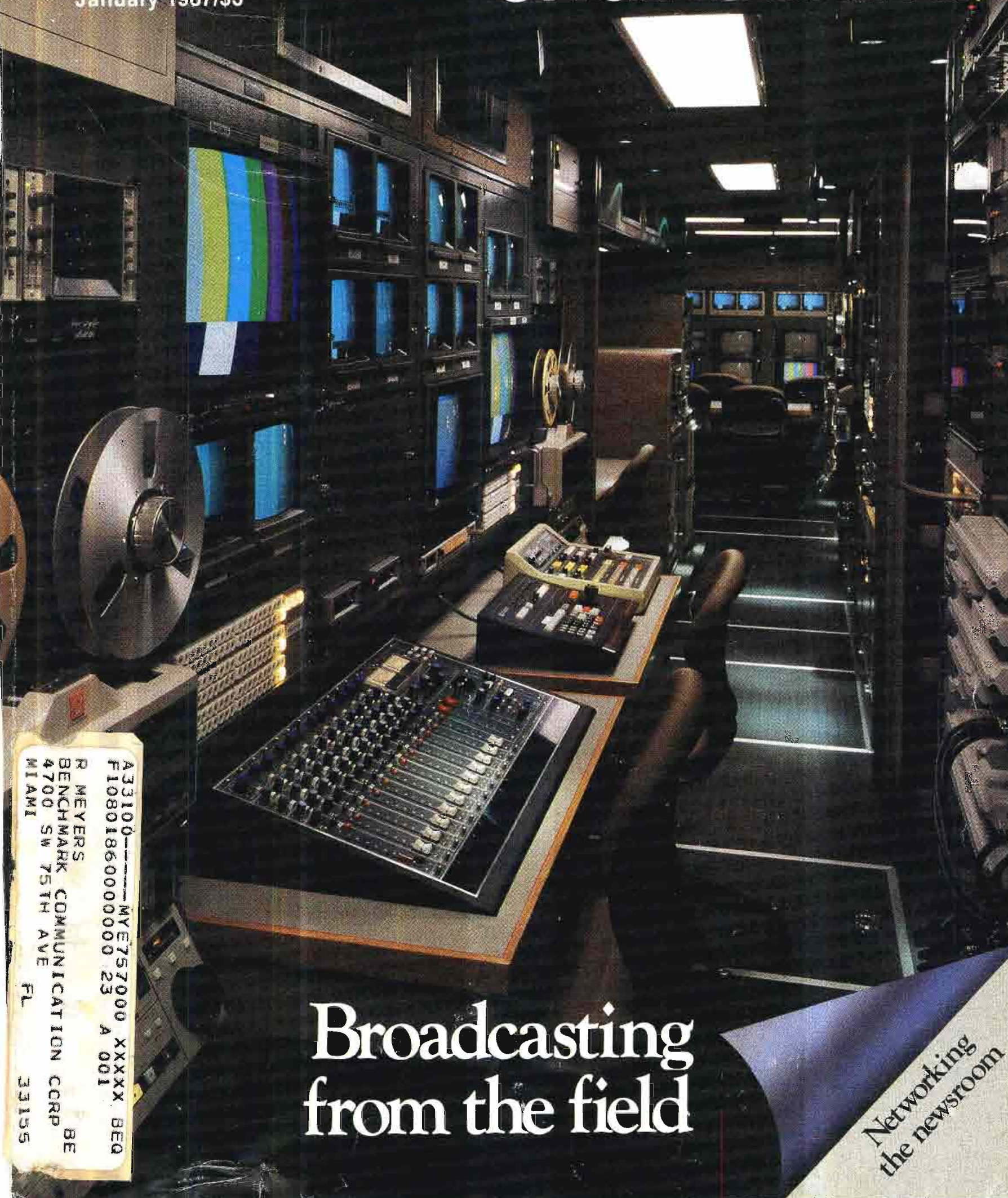


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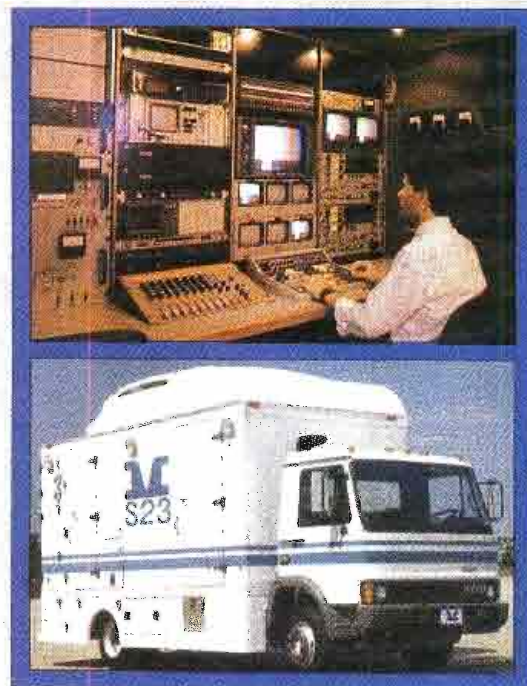


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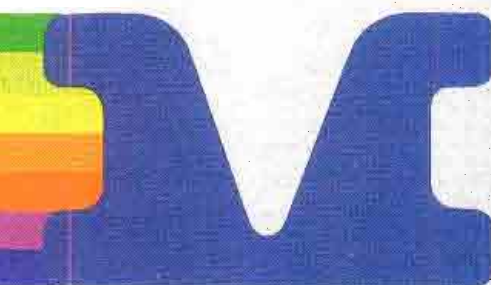
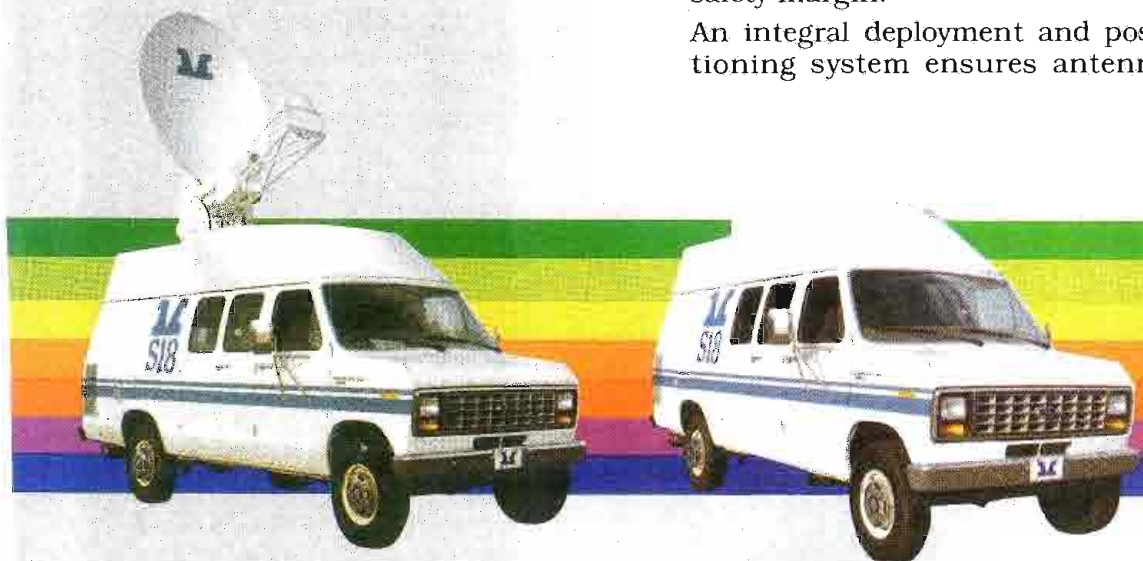
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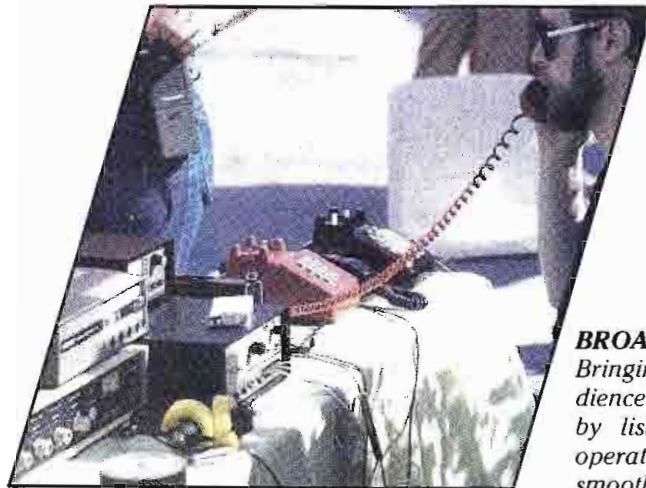


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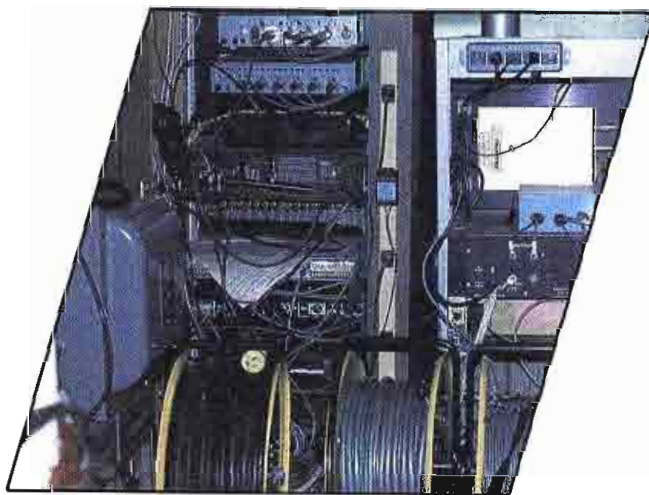
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ON THE COVER

The equipment available for outside broadcast activities has improved dramatically within the past 10 years. Today, remote operations are every bit as sophisticated as productions at the studio. Shown on our cover this month is the NBC-TV NT-5 tape truck built for the network by Centro (San Diego). The 45-foot vehicle is used on large remote broadcasts—primarily sports programs—that require sophisticated taping and switching functions. *(Photo courtesy of Centro.)*

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Kennedy is elected SMPTE president

Carlos Kennedy of Ampex, elected as the 35th president of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE), began serving a 2-year term, on Jan. 1.

The announcement was made at the Oct. 25 honors and awards luncheon, which was held in conjunction with the society's 128th Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit. Kennedy succeeds Harold J. Eady of Novo Communications, who will serve the SMPTE as past-president.

To provide increased support of the society's international membership, Kennedy will consider supporting local sections outside the United States and Canada as well as an international meeting. Australia is currently the only international section.

As a SMPTE Fellow and the Society's executive vice president, Kennedy has played a leading role in the society's

digital standards activities. He is a member of the Advanced Television committee, the Royal Television Society, the International Television Association and the BKST.

In his position as director of long-range planning for the Audio-Video Systems Division of Ampex, he is responsible for the company's development of VTRs, cameras and related accessories for both the professional broadcast as well as the medical technology markets.

NAB supports ID for signals to satellites

The National Association of Broadcasters has given qualified support to an FCC proposal that would require signals sent to all video satellites to contain an automatic code to provide immediate identification of the sending transmitter. The FCC move is in response to increasing interference between satellite operators, as well as last summer's "Captain Midnight" episode that interrupted a

Home Box Office satellite transmission.

NAB said the proposed use of a line or lines in the vertical blanking interval should be implemented immediately as a short-term remedy. However, it recommended that an industry group be established to examine and test potential identification systems for a standard and permanent system.

The ID system would include those facilities used by networks, news gathering and contract uplink services. NAB noted that the interference problem is growing as more services use satellite systems. It pointed out that operator error is a contributing factor and more and better training is needed.

dbx uses new technology in analysis system

A new technology with applications for broadcasting and other audio industries was demonstrated by dbx at the Audio Engineering Society convention

Continued on page 161

BROADCAST engineering

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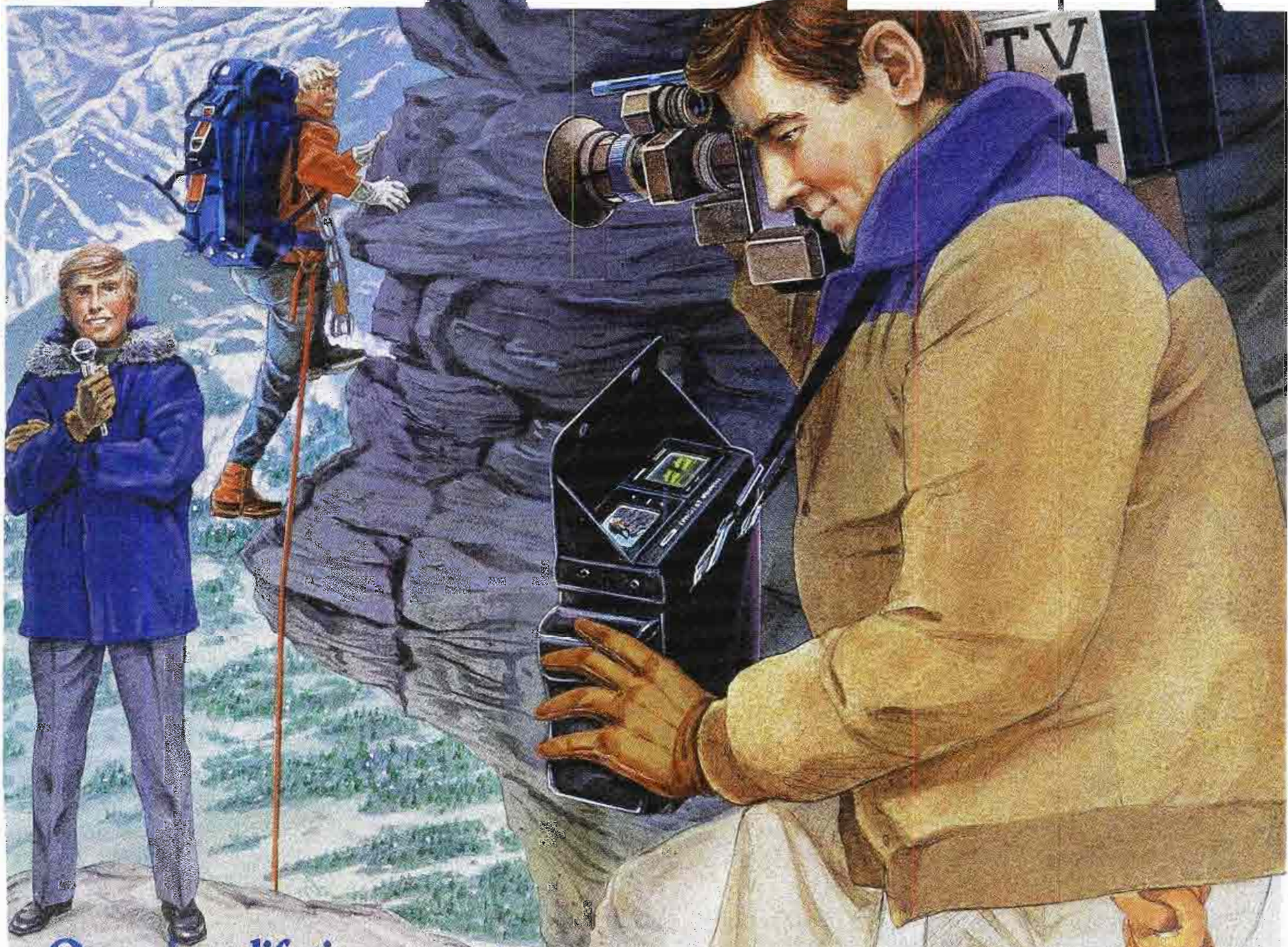
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Still hope for AM

World War II officially came to an end in the Pacific in August of 1945. But most military historians will agree that the war's outcome was irrefutably determined some 37 months earlier at the Battle of Midway. Although the two events were separated by three years and appeared to be only casually related, following Midway, there was simply not enough left of the Japanese naval fleet to force a Japanese victory.

And so it is with the ongoing battle over AM stereo. Whether AM stereo lives or dies will be determined within the next 90 to 120 days. If AM stereo, and the AM band as we know it, should perish at some time in the future, its timing will be such that no obvious link to the coming four months will be apparent to most observers.

After more than four years of not having a national technical standard for AM stereo ... after more than four years of watching broadcasters bicker back and forth over which AM stereo system is superior while AM stereo receivers gathered dust in warehouses, the receiver manufacturers are beginning to withdraw from the AM stereo marketplace. Sony has discontinued two-thirds of its AM stereo portable line. Pioneer has vacated the AM stereo market entirely. Others may soon follow. Once the manufacturers have accepted their losses and closed assembly lines, it is unlikely that they will again be enticed into tooling up for a market that no one can guarantee will ever develop.

Without AM stereo receivers, AM stereo cannot survive as a medium. Without stereo, AM as we know it will not survive. Today, AM attracts less than one listener in three. It continues to be the only entertainment and communications medium, *except the telephone*, which serves the listener primarily in monaural. As stereo CD discs and the newer stereo digital tape gain greater acceptance, AM's monaural affliction will become even more of a handicap.

Stereo alone will not guarantee instant success for the AM band, but it is a necessary ingredient. Except for the issues associated with directional antennas, the problems facing broader listener acceptance of AM are threefold: 1) poorer frequency response compared to FM, 2) absence of a uniform technical standard for AM stereo, and 3) the public perception of AM being a less mainstream service.

There is good reason for hope regarding greater AM frequency response. Significant fidelity improvements in both the AM transmission and reception systems will be available in the near future due to recent efforts of the National Radio Standards Committee. The NRSC, a joint effort of the NAB and the EIA, includes representatives of receiver manufacturers, major broadcasters and audio-processing equipment manufacturers. At a Nov. 20 meeting in Denver, the NRSC approved a proposed draft standard for AM frequency response. This, in conjunction with the proposed standard for AM pre-emphasis, defines the first model that receiver manufacturers and broadcasters can both work toward.

Today, receivers are a much greater response limitation than is the transmission system. The average AM receiver frequency response is *less than 3kHz*. Manufacturers were forced to implement such drastically restricted bandwidth to prevent splatter from pre-emphasis adjacent channel stations. Now, with specific guidelines on bandwidth and pre-emphasis, manufacturers can deliver 10kHz receivers.

Although critics argue that AM will never equal FM's 15kHz frequency response, the relevant question is not which system is numerically greater, but what frequency response is adequate. Few speaker systems without metallic-domed tweeters actually perform to 15kHz. And, few adults possess significant hearing beyond 10kHz. So far as the average listener will be able to tell, little difference will exist between the fidelity of AM and FM.

Although the issue of public perception is primarily non-technical and is too large to address here, it is safe to say that the technical issues are solvable. The frequency response issue has been solved. The stereo issue also can be solved.

If you are concerned about the withdrawal of AM stereo receivers, make station owners, managers and programmers in your area aware of the present situation. The AM band can still be saved. However, it will take immediate, vigorous action on the part of many people to do it.

[:(-:))]]

Prepared by Glen Clark, president of TEXAR,
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FCC eases transmitter modification rules

By Harry C. Martin

In a rule change that was effective Dec. 12, the FCC relaxed the requirements for prior approval of certain changes in broadcast transmitters. Under the rule changes, any modification of an existing main transmitter is permissible without prior FCC approval. However, equipment performance measurements must be made within 10 days after the modifications are completed. An informal statement or diagram describing the changes must also be retained at the transmitter site for as long as the equipment is in use.

The principal impetus for the rule change was the previous requirement for prior approval of transmitter modifications needed for stereo conversions. This often delayed initiation of stereo service and made the process needlessly complicated. In changing this requirement, the commission indicated that it will be relying on its licensees to ensure that they are operating in accordance with FCC technical standards and are not causing interference. Modifications needed to accommodate AM in addition to television and FM stereo are included in this deregulation.

The commission retained its requirement that a permittee or licensee planning to install and use a main transmitter not included on the commission's "Radio Equipment List" must obtain authority to use such a transmitter by filing an application for a construction permit on FCC Form 301. However, licensees planning to modify a transmitter included on the list, or for which an FCC Form 301 has been submitted and approved, may make modifications as long as they complete equipment testing and maintain records and diagrams under the revised procedures mentioned above.

FCC conducts further review of EEO

In response to suggestions by the Office of Management and Budget, the commission is requesting public comment on further proposed changes in its EEO information collection forms.

Last fall, the commission proposed to amend its rules and procedures regard-



ing equal employment opportunities in the broadcast industry. The new system would have included two new forms: the Broadcast Station Annual Employment Report and the Broadcast EEO Program Report, plus procedures for evaluating broadcast station EEO performance based on the information to be provided in these forms. Under the commission's original proposal, licensees would have continued to file annual reports. The reports would have been modified such that full-time and part-time employees would no longer be reported on separate tables. Also, the formats of the forms would have been rearranged to conform with similar forms used by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In addition, stations with fewer than six, rather than the current five, full-time employees would be exempted from extensive annual reporting.

The commission also proposed to eliminate its 5-point model EEO program requirement, which now is filed with applications for new stations and for assignments. The 10-point model EEO program now required of renewal applicants would have been modified to require narrative descriptions of the duties and responsibilities of employees in certain job categories, as well as the licensee's overall EEO practices.

OMB supports the commission's suggestions for streamlining annual reporting by making its forms consistent with those of the EEOC, but criticized the proposed changes in the 10-point EEO renewal report. OMB in particular criticized the suggested requirement of submission of job descriptions and essay answers, saying that these requirements would be burdensome on small businesses. The OMB also indicated that meaningful evaluation of narrative responses would require more hours from skilled employees than the commission is likely to devote to routine reviews. Thus, OMB believes the commission's proposal may increase the paperwork burden on broadcasters rather than reduce it.

For these reasons, the OMB proposes an alternative Form 396 modeled after the existing 10-point model program form. The alternative form would re-

quest that respondents indicate that they follow specific EEO practices in accordance with the rules and would require them to provide some additional information concerning specific activities and the furtherance of their EEO responsibilities. OMB's proposal also would eliminate the questions on job hires and promotions that appeared in the commission's proposed form.

Comments on these proposals are due this month.

FCC refuses to extend deadline for FM upgrades

The commission has refused to extend the March 2 deadline by which Class B and C FM broadcast stations not operating with minimum facilities for their classes must upgrade, or be downgraded to the class matching their actual operating level. In order to avoid downgrading, a station must file an acceptable application for minimum facilities for its class on or before the March 2 deadline.

The request for an extension of the 3-year period came from the National Association of Broadcasters. The commission had set the time limit in Docket 80-90, in which it created three new classes of FM stations and added 689 new FM allotments.

In refusing to delay reclassification of existing FM stations, the commission noted that the primary and overriding public interest goal is to allow new service in areas presently encumbered by existing stations that do not operate at their full potential. The commission recognized that licensees have faced obstacles in meeting the 3-year timetable. However, it noted that many licensees have already upgraded, and that others are prepared to construct after their applications are processed. The commission also stated that three years has been enough time for licensees to act, and that licensees who are downgraded will continue to serve the primary audiences they have chosen to serve up to the point of the downgrade.

Martin is a partner with the legal firm of Reddy, Begley & Martin, Washington, DC.

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To be aurally sound

By Carl Bentz, special projects editor

Your listeners deserve the best signal you can provide. If you give them a substandard signal, they may switch to another channel. So, as you enter the adventure of stereo audio for television, consider some things you can do to ensure continuing aural quality.

No doubt you have heard that the FCC recommends relaxing some of the rules on transmission system modifications. Be that as it may, any change in your transmitter should be followed by a thorough check of system operation. No one wants to get into proof-of-performance tests when they are not required, but wouldn't you rather play it safe?

The addition of stereo audio to your TV transmission signals can interact with the visual operation, but for now let's concentrate on the aural side, starting with the studio.

Know your audio chain

No two audio systems will operate exactly the same, even if composed of identical equipment. Therefore, you cannot assume that your new audio system, a duplicate of one just installed across town, will perform like that system. Your system might even have better characteristics, but you can only know for sure after performing a complete aural proof of performance.

Consider the audio console and its published specifications. For our purposes, audio-frequency response, noise and distortion figures are of primary importance. In fact, these parameters will be important to track through all parts of the audio chain.

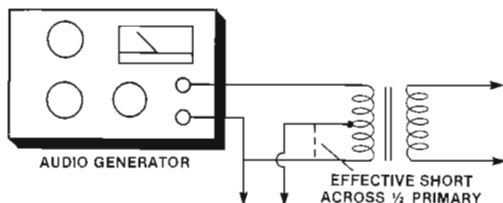


Figure 1. A mismatch may result from a direct connection to a truly balanced input.

You will want to verify that the audio console and other devices in the new stereo system stack up to their specifica-



tions. Most manufacturers report their specifications conservatively. It could be an enlightening experience to check the equipment just the same. You may be amazed at how much better the numbers are than those published.

Other specifications may prove to be misleading. If a console includes coupling transformers, does that mean that the connections are truly balanced? The accuracy of the transformer center tapping or balancing (if used) will determine how much common mode rejection of hum and noise can be expected. The presence of input and output transformers does not guarantee balance.

I/O connections do not necessarily require transformer-coupling to achieve balance and good common mode rejection. *Floating inputs*, for example, with solid-state devices do not connect directly to ground. Many amplifier circuits use differential op-amp inputs with push-pull output drives. Such systems should be relatively free of significant imbalances.

You may find it necessary to use a transformer to interconnect your audio system to an audio test generator. Any time an additional element is connected, peculiarities of that element will combine with the remainder of the equipment. The bandwidth response and distortion could be affected. Play it safe.

There was a time when we were told that audio circuits had to be impedance-matched for proper operation. It has since been generally agreed that low-output impedances driving high-input impedances is a workable solution (referred to as *bridging*).

To a point, you can bridge a single audio output to a number of high-impedance inputs. The source must develop sufficient signal power to drive all of the load devices. If you remove one of the driven units for maintenance, that should not upset loading of the circuit.

Another popular solution to connect a source to multiple loads is the audio distribution amplifier. For this method, an audio DA forms an interface between the source and the various driven loads. Although reliability of DAs is high, if one DA should develop a problem, all

devices driven from the unit will exhibit the problem.


On common ground

Carefully consider the grounding scheme used to interconnect your system components. Multiple ground points or inadvertent grounding of floating inputs can lead to ground loop and unpredictable problems. The development of an RF potential across a ground loop is probably the single most common problem in audio systems, especially those that operate in an RF field.

Grounding may play havoc with testing procedures. For example, if your test measurement indicates noise that is not audible on air, the source may be within the test setup itself. Perhaps an isolation transformer is required between the equipment, but check for multiple grounds first. Look for poor solder connections as well.

Is the equipment shielded against the RF environment? Many consoles have a ground plane designed into the system to reduce RF pickup. Not all equipment includes proper shielding, however. If the noise level varies with the position of the equipment or even the direction it faces, you can expect that RF shielding is the problem.

The quality of the sound your audience receives can be no better than what modulates your aural carrier. And that audio can be no better than the source equipment at the studio.

Editor's note: This information is adapted with permission from *BTSC Stereo: TV Aural Proof of Performance Guide* available from TFT Inc. 

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Breaking Sound Barriers

Circle (9) on Reply Card

1/87-BE-FP

Learning the basics

By John Battison, P.E.

Although the term MEOV resembles the sound a cat makes, it has nothing to do with cats. Many young engineers may not recognize MEOV (maximum expected operating value), but old-timers will recall its use in describing AM patterns several years ago. The FCC no longer uses MEOV, or as far as is known, even accepts them. However, its concept and transformation into *augmentation* may help you better understand the design, regulation and use of directional antenna systems.

Fudge factor

Before the introduction of the *standard pattern*, when an antenna engineer designed a directional antenna, it was first necessary to generate a theoretical design. This particular design would, on paper, provide the required protection and coverage. This document was then filed with the commission as a part of the licensing process.

Later, when the antenna was built according to this design, it sometimes was not possible to limit sufficiently the radiation to protect a specified contour. If it was impossible to meet the design criteria, the only solution was to file for a modification to the construction permit. Because the CP application procedure was time-consuming and lengthy, an alternative was developed—MEOVs.

Some of the earlier directional antenna designs performed well in theory, with values as low as 2mV/m or 3mV/m radiation on certain azimuths. In some cases, even a theoretical zero radiation on a simple cardioid pattern was predicted.

However, local conditions, such as fences, trees or even the guy wires, often made such low radiation levels impossible to achieve in the field. In these cases, the engineer developed a second antenna pattern for the low-radiation azimuths using a radiation value about 5% of the theoretical value. This pattern was drawn as a dotted line paralleling the main pattern. It was labeled MEOV, to



show that this was the maximum value that might be reached after the array was tuned.

At first this practice was used only for critical azimuths where it might be difficult to reduce radiation sufficiently. Later, as more stations were built, some engineers drew MEOVs all the way around the antenna patterns. The practice allowed them flexibility in case there were problems in the final antenna adjustment. The problem with this approach was that there was no hard and fast rule as to what exactly the MEOV was based on. Some engineers used 5%, others used different values.

The MEOV also made it difficult for other engineers to compute the pattern required to protect a station using merely the published antenna design parameters. It became essential to obtain the antenna pattern as shown in the proof. Another factor then entered into the calculations—the commission required that the MEOV be protected; not just the theoretical pattern. It was also not safe just to use 5% as the MEOV because it might have been based on a higher value.

As more and more DAs went on the air, the situation became more confusing and difficult to reconcile. As a result, in 1981, the commission adopted the standard pattern, which made life much easier for the radio engineer. The standard pattern is a uniform set of parameters describing an antenna system.

Now, the engineer can look up the published antenna design parameters and calculate the patterns for all the stations that have to be considered. This is much easier than obtaining a copy of each station's proof, which is filed when the station is licensed.

Converting patterns

To develop the standard patterns, the commission, in effect, applied a *Q* factor to the original theoretical patterns. The *Q* factor is designed so that it is impossible for the radiation on any DA azimuth to fall below a minimum of about 6mV/m. The process produces a standard pattern that is larger than the theoretical pattern. This creates a disadvan-

tage in that it may be difficult to design an antenna with sufficiently low radiation to fall under the commission's minimum value.

The advantage is that every engineer, with a copy of the FCC rules, can use the equations given and compute exactly the same pattern as the original designer. The engineer can then develop a new pattern knowing it will be compatible with what already exists.

As stated earlier, the commission converted all station patterns to standard patterns. Although this made the patterns consistent, what about those patterns on file that used MEOVs in order to become licensed? Applying the *Q* factor to these theoretical patterns would not produce the actual antenna patterns.

Augmentation

To solve this problem, the commission developed *augmentation*, which is additional information regarding the antenna's actual performance in the field. Where MEOVs might have been used in years past, stations now use augmentation to describe the antenna pattern. The process accommodates small deviations from the planned pattern, provided that no interference is caused and that the deviation is not excessive.

Next month, we'll see how the augmentation data is applied to an existing pattern.

Reader response

Reader interest in AM antenna networks is more widespread than people realize. In the September "re:Radio" column, I offered to send a copy of the HP65 calculator program that will compute tee-arm and component values for a network. I received 17 requests, including ones from Mexico, England and Canada. If you would like a copy I will make it available on request.

Battison, BE's consultant on antennas and radiation, owns a radio engineering consulting company in Columbus, OH.

Editor's note: For a copy of the calculator program write to John Battison, 890 Clubview Boulevard North, Columbus, OH 43085. [:-:~))]]

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Ka frequency gets a head start in new year

By Elmer Smalling III

It seems appropriate that we begin the new year with a discussion of the satellite frequency band that may well dominate the next decade—the Ka-band. The Ka designation relates to a portion of the general K frequency band that extends from 10GHz to 40GHz. The letter designations for microwave frequency bands have been developed over the years by radar engineers. There is no real standard, and no absolute band limits have been set.

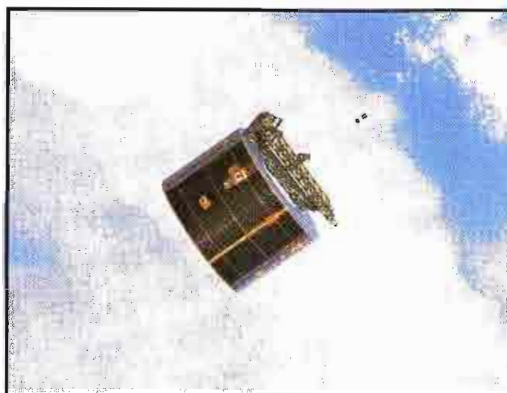
The K-band

At the lower frequency portion of the so-called K-band is the Ku-band, which extends from 18GHz to 27GHz. The commercial satellite portion of the Ku-band is only 11.7GHz to 12.2GHz, and 14GHz to 14.5GHz. The next higher segment of the K-band has no name so we'll call it Kq. Kq extends from 18GHz to 27GHz. The upper half of this segment is used primarily for terrestrial radar because of the large amount of atmospheric attenuation at Kq frequencies (see Figure 1). The very bottom of the Kq segment is used as the Ka-band downlink (17.7GHz to 20.2GHz). The last and highest frequency segment of the K-band is the Ka-band, which extends from 27GHz to 40GHz. The commercial satellite portion of the Ka-band is 27.5GHz to 30GHz for uplinking. The rest of the Ka-band is used primarily for radar and military satellite communications.

The Ka-band is considered to be a millimeter band. Wavelengths range from 10mm to 17mm, or half the length of a paper match. Because this wavelength is about seven times smaller than C-band, the antenna also may be much smaller (three to six feet rather than 15 to 20 feet).

Atmospheric losses

As shown in Figure 1, atmospheric losses are such that frequency allocation of the millimeter bands must be carefully planned. Close examination of the attenuation graph will show that between the downlink and uplink portions of the Ka-



band, there is a great deal of atmospheric attenuation (-0.3dB/km). If the uplink path through the atmosphere is 50 miles at a northern latitude, the attenuation would be 15dB greater at 22GHz than at 20GHz. This would require a much larger antenna and transmitter.

ACT and ISDN

Satellites that are being developed for the Ka-band are referred to as ACT (advanced communications technology) satellites. ACTs will have computers and data-processing equipment onboard to switch incoming uplink signals from many sources to many destinations. These satellites will handle data traffic at speeds as high as 250Mb/s. This is a radical change from today's satellite systems that handle video as an analog signal.

Employing the concept of ISDN (integrated services data network), these satellites will provide excellent signal-to-noise ratios, with extremely low bit-error rates capable of handling digital video, digital audio and high-speed data. Ka-band ACT satellites will permit inter-satellite communication using laser links operated at very high data rates. "Bird hopping" in order to cover large distances such as London to Hawaii now

causes objectionable data and audio delay (44,000 miles/hop, or 0.25 seconds). Using satellite-to-satellite laser data links, this distance can be cut by at least 75%, minimizing delay.

Spacecraft antennas used with ACT systems will have a beam width as small as 0.4%. This very small aperture will enable spot beams that service areas as small as 30 miles in diameter. The ACT antennas will be able to scan many uplinks across the country at data-frame rates allowing true time domain access (TDMA) for a large number of users.

Reduced satellite transmitter power will be possible because of the concentrated signal from the spot-beam antenna configuration on ACTs. Transponder power output levels of 5W to 8W are planned for Ka satellites. Much less uplink power will be required (20W). In fact, the downlink gain will be increased by 20dB for Ka-band satellites.

At present, there are 20 Ka satellites scheduled for launch in North America over the next four years. Although these launches will be delayed because of the reorganization of the NASA and Ariane launch teams, they will be needed by their operators to counter the tremendous growth of the fiber-optic communications industry.

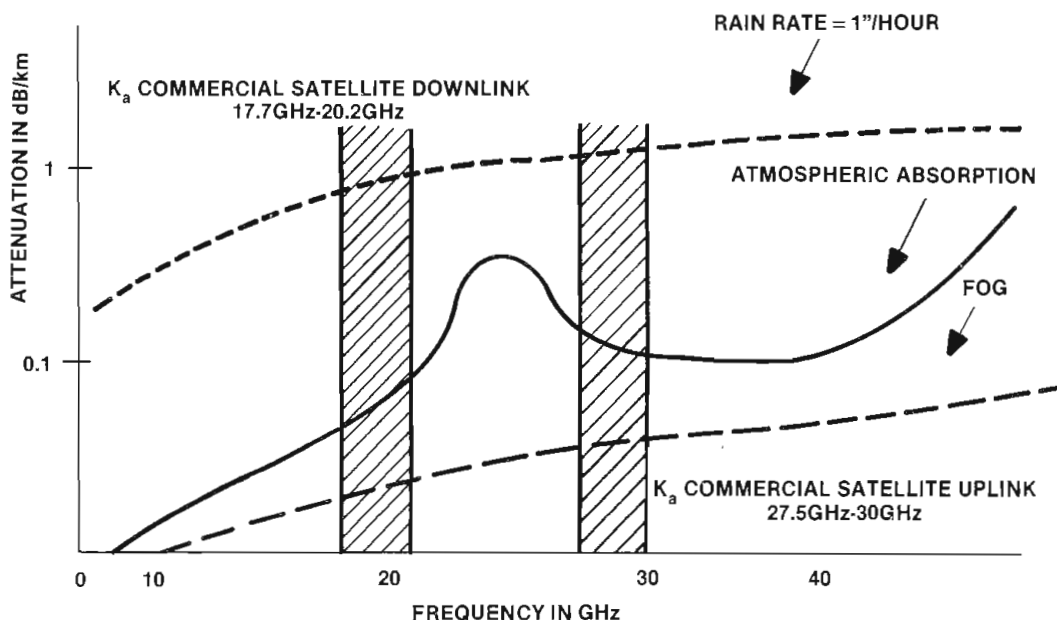
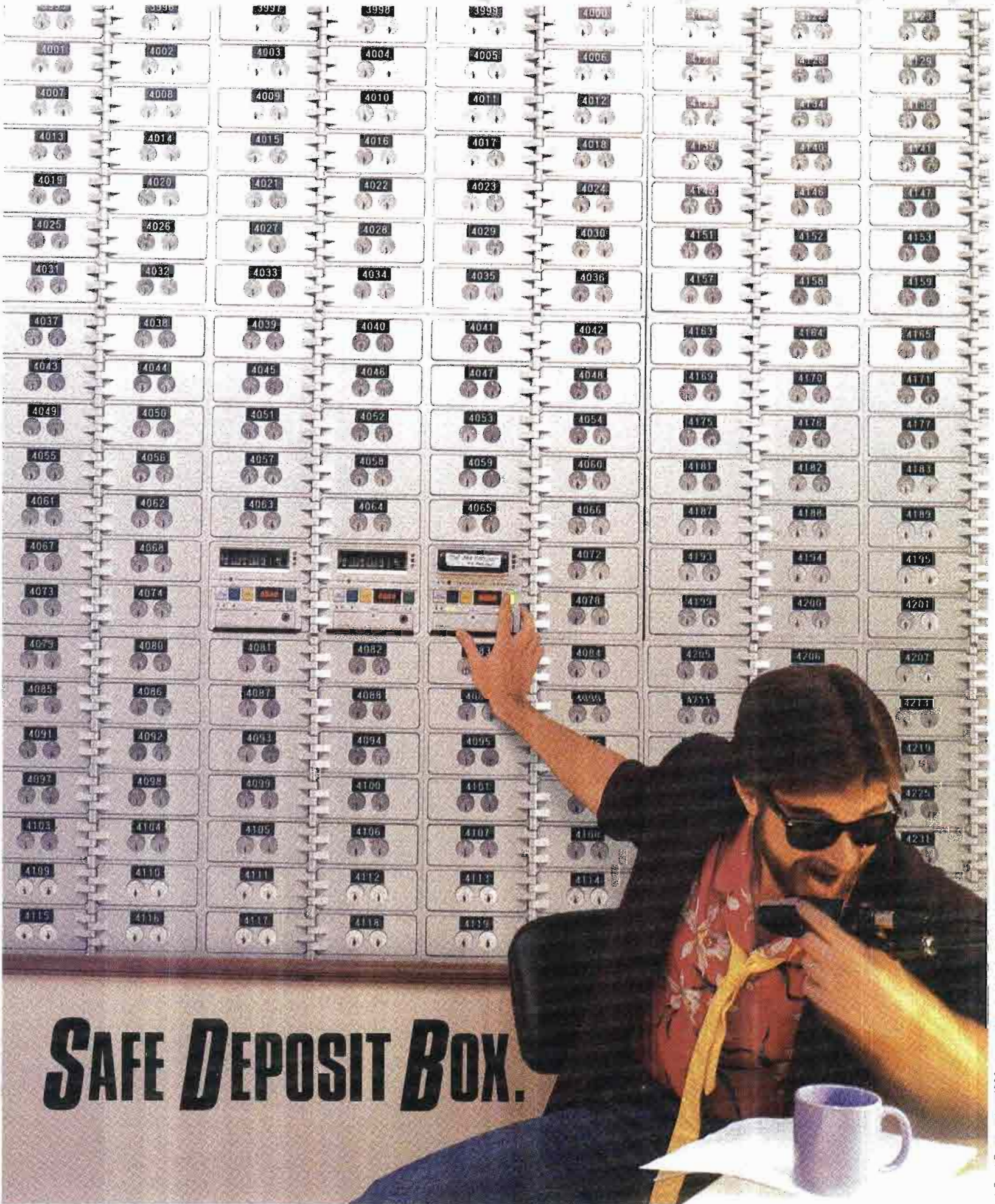


Figure 1. The atmospheric absorption of the Ka-band.

Smalling, BE's consultant on cable/satellite systems, is president of Jenel Systems and Design, Dallas.

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Circle (11) on Reply Card

Inside digital technology

By Gerry Kaufhold II

The importance of understanding digital circuits has increased along with the coming-of-age of personal computers. The responsibilities of some station engineers have grown to include helping non-technical people find solutions for their computer problems. The opportunity exists for these computer-literate broadcast engineers to work closely with those involved in station management, and thereby improve the visibility and stature of all broadcast engineers.

So far, simple digital gates and flip-flops have been discussed in previous "Circuits" columns. These circuits are the building blocks from which microprocessors and digital controllers are created.

Memory organization for digital storage

Because many available digital systems advertise "Megabytes" of storage, and such buzzwords of computer lingo seem unavoidable, the following discussion will define some vital terms that have to do with digital storage (memory).

A single piece of digital information such as a single HI (or 1), or LO (or 0) on a data line is called a *bit*. Four bits are called a *nibble*, and eight bits are called one *byte*.

The position each bit occupies in an 8-bit byte can be labeled from 0 through 7, so that all eight bits of one byte are identified as shown in Figure 1. The right-most four bits of a byte (labeled 0, 1, 2 and 3 in Figure 1) are the *least significant nibble* of the byte. The left-

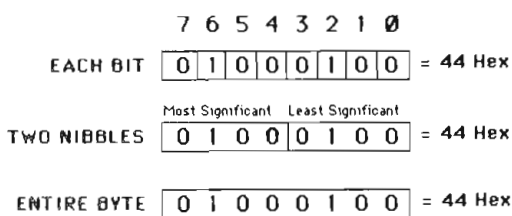
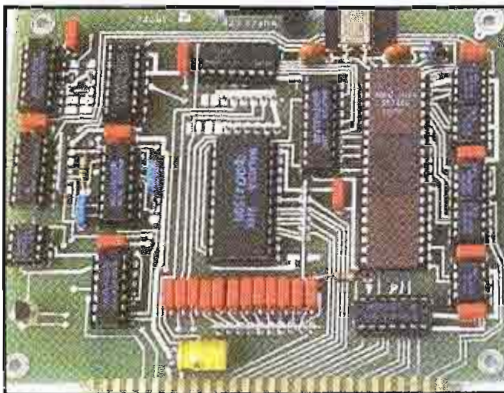


Figure 1. A single 8-bit byte treated in three ways: 1) each bit treated separately; 2) upper and lower 4-bit nibbles; and 3) 8-bits treated as a single byte.



most four bits of a byte (4, 5, 6 and 7 in Figure 1) are the *most significant nibble* of the byte. Usually wherever the notation *LS* is followed by a letter, it means least significant.

Memory address

Many digital memory chips are organized as collections of 8-bit bytes. Each byte can be accessed through its *address*.

If the entire memory chip is thought of as a multiple-compartment printer's drawer, and each compartment in this printer's drawer is numbered with an address, a single byte of stored information can be obtained by accessing the address number of its compartment. Figure 2 shows a memory chip with storage for 10 bytes, and each address described as a binary code.

Three types of digital memory

Once an address has been selected, then one of two operations can be performed. Either an 8-bit byte of data can be *written* (placed into) the memory location, or an 8-bit byte of data can be *read* (taken out of) the memory location.

Three types of memories have dominated memory technology. First is the *READ/WRITE* memory. Data can be written into memory and then read back out. Previously stored data can be changed (overwritten). Although it is not technically correct, these *READ/WRITE* memory chips have been dubbed *random access memory* or RAM chips. Most digital memory chips can be accessed randomly by selecting an address, but tradition defines the term RAM to mean *READ/WRITE* memory.

Because the storage cells of most RAM chips are made up of flip-flop circuits which, when power is removed, lose whatever information is stored, RAMs are a *volatile* memory. Two types of non-volatile memory circuits have been developed that remember their programmed data when power is removed.

The *READ-ONLY* memory (ROM) is preprogrammed by the manufacturer to permanently contain only a defined set of data. The ROMs of a video game are an example. Data in these chips can be passively read, but no new data can ever be written into the memory chip.

The third type of memory chip is the *Electrically Programmable Read-Only Memory* or EPROM. EPROMs are used by many manufacturers for prototyping programs that aren't yet complete, or by broadcast engineers who need to develop their own digital memory devices. EPROMs can be loaded with data using an inexpensive EPROM programmer device. An EPROM will hold its program and can only be erased by a strong ultraviolet light from an EPROM eraser. After erasure, it can be programmed again using the EPROM programmer.

Next month we'll examine how a memory chip decodes each address of its memory space.

#00	0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1	= 09 Hex = Byte Count
#01	0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0	= 22 Hex = "
#02	0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0	= 44 Hex = D
#03	0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1	= 69 Hex = I
#04	0 1 1 0 0 1 1 1	= 67 Hex = G
#05	0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1	= 69 Hex = I
#06	0 1 1 1 0 1 0 0	= 74 Hex = T
#07	0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1	= 61 Hex = A
#08	0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0	= 6CHex = L
#09	0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0	= 22 Hex = "

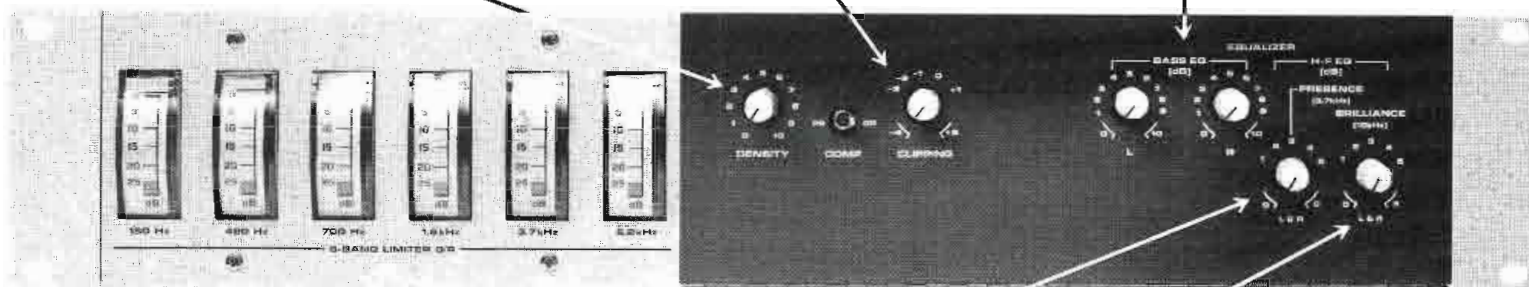
Figure 2. A 10-byte memory organization containing the text DIGITAL preceded by the number of bytes in the word. Note that 00 is a valid address.

Kaufhold is staff engineer at KAET-TV, Tempe, AZ.

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Circle (12) on Reply Card

The answers may be at the interface

By Ned Soseman,
TV technical editor

As serial data communications replaces traditional parallel remote control of broadcast equipment, users and managers are becoming increasingly aware of the need for improved diagnostic techniques. This is because the goal in data communications maintenance is to pinpoint and replace defective components as quickly as possible, often leaving repair for later.

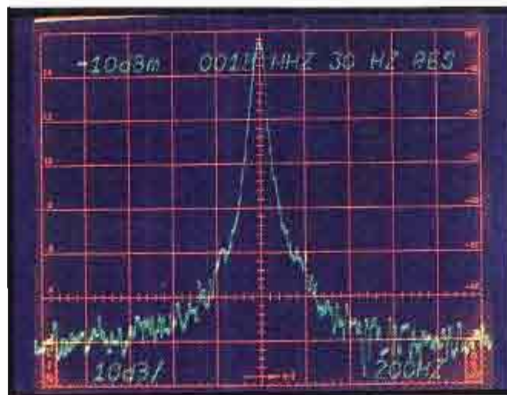
The starting point of serial communications troubleshooting is the communications interface. The interface is the point between the terminal or host computer, referred to as the data terminal equipment (DTE) and the line driver, or data communications equipment (DCE) found inside the equipment being controlled, or a modem. The DTE is also referred to as the *controlling*, or *master*, device and the DCE is referred to as the *controlled*, or *slave*, device.

For example, when two VTRs are connected together for machine-to-machine editing, the record VTR is the DTE (controlling or master device), and the play VTR is the DCE (controlled or slave device). In edit systems or station automation systems, the edit controller or automation computer is the DTE, and all VTRs are DCEs. The same VTR serial remote connector will be used regardless of function.

Serial standards

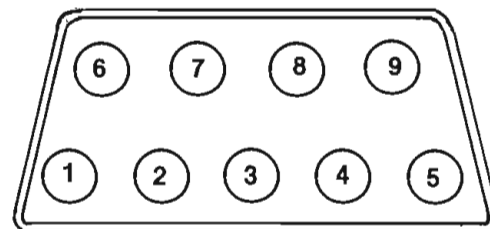
Several physical standards exist for interfacing. A typical broadcast interface uses the Electronic Industries Association's RS-232C or, more recently, SMPTE RS-422 standards as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The SMPTE RS-422 system uses only two wires for signaling in each direction, each balanced to ground. The typical broadcast equipment RS-422 data rate is 38.4K-baud. One driver can transmit over thousands of feet to up to 10 receivers.

In contrast, the older RS-232C uses up to 25 wires, and one driver is required for each receiver. RS-232C data transmission is usually at either 1,200baud (common to modems) or 9.6K-baud, although it may be used at speeds up to approximately 19.6K-baud over short distances of less than 50 feet.



The standards define voltage levels used in data transmission marks and spaces, regardless of whether the signal is generated by DTE and/or DCE equipment, and which pin on the interconnecting cable carries the signal. Standards do not define protocol. It is worthwhile to note that when interconnecting DTE to DCE, a straight one-for-one pin configuration is used. When two DTEs are interfaced, transmit and receive pins are typically reversed on one end of the cable.

Protocol is a formal set of rules and procedures for the exchange of information within a network. It simply defines the order in which things are done, and how that information is encoded. Be aware that some broadcast equipment manufacturers occasionally modify "industry standard" protocol slightly. Even the smallest disparity can create problems when you're trying to interface different brands of equipment.



PIN MASTER	SLAVE
1 FRAME GROUND	FRAME GROUND
2 RECEIVE A	TRANSMIT A
3 TRANSMIT B	RECEIVE B
4 TRANSMIT COMMON	RECEIVE COMMON
5 SPARE	SPARE
6 RECEIVE COMMON	TRANSMIT COMMON
7 RECEIVE B	TRANSMIT B
8 TRANSMIT A	RECEIVE A
9 FRAME GROUND	FRAME GROUND

Figure 1. RS-422 standards refer to the physical layout of the connector and pin configuration. The connector is a standard DS-9.

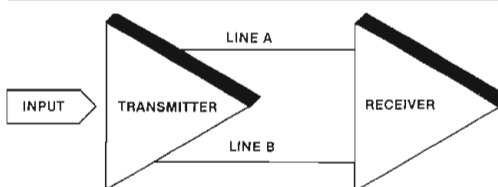


Figure 2. Block representation of A and B in RS-422 interface. Note that $A < B$ = mark or "1," and $A > B$ = space or "0."

The first step in troubleshooting any data communications is to obtain as much documentation as possible about communications protocol from each manufacturer of equipment to be interfaced. Some manufacturers hold their proprietary protocol details "close to the vest," which can complicate cross-checking. Expensive data communications test equipment such as digital oscilloscopes and logic analyzers, as discussed in previous "Troubleshooting" columns, are easy to use and can document data communications.

A simple tool that generally costs about the same as a DMM can provide all the information necessary to communicate with manufacturers about their protocol details, and to troubleshoot serial data interface problems. This tool is the *breakout box*.

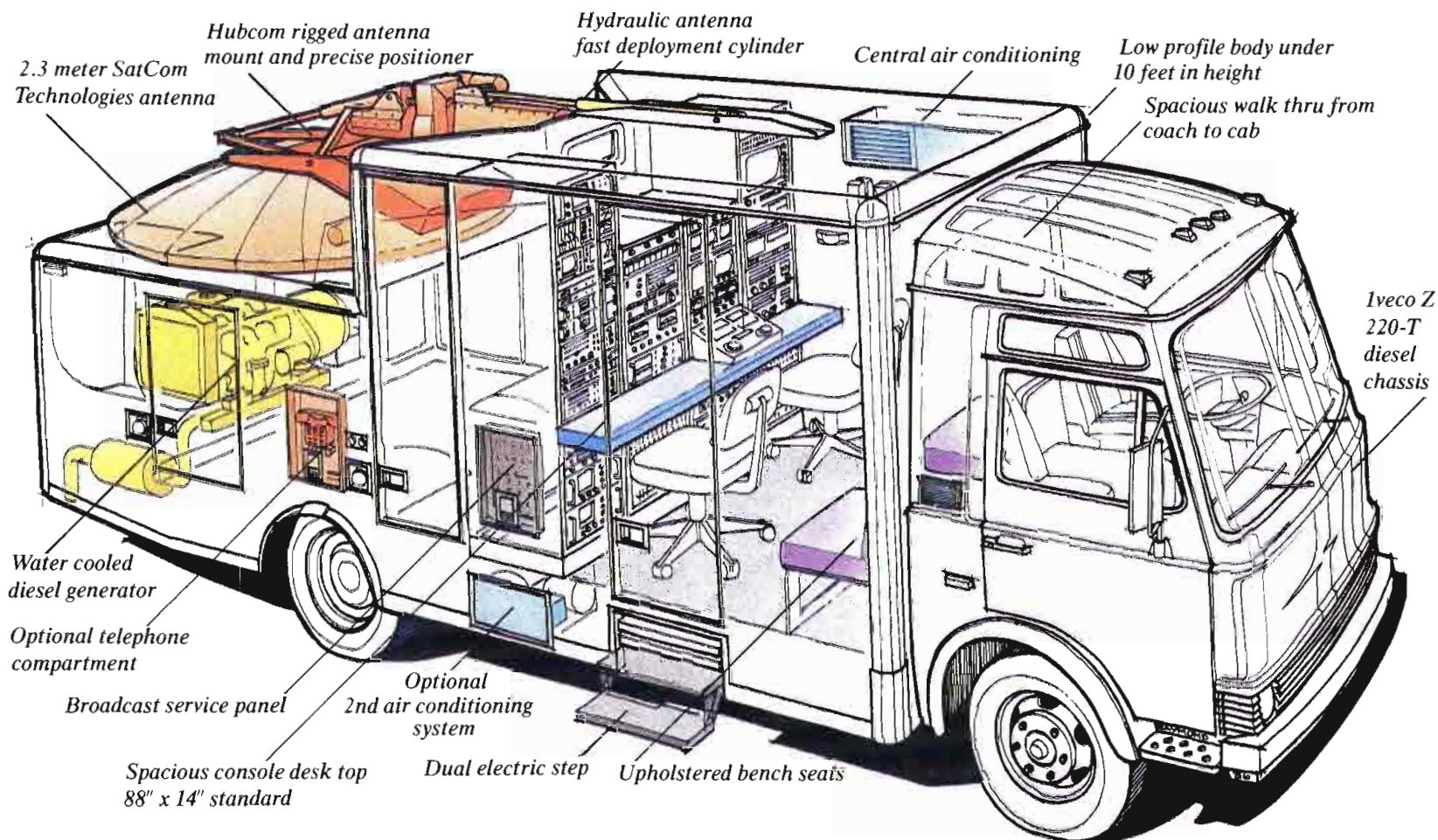
The breakout box

A breakout box is a device that is inserted in the cable between the DTE and DCE to monitor interface activity by providing a visual indication of signals on the lines. This indication may be with LEDs or, sometimes, with LCDs. As a command or response is transmitted, the breakout box will allow the engineer to see the code on the line. This code can then be translated, by referring to protocol, to a command function.

The *simulation mode* is available on some breakout boxes, and can be used to verify command functions by simulating data commands. It may be used to transmit data commands to equipment to verify that the equipment understands each command, by functioning as expected. Verification can be particularly helpful for new installations that involve a mix of manufacturers' products.

If interface monitoring reveals the absence of a signal that should be present, the breakout box may be used in its simulation mode to determine whether the signal actually is not being generated, or whether a cable or receiving device is shorting it out. This is accomplished by leaving the device that generates the signal connected to the box, while disconnecting the other device and cable.

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Circle (13) on Reply Card

If it's goodbye, make it good

By Brad Dick, radio technical editor

It caught him off guard.

"I'll see you in court," Kate said as she stormed out of Jim's office. "Oh boy," thought Jim. "That was the last thing I expected from her. Oh well, she'll get over it."

If you're a supervisor, the distasteful task of "letting someone go" may someday be necessary. The emotional upheaval of firing someone is bad enough, but try to imagine how you would feel if you, like Jim, were faced with lengthy litigation or a court battle over an employee's termination.

Case background

In last month's "Management" column, we met Kate, a 32-year-old single parent working as a videotape operator. Her work was satisfactory and Jim, her supervisor, had no complaints — until she began arriving late to work. Kate's subsequent termination backfired on the station because of the inefficient way Jim handled it. Let's see how he might have approached the situation differently.

During the first year of Kate's employment, Jim regularly visits with her while she is at work. The talks are informal and Jim encourages Kate to ask questions and to know what is expected.

After six months, Kate receives her first formal employee review. Jim assesses her performance and, together, they outline several goals and expectations for the next year. They both sign the original copy of the review and it is placed in Kate's file. A copy of the review is given to her.

Jim continues the informal discussions with Kate, although they are conducted on a less regular basis. Kate is reviewed once a year up to the time her behavior becomes troublesome.

First warning

One week, Jim notices Kate arriving late for work several times. When it happens again the next week, he calls her to his office. The discussions center on why she is reporting late for work. When no concrete reason—in Jim's opinion—is given, he admonishes her to get to work on time. She agrees. Jim then places his handwritten notes about the meeting in



her employee file.

When she is late again, two days in a row, another conference is held. Jim presents her with a letter outlining the station's policy on employee absenteeism. The letter notes that upon Kate's employment with the company, she received and signed for, a copy of this policy. She is warned in the letter that continued tardiness could result in her dismissal.

Another employee, Fred, begins reporting to work late. Jim repeats the conference procedure with him. The notes are placed in Fred's file.

When Jim returns from a vacation, he receives reports that Kate arrived late while he was away. He calls another meeting with her. They review the previous meetings, company policy and the previous letter. Jim presents her with a new letter stating that continued tardiness will result in dismissal. (It is important to note here that Jim has no first-hand knowledge of her arrival times while he was on vacation. The reports came from another department supervisor and Jim believes they are reliable.)

In an effort to keep the station management informed, Jim schedules a meeting with his supervisor. Together they review his records, discuss alternatives and agree that a log of her arrival times should be placed in her file.

During the next month, Jim keeps a log of Kate's arrival and departure times. Because her tardiness continues, Jim decides to terminate Kate. Before he proceeds, he informs his supervisor of his planned actions. They review Kate's performance history and Jim's records. Jim and his supervisor determine that termination is appropriate.

After the termination meeting, Jim makes a written statement of the facts and Kate's performance history. He does *not* place a favorable reference letter in her file.

Detailed records

Before you proceed down that stressful path of firing an employee, review the following checklist. It may help you objectively review your proposed actions.

- Have you thoroughly investigated the

facts supporting the decision to terminate the person?

- Does the employee's behavior violate a specific rule? Has the rule been communicated to all employees? Can you prove the rule has been communicated to all employees?
- Has the rule been applied reasonably?
- If company or union disciplinary procedures require prior warnings, have those warnings been given? Have you documented these warnings and have they been presented in writing to the employee?
- Has the company applied the rule in a non-discriminatory manner? Give this careful thought if the employee to be discharged is female or a member of a minority.
- Is the discharge reasonable, in light of the employee's seniority and past disciplinary record?
- Is there any chance your desire to terminate the employee could be the result of a personality clash? Are you acting in an impartial manner? Have your supervisor review the situation before you take action.
- Carefully document all of your actions.

Although employee termination is an unpleasant task, your position as a supervisor or manager may require it. Failure to discipline an unsatisfactory employee may result in lowered staff morale. You, as manager, must maintain an effective team. That means all workers pull their share of the load.

Prevention is the best cure

Prevention is the best policy where employee terminations are involved. Anything you can do to help the employee become an effective worker will benefit not only the station, but also the employee.

A station's most valuable resources are its employees. Equipment can always be replaced. And yes, so can employees, but there remains a great difference.

Editor's note: Information for this article was obtained from "Electronic Media Management," by William E. McCavitt and Peter K. Pringle, Focal Press, Boston, London.

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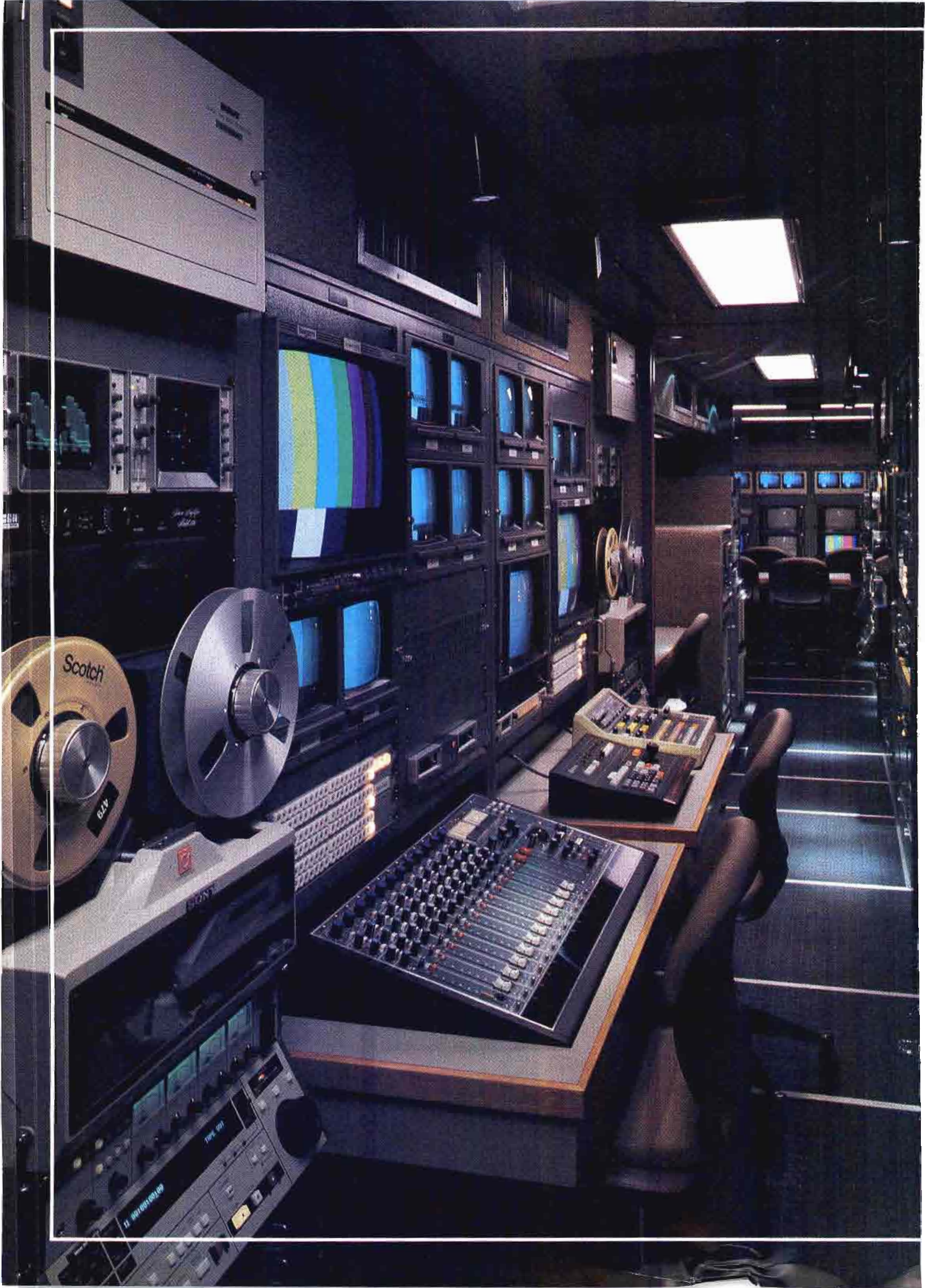
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Broadcasting from the field

INTRODUCTION

Radio and TV stations have used the remote location broadcast for decades to bring their audiences an added sense of realism and excitement. And although the concept of the *remote*—as it is better known—has not changed substantially in the past 30 years, the means to accomplish the task has seen quantum leaps in performance, ease of operation and reliability.

Today's outside broadcast systems for radio and television can be configured to provide virtually any degree of sophistication required by the station. And as with any other area of broadcasting, the key to a successful RENG system is careful and detailed planning.

In this special emphasis report, we examine the technology that makes today's ENG (electronic news gathering), EFP (electronic field production) and RENG (radio ENG) operations possible.

- "Radio Field Production" Page 26
- "An RENG Case History" Page 52
- "Planning a Remote Production Vehicle" Page 68
- "Taking to the Skies" Page 76

This editorial package provides guidelines on how to plan and construct outside broadcast facilities and equipment for radio and TV stations. We also present two case histories of successful OB designs. Outside broadcast activities are too important to be left to chance.

As outside broadcast productions become more important to stations, the equipment available to perform the work improves. Shown is the NBC-TV NT-5 tape truck, used on large remote broadcasts that require elaborate taping and switching functions. The 45-foot trailer has been in service a little more than one year, primarily assigned to the production of sports programs.

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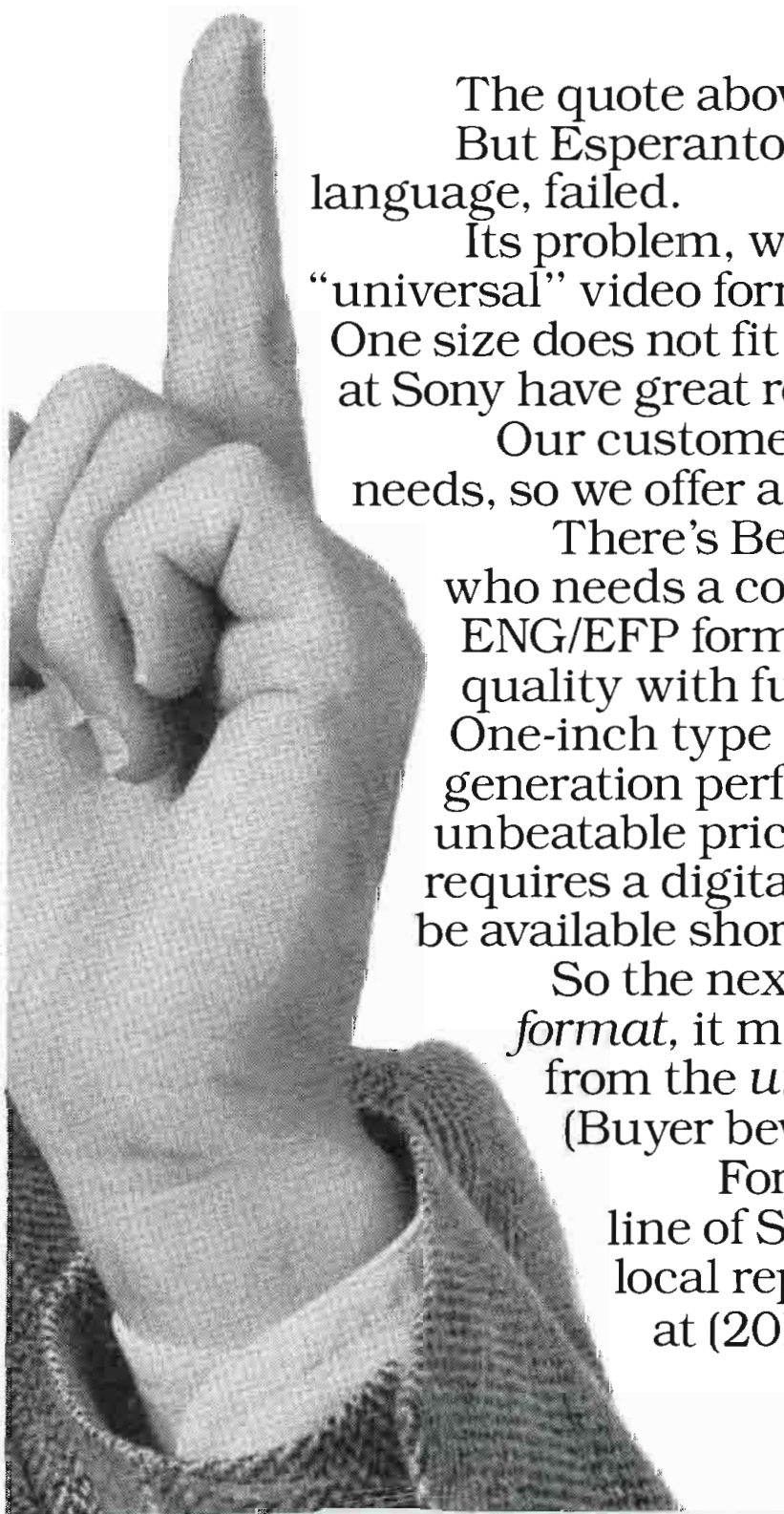
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Radio field production

By Brad Dick,
radio technical editor

Radio field production can stretch your patience to the limits, but the rewards of a successful remote are extremely satisfying.

Engineers who have been involved in a lot of remotes are often either gray-headed or bald. These same engineers may also have big smiles on their faces. Although there may be no scientific evidence to support it, these two opposing conditions are a likely result of the stress and satisfaction associated with producing live broadcasts from the field.

Remote broadcasts can be the biggest pain in the back (literally) and the highest high in engineering. Engineers seem to enjoy the opportunity to leave the humdrum life of the studio behind and venture into the outside world. There, whatever can go wrong will and no matter how much planning you do, something exciting (or disastrous) usually happens.

Even so, when you've been through a remote, there is a feeling of exhilaration that is difficult to describe. In some cases, it may be a sense of relief that it's over and nothing terrible happened. But usually there is a feeling of accomplishment and pride in helping produce another successful remote broadcast, something that is unique to our industry.

Changing technology

The industry has come a long way from the old days of heavy, tube-laden amplifiers and cameras. Today, the smaller and lighter remote equipment make the work more enjoyable. It's now

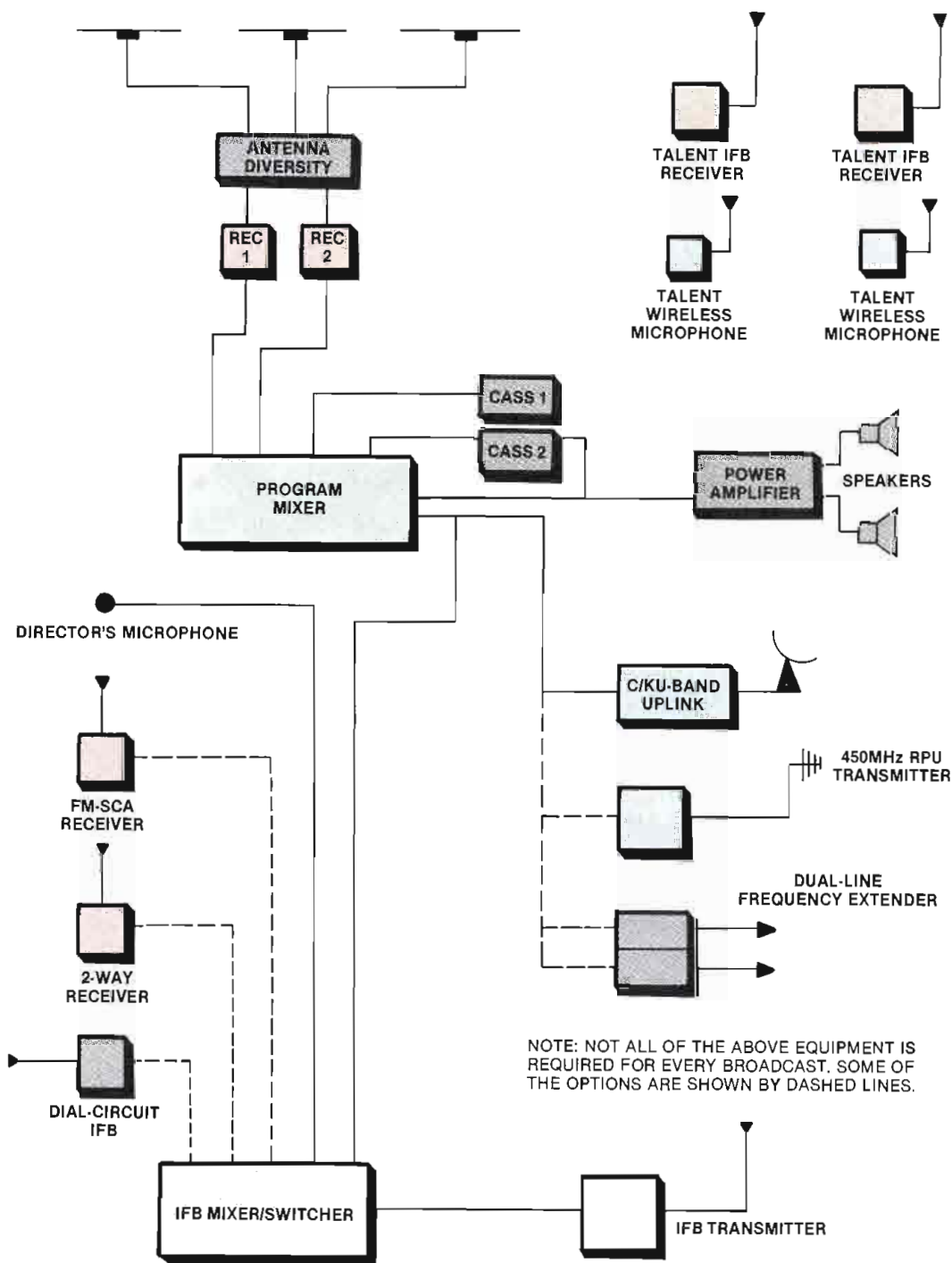
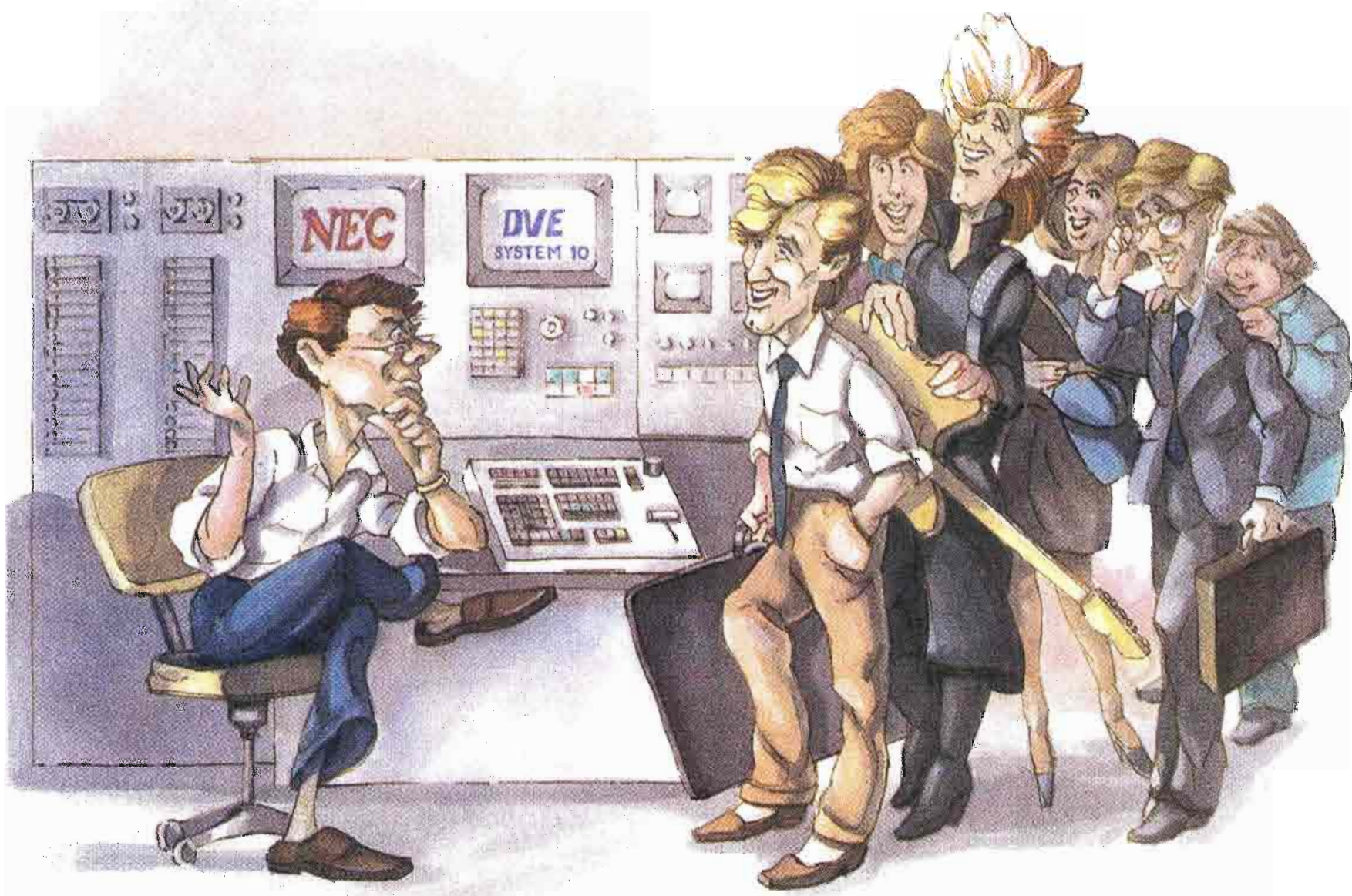


Figure 1. The example remote broadcast setup and some of the alternatives available for program transmission and IFB communication.



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possible for a sportscaster to carry enough equipment for a broadcast in a single bag or case weighing only a few pounds. Complex radio remotes can be accomplished with the equipment carried in a standard van.

Although the remotes themselves have become easier and the equipment lighter, the primary objective is still to deliver the programming from the remote location back to the studio. There are three distinctly different ways to transport the audio. Telephone lines,

both dial and equalized, RF links and satellite transmission are typically available. The particular medium selected often depends more on cost than on each system's relative technical advantages.

The typical remote broadcast

Figure 1 shows the equipment setup for a typical remote broadcast. Although the example may be more or less complex than what your station needs, it will provide the introduction for a closer ex-

amination of some important remote broadcast elements. This example provides the talent with wireless microphones. To ensure reliable operation, diversity operation will be used.

Because listener telephone calls will be accepted at the remote site, a wireless interrupted foldback (IFB) system is also needed. In the example, a separate IFB mixer/switcher is used to allow any combination of IFB feeds. The system can operate with FM SCA, dial telephone, or 2-way radio back-haul signals.

Finally, this example remote will rely on satellite transmission for a stereo interconnect. Other possibilities for program transmission could include dual-line telephones or an RF link.

Telephone lines

Radio remotes used to be carried primarily on equalized telephone loops. With the Bell breakup, equalized telephone loops are now more difficult to find. In some cities, equalized loops are almost impossible (or too expensive) to obtain. Even if they are available, the order usually has to be placed many weeks before the broadcast. This situation often forces broadcasters to use dial circuits for signal transmission. The quality available over a standard dial loop is, unfortunately, nothing short of terrible.

The typical frequency response of a dial circuit is approximately 300Hz to 3kHz. The signal-to-noise ratio is also relatively poor. The advent of digital telephone transmission has created other types of problems.

Although digital has come to be synonymous with high-quality audio, the opposite is often true where the telephone is concerned. Digital transmission requires that the audio be band-limited to half of the D/A converter's sampling frequency. Because telephone company *codecs* (coder/decoders) use an 8kHz sampling, the telephone line's audio frequency response is limited to 4kHz. In actual practice, sharp filters (like the one shown in Figure 2) are used to sharply attenuate frequencies above 3.4kHz.

The frequency-limited properties of dial circuits have spawned a new generation of quality-enhancing devices. Through frequency-shifting techniques (heterodyning), it is possible to improve the quality of audio transmitted over dial circuits.

These devices, called frequency extenders, shift all audio frequencies up approximately 250Hz. The result is a corresponding improvement in the low-end frequency response. With this scheme, the frequency response may approach 50Hz to 2,750Hz. Although the result is certainly not *studio quality*, it's better than can be obtained over a standard



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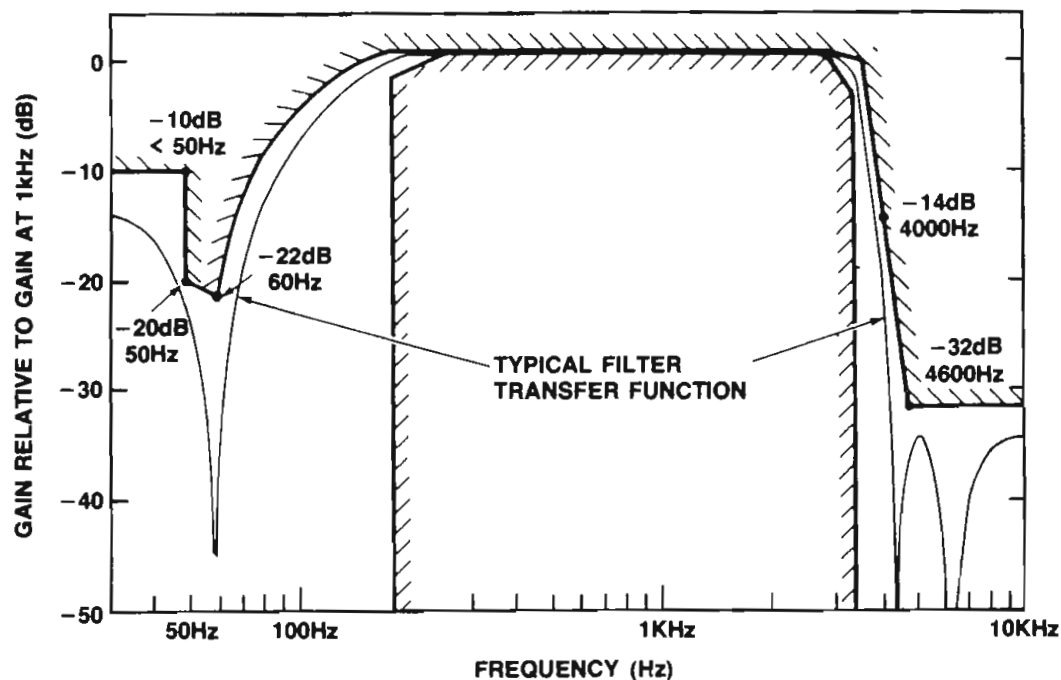
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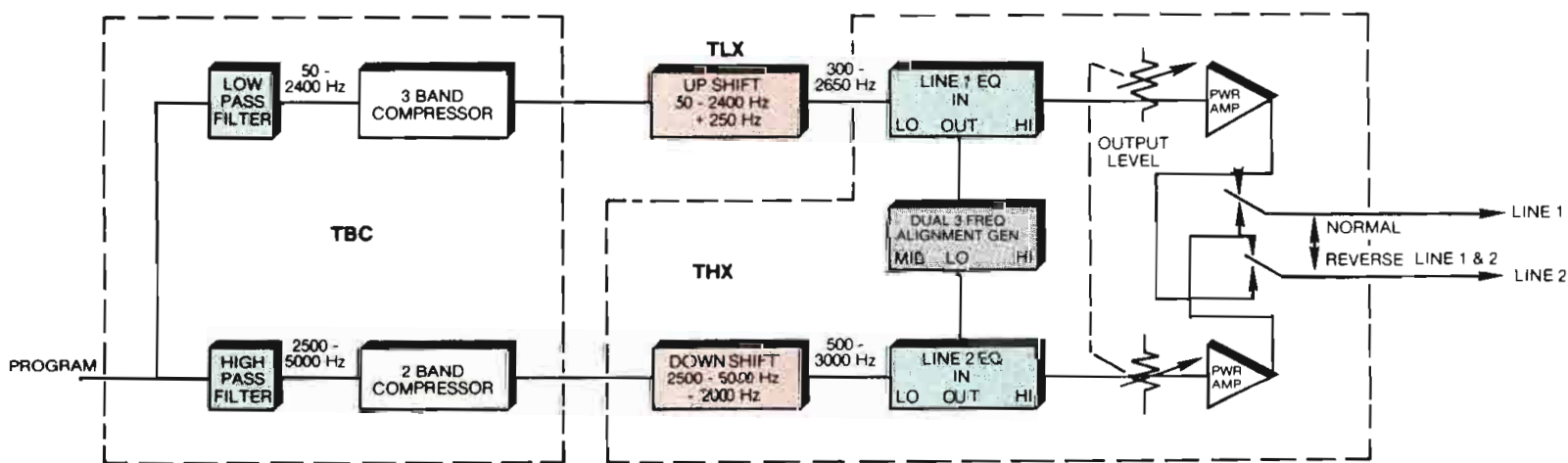
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Figure 2. Telephone lines pass through narrow filters prior to D/A conversion. The anti-alias filters create severe problems for a station attempting wideband transmission.



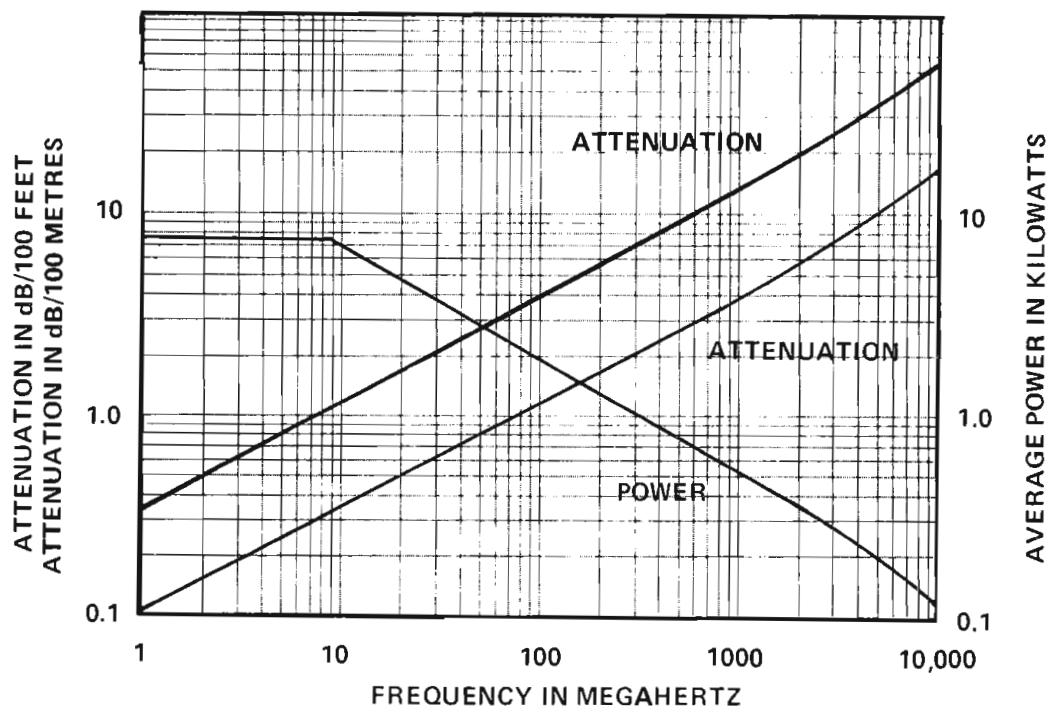
Courtesy of NAB Engineering Handbook

Figure 3. Two-line frequency extenders divide the audio into separate bands and shift one band up and the other band down in frequency. When recombined in the receiver, a 50Hz to 5kHz response is provided.



Courtesy of Comrex

Figure 4. Typical attenuation and power-handling ratings for 1/2-inch foam dielectric coax.



Courtesy of Andrew Corporation

phone line.

The primary benefit can be heard on male voices. A frequency extender helps preserve the apparent quality of the male voice by saving that portion of the lower frequencies that would normally be lost in the telephone transmission process. In general, the frequency extender provides less benefit to female voices because they tend to be higher-pitched.

Despite the benefits obtained from gaining back the lower frequencies, the upper frequencies are still cut off at approximately 3kHz. However, by using two dial circuits and a dual-line frequency extender, it is possible to provide a 5kHz audio path.

A dual-line device, shown in Figure 3, divides the audio into two bands of approximately 50Hz to 2,400Hz and 2,500Hz to 5,000Hz. The lower band is shifted up 250Hz and the upper band is shifted down 2,000Hz. The two separate signals are transmitted over separate dial circuits and recombined later in the receiver. Multiband companding circuits are often used to further improve the

audio quality.

The extenders are sometimes contained within remote consoles, forming a self-contained remote package. Also, 2-line extenders provide automatic switching to the non-encoded mode, in case one of the two lines fails. The simplicity of the newer 2-line devices makes their operation easy and straightforward.

RF links

RF links continue to be an attractive alternative for many stations. With the ever-increasing cost of telephone lines, remote pickup (RPU) portable transmitters provide a cost-effective way to transmit programming. RF links also have the advantage of providing higher-quality audio than may be available from dial circuits.

RPU typically refers to transmission in either the 150MHz or 450MHz bands. Although other frequencies are available,

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they are seldom used. The 150MHz is limited to voice-quality transmission and is usually quite crowded. There are more channels and bandwidth options in the 450MHz band.

Some radio stations are just now beginning to use the 20GHz and 30GHz intercity-relay (ICR) frequencies. The links can be either 1-way or 2-way, as needed by the station. However, the equipment is expensive and path-length-and weather-sensitive. Also, the equipment requires highly directional antennas. This equipment may not be suitable for RPU applications that require transmission from various locations.

There is a wide variety of RF equipment available for field work. In the

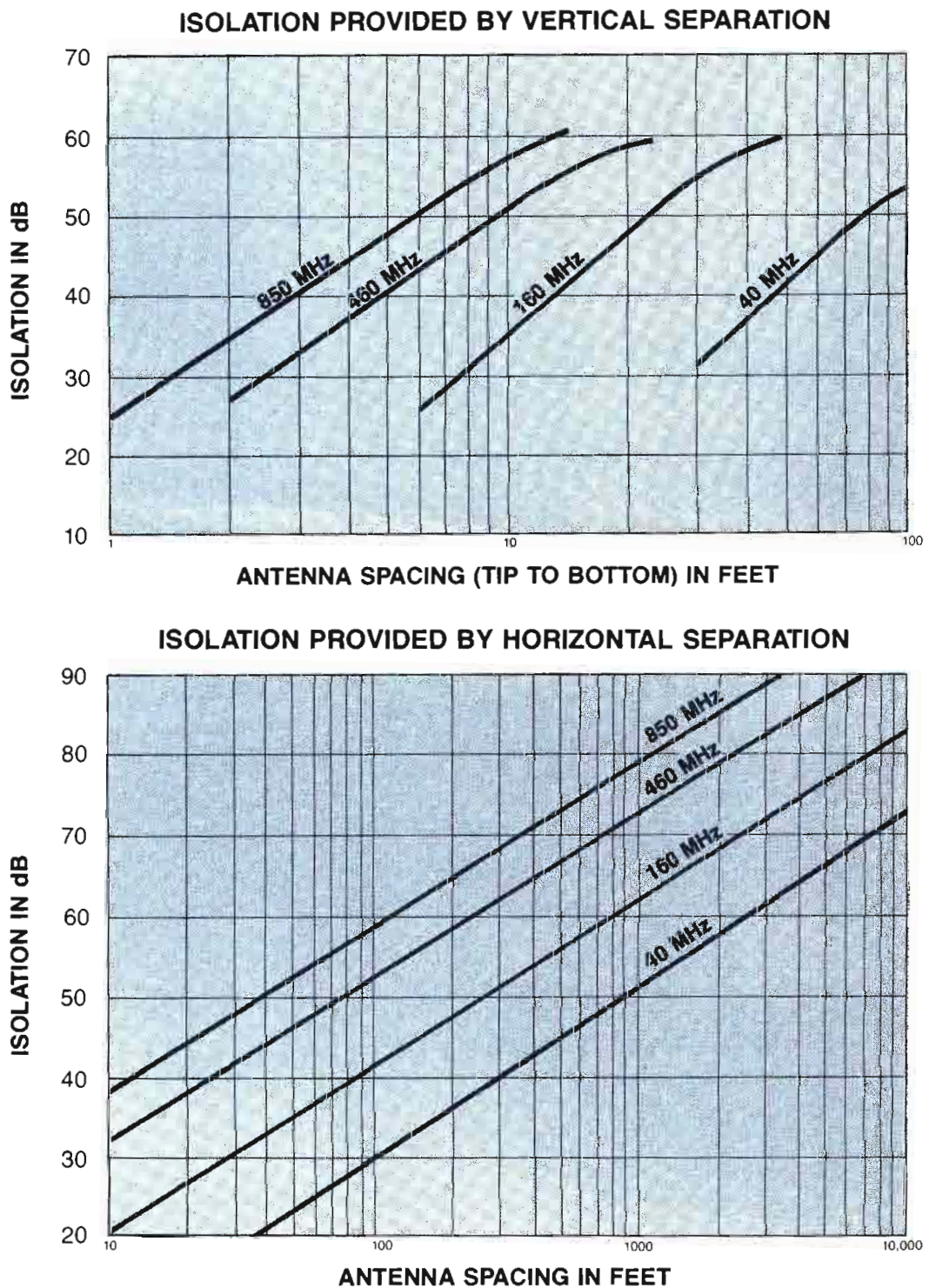
450MHz band, transmitters range from pocket-sized to rack-mounted devices. Power outputs range from a few watts for hand-held transmitters to approximately 50W for portable units. External amplifiers with power ranges up to 100W are also available. These amplifiers are sometimes necessary for that extra push to deliver the signal to the studio.

Frequency coordination

The first important element to consider when designing an RPU system is frequency coordination. After all, if you select a frequency that later turns out to be busy, your system may be useless. Also, it is irresponsible to power up a

Continued on page 36

Figure 5. Separating the receive antenna from other transmitting antennas will often provide the needed isolation. The tower and other structures can have a significant impact on the actual isolation encountered.



Courtesy of Celwave R.F.



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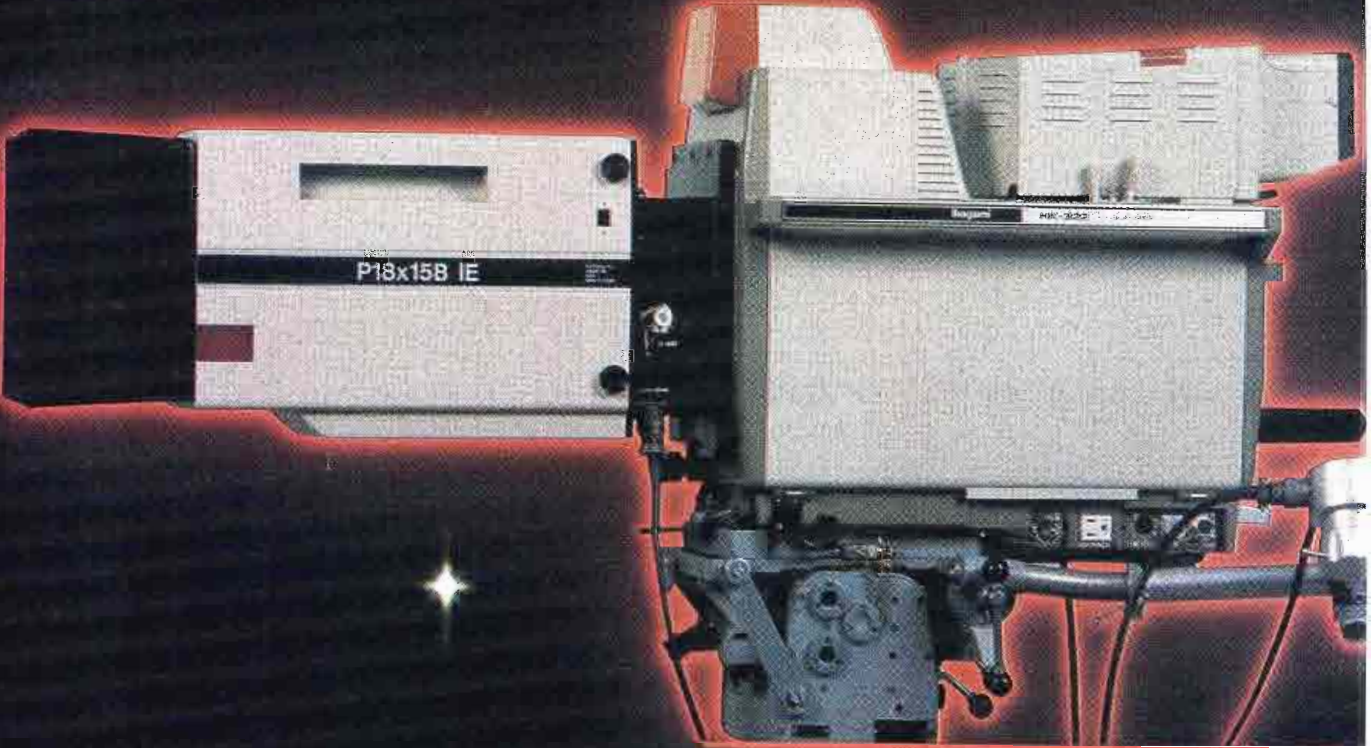
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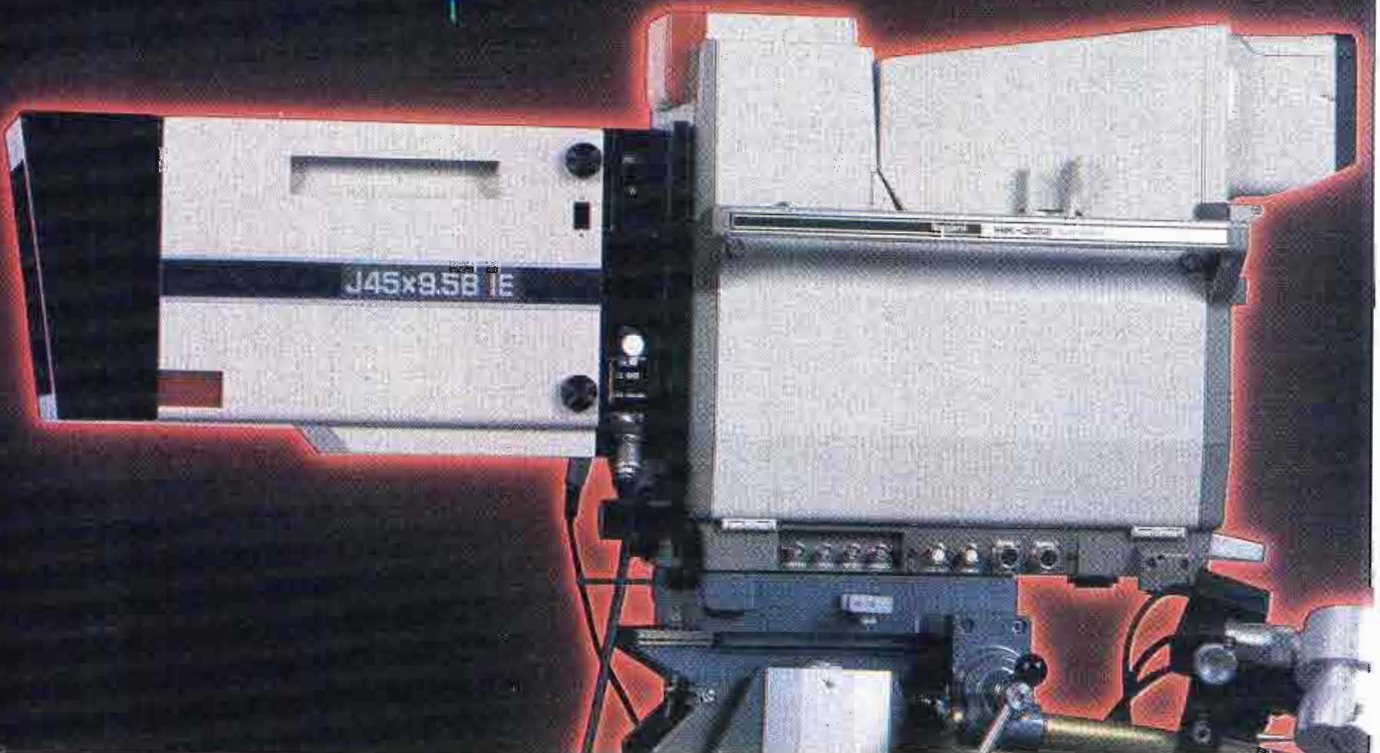
HK-322 hand-held companion HL-79E



P18x15B IE



HK-323 hand-held companion HK-323P



J45x9.5B IE

Continued from page 32

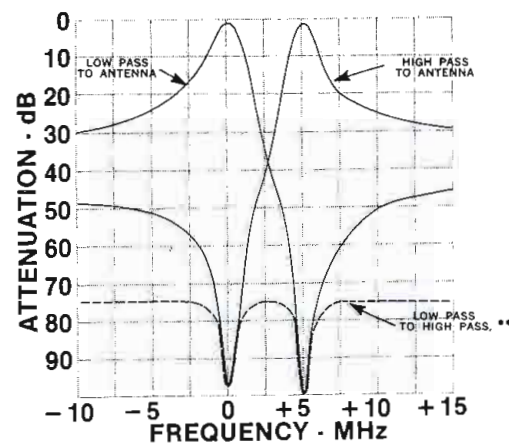
system without first being sure the channel is clear for use. The last thing you want to hear is another station's traffic on your air signal. The rule here is cooperation.

A complete list of SBE frequency coordinators appears on page 138. If you need access to RPU frequencies, contact a coordinator for assistance. They can usually help you identify an open channel. Although there is no FCC rule that you must cooperate with the SBE coordinator, it is in the best interests of all users to do so.

Path engineering

After you have identified a potential usable frequency, it's time to look at some typical paths to see how much gain and loss will be encountered. Although it is not practical to do this for every possible RPU broadcast site, select a couple of potential transmit-and-receive locations

Figure 6. Typical bandpass-reject filter frequency response. Properly selected, such a unit will protect the receiver from overload.



Courtesy of Decibel Products

for the first evaluation process. In most cases, the difference in mileage between potential broadcast sites will be insignificant to the overall system losses. An exception to this rule applies if a grazing path exists between the transmitter and receiver.

In an RPU system, fade margin can be computed by using the following equation:

$$G_s = G_t + G_{i_a} + G_{r_a}$$

Where G_s = total system (gain dB)
 G_t = transmitter power output (dBm)
 G_{i_a} = transmit antenna gain (dBi)
 G_{r_a} = receive antenna gain (dBi)

The values for G_{i_a} and G_{r_a} are available from your antenna manufacturer's literature. (Note: dBi = dBd + 1.1dB, approximately.) The value for G_t is given by the following formula:

$$G_t = 30 + 10 \log P_o$$

Where G_t = transmitter power output in dBm
 P_o = transmitter power output in watts

Next, the system losses are computed:

$$L_s = L_p + L_t + L_c + L_m$$

Where L_s = total system losses (dB)
 L_p = path loss (dB)
 L_t = transmission line loss (dB)
 L_c = connector losses (dB)
 L_m = miscellaneous losses (dB)

The values for L_t and L_c can be determined from the manufacturer's literature. Typical loss for 1/2-inch foam-filled transmission line is shown in Figure 4. A reasonable value for connector loss with components normally used in 1/2-inch transmission installations is 0.5dB. The value for L_p can be computed from the following formula:

$$L_p = 36.6 + 20 \log F + 20 \log D$$

L_p = the free space attenuation loss between two isotropic radiators (dB)
 F = frequency of operation in MHz
 D = distance between the antennas in statute miles

$$\text{Fade margin (dB)} = G_s - L_s - R_m$$

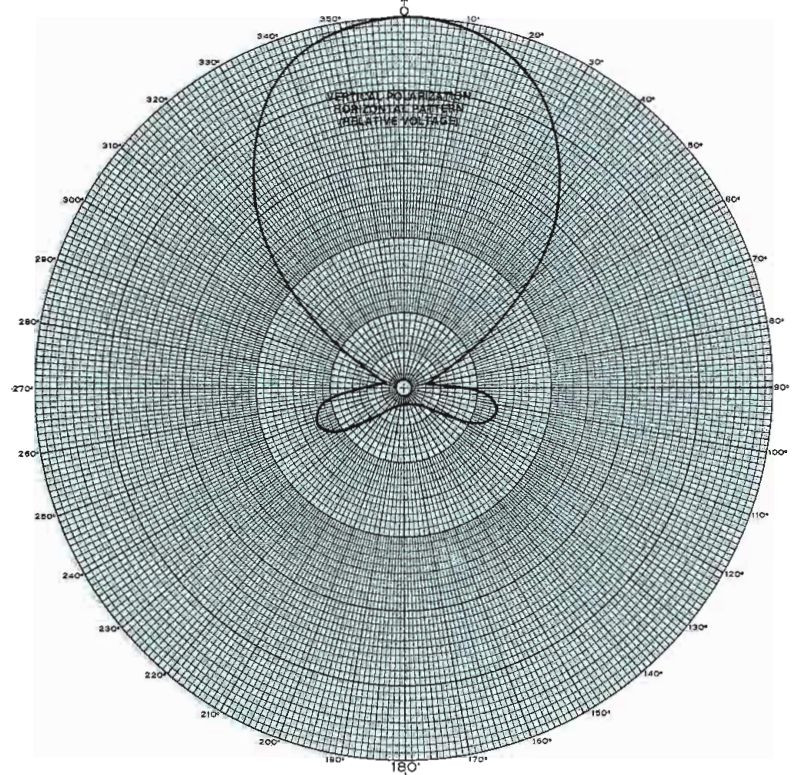
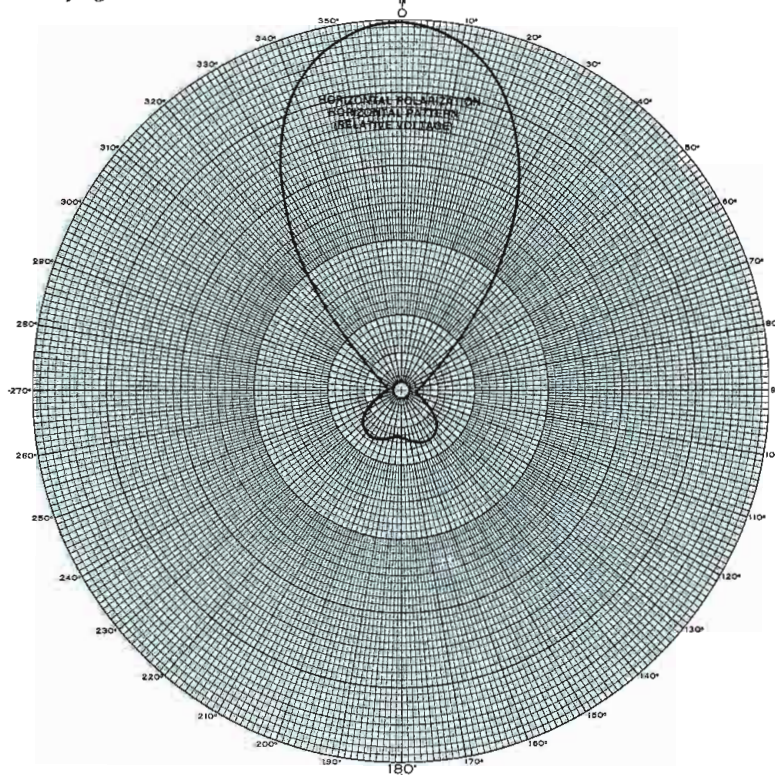
Where G_s = total system gain (dB)
 L_s = total system losses (dB)
 R_m = minimum signal strength required for target S/N (dBm, a negative number)

G_t and L_s are determined by the equations previously shown. R_m (receiver sensitivity) is determined from the receiver manufacturer's specifications. If the manufacturer gives a receiver sensitivity figure in microvolts, the following formula can be used to convert to dBm:

$$R_m = 20 \log \frac{V_r \times 10^{-6}}{0.7746}$$

Where R_m = minimum required signal strength (dBm)
 V_r = receiver sensitivity (microvolts)

Figure 7. Horizontal relative voltage patterns for a horizontal (left) and vertical (right) polarized yagi antenna.



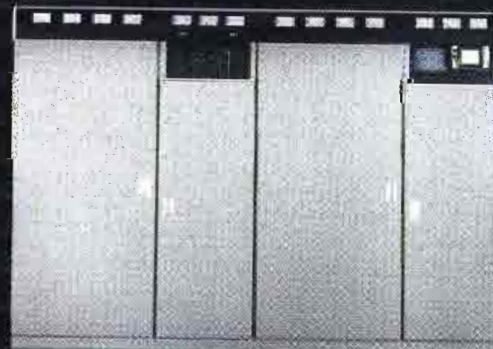
In order to predict accurately the performance of an RPU link, the value of R_m

Courtesy of Scala Electronic Corporation

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must be determined carefully. Many receiver manufacturers specify V_r for 20dB of receiver quieting. This level is a convenient reference point. However, it should not be used for fade margin calculations. For maximum system performance and reliability, the fade margin determination should be based upon the signal level required to provide the minimum acceptable receiver S/N performance.

The recommended fade margin for a 150MHz band RPU system is at least 10dB plus 2dB for each 10 miles of line-

of-sight path distance greater than 10 miles. At 450MHz, the fade margin should be increased to a minimum of 15dB plus 3dB for each 10 miles of distance greater than 10 miles.

These fade margins are designed to limit periods of performance degradation of the radio link to 1% or less during worst-case environmental conditions. The fade margin assumes transmit and receive antenna clearance above the ground and all obstructions of 50 feet to 100 feet.

Although it is important to provide an

adequate fade margin, needlessly high fade margins should be avoided. Spectrum congestion may result from excessive transmitted power. Variable power output transmitters give the user the capability to adjust for an optimum fade margin, while keeping radiation toward other stations at a minimum.

Antennas

The success or failure of an RF link depends greatly on the antenna system. The difference between a successful RPU system and one that fails to cover the intended area is usually decided by the antenna system. Gain is only one element. Although many RPU installations rely on omnidirectional receive antennas, directional receive antennas can solve (or create) many problems.

Many engineers mistakenly assume that the best location for their RPU receive antenna is as high as possible on their tower. That may not be the case. A receive site that appears to provide good coverage for your field vehicles, from a height standpoint, actually may not be a good site for your RPU receiver.

A high location is usually optimum for both transmission and reception. However, if the site also contains several other stations or services, then the high-level RF may prevent the RPU receiver from operating properly.

Even if the other services are operating in widely separated bands, high RF voltages can desensitize the receiver, which will at least reduce your effective range and may completely block your desired signal. Try to determine what frequencies and power levels might be encountered at the proposed receive antenna location. Armed with this information, the receiver manufacturer may be able to help you determine if the proposed location will cause a problem.

It's sometimes necessary to separate the receiver and transmitter antennas to prevent overloading the receiver. As shown in Figure 5, the amount of isolation provided between antennas is primarily a function of spacing. UHF antennas can generally be placed closer together than can VHF antennas for the same amount of isolation. Vertical separation provides more isolation than horizontal separation. Tower coupling and nearby reflective surfaces can alter the amount of isolation provided in any installation.

If desensitization is a problem and separation cannot cure it, the next alternative may be tuned filters or cavities. A well-designed cavity or filter, located prior to the receiver front-end, will usually reduce the out-of-band signals enough to permit proper operation. Some receiver manufacturers provide internal

Continued on page 42

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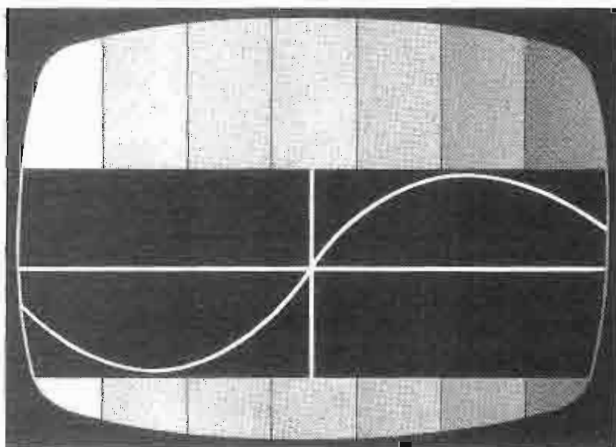
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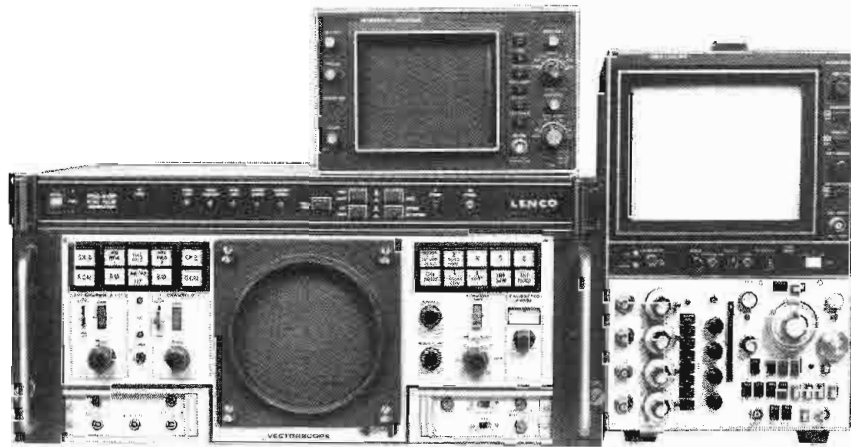
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Continued from page 38

filters for their receivers. Even so, this may not be adequate to sufficiently reduce the problem. The key is a bandpass filter with sharp skirts to prevent extraneous signals from desensitizing the receiver.

Figure 6 shows frequency response for

a typical RF bandpass-reject filter. Don't select a filter with a too-narrow bandpass. If you do, the received audio quality will be severely limited. Although using filters or cavities is inexpensive, the savings may be insignificant compared with the cost of locating the receiver on another tower or building.

The remote broadcast setup shown here uses several wireless links and a dual-line return link for program transmission. IFB is provided via small beltpack receivers.



Broadcasting from an aircraft poses special problems for the RPU equipment. The equipment shown here is capable of dual-frequency operation, which provides reliable operation for the station's helicopter traffic reports.



Photos by Ben Weiss, KLSI-FM, Kansas City, MO

Antenna types

The easiest RPU receive antenna to use is the omnidirectional type. It is simple to mount and provides circular coverage, which is usually important. Large towers can affect these antennas, so the mounting location on the tower is important. It is usually best to space these antennas away from the tower at an optimum distance. Because that distance varies with frequency, check with the manufacturer before installation.

There may be situations that demand a more complex receive-antenna system. This is especially true if you want to extend the RPU system's range without interference from other transmitters.

The typical RPU directional receive antenna has five elements, providing approximately 10dB of gain over a reference dipole. Radiation patterns for this antenna are shown in Figure 7. Note that the antenna's pattern is different for horizontal and vertical polarizations. It may be important to know this if you run into interference problems. If additional gain is needed, more antennas can be stacked together or larger antennas can be used. Also, 10-element antennas are commonly used.

Simply stacking antennas together is not as easy as it might appear. If they are improperly spaced, the pattern and gain of the assembly can be severely deteriorated. If you plan on using more than one antenna to build an array, be sure you follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Of course, the drawback with using a directional receive antenna is that it must be rotated to aim at the RPU transmitter. A remote-control system can be used to properly orient the antenna. The remote control should provide both receiver signal strength and azimuth indications. Operators will soon become familiar with "zeroing in" on the remote site if they have the proper indications on the remote-control system.

Most RPU receivers provide a field strength or AGC signal that can be buffered to drive the remote control. The antenna rotor also has a dc voltage, which can be used to derive a reference-direction signal for the remote control.

There are several advantages to using a movable receive antenna. First, it is easier to eliminate any interference that may be present (assuming it is not located on the same azimuth as the remote pickup site). Second, the rotating antenna—usually an array—can provide additional gain, which will increase the potential range of your system.

Yagi antennas can be operated with either horizontal or vertical polarization. If you experience interference, changing the polarity may reduce the problem. This, in combination with being able to rotate the antenna, should provide

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Remote site equipment

Most of the information on receive antennas also applies to the transmit side. Usually, smaller antennas are used at the remote site because it's physically difficult to handle large antennas. They have to be installed and removed for every broadcast. Also, pneumatic masts have limited support capacity.

If you are going to the trouble of building a van, go ahead and install a pneumatic mast. Although it's expensive, it's worth it. A 30-foot mast will allow you to shoot over most local obstructions and keep the antenna far above any crowds that gather around your truck.

These masts have two disadvantages. First, either an air compressor or bottled nitrogen must be used to raise them. Compressors add to the vehicle cost and bottled gas must be constantly monitored so you don't run out just before a broadcast.

The second and far more dangerous disadvantage concerns safety. At least one engineer has been killed while using a telescoping mast. It's a good idea to install roof-mounted lights, so you can check the area above the mast before

raising it at night. It is also a good idea to install an air-pressure switch and alarm in the mast's air line. Connect the switch to the van's ignition switch. Properly wired, the alarm will sound when someone tries to start the van with the mast in a raised position.

When fully compressed, the mast will extend approximately one foot above the top of the van. Keep this in mind when driving or you might make an expensive mistake. Vans equipped with telescoping masts *cannot* be driven into parking garages. At least one engineer has learned this the hard way.

Don't forget to service the mast. As the mast is telescoped up and down, the leather seals begin to dry out. Dirt collects on the mast surface and causes friction between the mast and the seals. If it is not properly maintained, cold weather can cause it to stick in the extended position or to not fully extend itself. The mast should be cleaned regularly with a soft cloth and oiled according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Special oils are sometimes suggested by the manufacturer.

Automatic relay stations

Although the example remote setup

did not require an automatic relay station (ARS), they are sometimes required. If you have been unfortunate enough to discover that a relay system is required for your station, then additional complexity (and cost) comes into play. Special FCC rules apply when using ARS, so be sure you have a copy of them before you begin.

A basic ARS system is shown in Figure 8. This system requires a receiver and a transmitter located at some midpoint in the signal path. Usually, the station will locate the ARS at a high location and relay the programming back to the studio on a second frequency.

The originating (field) frequencies can be in the 150MHz band or the 450MHz band. However, retransmission must be in the 450MHz band. If the originating signal is in the 450MHz band, the relay signal must be separated by at least 4MHz. The FCC also requires that some protection be incorporated into the transmitter control circuit to prevent the transmitter from remaining on the air when no program signal is present.

An adaptation of the ARS idea is the mobile repeater. It basically operates the same as an ARS system, but over a much shorter path. The repeater system becomes useful when a wireless microphone is needed to cover an event. News events are the most likely to need mobile-repeater operation. As shown in Figure 9, a hand-carried transmitter is used by the talent or newscaster. The small transmitter's signal is received in the mobile van, fed to the high-power transmitter, which is also located in the van, and finally relayed to the studio on a second frequency.

Wireless microphones

In the example, the disc jockey and guest are provided with wireless microphones operating in the 450MHz band. To minimize multipath dropouts, a diversity reception system is used.

A typical space-diversity receiver system is shown in Figure 10. Three receive antennas are located as near as practical to the microphone area and approximately 1/2-wavelength apart. Two antennas are vertically polarized and

Figure 8. Block diagram of a typical automatic relay station (ARS). The system shown provides 2-way communication to the units in the field. Not all of the components shown are required.

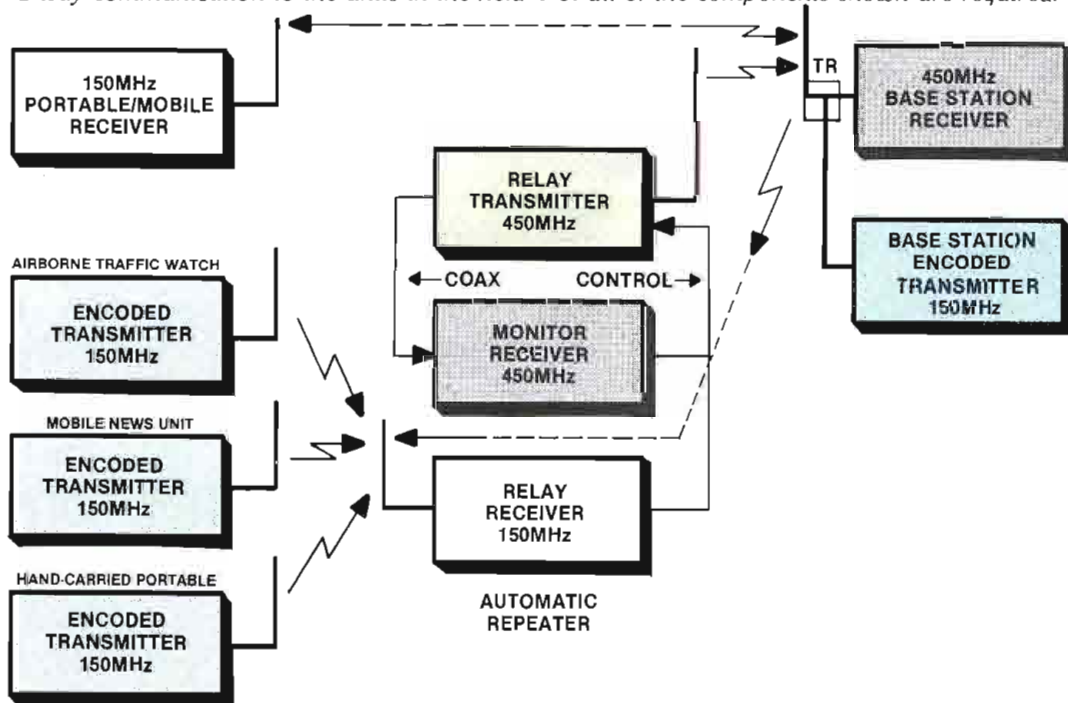
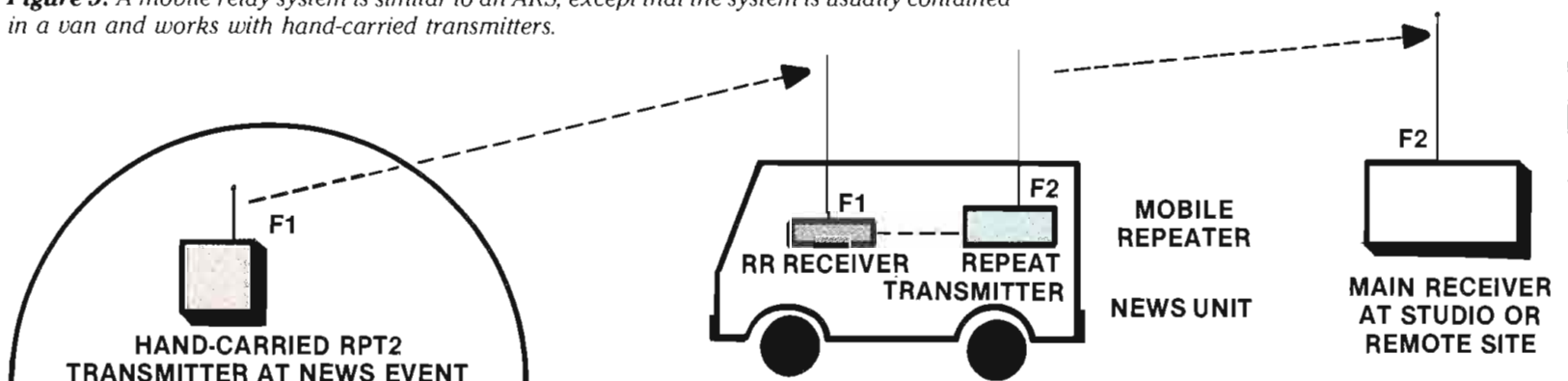


Figure 9. A mobile relay system is similar to an ARS, except that the system is usually contained in a van and works with hand-carried transmitters.



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one is horizontally polarized. The antennas are connected to an equal gain combining network, which feeds the receivers. The reason for using diversity reception techniques lies in the phenomenon known to FM broadcasters as multipath.

All wireless microphones operate on a line-of-sight basis. If the microphone's signal bounces off a reflective surface, such as a building girder, mylar set material or camera, then two or more signals may arrive at the receiver at the same time. These signals can cancel, creating the familiar dropout. By using more than one antenna and a proper combining system, this problem is minimized.

Figure 11 plots field strength vs. distance. As you might expect, the field strength drops as the distance between the receiver and transmitter increases.

How the space between dead points (nulls) is related to frequency is shown in Figure 12. A 400MHz transmitter is subject to this problem at approximately 1-foot intervals. A lower-frequency 40MHz transmitter has a much longer space between nulls, about 12 feet.

The graph shows how important it is to prevent these dropouts through diversity reception. Research shows that for a 10dB RF and audio S/N degradation, a single antenna will be dropout-free more than 90% of the time. Using two antennas provides the same degree of protec-

tion 99.3% of the time. Three antennas, the most common system, provides 99.7% reliability.

IFB

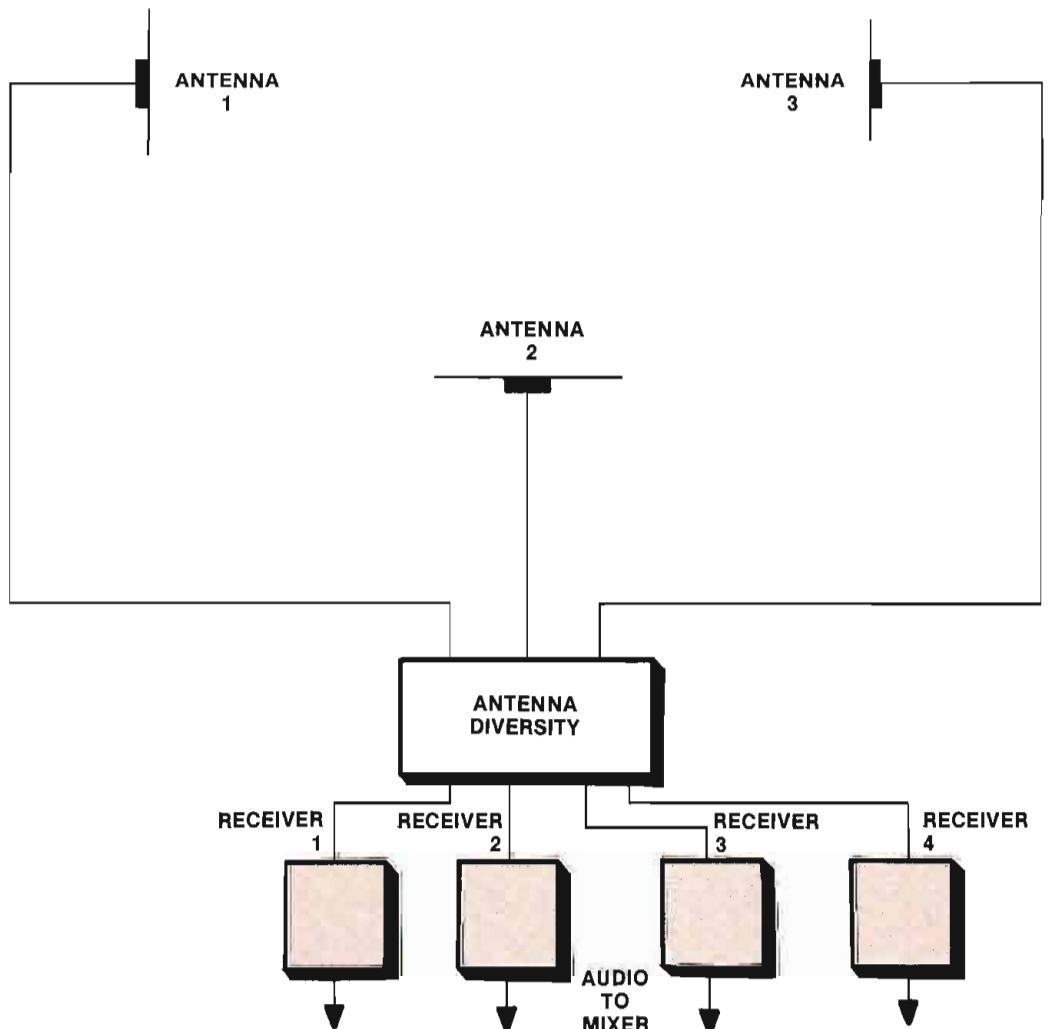
At this point in the example, a working remote broadcast circuit has been assembled using either telephone or RF links back to the studio. Also, the wireless microphone system has been installed using diversity reception. In many cases, that is all that is required. However, stations frequently find it necessary to be able to *talk back* to the talent while they are on the air.

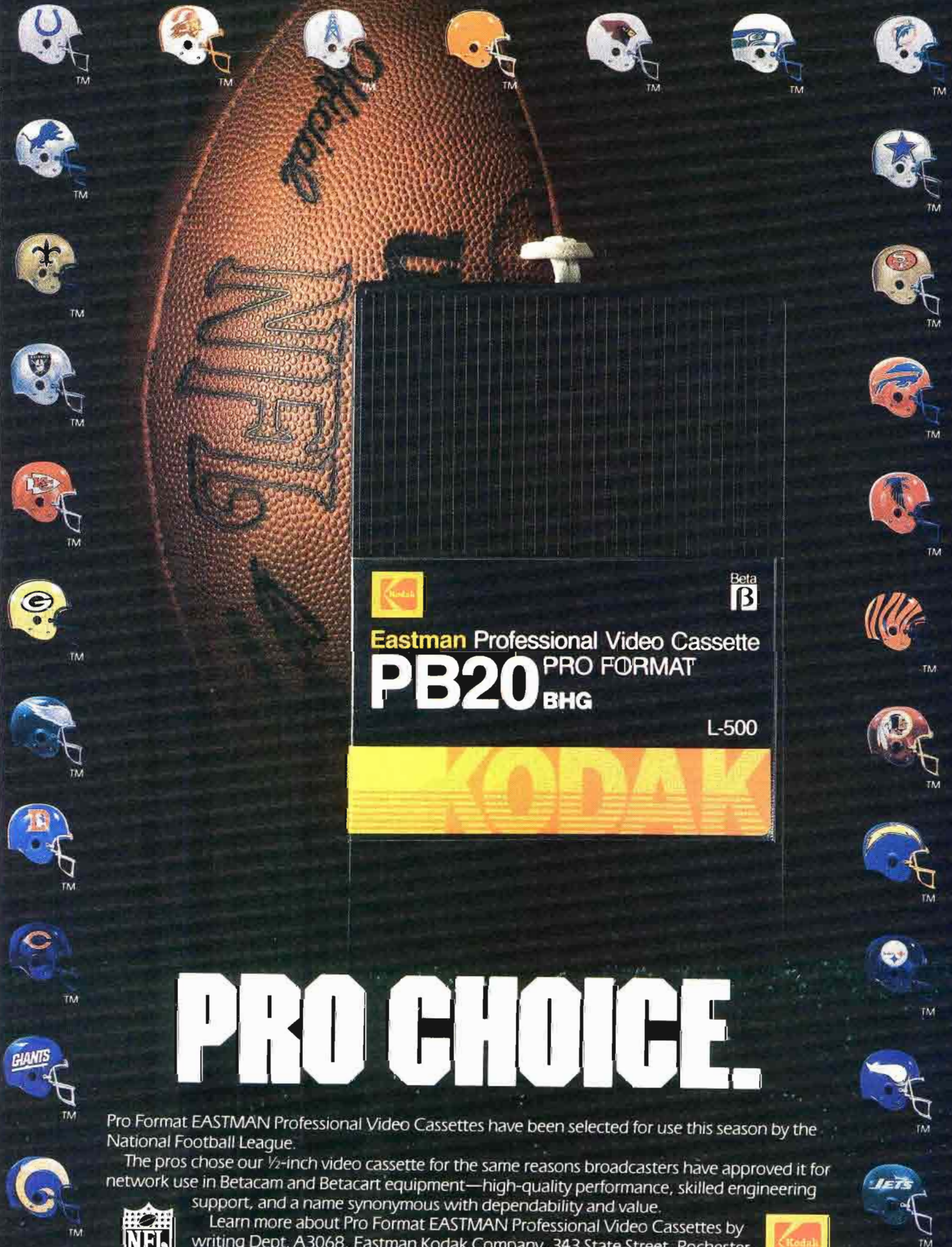
This talkback process—IFB—is also called program interrupt (PI) or cuing system. In any case, the goal is to provide the talent, located away from the studio or control point, with both a program signal and instructions or cues.

IFB can be carried by wire or wireless systems. If it is carried by wire, a separate amplifier provides a program feed back to the talent on a pair of wires. This system requires an additional cable between the talent and mixing position. Although that may not be difficult, a wired-IFB system won't work if wireless talent microphones are used.

A wireless IFB system provides many advantages compared with a wired system. The talent is free to move around, unencumbered by cables. The disadvantage is that extra work and

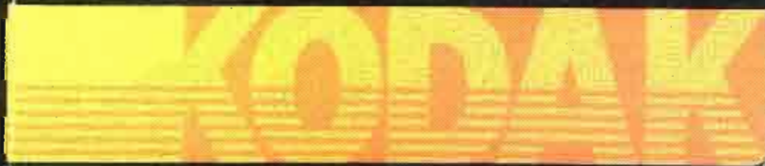
Figure 10. A spaced-diversity wireless microphone system relies on three antennas spaced apart and specially combined prior to feeding the receivers.





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more equipment (and frequencies) are required to make the system perform properly. And there is always the chance for interference or frequency congestion. This point is especially important when covering major news events where outside news crews may be on the scene.

There are several ways to accomplish a wireless IFB link. A television or FM SCA signal is often the easiest to use. This scheme has the advantage of needing little on-site equipment. The talent simply wears a small receiver and earphone tuned to the station's frequency. If necessary, the IFB equipment can be hidden so it is almost impossible to see by the audience. The IFB audio is controlled at the studio or remote site and the director can override the program at any time to cue the talent.

True wireless IFB systems provide

high-quality audio. This is an important aspect to anyone who has to wear the earphone for any length of time. A high-quality system allows the talent to judge the overall quality of the mix. It is also less fatiguing than listening to a 2-way-quality signal.

If a 2-way radio is used to supply the IFB signals, the transmitter must be capable of continuous operation. If not, the talent will be able to hear only the cues, not the complete program. A limited audio-quality IFB system can be inexpensively constructed from a 2-way transmitter, operating at a reduced power level. The reduced power level is required for the transmitter to operate continuously.

If the remote broadcast takes place at a location that can't receive the station's carrier or 2-way signal, a dial circuit can

be used to back-haul the IFB.

If a satellite uplink is being used for the program channel, it also can provide back-haul for the IFB. However, because of the 46,000-mile path for the back-haul, a delay of about a half-second will be encountered in the return audio. This delay can confuse speakers because they hear themselves live and then again a half-second later. For this reason, back-haul is often handled over dial circuits when SCA or other local signals are not available.

A systems approach

When you design your remote broadcast system, start with the programming needs. Technology (and money) can solve just about any programming problem. The key is to decide exactly what capabilities you want for the system.

If you want to play records from the remote site, then a monophonic, dial circuit may not be adequate. Likewise, if most of your remotes take place at the local car dealer's showroom and only voice transmission is needed, then a full-blown satellite system is overkill.

After the program requirements have been defined, design the RF portion of the system. Start with the van or portable transmitter and work back to the studio. Look at several potential locations to see what will be needed to get the signal back to the station. Stations, especially in large cities, may find that a single hop is not sufficient. If an ARS is needed, be sure the ARS receiver is properly located. It then becomes the key element in your system.

It is often possible to eliminate the ARS system by connecting the receiver output to equalized telephone lines. Investigate the phone line costs as a part of the project. In some cities the cost of full-time equalized loops will quickly pay for the ARS equipment. In other locations, intra-LATA (local access and transport areas) lines are reasonably priced.

Plan the system on paper first. It is much easier to modify the design at this stage. Consult with the local SBE frequency coordinator, who can provide you with information on RPU traffic and potentially available frequencies. The coordinator may be able to lead you to a local expert on RPU systems.

Carefully budget for the system and allow for some unknowns. For instance, it may be that an extra receiver pre-amplifier will be needed to obtain the range you need. Not all parameters can be identified before you start.

With thorough background research, you should be able to design a system that meets the unique needs of your station, while providing the flexibility that is always required.

If it works properly, you'll be called a genius. If it doesn't... [:(~)]

Figure 11. Typical wireless microphone field strength vs. distance. Note that although the 40MHz microphone had a higher RF output level, its received signal strength is less than either of the two other microphones.

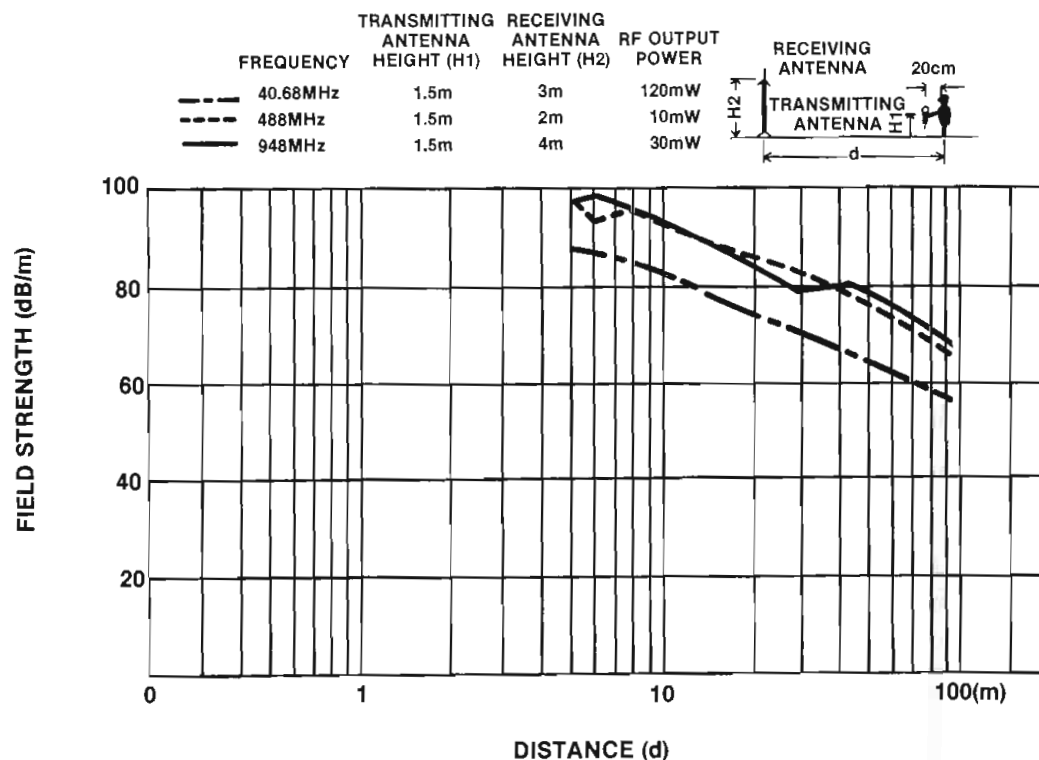
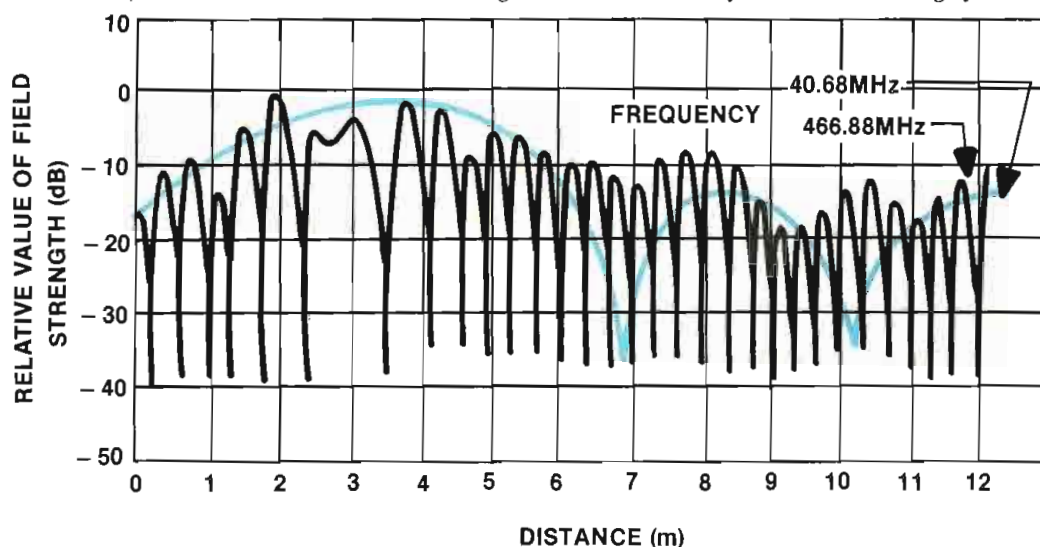


Figure 12. Microphones operating in the UHF band exhibit nulls at approximately 1-foot intervals. The problem can be minimized through the use of diversity antenna receiving systems.



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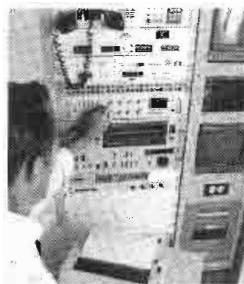
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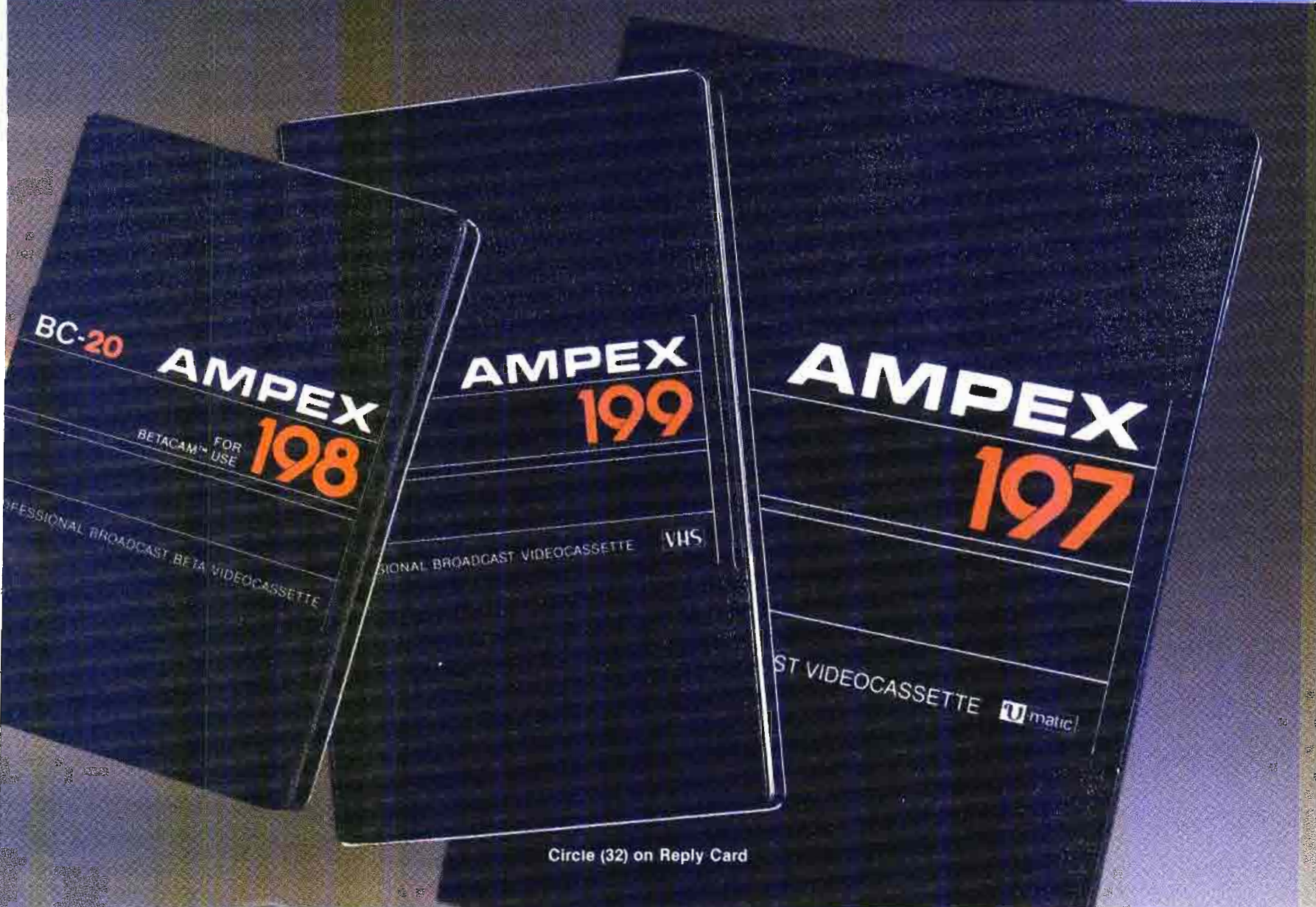
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An RENG case history

By Mike Armatta

You can pack versatility into an RPU system if it's properly designed.

Remote broadcasts have always been a part of the programming at KLOL-FM and KTRH-AM. KLOL relied on remotes for promotional purposes and KTRH used remotes as a necessary part of news coverage. The AM and FM operated independently of one another and relied on telephone circuits for most broadcast circuits. When the AM went to an all-news format, however, it was time to re-examine the commitment to remotes.

System requirements

Coupled with the AM station's format change, the increasing costs of telephone circuits encouraged reassessment of the way remotes were handled. Because the news department required rapid mobility, a mobile van was the logical choice to house the equipment. The van would allow the news department to move quickly to a fast-breaking event and cover it with a variety of equipment. The weekend talk shows also could be accommodated without additional equipment. The new design would allow the FM station to broadcast with more than *voice quality*, by using an RF rather than a telephone link.

A previously customized 1979 van was purchased for the project. The interior was removed, carpet was installed and

Armatta is a staff engineer at KTRH-AM and KLOL-FM, Houston.

The completed van is equipped for almost any remote broadcast possibility.



shelves were constructed near the back. Because the van was meant to be capable of operation from shore or by internal power, a generator was needed. The generator and air conditioner were traded out from a local RV dealer.

The trade-out approach had advantages beyond the obvious financial one. The dealer was familiar with this type of equipment and could provide a clean installation that would meet electrical and mechanical safety considerations.

A 7kW RV generator was installed on the left side behind the driver's seat. Once the unit was boxed in, it became a convenient desk and workbench. A 1-ton air conditioner with heater strip also was installed. The assembly provides both cooling and heating so the staff can operate comfortably.

Additional electrical power-distribution boxes and power cables

were needed. Again, for safety considerations, a local electrician was hired to complete the work. Four 110Vac fluorescent lights were installed for interior lighting. Because either generator power or shore power usually would be available, the original 12Vdc lighting was deemed sufficient. Two 500W quartz lights were installed on the van roof near the back and side doors. These lights come in handy when striking the remote after dark.

A 30-foot pneumatic telescoping mast was installed behind the two front seats. The mast allows the transmit yagi to be raised above most nearby obstructions and to be turned manually from inside the van. A small air compressor, Milton fitting and storage tank complete the assembly. The Milton fitting provides an air source for inflating tires and dusting off equipment.

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RF system

The van RF rack contains a modified UHF remote pickup transmitter. The modification allows the operator to vary

Close-up view of the RPU transmitter, meter and UHF amplifier.



the output RF level. The signal is then fed into a 100W, solid-state, continuous-duty RF amplifier, which feeds a duplexer. The duplexer allows a communica-

The audio rack contains the audio-processing, distribution and IFB equipment.



tions receiver to pick up IFB signals from the same RPU antenna used for transmitting. Operating over a 40-mile path using a 5-element yagi at 30 feet has never required more than approximately 35W into the antenna.

An RF power meter in the line between the duplexer and the antenna allows the engineer to monitor the power and VSWR. Because the van is parked in a garage with a low ceiling, the antenna must be removed from the mast after each remote. By monitoring the VSWR, the engineer can detect any problems and replace faulty connectors, preventing failures during a broadcast.

The rack is powered by a 35A power supply. The 12Vdc system is wired so that the entire rack can be operated from the van's 12V system in an emergency. All RF cabling for the RPU and IFB systems uses double-shielded RG/9-type cable. The extra shielding was needed to keep the UHF broadcast signal from desensitizing the UHF 2-way equipment.

Audio system

The audio is mixed on a 4-channel
Continued on page 58

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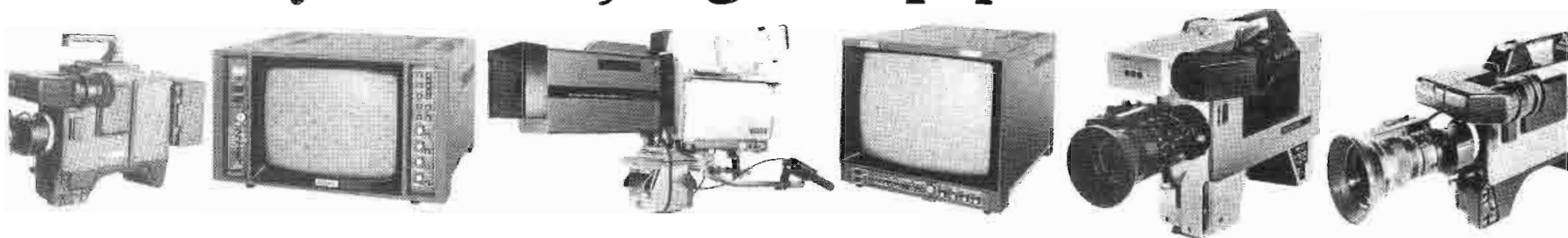
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Continued from page 54

portable mixer with a built-in compressor. An external audio processor also is available. This processor normally provides a small amount of expansion, which helps to clean up the ambient noises typical on a remote broadcast. It proves especially useful on remotes with PA systems. For FM remotes and some talk shows, the expansion allows higher PA levels before feedback occurs. See the system block diagram, Figure 1.

The processor feeds a dual-channel distribution amplifier equipped with transformer inputs and outputs. Half of the DA is used for program distribution,

The van is equipped with three reels, each containing different kinds of audio and ac-power cable.

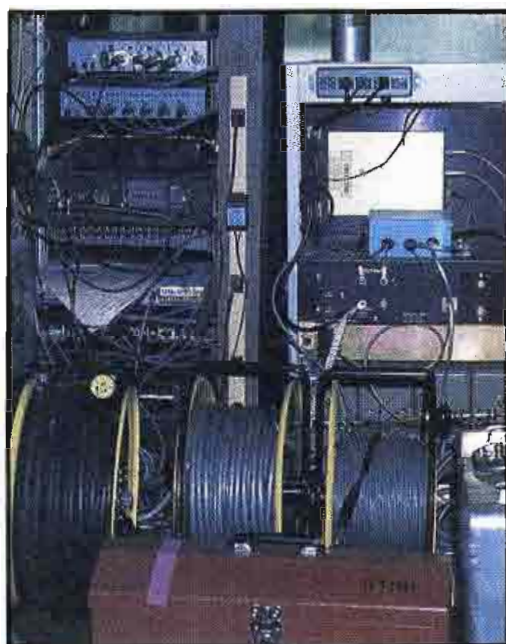
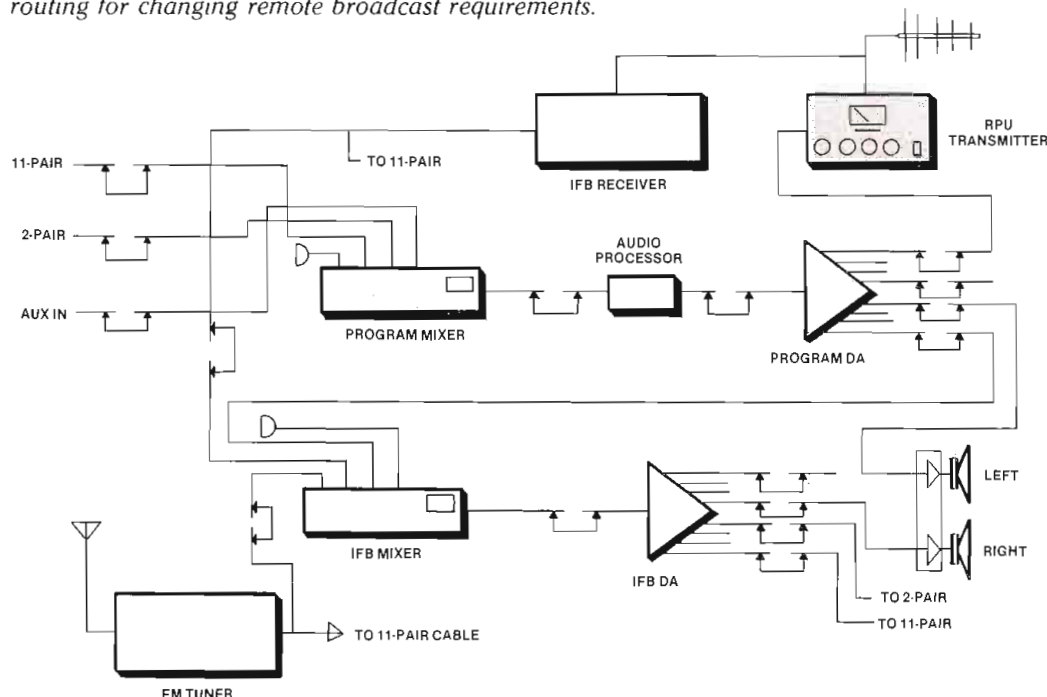


Figure 1. Simplified block diagram of the audio system. The patchbay provides easy signal routing for changing remote broadcast requirements.



and half is used for IFB distribution. The individually adjustable outputs allow feeding of a variety of equipment, regardless of input sensitivity. A companion LED VU meter and headphone monitor jack are especially helpful when a problem develops.

Some engineers believe that transformers are no longer needed. That may be the case within studios, but the theory falls flat when you're operating in the field. The typical interface problem in remote broadcasts is common-mode hum. This phenomenon occurs when the remote unit is operating on a different power feed than the audio source. Usually the audio source equipment is located inside a building, theater or stadium. In these cases, it is seldom possible to receive an ac-power feed from the same distribution panel that is used by the audio equipment.

In Houston, at the Astrodome and at NASA, common-mode potential differences of 30Vac or more are typical. An electrically balanced input circuit using a bipolar 12V to 15V supply doesn't have a chance of coping with these conditions. In those two locations, the common-mode voltage problem is so bad that even the video feeds require transformer-coupling. To prevent any problems, all of the van's audio inputs and outputs are transformer-isolated.

The program DA output feeds the high-level RPU transmitter input. The internal RPU limiter is used to prevent overmodulation. The audio level is adjusted to use as little limiting as possible. The mixer operates at +4dBm and the RPU limiter threshold is set for +8dBm.

This arrangement provides 4dB of limiter headroom and seems to complement the expansion device.

IFB

Interruptible foldback (IFB) is handled differently for AM remotes than for FM remotes. For AM remotes, which are mainly voice communications, the program signal is relayed from the studio via the IFB transmitter. The transmitter, located on the tower, provides a narrow-band, voice-quality IFB signal. When someone from the studio wants to communicate with the talent on location, the air signal is interrupted and the interrupt mic is inserted at normal level. Because of the 2-way system's narrow bandwidth, a different system is used for the FM station's IFB.

The receiver's tape inputs are looped back to the tape output with a pair of phono "Y" connectors. A high- to low-impedance line-matching transformer is connected so that the low-impedance side is connected to the IFB line from the truck. The high-impedance side is connected to the left "Y" cable on the recorder jumper. By plugging the headphones into the receiver's headphone jack and listening to *tape one*, the disc jockey can have complete control over the headset's audio while hearing the IFB in the left ear about 6dB hotter than the program. This is the case even if the DJ is monitoring other FM stations.

The IFB receiver feeds a 4-channel mixer, which is tied to the DA's IFB channel. The mixer also receives an air signal from the AM/FM receiver and a program mix from the main mixer. A microphone input also is included for communicating in case the talent is a long way from the truck. The program feed is used when mix-minus is fed from the studio.

For out-of-town broadcasts, in which an off-the-air signal is not available, all remotes are handled by dial-up telephones. IFB is fed to an autocoder dialed up by the remote site, as shown in Figure 2.

Outside equipment

Few remotes take place inside the truck. Therefore, several ways are provided to interconnect the van with other facilities. A reel containing 500 feet of 2-pair audio cable with 5-pin XLR connectors works for most of the remotes. One audio pair carries program audio back to the truck. The other pair carries IFB back to the talent.

This setup is most often used on news and FM remotes. Using a line-level microphone prevents crosstalk from the

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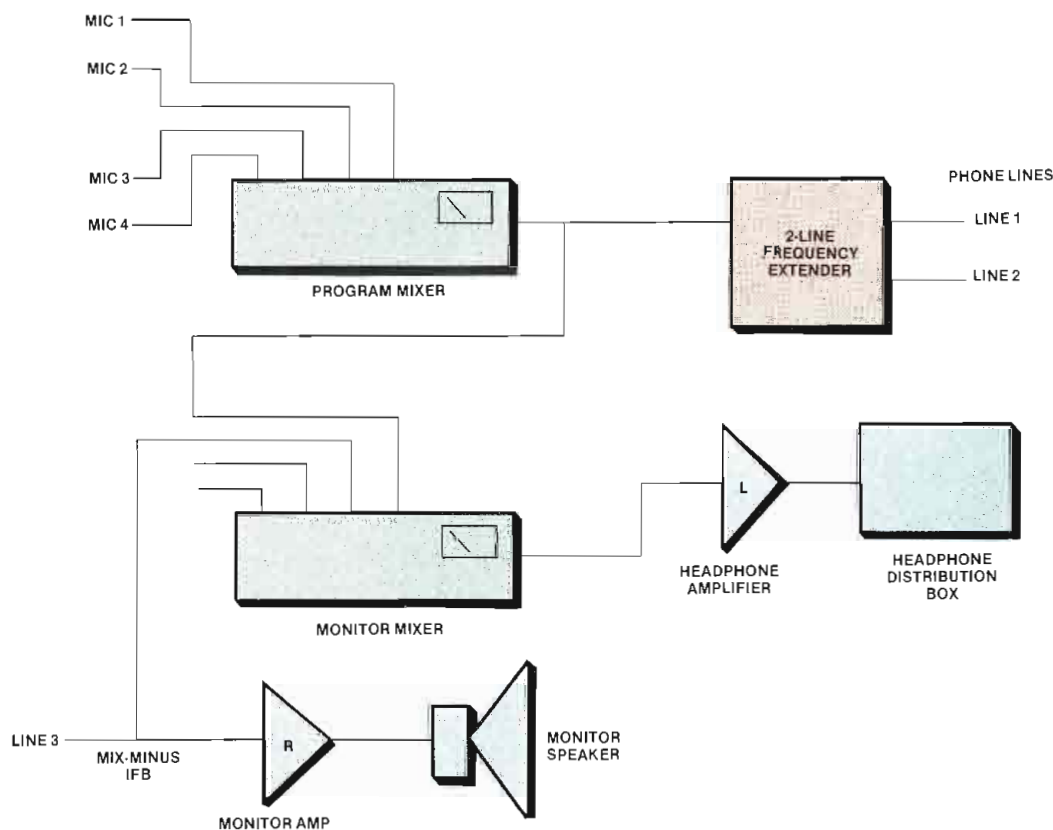
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Figure 2. When broadcasting from a distance, dial-up telephone lines are used for both program and IFB.



IFB circuit. A battery-operated headphone amplifier is used for the talent headsets. If more than one microphone is needed, a 4-channel mixer is used to mix the audio before it is fed down the line.

A "grab bag" is used to carry microphones, stands, mixers, cables, headsets, clocks, spare batteries and the multitude of other items necessary for a successful remote. The main equipment is transported in an aluminum equipment case. A smaller tote tray is used when the full case is not needed.

Under normal circumstances, only a microphone, headset amplifier and the headsets are carried in the tote tray. The station uses a model with a small drawer built into the bottom where spare batteries, tape, adapters and test equipment are carried.

Another cable reel with 200 feet of 11-pair audio cable and XLR connectors is available for larger remotes. The cable carries IFB, air signal, PA audio, telephone and mixer/cue speaker power. An additional 300 feet of cable is available.

A third reel contains 200 feet of 12-gauge 3-conductor ac-power cable.

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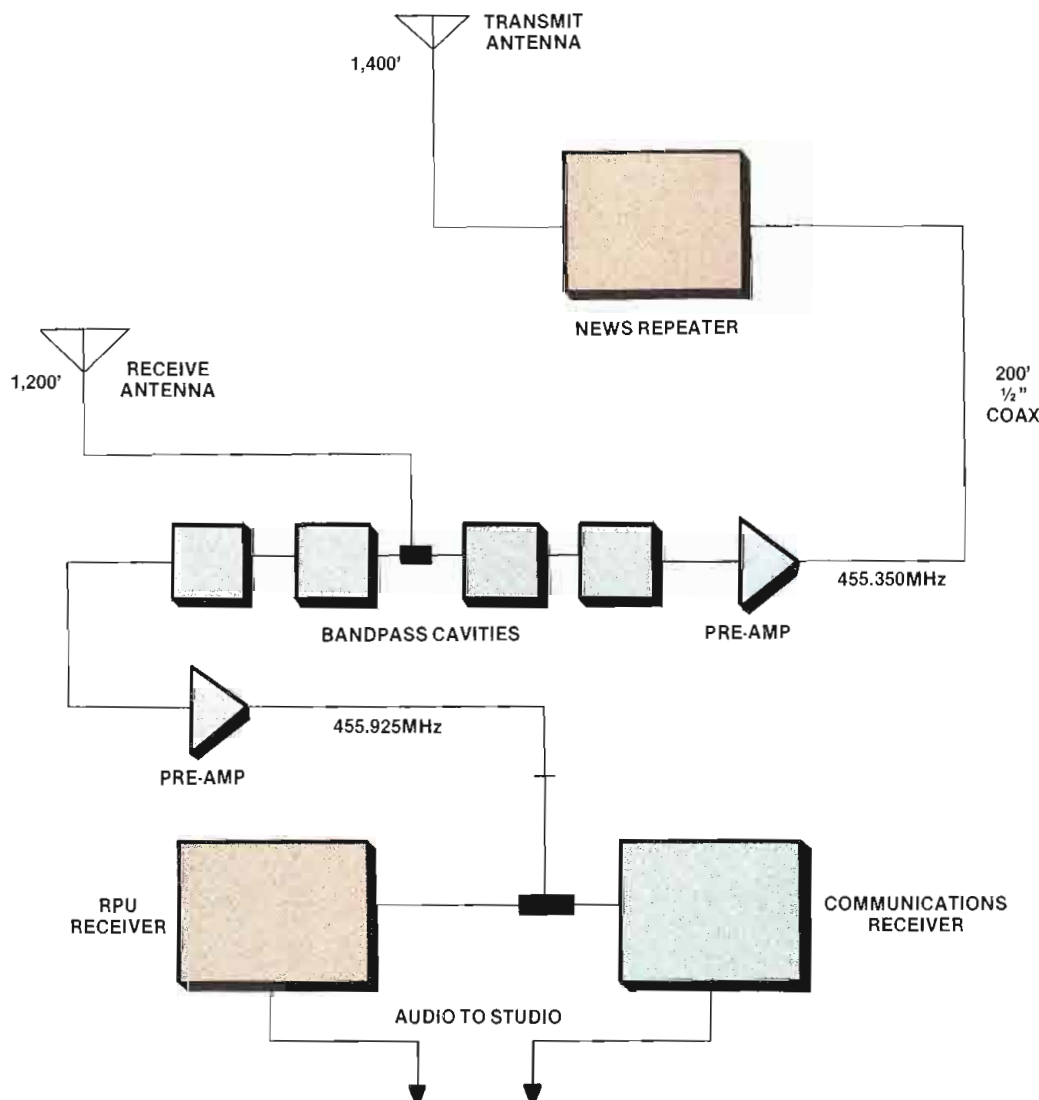
NEV/ID-004 WLM 467

This cable will power the electronics in the truck or run from the truck to the remote site with power for the audio equipment. A 50A power connector is used to connect the truck to shore power for maintenance or long-term remotes.

Two separate 2-way transceivers and two mobile/cellular telephones complete the communications package for the van.



Figure 3. Block diagram of the senior road tower repeater installation.



Pigtails with bare ends and alligator clips help simplify connections to the power boxes.

For remotes that require a long or difficult cable run, a 1,000-foot spool of 3-pair solid-conductor telephone-type cable is carried. It is inexpensive, and can be sacrificed at the remote.

Communications equipment

Because the van is heavily used by the news department, communication with the outside world is essential. A VHF 2-way radio is used to communicate with the news and engineering departments, through their respective repeaters. Direct channels also are included, allowing communication with hand-held units when the van is outside the repeater's range.

Both the AM and the FM are primary EBS stations for the Houston area. A VHF RPU frequency has been licensed by KTRH for use by the county and city governments to communicate with the media during disaster conditions. The system is called *PIES* (Public Information Emergency System). Because KTRH uses

the unit for disaster coverage, a VHF 2-way is mounted in the van. The radio also is equipped with city and county emergency management frequencies and local fire and police frequencies.

The van carries two mobile phones. The primary unit is a cellular phone, usable only in metropolitan areas. A recent addition to the van, a cellular-to-RJ-11 interface, allows a standard phone to use the cellular radio system. When used with the 11-pair cable, a phone can be provided at the remote site without incurring any installation charges. The cellular phone stores several telephone numbers, allowing all of the station's important numbers to be accessed simply by pressing a couple of buttons.

For remotes outside of Houston, and as a second line, an IMTS (Improved Mobile Telephone Service) unit is carried. This is the old-style mobile phone system that is widely used and available in most areas.

A programmable scanner monitors frequencies not available through the 2-ways. Although most of the common frequencies are already programmed into the scanner, a list of unusual and secondary frequencies is carried with the van. These can be programmed into the scanner whenever they are needed. The scanner is capable of AM reception for emergencies involving aircraft or for monitoring airport traffic.

Two wall-telephones are carried for long-term remotes. These Touch-Tone compatible instruments are mounted on modular wall hangers. If only pulse-service is available, a rotary set replaces one of the tone instruments on the wall mounting. An interface panel is provided at the back of the truck for telephone connections. This panel has both modular and banana jacks for phone line connections. One of these lines is normally connected to the cellular interface.

Senior road facilities

The fixed-support facilities (repeaters/receivers) are located at the senior road tower. The UHF RPU receiver is located on a radio tier at the 1,200-foot level. Several stations in the Houston area have receivers at this location and the site has relatively few RF problems. The omnidirectional receive antenna provides 3dB of gain and is mounted on one of the 2-way stanchions. A 20-foot run of 1/2-inch coax connects the antenna to the equipment shelter mounted on the same level. The complete system block diagram is shown in Figure 3.

Inside the equipment shelter the signal is split, with each half passing through two custom bandpass filters and a GaAs

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FET pre-amplifier. One output is connected to a splitter, which feeds the RPU receiver and a communications receiver, each tuned to the same frequency. Both receivers are connected to the studio by separate 15kHz telephone circuits. At the

Dual telephones provide the necessary pulse or tone access to land-based or cellular phone lines.



studio, the two circuits are distributed to AM control, all news work stations and FM control.

The communications receiver serves a unique function for the news department. All of the news 2-way units have the capability to transmit on the RPU frequency. They also can receive signals on the IFB frequency. When the news repeater is overloaded or otherwise unusable, reporters can switch to this backup to file reports from the field.

The other output of the cavity/pre-amplifier combination is fed 200 feet up the tower to the news repeater receiver. This special antenna feed was necessary because the repeater receiver would not operate properly in the high-RF environment at the 1,400-foot level. By using the receive antenna located 200 feet lower and the cavity/pre-amplifier combination, the coverage was dramatically increased. Another station had the same problem, so the receiver feed was split again to provide an additional feed.

The IFB transmitter is located on a radio tier at the 800-foot level. The transmitter is a recycled 2-way base station capable of continuous-duty opera-

tion at 15W. The transmitter is fed by a 5kHz telco circuit connected to the station's intercom system.

For AM remotes, predelayed audio is normaled to the IFB transmitter through the intercom. This allows the producer or news editor to interrupt the program from their consoles. During FM remotes, only the FM board operator has access to the IFB.

Success

The RPU system has been in use for more than three years, with few problems. Few modifications in the original design have been necessary. Most of the equipment is inexpensive and is available from a number of sources.

The success of the RPU system can be attributed to two important elements: First, station management provided the funds to purchase the needed equipment. Second, the programming and news departments were able to define their needs so engineering could design a system that would meet the station's requirements. In a project such as this one, the only way to success is teamwork among all departments. [:-)]

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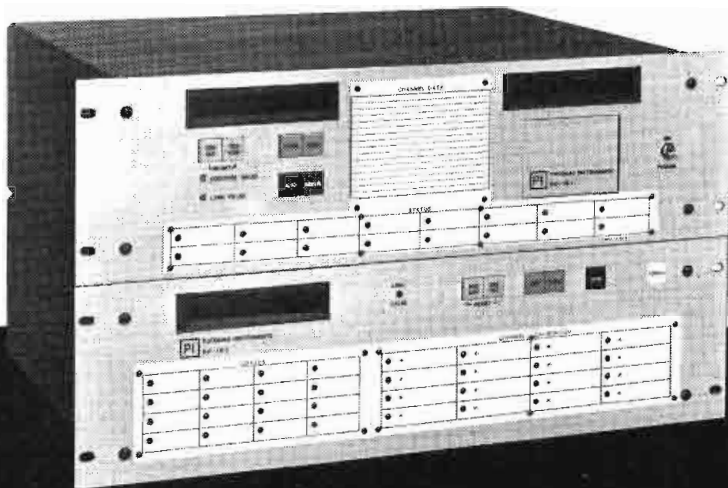
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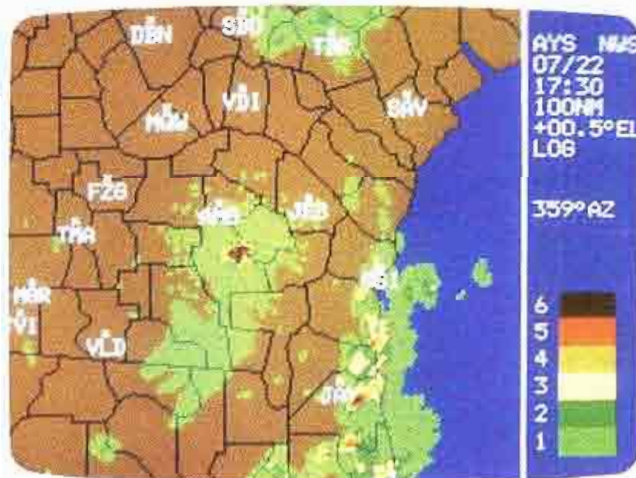
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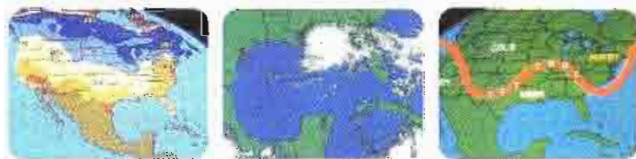
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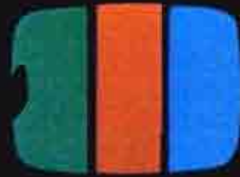
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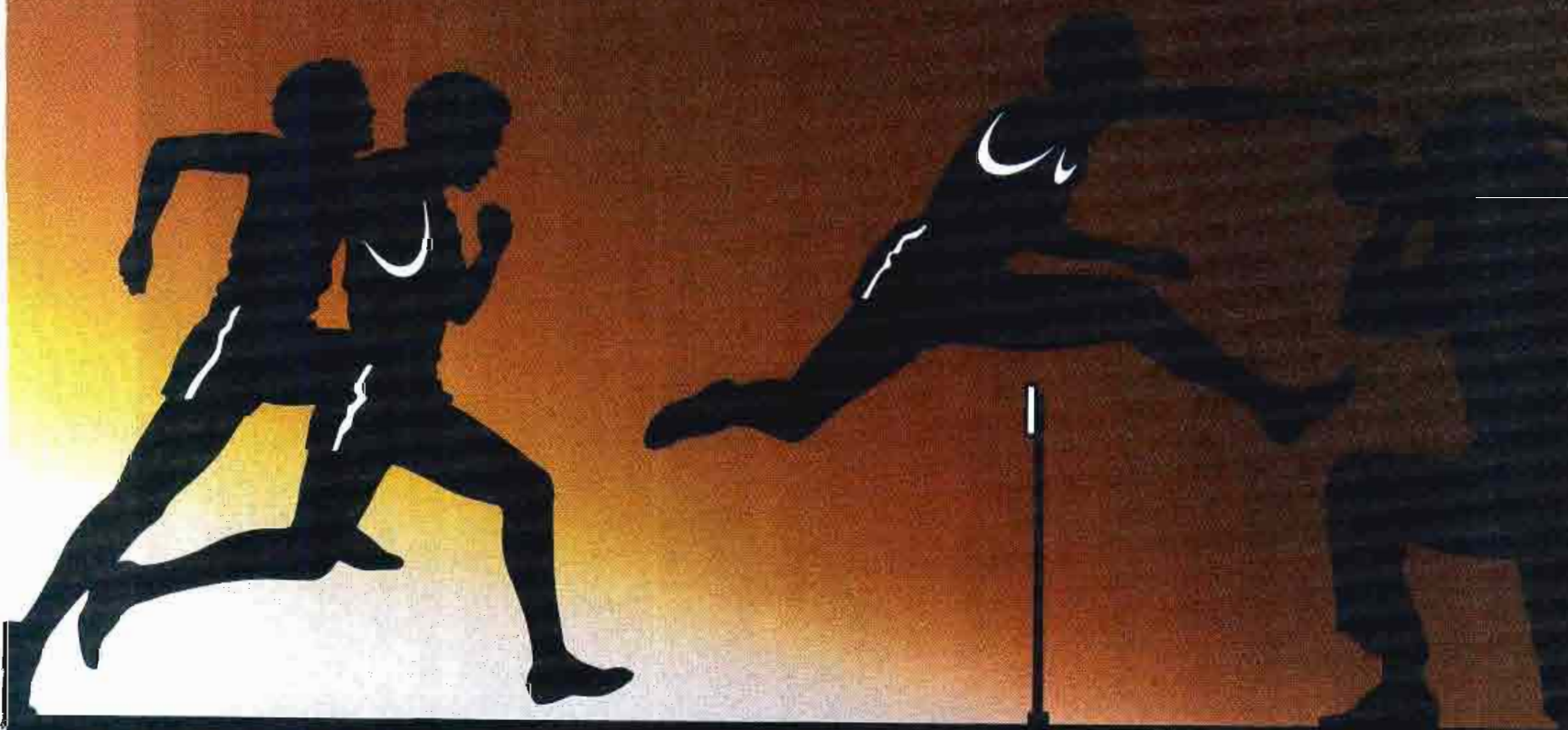
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Planning a remote production vehicle

By Ned Soseman,
TV technical editor

Comprehensive planning for battlefield conditions will support the troops and please the generals.

The remote production vehicle (RPV) is as unique to the broadcast industry as the studio camera. Aside from some broadcasters, and a handful of cable and high-end industrial RPV owners, the government is the only other user of RPVs.

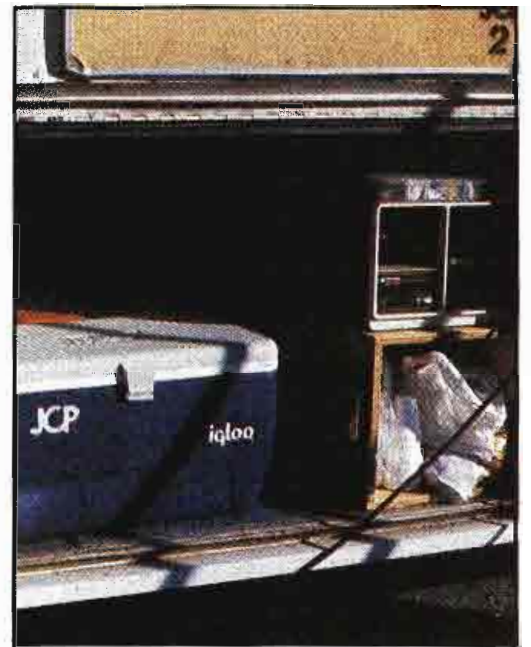
Because of this highly limited market, if you are considering purchasing an RPV, you can avoid buyer's remorse, endless criticism, inconvenience and potential trouble by asking the right questions of your station and market. Approach the RPV issue with as many facts about your specific applications and operations as possible. Compared with other TV plant projects, RPVs can't be planned for expansion. Once the basic chassis is ordered, the RPV's limitations are well defined.

Getting started

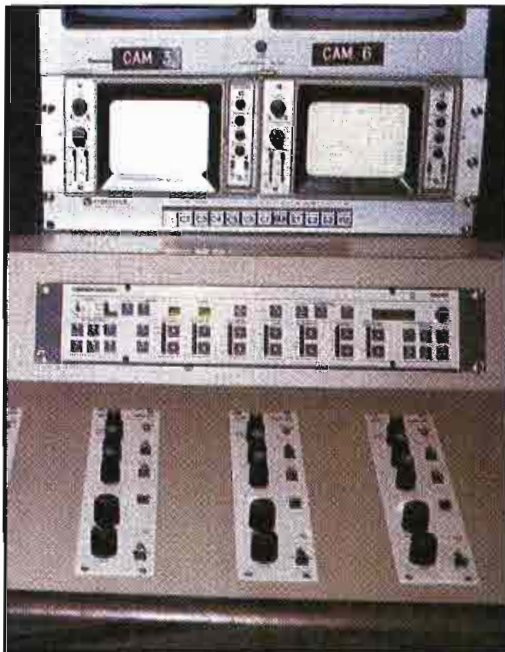
The planning can be divided into two stages: planning the applications of an RPV and planning the design. The first step is to clearly define the reasons your station is buying an RPV. Identify all foreseeable potential applications, including the manpower requirements of the vehicle, and determine the geographic area in which it will be driven. The station's general manager, chief engineer, operations manager, production manager and, perhaps, the news department must work together to agree on the answers to these questions.



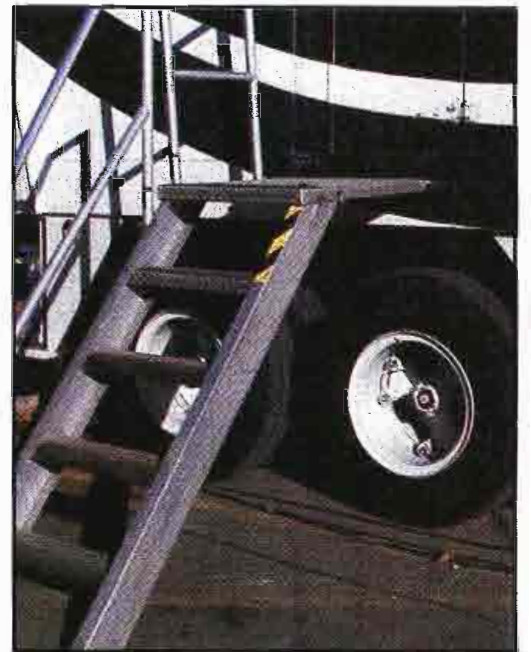
The director's position in NBC's NT-5.



When planning an RPV, be sure to leave space for the coffee pot and ice chest.



Although automatic camera setup has simplified the camera shader's job, manual control of iris and pedestal is still required.



These steps leading into the RPV don't allow for 2-way traffic, but require less storage space than wider steps or a deck would.

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Following the rules on RPVs

Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations apply to all motor carriers with a gross vehicular weight (GVW) in excess of 10,000 pounds. This would include most RPVs, many mobile satellite news and some ENG vehicles.

DOT regulations prohibit drivers from operating these vehicles if they have been on duty for 15 hours or more following eight consecutive hours of rest. The term "on-duty" refers not only to driving, but to any type of work. Also, a driver may not drive for more than 10 hours following eight consecutive hours of rest.

Drivers who travel beyond a 100-air-mile radius of the normal work location are required to maintain a *record of duty status*. This record has replaced the *drivers daily log*. Details of this record are set forth in DOT regulation Title 49 CFR, Section 395.8.

In essence, this regulation states that all drivers are required to record, in duplicate, certain information on a specified grid. The grid may be combined with company forms. Grids are

available from many print shops and form suppliers.

Required information includes:

- Date;
- Total miles driven today;
- Truck or tractor number;
- Name of carrier or company;
- Driver's signature and certification (that all information is true and correct);
- 24-hour-period start time (i.e. midnight, 9 a.m.);
- Main office address; and
- Remarks (include information on all stops, including fuel, food and accidents).

The grid contains hours in ¼-hour increments, and driver status. Status includes:

- Time off-duty;
- Sleeping berth time (if applicable);
- Drive time; and
- On-duty, not driving, time.

Each change of duty status must in-

clude the name of the city and state where the change of status occurs.

If an inspector finds violations of the record-keeping requirements, a fine of up to \$500 may be assessed, and the vehicle or the vehicle operator may be placed "out-of-service" for eight consecutive hours. For a driving time violation, a \$1,000 fine may be assessed. In addition, a driving time violation that results in injury or death, or a pattern of violations of either regulation, could cause a \$10,000 fine to be assessed.

For further information, contact the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, DC, at 201-366-4000, and reference Title 49, Section 395. State and local regulations may exceed those of the federal government. Contact the highway department in each state your vehicle may cover.

Editor's note: This information was obtained from the National Association of Broadcasters legal department memo No. L-614 and the Federal Highway Administration.

Today's intensive cost accounting demands active upper management participation. However, keep in mind that you're only as good as your last production. Regardless of size, any RPV represents a major investment. Plan your vehicle for maximum benefit, flexibility and safety, with minimum up-front and ongoing costs.

Budgeting

There are several levels of production requirements that will determine the overall scope and subsequent price tag of the project. On-site commercial videotaping will require the least from an RPV; live professional sports coverage will require the most. The first "yes or no" question to answer is whether the unit will be used for remote videotaping or live program feeds.

Remote videotape production can rely on post-production editing back at the station for insertion of graphics, digital effects, cutaway or insert shots, audio sweetening and other effects. This minimizes indispensable on-board capabilities. In contrast, live sports programming requires the RPV to supply a finished production with all the video effects, audio and sweetening at the output of the truck.

Identifying the RPV's use requirements will reveal the requisite budget. Investments can start at about \$90,000 for a basic 2-camera "industrial" panel van



The belly boxes on an RPV trailer easily accommodate bulky items such as tripods.

to about \$3 million or more for a full network sports RPV unit containing at least five to eight cameras and three or four slow-motion VTRs.

Dealing with several departments and a budget typically means compromises. If requirements include major sports pickups, compromises could be the first nails in the coffin of a project that hasn't been born yet. The unique requirements of sports coverage mandate the use of well-known, brand name equipment and layouts that will be familiar to outside personnel who may work with or lease the RPV. If major sports is not a requirement, then base any compromise on applications flexibility and station philosophy.

The next questions to study concern numbers. How many cameras and VTRs will be required? How many people will occupy the RPV during its operation? Secondary questions should be about the geography and terrain the RPV will cover, as well as the parking spaces that will be available at known field locations. The answers will identify the chassis requirements and, hence the RPV's cost.

Chassis choices

Federal regulations limit the maximum size of truck trailers to 48 feet in overall length, 13'6" maximum height, and 8'6" maximum width. An expandable side may be added to a truck to increase the working width, when parked, to about 12 feet.

A tractor trailer unit offers the advantage of space (a maximum of about 350 square feet of deck space is available without side expansion) and large storage potential in the *belly boxes*. (Belly boxes are the storage areas available beneath the deck of the RPV, usually forward of the rear axle, which are accessed outside the vehicle.) Typically, multimillion-dollar tractor trailer rigs are used almost exclusively for network sports feeds.

Single-unit vehicles

A single-unit vehicle (cab and box on a common chassis) is more maneuverable, easier to drive and park, and less expen-

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sive than tractor trailer units. Common to many local broadcast stations, beyond ENG-type van conversions, is the *cube van*. This is a "cutaway" van chassis with a steel or aluminum cube-shaped box attached to the frame directly behind the driver. The box allows adequate headroom, and its interior is typically 14 feet long and a little more than 7 feet wide, providing approximately 100 square feet of total space including storage.

Drawbacks to single-unit trucks are a 29-foot maximum box length and storage space limitations. Single-unit trucks use a drive shaft to connect the engine to the rear drive wheels. The drive shaft eliminates belly boxes, common to trailers, that extend the width of the truck. Typically, belly boxes in single-unit trucks are only about 3 feet deep. This limits storage space available for cameras, tripods, light kits, cables and other bulky items.

To buy a new, unmodified 14-foot cube van off your local truck dealer's lot will cost about \$20,000. In most instances, cube vans are used for 2- or 3-camera productions with one or two on-board VTRs. Cube vans usually contain an on-board ac generator and, in some cases, a microwave mast. Some stations use cube van RPVs as backup ENG vehicles.

Larger, single-unit vehicles such as stretch vans, recreational vehicles and ambulance-type vehicles also may be modified for RPV use. These units are typically used for 2- to 4-camera productions with on-board graphics. A straight truck is available with a box of up to 29 feet, which contains almost 200 square feet of deck space.

Straight trucks (single-unit truck chassis) usually do not carry an on-board generator or a microwave mast. Usually, larger straight trucks are designed for multicamera sports events, which require at least four cameras, slo-mo VTRs, graphics and a variety of audio sources. If shore power is not available, a generator may be rented locally.

Because of the concentration of weight between the front and rear axles, a tandem axle may be necessary. Tandem axles must be ordered when the chassis is manufactured.

RPV builders may add a *tag-along* axle behind the original rear drive axle, or a *pusher* axle in front of the original rear axle. A tag-along axle will improve vehicle stability, but will not improve the load distribution. The pusher axle will improve load distribution and stability while reducing chassis flex. The suspension of the vehicle may be modified by changing the springs and shock absorbers. Electrical or hydraulic stabilizers also may be added.

The chassis size requirement is a direct function of the number of cameras the



A typical RPV power panel. Note the digital readout of voltage and line frequency.

vehicle is designed to handle. Common to any well-designed RPV is an indispensable, well-documented critical analysis of each specific requirement, detail and decision before construction begins.

The first step

Regardless of the size and complexity of the RPV you need, as a broadcaster, you must first choose either to modify the vehicle yourself, or to use an outside organization that offers this service. In either case, the design of an RPV is an exercise in variations on a common theme. The key to owning (or leasing) an RPV with which everyone will be reasonably pleased is detail-oriented before-the-fact planning and input from producers and the technicians who will be staffing the vehicle.

Involve station personnel who are experienced in RPV and ENG field operation and familiar with the unique requirements of your station and the geographic area you plan to cover. If, for example, a city that will be served by the RPV has narrow streets, the overall size and maneuverability of the RPV may be unavoidable constraints. If the terrain includes steep hills, then a manual transmission and an adequate engine for the loaded RPV may be required.

Outside manufacturers usually build trucks to a generalized design approach that is based on their own experience and user feedback. Direct and well-documented input from experienced station personnel will help whoever builds the vehicle to customize it for maximum benefit, usefulness and practicality.

Exercising your options

Laying out the interior of an RPV does not allow a great deal of flexibility. "Custom-built" RPVs are available from a variety of sources. However, just how "custom" the RPV turns out to be is up to the buyer. Custom may refer only to the electronics complement and paint job, but it can just as well include a multitude of details that can be specified when ordering or building an RPV. After all,

the customer is always right!

RPV builders agree that stations that order a second RPV are much more prepared and specific about details than when they ordered their first. Avoid the trial-and-error syndrome. Use a well-documented system of logical analysis to make each decision. Tailor the RPV to fulfill the unique requirements of your applications and to fit your station's philosophy.

It is a worthwhile investment of time and energy to construct an actual-size cardboard mockup of the RPV's interior, including control panels, rack layouts and monitors. The mockup is a human engineering tool that will readily diminish the "who designed this thing?" syndrome. Perusing the model will solicit valuable before-the-fact input and suggestions from the staff and management. Once the actual RPV is completed, correcting mistakes in design judgment may be physically impossible or cost-prohibitive.

If an error in judgment or a lack of organized input to the builder results in needed changes to a finished RPV, the minimum cost of those changes will be threefold compared with the cost of doing it right the first time. Not only did you pay for the error to be installed the first time, but you will pay to have it removed, and pay again to have it replaced with what should have been there in the first place.

Decisions, decisions

Throughout the decision-making process, keep in mind *worst-case battlefield conditions*. Extremes, such as the hottest and coldest weather, the maximum number of people the vehicle must contain, worst-case moisture, dirt, mud, noise and security must be considered in the vehicle's basic design.

Doors and access to the control area, electronics and storage spaces of the RPV are options that require careful study and planning. Where will the door(s) be placed? Note that any doors will weaken the overall structure. One poorly designed RPV actually collapsed when all the doors were opened at the same time. Chassis flex also will affect the strength of the structure and interact with doors and windows.

Windows in the control and storage areas can open up otherwise cramped quarters and enhance the security of outside panel connections. However, windows will bring several negative effects with them. Outside light may be objectionable. In larger RPVs, windows can weaken the structure of the box, which may create new problems, such as doors that won't open or close properly. Of course, windows also tend to invite other problems and may affect the concentra-

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tion of the crew.

Use floor and subfloor materials that are non-corrosive, such as a combination of aluminum subflooring with a floor of 3/4-inch exterior or marine-grade plywood. This will accommodate the water and snow that will be tracked into the vehicle. Use anti-static industrial carpeting on the control area floor; select a dark color to hide coffee, grease and mud stains.

Should the steps leading from the outside into control spaces include an outside deck area to accommodate heavy traffic? Where will the steps be stored?

How will the truck be wired? Will cable access be under the floor or overhead? How easily may cables be added? Will access holes be needed to bring wires inside the truck?

Where will the input/output (I/O) outside panel be located, and what inputs and outputs will be on the panel? Will the I/O panel double as a patchbay, or will a rack-mounted patchbay be necessary as well? Insist on full documentation of all electrical, communications and electronic wiring and interconnection.

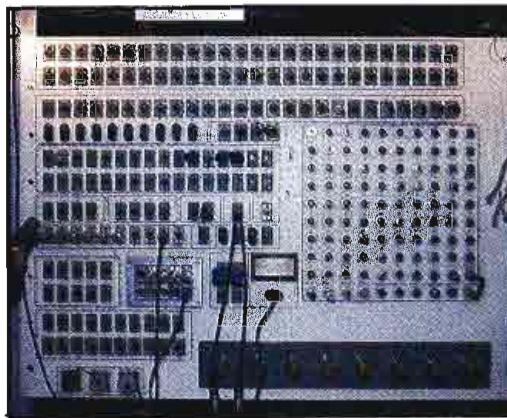
Locate the I/O panel and ac panel low enough to keep cables near the ground and cable strain at a minimum. This will also reduce the possibility of people tripping over cables. Place both panels in an area where they will be the most secure from tampering.

Isolate the RPV's shore power input. Single- and 3-phase power sources must be accommodated. The ac voltages must be metered. Use a regulator with adjustable output on each leg. When computing the RPV's total power requirements, include all electronics, communications, portable ac lighting and the HVAC system. Then, allow a headroom factor of 50% to 100% above that figure.

Carefully evaluate the location for the on-board generator. Some RPV designs locate generators on the curb side, others on the street side. Either location has valid justifications and benefits. Because there will undoubtedly be times when talent and microphones may be close to the RPV, noise and exhaust created by the on-board generator is a primary concern.

The dc power is yet another area that deserves close attention. Adequate dc worklights, both inside and outside the vehicle, are a necessity. A timer on worklight circuits will help avoid depleted batteries. Isolate power for 2-way radio systems and other dc accessories that may be used during setup or after the production is completed so as not to drain the van's primary battery.

Where will the equipment and cables be stowed? Carefully designed space must be planned for packing the RPV with all camera cases, light cases, chairs



The exterior patch panel for video and audio should be easy to access. Note ground cable with clip.

and other bulky items that must be stowed during travel.

Among "musts" for any RPV are watertight seals on all access doors and storage compartments. All doors must include "hold-opens" and flush-mounted latches and handles. Use positive self-latching storage cabinets. Coat all exposed wood with polyurethane. Tie down all chairs.

What color will the RPV be painted? Color will affect the heat load on the air-conditioning system. Will the HVAC system use ducts? Mount the air-conditioning unit on top of the cab to help the vehicle's weight distribution ratio.

Speaking of safety

Vehicular safety is a function of driver skill and awareness, fully laden weight including people and fuel, weight distribution between axles and side to side, the center of gravity, tires and suspension. As with any vehicle, increased loading over dry curb weight places a strain on the suspension system and the tires. Do not make assumptions. Consult the manufacturer and know the limits of the chassis and tires.

As important as chassis load is weight distribution. Approximately 30% of the vehicle's weight should be on the front axle. According to RPV builders, improper weight distribution is the single most common problem with RPVs. As the RPV is under construction, periodic weighing of the vehicle's axles will help keep the ratio under control. Make an effort to keep the center of gravity as low as possible.

Isolate and shield all electrical systems. Individual circuit breakers for each rack and system are essential. All equipment, chassis and racks must be properly grounded. Outside, ac connections for shore power and convenience must not only be recessed for protection from the elements, but also weatherproof, secure and easily accessible. Isolation transformers should also be available for video and audio outputs.

Responsibilities

In addition to driver requirements and record keeping (see "Following the Rules on RPVs," page 70) a thorough check of local and state regulations regarding vehicle size, weight and liabilities is another essential step before any purchasing or leasing decisions are made. Research driver licensing requirements and demand that drivers and potential drivers of the RPV be properly licensed.

Know the union jurisdictions in the geographic areas and facilities you plan to cover. Typically, when connecting any power source to an RPV, you should use a qualified electrician from the facility that supplies the power to provide the connection. This will release the RPV operator from liability if the RPV overloads the shore power supply.

Electronics requirements

It is beyond the scope of this article to examine the broad spectrum of electronics hardware available for RPV use. Electronics is the only area of RPV design in which major cost-cutting may be effective, with one exception.

The communications system (closed-circuit, 2-way and telephone) is the apex of the RPV. It is most hazardous to cut costs in this area. Good, efficient communications are paramount. A thorough, detailed analysis of requirements of the RPV communications system should include a hands-on test evaluation of several systems, from electronics to headsets. Design the communications system to be the easiest and quickest electronics to access, unpack, hook up and operate.

Other production electronics, such as cameras, lenses, switchers, mixers and so on, are best specified by the individual station. Suffice to say that newer 1/2-inch formats should be carefully evaluated for their slow-motion capabilities and picture quality. The reduced cost and size, compared with traditional 1-inch configurations, can easily expand the available space and budget of an RPV.

When it comes to electronics in the field, the key word is redundancy. A small vertical interval routing switcher, for example, can double as a cuts-only switcher if the primary switcher fails. A portable microphone mixer can control audio. Planning for failure can be a life saver when the unthinkable happens at the worst possible time.

Detailed needs assessment, well-informed decision making, interdepartmental cooperation and communication are difficult to accomplish at the early stages. However, communicating detailed, organized requirements to the builder is the most direct and least expensive route to successful RPV use.

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Taking to the skies

By Steven D. Hardy

Successfully converting a helicopter for ENG is a matter of planning and experience.

Financially, a helicopter can be a heavy burden on any station's budget. An industry average portal-to-portal operating cost of approximately \$450 per hour, multiplied by an average of 30 service hours each month, can easily result in a \$200,000 annual commitment.

Why a station decides to commit to a helicopter is better left in the boardroom, but the fact remains that many more stations are getting in—and staying in—the helicopter game than are getting out.

Technically, WHIO-TV's helicopter, Chopper 7, was designed and built to provide ENG services for the station's news department. Chopper 7 also provides a highly visible profile for a wide variety of activities. Not only is the helicopter for station assignments, but it is also used to assist police searches for criminals and missing children, and provides emergency transportation when other local helicopters are busy. The promotional and service aspects, and the availability for lease to the public, makes Chopper 7 a well-known and valuable multipurpose tool for the station and the city of Dayton.

After 18,000 hours on WHIO's second Chopper 7, a Bell Jet Ranger IIB, the time had come to change helicopters. When the initial decision was made to

Hardy is RF transmission supervisor at WHIO-TV, Dayton, OH.



Electronics systems controls from the cockpit are interfaced to the hardware rack in the rear luggage compartment on terminal strips.

change helicopters, the station realized many long hours would be invested in the planning and installation of equipment in the new Bell Jet Ranger IIB.

Although the news department operates the helicopter, the engineering department is responsible for the technical conversion of the helicopter into an ENG entity, and the installation and maintenance support of on-board broadcast and communication electronics systems.

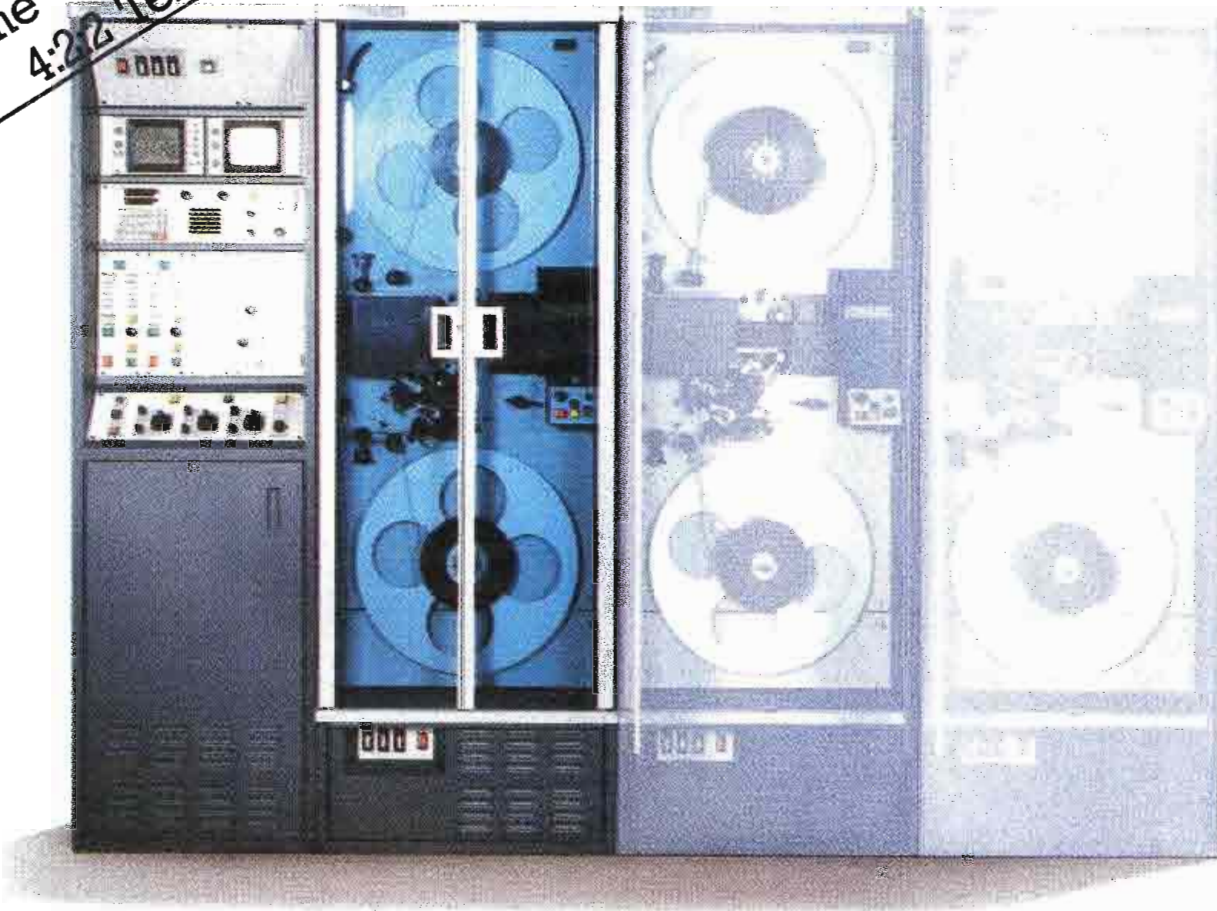
To help with the transition, all wiring lists and equipment requirements were loaded into the station engineering department's personal computer system for instant recall and filing. Shortly after

the initial planning stages, detailed to/from wiring lists for audio, video, intercom, control and RF information were entered into the computer.

Planning

A previously owned helicopter was located in Atlanta, and WHIO engineers traveled there to check over the aircraft for use of broadcast and communications equipment on-board. An investigation of the console area was also necessary to determine the best layout of remote control and monitoring equipment. The rear baggage area was checked and measured for the placement of most of the

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heavier electronic equipment, and detailed arrangements concerning mounting and special requirements on-board the helicopter were discussed.

After returning from Atlanta, WHIO engineers began planning wiring arrangements and the placement of the equipment. An aircraft metalworking contractor was hired to fabricate most of the metalwork required for installation of the equipment within the helicopter. The FAA-approved metalworkers also advised the engineers on matters concerning FAA approval of the helicopter.

This proved to be the prudent thing to do, because it ensured aircraft safety and reduced the possibility of problems after the new hardware was in place.

Before and after the decision to change helicopters, many meetings were held to address the needs, planning and installation of equipment in the new aircraft. Involved in these discussions were several station engineers, the chief engineer, the station's news director and the pilot. Ultimately, the pilot is the operator of most of the on-board equipment, and his input was the guiding factor in many of the design decisions.



The control console is conveniently located so that it is within the pilot/operator's reach.

During the sessions, the design of the previous helicopter was discussed, including areas that worked well and areas that needed to be improved. Day-to-day use of the helicopter was the major topic of discussion, with the first priority being the construction of a safe and functional unit while maintaining the highest engineering standards and uniformity.

Throughout the entire planning process, special attention was given to the

use of the helicopter during the annual Dayton International Air Show. Traditionally, Chopper 7 is used quite extensively for live and taped coverage of the 2-day air show, and a number of its regular functions are performed simultaneously.

Preparation

The requirement of feeding audio and video to the microwave transmitter from a portable VCR, camera and microwave receiver with on-board monitoring proved to be a challenge. It was difficult to find an audio/video switcher at a reasonable price and size that would accomplish the task.

Building a custom switcher, using coaxial relays for video switching, and employing general-purpose relays to switch the audio were chosen as the most economical and efficient solutions. It was determined that the entire switcher package must be remotely controlled from the front console area by the pilot. The switcher mainframe was located with the other electronics in the rear baggage compartment. This layout kept most audio and video cable lengths to a

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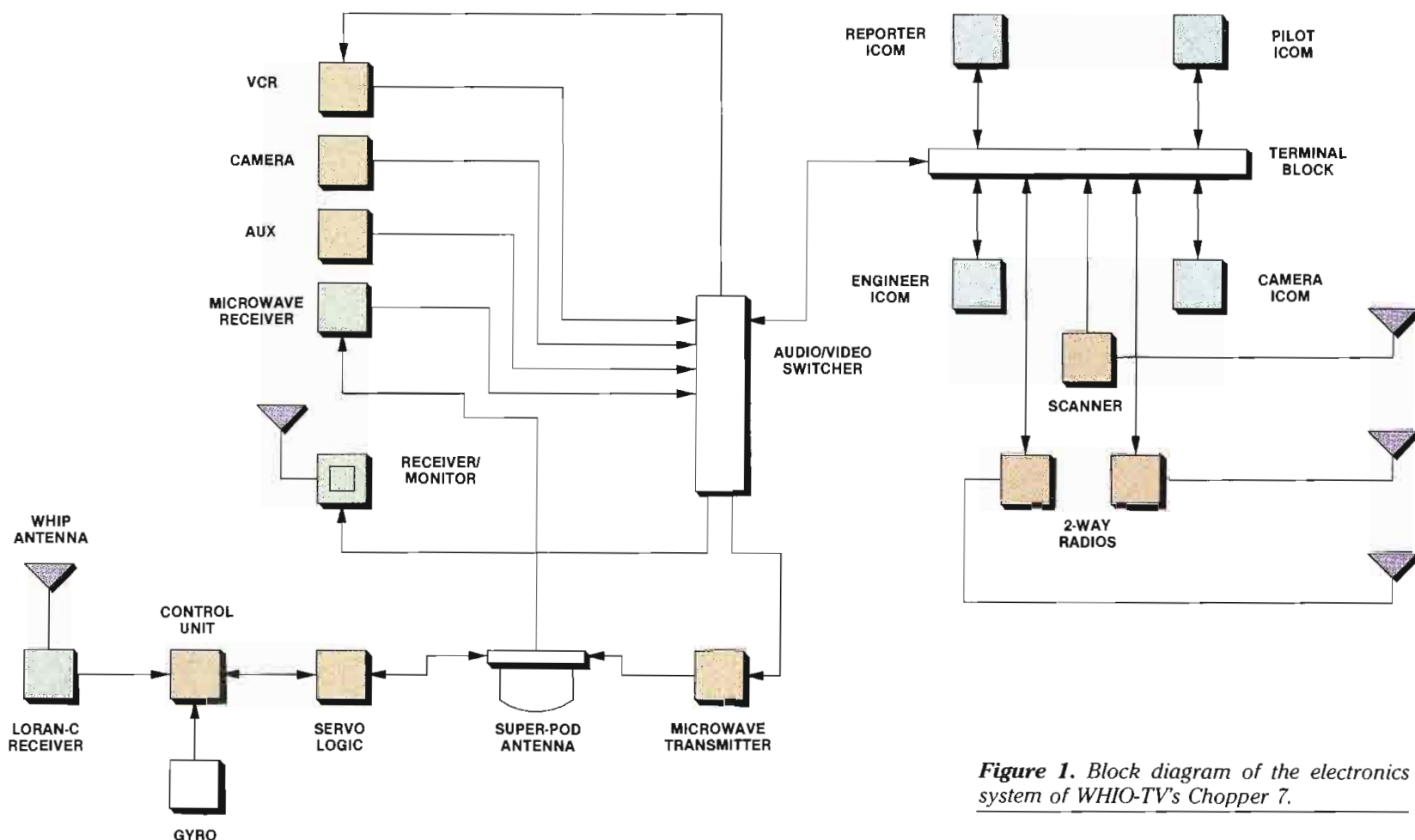


Figure 1. Block diagram of the electronics system of WHIO-TV's Chopper 7.

minimum.

When the helicopter was delivered to Dayton, it was taken to an aviation paint shop located at the Dayton airport. During the helicopter's week-long storage for painting and preparation, all of the parts, wire and equipment needed for ENG conversion were staged at the station for the predicted 2- to 3-week transformation of the helicopter.

Wiring bundles were assembled and labeled ahead of time to expedite the transformation process. In order for the helicopter wiring to comply with different codes and laws, WHIO technicians decided to use military-spec Tefzel wiring throughout the helicopter to avoid any problems with FAA approval.

Most of the wire, totaling about one mile, was in a bundle about two inches in diameter running from the front of the console to the rear baggage area. A new auto-tracking antenna system with a Loran C receiver was ordered, along with a new dc-powered color monitor and a police scanner. Other equipment was transferred from the retiring Chopper 7. A block diagram of the new helicopter's electronics system is shown in Figure 1.

The microwave transmitter and receiving system was installed, and a portable 3/4-inch VCR was mounted to the back of the co-pilot's seat. The existing intercom system (a standard 4-station aircraft in-

tercom) was kept in place and interfaced with two 2-way radios for communications back to the studios. Power from the helicopter's 28Vdc system was converted to standard 12Vdc using an aviation dc-dc converter.

Installation

After the repainted Jet Ranger arrived, it was rolled into the station garage, where the actual installation of the station's equipment began immediately. The doors were removed and put away to avoid any scratches. The seats were removed and the interior stripped for accessibility and convenience.

To minimize connections and provide the capability to remove equipment for maintenance, all of the heavy electronic equipment was located in the baggage compartment within a small custom rack. Terminal strips were installed on the side of the rack for all interconnect wiring between the cockpit and rack.

An additional console area in the cockpit was built to house remote controls for the microwave transmitter, switching controls for audio and video, remote frequency selection for the 2-way radios, and a 9-inch color monitor. Tally lights were also included to indicate which intercom box is feeding the microwave transmitter. This console package is located to the left of the pilot's flight control console area, within easy

reach of the pilot.

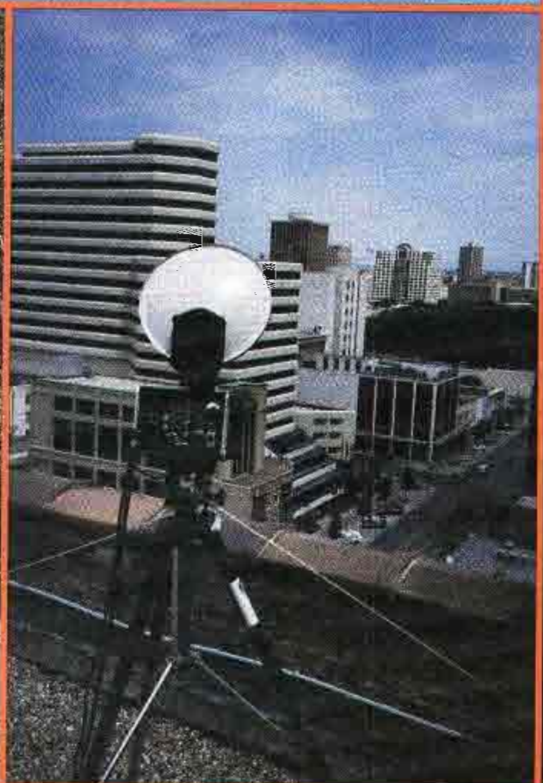
Because there are six inputs to the microwave transmitter, the switcher package provides flexibility, including the capability to relay live shots from a ground unit through the helicopter. The VCR switcher has four inputs and the monitor switcher has three inputs as well as the capability to monitor the input to the microwave transmitter.

Installation was completed in approximately four weeks. Next, all the equipment and systems were checked out and levels were set. The helicopter was ready to be submitted to the FAA for approval.

Following a successful FAA inspection at the studio, the helicopter was rolled out and put into ENG service. A temporary microwave transmission antenna was installed until a back-ordered antenna system could be delivered.

The new antenna system arrived several weeks later, allowing completion of the final installation. Because all of the cables had been installed previously, the new antenna took only two days to install and check out. With the antenna installation completed, the helicopter was launched for a test flight to examine the new antenna system. All equipment and instruments were found to be operating properly. Chopper 7 was now available for the daily news, ENG and broadcast capabilities for which it had been designed and equipped. [:-)]]

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Audio transmission on 23GHz

By Mark Timpany

23GHz microwave systems may be the solution to STL and intercity-relay frequency congestion problems.

When WQFM-FM in Milwaukee requested frequency coordination for a path to carry audio from its satellite receiver to the studio, the SBE chapter 28 frequency coordinator suggested using 21.825GHz. It was possible that there would be problems obtaining a clear frequency for the link, but no one expected to have to move into the 23GHz band to find an available channel.

All the existing STL frequencies in Milwaukee are in use. Some of them even have more than one user. In these cases, path separation and highly directional antennas provide the needed safety margin.

Although there are a number of problems and limitations with this frequency band, the allowable bandwidth for this Part 94 microwave assignment permits using PCM digital encoding. The digital encoding/decoding process provides a virtually transparent stereo audio circuit. As far as the microwave system is concerned, the result of encoding is nothing more than a standard video signal. The high quality provided by the PCM transmission system is one of the primary advantages of using this band.

Using the 23GHz band proved to be a good solution for WQFM. Because of the congestion in other cities, this technology may be useful to other stations needing STL and intercity-relay circuits.

Licensing

Anyone eligible for licensing under parts 81, 87 or 90 of the FCC rules can apply for frequencies in the Private Operational Fixed Microwave Service (Part 94 of the rules). For broadcasters, Part 90.75—the Business Radio Service—establishes the licensing eligibility for

Continued on page 86

Timpany is chief engineer for WQFM-FM, Milwaukee.

SECTION III - TECHNICAL INFORMATION				
NAME OF ITEM	A	B	C	D
22. FREQUENCY (MHz)				
23. EMISSION				
24. TYPE OF MESSAGE SERVICE				
25. INITIAL BASEBAND CHANNEL LOADING				
26. 5 YR. PROJECTED BASEBAND CHANNEL LOADING				
27. 10 YR. PROJECTED BASEBAND CHANNEL LOADING				
28. PRE-EMPHASIS (ENTER YES OR NO)				
TRANSMITTER INFORMATION				
29. TRANSMITTER MAKE				
30. TRANSMITTER MODEL (TYPE ACCEPTANCE NUMBER)				
31. FCC USE ONLY				
32. TRANSMITTING OPERATING FREQUENCY TOLERANCE (%)				
33. MAXIMUM TRANSMITTER OUTPUT POWER (WATTS)				
34. MFR'S GUARANTEED TRANSMITTER OUTPUT POWER (WATTS)				
35. TRANSMITTER MEDIAN OUTPUT POWER (WATTS)				
36. TRANSMISSION LINE LOSS (dB)				
37. ANTENNA MAKE				
38. ANTENNA MODEL				
39. FCC USE ONLY				
40. ANTENNA GAIN (dBi)				
41. EFFECTIVE RADIATED POWER (dBm)				
42. BEAM WIDTH (DEGREES)				
43. TYPE AND SIZE OF ANTENNA				
44. HEIGHT TO CENTER OF FINAL RADIATING ELEMENT (FT)				
45. POLARIZATION				
46. AZIMUTH TO NEXT STATION OR PASSIVE REPEATER NO. 1 (PR 1)				
47. PATH LENGTH TO NEXT STATION OR PR 1 (MILES)				
RECEIVE SITE INFORMATION				
NAME OF ITEM	A	B	C	D
48. RECEIVING STATION'S CALL SIGN				
49. PATH LOSS (dB)				
50. RECEIVING ANTENNA MAKE				
51. RECEIVING ANTENNA MODEL				
52. FCC USE ONLY				
53. RECEIVING ANTENNA GAIN (dBi)				
54. RECEIVER MAKE				
55. RECEIVER MODEL				
56. FCC USE ONLY				
57. MEDIAN RECEIVED SIGNAL LEVEL AT INPUT TO THE RECEIVER (dBm)				
58. LATITUDE N (DEGREES, MINUTES, SECONDS)				
59. LONGITUDE W (DEGREES, MINUTES, SECONDS)				
60. GROUND ELEVATION AMSL (FT)				
61. HEIGHT TO CENTER OF RECEIVING ANTENNA (FT)				
PASSIVE REPEATER NO. 1 INFORMATION (IF ANY)				
<input type="checkbox"/> IF YOU HAVE TWO PASSIVE REPEATERS ON THE SAME TRANSMISSION PATH, CHECK THIS BOX AND ANSWER ITEMS 62-72 ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER FOR THE SECOND PASSIVE REPEATER.				
NAME OF ITEM	A	B	C	D
62. LATITUDE N (DEGREES, MINUTES, SECONDS)				
63. LONGITUDE W (DEGREES, MINUTES, SECONDS)				
64. GROUND ELEVATION AMSL (FT)				
65. OVERALL HEIGHT OF PR 1 STRUCTURE ABOVE GROUND (FT)				
66. PASSIVE REPEATER MAKE				
67. PASSIVE REPEATER MODEL				
68. DIMENSIONS (FT x FT) OR BEAMWIDTH (FOR DISHES)				
69. HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND TO CENTER OF PR 1 (FT)				
70. POLARIZATION				
71. PATH LENGTH FROM PR 1 TO NEXT STATION (MILES)				
72. AZIMUTH FROM PR 1 TO NEXT STATION (DEGREES)				

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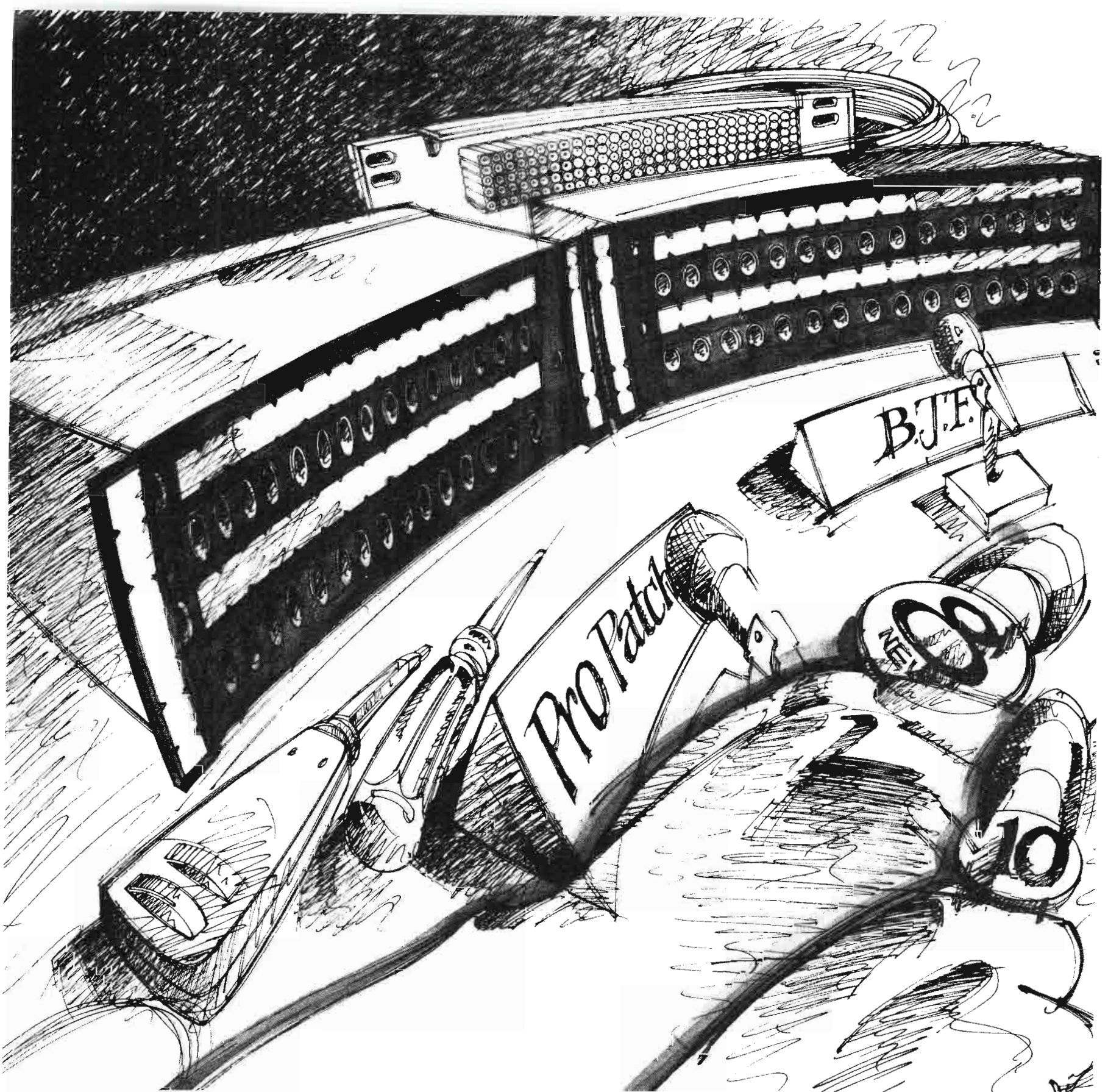
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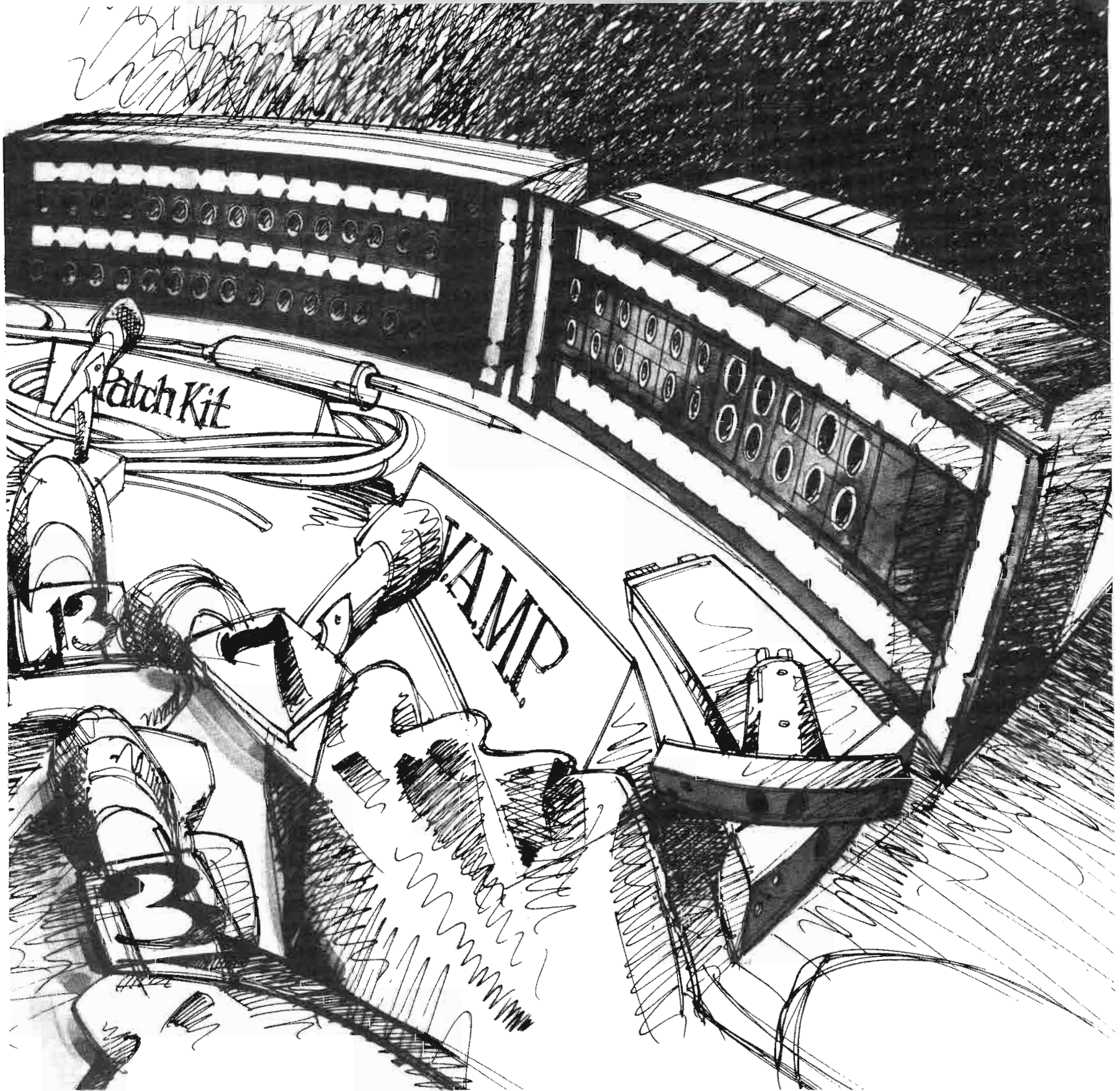
QUESTION #2: "This one's tougher, Panel. I need to terminate

my patchbays in the bottom of the rack, but I want my jacks protected."

BJF: "No problem. ADC's Broadcast Jackfield (BJF) Mark II series gives you the best of both worlds. They feature Ultra Patch termination panels with QCP punchdowns on the end of a harness. So you can terminate your cabling wherever it's most convenient. The patchbay chassis supports the cable harness and covers the jacks."

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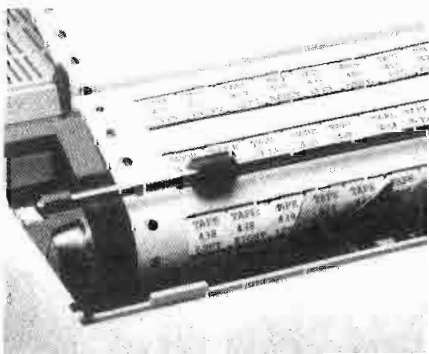


exactly what you're looking for. It's a Broadcast Jackfield Mark II chassis without the cabling. Just add your own cable and you'll have it made. And you'll save money by doing it yourself."

QUESTION #4:

"Let's see you answer this one, Panel. I have a small off-line suite and I need to patch a few audio circuits AND a few video circuits. If you want me to buy two dozen circuits at a time, forget it."

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Continued from page 82

Part 94 frequencies.

An application for the 23GHz frequencies is made on FCC form 402, shown in Figure 1. This form is probably new to most broadcast engineers. The first part of the form is similar to form 313, the application used for broadcast auxiliary services. Form 402 requires more detailed information on the equipment and paths used than does form 313. Most of the required transmitter information is available from the equipment manufacturer. There are no minimum path-length requirements for these frequencies, so you can apply for almost any broadcast use.

An interference statement must accompany each application. Because of the wide range of potential users, a coordination statement from the SBE is not adequate. NABER does not coordinate these frequencies either. Therefore, to meet the requirements, you must purchase an interference analysis from one of the several companies that maintain a database of licenses and applications for Part 94 frequencies. These companies can assist you in preparing the applica-

tion. Obtaining the interference statement is the first step toward licensing.

Through a twist of fate, WQFM's application ran into trouble. The city's CATV franchise and the station applied almost simultaneously for the same frequency. For its analysis, the cable franchise used a different database company, which was unaware of WQFM's application. The FCC accepted both applications on the same date.

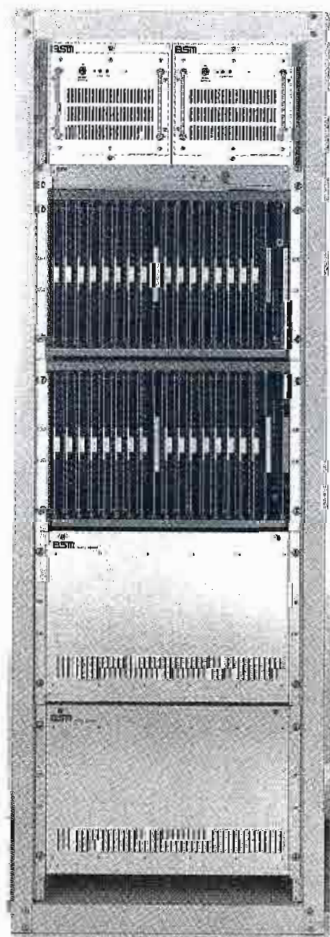
The commission soon discovered the conflict and informed both parties. WQFM amended its application by requesting another frequency, which resolved any potential interference between the two nearby paths. Since the time of the application, the southeastern Wisconsin SBE frequency coordinating committee has added 23GHz frequencies to its database. This will aid in frequency selection for broadcast users, but the independent interference analysis remains an FCC criterion for license applications.

Turnaround time on WQFM's application was comparable to what might be expected with Part 74, broadcast auxiliary licensing. It took three and a half months to receive the license.

Equipment

A number of manufacturers sell equipment for these frequencies. Typically, the transmitter uses a Gunn diode oscillator connected directly to a small-horn antenna. The Gunn oscillator's power output is quite small. The WQFM transmitter puts out only 66mW. However, antenna gain at these frequencies is easy to obtain. The 1-foot horn antenna has a gain of 33dBi with a beamwidth of only 3.5°. This beamwidth is similar to that of a searchlight.

The transmitter's physical configuration makes installation quite easy. Because the oscillator/antenna (RF head) assembly weighs approximately nine pounds, it presents little loading to the tower. Cabling between the RF head and the control unit, mounted inside the transmitter building, consists of two cables. A multiconductor cable provides power and returns the AGC voltage to the tower-mounted receiver. An RG/6-type cable carries the signal. In the case of the transmitter, this signal is standard baseband video. At the receiver, the cable carries the modulated 140MHz IF signal. (See Figure 2.)



MODULA

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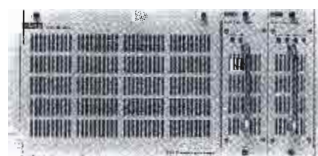
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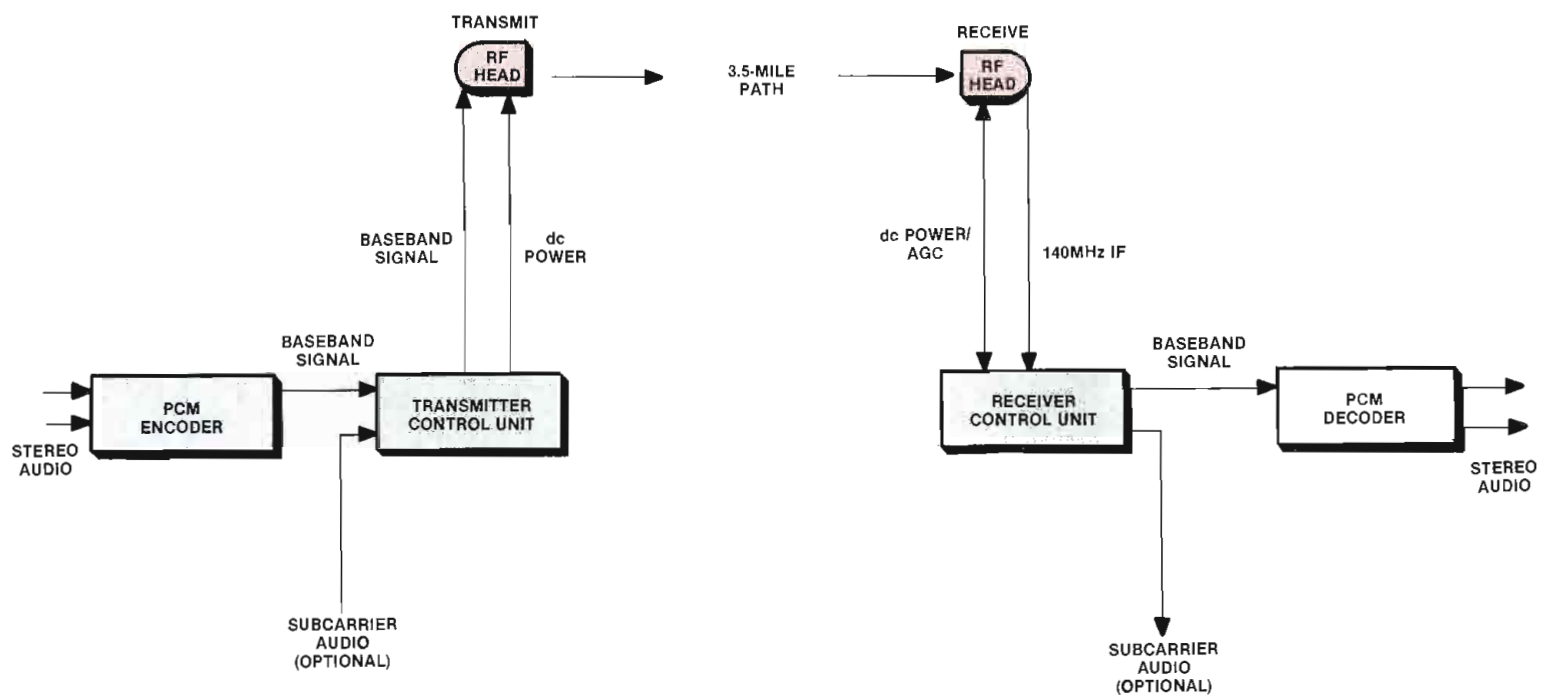


Figure 2. Block diagram of the 23GHz PCM microwave link. Optional subcarriers can be added as needed.

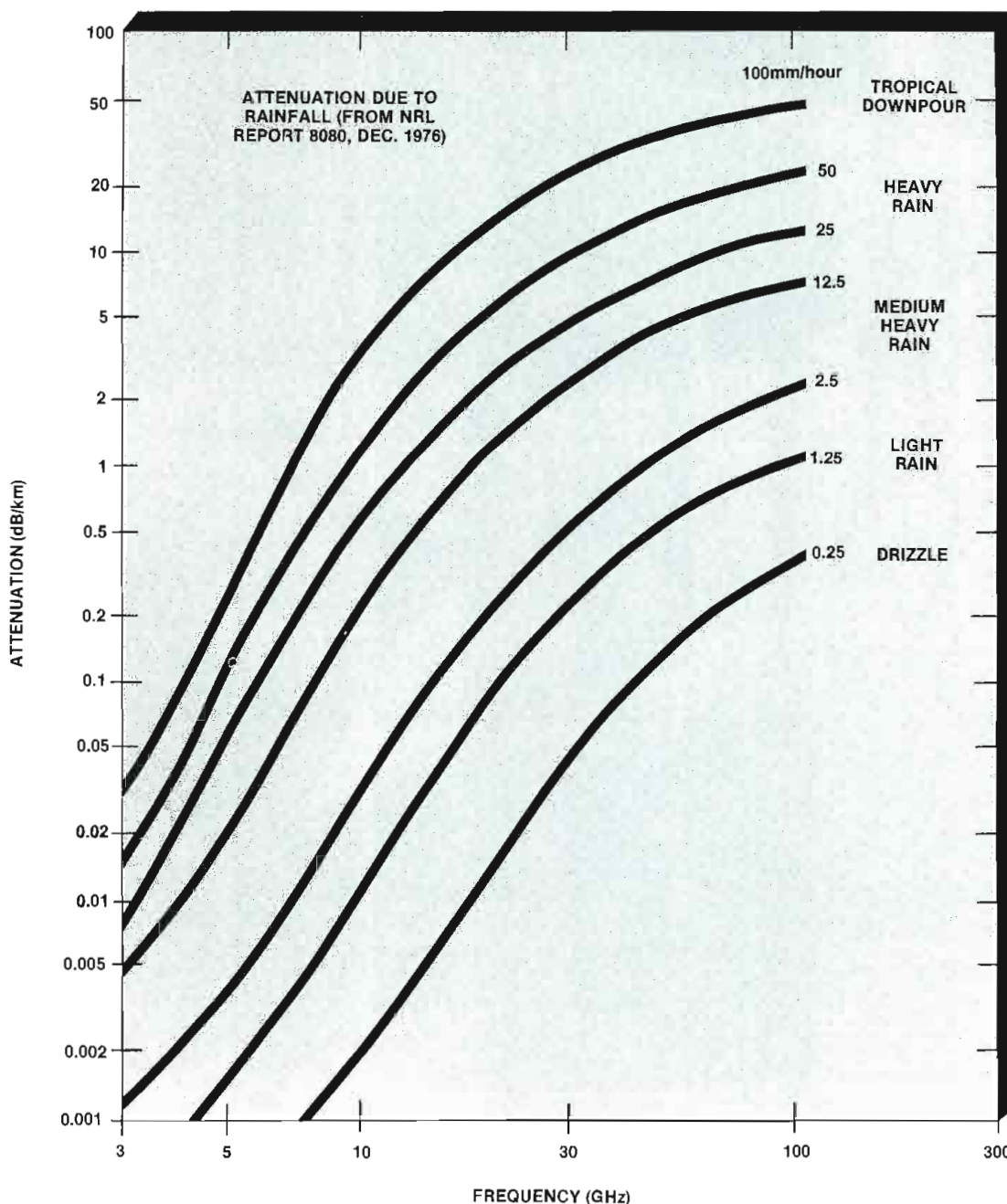


Figure 3. Generalized atmospheric attenuation guide based on frequency.

Path considerations

These frequencies require strict line-of-sight operation. Part 94 does allow passive reflectors to reflect the signal over or around any obstacle. However, repeater systems can be used with up to five hops over a maximum length of 25 miles.

Rainfall is critical to how well a 23GHz path will work. Heavy rainfall greatly attenuates these high frequencies. Accordingly, equipment manufacturers' literature usually provides a set of curves based on expected rainfall for your region. The charts plot attenuation vs. frequency and rainfall amount, as shown in Figure 3.

In Milwaukee, with a 3.5-mile path and the smallest antenna (one foot), the probability of an outage is 0.03%. The 0.03% value represents how often the region should produce rainfall sufficient to reduce the path fade margin to zero. However, this seemingly small percentage amounts to almost three hours of path loss in a given year. Using the same path and equipment in Arizona would result in an outage of only one hour per year. In Florida, the path might be unusable for more than 24 hours per year.

For the station's use—satellite-delivered audio—the 0.03% outage probability is acceptable. The same amount of downtime on an STL path would be unacceptable. Larger antennas are usually the solution to increasing the fade margin. A 4-foot antenna on that 3.5-mile path would add more than 20dB to the fade margin. The probability curves become less reliable when applied to paths greater than one mile long.

Capabilities

The bandwidth available on the 23GHz frequencies allows the transmission of color video and several audio subcar-



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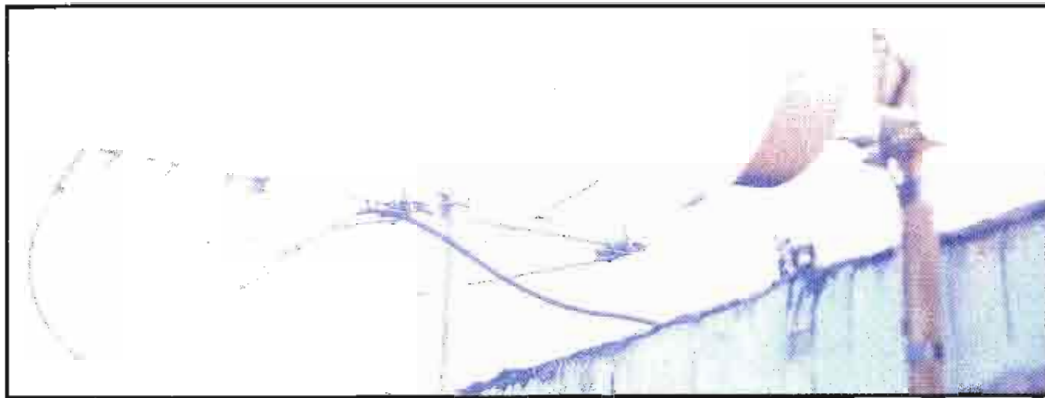
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The yagi antenna, mounted to the 23GHz receiving dish, provides an idea of just how small these types of antennas really are.

riers. Narrowband users (telephone circuits, for example) could load the channel with multiple subcarriers to create numerous voice-grade circuits. TV and CATV users could pass a video channel plus audio and control using only one of these systems. Duplex operation is easily accommodated and capable of providing high-speed, 2-way datalinks or return video feeds.

WQFM traded bandwidth for dynamic range. Stereo audio is first routed through a PCM encoder at the satellite dish. The encoder generates a videolike signal from the digitized stereo-audio signal. The process is reversed at the studio resulting in a transparent, digital stereo audio circuit.

Costs

The system costs are comparable to those for a dual-monaural path at 950MHz. A wide range of PCM encode/decode equipment is available, with accompanying wide-ranging prices. The system provides an installation advantage in that it requires only inexpensive cable. If a particular installation required long coax runs for a 950MHz system, then appreciable savings could be realized. There is no FCC automatic identification requirement that would normally be needed for an intercity-relay link under the current broadcast auxiliary rules.

Reliability

User experience indicates that the charts on link availability are conservative. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee TV Service uses a system similar to WQFM's. Their system provides a short-haul video circuit and one audio subcarrier. In the heaviest rainstorm encountered, described by local meteorologists as a 200-year rain, only a slightly perceptible increase in video and subcarrier noise was noted. The subcarrier audio channels are typically quite good with S/N ratios in the mid-60s range. Other users report similar results in a variety of atmospheric conditions.

Some users recommend designing the systems for a minimum 40dB fade margin. The stability of the antenna mounts is quite important, especially with the larger antennas. With the 4-foot dish antennas, the 3dB beamwidth is only 0.8°, so there is no tolerance for tower sway.

The relatively small size of the RF head can solve an installation problem in which aesthetics is a concern. This was the situation at the Minneapolis Metrodome. The authorities objected to large antennas that might be visible from the arena. The small antenna size allowed

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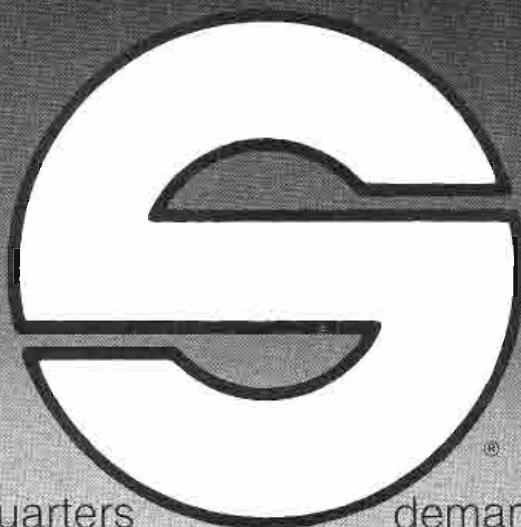
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The Gunn diode

The technology behind the new breed of millimeter wavelength equipment began as a discovery by IBM employee John B. Gunn in 1963. By subjecting a sample of gallium arsenide (GaAs) to an electric field, he observed current oscillations near 1GHz. The correct explanation for this phenomenon appeared the following year in the *IEEE Proceedings* in an article by H. Kroemer. Kroemer noted that C. Hilsum had predicted these transferred electron effects in 1962.

The term Gunn diode refers only to the fact that the device has two terminals; it does not have rectifying properties. The Gunn-Hilsum effect takes place in homogeneous semiconductor material. There is no junction involved. Oscillation occurs because

the electrons tend to bunch together as they transit across the semiconductor. The process is similar to what happens in a klystron.

The oscillation frequency is primarily determined by the semiconductor material and its size. Coupling the device to a resonant cavity increases its efficiency and permits small frequency adjustments. The addition of a varactor diode provides frequency modulation and AFC control.

Gunn diodes are often used in the 500MHz-wide amateur radio band at 10GHz. Equipment has been developed for the readily available Gunnplexer. The Gunnplexer is basically the Gunn diode under the trademark of Microwave Associates. The Gunnplexer adds a ferrite circulator and

mixer diode providing full duplex operation. In this design, the shift on transmit frequencies at each end of the communications path is equal to the intermediate frequency, commonly 30MHz.

Gunn diodes are being seen regularly as modern replacements for klystron oscillators. Gunn diodes can be designed easily into equipment and require a minimum of external support circuitry. Their power supply requirements are also easy to meet. Because of its low operating efficiency and the need to dissipate heat from a small semiconductor surface, the Gunn diode's output remains in the milliwatt range. The devices are not yet available as replacements for high-power klystron amplifiers.

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The MC 737's tight, highly directional lobe pattern and longer barrel provide the longest reach and highest sensitivity when isolating sources

ACCURACY IN AUDIO

database form for frequency assignments. The FCC still won't accept NABER or SBE coordination. Finally, be sure your installation uses a stable antenna mount. Although the units can be in-

stalled on small poles and other mounts, any sway will affect the reliability.

As the lower frequencies become even more crowded, more broadcasters will move into the microwave band.

Although it has its limitations, the equipment can provide top-quality audio transmission. If you need to transmit high-quality audio or video over a short path, consider the 23GHz band. [:-)]

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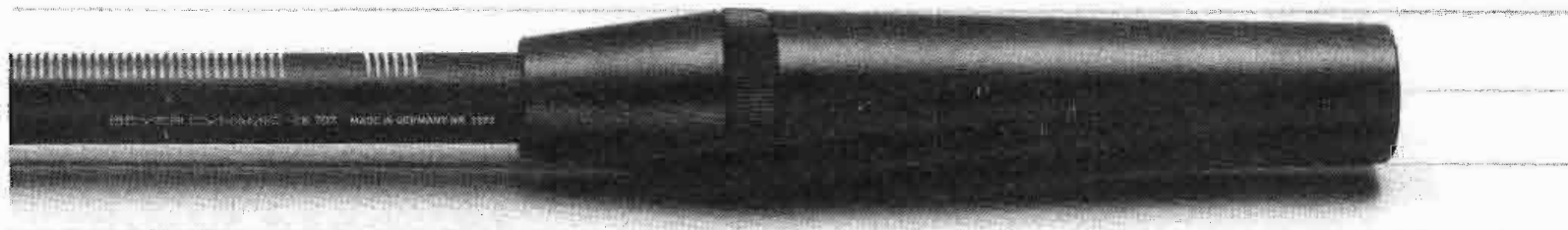
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	NO. 1	n GaAs ₂ ~0.5Ω/cm	
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Packaged Gunn diode as presented in literature from Microwave Associates.

Equivalent circuit of a Gunn diode. The parasitic reactances of the diode package are included.

A cross-sectional view of a Gunn diode.

A C H I N G



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Networking the newsroom

By Carl Bentz, special projects editor

Newsroom computers deal with many complex behind-the-scene tasks of news gathering and presentation.

Until a few years ago, most broadcast stations kept a model 15 Teletype printer stowed away in a closet out of the earshot of live mics. Its purpose was to monitor the news wire and noisily clatter out the latest national and international events. When a local station had a story

for the network, special arrangements were needed. Usually, the arrangement was a telephone call to the network to read the story.

Multiple news and weather wires meant dedicated telco lines and printers for each service, but for stations commit-

ted to news, the machines were a necessary evil. Several spare ribbons and endless paper supplies were absolute necessities to avoid missing the biggest story of the day. At least one engineer often spent part of the time keeping the mechanical marvels operating.

Today's news machine has come out of the closet to take a primary position within the news center. A computer-based system is the hub of a growing weblike network, receiving a constant stream of data from local, regional, national and international sources. Unlike the old reliable model 15s, however, the new systems operate at high data speeds. They simultaneously allow text processing or editing functions, present the news script on a video monitor and handle communication among multiple terminals, all without paper. The flexibility they give to radio and TV news presentations was only a dream for the rip-and-read newspeople of yesteryear. (Printers are available, if needed.)

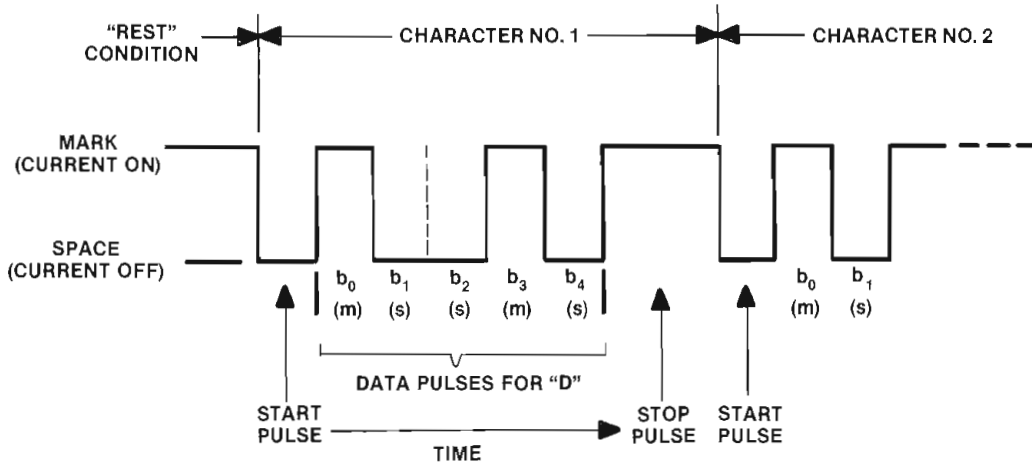


Figure 1. The character frame for Baudot code letter D (10010).

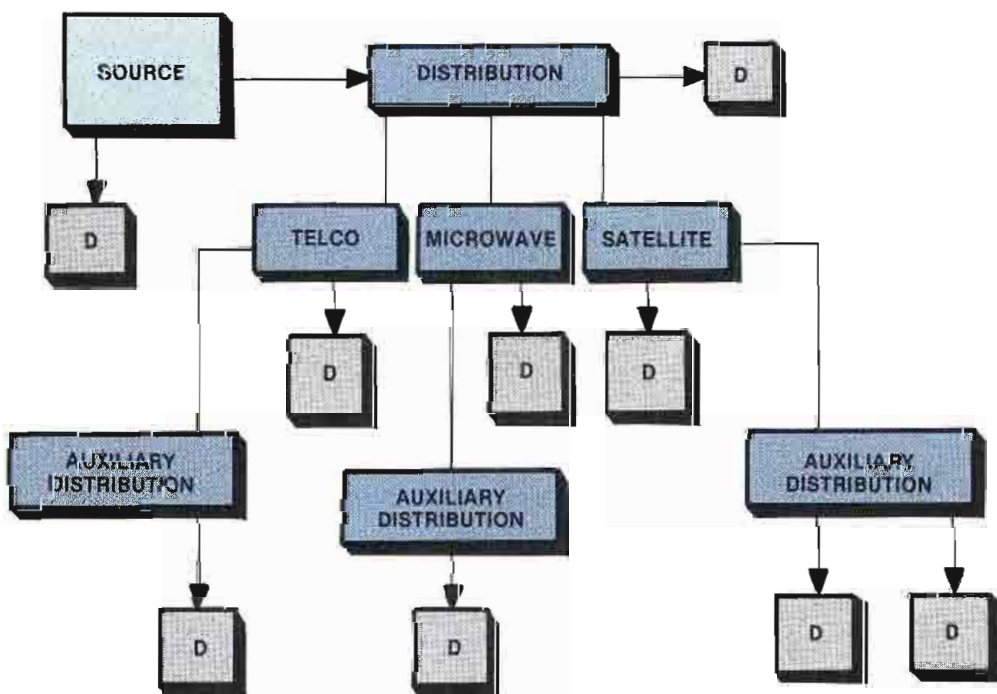


Figure 2. In a 1-way network, the distribution capability determines the number of destinations (D) served.

It began with Baudot

Networking with a teletypewriter, usually a 1-way affair, used a form of digital communication. The news service transmitted a serial datastream at 300 baud (about 60 words per minute) to subscribers on dedicated telephone lines. On its way, the information passed through numerous telephone exchanges, making a dc signaling concept impractical. Instead, a signal of *mark* and *space* audio tones was used. A character began with a start pulse and ended with one or two stop pulses. Between the two, combinations of five pulses derived from mark/space tones identified the characters. (See Figure 1.)

The 5-bit Baudot code presented a problem. Because a bit is either off (0) or on (1), five bits allowed 32 combinations. Beyond letters, only six additional characters were possible. To include symbols and numbers, two *shift* codes were designated. A 5-bit character of 1s (11111), called *unshift*, set the machine for subsequent letters, while the *shift*

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command (11011) returned the printer to numbers and symbols until further notice. Other control codes existed in each shift state as well.

Line noise could cause a missed shift command and garbled information. Operators learned to translate between character sets, or requested the message to be resent at a slack time. The same was true of machines with special character sets, such as weather symbols. An *unshift on next space* feature was available on some machines to reduce the translation work.

The concept was simple and connecting the equipment was relatively easy. But making the machine produce the right letters was sometimes a real trick. The interface for many teleprinters was a terminal with a bipolar relay driven by tone decoders. Two frequency-sensitive decoders converted mark/space tones into off/on conditions. The relay switched a 20mA or 60mA current loop according to the mark and space pulses from the decoder, causing the key to strike the paper. Of course, mark/space polarities were occasionally inadvertently reversed producing garbage.

Some machines were equipped with synchronous ac motors and ran the mechanical decoding system with excellent results. Others, driven by dc motors, had synchronization problems. If the mechanism turned at the wrong speed, the message could be garbled irretrievably.

ASCII as a key

Microcomputer systems have relegated model 15s to museums, replacing them with advanced word processors. Baudot has evolved to another code called *ASCII*, the American Standard Code for Information Interchange. First appearing as a 7-bit format, then expanding to eight to handle more characters, ASCII remains in use today for the transmission of nearly all computer data.

The news wire still brings a serial stream of information into a large

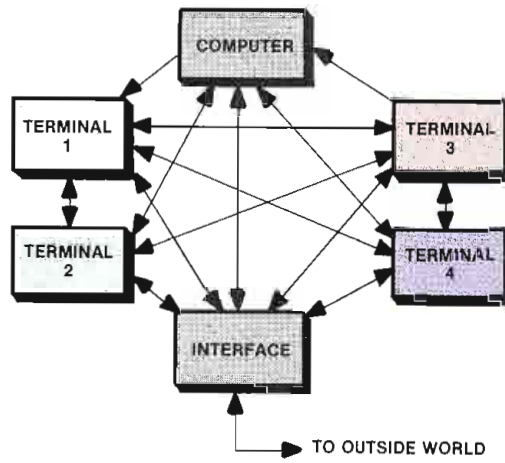


Figure 3. Interconnect diagram of a point-to-point network.

memory bank, often at 1,200 baud (about 240 words per minute). But now, without a scrap of paper, the story can be read, edited and provided to the on-air news reporter on a videoprompter screen. Multiple tasking allows the news director to completely rearrange a sequence of stories during the newscast without the talent's knowledge.

If there is sufficient memory capability, the original and edited versions can be archived for future reference. Newsroom automation equipment allows even greater capabilities. Large databases store past news stories with instant recall of the facts by various key indexes. Winchester and optical disk memories provide nearly instantaneous access to history, while streaming data cassettes allow quick access from off-line archives.

Software at heart

The efficiency of newsroom automation depends partly upon the hardware used, but primarily on software. The computer program includes many of the functions typically found in word-

processing systems. However, there are many other aspects that make the system easy to use.

News gathering and information management depend heavily upon the networking of multiple computers. Whether the network is limited to terminals within the station or includes remote locations, such as the network news headquarters and regional or state bureau offices, the same concepts apply. The difference will be a matter of complexity.

Most systems now use PC-type terminals linked with a central processing unit (CPU). The terminals may contain resident text-processing software in read-only memory (ROM) or may access that program from the CPU. The reporter may compose a story at the terminal, then direct the CPU to store it in mass memory. Alternatively, a story can be called up from the memory for rewriting. When editing is finished, the story is returned to memory and flagged for the next newscast.

The link between terminals and the CPU is typically serial in nature. Parallel connections could be used, linking all devices with an 8- or 16-wire cable, depending upon the components. The serial approach, however, provides greater compatibility between equipment by avoiding any need for translation from one parallel hardware format to another. If data conversion is necessary, it can be done through software.

The CPU contains the software necessary to receive communications data from one or more wire services simultaneously. In reality, the CPU program may direct the activity of several peripheral microcomputers, one per news service.

Although it would be convenient for all wire services to use standard formats, there are variations among them. As a result, several different types of modems may connect the computers to the services. The modems can be addressable, allowing the wire service to

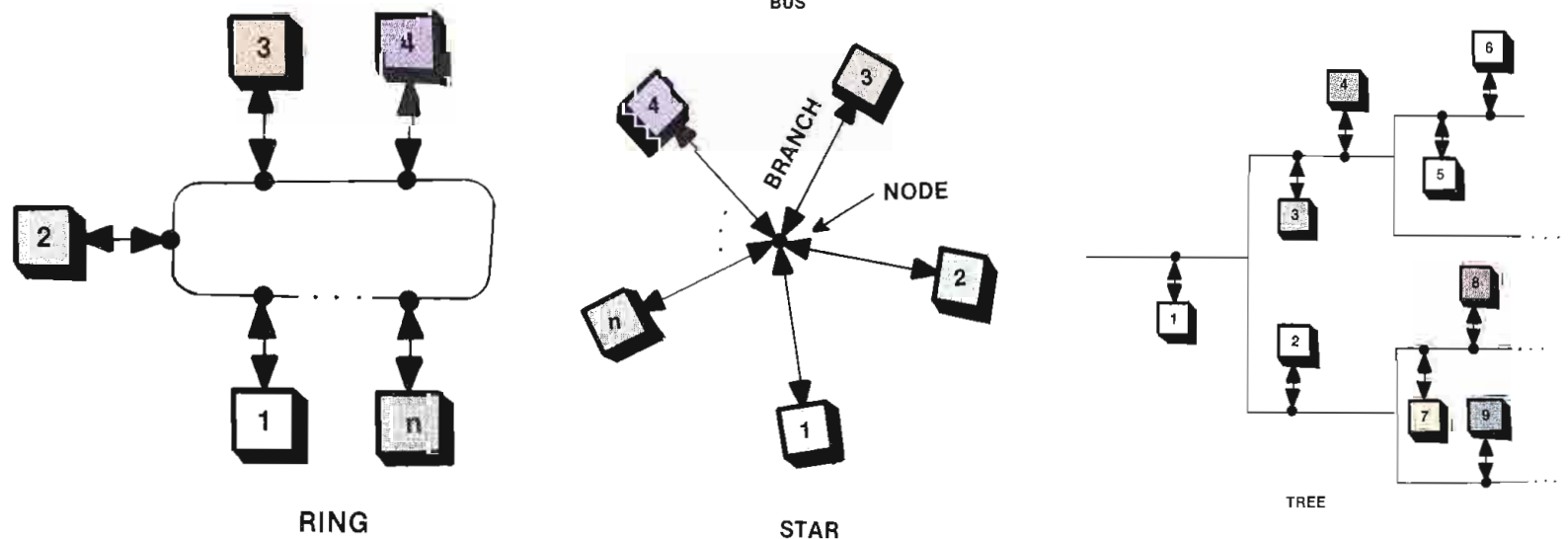


Figure 4. Possible topologies of local area networks. Shown here are bus, ring, star and tree.

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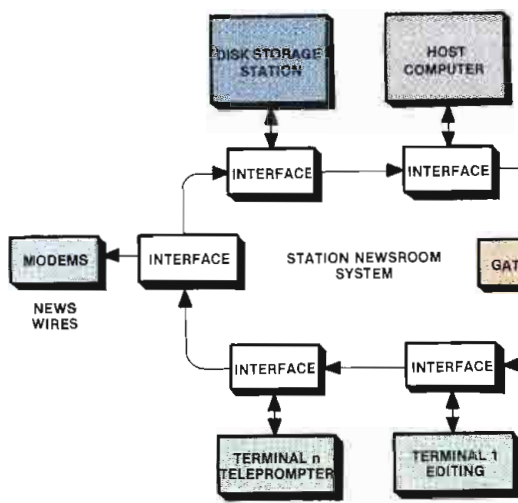


Figure 5. LAN rings at two separate locations can be interconnected through modems. Gateways allow different LAN types to be linked.

send proprietary messages to some receiving points, while others on the network are by-passed.

News departments include outlying offices or bureaus to provide reports from regional areas. These remote sites also can be linked into the automated system through modems. The bureau terminal can be used only as a means to send information into the system, but it also may be interactive, receiving messages for the remote location as well.

Basic networks

Technically, a network interconnects two or more devices to accomplish a common goal. The goal is communication and may involve any grade between two extremes—strict 1-way or bidirectional data transfer.

In a 1-way system, a source is linked to numerous destinations. (See Figure 2.) The activity at all destinations follows instructions originating from a source location. Equipment at each destination serves to report the network operation.

At the other end of the range, a totally interactive system assigns each network member an identity and address (see Figure 3). Any member may act as a source or a destination. Activity at any member device, under the guidance of a network controller, results when the device is called, its availability is verified and a job command is issued.

As the device services the command, it may or may not involve other units and the network itself. Upon completion of the task, the device returns to an attention status and the network is free until the next command. All units of the network are prepared for bidirectional communication at all times.

The gathering and presenting of news may involve networks of any type within the overall spectrum. A single newsroom automation system probably will involve several levels of networking, as shown in Figure 4.

Tying the pieces together

It should be clarified that in reference to telco lines, modems (modulator-

demodulators) are not used only to link equipment through the telephone. Modems, however, are translating interfaces that exchange electrical tones and dc voltage levels. Another term occasionally used is *codec*, or coder-decoder. The term *codec* is often used in conjunction with video signals and satellite or fiber-optic links. The idea behind both, however, is the same.

Although a specified connection must exist between the computer terminal and the modem, the medium linking several modems is almost immaterial. It may be a hardwired telephone line, but an STL microwave or satellite channel subcarrier will serve just as well.

What is critical for communicating through modems is the protocol or data structure in use. Like spoken languages among people, the protocol must be intelligible to both ends of a link if the message is to be successfully communicated.

The situation may be compounded by the speed at which information passes through the network. Different types of data may simultaneously follow the same path to different destinations. Another factor to consider is the communications loading (number of users) on the network at any given time. The newsroom computer may need to work with more than one protocol, depending upon the complexity. This task is relegated to the CPU and its peripheral microprocessors.

Within a limited physical area—for example, the newsroom complex—at least two approaches to equipment interconnection are possible. The point-to-point method is common in smaller systems, using an input/output (I/O) port of the CPU for each terminal or peripheral in use. The *local area network* (LAN) is

becoming popular in some areas of automation for several reasons. (See Figure 5.)

One if by LAN

A point-to-point system dealing with eight terminals may be easily manageable, but problems may develop with 32 terminals. The management of numerous I/O ports becomes difficult, if not impossible. The CPU can handle only so much, so *combiners* or *concentrators* are used. A concentrator provides I/O ports for several terminals. The concentrator contains its own microprocessor with software to manage the interface between its users and the CPU.

The point-to-point approach also requires individual wired connections at least between each terminal and the CPU. If all terminals are to communicate with one another, additional connections are required between terminals. For such a system, the number of connections (C) between N terminals is $C = N(N-1)/2$. For a system of eight terminals, $C = 28$. In other words there are 28 connections, each of which may fail. If $N = 32$, C expands to 496 connections. As the number of links increases, so does the probability of failure.

If the central unit is working with one terminal, the other seven must wait until the first one is completed. Efficiency is reduced as the seven units twiddle their bits.

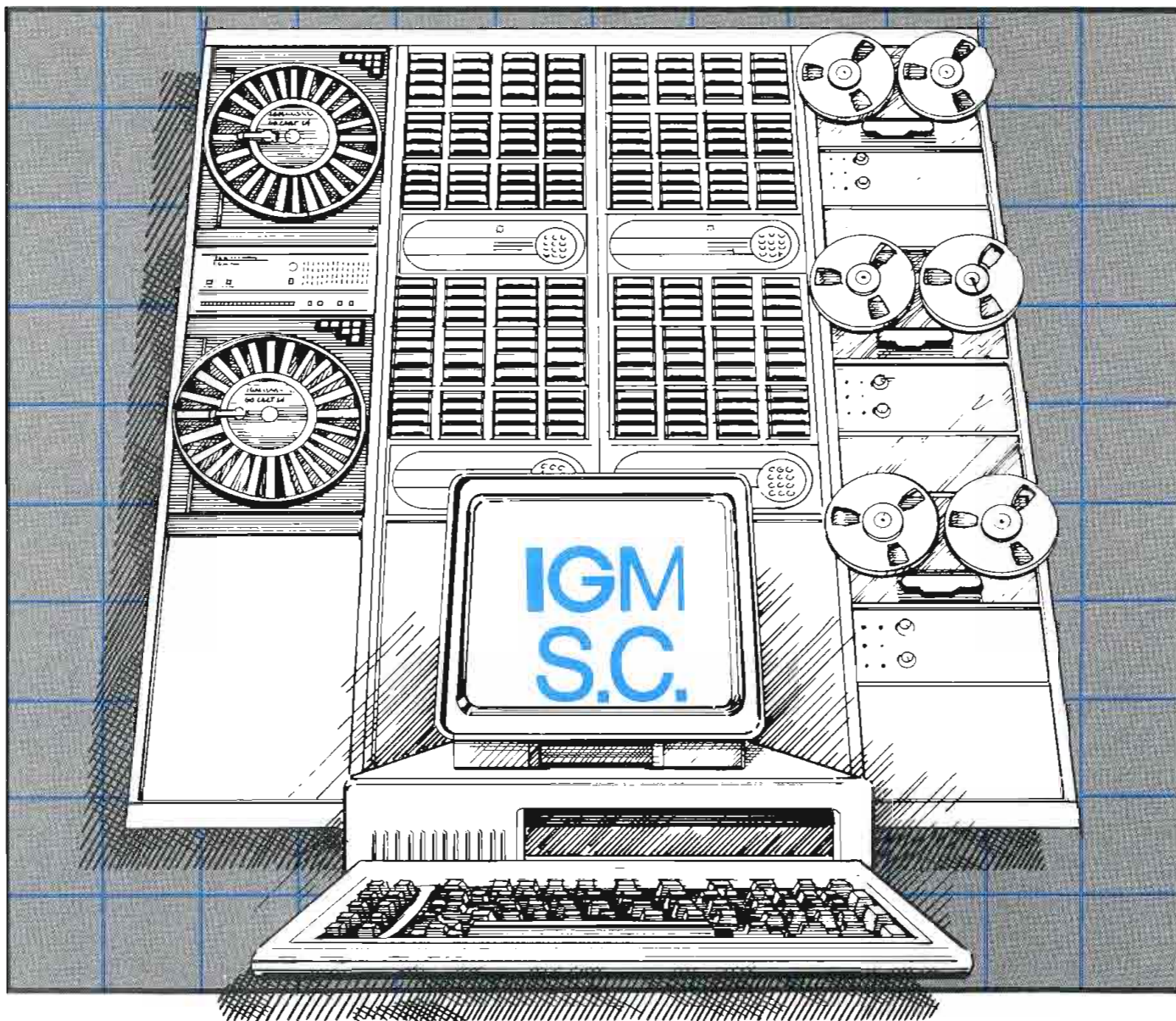
The LAN concept can tie all members into an interactive network ring with only one connection per device. A star configuration is also possible with an increased number of connections (two per device), but the result is still more reliable than that of the point-to-point approach. All transmissions from a source are sent to all members of the group simultaneously. Only the member(s) to be concerned with a message responds.

The number of devices on a LAN is limited by system addressability. Each device must have a unique identification. A single 8-bit digital byte can take on 256 different states. If more than one byte is used for ID purposes, the possibilities increase in astronomical proportions.

Network traffic requirements vary widely, resulting in a high probability that two or more devices might attempt to transmit messages at exactly the same time. This situation demands *collision detection* and the appropriate recourse. When collision occurs, sources must re-send the data, but each begins again after random wait periods. Probability again predicts that network capture on a repeat try will be successful.

Finally, the LAN operates in a *packet switching* mode. In packet switching, data is sent in bursts or packets. Because individual packets are addressed to

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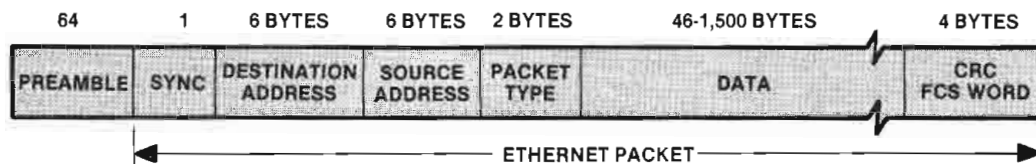


Figure 6. The Ethernet data packet.

specific destinations, communication from multiple sources to multiple destinations can occur simultaneously for all practical purposes. No one has to wait for more than a matter of milliseconds.

Pieces of eight

At the packet level, protocol variations become particularly important. Packet systems differ in the composition of each packet or frame. Also, different data packet types may be used for different functions. Typical packets contain address information for source and destination, control bytes, a frame-check sequence (FCS) word and a frame-sequencing number. These sections consist of 8-bit sequences or ASCII characters. The variations in packet make-up cause incompatibility.

A unique identification is necessary for the beginning of the packet (the *preamble*), as well as for the end (a *cyclic redundancy check*, or CRC). The preamble sup-

plies synchronization information to prepare receiving units for the message to follow. With the terminating CRC, the system verifies that data was received correctly. It does this in the same manner that check digits in bank account numbers apply debits and credits to the proper account.

If the data was received correctly, the CRC send matches the CRC calculated by the receiver from the databits received. An acknowledgment (ACK) is returned to the source to initiate the transmission of the next packet. A message normally contains a number of frames, so the ACK frame contains the FCS word of the last correct frame received or the first frame not received.

The Xerox *Ethernet* system (see Figures 6 and 7) is one of several networks being used in computer networks and with some broadcast equipment. A 64-bit preamble syncs the network with a series of 1s and 0s, except the last two bits, which must both be 1s. If a receiver

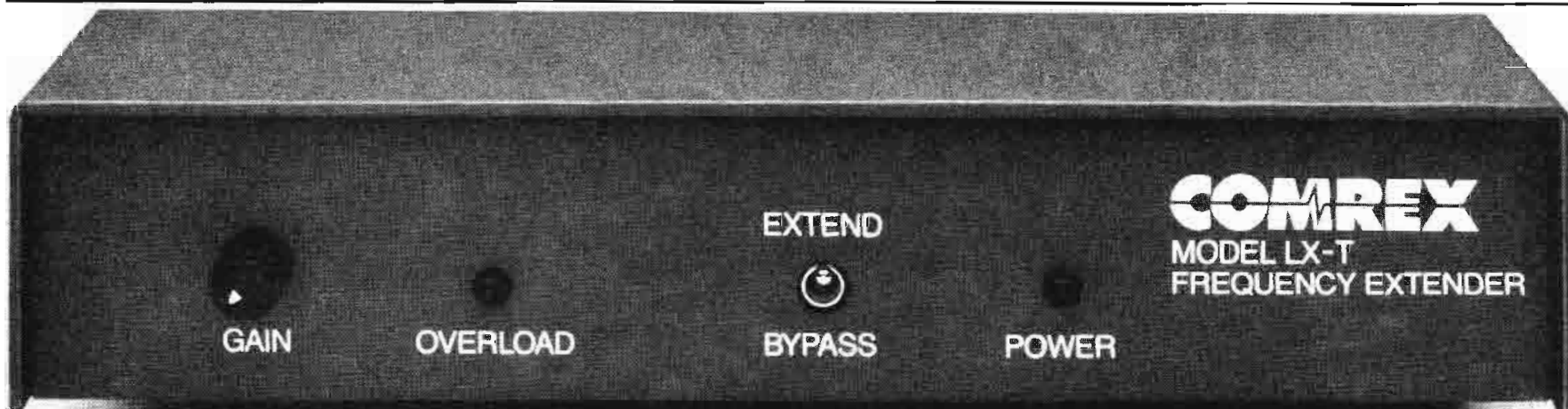
sees an incorrect preamble, the packet is rejected.

The packet actually begins with a single sync bit. Then two 6-byte addresses allow numerous discrete source and destination locations. A 2-byte type field is currently reserved for future expansion.

Following a data field, which may vary from 46 to 1,500 8-bit bytes, four final bytes are charged with error-checking and detection. The FCS includes a CRC word, based upon binary calculations on the bits already sent. A calculation by the destination unit over the message field must produce a code to match the bytes of the received signal. With a match, the packet is accepted as valid. Otherwise, a retransmit order (NACK) is issued.

Different methods of coding add to network variation. Ethernet sees an actual end-of-packet code as a lack of 0-1 transitions. Within the packet, such transitions occur in accordance to *Manchester coding*. The Manchester method was developed for disk drive applications.

Collision-detection and handling in Ethernet is a function of the controller/interface at each device. If a carrier sense signal is detected at any network member, a transmission by that device is delayed until the last bit of a frame passes. A minimum of 9.6µs can



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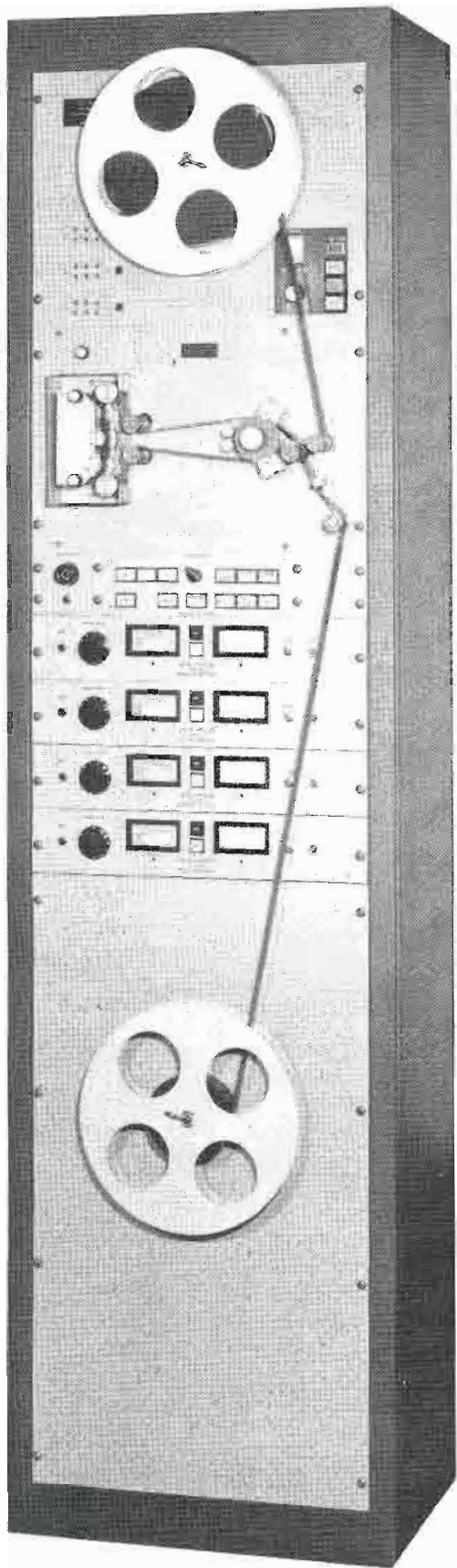
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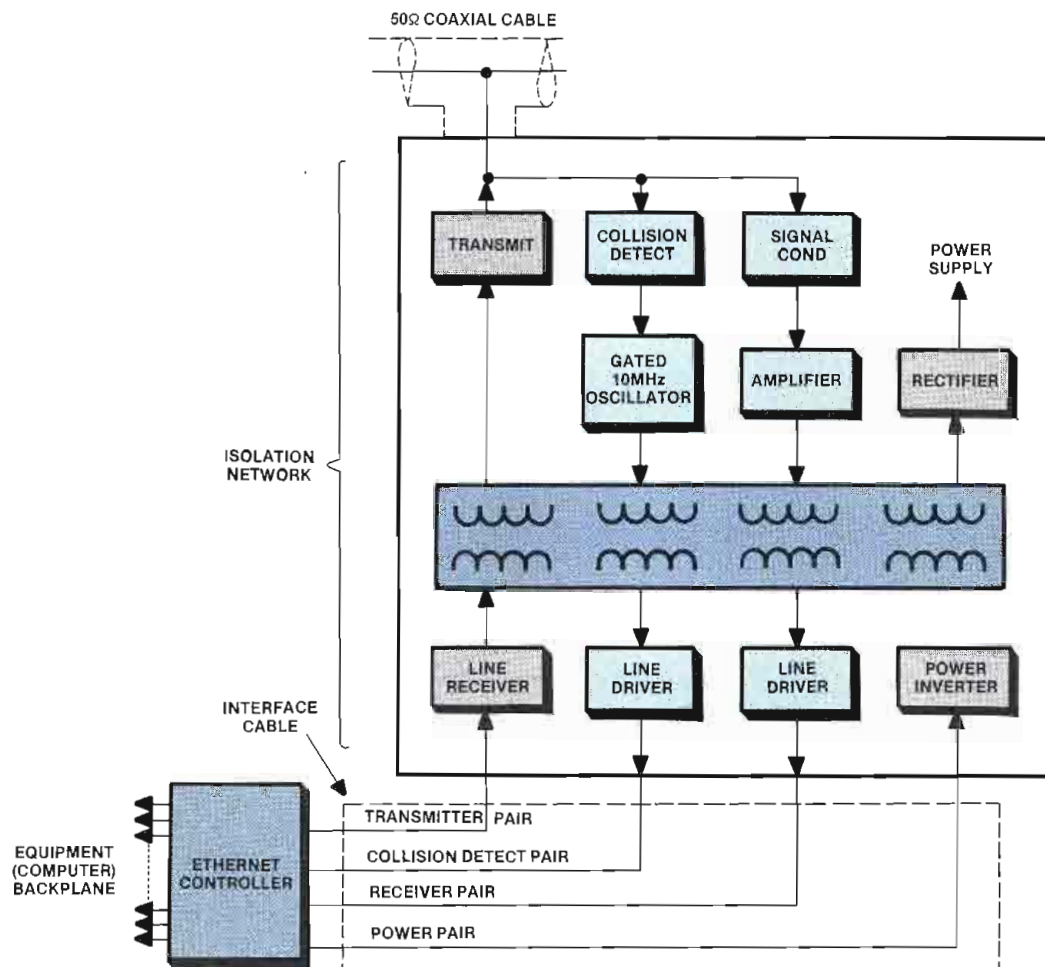


Figure 7. Ethernet systems use an interface cable and isolation network to link a device to the data network.

elapse between frames. After that time, contention for the channel exists until a device requests and seizes the channel.

When a collision occurs, the device attempting to transmit will try 15 more times. Each new attempt occurs after a random delay period. Normally, a retry early in the series captures the transmission channel.

Network theory

The names of some other data networks may be familiar from computer use. ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency), the first packet-switched network, played a part in developing the LAN concept. The more complex SNA (IBM Systems Network Architecture) supports an integration of multiple data-processing facilities and interactive access among members of the several networks. DECNET (Digital Equipment Corporation) introduced private LANs among computers rather than hardwired connections. The CCITT X.25, a standard recommended for public packet-switched networks, has been adopted by the United States and many other countries. The Ebus (an EBU/SMPTE standard) is intended for machine control, not high-speed data networking.

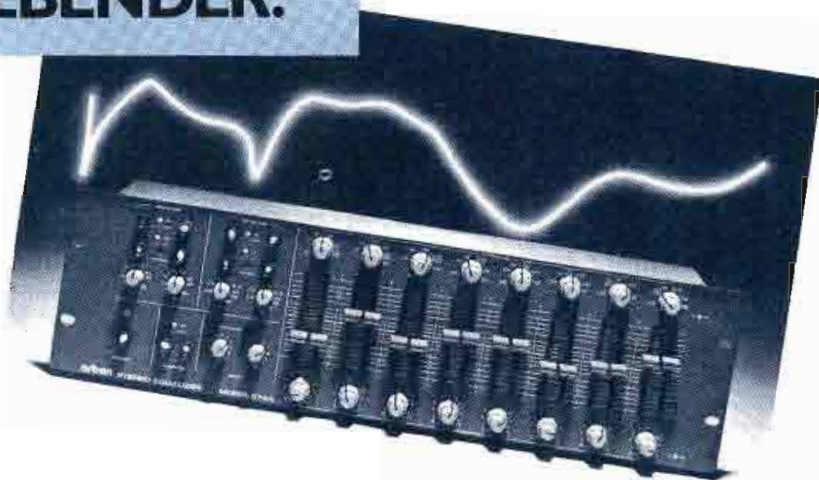
Continued on page 106

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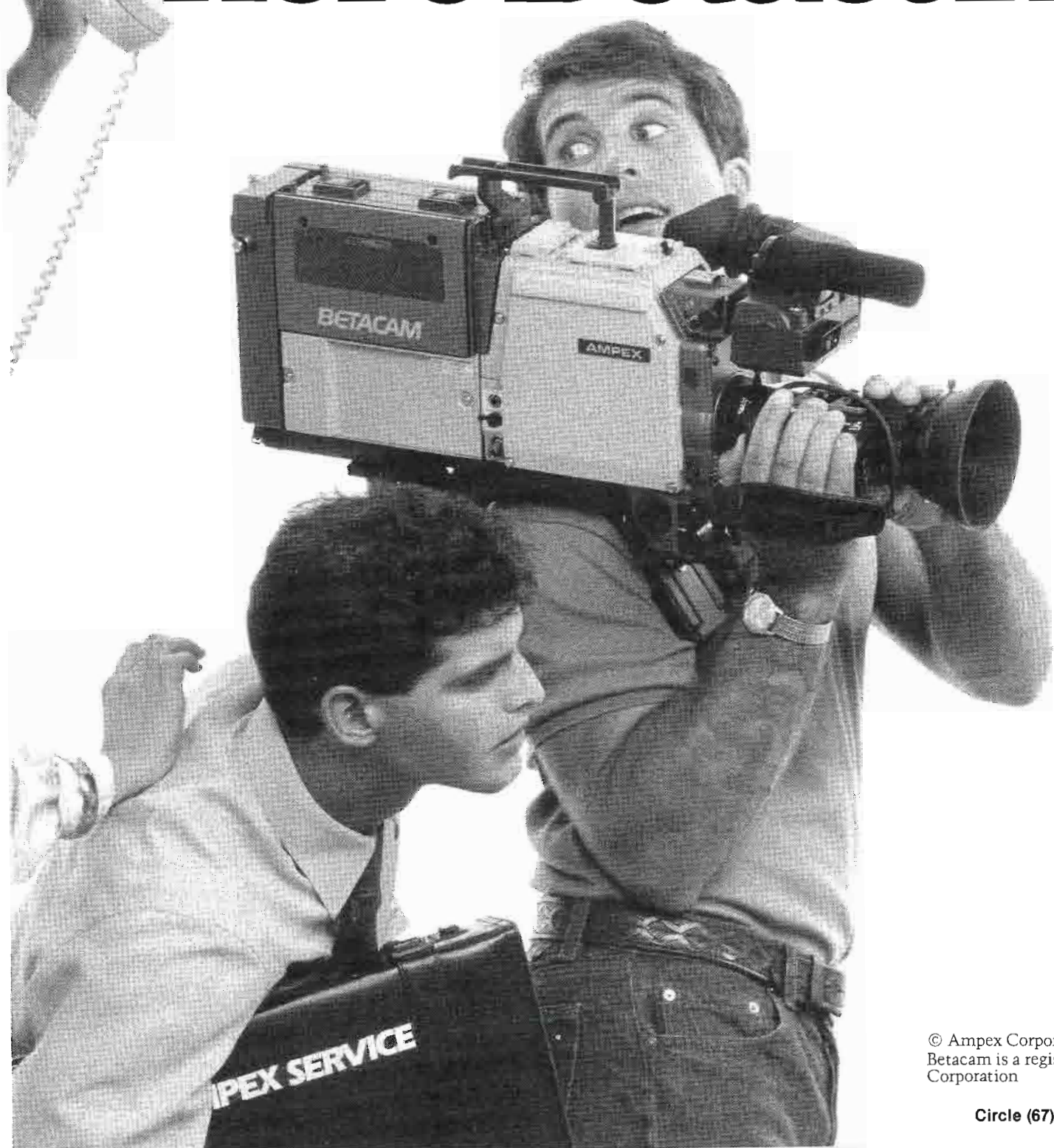
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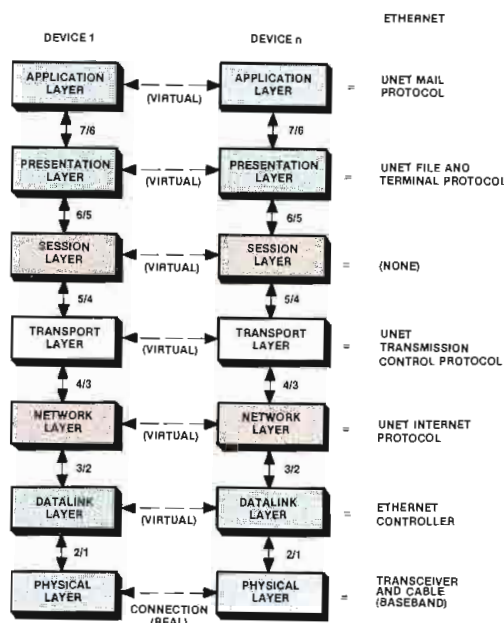


Figure 8. The ISO theoretical network vs. Ethernet.

Continued from page 102

A feature of all network types is their correspondence to a model network developed by the International Standards Organization (ISO). This 7-layer architecture model defines the needs of a theoretical communications network. Of the seven levels, the bottom (physical) and top (applications) layers are most easily comprehended. See Figure 8.

The *physical layer* establishes a real connection between two network devices. Included are considerations of connectors, coaxial, twisted-pair and multicore cables or optical fibers, transmitters and receivers, electrical protection components and collision-detection hardware. This layer also ultimately determines if a channel operates full or half-duplex, that is, bidirectional or 1-way, at any given time.

Next, the *datalink layer* assembles the bitstream into frames or frame sequences. Damaged frames are detected here and NACK requests are originated. If all is well, an ACK is sent. ACK and NACK messages may be piggybacked upon other frames to increase speeds.

The *network layer* establishes a virtual circuit and maintains it during transmission. Traffic or flow control from this layer regulates activity on the network, attempting to reduce congestion and inform other layers of the network status. It also maintains priorities of segmented messages, keeping the segments in the proper order.

The *transport layer* multiplexes and demultiplexes data for the next-higher session layer and may multiplex several sessions onto a single network connection. This action relieves congestion during heavy traffic conditions. In monitoring the quality of service, the transport layer is responsible for error detection and error correction. In effect, the

transport layer presents an interface to isolate the session layer, above it, from changes in hardware in lower layers.

The *session layer* establishes the connection between two users upon instructions from the next-higher presentation layer and provides buffering between two end-users. Establishing synchronization between end-user tasks, it then determines communications options such as half- or full-duplex and passes approval of those options to the physical layer. It also performs a directory function and provides addressing to be implemented by users or their programs.

The *presentation layer* translates session layer data for the top, or applications, layer. Translation functions include representations of alphanumeric, file formats, data types and character codes as used by dissimilar machines. This layer negotiates a transfer syntax by which application layers may communicate. Such translation and negotiation result because of variations in the equipment that forms the applications layer. This layer is a concern to those involved in manufacturing compatible equipment. If common control and data formats are used by the different equipment manufacturers, compatibility is high.

The *applications layer* allows a human user to access the computer and is responsible for making all other layers transparent to the operator. In essence, it is the programmable part of the computer, while other layers form the operating system. In a broadcast program automation system, this layer also involves specific VCRs, effects systems, still stores or other accessible equipment. Through the applications layer of a newsroom terminal, the entire system becomes a virtual computer to that terminal. The software comprising the applications level is responsible for the personality or intelligence of each terminal or network member.

In network theory, the term *virtual* often appears in reference to connections and devices. In a point-to-point hardwired system, actual connections and actual devices exist. In a network following the ISO theoretical model, virtual connections and devices appear. They are apparent or simulated, but in fact, do not exist as they seem. In the model, there appears to be a direct connection between every layer of any devices on the network (dashed lines). The actual or real connection between any devices occurs only at the lowest physical layer.

To the network, the application layer at any location or node that simulates the expected activity of the network member at that node is a virtual machine. As a result, the real terminal may be replaced by a microprocessor-

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Have token, will transmit

The *token ring* network is a method for improving orderly transfer of data. A token system places an upper limit on waiting time for each device to access the network. A number of local loops to terminals connect to a central distribution panel that operates under the control of a ring monitor. No device on the network may actively transmit information unless it holds the token.

The packet of information in the token ring includes destination and source segments, which include a control byte to indicate asynchronous or synchronous traffic requirements. During periods of high data traffic, the ring monitor may declare a period of only synchronous operation to reduce congestion. In these situations, only single packet transfers are allowed between the call originator and the data destination. Any response to be made to a source must wait until the destination device holds the token.

Token rings are sensitive to the number of nodes connected to the network. More nodes increase the time between access periods for any particular device. Inactive devices or idle nodes

must receive and pass along the token, even though they may have no need to access the network. Problems of collision are avoided, because no device can transmit without holding the key and no two devices may have the token simultaneously.

Portals to the outside world

While the LAN system takes care of operations within the station, some means must be provided for the newsroom computer to access or be accessed by outside devices or networks. For example, the news network that is feeding text into the local CPU memory (via modem) is probably not dealing with the same network structure as the local system. The interface between two networks is the *gateway*.

Gateways perform several functions. One is the translation of packet structures from one system to the other. Within an Ethernet system, for example, data may be transmitted at a 10Mb/s rate. The telco data rate with a high-speed modem is 9,600b/s (or baud). For the two to communicate, the gateway provides a buffer. For information leaving the Ethernet LAN, a large buffer must handle the speed discrepancy. For incoming information, only a small buf-

fer is required to assemble the data into acceptable packets.

For an installation that is to link the newsroom system with program automation and the station billing system, gateways would be necessary between each system as well as between outside news bureau terminals, the incoming weather data and other wire services. If each source operates under the same network concept, then the gateways function as interfaces, units that deal with the occasional needs to transfer messages from a device in one network to a device in another system.

Keys to network choices

To select a network for a particular application requires consideration of several factors. Probably no single system can meet every requirement, but through compromise, a network is selected to best serve the application. The primary consideration is data rate. The data rate will be a function of the maximum number of network nodes and the maximum distance between nodes. The medium (twisted pair, coaxial cable, optical fiber or air) of the physical layer also affects speed because propagation delay time exists.

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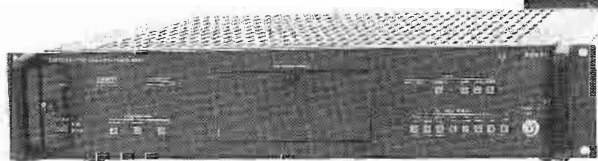
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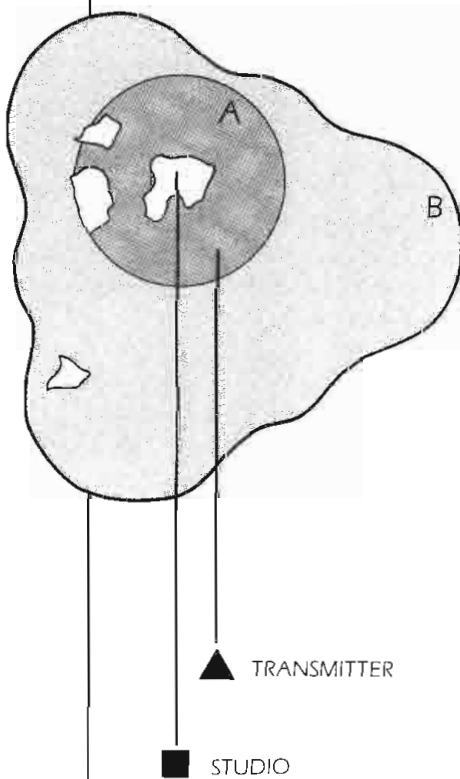
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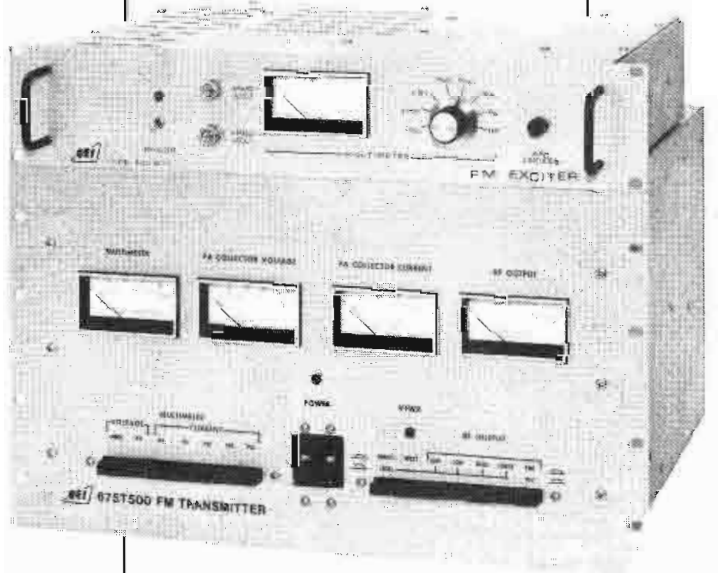
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cess collision detection) system works well when traffic is intermittent and frame arrival is not critical. With increased network traffic, performance of CSMA/CD networks begins to degrade. A frame may collide several times before it reaches its destination, requiring numerous retransmissions. Channel capacity may drop significantly (to as low as 30%) under such conditions.

If peak network loads are large and network access delays are excessive, token-passing systems may be more

practical. Only high-priority frame packets are allowed to be passed during heavy traffic periods, while all frames assume equal priority at lower traffic times.

Redundancy and reliability

Newsroom automation is touted as a solution to reams of paper. The complete newscast is retained in non-volatile memory at all times, unless the operator purposely instructed the computer to delete a file. But what happens when

power to the computer, a memory or microprocessor chip fails or the Winchester disk crashes? Such failures are becoming less critical, but they still spell potential disaster.

Redundancy is the practical answer to the problem. By duplicating every major portion of a system and providing an interconnection between each of them, it is possible to arrive at high reliability, albeit at an increased cost. In such a system, any information entering the newsroom system is duplicated on the Winchester disk of both computers. Duplicate uninterruptible power supplies are rated to handle the dual computer load if necessary, but normally are responsible for only one of the pair.

The only parts that are not duplicated in such a system are terminal concentrator interfaces. If a total of 64 terminals connected through eight concentrators to the computers, four CCUs to each, and one computer failed, the 32 terminals attached to the surviving CPU would be operable. A 50% survival rate is obviously better than 0%.

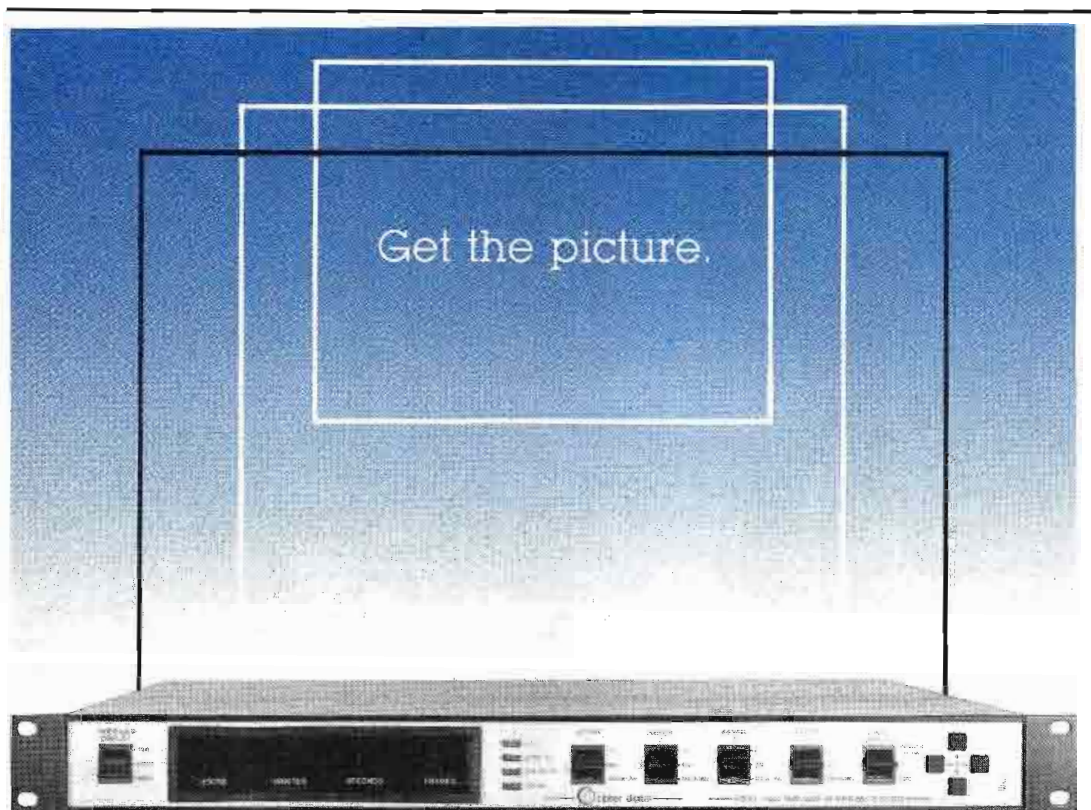
Some network connections automatically provide for reliability. On the Ethernet, a device can fail without causing total network shutdown. Calls to the failed node respond with a *device not available* message. Other network forms, however, may experience a complete halt of activity if any one device fails.

In the final analysis

The dilemma of selecting a newsroom system will ultimately fall to news department management. The selection will be determined by factors of reliability, data capacity, operating speed and operational simplicity. Actual interconnection to station equipment that is not directly involved in news gathering and preparation is limited at this time. Weather data intended for graphic display is linked to electronic graphics equipment and will be called for through a control mechanism other than the news automation.

A trend toward combining automation systems through continued networking exists. Control of tape decks, still libraries and other production equipment from the news computer does make sense. Just as the digital TV production studio has become a reality, total automation of the broadcast facility will eventually occur. To make that progression as smooth as possible, networking concepts will be essential.

The newsroom systems available today may specify the network type that is to be used, thereby limiting the choices. However, adaptability to other types through gateways and interfacing remains an option that you must keep in mind as your facility joins the computer-aided broadcasting age. [:-:))]]



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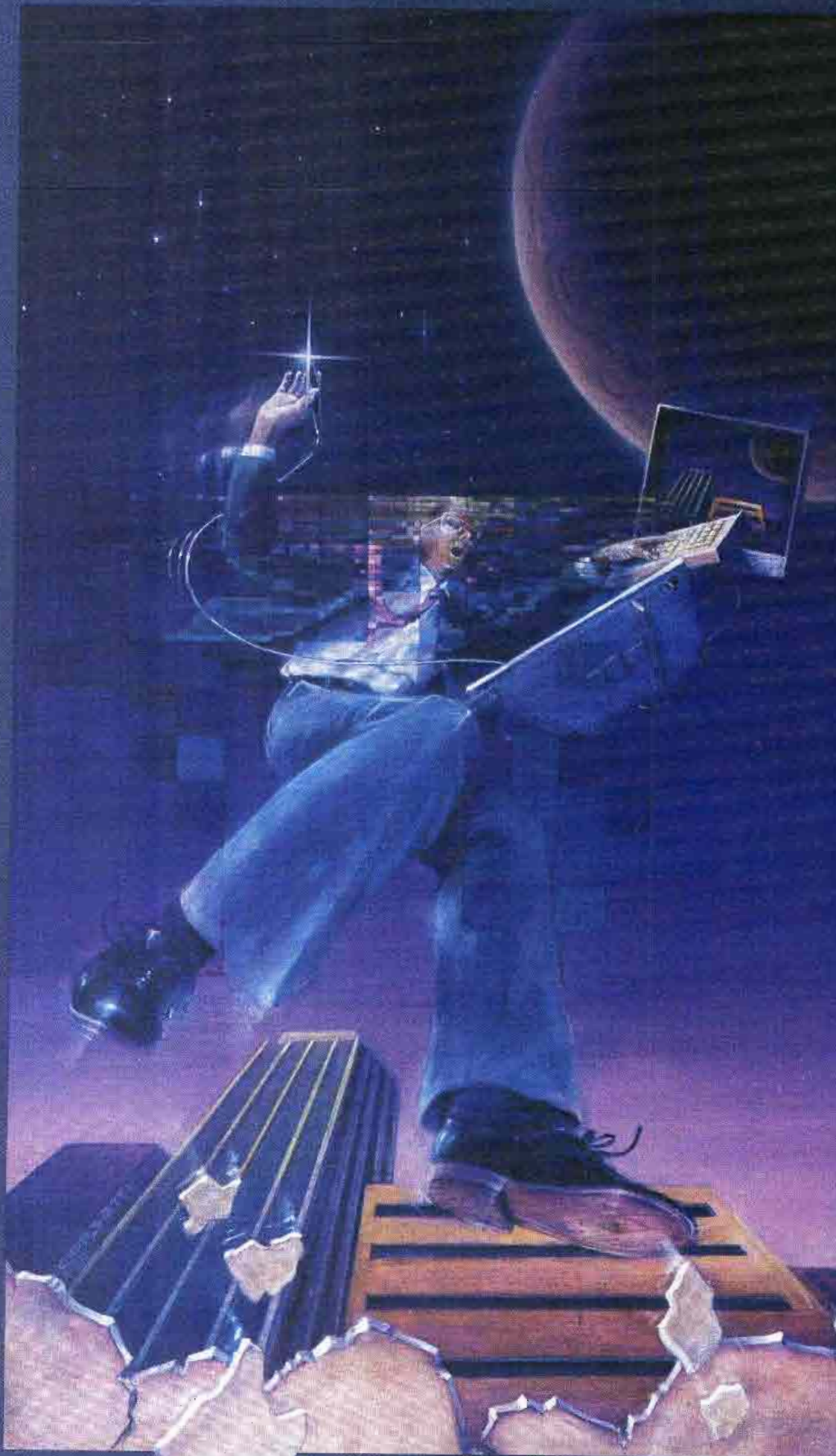
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San Francisco to host SMPTE TV conference

By Ned Soseman, TV technical editor

The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers will host its 21st annual Television Conference, Feb. 6-7. The conference will be held at the Westin St. Francis Hotel, in downtown San Francisco.

The theme of this year's conference is, "The 21st Conference Looks to the 21st Century." The focus will be on the future of television between now and the year 2000. The technical program will feature high-interest, forward-looking papers covering topics of great importance to TV engineers. Many major TV technology research centers and manufacturing companies have been invited to contribute to the program.

Papers to be presented have been grouped under three categories. Friday morning, Feb. 6, topics will cover: *Videographics: The Next Generation*. Presentations scheduled at the videographics session include authors from Aurora Systems, Cubicomp, Jet Propulsion Labs, Pixar, Pixel and Quantel.

Friday afternoon, *Tape Recording Formats for This Century and the Next* will be discussed. Scheduled to address this issue are representatives from Ampex, Robert Bosch GmbH, CBS, NBC and Sony.

All day Saturday, presentations will focus on a single topic with an international impact: *The Frontiers of Global Television Research*. An impressive number of industry leaders from Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and West Germany have been invited to present papers on this issue.

The stated objective of the Saturday sessions is to present a broad overview of what leading researchers in this field are doing to advance TV technology into the 21st century. Leaders from the major U.S. networks also will address how they perceive these advancements will affect their engineering operations. The session will be followed by a panel discussion involving all the speakers.

All equipment and devices exhibited will be limited to those directly relating to the technical papers presented, and will be exhibited in an area adjacent to the lecture hall.

6

Friday
February
1987

Friday, February 6

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tive committees.

On Friday, a reception will be held in the evening, and a luncheon also will be held. Scheduled to speak at the Friday noon luncheon will be Bryce McCrerrick, director of engineering at the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Sessions

Friday Morning, Feb. 6

Video Graphics: The Next Generation

Session Chair: Glen Pensinger

Session Co-Chair: Gary Youngs

Today's Videographic Environments—An Overview, Peter Lowten, Pixel

Trends In Videographics, Richard Shoup, Aurora Systems

The Future of Image Computing, Alvy Ray Smith, Pixar

A paper by Richard Taylor, Quantel, Ltd. *Computer Graphics in Animation*, Edwin P. Berlin Jr., Cubicomp Corporation

A paper by Carl Rosendahl, Pacific Data Images

A paper by James Blinn, Jet Propulsion Labs

Friday Afternoon

Tape Recording Formats for This Century and the Next

Session Chair: David Fibush

Session Co-Chair: Gerald Engbretson

Panel Chair: Ken Davies

Development of Component Digital VTRs and the Future Potential of the D-1 Format, Jurgen Heitmann, Robert Bosch GmbH

Current Status of the Professional RDAT (Rotary Digital Audio Tape) Implementation, Peter Dare, Sony Broadcast Products

Saturday, Feb. 7, All Day

The Frontiers of Global Television Research

Morning Session

Session Chair: Peter Hammar

Session Co-Chair: Donna Foster-Roizen

Afternoon Session

Session Chair: Peter Lude

Session Co-Chair: Lincoln Endelman

Panel Chair: Joseph Roizen

At press time a complete list of technical papers and presenters was not available. Consult your Fall SMPTE show program when you register.

[-:-:~)]



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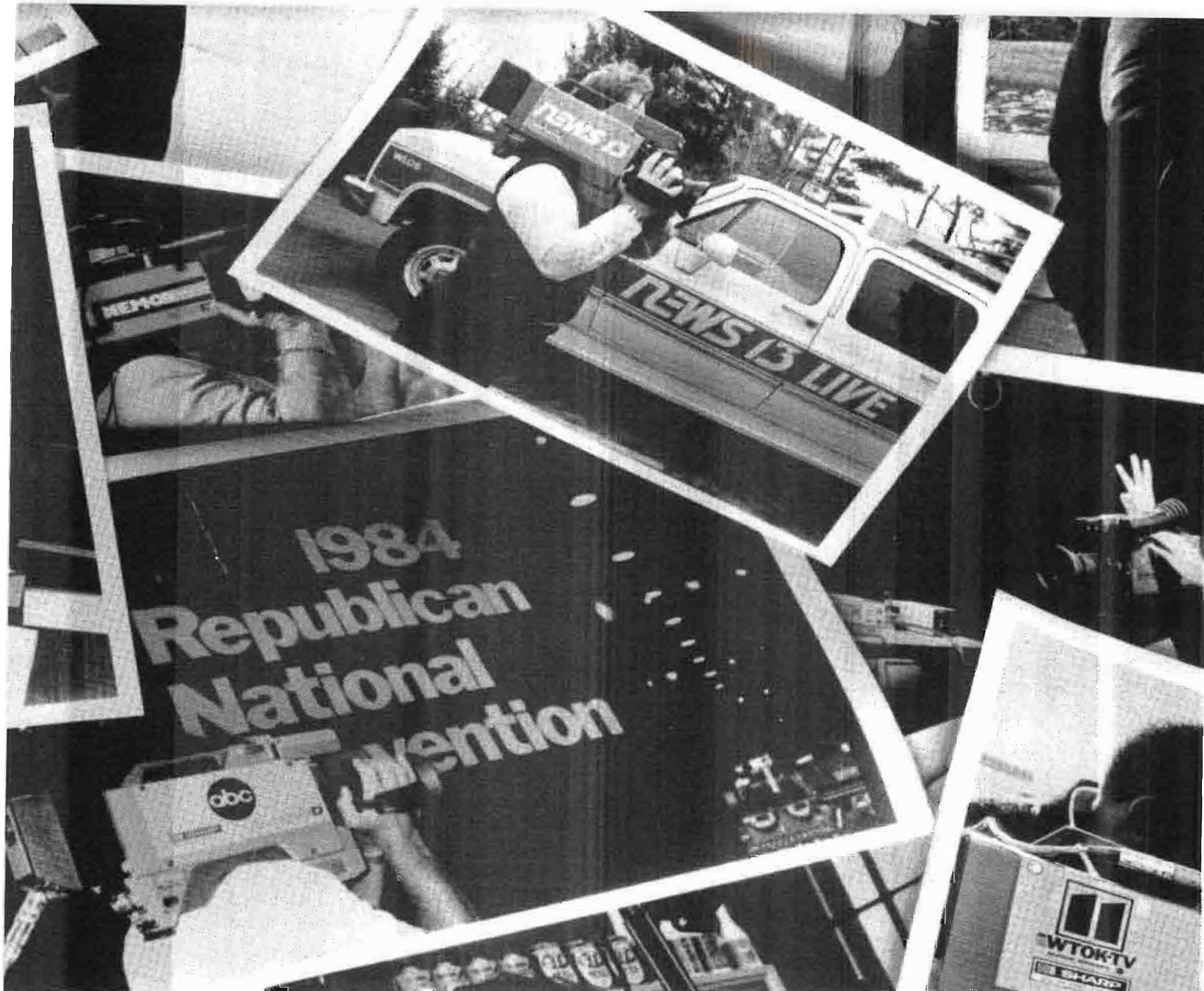
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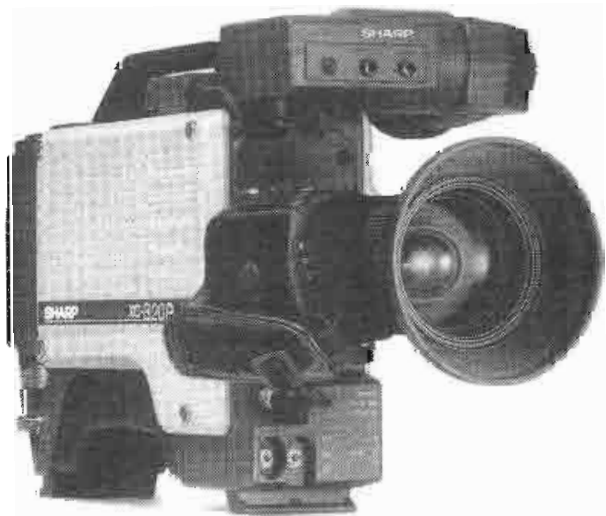


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Today's technology, tomorrow's reality

By Ned Soseman, TV technical editor

The mammoth Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York was the venue of the 128th SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit, held Oct. 24-29. The mood was a mixture of positive comments, technical debate, good ideas and criticism. SMPTE provided a technical forum for demonstrations, presentations and idea sharing by attendees, participants and exhibitors. A record crowd of 16,812 was on hand, almost 8% more than the 1985 fall attendance record set in Los Angeles.

At this convention, on the other hand, many factors contributed to an event that was considered by some to be less than optimum. The cold, wet weather, the World Series, the official dedication of the Statue of Liberty, and the "not quite ready yet" status of the convention center were beyond SMPTE's control. Although SMPTE increased the previously inadequate security provided by Javits Center (see the *Welcome to New York* sidebar), security worries and less-than-friendly union setup crews created an uneasy tension and frustration among exhibitors even before the exhibits opened.

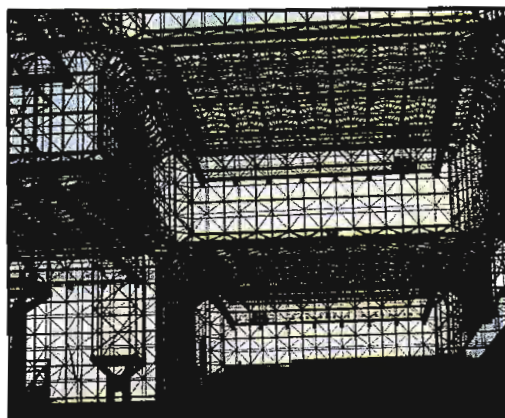
Unlike past years, the conference opened on Saturday morning, and exhibits opened in the midafternoon. Because the meetings and presentations ran on a fixed schedule throughout each day, the exhibition was opened and closed at irregular intervals. Exhibits closed Tuesday afternoon, while technical papers and meetings continued to a Wednesday evening conclusion.

Many of the record 271 exhibitors who paid prices comparable to NAB conventions for their display space felt traffic on the 80,500 square feet of exhibit floor was light. Many attendees found that it was difficult to attend the many topical presentations and still have time to visit the exhibits.

Even with the increased attendance, the technical conference and exhibit attracted about one-half the number of people that attended the Dallas NAB convention in 1986. The difference, however, must be weighed with the benefits of the engineering oriented, non-sales atmosphere of the event.



October was an exciting time to bite the Big Apple. Some visitors felt the Big Apple took a bite out of them.



The all-glass Jacob Javits Convention Center was an impressive facade.



A mint condition VR-1000 was shown at Merlin Engineering's booth. Some attendees didn't know what it was.

SMPTE is a non-profit organization, and to protect that status, business transactions were not allowed on the floor of the exhibit. This allowed engineers to ask questions, instead of having to deal with salespeople trying to close prospects.

Unique to SMPTE is the homogeneous mixture of film and video people. In an age where film and video are becoming bedfellows, the opportunity to explore the other world offered everyone a bet-

ter insight into "the big picture."

A fascinating opening

The conference was opened by Richard G. Streeter, SMPTE engineering vice president. In his opening remarks, Streeter addressed the question, "Is standardization obsolete?" He reminded the audience that the cornerstone of SMPTE, since the day it was founded, has been standards. He concluded that in the face of economic reasoning by manufacturers and buyers, standardization is still the key to industry well-being.

Following Streeter's remarks, Mark Sanders, recently appointed vice president of marketing and new technology for Ampex, mesmerized the audience of about 500 with a futuristic keynote address. He began by questioning this year's SMPTE theme, *Today's Technology, Tomorrow's Reality?*, asserting that the theme is not a question, but a fact. The question is how do we deal with it?

Sanders remarked that over the past 250 years "waves of innovation" have occurred in cycles of about every 50 years. Since about 1940, we have been in the age of electronics, and we are, in fact, nearing the end of that 50-year period.

Sanders went on to discuss change itself, how it stems from innovation and creativity, and how the industry could best respond to the changes caused by uncontrollably rapid advances in technology. He also discussed how the management of change is a management of paradoxes and explained some Ampex management techniques used to take advantage of change.

He suggested that we, as participants, must not only live with change but learn how to turn it to our advantage. Sanders stated that change must not be ignored or fought, but managed the same way that a surfer handles a wave, or a driver controls a car in a skid. Go in the direction of the force, he said, and use it to direct your activities and plans.

He commented that to manage change successfully requires that risks be taken, and that freedom to innovate be encouraged. Risks, he said, may not always



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At times, exhibitors' booths were swamped with interested attendees.

produce the desired outcome, but experience gained should be the building blocks toward successful culmination of new risks. Walt Disney was singled out as one of the world's great risk takers.

Sanders also gave the audience a look into his company's current research and development work. With projected graphic materials, he shared a new development at Ampex, which he characterized as a classic example of looking at something old and seeing something new.

Sanders showed how, just as technologists were beginning to think that 30-year-old videotape recording techniques had reached their physical limits, one engineer used these limits and some basic laws of physics to produce a fixed head, solid-state method of video head scanning.

Using a fixed head, if a magnetic flux is applied to saturate both the top and bottom of the head, a narrow area of the head still is effective. Using ramp voltages on the saturation coils, this area can be controlled to electronically move the operating portion of the head up and down, and with some clever geometry changes, sideways.

In the future, he said, our industry can contemplate a fundamentally new way of recording that is simpler, yet pushes forward the limits of technology. Sanders stated he did not know when, if, or in what form this new idea may be applied to future products.

Technical papers

About 113 papers on 16 topics were presented by leading film and TV experts and innovators. Most topics dealt with increasing the technical quality and subsequent viewer impact of their respective media, by improving the recording, editing and presentation. Other papers dealt with the marriage of film and video.

Although the majority of the papers and exhibits were presented around the theme of increasing the viewers' experience, HDTV products or demonstrations were noticeably absent. In its place was the marriage of digital 4:2:2 products. Several manufacturers demonstrated integrated 4:2:2 systems, and in-

Welcome to New York

By Jerry Whitaker, editorial director

Question: What would you pay for a breakfast consisting of the following?

- Orange juice (about 6 oz.)
- Coffee with cream
- Oatmeal
- Fruit cup (sounds healthy doesn't it?)

Would you pay \$10? Would you pay \$18.75? Maybe. Well, what about \$27.65 plus an outstretched palm looking for another \$5? Unbelievable, but true. Welcome to Fun City!

No one ever accused New York of being cheap, but every visit to New York brings new challenges for convention attendees when the time comes to fill out expense reports, or pay the charge card bills. The breakfast outlined above was room service for one person, at a well-known and popular hotel. (The oatmeal was excellent, by the way.) The room itself cost about \$20 for each hour it was occupied.

No one here in the **BE** offices questioned the charge of \$27.65 for breakfast. I think the reason is that, compared to several dinners I had, my breakfast looked pretty reasonable.

The Big Apple

New York is a fascinating town. There is no other like it in the world. It is a fun place to visit, provided you have deep pockets. It is an excellent place to transact business, if you're on an expense account. However, it is not the best place to hold a trade show convention. That point was made clear at both SMPTE and the New York Video Expo, this past October.

Both shows were held for the first time in the newly completed Jacob Javits Convention Center. The facilities are spectacular. The entrance atrium is awe inspiring, and the exhibit halls are large. So much for the good news.

Exhibitors were angered—some were enraged—at the labor problems that have become the hallmark of major trade shows in New York. Opinions

varied as to whether the labor jurisdictional problems were as bad as Chicago's McCormack Place, which are legendary.

The biggest facility problem, beyond the unfinished construction, was ac power. You would think that a brand new convention center, designed to host major trade shows, would be wired for sufficient electrical power. You could think that, but you would be wrong.

Easily installed ceiling electrical drop service, common to most other convention centers in the country, was not to be found at Javits Center. Instead, a 30-foot grid system for electrical service is buried in the concrete floor. With this design, heavy power cables had to be run across aisles, and some booths had to leave a space open for electricians' access. It also resulted in some large electrical service installation/connection charges.

At most other convention centers, the show contractor controls the electricians, and chooses the electrical contractor. Javits Center supplies its own electrical contractor, period.

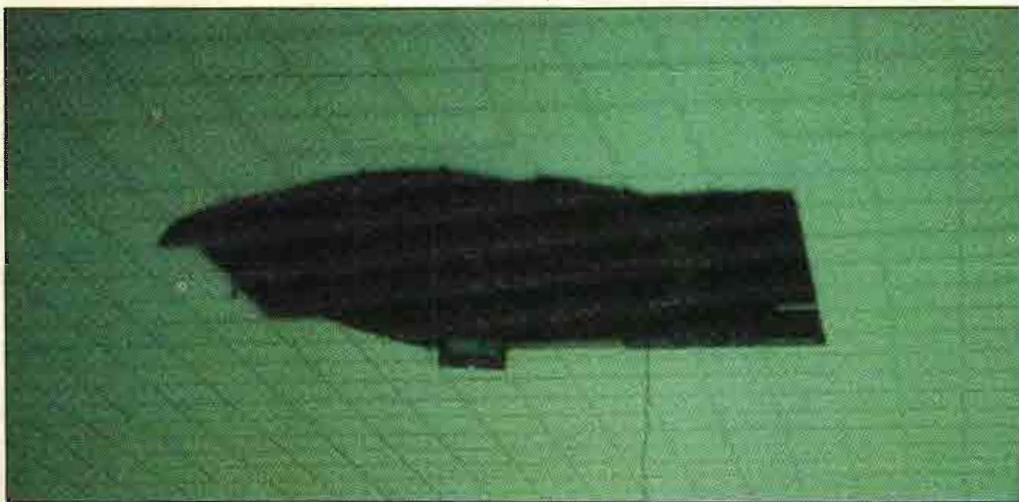
Exhibitors, for example, who brought in prewired exhibits needing only an electrical outlet with sufficient current, were charged a one hour minimum for two electricians and a convention center supervisor to plug the equipment in. Straight time (which usually ended yesterday) for electricians at Javits Center is, by the way, \$60 an hour. Typically, such a task required the three men for at least one hour.

Hitachi setup personnel watched as a union laborer tried to roll one of its new 1-inch machines over an electrical cable. On his second solo attempt, the cable caught the wheels and "oops!" The machine landed face down on the concrete floor.

At an exhibitor-sponsored cocktail party, somebody asked for a pitcher of water. The union bartenders at the party couldn't oblige, because water was not under their jurisdiction.

Many of the complaints and horror stories about the facility and union jurisdictional questions surfaced at an

Many ceiling tiles at Javits Center were missing, sometimes revealing bare wires.



exhibitors' meeting on the third day of the show.

It is uncharacteristic of a SMPTE convention to hear complaints at an exhibitors' meeting. Problems come up at any convention, and SMPTE has, at previous shows, responded quite adequately. They have, in fact, served as a role model for how many exhibitors would like the NAB to run its convention.

This time things were different. Exhibitors voiced the feeling that another Eastern city should be chosen for the East Coast fall SMPTE show, which annually alternates with Los Angeles. One seemingly viable suggestion was Atlanta.

Concerns about New York involved the Javits Center location, which is off the beaten path as far as most New York activities are concerned; labor management, efficiency and jurisdictional problems; and the cost of moving people and equipment in, around and out of the city. Freight-handling rates, for instance, are three times higher than Las Vegas.

Although SMPTE officials were generally pleased with the turnout of attendees at this convention, many exhibitors were not overwhelmed with the numbers that visited their booths.

So, will SMPTE leave New York for Atlanta or elsewhere on future East Coast years? Maybe, but then again, maybe not. New York City is a powerful center of broadcasting and commerce. There is a lot to be said for holding a convention there.

There is a great need, though, for better planning and cooperation from the Javits Center management and labor unions. Attendees and exhibitors may find Fun City too expensive to be cost-effective. Industry estimates place the overall price of exhibiting in New York at about 40% higher than the national average. Gratuities not included.

It must be remembered that at any convention, exhibitors pay the bills. If they can't get a fair shake in one place, they will gravitate to another.

Aside from that, it was a great show, and my expense report was approved!

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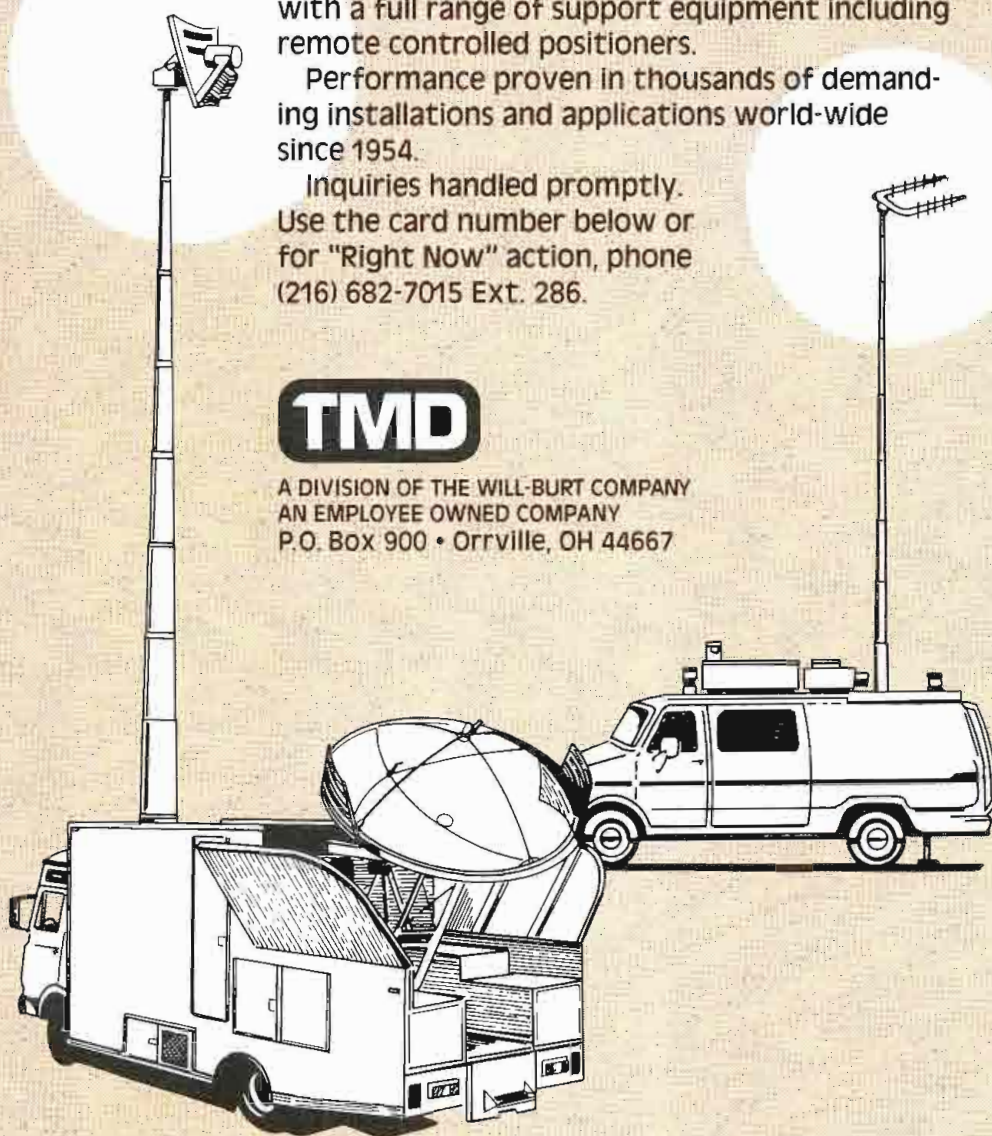
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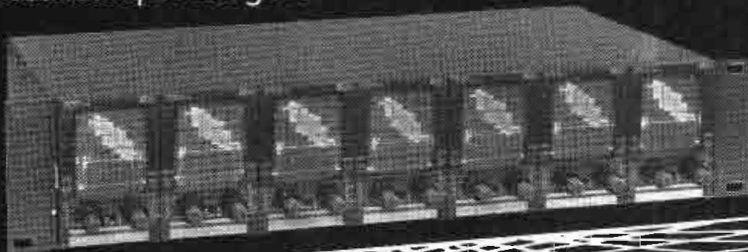
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The exhibition afforded a good opportunity to learn.

deed, system interface (4:2:2, M-II, Betacam, etc.) was one of the most frequently heard buzzwords on the exhibition floor.

SMPTE news

It was announced that M. Carlos Kennedy, SMPTE vice president, was elected president of SMPTE, for a 2-year term that started at the beginning of this month. He succeeds Harold J. Eady. Kennedy is director of long-range product planning for Ampex Corporation. He has been with Ampex for 18 years and was instrumental in the development of the Ampex VPR series 1-inch type C recorders. Maurice L. French, the current SMPTE conference vice president, will succeed Kennedy as executive vice president.

½-inch format wars

Amid the standardization theme of SMPTE was the highly visible battle between Betacam SP and M-II. As production line products are being delivered to users, each manufacturer substantiated its claims with user testimonials as to why its format is better. Perhaps, in the spirit of SMPTE, split-screen, synchronized multigeneration feeds on a high-resolution monitor would have provided a more scientific comparison of production model machines.

NBC's press conference at 30 Rockefeller Plaza gave testimony to the virtues of M-II, and described in some detail the rigorous procedures used to test M-II systems before a purchasing decision was made. To quote NBC executives, "NBC beat the hell out of the stuff." NBC visually compared synchronized M-II and 1-inch pictures on a consumer TV set using a glitch switcher to compare VTR feeds, A/B style.

NBC announced M-II would ultimately replace all its ¾-inch and 2-inch quad VTRs and many 1-inch machines. For Mountain time zone viewers, M-II is a reality, as the Mountain zone delay system consisting of several M-II machines in a few dedicated racks is already on-line. It was clear that NBC and M-II are destined to establish a viable format.

Panasonic also announced that three

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STOP! THIEF!

By Ned Soseman,
TV technical editor

Security at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan quickly established a poor reputation throughout the video industry following October's Video Expo show, where thieves practically showed up with shopping carts.

Curiously, New York City police are not allowed in the convention center except to answer an emergency in progress call, leaving all security responsibilities to the convention center. Because of poor security, several exhibitors lost more than \$100,000 worth of new products, both while the show was in progress, and during hours when it was closed.

SMPTE, alerted to Video Expo's security problems, augmented the security provided by the convention center with its own security people. SMPTE exhibitors sustained no reported losses. Security at the convention center let the following equipment slip out the doors of October's Video Expo Show. If you have any information regarding any of these items, contact your local police and the persons listed below:

STOLEN FROM IKEGAMI:

- HL-95 camera (no VTR) s/n 849 GE 19707
- ITC-730 camera s/n 6382,
- A-16x9 lens s/n 0150100443

Ikegami contact: Greg Stoner;
201-368-9171

STOLEN FROM SHARP:

- XC-A1 camera s/n 311738
- Canon lens J13x9BA s/n 56032
- XCA 15VF viewfinder s/n 311279
- Battery bracket
- Anton Bauer battery s/n L-30
- XC-A1 camera s/n 312046
- XCA 15VF s/n 311623
- Canon J-13 lens s/n 56089
- ac adapter s/n 311833
- XC-A1 camera s/n 311884
- Fujinon A15x9A s/n 1750000010
- RGB adapter
- XCA 1RGB s/n M-10

ac adapter s/n 212176
XCA15VF s/n 311402
Shipping case s/n M-02

- XC-B10 (prototype) camera s/n 0000001
 - 1.5-inch viewfinder Fujinon A14x9BERM24 s/n 2853001081
 - VC-50 VHS camcorder s/n 00311119
- Sharp contact: Bruce Pollack;
201-529-8731

STOLEN FROM SONY:

- EVO-110, 8mm camcorder

STOLEN FROM JVC:

- KY-210 B with lens

Scripps Howard broadcasting stations have ordered more than \$500,000 worth of M-II products.

Meanwhile at the Sony booth, WNEV-TV (Boston), which recently dropped its exclusive use of the original M format in favor of Beta SP standardization, was exemplified as Sony's testimonial that Beta SP is better. As other manufacturers chose sides, the battle lines were drawn, and it was evident that only the viewer would emerge as the clear winner.

Digital 4:2:2

As the 1/2-inch component formats were duking it out, digital 4:2:2 offered a refreshing change from the traditional bickering. Manufacturers demonstrated that in a world where we can't even agree which side of the road to drive an automobile on, standardization between manufacturers is still possible with planning, coordination and cooperation.

Sony and Quantel hosted a press demonstration of a working 4:2:2 system at the nearby VCA/Teletronics post-production facility. Sony's DVR-1000 was interfaced with Quantel's Harry, and the results were dramatic. The spirit of this year's conference was shown with this success.

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- **Abekas Video Systems:** A dual-channel A-53. Off-line storage for the A-62.
- **Agfa-Gevaert:** Improved formulation of 1/2-inch VHS tape, new packaging for 1/2-inch duplicator cassettes, high-grade bulk 1/2-inch videotape for custom loading.
- **Alamar Electronics USA:** AutoCart: Automated program controller for three to 32 VTRs. Media Manager: video/film library system software for IBM XT or AT or compatible.
- **Alta Group:** PAL version of Cygnus.
- **Amherst Electronic Instruments:** Amicon: New high-performance 32-line TBC / video image processor / machine control system in 1 RPU package.
- **Ampex:** AVC Century: Broadcast and production video switcher. Enhancements for the ACE and AVA graphics. Ampex Betacam products, 10 basic products in 40 versions/configurations with more than 100 lenses and accessories. Minicommand center built around ACE Micro, using 1/2-inch Betacam products. Dual-channel combiner option for ADO 1000/2000 systems.
- **Anton Bauer:** QR-BETA-5: Camera battery bracket to adapt ProPac snap-on batteries to Sony BVW-105. QR-DX-3000: Camera battery bracket to adapt ProPac

Exhibition hits

- snap-on batteries to Sony DXC-3000.
- **Arriflex:** 35mm camera. Quartz fresnel spotlights.
- **Artronic:** VPL: High-resolution video paint system with dual painting buffers, full-frame real-time animation, and still storage of more than 1,200 frames. VGS TURBO xi: A high-power, high-speed version of the VGS 3D.
- **Beyer Dynamic:** MC 736 PV: Short shotgun microphone. MC 737 PV: Long shotgun microphone. MSB 48 N(C) belt-pack condenser microphone power supply.
- **BTS Broadcast Television Systems (Philips/Bosch):** The 3-D Illustrator: Full-featured 3-D paint system. Off-line modeling system for FGS-4000. High-resolution output from FGS-4000, up to 4,000 lines.
- **Central Dynamics, Ltd.:** STRATA 7: A video switcher/overlay processor designed for intensive multilayering without adding generations.
- **Cetec Vega:** TRAVELER 1: VHF wireless microphone system with choice of hand-held or bodypack transmitter. REPORTER 1: Less expensive VHF wireless microphone system. 66B: Portable wireless microphone receiver with

GaAsFET front-end for high sensitivity.

- **Cine 60:** Hitch-Hiker: Direct replacement snap-on camera batteries with circuit breakers, and air vents to prevent heat build-up.
- **Cipher Digital (Time Code Tech.):** Softouch SOFTPAC: Memory system to enhance SOFTOUCH audio editor.
- **CMX:** CMX-6000: Random access laser disk-based film editor, with modular design for portability and ease of setup. CASS 1E: Edit only version of sound sweetener. Superkit: 3 VTR intelligent interface board compatible with I² chassis for Sony Betacam, Sony BVU, JVC CR-850, M-II, and VPR-80s.
- **Comprehensive Video Supply:** PC-2: Plug-in board for IBM PC and compatibles to convert the PC to broadcast-quality character generator. Enhanced version of Editlister software, as well as a plug-in access board for the Tapemaster library system that allows VTR control from the computer. A new series of soft lights and accessories. Monster: Field-repair and adapter kit.
- **Compu-Prompt:** New micro camera prompting display for hand-held cameras. Updated software features and extended memory systems.
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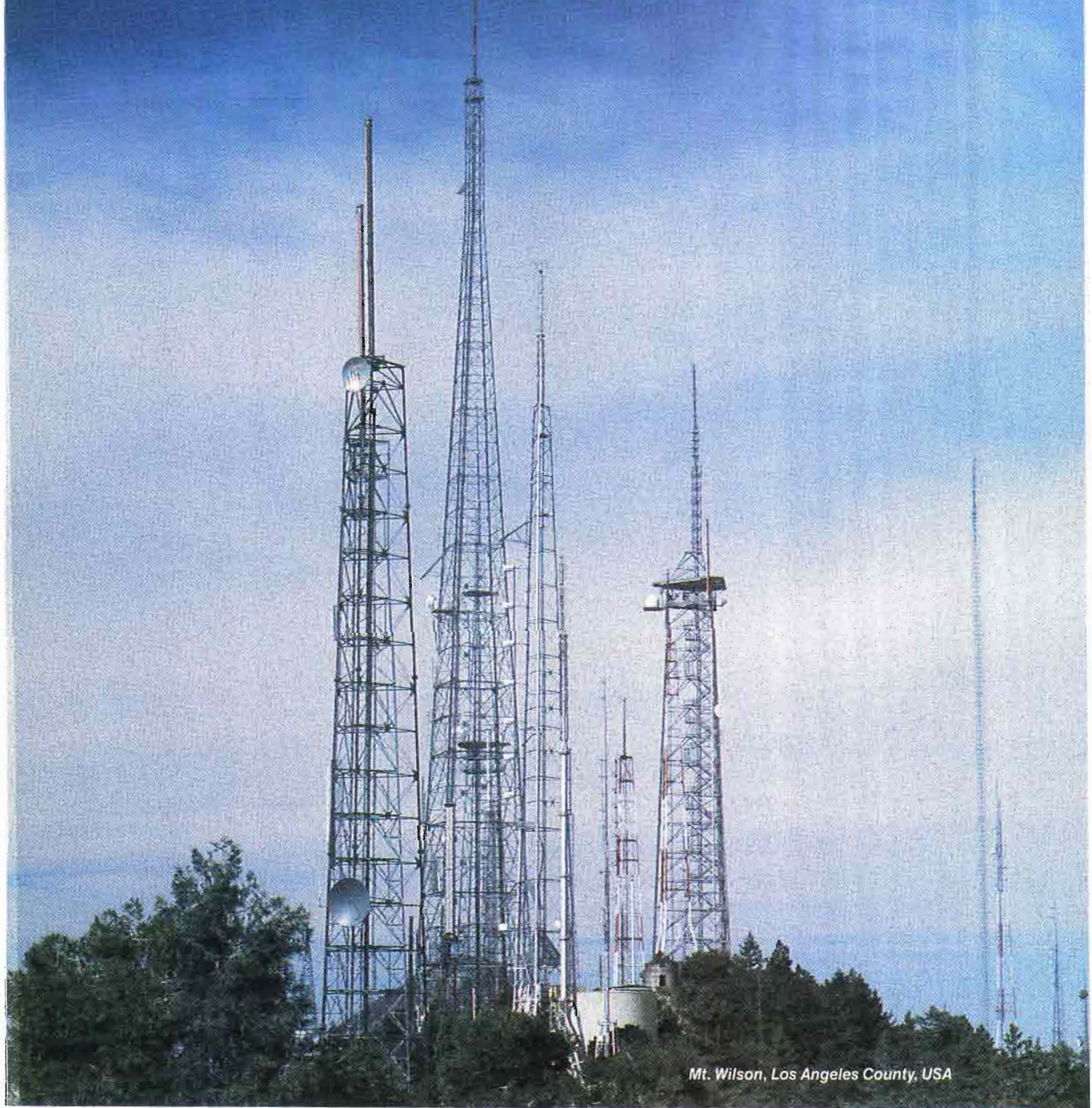
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- closed-captioning system.
- **Datum:** Model 5310 SID (encoder), 5320 SID (reader): 48-bit source ID products, invisible to viewers, using line 20, field 1.
- **Dolby Labs:** Spectral recording system for 1-inch type C.
- **DSC:** SX-2000D programmable, 2 M/E video switcher with downstream, with integrated, on-board DVE. Options are perspective, rotation and RS-422 editor control.
- **Dynair:** Wideband (100MHz) video DAs.
- **Eastman Kodak:** Pro Format II: ½-inch videocassettes for Betacam, Betacart and M format.
- **Elcon:** EA750R (¾-inch), 1200R

- (1-inch): Focused optical detection systems for evaluation of videotapes for physical damage.
- **Eventide:** MIDI interface for SP-2016, and third-party software.
- **Fairlight Instruments:** Software and hardware options for the CVI digital video effects system.
- **Fortel:** DHP 525: Low-cost, infinite window digital TBC, with field and frame freeze. PAL version of color corrector.
- **Frezzolini:** Frezzimax: Series of camera batteries. UPS-14: Uninterruptible power interface for camera batteries.
- **Fuji Photo:** M401: World's first ½-inch metal videotape for M-II

- use. H321B: 30-minute Betacam cassette.
- **Hewlett Packard:** Video measurement system.
- **Hitachi:** Z-31A: An improved version of the Z-31 using special low-capacitance diode gun saticons for 800-line resolution. Production models of the SK-97D and SK-970D.
- **Interactive Motion Control:** Video Model Mover: Can be mounted on up to 16 feet of track to provide pan, tilt and roll. Modified Century V16 Periscope lens for the IMC camera lifter.
- **Kintek:** Audio phase meter. Audio correlation meter.
- **Lake Systems:** Three software systems for Lake broadcast automation systems: BROADCASTOPS, MULTIOPS, and PRODUCTIONOPS.
- **Lee International:** Flicker-free 12kW HMI luminaire.
- **Lenco:** Announced formation on Computer Graphics Product Group. P.C. Resident Series EN-10: Externally synced RGB to NTSC encoder. EN-15: RGB to NTSC deriving all sync from PC. PC RGB outputs for recording on standard NTSC VTRs. DC-20: High-resolution NTSC to RGB decoder.
- **Lexicon:** Opus, a hard disk-based digital audio production board. 480L: Audio production digital effects system designed to support future software packages. Digital I/O interface. MIDI control capable. Model 2400: Stereo audio time compressor with RS-422 interface.
- **Magni Systems:** Model 1515: Signal generator for both CAV and composite test signals for M-II, SMPTE and Betacam. Model 2015 uses IBM PC compatible to generate test signals. DV-422: Optional disk-based software to generate 4:2:2 test signals.
- **Matthews Studio Equipment:** Delta Dolly, a compact all-terrain TV camera pedestal.
- **Microtime:** RP-1: 3-D digital video effects system with open architecture for upgradability.
- **NEC:** Component version of System 10 DVE.
- **NCE/Ultrascop:** Cradle gear head.
- **Paco Electronics:** Nicad battery and charger.
- **Paltex:** EDDi: A non-linear, real-time preview, filmstyle off-line editor for VHS or laser disk.
- **Panasonic Broadcast Systems:** AK-400: 650-line resolution, 3-chip CCD camera for ENG/EFP with built-in electronic shutter. Mates with AU-400 M-II format recorder. Joint development with NHK of a high-performance amorphous video head to be used in all M-II format VTRs.
- **Perrott Engineering Labs:** Micro-Mini: 1-pound, 115/230Vac switchable charger for all 12V to 14.4V 4Ah nicad batteries.
- **Philips Test and Measurement Instruments:** Video test and

DELTA'S Impedance Measuring Products

INDUSTRY-STANDARD

RG-4



The **RG-4** combines high level output (10 VRMS) capacity with a sensitive receiver (5 micro V) and more than 120 dB receiver/generator isolation.

Frequency increment and decrement keys sweep the operating frequency in 1, 10, 100 or 1000 kHz steps.

- Frequency range: 100 kHz to 30 MHz
- Receiver/generator isolation: >120 dB
- Generator output: to 10 VRMS into 50Ω
- Modulation: 400 Hz, 90% AM, 50 Hz square wave
- Receiver sensitivity: 5 micro V nominal

OIB-1

The **Operating Impedance Bridge** measures the impedance of networks, radiators, and the like while they operate under full power. VSWR as well as complex impedance of up to 400 ohms ± j300 ohms can be measured.



- Frequency Range: 500 kHz to 5 MHz
- Through Power Rating: 5 kW Modulated 10 kW Carrier only
- Accuracy: R and X, 2%, ± 1 ohm
- Direct Reading in R: -400 to +400 ohms, standard -1000 to +1000 ohms, optional
- Direct Reading in X: -300 to +300 ohms, standard -900 to +900 ohms, optional
- Measures VSWR: $Z_0 = 0$ to 400 ohms

OIB-3



The **OIB-3 Operating Impedance Bridge** provides extended resistance and reactance ranges, measuring up to 1000 ± j900 ohms. The bridge has a built-in carrying case and RF amplifier for improved nulling.

- Frequency Range: 500 kHz to 5 MHz
- Through Power Rating: 5 kW Modulated 10 kW Carrier only
- Direct Reading in R: -1000 to +1000 ohms
- Direct Reading in X: -900 to +900 ohms
- Accuracy: R and X, 2%, ± 1 ohm

CPB-1 (5 kW), CPB-1A (50 kW)

The **Common Point Impedance Bridge** is designed for permanent installation. It allows continuous monitoring of the common point, thus facilitating network adjustment. This model can be provided with one of Delta's TCA ammeters mounted in the front panel.



- Frequency Range: 500 to 1640 kHz
- Power Rating: CPB-1, 5 kW CPB-1A, 50 kW
- Resistance Measurements: 30 to 100 ohms Range ± 2%, ± 1 ohm accuracy
- Reactance Measurements: ± 50 ohms (1000 kHz) range ± 2%, ± 1 ohm accuracy

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Circle (81) on Reply Card

SBE convention is "Show Me" success

By Brad Dick, radio technical editor

The first SBE national convention in St. Louis, MO, was a Show Me State success. If you failed to attend, then you missed a real treat. The convention provided attendees with the best of convention opportunities. It was large enough to provide all of the exhibits and technical sessions that make a show worthwhile. Yet, it was small enough that you could spend as much time as you needed with the exhibitors, getting your questions answered. In addition, the evenings were free for you to attend an SBE meeting, ham radio reception or just to have fun.

Organized by the St. Louis chapter, this convention marked the SBE's first attempt at holding a national convention. The St. Louis regional conventions are well known for exceptional turnouts and quality organization. The national event even stretched their capacity. Coupled with a high-quality technical conference developed by John Battison, the entire convention/technical conference was a pleasurable experience for the more than 2,200 attendees.

Exhibits

A total of 154 exhibitors, a third more than last year's St. Louis regional show, occupied 260 booths filling the exhibit hall. The hardware displayed included everything from AM stereo equipment to TV transmitters. Several new radio products were introduced at the show. TV engineers found well-equipped exhibits with cameras and other studio hardware.

The emphasis was on showing the working engineer what equipment was available. Many of the exhibits provided working equipment so the engineers could try it out themselves. Because of the convention's technical emphasis, many manufacturers took great efforts to provide engineering-level assistance in the booths. Attendees who came to this convention and failed to get their technical questions answered must have been asleep at the arch.

Technical sessions

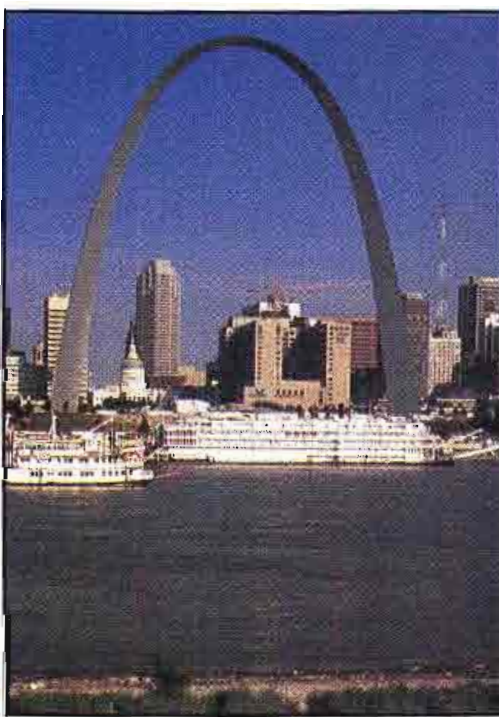
A major component of the convention was the technical sessions. The sessions spanned three days and were packed with quality presentations and



demonstrations. Thanks to Battison's work, the speakers at the sessions were top rate. Many of the speakers represented the best technical experts this industry has to offer. If you thought the sessions were going to be sales pitches—forget it. The speakers knew they were speaking to engineers and came ready to address technical issues.

The technical sessions began on Tuesday, one day before the exhibits opened. The sessions covered topics of interest to both radio and TV engineers. One of the Tuesday highlights was an SBE membership meeting. The meeting was well-attended and, in fact, marked the largest SBE membership meeting ever held. Several important issues were discussed and the open-forum atmosphere was encouraging to all.

The Wednesday sessions, which lasted all day, were broken into separate radio and TV groups. Some of the radio topics included fine-tuning FM transmitters, pulse-modulated transmitters and folded monopole antenna maintenance and in-



St. Louis was the location for the SBE's first national convention.

stallation. Among the TV topics were new klystron technology, videotape formats, TV antenna adjustment with a spectrum analyzer and the always popular topic, stereo TV measurements.

Tom Keller, vice president of engineering for the NAB, anchored an afternoon session on new technologies. Keller discussed some of the latest broadcast technologies. He pointed to the advantages of using some of these new technologies, not the least of which might be increased audiences.

FMX, which holds the promise of extending the range of FM stations, was on the minds of many FM broadcasters. Keller emphasized that the NAB is committed to continued research on FMX, despite the pullout by CBS. Current misconceptions have confused the FMX issue and Keller was able to answer the engineers' questions.

HDTV, an often discussed, yet largely misunderstood area, also was addressed by Keller. He demonstrated the visual difference between a standard NTSC-format picture and an HDTV-format picture. Although the differences in visual quality are apparent, much work remains to be done before HDTV can become a reality.

The Thursday sessions again covered topics of interest to both radio and TV engineers. From the size of the audience, RF radiation remains a hot topic. Broadcasters are still not sure exactly what the new regulations mean and how they may affect their stations. The session, led by Paul Wagner, an EPA official, answered the engineers' questions.

Luncheon

The highlight of Wednesday's luncheon was Jim McKinney's speech. McKinney, chief of the FCC Mass Media Bureau, addressed some of today's most pressing technical issues.

McKinney told the engineers that the commission never could keep up with the broadcasters and now it didn't need to. He suggested that although many engineers had for years requested some relief from some of the commission's rules, some of these same engineers now have begun to feel a little uneasy with

Buyer's Guide/Spec Book Update

Compiling a major reference issue such as the **Broadcast Engineering Buyer's Guide/Spec Book** is a difficult project that involves a large number of companies and individuals. Because we have received some new, updated data for our *Buyer's Guide* section, and – unfortunately – uncovered some errors or omissions since the book was printed, we are providing this update page for use by our readers. Please tear out this perforated page and insert it into the 1987 *Buyer's Guide/Spec Book*. You will then have all of the latest information from our files.

The reverse side of this page includes commonly used mathematical formulas and tables. Please take the time now to update your *Buyer's Guide/Spec Book*. Thank you!

Address additions/corrections

Hammett & Edison Inc.
Consulting Engineers
Box 86, International Airport
San Francisco, CA 94128
415-342-5200

ITC/3M
800-447-0414

In France:
3M France, Cergy, France

Turner Engineering
325 Division Street
Boonton, NJ 07046

Video Switchers

Manufacturer	Grass Valley Group	Kaltronics	Ross Video
Model/series	Model 1600-4S	CMS-12	500 series
Design application	Master control	Master control	Video production
# of video/stereo audio inputs	24V/24SA + 6SA	12, expands to 20	12-24 video
Integral video black source	Yes	No	Yes
Integral color backgrounds	Yes	No	Yes
Nonsynchronous signal detector	Yes	No	Yes
Key sources	Int & ext	N/A	Internal & external
Chroma keyers		No	Encoded/RGB optional
Downstream keyer feature		No	4 sources optional
Video switching/aux buses	Prgm/preset/aux	Prgm/prvw	4-8/to 10 aux
Mix/effects amplifiers	External equipment	0	1 or 2 multilevel
Pattern generator	No	No	62 patterns
Wipe effects	No	No	Rotary/soft-edge
Spotlight effects	No	No	Integral
Border effects	Analog or digital	No	Analog key border
Shadow effects	No	No	Integral
Effects positions/modulations	No	No	Position/modulation
Quad split feature	No	No	Optional
Re-entry capability	No	No	Single
Automation interface format	M-200 controller	RS-232C	RS-422 optional
Programmable cross-fade	Yes	Possible	X-fade/fade-black
Memory backup battery	Yes	N/A	Yes
System diagnostic software	Yes	N/A	No
Direct digital effects port	Yes	No	Yes
Video electrical path length	<1° deviation	.....	600µs
Visual crosstalk (3.58MHz)	>60dB	55dB	>50dB
Separate electronics bay	Yes	Possible	.....
Audio preview w/audio follow	Yes	Yes	No
Audio metering	L/R/SAP	Right/left	No
Audio level controls	L/R/voice-over	Yes	No
Audio mixer interface		Yes	No
Editing control interface		RS-232
Reader Service Number	602	603	604

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Are you a subscriber to CompuServe, one of the major data communications services available to personal computer users?

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Philips Test & Measuring Instruments PM5625 Color Video Monitor

Resolution (TVL)	>310
Video bandwidth (MHz)	.5
Chroma bandwidth	0.9
Aperture correction	±4dB
Chroma decoder axes	R-Y/B-Y
X-Y outputs	No
Blue gun only	Yes

PM5567 Vectorscope

Control interface	No
Color standards	NTSC/PAL(-M)

PM5565 Waveform Monitor

Vertical response types	Flat/L-P
-------------------------	----------

PM5560M TV Demodulator

Zero-carrier reference	Internal/external
Quadrature detect	Yes
# of video outputs	2-back/1 front

Leitch Video Systems video signal processors VPA-330N (-331N)

Video response	±0.1dB to 5MHz
S/N ratio	>60dB
Envelope delay	
Differential phase/gain	

TBC/Synchronizers

Manufacturer	Scientific-Atlanta/Digital Video Systems	
Model/series	DPS-165	DPS-170 (DPS-175)
Function	Synchronizer	TBC (TBC/framestore)
Sampling frequency/bits	14.318MHz/8-bit	14.318MHz/8-bit
Correction window	1 frame/1H hysteresis	16TVL (525TVL)
Video bandwidth	± 0.25dB 0 – 4.2MHz	± 0.25dB 0 – 4.2MHz
S/N ratio	>57dB lum wtd	>57dB lum wtd
Diff. phase/gain	< ± 2°/2%	< ± 2°/2%
Residual error	.....	.....
Coherent 3.58MHz output	Yes	Yes
Advanced sync output	.....	Yes
Component video input	No	No
Component video output	No	No
Velocity compensation	.....	Yes
Heterodyne processing	.....	Or direct
Non-servo capstan VCRs	.....	- 175
Dropout compensation	.....	Yes
Dynamic tracking	.....	Yes
Noise reduction	No	No
Color correction	No	No
Image enhancement	No	No
Hot switch capable	Yes	- 175
Video gain range	± 3dB	± 3dB
Chroma gain range	± 3dB	± 3dB
Setup gain range	± 10IRE	± 10IRE
Hue phase range	± 15°	± 15°
Subcarrier adjust range	.....	.....
Sync phase adjust range	± 9µs, ± 0.7°/0.55ns	± 9µs, ± 0.7°/0.55ns
Reader service number	605	606

Audio Cartridge Recorders

Manufacturer	Otarl Corporation
Model/series	CTM-10
Other cart sizes	A size
Deck control logic	Microprocessor
Remote-control bus port	Yes
Replay inhibit feature	Selectable
Recording timer	LED min/sec
Secondary/tertiary tones	Yes
Stereo record/play system	CTM-10SR
Stereo phase correction	Not auto
Capstan motor type	dc servo
Capstan drive mechanism	Direct
Play speed(s) (ips)	3.75/7.5/15ips
Fast forward mode	Yes
Sec/Tert cue output form	Solid-state sink
Metering types	VU & peak LEDs
Related monaural model	CTM-10MR
Related play only model	CTM-10
Related multideck model	No
Input connection type	Active bal/10kΩ
Input level	+ 28dBv max
Output connection type	Active bal/5Ω source
Output level	+ 26dBv max/200Ω load
AF response (record-play)	± 2dB/20-16k
Measured - dB below SOL nWb/m	250nWb/m 7.5ips
S/N ratio (record-play)	53dB
Crosstalk (L to R)	<48dB 1kHz 250nWb/m
Crosstalk (cue to L or R)	<48dB 1kHz 250nWb/m
Distortion (record-play)	<0.8% 1kHz 250nWb/m
Flutter (ANSI S4.3)	<0.15% 7.5 ips DIN
Reader Service Number	601

TABLE 1. CONVERSION FACTORS AND CONSTANTS

π	= 3.14	2π	= 6.28
π^2	= 9.87	$(2\pi)^2$	= 39.5
e	= 2.718	$\log \pi$	= 0.497
$\sqrt{2}$	= 1.414	$\ln_e(10)$	= 2.303
$\sqrt{3}$	= 1.732	1 radian	= 57.3°
1 in = 25.4mm = 2.54cm			
1 m = 39.36in = 3.28ft			
1 km = 0.621mi			
1 kg = 2.2 lb			
1 l = 1.06 qt			
1 oz = 28.35 g			
1 hp = 42.4BTU/min = 746W			

TABLE 2. FORMULAS

Temperature	Ohm's Law
$C^\circ = (F^\circ - 32) \times (5/9) = (F^\circ - 32)/1.8$	<i>dc circuits:</i>
$F^\circ = (C^\circ \times (9/5)) + 32 = 1.8C^\circ + 32$	$E = I \times R = P/I = (P \times R)^{1/2}$ $R = E/I = P/I^2 = E^2/P$
Resistance	$I = E/R = P/E = (P/R)^{1/2}$ $P = I \times E = I^2 \times R = E^2/R$
<i>In series:</i> $R_{total} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + \dots$	<i>ac circuits:</i>
<i>In parallel:</i>	$I = E/Z = (P/(Z \cos \theta))^{1/2} = P/(E \cos \theta)$
general $R_{total} = 1/((1/R_1) + (1/R_2) + (1/R_3) + \dots)$	$E = I \times Z = ((P \times Z)/\cos \theta)^{1/2} = P/(I \cos \theta)$
for R_1 & R_2 $R_t = R_1 \times R_2 / (R_1 + R_2)$ $R_1 = R_t \times R_2 / (R_2 - R_t)$	$Z = E/I = P/(I^2 \cos \theta) = (E^2 \cos \theta)/P$
(Note: For capacitance in parallel, use series resistance formula. For capacitance in series, use parallel resistance formula.)	$P = I^2 Z \cos \theta = I E \cos \theta = (E^2 \cos \theta)/Z$
	$\cos \theta = P/IE = (\text{true power})/(\text{apparent power}) = \text{pf or power factor}$

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- Non-broadcast TV including closed circuit TV (CCTV)
- Recording studio
- Teleproduction facility
- Microwave, relay station or satellite company
- Government
- Consultant (engineering or management)
- Dealer, distributor or manufacturer
- Other: Specify

2. If you checked 20 through 26 above, which of the following best describes your over-the-air station: (Check only one.)

- Commercial
- Educational
- Religious
- Campus low frequency
- Community
- Municipally owned

3. Check the category that best describes your title: (Check only one.)

Company management— chairman of the board, president, owner, partner, director, vice president, general manager (other than in charge of engineering or station operation management) and other corporate and financial officials

Technical management & engineering— technical director or manager, chief engineer, other engineering or technical titles

Operations & station management/production & programming— VP: operations, operation manager/director, station manager, production manager, program manager, news director and other operations titles

4. IMPORTANT: Check the statement that best describes your role in the purchase of major communication equipment components and accessories.

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- Recommend make or model to be purchased
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- C
- D
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161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224
225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256
257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288
289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320
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2. Please check the ONE type of facility or operation that best describes your business classification:
 19 Low Power TV Station
 20 TV Station
 21 AM Station
 22 FM Station
 23 AM & FM Station
 24 TV & AM Station
 25 TV & FM Station
 26 TV, AM & FM Station
 27 CATV Facility
 28 Non-Broadcast TV including Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)
 29 Recording Studio
 30 Teleproduction Facility
 31 Microwave, Relay Station or Satellite Company
 32 Government
 33 Consultant (Engineering or Management)
 34 Dealer, Distributor or Manufacturer
 Other _____ (Please specify)

3. If you checked 20 through 28 above, which of the following best describes your over-the-air station: (Check only one.)
 A Commercial
 B Educational
 C Religious
 D Campus Low Frequency
 E Community
 F Municipally Owned

4. Check the category that best describes your title: (Check only one.)
 A Company Management—Chairman of the Board, President, Owner, Partner, Director, Vice President, General Manager (other than in charge of Engineering or Station Operations Management) and other Corporate and Financial Officials
 B Technical Management & Engineering—Technical Director or Manager, Chief Engineer, Other Engineering or Technical Titles
 C Operations & Station Management/Production & Programming—VP Operations, Operation Manager/Director, Station Manager, Production Manager, Program Manager, News Director and other Operations Titles
 D Other: Specify _____

5. IMPORTANT: Check the statement that best describes your role in the purchase of major communication equipment components and accessories:
 Make final decision to buy a specific make or model
 Recommend make or model to be purchased
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RJ7

2. Please check the ONE type of facility or operation that best describes your business classification:
 19 Low Power TV Station
 20 TV Station
 21 AM Station
 22 FM Station
 23 AM & FM Station
 24 TV & AM Station
 25 TV & FM Station
 26 TV, AM & FM Station
 27 CATV Facility
 28 Non-Broadcast TV including Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)
 29 Recording Studio
 30 Teleproduction Facility
 31 Microwave, Relay Station or Satellite Company
 32 Government
 33 Consultant (Engineering or Management)
 34 Dealer, Distributor

Which one advertisement in this issue was of most interest to you?

Advertiser's Name _____ Circle No. _____

Comments on this issue:

PLACE
FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE
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BROADCAST[®] engineering

P.O. Box 12902
Overland Park, KS 66212-0902



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PLACE
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BROADCAST[®] engineering

P.O. Box 12902
Overland Park, KS 66212-0902



Look Ahead One Year...



Did You Make The Right Decision?

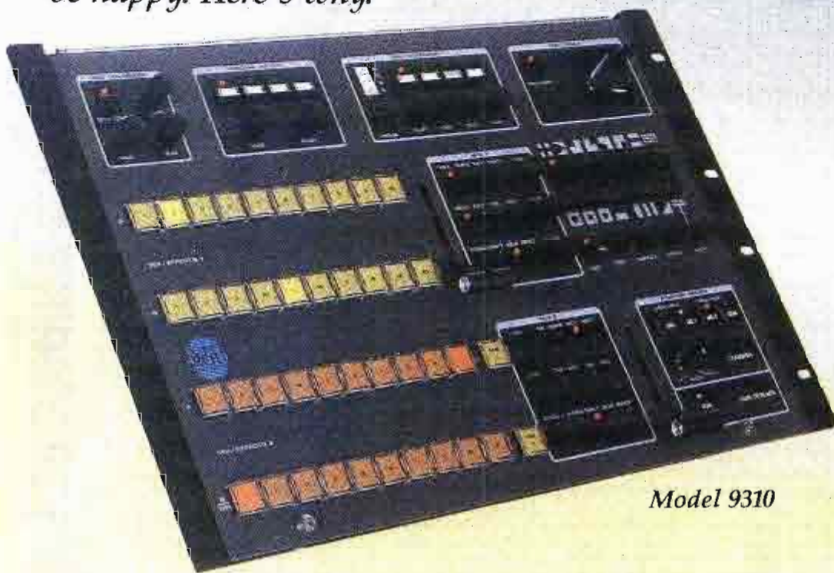
Will you be happy with your production switcher choice one year from now? That depends. Has it been reliable? Are the features really useful? Is it easy to operate? How are you treated by the company that sold it to you?

If it's an Intergroup switcher, chances are you'll be happy. Here's why.

you to dissolve between the 9310's two M/E systems... a production must.

WIPE TRACK MODE™

Electronically connects the fader handles allowing wipe patterns to be positioned together. Multiple colored border effect can be accurately tracked throughout the transition.



Model 9310

9310-E Unique Features

MIX/EFFECT OUTPUTS FOR DIGITAL EFFECTS

Outputs are provided for inputs to digital effects systems creating feedback effects. M/E 1 and M/E 2 effects inside the digital effects system are also possible. True re-entry capability gives you unlimited creativity.

EXTERNAL INPUTS FOR BLANKING PROCESSOR BLACKBURST

Maintains RS-170A specification at the program output. This is critical for match frame editing.

DISSOLVES BETWEEN EFFECTS

Sophisticated Program/Preview transition allows



Model 9026

CHROMA-KEY SELECT TRACKING MODE™

Inputs on the chroma-key 4 input source selector automatically follow its video input, reducing the number of steps you take between selecting chroma-keys.

FIVE YEAR WARRANTY

We back our reputation for standout customer service with toll free technical assistance lines and one of the strongest warranties in the industry. Our dealers are worldwide, call for the one nearest you.

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IMAGINE . . .

WHAT YOU COULD DO IF YOU
HAD A DOLLY IN A BRIEFCASE . . .



IMAGINE . . .

IF YOU HAD TRACK
ROLLED UP IN A BAG . . .



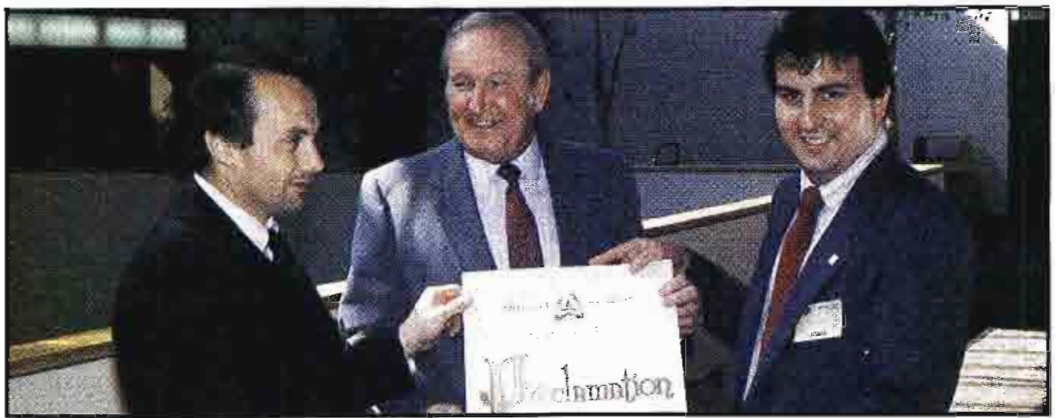
**DON'T IMAGINE ANYMORE
IT'S HERE!**

**MATTHEWS BRIEFCASE
DOLLY AND FOCUSTRAK**



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(212) 691-4720**

2405 Empire Ave., Burbank, CA 91504
Capitol Bldg., 236 W. 26th St., NY, NY 10001



The St. Louis mayor's office presented a certificate proclaiming Tuesday, Oct. 14, SBE day. Accepting the proclamation is Richard Rudman, SBE president, Jack Keane, St. Louis mayor's special assistant, and Sam Caputa, St. Louis convention organizer.

their new-found freedom. Where regulation previously provided specific guidelines and procedures for engineers, these regulatory straightjackets no longer exist. Now that, in many cases, specific rules have been abolished, some engineers don't know how to handle this flexibility.

McKinney said that the commission no longer cares about quality. He suggested that the marketplace will ensure that radio stations produce good audio and TV stations good pictures. Microregulation is not the answer.

He also said that the commission was no longer going to tell engineers how to do their jobs. In years past, carefully detailed procedures existed, which told an engineer how to measure many of the audio and video parameters. The regulations were also full of rules requiring detailed logs and records. Today, few records are required. It's now up to the engineer to ensure broadcast quality through whatever means are necessary. A prudent engineer will develop those procedures and keep whatever records are necessary for a safe, properly operating station.

McKinney, an SBE-certified engineer,

encouraged the society's members to help the industry develop future procedures, practices and standards, all free from governmental dictates. The SBE can help develop these new practices by looking at past mistakes while also looking at new technology.

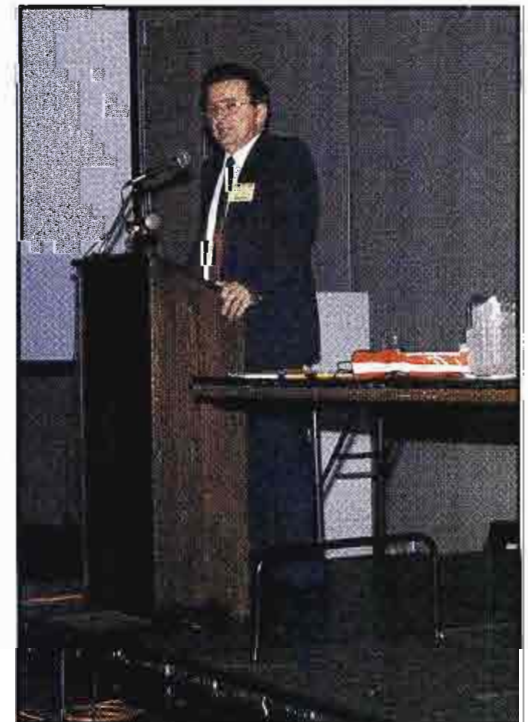
Two technological areas were addressed by McKinney: RF radiation hazards and AM improvements. He encouraged the SBE to help avoid mass confusion by encouraging the adoption of a single, uniform national RF standard. Some stations are already aware of problems that can result when a local governmental body decides to regulate this area, usually through ignorance.

He also addressed the AM improvement issue by saying that the commission could not save AM radio, only broadcasters could. He suggested that broadcasters needed to take several steps. First, stations should install AM stereo as soon as possible and use this opportunity to also clean up their audio at the same time.

Second, broadcasters must promote the AM band. Listeners need to be encouraged to switch freely between the AM and FM bands. Only then will the au-



Mary Lou Ennes accepts the SBE Industry Award, the society's highest honor, for her late husband, Harold. At left is Richard Rudman, SBE president. Jim Wulliman, certification chairman, is shown at right.



Tom Keller, vice president, NAB, outlined new technologies for broadcast engineers.



Transmitters, STL and remote pickups were among the items exhibited at the convention.

dience learn to appreciate the audio quality AM can provide.

McKinney said that stations must commit the money necessary to make their stations sound better. Without a monetary investment in the future of AM, little improvement can be expected.

Other news

Several awards were presented at the luncheon. SBE fellowships were presented to Don Strauss, Bill Orr and Charles Morgan. Richard Rudman, SBE president, also presented Mary Lou Ennes with the society's highest honor, the SBE Industry Award. The award was given posthumously to her husband, Harold. Harold Ennes probably wrote more hands-on, practical broadcasting books than anyone else. It was in his honor that the award was developed and he was the first rightful recipient.

Next year

The 1987 SBE national convention will again be held in St. Louis, Nov. 10-12. Based on early responses, the 1987 SBE national convention should be even bigger and better. Plan now to attend. You won't be disappointed.



Jim McKinney, FCC mass media chief, challenged broadcast engineers to adapt to deregulation and use their influence to direct future practices and procedures. | :? :-)))||

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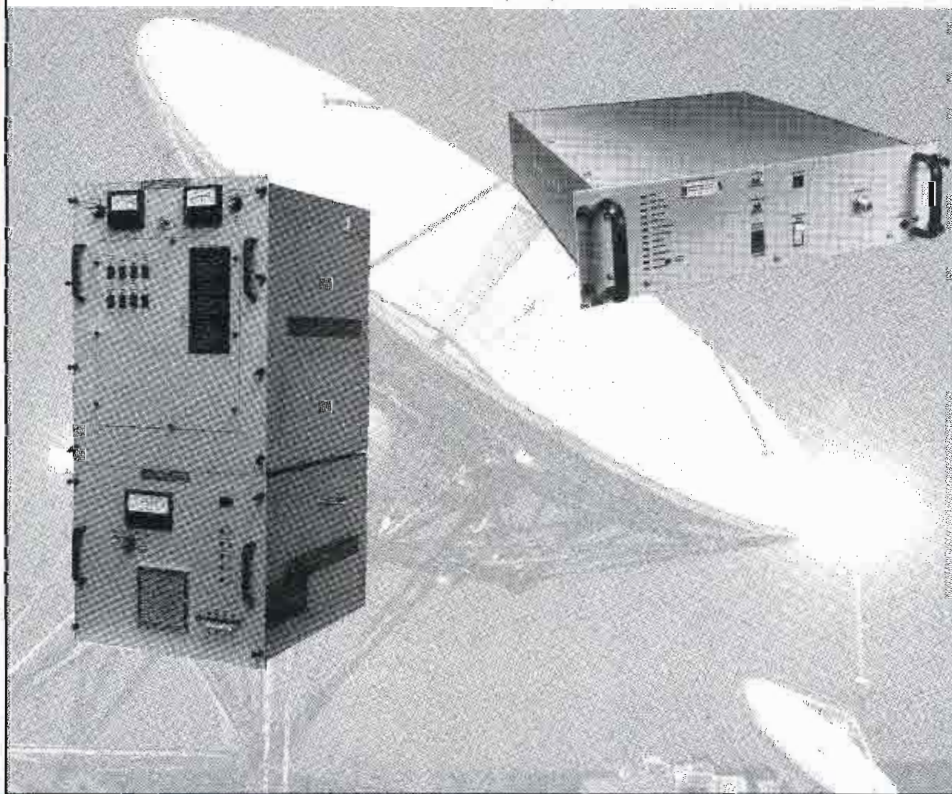
Similarity in design simplifies manufacturing, maintenance and installation resulting in:

- Shorter manufacturing cycles.
- Efficient module inventory availability.
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Frequency coordination effort grows nationwide

By Bob Van Buhler

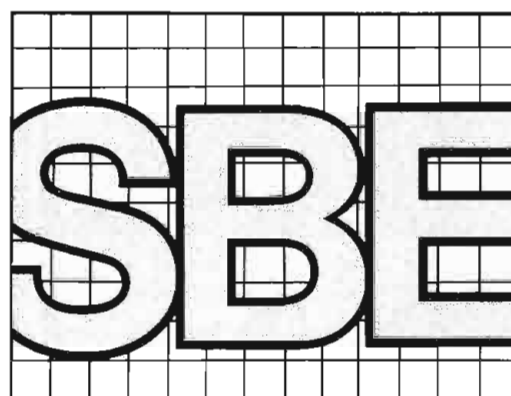
The SBE frequency-coordination program has grown from a local effort to a nationwide system. Today there are 96 coordinators working to maintain databases of local frequency usage. Although most stations participate in the voluntary effort, it is a never-ending chore to keep the information current.

The database provides helpful information to users needing access to remote pickup and STL frequencies. The data help new users identify any available frequencies. If no clear frequency exists, these data can help determine if a shared-use operation is possible. STL paths, if properly designed, can often share the same frequency. For this to happen, it is important to know exactly who is using what frequency in these bands.

However, the coordinator's database is only as accurate as the information provided by other users. If you have not contacted the coordinator in your area, it's time you do. Provide the coordinator with complete information on the frequencies you use, types of modulation, transmitter location and antenna orientation. These factors, along with contact names and telephone numbers, will be entered into the local database. The local coordinator has a tough enough job keeping track of all the activity in these bands. Without the help of users like you, the task is simply impossible.

More road crews are taking advantage of the local SBE coordinators. When these production crews go into a new market, they don't want to cause problems. They also want to produce a program on an interference-free basis. If they know what frequencies are open, chances are, they'll use them. If your station's frequency data is not available to the coordinator, then you have no one to blame but yourself if a production crew mistakenly believes a channel to be clear because it was not listed with the coordinator.

Providing the information to the coordinator is not going to spill any secrets. Let's face it, if someone wants to listen in to your traffic, keeping the SBE coordinator



in the dark won't help. However, by keeping the coordinator informed about your plans and needs, there is a much better chance of keeping traffic off of the channels you use. If you need fre-

quencies for full-time or temporary use, your local coordinator can also help. For more information on frequency coordination or to update your data, contact the person listed in Table 1 for your area.

SBE National Frequency Coordinators

LOCATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
AK, Fairbanks	Eric Nichols	(907) 488-2216
AL, Birmingham	Frank Giardina	(205) 933-9274
AR, Central Arkansas	Felix McDonald	(501) 372-7740
AR, West	Kelsey Mikel	(501) 782-6964
AZ, (State)	Jerry Grunig	(602) 257-1234
AZ, (State)	John Shadle	(602) 274-6200
AZ, Tucson	Ralph Turk	(602) 792-2270
AZ, Tucson	Bernie J. Sasek	(602) 792-2270
CA, Fresno	Randy Stover	(209) 226-0341
CA, Los Angeles	Howard Fine	(213) 460-3411
CA, Northern	Paul Brown	(916) 222-4455
CA, Orange County	George Murray	(714) 832-2950
CA, Sacramento	Buz La Bonte	(916) 929-5843
CA, San Diego	Tom Wimberly	(619) 279-3939
CA, San Francisco	Tim Pozar	(415) 786-2022
CT, (State)	Edward Nelson	(203) 243-4756
CO, Denver	Jeff Brothers	(303) 892-6666
CO, Grand Junction	Chuck Hendrickson	(303) 248-1436
DC, Washington	Lyn Heiges	(202) 457-4304
DE, Northern	Larry Will	(609) 630-5069
FL, Gainesville	Brian Lietz	(904) 392-5651
FL, Jacksonville	Dale E. Werner	(904) 399-4000
FL, Miami	Henry Seiden	(305) 576-1010
FL, Palm Beach	Jim Johnson	(305) 842-1077
FL, Tampa Bay	Ralph Beaver	(813) 879-1420
FL, Winter Park	Don Anglin	(305) 629-5105
GA, (State)	Ernie Watts	(404) 827-1787
GA, Southeast	Dale E. Werner	(904) 399-4000
HI, (State)	Robert Pallitz	(808) 946-2869
IL, Chicago	Ken Steininger	(312) 943-3321
IL, Quad Cities	Rick Serre	(309) 764-9694
IN, (State)	Charles Sears	(812) 332-3685
IN, South Bend	Jim Lies	(219) 293-5611
IN, Speedway	Tom Allebrandi	(317) 842-5718
KS, Wichita	Don Hogg	(316) 266-5631
KY, Louisville	Bill Bratton	(502) 582-7840
KY, Paducah	James Franklin	(502) 442-8214
LA, New Orleans	Hugh Burney	(504) 529-4444
MA, Boston	Paul Puccio	(617) 787-7063
MD, Baltimore	Chris Bryant	(301) 338-6531
ME, State (R)	John M. Goran	(207) 772-0797
MI, Grand Rapids	Tom Bosscaqr	(616) 451-2551
MI, Southeastern	Russ Harbaugh	(313) 642-6226
MI, Southwestern	Steven Messer	(616) 927-3581
MN, (State)	Peter Thorpe	(612) 251-4422
MO, Kansas City	Joe Snelson	(813) 677-7250
MO, St. Louis	Jeff Andrew	(314) 725-9814
NC, Charlotte (R)	James W. Davis	(919) 682-0318
NC, Charlotte (TV)	Harvey Arnold	(919) 933-2088
NE, Central	Jerry Fuehrer	(308) 743-2494
NE, Omaha	Jim Droege	(402) 228-0780

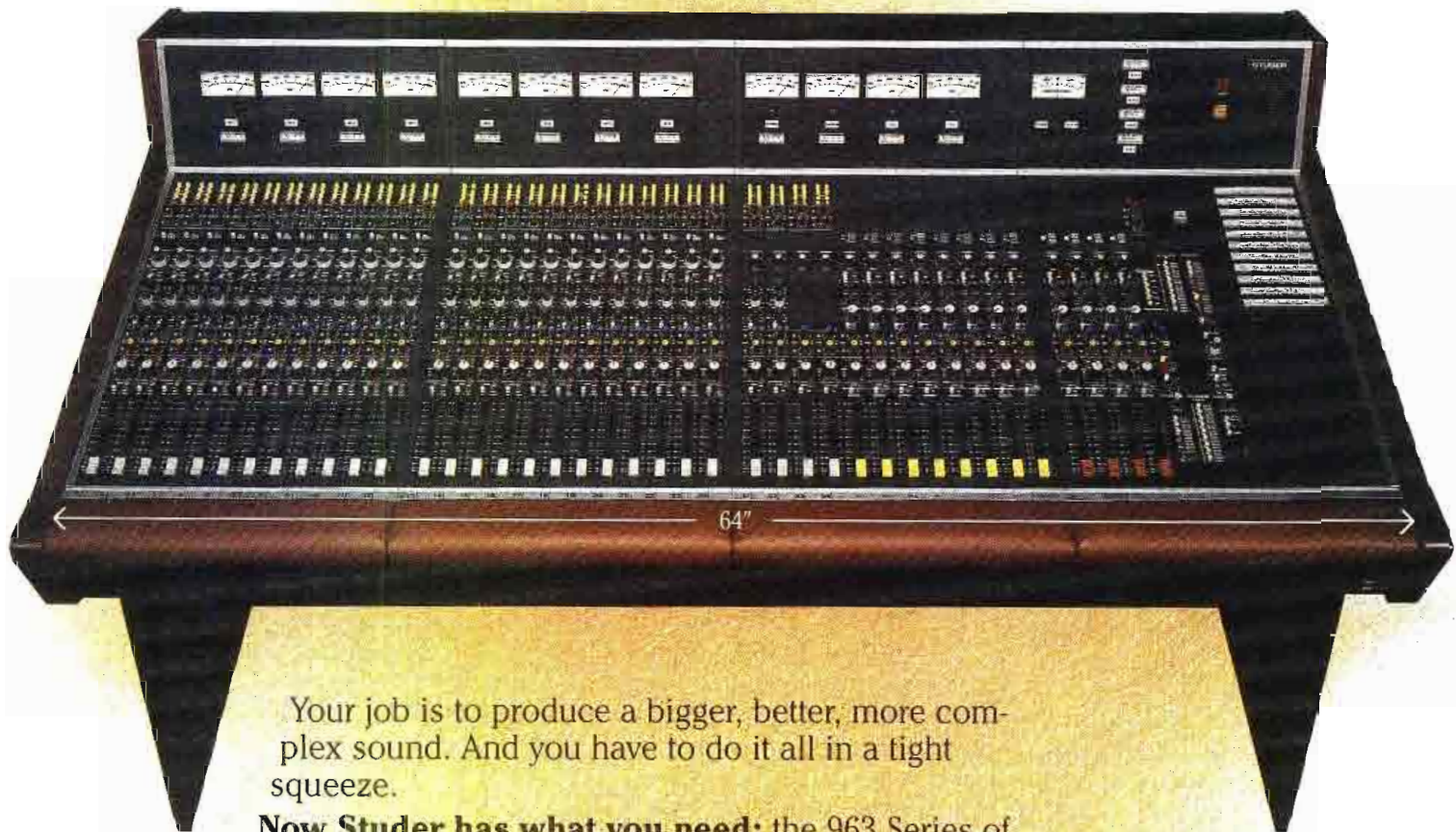
Table 1. SBE frequency coordinators.

Table continues on page 161

Van Buhler is chief engineer for WBAL-AM and WIYY-FM, Baltimore.

Not-So-Big News

The news is out. Studer's new 963 is big on features, performance and reliability. And not-so-big on size.



Your job is to produce a bigger, better, more complex sound. And you have to do it all in a tight squeeze.

Now Studer has what you need: the 963 Series of compact production consoles. A 963 is ideal for video post-production, video editing, broadcast production, EFP vehicles, smaller recording studios—anyplace where quality and reliability are critical but space is at a premium.

Based on a standard 30 mm module width, the 963 is available in configurations from 16 to 40 inputs. A 28 input console, with 28 direct outputs plus 4 stereo subgroups and 2 stereo masters, is barely more than 5 feet long. A 40 input console, is barely more than 6 feet long.

Standard features on the 963 include balanced insert points, direct outputs, a bantam jack patch bay, and external mute interface for video switchers. A wide variety of module options lets you custom configure your 963 for practically any specialized application.

When it comes to audio performance, the 963 goes head-to-head with the bulkiest of the big-name boards. Noise levels are digital compatible in “real world” conditions with many open faders. Studer engineers gave special attention to mix bus design and reference grounding to assure consistently superior specifications regardless of frame size. For extra reliability, solid state switching is used in all critical audio paths.

As with all Studer products, the 963 is manufactured and assembled to the highest standards of Swiss craftsmanship.

For more information, call your nearest Studer representative. Find out how the 963 can give you big console capabilities in a not-so-big package.

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Offices: Los Angeles (818) 780-4234/New York (212) 255-4462/Chicago (312) 526-1660
Dallas (214) 943-2239/San Francisco (415) 930-9866

STUDER REVOX

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Lawrence Mincer has been appointed vice president of sales of the video products division of Chyron, Melville, NY. He will direct sales of all video products and will manage the video products distribution network of domestic and international dealers.

David Kimm and **Steve G. Romeo** have been appointed positions with JBL Professional, Northridge, CA. Kimm is sales manager for Soundcraft USA. He will be responsible for overseeing sales management and distribution of Soundcraft products in America and Mexico. Romeo is market manager for JBL. He will oversee the sound contracting, motion picture and broadcast markets. He will be responsible for new product development and field support, and act as project manager for the Central Array Design Program, a computer software system.

Gene Ornstead and **William A. Ems** have been appointed positions with Conrac, Covina, CA. Ornstead is director of marketing. He will be responsible for all marketing research, product marketing programs, marketing administration, promotions and advertising, technical customer service and applications. Ems has been appointed to the new post of director of sales. He will supervise all sales programs and activities for monitor and video display system products.

Gary Johns and **Paul Zimmerman** have been named to positions with Sony Communications Products Company, Park Ridge, NJ. Johns is Midwest regional manager for video products. He will be responsible for development and expansion of video product sales. He will supervise regional administrative and order-processing staff, technical supervisors and district managers. He is located at the Chicago office. Zimmerman is marketing manager for display products. He is responsible for developing and implementing advertising, promotions, pricing and marketing plans for industrial monitors and projection systems.

David O. Fairley has been promoted to vice president of commercial engineering with Nurad, Baltimore, MD. His responsibilities include research and development of commercial products for ENG/EJ and telecommunications. Fairley also oversees field service, customer service and systems test operations.

Gary J. Thursby, **Frank Svet**, **Bradley S. Garrett**, **Robert T. Fluent** and **Kenneth W. Okamoto** have been named to positions at Harris Broadcast Division, Quincy, IL. Thursby is vice president of marketing. He will be responsible for business and product strategy, advertising, public relations and market research. Svet is vice president of engineering. Garrett is vice president of manufacturing. Fluent is director of services, resale and parts. He will be responsible for service, resale and parts functions at the Quincy operation. Okamoto is director of human resources.

Debra Knight has been appointed to the new position of manager of government sales for Harris, Quincy, IL. She will be responsible for sales activities toward this growing market.

Knight joined Harris in 1980, and served as field operations management coordinator-domestic radio marketing since 1985.

Grace Gehman has been appointed marketing director for Apogee Electronics, Santa Monica, CA. Her duties will include interfacing with advertising and public relations firms and promoting Apogee products to the professional audio and broadcast fields.

William A. Fink has been appointed vice president-director of marketing for Moseley Associates, Goleta, CA. Fink was formerly director of marketing for CMX.

Jack Letscher has been appointed president of TimeLine, New York. Prior to joining TimeLine, Letscher was vice president of operations at Lexicon.

Aaron Nicholson has been appointed to the newly created position of sales manager of Stabiline voltage control products for The Superior Electric Company, Bristol, CT. He is responsible for U.S. sales for the uninterruptible power supplies, voltage conditioners, automatic voltage regulators and ac voltage monitor systems. Nicholson joined Superior Electric in 1968 as a sales engineer. He was most recently manager of representative sales-Eastern region.

Michael O. Paiva has joined The ALTA Group, San Jose, CA, as director of marketing. Paiva has been associated with the semiconductor industry for the past 10 years.

G. Alfred Dodds, **Dru Anne Larimer** and **Karen A. Eschete** have been appointed positions with RAKS Corporation of America. Dodds is Western regional manager. He will coordinate operations from the Los Angeles office. Larimer is Midwestern regional manager. She will head operations from the Chicago office. Eschete is Southwestern regional manager. She will oversee operations from the Texas division offices in Houston.

Jody Blanchard has joined A.F. Associates, Northvale, NJ, as product sales executive with direct responsibility for the expanding line of professional video products. Prior to joining AFA, Blanchard was a sales executive with the Sony Corporation.

Richard Schumeyer has been appointed president of Modulation Sciences, Brooklyn, NY. He is the former vice president and general manager.

Leslie Spitzer has been named national sales manager for video products at Mycro-Tek, Wichita, KS. He will be responsible for directing marketing and sales and coordinating sales through a national network of independent sales representatives.

Timothy R. Mungovan has been appointed Western regional sales engineer at Rupert Neve, Hollywood, CA. He was most recently president of Pacific-Hi-Tec.

Richard Patterson has joined Ultimatte Corporation, Reseda, CA, as a communication specialist. He will be responsible for the production of a series of demonstration and tutorial tapes for Ultimatte products as well as technical bulletins describing specific applications for the Ultimatte-5, the Ultimatte-4, the Ultimatte-200, High Definition Ultimatte and Newsmatte-2.

Yves Faroudja has been awarded a fellowship by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers for his work in improving TV imagery.



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HELIAX products are manufactured exclusively by Andrew Corporation.

HELIAX coaxial cable, waveguide and connectors embody Andrew's fifty years of

technological leadership as well as ongoing research and development programs. The HELIAX trademark, like the name Andrew, assures you of top quality performance, the best service and rapid delivery from stock to meet your project needs.

So, the next time you order coaxial cable or waveguide and connectors, go with the world's leader in quality,

reliability and performance—specify HELIAX made only by Andrew.

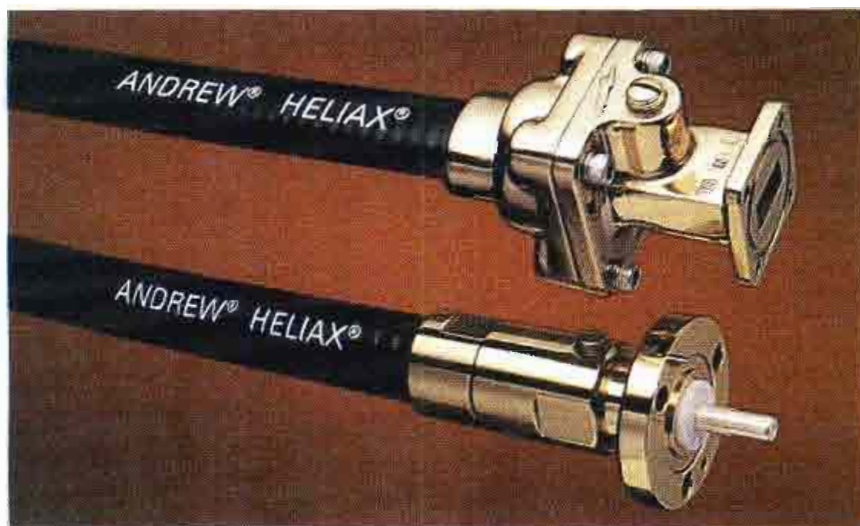
For a copy of Catalog 33 call or write today.

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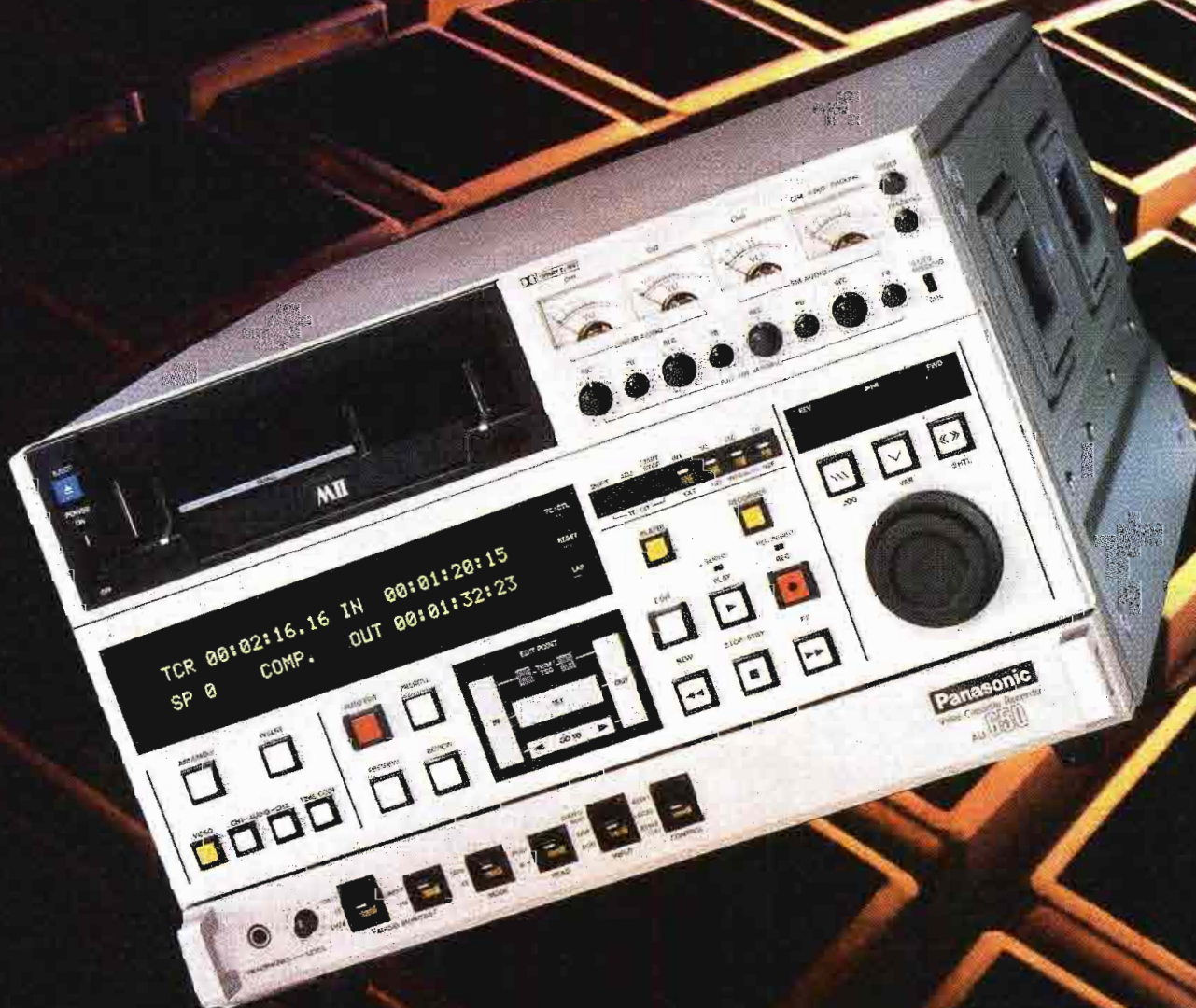
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***Panasonic® brings you M-II.
The broadcast recording system our
competition can't seem to duplicate.***



Now you can shoot, edit and broadcast with 1" quality—on 1/2" cassettes.

When it comes to broadcast systems, it appears our competition has been erased. Because no other format can match the spectacular performance of M-II from Panasonic.

With M-II's metal particle tape system, you can use the same compact 90- or pocket-size 20-minute cassette from ENG/EFP right through editing to on-air broadcast. With 4.5MHz bandwidth (-3dB), 50dB S/N and burst signal insertion for phase alignment and jitter correction, M-II is the single solution to all your broadcast needs.

In fact, each unit in the M-II line offers some pretty uncommon common features like four audio tracks (two linear and two FM), an integral longitudinal and vertical interval time code/time date generator with presettable user bits and Dolby®-C noise reduction. And M-II products utilize a standard edit control interface, so you can upgrade gradually if you like.

AU-650 Studio VCR. This compact, rack-mountable VCR has all the advantages and functions of conventional recorders with

the benefit of the M-II format. The AU-650 provides video and audio performance as good as—if not better than—that of 1" VTRs. In a 1/2" cassette format that lends itself to station automation. It records and plays either 90- or 20-minute cassettes, and provides smooth action, variable slow motion as well as freeze frame. And the AU-650 can perform frame-accurate automatic editing with multi-generation transparency. There's also an internal TBC to assure on-air quality playback.

AU-500 Field Recorder. The AU-500 offers the portability and functions demanded by ENG/EFP users, while providing picture quality comparable to 1"—all on either a 90- or 20-minute cassette. This small, ruggedly designed unit is equipped with confidence field color playback, automatic backspace editing, TBC/DOC connection, search function and warning indicators that alert the operator should recording problems arise and the AU-500 accommodates NTSC composite or various component input signals.

The AU-400 Camera Recorder. This lightweight, compact camera recorder provides ENG users with more than 20 minutes of recording, and a picture quality that rivals that of 1" VTRs. The AU-400 also features B/W video confidence playback through the camera's viewfinder, a chroma confidence indicator and audio confidence output through a speaker.

There's even an automatic backspace editing function and warning indicators. And the AU-400's rugged construction provides excellent resistance to dust and moisture.

M-II, it's the only broadcast system of its type in the industry. And it's available now. Two of the best reasons to go with M-II from Panasonic.

To get the complete picture, call or write Panasonic Broadcast Systems Company, One Panasonic Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094. (201) 348-7671.

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Broadcast Systems

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Sony ships equipment, expands customer service

WNEV-TV, Boston, is the first TV station in the United States to purchase Betacam SP equipment from the Broadcast Products Division of *Sony Communications Products Company*, New York. WNEV plans to convert all on-air operations to Betacam SP. The first shipment of equipment will be delivered in the second quarter of 1987, and will include Betacam SP VTRs, studio editing decks and recorder units. Delivery of the equipment is scheduled over a 2-year period.

Sony's Professional Audio Products Division has announced an expansion of its customer service and support capability. Communications Products customer service, Teaneck, NJ, will combine service for professional video products. The new service organization will enable the pro audio division to offer regional factory service centers and 24-hour, 7-day a week hotlines for emergency technical assistance and parts ordering.

Panasonic expands M-II acceptance

Panasonic Broadcast Systems Company, formed last year to meet the equipment needs of the broadcast industry, is in the process of expanding market acceptance of M-II-format 1/2-inch video equipment through the development of professional engineering, sales and marketing organizations in the broadcast business.

Under the direction of Tak Urabe, senior vice president, and Anthony R. Pignoni, vice president of sales and marketing, the company markets and sells directly to broadcast call-letter stations, post-production and production facilities. In addition, its existing independent manufacturers rep organization is being expanded to effectively service non-broadcast customers.

In support of these efforts, Panasonic Broadcast Systems established a direct-sales network in October. The company has further strengthened its field offices by expanding its regional sales staff.

Otari, Mitsubishi demonstrate compatibility

Otari, Belmont, CA, and the *Mitsubishi Pro Audio Group*, San Fernando, CA, demonstrated compatible digital tapes at the Los Angeles AES convention in November. Cary Fischer, director of U.S. sales and technical services for Mitsubishi, and John Carey, marketing manager for Otari, demonstrated 37-track PD format compatibility between their multitracks, the X-850 from Mitsubishi and the DTR-900 from Otari.

Otari also has sold a DTR-900 to Masterfonics, Nashville. The recorder will be interfaced with an SSL-4000E console in the company's new multitrack digital remix room.

WGRZ chooses Odetics

WGRZ, NBC's affiliate in Buffalo, NY, has installed a TCS2000 cart machine from *Odetics*, Anaheim, CA. The machine will automate the station's programming.

Easier, better-sounding telephone remotes - Gentner makes it happen!

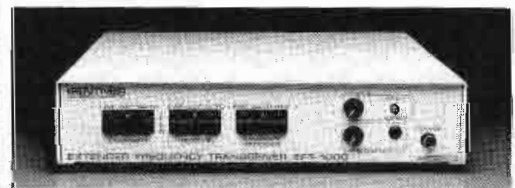
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Graham-Patten ships equipment

Graham-Patten Systems, Grass Valley, CA, has received several equipment orders. The Up South Corporation has ordered a unified TV equipment control system (UTECS) and several 1200 series remote-controlled video and audio distribution amplifiers to be installed in its uplink facility in Atlanta. ABC has received the first phase of the UTECS, which will be installed in the network's new central switching area in New York.

Graham-Patten is shipping the model 608 edit suite audio mixer to several companies and universities, including Northrup Aerospace, Brigham Young University, The University of Maryland, Morning Star Productions, Color Systems Technology and Magna Techtronics.

Larcan delivers transmitters

KVIE-TV channel 6, Sacramento, CA, has purchased a 60kW TV parallel transmitter with all solid-state aural and microprocessor control from *Larcan*, Ontario, Canada.

Other recent VHF shipments included an all solid-state, 2.5kW TV transmitter purchased by Pulitzer Publishing Company for KWNM, Silver City, NM; a 30kW VHF TV transmitter for WMEB-TV channel 12, Bangor, ME, which will be the second Larcan transmitter placed in service by the Maine Public Broadcasting Network; and seven all solid-state VHF TV transmitters/translators ranging from 250W to 3kW to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Midwest acquires Bennett

Midwest Communications Corporation, Edgewood, KY, has announced the acquisition of Bennett Engineering, Seattle. Stan Bennett, owner of Bennett Engineering, will remain with Midwest in a management role. This acquisition will bring the number of Midwest domestic offices to 33 and is Midwest's first office on the West Coast.

USIA contracts Conus

Conus Communications, Minneapolis, has been selected by the United States Information Agency to provide domestic news service for WORLDNET, USIA's TV satellite network, which provides daily programming in more than 50 countries. Conus will supply WORLDNET with three daily news services.

DCC sells BIAS system, agrees to merger

Data Communications Corporation, Memphis, TN, has sold a BIAS newsroom automation system to the Gannett Center for Media Studies, Columbia University, New York. BIAS systems also were shipped to WATE-TV, Knoxville, TN, and to Western Systems, Guam.

Data Communications also has agreed in principle to a merger with Jefferson Pilot Data Systems, Charlotte, NC. The merger will allow the companies to provide 1-stop buying of computer services.

Mitsubishi relocates

The *Mitsubishi* Pro-Audio Group is expanding into new premises. All sales and support services for the three Mitsubishi divisions will be housed in the same building, along with a demonstration studio. The new address is Unit 13, Alban Park, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, HERTS.

Mitsubishi also has sold its first SuperStar music recording console to KMH Studios, Stockholm, Sweden.

ITI opens new office

Integrated Technologies will close its Greensboro, NC, office and establish a new corporate facility in Santa Clara, CA. The company hopes to take advantage of the specialized technical and management resources in the area.

Integrated Technologies also has announced shipment and installation of eight graphics systems. Image-Maker systems were shipped to Julie Laboratories, New York; EFX, Boston; Producers Video, Baltimore; Finishing House, Detroit; and Television Associates, Mountain View, CA. News-Maker systems were installed at KDBC-TV, El Paso, TX; and WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA. A Weather-Maker system has been installed at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Montreal.

Robert Bosch wins contract

Robert Bosch, Video Equipment Division, Salt Lake City, has announced the award of a contract from the WGBH Educational Foundation, Boston. The contract is for a complete video and audio routing, master control and automation system.

Robert Bosch also has been selected by Korean Broadcasting Services to provide the TAS/TVS-2000 distribution switcher system for use in the worldwide TV broadcast of the 1986 Asian games held in Seoul, Korea.

SSL wins Lucasfilm contract

Solid State Logic, New York, has been chosen by Lucasfilm to provide a new range of film audio consoles and studio computers for the new technical building at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch near San Francisco. SSL will supply custom-designed SL 5000 M Series film systems for the technical building, plus two computer-assisted consoles for Lucasfilm's sprocket systems complex. The sound design/mix room will be updated with an SL 4000 E Series master studio system with custom film panning. Later in the year, an SL 5000 M Series final mix system will replace the console in Sprocket Systems' Studio.

Panasonic delivers to NBC

Panasonic Broadcast Systems Company, Secaucus, NJ, has completed the initial delivery of M-II format equipment to NBC. The shipment includes quantities of both the AU-650 studio video recorder editor/player and AU-400 camera recorder. The equipment is undergoing final evaluation by NBC as part of the network's acceptance testing process.

Artronics signs Telesis

Artronics, South Plainfield, NJ, has signed Telesis Productions, a full-service video production firm in Rochester, NY, as a beta test site for Artronics' Video Paint Library/VPL video graphics system.

ALTA delivers 500th Pyxis

The ALTA Group, San Jose, CA, has delivered more than 500 Pyxis digital video production systems in its first year of shipments. The 500th unit was delivered to Mid-Coast Television, El Granada, CA, the community access channel of Coast Cable Television serving California's Half Moon Bay area.

Cinema Products relocates

Cinema Products has relocated its operations to 3211 La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016. The new telephone number is 213-836-7991.

Lenco forms graphics group

Lenco Electronics, Jackson, MO, has formed the Lenco computer graphics products group. The group was formed to provide the graphics industry with encoding and decoding products. Marketing plans for the products are being formulated. [:->)]]]



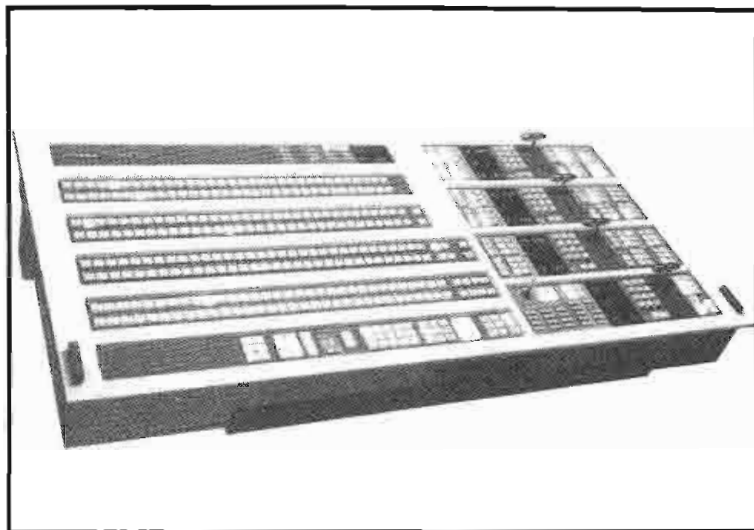
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Switchers, software and combiner



Ampex has announced the following products:

- The AVC Century series of video broadcast and post-production switchers provides extensive keying, key masking and memory capabilities and interfaces with any editing system. The switchers are available in four basic configurations ranging from 2M/Es (mix effects) and 16 video inputs to 3M/Es and 32 inputs.

- The system software version 3.1, free of charge to all ACE and ACE Micro system owners, features: learn, key, pause; advanced trigger display; AVC switcher panel memory control; switcher disable; EDL scroll; and the Graham-Patten audio switcher interface.
- The Mini-Command Center is a full-feature production and post-production system built around the ACE Micro inter-format editor. The center's wide range of interfaces allows customers to integrate non-Ampex studio equipment into the center.
- The SpeedTrace is a computer-added tracing option for the AVA-3 video graphics system. It produces exact wireframe (vector) representations of high-contrast, still-video images that have been scanned into the AVA-3. The system operates in two modes, font scan and symbol scan.
- The ADO Combiner is a 2-channel combiner for ADO 1000 and 2000 digital effects systems.

Circle (350) on Reply Card

Battery brackets

Anton/Bauer Snap-On II quick-release battery brackets designed to adapt Pro Pac Snap-On batteries are available for both the Sony BVW-105 and DXC cameras. The QR-BETA-5 bracket for the BVW-105 features a dual battery mounting system for use on tripods and for hand-held operation.

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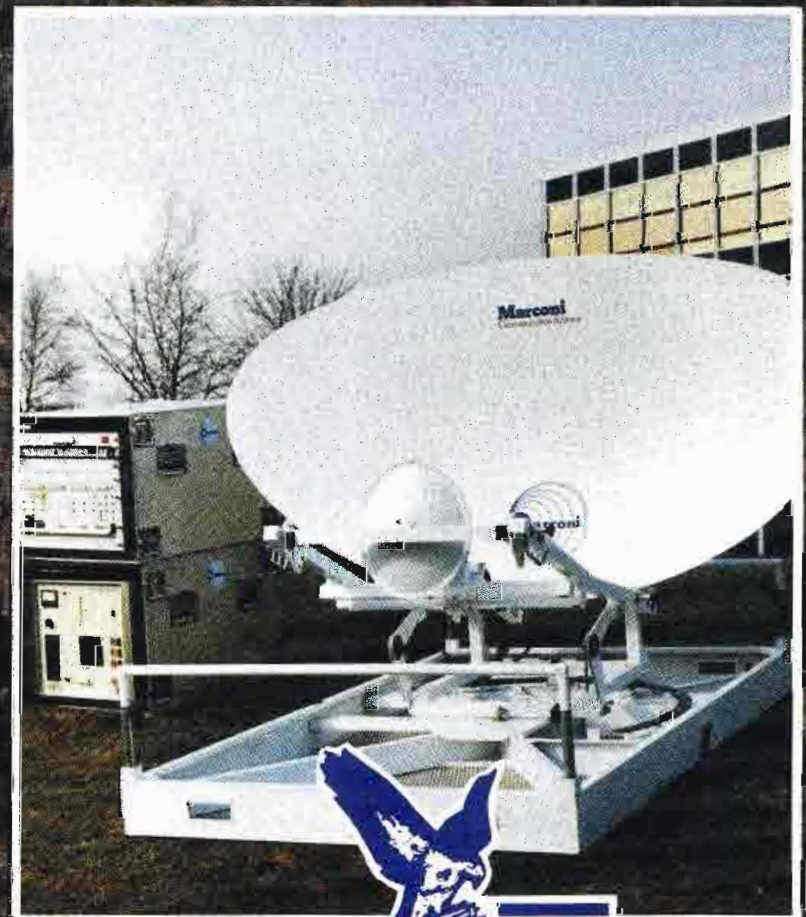
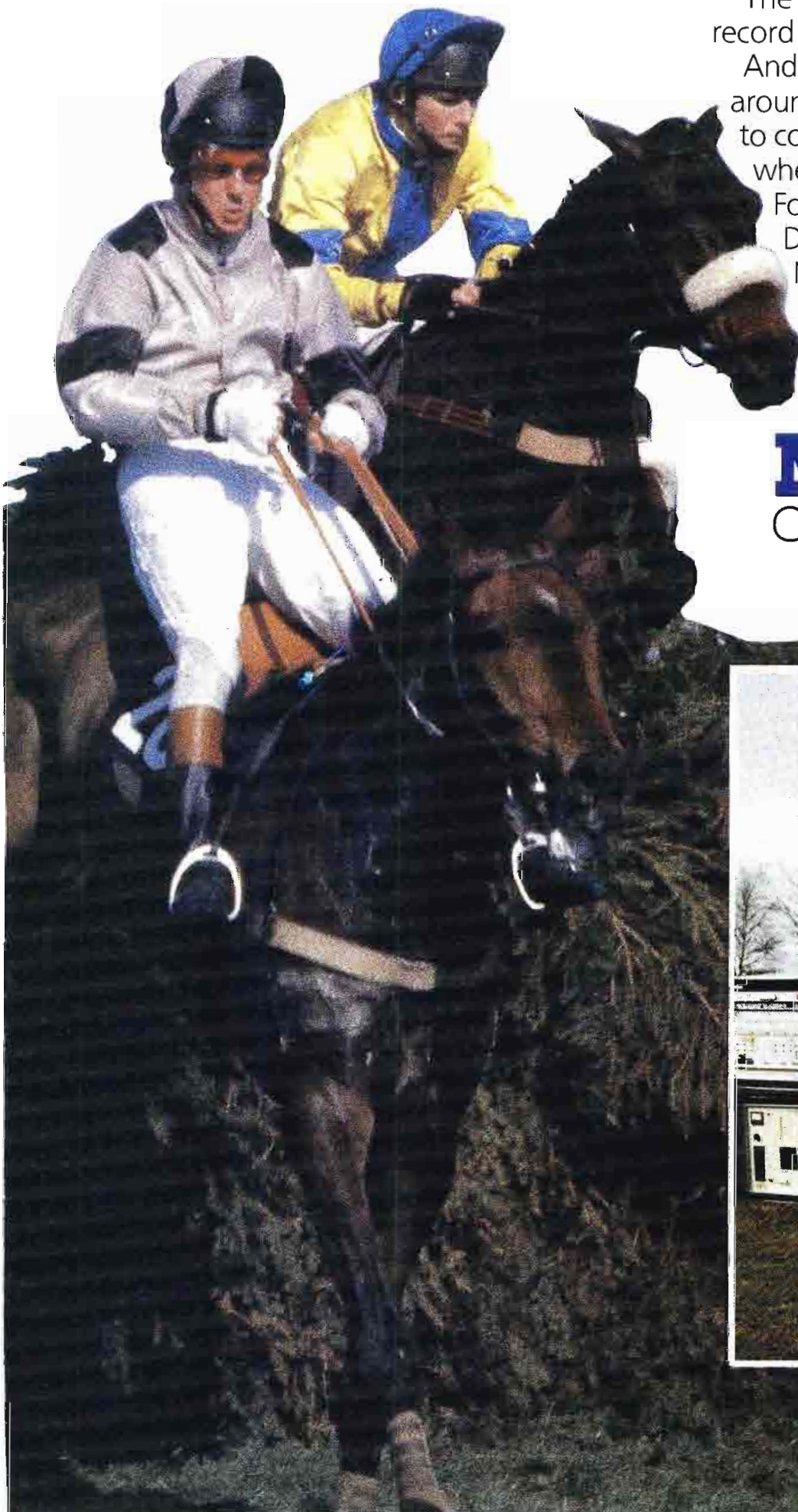
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International 44 245 353221. Telex: 99201. Facsimile (Gp 2/3) 0245 87215

Marconi
Communication Systems



Circle (93) on Reply Card



Program controller, software

Alamar has announced the following products:

- The Auto-Cart program controller will automate the operation of three to 32 VTRs regardless of format, and also sequences and controls telecines, character generators and switchers. Automation available includes commercial insertion, cart machine replacement, delayed programming, movie playback and timed remote control. The automatic program cuing feature also includes confirmation of content.
- The Media Manager software program catalogs film and videotape programming. The program operates on an IBM XT/AT or compatible computer and can be configured to run as part of a local area network. The ALA-SEARCH feature searches out all references for a specific subject. The date-sensitive Media Checker confirms that tapes are in-house and dubbed prior to on-air time.

Circle (352) on Reply Card

Microphones and power supply

Beyer has introduced the following products:

- The MC 736 PV and MC 737 PV short- and long-shotgun microphones feature pre-amp designs that accept any 12V to 48V phantom power supply, a high-end rise in frequency response, switchable 12dB attenuation and low frequency rolloff. The MC 736 short shotgun has a lobed polar pattern

above 2kHz and a cardioid pickup pattern below 2kHz. The MC 737 long shotgun has a lobed pattern.

- The MSB 48 N(C) 1 belt-pack condenser mic power supply holds five 9V batteries and delivers up to 500 hours of 45V power to any compatible condenser. It features balanced XLR input and output connections.
- The CV 720 PV condenser power supply for MCM system microphone capsules accepts any phantom power source from 12V to 48V, has a 10dB attenuator and a 12dB/octave LF filter.

Circle (353) on Reply Card

3-D animation work station

Barco-Industries has introduced the Producer, a 3-D animation work station. The system is based on three software modules (model, preview and image) and runs on a Silicon Graphics IRIS 3030 computer. Number crunchers such as the Celerity 1260 series, Bull SPS9 and VAX can be connected through Ethernet. The three software packages can also be purchased separately.

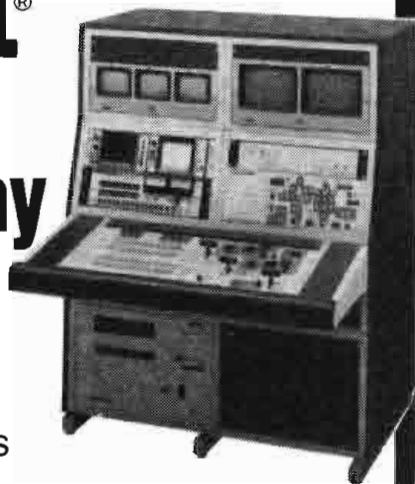
Circle (354) on Reply Card

Transmitter

Elcom Bauer has announced the model 605 FAT, a frequency agile FM transmitter capable of 5,000W power output into loads of up to 1.7:1 in the standard 88MHz-108MHz FM band.

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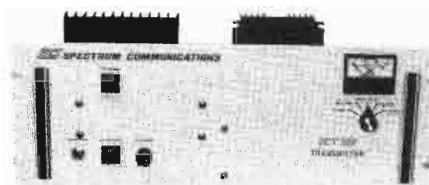
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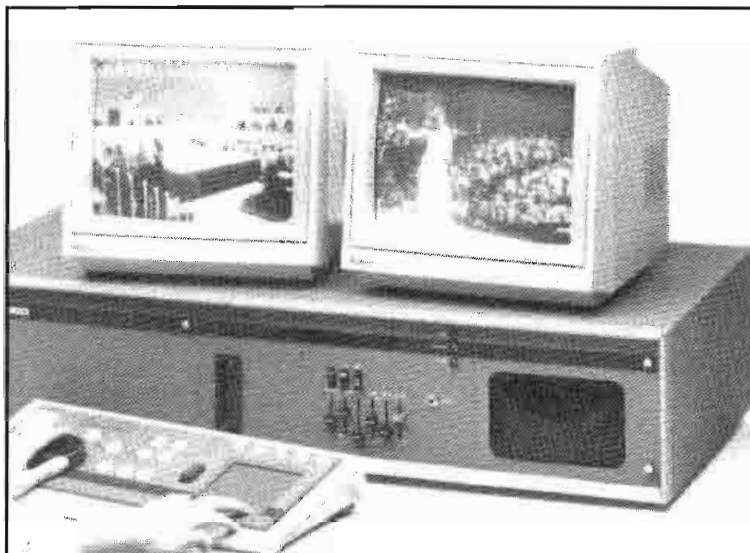
Circle (355) on Reply Card

Editing system; interface and sound sweetener

CMX has introduced the following products:

- The CMX 6000 is an off-line, disk-based system that permits editing and re-editing without waiting for recall of material. The editor has separate sound and video editing systems and allows tracks to be interlocked or slipped with a keystroke. The system's key modular components are a tabletop module called the Bridge, two color monitors, the editor's console, a keyboard for logging scenes and takes, picture and sound modules and a line printer.
- The Superkit is a three-VTR, intelligent interface board that is compatible with existing multi-I² chassis and will be available on CMX 330 editing systems. Initial interfaces will be with the Sony Betacam BVW and BVU equipment
- The CASS 1E is an edit-only version of the CASS 1

computer-aided sound sweetener. The unit simultaneously controls up to six audiotape recorders or VTRs, plus 14 general purpose interfaces, and provides hard disk and floppy disk storage.



CMX 6000 editing system

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Software

Cipher Digital has released the BP-3 software for Softouch editing systems manufactured before the delivery of the 4800 SHADOW II synchronizers. The software update also will support Softouch units manufactured by BTX before its assets were acquired by Cipher Digital. The software offers users full control of the new features of the 4800.

Circle (357) on Reply Card

Digital intercom beltpacks

Clear-Com announces the Series 500 intercom beltpacks, available in single- and 2-channel units. The beltpacks have a custom designed digital integrated circuit to control noiseless electronic switching on all audio and signaling circuits, enabling dual action, momentary or latching microphone push-button action and a remote mic kill feature. Other features include: recessed, damage-protected controls; dynamic, carbon or electret microphone compatibility; microphone limiter/compressor; ¼W audio output into 50Ω; and a surface mounting adapter that the beltpack clips into for semi-permanent mounting.

Circle (358) on Reply Card

Camcorder light, batteries

Cool-Lux has introduced the following products:

- The Micro-Lux is a camcorder light that produces 9,000

candle beam power. When powered by a 12V, 6.5Ah battery, it can run for 1¾ hours and consumes 35W. It also can be powered from a vehicle cigarette lighter. The light has a built-in diffusion lens and produces 3,200°K light.

- The Olympic L-13 and L-20 battery belts and the L-6.5 battery pack use cells with thin plates and live plate supports to create greater plate surface. The batteries feature a heavy-duty, 800mA charger matched to the battery's chemistry, absorbed electrolyte cells and 20A fuses. The L-13 and L-20 belts have built-in 5-level voltage monitoring systems and are available in 13A and 20A hour models. Also available is the N-2.5, a nicad developed primarily for use with low-current camcorders.

Circle (359) on Reply Card

Microphones, receiver

Cetec Vega has introduced the following products:

- The model 66B professional portable wireless microphone receiver is designed around a GaAsFET front-end for high sensitivity and a range of up to 1,200 feet. It incorporates the DYNEX II audio processor, uses four internal 9V alkaline batteries and can be powered from an external source.
- The TRAVELER 1 wireless microphone system features DYNEX II audio processing and comes with either a bodypack transmitter (the 1-B) or a hand-held transmitter (the

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1-H). Both use the 66B receiver.

• The REPORTER portable wireless microphone system features the CVX audio processing system and is available as either a bodypack (the 1-B) or hand-held (the 1-H) system. Both models use the model R-26 receiver, which operates on four internal 9V alkaline batteries or from a 12V camera pack. The transmitters operate on one 9V alkaline battery.



Cetec Vega model 66B receiver

Circle (360) on Reply Card

Software, character generator

Comprehensive Video Supply has introduced two products:

- Edit Lister 3.0 is an enhanced version of the Edit Lister videotape editing program. The program has list cleaning for B-Mode (checkerboard) assembly, translation of edit lists between CMX, Convergence, Paltex, Sony and Grass Valley/ISC formats, and expanded notation capabilities. The program is available for the IBM PC and compatible computers, and requires PC-DOS or MS-DOS 2.0 or higher and 256K memory.
- The PC-2 is a plug-in board that turns an IBM PC or compatible computer into a broadcast-quality character generator. The board features 40ns resolution, 26 fonts, 64 colors for characters and background, 16 colors for shadows and edges, multiple fonts and colors per line, a full-feature editor, a 4-speed roll, and two independent crawl lines with four speeds each.

Circle (361) on Reply Card

Broadcast monitor

Conrac has unveiled the newest member of its 2600 family of monitors. The 2660 15-inch, solid-state monochrome monitor features 25MHz video bandwidth and minimum 800 line resolution, with D6500 phosphor standard; ultra-rectangular 15V CRT; dual video inputs; and modular construction and high-voltage supply.

Circle (362) on Reply Card

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Circle (99) on Reply Card

Communications package

The media services division of *Data Communications Corporation* has announced an addition to the BIAS newsroom automation system. The communications package provides communications between news centers and their remotely located offices by transferring scripts and other news information over telephone lines. News producers at any of the stations can view lists of available stories on their computer systems, make their selections and receive script texts within seconds.

Circle (363) on Reply Card

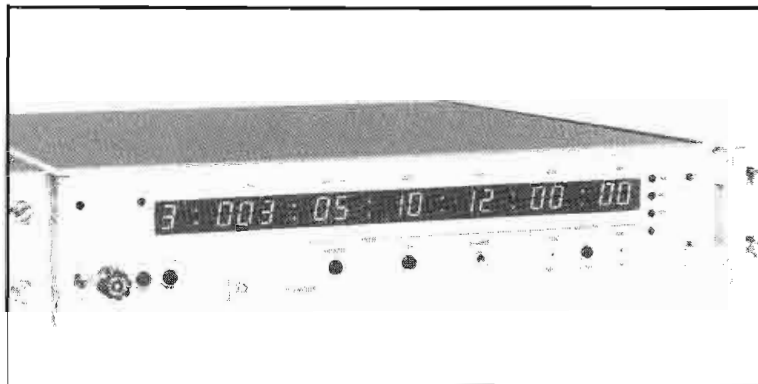
Waveform monitor

Electronic Visuals Limited has announced the EV4042, the latest version of its TV waveform monitor. The monitor incorporates a line finder facility and a new high-voltage stabilized power supply. The line selector enables the display of any of 16 lines from the early part of either field, allowing verification of the correct positioning of test, teletext, time code and other signals within the field blanking interval. Signal stability is enhanced by high-gain dc restorer and precision sync separator circuits. Synchronization is unaffected by sound-in-sync signals and maintains accuracy in the presence of up to 1V of superimposed hum.

Circle (364) on Reply Card

SID encoder/decoder

DATUM, Timing Division-Video Group, has introduced the 5310 SID encoder and 5320 SID reader. The units facilitate transmission of digital information within a standard NTSC composite video signal. The encoder inserts information indicating the originating network, distribution point, time and parity. A rechargeable battery provides four hours of backup power. The reader automatically searches for and extracts SID code from a composite video signal. After the code is detected, extracted and verified, the decoded digital data is automatically output via an RS-232C serial interface. Decoded data is output continuously or during certain flag conditions.



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Growth...

The audio industry has a reputation for growth. Growth in performance with the new digital transmission and recording techniques, growth in complexity with multi-channel studio systems and growth in testing technique with more demands for thoroughness in testing. And that growth will continue!

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Videotape

Eastman Kodak has introduced a 1/2-inch videotape designed for Betacam, Betacart and M formats. The PRO FORMAT II features a low dropout rate and improvements in luminance, chrominance, visual signal-to-noise ratio and RF output.

Circle (366) on Reply Card

Modular spectrum analyzer

Hewlett-Packard has announced the HP 71201A modular spectrum analyzer with microwave preselection. It provides tracking preselection from 2.7GHz to 22GHz, low-pass filtering below 2.9GHz, and a special bypass mode from 0GHz to 22GHz. The analyzer features the HP 70600A preselector module. The analyzer consists of a mainframe, display unit, and three spectrum analyzer modules. A new memory-plus controller board with increased RAM also has been added.

Circle (367) on Reply Card

Video enhancements

Interactive Motion Control has announced the following products:

- The Video Camera Lifter provides up/down movement of a camera mounted on a nodal-point head with pan/tilt/roll and can now be mounted on a 16-foot section of track.

- The Century V16 Periscope Lens has been modified for the camera lifter. It features pan, roll and non-nodal tilt capability. The package consists of a V16 periscope with a modification for camera roll, and three different lenses and an ENG camera mount.

- The Slide Image System acts as a mini-animation stand for 2 1/4-inch transparencies and 35mm slides and can now be mounted on the video animation compound.

- The Video Model Mover provides pan, tilt and roll movement. It is composed of three rotational gear boxes, two right-angle arms and provides rotation on all three axes. It can be mounted on a video animation compound or on a cart that can be free-standing or can operate on a 16-foot section of precision video track. Each rotational axis will travel at 45° per second and can move at 10 inches per second on the track.

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Software and hardware options

Fairlight Instruments has introduced software and hardware options for its CVI system, a microprocessor-based paint system and digital effects unit. The software supports a title library, consisting of six font typestyles, backspace and insert editing capabilities, foreign language characters, and it also can store up to 100 modified or newly created titles. In addition, one large format font can be defined or modified from

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DPS-185 Test Signal Generator

The DPS-185 meets the requirement of providing 32 selectable test signals on two independent channels at a reasonable price. Seven-segment digital displays permit easy recognition of the signals generated.

The DPS-185 is a price/performance breakthrough in a single, space-saving rack unit. This rugged, compact test generator simplifies maintenance, alignment and service procedures.

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an existing format. A complete alphabet of more than 100 characters and symbols can then be defined and stored on the CVI, or be archived to videotape or floppy disk. Other system areas also have been upgraded to include 36 user-definable brushes and textures, and new color wipes.

Circle (369) on Reply Card

Line 3-D resolution

Integrated Technologies has introduced the Color-Maker I option for its Image-Maker and Ani-Maker computer graphics systems. It offers 8,000 x 8,000 maximum lines of resolution. It permits users to take advantage of the new digital film recorders made by Dunn, Celco and Matrix. Users are free to define their own individual output resolution requirements and may output to film, standard NTSC or high-definition television. The option can be added to all existing and future Ani-Maker and Image-Maker systems.

Circle (370) on Reply Card

Camcorder backpack

KIWI has introduced a camcorder case made to hold all formats. It is vertically designed to convert from a shoulder bag to a backpack and has a side opening with a security tie down strap plus an accessory pocket. The bottom of the case is lined with cellular armor, a honey-combed and shock proof thermoplastic.

Circle (371) on Reply Card

Upgraded camera

JVC Company of America, Professional Video Communications Division, has introduced its PROCAM KY-320B with Plumbicon tubes. It features separate horizontal/vertical pin cushion and trapezoidal distortion correction circuitry, an improved linearity circuit, and an additional electronic rotation circuit that improves registration accuracy. The separate RGB pre-amp circuits and f/1.4 prism optical system improve resolution to more than 650TV lines, and provide a signal-to-noise ratio of 57dB. A prism temperature compensation circuit reduces V-shift variation. The SSC circuit is equipped with an oven temperature control crystal oscillator. An additional VTR trigger switch has been incorporated into the camera head, allowing for the use of all lenses, not just the ENG type.

Circle (372) on Reply Card

Time base corrector; video signal processor and color corrector

Fortel has introduced the following products:

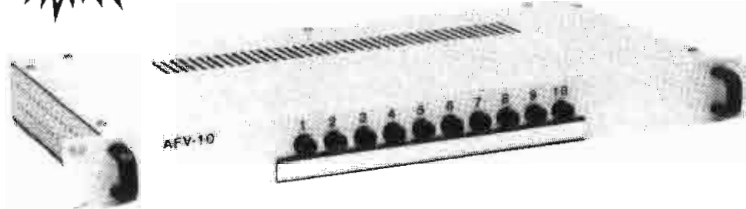
- The DHP 525 digital time base corrector offers infinite window correction range making it compatible with most 1/2-inch and 3/4-inch videocassette recorders. The unit features: field and frame freeze, drop-out compensation, high-speed shuttle, horizontal enhancement, luma noise reduction, and interpolation for flicker-free pictures in field freeze. It is packaged in a 1 3/4-inch chassis with front-panel accessible PC boards.

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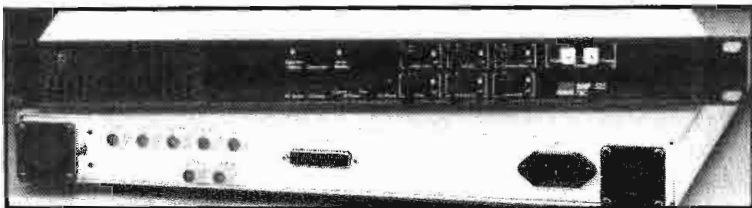
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- TURBO 2 is a digital, infinite window time base corrector. It provides high-performance processing of Y-688 dub or composite signals. Features include: field or frame freeze, dynamic tracking, high-speed shuttle drop-out compensation, noise reduction, and image enhancement circuitry. It is packaged in a 1¾-inch rack-mount with front-panel removable boards and self-test diagnostics.
- The Color Corrector in PAL permits independent adjustment of hue, saturation, and luminance of the six standard color-bar vectors.



Fortel DHP 525 TBC

Circle (373) on Reply Card

Character generators

Knox Video has introduced the following products:

- The K200 Chromafont II is a high-resolution character generator that features eight fonts and uses the latest digital technology components in order to achieve a 40% reduction in power consumed; a noiseless cooling system also is in-

cluded. The unit can be installed stand-alone, downstream of a video source, or as an input to a production switcher. It automatically gen-locks to any NTSC signal. The unit allows simultaneous display of 64 of the 512 colors available and complete intermixing of eight fonts in two sizes each. An execute mode allows automated timed sequences of rolls, crawls and full-page displays.

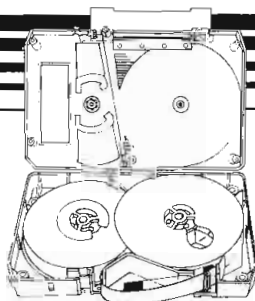
- The K40 Microfont is a full-function, high-resolution color character generator. This 58-key, two-and-a-half font machine comes packaged within its own keyboard, complete with an internal sync generator. It features automatic gen-lock and keying over any NTSC or PAL video. It has 16 pages of non-volatile memory, 32 intermixable colors, all around character edging, and 9-speed roll and crawl functions.



Knox Video K40 Microfont generator

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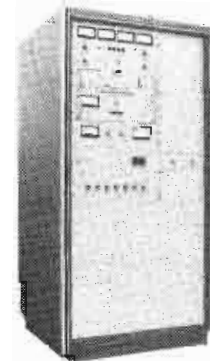
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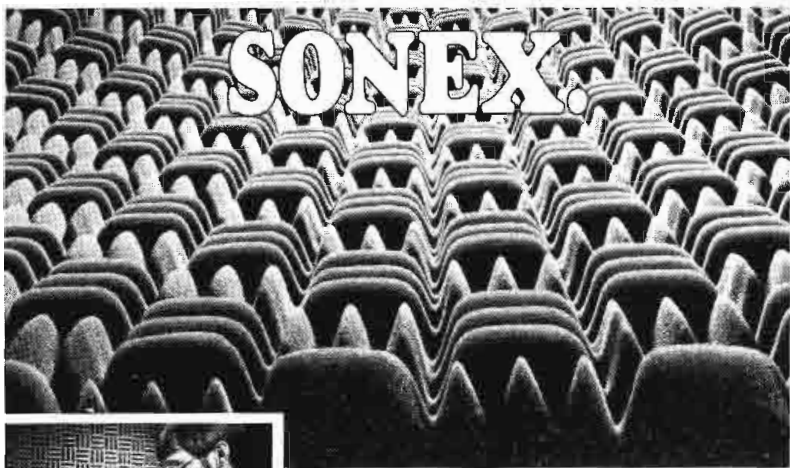
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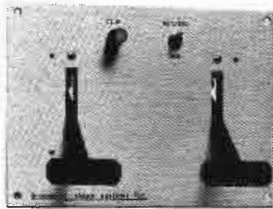
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Automation software

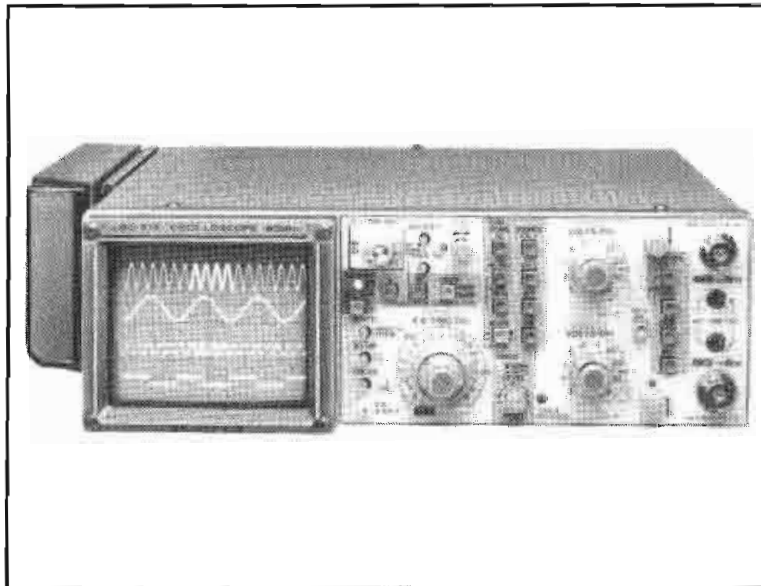
Lake Systems has introduced three software programs for the Automation 68000 microcomputer:

- BROADCASTOPS include interfaces and software to provide simultaneous 2-channel, on-line broadcast and off-line compiling operations. Spots and program segments can be stored singly or in time-code identified slots on cassettes, reels or disks. Up to 75 video and audio recorded and remote sources can be addressed.
- MULTIOPS retrieve and playback from multiple storage sources and can be configured with up to 10 independently scheduled but simultaneously operating channels. Operational options provide either real-time playback to air against the clock or network take cues, or compilation of each station break ahead of real time in its own dedicated VCR for 1-command playback.
- PRODUCTIONOPS automate dubbing, assembling and conforming activities. Interfaces are being developed to integrate Sony D-1 DTTRs and Panasonic and Sony small-format VTRs into systems that produce time-coded, air-ready cassettes and type C and quad spot reels.

Circle (375) on Reply Card

Oscilloscope

Leader Instruments has introduced the model LBO-315, a 60MHz, ac/dc, battery-powered oscilloscope. The scope fits into a 3-inch case and weighs 10 pounds. The unit operates from a supplied, self-contained 12V battery, an external 10V to 20V source, or from 85V to 264V ac without switching. A timing circuit prevents over-charging the battery. Other features are: 12kV accelerating potential, dual time base with calibrated delay, alternate sweep, and triggering facilities including alternate triggering for a stable display of asynchronous controls. The scope operates from 50Hz to 400Hz.



Circle (376) on Reply Card

HMI

Lee International has announced the 12kW HMI Luminaire. It has an electronic ballast that eliminates flicker and strobing regardless of film camera speed and shutter angle. The ballast is no larger than a portable television.

Circle (377) on Reply Card

VHF wireless microphone

Lectrosonics has begun shipments of the VHF Pro Series of wireless microphone systems. The series is available in both diversity and single antenna versions. Full-size receivers with

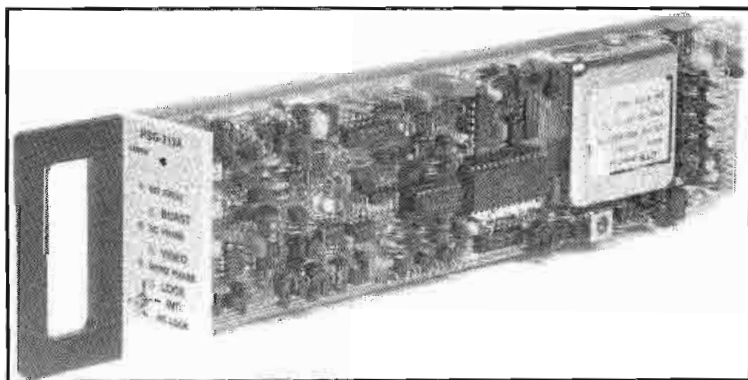
balanced outputs or pocket-sized receivers are available. The M185 is a machined aluminum transmitter offering either the mic cord or a 1/2-wave wire as the antenna. Accurate mod level adjustment is provided via a control and LEDs on the transmitter control panel. The full-size receiver uses a 6-pole helical resonator assembly in the front-end, a double-balanced diode mixer, and crystal filtering in the IF. Selectivity permits up to five channels within a 1MHz bandwidth.

Circle (378) on Reply Card

Sync generator, encoder/decoders

Lenco has announced two products:

- The PSG-313A is a frame resident, RS-170A digital sync generator. Features are: multifunction gen-lock with PC lock, panel status lights, full $\pm 5\mu\text{s}$ H phasing, a fail safe mode for loss of burst. Digital circuitry assures that proper 360° SCH phase relationship is attained in less than 3 seconds from system on, and is maintained in PC lock mode.
- The P.C. Resident series is a line of RGB encoders and decoders for the PC AT XT. The EN-10 and EN-15 encoders provide high resolution and recordable RGB to NTSC signals with chroma crawl eliminated. A wide spectrum of graphics boards from CGA to EGA in the CGA mode can be used. The EN-15 derives all drive signals directly from the P.C. without an external sync generator. The resident, dual 9-pin looping D connector eliminates the need for Y cables or adapters. The EN-10 derives its sync pulses from external sources. The DC-20 model is a high-resolution decoder that accepts any conventional NTSC signal via RCA type connectors on the back panel.



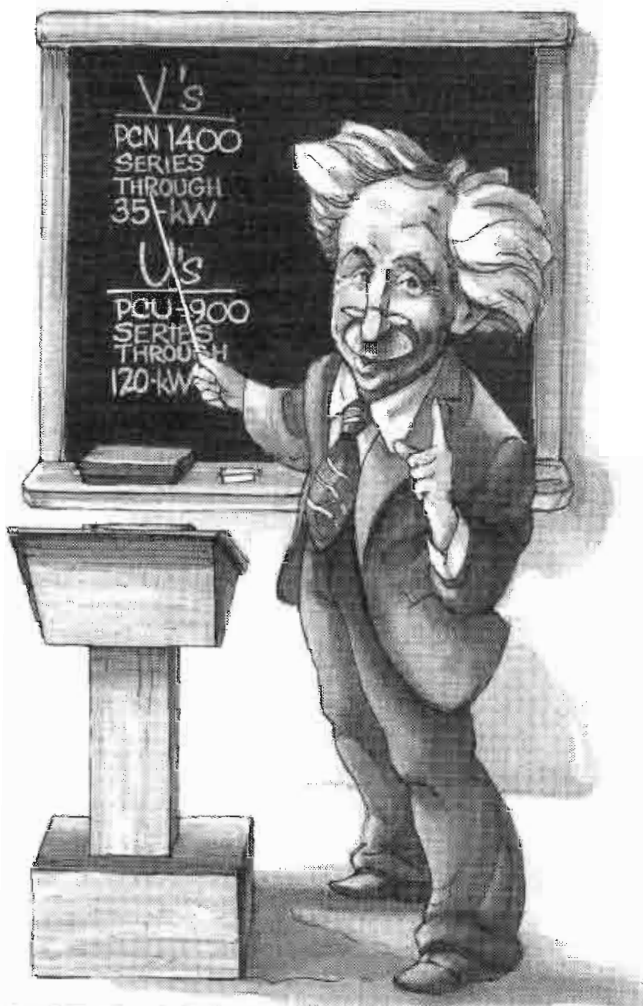
Lenco PSG-313A sync generator

Circle (379) on Reply Card

Digital effects system/audio time compressor

Lexicon has introduced the following products:

- The 480L digital effects system uses the alphanumeric remote console. The hardware and software contained in the 3-rack-space mainframe has seven banks of programs, each with a set of user-variable parameters. The system features a PCM 1610/1630-compatible interface that fully integrates the system into digital mastering and production systems. The mainframe is supplied with two independent digital signal processors, each with a mono input and stereo outputs.
- The model 2400 stereo audio time compressor uses digital signal processing algorithms to preserve true stereo imaging and mono compatibility in the pitch-corrected audio signal. Channel separation is greater than 80dBm, and phase coherence is within 15° at 15kHz. The compressor leaves sibilance and transients intact. Digital filters correct frequency response shifts caused by offspeed playback to NAB, CCIR or SMPTE standards. The unit uses SMPTE time code for closed-loop machine control. The compressor is controlled



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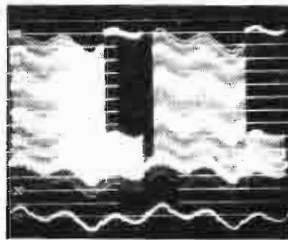
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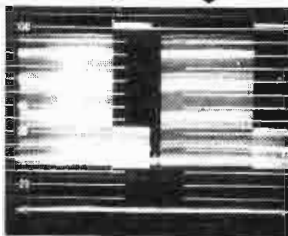
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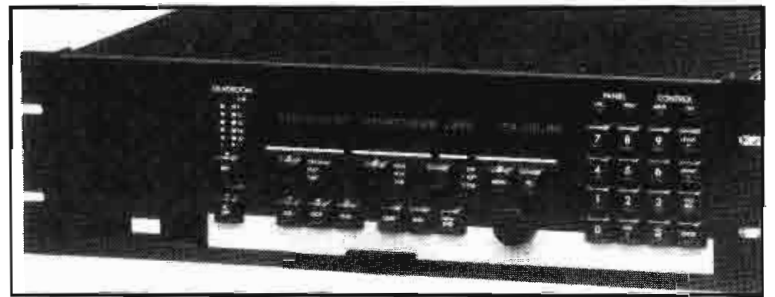


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Lexicon 2400 time compressor/expander
Circle (380) on Reply Card

Automatic audio crossfader

Logitek has introduced the Crossfire, a stand-alone automatic audio crossfader to be controlled directly from contact closure outputs on A/B roll edit systems. The crossfader fades between two sets of dual-channel inputs, using any of three distinct fade styles. Audio can be faded to off, or can be faded down to background levels. A front-panel thumbwheel switch sets the fade duration anywhere from an instant cut to 9.9 seconds, in 1/10 second-increments.

Circle (381) on Reply Card

Ku-band TWTA system

MCL has developed a transportable Ku-band TWTA system consisting of two M/N 10975-111 200W TWT amplifiers along with associated control logic and RF circuitry that allows operation of separate amplifiers in phase-combined modes. The M/N 10847-TAB is a redundant integrated variable power combined, whose power output is 340W. This unit provides high maximum power that is consistent for use with 3.7 meter antennas. It is designed to uplink transmission to communication satellites. All components are top-mounted for easy removal and all high-voltage points are shielded from accidental contact.

Circle (382) on Reply Card

Pedestal dolly

Matthews Studio Equipment of America has introduced the Delta Dolly, a compact, all-terrain TV pedestal. It weighs 118 pounds and can support a camera complement of up to 220 pounds. It is equipped with telescoping rear axles for added stability. The TV-type pedestal permits 360° of continuous ring steering. Maximum typical lens height exceeds five feet with a low position of about 20 inches.

Circle (383) on Reply Card

Signal generators

Magni Systems has introduced two signal generators:

- The model 1515 component analog test signal generator, which also generates NTSC composite signals, is available in three different models supporting M-II, SMPTE and Betacam CAV formats. The generator also has an optional blackburst output.
- The model 2015 is the industry's first instrument to use an IBM compatible PC to generate signals for emerging as well as established formats. The generator has an option DV-422, which provides disk-based software to generate test signals in CCIR recommendation 601 4:2:2 component digital video.

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Editor's note

The term *Paintbox* is a registered trademark of Quantel. The term was inadvertently used in a new product description of another manufacturer's system in the **BE** November issue "New Products" department. We apologize for the error. (:-:)))))

SBE Update continued from page 138

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Nov. 12-16. This technology allows use of any music signal to analyze frequency response. The company will incorporate the new technology in an instrumentation-quality 31-band (1/3-octave) professional real-time analysis system, which will be marketed within a year.

The dbx technology applied to the broadcast industry would allow analysis of transmitter frequency response using the music being broadcast, instead of test tones. (:-:)))))

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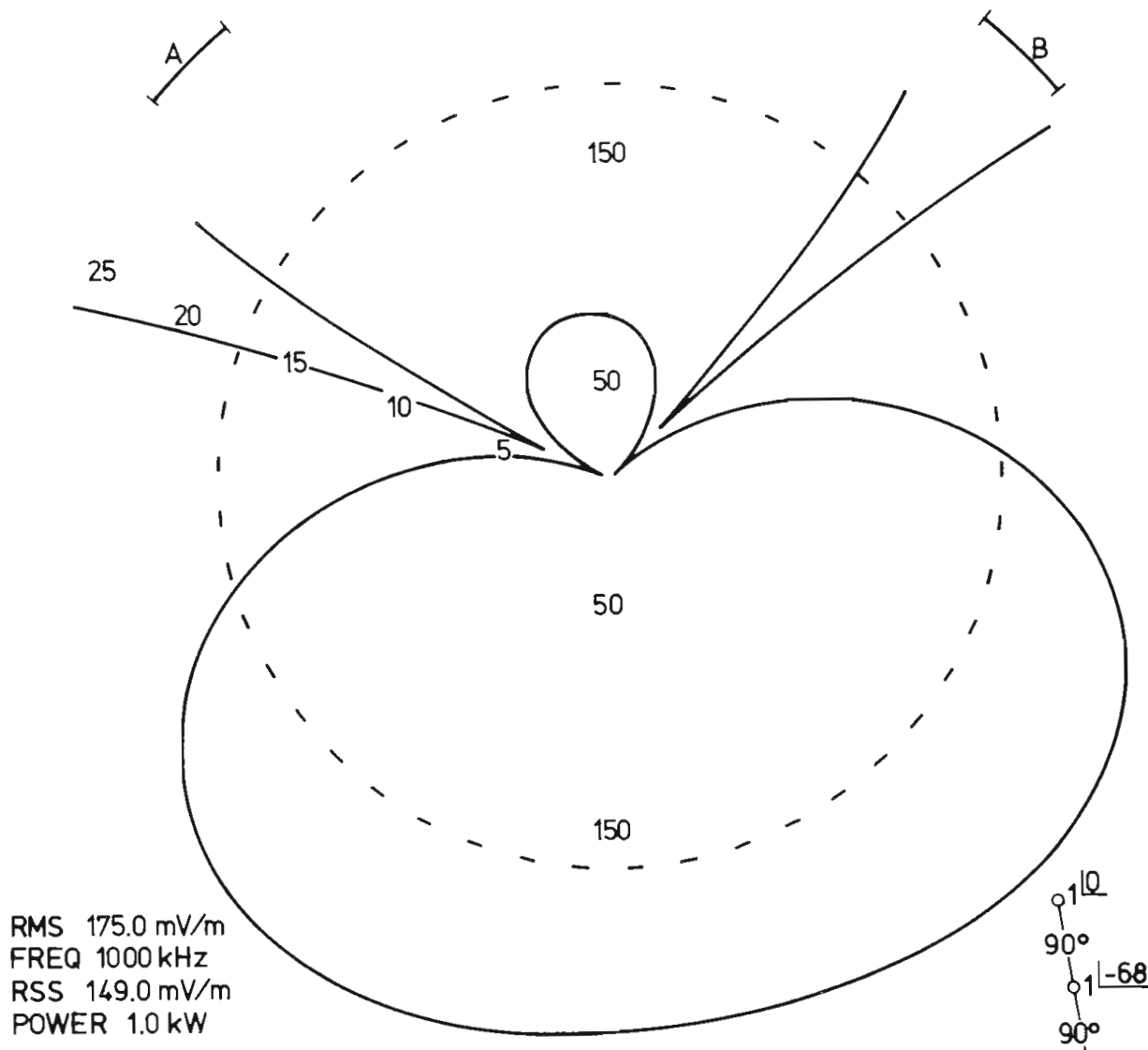
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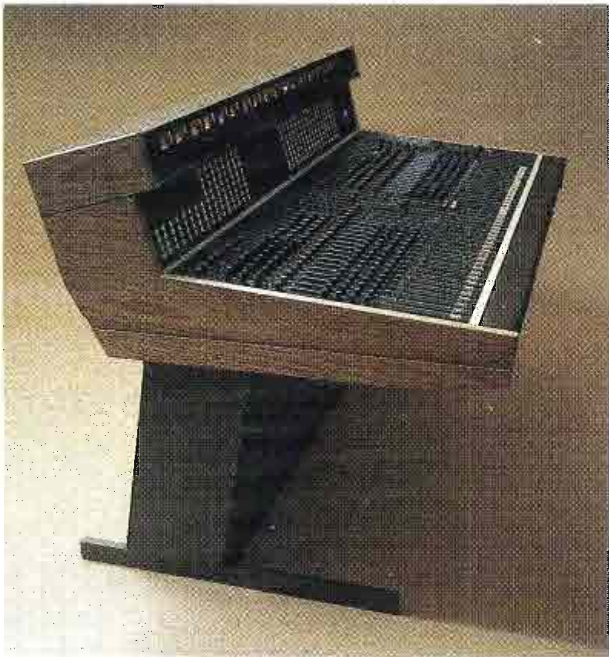
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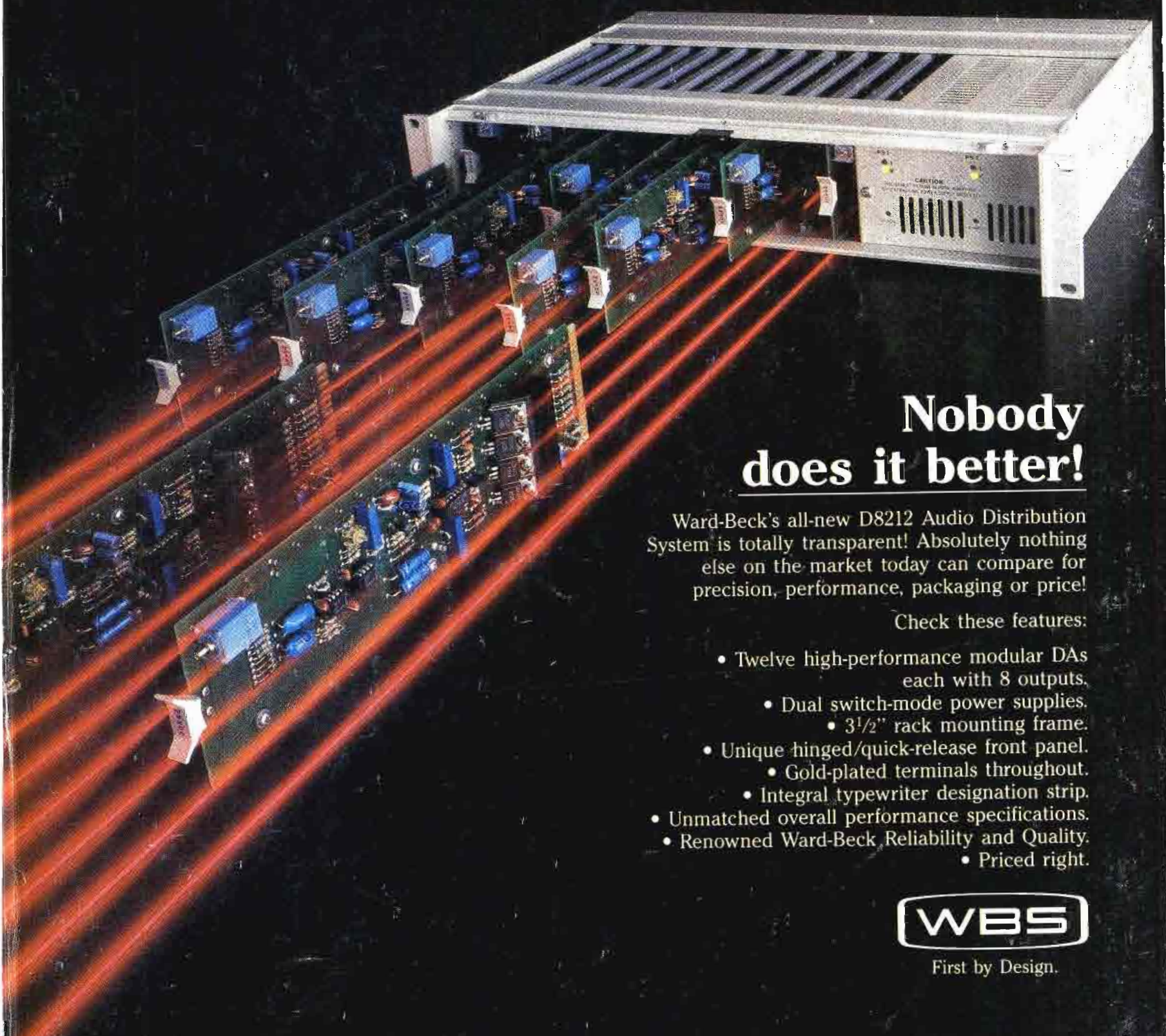


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