## SERVICING.VIDEO.SATELLITE.DEVELOPMENIS



Inside the Ferguson IKC2 Chassis Dish Performance Tests • DX-TV Audio Systems for TV Receivers Electrolytic capacitor ESR Meter A Day's Problems in the workshop TV Fault Finding - VCR Clinic


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## Leader

Importance of Dish Size with Astra Reception
lan Martin
Performance tests on different types of dishes to assess the effects on reception.

## Letters

Modern TV Receiver Techniques, Part 4
Eugene Trundle
Arrangements used for reception of the various sound transmissions - conventional mono f.m., stereo and satellite - and audio systems includíng spacial effects.

VCR Clinic
Reports from Eugene Trundle, Nick Beer, Chris Avis,
Graham Richards, Brian Storm, Alfred Damp, Chris
Watton, Ed Rowland, J.R. Cutts, Michael Dranfield
and John Edwards.
CD Player Casebook
Reports from Nick Beer, Mike Leach and Savio Da Costa.

## Help Wanted

Inside the Ferguson IKC2 Chassis $\quad$ J. LeJeune

An account of some of the interesting circuitry used
in this chassis plus some fault-finding hints.
A Day at the Thick End
Problems at a villiage TV shop some miles from the Chris Watton nearest town.

Long-distance Television
Roger Bunney
DX conditions and reception plus satellite TV and overseas news.

Test Case 364
Repairing LED Clock Radios, Part 2
Ian Rees
This concluding instalment deals with the radio side.

## Teletopics

News, comment and developments.
Next Month in Television
Simple ESR Meter for Electrolytics Ray Porter, M.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.E.E. A method of checking the effective series resistance of aluminium electrolytic capacitors.

Camcorner
Reports from Brian Storm and David C. Woodnott.

## TV Fault Finding

Reports from Philip Blundell, A.M.I.E.I.E., Richard
Newman, Paul Hardy, Chris Watton, John Edwards,
Michael Dranfield, Brian Storm, Steve Cannon,
Alfred Damp and Geoff Fardon.
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## Answer to Test Case 364



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HRS5000
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| E. PINCH ROLL |  | PIN |  |
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TTUCLUTCH
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PANASONIC
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## COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photograph shows the Ferguson IKC2 chassis - see article on pages 416-9


## 

## Channels Galore

One increasingly wonders why so much political effort was put into keeping aiive the MAC approach to the development of TV transmission when the digital approach was advancing at such a rate. Philips and Thomson, who have a great deal of influence with the European Commission had of course invested heavily in MAC - and saw it as a way of halting the advance of Far Eastern consumer electronics manufacturers in the European market. But they ${ }^{\text {'ve not been idle with }}$ respect to digital TV, which has everything going for it - including the prospect of an internationally accepted standard.
The aspect of digital TV that has been much in the news of late is the prospect of vastly increasing the number of channels in the bandwidth available through the use of signal compression. BBC and BT engineers demonstrated at the recent ISO/MPEG (the Moving Pictures Expert Group of the International Standards Organisation) meeting in London a video coding system that compresses a standard-definition TV signal to a data rate of $6 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$ rather than $216 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. Of particular interest technically is the fact that this system has a 'two-layer' capability, providing standard or HDTV pictures in either of two modes, simulcast or compatible. In the former the SDTV and HDTV images are coded independently while in the latter the SDTV signal is used as one prediction option for the HDTV encoder. Digital compression systems reduce the demand on spectrum space by selecting for transmission only the differences between successive fields rather than sending complete fields. The receiver's decoder uses a field store to hold the field, the incoming data being used to update it.

Thus digital signal processing enables us to cram more channels into a given bandwidth and/or provide higher-definition pictures. At the recent Financial Times Cable and Satellite conference Celso Azevedo, technical director of Societe Europeenne des Satellites (SES) which runs the Astra system, announced that by building digital capability into its new satellites the Astra system would be able to provide 180 channels in two years' time. This could be doubled to 360 channels by launching a further satellite. The digital compression system to be used squeezes ten standard channels into the space now occupied by one.
From the broadcasting viewpoint the economics are interesting. A single-channel transponder at present costs $£ 4 \mathrm{~m}$ a year to lease. If it carries ten digitally compressed channels the rent per channel could fall proportionally, introducing all sorts of possibilities. It seems however that the main use envisaged - who could provide 180 channels of separate programming? - is as a means of making feature films available to the viewer at a reasonable cost. Six channels could, it was suggested, be devoted to one film, with staggered start times so that the wait for the start of a particular film would not be more than about twenty minutes.
Digital compression enables the data rate for digital TV signals to be reduced by a factor of about fifty without any noticeable impairment of picture quality. It can be used for satellite, terrestrial or cable TV channels - and other services of course. Added complexity is required in the receiver, but with modern chip technology this shouldn't Iranslate into any dramatic price increase. If we accept SCS's forecasting, and it has proved to be reliable in the past, this massive increase in the number of channels could be available within two-three years.

It is particularly gratifying that the UK continues to play a major role in the development of digital TV. The original impetus for its development came from the need for standards conversion. By early 1973 a field-rate standards converter developed by the IBA was in regular use. DICE (digital intercontinental conversion equipment) as it was known was an outstanding engineering achievement, the fastest computer in the world at the time. By the early Eighties compression techniques that enabled the bandwidth required to be halved had been developed. Along the way came teletext, Nicam and other developments. The UK has all along been in the forefront in digital signal processing.

# Importance of Dish Size with Astra Reception 

Ian Martin

Some time back in these pages I wrote about the installation of my own Amstrad SRX200 Astra system and, subsequently, my Philips STU902 BSB system. Like many in the industry, I have since then bolted a lot of satellite dishes to a lot of walls and found several factors that commonly affect system performance.

## Sparklies

The most common complaint with existing installations is of sparklies. This is usually because the signal's carrier-to-noise ( $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ ) ratio is too low. In most cases the cure is to realign the dish carefully, using a signal-strength meter, and perhaps add a little mechanical skew to the LNB with the voltage-switched type. Sometimes you find that the gain of an LNB or a receiver is lower on one or more channels than the others. In such cases changing a head-end component or using an LNB with a lower noise figure can give improved results. Whilst changing any head-end component, check for ingress of moisture or spiders. Where the cause of the problem is a mismatch in the cable, shortening or even lengthening it can just occasionally help. Unfortunately it's not easy to check on such deficiencies, let alone remedy them, in the limited time available when attending a simple Astra installation - and the problem always becomes worse as time passes or as soon as the installer goes away!

Even when all the above points have been checked and corrected it's still possible to have signal problems on a few channels.

This is especially so when a 60 cm dish is used in a "fringe" area such as Wales, the South West or anywhere north of the M62. The problem is usually experienced first with some of the vertically polarised German mode 2 channels via Astra 1A - their signal strength becomes weaker as one travels westwards and northwards. It's accentuated when the receiver has a poor threshold and the LNB has a not-so-low noise figure. Wet weather worsens the situation by attenuating the signal from - and sometimes to - the satellite.

## Dish Size

One solution, local planning regulations permitting, could be to use a larger dish. Originally SES, which owns Astra, specified the use of a 60 cm dish and an LNB with a noise figure of 1.5 dB in the central European area where the signal strength (e.i.r.p.) is 52 dBW . Use of a 75 cm dish was recommended in the "fringe" areas mentioned above, where the signal strength is 50 dBW . Given these conditions it was predicted that CCIR grade 4 (or better) quality reception would be achieved with a clear sky, while acceptable performance would be obtained under 99.9 per cent of weather conditions. This however was a "link-budget" calculation: practical experience has taught us about the effects of bad weather and poor installation.

I decided to carry out some checks on dish performance by using various sizes with a standard set-up. All other
things being equal, an improvement in delivered signal strength should be obtained as dish diameter is increased. The tests were carried out using an Amstrad SRD400 receiver and three dishes provided by Lenson Heath, each of which was fitted with the same Nothern Telecom LNB/polariser unit. Comparisons were made between 60 cm mesh and 80 cm solid dishes, some additional measurements being made using Lenson's new 98 cm solid dish. Before any practical measurements were carried out, the relative gain of each dish was calculated from its signal-gathering area. This was then compared with the manufacturer's data. Table 1 lists the results of this exercise.

## Performance Tests

Measurements were carried out on each of Astra 1A and IB's channels, using the 60 and 80 cm dishes, to establish the effect on the $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ level of using a larger dish. The results are listed in Table 2. The location was in South Wales and the measurements were made under clear sky conditions. Equipment conditions were as follows: LNB noise figure 1.3 dB (quoted), meter receiver threshold 8 dB (quoted).

Each Astra satellite has four transponder groups. Two use vertical and two horizontal polarisation. The four groups are "aimed" at different points in Continental Europe, i.e. they have different footprints/service areas. SES distinguishes the groups by referring to them as mode 1 horizontal, mode 1 vertical, mode 2 horizontal and mode 2 horizontal. Except for the Movie Channel, the Sky services allocated to the UK use mode 1 with vertical polarisation. Mode 1 is aimed to the west to give a footprint centred on Northern France/SE England. Hence the mode 1 signals should be the strongest ones.

Table 2 shows that the Sky channels 4, 8, 12 and 16 produce the highest $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ levels while the German channels $2,6,10$ and 14 produce the lowest levels. This is largely because of the different group footprints. The D2-MAC channels 3,7 and 11 have slightly better $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ ratios than expected, due to the MAC system's resilience to noise degradation. The Astra 1B satellite's transponder groups are not so clearly distinguishable in terms of measured $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ ratios, though again the vertical mode 1 signals are the strongest, particularly Documania via transponder 32. The choice of transponder 23 for UK Gold seems strange, as it produces one of the lowest $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ ratios. Overall these measurements seem typical of systems in this part of the world.

In considering the $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio figures given in Table 2 we

## Table 1: Dish size and relative gain.

| Dish diameter (cm) | $63^{*}$ | 80 | 98 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Relative gain | 1 | 1.61 | 2.42 |
| Maker's quoted gain (dB) | 36 | 38.5 | 41 |

[^1]Table 2: $\mathbf{C} / \mathbf{N}$ level measurements.

## Channel/ group

## Programme


$C / N$ level (dB)
$60 \mathrm{~cm} \quad 80 \mathrm{~cm}$

Astra 1A

| 1 | 1 H | Screensport | 13.6 | 15.8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 2 V | RTL | 13 | 14.8 |
| 3 | 2 H | TV3 | 14.5 | 16.2 |
| 4 | 1 V | Eurosport | 15.1 | 16.9 |
| 5 | 1 H | Lifestyle/JSTV | 14 | 15.8 |
| 6 | 2 V | SAT 1 | 12.5 | 14.4 |
| 7 | 2 H | TV1000 | 14.5 | 15.9 |
| 8 | 1 V | Sky One | 14.9 | 16 |
| 9 | 1 H | Teleclub | 13.7 | 15.3 |
| 10 | 2 V | 3 Sat | 12 | 14.2 |
| 11 | 2 H | Filmnet | 13.3 | 15.1 |
| 12 | 1 V | Sky News | 14.3 | 15.9 |
| 13 | 1 H | RTL V | 13.7 | 15.5 |
| 14 | 2 V | Pro 7 | 13 | 14.6 |
| 15 | 2 H | MTV | 13.6 | 15.9 |
| 16 | 1 V | Sky Movies Plus | 14.7 | 16.4 |

## Astra 1B

| 17 | 1 H | Premier | 13.7 | 15.4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 18 | 2 V | Movie Channel | 14.6 | 16 |
| 19 | 2 H | ZDF | 14.6 | 15.9 |
| 20 | 1 V | Sky Sport | 13.5 | 15.1 |
| 21 | 1 H | DSF | 14.1 | 15.7 |
| 22 | 2 V | MTV | 14.4 | 16 |
| 23 | 2 H | UK Gold | 12.6 | 13.9 |
| 24 | 1 V | TCC/JSTV | 14.1 | $15 \cdot 9$ |
| 25 | 1 H | N3 | 14.2 | $15 \cdot 3$ |
| 26 | 2 V | Sky Gold/TV Asia | 13.6 | 15.4 |
| 27 | 2 H | TV3 | 15.1 | 16.7 |
| 28 | 1 V | CNN International | 14.3 | 15.6 |
| 29 | 1 H | NTV | 13.8 | 15.4 |
| 30 | 2 V | Cinemania | 14.8 | 16.6 |
| 31 | 2 H | TV3 | 12.3 | 14.9 |
| 32 | 1 V | Documania | 15 | 16.7 |

For measurement conditions see main text.
should perhaps mention that for good quality reception a $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio of about 13 dB is desirable. Less than 13 dB usually means degraded performance in terms of a worse $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio and sparklies. With the equipment used it was not possible to measure accurately below 11 dB .

Similar results were obtained when the Amstrad receiver was used with an older "blue cap" LNB (noise figure 1.8 dB ) except that on all channels the measured $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ levels were approximately IdB lower. Received picture quality was acceptable. though it was sometimes impossible to eliminate sparklies completely with the UK Gold and German channels when using a 60 cm dish. Again this is typical of installations in this area.

Better results were obtained when the 98 cm dish was tested. an improvement of 3 dB in the $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio being recorded in comparison with the 60 cm dish. This would provide a good increase in the performance margin under adverse weather conditions. Unfortunately this size of dish is not specified for Astra reception, though it could form the basis of a motorised system. This takes us into the realms of
planning permission of course.
As a separate test. mostly to satisfy my own curiosity, the same checks were made using an older 60 cm solid aluminium dish. No measurable performance differences were noted in comparison with the results obtained using the 60 cm mesh-type dish. Lenson Heath points out that the gain of a mesh dish should be similar to that of a solid one provided the holes are not too large. Of greater importance apparently is the shape of the holes: poorly designed perforations can trap water and snow, attenuating the signal when the weather turns bad. The choice of a solid or mesh dish is largely a cosmetic one.

## Conclusions

What conclusions can we draw from these tests? It seems that SES's original calculations for the expected signal strength and dish and receiver characteristics were correct. When one gets close to the boundary of the 52 dBW footprint however signal degradation increases. Although this boundary defines the area in which the use of a 60 cm dish is recommended. better results are obtained using an 80 cm dish. This is definitely the case where the customer wishes to receive German programmes without interference. More important perhaps is the improved margin against interference under bad weather conditions provided by a larger dish.

Another advantage of a larger dish is its reduced beamw!dth. which means that it will be less likely to pick up interference from satellites adjacent to the one with which it is aligned. I have already come across a 60 cm Astra zystem that, because of slightly incorrect azimuth alignmerat, was receiviag signals from the Eutelsat craft at $16^{\circ}$ as well. This problem can only worsen with time, as more satellites are placed in orbit and dish allignments move.

## Acknowledgement

My thanks to Lenson Heath for the loan of dishes and the provision of technical data. In a later article I'll describe the installation of a polar mount designed for use with their 80 and 98 cm dishes.

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# Letters 

## CHEAP WASHERS

During the course of my daily round I've noticed an increasing number of self-installed aerial brackets. Although they are fitted well enough the screw holes are too big for most woodscrews and leave little enough landing for Rawlbolts unless a washer is used. The thing that drew my attention was the number of cases where a two-pence piece with a hole drilled through the centre was being used in place of a washer. This intrigued me so much that I asked the price of a two-pence sized washer at my local hardware shop. The answer? Ten pence each!

Now don't get me wrong. I don't think that anyone can expect to buy anything for less than ten pence today, and if you think about it most of our use of the odd penny is because VAT brings the price to $£ \mathrm{XX} .99$ or something similar. But isn't it a sign of the ravages of inflation when five coins of the realm can be used as washers for the price of one of the real thing! I should perhaps add that I think it's against the law to deface British currency. Punishment is probably death by hanging or the rack. I believe it's quite an old law.
John Hopkins, The TV Workshop,
Felixstowe, Suffolk.

## BRASS DRIVE BUSH

My thanks to W. Wilcock (February) and S.J. Caine (March) for their comments about the Sharp brass drive bush. If only to ensure that I haven't mislead anyone on the subject of the method of fitting I must comment further. In my original note (December 1992) I said that the brass item should be fitted using a hot soldering iron. Clearly this would be no good with the Sharp part. The one to which I was referring has a tapered fit however and is made to be heated for fitting to the shaft. I hope I didn't give the impression that I was actually soldering the thing on. The taper-fit bush is available from VAS Electronics, Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester (0533 664 850).
Chris Watton,
Boston, Lincs.

## NICADS AND CAMCORNERS

I read John Kendall's letter (March) with some sympathy. The problem with the palmcorder is that the layman thinks, when it shuts down, that the 6 V battery has been properly discharged. It hasn't. The memory effect will then affect the charge-discharge cycle and in no time at all the battery has become useless for its purpose. It can recover from this effect, with careful treatment, but the layman will have gone off to buy another battery - at some cost!

A nicad battery delivers only 1.2 V per cell. Thus a battery of five is needed for 6 V . Ideally they should be discharged until each cell reaches 0.9 V , the end-of-charge voltage for a 6 V unit being 4.5 V . This is far below the point at which the camcorder shuts down. Possibly cost and size are the reasons for using a 6 V battery, but if the end result is such an unsatisfactory charge life surely, as Mr. Kendall suggests, a 7.2 V unit with some regulation in the machine would be a better option?

Discharging the battery until it is flat is not a good idea. Some cells may reach 0 V before others. These will then
begin to charge in the reverse direction, which makes life even more difficult. I've made a discharger for my 12 V nicads. It senses when the terminal voltage has fallen to 9 V then shuts off. By doing it this way I've managed to keep in service for over six years the batteries I use. Varta produced a very good guide for nicad users at one time: it might be worth trying to obtain one.

Many people comment about the short life of nicads used in radio receivers and personal stereo equipment. These items were designed to be used with zinc-carbon or alkaline batteries whose cell voltage is 1.5 V . When a nicad battery with only 1.2 V per cell is used the end-point voltage for the load is reached that much sooner!
Graeme M. Young,
Nottingham.

## NICAM ON A SHOESTRING

I read with interest Keith Wevill's article in the February issue, having myself built a near identical system about ten months ago using components obtained from the same sources. I bypassed the TDA8421 tone control chip with some regret as it has such obvious potential, but I'd no way of obtaining data on the device or the I2C bus system. My solution was simply to take the audio signals from CS56/7 to $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega \log$. potentiometers and, after removing diodes DS81/2, take the sliders of the potentiometers to RW37/CW28 and RW34/CW25 via $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitors.

The video signal required was obtained from the excellent signals panel used in the Philips G11 chassis. Since this requires some 40 V to tune across the bands it fitted well with the 36 V the Nicam panel needs. A further advantage of this signals panel is that it has a stand-alone audio demodulator and output section that also operates at 36 V . This can be used for initial tuning, or as a separate mono output.

I wired up the G11 unit first to ensure that it operated satisfactorily, then carried out modifications to the Nicam panel as described by K. Wevill. The Nicam signal was taken from the video detector to the Nicam panel. In my case a d.c. bias was already present at the panel's video input so no problems were expected and none were found. Since I didn't intend to use the video signal for viewing I deliberately tweaked the vision i.f. to enhance the Nicam signal level.

The sound quality is excellent without any additional tone control and fully justifies reports on the system.

## I.C. Rohsler,

Harborne, Birmingham.

## COWBOYS SHOOT BACK

I read with particular interest Ed Rowland's article (February) on cowboys since by his definition I would be one of them though I've had twenty five years experience of repairing TVs and VCRs as well as the design and manufacture of various electronic products. But I'm not a member of any guild. I've moved away from full-time repair work now but do undertake the odd job in any spare time I am lucky enough to have.

While the cases mentioned by Ed Rowland are horrific, I can quote quite a number of instances of gross over charging and what amounts almost to fraud by 'respectable' dealers. An acquaintance of mine recently took a six-year old Hitachi VCR to one firm and was told that the trouble was caused by defective heads, which cost $£ 97$ plus fitting, and that the machine was therefore a write off. When my acquaintance asked for it back he was told rather aggressively that there was no point and that it would be disposed
of for him. He rather stupidly agreed to this.
Now you and I know that a set of replacement heads for such a machine can be obtained for between $£ 10$ and $£ 20$. I wouldn't mind betting that the dealer concerned whacked in such a set and either put the machine out on rental or sold it off. Such cases are not rare in this part of the world. I recently fitted a motor supplied by the customer to a record deck. Total time taken was less than five minutes. The quote from another firm was $£ 45$ plus VAT.

I'm sure that most dealers are from time to time guilty of making up losses incurred in sorting out the real pig that we've all had occasionally. My point is that there seems to be an increasing trend for certain dealers to do this all the time. The same trend can be observed with other retail businesses. My wife recently took a ring to a well-known firm of High Street jewellers for a small replacement opal to be fitted. The manager quoted $£ 150$ - we had the job done for $£ 8$ by another more honest but much smaller jeweller.

Maybe if the repair business cleaned up its act and charged an honest rate for each job, based on the amount of time spent doing it, instead of working out the cost on the "how much can I get from this client" basis, the cowboys would be out of business because the public would learn to trust local dealers. I've just had a set in from someone who lives forty miles away: he simply doesn't like being ripped off the minute he walks through the door of a 'respectable' dealer.
L.J. Pitts, B.Sc.(Hons.), FIAP, LRSC,

South Brent, Devon.
I feel that I must take issue over Ed Rowland's Cowboys article (February). It seems to suggest that anyone who offers a repair service without certain paperwork or qualifications is a crook. A comparatively few bad experiences are cited, leaving the reader to infer that this is the inevitable penalty for not paying the full price asked by those who have the paperwork. Qualified people are not immune from dishonest practices however.

Be honest about the fact that many cowboys, almost certainly a majority, are capable of doing just as good a job as those with qualifications. Many of them will honourably admit defeat if they cannot cope.

It's natural for those who have undergone formal training to feel hard done by when they find that others can do a lot of their work as a result of informal learning and self-taught skills. One shouldn't deny the right to those members of the public who want, or can only afford, to take a cheaper and often worthwhile risk in getting their servicing done. I know that there are safety issues here, but Ed Rowland didn't specifically mention these. Clearly any servicing involves risks. Electronic work is not alone in this respect, and there will always be a minority of bad cowboys. But this is what free competition and choice is all about.

And for heaven's sake don't encourage the Eurocrats to get their ham-fisted fingers on any more of our activities. This would only make life more difficult for us all, including those who feel that they are fully qualified.

What's needed is a way of punishing those who behave badly rather than more restrictive practices.
Martin J. Loach,
Abingdon, Oxon.
I'd like to point out that not all cowboys are the small fry, as suggested in Ed Rowland's article (February). About two years ago I was working at a training establishment in Liverpool. Trainees from our and other departments were allowed to bring in TV sets, VCRs etc. to be repaired where
possible. The majority of sets were old ones (Philips G8s etc.), many intended for use with little Johnny's computer games.

One morning however a three year old set made by a large European manufacturer was brought in. Its owner told us that the local approved dealer, who advertised and sold just this one brand and had sold him the set, had said that the tube was duff. A replacement, with fitting etc., would cost around $£ 150$, with a small discount for cash. He could have the latest all singing and dancing model however for a good discount with trade in. There was an argument and the disgruntled set owner withdrew. We were his second opinion.

The type of tube involved is renowned for premature failure. Its display was sad to say the least - very dark and muddy. The red appeared to be missing, but on closer observation seemed to be fading in and out cyclically. A check showed that the tube base voltages were all more or less correct. By now most of you will have guessed that the tube was o.k. Disconnecting the degaussing plug and carrying out a manual degauss restored a perfect picture. The degaussing thermistor was the offending item of course and was replaced. The old one sounded like Mick Jagger's maracas. and showed perfectly for our students what the inside of a cooked thermistor capsule looks like. From set switch on to repair completion took about an hour, including discussion of the fault with the trainees initiating the sequence of steps in the fault-finding process. The happy owner bought everyone a pint.

His annoyance with the dealer was understandable. Further questioning brought out the information that during his visit to the dealer the set was at no time out of his sight (he was actually taken into the workshop) and that the set was never opened, diagnosis being based on off-air signal reception. How many other basic rules were ignored?

How many other people are taken in by these methods? Joe Public expects an accredited dealer to be a little more honest than the Snoddies of this world, but there are nevertheless such obvious rackets.

About a week later the set's owner came back to see us. He'd returned to the shop and confronted the engineer, who had a 'manager' badge on his coat. Once again he was offered a discount to buy a new set. He left after telling the 'manager' that he would never shop there again.
P. Perkins,

Wirral, Merseyside.

## FIXING GRUNDIGS

Excellent technical advice on Grundig products cari now be obtained from a very helpful gentleman. Allan Dyson of Tameside Technical Services. He's an ex-Grundig TLO whose advice is available to the trade at a very reasonable charge.

Our own problem started when a service manual for the VS520 VCR couldn't be obtained from Willow Vale, who told us that they had been trying to obtain it from Grundig for months. I had pais my membership to TTS: my phone call to Allan Dyson resulted in a tuner/i.f. fault being traced to component level - with a complimentary servise manual being thrown in!

With Grundig phone lines that are permanently busy, or "we don't give technical advice to non-approved service departments", I can certainly recommend Allan Dyson's service. He can be reached on 0613679400 . This is what technical advice should be like.
Brian Davidson. Davidson Bros..
Greenock, Renfrewshire.

## Modern TV Receiver Techniques

## Part 4

Eugene Trundle

There was a time when TV receiver audio circuits could be dealt with in a few paragraphs. While this is still true with simple, basic TV sets, there have been tremendous changes in audio systems at both ends of the broadcasting chain over the last few years. We'll start with the simplest arrangement and work up from there.

## Mono FM System

The monaural sound signal is transmitted on its own frequency-modulated r.f. carrier, with $\pm 50 \mathrm{kHz}$ maximum deviation, at a level 10 dB below that of the vision carrier. With system I the sound carrier frequency is spaced 6 MHz above the vision carrier: with the European systems B/G the spacing is 5.5 MHz above the vision carrier. As before, we'll stick to system I for our examples.

The sound carrier beats with the local oscillator in the tuner to produce an i.f. output at 33.5 MHz . There are two alternative ways in which this signal can be processed. It can either be filtered out then amplified and demodulated, or passed via the vision i.f. amplifier to the vision demodulator where it will beat with the vision carrier to produce a 6 MHz difference signal, with the f.m. intact, which can then be selected, amplified and demodulated. The latter system, called the intercarrier system, has been in use for many years. It has several advantages: tuning errors and drift have no effect on the carrier frequency, which is governed solely by the very accurately maintained vision-sound spacing at the transmitter; the sound carrier benefits from the gain provided by the vision i.f. amplifier; and the sound circuit is simple.

## Typical Circuit

Fig. I shows a typical simple TV sound system of this type. The input from the vision demodulator is first passed through a ceramic filter which is resonant at 6 MHz , its bandwidth being about 200 kHz . This is wide enough to embrace the $\pm 50 \mathrm{kHz}$ f.m. sound deviation while rejecting the luminance and chroma signals. In some receivers two ceramic filters are used, connected in series. The sound carrier enters the chip at pin l, after which it's passed through several stages of amplification with limiting - the limiting clips off any amplitude modulation caused by the vision signal, the a.m. rejection with normal input levels being about 55 dB .

The clipping action produces a squarewave output. As this contains many harmonics of the baseband frequency the signal is next passed through a low-pass filter. This restores the carrier waveshape to something like a sinewave for application to the f.m. demodulator, which is of the quadrature synchronous type. Again, as described last month, the action is based on the sample-and-hold principle. The sampling gate is opened for an instant during each carrier cycle. An unmodulated carrier will be passing through zero when the gate is opened, so there will be no output. As the phase/timing of the signal advances and retreats, the sampling action generates an output that's proportional to the frequency deviation.

A reference carrier is required to produce the gating action. This is generated by the high-Q tuned circuit LI/C5 whose flywheel effect averages the carrier frequency, thus providing a constant-phase reference feed for the demodulator. In current practice a ceramic filter is used for this purpose instead of a discrete LC circuit.

Next comes a voltage-controlled amplifier (VCA) whose gain depends on the resistance between pin 6 of the i.c. and chassis. An alternative way of arranging for this volume control action is to apply a variable d.c. control voltage to pin 6, the volume level then being proportional to the applied voltage. Where control is done by sending serial data along a bus line the chip must incorporate a circuit to decode the data and set the gain of an amplifier stage. Back to the simple circuit shown in Fig. I however.

## The Audio Amplifier

The demodulated audio signal has to be de-emphasised. An RC network performs this operation, the capacitor being connected to pin 12 of the chip while the $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor is within the chip. The signal is now ready for application to the driver and output stages which in a simple system are generally, as shown here, within the same chip. The output stage usually consists of a push-pull pair of transistors operated under class B conditions, the d.c. mid-point voltage being isolated from the loudspeaker by coupling capacitor C10.

The value of the resistors connected to pin 7 of the chip determine, as part of a negative feedback loop, the a.c. gain of the output stage, the capacitors connected to pin 8 setting the amplifier's upper frequency limit. R5 and C12 form a Boucherot cell which suppresses any tendency for h.f. oscil-


Fig. 1: Typical intercarrier sound/audio amplifier chip arrangement.

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lation, due to the inductive load (the loudspeaker and its wiring), to occur in the output stage - similar arrangements are used in field output stages.

A small chip of the type taken as an example here will provide an audio output power of about 3 W average, depending on the supply voltage and the heatsink arrangement used. This type of i.c., or a small power amplifier chip fed from a separate intercarrier sound amplifier/demodulator i.c., easily caters for the needs of a portable set or an economy large-screen receiver using a single loudspeaker.

Although for purposes of illustration we've shown a dedicated sound channel chip, in modern sets the intercarrier sound and audio preamplifier stages are likely to be incorporated in a more complex chip that performs many other functions.

## Stereo Sound

There are several possible sources of stereo sound in a TV receiver: a built-in Nicam decoder; external sound-withpicture sources such as a satellite TV receiver, a hi-fi VCR or a Laserdisc player; and, in some countries, a built-in analogue stereo sound decoder. Incorporating a stereo sound system calls for difficult choices by the setmaker in terms of loudspeaker arrangements and operating power. The power drain introduced by a reasonably high-energy stereo audio system may be at least equal to that of the line output stage. With a class B output stage it fluctuates in sympathy with the sound: if a constant-current system is chosen there's little problem with regulation but a lot of heat has to be dissipated. For outputs up to about $5+5 \mathrm{~W}$ a single dualchannel power output chip is generally used; for higher powers there is usually a separate audio output chip in each channel.

Since low-frequency sounds are not very directional some sets have a single, centrally-mounted woofer that's fed with the $L$ and $R$ signals and a pair of side-mounted boxes that take $L$ and $R$ feeds respectively and produce just the medium- and high-frequency sounds. Fig. 2 shows such an arrangement, devised by Sony. The centrally-mounted 13 cm woofer has separate $7 \Omega$ coils for the L and R audio signals, which are fed to them via low-pass LC filters. The sideboxes each contain a $7.5 \times 13 \mathrm{~cm}$ mid-range unit, a 5 cm dome tweeter and a first-order crossover network. In conventional stereo TV sets much ingenuity is used by manufacturers to overcome the acoustic problems associated with small loudspeakers in plastic cabinets. Bang and Olufsen, always aware of sound quality, have in some models used a pair of rear speaker-loading horns inside the TV set's cabinet, sticking up on each side of the c.r.t.

No matter how well a TV set's sound system is designed, there's no doubt that taking separate audio feeds from the set - or VCR - to a hi-fi system with widely-spaced loudspeaker enclosures is better for stereo.

## Spacial Effects

Because a stereo receiver has two sound channels with closely-mounted speakers and may well work with a monaural signal for much of the time, several 'ambience' techniques have been devised to enhance the sound. They are also sometimes used in audio equipment.

The first of these is the 'stereo-wide' system, which gives the subjective effect of increased $L$ and $R$ sound separation. It's done electrically, by emphasising the difference between the L and R audio signals. The simplest and most common way of doing this is to inject into each audio channel an anti-phase (polarity-reversed) signal from the


Fig. 2: 3-D loudspeaker system with a common base unit.


Fig. 3: A stereo-wide arrangement.


Fig. 4: Response curves for one form of pseudo-stereo system.

Fig. 5: Way of obtaining the response curves shown in Fig. 4.


Fig. 6: Ferguson's Supersound system, in which the signals in the $R$ channel are subjected to a frequencydependent time delay.
other channel, generally via filters that pass only the midand high-frequency components of the audio signals. Fig. 3 shows the arrangement. Thus the greater the difference between the $L$ and $R$ sounds, the greater the differential emphasis. This arrangement is sometimes called spatial sound - the terms are often used indiscriminately.

With a monaural sound source and a pair of correctlyphased speakers at each side of the set the sound appears to come from a point between them - the picture tube screen. It's possible to process the monaural signal electrically to
produce a pseudo- or artificial-stereo effect. While hardly natural. a subjectively pleasing 'projection into space' effect is obtained. One way of achieving this effect is to feed different frequency bands to the two speakers - see Fig. 4. Here a notch filter is used to reduce the mid-range frequencies in the feed to one speaker (left) while the other speaker (right) is fed with the original monaural signal minus the signal fed to the left speaker. Fig. 5 shows how this is done.

An alternative way of achieving this sort of effect is shown in Fig. 6. The signal in the left channel is left alone while the signal in the right channel is passed through two frequency-dependent delay networks. Their combined effect is to introduce a $180^{\circ}$ phase shift at around 1 kHz , increasing to a phase shift of $360^{\circ}$ as the frequency rises. This time delay, proportional to frequency, in one channel gives a subjectively 'live' quality to the sound.

Before we leave the sound processing section, a word on the bass, treble and balance controls with which most stereo TV sets are fitted. Tone control is carried out by operational amplifiers with frequency-selective RC networks in their feedback paths. The amplifier`s gain is set by a d.c. level at at an i.c. pin or a control data decoder within the chip. Typical control curves are shown in Fig. 7. Balance is set by differentially adjusting the gain of two VCAs, one in each channel.

## Satellite TV Sound

MAC TV transmissions use the Nicam/packet sound system we'll examine next month. With most conventional satellite TV transmissions that use f.m. vision modulation, for example the majority of the Astra channels, there are f.m. carriers for the sound, very similar to those used for


Fig. 7: Typical tone control response curves.
terrestrial monaural TV sound. The main difference is that there are more of them! Fig. 8 shows a typical satellite TV channel spectrum, with five sound carriers sitting at 6.5 , $7.02,7.2,7.38$ and 7.56 MHz on the h.f. side of the baseband video signal. The main carrier, at +6.5 MHz , is used for the monaural sound signal, with a bandwidth of $20 \mathrm{~Hz}-15 \mathrm{kHz}$. Carrier deviation is $\pm 85 \mathrm{kHz}$ and the pre-emphasis timeconstant $50 \mu \mathrm{sec}$.

Thus the f.m. signal processing system is exactly the same as that used for terrestrial TV transmissions, already described, save for the operating frequency - in the example just quoted the filter and demodulator are tuned to 6.5 MHz . The simplest satellite TV receivers demodulate only the main sound carrier, providing a single audio output at a level of about $0 \mathrm{~dB}(0.775 \mathrm{~V}$ r.m.s.) for feeding to a TV receiver or VCR.

## Auxiliary Carriers

Rather less deviation ( $\pm 50 \mathrm{kHz}$ ) is used with the ausiliary sound carriers, though the audio bandwidth is the same: thus the modulation index is rather lower. As this would result in

|  |  | STK2038 | 875 | STK5392 | 8.15 | STR58041 | 3.95 | TA7322 ... ..... . 1.00 | TA75902 ..... 0.90 |  |  |  |  |
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| STK459 | 535 | STK4813 | 930 | STR3215 | 325 | TA7259 | 145 | TA7683 ..... .. 205 | VT93900 ... .... . . 4.90 | AN6387 |  | remote |  |
| STK461 STK463 | 600 7.50 | STK4833 STK4843 | 805 715 | STR5412 STR6020 | 395 395 | TA7267 TA7269 | 188 .275 | TA7685 ..... . 110 TA7687 | VT64 .... ... . 5.65 | AN6387 |  |  |  |
| STK465 | 715 | STK4853 | 880 | STR10006 | 540 | TA7270 | ... . 135 | TA7688 ... |  | AN7:68 | 1.80 | Television fault finding gu |  |
| STK561 | 540 | STK4873 | 985 | STP11006 | 545 | TA7271 | ... 170 | TA7691 ... | NV300 PANASONIC 4.50 | 2S0871 | 2.00 | vol 1 |  |
| STK563 | 415 | STK4913 | 1175 | STR12006 | 590 | TA7274 | . 1.85 | TA7725... .... 125 |  | Please p | for | types not listed. Please | 60p |
| STK583 | 575 | STK5314 | 545 | STR20005 | 545 | TA7280 | . 190 | TA7757 ... ... ....1.23 | NV7000 ...... ..... 4.10 | - | g and | hen add 17.5\% VAT to the |  |
| STK772 | 465 | STK5315 | 595 | STR20015. | .. 590 | TA7281 | -.. 2.05 | TA7769 .... .. 125 | $\text { NV610. .. . .. } 425$ |  |  |  |  |
| STK1030 | 800 | STK5324 | 515 | STR30118. | ... 6.00 | TA7282 | .... 1.75 | TA8111......... 120 | NV370 ...... .... 410 |  |  |  |  |
| STK1039 | 495 | STK5325 | 445 | STR30120 | 500 445 | TA7302 | -...0.70 | TA8205 ....... ..... 2.90 |  |  |  | 13 |  |
| STK1045 | 880 | STK5331. | 395 | STR40090. | -. 445 | TA7303 | -. 0.85 | IA8207 ....... ..... 1.65 | [MITSUBISAI |  |  |  |  |
| STK1049 STK1050 | 775 725 | STK5332 STK5333 | 180 240 | STR41090 STR50103A | 495 325 | ta7310 | 0.70 $\times 0.80$ | TAB2 10 <br> TAB200 <br>  | HS318 - . ... 4.70 |  | H | HASE, EDGV |  |
| STK1060 | 740 | STK5335 | 445 | STR50113 | 490 | TA7313 | .... 0.60 | TA8214......... . 3.40 | SHAAP |  |  | 485DN, ENC |  |
| STK1070 | 920 | STK5337 | 5.95 | STR50213 | 650 | TA7314 | ... 200 | TA8215. ... .... 3.00 | VC481.. . ..... ... 5.15 |  |  |  |  |
| STK2025 | 685 | STK5338. | 3.45 | STR5304 | 640 | TA7315 | .... . 0.80 | TA8221 ............ 5.80 | VC4300 . . .. .. 5.75 | Fax: | -952 | 641 Hotine No:081-381 17 |  |
| STK2028 STK2029 | 540 475 | STK5339 STK5361 | 495 415 | STR54041 STR56041 | 395 700 | TA7317 TA7318 | .0 .70 .1 .15 | TA75339 <br> TA75558 <br> .......... 0.745 <br> 2.45 | VC800 $\quad . \quad 6.65$ VC7300 $\quad . \quad 550$ | Callers by appointment only. |  |  |  |



Fig. 8: Baseband Astra channel spectrum. In addition to the primary and four stereo carriers there may be up to eight further carriers, typically used for radio programmes. The spacing of the four stereo carriers is 180 kHz .


Fig. 9: Audio demodulator arrangement used in the Ferguson SRA4 satellite TV receiver. The four channels are identical.
a poorer signal-to-noise ratio a noise-reduction system is used - with Astra transmissions the Wegener Panda 1 type is employed. The term Panda is derived from 'processed narrow-deviation audio'. It's a form of adaptive preemphasis. The dynamic range of the audio signal is compressed before transmission so that, in relative terms, high-level signals are attenuated and low-level ones are boosted, the amount of compression also being frequencydependent. The opposite has to be done to the baseband audio signal in the receiver so that its dynamic range is restored. In the process the noise component is suppressed.

The system has much in common with the companding principle used in hi-fi VCRs and with Dolby noise-reduction techniques. It's implemented by i.c. VCAs whose control voltages are derived from the signal itself via filters. Without noise reduction the signal-to-noise ratio of a narrow-band satellite TV sound channel is about 50 dB : the Wegener Panda 1 system provides an improvement of about 18 dB , increasing the subjective signal-to-noise ratio towards 70 dB , which is very good for an analogue transmission.

Table 1 shows the uses to which the auxiliary sound carriers are put, for stereo and multi-lingual sound, with Astra transmissions. Fig. 9 shows the simple multi-channel sound selection system used in one satellite TV receiver, in which each carrier is selected by an LC tuned circuit and fed to its own f.m. demodulator. The four demodulators work all the time, the switching chips IV07 and IS05 selecting the ones required in accordance with the control signals applied to pins 9,10 and 11.

## Sound Carrier Conversion

An alternative to using four parallel sets of filters and demodulators is to employ a superhet system to convert the wanted carriers to fixed frequencies that can be handled by a pair of fixed-tuned filters and demodulators. This technique has the advantage of being versatile: it will work with any pair of carrier frequencies, including the piggy-back radio stations (see Fig. 8) that many transponders carry on carrier frequencies between 7.74 and 9 MHz , while in sophisticated systems the required channel can be user-programmed per transponder and stored in memory.

There are several variations on the sound-superhet technique. A common one is shown in block diagram form in Fig. 10. Two fixed-frequency oscillators run at 17.72 and 18.08 MHz . The output from one or the other is selected and fed to one of the gates of a dual-gate f.e.t. mixer, where it beats with the incoming signal to produce i.f.s at 10.52 MHz ( R channel) and 10.7 MHz ( L channel). With the output from the 17.72 MHz oscillator in use the R sound comes from the 7.2 MHz carrier ( $17.72-7.2=10.52 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) while the L sound comes from the 7.02 MHz carrier ( $17.72-7.02$ $=10.7 \mathrm{MHz}$ ). When the system control switches over to select the output from the 18.08 MHz oscillator the R and L sound signals come from the 7.56 MHz and 7.38 MHz carriers respectively.

Table 1: Astra sound carrier arrangements.

| Mode | 7.02 MHz | 7.2 MHz | 7.38 MHz | 7.56 MHz |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 |  | Language 1 L | Language 1R | Language 2 L |



Fig 10: Superhet sound carrier selection system. The wanted carriers are shifted to 10.52 and 10.7 MHz . Not all receivers have true Wegener Panda 1 expanders: the system is a licensed one and alternatives, which are known as soundalikes, may be used.


Fig. 11: Frequency-synthesis satellite sound tuning system, with effectively continuous coverage over $5-9 \mathrm{MHz}$. The $R$ and L outputs from IC601 in this Tatung design go to a dual Wegener Panda expander chip.

Instead of having fixed oscillators it's possible to use a variable or programmable oscillator: adjusting its frequency will tune, rather like a radio receiver, through the band of sound carriers associated with each satellite broadcasting channel. Fig. 11 shows one possible circuit. Tr 606 is the local oscillator whose frequency is controlled by IC609 which contains a programmable divider and a 4 MHz reference oscillator. These form a frequency-synthesis tuning system which is controlled by the receiver's microcomputer system control chip. The oscillator's output is fed to gate two of mixer transistor Tr602, whose other gate receives the whole spectrum of sound carriers from bandpass filter FL603 - this has a bandwidth of $5-9 \mathrm{MHz}$.

The mixer's output contains all the sound carriers, converted to difference frequencies in the range $8-13 \mathrm{MHz}$. Those centred on 10.52 and 10.7 MHz are selected by ceramic filters FL60I/4 and FL602/5 respectively and applied to pins 11 and 14 of the dual f.m. demodulator chip IC601. By programming IC601 any pair of sound carriers 180 kHz apart (as in Table 1) can be brought into line with
the filters and demodulators. In this particular design the sound is tunable in 10 kHz steps from 5 MHz to 9 MHz , and any required point can be stored in memory. These tuning/control systems will be described in detail later in this series.

The $L$ and $R$ outputs from pins 4 and 5 of IC601 are passed to de-emphasis circuits that can be switched between simple linear ( $50 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ ) or Wegener-expander operation.

Earlier in this series we looked at the principle of the double-superhet. In the type of satellite receiver we've just considered the sound carriers undergo four frequency changes: in the LNB, at the indoor tuner, at the vision demodulator and at the sound carrier frequency changer.

## Next Month

Having covered analogue TV sound systems, in the next instalment we'll examine digital TV sound broadcasting the Nicam and MAC/packet systems now used with many terrestrial and satellite TV transmissions.

Reports from Eugene Trundle, Nick Beer, Chris Avis, Graham Richards, Brian Storm, Alfred Damp. Chris Watton, Ed Rowland, J.R. Cutts, Michael Dranfield and John Edwards

## GoldStar GHV1240I

This machine produced an unstable E-E picture, with poor sync, white crushing and bright psychedelic colours. The cause, as is usually the case, was the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ a.g.c. reservoir/decoupling capacitor, in this case C715. It was open-circuit.
E.T.

## Akai VS23

This machine has a rather complex power supply, with a mains transformer, chopper circuits and voltage doublers. One of the more obscure faults that arises in this area is partial failure of $\mathrm{C} 6(220 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 10 \mathrm{~V})$. The symptoms are wavy horizontal bars (like r.f. interference) across the picture and on-screen captions and intermittent colour in the E-E and playback modes.

It's worth noting that if the audio/preamplifier PCB behind the drum isn't earthed the syscon shuts the deck down within a few seconds in all modes. Beware of this!E.T.

## Tatung TVR6111

We do a lot of Tatung servicing and have on several occasions come across the following fault: the reel drive intermittently fails to engage when fast forward or rewind is selected. If you get this symptom, check that lever trigger 260 is free to slide along brake plate 261 . If it's stiff, the metal stop for the brake plate (formed from the deck plate) needs to be bent very slightly to the right as you view the underside of the deck from the front. The numbers quoted above are taken from the exploded deck diagram in the service manual. This machine also appears under the Amstrad banner.
E.T.

## JVC HRD 150/Ferguson 3V45

The play symbol, a dotted triangle, was lit up the whole time the machine was switched on, whether or not the play mode was engaged. It was caused by leakage between pins 4 and 5 of the fluorescent display PCB. Someone must have managed to spill liquid through the cassette loading slot! Thorough scrubbing with surgical spirit removed the conductive deposit in this very high-impedance circuit. E.T.

## Sharp VC381

Misalignment is becoming a common problem with older VCRs. Realignment usually provides a lasting cure, making repairs justifiable. This particular example suffered from intermittent playback chroma. When the colour was present there was patterning on it. The cure was to reset the carrier peak adjustment slightly. In the record mode there was no picture because the dark clip was misadjusted.
N.B.
wouldn't play. On test there was no vision in the E-E mode - that's right, there were dry-joints in the i.f. can. It was the first time in years I've had that one. Next the supply guide post was missing, then the loading belt and the spool tyres were duff. After sorting that lot out and setting the machine up I found that it worked very well. An interesting point was that it had a large safety test label on the side from the previous day - presumably all electrical items in the sale had been tested.
N.B.

## Mitsubishi HS330

The complaint with this machine was that the sound would vibrate when the machine had warmed up. Having tested the machine for ages and heard no "vibration" I questioned the customer to find out whether she meant wow and flutter, which is not uncommon with this model. Not so. It seemed to be a buzz. So I had a poke around and had success - a buzz appeared on the playback sound. Its cause was traced to a dirty connection between the copper-coloured spring metal that earths the top of the cassette housing and the regulator heatsink. A clean and retension cured the problem.
N.B.

## Ferguson 3V54/55/57

Here's a trap for the unwary, like me. The VCR owner's house mains supply earth leakage trip had operated for some reason. When it was reset, the VCR was stuck in the aux mode. Embarrassment prevents a description of our efforts to restore sanity to the confused microcontroller chip and ourselves until a wiser colleague advised us to press the recessed "ch set" button.
C.A.

## Hinari VXL5

Two non-working, ex-rental machines we'd purchased had the same fault - when play was selected the tape laced, the drum ran very fast then the tape unlaced. The cause of the trouble was that the 6 V supply to the drum feedback amplifier IC104 was very low as C145 (100uF, 10V) was shortcircuit. We used a replacement rated at 16 V .
C.A.

## Ferguson 3V54/55

We purchased a quantity of 3 V 54 non-remote control machines for reconditioning as the preferred 3V55 remote control version wasn't available at the time. It surprised us to find that infra-red receivers were fitted, though the machines would respond only to manual operation. When we traced the signal path from the IR receiver's output we came to a link, which had been cut, next to connector CN402 on the small eject-tracking PCB PC1614/1626. When the broken link is replaced the 3 V 54 becomes a fully remote-controlled 3V55!
C.A.

## Hitachi VT64

Playback was all right but when record was selected the drum and capstan failed to rotate though the record indicator

## Granada VHSHX3/Hitachi VT8700

This old timer had been bought for $\mathfrak{£ 5 0}$ at a sale. There are still plenty of them about! The customer said that it
lit and the tape laced up briefly before unlacing again. We found that the record/play switching voltage double-diode block D626 was open-circuit on the record side. By coincidence we found a similar faulty device recently in the sound section of an older Hitachi machine. In both cases a couple of good old 1N4148 diodes wired in back-to-back proved to be a suitable replacement.
C.A.

## Sentra VX8100HQ/Samsung VI710

For no erase replace transistor Q0501. It's a 2SD261 and no other transistor will work in this position! The cause of its failure is the erase head going open-circuit intermittently because of the plug/socket arrangement. Remove this and solder the lead on directly. How many more types of VCR will need this modification?
G.R.

## Hinari VXL8

The problem, because of mains-borne transients, was no EE operation, no channel changing, cannot program etc. with just the letter E in the display. Unsolder the back-up capacitor for thirty seconds then reconnect it. Switch on and the microcontroller chip should recover from its crash. We've had this more than once and the routine has worked each time!
G.R.

## GoldStar GHV1248I

The E-E pictures were pulling, with ragged edges, more so on some channels than others. Attenuating the input signal (via the aerial lead) established that it was an i.f./a.g.c. type fault - in fact the symptoms were identical to those you get with some CUC series Grundig TV sets. Replacing C715 $(1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 63 \mathrm{~V})$ put matters right. We assume that it provides a.g.c. smoothing but as we don't have the manual we can't be sure.
G.R.

## Alba VCR6000X/Sentra VX8400

As mentioned by Nick Beer in the January Clinic these machines very often suffer from tuning drift. Decoupling capacitors C133/4/5 for the VT line are prone to being leaky. In addition hardwiring the VT line to cure leakage will indeed provide a cure. But the reason for this tuning drift isn't leakage between the print tracks: it's caused by leakage on the component legs themselves! - around C134. The problem is caused by the quantity of glue that's put around the components in this area of the PCB during manufacture (top upper left-hand side with the board hinged up). I suspect that this glue absorbs moisture and then slowly becomes conductive. Thus rather than hardwiring it's easier and quicker to remove this glue and replace C134 $(0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F})$. The $\mu 57433 \mathrm{~V}$ regulator on this board can also be the reason for tuning drift.
G.R.

## Panasonic NVJ42

Although this machine would accept a cassette it was difficult to get the cassette back and the mechanism spooled backwards and forwards a great deal, rarely performing any function correctly. Checks soon showed that the solenoid which engages the mechanism was operating erratically. Instead of a satisfyingly solid clunk when the operation buttons were pressed only an anaemic click was heard. The solenoid drive system has two parts, a kick and a hold circuit. D603 in the kick section was open-circuit, a replacement restoring normal operation.
B.S.

## Panasonic NVF55

I seem to get more than my fair share of search-tuning faults. This machine would search but wouldn't lock on to stations. Checks on the sync low, a.f.c. defeat and a f.c. feeds showed that there was nothing amiss to and from the demodulator pack, so out came this plug-in pack, revealing a surface-mounted diode (D6701, type MA15IWK) with one end missing. A replacement cured the problem. B.S.

## Ferguson FV31R

This machine had a nasty habit of breaking its back-tension arm as the deck mechanics mistimed themselves, no matter how carefully the instructions in the manual were followed. We noticed that when the machine set off in play the drum motor didn't rotate. This turned out to be a vital clue. The drum stood still because the 5 V supply to pin 2 of chip IM02 was missing. From a look at the circuit diagram this appears to be totally unrelated. The PCB layout holds the clue: the link that supplies 5 V to IM02 also supplies the pull-up resistor RT67 in the mode-sensing circuit, the cause of the trouble being a dry-joint on this link. With the dryjoint resoldered and the deck mechanics realigned yet again everything worked correctly. All that was left to do was to fit a new back-tension arm.
A.D.

## Ferguson 3V44/JVC HRD140

The drum and the capstan were both running slowly. A check on the servo reference signal, using a frequency counter, showed that it was running at only 2.5 MHz . The cure was to replace the 4.433 MHz crystal in the chroma circuit.
A.D.

## Matsui VX3000

The complaint was of loss of tuning overnight. On the bench however no channels could be tuned in. R6045 ( $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) was open-circuit.
A.D.

## Akai VS22

The problem with this machine was a bad hum bar on the EE pictures. We found that $\mathrm{C} 4(47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V})$ on the power supply PCB was leaky.
A.D.

## Hitachi VTM722

The E-E audio was low and distorted while playback of a prerecorded tape produced only a cyclic chirping sound. We found that the always 9 V supply to IC40I was low at only 4.9 V because zener diode ZD854 on the power board was short-circuit.


## Toshiba V83

The capstan motor was clearly running too fast. A check on the drive voltage showed that it was high at about $10-11 \mathrm{~V}$ instead of 6.7 V . Checks around the servo chip IC501 showed that although the voltage at pin 14 (capstan a.p.c.) was correct at 3.3 V the voltage at pin 15 was only 0.9 V instead of 3.3 V . Scope checks at pins 19 and 20 (CTL in and out) showed that the control pulses were of correct amplitude though the frequency was of course high because of the excessive tape speed. The tracking input at pin 28 varied the length of the waveform, so all seemed to be correct here.

The next check was on the FG pulses at TP518. The waveform here had gaps in it and varied a little in amplitude. Unfortunately I ignored this, putting the irregularity down to the motor's increased and wowing speed. Wrong decision! So after replacing IC501 and finding that the fault remained as before I had a closer look at the FG pulses. When I dismantled the capstan assembly I found that the coil which forms the stator of the pulse generator was dryjointed at the point where the enamelled copper wire is connected to the terminal.
C.W.

## Amstrad VCR4600

This machine was dead with the 2A fuse F603 open-circuit. I checked the rectifiers in the main power supply and as they all read o.k. a new fuse was fitted. It blew only a few seconds after switching the machine on again. The cause of the fault turned out to be C836 ( $3 \cdot 3 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 35 \mathrm{~V}$ ) which is in one of the voltage regulator circuits on the main servo/system control panel.
C.W.

## Logik VR950/Samsung VI611

This machine came to us with the infra-red sensor broken and the loading arms flopping about all over the place. The owner said that she'd tried to remove a jammed cassette and had damaged it in the process. What in fact appeared to have happened was that the nylon gear sector - it's the fanshaped bit on the loading mechanism - had split where the steel pin is located, allowing the pin to slip out. Hence the looseness of the loading arms. A spot of Superglue was all that was required to repair the infra-red assembly. A new gear sector and pin - they are separate items - had to be ordered from Mastercare.

Imagine out surprise when, a few days later, the postman delivered two packages from Mastercare, one a box containing the gear sector, the other a jiffy bag containing the pin! Anyway fitting the parts and removing a thick ring of oxide from the capstan restored normal operation. E.R.

## Saisho VR1200HQ/Matsui VX820/Hinari VXL35

Failure of Q02, type 2SD1207, is common with these machines. We find that a TIP41C with a heatsink is a reliable replacement.
J.R.C.

## Hitachi VT150

This machine is almost the same as the VT130 but has long play. The problem was a tape stuck inside, no functions and no eject. Whilst checking around we found that the M54649L loading motor and cassette lift motor control chip IC902 was very hot. As both motors ran when powered from a separate d.c. supply we replaced IC902. Unfortunately this made no difference. Voltage checks then showed that the 12 V supply at pin 9 was very low at 0.5 V . It's worth noting that this chip has two 12 V supplies, one at pin 7 for the internal logic and one at pin 9 for the high-current motor drive.
Tracing back from pin 9 brought us to the power supply where IC851 had 18 V at its input but no 12 V output. Although the power supply panel looks the same as that in the VT130 the regulator chip is different - type STK5476. This is a 12 -pin device with only pins $1-10$ used. We didn't have one in stock though we did have the STK5471 as used in the VT130. When we removed the STK5476 we
found that the heatsink was drilled with two sets of holes. The smaller 10-pin STK5471 was quickly fitted to the heatsink, restoring full operation. Could the STK 5476 have been fitted because of a shortage of the other type of regulator?
M.Dr.

## Hitachi VT7000

This two-part tuner-timer/VCR came in with the symptoms of a dirty head. Cleaning this appeared to cure the fault but when a recording was made and played back nothing but snow and sound had been recorded. After borrowing a service manual we found that the record 9 V supply at pin 8 of the TA4190 chip IC205 was very low at only IV in the record mode. The source of this supply was traced to a small relay, RL402, on the bottom PCB. There was 9 V at the input to this relay but no output. As we couldn't find a relay with the same pin connections amongst our scrap panels we decided to try cleaning the contacts of the old one. We used an Electrolube contact cleaning strip that's specially made for this type of job. It provided a complete cure and after a long soak test the machine was pronounced fit again.
M.Dr.

## Toshiba V71

As a new reel motor failed to restore reel operation we started to make checks in the drive circuit. The conditions at the fast forward and rewind selection pins of the TA7267P motor drive chip IC603 were correct but there was no motor supply at pin 3 . Replacing this i.c. cured the problem.

For reference purposes note that in the rewind mode pin 7 is at 12 V , pin 6 drops from 12 V to 5 V then returns to 12 V . pin 5 changes from zero to 0.7 V , pin 4 is the chassis pin, pin 3 changes from zero to to 5 V for a couple of seconds then rises to 10 V , pin 2 changes from 5 V to zero and pin 1 stays at 5 V . In the fast forward mode the voltages are the same except that pin 2 remains at 5 V and pin 1 changes from 5 V to zero. It's not uncommon for the reel motor or IC603 to fail, so the above readings may be of help in deciding which item to blame if you don't have the manual.
J.E.

## Akai VS105

Everything worked correctly except eject, the problem here being that the cassette came out flush with the front panel and couldn't be gripped. All the mechanical functions are set in motion by a motor which drives the main rotary cam beneath the deck via a plastic toothed belt and worm pulley. The carriage up/down lever is driven by a groove in the rotary cam. It was not travelling far enough to push the carriage all the way up, i.e. to eject. When the metal plate that covers the rotary cam was removed we saw that there was a split across half the width of the cam. Replacing the cam and retiming the mechanism cured the problem. Only the eject mode was affected because the other modes used the good portion of the cam.
J.E.

## Ferguson 3V44/JVC HRD140

This machine wouldn't accept a cassette. As the power supply circuit protectors were intact we turned our attention to the carriage assembly. The cassette could be loaded manually, after which all functions such as fast forward, rewind and play worked normally and the cassette was ejected correctly. We found that the cause of the problem was the leaf switch at the right-hand side of the carriage assembly. All was well after fitting a replacement. J.E.

## CD Player Casebook

## Toshiba SL55

In the February casebook I mentioned an SM55 that refused to play some discs because the lens was dirty. It seems to be a problem with these machines - I've had others since. Despite the large metal cover over the mechanism the lens gets badly affected by dirt.
N.B.

## JVC XLE300

With consumer electronic equipment becoming ever more complex we all too often overlook the obvious. This was just such a case, and I could have kicked myself for not realising sooner what was happening. The complaint was that the player sometimes wouldn't read a disc, though when it did the results were o.k. On test in the workshop it wouldn't read any discs at all. So we assumed that the laser assembly was faulty and fitted a replacement. As this seemed to cure the problem we set up the machine and left it on a test run. Just for good measure we tried a long-play disc as well. This too was o.k.

When the next disc was tried however the machine took an extremely long time to read the TOC - in fact it made several attempts before it played the disc. After taking out the new laser assembly and again checking the mechanics 1 eventually realised what was going on. When a disc that
lasted say an hour or more had been played the laser unit returned only very slowly to the beginning to read the next disc, which rotated very slowly. This in fact was the key to the problem. Fitting a new sled motor provided a complete cure.
M.L.

## Akai ACM370L

With mast discs that were tried in it this midi system wouldn't play the first one or two tracks. The outer tracks played all right. As the machine always read the TOC we decided that the laser unit was o.k. After some soulsearching we resolved the problem: the PLL coil was marginally out of adjustment and wouldn't lock up at the beginning of the disc. Slight adjustment of the coil was all that was necessary.
M.L.

## Sharp DX650

This American (110V) machine came on when a new mains transformer from RS Consponents had been fitted to adjust for the different mains supply voltage. But when a disc was inserted CD showed in the display. The sled motor had seized - a drop of oil on the bearings freed it. After that the machine worked well.
S.DaC.

## HELP WANTED

Wanted: An e.h.t. transformer for the Tektronix type 545B scope, part no. 120-0308-00. Also an August 1986 copy of Television. W. Larman, Derimar, Horton Road, Stanwell Moor, Middx TW19 6BD.

Can anyone supply the correct circuit for the light gun that's used with the Binatone $01 / 4907$ video game? Roger Burchett, 12 Ormonde Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 6DN. 0303 267969.

Wanted: Circuit diagram or service manual for the LCM Electronics Ltd. telephone answering machine type P148F. F.C. Hughesdon, 19 Lower Road, Higher Denham, Uxbridge, Middx UB9 5EA. 0895833774.

Can anyone supply an AUX-box for the Luxor Model 6615 TV receiver, also a service manual? R. Burgess, 82 Bressey Grove, London E18 2HX. 0819896830.

Can anyone supply details of the modification to convert a Philips BSB receiver, Model STU902, for PAL reception? Peter Clarke, 28 Wentworth Gate, Linton Park, Wetherby, W. Yorks LS22 4XD. 0937582828.

Can anyone supply a battery or batteries for the Sony Model SLFIUB portable VCR - they are 12 V types? R. Buckley, 25 Clarence Place, Morice Town, Plymouth PL2 1SF. 0752560660.

Wanted: Manuals for the following equipment - Sony VO1810 U-Matic VTR; Teac reel-to-reel X1000M; Sharp VC9300H VCR; Sony AV3420CE portable reel-to-reel

VTR. Terry Martini, 6 Levant House, Mile End Road, London EI 4RB. 0717906807.

Wanted: Any Philips LaserVision discs (CLV or CAV) or any CD-Video (single or extended play) discs. B. Willis, 50 Sarum Crescent, Wokingham, Berks RG11 IXF. 0734784 002.

Does anyone have a collection of Television from the first issue (April 1950) to 1977 ? Would be going to a very good home! Also maybe Practical Wireless from the first issue to 1970. Michael Dranfield, Dranfield and Harrop Colour TVVidec, 62 Fairfield Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK 17 7DW. 029871689 day, 029826094 home.

Wanted: Service information for the Lloyds LVC3000 VCR, made by NEC. S. Burns, 1 Harewood Drive, Ilford, Essex IG5 0PJ. 0815508222.

Wanted: LOPT for the Waltham Model 1401. Also a TDA 1104 , TDA 1106 or MB1 106 i.c. B. Battams, 23 Dudley Drive, South Ruislip, Middx HA4 6QN. 0818455123.

Wanted: Mains transformer for the JVC Model 7170 GB and a LOPT for the Panasonic TC38IGR. I.E. Finch, 6 Avon Court, Avondale Road, Luton LU1 IDT. 0582487533.

Wanted: Circuit diagram for the Bush Arena Model BC6130A (Rank Z718G chassis). Photocopy would do. D. Maciver, 46 Newhaven Main Street, Newhaven, Edinburgh EH6 4TD. 0315511616.

Can anyone supply service and operating manuals for the Houston Instruments EDMP-56E plotter? Stephen Shaw, PO Box 1404, Randfontein 1760 S. Africa.

# Inside the Ferguson IKC2 Chassis 

J. LeJeune

It's some four years now since Ferguson started to use Thomson-designed TV chassis. We are becoming familiar with a certain family likeness between them, as was the case with the 'old' Ferguson-designed chassis. The IKC2 is obviously a descendant of the ICC5 with which it bears many similarities, including the infamous though quite reliable thyristor field output stage. So what's new?

For one thing there's a totally different discrete-component chopper power supply. This is partly due to the use of a different colour decoder chip, type TA8659CN, which also incorporates the sync circuitry and the field and line timebase generators - you will recall that in the ICC5 a TEA2029C chip produced the line, field and chopper drive waveforms. Other features of the TA8659CN include automatic switching between PAL/SECAM/NTSC operation and a sharpness control circuit. The chassis is used in models with 41 and 51 cm tubes. Unfortunately the audio section is nothing to rave over and has given rise to some customer complaints - in early versions of Model 41P3 the audio is definitely odd!

This article explains the new features incorporated in the IKC2 chassis, notably the power supply, and aims to help with fault finding, covering some common failures and how to deal with complaints about audio performance.

## The Power Supply

Fig. 1 shows the power supply circuit used in the IKC2 chassis. It’s a conventional chopper arrangement, but has three modes of operation - start-up, standby and full power. The chopper transformer LP36 provides mains isolation. and feedback from the secondary to the primary side of the circuit is also transformer-coupled (LP42), just as in the ICC5.

At switch-on the power supply operates in its start-up mode. Transistors TP09 and TP12 form a relaxation oscillator that produces a sawtooth waveform at a frequency of approximately 15 kHz . The ramp is generated by CP09 which charges via RP09 and RP03. DP13 clamps the waveform to chassis potential. It's then fed to the base of amplifier transistor TP13. To get the oscillator running, a start-up voltage is provided by half-wave rectification from the mains supply - one side of the bridge rectifier provides the rectification, the feed being via RP36. RP06 provides a feed for the amplifier and driver stages

Once the chopper circuit gets going and the secondary supply voltages are established the start-up oscillator is disabled by the crowbar circuit consisting of TP02/3 and the associated components. It senses the rise in the voltage produced by the rectifier circuit DP30/CP30. When the voltage at the junction of potential divider RP02/7 is sufficient to turn on DP20, the crowbar transistors TP02/3 latch on, removing the supply to the start-up oscillator.

TP02 and TP03 are also used in the standby mode, when they operate in a slightly different manner. Because the line output stage is inoperative in this mode, the drain on the power supply is very light. As there are no line pulses to drive the regulation system, the power supply runs in a kind of self-oscillating condition. What happens is that the startup oscillator delivers 'bursts' of 15 kHz drive. When the voltage developed across CP30 rises sufficiently. TP02/3
shut down the oscillator. The whole power supply then stops and the voltage across CP30 falls. Thus the oscillator can run again. This 'squegging' action provides a rudimentary level of regulation on the primary side of the chopper transformer, maintaining the voltage levels sufficiently for the standby condition.

To switch the set to full power operation a remote control command produces a low output at pin 20 of the microcomputer control chip IR01 (see Fig. 2). TR16 and TR17 then switch on, raising the PO (Power On) line to 15 V . This brings the TA8659CN chip IV01 into operation and the line drive appears. The control action is at pin 40 of IV01 - it rises to 9 V in the on condition. The line output stage now starts to work and pulses from pin 9 of the output transformer are integrated to produce a sawtooth waveform at the base of transistor TP54, which drives TP13 via TP69 and LP42. TP13 receives negative-going pulses that cut it off.

Now for the regulating action in the chopper circuit. Transistor TP53 acts as a comparator. Its emitter is held at a constant 5.6 V by the action of zener diode DP55 and diode DP54 - the combination of a zener diode and a silicon diode provides the correct temperature coefficient. TP53's base senses the h.t. voltage via the potential divider RP5 1/PP52/RP52, PP52 being used to set the h.t. voltage. Thus the voltage at the collector of TP53 and the emitter of TP54 varies as the h.t. voltage varies. This sets the point during the sawtooth waveform at the base of TP54 at which this transistor switches on. TP54 is in fact acting as a pulsewidth modulator. Note that the h.t. is set at different levels for different tubes. In Model 41P3 the h.t. should be 107V; in Model A51F it should be 111 V with an Hitachi tube and 113 V with a Philips/Videocolour tube.

As TP54's on time varies, so the conduction period of the chopper transistor TP29 alters to stabilise the output voltages. The base of transistor TP13 is forward biased via RP13. Negative-going, width-modulated pulses are fed to its base via DP17 and DP16 to switch it off. When TP13 is on, TP16 is off and TP17 is on - these are the chopper driver transistors. When TPI3 is switched off TP16 conducts and TP17 switches off. Current via CP24 then drives the chopper transistor TP29 into conduction. The voltage across CP24 is limited to $2 \cdot 1 \mathrm{~V}$ by the combined junction voltages of the three diodes DP24/26/27. When TP13 switches on again TP17 conducts, discharging CP24 and cutting off TP29.

The longer TP29's period of conduction, the greater the amount of energy stored in the core of the chopper transformer and the higher the voltages developed by the rectifier diodes when TP29 switches off to release this energy.

TP18 and TP19 form an excess-current trip. Excess current is sensed across resistors RP32 and RP34 which are in series with the chopper transistor. When TP18/19 latch on, the drive to TP16/17 is removed. The supply to the startup oscillator is also removed because DP08/9 conduct. There is auto-reset at a rate determined by the time-constant of CP18 and RP26.

## The Line Timebase

Apart from the fact that, as in the ICC5 chassis, the output transformer has a load winding for the field output


Fig. 1: The chopper power supply circuit used in the IKC2 chassis.
stage the line timebase is conventional. The line drive waveform is produced by the TA8659CN chip IV01. It emerges at pin 39 and is applied to the base of the S2055AF line output transistor TL19 via a straightforward driver stage whose main components are TL17 (BSR50) and transformer LL19. There's no active raster-correction circuitry and no width control. Coil LL26 provides linearity adjustment.

## Safety Circuit

An unusual feature of the timebase section of the chassis is the safety circuit, see Fig. 3, which monitors the field output stage current, the beam-current limiter voltage and the line output stage derived 13V supply. RF24 (see Fig. 4) monitors the current flowing in the field scan coils. An excess will switch on transistor TV12, putting 13 V on the SP (Stop Power) line. Diode DL16 switches on while DL17 is biased off, removing the line drive. Beam current is


Fig. 2: The switch-on control circuit.
sensed via zener diode DV02 and the 13 V supply via zener diode DV08. Excessive beam current (a negative-going voltage at the anode of DV02) switches TV01 on. Excessive voltage on the 13 V line switches TV02 on, in turn switching on TV01. In either event the PO line, at some 15 V , is linked to the SP line which, in addition to forward biasing DL16, acts on the regulator in the chopper circuit via DP5 (see


Fig. 3: The safety circuit. Some sets use a simplified arrangement with just two transistors: TVO1 is then used for field overload prctection and the beam current limiting is omitted (all sets have conventional beam current limiting via the contrast control circuit).

Fig. 1). This removes the line drive to TP54 with the result that the power supply operates in the standby mode. Note that TV02 (type BC548C) is incorrectly shown as a pnp device in the circuit diagrams in the service manuals.

## The Field Timebase

The field timebase has unusual features throughout. Fig. 4 shows the circuit. Although the TA8659CN chip IV01 produces a field drive waveform at pin 31 this is used for sync purposes only. The field sawtooth waveform is generated across CF06, which is linked to the 180 V line via the two $1.5 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ resistors $\mathrm{RFO} / 02$. The ramp is negative-going however, CF06 being linearly discharged during the forward scan period via the pnp transistor TF08 which is driven at its base by the feedback capacitor CF02. IV01's field drive output is fed to the base of transistor TF25 which produces negative-going pulses at its collector to synchronise TF08. The negative-going field ramp is fed to the non-inverting input (pin 3) of operational amplifier IF01a. This is half of a TL082 dual junction f.e.t. operational-amplifier chip. The height control PFIl is part of the negative feedback network connected to IF01a's inverting input (pin 2).

The second operational amplifier IFOIb is used as a pulse-width modulator. IF01a produces a negative-going output ramp at pin 1 . This is applied to the non-inverting input of IF01b (pin 5). IF01b's inverting input (pin 6) is fed with a line-frequency sawtooth waveform (produced from integrated line flyback pulses). Pin 7 (output) of IFOIb goes high whenever the voltage at pin 6 exceeds that at pin 5. The result at pin 7 is a series of line-frequency pulses whose width increases as the field ramp progresses - this is illustrated in Fig. 5. During teletext operation an additional 25 Hz signal is applied to pin 6 . This destroys the interlacing to remove vertical jitter.

The width-modulated line-frequency pulses are applied to the gate of the field output thyristor TF16 to switch it on. The field scan coils are connected in series with RF24/20/23, the winding between pins 5 and 6 of the line output transformer, and TF16/DF16 between the 13 V supply and chassis. During the field flyback the thyristor is not triggered and DF16 rectifies the line-frequency pulses picked up by the winding on the transformer, charging CF25 to about 80 V . This produces a voltage difference of about 65 V across the scan coils, sufficient to produce a rapid flyback. When the thyristor is triggered on at the start of the field scan the pulse is of short duration. TF16 switches off when the next line pulse is produced by the transformer. Thus TF16 is on for only a brief period. It's switched on progressively earlier during each line, remaining on for a longer time. As a result the voltage across CF25 is reduced linearly to approximately 3 V at the end of the field scan. This integrating action produces a linear field scan current.

## Signal Processing

Colour decoding, sync processing and generation of timebase drive waveforms are carried out by the TA8659CN chip IV01, a Toshiba device with 64 pins. Though designed for multi-standard operation, UK sets are sold as PAL-I only models. Thus many of the pins are not used, being left opencircuit or returned to chassis via resistors. It has two crystal oscillators, one working at 4.43 MHz for the colour decoding and the other at 503 kHz (approximately 32 times line frequency) in the line sync phase-locked loop. Direct rather than count-down sync is used for the field drive in order to cater for non-standard signals.

The RGB output stages, of the class $A B$ type, are on the
c.r.t. base panel which has red and green gain and cut-off controls for grey-scale setting.

## Tuner/IF Section

The tuner and the i.f. circuitry are contained within a screened compartment, their separate modules being soldered into the main PCB. The tuner is a Thomson MTP-I-2011, which has a dual-gate MOSFET r.f. amplifier stage with reverse bias a.g.c. It incorporates the PLL tuning control system. An LA7550 chip (IS10) amplifies and demodulates the sound and vision signals. It incorporates a d.c. volume control system. I.F. bandpass filtering is provided by a single-ended input SAWF.

## Audio Output

A TDA2030A chip provides the audio output. It's operated with 30 V and -30 V supplies. The circuitry is simple and easily understood, but the peculiar audio quality provided by some Model 41P3 receivers requires a bit of explanation. Early production sets have a $24 \Omega$ speaker at the side of the cabinet. There's space for a similar unit at the opposite side, and one of the same type can be installed, wired in parallel with the existing speaker. An immediate improvement in sound quality will be noted. The sound is louder of course. Any worries about the TDA2030A overheating because of the doubled load current appear to be unfounded. Louder sound can also be obtained by reducing the value of RA07 in the feedback circuit from $5.6 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, as in Model A51F. This increases the power available to around 5 W .

The plastic moulded cabinets tend to rattle at high volume. Ferguson has available a small kit of damping pads to stop this - it's quite effective. Model A5IF is the main suffered from this malady.

## The Microcomputer Control Chip

Control of the receiver's functions is the responsibility of the TMP47C634N FERG 01 microcomputer chip IR01. These include on-screen displays, keyboard scanning and front panel display matrixing, the analogue controls and power on-off. Most of the operations are straightforward but the power control port, pin 20, is a useful one to know. Fig. 2 showed the circuitry and we've already seen that pin 20 goes low for power on, switching TR16 and TR17 on TR16 is another transistor that's shown as a pnp instead of an npn device in the official circuit diagrams. There's a short delay in the application of drive to the line timebase as CV02 in the safety circuit (Fig. 3) has to charge. This prevents any wildly incorrect-frequency drive being applied to the line output stage, with the possibility of damage.

## Teletext and Externals

Models 41P3 and A51F are fitted with a scart interface and Fastext PCB. Demodulated video output signals are available at pin 19 of the scart socket while pin 20 accepts an analogue video input. In Model A51F front-panel Cinch connectors are paralleled with the scart socket. RGB input signals can be fed to the scart socket, after which they pass to a CD4066B switching chip that sends either external or teletext RGB signals to the display circuits. The two-chip Fastext decoder is controlled by IR01 via an I2C bus.

The scart/text modules vary between the 41P3 and the A51F, but only in minor details. Both have an on-board 5 V regulator whose input is obtained from the chopper's 7 V


Fig. 4: The field timebase circuit.
output but requires, in addition, the presence of the line output stage derived 13 V supply (V5) to enable it. A switchon delay is included in the regulator circuit to prevent operation during the power-up sequence.

The scart interface handles composite PAL input and output signals, stereo audio input and output signals (there's only a mono output stage however) and RGB inputs. Pin 8 is for AV switching and pin 16 for RGB switching.

## Servicing

While the chassis has a good reliability record the fact that it's tightly packed with components can cause difficulty when fault tracing and repairs have to be carried out. The copper side of the PCB is marked with the positions of the major components. This helps with location, but the circuit diagram is confusing in that lines which join don't always have a dot while use in a few places of the Continental habit of lumping wires into a 'loom' has infiltrated into publications that were once famed for their clarity and well thought-out design. Because of its low fault rate the chassis is not a familiar one to most engineers. This has made it, rather unfairly, unpopular.

Since many faults can cause the power supply to shut down it's possible to test the latter on its own in the standby


Fig. 5: Operation of the pulse-width modulator (IF01b).
mode. Running it at full power is not possible because this requires line pulses to drive the regulation system. To test the power supply on its own in the standby mode, disconnect pin 20 of IR01. Note that in the standby mode the voltage outputs obtained from the power supply will be approximately 25 per cent low and not in their correct ratios.

Faults in the 1 KC 2 chassis are generally confined to the line output stage and the power supply, as you'd expect. A common complaint with early production sets was of tripping off at high beam currents. This was remedied by a string of modifications. Whilst these cure the trouble they are not easy to implement in the ordinary dealer's service workshop. For the brave however here are the details:

Change TLI9's heatsink to a new type, part no. 50855846. Connect an 8.2S2, $10 \% 10 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor and a $2,700 \mathrm{pF}, 20 \% 100 \mathrm{~V}$ capacitor in parallel and mount them on the new heatsink using the clip assembly that comes with it. These components replace jumper wire J 138 in the h.t. feed to the line output transformer, so remove the link and connect the RC combination in its place via flying leads. Change RP18 to $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 5 \%$; C54 to $220 \mathrm{nF}, 63 \mathrm{~V}$; RP55 to $220 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 5 \% 0.16 \mathrm{~W}$; and RP26 to $3 \cdot 3 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 5 \% 0.25 \mathrm{~W}$. Add a $22 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 5 \% 0.25 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor (RP50) between the base and emitter of TP54. If tripping still occurs, the value of RP26 may be further reduced as follows: to $1.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ with 14 in . sets, $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ with $15-17 \mathrm{in}$. sets or $1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ with 20 in . sets.

DP28 going short-circuit will prevent the power supply working because the chopper driver stage has no supply - a clue is that RP06 will be quite hot. The 180 V rectifier DLI 1 going short-circuit and ies associated resistor RLII opencircuit will affect the pulse feed from the line output transformer to the power supply with the result that the set trips.

Finally, take care when desoldering components in this chassis: good-quality desoldering wick should be used.

# A Day at the Thick End 

## Chris Watton

It was a cold, rainy dismal Monday morning. As I entered the shop at around 9.20 a.m. to start the week with the usual zest and vigour I saw a strange figure, an unshaven man with unruly hair, dirty shoes and a solemn look. It was fearsome at this time of the morning, but as the haze of cigarette smoke cleared and the view through my bloodshot eyes came into focus I realised that some oaf had left a mirror facing the shop door when we closed on Saturday.

## Turmoil

The day was uneventful until 9.35 . Then all hell broke loose and the phone, which I'm sure is connected to the shop's door bell since one doesn't go without the other, didn't stop until lunchtime. We're the only TV shop in a village about ten miles from the nearest town and I'm sure all our customers think that if it's got a plug, a length of wire or some batteries we must be able to repair it or, worse, tell them how to use it. The recent bout of electric fence generators proves the point. Must be the time for the sheep to eat all the bits that we don't when the cabbage harvest is over.

Every Monday starts the same way for us. First we sort out the jobs we forgot to do on Saturday, then we start on the repairs where loan sets have been put out.

## Some Easy Ones

The first of these was simple, a 22 in . manual control Philips K30 that was tripping. It still tripped after the tripler had been unhooked. Oh no, please don't be difficult this early in the morning. After a quick check on the line output transistor I started to smile again - it read about $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ between its emitter and collector. A new BU208 and a quick look for reasons why the old one should have failed soon revealed some dry-joints in this area, one on the flyback tuning capacitor. I'm sure that this was the cause of the transistor failure. Anyway the set was now working and displaying a good picture. So we put it on the soak test rack and lifted the next one on to the bench.

This was a Samsung Cll541ZG with a line across the screen. The field output stage in this chassis receives its supply from the line output stage. But not on this occasion as the $1.5 \Omega$ safety feed resistor R412 had failed. Replacement cured the fault and the set was left to run for the rest of the day to prove that no other fault had caused R412's death.

## The Leslie Speaker System

After the first cup of tea and with two easy jobs under my belt I was ready for anything. I let myself in for a real treat, a Leslie speaker system. Now for those of you who haven't had the pleasure of acquaintance with this magnificent job here is what it is. An immense cabinet made from one-inch thick veneered plywood, measuring some 4 ft 6 in . by 3 ft by 2 ft and weighing about as much as a Philips G6 (remember those?), houses a 15 in . woofer, two mid-range speakers and a tweeter, not forgetting the US-made solid-state amplifier in the bottom. There are also two motors that drive a rotating baffle for the woofer, and a pair of horns into which
the tweeter is directed. In principle these rotating devices make the sound come and go. Questionable I think, but the owner assures me that this is what makes an organ sound like an organ. The problem was that the mains fuse kept blowing. Its cause was in the power supply where four huge diodes form a bridge rectifier for the amplifier. Two of them were short-circuit.

## A Satellite TV Job

Now for a very important job. The boss had been complaining about the spotty picture his satellite TV system produced. My recent visit proved that the dish alignment was o.k., so the LNB was condemned. Right again. Four jobs in a row. This can't last! The new LNB was fitted in record time and a check on all channels produced perfect results. Incidentally although the satellite TV system is an Amstrad SRX200 the LNB I fitted was a new type called Continental. It's a smaller unit and has screws rather than rivets to hold it together. The F connection is at the bottom instead of the face side. It produced much better quality than the standard unit, with much less background noise - and is about ten quid cheaper.

## A Tripping Sony TV

The last job before lunch was an 18in. Sony set that tripped. I don't know much about these sets but some basic fault-finding procedures soon put me on the right road. As with all sets that are tripping we first have to find out whether the fault is in the power supply or elsewhere. The way I do this with most sets is to identify the output from the power supply to the line output stage, disconnect this and use a 60 W bulb to replace the load. If the tripping stops, the h.t. voltage can be checked. If this is correct the cause of the fault is likely to be somewhere in the line output stage.

Back to the Sony set. I followed my own advice and the tripping stopped. As the h.t. was about right at 118 V I assumed that the power supply was o.k. So I removed the bulb and for some reason the idea that there must be a short-circuit in the line output stage was in my head. After much checking of diodes and capacitors it occurred to me that the line output stage was perhaps open-circuit rather than short-circuit. To test this theory I again disconnected the power supply and ran it with a lamp as the load. It worked. Then I disconnected the lamp and the power supply started to trip. I reconnected the power supply and put my lamp on the case connection of the line output device, a gate-controlled switch (GCS). The power supply now worked. This seemed to make fault finding much easier. I came to the conclusion that there was no line drive. As the bench was a bit piled up and the scope wasn't to hand I had another brainwave. If I put the meter on to its frequency counter range and checked for line drive I should get a reading of around 15 kHz . So I checked at the gate of the GCS and found that there was a 15 kHz signal here. It was time to check the GCS, which was open-circuit. Well, all this had led me somewhat astray but maybe next time I'll remember that the power
supply won't run with an open-circuit load. And once again praise to the man who invented light bulbs.

## After Lunch

Back from a healthy lunch - two cream buns, a bag of chips and a tin of pop followed by a very dry cigar - l now felt awful. But the first job that faced me was a set with which I'm more familiar than the one that preceded the refuelling session. It was a Finlux 9510 that was dead. My attention was drawn to the blackened d.c. fuse, so I checked the chopper transistor which was short-circuit. Experience has shown that when this device has failed the $270 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor Ru17 will be open-circuit. Replacing these two items brought the set back to life but there was no sync. Transistor Tbl on the video output panel is the video inverter for the sync feed. It was open-circuit. Incidentally if you've not come across these sets before don't try to open the tuning flap - there isn't one. Many of these sets are marked around the on/off switch where people have tried to open the trim to adjust the set. It's all done via the remote control unit.

Things were really going well. I always start to worry when it's like this, knowing that some pitfall awaits. Would it be the Toshiba 140R4B that was next in line? It ran all right for long enough to make a cuppa and talk to colleagues about the state of the world. We soon put all the major unrest and catastrophes to rights. Then the Toshiba began to burp, producing a display that looked like a wineglass "Time for the pitfall I bet. When I removed the back the set ran for half a minute, burped a bit then ran again. Strange, I thought. Maybe a power supply fault of some sort. Time for some tapping on the panel. This made the funny noise come and go. There was a dry-joint on the line output transformer. This just shows that when you think it's going to be difficult it's easy, but when you think it's easy stop thinking.

## VCRs

With about two hours to go to tea time I really had to set about some of the VCRs that were piling up. I mused over the job cards and picked an old favourite, an Hitachi VTIlE. The job card said "won't rewind, chews tapes and stops whilst playing". Great! I popped in a dummy cassette and set it going. Sure enough the reel torque was poor, and the loading belts squealed as the arms reached the end of their travel. So I removed the case and opened the bottom panel, then connected the machine to a monitor and checked the recording and playback to make sure that the heads were o.k. They were, so the strip-down started.

I do this in two halves with these machines, as with most others. First the top: the head drum discharge brush, the pinch roller, the back-tension band, the reel idler and both reel discs, not forgetting where the height shims and washers etc. come from. I also remove the capstan oil seal at this time. With all these bits laid out, cleaning can commence. The reel shafts and the slant poles, tape guides and lower cylinder are all cleaned with alcohol. The reel discs are cleaned with methylated spirit, both inside the spindle holes and on the drive surfaces.

Part two is to tip the machine upside down then remove the capstan securing plate (two screws), take off the belts then remove the capstan - that's why I took off the oil seal before. Almost certainly the capstan shaft will be all brown and sticky. Finally the clutch/drive unit is removed (again two screws). Now there are bits everywhere.

My next step is to clean out the capstan bushes. Two pipe cleaners twisted together fit nicely. Soak them in meths and pull them through a few times. This removes all sorts of
muck. When the bushes are clean I insert a cotton bud, with only one end on it, from the tape side of the deck which is now nearest the bench. Push it in just far enough so that it won't fall out then run some oil into the bushes from the open end (God this is confusing!). It will have time to work its way into the bushes while other work is being carried out. I feel that it's essential to service the capstan shaft in this way as I'm sure that heavy running greatly contributes to capstan motor failure. At about $£ 45$ trade these items should be looked after. I also put a drop of oil on the bearing at the other end of the capstan motor itself, using a thin blade to get it under the drive pulley. Make sure that any surplus is removed before reassembly. At this point the drive pulley must be cleaned. The old belt gunge that sticks like glue can be taken off using an ink rubber or a fibre pencil.

Finally the clutch unit can be completely stripped, taking care to note the positions of all the securing split washers and which way round the various wheels should be. Clean all the surfaces with meths - not the felt in the clutch of course - then very lightly oil the three spindles. When the clutch unit is reassembled with a replacement belt it should run like new. The grooves in the drive end of the clutch can be cleaned easily when out of the unit, but don't be tempted to roughen the surface in an effort to improve the traction to the idler - it won't work. A toothbrush and meths or a fibre pencil are excellent for this purpose.

Reassembly should be easy - remember to wipe away any oil that may get on to the belts or reel drive components. Remove the cotton bud from the capstan bearing and start to put it all back together. First the clutch, then the capstan which is now very shiny, watching out for the drop of oil that will come from the bushes when the capstan is pushed home. Then fit the two new belts and the capstan securing plate. The last part to sort out here is the loading motor drive belts. One screw and take off one belt. Unplug the connector and the motor is out. Check whether the bearing of the intermediate drive pulley is dry, also the motor bearing - lubrication may be needed. Replace both belts, then refit the motor and connector. All is now finished at this end and the unit can now be turned the right way up.

Put the reel discs back on, with a tiny spot of oil on the spindles. Fit a new belt between the take-up disc and the dummy counter pulley. Replace the back-tension band and fit a new pinch roller. Clean the static discharge brush and refit it. Lastly, wipe the capstan shaft and replace the oil seal. With no more bits left on the bench and all the moving parts and the tape guides, heads and lower cylinder gleaming like new pins it's time to try the machine. The result? Perfection, as always. Well sometimes.

## Final Chores

So much for all the good times I've had today. Now to start ringing customers with estimates and ordering spares. Colleagues have put job cards into my tray, requesting spares and asking me to ring Mr. and Mrs. So-and-so to tell them that their TV set is really too old to mend. As you know, not all of them take this too well. Some think that you're a robber while others think that a relative has just passed away. But on with the chores that only the dog's body gets left with.

Well, the customers have all been contacted, now for some fun. The recently purchased viewdata terminal awaits. Part numbers found, autodial on and away we go. Why does my terminal always say "?" - because the last time I used COPS I didn't press $\mathbb{Q}$ to leave the system, that's why. Sorry Willow Vale. Other orders are faxed. Now we eagerly await the parts. . .

# Long-distance Television 

Roger Bunney

January was one of the quietest months ever for DX-TV reception. At the present stage of the solar cycle F2 layer propagation is virtually non-existent. What little SpE reception was noted is recorded below. Very early in January and again early in February there was an improvement in tropospheric conditions, with associated high pressure and fog. Even meteor scatter propagation has been very poor. So to the brief $\mathrm{SpE} \log$ :

| $5 / 1 / 93$ | DR (Denmark) ch. E2: +PTT (Switzerland) |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | E2. |
| $8 / 1 / 93$ | NRK (Norway) E3: TVE (Spain) E2. |
| $16 / 1 / 93$ | SVT (Sweden) E2. 3: CIS (Russia) R1: TVE |
|  | E3. |
| $17 / 1 / 93$ | TVE E2. 3. |
| $23 / 1 / 93$ | DR E3; NRK E2. |
| $24 / 1 / 93$ | TVE E2. |
| $30 / 1 / 93$ | +PTT E2: TVE E2. |
| $31 / 1 / 93$ | TVE E2. |

Lain Menzies (Aberdeen) reports two auroral events, a small one on the 5th and a more sustained evening one on the 25th. My thanks to lain, Simon Hamer (Powys), David Oliver (Birmingham), David Glenday (Arbroath), Tim Anderson (St Leonards), Roger Fussell (Torpoint) and Peter Schubert (Rainham) for sending in reception reports.

## 50MHz Experiment

An interesting experiment in the 50 MHz band is being carried out by two Californian amateurs. In the early hours of February 6-7th the moon was centred between Western Europe and the US West Coast, presenting an ideally placed reflector for aerials at the two locations. Signals were transmitted for two hours each day, on even minutes, the aim being to reflect signals from the States to Europe via the moon. Amateur station W6JKV fed 1.5 kW to a 16 x 6 element aerial stack ( 20.5 dBd gain) at $50 \cdot 03 \mathrm{MHz}$. Station

K6QXY fed similar power to a $4 \times 11$ element aerial ( 18.5 dBd gain) at 50.007 MHz . With the aerials aimed at the horizon an additional $3-6 \mathrm{~dB}$ of ground gain was obtained. I hope to be able to report on the results in due course.

## News Items

UK: Following the failure of the country-wide Channel 5 franchise allocation the ITC is considering a more localised system based on larger towns and cities. A consultative paper will be published in the summer. ITV network programming could be distributed in digital form from 1994 onwards, with NTL operating the service.

In its January 1993 bulletin the UK Six Metre Group summarises the current situation with 50 MHz amateur operators throughout Europe. With the possible exception of Portugal (no information available) there are now operators in all European countries. Output powers range from 3 W up to 500 W (Denmark): restrictions vary from country to country depending on other Band I services, in particular TV transmitters.

CIS: The Lithuanian OK1 relay over the LTV2 network has ended - a full-time LTV2 service is planned. It seems that the Swedish Kinnevik broadcaster (TV2/TV1000) may use the LTV2 system for a commercial service. A new OK1 transmitter is in operation at Kaliningrad, on ch. R4 with 5 kW .

Belgium: Canal Plus is now being transmitted from Leglise on chs. E11 and E63. It's a 24 -hour service.

Finland: The MTV service has now moved to the third network and hopes to achieve country-wide coverage within months. An interesting English-language f.m./TV/satellite bulletin called FM-TV Busybody, aimed at DXers throughout Europe, is being published by FMBB, Box 7 , SF-05901, Hyvinkaa, Finland, from whom sample copies can be obtained. The 1993 subscription rate, for nine issues, is 110 FIM.

Turkey: Up to ten commercial TV stations are now transmitting, either on test or with programmes. The latest programme provider is Flash TV.

Greece: The authorities are about to award commercial broadcasting licences. There have been almost ninety applicants, some of which are already transmitting! Hellas 62, Sky TV. Channel Seven X, Kanali 29, Nea Teleorasis,


Left: A convenient station identification, the Duna TV field blanking pulse insert, received via Eutelsat II F3 at $16^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$. Centre: SpE reception of RTT (Tunisia) ch. E4 at St. Leonards, East Sussex by Tim Anderson. Right: Multipath ch. E2 reception of a Koran reading from IRIB (Iran) in early 1992 by Ryn Muntjewerff in The Netherlands - classic F2 reception.

Antenna TV and Mega Channel are all in operation and hope for national network status. State broadcaster ERT is maintaining its three services.

India: The Metro Channel has been given permission to operate, initially in the four main population areas (Madras, Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta).

## Satellite TV

Good news for sat-zappers: the EBU programme exchange network has moved from the vintage Eutelsat I F5 at $21.5^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ to the modern Eutelsat II F4 at $7^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$, with four transponders in use daily at much higher powers than previously. You will notice that the pictures, because of the use of sound-in-syncs, are unsteady. One method of picture stabilisation is to strip off the incoming sync pulses and insert locally-generated ones phased with the picture to obtain correct lock. At present sync inserter units do not appear to be available commercially, though PDS offered a video sync processor that did just this in the early days of satellite TV. If anyone has one of the latter units lying about unused, please let me know! Eutelsat I F2 at $3^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ was fired up in late January with an uplink from an Austrian station: signals were seen for three days then ceased.

The EBU's French-based (Lyon) Euronews service started on January 1st, providing up to twenty hours of news material daily with sound subcarriers for various languages. Check at 11.575 GHz (vertical) from Eutelsat II Fl ( $13^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ ). An Italian news service called Elefante TV is due to start at any time.

Staring this spring Marco Polo 2 , now at $0.8^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ and renamed Thor after being sold to Norwegian Telecom, will start carrying CNNI and Filmnet programming. Children's and sports channels will be added later in the year. Both CNNI and Filmnet will us Eurocrypt S, CNNI with D-MAC and Filmnet with D2-MAC. Keep a lookout at 11.785, $11.861,11.938$ and 12.015 GHz .

Screensport has now been combined with Eurosport and may adopt scrambling. A French-language version, TV Sport, is to be transmitted via the Telecom 2 satellite. Red Hot Dutch, the scrambled hard porn channel that's been in the news recently, may adopt an addressable rotating line encryption standard instead of the present inverted video plus 100 kHz sinewave. A further two German-based hard porn channels are promised by early summer. A UK version of the American Nickelodeon children's channel is due to be started by BSkyB this autumn via Astra 1C.

A new identification to watch out for is VTM - Vlaamse Televisie Maatschappij NV. This is a Belgian satellite news gathering operator that uses analogue or digitally compressed video plus voice, data or fax transmissions.

Hispasat, the Iberian satellite at 30 or $31^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ (depending on which publication you read), is now in operation with various encrypted services at high levels plus the German Tele 5 channel dubbed into Spanish.

Glum faces in Australia over the loss of the Optus B2 satellite due to a launch malfunction. A replacement won't be ready until mid-1994. Optus B1 is now carrying some of the services previously carried by the elderly Aussat A2 satellite, with Aussat A3 taking over the others. The Thaicom 1 satellite, due for launch in November, will go into orbit at $101^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$, carrying twelve C band transponders. It will provide a rival service to Star TV via AsiaSat 1. The Hindi-language ZEE TV service via AsiaSat 1 intends to start 24 -hour operation by mid-summer and hopes to be able


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to use AsiaSat's northern beam to give coverage over the whole of Asia and the Middle East.

BBC World Service TV is now being transmitted terrestrially by the South African M Net service, which uses scrambling. Apparently it's possible to view BBC WSTV for free by subtle manipulation of the M Net decoder - one newspaper published details of the knob programming required.

According to Pat Hawker, writing in the February issue of Radio Communication. LNBs have been producing interference in the h.f. bards. The source of the interference was tracked down by an amateur using an OptoElectronics 2300 spectrum analyser. It seems that the problem is being caused by high-level operation of the local oscillator in many Ku band LNBs, which are not covered by EMC guidelines. It's possible that interference of this type could occur in Band 1.

## Market Place

The third edition of European Scrambling Systems Circuits, Tactics and Techniques by John McCormac has just been published. Also known as the "black book", it's a goldmine of information on the principles and practice of encryption. including how the various systems were defeated and how you can do this yourself! There are full details of each encryption standard, including Videocrypt. As the book is aimed at European readers in general Filmnet, RTL-4, Canal Plus-RAI and so on are all covered in detail. I found the "dirty tricks" section particularly interesting. A concluding section mentions that the Eurocrypt smart card "is based on the Bull CP8 masked programmed

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card. It appears that this card has now been pumped or stripped. Card Tricks of Switzerland will market alternative microcontroller cards from January. The conflict has moved into a new phase". This comprehensive book sells at $£ 32$ plus $£ 2.50$ UK postage.

The 1993/94 World Satellite Almanac by Mark Long is available at $£ 69$ plus $£ 2.50$ UK postage. It's the reference work for all that's happening in the satellite world, but of course things keep changing. So Mark Long's The 19931994 World Satellite Annual has been published as an official supplement at $£ 41$ plus $£ 2 \cdot 50$ UK postage.

Truly excellent as these books are, the cost is perhaps rather high for those not professionally engaged in satellite telecommunications. Frank Baylin has broken through the price barrier with the 1993 World Satellite Yearly. It provides a comprehensive reference work at a much lower cost, including data on all satellites at present in orbit or soon to arrive there, with detailed coverage of transmission techniques, encryption, digital compression/HDTV, satellite installation/reception problems and calculations, footprints etc. The book has 440 A4 format pages and is available at $£ 38$ plus $£ 2.50$ UK postage.

Retail orders for the above books should be sent to Swift Television Publications, 17 Pittsfield, Cricklade, Swindon, Wilts SN6 6AN - telephone number 0793750 620. J. Vincent Technical Books, 24 River Gardens, Purley, Reading RG8 8BX (0734 414468 ) is the official wholesale distributor in the UK.

Tim Anderson is marketing two computer discs in either Amiga or IBM PC compatible 3.5 in . form. The first, called

DXWATCH, contains two programs, DXWATCH and IDWATCH. DXWATCH itself is a database of worldwide Band I TV offsets plus small files with Band III and u.h.f. offsets. The program allows you to create your own files so that you could, for example, create files for each channel, each continent or whatever you like. IDWATCH is intended to help with picture source identification by referring to key words. As we all know test patterns are rare nowadays, so that signal identification is an increasing problem. This program contains station identifications and words that often occur on pictures, such as news and weather - the entries for The Netherlands for example include PTT NED, NOS, NOZEMA, Nieuws, Pauze etc. Users can add to these entries, building up a comprehensive database. This disc costs $£ 8$ including UK postage.

The second disc, AMISCAN Version $2 \cdot 0$, is a database for anyone interested in frequencies above 25 MHz - scanner users for example. There are well over a thousand entries that can be searched, sorted, listed, edited and printed. Each entry contains frequency, channel number, mode, service, location, comments etc. Entries can be added or expanded for updating. Information on the disc includes worldwide 10 m f.m. repeaters, many of the low v.h.f. signals heard during F2 and SpE openings, amateur radio beacons, European air-band frequencies, many TV offsets and much more. Cost is $£ 7.50$ including UK postage.

These discs can be ordered from Tim Anderson at 2 Burry Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6QX. I found them easy to use and if I can cope anyone should be able to!


The workshop never seems to run at full bore in late winter. Thus anyone who brings in a repair at this time of the year is likely to get very quick service from our team of highlytrained technical sleuths. On this bright and chilly morning they were engaged on such mundane tasks as filing service manuals and carrying out repairs to stock machines. Service Manager was casting a jaundiced eye over last month's accounts - gloomy reading indeed.

A car drew up in the yard. Its driver picked up a VCR from the passenger's seat and brought it into reception. As soon as it was booked in we had it hooked up on the bench and running. But not running very fast: the cassette loading operation was painfully slow, the cassette just about making it into the machine and down on to the spool turntables. Time to get the service manual out. The machine was an Hitachi VT430.

In this deck the front-loading operation is powered by the capstan motor which drives it, along with the tape reels, via a belt and a conglomeration of plastic cogs and pinions. So the first step was to replace the belt. This didn't have the slightest effect on the cassette loading and unloading operations, which where still performed very slowly. Real Technician, who had won the fight for the machine when it came it, decided to see how the capstan motor coped with its other tasks. Before doing so he discovered that tape lacing took place at normal speed - it's done by the loading motor, quite separately from the capstan department while the drum quickly ran up to 1,500 r.p.m. So none of
the other motors on the deck were afflicted. Back to the capstan.

In the play modes the tape ran very slowly and at an uneven speed. As a result the reproduced sound was slurred and had a heavy wow. In the search modes the tape moved hardly any faster than the normal play speed. Sometimes, when cue or review was selected, it would come to a complete standstill and the deck would then shut down. Similarly if pause was selected during play or record and then released the capstan would often fail to restart, the result again being deck shutdown. Fast forward and rewind were sluggish, with every sign that a three-hour cassette would take ten to fifteen minutes to transfer all the tape from one spool to the other.

Well, that seemed to be enough evidence, the finger of suspicion pointing at the capstan drive system. Real Technician again removed the reel-drive belt, then checked for any tightness in the reel-drive department, here called the clutch base assembly. Everything ran freely, and the reel brakes were seen to be coming off all right. What a pity that, with the belt still off, another similar test wasn't carried out! With the drive belt back in place the machine was once more set to play while further tests were made.

RT first had a look at the capstan motor's supply voltage. The A16V line was at almost 19 V , but a look at the circuit diagram showed that it comes from an unstabilised 18 V supply, so that was o.k. The 5 V line was correct. The drive circuitry could have been in trouble but RT next found, the machine having run for fifteen minutes or so now, that the capstan motor's rotor and the on-board drive chip ICl601 were running quite hot. This was the clincher. He decided to replace the motor assembly. Was this a wise move, and would it have cured the trouble? Give some thought to this before turning to page 442 to discover the answers!

# Repairing LED Clock Radios 

## Part 2

Ian Rees

In Part 1 last month we dealt with the clock and display sections. For space reasons Table 1 was held over and is included this. time. It shows the control and supply pin connections for common clock chips. Now to the radio side of things.

Quick identification of the stages of an unfamiliar radio can be difficult. There's a colour code for the small coils used in radios of Far Eastern origin however and this can be a helpful guide to circuit layout. Details are as follows:

| Circuit | A.M. | V.H.F. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Oscillator |  |  |
| First i.f. | Red | - |
| Second/third i.f. | White | Orange |
| Fourth i.f. | - | Green |
| Detector | Black | Pink |
|  |  | Blue |

The tuned section of an m.w./l.w. ferrite rod aerial is colour coded plain/blue or black, the coupling coil green/red.

## VHF Radios

As you would expect these days, single-chip radios are the norm. The only exception is the v.h.f. front end, which is basically the same as that used in other transistor designs. The chips are standard types, but the pin connections vary from one chip to another. Sometimes a separate audio chip is used.

Fig. 7 shows a typical v.h.f. radio section up to the audio output point. Q1 is an earthed-base r.f. amplifier which is followed by a self-oscillating mixer stage, Q2, which is again used in the earthed-base mode. The voltages shown are typical.

Weak reception is most likely to be caused by transistor Q1 being dead or dying. A quick test is to touch Q2's emitter lead with the end of a short length of wire used as an aerial. If this results in a louder signal than when Q1's
emitter is similarly touched, replace Q1. Short-wave reception but no v.h.f. signals when the same wire is touched on Q2's collector lead suggests that this transistor may be faulty. Dry-joints on L2, L3 and L4 are common because they are pulled about at the factory when being set. The enamelled wire adds to the difficulty of soldering the leads, which are easily broken loose by movement. Note the wax mess in this area, used to dampen microphony and hold components in place. Small movement of components in the oscillator circuit will result in a large amount of detuning and should thus be avoicied.

As elsewhere the ceramic capacitors used to decouple various points are never above suspicion. Loss of any supply should lead to checks on the relevant ones. Next in line are the relevant electrolytics. The LM1868 chip in the circuit shown receives its supply at pin 19. A decoupled 4 V output is provided at pin 16 - this is an unusual arrangement that's difficult to spot without a circuit diagram. The demodulated audio output appears at pin 17.

## AM Section

Fig. 8 shows the first couple of stages of a typical a.m. radio section. Once again a completely dead front end can be caused by failure of Q1, but remember that leakage in the 20 nF base coupling capacitor will upset the biasing. Opencircuit coupling windings will be the result if the rod aerial is able to move. Litz wire becomes very brittle when solder is allowed to run up from its joints. If a winding is opencircuit, check farther back towards the coil: it's often possible to use a short fly-lead to remake the connection.

The value of the $5,000 \mathrm{pF}$ feedback capacitor in the emitter circuit sometimes has to be increased to 10 nF or more to maintain oscillation in the l.w. band. This component can also cause low sensitivity - another cause of this is disconnection of the unmarked lead from the aerial rod's tuned winding to the gang.

The practice of decoupling to the positive side of the supply instead of to chassis can mislead if not expected. If


Fig. 7: Typical v.h.f. radio receiver circuitry.

## Table 1: Pin connections for common clock chips.

| IC | Hours <br> Set | Mins <br> Set | Alarm <br> Set1 | Alarm <br> Set 2 | Snooze Out | Snooze Set | Alarm Off | Alarm <br> Out | $\begin{aligned} & 50 \mathrm{~Hz} \\ & \mathrm{ln} \end{aligned}$ | Vss | Vdd |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TMS1941 | 34 | 33 | 31 | - | 25 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 36 | 28 | 29 |
| TMS1944 | 34 | 33 | 31 | - | 25 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 36 | 28 | 29 |
| TMS1951 | 34 | 33 | 31 | - | 25 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 36 | 28 | 29 |
| TMS 1952 | 34 | 33 | 31 | - | 25 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 36 | 28 | 29 |
| TMS3450 | 22 | 21 | 19 | - | 17 | 24 | 23 | 17 | 25 | 26 | 20 |
| LM8361 | 36 | 33 | 31 | - | 27 | 26 | 32 | 27 | 35 | 28 | 29 |
| LM8363 | 35 | 34 | 32 | 38 | - | 25 | , | 26 | 36 | 24 | 30 |
| LM8560 | 22 | 21 | - | - | 17 | 24 | 23 | 17 | 25 | 26 | 20 |
| MM5387 | 34 | 33 | 31 | - | 27 | 24 | 30 | 27 | 35 | 37 | 29 |
| MM5402 | 34 | 33 | 31 | - | 27 | 24 | 30 | 27 | 35 | 23 | 28 |

*With the LM8363 pin 27 is alarm 1 off, pin 29 alarm 2 off.
TMS 1941/1944/1951/1952 common collector; TMS3450/LM8560 duplex type.
LM8361/MM5387/MM5402 require separate oscillator.
LM8363 X2 alarm.
the 20 nF capacitor that decoples the emitter of Q2 is leaky the supply will be connected across the $330 \Omega$ emitter resistor, giving the impression that Q2 is short-circuit. There will be no output from this stage if the transistor's base bias decoupling capacitors are faulty - the 20 nF ceramic connected to the positive rail and the $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic connected to chassis. The unmarked capacitor that tunes the i.f. transformer's primary winding is within the screening can. Check this at the transformer's pins before removing the can. The very act of removing the can may clear the fault if there are dry-jointed connections here. Instability is once again usually caused by a faulty ceramic decoupling capacitor.

Failure of individual i.f. transistors is not uncommon. Check the operating conditions after replacement.

Fig. 9 brings us up-to-date with an a.m. circuit in i.c. form. The LM1868 is typical of a host of other chips that provide both a.m. and f.m. reception. As with the clock chip, it gives very little trouble. Don't consider replacing it until all other possibilities have been exhausted.

If there's no a.m. reception connect a scope to pin 8 to check whether the local oscillator is running. Turning the gang will confirm that tuning is taking place. A sinewave at around 70 mV peak-to-peak should be expected here.

No l.w. or m.w. oscillation is often due to a faulty oscillator coil. Loss of l.w. only is most likely to be caused by a short in trimmer CT4 or the 120 pF capacitor in parallel with it.

If the oscillator is o.k. try touching pin 7. This should produce a lot of noise but probably no stations. Leakage in the 20 nF capacitor that couples the input to this pin will stop reception.

The wavechange switches are often not very good and may bridge internally as the contacts wipe backwards and forwards. Repair is possible if they are opened carefully but replacement is better. Note that the switch bodies may be used as links for the PCB print. If they are loose, whole sections of circuit can be affected. I add wire links to avoid this type of problem.

## Tuning

If you do a lot of radio work you'll probably have made yourself a wand to check the ferrite rod's coil setting. It consists of a piece of ferrite rod an inch or so long with a length of wire soldered into a loop of about one inch diam-
eter at one end. For convenience, tape this loop to the rod. In use, the non-loop end of the rod is brought up to the end of the set's aerial assembly. As it approaches, any improvement in a.m. reception would indicate that the aerial coil needs to be moved farther towards the centre of the rod aerial. By bringing the shorted loop around, any reception increase shows that the coil needs to be moved towards the end of the rod. Do this with the l.w. and m.w. coils separately. When no further improvement is possible, lock the coils with wax. This adjustment is done in conjunction with the aerial padders CT1 and CT2.

Before moving a wax-locked coil it's best to soften the wax with a soldering iron or hairdryer.

If the tuning gang operates intermittently when turned or is very noisy, tighten the four small nuts that hold it together - one at each comer. To gain access you might have to crack open the gang's casing. Aerosol switch cleaner can be sprayed into a noisy gang to clean the rotor's contacts. Don't use anything that might dissolve the insulation, and leave to evaporate. Check the v.h.f. and a.m. padder alignment after the repair.

Alignment is best carried out with a suitable a.m./f.m. generator and an output meter connected across the loudspeaker. Manufacturers use a wobbulator to align the f.m. circuits, but good results can be obtained using conventional peaking. If an f.m. generator is not available the discriminator or quadrature coils can be set up using an a.m. signal, tuning for a null.

Breakthrough between m.w. and l.w. experienced in some parts of the country can sometimes be reduced by reversing the connections to one of the aerial coils on the ferrite rod.

## Muting

The circuit shown in Fig. 9 incorporates an audio muting arrangement. Muting is done by feeding a d.c. signal from the clock's alarm output to the base of transistor Q1. The alarm tone is fed in at a point after the slider of the volume control so that the control doesn't affect the alarm. No audio output can be caused by Q1 being defective. Anything that results in Q1 being off when the alarm tone is present will mean that an audio output is also heard. In other circuits muting is done by feeding a voltage to the i.c. Faults in this circuit can cause clock ticking - a symptom similar to that described when we dealt with the power supply. With


Fig. 8: Circuitry used in the first couple of stages of a typical a.m. radio receiver.


Fig. 9: A.M. receiver circuitry in chip form.
cheaper models the audio and tone occur together, the user being expected to turn the volume to minimum to kill the audio output. A variation on this is to use a switch on the volume control to turn the audio off and on.

## Audio Problems

Where the audio signal enters the chip from the volume control but little or nothing is heard check the electrolytic capacitor connected to pin 2 (Fig. 9). With any i.c. that's used in the audio department the associated electrolytic capacitors can be bridged or better replaced during fault tracing. No or uncontrollable volume occurs when the tags of the volume control break loose from the print or their own rivets. Loss of the volume control's chassis connection will result in some chips muting themselves even when the wet finger test is applied directly at the audio input. Spray may cure a noisy volume control. With edge-type controls I prefer to retension the wiper as well.

The small loudspeakers used are prone to failure. The magnet becomes unstuck or goes off centre, the speech coil leads fracture or the coil goes open-circuit. Speaker replacement is the only cure. Rattle is sometimes caused by case resonance, a loose item on the cone or the speaker being
incorrectly fixed. A speech coil that scrapes against the polepieces produces a static-type interference on loud sounds.

What sounds like speaker distortion is often caused by r.f. oscillation in the audio section. Try connecting an $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor across the loudspeaker to see whether this provides a cure. With some sets this symptom arises only after the warm-up period. Scoping the output to the speaker will show that an r.f. envelope is present. The problem seems to arise quite often when a TBA820 chip is replaced with its KA equivalent.

Problems can arise when a PCB is mounted closely behind a speaker and the manufacturer has fitted a piece of insulation to the back of the speaker. Another problem is that solder spikes can short to the speaker tags or case when the set is reassembled.

## Pointer Drives

Finally a few words on station pointer drives - dealing with these has as long as I can remember been one of the most hated jobs in radio servicing. These marvels of string have given many an engineer a hard time. I still have nightmares about a Rigonda valve radiogram drive system that
became unstrung when my then young son spun the dial when the gang was disconnected. Steel cords took hours to work out and refit.

Fortunately the systems used with clock radios are usually simpler. Many have a push-pull arrangement with flexible plastic rods, or a simple direct drive with a calibrated knob.

The old problems remain where the drive-cord method is used. The worst fault is likely to be when a pulley snaps off its fixing. A new shaft can be made by drilling and replacement, with a suitable bolt melted in.

If a cord diagram is not available and complete restringing is required I prefer to have the gang either open or closed. Starting with the spring under tension (assuming that it's on the drum) I head off around the pulleys, bearing in mind the direction in which the cord has to move in relation to the pointer. About three turns around the drive shaft is enough - take care that adjacent turns don't overlap each
other when the shaft is turned in the reverse direction, with the characteristic ping and shudder of pointer. Note also that the direction of the turns should coincide with the pointer movement. End up finally back at the drum. Leave pointer fitting to the last - this will enable the last bit of slack to be taken up. Put a spot of glue or varnish on the pointer and all knots to lock them in place. Nylon drive cord in all sizes can be obtained from a boat chandler - it's sold for sail repair.

An easy way to raise the tuning drive drum without unstringing the cord is to release its centre screw. Gently swing the drum upwards, giving it a couple of twists against the lay of the cord. It can then be taped to the PCB, out of the way. Provided you've not moved the gang or the drum it can be refitted in the reverse order.

Some radios have an arrangement with which the drum can be disengaged from the drive. This makes life simpler, provided that care is taken about their relative positions during reassembly.

## Teletopics

## NIMBUS DEVELOPS LONG-PLAY CD

Nimbus Technology and Engineering of Monmouth has developed a double-density CD with twice the playing time of a conventional disc. The system, known as CD2X, is based on the use of a special mastering lathe developed by Nimbus and Dr. Jonathan Halliday. Its longer playing time has been made possible by reducing the pit size, track pitch (from 1.6 microns to 1.2 microns) and reading speed (by a factor of 1.4). Despite these changes the new discs can be read by a conventional red laser. Nimbus says that CD2X discs can be played by some of today's CD decks, though with some of the newer ones the optical system will need to be tweaked to focus on the smaller pits.

CD2X is seen primarily as a replacement for VHS and the LaserDisc. Nimbus has developed a small video adaptor box that plugs into a CD player's digital output socket. It contains a video expansion chip, type CL450, developed by C-Cube Microsystems. This is used to decode the MPEGcompressed video signal from the disc. Nimbus says that some players may have the chip built into them.

The new discs will play around two and a quarter hours' of video with f.m. quality sound. Picture quality is claimed to be better than that of VHS. The playing time can be reduced to 75 minutes, offering wide-screen, broadcastquality pictures. An additional bit will have to be added to the sub-code to tell the player that the disc is an LP one (today's machines recognise playing times only up to 99 minutes, 59 seconds).

Nimbus is confident that CD2X will be accepted by video companies but doesn't expect music companies to market LP audio discs. CD2X could also be used to store more Photo CD pictures, and can be used as a CD-ROM to store up to $1 \cdot 2$ Gbytes of data. The new system doesn't provide interactive operation and is therefore not seen as a rival to CD-l. CD2X discs could be on sale within a year. Nimbus has also developed quadruple-density discs, known as CD4X, but these require the use of a blue laser and are more expensive to produce.

## HDTV

The MAC system as a way of achieving the goal of HDTV in Europe has to all intents and purposes been aban-
doned, though a formal decision to drop MAC cannot be taken until the next meeting of EC telecoms ministers in May. The new EC industry commissioner Martin Bangemann has said that Europe will have to follow the US lead when it decides on a digital HDTV standard later this year. Mr. Bangemann sees no point in starting a further global TV standards battle. There has been a further delay in the USA however, where a decision has been postponed for five months or so while the FCC carries out a further series of tests on the four remaining contenders for selection as the HDTV standard.

Meanwhile the partners in VADIS (Video-Audio Digital Interface System), a pan-European digital TV project, have agreed to expand its aims to include digital HDTV. The VADIS project has developed compression systems that reduce the data rate for a standard digital picture source from $216 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$ to around $4-8 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$ with little reduction in quality. The compression system will make it possible to offer digital audio-visual services from a variety of sources, including telecommunications networks and satellite, terrestrial and cable TV channels. The work is being co-ordinated with the second phase of the international coding standards being developed by the ISO/IEC, known as MPEG. When applied to HDTV pictures the compression techniques will reduce the data rate from $1,152 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$ to around $12-25 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. The new work involves the development of a multi-layer picture compression scheme that's matched to European requirements. VADIS members include the BBC, BT, National Transcommunications (NTL), Philips and Thomson.

## SATELLITE TV

SES, which operates the Astra satellite system, has decided that its fourth and fifth satellites, due to be launched in 1994 and 1995 respectively, will incorporate digital TV capacity. This will enable Astra to offer a 180 TV channel system from 1995. SES believes that the arrival of digital TV is much nearer than some suppose. It considers that the next two years will be the testing time, and that digital TV decoders could be made available as early as next year.

The latest Financial Times Satellite Monitor, conducted by Continental Research, estimates that some 65,000 satellite TV systems were installed in the UK in January. This compares with 70,000 in January 1992. Continental Research estimates that 17,000 were upgrades, replacements or renewals after a break in subscription. It forecasts that by 2000 some 9.5 million homes in the UK will be equipped
for satellite TV reception.
A new range of multi-function integrated receiverdecoders designed and developed by the Pace Micro Technology research and development team is being launched at Cable and Satellite '93. They include the DMAC/D2MAC/PAL MRD950 with integrated Eurocrypt M and S decoding facilities, 120 -programme capacity, concise on-screen multi-language graphics, dual LNB inputs, a comprehensive parental lock facility and automatic 16:9 widescreen format selection. The top-of-the-range MRD960 has the added convenience of a dual card reader for increased ease of use

## NEXT GENERATION VCRs

Japanese consumer electronics companies led by Matsushita and Sony are holding talks with the aim of reaching agreement on a new standard for the next generation of VCRs, which will use digital techniques for video storage. The use of digital techniques offers the prospect of virtually perfect pictures no matter how many copies are made. It's hoped that foreign manufacturers will support the standard, facilitating the introduction of digital video technology in the consumer market.

## SUCCESSOR TO FM

The trade and industry secretary Michael Heseltine has launched a 'national forum' to promote digital audio broadcasting (DAB). The forum will involve broadcasters, equipment manufacturers, retailers and the providers of services. $D A B$ is expected to replace f.m. broadcasting over a $15-25$ year period starting with the first commercial DAB services in 1995. A preliminary technical specification, developed under the European collaborative research programme Eureka, has been submitted to the European Telecommunications Standards Institute. Those participating in the project include the BBC, Philips and Thomson.

## DOLBY NEWS

According to Dolby its SR.D six-channel digital stereo sound system is now on fifteen major titles, including Malcolm X, The Bodyguard and Dracula. The new system is compatible with equipment that uses Dolby's older stereo, four-channel and mono sound systems. Yorkshire TV's programme Bad Influence, broadcast on January 28th, was this company's first production to use Dolby Surround sound. Dolby Laboratories has moved to Wootton Bassett. Wiltshire SN4 8QJ (0793 842 100).

## BUSINESS NEWS

JVC is to close one of its German manufacturing plants in order to reduce mounting losses. In announcing a 27 per cent pre-tax profits fall in the quarter to the end of December, after discounting the effect of an extraordinary gain in 1991 (otherwise the profits fall amounts to 62 per cent), Sony says that VCRs and camcorders suffered the largest fall in sales. of nearly twelve per cent. Audio sales fell by six per cent while TV sales rose by ten per cent on the strength of worldwide demand for computer displays. The surprise announcement by Matsushita that its president Akio Tanii has resigned has shocked the Japanese business community.

Philips is to increase co-operation with Grundig, its 31.6 per cent owned, loss-making affiliate, in an effort to boost both companies' consumer electronics activities. According to Philips "drastic cost reductions can be achieved only if

## NEXT MONTH IN TELEVISION

## CAMERA FAULT RECORDER

The causes of intermittent faults are particularly difficult to find, especially when the TV set goes to standby or the VCR to the stop mode almost immediately, removing the fault condition. One approach is to use a camera and VCP to record the operation of the faulty equipment, enabling you to get an action replay of the transient fault event. Eugene Trundle explains the technique, describes the system he uses and provides some case histories. Test equipment can be included in the recordiñgs to provide clues.

## PHILIPS' DOUBLE-SCAN TECHNIQUE

 Flicker has always been a problem with a 50 Hz field rate. Doubling the rate to 100 Hz eliminates it. George Wilding describes the-techniques used in the Philips FL1.2 chassis to provide 100 Hz scanning.
## "IT'S ONLY THE ON/OFF SWITCH"

Steve Cannon on some recent 'power supply faults.

## NICAM AND MAC AUDIO

The next instalment in our Modern TV Receiver Techniques series outlines the operation of the digital sound transmission systems now in use and describes the way in which the signals are demodulated and decoded to recover the original analogue sound.

MOTORISING A FIXED DISH

* 縖 lan Martin on installing a polar mount for reception across the satellite arc.

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I
both companies avoid duplication of efforts, especially in development and manufacturing". Philips has an agreement, dating from 1984, to finance Grundig's losses.

## VIDEO NEWS

JVC has launched a budget camcorder, Model GRM3, at £599: features include a $\times 8$ zoom lens, video light and wired remote control. Nokia has just released three new VCRs: two of them have a built-in VideoPlus timer system. The Grundig GV201 at $£ 360$ includes text programming with

Startext and an automatic cassette identification and play time indication system (ATTS).

Sharp has launched an LCD projection TV system, Model XV710P, at $£ 1,800$. It can handle PAL, SECAM and NTSC signals and can project an image with a diagonal size up to 100 in . Sockets are provided for S video, composite video etc. It uses a newly-developed metal-halide lamp which costs about $£ 180$ and has a maximum useful life of around 4,000 hours. For the brightest and clearest picture a 60 in . polarising screen (Model XUPP60S) is available at about $£ 1,290$.

# Simple ESR Meter for Electrolytics 

Ray Porter, M.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.E.E.

In an article in the January issue I described the way in which the effective series resistance (ESR) of an aluminium electrolytic capacitor can increase so that it no longer acts as a low-impedance component. This explains why a fault is often cleared by replacing an electrolytic capacitor even though its value, when checked with a capacitance meter, is close to that marked on it. In view of this I decided to design a simple meter to measure the ESR of electrolytic capacitors. Its range suits the ESR values of PCB-mounted electrolytics. By checking against standard values (see Fig. 3) you can reject lossy capacitors.

The tester makes use of an operational amplifier as a negative-resistance oscillator. Since the operation of nega-tive-resistance operational-amplifier circuits doesn't seem to be well known a short explanation of the relevant theory is provided later.

## Circuit Description

The circuit produces a negative resistance to cancel the ESR of the capacitor being tested so that there is continuous series resonance with a fixed inductor. Fig. I shows the circuit diagram of the meter. The negative resistance is produced by IClb : Cx is the capacitor under test and Ll the fixed inductor. VRI enables the negative resistance to be adjusted. Rotate it until oscillation stops: the ESR value can then be read from a scale fixed to VRI.

When there is no negative resistance present LI and Cx
form a series resonant circuit that's damped by L 1 's resistance and Cx's ESR. This circuit will ring when energised by an impulse. ICla is used as an oscillator to produce a squarewave output at a frequency of a few Hz . This output is differentiated to produce the spikes (impulses) that energise the resonant circuit. When the capacitor's ESR and the resistance of R1 are cancelled by the negative resistance the ringing becomes a continuous oscillation. LED D1 is then on. When the oscillation is stopped by reducing the value of the negative resistance the LED goes off.

If a short-circuit capacitor is connected to the tester the LED comes on with full brightness. When the resonant circuit is oscillating the LED is illuminated on only the posi-tive-going half cycles: it therefore glows at half brightness.

ICld provides a half-supply voltage reference for IClb. Sl varies IClb's gain, changing the negative resistance to provide $0-1,0-10$ and $0-100 \Omega$ ESR ranges.

## Construction

The circuit was built on a piece of stripboard which, with a PP3 battery, fits easily into an ABS box. L1 was wound around the four pillars on the inside of the box's lid - see Fig. 2. It consists of 42 turns of 30 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire. This results in a coil with a resistance of $3 \cdot 2 \Omega$ and an inductance of $90 \mu \mathrm{H}$. A different wire gauge could be used, but its resistance plus that of RI must equal $10 \Omega$.

With the coil as specified above a $1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor in


Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the ESR meter.
position Cx produces oscillations at 70 Hz . A $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor increases the frequency to 10 kHz . When testing the circuit I connected a crystal earpiece via a 100 nF capacitor to R 19 to check for oscillation. The clicks of a square wave can be heard when VR1 is set far away from the position that stops oscillation. As the critical setting of VR1 is approached the pure sound of a low-amplitude sinewave is audible.

## Calibration

Start by using a known good $1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor with a voltage rating of at least 25 V in position Cx. Adjust VR1 until the LED goes off. Mark the scale $0 \cdot 1 \Omega$. Now add known-value resistors in series with Cx and adjust VR1 until the LED just goes off. Mark the scale with the new total resistance value. You may find it convenient to use increments of $0 \cdot 1 \Omega$ on the $1 \Omega$ range and suitably larger increments on the other two ranges.

## Interpreting the Results

Fig. 3 shows typical ESR values, based on manufacturers' data and allowing for the fact that ESR measured at 10 kHz is usually one third of that measured at 1 kHz . The ESR values with 10 V normal grade capacitors can be seen to be four times those with low-ESR 63 V types. Thus when a low-ESR type has deteriorated to the point where its ESR is the same as that of a normal electrolytic its internal heating will have quadrupled!

If you find that the measured ESR value is more than twice that shown in Fig. 3 the capacitor is past its best. ESR values for capacitors with voltage ratings other than those specified in Fig. 3 will be between the relevant lines on the graph.

## Negative Resistance with an Op Amp

When a voltage increase is applied to a negative resistance there's a current decrease, i.e. $I=-V / R$.

Two operational-amplifier configurations exhibit negative input resistance. They are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The one to use depends on the source resistance of the circuit to which it's connected. This is because the circuits use negative and positive feedback simultaneously, the source being part of the feedback potential dividers. If the proportion of

| Components list |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R1 | $6.8 \Omega$ | R8 |  | 47k | R15 | 150k |
| R2 | 1 k | R9 |  | $560 \Omega$ | R16 | 1.1k |
| R3 | 1M | R10 |  | 120k | R17 | 2k |
| R4 | 100k | R11 |  | 120k | R18 | 11k |
| R5 | 10k | R12 |  | 33k | R19 | 10k |
| R6 | 270k | R13 |  | 2.2M | R20 | 10k |
| R7 | 470k | R14 |  | 150k | All 0. | W 5\% |
| VR1 | 100k |  |  |  |  |  |
| C1 | 2.2nF | C2 | 22 | $0 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 15 \mathrm{~V}$ | C3 | 0.14 F |
| C4 | 10 nF |  |  |  |  |  |
| IC1 |  | $N$ |  |  |  | BC557 |
| Tr3 | BC547 |  |  | Red LED |  |  |
| L1 | 14 m of 30 g enamelled wire - see text 3 -pole 4-way switch |  |  |  |  |  |
| S1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ABS box, stripboard |  |  |  |  |  |  |



Fig. 2: Front panel layout.


Fig. 3: Typical ESR values, A 10 V normal grade, B 25 V normal or 10 V low-ESR grade, C 100 V normal or 25 V low-ESR grade, D 63V low-ESR grade.


Fig. 4 (left): Negative-resistance op-amp circuit when the source resistance is less than $R$.
Fig. 5 (right): Negative-resistance op-amp circuit when the source resistance is greater than $R$.
the output fed back to the non-inverting ( + ) input in Fig. 4 is too large or the stage gain in Fig. 5 is too great unwanted oscillation will occur and the circuit won't function as a negative resistance.

Conventional current notation is used in the following explanation. In Fig. 4 the values of R2 and R3 are equal. Thus when $+V$ is applied to the input the output rises to +2 V . The voltage across R is then V and its direction is such that I must flow out of the input. So the circuit's input resistance is $V /-I=-R$, which means that the input resistance is of magnitude equal to $R$ but negative in value.

The same analysis can be applied to the circuit shown in Fig. 5. Remember that these circuits will be stable only when the source resistance is as shown, and that operation as described is possible only when the operational amplifier's normal voltage and current ratings are not exceeded.

## Panasonic NVMS2B

This camcorder would play back a tape quite normally if the record tab was removed but a virgin tape would be greeted with high-pitched whistling that drowned out the sound track. In these machines the tab switch enables Q6003, which then feeds 9 V to various places including the 2SB1219 transistor Q4005 that produces the delayed 9 V record voltage. The problem was that Q 4005 was passing about 2.5 V to the record circuits even when no switching voltage was applied to it. A replacement cured the fault it's a surface-mounted device.
B.S.

## Panasonic NVMC5

This rather elderly camcorder came in with a request for an estimate for head replacement and a service. Despite the machine's apparent age the mechanism was clean and sparkling, with no signs of wear and tear. When our test ' C ' cassette was played back however we found that the output from one head was missing. As I suspected, replacement heads produced no improvement. So attention was turned to the head amplifier pack and the flexible connector from the drum to the pack. Removing and resoldering the connecting pins cured the fault completely.
B.S.

## Panasonic NVMC20

This camcorder was accused of bloody-mindedness: it would sometimes refuse a tape, just ejecting it then leaving the cassette door open! It performed beautifully on test of course, showing no inclination at all to misbehave. After a call to Panasonic a nice man called Phil assured me that a replacement mode switch would cure the problem. It's part no. VES0416 and did the trick.
B.S.

## Sony CCDF340E

The symptoms were no sound and intermittent VTR functions. Neither fault was difficult to cure. The no sound fault was cured by replacing the microphone preamplifier chip IC585. A damaged flexi board was the cause of the intermittent VTR functions (how do they get damaged?). D.C.W.

## Ferguson FC28

The fault report said "won't always switch on and, when working, won't always switch off'. I thought that this was probably a mechacon reset problem but inspection revealed nothing more than a faulty power switch (SW617). Note that with these machines the response to a selected mode, e.g. power on/off, play etc. is not always instant - a sort of "soft" response to commands is often evident (or is it me?).
D.C.W.

## JVC GR65E

No autofocus was the problem with this one. The motor assembly proved to be at fault, with a jammed gearbox. The initial drive from the motor is via a belt that's connected to a reduction gear (a sealed unit). It was this item that had failed, possibly because the slipping clutch assembly, which
is the final part of the autofocus drive to the lens assembly, was locked tight and was unable to slip when required. Manual focus adjustment probably caused the gearbox failure.
D.C.W.

## Sony CCDF450E

I suppose we all get caught out sometimes by diving in too deeply. The symptom with this machine was intermittent playback functions, including fast-forward/rewind search. Recording was o.k. After some abortive in-depth investigations I discovered that the power switch (camera/player) made intermittently poor contact in the play mode. A replacement put matters right.
D.C.W.

## Panasonic NVMS 1

Sound recording via the microphone was o.k. when listened to using the headphones but there was no output from the A/V out connector (the picture was o.k.). Playback sound was also available only via the headphone socket. The cause of the trouble was that the 2SD1328 audio mute transistor Q4013 was short-circuit emitter-to-base. Note that it's mounted at the opposite end of the main PCB to most of the audio circuitry.
D.C.W.

## JVC GRA30E

Two of these came in at the same time from the same source with the same fault - no functions, with the emergency mode indication E01 in the viewfinder. This means that the 8 V supply is missing. Amongst other uses it appears as the r.f. unit supply at the AV output socket. The cause of the trouble was a faulty AV lead, which had been tried with both cameras. Unfortunately there's no fuse in this line to protect the main d.c.-d.c. converter. So two converters had to be replaced, which was a costly exercise. In view of the fact that it's an easily produced fault it is surprising that better protection wasn't incorporated.
D.C.W.

## Sony CCDV88E

This machine would shut down intermittently in the play mode and just sit there looking at you. Careful inspection at the instant of failure revealed that just before the shut down occurred the capstan motor's speed rapidly increased. We decided to investigate the capstan FG circuit and found a dry-joint at pin 16 of IC503, the capstan FG waveform shaper.
D.C.W.

## Fugix M890

This machine is a clone of the Sony CCDTR75E. The problem was an intermittent trigger button - the subtrigger button worked all right. Unfortunately the trigger button switch is available only as part of the complete control assembly, which includes wide/telephoto toggle, play, record, pause etc. and all the operation keys. A replacement is costly, especially when only one key function has failed.
D.C.W.

# TV Fault Finding 

Reports from Philip Blundell, AMIEIE, Richard Newman, Paul Hardy, Chris Watton, John Edwards, Michael Dranfield, Brian Storm, Steve Cannon, Alfred Damp, and Geoff Fardon

Philips K40 Chassis

This set had no sound or vision - there was just a blank raster. Tracing back through the signal path with a signal generator I obtained activity when injecting a signal at the output of the TDA254I i.f. chip but none when applying the signal to its inputs. The voltages at the input pins were different: they should both be at 5.2 V but pin 16 was low, with a $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ leak to chassis. The other input (pin 1) didn't have this leak. Disconnecting pin 16 proved that there was internal leakage via the chip so a replacement was fitted - to no effect! What else that could cause a low resistance from pin 16 to chassis was connected to the chip? Nothing seemed to be likely until 1 looked in the SGS data book and found that pins 2 and 15 have decoupling capacitors connected to them. The one connected to pin 15, C2115 $(22 \mathrm{nF})$, was leaky.
P.B.

## Philips CP90 Chassis

When checking this chassis for dry-joints one place where you might not think to look is in the i.f./sync can. Dryjoints can occur in this can, especially around the TDA 2579 chip.
P.B.

## Philips NC3 Chassis

There was a blank raster though sound was present and the on-screen display worked. A check on the waveforms around the TDA 3565 colour decoder chip showed that the sandcastle pulses were present and a video signal went in, but nothing came out. Voltage checks then showed that the brightness control pin was high -2.5 V instead of 0.6 V at the maximum brightness setting. A new TDA 3565 was required.
P.B.

## Philips 2A Chassis

The power supply was dead. Checks showed that there was 0.6 V at the base of the BUT11AF chopper transistor and over 300 V at its collector, but the circuit wouldn't oscillate. As there were no shorts across the secondary windings of the chopper transformer attention was turned to the snubber network connected to the primary winding. D6663 (1N5062) was found to be leaky - $150 \Omega$ both ways.
P.B.

## Philips G110 Chassis

When the power supply in this chassis breaks down Philips supplies a complete repair kit. You must replace all the parts supplied. I recently had one of these sets come in from another dealer who said that although he'd fitted the power supply kit the set would shut down after an hour or so, just as though it had been switched off. Sure enough the set did exactly as he said. When I checked the 140 V supply 1 found that there was virtually no voltage here while the supply from the mains bridge rectifier was down to about 20 V (instead of 280 V ). Two of the bridge rectifier diodes were going open-circuit when warm. I replaced all four and had no further problems after that. When I spoke to the dealer he
said that he hadn't bothered to change the diodes, although they are part of the kit, because they had measured all right. A lot of frustration could have been avoided if he had heeded the manufacturer's instruction to change all the parts in the kit.
R.N.

## Questar CTR14

This set was dead. I'd seen it about a year before for a similar fault and had had to replace R652 ( $390 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) which had been open-circuit. It again had to be replaced, but this time the STK 7348 went short-circuit at switch on, taking with it R651 (27 $2,2 \mathrm{~W}$ ), R653 (1-5 2 , 2W) and C655. Everything was fine when these items had been replaced. P.H.

## Contec KT8135

There was no luminance. The cause was a poor plug and socket connection for the luminance drive on the c.r.t. base panel.
P.H.

## Hitachi C14P218 (G7P Mk 2 Chassis)

This 14 in. portable was stuck in standby. A check at the collector of the BUT11AF chopper transistor Q903 produced a reading of some 300 V , so obviously the mains bridge rectifier diodes etc. were o.k. Two series-connected $82 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistors, R 902 and R 903 , provide a start-up bias for Q903. They are at the front, right-hand corner of the chassis and were both open-circuit.

Another fault you get with these sets is that the screen goes very bright then the set trips. The cause is that a capacitor near the line output transformer becomes dry-jointed because a part of the cabinet back pushes against it, eventually forcing it from the panel. The capacitor concerned is C711 ( $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ), which is the reservoir capacitor for the h.t. supply to the RGB cutput transistors. I cut the offending portion off the inside of the cabinet back - it doesn't seem to have any purpose.
C.W.

## Matsui MB10

"Dead on mains" the report said and a quick check with the bench 12 V power supply proved that the set was otherwise o.k. So off with the back and into the chopper power supply on the left-hand side. The primary supply was present but there was no oscillation. I noticed a capacitor on the print side of the panel: it was not shown in the circuit diagram and was connected between the h.t. line and the collector of the chopper transistor. A check showed that it was shortcircuit, thus preventing any current flowing in the chopper transformer's primary winding. A replacement restored mains operation - it's a $4,700 \mathrm{pF}$ capacitor with a voltage rating of 2 kV .
C.W.

## Toshiba T211T4BA

When I switched this set on it seemed to work all right but as soon as I changed channel it began to search tune down-


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wards. If the down button at the front of the set was pressed the search would stop for a short time then start again. A new 47C232AN4984 tuning chip (ICAII) cured the trouble.
C.W.

## Finlux 3029 (3000 Chassis)

This monster set suffered from what could be described as "line spacing": the top quarter of the picture was o.k., but towards the bottom of the screen every other line appeared to be blanked out. A fault in the field output stage seemed likely so several components in this area, including the field output chip, were replaced. All to no avail until we came to CK8 ( $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 63 \mathrm{~V}$ ). Replacing this cured the problem. It's a small, white square-shaped capacitor positioned beneath the field output chip's heatsink.
J.E.

## Hitachi CPT2188 (Salora K Chassis)

This set was dead. There was a distorted waveform at the base of the line output transistor and an almost identical waveform at its collector - a check showed that its basecollector resistance was only $85 \Omega$. We didn't have the original type ( 2 SD1577) in stock so we decided to try a BU508A instead. The 2SD1577 has an insulated body, so its heatsink is soldered to chassis. The BU508A was therefore mounted on the heatsink using a conventional mica insulator, spacer and bolt system. A long test run showed that the transistor ran cool.
J.E.

## Tashiko 20F862

When this set was switched on the standby indicator flickered briefly but the set otherwise remained dead. The cause of the fault turned out to be C701 ( $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 450 \mathrm{~V}$ ). For good measure we replaced $\mathrm{C} 506(47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 450 \mathrm{~V})$ as well.
J.E.

## Salora K Chassis

For tripping out when changing channel, also the field output chip IC501 having a very short life, check choke L601 in the line output stage. In the set we had in L601 looked as if it had got very hot and clearly had shorted turns.
M.Dr

## Hitachi CPT2656

This set wore a Finlandia badge but we were able to match it up with one of our Hitachi service manuals. Over a period of eight months it has been back to the workshop on several occasions, but each time it failed to display any fault during a soak test. The customer's complaint was that the bottom part of the picture was missing. Despite replacing many components in the field output stage the set kept on coming back. It was difficult to know what to do as we'd not seen the fault. On its latest visit however the fault put in an appearance: after about an hour the bottom of the picture began to cramp up while the top widened out. By feeding a crosshatch pattern signal to the set we could see that the actual symptom was change in linearity. A slight touch on preset RTB573 (470) cured the fault. So a replacement linearity potentiometer was fitted and the set was handed back to the customer with confidence.
M.Dr.

## Panasonic TX21T1 (Alpha 2 Chassis)

The complaint was about an intermittent whistling noise when the set was first switched on. Sure enough a high-
pitched whistle came from the set when I switched it on, stopping as soon as I touched it and then not to return until next day. In fact any attempt to touch the set cured the fault until next day. Many days later the cause of the fault was traced to a dry-joint on the line output transformer's overwinding - the point that provides sync between the line output stage and the chopper power supply.
B.S.

## Ferguson TX10 Chassis

We don't get many TXIOs in these days. This one gave us some real grief however. It had been in for almost a fortnight, running on soak test, and the fault complained about was just beginning to put in an appearance. At switch on first thing in the morning there was field bounce. For only five minutes mind, then it would work perfectly for the rest of the day. Even switching it off and leaving it for a good few hours didn't seem to make any difference: the set would fault only between 9 and 9.15 a.m. We'd tried freezer of course, but this didn't give us any definite clues. Then one morning the fault showed up for a lot longer than usual and also developed further: there was intermittent field rolling and the line sync jittered. Well it was now or never, so on to the bench it came.

We replaced the TDA2578A timebase generator chip IC742 as this was the obvious thing to do. It didn`t help, but at least the fault was still present. As both the line and field sync were affected I suspected that the cause of the fault was around the input to the sync separator. A scope check was made on the video waveform at pin 5 of the TDA2578A chip and at first glance it looked fine. This point is biased by R759 and R753, which are close-tolerance components and have given us trouble before. But replacements made no difference. Upon closer examination of the video waveform the line sync pulses did seem to be rather thin, if you know what I mean, so maybe there was a fault earlier in the video processing. This seemed a bit of a long shot. I couldn't compare waveforms, and the one we had wasn't far removed from the oscillogram shown in the manual. But to prove a point I found a signals panel and transplanted it into the set. Sync lock was now perfect and, looking at the scope, the pulses had certainly put on weight. The original panel was refitted and scope checks showed that the video waveform was faulty right back to the i.f. panel. When this was swapped over the fault had cleared. Now the set was on rental, so I contemplated leaving it with the good panel installed. But as there was only half an hour till lunch time I thought that I might as well continue. I'd been at it all morning, and might as well get some satisfaction by tracing the cause of the problem to component level - and anyway I wasn't going to cheat!

I thought it was only going to be the i.f. chip. How wrong can you be? Replacing it made no difference, but use of freezer and the heat gun now made the fault come and go. Its cause was finally traced to the electrolytic capacitor C35 ( $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ) in the a.g.c. feed to the SL1432 i.f. preamplifier chip. A replacement sent me off to lunch with a beaming smile.
S.C.

## Panasonic TC21R1 (Alpha 2 Chassis)

The reported fault was no picture. E.H.T. was present but there was no raster. When the first anode voltage was increased I saw that the cause of the symptoms was field collapse. A new field output chip made no difference and its supply was intact. Now the first thing to suspect with a faulty Panasonic set, once the obvious items have been ruled


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out, is a defective 10 nF ceramic capacitor. I looked at the circuit diagram and the first one I came across was C403, which is connected to pin 2 of the TDA2579 timebase generator chip. A check showed that it read just over $100 \Omega$ in circuit. When a new one had been fitted we had full field scanning. If I had a pound for every 10 nF ceramic capacitor l've replaced I'b be laughing.
S.C.

## Philips 2A Chassis

This set ticked quite noticeably in standby. Everything else was perfect, but the ticking wouldn't go. I was convinced that the cause of the trouble was in the power supply, and after a long and finally rewarding search the culprit turned out to be C 2690 . It's a $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 100 \mathrm{~V}$ non-polarised capacitor that's connected between the earthy side of the chopper driver transistors and the non-isolated chassis.
S.C.

## Mitsubishi CT21M1BM

The red LED was illuminated but apart from that the set wouldn't come on at all. I removed the back with some trepidation, being rather a novice when it comes to Mitsubishi sets. Fortunately the power supply looked to be reasonable and conventional. After checking the output voltages it seemed that the cause of the problem was absence of the 12 V supply. This comes from a 12 V regulator, and I soon found that there was an input to this device but no output. The standby control line acts on this regulator, and I thought I'd try my luck here.

This line leaves the power supply and goes directly to the POW pin of the microcontroller chip IC701. After probing around in this area with the meter I found that the set would kick up. Dry-joint time, it seemed. The legs of crystals are usually a favourite, whether it be a remote control unit, a Nicam panel or a microcontroller chip. Sure enough both legs of the 4 MHz crystal CF701, which is connected to pins 28 and 29 of IC701, were dry-jointed. Resoldering them provided a speedy cure, thankfully.
S.C.

## Toshiba 2512DBT

The reported fault was of whistling Nicam reception. In fact Nicam reception was pretty dire, with crackling and popping in addition to a permanent high-pitched whistle. As expected, the f.m. sound was perfect. By chance I noticed that moving the scan coil flylead or the Nicam signal leads aggravated or alleviated the problem. It transpired that the line scan current was interfering with the digital data signal going to the Nicam panel. Redressing both sets of leads completely solved the problem.
S.C.

## Grundig CUC2410 Chassis

This set was dead: the power supply would try to start, but with little success. After a cold check on all relevant resistors and fitting a new TDA4600 chopper control chip we eventually traced the cause of the fault to $\mathrm{C} 633(100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 25 V ) which was open-circuit.
A.D.

## Matsui 2890/Saisho CM2880TX

There was field collapse, the white line being very bright indeed. Had this additional factor registered with us time wouldn't have been wasted looking for a fault in the field output stage. The cause of the fault was in the video output supply, where D406 was short-circuit and the series safety resistor R440 was open-circuit.
A.D.

## Hitachi G8Q Chassis

There was an intermittent start-up fault with this set. When cold it would sometimes come on only in standby. But if the mains switch was held the set would eventually come on correctly. The cause of the fault was traced to the start-up thermistor TH902.
A.D.

## Amstrad TVR2

Several of these sets have come in either dead or intermittently dead. In just about every case the cause has been that $\mathrm{C} 1507(1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 50 \mathrm{~V})$ was either leaky or open-circuit.

An exception came in the other day. Although the job ticket said that the set was dead it wasn't the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor. The cause of the problem was that the mains relay wasn't being energised because there was no 5 V output from the power supply. In fact the fault had nothing to do with the TV side of the combination: a fuse in the VCR section had blown.
A.D.

## Supra STV1401R

This colour portable was dead. There was 350 V at the input to the STR 5412 regulator chip IC 104 but no output at pins 2 and 4. Replacing this item restored normal operation. G.F.

## Saisho CT142RX

There was an intermittent fault with this set. The picture would go very dark, with very prominent colour. It was as though the luminance delay line was open-circuit. Additional symptoms were a three-inch vertical band, predominantly red, and faint flyback lines.

We found that the tube base panel was very sensitive to being touched. The cause of the trouble was poor joints on three of the pins of the ribbon cable that goes to connector plug/socket CD803.
G.F.

## Hinari TVA1

After the initial start-up this set was very intermittent/temperamental about coming out of standby. Just about everything in the power supply seemed to be sensitive to heating/freezing, including the relay. The fault cleared when a new STR 5412 chip was fitted.
G.F.

## Matsui CTV2055

There was an over-bright picture with flyback lines. When the first anode and brightness settings were reduced there was shading from the left-hand side of the screen. We found that the h.t. supply to the RGB output stages was low at only 113 V instead of 190 V . The reservoir capacitor $\mathrm{C} 120(4 \cdot 7 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 350 V ) was open-circuit. Incidentally this set is a Fidelity clone.
G.F.

## Bush 2020

This set suffered from an intermittent fault. There would sometimes be a blank screen, but on occasions this would have a thin red line across it, as if there was field collapse. The fault was so intermittent that it could take anything from minutes to weeks for it to recur. We found that touching the board almost anywhere when the set was warm would produce the fault, which was thus very difficult to localise. Eventually we found a bad joint on C307, which is partially hidden by a plastic support strut.
G.F.

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline AN3215k \& \& AN7163 \& 92.95 \& LA3210 \& 50.95 \& M 83730 \& \& \& \& \& c250 \& \& \& \& \& <br>
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\hline 3320K \& 84.95 \& AN7169 \& 82.95 \& LA3376 \& 92.20 \& \& \& STK5422 \& ¢6.50 \& ta7299P \& $\underline{62} 95$ \& TEA1060 \& 520 \& \& \& <br>
\hline 3331K \& ¢5.75 \& AN7171K \& 84.75 \& La4108 \& 92.20 \& \& \& STK5451 \& 55.30 \& ta ${ }^{\text {a }}$ 317P \& 91.50 \& TEA1061 \& \$2.20 \& \& \& PADUINGION GRE <br>
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\hline 5011 \& E3.95 \& BA5408 \& ¢2.20 \& La4t82 \& f1.95 \& STA441C \& ${ }_{6} 8.5$ \& SITK7308 \& 55.50 \& \& \& UPC1188 \& ${ }_{89}^{2.75}$ \& 2541265

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\hline AN5030 \& ${ }^{12.50}$ \& BA5 \& $\underline{2} .95$ \& 444183 \& ${ }_{5}^{51.20}$ \& STK0029 \& ¢4.75 \& STK7309 \& ع8. 30 \& TC9906BP \& 55.50 \& UPC $119 \%$ \& ${ }^{11.80}$ \& ${ }^{2 S A 1294}$ \& ${ }_{53.25}$ \& Fax.011-202 <br>
\hline ans \& ¢. \& 846208 \& ${ }^{\text {c1. }}$. 95 \& La41 \& ${ }^{1} 1.75$ \& STK0039 \& \&  \& ${ }_{68} 95$ \& \& \& UPC1230H \& $\underline{\$ 2.50}$ \& 2 SA 13 \& E3.80 \& <br>
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\hline \& $\underline{2} .20$ \& \& ¢1.95 \& LA \& \%3. 50 \& STK22 \& 56.50 \& ST \& E3.20 \& TDA \& c1. 50 \& B0138 \& 0.25 \& $2 \mathrm{SC1573}$ \& 50.50 \& PANASONNC VEH 0177. <br>
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\hline \& $\underline{1}$ \& \& \& LA \& 12.60 \& \& \& ST \& 5. 20 \& \& \& B0140 \& 0.25 \& SC19 \& E10.50 \& 00 <br>
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# The Universal Transistor 

Gene Turnbull

Even though conventional transistors have largely been ousted by integrated circuits there are more types - though fewer of each - in use than ever before. To reduce stockholdings, by both manufacturers and the service industry, research is being carried out by a Korean company, Taegu Semiconductor Inc., on a single device to replace all those in current use.

The most promising prototype has been given the development number UR1, and the aim is that it should be a workable substitute for both npn and pnp transistors in applications ranging from switch-mode power supplies to s.h.f. front-ends, taking in timebase, audio and logic switching roles. The device currently being tested has two bases, one for pnp configuration and the second for npn operation. The unused base is connected to the collector for an hFE (gain) of 40 and to the emitter for an hFE of 200, thus covering the tolerance spread of most transistors. Other characteristics of the device are Vcbo $1,400 \mathrm{~V}$, Ic 5 A and fr (typical) 14 GHz .

Production transistors will be supplied with optional mounting kits, one of which adapts the device for surface mounting where this is required. Another one consists of a TO3 bracket, for use in place of BU208 and similar power transistors. A heatsink is required for high-power applications like these, but not for use in place of devices such as $\mathrm{BC171s}$ or BFQ33s. It has been calculated that high-power applications will account for less than half of the universal transistors used so, like the mounting kit, the heatsink will be marketed as an optional extra.

Price is of paramount importance with this type of product. If world sales reach the expected level, it's hoped that a trade price of $£ 1.49$ (UK equivalent) can be achieved. At this level Taegu Semiconductor expects to attract orders from all the major setmakers as well as service and repair shops in Europe, the Far East and America. A spokesman for the company claimed that the saving in stockholding, data books and equivalents lists would run to millions of dollars annually in the USA alone.

Taegu has several similar projects on hand in its research laboratories. One is a range of semiconductor-based replacement modules for thermionic valves, using high-voltage power f.e.t. technology. Each package will be similar in shape and size to the valve it replaces, with identical plug-in base connections. KT66 and 6V6G types are expected to find a large market amongst valve amplifier enthusiasts, who will be able to get the "valve-sound" characteristic they like without the risk of breakage or the need to pay for cathode heating power in an increasingly energy-conscious world. Other advantages of solid-valve technology are greater reliability, lower price and ready availability from Korea. Many conventional valve types are scarce and diffi-
cult to obtain now. The EF86, a low-noise audio preamplifier, is a typical example. Its solid-state equivalent, the SEF86, will use spin-off technology from the UR 1 universal replacement transistor described above.

Also under development, but not yet available even in prototype form, is a universal integrated circuit. For economic and logistic reasons, it's unlikely that this will be designed as a replacement for all i.c.s - it's too difficult to price a chip that can act as either a simple quad-inverter or a VCR system-control microcomputer. If and when the device becomes available, it's most likely to be in the form of a 4 bit programmable microcontroller with a minimum of 100 pins. Not all applications will require use of all these pins, nor all four bits, especially as the CPUs used in domestic electronic gear generally work with serial control bus lines like the I2C. Here the spare pins are used to configure the i.c. as required, for control of a washing machine, a VHS VCR, an edit controller or a remote control gun for example. One of the most difficult aspects of the design of an i.c. like this is the arrangement of the lead-out pins and assigning it a type number.

Apart from the i.c. device, for which no production date has been quoted, the products are expected to come on stream at the beginning of the second quarter of next year. Distribution in the UK and Europe is likely to be in the hands of a Scandinavian company, Luflirpa, that will set up a network of agents and wholesalers.


Two questions were posed at the end of this month's puzzle. Their answers are no, it wouldn't have been a wise move to replace the troublesome Hitachi VT430 VCR's capstan motor, and yes a replacement motor would have cured the problem!

How can we reconcile these two answers? Well, no sooner had Real Technician got the capstan motor out of the machine and gone to the component storage racks to look for a replacement than coffee break time came around and Television Ted, who also knows a thing or three about video machines, joined RT for a breather. On hearing about the faulty motor Ted asked to see the body before it was committed to the dustbin. When he turned the rotor he found that it was as stiff as a rusty winch!

When the motor's rotor and stator were separated the upper bearing surfaces were found to be covered with a dry, black substance that looked like hardened grease. A fibre pencil and a rag soaked in solvent were used to remove it from the shaft, while a solvent-saturated cotton bud on a stick was used to clean it off the sleeve. The bottom bearing seemed to be unaffected but was similarly cleaned. Both bearings were given a tiny dose of lubricant.

When the serviced motor was refitted the machine's performance was transformed. All functions worked properly and the motor ran cool.

Why is it that some VCR makes and models suffer from this problem while others are completely free of it, though all of them have a barrier ring just above the upper bearing to prevent the ingress of dirt?

[^2]

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