control track being sliced off the tape. So the torque was restored to about $100 \mathrm{gm} / \mathrm{cm}$, which might also make the fault occur with a bit more regularity. I had also covered what I felt were possible electronic faults when I had initially suspected intermittent unloading, and this is of course the same circuit that drives the reel motor during play. Four relevant 2 SC 2655 transistors, X18, Z22, X24 and X25, had been changed since I've had trouble with this type of transistor before. I'd also connected direct wire links from the emitters of X23 and X25 to the reel motor plug connections (111 and 112) since the PCB tracks follow a rather tortuous route on both sides of the board - while this panel is not prone to dry-joints, I'd been getting a bit desperate.

## The Solution

And there the machine sat for two days, meter by its side, performing perfectly each time it was put into play. The best part of a can of freezer was sacrificed to the beast to no avail, and I'd almost given up hope when it at last happened. After pressing play the arms loaded to the head, the pinch roller pulled in, the meter read 2 V d.c. but the take-up spool was stationary. A fingertip applied to the reel motor pulley proved that it wasn't turning while the meter said that it should have been. Surely not an intermittent reel motor?

Remembering a tip an ingenious colleague had once passed on to me I took out the reel motor and connected it up to a 12 V power supply via an ammeter. This is a good check when you suspect either a drum or capstan motor in one of the old piano-key models, and is particularly useful when preparing estimates. In such a set-up a good motor should draw 20 mA or less: any more and a replacement is required. I agree that this is not a 100 per cent scientific test, but it's not let me down yet. And how did our suspect reel motor behave? On initially applying power the motor turned but required 75 mA to do so. This rapidly dropped to 35 mA , but never went below this. The loan of two new reel motors was obtained from a trusting source and experiments with these showed that the current never rose above 25 mA with one and 30 mA with the other. Got it!

Just to be sure, and by way of a belt and braces job, I
noted that the reel idler in the HR7700 appeared to be the same as that in the HR7200 (3V29) series, and since I had some of these one of them went in along with the new motor. Set up the take-up torque, make several checks over the next few days and it was time for reassembly. Naturally the machine wouldn't work at all when it was all back together again, but the panic soon subsided when I realised what I'd done - I'd fitted the front facia in such a way that the stop button was permanently engaged. This
seems to happen whenever I put the front back on one of these machines these days, something I don't recall happening when they were new. Slackening the six retaining screws and jiggling the front soon cured that, and when the owner called for his video a few days later I was able to report with all confidence that his problems were now over. For once I would appear to have been right, since I've not seen this particular HR7700 or its owner for over a year.

## Servicing Notes: Sanyo 5000 Series VCRs

## John Coombes

The following notes relate to the Sanyo Models VTC5000, VTC5300 and VTC5400 which were sold during the period 1982-3.

## Model VTC5000

(1) No results: Check the mains fuse F5201 (315mAT). The cause of it being open-circuit may be a "spikey" mains supply. If this is suspected, change the mains filter capacitor C 5201 from $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $0 \cdot 0047 \mu \mathrm{~F}(350 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c.). If a replacement fuse blows check C5201 and the mains bridge rectifier diodes D5201-4 (type DSA17C) for shorts. The STK7216 regulator chip IC5101 can also cause fuse blowing - check by substition. If there is no input to IC5101 (there should be 27 V at pin 13) check whether $\mathrm{C} 5102(220 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ is short-circuit.

If there is 27 V at pin 13 of IC5101, check whether 12 V is present at pins 12 and 5 and 9 V at pin 2 . Check whether zener diode D5102 (BZ150) is short-circuit if the 12 V supply is missing. If the 9 V supply is missing check zener diode D5101 (BZ110) for being short-circuit. If still no 12 V and 9 V outputs replace IC5101.

You may find that IC5101 is type STK7216A. An STK7216 is supplied for replacement purposes. If one of these is used to replace an STK7216A, remove the $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, 2 W metal-glaze resistor between pins 15 and 13 . Failure to do this will result in ruination of the STK7216 chip.
(2) No results with the capstan motor running very fast: Check for 5 V at pin 41 of the LM6402A095 microcomputer chip IC3001. If this voltage is absent check the 5 V regulator transistor Q3001 ( $2 \mathrm{SC} 2274 \mathrm{E}, \mathrm{F}$ ) by replacement. IC3001 could be the cause of the fault.
(3) No rewind/forward drive: This is usually due to a faulty rewind/fast forward reel drive assembly. As a temporary measure and to prove the point cleaning may restore normal operation. The assembly should be replaced however.
(4) Improved reel motor drive: This modification helps to overcome increased torque on the reel motor during playback or unloading. Fit a 3.3 V zener diode (type GZA3.3Z or BZY88C3V3) in position D3006 and change R3049 ( $2 \cdot 2 \Omega$ ) on board SY1 to $1 \Omega, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$ (metal film).
(5) Tape problems: Tape creasing is quite a common problem. The most likely cause is the reel belt. Also check the reel drive assembly and the reel motor. It may be necessary to replace all these items to prevent further trouble in the future. See also note at end.

We had a problem with tape folding on one of these machines. It occurred very intermittently and was eventually traced to a faulty pinch roller.

No supply to the reel motor will ruin the tape. The cause can be IC3006 (BA6209) on the system control panel SY1.
(6) Flashing lines on screen or picture break-up: Make sure that the earth connections are made between the r.f. booster and the metal frame, also to the video preamplifier. All earthing straps in position will give correct operation.
(7) Snowy picture from one head: If the head is not dirty or faulty check IC1501 (LA7027) by replacement.
(8) Poor definition: There's a modification for this fault. Change C1048 on PCB VD1 from 150 pF to 56 pF or 68 pF .

This modification also applies to Model VTC6500 where the capacitor is C1046 and to Model VTC5400 where the capacitor is C1044.
(9) Noise bar on screen, sound not affected: The cause is a drum servo fault. Check that the PG pulses are being generated correctly and amplified by IC4001 (BA848A) which should if necessary be checked by replacement. Then suspect IC4012 (HA11713). Again check by replacement.
(10) Noise bars with sound flutter: The cause is sometimes a faulty capstan motor. Also suspect loss of the FG pulses which are amplified in IC4013 (HA11713). It may be necessary to check this chip by replacement. Ensure that all plugs and sockets are making good connection.
(11) Loss of servo lock in the record mode: This can happen when there's a sudden change of picture content. Make the following modifications. Add a $1,000 \mathrm{pF}$ capacitor between pins 2 and 28 of IC1002 on board VD1 and a $56 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor between pins 13 and 14 of IC4001 on board SV1. Where very bad interference is experienced fit a noise-masking sub-board on servo PCB SV1 - it fits on the print side, behind IC4001. When this is done add a


Fig. 1: Loading ring modification for the VTC5300/5400.

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$1,000 \mathrm{pF}$ capacitor (not a $56 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor) between pins 13 and 14 of IC 4001 , remove C 4008 and change R4009 and R4010 to $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.
(12) Will not playback own recordings: If you find it necessary to reset the tracking control after making a recording check IC4501 (NJM29()4S) bya replacement. Check C4505 ( $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ) which could be open-circuit.
(13) No E-E sound: Check for 12 V at pin 5 of Q60)6 (LA1365). If the voltage is high the power supply regulator chip could be defective. If the 12 V supply is missing check whether R6032 is open-circuit. If R6032 overheats when replaced fit another LA1365 chip in position Q6006. (14) Clock problems: For no clock display check that 9 V is present at pin 1 of connector S5203 on PCB PW2. If the voltage is 7 V or less check whether regulator transistor Q5202 (2SD313D, E or F) is open-circuit. If the clock intermittently flashes 8888 check for dry-joints on Q5202.

## Models VTC5300 and VTC5400

The mains fuse/filter capacitor note mentioned under (1) above also applies to these models, i.e. for mains fuse blowing when no fault can be found in the machine change the filter capacitor to $0.0047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. The advice on flashing lines/picture break-up under (6) above also applies. For poor definition with Model VTC5400 see note (8) above. For loss of servo lock in the record mode with Model VTC5300 - see note (11) above - the appropriate modifications are as follows: change R1009 on board VD1 from $390 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $150 \mathrm{k} \Omega$; on board VD2 add a $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor across C 1308 and a $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}$ electrolytic across R1344, with the negative side connected to the emitter of Q1238.

Vivid white horizontal bands of interference across the
screen with the VTC5400 occur when the power transformer's insulating washer which fits between the heatsink and chassis is left off.

A case of wow on sound with the VTC5400 (capstan speed varying) was cured by replacing C4040 ( $0 \cdot 47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ).

Interference on playback (white spots) can be caused by a faulty reel motor (see below). Ensure that a static brush is fitted to the drum spindle and that the power supply module fixing screws are not loose.

The main problem with these two machines relates to loading/unloading. No loading, sticking or intermittent loading occurs when the loading torque is not enough. One step to take is to remove the sharp edges of the cams on the loading ring for the load-end rollers - see Fig. 1. Then fit a modified loading belt (part no. 143-2-564T02303). Unfortunately the problem may well have damaged the loading/reel motor which often has to be replaced. A damaged motor can cause white spots on the screen since it produces interference which is picked up by the video preamplifiers. If the loading ring sticks in the half loaded position check the loading belt and ensure that a modified one (with yellow band) is fitted. When the ring is stuck half way the drum motor will make a loud howling noise.

## General

If the tape loops when a cassette is ejected check the supply spool back spacing. If the spool rotates too far remove the spools and clean the brakes with methyl alcohol. Replace the spools if they are badly worn. The tape should then be wound back into the cassette correctly.

## ECONOMIC DEVICES, PO BOX 228, TELFORD TF2 80P




## INTERFERENCE WITH VCRs

I would like to add a couple of comments on the problem of interference and VCRs (see December issue, pages 103 and 115). Today's rather badly screened VCRs are often housed in a cabinet beneath the TV receiver and interference between the power supplies in the two pieces of equipment can cause patterning. The best solution is to increase the separation between the two, but this is not always convenient. In such cases a layer of aluminium kitchen foil, glued to the underside of the shelf or receiver base (take care not to block any ventilation holes), will nearly always provide a cure. It's ironic when one recalls that such a screen was almost a standard fitting in receivers before the days of VCRs.

In this area we are often troubled by interference from civil aeronautical radar using frequencies in the spectrum $1 \cdot 215-1 \cdot 365 \mathrm{GHz}$. The standard solution to this problem is the old-fashioned quarter or half wavelength stub cut to the radar wavelength. The technique was described in Television many years ago but for the benefit of newer readers the details are as follows. An open-circuit half wavelength or short-circuit quarter wavelength of coaxial cable acts as a short-circuit to interfering signals when wired across the aerial feeder. If the frequency of the interference is roughly known, cut off a length of coax somewhat longer than a half wavelength. Temporarily connect one end across the feeder at the aerial socket and trim off the other end - about half an inch at a time. The interference will be reduced and, when the correct length is found, will disappear. It may be that the wanted signal will fall during this process - keep going, the stub has only been tuned to the wrong frequency. When the correct open-circuit length has been found the cable can be cut in half and the inner and outer conductors short-circuited. At the frequencies involved here this reduces the length to about three inches - the open-circuit length is quite easily soldered to the back of the coaxial socket and 'lost' inside the cabinet.
Geoff Lewis,
Canterbury, Kent.

## SONY SLC5/7 DODGE

Further to G. Jackson's comments (December) on reversing the idler tyre in the Sony SLC7 to cure faulty rewind I tried this dodge on my SLC5 and it's been fine ever since. That was three years ago - I should have written before!

Has anyone any idea why R1308 (47 ) on the mains input panel in the Philips G11 chassis should burn out? We've found three of these sets where this has occurred. P. Odenrode, B. A. (open),

Sale, Cheshire.

## THUMBS DOWN TELETEXT!

Thinking about the letters on the subject of teletext prompts me to put pen to paper. If the BBC didn't put out pages of Ceefax all day would any self-respecting engineer or salesman ever sell a teletext receiver? I think not! Having spent so much money (from the licence fee) in producing the service they have to push it to justify its
existence. The receivers cost far more at first but the cost has been reduced through tax/rental/h.p. concessions because the sets weren't selling at all. If information is required, Prestel is the only service I'd personally recommend.
H. Rogers,

St. Albans, Herts.

## MORE ON THE AMSTRAD PCW8256/8512

In his récent article (December) Vivian Capel outlined what you can achieve with a word processor, taking the Amstrad PCW8256 as an example. Having used one of these units for the past year I can only agree with the conclusions he reaches on the advantages of word processing and the pros and cons of the LocoScript program provided with the machine. If you use one of these for a while, going back to a typewriter is like giving up your car for a horse and cart!

But the PCW is more than a word processor. As well as running Basic, Logo, Pascal and the other computer languages available you can use any of the vast range of software written under the CPM operating code. Databases to replace your filing systems and spreadsheets to simplify and analyse your figures and accounts are all helpful: the opportunity to computerise a one-man operation at a realistic cost is finally here!

If, as a television engineer, that aspect of the PCW doesn't seem relevant, don't forget that we are still talking about a piece of electronic equipment that's selling in large numbers. Look on it as a monochrome monitor with a built-in computer and an associated keyboard and printer and, despite its reliability, some servicing opportunities might arise. In this cornnection the following notes may be of assistance.

The PCW does not have an extensive built-in ROM as do the home computers with which most of us are by now fairly familiar. At switch on you just get a green raster with no welcome message. A small program runs from switch-on, but this merely eng̣uires whether a disc has yet been loaded. To initiate the system you have to load a disc (or boot a disc as computer people like to say). So you must insert either the LocoScript or CPM disc to get things going. With the disc in, the red indicator for disc drive should flash and a few seconds later you should have a display on the monitor.
Should the disc slot home, followed by the sound of a whirring motor with the LED flashing in accompaniment, but nothing except perhaps a slight change of intensity and what seems to be flyback lines appears on the screen, suspect a faulty disc drive assembly. There's not much you can do with these without the correct alignment disc, and Amstrad do not appear to be too liberal with these. A quick check that the disc is seating correctly is worthwhile however, also an inspection for any foreign objects. Otherwise an exchange disc drive is the answer.

If inserting a disc has no discernible effect at all you have a problem with the CPU section. Confirm that the monitor circuit is providing the required 5,12 and 24 V d.c. lines, then check for the presence of 4 MHz pulses at pin 6 of the Z80 microprocessor chip. At initial power on a nice clean reset pulse should reach pin 26 of the $Z 80$. Still no success? Then check the outputs of each of the eight RAM chips ( 16 in the PCW8512). A scope connected to pin 14 of each RAM chip in turn should reveal a 5 V peak-peak signal, with each chip providing a more or less identical output. Any waveform that looks to be
distorted or damped in amplitude will identify a faulty chip. Note that on a couple of occasions I've had two faulty RAM chips at the same time.

Should the procedure so far draw a blank you have to consider a problem with the ULA or one of the PIO chips. These are Amstrad special components and are soldered directly into the double-sided print. As substitution is the only real confirmation of a faulty chip, and the ULA is one of those 80-pin flat-pack devices, you might at this point consider cutting your losses. There's no need to feel too intimidated however - nearly all problems with the CPU section are caused by the Z80 or the pluggable RAM chips.

Problems with the printer tend to be mechanical. Dirt in the mechanism can make the print head jump or stick. With some new printers one of the pins in the print head sticks in the out position, causing a line to be etched through all the words in a document. This normally clears itself after a couple of runs and doesn't justify changing the print head itself.

TV engineers will feel most at home with the monitor itself of course. The green-screen monitor's circuitry is straighforward. The only thing to watch out for is a faulty power supply chip in a dead unit. If the STK7308 power supply chip has to be replaced, check the following components before switching on: R 5001, R $5002, \mathrm{R} 5011$, D5007 and D5005. Field collapse is always due to the field timebase chip IC4001. Bent verticals at the top of the display after the unit has been running for a period of time merely requires the line hold control to be reset. This is VR4005 and access is available through a hole in the back of the cabinet. Lack of brightness with e.h.t. present is not common but if this is experienced check the video output transistor Q8001 and bear in mind that the problem could be due to the CPU panel.

One final point on these computers. There are two versions, the PCW8256 which has one disc drive and 256 K of RAM and the later PCW8512 with two disc drives and 512 K of RAM. There's a big demand for upgrading the earlier units to the 8512 specification. This is a simple task for the technician but is somewhat daunting to the layman, so some opportunities could arise here. Conversions could consist of fitting a second disc drive, fitting eight additional RAM chips, or both.

Fitting a second disc drive is easy if you follow the instructions provided. One point to note is that the three black transport screws fitted to the new disc drive assembly must be removed - some instructions don't make this clear. Upgrading the RAM capacity consists of fitting eight 16 -pin in-line chips into the holders provided on the CPU panel. Some suppliers provide a dummy chip for you to practice with, but I think we can overlook this!

Having fitted the extra chips a switching bank must be altered. Later models have a row of four clearly marked switches, A, B, C and D. For 256 K (eight chips) switches A and D are in the on position while for 512 K ( 16 chips) switches B and D must be in the on position. The earliest versions of the PCW8256 have soldered wire links instead of switches. This is where people trying to upgrade their computers tend to run into trouble. Two links are used in the PCW8256, from point B to a centre point and from point C to a centre point. When upgrading to a PCW8512 remove the wire link to point B and reconnect it to point A. A quick look at the panel soon makes it obvious what has to be done.
C. Holland,

Dundalk, Co. Louth.

## next month in



## FREE GIFT!!

Watch out for next month's issue with its cover-mounted free gift, a handy screwdriver with integral wire-stripper.

## M MCROCOMPUTERS IN TV SETS

For some time now the more advanced TV sets have used digital control for tuning and other functions. This is nowadays done under the control of an ic. which is known as a microcomputer or microcontroller chip. In this article Peter Marlow describes how these chips work and what they can do. They have also of course been used in VCR system control arrangements for some time. While most of these chips are programmed at mask stage there are also EPROM versions which can be programmec by the user. A follow-up article will provide details of a programmer and illustrate software development.

## SPILLAGE IN VCRs

Spil age of various types of liquids into VCRs is quite a common problem. The effects can produce all sorts c.f fault symptoms which cannot be tackled by normal diagnostic procedures. Careful cleaning of the panels plus replacements and resoldering as necessary will often restore normal operation however. Derek Snelling explains how to go about it.

## - FAULTS IN CCTV SYSTEMS

Closed-circuit TV installations produce their own peculiar types of faults. The first part in a short series which will describe some of the problems that can arise and the appropriate solutions.

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# The ITT FT110 

George Wilding

The ITT Model FT1 10 - the FT stands for Feather-Touch channel selection - was the first solid-state colour set from ITT to be sold in the UK. It's a 26 in . model with a $110^{\circ}$ delta-gun tube and was designed and manufactured in W . Germany. Its release in the UK seems to have been something of an interim measure, occurring as it did towards the end of the long period when the famed CVC5-CVC9 series of hybrid receivers were on sale. Though the number of FT110s around is not great, if you can get one with a good tube - as is usually the case you'll find it a good bet for the second-hand market. The shallow, teak finish cabinet, modern styling, eight channel touch-button station selector and "ideal colour" facility make it an attractive set.

Reliability is good, apart from the BYX55-350 diodes (D507-8) used in the EW modulator circuit. Replacements should have higher current and voltage ratings. There are only three chips in the set, the TBA120 used in the intercarrier sound channel and the SAS560/SAS570 touch tuning combination, which has a good service record. The two-position drop-down chassis and convergence box that pulls up to provide adjustment from the front make servicing straightforward.

## Power Supply Arrangements

The one thing likely to puzzle those not familiar with this chassis is the integrated chopper power supply/line timebase arrangement used. Fig. 1 shows the arrangement in block diagram form. Basically, the chopper circuit is interposed between the line oscillator and the line output stage. The line oscillator provides a pulse output to drive the pulse-width modulator circuit while the line output transistor is driven by a secondary winding on the chopper transformer. ITT refer to the chopper as a converter stage. Operation of the chopper circuit is conventional:
the pulse-width modulator stage provides the variable mark-space ratio drive required to stabilise the output voltages obtained from the chopper transformer, feedback from the 28 V rail providing the necessary sample of the output conditions.

The single BY133 h.t. rectifier charges C731 (reservoir) and C732 (filter) to 280 V . Make sure that these capacitors are discharged before you handle the "switch-mode/line oscillator" board. The chopper transistor T712 is specified as being a specially selected BU208. I've yet to find one that has failed, but if replacement is necessary it would be best to use a transistor with a higher rating. R737 sets the chopper output voltages: adjust it for 163 V across C752.

All outputs from the chopper stage are turned off if there's an excessive current demand on any of them. R755 ( $1 \cdot 5 \Omega, 2 \mathrm{~W}$ ) in the chopper transistor's emitter circuit is used to sense the output conditions. The voltage across this resistor varies from 0.6 V at zero beam current to 0.9 V at maximum beam current. If the voltage rises above 0.9 V the trip transistors $7708 / \mathrm{T} 711$ switch on, removing the input to the base of the chopper driver transistor. The trip circuit also senses the conditions in the line output stage. It operates for about 400 msec , after which $\mathrm{T} 708 / \mathrm{T} 711$ switch off. The chopper supplies are then built up again and if the overload persists the trip action is repeated, giving rise to a repetitive clicking sound.

The BU208 line output stage is conventional, with a diode modulator used for EW raster correction and a transductor for NS correction.

## Points to Note

While converging a $110^{\circ}$ tube is always more difficult than converging a $90^{\circ}$ tube, the process is made easier by the previously mentioned pull-up box. The coil cores are all of the extra wide type however and though fitted with what the manual describes as "turning screws", i.e. plastic blades with a small knobbed extension which passes through the core, ferrite particles tend to break off and cause jamming. This means that the former can move slightly, breaking the coil connections. If any core is found to be hard to adjust it's best to remove it in the easiest direction, clean the interior and exterior threads, and apply a light coating of Vaseline before proceeding


Fig. 1: Block diagram showing the power supply arrangements used in the ITT Model FT110. R764 ( $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, 4W) provides a start-up feed.
further.
After some years of service the carbon track of the special, chassis-mounted R/G scan-correction potentiometer R478 ( $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) tends to flake off. As a result it goes open-circuit. This potentiometer is no longer available from ITT, but as a hole was provided on the chassis for the knob to go through it's usually possible to obtain a
similar or larger wattage replacement and fit it so as to give screwdriver adjustment.

Note that the usual static convergence magnets are supplemented by three potentiometers at the base of the convergence box, R682, R684 and R689. These should be set to the centre of their travel before adjusting the magnets.

## Bless 'em All

## Les Lawry-Johns

Having seen the Singing Detective on TV I was reminded of that awful period last autumn when I was covered with psoriasis. It appeared just as my usual mild summer attack was waning. Perhaps the shock of my friend's suicide upset the whole system, for within a matter of days I was covered with it - except for my face which was relatively free. In this condition I went to see Laura Lovitt - the one who used to have the dicey Decca.

## The Singing TV Engineer

This time it was a TX9, suffering I hoped from nothing more than a failed fuse. I took the back off, pulled off the fuse cover and checked the fuse. It was open-circuit with no sign of blackening. So I slipped in a new $2 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~A}$ fuse and switched the set on. A nice picture appeared and Laura came over and placed her hand on my badly affected shoulder. I had to shake the hand away and Laura stared at me.
"Can't I touch you now?"
"Not at the moment dear. I'll show you why."
So saying I pulled back my sleeve to show her the mess. She backed away.
"It's VD you see."
"Ahh" she screamed. "Keep away from me you beast."
I laughed as I pulled down my sleeve. "Don't worry Laura. It's actually psoriasis and I can't give it away. It'll go when it's ready, which shouldn't be long now. A friend of mine hung himself and this came up all over me. Nice isn't it?"

I could see that Laura was glad to see me go. Fortunately it did clear up soon afterwards.

## The Prinzvision

Back at the ranch I found a Prinzvision TV171 17in. monochrome portable on the bench. The tag said intermittent field collapse. I didn't have a circuit and I couldn't see the field output transistors, only those around the height and hold controls - and they were small ones. When I switched the set on the raster was fully scanned. I directed the hairdryer around the height control area and the raster collapsed. I then sprayed the area with freezer, but the white line remained. I sprayed here and there until it looked like something from the depths of the Yukon (which I wrote about some time back but the editor cut out because he doesn't like Eskimo Nell, spoil-sport that he is . . .).

At last I got around to making a more intelligent examination and followed the scan coil leads down to chassis, then looked underneath to see where they went. They sloped off up to the left-hand side, to a raised heatsink panel where the two output transistors lived. I
never thought of looking up there. I sprayed them and the front one turned out to be the culprit. It was replaced in a flash, restoring peace on the home front.

## The Pye 741

The chap who brought in this Pye set (741 chassis) said "it comes up from the bottom and pokes a finger up at you". This I had to see. I connected the set, switched on and a perfect picture appeared.
"I'll leave it with you so you can look at it."
"Thanks very much, very nice of you" I said.
Well after about an hour the bottom of the picture came up about four inches (26in. tube) and a black finger poked up at the bottom right side of the reduced picture, just like the chap said it would. I was shocked. Fancy it doing that to someone who was going to try to make it better.

The set had vertical panels like the 725 series and I thought that the trouble would be on the upper right side field output panel. I tapped around this and even pulled the earthing tag off. This relieved the load on the supply, which is derived from the line output stage to the left of the tube. The voltage rose and the 30 V stabilising zener diode decided to go short-circuit. This destroyed the $6 \cdot 8 \Omega$ filter resistor which didn't even spring open. I was a bit upset by this since these items are not in the most accessible of positions. Some time was spent on replacing them. When peace was restored and a raster at last appeared on the screen it was fully scanned.

I examined the field output panel with ice cool eyes (glasses off). There appeared to be many dry-joints which were attacked with my usual ruthlessness, iron and solder. Nothing escaped. After this the set remained stable for about four hours and I concluded that I'd won. The owner returned to pick up the set and paid - all in ten pence pieces. His son later told me that they were from his money box. The swine!

Later that night, as we were drinking our whisky coffee, we heard a bang on the shop door and the dogs went mad. I slipped down the stairs and found the same bloke standing there.
"It's gone again and I paid you."
"O.k. old chap, bring it back tomorrow and I'll give it a longer test. At the moment I'm entertaining the Queen and Prince Philip."
"Posh, aren't we?"
"Not really. They often pop in when passing."
So it came back next day and I spent some time trying to find out what had damaged the zener diode. The one I'd fitted was big enough for gawd's sake but it had gone short-circuit. I took it out and switched the set on. There was full scan and the chap who'd brought it back admired it, together with half his family - whom I wanted to get rid off as quickly as possible.
"That's it. You've done it."
I protested weakly that it could well happen again and that he wouldn't like it much if it did.
"It's not me mate, it's the wife. She screams the place
down when the finger comes up."
"Get rid of her, that's the best thing. Or tell her to repair it herself."
And off they went, doubtless to return another day.

## A Call from Mrs Furnace

Mrs. Furnace had phoned to say that her Philips G6 (the one I bragged about some time ago, having given sixteen years long and faithful service) had given up the ghost. I rushed up to her house to hear her sad story and took the back off the set while I listened. As I could find no juice at the on-off switch I lay on the floor and played
with the two-pin plug that went into a shaver socket that went into the mains switched socket. There was juice there all right. Mrs. Furnace accused me of looking in the wrong place.
"My light lights when I plug it in there, so it must be all right."

I undid the two-pin plug and found a lead out. This was refitted and we tried again. The set now came on and worked fine.
"Could I have done that myself?"
"Yes dear. You didn't need to spend that long and lonely evening on your own. But how were you to know that?"

## TV Fault Finding

## Reports from Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., D. Burke, L. Dinsdale, Roger Burchett, Paul Hardy and Michael Dranfield

## Philips K35 Chassis

This set was suffering from a very bad case of hooking on video playback. There have been quite a few modifications to the chassis to improve the performance with VCR operation but this set had the latest version (BY05) of the sync module and should have been all right. A stock BY02 module was tried and gave correct operation, so the two circuits were compared to see what the differences were. One was that C375 had been removed. Fitting this capacitor produced a stable picture.
P.B.

## Telefunken 415 Chassis

Continental TV sets with multi-band tuners catch me out every time! This example had very bad patterning on ITV only and I'd changed the tuner and half the components in the i.f. strip before I thought to check the band switching voltages. Yes, the set was trying to receive Bands I, III and u.h.f. all at the same time due to a leaky band switching transistor.
P.B.

## ITT Digi-3 Chassis

Intermittent operation of the remote control system was the problem with this set. Substitution proved that the fault was on the control panel, but a change of all the socketed chips had no effect. The supplies were o.k. and the remote control signals were reaching pin 12 of the microcomputer chip which was intermittently ignoring them. Applying freezer around the clock oscillator seemed to instigate the fault so T1410 (BC238) was replaced. This restored normal operation.
P.B.

## Philips G11 Chassis

Dry-joints on R 4059 ( $15 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) on the power supply panel are becoming a problem with this chassis and can result in a blown BU208 line output transistor.
D.B.

## ITT CVC45/1 Chassis

This set would trip ten seconds after switching on. The delay threw suspicion on the line output stage - maybe the tripler was faulty. Sure enough disconnecting this stopped the tripping, but a new tripler failed to provide a cure. It was next assumed that an excess current rip was operating due to some other fault in the line output stage. Turning down the brightness and contrast controls stopped the
tripping, so the service manual was consulted. This revealed that the set doesn't have an excess current trip, only an over-voltage trip. As the h.t. was correct at 127 V it seemed that there was a fault in the trip circuit. Removal of the chopper drive panel revealed a couple of likely looking resistors in the trip circuit. When R806 ( $470 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) was removed it was found to read $594 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ while R809 ( $220 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) had risen in value to $4 \cdot 3 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. Replacing these two resistors cured the fault but left us with the puzzle as to why disconnecting the tripler had stopped the tripping. We can only assume that the reduced line output stage loading affected the supply to the trip circuit. M.D.

## Decca 80 Series Chassis

Here's a warning for some of you. The set was dead with a blown mains fuse. No shorts could be found so a new fuse was tried. At switch on the line output stage showed signs of distress and the fuse blew. Without doubt the tripler was faulty, so I proceeded to disconnect it from the nipple on the line output transformer overwinding. Guess what? The nipple fell off, so a new line output transformer had to be fitted free of charge. So be warned: use only light pressure when applying the soldering iron to the joint to remove the tripler connection from the transformer.
M.D.

## Philips TX Chassis

The fault with this set was field collapse. It's not uncommon with these portables and is usually due to the field scan coils being open-circuit. Sure enough there was no continuity across the coils, but a closer look revealed that the wires connected to the scan coil pins had broken off. New wires were very carefully soldered on to the copper wire, then on to the pins, providing a cure. It seemed that the set had been dropped: the cabinet was slightly cracked and the vibration had probably jolted the scan coils, causing the wires to snap.
M.D.

## Grundig 45in Projection TV

A local pub asked us to look at this set which was reported to have a very poor picture. After taking a look I can only describe the picture as being like that produced by a G8 with a dud tube. The picture was very dull and
smeary even at full brightness.
The cause of the trouble was evident when the back panel was removed. The $\mathrm{R}, \mathrm{G}$ and B tubes point directly at a small tilted mirror which reflects the beams upwards on to a larger mirror which in turn directs them at the screen. Sitting at the bottom of the cabinet, the small tilted mirror had become so thickly coated with dust that its reflective properties were severely reduced. A good clean with a duster and polish restored a bright, clear picture. The set was six years old and had never been serviced, so the problem was not surprising - especially as the mirror is right under the massive ventilation holes in the back.
M.D.

## Ferguson 3787

This set had the not uncommon symptoms of no field scan with the spark gap VA26 burnt up. The set performed satisfactorily when the faulty items and the scan and flyback thyristors had been replaced - for a time. Then the set tripped and the TDA1170) field timebase chip went short-circuit. After changing just about everything that seemed likely to have caused the problem the fault was still present. It was eventually cured by replacing CAl2 and CA14 in the line output stage. These capacitors are both shown as 390 pF on the circuit diagram but were actually 330 pF . They tested o.k. but appeared to be lossy even by disc capacitor standards. Putting the original line output stage thyristors back restored the fault condition so both they and the capacitors were faulty. The set has been working daily for over six months so we do seem to have cured the trouble.
P.H.

## Thorn 8000 Series Chassis

This set had line drift as it warmed up - and the line oscillator couldn't be set up in accordance with the instructions given in the manual. Changing the flywheel sync discriminator diodes made no difference and we eventually traced the cause of the fault to $\mathrm{C} 412(10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 100 V ) which smooths the 18 V supply to the line generator circuit.
P.H.

## Sony KV1820UB

The fault on this set was intermittent: at switch on there would sometimes be an almost completely black raster with just a little bit of picture showing at the bottom. A normal picture would eventually appear if the set was left on. I never saw this fault symptom but what I did find was that with no signal input the snowy raster would be blanked out intermittently. It seemed that there was a fault in the blanking circuit. The threshold is set by R820, R821 and R822 (whose value is adjusted on test). R821 was found to be $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ instead of $4.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and when the correct value was fitted in this position the fault had cleared. Though the altered resistance value of the combined network wasn't great it was enough to upset the action of the blanking circuit.
P.H.

## Grundig GSC100/200 Chassis

This set was tripping. Earthing tag $b$ (line drive) on the line output transformer made no difference so the fault was clearly somewhere on the flyback side of the line output stage or the preceding circuitry. Changing the flyback and e.h.t. regulating thyristors Ty501 and Ty503 didn't provide a cure and when the overload protection
thyristor Ty615 was bypassed the result was smoke from R621. So there was definitely an overload somewhere.

About the only thing left was the module that drives the e.h.t. regulator thyristor. As a check, the flyback thyristor's gate and cathode were short-circuited to disable it, the start-up circuit was disconnected by unsoldering R 607 , and the line oscillator was run from a separate 12 V supply so that I could look at the drive to the e.h.t. regulator thyristor. The output pulses from the monostable chip IC2511 were found to be varying in width erratically. Transistor $\operatorname{Tr} 2516$, which provides the regulating action, was very sensitive to freezer spray: when it was removed for testing it turned out to have a $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ collectoremitter leak. Replacing it provided a complete cure. P.H.

## Thorn 9000 Chassis

The fault report said "dead set". We found that h.t. was present at the collector of the syclops transistor VT701 but there was only 12 V instead of 149 V at the collector of the driver transistor VT412 - its base and emitter were also at about 12V. The line oscillator's output waveform (TP410) was correct so there appeared to be something wrong on the syclops control panel. As the voltages here all seemed to be incorrect the panel was removed to enable tests to be carried out on the transistors. Apart from VT601 and VT602 all the transistors were either short-circuit or opencircuit, while diodes W604 and W606 were both shortcircuit. In addition R616 (100)2) was open-circuit.

After replacing these faulty items the set was switched on. This produced a slight ticking noise from the syclops power board. Following the fault procedure given in the manual we shorted the base and emitter of VT601. This renders the syclops control loop open-circuit. The result was tripping with a loud hum on sound. Several electrolytics in the power supply were in poor condition and were replaced, but the problem persisted. Eventually I managed to borrow another syclops control panel. Fitting this restored normal operation, proving that the fault was on the original panel. Though the 4.3 V zener diode W602 was all right when checked for resistance replacing it finally cured the fault.
L.D.

## Thorn 1696/7 Chassis

Considering how difficult it often is to locate a dry-joint, ponder on how this monochrome portable had worked for over eighteen months with the hot end of R1 and the bottom end of R2 devoid of solder, thus robbing the tuning line of its stabilised 33 V supply! The set had also been left on for a fortnight hooked up to a video game. Apparently the two-way adaptor had eventually melted! The only damage to the set seemed to be slight scorching of the plastic on the mains transformer.
R.B.

## Rank T16 Chassis

Sound but no vision was the complaint with this monochrome portable. On inspection we found that R36 ( $18 \Omega$ ) in the feed to the TBA800) field output chip had burnt out - the chip takes its supply from the 26 V boost rail. As these sets are now quite old I suspected age as the cause of the resistor failure but the replacement got very hot. We were told that the set had recently fallen some distance so a more thorough inspection was carried out. This revealed a minuscule crack in the print near the positive tag of the boost reservoir capacitor C27 $(220 \mu \mathrm{~F})$.

As a result the boost voltage was low at only about 20 V . Repairing the break provided a complete cure.

## Bush BC6004

The problem with this set was lack of width which couldn't be adjusted by means of P768. T764 (BC237B) was open-circuit base-to-emitter. Note that this transistor, which is part of the EW correction circuit, is on the field timebase panel.
R.B.

## Pye 713 Series Chassis

The complaint with this set was intermittent colour. We found that the fault was sensitive to movement of the decoder panel and on inspecting this C389 $(2 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ turned out to be dry-jointed on one leg.
R.B.

## Grundig GSC100/Matsui Video

The Grundig set has been acquired with the house, which is at the end of a country lane. During a recent cold spell I received an enquiry as to why it wouldn't give good results when connected to the VCR. As I knew that four-wheel
drive would be an advantage, and the trouble sounded like tracking errors, I suggested that Currys might like to check the video first! Later I received a call to the effect that the machine had been given a clean bill of health so could I check the set?
I found that the machine's own recordings played back quite well, but my test tape produced violent line pulling over the top quarter of the screen. The VCR was tried with the customer's other set and all was calm. So it must be the Grundig. The line speed was found to be spot on, so I retuned one of the spare channel selectors to the VCR's output. Still bad. Now this set has a twelve-button selector, with ch. 12 the AV one. As off-air results were o.k., something had to be wrong with the ch. 12 arrangement. A voltage check at the relevant input pin on the line generator module revealed a "floating" voltage that varied depending on which selector had been operated. When I traced the source back to the tuning board I found a single plug and socket marked "VCR". This hadn't been connected - or had been removed. Reconnecting it restored normal operation. Now Grundig experts might have spotted this immediately, but the lead was hidden by the ribbon cables and was not immediately apparent. Another lesson learnt the hard way!
R.B.

## A Guide to Coarse Servicing

Some rather strange things happened when I popped in to see Ike Hodge recently, after an interval of a couple of months or more. First I had to park my 1955 Standard 8 a few yards away from Ike's shop door as there was a twoblocks long Boggs Super Saloon parked dead in front of it. This in itself was unusual to say the least: what followed was even more so.

Ike's shop door opened and out stepped an extraordinarily handsome lady, ushered out by the boyo himself. I saw some words being exchanged then the handsome lady threw her arms around Ike and planted this great kiss on his cheek. She then stepped into the Super Saloon and sped away.

I edged my Standard up to the vacated spot and peered out at Ike, who was standing there as though rooted to the spot, with a dreamy smile on his face. When I got out I addressed him several times before he noticed my presence.

> "Whaddya say?"
"I said who on earth was that?" I repeated for the third time.
"Lucy Shadbold" he replied, still with that dreamy air about him. "We've known each other for years, ever since we were kids."
"Then what in the name of all that's sensible was she up to coming to see you?"
"Very funny I must say. As a matter of fact I've just done her a good turn."
"And you a married man!"
"No need to be coarse. The kiss was just a little bonus for services rendered. The real payment was this." So saying he flashed a cheque under my nose.
"Fifty quid!" I exclaimed. I was about to ask him how he could have possibly earnt such a sum when something else struck me. "How come you accepted a cheque? Isn't that against your principles?"
"Who says?"

Chas E. Miller

"You do, frequently. I remember playing chess with you one day and when I said 'check' you replied 'sorry, cash only'."
"Just a slip of the tongue. This here cheque is cast iron solid - Lucy's married to Willie Shadbold the builder, and he's good for a sight more than that."
"You've not explained what she was doing here."
"It so happens," Ike replied loftily, "that I was able to do something for her that no one else could do."
"You mean something illegal?"
"Certainly not" exclaimed Ike, "just a bit dodgy."
"I know I'm going to regret asking about it, but what was this dodgy deed?"
"I've just saved her from being publicly ostracised, that's all."
"You mean you've promised not to tell anyone you know her?"
"If you'll refrain from cheap cracks I'll explain. I gave her back the most precious thing in her life - her credit rating."
"This wife of a wealthy man comes to you to restore her credit rating?"
"Lucy came from a poor family and was used to having to put money aside to pay bills as they came in. It's not necessary now but she can't break the habit. She still pays every bill on the dot, with cash."
"Except yours" I pointed out.
"I'll explain that. Now a month or so ago Lucy visited her sister who lives somewhere up north. This sister wanted to buy a car on the knock, but the h.p. company required a guarantor. Lucy offered to help out and was surprised when the car salesman came back and said he couldn't accept her - he didn't say as much, but gave the distinct impression that Lucy certainly wasn't credit worthy. Now Lucy had never owed anyone a penny in her life, so there had to be something wrong. She thanked her lucky stars it hadn't happened at home. What would they
have thought here if word had got about? And her husband's affairs wouldn't have looked too good, would they? So she came to see me - she didn't dare tell Willie."
"What could you do about it then?"
"Well, being a trader I could consult the national debt data register. I found that Lucy was down as owing five weeks on her TV rental. From the car salesman's point of view if she couldn't keep up a payment of about two quid a week what chance would she have of forking out thirty if called to do so? When I mentioned this to Lucy she said she'd never missed a week on rental payments in twenty years - she'd all the receipts to prove that she was up-todate. So the next step was to check up on what was happening at the rental company."
"Which one?"
"Rockhard Rentals. As you know they've branches all round the area, with thousands of customers. Still a family business too. It's owned by two brothers, Jack and Nathan Rockhard. Straight as dies but they're getting on now and don't take an active part in it. There's a relative by marriage called Bender who runs the business for them, on a salary. Out of interest I went out and cased his home address. By the look of things he does pretty well for himself. Better I thought than he could do on what the Rockhards would be likely to pay him. So I started to ${ }_{2}$ wonder whether Bender might have some other source of income - in other words a fiddle."
"The fair Lucy couldn't have picked a better person to look into that" I commented, but the irony escaped Ike. He nodded complacently and continued.
"My feelings exactly. Next I started to do a bit of checking to see how the rental money is handled once the payments have been made into the branches. Apparently ninety per cent of it is in cash, and Bender collects it on Friday nights, taking it from the various branches to his main office where he bungs it in the safe. "On Saturday mornings he checks it all out and enters the payments into the master account books. The branches have ordinary little duplicate receipt books - the customer gets the top copy and the counterfoil is handed over to Bender with the cash. That way he has an exact record of who's paid what."
"Sounds straightforward enough. Incidentally, I assume I'm not supposed to ask how you found all this out?"
"Naturally. Anyway, armed with this knowledge I sat down and tried to figure out what I might do in such a situation. Then next day I went and had a private talk with Mr. Bender. Told him I was a writer . . ."
"You didn't give him my name by any chance?" A horrible suspicion had struck me.
"Now would I do a thing like that?" said Ike. "What I said was that I was working on the plot of a crime story and needed a bit of professional help to ensure that the plot was plausible. He was beginning to look at me a bit strangely, but you should have seen his face as I went on! I said that in the plot the central character managed a TV rental business and had worked out a sure-fire scheme to make a bit on the side. Amongst the thousands of customers there would always be a few who missed the odd payment, and he could deal with these at his own discretion provided they didn't exceed a month in any twelve. So my fictional character started to hold back a certain number of payments each week, marking them down in the master account book as missed and putting the money into his own pocket. Provided he kept varying the list of supposed non-payers he could keep this up almost indefinitely, because so long as any one person appeared to owe the firm only one payment he could

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write it off as a normal business hazard. Only the real hard-case non-payers were pressed for payment and eventually had their names sent to the national debt data register. I figured out that he could easily make a hundred quid or more a week, tax-free, without any danger of being caught. Then something happened to give the game away. My fictional manager somehow slipped up and used the same customer's name too often so that it appeared on the register. By sheer coincidence the customer got to know about this and made a fuss that triggered off an investigation."
"Ike" I said in sorrow. "I know you've a scheming mind, but that beats everything. Were you thrown out on your ear?"
"Of course not. Bender had by then gone a sort of sickly colour and muttered that in his opinion such a scheme couldn't possibly work in practice. Said he was very busy and could we call it a day?"
"What happened after that?"
"I left it for a week or so then had another look at the register. The entry for Lucy had been amended 'due to wrong information provided in the first place' - well that's what it said. Anyway her credit rating is now excellent, hence the fifty quid cheque and kiss on the cheek. And friend Bender has gone off to visit his uncle in Australia."
"But didn't you say Lucy always paid cash?"
"She's learnt better. Cash can't be traced, but cheques can. You're far safer paying by cheque and crossing it ' A / C payee' so that it can't be used by anyone else for their own purposes."
"So I could pay you by cheque now?" I said brightly.
"Do you mind" snorted Ike. "There are limits to this sort of thing you know."

# Service Bureau 

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## PHILIPS KT3 WITH TELETEXT

When the set is switched to text the display seems to be scrambled, i.e. with no line or field synchronisation. Text is all right in the mixed text/picture mode however. The power supply voltages to the teletext decoder panel seem to be correct.

It's possible, though unlikely, that there's a fault on the decoder panel. The first thing to do is to check that the $16 \mathrm{~V}, 12 \mathrm{~V}$ and 5 V lines are correct and free from ripple the three MC78-series regulator chips IC005, IC007 and IC010 can cause various problems. If the sync problem persists, key test points to check with a scope are pins 12 (syncs) and 16 (video) of the SAA5030 chip IC7007.

## THORN TX10 CHASSIS

When the picture is dim enough (dark backgrounds etc.) a thin, vertical brighter line is superimposed on the picture about a quarter way across the screen from the left-hand side. Unlike a reflection it's not static but wavers. The line is not noticeable with a bright picture and also fails to appear with dead black, but with the right grey it comes into view and is then of constant brightness, slightly above the background level.

The only known fault of this type arises with remotecontrolled receivers using receiver/decoder panel PC1548. If the set is of this type, change C 915 from $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 25 V . The cause of the problem is line pulse ripple on the 12 V line. If the set doesn't incorporate this panel, check the 12 V line with a scope. If the line-rate ripple exceeds 200 mV , investigate the regulator and decoupling circuits.

## PANASONIC NV370

The take-up spool doesn't rotate in the play mode, with the result that the tape is unwound into the machine. In the fast forward mode however the spool works, taking up the tape.

This fault is very common with the NV370 - and the NV850, which uses the same deck. It can be cured by fitting a modified idler assembly, part no. VXP0521. The improved idler can be identified by the blue plastic moulding or black dot on the left-hand side of the idler arm. Replacement is very easy.

## TYNE 5224

The initial problem was no raster. Fitting a new tripler produced e.h.t. but the problem now is field collapse. Unfortunately it doesn't seem to be possible to get any data on these sets.

Tyne have been out of business for several years now, so that data and spares are no longer available. The field
timebase used in this set is very simple however, consisting of a TBA800 chip (IC401) and a handful of peripheral components. Check the fusible resistor R421, then for dry-joints around Q401, the pincushion distortion correction components and the connections to the scan coils. If these are in order replace the TBA800.

## GRUNDIG 5010 SERIES VCR OPERATION

Playback of my Panasonic NV370's own recordings on this set is perfect but with prerecorded tapes the top 3 in. of the picture bends to the left, with a lot of distortion. Trying different channel selector positions makes no difference. It's been suggested that a modification may be necessary.

In many of these sets the seventh selector brings in the AV time-constant. If position seven gives no better results than the other positions fit a combination of a $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor and a 1 N4148 diode, with the diode anode to pin 12 on the horizontal module and the resistor to pin Z 9 on the electronic module. The diode (Di417) may already be present in the horizontal module.

## HITACHI CPT1473

This set works perfectly when switched on from cold but after about five minutes it trips up and down from channel to channel for a couple of minutes then returns to standby. A channel cannot be selected until the set has been switched off for a couple of minutes, then the same sequence occurs.

Check for correct voltage level and absence of ripple on the supply lines to the two i.c.s on the programme selector panel, i.e. for 12 V at pin 14 of IC1 101 and 5 V at pin 28 of IC1102. If these supplies are in order IC1102 ( $\mu$ PD1514) is suspect. Before condemning it, disconnect J1101 to eliminate the possibility of noise from the remote receiver section (IC1103, D1171 etc.) triggering false commands.

## SONY KV1800UB

The problem with this set is no colour. There's no output at chroma bandpass transformer T302 and no voltage at the emitter of the associated amplifier transistor Q301, but we can't find the cause of the trouble. We've checked for faulty electrolytics, which seem to cause a lot of problems with the decoder panel, but have had no success this time.

If Q301's base voltage is above 0.7 V it's almost certain that this transistor is faulty, with an open-circuit baseemitter junction. Check the base and emitter voltages at the legs of this transistor, since bad joints are quite common on the decoder panel. An alternative and less likely possibility is that the a.c.c. transistor Q302 in Q301's emitter circuit is short-circuit of being driven excessively. Meter checks should soon prove this point.

## FERGUSON 3V16

This VCR normally works all right but on occasions there's a fault on playback. When this occurs the picture breaks up every one-two seconds, slowly drifts back then breaks up again. The break-up is accompanied by a swishing noise on sound. It's sometimes possible to correct the fault by running the tape back and forth a few times.

The symptom is loss of capstan lock. After a long period we've known drift to necessitate resetting of the capstan servo: set up the capstan sampling position controls R106 and R109, using a scope. If the fault persists, check for the presence of control pulses at TP4 and the MM output at TP3. If the ripple voltage across the motor exceeds 0.6 V peak-peak the motor itself is faulty.

## THORN 9600 CHASSIS

The problem we've got with one of these sets is field jitter. Any suggestions?

The usual cause of field jitter with this chassis is faulty electrolytic capacitors or bad soldered joints. Check the joints first, especially in and around the field output stage. Make sure that none of the presets (linearity, shift, NS balance, height, etc.) is junky, then if necessary check the decoupling capacitor $\mathrm{C} 823(47 \mu \mathrm{~F})$, the field scan coupling capacitor $\mathrm{C} 829(1,500 \mu \mathrm{~F})$, and the linearity sampling resistor R844 ( $1 \Omega$ ).


## 290

Each month we provide an interesting case of TV/video servicing to exercise your ingenuity. These are not trick questions but are based on actual practical faults.

How time flies! We tend to think of the Thorn TX9 chassis as a very up-to-date one - it seems only yesterday that it was introduced. Yet the TX9 was launched over seven years ago. It was one of the last designs to use a thyristor power supply, though the final 1044 version used a chopper instead. The tale of woe to be unfolded concerns an early version ( 1980 vintage) with a thyristor to provide h.t. regulation. Its problem, initially dealt with at the customer's home, was violent mains fuse blowing. A new 1.6A anti-surge fuse had been fitted and the set had then roared into life with no sign of distress. So it had been left at that. But within days the new fuse blew in no uncertain manner and, after its owner had been given a close grilling, it was brought into the workshop.
"Did it go at switch on?"
"No, it was running at the time."
"Were there any sound or picture disturbances before it went?"
"Don't know, I was in the kitchen at the time."
Oh well!
The workshop technician had some ideas. He changed the bifilar mains filter choke L64 - he'd once found one of these internally short-circuit in a similar set. Next he replaced the mains bridge rectifier diodes D62-5 for BY127s. He then reassembled the set and let it run. Late that same day the mains fuse blew again. The technician wasn't there when it happened. He was in the little kitchen out back, making some coffee . . .

What was for sure was that the overload, whatever it was, happened while the set was running. Taking advice from several quarters the technician replaced the large chopper choke L65 with the later "002" version, the overvoltage sensing zener diode D85 with an approved type, and changed the bridge rectifier protection capacitors $\mathrm{C} 134 / 5$ to $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ types supplied by Ferguson. The latter
would take care of the mains-borne spikes that everyone assumed were at the root of the trouble. But the 1.6 A fuse continued to blow at random intervals.

What now? The most expensive new part, the chopper choke, was hastily removed and the original was refitted. Since the excess current sensing resistor R197 (10S) in the h.t. line appeared to be quite unstrained it was assumed that crowbar thyristor CSR2 was providing the fault current path - a correct assumption as it turned out. So the thyristor was changed in case it was leaky. It probably wasn't, because the fuse-blowing continued unabated at intervals of a few hours, sometimes a day or two.

By now a great deal of time had been spent on the set and lots of perfectly good components, as well as the blackened and shattered fuses, had been removed from it. The guilty little culprit was eventually found - and would have been found much sooner had a proper diagnostic procedure been followed instead of a trial-and-error binge. Any ideas? See next month for the solution.

## ANSWER TO TEST CASE 289 - page 194 last month -

Our ITT colour set (CVC30 chassis) last month was suffering from tube trouble - or was it? We left Resident Workshop Sage grimly sitting behind the set, with its blurred, greenish and flat picture, equipped with his scope and test meter. His initial investigation had revealed that all the critical voltages in the set were low, though this was far from obvious in view of the picture's full width and height.

All became clear when the h.t. voltage was checked. The reading obtained across the smoothing capacitor C52 was about 130 V instead of the expected 160 V . To compensate for the resulting low scan amplitudes someone had wound up the width and height controls. It was at first thought that a CMP10 ( 125 V output type) chopper control module had been fitted in error, but the label said CMP30 and that's what it was. Adjustment of R808 (output voltage) put things right. We'll never know why it had been set low with the amplitude controls wound up: perhaps the most likely explanation is that the twiddling had taken place to eliminate flashover in the original tube.

Why did the twenty per cent reduction in the h.t. voltage have such an effect on all aspects of tube operation? Because all the tube's supplies - heater, cathode, first anode, focus and e.h.t. - were proportionally reduced. The combined effect was tremendous.


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| AN2390 | $\underline{54.20}$ | AN7223 | $\underline{92.95}$ | HA1372 | 93.50 | LA1460 | 2.50 | MS1518L | 52.20 | ta7050P | E1．80 | UPC41C | 0.30 | 2 24899 | ${ }^{00.75}$ | VI |  |  |  |
| AN240P | 51.50 | AN7273 | E3．95 | HA1374 | $\underline{\square} 2.50$ | La2100 | ${ }_{5} 2.95$ | M51521AL | 91.90 | TA7051P | 91.80 | UPC561C | $\underline{2} .50$ | 2 2A952 |  |  |  | LATE | 4 |
| AN241P | \＄1．50 | AN7310 | £1．20 | HA1377 | ¢2．20 | A 3160 | ¢1． 50 | M83705 | ${ }^{11.80}$ | TA7054P | $¢_{62} 20$ | UPC566H | ¢0．75 | 2SA1015 | ${ }_{5 \%}^{50.35}$ |  | 9.25 | AN5430 | £2．95 |
| AN247P | ［2．50 | AN7311 | $\underline{1} .20$ | HA1388 | ¢3．50 | ${ }_{\sim}^{4}$ A3161 | ${ }_{50} 2.50$ | M83712 | ${ }_{81} 1.50$ | TA7066P | ¢ $¢ .75$ | UPC573C | ${ }_{50} 8.50$ | 2SA1103 | 8.20 | FISHER VBS 7000 （6） | 9.70 | AN7140 | £2．20 |
| AN259 | c2． 75 | BA301 | ¢0．80 | HA1389 | 92.20 | LA3210 | ${ }_{60.75}$ | M83713 | ${ }_{9}^{51.60}$ | TA7074P | \＄1．95 | UPCC5754 | ${ }_{51} 50.65$ | 2SA1104 | $\underline{\square}$ |  | ¢1． 50 | UPC1365C | £3．60 |
| AN260P | C2． 20 | BA311 | ${ }^{2} 0.95$ | HA1389R | $\underline{22.20}$ | LA3300 | ¢． 6.65 | M83722 | E． 50 | VA7104P | ${ }_{5} 9.50$ | UPC575C | \＄1． 2.20 | 2SA1105 | 52.75 | FITACHI VI5000（7） | E． E .50 | JPC1394C | £1．95 |
| AN262 | 51.60 | ${ }^{81313}$ | c0． 80 | HA1392 | ${ }_{5}$ | LA3301 | c1． 30 | ${ }_{\text {M83730 }}$ | ${ }_{6}^{6.50}$ | ta7t08P | ¢1．50 | UPC576 | ¢1．30 | 2SA1106 | 9.75 | JVC HR3300：3600 ${ }^{\text {（9）}}$ | $\bigcirc 2.50$ | SAA1059 | £1．95 |
| An271A | $\underline{5.50}$ | BA318 | 51.50 | HA1394 | ${ }_{\text {¢2 }}$ | A33350 | ¢1．30 | M83731 M 3756 | ${ }_{5} \mathrm{E} .50$ | TA7109AP | c¢． 50.50 | UPC592H | ¢0．95 | 25854 28875 | 50.70 80.60 | JVC HR3360／3660（7） | $\underline{\Sigma 2.50}$ | SAA 1250 | £3．25 |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \hline \\ \text { AN272 } \end{array}$ | ${ }_{8}^{82} \mathbf{8} .75$ | B4401 B4402 | 50． 80 | ha1397 ha1398 | cz． 2.75 | LA3361 LA3370 | ${ }_{51} 91.20$ | M33756 M88719 | 5.85 | TA7120P | c0．75 | UPC595C | 52.20 | ${ }_{2 S 3341 V}$ | $\underline{5.75}$ | JVC HR7700（3） | ¢1．70 | SAA1251 | ¢4．95 |
| An30t | $\underline{23.50}$ | BA403 | $\underline{51.95}$ | HA1457\％ | $\underline{19.75}$ | LA4030P | 52.00 | S 40 W | ¢10．50 | TA7130P | 9.100 | UPC1001H | 12.20 | 2S8405 | 50.8 | PANASONIC NV333（5） | 81.90 | SAA1272C | £3．25 |
| AN302 | 53.30 | ba511A | £1．80 | HA112W | 9.75 | LA4031P | $¢ 1.95$ | Sl－1125H | E7．50 | TA7136P | ¢1．00 | UPC1009C | $\underline{12.20}$ | 2S8426 | $\frac{8.95}{50}$ | PANASONIC NV2000（5） | $\ldots 1.90$ | SAA5000 | £1．50 |
| AN303 | 52.75 | BA514 | $\underline{51.90}$ | Al1211 | ¢2． 30 | LA4032P | c1．90 | STK011 | 9.95 | ${ }_{\text {TA7139P }}^{\text {TA7137P }}$ | ${ }_{6} 1.00$ | UPCC1025 | ${ }_{52}$ | 2SB492 | ${ }_{50} 5.5$ | PAHASONIC NV7000 5 | ¢1．75 | SAA5010 | £4．50 |
| 305 | 13.50 | BA521 | ¢1．80 | HA11215A | ¢4．35 | LA4051P | ${ }_{81} 8.20$ | STK013 | 77.25 | TA7140P | ¢ 9.75 | UPC1026 | 51.00 | 2S85090 | 81.95 | PANASONIC NV8600（7） | $\underline{2.25}$ | SAA5020 | $£ 5.75$ |
| AN313U | $\underline{C 2.95}$ | 8A526 | $\underline{3} 50$ | HAl1229 | ${ }_{52.75}$ | LA4101 | \％1．00 | STK015 | E5． 20 | TA7142P | 92.95 | UPC 1028 | 50.90 | 2SB536 | $\underline{50.95}$ | SAAYO VTC5500（3） | ¢1．50 | SAA5030 | £6．50 |
| AN315 | C2．30 | 84527 | ¢1．60 | HA11223W | 9.80 | LA4102 | 81.40 | STK020 | 55.75 | IA7145P | 92.50 | UPC1031 | ¢1． 95 | ${ }_{2}^{2 S 8546}$ | ¢1．50 | SANYO VTC9300（4） | $\underline{7} .75$ | SAA5040A | £8．50 |
| AN316 | $\underline{5} .75$ | BA532 | ¢1．60 | HA11225 | $\underline{\$ 1.95}$ | LA4110 | 81.75 | STK022 | 55.30 | TA7150P | $\underline{2} .75$ | UPC 1032H | ¢0．60 | 2SB561 | $\underline{50} 35$ | SHARP VC6300（5） | $\underline{2} .25$ | SAA5040B |  |
| AN318 | ¢4．95 | BA536 | $\underline{2} .40$ | HA11226 | £4．50 | La4112 | 51.73 | STK025 | 77.50 | TA7152P | ¢2．50 | UPC1035C | ¢1．95 | 2S8698 | 50. |  |  |  |  |
| AN331 | $\underline{52.95}$ | BA547 | 22.50 | HA11227 | ¢2．20 | LA4120 | c2．95 | STK040 | c8． 70 | IA7157P | c1．65 | UPC1037\％ | ¢1． 25 | 2 S8755 | E． 50 | sharp Vozoo（5） |  | SAA5042 | 8.00 |
| AN340P | ¢1．50 | BA612 | 1.80 | HA11235 | ［2． 30 | LA4125 | $\underline{27.20}$ | STK043 | ¢10．50 | TA7176P | 92.75 | UPC1156H | $\underline{0} .95$ | 2SC372 | ${ }_{50}$ | SHARP VC8300（5） | $\underline{2} .00$ | SAA5050 | £7．50 |
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| $\text { ANL5 } 10$ | ${ }_{5}^{9.75}$ | BAS 102 A | $\underline{¢ 1.75}$ | HA11710 HA17711 | ¢9．75 | La4230 | $\underline{5.75}$ | STK436 SK437 | ${ }_{66.50}$ | ta7217AP | 18.160 | UPCC1185 | $\square .50$ | ${ }^{2 S C 828}$ | 50.30 |  | － |  |  |
| AN5701 | ¢1． 80 | BA5406 | $\underline{3} .20$ | Hal1713 | โ6．50 | LA4420 | 81.60 | STK439 | ¢5．95 | IA7220P | $\underline{52.50}$ | UPC1186 | ${ }^{60} .90$ | $2 \mathrm{SC84}$ | c1． 50 | ¢ |  |  |  |
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| AN5732 | ¢1．85 | BA6304 | $\underline{2} 20$ | HA117 | 4.75 | LA4440 | $\underline{52} 5$ | SIK457 STK459 | 26． 5 | TA7226P | $\underbrace{6} .20$ | UPC1225 | 52.00 |  | ¢4．75 | － |  |  |  |
|  | $\underline{1.95}$ | CX0642 | 28.50 | HA1777 | ${ }_{\text {E4，}}^{25}$ | LA4460 | ¢1．80 | STK461 | $\underline{7.54}$ | TA7227P | 52.20 | UPC 1230 | $\underline{52} 50$ | 2SC106 | 81.20 | 4 |  |  |  |
| An6250 | $\underline{525}$ | Cx06 | $\underline{2} .95$ | ${ }_{\text {HA11727 }}$ | ¢9．50 | LA4461 | $¢ 1.80$ | STK463 | 58.48 | TA7229P | ¢ 2.25 | UPC1263 | $\underline{\square} .50$ | 2SC10 | ¢0． |  |  | evers | 75 |
| AN6341N | ${ }^{4}$ | Cx | 75 | HA19745 | ¢9．00 | LA4500 | $\underline{\square} .60$ | STK465 | c8．5m | TA7230P | c1． 95 | UPC1277 | 0.75 | $2 \mathrm{SC136}$ | ${ }^{50.35}$ |  |  |  |  |
| AN6344 | ¢4．75 | Cxossc | 82.85 | HA17747 | 29. | LA4505 | C2．80 | STK501 | ${ }_{68.25}$ | TA7232P | ${ }_{5} 9.95$ | UP | ${ }_{51} 12$ | 2SC1 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | E． | cx 10.15 | ${ }^{26} 775$ | HA11774AA | $\underline{29} 5$ | A4507 | ¢4．25 | STKO2 |  | TA7241AP | 12.95 | UPC135 | $\underline{51.95}$ | 2SC19 | 9.25 |  |  | ERAMIC SO | LTERS |
| AN6356 | E． 55 | Cx130 | ¢4．75 | HA17749 HAT1750 | E5．00 | LA5112 | 5.85 | STK0039 |  | ta7270P | $\underline{2} 75$ | UPC 135 | 52.00 | $2 \mathrm{SC19}$ | 20.80 | 0 才 |  | 3 LEAD |  |
| ANG362 | 55.50 | CX 136 A | E7．50 | HA11751NT | $\underline{88.50}$ | LA64580 | ¢1．20 | STK0040 | 66.25 | TA7340P | ¢1．85 |  | $\underline{52} 20$ | 2SC196 | $\underline{51.75}$ |  | S | M MB |  |
| AN6363 | ， 30 | CX143A | 57.50 | HA11753NT | 58.50 | La7016 | 0.75 | STK0049 | ¢5．50 | ta7312P | c1．50 | UPC1378 | 2.40 | $2 \mathrm{SC2078}$ | ¢0．95 | － | S |  | 35 |
|  | ¢5．95 | CX157 | ¢4．25 | HAT1758NT | ع． 5.50 | LA7215 | $\underline{5275}$ | STK0059 | 7. | ta ${ }^{\text {a }}$ 313AP | ¢1．50 | UPC3 | 91.10 |  |  | 2 | － |  |  |
| AN6610 | ¢1．80 | CX158 | 9.75 | HA11768 | ¢4．50 | La7751 | ¢4．75 | SIK0080 |  | IA7315 | ${ }_{\square} \mathrm{c}_{2} .55$ | UPC 1387 | $\underline{50}$ | 2 SC |  | 㖘 |  |  |  |
| 667 | ${ }_{5} 8.30$ | Cx160 | ${ }^{23.50}$ | Hal1788 | 50 | La7 | c1． 95 | STK2029 | 5 | TA7317P | $\underline{\square} 7$ | UPC1391H | c1． 50 | 2SC2 | $\underline{2} .7$ |  | I CDA | 5MC |  |
| AN6811 | ¢1．60 | Cx161A |  | HA11816 HA11828 | ${ }^{26.50}$ | LA7801 | ${ }_{¢ 2}$ | STK2129 | ${ }_{6} 6$ | TA7324P | 52.50 | UPC1403C | 55.75 | 2SC25 | $\underline{\$ 2.75}$ |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }_{\text {AN }}$ AN6884 | $¢_{¢ 2} .75$ | CX170 | โ6．75 | HA12001W | โ\％，50 | LA7806 | $\underline{\square} .75$ | STK2230 | โ6．50 | TA7325P | $\underline{\$ 1.00}$ | UPC1 | ¢6．50 | 2SC2530 | \％ |  |  |  |  |
| AN7105 | $\underline{52.30}$ | CX181 |  | HAl2002 | $\underline{7.95}$ | LA7808 | 52.95 | STK3042 | ¢\％．50 | IA 7328AP | ${ }^{[2} 20$ | UP | ${ }^{50} 9.95$ | TDAIS | ${ }^{1}$ | Quiries invited for a | pane | Cs． | orted |
| 7110 | ¢1． 50 | hal124A | C2．75 | HA12017 | 0.75 | L81287 | $\mathfrak{5} 75$ | STK4060 | ${ }^{56}$ | la | ${ }_{5} 2.20$ | UPC | ${ }^{12}$ |  |  |  | ， |  |  |
| AN7111 | ¢1．50 | Ha1125 | 81.75 | HA12035 | c9． 50 | ${ }^{1814}$ | ${ }_{5} \mathbf{7} .20$ | STK419 ${ }^{\text {dil }}$ | ${ }_{58}{ }^{2} .55$ | ta7607ap | 9.95 | UPC4558 | c0． 90 |  |  | S DESPATC | HED | IIN 48 HOL |  |
| AN7145 | 81.75 | Hal144 | ${ }^{81.75}$ | HA12413 | 62.75 | LC7120 | E． 50 | STK4332 |  |  |  | UP | 55.75 |  | 0.75 | ase add 60p post |  | ado | tolat |
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| AN7120 | ¢1．50 | HA1956W | ¢1．20 | HA13402 | ¢4．95 | LC7131 | \％． 75 | STK5211 | 25.75 | 611 | ${ }^{\text {c．}} 20$ | $\times 0042$ | ${ }^{2} 20$ |  |  | nes | －5pm． | Fri． |  |
| AN7130 | ¢1．30 | HA1167 | ． 75 | HA13403 |  | LC7136 | $\mathfrak{9}$ |  | 56.50 | TA7617AP | $\frac{12}{2} .50$ |  | ${ }_{55.60}$ |  | ¢5．50 | ISNACCESS ACCEPTE | MIN | EEPHDME | ¢5．00 |
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CHANNEL 35


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39 ranges: d.c. $\mathrm{V} ; 100 \mathrm{mV}, 1.0 \mathrm{~V}, 3.0 \mathrm{~V}, 10 \mathrm{~V}, 30 \mathrm{~V}, 100 \mathrm{~V}, 300 \mathrm{~V}, 1000 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. I; $50 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 100 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 300 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 1.0 \mathrm{~mA}, 3 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 30 \mathrm{~mA}$, 100mA, 1A, 10A
a.c. V; $10 \mathrm{~V}, 30 \mathrm{~V}, 100 \mathrm{~V}, 300 \mathrm{~V}, 1000 \mathrm{~V}$;
a.c. $1 ; 3 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 30 \mathrm{~mA}, 100 \mathrm{~mA}, 1.0 \mathrm{~A}, 10 \mathrm{~A}$. $\Omega ; 0-5.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 0-50 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 0-500 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 5 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 50 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ dB ; from -10 to +61 in 5 ranges.
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TELEVISION FEBRUARY 1987

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Some examples of QUALITY working TVs

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|  | (VARIOUS MODELS)* |
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|  | THORN 9900f/fremote $\begin{aligned} & \text { t**************E60 }\end{aligned}$ |
| THORN 9600 (full feature remote) $\star \star \star \star \star \star \star \star \star \star \star$ E45 | ILIPS G11 |
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| SEND7 COMPONENTS |  |  | Rank Izozast Pancl <br> NEW 1617 THORN（hassis with le \＆\＆ 10111.3 <br> NFW（ HEC 2 IAX P Power Supply Suitch Mode <br> Complete net（jEC portatle chassis Mizoll I／MISOIII with P．B．U．／ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tharn Spares |  | K．35 Decoder 58 | Field＋Jungle pancel for GEC 313 |  | f1．50 | Multi－（＇aps |
| Nen manildecoder Mant litume pancl | ¢8．50） | 1.35 Sound OP ${ }^{\text {a }}$（4 |  |  | f（12．0．10） |  |
|  |  | K．35 Splun Dieklc 3122－1．38－3 | Pye／helheal 1 ine op panel |  | ${ }_{\text {fl2 }}$ |  |
| mani（yclops panel | ${ }_{\text {c＊}} 1.50$ | 4．35 IF | Pye 2115 L／unit |  |  |  |
|  soun comvergence pand |  |  |  |  | ${ }_{6}^{67.510}$ | ｜heril 3.541 |
|  | ${ }^{\text {E } 6}$ | Fiddllyy Fube Base wilh transtor \％ | Pre 71.3 Chroma |  | E10．（0） |  |
| Hhn）Power supply <br> I（x）（k）Mano kead．switeh |  |  | Pye／hellsea Timebrase panel with I．OPM |  | ¢10．（x） | （1） |
|  |  | Burh Tute Base on panel \＄1．（M） |  |  |  | $4(x)+3(4)+150+1(x)+\sin 10$（ $)$ |
| Itak INPN inker ziviva |  | Li．ine Transfurmers | Pye 731 Chroma |  | （10．00） | 3500 ¢2 |
| Sxan Sound（ utput pancl | ¢1． 50 |  | Pve 7311 l pancl＋ |  | （10．010） | G11（AP 470250 |
| 550 |  |  | Cill putable chasus＋ 10 Pr｜12114 New |  |  |  |
|  |  | ${ }_{\text {（i）}} 11$ Split Diexde ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  | 9.75 |  |
| 35（x）Friame pancl |  | （VC821S Split Dixde ITT E10，（k） | G9）Power Pamel |  | c6．（k） | 1592002013 3x |
|  |  | Thern B／W ADSami＋Stik＋El．su | Mumo RANK（hassis 127a new |  | f（10，00） |  |
| ${ }^{35(x) 1.120, ~ p a t c e l}$ |  |  | NEW（99 Frame Pane |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | NFW（ill 1 P Panel |  | £10．1k） |  |
| If＇buard with wet of SN74LS |  |  | （is Puner Unit＋Pamel catiou） | 22／（10x） |  | 2（1）2010175／25M 325 SV |
| Hinn Tlube hise |  | （itc（2l10）E7．04 | （is Power Suppl） | 12514 C | 21 p |  |
|  |  | Mullard AT 2136，El．50 | GX OStoming PBU | 1／7（1）4 | 5 p |  |
|  |  |  | （ixild ${ }^{\text {a }}$（hroma | imild．Sinac | 25p |  |
|  |  | Pye momio Eava es．00 | （is Chroma |  | 30 p |  |
|  |  | Rainh muno（71HA |  | ¢．7M／ル | 10 p |  |
| RathkTionhika preh unt 11.54 |  |  |  | 47（1）141） | 210 p | Stestine $5^{2}$ |
| 4Push hutton unt preha Prush button VHIHJIIF for |  | Reve |  | ziman $1(10)$ | 770 |  |
|  |  | $47(1) / 1010$ $75 p$ <br> $47 / 1(x)$  <br> $310140 / 301$ $10 p$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | xime $i(t)$ | 510 |  |  |
| KT3（Lepport）I2P．B．＂¢2 |  |  | Z7ld RaNk If Pancls gmilz | 1／251 Puls | ${ }_{5} 5$ | Pyc 7251（0）IT 6.000 |
|  |  | （vC45 E50， | Sithenf |  | $110 p$ |  |
| ${ }^{6}$ 9 Puash tution PYE 731 E6．（0） |  |  | Expmot 5.5 ML （ | 33051 V | 20 p |  |
|  | ${ }_{6} 3$ | ：itio Splu Dioxde leads 1＇to El．00 |  |  | $\underset{25 p}{15 \mathrm{p}}$ | （＇M1） |
|  <br> 7 Bumen thu Gi：c with Imp |  |  | 2743 RANK IF Panel | 2325 | 15p |  |
|  |  | K．35 Splut Duxde 3122／1．38．35431 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { TRA } 1750+\mathrm{SC} 4514 \mathrm{P}+ \\ & \mathrm{SC} 9.113 \mathrm{P} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 11 \times 12510 \\ & (i 11471 / 2510 \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ | ${ }_{20 \mathrm{p}}^{10}$ |  |
| （\％） |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| tomap pancl | 55．00） | Black I riplers |  |  |  | UPC 574 |
|  |  | 1itit |  |  |  | 13S5 38 |
|  |  |  |  | （3，41／251 | ＋11p |  |
|  |  | ITI（xC5－8．9 |  | 32／3（0） | 20 p | Gill E1．50 |
| Thwors $51 / 7 / 7165$ | （1．10） | Rank |  | － 4 H／351 |  | 11．C．Recener Painct |
|  | t1．00 | TU 2530 K Rank | －ve 20 Frome pancl with slu | 4.7 M .35 lv | 110 |  |
|  | 1 |  | nualms unput panel | 3，3／56 | 210 | 31 （＇Power Sípply（ill rull Revinte |
|  | 10 | （i）Philpo E4．00） | （VC＊）PUSHI BIITTON ASSY with | 23123 | 30 p |  |
| Thern 51－40R－IK． 5 Ae Socher of tead | \％p | （5xtu Thurn | studers：complete with limp assy＋pats |  | 10 p |  |
| （ifC：HT，PMulı， | 250 |  |  | 110.375 | 110 p |  |
| Thurn 1 （x） $177 \times 1$ | （1．51） | （ex |  | 22375 | 15 p |  |
| Rusth Tosshiba Iuls | M） p |  | Unversat Fixus．Fits Pyc．The Deccau Unis． | 2mu／3s（VC） | ${ }_{60 p}$ |  |
|  |  |  | T117 Rank tube has | （1） $1 / 414$ | 15 p |  |
|  |  | （itc IVM25 Tripler exime | 2719 Ficus Unill | K131／W | 15p |  |
| （ixatill |  |  | 120）Focus（＇mit E1．．．1） | S5K 4x＾ |  |  |
| xicturn |  | （ex | Large Typ | ${ }^{2}+104(x)$ | 10 p <br> 10 p |  |
| （ ${ }_{\substack{5 \times 3 \\ 5 \times 3}}$ | ${ }_{7}^{50 p}$ |  | －${ }_{\text {deecas }}$ | （2） | ${ }_{15 p}$ |  |
| 过 | E1．10） | Dectas kil（1x）E4．50 | h．31）Fixus Por ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 33／4（4） | 20 p |  |
|  |  | Gimudg TVK52［2．51） | K330 Tube base en pancl £1．．ei） | 4141／4k） | 10 p |  |
|  |  | MTritione |  | 200451） | ${ }_{\text {20p }}$ |  |
| － | ${ }_{71}{ }^{\text {cid }}$ |  | Fiediliv Fiocus 1 mil $14 \mathrm{R}-\mathrm{HS}$ S | ＋ $47 / 5(1)$ | ${ }_{25} \mathbf{p}^{\text {p }}$ |  |
|  | ¢1．10） |  |  |  | 15 p |  |
| ¢\％dia | ${ }^{\text {c．}} 1.100$ |  | ITTI Smail for use wiht Splt | （0．1／450）／（Cure end | 20p |  |
| 隹 |  |  |  | 22／f（x） | 20 p | （10．00 |
|  | ${ }_{\text {cti．so }}$ | Then ultrisunic rect pancl | TV11 Sop | （147／f01） | 15p | Hamdels exchanged |
|  | 75 |  |  | 19．047／（10n） | 10 p |  |
| 3＂ | 75 | GECCs | derx）Thurn Eitit Rec and lead Sop | （1．0171（1）（1） | 10 p |  |
| krs preaher K | ${ }_{75 \mathrm{p}}$ |  | $\mathrm{TV13}^{\text {TV13 }}$ | 0．17（H） | 10 p |  |
|  | 60 p | （i）1：U coil |  | 4012 1250 |  |  |
|  |  |  | （10） |  |  |  |
| x 56 Philit？ <br> k．31 15 walt | $\underset{\substack{\text { fin } \\ \text { in }}}{1}$ | （ill Scim comls |  | ${ }^{(1)}$ | ${ }_{10 \mathrm{p}}^{10 \mathrm{p}}$ | （er |
| h 1．ar，${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | KT3 If panel <br> \｛f．（k） |  | （1105／1／514） |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | $2{ }^{2}$ |  |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 10 p \\ & \text { 10p } \\ & \text { sup } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | $16 p$ $15 p$ |  |
|  |  | K．30 drawer unt whth IC＂， |  | （1） | 15 p |  |
| diomes |  |  |  |  | sp |  |
| （13） 120 | 10 p | （evprori）¢ ¢1\％ | K30 Drawer Ass with pouts caiblic | $3 \mathrm{n} 4 / 2 \mathrm{KV}$ | 15 p |  |
|  | ${ }^{100 p}$ | 边 | torme |  | ${ }_{15 p}^{10 p}$ |  |
|  |  | KT3 line driver transformer Sinp |  | 2nl2 2 L $V$ | 15 p |  |
|  | Stisp | Pre，K．31）GEC．cke Pre－mainh sand． | 1．ne O／P pancl（iEC $2217 / 221 \times 2213 /$ |  | 15 p |  |
|  | ${ }_{2 s p}{ }_{20}$ |  | 2214／226t2227／2288 510 | 7ssumphav |  |  |
| （1）${ }_{\text {ck }}^{1 \times 7}$ | $110 p$ |  |  |  | 10 p |  |
|  |  |  | phlilies batteries | ${ }^{4}$ | ${ }_{15 \mathrm{p}}^{15}$ |  |
| （10， |  |  | （Small Types） | 0．1012325（m） | ${ }_{15}{ }^{\text {p }}$ |  |
|  |  | Comurel pancel 5 sliders＋mams | SR＋1 ${ }_{\text {Stap }}$ | 150／359（\％） | 10 p |  |
| － |  |  | SRd3 ${ }_{\text {SRL }}$ | $1 \times 100+1 \mathrm{KV}$ $4.7 \mathrm{f} / 5 \mathrm{KV}$ V | $5 p$ 100 |  |
| － |  | ${ }^{\text {P }} 13 \mathrm{U}$ | Sk5 ${ }^{\text {Sk }}$ | 1708 k － | 10 p |  |
| \％${ }^{2}$ |  | Tule hase＋hasc unt tor 821 Luro chat chasms |  |  | 10p |  |
| Y 22 2to |  |  | LRSt | H006luk | 10 p |  |
| 边 |  | Pontable ${ }^{\text {a }}$（3，00） | （R2032 601p | $47 /(\mathrm{x}) \mathrm{V}$ | 80 p |  |
|  |  | CVC | CVC 2（12－25－31）Mains Switc |  | （1） |  |
|  |  | （unceved） | Intrat Red and Ultrasome Gil Ieletext Deexder Panel RANK \＆ITT Mans Remole On－Off Swith（7201R） |  | L20 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Y 25.4 |  | HMM Tranducer |  |  | ${ }_{\text {E }}^{1.50}$ |  |
|  |  | LM373 R Reg | ${ }^{\text {cill Mains Swith }}$ |  | ${ }_{50 \mathrm{p}}^{50}$ |  |
| － $2 \times 0$ |  |  | 4 amp Mains Swich |  | ${ }_{\text {ckp }}^{25}$ |  |
| ${ }_{\text {BY }} 5$ | ${ }_{20 p}$ |  | TiIORN Rotary Mams Suith |  | ${ }_{\substack{\text { ¢ } \\ 51000}}$ |  |
| 思 417 |  | （10， |  |  |  |  |
| 240 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { TELETEX DECODFR } \\ & 1 C S A A S(01) \\ & K .31 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | 75 p <br> $\mathbf{2 0}$ <br> 10 |  |
|  | ${ }_{50}^{10 p}$ |  |  |  | $5_{75 p}$ |  |
| x 3 3112 | sop | ic．saa suba | Mams Swich Philip Leng lype TAG |  | 75 p | Special Price |
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