THE LEADING UK CONSUMER ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE $-(-)$ SERVICING.VIDEO.SATELLITE.DEVELOPMENTS AUGUST $1999 £ 2.70$

# Servicing Lesco Lellys 

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 The HR monitor MOPA Ester Automated VCR soak testing Receppion problems: DIL, RSL-TV, interference in $\mathbb{N}$ outlets Fault reports TVs, VCRs, PC Monitors and Satellite
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#### Abstract

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## BBC Funding

How to finance the BBC has always been a contentious issue. It's becoming more complex as broadcasting technology advances. BBC funding during the second half of its present ten-year charter, from 2002-2006, is at present being considered by a government panel headed by economist/banker Gavyn Davies. Several possible ways of boosting the Corporation's finances, in particular to enable it to increase its digital activities and output, are under consideration. One that has hit the headlines recently is the idea of a digital TV licence supplement. It has the advantages of simplicity and a strong precedent - the colour licence fee. Perhaps however it's already too late: we are now into the digital TV era, with no such licence supplement. That apart, would it have an adverse effect on viewers' willingness to migrate to digital TV?

Evidence presented to the panel by London Economics suggests that a "digital levy" would not have an adverse effect on the public's willingness to purchase digital TV equipment - the London Economics research was commissioned by the BBC. The fact that decoders are now available free and ITDV receivers are subsidised complicates the issue. How would the public react to a digital licence fee in these circumstances? London Economics has suggested a "modest" fee of $£ 30-£ 35$ a year as a digital supplement to the current $£ 101$ licence.

The idea of such a supplement has been around for some time, and is favoured by the BBC. The commercial TV companies are, not surprisingly, firmly opposed to it. Digital broadcasters ONdigital and BSkyB have argued that a
levy would have a "devastating effect" on their ability to gain extra subscribers. This seems to be an overreaction to say the least.

During its last financial year the BBC spent seven per cent ( $£ 154 \mathrm{~m}$ ) of its $£ 2$ 2bn licence fee income on digital TV services. This includes setting up digital TV channels and developing the Corporation's internet activities. The Corporation now broadcasts BBC 1 and BBC2 in widescreen digital TV format, and has launched BBC Parliament, News 24 and BBC Online, Europe's largest internet site. This obviously has to be paid for and, if we wish to maintain the position of public service broadcasting in the spectrum of broadcasting services available, some means of doing so on a sound, lasting basis has to be found. The BBC says that it needs an additional $£ 200 \mathrm{~m}$ a year to finance its digital TV activities.

An alternative suggestion, which is also being considered by the panel, is that the BBC should fund digital TV by introducing a limited amount of advertising, possibly during non-peak hours. The panel has been impressed by the experience of German state broadcasters ARD and ZDF, which are allowed to broadcast twenty minutes of advertising every weekday before 8 pm .

Again not unexpectedly, the ITV companies have expressed disapproval of this idea. Their case was eloquently put by Richard Eyre, chief executive, ITV Network, in a recent letter to the Financial Times.

He argued that "The BBC is regarded as the prime example of public service broadcasting precisely because it carries
no advertising on any of its licence-funded services. Experience on the Continent has been that even a partial dependence on advertising begets changes in the nature of services, to enhance their earning capacity. This is why the chairman of the BBC said, in evidence to the Commons select committee on culture, media and sport in November last year, that allowing any advertising on BBC services would be "the thin edge of the wedge'". Richard Eyre went on to question whether it was "acceptable for the BBC to spend licence payers' money on new programme streams that are not universally available". Any advertising would, he suggested, "reduce the sums available for investment in programming on the commercial channels". This is debatable to say the least. Advertising revenue is not a fixed sum that has to be shared around: it's something that will expand naturally as media opportunities increase. Richard Eyre concluded that "Entirely separate funding is the sine qua non of the BBC's distinctiveness and the guarantor of the diversity of the programmes enjoyed by British viewers".

A hybrid proposal is to go for a small digital licence fee and limited advertising. This sounds like a fudge, neither one thing nor the other, and unlikely to satisfy anyone.

One thing is certain. The debate will become a lot more heated once the Davies panel's proposals are made known. But the basic fact is that you can't have something for nothing. The BBC needs extra funding to enable it to play a part in the unfolding world of digital broadcasting. A digital licence fee seems to be a sensible way of providing it.

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# All sorts of video equipment, all sorts of customers. Donald Bullock's day-to-day servicing commentary 

The work really started to pile in once Steven had gone away to Cyprus on his honeymoon. Isn't that always the way?
"Tape jammed in Mr Pullet" the shiny-faced man said as he marched in with a newish Toshiba VCR. "Can't be much wrong, because it's not very old. Just as well too, 'cos I can't afford much."

As I booked the repair in, I
heard Paul groaning in the background.

At almost the same time that Shiny-face left, a man wearing a cowman's smock came in. He was also carrying a Toshiba VCR. Identical to the first one in fact.
"I put the tape in, Mr Tarbuck, and started it playin'. Then it clicked and went off" he said. "An' I couldn't get the tape out to try another one. Take it out for me, there's a good chap. I'll pop back after market. Won't cost me anything, will it? Not for poppin' a tape out."

Paul, in the background, gave another groan.
"That's two more" he moaned.
"What's the matter?" I asked.

## The Toshiba Problem

"It's these latest Toshibas" he replied. "I did two of them last week. There's a main cam lever to do with pulling the tape out of the cassette. It's a sort of metal rod with a ball at the end. The ball snaps off, and to carry out the repair you have to take the front off, take out the cam motor and cam, then the mode switch, cassette housing and pinch wheel. These all have to be put back again and set up. It's quite a business!"

The first one to come Paul's way had him guessing. So he'd phoned Toshiba. The technical wizard at the other end said "the ball
will have snapped off the main cam lever. You'll have to fit another one."

The two I'd just taken in had the same fault. So to make Paul's life easier I slipped out and made him a strong cup of tea. And one for myself, too.

## Telly/video Thing

While he was busy with the Toshiba VCRs I noticed that Mrs Gabber had bumped into Mrs Sapp outside the open shop door. They were having a great chat, and it was Mrs Gabber I could hear.
". . . yes, we came home from our trip up town and found him dead. Absolutely dead! And he was only just three years old. The house is so quiet without 'im. He was on all the time of course . . ."
"What are you going to do about it?" asked Mrs Sapp.
"I've got him in the car. I'll get that Mr Bullock to take a look at him."

Then she came in.
"I've brought our telly/video thing for you to have a look at dear" she said. "Dead. But it can't be much. We don't hardly have him on. And another thing, he's only just over a year old. And my husband's a pensioner."

I followed her out to the car. The set was a GoldStar TV/video combination, Model KY14V30.

When she'd gone we put it on the bench. The power supply for both sections is on the TV chassis. It didn't take us long to find that the STR6707 power chip was shortcircuit. So we fitted a replacement and tried the unit: the recorder and the TV were both in standby. When we pressed the standby switch the relay shattered.

We eventually found that the cause of the trouble was a leaky
zener diode, ZD802 (6.8V). It's in the base circuit of Q1801, which smooths the DC supply to the power chip. A replacement restored normal operation.

## Sport's the Word

Our next customer, Bob Chancer, brought in a Sony TV set, Model KVM1921U (BE2A chassis). He plonked it on the counter.
"See the match?" he asked. "What did you think of that second goal? Ref wants shooting if you ask me. But - fair play - do you kno . . ."
"I don't follow golf" I cut in, tapping the top of the set. "What's wrong with this?"
"Dead as a doornail" he exclaimed. "But - fair play - it's been a good 'un. We bought him to watch the Cassius Clay fight. The one that lasted ten seconds. Waste of time. But - fair play - . . ."

I waved him out and took a look at the set. It was dead with no standby light. When I opened it up I found that there was 330 V DC across the mains bridge rectifier's reservoir capacitor but no start-up voltage at the STR54041 chopper chip IC601. We'd have found the culprit, R602 ( $270 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$ ), sooner had it not been hidden under the chopper transformer. In fact we removed the chopper transformer on spec before we found it.

Bob called back for it straight from a local football match. He was red about the gills and hoarse.
"Never had a chance, we didn't. I tell you, no team that puts a halfback in the goalie's place can expect to win. Bloody madness. But - fair play - .
"It's ready, Bob" I said. "A resistor had failed. Twenty five pounds to you."
"Twenty five pounds?" he spluttered. "But them resistor things are
only tuppence, aren't they?"
He paused for a minute, then continued.
"Nah - pair play - you got it done quickly. I'm happy at that, fair play.

And he paid up and went.

## Transport

Mr Nuggins brought his set along in a wheelbarrow. It was a Matsui 21 V 1 N , about two years old - a 21 in . stereo model. He heaved it on to the counter and stood there clawing at his rib cage. Then he stretched and danced around trying to scratch the middle of his back.
"Don't know what makes me itch so" he said.
"Visitors?" I suggested.
"On my own this week. That's why I'm missing the set. It's dead."

As he gyrated out, I took the back off and saw that its 2.5 A mains switch had died a violent death. There was a dead short across the mains input. I made for the BY127 diodes in the bridge rectifier circuit and found that they were all shortcircuit. Once replacements had been fitted there was still a short-circuit across their output. The cause turned out to be the IRFBC40 chopper transistor T60020. This MOSFET device is rated at $6 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~A}$. I fitted a BUZ91, which is rated at 8.5 A , and also replaced the UC3843 chopper control chip.

As everything now checked out all right I switched the set on. There was an excellent picture.

## Electronic Screwdriver

There was a time when few TV sets with the excessive height symptom would have got as far as the bench. But that was the problem with the next set I pulled from the pile, a Sharp DV5161H. The reason why no one had turned the height control down was that there isn't one. In fact the only potentiometer on the chassis is the set-HT one. The picture geometry adjustments are all carried out via the 'electronic screwdriver' chip. I obeyed the instructions, as follows.

At the back of the chassis there's a teletext subpanel which has two connection plugs marked TA and TB. I fitted a wire link between pins 3 and 6 of plug TB. Then I switched the set on and pressed the remote control unit's mode button. The word SERV appeared on the screen. Once the added link has been removed the set is in the service mode and you can use the remote control unit's channel up/down buttons to find the required adjustment.

I called up 'vertical amp' and used the up/down buttons next to the mode button to get the correct setting. You finally press the mode button once to exit from the service mode. All the picture adjustments grey scale, width, etc. are carried out in this way.

## A Decoder Thing

Mrs Rivetto is about seventy five. But she has false eyelashes, blue rinsed hair and an unshakeable belief that she's still eighteen.
"Hello sunshine" she trilled. "I've brought our decoder thing in. It went bang the other night and my silly old hubby says it's faulty."

It turned out to be a Ferguson SRD6. The mains fuse had gone to its maker and the BUT11AF chopper transistor was short-circuit. In addition the $2 \cdot 2 \Omega$ fusible resistor was open-circuit. Once these items had been replaced the unit worked perfectly and produced good results.

Mrs Rivetto was delighted when she called back for it. "He'll be able to bury himself in his silly old telly again" she sang. "Me, I like to get off out. No good sitting about getting old, is it?"

## Sympathy

We've seen Mr and Mrs Hudson before. He's mild and well mannered, while his wife is loud and insensitive. He looked poorly, and the Philips CP1 10 TV set he was carrying was clearly almost too much for him. I helped him ease it on to the counter.
"You shouldn't have bothered Mr Bullock" she said, "good heavens, whatever next?"
"Aren't you too well today, Mr Hudson?' I asked.
"He's all right. Just likes a bit of sympathy" she replied.

He smiled faintly and looked embarrassed. Then they departed.

The set was 'dead', but there was plenty of life in it. Checks showed that the mains bridge rectifier's output was low at only 190 V . The cause was reservoir capacitor C2656. It should have been $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ but read only $70 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. A replacement restored normal working.

When they called back for the set I carried it out to their car. He was rebuked for his "laziness".

## Authority

Mr MacPhail, an ex-military man, strode in. He's used to authority and shows it. He looked at Paul and pointed to his car.
"In the boot my boy" he said,

"bring it in will you?"
Paul looked at me, then MacPhail, then went for the set.
"On here" MacPhail said, tapping the counter. "Blasted thing's playing games with me. I'll have none of that. When I switch it on it bursts into life. Then, before I've had time to sit down, it goes off. Three nights it's done that. I want it right, or out it goes."

Once he'd departed we tried the set, an Hitachi C2114T. The EHT came up, then the set switched itself to standby. I tried it again. Same thing. Then I opened it up, expecting to find a dry-joint in the line output stage or something like that. But everything looked fine. So I adopted a more professional approach and studied the circuit diagram.

Next time I switched the set on I had an analogue voltmeter connected across its 27 V supply, which is used for the field output stage. The supply came up then decayed. I let the set cool down, upped the first anode control's setting then tried again, with one eye on the meter and the other on the screen. I was just able to detect field collapse before the set died.

In this chassis a protection circuit comes into operation when there's a short across the 27 V supply. I replaced the TA8427K field output chip IC601 and tried again. This time the set came on normally.

## TELETOPICS Interactive Satellite TV

Successful launch of the Astra 1H satellite into orbit at $19.2^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ has brought closer the start of interactive TV via satellite, using the Ku and Ka bands. The Hughes Space and Communications HS601HP satellite was launched in late June from the Cosmodrome at Baikonur, Kazakhstan. It has thirty transponders with an output power of 98.5 W in Ku band, 70W in Ka band, from travel-ling-wave amplifier tubes. Ka-band operation is to be used for broadband interactive applications, in conjunction with low-cost user terminals. There are already two names for the interactive technology - Return Channel Technology (RCT) and

Astra Return Channel System (ARCS). Interactive services are due to come into use early next year.

For interactive use a Satellite Interactive Terminal (SIT) with a small fixed dish will be required. The present plan is to make SITs with three dish sizes available: a 1.2 m dish will provide a data transmission rate of at least $2 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$, a 90 cm dish a data rate of up to $384 \mathrm{kbits} / \mathrm{sec}$ and a 60 cm dish a data rate of up to $150 \mathrm{kbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. Communication will initially be based on existing Internet Protocols (IPs), with terminals requesting a time and frequency slot for transmission "on demand". Future develop-
ments will include the use of asyn-chronous-transfer mode technology for the return channel to improve system performance.

The user return channel will be handled by SES's Network Operation Centre in Luxembourg. A number of uses are envisaged: for large and small businesses, the public sector and individual viewers. Services could include data collection and transfer between branch offices and a head office; delivery of prerecorded news feeds from remote sites; return channel services from temporary sites, for example for emergency operation; remote learning and training and many others.


Two precision video monitors in the Leader 5000 range are now available from TTi. The 5212 vectorscope and 5222 waveform monitor offer multi-channel inputs for both composite and component signals, with automatic PAL/NTSC selection. Line selection with the 5222 enables BITS, VIR and teletext lines to be observed. For further information apply to Thurlby Thandar Instruments Ltd., 2 Glebe Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7DX. Tel 01480 412 451, fax 01480450409.

## Business News

The proposed transfer of Daewoo Electronics to Samsung as part of a government-sponsored industrial rationalisation has fallen through. Samsung's car manufacturing company, which was to be transferred to Daewoo under the restructuring agreement, has been put under court receivership. Daewoo plans to sell its consumer electronics operation to foreign investors.

Thurlby Thandar Instruments (TTi) has acquired the test equipment business of Black Star from Prima Electronic Services. Black Star's range, much of which complements the current TTi range, includes TV and video test equipment, oscilloscope probes, frequency counters, function generators and precision measurement products. For further information contact Thurlby-Thandar Instruments Ltd., 2

Glebe Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7DX. Tel 01480412 451, fax 01480 450409 or check web site www.ttinst.co.uk Prima Electronics Services is to concentrate on contract manufacturing.
A.R.D. Electronics has been appointed an official distributor for Pace spares. A separate catalogue is available for these. It includes the more popular spares for analogue receivers plus full parts listings for the ONdigital and Sky Digibox models. Other Pace spares can be obtained to order. A.R.D.'s main 1999 trade catalogue has over 600 pages with comprehensive technical information and pictures to help with product identification. A.R.D. Electronics Plc is based at Shorten Brook Way, Altham Business Park, Altham, Accrington, Lancs BB5 5YL. Tel 01282683000 , fax 01282683010.

## Lead-free Soldering

An EU ban on the use of lead in solder is expected to come into effect in 2004. The PCB industry has called for a delay, and dumping of scrap electronic products in landfills to be outlawed instead.

The ITRI, formerly known as the International Tin Research Institute, has launched what is believed to be the world's first Lead-Free Soldering Technology Centre at Brunel Science Park, Uxbridge, Middx. Research into lead-free soldering is not new at the ITRI: a scientific team has been investigating alternative solutions for over a decade. The new centre is to be officially opened next month.

## Video News

A number of new products have been announced by Sony. Four are based on use of the company's Memory Stick, a recordable IC memory card designed for use with PCs and digital audio-visual equipment. They are the Cybershot DSCF55 digital still camera, which uses JPEG compression to store images in the memory. At the highest resolution, $1,600 \times 1,200$ pixels, 40 images can be stored in the 16MB stick. The same 16 MB stick can hold ten and a half minutes of movie filming with MPEG compression. The other products are a digital camcorder, Model DCRTRV10, a digital photo frame, Model PHDA55, and the DPPMS300 digital photo printer.

The Sony VCR Model SLVSE 80UX has several interesting features including a new Smart Dial Timer system and Super Trilogic Picture Control. To set the timer, a dial is turned to set the start and stop times and channel number: the sys-
tem enables up to eight different programme recordings to be made over a 24 -hour period. Those with a long memory will recall that the first Philips VCRs used a system that worked like an over-clock timer! The picture control system analyses the tape quality then adjusts the video head output for optimum picture quality.

Sony has launched its first DTT IDTV sets. The KV28DS60 and KV32DS60 are 16:9 28 and 32in. models respectively, with 100 Hz scanning, Dolby Pro-Logic and an EPG. Both can be upgraded to receive ONdigital pay-TV channels by using a PC-card module.

A new digital video recorder (DVR) developed by Replay Networks is to be distributed by Matsushita under the Panasonic label. It uses solid state and harddisk memory for storage. A DVR that works on similar principles, developed by TiVo, is being distributed by Philips.

## Satellite TV

Eutelsat and SES have come to an agreement over the use of the disputed $29^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ orbital position. Eutelsat claimed rights to the slot, but SES disputed this and launched Astra 2 A at $28.2^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$. Under the terms of the agreement SES will continue to use the BSS band ( $11.7-12.5 \mathrm{GHz}$ ) and some frequencies ( $10.7-11.2 \mathrm{GHz}$ ) in the FSS band for services and DTH broadcasting at $28 \cdot 2^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$. Eutelsat will use frequencies (11.211.7 GHz ) in the FSS band, and the telecom band ( $12 \cdot 5-12.75 \mathrm{GHz}$ ), at $28.5^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$, in particular to ensure continuation of services currently carried by the DFS Kopernikus satellite. SES will use 12.512.75 GHz at $28.2^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ for operation outside Europe. Eutelsat's W1R satellite, to be launched next year, will occupy the $28.5^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ slot. The agreement also covers mutually interference-free operation within the $\operatorname{arc} 16-21 \cdot 5^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$.

Eutelsat's Board of Signatories has given the go-ahead for the Atlantic Bird 1 satellite, which will take up position at $12.5^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ in late spring 2001. This 20 Ku -band transponder satellite will cover Europe, North Africa, the near

Middle East, North and South America.

Recent announcements from BSkyB suggest that it will sign up a million SkyDigital subscribers well before the original target date of end-October. Some 800,000 subscribers had signed up by midJune. A significant boost was given by the offer of free STBs.

By late summer the Open TV/BSkyB digital teletext service SuperText will have replaced the current analogue-based version. Viewers will have access to some 2,000 pages of news, sport, finance, weather, travel and leisure information, with page access at approximately two-five seconds instead of six to thirty.

Eurosat has launched the Manhattan Plaza, a compact stereo satellite receiver with low threshold and multilingual on-screen graphics. Features include 600 programmable TV and radio channels, dual input, DiSEqC version 1.0, machine-to-machine data transfer and auto tuning. For further information contact Eurosat Distribution Ltd., 1 Oxgate Centre, Oxgate Lane, London NW2 7JA. Tel 0181 452 6699, fax 01814526777.


This new range of products is based on the Sony Memory Stick (centre), a recordable IC memory card that holds 16 MB of data. There's a digital still camera (top left) called the Cybershoot, a digital photo frame (top right), a digital photo printer (bottom right) and a camcorder (bottom left).
Could it be the start of a post tape/disc era?

## Mobile TV

Hitachi is developing a system that enables TV signals to be transmitted via satellite to moving vehicles - for the benefit of passengers of course! The system, which will be able to provide up to 50 channels, is expected to be launched in Japan in 2002. Hitachi is establishing a consortium of companies to work on the project, including Toyota, Honda, Matsushita and NTT. A separate company will be formed, and Hitachi plans to apply for a broadcasting licence next spring. A satellite would be launched in 2001. Hitachi hopes to attract 46 m subscribers for the service by 2010.

The BBC has demonstrated a mobile TV system using digital terrestrial transmission. The main problem is that the DTT transmission standard used in the UK is not sufficiently rugged for mobile reception the bit rate has to be reduced by about 50 per cent. In addition, because vehicle aerials are mounted at a relatively low level, typically 2 m , either higher-power or more transmitters would be needed. The BBC feels that mobile reception could be introduced when UHF spectrum space becomes available following the move from analogue to digital TV.

## Internet Offers

BSkyB has launched Sky Now, a free internet service that offers e-mail, a hub for on-line services and content from Sky News and Sky Sports. A PC is required for access.

BBC Worldwide's web service beeb.com has formed an alliance with ScottishTelecom, which owns Demon Internet, to provide a free internet access service, 'freebeeb.net', with unlimited internet access, free e-mail accounts and free webspace for personal websites. The package works with PC or MAC computers.


For years we've grumbled about other businesses getting involved in ours, about garages and supermarkets and so on selling audio and video products. But it's a fact of life that we just have to accept. We can still gain some advantage. The small repair business can make a bit of cash from repairs that Tesco and the like cannot do. After all, these items do go wrong. And forty quid from a repair is as good as forty quid from a sale.
Most of the sets sold in these outlets are of Far Eastern origin. They are generally quite simple to repair, as they use mainly lowish technology. Most have only simple text and mono sound. Fortunately they are simple to operate and don't have loads of features that viewers never use. They present a few problems for us, but then that's why we are here, isn't it? You find the sets riddled with poor solder joints, particularly on subpanels. These cause simple failures.
One popular set is the Amstrad-badged PT9601 chassis. This article takes a look at the circuitry used in the chassis and some of the faults that can be encountered. The 28in. version is similar but has a different panel layout.

## The Power Supply

We'll start with the power supply, see Fig. 1, as this has to work before anything else will. The circuit is of a well-known type, being based on a TDA4605 chopper control chip (IC1) and a FET chopper transistor (Q1). Features of the IC include soft start, a supply voltage level detector and burst operation during an overload condition.
A start-up supply for IC 1 is provided by $\mathrm{R} 2, \mathrm{D} 8$ and C 11 . The running supply is produced by D6 with C11. Once this supply has been established, regulation is provided by feedback from pin 3 of the transformer to pin 1 of the IC via R9, D7, R12, ZD1 and P1, with C12 for smoothing. The output pulses at pin 5 of the IC drive the chopper transistor Q1: P1 adjusts the drive pulse width and thus sets up the output voltages. These are 115 V $(+\mathrm{B}), 33 \mathrm{~V}(+\mathrm{D}), 16 \mathrm{~V}(+\mathrm{E}), 12 \mathrm{~V}(+\mathrm{A}), 8 \mathrm{~V}(+\mathrm{C}), 5 \mathrm{~V}(+\mathrm{F})$ and $12 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~V}(+\mathrm{G})$.
The standby switching voltage comes from pin 41 of
the microcontroller chip. It's applied to the base of Q20, which controls the voltage at pin 1 of the LM317 regulator chip IC3.
When Q20 is switched on, there is no 12 V supply.
The chopper FET fitted is type STH5N80. We've not seen it listed anywhere. A BUK454 is a suitable replacement.

## The Line Timebase

The line driver and output stages are conventional. An EW diode modulator is included in the 28 in . version. Line drive is generated by a TDA8362 chip, which in addition to incorporating the timebase generator stages includes the IF strip and the colour decoder circuitry. The line drive output is at pin 37.
Various voltages are generated in the line output stage, as follows: EHT, focus, first anode (screen), CRT heater, $180 \mathrm{~V}(+\mathrm{M})$ for the RGB output stages and 26 V $(+$ K) for the field output chip. Feedback pulses for the TDA8362 and microcontroller chips are derived from pin 3 of the line output transformer (smaller screen version). In addition, a voltage for the beam limiter circuit is derived from the earthy end of the transformer's EHT section.
The line output transistor is type BUH515D or BU2508D in smaller-screen sets, type BUH515 or BU2508A in the 28 in . model.

## Field Output Stage

Smaller screen sets use a TDA3653B field output chip while the 28 in . version uses a TDA3654. The field drive comes from pin 43 of the TDA8362 chip. The field ramp is generated at pin 42 of this chip, while pin 41 is used for linearity feedback.

## RGB Drive

The RGB output stage arrangement, on the tube base panel, also varies with tube size. In the basic chassis a TDA6103Q chip, IC201, provides the tube's RGB drives at pins 9,8 and 7 respectively. There are $82 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, 0.5 W feedback resistors between the IC's input and output pins. The 180 V supply is fed to pin 6 of the chip via


R213 ( $47 \Omega$ ), with C206 ( $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 250 \mathrm{~V}$ ) for smoothing. Potential divider R211 ( $220 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ )/R212 ( $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) provides a supply for pin 5 of the chip - this is smoothed by C205 ( $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ).
The 28in. version uses discrete-component cascode output stages - a JC547A/BF869 pair of transistors in each case.

## Audio Output

The remaining power circuit is the audio output stage. In mono only models a TDA7056A chip is used. It requires a 12 V supply at pin 2 . Stereo models have a TDA7507A audio output chip. This has the 12 V input at pin 4.

## The Jungle Chip

The IF strip, the luminance and chrominance signal processing and the timebase generator stages are all contained within the TDA8362 jungle chip. There is only one adjustment, for the vision demodulator. Chroma processing is carried out in conjunction with a TDA4665 $64 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ delay line chip. The jungle chip also carries out internal/external signal switching - for scart sockets and teletext. Table 1 provides pin-connection details.

## The Microcontroller Chip

Simple sets use a CTV322 microcontroller chip, stereo sets a CTV352. It controls the analogue voltages for viewer adjustments, internal/external switching, chan-
nel tuning (voltage synthesis) and remote-control operation. An $\mathrm{I}^{2} \mathrm{C}$ data bus provides links to the memory chip, the teletext circuit and, with stereo sets, the Nicam subpanel.
Pin 1 provides a pulse-width modulated output for channel tuning. The pulses are fed to the base of Q301, whose collector is linked to the 33 V supply. This arrangement controls the charge developed by C302, i.e. the varicap tuning voltage. Filtering is provided by R305/6 and C303.
Pins 2-5 are the volume, brightness, saturation (colour) and contrast control outputs.
Pins 13-20 are used for on-board control keys.
Pins 22-24 provide RGB outputs for on-screen displays. These are buffered by Q304-6 then fed to pins 1820 of the TDA8362 chip.
Pins 31 and 32 are connected to a 10 MHz crystal, which is often dry-jointed.
Pin 35 is for the remote-control input.
Pins 39 and 40 are the $\mathrm{I}^{2} \mathrm{C}$ bus connections SDA and SCL. Connection is via the overload protection resistors R338 and R339.
Pin 41 provides standby/on control. The output goes to Q20 in the power supply.
Pin 42 is connected to the 5 V supply.

## Teletext

The simple text circuit uses a single SAA5254P chip, IC45I. Pins 24 and 25 (SCL and SDA) are connected to

Fig. 1: The chopper power supply circuit used in Amstradbadged PT9601 sets, which have been sold in Tesco stores.
the $\mathrm{I}^{2} \mathrm{C}$ bus for mode and page selection instructions. The video input is at pin 8, via an AV/TV switching circuit and an emitter-follower (Q451-3). Pins 1 and 10 are connected to the 5 V line. The 27 MHz crystal is connected to pin 3. RGB outputs appear at pins 15-17, with a fast-blanking output at pin 19 .

## Audio Demodulation and Processing

In mono sets the demodulated audio signal appears at pin 50 of the TDA 8362 chip. Tuning is set by a 6 MHz filter at pins 5 and 7. With stereo sets there's a separate Nicam board which receives its input from the tuner

## Table 1: Jungle chip (TDA8362) pin connections.

| Pin | Use |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Decoupling |
| 2-3 | Video demodulator coil |
| 4 | Video signal ident output |
| 5 | 6 MHz sound/volume control DC input |
| 6 | Audio switching |
| 7 | Output to 6 MHz filters |
| 8 | Decoupling |
| 9 | Chassis |
| 10 | Supply voltage |
| 11 | Chassis |
| 12 | Decoupling |
| 13 | Off-air composite video input to switch |
| 14 | Luminance delay peaking |
| 15 | External composite video input to switch |
| 16 | Input to chroma switch |
| 17 | Brightness control input |
| 18 | R output |
| 19 | G output |
| 20 | B output |
| 21 | RGB switching |
| 22 | $R$ input |
| 23 | G input |
| 24 | $B$ input |
| 25 | Contrast control input |
| 26 | Colour control input |
| 27 | Hue control input |
| 28 | $B-Y$ input from chroma delay chip |
| 29 | $R-Y$ input from chroma delay chip |
| 30 | R - Y output to chroma delay chip |
| 31 | B - Y output to chroma delay chip |
| 32 | Crystal oscillator output |
| 33 | Filter for crystal oscillator PLL |
| 34 | Crystal 1 |
| 35 | Crystal 2 |
| 36 | Start supply |
| 37 | Line drive output |
| 38 | Line flyback pulse input |
| 39 | Filter for line PLL 2 |
| 40 | Filter for line PLL 1 |
| 41 | Field linearity feedback |
| 42 | Field ramp generator components |
| 43 | Field drive output |
| 44 | AFC output |
| 45-6 | Input to IF amplifier |
| 47 | AGC output |
| 48 | AGC reservoir capacitor |
| 49 | Tuner adjust (to AGC circuit) |
| 50 | Audio output |
| 51 | Decoupling |
| 52 | Decoupling |

unit. There are three chips on this board, a TDA3845 IF amplifier/demodulator, an SAA7283 Nicam decoder and a TDA8425 for stereo switching.

## Dry-joints

The Nicam subpanel suffers from dry-joints. Symptoms can be no sound, low sound or one channel intermittent. The problems usually occur at the wire links, and as usual will show up when the joints are heated (they splatter) though they look OK. They must be cleaned and resoldered.
Dry-joints tend to be present at all the crystals used in the chassis. I assume that they get tarnished during storage, with the result that the solder doesn't flow correctly.

## The Cabinet

The back cover can be extremely tedious. Don't feel too bad if it takes four or five goes to get it back on, as it slots on to the PCB and into the front half of the set. It's best to place the set on its face and lower the cover on to it. With 28 in. sets the front is so springy when the back is off that we find it best to place something beneath the tube, for fear that the set will snap in two!
To withdraw the chassis you will have to unsolder the lead from the tube's Aquadag earthing band to either the tuner or the can over the IF circuit. Remember to put it back.
When refitting the chassis. make sure that leads to the front panel don't get trapped in the plastic slots, as you won't be able to get the back on.
When the set is powered it will be in standby. To switch it on, press a remote-control unit number button or one of the channel up/down buttons on the set. If no signal is received, the set will revert to standby after five minutes.

## Fault Notes

Dry-joints at the chopper transformer TRI are the usual cause when you find that the set is dead with the chopper FET Q1 short-circuit. Always replace the TDA4605 control chip as well when QI has failed.
If there's no start up check R2 ( $68 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) and R22 ( $0.22 \Omega$ ) in the power supply.
Check for dry-joints at L20 if there is no supply to the line output stage.
For no results, check the voltage at pin 41 of the microcontroller chip IC301. If it remains high (standby) when the channel-change buttons are pressed, proceed as follows. Short the base of Q20 to chassis. This should produce the 12 V supply. Then check for 5 V at pin 42 of IC301. If this supply is missing, check the 5 V regulator IC2 and R22 ( $0 \cdot 22 \Omega$ ). If the 12 V and 5 V supplies are OK, check for the 10 MHz clock signal at pins 31 and 32 of IC301: if this signal is missing, resolder the crystal. If the 10 MHz signal is OK, check at pins 39 and 40 (SDA/SCL). If either is low, the memory chip may have failed. Suspect IC301 if these checks are all OK.
In the event of no picture with the EHT OK, check for dry-joints in the text area of the PCB. Also check the 27 MHz crystal, which may be intermittent.
The line driver transformer could be faulty if the line output transistor is short-circuit. Check its leadouts. Also check the line output stage tuning capacitor C607 $(7.2 \mathrm{nF}, 1.6 \mathrm{kV})$ in smaller-screen sets.
For intermittent spots on the picture, check whether Cl is dry-jointed.
Intermittent line tear can be caused by faulty connections to the line driver transformer. Remove the transformer and resolder its leadouts.
For tuning drift check ZD2 and R25 (12k $\Omega$ ).

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# Satellite Notebook 

Reporis from Christopher Holland Hugh Cocks
Colin J. Guy and Pete Haylor

## Digibox: reception on only some channels

The owner of a fairly recently installed Sky digibox rang to say that he was getting the message "no satellite signal being received" on some channels, others being OK. The ones he particularly mentioned as being absent were the BBC and Discovery channels. He confirmed that when 501 (Sky News) and 513 (CNN) were selected via the electronic programme guide they were received.

My initial conclusion was that the LNB was faulty, as the polarisation is horizontal with all the BBC programmes while vertical polarisation is used for Sky News and CNN. This fault, reception failure with one polarisation, is of course common with analogue transmissions. But changing the LNB made no difference. I then checked at the digibox end and found that the output went to 18 V (for horizontal polarisation) when 101 (BBC1) was selected via the remote control unit. The no-signal message was still there however.

The cable was the one originally used for the analogue installation. It went to the dish via an involved route through the loft. When a new length of cable was temporarily run from the dish to the receiver via the sitting room window the horizontal channels immediately appeared. So there was a cable problem.

The owner wanted the new cable taken via a similar route through the loft. While we were installing it we came across the source of the trouble, a pair of Belling-Lee male and female connectors. Neither connector had the inner conductor
of the cable soldered to it. Loss of the horizontally-polarised signals was clearly because some of the higher voltage was dropped across the connectors.

At some stage we may come across the opposite fault, failure to receive the vertically-polarised channels. Theoretically the BBC channels would be received, but since the receiver's default frequency is a vertical channel it might not lock on to anything unless the default frequency is altered to a horizontal channel in the installation menu. C.H.

## Pace SS9200 Series <br> Receivers

During the past few weeks we've had several of these receivers, including the MRD920 MAC version, that according to their owners suffered from "tuning to the wrong station". A tap on the cabinet would restore results temporarily.

In each case we found that soldered joints between the chopper transformer and the PCB had worked loose. The first joint to suffer is on the low-voltage side of the transformer, next to the edge of the PCB. This connection provides the tuning voltage. When the supply is removed, the tuner will go to the bottom of its tuning range. The audio tuning supply will not be present either - the result of this is hissing and some weak sound. Channel changing doesn’t make any difference, apart from polarisation change.

It's taken several years for this condition to show up. It must be the result of heat from the transformer over the long term. H.C.

## Nokia 9600: no sound

A customer who subscribed to the Norwegian TV International channel via Intelsat 707 at $1^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$ complained that the sound was very weak. Analogue satellite channels received from Astra via a separate dish and receiver were fine.

The solution to the problem was simple. Nokia 9200/9600 series satellite receivers have a volume control on the remote control unit. The customer had inadvertently turned this down. When the TV set's volume control setting was increased there was very little difference, as very little sound was reaching the set.

Pace analogue receivers have a similar control. We make a habit of warning customers about this: it's good practice to keep the satellite receiver's volume control at around three quarters up, as indicated by the on-screen volume-bar display, then use the TV set's volume control. H.C.

## BT SVS300

I get quite a few of these disgusting Chinese-made receivers in for repair, probably because no one else will touch them. Most repairs are confined to power supply refurbishment, or replacing various electrolytics in the video stages or the decoder.

This one had a different fault however: when switched on from standby it went off almost immediately. It didn't take long to discover that the 12 V supply was missing, because the regulator transistor Q807 had no base bias. R842 ( $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) was then found to be opencircuit. It was burried under a pile
of carbonised hot-melt glue that was intended as support for Q807. C.J.G.

## BT SVS250/260/Matsui OP10

Here's my experience with these receivers to date. The number one complaint is that when the receiver has been in a "TV cabinet" for a few months its decoder section starts to play up, switching between scrambled and clear. This is because the electrolytic capacitors in the decoder have dried out. The best solution is to fit a reliability kit from one of the suppliers that advertise in Television. After doing this, don't refit the receiver in the enclosed cabinet: give it some fresh air.

You can copy from one of these receivers to another one provided it's the same model. The procedure is as follows - do it carefully. Connect both receivers to the mains supply, but don't switch on yet. Connect a 21 -pin scart lead between the receivers. Switch the mains supplies on and put both
receivers in standby.
The receiver you copy from is referred to as the master, the other one the slave. Turn the slave receiver so that its front panel is shielded from the master receiver so that when the remote control is pointed at the master receiver the slave receiver can't respond.
There's a recessed button called "download" on the remote control unit. Place the remote control unit against the master receiver's sensor window and press download, using a pen or similar pointed tool.

The master receiver will start to flash the three horizontal bars "- -- ", while the slave flashes "-".

When downloading is complete, the master receiver flashes "end" and the slave receiver has the normal standby "-". Switch both receivers off and remove the scart lead. They will now have the same programme information.

These models will all work with a Philips CTU916 twin-card D2-
MAC decoder, but have to be connected via a modified lead. Obtain a lead with a scart plug at one end
and three phono plugs, connected to pins 20,2,6 and 4, at the other. 20 is video, 2 audio, 6 audio and 4 earth. Connect the phono plugs to the satellite receiver and the scart plug to the Philips D2-MAC decoder's AUXI socket. Connect a standard 9-pin scart-to-scart lead between the TV set being used and the Philips D2-MAC decoder's AUX2 socket. Select "Flat B/B" at the back of the decoder (usually by inserting a phono plug in a socket at the back) and you should have a good, clear picture.
Model SVS300: This model has a dedicated decoder socket, but you will still have to modify the scart lead at the satellite receiver end. Mark this end and remove pin 12. Carefully remove pin 19 and fit it in the hole vacated by pin 12 . Reassemble the scart plug and fit it to the satellite receiver, with the other end of the lead to the D2MAC decoder.

In use with a Philips D2-MAC decoder, when changing channels press "AV" until the picture appears. P.H.

## Cable TV News

The latest ITC report reveals that cable TV take-up has risen to 24.5 per cent of homes past, the highest level ever (the previous year's take-up was 22.4 per cent). Take-up has risen during each of the previous six quarters. On April 1st cable TV services were available to 12.15 m homes: 4.24 m took TV and/or telephony services. But subscriptions are down, at an average of $£ 23.87$ a month, from $£ 24.29$ in the previous year. Viewers seem to be taking smaller packages, with fewer premium channels. As a result the pay/basic ratio continued to decline to 129 per cent, the lowest since 1992. This may also represent a migration to pay-per-view instead of monthly subscription to premium channels.

Kingston Vision (Hull) is testing an interactive TV service using asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) technology, which makes use of ordinary telephone lines. The trial, involving sixty of the company's employees, includes video-ondemand, home shopping and internet access.

NTL has announced business plans for its digital cable TV service - initial trials started in June, with a full commercial trial during July/August. The company expects to have 250,000 subscribers taking a low-cost, bundled service (TV, high-speed internet, interactive services and telephony) by mid-2000. NTL has set a target of 60 per cent total take-up in its franchise areas by 2003, with a high proportion of digital subscribers. The company is working with Real Media to create a broadband interactive advertising service for digital TV.

CWC, the UK's largest cable operator, is offering viewers in Manchester and the north west 130 digital channels, telephony and an on-line package for $£ 9.98$ a month, considerably undercutting BSkyB's entry-level digital package.

Within a matter of weeks British Telecommunications is expected to launch a multimedia service, including video and fast internet access, using ADSL technology over ordinary domestic telephone lines. The company has been testing the technology at a number of sites in West London since 1994.


## Satellite workshop



## Amstrad SRD5 20

Barry, an electrician, has a rather cavalier attitude towards safety and a somewhat simplified view of scientific matters. His Amstrad receiver appeared to be well cooked.
"You've had this in the oven!" I declared.
"Nah. But I keep 'im covered up all right. Heat needs oxygen t' burn, and I ain't having none o' that."

I refrained from pursuing this subject and told him to leave his receiver with me. Barry toddled off to replace Mrs Jenkins' fuse. He makes his own, by cutting fourinch nails into pieces.
"My fuses is cheap an' 'em never melt"" he once pointed out to me. Well, it was logical. While I was thinking about it, I took the top off his receiver's mains plug, removed the roll of aluminium foil and, for my own peace of mind, fitted a 3 A fuse.

The receiver's right channel audio output was distorted. The RF audio output was as well, since the left- and right-channel signals are mixed before being sent to the modulator.

It took me almost an hour to
find the cause of the fault. R89 ( $15 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ), which is connected to TR21 behind the sync separator board, was open-circuit and hidden under black glue.

## BT SVS300

The note attached to this British Telecom badged receiver said "dead". On inspection I found that some idiot had replaced the $4.7 \Omega$ and two $2.2 \Omega$ fusible fuses with $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ high-voltage types! The $10 \Omega$, 5W ceramic resistor was open-circuit, which wasn't surprising as the plastic-bodied chopper transistor had been replaced with a metal-tag BUTIIA which was firmly bolted to the metal heatsink.

I replaced the ceramic resistor and fitted all the parts in Satkit 17, including the BUT11AF transistor, the optocoupler and the TL431 adjustable-voltage zener diode. Checks on the other components on the primary side of the power supply suggested that everything was now OK, so I connected the set to the mains supply. The result: perfect operation.

This was somewhat surprising. The decoder in this model often fails, with the result that you have to fit the items in Relkit 17 to get it going again.

## Internet Advantages

As you may have noticed, I'm a great fan of the internet. Web site order forms are becoming common, and often provide a quick and easy way of doing business. Some firms offer a discount if you use their web site order forms, because it enables them to automate the invoicing system.

One major supplier advertised a discount "if you order via the internet". Unfortunately this description was too broad, since orders sent by e-mail also fulfil the "via the internet" requirement, but require human intervention in the invoicing process. Consequently discounts with e-mail orders were being refused. One wonders how this would stand up in court! The order form system refused to accept certain order codes, despite the fact that these parts were listed in the
computer (this was confirmed by telephone). Promises to "ring back shortly" to sort out the problem were not fulfilled. Consequently orders had to be faxed through to avoid further delay.

Another problem, which is common with many 'professional' web sites, was the excessive use of pictures. These create long delays before the order form can be displayed on the screen. Luckily I had previously had excellent service from the company. Otherwise I might have gone elsewhere.

Many smaller companies, such as Telepart (www.telepart.co.uk) and SatCure (www.netcentral.co. uk/satcure) provide easy-to-use order forms that list the available spares and appear on the screen without excessive delay.

Many repairers ignore the advantages offered by the internet. There is little excuse for this nowadays. A suitable computer or "internet set-top box" (www.satelliteuk. com) can be bought quite cheaply and used for other purposes as well. Internet connection can be free, and even the cost of the phone call can be eliminated if you agree to accept a few adverts each week (www. freecall-uk.com). The advantages include free technical help from manufacturers and like-minded repairers worldwide (contact satcure@netcentral.co.uk) as well as the possibility of discounts on orders.

Finally I should mention that my e-mail address is now

## jacksat@ netcentral.co.uk

I change it from time to time to eliminate the build up of junk mail. It also ensures that those who buy Television on a casual basis don't continue to receive free help for very long! (The old address will continue to work for a few more weeks for the benefit of overseas readers who have to wait longer for their favourite magazine!)

## Rectified SVS260

The SVS260, another receiver from the British Telecom stable, is made by The Orient Power Video

Manufacturing Company Ltd." which is based in Kowloon. Hong Kong. I found its web site by using the Sherlock search system on my Apple Mac computer. Unfortunately 1 didn't get a reply to my e-mail message, so we are still lacking some service information - apart from the booklet that's available from SatCure (01270753 311).

This particular SVS260 came in with the complaint that it was "humming". I thought this might refer to a buzzing noise from the mains transformer's laminations there's no nasty chopper power supply in this receiver - but the transformer was silent. The audio output from the TV set's speaker was perfect, so I left the receiver on soak test for a few hours.

When I returned to it every channel was marred by a loud hum from the TV set's speaker. On a hunch, I squirted the large electrolytic capacitors with freezer spray. This had no effect - until the spray hit the rectifier diodes behind the capacitors. The noise then vanished instantly.
Replacement of D405 and D406 at the rear right corner of the lower PCB provided a permanent cure. The diodes are black with a silver or white stripe to indicate the cathode end. I fitted two BYV95A diodes. This is a fast soft-recovery type with glass bead construction.

## Amstrad SRD700

I had a phone call from Wossname up Church Street about this receiver It's identical to the Fidelity SR920+, with a power supply and main board that differ from those used in earlier Amstrad models
"What's the transistor that's soldered underneath the power supply?" he asked.
"It's not a transistor. It's a TOP202 integrated circuit."
"Ah. OK. I'll see if I can order one." At that the line went dead before I could offer him the Satkit 16 I had in stock. A week later however he appeared with the offending receiver.
"No joy. Have a look at it for me, there's a good chap. I'll be at The Lion and Swan. You can buy me a drink when you've fixed it!"

I muttered under my breath and carried the receiver to the workshop. It took no time at all to remove the screws, because as usual he'd lost them. The power supply tried to work, but the front panel LED was flickering - as was the blank raster on the monitor's screen. I removed the power supply and found that he had made quite a neat job of the repair, though I felt that he'd been over generous with solder on the TOP202. Hopefully he hadn't destroyed it with the heat!

A working power supply from

Jack Armstrong is willing to try to sort out readers' satellite TV receiver problems via e-mail. You can reach him via the Internet at:

## jacksat@netcentral.co.uk

One model per message - state make/model and fault symptoms. If you have no e-mail facilities you can write to him c/o Television, Room L302, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sulton, Surrey SM2 5AS. Please enclose two first-class stamps.
another receiver produced pictures and sound, so I investigated the receiver's own power supply further. It appeared that he had used $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ capacitors (OK temporarily), and hadn't replaced the optocoupler or the TL431 adjustable-voltage zener diode (judging from the lack of black teacle around the pins). When I replaced these two items the power supply sprang to life.

For improved reliability I fitted high-temperature capacitors in the power supply. I also replaced the electrolytics in the tuner module (as supplied in Relkit 16), because the decoded pictures had been very streaky. The Lion and Swan now seemed very inviting. I hoped Wossname had brought his wallet with him!

## Test Case 440

TV repair jobs are sometimes easy, sometimes difficult and sometimes - well, we don't use that sort of word in a respectable magazine, do we? This is the story of a job that seemed to be nice and easy but turned out to be in the unmentionable category. With hindsight we'd have done better to give the customer a tenner to take the set away at the outset.

The set concerned was a Mitsubishi Model CT2146TX (Euro 6 chassis). It was no youngster, but was in good condition with a good tube. The customer was certainly happy to pay the repair charge for the dead-set fault - we replaced the 2AT mains fuse and the four bridge rectifier diodes. Only one of them had failed (short-circuit), but to be on the safe side we replaced them all. A tweak on the set-HT potentiometer VR901 and the grey-scale presets on the tube base panel completed the job, or so Television Ted thought.

But the set was back a few days later with the same symptom - no go. This time the cause was quite different: the 2SD 1878 line output transistor Q552 had gone short-circuit collector-to-emitter (and to its base for that matter). After fitting a replacement, Television Ted switched the set on cautiously. It worked, and the HT voltage at TP91 was spot on at 112 V . No other problem could be found. Ted put the cause down to a one-off fault, or maybe something to do with the previous power supply failure. The set went back on to the repaired-out bench. There was no charge, as goodwill is an important factor in the Test Case workshop's business.

When the customer returned to reception with his set a cou-
ple of weeks later, for the third time, the goodwill had worn very thin! Once again the set had failed because its line output transistor was short-circuit. It had failed for reasons unknown.

At this stage the economic situation was such that the total repair cost would exceed the value of the set. Had it been a rental set it would have been scrapped then and there, exchanged for something newer. But it was necessary to take the 'customer factor' into account. If possible, the set had to be repaired. So TV Ted set to work again.

He checked for dry-joints at the chopper transformer, the line driver and output transformers and other relevant points. Nothing that could have contributed to the transistor's failure could be found. Thinking that there might be a drive fault, Ted checked the values of R551 and C572 in the line driver stage. Both were OK, and the waveform at the collector of the driver transistor Q551 (waveform 10) was correct at 150 V peak-topeak, with very sharp rise and fall times. Further confirmation that the drive and loading conditions in the line output stage were OK was provided by the fact that the latest replacement transistor didn't get excessively hot while in operation.

Even so, it failed a few days later! It seemed likely that the cause of the trouble was some sudden event rather than continual heavy loading or excessive flyback voltage. A long monitoring session - of the supply voltage, the chopper transformer waveform, the line flyback waveform etc. - was required, with the help of a camera and a VCR, to find the culprit. What was it? For the solution, turn to page 727.

# At Cable \& Satellite Mediacast '99 

This year's Cable \& Satellite show attracted thousands of visitors. There were some 260 exhibitors. Last year the focus was on digital TV programming. This year the emphasis was on interactive TV and internet services. George Cole reports


The two European satellite operators SES, which owns the Astra series satellites, and Eutelsat, which operates the Hot Bird and other satellites, both had large stands that were dominated by internet and data delivery services. The move from analogue to digital broadcasting means that satellite operators can offer data services in addition to TV channels. It is significant that some telecoms operators are already carrying more data than voice traffic via their telephone lines. Before long data traffic could become an important source of revenue for companies such as SES and Eutelsat. Hence the emphasis on promoting the internet and data transmission at this year's show.

## Astra-Net

SES is offering Astra-Net, which can be used to deliver data, streaming audio or video and provide high-speed internet access. It operates in the Ku band at data rates up to $38 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. Astra-Net is designed as a direct-tohome, small office/home office ( SOHO ) and direct-tooffice service, though the primary markets are seen as being commercial.
Service/content providers send information to the Astra-Net Network Operations Centre (NOC), which transmits it to users via satellite as DVB/MPEG-2 compliant data, the 'return' path between users and the ser-
vice providers and NOC being terrestrial, either via telephone/modem, ISDN or an internet service provider. Users require a PC equipped with a DVB/MPEG-2 card and a 50 cm dish with a universal LNB. Those who want to be able to receive both Astra-Net and satellite TV services require a twin universal LNB.
The PC requirement is relatively modest: a 90 MHz Pentium processor or better, Microsoft Windows $95 / 98 / \mathrm{NT}$, a sound card, a CD-ROM drive, a web browser such as Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer (for fast internet services), 30MB of hard disk space and a modem or ISDN connection.
The Astra-Net PC card is supplied with software for the installation and positioning of the dish, and several types of delivery systems: package delivery (file transfer), streaming delivery (for real-time delivery of audio, video or updated information such as a 'financial ticker') and high-speed internet. The latter is capable of data speeds up to $400 \mathrm{kbits} / \mathrm{sec}$, which is about seven times faster than the fastest telephone modems and three times faster than ISDN. Data can be encrypted using the 56-bit Data Encryption Standard, and a sophisticated error detection/correction system checks that the data packets have been delivered correctly. If an error is detected, the Astra-Net receiver requests retransmission.
A Number of companies that offer services based on Astra-Net were present at the show. They included 4th Wave which provides high-speed internet access, Espresso which is a multimedia learning and teaching service aimed at schools, Europe Online Networks which has launched an 'internet in the sky', and deuromedia which offers digital TV and internet services.

## ARCS

SES was also showing prototypes of its forthcoming Astra Return Channel System (ARCS), which is due to be launched early next year. As the name suggests, ARCS is a two-way digital communications system. Ku band is used for forward data transmission via satellite at rates up to $38 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. Ka band is used for transmission from a user dish at data rates up to $2 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. This is is more elegant than existing satellite data services, which often use a public-switched telephone line, ISDN or an internet service provider as the return path.
The first satellite to offer Ka-band capacity, Astra 1H, was launched on June 18th. Its orbital position is
$19 \cdot 2^{\circ}$ E. Astra 1 K , to be launched next year, will also offer Ka-band capacity and extend ARCS' coverage to Eastern Europe. SES says that ARCS will be aimed at broadcasters, businesses and the public sector.
In order to use the ARCS service, users or groups of users will require a PC connected to a dish and a Satellite Interactive Terminal (SIT). Dish size determines the maximum transmission bit rate: with a 60 cm dish the maximum data speed is $150 \mathrm{kbits} / \mathrm{sec}$, with a 90 cm dish it's $384 \mathrm{kbits} / \mathrm{sec}$ and with a 120 cm dish it's $2 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. All ARCS systems can receive data at rates up to $38 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. Nortel and Philips plan to launch SITs next year.

## Other Satellite Data Services

A DVB/internet service from EasyNet was on show at the Eutelsat stand. The system uses a PC, dish and DVB card for downloading data and digital TV programmes. Armstrong Data Services showed Web-Sat, a two-way service like ARCS. It requires a SIT, 70 cm dish and PC. If users leave their PCs permanently switched on, they receive e-mails and data files addressed to them.

## Interactive TV

Interactive TV enables viewers to send data or instructions to the broadcaster or service provider. All interactive TV systems require special software, known as an Application Program Interface (API), to organise and manage the data.
One of the leading interactive software systems is OpenTV, which is used by a dozen digital TV networks including, in the UK, BSkyB, the BBC and Open. OpenTV software has been incorporated in over two million digital receivers: manufacturers that have licensed the technology include Matsushita, Pace, Philips and the French-based company Sagem. OpenTV was demonstrating interactive TV services from a number of broadcasters including TPS. This French broadcaster offers one of the most sophisticated interactive TV services in the world. Its services include home shopping, home banking and an interactive weather channel.
Music Choice, which offers some fifty music channels via SkyDigital, demonstrated a prototype music shopping service based on OpenTV technology. Using an on-screen guide, users would be able to purchase CDs, tickets and other items while listening to a music track. Music Choice hopes to have the service in operation by early next year.
Canal+ Technologies developed the Mediahighway API, which is used by a number of digital broadcasters around the world, including ONdigital in the UK and the various Canal+ digital TV services across Europe, including France, Spain, Italy and the Scandinavian countries. The French Canal+ digital service includes an 'interactive notepad' that gives viewers access to information related to a programme being viewed, for example match statistics with a sports programme.

## Hull's Telecom TV

Element 14, formerly part of Acorn Computers, demonstrated an interactive TV system designed for use with a telecoms system rather than a cable, satellite or terrestrial TV service. The Active 3875 set-top box incorporates MPEG-2 decoding. Element 14 has signed a deal with Kingston Vision, a subsidiary of Kingston Communications which runs Hull's telephone service. The technology used is ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line): it enables data to be transmitted via twisted-pair copper cables at speeds of typically about $2 \mathrm{Mbits} / \mathrm{sec}$. ADSL uses an HF data carrier that doesn't interfere with normal voice communication.
The interactive TV service is being provided by Yes Television, which is owned and operated by Elmsdale Media. The Kingston service will include TV programmes from BBC Worldwide, Pearson and Trans World International, films from Sony Pictures, Warner Brothers

and Buena Vista (part of Disney), educational services and travel services provided by British Airways. There will also be local and community services plus e-mail and internet access. A trial service involving 60 employees of Kingston Vision started in Hull in June.
Element 14 was showing, in a back room, a prototype MPEG-2 system that uses software only for decoding and demodulation. First impressions suggest that there is still some work to be done, but it could turn out to be an interesting development.

## Set-top Boxes and IDTVs

There was an impressive array of STBs and IDTVs on the Pace stand. No surprise, considering that the company is manufacturing STBs for digital cable, satellite and terrestrial services and for several IDTV manufacturers.
The Pace show included the first live demonstration of the STB used with Cable \& Wireless's digital cable service. It includes a cable modem developed by Cisco Systems. There was also a prototype cable box developed for NTL. This uses an Hitachi RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) processor chip.
LG showed IDTVs for the SkyDigital and ONdigital services.
Nokia announced that owners of its new digital receiver, Model 9800, could receive software downloads from four major European satellite sites, Astra, Eutelsat, Sirius and Thor. Users call up the installation menu, select software upgrade and follow the on-screen instructions. The downloading process takes about 5-15 minutes.
French manufacturer Sagem displayed a full range of digital terrestrial, satellite and cable STBs. The ISD3100 and ISD3400 can receive all European free-to-air channels plus pay-TV packages that use Viaccess or Nagravision conditional access control. The company has been supplying digital TV equipment that complies with the MPEG-2/DVB standards to the professional and consumer markets since 1995. It has already supplied hundreds of thousands of digital consumer decoders - some 700,000 were delivered in 1998. The Sagem Telsat Turbo is a DVB-compliant satellite-to-PC receiver card. It provides demodulation and demultiplexing and transfers IP (Internet Protocol) data to a PCI bus. Internet access is at speeds up to a hundred times faster than the average PC modem (Fast Internet).

## Prototype Sidecar

SCM Microsystems demonstrated a prototype sidecar module that will enable SkyDigital STBs to receive digital terrestrial TV, using a plug-in PC type card. The module, slightly larger than a PC card, was connected to a box containing an RF front-end and demodulator. This was linked to an LNB.

The Active 3875 STB is part of Element 14's system for delivering digital TV via existing telecoms networks.


The Sagem Telsat Turbo DVBcompliant satellite-toPC receiver card.

The Pace digital cable STB currently being used in CWC's first UK digital cable trial.

Once the required chip set is available the module will be smaller. SCM Microsystems also plans to launch an ONdigital sidecar to enable DTT viewers to receive SkyDigital programmes - subject to an appropriate subscription package being taken up.
There are still questions about the future of sidecars however. Development was prompted by the ITC, which wants interoperability between the digital satellite and terrestrial services. But there is still no simulscript agreement, which would enable one STB to decode both types of signals, between SkyDigital and ONdigital. There are also STB architecture differences - ONdigital's STB has less memory for example - while the available bandwidth (the DTT service has much less) will also limit the degree of interoperability. And now that the STBs are being provided 'free', it could be difficult to get people to buy sidecar modules.

## The Video Browser

Danmere, a UK company, demonstrated the Video Browser, a new software technology for STBs to provide VCR control.
One function is to make it easier to set a VCR's timer when recording programmes via a digital STB. Those using a SkyDigital decoder have to set the VCR timer and set the decoder to the correct channel. This means that it is not possible to record programmes on different channels when using a VCR timer. ONdigital's STB is more flexible in this respect, having a built-in timer, but users still have to set two timers. Most VCR-satellite control systems, which automatically switch on the decoder at the required time and set the correct channel, are designed for analogue STBs. In addition, not all satellite systems work with all decoder brands.
To record programmes using the Video Browser you simply select the programme you want to record from an on-screen programme guide then press a button on the remote-control handset. Timer data is sent from the STB to the VCR via an infra-red link, and the Browser checks that the VCR has received the correct information. Danmere says that its Browser system can work with all VCR brands.
The Video Browser also provides a tape-indexing system that lets users see what is recorded on a tape. As a tape is being played, the Browser takes a series of 'snapshots' to create a video database of what's on the tape. This database consists of a set of thumbprint images that can be displayed on a TV set's screen. When a thumbprint is selected, the VCR

automatically finds the scene on the tape.
The Video Browser makes use of the fact that today's digital TV STBs are really powerful computers, with a processor, memory and an operating system. The Video Browser makes use of the operating system, employing tape positioning and indexing algorithms to control a VCR's functions. These algorithms can be used to create a unique signature database for each tape. The video database could be stored in the STB's memory: the database size and the number of tapes that can be indexed in this way depends on the amount of memory allocated to this purpose.
If memory space is limited, a cut-down version of the database could be stored inside the box, with the thumbprints held on tape. But in practice relatively little memory space would be required because the images are compressed. An STB manufacturer could also design a system that stored thumbprints at say five-minute intervals. In addition it's highly likely that future STBs will have a built-in hard drive for storing large amounts of data.
The tape-index system will work with both new and existing tapes, and recordings made with the Video Browser can be played back on any VCR. Danmere says that the tape-positioning system is accurate to within four seconds. The company has a lot of experience in the control of tape-transport mechanisms - several years ago it developed a data back-up system that enables a PC user to store hard disk data on a VHS cassette.
A scart cable is used for general communication between the Video Browser and the VCR. The Browser could also be used for downloading data such as pages from a web site. This would require only a small amount of tape storage, as about 9 Mbytes of data can be stored per minute of tape time.
At present the Video Browser works with Microsoft's Windows CE operating system, as used by WebTV and OpenTV. Windows CE is used in millions of STBs around the world, including those for SkyDigital. But Danmere says that its software could be ported to other STB operating systems. Danmere is currently in discussion with broadcasters and STB manufacturers about licensing its technology.
Danmere says that the Video Browser, because it's soft-ware-based, would add little to the cost of an STB. It could also be used in future digital TV sets. The system cannot be built into a VCR however, because VCRs lack the architecture (processor, operating system, etc.) required for it to work. Danmere considers that though developments like recordable DVDs are in the pipeline the VCR will remain the dominant home video recording format for many years to come.
Video Browser seems to be a good idea, and the demonstration at the show was impressive. The problem for Danmere is that broadcasters such as BSkyB are known to be developing their own STB recording systems.

## Dish and Tuner Technology

Sharp Germany had on display several pieces of technology that caught the eye, including a compact four-outlet LNB for feeding four separate households from a single dish. It can be used with both analogue and digital transmissions. The LNB will be available in Germany this autumn: no UK launch details were available.
Sharp has also developed a new satellite tuner, Model BS2W7XXXX, which can be used with both analogue and digital signals. It has two inputs, enabling viewers to receive signals via separate LNBs for say Astra and Hot Bird. The tuner should contribute to the development of compact, inexpensive STBs.

## Next Year

In all it was another year of considerable progress. What will next year bring? The dates for Cable \& Satellite Mediacast 2000 are May 15-17th 2000, at the same venue - Earls Court 2.


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# Multiple Outlet Wallplates 

# In Part 2 of his article on TV wallplates Bill Wright describes the problems that can occur when the screening provided is inadequate, with a number of examples and advice on what can be done 

As domestic TV/video installations become more complex, good screening of all coaxial feeds is ever more important. In this article I'm primarily concerned with the screening properties of output plates, but most of what follows also applies to masthead amplifiers, downlead cables, splitters and flyleads.
The traditional wallplate is fitted with one or at best two coaxial sockets. There's no screening, but the better designs minimise the amount of unscreened inner conductor and, assuming that the cables are prepared with proper regard to good RF practice, they work perfectly well almost all the time. But unwanted signal pick-up from outside sources does occasionally occur, and crosstalk between the two circuits is always a danger.

## Inferior Outlet Plates

Badly designed wallplates cause all sorts of problems. There are some truly awful ones on the market. Some manufacturers either don't know or don't care about good RF practice.
One particular double-outlet plate has a PCB (including a printed inductor, but with the other components not fitted) connected to one of the inner conductors. It appears to be intended for a diplexer or something similar. Because of the large area of unscreened copper track connected to the coaxial inner conductor, the PCB radiates and receives signal very efficiently, which is a great detriment to the outlet's proper function. The UHF through loss is between $6-15 \mathrm{~dB}$ ! The amount of crosstalk between the two sockets is simil-arly disastrous.
Outlets like this will introduce an impedance mismatch, leading to standing-wave effects. I've cured many a strange reception fault merely by removing one of these beastly things and fitting a decent outlet. Other culprits have included an outlet in which the soldered

Table 1: Interference from cellphone transmissions.
Cellphone Satellite frequency that could suffer interference
transmission transmission

|  | 9.75 GHz LO | 10 GHz LO | 10.6 GHz LO |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 950 MHz | 10.7 GHz | 10.95 GHz | 11.55 GHz |
| $1,850 \mathrm{MHz}$ | 11.6 GHz | 11.85 GHz | 12.45 GHz |

screen connection easily but invisibly breaks, and one where the centre pin pushes back and contacts the rear of the steel back-box.

## Pre-echo

In strong-signal areas enough signal can be picked up directly by a poor-quality outlet plate (and flylead) to compete with the signal from the aerial. This effect is called 'pre-echo', and is particularly a problem with communal aerial systems (see Television March 1996).

## Interference from Satellite Receivers

Some satellite receivers radiate an alarming amount of UHF noise, particularly on ch. 25 . This became a common problem a few years ago, and we were advised to fit double-screened coaxial leads. You might think that if the aerial feed is looped through the satellite receiver in the usual way any signal pick-up at the outlet plate would be insignificant, but this is not the case. Interference can even come from next door's satellite receiver - and other equipment.
With a semi-detached house the outlet plate is likely to be back-to-back with the one in the adjoining property, and not much farther from the neighbour's satellite receiver, games machine or computer. In blocks of flats, the TV set and associated equipment in a flat is likely to be spaced only 3 m apart from similar equipment above and below.

## Interference to the Satellite IF

LNB output frequencies (the satellite first IF) coincide with various transmissions. If these signals find their way into the feed from the LNB to the satellite receiver they will cause interference. Cellphone masts have become a particular problem, with transmissions centred on 950 MHz and $1,850 \mathrm{MHz}$. Photo 6 illustrates this, and Table 1 lists the frequencies affected.
An LNB's output is at a very high level, with carriers as much as 35 dB above the minimum receiver input. This provides good immunity from interference, but these levels are sometimes greatly attenuated by the time the signal reaches the outlet, flylead and receiver. This can happen if the satellite downlead is very long, or if an inferior type of cable is in use.
Satellite IF distribution systems are normally designed to deliver at each outlet a signal level that's only 12 dB or so above the receiver's minimum input. Because of varying carrier levels, the signal can occasionally fall to a much lower level. In such a case there is vulnerability to interference that enters at the outlet plate and flylead.


Photo 6: A spectrum analyser display of cellphone transmissions in the satellite If band. The signal levels shown here are low: they can be much higher in the vicinity of a cellphone mast.


Photo 7: How not to wire an outlet plate! The large amounts of unscreened inner conductor cause unwanted radiation and reception, impedance mismatching, severe through-loss and crosstalk.

It seems that nowadays virtually every high-rise building has a cellphone transmitter on the roof. Although cellphone transmissions are not high-powered, in my experience they can cause problems within the building itself and at sites up to a quarter of a mile away.
How can the outlet plate receive enough cellphone signal to cause interference? A quarter-wave dipole, perhaps the most efficient aerial of all, is only 38 mm long at $1,850 \mathrm{MHz}$. The length of unscreened inner conductor behind the outlet can be a significant fraction of this length.

## Crosstalk in Double Outlets

It's quite common for crosstalk to occur between the two circuits in a double outlet, even where a good-quality wallplate is used. The amount of crosstalk depends to some extent on the way the connections have been made at the back of the plate. If an unnecessary amount of inner conductor is left unscreened, the outlet can allow UHF signals to pass from one port to the other with as
little as 20 dB attenuation.
Photo 7 shows a typical attempt by a site electrician, who to be fair can't be expected to know about the peculiarities of RF, to wire a double outlet. The plate itself is a good-quality one, and the manufacturer has positioned each saddle clamp and terminal screw close together to minimise the necessary amount of unscreened inner core. This was, alas, in vain. This particular example was the sole cause of severely degraded reception.

## Interference from Satellite IF

A satellite IF feed and an unscreened double outlet form a very unhealthy combination. From this point of view an LNB is no more than a noise source followed by about 50 dB of amplification. The noise output from most LNBs extends down well into the UHF TV band. If this noise gets into the UHF aerial feed, the signal-tonoise ratio will be reduced and the picture will become snowy, just as if the UHF signal is too weak. Cheap fly-


Photo 8: The UHF output of an LNB with a 9.75 GHz local oscillator. If this noise finds its way into a UHF aerial feeder the picture will be snowy, as if the UHF signal is weak. In this example the satellite downlead loss was 10 dB . Note that there is 20 dB less input attenuation than in Photo 6.


Photo 9: The UHF output of an LNB with a 10.6 GHz local oscillator. Even after 10 dB downlead loss the satellite carriers can touch $+5 d B / m V$. If a satellite carrier happens to coincide with an occupied UHF channel there is severe interference potential. Despite the differing transmission standards, a satellite signal can even produce an identifiable picture on a UHF TV set.


Photo 10: The output of a multi-channel UHF distribution system. In this and in Photo 11 the signal levels have been temporarily reduced by 6 dB .
leads can be the culprit here as well as dodgy outlets. An LNB with a local oscillator frequency of 9.75 GHz isn't too bad in this respect, see Photo 8 , but the older 10 GHz LNBs down-convert the lower satellite channels to frequencies within the UHF group C/D spectrum. This has obvious interference-causing potential. In this respect the 10.6 GHz local oscillator, intended for reception of the higher satellite channels, appears to be even worse. When the LNB's local oscillator frequency is switchable between 9.75 GHz and 10.6 GHz it's called a universal type. These LNBs are often used for reception from Hot Bird at $13^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$.
I measured the UHF output of an 0.8 dB (noise figure) universal LNB set to 10.6 GHz and aligned, with a 1 m dish, at $13^{\circ}$ E. The results, see Photo 9, show that significant leakage of the LNB's signal into the UHF feed will cause severe reception problems. The satellite carriers leave the LNB at $+10 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{mV}$ or more. With allowance for a satellite downlead loss of 10 dB , a double outlet crosstalk figure of -30 dB could result in a signal-tonoise ratio of say 35 dB . This will seriously degrade analogue UHF reception. Photos 10 and 11 show the effect of crosstalk as seen using a spectrum analyser. The result, on a TV screen, tends to be a strange mixture of snow and cross-modulation, see Photo 12. Even when


Photo 12: A satellite D-MAC signal makes a nice mess of UHF ch. 47 reception. In this case the outlet plate crosstalk was -30 dB . Matters were made worse by a UHF signal at $\mathbf{- 1 0 d B / m V}$.


Photo 11: The UHF spectrum shown in Photo 10, but with interference from an LNB with a 10.6 GHz local oscillator. The interference was introduced via a badly-wired double outlet, the result being crosstalk that measured -26dB. In addition to the obvious spikes above ch. 68, lesser signals and noise can be seen almost to the bottom of the band.
the UHF channel in use is affected by LNB noise only, with no satellite carrier present, the result, as you might expect, is a very noisy picture.
The point of all this is that when the feed from a dish passes through the same double-outlet plate as the signal from a UHF aerial, screening within the outlet is vital. There are on the market double outlets with one Belling and one F-type socket. Although these are expressly sold for dual satellite IF/UHF use, the two circuits are not screened from each other. Beware!

## SkyDigital

Reception from $28 \cdot 2^{\circ}$ E requires a universal LNB. At present all the transmissions are near the top of the band, with little or nothing lower down. When digital transmissions at the lower frequencies start, a 10.6 GHz LNB will convert them to the UHF band. I think this will cause no end of trouble.

## Satellite IF Crosstalk

Crosstalk can occur between two satellite IF feeds when both LNBs are powered continuously. If both feeds pass through the same outlet plate, crosstalk is almost inevitable - because the length of unscreened inner conductor will be a significant fraction of a wavelength. The effects may be subtle. They are best avoided.

## In Conclusion

I hope that this article has succeeded in explaining some of the odd little peculiarities we all encounter from time to time. Sometimes there's only a minor fault: a little bit of patterning or a slightly grainy picture. It's tempting to shrug your shoulders and hope that the customer won't notice, especially if you have no idea what the cause might be. Unfortunately a minor fault can turn into a major one as soon as your back is turned.
How much better to get it right in the first place! Diagnosing the cause of this sort of thing is usually fairly simple, for example by disconnecting each possible source of interference in turn.
As the satellite and aerial installation business becomes ever more complicated, competent installers have a chance to distance themselves from the cowboys. The way to do this is to work to high standards. Don't ask yourself if the customer has noticed. Ask yourself if you've noticed.

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## VCR Clinic

## Reports from Philip Blundell, AMIIEelec Eugene Trundle <br> Ronnie Boag <br> Roger F. White <br> Bob Longhurst <br> Gerald Smith <br> John Coombes and Colin J. Guy

## Philips VR838

The problem with this top-of-therange machine was no tape movement in play or wind/rewind.
When the tape was fully laced the supply spool wouldn't turn, though the brakes were seen to be off when a clear service cassette was tried.

An inspection under the deck soon revealed the cause of the problem: the kicker gear (item 129 in the exploded view in the manual) was wrongly timed. This gear is not present in basic models that use the Turbo deck. P.B.

## JVC HRJ225 and others

The deck used in this and other JVC models can jam in the fullylaced position. When this happens you will see that the pinch roller hasn't fully closed on the capstan shaft. The cause is a broken capstan lever assembly (item 50 in the exploded view in the manual), which is under tremendous stress from its spring. The replacement for this plastic part is made of cast metal. E.T.

## Akai VSG240 and others

Here's another common deck fault, which once again is not confined to this particular model. The symptoms are intermittent deck shut down, with ERR2 showing in the display panel. It usually happens when the machine changes mode: from stop to play or rewind, from rewind to stop, etc. The cause is
the mode switch, which is readily accessible on the underside of the deck after removing the deck's five securing screws. E.T.

## Akai VSG295

These machines can cut out intermittently in the LP record mode. The cure is to fit TR413 and TR414 (both DTC144TK), R520 and R52l (both $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ), C505 and C506 (both 10 nF ) and remove links JS401 and JS402. R.B.

## Sanyo VHR778

The fault with this machine was intermittent loss of sound when a Nicam broadcast was being recorded. The cause was dry-joints at oscillator X6701. R.B.

## Finlux VR3724

If the problem with one of these machines is intermittent no rewind or fast forward, replace the cam slide assembly - part no. 8681 4927. R.B.

## Ferguson 3V32

Some people think that these VCRs are better than new ones. The fault with this machine was failure to come out of standby. Q22 on the mecha board was short-circuit: as a result the voltage at the cathode of D29 was high, preventing the data pulses passing through. Once Q22 had been replaced and a service kit had been fitted the machine worked as well as many new ones. R.F.W.

## Hitachi VTM620E

The switching point varied in both the play and record modes. The cause of the trouble was C616 and C617. R.F.W.

## Sharp VCH81

There was no capstan rotation. Before ordering a new motor I examined the old one carefully and
found that the 12 V supply was prersent at the connector but didn't reach the IC. A small electrolytic capacitor had become leaky, and the leakage had eaten through the copper print. R.F.W.

## Ferguson FV77

This machine was dead because the UC3842 chopper control chip IP01 had failed. As it's not a common failure, I looked for a reason and found that $\mathrm{CP} 1(220 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ was faulty. As a result the voltage at pin 7 of IP01 was low. R.F.W.

## Samsung SV80IK

This VCR was dead apart from four dashes on the clock display. It didn't respond to the standby switch or attempts to insert a cassette. If a cassette was inserted when the power was off, it would be ejected when the power was switched on again. The booster worked, but there was no test signal and no E-E operation.

My first thought was to clean the mode switch, but when I removed the deck I found that it doesn't have one. So I removed the PCB to check the power supply and noticed that one of the end sensors was unsoldered. After resoldering it I looked around for any other dry-joints then reassembled the machine. It now worked. Must have been one of my lucky days. R.F.W.

## GoldStar P131

"Dead" was the customer's complaint. As through-RF was fine I removed the power supply and concentrated on the secondary-side electrolytics. CP $19(1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ proved to be useless when checked with a bridge. Once it had been replaced everything worked though the display was very dull. The cause turned out to be CP25 ( $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ). B.L.

## Akai VS66

The capstan motor was stalling. I held the spindle, with a dummy cassette inserted, and found that it quivered all the time. Not very technical this, but I deduced that there was a power supply fault. In fact the outputs from the power supply were all unstable, with ripple on them. The culprit was C15 $(220 \mu \mathrm{~F})$. B.L.

## Panasonic NVL28

The customer had somehow discovered that intermittent loss of video and sound while recording could be cured by tweaking the input selector switch. Needless to say this switch now had to be replaced. Once this had been done the original fault was apparent when the same PCB was flexed. The cause was dry-joints at the jumper ribbon-cable connections between the front sub-PCBs. What did concern me was that without the customer's hint I certainly wouldn't have started looking for the cause of the trouble in this section of the VCR! B.L.

## Thorn VR172L

There was no display and no deck functions worked. But the modulator was obviously powered. The customer also mentioned that prior to the present situation recordings played back in monochrome. It was very helpful to find that the power module's output connector was marked with the supply voltages that should be present. The 6 V output was low at 2 V , but increased to 6 V when disconnected from the main PCB. As the 6 V regulator wasn't running hot, I decided to connect an external 6 V supply to the machine. It then worked normally. A replacement KIA78006A regulator, obtained from Chas Hyde \& Son, cured the trouble. B.L.

## Małsui VP9405

This machine was dead with the mains fuse intact. I had an Orion D1096 circuit, which is almost identical. It didn't take long to discover that the $470 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ start-up resistor R519 was open-circuit, and I was thankful there hadn't been a power supply blow up as there had with the Orion VCR. After a deck service everything was fine. B.L.

## Akai VSG745

There was no E-E sound but playback was OK. Checks showed that there was no audio input to the sound processing PCB and no out-
put from the Nicam PCB. The sound would come and go when the Nicam PCB was tapped.
Crystal Xl was so dry-jointed that it was hanging out of the PCB. Resoldering this item restored normal sound. G.S.

## Sharp VCM27

There were heavy interference lines on E-E via the scart output and virtually no E-E picture or playback at RF. A new RF modulator restored normal pictures. G.S.

## Toshiba V404B

The tape speed was incorrect and the back-tension lever was vibrating. The fault gave the impression that the capstan motor speed was varying, with wow on the sound. In fact the cause of the trouble was incorrect seating of the cam slider, giving incorrect operation of the tension-drive lever. When you get this problem, replace all these components, including the hook levers. J.C.

## Hitachi VTF450

The complaint with this machine was no results. I soon found that the N5 $(250 \mathrm{~mA})$ circuit protector QF901 was open-circuit. It protects the supplies to the mode switch (A5.4V), the EPROM (A5V) and the IC902 reset (B5V). J.C.

## Toshiba V705B

A problem we've had with these machines is intermittent failure to accept a cassette - the fault can be very intermittent. The cause is a faulty cam switch (B432), part number 70031401. J.C.

## Sony SLV625U

If the RVS arm assembly is creased or jammed because the grease has hardened around the spindle, the tape can loop and jam up on the guide poles, preventing tape ejection. To overcome this problem clean the spindle, lightly oil it and reset the height to restore normal operation.

Other causes of failure to eject the tape are a faulty mode switch or a faulty BA6238A loading motor drive chip (IC204). J.C.

## Panasonic NVSD400

There were lines on the playback picture and sound variations. A check on the FM waveform showed that it seemed to be distorted. The cause of the trouble was arm unit P5 (part number VXL2306), which was bent. It should be replaced, but as a tempo-
rary measure it can be bent back to the correct position. J.C.

## Toshiba V212B

The E-E picture was snowy. Reception via the aerial booster was also snowy. We found that the 12 V supply to the booster was missing because the BCP53-16 14 V regulator transistor TP91 was short-circuit emitter-to-collector. J.C.

## Samsung VIK326

A faulty right-hand side plate is the usual cause of failure to accept a tape. The plastic mount which holds the cog that drives the lift mechanism in and out becomes cracked. It may break off completely. J.C.

## Ferguson FV6ILV

Although this machine was supposed to be dead there was a shuffle from the deck when I plugged it in. A quick check showed that RP86 (27 2 ) was open-circuit. The replacement got very hot, and an audible whistling came from the power supply. Further checks showed that the supply line voltages were all high. Instead of 14 V at TP86E there was 18V. The cause was TP01 (BC858) which was leaky. C.J.G.

## Panasonic NVSD40

A tape was stuck in this machine and the display read H 02 , which means failure to retract the tape into the cassette. Inspection showed that this was the case, though the loading arms had retracted. At power up there was no movement from any of the motors, but I could wind the tape back into the cassette by turning the capstan with my fingers, so there was no jamming here.

To get to the electronics you have to remove the deck. The clever designer of these machines put a deck fixing screw under the tape carriage: it's inaccessible when there is a tape in the machine. The trick I use is to ease outwards the loading arms at each side of the cassette holder. It's then possible to lift the holder and remove the tape without breaking anything.

The cause of the fault turned out to be dry-joints at the BA6887 loading-motor driver chip ICI, which is right at the front of the PCB. Why the result was failure of the capstan motor to rotate I don't know, but it rotated once ICI had been resoldered. C.J.G.

# VCR Soak Tester 

## Fed up with intermittent-fault VCRs that bounce? Ian Rees provides the solution: an automated active soak test system

The number of times that a service engineer can check a VCR through its functions before releasing it after repair is limited. When a VCR with an intermittent fault came back to me for the third time, I decided that what was required was a means of automatic, active soak testing. The test equipment that was developed to meet this need is described in the following article. It has proved itself many times over in reducing the number of VCRs that might otherwise have been sent back to the customer with an intermittent fault condition still present.

## Design

I felt that the job could be done by using a PC to control a remote-control handset which in turn controlled a VCR's functions. A basic universal remote control unit from CPC was selected for the purpose. It's inexpensive, easy to program and can control a wide range of TV, VCR and satellite receiver brands with all the required functions. To use it to provide active soak testing I had to trace the tracks from its button pads back to the pins of its Zilog 1666 control chip (see Table 1). Only seven lines are needed for the range of six functions required. Several of the functions share control lines: this greatly simplified the interfacing.
The remote-control handset is connected to a control box by a short length of nine-way ribbon cable. This cable is hardwired to the IC pins at one end. At the other

Table 1: Test sequence, timing periods and connections to the remote-control handset IC.

| Step | Function | Time | 1666 pin <br> connections |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Reset | 1sec | - |
| 2 | Power | 1sec | $9-4$ |
| 3 | Record | 120 secs | $9-2$ |
| 4 | Stop | 1sec | $13-2$ |
| 5 | Rewind | 30 secs | $12-2$ |
| 6 | Play | 120 secs | $9-3$ |
| 7 | Fast forward | 30 secs | $11-2$ |
| 8 | Stop | 1sec | $13-2$ |
| 9 | Rewind | 30 secs | $12-2$ |
| 10 | Power | 1 sec | $9-4$ |
|  |  |  |  |

end it's terminated by an IDC plug which is connected to the control box. It is best to power the handset from its own batteries: this enables the memory to be retained when the control box is switched off.
The first prototype used ten reed relays. I designed a special sound-controlled, tone-operated interface for my PC. This switched the reed test sequence from the 'line out' of a sound card, enabling a software program to control the relays directly. The problem was that this tied down my PC while a soak test was in progress, which could be all day for several days.
The second version, described here, uses a dedicated programmer arrangement and is a stand-alone device. I didn't feel it appropriate to use reed relays, and decided instead to use a couple of CD4066 quad bilateral switch ICs. They proved to be a bit troublesome at first in this application, but worked faultessly once the bugs had been ironed out.
Although the original PC version could call up any combination of test sequences, I found that I tended to use the same sequence most of the time. So this was hardwired into the new unit.

## Circuit Description

Fig. 1 shows the circuit diagram of the finished unit. The output (pin 3) of a 555 timer chip (IC1) feeds clock pulses to pin 14 of a CD4017 decade counter/divider chip (IC2). This useful, inexpensive device has ten outputs, only one of which goes high and stays high until the next clock pulse arrives.
At switch-on C2 charges from the 12 V supply, via R3, and resets the counter chip. Pin 3 of IC2 goes high first: the associated indicator LED1 then lights to show that it has reset. The voltage at pin 3 is fed back to pin 7 of the 555 chip via D1 and R6 to shorten its timing period to one second.
The next clock pulse steps IC2 on: pin 3 goes low and pin 2 goes high. The voltage at pin 2 lights LED2 and is applied to switching pin 6 of IC4 via D9 and C3. As a result, pins 8 and 9 of IC3 are shorted. These pins activate the remote control unit's 'power' function: this signal is sent to the VCR on test. The voltage at pin 2 of IC2 is also linked via D2 and R6 to ICl's one-second delay network.
When the next clock pulse arrives from ICI, pin 4 of IC2 goes high. LED 3 (record) lights, and C4 activates pin 12 of IC4. Pins 10 and 11 of IC4 are shorted and a record command is sent to the VCR via the remote-con-

trol handset. With the record test there is no feedback to the timer chip ICl, so a full two minutes of recording time is allowed.
The next clock pulse from IC1 stops the VCR, and so on through the test program. Once the cycle has been completed it's repeated from the beginning.
The timing periods for the two rewinds and for fast forward (search) are set at thirty seconds by feedback via D4, D5 and D7 then R8 to IC1 (pin 7).
Note that all the commands to the remote-control handset are momentary. This is important to conserve battery power.
The sequence of commands and the timing periods programmed into the unit are listed in Table 1. The Zilog 1666 IC pins listed are those that have to be connected together to obtain particular functions.
The timing arrangement provides a complete test cycle every 5.6 minutes, i.e. nearly eleven full test cycles an hour.

## Construction

No problems should be experienced in building this unit. Nothing is critical, all parts being cheap and easy to obtain from suppliers such as CPC, Maplin, RS etc.
Although the CPC handset may not be available outside the UK, or may become unobtainable or change, with care it would be very easy to repeat the process of tracing the button pads back to the control IC and modifying the connections accordingly.
I used an IDC connector for the ribbon cable at the
control box end. This was primarily because I was too short of cash to use more than one handset. So I plug and unplug the same one, using it between various test beds. Use of hardwiring at both ends of the ribbon would simplify construction.

Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the control unit, which drives the remote-control handset. CMOS switch version.

| Parts list |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R1 | $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | C1 | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 40 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| R2-3 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | C2-10 | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 60V |
| R4-5 | $680 \Omega$ | C11 | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| R6 | $2.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | C12-13 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 100 \mathrm{~V}$ ceramic |
| R7 | $680 \Omega$ |  |  |
| R8 | 56 k , |  |  |
| R9-15 | $680 \Omega$ | D1-10 | 1N4148 |
| R16 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | D11-14 | BY127 (1A) |
| R17-24 | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | LED1 | 5 mm green |
| All 0.25W, 5\% |  | LED2-9 | 5 mm red |
| IC1 |  |  |  |
| IC2 | CD4017 decade counter/timer |  |  |
| IC3-4 | CD4066 quad bilateral switch |  |  |
| IC5 | 7812 12V, 1A voltage regulator |  |  |
| F1 | 100 mA fuse and holder |  |  |
| S1 | DPST, 1A mains switch |  |  |
| T1 | 0-15V AC, 100 mA mains transformer |  |  |
| CPC UR HSUR3 | unive | ammable | mote control unit, o |



Fig. 2: The mains power supply circuit.

Fig. 3: Optional mechanical counter.


Fig. 4: Alternative reed relay circuit. Two CA3046 chips etc. are required. $C=22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}, R=2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega, D=1 \mathrm{~N} 4148, R L=12 \mathrm{~V}$ reed relay.

The length of the ribbon cable between the control box and the handset is about 12 in . This is more than enough to set up and position the unit.
A slot was filed out at the bottom end of the remotecontrol handset to enable the ribbon cable to be brought into it. Splay out the leads and solder them directly to the IC pins as specified in Fig. 1. The ribbon cable was glued inside the plastic handset case using Bostic, a Tyewrap being used to anchor it in place. There's a small pillar that needs to be cut back to enable the top of the handset to be refitted without springing upwards on the ribbon cable.
The unit has undergone several metamorphoses since its inception, but still lives in its original sloped-top case. It has a stop/run switch and a reset button. As these are little used I have omitted them here.
The power supply (Fig. 2) is mounted in the control box on the same matrix board as the rest of the circuitry. The 12 V stabiliser IC5 doesn't need a heatsink. The
two $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ceramic capacitors C 12 and C 13 must be mounted as close to the input and output pins 1 and 3 of IC5 as possible, to prevent instability.
Fig. 3 shows how a small electromechanical counter can be added to provide a tally of the number of soaktest cycles completed. I put the reading on the bill: it impresses the customer!
The step timings (Table 1) are approximate - there is no need for accuracy. I've used a higher working voltage capacitor in position Cl than is theoretically necessary: this was done deliberately, to keep the leakage low. The $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitors C3-10 must not leak, otherwise the remote control unit will operate continuously during the relevant step in the cycle.
The two steering diodes D9 and D10 enable one quad switch section to operate during two of IC2's outputs. This was done because otherwise I would have had to use another quad IC to complete step 10 , leaving three unused IC switches. The reset position does nothing, because I found that I got spurious starts at switch on if I triggered the first step from here. This caused handset lock-up - with both the reed and quad-switch versions.
It's important that the supply for the two quad switch ICs comes from the batteries in the remote-control handset. The first mistake I made was to use the main power supply for this purpose. The quad IC outputs go low or unstable when the supply is removed, with the result that the handset either flashes continuously or locks up whenever the control unit is switched off. Being CMOS devices the quad ICs draw little current. They can be left connected to the remote-control unit's batteries with minimal current being drawn.
If you are unlucky and close more than one contact on the CPC unit and the result is a total lock-up of all functions, there's a simple solution. Disconnect the battery supply by removing one cell, then put it back again. This will restore operation. Phew!

## Relay Version

If you feel more at home with 12 V reed relays, Fig. 4 shows the circuit used in the first prototype. The driver transistors are contained within a couple of CA3046 14pin DIL npn transistor arrays. Two arrays provide ten driver transistors, so the component count is small. Note that pin 3 of the IC has two of the transistors connected to it.

## Use

In use, the VCR has to be in line-of-sight of the remotecontrol handset. This is obvious, but make sure that you don't put it where you can walk between the handset and the VCR on test and obscure the link.
The handset must be programmed for use with the VCR being tested while the control box is switched off. The functions can be confirmed by using the handset buttons to make sure that every step in the test cycle works.
The VCR has to be in standby at the start of the tests, and a fully rewound tape must be inserted. The control unit resets at switch-on: one second later, VCR powerup starts. Each step in the cycle is indicated by the LEDs, one of which will always be lit.
Ideally the VCR should be connected to a TV set and an aerial, so that you can observe the results of the record and playback tests. This is a good indication that all is well.
Resetting is just a matter of turning off the control unit for a few seconds then turning it back on again. The VCR will have to be put back in step with the first test before restarting.

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VS247, 248, 250, 512, VS515, 516, VSN9
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VS201, 301, 303, 304, 603, 606, 607, VSP8, 140 p
VSP82 VP58, VP82 VSP82, VP58, VP82
VS125, VS 155, VS $165, ~ V S 220, ~ V S 240, ~ V S 250, ~$ VS22, 23, 25, 35, 37, 38, 53, 66, 75, 422, 425 426, 427, 462, 465, 467 426, 42, 462, 465, 467,
VS48E, 765, 766, $767,768,865,867,965,967$,
VSA77, VSA650, VSA77, VSA650, VSF 10, 11, 12, 15, 180,
$221,222,230,240,30,33$
VSF330, 4,500, 550, VSP88, VSR100, VSX400, VSF260, 261, 262, 265, 270, 274, 275, 280,
140p $290,340,350,410,420,43 \mathrm{C}$
VSF441, 440, 450, 455, 480, 490, 497, 510 ,
$560,580,590,599,60$, $560,580,590,599,600$, VSG20, $21,23,24,25,30,33,34,35,51,54$,
$55,60,64,65,70,73,74,75$, V5, $60,64,65,70,73,74,75$,
VSP110, VSS $560, ~ V S \times 580$
VS17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35, 37, 38, 53 55, VSAT7
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
VS422, 425, 426, 427, 462, 465, 467, 485, 498 $765,765,767,768,865$,
$867,965,967$ VSA65,
867, 965, 967, VSA650, VSF 10, 11, 12, 14, 15,
180, $190,200,210,220$,
221, 222, 230, 240, 30, 300, 301, 310, 320, 33,
$330,4,500,510,600$,
VSR110, VSX100,400,450,470 800p
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMY PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
VSS99

VCR3000X, VCR 4000
VCR5000, VCR6000
VCR161, VCR222
VCR7000, VCR7800, VCR8000
VCR8800
VCR8800

## AMSTRAD

VCR1000 $2000,4500,400,470$

| VCR 100 P $_{1}, 2000$, |
| :--- |
| 6100.6200 |

VCR8602, 8603, 8604, 8700, 8704, 8714, 8800
VCR9244, 9340, OO8900, 8904
TVR1, 2, 3, 4
VCR7000
OD8900, JO8904, VCR6000, 6100, 140p $8602,8603,8604$
VCR8700, 8800,

## 8800, 900>9, 9140,9244

PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY PART NO 700 p TX 3650 , UF20, VCR 3000 , VCR3002, VCR 4000 , PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBIY PART NO ${ }^{300} \mathrm{P}$ 2554966
00900
O09900, 9904, TX3650, UF20, 22, 24 VCR3000, 3002, 9500 104 $\square \quad 140$ FERGUSON
$3 \mathrm{~V} 0 \mathrm{O}, 3 \mathrm{~V} 01,3 \mathrm{~V} 16,3 \mathrm{~V} 22,3 \mathrm{~V} 23,3 \mathrm{~V} 24,3292$, $8900,8901,8902, ~ 8903,8904,8906,8909$,
$8912,8922, ~ 8923$ $8912,8922,8923,8924,8925,8929,140 \mathrm{p}$
$3 \vee 29,3 \vee 30,3 \vee 31,3 \vee 32,3 \vee 52,8930,8931$ $8933,8940,8941,8942,3 V 52,8930,8931.140 \mathrm{p}$ $3 V 45,3 V 48,3 V 49,3 V 39,3 V 42,3 V 43,3 V 44$ $3 V 57,3 V 5 \varepsilon, 3 V 59,3 V 53,3 V 54,3 V 55,3 V 56$, V14, 8943, 8944, 8945, FV10, FVII, FV12 3 V52
8950, 8951, FV10B, 11R, 13H, 14T 20B 2180p
22L, 26D, $31 \mathrm{R}, 32 \mathrm{~L}, \mathrm{FV} 33 \mathrm{H}, 39 \mathrm{~S}, 41 \mathrm{R}, 42 \mathrm{~L}, 50 \mathrm{~B}$, V 37 H , 140 p V57H
$3 \mathrm{~V} 35,3 \mathrm{~V} 36,3 \mathrm{~V} 38,3 \mathrm{~V} 39,3 \mathrm{~V} 49,8943$,
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
$3 V 42,3 V 43,3 V 44,3 V 45,3 V 48,3 V 53,3 V 54$ $3 V 55,3 V 56,3 V 57,8945,8947,8948, \quad 1350 p$ PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
FV37, FV57 FV58 PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY FV41L, FV42

350 p

PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
140p
$\mathbf{9 2 5 p}$
$3 V 58,3 V 59,3 \mathrm{Z} 64,3 \vee 65$, FV10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 26, 30, 32, 33
FV39, VC141L PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
FV43H FY44L FV45 FV43H, FV44L, FV45X, FV46
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY V61, FV62, FV67, FV68, FV70, FV71, 7V72 FV74, FV7T
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY FISHER
FVHP $420,520,530$

## $720,721,722,725,730$

FVHP905, 906, 907, 908, 910, 911, 915, 9140 Fi8, 970, $9756,980,990$, FVHP 5000,5005 , 5050, 5075, 5100
VBR330, VBS $3500,7000,7100,7500,76140$ 9000,9900 , FVHO230, 250 $250,300,310,1100$
FVHP1200, 1250, 130, 132, 1340, 1340, 1400,
$1410,1440,1500,200$, $1410,1440,1500,200$,
FVHP3204i0, 420,430 FVHP3204 10, 420, 430
FVSP290S 495,2905 FVSP290S, 495, 2905, 440, 445, 470, 475,
FVHO140, FVHP20 FVHD40, FVHD55, FVHP1, FVHP10 FVHO 140, 40, 55, FVHP1, 10, 25, 30, 40, 4000 FVHS10, 30
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY golostar
GHV51, 1221, 1232, 1233, 1240, 1241, 1242. $1243,1244,1245,1246,140 \mathrm{p}$
GHV1247, 1248, 1250, 1266, 1290, 1291, 1296, 1392, 1393, GHV1891, $1900,2145,3000,3010,4400$
$51,8000,8200, G H V 210,8215,8430$ GHVP 1240, 1241, 1247, 1248, 1290, 129 GHVP1295, 1296, VCP4000, 4100, 4130, 4200, $4300,4301,4305$, VCP $4306,4310,4311,4315$,
$4316,4320,4321,4325,4326,4350, G S E 1290$ $4316,4320,4321,4325,4326,4350$, GSE1290,
$1291,1295,1296,1297,1891,1910,20005$ 2000
HITACH
VT7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 33, 34, 35, 350, 38 . 39, $88,330,680,4200$,
VT5000, VT5000, 5030, 5500, $5500,6800,7000,8000$, VM600 $8300,8500,93$, VT9500, 9700, 9900, VT8, 52, 57, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 85, 86, 88, 100 $110,111,113,111,118,6$
VT $120,122,125,128,130,135,138,145,150$, $168,170,+75,220,225$ VT250, 255, 258, 260, 400, 405, 410, 413, 414, VT426, 428, 430, 431, 435, 438, 450, 498, 510 $515,517,518,520,525$, VT526, 530, 535, 536, 540,
575, 576, 580, 585, 588 VT640, 830, VTF660, 665 780, $785,860,861,865$,
VTL $30,1000,2000$, VTL VLL30, 1000, 2000. VTLC50, VTM598, 622, $625,626,630,635$
VTM $636,640,645,646,720,722,725,726$, $727,728,730,731,735$,

VM $736,740,745,746,748,753,754,820$, $821,822,825,830,831$. TM835, 838, 840, 841, 845,920, 921, 922, | $25,930,931,935$, |
| :--- |
| TSS80, 85,890 |

3280,500, VMS 7200 VT3000
V 410,
TT410, 420, 428, 430, 450, 498, 518, 520, 522 530. VTF770, 780 ,
VTM 598,622

PIM $598,622,722,740,748,753 \quad 650 \mathrm{p}$ VTF 150, 155, 180, 185, 250, 255, 260, 265,280 285, 350, 355, 355, $140,241,145,145,210,211$, 212,215, 220, 221, VIM230, HINARI
V20H, VXI $\quad$ 140p H13V, VTVi00, 200
VXL4, VXL20, VXI
VTV100, VXL10, VXL11, VLX9,

## PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY

## $\mathrm{V} 2 \mathrm{OH}, \mathrm{VXL5}, \mathrm{VXL} 6 \mathrm{MOO} \mathrm{KIT}$

HR2200, 3300, 3330, 3360, 3660, 4100, 7700
HR2650, $7200,7300,7350,7600,7610,7650$
7655 7655 1400, MRD110, 111, 120, 121, 140, 141, 142, 143,
$150,152,156,157,158$, HRO160, 220, 225, $250,257,445,455,565$, 566, 725, 755, HRP50, BP5000, BR7000, $\begin{aligned} & \text { BRS } \\ & \text { HRO520, } 540,550,560,580,600, ~ \\ & 10\end{aligned} 10,620$ $637,640,641,650,660$,
$H R 0670,720,7310,740$, HRO $670,720,730,740,770,820,830,840$,
$860,870,880,910,960$, $860,870,880,910,960$
HRO980, HRO980, HRDX20, 22, 25, HRJ $200,205,210$,
$215,300,315,316,318$ HR $\mathrm{J} 400,405,407,410,411,415,416,507$, $600,605,610,615,715,815$
HRJ97, HRS $4700,5800,5900,6800,6900$, HRJ97, HRS $4700,5800,5900,6800,6900$,
SR3200, 330,368 HRD170, 171, 180, 210, 211, 217, 230, 300,
$320,321,330,337,350$, $320,321,330,337,350$,
HRO $370,400,430,440$, $700,750,950$,
HRS5000, 5500, 8000, 9000, BR7030, 7040,
9060.

## HRS 10 BP5000, HRO110, 111, 120, 220, 225,

455
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
HRD140, 141, 142, 143, 150, 152, 157, 158. $160,565,566,725,755$, HRP50
PINCH
HRD1520 510,52 ASSEMBLY 5 600, 610, $620,537,641,522,525,527,560$,
HRO650. $720,830,840,910$, HPI 205 HRS5800 PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY 350p BR7030, GRS600, HRD $160,170,171,180,190$, HRD230, 271, 300.

| HRO230, |
| :--- |
| $350,400,430,300,310,320,321,330,337$, |

HRO470, 500, 530, 700, 750, 950, HRS5000, 5500,9000
INCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
HRO540, HRO550, HRD580, HRD650, HRD860 HROS60
HRJS 60 , HR LER ASSEMELY
HRS9200
MATSU:
VS888 , $30,735,750,755,765,800,850,140$
$V \times 1000, V \times 2000, V \times 2500, V \times 3000$,
V×6000A
HS12, 5300, 5424, 560
31, 32, 41, 51, 52, 82,
HSE12,
HSE 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 31, 32, 41, 51, 52,
B2, HSM $1000,110,120,15$
$0,16,170,190,210,23,25,250,27,33,34,35$,
$36,37,370,380,45,450,5$
$4,55,550,57,58,59,68,27,33,34,3$
$4,55,555,57,58,59,68$, HSMS2, 9, HSS 11 ,
$14,15,17,19,25,5600, \mathrm{HV}$
F $125,150,303,85$, SVB900, 8930
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY PART NO- $\quad 750 \mathrm{p}$ 9480020010
HSE11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 31, 32, 41, 51,
$52,5300,5424,56,, 4 B 11,120,110,20$, $52,5300,5424,5600$, HSB11, 12, 16, 21, 27, $31,32,41,51,52,82$, HSM $1000,110,120,150$ $33,34,35,36,37,370,38$, HSM $380,40,45$ $450,50,54,55,555,57,58,59,60,68$. HSMS2, 9 , HSMX1, 18, 19, $2,6 S S 11$ 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, 5600, HVF 125 , HVF 150,303 ,
85, SV 8900,8930 85, SV8900, 8930
HS 200 HS HS200, HS 300, HS301, HS302, HS303, HS 304
HS310, HS320, HS $330, H S 30$, HS370, HS320, HS330, HS360,
HS306, HS307, HS318, HS319, HS337, HS338 HS347, HS349, HS 400, HS 410, HS411, HS412 HS421, HS 480, HS710, HSB 10, HSB20, 30,
HSE 10, 20. HSE 10, 20,
30,70
$\frac{30,70}{\text { NATIONAL PANASONIC } \quad 140 \mathrm{p}}$
NATIONAL PANASONIC
NV $100,180,300,330 \mathrm{PX}, 332,333,340,366$, NV100, 180, $300,330 \mathrm{PX}$
$600,688,777,788,3321$ AG6010,
7450
NV230, 250, $260,280,372$ $450,460,465,470,480,380,430,431,433$, NV $630,650,730,770,780,810,830,850,870$, 890, 2000, 2010, 3000, $8300,8400,8500,8050,8150,8170,8200$ $8300,8400,8500,8600$
NV8610, 8620, NVG11, 14, 16, NVG7, 10, 12 A5, 18, 30, 130, 400, $10,1500,2100,2200,6500$, $6810,7500,7510$.
NVG9, NVG120
AG6840, 6720, 7150, 7330,7350, 140p
7355, 7650 , NVH65, 75, NV 330 , NVL20, 23, 25,
28, 8. NVG300, NVF65, NVF70, NVFS1 NVFS 100, NVG
NV8000 NVD48, NVO80, NVG21 NVG45 140p $\begin{array}{ll}\text { NVJ700PX } & \text { 140p } \\ & 140 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$ NVHD 100, NVHD 101, NCHO90, NVSO30,
NVSD40
1125 p PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
AG5 150, 5250, 5700, 6024, NVD38, 48, 80 ,
NVF55, $65,70,75,77$,
NVFS1, 100, 200, 88, 90, NVG 19, 20, 21, 22,
 42, 45, 47
NVL20, 23, 25, 28, NWW NCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
N830. $831,832,833,895$ PVC230
766 766 (1400, 2400, 740, 744, 746, 760, 764, ${ }^{140}$ OX1000, 1600, 1800, 2000, 3000, N9012, 90130 9014, 9016, 9033
N 9034,9053
N9034, $9053,9054,9055,9056,9066,9096$,
$9110,9720,9510,9520$, N9530, 9610 PX 1200

## NS7000 ORION

ORION
VH1, VH2
VC150, $180, \mathrm{VH} 3,33,200,201,205,212,250$ p
$254,288,300,303,312$,
VH404, $55,70,730,30$,
VA $404,555,700,704,712,770,780,844,900$
$1000,2948,3030,3312$
VHF2A, VP2948
COMB 15000,16000, HV03, LVH5O, NEVH. NEVHM, NEVHML,
TVP230RC, VCP, VH04, 30, 103, 300, 358, 360 $362,400,416,512$, VR5 $530,532,535,536,600$
$730,735,744,774,790$ VH800, $820,850,888,89$
$974,1012,1040,1850$
974, 1012, 1040,1050,
VH 1060,1070 VH 100 1500, 1660, 1800, 2004
VH2151, $2308,204240,2500,260$,
VH2960, 2970, 3050
VH3060, 4000, 4008, 4010, 4012, 4015, 4015,
$4020,4300,5020$,
VP $10,200,220,225,245$ VR $221,925,1032$
2949, 2959, 2957, 2966, 2979, 2980, VTV 300 ,
$\frac{\text { VXL20, 25, } 30}{\text { PHBIPS }}$
PHRLIPS
VR6460 VR6920
VR2020, VR2021, VR2022, VR2023
VR20711
VR6540
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { OV856, 586, VR702, 703, 6485, 6585, } & 140 \mathrm{P} \\ 140 \mathrm{P}\end{array}$
6785, 6880, $6948, ~ 6485,6585,6589,140$ p
VR445, VR6442, VR6542, VR6643, VR6843,
VR6943,
DV464, 662, VR2220, 2300, 2324, 2330, 2334
$2340,2350,2414$, VR $2480,2485,2486,2489$,
$2490,2498,2840,6462,6463,6464,6560$,
VR6660, 6860, 6861, 6862, 6863
N-1700, VR2870
VR2025, VR6580, VR6581
${ }_{6648}$. VR3260, 6349, 6448, 6449, 6548 14
PRESSURE ROLLER ASSEMBLY PS403-40205
OV186, 190, VR211, 2115, 212, 213, 223, 286,
291, 292, 311, 312, 313,
VR3210, 3219, 322, 3229, 323, 535B0, 486,
471, 562, 582, 57, 761,
VR201, 202, VR203, 302, 303, 305, 6180, 6182. VR6291, 6293, 636 6467, $6468,6470,6561$
VR6570, 6581 VR $6670,6676,6710,6760,6761$ 6762, 6870, 6970,
VR6975, 86BI, 63SB7, 68SB4, $715 B 4,71$ SB5,
$72 S B 8,72 S B 8,92 S B 31,200 V 1$, 20RW8, 72SB8, 92SB31, 200V1, 200VV2, 2SB12, 300V2, 310VI, 310V2, 310V33SB02 2SB12,
3SB03,

3SB05 3SB05 3SB11 3SB12 3SB13 280p VR231, 232, 332, 422, 4229, 512, 5229, 722, | 7229, 23 |
| :--- |
| VR501 |
| SANO |

## SANYO

VHR1 100, 1110, 1150, 1200, $1300,1500,2100$
$2300,2370,2500$,
VHR 2700,3330,
HR200, 3330, MVR220 140
VTC5000,5150,5300, 5350, 5400, 5500, 6000 , 6010, 6500, 9100,
VPF58000 VTCM $10,20,11,21,30,31,40,50$,
VHR3100.3300, 3310, $3400,3500,3700$ 140p
VHRO500, 70
VTC3000
VHR $120,130,14,141,143,74,150,151,153$ p 154, 15, 16, 171, 194, 22
OVHR $23,235,241,24, ~ 250, ~$ OVHR $23,235,240,244,250,251,274,27,297$
$310,330,335,350,390$ VHR410, $310,330,335,350,390$, VHR $4100,4105,4150$
$4200,430,4300,4350,4400,474,4770,5$ VHR5 $100,5200,5300,5350,5600,5700,6850$ $7100,7200,7250$, VHR $7260,7300,7400,7440$, $7500,7520,7530,7540,7700,774,780$. OVHR7810, 8000, 8070, 8100, 8200,8250 8500, 8800, VHRD4400, 4410, 4500,4600 VCR100
VH9120
VHR120, 135, 150, 190, 4i50, 140p
5200, 5240, $5350,7200,7250,4160,4350$, $5200,5240,5350,7200,7250,7260,770$
VHRO4410, $4610,4710,4890,5450$ VHRO4410, 4610, 4710, 4890, 5450,
VHRS 700 , PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
VHR3100, 3200, 3300, 3310, 3400, 3700, 3800 VHRD500, 7000

## PINCH ROL SHARP

SHARP LSASSEMBLY
VC200, 381, 383, 384, 38
800, 2300, 3300, 6000 00, 386, 388, 390, 393,
VC6200, $6300,7300,7700,7750,7800,8300$,
$838,9100,9300,9400$,
VC9500, 9600, 9700,980
VC300, 387, 402, 471, 473, 477, 489, 482, 483, $486,488,496,500,571$,
$573,581,582,583,59$,
573,581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 8481, VC5F3,
VC5W20E, VCA1031,
VC5W20E, VCA1031
VC108, 208, 405, 408,550, $600,651,671,674$

VC699, 700, 772, 750, 779, 780, 781, 7810
782, 782MK2, 7822, 783,
VC785, 786, 787, 793, 800, 7810, 7822, VCT72
VC6F3, VC6V3 VCA VC6F3, VC6V3, VCA 100, 102, 104, 131, 140, $170,202,203,211,234,303,501,502$,
VCA602, 5011, VCO901 VCA602, 5011, VCD801, 802, 851, 852, 881,
882, VCM73, VCT73, VCT72, vCB361

140 p
140 p
VC220
VCA10, 30G, 60, 103, 105, 106, 111, 113, 131,
$211,244,254,33,35,36, ~$ CA37, $39,40,42,454$
$52,53,54,55,57,58,505$
VCA60, $605,615,62,63,67,68,1031,11613$
VCB311, 320, VCBS97, VCD805, 806, 810,815
VCH80, 81,865 , 910 , VCS 1000, VCT310,
VCT470, 670 , VCT 1314, 5313, VC790 140p
VC780, 790, VCA 10, 103, 1031, 105, 106, 211,
44, 254, 255, 30, 35,
VCA $440,43,47,50,60,605,615$, VCD806,
815, VCHBO, 81, 83, 85,
VCH865, 87, 910, VCS 1000, VCT212, 310,410
510,610 VCT1314, VCTS313
PINCH ROLLER ASSEMBLY
SAISHO

## VIDEO SERVICE KITS



| MODE SWHPC |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NV2000，2010，7000，7200，7800（VS50048）  <br> NV230，260，430，810，870，2300，4300 $\mathbf{£ 3 . 5 0}$ <br> （VSS0110） $\mathbf{£ 2 . 2 5}$ <br> NV830（VSS0091） $\mathbf{£ 2 . 1 0}$ <br> NV300，333，340，366，688，777，778  <br> （VSS0060 $\mathbf{£ 3 . 7 5}$ <br> NVG21，25，NVH65，NVD80（VSS0175A） $\mathbf{£ 2 . 0 0}$ | amstrad o Used on：AM funal vs2， Also fits：FID TOWADA，UN <br> amstrad o Used on：AM 8603，VCR860 Also fits：ANT hand，GRAN DER，SEG，SE universum | ginal no： <br> TRAD TVR1， <br> ITY，FUNAI， VERSUM <br> GINAL NO： 8700， 8704 <br> CH，BONDST <br> DA，HINARI， <br> TRA，SHINTO |
|  | VIDEO |  |
| VIDEO CLEANING STICKS |  |  |
| Price 17 p each 15 p each pack of 10 pcs 13 p each pack of 25 pcs Order Code：SP14 | CONTAINS：SET OF <br> －RCA TYPE AUDIO <br> －RCA ADJUSTMENT <br> －RCA TYPE BACK TE <br> －TENSION ADJUSTM <br> －VCR ADJUSTMENT |  |
| VIDEO MAINTENANCE TOOLS |  |  |
| Set of 8 Allen keys packed in a plastic wallet Order code：TOOL 9，Price 125p Specifically designed for video maintenance |  |  |
| UNIVERSAL HEAD EXTRACTOR |  |  |
| Hand tool designed for extracting hard to remove heads without damage to either the head or the mounting assembly． Adjustable so as to suit various heads． Order code：TOOL 8，Price 600p |  |  |
|  | This transparent video inspectio |  |
|  | BACIKUP |  |
| PHILIPS <br> Part Nos：138－101138，138－10313 1．2v 90mAH Order Code：BB01 <br> Part Nos：138－10229，2．4v 100 mAH Order Code：BB02 |  |  |
| SAMEL4ME |  |  |
| MAKE \＆MODEL | CODE | PRICE |
| PACE PRD800，PRD900 | SATPSU1 | 600p |
| PACE SS9000，9200，9010，9210， 9220 | SATPSU2 | 550p |
| AMSTRAD SRD510，SRD520 | SATPSU3 | 600p |
| AMSTRAD SRD500 | SATPSU4 | 600p |
| AMSTRAD SRX340，SRX345，SRX350 | SATPSU5 | 600p |
| PACE D100／150 | SATPSU6 | 650p |
| CHURCHILL D2MAC | SATPSU7 | 650p |
| PACE MSS100 | SATPSU8 | 1100p |

## AUDIO CONTROL HEADS

AMSTRAD ORIGINAL NO： 150751
Used on：AMSTRAD TVR1，2，3，VCR4600， $4600 \mathrm{MKII}, 4700$ Also lits： IOWADA ORDER CODE：AH01 PRICE：1350p促
俗 4in 1
，
 UNIVERSUM A，SHINTOM．TASHIKO，TATUNG，TOWADA

## VIDEO TOOLS

## ONTANS：SET OF 7 HEAD \＆TAPE PATH ALIGNERS

RCA TYPE AUDIO \＆CONTROL HEAD POSITIONING TOOL位 TENSION TOOL

MENT TOOL FOR VARIOUS USES
be screwdrivers OL VCR HEAD EXTRACTOR
Order code：TOOL 10，Price 2900p

## TRANSPARENT REPAIR／ADJUSTMENT CASSETTE

## ET OF 8 ALLEN KEYS

$0.77 \mathrm{~mm} \quad 0.90 \mathrm{~mm}$
$1.27 \mathrm{~mm} \quad 1.50 \mathrm{~mm}$
$1.60 \mathrm{~mm} \quad 2.00 \mathrm{~mm}$
$2.40 \mathrm{~mm} \quad 3.00 \mathrm{~mm}$ for National Panasoni

| PART NUMBER | MODELS | PRICE |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| VBR 0091 | NVG7 etc | 875 p |
| VBR0050 | NV300，NV340 etc | 875 p |
| VBR0061 | NV777 etc | 875 p |
| VBR0103A | NV250．NV450 etc | 625 p |
| VBR0125 |  | 625 p |

## VCR ALIGNMENT KIT

15 peach pack of 10 pcs 3 each pack of 25 pcs

MAINTENANCE TOOLS
a plastic wallet
Opder code．TOOL 9，Price 125p UNIVERSAL HEAD EXTRACTOR
Hand tool designed for extracting hard to號 or the mounting assembly． Adjustable so as to suit various heads．

BACK UP BATTERIES

## PHILIPS

Part Nos：138－101138， $138-103131.2 \mathrm{v} 90 \mathrm{mAH}$ Order Code：BB01
Part Nos：138－10229，2．4v 100 mAH
Order Code：BB02

Price：70p
Price：135p

## FERGUSON

Part No：00E6－067－0011．2V 100mAH
Order Code：BB03
Part Nos：00E6－606－8001 2．4V 100mAH
Order Code：BB04

Price： 90 p
Price： 150 p

## SATELLITE TUNERS

PACE PRD800／MSS200 2Ghz（221－2077062）
ORDER CODE：TUNER01 PRICE： 1400 p＋VAT
PACE PRD900／MSS1000 2Ghz（221－21770112） ORDER CODE：TUNER02 PRICE： 1400 p ＋VAT

> SWITCH MODE TRANSFORMERS
> PACE 9000
> ORDER CODE：PACE9000 PRICE： 800 p
> PRD800／PRD900
> ORDER CODE：PRD800 PRICE：550p

| MAKE \＆MODEL | CODE | PRICE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| PACE MSS200／300 APPOLL | SATPSU9 | 900 p |
| PACE MSS500／1000 | SATPSU10 | $1230 p$ |
| FERGUSON SRD4 | SATPSU11 | $650 p$ |
| ECHOSTAR SR5500 | SATPSU12 | $1600 p$ |
| ECHOSTAR 6500／7700／8700 | SATPSU13 | $2750 p$ |
| AMSTRAD SRD600 | SATPSU14 | $2600 p$ |
| MIMTEC（Surensen） | SATPSU15 | $700 p$ |
| AMSTRAD <br> SRD700，SR950，SRX100，301，501，502， <br> 1002，2001，SRD2000 SAT250 | SATPSU16 | $1250 p$ |

## SATMETER

The Satmeter is a professional portable satellite strength meter designed for the installation and maintenance of satellite TV sys－ tems．The Satmeter can be used as stand alone with powering the LNB as well as in loop．
Through operation with satellite $R X$ powering the LNB．
＊Acoustical signal：On signal strength＊LED indicator：Vert／Hori
＊Frequency Range： 900 to 2050 Mhz ＊Input impedence： 70 Ohm
＊Power amplifier：18db＊Detection Range：-60 to -10 DBM
＊Max．input signal：－10 DBM
ORDER CODE：TOOL22
PRICE：8500p

## REPLACEMIENT TV SWITCHES

| GRUNDIG |
| :--- |
| PART No：29703， 29102 |
| USED ON： |
| C7500，C8500．C8502，C8712 ．．ETC |
| Order Code：SW1 |
| Price：100p |

## USED ON： <br> K30，K35，K40，KT3，KT4 <br> Order Code：SW13

## SONY

## USED ON：

KV1612，KB1612，KV1614，KV2052，V2056 KV2062，KV2067，KV2212 ．．ETC
Order Code：SW5
Price：130p

USED ON：
KV1400，KV1440，KV2040，KV2060
（POWER SWITCH 26 mm ） Order Code：SW12


## USED ON：

KV2020
（POWER SWITCH 21 mm ＋Remote）
Order Code：SW6 Price：130p

SONY 2 PIN FUNCTION SWITCH

|  | TIME LAG |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CURRENT RATING | ORDER CODE |  |
| 100 mA | FUSE36 |  |
| 160 mA | FUSE01 |  |
| 250 mA | FUSE02 |  |
| 315 mA | FUSE03 |  |
| 400 mA | FUSE04 |  |
| 500 mA | FUSE05 |  |
| 630 mA | FUSE06 |  |
| 800 mA | FUSE07 |  |
| 1 A | FUSE08 |  |
| 1.25 A | FUSE09 |  |
| 16 A | FUSE10 |  |
| 2A | FUSEII |  |
| 2.5 A | FUSE12 |  |
| 3.15 A | FUSE13 |  |
| IA | FUSE14 |  |
| 5 A | FUSE15 |  |
| 6.3A | FUSE16 |  |
| CERAMIC PLUG TOP |  |  |
| CURRENT RATING | ORIDER CODE | PRICE |
| 3 A | FUSE33 | 100p |
| 5 A | FUSE34 | 100 p |
| 13A | FUSE35 | 100p |
|  |  |  |
| CURRENT RATING |  | PRICE |
| 8A | FUSE 45 |  |
| 10A |  | $185 p$ 1850 |
| 15 A | FUSE46 | $185 p$$210 p$ |
| 20A | FUSE47 |  |

NB. All fuses are made in the UK and fully meet BS4265 \& BS 1.362 safety standards and should not be compared with cheap imported types

## VOLTAGE TESTER

A terminal screwdriver incorporating continuity \& voltage with Euroslot ORDER CODE: TOOL11

PRICE: 220p

## 20mm CERAMIC TIME LAG <br> CURRENT RATING <br> ORDER CODE PRICE <br> 6.3 A 8 A 10 A 315 A 4 A 5 A <br> | RDER CODE |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| FUSE38 | $100 p$ |
| FUSE39 | $100 p$ |
| FUSE40 | $100 p$ |
| FUSE41 | $85 p$ |
| FUSE42 | $85 p$ |
| FUSE43 | $85 p$ |

## 38 mm CERAMIC TIME LAG <br> CURRENT RATING $\quad$ ORDER COD PRICE

** ALL THE: ABOVE PRICES ARE FOR PACKS OF 10 FUSES **

## SPRING HOOK

Spring Hook, to unlock springs in audio tape recorders \& VCRs ORDER CODE: TOOL20

PRICE: 265p

## FAULT FINDING / COMPARISON BOOKS

Satellite Fault Finding Guide Issue 1 Listing about 1,000 faults for over a range of 24 different brands. Order Code: BOOK05.
Price $\mathbf{8 . 5 0}$ - No VAT.

Video Recorders Edition 51997
Over 300 pages packed with more than 5500 faults for different brands
Price $£ 15.00$ - No VAT. Order Code: BOOK01

| SERTICEAIDS |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| description | VOLUME | CODE | PRICE |
| VIDEO HEAD CLEANER | 75 ML | SPOI | 145p |
| SWITCH CLEANER | 176ML | 02 | 155p |
| SILICONE GREASE | 200ML | SP03 | 180 p |
| FREEZEIT | 170ML | SP04 | 295p |
| FREEZEIT | 00ML | SP16 | 580p |
| FOAM CLEANER | 400ML | SP05 | 180p |
| ANTI-STATIC | 200 ML | ${ }^{06}$ | 180p |
| AEROKLEANE | 200 ML | SP07 | 200p |
| AERO DUSTER | 200ML | SPOB | 340p |
| AERO DUSTER | 400 ML | SP17 | 580p |
| PLASTIC SEAL | 200 ML | SP09 | 250p |
| glass CIEANER | 200 ML | SPIO | 160p |
| COLOKLENE | 200 ML | SP13 | 220p |
| EXCEL POLISH 80 | 200ML | SP18 | 160p |
| ADHESIVE 120 | 500 ML | SP19 | 250p |
| LABEL REMOVER 130 | 200ML | SP20 | 260p |
| REFURB 140 | 400ML | SP21 | 260p |
| TUBE SILICON GREASE | 50 GRAMMES | SP11 | 225p |
| TUBE SILLCON SEALANT WHITE | 75ML | SP22 | 250p |
| TUBE SILICON SEALANT CLEAR | 75 ML | SP23 | 250p |
| TUBE HEAT SINK COMPQUND | 25 GRAMMES | SP12 | 150p |
| ORIVE CLEANER | 200 ML | SP24 | 150p |
| SCREEN CLEANER | 200ML | SP25 | 145 p |
| COMPUTER CARE KIT | - | SP | 2100p |
| All the above items are manufactured by Servisol If you purchase more than one Servisol Product, postage \& package will be charged as follows: |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 300p for 2-5 cans 500p for more than 5 |  |  |  |

## TELEVISION

Edition 7
This new A5 size guide lists more than 9600 faults and to approx. 474 pages in size.
Price: 1650 p only - no VAT ( $+£ 2$ Postage) Order Code: BOOK02
Satellite Repair Manual Edition 5
346 pages of receiver faults plus notes and general information such as many useful button sequences for resetting parental lock
codes, resetting installation choice to factory defaults.
Price $£ 16.00$ - No VAT plus Postage $£ 1$ Order Code: BOOK03

## SOLDERING ACCESSORIES

| DESCRIPTION | CODE PRICE |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ANTEX SOLDERING IRONS |  |  |
| 25 WATT 240 VAC (XS25W 240 V ) | S101 | 900p |
| 15 WATT 240 VAC (XS15W 240 V ) | S102 |  |
| 25 WATT SPARE ELEMENT | S103 | 4500 |
| 15 WATT SPARE ELEMENT | S104 | 450p |
| SOLDERING STAND \& SPONGES |  |  |
| SOLDERING STAND (MADE BY ANTEX) | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 108 \\ & \mathrm{~S} 109 \end{aligned}$ | 350 p 55 |
|  |  |  |
| SOLDER |  |  |
| 18 SWG 500 GRAMMES | S111 | ${ }^{6500}$ |
| 22 SWG 500 GRAMMES | S112 | 700p |
| DESOLDERING AIDS |  |  |
| SOLDER MOP STANDARD GAUGE 1.2MM $\times 1.5 \mathrm{M}$ |  | 100 p |
| SOLDER MOP 1.2MM $\times 10 \mathrm{M}$ | S113 | 420 p |
| oesoldering pump | S105 | 200 |
| spare nozzle | S106 | 60p |

SEMICONDUCTOR COMPARISONS 1999
With over 650 pages listing more than 34,200 Semiconductors with suitable alternatives complete with descriptions and base information. Price: 1900 p only - No VAT (+ £2 Postage). Order Code: BOOK04
SEMICONDUCTOR COMPARISONS 1999 The new 1998 Jaeger Semiconductor comparison with 1100 pages packed with information on over 95,000 semiconductors in much greater detail plus marketing data on SMD devices and a separate generic table of all the type designations.
Price: $£ 47.00$ only - No VAT ( $+£ 5$ Postage). Order Code: BOOK06

## I.C. PROTECTORS

ICPF10, ICPF15, ICPF20, ICPF25, ICPF38, ICPF50, ICPF75
ICPN5, ICPN10, ICPN15, ICPN20, ICPN25, ICPN 38, ICPN50, ICPN75

PRICE: 30p EACH ONLY

CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR?
RING US...AS THIS IS ONLY
ASELECTION OF THE
ITEMS THAT WE STOCK

GRANDATA LTD

## CASSETTE DC MOTORS

6 V MOTOR

## 170p

12 V CW MOTOR
12 V CCW MOTOR
13.2V MOTOR

CASSETTE TAPE HEADS
$\begin{array}{lr}\text { MONO HEAD } & 90 \mathrm{p} \\ \text { STEREO HEAD } & 110 \mathrm{p} \\ \text { MINI HEAD } & 150 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$
AUTO REVERSE HEAD



[^0]2 way Preprogrammed Universal Remote

- Replaces up to 2 remotes (TV/Satellite)
- Simple kev arrangement
- Set-up by library review
Order Code: 2 WAY


## REPLACEMENT LINE OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS

|  |  |  |  |  |  | 45150119 | LOT169 1 | 1500p | TLF 14520 F | LOT40 15 | 1500p | $094.01020 / 0$ | LOT59 1 | 1400p | 1-439-303-31 | LOT94 LOT94 | $\begin{aligned} & 1300 p \\ & 1300 p \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Part No. | Code | Price | H/TACHI | LOT44 1 | 1050p | 45150124 | LOT137 | 1800p | TLF 14521 F | LOT39 18 | 1850p | 094-01021/0.6 | T59 |  | 1-439-303-32 | Lot95 | 1550p |
| AKAI |  |  |  | 1079 | 1600p | 45150146 | LOT136 1 | 1600p | TLF 14567 F | LOT39 18 | 1850p | 094-01027/0.0 | LOT186 | 1825 | 1-4399-311-1 | LOT95 | 1550p |
| 45150344 | LOT56 1 | 1850p |  | LOT169 | 1500p | 45150301 | LOT169 1 | 1500p | TLF 14568 F | LOT40 15 | 1500p | 094-010388.0.7 |  | 1825p | 1-439-311-13 | LOT95 | 1550p |
| 101-214017-03 | LOT278 | 1300p | 2432461 2432619 | LOT80 1 | 1800p | 45150302 | LOT180 1 | 1550p | TLF 14584 F | LOT41 1 | 1700p | 094-01052 | LOT186 | 1825p | 1-439-311-13 | LOT95 | 1550p |
| 101-220005-03A | T72 |  | 24326651 | LOT80 1 | 1800p | 45150304 | LOT169 1 | 1500p | TLF 14586 F | LOT42 17 | 1700p | ${ }^{\text {094 }}$ 610.018.6620 | LOT189 1 | 1650p | 1-439-311-32 | LOT95 | 1550p |
| D 050/37 | LOT207 | 1450p | 2432761 | LOT169 | 1500p | 45150305 | LOT180 1 | 1550p | TLF 15606 F | L07258 | 1500 | 610.018 .6637 | LOT215 1 | 1800p | 1.439-331-22 | LOT96 | 1530p |
| D 053/37 | LOT56 | 1650p | 2432981 | LOT37 | 1200p | 45150306 | LOT168 1 | 1500p | TLLF 70012 F | L0778 1 | 1500p | SHARP |  |  | 1-439-331-41 | LOT98 | 1550p |
| 37 | LOT200 | 1400p | 2432981 | LOT37 | 1200p | 45150308 | LOT22 | 1250p | TLFF 70012 A | LOT78 1 | 1500p | RTANF 1220 CE2Z | LOT39 | 1850p | 1.439-332-00 | LOT99 | 1600p |
| D 069/37 | LOT56 | 1650p | 2432982 | 37 |  | 45150309 | LOT168 | 1500p | TLF 700 | LOT274 | 1550p | RTRNF 1783 BMZ | LOT202 1 | 1600p | 1-439-332-11 | LOT99 | 1600p |
| FCM 2015 AL | LOT78 | 1500p | 2433011 | Lo | 1600p | 45150313 | LOT30 | 1250p | TLF 70018 F | LOT274 1 | 1550p | RTRNF 1783 CEZZZ | LOT202 | 1600p | 1-439-332-21 | LOT99 | 1600p |
| FERGUSON |  |  | 2433014 | LOT171 | 1600p | 45150314 | LOT174 | 1400p | TUF 70161 | LOT278 | 1300p | RTRNF 1786 BMZZ | LOT211 | 1850p 1850 p | $1-439-332-41$ $1-439-332-42$ | LOT101 | 1450p |
| -3-508-001 |  | 1250p |  | LOT168 | 1500p | 45150315 | LOT22 | 1250p | TLF 70162 | LOT72 | 1600p | RTRNF 2000 BMzZ | LOT214 | 1600p | ${ }_{1}^{1-4393-332-52}$ | LOT100 | 1500p |
| $00 \mathrm{D}-3$ |  | 1250p | 2433 | LOT172 | 1350p | 45150318 | LOT192 | 50p | TLF 70162A | 1072 1072 | 1600 p 1600 p | RTRNF 2002 BMZZ | L0T307 | 1450p | 1-439-333-00 | LOT270 | 1550p |
| $00 \mathrm{D}-3.508-003$ | LOT276 | 1400p | 2433301 | LOT246 | 1800p | 45150319 | LOT30 | 1250p | TLF 70162 C | LOT72 | 1600p | RTANF 2002 CEZZ | LOT307 | 1450p | -439-333 | LOT270 | 1550p |
| $00 \mathrm{D}-3-515-001 \mathrm{PL} 1$ | LOT276 | 1400p | 2433441 | LOT188 | 1900p | 45150320 |  |  | TLF 70162 G | LOT274 | 1550p | RTPNF 2003 BMZZ | L0T308 | 1350p | 1-439-333-12 | LOT270 | 1550p |
| 00 D-4-208-001 | L0779 | 1600p | 2433442 | LOT191 | 1600p | 45150322 | LOT196 | 1550p | PHILIPS |  |  | RTRNF 2004 BMZZ | LOT307 | 1450p | 1-439.363.11 | LOT268 | 1400p |
| $00 \mathrm{D}-4 \cdot 208-002$ | LOT79 | Op | 2433451 | LOT81 | 350p | 45150324 | LOT194 | 1550p | 48221401014 | LOT142 | 1800p | RTRNF 2005 BMZZ | LOT308 | 1350p | 1-439-363-21 | LOT268 | 1400p |
| $000 \mathrm{D}-4-235-002$ | LOT240 | 1250p | 2433452 | LOT82 | 1250p | 45150325 | LOT22 | 1250p | 4822140101145 | LOT134 | 1450p | RTRNF 2006 BM2Z | LOT308 | 1350p | 1.439-387-11 | LOT311 | 1450p |
| 00 D-4-235-002 HT1 | Lotri | 1350 1350 | 2433453 | LOT82 | 1250p | 45150326 45150328 | LOT198 | 1550 | 482214010146 | LOT112 | 1700p | RTPNF 2007 BMZZ | LOT307 | 1450p | 1-439-387-21 | LOT311 | 1450p |
| 00 D-4-235-0020 60 | Lot38 | 1250p | 2433455 | LOT234 | ${ }^{1600} \mathrm{p}$ | 45150328 45150329 | LOT193 | 1550p | 482214010151 | LOT102 | 1700p | RTRNF 2023 BMZZ | LOT31 |  | 1-439-416-11 | OT255 | 500p |
| $00 \mathrm{H}-0.701-2400$ | LOT182 | 1450p |  | LOT22 | 1250p | 45150330 | LOT179 | 1350p | 482214010161 | LOT103 | 1250p | SONY | 107275 | 1500 | 1-439-416-12 | OT255 | 600p |
| 06 D-3-083-001 | LOT82 | 1250p | 24 | LOT83 | 1400p | 45150331 | LOT207 | 1550p | 482214010171 | LOT104 | 1500p | ${ }_{\text {1.439-243-00 }}$ | LOT91 | 1600p | 1-439-416-21 | LOT255 | 1600p |
| 06 D-3-083-002 | LOT82 | 250p | 24 | LOTO1 | 1300p | 45150334 | L0T56 | 1650p | 482214010176 | LOT105 | 1500p | 1-439-243-11 | LOT91 | 1600p | $1-439-416-23$ $1-439-416.41$ | OT2 | 1600p |
| 06 D-3-084-001 | LOT23 | 1400p | 2433752 | LOTO1 | 1300p | 451503 | LOT193 | 1550p | 482214010194 48214010198 | LOT116 | 1600p | 1-439-243-12 | Lот91 | 1600p | -439.416-51 | LOT255 | 1800p |
| 06 D-3-087-001 | LOT23 | 1400p | 2433752 | LOT250 | 1350p | 451 | Lor27 | 1450p | 4882214010201 | LOT104 | 1500p | 1-439-243-31 | LOT22 | 1700p | 1-439-430-1 | LOT27 | 1550p |
| 06 D-3-088-001 | LOT84 | 1450p | 2433891 | LOT23 | 1400p | 45150340 | LOT200 | 1600p | 4882214010236 | LOT118 | 1550p | 1-439-243-32 | LOT229 | 1700p | 154125A | LOT275 | 1550p |
| 06 D-3-093-001 | LOT204 | 1600p | 2433892 | LOT84 | 1450p | 45150341 | LOT56 | 1850p | 482214010236 | LOT111 | 1500p | 1-439-243-41 | LOT229 | 1700p | TOSHIBA |  |  |
| 06 D-3-095-001 | LOT87 | 1000p | 2433893 | LOT23 | 1400p | 45150343 | LOT196 | 1550 | 4822214010247 | LOT105 | 1500p | 1-439-244-00 | LOT48 | 1600p | 370 | 31 | 1450p |
| 06 D-3-095-002 | LOT87 | 10 | 2433952 | LOT33 | 1000p | 45150344 | LOT56 | 15550p | 482214010254 | LOT107 | 1450p | 1-439-244-11 | LOT48 | 1600p | 37011 | LOT13 | 1450p |
| 06 D-333-512-001 FETX 10090 DEG | LOT204 | 1600p $1500 p$ | 2434002 | LOT200 | 1400 p 1000 p | 45150346 45150350 | LOT201 | 1450p | 482214010263 | LOT117 | 1550p | 1-439-244-21 | LOT48 | 1600p | 370 | LOT131 | 1450p |
| FETX 90 WHITE | lotob | 1850p | 2434141 | LOT33 | 1000p | 45150351 | LOT27 | 1450p | 482214010263 | LOT210 | 1350p 1850p | 1-439-244-31 | LOT48 | 1850p |  | LOT13 | 1450p |
| FETX 100100 DEG | LOT34 | 1500p | 2434274 | LOT44 | 1050p | 45150375 | LOT56 | 1850p | 482214010271 | LOT208 | 1450p | 1-439-256-11 | LOT45 | 1850p | 37014 | LOT131 | 1450p |
| GRUNDIG |  |  | 2434274 | LOT44 | 1050p | 45161601 | LOT22 | 1250p | 4822214010282 | LOT122 | 1300p | 1-439-256-21 | LOT45 | 1650p | 37015 37016 | LOT131 |  |
| 29201.008.01 | LOT153 | 1750p | 2434453 | LOT86 | 1600p | mITSUBIS |  |  | 482214010283 | LOT104 | 1500p | 1-439-256-22 | LOT45 | 1850p | 3701 |  | 450p |
| 29201.014.01 | LOT140 | 1500p | 2434455 | LOT234 | 1600p | 731003 | LOT49 | 1550p | 482214010294 | LOT125 | 2150p | 1-439-276-21 | LOT23 | 1700p | 37018 | LOT | 1450p |
| 29201.015.01 | LOT149 | 1400p | 2434593 | LOT44 | 1050p | 276-16399 | L0T50 | 1500p | 482214010306 | LOT110 | 1200p | 1-439-280-00 | LOT92 | 180 | 37019 | LOT131 | 1450p |
| 29201.017.01 | LOT60 | 1250p | 2435062 | LOT296 | 1400p | 334 B 07803 | 10750 | 1450p | 482214010325 | LOT132 | 1500p | 1-439-280-13 | LOT92 | 1800p | 1810 | Lot5s | 1400p |
| 29201.018.01 | LOT163 | 1300p | 2435121 | LOT87 | 1000p | 334 B 078030 | L0750 | 1450p | 482214010326 | LOT122 | 1300p | 1-439-286-00 | LOT46 | 1300p | 2433751 | LOT01 | 1300p |
| 29201.018.02 | LOT61 | 1700p | 2435131 | LOT251 | 1450p | 334 B 08104 334808108 | LOT29 | 1600p | 482214010328 | LOT124 | 1450p | 1-439-286-11 | LOT46 | 1300p | 2433751 243752 | LOT250 | 1350p |
| 29201.019.01 | LOT62 | 1250p | 2435149 | LOT282 | 1300p | 334 334 | LOT51 | 1550p | 482214010349 | LOT106 | 1250p | 1-439-286-12 | LOT46 | 130 | 23236023 | LOT281 | 1300p |
| 29201.019.02 | LOT6 | 125 | 2435301 | LOT88 | 1450p | ${ }_{3}^{334}$ P 18506 | L075 | 1500p | 482214010353 | LOT284 | 1400p | 1-439-286-13 | LOT46 | 130 | 23236052 | LOT131 | 1450 p |
| 29201.022.01 | LOT | 1700p | 2435671 | LOT89 | $1600 p$ $1200 p$ | 5908-05008A-AA | L0770 | 1500p | 482214010356 | LOT284 | 1400p | 1-439-286-21 |  |  | 23236098 | LOT288 | 1400p |
| 29201.022 .02 | LOT166 | 1800p | 2436201 2436202 | LOT109 | 1200p | 5908-05008A-AA D 108/77 | LOT49 | 1500p | 482214010367 | LOT286 | 1400p | 1.439-288-00 | LOT2 |  | 23236198 | LOT288 | 8 1400p |
| 29201.022 .03 | LOT165 | 1350p | 2436202 $2432101-2$ | LOT109 | 1200p 1600 p | DCF1577 | LOT273 | 3 1700p | 482214010369 | LOT109 | 1200p | 1-4 | LOT4 | 14500p | 23236255 | LOT289 | 1500p |
| 29201.022 .04 29201.022 .04 A | LOT165 | 1350p | 2432101-2 | Lot81 | 1350p | DCF2077A | LOT272 | 2 1300p | 482214010381 | LOT128 | 1300p | 1.4 | LOT47 | ${ }^{1400 p}$ | 23236424 | LOT12 | 1400p |
| 201.022.04A | LOT65 | 1500p | 2433453 H | LOT82 | 1250p | KFS 60226B | LOT279 | 1550p | 482214010384 482214010395 | LOT127 | 1550p | +1-4.439-289-2 1 | LOT47 | 1400p | 23236425 | LOT28 | 1400p |
| 29201.024.04 | LOT164 | 4 1400p | 2433891 | LOT23 | 1400p | MSH-1FBW08 | L0778 |  | 4882214010406 | 10773 | 1150p | 1-439-289-31 | LOT47 | 1400p | 23236428 | LOT28 | 1500p |
| hinaril |  |  | 2433892 G | LOT84 | 1450p | NL |  |  | 482214010421 | LOT109 | 1200p | 1-439-294.00 | LOT93 | 1450p | 3122113837011 | LOT1 | 1450p |
| 154138 K | LOT24 | 1500p | 1.T.T. |  |  | BABY10 |  |  | 482214017078 | LOT 103 | 3 1250p | 1-439-294-11 | LOT93 | 1450p | 150 | LOT131 |  |
| 51139141 | LOT24 | 1500p | 45150108 | LOT113 |  | ${ }^{\text {ORIT }}$ | T02 | 1500p | SANYO |  |  | 1-439-294-21 | LOT269 | 1550p | TFB 4039 AD | , |  |
| 51141841 | LOT24 | 1500p | 45150115 | LOT136 | (1600p | PANASONIC |  |  | 094.00020/0.9 | LOT113 | 3 1400p | 1-439-303-00 | LOT94 | 1300p | TFB 4048 AD | LOT281 | 1 1300p |
| CF 44 A | LOT24 | 1500p | 45150116 | LOT139 | (1875p | TLF 14512 F | LOT39 | 1850p | 094-00035/0.2 | LOT162 | 1350p | 1-439-303-11 | LOT94 | 1300p | TFB 4048 BD |  |  |
| HM51-1411834-1 | LOT24 | 1500p | 45150117 | LOT139 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Universal Pre-Programmed |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
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# HELP WANTED 

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

Wanted: LOPT for the Matsui Model 2080, part no. 3220012. D. Mehta, 133 Booth Road, Colindale, London NW9 5JU. 01812000987.
Wanted: Amstrad/Fidelity VMC100 camcorder spares or scrap camera. Particularly require lens and front video section. S. Wardill, 1 Wentworth Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5LF. 01702 600834.

Wanted: Set of radio valves, UCH42, UF4I, UL41 and UY41. M.M. Rigg, Four Ways, 139 Broad Lane, Rochdale OL16 4PP. 01706640409.
Wanted: Information on the Escom computer system with Intel 80486 processor. Also on upgrading from 486 to a Pentium overdrive. Greg Strange, phone/fax 01513275971.
Wanted: Circuit diagram for the Hitachi HV62K CCTV camera. D.J. Rockliffe, 3 Hewell Lane, Barnt Green, Nr Birmingahm B45 8NZ. 01214455360. Wanted: Circuit diagram (photocopy OK) for PCB type $145 \mathrm{~N}(\mathrm{~N})$ used in the Sharp TV Model 3705. P.T. McKeever, 4 Castleview Park, Derry, N. Ireland BT48 8DL. 01504353613.
Wanted: Circuit diagram or layout for plug-in transistor Y amplifier unit 1Y2 for the Dynamco D7100 scope. Jim Littler, 363 Atherton Road, Hindley Green, Wigan, Lancs WN2 3XD.
Wanted: STK183BC colour output chip for the Amstrad PC14 HRCD R computer monitor, or does anyone know of a replacement? Richard S. Barnard, 105 Portland Road, Worthing, W. Sussex BNII IQA.
Wanted: LOPT for the Plustron 5in. TV/radio/cassette Model TVRC5C. It has 11 pins and is marked TMF-205L UKCT. Or does anyone know how to fixed shorted turns? Graham Seward, 2 Orchard Close, Severn Stoke, Worcester WR8 9JJ. 01905371 504. E-mail grahamsew@tesco.net
Wanted: MN15151GBC chip (IC701) or complete panel for the Goodmans C series Model 2050R. Please phone Peter on 01642650027.
Wanted: 16MB memory module for the Mitac 4028G series notebook computer. Phone John Rider on 01384825512. Wanted: $0 \cdot 12 \Omega$ safety resistor circuit ref. R1101 for the Panasonic NV370 VCR. Chris Lusardi, 154 Western Road,

Tingley WF3 1QA. 01132530432. Wanted: Chopper transformer for the Nikkai Model TLG1409. Numbers on the transformer are 5903 06002A-AA-L $S E$. Also require $C B$ radio and radio scanner. M. Payne, 66 Nevinson Avenue, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 8NP. 01915372062.
Wanted: Cabinet front for the Akai VS485EK VCR and a working or repairable main chassis panel for the Grundig TVR5504 (CUC3500), plug-in boards not needed. T.J. Steel, I 85 Charter Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 2RF. 01249464427.
Wanted: Heads, in reasonable condition, for the Philips VCR Model VR2020. Steve Rowe, 20 Woodside Close, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU2I 2DD. 01483480027.

Wanted: Power supply for the Sharp VC2300H VCR plus circuit diagram or manual. Gerald Dethick, 35 Bideford Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5AX. 01614807537.
Wanted: Service manual or circuit diagram for the Sharp VLC780H camcorder - good photocopy OK. G. Thomas, 31 The Parade, Merthyr Tudful CF47 0ET. 01685722575.

Wanted: Philips Matchline 36ML8906/05B power board with LOPT and power amplifiers. Vince Stanley. Phone 01954253 649, fax 01954253 601 or e-mail
vince.stanley@pigroup.co.uk
Wanted: Repair data for the Amstrad type 83-4933-9-001 and type 9975414801 I4in. SVGA monitors and also the Mega PC base unit. David Benyon, Marshland View, St. Annes Hill, Bude, Cornwall EX 23 OLT. 01288 353373.

Wanted: Betamax tape rewinder; SLI432 IC; GoldStar 12401 and Tashiko VVE992 VCRs, working or not. Ron Bruce, 11 New Zealand Way, Rainham, Essex RM13 8JP. 01708558792.
Wanted: Manual for the Taylor 45D valve tester. G. Edwards, 17 Watson-Watt Gardens, Mundesley, Norfolk NR11 8DR. Wanted: Technicolor portable VCR/monitor. Condition immaterial as long as the power supply and monitor sections are complete. Also any information on, or a source of spares for, or a scrap Varitronic Express labelling
machine. Mine doesn't print the characters correctly. Andie Wilkes, 01926404 935 (day), 01216050720 (evening) or e-mail andie@ wilkes 123 .freeserve.co.uk For sale: Video Jackfield, musa, two-row with 20 musa per row with test points. Brand new boxed. Also BNC patchpanel $2 \mathrm{U}-19 \mathrm{in}$. rackmount, two rows of 16 dou-ble-sided BNCs. Brand new never used. Phone Fran Ott on 01359240745.
Wanted/for sale: Require $10 \times 7 \mathrm{in}$. 3$5 \Omega$ speaker, Truvox radio jack circa 1953 and a teletext board for the Grundig CUC220 chassis. Have for sale Sony TAI00 15W PC amplifier $£ 30$, sixvolume set of Radio and Television Servicing pre-1956-1962 £30, two Canon NP50 and one NP5500 copiers plus some chemicals for breaking $£ 80$ - very heavy, buyer collects. W. Milne, 20 Graham Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3SR. 01815439542.
Contact: Would like to keep in touch with service technicians in the UK and Ireland for exchange of advice and ideas about our job. Write to Stefano Tonelli, Via Antica Luni 2, 54011 AULLA (MS), Italy or e-mail vidserv@tin.it
Wanted/for sale: Require valves, parts, manuals, knobs etc., in fact anything to do with 405 -line TV and valve radio sets, also old test gear (especially 405line pattern generator), anything considered. Can supply photocopies of many early Trader service sheets at $£ 1$ each. Steve Taylor, 11 Charnborough Road, Coalville LE67 4SF. 01530832695 or 07977805308.

Wanted: Service manuals for the Technics SLP7 CD player, Sanyo VTC5000 VCR, Panasonic AG6800 VCR, Akai DT200 timer unit, Trio KX710 cassette deck and Hitachi D5500M cassette deck. Terry Martini, 122B Cannon Street Road, London E1 2LH. Phone 0171702 8774, fax 0171 7028216 or e-mail terrym@callnetuk.com
For sale: Manuals for the Ferguson FV10, FV11, FV13, FV21, FV26, FV30, 3V24, 3V44 and 3V59 VCRs at £3 each plus postage. Also Avo 9 Mk 4 meter in excellent condition with EverReady case (needs new leads), £50 plus carriage. Phone David Forfar on 01695735132 for further details and list of other manuals.


## Reports from <br> Philip Blundell, AMIIEelec David Smith

Bob Longhurst
Chris Watton
Paul Hardy
Michael Dranfield
Tony Matthews and
Derek, Telecare

## Toshiba 3357DB (C5SS chassis)

Another dealer had replaced the STRS6709 chopper chip Q801 because it had gone short-circuit between pins 1, 2 and 3. The replacement failed next day. When Q801 has failed, D809 (MTZJ5.6B, part no. 23316672) must always be checked. If it's short-circuit Q801 will fail when the set is brought out of standby. P.B.

## Hitachi CPI1454

"Just snow" it said on the job card. Voltage checks around the tuner unit (helpful to have the pin functions printed on the PCB) showed that the 12 V supply was missing. When I traced back along the track I found a crack in the copper, by the AGC control. The track was broken at one end of R222. A small wire link restored normal operation.P.B.

## Philips 29PT9113/05

## (MD2.22 AA chassis)

This set was dead - well almost. At switch on the front LED went green for 15 seconds then turned steady red. There was no EHT or sound of any kind during this time. It's unusual for the LED to be a constant red during a fault condition: in most situations it flashes red. The trusty dealer service tool couldn't

## TV

 Fault Findingpick up any error codes, so I was on my own with this fault!

The standby microcontroller chip (the chassis has two chips of this type) appeared to be OK, as the front LED and the remote-control receiver sections were working. But the main microcontroller chip, which wakes up the set and sends error codes to the infra-red transmitting LED, wasn't working.

Checks around this IC showed that the clock oscillator (1200) was running, the reset pulse was OK , and the +5 S standby, +5 V 2 and +8 S supplies were present and correct. Even the Main-Is-Alive signal, which indicates that the main microcontroller chip is operational, was as per the manual. The $\mathrm{I}^{2} \mathrm{C}$ bus was active during the 15 seconds when the front LED was green.

Could there be a software fault either a faulty ROM or EAROM? Fortunately I was able to borrow a working text/control PCB from a neighbouring dealer (thanks Kevin!). This enabled me to prove that microprocessor 7200 was faulty.

Philips operates a repair service for this PCB, at a fixed price. Remember to keep the orignal EAROM chip (or copy it) to save having to set up the option codes, picture geometry, grey scale and tuning afterwards! P.B.

## Samsung CI5944 (SCT12B chassis)

The TDA8350 field/EW output chip in this chassis seems to fail quite often. Samsung has issued a modification sheet, which is rather too involved to explain here. The value of one component has to be changed and five others added. Ask me in 18 months if it does the trick!

If you replace the chip and the scanning is restored but there are flyback lines at the top of the screen, check R307 ( $10 \Omega$ ) which
tends to go high in value. Its part no. is 2008-000179. P.B.

## Grundig G1000 Chassis

If the set is dead but the standby LED is glowing, check whether the efficiency diode D304 (BY133) is short-circuit and R314 ( $6 \cdot 8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, 4W) in the feed to the line driver stage is open-circuit. P.B.

## GoldStar CI20C22F (PC42 chassis)

There was no sound or vision, just a blank raster with the on-screen display showing when the remote control unit was used. A check on the supply lines seemed to be a good idea, especially as there are several 78 series three-terminal regulators on the signals board. IC831 (7812) had 16 V at its input but only 9 V instead of 12 V at its output. A replacement restored normal operation. P.B.

## Panasonic TX29ADIDP

Tripping with field collapse was the complaint with one of these sets. There are two switch-mode power supplies and a conventional transformer supply. Look no farther than R7000 ( $180 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) and R7005 ( $150 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) which are connected in series and provide a start-up supply for the STR chip. They are on the side panel, where the audio output stage lives. R7000 had in this case gone high in value. As a result the power supply couldn't get going.

A word of advice. There are two identical plugs near the top of the panel. If they are wrongly connected you will get the same results. Better to mark them than be led a merry dance! D.S.

## Osaki Cl5013T

This set was stuck in standby. Safety resistor R826 (1 $\Omega, 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$ ) was open-circuit and the line output transistor was short-circuit - which
was not surprising as R826 had 250 V at one side! The cause of the excessive voltage was C852 $(470 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V})$ in the power supply. It had gone low in value. Once it had been replaced and the HT had been set at 125 V the receiver produced a super picture. Odd that the 160 V capacitors were intact and hadn't blown their tops! D.S.

## Crown CTZ9009R

The width varied, with severe EW bowing. After all the main components had been checked and proved to be OK I removed the scan coils and found severe burn marks in one spot. Fortunately I had a spare yoke, which restored normal scanning. D.S.

## Mitsubishi CT15M2X

There was just a squealing noise when this set was switched on. The cause turned out to be the 2SD1877 line output transistor Q552, which was short-circuit. After checking for possible causes I fitted a replacement and switched on. The set then worked perfectly but, still suspicious, I kept a wary eye on it. After about ten minutes my suspicions were confirmed when the HT rose. Fortunately there was no further damage. The cause of this power supply fault was the STR5404l chip IC901. B.L.

## Ssangyong CTV0014

There was sound but no picture, because of field collapse. The surge limiter R122 (3.3S) in the supply to the field output chip was opencircuit, and a resistance check showed that there was a dead short across the supply. C $108(1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 25 V ) rather than the IC had gone short-circuit. I used a 35 V replacement, unhappy at the thought of a 25 V electrolytic decoupling a 25 V supply. The HT was correct at 120 V . A two-day soak test proved that the set was now OK. B.L.

## Ferguson ICC8 Chassis

I was told that this set went dead intermittently. It failed to do so during five days on test. So I carried out a tap test, followed by a flex-and-twist test. It was still OK. Blanket resoldering of all likely causes of the trouble was then undertaken. It failed during the first evening the customer had it back!

After another five days of fruitless testing a frustrated thump on the side of the cabinet did the trick: off it went. A quick attack inside revealed great sensitivity around the plastic power supply cage. The
cause of the fault turned out to be dry-joints on the chopper transistor's metal heatsink plate - its soldered lugs are used to complete the chassis line. Had it been a Sony set I would have looked for dodgy lugs first! B.L.

## Tafung A Chassis

There was no remote-control operation. The handset was OK, but an oscilloscope check showed that there was no output from the standup IR receiver unit. Its 5 V supply was present, and the external circuitry was OK. A new receiver unit from Wizard Distributors, order code TATl17, solved the problem. B.L.

## Goodmans 2185T

There was a green picture. The usual suspects were all OK, so further testing was required. This brought me to R618 which was open-circuit. According to the circuit daigram it should have been $470 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, but $330 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ was fitted. It was covered with the dreaded dried glue.

Another fault was apparent, field cramping. The cause of this turned out to be C333 ( $4 \cdot 7 \mu \mathrm{~F})$. B.L.

Ferguson TX99 Chassis Although the power supply was working the set appeared to be dead. Checks showed that the 18.5 V supply was missing. The usual cause of this is the 1 A circuit protector ICPI going open-circuit, but in this case there was an opencircuit at pin 7 of the chopper transformer. When the transformer was removed most of the leadouts were found to be very poorly soldered. Remaking them restored normal operation. C.W.

## Roadstar TVM70034

These 6in. monochrome sets are popular with lorry drivers. One problem you get is loss of tuning or tuner drift. The usual cause is Cl 07 $(0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F})$, a disc capacitor that tends to become leaky. C.W.

## Daewoo T514 (CP365 chassis)

Intermittent loss of the signal is a complaint you can get with these sets. If a button is pressed, you find that the on-screen displays are there. But only switching off and on will restore the signal. Then, after a while, the fault returns. The cause is poor connections to the chopper transformer. Don't be surprised if no amount of thrashing will instigate the fault. C.W.

## Matsui 20T1

No sound is a quite common fault with this set. The cause is usually safety resistor R550 (4.7 ) which goes open-circuit. It's mounted next to the speaker plug. C.W.

## Sony KVX2532 (AE1B chassis)

If the picture is cramped at the bottom and stretched at the top, check the field scan coupling capacitor C531 ( $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V}$ ). It's quite a common fault with these sets. This one had a rather unusual fault, incorrect purity and convergence because the scan coils were incorrectly positioned. C.W.

## Hitachi C2166TN

For an apparently dead set with a dim standby LED, check the connections to IC902. C.W.

## Tatung 140 Series Chassis

It took over a year to establish the cause of an extremely intermittent fault, low gain, with one of these sets. Fortunately the customer was quite understanding. On initial test the fault put in a brief appearance then refused to make another. Some suspect joints were remade. On subsequent visits the tuner was replaced, as the best guess as to the cause, then the SAW filter and the IF chip. During one visit the fault remained long enough for voltage checks to be carried out. I found that the base-emitter junction of Q101 (BF959), which drives the SAW filter, was going open-circuit. A BFI4l proved to be a suitable replacement, and the set has not been back for many months now. P.H.

## Philips G90AE Chassis

The customer's complaints were that the picture was ragged, the display went dim and teletext was poor. The first two faults were cured by replacement of C 2640 $(680 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ and $\mathrm{C} 2580(470 \mu \mathrm{~F})$, the reservoir capacitors for the 22 V and 12 V supplies respectively. The teletext fault was a bit more obscure: it looked rather like poor purity. Resoldering the joints where the teletext panel is joined to the main PCB didn't fix it. The cure was to resolder a lot of the long links on the main PCB near the teletext panel. P.H.

## Sony KVM2140U (BE2A chassis)

We've had a number of these sets in which the Aquadag earth lead retaining clip has broken away
from the cabinet. The only way to repair this is to use a couple of tie wraps and anchor the lead to the tube mount. In most cases there is no other damage. With one set there was no picture after reattaching the lead. The customer had complained that it was dead. In fact there was field collapse because R819 ( $0.47 \Omega, 0.25 \mathrm{~W}$ safety) had failed. P.H.

## Sharp CV2131 (8PSR chassis)

This set had intermittently failed to work and was now dead. Quite a number of poor joints were attended to, but the real culprit was C723. It's a $3 \cdot 3 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ non-polarised electrolytic capacitor in the power supply. I didn't have one in stock, but two $6.8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytics connected back-to-back restored normal operation. P.H.

## Philips G90AE Chassis

We've seen a number of these sets that have displayed F4 or F7. Usually the signals are missing, the LED changes colour from green to orange and there is no response to the remote control unit. These error codes point to the EEPROM or the teletext chip. In each case however the microcontroller chip has been faulty.

The error codes seem to occur only when the chip is quite warm. Freezer spray and a hairdryer are useful diagnostic aids to prove whether it's faulty. I usually warm the chip until I can just touch it with the back of a finger for a few seconds. If the fault is present at this temperature, a power reset usually makes no difference. If you then cool the chip slightly with freezer, a power reset will normally restore correct operation. P.H.

## Ferguson ICC5 Chassis

 At switch on the EHT blipped up but the set otherwise remained dead. The cause was traced to a dried out electrolytic capacitor, CP26 ( $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ), on the primary side of the chopper power supply. It's the reservoir capacitor for the 7.5 V . supply. M.Dr.
## NEI E28GITFXN (E5 chassis)

This set would trip out at switch on. The supply to the line output stage was disconnected and a bulb was used as a dummy load. This proved that the cause of the fault was in the power supply. Cold checks revealed that D652, which provides the supply for pin 6 of the

TDA4605-2 chopper control chip, had a high forward resistance. Once it had been resoldered it seemed to be OK and the set worked. So the set was put on soak test.

A couple of hours later the set was again dead. This time the power supply was OK but there was no supply to the line driver stage. Another diode, D705, was found to be dropping more than 0.7 V . A replacement restored normal operation then, ten minutes later, there was field collapse. The boost diode D301 in the field output stage was faulty.

It was by now clear that there was a batch of bad 1N4003 diodes in the set. I removed another one, from a different part of the circuit, placed it across my ohmmeter probes and pulled at the leadout wires. The forward resistance varied as different stress was applied to the wires. As the offending diodes were all silver in colour they were very easy to spot. It was apparent that unless they were all replaced the set would be coming back time and time again. I decided to replace the lot with 1 N 4007 s . After that the set worked perfectly for days.

Intermittent problems with Samsung SI3240/3269 VCRs are caused by the same thing, high for-ward-resistance diodes. Again it's best to replace the lot - in this case there are only about six. M.Dr.

## Bush 2052T/A

For no sound check Q616 (2SC1815). It's in the ident feed to the microcontroller chip IC601. When it fails IC601 mutes the sound because it thinks there's no incoming signal. M.Dr.

## JVC CVT21EK

This set would switch on then drop back to standby as the relay removed the HT supply. Suspecting field collapse, I shorted the relay's contacts. The set then came on with a blank raster and no on-screen displays.

Checks around the microcontroller chip IC601 showed that the voltage at the reset pin (2) was low. This pin is connected to chassis via Q602, whose base is labelled "X ray". It's part of a trip circuit that operates in the event of a fault, forcing the reset pin low to switch the set back to standby. When I traced the path from the base of Q602 I came to Q805, which monitors the line output stage's HT current as it flows via R808. This $0.68 \Omega$, 1 W safety resistor was the
cause of the trouble: it had increased in value to $1-2 \Omega$. M.Dr.

## Toshiba 175T9B/215T8B

For field linearity problems check the electrolytic feedback capacitor C317 (4.7 F F , 50V). M.Dr.

## Ferguson ICC9 Chassis

"Intermittent picture and sound" it said on the job card. As tapping the rear of the PCB seemed to provoke the fault I spent some time resoldering suspect joints. This failed to cure the fault. I then decided to scope the line drive waveform and found that it disappeared when the fault was present. It was not being produced by the STV2160 chip IV01. Voltage checks around this chip showed that the supply at pin 13 dropped sharply in the fault condition. The cause was traced to DV01 (1N4001), which was intermittent. T.M.

## Matsui 2011 (Grundig G1000 chassis)

Off-air reception was OK but the picture was unstable when a prerecorded tape was being viewed. The customer was using a scart lead, and the video option had been selected. A replacement microcontroller chip cured the fault. T.M.

## Energy-saving Lamps

The customer complained about random channel changing, going into the text mode and sometimes switching off. None of these things happened in the workshop. The customer then told me that the trouble occurred in the evening, when the lights were on. Energy-saving fluorescent lamps had recently been installed in the centre light, and were eventually found to be the cause of the trouble: they were putting out a lot of infra-red radiation which was interfering with the remote control circuitry. T.M.

## Ferguson ICC8 Chassis

One of these sets would trip out immediately after starting up. Checks in the line output stage showed that the BY397 13V supply rectifier DL13 was short-circuit. Make sure that you use a fast diode in this position - I use a $<50 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ device. D.T.

## Osaki P140

There was no tuning or on-screen tuning indication because the microcontroller chip had become corrupted. Resetting cures the fault: select channel 38 then press 'store' and 'control up'. D.T.

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## The HR monitor LOPT tester

My first impression of HR's tester type SMONDST. 32 kHz , for monitor line output transformers, was "here's a box with nothing in it"! The unit weighs a mere 6.5oz. It has a standard 4digit LCD panel to present its findings: there's also a small red LED that provides a 'faulty' indication.

## Description

On closer inspection I found that the circuitry inside is quite sophisticated. There are two fibreglass PCBs, and the construction is of good quality. The LCD and the LED, along with the bulk of the circuitry, are on the smaller PCB. There are six surface-mounted ICs on this board, four of which drive the LCD directly. The board is held by sealed nuts and is mounted at a good angle for viewing when the tester is on the bench. Both boards are double-sided, but I was not inclined to remove them for closer examination. In the absence of a circuit diagram, I can't provide an explanation of how the circuitry on the smaller PCB interprets the test results it receives from the larger one.
The test terminals and the test signal generator are on this larger PCB. The LOPT driver IC is a plug-in device and is crystal controlled. An attenuator network, from the EHT (final anode) test point, is kept well clear of the other circuitry.
There has been no scrimping over the quality of the test leads, and the miniature crocodile clips are of supperb quality.
There's no battery-power option and no on/off switch. These omissions are sensible. The mains adaptor runs quite hot, and for long life it's best switched off at source when not in use. Power consumption was found
to be just 17 mA at 15 V AC . The heat generated in the mains adaptor is the result of the losses you get with a small transformer. Rectification is carried out in the meter itself. With such a low current consumption, this section should be very reliable.

## Use

When the tester is first powered, with no connections made to a transformer under test, it appears to indicate that 200.0 kV is present at the EHT test point. In fact the first digit is a fault code number that indicates the way in which the transformer has failed - if in fact it has. For economic reasons this indication cannot be separated from the rest of the display - to do so would require a dedicated display device. Markings on the case distinguish between the fault code and the EHT reading. This is an acceptable compromise. When the transformer being tested is OK, the fault code digit is not present and the LED is off.
Tests normally involve four connections: to the HT supply pin for the transformer's primary winding, to the output transistor's collector, to chassis and to the EHT cap. When a test is made in situ, the only requirement is that the connection between the primary winding and the line output transistor's collector circuit is desoldered. A test point is provided to enable the flyback pulses to be displayed on an oscilloscope.
One of the tester's strongest points is that it provides an indication of the EHT that would be generated in the line output stage. In my opinion this is the most meaningful assessment of whether all is well. In effect it tests not only the primary and secondary windings but also the split-diode EHT sections, and is thus an indication of
the condition of the transformer as a whole.
Tests with a few transformers known to be faulty produced fault code readings of 3 or 4 and little by way of an EHT value. These codes may seem to be rather academic - the section of the transformer that has failed is, after all, usually of little interest. But once you have some experience in using the meter the codes could be helpful in a marginal case.
When tests were made on working monitors the fault code disappeared and the LED remained out.

## The Test Signal

The signal used to drive the primary winding of the transformer being tested is 12 V DC with a rather unusual waveform superimposed on it. This is mainly a squarewave, with a period of precisely $35 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ (about 28 kHz ) in the case of the tester I had for evaluation. But it's a squarewave with a difference. Its amplitude is only 400 mV , with rise and fall times so fast that I couldn't measure them. Where it differs however is that a spike with an $0.02 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ period is present at the trailing edge. The presence of this pulse may be the reason why the tester simulates the operation of the line output stage so well. It doesn't work in the way that many other LOPT testers do, by ringing the line output transformer.

## LOPT Testing

With a good transformer the observed flyback pulse was clean. In this respect normal operating conditions are simulated. With a faulty transformer the pulses were about a third later on in the cycle. The fault code indicator analyses the pulses either by amplitude or repetition - without them there is no indication. This is a clever circuit indeed.
The meter is very sensitive to inductive reactance. When I tested a LOPT in a working TV set I obtained a faulty indication. When I introduced a shorted turn the tester showed the transformer to be good. The tester is thus suitable for checking only monitor LOPTs.
The flyback pulse amplitude and the magnitude of the resulting EHT voltage is about ten per cent of the normal operating level. Some types of transformer failure, such as breaking down (arcing) at high voltages, occur only under normal working conditions. My estimate of the occurrence of this type of failure would be about twenty per cent.
There is no claim to 100 per cent success in testing. As always, much depends on the experience of the user. I can provide a tip here. If the tester gives a faulty indication and you are not quite sure, introduce a shorted turn around the limb of the transformer (this is not always possible of course) while observing the tester. If there is a significant change in the reading, you can be faily sure that the transformer is OK. But bear in mind the proviso about breakdown under the high-voltage conditions in normal use.
Under the test conditions the actual EHT at the tube's final anode is about 2 kV . This takes a few seconds to discharge after power has been removed. At this level, semiconductor devices connected to the transformer's secondary windings will turn on. The only supply of concern is that to the field output stage. When I introduced a short across this supply, insufficient energy was diverted to affect the readings.
The package contains a complete reference guide to all HR transformers with a template which, when aligned with the relevant HR number, gives the transformer's pin numbers and the connection points for the tester. Also given is the EHT value to be expected. The required position of the high/low resolution switch, the
only one on the tester, is shown. This switch doesn't alter the test signal: it adjusts the scale of the EHT indicator so that the reading corresponds with the information given. A lot of work has gone into the construction of these tables.

## Verdict

The English translation in the multilingual instruction manual is poor, which is irritating and confusing. I feel that for the cost of the meter specific instructions for the country of sale, checked by an engineer who speaks the relevant language, would be justified. For example at one point the instructions read "The instrument should be checked outside the monitor . . ." I could go on about this!
A similar instrument, type STVDST.01, is required for testing TV receiver LOPTs. It's a pity that the two testers, which use the same technology, couldn't have been incorporated in a single unit. A serious omission is a cross-reference guide to HR type numbers and monitor model numbers. This exists in book form, and if provided with the tester would be a great help. A CD is also in preparation.
These criticisms apart, the tester itself works very well and does all that is claimed of it.
The tester is available from SEME Ltd., Hudson Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 IBS. Sales hotline 01664 484000 , fax 01664563 976. The order code is EQU488 and the current price $£ 73.45$ plus VAT.

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Reports from<br>David C. Woodnott

## Sony CCD-TR760E

The camera/VTR power switch was extremely stiff. As with other similar models, this switch also operates the internal lens cover mechanism. These parts can often be dismantled then cleaned and lubricated, using a suitable plastic lubricant, before reassembly. With some models they are available as replacements; with other models a complete front case has to be obtained, which makes an expensive repair out of what must seem to the customer to be a rather minor problem.

With this particular unit the dismantling and cleaning procedure worked and all was then well. I did however warn the customer that any further similar trouble would be more expensive to rectify.

## Nikon VN9000

This Sony clone (similar to the CCD-V88) produced a green camera picture. I found that the problem was intermittent, and that the unit would revert to a no-picture condition. Playback was acceptable, but required some 'tidying up'. The camera picture symptom varied between a greenish shade and complete loss of picture into a mass of lines. The sync and burst signals remained constant at all times.

I decided to check the camera head PCBs for signs of leaked electrolyte - widespread capacitor failure on the video and syscon boards is becoming common with these units. Any severe problems here could mean the end of the camcorder, as not being worth repair. In

Camcorner
this case however both these boards were OK. So on to the camera section.

I removed and inspected all the boards. Board VC32P (process and SSG) was found to be in trouble. Several capacitors had leaked, and some minor print repair was required. After washing, drying and repairing the PCB , and fitting new capacitors, I reassembled the unit for testing - minus, at this stage, the many screening cans/screws etc. that make these camcorders a joy to work on!
At power up the green picture had disappeared. But only the lines were present, as previously! I next investigated the SSG section, and found that the VSUB driver transistor Q629 was faulty. Once this item had been replaced a correctly coloured E-E picture appeared on the monitor's screen.

The VSUB voltage was then reset as laid down in the manual. Having restored the camera head to health, I gave the deck a service and reassembled the units. With a camcorder of this age and known propensity to capacitor failure, I always warn the customer about the risks involved in undertaking a repair.

## Sony CCD-FX500E

The note attached to this unit said it was dead. It certainly was - there was no power up in either the camera or the playback mode.

When the cam/VTR switch fails it usually does so for one or other mode, rarely for both. I released the switch from the case to check it, then saw the cause of the problem. The cam/VTR button had fractured internally: it appeared to move correctly from side to side, but didn't operate the switch. A new button assembly was all that was required.

## Sony CCD-TR780E

When I checked this dead camcorder I found that PS501 had failed. As the usual checks for short-circuits etc. failed to reveal anything amiss, I fitted a replacement and put the unit on soak test. It worked for several days without giving any trouble.

PS501 supplies an unregulated input to IC502 on the servo/syscon PCB VS125. This IC is labelled "reg.battery detect" and, amongst other things, provides separate 5 V and 3.7 V supplies for the mode control master chip IC503. It was difficult to see how PS501 could have failed without any tell-tale signs in this area, but there weren't any. The unit continued to work during several more days of soak testing, and was then returned to the customer.

A few months later the unit reappeared with exactly the same symptom. PS501 had again failed, and as before no reason for its failure could be found. As electrolytic capacitors are always suspect, though they are usually OK in such a new unit, I replaced C503 and C506 which decouple the two supply lines. They looked and tested OK in all respects - value and ESR. Six months later the unit has not returned, and we know it has been well used.

## Samsung VPK70

This camcorder arrived with a note to say that there was a tracking fault and that it had been checked, unsuccessfully, elsewhere. Their looseness made it fairly obvious that the tape guides had been adjusted in an attempt to achieve stable pictures. During playback the tracking was 'almost OK', with occasional vertical picture jumping, especially after rewind search. Careful realignment of the tape path with a Sony test tape failed to improve matters, and I couldn't see any obvious damage to the deck, guides etc. Everything seemed to be all right, but the machine wouldn't set up properly.

As a last resort I checked the deck against another one that was in the workshop. This almost immediately revealed what was wrong: a slant pole was missing on the take-up guide coaster! This deck has two slant poles on the take-up coaster, and one had sheared off. The break was not detectable unless you knew that the pole should be there. A replacement assembly cured the problem.

# Some experimentation led to acceptable reception of the first RSL station in the UK under very unfavourable conditions. It also revealed a curious polarisation condition. Keith Cummins describes his attempts to receive TV12 

# Polarisation Puzzle 

This short article describes my efforts to receive transmissions from TV12, the Isle of Wight RSL-TV station. When I started off I didn't realise that I was embarking on what would end up as DX-TV reception - at a distance of 4.5 miles!
Having discovered that TV12's transmissions are on ch. 54, I first tried tuning in via my existing group A aerial. There was not the slightest hint of a signal. I next hung a set-top loop aerial out of the window. This produced a faint impression of a signal. Bearing in mind that the Rowridge transmitter is just 4.5 miles away, and that when I walk a few hundred yards I can see the mast, I was surprised at the lack of signal. The next step was to add a preamplifier with a gain of 12 dB . This enabled me to receive something, but the signal was so poor that even large captions were illegible.

## Polarsisation Peculiarities

At this point I squashed the loop aerial and discovered that the received signal was vertically polarised. I didn't realise that the transmissions are actually horizontally polarised until later, when I read about them in Roger Bunney's DX-TV column. To cut a long story short I ended up discussing the matter with Roger, who assured me that the transmissions are horizontally polarised. So what was happening at my reception site?
I obtained a group C/D aerial with a gain of 14 dB and proved beyond doubt that the polarisation as received was vertical. The signal was still very noisy, but at least I could now read the captions. Roger Bunney had suggested that because transmission to the south of Rowridge, where I live, is restricted to prevent interference to French transmitters, reflection from
the support mast could affect the polarisation.
Since the signal strength was so low, I now knew that a good mastead preamplifier would be essential to achieve anything that approached reasonable reception. David Martin of Aerial Techniques recommended the Triax TA34, which has a gain of 34 dB and a noise figure of 1.8 dB . When one had been installed it was possible to read the smallest captions. Definition was good, but noise was still noticeable - along with co-channel interference from Ch. 4 Mendip. The Mendip transmissions are horizontally polarised, but are still received at a consistently perceptible level via the verti-cally-polarised aerial.

## Theories

Subsequently, at an IIE meeting, I met two members who are broadcast engineers and discussed the polarisation puzzle with them. Although not involved with the TV12 equipment, they were able to confirm that the transmission ERP is 1 kW , obtained by feeding 200 W into a directional aerial array with a 7 dB power gain. Their theory suggested that since the power was very low spurious transmission artefacts at the rear of the aerial were of no consequence - unlike the situation where hundreds of kW are involved.
I later received a phone call from one of these engineers to say that he had checked the polarisation in a due easterly direction. It was horizontal. But the vertical component was only 3 dB down, compared with the normal broadcast specification of better than -15 dB . My site is a further $30^{\circ}$ round the back of the mast. I guess that, since I receive no horizontally polarised signal component, the ratio of the hori-
zontal to the vertical component of the signal changes with direction until, where I am, the horizontal component has disappeared. Futhermore the gain of the aerial may well be negative in my direction. For example a 10 dB power loss would imply an ERP of 20W. This may not be far adrift, judging by the difficulties I have encountered.
Another theory put forward involved ground reflection, which can apparently cause a polarisation twist. But reflection of this type would in all probability degrade the definition, and this isn't happening. Reflection from surrounding objects can, I think, be ruled out because maximum signal is obtained by aiming the aerial directly at the transmitting mast. Also the received polarisation is absolutely vertical, not skewed: this supports the "don't care, it's the back of the aerial" theory.
To sum up, I appear to be receiving an undefined rear-lobe transmission that has somehow become vertically polarised.

## In Conclusion

As more RSL stations come on air, the problems I have described here may become more widespread. The moral is: don't trust the specified polarisation in difficult reception conditions that involve directional transmitting aerials and low power.
Several people subsequently told me that reception is impossible in my situation, but persistence has yielded results which, though not brilliant, are watchable. The irony is that if I'd been aware from the start that the transmissions are horizontally polarised I might not have experimented in the way that led to my discovery of the polarisation puzzle.


# Terrestrial DX and satellite TV reception. News from abroad and about satellite developments. The PLT problem. New aerial designs. Roger Bunney reports 

Fox News with a Balkans' package westbound from Europe.

The 1999 Sporadic E season is now with us. It started rather late, and to date has been more of a fizzler than a bang. For many DX enthusiasts the prime channels E2 and R1 have been lost because of strong local 49 MHz interference from baby alarms etc. For my own sightings I've had to rely more on the higher channels: the number of openings, their intensity and duration left much to be desired. A similar story of infrequent SpE propagation is revealed by logs from Peter Schubert (Rainham) and Cyril Willis (Norfolk). Reception has generally been from the south, i.e. signals from Spain, Italy, etc. Here's a collated $\mathrm{SpE} \log$ for the month:

## 10/5/99 <br> Unidentified ch. E3 signal. <br> 14/5/99 RTP (Portugal) E3. <br> 16/5/99 Canal+ L2; TVE

(Spain) E2, 3, 4; RAI (Italy) IA; TVA (Italy) IA; LTV (Lithuania) R2; unidentified logos in ch. R2.
TVA IA; RAI IA; unidentified ch. R1 signal.


TVE E3; RAI IA, B; SVT1 (Sweden) E2; YLE (Finland) E3; unidentified signals in chs. R1 and R2. TVE E2-4; RTP E3. RAI IA. TVE E2; unidentified signals in chs. R1 and R2.
RAI IA, B; TVA IA; unidentified ch. R1 signal.
RAI IA, B; TVA IA; RTP E3; TVE E2-4; MTV (Hungary) R1; unidentified signals in chs. R1 and E4. TVE E3. TVA IA, RAI IA, B; Video (Italy) E2. RAI IA. Unidentified signals in chs. R1, R2 and E4.
TVE E3; RTP E2-4; system M signal in ch. E2 (see below). TVE E2-4; RTP E3.

There was a tropospheric lift in early May, with mainly UHF signals from France and the Benelux countries received in the south/south east. By May 4th things were back to normal.

George Gaskin (Gibraltar) had more widespread reception from the 10th, with SpE signals in Band I from Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. On the 27th a tall cruise liner had to dock in a manner that broke the microwave link between the GBC-TV studio and the 30 ft ch. E6 TV tower. Result: loss of TV reception until the ship sailed off twelve hours later.

A mystery system M (US standard) ch. E2 signal from the SE has
put in an appearance from time to time in recent years. Cyril Willis saw the weak signal on May 29th from 1200 BST. Video was clearly audible using a scanner. Cyril wonders whether it comes from a US base in Germany or Turkey.

Nice to hear again from Ian Roberts, who is now in Randpark Ridge, South Africa - some 20 km NW of Johannesburg. He too suffers from interference in chs. E 2 RI from baby minders, cordless phones and other devices that produce strong carriers. But he still monitors ch. E2 via TEP (transequatorial skip), using a scanner, and comments on the large number of transmitters that still use this channel. He feels that the present solar cycle might not be too good little has been monitored above 56 MHz .

Robert Copeman in Melbourne, Australia reports on the transition to digital TV there. Single station per channel operation is to be used, running at much higher powers than in the UK. End-December 2005 is the proposed analogue switch-off date. Chs. $6,8,10,11$ and 12 will be used for digital TV in Melbourne. This suggests that Band I will be reallocated to other uses.

## Satellite Sightings

There have been fewer news feeds from the Balkans in recent weeks. Much of the output has again been via Eutelsat II F3 at $36^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$, in digital form, though W2 at $16^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ has also been used - at frequencies up to 12.550 GHz , with horizontal polarisation and the familiar 5,632 SR and $3 / 4 \mathrm{FEC}$. Intelsat $705\left(18^{\circ} \mathrm{W}\right)$ is also worth checking. It has traditionally been used for Italian OB links: feeds below 11 GHz have been seen, with vertical polarisation, SR 6,399 and

FEC 3/4. Roy Carmen (Dorking) even saw "DSNG7 UKI-433 Montenegro" via Telecom 2D at $5^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$. The signal was at 11.493 GHz with vertical polarisation, SR 27,500 and FEC 3/4. These are unusual SR values for SNG working. Eutelsat II F2 at $10^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ has carried occasional traffic for CNN. It shows that news feeds can pop up anywhere.

Fortunately there's more than war reporting via the Clarke belt. The famed Indianapolis 500 motor race was to be seen on May 30th at 1800 BST via New Skies/K at $21.5^{\circ}$ W. An analogue feed at 11.529 GHz H was used for the ABC network: the same programming less opt-out network stings was carried in digital form (SR 5,632 , FEC $3 / 4$ ) at 11.550 GHz H , one of BTI's leases. Interesting that the digital commentary and pictures were delayed by about two seconds in comparison with the analogue programming.

The 30th was a sporty day, with Gillingham v. Manchester City full time during the evening via Eutelsat II F3 at $36^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$. The link was provided by OB/SNG UKI-95 SIS-17 in clear analogue form at 11.634 GHz H .

Football enthusiasts had a ball on the 26th, with Manchester United v . Bayern Munchen as a clear PAL ITV feed via Intelsat $705\left(18^{\circ} \mathrm{W}\right)$ at 11.664 GHz H . The Spanish uplinker Retevision E-19 fed live BBC Breakfast TV footage back to the UK on the 25th and 26th via Eutelsat at $36^{\circ}$ E. This was digital material at $11 \cdot 580 \mathrm{GHz}$ H (SR 5,632 , FEC 3/4).

The Round Italy Cycle Race ' 99 was carried by Intelsat 705 on the 26 th at $11 \cdot 136 \mathrm{GHz} \mathrm{V}$. It was remarkable, with camera shots from a helicopter and motor cycles with hardly any video dropouts as the cyclists sped round mountain roads and steep slopes. Telecom 2 C at $3^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ also carried analogue coverage of the race.

It was unusual to see an analogue news feed (clear PAL) for Sky London via New Skies/K (21.5 ) at 1545 BST on the 31st. The London News Network (LNN) signal used the 11.531 GHz H transponder. Another curious sighting via the same satellite late that evening consisted of a test pattern with "Alice Productions Bruxelles" and a phone number. This digital signal (SR 5,632 , FEC $3 / 4$ ) was at 11.525 GHz H and lasted till 2300 BST.

Dean Rogers (London SE2) uses a Humax FTA receiver quite effectively despite its lack of auto SR/FEC locking. His interest is mostly in sports however, which usually means an SR or $5,632,6,111$ or 7,028 and FEC always $3 / 4$. May 9 th was a good
day for him, with the Motor Cycle Grand Prix, Spain as an analogue signal at $10^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ and the FIA World Rally Championships from France as a digital signal via $2 \mathrm{C}\left(3^{\circ} \mathrm{E}\right)$. The latter feed, at $12 \cdot 507 \mathrm{GHz}$ (SR 5,632 , FEC 3/4), was for both Canal Plus and Eurosport. Dean has a problem with the RTL digital package via Hot Bird at $13^{\circ} \mathrm{E}(11.054 \mathrm{GHz} \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SR} 27,500$, FEC 5/6). The Humax gives the signal level as 90 per cent, data up to 100 per cent, yet the picture suffers from freeze frames and lockup. No other broadcast package via Hot Bird does this. Can anyone offer an answer?

## Terrestrial News

DTT: The close down of analogue TV in Italy has been brought forward: the latest proposal is end 2006. Here are further proposals: UK 201215; France 2010-15; Sweden 200812; Ireland 2009-15; the Netherlands 2010; Spain 2012; Germany 2010.

DTT is to be launched in France during autumn 2001/spring 2002. Test transmissions should start after 2000 , once a transmitter allocation plan has been agreed. RAI (Italy) is currently testing UHF DTT, with coverage expected to extend from 30 to 60 per cent of the population by 2003.

The US DTT standard differs from that adopted in the UK, with much higher powers. Aerial company Andrews has just installed its Trasdar digital transmitting aerial system atop the $1,454 \mathrm{ft}$ Sears Tower in Chicago for WFLT-TV (ch. 31). The 30ft long aerial is mounted on an 80 ft mast on the roof of the building. The FCC gave the four main networks till May Ist for them to have DTT on-air in parallel with analogue services.

TVB and Asia Television have started DTT tests in Hong Kong.

London area Band III DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) franchises have been advertised. To date bids have come from CE Digital, Switch Digital and MXR London. CE Digital was awarded the Birmingham area franchise and plans to start in early summer 2000. France: The daytime educational La Cinquieme and evening ARTE cultural channels are to be merged to provide a fifth national service. Malaysia: Broadcasting is to be privatised. The government has asked for proposals - no privatisation date has been decided.
RSL-TV: The ITC has issued a list of broadcasters that have recently been given an RSL-TV licence, see Table 1. TV12 (Isle of Wight) ch. E54 is already on air, with relays

planned. Lanarkshire Television ch. E67H is about to go on air. MATV (Leicester) was launched on May 27th with programming aimed at the Asian community.

## Satellite News

Rupert Murdoch has at long last managed to buy into Italian pay-TV, by taking a 35 per cent stake in the Stream digital service. It's to be relaunched with new programming and exclusive access to major football team TV rights. Stream has been
Aerial Teconiqules

An early-morning digital feed from KFOR-TV provided dramatic footage of the tornados that swept Texas and the Midwest in late April.


(All prices are inclusive of VAT, delivery by courier $£ 10.00$ )

making heavy losses: it is in competition with Telepiu, which is controlled by Canal Plus.

A new TV channel, Bulgarian SATTV, has appeared as a digital signal (SR 27,500, FEC 3/4) via Hot Bird at $13^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$. It's present between about 1400-0200 local time. Check at 11.095 GHz H .

The Chinese government has changed its mind and decided to ban domestic reception of satellite TV. There was concern about possible mass

A stacked bowtie/panel array from the Lithuanian firm Intrada. This model covers Band III and the UHF channels. Note the small UHF director chain at the front of each bowtie dipole. defection of viewers from the dull national Chinese network programming.

Alcatel/Loral Europe*Star 1 will provide enthusiasts with added interest when it's launched next summer. It will be in orbit at $45^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$, providing broadcast and general communications services between SE Asia and Europe - and points in between down to South Africa. The all Ku-band satellite will be joined by the similar Europe ${ }^{*}$ Star 2 in summer 2002.

The Indian government has delayed legislation on digital pay-TV. There is debate over licence fees to 'allow' channels to 'land' in India. The latest Indian satellite, INSAT2 E , is now in orbit at $83^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$. It carries 17 C-band transponders plus several meteorological and experimental payloads. AsiaSat-3S is now in orbit at $105.5^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$, providing broadcast and general communications services for Asia, Australasia and the Middle East. It has 28 C -band and $16 \mathrm{Ku}-$ band transponders.

Table 1: Recently-approved RSL-TV stations.

| Station | Channel/power | Transmitter |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ch. 6 Aberdeen | E48H/50kW | Durris |
| Ch. 6 Dundee | E49V/0.5kW | Tay Bridge |
| Ch. 6 Edinburgh | E52H/3.2kW | Craigkelly |
| Ch. 6 Glasgow | E59H/10kW | Black Hill |
| Ch. 6 Perth | E47H/1kW | Perth |
| Ch. 6 Stirling | E56H/0.2kW | Chartershall |
| City TV, Bristol | E66H/0.5kW | Ilchester Crescent |
| Manchester Student TV | E39H/0.5kW | Salford University |
| Midland Broadcasting Corporation (Leicester) | E68H/4kW | Ratcliffe College |
| The Oxford Channel | E47H/10kW | Oxford |
| TVC9 Derry | E21V/0.5kW | Sheriff's Mountain |

Concern has been expressed over the lack of any Ku-band operation at $\cdot 47^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$. The Columbian TDRS-6 satellite at this position has only Cband transponders. There have been calls for reallocation of the licence.

There are rumours that PanAmSat might adopt an FEC rate of $7 / 8$ for its digital services. This is worrying cable operators. The equivalent of an analogue signal at threshold with an optimum signal-noise ratio of 46 dB is a digital signal that just locks without pixelation. In C band a 3 m dish provides good quality with the FEC at $1 / 2$. If this is changed to $7 / 8$ the received signal is 4 dB below threshold, calling for a $5 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~m}$ dish to restore the previous quality. Bad news at the reception site but good news for the satellite operator, since more signals can be compressed into a given bandwidth. For a technical discussion on this subject refer to SatFACTS April 1999, pages 6-8, The BER Confusion by Bob Cooper.

## PLT Interference

In a previous column I mentioned PLT (Power Line Telecommunication), which uses the mains supply for data communication over wide areas and is being pushed by power concerns such as NOR.WEB, Nortel etc. The June issue of the RSB's magazine Radcom carries an update on the subject by Dave Lauder (EMC, page 78). Things don't look good for radio amateurs and weaksignal enthusiasts who operate at HF and up to the low VHF spectrum.

A graph of field strength/frequency proposed by the power industry illustrates what we could expect at a distance of about 10 m from the cables. The graph includes indication of noise levels within 'rural' and 'quiet rural' environments, along with other indications of man-made interference. Typically, at 30 MHz the proposed PLT system would create potential background noise (interference) levels of 16 dB above the 'rural' and 30 dB above the 'quiet rural' levels. PLT noise would be slightly less at the low end of Band $\mathbf{I}$, but most of us are in residential areas where the background noise is already high. It would thus mean a further addition to the RF pollution.

## New Aerials

Each year I visit the Cable and Satellite Show, now called Cable and Satellite Mediacast. Although the event has moved towards the internet, computer access and so on there are still items of interest to the enthusiast. Advanced Satellite International of London NW 10 for example had
many unusual smaller components, such as a range of C-band feeds and the rare PTFE shaped polarising slabs for use with a horn to provide left- or right-hand circular polarisation. More importantly, several companies displayed terrestrial TV aerials. These included Televes, Triax and two companies I'd not come across before, CB Vicky of Italy and Intrada of Kaunas, Lithuania.

In addition to the usual multiple X-director Yagi arrays for UHF use, CB Vicky had a log-periodic aerial with Band III and UHF sections mounted in-line on a common split boom. The highest-gain version, with 24 elements, provided a gain of 7.5 dBd over chs. E5-12 and 9dBd over chs. 21-69. Its length is 1.61 m .

Several bowtie/panel UHF arrays were on display at the Intrada stand. They had something extra to offer. For example a twin-bay panel array had a mass of X-type directors ahead of each dipole, lifting the gain across the UHF band from a low of 14 dBd at 470 MHz to a peak of 16 dBd at 850 MHz then falling slightly to 15.8 dBd at 870 MHz .

Of greater interest to me was the ZAT range of export bowtie/panel aerials. Three of these, Models ZAT18, ZAT22 and ZAT24, cover Band III (chs. R6-12, i.e. 175230 MHz ) and UHF (chs. 21-69), with gains as high as $6.5-9 \mathrm{~dB}$ in Band III and $11-15 \mathrm{~dB}$ at UHF. The UHF gain is increased above the usual 11-13dB by including a small half-wave director chain in front of each of the four full-wave dipoles. Models ZAT23 and ZAT25 differ in covering Band I (chs. 2-4), the VHFFM band, Band III and UHF. The gain claimed for the ZAT25 is a remarkable $4.5-6 \mathrm{~dB}$ in Band I, 6.5 dB in Band II, $6 \cdot 5-9 \mathrm{~dB}$ in Band III and $11-15 \mathrm{~dB}$ at UHF. In view of the fact that the width of the ZAT25's reflector screen is 820 mm , well below a half wave in Band I, and that the only Band I element in the stack of four dipoles is a single extended bowtie with central inductive loading, I feel that the quoted VHF performance figures are probably rather optimistic If any trade/aerial rigger has experience of these aerials I'd be interested to hear about the results obtained in practice.

It was good to find new aerial designs in a market that's seen minimal change in recent years. The use of high-performance wideband aerials with a flat response will undoubtedly increase as reception of the digital multiplexes becomes more widespread. Perhaps we'll find Lithuanian aerials adorning our rooftops!

# Beeper for the Genie 



## The addition of an audible test-result indication speeds PCB checks when using the Genie ESR meter. Martin Pickering, B.Eng. has devised this modification to provide beeps

The Genie ESR meter (an electrolytic capacitor tester) was designed by Bob Parker. Details were originally published in the magazine Electronics Australia: a test report appeared in the January 1999 issue of Television. There have been no modifications to the Genie since it was originally introduced, which is a testament to its excellent design.
If you compare it with more expensive units such as the Capacitor Wizard however, one notable feature is missing: there's no audible tone to indicate the range of measurement. This omission is easy to remedy. The simple, lowcost addition described in this article gives very acceptable results.

## Circuit Details

Fig. 1 shows the modification circuit details. Two generalpurpose npn transistors (e.g. BC548) are used to detect the on state of the Genie's range LEDs. As the LEDs are multiplexed, the voltages fed to them are continuously switched on and off. Because of this the transistors (Q1/2) are connected in a rather unusual way.


Heading photograph: connections to the Genie PCB. Photograph above: the SatCure beeper subpanel connected to a Genie PCB.

Pin 11 of IC3 in the Genie sends 5 V pulses to both decimal LEDs. Transistor Q2 is on when either of these LEDs is lit (ESR between zero and $9.9 \Omega$ ). The piezoelectric beeper P1 then receives current via Q2 and R3, whose value is chosen to set the beep volume.
If the least-significant LED is activated (ESR $0.99 \Omega$ or lower), Q1 is pulsed on by pin 18 of IC2. R3 is then bypassed, increasing the beep volume.
If neither LED is lit (ESR $10 \Omega$ or higher) there is no sound from the beeper.
The value of $\mathrm{Cl}(22 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ was chosen to smooth the volt-
age applied to the beeper without causing a significant delay before sound is produced.

## Effect

The effect of this modification is that the Genie beeps loudly for ESR values of $0-0.99 \Omega$, softly for ESR values of 1-9.9 $\Omega$ and remains silent for ESR values of $10 \Omega$ and above. This audible indication aids 'eyes-free' operation, enabling you to check several electrolytic capacitors quickly without removing your attention from the probes. Although the beep threshold is fixed, it has proved to be just as useful as the variable-threshold, fixed-volume beep provided by the Capacitor Wizard.

## Genie Kit Problems

There have been a few component problems with some Genie kits. In particular the gain of the BC238 transistors has sometimes been so low that either the meter has refused to turn on, spurious faults have occurred, or the LED display has been dim.
Even when this fault has been rectified the display can be difficult to see in bright sunlight. The solution is to fit a pair of Ultra-bright LED displays.

## Availability

Genie ESR meters can be obtained from SatCure in either kit form ( $£ 61.63$ inclusive), ready-built ( $£ 73.38$ ) or upgraded as described above ( $£ 82.19$ ). The latter is known as the Genie-Plus version. An Ultrabright LED display pair and the piezoelectric beeper (just the beeper or a modification kit of parts) are also available from SatCure.
SatCure can be reached on 01270


Fig. 1: Beeper circuit for the Genie ESR meter.


We welcome letters from our readers and try to publish as many as we can. You can send them typed, handwritten or on disc. Address them to the Letters Editor, Television, Room 1302, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.

## DTT Reception

There have been several letters on the subject of variable digital terrestrial TV reception. The following information should be of interest.

An ONdigital representative gave a short talk at a recent local RETRA branch meeting here. Although he was not technical, he did touch on the transmission problems with a digital signal.

Analogue signals are usually transmitted omnidirectionally from the aerial, as shown in Fig. 1(a). The distribution of a digital signal is not the same: it can be likened to the petals of a flower, as shown in Fig. l(b). If the receiving site is at A, within one of the lobes, reception is fine. If it's at B, the same distance from the transmitter, there is zero signal and thus no reception. Fig. 1(b) shows the distribution for just one multiplex: the lobes for the other multiplexes do not coincide with this or any other one. Fig. 1(c) illustrates this. At A both signals would be received, but at B only one signal would be received. For simplicity the diagram shows just two multiplexes. Thus getting full coverage from a transmitter without

any dead spots is a virtually unsolvable problem.

There are areas where no signals at all can be received, because interaction between adjacent transmitters causes cancellation. This creates what ONdigital calls a "white hole". There are complete towns sitting in these zero-signal white holes: Basingstoke,
Hampshire was quoted as an example. ONdigital technicians are working on the problem, but it seems that the use of many fill-in transmitters offers the only longterm solution.

There are none of these problems with SkyDigital. The picture doesn't break up, freeze or pixilate at all. ONdigital should maybe think about installing a satellite at $28.2^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ and forget about terrestrial transmitters, which are thirsty in terms of energy that has to be generated by burning fossil fuel.
Peter C. Murchison,
Salisbury, Wilts.

## Free STBs

There are likely to be unanticipated problems with the free set-top boxes being offered by ONdigital and SkyDigital. ONdigital is offering a free STB to all subscribers. This is not a gift however: it's a free rental, which means that if the box goes wrong ONdigital will exchange it free of charge. We've seen offers like this in the past. They are not 'set in stone' and may change at any time in the future. This is where I see problems.

Normally when a new product is launched and repairs are subsequently needed the service industry can cope: experience is gained, and the product's shortcomings are noted. Over a period of time we acquire any specialised test equipment required and stock up on service data and spare parts. In the present case however it will not be viable to do this until the offers have stopped and we feel confident that they will not start again.

What will happen with the ONdigital/Bush 2lin. analogue/dig-
ital TV sets? Will they be distributed on a free exchange basis, or will customers have only the standard one-year guarantee that applies with an analogue TV set? If the latter is the case, customers would be ill advised to pay for something that may be 'beyond economic repair' because a free STB with unlimited replacement is available.

The final problem we have here is that although our local branch of Currys is supplying free ONdigital boxes to those who sign up there will be no reception in this area until October. In answer to the question "will standing orders start in October?" the reply was "no they start immediately, because you could use the box in an area where reception is possible". This seems a certain way for ONdigital to encourage greater sales of SkyDigital subscriptions.

My advice is to think it through before you get too involved, whether you are a potential viewer or, like me, a service centre. John Hopkins,
The TV Workshop, Felixstowe.

## Channel 5: the Aftermath

When transmission details for Channel 5 were announced in the early Nineties many of us in this trade were appalled that the fourchannel transmission plan which had served us so well was to be seriously compromised. The fourchannel system had been well thought out and carefully engineered. At the vast majority of locations, it provided good reception of four TV services using one small aerial. That has now changed. It wouldn't be so bad if the only problem was poor Channel 5 reception. What annoys me is that the presence of Channel 5 often spoils reception of the other channels. This might seem surprising, but it often happens.

Before Channel 5 came along, almost every TV transmitter site in the country radiated four signals that could be received using an aerial designed for one group of
channels. A 'grouped' aerial has a relatively narrow bandwidth, and thus good gain and directivity. Despite attempts at obfuscation by those who sell wideband aerials, the relationship between gain/directivity and bandwidth is set by the laws of nature and thus can't be altered. A wideband aerial will always have inferior performance to a grouped 'equivalent'. After all, that's why the four-channel plan was devised - to have all four signals from each transmitter on fairly closely-spaced channels.

The pressure is now on installers to supply wideband aerials, against their better judgement, for the sake of Channel 5 reception. In fringe areas, or where ghosting is a problem, the likely result is unnecessarily poor reception of the other channels.

To take the Crosspool transmitter at Sheffield as an example, the channels used are $21,24,27,31$ and, would you believe it, 67! Four in group $A$ and one, Channel 5 of course, near the top end for group $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{D}$ - and on permanent half power at that. I was incredulous when this channel allocation was announced, and still am. Can anyone explain why ch. 34 couldn't have been used?

Even the better-quality, proper-ly-designed wideband aerials don't perform nearly as well as their grouped equivalent. Wideband arrays based on the traditional Yagi configuration are available from the larger manufacturers, who often quote performance figures next to those for their grouped versions. These tell their own story. Logperiodic aerials are again becoming fashionable, all these years after Antiference had a brief fling with them in the Seventies. These aerials are genuinely wideband, and have good directional characteristics, but the gain is very poor. The stacked bow-tie, or 'fireguard', has its adherents, but I'm not one of them. I've always found that their directional characteristics leave something to be desired, especially with horizontally-polarised signals.

Local riggers who always use the cheapest possible 'contract' aerials are not suddenly going to start using good-quality wideband aerials. They are going to use the cheapest possible wideband arrays. The reaction of one manufacturer to the Crosspool channel allocation has been to produce what is possibly the worst UHF aerial I have ever encountered. It's a contract 18 -element array with the folded
dipole correct for group A and the director chain about right for group C/D. To make matters worse, the flat plate reflector is not long enough to function below channel 25. There's no attempt at impedance matching or efficient signal transfer from the director chain to the dipole. The grouped aerials from this firm aren't exactly brilliant, but they perform much better than this wideband effort which is, well, staggeringly bad. One that I played about with before replacing it had no useful directional abilities whatsoever for ch. 21 reception. The ch. 67 gain was about 3 dB , rather than the 13 dB of a half-decent grouped aerial. The sad thing is that these aerials are selling like hotcakes, because for a lot of riggers in Sheffield they 'solve' the Channel 5 problem.

Another problem arises with choice of transmitter. This is best explained by considering an example. The coverage areas of the Emley Moor and Belmont transmitters have a very large overlap. Before Channel 5 came along, we would use whichever transmitter provided the best reception. But at many locations we now have a dilemma. The Channel 5 transmissions from Belmont are so lowpowered that in most parts of my area we can't use them. In places where we would automatically have used Belmont we now have to consider Emley Moor - for the sake of Channel 5. A ridiculous situation frequently arises: we have to provide indifferent Emley Moor signals despite the presence of four good signals from Belmont. This must be a common problem, and I'd be interested to hear the views of aerial installers in other parts of the country. The low-powered relays and the south coast main stations don't carry Channel 5 , so this situation must frequently arise.

We've paid a high price for Channel 5. A nonsense has been made of the four-channel transmission plan, and this has resulted in a general reduction in the quality of TV reception. What are the benefits of Channel 5 ? Has there been a wealth of brilliant, innovative programming? Has viewing choice increased in any real sense? I don't need to answer these questions, do I? Whatever the reasons for starting Channel 5, the interests of ordinary viewers were not given much consideration.

We now have digital terrestrial and digital satellite TV. Both these developments were in the pipeline
when Channel 5 started. They show what an anachronism the terrestrial analogue Channel 5 transmissions are. In years to come it will seem incredible that a brand new analogue network was set up, at such cost, at the dawn of the digital era. Bill Wright, Wright's Aerials, Rotherham, S. Yorkshire.

## Multimeter Batteries

Many older analogue multimeters use a small BLR 15415 V battery to provide power on the higher-resistance ranges. These are still readily available from most wholesalers, but their cost (currently about $£ 5$ ) has increased so much recently that I was prompted to look for an economical alternative. The GPI, GP23A or Duracell MN21 caralarm transmitter battery has proved to be ideal. It has a similar capacity to the original, and can be bought for well under $£ 1$ if you shop around.

Its obvious shortcoming is the lower terminal voltage of just 12 V . In practice however this seems to be of little consequence. All the meters I've come across have been able to achieve full-scale deflection with the zero-adjustment control not too far from its normal setting. Accuracy is not affected.

The size also differs: 28 mm long by 10 mm wide compared to the original battery's 35 mm by 14 mm . As far as I know there is no dedicated holder, but one designed for a 1.5 V N cell fits rather well - very little adjustment is required. Alternatively, if modifying the meter sounds too much like hard work, careful bending of the battery holder terminals and a suitablypositioned lump of BluTac will often suffice.
Nicholas Arnold,
Rye, East Sussex.

## Chip Availability

In the April Monitors section Ian Field mentioned that the TC4010BP chip is now difficult to obtain. It may be helpful to readers to know that the CD4010CN is still available from Farnell Electronic Components under order code 384 549. It should be OK. Farnell's sales number is 01132636311 , fax 01132633411 . Technical support is available on 0113279 9123, fax 01132794279.

I have found the company to be very helpful. It doesn't require a minimum order, and credit cards are welcome. Ian Johnson, St. Albans, Herts.


## Reports from

## Ian Field

Roger Burchett
Russ Phillips and
Gerry Mumford

## Taxan MV789LR

Several of these monitors arrived as a batch with the instruction "get as many as possible going". At least half had a duff line output transformer. The remainder had a cracked main board or other fault. These monitors have a good specification and are worth repair if a LOPT can be obtained at a reasonable cost. If the root cause of its failure is not corrected however you can destroy the replacement LOPT.

The first and most important thing to check is that the value of R820 is correct ( $150 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 1 \%$ ) and that it is of the right type. You can find it by following the tracks from the 4 N 35 optocoupler I802 to the TL431 adjustable zener 1803 and the set-HT control. One end goes to chassis via R824 ( $910 \Omega$ ). Follow the other track to R819 (12k 2 ) with R820 alongside. Both rectifiers on the secondary side of the power supply should be checked.

If R820 is an ordinary $5 \%$ resistor, replace it anyway. Use a goodquality $1 \%$ resistor (four colour bands for the value code plus brown for $1 \%$ ) rated at 0.5 W or more. A $2 \%$ resistor can be used provided it is of high quality/stability and has been checked for accuracy.

Q808 (2SK526) always dies when R820 fails. It's a choppertype device used for EW control. The input to it is about 210 V , while the smoothing electrolytics on its output side are rated at 200 V . So it's obvious that this FET should reduce the HT fed to the LOPT. It won't when it goes short-circuit!

Monitors

The 2SK526 has a drain-source voltage rating of 250 V and a drain current rating of 10 A . The drainsource resistance rating when on is $0.4 \Omega$ ( $0.6 \Omega$ maximum).

The 2SC4747 line output transistor Q403 rarely fails. But I found one that broke down at working voltage though it tested OK when cold. This gave the impression that the LOPT was faulty! Its failure hadn't damaged Q808, but this item should always be checked. I.F.

## Fuiitsu/ICL Value Plus 17"/ KDS KDI700V

This monitor came in with a blackened mains fuse. The auxiliary chopper power supply MOSFET was obviously not the original one, as at some time past its predecessor had vented soot on the side of an adjacent snubber resistor. There was evidence that dampness had been a problem, and I assume that someone had repaired the auxiliary power supply only to have the main power supply blow up next time power was applied. The main power supply chopper MOSFET Q801 had blown apart, removing most of the casing and the type number. Gate protection zener diode ZD801 (Z12C) had blown open-circuit, and R811 (22S) had vapourised. In view of all this, IC801 (SG3824M) was added to the list of items to replace.

The rebuilt power supply struggled for a few seconds, then blew up as before. This suggested that something else was wrong in the monitor and that the power supply current sensing was faulty as well. R805, part of the $R C$ network connected to pin 3 (current sensing) of the 3824 chip, read almost exactly $24 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. But the third band looked more red than orange, indicating that it should have read $2.4 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

Once the power supply had been restored to working order I carried out some checks in the line output stage. Q414 (MJW16212) was short-circuit, so was the EHT PWM control transistor Q416 (2SK2341).

As it was not possible to identify

Q801 from its remains, several types were tried until one that ran at a reasonable temperature was found. Eventually a 2SK727 was left in circuit and given a full fiveday continuous soak test to make sure that it was up to the task. ZD801 was upgraded to 18 V , as normally used in power supplies that employ a 2 SK727. I.F.

## Gateway 2000 CS1024 N12

Several of these monitors were brought in because they were dead. It's my opinion that this chassis is dangerous and is on the whole best avoided! The main weakness seems to be the resistors that sample the HT output from the chopper power supply for regulation purposes. Since an over-voltage condition had persisted for some time before the power supplies blew up completely, most of these monitors were writeoffs. The output from the power supply continues to rise until almost every power stage is damaged. I regularly leave monitors on overnight to soak test: I won't do so with any that use this chassis!

The worst case of overheating was due to a different cause however and was repairable - despite the fact that the pedestal had fused to the cabinet cover so badly that the two couldn't be separated! One lead of L101 (scan coupling or EW decoupling coil) had been dry-jointed to the large rectangular copper pad that forms the junction between C1 16 and C117 (both $0.33 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ). There's an aperture in the PCB between these two capacitors: the amount of carbonised PCB that had to be removed left a new, larger aperture next to it.

With all the other monitors R325 and/or R335 ( $33 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 1 \%, 3 \mathrm{~W}$ ) was either high-resistance or open-circuit, several of the electrolytics on the secondary side of the power supply had vented, and most of the recifiers had broken in two!

The TDAl170N frame timebase chip IC201 is probably the first power device to suffer, but because
its supply rectifier breaks in two the power supply continues to run amok until something else stops it. It's probably a matter of luck whether the chopper MOSFET fails before something gets well alight! I.F.

## Elonex MN009/1

The complaint with this colour SVGA monitor was that it powered down after a while. I found that the cause was dry-joints at the 7808CT regulator chip IC7108, which is mounted on the rear metal bracket next to the VGA cable entry.

There are numerous versions of this chassis, many of which have separate PWM regulators for the scan and EHT. Most of these have a MOSFET approximately where the regulator is in this one: the dryjoints cause considerably more damage! I.F.

## Dell Ultrascan P1428E

The ticket said "line on screen" but the symptoms looked nothing like this. The picture was collapsing in all directions, with the sides bowing in and up to 100 per cent loss of contrast. In fact the power supply regulation was erratic.

Inspection revealed that C 631 $(100 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 200 \mathrm{~V})$ was slightly bulged. To be on the safe side the HT sensing resistors R 627 ( $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) and R628 (100k $\Omega$ ) were checked: they were OK. The small electrolytics in the power supply were then checked: C622 ( $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 50 \mathrm{~V}$ ), C618 $(100 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 35 \mathrm{~V})$ and $\mathrm{C} 651(10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 50 V ) seemed to have some effect on the symptom when frozen. The problem was solved by replacing all these suspect capacitors. The cost is less than the time taken to check out each one individually.

This fault stirred memories of a similar case, where the symptom had been failure to start: the small electrolytics on the primary side of many 3842-based power supplies are suspect. I.F.

## JD144

Another anonymous JDI44! This one bore the Model name 29J44J and the model numbers JD144J and FCC ID:AMPJD144J. It was dead. The cabinet design was the same as the last one seen, but the chassis was quite different! The cause of the fault was the same however: the Nicholas 140M271 degaussing posistor had failed. Don't bother shaking it to see if it rattles - break it open and inspect the thermistor pellets.

The plastic pushbutton assembly used in some of these models seems
to be poorly moulded. If it's not too bad, a quick squirt with Electrolube DFL200D PTFE spray will cure the problem. Smoother action can be obtained by unclipping the pushbutton and applying Finish Line Teflon-fortified bicycle grease to the sliding surfaces. I.F.

## Anbonn AM14S

This monochrome monitor had been taking an increasingly long time to start up. Cl00 $(68 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V})$ in the start-up supply to the chopper control chip had fallen in value. R.B.

## Taxan EV4IOLR

Every one of these monitors I've come across has been fitted with a Samsung M34KUK35X13-K tube. All have suffered from low emission within eighteen months. Only one responded to tube rejuvenation. From my experiences of CTX monitors with Samsung tubes, the extra life probably won't be very long. R.B.

## Peacock PM14P48LR

The usual cause when one of these comes in dead is that the $27 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ start-up resistor R603 has gone high in value or open-circuit. There are two series-connected resistors of the same value in the start-up circuit, the other one being R604. A word of warning: with this fault the mains bridge rectifier's reservoir capacitor will be fully charged. R.B.

## Viglen 14S

There was no EHT because of loss of line output transistor drive. The cause of the trouble was eventually traced to a dry-joint at R877 ( $0.22 \Omega$ fusible) in the 9 V supply. Although the joint looked sound, the resistor measured open-circuit when checked in circuit. When I removed the resistor to replace it I discovered that one leg had not been soldered. Once the resistor had been correctly soldered in place the monitor worked perfectly. R.P.

## AOC CM335

If the HT voltage ( 85 V ) is set too high the picture width will be excessive with lack of height. For correct operation the HT should be set at no more than 90 V . R.P.

## KME 26S10A32HX/H

Two of these monitors were brought in from a local mechanical engineering plant. They are industrial units that are used in the operator panel displays of large machinery. The first unit was dead, though the power supply appeared to be OK.

There was no HT supply at the line output stage however, because power choke L3 was open-circuit. In fact one leg had corroded off. Fortunately the choke is openwound and has few turns, so repair was easy.

The second monitor powered up but arced badly. On inspection, sparks could be seen jumping across the burnt ends of R47 ( $27 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 3 \mathrm{~W}$ ) on the tube base PCB. The neighbouring MPSA93 transistor VTII was short-circuit. These two components were replaced, but at power up the unit again arced, this time from the line output transformer (1242.0148). VT11 had once more died. After replacing these items we finally had a display. G.M.

## XGA CK3148L

There was no blue in this monitor's display. A check on the CRT base panel showed that R531 ( $47 \Omega$, 0.125 W ) had burnt up. As a result, R553 ( $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 5 \mathrm{~W}$ fusible) had increased in value. Once these two resistors had been replaced there was a correctly coloured display. G.M.

## LOW COST CCTV SYSTEMS



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System Components Video Control Module B/W Cameras with built-in PIR Colour Camera: uses any N/C Contact Uses your own Video Recorder (works with 99\% of Video Recorders on the market). We can offer a suitable recorder if required, prices upon request System expandable up to 4 Cameras.
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# John Edwards' Casebook 

## Mitsubishi CT21M2TX (Euro 14 chassis)

When this set was switched on the standby LED glowed red. Then, when the standby button on the remote control unit was operated, the set came to life and the LED turned green. But the screen remained blank and there was no sound. This situation continued as I changed channels, except for the display of an occasional burst of snow. The EEPROM chip IC702 is not all that reliable so, after checking that the 5 V supply was present at pin 8 and that there was data activity at pins 5 and 6 , I fitted a replacement. But I couldn't figure out how to tune and store channels using the remote control unit. The only relevant button was the preset one: all the others were normal customer preference ones.
I phoned the customer to ask for the user's booklet. This never goes down well - it suggests that I don't know what I'm up to. The lady of the house said she hadn't seen it for years, but would ask her husband to phone when he got back from work to tell me how to work the set. That was too much. I told her not to bother, it wouldn't take me long to figure it out.
Well, I did figure it out - eventually. So if you want to know, this is it. Select the channel you want to tune in, then press the preset button (I got that straight away!). You will see the tuning display appear, coloured blue. The next step is to change its colour to yellow by pressing the channel down button. Then press the volume + or - button to start the search tuning. When it has stopped on a channel, press volume + until the channel you selected is displayed. Press the preset button to store it, then repeat for all the other channels you require. I don't know if my method is the same as that in the user's booklet, but it works.
I was not all that surprised when the husband phoned me that evening. Apparently his wife had suggested he got in touch. I was happy to tell him that the set was now OK. "Yeah, I guessed she'd got it wrong" he said, "after all, one tele's the same as any other."
I decided not to get involved in a discussion about the thousands of models and the numerous circuit arrangements and different control systems in use. I agreed with him and arranged a delivery time.

## GoldStar GSEQ121

This centre-mount machine erased the previous sound track but wouldn't record over it. The E-E and recorded pictures were fine. I decided to carry out checks at the pins of the BA7790LS audio playback/record chip IC401. The 9 V supply was present at pin 7, and audio from the IF strip was present at pin 18. But there was no output to the record head at pin 21. So either the chip
was faulty or it wasn't being told to record.
Pin 24 is used for record/playback switching. There should be 5 V here in the record mode and 1 V in playback. In fact 0.5 V was present here whichever mode was selected. Thinking that the chip might be faulty, I disconnected pin 24. The voltage on the print leading to it remained at 0.5 V . So the chip was permanently switched to playback.
The control voltage comes from pin 31 of a surfacemounted microcontroller chip. I.decided to check the continuity between the two pins with my multimeter's buzzer facility: there was no response with one prod at the audio chip and the other at the microcontroller chip, but when the 'audio' prod was placed on the track about 2 mm from pin 31 of the micro a buzz was heard. Although I couldn't see it, there was an open-circuit just short of this pin. I solved the problem by carefully soldering one end of a single strand of wire directly to the micro's pin and the other end to a good area of track, with a small piece of insulation tape beneath. After that there was continuity between the two pins and correct record/playback operation.

## Compaq 491 (171FS)

This 17 in . monitor was dead. There was HT at the drain of the chopper FET Q920, but no supply at pin 7 of the UC3842 chopper control chip. R902 (30k 2 ) was opencircuit.

## Marsui 1496R/T and 2096R/T

Here's a bit of information that could well be useful. The following situation can arise with these sets: the customer has entered a 'pass' code number and has forgotten it, or has accidentally entered a random code number. In either event the set will remain in the pass mode and won't allow access to some or all channels. The instruction book doesn't mention this.
To remove the pass code: (1) take the PCB out of the remote control unit and connect a tact switch between pins 4 and 17 of ICl ; (2) switch on the set via the remote control unit and select the channel or channels that have a pass code number; (3) press the tact switch and hold it down for about a second. The 'pass channel' will clear and the picture will return.
To remove the pass mode permanently, press the tact switch again. The message "pass clear" will appear on the screen and the set will be back to normal operation. Return the remote control unit to its original condition and write out your invoice! My thanks to Dave at Charles Hyde for this one. I had a customer two days after he'd told me!

# Answer to Test Case 440 - see page 681 - 

Aren't these intermittent faults horrible? Especially when they result in component destruction, when they lie dormant for a long time then strike in an instant, and when they rear their evil heads after a new repair that's just been paid for. All three of these factors were present in this case - and at the end of it all there wasn't an extra bean by way of payment.

Considering the many possibilities, Television Ted felt that the most likely causes were: a flashover or other failure within the line output transformer; the same situation with some other component in the line output stage, such as the tuning capacitor C559; a sudden rise in the HT voltage because of a power supply fault; or a marked change in Q552's drive waveform (the driver transformer T551 faulty?) or its load conditions (maybe a rectifier or scan coil fault). He carefully chose the points to be monitored, using a couple of old dual-beam oscilloscopes for the purpose with a continuous watch and recording provided by means of a camera/recorder jig.

When the fault next occurred, the tape was rewound and the waveforms at the crucial moment were studied. The 112 V supply had suddenly shot up, and with it the flyback voltage in the line output stage. The cause of the trouble was the STR54041 chopper chip IC901. It had perhaps lost its internal feedback, reference voltage or whatever.

## NEXT MONTH IN TELEVISION

## Digital TV receivers: the front end

Time to get to grips with the channel decoder section of a digital TV STB/IDTV receiver, whether for terrestrial off-air, satellite or cable reception. K.F. Ibrahim starts a new series that gives detailed insight.

## Servicing the Aiwa HVFX1500 VCR

John Coombes provides servicing guidance on the deck and the electronics used in this model.

## Test report: the Global Remote Eye

The Global Remote Eye can be used to insert control signals into a wired link between a Sky digibox and a TV set, giving two-way remote control operation.

## The Super Audio CD format

George Cole explains the techniques used in this recent audio disc format, which was launched last May.

## Servicing commercial microwaves

Here's another possibility to add to the range of equipment you repair and service. There are a few differences with the types of microwave ovens used in catering, as Derek Townsend explains.

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