

SEPTEMBER 1987

Australia \$2.20, New Zealand \$2.95 (inc. GST),

66035748

EO\$2.20

£1.30

# TELEVISION

SERVICING·PROJECTS·VIDEO·DEVELOPMENTS

*Extra inside –*

***HRS Video Head Chart***

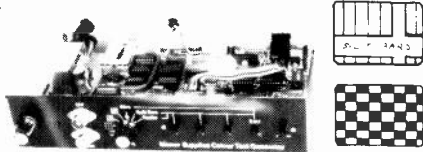


**VM6101 Teletext Decoder Interface  
Field Servicing Kit • Vintage TV  
Coaxial Cable TV Techniques  
Mains Supply Checker • DX-TV  
Salora's Satellite TV Receivers  
TV Fault Finding • VCR Clinic**

# MANOR SUPPLIES

MKV PAL COLOUR TEST GENERATOR  
FOR DOMESTIC TV & VCR.

TEST  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
AT 172  
WEST END LANE



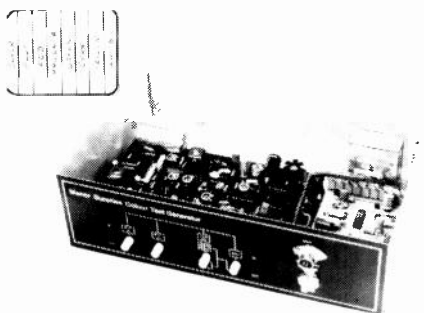
- ★ 40 different patterns and variations.
- ★ Broadcast transmission accuracy (fully interlaced sync pulses with correct picture blanking).
- ★ EBU colour bars, BBC colour bars, whole rasters & split bars (specially useful for VCR service), white, yellow, cyan, green, magenta, red, blue and black.
- ★ Chequerboard.
- ★ Mono outputs with border castellations, cross hatch, grey scale, vertical lines, horizontal lines and dots.
- ★ UHF modulator output plugs straight into receiver aerial socket.
- ★ Additional video output for CCTV & VCR.
- ★ Facilities for sound output.
- ★ Easy to build kit, standard parts. Only 2 adjustments. No special test equipment required.
- ★ Mains operated with stabilised power supply.
- ★ All kits fully guaranteed with back-up service.
- ★ Also available with VHF Modulator.

Price of Kit £70.00  
Case (10"×6"×2 1/4") app. £8.60  
Optional Sound Module (6MHz or 5.5MHz) £3.90  
Built & Tested in Case including Sound Module £108.00

SPECIAL TEST  
REPORT  
'TELEVISION'  
DEC. 1982

Post/Packing £2.80  
Add VAT 15% TO ALL PRICES

## PAL COLOUR BAR GENERATOR (Mk4)



- ★ Output at UHF, applied to receiver aerial socket.
- ★ In addition to colour bars R-Y, B-Y etc.
- ★ Cross-hatch, grey scale, peak white and black level.
- ★ Push button controls, battery or mains operated.
- ★ Simple design, only five i.c.s on colour bar P.C.B.

PRICE OF MK 4 COLOUR BAR GENERATOR KIT  
£30.00. CASE £8.60. BATT HOLDERS £4.20. MAINS  
SUPPLY KIT £4.20 (Combined P&P £2.80).

MK 4 (BATTERY) BUILT & TESTED £58.00 + £2.80 P & P.  
MK 4 (MAINS) BUILT & TESTED £68.00 + £2.80 P & P.  
VHF MODULATOR (CH 1 to 4) FOR OVERSEAS £5.75.  
EASILY ADAPTED FOR VIDEO OUTPUT & C.C.T.V.

ADD  
VAT  
15%

### TELETEXT DECODER PANELS (TESTED)

Mullard VM6101 £30.00, Philips KT3, K30 £30.00, Texas XM11 (TIFAX) £28.00 (untested £5.00) p.p. £1.80

### THORN TX9 MK2/3, TX10, teletext

Mullard Decoder panel + Interface £35.00 p.p. £1.80

### THORN TX10, PHILIPS G11 PRESTEL, TELETEXT

Mullard Units VM 6230, 6330 plus Line Coupler & Interface £38.00 p.p. £2.50

## TV SERVICE SPARES

BACKED BY TWENTY YEARS EXPERIENCE & STAFF OF  
TECHNICAL EXPERTS

LOPES, TRIPLERS, PANELS, TUNERS, SELECTORS ETC.

**SPECIAL OFFER** Mullard/Philips quality UHF modulator (audio & video input) ex new equipment £5.00 p.p. £1.00.  
**PHILIPS G11** 6 position touch tune channel selector units £16.00 p.p. £1.80 (can replace earlier mechanical selector unit).  
**PHILIPS G11 PANELS** (tested).  
Frame, IF, decoder £18.00 each p.p. £2.00. Scan £28.00 p.p. £2.80.  
**PHILIPS G11 PANELS** ex rental (untested).  
Scan £10.00, Frame, Decoder £5.00 p.p. £2.00.  
**PHILIPS HANDSETS (New Replacements)** p.p. £1.50.  
G11 Ultrasonic Nontext £22.50, Infra red Text £22.50. Others available.  
KT3 Non text (RC4001) £20.00, KT3, K30 etc. Text £26.50.  
**PHILIPS HANDSETS** Ex rental, text. Untested. KT3, K30, £3.50 p.p. £1.00.  
**COLOUR MANUALS** p.p. 50p.  
**PHILIPS G11** £3.50, KT3 £3.50, CTX-E £1.50, CTX-S £1.50.  
**THORN REMOTE CONTROL HANDSETS**  
TX9 ULTRASONIC (3-button) £15.00; TX9, TX10 Infra red (type 725) £18.00; TX9, TX10 Infra red Teletext £20.00, p.p. £1.20. Others available.  
TX9 Ultrasonic remote handset transducer £2.00, switches 3 for £1.50 p.p. 50p.  
TX9/TX10 Tele ext interface panel (1524) £5.00 p.p. 80p.

**THORN TX9** Ultrasonic Remote/Control/Receiver panels. £8.50 p.p. £1.50.  
TX9, TX10 Facia control panel incl. infra-red remote receiver £8.50 p.p. £1.80.  
**THORN TX9, TX10** Saw Filter IF Panel. £5.00 p.p. 80p.  
TX9, TX10 Remote & tuning control panel (1515) £10.50 p.p. £1.80.  
**SAW FILTER IF AMPLIFIER PLUS TUNER** complete and tested for T.V., Sound & Vision. £28.50 p.p. £1.20.  
**PAL DECODER KIT** (Video to RGB) for Monitors £27.00 p.p. £1.00.  
**PAL ENCODER KIT** (RGB to Video) £18.50 p.p. £1.30.  
**CROSS HATCH UNIT KIT**, Aerial Input type, incl. T.V., sync, and UHF Modulator. Battery Operated, also gives Peak White & Black Levels, can be used for any set. £12.00 p.p. 80p. (Alum. Case £2.90 p.p. £1.40.) **ADDITIONAL GREY SCALE KIT** £2.90 p.p. 45p.  
**UHF SIGNAL STRENGTH METER KIT** £22.00 Alum. Case £2.90, De Luxe Case £8.60 (Built & Tested £48.00) p.p. £2.30.  
**CRT TESTER & REACTIVATOR KIT** For Colour & Mono complete with Case, Panel Meter Indicator - can be adapted for latest CRTs £29.50 p.p. £2.80.

**BUSH A823** Convergence, Time Base Panels £5.00 each p.p. £1.80  
**GEC 20AX** Line Time Base £18.00 p.p. £2.00.  
**ITT CVC30 SERIES**, Convergence & Purity Control Panels, £5.00 p.p. £1.50.  
**ITT CVC30 SERIES PANELS SURPLUS** (untested) £5.00 each. CMP31, CMF31, CMA-0, CM532, p.p. 80p; CMI33, p.p. £1.80.  
**THORN TX9** Panels ex factory for small spares. Includes I.C.s & Semiconductors etc. £3.00 p.p. £1.80.  
**THORN TX9** Panels salvaged ex factory for spares incl. Electrolytic & Mains Transformers. £8.50 p.p. £3.00.  
**THORN 8000, 8500, 8800** IF Decoder Panels Tested £10.00 p.p. £2.30.  
**THORN 8000/8500** IF/Decoder Panels salvaged £3.20 p.p. £1.80.  
**THORN 9000** IF/Decoder Panels Salvaged For spares £2.50 p.p. £1.80.  
**PHILIPS G8/G9** IF/Decoder Panels for small spares incl ICS £2.50 p.p. £1.60.  
**PHILIPS G8** Line Driver Panel incl. Equalizing Coil. £1.00 p.p. 60p.  
**GRUNDIG 8630** Series Varicap Tuners £5.00 p.p. £1.00.  
**VARICAP TUNERS** U321, U322, 204, I-FC1043 05 £7.80 p.p. £1.00.  
VIF Philips, NSF £6.80 p.p. £1.00.  
**VARICAP UHF-VHF** I-FC 2000S £9.80 p.p. £1.00.  
**UHF/625 TUNERS**, many different types in stock. DECCA Bradford 5 position, MULLARD 4 position £2.50, JAP Rotary £4.80 p.p. £1.80.  
**TV SOUND IF Panels** £6.80 p.p. £1.00.  
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FERGUSON 3787 (Normande)	£9.80	R.B.M. 120, 122 Bobbin	£5.60
THORN 1600, 1615, 1690, 1691, 1790	£9.00	DECCA Bradford (State Mod No)	£8.80
THORN 3000, 3500 Scan L.H.I.	£6.90	DECCA 50, 100	£8.80
THORN 8000, 8500, 8800	£12.80	FIDELITY ZA2000, 3000	£14.50
THORN 9000 to 9600	£9.80	GEC 2110 series	£10.60
THORN TX9	£12.50	ITT CVC 5 to 9, CVC 20	£9.80
THORN TX10	£16.50	ITT CVC 25, CVC 30 series	£8.80
		ITT CVC 45	£9.80
<b>SPECIAL OFFER</b>		PYE 725 (90) 731 to 741	£9.20
DECCA 1700, 2001, 2020, 2101, 2120	£3.80	PHILIPS G8	£8.80
ITT CVC 300	£4.80	PHILIPS G9	£10.80
GEC 2113 Junior Lineine	£2.80	PHILIPS G11	£18.50
PHILIPS 320	£2.80	PHILIPS K13	£9.80
RBM AS 3	£4.80	PHILIPS K30, K35	£28.50
GEC 202S, 2040, 2100	£4.80	PHILIPS C1X F	£21.00
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PHILIPS K9	£6.80		

**OTHERS AVAILABLE. PRICES ON REQUEST.**

**TRIPLERS** Full range available. Mono & Colour  
**SPECIAL OFFER TRIPLERS**  
THORN 3000 3500 £2.50, PYE 725 731 (4 lead) £1.50 p.p. £1.20.  
THORN 1500 5 Stick £1.50, 1500 3 Stick £1.50 p.p. 80p.  
6-3V CRT Boost Transformers for Colour & Mono £5.90 p.p. £1.40  
THORN TX10 focus control £7.50 p.p. £1.00  
PYE 713, 731 IF Module £3.50 p.p. 80p.  
**CALLERS WELCOME AT SHOP PREMISES**  
**THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS, ENQUIRIES INVITED**  
**LARGE SELECTION TESTED COLOUR PANELS POPULAR MODELS**

Goods available if in stock immediately over shop counter (Mail order between 3 days and 1 week from receipt of order). ADD VAT 15%.

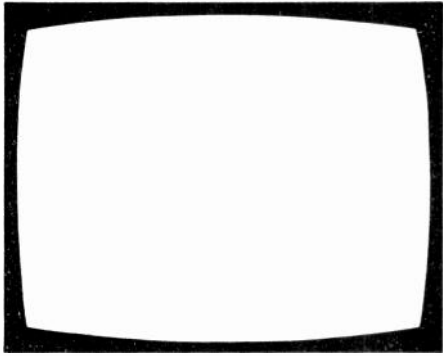
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## MANOR SUPPLIES

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Access from all over Greater London.

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PLEASE ADD VAT 15% TO ALL PRICES INCL. P&P



# TELEVISION

September  
1987

Vol. 37, No. 11  
Issue 443

On sale August 19th

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## BACK NUMBERS

Some copies of issues published during the last six months are available from the Editorial Office at £1.40 inclusive of postage and packing. Address requests to Television, Editorial Office, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

## QUERIES

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

## this month

- 741 Leader**
- 742 Long-distance Television** *Roger Bunney*  
Reports on DX conditions and reception and news from abroad. Equipment for and advice on SpE reception in Band II.
- 747 Mr Harass and Mrs Corker** *Les Lawry-Johns*  
Some customers can be trying while others present more interesting problems. Plus a fault tip on the Thorn 9000 chassis.
- 748 Teletopics**  
News, comment and developments.
- 750 TV Fault Finding**  
Reports from Chris Avis, R.T. Rees, R. Crockett, Michael Dranfield, Mick Dutton and Roger Burchett.
- 751 Review: Sony Fault-Finding Guides** *Eugene Trundle*  
Sony's fault finding guides, covering TV, video and audio equipment, can quickly pay for themselves in terms of time saved in fault diagnosis.
- 752 Mains Supply Problems** *Gordon Haigh*  
Notes on mains supply dangers and details of a simple neon checker for testing customers' outlet sockets.
- 753 Letters**
- 756 VM6101 Teletext Decoder Interface** *Keith Cummins*  
One approach to interfacing a VM6101 teletext decoder with a handset and TV receiver, based in this case on the need to replace a previously used XM11 decoder because of its unreliable operation with current teletext transmissions. The decoder-handset interface uses a programmed microcontroller chip. The receiver interface is designed for use with the Sony Model KV1820. The interface design details should help others wishing to change from an XM11 to a VM6101 decoder.
- 761 Next Month in Television**
- 762 VCR Clinic**  
Reports from Les Grogan, Nick Beer, Alfred Damp, Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech. and Eugene Trundle.
- 766 Salora's Satellite TV Receivers**  
A look at the techniques used in some current satellite TV receiver units.
- 767 A Vintage Tube Renovation** *Jeffrey D. Borin, B.Sc.(Eng.)*  
How a pre-war Emiscope 6/6 tube was restored to working order.
- 769 A Field Servicing Kit** *Harold B. Berkley*  
Many field service engineers carry around far more gear than they need. Advice on a simple light-weight kit that will cope with most current needs.
- 770 Cable Television Techniques, Part 2** *J. LeJeune*  
How v.h.f. and u.h.f. coaxial cable distribution systems are designed. Details of the passive hardware used and notes on recent developments.
- 773 Service Bureau**
- 774 Test Case 297**

OUR NEXT ISSUE DATED OCTOBER WILL  
BE PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 16





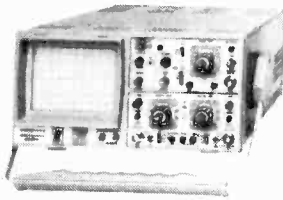
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HAMEG are Europe's top selling DUAL TRACE OSCILLOSCOPES. Select from four superb models. All incorporate a useful COMPONENT TESTER. Size - all models - 285mm x 145mm x 380mm. Clear display 8 x 10cms. Mains supply 110/125/220/240V AC 50/60Hz. **2 YEAR WARRANTY**

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  - Invert both channels
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**Price £314.00 + £47.10 V.A.T.**  
Including two probes

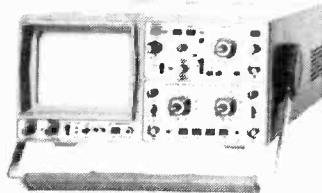
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**SPECIFICATION**

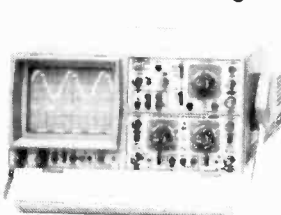
- Bandwidth DC-20MHz
- Sens. Ch1, Ch2, 1mV/cm
- Delay Line
- Time Base 1-25s/cm - 10ns/cm
- Delayed Sweep 100ns - 0.1s
- Trigger DC-50MHz AC, DC, HF, LF, (TV Frame)
- Variable hold-off 10:1
- Overscan LED indicators
- Calibrator
- Plus many more features

**Price £418.00 + £62.70 V.A.T.**



**HM205 20MHz Digital Storage**

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- Digital Storage
  - Analogue Real Time (Same as 203-6)
  - Bandwidth DC-20MHz
  - Sens. Ch1, Ch2, 2mV/cm
  - Trigger DC-40MHz AC, DC, HF, LF, (TV Frame)
  - Active TV Sinc. Sep.
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  - Variable hold-off 10:1
  - Calibrator
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**Price £498.00 + £74.70 V.A.T.**  
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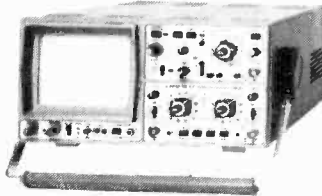
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**SPECIFICATION**

- Bandwidth DC-60MHz
- Sens. Ch1, Ch2, 1mV/cm
- Delay Line
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- Variable hold-off 10:1
- Switchable Calibrator
- Overscan LED indicators
- Plus many more features

**Price £583.00 + £87.45 V.A.T.**



**LEADER LCT910-A CRT TESTER REJUVENATOR**



**Normal Price** £317.00 + £47.55 V.A.T.  
**Special Winter Price** £275.00 + £41.25 V.A.T.

- Our top selling instrument is designed to readily test the various characteristics and rejuvenation of both colour and B/W CRT's
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  - Rejuvenation of low emission cathodes with automatic timing.
  - Super rejuvenation with manual control.
  - Complete with tube base adaptors.
  - Size H230mm W330mm D120mm

**SADELTA FIELD STRENGTH METER TC-402**

THE SADELTA FIELD STRENGTH METER TC-402 has been designed to measure the signal levels delivered by the antenna to a TV or FM receiver, in order to test the performance of the antenna and evaluate the best conditions during installation etc. To facilitate measurements, the tuning frequency readout is shown on a digital display.

**FEATURES**

- Covering FM and all TV bands (UHF/VHF) including CATV freq.
- Digital tuning display (3 digits) for direct frequency readout.
- Accurate 10 turn tuning potentiometer.
- Built-in loudspeaker enables monitoring of sound in AM/FM.
- Meter measurement in voltage and dB from 20µV (26dB/µV).
- Continuity tester 0-500 ohms.
- Fully portable (battery).
- Sturdy carry case.



**Price £249.00 + £37.35 V.A.T.**

**SADELTA COLOUR PATTERN GENERATORS**

THE SADELTA RANGE OF HAND HELD COLOUR PATTERN GENERATORS is intended for use in production, installation and service of both colour and monochrome TV sets, video and computer monitors. In order to control and adjust the various parameters eight switchable patterns are provided. The technician has ready access to Laboratory, workshop and field use as the generator has been designed using the latest micro-technology to achieve truly pocket size instruments. Internal re-chargable Ni-Cd's. Supplied with 9V power supply charger. Size 131mm x 81mm x 23mm.

**T.V. PATTERN GENERATOR PAL MC11B UK**

- Band IV (21-34)
- Band III (5-12)
- PAL 1
- O/Put 10mV into 75ohms
- Sound output

**Price £124.95 + £18.74 V.A.T.**

**PAL VIDEO COMPOSITE GENERATOR**

- PAL B.G.I.
- O/Put 1V p.p. @ 75ohms
- Audio O/Put 10mV
- Switching 12V @ 4K7ohms

**Price £124.95 + £18.74 V.A.T.**

**SECAM VIDEO COMPOSITE GENERATOR**

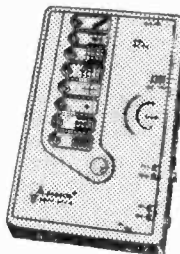
- SECAM B.G.D.K.L.
- O/Put 1V p.p. @ 75ohms
- Audio O/Put 10mV
- Switching 12V @ 4K7ohms

**Price £124.95 + £18.74 V.A.T.**

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- Neg. Composite
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Tests and rejuvenates blue, green & red guns separately. Fitted with delta and P.I.L. sockets. Compact size 120x65x60 mm. Supply 240V AC

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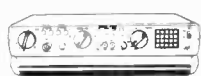
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Revolutionary L.O.P.T. tester. Operates in dynamic mode which actually tests the L.O.P.T. under high voltage conditions without de-soldering or removal. Size 75x100x40 mm. Supply 240V AC

**Price £25.99 + £3.90 V.A.T.**



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- Full trig. fac. inc. TV frame etc.
- Only 2 1/4" thick
- Fits in a brief case
- Sens. 10mV
- Bandwidth 10MHz
- Battery or mains adaptor
- Size 255mm x 148mm x 50mm

**Price £195.00 + £29.25 V.A.T.**

**ACCESSORIES**

- Carry Case £6.25 + £0.93 V.A.T.
- Probe £7.50 + £1.30 V.A.T.
- Mains Adaptor £7.30 + £1.09 V.A.T.

**DIGITAL LCR METER**

- LCD Display
- 18 Ranges
- Inductance 1µH - 2H
- Capacitance 1pf - 200µf
- Resistance 1ohm - 20Mohm
- High accuracy

**Price £85.00 + £12.75 V.A.T.**



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- Electronic battery operated
- Measuring Voltage 500V DC
- Measuring Range 0-100Mohm
- Centre scale 2Mohm

**Price £65.00 + £9.75 V.A.T.**

**DIGITAL THERMOMETER**



- Pocket Size
- -50°C to +750°C
- 1°C Resolution
- 0.5" LCD
- Supplied with thermocouple

**Price £59.50 + £8.92 V.A.T.**

**200MHz DIG. FREQ. METER**



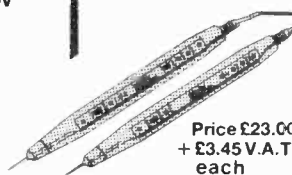
- Pocket Size
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- Resolution 0.1Hz
- Sensitivity 10mV

**Price £75.50 + £11.32 V.A.T.**

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**LEADER High Voltage Metered EHT PROBE.** Measures up to 40KV DC with safety. Built in meter. Accuracy ±3%

**Price £45.00 + £6.75 V.A.T.**



**Price £23.00 + £3.45 V.A.T. each**

The THANDAR TP1 LOGIC PROBE and TP2 LOGIC PULSER are effective and economical tools for checking both TTL and CMOS circuits. TP1 can show 14 different circuit conditions and can detect pulses down to typically 10ns. TP2 can inject a signal directly into a circuit without damaging sensitive components. Together they can stimulate and monitor responses of components 'in circuit', greatly aiding fault finding.



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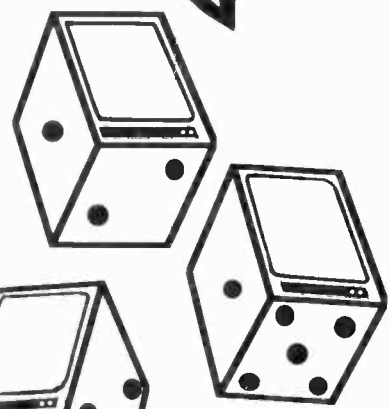
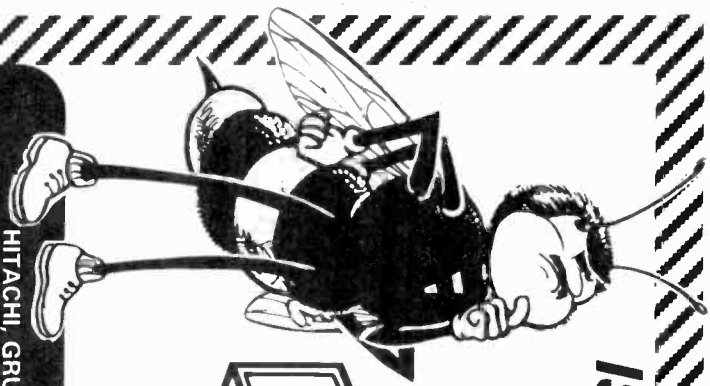
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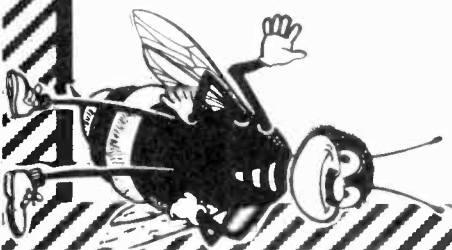
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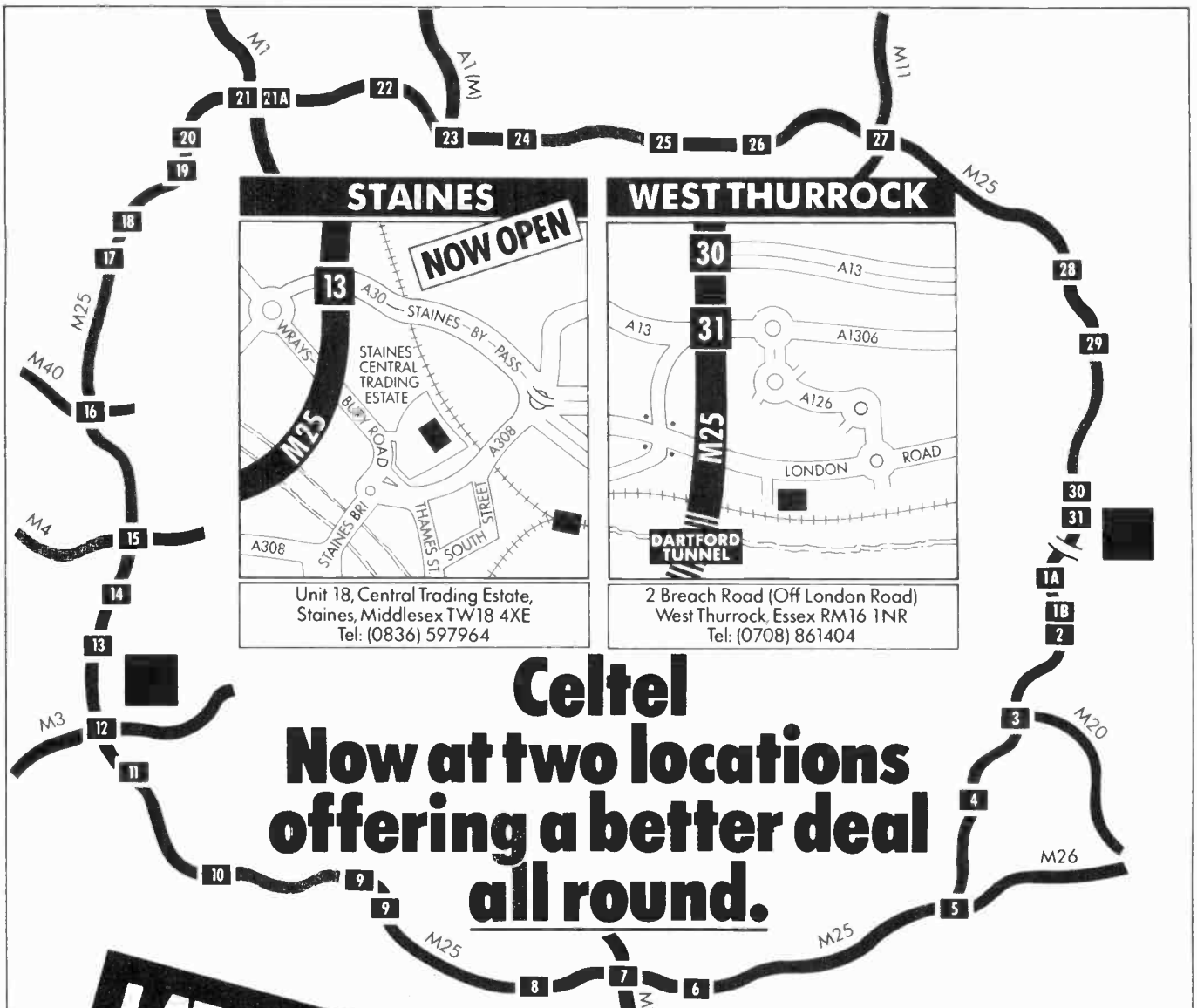
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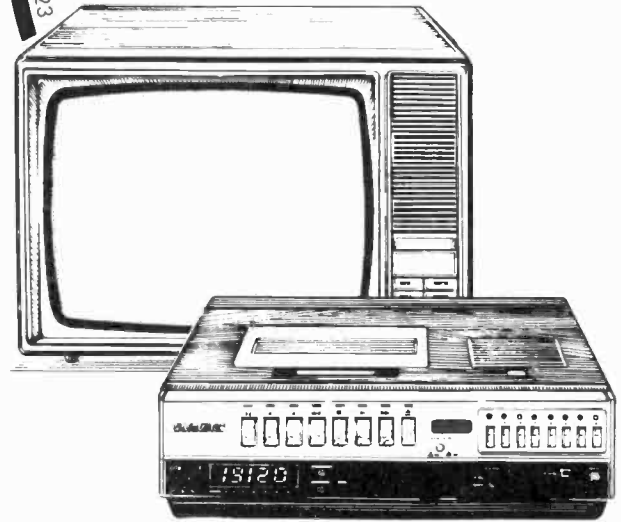
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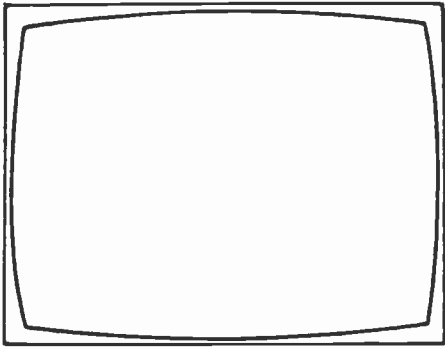
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## COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo shows the four-head drum used in the Hitachi VT19 videocassette recorder.

## HELD OVER

We regret that due to shortage of space in this issue we have had to hold over until next month the concluding instalment of the Servicing Mechanical VCRs series.

## MAINS CHECKER

We understand that 90V neons for the mains checker – see page 752 – can be obtained from J. & N. Bull Electrical (T), 259 Portland Road, Hove, Brighton, Sussex BN3 5QT.

## Mega-Mergers

In commenting on Thomson's take-over of Ferguson last month we expressed some puzzlement as to the logic behind the move. Thorn had stated that Ferguson's weakness lay in its almost total dependence on the highly competitive UK market, and that merging it with a larger, international group would best guarantee its future as a consumer electronics manufacturing concern. But while Thomson is certainly large, it was hardly international in the broadest sense, being mainly dependent on the European market. The answer to this came with surprising speed during the course of last month with the announcement that Thomson is to purchase the consumer electronics interests, which take in RCA, of General Electric. In one move Thomson has acquired a major share of the US consumer electronics market.

The deal between GE and Thomson is in two parts. Thomson is to sell its medical electronics business CGR to GE, while GE is to sell its consumer electronics side to Thomson – for CGR and a considerable amount of cash that will depend on the current performance of GE's brown goods businesses. GE had taken over RCA in early 1986. Both companies had a long history as leading manufacturers and brands in the USA. Together, GE and RCA in 1986 had 23 per cent of the US TV market and 17 per cent of the VCR market. It seems however that GE had not intended to remain in the consumer electronics field. Its own brown goods business had a poor profit record that had apparently defied management effort to produce any improvement over a number of years. GE had taken over RCA primarily because of the latter's defence electronics interests and its ownership of the NBC broadcasting network. Thus Thomson's strategy of expansion in the international consumer electronics market came at an appropriate time for GE.

The extraordinary thing is that Thomson had itself not all that long since seriously considered withdrawing from the consumer electronics market. It had however managed to restructure this side of its business, which in 1985 produced a profit of some £40m, doubling to over £80m in 1986. For the present Thomson has decided, having sold off its lighting interests to Philips in 1982, its telecommunications interests to CGE in 1983, and having merged its semiconductor arm in an Italian-led joint venture with SGS, to concentrate on two core businesses, defence/professional electronics and the consumer field.

In adopting this strategy Thomson has not set an easy course for itself. Though Thomson is now one of the world's three largest consumer electronics manufacturers – the other two are Matsushita and Philips – it is aiming at markets that are saturated and highly competitive, and exposing itself to the full blast of the ever-formidable Japanese efforts in this field. Success in the consumer electronics market depends not only on size and manufacturing know-how but on product development, finding and exploiting new market openings and expert marketing. It will be interesting to see whether Thomson has or can summon up the expertise necessary to carry it off. Thomson has plants in the Far East but as yet little market presence there. Competition is ever increasing as the Koreans and others achieve a greater market share.

During the course of the month Thorn also made a major move on the international front in announcing the take-over of the US rental group Rent-A-Center. This makes clear where Thorn sees its future. Not long since Thorn was a major manufacturing concern, and at one point sought a future for itself in high-technology manufacturing through a take-over of British Aerospace. All that has changed. In fact Thorn has been going through a period of incredibly rapid change, having raised some £400m by selling 41 businesses since 1985. The strategy now is to concentrate on defence electronics, lighting, music and, as the major profit centre, electronics retailing (Rumbelows) and rental (DER, Radio Rentals, etc.).

Traditionally, the US retail scene has varied from state to state, with many small and medium-sized companies active. Rental was not strong – US householders like to own their goods. Rent-A-Center is an interesting company that has achieved rapid expansion by developing a new strategy – "rent to own". The idea is that rent is paid weekly and amounts to two-three times the basic cost of the product: after a two year period the renter owns the goods. A market opening for this approach was found amongst those without credit facilities. Rent-A-Center has an estimated nine per cent of the US rental market, which has been growing at around 35 per cent a year. Based in Wichita, Kansas, the company now has 270 stores and 168 franchised outlets in 38 states. Its product mix consists of TV sets 35 per cent, VCRs 13 per cent, domestic appliances 19 per cent and furniture 19 per cent. Net profits have risen from \$2.8m in 1982, when the company had 52 stores, to \$9.9m in 1986 and an estimated \$13.8m for the present year. Thorn emphasises that the two companies have similar expertise and marketing arrangements. The aim is to expand the combined group's retail and rental activities internationally. Thorn sees this as a sure path to profitable growth.

In all we've been witnessing a period of extraordinary volatility in the affairs of major companies such as Thorn and Thomson. It's interesting to contrast Thorn's withdrawal from manufacturing with Thomson's decision to expand in this area. Presumably both feel that they have the right expertise to manage and develop their chosen activities. One wishes them well. It makes a strange contrast with the Japanese way of going about business.

# Long-distance Television

Roger Bunney

June was an extremely active month for DX propagation. Signals were received in the UK from all parts of Europe. Our thanks to those who sent in reports: the following collated log of Sporadic E reception resembles a rundown of all the European broadcasters!

- 6/6/87 ORF (Austria) ch. E2a, E4; RAI (Italy) ch. IA, IB; ARD (West Germany) E2; JRT (Yugoslavia) E3; CST (Czechoslovakia) R1, 2; TVE (Spain) E2, 3, 4; RTP (Portugal) E2, 3.
- 7/6/87 JRT E3, 4; RAI IA, B; TVA (Italian free station) IA; RTS (Albania) IC, R4; ORF E2a; +PTT (Switzerland) E2, 3; JTV (Jordan) E3; DFF (GDR) E4; TSS (USSR) R1, 2, 3, 4, 5; MTV (Hungary) R1, 2; CST R1, 2, 3; SR (Sweden) E2, 3, 4; NRK (Norway) E2, 3, 4; C+ (Canal Plus, France) L3.
- 8/6/87 TSS R1, 2; TVP (Poland) R1, 2; ORF E2a; CST R2; JTV E3; TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP (Portugal) E2, 3; NRK E2, 3, 4; RAI IA, C; RUV (Iceland) E4.
- 9/6/87 RTP E3; TVE E2, 3, 4; RAI IA; DFF E4; CST R2.
- 10/6/87 TVE E2, 3, 4; RAI IA, B; ARD E3; SR E4; TVP R1; TSS R1; RUV E4.
- 11/6/87 TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2, 3; TVE-2 E2; RAI IA, B; C+ L3; ORF E2a, 4; DFF E4; JRT E4; TVP R2; TSS R1, 2.
- 12/6/87 C+ L3; TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2; RAI IA, B; JRT E3, 4; TVP R2; NRK E2, 3, 4; SR E2, 3, 4; RTB-F (see later).
- 13/6/87 SpE signals at blanket levels for much of the day.
- 14/6/87 TSS R1, 2, 3; NRK E2, 3, 4; YLE (Finland) E4; ORF E2a; ARD E2; MTV R1, 2; TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2, 3.
- 15/6/87 RTP E2, 3; TVE E2, 3, 4; TVE-2 E2; RAI IA, B; JRT E3; MTV R2; ARD E2; TSS R1, 2, 3, 4, 5; TVP R1, 2; SR E2.
- 16/6/87 DR (Denmark) E3; RTT (Tunisia) E4; EPT (Greece) E3; RAI IA, B; CST R1, 2; SR E2, 3, 4; NRK E2, 3, 4; YLE E3; TSS R1.
- 17/6/87 TVE-2 E2; TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2, 3; Italian free station E4 (see later).
- 18/6/87 DR E3, 4; NRK E2, 3, 4; SR E2, 3, 4; +PTT E4; C+ L3.
- 19/6/87 CST R2; DFF E4; DR E3; TVP R2; NRK E2, 3, 4; RTP E2; TVE-2 E2; TVE E2, 3, 4.
- 20/6/87 TVP R1, 2; TSS R1, 2, 3; MTV R1, 2; TVR (Rumania) R2; ORF E2a, E4; +PTT E3, 4; ARD E2, 3, 4; RTS IC; RTP E3; TVE E2, 3, 4; TVE-2 E2; NRK E3; NCT (Italian free station) IA.
- 22/6/87 TVE E3; TSS R1, 2, 3; YLE E4; RTP E2, 3.
- 23/6/87 TSS R1, 2; CST R1; SR E2, 3; NRK E2, 3; RTT (Tunisia) E4; +PTT E4; JRT E4; RAI IA, B; TVP R1; C+ L3.
- 24/6/87 RAI IA, B; NCT IA; TVQ (Italian free station) IA; MTV R1; TVR R2; TSS R1, 2; TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2, 3; C+ L3.
- 25/6/87 RAI IA, B; RTT E4; MTV R1; TSS R1, 2; ORF E2a; TVE E2, 3, 4; RTP E2.
- 26/6/87 RAI IA, B; MTV R1; TSS R1, 2.
- 27/6/87 TVE E3.
- 28/6/87 TVE E2, 3, 4; TVE-2 E2; RTP E3; +PTT E2, 4; JRT E3, 4; DR E3, 4; DFF E4; ORF E2a, 4; RTS IC; TSS R1, 2, 3; RAI IA, B, C; TVP R1, 2; NRK E2, 3; SR E2, 4.

Simon Hamer (Powys) noted RTB-F (Belgium) via

lightning-flash scatter on the 12th. RTS (Albania) was logged on the 7th on both ch. IC and the new ch. R4, between 1805-1850 CET on programme.

The following Italian "free" stations were received during the month: NCT (Udine) ch. IA; Teledportante News ch. E4/IB; TVA ch. IA; TVQ ch. IA; TV Alpha-Adria ch. IA. If anyone has an up-to-date list of Italian "free" stations we'd like to know - the situation there remains chaotic.

Blanket SpE was present on the 6th and 7th, with the m.u.f. reaching the 144MHz amateur band on the 6th. The 7th produced two-way trans-Atlantic (UK-USA) amateur communications. On the 11th the m.u.f. again rose to 144MHz, with signals from the Mediterranean area.

At the time of writing (July 2nd) high-pressure conditions are slowly being established over the UK and central Europe. This should produce enhanced tropospheric propagation. Tropospheric signals from France and the Benelux countries were received over much of the UK on the 11/12th - in Band III and at u.h.f.

Our thanks to Simon Hamer (Powys), Iain Menzies (Aberdeen), Cyril Willis (Norfolk), Bill Cotterill (Tipton), Roger Fussell (Torpoint), Peter Schubert (Rainham), Keith Chaplin (Barrow on Soar), Owen Jones (Stoke) and Ryn Muntjewerff (Holland) for sending in their reception reports.

## News Items

**UK:** ATV (Amateur TV) allocations came under discussion at the IARU Region 1 conference in mid-April. Use of the 430MHz band is to continue where at present permitted but a move to the microwave bands is to be encouraged. The preferred 430MHz band is to be 434-440MHz, with a suggested carrier below 434.5MHz or above 438.5MHz - 439.25MHz has long been used in the UK. Specific allocations for ATV only are as follows: 1,241.1-1,251.5MHz and 1,270.1-1,286MHz.

Newspaper reports suggest that Sealand TV, based on an old wartime fort off the Essex coast, could start transmissions in early September, with films, pop video and sports from 1700-0200. The project is backed by a Bahamas-based investment company and would be run by Roy Bates who is known for his free radio activities. The channel isn't known. Sealand is seven miles off Harwich.

**W. Germany:** The ch. E23 services' transmitter at Viersen has been closed down: another at Rheindahlen has been opened, on the same channel with 0.5kW e.r.p. A new AFRTS/AFN transmitter has come into operation at Hessisch Oldendorf, on ch. E38 with 100W e.r.p. The westwards directional characteristics of the Buderich transmitter have been changed and the e.r.p. levels reduced. The transmitter carries ZDF on ch. E35 and WDR-1/3 on chs. E48 and E59.

**Spain:** Seven companies have expressed interest in starting private TV services which are expected to be on-air before 1990.

**Pakistan:** Viewers in Lahore and Karachi are erecting high-gain aerial systems in order to receive the service from the Indian Doordarshan transmitter. Apparently the price of head amplifiers has risen sharply. The Pakistan authorities, concerned about this invasion of air space, are increasing the powers of transmitters in the border areas with the aim of blotting out Doordarshan - that's the theory, anyway!

**Satellite TV:** Because of the increasing domestic reception



of programmes intended for cable networks, copyright holders are putting increased pressure on the various UK programme providers such as Premiere, Children's Channel etc. to adopt scrambling. The 16-channel Astra satellite, which is due to be launched in mid-1988, could carry eight English-language channels, three German, three French and two Skansat channels. There has been criticism that the CNN European service consists of the basic US service with a European weather forecast added: a "more effective" European service is promised in due course, maybe in late 1988/early 1989 to coincide with a move from the Intelsat V satellite at 27.5°W to the Astra satellite. Intelsat V at 27.5°W has been noted carrying a European service from the US NBC network: it seems that this was a test for a possible service in competition with CNN.

### Rabbit Remote TV/VCR System

The "VCR Rabbit" system was described briefly in the July Teletopics column. It enables a VCR to feed up to five TV sets at various locations, with remote control of the VCR via any of the Rabbit receiver units linked to the TV sets. A Rabbit transmitter unit at the VCR sends the programme material to the receiver units at 40MHz, via a two-core cable – the receiver units up-convert the 40MHz signal to u.h.f. for feeding to the associated TV sets. Whether the Hong Kong manufactured units radiate remains to be seen. It seems that the system is at present undergoing modification to suit UK standards.

### From our Correspondents . . .

We've not, unfortunately, had much space for readers' letters in recent columns. They're always welcome however, so please write in. We're always interested to hear of your equipment, results and comments. If you have any queries, include an s.a.e. for a rapid reply.

We were pleased to hear again from Hugh Cocks, who moved to Portugal about four years ago. He's recently moved to a house high in the mountains in the Algarve region, and the reception possibilities here are particularly interesting. I quote direct from his letter dated June 21st:

"There have been lots of signals over the last two weeks, some with identifications. On June 3rd at 2230 BST there were signals on chs. A2 and A3 (A2 vision and sound, A3 vision only). The A2 signal consisted of a weather report with identification WSB TV (with possibly one extra letter after the B), going on to Mash at 2236. It's quite common to hear French as well with odd references to CBC in English. The 12th produced another highlight with WFMY-TV Carolina and CBS news. Next, on the 19th, came WUNB-TV (Columbia?) at 2200 with references to Philadelphia.

The best day was the 19th, with signals from 1730-2230. On other days reception starts at 2230 and continues to 2400-0100. On the 19th the m.u.f. rose to ch. A5 vision. US System M reception was logged on the 3rd, 4th, 8th, 12th, 14th, 15th and the 17-19th. The signal on the 14th had French sound: it started at 1440 and faded out by 1530. Identification of these signals is difficult except on the hour when there's a station identification plus adverts.

Another highlight was JTV (Jordan) ch. E3 one lunchtime, quite strong followed by RTT (Tunisia) ch. E4. SpE reception from the North has not been too good so far this year. BRT ch. E2 and RTB ch. E3 were received on the 21st however. Also on this night there was a ch. A2 signal with Spanish sound and the identification

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"Telemundo Puerto Rico". Most of the time the pictures are ghostly, superimposed or weak, with lots of interference from RTE and Canarias ch. E3.

On the 23rd at 1325 BST a strong PM5544 test pattern was received on ch. E3, with Arabic writing at the top and "Ortas-Damas" at the bottom. The time was plus two hours and the source is assumed to be Syria. The Jordanian ch. E3 test card was received on the 24th at 0800-0830, while a weak ch. A2 signal was present from 1745-1800."

An enviable location indeed, with the possibility of reception from Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the US Atlantic seaboard through to central America. I wonder whether there are any jobs going in Portugal?!

### Band II TV Reception

Band II TV reception tends to be neglected, DX-TV enthusiasts concentrating on Band I during SpE openings. Several tuners provide coverage above 70MHz however and, in conjunction with an up-converter, may give continuous coverage of the whole v.h.f. spectrum. The channels used for TV broadcasting in Band II are as follows:

Channel	Vision carrier frequency	Sound carrier frequency
R3	77-25MHz	83-75MHz
IC	82-25MHz	87-75MHz
R4	85-25MHz	91-75MHz
R5	93-25MHz	99-75MHz

Note that ch. IC uses 5.5MHz sound/vision spacing (System B) while chs. R3-5 have 6.5MHz sound/vision spacing

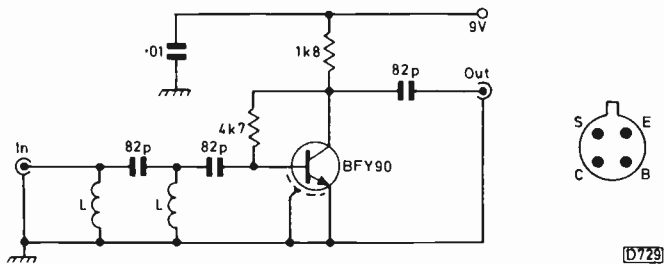


Fig. 1: Preamplifier circuit for use at v.h.f., covering 40-230MHz with a gain of 17dB at 90MHz. Consumption 5-6mA at 9V. Use silver mica capacitors and 10% resistors. L consists of 10 1/4in. diameter turns of 24g enamelled copper wire, close-spaced. Follow usual v.h.f. construction practice in building the amplifier.

(System D). Many East European transmitters use channels R3-5. Channel IC is used by Italy and Albania – the latter is often received in the UK at good strength during SpE openings.

Though SpE propagation in Band II is less common than in Band I, during an intense opening several ch. R3-5 stations may be received. Conditions can resemble those in Band I, with signals from different transmitters alternating. From my own observations these Band II signals are generally more stable than their Band I counterparts, with slower fading – in fact the signals tend to resemble tropospheric ones, without the dramatic extremes of signal strength experienced in Band I.

A suitable tuner, e.g. the ELC2000, and a wideband amplifier will provide reception in conjunction with an aerial cut to the appropriate dimensions (see later). The BFY90 amplifier circuit shown in Fig. 1 covers 40-230MHz, with a gain of around 15dB at 80MHz.

Unless the incoming signal is strong reception of ch. R5 can be difficult, since it's within the UK f.m. radio broadcasting band. Careful aerial orientation helps, together with the use of notch filtering to remove local f.m. radio channels, but the wideband i.f. circuitry employed in modern receivers means that interference is to be expected. Use of switched selectivity helps a great deal – and improves the signal-to-noise ratio with weak signals. Suitable circuitry has been described in previous issues – or you can use the D100 integrated r.f./i.f. unit from HS Publications (7 Epping Close, Derby DE3 4HR).

The most important item however is the aerial. Experiments show that while a ch. R3 signal received with a Band II aerial will be presented to the receiver at a high level any attempt to pick up the same signal using a Band I aerial will result in a very low input. Thus thoughts of making do with a Band I aerial will prove a disappointment!

Since reception in the UK is basically from an east to south-east direction a Band II aerial can be fixed to the

mast rather than increasing the load on the rotor unit. Position the aerial to face ESE: the chosen signal directions are within the -3dB points of the usual type of Band II aerial – taking into account also that in Band II direction change via SpE is less marked. Fig. 2 shows five aerial designs covering either chs. R3-5 inclusive or chs. R3-4 inclusive. The reduced bandwidth of the latter types is intended for use where interference from a nearby f.m. transmitter is likely to make reception of ch. R5 impractical. Much of the TV Band II lies within the mobile radio low band, and some intermittent interference from this source will also be experienced: a local known source could be removed by filtering, but otherwise such interference just has to be accepted.

The aerial designs are relatively simple and can be made from scrapped Band I aeriels (visit your friendly local aerial rigger). If you have a small aerial company nearby they may be willing to supply new components. Otherwise you can purchase the aeriels from Aerial Techniques of Poole (see advertisement). The design shown at (a) consists of a wideband dipole package, i.e. an active dipole with a passive resonator mounted close to it. This system covers 77-92MHz and is called type WB1/O (O for OIRT). A reflector is added in design (b), type WB2/O, which covers 77-100MHz and has a gain of approximately 2.5dB. Note that the dipole arrangement used in these two designs is based on the Antiference Tru-Match principle, in which the two closely coupled elements act together to reduce the inductive and capacitive reactance swings and thus give a better 75Ω resistive match over the bandwidth. Design (c) is a simple two-element dipole plus reflector arrangement, type WB2/O1, covering 77-92MHz. Designs (d) and (e), types WB3/O and WB3/OFD respectively, have three elements and thus a higher gain. The element spacing with the straight dipole is wider to give better matching at 75Ω: a folded dipole assists in this respect, giving a design that's shorter with higher gain and better wideband matching.

On my own mast I've sleeve fitted a Band II wideband dipole ahead of the first director of the Band I array. The Band I and II aeriels thus share a common boom. If you already have a Band I array this might be the simplest solution.

Several designs for log-periodic aeriels covering 45-100MHz exist. Such aeriels are particularly favoured in the Benelux countries. Due to the more complex design and construction involved and the fact that there's a performance fall off when a vertical metal support mast passes through the chain (to support higher aeriels) I've opted for the simpler and more practical Yagi approach. We would be pleased to feature other designs tried out by readers, and also their experiences with equipment for reception in Band II, so anyone wishing to contribute please write in!

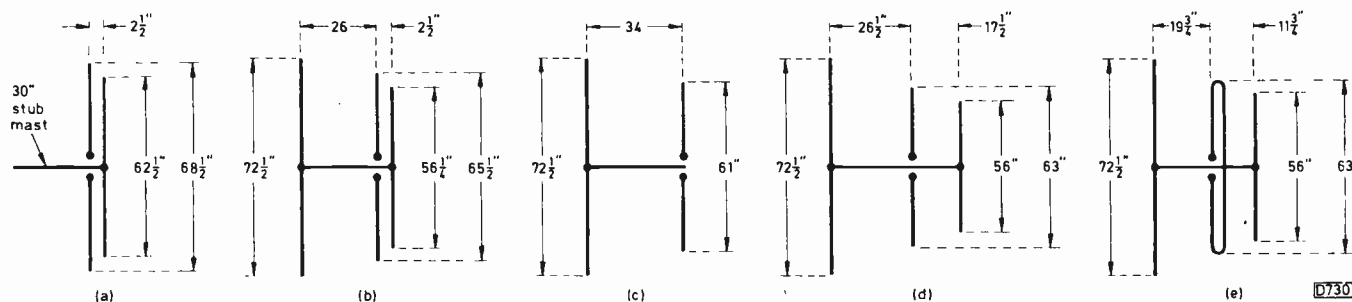


Fig. 2: Band II aerial designs. For details see text. All aerial elements 1/2 in. outside diameter, mast 1 in.

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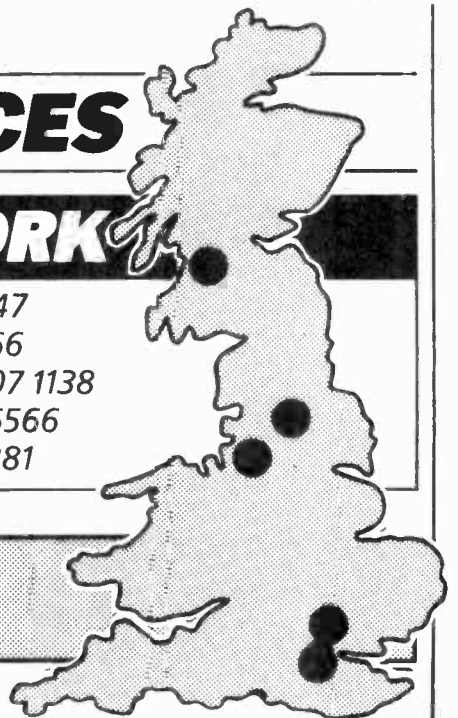
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## City

# Mr Harass and Mrs Corker

Les Lawry-Johns

Mr. Harass originally phoned to say that his Bush T20 was ghostly for the first two minutes or so, after which it was all right. Now I've had this business several times with T20s and T22s, and the cause has been the 47 $\mu$ F electrolytics in the switch-mode power supply. I looked for a spare unit and called out for one to show itself. Nothing doing, so I thought I'd call in on Geoff to see whether he would lend me one and, to be on the safe side, I took a couple of 47 $\mu$ F electrolytics with me.

## Eddy's Advice

I landed at Moon Lane and slipped up the stairs to see Geoff. Having picked myself up, I could hear Geoff laughing and saying to Eddy "the silly old sod can't even walk up the stairs without falling over. Oh, hallo Les. Sure footed as a mountain goat as usual."

I smiled in my usual composed way and enquired about the availability of a T20 power supply.

"Certainly old chap, are you sure you need it?"

Ignoring the implication of this remark or query, I described the symptoms. "Ghostly for the first two minutes."

Eddy spoke up, "You need a tube base socket, not a power supply unit."

I smiled. "Thank you Eddy, but I'll borrow the power supply if I may."

With the unit clutched in my hand I left the shop of doubt and headed for Hollyberry Lane, trying to remember what it was that Honey Bunch had asked me to get from the corner shop next to where Mr. Harass lives. I thought I'd fit the power supply unit first and get the ham later.

"Good morning Mr. Harass. Are you the gentleman with the dicey power unit?" After being ushered into the room where the T20 lived I whipped the set round, removed the rear cover, hooked the chassis into the service position, lowered the timebase panel and had the power supply unit out before you could say dozy. I slipped the spare one in and connected it up. When I'd fitted the aerial and switched the set on the sound boomed out and a picture tried to appear. It was miles out of focus. I smiled a sickly smile at Mr. Harass. "Sorry sir, I'll have to pop it back to the shop for a few minutes, to make it better so to speak."

The T20's own power supply was refitted, the rear cover replaced and the whole lot was then carted back to the shop, pausing only in Moon Lane to return Geoff's power supply.

"Sorry Eddy. You were right as usual. The silly bugger didn't say it was out of focus. Have a nice day."

Back at the shop I removed the faulty tube base socket and fitted a new one. The picture was good from switch on. Only a slight touch on the focus control was required (remember that). In a trice the set was taken back home to beam its lovely picture at Mr. Harass. "LLJ triumphs again" I snarled as I sped back to the ranch.

## Two Days Later

Two days later Mr. Harass phoned again, this time because of sound hum that varied with picture content. I

selected my spare decoder/i.f. panel and wound my way up to his house. Oh yes, I'd forgotten to get the ham last time . . . I listened to the sound from his set and it did have a hum which changed when the scene changed. On fitting the spare panel the hum had gone.

"The picture's nowhere as good as it was" said Mr. Harass.

I adjusted the preset contrast control.

"That's better."

So off I went, hoping to hear no more. Some hope.

Two days later he was on again. "The picture's terrible. Can't see the stumps and can't read the score. I want my panel back."

Now I had spent hours on his panel, painstakingly removing every suspect capacitor and finding it good. I resolved to refit his panel and if necessary swap over the i.f. subpanel and tweak up his focus control. Have you noticed that if you alter the focus potentiometer setting you have to reset it back later? Not every time of course, just nearly every time.

So off we went again. I removed the rear cover and reset the focus control for a clear picture. I then refitted his panel and there was no hum at all.

"Ah, that's better" said Mr. Harass. "I knew that panel you fitted was no good."

I heaved a sigh and left it at that. I hope the focus control holds its contact this time.

## Mrs Corker's KT3

I was busy talking to the dogs, telling Tessa what a pretty girl she was, when the phone rang. It was Mrs. Corker, her with the legs. She'd called to say that her Philips TV set (KT3) was on the blink. In fact it wasn't doing anything except stand there, and it wasn't doing that very well either. I promised to call during the afternoon.

I was greeted at the door by Mrs. Corker, who was wearing the shortest of short skirts. I swallowed hard and allowed her to precede me into the drawing room. She immediately lay under the set and gestured for me to do the same. I've been caught by this one before, and hesitated to tell her I was beyond it.

"Get up Mrs. Corker. We'll turn the set on its side."

She scrambled to her feet, looking I thought a little annoyed.

When the set had been turned on its side I tightened up the loose screw. I wonder who'd loosened it? After putting the set upright I switched on. Nothing.

"It's the switch" she said.

"Funny how all you women say that" I commented.

With the rear cover removed I found that there was h.t. at one end of the 4-7 $\Omega$  surge limiter resistor but nothing at the other end. I removed it and fitted a more manly type. The set now came on but was tripping. After disconnecting the lead from the line output transformer to the tripler the tripping stopped.

"You need a new tripler Mrs. Corker."

"Will that stop the colour keep going off half way through the evening?"

"No dear. That's a little something that can be done in no time and I'll do it before I go."

So I fitted the tripler, taking the diode and earth leads

over the top, and soldered them together where the original single lead had come through, in my usual lazy way. I took out the left upper panel, cleaned the contacts, and refitted it. After switching on I was rewarded with a lovely clear picture in full colour, except for a predominant green which sorted itself out in a couple of minutes.

"What about the colour going off?" asked Mrs. Corker.

"That won't happen again, I promise you. Well not for a year or so anyway."

"I didn't see you do it."

"You were looking at that bird in the garden."

"Oh, lovely, I must give you something before you go."

"Yes dear. Thirty quid."

"Not negotiable?"

"Sorry."

### **The Thorn 9000**

I limped back to the shop and found a Thorn 9000 on the bench. Now I'm not keen on these sets as they tend to play tricks on me. This one had had a new tripler fitted recently. I disconnected this, though I didn't suspect it. Switching on rewarded me with sullen silence, though there was h.t. on the syclops wall. I turned it over and checked the usual places. As all seemed to be in order I disconnected one end of R709, the 47Ω resistor connected between the base and emitter of the syclops transistor. It read something like 10Ω. I pushed the free end through, out of harm's way, and fitted a new 47Ω resistor on the underside (lazy me . . .). The thing then started up, leaving me just to reconnect the tripler. This resistor seems to be really playing up nowadays, but it makes a nice, easy repair. What we need is nice easy repairs. Where did they go?

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# Teletopics

### **ALL CHANGE**

Following last month's announcement of the sale of Thorn-EMI's consumer electronics products manufacturing subsidiary Ferguson to the French firm Thomson Grand Public, this month brings news that Thomson has established a major presence in the US consumer electronics goods market by taking over General Electric's interests in this field. General Electric's share of the market increased considerably when it took over RCA in early 1986 – the two brands GE and RCA together form the market leader in the USA, with some 23 per cent of TV sales.

Thorn-EMI has announced completion of the sale of Ferguson to Thomson, the consideration, which includes repayment of loan accounts, being £90m. In addition Thomson will be acquiring, in separate deals, Ferguson (Ireland) Ltd. and Thorn-EMI's one third interest in the joint VCR manufacturing venture J2T. In the year to end-March 1987 Ferguson made a loss of £12m, including rationalisation costs of £8m. Its net assets are valued at £81m.

As we go to press Thorn-EMI has announced a major acquisition in the USA. It is taking over the US Rent-A-Centre group for £371m in a bid that has the backing of the Rent-A-Centre board. Rent-A-Centre is one of the three leading consumer electronics rental companies in the USA with an estimated nine per cent of the market. In the last five years the firm's net profits have risen from

\$2.8m to \$9.9m – a further substantial increase is expected in the current year. In addition to consumer electronics goods, mainly TV sets and VCRs, Rent-A-Centre handles some furniture products.

For further information and comment on these moves see page 741.

### **DBS LATEST**

British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB), which has the UK DBS franchise, has been holding talks with semiconductor manufacturers with the aim of ensuring that chips to decode the MAC signals will be available for incorporation in receivers by the time the service starts in late 1989. BSB has gone as far as offering to help fund the development of chip sets. One problem that seems to be holding the semiconductor manufacturers back is the fact that the transmission standard has not been decided: while BSB and the UK government favour the D-MAC standard it's likely that the French and W. German DBS services will use D2-MAC. The Norwegian semiconductor design firm Nordic claims to have developed a dual-standard chip set capable of handling both D-MAC and D2-MAC. A consortium that calls itself Euro-MAC and includes Philips and Thomson is urging the adoption of a common standard for European DBS transmissions.

Plessey Semiconductors has announced a down-converter chip, type SP5062, for use in satellite TV head-end units. The circuitry makes use of Plessey's s.h.f. bipolar technology.

Meanwhile two consultancy organisations have issued reports that cast doubt on the prospects for BSB's DBS service, at any rate in the early years. Logica Consultancy's report suggests that only around 600,000 UK homes will be able to receive the service after the first five years. CIT Research's report suggests that BSB would have 150,000 subscribers after five years and 500,000 after ten years. BSB's business plan assumes the installation of some 350,000 receivers at the start of the service and five million receivers in use after five years. CIT's managing director Patrick Whitten points out that if cable TV is taken as a guide only ten per cent of consumers are prepared to pay extra for a premium service. At the moment of course all this is pure guesswork.

### **SUBSCRIPTION TV RECOMMENDED**

The report by CSP International, briefly mentioned last month, advocates the start of a subscription TV channel for UK viewers, using conventional terrestrial broadcasting. This report suggests that thirty per cent of households would be prepared to pay £10 a month for an additional, scrambled, premium channel. It says that plenty of spectrum space is available for such a service. If allocating further space to TV or finding ways of making greater use of the space already available proves to be unacceptable the report suggests curtailing the current services to slot in scrambled programming, or alternatively using periods when transmitters are at present off-air to download programmes. Such ideas are expected to be welcomed by those members of the government who favour a move to viewer payment for services provided.

### **CITIZEN'S POCKET COLOUR TV**

Citizen is shortly to launch in the UK a colour pocket portable TV set using an LC display. The set, Model TC53, is expected to be the only PAL-I standard LCD set available in the UK before Christmas. The NTSC version has been on sale in Japan and the USA for some time.

The set has a 2.5in. (38.1 × 50.8mm) back-lit LCD screen with 57,600 pixels. We've seen a pre-production set working and would certainly say that the addition of colour greatly enhances an LC display. Citizen have adopted a trapezoidal pixel arrangement which avoids the rather jagged effect you tend to get with square picture elements. There's a comparatively dense RGB filter layout which also contributes to the resolution. The Citizen Super Matrix (CSM) arrangement, with the electrodes above the colour filters, enables a higher voltage to be applied, giving an increase in contrast of some 20 per cent. Power is from AA batteries, an a.c. adaptor or a car battery adaptor. The consumption is 2.4W and the battery life three hours (with alkaline cells).

### NEW COLOUR SETS

Bush Radio is to return to the CTV market with sets manufactured in Turkey. The plant is understood to use Thorn-Ferguson technology so the innards may have a familiar look to them. The well-known Bush brand name has not been used in the CTV market for several years. Bush Radio is now owned by Prestwich Holdings: the sets will be supplied by Polly Peck.

The current Ferguson range of 14in. colour portables, using the TX85 chassis, includes a model with teletext.

New CTV chassis have been announced by Tatung and Fidelity. Tatung's Super CX chassis features a 21-pin SCART connector, CCT for improved colour performance, automatic switch-off at the end of a transmission, an on-screen channel display, and full-feature IR remote control with 30 pre-programmable channels. The sets have FS tubes in sizes ranging from 15in. to 28in. – they incorporate "Black Quartz" technology (a tinted filter to reduce reflections and improve the contrast). Fidelity has gone digital for its latest chassis, type ZX5000, which uses the ITT range of digital TV signal processing chips.

### DEVELOPMENT WORK

Philips has suggested that record/playback video discs could be developed within three-four years. New compounds based on gallium and antimonide have made the breakthrough possible. They enable the laser beam to erase and write material as well as reading it.

Finlux's parent company Lohja Corporation has announced the development of a flat-screen TV set with a seven-inch electroluminescent display. The set is regarded as experimental but work on the project is continuing in conjunction with the Helsinki Technical College.

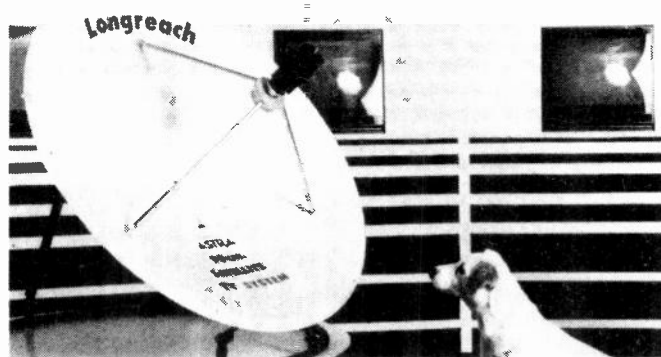
A 3D TV system has been developed by Dr. Max Robinson of Trent Polytechnic. The viewer wears shuttered glasses which are synchronised to the display. The system includes a video recorder as the signal source – it connects directly with a TV set – and a two-lens camera.

### THOMSON SPARES

We have been notified of a correction to the spares announcement in this column last month. Spares for Thomson TV sets and VCRs are available from K. M. Services Ltd., 19 Market Place, Brackley, Northants NN13 5AB (0280 701 650). Service All Electronics, whose address was given last month, provide spares for Thomson microwaves and the CVM01P camera.

### SATELLITE RECEIVER SYSTEM FOR £499

Longreach Marketing Ltd. (Riverside Business Park, Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA2 3DW – 0225 316 257) has



announced a satellite TV receiver system for £499 including VAT. It consists of a UK made 90cm dish, a Japanese LNB that employs three gallium-arsenide f.e.t.s, and an American receiver unit. The LM90 system is being marketed as "a high-quality TVRO installation for the price of a VCR".

### NEW MULLARD RC DECODER CHIPS

Two new infra-red remote control decoder chips have been announced by Mullard. Type SAA3009 is for LED drive and type SAA3049 for low-current drive applications. The decoders check coded data received from the remote control transmitter, converting this to latched binary outputs. They accept RECS80 coded data with pulse-position modulation (from remote transmitter chip types SAA3004/7/8) or RC5 coded data with biphasic transmission (from chip types SAA3006/3027). 64 remote control commands can be decoded, with a maximum of 32 sub-addresses. By adding circuitry for binary decoding of the data and address a maximum of 2,048 commands can be used. Six individual output ports can be operated with no external circuitry.

### EDUCATIONAL

The London Electronics College has announced a new series of up-dated, one-year full-time BTEC National Certificate courses which start on September 21st. Subjects available will be as follows: (1) electronic equipment servicing, including TV, VCRs and CCTV; (2) computing technology, including microprocessors, interfacing and data communications; (3) information technology, including telecommunications, networks, satellite TV and compact discs; (4) software engineering, including assemblers, BASIC, Pascal, programming and CAD/CAM.

The Radio, Television and Electronics Examination Board has been awarded a £4,000 grant by the Distributive Industry Training Trust to assist in the development of ways of providing a practical fault location test for microprocessor-based equipment.

### IN BRIEF

Bib has announced a VHS-C video head cleaner cassette kit at £9.98 including VAT . . . A new catalogue listing their extensive range of aerials, amplifiers and associated equipment is available for 75p by return post from Aerial Techniques, 11 Kent Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 2EH . . . An easy-to-fit, low-cost BNC connector that can be used over and over again has been announced by Specialist Electrical Engineers Ltd., (St. George's House, St. George's Lane, Cleveleys, Lancs FY5 3LT). Fitting is said to take only seven seconds and no soldering is required . . . Willow Vale Electronics Ltd. is holding a Trade Show at its Manchester branch on September 23rd, from 10am to 10pm. A buffet will be supplied.

# TV Fault Finding

Reports from Chris Avis, R.T. Rees, R. Crockett, Michael Dranfield, Mick Dutton and Roger Burchett

## National Panasonic TC2201

This one had the shivers – severe line tearing and enough h.f. radiation to upset other TV sets in the workshop. The h.t. rail was correct and adjustable and there was no visible arcing in the line output area. It was then discovered – by chance – that operating the service switch would stop the radiation! Checks were made around the chopper transistor TR801 whose emitter is decoupled by C826 (390pF). Bridging this with an additional 330pF capacitor also cleared the symptom, though a replacement 390pF capacitor didn't. TR801 showed a 1M $\Omega$  emitter-collector leak however and a replacement cleaned up the picture – on all the sets. Presumably operation of the service switch removed the fault symptom due to the reduced load on the power supply caused by no field scan and low beam current. C.A.

## GEC C1405H

"The on/off switch is faulty" said the customer, incorrectly. In fact the set was tripping when switched on, except for the odd occasion when it would work normally for a while before cutting out. Tests revealed that the safety thyristor Q901 was inclined to cry wolf and inhibit the line drive when the operating conditions were actually correct. Q901's gate resistor R910 (10k $\Omega$ ) was removed and checked. It read 13k $\Omega$  before one end fell off! C.A.

## Sony KV1820

A case of Snow White Syndrome, or Whistle While You Work: there were erratic squeals from the power supply transformer and ragged verticals. A common cause of this symptom is C609 (0.47 $\mu$ F, 50V) in the power supply, but the seven dwarfs continued unabated when it was replaced. With precise use of freezer the fault was traced to one of the power supply pulse-width modulator transistors, Q604 (2SC634A). This had developed random base-emitter leakage – anything between about 50k $\Omega$  and 5M $\Omega$ . A BC183L proved to be a satisfactory replacement. C.A.

## Ferguson TX90 Chassis

There was no colour on this portable TV set due to the line pulse at pin 9 of IC103 being of low amplitude at 2V. R171 (270k $\Omega$ ) had gone high in value. R.T.R.

## Rediffusion Mk 3 Chassis

The trouble with this set was intermittent brightness changes. Under the fault condition the voltage at the emitters of the RGB output transistors went very high. The culprit was the 7.5V zener diode 2D15 which returns the emitters to chassis. This diode is used to set the black level d.c. offset. It was going open-circuit intermittently. R.T.R.

## Ferguson TX9 with Teletext

This set almost had a mind of its own, changing channels, going into standby or increasing the sound level (never the other way). A general resoldering of the joints in the area of the line output transformer improved things to the

point where we had very intermittent channel changing or going to standby – days would go by with the set performing well, then off we'd go again. Resoldering all the joints in the infra-red receiver unit eventually cured the problem. R.C.

## ITT CVC25/30 Series Chassis

This fault is showing up quite regularly. After replacing the tripler or after a flashover you may be presented with a washed out picture, the contrast control having no effect. The component to check is D3 (1N4148) in the beam limiter circuit. It's connected to the earthy end of the tripler and goes leaky. M.D.

## Thorn 9000 Chassis

There was an odd fault on this set. It would work for five minutes after being switched on then start to trip. Disconnecting the power supply rails had no effect, neither did disconnecting the tripler. Attention was therefore turned to the regenerative trip switch. The input from the thick-film sensing unit arrives at connectors 20/4 and 20/5 on the cyclops control panel. Under normal conditions the voltage here should be low, at 0.05V. We found that it was a little on the high side at 0.28V. After a minute or so it started to rise, eventually reaching about 0.5V after which the trip started to recycle. When the over-voltage thick-film unit was cooled the voltage dropped back to 0.28V. Zener diode W716 in the unit was heat sensitive, leaking when warm. A replacement thick film unit restored correct conditions. M.D.

## Mitsubishi CT2027

Two of these sets came in recently with the complaint that they wouldn't switch on. In both cases the cause was R7A0 being open-circuit. This resistor provides the remote control receiver panel with a start-up supply. M.Du.

## Decca 80 Chassis

The problem was low and distorted sound. On investigation the supply to the TBA800 audio amplifier/output chip was found to be low at 10V instead of 25V. We worked back to the regulator driver stage on the timebase panel and found that R368 (150 $\Omega$ ), which is in series with the base of the shunt regulator transistor, was burnt while the driver transistor Tr303 had overheated. We replaced these items and checked the regulator transistor Tr801. When we switched on R368 immediately began to smoke. Closer inspection revealed that connector PTA11 was dry-jointed, with the result that all the current was being diverted via the driver transistor and R368. M.Du.

## Philips G11 Chassis

This set would go "dead" very intermittently. We exchanged the power supply, line timebase and line output panels but the fault persisted. In an attempt to narrow down the search we removed the beam current limiter transistors from the power supply panel. The set then worked all right. A look at the circuit led us back to the



colour decoder panel. When we removed this we found a crack in the print at the rear of plug 6C. This was causing the beam limiter to be connected to the h.t. rail via R6065 without the benefit of zener diode D6011 to hold down the voltage level. Repairing the print cured the problem.

On another of these sets there was no output from the power supply as R4067 had sprung open. When this was resoldered the power supply worked but the output was high at 180V. R4024 (220k $\Omega$ ) in the set h.t. control network had increased in value to over 400k $\Omega$ . **M.Du.**

### Thorn 1615 Chassis

The complaint with this set was no flyback blanking. As the voltages around the blanking transistor seemed to be correct we decided to take a look at the waveforms. These were all correct at the blanking transistor but seemed to be of very low amplitude at the video output transistor. W18 (1S44) which is connected between the collector of the blanking transistor and the emitter of the video output transistor was not conducting, though it measured all right on a meter test. **M.Du.**

### Ferguson 37141 – TX90 Chassis

This set would not go into the standby mode and the customer complained that it would intermittently shut down. The standby problem was caused by TR902 (ZTX750) being short-circuit while the intermittently dead problem was due to dry-joints around the line output transistor. We also resoldered the field output transistors: these were badly dry-jointed, as you often find with this chassis. **M.Du.**

### Rediffusion Mk 1 Chassis

This set was covered by a maintenance agreement until last year, when Granada decided not to continue with it. This is how I came on the scene. There were quite a few botches, the worst being that the cutout had been linked out. After carrying out a post mortem it seems that the focus spark gap had shorted out, melted and in dripping

down the tube base panel had scorched this and started the Paxolin burning. Fortunately the 3A mains fuse then blew, bringing the conflagration to a not untimely end. The owner is an increasingly senile old lady who could never have got to the set in time had a real conflagration started.

At the moment I await instructions as to what to do with the set. The owner's son is a solicitor, so action may be taken. Surely the big boys in the trade should realise that a maintenance agreement means just that – maintaining the set in as near perfect condition as possible until it's too old, then telling the owner so. As a postscript the focus control, which had also melted, is with the local fire brigade: they display such horrors on open days. **R.B.**

### Grundig CUC120 Chassis

This set was shutting down and not always restarting. Switching off and on again a short time later sometimes produced results. At other times it wouldn't start at all. Voltage checks indicated that the TDA4600 chopper control chip was receiving a start-up supply, but nothing much else was happening. A quick squirt of freezer on the chip and the set burst into life, only to stop a few minutes later. Another dose of cooling spray and the set came on again. As nothing obvious was amiss we replaced the chip. No change. Attention was then directed at the components nearby. R632 is very close to the chip and freezing it started the set up. But this resistor would have to fall in value to have any effect: it's connected to pin 5 of the chip, i.e. the safety circuit which shuts the set down when the voltage at this pin is less than 2.2V. A check on the voltage showed that it rose when the set stopped! Various other components were tested or replaced before, in frustration, I flexed the panel hard with a screwdriver handle. The set then tried to start. Tapping the panel had no effect but flexing it did. The only thing to do was to start resoldering: the faulty joint was found to be on L631, which is in the chopper transistor's base drive circuit. Presumably the freezer was moving the joint sufficiently for it to remake – the joint is very close to the chip. **R.B.**

## Review: Sony Fault-Finding Guides

**Eugene Trundle**

Manufacturers vary in their provision of servicing information to the trade. All produce service manuals of course. Some of these are good, some bad and others indifferent. Some setmakers go a good deal further than this, collating and publishing "common fault" data for their products as an aid to speedy servicing. The subject of this review is a recently published series of fault-finding guides from Sony. The information contained in them has been gathered from a wide net of service companies and manufacturer's depots in the UK and continental Europe.

It's easy to dismiss such "symptom and cure" guides as idiots' handbooks – "monkey charts" is an expression often used. Except for the lucky few however most of us are in the repair business to make a living rather than glorify in our diagnostic skills, and when you're working against the clock any help that speeds the process of turning the product round and getting it back out of the door is welcome! I for one am happy to "stand on the shoulders of giants" when they point me in the direction of a little leaky diode or whatever as the probable cause of some horribly obscure set of fault symptoms. Plainly such

guides cannot provide a guaranteed definitive answer to every fault that may be encountered, but with these particular guides there's a statistically high probability that for each symptom the suggested cause and remedy will be applicable to the set on your bench. This provides a tremendous saving in trouble-shooting time and hence in servicing costs.

The Sony Service Fault-Finding Guide comes in three volumes which were originally published in November 1986. Volume one, with 508 pages, covers video products including cameras; volume two with 311 pages deals with TV sets and has a small section on home computers; volume three with 381 pages is concerned with audio equipment. For the purpose of this review I've concentrated on the first two.

The format adopted in these books is one fault per page. Taking one at random we get: Model no.: CCDV8. Symptom group: Picture. Symptom: Camera defective, white spot with green lines. Cause: Polarity of C730 incorrect. Remedy: Replace C730 on board CP11. Description: 0.47 $\mu$ , 20%, 25V, part no. 113508300. On

each page space is provided below this information for the user's own notes. Some pages call attention to Sony Service Bulletins where these are applicable, i.e. for official modifications etc., and quote the bulletin number. The fact that the information given is so specific shows that it's based on experience and practice. The same information is in a few cases repeated on other pages where different models share common circuits, components and symptoms.

The guides go back a long way. Early models like the KV1300, SL8000 and SLC5 are covered as well as the latest equipment, though it must not be expected that the spare parts referred to will in all cases still be available – nor that their part numbers will not have been changed.

An in depth browse showed that most (but not all!) of the faults we've come across twice or more are listed. In order to complete the picture, each book's introduction includes a cordial invitation by Sony to inform them of faults encountered and cures applied for inclusion in the next edition.

The only slight criticism I have concerns the order in which models are listed in the video book. It could lead to vital information being missed or to a longer than necessary search for the correct page. The sequence is: SL8000; SLC20/30/40; SLC5/6/7/9; SLF series. The TV

book has no such problems. In both cases edge block markings on the pages help achieve quick access to the required information.

Apart from the "access" problem just described I found that these Sony books are excellent in concept and execution, and would heartily commend them to all engaged in servicing Sony products – if only because their cost could well be recouped by the first two or three "instant diagnoses" they provide.

Certainly you cannot throw away your scope, test meter, etc. when you get these books, but they will be a useful weapon in the armoury of any service department. It would be a welcome thing if other manufacturers followed this example of providing fault/repair data in easy access booklet form which can be updated at intervals with new editions. Indeed Panasonic/Technics have produced a similar publication: its first edition is at present out of print but is soon to be replaced by an enlarged and updated version. We'll be reporting on it as soon as a copy comes to hand.

The Sony guides are available from their Spares Department at Sony (UK) Ltd., Pipers Way, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks RG13 4LZ under part numbers S-79620201 (video), S-79510001 (TV) and S-76900001 (audio). They cost £4.95 each including VAT.

## Mains Supply Problems

**Gordon Haigh**

The article on dealing with mains interference, in the April issue, was most interesting. Although it's not necessarily a problem – except in the case noted by Roger Bunney of an interfering v.h.f. transmitter suspected of using the mains wiring as an aerial – there does seem to be a growing trend for the mains supply to be used for communications purposes. In fact a draft frequency plan for mains use has been published, covering 40-150kHz. Certain sections are allocated for specific uses, e.g. 40-90kHz for the electricity supply authorities and 140-150kHz for fire/security uses. Equipment is at present in use outside this band, for example mains intercoms that use 100-300kHz. Some computer data interchange has been reported – how well this works against all the unwanted nasties present is anyone's guess!

The shock hazard is forever present. You would not think that a brush with the chassis of a Rank A823 receiver would be memorable with the mains plug wired correctly, but it was. Inspection of how the live mains reached the power board revealed that the polarity prong on the connector had broken off, with resulting reversed connection.

The mains leads on some imported radios have not in the past been as safe as they should be, consisting of twin single coated wire. Whiskers of wire can protrude through the insulation, giving that tingling feeling – or, if draped near a metal sink top, you can get a hole blasted through the insulation. Hidden breaks in and around the appliance end-moulded mains plug, due to constant bending, can be the cause of intermittent operation of some TV and radio sets and cassette recorders.

A simple circuit that will give an at a glance warning of the hazards with a customer's power sockets is shown in Fig. 1. It was originally published some years ago in *Practical Electronics*. The neons are all 90V types and the resistors 0.25W, 5 per cent types. With a safe, correctly

wired socket only neons Ne1 and Ne2 should light. With no earth connection neon Ne1 only will light. With reversed live and neutral connections Ne1 and Ne3 light. Flickering neons indicate bad contacts.

Each neon is designed to draw 3.5mA. This ensures that floating earths are identified as such, providing the live-to-earth cable capacitance is less than about 50nF (corresponding to several kilometres of cable). The plug should be removed soon after noting which neons are alight since it's not good practice to pass current between the live and earth lines.

With a little skill the components can all be built into a standard 13A plug, with holes drilled for the neons. Faults like open-circuit or bad earths, reversed socket wiring, switches not in the live circuit and dead sockets can be quickly discovered. Simply insert the plug into the wall socket and observe the neons.

On one occasion I was called to see an old Bush monochrome set that was reported to be dead. It was installed in a bedroom. After checks in the set I discovered that there was no mains supply – there was no supply at the socket either. It transpired that the owner had not lived on the premises long. A previous owner, being a DIY fan, had wired the socket to the white meter circuit (timed cheap-rate off-peak circuit). It was timed to be off when I called – the safety plug would have come in handy on that occasion.

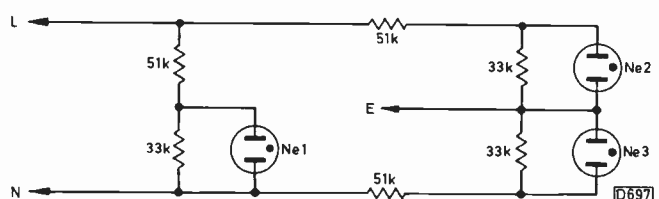


Fig. 1: Neon mains checker circuit.

# Letters

## VIDEO COPYRIGHT – A WARNING

Several recent articles in *Television* have drawn attention to the satellite TV services now available in the UK. Clearly many engineers will be having a go at reception. And a good thing too, because as usual the service engineer is the final and vital link between the equipment manufacturer and the public. Unless engineers become experienced and adept at installing satellite TV receiving gear the whole thing could founder. Once again, only actual work will provide the necessary know-how – an ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory. There's a danger however that may not be generally appreciated. Whilst no one would suggest that readers of *Television* could be tempted to do anything illegal, such a situation could nevertheless happen by accident.

The problem lies with the complicated laws on copyright and other matters relating to material transmitted via satellites for use by cable TV networks. When new feature films are sent out in this way it's inevitable that the temptation will arise for unauthorised people to record them. Laws are breached however even where domestic use only is intended. The situation is infinitely worse when the recording is lent out to another potential viewer. At this point the person concerned is at risk under the Copyright Act and the Video Recordings Act – and possibly the Obscene Publications Act if the material concerned is "blue" and doesn't have the appropriate censor's certificate. An organisation exists to enforce compliance with these laws. It's the British Federation Against Copyright Theft, which has its headquarters at Isleworth, Middlesex. While the Federation may not be widely known, to show that it has teeth and is prepared to use them just consider the case of Raymond Sharkey of Huddersfield.

Earlier this year legitimate traders in the video films business in and around Huddersfield became aware that recordings of feature films that had not yet been released for home viewing were being circulated in the area. In complaints to the police the traders alleged that Mr. Sharkey was making illegal recordings and then selling or renting them out, to the detriment of their own business. The police consulted the Federation and subsequently raided Mr. Starkey's home, from which they took satellite receiving and video recording equipment. In due course the Federation instituted proceedings that led to Mr. Starkey's appearance in court early last May on ten charges under the Acts previously mentioned. He was found guilty, fined a total of £2,000, and had to pay the Federation's costs of £250. In addition the Federation had Mr. Starkey's gear, clearly of considerable value, handed over to it. The court was apparently determined to show that in this type of case at least crime doesn't pay.

The warning is clear to anyone who is, no matter with what innocent intent, inveigled into assisting with video piracy. The penalties are far too severe for the risk to be worthwhile. Verb. sap.

*Chas E. Miller,  
Woodseaves, Staffs.*

## BATTERY ALTERNATIVES

The backup batteries in a Panasonic NV7200 VCR had failed. As replacements of the correct type were not to

hand I decided to fit an alternative. Four rechargeable AA size cells in a two-by-two type holder (end to end type, not four in a row) were found to fit in the space just behind the tuner controls. The holder was held in place with a few blobs from a glue gun. Good quality cells should be used, or additional protection provided so that if they leak deposits won't fall on the PCB below. Such damage could be costly to repair. The new arrangement should provide backup cover for a longer period than the original battery.

Fitting rechargeable batteries to the remote control unit requires slight adjustment of the positive terminals to get them to reach – the positive end of the battery rested on the plastic and the nipple wasn't long enough to reach the metal. I've noticed that a battery that appears to provide reasonable power, as measured with an Avo, when the control unit is activated might nevertheless not be adequate. This is because the unit takes power in the form of high-current pulses which reduce the terminal voltage for such a short time that the Avo doesn't register them.

Primary cells, i.e. non-rechargeable types, will however still run LCD appliances such as digital clocks and thermometers for a time towards the end of their lives .

*John de Rivaz, B.Sc.(Eng.),  
Porthowan, Cornwall.*

## TANDBERG TIP

There are still many 22 and 26in. Tandberg CTV2-2 colour sets around with a perfectly good tube but a dud tuning drawer. Instead of throwing the set in the skip because the drawer is rather expensive and unreliable, the following approach is either very cheap or free and provides a complete and lasting answer. First, rescue all those tuning units used in the 520 etc. version of the Philips G8 chassis. Next remove the Tandberg tuning drawer and throw away the printed resistor unit. Note the connections at the rear of the unit – these apply to the six channels, the 30V supply and chassis. Leave the a.f.c. connections, which are still available when the drawer is pulled out slightly. Having prepared the G8 unit with its leads, solder these in the correct order to the rear of the Tandberg drawer. Screw the G8 unit on to the wood just inside the left-hand side of the cabinet, then cut the shape out of the backboard (very easy) and the job is done.

*Hugh MacMullen,  
Newquay, Cornwall.*

## CABLE TV

I was interested to read J. LeJeune's article (August) on the development of cable TV systems. It took me back to my school days when, at 16, I had to look after a 250W, 1938 vintage relay system. At the same time, in 1966, I was asked to design and did produce a 405-line TV relay system. It was required to work with off-air, fringe area signals and the output of a Pye Lynx camera, feeding sets up to 600 yards away without any intermediate amplifiers. I used channel 3 (56MHz) for distribution. Only one programme – BBC, TWW or from the CCTV camera – was relayed at a time.

A strange fault was reported from the next town, Bradford-on-Avon. Someone complained that they suddenly had a bad ghost to the left of their picture. There was a cable TV system in the street to which the set's owner didn't subscribe. The cause of the problem was traced to one of the cable system's T-off points – the box was broken and was radiating a strong signal. The

complainant's set was receiving a good signal from the cable system, the ghost actually being the direct signal from the "local" transmitter (Wenvoe, South Wales).

*Alex Clapton, B.Sc.,  
Ipswich, Suffolk.*

### SERVICING CHARGES

I agree with everything Mr. Tasker says (July letters) – except for the price! It's far too high, unless he has a special price for pensioners. These people have lost so much through inflation that they have very little left, so let's give them a hand if we can.

Thanks Les (same issue) for your note on those modern fuses. I was one of those who knew what they looked like but not the value! Incidentally, a lady recently appeared at the counter and asked for a 32mm 1A glass fuse with a wire running down the outside. I suggested that she should use a nut and bolt.

*John Hopkins,  
The TV Workshop, Felixstowe, Suffolk.*

### RESTORE TO CORRECT SPEC

I must disagree with J. McCorry (letters, June) who criticised Mr. Roberts for assuming that a customer's 3V29 VCR was being used for taping off-air programmes in addition to its playback role. An engineer should surely endeavour to restore, to the best of his ability, any faulty piece of equipment to its original design specification – unless the customer requests otherwise. Mr. Roberts also came in for criticism for not obtaining more information about the nature of the VCR's faults. The request, which was more than likely given to a sales assistant, was quite simply "to repair the machine". Also, he would have great difficulty in supplying an estimate or quotation to a customer who left a false name and address and no telephone number.

At the end of the day, when one considers the overheads – which include the upkeep of premises, engineers' wages, test equipment, the provision of transport, etc. – there's little room in the television service industry for excessive profits to be made.

*Les Grogan,  
Prestatyn, Clwyd.*

### VINTAGE TV

In reply to Mr. Mathews' letter (July), Ostar-Ganz high-voltage valves could be supplied with either a.c. or d.c. and were wired in parallel directly across the mains. They were marketed in the UK by Eugen J. Forbat from various addresses in the Covent Garden, London WC2 area. The company also sold sets in kit form, chassis and complete radios. Advertisements for the valves emphasised "no barretters, no mains transformers and no breaking down resistances required. This is truly the valve of the future. Old receivers modernised and guaranteed to compare with up-to-date models." Unfortunately no prices were given for the valves. Can any reader help with this information?

*Douglas Byrne, G3KPO,  
Communications and Electronics Museum Trust,  
Ryde, Isle of Wight.*

With reference to Mr. Mathews' letter (July), I built a set using Ostar-Ganz valves when I was fourteen. All very

simple: no mains transformer and half-wave rectification with neutral to chassis (a bit daring in those days of two-pin plugs). They were very good valves, with a higher mA/V characteristic than most contemporaries. The Austrians overcame the heater/cathode insulation problem at 350V and the valves could be run with a.c. or d.c. at "100/250V, 24mA input" (output valves 37mA). There were only two heater pins, so there may have been two types. The special 7-pin holders had a screening plate between the control grid and the heater to avoid hum pickup. They represented an interesting milestone.

*G. Cox,  
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex.*

The interesting letter from Mr. Mathews on the subject of high-voltage heater valves jogged my memory. In 1936 I had on hand a project that used quite a few Ostar-Ganz valves. I still have full technical details of the valves. With the exception of the full-wave rectifier and output pentode the heaters were rated at 250V, 24mA a.c./d.c.: the rectifier took 44mA and the output pentode 37mA.

Unfortunately the first lot I had to handle turned up with Continental 7-pin bases. Valveholders for these were rather hard to come by, though the valves subsequently became available with standard British bases.

I now wonder whether some innocent servicemen in the thirties had a great surprise when they found the full mains voltage on the heater pins – if indeed they didn't land up on the floor!

*Robert Crawford,  
Uddingston, Glasgow.*

Though they make me feel my age I always enjoy reading Chas E. Miller's Vintage TV articles. In respect of the Ekco Model TMB272 however I suspect that his memory is ailing (as mine is!). This set did in fact have an internal vibrator power supply, using a mains transformer winding that doubled as part of the heater circuit when used with a mains supply.

In areas with no mains supply I used the series-parallel heater arrangement to enable one or two 9in. BBC-only sets to be used with a 12V d.c. supply – in conjunction with an ex-government rotary converter to provide the h.t.

Ask Chas to tell us about that Murphy set where you had to change the sound output valve when the picture wouldn't focus!

*Peter Nutkins,  
Charmouth, Dorset.*

### HITACHI SOUND PROBLEMS

In later versions of the Hitachi Model CPT2024 some improvements were made to the volume and tone control circuit. They tend to increase the distortion however. Advice was given in an earlier letter (April 1986) on rewiring the woofer and tweeter loudspeakers to give improved sound. In addition, further modification should be carried out on control panel PC131 as follows: remove C426 and replace it with a link wire; change C427 (0.15 $\mu$ F) to 0.1 $\mu$ F polyester (C426 can be used). Replace the panel and ensure that woofer SP401 and tweeter SP402 are wired with reverse polarity to the audio output transformer via PL/D1 negative connection and PL/D2 positive connection.

In some later versions of the NP82CQ chassis the quadrature coil L402 in the sound channel was incorrectly

adjusted. This is easy to put right. Tune to a test pattern signal and adjust L402 for maximum sound output – no more than one turn clockwise or anti-clockwise.

*P.C. Rowe,  
Camborne, Cornwall.*

### RC TRANSMITTER TEST

Whilst experimenting with an infra-red remote control unit near a medium-wave radio receiver I realised that this arrangement provides a test as to whether the unit is working. These control units produce quite a loud pulsing sound from the radio when one of the buttons is pressed. Tune the radio set to an unoccupied part of the medium waveband for the test. Different controls give slightly different sounds. The long waveband is also affected.

One control unit I tested, a Thomson unit with no indicator LED, gave a louder sound when the transmitter window was held near the radio set. It would be interesting to hear what other control units do.

*Robin Gray, B.Eng.,  
Nottingham.*

### 25kV EHT PROBE

Several people have queried the availability of the 200 $\mu$ A f.s.d. meter used in my 25kV e.h.t. probe (see June 1987 issue). In the prototype I used a small VU meter which I had to hand. This doesn't seem to be generally available, but RS Components list at 250 $\mu$ A f.s.d. VU "mini-meter" (order no. 258-013) which would be suitable provided the following modifications are made to the original design:

- (1) Reduce the total series resistance required to 100M $\Omega$ . This means that one hundred 1M $\Omega$  resistors are required.
- (2) Since the potential across each resistor is now 250V, a different type is required. RS Components list a 1M $\Omega$  0.5W metal film resistor with  $\pm 1\%$  tolerance (order no. 149-975). This has a maximum working voltage of 350V and is thus suitable.
- (3) The VU meter has a non-linear characteristic and must therefore be scaled at each required voltage against either a reliable source or an e.h.t. probe.

RS Components' items can be obtained by post from Electromail, PO Box 33, Corby, Northants NN17 9EL (telephone 0536 204 555).

*Andrew J. Heron,  
Lowestoft, Suffolk.*

### VIEW FROM NEW ZEALAND

Over the forty years I've been in the servicing trade I've had to deal with TV receivers, radio sets, electrical appliances and transmitting equipment. More recently I've had to take on VCRs. All this has meant a great deal of study and research. It seems to me that the time of the GP in the electronics field is numbered, though the public will no doubt expect the younger generation to know all about everything. Without enthusiasm, I'd say that the next generation of servicemen will find times ahead difficult.

We had yet another new experience the other day. A Teac VCR, Model MV430, which is made by Funai and is also marketed in NZ under the name Canon, came in with the complaint no contrast and no colour. A voltage check plus a video output test revealed that module HIC101 was faulty. This has surface-mounted i.c.s., with several variable resistors for adjustment, and is designed as a complete replacement unit (though only one i.c. was

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<b>RANK BUSH MURPHY</b> A774 with stick rectifier 9.78 A816, T16, T18, Z712, Z715 10.35 T20, T22, T26, Z179, A823 11.50 Z718 Basic unit 13.50		<b>PYE:</b> 169, 173, 569, 368 9.20 CT200, CT200/1, CT213 10.35 725-731, 735, 737, 741 9.78
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<b>FERGUSON, THORN:</b> 1590, 1591 9.20 1690, 1691, built in rect. 9.78 1600, 1615, 1700, 1790 P.O.A. 3000, 3500, 8000, 8500, 8800 P.O.A. 9000, 9200, 9300 series 12.00 9500, 9600, 9650 series 10.99 9800, TX9, TX10, TX90, TX100 P.O.A. <b>MOVIESTAR</b> 3781, 3787, 8180 12.00 TX10 focus unit 10.87		<b>BINATONE:</b> 9909, 9860, 9488 P.O.A. <b>DORIC</b> Mk3, Mk1 11.50 <b>SONY</b> KV 1400, 1612, 2000 P.O.A. <b>GRUNDIG:</b> most models in stock P.O.A. <b>NORDMENDE:</b> 8290, Z206, Z306 P.O.A. <b>SANYO:</b> 5101, 5103, 7118, 7130 P.O.A. <b>SHARP:</b> C1851H, C2051H, 1405 P.O.A. <b>TOSHIBA:</b> C800, C800B P.O.A. <b>TANDBURG:</b> 190, CTV2, CTV3 P.O.A. <b>TELEFUNKEN:</b> most models in stock P.O.A. <b>HITACHI:</b> 1471, CPB260, 2501 P.O.A. <b>AMSTRAD:</b> CTV2200, CTV2210 P.O.A.
<b>FIDELITY:</b> FTV12 mono 10.35 ZX2000 ZX3000 16.43		Delivery by return of post. Shop callers welcome.
<b>G.E.C.</b> 2047 to 3135 mono 9.20 1201H, 1501H, 2114, 3133, 3135 9.20 DUAL & SINGLE hybrid coil 10.00 SINGLE STD solid state 12.00 SINGLE STD split diode P.O.A.		<b>Tidman Mail Order Ltd.,</b> <b>236 Sandycombe Road,</b> <b>Richmond, Surrey TW9 2EQ.</b> Approx. 1 mile from Kew Bridge. <b>Phone: 01-948 3702</b> Mon-Fri 9 am to 12.30 pm & 1.30-4.30 pm Sat 10 am to 12 noon.
<b>INDESIT:</b> 24EGB, 12LGB, 12SGB 10.35		
<b>WINDINGS</b>		
<b>TYNE:</b> main winding 6.90		
<b>RBM:</b> T20, T22, T26, Z179 6.33		
<b>WALTHAM:</b> W125 eht winding 2.37		
<b>WALTHAM:</b> W190, W191 eht coil 6.00		
<b>KORTING:</b> hybrid winding 6.90		
<b>THORN:</b> 8000, 8500, 8800 eht 6.70		

faulty). A replacement unit had to be ordered and worked first time without any adjustment being necessary.

Just thought you might like to hear from one of your more distant readers!

*F.R. Nankivell,  
Bay View, New Zealand.*

### HELP WANTED

I've had a Tandberg CTV4 in my possession for some months now with a faulty line output transformer. Unfortunately the transformer no longer seems to be available as a replacement and a well-known LOPT manufacturer tells me that a rewind isn't possible as the core can't be split. R.D.E. Tandberg in Bradford provide spares for most Tandberg sets but not the CTV4.

This is rather a shame. Quite a number of these sets were sold in this area and their performance is excellent. Can anyone help with this problem?

*N. Rickman,  
Lymington, Hants.*

Can anyone supply or suggest a source for a micro-processor chip type MM76EL B8634-11? The device was made by Rockwell who say that it's now out of production. It was the heart of a water softener control unit of French design. Unfortunately the French manufacturers will now supply only complete units, at £80 trade, which makes for dissatisfied customers. To date I have repaired about fifty of them by cannibalisation but some chips would be a help!

*Bill Harrison,  
Windsor, Berks.*

# VM6101 Teletext Decoder Interface

Keith Cummins

Regular readers will be aware that recent changes to the broadcast teletext signal have caused problems when the Texas Instruments' XM11 teletext decoder is used. This decoder was designed before the specification for the UK teletext transmission standard was finalised, and recent permissible changes to incorporate datatext etc. have resulted in every fifth row of text being ignored by the decoder. When the initial experiments with datatext were being carried out I for one was very puzzled as to what was going on. A number of letters on the subject appeared in *Television*, including one from myself, before Mr. W.J. Winston of the BBC finally explained (in the August 1986 issue) what was happening. I was particularly aggrieved by this since I'd written an article in the September 1985 issue on the general principles involved in adding teletext facilities to a TV receiver not originally designed for teletext reception, and as a practical example had provided details on using the XM11 decoder with a Sony Model KV1820UB.

Two events prompted me to look into the possibility of replacing the XM11 decoder in this project with the readily available Mullard VM6101 teletext decoder. First, the realisation in January this year that Channel 4 was the only one I could effectively use for teletext, and secondly the publication of Peter Marlow's article on a low-cost teletext decoder in the December 1986 and January 1987 issues. I found that with a bit of hardware assistance Peter's programmed 8748 microcontroller chip, which is still available from Video Interface Products Ltd. (Charlton House, 32 Charlton Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9DX), can be used to interface a modified XM11 style keypad and a Mullard VM6101 decoder. Other things also had to be sorted out in this interface, but once the decoder differences are appreciated it's possible to produce an effective modification. The results obtained are very pleasing, since the VM6101 has background colour and the display is prettier and more interesting than that produced by the XM11. The current price of the programmed 8748 chip from VIP Ltd. is £12.50 plus VAT plus £1 post and packing.

## What's Involved

I'd best start by explaining the gains and losses. The XM11 keypad has to be modified. TV channels 1 to 4 remain unchanged. So do the text and pic buttons, digits 0 to 9 and reveal. Sound on (speaker symbol) becomes recall. Sound off (speaker symbol struck through) becomes non-functional. Update becomes full page, time becomes top, mix becomes bottom and page becomes hold. So we've lost the update and time facilities and also mix (which I'd always considered pretty useless anyway). We do have proper subtitles and newflash however which can't be inlaid on the picture using the low-cost teletext decoder. The new keypad legends can be applied using black Dymotape, which doesn't look too unprofessional. The new interface design normally mutes the sound when the text is on. As this isn't always what's wanted I've included an option switch at the TV receiver end to override the muting if desired.

The interface modifications that follow relate specifically to the original design published in the September

1985 *Television*. The general principles can be applied to any interface however, and I hope this will enable readers to evolve suitable changes for other receivers that employ the XM11 decoder. I should emphasise however that this is not a job for the faint-hearted, involving as it does a lot of work. It pays to get well organised and banish the wife, kids, pets and (especially) home brew during the critical phases. Static precautions should be taken at all times while carrying out constructional work.

## The Microcontroller Interface

My first task was to build the microcontroller interface. This is shown in Fig. 1 and, as you'd expect, bears a striking resemblance to the right-hand part of Peter Marlow's interface circuit (Fig. 4, page 113, December 1986). I obtained from Video Interface Products Ltd. a programmed 8748 microcontroller chip, a 4040 counter chip and KBR6-0M resonator. As Peter had explained in his article that the 8748 could be upset by being too close to the line scan part of the TV receiver I found a position in the Sony set as far as possible from the line timebase. Another thing that worried me was the thought of hanging a long multi-cable from the keypad straight on to the 8748's output port, so I included a 4050 non-inverting buffer to drive the cable. The four output port lines remain high at all times until a matrix switch is closed by

Table 1: Keypad wiring table

Function	Lead colour	Keypad connections
BBC-1	Yellow/red	1
BBC-2	Yellow	2
ITV	Red	3
Ch4	Brown	4
Pic	Green/red	12
Text	Green	20
Chassis	Black	5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 21

### 4 × 4 Matrix

Wire to	Lead colour	Keypad connections*	Function
P10	Grey	U 9, 10, 11 L 16	Digits 7/4/1 Reveal
P11	Light green	L 30, 31, 32 L 37	Digits 8/5/2 Zero
P12	Pink	L 22, 23, 24 L 29	Digits 9/6/3 Hold
P13	Blue	L 14, 15 U 4, 8	Bot & top Full page and recall
DB0	Orange	L 36, 28, 9 U 7	Zero, hold, reveal Recall
DB1	Mauve	L 17, 25, 33 U 3	Digits 3/2/1 Full page
DB2	White	L 18, 26, 34 L 11	Digits 6/5/4 Bottom
DB3	Red/blue	L 19, 27, 35 L 10	Digits 9/8/7 Top

\* L = lower, U = upper.

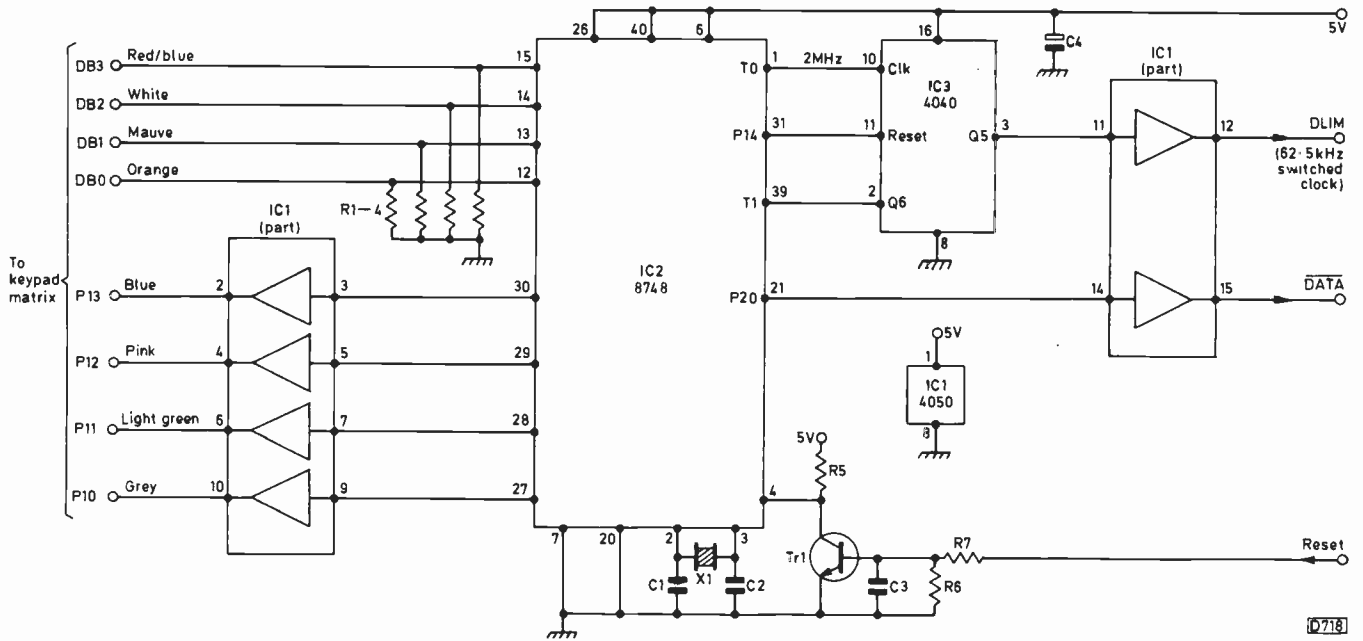


Fig. 1: Keypad-VM6101 interface using a programmed 8748 microcontroller chip.

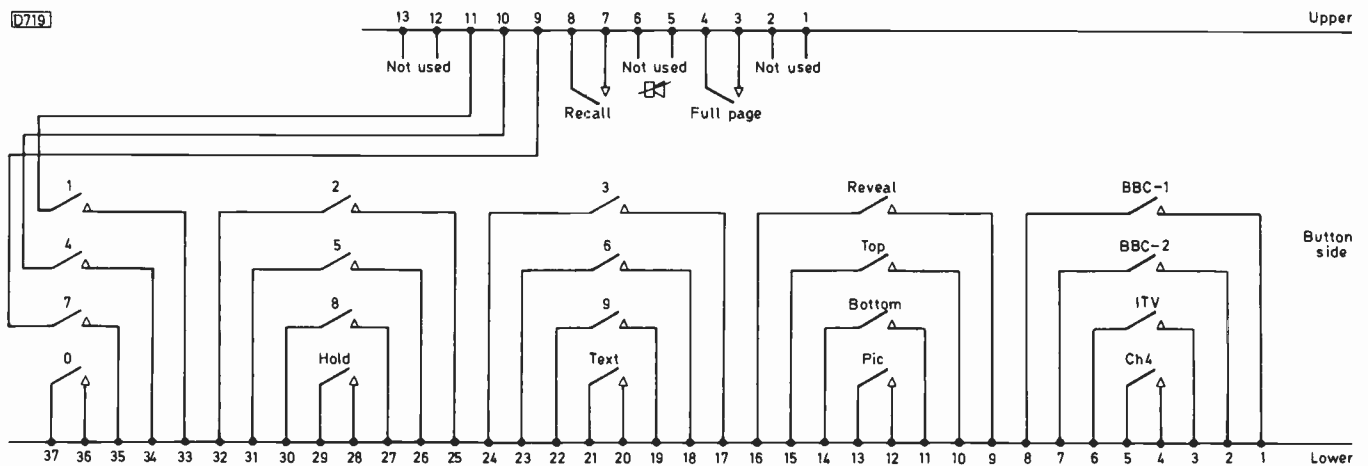


Fig. 2: Connections to the keypad, viewed from the button side. Note: hold was page; full frame was update; top was time; bottom was mix; recall was speaker symbol; cancelled speaker symbol not used.

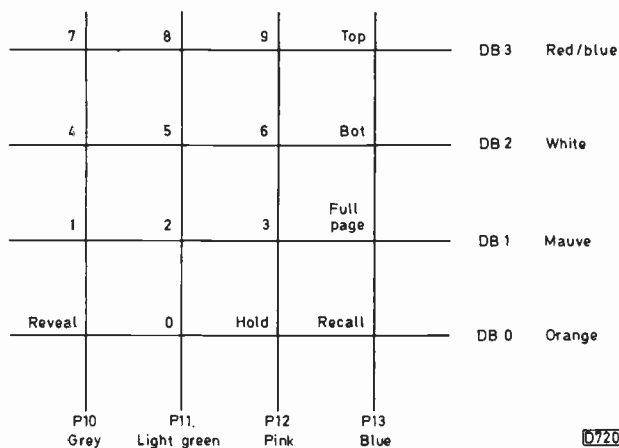


Fig. 3: 4 x 4 matrix configuration.

the keypad: the three lines not involved then go low while the active one goes low briefly then returns to the high state. The 4050 is a much better current sink than source and is thus good for this mode of operation. I also reduced the value of the pull-down resistors connected to the four data bus lines from 100kΩ to 10kΩ to reduce the imped-

ance and keep capacitive effects to a minimum.

The arrangement just described used four of the six buffers in the 4050. Because they were there, I used the remaining two as output buffers for the DLIM and / DATA outputs. Since they pull down well I found that there was no need to short out the 470Ω input resistors for these lines on the VM6101 panel. As the microcontroller was being built into a TV set it seemed a good idea to modify the reset circuit to allow for an external reset from the channel change circuit. This is why Tr1 is included (more about this later). The circuit was built up on Veroboard.

The buffering arrangements seemed to be a good idea and on test the microcontroller interface worked well first time (except that pins 14 and 13 of the 8748 chip are shown crossed over in the December 1986 issue - this caused a "wrong button" situation in the matrix). The colours shown in Fig. 1 relate to the multi-cable lines to the modified keypad.

### Keypad Modifications

Modifying the keypad is a tedious business. First I had to crack the connection pattern (50 pads to 25 buttons -

o.k. four pads aren't used, but it was still a pain!). Take the keypad apart carefully and put the top with its buttons in a safe place where it won't get knocked and fall to bits. Next, unsolder all the wires from the multi-cable. Using desoldering braid, unsolder all the connections between the small PCB and the main switch panel. Ease off the small PCB and throw it away.

Now it's fun time. Fig. 2 shows the connections to the individual switches on the keypad. Rewire it in accordance with Table 1. The connections are best made by first soldering in Maxi-wrap wire links, then finally connecting the coloured leads from the interconnecting cable. Forty-four of the possible fifty connections are used – it pays to check and recheck that you've got them right. After reassembly, measure the resistance from point to point and press the appropriate buttons to ensure that you get continuity. Check that the basic function buttons all connect down to zero volts, as per the top part of Table 1. Then check the matrix, using Fig. 3.

### System Check

The microcontroller enables us to talk to the VM6101 module. If you want to check that this part is working, wire the matrix lines into the microcontroller board and run it from a 5V supply. Connect the two traces of a double-beam scope to the DLIM (clock) and /DATA lines. Trigger the scope from pin 11 of IC3 (reset). Reset the microcontroller chip by momentarily shorting the emitter and collector of Tr1. Then, when the matrix buttons are pressed and you've got the scope triggering right, you'll see the bursts of clock and data pulses.

### Receiver-VM6101 Interface

Fig. 4 shows the interface between the VM6101 module and the Sony KV1820UB TV receiver. Some readers may like to compare this with my design for use with the XM11 decoder module (see page 627 of the September 1985 issue). First, we no longer need a 5V supply for the interface though we still need a 5V supply for the VM6101 decoder module and the microcontroller circuit. It can pass through the interface panel, where it's not needed. This contrasts with the XM11 interface design which used a 7416 hex inverting buffer to invert and level translate between the teletext decoder module and the rest of the circuit. The three colour signal outputs from the VM6101 are in opposite sense to the XM11, i.e. they are active positive. Consequently no signal inversion is required. Furthermore the open-drain outputs can be pulled up to 12V (not being restricted to 5V), so a 4050 non-inverting buffer can be used in place of the 7416. The polarity of the VM6101's blanking output signal is the same as with the XM11, but it doesn't matter (as we'll see later) if, in the interests of consistency, this output is also passed through a non-inverting buffer.

Although it's possible for the VM6101 to receive an instruction to allow TV to be displayed this function is not included in the microcontroller's program (it didn't need to be in the original application). This is no great problem. The picture and text lines from the keypad are separate and can be used to control a latch – two parts of a 4011 quad two-input nand gate – in the interface. This latch's output (pin 11) is gated with the blanking signal in the third gate of this i.c. A low at pin 1 of this gate causes the output at pin 3 to be high at all times. This is the picture condition. At the same time the complementary

output from the latch (IC4 pin 10) turns on an analogue switch in IC3 to remove the pull-up voltage from the resistors (R1-3) that feed the decoder's colour output stages. This ensures that no crosstalk occurs between the text and the video signals. The optional sound mute on text facility is also driven by pin 10, via the option switch SW1.

When the text button is pressed the TV/text latch changes state and the input at pin 1 of IC4 goes high. The initialisation process (we'll deal with this later) sets the VM6101 module in the text mode, so its blanking output goes high. This output is connected to pin 2 of IC4 via a buffer. A high at both pins 1 and 2 results in pin 3 going low: this output (the switching bus) changes over the analogue switches that handle the colour and luminance signals in IC2 and IC3.

Any decoder function that calls for a boxed display (e.g. newsflash or subtitles) results in the blanking line going high during the box period only. As it's low at other times the switching bus reverts to the high state, the result being that a normal picture is displayed except where the box is required. When text is selected the latch operates a further switch in IC3: this, via pins 14 and 12, connects 12V to the pull-up resistors (R1-3) linked to the decoder's RGB outputs, thus enabling these outputs. The original XM11 interface design didn't need this arrangement: the pull-up was to 5V and there wasn't any observable crosstalk. The use of a 12V supply results in greater cross-coupling and I found that a faint text display could just be seen in the background of some pictures in the TV mode. Switching the 12V supply in the manner described overcomes this problem. R20 is a pull-down resistor.

The last function of the latch is to mute the sound in the text mode, using one of the switches in IC3, unless this function is overridden by SW1.

Generation of the RGB text drive was described in the September 1985 article, but a short recap won't come amiss. In any event the circuit is now slightly different since we are using a 4050 non-inverting CMOS buffer instead of a 7416 TTL inverting buffer. The 7416 has open collectors, but there's no equivalent open-collector device in the CMOS range. It's necessary therefore to include the isolating diodes D3, D4 and D5.

Since the R, G and B circuits are identical I'll describe just one, blue, which we'll pick up at pin 2 of the buffer chip IC1. When a blue output from the teletext decoder appears at pin 3 of IC1 pin 2 goes high, taking the cathode of D3 with it. Prior to this, the IC1 buffer was sinking current via D3 and R10 from the 12V supply. Now that pin 2 is high, the voltage at the anode of D3 swings positively, along with the input at pin 12 of the analogue switch IC2 and the anode of D6. The cathode of D6 is returned to a preset d.c. level which determines how high the voltage at its anode can go, and this sets the intensity of the text display. The current flowing via the catching diode D6 flows via the pnp emitter-follower transistor Tr1: VR2 in its base circuit sets the d.c. level for the catching diodes. Note that as soon as D6 provides clamping D3 becomes reverse biased. This diode (D3) prevents D6 trying to clamp the high output of the 4050 buffer.

IC2 switches between the teletext colour and the TV colour-difference signals. Its outputs are applied to the three emitter-followers Tr2/3/4 which drive the RGB output transistors on the Sony KV1820UB's tube base panel. Likewise one-third of IC3 is used to switch the luminance/text background (d.c. pedestal) level applied to emitter-follower Tr5 which provides the common



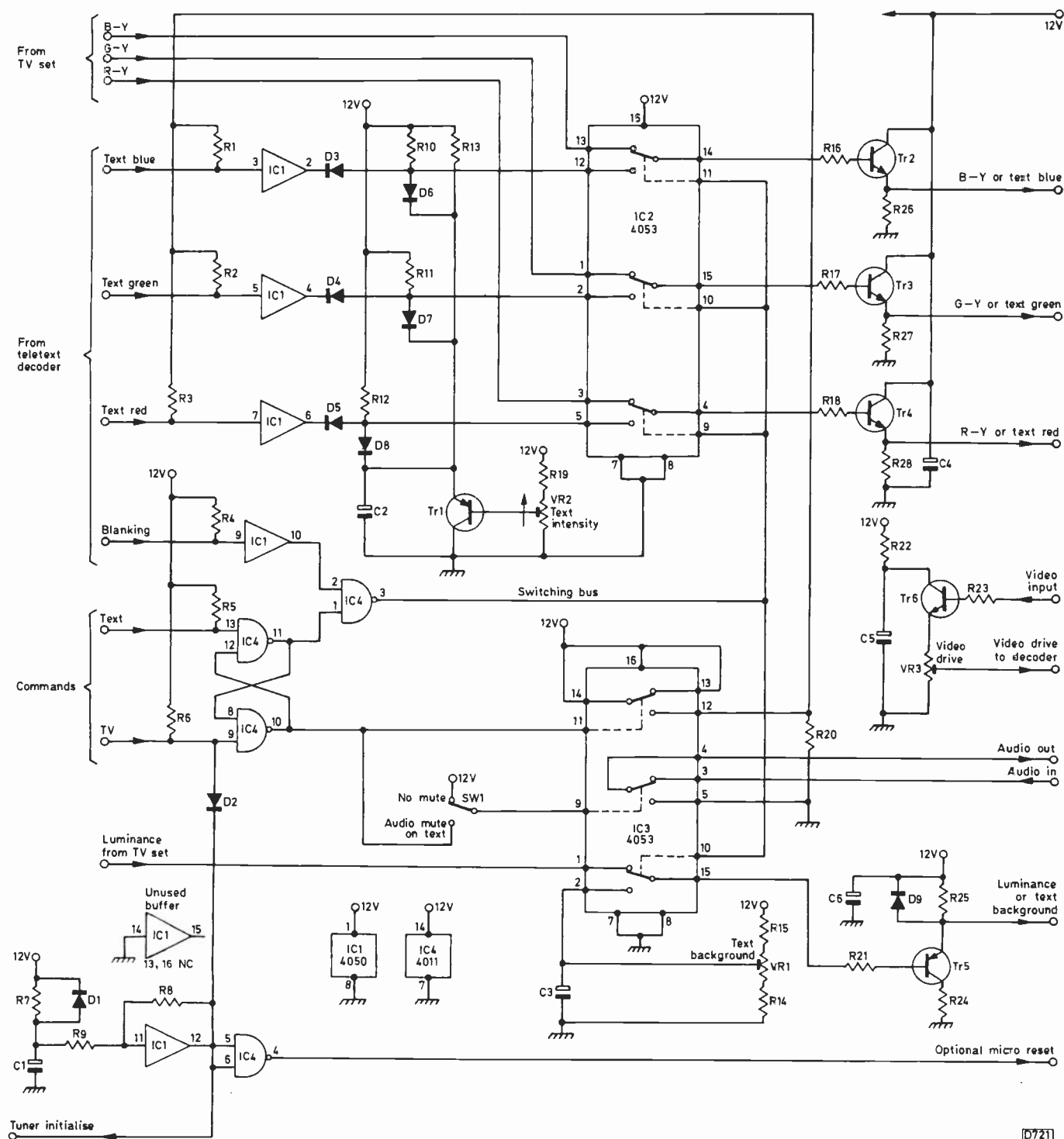


Fig. 4: Receiver-VM6101 interface for use with the Sony Model KV1820UB.

luminance drive for the Sony set's RGB output transistors.

### Initialisation

Four of the six buffers in IC1 have now been accounted for. One is not used, while the last one (pins 11/12) is part of the initialisation circuit. As it's non-inverting, it can be made into a Schmitt trigger by using one feedback and one input resistor. At switch on C1 is discharged and the output from the 4050, at pin 12, is low. This pulls the TV command line low via D2, thereby setting the TV/text latch to TV. C1 then charges via R7 until the point is reached when the Schmitt trigger flips over. D2 is now

reverse biased, thus allowing the keypad TV/text commands to be accepted. The rising edge also initialises the tuner circuit (described in the September 1985 issue) so that BBC-1 is selected. A complementary output from pin 4 of IC4 can be used to initialise the microcontroller if required. In my own case I used the positive-going clock pulse from the channel selector circuit (pin 13 of IC1, see Fig. 5 on page 628 of the September 1985 issue) instead. This has the advantage that every time the channel is changed the microcontroller is reset. The first thing it does after being reset is to call page 100 to initialise the teletext decoder and produce the index page. Now that all channels respond in the same way to page 100 and produce the index page it's possible either to produce the index page

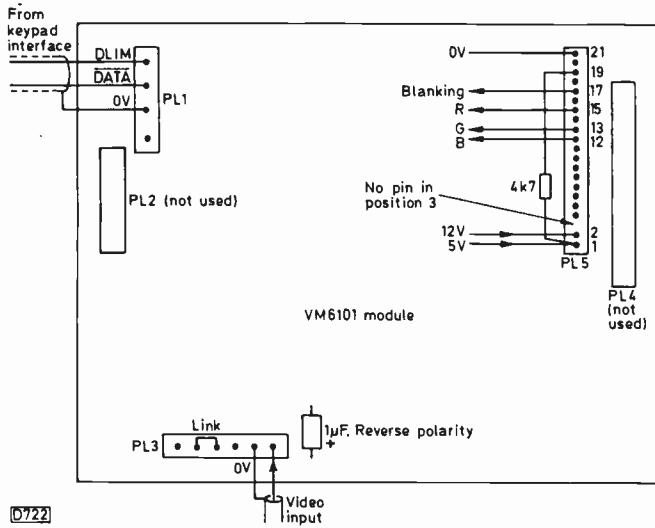


Fig. 5: Connections to the VM6101 decoder panel. The 4.7kΩ resistor (/superimpose pull up) between pins 1 and 19 of PL5 is not included in the components list.

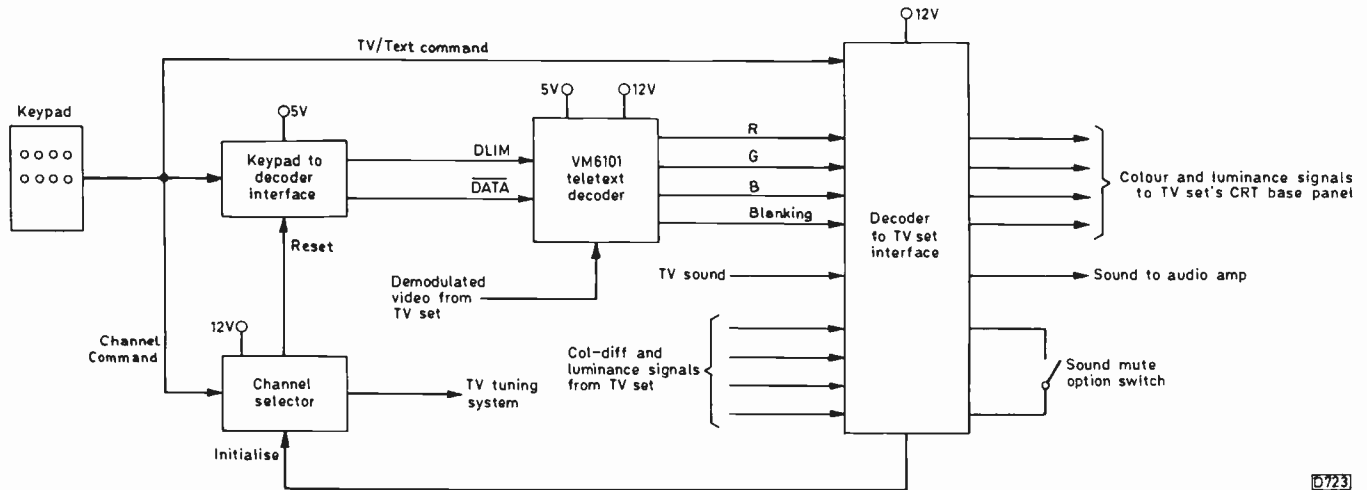


Fig. 6: System block diagram.

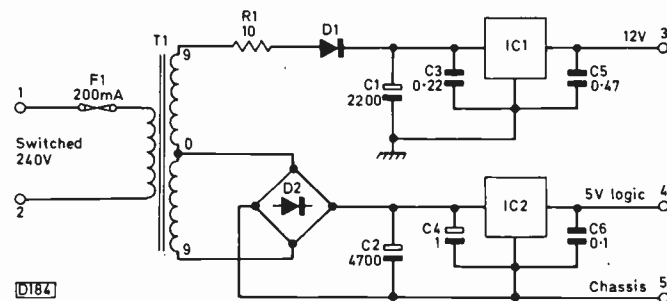


Fig. 7: Suitable power supply circuit.

by changing channel or to have it waiting for you when you decide to select the text mode. As the power-on initialisation circuit resets the channel selector this in turn resets the microcontroller.

### The VM6101

The video input signal level required by the VM6101 is 2.4V peak-to-peak, positive-going. The Sony KV1820UB produces 2.8V which is of course ideal. The exact level can be set by VR3, the video drive control (originally used for the XM11).

A couple of things need to be done to the VM6101 before it can be put into service in this application. First,

reverse the polarity of the 1µF video input coupling capacitor which is connected to pin 1 of PL3. Then wire up the decoder as shown in Fig. 5. A block diagram of the system is shown in Fig. 6. Add the 4.7kΩ resistor between pins 1 and 19 of PL5 to pull up the /superimpose connection, which is not used. Note that the decoder requires a 12V as well as a 5V supply. Its consumption is 120mA at 12V and 450mA at 5V (compared with a maximum of 900mA at 5V for the XM11). Note also that the VM6101 does not need a line pulse input.

### In Conclusion

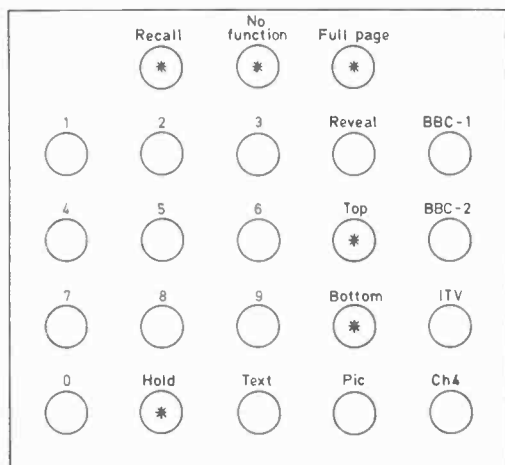
While incorporating this modification in a set previously adapted for use with the XM11 decoder is time consuming it's not terribly expensive. A check on the advertisements in *Television* will show that the VM6101 can be obtained for £10. The price of the programmed 8748 chip was given earlier. The interface panels (keypad to decoder and decoder to TV set) were built up on Veroboard, to fit the

space available in the receiver. The power supply arrangement I devised for use with the XM11 (see Fig. 7) can be used without modification.

My thanks are due to Peter Marlow for coming up with the programmed 8748 at the right time. While on the subject of the 8748, it's important to reset it correctly at switch on. If you think it's not working, look for the 2MHz clock signal at pin 1: if this is missing it's most likely that the reset isn't working. Short the emitter and collector of Tr1 (Fig. 1) briefly – this should start the chip up. Note that my use of a transistor for resetting was done deliberately since it's very difficult, even with a defective transistor, for an excessive voltage from (say) a 12V reset signal to break into the 8748 and cause damage.

With a job of this kind, care and thorough checking are essential. Follow the diagrams and wiring details carefully, ponder well upon the peculiarities of your particular interface problem, and you should be o.k. Component lists are provided for the two interface circuits. While this article has been prepared on a stand-alone basis it would probably be worthwhile for those interested in this type of modification to read my previous article "An Approach to Adding Teletext" in the September 1985 issue and Peter Marlow's "Low-cost Teletext Decoder Project" articles in the December 1986 and January 1987 issues.

Finally some remarks on operating the modified equip-



0724

Fig. 8: XM11-type keypad revised for use with the VM6101. Change functions marked \*.

ment. You should find the keypad easy to use once the changed functions have been relabelled. You don't have to call page (there isn't a page button now) before loading a page number: just punch it in and the header line will turn green until the page is found, whereupon it reverts to white. The eight-deep recall memory in the microcontroller is particularly useful for retracing your steps, one at a time, back up the tree again to find another branch point. Reveal works normally and you can cancel it by pressing full page. Top and bot expand either the top or bottom of the page to fill the screen. Again, cancel by pressing full page. Hold freezes the page indefinitely and is cancelled by punching in a new page number or pressing recall, which initially recalls the held page number.

## Components list

### Keypad-VM6101 interface (Fig. 1)

#### Resistors:

R1-4 10k  
R5,7 15k  
R6 4k7  
All 5%, 0.3W

#### Capacitors:

C1,2 33p ceramic  
C3 0.1 $\mu$  ceramic  
C4 100 $\mu$ , 10V tant.

#### Miscellaneous:

X1, KBR6.0M resonator,  
Veroboard, Veropins,  
DIL sockets, link  
wire, etc.

#### Semiconductors:

IC1 4050  
IC2 8748\*  
IC3 4040  
Tr1 BC109B  
\* programmed

### VM6101-TV set interface (Fig. 4)

#### Resistors:

R1-3 3k3  
R4 6k8  
R5-7 100k  
R8 4M7  
R9 1M  
R10-12 2k2  
R13 10k  
R14-15 470 $\Omega$   
R16-18 220 $\Omega$   
R19 1k8  
R20 15k  
R21 220 $\Omega$   
R22-24 47 $\Omega$   
R25 470 $\Omega$   
R26-28 2k2  
All 5%, 0.3W

#### Capacitors:

C1 4.7 $\mu$ , 16V tant.  
C2-4 10 $\mu$ , 16V electro.  
C5-6 220 $\mu$ , 16V electro.

#### Presets:

VR1 1k  
VR2 4k7  
VR3 470 $\Omega$

#### Semiconductors:

D1-9 1N4148  
IC1 4050  
IC2,3 4053  
Tr1,5 BC212L  
Tr2-4,6 BC109B

#### Miscellaneous

Switch SW1 s.p.d.t. min.  
toggle, Veroboard, Veropins,  
DIL sockets, link wire, etc.

# next month in

# TELEVISION

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Don't miss next month's issue with its cover-mounted free gift – a bag of cable ties for keeping loose wiring secure and safe.

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# VCR Clinic

*Reports from Les Grogan, Nick Beer,  
Philip Blundell, Eng. Tech., Alfred Damp  
and Eugene Trundle*

## Philips VR6462

We've had a number of faults with these machines, some of which are outlined below.

When the mains supply is first applied the following initialisation procedure takes place: the cassette carriage is loaded, the rewind mode is then entered for a couple of seconds, followed by a brief spin in the fast forward mode after which the carriage is ejected. In one case the carriage loaded but after this the machine remained in the rewind mode. First thoughts were of an end sensor or even a system control fault, but we noticed that the threading-in position switch P671 (mounted close to the cassette LED) was not being operated and that the loading arms seemed rather floppy. These two symptoms led us to a sheared cog on the gear wheel that drives the loading arms. After replacing the gear wheel the machine worked normally, but the job is not one to be taken lightly – it involves removal of the heads, the head drum motor, the audio/control and erase heads, the impedance roller, the supply spool and the back tension arm before the threading-in plate can be lifted clear to give access to the drive cogs.

Inability to tune in the stations at the top end of the band was traced to the +31a rail being at 18V instead of 30V. This supply is provided by a series regulator on the tuner/i.f. panel. The 18V zener diode D6601 in this circuit was found to be leaky.

On one of these machines the test signal was displayed even with a cassette loaded and being played back. With the cassette-in switch closed, transistor T7508 on the power supply panel is, under the control of microcomputer chip IC7501, responsible for switching the test signal on and off. It was found to be open-circuit.

Excessive head speed is usually caused by an open-circuit optocoupler or cassette LED. In one case however the optocoupler interrupter (engineer's finger slicer) had come adrift from the top of the head drum. As a result the drum speed servo was open-circuit.

The job ticket attached to one machine read "completely dead". In fact there wasn't even a clock display. No faults could be found with the supply rails so we checked the voltage at the main microcomputer chip's reset pin (IC7501, pin 17). The reading was 5V, indicating that no reset was being applied to the various microcomputer chips. The reset voltage comes from IC7001 in the power supply: after a short delay it's taken low by the conduction of transistor T7125 which is connected across the reset line. T7125 was found to be open-circuit and after replacing it we had a machine that worked perfectly.

Line twitching on playback and record is the only way to describe the fault on another of these machines. We noticed that after pressing the stop control the heads very quickly ceased to spin. Spinning them by hand revealed that the drum wasn't aligned correctly – in fact it was catching on the lower drum motor assembly. Realignment, using the two mica spacing washers, cured the twitch and allowed the head drum to spin freely.

The complaint with another machine was no play or record. Rewind and fast forward were normal but when play was selected the head drum didn't attempt to rotate and after a few seconds the machine unlaced. Replacing

the drum motor drive chip IC7002 restored normal operation. L.G.

## Panasonic NV333

No rewind or fast forward coupled with no cue or review facilities pointed to the fact that there was no reel motor rotation. The reel motor drive amplifier supply comes from regulator transistor Q6023. On checking the 18V feed to this transistor the cause of the fault became apparent – Q6023's emitter was dry-jointed. L.G.

## Ferguson 3V44/JVC HRD140

The head drum would spin in reverse (clockwise) then the machine would switch off. As the voltages around the drum motor drive amplifier chip IC1 didn't reveal anything of a conclusive nature attention was turned to the servo control section. The drum error voltage at pin 1 of IC404 should be 2.8V but was found to be 0V because zener diode D408 (5.1V) was short-circuit. Replacing this diode cured the head drum fault but there was an intermittent blank raster on playback, due to absence of the playback 5V feed at pin 19 of the video processor chip IC102. The cause was a dry-joint on L116. L.G.

## Hitachi VT9300

In the forward picture search mode there was first a squeal, then a louder squeal followed by a still frame after which the machine stopped. The capstan motor was faulty. We've had to fit new capstan motors to several of these machines recently to cure various fault symptoms. N.B.

## Panasonic NV333

The following fault is becoming common and could well appear in other models: in the reverse picture search mode the tape loops into the machine. You can replace all the idlers and clutches you like, but the cause is the head drum. The engraved tracks wear thin and the tape sticks. Replacement is the only cure. N.B.

## Finlux VR1010/Philips VR6462

No luminance on record, E-to-E or playback was the fault with this machine. We found that there was no output from pin 7 of the TDA3740 chip. The input and supplies were o.k., but no sync pulses were present at pin 6. IC7051 (4016) was faulty. P.B.

## Ferguson 3V29/JVC HRD110

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin. This machine had a very odd colour fault on record. The picture was perfect with pale colours – and on monochrome – but with strong primary colours the display was obliterated by a dot pattern. Fortunately I'd once seen a similar problem with a twiddled 3V16 and homed in on the setting of the record colour level control. Turning this to maximum cured the fault, so I knew that the record colour signal

was low. Then I made the big mistake! As I had another 3V29 in the workshop I compared waveforms. The faulty machine had a low signal at pin 7 of IC401, so a happy hour was spent chasing around this chip before I found that the values of R418, R420, R421 and C421 were different in the two machines. Back to square one! D.C. checks around the record colour level control revealed that it had gone high in value. **A.D.**

### Sharp VC9300

This machine came in for chewing tapes and intermittent play/record. We initially thought that the cause of the two faults would be the same, a defective reel idler assembly, but after repairing this we found that the drum motor sometimes didn't start. If the motor was held by hand it wouldn't start when released. Also if stopped by hand while running it wouldn't restart when released. A new motor cured the fault. **A.D.**

### Mitsubishi HS337

"Smell of burning" was the complaint noted on the job card. Fortunately there were obvious physical clues. Q9A4 was cracked and discoloured and IC9A0 was short-circuit. These two items form a 30V stabiliser. **A.D.**

### Philips VKR6800 Camcorder

The customer's complaint was no picture. Connecting the unit to a monitor produced good quality pictures in all modes, E-E and playback of recordings. The fault was in the viewfinder – a dim raster in all modes. So a check was made on the supplies to the half-inch c.r.t. The cathode, control and screen grid voltages were all correct but the focus and final anode voltages were both at 900V. A short-circuit between these two electrodes could be measured on a cold check. A replacement c.r.t. had to be fitted. **A.D.**

### Sony CCDV8/Pioneer VEM800

We've had several of these camcorders with dry-joints at the soldered connections between the viewfinder socket and its mini-PCB – see the top left-hand corner of the cover photo in the April 1987 issue. The effect is intermittent viewfinder operation.

A delicate and fiddly job we've had to carry out on these V8 camcorders is replacement of a broken back-tension band around the supply turntable. When it breaks there's a juddering motion with terrible picture and sound, generally culminating in a chewed tape. **E.T.**

### Toshiba V9600

After some heartsearching with regard to the economic viability of the job the owner gave us the go-ahead to fit a new video head disc and service this middle aged machine. When the disc was fitted we found that we couldn't get a satisfactory r.f. envelope waveform: with adjustment of the tracking control one head's output would rise as the other's fell – the best that could be achieved was an unsatisfactory compromise. It seemed certain that the heads were on different levels.

Since we've had similar problems in the past with Toshiba head discs, and to save the time involved in exchanging the assembly, we fitted a shim under one fixing screw to raise the low head. The spacer was only a few microns thick – of the type that Toshiba fit between

the upper drum assembly and its mount. It worked well, permitting good replay of the alignment tape. **E.T.**

### JVC GRC2

The complaint with this camcorder was that it wouldn't turn on, though the LCD tape counter worked. We found that the machine was operating correctly in so far as the relay was being energised by a set pulse at switch on, but its armature wasn't moving. This relay is a latching type with set/reset windings. When removed from the PCB it worked perfectly but when replaced in the panel it wouldn't budge. In fact the reset winding was being half-energised by leakage in the switch-off transistor Q22 (2SD601), a surface-mounted device. This accounted for a continuous current drain of about 23mA from the power supply. **E.T.**

### Sanyo VRH1100

VCR faults are sometimes not as logical as they should be! This machine would happily load a cassette and the function indicator LEDs on the front panel would then respond to the control keys. The deck wouldn't. A case of the right hand (syscon) not knowing what the left hand (deck) was doing! The problem lay in a dry-joint at pin 2 of connector CN3010, via which the loading (mode) motor is linked to its drive circuit on the syscon board. An open-circuit loading motor would obviously have the same effect. **E.T.**

### Finlux VR1010/Philips VR6462

On more than one occasion drift of the u.h.f. modulator's output frequency has been traced to zener diode D6601 (ZTK18) in the network that supplies the modulator's varicap voltage. Unusually this and similar Philips-derived VCRs have a resistive trimmer to preset the r.f. output to channel 36: it's essential that the supply voltage to this trimmer is stable. When the fault occurs it may go unnoticed – much depends on the tuning point and the a.f.c. characteristics of the monitoring TV set. **E.T.**

### JVC HRD180

The delivery man brought this brand new machine into the workshop after an abortive attempt to install it. The E-E picture was crushed, with faces deathly white and colours washed out: the sync pulses were also affected, causing sideways pulling of parts of the picture. The culprit turned out to be IC102 (7VT2, de-emphasis) on the video/luminance board. The fault disappeared by itself, but the slightest squirt of freezer on the body of this strange looking chip would bring it back. **E.T.**

### Ferguson 3V29/JVC HRD110

This machine's channel selector system was in trouble. At switch on channel one would come up in the normal way but pressing any of the other seven buttons would bring up channel eight. There it stuck and the only way to get the tuner off channel eight was to switch the machine off and on again. We eventually discovered that each time the input select switch was moved from AUX to TV the channel indicator would step forward! All this did have a logical cause, in that D219 (on the presetter board) was leaky, inhibiting the normal action of the "step-and-scan" chip IC201. **E.T.**



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# Salora's Satellite TV Receivers

Though satellite TV receiving equipment has been on the market for some time now we have not so far given much indication as to what goes on in a satellite TV receiver. It seems an appropriate time to provide some brief details.

Fig. 1 shows a simplified block diagram of the Salora SRV1150 satellite receiver unit. It consists of a mother board on which the power supply, the video and audio amplifiers and the tuning system are mounted, a tuner/i.f. unit, and a display module. The four sound demodulator modules are also mounted on the mother board. We have taken this receiver as a representative example though it has to be said that there's considerable variation in satellite TV receiver design at present. The basic signal processing required remains the same of course, but how it's done varies quite a bit. Salora's sister company Luxor for example has a totally different design – even the i.f.s differ. With the Luxor Mark 2 receiver the 950-1750MHz signal from the dish-mounted head unit is first converted to 380MHz, with a subsequent conversion to 70MHz. The Salora design opts for a single conversion to 134MHz. Salora's earlier Model SRV11 has much in common with the arrangement shown in Fig. 1, but remote control is not incorporated and there were only three sound detector modules.

head unit is fed to the tuner/i.f. module which is housed in a metal case to provide screening. The first section of this module consists of a two-stage wideband amplifier which is followed by a tracking filter. This is capacitance diode tuned to ensure adequate image rejection for the selected channel. The mixer stage uses dual-gate MOSFET transistors, the local oscillator frequency being 1084-1884MHz. The mixer's output is selected by a 134MHz (centre frequency) fifth order LC filter with a bandwidth of 32MHz.

The following i.f. section is conventional, bearing in mind that f.m. is used for satellite TV video signals. An i.f. amplifier and limiter section, using two bipolar transistors and an i.c., is followed by a phase-locked loop demodulator. The principle involved here is similar to that of flywheel line sync: you feed the incoming signal and a local signal to a phase detector which produces an "error" output, in this case the demodulated video. The output is buffered and includes any accompanying sound signal(s).

The tuner/i.f. unit also provides a d.c. output proportional to the r.f. input level to drive a LED bar display (r.f. level indicator), and an a.f.c. output which is summed with the tuning voltage on the main panel.

## Tuner/i.f. Module

The down-converted 950-1750MHz signal from the

## The Video Amplifiers

The demodulated output from the tuner/i.f. module is fed to a video amplifier with a bandwidth of about

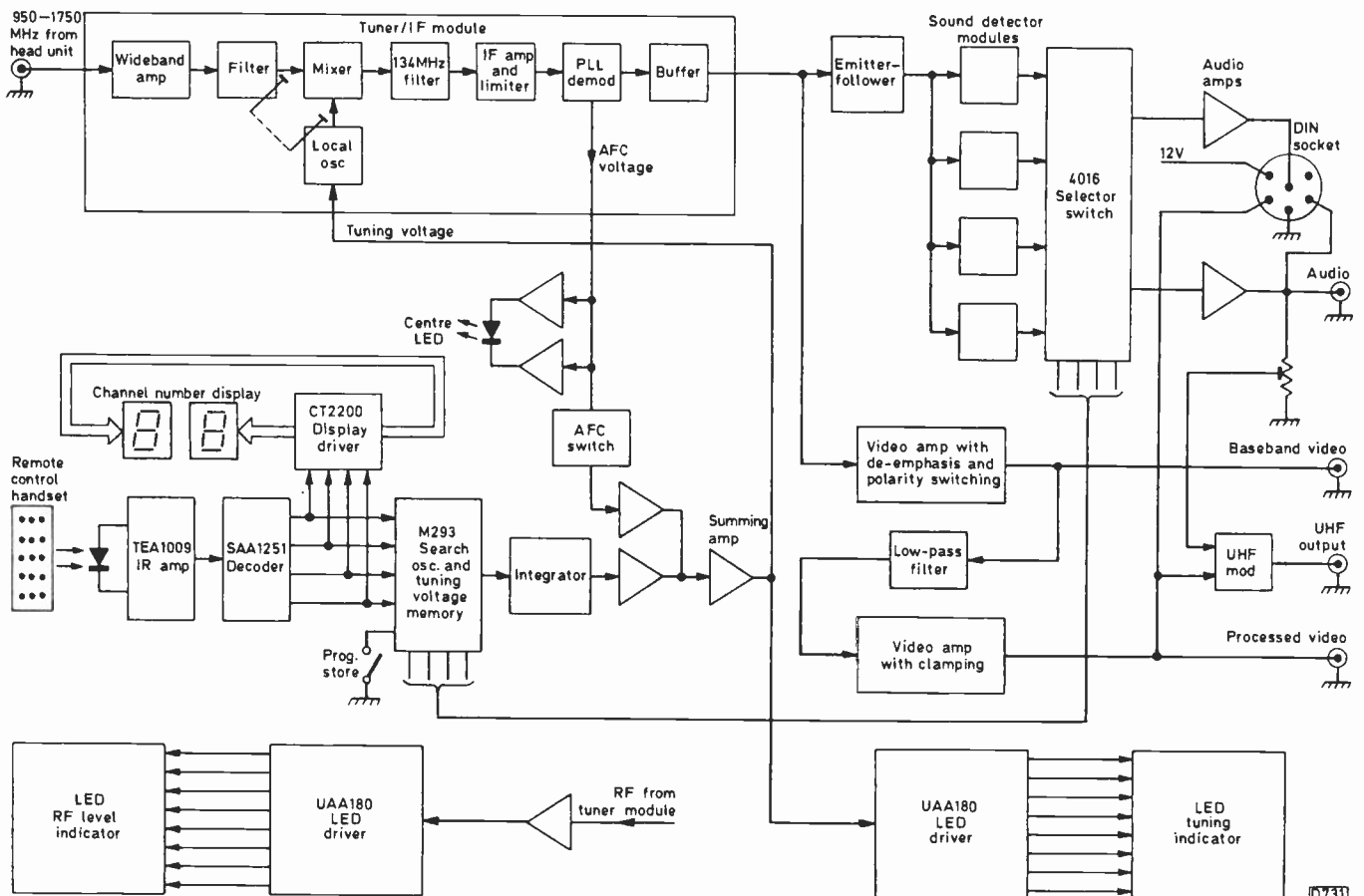


Fig. 1: Simplified block diagram of the Salora SRV1150 satellite TV receiver.



10MHz. This amplifier incorporates video polarity switching and de-emphasis. Its output is taken to the baseband BNC output socket and also, via a filter unit to remove the sound subcarrier(s), to a second video amplifier which uses similar circuitry to the first one. This video amplifier incorporates a clamp to remove the 25Hz dispersion signal that's added to satellite TV transmissions. It feeds the video output BNC socket and also a u.h.f. modulator whose output is tunable over chs. 30-39.

### Sound System

The output from the tuner/i.f. unit is also fed to an emitter-follower stage which drives four sound demodulator modules. Apart from the de-emphasis components and tuning these modules are identical, using conventional circuitry based on the TBA120U sound i.f. chip. A 4016 switching i.c. is used to select the required output which is fed to two separate audio amplifiers – these employ 741 operational amplifier chips.

### Tuning and Remote Control

Most of the remaining circuitry will be familiar to those conversant with current TV remote control and tuning systems. The remote control signals are decoded by an SAA1251 i.c. (the handset remote control transmitter uses the partnering SAA1250 chip). The SAA1251's parallel

output, on four lines, goes to the channel display driver chip and to an M293 chip which incorporates a search oscillator and a tuning voltage memory. Digital information corresponding to the channel varicap tuning voltages, also sound selection information, is stored in this chip. The selected tuning voltage information emerges at pin 19 in pulse-modulated form and is then integrated, amplified and applied to a summing amplifier along with the a.f.c. voltage. The summing amplifier also feeds a UAA180 chip which drives a LED bar tuning indicator. The a.f.c. voltage is also taken to a dual operational amplifier chip which detects whether the a.f.c. voltage is within the limits 3.5-4.6V, lighting the centre LED indicator when this condition is detected – the a.f.c. circuit is designed to keep the tuner/i.f. unit's output at 4.2V.

### In General

As mentioned at the beginning of this article the design of satellite TV receivers differs considerably at present. We seem to be at a stage akin to the early days of TV receivers, when individual designers tended to do their own thing with the circuit elements currently available. Doubtless when some dedicated chips come along we shall see a move towards design standardisation. Meanwhile if you're called upon to service such equipment be prepared to spend some time finding out how the unit works.

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# A Vintage Tube Renovation

*Jeffrey D. Borin, B.Sc. (Eng.)*

The BBC's high-definition TV service is over fifty years old. Unfortunately so are the tubes in the surviving early receivers. Of the 20,000 or so sets made before the 1939-45 war only a few hundred still exist. All of them will have tube problems either now or in the not too distant future. You can't get say an Emiscope 6/6 from your friendly local tube dealer. Nor can you get one regunned because you can't get a replacement gun. So what do you do when you've boosted the poor thing as far as it will go?

The problem seems to be worst with the de luxe 12in. models. The museum at the Thorn-EMI Central Research Laboratories has on display a magnificent HMV Model 900, with mirror lid and a beautifully veneered cabinet, but no one seems to have a good replacement tube for it. Incidentally although the building is new the laboratories are where Schoenburg, Blumlein and their colleagues developed the 405-line system in the early 1930s. We had a choice of four tubes to try in the set. The best one produced a marginally viewable picture with a fifty per cent heater boost. It was dying fast.

I knew little about c.r.t. technology but was convinced that someone would be able to help. After all if they could do it in 1936 surely we can now! I phoned several c.r.t. regunners – there aren't many left, as the demand for domestic c.r.t. regunning is a declining one. The heroes of the hour were Display Electronics Ltd. of Uxbridge. To broaden their business they'd branched out into dealing with professional c.r.t.s for monitors, radar, etc. Their managing director Terry Smith was enthusiastic and a member of their staff, Charlie Bradley, a highly skilled glassblower, had been involved in making tubes at EMI in the early days.

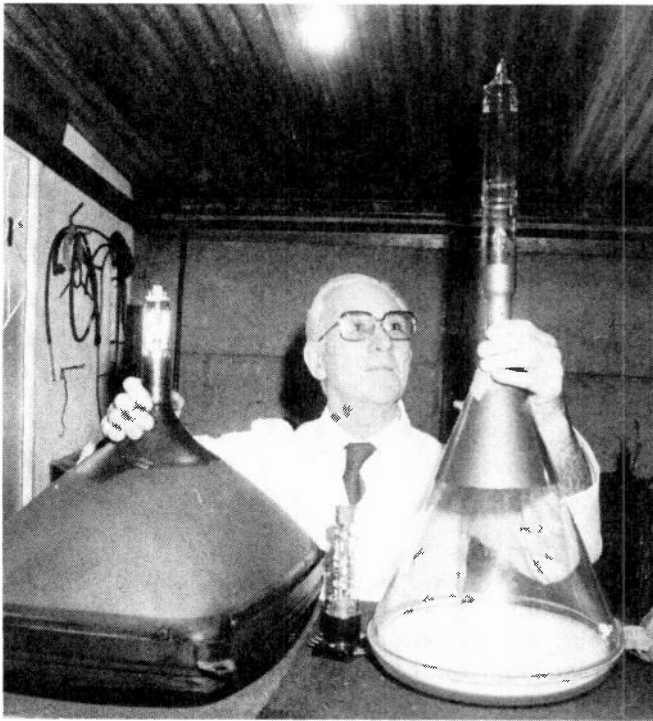
This was half the battle over. We could now do all the glass and vacuum work. It's not quite as simple as this might sound however. These old tubes were made of Pyrex-type glass, which is no longer used. To bring the gun connections out of the glass envelope you need glass-to-metal seals, known in the trade as a pinch. Only tungsten wire will do for a Pyrex pinch, and the result is obsolete and rather unreliable. The solution was to use a modern, ready-made pinch, but these are made of a special soft glass which can't be joined directly to Pyrex glass – if you tried to do so the glass would crack when heated due to the different expansion rates of the two types of glass. A graded seal is necessary to get over this problem. It puts several different grades of glass between the Pyrex tube envelope and the soft glass pinch. Only a highly skilled glassblower like Charlie Bradley could manage this trick.

### Pumping

Pumping out the air to produce a new vacuum sounds easy: you connect the tube to the pump and bake it in an oven to get rid of gasses trapped in the glass and metal parts. The Emiscope 6/6 tube is nearly three feet long however, and the ovens aren't. Display Electronics' largest oven was just big enough – if modified slightly.

### The Gun

So we could open up the tube and put it back together, but what were we to do about the gun? New guns are not available. Only the cathode and heater actually wear out



Charlie Bradley with the Emiscope 6/6 tube (right). The gun (centre) has been removed and the tube temporarily pumped and sealed. For comparison, an A66-120X colour tube is shown on the left. Photograph by courtesy of the Middlesex County Press.

however, which helps. How were we to replace or recondition the cathode, and who was going to do the precision assembly work on the gun?

Enter John Griffiths and Jim Wardley, directors of Thorn-EMI Electron Tubes. They were interested and helpful. Though Thorn-EMI Electron Tubes has not made c.r.t.s for years they still make camera tubes and other special devices. They certainly know which end of a gun is which. When I visited the firm I met Peter Roux, a man of vast experience and long memory. He was enthusiastic and willing to fit the work into a busy schedule. This involved taking the gun apart and putting it together again – and getting it right.

These tubes have a huge 3mm cathode and a 4V heater. The cathode could be revived by spraying on a new emitting surface, but the heater would probably not survive and it seemed that a modern 6.3V element would have to be fitted. Never to be defeated Peter Roux phoned an ex-colleague, Ron Goodwin, who is now manufacturing director of Rank-Brimar Ltd. They still make flying-spot scanning tubes for the broadcasters, and these have 3mm cathodes and 4V heaters. He generously sent us some samples. This enabled us to dismantle the tube and rebuild the gun with a new cathode-heater assembly – and a new problem!

### Gettering

All valves and tubes are gettered – this produces the familiar silvery coating on part of the glass. The purpose of the gettering material is to absorb gas over the life of the tube and keep the vacuum good. The modern getter holder is ring shaped and is mounted at the front of the gun, where it would unfortunately affect the old gun's electron lens. Not only that but gettering involves rather violent firing with an induction heater. As a result, the gettering material spreads about a bit. You don't want it

on the screen or on the gun's ceramic supports. The original gun was fitted with pouch getter holders mounted at the base, the idea being that the gettering material would land on the tube's neck. Some of it would do so in the area of the graded seal, with the risk of the tube shattering due to heat stress. The advice of Dr. Bernard Mayo and other retired EMI staff was sought. It was decided that the new getter holders would have to be mounted in much the same position and the risk taken.

With fingers crossed and wood touched the tube was pumped and baked. It was carefully sealed by hand. The getters were then fired. One fell off – the heat of firing probably broke the weld that attached it. Fortunately it landed in a safe position – but if anyone turns that tube face down they'll be shot (and so will the tube). Finally the cathode was activated, another heating process, and gently aged by drawing current from it without making an e.h.t. connection.

### Back to the Receiver

I took the tube, carefully packed, back to the Central Research Laboratories. Robbie Robinson, who had restored the HMV set, and I removed the sad old tube. With these EMI tubes the scan coils don't slide off. They have to be unbolted and dismantled to remove them from the narrowest part of the neck.

Once everything had been carefully reconnected, checked and double checked we applied power. There was a nasty hissing and zapping. Power off – quickly. Was the tube shorted internally (remember the errant getter holder)? There followed much head scratching and some tests. The old tube had been boosted by a separate heater transformer. With the rebuilt tube we'd gone back to the original 4V heater winding on the e.h.t. transformer: this winding had a leak to e.h.t. Back in went the booster transformer, nicely throttled back to 4V, and up came the picture, large as life and twice as beautiful.

We don't think that these 12in. tubes ever produced the bright, sharp pictures expected by modern standards, but you can watch the picture easily even under the normal display area lights. It doesn't go negative as you wind up the wick: it just defocuses a little, mainly at the edges.

### Further Projects

We plan to rebuild some more old tubes. Next in line is one from the Vintage Wireless Museum in Dulwich, a marvellous place with over 1,500 lovingly restored radio receivers, TV sets, gramophones etc. – if you're interested, ring Gerald Wells on 01-670 3667 to make an appointment. There's lots to be done: other makes and sizes of tubes, and rescreening to get rid of ion burns (thankfully absent with the 6/6). We want to make sure we can still do it in 2036.

We're not able to offer a vintage tube rebuilding service as yet, but would like to assess the possible demand. If you might need this sort of service, please write in to the magazine.

### Acknowledgements

My thanks to all those mentioned in this article for their enthusiastic co-operation in the project. Display Electronics went to unstinting effort for minimal reward. Many past and present employees of Thorn-EMI Central Research Laboratories provided encouragement and support.

# An up-to-date field servicing kit

Harold B. Berkley

A few years ago I wrote an article on tool kits for TV field servicing. At the time such kits were getting smaller as valves were vanishing from the scene. The kit was designed around the use of an executive briefcase.

Many changes have taken place in the field of video and TV since then. You will be familiar with these changes but you might not have noticed the miniaturisation of test equipment that's taken place. In view of this I've taken a fresh look at the problem and have come up with a new kit that certainly works well for me. I've been using it for field servicing for some time now and find it to be a very practical arrangement.

The point from which I started is the fact that most field technicians carry far too much gear into customers' homes. Much of it is rarely used. Parkinson's or Murphy's or someone's Law seems to apply – most TV rental companies supply a massive, heavy toolcase, and if they supplied one twice as large it would still be filled.

Another factor is the reluctance of many technicians to buy their own gear. It's expensive, admittedly, but you do get a tax allowance. Apart from that it's your time that's involved: if you invest in a sensible kit that's going to make life easier for you this must make sense and be worthwhile.

Don't follow the suggestions made here blindly. Use them as a basis. Think carefully about your own needs. In particular ask yourself whether you've been lugging a massive toolcase in and out of customers' homes for no good reason!

If you think about it, what a field service technician might require falls into four basic categories: (1) the tools and items initially taken into a customer's home; (2) larger items and your component stock – this will be kept in the vehicle; (3) special and unusual items that are kept at the service depot; (4) service manuals and circuit diagrams.

The transition from valve to solid-state equipment is now virtually complete. We are nevertheless called upon to service many different types of TV sets and VCRs. In general, service calls fall into various categories. Here are some of the most common ones:

- (1) A simple fault calling for adjustment.
- (2) Retuning.
- (3) Aerial lead disconnected or aerial blown down or faulty.



Harold Berkley's field servicing kit.

(4) The customer doesn't understand the operation of his equipment – this is especially the case with teletext sets and VCRs.

(5) An elderly person needs reassurance.

(6) No fault at all.

(7) Video heads needs cleaning.

(8) The remote control unit needs new batteries.

(9) Remote control unit eaten by dog!

I could go on, but there's no need to carry a heavy box around to sort out most of these problems. Even with real faults, in view of the many models you may have to deal with it will be a hit or miss matter whether the part you need is in your massive box. To go into a customer's home with no tools at all however gives a bad impression.

The kit I've put together will deal with most situations. It's neat and efficient and impresses the customers. Here's my selection of essential equipment.

(1) A soldering iron is essential of course. How many faults are due to dry-joints? – a great many. No components are required with this sort of trouble, just your own Sherlock Holmes' way of finding the culprit and attacking it with molten solder. A bow to the satisfied customer and you're on your way.

I used rechargeable soldering irons for some time. They are useful but limited. I've found that the Oryx Portasol soldering iron is far superior. It's small and will tackle any job.

(2) Use solder wick for desoldering – suckers take up too much room.

(3) There are many miniature digital multimeters on the market now. At present I'm using a Soar 3010 autoranging meter from Marf Electronics of Cambridge. It's the same as the Tandy 22-170. A very neat product and, you guessed it, Japanese.

(4) What would we do without screwdrivers?! To save space I use a reversible Pozidrive/straight screwdriver, plus a double-ended trimming tool, a neon screwdriver (a life saver this) and a nylon hexagonal trimmer.

(5) Miniature precision cutters and pliers. There's no shortage of good makes. Treat yourself to a matching pair.

(6) A torch. Many houses seem to be lit by a 40W bulb. Good for atmosphere but not for servicing! Plenty of small pentorches and small rechargeable types are available.

(7) Any other gadgets you use. Give a new item a trial period. If you find you're not using it don't carry it around.

The case to use is again a matter of choice. I've tried various hard ones but finally opted for a soft, cheap, zip-round writing case that seems to be ideal. After throwing out the pad and envelopes I mounted the gear. A combination of self-adhesive Velcro (Woolworths) and Scotch self-adhesive Superclips (also Woolworths) was used to mount the tools. The meter is housed in one of the side compartments.

In conclusion, I'd urge you to give your kit a spring clean. It's not easy to change old methods of working, but modern technology can make your job a lot easier.

Apart from old-hands I hope that many newcomers will find some ideas amongst these suggestions.

# Cable Television Techniques

## Part 2

J. LeJeune

Until the arrival of high-slope valves, ferrite cores and low-loss coaxial cables large-scale TV distribution networks were the province of the h.f. multi-pair operators. The introduction of valves such as the EF80 made broadband v.h.f. amplification in Band I possible, though earlier attempts had been made using the Z77. With a single coaxial cable, any amplification used in the network to make up for the attenuation introduced by the cable has to be able to cover all the channels in use. Broadband amplification is most commonly used, though there had been earlier attempts to overcome the distortion produced by wideband amplifiers by employing channelised amplifiers with selective filtering at the input and output.

### System Performance

The performance of a repeater amplifier in a network cannot be considered in isolation since, more often than not, more than one amplifier will be used in a cascaded arrangement with lengths of cable in between. The characteristics of a series of repeater amplifiers, filters, tee-units and splitters will have a cumulative effect which has to be taken into account. Cascaded filters for example produce a narrowing of the bandwidth of the system. As a result, the use of channelised repeaters is desirable only under conditions where the transmission levels of the individual channels have become too diverse to cure by passive equalisation methods. The system designer needs to know how many filters can be used in cascade before the bandwidth narrowing has an adverse effect.

Similarly the performance of a string of wideband repeater amplifiers is a vital consideration. The overall gain of the network is zero dB, the repeaters serving only to compensate for the losses introduced by the cable, equalisers, tee-units and splitters. There are three impor-

tant parameters here. (1) Response flatness. Mass-produced amplifiers have very similar characteristics, but response deviations from the ideal of being flat will add up over a cascade, causing a signal level disparity that can be quite wide. (2) The noise figure, which determines the minimum input signal level. (3) Third-order distortion, which gives rise to cross-modulation and patterning from beat frequencies.

In addition, repeater amplifier gain has a direct influence on the number of repeaters that can be used in cascade. High gain and a high noise figure coupled with limited output capability reduce the dynamic range – the problem is illustrated in Fig. 1. Good dynamic range is essential for a main line signal route (the trunk) even with good a.g.c. systems. Repeaters with a noise figure of 8dB, an eight-channel output capability of 300mV r.m.s. of peak and a gain of around 16dB are common. For the distribution lines (spurs) where fewer amplifiers will be required in cascade the gain can be increased to 22dB by incorporating an extra stage in the same basic amplifier design used for the trunk service.

Armed with the performance figures the network planner can calculate the performance at the various points where it's tapped to feed the distribution lines. Fig. 2 shows a practical arrangement for part of a trunk/distribution network. The aim is that the trunk line should serve the distribution network with the cleanest possible signals, free from noise, cross-modulation and patterning. The distribution network will be designed to provide the most economical use of cable and equipment, reaching the minimum acceptable signal quality only at the very end of the system. Even here the subscriber should not notice any degradation since the limits should have been set to allow for a fall-off under adverse conditions, this fall-off being such that it will not degrade the service to an extent greater than that experienced by a viewer using his own aerial.

The degradation of network performance over a long cascade of repeater amplifiers is best shown graphically. Fig. 3 shows the performance of a theoretical cascade of distribution amplifiers each having a gain of 22dB, a noise figure of 8dB and an eight-channel output capability of (singly) +110dB $\mu$ V (300mV) for -46dB cross-modulation. The point where the two performance lines cross is the theoretical cascade limit. At this point however there would be no room for even minor signal level fluctuations – any increase would give rise to cross-modulation while any decrease would result in an unacceptable lowering of

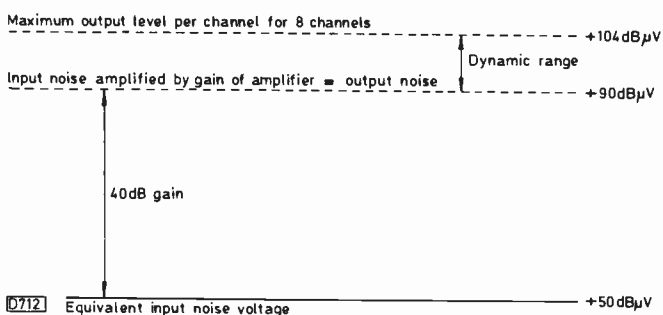


Fig. 1: The dynamic range of a poor amplifier.

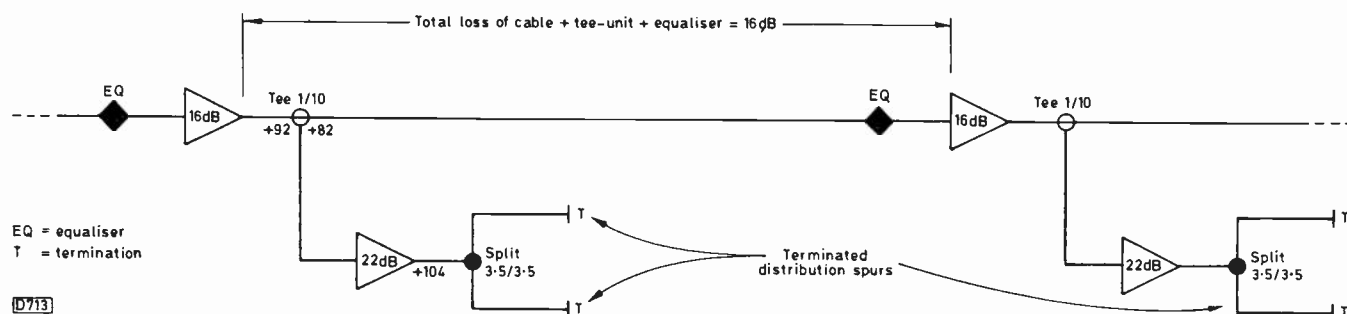


Fig. 2: Section of a distribution network.

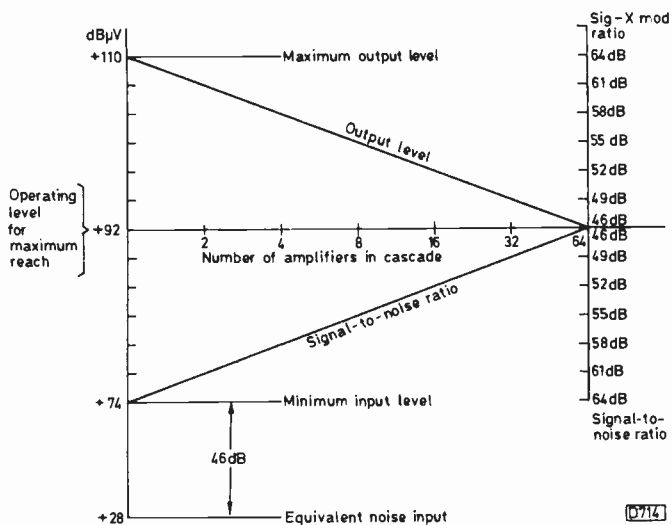


Fig. 3: Reach diagram. Repeater gain 22dB, maximum output (8 channels) 110dB $\mu$ V, equivalent noise input calculated from the noise figure and Boltzmann's constant for 5MHz bandwidth.

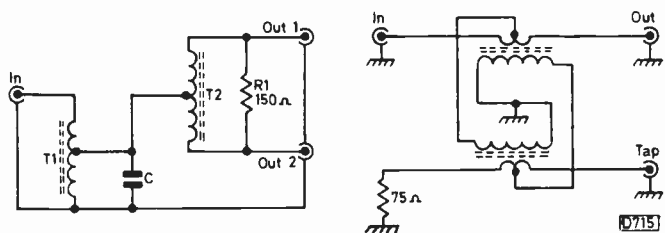


Fig. 4 (left): Two-way splitter.

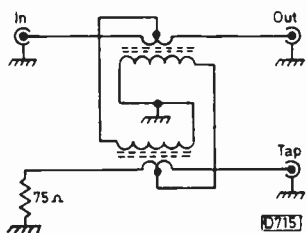


Fig. 5 (right): Directional tee-unit.

the signal-to-noise ratio. A good planner will never allow the performance of the network to reach this point. Fig. 3 also assumes perfect input signals, but as the input to the distribution network will be derived from the trunk line the performance calculations have to be made with reference to the latter to determine the noise and third-order distortion levels at the tapping point. The distribution reach diagram starts with these parameters and ends where there is still a tolerance of 3dB above and below the operating level.

The reach diagram tells the network planner the operating levels for each amplifier to give the maximum distance possible or the maximum operating level for an individual cascade of amplifiers. A shorter cable run with fewer repeaters operating at a higher output level can have some short-term advantages, but it's hard luck if a new housing estate is subsequently built just beyond the reach of a network so planned, and it's as well to have a standardised set of transmission levels for each type of network – trunk and distribution. If the budget is on a shoe-string the task of the planner is not easy. Few professional planners would compromise in favour of short-term economy: the golden rule is to have plenty in hand.

### Passive Devices

Discussion so far has related to active devices for maintaining a minimum signal level in the network. Just as important are the passive devices used for splitting, teeing-off and tapping the cable. Good CATV practice is never to connect a subscriber to a cable that interconnects repeaters. This avoids troubles arising within a subscriber's installation being passed onwards to the end of that branch of the network. To accomplish this ideal, signals are taken from the cable via two types of hardware,

splitters and tee-units. A splitter divides the incoming line into two or more lines, supplying an equal signal level to each. A good quality two-way splitter will introduce a loss of 3.5dB in each branch, a three-way splitter will lose 5.5dB and so on. Tee-units have an unequal loss: the "through" loss is quite low while the side loss ranges from 10dB up to 26dB. Splitters and tee-units also have directional properties that give high attenuation between each of the lines fed from them. This again prevents disturbances on one branch of the network affecting another branch via the splitter or tee-unit.

A two-way splitter circuit using ferrite-cored transformers, normally toroids, is shown in Fig. 4. T1 is tapped at 70 per cent of the turns to give an impedance step-down from 75 $\Omega$  to 37.5 $\Omega$ . T2 is a centre-tapped choke. The signal is fed to the two 75 $\Omega$  output lines via the tap: the output lines will appear to the tap to be in parallel, i.e. 37.5 $\Omega$ . To a signal fed to T2's centre tap R1 will not appear to be present, due to phase cancellation. If a signal is fed in on one of the output lines it will pass through R1 to the other output line, and will also pass via T2, appearing at the other end of R1 in opposite phase. With careful construction a reverse loss of over 26dB can be obtained, giving a useful amount of isolation between outgoing lines.

A tee-unit requires a somewhat different arrangement to obtain similarly useful results. The commonly used circuit is shown in Fig. 5. The phase relationships result in the unit being transparent to signals that pass from the input to the output, and semitransparent to signals that pass from the input to the branch (tap). If a signal is fed in at the tap it will see the 75 $\Omega$  resistor which will absorb most of the signal: due to the phase relationships the signal will be highly attenuated at the main output.

### Subscriber Connections

Possibly the most dubious pieces of equipment connected to a well-designed, planned and installed cable network are the subscribers' television receivers. This is in no way to denigrate modern receiver designs which are on the whole excellent. But they are manufactured for a price conscious market and cannot be made to take into account minority requirements such as cable TV connections.

The main source of trouble is the tuner, which produces spurious signals at the aerial socket. Unless the system operator takes measures to prevent them doing so these unwanted signals can find their way into the cable network. The front line in the defence against such spurious signals getting into the network is the subscriber tap. This device extracts a proportion of the signal from the distribution cable, feeding it to the subscriber's receiver. The standard signal level supplied is 1mV r.m.s. of peak.

Two types of subscriber tap are used. For low attenuation values a directional transformer arrangement that's similar in principle to the tee-unit shown in Fig. 5 is used. This unit's directional properties help to reduce to a very low level any unwanted signals that, coming from the subscriber's TV receiver, could cause problems in the rest of the network. For higher attenuation values an autotransformer arrangement is commonly used (see Fig. 6), though simple resistor units are used where the performance requirements are less rigorous and economy is paramount. Resistor R<sub>t</sub> in Fig. 6 provides back matching for the subscriber's feeder cable from the very low impedance at the tap. It also provides a further 6dB of attenuation. For values above 30dB the circuit is modified

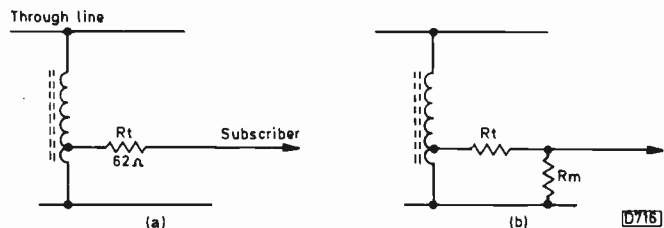


Fig. 6: Subscriber taps, (a) with 20-30dB loss, (b) with 32-40dB loss.

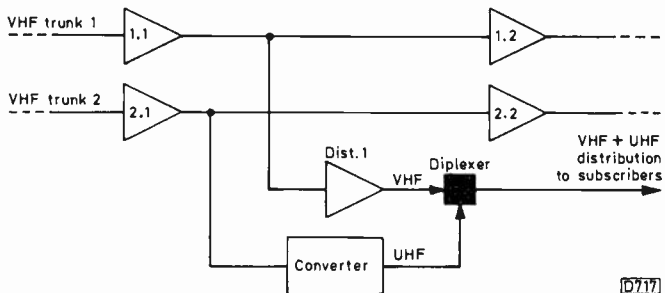


Fig. 7: Section of a hybrid CATV network. The converter consists of a v.h.f. to u.h.f. block converter and a distribution class u.h.f. amplifier.

to provide extra attenuation in the form of an L pad, as shown in (b).

The receiver end of the subscriber's feeder cable is generally terminated with an outlet socket that contains isolation components. These prevent mains voltages reaching the network from a live-chassis receiver that has faulty isolation at its own aerial socket.

### The Head End

An important and complex part of the network is the head end where the off-air signals are received and processed for distribution via the cable and where other programme sources, such as recorded video and time/weather scanners, are modulated on to carriers for feeding into the network. Apart from the four main programme sources available in the UK satellite TV signals will form the major contribution to the wide variety of channels on offer. Some networks offer locally originated programmes for a few hours in the early evening; these will be produced in a small studio at or near the head end.

The choice of channel frequencies for use in the cable network has to be made very carefully in order to avoid the possibility of patterning due to beat frequencies and harmonics generated in the repeaters as a result of slight non-linearities. Nearly all the signals fed into the cable network will therefore not be the original ones.

Conversion equipment varies with the type of input signals, the simplest employing straightforward heterodyne conversion from one frequency to another. Such equipment is employed in some communal aerial or MATV systems, though for these original-channel distribution is at present more common. With large networks the signals are demodulated, cleaned up if necessary, then remodulated on to a new carrier. Standards conversion is employed in continental city networks where the received signals may have different colour and modulation-polarity standards. Scrambled satellite TV signals have to be unscrambled at the head end. The main purpose of the head end is to provide as clean a feed as possible to the trunk network. It will account for a major proportion of the network's installation and running cost, and this cost very often has to be borne before a single paying sub-

scriber is connected to the system.

The pattern of outgoing signals from the head end is naturally determined by the number of channels in use and planned for the future. The choice of network type is governed by the same consideration.

### Types of Network

The most basic form of cable TV network is the communal aerial or MATV system carrying, in the UK, the four off-air channels at present available. No frequency changing is employed, the only active equipment required at the head end being a simple wideband distribution amplifier. Where there are more than just a few outlets some repeater amplifiers will have to be used at points along the cable where the signal level would otherwise fall below a usable value. Passive equipment will follow the lines previously described. There will be no trunk system, and the subscriber taps will be on the lines between repeaters.

With a larger network a choice has to be made between u.h.f. only, v.h.f. only with up-conversion at the subscriber's receiver, or v.h.f. trunk lines with block conversion to u.h.f. for distribution. A u.h.f. only network will have to be fairly small because of the high cable loss, necessitating frequent use of repeaters. With large-diameter, low-loss cable a u.h.f.-only network could serve a small estate of say 200 houses/flats.

For anything larger one of the other two choices has to be adopted. The v.h.f. only option has the merit of allowing a very large network to be installed with relative ease. V.H.F. equipment is capable of good performance and is flexible in use, allowing the system to be modified during installation should conditions have changed since the original plan was drawn up. The major snag with a v.h.f.-only system is that up-converters are needed to feed u.h.f.-only receivers. These devices are made to a very low price, and this is reflected in the quality.

An alternative and very adaptable scheme is to employ v.h.f. trunk lines to get the good coverage these provide, converting to u.h.f. locally at the points where the trunk lines are tapped to feed the subscriber distribution part of the network. This system is capable of enormous channel capacity when twin v.h.f. trunks are used with v.h.f./u.h.f. distribution to v.h.f./u.h.f. receivers. Fig. 7 shows a basic arrangement.

### Developments

Developments continue and the technology is an evolving one. Fibre-optic transmission is coming into more general use to provide very high quality trunk lines. Two-way transmission is coming into use to allow subscribers to communicate with the system head end via sub-v.h.f. upstream narrow-band channels. The latter technique has been a feature of many American city networks for a number of years but is only slowly finding favour in the UK. Frequencies from about 5MHz to 35MHz are used, with digital data transmission. To make it work the network repeaters have to be reverse bypassed using suitable filters and low-band repeaters: the subscriber taps and other network hardware also require upstream bypassing. Two-way networks permit fireside shopping, the dream of the mail-order companies (the terminal could be equipped with a credit card reader to give instant monetary transactions), also message services, "bulletin boards", emergency channels coupled to smoke and gas detectors - the possibilities are endless.

# Service Bureau

*Requests for advice in dealing with servicing problems must be accompanied by a £1.50 cheque or postal order (made out to IPC Magazines Ltd.), the query coupon and a stamped addressed envelope. We can deal with only one query at a time. We regret that we cannot supply service sheets nor answer queries over the telephone.*

## HITACHI CPT1471

There's some form of intermittent internal sparking in this set. When it occurs the picture breaks up, usually for a few seconds at a time. A check on the board in a darkened room whilst probing components hasn't revealed the cause of the problem. We had a similar problem with another of these sets but with this one the fault got worse until the set finally went dead. It was repaired under guarantee.

It's important to examine the print side of the board while the fault is present, since this is where the fault is likely to be. Also inspect the line output transistor's mica washer carefully in case its insulation is breaking down. If you can find no signs of sparking or arcing there are two components which, on rare occasions, we've found can give this effect without any discharge being evident. These are IC701 (LA7801) and IC901 (STR6020). First however check R902 and R903 – both 82k $\Omega$ , 0.5W.

## SHARP VC7300

The problem with this machine is tape looping after rewind. All other functions appear to be o.k. I've replaced the take-up turntable, main brake and idlers as suggested in the December 1984 VCR Clinic but the problem remains.

The usual cause of this sort of thing is imbalance of the brake pressure applied to the two reel discs or a tendency for the left-hand spool to be braked before the right-hand one. Check by inspection the timing of the brake application to both discs – ideally the right-hand brake should come on momentarily before the left-hand one. Also check the take-up main brake torque as detailed in the service manual.

## SKANTIC 56612

The main problem with this set is raster distortion at the top of the screen. It's apparent only over the top two inches of the screen and gets progressively worse towards the top, peaking to the right-hand side of centre. We've also had problems with flyback lines.

Raster distortion can be caused by failure of RH08 (6.8 $\Omega$ ) in the EW modulator circuit – the associated diodes DH01/2/3 are also worth checking. If these are o.k. concentrate on the NS correction circuitry around transducer LK01 on the convergence panel – for a start check diode DK01 and the NS amplitude control PK01. Flyback lines are often caused by failure of blanking diode DX02 on panel X.

## GRUNDIG CUC220 CHASSIS

The fault is sound but no vision. If the setting of the brightness control is advanced a faint, shadowy image can

be seen in the background of a good raster. Voltage checks were made in the RGB circuits and around the TDA3561 decoder chip and it was found that pin 7 (contrast) was at 0V instead of 3.5V. The contrast control has no effect. The TDA3561 has been replaced, also transistor T2533 which is connected to pin 7, but the fault persists.

You should be able to confirm that the TDA3561 is working correctly by disconnecting the collector of T2533 and if necessary applying an external 3.5V supply to pin 7 of the i.c. If the picture doesn't come up with T2533 disconnected, check the voltages around the contrast control potentiometer. If it does there's no doubt that the problem is in the beam limiter circuit. Check the setting of potentiometer SB then R2536, C2536, D2536, D2532, etc.

## SONY SLC7

The sound level with this machine's own recordings is o.k. for the first five seconds then dies to a very low level (with the TV set's volume control at maximum). Pre-recorded tapes play back o.k. and the machine's recordings are all right when played back on other machines. The fault is present when the signal from another VCR is fed into the audio input socket and when audio dub is used. The audio head has been cleaned and signal tracing in the sound section whilst the machine is in the record mode has not revealed the cause of the fault. Sound from the VCR's tuner in the standby mode is o.k., so it's not the common TBA120 fault.

We've noticed that in this range of VCRs the recording bias level has a tremendous effect on the sound level of the tapes a machine records. We suggest that you check the bias oscillator, bias trap, record bias and record level adjustments as given in the manual. Do not attempt this without the full specified test gear.

## NATIONAL PANASONIC TC2201

When this set is switched on there's violently pulsating sound and e.h.t. and field collapse. The symptom on the screen is three thin RGB lines with a spot of light in the centre of the screen, about half an inch in diameter, pulsating with the sound. The voltages are all on the high side but no defects have been revealed despite replacing all the transistors in the power supply and checking the diodes. Someone has fitted a BRC4443 instead of an M23C in the protection thyristor position. The field output transistors have been checked and found to be o.k.

The BRC4443 should be all right in the TR804 position. Many peculiar faults in this chassis are caused by failure through age of the reservoir and smoothing electrolytics. We suggest you replace the following: C816 220 $\mu$ F, C813 1 $\mu$ F, and C1029 10 $\mu$ F. Also replace the two 6V zener diodes D809 and D819, preferably with Panasonic supplied types.

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TELEVISION SEPTEMBER 1987

## GEC 20AX CHASSIS Mk. I

When channel 4 or 3 is selected with the touch tuner the set reverts to channel 1. We've replaced the CBF16848N chip associated with touch contacts 1-4 but the problem remains.

Start by withdrawing PL213 from remote control panel PC701/7. If the problem is no longer present suspect IC201 (SAA1025) and IC202 (SN74141N) in that order – having first confirmed that 12V is present at the anode of zener diode D206. If the problem is still present with PL213 disconnected, check for electrical leakage in the channel selector switches and in C5 before suspecting the control sensor chip IC3 (SN16861NG).

# TEST CASE

## 297

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

Amongst all the VCRs, cameras and colour TV sets dealt with in recent test cases it's easy to overlook what was the mainstay of servicing work some years ago, the good old black-and-white set. There don't seem to be many of them about now, and we get very few in for repair. The one in question was a Ferguson Model 4816, a venerable portable fitted with the Thorn 1590 chassis. It has a mechanical tuner and beautifully straightforward circuitry. We expected the tube to have low emission after thirteen or more years' use, especially as the owner's complaint was of a streaky and shadowy picture.

The set was given to a junior technician to investigate, with the suggestion that he should start by checking the condition of the tube. This he did, and finding that the emission was very low he tried reactivation, which worked. With the needle of the jacker's emission meter hard over to the right he thought the repair job was as good as done. Not so, however.

With the set in operation a strange display, the like of which our technician had not seen before, was present on the screen. The left-hand side was bright, darkening towards the right-hand side. The picture, such as it was, had smears and streaks to the right. Whilst looking for further clues, the technician established that the sound was present and correct and that the tuning worked properly.

Without much idea as to where to start, our technician first checked the voltage across C87, i.e. the output from the series regulator circuit. This was found to be almost correct, and a tweak on the set h.t. voltage preset took it to exactly 11.6V. It seemed likely that the cause of the problem lay somewhere in the vision stages, most of which obtain their supply from the 25V boost rail. This

was next checked and found to be correct. The video output transistor VT9 obtains its collector voltage from the line output transformer derived 95V rail however. A check at the collector revealed a large disparity between what should have been recorded and what was actually found: whilst there should have been around 45V the test meter read just over 30V. So the collector load resistor R51 (6.8k $\Omega$ ) was removed and checked. It had fallen in value to around 6.1k $\Omega$ , but a replacement made virtually no difference to the display. Maybe the transistor itself was faulty? A new BF337 was fitted, again with no effect on the fault symptom.

At this point the technician came off the rails somewhat (no pun intended!) in starting to make checks on various peripheral components in the video output stage. Many of them were found to have drifted out of tolerance over the years, but none of them was responsible for the fault symptom. Perhaps the set had expired, or maybe something was wrong with the line output transformer? Our technician's girl friend, consulted during the lunch hour, said she'd had the same effect when daylight had leaked into her camera – the picture had been all bright and foggy on one side. A more suitable adviser, the Resident Workshop Sage, was found after lunch. For him the set was quite a contrast to the 3V53 VCR he'd been tackling when interrupted.

RWS had a pretty good idea as to which component was faulty at first sight of the screen, but he didn't let on. He urged the technician to use the oscilloscope and suggested a couple of key points to hook it to. Knowing that the technician would soon be coming past him on the way to the stores, Sage got ready a certain little component. What was it, and which was the crucial test point? Answer next month.

## ANSWER TO TEST CASE 296 – page 705 last month –

One for the theory boys last month! A Philips TV set fitted with the KT3 chassis had a narrow bright white line superimposed across the centre of the picture.

The line was being produced by velocity modulation of the scanning spot – the same sort of phenomenon that gives rise to vertical striations when an undamped line linearity coil rings. During its downwards scan of the screen the spot was slowing down momentarily at screen centre, due to crossover distortion in the field output stage.

It's normally arranged that a small quiescent current flows in a class B complementary-symmetry field output stage to ensure a smooth transition between the operation of the transistors at the point where the sawtooth drive waveform passes through zero. This is done by connecting a resistor between the bases of the two transistors to develop a suitable "offset" voltage. In this circuit the resistor in question is R1533 (68 $\Omega$ ), which when removed and checked was found to be about 18 $\Omega$ . Its colour coding was difficult to read, possibly because it had been heating up for some time, so we'll never know whether a wrong type had been fitted or the original had gone low in value.

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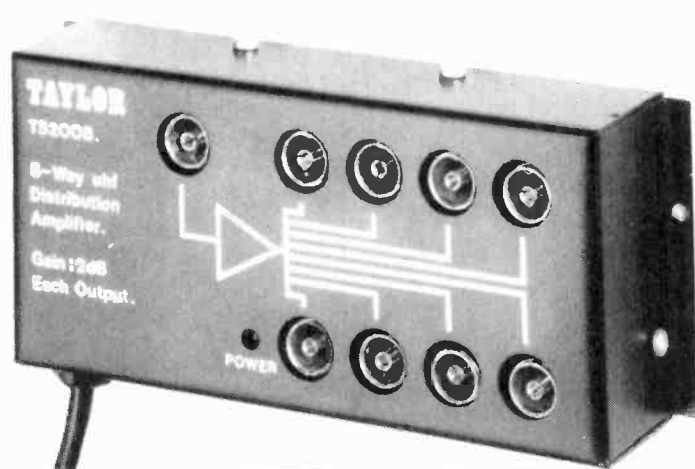
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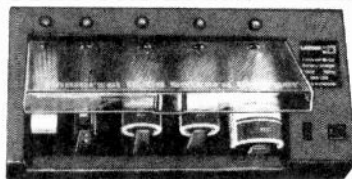
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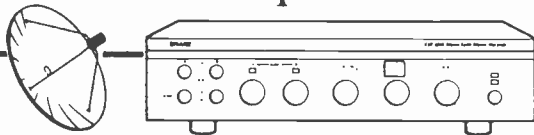
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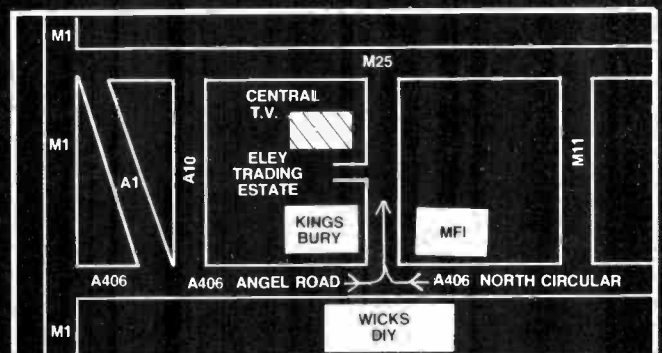
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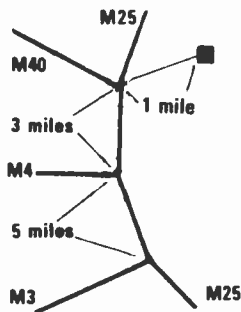
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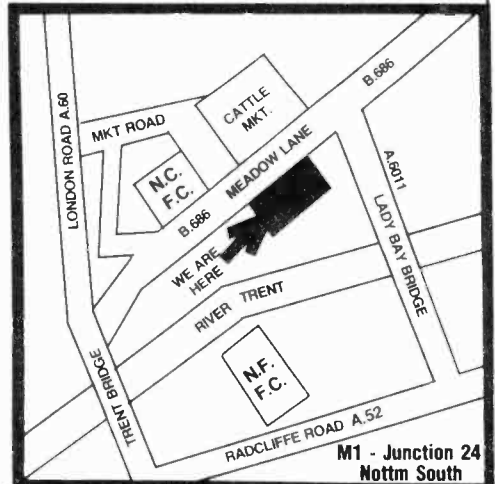
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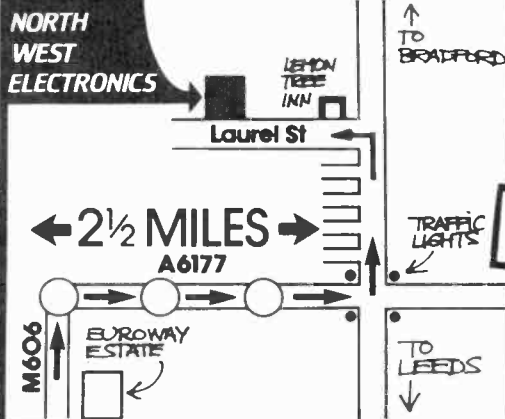
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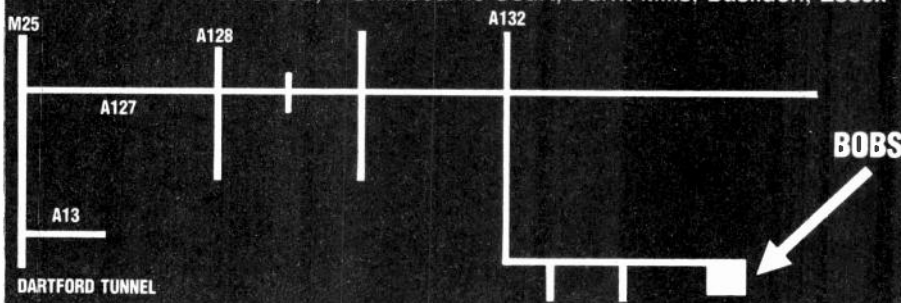
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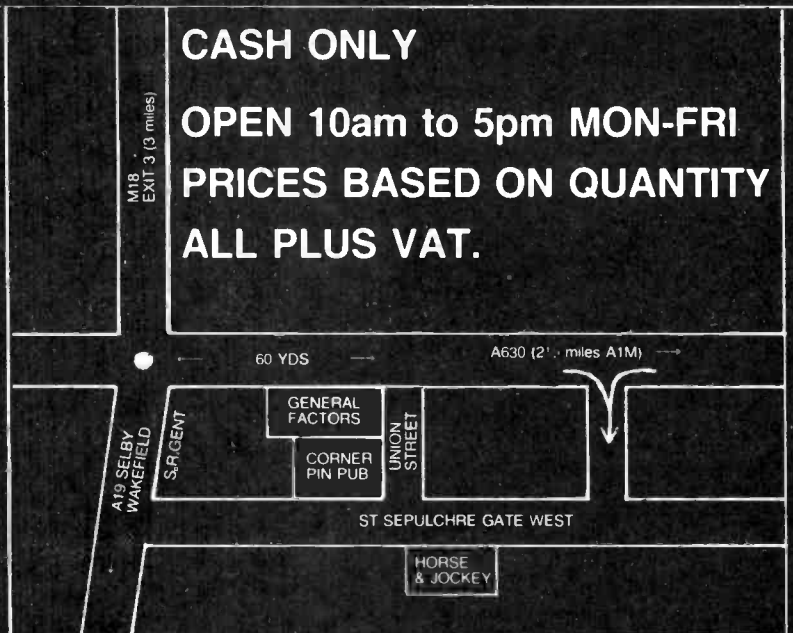
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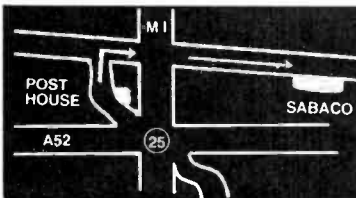
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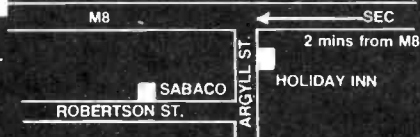
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## INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Acorn Television Warehouse	793
ADM Electronic Supplies	793
Aerial Techniques	743
Alberice Meters Ltd.	781
Alston - Barry International	782
Apollo	798
Asjaa International Ltd.	784
Avon Meters	792
A-Z Electrics	789
Besco Ltd.	790
B. G. Components	789
Billington Valves	794
B. K. Electronics	732
Blendown Ltd.	793
Bob's Television Warehouse	791
Bollen Ltd.	784
Britcorp Ltd.	781
Buil, J & N Electrical	739
Campion Wholesale Ltd.	799
Carter, John (Electrical) Ltd.	780
Cetel	736
Central TV & Video Wholesalers Ltd.	785
Centrevision	798
Chromavac Ltd.	737
Coles Harding & Co.	788
Conquer Electronics	789
Crewe Wholesale TV Ltd.	777
Data-Go	795
Display Electronics Ltd.	786
Donberg Electronics	793
East Cornwall Components	740
East Croydon Discount Electronics	781
Economic Devices	764, 765
Electric City	746
Electrovisia Ltd.	787
Euro A. M. Ltd.	746
Euro-Sat	789
Ford, Frank	783
General Factors	792
G. G. L. Components	734
Grandata Ltd.	776, 777
Halton TV Trade Disposals	791
Henry's	737
Hilliers	789
Hussain Central TV Ltd.	796, 797
ICS	735
I. T. V. C.	788
Junction 11 T. V. Trade Disposals Ltd.	787
Kent Ledgerwood Wholesale Ltd.	798
Kesh Electrics Ltd.	793
London Electronics College	746
LRC (Spares) Ltd.	781
Mannion, R. B.	793
Manor Supplies	Cover II
Mauriton Electronics	795
Men-Tu Electronics Ltd.	791
Montana Mail Order	783
Newark	792
N. F. P. C.	789
NGK	778
N. G. T. Electronics Ltd.	787
Papworth Transformers	799
Powell, T.	735
Pro-Vision	733
P.V. Tubes	730, 731
Repossessed TV Centre	793
Sabaco	794
Sandhurst TV Services	795
Sempie Service	786
Sendz Components	775, 800, Cover III, Cover IV
Skywave Engineering Ltd.	791
S. M. Electronics	788
Southside TV	782
Sparkworld Ltd.	799
Starlite Electronics	791
Stewart of Reading	782
Suffolk TV & Videos	788
Supertel	745
Taylor Bros. (Oldham) Ltd.	778
Technical Information Services	795
Telefix	791
Telepanels	781
Teletraders	786
Televideo Services	736
Television	789
Telstar Satellite Systems	777
Tidman Mail Order Ltd.	755
Tree's, W., Trade T.V.'s	780
Trent Tubes	788
TV International	786
TVS International Ltd.	779
T. V. Trade Sales	799
Underwood Electronics	794
Universal Semiconductor Devices Ltd.	784
U-View Tubes	791, 792
V. C. R. Electronics	735, 798
Vincent, J., Technical Books	792
Vision Promotions	795
Wellview	786
Willow Vale Electronics Ltd.	794
Wiltsgrove Ltd.	787
Wing Electronics	788
Wizard Distributors	793

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**MOST JAPANESE MODELS INCLUDING PORTABLES VHS & BETA VIDEOS FRESH STOCKS DAILY WE ALSO OFFER NATIONWIDE DELIVERY**

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DECCA		PHILIPS	
CS1730 1733 colour	9.00	G8 & G9 series colour	8.00
CS1830 1835 colour	9.00	PYE 368,169,569,769 mono	8.00
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KB - ITT		PAPWORTH TRANSFORMERS	
VC200 VC205 VC207 mono	8.00	80 Merton High Street, London SW19 1BE	
CVC5 CVC7 CVC8 CVC9 col.	9.00	01-540 3955	
CVC20 series colour	8.00	15% DISCOUNT FOR TRADE ORDERS	
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CVC45	8.00	Delivery by return of post.	
FT100 FT110 state p/no.	9.00		

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### WINDINGS

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T20a T22, T26 Pri & Sec		6.00
Z718 primary state 18" or 22"		6.00
Z718 EHT overwind		8.00

SOVEREIGN FARA 14" colour overwind	£15.00
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ULTRA THORN 1690-1691 EHT overwind	7.00
Waltham 190 EHT overwind	6.00
1590 EHT overwind	6.00

CALLERS WELCOME  
Open Mon.-Fri. 9 to 5.30 pm



# SENDZ COMPONENTS

TO ORDER SEE BACK PAGE

Matsushita PY 34220 Tuner	£7	K35 Decoder	£8.00
Toshiba V11/UHF1/G411	£6	K35 Sound OP	£4.00
Toshiba V11H/UHF1/G5221	£6	K35 Split Diode 3122-148-3890	£10.00
Mitsumi M8C1-151	£5	Thick Film Daughter K7V 3122-127-4589	£3
<b>Thorn Spares</b>			
New 9000 Decoder	£8.50	I 2 C H K30 Lev Res Front Panel with IC	£5
9000 Frame panel	£8	K35 II	£5.00
9000 Cyclops panel	£1.50		
8000/8500 timebase panel	£8		
8800 convergence panel	£6		
8500 convergence panel	£6		
4000 Power supply	£3		
1600 Mains lead, switch			
3500 6 push button + cable form	£1.50		
T065 1N1NP 1066 80V/6A	10p		
9000 Sound output panel	£1		
3500 Focus unit	£1.50		
3500 Mains Trans	£4		
3500 IF panel	10 for £4		
3500 Frame panel	£3		
3500 Line panel	£3		
3500 A1 Diode	20p		
Export 3500 IF panel	£2		
IC board with set of SN74LS	£4		
4000 Tube base	£1		
3500 A1 pots	50p		
Beam limiter panel	£1		
3500 Power panel with Y969	£1		
3 Way regulated adaptor 240V	6V £3.50		
7.5V/9V/300mA	£3.50		
Rank/Toshiba preh unit 0354	£9.50		
4 Push button unit pch	£1.00		
6 Push button VHF/UHF for v/cap. GEC/Decca type	£7.00		
7 Push button for CVCS ITT	£8.00		
68 Push Button Unit	£10.00		
K73 12 Push button unit	£2.00		
K73 (Export) 12 P B U	£2		
6 Push button Unit Thorn	£1.00		
6 Push button GRC	£6.00		
6 Push button PVE 731	£6.00		
Hearing aid unit	£3		
Rank Z718 4 P/B Unit MI-CT1	£4		
7 Button Unit GEC with Lamp	£7		
68 Push Button Unit	£6.00		
Z916B panel	£5.00		
T513AP panel	£5.00		
<b>Mains Droppers</b>			
G8 2R2+6R8	£1.25		
G8 4R8 15 watt	£1.00		
Pvc 731 3+56+27R	50p		
Thorn 50/171K5	£1.00		
120/20/48/117	£1.00		
270/106 for Thorn 3000	50p		
183/207/30	50p		
Thorn 50-40R-1K5	50p		
Ae Socket & Lead	£1		
GEC, ITT, Philips, Pvc	25p		
7x3/34Thorn	£1		
Thorn 1600-1700	£1.50		
Rank Toshiba Tube Bases	30p		
<b>Speakers</b>			
6x4 G11	35 ohm	£1.00	
5x4 2x2	35 ohm	£1.00	
5x3	30 ohm	70p	
5x3	50 ohm	50p	
5x3	35 ohm	70p	
6x4	15 ohm	£1.00	
6x4 speaker	16 ohm		
7x3	20 ohm	£1.00	
8x5	8 ohm	£1.00	
8x5	8 ohm	70p	
5x3	8 ohm	70p	
7x3	16 ohm	£1.00	
5" dia	16 ohm	£1.00	
5" dia	8 ohm	£1.50	
6" dia	4 ohm	£1.00	
6" dia	3 ohm	£1.00	
2 1/2" dia	8 ohm	75p	
3" dia	8 ohm	75p	
4" dia	15 ohm	75p	
KT3 speaker	K30		
3" dia	15 ohm	60p	
1600 5x3	12 ohm	75p	
K45 Philip	15 ohm	75p	
K30 15 watt		£1	
<b>KT3 K30</b>			
Oh-425	F-W	10p	
Oh-450	correction	10p	
Oh-513		50p	
Oh-557		50p	
<b>DIODES</b>			
BY 126		10p	
BY 127		10p	
BY 133		10p	
BY 134		10p	
BY 164		50p	
BY 176		25p	
BY 179		40p	
BY 184		25p	
BY 187		20p	
BY 190		40p	
BY 196		20p	
BY 198		30p	
BY 204/4		8p	
BY 206		8p	
BY 208/800		8p	
BY 210/400		5p	
BY 210/800		5p	
BY 223		60p	
BY 224/600 4 8A/000A bridge		60p	
BY 226		15p	
BY 227		15p	
BY 228 1500V		20p	
1A BY 229 black		20p	
BY 230 Red		20p	
BY 229/400		30p	
BY 290/6p Tag		30p	
BY 237		5p	
BY 254		50p	
BY 255		10p	
BY 298		10p	
BY 299		10p	
BY 300		8p	
BY 327		20p	
BY 407A		10p	
BY 527		50p	
BY 642		10p	
F 247		10p	
GP20G		5p	
NK 3102		50p	
BY V 282/0		50p	
80V 275 amps		10p	
International Rectifier EHT Diodes, C770HV 34 6KV		3 for 8p	
6A/600V Stud Diodes	20p	BTW 92/800R	£3
6A/1000V Stud Diodes	20p	25A 473 PNP C/P	10p

G11 Chroma Panel	£5.00	Tube Thermaph 167	£1.00
Rank 120 Z136 Panel	£6.00	Rank Secam Decoder Panel UHF & VHF	£1.00
NEW 1617 THORN Chassis with ICs & AU113	£5.00	I115A	£13.00
NEW GEC 20AX Power Supply Switch Mode	£12.00	10 ohm 91 CAP G11	£2
Complete new GEC portable chassis M120H/M150H with P.B.U./V-Cap/LOPT	£10.00	Philips K4 CAP 150M/385V	50p
£6p + Jungle panel for GFC 3133/3135			
GEC 2110 line panel with transformer			
GEC 2110 tuner unit + IF Panel			
Pvc/G Chelsea Line op panel			
Pvc 205 T/t unit			
Pvc 205 Line op panel			
Pvc 713 IF panel and tuner			
Pvc 713 Chroma			
Pvc/Chelsea Timebase panel with LOPT			
Pvc 731 Convergence Panel			
Pvc 731 Chroma			
Pvc 731 IF panel + tuner			
Pvc CDA/205 panel			
GEC portable chassis + LOPT 2114 New			
Thorn 1613/1713 chassis			
G9 Power Panel			
Mono RANK Chassis 127A NEW			
81W G9 Frame Panel			
NEW G11 IF Panel			
G8 Tuner Unit + Panel	£4.00	22/1000	20p
G8 Power Supply	£5.00	1/250A C	20p
G8 Sloping PBU	£10.00	1/100	20p
G8 II & Chroma	£10.00	100/250	25p
G8 Chroma	£3.00	1/10 x 10	20p
		2.2 250V	20p
		4 7M/100	5p
		470/100	75p
		47/100	10p
		300 300/300V	50p
		800/160	80p
		1/250 Pulse	5p
		2.2 250V	5p
		30p 250 A.C.	5p
		33 250V	25p
		392/50V	15p
		447/250 tested 5KV	25p
		22/250	25p
		47/250	20p
		100/250	20p
		G11 470/250V	60p
		G11 600/250	£1.00
		700/250	50p
		300 + 300 MFD 350V	50p
		800/250	40p
		32/700	20p
		4/350	5p
		8/350	10p
		4 7M/350K	80p
		33/50	20p
		22/350	20p
		300/350	40p
		400/350	40p
		100/375	20p
		22 375	25p
		22/385 (ITT)	75p
		33/385 CVC 82011T	60p
		0 15400	15p
		8 and 12 button units	£9.00
		CVC9 slider pots panel	50p
		CVC 5 Mains on/off + 5 pots	£2
		Universal Focus, Fits Pvc, Thorn and Decca Units.	
		T147 Rank tube base on panel	£1.00
		Z718 Focus Unit	£1.50
		T20 Focus Unit	£2.00
		Large Type	75p
		Decca Small	75p
		K13 Focus Unit	75p
		K30 Focus Pot	75p
		K30 Tube base on panel	£1.00
		TX10 Focus Units	£7.00
		CVC 32 Focus Unit	75p
		Fidelity Focus Unit 14R-14S	30p
		3500 Thorn Focus Unit	£1.00
		ITT Small for use with Split	£1.00
		Z718 Bush focus	£2.00
		Diode	50p
		TV11	50p
		Remo TV12SP	50p
		16M Thorn EHT Rec and Lead	50p
		TV13	50p
		TV14	50p
		TV18	60p
		TV20	60p
		TV25	£1.00
		100/1600 10N 2,000V	50p
		G11 drawer ASS 3 pots Mains switch and lead	£2.00
		K30 Drawer Ass with pots cable forms	£1.00
		Line O/P panel (GEC 2217/2218/2213/2214/2226/2227/2228	£10
		<b>PHILIPS BATTERIES (Small Types) HAND SETS</b>	
		SR41	40p
		SR43	30p
		SR44	40p
		SR54	40p
		LR43	40p
		LR44	40p
		LR54	40p
		CR2032	40p
		CVC 20-25-30 Mains Switches	
		Infra Red and Ultrasonic G11 Teletext Decoder Panel	
		RANK & ITT Mains Remote On-Off Switch (720R)	
		RANK & ITT Mains Remote Switch 2665 ohm	
		RANK & ITT Remote Switch 2800 ohm	
		G11 Mains Switch	
		4 amp Mains Switch	
		GEC Mains Switch 4 amp	
		KT3 Mains switch	
		THORN Rotary Mains Switch	
		G11 Freq Rec LED P/Buton for C.H. Change	
		RANK TOSHIBA Transducers TPC-2011	
		Mains Switch ITI Long Type Print	
		Mains Switch Philip Long Type TAG	
		Mains Switch GEC Long Type IAG	
		Thorn 12 or 24 volt battery converter for portable colour TV	
		2000 Chassis Fidelity Mains Switch (4 TAG)	
		250V/4A White Lorian Mains Switch	
		K13-K30-K35 Full Remote Mains Switch (6 TAG)	
		Teletext Adaptor Kit TV-500 Panasonic	

25% OFF ALL PANELS

Multi-Caps	50p
220 MFD Sprague 385V	
350V 300M + 300M	£1.00
400V 400M	60p
350V 400M	60p
Thorn 3500	
175/100/100/350K	£1.00
KT1300/25/25/385V	£1.00
200 + 200 + 75 + 25M 325V	£1.00
300 + 300 + 150 + 100 + 50MFD	£1.00
350V	£2
G11 CAP 470/250	£2
47/20/350V	60p
150/150/100/100/320V	£2.00
2500/2500/63V	50p
150/200/200/300V	70p
300/100/100/16/275V	£1.50
100/200/325V	£1.00
150/150/100/375V	40p
200/200/75/25M 325V	£1
Thorn TV9 Caps 500 + 500M 175V	£1.75
300/300/100/32/230K	2.00
1500/2000/30V	50p
150/150/100/100/320K	£2.00
100/350 + 300/200/100/16/275V	£2.00
225 + 25/380 GEC	70p
200/100/100/350V	£1.50
500/500/25V	50p
150/150/100/300V	75p
200/150/150/300V	1.00
ITT 8 and 6 Push Button	£1.00
Pvc 731 LOPTs	£6.00
Pvc 731 LOPTs	£6.00
Thorn 8500-8800 LOPTs	£5.00
CMC 301 front panel	£8.00
CMC 303 front panel	£8.00
CMC 800 Chassis, No tuner	£20.00
CMD 800 Decoder	£8.00
CMD 800 IF/Tuner	£20.00
UPC 574	30p
BSS 38	30p
G11	£1.50
1 L.C. Receiver Panel	
3 L.C. Power Supply G11 Full Remote Receiver Panel	£3
FET Power VN88AF	50p
PHILIPS SBC 469 Stereo Microphone	
Meters Hills 520	£23.00
Meters Hills 420	£15.00
Hills HD5000 Digital Meter 1000V DC	
750AC 10 Amp 20 MRG Ranges	£28
HI 100 Multimeter	£6.75
IT300 Multimeter	£7.75
IT500 Multimeter	£9.00
HI10001 Digital	£20.00
HI3000 Digital	£25.00
HI5000 Digital	£25.00
HI6000 Digital	£32.00
HI8000 Digital	£37.00
<b>Infra Red Handset Tester</b>	
Works at 24 feet - Sound repeater	
Works off 9 volt battery	£8.00
Fits in top pocket.	
<b>Repaired Handsets</b>	
Philips K4-K35, RC550-RC530, RC5370, RC5375, repaired same day.	
RC4001 Full Remote KT3 K30 Teletext Handsets exchanged	£9.00
GEC Full Remote Infra-red, 1983 models	£15.00
Timers, 60 mins, small	£1.00
<b>TOSHIBA HAND SETS</b>	
24 Button CT938 Fullremote	£5.00

# SENDZ COMPONENTS

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VHF-UHF with Data Tuner  
MEC1-F51 £3  
Thorn TX10 Export V/Cap UHF  
VHF £6  
G8 Tuner V/Cap. New £2  
G8 6 Button Unit £9  
V/Cap Rank UHF Z776T/Unit £6  
V/Cap Rank VHF Z773T/Unit £5  
NEW G8 Tuner V/Cap £3.50  
T20 6 Push Button Unit £7  
ELC2000 on Panel £2.50  
GEC 6 Push Button Unit £6  
ITT 6 Push Button Unit £6  
DECCA 6 Push Button Unit £6  
GEC or Hitachi 6 push button  
unit 2110 Conversion £8  
GEC 2110 V/Cap £5  
ELC1043 (Ex Panel) £3.75  
ELC1042 NEW £5.50  
ELC2000 NEW £4.00  
ELC2004 NEW £8.00  
ELC2006 NEW £4.00

- GEC Tuner V/Cap Hitachi After  
1979 ET548, ET547, ET541B £8.00  
ASTEC UM1183 £10.00  
V314 (VHF) £5.00  
V317 (VHF) £7.00  
V334 (VHF) £5.00  
U321 £6.00  
U341 UHF £7.00  
U342 (UHF) £5.00  
U341 UHF £7.00  
U.V.-411 Tuner £10.00  
U.V. 415 £7.00  
U.V. 417 £7.00  
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Tuner £5.00  
Small V/Cap Misumu UHF £4.00  
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Mosfit UHF/VHF (new type) £8.00  
UHF-B31 Fidelity V/Cap T/Unit £6  
UHF-VHF V/Caps on panel £3.00  
HFAACH 20 Turn Pot 40p  
U321 on panel £6.00  
Tuner unit VHS Sylvania GTR  
Video MTS 900 £2.50  
Toshiba VHF-UHF EGS52F £5.00

- Mullard Video Modulator.  
Application, video tape recorders,  
TV cameras, video games, closed  
circuit TV, C.C.I.R. system. Data  
supplied. £10.00

- UHF Tuner GTR Sylvania  
E471A £2  
VHF Tuner GTR Sylvania  
F3720B £2

- |                   |       |                  |       |               |       |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| BF694             | 10p   | 2SC2229          | 15p   | BC349B        | 10p   |
| BF758             | 10p   | 2SC2688          | 20p   | BC350         | 10p   |
| BF760             | 30p   | 2SC2795          | 30p   | BC365         | 10p   |
| BFT34             | 15p   | 2SC7350          | 15p   | BC368         | 10p   |
| BFT43             | 10p   | 2SD180 T/O3 80v/ |       | BC384         | 10p   |
| BFT84             | 8p    | 6A               | 15p   | BC394         | 10p   |
| BFW11             | 20p   | 2SD200           | £2.00 | BC413         | 10p   |
| BFX29             | 30p   | 2SD401           | £1.00 | BC414         | 10p   |
| BFX84             | 25p   | 2SD716           | £1.00 | BC416         | 10p   |
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| 2N3904            | 15p   | BC149            | 10p   | BD136         | 30p   |
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| 2N5983            | 30p   | BC160/16         | 25p   | BD202         | 30p   |
| 2N6099            | 40p   | BC171            | 10p   | BD204         | 30p   |
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| 2N6130            | 20p   | BC173            | 10p   | BD221         | 20p   |
| 2N6348            | 20p   | BC174            | 10p   | BD222         | 20p   |
| 2N6399            | 10p   | BC183            | 10p   | BD228         | 30p   |
| 2X 2N6099 on      | 10p   | BC184            | 10p   | BD226         | 20p   |
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| 2SB474            | 30p   | BC237            | 10p   | BD240         | 50p   |
| 2SB566            | 10p   | BC238            | 8p    | BD243c        | 30p   |
| 2SB686            | 75p   | BC239            | 10p   | BD244         | 50p   |
| 2SC772            | 20p   | BC250            | 8p    | BD250A        | 30p   |
| 2SC781            | 10p   | BC251            | 10p   | BD252         | 30p   |
| 2SC458            | 50p   | BC252            | 10p   | BD253B        | 50p   |
| 2SC732            | 10p   | BC262            | 10p   | BD331         | 20p   |
| 2SC733            | 10p   | BC263b           | 20p   | BD373B        | 25p   |
| 2SC940            | £1.00 | BC294            | 10p   | BD346         | 30p   |
| 2SC1030           | £1.00 | BC298            | 30p   | BD433         | 30p   |
| 2SC1061           | 30p   | BC300            | 30p   | BD437         | 25p   |
| 2SC1162 C/18      | 30p   | BC301            | 30p   | BD438         | 30p   |
| 2SC1520           | 25p   | BC303            | 30p   | BD439         | 50p   |
| 2SC1546           | 20p   | BC307            | 7p    | BD544D        | 50p   |
| 2SC1617           | 20p   | BC308            | 7p    | BD650         | 50p   |
| 2SC1728           | £1.00 | BC309            | 7p    | BD678         | 30p   |
| 2SC1740           | 20p   | BC327            | 10p   | BD681         | 50p   |
| 2SC1756           | 50p   | BC328            | 10p   | BD682         | 50p   |
| 2SC1942           | £1.00 | BC328/338 pair   | 15p   | BD507         | 50p   |
| 2SC2068           | 20p   | BC337            | 10p   | BD509         | 50p   |
| 2SC2073           | 8p    | BC338            | 10p   | BD510         | 30p   |
| 2SC2122A          | £1.00 | BC347            | 10p   | BD517         | 30p   |

- Sylvania UHF I4720B £6.00  
BD519 30p  
BD534 30p  
BD535 30p

- Sylvania VHF 900 £6.00  
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BD562 30p  
BD610 30p  
BD646 50p  
BD676A 50p  
BD807 20p  
BD826 20p  
BD939 30p  
BD948 30p  
BDX75 20p  
BDV64B 50p  
BDU65 20p

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BF1099 20p  
BF1100 20p

- Auto Changeover £5.00  
9000 Thorn Tuner on Panel £7.00

- PIIORN 1400 4P.B. Mech. Tuner  
PIIORN 1500 4P.B. Mech. Tuner  
PIIORN 1590 4P.B. Mech. Tuner  
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Delay Lines £1.00  
DL700 75p  
KT 3 Luminesce 75p  
Luminance Delay Line (CVC 45)  
Co-Ax Joint 15p  
Co-Ax Belling Lee Plug 12p  
Co-Ax Splitter £1.00  
UHF Modulator CCR £3.00  
Infra. Red Emitting Diode 20p  
NE286H Small Neon Lamps GEC  
& Philips 5p  
Mullard 5 Watt Amps. LP1162  
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- T.V. Tubes  
12 1/2" 31/510 with coils  
Post £2.50 £5

- 12" A31/300 Hitachi

- S.W. Filters S.W. Filters  
HW2013 50p SW185 £1  
SW453 50p SW153 50p  
SW150 £1 SW154 50p

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BD534 30p  
BD535 30p  
BD534D 30p  
BD562 30p  
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